

Memory Lane

100 years ago
 “Buildings on at least six farms were destroyed in Sheridan County in five prairie fires that swept through the central, east and southeastern parts of Sheridan County yesterday and continue till early this morning.

Farm buildings, however, did not compose the greater part of the loss. Much hay, grain, machinery, and other property was destroyed in the areas swept by flames.

Most of the buildings on the James Rafferty farm, south of Denhoff were destroyed, some of the buildings on the Kiley farm and the barn and other buildings on the McElvain farm, also south of Denhoff, were consumed in flames that swept that territory yesterday, according to telephone reports early today.

A fire north of Goodrich destroyed machinery and wheat on the Robert Demke farm, a barn on the Ludwig Krein farm, and a garage, wheat and hay on the Louie Mattheis farm, it was learned today.

An estimate of all the damage done could not be obtained early today since there are no means for obtaining the information from several of the fire-swept districts. It is probable that more farms burned whose lassoos are not yet reported or made known. No loss of life in any of the fires has been reported.

All of the four applicants who sought citizenship here yesterday were granted papers by Judge Fred Jansonius of Bismarck. Mr. Wiggins of the Bureau of Naturalization, St. Paul, attended the hearing.

Sheridan’s new citizens are Sever Hanaon of Skogmo; Rudolph Eisenbeisz, Anamoose; Mike Dockter, Anamoose; and Mrs. Paulina Augustadt, Goodrich.

75 years ago
 The Minneapolis St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie Railroad company on April 5 filed a petition with the Public Service Commission requesting authority to retire and remove its stockyards at Martin, Manfred, Bergen, Burlington, and Colgan, N. D.

The railroad gives the reason for such removal the fact that there have been no shipments of livestock from the above stockyards for several years.

Objections to the petitions must be filed with the commission within 20 days from April 10.

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 Beverly Marson of McClusky is a member of the Delta Zeta sorority act which has been selected to appear in the 1951 Flickertail Follies at the University of North Dakota, April 20-May 1,2. Other members of the act entitled “Penguin at the Waldorf,” are Doris Deeter of Rugby, director; Joan Sigurdson, Mary Saf-

strom, Grand Forks; Evelyn Hanstad, Grand Forks; Kilda Hennemuth, Emmaus, Pa.; Joan Simon, Tioga; Irene Konig, Dorothy Boltman, Grand Forks; Ada Lohse, Williston, and Marian Olson, Mohall.

50 years ago
 “I’ve never seen so many cars in McClusky before,” was a common remark Monday, when Reiersen Chevrolet had its going out of business auction sale. Hundreds of people jammed the car lot looking for bargains. Some found bargains, but reports indicated that bids were not always low on the tractors and other equipment. The sale started at 9 a.m. and was still going strong at 10:30 p.m. A break was required about 5 p.m. when a sudden rain squall drove the bidders to cover. It was definitely the biggest auction sale McClusky has seen in recent years.

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 Nine youngsters started kindergarten in Goodrich on April 5. The program, sponsored by the parents on a tuition basis, has classes meeting from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each day and is scheduled to conclude May 14. The teacher is Mrs. Irene Brockel. Students are Douglas Hartman, Kimberley Erdmann, Lora Demke, Gus Winter, Lance Seibel, Kirby Steichen, Guston Martel, Elliot Konschak and Darus Papke.

Dakota Gardener

By Kelsey Deckert, Horticulture Agent – NDSU Extension

Petunias — Tried and true

Petunias tolerate a lot of heat and don’t require much water.

We all have our favorite flowers that, despite not being perennials, we plant in our gardens every year. The number one flower that I plant each year is petunias. I consider them the “tried and true” flowers of my garden. The meaning of “tried and true” is proven good, desirable or known to be reliable.

Gardeners who plant petunias know they are easy to grow and require minimal maintenance, which are top priorities for me. What I most admire about petunias is their ability to spread. I have a tiered raised bed, and I love that I can plant a few petunias that will completely cover each tier and serve as a focal point of my yard. Another aspect of petunias that makes them a popular flower is that they bloom from spring up until frost. Talk about a showstopper!

Petunias need five to six hours of sunlight, but they do best in full sun all day. They tolerate a lot of heat and don’t require much water. Petunias benefit from fertilizing every few weeks and deadheading.

There are hundreds of petunia varieties to choose from. Petunias fall into different categories based on their growth habit and flower size: grandiflora, multiflora, milliflora and spreading types.

Grandiflora produce the largest flowers (about 5 inches across) that can be a single or a double flower. They have fewer flowers than the other types, and their blooms don’t hold up the best in wet weather. Com-

mon grandiflora varieties are Dreams, Ultra, Supercascade and Storm Series.

Multiflora have smaller flowers that, again, can be a single or a double flower that are 1-2 inches wide. They produce more flowers than grandiflora and are generally more compact. They do better in wet weather and work well in mass plantings. Popular varieties are Celebrity, Carpet, Madness and Hurrah Series.

Milliflora have miniature flowers that are 1-1.5 inches wide. They work well for containers and edging in a flower bed. Fantasy and Picobella Series are popular choices.

Spreading petunias are varieties that grow quickly and fill large spaces. They are low-growing and withstand drought and heat very well. The Wave Series is the most popular of spreading petunias.

I look forward to taking my time in the greenhouse, thoroughly selecting petunias for my garden each spring. Nothing beats seeing the colors and variations of the flowers. When selecting petunias from a greenhouse, select vibrant, stocky, compact plants. Tall and spindly petunias will take longer to recover from transplanting shock in the garden. Once in the garden, sit back and enjoy these tried-and-true flowers all summer long.

For more information about petunias, contact your local NDSU Extension agent. Find the Extension office for your county at www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension/extension-county-offices.

Prairie Doc® Perspectives

By Debra Johnston, MD

Death, Taxes, and Aging Eyes

Benjamin Franklin famously wrote “in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”

Franklin was a legendary intellect, and it’s hard to overstate the impact he had. But I’d suggest an addition to that particular quote, one with which I suspect he’d agree.

Most of us know him as one of the Founding Fathers, as the author of Poor Richard’s Almanack, as the guy who flew kites during lightning storms. Perhaps less famously, Franklin was also an inventor. He is credited with the creation of the bifocal lens, reportedly inspired by his frustration with switching between pairs of glasses.

As a woman of a certain age, who has needed corrective lenses since childhood, I can well appreciate that frustration, and in turn, that invention! Our eyes are complex organs. In the very front, there is the clear dome of the cornea. Then we have the iris, the colored part of the eye. This is a muscle, and it controls the size of the pupil, the black central hole through which light is allowed entry. From there, light strikes the lens, which is pulled into different shapes by small muscles around its edge, and focused onto the retina in the very back of the eye. Specialized cells in the retina convert light to electricity, and the optic nerve transmits

these messages to the brain.

When I talk to my middle aged patients about symptoms they may be having, they frequently volunteer that they now need glasses for the first time, or that they have “upgraded” to those bifocals. They are usually surprised when I reassure them that this is not only normal, but frankly expected! The cells that create the lens lose the ability to repair or replace themselves over time. The lens becomes less flexible. It doesn’t change shape as easily, and as that happens the eye has a harder time focusing up close. Eventually, a person develops presbyopia: age related far-sightedness.

This same process leads to a condition quite familiar to most people: cataracts. As those cells in the lens deteriorate, they become increasingly cloudy. Light has a harder time penetrating, and it may be scattered on the way through, instead of sharply focused. People may notice blurry vision, muted colors, glare around lights. They may need brighter light to read, and find it very difficult see at night. By 80, approximately 50% of people either have cataracts, or have had cataract surgery.

Presbyopia and cataracts may be a normal, readily treated part of aging, but you shouldn’t neglect those eye exams. As we get older, other

eye conditions become more common. Diseases like macular degeneration and glaucoma can be detected by the eye doctor well before they cause symptoms. Since those symptoms include irreversible vision loss, we should all be motivated to make that appointment!

Medicine is ever changing. Research avenues that seem promising turn into dead ends. Dead ends become detours to unexpected and exciting places. Maybe in the future, we will have drops or supplements or some other way to keep our eyes young. But for now, nothing can be said to be certain, except death, taxes, and presbyopia.

Dr. Debra Johnston is a Family Medicine Physician at Avera Medical Group Brookings in Brookings, SD. She serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tik Tok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).

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the clause is not restricted by “color or race.”

President Trump’s executive order, and the administration’s arguments in support of it, fly in the face of 150 years of historical understanding of the Citizenship Clause. Trump falsely claims that no other country has birthright citizenship. At least 30 other countries do. The government’s argument that birthright citizenship does not include those who are temporarily in the nation, or those here illegally, and thus not “under the jurisdiction” of the United States, contradicts


the reasoning of the Court’s landmark opinion in Plyler v. Doe (1982). In Doe, Justice William Brennan wrote that undocumented children are “persons” under the jurisdiction of state law and the 14th Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause.

Birthright citizenship speaks to who, and what, we are as a nation. The premise and promise of the 14th Amendment is that America is not defined by bloodlines, but by values, laws and rights that should be applied to all, equally, beginning at birth.

Public Notice for Citizens of Sheridan Co. Notice of Available Services

Delivered Meals: Frozen Meal Delivery

Over the Age of 60 - A Suggested Donation of

 \$4/Meal
 (No meal refused due to financial hardship - a short assessment will be required)

Transit Transportation:

Monthly Rides to Bismarck and Minot - \$.20/mile

For More Information Please Contact:

James River Senior Center & Public Transit

701-952-7900

jrsc@csicable.net

Website: www.jamesriverseniors.com

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