

### I remember very well JFK's assassination

November 22 has passed. But its significance to me will always be real. When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on that date in 1963, I was city editor at The Hays Daily News, going about my responsibilities in what was called "the cage" — the office of the city editor.

I will never forget the five bells that drew my attention to The Associated Press ticker letting me, and all monitors of AP machines worldwide, know that something of bulletin status had occurred. Five bells indicated a bulletin, the top priority of The Associated Press, then. It said pointedly, "President shot."

All was quiet for a while, then five more bells, and another shocking report, "President Kennedy taken to Dallas hospital."

The production department at The News was busy finalizing the newspaper for that day. When I told Gene Rohr in the production department what was happening, he came in quickly to the cage to watch the drama unfold. So did Verlin Dreiling, Neal Stephens, Rex Campbell, Dick Seib and a couple of others from the "back shop." Nothing was said. They all had a look of disbelief.

The final bells came minutes later, "President Kennedy dead." From that point on it was a matter of tearing down the front page and starting from scratch and slowly piecing together the assassination from bits and pieces of coverage dispatched by The Associated Press.

I cried, as did others who were busy putting the front page together while blinking tears away. But we weren't alone, our country was crying too.

Needless to say the paper was late that day, and many people who kept their copy as a souvenir all these years might have taken their copies from storage to take another look, to reflect on what they were doing Nov. 22, 1963. I was 28 years old at the time, and just three days shy of celebrating my 29th birthday; needless to say there wasn't much of a celebration.

It's been 45 years since the assassination, but to me it seems just like yesterday. Years fade, situations don't.

**I'll bet those** who can remember the tragedy will remember precisely what they were doing on that day. And most of us probably still wonder what impact President Kennedy would have had if he could have lived a full term, and perhaps even a second term of office. He was young and energetic and held out a lot of hope. But it just wasn't to be.

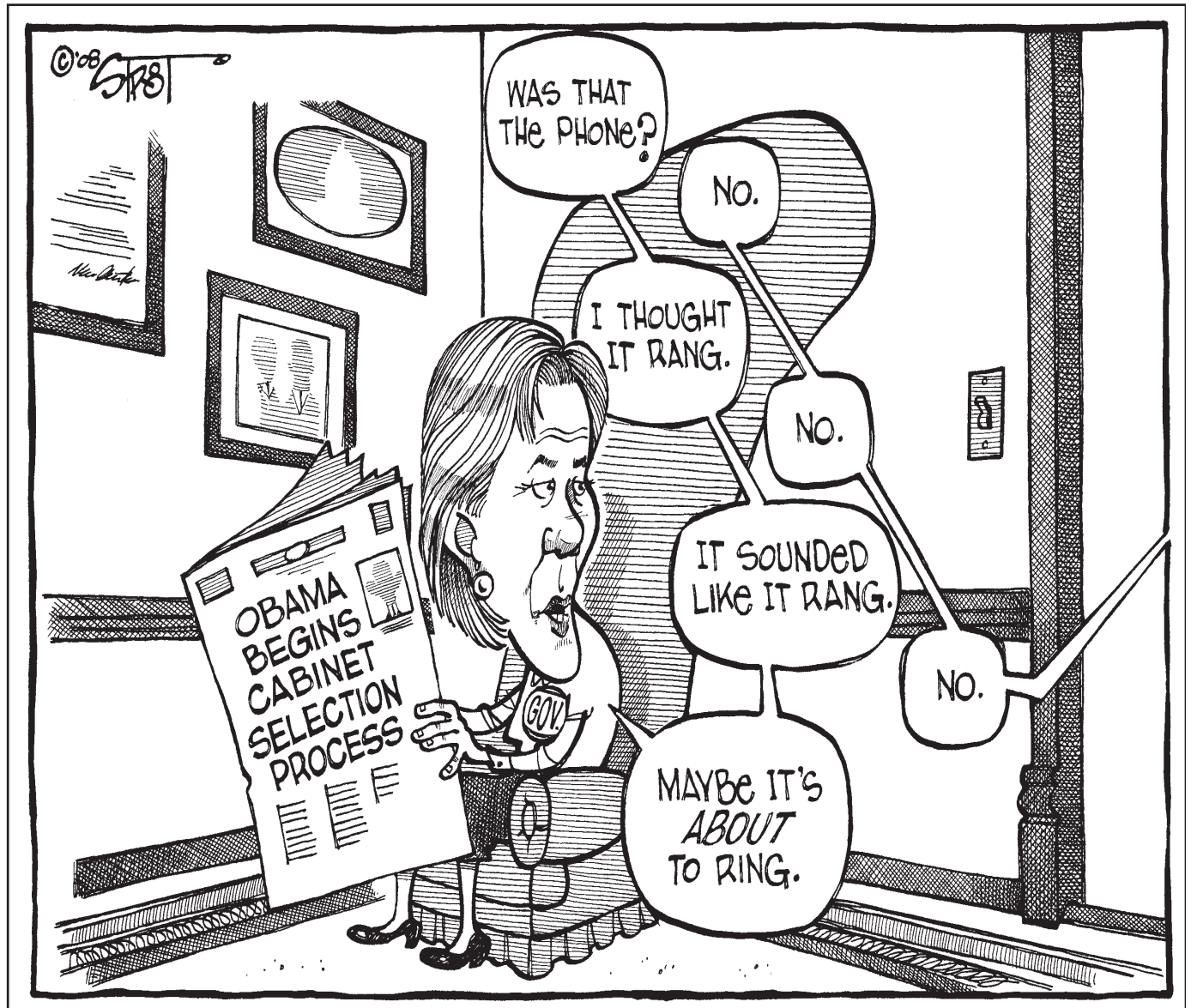
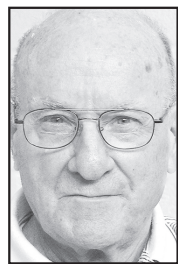
**Here we are**, the day after Thanksgiving, working off the "too much food" syndrome by preparing to put up the Christmas tree. Most of us wait until the turkey has been put in the refrigerator before turning our attention to the tree. And all its decorations. The music of the season — Christmas season — begins to excite as we jot down the things that need to be purchased, packaged, wrapped and placed under the tree. Questions abound, especially if your household includes those single-year occupants. From observation I would say the merchants of Norton have pretty well stocked their shelves awaiting your visit. Don't disappoint, buy as much as you possibly can right here at home, and what you save on gas, and maybe even dinner and an overnight stay elsewhere, will allow you to put even more \$\$'s into the hometown business community. Just a thought. "By golly, buy local," that is the catch-phrase of your Norton Telegram!

**Tonight** the Christmas lights are switched on downtown and every other location where decorations were put up! Yep, you'll want to hop in the family buggy and see what it all looks like. It's hard to believe it's been a year since we last enjoyed this sight! Let us be among the first to wish you a "Merry Christmas!"

**I often wonder** how President George W. and First Lady Laura Bush are feeling to know this is their last Christmas in the White House as the First Couple. The eight years have taken their toll on the president, and as much as they are probably relieved it's about over, there still has to be that deep down emotional feeling. A week or so ago, one of the networks showed side-by-side pictures of President Bush on the day of his first inauguration and now — how he aged! The pressures and stresses of being president can't adequately be described. But if a picture is worth a thousand words, pictures of President Bush's eight years are in the millions. In 54 more days he and Mrs. Bush can retire back to their beloved Texas to relax and live out their years without the paparazzi chasing them down the street. Despite your political stripes, President Bush did his part to do what he felt was in the best interests of America, the Beautiful.

**Have a good evening!** And as you attend the house of worship of your choice this weekend, say a little prayer for the soon-to-be former President and First Lady as they assume a new direction, and a little prayer for the new President and First Lady as they take this country in a new direction.

Good Evening  
Norton  
Tom Dreiling



### Change to fall back home can't be beaten

Autumn on the prairie is very different from autumn in a woody area where I now reside. While I love the turning leaves on the many varieties of trees that grow in Missouri, I truly miss those days when the Kansas blue stem grasses shimmer burgundy rose pink against the soft grey-green buffalo grass pastures. A field of mixed CRP grasses presents a muted palette dotted with the brilliant yellow of late sunflowers putting forth their final blossoms and the red sumac fire in the ditches. Ozark rolling hills and lakes are lovely but so are fields of bronzing milo and the delicate green haze of winter wheat. Autumn remains my favorite season of the year wherever I may dwell.

As with the changing colors of the landscape so, too, change the colors of our lives as we drift into our personal autumn. Fall roses smell even sweeter because we know they are the last; crisp mornings and evenings alternate with the comforting warmth of midday sunshine; sadness and sorrow fill our hearts with each loss or passing of an old friend. Joys come in different ways and are doubly pleasant because of their rarity. Each small special treat takes on an extra glow when one realizes it might not come again.

Lady of  
All Seasons  
Liza Deines



Everyone anticipates the beauty of spring when the first crocus, daffodils and flowering trees announce the return of new life. Summer is a glorious time of heat and harvest, of full-blown beauty in gardens as well as lives. Yet autumn has a strangely appealing bitter sweetness all its own. Though we know the cold and snowy winds of winter are inevitable, the beauty of the changing seasons still gives us a little lift with each passing year. Those who live where the seasons do not change appreciably have often said that is what they miss the most about their previous homes in the Midwest.

Families draw a little closer in the fall of the year as in the fall of our lives. Tailgate picnics, football games and hot dog roasts fill the warm afternoons finished off by scuffling home through falling leaves in the dusk. Like a squirrel storing up acorns for winter, we store up cozy evenings of autumn to prepare the depths of our beings

for the frosts that are to come. In hill country the changing colors of the trees are a sight to behold. A drive along twisting rural roads bordered by rail fences and stones nourishes the soul and spirit like a warm cup of cocoa on a chilly night. Contrarily, my spirit still longs to drive over the divide at the Norton/Graham County line and wrap up in the crazy quilt spread before me. Kansas limestone, virgin pasture, little farmsteads and the golden cottonwood trees along Big Creek still make this prairie girl's heart sing.

Let the autumn of your life be a time for tying up loose ends. Abilities once so abundant may fade a bit but compensations can be made. Read those books you've put back even if you must use a magnifier to do so. Finish the knitting projects so long delayed. Organizing books of old photos for your children's Christmas surprise will provide happy memories as you clip and paste.

Changing seasons are inevitable. The years pass, the days fly by ever more rapidly.

You cannot stop that Heavenly clock nor can you keep the leaves of the calendar from turning. You can, however, squeeze the essence of joy from each moment granted to you.

### Sound Off

#### Be cautious because dogs have good and bad days

"He won't bite, he's a good dog." As meter reader for the city, I hear that from property owners about 95 percent of the time. True, he won't bite his owner, but me, yes. Dogs have good and bad days, just as you and I do. They are protecting their property as they are supposed to. When you enter you are invading their area; therefore, they protect it and you're the victim sometimes.

I feel for Leif Carlson and his sister trying to earn some money for themselves by delivering The Telegram paper. I'm sure they won't be the last to get bit either.

Having been bitten many times over the years, I say if you haven't lived and experienced this thrill of a lifetime, you

won't forget it when you have been bitten hard and deep one, two, or three times over your body. I can see how an aggressive dog can take down a young child and could easily take their life. Dog are really tough when angry and you can't always get away without help.

My first dog bite put me in the hospital for many days. I was a very sick person. Since then, I've been bitten many more times and have had some rabies shots also. I'm sure Leif, you are very alert of all dogs now as I'm very cautious also. But dogs still know that we have a fear of them and we have to be extra careful.

To the readers with dogs who call in their electric meter reading, I appreciate

them doing so. If there are others who think this would help I would appreciate it if you would arrange with me to do this.

To the rest of you readers that haven't had this thrilling experience to remember, today as you step out of your house, look around your neighborhood. I'm sure there are places that have 3 or 4 dogs that are licensed and have their rabies shots up to date that are waiting to give you that experience.

When you do get bit, report it to the police and the county health department.

James L. Miller  
City Meter Reader  
(Editors note: Also include animal control when you get bitten.)

### Salvation Army counting on you again this season

The Salvation Army Christmas season is just around the corner. We would like to thank everyone in the community who, last year, gave so generously and from the heart. We couldn't continue to serve those in need without your help. We hope that it may be a joyous time for families this year as it has been in the past.

In the 2007-08 year, thanks to your support, The Salvation Army served 88,140 people in 93 counties in Kansas, providing emergency crisis assistance, including help with utilities, rent, prescriptions, food and clothing. Our dedicated volunteers logged an amazing 44,005 hours of service. Many of our neighbors and friends have fallen on hard times and are

having trouble making ends meet. Some just need a helping hand to get them back on their feet while others are facing more desperate circumstances. If there was ever a time to come together to lift one another up, it is now.

Once again this holiday season, we are asking for your help to ensure the disadvantaged of our community receive the assistance they need throughout the coming year. One way to make a difference is to volunteer. As always, we are in need of bell-ringers and other volunteers to help in your community. Please remember that all the hard work that is done in your community goes to help people in your area; 88 percent of the funds raised, work right

in your community. If you'd like to be a part of this wonderful holiday tradition, and change lives in the process, please give us a call.

Only with your help can we provide the emergency assistance that is needed to help your neighbors throughout the year. Please consider making The Salvation Army in your community something to support throughout the year as well as at Christmas time.

Brian Carroll  
Service Extension Director  
The Salvation Army,  
Kansas and Western Missouri  
1-800-336-4547 Ext. 367  
www.salarmy-mokan.org

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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

#### STAFF

Tom Dreiling ..... editor and publisher  
Christie Anderson ..... advertising director  
Dana Paxton ..... advertising  
Dick Boyd ..... Blue Jay sports  
Brandy Leroux ..... reporter  
Sherry Hickman ..... bookkeeping/circulation  
Vicki Henderson ..... computer production



Nor'West Newspapers  
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd  
Publishers, 1970-2002  
Incorporating the Norton County Champion  
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654  
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association