



THIS WEEK

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Miranda rights provide protection during police interrogations. **News**

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One man's treasure, another's eyesore



Photo by Debbie Epping

"There's nothing like having a black car with dirt on it because you have the anticipation of making it look like a knockout," Tom Sommerfeld said. Sommerfeld stands by his prized '41 black Cadillac in Gibbon.

Court battles ensue for Kearney State alumnus to display prized antique cars

BY DEBBIE EPPING
Antelope Staff

Riding passenger side down a gravel road in Phelps county, we caught a waft of dust coming through the vents of the '91 Cadillac Deville. To an onlooker, it's simply another car. Once driven off the lot, a car declines in value until it begins to sputter and cough and is traded in for a newer model.

But to Tom Sommerfeld, this beauty will soon be a piece of history. It's evident Sommerfeld has a passion for cars—particularly old cars. An avid collector of all things labeled "junk," Sommerfeld relates everything he collects back to a bigger story.

"That's one thing about car collecting—you get into some really interesting things. I once came across a '65 white Imperial with powder blue interior owned by a lady by the name of Dorothy Lynch," Sommerfeld said.

Sommerfeld's voice trails off, relating cars to history as we make tracks in the dry county roads. He is taking me to see antique vehicles and engines he has relocated to a former lumberyard in the small town of Wilcox. The lumberyard is owned by his friend, Steve Eberline, who still goes by his college nickname—Stretch.

Sommerfeld's voice is soothing. His salt and pepper colored hair brushes the

ANTIQUE CARS, PAGE 4

Students think big for 2010 resolutions

BY ALEX MORALES
Antelope Staff

After gifts are unwrapped, the sugar cookie stash reduced to crumbs, and particularly this past Christmas, after the driveway was scooped, Christmas ideals tend to be punctured and eventually deflated by unfulfilled expectations. But right around the corner, New Year's begins to raise another sense of anticipation.

For junior Roxanne Steinbrink, a management major from Kearney, this second round of anticipation was not punctured, however. In fact, her anticipation propelled her from the starting line as she began to pursue her New Year's resolution—to compete in a half marathon. "I am doing this because it would be a rare accomplishment for me," she said.

A rare accomplishment and certainly a challenge—these aspects offer quality ingredients for any New Year's resolution. The half marathon will take place in Ft. Collins, Colo., in May. According to Steinbrink, consistency with her training will be the most challenging aspect of her resolution. "I think that maintaining a workout routine that progressively gets harder will be the hardest part," she said.

Tessa Kreutzer of Holdrege, a sophomore exercise science major, is also setting the bar high with her resolution. A marathon in itself, Kreutzer has her sights on reading the Bible beginning to end throughout 2010. "It was originally my sister's idea. I liked it, so I decided to join her and take on the challenge," she said.

Kreutzer is happy her sister is pursuing the same goal. "It'll be nice to have someone along the way to keep me on point," she said.

Although anytime is the right time to make a positive change or take on a challenge, every new year serves as a great point to alter your pace. Whether your resolution is to compete in a half marathon or read over 1,000 pages of infallible text, it is the willingness to be challenged that matters.

SEE MORE RESOLUTIONS, PAGE 2

NOTICE TO STUDENTS

All students are eligible to apply for a refund of the "A" portion of student fees until February 10, 2010.

(These fees include programming for events like: concerts and bands, comedians, special speakers, Jim Wand, Homecoming, International Food Festival, Fun 5K, Fame Talent Show and other University events.)

Students claiming a refund will lose benefits provided to Fund "A" users during the Spring semester 2010 and will incur a charge for attending these events.

Application forms are available at the Student Government Office, and in the main office in the Nebraskan Student Union at 1013 West 27th Street, until February 10, 2010.

the antelope

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The Antelope
Mitchell Center
University of Nebraska at Kearney
Kearney, NE 68848Do you know your interrogation rights?
*UNK research centers around false confessions, police coercion***BY JOSH MOODY**
Senior Reporter

The research of Dr. Krista Forrest looks very closely at a position that no one wants to be in. Forrest, who teaches in the psychology department, has focused her research on police interrogations.

**DR. KRISTA FORREST**

Of concern to Forrest and the students who aid her in completing her research are the strategies employed by police that lead to false confessions. Forrest examines practices of police deception and coercion that often result in these false confessions.

The lack of knowledge held by suspects regarding their Miranda rights also plays a key role in Forrest's research.

With the help of students participating in the Undergraduate Research Fellowship program, Forrest has spent several years devoted to understanding the variety of factors that influence a police interrogation. These factors include but are not limited to age, intelligence, sobriety, mental illness and police experience.

In the course of the research conducted by Forrest and her students, they have had numerous high school and college students fill out surveys indicating their understanding of police interrogations as well as their level of experience in dealing with the police. Forrest said that most often the respondents were more familiar with the physical environment

of the interrogations than the procedural process.

"When people think about a police interrogation, the first thing that comes to mind is the environment. These are not inaccurate perceptions, it's a small room with a one-way mirror or no mirror at all, there is a chair and a table, it's not supposed to be comfortable," Forrest said. "It didn't surprise me that people think of these things on a consistent basis, what did surprise me is that they weren't thinking about other things, such as Miranda rights."

Forrest believes that media content has played some role in shaping the often inaccurate perceptions held in regard to police interrogations. With this thought in mind Forrest and her students have begun studying a number of episodes from the past 20 seasons of the popular NBC television series "Law & Order."

"I commend 'Law & Order' for being reflective of what's happening legally in society," Forrest said, explaining that as the show has evolved, so too have the interrogations featured on the crime drama. "In some of the very first episodes the interrogations are shorter, rougher, less likely to talk about Miranda rights and they border the line of what we consider legal and illegal."

Forrest credits "Law & Order" for producing more recent episodes tackling the subject of false confessions as the show has progressed over time. "They've actually dealt with the issues of false confession and police coercion in later episodes, which they didn't do in their earlier episodes," Forrest said.

Forrest cites unfair questioning as an

MIRANDA RIGHTS

You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to speak to an attorney and to have an attorney present during any questioning. If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be provided for you at the government's expense.

other interrogation strategy which may trigger a false confession. The example provided by Forrest was the hypothetical question: "If you were going to do it, how would you do it?"

Forrest explained that when a suspect begins to lay out a possible scenario they will almost inevitably get a few details right. "Humans aren't that creative, there are only so many ways that you can stab someone, there are only so many ways you can hang someone. They're going to say something that fits."

Forrest credits her students for their assistance in the research she has presented. "I couldn't do what I do if it wasn't for my students. They work so hard, and they're so dedicated to accomplishing the research they do with me for the Undergraduate Research Fellowship program."

Another decade, another resolution
UNK students share their hopes, goals for the new year

"I would like to get a car.
Everybody wants a car to cruise around with girlfriends or whatever. It's cool to have a car."

Amami Avewrosuo
Freshman, Biology
Nigeria



"I am starting to do workouts every morning like push-ups and sit-ups. I need to attract the ladies."

Nathan Rogers
Sophomore, Aviation
Boelus



"I want to study abroad in Germany or Greece."

Erika Baltzell
Freshman, Graphic Design
Pleasanton

Letter to the editor:

Students should be aware of award winning movie's basis in UNK history, says alumnus

I recently traveled from where I live in Omaha to my old alma mater in Kearney. I wanted to see for myself the new dormitories that replaced Cass and Ludden Halls. As a 1974 alumnus of then-KSC, I was glad to see the improvements on campus, but I still yearn for the history of these grand old buildings that were the showcase of the beginning of Kearney.

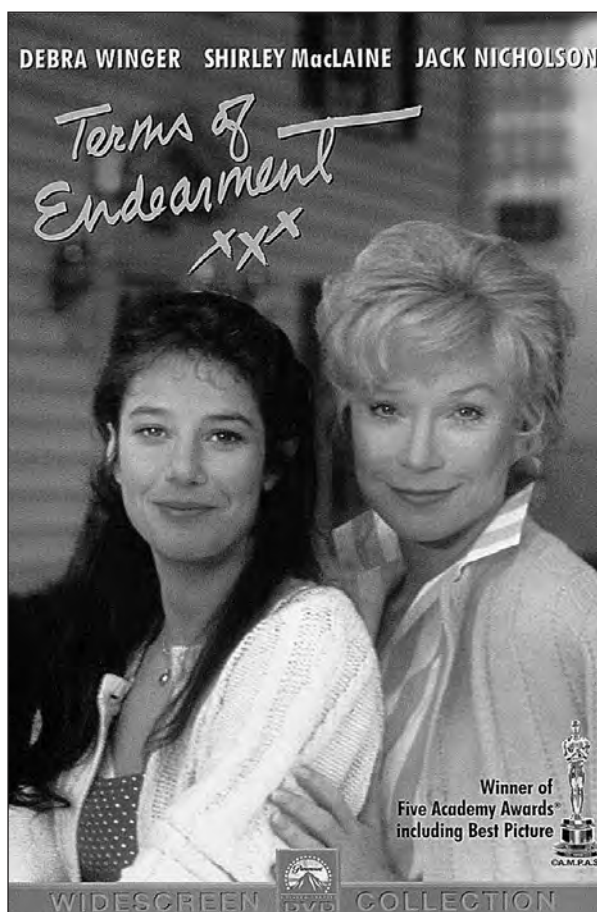
Before I drove home to Omaha, the next stop was to find an article in the Antelope newspaper. I needed to locate an article about the 1974 homecoming queen Nancy. Myself, along with a small team of students including Regina Mick, campaigned on campus to insure she would win this honor.

While at the Calvin T. Ryan Library, in talking to several students who were assisting me with the new technology, I discovered a fact that I was surprised with. I was disappointed to find out that none of the students I talked to knew about "Terms of Endearment."

This 1983 blockbuster movie was a real life story on campus at Kearney in the early 1970s. The story was about a love affair between a married college professor and an undergraduate student. I was there and, like many students, witnessed it. But in the 1970s, this type of behavior was common.

I feel the faculty and staff at the university should at least teach in the English department about this real life story so the student body would be aware of these events that led to a book as well as to an academy award winning motion picture. The book is at the Calvin T. Ryan Library. After all, it is a part of Kearney's history.

John Mallon
1974 Alumnus



Internet Movie Database, www.imdb.com

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Do you have something you want to share with the campus and community? Do you strongly agree or disagree with a story or editorial? It's time to make yourself heard.

Mail:

Readers' Opinions
c/o The Antelope editor
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University of Nebraska at Kearney
Kearney, NE 68848

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Sudoku ★☆☆☆☆

How to play:

Sudoku is a placement puzzle. The aim of the puzzle is to enter a numeral from 1 through 9 in each cell of the grid. Each row, column and region must contain only one instance of each numeral. Completing the puzzle requires patience and logical ability. The puzzle initially became popular in Japan in 1986 and attained international popularity in 2005.

5				6				4
	9			2			5	
4			1		5			7
8		4				7		1
		5	2		3	4		
1		6				3		5
3			7		9			2
	6			8			4	
2				4				3

Find answer on page 7

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

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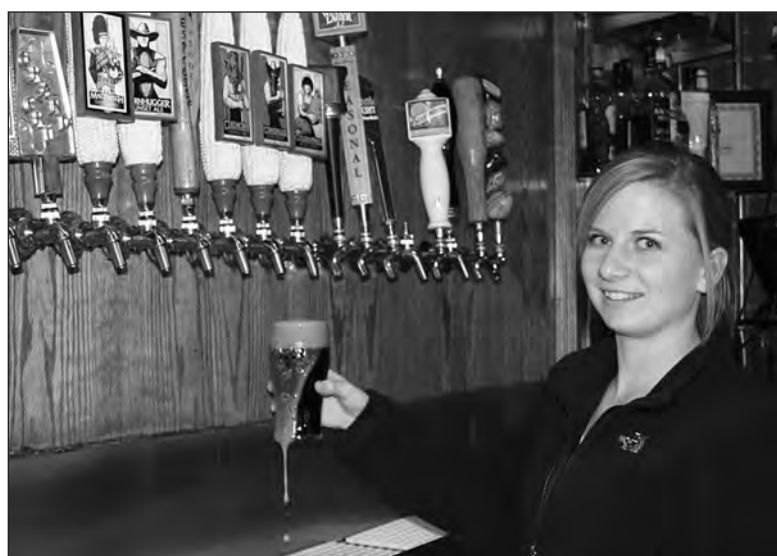


Photo by Debbie Epping

Jordan Heiliger, a sophomore political science major from Lincoln, serves up a pint at Thunderhead Brewing in downtown Kearney.

"I think it's important to card everyone because I wouldn't want me or the business to get fined," Heiliger said. Thunderhead was in the 86 percent of businesses who refused to sell alcohol to minors in a recent sting conducted by the Kearney Police Department, Buffalo County Sheriff's Office and Nebraska State Patrol. According to a press release, of the 94 businesses checked, 13 were cited for selling alcohol to minors. Serving a minor is a major offense—classified as a Class I misdemeanor, it is punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Antique cars from page 1

Sommerfeld continues fight over land laws

rim of his aviator framed glasses. He's wearing a leather jacket over his red long-sleeved plaid shirt. The leather almost brings a new car smell back to the aging vehicle.

"You know the reason people don't buy black cars—they show dirt."

But for him, this was part of the challenge: "There's nothing like having a black car with dirt on it because you have the anticipation of making it look like a knock-out," Sommerfeld explains.

Sommerfeld's interest in cars and history can be traced back to his childhood. Born in Hastings in 1951, Sommerfeld's father was an electrician.

The early years

"I was more interested in a lot of mechanical things when I was really young, so I did an awful lot of things before I was 10 years old," Sommerfeld said.

It was around 1960 when Sommerfeld first became acquainted with the word "antique." His aunt who lived in California told stories about people who were going up and finding things in people's attics. This was about the time collecting antiques really caught on as a hobby.

"It took me a long time to realize I liked things for what they were," Sommerfeld said.

Sommerfeld said an eye-opening experience at an auto thrill show (demolition derby) at the county fair in 1962 changed his way of thinking about old cars forever.

"I specifically remember I looked out, and there was my neighbor's Dodge car. I knew that car. It was on my paper route. Then all at once—there it was and WHAM! there it wasn't. To me it was just a sacrilege to think you're just going to take a car and dispose of it like that," Sommerfeld said.

Sommerfeld is the first to admit it's a different way of thinking.

"There's usually about 99 percent of the people who think one way and 1 percent who think the other way. People like to put you in a box. They like to control you," Sommerfeld said.

It's clear Sommerfeld is one of the



Photo by Debbie Epping

Tom Sommerfeld shows off his horse-drawn steam engine that dates back to 1900. Sommerfeld relocated the steam engine from Colorado to his friend Stretch's lot in Wilcox. The steam engine still has its original finish, keeping it true to its antique look. "These are so hard to find ... If that would have gotten on the Internet on a bid, that would have been a lot of money," Sommerfeld said.

free thinkers.

"It doesn't mean you want to do things that don't work, but you know the future always holds things we don't see now. JFK said, 'People look at things that are and ask, Why?' I look at things that never were and say, Why not? I think that's what our country should stand for," Sommerfeld said.

More dreams than money

The first opposition Sommerfeld met to his hobby came from his own grandfather.

"We lived in town and my grandpa lived out on an acreage, and eventually there was a time when I took a car down

there to store it. Grandpa kind of had a fit even though he had three acres. That one car," Sommerfeld said waving his finger in the air. "He was afraid what the neighbors would think."

It wouldn't be the last time Sommerfeld faced opposition toward his antiques.

Sommerfeld pulls into the lot covered with buildings and an unsystematic display of antiques.

"This is my big 'junkyard' over here," Sommerfeld chuckles to himself. "I gave over \$2,000 a piece

for each of these cars. Of course they don't know that."

Some pieces in his collection are worth more—a lot more.

Sommerfeld admires a steam engine he got in Colorado that dates back to 1900.

"These are so hard to find. It had a seat on the front and would use a horse to pull it.

You talk about a deal. If that would have gotten on the Internet on a bid, that would have been a lot of money," Sommerfeld said.

The steam engine has an original finish, and Sommerfeld is pleased it has remained unpainted.

"Look at those rivets. It's just as authentic as can be," Sommerfeld said.

Nearby a rare antique truck lies half-way between the shadows of the shed and the light of the sun.

"This is almost identical to the vehicle in the 'Beverly Hillbillies' movie," Sommerfeld said.

There's no doubt there is money in antique collecting. Despite some of Sommerfeld's more valuable collectibles, it's clear he isn't in it for the money.

"Just because something isn't worth a lot of money doesn't mean it's junk," Sommerfeld said.

Sommerfeld views collecting as an art form. He collects for the sheer artistic value.

"A lot of people who have money don't have dreams. I have way more dreams than money," Sommerfeld said.

Scrap salvaging

Soon after moving some of his collection into Wilcox, he was approached by a man who works for the town board accusing Sommerfeld of running a junkyard.

Sommerfeld is no stranger to city officials who oppose his collections.

After graduating from Kearney State College in 1975 with a degree in math and physics Sommerfeld turned down big-city jobs in Cleveland and Detroit for his small town dream and desire to work in a machine shop.

"When I first started at Eaton, they didn't want degreed people in the shop.

Although I didn't make much money compared to those guys who were moving up in management, I think I had a lot more fun and had a better career doing what I did. I wanted to be the best machinist I could be," Sommerfeld said.

Sommerfeld moved to Gibbon in 1978, a convenient 11 miles from his job in Kearney. He liked the small town atmosphere of the town that still bears a sign welcoming travelers to "Smile City."

"I've always liked the town," Sommerfeld said.

In Gibbon, Sommerfeld was able to build upon his collection of cars he had accumulated through high school and college. His motivation? No one else was saving the cars from the scrap heap.

"If you went to an auction and didn't buy something, the iron man was right behind you, and he was going to cut it up for iron, so that would be the end of it," Sommerfeld said.

The passion and interest in cars and mechanics that stemmed from his childhood only grew stronger.

"It's just a lot of fun to try to enjoy this type of thing. My life is in Technicolor. So many people see the colors, but it doesn't mean anything to them. They don't dare to enjoy anything," Sommerfeld said.

Working seven days a week at Eaton, Sommerfeld would often have to make arrangements to buy cars at auctions. "More than once I spent \$1,000 because I couldn't be there to buy something. I have occasionally been out of state, but a lot of my collecting was right here in the central part of Nebraska," Sommerfeld said.

Sommerfeld never paid much heed to people who told him he was buying too many cars.

From a collector's point of view, the only two mistakes he's really made are not buying something or selling something.

"The bad thing is if you buy what you like, it makes it a little more difficult in being realistic in selling it later on. I think this is often times the case with any collector," Sommerfeld said.

Not just junk

A series of court battles that still rile Sommerfeld, because he argues that his Constitutional rights were violated, began in 1980. He had bought a piece of ground in Gibbon—about the size of a city block, and over the years, he developed it by hauling in dirt and making it into a better piece of land.

"Then I parked a couple trucks over there. That's when the fight started," Sommerfeld said.

"Well you can't park anything over there," city officials allegedly told him.

"I beg your pardon? I own the place," Sommerfeld said.

"We have these old ordinances and this is just trash. This is just junk," they said.

But to Sommerfeld and fellow collectors, the word "junk" has a different meaning.

"We always like to call it junk. I love to call it junk. But that's not what it is," Sommerfeld said.

Stretch agrees. "We don't buy junk to start with. It's not junk. People may think it is, but it's not," Stretch said.

Like Sommerfeld, Stretch believes in

keeping "old iron" out of the iron pile.

Sommerfeld attributes people's disdain for his collection to the fact they don't understand it.

"I'll admit I'm probably the extreme case on this. I'm the type of person who would move in 100 cars, and I still feel it's my property and the neighbors can do their thing, and I'll do my thing," Sommerfeld said.

I fought the law and lost

Sommerfeld believes unnecessary city ordinances strip people of their Constitutional rights.

"You would think that the city ordinance would be subject to state law, and state law is always subject to federal law, and federal law is always subject to the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights is the supreme law of the land. Now, naively, I used to think that's the way things worked," Sommerfeld said.

When Sommerfeld went to court in 1995, he found that there is a state law prohibiting a person from keeping an unli-

scensed antique or special interest car anywhere people can see it. It has to be out of the public view.

"I wound up fighting the case, and then I put up a fence because the court said they had to be out of public view. That lasted from 1995 until 2005," Sommerfeld said.

After Sommerfeld put up the fence, he displayed some of his antique tractors in front of the fence because people showed a lot of interest in them.

"People would come off of Highway 30 and drive by there because they were so fascinated looking at all

that stuff," Sommerfeld said.

Sommerfeld left the cars and tractors unpainted to maintain their vintage look. He said he would mow the property but let the grass grow around the tractors to make it look a little more rustic.

"I like rustic views. I like tractors without paint. How bizarre is that?" Sommerfeld said.

Another complaint put Sommerfeld back in court. This time he lost the case in

"You would think that the city ordinance would be subject to state law, and state law is always subject to federal law, and federal law is always subject to the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights is the supreme law of the land. Now, naively, I used to think that's the way things worked."

Tom Sommerfeld
Antique car collector

the district court. While he was in the process of appealing the case, the city came in, took down the fence and started towing his collection while Sommerfeld was at work.

Sommerfeld's neighbor's stood behind him.

"I think what they did to him is atrocious," said Glenn Kollars, a Gibbon resident for 31 years. "They broke in on his property and started towing things off—marked which ones they wanted with spray paint and took them. I don't even see how it's legal."

When Sommerfeld found out what was happening, he hired people to help him save what was left of his collection. "It was madness. I had to haul, and they were hauling, and I was hauling. Everything I could get out of there was mine, and whatever they were hauling out, I couldn't get back. It was just bizarre," Sommerfeld said.

"The upshot of it was that they came in and hauled out about 85 cars, 13 tractors, a rare Gardner steam engine which there's only one left of in the world, a classic 100-year-old jail cell that came out of the Hamilton county court house, among other things," Sommerfeld said.

Gibbon city attorney Barry Hemmerling said the city had a court order. Gibbon has public nuisance laws just like any other city preventing citizens from having unsightly property that damages the value

ANTIQUE CARS, PAGE 7

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Snow disrupts holiday plans

How did the weather affect your travel and holiday activities?



"I had to leave work early twice to make it home for Christmas. Then I was snowed in for about a week."

Brooke Wallman
Senior, Psychology
Adams



"It didn't. I drove right through it!"

Ben Fullerton
Junior, Physics and Business
Management
Neligh



"I left before the weather got bad. I was in California, so the weather was awesome."

Paloma Mena-Worth
Music Education
Kearney



"The first day I came here it snowed heavily. I had to wait for 12 hours for a delayed plane."

Seul Ji
Junior, Journalism
South Korea



Photo by Heidi England

Snow still stands in huge piles outside of the union after the recent snow storms that plagued Kearney over winter break. With the warmer weather that last few days, ice has become an issue with slick sidewalks and incidents of pedestrians slipping on the ice.



"We weren't able to leave Kearney to celebrate Christmas in Iowa City until December 28th. On the way, we counted over 100 cars and trucks on the side of the road."

Dr. Gary Davis
Honors Department
Director



"We were snowed in and we had to get a person with a four-wheel drive vehicle to pick us up from our house."

Lanusa Tafoya
Freshman, Art
Omaha



"It didn't really affect my holiday plans too much; which I'm grateful for. If anything, it just made getting to work a lot harder; especially because I'm from out of town."

Kristie Draper
Sophomore, Early
Childhood Development
Lexington

Quotes compiled by Bethany Shinn, Emily Wemhoff, Heidi England, Heenam Guk, Erik Dodge, Ciarra Williams and Rebecca McMickell

Antique cars from page 5

of adjoining property.

In Tom’s case, he was in violation of an ordinance for leaving trash, litter, rags, old metal, automobiles, etc. around his property, Hemmerling said. “A more specific ordinance on motor vehicles prevents individuals from having unlicensed vehicles on their property.”

The case in appeals was eventually heard by the appellate court, which ruled with the lower court. As the appeal was fought, the city claimed they’d cleaned up the mess, and it was a moot point

A true habitat

Sommerfeld had supporters who thought the city committed a crime because his antique cars should have been put up for bid. “How could it be legal for them to own something, when it isn’t legal for me to own it?” Sommerfeld asked.

“I have to do everything the city council tells me. To me, it’s pretty preposterous. It comes back to a thing called liberty. The flaws in America have been many. The case I have is very symptomatic of a lot

bigger problem,” Sommerfeld said. “Tom is a decent guy,” Hemmerling said. “I think he accumulates this stuff with the idea it’s going to be his retirement. He’s not a bad guy, he’s just got a different opinion on things.”

Hemmerling said the city made arrangements to start towing, and he doesn’t think Sommerfeld really believed they were going to do it. “It kind of became a race to see who could haul stuff faster.”

“I don’t know how the city is going to make it right with me,” Sommerfeld said.

Much of Sommerfeld’s collection was sold. Some of it was scrapped. They destroyed the Gardner steam engine. “It went to the storage yard of the junk guy, and it is the city’s right to sell it to pay for the towing expenses,” Hemmerling said. “If they sold it for a bunch of money, Tom would have gotten the overage.”

“They think this is all said and done. Who knows how it will wind up?” Sommerfeld said.

Sommerfeld currently has lawyers in Chicago working on the case defending his

Constitutional right to his property over these city ordinances and state law.

“It isn’t the money ... I was after the cars. I was after the gas engines. I was after the steam engines. I was after all these other things that I collected,” Sommerfeld said.

Hemmerling said, “Tom’s was a huge issue. Part of Tom’s problem was that it’s in a residential area.”

Sommerfeld clearly has a different view. “This is true habitat. Most people don’t understand it,” Sommerfeld said.

Retired now, Sommerfeld plans to continue pursuing his lifelong hobby of collecting antiques—even if others don’t understand.

“A lot of it is the dream. It’s the spark that you’ve got when you have something and can see something in it that nobody else can see,” Sommerfeld said.

Sudoku answer:

Upside down, from page 3

3	7	8	1	4	9	6	5	2
9	4	5	2	8	3	1	9	7
2	1	9	6	5	7	8	4	3
5	9	3	4	7	8	9	2	1
6	8	4	3	1	2	5	7	9
1	2	7	9	6	5	4	3	8
7	9	6	5	3	1	2	8	4
8	5	1	7	2	4	3	9	6
4	3	2	8	6	9	7	1	5

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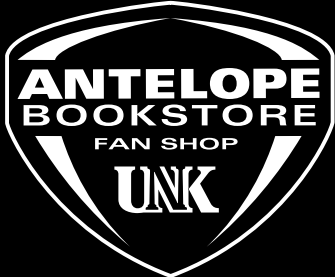
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