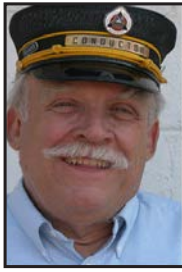


A Coffee Cup



I was recently talking to a waitress at one of my favorite dining spots about their coffee cups. Fine china was not used on trains, and in restaurants, because of their fragility. The cups used in these restaurants were your average mug. The cups used for trains had to be heavier to be able to survive hard use. One place I like to eat gets their cups from thrift shops and they usually last only a couple of months even if they are big and rugged!

I was walking along the railroad tracks recently and saw some broken china, which was on that spot for probably some 90 to a hundred years! During the early years the railroad merely threw their trash off the train as they rolled along, including broken china. I have found lots of old broken china along the tracks usually away from stations. Some of it is pretty broken up, but some are easy to figure out what it was. Each railroad had several styles of decoration, some unique to a train, like the Super Chief. Even Amtrak has their own designs. The small railroads, if they had diners had unique designs, even the Pullman Company. You can still find pieces, like I do, in many places. I eventually learned about the different weights of china. Here and there along the railroad tracks I have found parts of cups, with the handles broken off, but some obviously had none!

Cups however, have a different reason for being heavier. The coffee, or tea, stays hot longer in a thicker cup. Most restaurants use heavy china, and the pattern is often uniform. On the railroads, the crews (if they had a real cup) often had no handles. I have even seen on old steam engines a place on the hot boiler to keep mugs, as well as small pots! I have even seen pictures from World War II ships dining halls with cups without handles!

Pages of the Past

(1958 - Present)

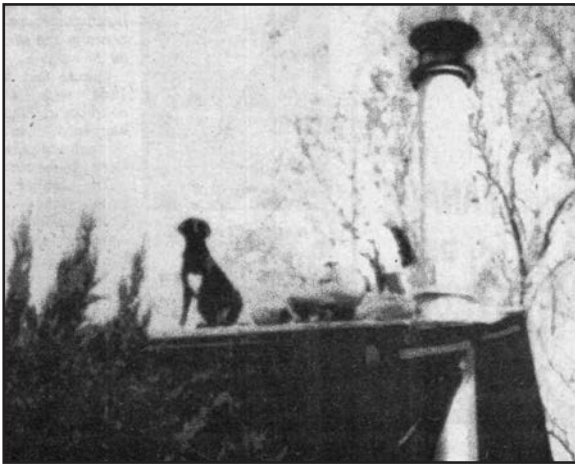


Sixty Years Ago (1962) SECURITY'S OLD TIMERS BASEBALL PROGRAM

Arranging the display for Security's Old Timers Baseball Program were Jim King, Representative of Home Security Industrial Bank and Mrs. Betty E. Nelson, secretary. The bank had this display in its window as a community interest activity in 1962. (Fountain Valley News file photo)

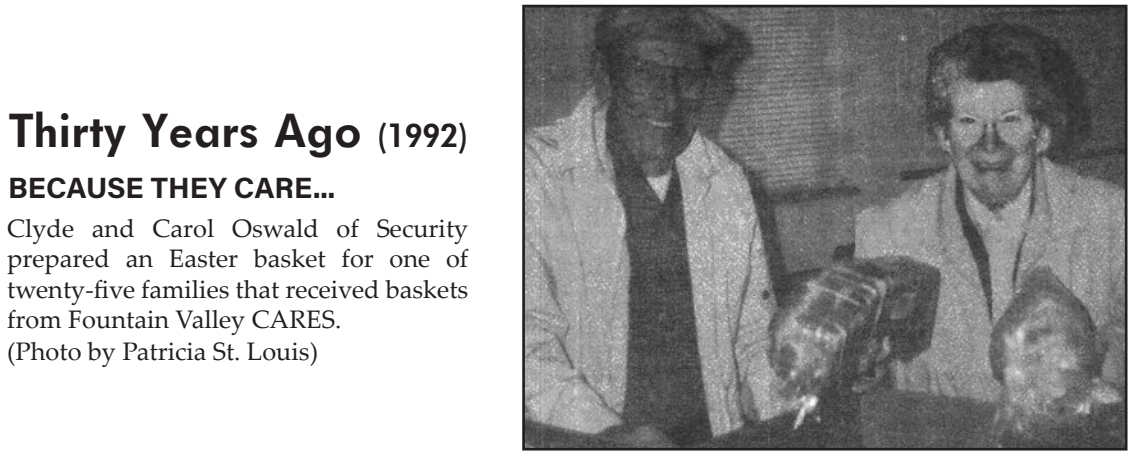
Fifty Years Ago (1972) WHS'S BLAST TO THE PAST

Widefield High School in 1972 had an assembly that commemorated Colorado Spring's centennial with students and staff dressed in costumes from 1882. A contest was held to select winners from among the many who took part. (Fountain Valley News file photo)



Forty Years Ago (1982) TIPSY!

Bob and Corrine Haggart's Labrador Retriever stood guard against further attacks from a squirrel while Bob repaired the damage done. (Photo by Gus Larson)



Thirty Years Ago (1992) BECAUSE THEY CARE...

Clyde and Carol Oswald of Security prepared an Easter basket for one of twenty-five families that received baskets from Fountain Valley CARES. (Photo by Patricia St. Louis)



Twenty Years Ago (2002) IN MEMORY OF RAYMOND MASTERS

Elsie Masters (left), presented a \$1,400 check to Fountain Mayor Ken Barela (right) in 2002 to be used for the Fountain Museum. The donation was made in memory of Elsie's late husband, Raymond. (Photo by Jerry Bahner)

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