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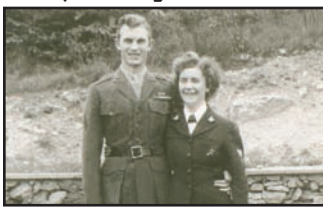
An imprint of places and people at work and play in the Thumb of Michigan

MAY 2011



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Play Ball



By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

It was spring of 1934 in Maple Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Elmer Stanley Kodet, who had just turned 17, had but one thought on his mind – the start of baseball season. His grandparents had emigrated from Bohemia and Elmer was living in a neighborhood mostly made up of other immigrant families. The Czech language was still being spoken, sometimes exclusively by the older generations.

However, Elmer was American, and like most young men of the time, baseball was his springtime passion. Elmer belonged to the baseball team of Maple Heights High School. Let's look at a little history of the beginnings of baseball and some of the similarities and some of the differences in the sport of baseball 77 years ago while Elmer was a

member of the Maple Heights team.

There seems to be as many different ideas about where baseball actually originated as there are books in the library or websites devoted to early baseball history. It is pretty much agreed upon that there were older bat-and-ball

games as far back as 1344 in France that some believe set the stage for modern day baseball games. An older game called "rounders" that was popular in Great Britain and Ireland had a lot of

See *BASEBALL*, Page 16



Elmer Kodet's baseball glove and baseball.



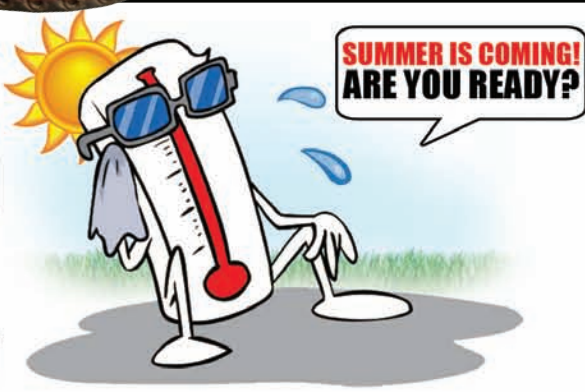
1934 Maple Heights, Ohio high school baseball team. Elmer Kodet is in the second row, the third from the left.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It was August of 1862. John William Wilson enlisted in the Union Army. He was living in Iosco Township in Livingston County, Michigan. The country will be engaged in a war that will result in the greatest loss of lives of any war to date – the Civil War. But John doesn't know this at the time, and he feels it is his duty to serve. John leaves behind his wife, Mary, and two young daughters. They have just recently mourned the loss of another daughter. His wife is pregnant with a fourth that he will never meet.

John William Wilson is assigned to the 16th Michigan Infantry. As many soldiers do to pass the time while waiting to "do battle," he writes home periodically to his young wife. At one particularly low point, when John is on guard duty, he pens the words to a romantic poem home to his wife. Less than 60 days later, John will sacrifice his life for the cause he believes in.

On May 12, 1864, John is killed at the battle of Spotsylvania. His body is never returned home. Eventually he is buried at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park near Fredericksburg, Virginia.

The letter John writes home to his wife, in which the poem was contained, survives him. Family legend says that John William Wilson was the author

of the poem. This belief survives for many, many years and is a poignant tribute to a young man's life cut short and his feelings for the wife he leaves behind.

It wasn't until 2011 that it was discovered that John William Wilson was not the author of the poem. In actuality, the title of the poem is "The Sentinel" and it appeared in *Dollar Monthly General*, Volume 16, a popular magazine during the Civil War. It was

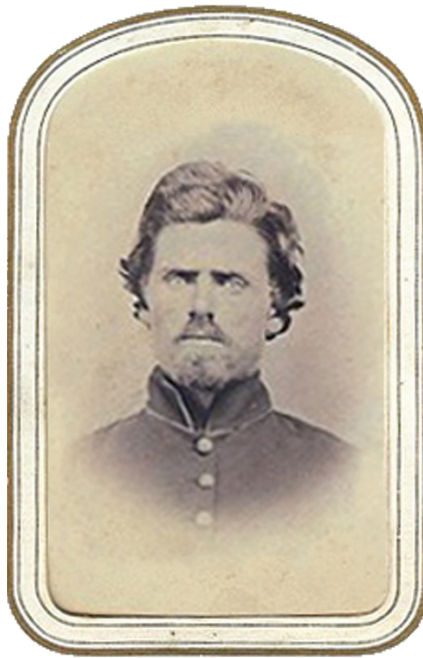
written by F. C. Hannen.

Some people might be appalled that he apparently plagiarized this poem. I see it differently. It was future generations of his ancestors who assumed he was the author.

Instead, I see a young soldier who was thousands of miles from home, missing his wife, weary of the war, who wanted something tangible to reach out to her to express how he felt. He gives the ultimate sacrifice for his country – his life. I personally hope that when Mary

died in 1916, she still thought that he had authored the poem. I hope she still received comfort in rereading the last letter she ever received from John.

With Memorial Day just around the corner, I would like to reprint that poem here, giving credit to the true author, but also I want to dedicate it to John William Wilson and all of the young men and women who have lost their lives defending our great nation.



John William Wilson, 1833-1864.



I remember you and thank you for the freedoms I and my family enjoy today. Here is the poem:

The Sentinel

By F. C. Hannen

*It is midnight on my lonely beat
When darkness veils the wood and lea,
A vision seems my view to greet,
Of one at home who prays for me.*

*The roses bloom upon her cheek,
Her form seems to me like a dream;
And on her face, so fair and meek,
a host of beauties gleam.*

*For softly shines her flaxen hair,
A smile is ever on her face,
And the mild lustrous light of prayer,
Around her sheds a moonlike grace.*

*She prays for me that's far away –
The soldier in this holy fight;
And asks that God in mercy may
Shield the loved one, and bless the right!*

*Until, though miles lie far between,
This silent incense of her heart,
Steals o're my soul with breath serene,
And we no longer are apart.*

*So guarding thus my lonely beat,
Mid darkening wood and dreary lea,
That vision seems my view to greet
Of her at home who prays for me.*

DIANE KODET
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*

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The Journey To Peleliu and Back

The Story of Roy Hahn (Part 3)

By **Fredrick G. Marengo**

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Editor's note: This story is being presented in four parts. Parts one and two appeared in the March and April editions of ThumbPrint News. In the June edition, the story will conclude with part four.

Roy's Regiment returned to Goodenough Island for rest and recovery. The sounds and fury of battle had ceased. The fresh water streams were not contaminated with casualties of war. He settled into a daily routine knowing it wouldn't be long before he was back aboard ship heading to another Japanese held island whose beaches would run red with American blood. Goodenough Island was a good place to rest until the next amphibious assault.

The 1st Marine Division infantry units arrived on the Island of Pavuvu, for rest and recovery, after fighting the fierce battles on Cape Gloucester. Groves of coconut trees covered most of the island, which were normally cultivated and harvested by the natives, but since war had come to the islands, the coconuts fell to the ground and rotted. With the heavy equipment and the rains that racked the island, the ground turned into a stinking quagmire.

The Pavuvu rat added to the misery of the Marines. The rats invaded their tents at night in search of food and then disappeared in the daytime. Hundreds were killed with poison, bayonets and even flame throwers, without making a dent in the rat population. They were legions of terror, without any natural predators.

Competing with the rats to see which species could cause the most misery were the sand crabs. Hordes of them

inhabited Pavuvu, coming out at night and engulfing the foreign invaders of their island paradise. The Marines had to shake out clothing, boots and bedding each morning. Piles of the attackers were crushed and burned, but there would be no victory against this enemy for the Marines.

This island paradise had another natural hazard that caused numerous injuries to the Marines of the 1st Marine Division. The ripe coconuts that fell from the palm trees with the force of a small bowling ball sent numerous Marines to sickbay with head injuries. The island was so dense with heavily laden coconut palm trees that they posed a continuing threat to anyone walking beneath them.

The Marines spent their time training for upcoming amphibious landings, marching, calisthenics, and finding ways to fight the boredom, while anticipating the next battle. The letters from loved ones at home pulled those happier days from their memory banks. Thoughts of wives, girlfriends, and home were on the minds of all the Marines. Many of the Marines had not been home for two years. Very soon, many would never go home or see a loved one again.



"You knew when you walked out there that you were playing for 15,000 kids, that a lot of those guys you'll never see again. And as it worked out, 60% of those kids were knocked off in this invasion of Peleliu."

~ Bob Hope



1944, Pavuvu Island. Infantry Marines practice debarking from their amphibian tractor in training for the Peleliu campaign.

It was perfect timing to boost morale when word was received that Bob Hope, Jerry Collona, Frances Langford and Patti Thomas were going to put on a show for the Marines on Pavuvu. Thousands assembled to watch the show. The jokes, dancing, and beautiful American women sent spirits soaring. "Home" had come to the South Pacific.

Roy remembers taking a boat from Goodenough Island to Pavuvu to see Bob Hope. "It was a great show. I

remember watching the small plane circle overhead and hearing Jerry Collona yell down to the crowd. It was just what we needed. Bob Hope was a dedicated American."

The coral rock named Peleliu rose up from the blue Pacific occupied by 10,000 Japanese troops, who were patiently waiting to welcome the Marines of the 1st Marine Division into a fiery hell.

Roy took a day trip with a group of Marines from Goodenough Island to Guadalcanal. A year earlier over 11,000 Marines stormed the beaches to avenge the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and wage war against a cunning and ruthless enemy, who was well trained in jungle warfare.

The signs of battle were peppered throughout the jungle island. There were craters in the earth from artillery shelling, naval gunfire, mortar shells, and aircraft bombardment. The burned

See *THE JOURNEY*, Page 24

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Spotlight on a Small Town: Goodells

By Diane Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

Goodells, Michigan is an unincorporated community in the northern part of Wales Township in St. Clair County. In the early 1800s much of the land in the area that would become Goodells had been purchased by land speculators who recognized the value of the surrounding land for lumbering. In fact, in its early years, this area was originally only known as the north-south logging camp, due to the fact that it was half way between the northern and southern parts of the Thumb area of Michigan.

The north-south logging camp was used for cutting timbers and for providing housing for the men who were working on cutting roads through the wilderness. The camp had a large building that was built of oak and pine, with cherry wood legs – all wood that was readily available from the abundant species of trees in the area. Inside the building, bunk beds provided places for the men to rest. A few sparse pieces of furniture such as cupboards, tables and special game tables for playing cards provided the bare necessities. A pot-bellied stove in the kitchen was a favorite gathering place during the long, cold winter nights.

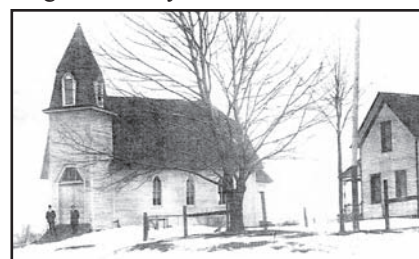
As late as 1840, when little land was left for sale, there were still only three resident property owners: Clark S. Cusick, Joseph H. Dutton and Joshua Tompkins. It wasn't until the Grand Trunk Railroad came through in 1866 that Goodells began to prosper. The community was named after John Goodell, who built a saw mill behind his house on Morris Road across the creek when the lumbering camp closed. He later added a store and a cheese factory. When the railroad came through, two bridges on Duce and Goodells Roads were built to make travel and settlement easier. Many of the early settlers of Wales Township came from New York, Pennsylvania and Canada.

One of the earliest families to settle in Goodells were the Mudge's, who built a log cabin there in 1860. The first post office in Goodells was opened on November 7, 1870, with John C. Johnstone as the first post master. Around 1880, the Goodells Methodist Protestant Church of the Kimball Circuit formed in Castor School under Reverend William Bradley, who was also the pastor of the Mt. Pleasant Church. There wasn't a permanent building for the congregation until 1889 when land was obtained for building



The Goodells Hotel circa 1900

a church from a Mr. Hathaway. The cornerstone for the church was laid in August of that year.



Early photo of the Goodells Methodist Protestant Church

On June 10, 1889 at a special town meeting, it was decided to build a town hall. In two special assessments, \$1,000 was raised and the hall was completed in 1890. The first meeting held in the new town hall took place on November 8, 1890. In that same year C.C. Peck established a bank in the town.



The Goodells Bank circa 1900

Other early settlers of Goodells included Dan Rice who owned a blacksmith shop, John Gibbs who opened the first store, William Click who ran a gravel business and Raymond Polivich who owned a horseshoeing shop.

Like most small towns and villages of the time, one person who families relied on the most (if they were lucky enough to have one available) was the local doctor. Goodells was fortunate to have a true country doctor, Doctor Christopher McCue, or Doc McCue as he was usually called. Not only did he care for the sick and aging, he also delivered many of the residents' babies and served as the area veterinarian for the sick horses at the livery stable near the railroad when they came through town and stopped by the large oak water tank for a drink. Doc McCue was born in 1869 and cared for the townspeople well into his 80s. He died in 1956.



McCue Residence from 1903-1996



Doc McCue 1869-1956

Doc McCue would have liked to have seen his son, Lewis, follow in his footsteps as a physician. However, Lewis had other ideas. He started a garage in



Goodells Railroad Station in the late 1800s.

See Goodells, Page 32

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CHROMOTHERAPY

By Rennae Hardy

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Colors are differing wavelengths composed of electro-magnetic energy viewed through our eyes. The portion of the visible spectrum being reflected back from a specific object is what we see as a particular color. Various color wavelengths found in sunlight permeate our bodies affecting our primary functions and health. Color influences our perception, affects our emotional and mental states, and contributes to the distribution of energy in our bodies.

Healing with color is known as chromotherapy, colorology and color therapy. Each color possesses a therapeutic quality capable of affecting the way we think and feel. Chromotherapy can be implemented in numerous ways; from soaking up filtered light penetrating colored window panes (often seen in nurseries to encourage healthy plants), basking under colored lights, to incorporate desired colors into one's environment. Energy (spiritual) healers will often compliment their healing work by supplementing color.

Energy centers of the body known as chakras (pronounced shock-rah) correlate to certain colors and govern corresponding organs, etc. In healing, colors act as balancers. The practitioner

administers color through the use of implements such as stones, or may mentally direct appropriate "color rays" into the client's energy field (aura) and body. Color presents us with a natural energy we can harness to assist us in experiencing happy, healthy lives.

Individual color has its own vast compilation of attributes and implications, however as a general guide for healing properties a basic summary follows.

- **Red:** Activates circulation and the nervous system. Energizes all organs and our five senses.
- **Strong Pink:** Cleanses and strengthens the veins, vases and arteries. Eases grief.
- **Pink:** Activates and eliminates impurities from the blood stream.
- **Orange:** Energizes and assists the elimination of localized fat. Stimulates the lungs, aids respiration and digestion, enhances activity of the thyroid and relieves muscle cramps.
- **Strong Yellow:** Strengthens the body, benefits all internal tissues, and soothes nerve pain.
- **Yellow:** Purifies, aids digestion, assimilation and elimination of stool. Rejuvenates skin.
- **Strong Green:** Anti-infectious, anti-septic, increases immunity, assists hormonal imbalances and strengthens the nervous system.

- **Green:** All around healer. Benefits all conditions of the heart. Acts as a vase dilator and builds up muscles, bones and tissues.
- **Strong Blue:** Aids inflammation, assists high blood pressure, benefits joints and articulations.
- **Blue:** Analgesic, coagulant, and regenerates on a cellular level.
- **Indigo:** Astringent, assists ailments linked to the eyes and ears.
- **Purple:** Relaxes the nerves and lymphatic system. Aids the healing of infections, encourages sleep, decreases emotional stress, eases mental stress, and helps lessen sensitivity to pain.

Suggested colors for specific health concerns

- **Yellow:** Indigestion, hepatitis, jaundice, liver, pancreas, kidneys, intestines, the spine and skin.
- **Orange:** Asthma, bronchitis and lungs.
- **Strong Blue:** Colds, sinus infection, ear infection, nervous

tension, stress, acute rheumatism and inflammation.

- **Blue:** Throat infections, thyroid infection and constipation.
- **Indigo:** Eye inflammation, cataract, glaucoma and ocular fatigue.
- **Purple:** Urinary conditions and psychoses.

Invite the energy of color into your life, explore its benefits and discover a healthier you. 🌿

Editor's Note: Rennae Hardy is the owner of Radiant Beings, 25962 Knollwood S. in Chesterfield. Rennae is a certified energy practitioner and offers many choices for alternative healing. You can contact Rennae at (586) 949-0112 or (586) 489-8611.

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Breakfast in Bed for Mom

Recipes gathered by Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Moms are SPECIAL! Treat them this Mother's Day to a special breakfast in bed. Teenagers should be able to complete these recipes by themselves. Younger children will need the help of another adult to prepare this special meal. 🌱



Mother's Day Menu

- Coffee or tea and juice, or Mom's favorite beverage
- Baked French Toast (see recipe below)
- Fried Apples (see recipe below)
- Pre-cooked Sausage links or patties (prepared according to the package)
- Bud vase with a single rose
- A copy of the "Mother's Day Means More" poem (printed below recipes)
- Lots of Love!

Baked French Toast

(This is easy to prepare the night before, so all you have to do in the morning is bake – and pamper Mom!)

Ingredients:

- 1 loaf French bread, about 1 pound
- 8 large eggs
- 3½ cups whole milk
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- pinch salt

Streusel Topping:

- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup flour
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- pinch salt
- 4 tablespoons softened butter
- ½ cup chopped pecans, optional

Preparation:

- Grease a 9x13-inch baking pan.
- Slice bread into 1-inch slices, about 18 to 20 slices. Arrange bread slices in the baking pan, arranging a second layer overlapping the first.
- Whisk together the eggs with milk, ¼ cup brown sugar, vanilla extract, 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, and a pinch of salt.
- Pour the milk mixture over the bread, pressing the bread down lightly all over to be sure it will soak up the milk mixture. Cover the pan with foil or plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.
- The next morning preheat oven to 350°.
- In a bowl, combine ½ cup brown sugar with the flour, ½ teaspoon cinnamon, pinch salt, and 4 tablespoons butter. Blend well. Add pecans, if desired. Sprinkle over the soaked bread and bake for about 25 to 35 minutes, until nicely browned.

Serves 8 to 10 (so others in the family can enjoy as well!). Recipe can also be cut in half and made in a 8x8 baking pan.



Fried Apples

Ingredients:

8 medium Granny Smith apples, chopped, ¼ cup butter, ½ cup brown sugar, ½ teaspoon cinnamon, ⅛ teaspoon nutmeg

Preparation:

- Melt butter in a heavy skillet over medium-low heat. Add apples, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg. Sauté 15 to 20 minutes, or until apples are tender. Serve as a side dish with breakfast. Serves 6.



Mother's Day Means More

By Nicholas Gordon

"Happy Mother's Day" means more than have a happy day. Within those words lie lots of things we never get to say.

It means I love you first of all, then thanks for all you do. It means you mean a lot to me, and that I honor you.

But most of all, I guess it means that I am thinking of Your happiness on this, your day, with pleasure and with love.



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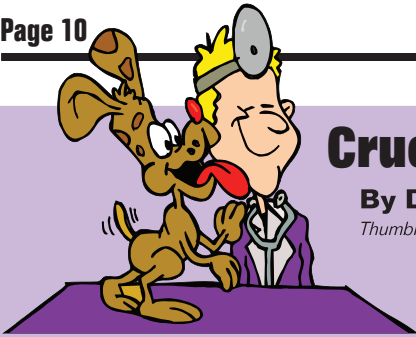
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Cruciate Ligament Rupture

By Dr. DiBenedetto
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Have you heard of an ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) rupture in people? Many people have because it is a common knee injury especially in athletes and runners. However, did you know that this is also a very common injury in dogs as well? A cruciate ligament injury can occur in dogs for several reasons. In some cases, it is simply the result of a traumatic injury in a healthy, athletic dog. Overweight dogs are definitely more prone to this type of injury. The added weight puts a lot of stress on the joints, making the ligaments more prone to breakdown. A more chronic form of cruciate damage can occur due to weakening of the ligaments related to aging. The ligament becomes stretched or partially torn and the lameness may be only slight and intermittent. With continued use of the joint, the condition gradually gets worse until it ruptures without any sudden injury.

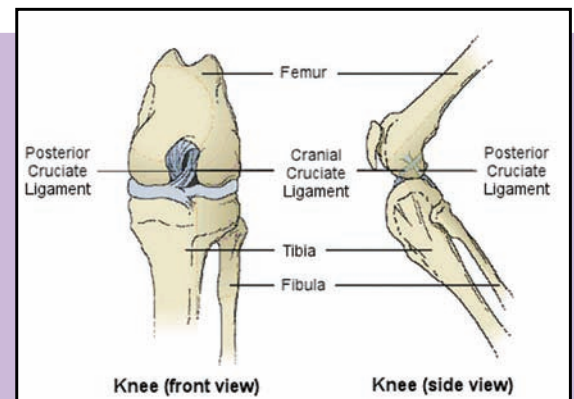
Both the anterior and the posterior

cruciate ligaments criss-cross within the joint to connect the two bones (femur and tibia) of the knee so that it works as a hinged joint. A hinged joint only moves in one plane, backwards and forwards. The rupture or tear most often occurs from a twisting motion caused by a sudden changing of direction when running or slipping on ice or being hit by a car. The anterior ligament is more commonly affected.

With traumatic rupture, the usual history is that the dog was running and suddenly stopped or cried out and was then unable to bear weight on the affected rear leg. Many pets will “toe touch” and place only a small amount of weight on the injured leg. This is extremely painful due to the instability of the joint and can cause arthritis to develop within a short period. To diagnose a ligament rupture, we look for the “cranial drawer sign” during an orthopedic exam. This occurs when we are able to move the tibia (shinbone) forward on the femur (thighbone), like sliding a drawer out. Due to pain and muscle tightness, many dogs need

sedation to perform an accurate test. There will many times be swelling present on the medial aspect of the joint. Radiographs are also taken at this time to check for any arthritis or fractures that could be causing the lameness.

The goal of treatment is to re-establish the knee’s stability so the joint functions normally and arthritis does not progress. While most dogs with cruciate injuries require surgery to stabilize the joint, some dogs under 10kgs (22 lbs) will improve with conservative therapy. This involves several weeks of cage rest, with very brief, calm leash walks for bathroom breaks only and prescription anti-inflammatories for pain control. Various surgical techniques are performed that replace the action of the cruciate ligaments. These surgeries most often involve the placement of a heavy-duty suture material that acts as an artificial ligament along the outside



of the knee joint. There is a newer technique available called Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy (TPLO) that is especially beneficial for larger, more athletic dogs. Regardless of the surgical procedure, a post operative resting period of eight weeks or more is crucial to the healing process. Physical therapy is also extremely beneficial for successful long-term recovery. 🐾

Editor's note: Dr. DiBenedetto is a veterinarian at Maple Veterinary Hospital located at 2981 Iowa in Troy, Michigan. The hospital website is: www.MapleVeterinaryHospital.com. Dr. DiBenedetto can be reached at (248) 586-2622 for other pet related questions.

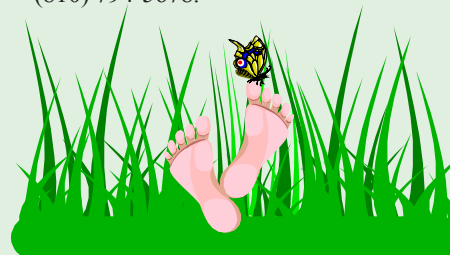
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submitted by M. Koss – author unknown

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Melanie Duquesnel

Donor Alert

Giving to Pacific Tsunami and Japanese Earthquake Victims

Not All Charities are Equipped to Help and Some Might be Fraudulent, Warns BBB

In the wake of the most powerful earthquake to ever hit Japan, many Americans want to help those impacted by the earthquake and the tsunami that followed. Your Better Business Bureau warns donors to exercise caution when making donations to relief agencies and charities.

As with every natural disaster, there are unscrupulous people who will attempt to take advantage of the public's eagerness to help victims.

"In the face of any disaster, Americans will immediately step forward with donations to aid the victims and their families. Unfortunately, poorly run and fraudulent charities will try to take advantage of the generosity of the public during a time of need," said Patrick Bennett, Director of Community Relations for the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

"Donors should be concerned about fraud and legitimacy. That is why it's so important to take your time and do your research before donating to relief efforts."

Your BBB offers the advice for donors to ensure their donations go to trustworthy relief efforts.

- Before donating, visit www.bbb.org/charity to research organizations you're considering supporting.
- Be wary of charities that are reluctant to answer reasonable questions about their operations, finances and programs.
- Ask for written information about the charity's program(s) and finances such as the charity's latest annual report and financial statements.
- Ask what the charity intends to do with any excess contributions remaining once they've fully funded the disaster relief activities mentioned in solicitations.
- Don't give cash. Checks or money orders should be made out to the name of the charitable organization, not to the individual collecting the donation.

- Beware of fake charities that imitate the name and style of well-known organizations in an attempt to confuse donors.
- Don't give in to excessive pressure for on-the-spot donations. Be wary of any request to send a "runner" to pick up your contribution.
- Be wary of any charity that is inexperienced in carrying out relief efforts but is suddenly soliciting for aid in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami. Although well intentioned, they may not be able to quickly deliver aid to those in need.
- Be wary of appeals that are long on emotion, but short on describing what the charity will do to address the needs of victims and their families.
- Don't give your credit card number or other personal information to a telephone solicitor or in response to an e-mail solicitation.
- Make sure your contribution is tax deductible: donations should be made to charitable organizations that are tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Go to IRS Publication 78 on the IRS' website (www.IRS.gov) for a current list of all organizations eligible to receive contributions deductible as charitable gifts.

For additional information you can trust when making giving decisions, or to view BBB Wise Giving Reports on charities across the nation, start with www.bbb.org.

Editor's Note: Melanie Duquesnel is the president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan, which is a non-profit organization that fights fraud and promotes ethical business practices in the local marketplace through its business accreditation, consumer education and dispute resolution programs. Contact your local BBB by calling (248) 223-9400 or by visiting www.bbb.org.

Memorial Day Remembered

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

In early May of 1868, General John Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic declared that the 30th of May be set aside for the purpose of decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the rebellion we now know as the Civil War. It was to be a simple recognition commemorating the sacrifices of our soldiers and sailors whose bodies were buried in cemeteries, churchyards and open fields throughout the land. It was to be known as Decoration Day because citizens were encouraged to decorate the gravesites of those lost in battle with flowers. This day of solemn recognition was eventually designated as Memorial Day by an act of Congress and now honors all military personnel who lost their lives in service to their country.

On the first Decoration Day in 1868 during a somber ceremony, over 5,000 participants decorated the graves of more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in Arlington National Cemetery. During the three years that preceded this event, local observances of those lost in the war were carried out throughout the country. Businesses and government offices would close and the communities' citizens would converge on their cemeteries with flowers and flags in hand.

It made no difference which side of the Mason-Dixon Line you fought on; if you died in this greatest of national battles, you were an American hero to be remembered by all. By the late 1800s, most communities across the nation were celebrating Decoration Day.

That was then and this is now. Things change with time and, somehow, too many of us have forgotten the importance of this one special day of remembrance.

Businesses now remain open and some even have special "Memorial Day Sales." Workers are given the day off and many use the day to celebrate it as "the first day of summer" with picnics in the park, visits to shopping malls and various forms of recreation. Fewer people attend the dwindling number of parades and special events that acknowledge the sacrifice of so many of our fallen heroes.

What may tend to make our lack of understanding more complex is that, over the last several years, some Memorial Day event speakers of national prominence have erroneously identified military veterans in the audience as the focus of this national holiday. Have we sadly forgotten?

The comments here are not intended to berate or belittle anyone. We all may observe this holiday in any manner we wish. The freedom to do so is what makes this country so great. However, on this one day, when the nation honors its fallen heroes, we should all feel a sense of patriotism. Some too often are confused, though, as to whom we are honoring or even why.

Memorial Day is a time to commemorate only men and women who died while in military service for their country. Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day and observed in November each year, is when we salute all military service personnel, alive or deceased.

To add to the confusion, we also celebrate Armed Forces Day on the

third Saturday in May. This nationally recognized holiday created in 1949 occurs at the end of Armed Forces Week, which actually begins on the second Saturday of May.

As a proud veteran and American citizen, I appreciate all holidays that recognize those who have served in the military. My genealogy gives evidence of many

who have served at numerous times in history, from the Revolutionary War forward. None, fortunately, lost their lives during all of the battles experienced and none, therefore, are honored on Memorial Day.

Memorial Day, however, is special. It's a day when we think about our wars. Regardless of our beliefs of whether the conflicts our nation engaged in were necessary, justified or righteous, they remain wars in which dedicated men and women fought because they felt the obligation to do so. This recognized day is set aside to lament those who paid the price with their lives.

Few of us have personally felt the physical or emotional pain of war. That should not to any extent lessen our awareness of the total commitment of those who have. We must never be



A Marine kneels at the grave of SgtMaj Lawrence J. Letellier on Peleliu. The SgtMaj was killed in action by a Japanese mortar explosion on D-Day, September 15, 1944. He was one of the 1,361 Marines and FMF medical personnel who died in the assault on Peleliu.

so foolish as to judge or minimize the individual service of duty to country. The dead must be revered. Their pain must never be forgotten and their heroic contributions deemed always as noble.

We will have an opportunity to recognize our veterans on Veterans Day and Armed Forces Day. On May 30, 2011, let's observe Memorial Day for all that it was intended to represent.

Let's decorate the graves of those who served us well and remember those who gave their lives or are missing in action on foreign soil, never to return to the country for which they fought. Let's proudly participate in the community parades and events that say "thank you" to those who died. Let's not be confused about why Memorial Day exists. 🇺🇸



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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

Mother An Endearing Name!

By Gabriel Jones
ThumbPrint News Columnist

I often call my wife of 53 years *Mother*.

Why not! And she in turn, often calls me *Father*.

I don't know when we started to call each other these names, but we have been doing it for quite some time, and we have been married for 53 years.

Why do we use these names?

That word, *Mother*, is a very endearing and loving name which is given to someone who has given you life and love.

Ask anyone, what the name "Mother" means to them and they will answer: "*Everything!*"

If I ask our two children how much their mother means to them, they

would answer that their whole life is based on the teachings and love given by their mother.

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(And is the head of the house . . . Gulp!)

There is no more beautiful name in the world than *Mother*.

When "Mother's Day" arrives, I know that I'll be shopping for a beautiful bouquet of flowers for my wife with a loving note stating how my love for her still grows after 53 years.

Happy Mother's Day, Love!

Another lesson learned from The Restless Retiree. 🍀



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Fats, oils and greases (FOG's) are put into your septic system everyday. Once they reach your septic tank, good anaerobic bacteria start to consume the waste. The FOGs not consumed by the good bacteria become solid waste. They build up at the top and bottom of your tank in the form of scum, often several inches thick. Pieces of these solids break off, and along with the liquid from your tank, go into your field. Much like plaque can clog our arteries and cause a heart attack, solids from your tank can clog your septic field and cause expensive repairs if you don't remove them.

Regular maintenance for your septic system is a must. The old saying "If it's not broke, don't fix it" is not true. Eventually your septic system or field will fail. Fields are expensive to replace.

Proper maintenance and care to your tank and filtering systems should be done on a regular basis based on your lifestyle, the number of people in the home, and usage.

Remember, we drink what we flush. Eventually, your field water enters back into the ground water. You don't want to contaminate our drinking sources. Call ABC Home & Commercial Services Septic Division at (810) 794-5678 if you have any questions about your septic system.

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Ask the Audiologist

By Lisa Bont

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Well another year and we're ready to celebrate springtime! It's also time for Better Hearing and Speech Month! This is an audiologist's holiday although there are no Hallmark cards to celebrate it. It's May and we are ready to help educate the masses about their hearing health. For the past 75 years, audiologists and speech pathologists have been celebrating this time of the year. Although it's the essence of our professions to speak out about how we can help people with their communication needs, it's at this time that we really step up our game to draw public awareness to how we can help!

As an audiologist, I am concerned about patients' hearing health on a daily basis. I am forever reading, absorbing information on the latest studies, remedies, technological advances, medical procedures and such. Yet I am constantly amazed at what information I've missed as well! What I haven't missed is that nearly 28 million Americans suffer from hearing loss BUT fewer than 7 million use hearing aids. Now let me say that not every



hearing impairment can be helped by hearing aids and so I need to evaluate the patient and help them to navigate their potential solutions.

Do you suspect that you have a hearing loss? Have others told you they suspect you have hearing loss? Well if you answer yes to any of the following you may need help.

- Do you frequently ask people to repeat themselves?
- Do you favor one ear and frequently turn it toward a sound you are trying to hear?
- Do you have difficulty following conversations?
- Do you understand people better when you can see their face?
- Do you have others complaining that your television or radio is too loud for them?
- Do you have any type of pain or noises in your ears?

Maybe it's time that you seek help from your audiologist. Don't wait for someone to tell you that you missed out on hearing something important; like the laughter or squeal of your grandchildren or their "I love you"! When was the last time you heard an early spring robin's song, a woodpecker's drumming or the chorus of a small spring peeper? Spring is the awakening of our ecosystem, a birth of a new season. To your ears these sounds may have quietly slipped away unnoticed.

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Did you know?

- 34.25 million Americans have a hearing loss.
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BASEBALL: Batter Up!

Continued from Page 1

similarities as well.

The earliest known reference using the word "base-ball" was in a 1744 British publication, *A Little Pretty Pocket-Book*, by John Newbery. A woodcut illustration in the book shows a field set-up somewhat the same as a modern baseball field and the game of base-ball itself was described in rhyme. English lawyer William Bray recorded a game of baseball on Easter Monday 1755 in Guildford, Surrey, in his diary. This earliest version of baseball was probably brought to North America by English immigrants.

In 1791, the first known American reference to baseball was made in one of the town bylaws in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where it was prohibited for baseball to be played near the town's new meeting house. By the early 1830s, bat-and-ball games, easily recognizable as early forms of baseball, devoid of official rules, were being played across North America, with names such as "town ball," "round-ball" and "base-ball."

In 1845, Alexander Cartwright, a member of New York City's Knickerbockers Club, led the establishment of the so-called Knickerbocker Rules, standardizing the rules for baseball. These rules continued to evolve over the next half a century. Although baseball games were certainly played prior to 1846, the game that is now recognized as the first officially recorded baseball game in U.S. history took place on June 19, 1846, in Hoboken, New Jersey. The teams playing were the New York Nine and the Knickerbockers. The New York Nine won 23-1 in four innings.

By 1856, the game of baseball had become so popular that newspapers were referring to baseball as the "national patstime." In 1876, the formally structured National League was founded. Only a few short 78 years later, Elmer Kodet was playing on the Maple Heights baseball team and baseball had become a standardized sport played in high schools across the country.

More than 4,000 different uniform styles have been worn by Major League ballplayers since 1876. By the early 1900s, uniforms were either 100% wool flannel or a blend of wool and cotton. The

idea of playing baseball in the late spring and summer heat and humidity in a suit made of flannel would seem almost unbearable to players today. But Elmer and his team mates were used to this type of fabric and played the sport just as enthusiastically as their modern-day counterparts.

*"I can't believe they pay us to play baseball – something we did for free as kids."
– Sparky Anderson*

Around the turn of the century, home uniforms for almost all teams were white. By 1912, visible pin striping became quite common. By the time Elmer was playing high school baseball, baseball caps

looked much the same as those worn today. However, only twenty years prior, several major league clubs were still sporting the "pillbox" or Chicago style caps, that usually incorporated horizontal striping, much like a layer cake.



Early types of baseball caps

When Elmer purchased baseball spikes (shoes) in 1934, they were low-quartered, unlike the type that came just below the ankle bone 15 years prior. His only choice of color was black.

The home shirts of the time usually had the name of the team spelled out in capital letters. It was the Detroit Tigers in 1930 who established an important

precedent by having Detroit spelled out in script lettering, instead of the traditional capital letters. By 1940, it was extremely popular to use slanted script letters with an underline flourish.

The bats Elmer and his team members were using had also been



Detroit Tigers road uniform in 1934.

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Elmer Kodet's letterman jacket included this letter "M" (Maple Heights High School) patch. Vintage baseball equipment is pictured here along with his letter.

standardized by that time to a maximum of 42 inches in length, the same as applies today. Can you imagine that when the first official baseball game was played in 1846, the players were making their own bats? Understandably, there was a wide variance in lengths and widths.

Elmer Kodet moved to Port Huron, Michigan, with his family in 1935. By 1936, he had become the Captain of the Port Huron High School baseball team. In an excerpt from the 1936 edition of *The Student*, the year book of Port Huron High School, we find this description of the Port Huron High School team and a glimpse into how the 1936 season was progressing:

The first call for baseball was issued March 30 and about eighty boys reported. Six of the boys who reported were regulars last year. They are:

Captain Elmer Kodet, right fielder; Verne Cote, first baseman; Joe Gillian, third baseman; Clyde Johnson, left fielder; and Bill Buntrock and Ed Roberts, pitchers and shortstops. These boys along with Russ Barth and Fred Cote, catchers; Harvey Wendorf, second baseman; and Frank Russell, outfielder; will compose this year's varsity.

The team got off to a good start this year by defeating Marysville 20-2. Roberts and Buntrock pitched and gave up six hits. Bill Buntrock led the heavy hitting with two home runs. Ed Roberts connected for three singles.

The second game, played with St. Marys, was won by Port Huron 15-2. Roberts pitched, allowing four hits. Buntrock hit a home run making his total three for two games. In this game they lost the services of Russ Barth who split a finger which will put him out for two weeks.

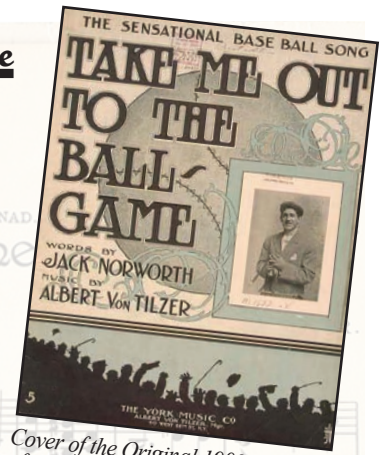
The game with Hazel Park was rained out. On May 5 Port Huron again defeated Marysville, this time by a 6-0 score. Buntrock pitched and allowed only two hits.

Elmer Kodet passed away 9½ years ago at the age of 84. However, each spring, as the ground begins to warm, trees begin to bud, and the first flowers appear once again after the long, cold winter, all across Michigan, from the elementary schools up to the high schools, children and young men and women take to the field once again just as Elmer did so many years ago with the cries of "Batter Up!" as one more season gets under way. 🍀

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Written by Jack Norworth
Composed by: Albert Von Tilzer

Although "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" was not the first baseball song ever written, it is undeniably the most famous. The author, Jack Norworth, originally wrote the lyrics on a scrap of paper while riding the train to Manhattan, New York. The original version was published in 1908. In 1927, Jack changed some of the lyrics and a newer version appeared. Below are the words from both the 1908 version and the 1927 version.



Cover of the Original 1908 Version of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"

1908 Version

*Katie Casey was base ball mad,
Had the fever and had it bad;
Just to root for the home town crew,
Ev'ry sou Katie blew.
On a Saturday, her young beau
Called to see if she'd like to go,
To see a show but Miss Kate said,
"No, I'll tell you what you can do."*

1927 Version

*Nelly Kelly loved baseball games,
Knew the players, knew all their names,
You could see her there ev'ry day,
Shout "Hurray," when they'd play.
Her boy friend by the name of Joe
Said, "To Coney Isle, dear, let's go,"
Then Nelly started to fret and pout,
And to him I heard her shout:*

[Chorus] "Take me out to the ball game,

Take me out with the crowd.

Buy me some peanuts and cracker jack,

I don't care if I never get back,

Let me root, root, root for the home team,

If they don't win it's a shame.

For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,

At the old ball game."

*Katie Casey saw all the games,
Knew the players by their first names;
Told the umpire he was wrong,
All along good and strong.
When the score was just two to two,
Katie Casey knew what to do,
Just to cheer up the boys she knew,
She made the gang sing this song:*

*Nelly Kelly was sure some fan,
She would root just like any man,
Told the umpire he was wrong,
All along, good and strong.
When the score was just two to two,
Nelly Kelly knew what to do,
Just to cheer up the boys she knew,
She made the gang sing this song:*

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Today, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" is still sung during the seventh inning stretch at nearly every ball park in the country! 🍀

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Baseball In Poetry

Just as "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" is the most famous baseball song, "Casey at the Bat" is surely the world's most famous baseball poem. It originally appeared in the *San Francisco Examiner* in 1888, written by Ernest Thayer under the pseudonym of Phin. Although the official title of the poem was "Casey at the Bat: A Ballad of the Republic Sung in the Year 1888", most people know the poem simply as "Casey at the Bat". Here is how it appeared originally in 1888:

Casey at the Bat

By Ernest Lawrence Thayer

The outlook wasn't brilliant for the Mudville nine that day;
The score stood four to two, with but one inning more to play,
And then when Cooney died at first, and Barrows did the same,
A pall-like silence fell upon the patrons of the game.

A straggling few got up to go in deep despair. The rest
Clung to that hope which springs eternal in the human breast;
They thought, "If only Casey could but get a whack at that ~
We'd put up even money now, with Casey at the bat."

But Flynn preceded Casey, as did also Jimmy Blake,
And the former was a hoodoo, while the latter was a cake;
So upon that stricken multitude grim melancholy sat;
For there seemed but little chance of Casey getting to the bat.

But Flynn let drive a single, to the wonderment of all,
And Blake, the much despised, tore the cover off the ball;
And when the dust had lifted, and men saw what had occurred,
There was Jimmy safe at second and Flynn a-hugging third.

Then from five thousand throats and more there rose a lusty yell;
It rumbled through the valley, it rattled in the dell;
It pounded on the mountain and recoiled upon the flat,
For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.

There was ease in Casey's manner as he stepped
into his place;
There was pride in Casey's bearing and a smile lit
Casey's face.

And when, responding to the cheers, he lightly
doffed his hat,

No stranger in the crowd could doubt
'twas Casey at the bat.

Ten thousand eyes were on him as he rubbed his hands with dirt.
Five thousand tongues applauded when he wiped them on his shirt.
Then while the writhing pitcher ground the ball into his hip,
Defiance flashed in Casey's eye, a sneer curled Casey's lip.

And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air,
And Casey stood a-watching it in haughty grandeur there.
Close by the sturdy batsman the ball unheeded sped ~
"That ain't my style," said Casey. "Strike one!" the umpire said.

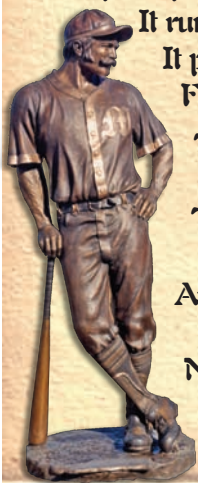
From the benches, black with people, there went up a muffled roar,
Like the beating of the storm-waves on a stern and distant shore;
"Kill him! Kill the umpire!" shouted someone on the stand;
And it's likely they'd have killed him had not Casey raised his hand.

With a smile of Christian charity great Casey's visage shone;
He stilled the rising tumult; he bade the game go on;
He signaled to the pitcher, and once more the dun sphere flew;
But Casey still ignored it, and the umpire said "Strike two!"

"Fraud!" cried the maddened thousands, and echo answered "Fraud!"
But one scornful look from Casey and the audience was awed.
They saw his face grow stern and cold, they saw his muscles strain,
And they knew that Casey wouldn't let that ball go by again.

The sneer has fled from Casey's lip, the teeth are clenched in hate;
He pounds with cruel violence his bat upon the plate.
And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go,
And now the air is shattered by the force of Casey's blow.

Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright,
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light,
And somewhere men are laughing, and little children shout;
But there is no joy in Mudville ~ mighty Casey has struck out.





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That would have been a pretty sad ending for Mighty Casey's career, had not in 1906 Grantland Rice, under the pseudonym of James Wilson, written "Casey's Revenge," in which Casey makes a comeback.

Casey's Revenge

By James Wilson

There were saddened hearts in Mudville for a week or even more;
There were muttered oaths and curses ~ every fan in town was sore.
"Just think," said one, "how soft it looked with Casey at the bat!
And then to think he'd go and spring a bush-league trick like that."

All his past fame was forgotten; he was now a hopeless "shine."
They called him "Strike-out Casey" from the mayor down the line,
And as he came to bat each day his bosom heaved a sigh,
While a look of hopeless fury shone in mighty Casey's eye.

The lane is long, someone has said, that never turns again,
And fate, though fickle, often gives another chance to men.
And Casey smiled ~ his rugged face no longer wore a frown;
The pitcher who had started all the trouble came to town.

All Mudville had assembled; ten thousand fans had come
To see the twirler who had put big Casey on the bum;
And when he stepped into the box, the multitude went wild.
He doffed his cap in proud disdain ~ but Casey only smiled.

"Play ball!," the umpire's voice rang out, and then the game began;
But in that throng of thousands there was not a single fan
Who thought that Mudville had a chance; and with the setting sun
Their hopes sank low ~ the rival team was leading "four to one."

The last half of the ninth came round, with no change in the score;
But when the first man up hit safe the crowd began to roar.
The din increased, the echo of ten thousand shouts was heard
When the pitcher hit the second and gave "four balls" to the third.

Three men on base ~ nobody out ~ three runs to tie the game!
A triple meant the highest niche in Mudville's hall of fame;
But here the rally ended and the gloom was deep as night
When the fourth one "fouled to catcher" and the fifth "flew out to right."

A dismal groan in chorus came ~ a scowl was on each face ~
When Casey walked up, bat in hand, and slowly took his place;
His bloodshot eyes in fury gleamed; his teeth were clinched in hate;
He gave his cap a vicious hook and pounded on the plate.

But fame is fleeting as the wind, and glory fades away;
There were no wild and wooly cheers, no glad acclaim this day.
They hissed and groaned and hooted as they clamored, "Strike him out!"
But Casey gave no outward sign that he had heard this shout.

The pitcher smiled and cut one loose; across the plate it spread;
Another hiss, another groan. "Strike one!" the umpire said.
Zip! Like a shot, the second curve broke just below his knee ~
"Strike two!" the umpire roared aloud; but Casey made no plea.

No roasting for the umpire now ~ his was an easy lot;
But here the pitcher whirled again ~ was that a rifle shot?
A whack! a crack! and out through space the leather pellet flew,
A blot against the distant sky, a speck against the blue.

Above the fence in center field, in rapid whirling flight,
The sphere sailed on; the blot grew dim and then was lost to sight.
Ten thousand hats were thrown in air, ten thousand threw a fit,
But no one ever found the ball that mighty Casey hit!

Oh, somewhere in this favored land dark clouds may hide the sun.
And somewhere bands no longer play, children have no fun;
And somewhere over blighted lives there hangs a heavy pall;
But Mudville hearts are happy now ~ for Casey hit the ball!

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- July 3 - VS Giants (Sunday @ 11am)
- July 17 - VS White Sox (Sunday @ 11am)
- July 31 - VS Angels (Sunday @ 11am)
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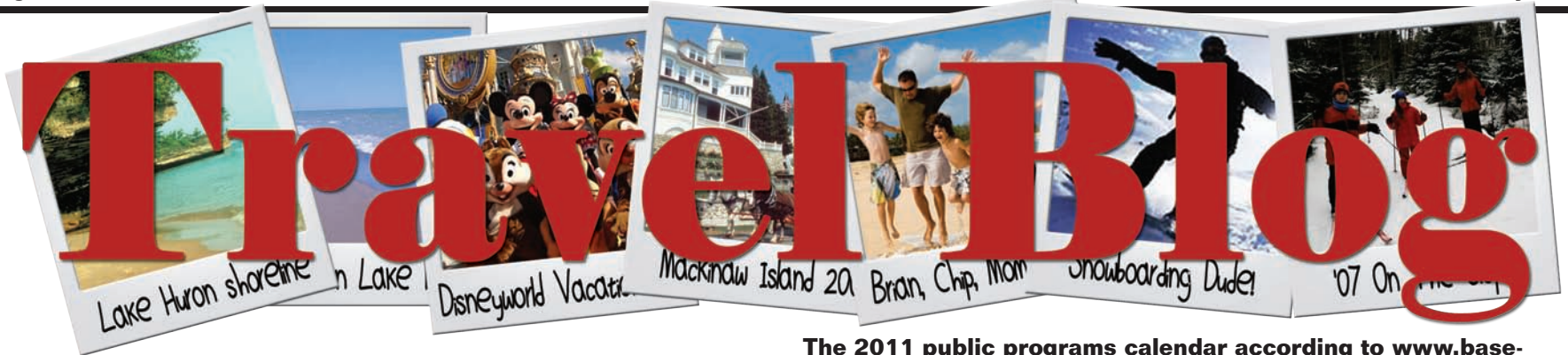
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The National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York

A Great Mini-Vacation for Baseball Enthusiasts!

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Are you looking for a travel destination that the whole family will enjoy? If you have about four days to get away, try the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum collections feature more than 38,000 three-dimensional items, three million books and documents and 500,000 photographs. All of the 2.6 million items are housed in climate-controlled areas and are maintained by a knowledgeable staff using state-of-the-art archival techniques.

The history of baseball is told through a three-story timeline. In the center is the fabulous Plaque Gallery.

The Museum according to its website is “an independent, non-profit educational institution dedicated to fostering an appreciation of the historical development of baseball and its impact on our culture by collecting, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting its collections for a global audience as well as honoring those who have made outstanding contributions to our national pastime.”

For those who are truly passionate about baseball, perhaps even collected or still collect baseball cards, at the Museum you will see the coveted Honus Wagner baseball card on display, which is reputed to be the holy grail of baseball cards. Its value is said to be three million dollars apiece – and the museum has two on display!

Johannes Peter “Honus” Wagner, born February 24, 1874 and died December 6, 1955, was nicknamed “The Flying Dutchman” due to his superb speed and German heritage (“Dutch”



1939 Dedication of the National Baseball Hall of Fame

in this instance being an alteration of “Deutsch”). Honus was an American Major League Baseball shortstop who played in the National League from 1897 to 1917, almost entirely for the Pittsburgh Pirates. In 1936, the Baseball Hall of Fame inducted Wagner as one of the first five members, along with Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Christy Mathewson and Walter Johnson.

The T206 Honus Wagner baseball card was designed and issued by the American Tobacco Company from 1909 to 1911 as part of its T206 series. Wagner ultimately refused to allow

production of his baseball card to continue. The reasons have been stated as either Honus did not want children to buy cigarette packs to get his card, or because he wanted more money from the American Tobacco Company. When the American Tobacco Company ended production of the Wagner card, only 60 to 200 cards were ever sold to the public.

Thousands of other rare and memorable items are part of the collections a visitor will see at the National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum. 🍀



A mint condition T206 Honus Wagner baseball card is said to be one of the rarest cards in the world.

The 2011 public programs calendar according to www.baseballhall.org, the official website of The National Baseball Hall of Fame, includes the following events from May through October:

- **Salute to the World Series Champion San Francisco Giants – May 7-8:** Programs and special events dedicated to the 2010 World Series Champion San Francisco Giants, including display of the Giants’ World Series trophy in the Hall of Fame’s Education Gallery.
- **One for the Books Exhibit Opening – May 27-28:** Visit as we open a brand new exhibit that looks at the history of baseball records, and the stories behind them. Members are invited to a special preview and reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday evening. On Saturday, the Museum will celebrate the official opening of the exhibit with exciting programs all day long.
- **Cricket Weekend – June 3-5:** An Interactive weekend celebrating the newest Museum exhibit on the relationship between cricket and baseball, *Swinging Away*, direct from the Marylebone Cricket Club in London.
- **Hall of Fame Classic Weekend – June 18-19:** Seven Hall of Famers and 20 other former major league players take to Doubleday Field for a game of legendary stars in this annual Father’s Day Weekend event. The Weekend will feature family-friendly events and a golf fundraiser for the Museum.
- **All-Star Gala – July 12:** Join the excitement and entertainment as the Hall of Fame hosts the annual All-Star Game Gala. The night will include games, prizes, food, entertainment, and, of course, live coverage of the 2011 All-Star Game from Chase Field in Phoenix, Ariz. Members may reserve tickets beginning Monday, June 6. Remaining tickets will be available to non-members on July 5 by calling the Membership department at 607-547-0397
- **Hall of Fame Weekend – July 22-25:** The spotlight of the baseball world shines on Cooperstown as Roberto Alomar, Bert Blyleven and Pat Gillick are enshrined as the Class of 2011. The Weekend features family-friendly events such as Saturday’s Awards Ceremony and Parade of Legends, Sunday’s 1:30 p.m. Induction Ceremony and Monday’s Voices of the Game event with the members of the Class of 2011.
- **Baseball Film Festival – Sept. 30-Oct. 2:** We invite you to join us for our annual Baseball Film Festival. The Festival is a showcase of newly-released films of any genre with a baseball focus. Tickets for each screening session are free but must be reserved. Participants in the Hall of Fame’s Membership Program may begin reserving their tickets on Monday, Sept. 12 by calling 607-547-0397. Any remaining tickets will be available to the general public beginning on

Monday, Sept. 26.

- **Character & Courage Weekend – Oct. 7-9:** Held during the autumn splendor of Columbus Day Weekend in Central New York, this thematic celebration of two traits found in the Hall of Fame spirit provides programs that document sportsmanship, character and integrity.
- **The Haunted Side of Baseball – Oct. 15, 22 and 29:** Visitors to the Hall of Fame on Saturdays in October can experience the mysterious side of our National Pastime through an hour-long tour exploring the ghosts, curses, and legends of baseball’s past and present. Learn about the Curse of the Bambino, the hauntings at Wrigley Field, and even some strange occurrences at the Hall of Fame itself. The “Ghosts of Baseball” tour will be offered at 11:00 a.m. each Saturday beginning Oct. 15 and running through Oct. 29.
- **World Series Gala – Late October (date TBD):** Enjoy the excitement of the Fall Classic on the big screen at the Hall of Fame in one of our favorite annual family events. The evening is sure to entertain with refreshments, trivia, raffles, prizes and live coverage of a to-be-determined game of the 2011 World Series. For more information on these and other events, such as VIP Experience packages and Extra Innings Overnights outings, visit www.baseballhall.org. The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is open seven days a week year round, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day. The Museum observes regular hours of 9 a.m.-5 p.m. from Labor Day until Memorial Day weekend. From Memorial Day through the day before Labor Day, the Museum is open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. seven days a week. Ticket prices are \$19.50 for adults (13 and over), \$12 for seniors (65 and over) and for those holding current memberships in the VFW, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion and AM/Vets organizations, and \$7 for juniors (ages 7-12). Members are always admitted free of charge and there is no charge for children 6 years of age or younger. Visit their web site at baseballhall.org or call 888-HALL-OF-FAME (888-425-5633) or 607-547-72.



National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York as it appears today.

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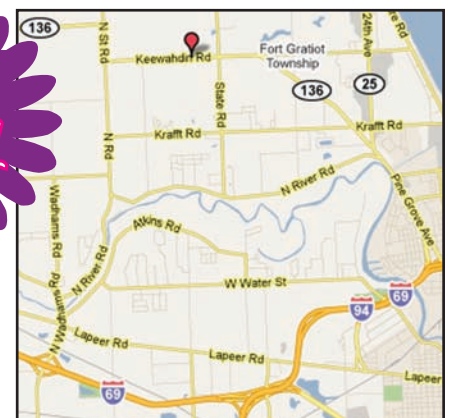




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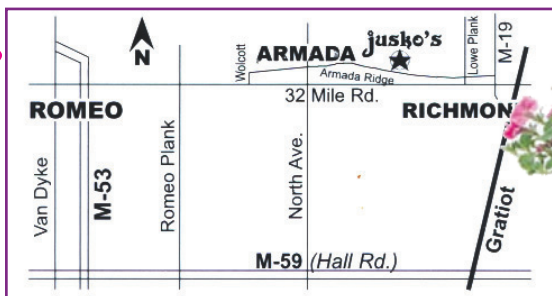
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THE JOURNEY

Continued from Page 4

landing crafts rose up from the Pacific surf, as silent monuments to the fallen Marines. The rows of white crosses rested in the shade of the now silent island of Guadalcanal.

The scorched caves, blackened by flame throwers, the burned remnants of enemy tanks, the annihilation of 30,000 Japanese troops and the flag of the United States flying proudly, amid the dense green foliage, bore witness to America's might.

"Several in the group had fought on Guadalcanal and had come back to pay their respects to those comrades now buried there. I visited some of the battle sites. It was a very sobering trip. We knew there was a lot more to come," Roy said.



The first wave of LVTs move toward the invasion beaches at Peleliu.

He returned to Goodenough Island wondering how many more Guadalcanal's and Cape Gloucester's were yet to come before the carnage ended. He thought about his parents and what they must have endured in war torn France during World War I.

The Marines on Pavuvu were getting restless. They were rested, resupplied and ready to move on to their next objective. They knew they couldn't return home until the Japanese had their planes shot from the air, their naval ships sunk to the bottom of the Pacific, and their armies driven out of the island jungles leading all the way back to the Empire of Japan. They also had learned that "surrender" was not a word in the Japanese vocabulary.

General MacArthur discussed his plans to retake the Philippine Islands with military planners. MacArthur was convinced that the heavily Japanese-fortified island of Peleliu had to be taken so his right flank would be protected when he invaded the Philippines. Vice Admiral Halsey wanted to bypass and isolate the island. He argued that Peleliu was too far from the Philippines to pose a threat to the invasion force.

General MacArthur would not waiver in his demands. Admiral Nimitz allowed the invasion to go forward. Was MacArthur's decision based on ego

or sound judgment? The controversy would be argued for years to come. His decision would result in one of the most costly and savage battles fought by the men of the United States Marine Corps.

The monotonous weeks spent on Pavuvu slowly turned into months. September arrived and there was an air of anticipation among the Marines on the island. Orders came to check all equipment and weapons.

Roy said, "In September, we left Goodenough Island and joined the Marines on Pavuvu, which was the staging area. We had to load the ships, not just for us, but the infantry and everybody. We had to combat load the transports for an invasion. Aerial reconnaissance showed there were numerous wells on Peleliu and getting fresh water should not be a problem. The Japanese may have poisoned the wells, so our unit loaded 185 drums of fresh water aboard the LSTs. Each barrel contained fifty five gallons."

General Rupertus told the Marines, "We're going to have some casualties, but let me assure you this is going to be a short one, a quickie. Rough but fast. We'll be through in three days. It might take only two." The General was a little over optimistic. It would be 73 days of living hell before the battle was over.

Roy was aboard an LST on September 4 heading to his last stop. The convoy of ships lumbered across a two thousand mile expanse of the Pacific depths arriving on Peleliu before daylight on September 15.

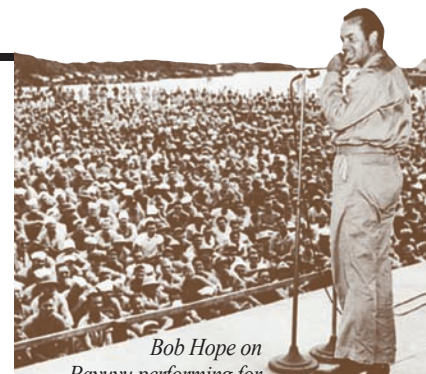
"On the way to Peleliu, I was assigned the job of making fresh water from sea water because the equipment aboard could not make enough water for all the troops."

The air and naval barrage was ferocious, rocking the heavens and opening the gates of hell. When it ended, wave after wave of amphibious tractors filled with Marines headed across the coral reefs through heavy Japanese artillery, mortar, machine gun, and sniper fire. The Japanese were well fortified in hundreds of coral caves, surviving the initial bombardment.

Burning Amtraks smoldered on the beaches and on the reef. The water boiled



The Japanese were well fortified inside coral caves above the beaches.



Bob Hope on Pavuvu performing for the 1st Marine Division.

I tried not to play favorites with any one outfit. But in spite of myself, I found myself carrying a torch for the First Marine Division. In 1944 I was in Banika in the Russell Islands in the Southwest Pacific with a USO unit.

A Special Service marine officer came to see me. "We've got the First Marine Division stashed on a little island called Pavuvu, about 20 miles from here," he said. "They're training for the invasion of Peleliu. Nobody knows this but the men themselves. They haven't had any entertainment for nine months. If you would come over with your troupe, it would be wonderful." "How do we get there?" I asked. "I think you ought to know there're no runways on Pavuvu," he said. You'll have to go in Cubs; one of you to each Cub. You land on a road." "We'll be ready tomorrow," I said. "I'll check with my people, but I'm sure they'll want to go." Frances Langford, Jerry Colonna, Patty Thomas, Bill Goodwin, and the rest of the gang had never turned down a show anywhere. The next day we took off. Each of us was in a Cub with a pilot. When we reached Pavuvu, more than 15,000 guys were standing on the baseball field, waiting for us. Looking down, I realized that 15,000 faces pointed at the sky is a lot of faces. As we flew over, they let out a yell. It felt as if it lifted our Cubs up into the air. We did a show for them. While we were doing it, we knew that many of the men we were entertaining would never see the States again. If we hadn't felt the drama in that thought, we'd have been pretty thick-skinned. We weren't that thick-skinned.

When we got into the Cubs to go back to Banika, all 15,000 of those Marines lined each side of the road and cheered each Cub as it took off. If I never get another thrill in my life, that one will last me.

~ Bob Hope

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Once on Peleliu, Marines fight to take control of the beach. Marine riflemen take shelter behind an LST while Marines on top fire at Japanese targets.

and erupted, as bullets whizzed through the air. Black smoke engulfed the island. The putrid smell of war permeated the air. The battles were savage as the Marines advanced. There would be no quarter asked and none given.

"Roy said, "I watched the initial landing from a distance. They had to wade in through water that was two or three feet deep. They held their rifles up out of the water and went in through heavy mortar fire. The Japanese were pretty good with their mortars. There were quite a few casualties."

"Some of my buddies went ashore, not on the initial landing, but very close behind to set up a water unit. I had a friend, Robert Peterson, in our unit, who had attended Henry Ford Trade School with me. It was just a coincidence that we ended up together. My other good buddy was Lewis Wilcoxon. I found out they were both killed going ashore. I don't know how they were killed, but probably from the Japanese, who were firing down on the landing forces from the mountains with mortars," Roy said, his voice choked with emotion and his eyes filled with tears.

"I requested to leave the ship's water unit and go ashore. I wanted to be with my buddies. The Captain of the ship said, "Go ahead." When I got on shore, the beach was secure. There was no water whatsoever. The wells had been poisoned."

"We needed our drums of water. All of the troops were busy doing other things. That's when a Seabee battalion of African-Americans volunteered to float the drums from the ship to the beach through several feet of water and heavy mortar fire. Several were killed and wounded."

"We took those water drums to the front lines. That was our fresh water supply until we could dig new wells and desalinate sea water."

"I was on guard duty the second night on the Island, while two of my buddies rested in the foxhole next to me. The Japanese were well known for night time infiltration. It was pitch black. I heard a scraping on the coral coming very close to us. I nudged my buddies. As the scraping sound got closer we fixed bayonets on our rifles. Then, a large sand crab crawled out of the brush. It almost got bayoneted!"

Roy would not spend a third night on Peleliu. The next morning, drums of fresh water were loaded on a truck to take to his fellow Marines, who were fighting the Japanese, the jungle and the heat.

The truck with Roy and two of his fellow Marines followed the sandy trail that wound through the fractured jungle landscape carrying the lifeblood of battle.

"You had to be careful on the roads because the Japanese had lots of land mines. The road was all sand with very little shrubbery around it. It was pretty barren. We were heading up to the front lines. We were on the side of the island that was more or less safe versus the side where they had invaded," Roy said.

"I was sitting in the front passenger seat of the truck. The truck hit a land mine and it exploded. I found myself lying on the ground. Then somebody yelled, 'Mortar!' When someone yells mortar, you find a hole and get into it. I tried to jump up and that's when I found out that my legs were not fit for anything. I just collapsed. A medical crew was just a few hundred feet away. They came out and got me. I had shrapnel embedded in most of my body. One piece went into my eye and I had a few in my forehead. My legs were shattered and I had a concussion. The medics did what they had to and then transported me to whatever craft they were using to get me to the hospital ship."

The USS Solace



The USS Solace arrived off Peleliu on September 22, 1944, anchored 2,000 yards from the beach, and began loading wounded. All stretcher cases (542) were put on board Solace. She headed for Nouméa on September 25, but returned to Peleliu from October 16-27 tending more wounded.

"The hospital ship was standing by and they had a full medical staff aboard. They hoisted my stretcher up the side of the ship. A nurse met me there and asked how I was doing? I remember saying, 'You are an angel.'" Roy's voice was choked with emotion and his eyes welled with tears, as he recalled the "angel of mercy."

The hospital ship, *U.S.S. Solace* was loaded with 542 stretcher cases of wounded Marines. The *Solace* departed Peleliu carrying her wounded cargo on September 25, heading for the Naval hospital at Noumea, New Caledonia. 🍀

Continued in our next issue: there was another naval nurse that would soon be by Roy's side. This angel would be with him for life.

Editor's note: Roy and Alice Hahn now live in Lexington, Michigan. They met during World War II and have been married 65 years. This installment is part 3 of a four-part story.



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What Happened On This Day in History?

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

May

1. On this day in 1884, construction began on Chicago's first skyscraper (10 stories).



2. On this day in 1902, "A Trip To The Moon," the first science fiction film was released.

3. On this day in 1830, the first regular steam train passenger service started.

4. On this day in 1846, Michigan ended the death penalty.

5. On this day in 1809, Mary Kies was the first woman to be issued a U.S. patent (for weaving straw).

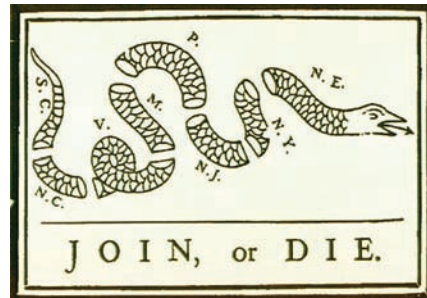
6. On this day in 1861, Jefferson Davis approved a bill declaring War between the U.S. and the Confederacy.

7. On this day in 1970, "Long and Winding Road" became the Beatles' last American release.



8. On this day in 1792, the U.S. established the military draft.

9. On this day in 1754, the first newspaper cartoon in America appeared – a divided snake "Join or Die."



10. On this day in 1797, the first Navy ship, *The United States* was launched.

11. On this day in 1751, the first U.S. hospital was founded (Pennsylvania Hospital).

12. On this day in 1777, the first ice cream advertisement appeared (Philip Lenzi in the *New York Gazette*).



13. On this day in 1916, Native American Day was first observed.

14. On this day in 1607, the first permanent English settlement in the New World was established in Jamestown, Virginia.

15. On this day in 1869, the National Woman Suffrage Association was formed.

16. On this day in 1866, the U.S. Treasury Department authorized the nickel.

17. On this day in 1620, the first merry-go-round was seen at a fair (Philippopolis, Turkey).



18. On this day in 1756, England declared war on France.

19. On this day in 1848, Mexico gave Texas to the U.S., ending the war.

20. On this day in 1862, the Homestead Act provided cheap land for settlement of the West.

21. On this day in 1819, the first bicycles (swift walkers) in the U.S. were introduced in New York City.



22. On this day in 1803, the first public library opened (Connecticut).

23. On this day in 1785, Benjamin Franklin announced his invention of bifocals.



24. On this day in 1899, the first automobile repair shop opened (Boston).

25. On this day in 1922, Babe Ruth was suspended for one day and fined \$200 for throwing dirt on an umpire.



26. On this day in 1887, racetrack betting became legal in New York state.

27. On this day in 1796, James S. McLean patented his piano.



28. On this day in 1900, a solar eclipse occurred.

29. On this day in 1849, a patent for lifting vessels was granted to Abraham Lincoln.

30. On this day in 1868, Memorial Day was first observed when two women in Columbus, Mississippi placed flowers on both Confederate and Union graves.

31. On this day in 1985, 41 tornadoes hit the Northeast U.S., killing 88 people.



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Thumb Area Activities & Events for May 2011

If you have an event in June that you would like listed in the June issue of *ThumbPrint News*, please email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by May 12, 2011. There is no charge for the listing.

Editor's note: Before traveling beyond your home town to attend any of these events, please call ahead for any changes in dates or times or for any cancellations.

Genesee County

Flint – May 22

Ask the Lawyer Free Community Seminar, Flint Public Library, 1026 E. Kearsley St., 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The topic is "Real Estate/Neighbor Relations." Brought to you by the Genesee County Bar Association. Space is limited. RSVP by calling (810) 232-6000 or online at www.gcbalaw.org.

Huron County

Harbor Beach – May 14

County-Wide Plant Exchange, Harbor Beach City Hall Parking Lot, 766 State St. Contact (989) 479-6347.

Port Austin – May 29

Lady Slipper Festival, Huron County Nature Center, Loosmore Road off Oak Beach Road. Event features exhibits, displays and refreshments to purchase. Contact Bill Diller at (989) 551-8400 for more information.

Lapeer County

Almont – May 14

Euchre Night, Almont Lions Hall, 222 Water St., 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:00 p.m.) There will be two sets of five games each with a break in between. Refreshments and lunch will be served during the break. Generous prizes are awarded to the top three points holders. There will be a \$15 donation at the door. If a player brings a first time player they both play for \$10 each. (810) 798-9609.

Dryden – May 19, 20 & 21

Village Wide Garage Sale. Maps of all participating garage sales will be available.

Dryden – May 21

Annual Perennial Plant Sale, Depot Museum, 5488 Main Street, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., rain or shine. Other events include the grand reopening of the Depot Museum, with additional memorabilia from the Dryden area and a special Memorial Day tribute to our men and women who served in the armed forces. Also there will be the Historical Society's 2nd annual quilt raffle. This year's quilt was again generously donated by Lisa Burmann of Burmann Studios and is titled "Fireworks Over General Squier Park." (810) 796-3328.

Macomb County

Clinton Township – May 5

The Life and Works of Ernest Hemingway, Clinton-Macomb Public Library, 40900 Romeo Plank, 7:00 p.m. Known as a journalist, short-story writer and novelist, Ernest Hemingway is one of the most well-known authors of the 20th century. To register, call (586) 226-5050.

Richmond – May 5

National M.S. Society Fundraiser, Ken's Country Kitchen 69232 North Main St., 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. When you go to pay for your meal on that day, put your receipt in the jar marked "National M.S. Society Fundraiser" and 20% will go to the M.S. walk on Sat., May 14th in Frankenmuth. Call (586) 727-4747.

New Baltimore – May 7

11th Annual Golf Outing, Cedar Glen Golf

Course, 36860 25 Mile Rd., 9:00 a.m., shotgun start. Sponsored by the Anchor Bay High School Wrestling team, the cost is \$95 per person. Contact Kate at (586) 949-5892.

Chesterfield – May 11

15th Annual Pasta Dinner, Chesterfield Township Senior Center, 47275 Sugarbush Road, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Event catered by Mark Miller of Culinary Expressions. Menu includes two pastas, salad, bread, and homemade desserts. Tickets are \$10 and include dinner and door prizes. Sponsored by Chesterfield Township Historical Society, www.chesterfieldhistoricalsociety.org.

Romeo – May 21

Sixth Annual Victorian Festival, downtown area, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Presented by the Romeo Historical Society, the Victorian Festival offers a unique opportunity for visitors to take a step back in time as downtown Romeo pours on the Victorian charm! www.romeovictorianfestival.com.

Richmond – May 22

Genealogy 101, One-room schoolhouse at the Historical Village, 2:00 p.m. Patricia Jo Hendrickson, published family researcher and the editor of The Richmond Historical Society's newsletter, *The Historian*. She will present a program that will help those who are researching their family history. Contact Christine Rowley at crowley50@comcast.net.

Oakland County

Rochester – May 7

Inside the Hive, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, 333 North Hill Circle, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. This program is the "bee's knees." We'll discover the world of honey bees as we try on real bee-keeping gear and see how honey is extracted from hives. We'll find out about different types of honey and get some tasty treats. Call (248) 656-0999 for cost.

Rochester – May 15

Wildflowers of the Preserve, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, 333 North Hill Circle. Free event. Drop in and we'll have craft projects and a naturalist on hand to show you around. Call (248) 656-0999 for more information.

St. Clair County

Port Huron – May 1

Blue Water Jazz Society Event, Quay Street Brewery, 330 Quay St., 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Svan Anderson is a jazz pianist and guitarist. Janet Tenaj is a jazz vocalist, pianist, lyricist, composer and arranger. Together they are an example of jazz at its finest. No cover charge.

Port Huron – May 2

Mom and Me Creation Station, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorrin Blvd., 3:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Drop in for Mother's Day activities (for children ages 12 and under). Create an ornament and design a card for Mom! Call (810) 987-7323 ext. 132 or 130.

Kimball – May 3 & 24

Kid Kreations, G. Lynn Campbell / Kimball Township Library, 1995 N. Allen Rd., 3:30 p.m. Join us for a creative spring program. For more information, call (810) 982-9171.

East China – May 4

Vision Support Group, St. John River District Hospital, 4100 River Rd., 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Contact Paul Dailer at (810) 329-5172.

Emmett – May 6 & 7

Emmett Lions Club Annual Yard Sale, Emmett Lions Hall, 10830 Mary St., 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Something for everyone – toys, books, televisions, household items, knick-knacks, file cabinets, dishes and more. Call (810) 392-3069.

Fort Gratiot – May 6-8

Kids in Distress Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser, Birchwood Mall, 4350 24th Avenue. Hundreds of items to bid on. Kids is a non-profit organization serving children throughout St. Clair County with 100% of the proceeds going towards purchasing new socks, shoes and underwear for children in need. Bidding ends at 3:00 p.m. on May 8.

Algonac – May 7

Algonac Garden Club's Kids Kraft, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 10:30 a.m. Make and take a special garden craft just in time for Mother's Day with the Algonac Garden Club, for children ages 5-10. Registration required. Call (810) 794-4471.

Capac – May 7

Mother's Day Tea, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 1:30 p.m. Bring the ladies in your family to this multi-generational celebration of mothers and daughters. (810) 395-7000.

Fair Haven – May 7

Genealogy Help Day, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 2:00 p.m. Bring your research questions and we'll help you dig into the databases available, including ancestry.com. Registration required. Call (586) 725-9081.

Marysville – May 7

Relay for Life Telethon, 555 E. Huron Blvd., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Marysville High School Relay for Life Team along with M-6 will be hosting this 5th annual event. Includes interviews with cancer survivors and doctors, local talent performers, as well as live segments all done by the Communication Arts students. Other events include a mom 2 mom sale, a 5K run, a Chrysler/Dodge Test Drive (with \$20 earned for organization for each test drive), games for kids, a used book sale, a Kids K Event and a Schwan Truck Load Sale. For questions and times call (810) 364-7161.

Lakeport – May 7

Mother's Day Tea, Burtchville Township Library, 7097 Second St., 11:00 a.m. Bring the ladies in your family to this multi-generational celebration of mothers and daughters. Call (810) 385-8550.

Wales – May 7

Mother's Day Pork Roast Dinner, Lamb United Methodist Church, 1209 Cove Rd., 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Menu includes pork roast, mashed potatoes, corn, rolls, coleslaw and homemade pies. Donations accepted. Take outs available. Call (810) 392-2294.

Algonac – May 10

Artist of the Month, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:30 p.m. Meet and greet talented, local artists as they explain their style of art form. May's featured artist is octogenarian Ernie Maige. Artwork will be on display the month after presentation for community viewing. The event is held in collaboration with the Algonac Culture Council. Call (810) 794-4471.

Marysville – May 12

4-H Excellent Experiments, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 6:00 p.m. Liane Allen from MSU Extension will teach kids, ages 5-12, to explore science with some great hands-on experiments. Registration required. To register, call (810) 364-9493.

Memphis – May 14

New Book Club, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 11:00 a.m. Each adult takes a turn to pick a book and discuss it. Registration is required. Call (810) 392-2980.

Yale – May 14

Friends of the Library Perennial Exchange, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 10:00 a.m.-noon.

Bring your extra perennials and bulbs and exchange them for some new ones. Please make sure plants/bulbs are separated and labeled for identification. Call (810) 387-2940.

Marine City – May 21

Senior Prom, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for members and \$19 for non-members. Includes a dinner of pot roast, chicken, mashed potatoes, red skin potatoes, California vegetables, tossed salad, fruit salad, roll and assorted pies. Live music from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. provided by Millie and the Mob for your listening and dancing pleasure. Tickets on sale at the Washington Life Center and the Port Huron Senior Center. Purchase your tickets by May 13 – no tickets sold at door. Call (810) 765-3523.

Port Huron – May 25

St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. This month will be our annual meeting with elections. Speaker will be Jim Brennan who will give a presentation on "Irish Settlement in Emmett in the 1800s". Mr. Brennan has compiled a book on the 150 year history of Emmett. The St. Clair County History Group welcomes guests and new members to our meetings. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree is encouraged to become a member of our group or just attend one of our programs. More information can be found on our website: www.rootswebancestry.com/~miscclfh/ or call (810) 989-0399.

Sanilac County

Sandusky – May 14 and 28

Thumb Dance Club, Sandusky Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Everyone welcome! Bring finger foods and friends! \$4 for members and \$4.50 for non-members for regular dances. Membership is \$10 per year. On May 14 we will feature Lighthouse 3 and on May 28, Melody Magic. There will be a catered dinner at 6:00 p.m. for the May 28 dance – sign-up is necessary for \$7. Call (810) 657-9349 to sign-up.

Lexington – May 15

Country/Gospel/Bluegrass Jam, Trinity Episcopal Church, 5646 Main St., 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Are you interested in the good old country/gospel/bluegrass music? Do you like to play an instrument or sing or just listen to those great old songs? Would you like to get together and "jam" with some others of like interest? If you're interested and want more information, give us a call at (810) 359-2274.

Tuscola County

Caro – May 7

6th Annual Warm-Up Show, Tuscola County Fairgrounds, entrance located at M-81 next to Pizza Hut, entry booth open at 9:00 a.m., rain or shine. This is a great opportunity to work out all the bugs before the season gets into full swing. No show clothes, clipping or washing of horses is needed. Judge on hand will be "in training" only. All training aids will be allowed – basic 4-H rules will apply. The 4-H concession will be on the grounds. Cost is \$4 per class or \$24 maximum per rider. Contact Jackie Diedrich, official ringmaster, at (989) 302-0191 for more information.

GENERATIONS OF DREAMS

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor



Generations of Dreams Barbie Doll

I was babysitting two of my young grandchildren the other day and was thinking about how many of the things that keep them entertained today weren't even a thought in my mind when I was a child – Wii, Xbox, on-line computer games and more. Kids manipulate and play these high tech games so easily from as young an age as three years old, while old granny here seems to have quite a few issues remembering



Barbie was first introduced in 1959 at the New York Toy Fair.

which button performs each function! If I am challenged to a game, the grandchildren easily come out on top. That too is different than when I was a child. Playing checkers or another board game with my father always meant that I would be beaten. He was the competitive type, not the sort of person who would let someone win just because they happened to be quite a few years younger!

However, one toy that still reminds me of my childhood that is just as much a part of my granddaughter's playtime is the Barbie doll. She has a collection of those high fashion models, complete with clothes, accessories, furniture and more that I would have envied as a young girl.

I had one Barbie. She came in a red plastic case, complete with a wire stand so once she was dressed in her very finest, she could be displayed. But displaying her wasn't what girls did with their Barbie's back in those days. We washed them, we combed their ponytails, we built houses and furniture for them out of boxes and blocks. The best thing of all though was when my mother let me choose a scrap of material from one of her many sewing projects and with her expert knowledge as a seamstress and with simply a needle, thread, and scissors and a talented imagination in a few hours time she would create a new outfit for Barbie to wear.

I still have my Barbie and when I look at all of the outfits she has, she was one well-dressed doll! There are evening gowns, skirts, blouses and slacks. Tiny pieces of lace or diminutive buttons adorn many of them. There are even a couple of hand knit scarves and shawls. The greatest thing of all is that these outfits didn't come from the shelves of some toy store, but were lovingly made by a mother for her daughter. I treasure them still to this day. Maybe the next time my granddaughter comes over, I will share MY Barbie with her. I only wish I could sew well enough to make

an outfit for one of her Barbie's.

Now, I fully realize that, over the years, Barbie has come under attack by different organizations who don't feel that she is an appropriate or realistic role model for young girls, despite the fact that she has evolved over the years to have more than 108 different careers, including as a doctor, an astronaut, a businesswoman, a police officer, an athlete and many more – even serving for a time in the military. Also, since her initial introduction, she is now manufactured to represent a wide range of ethnicities. The fact remains, however, that Barbie has remained the most popular doll for 52 years since her initial introduction in 1959. She has undeniably become an American icon that has fascinated young girls for generations and has been an ever changing reflection of American society along the way.

Ruth Handler, the co-founder of Mattel and President from 1967 until 1974, introduced Barbie in 1959 at the New York Toy Fair in her now-famous black-and-white swimsuit, open-toed shoes, dark made-up eyes and signature ponytail, which was available in blonde or brunette. The doll was named after her own 15 year old daughter, Barbara, and was introduced as a teenage fashion model. The toy industry was skeptical. Little did they know that 300,000 Barbie dolls would be sold that first year at \$3.00 each. Mattel set a new sales record that year.

Over the years, Barbie evolved with the times and the trends. In the 1960s, she had softer looking eye makeup, less arched eyebrows and, for the first time, blue irises in her eyes. She now was also available with red hair (called "Titian" at the time). Her hairstyle went from a ponytail to a bouffant bubble-cut and finally to a sleeker hair style popular to the era. Her clothes became multi-colored and mod and her body was movable for the first time.

In the 1970s, Barbie again reflected the times and lifestyles, including Flower Power, girl power, bathing beauty and more. The feminist movement influenced her new empowered look and her blue eyes faced forward for the first time.

During the 1980s, everything about Barbie became bold and sometimes excessive. An African-American Barbie and a Hispanic Barbie came onto the market for the first time.

In the 1990s, Barbie's hair became longer and bigger, and she often sported teased bangs and perm's. Totally Hair Barbie became the best selling Barbie to date. Her hair was 10½ inches long! Barbie tried out new careers, including getting behind the wheel as a NASCAR driver.

As the new millennium rolled around, Barbie became more physically fit, her make-up became less flamboyant and for the first time she was molded with a belly button.

Today, Barbie is much more than a fashion doll with accessories. Girls can use their computers to program and personalize their Barbie dolls and can design, create and play using Barbie software. The Barbie line has expanded to include books, apparel, food, home furnishings and home electronics.

Here are some fun facts about Barbie, Mattel and Barbie's friends:

- ♥ Mattel was started in the garage of Ruth and her husband, Elliot's garage several years before the introduction of the first Barbie.
- ♥ The first Barbie's were produced in Japan and their clothing was hand-stitched by home workers.
- ♥ Ruth based her doll on a German doll called Bild Lilli, which was itself based on a comic strip character.
- ♥ Barbie's real name is Barbie Millicent Roberts.
- ♥ Barbie is from Willows, Wisconsin



1959 original Barbie® reproduction with a Silkstone® twist.

1959



1969



1986



2000



2009



and she attended Willows High School.

- ♥ Barbie has five sisters: Skipper (1964), Tutti, a twin (1966), Stacie (1992), Kelly (1995) and Krissy (1995).
- ♥ Barbie has had over 43 pets. Her first pet was a horse named Dancer.
- ♥ Barbie's signature color is Barbie Pink.
- ♥ Barbie's first boyfriend, Ken, debuted two years after Barbie in 1961.
- ♥ Ken was named after the son of Mattel founders Ruth and Elliot Handler.
- ♥ The average American girl between the ages of 3 and 11 owns ten Barbie dolls.
- ♥ Barbie is currently sold in more than 150 countries around the world.
- ♥ If all of the Barbie's that were sold since 1959 were placed head-to-toe, the dolls would circle the earth more than seven times.
- ♥ Barbie dolls sell at the rate of three dolls every second.
- ♥ In 1976, at the celebration of our country's Bicentennial, Barbie was included in the official "America's Time Capsule."
- ♥ More than 105 million yards of fabric have gone into making fashions for Barbie and her friends, making Mattel one of the largest apparel manufacturers in the world.
- ♥ An original Barbie doll in mint condition has sold for up to \$10,000.



1959 & 2009 Barbie. Look how far Barbie has come!

- ♥ Barbie's eyes are very distinct. They are only white with black outlines and a bit of blue eye shadow. The irises are not blue as in later dolls.
- ♥ Both #1 and #2 Barbie's have very arched, not rounded, eyebrows. This is the face and the eyes of the #1 and the #2 Barbie doll:



Face of Barbie #1 and #2

The person who can claim the largest Barbie doll collection to date is Bettina Dorfmann of Dusseldorf, Germany, who has collected over 6,000 Barbie dolls. Her dolls are displayed in eight huge glass cabinets in the upper level of their home in Dusseldorf. She started collecting Barbie's about 14 years ago and currently has no plans to stop collecting as long as new models of Barbie continue to be manufactured.

The most expensive Barbie doll created for sale was the Canturi Barbie, which was created by the world famous jewelry designer, Stefano Canturi. Her dress, hair, shoes and jewelry were all created by Stefano himself to be auctioned by Christie's in New York on October 20 of 2010. Prior to the auction, she was exhibited around the world, showing off her collection of lace worked carre and baquette cut diamond jewelry, which included over three carats of white diamonds, a signature Canturi necklace with a

gorgeous one carat, emerald cut pink diamond and a right-hand diamond ring - and her little black designer dress. The auction saw this Barbie sell for \$303,500 to an anonymous buyer, with all of the profits being donated by Stefano Canturi to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

In Shanghai City in China is the world's largest store dedicated entirely to Barbie, her friends, clothing and accessories. It is called House of Barbie and is six-stories in height and 35,000 square feet of shopping delight for young girls and collectors alike. The front of the building glitters in pink, purple and white and at night it is especially spectacular as light passes through floral designs in panels of specially made glass.



House of Barbie in Shanghai City

Since I am not a very talented seamstress, I probably won't design new outfits for my granddaughter's Barbie's. But, maybe I will start a new tradition. Just like Barbie evolved over the years with the times, since I was a young girl, traveling around the world has become much more of a reality and possibility for the general public. Maybe she and I will travel to Shanghai City and check out the world's largest Barbie store. I am sure it is something we would both enjoy immensely.



On the other hand, I think she would probably enjoy just as much spending the evening with her old granny. She can bring her vast collection of Barbie's and I will bring out the only one I ever had. We can play with them together and I can tell her about how her great grandmother used to make doll clothes for me when I was little. No, I don't have the #1 Barbie - and, even if I did, it sure wouldn't be in mint condition after the many years of enjoyment she gave to me as a young girl. I am glad to have the opportunity to continue creating memories with my grandchildren. 🍀



The Canturi Barbie was the most expensive Barbie ever created for sale.

Tips For Identifying the #1 Barbie Doll

- ♥ Barbie will have round holes with copper tubes in the bottom of her feet.

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SMALL TOWN: Goodells

Continued from Page 6



McCue's Auto Garage sold Tin Lizzies to Goodells' residents.

Goodells and it soon became the place to go to buy a Model T Ford (Tin Lizzy) when they were first manufactured. Many a young man in town got their first job working at that garage.

In 1897, the Goodells Hotel was built. The two story building had rooms for guests upstairs and a saloon on the lower level. In 1980, the building



The former St. Clair County Infirmiry and Medical Center was demolished in 1992.

that formerly housed the hotel was destroyed by fire.

The St. Clair County Infirmiry and Medical Center in Goodells was for many years a major employer of local residents. In 1992, it was demolished by a 5-4 vote of the St. Clair County commissioners of that time.

Another well know business in the Goodells area was the Conrad Poultry Farm, or "The Chicken Hotel," as it was affectionately called. Robert Conrad was the founder in the mid-1940s, shortly after he graduated from Cornell University. The four story chicken hotel operated 24 hours a day for egg production. A great majority of the eggs were sold to Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Company in Detroit for medical experimentation and for flu vaccine production.

The history of Goodells would certainly not be complete without mentioning the fact that it was the site of the St. Clair County Poor Farm from 1873 until 1958. Originally called "Almhouses," Poor Farms or Poorhouses were the terms most commonly used, though admittedly somewhat derogatory in nature. Poor Farms were tax-supported residential institutions to which people were required to go if they could not support themselves and it was determined that this was not just a temporary situation.



Goodells housed the St. Clair County Poor House from 1873 until 1958.

There the residents helped to raise crops that were sold to help pay some of the expenses of running the Poor Farm. An elected official, called the Overseer of the Poor, or the Poor Master, was chosen as the director.

The main buildings of the St. Clair County Poor farm (on what is now the site of Goodells County Park) were built in 1875. By 1881, 70 "inmates" as they were called at the time were in residence – 56 males and 14 females, 13 of which were under the age of 16. In 1889, Fred Keopfgen was named the director, a position he kept for 15 years. Franklin Mudge, a descendant of the original Mudge family of Goodells, was elected to that position in 1919 and stayed for 40 years.

In 1914, the original building was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt in 1915. When persons who lived at the Poor Farm died, they were buried in a cemetery off of Lapeer Road. The first recorded burial was in 1915. Although records exist for those buried there, no headstones exist. A circle of pine trees was long the only markers for these paupers' graves. Recently, work has been done to establish more permanent markers. The Poor Farm planted its last crops in 1958 and also closed permanently that year.

Today, the Goodells County Park is a great place to see some of the buildings that played a part in the early history of Goodells. Besides some of the buildings that were used as part of the St. Clair County Poor Farm, visitors can see the Lynn School (1885), the Murphy-Ryan Farmhouse (1872), the Mudge log cabin (1860), the C.C. Peck Bank (1890) and

the Columbus Bible Church (1860). Visit www.goodellscountypark.org for directions, further information, and a listing of yearly events, including Earth Day activities, the 4-H Fair, the Harvest Festival and Log Cabin Days. 🌱

Editor's Notes: Many thanks go to Herm Weng, the President of the Wales Township Historical Society, who provided many, many photos and documents that aided in the research for this article. The Wales Historical Society meets the second Wednesday of every month, from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at either the C.C. Peck Bank at the Goodells County Park or at the Wales Township Hall. Here is what Herm has to say about the Wales Historical Society:

"We are a small group of history buffs who meet once a month at various locations. We try to have a speaker of local history each month and include all township areas in St. Clair County in our programs. Members are retired teachers, township officers, postal officers and housewives and their spouses. We have a new website and are registered as a 5013C organization with the U.S. government.

"Our mission statement is 'So the present may learn from the past,' which we borrowed from J. D. Rockefeller's mission statement."

For more information about joining the Wales Township Historical Society, contact Herm at (810) 325-1146.

Bits and Pieces of Goodells

Provided by Herm Weng

President of the Wales Township Historical Society

- Ten percent of all Wales Township residents fought in the Civil War. Most are buried at Mt. Pleasant and Lambs Cemeteries.



- Thomas Edison's brother, William Pitt Edison, owned 100 acres of land east of the Goodells County Park, where the Poor Farm once stood. He raised horses used by his own Port Huron based transportation company. Thomas was a frequent visitor to his brother's farm.
- Jimmy Hoffa lived on Webb Road in Goodells as a teenager. When he disappeared, the FBI searched the area extensively for his body.
- Award winning news photographer, Ralph Polovitch, grew up on a farm in what is now Goodells Park.

Herm Weng, President of the Wales Historical Society

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The Old Home Town of Goodells Some Fifty Years Ago

Written by Carrie Webb Nollan in 1956

From the collection of the Wales Historical Society

Editor's note: Carrie would be writing about Goodells, Michigan, as it was in 1906.

I was sitting by the window, sort of dreaming about the past,
Of the sunshine and the shadows, and the bright skies and overcast,
When suddenly down "Memory Lane" my footsteps seemed to go,
Back to the "Old Home Town of Goodells" some fifty years ago.
I well remember RabiDue's mill. It was northeast of town.
And farmers brought their grain to be ground for many miles around.
Then I journeyed on toward the old home town,
I saw the Infirmary, which afterwards burned down.
It was a comfortable home for ages women and aged men.
Fred and Samantab Keophgen were the keepers then.
Next I came to the old M. P. Church, beside it was the pastor's abode
And the old sheds were just across the road.
I imagined I could hear the old hymns we sang back there again.
Rev. Frank Kunzman was the pastor then.
As I approached the old blacksmiths shop on the east side of town
I could almost hear the anvil ring as Henry brought the hammer down.
Henry Newton was the village smithy then, back in the old home town.
It was a sort of meeting place where men discussed the news
While they were waiting for Hank to fit their horses with their shoes.
And quite suddenly, I seemed to get a yet
To go across the old swinging bridge, just once again.
It was behind the blacksmith shop; it stretched from hill to hill.
You only had to walk across it if you wanted to get a thrill.
Then I walked across the road to Mrs. Gibb's Hardware Store.
You could always get the articles there you were looking for.
Yes, she had everything from A clear down to Z.
She also had shoes to fit each member of the family.
As I walked toward the Grand Trunk tracks I could see a blackened mount.
It was more than fifty years since Dr. McCue's first house burned to the ground.
It was then the farmers started drawing stones from many miles around.
The doctor built his stone mansion back in 1903
And for many years he was destined to serve this community;
With his liquid medicines, his powders and pills.
He was on call twenty-four hours a day.
He made his calls very quickly with his trusty one horse shay.
Then I crossed the road, entered Wonch e's Brinkman's grocery store.
About that time the R.F.D. came to the old home town.
Eleazer Lashbrook was the first mailman to take the mail around.
At the depot Guy Fowler was station agent; he sold tickets for the train.
Then as I looked up and down the tracks, and I could quite farm
In memory again I could see the old hand car.
Harry Bailey was section foreman and with his crew of men
He faithfully patrolled his section of the tracks from end to end.
And I could see the old pump house then and the water tank did fill.

It served the community as a meeting place for one and all.
The old sheds stood there too, so many years ago.
They sheltered the horses from the summer sun and the winter snow.
As I went up the road and around the second bend
I came to the Baptist Church which was located there then.
It was a friendly church and everybody knew us.
The pastor who preached then was a young man named Rev. Lewis.
Behind the church stood the traditional church sheds,
They were so necessary then for horses, buggies and horse-drawn sleds.
Then I walked on up the road to the west and north, where I crossed the tracks and more.
In memory I went in again to Jimmy Kilgore's general store.
It was the store that served the people west of town
And farmers did their trading there from many miles around.
Solon Schwartz was a stone mason of some reknown.
You can still see his handiwork when you pass through the old home town.
He would select petal-shaped stoens with the utmost care,
And in the center of a chimney would place a stone flower there.
The children from the town went to school, some east and some went west
Whether they went to Caster or Goodells, the teachers did their best
And if any pupil failed to make their grade
They found out that playing in school hours never really paid.
We always looked forward to winter; it seemed to be one of the rules
We always had a sleigh-ride and visited other schools.
We had just loads of fun and good will did abound
Even in friendly competition, when we spelled others down.
Then to our home town came a convenience to our homes-
It was way back there we got our first telephones.
Ester Lashbrooks was the central then and we all did her admire
As she deftly put the plugs in and our voices travelled on the wire.
Well, the years did come and go, back then we didn't travel far.
Then new inventions made their debut and Dr. McCue bought his first car.
It was so much better for the Doctor when he had to drive so far.
Someone said he yelled, "Whoa", when he knocked his first mailbox down.
Well, we got around as best we could no matter how dark the night
Then after many years our home town got the electric light
And we all blessed Edison in no small way
Because he had turned our darkness into day.
Well good roads and shiny cars have replaced old faithful Dobbin
And things since back in those slow days now surely are a-bobbin'.
But I have many memories of the years that have gone past
And it is hard to realize they have gone so fast.
I get a certain satisfaction as I relive those days again
And I am very happy as I stroll down "Memory Lane."

East China School District Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Consolidation

Submitted by Linda Baker

Come take a step back in time as East China School District celebrates its 50th anniversary of consolidation. The East China Historical Commission has a new "student" and invites you to "Name the Mannequin" and write "Her Biography" now until May 27, 2011. Contest winners will be announced June 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the Red Brick Schoolhouse & Museum, 696 Meisner Road, East China, Michigan. More information about these two contests and entry forms are available at www.eastchinatownship.org/red_brick_school.aspx. 🌱



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Why Bad Pruning Is Like Giving Your Garden a Bad Haircut

Expert Reveals 5 Pruning Tips That Will Save Your Shrubs
Submitted By Ginny Grimsley

There is nothing worse than a bad haircut.

The one thing you can't do with a bad haircut is uncut it, so you just have to wait for it to grow out before you can fix it. That's how expert gardener Carol Chernega views the art and science of pruning a shrub. If you trim it the wrong way, you're only compounding your problems, but learning the right way is not nearly as difficult as going to cosmetology school.

"Instead of giving your shrubs a bad haircut, it's actually very simple to give them a day at the spa, instead," said Chernega. Her tips on pruning might not only change your style, but help transform your garden and landscaping, as well.

"For me, it would be a perfect world if pruning shears came with instructions," Chernega added. "Just because one has a pair of scissors, it does not necessarily follow that you know how to give a good haircut. And just because you have a pair of hedge trimmers does not mean you know how to prune a shrub. Now, that's not to say it takes a PhD in horticulture to know how to prune. The basics are actually very easy to learn, and applying some basic tips can really help you improve the look and health of your garden 100 percent."

Chernega's tips for basic pruning include:

- **Know What You're Pruning** – Before you make your first cut, look carefully at your garden and identify what you're going to be pruning. Use the Internet to identify them if you don't already know. You want to learn how the shrub should look so you can prune it to maintain that natural shape.
- **Cut Back to the Branch** – Always cut back to a bud or branching point. Never leave a long stub. A stub will not only look ugly, but it will also invite insects and disease that could cause long term problems.
- **Cut the Dead Weight First** – Before you cut anything else, cut out the dead or broken branches. Sometimes removing a dead branch will leave a

big gap, so by doing them first, you'll be able to tailor the rest of your pruning to compensate for that gap.

- **Crossing Over** – After you eliminate the dead branches, next you want to target crossing branches or branches that are likely to cross in the future. Once they start rubbing against each other, they'll leave a wound that will invite insects and disease, so you want to eliminate that threat.
- **Cut With the Flow** – Finally, cut out all branches that are not going in the natural direction of the plant. This is good for the health of the plant, as well as the look of your garden.

"After you master the basics, you'll discover that your garden will have a crisp, clean look to it and your neighbors will not think your shrubs are having a bad hair day," Chernega said. "Your garden will grow in accordance with how you prune it and you'll do less work over time to maintain it. That means fewer hours of outdoor labor, and more hours of enjoyment."

About Carol Chernega

Carol Chernega has worked as a professional gardener since 1992. She's been visiting England for fifteen years, fueling her passions for English gardens and literature. This led to her being chosen as the first International Visitor for the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA). This honor meant Carol worked for two months in Jane Austen's garden in Chawton, England. During that experience she learned why the English deserve their reputation as excellent gardeners. She now incorporates that knowledge into her pruning workshops. 🌿



Proper pruning techniques are easy to learn.



By Katheryn Seestedt
ThumbPrint News Columnist



My book of interest this month is *The Old Club of Detroit*, published in Detroit, Michigan in 1927, 153 pages, bound in green leather. The sub-title further informs us, "Incorporated in 1872 as The Lake St. Clair Fishing and Shooting Club. Re-incorporated January 12, 1906 as the Old Club." The official insignia is also shown on the title page. Yes, this is the Old Club that most current residents of Harsens Island recognize as an historic landmark.

The 1907 "History" appears following the introduction to this volume. Its author was Dr. George L. Field. He lists the original organizers as William C. Colburn, E. B. Smith, N. D. Latham, A. M. Van Dusen and Dr. George L. Field "who met in the bookstore of E. B.

Smith and Company, then located under the old Russell House."

The first half of this volume contains approximately 75 black and white photos of the Club and its environs as well as of the various individuals involved in its history. The frontispiece is a full-page colored reproduction of a watercolor painting of its third clubhouse (1927).

The second half of this book includes two little-known and seldom seen in print short stories set in the marshland of the St. Clair River delta. Separating these two literary works is a two-page reproduction of an illustration of the Club, drawn in the studio of Cooke and Hance.

The short story, "The St. Clair Flats", by Constance Fenimore Woolson begins on



The original club house in 1874.

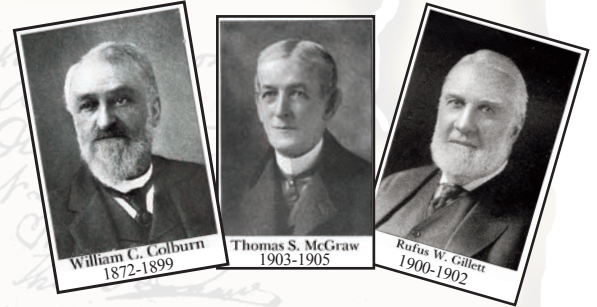
page 83. After 29 pages of sentimental, romantic prose, the story ends with these words: "Farewell, beautiful grass-water! No artist has painted, no poet has sung your wild vanishing charm; but in one heart, at least, you have a place. O lovely land of St. Clair."

This author was the grand-niece of James Fenimore Cooper, who is remembered for his many frontier stories, and the aunt of Samuel Mather, of Cleveland, Ohio, who became famous for his contributions to the iron mining industry and Great Lakes shipping. (Think of the Mather Inn in Ishpeming, Michigan.) Miss Woolson died in 1894, at age 53, by suicide in Venice, Italy, having become extremely deaf and depressed.

Next, in our book of interest, comes

a re-print of "Little Venice", a short story by Grace Denio Litchfield. This tragic tale had been published previously by G. P. Putnam's

The Lake St. Clair Shooting Club Presidents and the years they held office.



Sons, in 1890. In about 1900, it had appeared in *Century Magazine*, at a time when the author had been a visitor at The Old Club. One of the characters in the story is thought to have been patterned after a member of the Club.

In my opinion, this vivid prose has more literary value than the Cooper story. It's "noir" ending is the surprise climax to a story set in our familiar St. Clair Flats. 🍀

Editor's Note: The Old Club of Detroit, 1927 version may be able to be located in your local library or from your favorite used book store. The 1912 Old Club of Detroit handbook is reprinted in its entirety and can be read online at: www.archive.org/stream/oldclubofdetroit00oldc#page/n0/mode/2up and provides just a sampling of what is available in the book that is reviewed by Katheryn in her article.

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My Visit To Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom in Lexington

By Laura Irwin

ThumbPrint News Staff Reporter

Located just south of Lexington, Michigan on Burns Line Road is a wonderful private zoo called Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom. It is owned and operated by Christina Kinde, who is also the tour guide. Most of the animals in the zoo were either rescued or cast off by owners who were no longer able to care for them. Occasionally Christina procures animals from other zoos.

The zoo has a surprising array of animals and Christina has an intimate knowledge of their individual needs and personalities which she shares with you as you walk the zoo grounds. Spending the afternoon at this zoo was a very pleasant and laid-back experience, observing the zoo's first acquisition, a spider monkey who likes lollipops, a sassy zebra named Tessa who is overprotective of a llama named Cocoa, crested roosters, ducks that appear to have large cotton balls on their heads and many more. Some animals you can even pet, such as the pygmy hedgehogs and the baby American alligator. You can feed the



A spider monkey that enjoys lollipops is one of the surprises that await you at Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom

fish and the ever-hungry pygmy goats.

A small gift area with zoo-related items is part of the establishment. Future plans include adding a picnic area to further enhance the experience.

The whole tour took just over two hours and is well worth the \$6.00 per person admission. Visits are by appointment only from May through October. The Web site for Whispering

Pines Animal Kingdom is www.whisperingpinesanimalkingdom.net or you can call (810) 359-0039. Other information on the Web site includes such things as arranging to have the zoo come to your location for a school event or even for a private birthday party.

One of the highlights at the end of the tour was meeting Hayley, a shy little monkey who lives in Christina's house! This was a great family outing in the Thumb area of Michigan.



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(Editor's note: If you have a favorite place that you have visited, dined at or stayed in the Thumb area of Michigan, please submit articles for consideration in future editions of ThumbPrint News to thumbprintnews@comcast.net.)



Owner Christina Kinde has an intimate knowledge of the individual needs and personalities of all the animals in her care.



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810.359.0039

www.whisperingpinesanimalkingdom.net

Miss the Deadline? ABC TaxSlayers is Still Open!

By **Cindy Redmann**
Tax Consultant

Did you miss the April 18, 2011 tax deadline? There is still time to file. ABC TaxSlayers is open year-round. There are no penalties for filing late if you are getting a refund. You can go back three years for tax refunds.

If you owe the IRS, there are various options for payment. The IRS does offer an installment agreement to set up monthly payments if you can not pay your entire balance due. They also offer a free short term extension of up to 120 days.

Make sure you account for all the 1099s you received on your tax return. IRS computers have gotten better at matching the copy of the 1099 sent to the agency with your tax return. A mismatch can trigger a letter from the IRS and maybe further scrutiny.

If you already filed your income tax return and forgot to include something (maybe a W-2 received after filing), or you know you made a mistake, it is imperative that you amend it. It would be better for your integrity if you amend your own return, rather than wait for the IRS to catch up with you.

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Real Estate Careers, and Why is My Rent So High?

By **Scott Anderson**
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

This month instead of a regular column, since we have been getting quite a few questions via e-mail, let's just answer some of the questions we've seen most often.

- Q.** How can I get started in a real estate career?
- A.** Several people are looking for a new career and wanted to know how to get started in real estate. Well, there are several different careers available in the field. The most well known is the real estate agent, the person who markets homes and other kinds of properties, so we'll focus on that. But there is always a need for home inspectors, appraisers, loan originators, title agents – the list goes on and on.

To become an agent, there are two things that are very important to know. The first is that you are essentially starting your own business. Every agent in Michigan works through a brokerage, so you are not entirely alone out there, but you are responsible for your own success. The second is that you have to earn and keep a license. We'll talk a bit about each of these.

Compared to other businesses, a real estate business takes a very small amount of money to get started; not zero, but not too much either. The class required to take the licensing exam usually costs from \$250 to \$400, though my own broker offers it for \$150 and there are probably other options at that price. You can take the class at an

on-site learning center or on-line. It costs a small amount of money to actually take the exam as well.

Once you pass the licensing exam, most agents belong to one or another local Board of Realtors and to the National Association, for which there are monthly or annual dues, and most brokerages charge a monthly fee to agents to cover shared expenses (the maintenance of an office, equipment, supplies, and so on). Also, in most cases you will buy your own business cards and signs, though some offices will provide some of this to new agents.

Unlike many businesses, quite a few real estate firms constantly try to hire and bring in new agents. Agents do not get paid an hourly rate; it is your own business and so you are paid according to the listings and sales you successfully complete, on a commission basis. The amount of commission (and who gets what share) is always negotiated between the various parties involved.

If you have specific questions not answered here, and you are interested in a real estate career, feel free to call or e-mail me; my contact information is at the end of this column.

- Q.** Why are rents so high?
- A.** Some of our correspondents who are renting often feel they are paying more per month than homeowners, and for a good reason: much of the time they are

paying more. Why is this? There are three specific items we will focus on: the difference in property tax rates, the investment side of real estate, and how repairs are accounted for.

First, taxes in Michigan: A homeowner pays a discounted property tax rate compared to every other property owner, including investors who own rental properties. While technically a tenant does not pay property tax at all, in reality the property tax is one of the landlord's expenses which must be covered by the rent. Therefore, renters are indirectly paying a higher rate of property tax than homeowners are directly paying.

Second, investment: A person becomes a landlord to make money, so he or she expects their investment to be profitable.

If a homeowner's monthly expense for the home is \$1,000, that is all the homeowner pays; but if a landlord's monthly expense for a home is \$1,000, he must charge rent in excess of \$1,000 or he isn't making any money at his business.

Third, repairs: If you own a home,

you simply make repairs as they come up; you don't consider that part of your monthly payment. For rental properties, the owner has to try to predict how much money will be needed for repairs, and charge enough rent to be able to cover the cost as the repairs are necessary.

So for those three reasons at least – and there are others – it is true in many cases that with two identical houses, one lived in by the homeowner and one lived in by a tenant, the tenant is paying more per month than the homeowner. 🏡

For answers to your real estate questions contact Scott Anderson, scott.anderson@kw.com or (810) 643-6316. Scott will answer all questions privately and will print the most interesting or common questions, with identifying information removed, in this column from time to time.



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Around the World With *ThumbPrint News*!

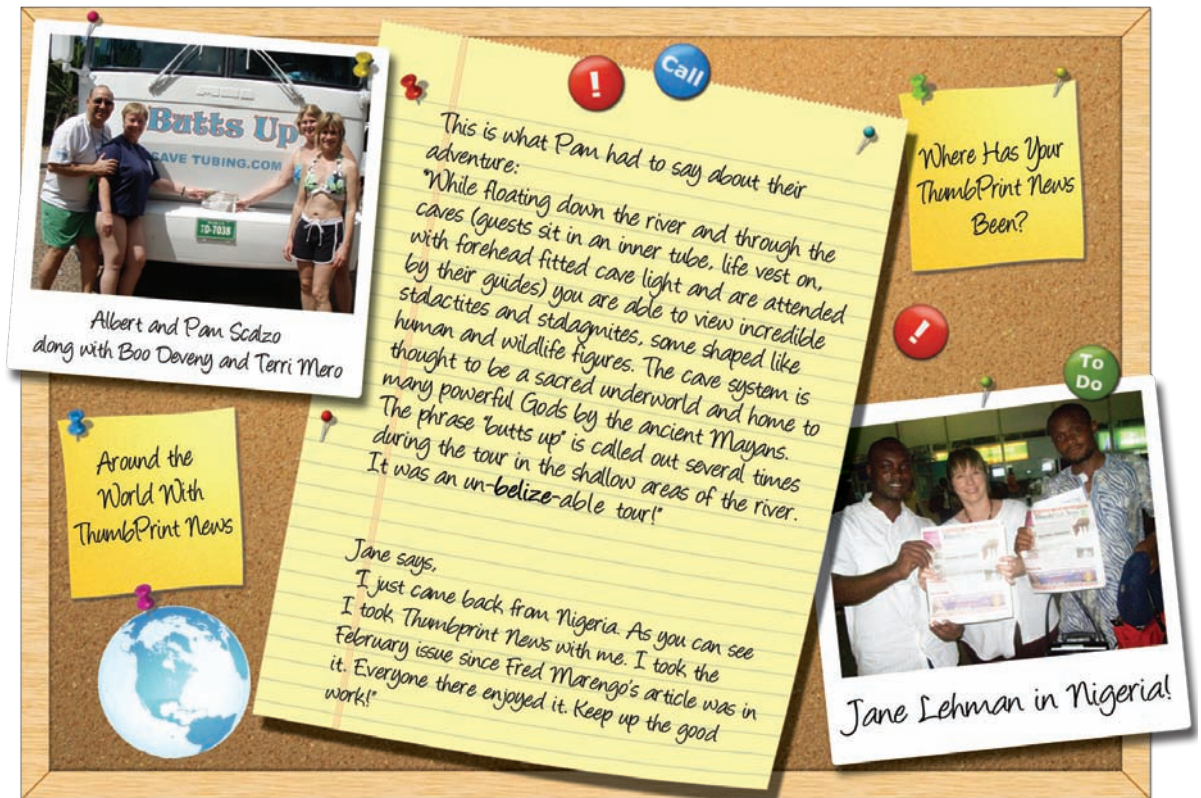
ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (almost 600 businesses in eight Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but *ThumbPrint News* has also traveled to the states of Utah, Nevada, Georgia, California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Florida and Missouri, and to the countries of Bonaire, Mexico, Canada (Nova Scotia), Costa Rica, Iraq, and Cuba! *ThumbPrint News* was even seen on television – on the Jay Leno Show!

When we began inviting our readers to submit photos of where they have taken *ThumbPrint News*, we never expected such an overwhelming response! This month, Belize and Nigeria are joining the list of countries where *ThumbPrint News* has traveled.

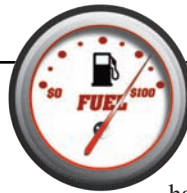
Albert and Pam Scalzo of Algonac, Michigan, along with Boo Deveny and Terri Mero, stopped in Belize during their February 2011 cruise and went cave tubing down the Caves Branch River.

Jane Lehman of Lexington, Michigan, took a copy of *ThumbPrint News* with her on her recent trip to Nigeria.

If you are a reader of *ThumbPrint News* and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or have done something unique with it, you may submit an email and photo to us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net. (The photo should be in jpeg format.) Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number in case we have further questions. Please be patient as you wait for your photo to appear in *ThumbPrint News*, as we are receiving a wonderful amount of photos each month! 🌍



(Editor's Note: ThumbPrint News has introduced a new section called "Ask the Greasy Thumb". In this section we encourage readers to write in or to email their automotive questions for our resident automobile expert to answer. Keith Kodet is a self-proclaimed car nut, who has worked for many years as a mechanic. Keith also is an avid collector of vintage and specialty automobiles and has owned over 200 different cars to date. Please email your questions to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Ask the Greasy Thumb" in the subject line or mail your questions to: ThumbPrint News, 8061 Marsh Rd., Algonac, MI 48001.)



Although we cannot do anything about the rising fuel costs, we can control how much fuel we consume. This month we have some great questions about gas mileage.

Q. Is there any way I can get better gas mileage out of my car?
Reginald from Oxford

A. The most common waste of fuel comes from under-inflated tires. It is very important that you always have your tires inflated to the manufacturer's recommended pressure. Also, the more weight your engine has to haul around, the worse the mileage. Remove all unnecessary items from inside your car and trunk to reduce weight. The lighter your car, the better the mileage.

Q. When my husband and I drove up north last weekend I drove on the way up and he drove on the way back. We used quite a bit more gas on the way home. He drives much faster than I do, but we drove exactly the same amount of miles. Could speed really make that much of a difference?
Olivia from Royal Oak

A. Speed can make a difference, however the fuel consumption may be from your husband's driving "style". Accelerating rapidly from each stop uses much more fuel than if you were to gently increase the speed of the vehicle. It sounds like your husband has a case of lead foot.

Q. Do manual transmission (stick shift)

cars really get better mileage, or is that a myth?

Tyrone from Port Huron

A. The big three have been trying to claim that there is no difference in modern cars, however independent tests have proven that if you compare two identical vehicles with the only exception being one has an automatic and the other a manual, the manual transmission vehicle will almost always be more fuel efficient. The most common reason for this is that manual transmission cars see more idle time (when depressing the clutch at stops), and often have differential gears that are better suited for fuel mileage.

Q. I have seen ads in the back of magazines advertising different low-dollar devices to improve fuel mileage, one being an in-line "atomizer" and the other an electric supercharger fan that goes in the air filter box. Do these things really work?
Dwayne from Shelby

A. Unfortunately those items are all gimmicks, and do nothing but waste your money. Remember, if an invention came along that could greatly improve fuel mileage for only a few dollars, it would be installed from the factory on your vehicle. These items are almost always worthless junk, and work just about as well as the old "X-ray glasses" they used to advertise in the back of kid magazines. Save your money for things that matter, such as regular maintenance on your vehicle.

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Local Country Store Showcases Artists and Crafters and their Michigan-Made Items

Foxfire Farm Country Store located at 8061 Marsh Road in Algonac, has partnered with several local artists and crafters to give them a venue for their art.

“This store has always been a fun place to shop, but now it feels like I’m going to a craft fair every time I stop in! Hand-made items, especially those that come from local artists, make really great gifts.” said one shopper.

For those of you looking for creative, one-of-a-kind gifts, visit Foxfire Farm and you won’t be disappointed. The store, floral shop and greenhouses are open seven days a week. You can contact them at 810-794-5108.

Pictured below are some of the items that local artists have on display and for sale.

If you are a crafter and would like to display your art in our store, call 810-794-5108.



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ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, email us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Contest" in the subject line. All correct answers received by the 15th of the month will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift

certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township. (You can apply it toward the delivery of a floral arrangement also.) The winner of this month's contest will be announced in the June edition as well as information about the object or place. In April's edition, we asked our readers to identify the location of the above object. The winner of the drawing was Walter Filipiak of Deckerville, Michigan who correctly identified the location of the guard shack as being on South Lake Shore Road in Lexington, Michigan. Walter will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Foxfire Farm in Algonac.



This month we are asking the question, "Where is it?" once again. Identify where you can find the building pictured below (please include the name of the street or highway and the city or town). We will give you a hint. It can be found in the Thumb area! Send an email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net if you think you know the answer. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are the winner of the random drawing for a gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store. Good luck!



Mother-in-Laws also Deserve Recognition this Mother's Day!

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer



In Croswell, Michigan, spanning the Black River is the longest pedestrian suspension bridge in Michigan. A sign at the entrance, though perhaps "tongue-in-cheek" reminds those who cross to "Be Good To Your Mother-in-Law." The bridge was built in 1905 originally to provide a place for workers who were traveling on foot to the nearby Michigan Sugar Company (now Pioneer Sugar) to cross the river. The first bridge had only two cables and 128 wooden planks. Two more cables were added later as hand holds. In 2006, all 128 planks were replaced and the bridge received a make-over, making it safer (but not as much fun) to cross.

The Croswell Swinging Bridge Festival takes place each year in August. This year it will be August 5-7. Cardboard boat races take place under the bridge, in addition to fireworks, parades, a car cruise, children's activities and live entertainment. A farm theme permeates the festival. More information can be obtained by calling (810) 679-2299. 🍀

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Limericks

Poems that Make You Laugh

A limerick is a little poem containing five lines with a distinctive pattern. The last words of the first, second and fifth lines all rhyme with each other. The last words of the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other. A limerick is meant to be funny.

In our March edition, we talked about limericks in "Kid's Korner" and invited kids to try their hands at writing their own limericks. Here are two more that were sent in by two sisters from Fair Haven, Michigan:

*Madison was on her way to the mall.
She was going to have a ball.
She bought an elegant gown.
And found a matching crown.
She didn't look and ran into a wall.*

By Madison, age 10

*There was a girl named Anna.
She likes to eat bananas.
She went to the store
To buy some more
And thought she would give some to Santa.*

By Anna, age 8



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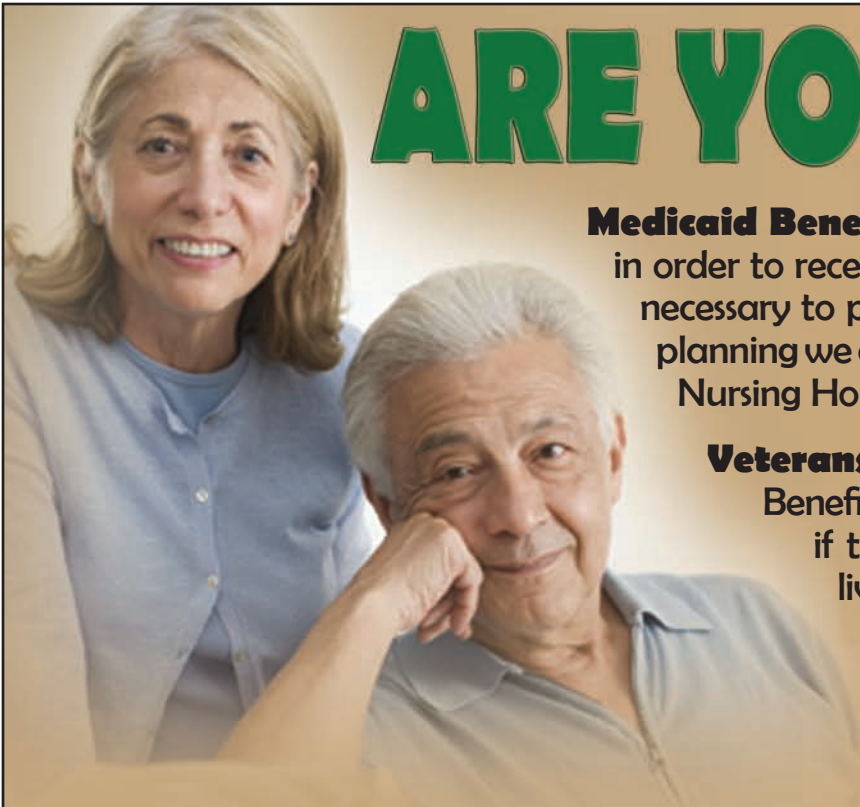
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Contact Simasko, Simasko & Simasko, P.C. for your FREE consultation
Every client poses different circumstances and must be evaluated on an individual basis.

ELDER LAW ATTORNEYS

- ❖ VA Benefits ❖ Long Term Care Planning
- ❖ Estate Planning ❖ Medicaid/Nursing Home Benefits



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