

LIFESTYLE

THE POSTSCRIPT

Swimming With the Sunnies

I spent last week “up north” with my parents. While my husband, Peter, and my cat, Felix, stayed at home and played cat games, I drove up to my parents’ cabin four hours north.

The city was hot, but right now, even up north is hot. So, I decided to go swimming.

I hadn’t been swimming in a long time. I walk in the woods every chance I get, but I don’t go in the water as often as I could. Sometimes it feels like a nuisance to get wet. Sometimes I get self-conscious putting on a bathing suit. Usually, I fret that the water will be too cold. I chicken out and take a walk instead.



Carrie Classon

But this last week was so warm that walking did not even sound tempting. So, I put on the new brightly colored striped swimsuit I had bought used online (and had never worn), and I borrowed a beach towel from my mom, and I headed down the many steps from my parents’ cabin to the lakeshore.

I waded in slowly. The lake was much warmer

than I remembered it being. I stood on the sandy bottom and attracted the attention of a school of sunfish. These sunnies were young and curious, and they were attracted to the bright-green-and-blue stripes of my swimsuit as well as my bright blue painted toenails. They came out from under the dock and surrounded me. They nibbled on my suit. They nibbled on my toes. One of them nibbled on my butt.

“Stop it!” I said and splashed them away.

They backed up for a moment, then came right back, still curious about this bright-colored new friend who had joined them in the

shallow water.

“Pesky fish!” I shoosed them away again. Still, it was good to know I’d won the Sunfish Seal of Approval. I dove in.

The first dive into a northern lake is always a shock. The top six inches of water on a hot day are several degrees warmer than the water below. But once I was fully wet, it was wonderful. I swam along the shoreline. There were tall reeds and lily pads. I checked out the cabins up and down the shore. The lake was quiet on this hot day in the middle of the week. A deer was eating tasty greens from the water’s edge. If I’d been so close to her on land, she would

have run. Instead, she watched this peculiar water creature a little cautiously and continued to graze.

I found some water lilies that were blooming and decided to bring some back for my mom. I picked three and then swam home with one arm, trailing lilies (and a little seaweed) behind me. Then I left the lilies on the beach and just floated for a time. Floating in the warm sunshine, a cold finger of water from deeper down occasionally found its way up as I slowly spun around, looking at the tall pine trees and the scattered clouds and the reeds along the shoreline.

It’s good to be in a lake, I decided. It was worth getting over my trepidation, putting on my new, brightly colored suit and diving in. I realized what I’d always known but forgotten: how the water is calming yet fills me with a wonderful energy.

I brought the lilies home to my mom, and we put them in a vase. She said she’d never had a bouquet from the lake before. And the next day, I went out swimming with the sunnies again.

Till next time,
Carrie

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HISTORY
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‘Start Besse foundation soon’

Compiled by
Brady Cloud
news@morningsun.net

Excerpted stories in
Crawford County newspaper archives

100 Years Ago
July 25, 1926

With the work of excavating practically completed two weeks ahead of schedule and the task of starting building materials moving well under way, officials connected with the construction of the 12-story Hotel Besse today expressed satisfaction with the progress being made. The building committee met this morning in the Chamber of Commerce rooms to arrange details regarding the purchase of hardware to equip the new hotel.

Girard, July 26. - Gates to Crawford County’s eighth annual fair will swing open at 7:30 o’clock to-morrow morning to what fair officials believe will be a

record first day’s attendance. The officials already are satisfied that they have the finest exhibition in the history of the event, as exhibitors from all over the southeast part of the state continue to arrive with live stock and farm products.

Organization of the Monarch Coal Company, which will operate a shovel near Arcadia, has been announced. The organizers of the company are Fred Perkins of Minden and Dick Rickter of Mulberry. A Marion 37 electric shovel has been purchased by the company and it is expected that loading of coal will be started in 30 days. A tract of land totaling 200 acres has been leased by the new company.

A suggestion for a combination of a farm show, such as R. S. Russ, chairman of agricultural committee suggested last week, with an industrial and motor show was made at a

meeting of directors of the Chamber of Commerce at the chamber at noon today. Only five directors were present. Because there was no quorum no action was taken. Directors present, however, asked Secretary Harper to investigate the possibility of obtaining a building for such a large exposition.

50 years ago
July 25, 1976

GIRARD - It was a slow day at the special one-stop federal disaster relief center in Girard Thursday. Fewer than 10 persons took advantage of the center, which was open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday at the Crawford County Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Office. The purpose of the center was to give assistance to victims of the July 3 flood that caused 10 counties in Southeast Kansas to be declared a national disaster by the President of the United States.

The Pittsburg Western Auto store, Seventh and Broadway, was sold by the company last week to Bob Staats of Joplin. The transaction is in keeping with the company’s national trend to sell all stores except those in large metropolitan areas, said Staats. The business will now be operated as a Western Auto associate store. The same merchandise will be sold in the store and several new services have been added.

The license tag registration fee for pickup trucks will increase 83 per cent, from \$15 to \$27.50, and automobile registration will increase 30 per cent in each classification on Jan. 1 as enacted by the 1976 Kansas Legislature. The registration fees were increased in the last legislative session for all vehicles for the purpose of funding a state highway improvements program, secretary of revenue,

Kent Kalb said Thursday.

A public hearing before representative of the Kansas State Board of Education is expected within the next several months to decide whether 190 acres of Pittsburg Unified School District 250 land will be transferred to USD 249 in Frontenac. The land, 190.71 acres just north of the Pittsburg city limits on Parkview Drive, is within the city limits of Frontenac and should be transferred to the Frontenac school district so that tax dollars would go to the district also, Dino J. Spigarelli, said Wednesday.

25 years ago
July 25, 2001

A 1997 Pittsburg ordinance designed to make underage drinking laws easier to enforce has come back to haunt a local restaurant owner. A recent audit by the Pittsburg Police Department found J.B.’s Sports Bar & Grill, 516 N. Broadway, has been falling well short of the minimum amount of food sales necessary to be considered a restaurant and to admit people under 21.

Thirty-three local companies have answered the call to “be somebody’s hero” by being Pacesetters in the 2001-2002 Crawford County United Way campaign. The theme

of this year’s campaign is “There’s a Hero in All of Us.” Representatives from the companies met early Tuesday morning with United Way volunteers and officials to receive information and training on what it means to be a Pacesetter company.

This spring, the B&B Discount building in the 300 block of South Broadway suffered irreparable damage during a violent storm that tore through Pittsburg. Today, workers are preparing for the final stages of demolition, though it has taken longer than expected. “The contractors are having to do a lot more hand work than expected,” said city building inspector Bill Beasley. “Mostly because of the building next to it.”

WICHITA (AP) - The Pittsburg-based short-line railroad company Watco is off and rolling with its latest and largest acquisition, operating the Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad on 920 miles of track. The K&O began operations June 30 in south-central and western Kansas after acquiring the additional track, much of it in long-deferred maintenance, and attempting to serve customers on lines used little or not at all the past two or three years.

MODERATELY CONFUSED



FAMILY CIRCUS



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