

The Tumbleweed

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APRIL 1, 2016

Thriving Despite Hardships By: Fast Family & Jason Toavs

Peter P. Fast was born in Marion, South Dakota on October 1, 1891 and shortly after moved to Mountain Lake Minnesota with his parents who had come to America from Ukraine, Russia. Peter married Aganetha Ratzlaff on October 23, 1912 whose parents had also come to America from Ukraine. They had their first child, Ewalt, in 1913 and their second, Evangeline, in 1914 while still living in Mountain Lake. However, young Ewalt came down with a severe fever and ended up passing away on October 29, 1914. But then in 1915 another son, Walter, joined the family.

In early 1916 the Fast family made the decision to move to eastern Montana where homestead rights sold for 2 or 3 dollars an acre and where there were better farming opportunities. So, in May of 1916, Peter and his brother Abe Fast and his brother-in-law Abe Ratzlaff loaded up several train

cars with cattle and machinery and set off for Montana. One piece of machinery they brought them with was a well-boring machine that was powered by a single horse which they used to drill three wells. At first they lived in a tent but eventually moved into a newly dug cellar. As soon as possible they built three barns with the assistance of some hired help about 24 miles northwest of Oswego. In July they returned to Minnesota in time to harvest the crops they still had there. Later that fall they packed the rest of their household belongings as well as the rest of the family and headed back to Montana.

At first they lived in the barn which had a living quarters built in. This living quarters was decorated and even "wallpapered"! Because they lived in the barn, Aganetha was never at liberty to invite Sunday company until she knew the direction

of the wind. However, she wanted a real home which Peter promised to buy for her with the money from a large field of grain. Unfortunately, a severe hailstorm came that year which destroyed the crop along with the chances of a new home. This was very devastating for the family and it would be many years before they would be able to afford a house.

Life was hard in the following years with cold winters, insufficient rain fall, and devastating hail making it impossible to grow crops. On top of all this, Peter's wife was struck with small pox in 1917 while carrying another child. In May of that year, Willard, their first child to be born on the prairie, was born with severe complications due to small pox and passed away that same day. The doctor said this probably saved Aganetha's life as Willard took the severity of the illness.

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NOTEWORTHY NEWS:

- April 8: Nashua Inv. Track Meet @ Glasgow
- April 9: Freshman Pizza Dinner 5-7:30p.m.
- April 14: Track Meet @ Fairview
- April 15-16: Dist. Music Festival @ Glasgow
- April 18: No School



Dorm Enjoys Easter Break By: Joyce Li

The dorm was filled with conversations after the dorm weekend out (in this case, it was longer than a weekend) for Easter break. Dorm students and dorm parents got to do many fun things over the break. On Wednesday March 23rd, students went out to their host families, and the Lorenz family began their trip to Bozeman. During the break, Naomi read some books, went shopping, and spent time with family. The next day, the seniors, Katie, Jacques, and Joyce came back from senior trip.



Subash and Robel enjoyed the break at the Klassen's. Their special activity was going to town to swim. Michele went to Coach Jared's house and spent fun times with the family. He also enjoyed the time with McKaylah. Nathan stayed with Coach Randy, and he went to some track practices. Jacques and Etien went to Dawson and Alicia Olfert's. Jacques worked, and Etien got to make his summer plans. Joyce stayed at Landon and Mindy Olfert's. She met new people and played Crazy Jenga. Katie finally

got rested at Clayton and Jen Zerbe's. She slept a lot. Yanet watched lots of movies and watched other people do track with Coach Lynn. Aleyna went to Williston, ND, played basketball with kids, painted, and chilled with the Klatts. Sue stayed with Bill and Trisha Reddig's family and went to the Easter egg hunt and got an Easter gift. Jackie got to go shopping, dye eggs, and watch movies with Jared and Susan Fast's family.

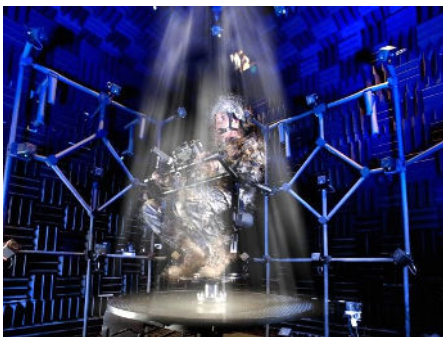
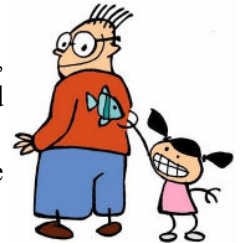
They all seemed to have a nice Easter. A special thanks to all the host families!

Acting as Fools for a Day By: Teagan Friesen

When April begins, the jokesters come out of the woodwork, April Fools Day. Traditionally, it is celebrated on the first of April every year by pulling practical jokes and pranks on anybody one is able. There is no exact date associated with the creation of this holiday, but the first link between the date and foolishness was in 1392 in *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer. Here, the main charac-

ter ended up getting tricked by a fox. Others speculate the holiday began in 1582 with the switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendars in France. People who continued to celebrate the new year the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes. Some would even have paper fish placed on their backs telling all who saw them they were gullible people. Though a fun holiday,

only Poland, the United Kingdom, India, the United States, Italy, France, Belgium, and many Nordic countries such as Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Iceland actually participate.



#BREAKING: #USArmy @NatickSSC scientists successfully 'teleport' Soldiers <http://go.usa.gov/csAf5>



April Fool!

[U.S. Army Verified account@USArmy](#)

Seniors Embark on Senior Trip to Minneapolis By: Monica Brown

Starting off early Saturday morning with homemade cinnamon rolls and coffee, the senior class hit the road ready to go to Minneapolis for their senior trip. After a long day in the van, they finally arrived at the AmericInn. Bright and early the next morning the class headed to Cedar Valley Church, and later headed to The Cheesecake Factory for lunch. Activities for Sunday afternoon involved an assortment of games including: laser tag, x-treme trampoline, crazy kars, mini golf, and arcade games.

On Monday, the class did a service project at Feed My

Starving Children. They worked in an assembly line packing rice, soy, vegetables, and vitamins into bags to send to starving children all over the world. Worn out from a full day of working they went to an Imax theatre to see a movie. Tuesday was a full day at the Mall of America where the students went shopping, and had fun on various rides in the amusement park.

On the last day in the city the senior class took the MetroTransit from the Mall to the Target Center where they watched the Timberwolves play the Sacramento Kings. On Thursday the van was

packed up and everyone came back home. It was a successful senior trip and one that the senior class will never forget.



Centennial Reflections By: Gary Dahl

As we consider the significance of the Lustre centennial, it is proper to focus on the homesteaders and their wives; through their fortitude the foundations of this community were built. Unlike those who filed a claim under the original act signed by President Lincoln, the Lustre homesteaders had to buy their land as well as meet the other requirements of the act of May 20, 1862. The purchase price was set by the federal government to be between two and one-half and seven dollars per acre. While this may seem to be cheap to us using gold as a constant standard of value, in today's terms an acre would cost between one hundred fifty-seven and four hundred forty dollars.(1) The cost of the land was only the tip of the iceberg compared to the dedica-

tion and perseverance required to withstand extreme temperatures from one hundred ten above to forty five below (and yes, with or without wind), droughts, hail, grasshoppers, and rust, to mention some of the losses to overcome. Also, property taxes were levied and payment required regardless of the ability to pay. And, as the saying goes, "farmers buy retail, sell wholesale, and pay the freight both ways." Couple these challenges with all the hard physical labor required and I look back in amazement at what they accomplished! Having journeyed only about seventy five times around the sun, I missed out on much of the hard work of the homesteaders. But I do recall mother calling me to go with her to shock oar bundles when I wasn't any taller

than some of the bundles and it seemed like I could never see the end of a field. A couple years later, dad put me on a tractor pulling a plow, packer and pony drill cutting and seeding a total of 42 inches per pass. We often ran shifts in order to cover more acres per day. After spending a cold windy day on a cab-less tractor, it took a while to warm up. But there were good times too; lots of them! That must be why those of us in the second and third generations are still on the homestead. Except for school and a tour of duty in the army, I have spent my life here, and the Lord has blessed me many times over!

(1)With gold trading currently around \$1257 per ounce

Fast

(Continued from page 1)

However she was told she could have no more children. In spite of this, on June 5, 1918, Ervin was born and Marvin joined the family on May 7, 1921.

Fortunes continued to improve when rains fell once again in 1921 and the wheat crop yielded 30 bushels an acre that year. The family returned to Minnesota for the winter by train leaving right from Oswego which was then the main trade center and larger than Wolf Point.

On Sundays church was held in David Olfert's barn and a nearby school until the Lustre MB church was built in 1924. Peter Fast taught Sunday school there for many years. In the fall of 1924 a school was built only a half mile from the Fast farm. Abe Fast named it Star School and cut a big star out of wood, painted it, and hung it above the door of the school. This was where the Fast children went to school for many years. In 1925 and 1926 the crop yields were small again and the family was saddened by the death of Peter's mother Katherina in February of 1927.

During this time harvest was a difficult time for everyone but especially for Aganetha who had to cook for the entire threshing crew everyday even when it rained. So in 1928 she was thrilled when Peter bought a 20 foot Holt pull-type combine which eliminated the need for a whole threshing crew. This was the first combine in the area and

as a result the neighbors made fun of it. The combine was purchased from a dealer in Poplar, Montana. Peter and two of his sons, Walter and Ervin, took the steel-wheel tractor to get it. When they got there the dealer said he couldn't take the combine without his wife's signature as well. So he had to go all the way back home and get her.

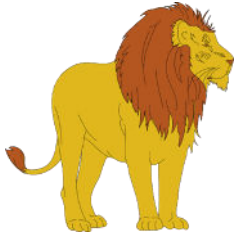
Harvey joined the family on June 5, 1930, on Ervin's 12th birthday. This was also the year the terrible dust storms came to the northwest making it impossible to grow crops. Large drifts of dirt piled up everywhere and many farmers lost their land and equipment and had to move elsewhere. Peter Fast's family managed to stick it out with God's strength. Peter obtained work in the building of the tunnels at the Fort Peck Dam construction site. After the dam neared completion he worked as a tax assessor in the many little towns that sprang up. In the fall of 1936, Abe Fast moved his family back to Mt. Lake Minnesota.

Finally, in 1941 Aganetha got her dream house. Peter purchased a three apartment house and moved it to the farmstead from Ft. Peck. They dug a full basement, and the forms were lifted out and used to build the walls of a machine shed. The basement was finished first and they lived in it while remodeling the three apartments into a four bedroom home. They dug a cistern in the basement blow the kitchen floor

from which Harvey would have to dig dirt out every morning before school. Some of the furnishings for the house were French doors, hardwood floors, and bathroom fixtures brought from Minneapolis Minnesota. Aganetha enjoyed her new home and was one of the first in the community to have a beautiful green lawn bordered by a hedge of lilacs. She also enjoyed gardening and sewing.

The 1940's were hard for the family. Peter was ill a lot with severe headaches. However, they really loved to travel. They purchased a small trailer to tow behind the car, and spent the winters traveling to Oregon, Texas, Arizona, and California. In 1956 they bought a house in Wolf Point and started attending Gospel Fellowship Church where Peter still taught Sunday School. On March 31, 1958 Peter's father, Peter P. Fast Sr., passed away at the age of 90.

Eventually, Harvey took over the operation of the family farm with the help of his son Warren. In 2009, Harvey and his wife Gladys moved to their home in Glasgow. Warren's son Tony and his wife Amy moved to the farm where they are currently farming and raising their three daughters. Harvey and Gladys raised four children and now have 10 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. A big thanks to Harvey and Gladys Fast for generously providing the information used in this article.



FUN PAGE!

By: Ernest Uy

Directions:

To decipher this message, use the decoder below.
Write the correct letters above the blanks in the message.

1=z 2=y 3=x 4=w 5=v 6=u 7=t 8=s 9=r 10=q 11=p 12=o 13=n 14=m 15=l
16=k 17=j 18=i 19=h 20=g 21=f 22=e 23=d 24=c 25=b 26=a



14 26 9 24 19 24 12 14 22 81 8 13 15 18 16 22 26 15 18 12 13 26 13 23

12 6 71 5 18 16 22 26 15 26 14 25

Spring Fever

W Q K S D E Y A F U B D B A K
I C H O A Y G L Q H R S M L L
S F H C O Q O J S E A P V F Q
M S U O W W D Y G K I Y W J O
O R P Y E Q C S D J N M E Y I
L E P R E C H A U N B A R T H
I G S E I U C E N K O A R C B
Y M Q T C N G N L D W Y R P L
X E P S S G G I A X Y A F N O
J G I A S C G T Z G M J Q W O
W W L E M W J K I M S U N H M
G P E F Y J N M I M P V W P V
I F M X E L K Q S R E W O H S
X V A P R I L V O P L A C A T
V R I R W R O S V W A L H S D

Montana Springtime
By: Ernest Uy



JOKES

*What do you call guards working outside a Samsung store?
Guardians of the galaxy.*

*What do you call a computer in the ocean?
A-Dell rolling in the deep.*



Words to Find

APRIL BLOOM
CANDY EASTER
EGGS FLOWERS
LEPRECHAUN MARCH
PRANKS RAINBOW
SHOWERS SPRINGTIME



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Frazer, MT 59201

www.lustrechristian.org

Phone: 406-392-5735

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Schmeckfest Sausage Still

Available!

Please call Stephanie Brown at 392-5201, text her at 942-0218, or email her at steph.brown98@gmail.com; OR call Sarah Brown at 392-5301, text her at 392-7301, or email her at growinbrownies@yahoo.com.

Price: \$6/lb. for bulk

LCHS Calendar

April 7	Chapel
April 8	Nashua Invitational Track Meet in Glasgow
April 9	Freshman Pizza Dinner 5:00-7:30 p.m.
April 14	Chapel; Track meet in Fairview
April 15-16	District Music Festival in Glasgow
April 18	No School; Scotties Qualifiers Track Meet 4:00p.m.
April 21	Chapel

Note: For updated game times and school information, please visit the LCHS Facebook page.

All are welcome to attend LCHS Chapel Services .

Thank you to everyone who played a part in 2016 Schmeckfest! We appreciate everyone's willingness to serve and be a part of it. We served around 800 people this year. Once again we saw God's blessings over LCHS. You are all appreciated!

The Steering Committee

I will rejoice greatly in the LORD,
My soul will exult in my God;
For He has clothed me with garments of salvation,
He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness,
As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
And as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up, So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise To spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:10-11 (NASB)

