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An American tale — Judge Clinton Wyant went from rural Aitkin County to a successful career in the law



Clinton Wyant graduated from Aitkin High School in 1950.

The story of Judge Clinton Wyant, who died on Sept. 22, 2010 after a long struggle with Parkinson Disease, is an All-American story.

Wyant was born in Nebraska and his family moved to Waukenbo Lake while he was a young boy, where he hunted, seined minnows and helped his parents run the Wyant Resort.

He established a regular minnow route from Waukenabo throughout the Iron Range, which he ran twice per week. He was a minnow seiner and the co-developer of one of Minnesota's first private hatchery operations. He harvested minnows in the wild and in leased ponds. He was also a gunner,

with his father as pilot, as they hunted wolves from the air during the bounty days in Minnesota.

Wyant was also a successful attorney and district court judge, who had a wide-range of interests and supported many groups and causes.

It is a story of immigration, as his wife Trix immigrated to American from Gottchee, a region in Europe that is now part of Slovenia, and the two met on the slopes of Lutsen. Together, they have made Aitkin County a better place through their lives of

community involvement.

Wyant worked his way through law school and practiced law in the Aitkin area from 1958-1978. He and Trix had three children, Maria, Chuck and Amy.

On Dec. 1, 1977, he was appointed a District Court Judge by Governor Rudy Perpich. He had chambers in Aitkin and Brainerd. He rode the circuit when needed as well. He served as a judge from 1978 to 1993 when he retired due to a disability. For the next 10 years, he and Trix enjoyed retirement on their Wauke-

nabo Lake home, the place that held many memories for the Judge. From 2003 to his death he was a resident of Aicota Health Care Center of Aitkin.

"What did he do?" you may ask but the question should be rephrased as "What didn't he do?"

His career-related involvement included leading many initiatives on the bench and for the bar. His decisions impacted the first cameras in the courtroom case, as well as the battered woman defense in a murder trial.

Continued on Page 6

McGregor man charged with assault in Shamrock Township

A 23 year-old McGregor man has been charged with assault in connection with an incident that occurred on Sheshebe Point in Shamrock Township.

Tyler W. Greer of McGregor has been charged in a complaint filed by the Aitkin County Attorney's Office with two counts of Assault in the Second Degree — Dangerous Weapon, two counts of Felony Dangerous Weapon

— Discharge Firearm- Endanger Safety and one count of Falsely Reporting a Crime.

On Sept. 14, 2010, Aitkin County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a report that Greer had been "jumped by three or four Native Americans, and that one of them had a pistol." Greer confirmed this claim in a statement to the deputies. Deputies also observed that Greer had injuries that could have come from being

assaulted.

During the subsequent investigation, deputies located spent shotgun shells at Greer's residence and damage to the inside of the residence where Greer claimed the struggle occurred. They also learned that other parties were reported to have been present when the incident began.

After locating these other parties, two adult white males, it was reported that

there had not been any other persons involved and that Greer had had an altercation with one of them, after Greer began damaging things in the residence. It was also reported that when they went outside to cool off, they heard a shotgun blast and that Greer was firing the shotgun in their direction and yelling he was going to get them.

When Greer was arrested by Aitkin County Deputies

on Sept. 15, 2010, he stated that it was the best story that he could come up with.

Greer made an appearance in Aitkin County District Court on Sept. 17, 2010, in front of Judge David TenEyck. Bail in the amount of \$2,000 was subsequently posted, and Greer was released from the Aitkin County Jail. His next court appearance is set for Oct. 4, 2010.

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Winners will be awarded prizes, pumpkins will be on display at Great River Gardens through Oct. 30.

A pumpkin cooking and baking contest will also be held, see Aitkin store for details.

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Vivian Clarke has opened a studio, Vivid Creations, on Lake Mille Lacs. She also has a website at www.vividcreationsmn.com.

"I want to capture the intimacy in faces. I love faces. Every face tells a story, whether the person is young or old, soft or hard."

Vivian Clark, Garrison, talks about her zest for photography and how she hopes to make a living with her passion at her Vivid Creations photography

Thousands of clicks, hundreds of faces Vivian Clark, photographer, opens studio in Garrison

studio she recently opened in Garrison.

She's located two miles south of Garrison right on Hwy. 169 in a log-sided strip mall that faces Lake Mille Lacs. When you walk in, you're pleasantly surprised to see the elegant and artistic studio, that she transformed with lots of second-hand finds and elbow grease. From the Hollywood glam dressing table to a good cup of coffee and tunes playing, to the comfortable waiting room with its vintage couches, visiting the studio is a great experience.

"My goal is to design an atmosphere that is comfortable and relaxing," Clark said. "I want my clients to have fun and celebrate who they are by capturing their personality, so we can create portraits to be treasured for years."

Clark takes lifestyle, portraits, weddings, family photos, pet photos, intimate/boudoir photos and commercial shots; products/businesses, portfolio/headshots for models and actors and does photojournalism. "No matter how old you are, no matter what shape you are in, every body is beautiful," she noted.

Beginning in second grade, with a much-embellished story on how she spent her summer vacation and adding a Snappy Canon camera at age 13, Clark has been documenting life with pictures and words for many years. "I've always had a vivid imagination," she said. Her 13-year-old son carries on the tradition, writing

and illustrating his own comic books.

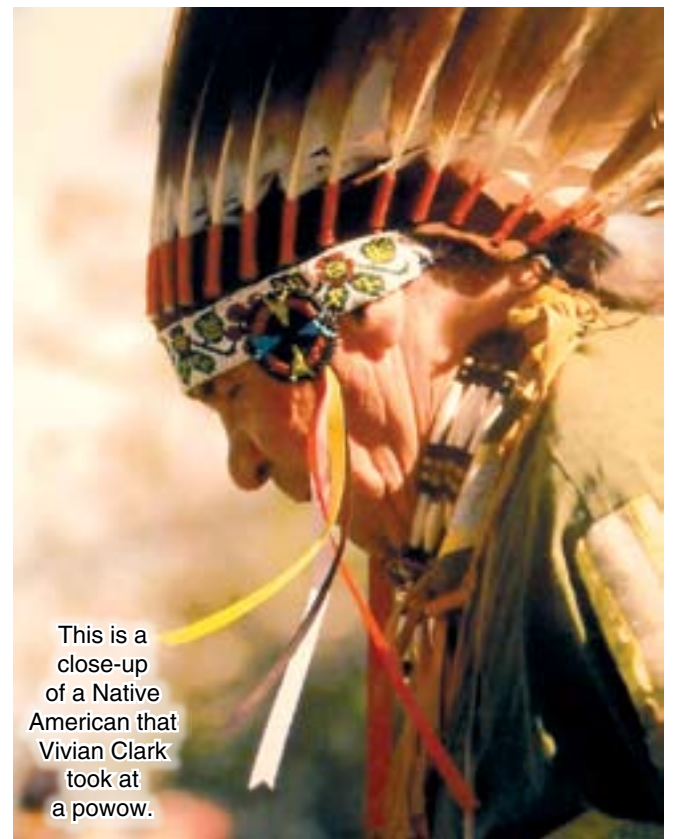
Clark is a native of the Twin Cities and she and her family moved to the rural Garrison area in 1999. They transformed the family cabin into their home. "I love being on the water, both at home, and here, at the studio, where I can see Mille Lacs every day. It never looks the same twice."

Starting out as a veterinary technician, she began working as a reporter for the *Mille Lacs Messenger* when then-editor Joel Patenaude came to interview her. They talked about writing and he encouraged her to submit a piece. She did and worked as a freelancer for awhile and eventually became a staff writer.

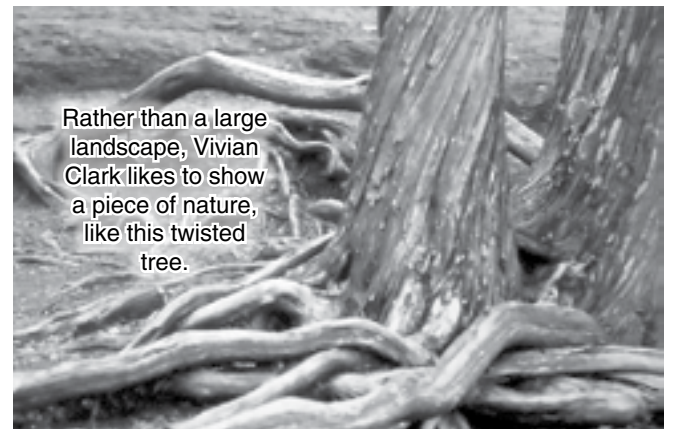
In addition to her past journalism experience at the *Messenger*, Clark continues to write freelance and her work appears in such local publications as the *Lake Country Journal Magazine* and she was a public relations specialist for the Amsoil Championship Snocross Series. She traveled all over the country last winter where she hooked up television and radio stations and newspaper photographers with the drivers, who race snowmobiles in a motocross-type course full of fast jumps, turns and whoops. Clark is also the staff photographer for the North Central Speedway south of Brainerd. Not one to let any grass grow under her feet, she also bartends at the Garrison VFW.

"I love the adrenaline rush of photographing racing — cars and snowmobiles," she said. She did lose a little courage last summer when she was present at a serious accident that took place at North Central.

Though she dabbles in shooting wildlife and landscapes, where she hones in



This is a close-up of a Native American that Vivian Clark took at a powwow.



Rather than a large landscape, Vivian Clark likes to show a piece of nature, like this twisted tree.

to capture a small, interesting piece of nature, Clark thrives on shooting weddings. "In addition to the traditional, formal portraits, I shoot a lot of candid/lifestyle photographs of the family and the event that the bride and groom really love," she said.

In this age of digital photography, it can take 1,000 clicks to get the perfect shots for commercial or portfolio shoots.

Her ever-expanding imagination led her to team up with local artists. She'll be hosting exhibits for them and will announce an exhibit

opening soon.

In addition to paid work, she donates her time and talents to the Garrison Fire Department and the Garrison Food Shelf. She is donating her labor to put together a calendar as a fundraiser for the fire department where she guarantees that she'll make everybody she photographs "look hot."

In her spare time, she volunteers for the Garrison Commercial Club, the Garrison Fire Department Auxiliary and also spends time on the lake, kayaks, and is learning how to skateboard with her son.

Pequot Lakes Police Chief Braam terminated

Pequot Lakes Police Chief Jerry Braam was fired on Tue., Sept. 28, after a closed-door Pequot Lakes City Council meeting to discuss allegations of misconduct against Braam. Braam was in attendance during the meeting and requested it be closed.

Braam had been on paid administrative leave since Aug. 16, after Mayor Nancy Adams received a complaint against the

Police Chief. Details of the complaint against Braam have not been released by the city.

Braam had been the Pequot Lakes police chief since 2005. He had experience as the assistant police chief for the Lower Sioux Community in Morton and also for the Minnesota State Patrol.

Officer Kate Petersen was appointed as acting police chief while Braam was on leave.

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THE BEATLES "Hey Jude"

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Last County Superintendent of Schools — Part I



Margaret Newstrom at her Deerwood home.

By PHILIP NEESE

Margaret B. Newstrom was the last County Superintendent of Schools to serve Aitkin County. It was an elected position, and the responsibilities involved oversight of 32 rural schools.

Margaret met with local school boards to address any problems and facilitate the hiring process of teachers, bussing issues and so forth. She met with teachers as a group and individually, of-

fering recommendations and support. Her office supplied educational resources for loan to the teachers, and a major part of her responsibility was preparing written reports to the State Department of Education.

A Rural Teacher

Margaret had respect for the role of the teachers and the part they played in the community as she, too, had been a rural school teacher—many times teaching eight grades in a one-room schoolhouse. She relates her own daily program began with opening exercises, which included the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, sometimes reading a chapter or two of an ongoing story to the students or a group sing. When it was time for each grade to do their class work, she would call the class to order; and they moved to chairs arranged in a group to review their lessons.

A rural teacher likely had to stoke the wood or coal stoves, sweep the floors—and

of course plan the class work, correct papers, assist the little ones with their outer clothing and boots, supervise the playground, participate in dodgeball and keep away, treat an occasional hand or foot for frostbite, apply a bandage and maybe shovel snow here and there.

Margaret experienced a student doing the forbidden: putting a tongue on the metal pump handle in freezing temperatures. There was also the occasional “accident” when the outhouse did not get used quickly enough or the stomach flu hit during school hours. There were many facets of being a rural schoolteacher, but that was Margaret’s dream.

From the Beginning

Margaret was born Nov. 10, 1915, to Hugh and Mildred Edmonds on a farm near Princeton. She was the oldest of four daughters. She attended country school.

“I knew as a child that I wanted to be a teacher”,

she said. She followed her dream by enrolling in Normal School after graduating from Princeton High School in 1933. Normal School was one school term of training to prepare a graduate for teaching. The purpose was to establish teaching standards or “norms”, therefore the name. Previously, teachers were regarded as being “born”. Now it was becoming a teachable science.

After she received her teaching certificate, she was hired by North Star School near Dalbo, MN. She was just 18 years old. She rented a room in the area, but shared the house as one of the family. Many students were bussed from the “Bog”, a farming area in the district. Some of the boys helped out on the farms and were not able to attend school regularly, which meant they had to go longer to obtain their education. This created students of older ages being in the classroom, and the older and bigger students had cre-



Normal Training Class, 1933-34

ated a discipline problem in the past. Many teachers had come and gone.

Jennie B. Coleman, Isanti County Superintendent of Schools at the time, had admonished the school board for hiring a young, inexperienced teacher. Margaret relates, “I knew from the start that if I lost control, my job would be over.” She did maintain an orderly learning environment and earned the County Superintendent’s confidence.

“There must be discipline and order to create a good learning experience”, Mar-

garet states. She was a strict teacher, but did not resort to physical punishment. She remembers using sentence-writing for behavior correction. “But mainly, I tried to make school interesting and keep the students motivated. I wanted the kids to learn.”

Daughter, Janet, recalls one instance where sitting a student in the corner was implemented, as she was that student. Having her Mother as a teacher was no advantage when giggling in the schoolroom.

To be continued...

Cuyuna Range Women’s Club starts new scholarship for CLC

The Cuyuna Range Women’s Club, at its September meeting, approved the creation of a \$750 Scholarship for ‘Non Traditional’ aged students who are attending or plan to attend Central Lakes College.

“The Cuyuna Range Women’s Club (formerly known as ‘Mothers Club’) is the oldest

women’s organization on the Cuyuna Range (established in 1916) and has always been dedicated to service and responding to the needs of our range communities and citizens”, said club president Myrna Nelson.

The \$750 Scholarship will be available to individuals who live in the Crosby-Iron-

ton School District (182) and have lost their jobs because of the economy, (downsizing or layoffs) and who need re-training, additional training or further education in order to find employment. Applications will be available after Oct. 4, 2010, at the Hallett Library or the C-1 Courier in Crosby.

Central Lakes College (CLC) under the Presidency of Dr. Larry Lundblad, Central Lakes College President, will be the keynote speaker at the organizations first annual scholarship fundraising dinner on Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church of Crosby. Dr. Lundblad will ‘showcase’ success

stories about ‘life-changing’ opportunities that attending CLC has provided to their increasing number of ‘Non-Traditional’ students who rely on having this ever evolving and responsive higher education facility available in our

Brainerd Lakes area. All new members and supporters are welcome. For further information contact: Myrna Nelson 218-678-2505, Barb Hoeft 218-546-5731 or Kris Hasskamp 218-546-7010.

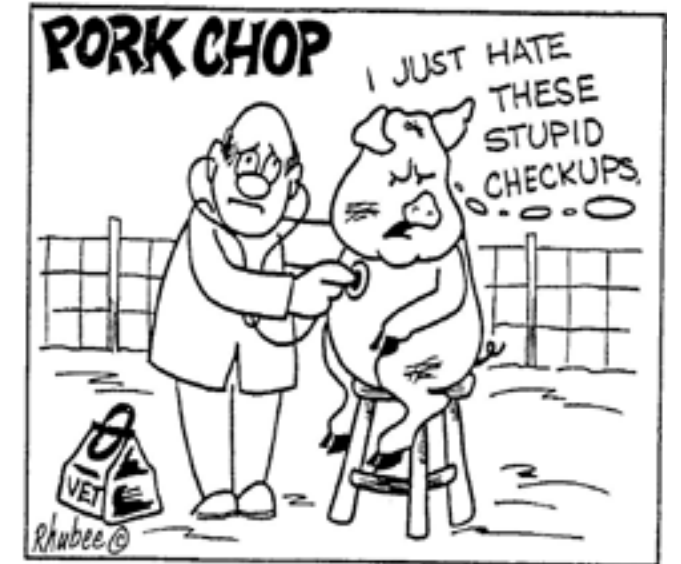


September Veterans visits

On Sept. 14, The American Legion and Auxiliary members visited with the Veterans at Aicota, Aicota Assisting Living, Aitkin Health Care and Golden Horizon. Pictured from left to right (front row): Allen Johnson, Veteran; Cameron Peterson; Lyle Carr; (back row): Marian Piecek, Agnes Weimer, Harriet Simonson, Carroll Janzen and Bill Bernard. Not pictured, Roberta Elvecrog and Rosie Blakesley.

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Alcohol compliance checks for Crow Wing County

Sheriff Dahl is proud to announce that the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a grant to conduct alcohol compliance checks on all licensed retailers.

In a compliance check, a law enforcement officer works with an underage youth who attempts to purchase alcohol from a bar, restaurant, liquor store, grocery store or other licensed outlet. If the clerk/server asks for identification and refuses the sale, the outlet passes the compliance check. If the clerk/server completes the sale, the outlet has illegally sold alcohol and fails the check.

"Our main goal is to get people to check IDs. While most people do a great job in our area, we still have concerns and are simply stepping

it up to curb underage drinking," said Sheriff Dahl.

In the next few months, officers will conduct the first round of compliance checks. A second round of checks will be conducted after the first of the year.

Any seller caught selling to an underage buyer will be referred to the City/County Attorney's Office for criminal prosecution. In addition, the owner of the alcohol license will face civil prosecution. Along with the issuance of an alcohol license comes the responsibility to ensure that all sales are made legally and responsibly.

Law enforcement is committed to working with retailers to help them abide by the law. Selling alcohol is a legitimate business that plays a valid role in our community.



Penalties for establishments selling to a minor can include fines and liquor licenses suspensions, and can potentially lead to liquor license revocation. A server who sells to someone under 21 can be charged with a gross misdemeanor offense, which carries a sentence of up to one year in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

An American tale | Continued from Page 1

Active in DFL politics, he served as a leader and attended three national conventions (1964, 1968, 1976), as a representative of Minnesota. On the civic level, he worked with airport commission, Jack-o-Lopes, Friends of the Arts, St. James Catholic Church and community education.

The arts? He was involved in community theater and vaudeville, singing and performing, and was an excellent drummer and dancer.

On the sports side, he announced Golden Glove boxing matches in Aitkin. He was an active sportsman and a big game hunter throughout North America.

In addition, he earned his private pilot's license and loved to fly. He was one of the pioneer wild rice farmers in Aitkin County and active in the Wild Rice Association. He created game preserves and a Designated Tree Farm in Itasca County. He was a world traveler.

The list could go on and on, but it would never be enough, to fully explain Wyant's life. A man who



Trix and the Judge on their wedding day.



Judge Clinton Wyant's official portrait.



Judge Clinton Wyant before his recent death with Trix and surrounded by his grandchildren.

shaped the course of Aitkin County, who was outstanding in his career, a lover of the land and a leader in politics and policy.

It is a true American tale, with a little Gottchee and Waukenabo sprinkled in for seasoning to spice up a life that was truly well lived.

ELECT

Carolyn McElftrick
Minnesota House 3B

Common Sense for Common Goals

Some Important Priorities for Carolyn are:

- ★ **Fiscal Responsibility** – Government, like family must live within its means.
- ★ **Pro-Life/Pro Family** – Support Legislation to strengthen the family and respect people of all ages and abilities.
- ★ **Military Support** – Meet the needs of our Military personnel- active and inactive- and their families
- ★ **Outdoor Heritage** – Keep our public lands and waters open for hunting, fishing, and other recreation and maintained for future generations.

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The stunning Ring-necked Pheasant is not native to the United States



BY WARREN NELSON
The Ring-necked Pheasant is one of the most beautiful and most highly prized game birds in North America. Between 16 and 18 million of these birds are taken annually during the combined North America hunting seasons. They are not a native species of bird, but an imported species, originally from China. Their history is a fascinating one. Their scientific name is "Phasianus Colchicus". The first part of the name comes from the Greek Phasis River of the ancients, in the country along the east coast of the Black Sea. And the second part of the name comes from the Latin for Colchis, a province and city in Greek Mythology at the east end of the Black Sea, from which the Greek Argonauts were said to have brought home the original pheasant stock to their own country.

In 1760, Richard Bache, son-in-law of Benjamin Franklin and husband of Franklin's only daughter,

imported pheasants from England in the first attempt to establish a population of the birds at his New Jersey plantation. His attempt failed and all his birds disappeared by the following spring although he provided food and shelter for them. A second attempt was made in 1790, when they tried introducing the Black-necked Pheasant along the Atlantic coast. It failed as well. Pheasants were introduced to California in 1857 with some success but no explosion.

In 1880, thirty Chinese Pheasants were shipped to Oregon by Judge Owen N. Denny, U.S. Consul General at Shanghai. This introduction was such a success and the birds became, so abundant that a 75 day hunt was held in 1892 and 50,000 pheasants were taken in the very first day! Other states followed suit. By 1887, they were successfully established in the eastern United States. And, they were brought to Minnesota in 1905 by Sam

Fullerton, executive agent of the State Game and Fish Commission. From 1915 to 1928, 25,000 were released and another 60,000 eggs were given to farmers to begin their own flocks. The first hunting season in Minnesota was in 1924. This proud, stately, handsome, active, daring and aggressive bird was finally and firmly implanted into the American way of life and is even the state bird of South Dakota.

Because there are so many colors in the bird, it is a little hard to describe a Ring-necked Pheasant without missing something, but here goes. Its name "ring-necked" comes from the white ring around its neck and "pheasant" is the Middle English word for the bird. The male is between 30 and 36 inches long with a wingspan of 32 inches. They have a yellowish chicken-like bill and short rounded wings. Their long, streaming, tapered, pointed tail can make up 21 inches of its length. Their head and neck are an iridescent green/blue or purple, separated from their body by a white ring around its neck. They have a patch of bare red skin on their cheeks and about their eyes, forming red wattles below their eyes. They have iridescent feathers along the sides of their head which are long and form a raised double crest. They can raise these ear feathers on the sides of their head, possibly to aid in hearing. Their body is a rich

iridescent bronze and brownish red over all, mottled with brown, black, green and red. Their dark feet are fairly short and strong with a small spur just above the feet. The female lacks this spur. The female is smaller than the male at 21 to 25 inches long, with her long pointed yellow-brown tail making up about 12 inches of her length. She is a mottled brownish gold, without the white neck ring or the bright colors of the male. She also has the yellowish chicken-like bill, dark feet and a brown cheek patch. The male makes hoarse croaks in flight – a kind of "cuck-et, cuck-et." The female's call is more like "queep, queep."

They are a permanent resident in Minnesota, nesting primarily in the southern one-half of the state. They live mostly on cultivated farmlands among corn, wheat, oats and hay, with hedges used for cover and traveling. They are fond of dust bathing in cornfields or bare areas in pastures. They may roost either on the ground or in trees. If flushed, they can fly very silently. The male's courtship starts with him strutting in front of the female with his feathery ear tufts raised on the sides of his head. To attract a female and announce his territory, the male crows, then claps his wings loudly. The male may have to fight other males for a territory in an attempt to gain a harem of two to five females. The nest is on the ground in a natural

depression lined with grasses, in fields of grass, grain or in brushy areas. The female lays between eight and 20 brownish-olive eggs and two hens may lay their eggs in one nest. Incubation is entirely by the female, the eggs hatching out in about 24 days. The young are precocial, leaving the nest shortly after drying off, attended solely by the female. At about 36 days of age, the male may rejoin the group, offering them some protection. Actually, the young can fly four or five feet at only seven days of age.

Ring-necked Pheasants are early risers, up and hunting for food well before daybreak. They do have a wide variety of foods on their diet

– waste corn, wheat, oats and barley. A lot of their regimen is ragweed. They supplement their menu with acorns, grasshoppers, crickets, moths and worms.

They have been known as Chinese Pheasants, English Pheasants or Ring-necked Pheasants, but whatever you call them, they are beautiful. Roadside counts by the Department of Natural Resources have shown that their numbers have fallen in Minnesota since their high numbers of the 1940s and 1950s do to cleaner farming practices. But they are a hardy, robust and adaptable bird, so hopefully, they will be with us for a lot of years to come.

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May is a very sweet German Shepherd mix that gets along well with other dogs and is very intelligent. She already has learned some commands. She is affectionate and does great with kids, but need supervision with chickens! An active home would be best for May. May has been spayed and is up to date on vaccinations. If you would like to adopt May, please submit an application via e-mail from www.starnorth.org (under forms). If you would like to visit May or any other animals at the shelter please e-mail adoptions@starnorth.org or call 218-245-3732 to make an appointment. Adoption hours are Monday, Thursday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 p.m.



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