

The generation language gap

Somehow it seems to me that previous generations spoke in a much more humorous, yet clean and colorful, fashion. The repetitious use of ugly four-letter words today just makes me cringe. In my opinion there is nothing more unattractive than nasty language.

My fifth grade teacher put it pretty well when she told us "It is good to develop a wide and varied vocabulary but there is never a time or a place where profanity or barnyard epithets are appropriate. Such language indicates limited intelligence." That was also enforced at home. I never heard either of my parents use bad language. When Roger came home from school with some questionable new term Mama would look him in the eye and say, "There is no need to be crude".

No matter how popular it is, "Oh my Gawd" is still taking the Lord's name in vain. Television programs on which that phrase is used indiscriminately offend me. So did the name of one of the Relay for Life promotions this year. While I applaud the fund raising effort, I do not approve or condone the choice of titles for the project. Slang terms can be hurtful and unappealing in certain circumstances.

Over a bowl of delicious potato soup in The Carlyle dining room the other day some friends and I were "chewing the fat" over this very subject. Without half trying we came up with a lot of old sayings we recalled hearing when we were young. Then we all agreed that the potato soup was certainly "worth

Pieces of life's puzzle

Liza Deines



getting your teeth dirty for." Edie contributed her opinion of our pork chops as being "tough as whang leather" although none of us knew what a whang might be.

For instance hot weather always inspired the comment "hotter than a two-dollar pistol on election day" and on cold days it was "cold enough to hang beef". When the wind blew Mama often said "God is sweeping the cobwebs down from the sky" and of course everyone knows it can "rain cats 'n dogs" on occasion. Mary added, "and don't step in any poodles." While we were still giggling over that one someone else chimed in with her father's favorite comments "ol' tater wagons a'rollin'" when it thundered and "sharp enough to slice rye bread" to describe lightning.

Descriptive phrases began rolling out after that. On enthusiastic worker "goes at everything as if she's killing snakes;" two ladies in disagreement were "like two cats in a wet burlap bag" and a woman of generous proportions was sometimes described as measuring "two axe handles and a plug of chewin' terbacca across the beam". Now there's a connotation to avoid at all costs! It was much nicer to get one of Uncle Jim's "purtier than a little brown pony" com-

pliments.

There were days when Mama would look in the mirror and mutter that she looked "like the wreck of the Hesperus." I didn't know what she meant for years until I ran across that poem in high school. In case you don't know either, it's the equivalent of a bad hair day. That got us onto the topic of appearance but we couldn't decide which was worse - to look like "something the cat dragged in" or looking like you've been "pulled through a knothole backwards". My husband's description of a rough looking individual was "looking like seven rows of bad corn" and that, too, was a connotation I endeavored to avoid.

All of us recalled being "grumpy as a bear with a sore paw" and "mad enough to spit nails" or "happy as a clam." How happy are clams, I ask you? I truly wonder how that term came to be! Can one of you enlighten me? Send me a few old adages from your family files.

You may recall a comment from a recent column that my grandpa called eggs "hen fruit." A former Norton resident emailed to say his grandpa called them "cackleberries." Now that's colorful language!

And now I leave you to "sleep tight and don't let the bedbugs bite."

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Peonies...stylish, timeless and reliable

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It is extremely fragrant, exceptionally beautiful, and the plant itself seems to last for generations. It's the peony, of course. It's the flower that wakes up our senses and evokes instant associations such as Grandma's garden, a spring wedding, or vases and other containers filled to capacity and placed on loved ones' graves at the cemetery especially on Memorial Day. It seems that the gorgeous flowers just ooze memories of past spring events, and bright promises of what is to come!

I'm not sure there is a more beloved bloom available for us to utilize in our contemporary flower gardens. Without question, roses seem to win all the popularity contests nationwide every year, especially since the introduction years ago of the beautiful hybrid tea roses. But for so many reasons, I'll take a garden full of peonies anytime.

For one thing, caring for a number of peony plants is so much simpler than the seemingly extreme insecurity of a group of rose bushes. So many bad things can happen to a rose bush. But plant a few peony roots in the full sun and they'll provide beauty and usefulness for years to come with practically no care at all. The peony is like the little black dress of flowers...stylish, timeless, and always reliable. And they just keep coming back, year after year after year.

When planted in a proper growing area, peonies will bloom for 50, 75, or even 100 years. Because they were favorites of our grandparents, they're often labeled as old fashioned, but they have

enjoyed a modern appeal, too. Their new colors of coral, salmon, and yellow, and their versatile flower forms offer the new generation of flower gardeners real beauty in both the garden and the vase. Their showy structure, and absolutely out of this world fragrance, can't help but win you over and entice you to plant more of them.

Horticulturists tell us to plan carefully when we plant peonies. We should not plant them near trees that will give them unwanted shade. They should always be planted in well drained soil because they don't like wet feet. Peonies also detest being transplanted to a new area. Their six to seven foot roots make moving them difficult. They should be fertilized just once a year, ideally in the spring while they are growing and using up soil nutrients. When the foliage turns brown after that first hard freeze in the fall, cut the old stalks back to the ground, and expect them to be even more beautiful the following spring.

One of the most popular peonies in this area is one called Festival Maxima, complete with elegant white blooms with a few red streaks, which was introduced more than 150 years ago. Yellow peonies are a bit more rare, but there is a new one called Yellow Crown that offers blooms up to 8 inches across under proper growing conditions, and can be ordered for \$49.95 per root, or 4 for only \$159.95. Most established cultivars of peonies are priced as low as \$5.95 each.

Please do not resist the urge to plant a few peony roots this fall. You'll love 'em, and those that follow, you will forever be grateful!

Burning reserve land can provide benefits

Requirements for prescribed burning of Conservation Reserve Program contracts have changed since last year, said Walt Fick, K-State Research and Extension rangeland management specialist.

"The USDA's Farm Service Agency has removed prescribed burning as a required maintenance practice in some contracts. Prescribed burning is still a recommended practice and may be the most economical maintenance practice," Fick said.

Program participants should work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Agency to plan appropriate maintenance practices such as mowing, spraying, or prescribed burning, he said. Participants should check with their local office for actual requirements.

Maintenance practices are different than management practices, Fick explained.

"All CRP participants are required to perform a management practice that can include prescribed burning, inter-seeding, or light disking. Management practices are eligible for

cost-share," he said.

The time to burn ground varies across Kansas depending on region and soil type.

"In the eastern half of the state, prescribed burning is allowed from Feb. 1 to April 15 and July 16 to Aug. 31. These dates occur outside of the prime bird nesting season in Kansas. In western Kansas, prescribed burning is allowed from Feb. 1 to April 30, and July 16 to Aug. 31. Certain sandy soils are to be burned during the month of April. Lack of cover resulting from early burning on sandy soils may lead to significant soil erosion and/or water loss," Fick explained.

Burning land early or during the summer is a good way to spread out the burning season in Kansas and help prevent the concentration of smoke in April, when most pasture burning occurs, he said.

A prescribed burn on ground will help reduce the thatch layer that can build up, promote grass tillering, and reduce the potential for wildfire, Fick said.

"Burning can also help control cedars, and woody seedlings such as cottonwood or Russian olive. Once established, older

trees will generally re-sprout after a fire," he added.

Producers who burn ground should follow the same general safety guidelines and go through the same permit procedures as those who conduct prescribed burns on rangeland, the K-State agronomist said. For detailed information, see K-State Research and Extension publication L664, Prescribed Burning: Planning and Conducting at local county and district Research and Extension offices, or at www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/crpsl2/L664.pdf.

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'Feisty Family Values'



Author B.D. Tharp was a visiting author at the Norton Public Library on Saturday, April 21. She came to discuss her book titled "Feisty Family Values." It is the story of three middle-aged women and all the crazy things that go on in their lives, things we can all relate to. Tharp has written a second book but it has yet to reach the shelves. Pictured, Mary Beth Boyd talks with Tharp at the library after the author's presentation.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Foundation to preserve western legacy

A group has formed in Phillipsburg to honor and celebrate the western heritage of Phillips County.

The Phillipsburg Western Heritage Foundation is a 501c3 organization dedicated to preserving the western way of life that built Phillips County and still thrives through its residents.

The foundation's intent is to remind people of the history

of their heritage, said director Steve Bruning. Bruning is one of five directors, including Loyd Culbertson, Rod Innes, JD Shelton, and Bob Quanz.

The foundation's mission is to preserve, promote and encourage appreciation for the cultural history and heritage of the American West.

One of the group's first projects is providing a blacksmith

the opportunity to go to the Hansen Foundation's fall craft fair.

Other projects are in the works for the Foundation, said Bruning.

Anyone wanting to help the foundation can contact a board member or visit the website at www.phillipsburgwesternheritagefoundation.org.

CLUB NEWS

Chapter AA, PEO met at the home of Deb McClymont on April 10 with Janice Walter as co-hostess.

Jean Williams volunteered to be Meals On Wheels chairperson. Sara Brehmer read thank you notes from Judy Rogers, President of Cotley College, for the donation from our chapter and one from the Sunflower Grants committee at the Kansas State Chapter for our contribution.

Our Wednesday friendship coffees will resume. The upcoming dates are May 2 and May 16 at Destination Kitchen, 10 a.m.

Jill Lively gave us a quiz on our knowledge of Cotley Col-

lege. Cotley is owned by PEO and is located in Nevada and Missouri. The two year college has newly accredited four-year bachelor degree programs with inter-disciplinary courses in women's leadership, social responsibility, and global awareness.

The next meeting will be today at the home of Mary Beth Boyd.

PEO is a philanthropic, educational organization that promotes educational opportunities for women and continues to work through six projects of the international chapter.

BIRTH

Zachary and Mercedes Johnson, Hugoton, announce the addition of Micah Charles Johnson to their family. Micah was born on April 9, 2012 and weighed seven pounds, seven ounces and was 20" long. Grandparents are Gale and Ranelle Hays, rural Almena, Russell and Tammy French of Amarillo, Texas and Wayne Johnson of Hugoton. Great-grandparents are Charles Gebhard, Faith Hays, and Boyd and Elva Johnson.

Commodities

The Norton County Senior Office announces the distribution of government surplus food for low income persons of all ages in Norton County.

Food available for distribution at this time: corn, dried plums, macaroni, canned chicken, beef stew and mixed fruit.

Distribution times and places: Wednesday, May 16-Community Center, Norton, 2-4 p.m.

Wednesday, May 16-Senior Center, Lenora, 2-4 p.m.

Wednesday, May 16-Senior Center, Almena, 9-11 a.m.

Saturday, May 19-Library, Clayton, 5-6 p.m.

For more information call Ramona at the Norton Community Center at 877-5352.

Congratulations Aunt Kenzi and Uncle Gunnar

Love, Campbell

April 27-May 2

Showing at the

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21 Jump Street

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Wrath of the Titans

2 Hours, 10 Minutes (PG-13)

POPcorn

21 Jump Street is General Admission Price of \$6.00 and \$5.00 - \$3.00 on Sunday
Wrath of the Titans is General Admission Price of \$6.00 and \$5.00 - \$3.00 on Sunday

PREMIERING IN NORTON FRIDAY, MAY 4 - THE AVENGERS (PG-13)

Since both movies are non-premieres, all passes accepted

COMING SOON

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