

Finding the perfect girlfriend

Mike loved dancing. He had taken a dance class and learned many dance styles, everything from Rumba to Swing. At the university he attended, there was an evening dance called “Swing Kids” that did all sorts of different styles. The person doing the music would announce the type, and everyone would dance that dance form.

Mostly only those who had taken a dance class came, but everyone was welcome. Those who didn’t know all the styles would sit out when a dance was announced that they didn’t know. Mike would inevitably find a girl he thought was cute and start dancing with her, only to have a dance come up that she felt awkward dancing, even with his help.

If that was the case, he would go with her to the side of the dance floor, and they would visit instead of dance. But too often, since they were not dancing, another guy would come along and ask her to dance the next dance, and Mike would lose contact with her.

But one night, he met a girl named Sarah. She knew every dance, and they never left the dance floor. They spent the

Life’s Outtakes



Daris Howard

whole night together. By the end of the evening, Mike had asked Sarah for a date the next week, and she had accepted. Before she left with her roommates, Mike made sure he had Sarah’s info written on a piece of paper that he tucked in his pocket.

When he got to his apartment, he had to tell his roommates about his wonderful night. “Sarah is beautiful and an incredible dancer. We have a date set up for next week.”

“What’s her last name?” one of his roommates asked.

Mike smiled and reached for the paper in his pocket. But to his dismay, it wasn’t there. He panicked. He searched all of his pockets, but the paper was nowhere to be found. Since it was dark, he borrowed a flashlight from one of his roommates and traced his steps back to the ballroom. He found nothing. He

looked all through the room with no luck. He thought the cleaning crew might have found it and thrown it away, so he checked the garbage cans. He found nothing, but did have a lot of people stare at him.

Mike searched every place he could think of. Around two in the morning, he finally had to give up and go to bed.

Mike’s roommates wanted to help. They sat around and brainstormed about how he might find Sarah. One of them suggested looking in the campus directory. When they checked it, they found more than a hundred girls with that first name.

Mike had talked a lot with Sarah as they danced, and he knew a lot about her, but he couldn’t remember her last name. He knew she was from Montana, was majoring in chemistry, and had two brothers and a sister. None of that helped them get closer to finding out who she was. Mike and his roommates tried everything they could think of over the next few days, but had no success, and the night of the date was now only one day away.

Suddenly, Mike remembered something that might help. He

remembered that, as her roommates had gathered with her to walk home, he had recognized one of the girls. He had seen his roommate, Ben, talking to her at the food court.

When Mike described her to Ben, Ben nodded. “Her name is Natalie, and she is in my chemistry class.”

Mike could hardly wait for Ben to return from his class. It was the day of the date, and if Natalie didn’t have a roommate named Sarah, Mike’s last hope of finding her would be gone.

When Ben came into the apartment, he was smiling. “Natalie does have a roommate named Sarah, and she is from Montana. Natalie gave me Sarah’s number.”

Mike excitedly called her. When Sarah answered, Mike explained who he was.

“Oh, I’m sorry,” Sarah said. “Something has happened since we last talked. A guy found a piece of paper with my name and number and decided to call me. He thought that maybe it was a sign from heaven. Anyway, we’ve started dating, so I won’t be able to go out with you.”

“Well,” Mike thought, “at least I still have Swing Kids.”

From the files of The Erie Record

Blast from the Past

*In memory of Bill Lock
Researched by Eddie Hibbs III*

ONE YEAR AGO

AND THE WINNER IS: Pete’s ‘Free Gas for a Year’ Drawing (photo caption) ~ A month-long fundraiser to benefit the Erie Market by Pete’s Corp. ended Friday with the drawing of the winning ticket. The prize? Free gas for a year (limited to \$250 per month). Above, Erie Mayor Lester “Butch” Klingenberg prepares to pick the winning ticket while Zoey Bohrer stirs the tickets while Brenda and Gratz Peters watch. Not pictured: Gary and Susie Peters.

A DIP IN THE POOL (photo captions) ~ Lifeguard K.K. Daniels, right, working with Leanne Fisher. The decision by the Erie City Council to open the pool this summer seems to be a popular one as children have flocked to the “cement pond” in larger numbers than normal this summer.

Enjoying some water hoops action are Jayden DeMeritt, Mikayla Scott and Carter Riley.

Kelly Diller and her family spend some time at the pool. Children at the Erie Community Daycare Center have made several visits to the Erie swimming pool so far. Diller is joined by her daughter, Sara Wilcox, and grandchildren Hadley and Aiden Wilcox.

TWO YEARS AGO

CITY SETS SPECIAL SESSION FOR NEXT STEP IN 4TH STREET PROJECT ~ After years of trying, the Erie City Council is going to try to solve the riddle of the 4th Street Project once again.

Originally, the council opted for a two step phase in the project. The first project involved the street west of the railroad tracks while the second project involved the street east of the railroad tracks.

The city secured assistance from the county for the project. However, when bids were secured for the first project, the council received one bid, and that bid was much higher than originally projected. So, it was back to the drawing board.

Currently, the city has received a KDOT grant to assist with the entire project. The engineer, Shueb Uddin, suggested the city combine the two projects with the hopes of receiving bids from multiple companies and at a more affordable price. Sunflower Design, LLC, of Topeka is providing the engineering specifications for the project. City Clerk Jamie Janssen confirmed KDOT was aware and granted additional time for Erie’s effort on the project.

Monday night, the council received the “Invitation to Bid” on the “combined” 4th Street Project from Sunflower Design. In general terms, the project consists of complete reconstruction of 4th Street from Main Street to East Street.

KIDS’ COOKING CLASS (photo caption) ~ Eleven children participated in the first cooking class in Erie sponsored by Southwind District. They learned about the importance of hand-washing before getting in the kitchen to practice making bread, salad with vinaigrette dressing, homemade granola, banana pudding and scrambled eggs with spinach. Above, one youth participant is cracking her eggs for the scrambled eggs recipe with Southwind District intern Gwenyth Fry.

THREE YEARS AGO

IS THE THIRD TIME A CHARM FOR THE CITY OF ERIE? ~ With a deadline of today to submit for the spring 2022 round of the Kansas Department of Transportation Cost-Share program, the Erie City Council opted to try for a third time to receive funding to complete the Fourth Street Improvement project.

Surveyors have begun the preliminary work on the first part of the project— Fourth Street east of Main Street. However, attempts twice before to receive funding for the second phase of the project railroad tracks to East Street have been thwarted.

The total cost of the second phase of the project is estimated at \$501,600. The KDOT Cost Share, if approved, would be \$350,200 with the city responsible for the remaining \$151,400.

AG TEAM SALES SUCCESS (photo caption) ~ Congratulations to the Erie High School Ag Sales Team for placing second overall. From left: Hayden Seibel, Masen Powell, Jackson Powell and Addy Boaz. Individually, Boaz placed sixth, Powell eighth and Seibel 10th.

FIVE YEARS AGO

BUSY TIME OF THE YEAR FOR ERIE ~ June is often a busy time of the year, but for this year, it is even busier than normal.

Of course, this time a year ago, many local families were “still cleaning up” from the flooding of the Neosho River. While it was nothing like the flooding from 2007, many families dealt with quite a mess.

And with a rather wet spring this year, but thankfully no flooding, that means the grass is green and growing and needing mowing (constantly it seems).

Erie High School seniors have yet to receive their diplomas. Social distancing associated with COVID-19 put a halt to all graduation ceremonies across the state.

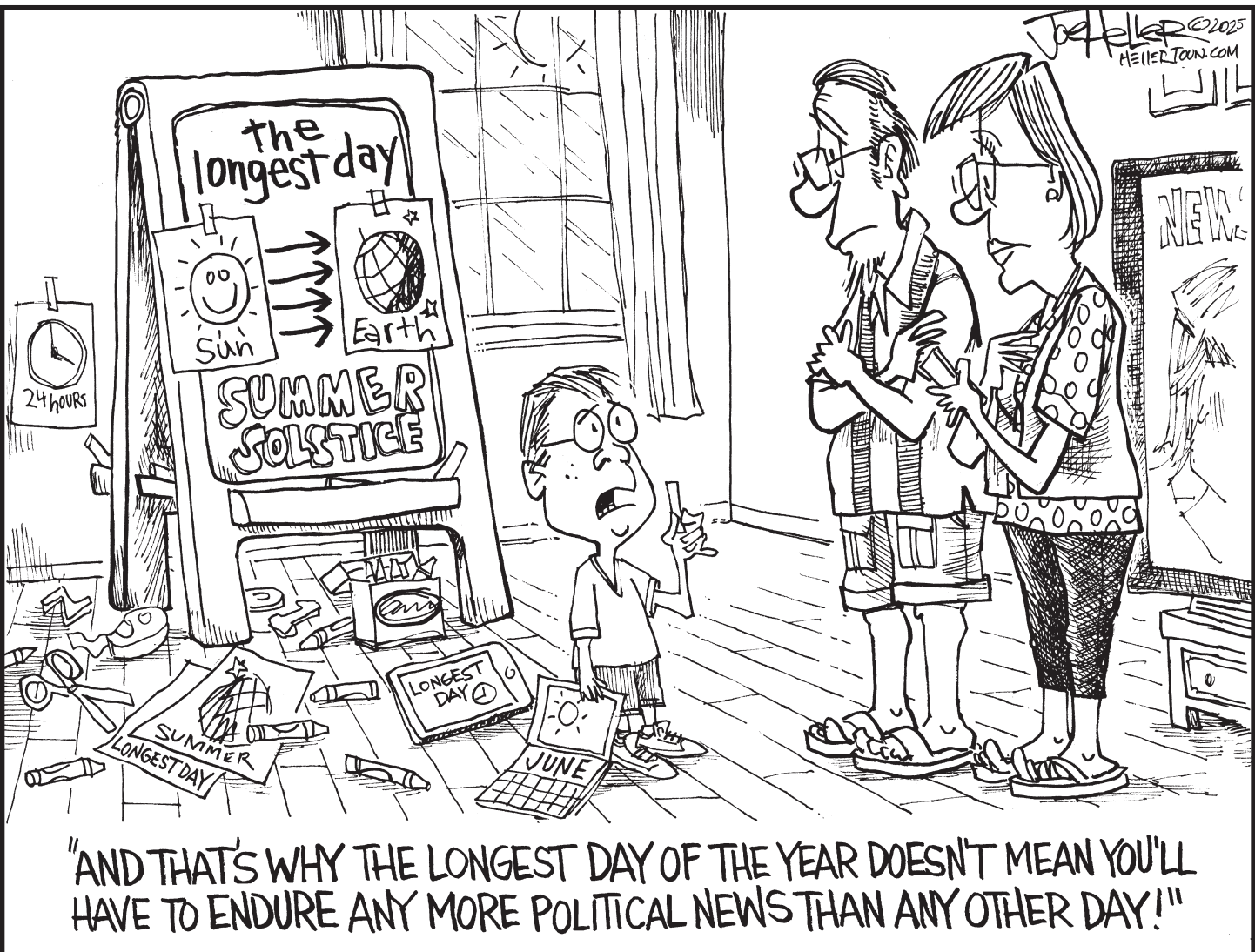
Different options were considered, but finally the members of the Class of 2020 will “walk the aisle,” have a “virtual handshake” and receive their diplomas next weekend.

NEW AT THE MUSEUM (photo caption) ~ The Memorial Erie Historical Society has been busy with new additions to the outside of the Erie Museum under the direction of Leon Obenhaus. The 6’ column globe light is now functioning near the entrance of the Museum which came from the Dorris Family Estate... It “light’s up’ bright and beautiful.” A new connecting cement pad has been added to the front as well, for display purposes, and the roof line drain to the street has been completed with a couple of new sidewalk slabs because of that replacement.

SIX YEARS AGO

LOCAL OFFICIALS SHOULD TAKE NOTICE ~ Nine candidates filed for two seats on the Erie City Council. As a result, a primary election will be held to narrow the field to six candidates.

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Just me and my coffee

It was one of those days that don't often come my way. I was out sitting on the porch with my first cup of coffee for the day.

Today was special. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, her daughter and granddaughter went to St. Augustine for spring break. They would be gone for about three days.

In the meantime, I was here but not alone; I did have my cup of coffee. What more could anyone ask for?

What would the world be like without a nice, fresh, hot cup of coffee in the morning? I don't know, I've never had such a day.

I had no agenda for the day. I finished my latest book and sent it to the publisher. I was also caught up on my radio ministry and syndicated weekly newspaper column. Everything was up to date, and I had nothing on my schedule.

I don't know anybody who can do "nothing" as well as me. And I say that unanimously.

Unlike The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, who has no idea what doing nothing is. As long as I have known her, there has never been a day she has done nothing.

She usually does something in her craft room when she has nothing to do. Even when she is sleeping, I think she dreams about doing something. Believe me, I have never asked. Some things are better not to know.

The one area where I out-

Out to Pastor



Rev. James Snyder

shine The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is my talent for doing nothing. When I don't have a project, I grab a cup of coffee, go to the porch, and think about nothing. Staring into space has become my hobby.

While drinking my coffee that day, I noticed a large lizard climbing up the screen on our porch. I watched it for a little while, then it stopped, looked at me with a quizzical look which said, "Who are you?"

I just stared and suddenly stuck out my tongue, and the lizard disappeared faster than anything I'd ever seen. I now have another productive use for my tongue.

Sure, there were a lot of things I could be doing. I could sit in my office all day and work on future projects down the road. I could work in my library, getting caught up on reading. There were 1,001 things I could be doing instead of sitting on the porch doing nothing but drinking coffee.

I can't remember the last time I didn't have to do anything. But I wasn't going to spend any time trying to remember. I was going to spend all my time doing nothing. I will

have nothing to show for doing nothing. And I like that.

When younger, I thought it was terrible not to be busy all the time, and I fulfilled that expectation to a great degree.

I thought if you weren't doing something, you were being lazy. But looking back, I ask myself, "What's wrong with being lazy?"

I'm in my 70s, but I don't have to live like I was back in the 70s.

Sitting on the porch in my rocking chair I felt so wonderful not doing anything.

If I were The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I'd sit here thinking of things to do once my coffee cup was empty.

I must confess that she is excellent at doing anything and everything. She far outshines me in that department. But, on the other hand, I far outshine her in doing nothing.

After sitting there for a while, I began to think of what I could do for the rest of the day, and the list began to grow.

Suddenly, I said, "You're not going to do anything today. This is your to do nothing day."

I often don't listen to myself, but this was the best time to start. If I have nothing to do, then at the end of the day, I have done nothing; I have at least succeeded in my day's expectation. What kind of reward comes with that? (An Apple Fritter?)

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