

Opinion

This should spark lot of memories

This initiates a new column for Friday's paper, called, "At Week's End." Details for submitting material appear at the bottom of the column. Take part. Enjoy.

Remember when....

All the girls had ugly gym uniforms? It took five minutes for the TV to warm up? Nearly everyone's Mom was at home when the kids got home from school? Nobody owned a purebred dog? When a quarter was a decent allowance?

You'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny?

Your Mom wore nylons that came in two pieces? All your male teachers wore neckties and female teachers had their hair done every day and wore high heels?

Laundry detergent had free glasses, dishes or towels hidden inside the box?

It was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner at a real restaurant with your parents? They threatened to keep kids back a grade if they failed...and they did?

When a '57 Chevy was everyone's dream car to cruise, peel out, lay rubber or watch submarine races, and people went steady? No one ever asked where the car keys were because they were always in the car, in the ignition, and the doors were never locked? Playing baseball with no adults to help kids with the rules of the game?

Stuff from the store came without safety caps and hermetic seals because no one had yet tried to poison a perfect stranger?

And with all our progress, don't you just wish, just once, you could slip back in time and savor the slower pace, and share it with the children of today? When being sent to the principal's office was nothing compared to the fate that awaited the student at home? Basically we were in fear for our lives, but it wasn't because of drive-by shootings, drugs, gangs, etc. Our parents and grandparents were a much bigger threat! But we sur-

At Week's End

vived because their love was greater than the threat.

Send this on to someone who can still remember Nancy Drew, the Hardy Boys, Laurel and Hardy, Howdy Dowdy and the Peanut Gallery, the Lone Ranger, The Shadow Knows, Nellie Bell, Roy and Dale, Trigger and Butter-milk.

As well as summers filled with bike rides, baseball games, Hula Hoops, bowling and visits to the pool, and eating Kool-Aid powder with sugar. Didn't that feel good, just to go back and say, "Yeah, I remember that"?

I am sharing this with you today because it ended with a double dog dare to pass it on. To remember what a double dog dare is, read on. And remember that the perfect age is somewhere between old enough to know better and too young to care.

How many of these do you remember?

- Candy cigarettes
- Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water inside
- Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles
- Coffee shops with tableside jukeboxes
- Blackjack, Clove and Teaberry chewing gum
- Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
- Newsreels before the movie
- P.F. Fliers
- Telephone numbers with a word prefix...(Raymond 4-601).
- Party lines
- Peashooters
- 45 RPM records
- Green Stamps
- Hi-Fi's
- Metal ice cubes trays with levers
- Mimeograph paper
- Beanie and Cecil
- Roller-skate keys
- Cork pop guns
- Drive ins
- Studebakers
- Washtub wringers

- The Fuller Brush Man
- Reel-To-Reel tape recorders
- Tinkertoys
- Erector Sets
- The Fort Apache Play Set
- Lincoln Logs
- 15 cent McDonald hamburgers
- 5 cent packs of baseball cards with that awful pink slab of bubble gum
- Penny candy
- 35 cent a gallon gasoline
- Jiffy Pop popcorn
- Do you remember a time when...

Mistakes were corrected by simply exclaiming, "Do Over!"? "Race issue" meant arguing about who ran the fastest?

Catching the fireflies could happily occupy an entire evening?

It wasn't odd to have two or three "Best Friends"?

Having a weapon in school meant being caught with a sling-shot?

Saturday morning cartoons weren't 30-minute commercials for action figures?

"Oly-oly-oxen-free" made perfect sense?

Spinning around, getting dizzy, and falling down was cause for giggles?

The worst embarrassment was being picked last for a team?

War was a card game?

Baseball cards in the spokes transformed any bike into a motorcycle?

Taking drugs meant orange-flavored chewable aspirin?

Water balloons were the ultimate weapon?

If you can remember most or all of these, then you have lived!

Share this with anyone who may need a break from their "grown-up" life

I double-dog-dare-ya!

Got something for this column?

Simply send it to: tomd@nwkansas.com, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or drop it off at the office. No, you don't need to sign it. You'll remain anonymous unless you ask otherwise. Keep it informative, or entertaining, or humorous and of course acceptable for a family newspaper. Looking forward to your contribution.

Back at it...



Back in business, Jim Rowh, owner of Pure Prairie Natural Foods, baked bread in the store's kitchen Wednesday morning. The lunch counter side of his business had been closed since July 24 following a fire next door to the store that leveled two businesses. He resumed serving lunches Wednesday.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

School board close to finalizing budget

(Continued from Page 1)

committee's recommendation of Wes and Frances Whitney to be the plaque recipients for 2005-06.

- Approved a \$2,000 donation to the Norton County Arts Council as well as a waiver of fees and insurance for the use of the district's facilities for their programs.

- Adopted new and revised board policies and rescinded policy B401.2b, relating to out-of-state students. There are no longer restrictions for out-of-state stu-

dents to go to Kansas schools.

- Approved the Classified Employee Handbook as presented.

- Postponed the consideration of bids for the 1997 Dodge Intrepid until the special meeting on Aug. 22.

- Approved Northern Valley's request for out-of-district transportation.

- Assigned the land received from the Jennings School District to Norton's district two. The additional land put the Norton district into compliance with a new state law.

- Held a 30-minute closed ses-

sion to discuss matters relating to employer/employee negotiations.

- Accepted Terry Black's resignation as the district treasurer with great regret.

- Approved work agreements with Sue Ann Stutheit from library aide to 4-6 at-risk tutor, Kim Chambers as the junior/senior high library aide, Pam Bigge as a roving library aide, Lee Smith as a junior/senior high assistant cook, and Britany Johnson as an Eisenhower Elementary assistant cook.

Nominees needed for conservation program

(Continued from Page 1) conservation award, windbreak award and wildlife award.

Considerations for the awards are:

- 1) Use of land according to it's capabilities;
- 2) Completeness of farm plan applied;
- 3) Balance of farm enterprise;
- 4) Quality of conservation work

done and maintenance of practices; and

- 5) Special practices unique to the farming operation.

The windbreak award considers windbreaks which provide protection for residences or other structures, areas, livestock, or fields. Windbreaks should be a minimum of 3-years old.

Wildlife habitat awards recog-

nize individuals for establishment and maintenance of areas to encourage and protect wildlife.

Nominations can be made by anyone in the county. Nomination forms can be picked up at the Norton County Extension Office or Norton County Conservation District. The nominations should be returned by Wednesday, Aug. 30.

From the Mailbag:

Reader thinks writer has it all backwards

To the Editor, Steve Haynes apparently has been living in a parallel universe, because he has everything backwards.

He is the nut case, because of his willingness and eagerness to allow illegal Mexicans to cross our border against the law, trash our coun-

try, make no effort to learn our language, adopt our culture, or assimilate into our society, and, all the time bankrupting our educational, medical, and welfare facilities. The real solution would be to round them up and herd them back to wherever they came from.

Sen. Tancredo and his support-

ers, on the other hand, want to protect us from this illegal invasion.

Maybe Mr Haynes will get homesick. Beam him back up, Scotty.

Thank you.

R.W. Yeager
Norton

Dating after divorce can be tricky

Consultation and Education Department

Dear Plain Sense: I have been divorced for almost a year and have recently started dating. I'm concerned about the effect on my two young children.

Young children deal with their parents' divorce with various levels of emotion, depending on their developmental stage. They recognize that things have changed, and go through much the same stages of grief and loss that affect adults. Helping your child cope with these feelings can prepare them for positive growth through these experiences, followed by acceptance, and eventually with the ability to deal with other changes, such as parents dating or remarrying. Divorce can cause a child to worry about being abandoned, since they have now been witness to their parents leaving each other. So when a parent (especially the custodial parent) begins dating, those feelings may resurface.

Dating brings changes in the daily living schedule that can create insecurity for a child; keeping up household routines and schedules as much as possible will be comforting. Now that another person is taking some of your time, be sure to allow for personal time with your children so they won't

High Plains Mental Health

Karen Schueler

feel they are losing you or your attention. Children need continuing reassurance that they are cared for and loved.

A single parent with young children should be thinking about how a new relationship affects everyone involved, especially if the situation becomes long-term and serious. Anyone who is around the family and home will be consider-

able and various influences. Young children won't always be able to understand why their parents do what they do, nor is that necessary.

But talking about new relationships, and asking for their opinions and ideas will help them to feel involved, rather than ignored or of little value.

- Mail questions to: High Plains Mental Health Center, Plain Sense, 208 East 7th, Hays, Kan. 67601

(Questions will be formatted and answered in a manner that insures confidentiality) Internet site: www.highplainsmentalhealth.com.



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