

## Driving and Curfews

Our town's founding fathers must have had ulterior motives when they decided how to layout the city streets and commence to name them. It was unfortunate enough that the landscape was as flat as a pancake and you could see everything and everyone for miles. I do believe the city planners must have used a piece of graph paper for their blueprint. All of the streets either ran east-to-west or north-to-south. There were no circles or cul-de-sacs and hardly a street that makes a curve in the majority of town. (Those innovative ideas came decades later.)

Evidently they had education in mind too because beginning with downtown, where I suppose all towns begin, the planners began naming the streets that ran north-to-south after trees and put them in alphabetical order. They made it to Juniper Street and the names of trees ceased. Maybe they ran out of ideas, because trees don't naturally grow there. Possibly they didn't want everybody to be constantly reminded of the shortage of trees by seeing names of trees plastered on every corner. I don't know why they didn't just go with the names of the weeds that grow there and give the farmers such problems.

Heading the opposite direction they decided to name the streets after cities in the United States - in alphabetical order too. When they ran through the entire alphabet using American cities, they started all over again with cities in Texas. You guessed it - in alphabetical order.

That leaves the streets that ran east-to-west and of course every town is inclined to number its streets so that outsiders will know how much they've grown. Our town had twenty-four numbered streets during my early driving days.

To a teenager, this street-naming situation was not good. How could you tell your parents you were home late because you got lost? We weren't as fortunate as those teenagers in a town not too far north of us. Their city planners must have strictly had education in mind. Their streets are named after Presidents of the United States. And, no they are not in alphabetical order, they are in the order that they served as president. Now that's a real excuse for getting lost! And when you've used up the "lost" excuse you could claim that you were studying history. One could practice by crossing over each street and seeing if they could play a game of, "name that president" before reaching the next intersection.

Now that was using "interactive learning" skills before the word could even be found in educational manuals!