

my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



You may know this about me if you read this column very often. I'm a fan of the series "Ancient Aliens." Even if you don't believe in visitors from space the program is a wealth of world history information. There's probably six or seven "regulars" offering up their world experiences and insight of what we are seeing might mean or have meant thousands of years ago. If for no other reason to tune in, anyone should enjoy the world archaeology presented each week. I've watched the same episodes three and four times. Before he passed away a couple of years ago, my very good friend Doug and I used to watch these episodes religiously and sometimes were on the phone with each other talking about what we just saw on a particular episode. I was skeptical, a disbeliever of sorts, of the whole aliens among us theory ten years ago. Doug was just the opposite. I can remember Doug talking about the moon and stars way back in the 80's and 90's when we were running around clubbing together and almost always, if the night sky was clear, he would talk about space. Me, back then all I wanted to do was get home and go to bed.

Back then there weren't many programs on TV that dared to venture into the possibility and probability that alien life once visited earth. I think back then a person was considered a whack-a-do if that person let anyone know that they were a believer. I was probably one of those disbelievers but did leave the door open for proof. I was quick to discredit, the best I could, any theory that aliens existed. I'll admit that part of my disbelief was because I was scared to believe there was life anywhere but right here on earth. Not Doug! Oh no, he was a believer. I used to chuckle inside listening to him talk about alien life. He would always offer up a comical twist to the notion of course.

I was a loner with my thoughts of the whole alien conversation after Doug was gone. Both of my sons, Payton and Lukas, used to get a kick out of listening to me talk about past alien visitors. Yes, that means they laughed at me. I needed someone to share what I had just learned from the most recent episodes of Ancient Aliens so they were my captive audience. They have both moved out so they no longer have to endure my ramblings about aliens and UFOs moving around on earth. Now who could I share all of this alien knowledge with that I've learned from the Ancient Alien series? I have found one other person now that I share my thoughts and opinions with. There just isn't a

big fan base for the show here in Tuscola. I guess that makes me the odd man out. It makes no difference, I'm still a faithful viewer of the series which has recently started over with all new episodes.

Good News! Over the past two years, and because the Ancient Aliens series has become so popular (profitable through businesses wanting to air their commercials during the program) several other program series have entered the fray. These newest programs don't exclusively concentrate on the alien phenomena but they definitely lean that way. The federal government releasing video footage of two recent Navy fighter planes shadowing two different UFOs has certainly sparked more interest too. So I've been having a lot of fun over the years with this and feel like I've learned a lot about the earth's history through these programs. However tonight it's all taking a new twist.

I watched a show tonight about asteroids and how they may have affected not only the geography of earth but also life itself. I didn't know that bacteria travel for hundreds of thousands of years and miles on asteroids and actually survive impacts on earth and other planets. These bacteria are believed by some scientists to be how life itself started on earth millions of years ago. Okay, I can grasp that they survive but I'm skeptical that these are how we may have become the creatures we are. I'm still going with maybe the alien theory. The program went on to talk about how humans will need to find a new planet to move to and populate because earth will again one day be struck by another asteroid wiping out all living creatures. These scientists were very specific and firm in their belief that this event isn't a possibility but will absolutely happen one day! Okay now this scares me. Even though it's not likely in my lifetime it still scares me because in all probability and I hope, my family bloodline will continue on into the future. Elon Musk is on a mission to colonize Mars over the next ten years. Other scientists also agree that Mars is the best bet for us in our future to survive.

You know, I was having fun with the whole alien possibility thing going on over the past ten years but, this asteroid hitting earth and wiping us out has me wishing I never looked up at the moon and the stars now and just kept my head buried in the sand where my thoughts about simple earth were safe. Oh well, the best minds in the world say it's inevitable so wake up and live each day to its fullest just in case they're right!

SAM

From page 1

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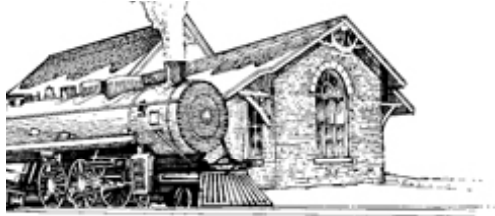
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DO YOU RECOGNIZE this week's Back in the Day photo? If so, drop us a note at The Journal. Your efforts will be rewarded.

10 years ago March 13, 2013

Author Trent Reedy visited East Prairie students to share his Afghanistan experiences. His book, "Words in the Dust," was the featured reading for Voices of the Prairie.

Sixth grade travel basketball team ended their season with 20-5 record and took first place in the Villa Grove tournament.

Fifth grade grade travel basketball team ended their season with a 16-15 record and placed second in the Villa Grove tournament.

Seventh grade Hornets volleyball team fell to Beecher in their state title match. Under Coach Shelbi White, the girls put up a hard fight but succumbed to a 25-15 loss.

20 years ago March 11, 2003

Contestants in the Little Miss Tuscola pageant included Logan Stenger, Lexi Moraski, Erin Boyd, Amber Tabeling, Emma Sementi, Kota Little, Ryce Ward, Peyton Shelmadine, Taylor Reifsteck, Jordan Ochs, Lily Hale, Madison VanSickle, Lani Little, Taylor Bosch, and Annie Heinz.

Final numbers on proposed bond refinancing issues for the city's waterworks and sewer systems indicated the current favorable interest rates would save the City of Tuscola \$1.5 million in debt service over the

life of the bonds.

Alan and Marci Shoemaker of Tuscola announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Stacey to Jason Patterson, son of Don Patterson and Katie Bokor.

Tuscola's Austin Hogue was one of four unanimous selections for the Little Okaw Valley Conference First Team basketball squad, while Warrior junior guard Justin Bozarth also captured First Team honors. Second Team status was accorded to Ryan Bonner and Anthony Gunnell. On the girls' side, senior Chambry Gilmore was named to the LOVC Second Team, while freshman Johanna Wienke earned Honorable Mention status.

30 years ago March 9, 1993

Tuscola City Council voted unanimously to pursue another \$400,000 grant for use in helping pay for a new water tower. Council members were interested in the possibility of replacing the current tower, built in 1952, which was outdated and in poor condition.

The Miss Tuscola pageant was going to include some changes this year ... among them the contestants now had the option of wearing active wear rather than a swimsuit. "Thank Heaven For Girls" was the theme for this year's pageant, and Clarice Hausman

would serve as mistress of ceremonies.

Scott and Julie Miller of Tuscola announced the birth of their son, Kyle, on Feb. 10, 1993. Kyle weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long.

Tuscola's Andrea Wax was the lone sophomore named to the 1992-93 girls Little Okaw Valley Conference First Team. TCHS senior Heidi Gaddey was named to the LOVC Second Team.

40 years ago March 15, 1983

Mayor Clarence Snyder proposed a FY 1984 operating budget of \$1.19 million, and a \$5.74 million capital expenditure budget, vowing at the same time not to raise taxes.

Congratulations were in order for Tuscola florist Bill Rogers, who won first place in the Illinois State Florists Association floral design contest held recently in Decatur. Rogers' winning entry was a unique bridal bouquet and matching hairpiece.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Arseneau of Tuscola announced the birth of their first child, a daughter named Katherine "Katie" Elaine, Feb. 25 at Jarman Memorial Hospital. She weighed 7 lbs. 1 1/2 oz.

The super-sectional tournament showdown at Millikin University between the Tuscola Warriors and Nokomis Red-

skins ended in a 49-47 win for Nokomis in double overtime. Down by as many as 12 points in the second half, the Warriors clawed their way back to tie it at 45 in regulation.

50 years ago March 8, 1973

The Tuscola Post Office was becoming part of a new concept in mail handling when an "area mail processing" plan went into place—massing all mail for 89 post offices at Champaign, the chosen central point for distribution.

Harley Thomas of Tuscola was in satisfactory condition at Jarman Hospital following a severe electrical shock suffered last Tuesday while removing corn from a grain bin at the Huber and Sloan John Deere agency.

Tuscola revenged three earlier defeats by Unity with a decisive 71-55 win in the regional finals at Tolono Friday night. The win riled Unity fans to the point that Champaign County deputies had to be called to protect players, and bedlam bordering on riot that developed at the conclusion of the contest prevented the normal presentation of the trophy. The Warrior bus was pelted with rocks as the team attempted to load in its normal place, and the bus had to be moved to a different location in order for players to safely embark.

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