



Back in the day...

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Do you recognize this week's Back in the Day photo? If so, drop us a note at The Journal. Your efforts will be rewarded.

**10 years ago
December 9, 2009**

Jim Hausman from The Gold Center in Springfield donated tons of food to the SAM food pantry. The Semi-trailer that transported the food included eighteen pallets of food, including 500 frozen hams, 2,160 pounds of ground beef, and 14 pallets of canned goods. It also came with a six-cubic-foot freezer to aid the Pantry in keeping more frozen food on hand.

Local farmers experienced one of the latest harvests in memory, with tractors and combines literally burning the midnight oil to get the final acres from frozen fields. Because the summer was cool, corn was slow to mature and the fields remained wetter than usual, which meant farmers harvests were slowed down due to having to dry corn that would have naturally dried in a normal summer condition.

The Tuscola community building offered photos with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, face painting, and numerous vendors selling crafts during Tuscola's Christmastown celebration to kick off the holiday season.

Tuscola's win over Villa Grove on Saturday night marked a milestone for Lady Warrior coach Tim Kohlbecker. Entering his sixth season at the helm of Tuscola's girls' basketball program, Kohlbecker notched victory

number 100 and raised his career win/loss totals to 100-56.

**20 years ago
December 7, 1999**

Local shoppers would soon have another store in which to spend their dollars, with the construction of a Pamida store on the north side of Route 36 in Tuscola. The 34,498-square-foot store would be located on a 5.47-acre tract of land north of Amerihost Inn and Burger King.

Family, friends, and supporters joined Chub Conner Saturday morning in christening the grand opening of his campaign headquarters. Conner, a state representative hopeful, would be conducting campaign business at 206 N. Parke Street, Suite B, of the Keigley Building.

Festival Plaza was officially opened for public enjoyment Friday, December 3, with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by city officials and Chamber of Commerce representatives.

TCHS Senior Janeen Sutherland was chosen as the Tuscola Rotary Student of the Month.

The Tuscola Warriors withstood a late rally by St. Joseph-Ogden to post a 65-62 victory in the opening boys basketball game of the 1999-2000 season.

**30 years ago
December 5, 1989**

Members of the Douglas County Board and Jarman

Hospital administrator Mark Fedyk were at odds with each other over Fedyk's unpaid role in helping Newman try to secure a physician for the community.

Georgia Stewart and Wayne Pickens were installed as worthy matron and worthy patron at the Tuscola Chapter #44 of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Tuscola native Rick Reed graduated recently from the Illinois State Police Academy in Springfield. He was being assigned to ISP duty in LaSalle County.

The Marshall Lions came to Tuscola trying to end the Warriors' 23 game-winning streak but failed, as TCHS won the contest 74-63. Brian Hatfield erupted for 31 points.

The Seventh Grade Lady Hornets were continuing their banner basketball season by advancing to state quarterfinal action after a 29-24 win over Litchfield.

**40 years ago
December 4, 1979**

A bathroom in the Audrey Oye home was completely demolished due to a sewer gas explosion under the house. The house was being rented to Wayne and Wilma Rahn, who reported they had smelled gas earlier in the week and had CILCO checking for leaks several days before the explosion.

Dennis Dietrich announced his intention to run on the Republican ballot

as a candidate for Douglas County coroner in the 1980 primary. Dietrich had served the last three years as deputy coroner.

Eleven Warriors notched the scoring column in an 88-65 victory over Warrensburg-Latham. Senior center Tom Weemer led the parade with 24 points.

**50 years ago
December 11, 1969**

The question of where to house the ambulance to be used by the City of Tuscola was solved this week. Central Illinois Public Service (CIPS) agreed to allow the city to use a portion of the company's building, which adjoins city hall, for its purpose and at no cost.

South Ward School had reported someone had broken in and stolen two turkeys, twenty-five meat loaves, four dozen eggs and four loaves of bread from its pantry.

Some 300 Farm Bureau members and guests gathered to pay tribute to 50 years of successful Farm Bureau operation at a banquet held Thursday at the Community Building. One of the special guests at the banquet was Mrs. John McCarty, whose husband was the first Douglas County Farm Bureau president.



HumankindNESS

In Defense of the Compliment

By: Jennifer Richardson

Have you gifted someone with a compliment today? You look nice. You did a fabulous job on that project. This is delicious. You are beautiful, inside and out.

Websters defines compliment as an expression of esteem, respect, affection, or admiration; beautiful gifts we all need for ourselves and for others. Sincere compliments are humble by nature and are uttered without agenda. A simple statement that honors someone else, and ultimately sends the message that other people matter. It is a practice that transfers something good from one human into another.

We use the phrase, he paid me a compliment. A genuine compliment is a small payment, an investment in something. There are multiple returns on this investment; self esteem for the receiver, and unselfishness for the giver. The happy effects of a compliment often spill over into other people who are simply near enough to feel the glow.

Sincere compliments seem to be out of fashion. The reasons are probably many. Perhaps our communication has become harsh and selfish. There hardly seems to be room for kindness between all the sarcasm and the sharp wit we use in the guise of humor.

Maybe it is connected to how we spend our time. Being complimentary requires that we focus on someone else long enough to see what is happening in their life. We are often glued to activities that move our thoughts inward rather than outward.

It is possible that we don't authentically compliment other people because we are so consumed with negative thoughts and emotions. Compliments flow from a positive heart, and affirmative appreciation has to be cultivated on a daily basis in order to grow and bear fruit.

I have heard parents say that they don't offer compliments to their children because this kind of praise will be a crutch and make them vain. Compliments are not to blame for conceit. Vanity can be bred into a child by the quiet but insidious process of watching influential people in their lives judge and criticize others, giving the child a falsely inflated vision of themselves as better than the rest. This strategy pushes others down so the child can be superior by comparison.

A true compliment does not compare or use others as a benchmark. It simply tells your child there is something good about them that is noteworthy, and you have noticed, and you appreciate it. As the child is filled with appreciation, they can then appreciate rather than compare.

A compliment goes beyond the recognition of the specific thing being praised. In a grander sense, the pattern of taking time to identify the good in others, and then offering legitimate acknowledgment for it teaches much more than just a feel good moment.

The result can be an observant human being that is alive to the life and times of those around them, who is responsive to the moments when someone may need a rip in their spirit sewn up and healed. In this practice we become people who use their powers for good, who build up and do not tear down. These are the people that others seek out for wisdom, for comfort, for guidance. These are the people for whom no funeral home will ever be large enough to hold all those who will come to pay their respects for the life they lived and the lives they touched.

Practice the gift of the simple but mighty compliment.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I recently purchased some material at the Tuscola Home Center and would like to point out the following observations.

The pricing was either met or was better than the "big box" stores in Champaign.

The difference in sales tax saved me ten dollars.

The savings in mileage was \$26.00.

The savings in time was at least 2 hours.

The people at Tuscola Home Center were helpful and appreciative.

Personnel at Tuscola Home Center thanked me for shipping there, I thank them for being there.

Thank you,

Jim Allen

Newman, IL

Holding It All Together

Is It Just A Holiday?

by Amy McCollom



I was a selfish little nine-year-old, as most of them are, when my little brother asked me that question. Even now, I regret that I told him the wrong answer. But to me, and my limited understanding I had gained during my short nine years on earth, it made perfect sense. He asked me, "What is the difference between Thanksgiving and Christmas?" I told him, "It's basically the same thing; there's turkey and pies, and a whole bunch of food and the grown-ups talk about sad stuff, only at Thanksgiving there are no presents, but at Christmas there is. That's the difference."

Well, my parents didn't take us to church. They sent us to church. It makes a big difference. No matter how many Sunday Schools, revivals, Bible Schools, or Sunday Night services we were shipped off to; if those lessons and beliefs were

not reinforced at home, we were just confused. Mom and dad drank beer and smoked, but the church people they sent us to any time the church doors were open disapproved of that. That is why it's so important to take your kids to church and be the example. Parents need to realize that they are responsible for all of that child's upbringing. Not only health and wellness, but also the child's morals and belief system and values. Those things get rooted at an early age. (Ok, off of my soapbox.)

When I grew up and had children of my own, I wanted to make sure that they knew why we celebrated each and every holiday. I didn't want them to make the mistake I did. I especially wanted my kids to understand what Christmas is all about and why we celebrate it. Every year before any gift is opened

on Christmas morning, my husband reads the Christmas story from the Bible. We also make a point to set up at least one nativity set in our home and we talk about Jesus anytime Christmas is brought up. We watch the movie The Nativity Story, which I highly recommend. I try my best to make Jesus Christ the center of our Christmas. He is the reason for the season, true story.

One thing I found very interesting; is the way some of the American Muslims look at Christmas. One of Portia's college instructors is Muslim and he has been very open to answering any questions we have about his beliefs. When asked if he celebrated Christmas, he said that personally, he did not. Most Muslims in the Middle East do not either. But he does have a brother and friends who are Muslim as well, and they do celebrate Christmas. He said,

"We believe in Jesus, we love Jesus. But we don't celebrate Christmas because of Jesus. We celebrate it because it is just a holiday, and it is a custom of America. We like to get together and share meals and gift giving. But Jesus is not mentioned. It's just a pleasant time to relax and have a holiday."

Christmas: what was once a holy religious celebration, formal and proper, decadent and rich in tradition has strayed from its roots and religious meaning; now safely having it's religiousness removed, Christmas is adorned with singing snowmen, flying reindeer, elves, make-belief winter wonderlands, and a fat man in a red suit that will fulfill all of your hearts desire. You have done it, oh ye offended ones. America has created such a Jesus-Free Christmas even Muslims can celebrate it now. Happy Holidays.

Is it just a holiday to you? Or, as the Grinch asks, "Perhaps, Christmas means a little bit more..."

I hope with everything in me that these words will

make you think a little. Take inventory of your heart and mind. What are you celebrating this Christmas? Food and presents like a selfish nine-year-old kid? Or perhaps, a little bit more. Merry Christmas.

(The views and opinions expressed in the submitted columns are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of The Journal.)

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