



## RAMBLINGS

By: Josh Ellis

jellisatc@hotmail.com

For as long as the written word has been in existence, there has most likely been writers of those words adopting pen names, or a "nom de plume" as you would say, if you enjoy sounding pretentious and hoity-toity. Try it...nom de plume...nom de plume...

If you were to choose a nom de plume to write under, what would you choose? Since my middle name, Charles, has never gotten much play time, perhaps I would go with Charles Q. Cowboychord.

What's the "Q" stand for? Quilt, Quasimodo, Quantum, Quail...?

How should I know? After all, I thought I had two middle names when I was a kid, Josh Uwa Charles Ellis. Exotic name, idiotic child. What do you expect from someone who slathers rancid liverwurst on Zesta crackers and washes the whole lot down with spoiled milk?

Being born without a sense of smell has its advantages, but a fair amount of disadvantages as well. Those of you who may quip, "Even if you can smell you can't tell if liverwurst has gone bad or not."

Let me tell you, you can tell... eventually.

What the nose fails to detect is astutely recognized by the functioning rancid food detection systems further down the line and briskly ushered out the nearest exit...or exits.

So it goes.

I rely on my wife and her seemingly superhuman sense of smell to swat rancid liverwurst slathered on Zesta crackers out of my hand before everything goes south, but if she's not around, either I go without or I roll the dice.

I know after 30 years of being my nose, she has probably grown weary of me asking her to smell stuff, especially liverwurst, but Catholic guilt and the vows that Father Leonard Savelkoul sanctified have thus far prevailed. Love shall conquer all...even food poisoning.

Speaking of Zesta crackers, we were in Lignite after Christmas to visit Ma and Pa, and the gang, when we were cordially invited to a garage gathering. A proper North Dakota garage

## Zesta

gathering...crockpots of various cheesy stuff, crackers of all shapes and sizes, beers of all makes and models, a couple of glorious handmade canoes, two guitars, a banjo, and a harmonica.

For fear of retribution by the Fedora or Beret divisions of JAZZ (Jazz Aficionado Zealots), I won't reveal the names of those in attendance at GAGZ (Garage Gathering aGainst jaZz) in Lignite that blustery December evening.

Those suede wingtip tapping thugs would love nothing more than to subject naysayers and dissenters to their dreaded hi-hat treatment "chick..chicka..chick..chick..chick..." Or a three-hour guitar riff that, like a drunk telling a story, manages to never go anywhere discernible, interesting or memorable. Nowhere discernible to us lowbrow cowboy chord strummers anyway.

I know I have spoken disparagingly about jazz in the past, and I always preface those disparaging words with the proclamation that I really do respect any musician of any genre. But music taste being subjective, I object to jazz, and would rather knowingly eat a Zesta cracker slathered in rancid liverwurst than endure it. Verified rancid by my loving wife.

Charles Q. Cowboychord once lamented if he were ever informed that he only had an hour to live, he would simply drop some groovy jazz vinyl on the hi-fi. He explained that hour would feel like days, and when the final ticks of those 60 minutes mercifully arrived, he would welcome death.

That Charles Q. Cowboychord...I'd like to meet him someday.

At a proper North Dakota garage party one blustery December evening, Mamma Tried, as momma's always do, and while Seven Spanish Angels bid adieu to The Highwayman and ascended through the dust kicked up by Ghost Riders in the Sky, Heroes and Friends sang, strummed and laughed a bit with Sunday Morning Coming Down.

Slainte, my friends.

## A Look at the Past

Week of January 21

## 70 years

No issue available.

## 60 years

The Bowbells Eskimos won over Flaxton 54-43 to take the championship of the Burke County High School Basketball Tournament in Flaxton. Dick Ekstrom tossed 24 points for Bowbells. Wayne Christensen had 26 tallies.

Burke County Sheriff Russell McIntyre, a Canadian Mounted Police, and law enforcement officers of Oxbow, SK were successful in the apprehension of two Canadians who broke into the Northgate bar early Saturday and took a quantity of liquor and cigarettes, and about \$9.20 in cash, all of which was recovered.

Fire of apparently undetermined origin destroyed the Lakeshore Bar and Steakhouse east of Bowbells on Highway 52.

## 50 years

Obituaries: Nelmer Talmo, 85, formerly of Portal; Mrs. Ada Immerfall.

Over 130 farmers met at Bow-

ells on Jan. 17 to discuss the falling grain prices.

Roger Christensen, a field representative for ND ARBC, has selected Bowbells School as a Bicentennial school.

## 40 years

Burke Central slipped by Columbus 55-53 to claim the championship title of the Boys Burke County B Tournament held in Columbus. Scoring for Burke Central were Jason Schmelz 20, Marshall Hermanson 16, Jamie Ellis 7, Scott Fettig 6 and Lance Wahus 6. Columbus scorers were Jason Teter 28, Jon Thingvold 11, Troy Kihle 10, Todd Watterud 2, Larry Hoff 2.

Births: daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Alan Peterson; son to Terry and Christine Anderson; daughter to Raymond and Brenda Rogness; son to Stanton and Diane Grubb; son to Teresa and Chris Nielsen; daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Roos; son to Michael and Sheila Phillips.

Obituaries: Margaret Sumey, 77, of Bowbells; Hannah Gottwald, 90, formerly of Bowbells; Kelmer Larson, 78, of Lignite; LeNora Stefonowicz, 90, of Lakota; Gordon Ferm of Bowbells.

Kari Benson of Columbus was awarded first place in a

Flaxton is preparing for recall

statewide writing competition in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Kari received her award at a special ceremony in Bismarck.

## 30 years

Reconstruction is underway at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Powers Lake. It was damaged because of a fire in November.

Farmers are urged by the FSA to check their stored grain because there have been reported thefts, especially in remote locations or abandoned farmsteads due to the increase of grain prices.

Birth: daughter to Paul and Crystal Roussel.

Obituary: Maye Dewing, 86, formerly of Portal.

Ellen Pasche of Columbus celebrates 99 years of life. She and her late husband, Otto celebrated 74 years of marriage.

## 20 years

Jackie D. Johnson of Bowbells was hired at the Burke County Tribune for type setting, bookkeeping and secretarial duties.

Obituaries: Harriet Hovland, 90, of Fort Collins; Wallace Russell Berg, 90, of Richfield, MN; Janet Larson, 52, of Wiliston, formerly of Bowbells.

## 10 years

Flaxton is preparing for recall

election, but the results won't alter the construction of a water depot project.

Bowbells Public School and Powers Lake Public School were two of 73 North Dakota schools to receive a Build Grant Award.

Barbecue style cafe and saloon in Portal. Robert Jay Coleman is the new owner of Smokey Bonz in Portal. Ed Kremer was the previous owner.

Obituaries: Leo Broughton, 77, of Powers Lake; Kenneth Hegstad, 91, of Sun City, AZ; Gunhild Dihle, 98, formerly of Columbus.

Burke Central Student of the Month for December is Dani Koppelsloen.

Bowbells Public School Students of the Month for December were Tucker Timm and Chelsea Woodbeck.

## one year

Bowbells School joins the K-B Esports Co-op.

Bowbells Food Pantry to remain open. Volunteers are crucial.

Star Ranchers announced for the second quarter at Powers Lake Elementary were Logan Case, Jacob McGinnity, Cora Moberg, Scarlett Trujillo, Taylor Huseby and Elizabeth Lidstrom.



## All Around

## The Farm

Dan Folske

Burke Extension Agent

## Double Up on Your Trip to the Ag Show

If you are planning to attend the KMOT AG Show in Minot next week, you may want to add the Best of the Best Wheat and Soybean Research Program to your agenda.

## NDSU Extension to Hold Best of the Best in Wheat and Soybean Research Program on Jan. 28

North Dakota State University Extension, the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota Soybean Council will hold the annual Best of the Best in Wheat and Soybean Research Program on Jan. 28 at the Grand Hotel in Minot, North Dakota. This meeting provides wheat and soybean growers, agronomists and other agriculture professionals with timely updates on variety performance, pest management and market conditions.

The Best of the Best program

has provided wheat growers in western North Dakota with locally relevant and current, research-backed recommendations for over 15 years," says Clair Keene, NDSU Extension small grains agronomist. "This year, we are excited to again partner with the Soybean Council to expand the scope of the meeting and cover the two largest crops by acreage in the state."

The program will start at 8:30 a.m. CST with a welcome from Paige Brummund, NDSU Extension agriculture and natural resources agent in Ward County. NDSU speakers will discuss the following topics:

Andrew Friskop, NDSU Extension cereal pathologist, will provide a look ahead at small grain diseases to be aware of in 2026.

Brian Jenks, weed scientist at the North Central Research Extension Center, will discuss weed control successes and failures in 2025 and developing a proactive weed management plan for the 2026 season.

Clair Keene will discuss variety selection for spring wheat, durum and oats, and she will make recommendations for western North Dakota based on NDSU variety trial data.

Ana Carcedo, NDSU Extension broadleaf crop agronomist, will present results from recent soybean seeding rate trials.

Victor Gomes, NDSU Extension agronomist at the Dickinson Research Extension Center, will highlight his work investigating soybean inoculation practices for western North Dakota.

Bryon Parman, agricultural finance specialist in NDSU's Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, will discuss current conditions for obtaining operating loans and interest rates.

Naeem Kalwar, NDSU Extension soil health specialist at the Langdon Research Extension Center, will discuss practical tips for identifying and managing saline and sodic soils.

The 2026 breakout sessions include weed identification, managing white mold in soybean and dry bean, and distinguishing between common abiotic and biotic stress in wheat.

Allison Thompson, a market analyst with The Money Farm based in Ada, Minnesota, will be the final speaker of the day. Thompson previously worked as a farm business management instructor at Lake Region State College and found her passion in understanding and communicating about grain markets in an applied and helpful way for farmers. She is actively involved in her family's farm, producing corn, soybean, wheat and barley.

The Ward County Crop Improvement Association and commodity board elections will be held after the program concludes at 3 p.m.

The Best of the Best event is free to attend, but registration is requested by Jan. 25 to help the organizers plan for lunch. Registration, as well as a full event agenda, is available at [ndsu.ag/BoB-program-26](http://ndsu.ag/BoB-program-26).

Certified crop advisers can earn continuing education units (CEUs) by attending the event.

for the remainder of the school term. For the past four months, Miss Truax has been employed in the office at the Truax-Traer mine south of Columbus.

The M.W.A. Lodge of Columbus will give a Public Card Party at the Sons of Norway Hall in Columbus, Wednesday evening. Progressive whist will be played and lunch served. All are invited to attend.

The Columbus Girls' and Boys' Basketball Teams defeated the Noonan teams on the local floor last night. Thursday, in one-easy and one-hard fought contest. The girls' teams nearly lost their first game of the season. Trailing Noonan 15 to 20 in the last quarter, a final spurt put them in the lead, the final score being 24 to 22. The boys had an easy time with Noonan, winning by the decisive score of 16 to 8. The games with the Noonan teams were substituted for Ambrose, who was unable to come on account of the snow blockage.

See the new Ford bodies at our showrooms. From the deep radiator to the curving tip of the rear fender, there is an unbroken sweep of line—a flowing grace of contour here-

fore thought only possible in an expensive automobile. Now more than ever the new Ford is a value far above the price."

## Columbus Motor Co.

Notice to the People of Columbus and Vicinity: One resolution we have been forced to make in 1930 is to go on a strictly cash basis. We are finding more and more accounts overdue. Due to general difficulties and individual hard luck, a great many of our customers cannot see their way to clear to meet their accounts.

We are forced to tell you, "Strictly Cash."

## -Johnson's Service Station

## Talkie Programme

## New Columbus Theater

## "The Home of

## Vitaphone Pictures"

January 23, 24th and 25th

## Clara Bow in

## "Dangerous Curves"

See and Hear Clara Bow talk. Hear her voice glowing with the new charm—the new "It." You don't know the half of "It" until you see this picture.

Shows each night at 8 and 9:30 o'clock. Adm. 25c & 50c

Roller Skating every Wednesday and Saturday at the Sons of Norway Hall. Come and enjoy

some real healthful exercise.

## Notes from school.....

Semester Examination Schedule: Wednesday, January 29; 9:00-11:30 Latin II, Chemistry, Citizenship, Typewriting; 1:30-3:30 Sr. Grammar, English 11, Algebra.

The fourth A number class started working problems in long division this week.

Fifth Grade - We have a new pupil, Glen Wick, making our enrollment 29.

Sixth Grade - We observed temperance day on Friday by reading and discussing the history of National Prohibition.

Read public notices in our newspaper or go to [www.ndna.com](http://www.ndna.com) click on public notices

## Kitchen creations

To submit a favorite recipe, mail to P.O. Box 40, Bowbells ND 58721, or e-mail to [tribune@nccray.net](mailto:tribune@nccray.net).

## HAM CHEESE BALL

8 oz. pkg. cream cheese  
2 cans chunk ham (in can by tuna)  
1 tsp. minced onion  
1/4 tsp. Tabasco sauce  
1/4 c. mayonnaise  
2 Tbsp. parsley

1/4 tsp. dry mustard

Mix all ingredients together and roll in nuts. Refrigerate.

Michelle Redmer of Bowbells states, "This cheese ball is awesome."

We are always in need of recipes, please share one today.

## Burke County Tribune

"Official Publication of Burke County"

Kristi Bohl, Publisher

Lyann Olson, General Manager

Michelle Redmer, Office Assistant • Lisa Thomas, Reporter

Published every Wednesday and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Bowbells, North Dakota 58721 and also at other additional entry offices. Publ. No. 061920.