



Over The Fence

AUGUST 2007

HARRISON, ARKANSAS

North Arkansas College

1515 Pioneer Drive



"History"

In 1973 the Arkansas Legislature defined how to establish community college districts throughout the state. In November voters of Boone County approved millage to finance permanent facilities for a community college in Harrison. The facility became the South Campus and was named North Arkansas Community College, NACC.

In 1974, 225 students were enrolled and the first graduating class had 42 students. Classes were held in the Eagle Heights grade school while a facility was being established.

The original business office with Dr Bill Baker of Gilbert was the first President. His office was located in the McGaughey Insurance building.

Student athletes practiced basketball in public school gymnasiums with games held at the Harrison Jr High gym.

In August 1975 the first students attended the South Campus shown below.



In 1993, NACC and the Twin Lakes Vocational College were merged. The former Vo-tech on N. Spring was named the North Campus shown below.



In 2004, Northark purchased the Regions Bank Building for outreach and community service programs.

The facility was named the Center Campus, shown below.



"Vital Stats"

Northark College has 344 employees located at three campus locations which encompass 99 acres and 207,406 square feet of facilities.

With 172 faculty members, 68 full-time and 104 part-time teaching students, during 2006 there were 2,047 students enrolled at the three locations. Over 3,648 were enrolled in Continuing and Community Education, and 3,111 were enrolled in the North Arkansas Partnership for Health Education classes

Since 1983, 39,614 students have attended the college.

"The President"



This is Dr Jeffery R. Olson who joined the college as the second president succeeding Dr Bill Baker.

Dr Olson came from Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College in Orangeburg, S.C. where he served as President for six years. Previously he was dean of Occupational Education at Coastal Community College in S.C. for eleven years and Vice-President of Learning for four years.

To quote Dr Olson, Northark College mission is compared to a three-leg milking stool. The first leg being vocational/technical education. The second is continuing or community education, and the third is transfer education for students pursuing a four-year degree.

"Director of Public Info"



A Native of Jasper this is Mrs Micki Somers.

After graduating from High School she attended two years at Northark College and then transferred to Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., graduating with a degree in Communications and a double major in Criminal Justice and Psychology.

She joined Northark in 2000. With her husband Kevin and 11 year-old son the family lives in south Boone County.

(Ed Note. Mrs Somers graciously provided the background data herein.

Putting this effort together was a reminder of a recent column on what teachers make. The teacher related how she guided and moulded her students, how she prepared them for life.

Continuing with that theme, in a previous Newsletter there was a statement, "From the teaching profession, all other professions are conceived, emerge and are nurtured." How true!

Can anyone doubt that is the basic foundation for what Northark College in Harrison, Arkansas stands for and contributes to society? Can anyone deny

that is what Northark College is all about as that institution educates students in many professions and prepares them for life?)



“Feedback”

Hey Curmudgeon, where do you get this stuff ?

Well, Al, from the web and from readers who send it in.

In the process I try to remember what my grandpappy told me, “Don’t take yourself seriously, don’t take the other guy seriously, and never get into a contest with a skunk.”

Beyond that, it’s obvious this is not a professional publication with journalistic and graphic design skill. It’s a simple effort by an old has-been amateur with only one objective. That is to draw attention and give credit to the hundreds of local folks in almost one-hundred organizations who serve the public in Harrison, Arkansas.

In the third year of monthly publication it’s been a privilege to highlight the many organizations who do an amazing job operating with private funds and generous donations.

And, what’s remarkable, there are hundreds of folks who not only donate graciously but volunteer their time every day helping others.

Getting to know many of them has been a unique opportunity and education.



“Want Coffee”

An Indian walks into a cafe with a shotgun in one hand pulling a buffalo with the other. He says to the waiter, “Want coffee”.

The waiter says, “Sure Chief, coming right up”

He gets the Indian a tall mug of coffee. The Indian drinks the coffee down in one gulp, turns and blasts the buffalo with the shotgun, causing parts of the animal to splatter everywhere and then just walks out. The next morning the Indian returns. He has his shotgun in one hand pulling another buffalo with the other. He walks up to the counter

and says to the waiter, “Want coffee”.

The waiter says, “Whoa, Tonto, We’re still cleaning up your mess from yesterday. What was all that about anyway?”

The Indian smiles and proudly says, “Training for position in United States Congress; Come in, drink coffee, shoot the bull leave mess for others to clean up, disappear for rest of day.”

“Global Hawk”



This is the Global Hawk, unmanned UAV that recently returned from Iraq under its own power to Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Not transported via C5 or C17. That’s a long way for a remotely-piloted aircraft. While in combat the UAV flew over 250 missions.

Think of the technology and the required quality of the data link to fly it remotely. Not only that but the pilot flew it from a nice warm control panel at Edwards AFB.

It has really long legs and can stay up for almost 2 days at altitudes above 60 thousand feet.

Most people are unaware what stealth brings to the battle. Basically, the Global Hawk comes into the fight at high altitude and high mach thrust (air-speed), starts its devastation way out with AMRAAMS (missiles). And no one ever sees the Hawk or paints it on radar.

There is practically no radio chatter because all the guys in the flight are tied together electronically at Edwards AFB. They can see who is targeting who and they have AWACS direct input, 360° situational awareness from that and other sensors. Remember that when Global Hawk is on a combat mission in Iraq or Afghanistan, the ‘pilot’ is sitting

at a console at Edwards AFB in California.

“The Flowers”



A Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, the cracked-pot spoke to the woman one day by the stream. “I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.”

The old woman smiled, “Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot’s side?” “That’s because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.”

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it’s the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You’ve just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

SO, to all of my crackpot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path!

“Hallmart Bad Day”

Ever wondered what happens when Hallmark writers are having a bad day?

“My tire was thumping. I thought it was flat. When I looked at the tire...I noticed your cat. Sorry!”

“Heard your wife left you, how upset you must be. But don’t fret about it...She moved in with me.”

“Looking back over the years that we’ve been together, I can’t help but wonder. What was I thinking?”

“Congratulations on your wedding day! Too bad no one likes your husband.”

“I’ve always wanted to have someone to hold, someone to love. After having met you I’ve changed my mind.”

“Road Signs”



For those who never saw any of the Burma Shave signs, here is a quick lesson in our history of the 1930’s and ‘40’s (also 50s & 60s.) Before there were interstates, when everyone drove the old 2 lane roads, BurmaShave signs would be posted all over the countryside in farmers’ fields.

They were small red signs with white letters. Five signs, about 100 feet apart, each containing 1 line of a 4 line couplet. The last advertising BurmaShave.

**DON’T STICK YOUR ELBOW
OUT SO FAR
IT MAY GO HOME
IN ANOTHER CAR.**

**DON’T LOSE YOUR HEAD
TO GAIN A MINUTE
YOU NEED YOUR HEAD
YOUR BRAINS ARE IN IT**

**DROVE TOO LONG
DRIVER SNOOZING
WHAT HAPPENED
NEXT IS NOT AMUSING**

**BROTHER SPEEDER
LET’S REHEARSE
ALL TOGETHER
GOOD MORNING, NURSE**

**SPEED WAS HIGH
WEATHER WAS NOT
TIRES WERE THIN
X MARKS THE SPOT**

**THE MIDNIGHT RIDE
OF PAUL FOR BEER
LED TO A WARMER
HEMISPHERE**

**AROUND THE CURVE
LICKETY-SPLIT
BEAUTIFUL CAR
WASN’T IT?**

**AT INTERSECTIONS
LOOK EACH WAY
A HARP SOUNDS NICE
BUT IT’S HARD TO PLAY**

**THE ONE WHO DRIVES
WHEN HE’S BEEN DRINKING
DEPENDS ON YOU
TO DO HIS THINKING**

“Plato Grams”



If Plato was with us today he’d probably tell us to never apologize for being early.

Park next to the end curb in parking lots. Your car doors will have half the chance of getting dented.

Don’t admire people for their wealth but for the creative and generous ways they put it to use.

Remember that just the moment you say, “I give up,” someone else seeing the same situation is saying, “My, what a great opportunity.”

Remember that a person who steals an egg will steal a chicken.

There are people who will always come up with reasons why you can’t do what you want to do. Ignore them.

Buy a used car with the same caution a naked man uses to climb a barbed-wire fence.

“Carlin Grams”



Every child is special: an empty and meaningless sentiment. What about every adult? Isn’t every adult special? And if not, then at what age does a person go from being special to being not-so-special? And if every adult is also special, then that means all people are special and the idea has no meaning.

I wonder if a classical music composer ever intentionally composed a piano piece that was physically impossible to play and then stuck it away in a trunk to be found years after his death, knowing it would forever drive perfectionist musicians crazy.

I saw two bumper stickers on a car: “HATE IS NOT A FAMILY VALUE” and “VALUE ALL FAMILIES”. What is the purpose of having things like this on your car? Certainly it’s not to change someone else’s opinion of family life at a red light. More likely, the purpose is to inform us that the driver doesn’t hate anyone, and that he considers himself pure and virtuous and better than the rest of us. So it’s actually self-righteousness. The driver apparently forgot that the seven deadly sins include both anger and pride.

“Oops”



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