

Deer herds should be appreciated, enjoyed

Every year about this time, Tom Bell of *The Salina Journal* issues a call to wipe out Kansas' deer herd.

Generally a decent sort, Mr. Bell evidences a hatred for wildlife that borders on the pathological. Probably, he's not old enough to remember the days when there were no deer in Kansas.

It hasn't been that long.

Half a century ago, deer were a rarity. By the beginning of the 19th century, they, along with the native elk, bison, antelope, puma and other species had been eradicated from the state by rampant market hunting.

In the early 1900s, sportsmen acted to preserve what was left of the state's wildlife. As part of a national movement for conservation, Kansas began protecting its fish and game.

Wardens were hired, seasons and rules established. Eventually, biologists were hired to decide how to best manage populations. Science replaced unbridled greed.

And slowly, ever so slowly, the old Forestry, Fish and Game Commission brought about the miracle of modern game management.

Many Kansans can recall the day when the best part of a trip to Colorado was seeing a few deer or some elk. You didn't see them here.

Eventually, though, the deer herd grew. Antelope returned to the western plains. Games birds such as quail and pheasant became more common. Stocking and management and new federal reservoirs made fish abundant.

A major industry based on hunting and fishing, wildlife watching and tourism was born.

And Kansas became a place, once again, "where the deer and the antelope roam."

Not all species have been restored. Bear and mountain lion, wolf and buffalo, even elk, once lived here. No one wants to bring back something that might eat you, or be way too big to handle on the road.

But the wildlife industry, taken as a whole, is huge, and yes, Mr. Bell, it's worth the chance of a few accidents.

It's not just the dollars that count, but the endless hours of pleasure that Kansans and visitors alike derive from our wildlife that make it all worthwhile. Only the curmudgeonly can't appreciate the beauty of a deer in flight or a quail on the wing.

Perhaps, rather than calling for the wholesale slaughter of our deer, we should be asking people to just slow down and enjoy them.

Except for Mr. Bell.

He should just stay home and watch television.

— Steve Haynes

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

'Haven' needs help for visiting women and children

To The Editor:

A group of citizens involved in prison ministry has taken it upon themselves to re-open the Outside Connections hospitality house for the families of inmates at Norton Correctional Facility.

We are happy to announce that, as of this week, the sale of the house to a soon-to-be-formed non-profit entity will be formalized. We hope to have the house open for visitors within 30 days to accommodate families throughout the holiday season.

The need for the house in Norton has become sorely evident the past couple of years that the house has been closed.

Since Norton Correctional Facility is a great distance for many inmate's families, it is an expensive trip for them to make to come to visit incarcerated loved ones. As a result, visits are less frequent, and when

made, more expensive.

We want to encourage more visits, more family time and bonding, with the long-term goal of having better-adjusted men when their time of incarceration is over and they are ready to take their place in society again. Well-adjusted men are less likely to repeat their offense.

This house represents an economic boost for Norton, as well. More visitors means more food purchased in restaurants, grocery stores, as well as gasoline and other necessities. Norton has always extended a welcome hand to families in need and we are grateful to, once again, be able to offer a helping hand to those coming for visits. Those staying at the house will be asked to pay a nominal fee that will cover the expenses of keeping the house open, but will greatly reduce their expense of a visit.

At this time, the house has no furniture, beds, bedding, nor any of the essentials needed to make a family comfortable for a night or two. We need the following items — beds (including rails and headboards), all types of bedding (pillows, sheets, blankets) sofas, easy chairs or recliners, kitchen tables and chairs and appliances (refrigerator and stove) in working order.

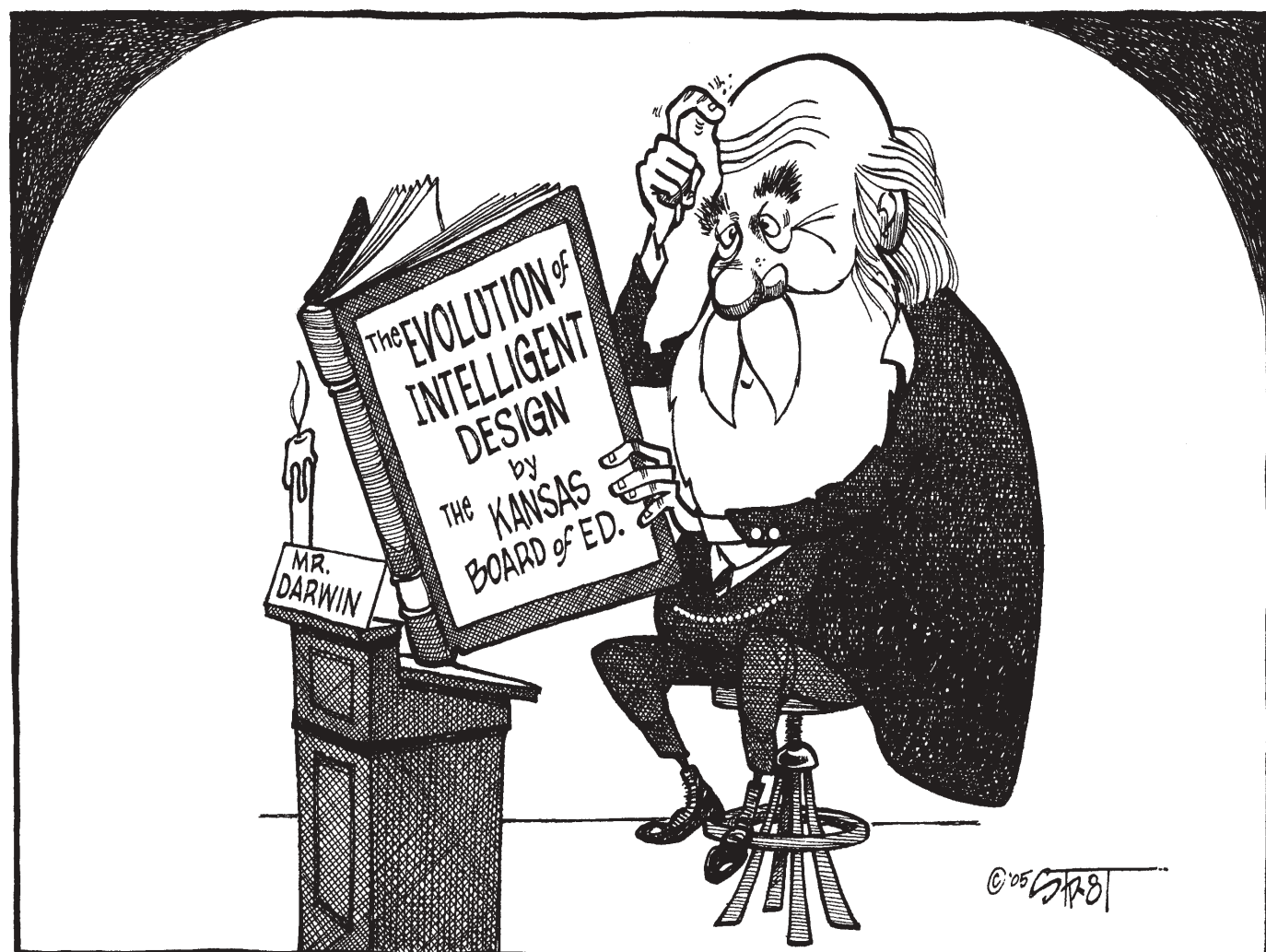
Inmate crews will do the maintenance on the house and grounds, so that is a big burden lifted. If you don't have any household items to donate, but wish to make a contribution to the ministry, an account has been set up at the United Northwest Federal Credit Union on U.S. 36 in Norton. The account will be under the name "The Haven", the new name for the house.

The committee wishes to thank the administration of Norton Correctional Facility for their encouragement and support, especially chaplain Randall Medlock, the Norton Christian Church for their covering as a non-profit entity in the interim period, the benefactor who made the down payment of the house to get the ball rolling, and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Thomas, former owners of the house, who have made the first donation to the ministry.

If you have good, usable items to donate please contact: Jim Rowh, 877-3610, Jim or Carolyn Plotts, 693-4544, or Bob and Ila Virgil, 877-3891. Any contributions or items may be tax deductible.

On behalf of the prison inmates and their families, I want to close by saying a big "thank you" to Norton for your support. Norton is truly "where the best begins".

Jim Rowh, The Haven board chairman
Norton
and committee members
Jim and Carolyn Plotts,
Bob and Ila Virgil, Karen Medlock,
Phyllis Holeman and Dan Pfannenstiel



Apple pies are dancing in their heads

We're planning our annual pilgrimage to Texas for Thanksgiving. This year, though, all the kids are making me sign a waiver that states I will not, under any circumstances, stand on the bed, or any other object, to adjust, turn on or dismantle any fixture, light, or appliance.

Nor will I fall, trip or discombobulate myself in any way, shape or form.

Last year at this time, on our first day at Adam and Kara's house, I was standing on the bed in my room, trying to turn on the ceiling fan (they had very high ceilings). I accidentally stepped in my suitcase and fell. Something popped, and I spent most of the holiday week in bed or directing the kitchen action from an easy chair.

I would like to think their concern for my well-being is based on their selfless interest in my health. However, I know better. The girls, Halley, Jennifer, and Kara, don't want to cook Thanksgiving dinner by themselves again.

Oh, Jennifer even tried the old "schmoozing" approach: "It just doesn't taste as good as when YOU cook it."

Puh-leeze! I know a snow job when I hear one. They don't want me to know

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



they can do it.

Truth is, I do love to cook a big meal for my family. Nothing gives me more pleasure than hearing my favorite son-in-law rave about my apple pie, or my husband saying my cranberry salad is just as good as his mother's.

I guess I'm from the old school, where good food equals love. And, judging from the looks of the banquet we have each year, I sure do love my family.

—ob—

As much as we love our children, there is no comparison to our grandchildren. Part of the fun of the trip is getting to spend time with Alexandria and Taylor.

I'm not sure we can count "travel" time as "quality" time. This year Jim and I are riding with Jennifer. It's about a 10-hour trip, and she has already told me I am limited to one piece of carry-on luggage.

Alex is almost 11 and copes with the endless road miles by sleeping or watching DVDs on her mom's laptop. Jim and I look forward to the time with Alex, and

knowing us, she'll also get drawn into a billboard alphabet game (sometimes we change the rules to include signs on trucks), slug-bug (pick a color), or "Let's sing a song".

Alex has heard my "Little Chicken" song and will even request it, much to her mother's chagrin. (Jennifer thinks we're more than just a little corny.) Would you like to hear it? Are you sure? Well, if you insist:

Oh ... I had a little chicken
And she wouldn't lay an egg,
So I poured hot water
Up and down her leg.
Oh, the little chicken hollered
And the little chicken begged,
And, the little chicken
Layed me a hard-boiled egg.

Thanks for the boiled egg ... pass the salt!

—ob—

I am available for your family road trips, too. Make arrangements by calling my booking agent at 1-800-YRUCORNY, and you, too, can enjoy verse after verse of "Little Chicken." Maybe you would rather hear my rendition of "I'm Henry the Eighth, I am, Henry the Eighth I am, I am."

I really think I have the Cockney accent down pat.

No? Well, you have a happy Thanksgiving anyway.

Give thanks for all blessings

Until Sunday I thought Thanksgiving was close to a perfect holiday. How could anyone object to it?

I started to make my list for my Thanksgiving dinner but I decided to read the paper first and something caught my eye.

It was on the editorial page. Thanksgiving — From the Native American's point of view.

I liked to think I am a thoughtful person. But, I am alarmed at the over-thinking Americans seem to get caught up in these days.

It seems to me the real difference between the Red States and the Blue States, Conservatives and Liberals, is one group thinks; the other over-thinks.

In his book *'Tis*, Frank McCourt says of his college days: "When they're not talking about their averages the students argue about the meaning of everything, life, the existence of God, the terrible state of the world, and you never know when someone is going to drop in the one word that gives everyone the deeper serious look, existentialism. They might talk about how they want to be doctors and lawyers till one throws up his hands and declares that everything is meaningless, that the only person in the world who makes any sense is Albert Camus, who says your most important act every day is deciding not to commit suicide."

Later he laments that if only he had been born rich like these students he would really know how to be miserable.

About a year ago a friend was listening to my viewpoints on a topic and he said "Nancy I don't want to offend you but you sound like a liberal."

I'm not offended. There are a lot of things I like about liberals. But I hate their pessimism.

An economist who writes a column in a magazine I read says (in a nutshell) he thinks that the U.S. weathers setbacks that

Back Home
Nancy Hagman



disrupt other economies because of our people. We work harder than the Europeans. And, we are the most optimistic people on the planet.

What does that have to do with Thanksgiving? Well, at least it's encouraging. Thanksgiving from the Native American's view is not.

As human beings (not liberals or conservatives) we surely all agree it is wrong to base a holiday on events that led to the exploitation and annihilation of "10 to 30 million native people".

Since I have been outed as a liberal I do not have nearly as much fun. This editorial truly disturbed me.

Trying to get some perspective (and a little optimism) I looked Thanksgiving up in the encyclopedia. It made me feel a little better.

The holiday actually evolved from several things not just the mythical Pilgrims and Indians deal in Plymouth. During the Revolutionary War it was a time of celebration for victories on the battlefield.

The editorial from the Native American's view had some points. Be thankful everyday. Don't be greedy and gluttonous.

Think! Don't just accept a silly story you learned in first grade after the age of, oh say, 30.

Work hard but take time to enjoy your family and friends.

And, never lose hope. Optimistic people weather the storms of life much better than pessimists.

Happy Thanksgiving!

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers

Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002
Incorporating the Norton County Champion
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor

Office hours:
8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732
E-mail: telegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Cynthia Haynes editor and publisher
Veronica Monier staff reporter
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Sherry Hickman circulation
Vicki Henderson computer production
Susie Marble computer production
Sonya Montgomery bookkeeping

