


**my Personal side** By Craig Hastings

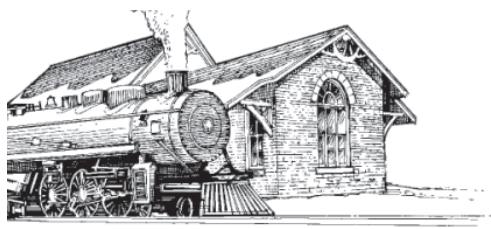


**My brain is in a strange state of mind tonight.** I'm sixty-six years old. I've raised both of my children, they've both moved away to another town to start their own lives and are doing well, all my dogs have passed away, I have no plans to get another, I'm living alone in my first house and only house, I'm still working only because I enjoy what I've been doing for the past forty-two years, so occasionally I've been asking myself, have done all that I was meant to do in this life? I wonder. As far as I know my health is great, as of tonight anyway. This isn't the first time I've pondered the question over the past two or three years but, just as soon as I have, some new mission in life presented itself and off I go on another adventure. Please don't read depression into my ramblings, I'm thinking in print tonight and since you're reading this you're along for the ride.

To the contrary, I'm extremely happy and satisfied with my life as I'm living it today. No, being in this big house by myself without even a dog doesn't bother me a bit. This past year has been the first year since 1995 that I haven't lived in this house with some combination of a wife, one girlfriend, six dogs, four cats, tropical fish, a chinchilla, and my two children. No, not at the same time!! All of the above were spaced out over the years. Up until July 2023 I have not lived alone in this house. Yes, I have many memories in this house and there isn't a single day that something in this house doesn't remind me of some moment or event. Both of my parents have passed away since I moved to this house. They were both visitors regularly back in the day. My house is a bi-level house meaning that no matter what, a person is required to climb stairs to get anywhere in here. Therefore as my parents got older, understandably their visits slowed. Which brings to mind another question I get a few times a year, "Are you going to sell that house and move to a single level house so you don't have to climb stairs as you get older?" That answer has always been "no" and always will be. If I would get to a point where the stairs were difficult, I'd just have

a stair lift installed and I'd ride up and down the stairs. I just might get one anyway just to send my groceries up and my laundry down. No, I've lived forty years of life memories here including my children's entire first twenty years each. Just two hundred yards from my house in this same neighborhood, I lived in my parents' family home with my siblings from age three to eighteen. Not only is this house important to me but so is this very neighborhood.

Many people would think I'm nuts to have not spread my wings and experienced life beyond Tuscola, Illinois. I have no regrets. I've been provided a wonderful life right here in corn-cob county. Especially so with everything going on and going wrong in the bigger cities including Champaign. I never let higher pay and more excitement of a larger city persuade me to leave. I've had many opportunities to do just that but, no regrets or wondering "what if." So what might be next for me? I kinda feel like all of my missions in life have been completed. I certainly don't want to sit around and feel useless. I have my work but, the reality of that is one day this will come to a close and then what? If my health is still good, what to do with my time? Travel you say? Nope, I like staying close to home. Find a hobby? Probably a little late in life for that. Not only that I don't know what it would be. Not that I'm wishing this on either of my boys but, would a grandchild be that next mission? If that's the case, a grandchild would probably keep me occupied often enough to take me to my final day. When I finally had my own children I really did believe for the first time in my life that it mattered that I stay healthy and able for the sake of my children. They've made their way and will be just fine without me which is all I've ever wanted as their father. Knowing that if I bow out tomorrow that my children will be just fine is very satisfying. As their father I feel I've done the best job I could. Maybe on one of my late night walks at Wimple Park I'll get abducted by aliens and start a whole new life somewhere!!



# Back in the day...

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**10 years ago**  
**Sept. 25, 2013**

A "loop" railroad track was completed at Cargill. The track allowed Cargill access to the CSX railroad line.

The TCHS Drama Club's fall production was "A Journey Through Time: Celebrating 100 Years of Theatre." The Choral Department's fall fundraiser variety show raised money to go toward a new stage curtain.

Warrior's Eric Ponder won the Tuscola Classic with a 38 second victory in a career best 15:18. Emma Henderson turned in another of her best times of the year on the cross country course with a time of 20 minutes and 43 seconds. Lady Warriors volleyball had a rough week putting their record from 4-1 to 5-5. The football team suffered a loss, as well, against Monticello 30-7.

**20 years ago**  
**Sept. 16, 2003**

Tuscola Fire Department volunteer firefighters Phil Bosch, Todd Bosch, Jim Heath, and Mike Yusko were chosen as recipients of the Cabot Corporation Foundation 2003 Community Champion award. This award honors dedicated and talented employees who provide outstanding service to their communities through volunteer efforts.

Katie Hatfield was hired as the new outreach worker for the Tuscola school district. Her position was somewhat unique, combining elements of the former guidance counselor posi-

tion with other duties, such as attendance issues.

Morris "Doc" Gailey and Joe Wills were presented 50-year pins at a Tuscola Masonic Lodge meeting last month. Master Myron Pangburn made the presentation.

The Tuscola football team used a strong running game in the second half and a stingy defense to hand the East Central Panthers their first loss of the season. Stan Wienke's Warriors rallied from a 6-0 halftime lead to score four unanswered touchdowns, upending the visitors 32-0 at Eastern Illinois University's O'Brien Stadium.

**30 years ago**  
**Sept. 14, 1993**

Steve Hilgendorf was one of 11 members of the Public Liaison Committee, a group put together by the IHSA to provide the general public with a means of having a direct impact on both IHSA rules and other activities. Hilgendorf's two-year term would expire in 1995.

Former Tuscola resident Heidi Huber was appearing in Keith Reddin's "Life and Limb" at the Greenview Arts Center in Chicago. Huber played the wife of a Korean War veteran who lost an arm in the war.

The Warriors took advantage of Villa Grove turnovers and other mistakes to post a 22-6 non-conference victory and level their season record to one win and one loss.

The Lady Warriors evened their volleyball season record to 3-3 after defeating Arcola and Villa Grove last week, but

then dropped three straight matches Saturday at University High School in Normal.

**40 years ago**  
**Sept. 20, 1983**

The initial meeting of the Tuscola chapter of Ducks Unlimited was a real "honker," with more than 250 guests making it one of the outstanding social events of the year. It netted more than \$5,000 for the group. Winner of the Browning dinner gun raffled off was Dave Dietrich of Tuscola.

The TCHS 1983 Homecoming king and queen candidates included Dena Pickett, Leigh Ann Wilcox, Chris Maggio, Jada Johnson, Gigi Snyder, Justin Walker, Jim Clark, Brent Johns, Steve Bates, and Brett Winn.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rairden of rural Arcola were announcing the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Julie to John Mills of Arcola, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mills of Arcola. The couple was planning an October 21 wedding.

Running cross country for Tuscola High School this year were Jeff Davis, Bumper Ferguson, April Hanner, Scott Hines, Jim Nayonis, Mark Pankau, Bob Davis, Mark Kohlbecker, Bob Kennedy, and Anna Boyce.

Defense was the Tuscola Warriors' game Friday night as they defeated the Villa Grove Blue Devils 13-7 at Villa Grove. Of the 48 minutes played, 34:13 belonged to the Tuscola defense, which forced five VG fumbles, two turnovers, one interception, and threw them for

losses more than half a dozen times.

**50 years ago**  
**Sept. 13, 1973**

A Douglas County grand jury returned a seven-count indictment against Linda Coslet in the death of her husband, Jackie. The grand jury also returned a charge of concealing a homicide against Linda K. Wilhelm and Cecil Preston Hendrickson, Jr.

Eight-year-old Amy Ellington, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ellington, won the springer spaniel puppy given away by Tuscola National Bank during Old Fashioned Days. Shelly Maggio, age 14, was the lucky winner of a diamond pendant given away by Aldridge Jewelry.

Dennis Dietrich was appointed to the post of city electrical inspector, at a salary of \$75 per month plus \$25 expense allowance.

Magnificent defense rescued a shaky Warrior offense on Friday as Tuscola squeezed past Marshall, 6-2, in the 1973 opener. The game's lone touchdown came with 4:25 remaining in the first period when Tuscola QB Steve Sanderson sneaked across from a foot out to climax a 31-yard march.

Ken Snyder of Tuscola was the first-place winner of the first Tuscola Review football contest, involving games played Sept. 7. Snyder had 11 of the 12 winners picked—his only miss the Monticello game, which went to Clinton, 12-6.

**Villa Grove BINGO**  
Every Friday Night  
VFW post 2876

6:30 pm- Early Bird  
7:00 pm- Regular Bingo



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