

LETTERS

Norton is 'Oasis on the High Plains'

To the Editor,
Having recently attended the Vintage Race weekend hosted by BMB Motor Sports, aka Jerry Bantam and Don McMullen, it is felt a letter of *Thank You* to the Norton community is in order.

You have a great facility in Elmwood Park Speedway, picturesque, lots of shade on a hot August day and an old timely feel that one doesn't get from newer speedways.

The residents of the Norton area we meet are super friendly and interested in what we do. The motels, restaurants and service stations go out of their way to make us feel at home.

This was the seventh annual event staged by BMB for the vintage community and it has become the high point of the vintage racing season. We hope we are invited back for many years to your *Oasis on the High Plains*.

Sincerely,

Tom Barclay
Kansas Antique Racers
Newsletter Editor
Arlington, Kan. 67514

Energetic survivors deserve applause

To the Editor,
Forty eight of the Norton area's brightest young people graduated from Norton Community High School 60 years ago. Sixteen of them returned to Norton last weekend to prove that they were believers in the old saying, "you can't keep a good man, or woman, down."

These energetic survivors came with a shuffle, a wheel chair, a wheeze or two, and a lot of bright smiles and hearty greetings for these good ole' boys and girls of the fun years that they were remembering as they circled the tables at the Attitudes Restaurant.

The attendance list included twelve from out of the Norton area and only four from Norton.

The list included Leroy Brown, Jennings; Paul Hansen, Shawnee, Kan.; Jim Maddy, Norton; Shirley Mather Morthole, Omaha; Esther Phillips Headrick, New Braunfels, Texas; Anna Robben Unrein, McCook; Don Schneider, Stockton; Virgil Severns, Fairbanks, Alaska (and winner of the prize for you know what); John Snyder, Norton; Eddie Stewart, Clyde, Texas, (he moved in and went to school the last semester of his senior year so he got the "Short Timer Award," but the awards purchaser didn't think to get one of those); Joyce Vancura, Compton, Calif; Don Ward, Roeland Park, Kan; Patsy Ward, Lucas, Colo.; William Whistler, Fairway, Kan; Carman Wiltrout Lesh, Norton; and Zeta Wray Zelmer, Norton, (and award for the Best Use of Z's in a Name. Oops, no prize for her either).

Carman Lesh and Jim Maddy received a load of plaudits for the evening that they had guided into place, but they didn't hear much about "let's do'er again in ten years." Guess we'll have to wait and see.

Don Ward
60-Year Class
Roeland Park, Kan.

Thumbs Up . . .

To the Northern Valley School District, on the 40th anniversary of your consolidation. The longevity proves it does work! (e-mail)

To Bobby Annon and Jeff Wolf, on your new positions with the City of Norton. (by telephone)

To the Norton city crews, for putting up the flags as a reminder of Sept. 11, 2001. (hand delivered)

To Carolyn Applegate, for your hard work in seeing the second annual "U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt" to a successful conclusion. (a friend)

To "Husky High School," (Northern Valley), good luck with your Friday homecoming and your game with Logan. (by telephone)

To the Norton County Historical Society, you are appreciated. (e-mail, former resident)

(To submit a name, or names for this biweekly salute, e-mail tom@nwkans.com, telephone 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your continuing input.-td)

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Sometimes wind chimes don't charm

It's frustrating when something, supposed to be soothing, is unbearably irritating. I feel that way about the wind chimes hanging over the balcony outside our bedroom door. The chimes have a sweet tone. Usually. When you're working outside in the yard or sitting on the back patio, their gentle "tinkle" has a soothing sound.

But, when you're trying to think (write this column) or go to sleep, the sound can be extremely irritating. Today, the breeze is brisk and the "tinkling" sounds more like "clanging".

What was he thinking? Can O.J. really be that dumb? The details are trickling in and I'm sure we're going to be subjected to at least a week of non-stop drivel about, what he claims, was a "sting" operation. Whether it was or not; is it really worth the network's time to go on and on ad nauseam about it?

O.J. Simpson is not famous because of his great accomplishments — he is infamous because of his connection to a hor-

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



rific event.

-ob-
My brother, Bill, sends me the funniest and most interesting e-mails. I've neglected to always give him proper credit so, the following comes with a disclaimer: these are not original to me — I stole them.

• In the 1400s there was a law in England that allowed a man to beat his wife with a stick as long as it was no thicker than his thumb. Hence, the saying, "rule of thumb".

• Many years ago in Scotland a new game was invented. But, it was declared, "Gentlemen only — Ladies Forbidden"...and GOLF was born.

• Did you know that 28 percent of Af-

rica is wilderness? And, 38 percent of America is still wilderness?

• The average number of people airborne over the U.S. at any given hour is 61,000.

• Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of their birthplace. (I do).

• In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When the ropes were pulled, the bed was tightened. That's where the phrase, "Goodnight, sleep tight" came from.

-ob-
Tomato season is winding down. We're canning just a few at a time. 'Cause that seems to be how they are ripening. A few at a time.

-ob-
Jim and I have an agreement. I scald a batch of tomatoes, slip the skins and put them in a kettle before I go to work.

When he gets home, he will boil and can them. Usually about three to four pints at a time.

The tea kettle is whistling so it's time to do my share of today's project.

Why is naughty talk so acceptable?

I have a new job: Morning manager at the HOME Community Wellness Center. After a week or so I am trying to decide if it is a good thing or if I am just plain crazy. My rationale for taking the job was if I was going to go work out three or four times a week, anyway, instead of paying for the privilege, I might as well get paid!

Have I mentioned I am not a morning person? The previous morning manager started at 6 a.m. but they were nice to me. I don't start until 7 a.m. Well, I don't have to be there until 7; it sometimes takes me longer than that to actually get "started."

I'm done at 10 a.m. so I have the rest of the day to do all the important things I did before I took the new job. As soon as I figure out what important things I was doing I'll let you know!

A nice group of people come in to work out. Several women in their 70s and 80s come in. I get on the tread mill and they use the NuStep. I listen to their stories. I haven't warned anyone that they may be "material" for my column yet. I have worn my T-Shirt that proclaims "Careful or you'll end up in my novel." Not quite accurate but advice certainly worth heeding.

One woman was talking about the '30s last week. I believe she said she was six when Franklin Roosevelt was elected president. In her family he was regarded

Back Home Nancy Hagman



as a savior. I mentioned the book, "The Grapes of Wrath." She had neither read the book nor seen the movie. She remembered her mother found it to be very coarse and shocking.

Ah, yes, I thought. It probably was. I got to thinking how unsavory our level of discourse has become. KU football coach, Mark Mangino, got his 15 minutes of fame online this past week. I did not see the video but read that his language, when chewing out a player who caused the team to receive a penalty for excessive celebration, would give a rapper pause.

A good reason to be careful what one says, I guess. Do you suppose Mangino is embarrassed or apologetic?

The head football coach at a school in the area was ejected from the first game. No one was sure why but those within listening distance agreed he had a real potty mouth. They just weren't sure if the lan-

guage was the reason for the ejection or came after.

Daughter Kate, a high school teacher, hands out detention to kids who, as she puts it, drop the F-bomb. It is good her school is trying to give the kids an example of proper expression. But if this language is only inappropriate during school hours and a regular part of the conversation at sports practice, it is easy to see why kids are comfortable using it.

I can't imagine my grandmother ever having taken the Lord's name in vain or saying a naughty word. I read Mary Kay Woodard's appeal for a "Grandma's Christmas" on these pages recently. She had some good ideas.

Personally, I have decided to work on expressing myself without the naughty little words I let slip and also try to keep God out of it, unless I really need his intervention. I'm going to act and look shocked at the little obscenities spoken by those around me.

There is no reason for it. The sad thing is we have become so accustomed to raw language it no longer does what I suppose the purpose was: Shocks. We don't even hear it.

We can't blame this on the kids. They had to hear it before they used it. They heard it from us. Let's clean it up!

Your political connection

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- ☐ U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521
- ☐ State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399
- ☐ U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514
- ☐ U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124
- ☐ State Rep. John Faber, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500