

DOWN MEMORY LANE

100 years ago
Aug. 16, 1923

• Arcola automobile owners are enjoying better mileage per dollar this week, gasoline being marked down six cents and a fraction and now selling at 16.4 cents per gallon, cheaper than it has been in several years. This means a saving of approximately \$100 (\$1,784.26 today) a day to the auto owners of Arcola township.

• The death of Mrs. Christina Ehlenbach removes from Arcola one of its old and highly respected citizens as she had lived here since 1861. Up until the time of her death there were five generations of the Ehlenbach family as she had five children, 16 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. Pictured in the R-H were four generations of the family, Mrs. Ehlenbach, the deceased, her son Frank of Duluth, Frank's daughter Mrs. Tidball and the latter's daughter Marian.

• Prof. and Mrs. P. T. Walters returned from Arcola the latter part of last week. They drove east accompanied by Mr. Walter's parents of Macomb and enjoyed several weeks' outing through the mountains, then to Washington, D.C., up to Atlantic City, Niagara Falls and many interesting points.

• The recent heavy rains have damaged wheat and oats in the shock to some extent and through this week has been favorable for threshing some of the wheat is coming to the elevators in bad shape and though the local elevators have been paying about 85 cents a bushel some of it is being shipped and the price will be fixed after it is graded in Chicago.

50 years ago
Aug. 16, 1973

• Stan Allen has announced the completion of plans to build a new Dutch Hutch Family Restaurant to be located east of the Shell Service Station at the I-57 interchange. The new Dutch Hutch will be part of a chain that originated out of Columbus, Ohio and will carry a complete line of fast food items. Featured will be "cooked-to-order" sandwiches and dinners with a complete line of delicious dairy desserts. Allen said that his Dutch Hutch will also specialize in real old-fashioned draft root beer served in frosted mugs. A November opening is planned.

• Workmen last week completed the installation of new aluminum windows on the north side of the Arcola High School building. The installation of new windows on the south side had already been completed and the remainder were slated for replacement during Easter vacation next year.

• Mr. and Mrs. Thomas No-

Old Opera House Once the Center of Activity . . .

The Old Opera House, located on North Locust Street, was built in Arcola about the year 1902 by Bill Craycraft and Mat Ruckle at the cost of about \$25,000. The building was financed in part by advance sales of tickets, totaling some \$5,000, for the opening performance of the Shakespearean play, "Hamlet," starring Walker Whitesides, a well known actor of that day, in the title role.

In addition to the twelve boxes, all finished in plaster of paris with fancy mouldings, the Opera House had a seating capacity of 500 on the main floor and balcony. It was one of the most elaborate theatres between Chicago and St. Louis, and was a frequent stop for casts presenting fine stage plays, comic operas and other dramatic productions.

It was often the custom that after such professional performances, a local social club would have a dance on the stage. These were quite gala affairs with Phil



Cole's Orchestra of Mattoon often engaged to furnish the entertainment. Many home talent shows and plays were also held at the Opera House. The group pictured

on the front of this card was one of the favorite attractions of that day. The group, from left to right, are Tom Moore, Will Dolson, Tom Monahan, Jim Simmons, Syd Matters, Hugh Healy, Baynt Hickman and Arthur Dimond.

In later years the old opera building fell into disrepair, and finally it was no longer suitable as a center of entertainment. For a while it was used as a storage warehouse for broomcorn; later the building housed a foundry.

During a windstorm the back portion of the structure collapsed and for years the build-

ing stood vacant except for storage of old lumber and other materials. Recently demolition of the building was begun and soon the Old Opera House is doomed to be just another page in the history of Arcola's past.

lan of R. R. 1 Oakland, will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary Sunday, Aug. 19, with a reception at their home. Mr. and Mrs. Nolan were married Aug. 21, 1948 at St. John's Catholic Church in Arcola. The late Rev. M. J. Reidy performed the ceremony. Their attendants were Mrs. Helen Mae Drake, Chrisman and William Hemingway, Jr. of Ashmore.

• Cecilia A. Cloyd of rural Arcola has enlisted in the United States Air Force, according to Technical Sergeant Mike Malone, the Air Force recruiter for this area. Airman Cloyd is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cloyd of Arcola. She is a 1973 graduate of Arcola High School. Her father, Frank Cloyd, is a retired Air Force Master Sergeant.

• Debbie Heuerman, 617 E. Main, Arcola, was among students who attended a week-long Art School for talented high school artists conducted by Extension in Visual Arts, University of Illinois, in cooperation with the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, at Allerton House, University of Illinois conference center near Monticello.

25 years ago
Aug. 20, 1998

• Effective November 1, Arcola residents will be required to contract with a licensed hauler to dispose of their trash. At its regular meeting Monday night, the Arcola City Council approved by a 5-1 vote an ordinance which makes it mandatory that residents of the city have their trash collected and disposed of by a "licensed scavenger."

• Workers from Advanced

Sheet Metal of Urbana on Monday morning discussed with Arcola Superintendent Malcolm Fox where to put their equipment after school starts. Workers will be installing a new roof on the west wing of the elementary school building. The work is slated to be done in November with the total cost of \$148,432. (\$277,840.12 today) The first day of school was Aug. 19.

Jason Paul Drake and Heather Lea Towne have announced their engagement and approaching marriage. The prospective groom is the son of Steve and Connie Drake of rural Arcola, and grandson of Bruce and Mary Cobb of Mattoon and Helen Drake of Chrisman. He is a 1994 graduate of Arcola High School and is currently on active duty in the Air Force, stationed at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.

The bride-elect's parents are Merton and Lynda Towne of Orangeville, Ill. and her grandparents are Harold and Margaret Towne of Tomah, WI. She is a 1993 graduate of Orangeville High School and is also stationed at Holloman Air Force Base. An October 3 wedding is planned at the Orangeville United Methodist Church.

• Nineteen Arcola Scouts spent July 12-18 at Camp Robert Drake near Danville. While there the boys earned over 60 merit badges and partially completed several more. Participating scouts were Emmanuel Barrientos, Dustin Boyer, Jason Conn, Keith Cummins, Zach Doemelt, Calen Edgar, Jim Holt, Chris Hood, Andrew Kauffman, An-

drew Madson, Bryson Mills, Michael Overman, Allen Roberts, Elliot Smith, Justin Smith, Nick Shields, Jordan Sosamon, Landen Sosamon and C. R. Stephens. Leaders attending were Troye Kauffman and Walley Smith, while Devon Coombe worked on the Camp Drake staff.

• For the fifth consecutive year, Central Illinois Light Company (CILCO) presented a check for \$100 (\$187.18 today) to Arcola Police Chief Mike Phillips, the Arcola DARE Instructor. Phillips said the funds will be used to purchase supplies for the upcoming school year. The program is presented to fifth graders in the Arcola school district and is scheduled to begin the first week of September.

10 years ago
Aug. 15, 2013

• After just four weeks in a family medicine summer internship, the experience changed the career path of Robert Biggs, MD. The Arcola native had always thought

he'd become a pediatrician. However, an internship after his first year of medical school with David Hagen in Gibson City presented a somewhat different option, family medicine.

Dr. Biggs, a 2001 graduate of Arcola High School, began caring for people in the Sarah Bush Lincoln Arcola Clinic August 1. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana in molecular and cellular biology, and earned his medical degree at the University of Illinois, College of Medicine in 2010. He completed his residency in family medicine at Self Regional Healthcare in Greenwood, SC.

He married his high school sweetheart, Allison Williams, a 2002 AHS graduate.

• Catholic Charities of Coles, Douglas, and Edgar counties sponsored a program July 29 in which new school supplies were made available to Arcola students. School-aged children attending schools in the Arco-

la school district who needed assistance were offered a book bag with new school supplies at no cost. Maria Climaco and Kris Graves of Arcola are volunteers for Catholic Charities.

• The Arcola United Methodist Church recently held a competition between the congregation and the Vacation Bible School participants. Vacation Bible School is co-hosted every year with St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. The Vacation Bible School won by collecting the most school supplies and clothes. The supplies will be sent to a school in Jacob Town, Liberia.

Liberia is a poor country and the children are in need of many things. The items will be shipped from Atlanta to Liberia. Members of the Arcola United Methodist Church's Outreach Committee include Sheila Sentel, Lisa Douglas, Jerry Stout, Rev. Vince Rohr, Emma Klopffleisch and Jason Butler, who traveled on a mission trip to Liberia last October to Jacob Town.



*It is with saddened hearts
that we mourn the loss
of our owner of
Arcola Hen House,
Larry Rudd,
who passed away
Friday, August 11th.*

*We will still be operating regular
business hours. For this week's
specials call us at 217-268-3712.*

**Discover
your best self**
REGISTER NOW
classes start 8/21.