

In early February I started a diet as earlier in the winter I kept moseying on up to the feed bunk, aka refrigerator, every time I stood up. My goal was to lose 15 pounds and I'm happy to report that I only have 20 left to go. This stay at home order has me precariously close to the feed bunk but I'll keep after the diet. In the meantime, as many of you have, I try to find activities to keep me busy. One activity for me has been on the to-do list for a few years now. That is to go through old pictures. I need to scan the ones I want on computer. I need to sort and send pictures to the person who really should be storing them on their shelves. So I have big envelopes scattered around the floor with one each for my kids and one each for siblings plus the big miscellaneous envelope which more than likely will end up back on my shelf where in a couple of years I'll sort through it again.

If you're like me, looking at old pictures takes a lot of time. First, after looking at the picture, you have to determine who's in the picture, where the picture was taken and what year it was taken. Then you look at the back of every picture hoping someone wrote down all that valuable information. Sometimes it's there but more times it's not. So then I scan the picture and send it to someone who might know.

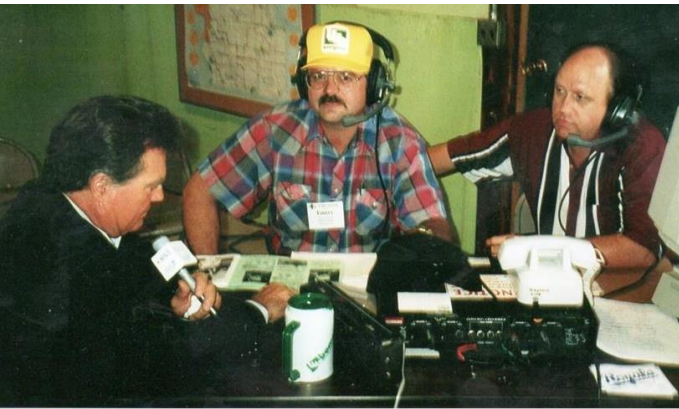


For old family pictures, like from the 1930's and 1940's, my go to person is my uncle Earl. Earl is the second youngest brother of my dad Elmer. Earl is now 85 but has a memory that stores a huge amount of data. I had one particular old black and white photo of my dad when he was in his late teens to early 20's along with two other young men. It was a 5x7 black and white glossy picture but had no paragraphs or arrows on the back explaining what it was. For you music aficionados, that's an Arlo Guthrie reference there.

So I sent the 5x7 black and white glossy to my uncle who wrote back that he didn't know who the two men in question were. So I will write on the back that it's my dad sometime in the 1930's with two unknowns. In the picture, my dad is the one on the right. It then goes into the miscellaneous envelope which by now is a size 12 extra wide shoe box and soon to be a small plastic bin.

I have a boatload of pictures, and I'm not talking a Lund 12 foot fishing boat here but more like a small yacht that cover my radio career. I came across 3 pictures that were taken at the Woodbury County fair back in 1994. I was the farm director at KMNS radio in Sioux City at

the time. My broadcast partner Col Jon Phillips and I would hit the county fair circuit and broadcast through the day.



Country music's LeRoy Van Dyke (left) was interviewed at the Woodbury County fair in Merville, IA in 1994 by Emery Kleven (center) and Col Jon Phillips

One of the entertainers for the fair this particular year was LeRoy Van Dyke. His biggest hits were 'Walk on By' and 'The Auctioneer'.

In fact in 1994, the year I got to meet and interview Van Dyke was the year that the song Walk on By was named by Billboard magazine as the biggest country single of all time. They based that on sales, plays and weeks it was on the music charts. That song was number one for 19 weeks and on the charts for 42 weeks.

We got to talking with Van Dyke about his mules. He raises Arabian mules on his ranch in Missouri near Sedalia. Today he is still actively performing around the country at the age of 90.

That one picture took about 20 minutes to look at as I reminisce with myself about it, I then call Col Jon on the phone and ask him what he remembers which takes another 20 minutes and by then I'm on to the next picture.

The next picture happened to be one taken at the Hawkeye bar in Marcus, Iowa. Col Jon and I always called Marcus an easy place to get into but a hard place to get out of. Our typical broadcast day at a location was from 10am to 2pm as we did our market reports and special interviews during these hours. Then after 2pm we were free to pack up and leave which never happened at 2pm. Oh we would pack up but we would almost never leave right away. We had people to visit with, libations to enjoy and jokes to tell and then we could leave.

Marcus is a farm community and one of our sponsors this day was a local seed corn company. The district manager was from Marcus. He and local farmer Paul Schrader were into cooking up batches of alcohol. Moonshine if you will. They told us they used corn, wheat, sometimes fruits. Well this particular batch they brought in that day was made from prunes. I had maybe a third of a shot glass full and that was enough to launch the space shuttle. Col Jon thought two full shot glasses of it would be a good test. Test for what I don't know, maybe to send the rover to Mars. We decided that we'd call it Schrader's prune juice. We thought that would be more marketable than Marcus Moonshine. So you can now understand why it takes a long time to go through old pictures. If each one takes 30-40 minutes, I should be done in say never.

Scroll down and see one of the pictures from the Hawkeye Bar taken in 1996.



It was always a cast of characters at the Hawkeye bar in Marcus, Iowa. Among them in this picture is Sioux City Explorers manager Ed Nottle, who coached for the Oakland A's and managed the AAA team for Boston in Pawtucket. Ed is in the front to the left of Emery.