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Issue #1
March 2020

What's Happening: Welcome to Kep's Korner

In my many, many, many years on earth I've been truly blessed—great childhood; awesome family and friends; interesting and satisfying jobs; opportunities to share music, good times and love with others; and the list goes on. It doesn't mean there haven't been problems. But, as I've shared in my "Set Your Sails for Success" workshops, failures are only "temporary set-backs"---so life has been good.

I hope you find the pages that follow to be good as well. Maybe something will bring a smile to your face or cause you to recall an event in your life that inspired you. Maybe it will be some new idea. But I do hope you find this worth the reading.

In each issue I'll share what's happening in my world which includes community events. There will a section on specific real estate topics, another on motivational/inspirational topics called "Sailin' On". This is based on a newsletter I developed for the Set Your Sails for Success workshops. There's also section just for laughs. The side menus include our sponsors along along with favorite links to sites and YouTube™ videos.

I'm starting this planned monthly series in late March because that coincides with Spring—a time of new beginnings. So, welcome to the beginning of Kep's Korner.

Gary Keplinger

P.S. Don't forget to support the sponsors of Kep's Korner. 😊
(That's me in case you haven't figured that out.)

Coming Community Events and Announcements:

April 3, 2020 Ringgold County Pheasants Forever Annual Banquet has been postponed until further notice due to the coronavirus.

April 18, 2020 Meet the Candidates at Ellston, IA
Non-partisan chance to hear and question local, state and national political candidates

Because of the coronavirus situation some planned events may not occur. It is best to check with the sponsors. If I hear of a change in plans I will post it here as well.

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Gary Keplinger
Sales Agent

Licensed in Iowa & Missouri

Ph: (641) 980-2030

Email: hgkep@outlook.com

Rhonda Triggs

Broker/Owner

Licensed in IA & MO

www.SouthernIowaRealEstate.com

SouthernIowaRealEstate@gmail.com



**Southern Iowa
Real Estate**

2461 State Hwy 2

Mount Ayr, Iowa 50854

Office Phone: (712) 621-1960

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Useful Links

**United Country
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[http://www.southerniowa
realestate.com/](http://www.southerniowa
realestate.com/)

Real Estate Ramblings

Real Estate and Me

I'm at a time in my life where I can devote more time to those things I love to do. My wife, Ardith, and I are no longer able to share our music ministry because of her severe asthma, but I can still write songs. (I'm not saying they are great songs, but they are songs). I love spending time with family and friends (some we call family—friends who are like family). I still do some teaching of math and statistics courses on-line for Graceland University and Buena Vista University and NOW I'm back into real estate.

Before moving to Tennessee in 1993 I held real estate and insurance licenses as well as the CFP (certified financial planner) designation. Since Tennessee had no reciprocity agreement with Iowa, I let these expire. But, my love for real estate stayed. I loved exploring real estate and helped family members better understand the process involved in buying and selling.

I was always fascinated with United Country Real Estate and would get excited to find one of their listing magazines. There weren't any United Country agencies where I was located when I first started way back when but that has definitely changed over the years. And, we have one of the best here in Southern Iowa. When I talked with Rhonda of United Country Southern Iowa Real Estate I found a company that had the expertise, additional services and all the state and national connections I wanted (click on the Southern Iowa Real Estate link under "Useful Links" on page 1). But equally and possibly more important I found a company managed by people who strongly believe in family, community and love—not a bad combination.

I am now licensed in Iowa and and Missouri. In addition, through our national contacts we can explore listings and put you in touch with a United Country realtor in areas throughout the country. Those national listings also bring buyers to our area.

Future Issues

In future issues this page will be for sharing helpful information on various real estate topics. I will, when appropriate, include links to sites for more detailed information or for specific contacts. Please let me know if there is a topic you'd like discussed.

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Have a question
relating to real
estate?

Contact me and if I
don't know the
answer I will either
find it or put you in
touch with someone
who does.

hgkep@outlook.com

Sailin' On: Stepping in the Light

I grew up on a farm east of a place called Blackmore Corner. At one time, even before my time, there was a general store there. Most Sunday mornings found my mom, sister and me heading to Church in the small rural town of Ellston, Iowa, about 5 miles away. That's the same church where many years later (1991) my wife and I got married.

As a kid I especially liked the part conducted by the lay person in charge of the service until the minister could get there from one of his other two churches. There would be recognition of birthdays and anniversaries AND there would be an opportunity to select a song from the hymnal. I had the page numbers memorized for two of my favorite songs so if I got the chance I'd request one of them. The songs were "In the Garden" and "Stepping in the Light". Links to these are in the sidebar on this page. Admittedly the Gaither Homecoming version of "Stepping" rocks a little more than our Methodist Church one did back then.

I don't recall the sermons although I'm sure they were very good. I do recall the special music, especially by two women in our congregation—Edna Jones and Darlene Morgan. Any time they sang made that Sunday one of the best ever. And that is what music does—it reaches you and transforms the moment.

A quiet, favorite hymn like "In the Garden" may help wash away the stress of a day and enter into a quiet time with the Lord. A rockin' Gospel classic such as "I Saw the Light" may get you pumped up and excited about your walk with God. Music can reflect your mood or change your mood.

When I was the Christian Editor for Cash Box magazine in Nashville I remember covering a concert by Bruce Haynes. Bruce had turned down a major recording studio offer to switch to Country to stay with what he felt he had been called to do. Some of you may have seen him more recently in Branson where he spent several years with the Presley Theater before moving full-time to pastor a church in the area.

Anyway, at that concert Bruce talked about his 3 minute sermons—the songs he had written and was singing. His songs had a message. Ardith and I had the opportunity to be with him many times and his songs always connected.

If you're down—sing a song.

If you're happy—sing a song.

If someone needs a friend—sing a song.

If a family member is hurting—sing a song.

Music heals. Music lifts. Music touches the heart and soul.. Let the music—whether singing or listening—bring joy and purpose in your walk with Jesus. There is joy in the journey as you're "Stepping in the Light".

A note about "Until Then". We've had the opportunity to see Jeff and Sheri Easter at several Gaither concerts, their own concert at a church a couple of hours from Nashville when we lived in Tennessee, and three years ago on a Cruise I won that featured daily entertainment from a host of Gospel groups. They are a fun couple and Jeff is hilarious. He is definitely blue grass. I love the part of this song, "Until then, my heart will keep on singing." It's kind of great way to look at life in general.

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Sales Agent

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Favorite Gospel Songs

Stepping in the Light

Gaither Homecoming

(YouTube Link)

[https://www.youtube.com
/watch?v=s_3DFGP0bBI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_3DFGP0bBI)

In the Garden

Alan Jackson

(YouTube Link)

[https://www.youtube.com
/watch?v=9alhta9exts](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9alhta9exts)

Until Then

Jeff and Sheri Easter

(YouTube Link)

[https://www.youtube.com
/watch?v=qxNotlCpxds](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxNotlCpxds)

Laughter: Medicine for the Soul

Thoughts

- It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.
- Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat & drink beer all day.
- If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you
- Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.
- Before criticizing a man walk a mile in his shoes. That way you'll be a mile ahead and have his shoes.

Church Bloopers

- Easter Sunday, we will have a 9:30 worship service. The 11:00 service will be hell as usual.
- The 8th graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7:00 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Tonight's sermon - "What is hell?"; Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Thursday night - Potluck supper-- prayer & medication to follow.
- Don't let worry kill you - let the church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I Will Not Pass This Way Again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- The choir will meet at the Larsen house for fun and sinning.

And Finally (Jokes that are so awful they're funny.)

- Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The Ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.
- A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."
- An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.
- A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says: "A beer please, and one for the road."
- Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: "Does this taste funny to you?"
- *This one may show your age:*
Patient: Doc, I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home.'
Doctor: That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome.
Patient: Is it common?
Doctor: Well, "It's Not Unusual."
- Thanks for telling me the meaning of Plethora. It means a lot.

Live, Laugh, and Love

Until next time, may your life be filled with laughter and love.

Gary

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Words to Live By

To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might just be the world.

I don't have to attend every argument I'm invited to.

Real friends are those who, when you feel you've made a fool of yourself, don't feel you've done a permanent job

"Lead your life so you won't be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip."

-Will Rogers Jr.