

Everyone's ancestor was once an immigrant

So what is it people fear about immigration? Is it jobs? With employment running for years at record lows, it hardly seems like our jobs are threatened by immigrants. The jobs they take — in packing plants, in fields, on road crews — most Americans shun. These have always been the lot of the last guy off the boat, Italian, Greek, Pole, Croatian, Cambodian or black. Those groups, and dozens of others, came to this country looking for a new life, and found it. Today, they are Americans. Today, in fact, some of their descendants probably are among those who rail against the new immigration. Is it language? Most immigrants came here speaking something other than English. They learned and adapted. But there are towns in Kansas where German or French was the main language for two or three generations. Russian, Bohemian, Swedish. All were spoken here, though no longer. It'll be the same with the current wave. People come here to be Americans. That's what most want more than anything. They want what we have. Is it the economy? Our economy would grind to a halt without immigration. With all the outsourcing and importing, we still have jobs that go begging. It's illegal? Only because we say it's so. But as with many things, you can't make illegal what people want badly. Alcohol, a new life, whatever. People want something, and they'll get it. If people want to come here so badly that they'll risk their lives, they'll come. No fence will stop them. Al Qaida will come in with them? Please. Al Qaida comes in where al Qaida wants to come in. Most have come through major airports, right through Immigration and Customs. Is it fear? Fear of the unknown, fear of those who are a little different than most of us? Maybe. Maybe it's just plain old prejudice. Call it what you will. It's not pretty, and it's not American. All this is nothing new. Those who came before spat on the Irish, the Italians, the Armenians, the Poles. Today, you can't tell one from another. That is our heritage. There are forces that would tear America apart and deny our traditions. Immigration is not one of them.

— Steve Haynes

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Missing hen mystery has been solved

The mystery is solved. We finally learned what happened to "Henny Penny" last fall.

We have had chickens since we first got married. Sometimes more, sometimes less, but always a few. Until last fall. Every morning we would find one or two hens killed somehow during the night. Jim set traps, but the slaughter continued until we were down to one lone (and lonely) hen. That same day Jim trapped what we believed to be the culprit, a full-grown raccoon.

Our one little hen lived a solitary life for a while as we debated adopting some additional hens to keep her company or the option of taking her through the "noodle bath." The decision was taken out of our control when "Henny Penny" disappeared. We searched the neighborhood and found nary a feather. We assumed she had met her fate in the jaws of a marauding coyote or a roving dog if she had ventured too close to the outskirts of town.

Last week, however, we learned "the

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



rest of the story." Jim was framing up a room addition for some friends on the other side of town. They have chickens, too. Jim asked them if they had a stray chicken show up at their place recently. It seems that one day last fall a plump, barred rock hen showed up at their pen and wanted in. They accommodated her and now she is the celebrity in their flock. All their chickens are white, so with her black-and-white feathers, she really stands out in the crowd.

"Do you want her back?" they asked. "Oh, no," we answered. "We wouldn't want to take her away from her new friends."

Besides, we just got two baby calves, and don't need any more chores. A farmer/rancher friend called last Sunday afternoon and made us a deal we couldn't refuse. Two of his cows each had a set of twins, and each mother would only claim one. That left him to deal with two newborn calves. That's where we came in.

He proposed that if we would feed and care for them through the summer, we can keep one. With the price of baby calves like it is, that sounded like a good deal to us. So we're mixing baby formula again and deciding who gets to take the mid-night feeding.

They are cute little black Angus calves. Jim decided that one looks like a "Suzy-Q" and we're waiting on granddaughter Alexandria to come up with a name for the other one. She has named all our other calves, so we have a tradition going here. In the past we've had "Bucky" and "Pooh," "Ike" and "Mike," and "Ollie" and "Mollie".

Now, what rhymes with "Suzy-Q"?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Norton woman feels board's been nothing but considerate

This is in response to the article published on Page 3, of the Tuesday, March 15, edition of *The Norton Telegram* with the heading "Couple hung up at airport".

I feel this article produced a negative view of the airport board, as well as my husband and I.

I am writing to clarify a few of these issues.

I would like to express my extreme appreciation to all the board members.

I have been able to sit in on their last four meetings and have learned the process that is involved in proceeding with our request to build a new hangar at our airport.

Presently, there are none that can accommodate us. I have been treated with nothing but courtesy, while at these meet-

ings, as well as on a daily basis.

John Miller has kept me up to date on what has been going on even between the monthly meetings.

Any question I have asked, including those at the meeting on Monday, March 14, has been answered. All questions were based on reviewing the airport study that was done in 2001.

I personally read this study, so I knew what to ask. If the board was not sure, they knew who to contact and did so. They have acquired all the necessary data to proceed according to what is regulated by the state.

Now, we need to be a little more patient, it is up to Department of Transportation, Aviation Division, as was stated correctly in the article.

Although the process has gotten stalled, this is a result of being careful not to proceed with a project that can affect all of us in Norton and Norton County.

We now have a narrative plan, not just huge maps that nobody can understand.

This is thanks to all these hardworking people. The request for a visit from the director is to help clarify this plan, not to try and put our request on the back shelf to just collect dust.

In conclusion, I would like to ask you to take the time to thank your representatives of the city and county of Norton for looking out for all of our interests as a community, just as I have done.

Mary Oswald
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Article causes woman to think about definition of marriage

We all live different life styles, we have different beliefs and different values and we are fortunate to live in a country that allows thinking people to think.

An article I read recently caused me to think.

It involved the details and outcome of a specific surgical procedure.

The physician was discussing gender change; the husband was going to become a woman. While trying to be tolerant and sensitive to what must have been a difficult decision, I began to wonder what the consequences of this decision would be.

The doctor asked if the couple would continue to live together. After an affirmative answer from the wife, she went on to explain that she would also begin dating other men.

In response, the doctor stated that she understood completely because she used to be a he, and although he/she does not

live with his/her wife any longer, they have remained married.

Now, I am really thinking. What is going on?

It is no wonder our nation is debating the definition of marriage.

Personally, I believe marriage is between a man and a woman. It has been that

way since the beginning of time and there are all kinds of physiological reasons that it should remain that way.

Rationalizing a definition of marriage any other way doesn't make it right.

Sonya Montgomery
Almena

WRITE:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.