

The Nickel Pop

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Gazette



INSIDE:

AMERICA IS GREAT
BECAUSE IT'S FULL
OF AMERICANS

CELEBRITY SOLDIERS

THE LIGHTER SIDE

I COULDN'T MAKE
THIS UP

FOUNDING FATHERS

**We're bringing back
the nickel soda pop!
It's not a beverage.
It's a concept.
About the way things
use to be in America!**

A publication of
The Jason Curtman Show!



THE JASON CURTMAN SHOW

is heard 43 time a week on 13 different outlets!

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From Studio 312 in Southern New Mexico's Tularosa Basin.

“Where the women are beautiful and the men are finely groomed!”

AMERICA IS GREAT

Because it's full of Americans!

I am a nostalgic sort of fellow. My friends think I'm a little absurd sometimes. Always talking about bringing back the nickel soda pop, sporting two tone saddle shoes and horned rimmed glasses. Sometimes a growth of lamb chop side-burns. And sometimes you can find me wearing my Stetson or a red ball cap that is embroidered with "ROUTE 66" To me these things remind me of an American era. A time when we knew everybody on the block by name. When a soda might cost a nickel and an ice cream sand-which just a dime. It was a time when the words honesty and integrity were common place. If you shook hands on a deal - you could take it to the bank.

It was a time when, as a country, we knew our enemies. We knew their capabilities and they knew ours. That mutual understanding brought about an element of peace.

It was a time when the nuclear family was an American staple. You rarely heard of divorce or separations. Families ate at tables together for breakfast and dinner. - Lunch was usually at school or work, or for mom, with the neighbor lady.

Let's face it - it was a fantastic time in America. That's not to say we didn't have our problems and our prejudices. It's just to say we were blessed, privileged (that is not a dirty word), faithful and kind.

I want to bring back that spirit. That's why every week I try to encourage people to smile, lend a hand, tell a joke, and whistle a catchy tune. Happy Americans make for a happy America! - And who wouldn't love that?

Do you want to know why America was great and still is great? It's because America is chock full with Americans. That's right. People all over this country who were born with a sense of pride, patriotism, duty, and honor...AND a sense of humor.

So as you head off to school work or play I would encourage you to - Let yourself shine as the American that you are!



- Jason



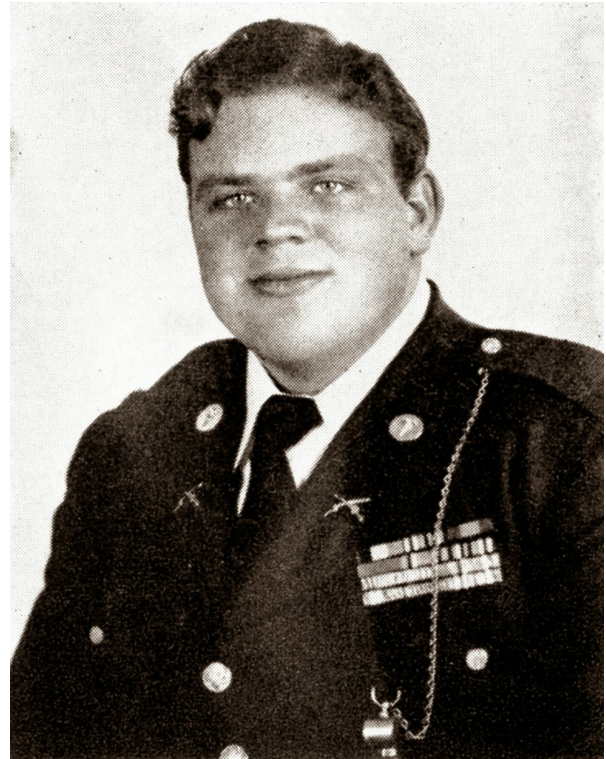
Celebrity Soldier - Dan Blocker

Dan Blocker was born Bobby Dan Davis Blocker in De Kalb in Bowie County in northeastern Texas, son of Ora Shack Blocker (1895–1960) and his wife Mary Davis Blocker (1901–1998). The family moved to O'Donnell, south of Lubbock in west Texas, where they operated a store.

The former Blocker Store is now an abandoned building in downtown O'Donnell, Texas.

He attended Texas Military Institute and in 1946 played football at Baptist-affiliated Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. He graduated from Sul Ross State Teacher's College in Alpine, where he earned a master's degree in the dramatic arts. (Although the "Hoss" character on *Bonanza* was conceived as lovable but slow-witted, Blocker was the only cast member with a graduate degree).

Blocker was a high school English and drama teacher in Sonora, Texas, a sixth-grade teacher and coach at Eddy Elementary School in Carlsbad, New Mexico and finally, a teacher in California. He had worked as a rodeo performer and as a bouncer in a beer bar while a student. He is remembered from his school days for his size of 6 feet 4 inches (1.93 m) and weight of 300 pounds (140 kilograms; 21 stone 6 pounds), and for being good-natured despite his intimidating size.



Blocker was drafted into the United States Army during the Korean War. He served as an Infantry sergeant in F Company, 2nd Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division in Korea, December 1951 to August 1952. He received a Purple Heart for wounds in combat according to the June/July 2013 issue of VFW Magazine.

In 1957, Blocker appeared in a Three Stooges short, *Outer Space Jitters*, having portrayed the part of "The Goon," billed as "Don Blocker." Dan Blocker made two appearances on the long running *Gunsmoke* series: the first on August 25, 1956 in "Alarm at Pleasant Valley," and the second on October 18, 1958 in "Thoroughbreds." He also appeared in 1957 as Will in the episode, "A Time to Die," of the ABC/Warner Brothers western series, *Colt .45*, starring Wayne Preston.

Blocker was cast in 1957 in episodes of the David Dortort-produced NBC series, *The Restless Gun* as a blacksmith and as a cattleman planning to take his hard-earned profit to return to his family land in his native Minnesota. That same year, he had at least two roles as a bartender: in an episode of the syndicated western-themed crime drama *Sheriff of Cochise*, starring John Bromfield and in the film, *Gunsight Ridge*. He appeared in *The Rifleman*. In 1958, he played a prison guard and later had a recurring role as Tiny Budinger in the NBC western series *Cimarron City*, starring George Montgomery, John Smith, and Audrey Totter. He also was seen in "The Señorita Makes a Choice," a 1958 episode of Walt Disney's *Zorro* series.

In 1958, Blocker had a supporting role as Sergeant Broderick in "The Dora Gray Story" on NBC's *Wagon Train*, with Linda Darnell in the title role and Mike Connors as Miles Borden, a corrupt United States Army lieutenant at an isolated western fort. That same year he appeared in "Stagecoach Episode" of the NBC western, *Jefferson Drum*, starring Jeff Richards.

Blocker was cast as bearded poker-playing rodeo performer, Cloudy Sims, in the 1958 episode "Rodeo" on the David Janssen crime drama, *Richard Diamond, Private Detective*. In the story line a rodeo performer named Ed Murdock, portrayed by Lee Van Cleef, is murdered before he can make his final performance at the annual event in Madison Square Garden.

In 1959, as *Bonanza* began its long network run, Blocker guest-starred in an episode of the Keenan Wynn and Bob Mathias NBC series, *The Trouleshooters*, an adventure program about unusual events surrounding an international construction company. Another 1959 role was as Del Pierce in "Johnny Yuma," the first episode of the ABC western series, *The Rebel*, starring Nick Adams.

Blocker's big break also came in 1959, when he was cast as Hoss Cartwright on the long-running NBC television series, *Bonanza*, and played the role until his death. Dan Blocker said that he portrayed the Hoss character with a Stephen Grellet excerpt in mind: "We shall pass this way on Earth but once, if there is any kindness we can show, or good act we can do, let us do it now, for we will never pass this way again."

In 1968, Blocker starred with Frank Sinatra in the "Tony Rome" film sequel Lady In Cement.

Stanley Kubrick attempted to cast Blocker in his film Dr. Strangelove, after Peter Sellers elected not to add the role of Major T.J. "King" Kong to his multiple other roles, but according to the film's co-writer, Terry Southern, Blocker's agent rejected the script. The role subsequently went to Slim Pickens. In 1970, the actor portrayed a love-shy galoot on, The Cockeyed Cowboys of Calico County, with Nanette Fabray as a love prospect. Mickey Rooney also starred. Blocker also appeared on NBC's The Flip Wilson Show comedy hour.

Director Robert Altman befriended Blocker while directing episodes of Bonanza. Years later, he cast Blocker as Roger Wade in The Long Goodbye, but Blocker died before filming began. The role went to Sterling Hayden, and the film was dedicated to Blocker.



Blocker received partial ownership in a successful chain of Ponderosa/Bonanza Steakhouse restaurants in exchange for serving (in character as Hoss) as their commercial spokesman and making personal appearances at franchises.

Blocker was drafted into the United States Army and served in the Korean War as a sergeant. He married Dolphia Parker, whom he had met while a student at Sul Ross State. All of their four children's names begin with a 'D': actor Dirk Blocker, producer David Blocker and twin daughters Debra Lee (artist) and Danna Lynn. His son, David Blocker, won a 1998 Emmy for producing "Don King: Only in America."

A Free Methodist, Blocker was among Hollywood celebrities who supported Pat Brown's re-election in 1966 as governor of California against Ronald W. Reagan. In 1968, Blocker backed then U.S. Senator Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota for the Democratic presidential nomination. Blocker later supported the eventual Democratic Party nominee, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, also of Minnesota, for the presidency against the Republican Richard M. Nixon. He kept a house in Inglewood, California, and commuted to NBC. His 6,000-square-foot (560 m2) Tudor style mansion in the Hancock Park area of Los Angeles is currently owned by Rob Zombie.

On the 2010 PBS special, "Pioneers of Television: Westerns," actor Mitch Vogel who played the young brother Jamie Cartwright on Bonanza, said that Blocker "was so easy to get to know—the kind of guy you could go and have a beer with."

Blocker, a performance automobile fan, once owned a 1965 Chevrolet Chevelle SS396 "Z-16" (RPO Z16 option) as Chevrolet was the commercial sponsor of the show. He also owned a 1965 Huffaker Genie MK10 race car, nicknamed the "Vinegaroon." The car was run by Nickey Chevrolet in the 1965 and 1966 US Road Racing Championship series as well as the 1966 Can-Am championship.

On May 13, 1972, Blocker died in Los Angeles of a pulmonary embolism following gall bladder surgery. The writers of Bonanza took the unusual step of referencing a major character's death in the show's storyline that autumn. Bonanza lasted another season without Hoss, as the fourteenth and final season ended on January 16, 1973. Blocker's remains are interred in a family plot in Woodsmen Cemetery, in DeKalb, Texas, although he had lived there only briefly. The common grave site is marked by a plain stone with the name "BLOCKER" engraved; three family members are buried beside him.



The Lighter Side



Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "And what starting salary are you looking for?" The engineer replies, "In the region of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?" The engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month.

Theodore Roosevelt

Two lawyers walking through the woods spotted a vicious looking bear. The first lawyer immediately opened his briefcase, pulled out a pair of sneakers and started putting them on. The second lawyer looked at him and said, "You're crazy! You'll never be able to outrun that bear!" "I don't have to," the first lawyer replied. "I only have to



Q: What says "Eoo?"

A: A cow with no lips.

A man walks out on his front porch one day and sees a gorilla in the tree on his front lawn. He calls animal control and about an hour later a man shows up with a ladder, a pit bull, and a shotgun. The animal control employee tells the man, "I'm here to get the gorilla out of your tree. I'm going to use this ladder to climb up the tree and shake the branch the gorilla is on to knock him to the ground. The pit bull is trained to go after anything that falls from the tree and get a bite hold on them and shake them vigorously which calms the animal down so I can put him in the truck." The man says "Okay, I see what the ladder and the pit bull are for but what is the shotgun for?" The animal control employee says, "Oh, that's for you. In case I fall out of the tree instead of the gorilla, shoot the dog."

A woman is at a grocery store. She goes to the clerk to purchase her groceries. The clerk looks at her items and sees a carton of eggs, a gallon of milk, and a head of lettuce. He says to the woman, "You must be single." The woman was surprised & replies, "Yes, how did you know?" The clerk answers, "Because you're ugly."



A man hasn't been feeling well, so he goes to his doctor for a complete checkup. Afterward, the doctor comes out with the results. "I'm afraid I have some very bad news," the doctor says. "You're dying, and you don't have much time left." "Oh, that's terrible!" says the man. "How long have I got?" "Ten," the doctor says sadly. "Ten?" the man asks. "Ten what? Months? Weeks? What?!" "Nine..."

A proud and confident genius makes a bet with an idiot. The genius says, "Hey idiot, every question I ask you that you don't know the answer, you have to give me \$5. And if you ask me a question and I can't answer yours I will give you \$5,000." The idiot says, "Okay." The genius then asks, "How many continents are there in the world?" The idiot doesn't know and hands over the \$5. The idiot says, "Now me ask: what animal stands with two legs but sleeps with three?" The genius tries and searches very hard for the answer but gives up and hands over the \$5000. The genius says, "Dang it, I lost. By the way, what was the answer to your question?" The idiot hands over \$5.



Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS

"The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever."

--John Adams wrote this in a letter to his wife, Abigail, on July 3, 1776.

"A watchful eye must be kept on ourselves lest while we are building ideal monuments of Renown and Bliss here we neglect to have our names enrolled in the Annals of Heaven." - James Madison

"When we view the blessings with which our country has been favored, those which we now enjoy, and the means which we possess of handing them down unimpaired to our latest posterity, our attention is irresistibly drawn to the source from whence they flow. Let us then, unite in offering our most grateful acknowledgments for these blessings to the Divine Author of All Good." - James Monroe

"Whoever is an avowed enemy of God, I scruple not to call him an enemy of his country."
John Witherspoon, signer of the Declaration of Independence

If ever time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin. - Samuel Adams

Man will ultimately be governed by God or by tyrants.

- Benjamin Franklin



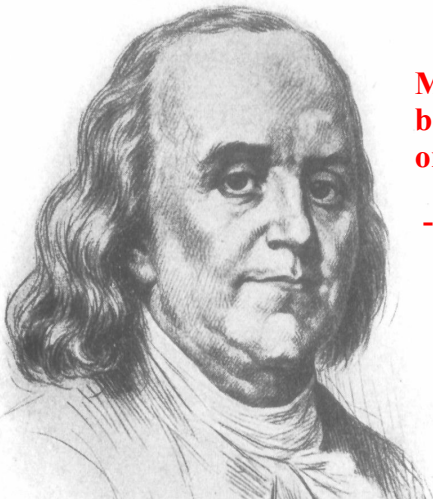
"Resistance to tyranny becomes the Christian and social duty of each individual. ... Continue steadfast and, with a proper sense of your dependence on God, nobly defend those rights which heaven gave, and no man ought to take from us."

- John Hancock



It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here.

- Patrick Henry, ratifier of the Constitution



I COULDN'T MAKE THIS UP...

Another driver died after being unable to dodge his own vehicle. A 58-year-old man was hit by his SUV in New York City in June after he double-parked and was opening the door on the passenger side and realized that the vehicle was still in reverse gear. He tried to jam one foot onto the brake but hit the gas instead, causing the car to jump backward, ejecting him, and pinning him between the SUV and a van parked alongside. The man suffered a heart attack and died as his vehicle broke free and drifted across the busy Manhattan intersection of Madison Avenue and East 49th Street.

Susan Coppinger, 47, was promoted by the city of Boston in January to a job paying \$38,800 in the Inspectional Services Department -- even though a month earlier she had been arrested for bank robbery. In fact, police said it was her second robbery of the same Santander Bank in nearby Quincy. Apparently, the city's human resources office does not monitor mugshots on MassMostWanted.com, but in April, the city finally secured Coppinger's resignation.

Dan Greding, working on contract with the city of Santa Barbara, California, was busy at work one February day installing signs on street lamps warning that only "75 Minute Parking" was permitted. On one block, three signs were called for, but the last one required Greding to drill into concrete, insert screws and wait for the concrete to dry -- which apparently took more than 75 minutes, and a passing police officer ticketed his truck. Greding's first appeal of the citation was denied, but a second appeal was pending at press time.

The 9-1-1 call at 1:50 a.m. on May 29 came from a man who said he was lost on Deen Still Road near Polk City, Florida, and being chased by wild hogs. A sheriff's deputy fairly easily "rescued" Andrew Joffe, 24, but then discovered that Joffe (a) had an active arrest warrant and (b) was in possession of a GPS device that he admitted stealing from a car that evening. The Polk County sheriff told reporters that it was "unusual" for an absconding thief, with a warrant, to bring himself to deputies' attention like that, but acknowledged with a wink that "it does get pretty dark out on Deen Still Road in the middle of the night."



In the mid-1980s, convicted South Carolina murderer Michael Godwin won his appeal to avoid the electric chair and serve only life imprisonment. In March, while sitting naked on a metal prison toilet, attempting to fix a TV set, the 28-year-old Godwin bit into a wire and was electrocuted.

A pre-trial hearing was scheduled in Lamar, Missouri, on Joyce Lehr's lawsuit against the county for injuries from a 1993 fall in the icy, unplowed parking lot of the local high school. The Carthage Press reported that Lehr claimed damage to nearly everything in her body. According to her petition: "All the bones, organs, muscles, tendons, tissues, nerves, veins, arteries, ligaments ... discs, cartilages, and the joints of her body were fractured, broken, ruptured, punctured, compressed, dislocated, separated, bruised, contused, narrowed, abraded, lacerated, burned, cut, torn, wrenched, swollen, strained, sprained, inflamed and infected."

From a May police report in The Messenger (Madisonville, Kentucky), concerning two trucks being driven curiously on a rural road: A man would drive a truck 100 yards, stop, walk back to a second truck, drive it 100 yards beyond the first truck, stop, walk back to the first truck, drive it 100 yards beyond the second truck, and so on, into the evening. He did it, he told police, because his brother was passed out drunk in one of the trucks, and he was trying to drive both trucks home, at more or less the same time. (Not surprisingly, a blood-alcohol test showed the driver, also, to be impaired.)

Elvis

FACTS

1. Elvis purchased his first guitar when he was just 11 years old. He wanted a rifle, but his mama convinced him to get a guitar instead.
2. In 1947, a local radio show offered a young Elvis (age 12) a chance to sing live on air, but he was too shy to go on.
3. At 18, Elvis paid \$4 to make his first record, a gift for his mama.
4. In 1954, Elvis auditioned for a gospel quartet named **the Songfellows**. They said no.
5. That same year, a local radio DJ played Elvis' version of **That's All Right**. He went on to play it **13 more times** that day, but had trouble convincing his audience that Elvis was white.
6. His breakthrough hit was **Heartbreak Hotel**, released in 1956 - a song inspired by a newspaper article about a local suicide.
7. When performing on TV in 1956, host Milton Berle advised Elvis to perform without his guitar, reportedly saying, "Let 'em see you, son."
8. A Florida judge called Elvis "a savage" that same year because he said that his music was "undermining the youth." He was subsequently forbidden from shaking his body at a gig, so he waggled his finger instead in protest.
9. He played only five concerts outside the U.S., all on a 3-day tour of Canada in 1957. Many believe that the reason why he never toured abroad again was that his longtime manager, Colonel Tom Parker, was an illegal immigrant from Holland who would have been deported had he applied for a U.S. passport.
10. Recording Hound Dog in the studio, Elvis reportedly demanded 31 takes.
11. Elvis bought his mansion, Graceland, in Memphis, TN in 1957 for \$100,000. It was named by its previous owner after his daughter, Grace.
12. In 1956, he began his film career with a western, **Love Me Tender**. His second film, **Loving You**, featured his parents as audience members. Following his mother's death in 1957, he never watched the film again. He went on to make a total of 31 movies in his career.
13. In December 1957, Elvis was drafted into the U.S. Army, earning a \$78 monthly salary. During his brief two-year stint on active duty, he was unable to access his music-generated income of \$400,000.
14. Elvis' 1960 hit **"It's Now or Never"** so inspired a prisoner who heard it in jail that he vowed to pursue a career in music upon his release. The artist, **Barry White**, was then serving a 4-month sentence for stealing tires.
15. Elvis' popularity faded in the 1960's with the rise of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and others. He successfully relaunched his career with a 1968 television special that came about because Elvis had walked down a busy Los Angeles street and had no one recognize or approach him.



Mickey Rooney (born **Joseph Yule, Jr.**; September 23, 1920 – April 6, 2014) was an American actor of film, television, Broadway, radio, and vaudeville. Beginning as a child actor, his career extended over 90 years, making him one of the most enduring performers in show business history. He appeared in more than 300 films and was one of the last surviving stars of the silent film era, having one of the longest careers in the medium's history.

At the height of a career that was marked by precipitous declines and raging comebacks, he played the role of Andy Hardy in a series of fifteen films in the 1930s and 1940s that epitomized American family values. A prolific talent, he became a noted character actor later in his career, and could sing, dance, clown and play various musical instruments. Laurence Olivier once said he considered Rooney "the greatest actor of them all", and Clarence Brown, who directed him in two of his earliest dramatic roles, *National Velvet* and *The Human Comedy*, said he was "the closest thing to a genius I ever worked with."



He was the top box office attraction of 1939, but his career never rose to such heights again. He was drafted into the Army during World War II, serving nearly two years entertaining over 2 million troops on stage and on the radio. He was awarded a Bronze Star for performing in combat zones. After he returned from the war in 1945, too old for juvenile roles but too short to be a movie star, he was not able to obtain acting roles as significant as before. Nevertheless, Rooney was tenacious and he rebounded, his popularity renewed with well-received supporting roles in films such as *Requiem for a Heavyweight* (1962), *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World* (1963), and *The Black Stallion* (1979), for which he was Oscar nominated. In the early 1980s he returned to Broadway in *Sugar Babies* and once more was a celebrated star. He also made hundreds of appearances on TV, including dramas, variety programs and talk shows. During his career, he received four Academy Award nominations and was nominated for five Emmy Awards, winning one.

Rooney's personal life was as tumultuous as his career. He struggled with alcohol and pill addiction, and was married eight times, the first time to actress Ava Gardner. Despite earning millions during his career, he had to file for bankruptcy in 1962 due to mismanagement of his finances. Shortly before his death in 2014 at age 93, he alleged mistreatment by some family members, and testified in Congress about what he alleged was physical abuse and exploitation by family members. By the end of his life, his millions in earnings had dwindled to an estate that was valued at only \$18,000, and he died owing back taxes and medical bills, with contributions solicited from the public.

FROM THE BLOG AT WWW.JASONCURTMAN.COM

A 1930'S BEAUTY PAGEANT!

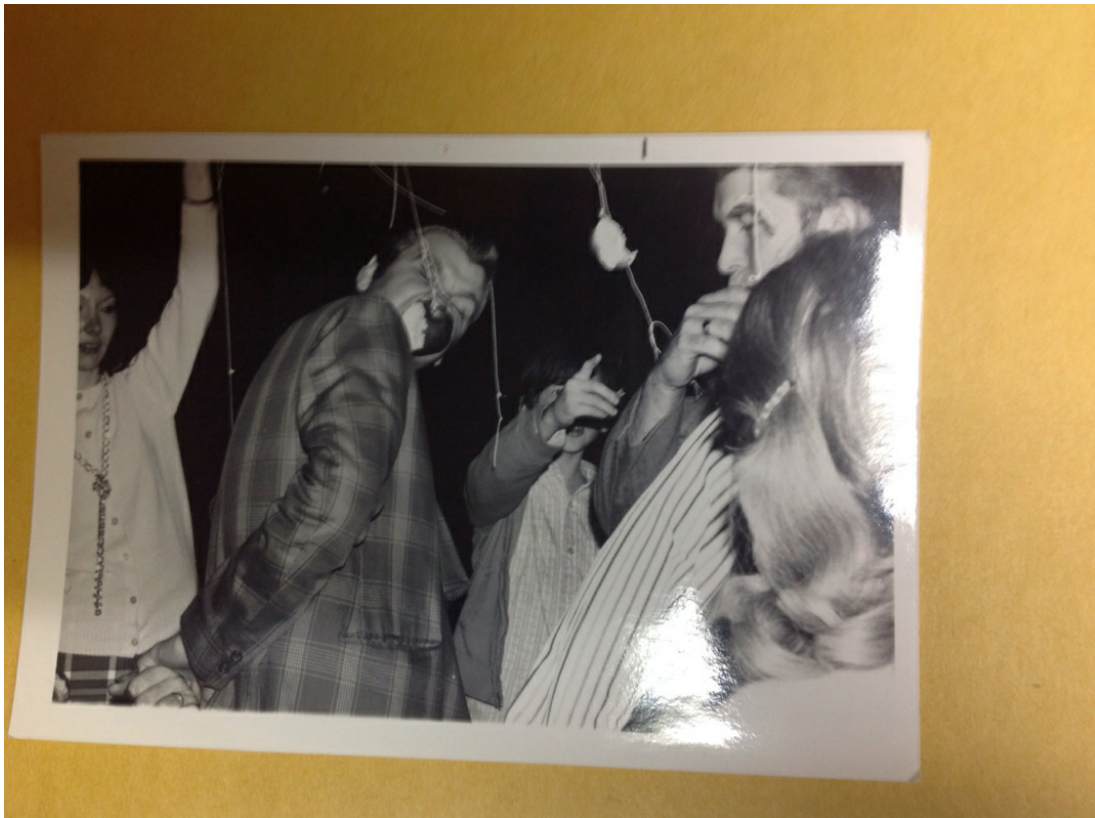


My favorite man snack! These are great dipped in ranch!



You just never know how you might impact someone's life and how they will show you their gratitude.

After teaching a course (Business communications / customer service) the group left the room, I found this spread out on the table! Made my day!



This was a party game played at the church my dad pastored in Valley Park, Missouri In the very early 70's. I remember this night!



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