

Just a dream for a salesman

Celesa sighed as she climbed out of bed. She knew it was going to be a long day. She had some critical deadlines for work, and it always seemed like there was more to do than she could get done.

She took a quick shower and then made breakfast for her family. She fed everyone and got her husband off to work. Her young children sat down to watch Sesame Street, and Celesa figured she had at least a half-hour to get some reports done before they were due at ten. But as she moved to the desk and pulled out her computer, Annalee, her four-year-old daughter, came and stood beside her.


"Mommy, do you want to hear about my dream last night?" she asked.

Always the good mother, Celesa put her work aside. "Sure, honey. Tell me about it."

"Well," Annalee said, "there was this pony. And he was my friend. And he wanted me to go with him on a long trip."

As Annalee continued, Celesa could feel her blood pres-

Life's Outtakes



DARIS HOWARD
AUTHOR

sure increase. She wanted to listen to her daughter, but her mind was caught up with her concern about the approaching deadline. She could see the big clock in the living room from her vantage point, and it seemed to be moving at an increasingly faster rate.

Then the phone rang. Celesa answered it. After talking for a minute, she briefly excused herself from Annalee's storytelling and retrieved some information for the friend who called. Annalee followed her, and as Celesa returned to her desk, Annalee leaned against her and picked up the story of her dream from where she left off.

"And there was a pretty rainbow that had a doll sitting below it..."

The phone rang a few more times, and Celesa would deal with the call, then return to listen to Annalee's story. Celesa knew she wasn't doing well at anything.

Though she was trying to focus attention on her daughter, her mind was deep in thought about her work.

Then the phone rang again. Celesa thought to herself that the phone hardly rang on a typical day. But when she was busiest with the most critical issues, it was seldom quiet.

Celesa picked up the phone. "Hello," a man said. "Did you know the warranty on your car is about to expire? I can extend it for you."

Celesa tried unsuccessfully a couple of times to tell the man that she was not interested in a new warranty for her car, but he kept talking over her.

Finally, in exasperation, she handed the phone to her little daughter.

"Annalee, why don't you tell this man about your dream?"

Annalee excitedly took the phone. She was seldom given a

chance to talk on it unless a relative called.

"So," Annalee said into the phone, "there was this pony. And he was my friend. And he wanted me to go with him on a long trip."

The man tried to talk over Annalee, but she ignored him and continued with her dream. Celesa went back to work. After a while, she could hear the dial tone on the phone Annalee was holding, but Annalee continued talking about her dream.

Eventually, Annalee said, "Okay, that's it," and handed the phone back to her mother.

That evening, after Annalee had a bath and curled up in Celesa's lap, Celesa said, "Annalee, you never finished telling me the rest of your dream."

"Oh," Annalee said sleepily. She then told a much more condensed version than she told the salesman, falling asleep as she ended.

Celesa sat and rocked her sleeping daughter for a while, then tucked her into bed to let her have another sweet, four-year old dream.

First Ladies

In this year of the 250th anniversary of our country, we have already been hearing quite a bit about our forefathers and those responsible for our Declaration of Independence. However, so far I haven't heard much about the wives of these courageous men. Many have become influential. Be assured that the women played an important role not only then but in the many decades that followed.

This week I decided to take a quick glimpse at some of our first ladies and their contribution to our American life. Martha Custis Washington became the first presidential spouse. She often accompanied her husband in military camps. The spouse of the president has always been one of the most enigmatic in American politics. They are expected to stand by the president and dress with impeccable taste.

However, some have had some unusual habits such as chewing tobacco as Dolly Madison did. However her charisma, quick wit and gift of gab made up for her husband's humorless introversion. And she saved the huge portrait of George Washington during the burning of the White House by the British during the war of 1812. She died with very little financial resources. Mary Todd Lincoln often hosted seances.

Abigail Adams, the second first lady, was quite influential in offering advice to her husband John Adams, at a time when wives were expected to keep their place. She was brilliant and outspoken but she had a fear of mobs. Julia Tyler wished to be addressed as "Mrs. Presidentress" She often had a train of "ladies in waiting" in tow. Edith Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt's wife, controlled her family photo ops with an iron fist. She hated public exposure. She was the first president's wife to hire a secretary at government expense as well as a "staff."

Grace Coolidge was quite athletic and was a big baseball fan. So much so the Boston Red Sox team often let her sit in the dugout with them.

Claudia Alta "Lady Bird" Johnson, was responsible for "The Highway Beautification Act of 1965 or sometimes known as "Beautify America." It was a national effort to clean up highways, plant flowers, build walls to hide junk yards and even tried to get rid of billboards.

This is just a glimpse of the sometimes unusual as well as the usual things some of our First Ladies have done. They all have a fascinating story to tell.

Hello Neighbor



LOIS CARLSON
KSU EMERITUS

Multitasking is not my cup of tea

Usually, I have a lot of work on my desk, from writing to radio programs. Even though I have many projects, I can only do one at a time.

I have often wished I could multitask, which would help me get through many more projects more quickly. But that has never been my style of working. I focus on one project at a time and move on to the next when it is finished.

Some people can multitask, but that is not me. Often, it would be great if I could multitask and get a bunch of projects done at the same time. I have tried that, but it has not worked for me.


Multitasking is not my way of working.

For many years, I looked into multitasking to learn how to do it. I figured out that if I could do that, I could accomplish much more in my life. The more I studied it, the less I understood what it was all about.

When it comes to multitasking The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is the Queen. I am not sure how many she can do at once, but it is more than I can even think of. When she is doing something, she is doing everything. I only wish I had that skill.

Now that we are retired, her

Out to Pastor



DR. JAMES SNYDER
MINISTER

multitasking has grown even bigger. Whenever I walk by her craft room, I see her doing several things at once, and I am not quite sure how she manages it.

As I learn a little more about this multitasking, I begin to understand The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage more.

For example, when she is speaking to me, I really cannot follow all that she is saying because she is talking about at least six things at the same time. In her speaking, she does not have any "periods." Everything flows together, but I do not understand multitasking, so I do not understand what she is talking about.

Often she will say, "Don't you remember what I said yesterday?"

That is completely beyond my mental scope. Because yesterday she probably said a thousand things, and I did not get a handle on any of them.

I do not know if this is true,

but I read somewhere that women speak 20,000 words a day, while men speak 7,000. I am not sure where they get that, but I'm not going to doubt that for a moment. It is pretty close to reality.

The reason women speak 20,000 words to a man while he only speaks 7,000 is that they multitask while speaking. A man can never multitask while speaking, whereas a woman can multitask even while speaking.

When I am speaking, for example, I am thinking about one particular thought. I usually do not go beyond that one thought. I have noticed that when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is speaking, she has many thoughts at that moment. Because I cannot multitask, I cannot figure out what she is talking about.

That is what gets me into trouble all the time.

Don't get me wrong, I would sure enjoy being able to multitask like her. Of course, if I could multitask like her, we would never finish talking because we would be all over the place, not knowing exactly what we were talking about.

Often when she is talking, she will stop and say, "Did you hear what I just said?"

I do not say this, but I am

thinking, "Yes, but I haven't been able to sort it out to find what you were talking about."

I listen, but I cannot keep up with everything she says at the time. Much of what she says is unrelated to each other, which is why I am often confused about what she is saying.

What she is saying is good, you can be sure, but it is not related to each other, which is why I get confused when she talks to me like that.

I try to be a thoughtful person and think before I speak. I cannot process half a dozen thoughts at once.

At my stage in life, I will probably never learn to multitask. I have tried studying that for a very long time, and I really have not discovered its secret.

I did find a secret to this multitasking in my relationship with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Now that I know a little bit of how she multitasks, especially when she is talking, I can pretend to understand and go along with it. It does no good for me to try to sort out what she is saying, because by the time I do, she is on to another multitasking talk.

This year, we celebrate our 55th wedding anniversary. After all those years of being married, I have discovered that marital bliss is not about agreeing on everything. Rather, it is not contesting what you do not understand at the time.

A verse of scripture came to my mind on this subject.

James 1:19, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

This has become an important verse for me. I am trying to focus on hearing and not on speaking. The less I speak the less trouble I get into. What could be better?

Rock'n Roll FCE

Members of the Rock'n Roll FCE met April 20 for their monthly meeting at the Erie Senior Center.

President Lois Carlson called the meeting to order. Roll call was answered by what each would do if they were financially able to do so. Cindy Kiser gave a report on the "Southwind Spring Fling Safari" gathering hosted by Allen County FCE with members from Bourbon and Neosho counties as guests for a wonderful salad supper.

Members then visited the newest museum in the area, "Whitetails and Wildlife Museum" located on the southwest corner of the town square. It features hundreds of wild animals of all sizes representing many areas of the world, including some from the United States.

Neosho County members will host a similar fall event for

the three counties.

Plans were made to attend the annual Southeast Area meeting May h at the Crawford County Historical Museum. Neosho county is responsible for table decorations and door prizes.

Carol Stephens and Dena McCoy reported that they had completed the informational poster for the Kansas lesson and it will soon begin appearing at locations in the county.

Dena McCoy presented the educational lesson, "A Journey Through Kansas- Hidden Gems." It was quite informative and sparked much discussion. She concluded her program by emphasizing the fact there are many Kansas Gems throughout Kansas as we know but there are many right here very close to home.


THE ERIE RECORD
Serving Neosho County Since 1876

THE ERIE RECORD
of Kansas
SERVING NEOSHO COUNTY SINCE 1876

Published weekly with the possible exception of the edition following Thanksgiving and Christmas by:
The Erie Record of Kansas
P.O. Box 159, Erie KS 66733
Contact the Publisher at:
(620) 244-6030 (primary) (620) 778-3880 (cell)
Email: theerierecord@outlook.com
USPS No. 178-480
Periodicals Postage Paid at Erie, KS 66733
Members of the Kansas Press Association
Published Friday Deadline: Noon Tuesday
Publisher/Owner:
M. Eddie Hibbs III
Postmaster send address change to The Erie Record,
P.O. Box 159, Erie, KS 66733
Contents Copyright 2026
Any reproduction of contents requires written permission by the publisher.


No refunds are available on subscriptions, though the balance of a subscription may be transferred to an individual, business or organization.

Whether you are planning for the future or are in a time of immediate need, we are here to help walk you through how to plan a funeral or a celebration of life. We have several tools to help you plan for the future, and our Pre-planning Counselors are trained to help you create a service that is uniquely you.



Hal Redford
Wall Funeral Services
Pre-Arrangement Counselor

Funeral planning doesn't have to be hard. We're here to help.



Carson WALL FUNERAL SERVICES
800-341-3704
www.wallfuneralservices.com
620-421-2280

Serving Southeast Kansas with facilities in 4 locations

SELECTED Independent FUNERAL HOMES
NFDA National Funeral Directors Association
KFDA Kansas Funeral Directors Association

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW.

WITHOUT PUBLIC NOTICE YOU ARE LEFT GUESSING.

Public notices in our newspaper help you stay informed about government, corporate and private activities that touch your world. An informed citizenry is the core of our democracy.

Since knowing is so important, we joined the other newspapers in Kansas and also publish our public notices online.

KANSASPUBLICNOTICES.COM

Kansas Press Association