



Meadowlark Notes

Issue 68



Beyond Andersonville

By Dawn Phelps, RN/LMSW

If I mentioned *Mahindra*, *Oliver*, or *McCormick*, you might not know what I am referring to. But if I said *John Deere*, *Ford*, *Case*, or *Massey Ferguson*, you probably know I am talking about farm tractors.

If I said *Andersonville*, you might be aware Andersonville was a terrible prison in the South during the Civil War, especially if you are familiar with the war between the States. A book entitled *Andersonville* tells a story of pain, suffering, and deaths that took place there in the 1860s, where thousands of prisoners starved to death or died from disease or the cold. But many prisons in the

North were also places of horror. (My great-grandfather was captured in a battle in Dover, Tennessee, and transported to a prisoner-of-war camp outside Chicago.)

Here is a historical quote about Andersonville: "As we entered the place, a spectacle met our eyes that almost froze our blood with horror, and made our hearts fail within us. Before us were forms that had once been active and erect, stalwart men, now nothing but mere walking skeletons, covered with filth and vermin. Many of our men . . . exclaimed with earnestness, 'Can this be hell?'"

During the Civil War, about 30,000 Union soldiers died in captivity, and 26,000 Confederates died in prisons. Robert Avery, a Union soldier, spent time in Andersonville. But even during Avery's difficult time in prison, he was looking with hope *beyond Andersonville*. He was dreaming of being released, of returning to Illinois where he had worked on a family farm in his younger years.

But you may be wondering how farm tractors and Andersonville are connected, since the topics seem far removed from each other. But there is a connection. At the end of last summer, my husband



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**MEADOWLARK
HOSPICE**

**Our Mission is to
provide loving,
compassionate care
for those living with
a
life-limiting illness.**

Hospice Director Notes

As a mom of two young boys, my thoughts about growth tend to revolve around children growing up. And far too fast, I might add. We often talk with our children about what they want to be

when they "grow" up. My oldest son felt terribly burdened on career day at school. He was under the assumption that the career he chose that day was a life choice and that he would not be allowed

to change his mind.

As I think about his assumption that he was to make his life decision at the age of 7, I wonder how many of us reach adulthood and assume we no longer are able to "grow".

...Beyond Andersonville

(continued from page 1)

Tom and I visited Pioneer Village in Minden, Nebraska. Before our visit, neither of us had ever heard of an Avery tractor. Yet there was a large, steam-driven Avery tractor in one of the big sheds.

The tractor was designed and built in the late 1800s by Robert Avery who had been a prisoner in Andersonville, Georgia, for eight months. So *that* is the connection between Andersonville and tractors—Robert Avery and his dreams of farm equipment!

In order to keep his sanity while in such miserable prison conditions, Avery spent his time designing a corn planter, scratching out his plans in the dirt of the prison yard with a stick. He was hoping to survive, hoping to be released, hoping to “grow” things again someday.

When he was discharged from Andersonville, he was described as a “poor gaunt skeleton.” After a period of recuperation, he began helping on his brother’s farm in Illinois. But in addition to farming, Avery worked at a machine shop where he built the corn planter he had designed while in prison.

That was the beginning of the Avery Company of Peoria, Illinois, that became one of the largest farm equipment companies during Avery’s time. Not only did he grow corn—he grew himself a fortune!

Many times life has some not-so-nice surprises waiting for all of us—sicknesses, death, and unexpected challenges. In Robert Avery’s case, he spent time in a prison where many did not survive. During his difficult months in Andersonville, Robert may have wondered if he could possibly survive, and he almost starved to death. But he had a tiny spark of hope that kept him alive until his release from prison.

If you have experienced the death of someone you loved, your loss may feel like that of those who witnessed the pain and death of Andersonville. You might also ask, “Can this be hell?” Losing someone you love can be very painful.

At first, after a loss, it may be difficult to carry on with daily routines. So dreaming a new dream or looking toward the future with hope may be the farthest thing from your mind. When the pain of loss overwhelms, it may be difficult to think of a terrible experience as an opportunity to grow.

But it is during some of our most difficult times that we are forced to search for ways to survive, to look for new ways to find relief from our emotional pain which may result in personal growth. Here is a quote that I like: *“Something will grow from all you are going through. And it will be you.”*

If you are experiencing some difficult times, hopefully you will grow as a result of your loss. Your grief, your Andersonville, will not last forever. So, like Robert Avery, hang on and try to believe there is something good waiting for you, something *beyond Andersonville*.

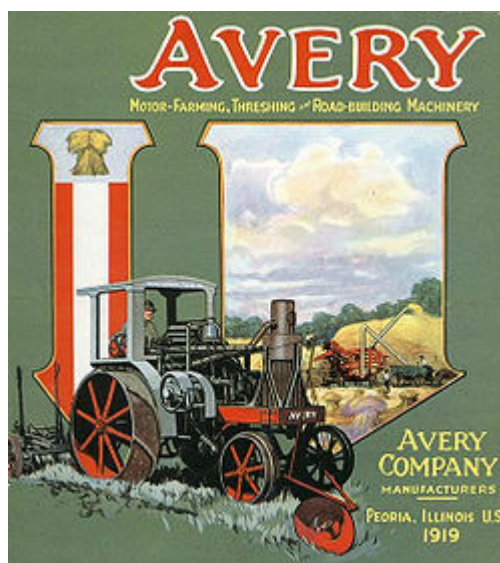


Photo Source: Wikipedia

...Hospice Director Notes

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As we encounter life's joys and burdens, we see them as another journey to make it through instead of a chance to learn how we can grow from that experience. As adults, we feel we are who we are and there isn't time to change anything at that point. We become set in our ways.

Experiences are exactly how we grow. Whether it is positive or negative, an experience gives us an opportunity to learn something about ourselves and use that knowledge to grow. It is easy to get stuck in a rut of survival, but perhaps we should look at living life rather than just surviving. There is so much more joy in being in the moment than there is in getting through the moment.

Even at the end of life, we can strive to find joys in living life's last moments. It is a journey not intended to just get through until the end, but to have meaningful moments until the end, to create memories for loved ones to treasure for years to come.

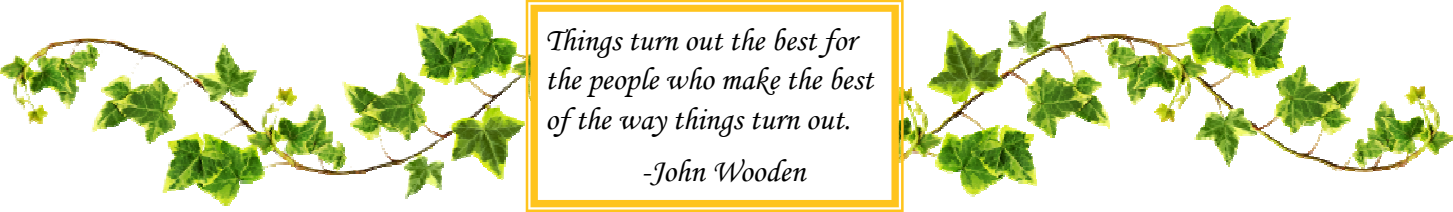
The death of a loved one is one of the hardest journeys we face. Yet we can still look for opportunities to grow during those sad lonely days. The memories and joys we shared with our loved ones can help us cherish our life we have yet to live.

I am thankful to Dawn for introducing me to some of the writings of John Wooden. The quote by John Wooden that recently touched me is "Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out." I have this quote printed out and taped on my desk to remind me to use life's experiences as opportunities to grow.

As spring approaches, my hope is that we all can find a way to grow a little and live!

Amy Burr, RN BSN

Meadowlark Hospice Program Director

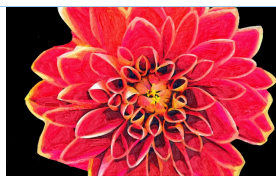


*Things turn out the best for
the people who make the best
of the way things turn out.*

-John Wooden

Calendar of Events

April 8	11:30 am	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in Washington at First National Bank, 101 C Street
April 9	4:30 pm	Clay Center Bereavement Support Group - Meadowlark Hospice office
April 9	7:00 pm	The Grief Support Group (community-sponsored) - 214 W 2nd, Washington - Call Terri Clark 785-325-3200
April 13	6:30 pm	Concordia Bereavement Group (community-sponsored) - Episcopal Parish Hall, 117 W 8th Call Judy Lambert 785-243-4454
April 16	5:30 pm	Belleville Bereavement Support Group – United Methodist Church
April 23	4:30 pm	Marysville Bereavement Support Group – South Plaza of CMH – use N door
May 11	1:00 pm	Concordia Volunteer Continuing Education
May 11	3:00 pm	Belleville and Republic Volunteer Continuing Education at Republic
May 11	6:30 pm	Concordia Bereavement Group (community-sponsored) - Episcopal Parish Hall, 117 W 8th Call Judy Lambert 785-243-4454
May 14	4:30 pm	Clay Center Bereavement Support Group - Meadowlark Hospice office
May 14	7:00 pm	The Grief Support Group (community-sponsored) - 214 W 2nd, Washington - Call Terri Clark 785-325-3200
May 18	11:00 am	Clay Center Volunteer Continuing Education
May 19	9:30 am	Washington Volunteer Continuing Education
May 19	Noon	Marysville Volunteer Continuing Education
May 19	2:00 pm	Frankfort Volunteer Continuing Education
May 21	5:30 pm	Belleville Bereavement Support Group – Library, 1327 19 th Street
May 27	4:30 pm	Marysville Bereavement Support Group – South Plaza of CMH – use N door
June 8	1:00 pm	Concordia Volunteer Continuing Education
June 8	3:00 pm	Belleville and Republic Volunteer Continuing Education at Belleville
June 8	6:30 pm	Concordia Bereavement Group (community-sponsored) - Episcopal Parish Hall, 117 W 8th Call Judy Lambert 785-243-4454
June 11	4:30 pm	Clay Center Bereavement Group-Meadowlark Hospice office-Group will eat together
June 11	7:00 pm	The Grief Support Group (community-sponsored) - 214 W 2nd, Washington - Call Terri Clark 785-325-3200
June 15	11:00 am	Clay Center Volunteer Continuing Education
June 16	9:30 am	Washington Volunteer Continuing Education
June 16	Noon	Marysville Volunteer Continuing Education
June 16	2:00 pm	Frankfort Volunteer Continuing Education
June 18	5:30 pm	Belleville Bereavement Support Group - Group will eat together, Place TBA
June 25	4:30 pm	Marysville Bereavement Support Group – South Plaza of CMH – use N door





Celebrating Volunteers!

Volunteers Make a Difference!

Even when you're dying, there can be a lot of living to do. Hospice volunteers help make more special moments possible for the patients and families they serve every day. Across the U.S., more than 355,000 hospice volunteers give 16 million hours of service every year.

Right here in our community, 71 trained volunteers are working with Meadowlark Hospice, giving selflessly to help people live as fully as possible, even at the end of life. Our communities are better, more compassionate places because of their service.

April 12 – 18 is National Volunteer Week and every single volunteer deserves our appreciation and grateful acknowledgement. Meadowlark Hospice is very thankful for the volunteers willing to give their time to the patients and families we have in our care.

There are opportunities available for you to join our program and begin a journey that will change your life. Volunteering for hospice is an opportunity to grow in ways that you never thought possible. Many volunteers for Meadowlark Hospice have said the families they served blessed their lives more than they ever could have imagined. We encourage you to learn more about volunteering for hospice by contacting Meadowlark Hospice at 785-632-2225.

Hospice Gifts & Memorials

Your memorial gifts honor your loved ones and help others!

HOSPICE GIFTS

Dorothy Richardson
Dolores Wassenberg

MEMORIALS

ANN ACKERMAN

Friends & Neighbors
William & Linda Gerdes

KAREN BROWN

Becky Hoesli
Robin R. Lambert
Lisa & John Partridge
John & Janice Strait
D. & V. Vesterberg
Jim & Kathie Winter

NORMAN BURKHEAD

Ann Wassenberg

DELBERT BUSS

Elsie Mugler
Harold Mugler
Connie & Gailen Paronto
The Family of Delbert Buss

RICHARD CHRISTIANSON

Edna Christianson

MARYLN COLLINS

Joe & Doreen Couture
Wanda Jansen
Leland & Sharon Sharpe

CAROL DETTMER

Connie Baer
Roger & Wanda Bean
Callie & Paul Castro
Mark & Connie Davis
Jerry & Beverly Hedke
Jennifer Klopstein & Steven Latham
Eugene & Myrna Perkins
B. Diane Pfeifley

..CAROL DETTMER

Joyce Stryker
Betty Jane Dettmer & Betty Sue Thomas
Tammy & Tim Underwood
Stacy & Chris Wymer
STEVEN DREITH
Ann & Tom Adrian
David & Catherine Affolter
Avery Auto Parts Inc. -Lawrence & Stephanie Avery
Jim & Sue Brenner
Jerry Ericson
Mary Ann Fowles
Gary & Audrey Francis
Curt & Cindy Friedrich
Doug & Kathy Funk
Lenita & Steve Glanzer, Garrett & Gerod

Mrs. Ada Glanzer
William & Zoe Ann Gugenhan
Bill & Deanna Hanson

Steve Hanson
Richard Hawley
Jerry & Beverly Hedke
Larry & Rita Henry
Galen & Nancy Hofmann
Paul & Mary Beth Irvine

Shirley Jensen
Mrs. Judy Krieger
Mildred Kunze
Jon & Evelyn Larson
Max Hanson-Hanson Ford
Lucille Mulrone
Jim & Mona Musil
Don & Shari Muths
Deb & Brian Norwood
Mike & Vicki Peterson
Jeannette Pralle
Kevin Religa

...STEVEN DREITH

Lawrence & Judy Riek
Dwayne & Carlene Roepke
Gail & Beverly Roepke
Jean Roepke
Preston & Shannon Rook
Mark & Janice Rowe and Ryersson
James & Candy Rudolph
Brent & Charlotte Rundell
Onette Shannon
Ronald & Ruth Ann Smith
Danny & Chris Stockwell
Mary Ann Sullivan
Scott & Pam Sump
Vernon & Shirley Vandahl
Beth & Gary Warders
Larry & Deloris Wendland
Mike & Carol Wendland
Dale & Margie and Stanley Wohler
Lee & Shirley Wohler
Helen Holston & Lenore Yost
Bruce & Cheryl Zimmer
LORENE FRASER
Stephanie Nichols
DORIS GALLAGHER
Darlene Gallagher
MARTHA GRAVES
Friends & Neighbors
John & Irene Jensen
Gary Wilson
LOIS HARDING
Sammy & Jacquie Harding
WILMA HOLLE
Verda Pralle
MARIE HOOVER
Dennis & Lauralea Cox
Michael & Toni Haddock
Richard Hoover
Dwight & Roberta Johnson
Kansas State University Foundation

Hospice Gifts & Memorials

Your memorial gifts honor your loved ones and help others!

...MARIE HOOVER

William & Louella Kern
Joe & Nancy Knopp
Melissa & Timothy Sullivan
Ron & Donna Wichman

MAX HOWARD

Jennifer Byarlay

BETTY KELLER

Mary Finlayson
Friends & Neighbors

DARLENE LARSON

Larry & Lila Bestwick
Z.R. Firl & R.E. Brown
Mylene Larson & Dallas Davis
Max & Rowena Larson
1SG Kit & Lisa Portz
Joan Schweer
Casey & Christy Scott

CHARLENE MACHEN

K & C Gunter

HULDA MEYER

Friends & Neighbors

...HULDA MEYER

Robert & Lorene Kenaston
Marlene Kolle
Daniel & Jane Meyer
LORETTA NUTSCH
Clyde & Nyla Poser
The Family of Loretta Nutsch

PHILIP PARKER

American Legion Post 101

LOREN "SHORTY" RIEK

Friends & Neighbors

HAROLD SCHEIBE

Janet Balsmeier
Evelyn Hamilton
Steven & Carol O'Neal
LLOYD STARKWEATHER
JoAnne Chapman
Dail & Kathy Smith
The Family of Lloyd Starkweather

MICHAEL SWAIM

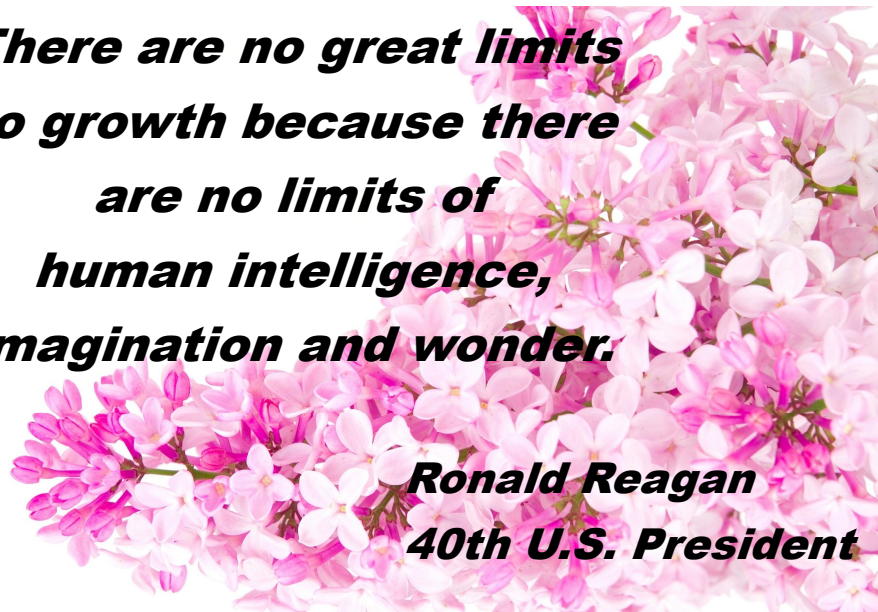
Doug & Susie Swaim

MAURICE "FEARLESS" WASSENBERG

Christine Crego
Darcus M. Kottwitz
Tom & Anita O'Neil
Evelyn Wassenberg
Roy & Marcia Westhoff



***There are no great limits
to growth because there
are no limits of
human intelligence,
imagination and wonder.***



***Ronald Reagan
40th U.S. President***



MEADOWLARK HOSPICE

**709 LIBERTY
CLAY CENTER, KS 67432**

Ph 785.632.2225

Fax 785.632.3557

Email hospice@ccmcks.org

Web meadowlarkhospice.org

We are available to present programs to area organizations!



MEADOWLARK
HOSPICE

709 LIBERTY

CLAY CENTER, KS 67432

MEADOWLARK HOSPICE STAFF

Medical Director - John Ryan, MD

Assistant Medical Director - Randall Brown, MD

Nurse Practitioner - Michele Voelker, APRN

Program Director - Amy Burr, RN, BSN

Patient Care Coordinator - Deb Martin, RN, BSN

Hospice Staff Nurses - Rita Wollenberg, RN; JoAnn Lips, RN; Stacy Behrends, RN, BSN; Sherry Wiese, RN; Sherry Brown, RN; Debra Champlin, RN; Pam Tremblay, RN; Debrah Bollig, RN

Director of Social Services - Dawn Phelps, RN/LMSW

Social Workers - Stephanie Garrison, LBSW; Joyce Nelson, LMSW; Lucy Papes, LASW; Jennifer Hiltgen, LBSW

Bereavement Services Coordinator - Dawn Phelps, RN/LMSW

Chaplains - Rev. Susan Sawyer; Sr. Marilyn Wall

Volunteer Coordinator - Darlene Melton

Billing/Insurance - Ronna Urban

Administrative Assistant - Lilly Hitsman; Charlotte Rundell; Lisa Seley

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