## Let's bring back the sounds of summer

**BY TOM PURCELL** 

Summer sounded better in the '70s.

I woke every morning to the birds chirping outside my

window screen, a dewy chill in the air. I'd smell my father's pipe, which he smoked while he read the paper downstairs. I'd go down to greet him. He'd make scrambled eggs and toast covered with butter, and we'd eat while the birds kept on singing.

The evening sounds were equally powerful: a dog barking; a motorcycle downshifting on some faraway hill; people out on their porches listening to the Pirates play on the radio; a baby crying;

a couple talking; children laughing; a window fan humming. As I explain in my book, "Misadventures of a 1970s Child-

hood," we kids spent our days out in the hills roaming and exploring. We collected scrap wood and built shacks. We dammed up

the creek and caught minnows and crayfish. One summer, we built a motorized go-kart with some scrap items from a junked riding mower and a couple of two-by-fours. It was one of the great engineering feats in my neighborhood's history. Occasionally, we'd fib to our mothers and ride our bikes

20 miles farther than we said we would. Or we'd pluck some baby pears off a tree by Horning Road and whip them at cars. Every now and then, a car would screech to a stop and we'd

sprint through a creek aqueduct that ran 200 feet beneath the neighborhood. There was only one major rule a kid had to abide by: You'd

better be home in time for supper. Every kid had a unique sound to call him home.

One family used a riot horn. The piercing "hrmmpppphhhhhh!" could be heard for miles.

My father went with a deep, booming, "Tom, dinner! Tom,

When moms did the calling, they always used full names. body is buried in the They always sang, too, as my Aunt Jane did: "Miiiiiikkkeeelllll, Keeeeevvvviiiiiinnnnn, suuuuuppppppeeerrrr!'

The Givens boys, up on the hill across the railroad tracks, were called home by a large bell. The clanging sounded off at 6 p.m. every night, giving us the sense that a riverboat was making its way up the Mississippi or a chow wagon was calling in neighbor and who was the cowhands for grub.

I later learned that several families timed their dinners around the Givens' 6 o'clock bell!

These mystical sounds have been gone a long time now. was just like any other day. The Para-How wonderful it would be to bring them back.

Today, childhood is often lived indoors. We shuttle kids from one adult-run activity to the next, as their screen time climbs and their time in nature shrinks. Experts call it "nature-deficit disorder" - a term for what happens when kids lose contact with the natural world and the freedom that once came with it.

At least one month every summer, why don't we cease every structured activity for our children, cancel every tournament, and end every adult-run event?

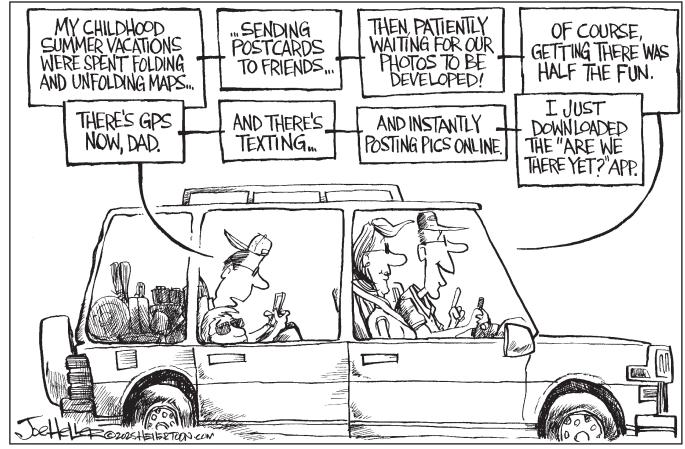
Let's turn off the television and computer. Let's shut down the air conditioner and unshutter the windows and doors.

Let's allow our kids to go out into the hills to roam and play and discover all day long. That will require us to call them home at dinner. And our shouts and chants and bells will breathe much-

needed music into the sweet summer air.

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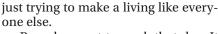
**UPSIDE DOWN UNDER** 

# Cold A Dick Tracy story and a 1945 homicide

Voices

We briefly touched on the story of Margaret Roeszler last week, a woman of 42 years old who was shot dead in her Jamestown beauty salon on Sept. 19 1945.

Roeszler, whose Lutheran Cemetery in Ashley, was known as a good neighbor, someone who would always help out a friend or



Roeszler went to work that day. It mount Beauty Shop, which she owned and operated, was located in the Cran Hotel at 302 2nd Ave. NE, less than a block from where a 1991 unsolved murder took place. The Cran was demolished in the 1970's.

As she was styling a woman's hair, an unknown assailant entered the beauty shop, gunned her down and fled the scene. Reports from the time don't indicate if the man was wearing a mask or not, but nonetheless wasn't identified.

Less than a year later, a \$1,000 reward was posted for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the murderer. That reward, in today's dollars adjusted for inflation, would be just short of \$18,000.

Several years later, a man named John Crockard, a native of Denver

BY MARVIN BAKER who was serving time in a Michigan a sedative that knocked him out and and another man named James Woods. As it turned out, Woods was Crockard's partner in crime.

It was also learned that Woods had gotten "friendly" with Roeszler, who apparently was Crockard's girl-friend, according to Crockard.

As this case unfolded, law enforcement found out there was a lot more involved than two homicides. When he confessed, Crockard said he and Woods were running drugs into North Dakota from Canada. They had robbed a bank in an undisclosed location and Crockard was also forging checks.

Crockard told Michigan authorities the whole situation had put him on edge and he didn't know what to do about Roeszler, who knew too much.

"Jimmie told her everything about the bank robbery and the narcotics and how hot we were in business," Crockard was quoted as saying. "Her idea was to straighten us both up."

Crockard went into the beauty shop to confront her. He went into a restroom and "shot up" while trying to decide what to do. When he came out, he told her he planned to take her with him and Woods, but became mixed up and shot and killed her.

Crockard said he was too high on narcotics to remember her name or whether he used his own gun or one owned by Woods, or how many shots

traveling east, Crockard gave Woods

prison, confessed to killing Roeszler as darkness approached, Crockard stabbed Woods and killed him. That murder had previously been unknown to law enforcement.

And just like in reading a Dick Tracy story, he found a road construction site that was about to be paved, so he buried Woods and the weapons in a shallow depression in the roadbed.

Later, while staying in a hotel in Fargo, he overheard some people talking about the death of Roeszler. He then sold his car, picked a name out of the phone book and started forging checks. He then traveled to Bismarck where he was caught and later served 18 months in Fargo for the checks he bounced there.

He was then extradited to Michigan for an unknown reason.

Crockard said he found the Lord in 1949 and had to get this off his chest And after Stutsman County authorities interviewed him, they suspected he made it all up based on a Dick Tracy

An April 23, 1952 article in the Marquette, Mich., newspaper the Mining Journal, reported that Crockard and numerous other inmates in a Jackson, Mich., prison were involved in a mutiny in which nine prison guards were taken hostage. Crockard became a spokesman for the prisoners during the standoff.

Marvin Baker is a news writer for the Kenmare News and As Crockard and Woods left town formerly Foster County Independent.

10

12

13

### Weekly Crossword -

### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Marsh plant
- 6. Southern constellation
- "The Peacock") 10. Fogginess
- 14. Home to Fools' Day
- 15. Absence of the sense of
- 17. Popular November holiday
- 19. Consume food 20. Buddy
- 21. Long-haired goatantelope
- 22. Japanese honorific
- 23. Actor Malek
- 24. One point south of southeast
- 26. Illegal acts 29. As fast as can be done
- 31. Prevents harm to young
- 32. Exclamation of satisfaction
- 34. African nation 35. Slow-moving animal
- 37. Oh, goodness! 38. A team's best pitcher
- Cleanser 40. Radioactivity units 41. Expectorated matter
- 43. Cover a wide range 45. The central area of a
- church 46. California capital
- (abbr.)

- 47. Dutch painter Klaver 49. 007's creator 50. Impression of
- dishonesty
- 53. Northeastern sports rivalry
- 57. Cloths
- 58. Stalin's police chief 59. Hostelries
- 60. Bitterly regret
- 61. Anwar \_\_\_, Egyptian statesman

#### **CLUES DOWN** 1. Satisfy

- 2. European health advocate
- 3. Expression of annoyance
- 4. Strong liquor
- 5. Large red deer 6. Holder of less common
- religious beliefs 7. West Indian shrub
- 8. Family of proteins 9. Wealthy, influential busi-
- ness leader
- 10. Low spirits 11. Approves food
- 12. Monetary unit of Iran
- and Oman
- 13. Mary \_\_\_, cosmetics 16. Expressed in pithy maxims
- 18. Relaxing spaces 22. The NFL's big game

- 23. Proof of payment
- (abbr.) 24. Starchy preparation of
- dried orchid tubers
- 25. Indicates near
- 27. Minneapolis suburb
- 28. Herring-like fish 29. Doctors' group
- 30. Pouches 31. Bread dipping in sauce
- 33. Commercials
- 35. A reminder of past
- events 36. Affected by injury
- 37. Geological time
- 39. Stationary part of a motor
- 42. Brings together 43. Of sound mind
- 44. Personal computer 46. Without (French) 47. A bank might give you
- 48. Agricultural testing
- organization 49. A small island
- 50. Type of gene 51. Murres 52. Card game
- 53. A measure of human health

54. Australian airline (abbr.)

- 55. One point south of due west 56. Affirmative
- 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 26 24 25 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 40 38 39 42 44 41 43 46 45 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

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