

# The Aardsma Weekly

March 11, 2007

Writer: Rachel Aardsma



Matthew



After Beka comes Matthew Phillip. He is sixteen, and the oldest at home.

Matthew's prime occupations are work and schoolwork. He is still working at the near-by vet clinic, which he is enjoying more and more. The vet he works for, Dr. Updike, has taken him on a few calvings and other things like that. Matthew hopes to start going on some routine rounds soon.

Matthew enjoys hunting as a hobby. Coyote hunting is the latest thing, and he has gone several times this winter. He hasn't gotten anything yet, but he is still hoping.

Matthew likes most animals, but dogs are his absolute favorites. He can name almost any dog he sees, and his work at the vet-clinic has added a few more names to his already long list. Shetland Sheepdogs are his current favorite, though he's started to talk about some kind of spaniel.

As he nears the end of his high-school years, Matthew has lots and lots of school to do. There is talk about colleges, SAT's, and vet school. As Matthew plans to become a large animal veterinarian, so far it looks like he'll be attending the University of Illinois, which is about an hour away from here. We're all happy with that; we'll be glad to have Matthew as close to us as possible.

During the summer, spring, and fall, Matthew operates a lawn and home care business. His customers are people who live on the two private lakes near us: Bayles Lake, and Iroquois Lake. He mows lawns, washes windows, rakes leaves, and cleans out gutters, plus getting plenty of experience in dealing with people. Mark, Stephen, and David each owned this business before him, and so they have a steady flow of customers. Matthew is still working for a few customers that Mark had!

Matthew likes working with the animals we have on our farm, but lately most of the work has been passed on to Timmy. Aside from the sheep, pigs, turkeys, chickens, and other animals he raises for the benefit of the family, he raises a few varieties for fun. Beka is his partner in the bird-raising business. They raise pet cockatiels, lovebirds, and parakeets. Beka feeds the birds by hand, and then they are sold to a nearby pet-shop. Matthew also has two or three prospering mouse colonies, from which have come several miracles of genetics. (A black mouse having all-white babies, for example.) Matthew enjoys these on-the-side hobbies, and has even done a little inside selling to the family. Timmy, for example, bought a mouse and a bird from Matthew. He still has the bird, but the mouse was returned to Matthew to become a male breeder.

Though Matthew is very busy a lot of the time, and he's gone every morning, we all love having him around. With his great sense of humor, and the hundreds of funny

anecdotes he can tell, Matthew's a must for every conversation, and a lot of other things too!

## The Weekly Bible Verse

Romans 13:12: The night is passed, the day is at hand. Let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.



## Bits and Pieces



This week a long-time dream of Dad's has finally come true: we're getting a greenhouse. Now, when Mom and Dad first brought this up, I had visions of a huge conservatory, complete with fountains, exotic birds, and plants from Africa. In reality, this greenhouse is eight feet long by six feet wide. There will hardly be room for two people inside it. We'll be using it to start our plants in the spring, and maybe growing some vegetables in the late and early winter.

We started construction yesterday, on Saturday afternoon. The first matter of business was laying a foundation. The foundation consists of four railroad ties, each railroad tie weighing two hundred pounds! We had to move those ties to the backyard, help Dad saw, flip, and carry them, and then dig sod to make easy resting places for them. Let me tell you, that was fun. By five o'clock, we were all sore, tired, and dirty, but all the ties had been cut to the proper lengths, and twelve feet of sod had been cut. We'll be doing the rest of the construction next week. We're all really looking forward to it!



## A Word About The Weather



It had warmed up amazingly this week. It feels like spring! We all love the soft breezes, warm sun, and no-shoes temperature. It's amazing how warm it has become overnight. Everyone keeps saying that we'll get more snow before spring really hits, so we're just enjoying the warm weather and basking in the sun.

## More Like You, and Less Like Me!

By Clay Harrison

Heavenly Father, help me be  
More like You, and less like me!  
Not my will, but Thine be done,

From dawn's first light to setting sun.  
At eventide, then may I rest  
Assured that I have done my best.

Within my heart, sow seeds of love,  
And bring the harvest from above,  
That all I meet may truly know  
My Lord and Savior where I go.  
Heavenly Father, help me be  
More like You, and less like me!