

Waverly Horse Sale kicks off Oct. 5



BY ANELIA K. DIMITROVA editorcft@gmail.com

The Waverly Horse Sale is kicking off its fall auction on Wednesday and for the next couple of days, antique dealers and traders from all over the country will sell and buy rare finds.

The history of one family will go into the hands of another to be used and cherished.

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ANELIA K. DIMITROVA PHOTO Robert Foley, of Galena, Illinois, and his son, Clint, unloaded items at the Waverly Horse Sale on Monday. Father and son had been coming to Waverly together for close to 40 years, Robert estimated.

Cowboy Without a Horse

Jim Meyer finds his life's work among others' animals

BY ELIZABETH BINGHAM bingham4news@gmail.com

Jim Meyer thinks he was born in the wrong place.

Meyer, of rural Shell Rock, is often known locally as Cowboy Jim, part of the Double J Wranglers musical group that performs Western songs throughout the region.

"In the '70s and the '80s, I didn't call myself a cowboy," he said. "I was a horseman. Cowboys were guys who worked out on the range and roped and

worked cattle on horseback every day.

"I was never a cowboy," he continued. "But I have the cowboy spirit, and, around here, I'm a cowboy, because of the cowboy band. And I've done enough with horses to qualify as a horseman."

Meyer explained that he first got the title of "cow-

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ELIZABETH BINGHAM

Jim Meyer of rural Shell Rock forged an unlikely career for himself working with horses.



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Iowa joins five other states in suing the Biden administration to stop student debt cancellation



Gov. Kim Reynolds joined five Republican attorneys general from other states in filing a lawsuit challenging the Department of Education's authority to forgive up to \$20,000 in student loan debt.

BY AARON SANDERFORD Iowa Capital Dispatch

College borrowers banking on President Joe Biden's plan to forgive up to \$20,000 in student loan debt hit a potential snag Thursday, when Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds and Republican attorneys general in five other states filed a lawsuit challenging the Department of Education's authority to do so.

Theirs is the second major lawsuit filed by conservatives trying to stop the student loan forgiveness plan. The first came Tuesday, from a lawyer in Indiana who argues he would be forced to pay state taxes on student loan forgiveness he didn't seek. A judge dismissed his lawsuit Thursday afternoon, however, saying he lacked standing.

See DEBT, A7

Family, friends remember Cory Petersen:

'Par 4 Sure' disc golf hole to be named after Waverly city employee

BY ANELIA K. DIMITROVA editorcft@gmail.com

If he only knew.

If truly he knew how much he meant to the people whose lives intersected with his, Cory Douglas Petersen, the late public grounds specialist in Waverly would be surprised.

He passed away unexpected-

ly on May 31, at the age of 32, but what he left behind in this community will long be remembered by volunteers and colleagues who worked side by side with him, just like his memory will be treasured by his family.

Waverly was an extended family of sorts for the Fort Madison native and for his beloved dog, Roxanne.

On Saturday, friends, family and colleagues gathered at Kohlmann Park to celebrate Cory's life with togetherness, a lunch and some music.

Pulled pork, side dishes and drinks were shared along with stories of daily happenings and family news, one way to cope with the

See PETERSEN, A7



BY ANELIA K. DIMITROVA / EDITORCFT@GMAIL.COM

On Saturday, friends, family and colleagues gathered at Kohlmann Park to celebrate Cory's life with togetherness, a lunch and some music. Inset: Cory Petersen.



ELECT JILL DASHNER BREMER COUNTY ATTORNEY

CURRENT DEPUTY BREMER COUNTY ATTORNEY

- 20+ years experience as a criminal prosecutor
- Prior Assistant Black Hawk County Attorney
- Assistant/Deputy Bremer County Attorney since 2006
- A dedicated professional familiar with our county issues

BREMER COUNTY NEEDS JILL DASHNER

Waverly Horse Sale kicks off Oct. 5

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On Monday, trucks and trailers were lining up to unload carts, barrels, manure spreaders and wheels, among others.

Charlie Coryn from Canandaigua, New York was among the early arrivals. Co-owner of Coryn Farm Supplies in his hometown, he has been indulging in his hobby of selling horse equipment.

He is carrying on a tradition set by his father, whose first and last name he also carries. The family started the farm supply business in 1937.

Son Charlie has been coming to the Waverly sale for 20 years.

Today, he estimates he puts on 35,000 miles on his truck, traveling from Vermont to Iowa to Canada to Pennsylvania each year.

He said he used to haul a bigger gooseneck trailer but with the price of gas, he has been driving a smaller one instead.

For the October sale, he has brought a Pioneer forecart, a piece of equipment one would put in front of a horse.

When this editor quipped that some people like to put the cart before the horse, he laughed.

"This is what you put before the horse," he said.

Over the years Charlie has sold and bought a lot of items in Waverly. He considers himself semi-retired, and has long sold the horses he used to have, but plans to stay with trading horse equipment for now.

"We didn't fall far from the tree," he said of continuing his father's legacy.

Like Charlie, Robert Foley from Galena, Illinois has been coming to the sale for decades. The owner of Red's Wholesale Barn, for the past 30 plus years he has been coming here with son Clint.

On Monday, the two were unloading a big trailer and a few items in Robert's truck, including an eagle decoration. Earlier, they had unloaded multiple carriages, barrels and a trio of carvings.

"We have been busy," he said.



ANELIA K. DIMITROVA PHOTOS
Above: A manure spreader is being unloaded from a trailer and placed in a row on the site behind the barn, which serves as a space for the outdoor exhibit at the Waverly Sales Barn. Left: Charlie Coryn, of Canandaigua, New York, has been coming to the Waverly Horse Sale for 20 years. He estimated he puts on 35,000 miles on his truck as he travels to 17 sales around the country.

Cowboy Without a Horse—Jim Meyer finds his life's work among others' animals

CONTINUED FROM A1

boy" from doing school programs about horses and cowboys.

"Kids would say, 'Oh, Cowboy Jim is coming!' Or they'd see me someplace, 'You're Cowboy Jim!'" he laughed.

"And I didn't own a horse until I was 60 years old."

That was 17 years ago.

Meyer didn't have to own a horse—he worked with them daily.

"I've always been able to find somebody with horses who either needs help or needs something done with their horses, to be always involved with horses," he noted.

Horse work wasn't an obvious future for Meyer when he graduated from Wartburg College in 1967 with a degree in business administration. He then had three years in the service "courtesy of Uncle Sam."

But after his military stint, he found his life's work.

From 1970 to 1981, he worked as a horseman for Arnold Hexom, founder of the Waverly Horse Sale, driving horse hitches as part of his job.

In 1973, Meyer drove his first six-horse hitch in competition at the National Cattle Congress in Waterloo. Much to his surprise, he took first place.

Later that year, he drove six horses in public for the first time at the Great Circus Parade in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There were 700 horses in the parade pulling authentic circus wagons from the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisconsin, where the Ringling Brothers Circus had its winter headquarters.

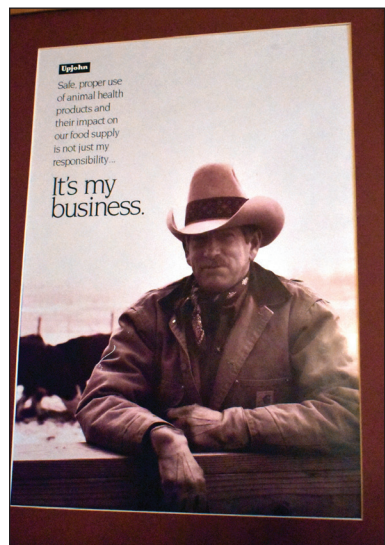
All parade participants wore period circus uniforms in front of the 500,000 spectators. Meyer ended up driving in the parade for 15 years, he estimates.

In 1981, Meyer drove Hexom's six-horse hitch in front of a massive float in the Rose Bowl Parade in California, a celebrated event that most people have seen on TV. The decorated wagon he drove was for Quebec, Canada, and it won an award for best international float.

But even that wasn't the peak of Meyer's career working with horses.

That honor goes to his 1976 experience driving a Percheron six-horse hitch at the Ontario. The Royal, as it is known, is a prestigious international event that draws overseas competitors.

"No American Percheron six-horse hitch had ever won at the Royal," Meyer said with pride and wonder. "We were number one.



ELIZABETH BINGHAM
Among the unusual items on Meyer's resume is an unexpected modeling experience, wearing the same early '80s Stetson hat he wears today.

That was an unbelievable honor.

"Most people think the high point of my career was the Rose Bowl Parade," he continued. "Granted, it was in front of thousands of people and on national TV. But this (the Royal)—you are showing against the best of the best.

"We got phone calls from all over the United States congratulating us. That was memorable. The Canadian Royal was the pinnacle of my driving career."

After working with Hexom for 11 years, Meyer spent the next seven at the Draft Horse Journal as an associate editor, then 22 years with Westwood Embryos north of Waverly.

He noted that although the embryo business was for cattle, he used draft horses to haul the feed.

"And they had a saddle horse, too," he added. "I did cowboy-mounted shooting on him."

COURTESY PHOTO
Jim Meyer (on wagon, front left) drove Arnold Hexom's six-horse hitch in the Rose Bowl Parade in 1981. Hexom (right of Meyer) founded the Waverly Horse Sale. The man waving in back is a representative of Quebec, whose float it was. The entry won best international float.



COURTESY PHOTO
Jim Meyer (right) drives a Ringling Brothers circus wagon along Lake Michigan during a practice run before the annual Great Circus Parade in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Meyer estimates he drove in the parade 15 years, at times pulling the snake wagon, a tank wagon with a hippo in it, a mirror wagon and a bell wagon. This photo shows a baggage wagon that carried a band on top during the actual parade.

That competition involves shooting balloon targets with a single-action .45-caliber revolver while sitting on a running horse. Meyer's shooting—hitting 60 balloons without missing one—earned him entrance into the clean shot club at the state competition.

"I have many things on my resume," he noted. He hesitated before gesturing to a photo on the wall, not wanting to be immodest.

"I got paid to model. That's me. They came to me and asked me if I wanted to do it. That's the same hat I was wearing today!"

That hat, an original Stetson, has been around since the early '80s. Meyer's love of horses has been around much longer, and he's a little baffled about its roots.

"I don't know where this comes from," he said. "It's just in me, probably since I was born."

He elaborated on an experience when he was 4 years old.

"My mom built a horse on a coaster wagon. I had all the cowboy stuff on, and they pulled me through the parade in Waverly.

"We didn't have TV back then," Meyer said, so he wouldn't have seen cowboy shows. "We didn't even have comic books! So where did this come from? I don't know!"

Growing up, Jim and his sister, Ruth, would set up two sawhorses, a coaster wagon, and lines made out of baler twine.

"My sister and I were out there 'driving' horses," he noted.

How did Meyer get from "driv-



COURTESY PHOTO
Four-year-old Jim Meyer sits atop the "horse" his mother built for him on a coaster wagon. He thinks he was born with his love of the animals.

ing" sawhorses with baler twine to winning a prestigious international driving event?

"I was fortunate to have many great horsemen and mentors in my career," he explained. "Men who had driven horses their entire lives, starting when all farm work was done with horses.

"You can't buy that education. You have to sit on hay bales in the barn for hours and listen. Through their stories, you get your education."

Meyer's friend, Jim Gates—a fellow horse lover and the other "J" in the Double J Wranglers—used to rib him about not having his own horse for so many years.

"Jim Gates said, 'You can't be a cowboy—you don't own a horse!' And I said, 'Yeah! And I've never paid a vet bill or bought a bale of hay.' He said, 'Wow! You're a real cowboy! You're riding somebody else's horse!'"

Considering all things cowboy that he has been involved in, Meyer acknowledges he hasn't had a typical Iowa career.

"I wasn't born in the wrong time (as people sometimes suggest). I was born in the wrong state. If I'd have been born in Nevada or Montana, I would have been a cowboy."

"But," he realizes, "everything would change from here. I'm not regretting where I'm at. You change one thing and it changes everything."

After all, he hasn't done too badly as a cowboy in Iowa, working with other people's horses.

"I wouldn't trade all the experiences I've had for love or money. Well, maybe love," he amended.