

Good times roll at Norton County Fair

Well, the curtain is up and the show's underway. The 'show' in this case is the 2007 edition of the Norton County Fair, an event that will take us through the entire week. It's family fun at its finest!

If you have taken time to thumb through the pages of the fair's booklet, or through the special section in Friday's *Telegram*, you will see there is something for everybody. Few events can totally capture that billing as does the fair.

Of course we all know the fair's central location is Elmwood Park, which features one of the truly proud accomplishments of this community: the home-owned carnival. Booking carnivals in advance in the past was always a challenge for communities who had to rely on them, but when you have the carnival right here at home, you sleep better.

County fairs, such as the one underway here, are good old-fashioned fun places. They bring families together, neighbors together, friends together and also serve as places where new friendships are made.

It all takes place under the biggest big top of them all — the sky! Invite family and friends from elsewhere to join you and your family at the big Norton County Fair. Someone once described our fair as "like getting an extra dip of ice cream on your cone!"

Well put.

—Tom Dreiling

Columnist states case very well

Tom Dreiling's request for feedback from the community, *We Asked, You Answered*, provided a profile of our readers. I was particularly interested in one response. The writer asked more people to write in for the Opinion section. I agree with this. It helps us all to hear what others are thinking, reading and studying through coffee groups, Bible classes or clubs.

His second request, however was to ask the editor to "rethink allowing anonymity for folks that are a bit gun-shy writing in with their own name." I don't believe this is a Tom Dreiling, nor a *Norton Telegram*, or a *Nor'West Newspaper* policy. I think this is a standard requirement of most major newspapers.

Why? Many of the issues I write about are controversial. They stir emotion, hopefully generate thought and possibly trigger action. I do understand the writer's feeling; it is not easy to put yourself on the line over controversial issues. There have been many columns I have languished over the possible repercussions of exposing my beliefs. Frequently those are the columns which are followed by phone calls or visits asking me to continue publishing about a particular issue. I hear, "I can't let my thoughts about this be known (my business would suffer, people wouldn't understand, are common statements).

Opinions without a name are easy to write. There is no vulnerability and no accountability. Who takes the responsibility for an anonymous column, the newspaper? I feel it is my responsibility to research and reference the information in my columns. It is also my responsibility to be able to defend my position with facts, experts in the field, and sometimes just plain old common sense, which can only be done with an "autograph" accompanying the article.

The contributor stated the columnists are not "experts," just "folks with an opinion." What is the definition of "expert"? Is it the many years of experience (as with Carolyn Plotts and Tom Dreiling), or the college degrees we hold or is it self-proclaimed? Hopefully, my column comes with some expertise, not mine, but with the reference information I provide to readers. I want people to come away from my columns with an awareness of where they can learn more about specific subjects.

Write in, sign your name, let us know what you are thinking. It is through sharing we learn and through learning we grow. "Belief becomes knowledge only when truth of the proposition becomes evident to the believer." Encyclopedia Britannica.

—Mary Kay Woodyard

Something on your mind? Share it with a Letter to The Telegram's Editor

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

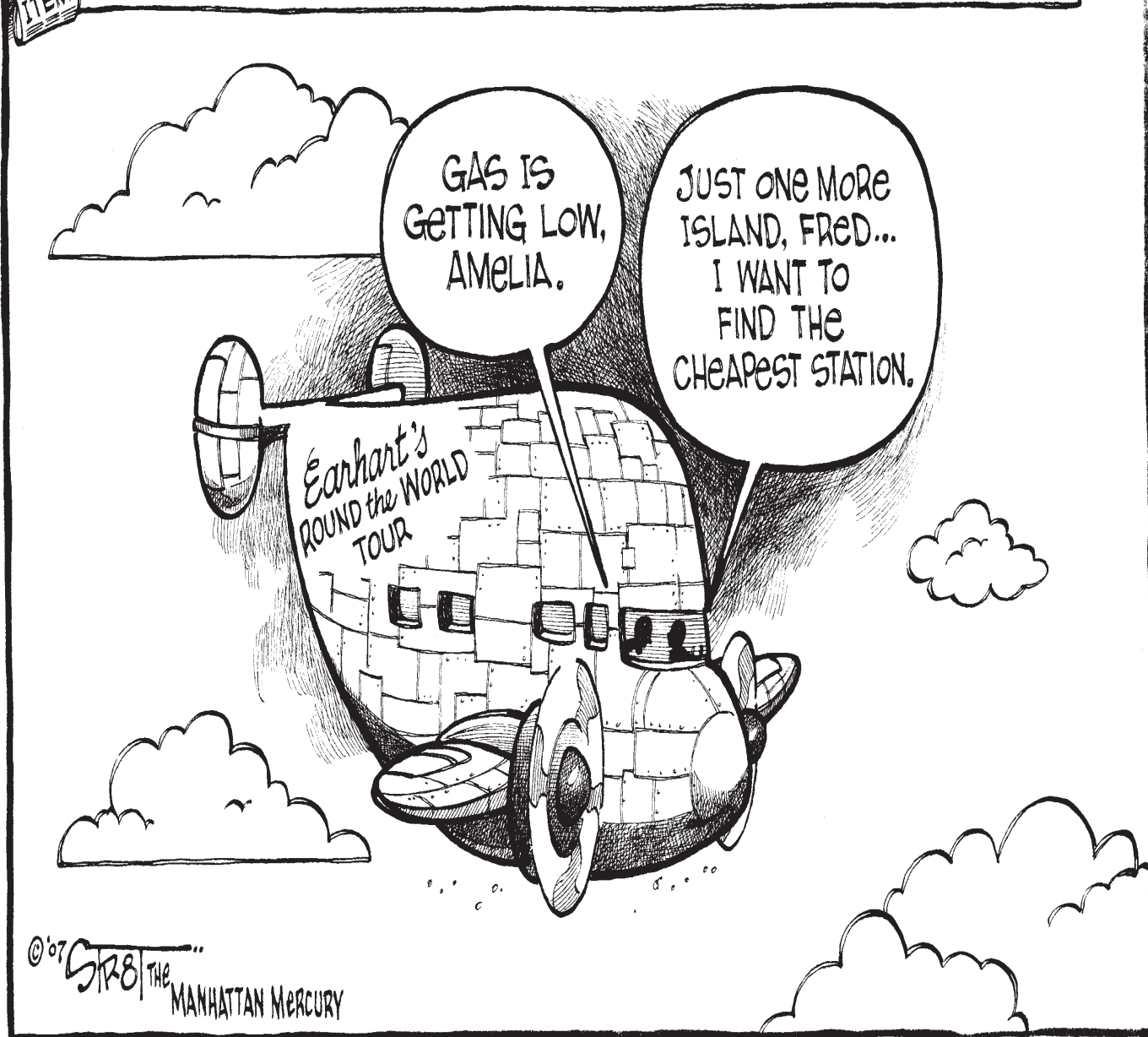
Office hours:
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732
E-mail: telegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Tom Dreiling editor and publisher
Christie Anderson advertising
Veronica Monier staff reporter
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Sherry Hickman bookkeeping/circulation
Vicki Henderson computer production



NEWS ITEM A 15 member expedition seeks facts of Earhart's disappearance...



Let's all try being a 'Good Samaritan'

You know what R.A.O.K. stands for — right? That stands for "Random Acts of Kindness."

Well, I saw one this morning on my way to work. A "Good Samaritan" motorist stopped and removed the remains of a truck tire blow-out on the highway. He saw it could have been a hazard and, without being told, he did the right thing.

There is a television commercial running (for an insurance company, I think) that depicts people observing other people doing good deeds. Like helping a little old lady with her packages, stopping a pedestrian from being hit at an intersection and setting a barrier over a pothole. The premise is that our actions are always being observed by others, and, just like the chickenpox, we might "catch it" and pass it along.

Let's try it. Look for an opportunity to do something nice or kind for someone, without any expectation of a reward. Before you know it, peace and harmony will be breaking out all over the world.

-ob-

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



I had a good time at a horse show this weekend. It was my job to go and take pictures, but I managed to have fun, too. I spent some time with a young couple we know and have been reassured that parents of today have their heads on straight.

Two of their children were in the riding competition. They also have a toddler who kept them busy "chasing" and, then, there was their 4 or 5 year old son. He and a buddy were wallowing in the dirt by the stables when a passerby recommended he better, "Go see your mother. You are going to be in big trouble."

The boy did as he was told and stood, sheepishly, before his parents. His mother looked at him then turned to her husband

and said, "What do you think?" Her husband replied, "He's not bothering us. I don't care."

Delighted, the little boy ran back to his serious business of play. Don't misunderstand. His parents were not unconcerned. They were just wise enough to know the difference between something harmful to him and good "clean" fun.

The next day at church I asked his mother if they had to run him through the car wash to clean him up. She laughed and said, "No, we just stripped him off in the garage."

Smart parents know how to choose their battles.

-ob-

Jim and I were on our way to church early Sunday morning when a flock of birds swooped and dove in front of the van. One cut it too close and ended up mashed into the front grill.

I told Jim they must have been playing "cousin."

"What do you mean, cousin?" he asked. "You know — 'chicken.'"

It's not a minivan, but it'll do the job

Back Home Nancy Hagman



I recall a couple of cool cars from our past. My personal favorite was the Dodge Charger. That car made the grocery store carry-out boys comment with a sigh, "Nice car." I'm sure the hubby's most beloved car was his '65 Mustang. We once had a real cute Chevy Monza. All red inside and out except for the white bucket seats. Four on the floor. Yeah, man we were cool.

That was BC. "BC" used to stand for "Before Christ." But now we have gotten all politically correct and the term has become "Before the Common Era." For us BC means "Before Children" or "Before the Children Era." After children, we got minivans!

Cowboy comedian, Bill Engvall, does a whole routine about how it is impossible to be "cool" in a minivan. He's right. But it is possible to be comfortable. We have been driving minivans for almost two decades and have come to love them.

For a while now we have needed to change our mode of transportation. The hubby gets on line and looks at vehicles. It appears his first method of narrowing the search is to type in "red" for color. I don't want a red car. Every night for weeks he has spent hours looking for just the right thing.

"How about this?" he calls. I get up and mosey over to the computer, "It's red," I complain.

I prefer black but I know it is not so practical on a white rock road. The best color, of course, would be purple. It is just not a

color that is in vogue at the moment. My other complaint is, "It's not a minivan."

If one of the kids heard this they would look at me like I was deranged, "Mom, you do not need a minivan."

My sister just got a brand new HHT (Heritage High Top). It is very cool. She gets excellent gas mileage. The hubby did not think it had enough head room. Okay so what's wrong with a new minivan?

Finally the hubby expanded his search to colors other than red. He discovered gold. The problem is I don't know what these vehicles are. Expedition, 500, Accolade, Freestyle, Equinox? It means nothing to me. Even the Chargers don't in anyway resemble the ones of our youth. One time we looked at an Isuzu that I thought was cute or was it a Suzuki? But it was so small.

The hubby patiently pointed out that two of the nieces have the Equinox. I rode in Jill's once. But they are 4 X 4s. My legs are too short for 4 X 4s. Those are SUVs, I don't want an SUV. Although I did like that Isuzu, Suzuki thing.

Finally we went car shopping because, frankly, looking at pictures just wasn't doing it for me. We test drove an Equinox, it was not the 4 X 4 version which, short legs aside, we do not need as we don't live in 4 X 4 territory like the nieces (inside the city limits of Manhattan or Topeka!) The hubby thought the Equinox was short on leg room, however. I stopped myself from reminding him that minivans are comfortable.

I just gazed at them longingly across the car lot. The salesman, so motivated on selling us something he was almost annoying, chirped, "We have a lot of minivans."

Kate, who was with us, said "Mom, you do not need a minivan!" I was afraid to contradict her because she was driving and I thought she might just leave me. (She drives a black Honda Accord with a stick shift, right now it is covered with white rock dust!)

They finally wore me down. Bye, Bye minivan! We now own a Buick Rendezvous, I don't really know what it is. It isn't red and it isn't a 4 X 4. I believe it is classified as an SUV. It has a lot of cargo space and is supposed to get better gas mileage than the van did. It only seats five but it is comfortable. In fact, seems just like driving a minivan, just cooler.

First football game we go to I bet everyone will be sorry we don't have a purple minivan to haul the gang to the stadium. However, we will have space for the paraphernalia for a whale of a tailgate party!

Don't forget, Friday is 'Thumbs Up' day in The Telegram