

The Bonham Line

My sister sent me a very interesting birthday card in October. It was a card/booklet titled “Back in the Day 1951, Reflections of a Special Year,” and contained facts about the year such as the price of cars, salaries of certain professions, and color reprints of magazine ads.

According to this booklet, the year I was born the “Dennis the Menace” comic strip appeared for the first time in newspapers. Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “The King and I” opened on Broadway.

Also, J.D. Salinger published Catcher in the Rye and “I Love Lucy” made its television debut. Band-Aid introduced plastic strips; Swanson introduced beef, chicken, and turkey pot pies. The CBS “eye” logo premiered on television, and Clorets chewing gum and mints were introduced.

Overall average income per person was \$3,709 per year. The President of the United States was at the top of the salary totem pole at \$100,000; Vice President \$30,000; U.S. Senator \$12,500; construction \$4,001; coal miner \$3,853; manufacturing \$3,294; clerical \$2,842; State and Local Government Employees \$2,800; and teachers \$2,683. Minimum wage was 75 cents per hour.

And, yes, the federal government was in debt back then, too—to the tune of \$255,288,000,000 (over \$255 billion)!

If you were born in 1951 as I was, you were one of 3,823,000 babies born that year. U.S. population was 154,877,889. Life expectancy was 68.4 years. Unemployment was 3.2 percent.

Average price of a new home was \$9,000. A new car set you back \$1,500, and gasoline to power your new ride cost 27 cents per gallon.

Other prices paid in 1951: eggs, 74 cents per dozen; butter 82 cents per pound; bread, 16 cents per loaf; coffee, 86 cents per pound; potatoes, 51 cents per 10 pounds; milk, 92 cents per gallon; bacon 67 cents per pound, and sugar, 51 cents per five pounds.

A movie ticket to see “An American in Paris,” winner of the Academy Award for Best Picture, cost 53 cents. A postage stamp to send a letter to your girl friend was three cents. The Post Office handled 46,908,410,000 pieces of mail that year.

Home appliances featured in magazine ads in 1951 include Roper, “America’s Finest Gas Range”; Westinghouse clothes dryer; Crosley self-defrosting refrigerator, “Only Crosley Gives You the Shelvador”; and Sunbeam Mixmaster.

If you like to play golf, you should appreciate the fact that the R&A and USGA in 1951 agreed to a common set of rules, standardizing the way golf is played around the world.

Some sports notes from 1951:
First NBA All-Star Game was played at the Boston Gardens.

Bobby Thompson of the New York Giants hit the “Shot Heard ‘Round the World,” a three-run, walk-off home run to give the Giants a 5-4 win over the Brooklyn Dodgers for the National League title. The Giants, however, lost the World Series to the New York Yankees.

The National Football League played its first Pro Bowl Game, and Joe DiMaggio played in his final career regular season game.

Champions in 1951 (in addition to the Yankees): Los Angeles Rams, pro football; Lee Wallard, Indianapolis 500; Toronto Maple Leafs, Stanley Cup; Kentucky, NCAA basketball; Tennessee, college football; Dick Kazmaier, Heisman Trophy; Count Turf, Kentucky Derby; Dick Savitt, Wimbledon; and Herb Thomas, NASCAR.

We didn’t have Facebook back in 1951, but we did have direct dial telephone service. Direct dial service even went coast-to-coast for the first time in 1951—a great technological advance.

Looking for electronics in 1951? You probably checked out Magnavox TVs, Schick electric razors, GE clock radios, and IBM electric typewriters. Sorry, no word processors in 1951; although the UNIVAC I, the first commercial computer, was produced that year in the U.S.

Some news headlines from the year I was born:
The Great Flood of 1951 reached its highest point in Northeast Kansas, culminating in the greatest flood damage to date in the Midwestern United States.

In San Francisco, California, 48 nations signed a peace treaty with Japan to formally end the Pacific War.

The Twenty-Second Amendment to the United State Constitution, limiting Presidents to two terms, was ratified.

Nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site began with a one-kiloton bomb dropped on Frenchman Flat, northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Chinese and North Korean forces captured Seoul for the second time.

Famous people sharing 1951 as their birth year include Rush Limbaugh, radio; Kurt Russell, Kirstie Alley, Tony Danza, Richard Thomas, Lynda Carter, Lou Ferrigno, and Michael Keaton, actors; and Phil Collins and John Mellencamp, musicians.

I leave you with one of my favorites: In 1951, Dairy Queen added banana splits to its menu. Looks like I came along just in time!
Be seeing you!

-rwb-

Snow lovers, your wish was granted

By KENT A. STOCK
Staff Writer

It took a bit to get here this winter, but we have finally, officially had what we can call a snowstorm. Somewhere around 7 to 10 inches of the white stuff fell over most of central Illinois, and our area did not miss out on all the “fun.”

It did look like a lot of fun, judging by Facebook pictures from Saturday. Sledding, snowmen, building snow forts, snowball fights, or just general romping around in the snow made for some good winter time fun.

Even our furry friends, for the most part, enjoyed frolicking in the snow with their human families. My dog, Payton, does not mind the snow until it gets above her shoulders, and we were almost there. My cat wanted nothing to do with the great, white outdoors and spent most of her time sleeping, eating, and watching football much like lots of people I know.

The good thing about this storm is it came on a weekend; it was not mixed with ice; the wind stayed somewhat calm and the temperatures did not drop to arctic like cold following the snowfall.

Okay, so we’ve all had our fun or at least break from the normal routine, and the snow covering the ground is welcome to leave as quickly as it came, at least in my opinion.

We have surpassed the midpoint of January, and I choose to look on the bright side, we are that much closer to spring.

Meanwhile, I’m going to enjoy the winter wonderland looking out from the inside of my house as much as possible. Parkland Praise

Parkland College in Champaign has issued their 2018 Fall Semester Dean’s List with several from our area being recognized for their academic excellence.

The students selected are Paige Davis of Arthur, Megan Metcalf of Lovington, Jazmine Arnett and Zane Crist of Atwood, and Kim Davis of Hammond.

Congratulations to all on their achievement. Now to tackle

Town Talk

spring!

Alumni Picture Time

It is always fun to look back at our Senior Class pictures that used to adorn the hallways of Arthur, Lovington, and Atwood-Hammond high schools. While so many changes have taken place, a piece of nostalgia for all of our communities has had to find a new home.

Enter modern technology to save the day. The Senior Class composite pictures are now displayed on a white board (is that right?) at Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School in the foyer area between the east and west gyms. You simply walk up, touch the screen, select the school and the class you want to see, and there you go.

Even better, these pictures can be found on the school website at www.cusd305.org at least for Arthur and Lovington.

Atwood-Hammond, your

pictures are coming soon! Once you are on the website, go to the District Tab and select Senior Composites. The pictures are very easy to see, and the names are easy to read.

So many changes; but it is great to know our school is looking out for the history of everyone in the district along with alumni that are volunteering their time and efforts to make it happen!

Don’t forget, you can find the Atwood-Hammond High School yearbooks on-line at the Atwood-Hammond Public Library webpage.

Another New Year’s Baby

I was reminded this week after writing about Oliver Daily, our most recent first baby of the year for 2015, that another baby paved the way 15 years prior. Not only the first New Year’s baby, but the first baby of the new millennium!

Michael and Katrina Taylor of our town welcomed their son Justin into the world on New Year’s Day 2000! Justin is now 19 years old and works at Mid-State Tank. They grow up fast!

Grandma Leanne Tully thinks it is neat that the great-grandparents and good friends, Max and Lou Fabert, along with Bud and Ellen Seaman each have grandsons who are the first babies of their respective New Years!

New for the New Year

If you thought 2018 brought lots of changes to our community and our area, you best get ready for 2019! I’m going to run down a list of a few things I know about and can actually tell you about. I love to share.

In March 2019 a new business will be opening and sharing space with The Taste Cup. Gabe Hallford, senior at Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School and member of the Douglas County CEO, will open South Vine Coffee House. Terry Clark is his mentor in the CEO program, so that all works out well.

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Letters to the Editor

EMTs to begin collecting donated items for upcoming auction

Dear Editor,

Arthur EMT Association would like to express our sincere gratitude for the tremendous support our community has shown throughout the year and especially during our Annual Chili Super and Auction.

With these proceeds, we fund local training events for our members. This allows us to provide the highest quality care for our patients in their time of need. Without the generous support, our success would not be possible.

Our Annual Chili Supper is approaching soon. You can mark your calendars for the first Saturday in February every year. In 2019, the date is February 2. Serving is 4 to 8 p.m., and the auction starts at 6. We hope our attendance continues to grow each year.

Our members will soon be out and about in the community seeking donations for our auction.

Auction items are collected up to and including the day of the auction.

If you have an item that you wish to donate, please contact us at (217) 543-3754. We can arrange for pickup, or items may be dropped off at the station (323 West Columbia).

Please contact us ahead of time to assure we can have a member of our association at the station.

We are looking forward to another successful chili supper and our continued service to our community.

Sincerely,
Arthur EMT Association

Whatever the New Year may hold...

Open your

Amazing

savings account

TODAY with as little as \$20!



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