

We are an Independently Owned and Operated Michigan Newspaper.



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ThumbPrint News

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

"If you're brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello." ~ Paulo Coelho



JANUARY 2025

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THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST 2024 WINNER

PIONEER OF THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE

By Derek Smith
 ThumbPrint News Contributor

Long before Elon Musk introduced his now-famous Tesla, the entrepreneurial spirit of William C. Anderson had invested itself in manufacturing electric vehicles in Detroit, Michigan. A staggering one hundred and one years earlier, Anderson's pioneering efforts in EV technology laid some groundwork for the electric vehicle industry we know today.

Anderson was born on August 3, 1853, in Milton, Ontario, Canada, to parents Hiram and Ann (née Cummings). In the 1860s, the Anderson family embarked on a brave new chapter in their lives, leaving their Canadian home for the United States. Their first stop being Lexington, Michigan, where they open and operated a farm tool and equipment business.

After completing his business school education in 1874, William joined his father in their family business, Anderson & Company. The business dealt with agricultural implements, cutters, sleighs, buggies, carriages, wagons, etc. They conducted operations in Lexington for a few years before moving their business to Port Huron, Michigan, in 1875, renting a building that the Sunday Commercial had previously occupied.

Under the leadership of William C. Anderson and his father, Anderson & Company flourished. The business secured distributorships for several prominent farming supply brands, gained recognition from farmers across eastern Michigan, and established itself as one of Port Huron's leading enterprises.

By 1882, the business had grown exponentially, and a new property was acquired to meet its growing needs. A vacant building at 316-318 Huron Ave., in Port Huron, was purchased for \$4,500, followed by a renovation completed for an additional \$7,000. At 8,000 square feet and two stories high,

it became the largest agricultural warehousing facility in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

Anderson & Co. established dealers across the country who sold the company's products on commission. Sales for the year 1882 amounted to \$200,000, which is over six million in today's dollars.

In November 1884, Hiram Anderson retired from the firm, and their enthusiastic bookkeeper, David Goodwillie, and Williams's brother-in-law, Frank Beard, purchased an interest in the company. However, William's new goal was to start a business solely owned. This prompted him to sell his interests in Anderson & Co. in 1892. Frank Beard, David Goodwillie, and Campbell formed Beard Goodwillie and Company and continued sales out of the 316-318 Huron Ave. address. William opened a company making carriage tops and other accessories for horse-drawn carriages. The new company, Anderson Carriage Manufacturing, was located at 310-314 Michigan Street in Port Huron.

Seeking larger markets, Anderson closed the Port Huron facility in 1893 and established a new plant in Detroit, the

Anderson Manufacturing Company. This decision in 1895 marked the beginning of his journey into the electric vehicle industry. He built a two-story factory in the Milwaukee Junction area at the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad and Grand Trunk Railroad confluence.

In May 1899, the company changed its name to the Anderson Carriage Company. Anderson, William Locke, and Cyrenius A. Newcombe, a department store magnate, were shareholders. By 1903, the Anderson Carriage Company had become one of the largest manufacturers in Michigan.



Ad from The Times Herald, July 2, 1892

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ThumbPrint News is dedicated to Al & Diane Kodet.

~ A Final Farewell ~

While the rest of the world is saying hello to the New Year, *ThumbPrint News* is saying goodbye.

From October 2009 through January 2025, our little paper has focused on places of interest in the Thumb of Michigan and people and businesses at work and at play in this area. Many articles were human interest stories, pertaining to events in the area, hobby related articles, as well as articles of interest to a wide section of the population in this area.

In this, our final issue, we bid farewell to all our loyal readers, subscribers, writers and advertisers. We are more than grateful to all of you and we have greatly valued your support, comments, feedback and shared experiences.

Over the past several months we have been struggling to keep afloat with the ever-rising cost of doing business amid declining interest in print advertising. We've made changes and some worked really well, while others did not.

It is with intense sadness, after much contemplation, that we have had to make the difficult decision to close and ask for your compassion and understanding.



Of course, we couldn't say goodbye without a little bit of history. Goodbye is a contraction of the phrase "God be with ye", that was first used in a letter in 1573 by English writer and scholar, Gabriel Harvey. Later, 17th-century American colonists were known to say "God bye to you", "Fare thee well" or "Pray remember me", all of which express well wishes as you part company.

We encourage all of you to keep exploring, questioning and embracing the world around you with open-mindedness.

With Sincere Thanks and Appreciation,
Laura, Bethany, Donna, Scott & E.J., TPN In-House Staff



13+ 10+ 15+ 13+ 2+
Years at *ThumbPrint News*

Digital versions of all 15+ years of the paper will be available on ABC Bee's website at abcbees.com/thumbprint-news-archive for readers to revisit. For any additional questions, please inquire on ABC's website or by calling their office at (810) 794-5678.

NOTES FROM OUR READERS

ThumbPrint Staff,

Thank you for all the great historical articles in your newspaper over the years. Before we moved to Shelby Twp. some years ago, we weren't able to find it in Madison Heights. However, we always found it at stores in Caseville, Michigan. During the evenings, everyone would get in line to read it and so I have fond memories of the paper that way too.

Michael Bliss

Michael, we thank you for your lovely note and diligence in searching it out. It warms our hearts to know our little newspaper is helping create lasting memories.

Sincerely, *ThumbPrint Staff*

ThumbPrint News,

I read Rita's article "When the Pendulum Stops Swinging" in the August 2024 issue. From the picture, I thought "I have a similar clock!" My clock is in the shape of a camera and has similar hands and a film canister pendulum. I looked at the back of the clock and the model number of the movement was HD-1688. I searched Amazon and found several pendulum replacement movements for under ten dollars. Usually replacing quartz movements is easy.

Best of luck you you.

Tom Lombardi

Tom, we thank you for taking time to help Rita find a solution to her pendulum problem and for being a loyal reader of our paper.

Sincerely, *ThumbPrint News Staff*

Theresa Nielsen's article on quilting really struck home with my wife Cyncy.

She's a Baltimore Album fan and maker. She has always been a devotee of hand quilting and looks askance at machine and longarm quilters. She may even have run into the author, her soulmate, at Sew Elegant back in the day.

She really enjoys Theresa's articles and would have written herself but was busy looking for chocolate.

Regards,

Dave and Cyncy Loersch

Dave and Cyncy, we're so glad you've enjoyed Theresa's articles and thank you for letting us know amidst the search for chocolate. :) We're sure she has inspired many others as well.

Best, *ThumbPrint News Staff*

**THANK YOU
TO EVERYONE
WHO CAME OUT
TO THIS YEAR'S
History of the
Christmas
Tree Walk
CAN'T WAIT TO
SEE YOU ALL
BACK NEXT YEAR!**

TRAVELING TASTEBUDS



THIS MONTH WE'RE STAYING HOME TO EXPLORE SOME FOODS IN THE GOOD OLE U.S. OF A

By **Laura Irwin**, *ThumbPrint News Staff*

First we will address the response to the question we posed to our readers last month. Of all who responded, it was evenly divided, 50% for continuing to explore the international culinary world and 50% were interested in making a change to start covering our individual states.

So, here we are and rather than highlight just one state, we decided to encompass the entirety of our country in the broadest sense.

We discovered that the United States does not have a national dish so we thought it might

be enough to highlight foods that are considered **uniquely American**.

- **Biscuits and gravy:** a Southern staple that originated in the 1800s in Southern Appalachia.
- **Buffalo wings:** a staple of American cuisine that originated in Buffalo, NY, known for their spicy sauce and tender meat.
- **Jambalaya:** a popular dish that originated in Louisiana and is a product of the unique intersection of cultures in the state.
- **Apple pie:** settlers brought apples to the New World to make cider, but by the 1800s they had created sweeter apple varieties more suited for pie.
- **Hot dogs:** can be traced to German immigrants in the 1800s who brought dachshund sausages and dachshund dogs to America (the sausages were named after their favorite little dogs, not actually made of the little dogs).
- **Cheeseburgers:** in 1924, a 16-year-old named Lionel Sternberger, who was working in his father's sandwich shop, The Rite Spot in Pasadena, CA, put cheese on a hamburger. The father and son liked it so much that they added it to the menu as "The Original Hamburger with Cheese".
- **Pecan pie:** most likely brought by French immigrants who settled in New Orleans.
- **Chocolate chip cookies:** the original recipe was created in the late 1930s by Ruth Wakefield who ran the Toll House restaurant in Whitman, MA.
- **S'mores:** the first known recipe was published in the 1927 Girl Scout guidebook "Tramping and Trailing with the Girl Scouts".
- **Lobster roll:** most people believe it was invented in 1927 at Perry's restaurant in Milford, CT.
- **Corn dogs:** Multiple people have claimed to be the inventor of this carnival staple but all seem to be in the early-to-mid 1940s.

Other uniquely American foods include milkshakes, barbecue and a wide range of fried foods.

All of them are delicious in my book but certainly not the healthiest choices. The average American diet is often called the "Standard American Diet" (SAD). It's characterized by a high consumption of processed foods, red meats and sugary beverages, with a low intake of fresh fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

Most Popular American Dishes by Generation with credit to YouGov® U.S.	Baby Boomers Top Ten:	Gen X Top Ten:	Millennials Top Ten:
	1) Mashed Potatoes 89%	1) Mashed potatoes 89%	1) Cheeseburger 84%
	2) Hamburgers 88%	2) Hamburgers 87%	2) French Fries 83%
	3) Grilled Cheese 87%	3) Steak & Baked Potato 86%	3) Hamburgers 82%
	4) Cheeseburger 86%	4) Cheeseburger 86%	4) Grilled Cheese 82%
	5) Steak & Baked Potato 86%	5) Grilled Cheese 85%	5) Fried Chicken 81%
	6) Apple Pie 86%	6) Hash Browns 84%	6) Hash browns 81%
	7) Corn on the Cob 85%	7) French Fries 84%	7) Chicken Nugget 80%
	8) French Fries 84%	8) Apple Pie 83%	8) Mashed potatoes 79%
	9) Roast Beef 83%	9) Fried Chicken 82%	9) Philly Cheesesteak 78%
10) Hash browns 83%	10) Corn on the Cob 82%	10) Chicken Wings 77%	

Again, there is a distinct lack of healthy favorites. The most commonly eaten foods in the United States are: bread, potatoes, rice, pasta, beans, corn and many other carbohydrates, as well as ground beef and chicken. Unlike many foreign countries, Americans do not generally embrace a single staple for most meals (i.e. Italy / pasta; half the world's population / rice; Ireland / potatoes, etc.).

- The average American consumes the most meat, poultry, and grains each year:**
- Meat and poultry: The average American eats 224.6 pounds of meat per year, including 127.2 pounds of poultry and 82 pounds of beef. Chicken is the most consumed meat in the United States.
 - Grains: The average American eats 197 pounds of grains per year, including wheat.
 - Corn products: The average American eats 35.5 pounds of corn products per year, including flour, meal, hominy, and grits.
- Other common foods that Americans consume include:**
- Dairy: 630 pounds of milk, yogurt, cheese, and ice cream per year
 - Fruit: 273 pounds per person
 - Vegetables: 415 pounds per year
 - Sweeteners: 141 pounds, including 42 pounds of corn syrup
 - Fats and oil: 85 pounds

And last, but not least, another fun list of the top ten fast-food chains in the U.S., according to foodandwine.com, ranked by sales:



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TRAVELED THE WORLD WITH US, TASTING SOME DELIGHTFUL AND SOME NOT SO MUCH, NEW DISHES.

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68th Winter Festival

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JANUARY 2025
10, 11 & 12

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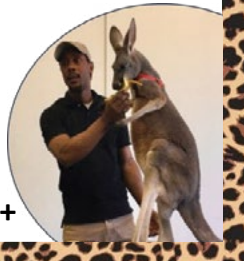
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 - 50/50 Raffles

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- St. Clair County Chapter

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 We are a non-profit organization helping to benefit the community.

OLD BOOK, NEW CHAPTER

By David Gillis, ThumbPrint News Columnist



I so often think about life as a story, a tale of experiences we have created or perhaps those that have been created for us. Sometimes they aren't even our adventures except, somehow, we have been included in the life experiences of others. They often provide happenings we would like to relive and certainly remember always. Then, there are others we wish never happened and that we could just erase from our memory. It's like writing a book and each new year is a new chapter.

As we enter 2025, we have an opportunity to continue writing our life's story the way we want it to be. Each of us is living our own story with its varying number of chapters, and each with its own focus. The problem is we sometimes in past chapters became stuck on a page that was not pleasant, and we wish it never existed. Well, the new year offers the chance to begin writing a better tale; beginning a new page relating to the same subject.

For many people, including me, 2024 was a year of peaks and valleys, of positives and negatives. Many of us suffered heartbreaks while others found new joys in life. Some of us found new employment opportunities, while others lost a job they really liked. Many lost loved ones, and others witnessed new life being brought into the world. With a new beginning in our book, we can remain stuck in the painful pages of last year's chapter, or we may choose to begin writing anew. We can take positive steps to own our own story and ensure we are the authors we want to be.

This new year of 2025 offers an opportunity for a fresh start, that next chapter, to begin anew. I agree that some of last year's chapter may remain with us for a while and some of that may be desirable, but we can decide to let go of what we can and place our focus on moving ahead. We all may choose to remain who we were in 2024, or we can decide to place our attention on who we want to be in 2025.

As we begin to concentrate on being the authors of the new chapter in our book we are taking ownership of our own life. What is it you want each new page to look like? Should it include romance or a long-considered adventure? Maybe a little mystery and a combination of new experiences. As the author of your own book, you are given the opportunity to consider just how you want the story to read. Authorship also offers the opportunity to take control of those aspects you are able and to set aside those you cannot. What do you want your story to sound like when you review it at the end of this new year's chapter?

Maybe the new chapter entitled "2025" will be the year of "you". That might mean taking some time to allow yourself to be a priority from time to time. It might mean taking some steps for self-care and doing it in a way that brings about real pleasure by being involved in meaningful activities. It might mean learning a new skill, craft, or language. Perhaps it means devoting more time to those people who inspire you and provide happiness in your life. It could also require creating boundaries for those who are more challenging in your relationship.

Understand that whatever uniqueness you are able to bring to the new chapter will have a greater impact on your life. How might it change the direction of our current journey? Remember, you are the author and have the ability to write the next chapter in a manner that you want. It may be an old book, but as you turn the page, a brand new chapter is beginning.

Author's note: For those wanting to express their thoughts regarding this article, you may send an email message to me at chaplindgillis@gmail.com. I promise I will reply.

THUMBPRINT NEWS
PET PHOTO
CHALLENGE

Typical siblings
 fighting over
 something new

Poppy & Ozzie
 are here all the
 way from
 New Castle, CO



CHECK OUT ENTIRE MENAGERIE ON OUR FB

These little rat terriers are 11 1/2 years old. They were rescued by Cheryl & Hugh of New Castle, CO who drove from CO to KS to get this bonded pair of senior dogs. The adoption was sponsored by the Rosie Fund through Great Plains SPCA.

Poppy is the outgoing one of the pair but when she's scared of something, she runs to her brother for comfort. Going for their afternoon walk and chasing squirrels out of the yard are their favorite things, besides dinner time! They bring much joy to us amid their shenanigans.



POPPY OZZIE

On their best behavior

Thank you, Cheryl & Hugh for sharing Poppy & Ozzie with us.

PAINFUL KNEES? AWESOME ALTERNATIVE TO SURGERYSubmitted by **Christopher J. Zimmer, D.C.** Owner of Zimmer Chiropractic

Knee pain is a widespread condition that affects an estimated 20-25% of the adult population in the U.S. Perhaps even more worrying is that this number is growing, and may be linked to aging populations and osteoarthritis, a rise in sedentary lifestyles, and an increased prevalence of degenerative conditions.

In the quest for innovative and effective treatment modalities, medical professionals have turned their attention to regenerative medicine. One form of treatment that is gaining prominence within healthcare circles is SoftWave TRT's electrohydraulic broad-focused technology. This promising avenue for alleviating knee pain and potentially restoring joint function is a groundbreaking technique and has emerged as a potential game-changer in the field of orthopedics.

Extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT) – or simply shockwave therapy – is an advanced treatment and operates by employing unfocused sound waves to initiate a regenerative response within the affected tissues. These sound waves penetrate deep and wide into the tissue surpassing the limitations of traditional therapies.

The treatment stimulates the recruitment and activation of mesenchymal cells within the targeted area, triggering a cascade of cellular events. The cells, once activated, contribute to tissue regeneration and repair processes. Additionally, the therapy promotes neovascularization, enhanced blood flow, and the migration of growth factors to the affected area, all of which help facilitate the healing process. By harnessing the regenerative potential of these “worker” cells and optimizing tissue repair mechanisms.

The October 2023 issue of the *International Journal of Surgery* featured an article that reviewed 14 different studies and clinical trials, with a total of 782 participants. The findings demonstrated a significant decrease in knee pain and a notable improvement in functionality for those who underwent shockwave therapy. Moreover, ESWT showed moderate enhancement in knee range of motion and walking tests.

This extensive review underscores the potential of shockwave therapy as an effective treatment option for knee injuries and conditions. By harnessing

the regenerative capacity of stem cells and utilizing the power of “unfocused” or “broad-focused” sound waves, shockwave therapy offers a promising approach to improving the overall quality of life for individuals grappling with knee-related challenges.

Typically, a SoftWave therapy session is only 5 to 10 minutes long, making it a convenient option for individuals who need to fit treatments into busy schedules. The procedure is typically performed in an outpatient setting, allowing patients to resume their daily activities without significant disruption.

During the session, a trained healthcare professional applies the specialized device patented applicator to the knee. These sound waves penetrate deep into the knee tissue initiating the regenerative process. The treatment focuses on targeting the underlying causes of knee pain, promoting tissue repair and reducing inflammation. Patients generally report minimal discomfort or sensation during the procedure and does not typically produce any significant side effects, allowing for a safe and well-tolerated treatment option.

Many patients find that the benefits of SoftWave therapy last for months or even years, while others may benefit from periodic maintenance sessions to manage recurring or progressive knee pain.

In most cases, SoftWave therapy is an extremely cost-effective option, particularly when compared to more invasive surgical options. That said, the cost of SoftWave therapy for knees can vary depending on several factors, including geographic location, the specific healthcare provider or clinic offering the treatment, as well as individualized treatment plans.

Shockwave therapy offers a promising and innovative approach to managing knee pain and improving functionality. By harnessing the regenerative potential of stem cells and utilizing electrohydraulic sound waves, this treatment targets the underlying causes of knee conditions and promotes natural, healthy tissue repair for reduced pain, enhanced mobility, and the potential for long-lasting relief, improving quality of life.

Editorial note: Since 1984, Dr. Zimmer and his staff have committed to promoting the health and well-being of all patients. For more information, please visit zimmerchiro.com or call the Port Huron location at (810) 987-7500 or the Marine City location at (810) 765-5622.

CLARITY IN HEALTH

Here we are once again starting a brand new year! Seeing as how crazy the last few years have been, we wanted to once again remind readers the importance of clarity! If one were to get an eye exam and be told that they have 20/20 vision, they are considered to have perfect vision and see with great clarity. These exams are important and conducted routinely on an annual basis by most people, because let's be frank, life would be much different without the ability to see the world around us. But what about hearing with great clarity? Isn't the ability to hear the world around us clearly just as important as seeing it?

Hearing exams aren't prioritized as much as eye exams or overall annual physicals, but they should be, considering that hearing loss is being linked to more and more health conditions that affect the overall well-being of an individual. Most people are unaware that when we hear, sound waves travel from the outer ear, through the middle ear into the inner ear, where the vibrations stimulate thousands of tiny hair cells. These tiny hair cells in our inner ear send electrical signals to the auditory nerve, which is connected to the center of the brain, where the electrical impulses are perceived by the brain as sound. The brain translates the impulses into sounds that we know and understand. What this means is that there is a direct link between the ability or inability to hear and the brain.

By getting a regular hearing exam, you can stay abreast of not only your hearing health, but your overall health. Untreated hearing loss has been directly linked to cognitive decline, dementia, Alzheimer's and an increased risk of falling. One main goal when treating hearing loss is to keep the brain active and engaged and by treating hearing loss in its early stages, you can lessen your chances of developing further health problems down the line. This and every year, let's be clear where we stand in all matters of our health, because if we don't have our health, nothing else we have matters!

SOME EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF HEARING LOSS INCLUDE:

- 1 You experience ringing in your ears.
- 2 You have been told you speak too loudly.
- 3 Your family complains that you play the radio or TV too loud.
- 4 You often ask people to repeat themselves.
- 5 You have trouble understanding all the words in a conversation.
- 6 You have difficulty understanding a conversation in a large group or crowd.
- 7 You find yourself reading people's lips in order to understand the conversation.
- 8 You find yourself saying “huh” or “what” a lot in conversations.
- 9 You find that communicating over the phone is difficult.
- 10 You complain that people mumble or talk too fast.

Editorial note: Beltone Skoric Hearing Aid Center has been serving the hearing-impaired community in Michigan for over 30 years. They have made it their mission to educate about the negative effects of untreated hearing loss. For more information, please visit their website www.beltoneskorichearing.com or call to schedule a free hearing exam at one of their 38 locations: (810) 356-0559.

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Make 2025 the Year to Rest By Patricia Cosner Kubic *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

New Year's Day is always overflowing with hopes, goals, and typically an intimidating to-do list. Unfortunately, it's also a day when some people try to put a heartbreak from the previous year in the "that happened last year" column. They desperately hope that recategorizing the event will inexplicably reduce their pain from constant red-hot heartburn to something slightly less excruciating. To climb those hills and mountains, I humbly suggest a theme for 2025: Rest.

Even though guilt may be linked to that word, rest is still a beautiful word. Whether you are trying to clean out the basement or crawl out of a tragedy, rest is one of the most important widgets in your "good health" tool chest, and it is essential to helping us move forward.

But let's be clear, there is a difference between sleep and rest. According to the Access Health Physicians blog, even though they are closely related, the objectives are different and involve separate physiological processes. Rest is a formal state of relaxation in which our minds and

bodies are less active, less stressed, and, of course, awake. On the other hand, sleep is a type of altered conscious state in which the body shuts down all physical and mental functions, reports Access Medical.

I came across multiple studies confirming that rest is vital to our well-being because it allows our bodies and minds to repair and restore themselves after activity; essentially, it acts like a "recharge" to prevent mental and physical burnout. Sounds good to me.

During my years of eldercare, I was exhausted more nights than not. Yet, I would force myself not to fall asleep on the couch because I wanted to feel myself rest. I wanted to feel my body being still and warm under a heavy blanket listening to the TV or nothing at all. After another taxing day, I needed to be awake to absorb those peaceful sensations.

Years later, I still think back to those calm moments; I can still remember looking forward to them. Maybe the thing to do is to set up a "rest cue" for yourself. For example, after the satisfaction of crossing off

a few tasks on your lists, you take that as your signal to stop, rest, and escape for a few minutes. If a tragedy is heavy on your back, maybe try to step away from those dire feelings for just a few moments and also escape. Something that might help you develop a continual habit of resting is a poem by Lissa Anna Gilmore I came across last summer, entitled "Rest". In part, reads:

*Step away from the battle,
the cascading chaos of this
everyday life, find space to catch
your breath, settle your mind,
remember your reasons, for
keeping on and pressing forward.*

Doesn't that sound soothing? Doesn't it sound necessary? Those types of meaningful ideas get lost so quickly in our plans for any New Year; and, for some, they disappear entirely in their grief. Perhaps a few minutes of some downtime can help. 2025: The Year of Rest. 🌿

Author's note: You can read the full poem, as well as others at joyfull.co. You can reach me at pckubic@gmail.com.



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LET'S RING IN 2025 WITH SOME NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR YOUR PETS

By **Dr. Elizabeth Gray**
ThumbPrint News Columnist



The new year is a time for fresh starts for everyone, including your cat or dog! Pick a few small changes to improve your pet's life and positively impact the entire household at the same time. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- 1. Get More Exercise.** This is one of the most common resolutions, so why not include your pets this year? Most dogs enjoy a walk and are eager to get outside, even when we think it's too cold. Make your dog your new walking buddy! Accountability is one of the best ways to make a resolution stick. Commit to taking your furry friend for a walk and don't let him down! Getting your cat to exercise can be a bit more of a challenge. If your cat spends their days napping, start with just a few minutes of play to get them moving.
- 2. Brush Up on Dental Health.** We all know pets have teeth, but did you know that they can benefit from a dental hygiene routine too? Dog and cat-specific toothbrushes and kinds of toothpaste are widely available. Introducing brushing can be a slow process, don't rush it. Try using flavored toothpaste to make it a little easier. If brushing isn't an option, several dental treats and rinses are also available. Be sure to check out next month's article for more information about pet dental health. 
- 3. Microchips – Does Your Pet Have a Microchip?** If so, now is a good time to confirm the information is correct. Have you moved? Did your phone number change? Up-to-date microchip records ensure the fastest return of your pet in the event they go missing. No microchip? No problem! Your veterinarian can help you with the simple process. It is a quick procedure that can usually be done at a routine wellness exam. 
- 4. Medical Record Updating.** Are vaccines and other medical treatments for your pet up to date? Can you easily and quickly locate the information? Make sure all needed information is in one location. In the event of an unexpected boarding stay or illness, you will be well prepared.
- 5. Start an Emergency Fund.** No one wants to think of their pet getting sick or needing emergency care. Take the time now to prepare for the unexpected. There are several options that can help in the event of unexpected costs. One option is pet insurance. Another is that you could set aside money every month to give you not only an emergency fund but also peace of mind by the end of 2025.
- 6. Refresh Toys and Supplies.** How long has it been since food storage and treat containers were emptied and washed? How about food and water dishes? Take the time to refresh your pet's daily routine. Stainless steel bowls are best for food and water. Toys can harbor bacteria and should be washed routinely. Look at your pet's collection and remove toys that are overly loved. Maybe it's time to find your dog a new "baby". Cats love to play with new toys too. Reboot their toy collection and get going on that exercise resolution at the same time.
- 7. Help Those Less Fortunate.** You can make a difference with donations of your time or with needed supplies. The Blue Water Humane Society has a wish list of supplies on their website. Here are a few examples: laundry soap, dog toys and chews, cat toys, blankets and towels. The next time you replace bath towels, consider donating your old ones. You can also visit their website to see the full wish list that also includes a link for online shopping. Another option to help those less fortunate is donating to the St. Clair County Animal Control. Their website includes a link for monetary donations. All donations made to SCC Animal Control are used for the medical care and other benefit of dogs and cats. 

Here's to a bright and beautiful 2025 for us all!

Editorial note: Dr. Gray can be found at Cobblestone Veterinary Hospital at 8504 Lapeer Road in Kenosha. They are still providing house calls with In The Pink Mobile Pet Care. To reach out to Dr. Gray, please call (810) 985-3011 or visit her website at inthepinkpetcare.com.



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AND TEACH YOUNGER
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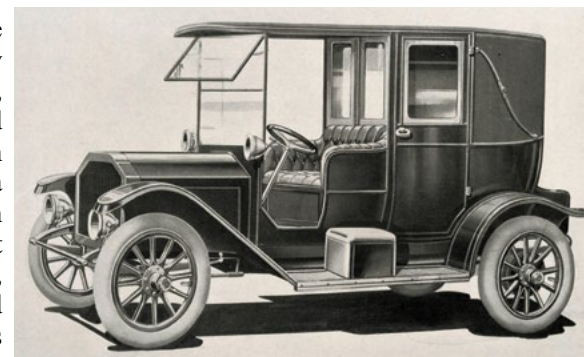
DETROIT ELECTRIC Continued from Page 1

Factories of the Anderson Carriage Manufacturing Company (Alamy photo)

William C. Anderson's influence extended far beyond his business ventures. His social circle expanded to include Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, two iconic figures in electrical innovation and automobiles. These friendships enriched his personal life and underscored the magnitude of his influence in the industry.

In the early 1900s, Anderson started making automobile bodies for local manufacturers. As this business grew, he advanced the idea of making his brand of electric vehicles. In October 1906, George M. Bacon, an engineer who designed a successful electric vehicle for the Firestone family, discussed the manufacture of electric cars with Anderson. William Anderson was duly impressed with Bacon's experience and knowledge in the electric car industry. He challenged Bacon to create an electric prototype, which he did in just four months.

The prototype, dubbed "the Model A Victoria", achieved 140 miles on a single charge and had an average speed of just over 12.5 mph. Bacon became a full-time employee and was charged with designing and building the Anderson Carriage Company's new "Detroit Electric" vehicle brand.



Detroit Electric Model 28 Town Car

On September 9, 1907, the Anderson Carriage Company burned to the ground; however, Anderson still delivered its first Detroit Electric on September 30, 1907. As a result of the fire, Anderson shipped only ten vehicles that year. Within just four months, a new steel-reinforced concrete building, three floors high and 27,000 square feet, was completed to replace the old building.

Over the following months and years, the Anderson line-up of electric vehicles developed a reputation for being well-built, comfortable and easy to drive. Many of its customers were doctors and women who found it easy to manage and operate, using it for shopping and other short excursions around town. The car did not require hand cranking, as did most combustion engine vehicles in those years, and the ride was smooth and the start instantaneous. Many vehicles featured plush trim, abundant upholstery, delicate curtains and polished brass fittings, which helped to grow this market.

Between 1908 and 1910, two thousand five hundred and fifty Detroit Electrics were built. Henry Ford, who manufactured Model T's just down the street, purchased a Model C Coupe for his wife, Clara. At this time, Ford's Model T was selling for \$850, while Anderson's cheapest electric car, a chain-driven Model L Roadster, was \$1,400.

On October 27, 1909, to satisfy his continuous need for electrical components, Anderson purchased the Elwell-Parker Electric Company of Cleveland, Ohio, the world's largest manufacturer of electrical motors. Along with the company came plant manager M.S. Towson, who would prove a valuable employee to the Anderson Company over the following years.

The Detroit Electric Model 60 had a top speed of 20 mph and a range of about 80 miles. It was powered by 14 six-volt Edison batteries, which varied the car's speed by transitioning via a controller from a parallel to a series configuration, depending on which of the five speeds was selected.

Thomas Edison gave Anderson exclusive use of his nickel/iron batteries, which used potassium and lithium hydroxides as electrolytes. Edison guaranteed a four-year rating capacity. Part of the success of the Detroit Electric depended on the ability to charge and maintain those 14 batteries. Anderson built charging stations to address this need and made agreements with two private ones, like what Tesla does today with its thousands of charging stations.

In 1911, the company was reorganized as the Anderson Electric Car Company to reflect its move from carriages into its now main automobile-making activity. They had a nine-member board of directors, which included Anderson, Locke, Newcombe and Bacon.

See *DETROIT ELECTRIC* Page 16

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READY for ADVENTURE

By **Bob Jones**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

It seems every family has an uncle who is by definition eccentric, quirky, an oddball, a nonconformist, or, at the least, out of touch and out of tune with the rest of the family members.

My Uncle Ralph fit into the category of the family's adventurer: Hemingway-esque in character, a bachelor who set no bounds to where or when he would roam to seek a new thrill, a new port of call, a new land to explore.

Whether fishing, hunting, camping or hiking around a foreign land, my uncle would keep busy planning these adventures in a constant state of perpetual motion.

The rest of our family would be content to go to a cottage for a week combating mosquitoes, eating second-rate cooking and fishing in a long-ago fished-out lake, while Uncle Ralph would be planning his trip to the Florida Keys to fish for marlin or the Rockies to hunt for big-horned sheep.

Ralph also traveled to the far corners of the world to view native sites, but also to venture into the

back alleys, trading posts, as well as to out-of-the-way shopping districts of the world's oldest civilizations – i.e. Egypt, Morocco, India, Turkey and his ancestors' birth country Sweden, plus Scandinavia.

While not off adventuring, Ralph lived with family members. He would work in a tool and die shop in the city where I grew up. Whenever he came home from an adventure, I would sit with him and he would spin his yarns from these great experiences.

When I started my teaching career and was still a bachelor myself, Ralph and I would venture to wild game dinners, to hear lectures of other explorers (Safari International, etc.) or would, every two weeks (my pay period), dine at the swanky, upscale restaurant where a coat and tie was mandatory dress.

I lived vicariously through these adventures, and Ralph made me feel his passion to travel, to hunt, to fish the far corners of the globe and to bring back memories to hold onto for a lifetime.

Every family should have an Uncle Ralph to mentor a nephew or niece to

the expansive opportunities to enjoy life on that big world stage and to fully embrace all one's senses in this discovery process.

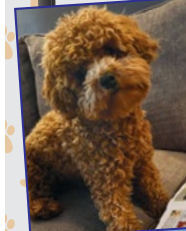
I am now retired and ready for this new adventure, revealed by my uncle to me, to begin. Should I explore the ancient Inca civilization at Machu Picchu, the Galapagos Islands, the Egyptian pyramids, the great Gothic cathedrals around the world, the Holy Lands or perhaps maybe I'll stroll the Rhein in a slow-moving barge?

The choices are plentiful, time is passing by. Thank you, Uncle Ralph, for helping me see beyond my narrow perspective and opening me up to a bigger world of adventure and pleasurable experiences.

Bob Jones has recently released his second children's book: A Young Soul Maturing During Another Summer in the North Woods on the Big Lake. Email Bob at robertsparty1@gmail.com for a discounted copy from the author, or it is available on Amazon.com and Walmart.com.



THUMBPRINT NEWS PET PHOTO CHALLENGE



Say hello to the sugary sweet Maple Lynn sent in by her Auntie B

Maple Lynn, who recently turned 1, was reading about her big brother Marshmallow in the

April paper and demanded to be in the paper too!

Maple is a sweetie who loves everyone she meets and loves to get treats from all of those people too!

She loves to snuggle and going for car rides is her favorite – especially to her Auntie's & Grammy's houses where's she gets a ton of love, snuggles and treats!



Thanks to Maple's Auntie B for sharing her with us!



CHECK OUT ENTIRE MENAGERIE ON OUR 

**THUMBPRINT NEWS
PET PHOTO
CHALLENGE**

Meet Cobalt who is currently being fostered in Algonac, MI



This little terrier mix is just as sweet and laid back as he can be and is blending in nicely with his foster family's other dogs, cats and toddling child. He follows his foster* around like a shadow, as he learns what it means to be loved and accepted for the darling boy he is.

Interestingly, cobalt is a key component in rechargeable batteries for electric vehicles - as written about in our cover story.

*Paws, Awees and Claws Animal Rescue

Thank you, Foster Parents, for sharing your home with Cobalt and with us.

CHECK OUT ENTIRE MENAGERIE ON OUR [FACEBOOK](#)

**COTTAGE
Living**

By Pamela Lynn Hayes
ThumbPrint News
Columnist
pammypoo123@icloud.com




Well, here's to a happy and prosperous new year, *ThumbPrint News* readers! This is a great start so far, we will officially have new leadership in our beautiful White House this month and I, for one, am looking forward to the new and exciting changes coming to our awesome country. I'm already thinking about my Fourth of July patriotic featured article.

It seems the cold weather came a bit early this year, in early November. I guess we've been spoiled the past few years with the bitter cold starting just after Christmas. It's all good, each day that passes is one day closer to spring! I have a couple of fun day trips planned for the spring, so I have that to look ahead to.

A hat tip goes out to those people who have to work outside in the winter weather, I couldn't do it. I'm glad I have an inside job that allows me time to go up and check on the cottage. And since I've become a Thumb resident, I'm able to go up even more now than I used to in winter's past. I've been considering updating one of the cottage bedrooms this winter with a coat of bright, fresh paint and curtains. I think it will make the winter go by a bit faster... I'm thinking I'll do it. It'll get me excited as I set my sights on springtime with a fresh new look in the cottage.

This May marks 13 years I have owned the place. Talking with a friend last week, they asked me if I have ever thought about selling the little place and buying something bigger and year-round. Truth is, I have thought about it. But I don't know that I would love a place as much as I love this little cabin. Maybe, but maybe not. Maybe it's the memories it holds for myself and my kids.

I received the best Christmas gift from a good friend who knows how much I love this place. I guess I talk about my cabin a little too much! Nonetheless, I absolutely love this coffee mug and have been using it every day. And yes, I do sometimes wonder.

Stay Warm, TPN Readers!



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Vocabulary Voyage


Compiled by Laura Irwin, *ThumbPrint News* Staff

"In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or step back into safety." - Abraham H. Maslow, American psychologist

assuage as·suage | ə-'swāj
A verb meaning 1 : to make milder or less severe; 2 : to appease; satisfy; sate, 3 : to soothe, calm, or mollify. First known use: 14th century, Middle English: from Old French *assouagier*, *asouagier*, based on Latin ad- 'to' (expressing change) + *suavis* 'sweet'. *Ex: As a sufferer of chronic pain, she is acerbic, bitter and savagely funny.*

ennui en·nui | ăn-'wē
A noun meaning 1 : a feeling of being tired and dissatisfied : BOREDOM, 2 : weariness and discontent resulting from inactivity or lack of interest. First known use: 1732, from Old French *enui* annoyance, from *enuier* to vex, from Late Latin *inodiare* to make loathsome. *Ex: Frustration and ennui is bound to be part of almost any job.*

vagary va·ga·ry | 'vā-gə-rē
A noun meaning 1 : an unexpected and unpredictable change in a situation or in someone's behavior. 2 : a departure from regular or usual conduct or propriety. First known use: 1579, from Latin *vagāri* "to wander, roam". *Ex: The success of outdoor events is determined by the vagaries of the weather.*



Remember to keep your curiosity alive and keep learning. It is one of the most important things you can do.



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WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY?

JANUARY

1 On this day in 1758, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature establishes the "starting point" for standardized species names across the animal kingdom.	2 On this day in 1982, "The Epic in Miami" AFC Divisional Playoff Game takes place in 85°F heat. The San Diego Chargers beat the Miami Dolphins 41-38 in overtime. The game set numerous playoff scoring records.	3 On this day in 1996, the first clamshell flip mobile phone, the Motorola StarTAC, goes on sale. Eventually 60 million are sold.	4 On this day in 1809, Louis Braille, the French educator and the inventor of a reading and writing system intended for use by visually impaired people, is born in Coupvray, France.
5 On this day in 1886, <i>Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> , by Robert Louis Stevenson, is published by Longmans, Green and Co.	6 On this day in 1942, Pan American Airlines becomes the first commercial airline to complete a flight around the world.	7 On this day in 1939, French physicist Marguerite Perey discovers francium (Fr), the last naturally occurring element to be found.	8 On this day in 1889, Herman Hollerith's complete electric tabulating system is patented. It is considered to be the first computer patent.
9 On this day in 1924, the Ford Motor Company stock is valued at nearly \$1 billion.	10 On this day in 1839, the first tea from leaves of indigenous plants of Assam, India, arrives in the United Kingdom (date approximate).	11 On this day in 1922, Leonard Thompson, a 14-year-old boy, becomes the first human to receive insulin to treat diabetes.	
12 On this day in 1908, the first long-distance wireless message is sent using the Eiffel Tower's antenna as the transmission point.	13 On this day in 1930, the "Mickey Mouse" comic strip first appears.	14 On this day in 1957, American actor Humphrey Bogart dies at 57 to cancer of the esophagus.	15 On this day in 2001, Wikipedia goes online.
16 On this day in 2006, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is sworn in as Liberia's new president. She is Africa's first female elected head of state.	17 On this day in 1928, the first fully automatic photographic film developing machine is patented by Anatol M. Josepho.	18 On this day in 1943, the U.S. begins rationing bread and metal during World War II.	
19 On this day in 1946, Dolly Rebecca Parton is born in Pittman Center, Tennessee.	20 On this day in 2009, Barack Obama is inaugurated as the 44th President.	21 On this day in 1921, British crime writer, Agatha Christie, publishes her first novel <i>The Mysterious Affair at Styles</i> .	22 On this day in 1964, the world's largest cheese is made in Denmark, Wisconsin.
23 On this day in 1986, the first group is inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. It includes Chuck Berry, James Brown, Ray Charles, Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley, Little Richard and more.	24 On this day in 1899, rubber heels for boots or shoes is patented by Irish immigrant-laborer Humphrey O'Sullivan.	25 On this day in 1945, Grand Rapids becomes the first U.S. city to fluoridate its water.	
26 On this day in 1837, Michigan was admitted as the 26th U.S. state.	27 On this day in 1988, the National Geographic Society is incorporated.	28 On this day in 1807, London's Pall Mall becomes first street with gaslight.	29 On this day in 1856, the Victoria Cross flag is established to acknowledge valour in the face of the enemy in the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries.
30 On this day in 1851, the burned Library of Congress is reestablished with 6,500 volumes from Thomas Jefferson.	31 On this day in 1919, Jackie Robinson, the first African-American baseball player, is born in Cairo, Georgia.	31 WISHING YOU A NEW YEAR THAT IS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS!	

Editorial note: This calendar's purpose is to provide entertainment for our readers and to mention lesser-known historical events. We are aware that there also may be well-known events that have happened on these days, and not listing them does not indicate that we are unaware of their importance.

LOOKING FORWARD

By **Rita MacDonald**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist



As a child, I remember coming home from school in January and being sad that my mom took the Christmas tree and all of the decorations down, reminding me that the season was over.

I love the anticipation of holidays – the fall colors and smells, and yes, I am a pumpkin-everything gal. In fact, even as we speak my fall pumpkin candle is burning away in the dining room. Yum.

Raking leaves and earning a couple of bucks, the Christmas parties at school, sleeping in, Christmas caroling, family parties at Aunt Norma's on Christmas Eve, sneaking upstairs during the basement parties just to sit quietly in her cozy little living room on the couch admiring her always, very wide Christmas tree, the ornaments that were so different than ours at home, and heading to church at midnight before driving home. There was something really mysteriously sweet about the stillness of night on our way home, and all of us cousins would discuss whether or not it was true that at midnight all the animals around the world would bow on their knees at exactly the same time because they knew it was the night our Savior Jesus was born.

At home, I liked being by myself and lying underneath the Christmas tree, staring up into all of the brilliant shiny colors of lights. I would arrange and re-arrange the manger scene, and imagine what it was like the night that Christ was born. Sometimes, I'd lay under there for hours all alone. Little has changed now that I'm 61, and even as I write this, my shiny little Christmas tree is right beside me. It's so perfectly pretty and elegant, and I could sit here in the dark, and just keep staring into it, forgetting all that I have to get done today.

The older I get, the more I realize that if I don't participate in activities that remind me of what the holidays are really all about, I can find myself spiraling into a deep depression. I'd rather be singing carols on the front lawn of someone's home who needs some cheering up, reminding all of us of what the season is all about than just about anything else this time of year. So by the time December 31st rolls around, I'm ready for a clean slate, a calendar wiped clean, and ready to be done with all of the obligatory festivities that have exhausted me since I was little.

Sometimes, I'd still love nothing more than to stay home and lie underneath the Christmas tree. But it's time for the tree to come down, just like when I was a kid – but I'm doing all the work now. Back then it wouldn't take long before life returned to the comforts of my familiar and normal pre-holiday routine, and I quickly realized that this meant spring was on its way, and that the summer months would soon follow. That meant a whole host of other holidays, travel, and activities I enjoyed. The same is true for me now. All of these things echo my sister's wisdom of always making sure that something is on the calendar to look forward to – even if it's as simple as doing something small we enjoy, such as caring for ourselves with a pedicure – mine is scheduled for this Wednesday after work ;)

I'm not making any resolutions this year, except to take better care of myself and practice using my "no" muscle, doing only what I can do, and not feeling obligated to do any more than I'm able or willing to do. The phone might get turned off a little more frequently, and I may try to learn a new hobby or two. I've got a short vacation planned for January, a couple of social activities on the calendar for those dreadfully cold winter days, and some home improvements to knock off my to-do list. Also, I'm determined to finish learning how to play Euchre!

I hope you did more than "get through" the holidays. I pray you kept your focus on Christ and not on all of the list-making and gift-buying, the social gatherings and store bargains. I hope you had either a brand-new realization or a fresh reminder that Jesus' birth was a gift for you, one that none of us deserve (that's called GRACE).

In just a few short months, we will have the opportunity to celebrate Easter when Jesus died for us – the death you and I deserve. (He took our place!) And then He rose from the grave, making it possible for you and I to be reconciled to, and live eternally with God. That was quite an exchange! He gets my sin, and I get His righteousness!

My New Year prayer is not only that you give yourself something to look forward to (like a pedicure), but that you begin this New Year, looking forward in a whole new way to celebrating the death, burial and resurrection of the same Jesus at Easter, whose birthday we just celebrated a week ago!

"...BUT GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE FOR US IN THAT WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US." – ROMANS 5:8

If my sister's wisdom is wise (and I believe it is), then as the months and years of our lives go by, and the seasons roll back around, with our eyes fixed on Christ and our hearts surrendered to Him, we will never, ever be without something to look forward to! 🍷

Author's note: Thank you to all of the TPN readers who have encouraged me along the way. You can keep up with me on my blog kitchentabledevotions.com or check out my articles for the online magazine The Keel at secondwavemedia.com/the-keel/authors/Rita-MacDonald.aspx.

**THUMBPRINT NEWS
PET PHOTO
CHALLENGE**

**Meet recently
rescued Tula!
Sent in by Mary G.
of Clinton Twp.**

CHECK OUT ENTIRE MENAGERIE ON OUR [FB](#)

This will be Tula's first Christmas with Mary G. She was surrendered by her previous owner and was rescued in October from the Macomb Humane Society. She is very happy to be in her forever home.

Tula is 7 years old. She enjoys napping with the *ThumbPrint News* near by. Her owner especially likes reading the Cottage Living articles.

Thank you, Mary G., for sharing Tula with us.

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JANUARY & BEYOND

Calendar of Activities and Events

Thank you to all of the event organizers who have submitted to us throughout the years. Before traveling beyond your hometown to attend any of these events, please call ahead for any changes in dates or times or for any cancellations.

LAPEER

LAPEER

FEB 15 Habitat For Humanity's 3rd Annual Adult Prom Fire & Ice Lapeer Country Club, 3786 Hunt Rd., 6PM. Plated dinner, deserts, cash bar, Hunter Turner from Good Company Party Productions will be DJing, Photobooth by Lasting Touch Photography, professional photographer, raffles, silent auction, door prizes & so much FUN! \$65/person. All proceeds go to our Critical Home Repair Program that helps veterans, elderly and low-income families. For more info call (248) 931-8311.

MACOMB

NEW BALTIMORE

FEB 13-15 Rummage Sale Saint Mary Queen of Creation, Gym and Parish Center, 50931 Maria St., 10AM – 4PM on THURS and FRI, 9AM – 3PM on SAT. Visit us and see what treasures you might find! For more information please call (586) 725-2441.

FEB 21-23 WINTERFEST Front St., times vary per day. Join the New Baltimore Lions Club as they host this event for the 32nd year! \$5, tent admission FREE before 4PM and all-day SUN. For more info visit nblionswinterfest.com or find us on Facebook.

ROMEO

JAN 14 Symphonia Chorale First Rehearsal Romeo United Methodist Church, St. John Lutheran Church, 246 Benjamin St., 7PM – 9PM each TUE. Love to sing and want to sing challenging, interesting and fun music with talented singers, an amazing director and awesome pianist? Join us! We are a non-audition vocal ensemble of 35-50 singers of all ages, singing various genres from Classical to Pop. Concerts in May. For more

info email mcintyrejkm@yahoo.com / visit symphoniachorale.weebly.com.

WASHINGTON

MAR 16 Open House The Loren Andrus Octagon House, 57500 Van Dyke, 1PM – 4PM. Docents will be available to assist visitors in their self-guided tour of the Historic Octagon House. \$6/person. For more info call (586) 781-0084.

ST. CLAIR

EAST CHINA

FEB 22 85th Annual Muskrat & Wild Game Dinner Southeastern Michigan Conservation Club, 2402 N. Belle River Rd., 6PM. Join us for this All-U-Can-Eat dinner! We'll have door prizes, raffles, a gun broker doing blitz raffles and a cash bar. \$20/person and tickets will be available at the door. For more info call (586) 405-2289 or (810) 343-0702.

ST. CLAIR

JAN 4 Euchre Tournament Hosted by Cornell Marysville Chapter #93 OES St. Clair Masonic Temple, 1800 St. Clair Hwy., doors open at 12:30PM, play starts at 1PM. Public welcome \$10/person. Games are played on the first SAT of every month. Refreshments, door prizes and Share the Wealth. For more info call Diane at (586) 337-2729.

SMITHS CREEK

JAN 12 Monthly Breakfast Smiths Creek Masonic Lodge #491, 335 Henry St. (across the street from the Pink Elephant), 8AM – 12PM. Join us for delicious eggs, bacon, potatoes, French toast, pancakes (plain & blueberry), along with coffee, orange juice, white and chocolate milk. AYCE for only \$10/adult and \$5/child under 12. Join us every second SUN of the month. For more info email clintonsharrard@comcast.net.

What Goes, What Stays and Second Chances

By **Theresa Nielsen**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Now that the rush of craft show season is over for me, I find myself taking a few minutes to reflect on all the sewing projects that got done, the quilts that were completed and of course those that are still waiting in the UFO pile. (UFO is an unfinished project, by the way.) "Maybe next year," I tell myself as I put the last one



Baltimore Spring by Pearl P. Pereira available on Smartisans.com

on top of the pile. It is the Baltimore Album quilt that is taking forever. Lower down in the pile is the novel I'm trying to write. Some of these things may never get done, but I keep working at them. The Baltimore Album quilt has thirteen blocks, one large center block surrounded by twelve small ones. Another block in my quilt is almost completed. For those who might wonder about keeping track of a quilt in progress like this, we have quilter purchases called "a block of the month". That means you receive a block by mail or at a quilt shop, with the intention of completing the block in a month's time. If I lived on an island in the middle of nowhere and only had to sew all day and had a maid who cleaned the house and delivered my coffee, I would still not get the block done in a month.

You see, I live in the real world where life happens...dogs need to be walked and cats want to be petted. The birds need my attention, and I have to go to work. People need me, I have to cook dinner, stop and help a friend...the list is endless. Not to mention, like many other quilter friends, sometimes we have ten or more projects going at the same time. I'm sure I have more than ten. The average person would be totally lost in my sewing room; in fact, to get to the laundry room you have to pass through the sewing room. More than once, I have had to go look for my husband who can't find his way back out. Don't laugh, it's true.

At the end of the year when I'm sorting and putting things away, there is always a give-away box. That's where leftover fabric scraps go which I then donate to quilt groups or charities for their sewing projects. Earlier this year, I received lots of fabric donations from friends who don't sew anymore or who are downsizing. Some of that fabric will be donated again, but a large amount is going to a fun exciting project I have coming up in February of 2025. I will be doing an event with a local library where those interested can come in, pick out some fabric scraps and sew all day. I enjoy giving back, encouraging others to take the plunge and dive into the fabric stash and have the best day ever. You know, I'm already thinking about the empty space that will be in my sewing room once that large stash of fabric moves on...

Even if I don't fill that space quickly, I have plenty to keep me busy. I was recently gifted a very worn and tattered Sunbonnet Sue quilt. I'm going to work my magic and restore it, at least as much as possible. I can tell by looking at it that it was once very beautiful. The quilt reminds me of a challenge our sewing group did once. Take an ugly piece of fabric and make something lovely and unique with it. At the time, that fabric chosen was definitely a challenge just like Sunbonnet Sue will be a challenge, but hey, I'll get it done.

I want to say "Thank You!" to those who read my articles and enjoy them. I love sharing my stories with all of you. 🐾

Editorial note: All are welcome to join Theresa for the sewing day! It will be at the Blair Memorial Library, located at 416 N. Main St., Clawson, MI 48017, on February 22nd from 10AM – 4PM. To reach Theresa, you can email her at catbirdinn@sbcglobal.net.



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DETROIT ELECTRIC

Continued from Page 8

The following year, Anderson Electric Car Co. became the leading producer of electric cars in the U.S., shipping 978 units.

The Detroit Electric cars featured battery packs in the front and rear, curved side glass, which helped eliminate blind spots, and aluminum bodies, which reduced some of the car's weight caused by the heavy battery packs.

Production exceeded 4,500 units in 1914. Two years later, however, as World War I continued in Europe, manufacturing fell to 3,000 cars.

In 1916, Anderson purchased the Chicago Electric Motor Company, but production continued to fall. By the end of the war in 1918, the company averaged just 2,000 vehicles annually. In 1918, William C. Anderson retired, leaving the company in the good hands of M.S. Towson, formerly of Elwell-Parker, who joined the Anderson Electric Car Co. after its acquisition in 1909. While Anderson remained president, Frank Price and George Bacon took over the company's management.

As the company entered the 1920s, it placed an added emphasis on manufacturing car bodies for medium-priced car companies in the Detroit area, including the 1921 Lincoln L.

In 1922, M.S. Towson, now a significant shareholder, reorganized its production of body-building activities into the Towson Body Company. Towson would inherit all of Anderson's remaining body contracts, including Lincoln body types 101-107. Additional agreements were signed with Packard and Detroit-based builders Velie and Davis.

The recession that began in 1929 negatively impacted the electric car industry. Combustion engine vehicles were selling for far less than their electric cousins. Henry Ford sold 15 million Model Ts from 1908 to 1927, some priced under \$500. New oil discoveries on America's West Coast drove the cost of gasoline down, making combustion cars cheaper to drive. As a result, demand for electric vehicles continued to fall rapidly.

Electrics Vanish
Out of 36 electric automobile manufacturers twenty-two years ago, only one remains, reports A. O. Dunk of the Detroit Electric Car company.

Article excerpt from The Times Herald, February 18, 1928

Detroit Electric continued to produce a handful of orders through the 1930s, but most of its business came from the production of small delivery trucks.

The Detroit Electric never healed from the effects of the depression. A.O. Dunk, a car company liquidator, acquired it in 1929. Dunk attempted to reorganize the company under the name Detroit Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Company and kept it in business for several years until his death in 1936.

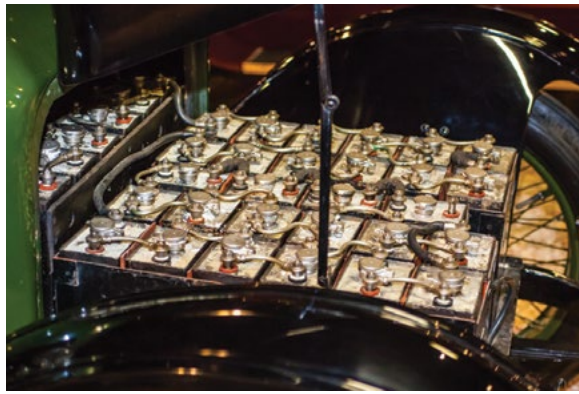
The last Detroit Electric would be completed in 1938, and the firm dissolved, having outsold, outproduced and outlasted all its competition in electric vehicle manufacturing. During the company's lifetime, about 13,000 Detroit Electric models were delivered.

William C. Anderson passed away at his home on Lakeshore Dr. in Mt. Clemens after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage on November 9, 1929, 11 days after the stock market collapse.

His 76 years on this earth were filled with love for his family, a never-ending quest for knowledge, a passion for growth and discovery, and an insatiable curiosity about the world that follows great inventors every day of their lives.



Editorial note: Derek Smith moved to Port Huron in 1987 from Sarnia, Ontario. You can read Derek's full bio and other articles he has written by visiting bluewaterhealthyliving.com/author/dereksmith.



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THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST

Since the second issue, *ThumbPrint News* has printed a photo of an object, person or a place for our readers to identify. We have had many photos, great guesses and correct answers over the years, and we are incredibly thankful to the readers have continuously played along with us!

For our December 2024 contest, we asked our readers to identify what is pictured to the left. Of all the correct answers we received, Jay Taylor of Roseville, Michigan, was randomly chosen. Jay identified it as a foil pom pom Christmas ornament. These collectible mid-century Modern, Atomic Age Foil ornaments were made in Japan from the 1950s to the 1960s and were popular until the mid 1970s.

If you visited The History of the Christmas Tree Walk in December, there was a good chance you saw this ornament and many others from that era!



Congratulations to our
2024 TPN Contest Winner!

On December 12, 2024, our June winner, Mari-Lynn Flaig, of Rochester Hills, Michigan, was randomly selected out of the twelve 2024 monthly winners!

Mari-Lynn
has won
a \$50 gift
certificate to



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