

Vote of the people must always be accepted

Today we welcome a new columnist, Bob Strevey. Although new to The Norton Telegram's Opinion Page, he is not new to the territory. He's been around for a long time, he's an involved person and has tossed his name in the political hat several times. He lives in the Norcatur area. His e-mail address is bkstrevey@hotmail.com.

Citizen Duties Bob Strevey



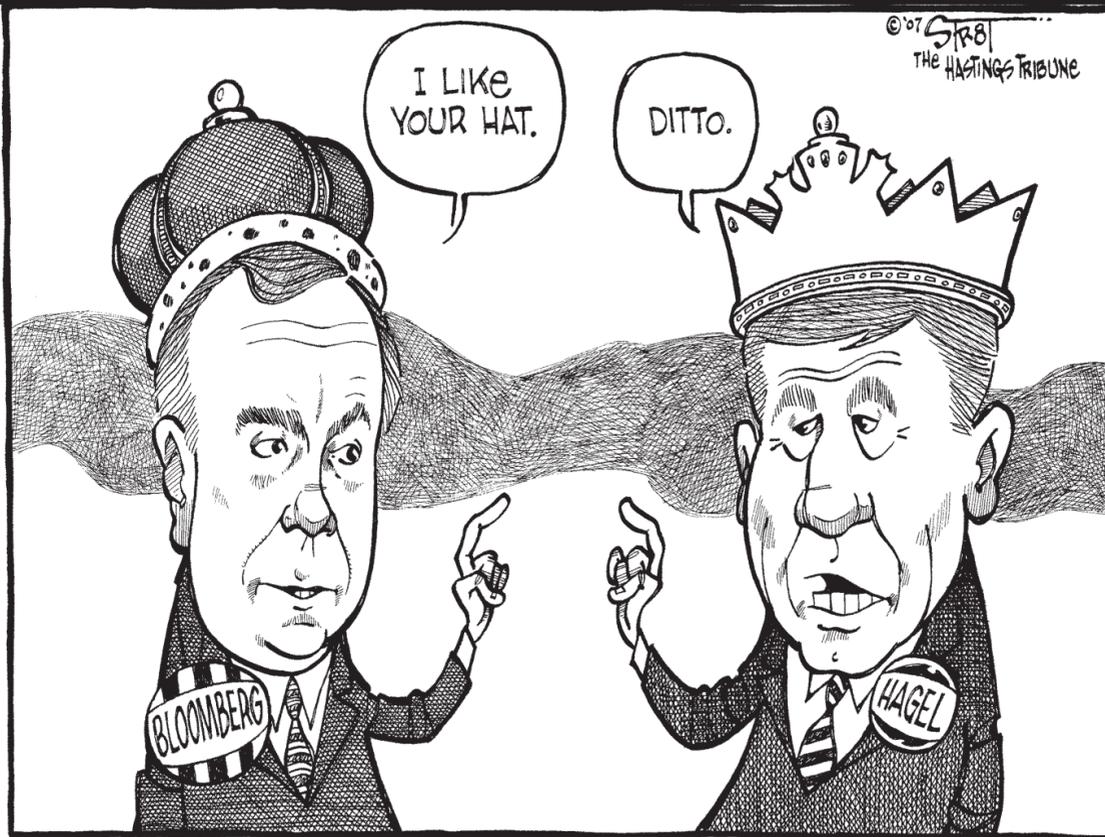
Kansas would become a slave state like Missouri. In some instances there was outright fraud where fake names were used and ballots were hidden so they could not be challenged.

President Buchanan was willing to accept this deception so he could satisfy the slave states, but Congress would not accept this attempt to ignore the will of the people, so they sent it back for a second vote. The people soundly rejected it.

If elections are to be accepted, they must be fair. Both sides must be allowed to present their views and an honest vote taken. Even when great moral questions, such as slavery or whether to fight a war are at stake, both sides need to treat their opponents with respect and accept the results of the vote.

The southern states broke their faith in democracy when they refused to accept the election of Abraham Lincoln. How different our nation might have been if they had accepted the vote of the people. Slavery might have been ended peacefully as it was in Brazil and other countries.

NEXT: "America is great because she is good."



Colorado Springs good place to party

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



The family reunion at Colorado Springs last weekend was great. Perfect weather. Delicious food. Exceptional fellowship. A nephew, David, whom I haven't seen for 30+ years, suddenly appeared in the crowd, along with his daughter. What a pleasant surprise! He's a Texan.

Everything went smoothly, from the Friday evening reception/dinner to the farewell brunch Sunday noon. The highlight, however, was the Saturday night under-the-stars banquet, featuring (drumroll) everybody. The special stars of the night, however, were the senior members of the family, seated together. There were nine to include: Jeanie (Mrs. Norbert) Dreiling, Don and Dolores Dreiling, Dean and Mickey Dreiling, Gene and Flo Dreiling, JoAnn (Mrs. Joe) Jayjack and myself. We totaled our individual ages, for kicks, and came up with 704 years. Kicks?

There was no featured speaker. We had an "open mike" and anyone who wanted to say anything was encouraged to step forward. Ours is a family of mouth movers so this went over big. I liked hearing

the thoughts and comments of the family's future leaders. And from overall observation at the reunion, I think the family will be in awfully good hands.

Golfing, visiting the zoo (not to be confused with the family), hiking, seeing other noted attractions that only Colorado Springs can offer, kept many on the go. I inaugurated a new "activity" at this reunion, called a "buttathon." With this activity, you don't have to do a thing, just sit around and engage other sit-around-ers in conversation. That proved to be a popular feature with the older bunch.

We had a "Cooking Class" to prepare the food for the Saturday night dinner. Many of the attendees took part. German dishes (I wonder why) were the feature —

such a bierocks, butter balls and cream-sweetened cabbage to top off mashed potatoes — along with some mouth-watering specialties from the ovens of Kathy and Michelle's business, which incidentally is The Picnic Basket in Colorado Springs and where most of the activity took place.

These two gals own the premier catering business along the front range! Easily three dozen full timers and seventy or more part-timers. Nine trucks do the deliveries.

Special thanks to Kathy, Michelle, Mark and Curt for coordinating this memorable occasion. And to Jan for her long distance input. What a job!

Since we do this every two years, Reunion VIII could well be staged in either Texas or Indiana, or maybe even back in Kansas. Time will tell.

If your family doesn't do something like this, please do. The rewards are simply great!

-td-

Have a good evening. Why not gather up the family and hold a reunion in the church of your choice this weekend?

Readers not bashful in offering advice

We Asked, You Answered Survey Responses

A couple of weeks ago on this page, we listed a number of questions about this newspaper and asked for your comments. To date we have received several and ask that you who have not responded but planned to, to please respond. We asked that you NOT sign your response. In the next few weeks we will share the responses in their entirety. Some are brief, some are expanded. Today, we publish the following:

(1) I wish the sports reports were more concise, not every detail of every play. Don't use the TV guide.

Welcome (in response to treatment when visiting the office). Good delivery persons. Subscriber (in response to how they acquire the newspaper).

Senior citizen (age category, if they wish to respond). I like the editor with his columns, editorials, reminders to attend church.

I also like news of our town and county, the many pictures, public records and school news.

(2) I really didn't intend to respond to the questions. However I think it is important to note that many communities our size do not have a newspaper. Thanks, please keep in going. I'm 68.

(3) I like local sports. But please don't forget Northern Valley, We sometimes think we get the short end of the stick. Maybe the Norton stories don't need to be as long as they are. We subscribe to the paper. We are in our 30s.

(4) Mr. Boyd does a wonderful job on sports. Long but for those who maintain scrap books for their kids they will look back on those write ups with appreciation.

(5) Why can't you make that Monday thing into a regular newspaper. I get it but pay little attention to it. I like the Telegram and

if the Monday paper would become a paper and would like it even more. I am 46.

(6) I think you have a nice staff. They are courteous, in person and over the phone. I subscribe. I would like to read about the county commissioners because I live in the country. Why can't you put in hospital notes? I think you need to mention things happenings sooner like in your front page brief items because by the time we people in the country get the paper many times those things are over or on the same day we get the paper. Never ask a lady her age.

(7) It takes a lot of guts to put yourself out there on the community's chopping block. Some of the issues of the newspaper reflect what a community newspaper is all about, but some issues of the newspaper looks like a last minute failed effort to give us something to read. Where are the county commission stories, they used to appear. Economic development gets better press than does school board or city council. Economic development is kind of like your paper, it's an iffy thing. Maybe you need another reporter. As critical as I might sound, I also know that tiny newspapers can't give their readers all the time what they want. You do get a D plus for that. We don't subscribe, we buy it at Shop and Save. We are in our 50s.

(8) Your office people do alright. They are more courteous on the phone than at your counter. I like them. Everything can be

improved, not just your newspaper but this community. I like county commissioners stories but I don't know when the last time was I read anything on that. Does your reporter have to do that any more? I used to see her sometime there but haven't for a long time. Need more detailed information on the school district, not just the meeting handout you seem to put in the paper. I like Mr. Dreiling's columns and his editorials. He has spruced at that part of the paper. You might try following up on stories. Some pictures a real good, but not all. Color would make the paper look inviting. I subscribe. I'm 48. Maybe a school page would work featuring Norton and Northern Valley and maybe even Logan. I like the church page. I wish more people would write letters. TV thing is hard to read. As far as improvements go, I think I gave a little answer to that in my response. Also, I would be lost without my paper.

(9) The biggest improvement in the paper over the last year or so was hiring the current editor and publisher. We like the way he presents the issues, the homegrown way he handles his column, and the diversity of the page where editorials and columns appear. Mrs. Woodyard is controversial most of the time but I think she is playing the devil's advocate just to get readers to think. Anyway I hope she doesn't believe everything she writes. The other writers on that page are okay. Most of your stories are shallow, you all seem to back away from anything that may take time and effort. Country correspondence is fine and I applaud you for printing it, lot of paper won't do that, I do like very much the way you print obituaries. Wedding reports are also nice with the large pictures because lot of papers cut pictures down to almost nothing. We subscribe and have for many years.

If you have not responded to the survey, please do.

Thumbs Up to . . .

✓ Steve Schrum, for working with the 6th grade boys on their basketball skills. (e-mail)

✓ Joy and Gladys Glenn, on your 60th wedding anniversary. (e-mail)

✓ Joan and Todd Bolt, for working with the 3-6 graders on their basketball skills during the month of June. (e-mail)

✓ Terry Petrie, commissioner of the new Northwest Kansas Youth Football League, for your fine presentation to the Norton Lions Club. (called in)

✓ John and Kayla Tacha, for working with the NRC girls softball team to improve their skills and their self-esteem. (e-mail)

✓ Norton's BB gun shooters, for your outstanding performance at the international championships. (called in)

✓ Julie Schrum and all parents, for working with the 4-6 year-olds on their softball skills during their season. (e-mail)

✓ "Thumbs Up to . . ." and thanks for this little section in the newspaper. (e-mail)

(To salute somebody, simply e-mail tom@nwkans.com, call 877-6908 or 877-3361, fax 877-3732, drop by the office or mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654. Thanks for your help!)

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