

They both began in the nifty fifties, and I am proud to announce they will come together on April 29, 2017.

In 1953, the University of Nebraska piloted a new weekly television series called *Backyard Farmer*. On Thursday, April 6, 2017, *Backyard Farmer* launched its first show of the new season celebrating sixty-five years. Today, *Backyard Farmer* (BYF) holds the title as the nation's longest running, locally-produced television series. BYF is a co-production of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications and UNL Extension. Although the faces have changed over the years, this prominently recognized lawn and garden program features a cadre of gardening experts from the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension. This television series continues to offer the same trusted gardening advice since the show premiered. Here, experts answer viewer's questions in all categories of gardening from asters to zinnias and bugs to bunnies. In addition to answering questions, the series includes demonstrations and information on a variety of landscaping and outdoor projects. The program features a weekly *to do* calendar related to current soil and climate conditions, as well as a segment dedicated to the plant of the week. Each program provides the viewers a lively discussion of plant and pest samples sent in by gardeners from across the state.

Also, in 1953 through passion and a burning desire to preserve history, visionary Harold Warp, a Chicago manufacturer and native son of Minden, NE., created the world renowned *Harold Warp Pioneer Village* museum in Minden, Nebraska. The museum is a complex of 26 buildings, many original and preserved, displaying over 50,000 American artifacts dating from 1830 to the present. There one can visit an old Pony Express station, stop by the original Elm Creek Stockade or whisper a prayer in an original 1800's local church. Even an old sod house and one room school sit on the grounds. Pioneer Village is a one of a kind. If you think of a particular collection, I would wager to say, it is there. This museum houses everything from art collections to tractors, to old cars. In fact, in 1953, Chevrolet rolled off the assembly line its first fiberglass Corvette, America's premier sports car. This first model of Corvette along with a wide assortment of other older cars are

on display at Pioneer Village. If you call yourself a history buff, I can assure you, this museum is for you.

As I stated earlier, on April 29, 2017, both institutions that began in 1953 are joining forces — **and you are invited!** Beginning at 3:00 p.m., *Backyard Farmer* will be performing a live taping of their show in Minden on the commons area of *Harold Warp's Pioneer Village*. Good news.

Management at Pioneer Village informed me they would waive the admission fee to the museum for those wanting to attend this taping. Should you choose to attend, and I sincerely hope you do, I would suggest a donation to the village. Since the program begins at 3:00 p.m., I would also suggest arriving at least 15 to 30 minutes early. The taping will take place outdoors, on the commons area. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and come armed with gardening questions. I personally am looking forward to this once-in-a-lifetime event and look forward to seeing you there. What an excellent opportunity to witness live, gardening experts addressing your individual gardening concerns and at the same time to have the opportunity to learn the story of how America grew at Pioneer Village.

It's back to the nifty fifties!