

#1267
12.28.2020

In this issue

1. Reflections
2. FYI
3. Joke 1
4. Reviews
5. TV alert
6. Joke 2
7. Clips/Websites
8. Technology tip
9. Joke 3
10. Two quotes I like
11. Thought for the day
12. Advance planning department

1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride and I:

(1) Continued to hunker down in Week 41 of the corona pandemic. Fortunately, that didn't prevent us from welcoming the New Year with our friend Sunny Ruble.

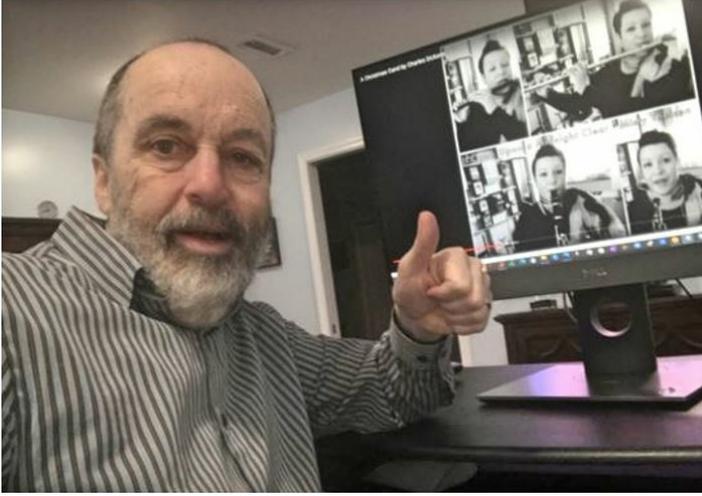
GOOD NEWS! ... You have may have watched the Ball Drop in NYC last night, but it doesn't compare to the one that took place in Mills River, NC. ... At 7:59 pm, sharp, we moved the clock forward to 11:59, dropped the ball, celebrated and were home by 9 --just in time to get our beauty sleep shortly thereafter. ... Our kind of New Year's Eve celebration. ... See for yourself by clicking: [Here](#).



(2) Were visited by [Laurie Richardone](#) who delivered some homemade cookies that were even better than they look in this picture!



B. Kudos to SART to its excellent Zoom production of A CHRISTMAS CAROL. ... I liked seeing the performances of Matthew Harper (top left photo), Jay Allen Ponton (top right), Misty Theisen (bottom), along with all the other actors and musicians: Connor Evans, Joshua Hager, Sarah Wheeler, Kiera Whittemore, Leilah Whittemore, Brianna Brunner, J. Ethan Henry, Zay Hickling Beckman, Chloe Tallent, Lauren Nichols, Felisha McCurry and Darby Pereira. ... The adaptation from Dwight Chiles was spot on, as as Chelsey Lee Gaddy's direction and editing. ... And it was enjoyable, at the end, to see the bonus feature from the MHU Theatre Arts Ballet Class taught by Amanda Hoyte.



C. That Lovey, our cat, with Cynthia and our other cat who guards our home. I just realized that other cat was never given a name. We're going to have to work on that omission.



D. Catch the most recent BLAINESWORLD show by clicking:

<https://www.facebook.com/wpvm.103.7/videos/306222040818069>. ... Guests: (first half), Mike Yow, actor/author, and Karen Yow, actor/director; (second half) .. Dillon Giles, actor, and Audrey Wells. actor.



E. Congratulations to Joe DeRosa, winner of Contest #25: a copy of EVERYDAY MINDFULNESS: 108 SIMPLE PRACTICES TO EMPOWER YOURSELF AND TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE by Melissa Steginus. All told, there were eight entries. And that reminds me it is now time to introduce:

******* CONTEST #1 (of 2021) *******

Three lucky winners will each win a CD from my friend, the amazing Brian Biro (one of America's top motivational speakers). ... The CD was part of Brian's BREAKTHROUGH series, and I guarantee it will inspire you. So if you still have a CD player at home and/or in your car, make sure you enter this contest. To do so, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #! in the subject line. In the body of your email, include both your name and mailing address. All entries must be received on or before 9 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 11.

F. Correction: Last week's issue had the names of Two BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD WINNERS; Erinn Dearth and Dan Beckmann. Some folks may have received their issue with a misspelling of Dan's last name. What you see here is now correct. Sorry 'bout that.

G. Join Cynthia in either of the two virtual courses she teaches for Arms Around ASD: Meditation on Mondays and Move Your Body on Wednesdays. To attend these and/or any of the others (that are open to the public), scroll down to Calendar when you click: <https://www.armsaroundasd.org/>.

H. Thanks, Rose-Marie Grace Vierira, for this week's nomination for the:

***** **BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD WINNER** *****

Here's what Rose-Marie had to say about her nominee:

Do I LOVE my home/auto insurance company!!!

So after 2 weeks of getting NOWHERE with Allstate (the other driver's insurance), I contacted mine (Erie Insurance) on Friday. Yesterday, they got me into a rental, and today I already got a repair estimate from our Erie adjuster and should have my car back by Christmas!

Their (Allstate) adjuster didn't even bother to go look at the damage. They were going completely by what the Collision Center came up with, but my adjuster came up with more by requesting original parts rather than aftermarket, plus leaving the case open until I get my car back and am COMPLETELY happy with results! YES!

Here's the name and contact information for the person who was so helpful to me:

Lauren Tobias

Erie Insurance

60 N Merrimon Ave., Ste 111

Asheville NC 28804

Phone: 828-285-9590

Note: You're also encouraged to submit nominations for the above award; e.g., if you want to recognize some individual or company that gives great service and/or offers an outstanding product. All you have to do is send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put NOMINEE in the subject line. Then in the body of the email, write a few short sentences, describing why you have made the nomination. Please include contact information for the nominee.

2. FYI

2020 brought a pandemic--and an infodemic. Here are the 5 most dangerous conspiracy theories.

by Jesselyn Cook

It was the second week of March when everything changed. Schools, restaurants and retail stores started shutting down en masse, the NBA and NHL suspended their seasons, cities nationwide began banning large gatherings, and after halting travel from Europe, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency as the coronavirus ripped through the U.S.

Suddenly realizing that 2020 would be a year like no other, Americans stockpiled necessities and braced for the worst of the burgeoning pandemic. But no one could have anticipated the parallel "infodemic" that would crush an already reeling nation and undermine its recovery. Misleading information has flourished online — often pushed by Trump and his allies — and social media platforms have failed to contain it.

For the rest of this eye-opening article, please click: [Here](#).



Coronavirus denialism is still plaguing the U.S. (Photo: John Moore via Getty images.)

Section 2, part 2

To read each of the following in full, please click: <https://bginbc.wordpress.com/2020/12/27/blainesworld-1267-please-send-any-comments-to-bginbcaol-com/>.

A. Jonathan Berg: I enjoyed this as usual. B. Peter Rigas: Thumbs up on sheet folding:). C. Ashleigh Phillips: Hey guys!! I've only got a couple days left to meet my goal and I need your help!! D. For a Healthier 2021, Keep the Best Habits of a Very Bad Year. E. Sugary Drinks May Be Bad For Aging.

3. Joke 1

This also has me writing a note to myself: "Self, get one of these dog cones, so you can keep your New Year's resolution to give undivided attention to whoever you're speaking with."



"It keeps me from looking at my phone every two seconds."

4. Reviews

A. Revisited and loved FAMILY MAN, a 2000 romantic drama about a man who revisits his past after stumbling into a grocery store holdup. Nicholas Cage and Tea Leoni are both terrific in the leading roles, but the supporting cast was equally outstanding: Don Cheadle, Jeremy Piven, Saul Rubinek and Josef Sommer. Rated PG-13.

Note: I've added the above to my list of favorite films. If you'd like to get that list, please send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in the subject line.

B. If you're a library fan, like I am, you will want to read LIBRARIAN TALES: FUNNY, STRANGE, AND INSPIRING DISPATCHES FROM THE STACKS (Skyhorse) by William Ottens. It will make you appreciate both the employees and these institutions even more than you might do already. ... The author, a librarian himself, gives you a behind-the-scenes look at every department of a modern library, including circulation, reference, youth services, tech support and collection services. ... I especially enjoyed the many stories he has collected over the years, such as this excuse: "A patron came in with some books that were about 4 weeks overdue: His excuse: he was Anwar Sadat's wife's bodyguard and had been held over Egypt when Sadat was assassinated. I waived the files. If he was lying, deserved to be awarded for excellent imagination." ...And then there was this one: "I once had a patron checkout 50 Disney DVDs across about 6 cards (all family members) for their upcoming trip to Disneyworld. So they come back and have upwards of \$150 in fines across all the cards. They tried to blame it on a hurricane--a hurricane that hit three days after they got home from the trip!" ... My only regret in reading the book now is that I hadn't done so when I was a college undergraduate. I remember thinking, at the time, that I might want to become a librarian. Had I come across LIBRARIAN TALES then, I might well have followed a different career path.

5. TV alert

A. LAST TANGO IN HALIFAX: Steaming via Netflix

Two widowed childhood sweethearts fall for each other all over again when they are reunited over the Internet after nearly 60 years. Cynthia and I have watched the first episodes, and we're quickly becoming hooked on this sweet show that has run for five seasons.

B. CALL ME KAT: Series premiere on Sunday, Jan. 3, at 8 p.m. on Fox and starting Jan. 7, Thursdays at 9 p.m. on Fox

Mayim Bialik stars as a 39-year-old single math professor who, after her dad dies, quits her job and opens Kat's Cat Café.

C. TIGER: Sundays, Jan. 10 and 17, at 9 p.m. on HBO

This two-part documentary explores Tiger Wood's relentless drive to be the best, as well as his personal demons.

D. ELIZABETH IS MISSING: Sunday, Jan. 3, at 9 p.m. on PBS

Glenda Jackson stars as a woman desperately trying to solve two mysteries as she declines even deeper into dementia.

6. Joke 2

Whenever there is an earthquake, the geologists are always quick to find fault. (Thanks, Jim Chewning, for sharing.)



7. Clips/Websites

A. The Turtles are arguably the greatest rock group of all time!

(1) As mentioned previously, this section will feature music by The Turtles--either their recordings and/or covers of their music by others.

I'd especially love to see any recording you may have done of "Happy Together."

Send it to: bginbc@aol.com and put THE TURTLES in the subject line.

Note: Even if you did not do a recording, I welcome anything done by others--not only of "Happy Together," but any other Turtles' song.

(2) For this week, please view this clip from the Dynasty cast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOD4Mj7-OfQ>.

B. Video of the week

Carol Duermit: This Is Arguably the Best Christmas Ad of 2020: [Here](#).

C. And also check out these other clips at your convenience:

(1) Dion & The Belmonts, "A Teenager in Love," one of my all-time favorites: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pwgswchPDo>.

(2) Ashleigh Phillips: "Silent Night": [Here](#).

(3) Howard Smith: 1.3.21: [Here](#).

(4) Jonathan Berg: Clean your dirty floors: [Here](#).

(5) Adam Ybarra: Digital Church: https://www.facebook.com/aarondanielybarra/videos/2928228954073520/?notif_id=1609684890960813¬if_t=live_video&ref=notif.

D. Here's a website that you will want to check out: Creative Mornings: <https://creativemornings.com/>.

Depending on what city you live in, you could be up for some creative mornings. It's a lecture series for creative types, run by volunteers, with the talks hosted at the site, but tapped so out-of-towners can enjoy, too. Each month there's a new theme and speakers in different cities.

And now there are many virtual events.

E. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

<https://www.blaineworld.net/>.

F. Are you on Facebook? In the unlikely event we have not yet connected as friends there, please feel free to send me an invite by clicking: <https://www.facebook.com/blainegreenfield/>.

8. Technology tip

Do you sometimes change something on Facebook or Instagram and not see your original post change? Or see that friends have made a comment and it doesn't show in your "like" totals?

If this is happening, do a chrome page refresh. It will delete all the cache files stored in the browser and re-download with fresh data.

Here's all you need to do if you use the Chrome browser:

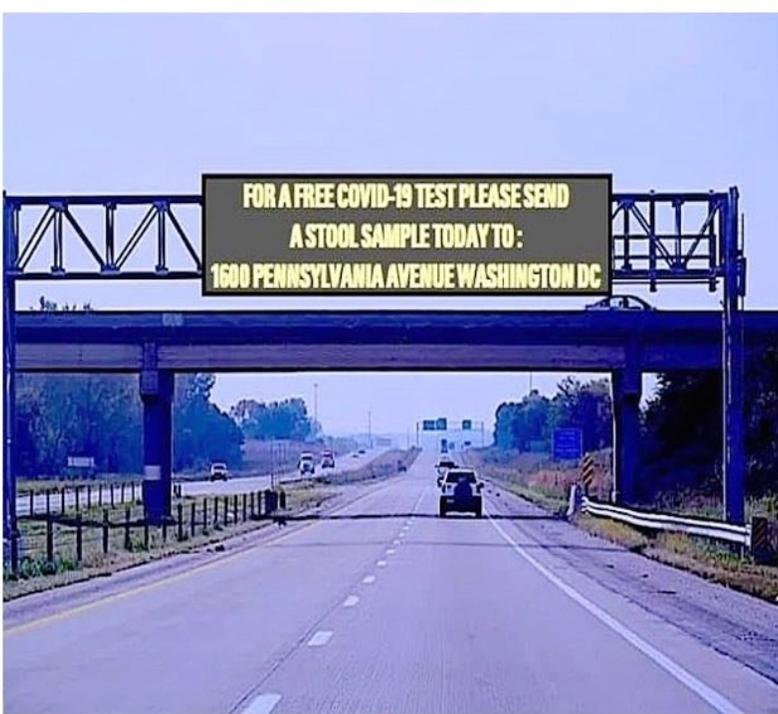
1. Launch the Google Chrome browser on your computer.
2. Open the website that you want to hard refresh.
3. Press and hold the Ctrl (Windows/Linux) or Cmd (mac) button on the keyboard.
4. Hit the reload arrow icon (it looks like a circle with an arrow in it) on the browser next to the URL bar.

Note: The above also works if you use the Bing browser and probably others. If you find this to be the case, please let me know.

9. Joke 3

Kudos to both Republican and Democrats for for making this a reality!

Note: If you are viewing this on your cellphone and can't read the wording, it reads as follows: FOR A FREE COVID-19 TEST, PLEASE SEND A STOOL SAMPLE TODAY TO: 1600 WASHINGTON AVENUE, WASHINGTON, DC.



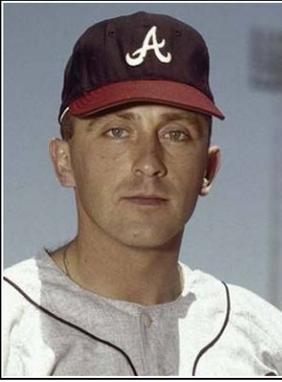
10. Two quotes I like

A. Thanks, Dawn Wells (1938-2020), for your career as an actor ... and for the fact that when I was younger, I often got to watch you as Mary Ann on GILLIGAN'S ISLAND. ... For more information about her life, please click: [Here](#).

"Just because a woman is over 50 does not mean she no longer has anything to offer. If anything, we have so much more to offer! We have lived life, we get better with age. I do my best work now in my 60s. Sure, I could retire; but what would I do? Play Bingo? I think not!"—Dawn Wells



B. Thanks, Phil Niekro (1939-2020), for your Hall of Fame baseball career that featured 318 career victories. I'll most remember you for your tantalizing knuckleball, which enabled you to play 24 seasons in the big leagues, 20 of them with the Milwaukee/Atlanta Braves. For more information about his life, please click: [Here](#).



There aren't many hitters who like facing knuckleball pitchers. They may not be intimidated by them, but they sure are thinking about them before they go into the box.

— Phil Niekro —

AZ QUOTES

11. Thought for the day

What I want for you in 2021 ...

**May your troubles be less and
your blessings be more.**

**And nothing but happiness
comes through your door.**

12. Advance planning department

For more information about the following events, please click: [Here](#).

A. Chris Martin: Time for more Zoom Improv Classes! B. Katie Jones: Join us for our next Magnetic U Course, Writing Sketch Comedy with Paul Vonasek.

PS. Make it a great week!
