James / Tien engagement

No matter what our age or stage, we ladies never tire of talking about clothes. In spite of the fact that we came from the hats and gloves era, we still love to shop when we get a chance. One wise entrepreneur has found that bringing her former dress shop merchandise around to retirement homes on rolling racks brings in more profit than the shop ever did. I have met the occasional female who does not enjoy shopping or dressing up but they are alien creatures to me. If you're one of them, feel free to skip this review of fashions. Some we wore, some we wish we could wear, and some no one should ever wear.

Keep in mind we are from that time long gone when your purse and shoes must match, when one inch too high or too low on the hemline was almost a sin and when only floozies had pierced ears. The plethora of piercings nowadays leaves us gasping and so do tattoos. We just weren't into painful

processes for the sake of vanity, except sitting under those electric permanent machines to make our hair curly. Of course we slept in pin curls with bobby pins that stabbed our scalps or curlers the size of orange juice cans. Incidentally, if you're old enough to recall wearing your hair in a snood, then you're far and away too old to wear long hair.

We disapprove of tanning salons but on the other hand, we used tanning oil by the gallon and sizzled in the sun for hours. We have wrinkles and sunlight keratosis to prove it.

Speaking of painful experi-



ences, how about the high, high heels young women trot around in these days? Christmas shopping at Crown Center this year I observed every woman under fifty in boots. There were a few flat ones in burnished leather or suede but there were many more over the knee boots with towering stilettos and witchy toes that made my feet tingle in sympathy. How does anyone walk on those sky high spikes? Not even in my 'salad days" could I cope with those. Retired ladies often look with longing at today's shoes but we also smile because we know those who wear them will end

Current style calls for snug fitting jackets and sweaters and may look great when you have a waist. Form fitting fashions are being sold in all sizes these days but, frankly friends, some forms were never meant to be fitted. Knees, elbows and upper arms are particularly unattractive after a certain age and should be allowed to retire gracefully beneath softer skirts and blouses with sleeves. The sands of time shift and although there are a few of you senior sisters who manage to maintain a sleek and shapely form, most of us develop a problem or two. Keep in mind, just because you can wear it does not mean you should wear it.

up at a podiatrist's office sooner

or later. We know because even

three-inch heels put us there!

Almost any skirt length is in vogue, room above the knee to ankle length so you may choose what flatters you. The 1950's are gone with those calf-length hobble skirts, and farewell, with no regrets, to the mini, in which no respectable female could sit or bend over with even a modicum of decency. Short skirts are still

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in for the youngsters but they're worn, thank goodness, with stretchy tights...

As hair and skin tones change, so should the clothing you choose. Too many older women settle for wearing nothing but pastels and little white sweaters. Neon colors may not be for us, but the jewel tones of vivid red, sky blue or emerald green look great on ladies with silver hair. And, gals, whatever you do, stay away from that blue or lavender tinted hair! It went out with World War II.

Yes, we once wore jeans that zipped and necklines that dipped where we now compromise with elastic waists and buttoned up blouses, but we can still look reasonably spiffy with a little forethought. Fashions may come and go but style and taste are inborn qualities. Don't let your individuality wither away for lack of motivation or interest.

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## Kansas kids asked to restore 'Home on the Range' cabin

Kansas school children are being asked to join the statewide "Coins for the Cabin" effort. Proceeds will help restore and preserve the cabin where our state song, "Home on the Range," was written 140 years

In 1872, Dr. Brewster Higley wrote the words to a poem called "My Western Home" near his home in Smith County, Kansas. A year later, the poem was set to music and quickly gained national attention under its new name, "Home on the Range." In later years, President Franklin Roosevelt declared it was his favorite song and, in 1947, the Legislature adopted "Home on the Range" as our official state

Dr. Higley's Cabin, the birthplace of "Home on the Range," still stands today in its original location on land that looks much like it did 140 years ago with the same blue skies, prairie grasses and wildlife that inspired Dr.

Higley's poem. Over the years, the cabin has aged, but the Ellen Rust Living Trust and members of the Smith County community have worked to keep it stable and open to the public. Now, an effort is underway to permanently restore and preserve Higley Cabin. The fund-raising drive, with a goal of \$100,000, includes three opportunities for Kansans to get involved.

Kirsten Marie James and Jake Brady Tien announce their engagement and upcoming mar-

The bride-to-be is a 2010 graduate of Hays High School. She is currently studying at Colby

The groom-to-be is a 2007 graduate of Logan High School. He is a 2009 graduate from

Community College majoring in Accounting and is employed at Sleep Inn & Suites in Norton.

NCKTC with a degree in Diesel Tech and is employed at Landmark Implement in Phillips-

The couple is planning a wedding on March 31 in Phillipsburg.

1. "Coins for the Cabin" -Kansas school children, their administrators, teachers and parents are being asked to participate in a classroom project where students learn more about the history of our state song while collecting change in support of the Higley Cabin restoration. If each student in Kansas collected \$1 in this effort, there would be adequate funds to begin restoration of the cabin. Teachers or principals who are interested in participating may contact El Dean Holthus at 785-695-2347 or holt@ruraltel.net.

# BIRTADA Y

Alberta Crayton of Norton will turn 90 on March 6. To help her 98th birthday. Family and celebrate, her family is holding a public open house on Saturday, March 3 from 1-4 p.m. at the Andbe Home on Sunday, March Norton Community Center.

Lois Dietz is celebrating friends will gather for a card shower and pizza party at the 4 at 3:30 p.m.



Carly Lynn and Avery Candace Manning, twin daughters of Chad and Erin Manning, Norton, were born on Nov. 4, 2011 at Good Samaritan Hospital, Kearney, Neb. Carly was four pounds, four ounces and 19 inches long. Avery was four pounds, 10 ounces and 17

Grandparents are Larry and Shirley Weeks, Brownell, and Bill and Janet Manning, Norton.

"Hawk Designs" to Gary Hawk, 1415 N Kentucky, Iola, Kansas 66749. Proceeds from the prints will benefit the Higley Cabin

2. Gary Hawk print – Kansas

artist Gary Hawk has produced

limited edition prints of Hig-

ley Cabin that are available for

sale to the public. Hawk is an

award-winning Western water-

color artist who lives in Iola.

His paintings have been on dis-

play in Cedar Crest and in the

Kansas Senate chambers. To order a limited edition print, send

a check for \$75 made payable to

restoration project.

3. Contributions – Contributions in any amount are greatly appreciated and will be put toward restoration of the Cabin. Those who wish to make a contribution may send a check to the Ellen Rust Living Trust, 9082 130th Road, Smith Center, Kansas 66967. Donors who contribute \$500 or more will be recognized as Platinum level donors and will receive a handmade, collector's edition model of Higley Cabin.

The Norton County Road and Bridge Department

Cordially Invites You to Attend a Retirement Farewell for

**Brent "Topper" Cook** Wednesday, February 29, 2012

2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Norton County Courthouse Commissioners Room, 2nd Floor



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