

Zion News

"Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. So he quickly left the entrance to his tent to greet them. He bowed low to the ground." - Genesis 18:2.

Who were these three men? Abraham identified one of them as the Lord who divulged to him his plan to destroy Sodom because of its wickedness. The two others were identified as angels who left to head for Sodom. The Lord remained with Abraham for a while who tried negotiating with the Lord to not destroy Sodom if even ten righteous people lived there.

This and so many other accounts through the millenniums of human history refer to visitations from beings not of this planet. How interesting it is that during recent Congressional hearings in Washington there is such robust interest in finding out what the government knows about and what Christians have always known - that we are not alone.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was visited by an angel to tell her she would bear a son called Emmanuel. She and Mary Madeline were met at Jesus' tomb by an angel.

The account of Christ's ascension is also an obvious example of others not of earthly descent who have made humankind aware of their existence. In front of the Disciples'

eyes, at Christ's command he was lifted up into the sky and went somewhere out there

Star Trek fans all know about Starfleet General Order 1, the "non-interference directive" that prohibits the interfering with the natural development of other civilizations. As noble as this fictional directive may seem, it smacks of human arrogance that we don't want or need to have our natural development interfered with either.

Really? Throughout history haven't people asked for divine interference? King David asked for God's help many times. George Washington asked for divine intervention in the United States' war for Independence. The world asked for God's help against powerful Nazi aggression. In humankind's darkest moments, we have asked for divine help, intervention, and interference.

So, considering the mess humankind has often gotten into, it may seem a little hypocritical to think that we can handle everything by ourselves and then ask for assistance from other entities with abilities beyond our understanding when things get desperate. Or maybe not. Maybe we are like rebellious children who think they can do anything until we get into deep trouble and need a loving Father or Mother to bail us out.

We should be glad that we are not alone.

Zion's Sunday worship service begins at 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome.

Mini-Reunion reunites long lost cousins

STOCK FAMILY MINI-REUNION

Sally and I and our cousin Peggy (her mom and our dad were sister and brother) had a long-awaited reunion with cousins we did not even know existed until a few months ago. Bobbie Gilman, who lives in Evansville, Indiana but grew up in the Warrensburg area, happened to contact Adam Fritz through a website she had found about Arthur. When she mentioned the Stock name and asked if he knew any of the family, he immediately responded that he certainly did. Actually Adam and our daughter Kyra graduated from high school together. From there Bobbie sent me an email and we were off! After several emails and talk of plans for Bobbie coming to Arthur and maybe another cousin or two, she contacted me a month or so ago and asked if August 11 would work. So on Friday we met Bobbie and her cousin Julie Stone from Peoria at the welcome center. Bobbie and Julie's dads were brothers. What followed was a day of non-stop sharing of information and trying to keep all the relationships straight. The easiest way I can tell you is that Bobbie and Julie's great grandmother Anna Stock Klink was our great aunt. Anna was the oldest of Herman and Margaret Stock's children and Martin Stock, our grandfather, was her brother. We were able to walk around downtown, our first stop being to stop in and see Adam and George at the WoodLoft, and then show them where the shoe store and other stores (meat market, variety store-eventually became the Ben Franklin, harness shop, and hotel) were once located. All businesses started by Herman Stock. Telling stories all the time. We even went to the library to see the pictures that have been put on display there in memory of Kent. Shady Crest for lunch and a stop at Beachys

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

and then headed north of town to Zion Church to visit several family members. The aforementioned Anna, her husband George, the girl's grandmother Alvada and Julie's father are all buried there as well as great grandparents Herman and Margaret. Herman Stock's name is also on the cornerstone of the church. A quick stop at the Arthur cemetery where there are several great aunts and uncles and of course our mom and dad and then we went to the church where we could spread things out and look at pictures and talk some more. Cousin Peggy is the genealogy expert in the family and she has lots of information about the family. Bobbie had a scrapbook that was put together by Anna that is very delicate and for which she was hoping to find a home. As of now that scrapbook is residing in the display case at the library (thank you Kelsey!) but eventually will probably go to the Douglas County Museum in Tuscola. I think Bobbie's note to us the next day pretty much sums up how special the day was to all of us. She said, "I am struggling to find the words to express how much yesterday meant. Your time. Your warmth. Your appreciation for being a Stock and to witness that you are a part of the rich history of Arthur. And...now

Julie and I are forever linked to all of it!" We are hoping that they will visit again and maybe bring along more family for us to meet.

CHINOISERIE

Anna Stock's scrapbook which was probably put together by her as a young girl in the early 1900s is not one of news clippings but one of something akin to the paper dolls of her day but scenes with beautiful colors and a bit of an Asian feel. When I took it to the library and as Kelsey and I were talking about it, she told me it is in the style of Chinoiserie. Of course I had no idea what that meant as Kelsey explained it's a style of artwork. Here's the best explanation I could find on the internet: "The imitation or evocation of Chinese motifs and techniques in Western art, furniture and architecture, especially in the 18th century." While the book is too delicate to be handled, you can see the cover and get a feel for what it looks like at the library. I hope to possibly be able to reprint the pages in some way as I took pictures of each page and share that with others at some point in time.

NIGHT OUT ON THE COUNTY LINE

Had the best time Thursday evening on the county line road. Twice a year the businesses

along that route offer food and specials to customers. We started at Miller Feed where they were offering brats and drinks, then on to Family Health Foods, Shady Crest (\$1 for a scoop of ice cream), Furniture Plus and Country Shoe Shop. Last stop at Tool World where the line was long for fish and shrimp. Saw lots of people we knew and lots of visiting was going on. It was a beautiful summer evening and a good time was had by all! Thanks to all those businesses for their hospitality!

MARGARITAVILLE

My busy Thursday and Friday ended with another show at the Little Theater in Sullivan on Saturday. Really enjoyed "Margaritaville." Had no idea what it was all about except it featured the music of Jimmy Buffett and who doesn't like his music? It was a cute show with great music and a sweet story. Turns out the leads, Rachel Hafell and Zach Perrin, are really a couple and engaged to be married. Thought they seemed to have a special chemistry. But thanks to Cheryl Conlin I now know that Marcia Stiff Lowder's daughter, Kailynn, was also in the show. This is her third summer at LTOTS and it seems she does a little of everything there. Her bio states, "She flies between work onstage and off, from acting, directing, marketing, costuming and social media." So another Arthur connection!

WITS FITNESS

Here's your chance to participate. The classes are being **See TOWN TALK on page 3**

LEGAL NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Douglas County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting, and transacting the business known as:

WEST STAR SEWING
48 E CR 200 N
ARTHUR, IL 61911

Dated this 8th day of August, 2023.
No. DBA-002003

Judi Pollock
County Clerk

published 08/16, 08/23, 08/30/2023

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Arthur History Fact #63

1897

The Reeves and Fleming Opera House was built on the southwest corner of Vine and Progress Streets in 1897 and was dedicated with Arthur's first professional theatre performance on December 23, 1897.

But the new moving picture shows of the early 1900s began drawing audiences away from the Opera House and it closed in 1910.

The Garden Theatre, which had been located next to the railroad at 110 North Vine, later moved into the Opera House building. It had already began treating the Arthur public with the new moving picture shows, but also had live entertainment periodically.

The hard economic times of the late 1920s kept people from spending money on entertainment which eventually caused the Garden Theatre to close.

Then in 1930, a few doors south of the old Garden Theatre, a new Garden Theatre movie house opened. Later this was renamed the LaMar Theatre which was popular until it closed in 1965 after television had started taking away audiences from local movie houses.

MANNEQUINS

Background: Arthur, Illinois

by Don S Chambers



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