FROM MY BACKYARD

By Byron Higgin, Mascot Publisher

Sometimes someone says something or writes something that will always stand the test of time. But sometimes there's nobody around to pick up that saying and preserve it for all humanity.
I felt like that this week when I read Carley Novotny's school-generated tribute to Bill Holm when she wrote about Minneota.
Amongst the words young Novotny penned was this gem when referring to Minneota. She said, "There seemed to be an endless supply of happiness."

There it is — a prophetic statement. Certainly it was her observation as a very young child as she entered her new community of Minneota.

But let's explore that for a moment.
Does Minneota have its share of tragedy, pain, conflict and bereavement?
Oh, certainly it does.
Since I've been here, in just one short year, we've had babies and young children die, a mayor pass away, a major car accident, a huge fire ... etc, etc., etc!
Do we have things go wrong every day? Certainly!
Are there times when we wonder just what is going on around us? You bet!
But beyond all that, maybe protruding from those moments when we look, feel and act as miserable as everyone else ... there's something else that's escaping — each and every day.
I've seen it in just one year in Minneota. Maybe I always knew it was there — because something drew me to this community.
As long as I can remember, way back when I was in Clarkfield, I always thought Minneota was this beautiful little town tucked away somewhere between Marshall and Canby.
Then, as I began to explore Minneota, and became a resident, I began to see it.
My word for it is, "PRIDE."
If I'd have written Carley Novotny's article I'd probably have written, "An endless amount of

PRIDE.”
The PRIDE is having your own school, all by yourselves, not paired with another town ... simply because you like it that way and you won’t settle for less.
There’s more.
There’s a friendliness that comes with the territory. Folks enjoy talking to each other, they won’t be late a second when someone is in need and there are enough smiles to go around — all the time.
Minneota has a special ‘CHARM” and maybe that’s another word I’d use if I was writing the piece.
The CHARM is having a special festival called, “Boxelder Bug Days.” The CHARM is having notoriety from folks like Bill Holm, Paul Larson, Jim Meger and so many others.
The CHARM is lining up along the street after a football championship to welcome your players home.
Fact is, Carley Novotny, you did know what you were talking about.
I couldn’t have put it better. And it should be remembered always when Minneota is mentioned.
As Carley Novotny said about Minneota: It has, “An Endless Supply of Happiness.”

LAUGH A LITTLE: A reporter was interviewing a 104 year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked.
She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: As my Ole Pappy used to say, “A really good friend is the one who walks with you when the rest of the world walks out on you.”
Gotta say, Ole Pappy was my best friend and he walked all the way with me — until he passed away.