

You just can't beat those two-lane roads

If you saw this year's animated hit movie "Cars," you picked up on the message how interstates have damaged small-town America. Having that movie released the same year as the 50th anniversary of the interstate system in America is more than a coincidence.

I know there are other critics out there of the country's interstate system. After reading of some of those complaints, it seemed to be legalistic to think every interstate has ruined every non-interstate town. It depends on how you define successful and detrimental.

I want to disagree with many of those complaints after I thought of my own experiences along two-lane highways.

Not even 10 years ago, I thought the world's best Mexican food was in Joes, Colo., along U.S. Highway 36. The restaurant, Maranatha, was far from attractive, but you didn't care about the surroundings once you knew what was on your plate. You could fit Joes' population in your closet, but it seemed everyone east of Denver knew of Maranatha and Joes — and went there.

Unfortunately, Maranatha has since changed owners, but Park Hill in Atwood (still on U.S. Highway 36) and Prairie Skillet are well known restaurants. (Remember, before Colby, Prairie Skillet was in Winona — on U.S. Highway 40).

Now I want to go for a burger and fries in Penny's in Sharon Springs, also on U.S. Highway 40. I have heard excellent reviews.

For a couple of years during my childhood my family lived in McCook, Neb. My grandparents lived in Denver at the same time. Every so often we would travel U.S. Highway 34 to get to Interstate 76 to go to Denver. During the summer months on the way home there was always someone along U.S. Highway 34 near Fort Morgan, Colo., selling a variety of produce.

The South has a tradition of side of the road stands selling produce and homemade goods. I saw those stands during a spontaneous trip through rural Georgia in 2000. The South has made those stands work — and they were miles from an interstate.

One of the nation's biggest tourist attractions is not even on an interstate. Yellowstone National Park takes up the northwest corner of Wyoming far from freeways. Glacier National Park in northern Montana is the same way.

Sure, the interstates have helped the development of the Rocky Mountains, just look at Aspen and Vail in Colorado. But Yellowstone proves you can still get people to come on a two-lane road. Some Wyoming fans I know say the lack of interstates through the mountains in Wyoming have kept their mountains' rustic, rugged atmosphere.

But what two-lane highways provide most of all is not tangible. Colorado Highway 14 connects Sterling, Colo., to Fort Collins and into the mountains. The trip between Sterling and Fort Collins is about 100 miles, but you don't see 100 people until Fort Collins fills your windshield. A then-teenager friend of mine called Highway 14 the "road of nothingness" because there was nothing to see except for the herds of antelope racing across the fields.

Interstates are full of distractions. Billboards, truck stops that offer so much you think it is a town, and other temptations for drivers fill the freeway. But you don't get the same feeling on those two-lane roads, like U.S. Highway 36.

When you don't have the visual distractions while driving, you are forced to think about where you have been and where you are headed.

John Van Nostrand, publisher, Colby Free Press



Important note for local school backers

Jane Burton, Norton School District librarian, brought to my attention a major change in the Campbell Soup Company's label collection process. Jane explained that schools which submit labels to the company can redeem the labels for products to enrich their classrooms. She said that in the past, the front of the label was submitted. But — and this is the important change — effective now the UPC (or bar code) along with the student icon is the section that needs to be submitted. "While many grandparents, neighbors and friends are dedicated to collecting the labels for students, please recognize this change in policy," Jane urged. The schools, she added, appreciate all the labels that are submitted, and look forward to seeing the new policy enacted.

I have no idea how long the Campbell Soup Company's school label program has been going on, but it goes back many years. And during that time classrooms have benefited greatly in many ways. It's a simple way to help your favorite child's school. It's one of those helpful projects that you can participate in without going out of your way. We all have to go to the grocery store anyway and when you come to the aisle containing canned soups, well... You get the drift. But do remember the change as explained above.

Thanks for considering this program, if you haven't already been doing that. As they say, every little bit helps! Please help.

A recent study concluded that married people live longer than single people. Duh?! When one of the married people dies the other lives on. When the single person dies, that's it! I wonder how much that study cost.

I am not a fan of Conan O'Brien. Never have been. For some reason his style of humor escapes me. And the way they ushered in the Emmys show on NBC-TV was

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



absolutely insulting. If you recall they showed O'Brien enjoying champagne aboard a plane that suddenly goes out of control and crashes in the ocean, and O'Brien is then pictured struggling out of the water onto the beach. This, on the same day a plane crashed on takeoff in Kentucky that killed 49 people. Insensitivity at its worst. Sure, the O'Brien crash was taped in advance of the real crash, but could NBC not have scrubbed that part of the show's introduction? And if the smug, arrogant O'Brien had any sense he would have demanded such. I now give two thumbs down to him and NBC. No, I didn't watch the Emmys — the show's introduction was enough for me.

OK, pet owners, this is for you. The International Pet Owners Club is gearing up for its 2006 Cutest Pet Photo Contest. More than \$10,000 in cash and prizes are on the line. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free. Pictures of dogs, cats, rabbits, etc...are welcome. Deadline is Oct. 15. To enter, send one photograph (full color or black/white), sizes 8" X 10" or smaller. Make sure your entry includes the name and address of the photographer on the back. Send to:

2006 Fall Photo Contest
c/o The International Pet Owners Club
P.O. Box 1908
Pittsburg, KS 66762

Or you can enter on line at www.cutestpetcontest.com.

As usual, with such contests, I can't

guarantee anything you have just read. If my pet dog, Maddi, were still alive, I would probably enter the picture I have of her sitting while balancing a tennis ball on her head. But she isn't, so I can't.

The last three-day holiday weekend of the summer is upon us. Many of us will be heading out in all directions to enjoy the extended weekend with family and friends, or just out enjoying the weekend in whatever fashion develops, or perhaps enjoying the weekend right here at home. A number of Norton Community High School grads will be in town for an all-class reunion and to catch up on what's new in the old hometown. That should be fun. And I would bet Sonya Montgomery and her organizers are breathing a sigh of relief about now. But whatever you do, please do safely. They always tell us to drive safely, but I always tell people to drive smart. Adding smart to the mix elevates the need.

Let's see, when's the next big holiday break?

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning. The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee." The husband said, "You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee." Wife replies, "No, you should do it, and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee." Husband replies, "I can't believe that, show me."

So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says..HEBREWS.

Have an enjoyable weekend. And as it unfolds, let's remember to gather at the church steps.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Governor Kathleen Sebelius, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Office hours:
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732
E-mail: telegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Tom Dreiling editor and publisher
Veronica Monier staff reporter
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Sherry Hickman bookkeeping/circulation
Vicki Henderson computer production

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FROM THE MAILBOX:

Jennings Museum reaching out to you for help

To the Editor,
The Jennings Museum is constructing a new building to house memorabilia from local schools.

The two schools of concern are Dellvale and Clayton. The items needed are: pictures, yearbooks, trophies, banners, sports equipment, text books, report cards, and other like items.

Most people do not know the history of the Dellvale school.
In 1870, the Lincoln Land Company platted a new town that was not yet named. My great-great Uncle Thomas Campbell, was the first merchant to arrive. Thomas came from Dallas, Texas and he named the town, main street, post office, and school district, Dallas. The name of the town was changed to Oronoque. No person still alive knows why.

There was the Union Pacific railhead at Oronoque, and the Rock Island railhead on the south side of the Prairie Dog. This second town was called South Oronoque. To avoid confusion with the post office, the name was changed to Delvale (one L).

My great-great Uncle Samuel Paxton, built the hotel at Delvale. On the side of the building he painted the name Dellvale (two L's). When the train depot was built the depot sign was copied from the hotel sign. The misspelling became permanent.

The Dallas school building was moved to an all weather road located one mile south of Oronoque and one mile east of Dellvale. For the same reasons the post office was moved to Dellvale three years later. Both the post office and school district changed their name to Dellvale.

For eighth grade graduation the commencement was held at the Christian Church at Oronoque. Such was possible because there was no ACLU to file a 500 billion dollar lawsuit.

People saw nothing wrong with using a church for an auditorium. In those days people had not yet accepted the scientific fact that your grandmother is a monkey. Apparently monkey-people without a soul are not allowed to go to church.

In later years, the Dellvale and Clayton schools held a joint commencement.

Dellvale students could choose to attend high school at either Clayton or Norton. When the Clayton High School closed, all students went to Jennings High School.

To have the Dellvale School remembered, phone myself or Mrs. Lawrence Jennings at Jennings.

Arthur Loyd Shelton
1-785-475-2455

Reader enjoys newspaper, loves Andbe Home people

To the Editor,
We appreciate your articles and comments in the paper. You have brought it to life.

At one time we were thinking of dropping our subscription, but enjoy it now.

I have completed my 16 years of helping with church on Sundays at the Andbe Home. I love those folks.

Katherine Severns
Norton