



The 'green' movement has begun in religion

At church in Denver this Sunday, an insert in the service book pushed something called the "Lenten Carbon Fast 2009," which just goes to prove how much of a religion the "green" movement has become.

Participants are encouraged every day of Lent to put coins in a box or jar that otherwise would have been recycled, either as penance for environmental "sins" or to celebrate "good" behavior.

Some of this stuff is common sense: "Put a coin in your jar for every nonreusable bag you got while shopping or doing errands this week."

And some of it is patently nonsense: "Put a coin in the jar for every time you used a paper towel instead of a reusable one in the last week."

Does anyone know the science of using a paper towel, which is both disposable and biodegradable, versus washing cloth towels with detergent, water and electric power? Didn't think so.

But green has gone beyond science to belief, backed by a fervor which would put any evangelist to shame.

"Put a coin in the jar for every fresh piece of paper you used today."

One of the more troublesome commands is No. 11: "Put a coin in your jar for every magazine and newspaper subscription still delivered on your porch or in your mail box."

That may sound reasonable, but it's not.

For one thing, there's no suitable replacement for reading on printed paper. It's proven to be almost 50 percent more efficient for the human eye than reading on a computer screen. Plus, most people just like it better.

For another, if everyone stops getting newspapers and magazines in the mail, we won't have many to read.

Sure, most have websites that replicate some or all of their content.

But few of those make money, and those that do

don't make enough to pay the cost of news gathering. Subscription fees pay for only around 20 percent of the cost of a printed newspaper, for instance; enough to pay for printing and mailing, but no more. Even if every subscriber paid the same fee for Internet access, the publisher would wind up broke.

With the death last week of the 150-year-old Rocky Mountain News in Denver, it's no stretch to say this "belief" could spell the end of newspapers and magazines which have stood for 2 1/2 centuries as the bulwark of our democracy.

What will replace them? Unverifiable, untraceable blogs? Government and corporate websites that toe the company line? Untraceable "content?"

Remember, most "news" websites get their news from newspapers or from the newspaper-dominated Associated Press. Someone has to pay for this news, and for decades, that someone has been the newspaper advertisers.

Another exhortation: "Put a coin in your jar for every 10 minutes you were on the computer not at work, or doing homework."

So apparently, we're not supposed to be reading the news on the Internet, either. Maybe the greens just want us to be ignorant, but to heed and believe what they say.

Doubtless, the fuzzy-headed thinkers who put this stuff together failed to think about the consequences of their words. True believers seldom do.

We're not here to belittle the sound philosophy of conservation and sensible use of resources. Americans are a wasteful people, and we use nearly a quarter of the world's resources for our relatively small population. We can do better.

But before we throw out one of the foundations of our civilization in the name of carbon, shouldn't we at least have figured out how to replace it?

— Steve Haynes



BIPARTISANSHIP IS ALIVE & WELL IN THE PRAISE FOR OBAMA'S ORATORY...

News From the Past

10 years ago - 1999

Bird City will once again have the convenience of their own grocery store. The operators, Jeff and Becky Klippert, are planning on opening the store for business in a few weeks.

Abby and Hannah Moore have returned from their trip to Waterloo, Iowa, as part of Youth Challenge Ministry's all-star team competing in a Mid America Regional Quiz meet.

Bridget Antholz, Shane Walz and Tyler Krien are among the 178 high school seniors who were named winners in the Hansen Scholarship competition.

Antholz received a Hansen Student Award and Walz and Krien received a vocational training scholarship.

St. Francis Cadette Scouts include Janessa Nelsen, Stephanie Hunt, Amber Fromholtz, Brooke Kibel, Jessica Nelsen, Lori Gohl, Samantha Lampe, Janaury Fiedler and Calissa Wiley. Barb Fromholtz is the leader and Lisa Schleppe, assistant.

Heather Sowers, Cheyenne County's Junior Miss, will head for Belleville where she will enter the Kansas Junior Miss competition.

The Lady Indians finished

the season with a 14-8 overall record. Letter winners include Jennifer Henderson, Heather Sowers, Ashley Feikert, Roxy Stuart, Amanda Jones, Christie Holzwarth, Jessica Raile, Jill Dodd, Michelle Young and Becky Whipple.

45 years ago - 1964

Elton Keller, who farms north of St. Francis, was chosen the area's Outstanding Young Farmer. at the Jaycee Awards Banquet. Bill Showalter received the Representative Young Teacher Award and Bill Wilson, the local chapter's Distinguished Service Award.

Hangin' With Marge

I'm Back to being a Mom

By Margaret Bucholtz



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Before Christmas Kurt and I went to Kearney to watch our grandson, Derek, wrestle. We didn't leave until late in the evening so we stopped at Norton to get a pizza.

When the waitress brought the menu and took our drink orders we stared at the menu one more time. It is really not necessary because

we always eat the same thing. When she came back to the table I just ordered and she left.

Before long she returned with our pizza, later she came back to the table and looked at me and asked if everything was OK.

Then when she brought out the ticket she smiled at me and laid the ticket down at my side. I knew what she was thinking! I had

seen this look before, so I smiled sweetly at her, looked at Kurt and said, "Son, did you get enough to eat?" However to my surprise he answered, "Yes, mommy, I did and thank you."

I just dug out the money and paid and we left. It's times like this I think of facelifts and hair tint!

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Another legend has left us.

I don't imagine there is a radio listener from the past seven decades who wouldn't recognize the familiar voice of Paul Harvey. For years he was a welcome companion who always had something unexpected to say.

The great thing about him was how he would draw you into a piece by giving the story and then telling the actual person's name. Sort of like the television show Jeopardy that gives the answer and expects the contestant to provide the question.

One of my favorite stories was of

Ivan Popple. After describing his military exploits with the Russians, Harvey tied in this little known facet of history with the American naval hero John Paul Jones.

He had a way of digging up the most interesting information that few seemed to already know.

Mr. Harvey began his radio career in high school in Tulsa, Okla., and worked up to Chicago, a hub of national broadcasting, as a news man.

In 1968 he began his program, Paul Harvey Comments, which ran uninterrupted for 20 years. In recent years he could be still be heard on the radios across the country.

I would never put myself on the same level as a person like Paul Harvey, but I would hope that some of the entertainment value that his career had might come through occasionally in my writing.

Jim Robinson, the president of ABC Radio Networks, had this to say about Mr. Harvey's passing.

"His voice became a trusted friend in American households."

How true.

And now you know ... the rest of the story.

Cookin' with Peg

By Peggy Horinek

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Welcome to our new column!

We hope to share some good recipes and helpful hints with you. We would also welcome your input of recipes and information you would like to share.

St. Patrick's Day is coming so thought I would start out with my favorite corned beef and cabbage recipe. The mustard sauce for the corned beef is great. It is also very good on ham.

Corned beef boiled dinner

- 4 to 5 lb. corned beef
- 8 carrots (I use baby carrots)
- 1 clove garlic (halved)
- 8 medium potatoes, quartered
- 2 whole cloves
- 2 yellow onions - quartered
- 10 whole black peppercorns
- 1 med. cabbage, cut in wedges
- 2 bay leaves

Place corned beef, with juice in package, in a large dutch oven and cover with water. Add garlic, cloves, black peppercorns and bay

leaves. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes. Skim surface to remove all foam. Cover kettle and cook 3 to 4 hours until meat is tender. Add vegetables and cook approximately 30 minutes until vegetables are tender when tested with a fork. Remove bay leaves and serve with mustard sauce.

Mustard sauce

- 1-1/2 tablespoon butter, melted
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1/3 cup light brown sugar
- 1/4 cup yellow mustard
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup cider vinegar

Mix all ingredients stirring with a whisk. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring. Reduce heat and simmer 3 to 5 minutes. Serve hot with corned beef.

Some useful hints

Save the bottom cardboard from frozen pizzas and cover with foil. These are great for taking cakes to a potluck or donating for a bake sale.

Store cottage cheese containers upside now in the refrigerator. Your cottage cheese will stay good twice as long.

Use a pizza cutter when cutting bars or cookie bars. It makes nice smooth squares and goes twice as fast.

Reader enjoys paper

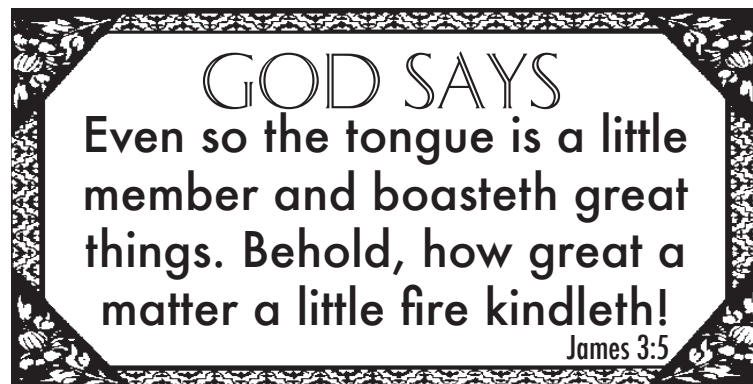
To the editor,
Please renew my subscription. I have no idea if it is still intact? Congratulations on your colorful pictures and interesting articles. It sounds as if it is a "Hap-

pening town!"

Shirley Allen
Hideaway, Texas

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