

The Brunsville Blitz

Brunsville, Iowa

Feb. 2014

Edition 38

Our illustrious mayor can still play the game

By Barry Poe

For one week per year, Steve "Reno" Dickman, better known as the mayor of our fair town, turns back the clock and heads south to sunny Florida for the Minnesota Twins Fantasy Camp.

Why, you ask, would somebody in his 60s still lace up the cleats, run the bases and try to hit baseballs?

"Because my brother owns the camp, so that works out pretty good," Reno said. "So I go down there and help him out and I also get to play."

Brunsville native Stan Dickman, Steve's younger brother, took over operations of the Twins camp seven years ago. That gave Reno an excuse every January to leave the volatile climate in the Midwest for Ft. Myers, the spring home of the Minnesota Twins.

This year there were 28 former major league players in attendance, including notable ex-Twins stars Frank Qulici, Tony Oliva, Greg Gagne, Bert Blyleven, Kent Hrbek, Tom Brunansky, Tim Laudner and Gene Larkin, to mention a few.

Hall of Famer Rod Carew made his first appearance this year and, according to Reno, wants to return next year.

Two of the ex-players act as managers for each of the 10 14-player teams. The teams play seven-inning games all week. On the first Sunday, the pros "scout" each of the players for a draft Sunday evening before the games commence.

Campers are supposed to be 30 and over, although Stan does allow some younger guys to take part along with their fathers, with the stipulation they can't pitch. The "youngsters" can only pitch three innings per week and the teams played nine seven-inning games during a six-day period.

SEE RENO, LAST PAGE



Photo on left: Swinging away at Minnesota Twins Fantasy Camp. Reno writes, "This is not a picture-perfect batting position, but then I am old. That is Kent Hrbek in the background coaching third base. He and Tom Brunansky were my coaches for the week." Photo on right: Taking a break. Photos courtesy of Reno.

FREE VISION SCREENING

for kids 6 mo. to 5 years in the Brunsville Legion
during the Pancake Breakfast, Feb. 9

Parents must complete a consent form prior to screening
Kim Willer, chairperson of Iowa KidSight, will be
present

Made possible by the Sioux City Noon Lions

To subscribe, submit information or make a donation:

Contact G.D., write Susan at
P.O. Box 187, Brunsville, IA 51008,
or email susanwiller@hotmail.com.

All staff members volunteer their time;
donations go toward ink, paper & postage.

Welcome

John Christopher was born to **Pastor Ben & Faith Worley** on Dec. 22.

Birthdays

Eric Lubben Feb. 2
Michaela Burkard Feb. 2
Zachary Burkard Feb. 2
Vernon Harrington Feb. 3
Steve McHale Feb. 8
B.J. Rieken Feb. 8
Bowen Rieken Feb. 8
Charles Stremick Feb. 10
Rob Von Hagel Feb. 12
Tim Rollinger Feb. 14
Peggy Dickman Feb. 17
Dick Harms Feb. 19
Colan Borchers Feb. 19
Jerret Westhoff Feb. 23
Elliot Kroll Feb. 27
Lincoln Renken Feb. 28
Angela Von Hagel Feb. 28
Mary Jane Tapper Feb. 28
Laura Willer Feb. 28
Lisa Willer Feb. 28
Mary Jane Tapper Feb. 28

Hurry home!

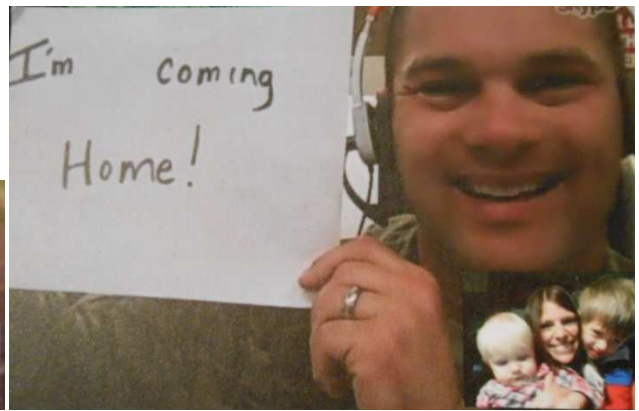
The town impatiently awaits the return of **Al Willer**, Brunsville's most notorious resident, to his home. He continues to improve while undergoing therapy in Akron.

Congratulations!

Samantha Ten Napel, daughter of Rocket & Susan Ten Napel, is engaged to **Nick Schlichte**, son of Bill & Beth Schlichte.

Dana Lehner, daughter of Tom & DeAnn Lehner, is engaged to **Mike Christen**. They will be married on June 7 at Christ Lutheran Church.

At long last, Patrick is home!



Photos L to R: Daughter Charlie, son Marshal, Patrick holding a joyful sign while Skyping with his family. Photos submitted by Tom & Michelle Jones.

South Dakota National Guardsman, Patrick Jones, son of Tom and Michelle Jones, is home from Afghanistan.

Jones, who shipped out to Afghanistan on January 31, 2013 after training in Texas, was stationed in Bagram where he was supervisor for the military police that guarded prisoners.

Despite the horrible weather, the soldiers reunited with their families in Rapid City on December 23. All were home by Christmas Eve.

Jones attended school to be a staff sergeant and earned his bachelor's degree in history.

While overseas, Jones created a designated-driver service company called Trust Me, I'm Sober. The company sends out two people and one vehicle so that the customer and the customer's vehicle get home safely. I'm Sober's opening night was New Year's Eve.

Jones is at home in Sioux Falls with his wife, Angela; his son, Marshal, who will be five in June; and his daughter, Charlie, who turned a year old on Dec. 16.

GONE CRUISIN'



In late January this cheery group took a Carnival Freedom cruise to Key West, Grand Cayman Islands & Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Left to right: **Barry Cornish, Bev Teunissen, Todd Osterbuhr, Brenda Galles, Jean Hansen & Patrick Hansen.**

Legion Notes

Open House Sat., Feb. 15 starting at 5 p.m.
Retirement Party for Wanda Oltmanns
AND
80th Birthday party for Wendall Oltmanns

During the Le Mars Bridal Fair, the Legion held a drawing at their booth. Anyone who signed up for the drawing received a \$50 discount for hall rental on their wedding dance & reception. The winner, Stephanie Burnett of Akron, received a free rental.

For the Web surfers

Brunsville Centennial and Beyond is on Facebook. Be sure to "like" the page! Current & past editions of The Brunsville Blitz can be found at www.brunsvilleiowa.com. You will also find current & historical photos & information.

Did You Know?

Brunsville has a display at the Plymouth County Historical Museum in Le Mars. Be sure to visit!

CORNER CAFÉ COVERAGE

Feb. 9 **CARDS at the CORNER**
Cards start at 1p.m. Open 12-7 (or until close)

Feb. 14 **Valentine's Day Special**
"Surf 'n' Turf" Shrimp & Steak Special

Feb. 23 **Daytona Party**
Begins at 11:30 a.m. Food, fun and prizes!

Specials

Sun. Different feature each week

Mon. Alicia's Mexican Specialties

Tues. Corner burger & fries \$6.95

Wed. 8 pc. broasted chicken & fries \$10.99

Thurs. Spaghetti OR chicken fried steak

Fri. 8-10 oz. prime rib, salad, & potato \$13.95; 16 oz. king cut prime rib & potato \$15.95

Sat. Ribeye steak (12-14 oz.), potato & Texas toast \$16.95

Oak Street steak w/Corner's special seasonings (12-14 oz. Ribeye), potato & Texas toast \$16.95

Sirloin steak dinner (10-12 oz.), potato & Texas toast \$12.95

Cue the Quotes

A diet is the penalty we pay for exceeding the feed limit.

Always forgive your enemies. Nothing annoys them so much.

—submitted by Carol Schlotfeldt

The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.

—Mark Twain

Allow the President to invade a neighboring nation, whenever he shall deem it necessary... and you allow him to make war at pleasure.

—Abraham Lincoln

No one has more driving ambition than a teenager who wants to buy a car.

What this world needs is a vegetarian mosquito.

Keeping a secret from some people is like trying to sneak daylight saving time past a rooster.

—submitted by Lonesome Jack

You Could Win \$100!

Just show off your skills
as a guest bartender!

Tend bar for 3 fun-packed hours
on Tuesdays during the months
of March & April

If you earn the most sales,
you win the \$100!

You must be of legal age, of course :)

RENO, CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE

"It's fun but fairly competitive, as competitive as it can be for guys in their 50s and 60s," said Reno. "The oldest guy there this year was 81 and he pitched. He was there with his three sons and two grandsons and a son-in-law. He even threw a seven-inning shutout."

Reno says since a lot of the same people attend every year, it becomes kind of a family atmosphere. If you are there 10 years, you're inducted into the Fantasy Camp Hall of Fame.

Reno, in case you're interested, still has three years to go before gaining that honor.

Evening banquets are held at least four times a week, complete with awards and a "kangaroo court" in which Blyleven is in charge. All proceeds, but the way, go to the local Children's Hospital. On an average, the camp raises at least \$5,000 per year for the hospital.

Carew graciously signed memorabilia, including a jersey that Stan Dickman originally planned to auction off. But after Carew discovered that camper Mark Haigh, an attorney from Sioux Falls, is battling the same form of cancer that claimed the life of his 18-year-old daughter Michelle Carew in 1996, he presented the jersey to Haigh at the Friday banquet.

Men from all walks of life take part in the camps, some who save every penny to come up with the hefty fee and others who don't have any problem plunking down the big bucks. They're all there for one common bond, to play baseball and feel young again for at least one week.

Reno, who has spent a good portion of his life playing either baseball or softball, plans to keep attending as long as he feels good.

Nice to hear from an old baseball player.

"Old is right," laughs Reno.

SCHOLAR OF THE MONTH

Andrea Raasch

FOUND!

Ring at pancake breakfast in January.

Call 533-6246 to identify.

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CLOSE — CONVENIENT

Think This Winter is Bad?



View from Katherine Willer's home in 1975. Submitted by Carol Schlotfeldt.

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