

LIFESTYLE

THE POSTSCRIPT

The Stick Game

When I was 8 years old, I played a game while on vacation.

I was visiting the ocean for the first time. The sand was dry, and as the waves hit the beach, I would see which wave came up highest, and I would put a stick on the high-water mark.

I kept doing this. To my amazement, the record continued to be broken -- not by every wave, but within a minute, a new wave would break in a place higher up on the beach. I kept moving the stick higher and higher up the beach. It was a very exciting game.



Carrie Clason

I didn't learn about the tide until much later.

Somehow, the idea that the waves would simply be outdoing one another didn't require an explanation at 8. And, of course, the notion of a lowering tide never entered my mind.

I was reminded of that this morning, and

I wondered if I've ever gotten over playing my stick-on-the-beach game. Because I love to break records for myself. I love to write more and write faster, walk farther, get more done. I tally up every day by what I have accomplished. This might be because I write instead of having a real job, where my hours would be recorded or I would be given a performance review. Perhaps I need to reassure myself that typing away on my computer really is proper work.

But I have always done this -- to a greater

or lesser degree. I was once told by a reliable source (my brother-in-law) that I must never get a fitness tracker because watching the numbers click up for every step I took would become a mad compulsion.

I confess, my brother-in-law knows me well.

For someone who has never had any interest in competing with others, I am insatiably competitive with myself. I am always looking for the next wave to hit a higher point on the beach, and I always assume I can keep doing it. Up and up and up.

At some point, the tide has to go out. And that is a good thing, or the planet would be covered by water. (I'm not sure

what being covered by water would look like, for me personally, but it doesn't sound good.)

A friend recently asked a variation on the old question, "Would you rather be happy or rich?" by adding, "or content?" And everyone seemed to agree that contentment beat out happiness because it was lasting and stable, and happiness was so flighty.

I wasn't so sure. A little dose of discontent is what spurs me to try new and harder things, to go a little further than I did the last time, to explore ideas outside the ones I already know. I don't think any of this is bad. I told him I'd take happiness -- even with its unreliable nature.

But sometimes, I need to recognize that the tide will go out, my stick will not move up and that is OK as well. I guess that would be contentment. At least it would be a rest.

Today I am looking at crazy words I wrote in the middle of the night, words that look as if they want to turn into a new book -- and I have not quite finished the previous one. It seems like a little rest would be a better idea.

But maybe the tide is going up now, and it's OK to play the stick game a little longer. I'm not a young person, after all, and the tide will not come up forever.

Till next time,
Carrie

From our HISTORY Sponsored by



'Stevens unveils \$22.6 million proposal'

Compiled by Brady Cloud
news@morningsun.net

Excerpted stories in Crawford County newspaper archives

100 YEARS AGO

June 13, 1926
Girard - Ed S. Dolson, defaulting cashier of the Farmers State Bank of McCune, held in jail here on charges of embezzlement, making false entries and accepting deposits during the bank's insolvency, today had not indicated his plans regarding the charges pending. It was said that nothing will be done regarding the case before tomorrow, when Dolson probably will be taken into a justice court in Pittsburg.

L. M. Resler of Pittsburg announced today that he would be a candidate for the Republican nomination for judge of division No. 1 of the Crawford County district court. Petitions for Mr. Resler already are in circulation. Mr. Resler has served as

first assistant county attorney for the past five years. He is a graduate of the law school of the University of Kansas and has been engaged in the practice of law in this district for fourteen years. He maintains his office in Pittsburg.

Wheat harvest in Crawford County, which was started with a few cuttings the latter part of last week, will be on in full swing over the entire county this week, and several hundred harvest hands are needed to assist in the work. F. B. Wheeler, member of the agricultural committee of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce, said this morning.

Mrs. Jennie Fox's suit against W. H. Ryan, Girard attorney, for approximately \$15,000 damages on grounds of fraud and slander was given new life Saturday when the Kansas supreme court reversed a ruling made in the Crawford County district court, in which a defendant demurred to

the plaintiff's answer had been sustained.

50 YEARS AGO

June 13, 1976
Only about 10 per cent of the traffic violations filed yearly in the City Court of Pittsburg are heard in court while one per cent are reduced or dismissed, sometimes outside of court, court records show. Of the more than 5,000 traffic cases, mostly for speeding violations, filed yearly, the remaining 89 per cent are resolved when the defendant pleads guilty and pays an automatic fine and court costs without appearing in court.

Crawford County has been invited to apply for a federally funded supplemental food program for women, infants, and children. Areas with the highest levels of infant mortality, low birth weight and low income are now given the first opportunity to participate in the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Chil-

dren (WIC) sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, according to M.J. Dannevik, WIC coordinator for the Midwest Region.

The Southeast Kansas Community Action Program has received federal funds to finance a summer jobs program that starts Monday for lower-income students enrolled in colleges and vocational and training schools, Ed Brackett, director of the SEK-CAP Manpower division, said. Aside from the program for post-secondary students, a similar summer jobs program set up primarily for high school students began Monday.

If presidential elections were held in Kansas today, the likely democrat candidate, Jimmy Carter, would outpoll either incumbent republican Gerald Ford (44 per cent to 39 per cent) or republican challenger Ronald Reagan (44 per cent to 40 per cent). The first statewide Stauffer Publications Kansas Poll

of this election season shows that while all three candidates now demonstrate relatively strong showings within their own parties, Democrat Jimmy Carter has at this point captured a greater share of the independent vote in Kansas.

25 YEARS AGO

June 13, 2001
City Manager Larry Stevens presented his proposed \$22.6 million budget for 2002 to the Pittsburg City Commission at a study session before Tuesday night's regular meeting. Stevens said the main reason for the increased budget is larger budgeted reserves for the general fund and the utility fund, which the city had worked to stabilize during the last budget year. Stevens proposed a one-mill increase in the city's property tax mill levy. An official projection of the city's assessed valuation won't be made by Crawford

The Kansas Department of and Rehabilitation Social Services' lease with Crawford County on the SRS building at 20th and the U.S. Highway 69 Bypass expires June 30, which is leaving both the agency and the county looking for options. County Counselor Jim Emerson said at Tuesday's regular county commission meeting

he had received a letter from Dixie Phillips, SRS lease administration director, seeking to extend the lease to February and then take it on a month-to-month basis.

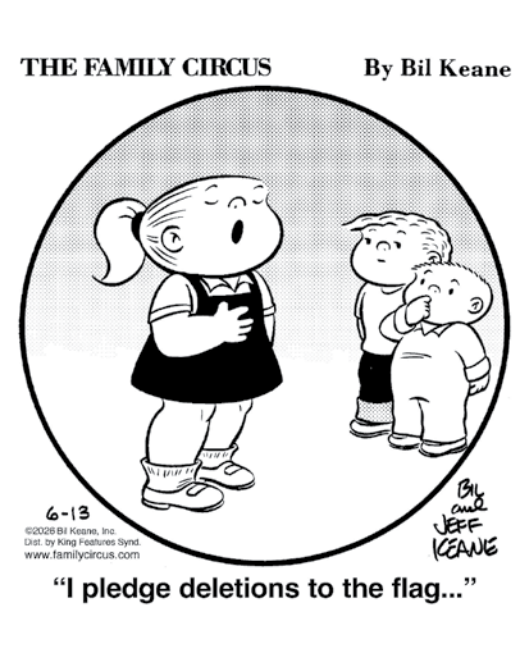
Their switchboard was closed in 1979, but a group of former Southwestern Bell Telephone operators still keep their lines of communication open. On Tuesday, the informal group, open to all retired and active Southwestern Bell employees, celebrated its 20th anniversary. "We had our first meeting on June 3, 1981, in the Sirloin Stockade," said Arlene Fearmonti. She and Harriet Rudisill started the group meetings. "Harriet's brother-in-law, Maurice Fleming, had been to a meeting of retired railroad men and he asked when the telephone operators got together."

Pittsburg city commissioners told a bar owner he was doing a good job fixing problems with his establishment but said they hoped things would continue to improve. The city commission unanimously approved renewal of Michael Tuner's dance hall license for On the Rocks, 110 E. Sixth St., at its meeting Tuesday night. Maj. Tim Tompkins, assistant chief of police, reviewed a list of 30 incidents occurring at or near the bar which led to filing police reports.

MODERATELY CONFUSED



FAMILY CIRCUS



SUDOKU

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Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

PREVIOUS ANSWER

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