



3-15-1985

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Recommended Citation

Elver, Anne (1985) "Winnings Are Bonus Blessings," *Westview*: Vol. 4 : Iss. 3 , Article 9.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol4/iss3/9>

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Winnings Are Bonus Blessings

— by Anne Elver

One Western Oklahoma resident doesn't consider herself lucky, even if she did win a car, \$10,000, and become the mother of two beautiful daughters recently. Who did this? Jayniece Cornell of Ringwood, Oklahoma.

Jayniece is a contesting hobbyist who enjoys entering contests whose prizes interest her. She has done so for the past nine years. Does Jayniece have any special secrets or formulas for winning contests? No, she just follows directions and considers any winnings she gets as bonus blessings.

Jayniece received a pleasant surprise last spring when she received a letter announcing that she had won a 1983 Ford LTD and \$10,000. How did this come about? Jayniece says, "My parents had ordered a new pickup, and I went to Day Ford in Enid with them to get their truck.

"The Ford dealer had entry forms to the Picture Perfect Sweepstakes in his showroom; I picked up twelve and sent them in. The entry forms were shaped like a postal card. They wouldn't fit into my envelopes, so I folded the envelopes a bit differently so that I didn't have to wrinkle my entry forms. I mailed the forms in on two different days, six each time. And I forgot about the contest until I found out I had won something."

Jayniece welcomed her winning announcement since her husband, Richard, needed a new truck. Her winnings enabled him to trade their old car and his old truck in on a new pickup. Richard's new truck will come in handy for the Oklahoma weather when roads can be less than ideal to drive on.

Jayniece's winnings also came in handy with the beef cattle that she and Richard raise. She rounds up the cattle for her husband to treat when they need shots, doctoring, or other attention. Before she won her prize in the Picture Perfect Sweepstakes, she had to run through the pasture to gather the cattle, which was no easy task. She invested in a three-wheel vehicle with some of the money she won, saving the time and energy she needs with her growing family.

Jayniece and Richard adopted their son, William, in March of 1979, and they wanted to adopt at least one more child. William also wanted a sibling. They first contacted a social service agency sometime in 1981, seeking another child to adopt. The prospect of adding to their family wasn't encouraging, although the Cornells were willing to adopt an older child or some siblings. They hoped to get at least one girl but would have adopted any children available for them.

Jayniece says, "We contacted our social worker in September, just checking. She advised us to look into some other agencies since her agency didn't have any children and wasn't likely to. I had optimism and faith that if we were meant to have more children, we would. So I kept praying and thinking about getting more children. Sure enough, we got a call near the end of October, informing us that two sisters were available for adoption, ages five and six. We went to get Tonia and Liz a week later. I don't feel our daughters were sent by luck either."

Since Jayniece doesn't consider

herself lucky in the face of winning a car, \$10,000, and gaining two children shortly thereafter, what does she attribute her good fortune to? She says, "I consider myself blessed since I don't believe in luck. Our daughters are an answer to prayer and faith. I feel the car I won is a gift from the Lord since He knew that I would need it with two new children to care for. And it has been handy."

Jayniece also coupons and refunds as a hobby. She saves coupons only on products she uses, and she exchanges the ones she can't use with her sister, Carolyn, who lives in Bartlesville. Couponing and refunding help too. Jayniece estimates that she gets back about six dollars monthly on coupons and refund slips when she shops.

Her daughter Tonia celebrated her seventh birthday shortly after being placed with her new family, and Jayniece baked her cake with satisfaction. She used two Duncan Hines frostings on the cake, which she had purchased with two coupons for fifty cents off on each package. Then a refund slip enabled her to get the cake mix free for purchasing two frostings. So Tonia's cake ended up costing about a dollar, a bargain these days.

Jayniece has a good hobby—one that paid her \$10,000 and a new car valued at \$14,000 for a value of \$24,000. That's quite profitable for a hobby that also gives her pleasure. Her strong faith, optimism, and willingness to grab opportunities that present themselves to her make her an inspiration to her fellow Western Oklahomans.

