

Chapter XVII

Integration

August 25, 1960 – April 8, 1961

With Norma's exciting news, they all sat down together for Dinner. The grandkids were as excited to see Grandma Brason as she held all five of them just a little tighter one by one and told them that she loved them. She wished that she could have done the same for number six.

Oh but the grandchildren were more than a head count or a tally to brag about. Each one was special and unique, starting with Little Geannie, who was seven and would be in the second grade. She wasn't so little any more and didn't like being referred to as Little Geannie any more and insisted on being called Gean. Then there were, Geoffrey and Teresa, the twin cousins. They were now five and wouldn't be starting school for another year. They were best buddies and playmates. Their resemblance was uncanny for cousins of the opposite gender. Next came Samantha and Todd, who were two years old. Less than three months apart in age, they were a handful when they were together. Had everything gone right, Anthony would have been born in early August. He would ever be numbered among his cousins. Now Craig and Edith were expecting their fourth child and Sheffield and Ramona's seventh grandchild in October and Norma and Wade were expecting their third which would make eight grandchildren.

Summer was quickly coming to an end and Ramona had missed out on most of it, but there were two weeks left before school started again. There was still a lot of canning to do and her business to get caught up on. The economy had been in recession since April, so business was slow anyway. Oh and don't forget, the Labor Day picnic and reunion. For most families, one reunion a year was enough, but the Brasons had to have two formal reunions, not to mention all of the informal, unnamed get togethers.

Despite the recession, the entire area had continued to grow. When school started on September 7th, there was yet another new high school in the district. This one was Northside High School. As the name suggested, it was on the north side of Roanoke, up near the airport. Rather than drawing students from Jefferson High School as Cave Spring High School had done, its student body was drawn from Andrew Lewis High School in Salem and William Byrd High School in Vinton.

Although Jefferson didn't lose any students, on the first day of school, they actually gained a number of students from Harrison High School. That was a controversial move both politically and socially. Harrison High School had been Roanoke's Negro high school since 1916.

Integration was a very emotionally charged issue across the entire nation. Obviously there were people with strong opinions on either side of the matter. Those who were opposed were quite vocal in their feelings and did not want to see it go through. According to them, the races should remain separate. Sheffield and Ramona welcomed it, believing everyone needed to have a chance. Ramona knew first hand what prejudice could be since her mother, and to some degree she herself, had experienced it because of

her mother being a half breed.

The integration of the public school system had been mandated by the courts. Hopefully all would go well as a number of public restaurants as well as Younger Park Library had already been peacefully integrated since the end of 1959. On the first day of school at Jefferson High School, all seemed to go well. Only time would tell.

After school when Sheffield and Coach Warfman met with the wrestling team candidates, including a young man who had been a state champion in the Virginia Colored High School Athletic Association the year before. On first meeting Otis Williamson, Sheffield was impressed with his potential.

During the ensuing tryout period, Otis did very well and worked hard to make the team and to fit in. Not all of the other potential wrestlers wanted him on their team. David Packard in particular did not want to see him succeed. Despite the rules that Coach Brason laid down on the first day about excessive roughness, David went out of his way to dissuade Otis. David had also been a state champion the year before himself and a lot of the team's potential hinged on him.

During the second week during sparring practice the two were paired up against each other and David held nothing back and became downright brutal. Otis showed restraint as he held him off. It became apparent to Sheffield partway through the match when David slammed Oti's head to the mat. At first it didn't seem to be on purpose. It became very obvious when he put Otis in a choke hold and elbowed him in the abdomen. Sheffield blew his whistle to break it up. David didn't respond and put on more pressure.

Sheffield blew his whistle once more while making his way to the mat, with Coach Warfman right behind him. Sheffield grabbed David by the arm and pulled him off of Otis and drug him off the mat over to the sidelines. Meanwhile Coach Warfman attended to Otis who was gasping for breath.

"What was that all about, Packard?" Sheffield demanded.

"We were just sparring coach." he answered innocently.

"Is that what you call it. It looked like a death match to me."

"He started it."

"It didn't look like it from where I was sitting. If you make it on the team this year, you have to get along and work with everyone, including Williamson. Do I make myself clear, Mister Packard." Sheffield said in his military voice, trying to be calm.

"Just give me a chance and I'll kill that Niger sonuvabitch."

"That's it Packard, you're finished here. Hit the shower and get out of here and don't come back. I'm scratching from the list right now. See." Sheffield said as he drew a line through his name.

"You can't do that to me."

"I just did. No beat it before take you down myself."

Somehow he knew that the Admiral was serious. "You'll hear about this." he yelled as he stomped off to the showers.

By then all of the other boys were watching the uncharacteristic display by their coach. "Alright, all of you get back to what you're supposed to be doing." he ordered.

"He went over to Otis and asked, "Are you alright, Otis?"

"Yeah Coach, I'm alright. He should be glad that I was on my best behavior."

"I don't know if he is or not, but I'm glad that you were. I'd of hated having to scratch you too. You have some real potential."

After several more minutes he saw David leave the gym and blew his whistle and sent them all to the showers. Sheffield met with Coach Warfman to review the progress of the candidates.

"You know." Coach Warfman began, "You just made a lot of people mad at you."

"That's alright. I've had people mad at me before. Humph. Once I was the most wanted man in North Korea. I understand that they went as far as to put a price on my head. Last I checked I still have it. My head that is."

"He was right you know. You'll hear about this."

"Oh I'm sure I will. What are they going to do, fire me. I'm supposed to be retired anyway."

"I admire your guts, Sheffield."

"Thanks. Now how about Peters? Do you think..."

Sheffield held back and waited until everyone had cleared the school grounds. No one, not even Otis saw him watching to make sure that he got of the school grounds without incident. He did.

Sheffield scarcely got home when the telephone rang. "Here we go." Sheffield thought to himself as he took a breath before answering.

"Is this Coach Brason?" an angry voice demanded.

"Yes, thats me." Sheffield answered as he braced for what was coming.

"Where the hell do you get off cutting my kid from the wrestling team?"

"I assume that I am speaking with Harold Packard."

"You're damed right you are. So you know who I am."

"Yes I do. I have spoken with you on several occasions at your son's matches. I also know that you are the prosecuting attorney."

"Enough of the pleasantries, Brason. Answer my question. Why did you cut my kid from the team?"

"Because he broke the rules. He was using excessive roughness during a sparing match."

"He told me he was just defending himself against that goddamn Niger."

“For starters, his sparing partner is a human being and has a name. Secondly that young man was using restraint. If not, he would have given your son the thumping that he deserved.”

“Do you have any witnesses?”

“Yes, myself, the assistant coach, and all the rest of the team candidates.”

He blew off his answer and went on, “And what’s this about you threatening my son?”

“Oh, you must mean when I told him to leave before I took him to the mat myself.”

“That’s not what he told me.”

“Again, I have witnesses if you want to cross examine them?”

“Don’t get smart with me Braosn. This isn’t over but when it his your head will be on display in the team’s trophy case.”

“I’m not to worried about that.”

“Well’ see about that mister war hero, this is one battle that you aren’t going to win.”

“I’ve lost battles before, but I assure you I’ve always won the war.”

“I don’t care how many stars you wore or how many medals they gave you. But I guarantee you have never come up against the likes of me. “

“Oh I wouldn’t be too sure about that.”

“Don’t say that I didn’t warn you.” And at that he hung up.

As Sheffield hung up the telephone, Ramona asked, “What was that all about?”

“Oh just an angry parent. I had to scratch someone from the team for roughing up another wrestler.”

He went on to tell her what had happened.

Not too much time went by and the telephone rang again. “My aren’t you popular tonight. I think I’ll let you get it, its probably for you anyway.”

It was. This time it was the district high school athletic director summoning him to a meeting at the school district office at eight o’clock the next morning. Sheffield didn’t worry to much about it because he knew that he was in the right.

“What if you loose you job over it?” Ramona asked.

“So be it. I don’t really need it. I do it because of the kids.” Sheffield said confidently.

The next morning, Sheffield kept his appointment. He and Coach Warfman sat at one table in the hearing room and Harold Packard sat at another. Seated at a table at the head of the room were, Bernie Hampton, the district high school athletic director, Melvin Rush, the athletic director at Jefferson, and Herman Lovelock, the principle.

Bernie Hampton called the meeting to order and turned the time to Harold Packard to present his grievance. He stood and in a very calm and collected manner he began leveling accusations against

Sheffield, using carefully chosen wording and legal terms and not one profanity. He laid out his case as if he were prosecuting the suspect of heinous crime in criminal court. He went so far as to say that he jeopardized the entire upcoming season by cutting the most valuable wrestler on the team. He demanded that Sheffield be fired immediately and if not, threatened to withdraw his support and contributions to the Magician Booster Club, a major source of funding for the athletic program. After he was through putting on his show for the panel, he sat down.

Next they asked Sheffield to tell his side of the story. He was calm as described what happened, beginning with the explanation of the rules, the court ruling about integration, how David was roughing up Otis, and their confrontation, including his alleged threat.

Coach Warfman collaborated his story down to the smallest detail. After hearing both sides, the panel left the room to confer. The silence and tension in the room was so thick that it could be cut with a knife. When they returned Bernie Hampton spoke on behalf of the panel.

“Coach Brason, the charges and allegations that Mister Packard has leveled against you are serious and would mandate your immediate suspension. However your account of the indecent, as substantiated by Coach Warfman, in our estimation are accurate. You have an exemplary record dating back sixteen years, with two years off for active military duty. We reaffirm our confidence in you and find the charges brought by Mister Packard to be unfounded.

“Now to you Mister Packard. We acknowledge your position and standing in the community as the district prosecuting attorney. However, this is not the first complaint that you have brought before us of unfair treatment of one of your children. We therefore uphold the decision of Coach Brason to scratch your son, David, from the wrestling team roster.”

At that point, Mr. Lovelock, the principal, said, “Because of the harassing nature of the incident against another student while on school property and under school supervision, I have no choice but to suspend David from attending school for one week. During that week, he is not to participate in any school sponsored activities or set foot on the school grounds. Do I make myself clear, Mister Packard?”

He just snarled.

Finally, Mr. Rush, the athletic director at Jefferson High had his turn. “Mister Packard, we acknowledge and appreciate your contributions to the Magician's Booster Club over the years. If you choose to withdraw your support, I assure you that we will continue to function without your generosity.”

At that the meeting was adjourned. Harold Packard stomped out, Sheffield and Coach Warfman followed several steps behind. Once outside of the building, he whirled around. His nostrils flared as he snorted, “Watch yourself Brason. If you ever end up in court, I'll nail you hide to the wall.” He turned and stormed off.

Sheffield called after him in a friendly voice, "Take care Harold. See you around."

"He's such a hothead." Coach Warfman said.

"Aw, don't worry about him, he'll cool down. Lets get back to work."

At the end of the tryout period, they posted the team roster, and yes Otis Williamson made the team.

Sheffield and Ramona didn't disagree on much. Politics, however, was one thing they couldn't always come together on. Sheffield had always been a staunch Republican and voted accordingly. Ramona, on the other hand, tended to vote Democratic most of the time. During the last two presidential elections, she did vote for Eisenhower. Now that his second term was coming to an end, it was another election year. Naturally Sheffield favored Vice President Nixon all along. Ramona liked the young and handsome Senator Kennedy from Massachusetts.

She said, "I don't understand why you don't like Kennedy, after all he had been a naval officer and a war hero."

Sheffield responded, "For starters his commission in the Navy had been handed to him because of his family connections, after the Army didn't want him. But when it comes right down to it, I just don't like his politics."

The 1960 presidential election featured the first televised debate between the candidates. On Monday September 26th, Sheffield and Ramona sat down in front of the television along with approximately seventy million others to watch the debate.

Going into the debate, Vice President Nixon had a slight lead in the polls. He had insisted on campaigning until just a few hours before the first debate started.

"He looks terrible." Ramona said, in reference to the Vice President, when he was introduced.

"What do you expect?" Sheffield responded. "After all he's probably still recovering after being in the hospital for knee surgery."

"He looks pale and sickly to me. I don't think he looks very presidential. Just look at him, he's underweight and tired, and he doesn't look like he's shaved for a couple of days.

"Now look at the Senator. In my opinion he looks very presidential. He appears relaxed, confident and well prepared."

"It takes more than being young and handsome to be president." Sheffield countered. "With the Cold War with the Soviets, Kennedy is too young and inexperienced to be trusted with the presidency. Besides, if Nixon gets elected, he'll continue the peace and prosperity that Eisenhower started."

"I think that under Eisenhower and the Republicans the nation had fallen behind the Soviet Union in the Cold War, both militarily and economically. After all look at how they beat us putting a satellite into

space. As president, Kennedy would get America moving again.”

“Quite. I want to hear how Nixon answers this question.” Sheffield said without responding to her comment.

After the debate, political observers believed that Kennedy won the debate and a reversal in the opinion polls put Kennedy the lead.

Sheffield took advantage of the presidential election in his government class to help his students to be more politically aware. At the beginning of each class, he took time to discuss the latest political headlines and polls. They seemed to take an active interest even though none of them were old enough to vote.

As much as the election dominated the news, there were much more exciting things going on in the family through out the fall as they anticipated a new addition to the family. Unlike her last pregnancy, Edith didn't experience the difficulties that she had with Todd.

Then on Columbus Day, the long awaited day arrived. Edith went into labor during the during the middle of the night. By seven in the morning, it was time to go. Edith had her suit case packed and ready to go a couple of days earlier. Craig called into work and told them that he had more important things to do that day and wouldn't be in. Before leaving for the hospital, he called both sets of grandparents to let them know what was going on.

Being a Wednesday, Ramona had class. All through her morning she kept wondering what was going on. During her lunch break, she called the hospital to see if there was any news. She asked to be put through to Edith Brason and a moment later she heard Craig answer on the other end.

Without even saying, “hello” she blurted out, “Craig, has Edith had her baby yet?”

“Yes, Mom . She had a little girl about an hour ago and both are doing just fine.”

“Thats wonderful Craig. So are you going to name her Christina like you planned.”

“Yes we are. She has reddish hair and looks more like a Tina, so thats what we've been calling her for short.”

“I like that. I can't wait to see her. So how big was she?”

“She was seven pounds one ounce and twenty inches and a half long. She's a beautiful baby.”

“Oh, I'm sure she is. And you say Edith is doing okay?”

“Yeah, she's doing fine.”

“Alright then, I'll come over when I get off work. I'll see you then.”

“Bye, Mom.”

After talking to Craig, she called and left a brief message for Sheffield. As soon as her last class was

over, she went straight the hospital to see Tina. When she got there, Mary Ann was already there. Romona was holding her when Sheffield came into the room.

“I got your message.” he said, “Its my prep hour so I wanted to come and see the baby.”

Ramona handed Tina to her grandpa and he held her while they told him all about the birth. As far as he was concerned, they could have spared some of the details. He was just glad that she arrived safe and sound.

Now that Tina was born, the attention shifted to Norma who was due in February. Like the last time, she was having a problem with her blood pressure again. As Ramona said, “You just can't take having babies for granted.”

A the wrestling season got underway, Sheffield could tell that he had an outstanding team. Even without David Packard, they had won every match so far. The star wrestler turned out to be Otis Williamson. Otis was accepted by the team for the most part. He broke the typical stereotype that many held. He was studious and got good grades and was ambitious and hard working. He was a big kid, about six foot two and weighed one eighty five. His physic was intimidating, but his smile and soft demeanor put people at ease.

A court order had allowed integration of the races into public schools, but it took more than that for it to be accepted. With the mindset of society, it would take a long time to change, perhaps decades. Civil rights was a political issue in the presidential campaign. Senator Kennedy verbally supported racial integration but had to walk a fine line as not to upset the Southern Democrats upon whom he depended in order to be elected.

Negro voters seemed to be leaning toward Vice President Nixon, but suddenly shifted to Kennedy when he expressed sympathy to the wife of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. when he was jailed while trying to integrate a department store lunch counter in Georgia.

Sheffield and Ramona stayed up on election night to watch the returns come in. It was close but, in the end, Kennedy won by just over 112,000 votes with 46.7% to Nixon's 46.6%. the rest went to Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia, a conservative Democrat, even though he was not a candidate for President. Although Nixon won twenty six states including Virginia, and Kennedy twenty three, the electoral vote was 303 for Kennedy, 216 for Nixon, and 11 for Byrd. Sheffield was disappointed and Ramona was pleased. One footnote to the local election results, Harold Packard had lot his bid to be reelected as the prosecuting attorney.

Later in the week, Sheffield and Ramona got a letter from Takara. She talked about how thrilled she was to be able to vote in the presidential election, although she didn't say who she voted for. Everything was going well with them. They had just celebrated her baby's first birthday and they were looking forward to Teancum graduating in the spring with his bachelor's degree. When the Church College of Hawaii became a

four year college in 1959, he went back to school to get a degree in business management in order to secure a management position at the sugar mill.

They also received a letter from Janet. She too mentioned voting in the presidential election. This was the first one since she turned twenty one. She just missed being old enough to vote in the 1956 election by two months, although she did vote in the 1958 election. Sheffield was proud of her, she joined with the Govers and had voted for Nixon.

In her letter, she talked a lot about how she was coping emotionally with losing Anthony. It had been five months and she had her good days and her bad days. She mentioned that she would love to come home for Thanksgiving but since there was more time at Christmas, they were planning on coming home then.

On Thanksgiving Day, Sheffield and Ramona had a late Thanksgiving dinner since both Craig and Norma went to their in laws earlier in the day. The only ones missing of course were Janet and Jerry. On Friday and Saturday they had their traditional traditional overnighter at the cabin to select a their Christmas trees. The younger grandchildren, Samantha and Todd who were two years old were still too little to fully appreciate it, but the older ones sure were. Gean was still young enough to hold onto the childhood magic of Christmas and Geoffrey and Teresa who were five all got very excited about the whole thing. They found three trees that were just right for each of their homes. Saturday was spent decorating and that evening, they went around to see each other's homes all decorated for the holidays. Sheffield and Craig had already put up their outdoor lights.

Sheffield celebrated his sixty second birthday on Wednesday the 7th. All of the kids, except for Janet who sent a nice card with a thoughtful hand written note, and the grandkids came over to celebrate with him with cake and ice cream and presents.

That evening while getting ready for bed, Sheffield said, "You know, I've been thinking."

"Did it hurt? Ramona said sarcastically.

"Smart Alec." he replied.

"I'm sorry. Tell me, what have you been thinking?"

"After having been threatened with losing my coaching position earlier in the fall, I've been thinking that it will soon be time to retire permanently and begin looking to the future. In three more years I'll be sixty five and I've decided that the nineteen sixty three – sixty four school year will be my last."

That sounds reasonable." Ramona agreed. "Whenever you retire, I'll quit my part time position at Hollins. When we do retire, Do you know what I'd like to do?"

"No. What"

"I want to spend a month in Hawaii."

"Now that sounds like a good idea. Only a month?"

"Maybe a little longer, but I don't want to be away from the grandkids for too long."

The next couple of weeks were spent getting ready for Christmas. Since it fell on Sunday that year, School let out Friday. The Magician Varsity Wrestling team was still undefeated up to that point. That evening, they met Janet and Jerry at the airport. Janet was particularly excited to be home, since she hadn't been there for two years.

During the afternoon on Christmas Eve when Sheffield and his counselors in the branch presidency went around the visiting the elderly and the widows. In the evening the kids and grandkids came over for dinner, now everyone was all together.

Ramona noticed Janet pick up Tina and hold her. She wondered what Janet was thinking as she rocked her in her arms and talked softly to her. Jerry who was sitting near Ramona said, "Every time Janet gets a chance, she likes to pick up a baby, particularly my nieces and nephews."

"Its probably good for her." Ramona said. "I can tell that she would have been a good mother. Perhaps someday you can adopt a child."

"We have mentioned it, but we're not ready just yet."

Naturally Janet and Jerry stayed with Sheffield and Ramona during their stay. On Christmas morning, Craig and Norma had Christmas with their own families and came over later in the morning to spend the day and have Christmas dinner.

Being that Christmas was on Sunday, only Sacrament Meeting was held. The program consisted two musical numbers performed by the choir directed by Ramona and accompanied by Norma on the piano. After the meeting, Craig and Norma went to spend the rest of the day with their respective in laws.

During the week between Christmas and New Years, they got together often. One snowy afternoon, they enjoyed Ramona's bathhouse. It was built to hold eight adults, but with all of the grandchildren too, it was crowded and not exactly very relaxing but nonetheless enjoyable.

Janet and Jerry got together with Olivia and Ammon and Beverly and her husband Ryan Hawkes. Olivia and Ammon had a one year old little boy and Beverly was expecting her first. Walt had a chance to come over and talk to Janet and Jerry about how they were dealing with Anthony's loss.

That year on New Years Eve, Sheffield and Ramona didn't have to babysit. They went out to dinner and took in a movie. "Swiss Family Robinson" was playing at the Grandin Theater. Still, they were home in time to watch Guy Lombardo bring in the new year from the Waldorf-Astoria. New Years Day was on Sunday, which included attending church and Sunday dinner. Janet had enjoyed being home and it helped in her healing.

On Monday, Janet and Jerry flew back to Utah and life settled back into a normal routine. In January, a new crop of calves was born. The wrestling team picked up where they left off and continued their winning streak. Sheffield brought a television set into his classroom for the broadcast of the inauguration. He used the occasion to teach the constitutional significance of the event.

The real excitement came in February. Norma continued to have problems with gestational hypertension throughout her pregnancy. It didn't help that she was twenty pounds overweight to begin with. She had the same problem with Samantha, but not with Teresa. It posed some real risks, so again she had Wade and Sheffield administer to her. Last time it had helped immensely and she had faith that it would this time too.

The real concern was that the baby wasn't getting enough oxygen and nutrients because of decreased blood flow to the placenta which increased the risk of low birth weight. With this pregnancy, it was worse than the last time and Norma had to stay in bed after the first of the year. Dr. Mendon wanted to see her once a week to monitor her condition.

On her visit to the doctor on the third Friday in January, he decided that she needed to be hospitalized so she could be monitored continually. He was concerned that placenta would break away suddenly which could prove fatal for both she and the baby.

Then four days later, Wade came to see her after his last class in the afternoon on Tuesday to find that Dr Mendon's concerns were very real. He called Ramona to let them know what was going on. Sheffield wasn't home yet, but Ramona was. When she picked up the telephone, she had a suspicion.

"Hello." she answered.

"Oh, good. You're home." Wade said frantically.

"Wade, what's the matter? Is Norma alright?"

"No she's not. I just got here a few minutes ago to find that she's in serious trouble."

"I was afraid of that. What happened?"

"From what I've been told, a little earlier this afternoon Norma began having terrible abdominal pain and called for a nurse. The nurse discovered that she was bleeding heavily and she called for the doctor. Doctor Mendon wasn't available so the doctor on call is taking care of her."

"So, what's going on?"

"I was just getting to that. They told me that the placenta broke away and that's what was causing the pain and the bleeding and both Norma and the baby were in serious trouble. The doctor gave her some oxytocin to induce labor. I've used it on cows having trouble and that stuff really works. If all goes well, she should have the baby in a few hours. In the meantime, they are trying to keep them both stable."

"I'm sure they'll take good care of both of them. How are you holding up?"

"I'm a wreck. I wish they would let me in there with her. I tried to explain that I'm a veterinary student and have attended to more births than I can count. They told me that its not the same thing and are making me wait out here."

"Do you want me to come in?"

"They'd just make you wait to."

"They know me pretty well, they know of my background and they might let me in. I hate to see her go through it all alone."

"If you think it will help."

"I'll leave a note for Sheffield and I'll be right there. I'll see you in a few minutes. Bye."

"Thanks Ramona. Bye."

When Ramona got there, she talked to Wade for a minute and then asked to be with her daughter. As predicted, they let her right in. Norma was frightened and was glad the have her mother at her side. She was probably more help and comfort than Wade would have been. Not long after she got there, Dr. Mendon took over.

Throughout the evening, she went out to let Wade know how things were progressing. The sooner the better for both of them. Finally, little Martin Rowan entered the world at one seventeen a.m. on Wednesday January 25, 1961, three weeks early. He was immediately placed in an incubator and was turned over to the nurses. Wade was finally allowed in to see his wife and newborn son.

Dr. Mendon stayed with Norma. "That was a close one." he said. "If you hadn't already been in the hospital, it might have turned out different. Little Marty is early but he should be alright." he assured her. "We're going to need to keep both of you here longer than normal this time." Then he got serious, "Your blood pressure is already beginning to stabilize. This is twice now that you've had this problem and this time it was quite serious. You where lucky. I can't be sure that you would be next time. I would strongly advise that you not have any more children. I want the two of you to think seriously about it. I would recommend a tubectomy, or in other words have your fallopian tubes tied off. It is major surgery and we can do it while you're here or you can wait a while. Think it over and let me know."

"Thats too much for us to decide on the spot." Wade said for both of them. "But we will certainly consider it."

At that, Ramona left Wade with Norma and she stopped by to check on Marty. His vitals were stabilizing and looked like he would be alright. It was after two o'clock when she finally came home. Sheffield was in bed but not sleeping very well. Ramona told him all about it as she got ready for bed. Once she climbed in with him, they both settled down and went to sleep.

The next morning on his way to school, Sheffield stopped by the hospital to see his new grandson

and to see how Norma was doing. Ramona followed in her car. Marty was still in the incubator in the nursery, but they took him out long enough for him to hold him for moment.

The option that Dr. Mendon had given Norma and Wade was weighing heavily on their minds. They asked Sheffield and Ramona what they should do.

“That’s one that you’ll have to decide for yourselves.” Sheffield said. “As much as I would love to have more grandchildren, we’ve already buried one and I’d hate to have to bury another.”

“Besides that,” Ramona added, “you were fortunate this time. Hemorrhaging like you were is the way most women die in childbirth. We’d hate to loose you too. It would be a shame to leave the children that you already have motherless on the chance of having one more.”

Sheffield went on to school and Ramona lingered a while longer before going about her business. As they talked more about it, Dr. Mendon stopped in on his rounds. He explained further the risks of of another pregnancy and what the operation entailed. In the end, they decided that it was the wise thing to do and the surgery was scheduled for the next day. That evening when Sheffield came by again, Norma asked for another blessing at the hands of her husband and father.

Norma did have the surgery and all went well. At twenty seven, her child bearing years had also come to an end. Unlike Janet, she had three children to show for it. After two weeks in the hospital, both Norma and Marty were doing well enough and got to come home.

The Two Star round up took place as usual on the third Saturday in Mach. Norma took the babysitting duty so Edith could man the gates. Gean wanted to help too so she got to lean against a fence post to make sure it didn’t fall over. It was a very important job because if it did, all of the cows would get out.

The new calves were branded and separated from their mothers. The steers from last year’s crop along with a few older cows were loaded up to be taken to market and the Black Baldy heifers from the previous year were integrated into the herd as breeding stock.

Wade had been working with Blaze and he felt that she was ready to ride for the first time. Unlike Admiral, she was more spirited and Wade wasn’t quite sure what to expect. She was used to the saddle, but how would she react to having someone on her back?

With everyone lining the rails of the corral to watch, Wade put one foot in the stirrup and pulled himself up and just stood there. Blaze started moving sideways. Wade patted her neck and talked softly to her and she settled down.

He next swung his other leg over her back and settled into the saddle. His intention was to just sit there for a moment. Blaze thought otherwise and lunged forward, kicking her hind legs high in the air. The sudden move caught Wade off guard and he was flung forward, right over her head and landed in the dirt.

Determined, Wade got back up, picked his hat off the ground and slowly walked toward the filly as she stood there looking at him, as if daring him to try it again. He took hold of the reins and gently stroked her mane while talking softly to her. Slowly he mounted the saddle and this time she let him sit there. Blaze was obviously nervous, not sure of what she should do.

After a moment, Wade nudged her, and she broke into a run and bucked two or three times. Wade was prepared this time and held on as she ran in circles around the perimeter of the corral. Once she got used to his weight on her back she settled down and Wade walked her around the corral several more times. He stayed on her longer than he had planned just to get her used to it. Hopefully the next time, she would take it better and remain calm. It looked like it would take a lot more work to have her ready to ride by the summer, but Wade was confident that that he would have her ready for anyone to ride.

On the 7th and 8th of April, Sheffield took the Magicians to the state wrestling tournament in Richmond. They were undefeated in the regular season and had won the district championship. After the two day event in Richmond, they came home with the state championship trophy as well. Several of his team took first place in their weight classes. Otis Williamson came away with the top honor.

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The 10 month Recession of 1960–1961 began in April 1960 and ended in February 1961. The Federal Reserve began to tighten monetary policy in 1959 and eased off in 1960. During this recession, the Gross Domestic Product of the United States fell 1.6 percent. Though the recession ended in November 1960, the unemployment rate did not peak for several months.

September 7, 1960 was the first day of integrated classes in the Roanoke School District. The Virginia Colored High School Athletic Association is hypothetical.

Kennedy joined the U.S. Navy in September 1941, after medical disqualification by the Army for his chronic lower back problems, with the influence of Admiral Alan G. Kirk, the director of the Office of Naval Intelligence. He was the former naval attaché to Joseph Kennedy when he was the Ambassador to the United Kingdom. Having graduated from Harvard in the spring of 1941, he was granted a commission as an Ensign.

At the first ever televised presidential debate Nixon had not completely recovered from being in the hospital after an injury to his knee and looked pale, sickly, underweight, and tired. He also refused makeup and as a result his beard stubble showed prominently on the black-and-white screen. Kennedy, by contrast, was rested and well prepared. He appeared tanned, confident, and relaxed during the debate.

The information about Gestational Hypertension came from <http://www.mayoclinic.com/>