

## Sometimes it takes an OUTSIDER. . .

Sometimes it takes someone from the OUTSIDE to tell us what we have on the INSIDE. And a letter we received from a couple in Illinois does just that. After you read the letter, which follows in this editorial format, you might take a minute or two to be thankful for this facility.

Read on.  
To the Editor,

I would really appreciate it if you could publish the following article in The Telegram. Coming from a small town, I believe the citizens of Norton went well above and beyond the call to make a stranger feel comfortable during an unfortunate time. I would like to share my experience and thank the community as a whole.

On Aug. 2, my buddies and I came to Norton on our way to Sturgis (S.D.). As we entered town, a white plastic barrel blew out of the back of a truck going out of town and hit my motorcycle. Unfortunately, this caused my motorcycle to go tumbling down the road with me tumbling as well.

I was rushed by ambulance to Norton County Hospital and was admitted for the next four days. During these four days I met the "best" of small town America. Deputy Annon came the next day to check on me and informed me that Jerry at "Jerry's Auto Shop" had my bike and not to worry.

Also, I'd like to add that I have been in my share of hospitals, but nothing compared to the professional, friendly and caring staff at Norton County Hospital. I hate to mention names because I am afraid I would leave someone out, but everyone — the Doctors, the Physician's Assistant, Nurses, Dietician and Housekeeping went out of their way to make my stay at the hospital as comfortable as possible. I couldn't have had better treatment at any other hospital in the country.

I had no idea when I rode into Norton, Kansas on that Saturday afternoon that the community of Norton would end up leaving such an impression. Never has a group of people been more caring and friendly and ready to help a stranger in need.

I plan someday to make it back to Norton (under better circumstances) and personally visit with all my Norton friends.

Thank you for everything.

Kenny & Ann Herring  
3584 Franklin Road  
Metropolis, IL 62960

Note: You may want to send a note of thanks to this couple for sharing their experiences, and to let them know as a community we pray for Mr. Herring's continued recovery.

— Tom Dreiling

## Thumbs Up

To... **Darlene McEwen**, on your retirement. (called in)

To... **Those** who are thinking ahead to the use of wind power. Lots of wind out there to harness for the good of mankind. (e-mail)

To... **Damon Fredde**, you are one up on me. You are right, **Theodore Roosevelt** was 42 years of age when he took the oath of office; John F. Kennedy was 43. Roosevelt, was the youngest president. So, what do IOU? (-td)

To... **Cindy Boller and Georgia Mann**, on your dream. (e-mail)  
(To submit a name of names, e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, call either 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, write to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your continuing input. -td)

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## The old hen came through just in time

Before our granddaughter, Taylor, came for her summer stay, Jim 'set' a laying hen in hopes of hatching baby chicks before she left. It was Taylor's last day and still no hatchlings. The van was loaded and we were about to leave when Taylor asked if she could check for eggs "just one more time." We could hear her all the way in the house. 'G'ma! G'ma! There's baby chicks!'

Sure 'nuf, the old hen had come through. There, tucked under her wings, were four little yellow fluff balls chirping their hearts out. Well, now what to do? Taylor hated to leave them. But, we couldn't leave them in the nest — they would fall out and the rooster and other hens might not be as enamored with them as we were. There was also the matter of the remaining eggs that would be lost if the hen left the nest.

We did the next best thing and called our friend, Barbara to 'chick-sit' for a few days while we were gone. With a cardboard box, a light bulb and some hard-boiled eggs to mash for food, the chicks were in good hands 'til our return.

It was late when we arrived home last Monday. Barbara brought the babies home the next day and, once again, the bathroom turned into a brooder house. The quartet had already grown signifi-

cantly and seemed happy within the confines of their cardboard home.

The next day, as I was gathering eggs, I heard that distinctive sound of baby chicks. On closer inspection, I could see five new hatchlings in the nest. Not bad since we had originally set 10 eggs under her. Our flock had, effectively, doubled but I was faced with the same dilemma as before. The need to separate the hen and her chicks from the older hens and rooster. Time to revitalize the brooder house Jim made last year where we raised the 26 chicks we brought home from the farm and home store.

Clean straw was spread, a watering bottle placed in the corner and chick mash filled the feeder. It was late before we were ready to make the switch from hen house to brooder house and I thought that would be the perfect time to re-introduce the hen to her first four offspring. The reunion went off without a hitch and she is hap-

## Out Back Carolyn Plotts



pily cluck, cluck, clucking to her chicks; puffing up and acting threatening each time I check her and the chicks.

-ob-

School has started again. And I'm sure youngsters feel the same way I do. "Where did the summer go?" In May, the middle of August seemed worlds away. Like a long, long road stretched out ahead of them. And now, it's no more late night television; it's out of bed early and time to get ready for the bus or the walk to school. Even home-schooling families have a routine to get back into also. I really miss having kids in my house, but I'm also glad I don't have to go through that anymore. I can honestly say, "Been there — done that."

-ob-

Jim's dad continues the slow recovery process after losing his left leg as the result of a bizarre accident. He is in long-term care where he receives excellent care and has daily physical therapy sessions. All pointed towards getting him back up on his good leg and resuming his independent lifestyle to whatever degree is possible.

He complains that the therapists are "killing" him, so we know it's working. It's going to be a long, hard road, but he's the only 91-year old I know that could do it.

## You can be all three at the same time

## A Moment with Michelle Michelle Myers

of a child, all three-credit-hour courses. Students must also complete seven hours in music, 15 in teaching and education and 24 in biblical studies, including two years of Greek and Latin.

To add depth to the curriculum, students are recommended to add a History of Ideas concentration and do extensive reading in history's great philosophers.

Terri Stovall, Southwestern's dean of women's studies, said the homemaking classes are part of "one of the most challenging, most well-rounded and complete educations a woman can receive."

When the Associated Press announced the news, it stirred the waters for a lot of people. Many said this emphasis on a homemaking occupation will cause society to spiral downward. Others viewed it as a waste of time and money and said the college saw a stay-at-home mom being more important than those who hope to find fulfillment outside the home.

I beg to differ.  
At college, an upperclassman and I were exchanging information about each other when she told me that even though she decided to go to college to get a degree, she really wants to just be a wife and a mother.

"I don't really have a desire to do anything else," she confided to me, "so that's

why I decided to be a psychology major. I don't know what other major would really benefit my family."

I whole-heartedly agreed with her. I understand that a lot of people see me as a journalism-enthusiast, and sometimes I am. And sometimes I'm not. Like my psychology friend, I want to do something that will benefit me as a future wife and mother.

While reading this, some readers may be thinking, "Well, aren't you majoring in journalism? That sounds like a pursuit for a career to me."

And they're right. It does sound like I'm pursuing a career, but that is not my purpose or my goal. The advantage of journalism is that it opens a wide field of writing opportunities. And thanks to technology, I can write from virtually anywhere, including my home, and still get published.

Another great advantage is that journalism requires no physical training. It's something I can do until my mind can no longer do it anymore.

I'll admit that the idea of having my writing launch me to celebrity status someday can sometimes be enticing (though far from likely). But do I really want a writing career that will consume my life by eating up every hour of my day? Definitely not.

For me, to be a wife, a mother and a writer at the same time would be a little taste of heaven on earth.

Michelle Myers is a part-time reporter at the Colby Free Press.