

Generations

Welcoming in the new year

I had a little trouble deciding on what to write about for my first article in 2018.

For instance, I could have written about hot world topics such as the North Korean dictator threatening to send a rocket over to the U.S. for no apparent reason other than he doesn't like us.

Or I could write that I'm embarrassed that our President's Twitter response was a comparison about the size of his button compared to North Korean's button.

Or I could write about the threat of a 19,000-pound space lab falling uncontrollably back to Earth in a place where no one can exactly pinpoint. The unmanned space lab is expected to pay a visit to us Earthlings at some point in March due to China reportedly losing control of the lab nearly two years ago. The Sahara seems like a good target, but apparently the space lab will land where it wants to.

Or I could write about my relief that women are finally speaking out on being attacked, groped, raped, propositioned, etc., by powerful men who happen to think it's their right to do so because they've been getting away with it for decades. It's about time the casting couches in Hollywood and other locations were dismantled. I can only imagine what the greats of the screen had to endure as they worked their way up to stardom — for instance, Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Marilyn Monroe

and others.

I did, however, cringe recently when I read that one actress criticized another actress because she didn't speak out harshly enough against



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Harvey Weinstein. Ladies, come on, is that really important? It hurts us all when women crack their unity by cannibalizing their own sex with ridiculous criticism. Speaking out is what's important.

Or I could write about the 75 unhealthiest foods on the planet according to "Eat This, Not That" but apparently fast food joints need this list more than its public does since their menus violate almost all of the food on the list (broccoli and kale were nowhere to be found but the list did mention that brown rice does contain arsenic, so those people who swear by diets of brown rice and broccoli are breaking even).

I could write about how thankful I am that there was no terrorist threat during the holiday season in our big cities while people were trying to safely ring in the New Year, especially Times Square which is probably the toughest place on earth to keep safe. Thank goodness because we sure needed a break from evil if only to watch the apple come down.

I could write about all the mass shootings, race riots, animal cruelty, and

man's inhuman treatment toward one another, but you can always catch that on any news program.

So, what to write about? Well, how about something light and fun? Reader's Digest online had a list of amazing events in each of our 50 states and, since I don't have room for all 50, I pulled out the best of the best.

Beginning with Alabama native Chad Fell. His claim to fame was winning the title of blowing the biggest pink bubble ever — a whopping 50.8 cm (20 inches). The student at Double Springs High School proudly accomplished the feat with only three pieces of Dubble-Bubble gum. My granddaughter recently showed me that she learned how to blow a bubble and I was dying to show her my skill, but bubble gum and dentures don't mix.

Then there was Edward Martin Sr. of Alaska who never stopped searching for a pot of gold and instead settled on winning the world record for the largest collection of four-leaf clovers — 111,060 to be exact. That's a lot of grass to examine and even more patience.

This next one is dedicated to my daughter Vicki, who will be planning a wedding reception this June. Wedding cakes are awesome, but no one is able to top the one baked by the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut that took home the prize for the world's largest wedding cake: 15,032 pounds.

We all collect things — 45 RPM records, bells, shot

glasses, spoons, baseball cards, comic books, you name it, but Ruth Klossner from Lafayette, Minnesota, probably has most of us beat. She's been collecting cow-related items for more than 32 years and holds the title of the most cow-related items in the world: 15,000 and still collecting.

And here's one from Delaware close to my heart. Lynnea Salvo, 67, holds the world record for the oldest person to cross America by bicycle — Bethany Beach, Delaware, to Oceanside, California — or maybe it was reversed. It really doesn't matter because either way, it was still a staggering 3,163 miles.

There was also a man in Iowa who held the record for the world's longest beard measuring 17 feet, 6 inches at the time of his burial in 1927 and, less amazing, but still making the list, was the priciest hot dog to date in Seattle, Washington, coming in at \$169.

Finally, North Carolina is growing its reputation as a beer powerhouse (our own Morganton is a prime example) and to prove that point, the Raleigh Beer Garden took home the prize title of the most beer brands on tap in 2015, featuring 203 breweries and 369 beers.

Wow! Now all we need is a pretzel company to partner with us.

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