

# Zion News

"No man is an island." – John Donne 1624

'No man is an island' comes from a 17th century sermon by the Dean of London's St Paul's Cathedral, John Donne, a clergyman who now, almost four hundred years later, is regarded as one of the greatest English poets.

In the early 1960's the phrase became popular. Joan Baez read Donne's poem on one of her albums. The Letterman's rendition of "No Man Is an Island" became the standard that every high school choir member learned through the 60's and early 70's.

It is often assumed that 'no man is an island' is from one of Donne's poems. However, even though he is the author of some of the finest and most memorable verses of English poetry, this phrase, not from a poem, but from a sermon, is the most famous quote from him.

*"No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main . . .*

*Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind.*

*And therefore never send to know for whom*

*the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."*

John Donne believed that

man is a social being, that he needs contact and interaction with others, that when he is in an isolated state, he does badly. Community is truly needed to thrive.

His sermon is memorable, not just for "no man is an island," but also for the phrase "for whom the bell tolls," which was used by Ernest Hemingway as the title of his most famous novel.

When you hear the church bell tolling for someone who has died, don't ask who it is, Donne explained, just know that it's tolling for you, too, because you are part of the same society and the death of anyone takes a part of your own life away.

The words in his "No man is an island" sermon were deeply steeped in Christian values about how human beings are connected to each other, and how important that connection is for the wellbeing and survival of any individual.

"No man is an island" is perhaps the most perfect expression of an individual's position in relation to society. It was true 400 years ago when Donne wrote it, and it remains true today.

Zion's worship service starts at 9:00 AM each Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

## Hope you enjoyed the Sesquicentennial edition

### EARLY DEADLINE

I don't care much for early deadlines because I have to write this column before all the weekend 'stuff' happens and this weekend there is going to be a lot of 'stuff!' But that will certainly give me more fodder for next week's column and with all that is going on and company coming it is just as well to get this out of the way now. I just hope that I can report that all went well and a good time was had by all!

### ROUGH START TO THE WEEK

Headed home on Monday from Wisconsin as planned but decided to only go half way as I had come down with a miserable cold. Combination of things I think. Trying to do too much, being around others with colds, and sitting out in the chill evening air probably wasn't too smart either. Couple days rest and some Musinex and I'm much better. Musinex worked well but don't plan on trying to do much with a brain full of cotton...or at least that's what it felt like.

### SESUICENTENNIAL EDITION OF THE GRAPHIC

Hope you all got a copy in the mail or picked one up on the newsstand. Lots of interesting historical information in those pages and lots of great pictures. Thank goodness for people in our town's history who felt it important to keep and document the information they did. Arthur Martin and Minnie Reeves years ago wrote extensive histories of this community. Phyllis Stock compiled and put together a couple of books on the Moultrie-Douglas County Fair and Noel Dicks was a wealth of knowledge when it came to anything Arthur. I'm sure there were others along with the photos of Delbert Hovermale and Christian Eberhardt which are priceless.

### HISTORY EXHIBIT

After spending Friday morning putting out our history

## Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

display for the Founders Day dinner I want to thank all those who contributed items for the exhibit. We were given some great souvenirs from businesses and some really fantastic pictures among other things. Some of these will be on display at the Arthur Public Library in the near future.

### ALWAYS ARTHURITE

Hope you enjoyed the article on Josh Helmuth and the award winning team he works with at their morning news show in Colorado Springs. I remember Josh as a friendly young man with a great personality. He was always very polite and respectful. Not surprising he has done so well in his career. The Edward R. Murrow Award it seems is one of the most prestigious awards that those involved with news can receive. Don't think any of us will be surprised to hear more from Josh in the future. No doubt he has a great career ahead of him.

### ALAH KNIGHTS FOOTBALL

Since this doesn't have to be until Saturday I can at least report on the outcome of the Knights football game on Friday night with Villa Grove. Before the game there was a Knight Fest with games and food trucks for fans young and old. And I can report that the Knights won! They were ahead by quite a bit but then it got close. A couple of big plays

saved the day. I was able to watch most of it on the NFHS network which is great...when it works. Always seems to be a couple of problems but I keep nagging at them hoping they will fix them. If any of you are watching in this way please do contact them and let them know. Only way to get things straightened out. Squeaky wheel you know.

### ALAH KNIGHTS VOLLEYBALL

Girls played at Chrisman on Tuesday evening and it did not go very well. I wasn't able to go and couldn't really watch on the NFHS network because, while the game was broadcast, the camera looked like there was condensation on the lens. Everything was a blur. Or almost everything. Thursday night we finally got to play in our home gym in a match with St. Teresa. The junior varsity won in two but varsity lost in three. For the most part though they were well-played games. Just good to get back in our gym and enjoy all the new-fangled technology. Beautiful scoreboards and the video board is full of tons of information, even some old-fashioned drive-in movie 'let's go down to the lobby' ads!

### SPEAKING OF VOLLEYBALL

Did you see this? The Nebraska Cornhuskers laid claim to the world record for largest attendance at a women's

sporting event with 92,003 filling Memorial Stadium for their volleyball match against Omaha. If you saw the picture or video it was quite a sight!

### SEAN OF THE SOUTH

Many of you may have discovered, as I have, the writings of Sean Dietrich. He's funny and he often writes both heart-breaking and heartwarming stories. Ones we can all relate to. They can definitely make you cry and laugh at the same time and mostly they are stories we can all relate to. This is from the latest piece of his I read: "Here's something a foreign language professor once told me: Hundreds of years ago, when Choctaw Indians still lived on the Gulf Coast of Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, they had a word in their language. It was a short word. It was a great word, a happy word, sort of a utility word that you could use in all kinds of scenarios. The word was "okeh." Missionaries loved the word right off the bat. After they learned to speak the native language, they started using "okeh" all the time. They even started using it in place of "amen." Thus, while missionaries were busy teaching the Choctaw natives not drink, cuss, or touch Cosmopolitan magazines, "okeh" crept into the English language. Missionaries started writing this word in their journals, their Bibles, and writing it in postcards sent home. And since there was no official spelling for this new word, they abbreviated it:

See TOWN TALK on page 3



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### Arthur History Fact #66

#### 1973 Time Capsule 2023

At the Founders' Day Dinner held on September 2, 2023 the time capsule from Arthur's Centennial year 1973 was opened.

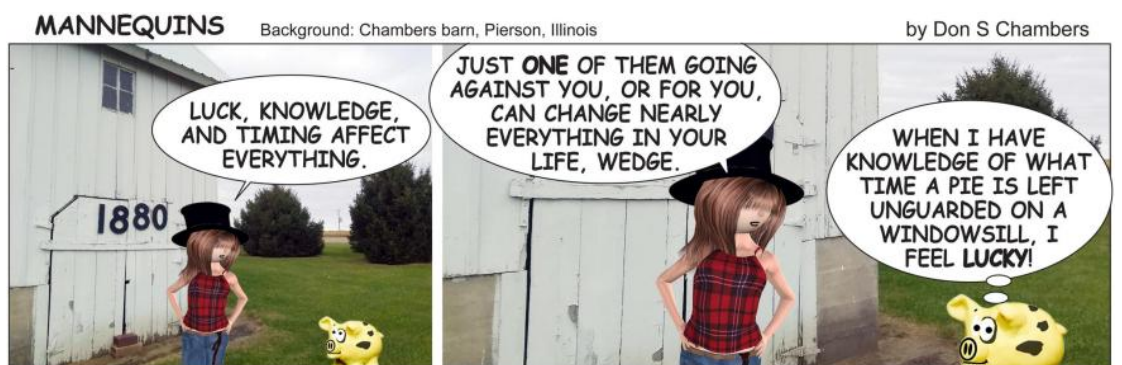
Unclaimed contents of the capsule that had been designated to go to family members in the future (2023) was taken to Arthur's Municipal Building where they were available to pick up approximately a week later.

The time capsule and some of its contents was put on display for a while at the Arthur Public Library.

Then later in the year, a public event was held where Arthur residents had the opportunity to leave something for the future in the capsule.

The granite stone that covers the time capsule that is housed in a concrete vault in the floor of the Welcome Center was re-engraved to read,

"Open in 2073"



### MANNEQUINS

Background: Chambers barn, Pierson, Illinois

by Don S Chambers

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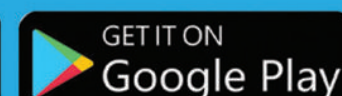
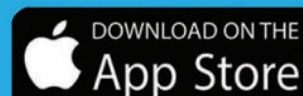


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