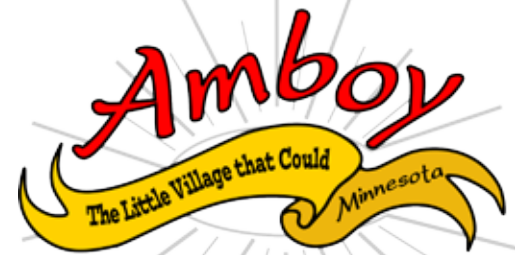




**RED COW**

**GAZETTE**

Amboy, Minnesota



**FREE**

Vol. 9

Red Cow Gazette, Amboy, Minnesota 56010

Holiday 2015

No. 4

Funding and Content for the Amboy Red Cow Gazette is Provided by the Amboy Area Community Club.

## Amboy Night Out — a new community tradition



Community members enjoy a sloppy joe dinner and good company

On October 21, a free community dinner was held at Jackson Lake Lutheran Church in Amboy. Initiated with the help of a grant from Thrivent Financial Corporation, this dinner was attended by approximately 45 residents of Amboy and plans are to repeat this dinner on the third Wednesday of each month. Carol Nase of Jackson Lake Lutheran is the contact person for this event and plans for the next three months are shown at the right.



Volunteers from various churches prepared and served the meal.

### 2015-16 MENU (Wednesday evenings)

**November 18** - Potato Bar with all the Fixings, Lettuce Salad, Pie

**December 16** - Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Toast, Ice-cream with toppings

**January 20** - Tator Tot Hotdish, Salad, Dessert

### A Recipe for Swedish Holiday Cookies

submitted by Verla Boesch

1 cup soft butter  
1/2 cup whipping cream  
2 cups flour  
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix the above like pie crust. Roll out, cut in round shapes (I usually use a small juice glass or something that size), dip both sides in sugar, pick each round a couple times with a fork, bake @ 375 degrees 7-9 min.

#### Filling:

1 egg yolk,  
1/2 cup butter  
1 1/2 cup powdered sugar  
or enough to thicken  
1 tsp vanilla.

Put between two of the above circles. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

## Renovation Work is progressing on the Dodd Ford Bridge



As of October 30, the wooden deck on the Dodd Ford Bridge had been removed (see left photo) and the metal truss had been reinforced in preparation for its temporary removal on November 10th or 11th so that new abutments can be built. When the truss is removed, it will be placed on specially



built pilings (see right above) to the east of the road. After new abutments and a concrete deck have been constructed, the truss will be replaced on top of the new concrete deck.

# Letters to Imogene

Dear Imogene,

My parents are really mean! I am one of the only kids in 4th grade that doesn't have a cell phone. All my friends can text each other and play games and I am totally left out. My dad says I don't need a phone until I'm old enough to drive but I say if everyone I know has one, I deserve to have one too. I think this is like abuse.

Deprived.

Dear Deprived,

As I see it you have several options but here are just two: Get a job of some kind, and after you have saved a considerable sum of money, approach your father, ask if there is a cell phone and a cell phone plan that he would be willing to allow you to purchase. Your ability to do a job well and

save money may convince him that you are more responsible than he currently thinks you are.

Or...you could walk away from your friends when they are texting and gaming and have a live conversation with someone else. You could learn to look another person in the eye while speaking to them and you could develop empathy by observing how people act and talk when they are sad or hurt or happy. If you do these things it may not seem important now BUT, I promise you, you will someday be the most observant, thoughtful and popular person on the planet. If you try this option until you are 16 and you find that I have misled you, I will gladly buy you whatever cell phone your parents will allow you to have.

One additional thought...you are not abused. You are merely longing to be like everyone else and are resenting your parents because their views differ from the views of your friends and their parents.  
Imogene

Dear Imogene,  
What do you think of online dating?  
Curious

Dear Curious,  
Online dating is very effective! I have met and ruled out hundreds of men through this process. If my calculations are correct I should meet "Mr. Right" sometime before the turn of the century. Good luck in your search.  
Imogene

## Talking Turkey

- ❖ Turkeys are the only breed of poultry native to the Western Hemisphere.
- ❖ The bird "turkey" actually is named after the country Turkey. Reportedly, Europeans mistakenly thought the turkeys they saw in America were Guinea fowl, also known as turkey fowl in Europe because they had been imported from Turkey.
- ❖ Young male and female turkeys are called jakes and jennies. They grow up to be toms and hens.
- ❖ Turkeys have great hearing, but no external ears. They can also see in color, and have excellent visual acuity and a wide field of vision (about 270 degrees), which makes sneaking up on them difficult. However, turkeys have a poor sense of smell, but an excellent sense of taste.
- ❖ The long fleshy object over a male's beak is called a snood.



- ❖ The area of bare skin on a turkey's throat and head vary in color depending on its level of excitement and stress. When excited, a male turkey's head turns blue, when ready to fight it turns red. Turkey heads can be red, white, pink, blue, or gray.

- ❖ Domesticated turkeys cannot fly. Wild turkeys, however, can fly for short distances at speeds up to 55 miles per hour. They can also reach speeds of 25 miles per hour on the ground.
- ❖ The wishbone that so many of us break on Thanksgiving vying for luck is actually called "furcula" (little fork). Why do they have these bones? The furcula is thought at least in part to store energy during flight during a half wing stroke and then release it back.
- ❖ Turkeys can have heart attacks: turkeys in fields near the Air Force test areas over which the sound barrier was broken were known to drop dead from the shock of passing jets.
- ❖ Turkeys have a tail that is considered a delicacy in many countries. The turkey tail is very fatty and a single turkey tail can have up to 200 calories (almost all from fat) depending on size!

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**FIND THE ICON**

Dale Sorgatz won \$50 worth of Amboy bucks for finding the acorn icon on page 7 of the last issue of the Gazette.

**In this issue look for a tree icon.** If you find it, email your name and contact information to [redcowstory@gmail.com](mailto:redcowstory@gmail.com) Be sure to state where you found the Acorn. You will be entered into a drawing for a prize of \$50.00 Amboy Bucks.



## COW TALES – HOLIDAYS – 2015

### Blue Earth County - 2015 GHOSTS OF THE PAST “GHOST TOWNS OF BLUE EARTH COUNTY”

The Story of **SHELBYVILLE**, as told by **ISABELLA VAN NUYS BRACE (~1880)**



*[Isabella enters, ringing school bell]* Good Morning! Are you all ready for school? My name is Mrs. Isabella Van Nuys Brace and I will be your teacher today. Actually, I was the first teacher in the Sterling school, but my family lived just outside of the village of Shelbyville. [I was born in Switzerland Co. Indiana, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1837 and our family moved to Iowa when I was 6 mos. old.] In 1856, at the age of 18, I came to Minnesota with my parents Cornelius and Susan Lee [Dickerson] Van Nuys and family. We settled on a farm in Shelby Township just south of the new town of Shelbyville in Blue Earth County.

Rev. John W. Powell, the noted Methodist pioneer preacher, was a tall Lincolnesque character who was zealous, energetic, and very active in the founding of Shelbyville... and also in naming it after his hometown of Shelbyville, Indiana. The town site was a 320 acre tract – The west half of Section 35. Rev. Powell drew its plat map in April of 1856.

Shelbyville was a live thriving town, and according to that map they were anticipating much growth. The town ran north and south, with the expected railroad tracks along the east side. There were 78 square blocks, with an additional 10 partial blocks along the Station Grounds. Also on the map was the Shelbyville Park [of about 4 square blocks], a Public Square, a Market Square, Schoolhouse Square, and a Methodist Church.

1856 was a very busy year of firsts for Shelby Township, for in April of that year, settlers began pouring into the township. On June 16<sup>th</sup> Mary A. Root, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. N. G. Root was the first white child born in Shelby. The first marriage in the Township was on June 30<sup>th</sup> between George Quiggle and Mary Northrop. The first marriage in Shelbyville was that of Elnathan Kendall to Miss Louise A. Richardson on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The wedding was celebrated by Rev. J.W. Powell at the home of Abner Thompson, which consisted of a covered wagon, with a tent beside it, and a fine oak grove. The witnesses were Mr. and Mrs. Thompson and Geo. Richardson. The second wedding was that of Simon Hoffman to Miss Phoebe Esther Allen on Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the groom's log cabin with Rev. Powell officiating.

The Shelbyville Methodist was the first church in the township, organized by Rev. Powell, in the fall of 1856. A Sunday School was started in 1857 and in 1858 a church building was erected in the village. The cornerstone of the building was laid with due ceremony. A jar filled with various mementos of the occasion was duly deposited under the stone. A big Sunday School picnic was held in the grove by the village on July 22, 1875. There was a procession half a mile long and over 500 people participated in the festivities.

My family was very Presbyterian, as well as good friends with the noted

Rev. Jacob E. Conrad, a Presbyterian minister living, and farming in Sterling. They suggested he start a church in Winnebago, and it was done at a meeting with 7 charter members [4 of which were from my family].

On June 14, 1860, Edward Brace and I were married and lived on his farm, in Shelby Township between Jackson Lake and Lake Ida. After our first child, Minnie May was born, we built a large red brick home. It was in our home that the “Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Ridge” [now Amboy Presbyterian Church] was founded, in March of 1869.

Shelby Township was officially created May 11, 1858 and was first called Liberty. On Oct. 14 of that same year the name was changed to Shelby. Our neighboring township to the west, was first called Otsego, later Willow Creek, and finally Pleasant Mound. During the time Shelbyville was thriving, many attempts were made to start villages in Pleasant Mound. “Hope”, a country post office, had one store; “Pleasant Mound” was a post office too; “Upton” also had a post office for a time, along with a blacksmith shop; “Willow Creek” had a post office, one general store, a blacksmith shop, and a carpet weaver...later, a creamery was built. Pleasant Mound/ Willow Creek's claim-to-fame is their German heritage, and St. John's Lutheran School [now closed], and their Church rising from the prairie, with its steeple pointing “The Way!”

Country Schoolhouses soon began dotting the countryside. A school was built in the village of Shelbyville in 1857. It had only one small square window, and the seats were fashioned from split logs, having wooden pegs for legs. In the winter of 1857-58, David Grey taught the first regular school in town, having about a dozen scholars. District 31-Sterling School was Est. July 10<sup>th</sup> 1858 and I became its first teacher.

The first store in Shelbyville was started by, who else but, Rev. Powell. Two or three buildings were put up in 1856,



**1888 Four Generations with Isabella VanNuys Brace — Grandmother, Susan Lee Dickerson VanNuys — Great-grandmother, Minnie Brace Louer — Mother, and Luella Louer Hicks — Daughter**

many others followed and business increased. The first post office was also established in 1856, with non-other than J.W. Powell as postmaster... HE WAS THE BUSIEST MAN IN TOWN!

From 1856-1879, Shelbyville was still alive and thriving. In 1857 a double log house hotel was built, along with a mercantile business, and a steam sawmill with an additional mill attached for grinding grains. Various other types of mills, a large frame hotel, a blacksmith shop, a wagon shop, a large J.M. Fellow's company store, a General Store, various small stores, and a large two-story building with the upper floor as a hotel and the ground floor as a double store. Yes! Our village certainly was thriving!

In the early sixties, it was the only town in the county possessing the necessary enterprise to make an offer to handle the county fair. The offer carried with it the services of the community and the assurance that it would furnish and fence the necessary grounds. Shelbyville was also home to a farm raising champion Percheron Horses, and there were many events centered around those big beautiful grey horses. There

were also many social functions including lyceums, mock senates, meetings, and church activities. In 1871, a Farmers Club was organized. Old Settlers meetings were held in the village February 2, 1877, and July 4, 1878, drawing large crowds.

In 1879 the long awaited railroad finally came through Shelby Township! A group of farmers two miles north, in the area that is now Amboy, offered the railroad land, money, and One Red Cow with Broken Horns in exchange for building a depot and starting a new town. My Husband signed the petition and pledged \$25.00 to help the cause... and that was a lot of money! To the consternation of the people in Shelbyville, the railroad's big heads decided to take those farmers up on their offer.

Before long, Shelbyville's buildings were being moved, the new town was platted and the spot was named Amboy... It's certainly amazing what a difference ONE RED COW can make...

[NOTE: What is remains of Shelbyville, is a black walnut pulpit and table, now residing in the Amboy Methodist Church]



**(1916) Four Generations with Isabella VanNuys Brace — Great-grandmother, Minnie Brace Louer — Grandmother, Luella Louer Hicks — Mother, and Hazel Hicks Dethloff Ratcliffe — Daughter**

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**Who's That Santa?**

(4 & 5.) Elmer [E.J.] Kranz  
(1.) Alex & Tudi Larson  
(2. & 3.) Dick Dethloff, Dick & Lois Dethloff

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# Christmas Castles at Amboy's Christmas Wonderland



"The Pink Palace" by Bob Ikier



"Christmas in the Kingdom" by the Reuter Family



"Cinderella's Castle" by Bob Ikier



"A Christmas Ballet in the Land" by Bob Ikier

## Who Is That Santa? (answers on page 4)



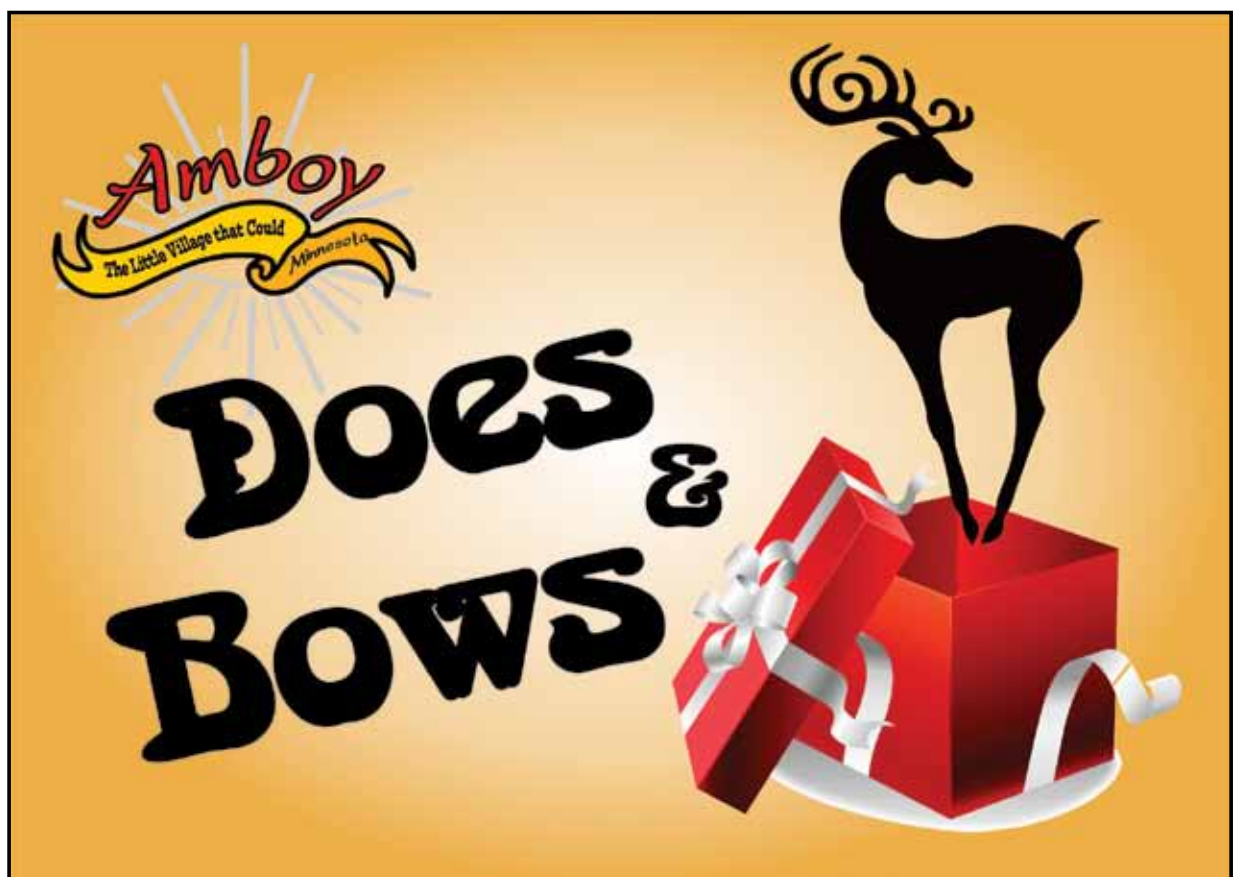
## Amboy's Does & Bows

Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> is, of course...opening day for deer hunting season and an excellent day for the lady's to shop Amboy!! This fun filled day will include your own Does & Bows Hunting Permit, available at all participating stores. Pick up a gift hunting guide with map as well. Take your gift hunting permit to all the shops, and SHOP!

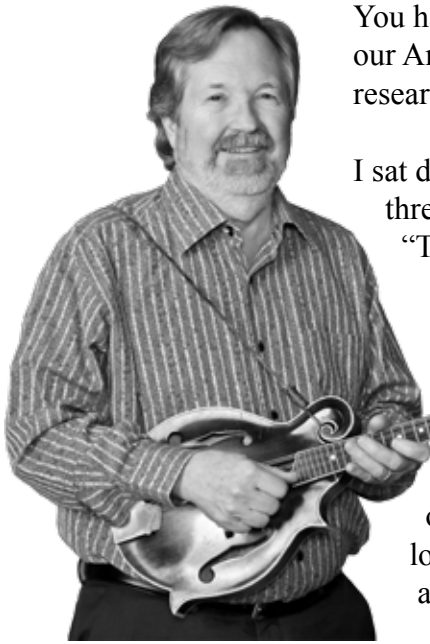
Once you have looked around, maybe found some good gift hunting opportunities, bagged a few deals, and enjoyed a snack, get a punch on your permit card. For those that are successful in getting all the boxes tagged, enter it into the drawing for the hefty gift basket containing a \$50.00 gift certificate to Thistleberry, Merchandise from Sweet Cicely, and Carol's Original Works, plus \$50.00 in Amboy Bucks to spend!! The drop box will be located at the Cottage Café, and the drawing will be held Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.

Be sure to put your contact info on the card!!

**Good Luck on your Gift Hunting!**



## Dick Kimmel to perform Nov. 10th at the Amboy Cottage Café



You have had the privilege of listening to Dick Kimmel's fine Blue Grass music at our Arts n' More Festival, but did you know that he is a wildlife biologist who has researched wild turkeys for more than 30 years? Now you do.

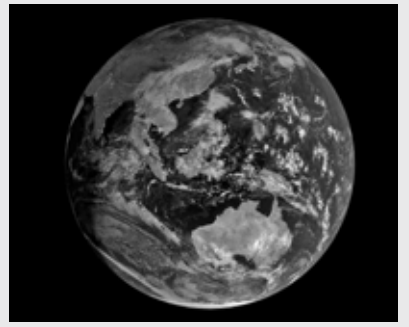
I sat down and asked Dick about our potential Thanksgiving centerpiece, "What are three things about wild turkeys that we would find surprising?"

"They are not just black, their iridescent feathers reflect a lot of colors. Males can grow as big as 30 pounds and they are NOT dumb!" In fact, Dick has written songs about turkeys and he may be coaxed into performing them for us on Tuesday evening, November 10<sup>th</sup>, when he is playing at The Amboy Cottage Café from 6-8PM.

Wild turkey will probably not be on the menu that evening, but Dick says it is one of his favorite dishes- "bake it like you would any other turkey, but cover it longer so that the lower fat bird stays moist." On the side Dick likes wild rice, wine and a SONG!

Come visit with Dick! -Lisa at The Cottage

## WINTER SOLSTICE



The day has astronomical, cultural and religious significance .

In the Northern Hemisphere, the December Solstice is the Winter Solstice and the shortest day of the year.

Although winter is the season of dormancy, darkness and cold, the December Solstice marks the "turning of the Sun" and the days slowly get longer.

Celebrations of the lighter days to come and nature's continuing cycle have been common throughout cultures and history with feasts, festivals and holidays around the December Solstice.

The Feast of Juul was a pre-Christian festival observed in Scandinavia at the time of the December solstice. Fires were lit to symbolize the heat, light and life-giving properties of the returning sun. A Yule or Juul log was brought in and burned on the hearth in honor of the Scandinavian god Thor.

A piece of the log was kept as both a token of good luck and as kindling for the following year's log.

## THANKSGIVING

from an article on the plimoth.org web site

If there is one day each year when food and family take center stage, it is Thanksgiving. It is a holiday about "going home" with all the emotional content those two words imply. The Sunday following Thanksgiving is always the busiest travel day of the year in the United States. Each day of the long Thanksgiving weekend, more than 10 million people take to the skies. Another 40 million Americans drive 100 miles or more to have Thanksgiving dinner. And the nation's railways teem with travelers going home for the holiday.



Despite modern-age turmoil—and perhaps, even more so, because of it—gathering together in grateful appreciation for a Thanksgiving celebration with friends and family is a deeply meaningful and comforting annual ritual to most Americans. The need to connect with loved ones and to express our gratitude is at the heart of all this feasting, prayerful thanks, recreation, and nostalgia for a simpler time. And somewhere in the bustling activity of every November's Thanksgiving is the abiding National memory of a moment in Plymouth, nearly 400 years ago, when two distinct cultures, on the brink of profound and irrevocable change, shared an autumn feast.

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# Christmas Traditions in Amboy

Carrying on our Christmas Traditions Celebration, Amboy is adding a few fun things this year!

Santa will be arriving early, for all kids to visit and get their Christmas wishes in, in person! The Fire house in Amboy will host the event on Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup>, from 6 pm to 8 pm.

This years theme is the Lighting of the Trees, so in that reminiscent tradition, there will be a Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday night, December 11<sup>th</sup>. This will start with the large tree in the lot across from the Fire House, followed by the trees lining Maine street to bring the holiday spirit to life in Amboy!!

On Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, the day of "Christmas Traditions", there will be chestnuts roasting, and business door bells will be ringing!! Please join us for a wonderful day of food, fun, and shopping in Amboy!!!



Santa at the Fire Station reading his mail, with the 1929 Chevy Pumper Fire Truck



Cinderella's Carriage coming down Maine Street



Santa, Alpacas, and a Chestnut-roasting Gnome



Trinket the Fairy & Christmas Kids

## Christmas Tree OH!! Christmas Tree....

Where did the idea of cutting down a tree, dragging it into our home, and then decorating it with lights and, today all kinds of glass balls, and ornaments of all shapes and sizes come from??

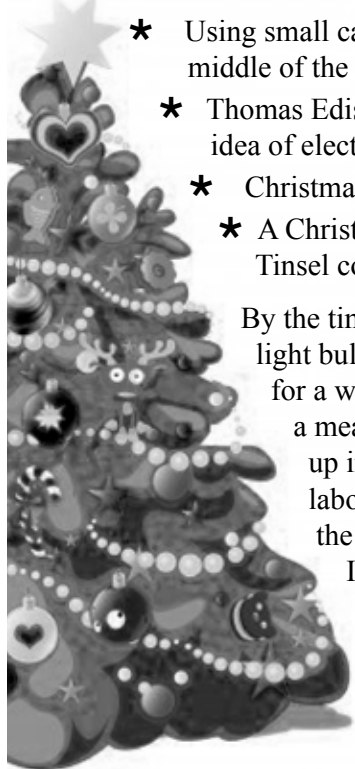
- ★ The use of evergreen trees to celebrate the winter season occurred before the birth of Christ. It was actually part of a pagan holiday celebration
- ★ The first decorated Christmas tree was in Riga, Latvia in 1510.
- ★ The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531.
- ★ Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850. Until fairly recently, all Christmas trees came from the forest.
- ★ The first Christmas tree retail lot in the United States was started in 1851 in New York by Mark Carr.
- ★ In 1900, large stores started to erect big illuminated Christmas trees.
- ★ Artificial trees will last for six years in your home, but for centuries in a landfill.

### Lights, let there be lights.

- ★ Using small candles to light a Christmas tree dates back to the middle of the 17th century.
- ★ Thomas Edison's assistant, Edward Johnson, came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees in 1882.
- ★ Christmas tree lights were first mass produced in 1890.
- ★ A Christmas tree decoration was banned by the government. Tinsel contained lead at one time, now it's made of plastic.

By the time 1880 rolled around, Edison had his incandescent light bulbs pretty well figured out, and was on the lookout for a way to advertise them. To display his invention as a means of heightening Yuletide excitement, he strung up incandescent bulbs all around his Menlo Park laboratory compound so that passing commuters on the nearby railway could see the Christmas miracle.

In 1900, eight years after General Electric purchased the patent rights to Edison's bulbs, the first known advertisement for Christmas tree lights appeared in Scientific American Magazine. They weren't cheap. They were so expensive that the ad suggests renting lights for a holiday display.



## Marley the Marmot's Weather Forecast



Winter is approaching and we still have not had a hard frost of 28 degrees. But it is time for me to look for a nice warm safe place for the winter. I checked out the Depot Mercantile and it looks like they are doing some additional insulating in the crawl space area. I called it my home last winter and that's my first choice. I spent the summer in a west facing abandoned fox den along 550th Ave South of Highway 30. Great place and abundance of good food and it was dry most of the time. Just watch out for the eagles and the red tailed hawks.

So what is in store for the winter? I have watched for signs in nature of just what kind of winter that we can expect. In case you didn't know, folklore says that thin brown bands on the woolly worms means a harsh winter is coming, wider brown banded woolly worms mean a mild winter, nearly black woolly worms means a severe winter is coming, and finally the very light brown or white woolly worms mean a snowy winter according to the folklore. I really believe that this is more than folklore. The woolly worms that I have seen have wider brown bands this tells me that we are in for a mild winter.



If you look at the Pacific deep ocean current patterns, they also tell you that in the upper Midwest we will have a mild winter with average snowfall. The southern states will get more than average rainfall and western states of Washington and Oregon will tend to be dryer and California will be wetter but not a drought breaker. I think that the farmers are in for another good crop year in 2016 but not as good as 2015. See you in the spring Marly the Weather Guy.

# B

## What in the world is the Daniel Boone Trail?

The following was extracted from an article that appears on the Amboy web site: <http://www.amboymn.govoffice2.com/>

I didn't know that Daniel Boone was ever in Minnesota? I looked around a bit and talked to people that lived in the area for years and no one ever heard of the Daniel Boone Trail. Even some of the ads in the plat book mentioned that their business or farm were located on the Daniel Boone Trail. So what were they talking about? It was off to the computer to do a little research on Daniel Boone. The first thing I found was that the 10th child of Daniel Boone, Captan Nathan Boone explored and mapped the area. In 1835 he was as far north as Blue Earth before turning back south into Iowa. Captain Nathan Boone, Lieutenants Albert M. Lea and H. S. Tanner commanded three companies of approximately 170 men. He drew maps and kept a journal, which later provided historians with their approximate route. Now you know how the city of Albert Lea got it's name. Then I found what could be the true story of the Daniel Boone trail on a website called <http://www.steve-riner.com/mnhighways/motortrails.htm> In an article about "Historic Motor Trails in Minnesota"

What are National Trails? They were the first means of long-distance navigation as the nation's road network developed. At first, one had to navigate over long distances by following detailed guides that described various landmarks. By the 'teens, motoring associations began to spring up. They worked with roadside businesses and towns to established named trails. States, while they often built and maintained the roads, had little involvement or expense with the national trail markings. Trail

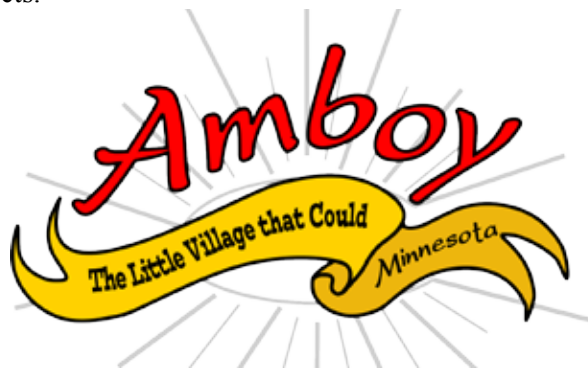
markings were somewhat different from what we are accustomed to today; generally, each trail's unique marker was emblazoned on telephone poles along the road.

By the mid-1920s, most states had adopted numbered route systems, and in 1926, the U.S. numbered route system began to be posted. The national trails fell into disuse and were no longer maintained by their sponsoring organizations. Many original sections of the historic routes were bypassed as states improved their routes. Still, the concept lingers on to some extent, as many states mark some commemorative routes that supplement the numbered marking.

Amboy was on the Daniel Boone motor trail that ran from the Twin Cities south to Algona Iowa along the route that is today Highway 169. The telephone poles were marked with a [Stylized B inside D] the symbol of the Daniel Boone Trail. The Rand McNally pocket map for 1920 clearly marked the trail passing through Amboy. Now you know the rest of the story.

Efforts are under way to create a nonprofit entity to market and promote the Daniel Boone trail between Amboy and Blue Earth. They will be exploring what the communities have in common and what we can do together.

The next step will be to create a board comprised of members of each community. They will explore the possibilities of future projects.



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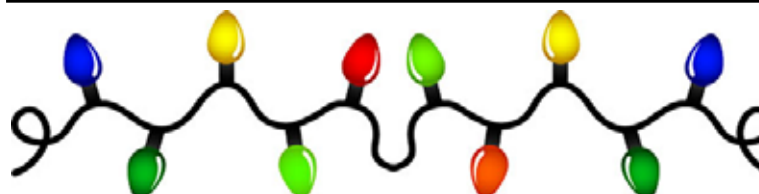
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### Upcoming Events

- Nov 7 Does & Bows
- Nov 16 Book Club at the Amboy Library
- Nov 11 Veterans Day
- Nov 18 Amboy Night Out - Jackson Lake Lutheran Church
- Nov 26 Thanksgiving Day
- Dec 10 Open house at Pat Zellmer-Rundles
- Dec 10 Santa at the Fire Station
- Dec 11 Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Dec 12 Xmas Traditions Amboy Maine Street
- Dec 12 "El Dia de Guadalupe" (Our Lady of Guadalupe)
- Dec 16 Amboy Night Out - Jackson Lake Lutheran Church
- Dec 21 Book Club at the Amboy Library
- Dec 25 Christmas Day
- Jan 1 New Years Day
- Jan 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
- Jan 20 Amboy Night Out - Jackson Lake Lutheran Church

*Happy Holidays*