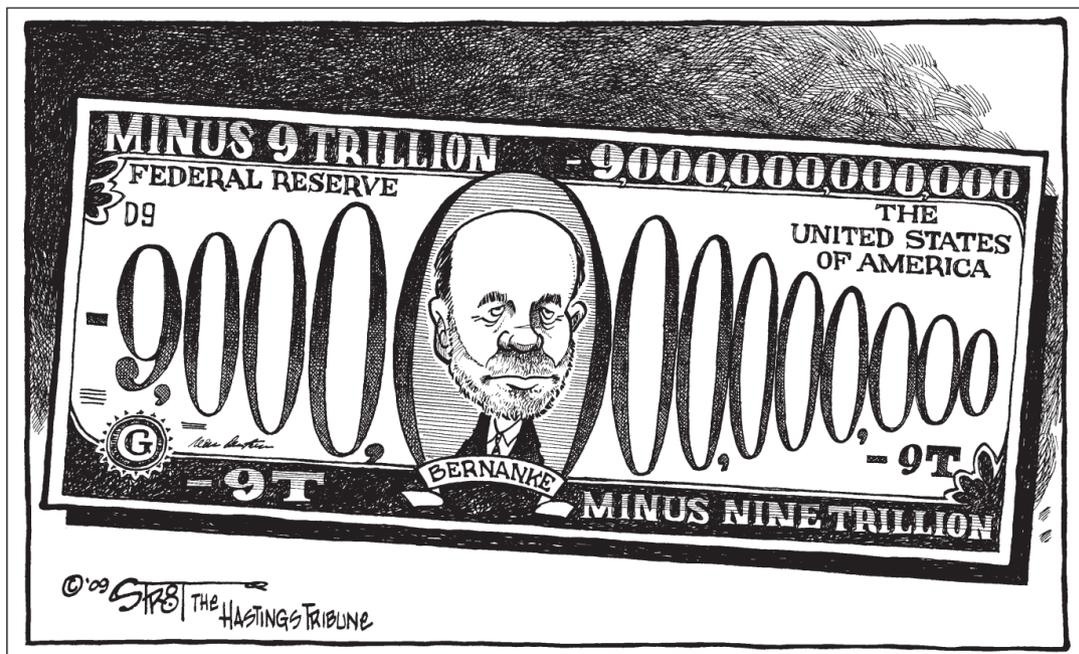


### Tuesday's Snippets

#### Your Comments

- "Did the networks again overplay a death? Sen. Kennedy? My U.S. Senators are Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts. Not "Teddy" Kennedy. Will they, or even Bob Dole, be accorded the same recognition in death that this liberal Democrat received? And to think that even FOX jumped on the bandwagon."
  - "The 'confession' by Sen. Kennedy to Pope Benedict XVI, via a hand delivered letter to the pope when President Obama visited the Vatican a short time ago, was certainly very telling. Like an extra insurance policy to make sure all's right on the final trip."
  - "The networks got roped into another 24/7 death. Will they ever learn?"
  - "A snippet last week said, re: President Obama's vacation, 'Stay on the job like President Bush did.' He took more vacations than ANY other President. Although, I felt better when he was on vacation."
  - "Water leaks? The one out front of my house looks like a small river looking for some place to go!"
  - "I hope they put the beek from the so-called bad attitude bluejay on the tank. The writer who called it a bad attitude bluejay, is really missing the point. The bluejay beek signals superiority."
  - "Was the city's drinking water supposed to have an improved taste?"
- (To join the conversation, email tom.d@nwkansas.com, call 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the



### Kennedy family influence lives on

I was rather astonished to receive an email telling how "awful" Ted Kennedy was. It rather boggles one's mind to find there are people so threatened by an individual, particularly upon his death. One can only assume the root of this kind of behavior is fear, anger and possibly jealousy.

My circle of friends is definitely not pro-Bush, Cheney, etc., and yet I cannot imagine any of them rejoicing in the death of any of those or parading around their flaws, but then perhaps I run with a more compassionate crowd. The Kennedys have had a profound impact on American politics and they have had that impact because of the American people. The above mentioned email remarked, "Kennedy should have retired years ago."

Obviously this individual does not believe in democracy or the power of the people or perhaps even voting. He wasn't appointed to the Senate for eight terms, he was elected. Elected by the people of his state.

#### Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



People either love the Kennedys or they hate them. There seems little gray area when referring to this political family.

Why is that? The opponents of the Kennedys would say it is because of their actions, or their use of the system or a billion other reasons, but I rather think it is the same reason successful business people in small rural towns are sometimes disliked. They have succeeded where others have failed. They have succeeded because of hard work, dedication and compassion for what they are doing. Perhaps we like to highlight the inadequacies because it makes us feel

more powerful. For me the death of Ted Kennedy is the closing of a book on American politics. I was inspired by his brother to want to know more about our government. JFK made me realize as a teen in the 1960's that "I" am the government. "I" am the people. He made me realize, black, white, Catholic or Jewish, we are all American. He made me realize as well that it is up to me to institute change. Does it always go my way? Of course not, but that is the beauty of the system. A system fought for by the Kennedy family.

Ted Kennedy was able to have more influence on American politics and government than any of his brothers. Why? Because the American people in his state felt he was the one best able to be their voice in our system of government. That voice has been silenced, but like it or not, his influence and the family's lives on. A family dedication to our country did not die with Ted Kennedy. (mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net)

### Vacations are fun, but. . . .

It was a rude awakening when I realized it was Monday morning. This vacation has done its job and one day has blended into another. It is our last day in San Antonio where we have stayed with our daughter, Jennifer, and her two girls, Alexandria and Aniston. We also spent an afternoon and evening with our daughter, Becky, and her family.

But, Monday means "column" and my 14-year-old granddaughter set me up in the front-room recliner with a cup of gourmet coffee and a lap top computer. Ah-h-h. This is the life.

We have had great fun with lots of time spent talking, shopping and cooking. A lot of attention has also been paid to our three-year-old granddaughter who is a bundle of energy. She keeps everyone busy. In fact, she's sharing Oreo cookies with me right now. Some breakfast, huh?

I had promised Jennifer a strawberry-rhubarb pie and homemade ice cream. So, that was our Sunday evening dinner. On vacation all the rules of nutrition and balanced meals go out the window.

We have set aside one day for ourselves to spend in Glen Rose, Texas at the Creation Evidence Museum. It's one of the few places on earth where you can actually see the fossilized footsteps of a man inside the footprints of a dinosaur. Stop and think what that really means. Man and dinosaurs existed together at the same time. Some catastrophe (like a world-wide flood) rapidly laid down a layer of sand that hardened and preserved the prints. We've been there before and are anxious to return. Ask us and we'll show you our pictures.

We stopped off in Dallas for a couple of days with our kids there before coming on to San Antonio. Jim hauled some car parts down in order to get them sand blasted and powder coated. They should be done by the time we get back to Dallas and ready for the road home. These are the "seed parts" for car restoration projects Jim has planned for when he really retires.

As much fun as I've had on this trip, I am anxious to get home. I've heard just enough of Jim's end of conversations with son, James, to be curious about what James is doing while we're away. Words like, "trim," "eighth inch reveal" and "silicone sealer" makes me think he is completing the remaining details of our dining room remodel project.

Oh, I hope so. That would be a nice surprise to come home to.

#### Out Back Carolyn Plotts



### It was a lot of work, but it sure looks nice

It's been a great summer for yards, hasn't it? I have no affinity for yard work but this spring I decided to spruce up the place.

March winds brought about an insurance settlement on the roof. The old brown shingles never looked right with the green house paint and the periwinkle door. We called Chris, the handyman. Light gray shingles with lots of dimension are the perfect complement for the paint.

The sidewalk in front of the house needed replaced. We called the kids and begged them to come home and help. Junior was suffering with back pain so a son-in-law was a very good thing to have!

The removal of a couple of overgrown cedar trees and shrubs really opened up the back yard. The old satellite dish in the yard came down. Chris took the smaller dish off the roof during the shingling process, but we are still stuck with an old antenna.

Maybe Nex-Tech will give me a little discount for this little plug: get cable from them! No more ugly stuff cluttering up your yard or roof. Price, service and channel selection are great.

What did I do with my summer evenings before there was FSMKC to bring me yet another stunning loss by the Royals?

We had a couple of drainage issues so I dug a meandering dry river bed (except for when it rains) from a down spout to the driveway.

Then I engineered what I thought was a solution for the ramp going to the basement.

I started digging up the backyard for a patio and dug a hole to set the old satellite dish in, making a water feature.

#### Back Home Nancy Hagman



(It sounds red neck but it's really green, we're recycling.)

I tried not to ask for assistance (except for the sidewalk weekend) but I kept thinking someone would walk by and look at me, crippled knees and shovel in hand, and say, "Let me help you."

The hubby does get kudos for the basement ramp drainage project. One morning he got the loader and went to work in earnest. It took him 15 minutes and earned him the right to tell people, "WE fixed the problem with the drainage."

We still had a basement flood however. The roofers left the garden hose they were drinking out of running, right next to the window well! Good thing I wasn't the first person they saw the next day!

Brother-in-law Dave finished tilling and leveling the patio area for me. His 5-year-old grandson was along to collect worms for fishing. I took Jake to the recycling trash can to find an appropriate container for the worms. When I handed it to him, he jerked his hand back and asked in a shaky voice, "Does that have germs?"

Apparently someone had told him trash has germs. He wasn't nearly as squeamish about the worms or the toad we found (which he even named).

The lawnmower died. We got a new

one, it broke the first time we used it! But most everything got done in one fashion or another. Junior and Elizabeth stepped up and helped with the new pyramidal strawberry bed. It's doing great.

Patricia organized moving the clothes line away from the lawn shed and out from under a tree so it is actually usable. Not only that she found and applied some aluminum paint to it. The first night the moon reflecting off it kept me awake!

Kate finished up the patio. I really meant to help but I got a phone call and had a hair appointment and well. . . .

So then summer comes. Have we sat outside and visited? No. Some evenings I've thought it might be fun to sit out there and watch the Royals lose, if I had one of those fancy outdoor TV's. But you have to contend with the mosquitoes and the dog and about 100 cats. You can judge for yourself which is the biggest pest, but we can spray for mosquitoes! Those cats just keep coming! Anyone need a cat (complete with kittens)?

We got a new folding table for the yard; haven't even opened the box! It ought to work nicely for tailgating come fall. K-State: another sports team I can't quit watching and have about as much hope for as the Royals. Where does all this masochism come from?

The company that has passed through the yard is complimentary. Those who have not been here before have no idea of how recent the transformation is. They probably think I'm the sort of person who enjoys yard work.

Maybe next year when the strawberries are ripe even I will be convinced it's true. (gneph@yahoo.com)

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To... the coaches for the 4th grade football team. It is going to be a great season! Thanks for investing your time in our kids. (email)

To... the 'Smokin' in the Barn' committee, for an awesome event; just what Norton needs! (brought in)

(To render a Thumbs Up, please email tom.d@nwkansas.com, call either 877-6908 or 877-3361, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your continuing input. - td)