

# my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



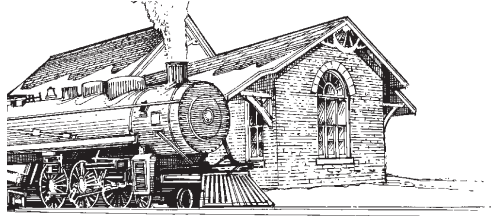
**Could it be that our system of government has failed?** Could it be 247 years later The United States is no longer “united?” We learned this week that President Donald Trump and nineteen other Republicans have been charged with “RICO” (mob) offenses for their part in the protest and investigation into allegations that the vote counting in Georgia was flawed. Because Republicans dared to investigate allegations in how, where, and why some ballots were tallied, they have been charged with various charges by Fulton County District Attorney, Fani T. Willis. (She herself is currently under investigation) I’m not a constitutional scholar by any sense of the word but, I do believe I was blessed with a little common sense. My common sense tells me these charges are the result of blue states (Democratic) criminalization of politics. This action in Georgia is the fourth of its kind. New York twice, Florida, and Federal charges related to the January 6, 2021 mob action at the Capitol Building the day of the transfer of power from Trump to Biden. Every one of these indictments have been brought by Democrat prosecutors. All were preceded by the sitting of grand juries who give the thumbs up or down to prosecutors. In case you don’t know the difference generally between a grand jury and a regular jury of twelve, grand juries sometimes (in all of these cases against Trump) only get to hear one side of the arguments to decide whether to support charges or not. The target of any investigation coming before a grand jury has no ability to make arguments in their own defense. So of course the members of a grand jury will only hear what the prosecutors allow them to hear. A grand jury hearing is usually a slam dunk for the prosecution. I question the “why” to even convene a jury that will only hear one side of allegations in a criminal case. Personally I think it taints the public’s perception of guilt or innocence. “Grand Jury” certainly sounds important doesn’t it? I found Webster defines “grand” as magnificent, imposing, stately, majestic, grandiose, and/or impressive. Well with all of those impressive adjectives of description of course we are to believe a jury that’s so “grand” has to be correct in their findings! Maybe a better adjective describing these one sided juries might be “Blind Jury”. After all, they are blind to any defense arguments and evidence the target of these criminal investigations are related.

So why do grand juries exist? Well, an honest prosecutor will present evidence that also might cast doubt on someone’s guilt or innocence. An honest prosecutor himself will try to get a read on whether a case is strong enough or not so much before making the jump to charging and holding a real trial where attorneys for the defense get a chance to present their own evidence. The proceedings remain private and should the prosecutor determine that, for at least at the present time, he/she has enough evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt. If not, the prosecutor can step back and either table the case or continue to investigate for more evidence. Now if this is the way grand juries proceeded each and every time, probably they’re a good thing. However, I still believe the word “grand” isn’t the proper adjective to describe these juries. It’s the best we’ve got right now so I’m sure we will continue to seat grand juries far into the future with no change in the rules of procedure. Funny how grand juries and their importance have never been called into question until 2023. This is when Democrats need leverage to keep President Trump

out of the 2024 election. Four sets of indictments later and all the Democrats have accomplished is to cause the poll ratings for Trump to skyrocket. Independents and black voters are currently being the most outspoken against how the Democrats have unfairly demonized Trump and are seeing how biased these investigations are. To date, the Democrats have been Trump’s most/best important campaign donors. Remarkably, the majority of the twelve Republican candidates running for president are supportive of Trump in their thoughts of the Democrats tactics of attack on the former president.

The most vocal of all of the Republican candidates is Vivek Ramaswamy. Ramaswamy has been extremely defensive of his opponent Donald Trump. Because of his actions, Ramaswamy has been grabbing headlines not only with the conservative news media but also some leftist, (liar, incompetent, mostly wrong) news media companies. I’ve paid attention to this guy and listen when he speaks. I really like this guy! I think he definitely has a career in conservative politics. I also like Tim Scott. I believe Scott to be an honest and sincere man. I do worry that maybe he might rather just choose to get along and compromise as opposed to fighting to the bitter end arguing his convictions against Democrats that oppose him. Maybe I’m wrong. Worthy candidate all the same. My thoughts on Ron Desantis. If Donald Trump wasn’t in the picture, he’s the right man at the right time to beat Biden. I would have rather seen Desantis and Trump run on the ticket together right out of the gate as one team, President/Vice President in 2024. And who knows? It’s early still. Maybe this will eventually be how the Republican ticket prints out. Yes I’ve heard the shots they have taken at one another. Much more Trump attacking Desantis but, that’s how politics work and they both understand this. I think, only my opinion, Mike Pence and Chris Christie should have never gotten in the race. These two guys are desperately trying to find their niche in this race and both are failing miserably. Mike Pence wouldn’t even get a glance had he not been Trump’s VP. Chris Christie is loud and arrogant. Christie reminds me of a much larger and younger Joe Biden (that’s not a compliment). I don’t believe much of what he says nor do I like his attitude towards some of his fellow Republicans. I believe he’s an old school “do whatever is necessary to stay in office” politician. As for the rest of the field; I think they are only in this to further their political careers and/or hope for a cabinet appointment by the winner.

Briefly, I’m not convinced Joe Biden is ultimately the Democratic candidate for president. What has been uncovered by The House Oversight Committee and the House Judicial Committee should cause fellow Democrats to scramble at the last minute for a more viable candidate. It won’t be Kennedy. Personally, if I was a Democrat or the Republicans didn’t have Trump, Desantis, Scott, or Ramaswamy, I’d be in Kennedy’s camp in 2024. I’d rather not see Kennedy get the nomination this time around because I don’t want to see him lose and maybe never run again. Vice President Kamala Harris has zero chance. Her career in politics is over after the 2024 election. So who if not Biden? Pretty boy, entitled nerd, California clown, Gavin Newsom has the best chance to be the Democratic nominee for president in 2024. Trump vs. Biden or Desantis vs. Newsom? America’s time is running out. We need a savior.



# Back in the day...

**STIFEL**  
(800) 829-2827

Think you’re in the know about our weekly photo offerings here in Back in the Day? If you are the first person to correctly identify a photo, you will receive a \$10 gift certificate to spend at a local business.  
Vickie Miller, CPA, CFP® | Vice President/Investments Ryan Barrick, MPA | Financial Advisor  
Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated | Member SIPC & NYSE | www.stifel.com



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**  
**September 4, 2013**

Tuscola High School was preparing for their Disney-themed Homecoming week. They were preparing events for students, alumni and the community. Tuscola was waiting on a decision on the Cronus fertilizer plant’s site location. Tuscola and another site in Mitchell County Iowa were being considered for the \$1.2 million nitrogen fertilizer plant. Toys R Us and Kay Jewelers were making arrangements to open stores in the Tanger Outlet Center. Both stores were planning for a fall opening. The Warriors football team kicked off their season with a 23-14 victory against Sullivan Okaw Valley. Nick Bates was the leading rusher with 70 yards and Tyler Hale led the receivers with one catch for 42 yards. Austin Beniach led the tacklers with eight.

**20 years ago**  
**August 26, 2003**

The smooth sounds of The Platters could be heard far and wide from the Main Stage of this year’s Harvest Festival. The popular ‘50s group entertained crowds at 3 and 5 p.m., Saturday, earning rave reviews from attendees. County board members at the Aug. 20, 2003 board meeting gave final approval for the issuance of \$1,290,000 in general obligation debt certificates to pay for necessary jail and courthouse renovations. Mike Cramer, president of Keystone Properties, was in attendance at the Aug. 25 city council meeting to answer questions regarding a special-use permit and pre-annexation agreement regarding his company’s plan to construct a 40-plus unit residential retirement living center. The targeted location was property immediately east of the Latter-Day Saints church on Northline Road. Christian Wood was the lucky winner of a new scooter in a Kids Fest

contest held recently by Tuscola IGA Foodliner.

The Tuscola Warriors had a great deal of experience on the coaching front. Leading the way would be head Coach Stan Wienke, along with coaching staff members Lenny Sementi, Ron O’Hearn, Lance Landeck, and Dusty Burk.

**30 years ago**  
**August 24, 1993**

Tuscola City Council rescinded its approval of a second amended redevelopment agreement with Cohen Development at its recent meeting. City Attorney Michael Carroll recommended the action after being unable to come to terms with Cohen attorneys on contract language. The school district would be hiring a certified teacher’s aide to help alleviate the burden fifth-grade teachers faced this year with a class of 82 students.

Tuscola Fire Chief Dennis Dietrich was back home after an extended hospital stay, and Rogers Floral and Petals and Plants were offering free delivery of balloon bouquets to anyone wishing to extend good wishes to the chief.

Douglas County Treasurer Rick Hackler announced he would be seeking to retain his job in the 1994 election. Chet Keller sank a 45-foot birdie putt on the par-3 15th hole at Kaskaskia Country Club to go from being one stroke behind to one stroke ahead, and went on to win the 1993 Douglas County Men’s Golf Tournament. He finished three strokes ahead of runner-up Ron Strange.

**40 years ago**  
**August 30, 1983**

Members of the Douglas County Sheriff’s Dept., Tuscola Township, and Ill. Dept. Of Criminal Investigations helped unload and burn more than 400 wild marijuana plants and over

90 pounds of sensimilla marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$100,000. Authorities had spotted the wild growth on the Champaign-Douglas County line during aerial surveillance last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Campbell of Fredericksburg, Va. announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Theresa Comanche to Jeffrey Alan Little, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Little of Tuscola. An October wedding was being planned.

Bob Joines of Newman won the championship flight of the annual Douglas County Golf Tournament played the past weekend at Villa Grove and Kaskaskia Country Clubs, with a score of 146. Second in flight was Jeff Holmes of Villa Grove with a 149, and tying for third were Mike Kerner and Bill Butkovich at 150.

Dan Ochs of Tuscola placed second in the Mattoon Archery Club competition held Aug. 28 at Lake Paradise. He shot a 289 out of a possible 350, two points below the winner. Ochs was a member of the Osage Archers of Mahomet.

**50 years ago**  
**August 23, 1973**

After four years of planning and waiting, five certified SCUBA divers finally formed a diving club that could offer underwater search and recovery operations in the Douglas County area. Members included president Darrell Lamb, vice president Ronald Waugh, safety officer Bill Gerrib, David Mason, and Clarence Snyder.

First National Bank of Tuscola was celebrating with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house in recognition of its recently remodeled and expanded quarters. The event marked 107 years of operation for the institution.

German exchange student Thomas Schalk, age 16, was spending the school year in Tuscola with Dan and Marian Ponder and son Cliff.

# Business Directory

**PUT LOCAL BUSINESSES**

at the *Top of Your List!*

To advertise in the **Business Directory, email**  
**jamie@thetuscolajournal.com**

**EYE CARE**  
**Chittick Family Eye Care**

- Adult & Pediatric Eye Care
- Contact Lenses
- Custom Vision Correction
- Digital Retinal Exam
- Glaucoma detection and management

10 W. Adams • Villa Grove, IL 61956  
Office: 832-2111 Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5  
Medicare assignments accepted/Health Alliance Provider

**VETERINARY**  
**Four Counties Mobile Veterinary Services**

Kathleen M. Mcmanamon, DMV

House and Farm Calls  
Small Animal and Equine

Hours:  
Monday-Friday Noon-8 p.m.  
Saturday by Appointment  
Phone: (217) 834-3472

**Q.W.F Electric**  
**Electrical Work Wanted**

Upgrade your existing lights and 4-8 ft. Fluorescent lights to LED’s and save \$

Call Dan at  
**217-722-2259**  
Licensed, Insured & Bonded

**INSURANCE**  
**AMERICAN CENTRAL INSURANCE SERVICES**

Group Employee Benefits

Individual Medical  
-Dental  
-Vision  
-Short Term  
-Life

Medicare Supplement, Advantage, and Part D

**Sherri L. Stewart**  
Insurance Broker  
sherril@americancentrals.com  
**(866) 549-2247**  
304 E. Southline Rd., Suite A., Tuscola