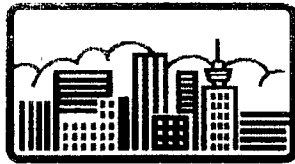


# The Aardsma Weekly

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## Around Town



To anyone just passing through, Loda may seem a small, uninteresting, and rundown little town. But once you have lived in Loda for a while, you meet some pretty interesting people, and see some equally interesting sights.

For example, there is the 'UPS Man'. That is what we call the man who drives the UPS truck in Loda. He bears an amazing resemblance to my brother-in-law, Steve Hall. Whenever Steve and Jennifer come to visit, we always joke about how much they look alike.

And then there is 'Nancy At The Library'. She is our librarian. We have always called her 'Nancy At The Library' and that has become her permanent nickname. I don't think anyone would know whom we were talking about if we just called her 'Nancy'.

Another interesting character is 'The Mailman'. He, too, has been dubbed with a name all his own. I don't even know his real name. The Mailman always announces the daily mail delivery with the loud chugging and coughing of his rusty, rundown, blue mail-car, which doesn't have a muffler.

Another important Loda citizen is 'George At The Corner Store'. George owns a little gas station and convenience store on the corner of Loda's little Main Street. We loyally get all our gas from 'George At The Corner Store'.

And then there is 'The Guy With The Black Labs', a middle-aged man who has a pair of beautiful black labs. He can often be seen roaming around Loda with his dogs, playing with them. We always remark on how well trained his dogs are, and it really is amazing. He lets them run loose, and they follow his commands exactly. The man doesn't even put them on leashes when he crosses a street with cars whizzing by at 45 miles an hour.

Some people that often catch our attention are 'The People With The Horses'. I don't know who the people are, but they have a huge pasture with lots of horses. Whenever we go on a little Sunday Drive around Loda and the surrounding towns, we always admire the beautiful horses and someone is sure to remark on which one they would take if they had the chance.

The people and places I have mentioned are just a few of the many others here in Loda. The only way you can find out about the rest of them is to come and see for yourself.

## **The Weekly Bible Verse**

Daniel 2:20: Daniel said: "Blessed be the name of God from age to age, for wisdom and power are His."

# **David: A Man After God's Own Heart**

By Rachel Aardsma

### **Part 12.**

Saul turned from the door of his tent and looked closely at David.

"Alright." He said at last. "Go, and may the Lord be with you. But you aren't going like that." He pointed to David's simple shepherd's clothing.

"What's wrong with it?" David wanted to know.

"Goliath is a trained warrior, my son, and he shall be fully armored and protected. You don't have any armor of your own, and we haven't time to get you some, so you'll have to use mine." Before David could protest Saul summoned two servants and had them dress David in the king's own armor. There was a bronze helmet and a long, heavy coat of mail. A heavy sword was placed in his hand, and King Saul looked pleased. But David could hardly move. Unaccustomed to the heavy armor, David had to shake his head.

"I'd be a fool if I thought I could beat Goliath wearing these!" David remarked, setting down the sword and lifting off the heavy helmet. "I'll be better off in my own clothes." King Saul tried protesting, pleading, and begging, but in the end, David won.

"Thank you for everything you've done, my King." David said, bowing to King Saul and starting out of the tent. *Good grief!* David thought, smiling. *The way everyone is crying and carrying on you would think I was already dead!*

And everyone in the camp did think David had no chance against the giant. Everyone was shaking their heads sorrowfully as they watched David walk to a small stream that flowed through the battlefield. He picked up five smooth stones, and set them in his shepherd's bag. Sling in hand, he straightened up and took a deep breath.

"Alright, Lord." He whispered. "I'm ready. Help me." With that, David turned to face the crowd.

"Summon Goliath!" he shouted. "Tell him there is someone ready to fight him and defend Israel and its people!"

It did not take Goliath long to get out into the battlefield. He stood on the very edge of the Philistine ranks and squinted across the field at David, who was just stepping out of the Israelite army. Goliath had to laugh at the sight of the young man.

"Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks and stones?" Goliath thundered.  
"Well, come to me, and I will feed your flesh to the birds!"



## A Word About The Weather



Very, very cold this week! Lots of rain and snow as well. Temperatures have stayed below forty since Monday. Winter is definitely on its way!



## Bits and Pieces



We had a power-out as the result of an ice storm this week. The power was off for about two hours, and the house got very cold! The power went off at 12:23 a.m., and came back on at 2:45 a.m. (I should know. I was up from 12:00 to 3:00.) Rebekah and Matthew have a tiny baby cockatiel which must have proper warmth or it could die, so when the power went off Beka had to take the bird to bed with her! It saved the bird, however, and Matthew and Beka are grateful for that.

The snow was flying the next morning, and it was cold! With snow whipping everywhere and winds howling from the west, Rebekah, Matthew, and I stayed cozily inside, lying around on the couches to make up for our lack of sleep the night before. Timmy and Caleb, however, threw on hats, coats, and mitts, and dashed outside. They tried 'wind-sailing', where they tied a big tarp to their sleds and tried to get the wind to push them, (that was unsuccessful, however); they tried skiing, which also failed because there wasn't enough snow on the ground. They finally decided on snowmen and playing Artic Explorers in the howling wind.

We got our house cat spayed this week. Matthew brought her in to the animal clinic where he works and got her spayed. (She had been howling all night long for the past few days and we decided, after a rather sleep-less night, that we didn't care how much a spay cost, we were having it done!) So, at the moment, our name-less cat is shaved and stitched and we all treat her gently as a result.

Matthew got to help with another calving this week. He already has humorous stories about the work he does with the two vets he works for. We all enjoy hearing the funny, and sometimes disgusting, stories he has to tell about the animals he works with. He casually begins talking about the cow with the prolapsed uterus as he digs into his lunch. Dad and the little boys listen with interest, while Beka and I exchange rather disgusted glances. (I am afraid we do not have the steel nerves of Matthew and the boys!) It does not take long before we lose our appetites and we silence James Harriet the II.



## **A Word of Wisdom**



### The Secret

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I met God in the morning  
When my day was at its best.  
And His Presence came like sunrise  
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long the Presence lingered.  
All day long He stayed with me,  
And we sailed in perfect calmness  
O'er a very troubled sea.

So I think I know the secret,  
Learned from many a troubled way.  
You must seek Him in the morning  
If you want Him through the day!