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Says Carroll Peterson:

"I would have died had I stayed on that plane"

▲ Carroll Peterson and John Audus meet 68 years after Christmas Day plane crash of 1944

From the Christmas Day edition, 1944, of the *Harrisburg* (PA) *Inquirer*: "A huge Army plane, lost in murky weather three miles from the Harrisburg Airport, crashed in a heavily wooded section at 4:27 a.m. today, killing 10 South Dakota soldiers and injuring 17 others".

Sixty-eight years after the fact of this horrific Army plane crash, the story gets even another life, a Paul Harvey 'rest of the story' with a Northeast South Dakota connection. Two Army privates, who were in the same company and grew up 20 miles away from each other in Northeast South Dakota, found out they have this memorable trip in common.

The two recent Army inductees were stationed at Camp Blanding in December of 1944, south of Jacksonville, Fla. and were preparing for their Christmas furlough before heading to Europe and combat duty in World War II. The pair were finishing Basic Training with Company B -21st Infantry Battalion. Camp Blanding was the biggest military training base in America at the time with 90,000 soldiers.

It doesn't take a geographical 'Einstein' to figure out that Harrisburg, Pa. is not on the path from Jacksonville, Fla. to Minneapolis and to this day that is a 'baffler'.

One was on this plane and survived spending all of 1945 in the hospital. The other wasn't allowed on the plane, he was kicked off, after trying to be a stow away, and made it home for Christmas and spent 1945 in Europe, in part helping to liberate the Buchenwald Concentration Camp at Weimar, Germany.

John Audus, who grew up south of Bradley, and farmed there his entire life, was on the plane that crashed near



Carroll Peterson, left, of Webster and John Audus, middle, of Clark, were in the same company in World War II, unbeknownst of each other. Marlin Fjelland, right, of Clark, found out about them both being on the same plane, for a short while on Christmas Day 1944. It is quite a story and Fjelland helped the two get acquainted and reminisce about this fateful trip home taken by Audus and almost by Peterson.

Harrisburg, Pa. According to the *Inquirer* story: "The plane, apparently seeking a landing field in the ceiling zero weather, was flying so low that it struck the side of the ridge known as Round Top, five miles southeast of this city".

Carroll Peterson, who grew up south of Lily and worked 40 years for the highway department in Webster as an engineering technician for the South Dakota Highway Department, was the one who wasn't allowed on that cargo plane, on Christmas Day, 1944.

"There were four of us from Webster wanting to come home for Christmas together," said Peterson of why he was trying to get on that plane. "This plane was to go to Minneapolis and that would mean that I would get to Webster five hours sooner than the plane I was scheduled for that was to land in Bismarck, N.D. I remember we were waiting a long, long time for the fog to lift and when the captain took the roster, I was the odd man out. He told me to get off the plane and there was a spot for me on the one going to Bismarck. I would have died had I stayed on that plane," said Peterson as he was seated in the front of the plane. All 10 who perished were seated in the front of the plane.

The three Webster Army men were banged up pretty good, but all survived. Audus has had life-long

Plane crash (continued on page 3)



The new owners of the Lookout Bar and Grill are left to right, Angie Benson, Gayle Wookey and Tom Wookey (not pictured). As of January 1, 2013 the former Time Out will become The Lookout.

The Lookout Bar and Grill is under new ownership

Along with a new name, some cosmetic interior changes will come with new ownership of the former Time Out restaurant, in Clark. Ryan Claussen has sold the Time Out to Gayle Wookey, Tom Wookey and Angie Benson, and their establishment will be called the Lookout Bar and Grill.

Many things will remain similar, but one will also see some marked

differences. "We wanted our own identity and with the Lookout Bar and Grill moniker will be an outdoorsy, hunting-type theme and that's what we were looking for," said Gayle Wookey in an interview at the restaurant earlier this week with her and Angie Benson.

Burger Night, Card Night and

Lookout (continued on page 3)

Traditions go hand-in-hand with the coming of the New Year in Scotland

If one's from Scotland, they know the traditions of the New Years celebration.

Leading up to the New Year, the house must be thoroughly cleaned, from top to bottom. "Nothing was to be dirty. The bedding, the floors, everything had to be cleaned before the bell rang at midnight on New Years Eve," stated Isobel (McLean) Moeller, who moved to Redfield originally from Irvine, Scotland back in 1970 when a newlywed.

All the Christmas decorations also had to be put away before the New Year came in at midnight.

The town bell would announce the New Year and it also rang on the television. After that the celebration would begin after the First Foot came through the door.

First Foot

"After the First Foot came in the door, that's when the party would begin," says Isobel. "The tradition is that the First Foot had to have dark hair and a piece of coal in their hand. I remember one year my blonde cousin came over first and my mother told him to come back later as the First Foot had not come yet. You could not leave the house

Moeller (continued on page 3)



Isobel Gow McLean was born in Irvine, Scotland where New Years is celebrated with vigor. Now Isobel Moeller, married to Mike Moeller, she resides in Clark and recalls some of the traditions of the holidays where she grew up. Shown with Isobel are some of the china dolls she collects on her travels when she returns to Scotland.

The Clark County Year in Review - Part I

2012 will long be remembered for the wonderful warm, dry weather throughout the year. In this last issue of 2012, the *Clark County Courier* will briefly look back at the first six months of the year.

The first six months of the year were highlighted by warm temperatures, an easy spring planting, a life-saving event and both Cyclone basketball teams participating in state tournaments.

This 2012 Year in Review is not all-inclusive, but rather a look back at some of the Clark County highlights. Next week we will feature the second half of 2012.

Here's hoping you and your's have a safe and prosperous 2013!

January

Chris Tarbox of Bradley is the new Clark County Auditor, taking over duties from former auditor Nancy Worth who retired from that position.

Ryan Eggleston of Clark, formerly of Willow Lake, becomes the new Clark County Highway Superintendent, replacing John Howardson who also retires.

The new Clark Rural Water treatment center being built six miles south of Clark is about two months ahead of schedule, thanks to an open and dry winter to this point.

On January 5, eight golfers are pictured as they golf in light jackets and no gloves at the Clark Golf Course in 58° degree weather. The high for the day beat out the 1958 record high by 15 degrees.

Four area teenagers are arrested due to recent burglaries at the Clark Hometown Variety store and Dakota Butcher/Clark Liquors.

Michael Carlson, 49, of Crooks died while hunting deer by Raymond. He was the nephew of Wayne and Paula Carlson and Fred and Pat Rosenau.

Life-long blacksmith Del Horsted of Willow Lake is featured as he shows his friend's grandson, Eathan Helder of Brookings, the tricks of the trade when working with various metals.

Clark School decides in favor of staying with a four day school week for the 2012-13 school year.

Jordyn Temple, Angela Young and Kathryn Paulson qualify for middle school All State Band and Junior



On January 5, 2012, the record temperature of 55° allowed these golfers to get in nine holes.

High Honors Choir.

Former South Dakota Governor Bill Janklow is laid to rest at the age of 72. He served four terms being elected in 1978, 1982, 1994 and 1998.

A semi-truck carrying 165 pigs overturns on County Road 2. Nine pigs died on their way to Sioux Falls from a local hog farm.

Willie Gruenwald has been an electrician in Clark for 50 years!

February

Clark County Farm and Home show deemed a success. Held in Clark, it was a one day affair for the second year.

Fifty years of fun and camaraderie are noted as a long running bridge card club in Clark is featured.

Les the German Shepherd's story is told on the front page of the Courier. He was the guard dog and friend to all at Greenfield's Short Stop in Clark.

Six boy's teams and six girl's teams play in the first Lee Schlagel Memorial Basketball Tourney in Clark. Schlagel was a 2004 Clark graduate where he excelled in sports and was a Class 'A' All-State basketball player.

Skyler Flatten, junior basketball standout at Clark is the only player from South Dakota for the 2012 McDonald's All American Games, one of 300 players nationwide.

Warkentien Feed Lot, going strong for 25 years is featured. Todd Warkentien, owner has worked his way up to 4,600 head of cattle at the facility south of Clark.

Funding remains a concern at the Clark School



Todd Warkentien has run his feedlot for 25 years, south of Clark. He currently has 4,600 head of cattle.

Board meeting. Jeff Olson attends meeting and inquires about buying land southwest of the high school for Clark elevator expansion.

Clark one-act play titled 'Check Please' earns every actor/actress a superior rating at State Festival.

Six Cyclone wrestlers qualify for State Tourney.

Morgan Hemmingson and Ashley Heupel work as legislative pages for Brock Greenfield and Burt Tulson, respectively in Pierre at the State Legislative session.

Scotie Bellefy is temporary postmaster in Clark.

Sheldon Adam attains Eagle Scout status. He is a member of Clark's Boy Scout troop #23 and a Court of Honor is held at the Ulllyot Building.

Strategic planning sessions are ongoing at Willow Lake School led by superintendent Terry Winegar.

The Greater Clark Area Community Foundation, started in 2004, has grown to the point of being able to

Year in Review (continued on page 3)