Hi Gang, Bob, KØBXF our SEC is better and I got an ARES report from Him this week.  Glad 2C U R better and are active again.

The Kansas Sideband net still meets on 3920 kHz at 5:30 PM and will continue to until band conditions return to normal.  The band is so stretched out that the Net Control needs to be several states away from Ks to hear Ks stations.

Don't forget the ARRL Straight Key night midnight Dec 31.  Get that old key out and clean up its contacts and lets hear UR fist on the air.

Let me know if you participate in the following.........  w0oyh@arrl.net

ARRL 10 Meter Contest Means HF Fun for Technicians, Too! (Dec 8, 2008) -- This weekend brings an opportunity for Technician licensees to exercise their HF privileges and have fun at the same time. The ARRL 10 Meter Contest is set to begin at 0000 UTC on Saturday December 13 (this is Friday evening in the US) and runs through 2359 UTC on Sunday, December 14.

Let me know if you participate in this one.

I have not done this B4; let me share our Ks net activities with you.  They are posted on the Kansas Section News site >>> http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=KS and are maintained by our SM

Kind of a last minute reminder if you are a viewer of Jeopardy.  Also this sad news about George Wilson;  http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/11/26/10473/?nc=1

73 and again, Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours,

Chuck KØBOG
ARRL
Who Can Use the Name ARES(r)?

ARES(r) is a registered trademark of the ARRL. As such it can only be used by groups that are officially affiliated with the ARRL. There is a PDF with the details at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/ARES-Registered-Trademark.pdf>

--Dan Henderson, N1ND, Regulatory Information Manager, ARRL

Gene, WA0KHP, wrote this:

"For those old timers who used to run teletype machines, a return to the good ole days:"

<< Don’t miss watching this one.


I receive newsletters each month from the TROJAN ARC with KØBJ and KØFJ, QRZ Leavenworth, KS, QNU H.A.R.C. Hiawatha Amateur Radio Club, GROUNDED GRID, Wichita Amateur Radio Club, Inc and FEEDBACK, JOHNSON COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS CLUB, Inc. and can FWD, anyone interested. w0oyh@arrl.net

Would you like a list of our ARRL Ks “ECs” Emergency Coordinators and their counties and a printable map of Districts and Zones? Just CLICK>>> http://www.cenkares.org/ You will find a lot of other Ks info there so spend some time, for Kent has done a terrific job for us.

KAR newsletter published on or about the 8th of each month. KAR ARES Reports published in 4 more.

73, Orlan w0oyh UR KAR ed and ARRL Ks Ast. Section Mgr.  w0oyh@arrl.net
KANSAS IS GREAT IN 2008!

Kansas Section News Summary - October 2008

Silent Keys:
WAØBJN-Ludwig Hedstrom, Kansas City
KCØAAU-James Funk, Otis
WAØGOI-John Draskovich, Jr, Kansas City

______________________________________________

KUØDM -- Duncan MacLachlan of Prairie Village was named Editor of the ARRL's youth column. Look for Duncan's column at www.arrl.org

KØBXF is off his feet for a while due to head injury. Please copy me on your ARES reports.

WAØCBW -- Bill Brinker has been appointed Technical Coordinator for the Kansas Section. Bill has a background in electronics education and has been a Mororola project coordinator.

After almost 40 years of helping with the Hiawatha Halloween parade HARC was told They were not needed this year.

Valley Center/Wichita hamfest was well attended again this year. Over 300 searched for bargains and enjoyed eye ball QSOs.

Flint Hills ARC members assisted the city of Towanda with their festival. I stopped by on my way home from the VC\Wichita hamfest. The group helped with lost children, parade and other duties suitable for Amateur Radio.

Due to poor band conditions, the Kansas Sideband net has moved to 5:30PM.

Newsletters received: Feed Back, Grounded Grid, QNU H.A.R.C., QRZ, QSP,
Disasters do strike at any place and any time and as you can imagine, with great strength to the destruction we all have seen and heard about.

Greensburg tornado is one example. There are those from the area that have not yet returned to normal living conditions as they were accustomed prior to the event. A number of entities have been blamed for some of the reasons, yet no one really can be singled out as the true and only reason for whatever the event brought upon that community.

I can see better some of the reasons for despair after having an un-expected event hit my household.
I entered the hospital to have some minor things taken care of, and three days later I had had brain surgery twice and hence spent 2 weeks in the hospital and am still trying to get my strength back so I can get back to normal living. Still a bit weak and unstable on my feet and waiting to see if the next c-scan says no more bleeding around the brain. I do not want to get my head cut open again, hi.

Thanks to everyone for their understanding for slow or no answers to some of your questions.

Still need a DEC for ARES District 6 (Greeley Rush Comanche and all counties South and West.

Still need EC's for NW corner of the state. I am sure someone out there can find the time to coordinate the hams within the area. ‘Trojan’ members take heed.

ARES Zone’s not reporting for October activity are:
All of Dist 1 Zones
Zones 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G
all Dist 3 except 3A, 3E
Zones 4D, E, H
All Dist 5 zones
and all Dist 6 zones except 6E and 6F.

Will some one, please, from each of these zones become active enough that we have at least one live contact from each zone to tell us what is needed to spur the activities a bit?

Do you belong to a club within the areas named? Please bring up the subject of ARES at your next meeting.

best 73 Bob Summers K0BXF
ARRL KS SEC

ARRL KS AST. SECTION MANAGER "Youth"
I don't know how much TV you watch, but I just saw a Diet Mountain Dew commercial that had a girl on a really large, old ham radio in a storm. She actually called it a "ham radio," which I thought was really cool. The commercial itself is pretty hilarious.

Just something I thought you would think was neat (and pretty funny).

73,

Em - Emily, KC0PTL

Folks,
There will NOT be a RACES Net this Thursday for Dec. due to band conditions and Holiday activities. So Orlan I guess you can put my picture in upside down this month. HI HI
Happy Holidays,
73
Joseph WDØDMV

Call County
WØCCW Mitchell

Joseph can be found on 3920 kHz at 6:30 PM as the Ks Sideband Net Control Station on Monday evenings.

73,

Joseph WDØDMV - State RACES Officer wd0dmv@arrl.net
Our current Kansas Division SATERN website [http://home.kc.rr.com/saternkansas] will be terminated on December 15th due to changes made by Roadrunner.

We now have a new site at Roadrunner... please pass along our new web address to anyone who might be interested:  http://home.rr.com/saternkansas

This is actually the "same address" as before, except they removed the ".kc" from the web address.

PLEASE HELP == if you find our "old" site linked to any website, please advise the webmaster of that site to correct the link to our new address.

Merry Christmas!

June Jeffers KB0WEQ
SATERN Coordinator
Kansas & Western Missouri Division
Email: KSSATERN@kc.rr.com

AROUND THE STATE:

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Chiefsfan2
Sent: Friday, November 21, 2008 6:38 PM
Subject: SHARC Christmas Dinner

The plans for this years SHARC Christmas party have been finalized. We will be having a soup supper at the Finney County LEC at our normal meeting location on the normal December meeting night of Thursday 12-4-08. Supper will be served at 7:00 PM with the meeting to follow. The Menu will include Chicken noodle and Chili, bread/crackers, dessert and tea and coffee. The cost will be $7.00 per person. I need to have a head count by this coming Tuesday so please e-mail me if you didn't RSVP on the Tuesday repeater net if you plan on attending.

Thanks to John, Larry, Danny, Cliff and Dick for all your hard work on the Slow Scan presentation. We had the people that there we needed to see this. Chris from the Butler County Emergency communications and Carol for Public health. They will pass the work on to the emergency response professionals in the county.  GREAT JOB!!!!

Don Smith
Butler County ARES meeting the challenge.

**REMEMBER THESE CATALOGS....?**

◆ Three rather large TIFF files for your viewing pleasure. This one is the 1966 B-A Catalog, which has 236 pages.

Want me to look up something for you?

You can reduce the size and/or convert to JPEG files for e-mailing and/or the KAR. They might be OK in a PDF file though.

--

John NØEI

Full screen size photo available you can read for the asking at w0oyh@arrl.net

◆ Three rather large files for your viewing pleasure.

This one is the 1966 B-A Catalog, page 122, which shows our favorite toys!

--

John NØEI
Three rather large files for your viewing pleasure.

This one is the 1966 Henshaw Catalog.

This place at 1049 Minnesota Avenue in Kansas City, KS, was walking distance for me.

I didn't even know they had the 5611 Johnson Drive store.

Seems their final location was south of 75th Street on Wornall, maybe 77th or so, on the West side of Wornall. They went into the CB business Heavily.

--

John NØEI
Net operated daily at 7 and 10 pm on 3547 kHz. 7 pm is the out going tfc into the NTS system and incoming at 10 pm. You are welcome to check in with or without tfc. Our manager is James, NBØZ. I am Net control on Monday, Fridays and Saturdays at 10 PM. Been doing that for 30+ years... Orlan

**SILENT KEYS:**

Vince Weber, WB0EVD, asked me to send this message to the list:

=============

Larry,

Gwen Carriger passed away yesterday afternoon. Her husband is Jim, W0SIK, and her son is Steve, WA0VRS.

I’d appreciate it if you would pass along. Both Steve and Jim have donated a lot of time over the years promoting amateur radio in and around the Topeka area. Neither one has voluntarily sought the personal lime light for their efforts.

Even though expected, Gwen’s death has hit the family hard. The funeral home set up the following link for information and there is a place to pass along your thoughts, prayers, and condolences. I know it would mean a lot to the family to know that others are thinking of them at this time.


Or, if this link is broken:

<http://tinyurl.com/63nfme>

Thank you.

Vince Weber, WB0EVD

Obituary: ===========

C. Gwendolyn Carriger, 85, Topeka, died Tuesday, November 11, 2008.

She was born December 1, 1922 in Cleburne, TX, the daughter of George Underwood and Cleora Margaret (Brittain) Henderson. She was a graduate
of Topeka High School and Clark’s School of Business.

She was a secretary for Santa Fe Railroad for 10 years and retired in 1981 from Southwest State Bank where she was employed for 18 years as an administrative assistant.

She had been an active member of Oakland United Methodist Church and later Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Gwendolyn married James R. Carriger on October 28, 1949 in Topeka. He survives. Other survivors include son, Steve Carriger; daughter, Judith Carriger, both of Topeka; and grandson Justin (Marti) Kearney, Scranton; and 11 nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a sister, Geneva Henderson Crook and brother, Donald G. Henderson.

Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 14, 2008 at Penwell-Gabel Southwest Chapel. Burial will follow at Penwell-Gabel Cemetery. Gwendolyn will lie in state at the funeral home after 3:00 p.m. today and visitation will be from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Midland Hospice Care, 200 SW Frazier Circle, Topeka, Kansas 66606.

**I HAVE E-MAILED LARRY STAPLES AND RON COWEN ABOUT CECILIA E. "SAMMI" MORRIS -KC0AUC-SK. YOU SHOULD PROBABLY BE NOTIFIED AS WELL. SHE WAS INVOLVED IN A HEAD-ON 2-VEHICLE ACCIDENT THE EVENING OF THE 19th. IT OCCURRED IN RURAL HODGEMAN COUNTY SOUTH OF JETMORE, KS. THE OTHER DRIVER IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL. HE STEERED LEFT-OF-CENTER INTO SAMMI'S PATH. SAMMI'S PASSENGER AND LONG TIME FRIEND & ROOM MATE SHIRLEY COFFMAN, KC0AUB, IS STILL HOSPITALIZED IN JETMORE HOSPITAL WITH BROKEN RIBS, A POSSIBLE DISLOCATED SHOULDER, LACERATIONS, AND A POSSIBLE LEG INJURY. If you need more information, call or e-mail me......She was a friend and will be missed.....gr**

GAYLON ROSE / KC0AUD
620-227-7905 (H)
620-682-5048 (C)
Southwest Kansas ARES® Group

Cecilia (Sammy) E. Morris, 72, died Nov. 19, 2008 of injuries sustained in an automobile accident near Jetmore. Memorial service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Beckwith Funeral Home, Jetmore, with the Rev. Marvin Ewertt presiding, the body has already been cremated. There will be no visitation. Condolences may be left at [http://wwwbeckwithfuneralhome.com](http://wwwbeckwithfuneralhome.com)


*Be sure to keep your Section Manager informed of any silent keys in Kansas so he can get them published in the QST. Please CC me while you are at it for the KAR newsletter.*
HA - HA - HA - HA - HA

Two California Highway Patrol Officers were conducting speeding enforcement on I-15, just north of the Marine Corps Air Station at Miramar.

One of the officers was using a hand held radar device to check speeding vehicles approaching the crest of a hill.

The officers were suddenly surprised when the radar gun began reading 300 miles per hour. The officer attempted to reset the radar gun, but it would not reset and then turned off.

Just then a deafening roar over the treetops revealed that the radar had in fact locked on to a USMC F/A-18 Hornet which was engaged in a low flying exercise near the location. Back at the CHP Headquarters the Patrol Captain fired off a complaint to the USMC Base Commander.

The reply came back in true USMC style:

Thank you for your letter. We can now complete the file on this incident. You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Hornet had detected the presence of, and subsequently locked on to your hostile radar equipment and automatically sent a jamming signal back to it, which is why it shut down. Furthermore, an Air-to-Ground missile aboard the fully armed aircraft had also automatically locked on to your equipment location.

Fortunately, the Marine Pilot flying the Hornet recognized the situation for what it was, quickly responded to the missile system alert status and was able to override the automated defense system before the missile was launched to destroy the hostile radar position.

The pilot also suggests you cover your mouths when cussing at them, since the video systems on these jets are very high tech.

Sergeant Johnson, the officer holding the radar gun, should get his dentist to check his left rear molar. It appears the filling is loose. Also, the snap is broken on his holster.

Thank you for your concern.

Semper Fi  Sent in by Jerry in Miami FL.
A Husband and wife are shopping in their local Wal-Mart.
The husband picks up a case of Budweiser and puts it in their cart.

'What do you think you're doing?' asks the wife.

'They're on sale, only $10 for 24 cans,' he replies.

'Put them back, we can't afford them,' demands the wife, and so they carry on shopping.
A few aisles further on along the woman picks up a $20 jar of face cream and puts it in the basket.

'What do you think you're doing?' asks the husband.

'It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful,' replies the wife.

Her husband retorts:
'So does 24 cans of Budweiser and its half the price.

On the PA system: 'Cleanup needed on aisle 25, we have a husband down'

Dan KØEQD

Subject: CW Dog

During a recent trip my wife and I were on we drove around the back woods of East Texas. On one back road I saw a sign in front of a broken down shanty style house: "Talking Dog for Sale."

Well I needed a break so I stopped to see what the deal was. I went into the backyard and see a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there.

"You talk?" I asked.

"Yep," the Lab replies.

Well after I got over the shock of hearing a dog talk, I asked "So, what's your story?"

"Ah shucks there ain't much to tell. Is that a VUU screwdriver antenna on your truck out there?"

"How did you know that," I asked?

The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I'm a ham radio operator. I got my ticket when I was a young pup and in no time at all I had my 5 band DXCC in Phone and CW. The CIA heard about me and asked me to do some spy work for them. I would hang around the communications centers and with my keen hearing I could copy the transmissions. Because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping, I was one of their most valuable spies for
eight years. Copying high speed CW all day really tired me out and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down. I retired from the CIA (8 dog years is 56 CIA years) and joined a ham radio club.

In fact I won first place in the Oklahoma QSO Party two years in a row. Then I had a mess of puppies and got away from Ham Radio for a while. I sure miss my radio. Why don't you buy me and I'll be your CW operator in the Texas QSO Party."

I said "Let me see what I can do."

I went back in and asked the owner what he wanted for the dog.

"Ten dollars," the guy says.

"Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

"Because he's a liar. He never did any of that stuff. He's just a No Code Technician."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Another great issue!! Larry of "LL"

Thanks for the latest KAR Orlan, I hope you had a Happy Birthday! This news today regarding World Radio; http://www.arrl.org/?artid=8601

73 and take care,

Chuck, KØBOG  TU Chuck keep em coming…… Orlan

The December 2008 Grounded Grid is on-line at


And as always you can get the back issues at I enjoy receiving and reading the "GG”. Orlan w0oyh

http://warc1.org/grid/

Subject: December QRZ

Well here it is, the December issue and my last as Editor of the QRZ. John Bennett, KC0VRN, will be taking over the reigns beginning with the January 2009 issue. I've had a great time these last couple of years putting this together and making it grow. I hope you all enjoyed reading it as much as I have putting it together. As some of you may remember, John served as PKARC secretary, so I have no doubts that he will do a fine job.

Hope to see you all at the Club dinner on Dec 5th. Until then....
Doug - KC5VKG  

TU Doug for the fine job and sharing UR work with me.  Orlan wOoyh

**Doug: I want to thank you for all your hard work** on the PKARC, QRZ. You’re creativity is undoubtedly envied by many clubs across America. I’m sure many of us have seen newsletters and yours’ is up there with the best. You have done a fine job and have left a legacy and a valuable source of information for all to see. All of the monthly newsletters from Jan 2005 through Dec 2008 are there for all to enjoy on the www.PKARC.net web site.

Our friend John Bennett, KC0VRN “the new QRZ author” has a big pair of shoes to fill, but I am sure he will do just as well. We all need to help John with his new task so he can hit the ground running.

Many thanks for all your hard work from all of us!

Regards:

Dan Borneman, W9JXZ

**I don't use this often enough, but there** is an easy way to do it to make messages look more Amateurish. If you want to use the Ø in your messages, this is the way.

While depressing the Alt key, touch the 0216 on the NUMBER PAD and you have Ø. Don’t know if anyone really cares but it does look better and some calls are easier to understand. Just thought I would post something else.

Thomas A. Zeller, KBØORZ  <snipped> from “LL”

**Thanks for all the information you** and many hams on your list provide.  
[http://www.ae7q.net/text/Zero.php](http://www.ae7q.net/text/Zero.php) is an interesting website that includes an interesting story about slashed "O"s. It also includes a link to several TrueType fonts with slashed zeros and Morse code fonts.

One thing AE7Q points out is: "It's one thing for radio operators to use a non-ASCII character that renders as slashed "oh" glyph in place of a zero glyph in the privacy of their own homes, but it's another thing to attempt to use it in communications with the US government, as several radio operators have found out, to their detriment: If you file a vanity call sign application with the FCC and use any character other than ASCII zero in place of zero, your choice of that call sign will be summarily rejected."

73, Keith, WE0G

**Hello Larry n the group - in addition to** Toms letter -

alt 0176 - will let me tell you it is 40° in Clinton MO. this AM
Subject: WØLQV's plates

Prior to about 1950, plates for trucks and farm equipment could be renewed without getting a new plate - you got a metal piece, about an inch wide, and about 4-5 inches long, which attached to the plate. I remember, 'cause I used to get those old tabs as "license plates" for my Radio Flyer wagon.

Also... the Ensor Museum has a call-letter plate collection from the old Burstein-Applebee (B-A). Imagine my surprise, when looking at the picture, I spied MY plate from 1971 or so. I was WØEAJ at the time, and worked within 15 feet of WØEAJ (SK - vice president, Phil Glano), whose callsign I now have, per permission from his wife.
My stepdad - WØKI (licensed 1937), who lives in Prairie Village, was surprised one time, when I sent him an Ebay ad for one of HIS OLD CALL-LETTER PLATES for sale. Somebody found it in a trash barrel I guess, and it was being sold.

So there's some "Plate Feedback" for the FEEDBACK.... *I gotta get some tape and fix that grid-leak someday.*

Tom Dailey - WØEAJ
Denver

*I write occasional pieces for the ENSOR museum, and Orlan Cook's KAR.*

I have here, a Viking Valiant front panel, freshly painted, silkscreened, and KleerKoted, still in the shipping box, and wrapped. I misunderstood the price of the job, and as they normally sell for $375, and all the guy said was $75.... obviously, he doesn't want it to go that cheap, and I can't afford to spend the money on MY Valiant. It was a dual-misunderstanding.

This panel is BETTER THAN BRAND NEW. It's simply beautiful, and shines like a new car. The VFO bezel is ALSO repainted, so you're getting a COMPLETELY BRAND NEW face for your Viking Valiant. (the silkscreening is spot-on for original accuracy and quality, maybe better)

If you'd like to make YOUR Valiant look **better than brand new**, and bring it's value up, drastically...

Email or Call me in the next 2 weeks, before I send it back to Pennsylvania.

Tom Dailey - WØEAJ - Denver (but coming to KC, soon)

**Swap Site >>>** [http://kd4e.com/hl.html](http://kd4e.com/hl.html)

This past week, I ordered some resistors from Mouser in 1, 2, and 5 watt sizes. The 5w 18K (Valiant VFO resistor) was the "normal" size one would expect of a 5 w resistor, but the 1 and 2 watt versions were much (physically) smaller. [ for instance, the 1w was the size of a 1/4 w, and the 2w was the size of a 1/2 w ] Now, I know everythings getting smaller, but we now face a problem of having a component which has less LENGTH and smaller leads, that may or may not "fit" between two points.

When ordering these new (Vischay) resistors, check the data-sheets to make sure it's a size that will work.

Tom – WØEAJ  *PS - Orange drops are still the same size.

Got an older HF receiver without a BFO?  Don't laugh - many didn't... or they were like the Hallicrafters S-38 series, that used plate-to-grid feedback in one of the IF sections.  Well, here's a nifty BFO you can make from an old 455 kc (that's kHz to you new guys) IF can, that works.

Back when the original OSCAR went up, I used a Clegg 22'er on CW to get into it - injected slightly off-frequency 455 kc signal from a cheapie EICO signal generator, to generate a BFO carrier - don't laugh, it worked.  http://www.hanssummers.com/radio/superdrg/bfo/index.htm

TC

Want to replace that bad transistor or IC?  Don't have a cross-reference?  Click here to go to the NTE (formerly known as ECG) site, for subs of semiconductors, relays, caps, and other items.  http://www.nteinc.com/

Listen to the "CQ Serenade" - THE Hallicrafters site for everything you want to know about 'em.  http://www.w9wze.net/

For those of you out there who've heard of a "discone" antenna, but thought it a bit "beyond" you - nonsense.  Grab your tin-snips and get to work; the discone being a splendid AND very broadbanded antenna, perfect for monitoring or as a fine antenna for the home QTH.

http://www.northcountryradio.com/Articles/discfig2.htm

Tom

A must see "shortie" film clip... http://www.thoughtequity.com/video/clip/49308131_024.do

Strange, it seems... but he's not the only one who's said that sort of thing.  (Tom is talking about my son Brian remembering when we met 40 years ago in San Diego. ..... Orlan)

Yes, it was Cabrillo Monument, atop Pt. Loma.  I was driving a black 4-door Chevy Impala (the license plates were RED that year - a real cop magnet), and I may or may not have had a 1/4 wave 2m whip on top yet... it was for my Heathkit Twoer.  I recall that I pulled up on your left, and not sure, but it seems as if your car was a lighter color?  I know you had those JO license plates, and I just had to talk to somebody from back home.
Yeah, HF props are really tough these days. The CO wx-net (3945) begins to fall apart before it's done, and I notice that on 3920, the wx net begins to get "long", then all I hear is "4's" and such. 160m is good, though HI HI HI. As soon as I get my faceplate back for the 2nd. Valiant, I'll have it together, then figure out which of the two I want to keep - one does NOT have room for TWO Johnson Viking Valiants in one's house - unless of course, you're Barry Goldwater or something.

I'm finishing up a plastic model of the Consolidated PBY Catalina for my Uncle Henry. Hank flew in them out of Tacloban, Luzon with the famous "Black Cats", so I thought I'd surprise him for CHRISTmas.

Hope you enjoy the Christmas farm story - it's from the heart. (different Email). (just below this one)

[get that kid to get his ham license - sheesh... he most certainly knows enough to get it]

**Last year, after my Uncle Billy passed away**, my Uncle Ed sold the "home place" farm. After 56 years of my life, since the age of 7, I'd come to know the sights, sounds, smells, and feels of every wall, door, and tree. New folks bought the place; immediately bulldozed the old farmhouse, fraught with memories and love, then threw up a new "house". I still can't look at it when I drive down the old gravel road to Uncle Ed's place - I hide my view, pretending that it's still the old place, warm with a cup of coffee waiting, and sea stories to be told, until late in the night.

As yet another Christmas approaches, let us recall with tempered joy, those childhood memories that live on, long after wood, paint, metal, and varnish have disappeared. Let us recall the loud laughter, the way we had to open the hall door to let the heat out of the kitchen, the mad scurry to find a chair at the table, before Grandma... later Mom, placed the big turkey upon the table. The scent of potatoes, sweet-yams, sauerkraut, green-beans, stuffing, corn, and beets filled the air with an unforgettable smell - it was a plethora of plenty. Always preceded by a prayer of blessing - of thanks for our safety and good fortune, especially for those "out there" keeping us safe.

God lived in that kitchen... he blessed each morsel that went into our bodies; he guided Mom's hands, and always ensured that there was a place for everybody - no matter what table you sat at - the main one, the smaller one, and if you were very, very young... the card table with the big red flower on it. There was the clinking of forks, the tinkling of dishes, cups, plates, and spoons into coffee. Nobody left the table hungry... either in food... or in spirit.

So, even though it's all gone now - replaced by a new owner's pre-fabricated house with pre-fabricated traditions... we must carry the memory of Christmas upon the Farm, with us. Take a moment to recall those who preceded us... who sacrificed so that we might succeed in our lives.

Let us not forget the voices, the laughter, the kidding, and the love... The joy of old Mrs. Kratina, telling stories with Grandma, her best friend from the old country... Grandpa grinning after sharing a joke with Mr. Kratina and my Dad. My "city" grandparents - the Daileys - who loved the farm as if it were their own, in spite of coming from Back East and Kansas City. The joy we felt when Uncles Bill, Ben, or young Tom D. would come home on leave from the Navy... and before us, Uncle Henry from WW-II. How blessed our family was - not one lost in war or conflict.
(I remember my Uncle Bill, descending the staircase in his Navy dress-blues like some manner of apparition, handsome and proud.. encased in a cloud of Old Spice and confidence... I would strive to be just like him).

Take a moment this year - if you have children, do NOT let them forget their origins. Don't let them forget the many unknown immigrants who gave up their homes to come to a distant land... and achieve the American Dream. Then, unselfishly - share it with us... we, who follow in their giant footsteps.

Now, the only way we'll smell the old kitchen again... or hear the back door's closing sound... is in our hearts and memories. That's okay - the tinkle of the knob & chain on the pantry light switch will live on... the clank of burners upon Grandpa's wood-stove will bring back the glorious scent of burned wood and comforting warmth on Winter nights. Let us never forget from whence we come.

_Vestle Vanotseh_ (Merry Christmas in Czech)

Tom

---

Tom WØEAJ