

Goodbye to the Greasy Spoon

Lester's Diner has been a staple in Bryan Ohio since its inception in 1955. On Memorial Day 2011, it closed its doors for the last time. Like many small towns, the restaurant was a gathering place for seniors who sat around the "round table" (whether or not it had an actual round table... I think Lester's feature was its lunch bar). Not only was it a hang out for the young-at-heart, I have heard a story or two about a group of young whippersnappers who frequented the joint after high school football games.

OK... maybe they were not so young. My parents along with the former high school band director, his fiancée, and other friends would travel there occasionally after the game while high schoolers would head to Pizza Slut (err... Hut). The next day, we would be regaled with tales of "Sweaty Betty" who would make perfect hamburger patties by placing a ball of meat under her armpit. Dad said that he once found a hair in his burger. All right, I doubt if that was true but it sure made for a good laugh for a 7th or 8th grader (I was in junior high at the time)! I'm sure regulars could sit and tell tales a mile long about the "spoon."

The atmosphere and scenery of the eatery took the diner back to the fifties complete with swiveling stools at the bar, four person booths with classic mini jukeboxes, and milkshakes served with the tall silver shake cup. The giant sign outside the establishment featuring the giant "16 ounce cup" (I stand corrected, it was a "14 ounce cup") of coffee was the inspiration for the sign outside Mel's Diner on the 1970-'80s tv series *Alice*.

Yet another piece of Americana dissolving only to be a memory to those who knew it.



Watching the rain fall

There were some things I wanted to get done today, but with the weather, they just aren't going to get done. I guess I will blog.

I wrote a post some time in the past called [1 a lonely number?](#). If the numbering scheme is accurate, it was blog post number 4. This was about 3 years ago. I just saw a reply to it. It was a spam reply, but I read it anyway. The spambot was able to tell I was alone and my wife was no longer with me. It failed to pick up on the word "widower", and went into an detailed scheme to get my wife back. Of course they were trying to sell some counseling service, but I really don't think that any of the suggestions would work. Sad state if affairs when the spambot misses a very important word. If they could have picked up on that I may have pushed it through. It was almost a thoughtful post. Today it just made me chuckle.

For some reason I keep reading "Funky Winkerbean". Relationship between a widower and divorcee. Today, with all the thought balloons was very thought provoking. Funny how people think. Too many times we "think" we know how someone else is feeling, too many times we are very wrong. To quote from a Moody Blues song: "Say what you mean, mean what you say. Think about the words you are using." Words to live by, if you have the fortitude.

This wave of showers and storms seems to be finished. More on the way? I need to get to a store this evening, so I may do that soon.

I had an interesting conversation with my eldest and her husband a couple of weekends ago. May be the stuff of a blog, now that I can. One comment that came out of it, but was not part of the original conversation has me thinking. For your consideration: "A person can never have too many caring friends in their life.". Discuss.

That is all for now. More stuff and nonsense in a day or two.

Make A Gleeful Noise

Awrighty... so I have found a new show to fill an hour or two a week. During its inaugural season , I wanted no part of *Glee* because I thought it would be *High School Musical: The TV Show*. On Super Bowl Sunday, I decided to give the post-game show a try, the club was to do a routine set to Michael Jackson's "Thriller." After this episode, I decided to watch the next episode the next Tuesday night to get a better feel and a new Gleek was born.

What isn't to love? The overall theme centers around a group of misfits in the glee club as they endure ridicule at the hands of the football team, cheerleading squad, and nearly everyone else. The slushie throw is the ultimate in humiliation. Walking down the halls of the fictional William McKinley High School (in Lima, Ohio), members of the underdog

New Directions glee club often feel the cold, sticky confection in their face. So often does this happen, that some of the 12 have worn rain coats to protect themselves.

New Directions is led by Will Schuester (played by Broadway vet Matthew Morrison). An alumnus of McKinley High who has big dreams; however, he mentors the kids and often comes head to head with his nemesis...

Competing against "Mr. Schue" is the delicious, hilarious, and EEEEEEvil Sue Sylvester (Emmy award winner Jane Lynch) who will stop at nothing to crush the glee club. The cheerleading advisor has planted some of the "Cheerios" in the group to spy and concocted countless other dirty, brilliant schemes.

Some of the underdog members of the glee club:

- Rachel (Lea Michele, another Broadway vet)... the diva of the group and the most prone to the slushie throw
- Finn ... the football quarterback /glee club co-captain. Yes, there are those who do transition between the two worlds.
- Quinn ... Cheerio and Coach Sylvester's right hand
- Kurt... the male diva. Idolizes Streisand, loves *Wicked*, fashionista, ok... gay.
- Puck... the mohawk spouting trouble maker with a heart

The music performed on the show is not all Broadway standards as one might expect. Some of today's pop music as well as some 80s hits seem to be just as popular as the students compete for glory and maybe even a modicum of respect.

Also glad that Netflix has added season one of the series to its Instant Viewing selection. For now, anyway. I have been known to begin watching other shows and return to watch and see that they have been taken off.

Party Like It's 1985

I found while looking at my email today:

Teen Wolf available for download soon on itunes.

Ok, call me curious or naive, but I opened the file and... sure enough it IS going to be available for download. However, the picture definitely was not of Michael J. Fox nor whoever his leading lady was (she must have had a sterling career). So I figured that it was another in a long line of endlessly uncalled for remakes. I did enjoy the original... one of my favorite MJF films (aside from the *Back to the Future* trilogy, of course). The sequel (with Jason Bateman if I remember correctly) was a waste of the ticket price and I don't recall ever watching the cartoon. ... YES, there was even a cartoon. ☐

My curiosity led me to imdb.com where I discovered that it is not in fact a movie, but a live action television series being unveiled by none other than MTV (why it is still called Music Television is still beyond me) set to premiere in June. I think I will pass on this one. And tempting though it is, I do not think I will mention the needle in a haystack faux pas that slipped passed the sensors in the original.

Still Here... Somewhere

Realizing I haven't blogged in awhile, I've been trying to think of something to write about. I have plenty of material; I just don't feel like writing for some reason. Plenty of material, not plenty of time is part of the reason. I've even started a few drafts, but at least one ended up being a laundry list of complaint about my dogs' behavior and other things that have been stressing me lately, and I don't feel like publishing it. After all, Walmart complaints are fun, tongue-in-cheek ways to vent about how I feel ripped off after shopping at Walmart, but when I write huge rants of real life complaints I annoy *myself*, so I can't imagine my readers' feelings. Plus all the complaining doesn't ease the stress, nor does it help me fulfil the main purpose of my blog – which is giving my family a virtual diary of our lives while the kids are growing up. Sure, it shares the information, but I want their reading experience of our family blog when I'm gone to be a good one, not something like, “Hey – I DO remember when mom was stressed all the time!!”

So I wanted to drop a quick line to let it be known that I'm still here, still a part of blog world, still interested in posting blogs. My kids are not any less cute these days, nor my life any less busy or exciting... just much more stressful,

which kind of puts a damper on my creative writing spirit I think. I'm hoping maybe that will change here soon... if not this summer, something tells me I might feel better in October or November with less of the negative pregnancy symptoms and more of the 'new baby joys' to focus upon. Can't wait!

Goodbye To Yet Another Childhood Fixture

In a shocking turn of events, it has been announced that Ronald McDonald will be getting a makeover. Apparently, the chain wants to promote a healthier, trendier menu. OK... are we getting rid of Happy Meals, the Big Mac (hold the pickle), and all the rest? I can;t believe that they would be doing away with the character totally with the Ronald McDonald House which he has given his name to for the past several years. While the decades (48 years to be exact) old fixture has not been as visible in ads for the fast food chain, I remember my birthday party the summer after I completed Kindergarten (I think I was 9 at the time... I had a little problem with eating glue... HAHA!). McDs was the place to celebrate when you were a child of the mid-70s... my corner of the woods did not have a Chuck E Cheese or Crazy Pinz.

<https://www.dailyfinance.com/2011/03/03/ronald-mcdonald-put-to-pasture-as-fast-food-chain-gentrifies/>

Hope the video doesn't frighten anyone TOO much.

Another Wonder Gone

Ironic that I just posted about the defunct new Wonder Woman series. After 33 performances (and 31 preview performances), [Wonderland](#) wrapped its Broadway run May 15th. The new musical about a grown up Alice who yearns for a more adventure-filled life, sets out on a quest beneath the streets of New York City. There she meets a cast of familiar yet outrageously re-imagined characters. Funny that with such a short run, the show had produced a cast album. I suppose that when your wife is [Linda Eder](#) who has a recording of some of the songs, it would be entirely possible. I wonder if somewhere out there is a cast recording of the most celebrated (celebrated but by far NOT the only) flop in Broadway history... *Carrie*.

Sad to say that I do not think Frank Wildhorn has had a long Broadway run since *Jekyll & Hyde*. Although J&H had a 4 year run, it still lost \$1.5 million. His *Scarlet Pimpernel* and *Dracula* also were not successful. I guess that being married to a diva is no guarantee of creative success. OOPS... according to another source the couple has been separated since 2004. So much for that theory.

Maybe the show was overshadowed by an endlessly publicized, overtly ridiculed, accident prone, re-imagined, back in preview mode, soon to open show. Hmmm.... wonder what that is?

On The Other Side Of The Audition

Since my leg still will not allow me to audition for a full-length show, I had to settle for assisting the audition process for [FCF's](#) production of one of my all-time favorites, *The Wizard of Oz*. Although it was fun hanging out, signing the auditioners in, I really REALLY wanted to be one of those who filled out the form, had his headshot taken, and led down the long hallway to face the three rather intimidating ;)judges. It was so hard to just not throw caution to the wind and say "To heck with it!" and grab "Master of the House" out of the car and deliver my best Lion. I really don't think it would have been so hard if it was not THIS musical (ok... who am I fooling?). But I WILL be back on some stage in some venue soon! I am confident in that!

In total, we had 22 people sign in. Most of them were teenage girls. We had a few young kids and a few adults but no where near enough to choose a cast of this shows magnitude. We really need more of the same to come in tomorrow from 9am-2pm. I think we had two guys total. Squirmy even held back a few minutes after his audition ended and asked how I am doing. Better... just annoyed, but I'm plowing through it.

So... if anyone in the area is available (Age 8-80+) stop by the Wesley United Methodist Church in Bryan from 9-2. Kids... be prepared to sing "Happy Birthday"; "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"; or some other like song. Adults... have a two minute prepared song and be prepared to read from the script. To say that I wish I could audition is an understatement, but I know what must come first.

What's The Use Of Wonder-ing

Well... it looks like one contender for next fall's NBC lineup is now defunct. The network passed on the new adventures of the Amazonian Princess after a disastrous screening of the pilot. I wonder if it will ever be shown... probably over the internet in the coming days. I remember a few years ago, the creators of another superhero inspired series attempted to bring a live-action Aquaman series to the small screen. It too failed but the pilot was shown on outlets like itunes.

Perhaps, the shows creators will continue to shop it around. Either way, at least we will not have to be disappointed by another heartless update of another television series gone by.

I dunno if it would have been the comic book geek in me or the nostalgic value of the series. Of course, the updated Bionic Woman travesty did nothing to endear itself to anyone and the Knight Rider update lasted about as long. Maybe it was the new [costume](#)? Personally, I prefer the original Lynda Carter version ☐

Should I?

Monday night I was at the library browsing DVDs and such. I found a few- a reserve waiting for me for season 4 of Psych, ah Megamind- I think I will watch that one, many, many skipped for one reason or other (seen before, lack of interest). Moving on. Wait, what's this? Should this even be on the return cart? It should have a reserve list a mile long. Ah, I get it- "Here and Now," meaning that they chose not to allow reserves on it, though no doubt there are a couple dozen copies available for reserve too. A few copies then to give people a sporting chance without having to wait months on the

reserve list. So which recent blockbuster am I talking about? None other than Harry Potter 7.1. The thing is, I have been gambling as it were on a short return to the big screen just before 7.2 next month. If anyone would do it, it would be AMC, the biggest chain around and with a 30-screen complex about 10 miles away. But I don't know if this will really happen- I certainly haven't heard news of it. But they have done it before, so...

Yet, now I have a copy in my that I could watch now, for free, in a much smaller and lower-resolution venue as a DVD on a 32-inch CRT TV. What should I do? Hmm.