

OPINION



Lisa's Lines

by Lisa Ingebrand

My little Lucille Ball

To cap off the school year, my daughter Ellen's fourth grade class created a living wax museum of great leaders.

Out of the list of dozens of names, my little redhead chose Lucille Ball.

Why did she chose Lucille Ball? Because she was a redhead. (You've gotta love 10-year-old logic.)

Things started out great. Ellen dove into the research work, reading books about Lucille Ball's life and watching "I Love Lucy" episodes on her tablet.

We managed to find the perfect 1950s-style dress and an aunt agreed to pin-up Ellen's long hair the morning of the wax museum.

A lot of the actual project work was completed at school, which was so nice (especially after the heavily at-home Nevada State Box project).

I thought things were moving along smoothly.

I thought Ellen was on track to do great and represent the beautiful Lucille Ball well.

Of course, nothing involving my spirited child could be that simple.

About a week prior to the wax museum, Ellen came home from school fuming mad and announced she was no longer going to be Lucille Ball. She flat-out, adamantly—and dramatically—refused to be Lucille Ball.

It took a lot of prying and nagging and lecturing to figure out why.

Turns out, she discovered that Lucille Ball was a FAKE redhead—and Ellen was personally wounded by this reality.

Honestly, I, too, thought Lucille Ball was a natural redhead, but Ellen showed me the page in the "I Love Lucille Ball" book where it states that the famous redhead was indeed a blonde in real life. She ultimately dyed her hair red to stand out on screen.

"Mom! She's famous for being a redhead, but she wasn't really a redhead! Can you believe that?!" spouted Ellen, who, in horror, added: "She was a BLONDE like Anna (her big sister), and I DON'T want to be a blonde!" It was a whirlwind of emotions and facts and sisterly competition and self pride.

Ellen loves her red hair and how it helps her stand out. Back in preschool, she made her teacher cut special pieces of yarn just for her so her craft could have RED hair like her.

She had chosen Lucille Ball BECAUSE she believed Lucille Ball was a redhead (a fact her sister chose to laugh about—in front of her—a bit too much, which caused even more of a tussle).

It took days to fully convince Ellen to re-embrace her assigned project. We weren't going to let her fold. She had to stick with it and complete what she started—she had to do the project she was assigned.

She wasn't happy about it, but she did it, and on the morning of the wax museum, she got up early and went to her aunt's house to get her hair pinned up. Red lipstick

was applied and big earrings were selected to complete the look. She looked adorable!

She remained a bit salty about having to impersonate a fake redhead, but she also decided it was pretty darn cool that Lucille Ball was kicked out of her first acting class, couldn't sing, and still went on to be a star and one of the first women to ever own a studio in Hollywood.

Ellen was also impressed by the fact Lucille Ball was the first pregnant woman to be shown on television and that her marriage to Desi Arnaz—on and off the screen—helped America embrace mixed-race marriages. ("How were those things even a problem, mom?" my 21st Century child innocently questioned.)

Ultimately, the project taught us a lot about history, about Hollywood, and about a very funny and motivated woman who never gave up her goal of becoming a star.

When I walked into the school gym to view the wax museum, my little redhead stood out, like redheads do. Her curled hair was piled on top of her head with the tips of a handkerchief sticking out—in true Lucille Ball fashion—and the black and white polkadot '50s dress was on point... and Ellen wore a huge grin.

Of course, part of her monologue, which Ellen stated after a museum guest "pushed a button," informed people that Lucille Ball did in fact dye her hair red.

I think even Lucille Ball would have chuckled.



Those Were The Days

100 Years Ago June 2, 1922

Mrs. Glyde Swain suffered the fracture of two ribs when she stumbled and fell as she was setting a hen in the machine shed on the north side of Elysian.

Dr. Osborn and Harold Dressel expect to bring the county league pennant to Waterville again this season after they defeated Kilkenny, 13-8.

Elysian Creamery paid 39 cents on the monthly settlement.

Harry Kluntz is erecting a fine home on the north shore of Lake Jefferson.

75 Years Ago June 4, 1947

A food sale will be held at Comstock's Market. The sale is sponsored by the Band Mothers.

An early warning that all Minnesotan game meat must be removed from cold storage lockers before June 30 was issued by Frank D. Blair, Game and Fish Director. After that date it will be illegal to have any game meat taken during the Minnesota hunting seasons.

The City Fathers purchased a used truck from Melvin Kritzer.

Mr. Rumallo Watzek has been elected to represent Tetonka Lodge No. 138, Ancient Order United Workmen.

A son, John Slattery, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Slattery in Waseca.

50 Years Ago June 1, 1972

Waterville defeated Elysian in town ball action. Keny Krenik had three hits for Elysian and Sam Terrell added two hits. Mike Grose was 3-for-4 with two home runs for Waterville.

Effective July 1, drivers on Minnesota's streets and highways may turn right on a circular red traffic signal.

Mr. Lawrence Meskan and Mr. Milan Behr were the Class advisors for the Waterville-Elysian High School Class of 1972. Valedictorian was Linda Schwartz and Salutatorians were Kathleen Pittmann and Jerri Dale.

Mrs. June Sautbine announced her retirement from the staff of the Waterville-Elysian School. She served the last several years as girls physical education instructor.

25 Years Ago June 5, 1996

Donna Pittman was named the Waterville Bullhead Days Grand Marshal.

Abigail Cook, Elisha Hebert, Jesi Randalls, Danielle Taylor, and Jessica Welch are the candidates for the crown of Miss Waterville.

Junior David Morris and freshman Tona Schmidtke

advanced to the Class A State Track and Field Meet. Morris advanced in the 1,600-meter run and Schmidtke in the shot put and discus events.

First Team All Conference baseball player from WEM was Alex Wesley. Cory Connors, Wade Hrdlicka, and Ryan Tegmeier were named Honorable Mention All Conference.

Leigh Kunelius, Elisha Hebert, and Shelley Boettcher were named First Team All Conference in softball. Stephanie Wenker was named Honorable Mention All Conference.

10 Years Ago June 7, 2012

Sue and Royal Myers were named the 2012 Bullhead Days Parade Grand Marshals.

Miss Waterville candidates were Danielle Meyer, Kayla Stiernagle, Ashley Stangler, Briana Adank, and Brittany Buesgens.

New members installed into the Elysian Legion auxiliary were Abbie Anderson, Amy Williams, Melissa Roemhildt, and Junior members Kaitlyn Roemhildt.

Helen Boese was presented the 2021 Friend of Education Award from the WEM Education Association.

Rev. Juan Palm is installed at Trinity Lutheran Church in North Morrystown.

"Ask a Trooper"

Summer in Minnesota brings sunshine and excitement with campgrounds and cabins opening and families heading out on vacation. All of the campers, trailers, and extra vehicle traffic makes Memorial Day to Labor Day a deadly time for traffic fatalities each year on Minnesota roads.

Unfortunately this time frame is also dangerous for your young drivers as college and high school end and they're driving more often during the summer. That's why the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety is reminding all Minnesotans to drive safely.

As the weather heats up, so do speeds. Extra enforcement to slow down speeding motorists will take place July 1 through July 31. Through

Sgt. Troy Christianson
Minnesota State Patrol



As of May 24, Minnesota is already at 124 traffic fatalities for 2022, compared to 149 in 2021. The fatality report for 2022 so far: 11 pedestrians, 9 motorcyclists, 1 ATV rider, and 103 vehicle crashes.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention, and always plan ahead for a sober ride. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson — Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

May 22 of this year, there were 34 fatalities linked to unsafe speeds.

Alcohol-related crashes not only take lives, they change them forever. Alcohol-related crashes contributed to 17 fatalities through May 22. The extra impaired enforcement campaign runs Aug. 19 through Sept. 5.

The Minnesota State Patrol will continue Highway Enforcement for Aggressive Traffic (HEAT) patrols through the summer to focus on speed and criminal activity.

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The quilt is finished

The ladies of Colonial Manor have completed their quilt! They have decided to sell chances and the winner will be drawn at a later date, possibly during Bullhead Days. Pictured: Minnie Comstock and Ida Kaupa pose with the finished quilt. (The Elysian Enterprise - June 1, 1972)

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THE BOOK CORNER

Check out these must read outdoor survival and adventure stories:

"Life of Pi" by Yann Martel (Adult Fiction)

"The River" by Peter Heller (Adult Fiction)

"The Call of the Wild" by Jack London (Adult Fiction)

"Before the fall" by Noah Hawley (Adult Fiction)

"Wild" by Cheryl Strayed (Adult Nonfiction)

"A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson (Adult Nonfiction)

"Adventure North" by Sean Bloomfield (Adult Nonfiction)

"The Hatchet Series" By Gary Paulson (Junior Fiction)

"Robinson Crusoe" by Daniel Defoe (Junior Fiction)

"Wildfire" by Carrie Mac (Young Adult Fiction)

"I am Still Alive" by Kate Alice Marshall (Young Adult Fiction)

These items and many more are available through the Traverse des Sioux Library System at tds-mt.iii.com and can be picked up at the Waterville Public Library.