

The Bonham Line

A recent study indicates there has been a decline in the number of new business creations over the past decade. According to the article I read, the primary reason for the fewer business startups is a growing aversion to taking risks among young adults.

Everything one decides to do in life carries a certain amount of risk. How many times have you, or someone you know, thought of changing jobs or starting a business only to be told, "You can't do that" or "Now is not the time for that; it won't work in this area" or "What if you fail?"

I took the plunge in the late Seventies, leaving a profession I had trained for in college after five years to take a job with a weekly newspaper.

Friends told me I seemed more relaxed and happier with my new responsibilities, and I quickly found pride in seeing my articles in print.

I came to newspapers with a background in teaching English, French, and journalism. There was an old saying, "Those who can, do; those who can't, teach." I write that sentence with no malice toward teachers; after all, I was a teacher for five years—five good years.

I left the profession because I wanted to see if I could achieve one of my life's goals: to own, publish, write, and operate my own newspaper business.

I achieved that goal in 1981 when we purchased a weekly newspaper in a neighboring county. Eventually, we added a second weekly to the fold before selling out to a larger daily.

"A newspaper; can you make money doing that?" The question was put to me by a relative. You might not become a millionaire from owning and operating your own business, but with careful planning, you can make a living. Just as important, doing a job you enjoy is satisfying.

The Arthur area has many entrepreneurs. Some led the construction boom in the Seventies and Eighties. Some went into retail. Others offer accounting, legal, or other services, all beneficial to this community.

As we enter the holiday season, be sure to shop in the Arthur Area first before driving off to the bigger stores in Mattoon and Champaign. My feeling is that what you're looking for can be found in or around Arthur as quickly and economically as it can elsewhere.

Be sure to visit the stores Friday and Saturday during the Christmas Kickoff and when it comes to deciding what you want to do in life, follow your dreams.

Be seeing you!

-rwb-

State Bicentennial Flag raising ceremony set for Dec. 4 at Douglas County Courthouse

The public is cordially invited to an Illinois Bicentennial Flag Raising Ceremony at Noon on December 4 at the Douglas County Courthouse.

As the State of Illinois approaches our 200th year of statehood, the Illinois Bicentennial Commission has requested that every county participate in a simultaneous flag raising ceremony at noon on the Monday, December 4.

In accordance with their request, all Douglas County community leaders, elected officials, and the public are invited to attend the ceremony at the Douglas County Courthouse.

Anyone with questions concerning the event should contact Judi Pollock, Douglas County Clerk and Recorder, e-mail judi.pollock@douglascountyil.com, or call (217) 253-2442.

Christmas Kickoff

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After the parade, stop back into Knights Court for some free hot chocolate and cookies plus a chance to get in those first requests to Santa.

In addition, Arthur Fire Department will set up an Angel Tree inside Knights Court, so people can get an early start in making someone's Christmas really special this year.

Individuals and groups interested in participating

in the parade should contact Billie Bernius at the State Bank of Arthur for an entry form. The form should be completed and returned to Bernius on or before November 14.

Questions concerning the parade should be directed to Bernius at the bank, (217) 543-2111.

Come celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with us in the Arthur area where we can help you simplify, save, and enjoy this Christmas season!

Have a merry little Thanksgiving

By KENT A. STOCK
Staff Writer

Hard to believe next week is Thanksgiving, so, that means this weekend is our community's annual Christmas Kick-Off. Going to be another busy weekend with area merchants putting together all sorts of specials, open houses, and activities for the entire family.

One of the highlights of the day will be the lighted Christmas parade which starts at 5:30 p.m. and will travel up Vine Street. I think this has become the second most popular parade after the Freedom Celebration parade. Santa and Mrs. Claus are in both because that is how good everyone has been around here!

So deck the halls, stuff the bird, watch some football, buy some gifts, and raise a cup of cheer because the holidays are here. No humbugging allowed!

Thanks for the Memories

I'd like to share some Thanksgiving memories that are personal, but I bet my memories and experiences will match so many others out there. Okay, not exactly, as this is my family and our particular brand of "unique" may be unparalleled.

When I was little, the Thanksgiving Eve, if you will, was given over to noodle making. Mom Honn (in my family that was my grandmother Lala) was the world's premiere noodle maker without question, but it did take my mom (Pibby); her sister, Mildred Hall (Aunt Mimi); Mom's sister Frances Ray (Aunt Sansy); and Aunt Dolores Honn to assist with the creation of these noodles especially when Mom got older.

As a kid, I don't think I was ever, ever taken to Mom's house where these fabulous homemade noodles were being made. Dad, my sisters, and I were left at home with a list of instructions on cleaning as our

Town Talk

house was the traditional host on Thanksgiving Day. I'm sure Marty and Sally will laugh at my contribution towards the chores.

Thanksgiving morning I was up early with the TV on to watch the parades. This was a family favorite, particularly of my Dad's, who absolutely loved a parade. We'd watch all the activity from New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, and later Honolulu. There was no channel surfing as, let's face it, there were only three network broadcasts in the first place! Plus, you had to get up and actually go to the TV set to switch channels. Dad and I, still in our PJs, were glued to the set and provided our own running commentary about the activity.

At some point, Mom would leave and start things cooking. Dad would help during commercial breaks! By late morning, the house was starting to smell like turkey and all the trimmings. We got cleaned up, and that is when I stationed myself for

my personal vigil in the bay window at 310 South Cedar (where Janice and Kent Schmidt now live) to await the arrival of everyone. Most importantly, my cousins Mike and Steve Honn along with Doug and David McDonald were coming over—I literally could not be moved out of that window until at least one of their family's cars was in the driveway.

From that point on, it was playtime. David reminded me one time we dressed up as Indians for the day, but whatever the case, we were all over the house and yard—running, shouting, and laughing as hard as we could for as long as we could. With time, of course, for getting into the laundry room and smelling the pies cooling on top of the washer as well as breaking into the Cool Whip for a taste as if the adults would not notice our scoops out of the new container!

There were at least four components to a Honn Family Thanksgiving: food (obvi-

ously), football, jigsaw puzzles, and music. Each year each activity was enjoyed in new, exciting, and often hilarious ways.

Food was the staple as in most if not every household on this holiday. The women were in the kitchen largely to fend off the husbands and the kids from "sampling" the fare as it was prepared. Now the tradition was for the creator of a dish to bemoan the poor quality of what it was they had made while the others sang the accolades of the same dish as it were "the best we have ever tasted."—all I know is nothing ever smelled bad on Thanksgiving!

Now, we usually had a kids table, but I don't really recall all the adults sitting at one long table a la Norman Rockwell. Our family feasts were more mobile. You might be in with the kids, you might be talking out on the carport, you might be sitting at one table or maybe another. You filled your plate and you moved about visiting. More than likely, you were in the TV room watching football.

Football and sports in general in both the Honn

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Everyone urged to turn off the TV on 'Family Reading Night,' sit down with the family, and read a good book

Thursday, November 16, is Family Reading Night. This event is celebrated throughout the state and is sponsored by Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White.

It is a time to turn off the TV, put your tech devices away, and share a good book or two with your family.

Stop by the library and pick up some books and a treat bag to use for your cel-

ebration.

Teen Cooking Class is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on November 18. This month there is a foreign theme with a focus on Thai food. Due to limited class size, please be sure to sign your sixth through ninth grader up for this free event.

For anyone interested in learning more about computers, we have added a page with links to tech tu-

torials. Topics include typing practice, mouse training, using Windows 7 or 10, and Microsoft Office programs.

The staff will be happy to get you started and let you practice your computer skills. If you would like one-on-one help, call and set up an appointment. We are here to help you.

Visit our webpage at www.arthurlibrary.org for other items of interest.

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