

# my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



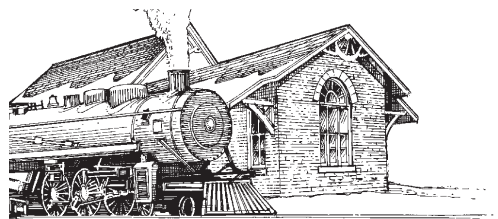
**What in god's name is happening to America?** Joe Biden and his son Hunter are being implicated in alleged schemes to bilk money from foreign governments for years, millions of dollars if you believe news reporting. Last week our own Department of Justice tried to sneak language by a federal judge that would keep Hunter Biden from ever being charged with any crimes that have anything to do with what he's being investigated for now. President Trump had an additional four felony indictments charged this week by the same DOJ. I've heard several news commentators comment that if Trump was convicted of everything he's been charged with today, he would serve over five hundred years in prison! A former president! This is where America is right now. There is no doubt at this point that Washington DC Democrats, including the White House, have weaponized the Department of Justice, The FBI, and the IRS to attack political opponents. It's clear and it's become so obvious that even loyal Democrats have seen it. And they don't like it. Not that they support Donald Trump now or ever will but, they see how America is quickly becoming a banana republic. What's happening in America is what happens in third world countries. The reigning political party in power uses whatever means to eliminate the opposing party. However, I think the Democrats have overplayed their hand in this game of political poker.

My thoughts about this. If I was low life and without morals, was inclined to be playing in this childish game, and was in a position to be part of the scheme to destroy Donald Trump, I would have taken maybe just the best three of the fifty some total charges now and ran with just those. Hammer down on those three hard. Instead of charging Trump with federal crimes along with additional charges from New York and Georgia, (yes, those are coming from Georgia) I would suggest to all of my fellow co-conspirators that we together try to sell the best three federal charges and continue to just threaten with the individual state charges right up to the 2024 election. Just keep baiting the idiot talking heads of the news media outlets with what we might charge just to keep it out there every day in the news. Keep the American voters wondering "what if." By charging all of these crimes now the Democrats have shown their hand. It's given the Trump legal team a chance to defend Trump in the media with their own constitutional defenses. Right now Trump is being tried by the major news media sources everyday. I don't see how anyone could find an unbiased jury of twelve now. Some of the best constitutional scholars, men and women, all agree that most all of these charges, even if they make it through the Appellate Courts, they will not survive the scrutiny of the Supreme Court. But of course the prosecutors that have charged these crimes against Trump don't care much about the ultimate outcome that will take years

to work its way through the court system. There's just one goal here; make sure that Donald J. Trump never calls 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington DC his residence again.

Why didn't the Democrats that masterminded this conspiracy think this thing through? How could they not foresee that by overcharging and continuing to charge from multiple jurisdictions that the American people wouldn't see through the fog and see this effort for what it is? It boils down to just this in my mind; the current sitting President weaponizing the many law enforcement departments under his command to eliminate the competition. Trump certainly could have gone after Hillary Clinton for her real and obvious crimes but he didn't and at that time I thought he did the right thing. What has happened to just being the best man or woman for the job? I personally do not care if our president is a man, woman, black, white, asian, hispanic, indian, alien, etc. Don't all of us just want someone to lead the country that is truly looking out for all of us? Someone that puts everything American ahead of every other worldly concern? No more lies. No more scandal. No more forever investigations. Like it or not, our elections for federal offices are being bought now instead of being decided by fair and square arguments about who's the best person for the job and convincing the American voters through fair and honest debates.

I wonder. If all of the charges would be dropped now and forever against Donald Trump and all the charges and allegations against the entire Biden family, including stopping current investigations on the Biden family, would all three men take that deal and agree not to ever run for office again including being involved in politics? Would both candidates just step away from the 2024 elections to save their families? Would they do it if it was best for America? And I don't know if this would be the right thing to do. I'm asking a question. But I think both men have too much pride and egos much too big to ever consider such a deal. What would I do? If I was in either man's position, I would agree to the deal to save my family. Both men have more than enough wealth to sustain them and their families for their lifetimes. I just don't think I could put my wife (if I had one) and children (I have two) through what both families are going through now. Call me a coward if you will. Maybe I am. But I'll accept the cowardly moniker if it saves my family and keeps them out of the ugly lime-light of politics and more importantly, all of us out of jail. The sunshine across America is historically hotter than ever right now but, I remember our days being much brighter in years past.



# 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 August 21, 2013

The sprawling concrete jungle that currently sits on the corner of Route 36 and Prairie Street is about to be transformed Mike Lanman, president and owner of Lanman Oil, is about to embark on a several million dollar job that will turn 3.5 acres of the former Dixie Truckers Homes property into a 7,000 square foot travel center known as Lambos.

The Tuscola school district welcomes at least three new faculty members into the fold as the 2013-14 school year gets underway. Audrey Hariss, John O'Dell and Ashley Kreke.

Douglas County Clerk and Recorder Judi Pollock has announced she is seeking election in 2014. "In my brief time as county clerk and recorder, and in the years I served in the office and in municipal government prior to that, we have focused on serving the public efficiently and honestly," said Pollock.

### 20 years ago August 12, 2003

A rash of fires, mostly abandoned rural structures, over a three-month period prompted Douglas County Crimestoppers to offer a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the responsible parties. To date, there had been 11 fires authorities suspect might be linked.

Douglas County coroner Joe Victor announced he would be seeking a fourth term in the 2004 election. The Republican has been involved in the coroner's office over the past 24 years, in the capacities of deputy, chief deputy, and coroner.

Dennis and Maribeth Opperman of Tuscola were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary this week. The couple took a two-week trip to Hawaii in recognition of the milestone.

Tuscola resident Steve Hilgendorf was chosen to serve as grand marshal for this year's Harvest Festival parade. Entertainment for the free concerts downtown would include The Confederate Railroad, The Platters, and Steve Hargis.

The Indianoys Carver Kats came away from the AYBT Nationals with a first-place finish in their division. Among the squad members were Tuscola products Anthony Gunnell and Justin Bozarth.

### 30 years ago August 10, 1993

Dutch Gosman, an Indianapolis minister, passed through Tuscola Aug. 4 on a trek from Indy to Wyoming. Gosman, who was dragging a 10-foot wooden cross on his journey, said his goal was to make people more aware of the gospel.

Carle Foundation Hospital cleared the final hurdle in its path for building a new facility in Tuscola when city council members granted a special-use permit. Carle is seeking to build on a 1.24-acre site off of Route 36.

Tuscola would be well represented in the International Bowhunters Organization's world championships being held Aug. 13 in Shelby County. Among those qualifying for the competition were Curt and Debbie Carter, Russ Brown, Ron Brown, Tom Doud, Tracy Kroenung; as well as Kroenung's 6-year-old son Clint in the PeeWee

division.

The Tuscola girls' junior travel team, sponsored by the Tuscola Woman's Club, just finished an undefeated 12-game regular season. Players included Katrina Weaver, Stephanie Reinhart, Tonya Poindexter, Cortney Blaudow, Erin Hettinger, Amber Ray, Paylee Pierce, Dani Alexander, Sara Ard, Stacey Wesch, Lesley McCollam, Leslee Howard, Amy Hall, Jennifer Kramer, Holly Gaddedy, Patty McDaniel, Amber Bossle, Kim Stephenson, and Mindy Reed.

### 40 years ago August 16, 1983

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bechtel of Tuscola hosted the 27th annual reunion of WW II veterans from Company H, 123rd Infantry Division. Attendees traveled from 23 states for the event.

After 35 years in education, Tuscola's high school principal, Bill Butkovich, was officially retiring. Butkovich held the position of principal for 18 years, and before that had been a teacher and coach in Tuscola for nine years, and teacher and coach at Bradley Bourbonnais for seven years.

Cory Matthew was the name given to Dan and Amy Kleiss' first child, born at 9:23 p.m. Aug. 14 at Carle Hospital. Cory weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 21 inches long.

The Misfits, made up of Tuscola and Atwood teams, battled until sundown Sunday before the locals claimed the 16-team Tuscola Review Fall Classic slow-pitch championship. Misfits included Rich Whightsil, David Page, Mark Oakley, Ron Egan, Jim Grimm, Buck Hausmann, Greg Hastings, Wendell Wiley, Davie Dietrich, Dave

Quick, Arnold Dean, and Randy Hastings.

### 50 years ago August 9, 1973

Douglas County authorities reported that a 24-year-old carnival worker, who was shot in the stomach with a double-barrel 12-gauge shotgun last month outside a bar in Arthur after working at the Moultrie-Douglas County Fair, had been removed from the ICU at Burnham Hospital and was improving. A 19-year-old Charleston man was being held in connection with the shooting.

There appeared to be approximately 80 contestants currently signed up for the 1973 Tuscola Water Show to be held at Ervin Park swimming pool on Aug. 10. Diving, swimming, and "fun" categories were on the docket for contestants aged 8 to 18, with a number of prizes to be awarded.

If shopping at IGA this week, you could pick up a 3-lb. can of Maxwell House coffee for \$2.29, a 1-lb. package of Hunter sliced bacon for \$1.39, or a green pepper for 16 cents. Downy fabric softener was \$1.09, and Duncan Hines cake mixes were three for 89 cents.

When TCHS football Coach Lynn Strack greeted his 1973 version of the Warriors, he would have 16 returning lettermen: Kevin Conner, Steve Conner, John Daugherty, Tom Ellis, Doug Grimm, Jerry Hall, Brad Harper, Rudy Huber, Mike Meyer, Neil Oakley, Wesley Redden, Steve Riley, Matthew Rottman, Steve Sanderson, Alan Shoemaker, and Rick Smith.

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