

This Has Been Long Overdue

BY TOBIN BARNES

Got my 40-year high school reunion coming up. Yowsa. Man, I'm ticking off the watershed moments like decades are gumdrops. All the numbers are getting big. Talk about reel in' in the years.

But the figures don't lie. So far I've been to the first three reunions. Guess I better show up at this one, too. Keep the matched set going. Maybe there'll be a free handbag at the end of it all.

Besides, there's maybe only a couple left. After the 50-year reunion, I would imagine the reunion scene starts getting a little sketchy. A 60-year reunion might be pushing it.

Reunions at 88, 98, 108? Uh, despite modern medical progress ... probably not. There's bound to be too much collateral damage. (Besides, people have to be able to remember stuff to have a reunion.)

Shoot, we had a class of only 60-something to start with — it was a small parochial school — and some haven't made it to any reunions yet.

And, regrettably, we've had some casualties. Probably no more than an actuarial table would predict, but sobering nonetheless.

The rest of us have no doubt been nicked up here and there along the way as well. Everybody ended up amongst the walking wounded sooner or later — multiple wounds being the standard.

But those who have emerged are a pretty good bunch. I'll vouch for them. They were nice kids when they were in high school, sometimes raised in tough circumstances, and they're nice middle-aged adults now, having since overcome tough circumstances.

Most all of the professions, including clergy, are represented (but no dentists). And, of course, that's nice, although ending up as good people is the main thing, no matter what the superficial worldly status.

And, you know, I'm proud of my classmates lives because I'd



Barnes

like to think I had something to do with the way they turned out. I'd like to think I helped them in some admittedly small ways — sometimes microscopically so — become what they are.

I'm proud of them and, hey, yeah, I'm proud of me.

Now where do I get the brass to come up with such a thing? After all, that's pretty outrageous what I just said.

Well, I said it because I know what they did for me, and I can only hope I had some similar influences on them.

To sum it all up: They did things for me they didn't have to do, and they didn't do things to me that they very easily could have done. They said good things to me when they didn't have to say anything, and they didn't say bad things to me when they very easily could have said them.

It wasn't always great — they weren't always great and I wasn't always great. Far from it. But we were usually good enough for kids who were learning to be good people.

Sometimes I needed to be put down a peg, and I oftentimes got that, and sometimes I needed to be put up a peg, and I got enough of that, too.

Of course, all this sounds pretty mushy. And my readers know that I'm not a mushy guy. But sometimes, gosh darn it (our nun teachers would have allowed that expletive), a guy's got to call a spade a spade.

I needed to say I'm grateful for the people I got to grow up with.

And I needed to say it well before a 50-year reunion and certainly a 60-year reunion because I or one or a lot of us might not be there.

Tobin Barnes, a high school English teacher, gets his skewed viewpoints of life from staring too much at Crow Peak, which looms above his home a few miles outside Spearfish.

Question Probably Innocent Oversight

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:

A few months ago, our local Subaru dealership determined that our Impreza needed a new engine, and that it would be covered by the factory warranty. Since the engine was replaced, we've put 7,000 more miles on the car. Now they say we need a timing belt. My question is, When the engine was replaced, wouldn't they have replaced the timing belt then? — Bill

TOM: Yes. The timing belt is considered an internal engine component. So a new timing belt would have come as part of the new engine.

RAY: So, there are two possible explanations. One is that they were basing their recommendation on the mileage of the car. Perhaps they just forgot, or hadn't looked up your records and saw that your engine has only 7,000 miles on it. It may be a



CLICK & CLACK

repair they automatically recommend at certain mileage intervals. That's the innocent explanation.

TOM: The less-benign explanation is that they're trying to get back some of the money they spent giving you a new engine.

RAY: But start by giving them the benefit of the doubt, Bill. Remind them that you got a brand-new engine 7,000 miles ago, and see if they say: "Oh, right! You don't need a timing belt! Uh, how about a new transmission?"

If it ain't broke, you won't have to fix it! Order Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

© 2010, King Features Syndicate, Inc.

VFW

From Page 1A

"You have to really try to get that many in. We really tried this year. The pool to draw from is just less. Everybody's grateful for that. Nobody likes war," he said.

Times have changed since the VFW Post 791 was chartered in 1921. Fresh out of World War I, many veterans got memberships and actively participated in the local organization. Recruiting new members was hardly a problem.

But today, the organization's No. 1 challenge is keeping members involved.

"Even from members we have, the truly active, active numbers are far from that. It's a really small number," Fiedler said.

The most active members of the VFW are World War II veterans — people primarily in their 80s. There are a smaller number of Korean War vets, and an even smaller number of active Vietnam vets. Active veterans from wars since then are few and far between.

The VFW does a significant amount of volunteer work, from performing military rites at funerals, to walking in local parades and other events as the color guard. When the VFW building is rented out for meetings or receptions, volunteers from the organization and the ladies auxiliary set up tables and chairs.

With the help of local Boy Scout troops, members of the VFW put up American flags six times a year, including the Fourth of July, in Memorial Park, too.

"Those poles are heavy, and those poles are hard to get up," said Linda Nelson, an active member of Post 791 and editor of the state VFW newspaper, "Overseas Veterans." Nelson, also a member of Yankton's American Legion and Disabled American Veterans, said her physical disabilities prevent her from helping out with the VFW's volunteer work.

But younger, physically able veterans are only part of the need to keep organizations like the VFW alive.

"If we could get them (younger veterans) to join, it would really help our numbers when we go to Congress and argue for benefits

for veterans," she said. "The sad part is, it's going away. There's not going to be anybody fighting for the rights of veterans."

"The old stigma is that it's just a bunch of old men sitting around drunk at the bar, but that's not true anymore," she added.

While the lack of membership and participation in the VFW Post 791 is decreasing, Fiedler is understanding of why.

"It's not a high priority," he said. "Maybe it shouldn't be."

Even Fiedler didn't join the VFW until he was 58 years old, about 18 years after he retired from the Air Force. He was busy with family and jobs, and it took him several years of being away from his military friends and involvement to realize the plentiful benefits of the organizations.

"I knew some of the older members and they kind of talked me into it," he said. "Once I got involved, I was willing to stay."

Edwin Olson, a longtime member of the VFW Post 791, helped two of his grandsons get involved in the organization in Yankton.

"I told them once they got overseas and they were eligible that they had to join," Olson said with a laugh.

While one of his grandsons is still active in the Navy, the other, Christopher, has returned home and is an active member. He serves on the house committee and is a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, an honor degree of the VFW.

"He enjoys being with the rest of the veterans," Olson said, "and even though he's one of the younger ones, he still finds it interesting. Of course, it's hard to get too involved because he has a full-time job and he's in the National Guard, too."

Even though young adults may be busier now, Fiedler does not like to exclude younger adults from joining the VFW. In fact, he tries to make joining easier.

"We don't try to push too much on them because then they won't show up anymore," he said. "We try to tailor around their lives, whatever they have time for."

While the future of organizations like the VFW may look uncertain, Fiedler is trying to stay positive.

"It's just the way it is," he said. "Life changes."

SIOUX

From Page 1A

trailers to replace the flooded tribal headquarters at Marty.

"The state cannot replace (household goods), but we directed the tribe to those voluntary organizations active in the disaster, including the Red Cross and the Salvation Army," Turman said.

The state contracted with local vendors to pump out the flooded septic systems and basements, Turman said. The tribe provided a list of those individuals needing the service.

The state contracted with a private vendor who provided trash receptacles in Marty, Ravinia and Lake Andes.

As for the travel trailers, state officials are working with the tribe to contract with camper vendors. The state is also working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure the tribe receives up to 75 percent reimbursement.

Tribal leaders are determining whether the headquarters building is structurally sound and the extent of mold and other contamination. Flooding ruined much of the computers, files and equipment, which now lie behind the building.

Currently, a Marty Indian School room serves as a makeshift office, and tribal leaders are working out of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) office in Wagner.

The Yankton Sioux are looking at different options for the headquarters, Archambeau said. The tribe has about 125 displaced employees working at different sites, she said. The staff working

at the Marty school will need to relocate when students return to classes next month.

The tribe is considering renovations to use the middle school administrative offices as temporary headquarters, Archambeau said. Another plan calls for permanently moving the tribal offices out of Marty.

"We are looking for donations to get a metal building in Wagner," she said.

Besides state and federal assistance, the Yankton Sioux are seeking private donations. YST leaders met this week with the Shakopee Tribe of Minnesota, which has provided funds for other tribes.

Aid has come from area businesses and organizations. The second shipment of relief supplies came this week from Wagner Community Memorial Hospital-Avera and Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton. Wagner grocer R.F. Buche donated 75 cases of water, and the Wagner Rotary will donate coats this winter.

In addition, the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota donated \$1,000 to kick off a relief fund at Commercial State Bank in Wagner. Donations can also be mailed to the "Yankton Sioux Tribe Disaster Relief Fund" at Box 220, Wagner SD 57380.

Yankton Sioux leaders are receiving continuous contacts from tribal members seeking assistance, Archambeau said.

"We try to get whatever is needed to whoever needs it. But there are still tribal members who aren't getting help. They were not on the list sent to Shakopee because they didn't step forward," she said.

"We have too much to do and so many people. They need to call in and tell us what the needs are."

Thune's Office Accepting Fall Intern Applications

WASHINGTON — Sen. John Thune is currently accepting applications from college students interested in serving as interns this fall in his Washington, DC office, as well as his Aberdeen, Rapid City and Sioux Falls offices.

Senator Thune's internship program allows students to gain valuable insight by learning how a Senate office operates.

Interns in state offices will participate in constituent service and state outreach activities, as well as assisting the state staff, while students in the Washington, DC office will have the opportunity to witness the legislative process, give Capitol tours, and attend Senate votes and hearings. Both in-state and Washington, DC internships will allow stu-

dents to work closely with constituents, hone their research and writing skills, and learn a multitude of office skills.

Thune is a member of the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Armed Services; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and Small Business.

College students who are interested in interning for Senator Thune should submit a resume and cover letter, by July 30, 2010, to: Senator John Thune, Attn: Jen Fierro, Intern Coordinator, 493 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510; By Fax to: 202-228-5429; or, Or by E-mail to: jen_fierro@thune.senate.gov

For questions or more information, please call 202-224-2321.

All Types of Bed Pillows
(feather, foam, down, etc.)

In & Out the same day

Friday, July 9th

Link Auditorium • 5th & Capitol
Doors are open from 8:30am-3pm

Make your pillows look like new.
Completely renovated with new ticking
(new material).

Sponsored by CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

RED-HOT DEALS While Supplies Last!

Friday & Saturday Only!

30% OFF Kindred Hearts Wall Art & Photo Frames

35% OFF Select Group Candles & Candle Warmers

50% OFF Closeout Selection of Gourmet Foods

50% OFF Clearance Table ~ One of a Kinds!

Prettys & Prims

222 Capital, Yankton • 605-260-6020

OPEN TILL 6PM FRIDAY!

J&H Cleaning Services

Free Estimates
Weekend & Evening
Appointments Available **(605) 665-2571**

Total Janitorial • 7 Days a Week
If It's Dirty...We Will Clean It!

Contract Cleaning • Carpet Cleaning
Commercial/Residential • Upholstery Cleaning
Floor Care • Auto Detailing

Locally Owned & Operated for 15 Years

309 W. 11th Street • Yankton, SD 57078
800-249-3837 • 605-668-2168
www.tkplaceyankton.com

the Kitchen Place

- Kitchens
- Baths
- Office & more

SHOWPLACE Wood Products

KYNT Yankton's Home Team!

AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS 7:40 AM MONDAY-FRIDAY

Monday, July 5
7:40 Mark Johnson

Tuesday, July 6
7:40 Pauline Aktand
8:15 Linda Larson,
Master Gardeners

Wednesday, July 7
7:40 Chop Johnson & Mike Gullikson, Yankton Riverboat Days
8:15 Linda Larson,
Master Gardeners

Clinic Closed Independence Day, July 4th

ConvenientCare will be closed on Independence Day, Sunday, July 4th so that our staff may enjoy the holiday with their families. Regular hours will resume on Monday, July 5th. Regular ConvenientCare hours are Monday-Friday, 5PM to 9PM and Saturday-Sunday, 12PM to 5PM.

So Much Care, So Close to Home.

ConvenientCare

YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C.
1104 West 8th Street • Yankton, SD 57078
605-665-7841 • www.yanktonmedicalclinic.com