

Highway patrol gets nostalgic

The Kansas Highway Patrol tapped into nostalgia for its last 20 full-sized cars, Ford Crown Victorias dressed in the traditional blue and grey from half a century ago.

They are only a drop in the bucket compared to the 400-some cars and sport utilities the agency fields, however, and your chances of seeing one driving down the road are slim. This area has one, posted in Oakley, among a sea of multihued patrol cars.

The patrol started buying cars in random colors years ago when someone figured out that the resale value of these vehicles was much higher than cars painted to look like a police car. Instead of driving the blue-and-greys until they were worn out, troopers started getting a new car every year or two. The used vehicles are sold while they still have good value.

Usually, only white cars get roof-mounted lights. Most of these are sold to city and county police agencies that don't mind the holes drilled in the roof. Colored cars get lights mounted inside or behind the grill, then are sold on the open market.

Because this program so reduces costs, it's not likely we'll ever see more grey-and-blue cars. However, another change may be putting troopers at risk on the road, especially at night.

Seems the cost of the huge "state trooper" screen print shot up this year, so the patrol decided to go without it. Some cars came out with only a small shield on the door and much smaller reflective lettering. Lately, the patrol has gone to larger shields, still reflective, but the cars don't show up as well at night or look as good on the road.

The bigger decals turned the cars into beacons at night, ensuring that people would see a parked patrol car beside, or blocking, the road. For cars without roof-mounted lights, that could be vital. Their lights don't show much to the sides, but the stickers sure do.

With the new, small lettering and just a reflective shield on the door, a car's visibility from the side might be as low as 10 percent of what it has been. It could make a lot of difference to a trooper out on the pavement at night.

If we had our way, and we suspect a lot of troopers would agree, we'd paint all the cars blue and grey. They look sharp. But we understand just duplicating the single-light red flasher of the old cars in electronic form costs upwards of \$1,000 each. Then there's the money saved by the early trade-in program, and in tight budget times, that counts.

However, we think the patrol should consider safety first and find a way to get more reflective material on the sides of the cars, either with a return to the big screen-print "state trooper" or something else.

The safety of the public, and the troopers themselves, is too important to compromise. — Steve Haynes

On the
Prairie Dog
Steve Haynes



A look at our presidents legal papers

Recently a good friend of mine forwarded an email to me. She had received the following questions and wondered if any were true. This is what I found out for her and for you. My responses are in bold print.

1. Back in 1961 people of color were called 'Negroes.' So how can the Obama 'birth certificate' state he is 'African-American' when the term wasn't even used at that time?

President Obama's birth certificate, the long form, lists his father as African. The birth certificate does not have a place for the baby's race.

2. The birth certificate that the White House released lists Obama's birth as August 4, 1961 and lists Barack Hussein Obama as his father. No big deal, right? At the time of Obama's birth, it also shows that his father is 25 years old, and that Obama's father was born in "Kenya, East Africa".

This wouldn't seem like anything of concern, except the fact that Kenya did not even exist until 1963, two whole years after Obama's birth, and 27 years after his father's birth. How could Obama's father have been born in a country that did not yet exist? Up and until Kenya was formed in 1963, it was known as the "British East Africa Protectorate".

From 1920-1963, which would

Phase II
Mary Kay
Woodyard



include the year President Obama's father was born, the country was known as the Kenya Colony of East Africa. Since parents provide the information for a birth certificate, I would imagine the forming of political parties in 1960 was, to the senior Obama, a strong indication of what was to come for the Kenya Colony, independence.

3. On the birth certificate released by the White House, the listed place of birth is "Kapi'olani Maternity & Gynecological Hospital". This cannot be, because the hospital(s) in question in 1961 were called "KauaiKeolani Children's Hospital" and "Kapi'olani Maternity Home".

In 1884, Princess Kekaulike died and left her home to be established as a maternity home. In 1918, the home moved and became known as Kapi'olani Maternity Home. Sometime in the 1930s, the name was changed to Kapi'olani Maternity

& Gynecological Hospital, thus becoming the birthplace of President Obama in 1961.

4. Why hasn't this been discussed in the major media?

Perhaps a clue comes from Obama's book on his father. He states how proud he is of his father fighting in WWII. I'm not a math genius, so I may need some help from you. Barack Obama's "birth certificate" says his father was 25 years old in 1961 when he was born... (there were more ramblings of a similar nature).

Considering the obvious discrepancy, I rather doubt anyone is too concerned with this accusation, but then one never knows. Having read two of the President's books, I don't ever recall him stating his father fought in WWII. President Obama has stated how proud he was of his maternal grandfather's role serving in Patton's army. End of discussion. Mail to: mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

Sources:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/birth-certificate-long-form.pdf

<<http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ad21>

<<http://www.kapiolanigift.org/>



Thumbs up and thanks the volunteers that have taken care of the downtown flowers. They have work many hours in watering the flowers to keep them so beautiful throughout the dry summer. This is another positive characteristic to our small town pride. A big THUMBS UP to you!! Emailed in.

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

Remember there is no charge for rendering a Thumbs Up. Thumbs Up are meant to give recognition for a positive person or event in the community. Also remember all Letters to the Editor must be signed.

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Tell me I am not the only one who thought it would never end and yet it seems it has: not the Election---SUMMER!

There is some real fall color in the leaves, not just brown from drought! The temperatures are going down. We shut off the AC. And, this drew gasps from my friends, I ran the furnace Monday!

I purchased new gardening gloves because I have tulip bulbs to plant. The calendar says it's time! There are fall decorations to put up; definitely time! I have a fall quilting project to finish if it is to be displayed this year. (There probably is not time, especially if I start working on the yard.)

My yard has been neglected. It was too hot and too depressing to bother. Yet everything has an upside; I mowed only once all summer. It also discouraged the insects. No grasshoppers, which usually love the mums! I have the most beautiful mums ever!

We went to the State Fair. That is a sign of fall. It was a nice rainy day. But it didn't seem much like fall.

Another sign of changing seasons is the end of baseball. There will be football most nights so I'll adjust, but I'll miss baseball. Football is a pretty

This Too
Shall Pass
Nancy
Hagman



poor substitute when you have to remember sunscreen instead of stadium blankets and the NFL officials are on strike!

Another harbinger of fall: The Northwest Kansas Shop Hop (you quilters know what I'm talking about) was last week.

Around the first of August I was in Norton's "Stitch Up A Storm". The shop owners told me if I would complete a quilt made using last year's Shop Hop blocks I would be eligible for a drawing to win some very nice prizes.

I'm nothing if not competitive. But I also had not sewn a stitch on that particular project. Truth be told, it's a miracle I could find the fabric. It's sort of like the refills for the plug in air freshener.

Where are they????

But I digress. I found the fabric and commenced sewing. I had not

purchased the finishing kits from any of the stores, so back to Stitch Up A Storm for fabric. And then to Colby for more.

Of course you have to have batting and backing. It has to be quilted. I decided to hand quilt which would be free besides what else do I have to do? I sure wasn't going to work in the yard!

My dear sewing circle friends agreed to help me. Some have greater skills than others and we all had fun!! The final product is very acceptable! Actually it may be my favorite quilt ever.

However I question why I was so driven to finish the quilt. The prizes were nice but I could have purchased all of them for the money I invested in the quilt.

Our quilting group went Shop Hopping last Thursday. This week I found out I won a prize! Hurray! Plus I checked something off my to-do list! Still I did not make any true progress on the list, because I added three more projects after the Shop Hop!

Oh well, it is officially fall. Winter will come and I'll need something to do beside look for refills for the room freshener!

Email or Call Dana for your next advertisement at 785-877-3361!