

I Have Gas

I know what you are thinking... and no... not that kind. This morning, I set out to complete my Halloween costume (still missing something I would have liked to add, but not essential). Ran into some old friends/former co-workers and chatted a bit and caught up and let them know that I have not completely disappeared from the planet.

I also bought my first Christmas gift for the menagerie of people I choose to buy for. Someone mentioned that they enjoy a certain fantasy book series so I looked for that. Then I realized that a movie was made from the series and luckily enough I found that. One down... several to go.

Just before I hit the city limits on my way home, I glanced at the dashboard. The little needle was in the red zone with very little room to go. I found the first driveway available, headed to the nearest station, and made it just as the little light came on. **PHEW!**

I Enjoyed His Second Childhood Immensely

They say a hat makes the man. Grandpa probably would say that a hat (as well as a suit) is like a man and likes to step out once in a while (pretty girl or no pretty girl). One of my favorite parts of Meet Me in St. Louis was the enormous array of wonderful hats I got to wear as Grandpa Prophater. I pick out most of them from the costume room at the Huber and one was brought by the producer. Grandpa went from a genuine Shriner's fez with tassel and all kinds of bells and whistles

to a Holmesian deerstalker cap on Halloween to a huge Admiral's hat and one more that I will expound upon in a moment. There were a few plain, ordinary hats that were just not wild enough. There were only two scenes in which Grandpa was not seen wearing one: a dinner scene with the family and the Christmas Ball (although I thought the old Civil War vet would have looked smashing in a top hat with his old tuxedo he had gotten out of mothballs).

The Admiral's hat presented a few problems as I began to learn how to wear it. I thought it should be worn "sideways" with the ends at the sides. Then, I had it on backwards with the tailfeather hanging over my face. Finally, I got it right amidst thunderous applause. The first time I rehearsed with it, the entire cast had to stop the scene from laughing. I was told that I looked like Cap'n Crunch which was where I got the inspiration to wear the cap sideways. I also had to be careful entering during the very serious scene as the audience roared as I snuck in through the kitchen door after performing Grandpa's favorite pastime: eavesdropping.

The deerstalker was my idea. It added a nice touch to the Halloween excitement of egging on "Agnes" and "Tootie" in their quest to throw flour into the faces of evil cat poisoners and other monsters. It also helped in discovering the truth behind the mysterious injury to Tootie's lip.

I had discovered a fez in my combing of the costume department. However, a much better one was found complete with medallion to wear around my neck and handy pouch to store them in. I felt like I should be in the Shriner's Convention scene in Bye, Bye Birdie or the Grand Poobah of the Loyal Order of Waterbuffalo.

My next to final costume was by far the most challenging, but one of the most entertaining. The family is awakened EARLY by Mr. Smith on Christmas morning. I KNEW Grandpa had to have a memorable outfit for sleeping. I knew exactly what I wanted.

The turquoise robe was already there. The costume mistress took my measurements for a long nightshirt and the *piece de resistance*: a wonderful multi-colored, tassled nightcap. I loved it. After the scene, not so much. I had to make the fastest change I have ever made into my summer outfit for the World's Fair. The hardest part of the role. At one of the dress rehearsals, I came out clutching the night shirt and made everyone think I was Linus from the Peanuts comic strip. Thankfully, I was able to devise a scheme to change quicker.

I think this will be my final post for *Meet Me in St. Louis*. Each production I have ever been in has been different than the last. Each performance of every production I have been in has been different than the last (for better or worse) but that is the beauty of live theatre. Everyone involved has to be on their toes and at their best. That is one of the many things I will always cherish about it.

To those who made a trip to St. Louis, I hope you had a great ride. To those who could not, my apologies. I hope that one was surely watching from above saw me continue to grow. There are better shows out there but I think big, happy, family-friendly shows need to be done if not only as an escape from today's troubling reality.

Drop Hangars And Other Uninvited Guests

Today was a rather hectic, busy, but ultimately rewarding day. The Sunday before the opening of any show I have ever been in (no matter the venue) is known as Tech Sunday (or as I like to refer it... Hell Sunday). This day was much different

than ones I am used to. Today involved trying on the rented costumes which we just acquired... I am happy to report that my costume fits nicely. After trying on the costume, I helped hang three drops that will be flown from the rafters of the Huber. FINALLY, the tech rehearsal began. Microphones tried for the first time... some successfully, others... well, we were promised that they would be worked on. Good to know!!! the rehearsal was much more for the lights and sound cues as we just rushed through lines, songs, everything. I have every confidence that the dress rehearsals will go magnificently beginning tomorrow... The best of times; the worst of times.

I am happy to say that my ticket count continues to grow. Today, I had to pick up two for opening night. For Saturday night, I have already purchased 4 and tomorrow I have been asked to pick up 4 more. Glad to know that I am contributing to the audience count.

After rehearsal, I needed to get the tickets to Megan and Carol. Megan and I decided to make the final showing of [The Uninvited](#). A very suspenseful movie that I will not dwell upon since [taylhis](#) has already done so. I, too would find it hard to post a full review as there is just so much good stuff packed into the 90 minutes that it would be hard not to give anything away. Excellent movie. But I am pleased to say that we both enjoyed all the twists and turns and even were getting to the point of overanalysis while eating at Pizza Hut which I can now tell I will be paying for.

[Buy Movie Tickets Online Now!](#)

Indiana Jones-ette

Remember that CNN.com article I wrote about the unusual names? The article spotlighted a little girl named Indiana Elizabeth Jones and her brother, Dow. Well, this post is not going to be about them.

Rather, it's an excuse to post a cute photo of my 4-year-old daughter wearing an Indiana Jones-like costume. For the real buffs out there, I know it's not exact, but it's still cute...



Halloween

Our trick-or-treating was actually on Thursday, and we had lots of fun. It's a darn shame though that we lost our camera along the way, and even after numerous calls to the police station, it hasn't turned up. But after trick-or-treating, we went to our friends' church party, and they took a Halloween picture of our whole family. I wonder if they'll sneak it into the newspaper next year to advertise their party. They did that this year – imagine my surprise when I'm flipping through the paper the other day and there's a picture of us from Halloween last year, dressed as a fish with my husband

the monk beside me holding Pebbles Flintstone.

I just hope there wasn't anything else too important on that camera. Also, it was an expensive camera which my husband had won, not to mention the fact that we're now without a camera. We had to finish the rest of our Halloween celebrations without taking any pictures. On tap today was the community Halloween party at the ice rink – there's no ice in there yet. Instead, they set up carnival games, bouncy castles, a cardboard box maze, and face painting for the kids. They have hay (straw) rides through the "haunted" fields, and each kid that attends gets a bag of popcorn and a trick-or-treat bag to put their candy in when they win it from the games. It's very cool, and the best part is that it's all free – including hot dogs and punch for the whole family. For some reason, this year's turnout was a bit lacking – less than 1/3 of the people from last year I would estimate. I guess it's because they had it after Halloween this year? I don't really get why that would scare (haha) people away – a free fun thing for the kids including dinner? It'd be hard to keep us away! Since I only have one Halloween picture of the kids and they're cute, I'm reluctantly sharing the whole family's Halloween picture, myself included – I love dressing up for Halloween and wanted to get more mileage out of my less-than-\$5 80's costume. One of the funnest things about dressing up is being creative and finding things that make a costume for a bargain. Next year I want to be Dorothy from Wizard of Oz, so I'll have to be on the lookout all year for a dress and shoes I can use. Here is a list of people and costumes from this year:

Taylor – almost 9 years old – a costume she put together herself involving a dress, a cape, and devil horns

Sammie – 4 yrs – a princess

Disney – 2 yrs – a unicorn

Christopher – almost 3 mos. – a lion cub

Dad – an escaped inmate

Mom – a time traveller from the 80's



Hope everyone had a great Halloween!

Halloween

Tony and I are having problems finding ideas for Halloween costumes. We want something that will work as a couple, but something also quick and cheaper than what we have been finding. I would love a costume to shock people, but it is not a necessity. So, if anyone has a suggestion, please, please let me know. We would really appreciate it.

Astonishing

Tonight is our final run through of *Little Women* before we have an actual audience. Last night, the director wanted us to have a night to relax and get some much needed sleep... so we pretty well had a walk-through of the first act and the first

scene of the second. The whole production is phenomenal from the period costumes and set to the lighting design (thank you again [justj](#)), to the excellent cast (every performer on stage brings life to their character). We even have two members of the cast who double as musicians in our small orchestra pit. That takes an extreme amount of talent especially when the main musician jumped on board about two weeks ago and is just going to be a freshman in college in the fall.

Following our rough rehearsal of a week ago, I must say that everyone involved has kicked it up at least 10 notches and everything has fallen into place. I have been asked if I was going to be in another local group's production of *The Music Man* later this summer. In deciding between the two, I decided to audition for *Little Women* and see what happened. I am much more familiar with *The Music Man* but said this is something I had never heard before... is that a good thing... going with something new and little known instead of going with the traditional? Do casting directors judge by how many big name shows you have been in or look for the unusual? But, I can honestly say that *Little Women* has been an absolute thrill to be part of. And anyone who lives in or near our little rural Northwest Ohio vicinity should check out the website for the [Williams County Community Theatre](#) and come and see this spectacular show. It is definitely one NOT TO BE MISSED.

Murder on Friday the 13th

With the kids out of town and Friday the 13th upon us, we found it to be the perfect time to break out a game we found at the thrift store months ago – a Murder Mystery Party. After a check to make sure all the contents were there, we started inviting friends to attend a murder mystery party at

our house:

Dear *Name of Character Here*,

Hart's untimely death casts suspicion on us all. The police report has already been filed (see enclosed). We must meet quickly in order to solve the murder and clear our good names.

Hosted By:

on Friday, June 13 at 6:00pm

Please RSVP by Wednesday, June 11

Please bring a dish to share – no poison

We sent this email to each guest along with the police report detailing the homicide. We began with our game night regulars, then when some of them couldn't make it, we tried to cast accordingly. The casting, by the way, just happened to work out perfectly. Originally, we were going to have to make a male character female, but once we switched some things around based on which guests were coming, it all worked out. And in retrospect, the swapping male for female thing would not have worked well at all! My husband and I were originally going to be the married couple, but those characters were a few decades older than us, and the characters we did end up playing had a secret infatuation with each other, so we were both pleased to discover this in the course of the game. Unfortunately, when my turn came to come up with a 'formal accusation', evidence dictated that I point my finger at my husband, aka, secret crush, but that's how you play the game. Each guest came in costume and character and stayed that way for the roughly 3 hours we played the game. All in all, a lot of fun, and we've already had several people who were disappointed that they couldn't make it. So, we'll have to scour the thrift stores and / or the internet in hopes of finding another one of these Murder Mystery games to play... providing we can get all (almost 4!) kids out of the house for an evening again... hmmm, that might be the REAL mystery!