

### Tuesday's Snippets (Moffet Station)

The Moffet Station Project straw poll ended, the vote was counted, and the result appeared in Friday's Telegram. Many of those partaking expressed their opinions. Below is a sampling:

• "Yes, check the facts, what part of NO tax dollars don't you understand? All the monies for the Moffet station are from corporate grants (money large corporations donate to help small towns renovate older buildings, preserving the communities history) or private donations."

• "Yes, we don't need another empty lot in town. Building expenses are so high that when old buildings are torn down the lot stay vacant — they are like a tooth missing in a smile. Those people who think the station is ugly amuse me. They probably never gave a thought to whether the building was ugly or not until there is an effort to save it."

• "Yes, definitely go ahead with the project. It is one project that will use no tax payer dollars to renovate it and it will add to the image that we have worked so hard to improve. Many people have told me that improvements like this will make them want to stop in Norton and see what else we have to offer. Don't let the 'naysayers' defeat the project! I am proud of all the improvements we have seen in Norton lately so let's keep going."

• "YES, go ahead with the project! The Moffet Station is a part of who we are as a Community. Maybe the history of the Station should be shared with all in the community. My guess would be if you don't fully understand a project it is easy to believe it isn't worth it. History within our community needs to be preserved."

• "Yes, this is silly. The Moffet Station renovation is a good project."

• "No, stop wasting money!"

• "No, it's junk."

• "No, the building is worthless. Use it on the streets."

• "No, tear is down."

• "Yes. No taxpayer \$ has gone into this project. It was a broken building unfit for business. Now it will hold an office. Foundation money could not be used for streets or curbs. Citizens do not pay."

• "Yes... Seems like there are larger issues in our community, like our tax dollars going to build a new ambulance building and yet Norton County Hospital is using the critical care ambulance from Ulysses to transport patients! Hellooo!"

• "No, use the money on the Moffet House."

• "Yes, people were against the Washington Street Park, too. Look how great it looks now. What if it had been a parking lot like some wanted!"

• "No, there are many other facilities that could us improvement. Don't force the chamber to move."

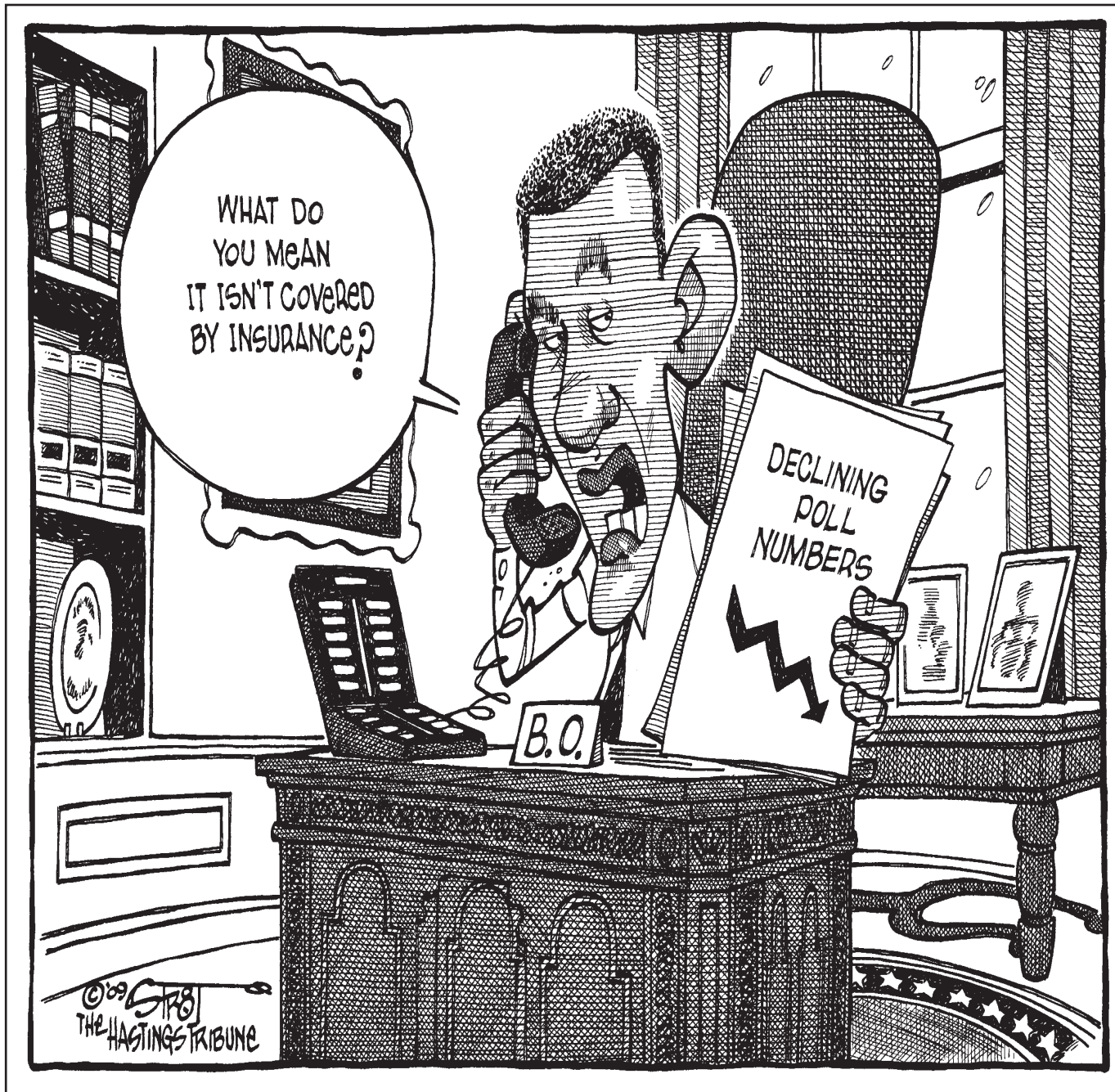
• "Yes, my husband and I were born in Norton County. We are 86 and 87 years old, and would like to see as much historical buildings saved as possible. We also hope the Moffet house also can be saved.... So much has already been destroyed."

• "No, stupid project. Why not just build a cemetery for old buildings, Then when we wanted to look at them all we have to do is go to the Cemetery of the Past. Get rid of that eyesore!"

• "To the historically correct, the building on South State Street should be called 'The Kent Station' (or perhaps the Norton Station). It never was the Moffet Station. It was generous of the Moffets to donate the property to the city. However, that did relieve them of paying taxes on the property and gave the responsibility to fix it up or tear it down to someone else."

*(Editor's note: I might add at this time that all Snippets come from our readership. Neither I nor Erica or any other staff member has time to sit around and make this stuff up, as a few people have insinuated. Many snippets come from out of our territory. This column goes to people in 20 states each week after it appears in the paper, as does my Friday column. States include California, Washington state, Nevada, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, New York, the Washington D.C. area, North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Kentucky and Tennessee. These are family members, other relatives, classmates, old Air Force buddies, and kids I grew up with. Some snippets locally are actually unsigned letters from which I pluck out a sentence or two or three that summarizes the letter. In today's snippets you just might read yours, dispelling the myth. Thanks, and keep responding.)*

**Stop  
Look  
Listen**  
Tom Dreiling



### This birthday even included a mouse

If I had to get a year older, I'm glad I did it in style. My Social-Security-qualifying birthday was Saturday and I loved every minute of it. Jim must have laid awake nights just planning it. When he asked me what I wanted for my birthday I had a ready answer. My signature fragrance is a perfume called "Red Door". I've worn it for years and that was my request.

Imagine my surprise Saturday morning when the first thing I saw when I came into the living room was a big, red door off of a '59 Chevy pick-up propped up against the entertainment center.

"What's this?" I asked. To which Jim answered, "Well, you said you wanted Red Door. There's your red door."

I laughed so hard, I almost cried. Of course, he also gave me a big bottle of the real thing, but I do love my "other" red door, too.

Jim and son James admitted they were co-conspirators in the operation

### Out Back Carolyn Plotts



mouse! It was only a baby mouse but I could hardly believe my eyes. Then, Missy nudged the mouse with her nose and the mouse took off. Towards me!

I screamed and pulled my feet into the chair. Missy re-caught the mouse and headed toward the kitchen only to drop it again. This time the mouse found refuge under the cabinets when he squeezed through a quarter-inch gap between the cabinet and the floor. When I told Jim what had happened, he chastised me for not killing it. Are you kidding? I wasn't about to get that close.

I had a little talk with the cat last night. I said, "Listen, Missy. I've told you over and over not to play with your food."

Now, back to the birthday card. It pictured a cat on the front with the caption, "Happy Birthday! You're not getting any slower." I opened the card and read the punch line: "The mice are just getting faster."

and I think they had as much fun as I did. Jim took pictures during the event and shows them to anyone willing to stand still long enough to look at them. It's a little embarrassing because I was in my pajamas and I had a serious case of "bed head". But, if you can stand to look at them, I guess I can stand it, too.

Jim gave me a funny birthday card but there is a story behind it. Friday I got home a few minutes before Jim did. I turned on the fan and plopped down in my chair to catch a few minutes rest. As soon as I sat down, our cat, Missy, came into the room and promptly dropped a mouse onto the living room floor. A live

### Another view on the Moffet project

Should economic development refurbish the Moffet Station with grant funds? Some important questions have not been asked or answered. How badly is this space needed? Who will cover the day to day expenses of operating the building? What will happen to the space currently being used? Another empty office space or building?

But most importantly: People, people, people, where do you think GRANT money comes from?

If this is a Government Grant Program, make no mistake we are paying for it. I understand it isn't from local taxes. And if we don't get it some project in another community will. But do not think for one minute we are getting something for nothing.

Even if the grant is privately funded one could make the case that we pay for it because the company doing the funding made lots of money by charging us too high prices somewhere along the line. (Not that I'm cynical or anything, I believe in free enterprise, just not free money!)

To quote the former great NCHS principal Lary Stull (I don't know who said it first, but he said it and he is right): "There is no such thing as a free lunch!"

To quote Margaret Thatcher: "Socialism never works, you always run out of

### Back Home Nancy Hagman



but to me the Moffet Station is not a particularly attractive building. And exactly what is the historical significance? Honestly when the discussion about it first came up I thought the building in question was about the cute little cottage across from Gil's Barber Shop. I'd vote to save that. Seems like it is well maintained already proving my point that if something is of true value it will be taken care of.

I will admit that the real Moffet Station undoubtedly can be renovated into an attractive and useful building. But is it a treasure?

The problem with using someone else's money is we have no sense of ownership and are not vested in the success of a venture. If the project turns out to be a blunder we can just shrug and walk away thinking it wasn't our money.

It certainly is true if we don't grab this money someone else will, perhaps for a far less worthy reason.

Somewhere in the world a child dies of hunger every 5 seconds. That won't change if we accept money for what I see as a frivolous fix of an old building in Norton, Kan.

But it should make us consider how we would like to see other people use their money and how we use our own. (gneph@yahoo.com)

other people's money!" The same could be said about grants.

If the building were really needed I believe the Norton community would have no problem raising the money. Volunteers would get the building restored and refurbished.

But to do it because someone else gives you money or to justify what we are doing by saying, "We don't have to pay for it" does not make a project worthwhile.

A chance meeting with a volunteer worker at the Waterville Opera House early in the summer gave us some refreshing prospective on community restoration projects.

He said, "It's amazing what you can do with a million dollars of someone else's money." The Waterville Opera House was built in 1903 for \$8000. It's a gorgeous building and it would be a shame to lose it.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

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