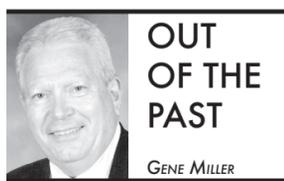


League of Women Voters gets out the vote



OUT OF THE PAST

GENE MILLER

150 YEARS AGO

Most of the schools of the county have closed and now the teachers and many of the scholars are preparing for another campaign by applying for certificates of qualification. Superintendent Brunson is having a busy time in conducting examinations.

125 YEARS AGO

Notice is hereby given that the grocery firm of Langdon & Hudson is by mutual consent dissolved, G. C. Hudson retiring. All persons indebted to the firm are requested to call at the store and make immediate settlement without further notice. Hereafter the business will be conducted under the firm name of Langdon & Co. Mrs. M. A. Langdon. G. C. Hudson.

100 YEARS AGO

The Orpheus men's singing club organized last fall will broadcast a program from station WHO, Bankers Life, Des Moines, Sunday afternoon, April 11, under the auspices of the Kiwanis club. The club consists of business men, who sing for their own amusement. It met every week during the winter under the direction of Miss Maude Wenck, music instructor in the Algona schools. Mrs. Sylvia Gunn is pianist for the organization. The average attendance is 20. 27 were present at the last meeting Tuesday night.

75 YEARS AGO

The heavy turnout for the city elections Monday might well be the results of

the efforts of the League of Women Voters. This group, which was organized last fall, called every home in Algona Monday and reminded the people that the elections were being held. The organization also sponsored advertisements in the papers, listing the candidates and their occupations and years in Algona.

50 YEARS AGO

THE BIG SURPRISE in democratic ranks must be the showing of Jimmie Carter in a starting field of 11. How has he managed to emerge from a poor geographical position and comparative obscurity into a front runner? His campaign force is largely novices from his Georgia governor days. He's not a lawyer, and without a Washington power base. Perhaps those are two assets.

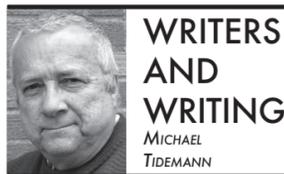
25 YEARS AGO

A Last Chance meeting for Swea City Fun Days will be held on Monday, April 2 at the Swea City City Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and give their input on having Fun Days. If there is no response to the meeting, Fun Days will be cancelled. As of this date, Fun Days has been scheduled for June 29 and 30. Please attend this meeting and help support your town.

Gene Miller's Out of the Past is compiled from past editions of the Kossuth County Advance, the Algona Upper Des Moines, and their forerunners, and published as they were at the time. The column appears weekly in the Advance.

McGovern war diary reveals soldier before the statesman

My Life in the Service: The World War II Diary of George McGovern
George S. McGovern
Introduction by Andrew J. Bacevich
Franklin Square Press
ISBN 978-1-879957-59-6
Hardcover \$28.95



WRITERS AND WRITING

MICHAEL TIDEMANN

Jan. 18, 1971, U.S. Sen. George S. McGovern of South Dakota announced his candidacy for President in Sioux Falls, S.D., amidst little fanfare except for dedicated followers. McGovern's announcement was met with opposition within his own state for his stance against the Vietnam War.

A bare four months later, McGovern gave the commencement address at my graduation from Baltic High School. I was stary eyed when I crossed the stage to accept my diploma and shake the hand of a presidential candidate.

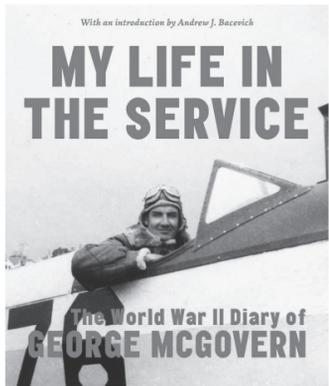
To say McGovern did poorly in the Presidential race, though, was putting it mildly. He received the nomination only after five ballots at the Democratic National Convention in Miami. Then after announcing Missouri Sen. Thomas Eagleton as his running mate, it was revealed that Eagleton had received electroshock treatments for mental illness. McGovern said he backed Eagleton 1,000 percent, then dropped him and replaced Eagleton on his ticket with Sargent Shriver. That may have helped McGovern win Massachusetts along with Washington, D.C., since Shriver was married to Eunice Kennedy.

The final blow to McGovern's political career came when in 1980 he was defeated by Republican James Abdnor in his shot at a fourth Senate term.

I recall McGovern's campaign ads for president including the brief phrase, "a bomber pilot in World War II." Nothing was revealed of his extreme heroism during his 35 missions over Europe for which he received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

However, his war diary does.

My Life in the Service: The World



War II Diary of George McGovern reveals the story of a humble man from Mitchell, S.D., who entered the service out of a sense of duty and performed with a cool head under fire. The diary was published a few years ago and was just recently advertised in Harper's magazine.

McGovern's final mission, the last for the 15th Air Force, was the worst.

April 25, 1945 - "Our ship #34 was hit badly over the target. Tex took a flak hit in his left thigh. All our hydraulic lines were cut hopelessly so to land we had to crank our gear down manually, pump the flaps down, and then throw out parachutes to stop us when we were on the ground. We ended up at the end of the runway O.K. with no further damage to our plane or the fellows. We had well over 75 holes in our plane some which were amazingly close to some of us. In a way this was a good one to quit on because it made me more thankful than ever that I had finished."

Could McGovern have done better in his presidential bid had the public known his full war story?

I most definitely believe so.

Anyone who remembers McGovern fondly should read his diary. Anyone who despised him could learn even more. There was much more to the man than most people realize.

Michael Tidemann writes from Estherville, Iowa. His Web site is michaeltidemann.my.canva.site.

Of my version of The Egg and I

You've heard the expression "egg on one's face." Well last week I had egg on my face big time. I had put a half-cooked egg in the microwave to solidify a bit. It was still in its shell, but I removed part of the shell so it wouldn't explode. I forgot to tell the egg about that precaution so when I opened the microwave, the egg exploded with a loud - very loud - bang. My cats, Hemingway and Inky, ran for their lives. I had egg not only on my face, but on my clothes, on the floor, the kitchen curtains and, of course, the microwave. The latter was pretty much solid yellow.

Before it exploded, the egg was soft-boiled. It reminded me of old Cary Grant movies where the actors, seated at an elegant breakfast table adorned with silver candelabra and fresh flowers, gently tapped an egg which was in a sort of cup. I've never seen that in real life, but I always thought it was the epitome of fine dining - or breakfasting. I'm glad Cary Grant wasn't in my kitchen that morning to see how ungraceful my encounter with the egg was.

After I had recovered from being attacked by the egg, I remembered that I had once written an essay in high school entitled "Eggs." Sure enough, I found it buried in one of the many drawers in this house - my mother had proudly saved it, probably because it sported a large, red "A-minus." I think it would have been an A, except I managed to misspell a few words. My teacher wrote, "Get the dictionary habit."

"What did you write" you say? So glad you asked. Here it

is in its entirety, which I had a heck of a time deciphering because at that time in my life I affected a very strange back-slanted cursive writing style.

"Eggs"- an article least likely to be re-printed in the Dairyman's Journal.

I hate eggs. There, I've said it, and I'm glad. I've tried them boiled, broiled, fried, fricaseed (sic), omletted (sic), scrambled, shirred and ruffled. About the only way I haven't had them is a la mode. But despite all the cookbook artistry and sneaky camouflage (sic), an egg is an egg is an egg (with apologies to G. Stein.)

In regard to that much debated question, which came first, the chicken or the egg, I have no doubt that it was the former. Nobody could have looked at



INK SPOTS

MOLLY MACDONALD

the egg and considered it worth preserving. Unfortunately for me the chicken had more appeal - hence the passing on to posterity of the (ugh) egg.

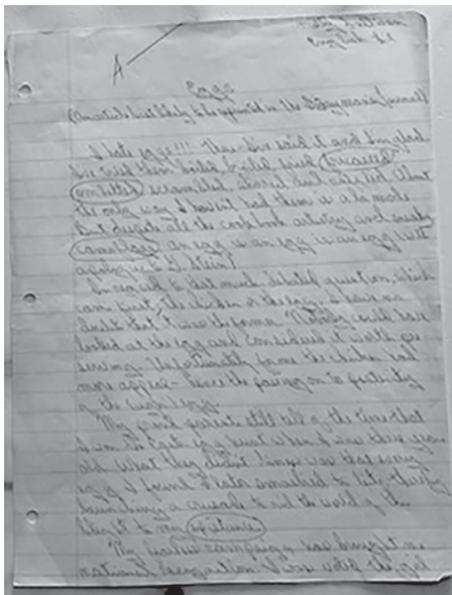
My proud parents still tell of the time that I won the Easter egg hunt when I was three years old. What they didn't know was that every egg I found I later smashed to bits, thereby launching a crusade to rid the world of this blight to my existence (sic).

My fearless campaign has brought me national recognition. I was voted the girl least likely to succeed by the Poultryman's Gazette, an honor prized highly by all loyal egg-haters. I was also named Woman of the Year by the Union of Setting Hens.

And now I shall divulge a secret hidden for centuries and but recently come to light. In deciphering certain ancient hieroglyphics, this astounding fact was revealed. Humpty Dumpty (sic) did not fall - he was pushed. And the pushee? Cave-woman Molleigh of the tribe of O'Soloman."

Don't judge - I was 17.

Molly MacDonald of Algona is a former editor of the Kossuth County Advance. Her Inkspots appears biweekly in the Advance.



Throwback:

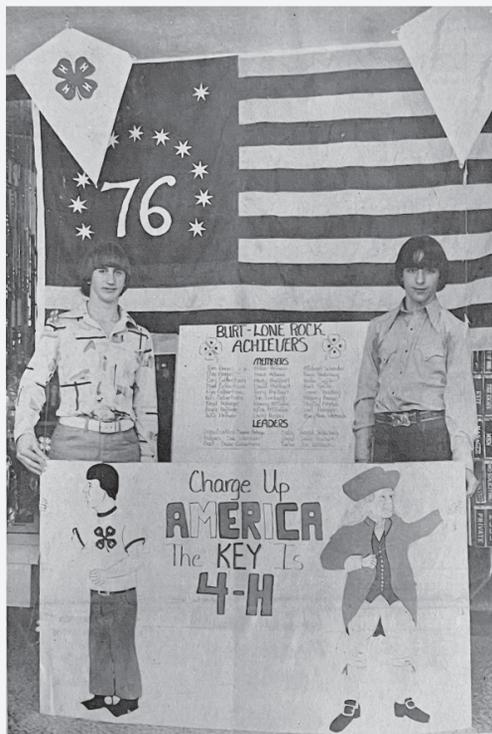
Top Boys' 4-H club Exhibit

From the April 8, 1976 Algona Upper Des Moines newspaper.

Algona's 4-H Day was well-attended Saturday despite cool and windy weather. The **Burn-Lone Rock Achievers** had the top boys' club project, displayed at the Coast-to-

Coast Store. Pictured with the winning display are (from left) club vice-president **Larry Person** and club treasurer **David Hurlburt**.

Plum Creek Elite had the top girls' display, and the **St. Joe Trojan's** had the best Bicentennial display.



LETTERS

Dear Editor:

It was around Passion Week last year that I sent my first letter to the Editor regarding "The Kingdoms of Men" topic. As kingdoms of men go, the editorial page has not presented us anything new regarding the polarization of the opinions of men, as we strive to chart our course in governance of the masses. I'm not sure that it be known by all that human government was ordained by God (Romans 13: 1-5). They are established by God to restrain evil and to promote good for the people. Yet, when men strive to achieve that purpose apart from seeking the wisdom and righteousness of God, our sinfulness botches it up terribly. Our corrupt nature is affected by power, influence and wealth, and our reasoning is tainted such that we can be persuaded to justify any means to accomplish what we choose to believe is good for us. But America is unique in this world. Many of the settlers that came to these shores sought to advance the free exercise of the Christian faith and to make Christ known. The Mayflower Compact states that expressed intent. When our Colonies chose to break free from England's monarchy, it was the tenants of God's word that guided the establishment of the division of powers in our government structure. Our foundation built on the Christian faith has been blessed by our sovereign God. We still have had our incidents of corrupted processes and outcomes, but by the grace and mercy of God, America has been used to promote and sustain religious and civil freedoms. This year America celebrates its 250th birthday. We declared our independence in 1776. Our National Constitution wasn't finalized until 1789, and has now been sustained for 237 years. Statistics regarding National Constitution of all the countries of the world reveal that the average lifespan of national constitutions is around 17 to 19 years before replacements occur. The mean lifespan is 7 years. Our reverence to God and his wisdom indeed has played a part in our national constitution longevity.

Donald Trump was elected with a stated goal of "making America great again". It is a noble intent. The aspect of our countries perceived decline that Trump has no power to affect is our backsliding from the fear and reverence of God. The kingdoms of men will always have unrighteousness and darkness within them. There is no utopia possible by men. We have been corrupted by sin and, apart from

God, we gravitate to darkness (John 3:19-20). In God there is no darkness (1 John 1:5). So, when Jesus proclaims "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near", it is an offer extended to everyone for a personal, willful response while we are in these Last Days. (Between Jesus' ascension and second coming). It's that repenting part that halts so many. We love our shades of gray. The compromise of human government lets in many shades of gray, and even blackness. That is the fatal flaw with human government compromise. The Apostle Paul has a staggering summation of Jesus, the King of Kings, who will one day rule over all earthly kingdoms, in his letter to the Colossian church. I hope you will read it. (Colossians 1:15-20). The Prophet Daniel records a vision he received that theologians believe is a vision of Jesus, the Son of Man, reentering heaven after his ascension and approaching God the Father, noted as "the Ancient of Days", for his coronation and receiving all authority. That is recorded in (Daniel 7:13-14).

Everyone on earth belongs to one of two kingdoms. The Kingdom of Men, or the Kingdom of Heaven (God). The distinction between them is a matter of repentance and surrender to the righteous King of all creation. Jesus gave several parables as distinctive markers to assess by: Do you perceive yourself as being on the narrow path that leads to life, or on the broad road to destruction? (Matthew 7:13-14) In Jesus' parable of the planted field which produced wheat and weeds, which plant do you believe you are in Jesus' sight? (Matthew 13:24-30) When the Son of Man gathers the nations before him, would you count yourself as one of the sheep he gathers to his right hand, or as a goat that he places on his left? (Matthew 25:31-46)

As we consider the upcoming Passion week, remembering again Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and fulfilling all prophecies ascribed to the coming Messiah, he also obediently fulfilled the will of the Father and culminated the plan of salvation by his sacrifice at the hands of the kingdom of men. What did God accomplish at the surrender of Jesus to the kingdom of men at the cross? See (Colossians 2:8-15) Please consider for yourself the kingdom pathways available to us. It is a citizenship identification of eternal importance.

Ken Wind, Algona

A pair of somber anniversaries

To the Editor:

Monday, March 23, was the 16th anniversary of the signing of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law. Roughly 50 million Americans have gained health insurance coverage either through the ACA marketplace or Medicaid expansion. Since 2013, the number of Americans uninsured decreased by nearly half, from about 14.5% to just under 8%.

I think most of us would agree that our healthcare system, including the ACA, is imperfect and that we could do more to ensure access to healthcare for all Americans. But programs like the ACA and Medicaid have made strides in closing some of the gaps in access to care for millions.

Yet instead of taking more steps forward to ensuring care, we seem to be sliding backwards, and rather quickly. Because of Trump's "Big, Ugly Bill" passed last summer, approximately 114,000 Iowans are estimated to lose Medicaid or ACA coverage. Nearly the same number of Iowans on the ACA marketplace are now paying double or more for their health insurance due to the continued failure by Congress to extend the ACA tax credits at the end of 2025.

Another anniversary is on the horizon. April 1 marks the 10-year anniversary of when Iowa privatized its entire Medicaid program. The cruel joke that this occurred on April Fools' Day is not lost on thousands of Iowans dependent on for-profit managed care organizations like Iowa Total Care to approve the care they need.

One doesn't have to look far to know Iowa's privatized Medicaid hasn't been a success by many measures. Either from someone in your own family, a neighbor, or friend at

church we've heard ten years of stories of delays in needed care or outright denials of service. Support groups on Facebook for those dealing with Iowa's Medicaid program are littered with phrases like "Iowa Total Care sucks," "How do we fight the fight without getting mentally drained," and more.

So what are our current crop of elected officials doing in response? At least it appears they've abandoned their attempt to lock us into privatized Medicaid for years to come. But care is still being denied.

I read an article in KFF Health News recently about a family in Ottumwa who is fighting a decision by Iowa Total Care to cut their adult child's in-home care coverage by about a third of what they were covering. A manager for Iowa Total Care testified that state officials advised the company to focus mainly on "skill building" time, not supervision.

Reading between the lines, this sounds a lot like advice on how to cut costs, not provide the care our loved ones, neighbors, and others need. And it's in large part because of the massive cuts to Medicaid in the Big, Ugly Bill last summer so billionaires could get more tax breaks.

Our rural hospitals, our nursing homes, people we love rely on Medicaid and the ACA to access the care we need, when and where we need it. They can be lifelines to a fulfilling life and vibrant communities. And they should be strengthened, not gutted to line the pockets of people who barely know the value of a hard day's work.

Barb Kalbach
Adair County