

*The Monday Morning*

# CHRONICLE

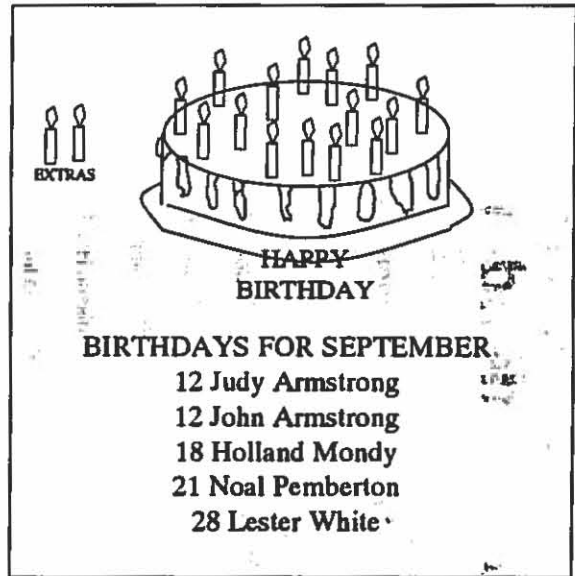
IS PUBLISHED BY MONDY ON MONDAY FOR THE MONDYS, THE JINKSES,  
THEIR KIN, NEAR KIN, AND A FEW FRIENDS

VOLUME VI, ISSUE 18, August 14, 1995

Published By H. C. Mondy,  
P.O. Box 1696  
El Prado, NM 87529  
Phone: (505) 776 5571

We had a thunderstorm last night and I had to turn off my computer to prevent loss of data. Then I watched as bolt after bolt of lightning lit up the horizon. Some of flashes were between clouds but many of them were between the cloud and the ground, striking chiefly in the mountainous area. Most people are afraid of lightning and justly so; just ask Helen Hall who was struck by lightning when she was a late teenager. Most of us have seen trees split from top to bottom by lightning, and a few of us know of incidents where houses were set afire. Once when I was chief engineer of WWZZ in New Orleans, lightning struck one of the antennas, ran down one of the guywires, cracked one of the "johnie-balls" (special insulators) and the tower collapsed in a mess like a giant pretzel.

Now why did I bring up this subject? Well if it were not for lightning, you and I would not be here. Our atmosphere consists of about 15% oxygen and 85% nitrogen. Plants cannot live without nitrogen, but they cannot use the nitrogen in the air because it consists of double molecules, tightly bound together. They have to be "fixed", i.e. broken apart, for plants to use. There are bacteria in the soil that do this for plants. Legumes, such as peas, alfalfa, peanuts, and others form nodules on their roots that specialize in this job. But if we had to depend on this, there would not be enough of it to allow us to grow crops or to produce trees. The entire earth would be a big desert. But Thank God, there is lightning. Every bolt of lightning passes through the atmosphere and breaks apart mil-



lions of nitrogen atoms that float to the earth with the rain so that plants can use them and eventually feed us. Recent tests indicate that lightning produces more than a billion tons of "fixed" nitrogen per year -- about half of all the nitrogen used by plants.

There is one theory that says that during the age of dinosaurs there was a lot more lightning than today, so the plants grew much larger and faster and were able to feed the largest animals ever to live on earth. Dinosaurs (the large ones) could not exist today -- there is not enough plant life to support them.

The next time you enjoy (or hide from) a big thunderstorm, just think of how many plants will live because of it,-- some may be in your garden.

By the way, -- that funny odor you smell after a bolt of lightning strikes near you is not nitrogen, it is ozone. When lightning occurs, it breaks the oxygen in the air into single molecules which,

being lighter than air, float to the top of the atmospheric layer and protect us from the ultraviolet radiation from the sun and keep us from dying of sunburn. If freon, which is the gas used in refrigerators and airconditioning units, escapes, it floats up into the ozone layer and destroys it. This is the cause of all the worry about the "greenhouse effect" because the earth is gradually warming up.

So there is your science lesson for today.

\*\*\*\*\*

We will be leaving the middle of next week to see Brecken off to college and to visit our doctors in the LA area. We each have several appointments with them. We will be gone more than a week and I would like to get this issue of the Chronicle out before we leave.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cecil, I quoted you as saying you didn't understand why people were reluctant to admit their faults, that you wouldn't mind admitting yours if you had any. Well my sister Jessie used that in one of her Bible classes a couple of weeks ago. I don't know that it made you famous, but at least you are being quoted.

\*\*\*\*\*

ONCE UPON A TIME there were two boys about the same age. They lived in the country and when they were young teenagers, they bought air rifles just alike and hunted together until they grew up and were able to hunt with grown-up guns. But they kept their air rifles and continued to hunt with them.

Then there came a war and they went off to fight but before they left they made a pact -- thinking that one or the other of them might not survive, they stood the two air rifle side by side in a closet with the understanding that if only one came back, he would keep both rifles.

Last week I got a call from one of those boys, Jerry Camp, who, after expressing his condolences asked if my brother, Dewel, still had the other air rifle. I told him that so far as I knew,

that rifle was still intact. Jerry said that he had preserved his and that it was off limits to his grandsons.

Thanks for listening.

\*\*\*\*\*

### FROM BESSIE AND BERTHA

(Our Springfield Reporters)

Dear Chronicle Cousins and Friends:::

We are having hot, dry weather here in Springfield. It is a little cloudy today and the weatherman says we should have rain today but only a drizzle this morning. So maybe we will get some rain soon, since Erin has made such a fuss down in Florida. I'm still watering my flowers and tomato plants and still think I may have a ripe tomato by Labor Day. I have had 1 nice pepper from my pepper plant.

Bertha and I have been making blackberry jelly and peach preserves and it won't be long until apple picking time will be here, so hope we will be able to get to the apple orchards. Bertha talked to the Mondys and they are doing pretty well. Katie had a little spell with her stomach but now OK. She had been worrying about her two sisters who were both in the hospital at the same time, but in different hospitals. Kept her busy running from one to the other. Both are now out of the hospital and doing fine. The last time we talked to the Reasons they were ok, just staying in where it is cool.

My son-in-law, (Sue's husband) had surgery last Thursday (July 27). He had a kidney removed as it had a tumor as large as a tennis ball and he was in surgery 3 1/2 hours. The doctors said he came thru the operation better than they expected because he has a bad heart and lungs. He may get to come home tomorrow (August 3rd).

Bertha and I are doing ok, just trying to stay in where it is cool most of the time. Grandson, Doug, has been mowing our lawns since it has been so hot. We have been to the hospital to see Dick and to the grocery store and that's about it. Our Empire Fair is this week but it is too hot to go.

I like the vinegar hints you put in the last Chronicle, so here are some more: Add a

teaspoon of white vinegar to water before cooking rice and it will be fluffy. When cooking cabbage, add a little vinegar to kill the odor. To perk up wilted vegetables, soak them in a quart of water to which a tablespoon of white vinegar has been added and put them in the refrigerator. Thought I'd pass these along.

Well schools and colleges will soon be starting and I guess there will be some happy parents to see their younger children back in school and some will have mixed feelings about their older children going away to college.

Grandson Travis has already gone to the University of Missouri to further his education. He will be a student and will also be teaching ten hours per week. He spent 4 years at SMU here in Springfield and was with his family. This will be his first time away from home. He went to Columbia a little early to get settled in his apartment and to learn his way around. He is a very responsible person and very interested in his education. He will be very busy.

Guess your family will see Brecken off to college. She seems like a very responsible person from what we have read about her in the Chronicle. We wish her the very best in furthering her education, but I guess grandparents can't help worrying about their grandchildren.

Hope all the Chronicle family is well and keeping cool.

*Bessie and Bertha*

\*\*\*\*\*

**TO NOAL:** The little "weeds" I brought home from your house are doing fine -- never even wilted. [Now I know they were not weeds, I called them that because when I studied agriculture in grade school, they defined a weed as a plant growing in the wrong place and I'm sure that these will feel out of place when I plant them outside in this harsh climate.]

**TO JEWEL:** I think those rolls you gave us are the best I ever ate and Margaret is looking forward to baking some. I think you gave her the recipe and I want to print it in the Chronicle for others to enjoy.

Thanks to all of you for the enjoyable visit.

\*\*\*\*\*

We are looking forward to a visit next Tuesday by Mark and Becky Mondy and daughters, Jamie and Stephanie. They have never visited us here. Hope they enjoy it enough to want to come back. When flat-landers visit us we take them for a drive in the beautiful mountains around, but to the Mark Mondys, who live in Pueblo, CO, a drive in the mountains would just be old hat stuff. But at least we will get some visiting done, and if I get this issue of Chronicle finished, I'll save 32 cents.

\*\*\*\*\*

I received a letter from Jean Thomas this week. Jean is married to Jim Thomas who is the son of Alma Thomas (a long time Chronicle reader) who is the granddaughter of James Thomas and Sarah Louisa (Sammons) Brewer who was sister to my grandmother Mondy, so you figure out what kin she is to you.

**NEWS FROM IDAHO.** Jim is still working, talks about retiring but says he can't retire, -- too many bills to pay. He would be bored, anyway, unless he could hunt and fish, as he does with his son, Jeff, and his grandson James every chance they get.

I was lucky. When I retired seven years ago [from teaching] I took only a little cut in my income. But it was good for me. I enjoyed teaching, but I did not enjoy all the problem children and THEIR parents.

Since last November I have had blood pressure regulation problems which sent me to emergency and recently I hit the caster on the bed with my foot, sending me to emergency again to a tune of \$600. I have spent quite a bit of time on crutches the last three months because of gout. I finally decided to quit eating pork so haven't had trouble since I got rid of the infection in my foot from kicking the bed. Doing without pork was a real sacrifice because I love it. Can't even have a hot dog unless it's made of beef or chicken [or turkey, ugh] YUCK!

Jim talked to his Mom, Alma, on the phone last week and she seemed to be doing

pretty well; mentioned that it was hard for her to write letters. Other members of the family who live in Arkansas were having few health problems.

I am writing this letter between storms. We are having severe lightning storms with some rain. Wild fires on the hills are numerous and very close to Pocatello. Our son is a volunteer fire fighter and has been called out on two wrecks that caused grass fires. These were close to his home which is out of town near the freeway going to Salt Lake.

Our daughter and family from Weiser, ID visited us for two nights in July. We don't get to see them very often.

I have a question for the readers of the Chronicle. My great and great great grandmothers came from Washington County, AR on the OREGON TRAIL in 1854-56. Supposedly, they started from Washington or Crawford County on the EVAN'S TRAIL possibly through Ft. Smith, AR. Do any of you know anything about the Evan's Trail? The surnames of the people that came from Arkansas were Harer/Harrer/Harrow, Tigard/Tygart, etc, and McClendon. They were a large family, and did not all travel at the same time. Some went on to Oregon, settling in Grant County and in Tigard, Or. Others went to California via City of Rocks, Winnemucca, along the Humbolt River into Sacramento, and on to Napa County, CA. This, supposedly, was the trail taken by the Donner party. Jim and I have become quite fascinated with the study of the Oregon Trail and the California Trail that took off from Raft River between American Falls and Twin Falls, ID. We have visited several of the areas close to Pocatello and hope to retrace the trail by going over the parts that are accessible to motorists.

From your Idaho Relatives, Jim and Jean Thomas.

*[Jean, sometime in the dim future I hope to get a more modern computer and with it I hope to search the net for a lot of things. Perhaps I can find some information, useful to you. If any of you readers have any info for Jean, send it to her or to me and I'll see that it is passed on.]*

I haven't heard from Old Ornerly in weeks. I know he has been busy with the conference in New Orleans but I suspect he has been busy going over his will with his team of lawyers and discussing the legality of cutting so many out of his will. I have received letters from two of his nieces, Vicki and Fonda, saying he had cut them out of his will and it has been reported to me in person that several others have been cut out of his will. I wonder if there has ever been a class action suit in cases like this. After all we were all led to expect to be on "easy street", and now we have been let down. This has been a psychological shock that hurts worse than spilling hot McDonald's coffee in our laps -- and that woman got millions. Oh Well! I guess we will have to wait and see. He did send his best wishes to the Chronicle readers via a telephone call to Margaret.

Yesterday was wedding day for Kevin Newsum and his bride Julie Wrinkle in Azle, Texas. Kevin is the son of Richard and Jeanie (Jinks) Newsum. Jeanie is the daughter of Leon and Mary Jean Jinks. I don't know who all attended the wedding but Mary Jean was there, as was Judy Washburn, so I'll know more next issue.

Margaret and I are still working on Harold's "Memoirs" and are getting a real education from it. He has an excellent memory, has been lots of places, was responsible for installation of more than 6000 postmasters and rural mail carriers while he was Special Assistant to the Postmaster General, and knows everybody worth knowing in the Democratic Party.

Mary Jean reports that C.P. is trying a new medication in the hospital and that Helen, who is much better, takes the Chronicle to read to him. Mary Jean says she is taking the latest issue of the Chronicle to Kevin's wedding so that Larry can read about Harold's pacemaker, etc.

Sorry this is such a short edition. I just didn't have enough letters from YOU to fill it up. I want to get it out though for there will be a delay in the next issue. We will be gone for about ten