

NEW ALMELO NEWS

An old-fashioned pity party

"Well, we just can't go," Sharon Ann tells me on the phone. "Just because I was a little late getting in last Saturday I'm grounded for a month. And no car . . . Mom read this new book on parenting technique and life is hardly worth living over here." Oh gosh! My curfew is ten o'clock and her's is clear to midnight. "Just how late were you?" I ask suspiciously. "Only a couple of hours or so . . ." she replies evasively. "Two o'clock in the morning?" I squeal, appalled. "You'd be grounded for life if you had my folks!" I can almost see her shrug. "Well, anyhow, no car, no goin' out, no nuthin' Saturday" she says, resigned.

Word gets around our group pretty fast. Sharon Ann's folks almost always let her have the car on Saturday night and we had come to depend on her for transportation. Gwen's folks have a coupe that can't hold us all, Betty's folks have a nice big Hudson but they use it themselves on Saturday nights. (Imagine that!) My dad won't even let me take a driver's test in his Chevy. Mary Lou's dad works out of town so their car isn't available. Hmmm. We could walk downtown to the skating rink but it wouldn't be much fun without Sharon Ann.

Necessity is, however, the mother of ingenuity. Come Saturday night the doorbell at Sharon Ann's house rings promptly at seven. "Hi, Mrs. S," says Gwen. "I know Sharon can't go out so I brought my records over. Okay if we play my new Bobby

The Rock'n Roll Kid

Liza Deines



Darin record? "Of course," Mrs. S welcomes her in. Seven fifteen the doorbell announces Christine who has brought her Monopoly set along to console a friend in solitary confinement. Betty and I show up a few minutes later with innocent expressions and a large bag of potato chips. About seven thirty Jeanette comes along with a quart of Dairy Queen and a six pack of Coke. By eight thirty the entire group is crowded around the dining room table playing a riotously raucous round of Monopoly.

"Maybe you girls could play in the kitchen" Mrs. S suggests. "Harold is trying to watch wrestling on TV." "Oh, good idea, Mom," Sharon Ann says. "C'mon, gals, let's bake cookies!" Within moments the dining room casino reopens around the kitchen table and a bowl of cookie dough is in progress.

Not too much later a knock at the back door announces classmate Gene from across the alley. "We smell cookies. Can me'n Larry come over?" Gene and Larry are cousins, both on the basketball team and within a few minutes most of the rest of the team shows up on the back porch. The Monopoly game gets steadily more fun.

Some couples are jitter bugging to "Rock Around the Clock," adroitly avoiding the hot oven door as it opens and closes, producing more cookies. Brad runs back to his place for more pop so he and Jeanette can make ice cream floats. At least that's what they say they're doing over in the corner with their heads together.

Several happy hours later, while we're washing up cookie clutter and getting ready to head home, I take a plate of cookies to Sharon Ann's parents who are sitting in the living room. They look a little dazed when I thank them for such a nice evening. Can't figure that out. Mama always told me to say thank you when you've been at someone's house for an evening. It was the best Saturday night we'd had for ages, I tell them, way better than the movies or even the skating rink and we are so happy Sharon Ann invited us back for next week.

Funny, though, as I head back to the cleanup in the kitchen, I overhear her dad say to her mother, "What did you do with that parenting book?" And when she said she'd thrown it in the burning barrel, he said "Good idea, honey. A little late, but good idea."

Sometimes I wonder if I will ever understand how parents think.

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By Betty Otter

Paul and Linda Becker have a new granddaughter, Emily Rae Becker. She was born on Dec. 11, 2011, and weighed seven pounds and 13 ounces, and was 19 and three-quarter inches long. Emily is the daughter of Raymond and Olivia Becker of Hays. She has two older brothers, Caden and Derek.

Tom and Gayle James have twin grandsons, born on Jan. 3, 2012. Jacob Krine weighed seven pounds and 14 ounces, and was 19 inches long. Bridger Thomas weighed six pounds and 13 ounces, and was 19 inches long. Jacob and Bridger are the sons of Quentin and Charlotte James of Rawlins, Wyo.

On Christmas Eve day the family of Miriam Slipke gathered at her home in Hoxie. Those present were Mike and Kathy Slipke, Downs; Cheryl Goheen and family, Downs; Linda and Ron Baumberger and daughter, Kendra and her friend, Salina; David Slipke and daughter, Jenna, Bristol, Conn.; Raymond and Bonita Slipke and family, New Almelo; Alan and Phyllis Slipke and girls, Netawuka; and Marvin Wudtke, Norton.

The family of Marion and Marilyn Otter gathered at their home on Christmas Eve. Those present were Frank and LeVonne Otter, Josh Otter, Gabrielle Otter, Russell; Greg and Tammy Otter, Alissa and Seth; Steve Otter, Wichita; and Betty Knapp and children, Manhattan. Spending New Year's weekend with her parents were Emily and Kessler, Lakin.

Ardith and Ray Scheetz's family gathered at their home on Christmas Eve. Those present were Michelle and Alan Goldsby, Heather and Rachelle, Hillsboro; Chris and Julie Scheetz, New Almelo; Steve Scheetz, and Janice Jacobs, Hays; Jared and Stacy Scheetz, Hailee and Braydon, New Almelo; Sara and Troy Collins, Aisley and

Emma, Norton.

On Christmas Day, Jared and Stacy Scheetz and family went to La Crosse to the home of Stacy's dad, Don Schuckman.

On Dec. 26, Missy and Jeremy Rumbach and family, Lenora; Jeff and Kathleen Vahling and family, Hays; and Kathleen's sister and husband gathered at the home of Russ and Marcia Aumiller for their Christmas.

The family of Alfred and Betty Otter gathered at their home on New Year's Eve day. Those present were Tina and Will Ritter and family, Olathe; Tom Otter, DeSoto; Mark and Sheila Otter and family, Ulysses; Ashley Otter, Hays; Jolene and Jim Moss and family, Smith Center; Karl Otter, Great Bend; Charles Otter and family, Salina; joining the group in the afternoon were Gary and Bertie Bruinekool, Lenora; and Kirk and Renee Persinger, Norton.

The Thibault Christmas was held at the home of Ardith and Ray Scheetz on New Year's. Those present were Mike and Jeannie Thibault and Kaylee, Kansas City; Sharon Thibault, Phillipsburg; Michelle and Alan Goldsby, Rachelle and friend, Mike, Hillsboro; Chris and Julie Scheetz, Kayla Scheetz and fiance, North Platte, Neb.; Billy Broeckelman, Norton; Jared and Stacy Scheetz and family, New Almelo; Steve Scheetz and Janice Jacobs, Hays; Sara and Troy Collins and girls, Norton.

Enjoying a Christmas Eve meal at the home of George and Vickie Gassmann were Chuck and Jackie Wright, Lenora; Randy and Beth Gassmann and family, New Almelo; Alice and Wes James and family, Ellis; Connie Gassmann and Lee Albers, Colby; Dorothy Mindrup and Ruth Vahling, New Almelo. Christmas day George and Vickie Gassmann were guests of George's mother Maggie Gassmann at Park.

Deadline nears for Kansas promotion

Community representatives and entrepreneurs from every part of the state are invited to provide the public a sample of what there is to see, do, hear, taste, buy and learn in Kansas at the 20th annual Kansas Sampler Festival. Registration deadline is Jan. 31 for the May 5-6 event that will take place in Liberal's Light Park.

Registration is open to those who want to promote what there is to see and do in their community, those who make and want to sell a Kansas product, Kansas-based musicians or art-

ists, and food vendors who have a specialty item or ethnic recipe. People who have an old-time craft to demonstrate are also welcome.

Read guidelines or register at kansassamplerfestival.com or call Sally Fuller at 620.626.0171.

WenDee LaPlant of the Kansas Sampler Foundation said, "The weekend-long festival usually attracts 5-7,000 people. In addition to experiencing all there is to see and do in the state it's a great way to network with more than 150 exhibitors. Every

town in the state should have representation at this Kansas celebration."

The festival is a project of the non-profit Kansas Sampler Foundation whose mission is to preserve and sustain rural culture. The local effort to organize the festival is led by Sally Fuller of the Liberal Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

The festival has also been held on the Penner Farm near Inman, Pratt, Ottawa, Independence, Newton, Garden City, Concordia and Leavenworth. It moves to a new site every two years.

NORTON MANOR

Dorothy Campbell and son Bill spent Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at the home of Jerry and Judy Rome in Hays. Other family members there were Jane Goodrow and friend from Las Vegas, Nev.; Janet and Jon Freer; Jay and Judy Custine and boys, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Cris and Leah Custine and family from Erie, Colo.; Brandon and Barb Rickle, Valley Center; Bob and Barb, Jenna and Casper Goodrow; Austin and Horton in Oberlin. Then on Monday we had our party with Tamela, Scarlet and Clara Wessell. What fun watching the little girls tear the paper from their gifts. On Wednesday night eve we had supper with our son and Jenna Goodrow and girls all from Hays.

Violet Clark spent Christmas in Boulder, Colo. Cheryl Thieler came to get her. Christmas was at her granddaughter's home. They have a new daughter, Josephine, born in June. She joins their other four year old daughter Violette. Elza and wife Liza Clark flew out to join them. They live on a small farm near Topeka. A good time was had by all. Violet came home Friday of that week.

Bozie had Christmas at Norton Manor. He had two daughters, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren attending.

The Janssens had Christmas at our daughters and families. Judy and Alden Pfannenstiel.

The Lawson family went to Goodland to see my grandparents for Christmas. On Christmas

Eve my parents had Christmas at their house with my sister Charli and Andy.

Chancey and Donna Marsh spent Christmas Day at Darlene and Ashley Horton's of Oberlin. Then on Monday we had our party with Tamela, Scarlet and Clara Wessell. What fun watching the little girls tear the paper from their gifts. On Wednesday night eve we had supper with our son Doug and granddaughter Cherokee and her Mother Michelle. So we had a busy and happy time this year.

The Mary Keith family had a get-together on New Year's Day at the Manor. Ed and Linda Keith and families, Bill and Diane Greving and their families and Jo and Tom Murphy and Megan Murphy attended.

Mary Keith is staying with her daughter Diane Greving in Prairie View while recuperating from a broken foot. She had several of her family see her over the weekend to wish her a happy birthday.

Doris Mizell entertained her family Christmas evening with a soup supper and gift exchange. Those attending were Roberta and Dennis McAllister, Lester Mizell, Ray and Ruth Mizell, Jerry and Patty Foster, Aaron and Priscilla Mizell, Jordan Mizell, Stephen and Karlynn Mizell, David and Jacob Mizell, Jared Foster and Summer Casity, Peggy Foster and Mark Aschenbrenner. Michelle and Brian were unable to make it.

POLICE LOG

Jan. 9
Transported inmate to municipal court
Request to speak to officer concerning missing items from Sleep Inn
Civil standby
Individual wanting to press charges for battery
Vehicle stop
Parking complaint
Jan. 10
Four vehicle stops
Returned lost checkbook to owner
Jan. 11
Funeral escort
Medical examiner from OK requesting DNA samples from individuals
Assist SRS

Keys locked in vehicle
Seven vehicle stops
Traffic control for fire
Jan. 12
Assist SRS
Four vehicle stops
Keys locked in vehicle
Report that individual is upset because of rumors about them
Jan. 13
Funeral escort
Four vehicle stops
Individual requested civil papers be delivered for them
Report of gas leak
Jan. 14
Keys locked in vehicle
Report of stolen auto parts
Request to remove individual from business
Motorist assist

Report of dog bite
Request to remove individual from in front of residence
Two vehicle stops
Jan. 15
Welfare check
Report of individual playing piano in front yard
Motel checks
Report of one vehicle accident
Report of two vehicle accident
Questions concerning civil matter
Activated alarm
Report of two vehicle accident
Three vehicle stops

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World class pianist to perform in Oberlin

Ronnie Kole, world pianist and entertainer, will once again perform at 7:30 p.m., at the Oberlin Gateway Center on Saturday, Jan. 28.

Mr. Kole has been an integral part of the New Orleans music scene for decades and has performed in over 600 cities worldwide, delighting a wide variety of audiences including His Holiness Pope John Paul II and six presidents of the United States. He has appeared at Carnegie Hall and entertains regularly at New Orleans' two most prestigious festivals; the Jazz and Heritage Festival and the French Quarter Festival.

A typical Kole concert includes tunes from Broadway, "Phantom of the Opera" and "Amazing Grace" plus a medley of audience request tunes.

He has published a number of CD's including

Music of the Vines, arranged around his music tours of the wine country of France, where he is immensely popular. As a result, he received the Chevalier to the Arts and Letters, the highest award the French Government gives to a person in the arts.

Mr. Kole gives much of his time and talent to a wide variety of civic and charitable activities. He has been honored with one of five bronze statues in New Orleans Music Legends Park along side those of Al Hirt, Pete Fountain, Fats Domino and Chris Owens.

This is an Oberlin Arts and Humanities Season Ticket event or \$12 for adults, and \$7 for students grades 1-12 at the door.

For further information call Ella Betts (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel (785) 470-0218.

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