

The accuracy of official documents

Unlike the president of this great country, the contents in my wallet include four vital documents:

1. A copy of my Standard Certificate of Birth
2. A copy of my Certificate of Baptism
3. An official notice of my confirmation
4. An official notice of marriage

President Obama is under fire, and will continue to be under fire, until he comes up with and displays publicly his certificate of birth. And although he did exactly that this week, that even raised questions, such as, "How many different versions of his birth do they have?" I happen to believe him when he tells me he was born in Hawaii. I am not a birther, but a believer.

If this Man of the Plains can carry four things that tell of his birth, baptism, confirmation and marriage in his wallet, surely the commander-in-chief can carry one - his birth certificate. He should and every time the issue is raised, all he would have to do is pull out his wallet and show the doubters.

The more the birthers drag this issue around in these many months leading up to the election, the better it is for him. It's all about the economy, about jobs. Not where the president wore his first diaper.

Yes, birth certificates can have inaccurate information. Take mine as an example. It lists me as being born at home while my mother had said several times that I and the other two youngest kids in the family were born at the hospital. My mother's maiden name on the birth certificate is Mary Eichman. Actually her name was Molly or Mollie (the spelling of her first name differs in our family). But when she joined the Catholic faith in order to marry my father, she had to pick out a saint's name in order to be baptized. She chose the name "Mary."

The thing that really caught my eye when the copy of the certificate came into my possession in the mid-1950s, was the date of my birth. Family records would show, and mother would recall, that I was born in 1935. An aunt who maintained records of everybody's birth, death, anniversaries and other pertinent dates in the relationship also dated my birth as 1935. But the birth certificate, filled out and signed by the attending physician, noted my birth as November 25, 1934. So, each November 25th, I can be older or younger, my choice. Cool! Some family members will send me cards with two ages, and ask that I circle one.

And the marriage thing lists me as marrying Edna Jean (Eberle) Schroeder on June 17, 1967. Edna? Don't think so. I truly loved and married Elva.

Yes, records contain errors, as you just read. And the president's birth certificate might also contain errors, too.

And one more note: Sen. John McCain, if you remember, was not born in the United States of America. He was born on foreign soil. But because his parents were citizens of this country (his father was in the military) he automatically became a citizen and qualified to be president. I would think the same rule would apply to the president if, in fact, he was born outside the U. S. of A.

Speaking of snow... The television weather folks out here in the Denver area reported that Vail, up high in the mountains, received 532 inches of snow this season - a record! They said the snow pack was still around 100 inches, and as it begins to melt (as it is now starting to do) massive flood problems are the concern. The ski slopes, for the most part, shut down for the season two weekends ago. These snow invasions have allowed the slopes to extend their seasons this year. The immediate Denver area measured somewhere around 20+ inches, some 30+ inches below normal. Moisture has been the chant, and it must have paid off because this week we've had a couple of beneficial rainfalls.

Snippets:

"Libya. Syria. Egypt. Afghanistan. Iraq. Pakistan. If the bad guys can suck us into two more wars, we won't have any military left to protect us on the home front and that's when the bad guys will do us in."

"I take it you don't like Gov. Brownback. While you patted him on the back in a recent column for his rural incentives law, a sentence or two later you criticized him for not moving some of his family into far western Kansas, one of the areas that law was intended to help. You can't have it both ways."

"I read a while back where you said Aurora was the third biggest city in Colorado. Although I don't live in Colorado anymore, Kansas now, I can remember as a young man you could toss a baseball from one end of that town to the other. I'm 86."

"The smart voter will elect Congressman Ron Paul president in 2012. His vice president hopefully will be Congressman Paul Ryan. Conservative leadership at its best."

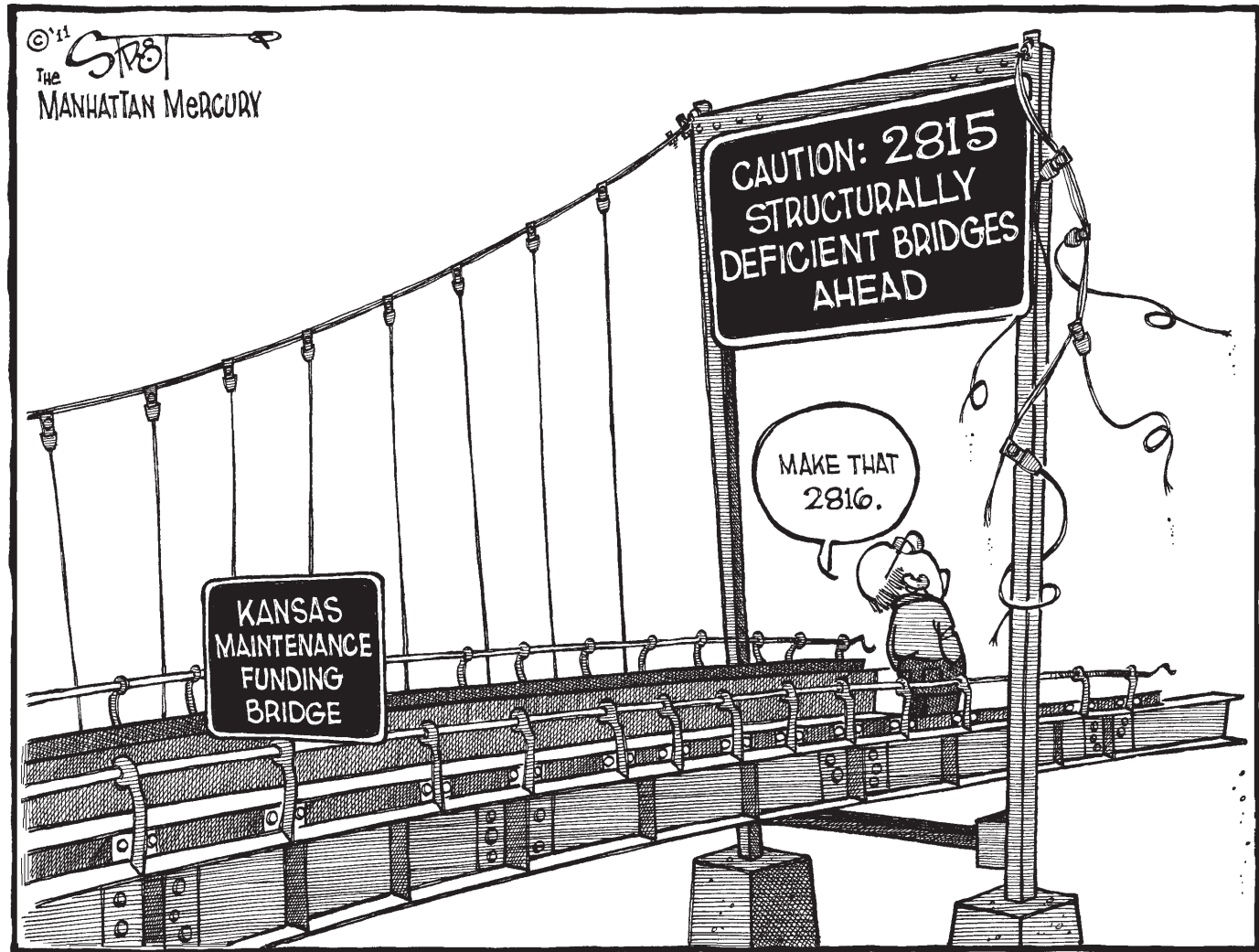
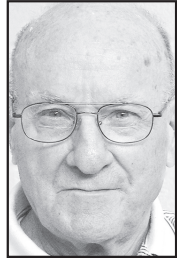
"Those air traffic controllers who sleep on duty, should be locked up for a while without pay for endangering the lives of people who depend on them to keep them safe taking off and landing."

"Can I wish all the 2011 high school graduates in the Aurora area the best as they go forward?" (You just did)

Snippets to <mailto:milehitom@hotmail.com>milehitom@hotmail.com.

I might mention that my column has a new name: Man of the Plains. It's something I use at least once in each column and it is catching on with the readers. Pretty much describes me.

Man of the Plains Tom Dreiling



Growing up as royalty; is it all that great

I was going to ask if anyone got invited to the big wedding tomorrow. You know, William and Kate. Then I heard something that makes me think the wedding is today (Friday). You can tell how much I care!

However if you do, and your invitation never arrived it is certain you will be able to get the mind numbing details on almost any news or entertainment channel. There was even a special explaining why we should care. I care so little I didn't bother to watch it.

Newsweek dedicated an issue to the royal wedding. "Kate the Great" the headline screamed. Remember "Shy Di"? This royal couple will be different the writers assured us.

Oh good, I was so worried the Royals would never get themselves straightened out!

Do little girls still want to be princesses? Some say Kate's story is a fairy tale come true. Others claim, though she denies it, she connived to marry William. Her mother even helped hatch the plan!

The couple reportedly lives a quiet life. She cooks. He (unlike his father) squeezes his own toothpaste onto his toothbrush in the morning.

In lieu of gifts the couple is asking for donations to a group of charities. What

This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



if they had just eloped and saved all the millions the wedding is going to cost?

We saw and enjoyed the acclaimed movie "The King's Speech". The movie told of the struggles of William's great grandfather, King George IV.

Daughter Elizabeth, a greater history buff than I, took issue with how American Wallis Simpson was portrayed. George IV was thrust into the limelight and on to the throne after his brother Edward abdicated in order to marry Wallis.

She was shown in less than a flattering light, but the whole royalty thing is so weird. There was not a person in the movie whose life I envy.

Growing up Royal appears to be just sad! No wonder George (or Bertie as he was known) stuttered. It did appear he and his Queen tried to be good parents to their daughters, the future Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret. The Queen Mum was practical and supportive.

I read that the man who wrote the

screenplay asked her permission to tell the story. She told him after she died. As she was 70 at the time, he thought perhaps it would not be so long. She lived another 28 years!

As grounded as the Queen Mum seemed, in the intervening years the Royals seem to have regressed. When one gets an inflated opinion of oneself we say, "He puts his pants on one leg at a time." But truly, anyone who has a valet squeeze the toothpaste out is on a whole other level.

In the discussion of the Royal Wedding it has been mentioned that the English are thinking of changing the line of succession. I didn't pay attention to the details because I'm not really interested. If it were up to me I'd abolish the whole mess.

We can find something else to obsess over. We still have Charlie Sheen and Lindsey Lohan.

My friend says, "The rich are different than you and I, they have money. Power, fame, money: all seem to take a toll on a person's grasp of reality! I'm so glad I don't have to grapple with those issues! Maybe I better find out when the wedding is and watch just to remind myself how lucky I am."

One candidate "trumps" in but can he win

Do you ever watch Saturday Night Live? I love the monologue at the opening and the Week-end News Update. As I watched Donald Trump's news conference responding to the release of President Obama's birth certificate, I kept waiting for the famous line, "Live from New York, it's Saturday Night". When it is an interesting news week, I anxiously await the week-end to see SNL's take on events. This week is no exception.

Trump is "so proud he was able to accomplish something no one else has been able to" in the release of the birth certificate. The document of live birth, which is Hawaii's official certificate, was released years ago so I'm not quite sure what it is he has accomplished. Now Trump is calling on the President to release his academic records as a means to uncover yet another conspiracy. His "sources" tell him the President was a poor student and as such couldn't have gotten into Harvard. Liars inevitably get caught and Trump is no exception, but in the meantime serious candidates are

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



trumped by lesser ones.

At the heart of all of this is the carnival atmosphere of politics. One thing some candidates seem unable to comprehend is the instant ability, because of the Internet, for media and individuals to recall information. For instance, Trump said a CNN poll found him in a dead heat with Obama if elections took place today. He even went so far as to tell the media to call CNN and find out. The problem is CNN hadn't conducted such a poll. These accusations detract from those things or more importantly those other candidates who are valid and raising important issues i.e. Mitt Romney and

Mike Huckabee.

So considering this, why is someone like Trump even acknowledged as a serious candidate?

Name recognition-He has his own TV show.

Wealth-People approach money in a variety of ways, some with admiration others with jealousy.

Outlandish accusations-These appeal to the fringe elements and to those desiring a carnival atmosphere. Trump isn't the only one in this category.

I question Trump will be a serious contender in the upcoming election. He may see himself as a viable candidate, but ultimately the American public knows elections aren't won by demanding birth certificates, touting one's wealth or being the bully on the block. I have more faith in the American public than that. We may enjoy a carnival from time to time, but an ongoing roller coaster of demands and bullying won't garner the votes.

Letters to the Editor and Thumbs Up:
e--mail dpaxton@nwkansas.com,
or to write 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

OFFICE HOURS:
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Thur.
8 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Friday
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732

E-mail: nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Dana Paxton.....general manager
advertising director/
email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com
Dick Boyd.....Blue Jay sports
Harriett Gill.....society editor
email: hgill@nwkansas.com
Vicki Henderson.....computer production
Marcia Shelton.....office manager

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

Kansas Press Association



YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS:

★ **Governor Sam Brownback**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232
★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. roberts.senate.gov/public/ (202) 224-4774
★ **U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran**, Russell Senate Office Building Room C-4, Washington, D.C. 20002. moran.senate.gov/public/ (202) 224-6521
★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 300 SW 10th St., Room 225-E., Topeka, Kan. 66612. ralph.ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us (785) 296-7399
★ **U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp**, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. huelskamp.house.gov (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124
★ **State Rep. Rick Billinger**, Docking Building, Room 754, Topeka, Kan. 66612 rick.billinger@house.ks.gov (785) 296-7659
★ **State Rep. Ward Cassidy**, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Topeka, Kan. 66612 ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov (785) 296-7696

Contact Dana for all of your advertising Needs. 877-3361