

Et cetera...

Genealogical Society Sets Workshops: The Great River Genealogical Society will hold workshops from 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays, June 10 through July 29, in the Film Room of the Quincy Public Library. The workshops are free and open to the public. Nancy Zengel will instruct beginning genealogy, which focuses on filling in family group sheets and pedigree charts. Other dates, subjects and instructors are: June 17, census records, Lillian Frye, instructor; June 24, vital statistics, Donna Omer of the Adams County Clerk's Office; July 1, research in the Quincy library, Jeanne Kay, instructor; and research at out-of-town facilities, Virginia Williams, instructor; July 8, use of maps, atlases, periodicals/library research, Mrs. Kay, instructor; July 15, cemetery research, Barbara Ippensen, instructor; July 22, Circuit Clerk's office, Glen Hultz, Adams County circuit clerk, at Adams County Courthouse; and July 29, general review session. Additional information is available by calling Kay Ginter at 224-3666.

90 Years Old: Leona S. Metzger of Sunset Home, formerly of 1620 Spring, will celebrate her 90th birthday with an open house from 1 to 3 p.m. today in the Sunset Room of the home. Mrs. Metzger was born June 4, 1901, in Quincy. She has six children, Mrs. Charles (Betty) Jansen of Liberty, Mrs. Earl (Rosemary) Neisen and Mrs. Claude (Lucille) Lowe, both of Quincy, John Metzger of Ursa, Martin Metzger of Camp Point and Raymond Metzger of Timewell, 33 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.



Metzger

Two Direct Silent Auction: Members and guests took part in a silent auction at the luncheon meeting of the Adams County Women's Republican Club May 24 in Upson Hall at St. John's Episcopal Church. Helen Pool and Barbara Tushaus directed the auction. Peggy Fleeman and Vivian Hoener had charge of the luncheon.

New Parents: Violet and Brian Bentley of St. Louis are the parents of a daughter, Amanda Heather, born May 19 in Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. This is the couple's first child. Maternal grandparents are George and Florence Russell of Quincy. Paternal grandparents are Raymond and Nadine Bentley of Branson, Mo., and the late JoAnn Tibbitts Bentley. Parents also of St. Louis are Greg and Rita Paulus. Their daughter, Emily Ann, was born May 10 in Maryville. Mrs. Paulus is the former Rita VandenBoom. They also have a daughter, Sarah. Grandparents are Joan VandenBoom of Quincy and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Paulus of St. Louis.

After 5 Club to Meet: The Quincy, Illinois After 5 Club of Christian Business & Professional Women will meet at 7 p.m. June 4 in the Holiday Inn. Jennifer Schildt will provide music. Mary Bohn of Springfield, who loves garage sales, will speak on "Shared Treasures." Reservations should be honored, canceled or used by a friend. Additional information is available from Connie Howser, 224-8585, or Janet Stockton, 223-3047.

Stamp Group to Meet: Quinsippi Stamp Collectors Club meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday each month in the basement meeting room of Good Samaritan Home. All stamp collectors are welcome.

Golf Group Plans Guest Day: Westview Ladies Golf League will hold guest day June 11 with Mary Talken in charge, assisted by Mary Boyer, Boots Baird and Evelyn Sacadat. Bud Lite players for Westview will be Lori Houseweart, Karen Wiewel, Mary Boyer, Bird Musolino, Sue Voth and Connie Bange. League members counted putts May 22.



Homing Planned: Sonora Homers will hold its 1991 Sonora Homing Aug. 21-25. A community picnic will be held at noon the last day at the Sonora Homecomers ground. A meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. July 7 in the Nauvoo Civic Center to complete plans. Committees were appointed at a recent meeting.

Auxiliary Receives Plaque: Eagles Auxiliary has received a plaque from the City of Hope for donations made to it during the year. The auxiliary met May 22 in the Eagles Club for a carry-in dinner; balloting was held on two petitions. Door prizes were won by Helen Wheelock, Rose Hockgraver and Gerri Rees.

Club Plans Chartering Celebration: Great River Pilot International Club made final plans for its chartering celebration at the May meeting. The official charter was granted April 14. The chartering celebration and installment of officers will be held June 8 in Stipp's Restaurant. Charter members of the Great River club are Kathi Barry, Aleta Batz, Phyllis Berry, Joann Bier, Jill Blickhan, Susan Blickhan, Carla Boren, Kim Brooks, Jill Degee, Ann Harbaert, Marilyn Haxel, Denise Huntley, Victoria Huntley, Cindy Johnson, Amy Looten, Karen Mayville, Sue McLennan, Judy Moss, Karen Nichols, Genevieve Osborne, Tracy Trower, Deb Wellborn and Peggy Wiesemann, all of Quincy; Doni Ellerbrock, Linda Gronewold and Jill Harshman, all of Ursa; and Nancy Waters of Liberty. The next meeting will be June 12 in RB's Restaurant in Days Inn.

Christian Women Will Meet: Quincy, Illinois Christian Women's Club will meet at 12:15 p.m. June 5 in the Holiday Inn. Summer styles from Jean Nicole and Jean Nicole Plus will be shown and music will be by Basil Bevans. Linda Martin of Newton, Iowa, will speak. Reservations and cancellations are essential for the luncheon and free pre-school nursery by June 4 with Margaret Gilbert, 224-1412; Virginia Greiwe, 222-4397; or Helen Wachenheim, 222-1381.

Berry business

By Helen Warring
Herald-Whig Living Section Staff Writer

RICHARD SPECKHART doesn't hesitate leading his 11 grandchildren — all under the age of 10 — into a 900-plant strawberry patch on his Bluff Hall area farm. He knows the havoc 22 little feet could reap on juicy, cru shable ripe strawberries and the tender runners that shoot from the plants each spring.

But Speckhart's grandchildren are "good help" in a strawberry patch.

Speckhart and his grandchildren are in the strawberry business together this spring. They've picked more than 400 quarts from the quarter-acre patch that lies near one of Speckhart's farm machine sheds.

Speckhart formed the cooperative venture with his grandchildren over a year ago. "We've been a member of a farm cooperative many years and we wanted to teach our grandchildren some of the basic thoughts of working together and sharing the profits," he said.

With the advice of Adams County Extension adviser Bill Million, the Speckharts selected three strawberry varieties rated good producers for the Quincy area.

"The entire family with the help of our farm hand Richard White planted the strawberries that March," Speckhart said. "Then the rains came and the weeds came up with the berries."

Last spring, Speckhart and White kept the weeds at bay with their hoes and the grandchildren dutifully picked off the blossoms to ensure a hardier plant this year.

Last fall, the family covered their plants with straw. "That was about it until they began to ripen about two weeks ago," Speckhart said. "We've got a good stand."

"We are having a very good harvest this spring," he said. "The soil, which drains well, hasn't been bothered by all the rain this spring."

While the rain has delayed soybean and corn planting, it has "given us plenty of time to pick strawberries. The hot, humid weather has been ideal for our crop."

"It has been a fun project. Most of the grandchildren are here helping every evening" said Speckhart. "The only negative reaction has been from our (five) children — who remember having to pick strawberries when they were young. Church friends just laughed at us when we told them what we were doing with the grandchildren."

The family sold its berries for \$1 a quart. "We haven't had any problem getting rid of them," Speckhart said, "and it makes it easier for the kids to sell. We don't have to worry about keeping change."

The grandchildren will receive the profit from the crop and they've agreed to share part of the money with a family friend who has been in ill health. They've also donated 54 quarts to Bluff Hall United Church of Christ. The berries, which have been frozen, will be a part of the menu as the church's men's fellowship holds its first-ever ice cream social June 16.

Speckhart said he has no plans to expand the fruitful operation although two grandchildren have expressed interest in a larger patch.

"Aaron and Ryan asked the other day if we could make the patch bigger next year," said Mrs. Speckhart. "They saw those dollars coming in."

"But we don't want to so overburden them that it takes the fun out."

"They are pretty dedicated to their work," Speckhart added. "Two of them — Ty, 4, and Somer, 7, — really like berries. I think Ty ate two-thirds of those he picked the other day. I think he had a berry in his mouth all the time. But he didn't get sick."

"Even the 1-year-old was out there last Monday with her mom," added Speckhart's wife, Juanita. "Alexis was doing lots of looking. She even had one woman (customer) call and place an order in her name."



Alexis Dittmer and granddad.



Kristin Mena, 3, pauses to sample a strawberry.

H-W Photos/Jeanne Long



Cousins Regan Mena, left, Aaron Speckhart, center, and Ryan Meyer look over the harvest...



...while Rhiannon Speckhart feeds granddad.

Speckhart Strawberry Cooperative

Grandparents: Richard and Juanita Speckhart

Aaron, 10, Somer, 7, and Rhiannon, 2, children of Gary and Rita Speckhart

Ragan, 10, Leigha, 7, and Kristin, 3, children of Junior and Cindy Mena

Ryan, 9, Tana, 6, and Ty, 4, children of Marvin and Brenda Meyer

Taylor, 2, daughter of Craig and Judy Spratt

Alexis, 1, daughter of Tim and Julie Dittmer



Richard Speckhart has established a strawberry cooperative with his 11 grandchildren. Ten of them work in the 900-plant patch

above with help from their grandfather and their mother and aunt, Rita Speckhart.