**Family Reunion (Virden; Social)**

Many of us have sons and daughters out in the world, but every mother always wishes to see her young ones. Luckily for Howard and Lelia Skiles of Virden, they have been able to see their four sons together, after eight years, these past two weeks.

First to arrive was their third son, David. He drove from Camp LeJune, North Carolina, along with his wife Kim, and boys Paul and Eric. David was stationed at Camp LeJune for two years as Captain in the Marines. The same night, David’s older brother Jim joined them, as well as his wife Kathy and daughter Denise. In the next couple of days, sons Jake and Mike arrived as well.

After a few days of rest, it was time to go sightseeing. Howard, Lelia, Dave, Kim, Denise, and their families headed for Six Flags where they spent the night and returned home the next day after vising the St. Louis Arch.

Within one week, all four sons had arrived in Virden along with their families, and one Sunday, the entire family of thirteen held an outdoor reunion. After a large turkey dinner under a tent canopy, the whole family joined in fun and games, homemade ice cream and cake. They were sure to capture the moment and took plenty of timeless photos. The next day, the sons began to depart, each going their own way.

**Surprise, Surprise (Springfield; Philosophical)**

We all wonder what we’d do if we won the lottery but unfortunately, only one in a million will ever actually win. One lucky kid, however, really did find his wildest dreams materialize in the most unlikely of places: a brown paper bag.

Ten year old Jimmy Connor, of Collinsville, Illinois, is always finding things along the road. “He keeps his eyes down,” said Mrs. Jeanine Connor, “He likes to collect things.” One Tuesday, Jimmy found a brown paper bag and a box of disposable diapers. The paper bag contained $13,000 in cash!

Jimmy and his mother knew better than to keep that money, and immediately called the police. "I was absolutely stunned," said Mrs. Conner, "The money was $10s and $20s wrapped in plastic with masking tape around it with thousands marked on it." As it turns out, a man named Jose Gandaria was frantically searching for a brown paper bag across the street. The Gandarias had just sold their two trucks and, with the $13,000 that was their life savings in a brown bag, headed for a Chicago children’s hospital for neurological treatments for their 17 month old son. They placed the brown paper bag and diapers on top of their car, and it dropped onto the highway as they left. “I would have liked to bought a new bike 'cause the brakes locked up on mine. But they needed the money more 'cause their baby couldn't walk or talk,” said Jimmy after restoring the money to the Gandarias.

**What’s on TV? (Chicago; Technological)**

Cable television could revolutionize our lives in the same way the telephons changed our grandparents’, but maybe not in Chicago. Although in the last four years, 23 companies have applied for a Chicago cable television franchise, one banker says they were only filed in self-defense to protect companies in case the franchises were awarded. The truth is, cable television isn’t coming to Chicago for many years.

But why, you ask? Simply put, cable television is just too expensive for corporations. It’s true, cable TV pictures are sharper, can transmit and unlimited number of channels and can even enable you to talk to other people, including friends, banks and stores, through your television set. In order to do these things though, cable corporations must get city permission, or a franchise, to dig trenches and plant the cable underground, and that comes with costs.

The root of the problem is that the franchise tax is too high, but don’t go knocking on the mayor’s door just yet! After all, you might not actually want cable! A Boston report brings up two very important points. While cable television is capable of offering hundreds of services, other systems, such as the telephone, might just be cheaper. Not only that, but there is a strong possibility that an unauthorized person could monitor one’s television!

These political and financial factors may have conspired to force an essentially responsible descision to keep cable TV out of Chicago until is becomes clear what the new technology and its corporate owners actually have to offer. Characteristically, that decision was made in the darkest secrecy and has never been announced. By contrast, when Boston Mayor Kevin White made the same decision, it was accompanied by an 18-month study and hearing for the general public. Whatever the case may be, Chicago may not be getting cable for a while and it might just be for the best.