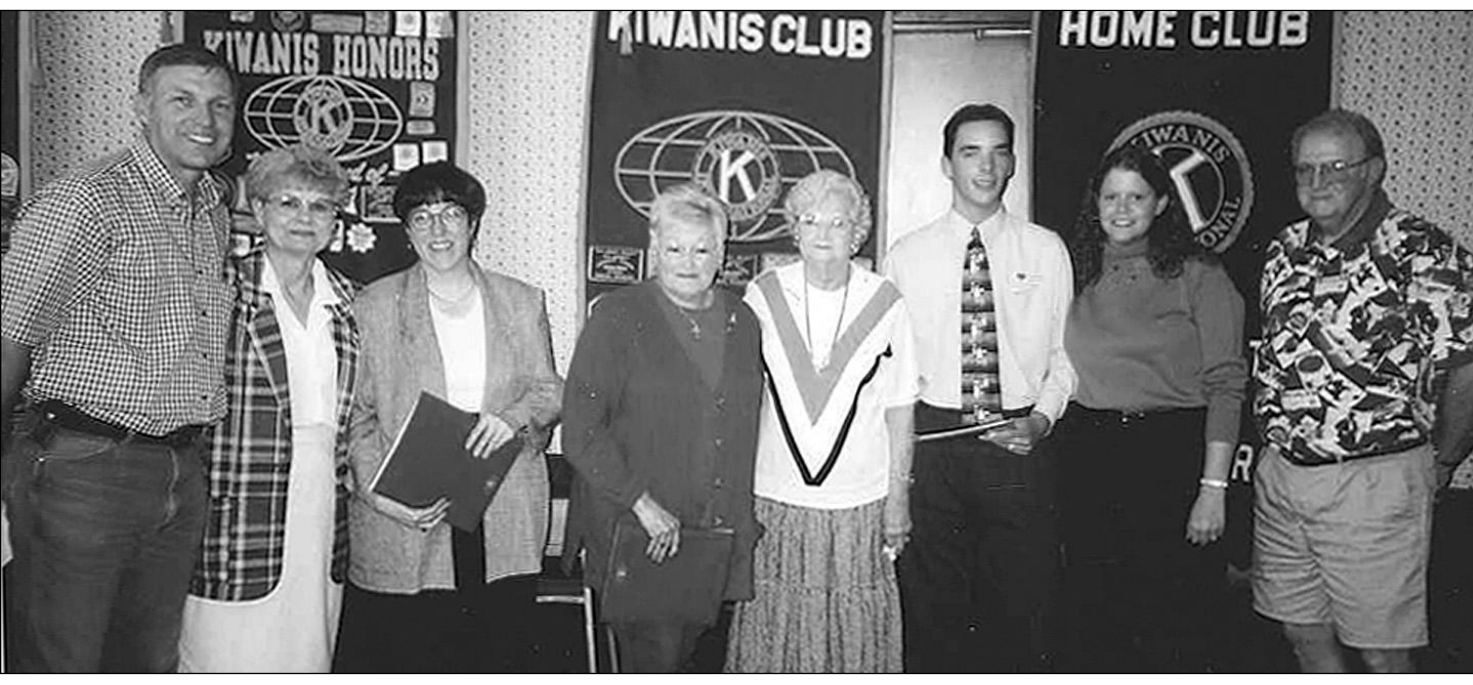


Back in the day...

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Carly McCrory recognized her fourth grade classmates, the future TCHS Class of 2006, in last week's Back in the Day photo. If you have an idea of who these local good doers might be, let us know at The Tuscola Journal.

10 YEARS AGO Feb. 3, 2009

Tuscola resident Carly McCrory stood in front of the Capitol building in Washington DC on Inauguration Day. McCrory was one of the 2 million people who congregated at the Capitol for Barack Obama's swearing in on Jan. 20, 2009.

2008 Miss Moultrie Douglas County Fair Queen, Jenifer Fortney, was named "Best non-finalist" at the Miss Illinois County Fair Queen pageant on Sunday Jan. 18, 2009. Fortney, a sophomore at Illinois College in Jacksonville, was pursuing a Bio-chem major and a Spanish minor for premed with plans to enter medical school.

Jessica Hardwick, Molly Romine, Lindsay Troike, and Rachael Brewer were a few among the Warriors' girls' basketball team that were all smiles after defeating Monticello 40-39 in the final seconds of the OVC Tournament second round game.

20 YEARS AGO Feb. 2, 1999

The first of many discussions about building a new North Ward Elementary School was had on Jan. 25, 1999. The Board of Education came to an agreement to place the question, whether a new school should be built, on the

upcoming ballot for April 13. The previous vote was 1,136 against and 452 in favor. The first time the issue was brought up they asked for \$7.9 million while this time they were asking \$7.2 million. The new school would be built with a capacity of 535, which was roughly 100 more than the current number of students with room to expand on one level if necessary.

Tim Heyen won first place and Matt Schweighart won second place in a money management contest held by Cargill. Participating students used fake money to invest and followed the markets to gain stock market and investment trading experience. Cargill representative John Thomas presented the first-place winner with \$100 cash and 50 bushels of corn to sell and the second-place winner with \$60 cash and 30 bushels of corn to sell. Ken Schweighart of A.G Edwards assisted with the contest, and a local farmer anonymously donated the corn.

Jason Elder and Timothy Lewis were among area students honored by the Decatur Area Vocational Center for outstanding classroom and lab work.

30 YEARS AGO Jan. 31, 1989

The Tuscola School District was placed on a

financial watch list by the Illinois State Board of Education. Districts are identified for the watch list based on a ratio that compares fund balances to annual revenues.

The FFA Parliamentary Procedure team was the first group to represent Tuscola High School on a state-level FFA competition. Parliamentary Procedure teaches students how to speak in front of an audience, how to conduct a proper and organized meeting and think on their feet. The team placed second overall in the District IV FFA Parliamentary Procedure contest in Mattoon.

The Lady Warriors' freshman team won first place in the Casey Freshman Girls' Basketball Tournament beating Villa Grove 48-19 and Casey 57-23. The team members included Jamie Russell, Shelby Best, Josi Kramer, Amy Baird, Kendra Blaudow and Dawn Barnett. They were coached by Jerry Blaudow.

40 YEARS AGO Feb. 1, 1979

Traffic in Douglas County was at a standstill for more than 24 hours following a 6-inch snowfall, which fell on already ice-glazed roads. Motorists travelling to Tuscola reported seeing 89 wrecked vehicles between St. Louis and Tuscola.

Captain Gordon Cleland assumed command of Illinois State Police District 10 at Pesotum. Cleland replaced Captain William Mosher who resigned to accept a position in Champaign County Law Enforcement.

50 YEARS AGO Jan. 30, 1969

Seven men from Douglas County left on a charter bus to be inducted into the Armed Forces on Jan. 23, 1969. These seven men were Francis J. Ogilvie, Jerry A. McGee, Kelly S. Crawford, Martin E Robinson, Michael E. Daugherty, Emmanuel H. Fauke and John D. Rothgeb.

The Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow award was presented to Madonna Wilhelm. The award was based on scores of tests that were given to the students.

Technical Sgt. Dale A. McGinn, a member of the 437th Military Airlift Wing contingent, arrived at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, supporting a massive NATO training exercise conducted in West Germany. McGinn was a flight engineer with the C-141 Starlifter aircrews based at Charleston AFB, South Carolina.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My wife and I own land in Douglas County where the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm is currently under development. Even though we are not going to have a turbine on our land, I still fully support this wind farm. My home is a mile and a half north of the town of Newman. When I sit on my porch, I will see wind turbines. But to me, I won't

be seeing something ugly, I will see opportunity. This is a chance for our community to earn substantial revenue for our schools, our roads, and our township every year.

For the past ten years, the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm has played by the rules that were set by Douglas County. In fact, the wind farm is going above and beyond the rules by vol-

untarily increasing the minimum distance wind turbines will be set back from homes by 50 percent more than what is required. Douglas County's rules are middle of the road and fair. I greatly appreciate that the Douglas County Board is standing by the parameters that they set ten years ago when the development of this project began. The opposition has known about

this project for a long time, so why they are trying to block this project now doesn't make sense. What does make sense is to support a project that will revitalize this community through much-needed tax revenues and job creation.

Jim Biddle
Newman

To the Editor:

I have helped build hundreds of wind turbines in the last 13 years and know firsthand how wind farms can transform communities.

The Harvest Ridge Wind Farm will create hundreds of construction jobs. Local skilled men and women in the building trades will benefit from this project. On projects of this size, there are also highly

skilled craftsmen that will temporarily relocate to the area. They will need places to live, food, fuel, clothes, etc. They make money and put a lot of money back into the economy. I personally have been in this situation, and I have seen a lot of benefits to these communities that I have worked in, whether it is the local grill serving 30 late night diners or the local mechanic fixing

contractor work vehicles. This project will bring other long-term benefits to the communities in Douglas County, such as over \$50 million in tax revenues. The majority of that money will go towards educating our children, helping struggling fire protection districts upgrade lifesaving emergency equipment, and giving our townships a boost in their budgets. That

alone sounds like a great direction for the entire county. Difficult decisions are being made and heated conversations are being had, but at the end of the day, the benefit to the entire county is what is important.

Please think of the county as a whole and show your support for wind energy in Douglas County.

Charles Black
Villa Grove

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed your article on Joe Slaughter's birthday very much. I am so glad Dan Kleiss recognized it. Joe and I were in the Army in the Pacific with the 33rd

Division for three years during World War II. We went in together and went to California for basic training. We slept in the same barracks. We then went to southern California to join

the 33rd Division. But in the 33rd we went to different regiments. I never saw Joe again until we came home after the war was over.

Joe always said if it wasn't for he and I we

would have lost the war. Happy Birthday, Joe; glad we won that war.

Sincerely,
Wilbur Wetzel
Savoy



HumankindNESS

The Pen and the Page

By: Jennifer Richardson

I sometimes think I was born in the wrong century. I do love all the modern conveniences like my washer and dryer, and I find my computer very helpful. But there are times when I wonder what life would have been like when dinner was an event and letter writing was an art.

With the availability of home computers, laptops, and smartphones, we have so many quick options for communication. A blinding buffet of digital messages and images fly back and forth over Facebook, Twitter, and other social networking sites.

So many ways to connect, but so few real connections. Even marathon texting sessions don't fill the need for authentic bonding. Texts can be reactionary and filled with misunderstandings and misdirection, as they are an attempt to hold a two-sided conversation without the benefits of nuance, body language, and tone.

Our digital words to each other can become sound-bites, brief, truncated pieces of paragraphs that don't offer the complete beauty and power of words.

It sounds like I am just another person who does not enjoy technology, but this is not the case. I love my cell phone. It is honestly hard to imagine my life without it. My computer is a lifeline for me, and I certainly enjoy social media when it is used in a positive way.

But I do not want to forget why letters written in longhand are so valuable.

Years ago I was earnestly seeking some paperwork in a box labeled "Office" when I came across a letter from my Grandma Kate. She passed away in 2007 and I miss her, so the letter stopped me in the midst of the project I was attempting to complete.

Just the sight of her slanted and somewhat shaky penmanship told me the letter was one of the last I had received from her in her eighty-seven years.

I sat down to read the letter. Grandma Kate spoke of some friends that had recently graced her with a visit, and a new great-grandchild. She worried about an upcoming doctor visit and how uncomfortable she was when she needed medical care.

She wrote of my parents and how grateful she was to have lived with them for so many years. She mentioned she loved our drives when we used to run her errands around town. And she said she missed me and looked forward to seeing my beautiful face again soon. My mind savored the feeling of hearing the words in her own voice.

She always signed her letters with X's and O's. The X's were kisses and the O's were hugs. Sure enough, the letter ended with a long line of these two pieces of the alphabet, letting me know in her own sweet shorthand just how much she thought of me.

I looked through the box and found more letters. There was a letter from a friend in high school. I found a letter from my sister from the years before either of us had children. And a note from my mom about how proud she was of me for something I had accomplished in college.

I re-read and re-lived moments that had been patiently waiting for me during the hustle and bustle of the years since I last enjoyed them; each one signed in the distinctive and undeniable handwriting of the author. Each gave me a memory of their life in their very own unique and precious hand.

Handwritten letters live. They often outlive their owners. Be a part of a treasured collection, create a written memory for your friend, your child, your grandchild, or anyone who is special to you. Touch a life with hand-written words that can be saved and savored as only yours. Enjoy this modern world we have, but every once in a while leave a piece of yourself with a pen and a page.

REWARD

Doesn't like being picked up.

Tuscola Short-hair male orange/white Tabby

White bib and feet

Black scar on nose



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Reward for information leading to his return.

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