

St. Pauli News in Detail



Christmas Eve

Bell Ringing
4:30 – 5:00 pm

While we will not be holding in-person services this Christmas Eve, we *will* continue the tradition of ringing our bell for a half hour. We will follow social distancing and masking rules, of course.

Please come and lend a hand. Or simply drive out to sit in your car with a window rolled down to hear our wonderful old bell ringing in the cold, crisp air of Christmas.

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Bags of Blessing

We are still collecting new or used items for the folks at Northland Rescue Mission in Grand Forks. Jim and Jan Strandlie are driving there on Monday, Dec. 7th and delivering what has already been collected in the baskets in the church entry.

If you have anything else to donate, please leave it at the church, or call Jan to arrange for picking it up. They need good shoes and good, suitable adult clothes, as well as shampoo, body wash, conditioner, sweatpants/sweatshirts (medium-3XL), scarves, hats, and gloves.

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Food Shelf Month

December is Food Shelf Month. Please consider making a monetary contribution to our local organization. Checks can also be made payable to St. Pauli Church, with a notation for Food Shelf on the check. There is a basket in the narthex to collect your contributions.

We Need You and Your Recipes!

We are excited that the Susanne (Johnson) Hinrichs and Chris (Mathson) Carter want to produce a church recipe book for our 125th St Pauli anniversary celebration. The following information is from Susanne and Chris.

Your recipes are needed. And your mom's. And your sister's. And your dad's. And your grandma's. And your son's. This is a call for everyone's favorite recipes! If you have favorites from the 100th anniversary St. Pauli recipe book, please enter those, too, so we are assured those recipes are carried forward!

Please take a moment to gather your favorite recipes and enter them at the following website **by April 15, 2021**:

- typensave.com
- Go to Login
- Username: StPauli (not case sensitive)
- Contributor password: juice240

Enter your user information and enter your recipes! You can enter recipes for others, too.

If you want to mail a copy of a recipe and have us enter it, please send it to either of us:

Susanne Hinrichs at susanneh@umn.edu or
3858 County Rd 45, Brainerd, MN 56401

Chris Carter at chrisccarter@vistaprairie.org or
10363 County Rd 5 NE, Carlos MN, 56319

Recipe books will be available for sale. More detailed information on how to enter your recipes is included on the next page of this newsletter.

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December Milestones

Birthdays

Dec. 5	Roxanne Rondorf
Dec. 12	Heidi Haugen
Dec. 23	Jim Strandlie
Dec. 29	Neil Bugge
Dec. 30	Richard Geske

No anniversaries

RECIPE WRITING TIPS

Use these tips to ensure recipes are accurate, clear, and uniform throughout our cookbook.

1. List ingredients in the order used. Make sure all ingredients are included in the directions.
2. Include all amounts and container sizes: 2 (8-oz.) cans, 1 (14-oz.) pkg. Use parenthesis to separate amounts.
3. Abbreviate measurements in the ingredients list (see standard abbreviations below), but spell them out in the directions.
4. Be consistent with names, ingredients, etc., e.g., don't use "1 c. butter" on some recipes and "2 sticks butter" on others.
5. Use ingredient names in the directions, e.g., use "Combine flour and sugar" rather than statements such as "Combine the first two ingredients."
6. Include temperatures and all cooking, chilling, baking, or freezing times.
7. Make sure ingredients and directions are clear, thorough, and accurate. For example, don't assume the reader knows how to make yeast bread.
8. Submit recipes exactly as you want them to appear.
9. Write directions in one paragraph. Do not submit recipes in steps, columns, charts, or as an entire paragraph. Recipes which cannot conform to our format will be omitted.
10. *Ingredients* may include trademarked names, e.g., MiracleWhip®. Do NOT use trademarked words for recipe *titles*. If used, they will be replaced with an acceptable alternative, e.g., Kentucky Derby® Pie will become Chocolate Nut Pie.
11. Anything other than the ingredients, directions, contributor name(s), serving size, and recipe title will be charged as a recipe note unless you omit them. See "Recipe Notes" in next column.

Standard Abbreviations

c. - cup	env. - envelope	qt. - quart
pt. - pint	pkg. - package	lg. - large
tsp. - teaspoon	oz. - ounce	med. - medium
T. - tablespoon	gal. - gallon	sm. - small
lb. - pound	opt. - optional	ctn - carton or container
doz. - dozen	reg. - regular	

Recipe Notes

A recipe note is content that does not pertain to recipe preparation. Anything other than ingredients, directions, contributor names, serving size, and the recipe title is a recipe note. See first sample recipe in the next column.

- Recipe notes may include nutritional information, recipe history, uses, etc., and cannot be included in the directions.

CHOCOLATE CHIP MIRACLES

Sarah Jackson

2 ¼ c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
1 c. butter, softened → 4
¾ c. packed brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
2 eggs
12 oz. chocolate chips

- 6 → Preheat oven to 375° (gas oven to 350°). Mix all of the dry ingredients together, then mix the wet ingredients together. After both substances are mixed, slowly mix the dry ingredients in with the wet until the texture is smooth. Put cookies on sheet and leave each batch in oven for 8 to 10 minutes for soft texture.

- 11 → **Note:** These cookies are a favorite with my children and vanish within two days.

SNICKERDOODLES

Heather Gemske
Dorothy Engstrom

1 → 1 stick butter, softened → 4
½ c. shortening
1 ½ c. sugar
2 eggs
2 ¾ c. all-purpose flour
2 tsp. cream of tartar
1 tsp. baking soda
¼ tsp. salt
2 T. sugar
2 tsp. cinnamon

- 3 → Heat oven to 400°. Mix thoroughly butter, shortening, 1 ½ cups sugar and the eggs. Blend in flour, cream of tartar, baking soda and salt. Shape dough by rounded teaspoonfuls into balls. Mix 2 tablespoons sugar and cinnamon; roll balls in mixture. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until set. Immediately remove from baking sheet. Makes about 6 dozen cookies. If using self-rising flour, omit cream of tartar, baking soda and salt.

MAGIC COOKIE BARS

Steve Casley
Jeff Marcino

½ c. butter, softened
1 ½ c. graham cracker crumbs
1 (14-oz.) can Eagle Brand → 10
sweetened condensed milk
1 c. chocolate chips
1 (3 ½-oz.) can flaked coconut
1 c. chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 350°. Using a 13 x 9-inch pan, melt butter in oven. Sprinkle crumbs over butter, pour milk over crumbs. Top with remaining ingredients. Bake 25 to 30 minutes. Cool before eating.

2 Cookies & Candy

- Recipe notes are printed after the directions and cannot exceed 375 characters.
- Recipe notes are an extra charge.
- If using typensave® and your cookbook committee has decided to include them, a separate field titled "Recipe Notes" will be available.

Contributor information

- Be consistent with spellings of names, titles, etc. (R.N. vs. Registered Nurse or Bill Jones vs. William Jones). This affects the contributor index.
- Two extra lines may be included FREE (town, department, in memory of, title, etc.) after each contributor name. Additional content is considered a recipe note.
- If using typensave®, DO NOT include additional info (second name, town, department, title, etc.) on the same line as the contributor name. Put additional info on separate lines. This enables us to create an accurate contributor index.
- Duplicated recipes should be submitted just once with multiple contributor names.
- For recipes with multiple contributor names, only the first name will appear in the contributor index.

LORD, STIR US TO DREAM

Advent 2020
Stewardship Series

*For nothing will be impossible with God.
Luke 1:37*



First Sunday in Advent

Advent began the last Sunday in November as we watch and prepare for the arrival of Christ. The Northwest Minnesota ELCA Synod invites us to go on a journey through the biblical readings as we approach the increasing darkness of winter and despair.

It is easy to look around us as the days get shorter and see so many things going wrong in the world. It is also easy sometimes to look around our churches and despair at the loss of what once was a generation ago.

The Bible has many places where the people expressed dismay and a longing for God to come and save them. In Isaiah 64 we read a prayer of appeal to God to tear open the heavens and come down. In Psalm 80:3 we read, "Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved." In 1 Corinthians Paul writes about waiting for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Mark 13:26 Jesus says, "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." Even outsiders appeal to God in Daniel 6: The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!"

The first part of the journey is naming and lamenting where we are and what we struggle with. We need to acknowledge the darkness that we sit in and may even feel closing in around us. Think about those areas where you struggle and feel the lack of God's presence in your life or the world. Name those things individually and communally in prayer. Put into words those things that weigh you down. Like the people in the Bible, we need to cry out our anguish to God.

Once we have had the chance to lament where we are, we embark on the next step over the following two weeks that lead us into dreaming and committing to our future together.

Second Sunday in Advent

We move out of our time of lament into repentance and dreaming for the future. We read in Isaiah 40 a call to prepare the way of the Lord. This is a call to repentance for our own transgressions. In the time of confession in our liturgy, we confess "We have sinned against you in

thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone." Each of us has our own areas of shortcoming to acknowledge as we prepare to have an open heart for our Lord. The Lord sends out John to prepare the people for Christ's arrival and the Lord sends us the Spirit as well.

Third Sunday in Advent

Advent 3 is our time to dream and commit to the future God has envisioned for us. Use Isaiah 61 as a scriptural picture of God's vision for the people in your prayer and discernment. Ask God to show you ways your church and you could expand ways to minister to the world. This is a time of dreaming without the editing of what you think would never be possible.

Mary had that thought when Gabriel told her she would be pregnant as a virgin. His response to Mary in Luke 1:37 is, "For nothing will be impossible with God." Dare to be open to the impossible.

It is out of dreams that new hope for the future springs. Share your dreams with others. This is a time to also consider the resources you are willing to give back to God in pursuing these dreams. God works through the people in bringing together resources to live into those dreams.

We each partner with God in creating the kingdom here, as well as looking to that final return of Christ. So yes, now we ask, "Lord, stir us to dream."

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Advent 4 is our time to celebrate with Mary as she sings her song of praise in Luke 1:46-55. This is a time we can recognize and affirm that everyone, no matter their station in life, is a precious child of God; a time to celebrate and acknowledge like Mary that everyone matters and has something to offer.

You have also been receiving daily emails from our WELCA group on Advent thoughts and/or photos for each day. We hope that you are finding them valuable during your Advent journey.

“Stars and Promises”

Christmas Concert with Peter Mayer

In the first-ever ELCA event of its kind, ELCA World Hunger will present an online Christmas benefit concert featuring Peter Mayer, a longtime Lutheran and the lead guitarist for singer Jimmy Buffett. The concert will premiere on the ELCA Facebook page on December 9th, 7 p.m. Central time.

The concert is a gift to all of us this Advent season, a way for ELCA World Hunger to thank us and provide a place for us to gather online with the church community as we prepare for the birth of our Savior.

Donations to ELCA World Hunger are encouraged and will support the church's work to respond to hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries.

<https://www.facebook.com/Lutherans>



Delivering Lutheran World Relief boxes

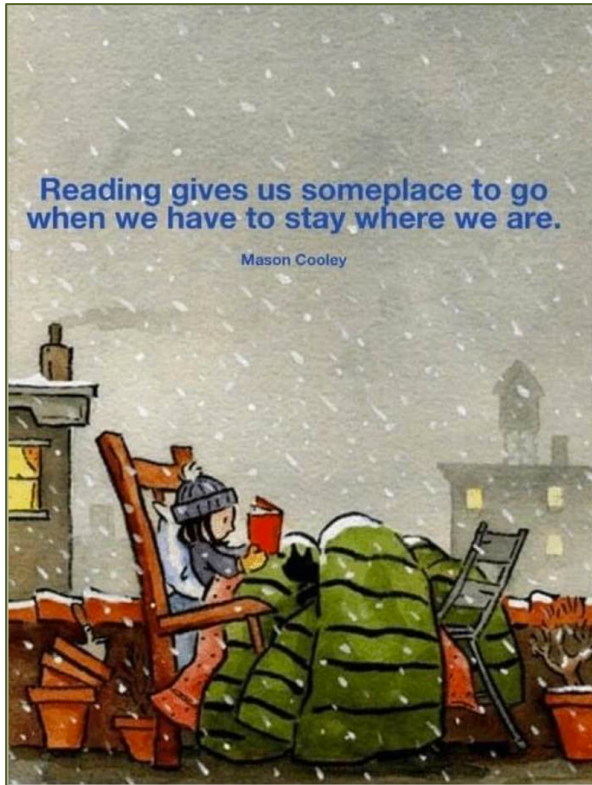


Because the usual semi-truck from Thief River Falls was not providing the service this year, Virginia and Ron Anderson took the opportunity to drop off St. Pauli's Lutheran World Relief boxes at Midwest Motor Express in Grand Forks, ND.

Pictured in this photo, along with Virginia and Ron and a lady from a North Dakota church, are two very willing young ladies helping load boxes into the semi. When Ron and Virginia asked who they were and thanked them for their help, they found out they were the grand-daughters of Glenice Johnson from Zion Lutheran in Thief River Falls.

These LWR boxes were then trucked to the Lutheran World Relief center in Minneapolis, MN where they will eventually make the long journey to needy people in countries around the world.

Book Reviews



From Cindy Cedergren: ***“This Tender Land”* by William Kent Krueger.**

This story takes place during the Great Depression. Four boys at Lincoln School, a school where Native American children are forcibly sent to be educated, run away.

Giving away the reasons why they run away would spoil the story, as would mentioning the resolution to the mystery of how two Irish boys ended up at this particular school.

This book was hard to put down. This group of young kids goes through so many adventures, good and bad, on their journey through the Midwest to find their forever home.

About the author: William Kent Krueger was raised in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. He briefly attended Stanford University—before being kicked out for radical activities. After that, he logged timber, worked construction, tried his hand at freelance journalism, and eventually ended up researching child development at the University of Minnesota.

His work has received a number of awards, including the Minnesota Book Award, the Loft-McKnight Fiction Award, the Anthony Award, the Barry Award, the Dilys Award, and the Friends of American Writers Prize. His last five novels were all New York Times bestsellers.

He currently makes his living as a full-time author. He’s been married for over 40 years to a “marvelous woman” who is a retired attorney. He makes his home in St. Paul, a city he dearly loves.

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From Faye Auchenbaugh: ***“The Christmas Box”* by Richard Paul Evans.**

“Whatever the reason, I find that with each passing Christmas the story of The Christmas Box is told less and needed more. So I record it now for all future generations to accept or dismiss as seems them good. As for me, I believe. And it is, after all, my story.”

So begins “The Christmas Box,” the touching story of a widow and a young family who moves in with her. Rick, Keri, and their 4-year-old daughter, Jenna, are hired as caretakers and are welcomed into the Victorian home of Mary Parkins, an elderly widow, just before the holiday season. As the relationship between Mary and the family develops, we learn that Mary’s past sorrows are compelling her to share an important message with Richard. But will he understand her message in time? A heartwarming story of parental love, healing, and Christmas.

If you haven’t read this holiday classic yet, you need to put it on your list. Since it was first published in 1993, more than eight million people around the world have been touched by its magic. When Evans wrote this #1 best-seller, he never intended on becoming an internationally known author.

Officially, he was an advertising executive, an award-winning clay animator for the American and Japanese markets, candidate for state legislature and, most importantly, husband and father. “The Christmas Box” was written as an expression of love for his (then) two daughters. Though he often told them how much he loved them, he wanted to express his love in a way that would be timeless. In 1993, Evans reproduced 20 copies of the story he wrote for his daughters and gave them to close relatives and friends as Christmas presents. In the month following, those 20 copies were passed around more than 160 times, and soon word spread so widely that bookstores began calling his home with orders for it.

His quiet story of parental love and the true meaning of Christmas made history when it became simultaneously the #1 hardcover and paperback book in the nation. The Emmy award-winning CBS television movie based on the book starred Maureen O’Hara and Richard Thomas. He has since written 10 consecutive New York Times bestsellers and is one of the few authors in history to hit both the fiction and non-fiction bestseller lists. Of his success, Evans says: “The material achievements of ‘The Christmas Box’ will never convey its true success, the lives it has changed, the families brought closer together, the mothers and fathers who suddenly understand the pricelessness of their children’s fleeting childhood.”

In 1997, Evans founded The Christmas Box House International, an organization devoted to building shelters and providing services for abused and neglected children. To date, more than 16,000 children have been housed in Christmas Box House facilities.

As an acclaimed speaker, Evans has shared the podium with such notable personalities as President George W. Bush, President George and Barbara Bush, former British Prime Minister John Majors, Ron Howard, Elizabeth Dole, Deepak Chopra, Steve Allen, and Bob Hope. Evans has been featured on the Today show and Entertainment Tonight, as well as in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *People*, *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Good Housekeeping*, *USA Today*, *TV Guide*, *Reader’s Digest*, and *Family Circle*. Evans lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, with his wife, Keri, and their five children.



Ice Fishing in Norway c, 1908-10. Photo: Anders Beer Wilse, Oslo Museum--digitalmuseum.no

World's 10 Best Ice Fishing Spots—and What to Catch There

By Diana Crandall, *Inside Hook*, November 7, 2018

Here's a thing universally understood by even the most amateur of anglers: Much of the time fishing—most of it, in fact—a sunk line is still and silent, taut only from the ebb and flow of currents beneath the surface. Hours trickle with few nibbles to show for time spent and, barring exception for commercial or professional fisherman, landing the perfect catch every other cast is scarcely the point.

Fishing is about connecting with friends, the Earth, and the self. During winter months otherwise spent indoors, ice fishing elevates this distinctive connection and provides a unique adventure and escape. There's the sitting on four inches of frozen water, atop hundreds of feet of decidedly *not* frozen water. Then there's the tantalizing possibility of bagging a tasty trout, perch, or whitefish. Unless you're a black diamond skier, it's arguably the most exciting thing you can do all winter—and the most time you'll spend outside the confines of your home. Take a look at our round-up of where you can find some of the best ice fishing the world has to offer, and what you should be casting for once you get there.

1. Lule River, Sweden

The Lule River in Sweden originates near the Norwegian border and is teeming with some of the tastiest salmon and trout you can find in Scandinavia. During the rest of the year, the river's "hot areas" are only reachable by boat. Not so in winter, when the ice is secure.



Lule River, Sweden (Getty)

2. Devils Lake, North Dakota

The state of North Dakota sure knows how to sell this lake. Touting it as "a fishing destination unlike anywhere else," the tourism board brags that its fish are large and healthy, its winter season is long, and the "huge" size of the lake means you can avoid tangling your lines with any other overeager anglers. Grab a 3- or 10-day license to search for jumbo perch, walleye and big pike.



Wheeled fish houses parked on the ice at Springsteel Resort on Lake of the Woods

3. Lake of the Woods, Minnesota

Welcome to Warroad, the self-proclaimed Walleye Capital of the World, and perhaps the most commercialized location on this list. We say that affectionately, though— Lake of the Woods has the accommodations and resources to turn an ice-fishing trip into a full-blown vacation, complete with snowmobiling and cross-country skiing for anyone who isn't keen on staying on the ice all day. We don't know why they wouldn't, though — there are dozens of pre-heated fish houses, and if you opt for a sleeper fish house, there's a chance you can glimpse the Northern Lights.



Kathleen Lake, Yukon Territory

4. Kathleen Lake, Yukon Territory

This is a locale reached best by snowmobile, and this secluded spot in Canada's Kluane National Park & Reserve is the only part of the park that allows open fires on the ice surface. While anglers describe the trout as "medium-sized," the sheer amount of them "more than makes up for it." Expect to have a busy day on the ice, with an afternoon barbecue to boot.

5. Lake Champlain, Vermont

Vermont is a lovely place to visit, with the type of hospitality you're more likely to encounter in the Midwest or the South. In addition to a warm welcome, you can expect to find a healthy variety of fish in Lake Champlain on its western border with New York. Boasting bluegill, perch, pike and the occasional walleye, the winter

fishing season is open from January to March 15 every year. Shanty rentals with optional wood stoves inside are available for rent, and it's not hard to find gear if you need a little something extra.

6. Lake Simcoe, Ontario

If you glance at a Google Map of this lake, you'd be forgiven for feeling overwhelmed. Fishing huts, fishing outfitters and fishing charters pepper nearly every inch of shoreline—and that's for good reason. Known for jumbo perch, whitefish and pike, the real holy grail here is the Lake Simcoe lake trout, and there are plenty of places on the ice to drop a line. Starting in January, you can fish seven days a week, in deep or shallow water, in the open, in a hot box hut, or even an ice bungalow if you're keen on sleeping on the water overnight. Not far from Toronto, this is a perfect international jaunt for a mid-level angler.



Ice fishing teepees camped on the frozen surface of Kempenfelt Bay, Lake Simcoe

7. Antero Reservoir, Colorado

This isn't exactly the place to go for peace and quiet. A reservoir operated by Denver Water, it's described by locals as "truly a circus" on the weekends. But if you find yourself in Denver and want to skip away for a day to scratch your ice fishing itch, you'll find plenty of trophy-sized fish waiting to be caught. Thanks to an abundance of freshwater shrimp, rainbow trout, brown trout, Snake River cutthroat, greenback cutthroat, cutbows, kokanee salmon, brook trout, and splake are all caught in the reservoir. Just make sure to find a break in the weeds, as the water can run a bit shallow, and no one likes to get tangled.



Lt. Col. Nick Sengstacke, chief of education, Medical Department Activity-Alaska, chills out and waits for the elusive nibble during an ice fishing trip to Birch Lake (Photo by Sheryl Nix/Fort Wainwright PAO)

8. Birch Lake, Alaska

Coined one of the region's "Big Three" lakes by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Birch Lake is the perfect place for novice ice fishers because there are a ton of "catchable fish" here. Rainbow trout, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, arctic char and arctic grayling are present, though the grayling is fairly rare. The ADNR says this is a good place for introducing children and older people to ice fishing, so if you were considering a place to make ice fishing a family affair, this is your spot.

9. Fort Peck Lake, Montana

Fort Peck Lake in Montana is huge: There's no way around it. You'll find more than 1500 miles of shoreline, depths that stretch to the 200-foot mark, and more than 50 kinds of fish in the reservoir. It's the fifth largest man-made lake in the country, with only one major drawback: It's not close to much of anything. The closest town, Jordan, has a population of fewer than 400 people, and the lake isn't within a half-day's drive of any major cities or airports.

But Fort Peck's remoteness is part of what makes it so incredible. Lax regulations mean you can go a full 24 hours between tip up checks (tip ups are a device that let you fish multiple spots simultaneously; the rig sits over the hole and a flag pops up if you hook a fish). Also, tip ups can be spread as far and wide as you want, but there is a limit of six per angler. However, Fort Peck is known for having pressure cracks and thin spots at various parts of the lake, so this site isn't for novice fishers. Talk to locals, pay attention, and bring a depth sonar. You won't regret it.

10. Caples Lake, California

Contrary to popular belief, you *can* ice fish in California, and Caples Lake is a perfect (and accessible) place to do so. Rainbow and brook trout are plentiful in this locale, situated high in the Sierra Nevada mountains near South Lake Tahoe. For productive baits, *ESPN* recommends you use Rapala ice jigs, small Crippled Herring, Megabait Live Jigs, Gold Label Balls O' Fire eggs and nightcrawlers. For more of a challenge—and a less developed spot—hit Silver Lake, just 10 miles away.

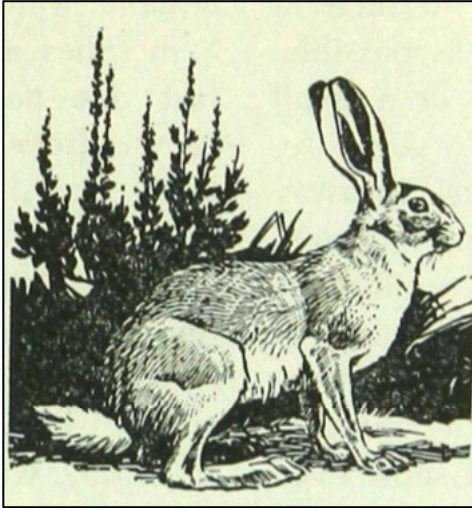
Speed King of the Prairies

A personal introduction to the elusive jack rabbit

By Bennie Bengston, *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, September-October 1948

(Bennie Bengston was a retired farmer and freelance writer from Kennedy, MN.)

It was a cold day in January and we were hurrying home from town as wisps of snow kicked up by a northwesterly wind scurried across the highway. Suddenly a ball of white fur bobbed up in front of us, coming from behind a clump of weeds at the edge of the ditch, and bounced down the road ahead of the car.



"Look at that rabbit go!" exclaimed my companion. "He's really traveling! I wonder what his speed limit is."

For more than a mile we chased him. At 30 miles per hour he stayed ahead easily, at 35 he kept well up in front but had to extend himself, at 40 we gained on him and would have run over him if we had maintained that speed. Once or twice when we pressed him too hard, he shot over the shoulder of the road into the ditch that paralleled the highway. But when I slacked up, he got back on the road again, racing along in front of the car. Finally, I crowded him too hard, trying to see how fast he could go, and he streaked off at right angles across the ditch, under a barb wire fence and into an adjoining field.

Their crushed and mangled carcasses may often be seen on roads, especially along the larger highways where automobiles can attain relatively high speeds safely. Most of these are killed at night, blinded and bewildered by the bright lights of the cars.

A PICTURESQUE and interesting figure among North American mammals is the white-tailed jack rabbit. He even has a dual personality, the mammalogists telling us

that he actually is a hare and not a rabbit, though thousands of farmers and ranchers still persist in calling him a "jack rabbit." His long and ludicrous ears very naturally and logically suggested the cognomen "jackass" rabbit, the given name being later shortened to "jack." The mammalogists being in the minority by probably several million accounts for the fact that out on the prairies a hare is a jack rabbit wherever you meet him.

The largest of American hares, the white-tailed jack rabbit is the giant of his tribe, sometimes weighing as much as twelve pounds. An inhabitant of the pastures and fields, he loves the wide-open spaces, avoiding woodland unless driven into it by pursuing dogs, in which event he loses no time in getting out again as soon as possible. Behind a tussock of grass or a small bush he makes his "form," a slight depression in the ground, his hideaway for the daylight hours, coming out to forage on the approach of twilight.

A favorite crouching place in plowed fields are the dead furrows, where his body flattened against the earth resembles a patch of snow even when the ground is almost bare. If a blanket of white covers everything he is invisible and knows it, making no move until my foot is almost on top of him.

Then away he goes, his long hind legs thwacking the ground desperately and sending his slim lithe body plowing through the air as if propelled by steel springs. Gaining momentum, he increases the length of his leaps, sailing along in incredible bounds, to all appearances as effortless as the wind itself. Arriving at a safe distance he stops, erects himself on his haunches and looks me over. If I make no threatening moves, he soon ambles off in an easy bounding lope, pausing occasionally to reconnoiter.

During the summer months he simulates his surroundings by a coat of streaked brownish gray which blends easily into the background of weeds and grasses and earth. When cold weather arrives, he dons a suit of white, except for a black tip on each of his ears, and which blends equally well into the winter's snow. Sometimes a snowless winter pulls a fast one on Brer Rabbit, and his snowy dress makes him very conspicuous. For it isn't the coming of the snow that urges him to change his style in clothes, but colder temperatures. On such occasions, apparently conscious that he is a prominent part of the landscape, he becomes exceedingly wary, living up to the old saw of being if not as "mad," at least as "wild as a March hare."

COYOTES, FOXES, and wolves are his natural enemies, and, when a particularly hard winter sends them down from the north, the great snowy owls. The latter, possessing powerful wings and talons, are probably the most dangerous. For it takes speed to overtake a jack rabbit once he gets under way. Many a time, during my boyhood days and since, I have seen dogs try to run one down, acquiring exercise in the chase and nothing more. Nature has equipped the jack rabbits with excellent snowshoes, broad fluffy pads on the hind feet which enable them to travel with ease over the snow. The front feet, used mainly for balancing as the animals lope along, do not have the pads.

During the summer months when grass and tender vegetation is abundant, the food problem takes care of itself. All through the long cold winters, and especially during seasons of heavy snowfall, they must dig and scratch through the snow to get at the dried and frozen herbage underneath.

Some years ago, I cut a small patch of late seeded oats for hay, cutting it green, just after heading out. It made a small stack of about three loads which I left in the field for use in the spring. The jack rabbits sampled it, found the contents to their liking, and came from far and wide. On moonlit nights I sometimes counted as many as twenty-five around the stack, some playfully chasing each other over the nearby snowdrifts, others pulling hay out of the stack a few straws at a time and deliberately chewing it down. By spring they had eaten about one-third of the hay. Ordinarily, however, the damage they do to haystacks is very slight, in most cases not even noticeable.

Observing them through a pair of binoculars from a little distance, silently gamboling over the snow in the frosty moonlight, they looked like galloping ghosts!

Aside from the places where his steel spring legs will take him, the jack rabbit has managed to get around. One of them jumped right into Mark Twain's classic of the Old West, "Roughing It." Traveling overland by stage, Twain and his companions had left St. Joseph and entered Nebraska when they saw their first jack rabbit. He described the event in a lively passage, and with the typical Twain humor.

"He is well named. He is just like any other rabbit, except that he is from one-third to twice as large, has longer legs in proportion to his size, and has the most preposterous ears that ever were mounted on any creature but the jackass. When he is sitting quiet, thinking about his sins, or is absent-minded...his majestic ears project him conspicuously; but the breaking of a twig will scare him nearly to death, and then he tilts his ears back gently and starts for home...

But one must shoot at this creature once, if he wishes to see him throw his heart into his heels and do the best he knows how...he lays his long ears down on his back, straightens himself out like a yard-stick every spring he makes, and scatters miles behind him with an easy indifference that is enchanting....

The Secretary started him with a shot from the Colt...He dropped his ears, set up his tail, and left for San Francisco at a speed which can only be described as a flash and a vanish. Long after he was out of sight we could hear him whiz." -Roughing It

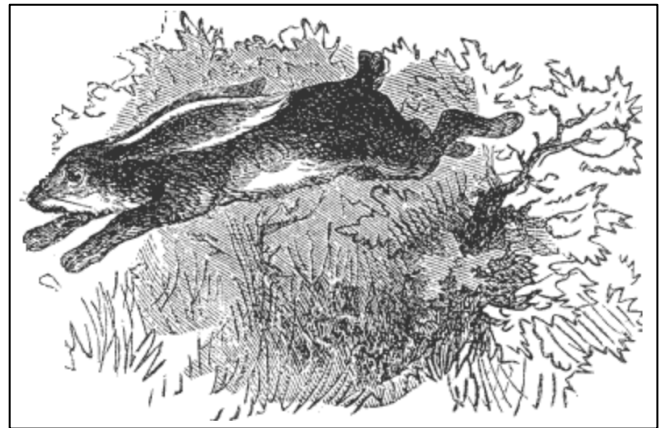
Though the jack rabbit hasn't much of a tail, being in this respect very similar to the other hares and rabbits, it is sometimes a rather conspicuous and telltale tail. For it is pure white the year around, even during the summer when the animal is otherwise a grayish brown. Then it is perhaps the most striking thing about him, even competing as an attraction with the oversize ears which interested Twain so much.

EXPLORERS RELATE that in the Far North the Arctic hares, near relatives of the white-tailed jack rabbit, retain their white coat the year around, the summer being too brief and weather conditions too rigorous to permit any change. They have been found as far north as there is land in northern Greenland and Ellesmere Island, being at home on the barren tundras beyond where trees are found. Around Hudson Bay, down the Labrador coast, and across Newfoundland they range, over the tundras of northern Canada and along the Bering Sea into northern Alaska.

In this severe climate their winter coat becomes very heavy and thick, like fleece. It is sometimes used by the Eskimos, making warm but not very durable clothing and sleeping robes. Polar expeditions have reported them much more numerous in some areas than in others. They seemingly gather in groups during the mating season, towards spring, after which they again scatter over the country. The Eskimos kill comparatively few for they are exceedingly shy, the heaviest mortality among them being caused by the large white owls.

The white-tailed jack rabbit ranges from Saskatchewan down into Colorado, and from Minnesota west to the Cascade Mountains. In the deserts of the Southwest and down into Mexico other varieties take the place of the white-tail. In the northern parts of its range the jack rabbit apparently has but one litter a year, when anywhere from one or two up to seven young are born. By mid-June in the middle northern regions the young rabbits begin to get around on their own and are often encountered about the fields and meadows. Very active and quick they are difficult to catch even at an early age.

To the farm boy with a "twenty- two" rifle, the jack rabbit is big game. It takes a good shot to bring one down, as I know from



many a winter day spent stalking them over field and pasture. Hard to spot on a snowy expanse, it was rarely that I caught one a "sitting duck." Usually I didn't see the rabbit until he took off, after which he always put some distance behind him before rearing up on his haunches to look the situation over. Then to get the mitten off and to quickly take aim — draw a bead on a white figure against a white background, a chilly wind assisting! Hunting jacks with a small bore rifle is good sport — with the rabbit having a decided edge, which is as it should be.

On the farms and ranches of our western prairies and plains, the jack rabbit is a familiar and picturesque character. Should he vanish from the scene like the buffalo and the antelope he would be greatly missed, this first citizen of the sweeping flatlands and the wide-open sky. But there seems little danger of that, for he continues to hold his own even in well-settled regions, and it is improbable that he will be crowded out. Alert and versatile, he has adapted himself to changing conditions, and can live with man or without.

Editor's Note: The number of white-tailed jackrabbits observed in 1995 (0.1 rabbits/100 mi) has remained at a historic low (95% below the long-term average of 1.7 rabbits/100 mi). The range-wide jackrabbit population peaked in the late 1950s and declined to low levels in the 1980s. The long-term decline in jackrabbits reflects the loss of their preferred habitats: pasture, hayfields, and small grains.

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“Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values. It is peace because we have found peace in the Savior’s teachings. It is the time we realize most deeply that the more love is expended, the more there is of it for others.” -Thomas S. Monson

In this true spirit of Christmas, the folks at St. Pauli once again gave generously toward our nonexistent “fall event,” due to COVID-19 restrictions. Because of your generosity, even in the face of adversity, we have a total of \$1,795 to donate to charities around the world. Merry Christmas to Everyone!

Peace
ON EARTH
Good Will
TO MEN