



NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER

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LARRY GERLACH, BROWN COUNTY FAIR MANAGER WILL BE MISSED BY MANY

A service to celebrate the life of Larry A. Gerlach, 64, Westport, was held 11:00am Thursday, February 10, 2011 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 409 3rd Ave SE, Aberdeen, with Father Kevin Zilverberg officiating. A lunch and time of fellowship followed the service and then burial at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Westport, SD.

A pray service was 7pm Wednesday, February 9, at Schriver's Memorial Mortuary & Crematory, 414 5th Ave NW. Visitation was 3-7pm Wednesday at the mortuary and one hour prior to the service on Wednesday at the church.

Larry passed away Monday, February 7, 2011 at St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen.

Larry A. Gerlach was born October 6, 1946 to Alvin and Virginia (Stiegelmeier) Gerlach in Britton, SD. He graduated high school at Northwestern School District and then worked for Hub City Iron in Aberdeen. Larry and Susan O'Connor were united in marriage September 2, 1967 in Redfield, SD. They made their home in Aberdeen where he was employed as the manager of the Aberdeen Elk's Club. They owned and operated "The Shed" in Westport from 1976 to 1997.

He served on the Brown County Fair Board for six years and then manager of the Brown County Fair since January of 1992. Through the years, Larry was recognized with many honors, including the 1996 People's Choice ABBY Award. He was president of the South Dakota Association of Fairs from 1997 through 2001 and was inducted into the Fairman's Hall of Fame in 2003. Larry enjoyed car races, hunting, fishing and gardening. He loved a good deer hunt.

Larry's parents and one step brother, Ronald Riechert preceded him in death.

Grateful to have shared in Larry's life is his wife Susan of Westport, SD, his children, Amy (Troy) Engelhart and Alvin (Michelle) Gerlach both of Aberdeen, SD, his two special grandsons which he adored, Andrew and Matthew Gerlach, two sisters, Ann (Dallas) Hansen of Eden Prairie, MN, Carol (Vince) Heyn of Huron, SD, his step brother, Armand (Darlene) DeYoung of Mesa, AZ, and his step sister, Janice Labor of Huron, SD.

JOYCE MERRILL'S FAIR FAMILY ALONG WITH OTHERS WILL MISS HER

Joyce Merrill, 73, died Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at her home. Memorial Funeral Mass was held at 1:00pm Friday, February 11, 2011 at St. Christina Catholic Church, Parker with a private family burial to precede services at Rosehill Cemetery, Parker. Visitation began at 3:00pm Thursday at Hofmeister-Jones Funeral Home, Parker with family present from 5-7:00pm with a time of sharing to follow at the Parker Community Building. Memorials may be directed to the Turner County Fair 4-H Lunch Stand Building Fund or to the Hearts In Mind Preschool.



Joyce Helen Schrepel was born on October 9, 1937 at Madison, SD to Oliver and Jennie (Dirksen) Schrepel. She attended grade school, high school and college on the General Beadle State Teachers College campus, now Dakota State University, in Madison. Joyce enjoyed the farm where she was raised and continued to help her mother, sister, and brother after the death of their father while she was still in grade school. She then worked her way through college as a librarian and telephone operator.

Coming to Parker as a 1st Grade teacher was a highlight in her life, as she continued her love for young people in her teaching career which took her to different positions through the years. Joyce managed the 4-H lunch stand at the Turner County Fair for 34 years.

On August 8, 1959 she was united in marriage to Robert "Bob" Merrill at St. Christina Catholic Church in Parker. They lived and operated a dairy farm at Parker. Their marriage was blessed with four children, Allen, Dana, Linda, and Karen. They enjoyed the activities of their ten grandchildren which was a big part of her everyday schedule.

Joyce was a very active member of St. Christina Catholic Church, Altar Society, and member of the choir. She also was a charter member of the SD 4-H Hall of Fame in 2002, was recognized as volunteer of the year in 2007 by the SD Fair Association, and a charter board member of the Hearts In Mind Preschool.

Grateful for having shared her life are her husband Bob; 4 children, Allen (Kristi) Merrill, Dana (Mark) Matthies, and Linda (Paul) Reynolds, all of Parker, and Karen (Doug) Mikuska, Sioux Falls; 10 grandchildren, Derek and Michelle Matthies, Shane and Katie Merrill, Blake, Blair, and Breanna Reynolds, Cade, Morgan, and Abby Mikuska; a brother James (Joyce) Schrepel, Madison; and a sister Donna (Ron) Mohrmann, Bloomington, MN. She was preceded in death by her parents.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Jeanne McComsey



Yeah spring is here!! Don't think I can handle anymore snow. Yes I know it can snow in April. Keeping my fingers crossed that it doesn't.

With the nice weather we've had these past two weeks the snow is melting and the water is running. I know many people are worried about flooding. In Blunt, SD. [where I work] it has already started. They get water that comes from the North East as far as Faulkton and it also comes from the North West.

I would like to send my condolences to Robert Merrill and Family, and also to Susan Gerlach and Family. Joyce and Larry will be missed in the fair family.

From my home to yours I'd like to share these 3 little ditties with you. Face powder may catch a man, but it takes baking powder to hold him.

Happiness is like jam--you can't spread even a little without getting some on yourself.

Age is a matter of mind. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

FROM THE SECRETARY

By Janet Lehman



The first three months of this year have been rather busy but of course I like it that way, I think!!! I think I have been trying to escape the snow and the cold actually but it liked to follow right along. I took my mother to Pueblo, CO to visit my sister in February so we could celebrate Mom's 87th birthday. We had to stay a couple extra days because of weather back here in South Dakota but that was fine.

Then in March Mom and I did a road trip all the way to Silver Spring, MD. We visited several family members along our route so after a little over two weeks we were still speaking to each other and had a wonderful time. When we got to Silver Spring, MD, where one of my son's lives we got to clean windows in 80 degree weather since he was putting his house on the market but then he treated us to a trip to Atlantic City, NJ and a walk on the boardwalk. I think that must be the East Coast Las Vegas!!

I got back from that trip with a day in between that and the Zone 4 conference.

What a great conference that was; great food, workshops were outstanding and our tour of the Corn Palace along with the Mitchell High School Friend De Coup Show Choir entertainment. This was just outstanding entertainment from a grand champion Show Choir. Renae Korslien, Zone 4 Director, along with Mark Schilling and the Corn Palace Staff need to be commended for a very successful Zone 4 meeting. Next year we will be traveling to Wausau, WI March 26, 27 & 28. Be sure to mark your calendars now.

I am getting geared up to take a motorcycle trip to Fort Worth, TX toward the end of April and the first part of May. It has been quite a while since I have ridden for any distance so this should be fun but I sure hope it warms up a little before then or I may have to invest in some heated riding gear. The gals from the SD State Fair convinced me that I should take part in their Wheel Jam so I now have that on my calendar. I better work hard and fast during April so I can go to all of these things.

The South Dakota fair industry lost two very special people in February, Larry Gerlach and Joyce Merrill. They will always be remembered and missed. My heart goes out to the families in this time of grieving and adjustment.

Have a super summer at all of your events and praying for perfect weather for you.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR UPDATE

By Jerome Hertel, Fair Manager



Once again state government was faced with the difficult task of balancing the state's budget this past legislative session and once again the State Fair was asked to do their part by taking a ten percent cut in general funds. It was a difficult legislative session and many state agencies were asked to utilize their resources more efficiently and produce the same results with less funding.

Fortunately the State Fair's success over the past five years will see us through these tough economic times. The State Fair has recorded increases in revenues, attendance, camping, vendors, and FFA/4-H participation despite a 60% reduction in funding over the past five years. We have not only managed to survive these budget cuts but have managed to thrive due to the strong agricultural economy and the many South Dakotans who support the State Fair.

We are looking forward to another great year in 2011 as we begin preparing for some of the summer events like Wheel Jam June 3-5 and the South Dakota Outdoor Expo June 11-12. Camping and vendor locations are filling up fast for these summer events as well as for the annual State Fair which takes place September 1-5.

We hope everyone has a successful summer and look forward to seeing you all again at the 2011 State Fair.

ABC'S OF FAIRS & FESTIVALS

The board of Directors met in February to brainstorm for the upcoming November 2011 convention. So far we have come up with several different programs which should be of interest.

The IAFE speaker is Chana Mannen, CFE. She is retired Deputy Manager of the San Diego County Fair and Del Mar Fairgrounds with over 30+ years in the fairs and exhibitions business. She is currently the Executive Director of the Donn Diego Fund, a scholarship program for students associated with the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Brenda Farney Merrill will present a workshop "Create a VIP Experience at Your Fair". A panel discussion "Handling Money – Accounting" with Ron Jeffries, Central States Fair Manager, Mark Schilling, Corn Palace Festival Director, and Tom Atkins, Thomas Carnivals Owner. Another panel discussion will be contracts with RJ Romeo of Romeo Entertainment Group and someone from the fair industry.

Round Tables to be held at this year's convention are:

- Year Round Promotion
- Beer Merchandising & Alcohol Management
- Profit Ideas for Small Events
- Community Involvement

We are planning to have Jerry Lehman's party for the first night get-acquainted party which will be serving Hors D'Oeuvres instead of a sit down meal which at this time is planned to be done in the trade show area.

The board is certainly open to any ideas you may have for the convention program so please contact any one on the board of directors to share your ideas.

The convention is an excellent place to come to learn about putting on events, gaining knowledge from other board members and securing the vendors needed.

HONORED FOR 57 YEARS ON FAIR BOARD

Courtesy The Onida Watchman, Inc.



Wanda Hall was honored with a plaque commemorating her service on the Sully County Fair Board for the past 47 years. She retired from the board this fall. Wanda, who served as secretary many of those years, is pictured receiving her plaque from her daughter Jeanne McComsey, President of South Dakota Association of Fairs. Pictured around her are fair board members Curt Matzen, County Commission Representative Bev Zebroski, Darell Tilberg, Curt Reich, Chairman Andy Kleven, Chuck Weischedel, Mike Owens, Micky Brehe and Gerri Carpenter. Other fair board members not available for the photo include Monica Weischedel, Rolly Kemink, Amy Petersen, Kim Jensen, Jay Mikkelsen, and Austin Richards.



Jim, Carol & TJ Korkow

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SIoux EMPIRE FARM SHOW

By Cindy Christensen, Farm Show Manager



Ribbon Cutting

L. to R. Jaxon Schrag, Rex Pruitt,
Tammy Beintima, Brian Gilbert,
Rachel Mehlhaf, Cindy Christensen,
Barb Stork, Dean Karskey, Sammi Schrag

The highlight of the week happens on Friday. The Sale of Champions is a prestigious event where the top 22 head of market livestock sell at an auction attended by business people from the area. This year over \$45,000 was raised at the Sale of Champions which 100% of the funds go to the exhibitor.

The chair of the 2011 Sioux Empire Farm Show was Mr. Brian Gilbert from the First National Bank in Sioux Falls. Brian along with approximately 200 other volunteers ensures that the Sioux Empire Farm show goes off without a hitch. Each volunteer has an area for which there are passionate about and this passion is what makes the implementation of the farm show a success. Cindy Christensen, Agri-Business Division Manager of the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and manager of the farm show is very appreciative of all the volunteers that help insure the success of the farm show. "Without the volunteers, the show could not go on!" says Cindy.

The 59th Sioux Empire Farm Show is scheduled for January 24-29, 2012.

The 58th annual Sioux Empire Farm show is complete for another year. The weather was truly incredible that week, which was a key factor in driving attendance at the event. It was warm that week which was very welcome because the two weeks after the show were very frigid. Purebred shows and sales saw a slight downward tick in entry numbers, but overall the sales went very well. The agricultural economy appears to be very robust and interest was great from potential customers. All vendors at the show were very happy! The Supreme Row was again sponsored by Tri State Neighbor as the gold sponsor and Wells Fargo Bank as the silver sponsor and Campbell Supply as the silver sponsor.

The market livestock shows were very well attended. We had exhibitors from all over the United States, including the West coast and also the East coast. In its second year the Market Goat show more than doubled its entries from last year! It appears that show will continue to grow in the upcoming years. The ever popular market swine show was again very well attended. The cattle shows were all very strong with shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The market lamb show saw a slight decrease in numbers for that show.

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YOUTH TALENT CONTEST

Information about the Youth Talent Contest was just recently sent to all fairs, festivals, and events in the state that are members of the South Dakota Association of Fairs & Celebrations.

A sanction form is to be mailed back by May 1st if you are interested in hosting a contest. The State Finals will be on Sunday – August 28, 2011 – during Corn Palace Festival week. Sponsors for this year's contest are:

Romeo Entertainment Group
 – Grand Award Prize - \$500.00

Corn Palace Festival & SD Association of Fairs
 1st Sweepstakes - \$250.00
 2nd Sweepstakes - \$150.00
 3rd Sweepstakes - \$100.00

RaceWest Awards & Trophies
 - Plaques for top four placings

If you did not receive this information or if you have questions, please contact Janet Lehman – Youth Talent Contest Coordinator – 605-397-8333.



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CONGRATULATIONS STEVE "BOGIE" BOGDANOVICH



ENCINO, CA (March 29, 2011) – Today the Academy of Country Music is announcing the winners of awards that will not be televised during the live telecast of the 46th ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS. The ceremony, which honors country music's top talent as well as the industry's hottest emerging artists, is produced for television by dick clark productions and will be broadcast LIVE from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on Sunday, April 3rd, 2011 at 8:00 PM live ET/delayed PT on the CBS Television Network.

The Academy of Country Music Special Awards are voted on by the ACM Board of Directors and are awarded during years where the Board of Directors feels there are clear and deserving candidates. Industry Awards are voted on by professional members of the Academy. The MBI ballot is voted on by professional members of the Academy classified in the Artist-Entertainer/Musician-Bandleader-Instrumentalist category, and the Producer-Engineer-Studio Manager sub-category (contained within the Affiliated category). Special Awards, Industry Awards and MBI Awards are presented to recipients at ACM Honors, a special event held annually in the fall at the historic Ryman Auditorium.

INDUSTRY AWARDS

DON ROMEO TALENT BUYER OF THE YEAR - Steve "Bogie" Bogdanovich - Romeo Entertainment Group

Steve (Bogie) Bogdanovich was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. He continues to call Omaha home when he is not on the road traveling to fairs and festivals all over the western part of the United States.

He received his degree in Electronics from the Gateway Electronic Institute in 1978. From there he went right to work at Aksarben Coliseum as a sound engineer. He worked his way up to production manager at Aksarben and was employed there until the building closed down in 2001.

That same year he was hired by Bob Romeo to work at TBA Fairs & Festivals (now Romeo Entertainment Group) as the production manager. Bob and his father, Don Romeo, had worked alongside him for years when doing shows at Aksarben. The Romeos knew that he would be the perfect guy to advise fairs and festivals on their production needs and to be the "go-to-guy" on the day of a show.

A few years later, he also became a booking agent at TBA/Romeo Entertainment. He currently books entertainment for about 25 venues and spends a lot of time on the road as a service representative for Romeo Entertainment Group. He is known for his calm demeanor, his love of Diet Coke, and his ability to take care of any problems that may arise. Anyone who has worked with Bogie knows that "It's all good" (Bogie's famous line!)

Bogie also acts as a production manager for several Academy of County Music (ACM) events each year and for Warren Buffett's annual Berkshire Hathaway meeting.

Bogie has also been instrumental in the production of the showcase acts at the Dakota Fairs Convention and helped to make this a real show.

When he is not working, Bogie likes to spend time with his lovely wife, Nancy, his daughters, Shawn & Jody, and his grandson (and namesake), Steven. He also enjoys woodworking.

UPCOMING DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

2011 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 9-12
HOLIDAY INN MONTANA
BILLINGS, MT

2011 DAKOTA FAIRS CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 17-19
RUSHMORE PLAZA HOLIDAY INN
RAPID CITY, SD

2011 IAFE CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 1
PARIS HOTEL
LAS VEGAS, NV

2011 REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

The following membership did not reach us in time to be included in the 2011 Membership Directory:

Todd County Fair
August 12-13
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