

Tuesday's Snippets

From the World War II memorial to our own hospital, the snippet crowd is alive and well...taking potshots and giving praise where needed.

• "The World War II Memorial is my favorite place to go when we visit the national mall, which is quite often. Even if it's only for a few minutes, I like to just sit quietly. There are always veterans there, many for whom it is very difficult to get around; it's an honor to be there among them. About five years ago I began reading a lot about WWII and it's almost too much to take in sometimes. I'll be glad to send a check right out." (Editor's note: This snippet came from the editors niece, who lives in the D.C. area; her husband works for the Department of Agriculture and she was responding to the *Honor Flights* item in Friday's "Let's Chat" column. The column goes out late each Friday to those in my address book.)

• "Thanks, Telegram, for your *Honor Flights* item in Friday's paper."
• "I was not familiar with the *Honor Flights* program until I read Friday's Telegram. Sounds like a very decent and worthwhile cause. Thanks!"

• "As a Catholic, I welcome former House Speaker Newt Gingrich to our ranks. Our tent is large. Come one, come all."

• "You might call Mr. Gingrich's acceptance of the Catholic way, sort of a political move. I think he's got 2012 on his mind and he's well aware that President Obama got a huge vote from the Catholic wing."

• "Mr. Gingrich has entered into something very uplifting. As a convert to Catholicism a few years ago, I am constantly learning how understanding the Catholic Church is of all religions, thanks in large part to the late Pope John Paul II. The church has loosened its grip on the old theory that 'we're right, you're wrong.' I was skeptical at first, but now convinced I made the right choice."

• "The Tiller killer did nothing but guarantee himself a one-way ticket to hell!"

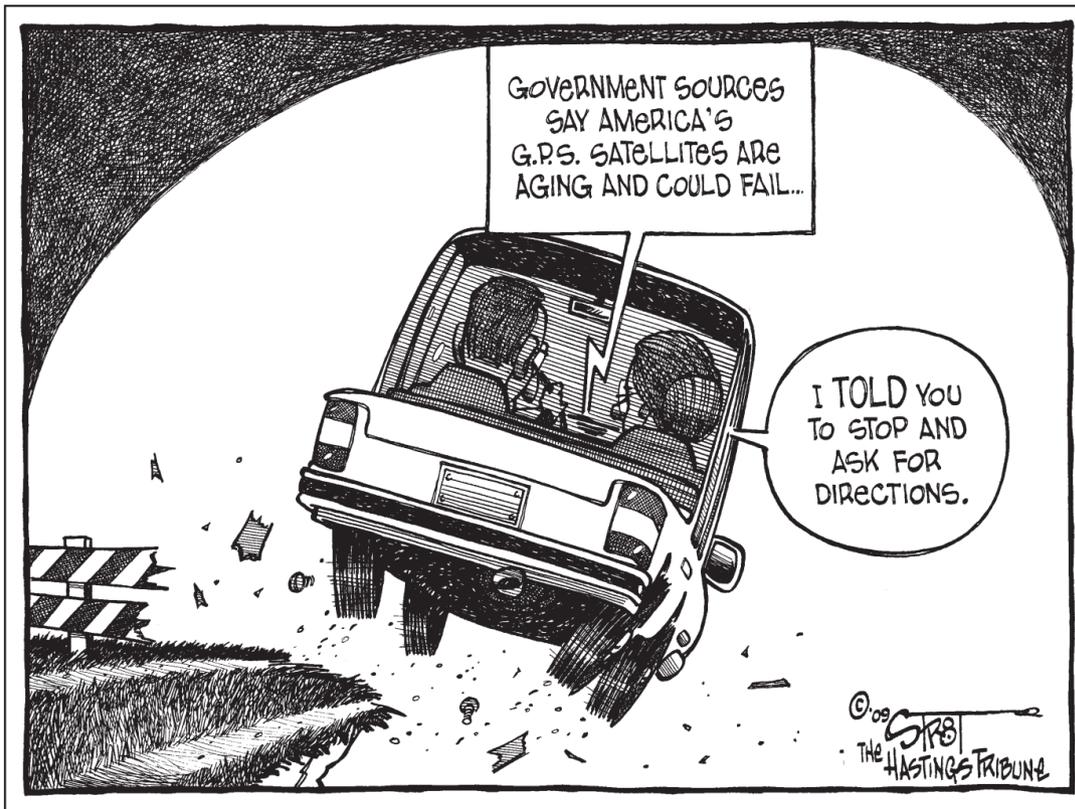
• "Pro Life has taken on a new look. And it ain't pretty!"
• "Let's see, it was a gun that did in the abortionist. GUN!! Get it?"
• "The good people will pray for the doctor (Tiller). He, too, was one of God's children, like each of us."

• "In Eisenhower's own words: 'America is exactly as strong as the initiative, courage, understanding and loyalty of the individual citizen.' In my words, it is our responsibility to BE one of those citizens."

• "After reading the nice article and seeing the picture of the honor recently accorded our hospital, I think the Norton County Hospital is, unfortunately, our best kept secret."

(Join in the conversation. E-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, call either 877-6908 or 877-3361, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office.)

Stop
Look
Listen
Tom Dreiling



You'll never guess where I'm going

Wednesday, I'm going to do something I haven't done, willingly, since 1972. I'm going to the hospital. Kara, my youngest daughter, was born 37 years ago and I haven't been back to a hospital since.

What I thought was a mole on my right, lower eye lid, is now, suspected of being a basal cell carcinoma: skin cancer. A specialist examined it and that was his diagnosis. He explained how he will put me to sleep and then remove a wedge of skin, containing the entire growth.

I said, "Doc, as little as this thing is, are you sure I have to be 'put under'?" Looking over the top of his glasses at me, he matter-of-factly stated, "Oh, honey! You don't want to see this coming!" Good enough answer for me. I'll just plan to have a nice, long nap.

-ob-
The calves have been moved to greener pastures. And, all it took was

Out Back
Carolyn Plotts



three bottles of milk. They would follow anyone, anywhere if they have a bottle of milk in their hand.

What had been our attempt at a tall-grass prairie test plot (otherwise known as our back yard) is now home to Curly, Moe and Larry, the three black calves. That's not really their names, but it might be.

The three are lovin' it. They're grazing away to their heart's content and doing us a service at the same time. Eaten grass is grass that doesn't have to be mowed.

We have electric fence on three sides

of their pen and I don't know if they've "tested" it yet. When they do, it will teach them some respect for boundaries.

-ob-
Here it is, almost the middle of June, and I was tempted to turn on the furnace Sunday night. This is crazy weather. I love it, but it's crazy.

Talk about unseasonably cool. We haven't used the air conditioner yet this summer. I know the heat is coming — and, soon. But, until then, the house is staying open and I'm working outside as much as I can. I still have dozens of flowers to plant.

-ob-
Then, there are the flowers that plant themselves. I'm talking about sunflowers. In tribute to my mother, Sunflower Sue, we let several wild sunflowers grow wherever they sprout in the yard. I think sunflowers are such a cheery flower and each time I look at them, I remember Mom.

Where are all those attractions along Hwy 36?

Interesting idea Lois Cohorst, Director of the Doll and Indian Museum in Marysville, has to promote the attraction: send letters to the editor of county newspapers. It particularly caught my eye because we had been to Marysville the weekend previous to the appearance of her letter in The Telegram. We planned to see the museum, having been alerted to its existence by the HWY 36 tourism brochure.

Family from my mother's side was in Kansas. My grandmother's Dexter family came to the United States before the Revolutionary War. After the war they went to Canada, returning to the US (specifically, Marysville, Kan.) in the 1800's.

My cousins are interested in genealogy, and wanted to visit Marysville. As tour director I took it on myself to make the trip interesting and scouted out attractions on HWY 36. Truly my motives were pure, it doesn't have anything to do with the fact that I'm bossy or on a power trip or any other rumors you might hear from my siblings!

I got the HWY 36 brochure. What a dilemma for the HWY 36 Association: trying to promote tourism on a mostly 2 lane highway in Kansas, they have done well. The brochure was beautiful.

However, as a former resident of Lenora, I was dismayed to see that HWY 9 had been christened HWY 8 on the map. As only the northern tier of Kansas counties was on the map, I'm sure this would be very confusing to tourists trying to make the Highways on the 36 Map match up with their Kansas map. Adding to the confusion; there is a HWY 8 correctly identified in the area covered by the map.

Each county has a list of attractions and events and a phone number and web site. One web site I tried did not work. Most of the phone numbers were to offices that had very limited hours. You could not talk to anyone on weekends, or during noon hour. I left a

Back Home
Nancy Hagman



message at one place. They did not call me back.

For our foray down HWY 36, we decided to do a photo scavenger hunt. I made a list but did not realize, for instance, the "Ada Lutheran Church (Courtland)" was not really at Courtland. It's out in the country somewhere! I suppose it would be at Ada or where Ada used to be, but Ada is not on the map.

You cannot tell from the brochure the Doll Museum in Marysville is open by appointment only.

We did not expect it would be so difficult to find the Old Stone Jail in Mankato. A problem compounded by the fact that some nameless person in our party went into a grocery store to ask directions and couldn't remember what she was told by the time she got back to the car. That and the lack of a cell phone tower compatible with Ben's phone caused him and Junior to miss this interesting stop completely!

One event listed on the brochure was canceled this year for lack of volunteers. One place we stopped was evidently winding down from an event. The museum was locked and no one standing around offered to help us or explained what was going on.

The out of state relatives were shocked to find the downtown stores in Marysville closed on Saturday afternoon. You try to explain it isn't cost effective to stay open and wait for someone from Yakima, Washington to come in and buy a bottle of water.

But you would also like to tell the merchants and tourism bureaus: you

aren't going to get good reviews when you aren't open, don't return calls, cancel events, give incorrect information, or your web site is down. Tourists are on vacation, at some point negotiating the HWY 36 Association travel suggestions starts to seem like work!

We saw some really neat things and had a great deal of fun. But as we looked at the exhibits in the open museums we found, I couldn't help but wondering, "What happened to Kansas?" There used to be a whole heck of a lot of people here! Certainly we can not have sustainable agriculture with 160 acres and a mule like they did when Kansas was settled. But there must be something?

While we can learn from history our plans for the next 150 years are probably more important than preserving the previous 150. What are those plans?

Meanwhile, here is a suggestion for the US 36 Association: how about putting maps with addresses, hours, and contact numbers of all the suggested stops for the county at each stop in the county? The people at the places we found open with the one exception were more than helpful. Kansas really is a great place, why make it so difficult for outsiders to find that out!

And here is a tip for us all: take at least one Kansas day trip this summer. Buy a Coke at the down town drugstore, eat a meal in a mom and pop restaurant. Go see Lois at the Doll and Indian Museum in Marysville (call first). And while you are there stop at the Koester House, the Pony Express Station, the Bronze Pony Express Statue and the Marshall County Courthouse & Museum. We also went to the Baptist cemetery south of Home City, an adventure decidedly not for the faint of heart or non-descendants of the Dexters! (More about that later!)

Have a great summer!

(gneph@yahoo.com)



To... the Methodist Church, for putting on the Bible School program for the kids again this year. (called in)

To... all those, who keep their yards clean and attractive. (e-mail)

To... our mailman, we do appreciate your service. Time someone said thanks! (e-mail)

(To salute someone or some group, simply e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, call 877-6908, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your continuing input - td)

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How about a letter?

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