

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Wednesday evening, February 3, is the date for the February Birthday party starting at 7 p.m. The program will be presented by the Cargill Spirit Singers directed by Mrs. Laurie Fitzsimons. Hosts will be the Ruth Circle of Cargill United Methodist church.

EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST

Gwen Deluge is hostess for the February 13 Early Bird Breakfast at Kealey's Airport Restaurant. Sign up sheet will soon be in the Post Office.

SATURDAY 2:30 MATINEES

February 13 – AN EVENING WITH MR. & MRS. LINCOLN, starring Max & Donna Daniels – a documentary play in one act, set against the Civil War.

February 27 – LADIES IN LAVENDER, STARRING Judi Dench & Maggie Smith. They saved a stranger from the sea off the coast of England. In return he stole their hearts.

TUESDAY EVENING PROGRAM

Dr. John Bussa, a Janesville ophthalmologist, will speak to us Tuesday night, February 9, about eye health and caring for the aging eye.

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions 2010 begins February 7. A Program Meeting on January 17 chose times, leaders and topics, which are listed below:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Topic</u>
2-7	Steve & Paula Flood	U.S.-China Security Relations
2-14	Betty Reifor	Global Financial Crisis
2-21	Joanne Anderson	Special Envoys
2-28	Mirabel Deming	Russia & its Neighbors
3-7	Gloria Ziegler	Persian Gulf
3-14	Bruce Pierson	Global Crime
3-21	Tony Pavlick	Kenya & R2P
3-28	Sam Romano	Peace Building & Conflict Resolution

We'll meet Sundays at 3 p.m. in the Gathering Room for the video and move next door to the Activity Room from 3:30 to 4:30 for leadership, discussion and refreshments. Everyone is welcome to attend whether you have registered or not. We can order more briefing books as they are needed.

The Thursday before each session the Video for that session will be shown on JATV cable, Channel 98, at 3 times—10 a.m., 3 & 8 p.m.

SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS

The Spiritual Connections group will NOT meet in February. The Chaplain will be out of town that day. The group will meet on March 15.

EVENING OUT – Sign up in P.O. to eat out with others at El Jardin Restaurant on Thursday, Feb. 18, leaving here at 4:45.

JIM'S JOTTINGS

In what location do you find it easy for you to act differently than how you would normally act? I was in a group where the speaker asked this question, and I spontaneously replied "in my car." At least for me the answer was appropriate, for when I am driving I enjoy being in control. I consider myself usually a kind and considerate person, but in my car I begin thinking of my rights and find it easy to blame others. My automobile isolates me from the give and take of human relationships. I feel more certain, obstinate and powerful.

When this happens I need to remind myself of my spiritual heritage which encourages compassion, humility and understanding. I need to listen before I talk, consider various options before I act, and act reasonably and responsibly. I must be careful that hidden resentment does not influence my behavior. And when I am wrong I must admit it and ask forgiveness,

Have you driven a car recently?

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LENT AT CEDAR CREST

The season of Lent is upon us. Ash Wednesday is February 17, and there will be a worship service that day with Communion at 2:00. As we continue through the season of Lent there will be a service every Wednesday at 2:00. Theme of this year's Lenten series is "Remember." You are invited to be part of this time of reflection and renewal.

CEDAR CREST AUXILIARY

An Auxiliary General meeting was held on January 11. Thanks to Al Dunwiddie who spoke about his beginning and subsequent work at a local bank.

During the Business Meeting it was voted to elect Rita Roherty as President for two years and outgoing President Marilyn Burki as First Vice President (they exchanged offices). Lois Skatrud had requested to be relieved as Treasurer. No one had been found to replace her. (Shortly after the meeting Bob Stone agreed to become Treasurer.) Those remaining in office are Zona Mennicke, Second Vice President, and Wilma Miller, Secretary.

Lois Skatrud furnished information about the largest payments made from October 2008 through October 2009:

10/15-08 = Cedar Crest - TV set for	
Gathering Room	\$4,159.95
10/19/08 = Cedar Crest -	
Foundation Donation	500.00
6-29-09 = Cedar Crest -Golf	
Dinner Donation	250.00
8/5/09 = Cedar Crest -Exercise	
Equipment	<u>8,000.00</u>
	\$10,909.95

The February 17 Luncheon will be Baked Potatoes with choice of several toppings plus the usual homemade pies and cakes

More members are needed. How about YOU? Contact Zona Mennicke. One year's dues for residents is \$3.00. (Incorrect amount appeared in last month's Courier)

GREAT HORNED OWLS

St. Agnes' Eve - Ah, bitter chill it was!
The owl, for all his feathers, was a-cold;
The hare limped trembling through the frozen grass,
And silent was the flock in woolly fold; . . .

As kids would say today, old John Keats "nailed it." Of course we can see no hare, nor any frozen grass; woolly fold could refer to our warm blanket as we watch snow silently pile up outside our window.

But the end of January brings the very first hint of spring. Shivering in all her feathers the great horned owl is looking for her mate. Any night now, we should be hearing the loud deep hoot of the female, and the answering call, slightly higher pitched, of the male. A ramshackle nest is all ready nearby; by February first she should be sitting on a fresh clutch of eggs.

A year ago Betty and I were lucky enough to watch the owls' courtship, and soon a rude nest was just outside our bedroom window. Sturdier than the proverbial postman, she sat through wind and rain, ice and snow for a whole month. One morning her long black tufts (horns?) barely showed above two inches of snow covering her and her nest. She was always alert, leaving the nest very quietly for a few minutes when I stepped out to fill the bird feeders, then returning the minute I was back inside.

We waited anxiously for the first look at white heads of new owlets peeking out above the nest. This was not to be. After thirty days of patient quiet waiting and watching, we found the nest empty. No chicks, no mother, only two pieces of broken egg shell on the ground beneath. We knew their incubation period is usually four weeks, and the young stay in the nest for another six. What had happened?

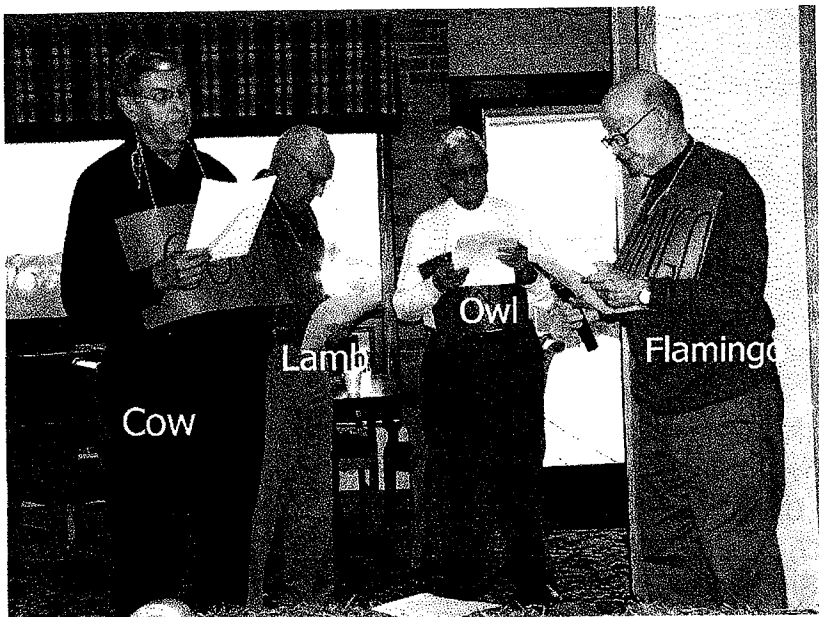
Horned owls are fierce predators, even attacking men who get too close to the nest. Crows might have found the new owlets when mother was off looking for food. Another possible villain was the gray fox which I'd seen once running through the yard. Larger than the red fox, it is known to climb trees. He would certainly enjoy a meal of new owlets.

So keep your ears and eyes open. The mournful cry of the owl is a sure sign of the approaching spring.

--Alan Dunwiddie

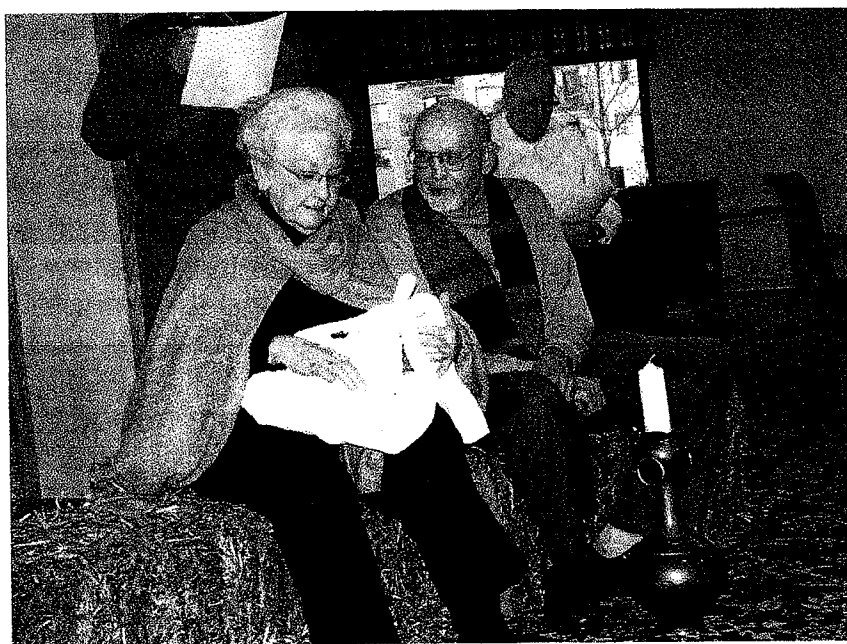
CHRISTMAS AS TOLD BY THE ANIMALS

December 2009



Mel Anderson, Vic Little,
Duane Alexander, Terry Penniston

Bev Austin
Jim Miller
John Bissett



Thanks to Norma Boutwell who
directed this skit and to
Bob Stone who took the pictures.

