



Singing Slovenes to be in Willard

The Singing Slovenes, a Minnesota vocal group dedicated to preserving Slovenian music and cultural heritage, will be performing at the Willard Heritage Festival. The group will sing at a 4 p.m. polka mass on July 28 at the Willard Community Center as part of the community's 100th birthday events. If needed, a second polka mass will be conducted at 6 p.m. The Singing Slovenes are composed of singers and musicians of multiple nationalities. Their performances are educational as well as entertaining, as members dress in native costumes and offer geographical and language lessons during their shows. The singers are accompanied by accordions, guitars and drums.

Willard Farm & Auto Repair
• A Quarter Century •

In March of this year it had been 25 years since Joe and Karen Tolaney bought their small repair shop in Willard. Most people know of the building as the large metal quonset building between the old "Suda's Store" and the current town garage. If you drive through Willard on a weekday morning, you'll probably find a few cars parked out front belonging to a handful of locals that stop in for coffee and the day's news.

Joe and Karen bought what is now known as "Willard Farm & Auto Repair" in March, 1982, along with Karen's brother, Dick St. John. Dick left a year later. After giving up farming and their other odd jobs, Joe and Karen put everything they had into the business.

A lot of long days and late nights built a reputable business and a reliable source of help when it came to automotive, farm and small-engine repair. Karen helped Joe in the shop as well as managed the bookwork until 1996 when she took another job. She still helped out when needed and did the books every night for the next day.

The time has come for Joe and Karen to retire and hopefully take time to do some things for themselves. On July 13, 2007, Tolaney's sold Willard Farm & Auto to Loren and Lonnie Weaver, two brothers living in the Willard area. Weavers plan to continue operating the shop as it has been in the past. They plan to keep the name Willard Farm & Auto Repair and the phone number: 267-7261.

Previous owners:

- 1950-1964: Frank Debevec and Mike Klapatauskas, *F&M Service and Welding*
- 1964-?: Vic Halbrader, *Vic's Garage*
- 1976-?: Robert Debevec and Neal Tylor, *Willard Agri-Motive*



- 1982-1982: Archie Hendrickson & Sons
- 1982-2007: Joe and Karen Tolaney, *Willard Farm & Auto Repair*
- 2007-present: Loren and Lonnie Weaver, *Willard Farm & Auto Repair*

WILLARD:

Wishing you another hundred years of the music of your heart: joy, peace, love, spirit of cooperation, family, tradition and friendship!

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