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



MARCH 2011

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The Journey To Peleliu and Back

The Story of Roy Hahn

By **Fredrick G. Marengo**

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

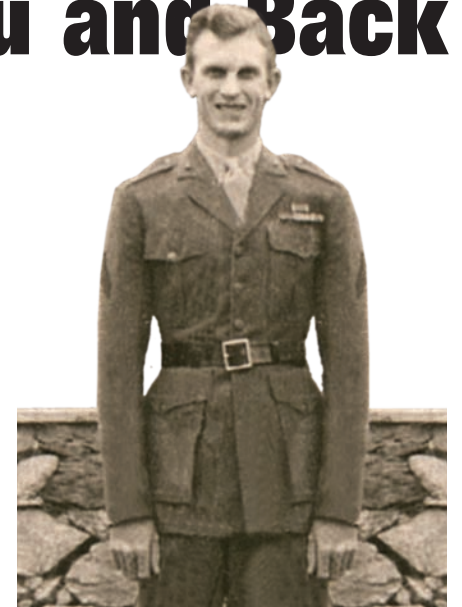
On September 5, 1923, America was at peace when Roy Hahn was born in Fornfelt, Missouri, a small town in the southeastern corner of the state. The town sat next to the railroad tracks of the St. Louis Southwestern Railway. Eighteen years later, Roy would be riding on a set of tracks headed to San Diego, California and the Marine Corps Recruit Depot to join the fight in a war that would define the future of America.

Roy's family, his father Hobart, and mother Jeanne, and an older sister, Adrienne, migrated from Missouri to

Highland Park, Michigan when he was five years old. Hobart Hahn had joined the United States Army and fought in Europe during World War I. After the war ended, Hobart returned from war torn France with a wife – a beautiful girl named Jeanne. Roy said his mother was referred to as a "French War Bride."

Roy spent his boyhood years busy with school studies and playing sports. He played baseball, football and basketball during his school years. When Roy was seventeen years old, he stood 6'3" tall and weighed 165 pounds. He

See *THE JOURNEY*, Page 16



Spotlight on a Small Town: Algonac

Finding a Legend Hidden Within the History of Algonac – Michigan's Oldest Family-Owned Grocery Store

By **Joe Nugent**

Algonac-Clay Historical Society Member and *ThumbPrint News* Guest Writer

Many old-timers who grew up in Algonac, Michigan, remember Poole's store. Originally started in 1836 and continuing to operate throughout five generations of Poole family members, the store and the people who built it and operated it are all a part of a legend in their own town. It all began with Charles L. Poole.

In 1836, Charles L. Poole immigrated from Marketdrayton, Shropshire, England to Manchester, Michigan (which later became present day Algonac). Not until a year later would Michigan achieve statehood. At this time, Michigan was still a part of the Northwest Territory. That same year, Charles opened a store on what was then called Water Street, at the present day location of 1116 St. Clair River Drive. The north wing of the



Downtown Algonac circa 1906

store also served as his home and it is at this location that R. Lee Poole was born on June 22, 1888. At that time, the store was a shoe shop, grocery store, drug store and meat shop all

See *Algonac*, Page 22

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Since the first issue of *ThumbPrint News* premiered in October of 2009, I have been amazed at how the articles and columns we have shared with our readers have generated so many responses. Some of those that have been the most personally rewarding for me are those that generate new ideas, information, articles or photos based on what we have already put into print.

Such was the response to the November, 2010 issue in which we published "King of Storms – The Great Storm of 1913" by Dave Wak. We had many, many responses to that article. In that same issue, we also published a one page article, "The U.S. Coast Guard Awards Gold Lifesaving Medal to Anthony F. Glaza," who also happened to be my great uncle.

When we published Anthony's picture in the paper, it led to a relative I did not even know exists, who lives in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, emailing me a photo that she had of Anthony from a long time ago. Although she was able to identify Anthony, she did not know who the other people in the photo were. As if out of the dusty shelves of history, all of the sudden the faces in the photo came to life. I



A family photo of several generations of the Glazas, sent in by a ThumbPrint News reader.

had never seen this group photo before, and yet, here was not only my Uncle Anthony and his family, but also my father as a young boy, my grandmother and grandfather and even my great grandfather and great grandmother! It was a priceless photo and I could hardly believe how lucky I was that a reader of our paper had contacted me, just because of that article.

Then, in December, this story again brought more information for my growing genealogical files when I was contacted by Mark F. Rowe, the Maritime Chairman of the Keweenaw County Historical Society in the Upper Peninsula. The Society is currently involved in trying to develop a Life-Saving Museum at Eagle Harbor and has a lot of information on Anthony, including articles and photos. Mark said that he would get a CD together of some of the photos and send them off to me. It was early February before the CD arrived in the mail and, once again, I was blown away. He had compiled over 65 photos, mostly dealing with Anthony's career in the Lifesavers (which later became the Coast Guard). In the article I wrote in *ThumbPrint*



In this photo taken by Anthony Glaza, four members of the Eagle Harbor Coast Guard Station lifeboat, December 11, 1926 after the wreck of the steamer Thomas Maytham and the steamer City of Bangor.

News, we focused mainly on Anthony's heroic efforts with the steamer *Waldo* during November of 1913. This was the rescue mission that earned him the Gold

See *From the Editor*, Page 18



Anthony F. Glaza

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Carolyn "Carol" Cordray-Floyd



Whenever I say to someone, "February is the longest month of the year," they look at me as if I've somehow escaped the public school system. Silly lady, it's the shortest month! Yet it comes with more snow, long cold grey days, and the knowledge that we still have to contend with March. Don't get me wrong, it's not that winter isn't a favorite season with the holidays, including Valentine's Day, and fun things Michiganders can do in the snow. At age 68, I still must build a snowman in the yard and look forward to next year when my newest grandchild and I can share the experience together without neighbors wondering if I've gone bonkers.

What makes this February extra

special is looking forward to my third exposure to *ThumbPrint News*. David Gillis! Good grief, a name from my past! In December, he spoke of the Stringer Restaurant and it started my mind racing back to our shared experiences. These past 2½ years have been 24/7 care for my elderly mother in my home. Despite moving back to familiar territory, there hasn't been time to make any new friends, not to mention reconnecting with old ones. Then came the January edition and David talks about our 50th class reunion. What fun.

My family moved from Detroit to Algonac in August of 1952. Because the Detroit school system was an A-B half year system and I had only completed one half of the 5th grade, it was decided to place me in the 5th grade rather than the 6th. My class went to school in the basement of a church while a new elementary school was being built in the present location. Mrs. David was my teacher. She and I had many an authority challenge. The kitchen was our "time out" area and a familiar place for me . . . and Lemmy Harsens.

I remember one experience that humiliated me at the time. We were doing a multiplication problem on the board, and every time I wrote it down, the sign tilted more to a plus sign than a times sign. She would erase it and ask me to write it again. Again, I wrote the plus sign, knowing full well the difference but being defiant as to my will, not hers. This went on for some time until I finally capitulated. It makes me laugh now, especially knowing stubbornness is still a strong part of my personality.

But one memory of that first fall is recalled nearly every year when my mind drifts back to "the good old days." The annual Halloween bonfire! For several weeks before this grand event given by the local Lions Club, people would

bring old wood, furniture and whatever else was flammable to pile into a huge mound in the field across from the Methodist Church. On the given night for the bonfire, the fire department was on hand, less flames escape the given area, and all the children/youth would march around the fire. Prizes were given out for different categories, and that year – my first year in this new town – I won a prize! Don't ask me what the costume was because that isn't what sticks in my memory; it was that this young stranger felt at home amid all this strangeness. The Lions Club had hot dogs and drinks for everyone, too. Years later, when I was in the marching band and too old to participate in costume contests, we would march through town as a random band leading the younger kids as we snaked through the streets.

What this rambling brings me to is that the *ThumbPrint News* has given me a renewed sense of belonging. My path took me away from Algonac after graduation. About five years ago, I bought a house in Port Huron with the hopes of my elderly mother living there until my retirement. Circumstances changed before it was possible for me to make new friends or connect with old friends. Mom passed away last December. David Gillis, a name from my past, I'll be darned. And I, too, look forward to our 50th Class Reunion.

Some of our classmates won't be joining us. If memory serves me correctly, Frank "Lorne" Miskokomon was the first to pass on. He was killed by a drunk driver on the weekend commute to Algonac from Eastern Michigan University and left behind a young family on Walpole Island. Others have passed since then. One in my close group of friends, Pam McAllister, won't be joining us in a physical presence, but each of their memories will continue

on as we share yesterday and build for tomorrow. Many who read about Algonac before "urban renewal" will think we are talking about long, long ago . . . but that was just yesterday for many of us! See you there, David! 🍀

From Agnes Griffor

I have enjoyed reading articles in the *ThumbPrint News* since its inception. Just as a point of information, I would like to comment on the Casco story. The article credits Captain John Clarke as naming Casco, since he had lived in Casco, Maine. Years ago, I did a history of East China Township where I live. Captain Clarke was an active resident, both in China Township and, later, East China Township where he lived after his move from Maine. There is a letter from the private collection of the Clarke family in which Helen Clarke, daughter of Captain Clarke, writes in 1850: "China is a small town on the St. Clair River. It was called China after a town in Maine. . ."

Captain Clarke was born in Bath, Maine and, from information gathered by the North China, Maine historical society, he or members of his family lived in China. As you may know, East China Township split from China Township in 1859.

It may be possible that Casco, also a town in Maine, was suggested by Captain Clarke. Since he had suggested the name for China Township in 1837, he may have been asked to also name Casco. At the time, both Casco and China Townships were agricultural communities and there was much shared activity and everyone knew everyone else.

I do not send this information as correction but rather to give you background. I well know how difficult it is to authenticate local input which is often only verbal. 🍀

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English Tea with Music

Benefits the Summer Music Camp Award Program

By Margaret A. Kearns
Chairperson of The Port Huron Musicale



Forbes Johnson, President of The Port Huron Musicale and Chef for the English Tea with Music, visits with the ladies as they are waiting for the tea to begin.

The Port Huron Musicale will be presenting their 3rd Annual English Tea with Music, Saturday, April 9, 2011, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 723 Court Street, at the corner of 7th and Wall Streets in Port Huron. The entrance to the tea is on the Wall Street side of the church.

The Port Huron Musicale has been in existence since 1917 with the sole purpose of helping students, in our local area, with their musical

endeavors through awards and grants. The Port Huron Musicale is a member of the National and Michigan Federation of Music clubs and we presently have 152 members actively supporting and providing music for the club. One of our fundraisers is our annual English Tea with Music. Funds raised by the tea are directed to the Summer Music Camp Award program. The classical music provided by our students and their instructors, for our tea, gives you an opportunity to witness the great talent we have within our community and encourages young people to pursue their musical dream. Tickets, which are priced at \$15, are limited, and may be obtained by calling (810) 637-8273. Visit our website at www.theporthuronmusicale.com to see other pictures and information for this great event! 🍵

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Uncle Sam Can Help Pay For Your Move

By Cindy Redmann
Tax Consultant

Americans have always been mobile. But the IRS can help you write off those relocation costs if the move is work-related. You have to pass the distance and time tests, but as long as a move meets these requirements, it doesn't matter if it's your first job, the same job or a new job.

The biggest moving hurdle is the 50-mile distance test. The distance between the taxpayer's new job location and former house must be at least 50 miles more than the distance between the old job location and former house. That means if you lived 10 miles from your old job, your new job must be at least 60 miles from your old home.

Moving expenses are deductible if incurred within one year of starting a new job. You have to work full time for at least 39 weeks in the 12-month period following your arrival. If you deduct moving expenses and then don't pass the time test, you must file an amended return or include moving expenses in your income next year.

You can deduct the cost of moving household goods and personal effects, including storage and insuring household goods. You can also deduct travel expenses (including lodging, but not meals) for one trip by the taxpayer and each member of the household. Household members do not have to travel together or at the same time. Of course, if your new employer reimburses you for some or all of your travel costs, you cannot deduct those expenses. Sorry, but Uncle Sam frowns on "Double-Dipping."

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Ask the Audiologist

What Can I do About My Earwax?

By Lisa Bont

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

We have all heard about not putting anything larger than your elbow in your ear, but who can recall carefully inserting a car key or bobby pin into the ear to pull out earwax? Many individuals have or still do this and it is truly not a good idea!

Earwax is really not a wax at all but a mixture of water and soluble secretions from glands in the outer portion of our ear canals. It has a significant function in protecting our eardrums and that is to trap dirt, debris and dead skin cells. It also helps to keep our delicate ear canal tissues protected with its thin protective coating. The earwax will normally fall out of our ears and not cause any trouble. However, it may build up due to narrow ear canals, hairy ear canals or Q-tip use. For some, the wax can build up and cause significant problems. Excess earwax can cause decreased hearing, earache, dizziness, ringing of the ears, itching and other symptoms.

What should you do when experiencing these symptoms?

Seek medical intervention from a licensed medical provider, such as your physician, ear, nose and throat specialist or your audiologist. They are all trained in the safe removal of the earwax and it is in their scope of practice. Earwax removal should be left to professionals trained in its safe removal and not to the hearing aid dealer. Remember not everyone who wears a white coat is a doctor! You should also be aware of your health benefits and *only* a physician can bill your insurance for earwax removal.

Physicians will generally use the three most common types of removal: warm water irrigation, wax softening agents and manual removal with special tools to clear the ear. Some physicians will recommend over the counter earwax removal kits, hydrogen peroxide rinses



or occasional mineral oil drops to keep the wax soft and able to migrate out of the ear easily. **Remember** it is always best to seek treatment from the professional before trying any over the counter products, as unhealthy ears, such as a perforated eardrum or an ear that has had surgery, and use of over the counter treatments may result in more complicated medical issues.

A more troubling issue has arrived in the earwax removal arena called ear candling, an alternative medicine practice claimed to improve general health and well-being by lighting one end of a hollow candle and placing the other end in the ear canal. If your Aunt Bertha recommends using one of her ear candles, it is best to walk away and decline her thoughtful gesture. It is a parlor trick and surely meant to entertain the masses but comes with a serious warning! Many individuals will visit their local health food store or web site to locate information on the infamous ear candle/ear cones. The claims of benefit from ear candling are multifold but ultimately they are ineffective and have potential danger as reported by the USFDA and various watchdog groups. Health Canada has actually made it illegal to sell ear candles. Numerous studies and the lead of the Canadian government have lead our FDA to issue safety alerts in an attempt to stop ear candling. The alerts can be found on their website: www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch.

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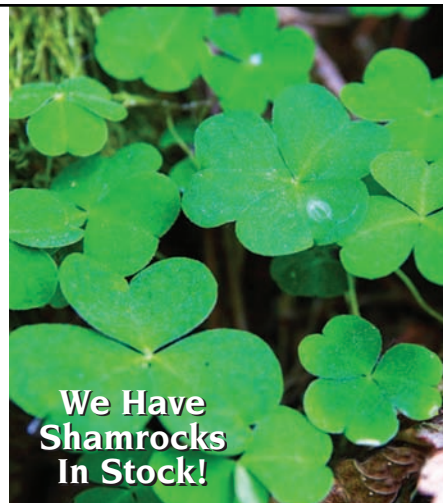
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By Kathryn Seestedt

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Some readers may wonder why I am reviewing a book published in Canada! A little thinking about past history will remind you that settlers on both shores of the St. Clair River often formed business alliances as well as marriages. The little museum across the St. Clair River in Sombra reveals much about our shared history, including information about families who now have U.S. citizenship.

The book I want to talk about is *Looking Back: St. Clair River: Canadian Shoreline* by Alan Mann. He is the son of Frank Mann, the long-time historian of Wallaceburg, Ontario, and well-known to many of us on the American side. Alan is a life-long lover of the St. Clair River and an historian in his own right.

In the introduction to the book, Mr. Mann declares, "I have played in it... and watched its serenity as well as its ferocity... and of course learning to swim was St. Clair 101."

This is a book of old pictures gathered from many sources; we can remember that "a picture is worth a thousand words." I will list some of the photos of special interest to residents on our side of this international boundary line:

- **S.T. Crapo** – Often the first vessel to be seen in the spring. She was built in 1927. In the thick spring ice of 1952, she needed the assistance of the Coast Guard ice-breaker, *Mackinaw*.



S.T. Crapo

- **J. T. Wing** – This was a three-masted schooner that was permanently moored near the McLouth Shipyard in Marine City. The schooner had been built in 1919. Later, she was moved to Belle Isle in Detroit, where she was a forerunner to the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.



J.T. Wing



Daldean

- **Daldean** – This was the long-time auto ferry linking Marine City, Michigan with Sombra, Ontario, Canada. She was built in 1951. By her fiftieth birthday in 2001, more than 730,000 trips had been logged.

- **Robert's Landing on M-29** – This location had been the U.S. Custom's Department depot for auto ferries to Port Lambton, Ontario. The best remembered ferry is the *Ontamich*, which was acquired in 1973 and served until this Port of Entry was discontinued in 1985.

- **The Harmsworth Race of 1933** – This race is remembered by residents in the Marine City and Robert's Landing area. The race course was laid out in front of the Cherry Beach Subdivision, south of Marine City. *Miss America X*, owned by Gar Wood, was the best known power boat in this race.

- **Fawn Island** – Once known as Eagle Island, this island lies just south of Marine City and Sombra. The quiet waters between Fawn Island and the Canadian mainland have been a favorite spot for water-skiing. The island is now a private retreat, accessible only by water from the Canadian shore.

Many of the photos in this book are by Pesha, a Marine City photographer. All of his products are collectible, including his glass negatives.

Mr. Mann mentions the beautiful sunsets seen from the Canadian side of the River. From the American side, we see equally beautiful sunrises on their shore. Both scenes fill the watcher with tranquility and peace.

This book is out of print and cannot be purchased new anymore, but check your local libraries or used book stores for availability. For those readers wanting to locate or purchase this book in a used condition, here is the necessary publishing information:

Looking Back: St. Clair River: Canadian Shoreline, by Alan Mann, published in 2004 by Looking Back Press, 1 Northrup Cresc., PO Box 2121,

St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, L2R-752. It is paperback, 123 pages long, with black and white photos and some descriptive text. There is no index. The ISBN# is: 1 55068 934 7.

Editor's Note: The "little museum across the river in Sombra" that Kathryn Seestedt refers to in her review is the Sombra Museum. It is located at 3470 St. Clair Parkway in Sombra and their phone number is (519) 892-3982. Open on weekends beginning in May from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. it is easily accessible by car or even by walkers or bicyclists who take the ferry across the St. Clair River from Marine City, Michigan to Sombra, Ontario, Canada. Starting in June and going through September, the museum is open daily from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. For more information about the museum and for hours that it is open other months of the year visit www.twp.stclair.on.ca/sombra_museum.htm.



Sombra Museum in Sombra, Ontario, Canada

Here are the items the museum has to offer, according to their website:

- **Victorian Home** – Step into the past in this Victorian home built in 1881 with eight furnished rooms. Experience the hominess of the kitchen, and the elegance of the dining room filled with crystal, silver and china. Walk into an old time parlor and music room to learn about entertainment in the past, or dream in a child's bedroom with period clothing and toys. The master bedroom displays turn of the century personal effects. The gallery displays various themes, e.g. Beach Wear, Victorian Fashions, Spinning Textiles.
- **Marine Room** – Illustrates the importance of the St. Clair River and Great Lakes to our history through photos and nautical artifacts.
- **Agriculture and Technology Room** – Highlights tools for farming, smithing, logging, cooperage, photography, butter making, washing and more.
- **Reference Room** – Has archives, census and cemetery records, photos, files on businesses, ships, schools, churches and more. Research by students and the public is encouraged any time. Our citizen files are a source for genealogical research!
- **1830 Log Cabin** – Characterizes the lifestyle of the early Sombra Pioneers. 🌲

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Melanie Duquesnel

Don't Pay for Free Advice on Scholarships for College

Millions of people depend on grants and scholarships to pay for college. Navigating the process of applying for financial aid can be confusing and some companies claim they can help, but only end up providing information and assistance the student can already get for free elsewhere. The Better Business Bureau recommends doing your research before paying a company to find financial aid for college.

During the 2009-2010 school year, \$94 billion in grants were made available to college students to help cover education costs, according to The College Board. Sources of the funding included federal and state government, institutions, private entities and employers.

"Times are tight and many families desperately want to tap into the well of scholarships and grants to help their kids go to college," said Melanie Duquesnel, President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. "While some companies are trying to take advantage of struggling families looking for funding, the good news is that all of the information you need is already available for free."

Every year, BBB receives complaints from parents who paid money upfront to a company that promised to find scholarships and grants for their child but ultimately didn't deliver.

One such company, Edifi-College Financial Aid, sends prospective college students a letter explaining they have been selected for a personal interview. Students who call for their interview are scheduled for a financial aid seminar along with other students and parents. Complainants say they attended the seminar and later paid more than \$1,000 for help finding aid, but the services offered were mostly assistance in filling out financial aid forms.

BBB is also receiving complaints about J.E.C.C., Inc. Complainants say they thought they were taking advantage of a free trial CD-ROM on how to get federal grants for college. Some were charged as much as \$69

even before receiving the information in the mail and those who did receive the information complained that it wasn't helpful at all.

BBB recommends listening for the following red flags when receiving the sales pitch from a financial-aid finder:

- **"The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."** In reality no one can guarantee that they will get you a grant or scholarship. The refund guarantees that are offered usually have so many conditions or strings attached that it is almost impossible for consumers to get their money back.
- **"You cannot get this information anywhere else."** Actually, scholarship information is widely available in books, from libraries and financial aid offices and on the Internet, if you are willing to search for it.
- **"We will do all the work."** Only parents and students can really determine and provide the financial information needed to complete the forms.
- **"You have been selected by a national foundation to receive a scholarship."** If you have not entered a competition sponsored by the foundation, this claim is highly unlikely.
- **"May I have your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship?"** This is never a requirement for a legitimate scholarship offer.
- **"The scholarship will cost some money."** Legitimate scholarship offers never require payment of any kind.

For more information on finding financial aid for school, visit www.fafsa.gov. BBB has advice for everyone on managing personal finances and avoiding scams at <http://easternmichigan.bbb.org/Consumer-Tips/>.

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.

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BEAUTIFUL 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA. Ranch home w/ full walkout basement. Master BR suite has garden tub & sep. shower + WI closet. Spacious kitchen loaded w/ cabinets & workspace. Formal DR. 1st flr. laundry. Attached 3 car garage. Home has a deck that overlooks pond w/ windmill that operates the aerator + view of Lake Huron. This home is only 4 years old. Great location just south of Port Sanilac. Asking \$275,000.



NEW LISTING !!! Beautiful 3 BR, 4 BA year-around home located on M-25 north of Port Sanilac. Great location adjoining village limits. Lots of trees & wildlife (deer, turkey, etc.). Heated garage with hot and cold water, floor drain and insulated. Well maintained home with many extras. Lots of storage space & shelving. Large basement w/ bath. Many shrubs & flowers. Home has 522' road frontage. Asking \$229,000.



LAKE HURON HOME! This year around home is a must see. 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 story has a beautiful fireplace in LR, family rm with door to deck overlooking harbor, marina, & your own sandy beach. Home offers galley style kitchen, modern bath w/claw foot tub, WI closet. Huge master suite on upper level has door to balcony over looks Lake Huron. Desirable Lake Street in quaint village has all amenities. Call today. Asking \$299,900.



REDUCED!!! Fabulous views of Lake Huron from this lake front cottage. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage has a family room, LR with gas fireplace, sleeping loft, kitchen and DR combo. Cottage sits in sub of Marilyn Manor where you share 700' of beautiful sandy beach, walking distance from convenience store. Don't miss out, come take a look! Asking \$199,900.



USE YOUR IMAGINATION for this historical old red barn in the village of Port Sanilac across from the museum. Water wheels, walk out basement underneath. Hay Mow is still here. Barn is in great condition and was used as antique store at one time. Large lot with lots of parking, so this would be a great business venture spot. Retail, restaurant, or you can name it home! Asking \$89,000.



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NEW LISTING!! Absolutely terrific get away retreat located in Marilyn Manor Sub. This home has 3 BR, huge LR, large kitchen w/ eating space & loads of nice cabinets. There is an enclosed porch with nice lake view. Large concrete patio on rear of home has awning. The home sits on a double lot so you are not crowded. Sits on one of the best beaches around. Asking \$115,000.



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JUST LISTED! This well kept home is located just outside the city limits of Port Sanilac. The home has hardwood flooring, coved ceilings, fireplace, and new carpet in the LR. Home has two car garage and is wired for 220. This is a must see!!! Listed at \$125,000.



THIS HOME IS A DREAM! 100' of prime low bank Lake Huron frontage and a 900' deep lot with so many woods you'll forget your conveniently located off of M-25. This is a 3 BDR, 1 1/4 bath home. The main house offers 2 BDR, 1 full bath, LR/DR combo and a kitchen. The studio apartment offers its own bathroom, kitchen area, sleeping area and separate entrance. This one will not last long. Call Today. Asking \$299,000.



ON THE LAKE views w/o the lakefront price! 3 bed/2 1/2 baths great floor plan, wooded lot, 2 car attached garage, dual sided natural fire place...this home has it all! Asking \$160,000. A must see. Call today!

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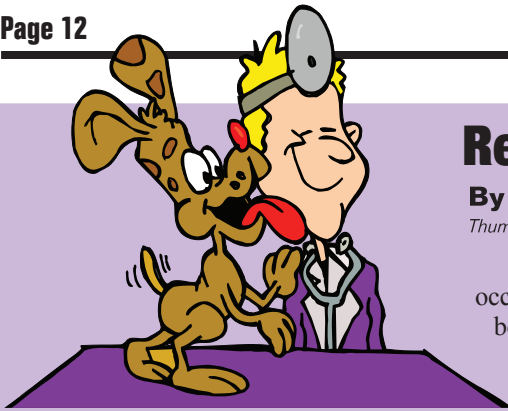
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Renal Failure in Cats

By Dr. DiBenedetto

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Many cat owners feel that their indoor cats do not need to see a veterinarian on a regular basis because they are not exposed to other animals. They eat and drink well and overall seem healthy. However, there are many benefits to regular checkups for our feline friends. Because domesticated cats are descendents of wild animals, they will hide signs of an illness that may make them appear weak. Many owners will not even be aware of a problem until the disease is in its advanced stages. This is why annual exams, wellness blood work and urinalysis are so important in cats, especially after six years of age.

One of the most commonly seen diseases in older cats is renal (kidney) failure. There are two main types of kidney failure, acute and chronic. Acute simply means the failure has

occurred suddenly, not giving the body time to compensate. This can be very serious and sometimes fatal. Many different factors can cause kidney failure.

Urethral obstructions, infections, trauma or toxins can cause acute kidney failure. Chronic failure is most often due to general age deterioration of the kidneys.

The kidneys are responsible for many different functions in the body. They filter waste products from the body, regulate electrolytes, produce erythropoietin, which stimulates the bone marrow to produce red blood cells, help control blood pressure and are responsible for the production of urine. The kidney cells, called nephrons, slowly die off and lose their ability to filter out waste products. Because this is a slow, progressive process, the healthy nephrons are able to compensate and work harder, until more than 70 percent of kidney function is gone. This is why no outward symptoms or early warning signs are

usually detected.

The signs of renal failure include increased thirst, excessive urination, nausea and vomiting, drooling, loss of appetite, weight loss, poor hair coat, dehydration and constipation. Not all cats will exhibit all of these symptoms and many of these symptoms can be related to other diseases that affect older cats. If your cat is showing any of these symptoms, you should have them examined and have a chemistry profile and complete blood count run by your veterinarian. This will help your veterinarian to determine the severity of the disease and what treatment will be the best.

Treatments for renal failure will depend on the individual cat's condition. Acute cases may need to be hospitalized and given intravenous fluids to flush the cat's system and treat the underlying cause. Chronic cases can often be managed at home by administering fluids under the skin to help maintain your cat's hydration. Even with the excessive drinking, the kidneys are not able to retain enough fluid to maintain adequate hydration

for the body's tissues. The fluid given under the skin goes directly into the body's tissues where it is needed. Changing your cat's diet is also very helpful for maintenance. These special prescription diets are made with controlled amounts of high quality proteins and lower phosphorus levels, which help to reduce the workload on the kidneys. As always, providing plenty of access to fresh water is important. Other treatments may be necessary as the kidneys continue to deteriorate. Regular monitoring of the blood work will help to provide information on disease progression. Here at Maple Veterinary Hospital, our doctors recommend monitoring every three months. With early detection and proper therapy your cats can have from months to years of a good quality life. 🐾

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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The Greater Story

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

This month of March marks the sesquicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's inauguration as the 16th President of the United States of America. His election just four months earlier was contentious partly due to his declaration that government could not endure permanently as half slave and half free. He received 180 of 303 possible electoral votes and only 40 percent of the popular vote.

Less than one month earlier, the Confederate States of America was formed with Jefferson Davis as its president. And, just five weeks after being sworn in, Lincoln found himself and his country involved in one of the most horrific conflicts this nation has ever fought – the Civil War.

Four years after Lincoln's presidential commencement, the bloodiest of all our wars was still raging. Lincoln had just named Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant to command the Union Army and the Overland Campaign, known as the Battle of the Wilderness, was about to begin.

Fought in the tangled forest and brackish water on the south bank of Virginia's Rapidan River, the Battle of the Wilderness marked what many consider to be the beginning-of-the-end of the War Between the States.

In addition to the thousands of deaths caused by gun and artillery fire, many would die as a result of the numerous brush fires. Some stories suggest that in the smoke-filled woods caused by the burning underbrush, many troops became lost and mistakenly shot their fellow soldiers. Others died or suffocated as a result of the fires.

Records of this one battle of the war indicate that more than 162,000 Union and Confederate soldiers fought in the three-day scrimmage. Almost 30,000 of them were never to fight another battle because they lost their lives in this single bloody, brutal conflict.

One of the soldiers to survive this horrendous battle was Peter Patterson, a 23 year old farmer from St. Clair, Michigan. He had enlisted with Company I, First Regiment of the Michigan Cavalry Volunteers, only five months before and was now engaged in a battle for his country as well as his life. Patterson survived this battle and was wounded in another some months later.

Just four days prior to Peter's enlistment, another farmer from Rochester, New York, raised his hand and took an oath to defend his country. Byron Montney, an 18 year old whose four brothers had already enlisted, became a soldier with Company I, 14th Regiment of the New York Heavy Artillery. Like Patterson, he too found himself in the Battle of the Wilderness and was fortunate enough to have survived it.

At war's end, both Private Patterson and Corporal Montney returned to farming, the only trade they knew.

Patterson came home to St. Clair where he later married and had a family. Montney did not return to his native New York, but, instead, walked from the war with his four brothers to a farm his father had purchased in St. Clair County, Michigan. He, too, raised his family there.

So, why am I telling you this story? I, evidently, have a greater interest than most, but for a reason. Had neither Patterson nor Montney survived this ugly

battle, I would not be able to write this brief essay. You see, one was my maternal great-great grandfather and the other my paternal great-great grandfather.

One ancestor now rests in Hillside Cemetery in St. Clair and the other in a small cemetery in Memphis.

They never knew each other, but had so much in common. Each was a farmer and each enlisted for military service within the same week. Each fought in the Battle of the Wilderness and each survived. Each settled down and raised a family within a few miles of the other. And, each helped a proud great, great-grandson qualify for membership in a unique society, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The Blue Water Area is populated with many who are able to offer tales of those in their families who fought in the Civil War. It is part of a larger story of our heritage, one we should find pride in. I just wanted to share my small portion of the greater story with you. 🍀



Battle of the Wilderness – Desperate fight on the Orange C.H. Plank Road, near Todd's Tavern, May 6th, 1864. CREATED/PUBLISHED: c1887 by Kurz & Allison.

Editor's Note: The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, according to their website, is "a patriotic and educational organization, similar to the Grand Army of the Republic. It was founded on November 12, 1881 and incorporated by Act of Congress August 20, 1954. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is the legal heir to and representative of the Grand Army of the Republic."

To become a member of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War a person must meet the following requirements:

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- 2. Has never been convicted of any infamous or heinous crime; and*
- 3. Has, or whose ancestor through whom membership is claimed, has never voluntarily borne arms against the government of the United States.*

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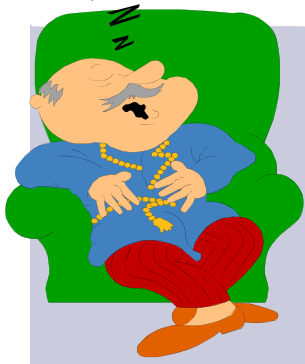
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Secret Weapon For Men Give Her A Hug!

By Gabriel Jones, ThumbPrint News Columnist

Here are four words to have things go your way at home:

"Give her a hug!"

When you can't have "your" say in a conversation with your wife, just "give her a hug."

All at once she'll stop talking and start to listen to you. It'll work every time. Try it!

Here's what you do, and when to do it:

Your wife wants you to go out with her when your favorite football game is on TV. Look at her and "give her a hug" and tell her that you want to stay home. She will let you!

The guys are going to play golf on Saturday when your wife wants you to do something else. Yep! "Give her a hug" and enjoy the golf game.

Oh, I don't know how it comes to me. This secret weapon must be shared with other men.

"Gabriel!"

"Yes, Dear?"

"I know how much you want to go out with your men friends, but I really would like you to go with me to pick out some drapes for the living room. It's a long drive to the store, and I can't carry the drapes by myself."

Before I had a chance to do anything, *she hugged me, and looked at me with those loving eyes!*

It's not fair! *She did it first!*

I guess you know who won that discussion. I don't have the heart to tell you what I did.

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍀

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It's Not Gone!

Think of all the things that go down your drain to your septic tank: grease from your kitchen sink, hair and oil from your shower and washer, body waste from your toilets. We tend to think – or not think – about what happens to all that waste. It doesn't just disappear.

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.

NEVER

- put bleach into the system. Bleach kills the good bacteria.
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- put cigarette butts in the toilet. They can clog the orifices in the field.



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CORNER

East China Doll Maker

Submitted by Algonac-Clay Library



Connie Sochacki

Connie Sochacki will be Algonac-Clay Library's featured Artist of the Month in March. Connie resides in East China with her husband Gary. She makes her creations in her home art studio. She is an Algonac High School Graduate and attended Macomb County Community College.

Connie's interest in cloth doll sculpture began as a natural progression of bead-weaving and polymer clay sculpture. Two years ago, she was looking for something fun to make that would require several different skills. Having been a sewer since Junior High, Connie found that sewing is an essential skill in doll construction and design. Using library books, one of the first dolls

she created was "The Maid was in the Garden." The next doll she made required hand drawing the face. Without the proper materials and instruction, she found it frustrating, so she beaded it. As Connie progressed in her art, she began to draw some of her own patterns for personal use, and purchased more complicated patterns from designers. Hand sculpting and painting the faces of the dolls requires patience and practice as well as a wide variety of materials," states Connie.

Connie has won awards for some of her Beady-Eyed Dolls and hopes to exhibit her work in Mt. Clemens and Rochester this year. Connie is a member of the St. Clair Art Association, The Anton Art Center, The St. Clair Theatre Guild, Marine City Arts, Marine City Lions Club, and is a certified Red Cross Clown.



"Maid in the Garden" is one of Connie's first doll creations.



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THE JOURNEY: Part 1

Continued from Page 1

had light brown hair, piercing blue eyes and an athletic build. He was a member of the "Sons of the American Legion" drum and bugle corps when he was 15, playing the snare and base drums.

Roy graduated from Henry Ford Trade School in River Rouge and became an apprentice tool and die maker. Life was going good for Roy. He was working for Ford Motor Company and was able to purchase a 1937 Ford Coupe. The future looked optimistic. The year was 1941.

The war in Europe was raging, but it seemed so far away. After all, America was protected by two great oceans. That myth was shattered on December 7, 1941, as the United States was plunged into World War II badly crippled by the attack on our air and naval forces in Honolulu. It had been 24 years earlier when President Woodrow Wilson was quoted as saying, "All the rest of the world is on fire and our own house is not fireproofed." America now faced a raging firestorm burning across the Pacific Ocean, as it engulfed island after island.

"As commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

— President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Roy remembers going for a drive with a girlfriend sitting by his side. It was Sunday, December 7, 1941. The music on the car radio was interrupted and a broadcaster announced the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He pulled his car to the side of the road and listened in shock and disbelief.

The treacherous, cowardly attack by the Empire of Japan on Pearl Harbor on that infamous day would be burned into the soul of Roy Hahn and forever into the soul and fiber of all Americans.

Prior to Pearl Harbor, many in America wanted no involvement in "another European war." The average American was unaware of the threat from the Empire of Japan. It was Germany that was the threat. People were shocked by the attack and surprised that something like that could happen. They knew the attack would lead America into a massive world war.

The country pulled together to defend against the wave of death

and destruction washing across the South Pacific toward the west coast of America. It would be a battle for the very life blood of our country, defended with the blood of thousands of soldiers, sailors, and Marines, who would rise to the challenge. There would be sacrifice, labor, tears, and sorrow for those thousands upon thousands of casualties until final victory was achieved.

Roy and his family huddled around the radio in total silence to listen to the Declaration of War message delivered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the Congress of the United States on December 8, 1941 which read as follows:

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the secretary of state a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday, the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya. Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong. Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam. Last night, Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands. Last night, the Japanese attacked Wake Island. Last night, the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions, and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

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As commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces – with the unbounding determination of our people – we will gain the inevitable triumph – so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.”

Americans rushed to join the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, anxious to do their part to repel the onslaught beyond the horizon. They came from farms, small towns, and cities across America to join the fight.

Shortly after his eighteenth birthday Roy sat down with his parents and told them that he wanted to join the Marines. He said his parents were very supportive and understanding. They both had experienced the horror of war. Hobart Hahn had fought for his country, and so would his son.

The Marine Corps waived a height requirement so Roy could join. It wasn't that he was too short, but rather he was too tall. The Marine Corps had a maximum height limit of 6'2" and Roy was 6'3". The one inch waiver would nearly cost Roy his life on an unknown island in the South Pacific named Pelelieu.

He joined the Marine Corps with Ray Tokinee, a boyhood friend on January 28, 1943. Both young men were anxious to answer America's "call to arms." They were sent to the San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot for basic training. It was a four day trip from Detroit as the train they rode snaked across the vastness of the America. They were part of a one hundred fifty man contingent of young men who would become part of the legendary history of the United States Marine Corps.

They were assigned to different companies at boot camp and never saw each other again. Roy, much later, learned that his friend Ray had been killed in one of the island battles in the South Pacific. More friends and comrades would be

killed in the surf, on the beaches, and in the jungles of unknown islands before Roy returned home.

Roy spent eight weeks in boot camp undergoing rigid basic training. He was assigned to a tent that accommodated eight men. Marching and calisthenics were a daily routine as the young men were transformed from civilians to Marines. His weight increased from 165 pounds to approximately 200 pounds of mostly muscle.

After recruit training, he went immediately to Camp Pendleton, California for infantry training. Roy qualified as a sharpshooter with his rifle, the M-1 Garand, and learned battlefield tactics such as bayonet and hand to hand combat training. "I remember taking my rifle apart and putting it back together blindfolded," he said. The rifle was the constant companion and life line of every Marine. The time would come when the rifle may have to be taken apart and reassembled in darkness. It would make the difference between life and death.

In a span of a few short months, the apprentice tool and die maker from Highland Park was a combat ready Marine. The transformation from civilian to United States Marine was complete. Roy had earned the right to wear the coveted emblem of the United States Marine Corps, the globe and anchor. The emblem, and the Marines who wore it, were symbols of American strength.

Roy was assigned to water purification school where he learned how to desalinate sea water into fresh drinking water. Desalination was a slow process and lacked the taste of fresh water. It was an extremely important job that would provide water to his fellow Marines fighting in temperatures that reached 110° F. Dehydration was one of many enemies in the hot, steamy jungles of the South Pacific.

Approximately twelve weeks later, he was aboard a liberty ship (non-naval) with several hundred fellow marines heading across a vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean to Australia. The California shoreline slipped from view. The open rolling water lay ahead.

"The bunks in the ship were stacked four high and eighteen inches apart. Once in the bunk, you could barely move. Many of the guys got sea sick on the long voyage across the pacific, but luckily, I did not," Roy said.

"We exercised on the deck of the ship to keep in shape as our ship slowly made its way to Melbourne, Australia. The ship was unarmed and unescorted. There was always a chance of sailing into the sights of a Japanese submarine lurking below the surface. We were sitting ducks."

The ship was a converted civilian



Roy and Alice pose in the yard at Alice's parents home in Derby, Connecticut in 1945.

vessel that sloshed across the Pacific Ocean taking the contingent of new Marines to join up with the 1st Marine Division that was resting and regrouping at Melbourne from the horrific battle for Guadalcanal.

The 1st Marine Division had won a victory that was a spear that pierced the heart of Japan, stopping their land offensive in the South Pacific. The victory proved to the world that the Japanese were not invincible, as many thought, especially after being confronted by United States Marines.

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the planner of the attack on Pearl Harbor, summed it up best when he said, "I fear all we have done is to awaken

a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve."

Australia was only the first stop in the South Pacific for Roy as he disembarked the ship and joined the 1st Marine Division. The next island stops around the corner would offer a different kind reception. The reception would come from the Empire of Japan. 🇯🇵

Continued in our next issue, we'll read about the Island Campaign and Roy's injuries.

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 story will be presented in four parts.



Alice and Roy Hahn currently live in Lexington, Michigan. Roy is shown here proudly wearing the Purple Heart that was presented to him and many other soldiers that were wounded on Pelelieu in a brief presentation aboard the U.S.S. Solace, the hospital ship on which he was being treated. The Purple Heart is a medal awarded to members of the U.S. military for being wounded or killed in any action against an enemy of the United States or as a result of an act of any such enemy or opposing armed forces.

FROM THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 2

Lifesaving Medal – the highest possible award from the U.S. Coast Guard. We went on to conclude with these words:

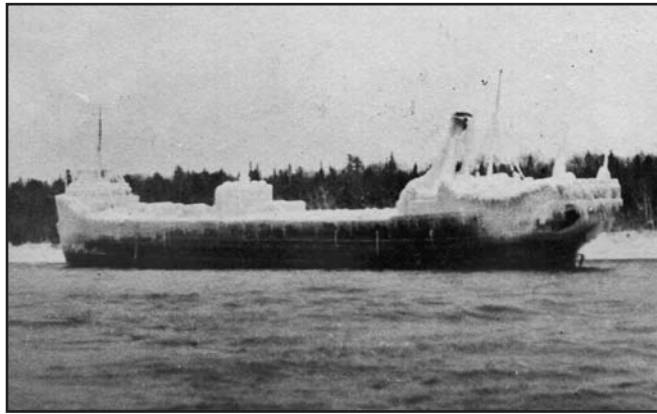
“Anthony went on to an illustrious career with the Coast Guard, including another heroic rescue with the *City of Bangor*, when it also became a victim of the terrible November storms in 1926. Accounts of this rescue were later written up in the magazines *Reader's Digest* and *Michigan History*.

Many of the photos Mark sent to me were about the wreck of the *City of Bangor*. On November 30, 1926, the Eagle Harbor Coast Guard crew had just rescued 22 men from the *Thomas Maytham*. They were heading to Copper Harbor when they came across the *City of Bangor* incased in ice and abandoned. The crew had made it to shore in a lifeboat but had spent all night out in the woods without adequate clothing. They had no food. Had the Eagle Harbor Coast Guard crew not come along, they surely would have perished. After unloading the crew of the *Maytham* in Copper Harbor, the Coast Guard returned and rescued the crew of 29 from the *City of Bangor*. Two major rescues took place in one long night. During all of this time, a blizzard continued to rage with below zero temperatures.

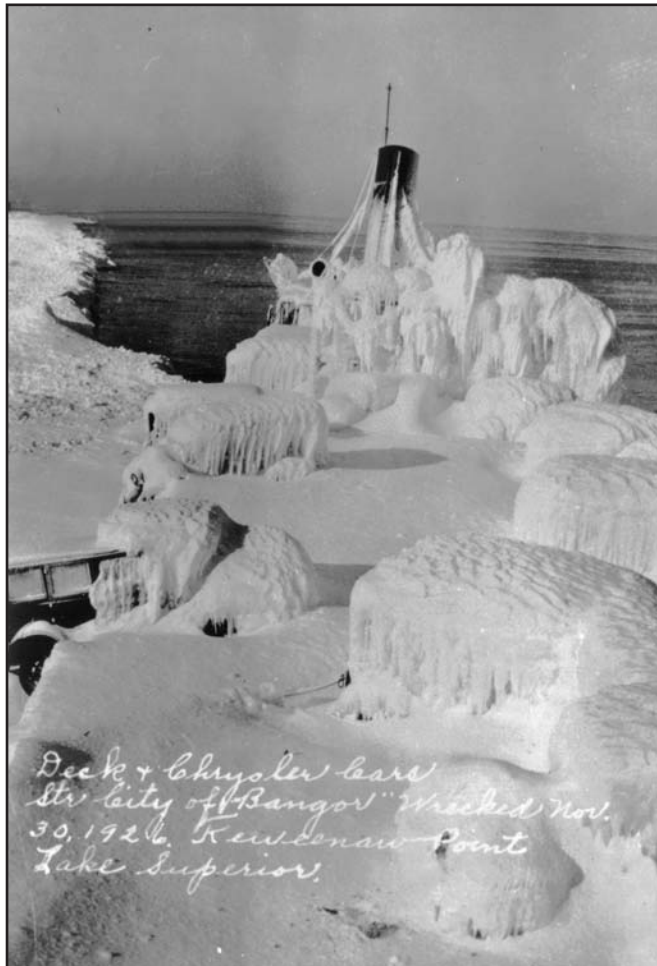
In addition to rescuing the crew of the *City of Bangor*, there was also the concern for its cargo – 248 brand new 1926 Chryslers. During the fierce storm, 18 of the cars had been blown into the lake and later washed up on the Keweenaw Peninsula beaches. Most of the cars, however, were in the ship's hold and remained in excellent condition. Over the next several months, as the water surrounding the *City of Bangor* froze, a ramp was built and the Chryslers were rescued and driven off and over the ice to Copper Harbor, where they remained until spring when the roads were eventually cleared of ice and snow and became passable. From there, the cars were driven to Calumet, loaded on to a train for Detroit and, once repaired, resold.

I think the readers of *ThumbPrint News* would enjoy seeing a few of the photos that Mark sent to me, many of which were taken by Anthony F. Glaza himself, an accomplished photographer as well. Enjoy!

DIANE KODET
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*



The ice covered steamer City of Bangor after it ran aground off Keweenaw Point



On deck, the Chrysler cars were completely covered in ice. Note the vehicle on the left that has slid partially off the deck.



The City of Bangor run ground by the storm and encased in ice



The cargo aboard the City of Bangor consisted of 248 brand new 1926 Chryslers. Eighteen of these vehicles were blown into the lake.



The rescued Chryslers at Horseshoe Harbor on the shores of Lake Superior



In February of 1927, the rescued Chryslers were driven into Copper Harbor across the frozen lake.



In March of 1927, the Chryslers wait to be transported back to Detroit by train.

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Benefits of the Far Infrared Sauna

By Rennae Hardy
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Sunlight is essential. The sun's rays grant us visibility by day and its energy encourages living things to thrive and grow. A large part of the sun's energy (solar energy) is in the invisible, infrared part of the spectrum. Far infrared rays (FIRs) may not be visible, but we can feel them as heat. All humans send and receive far infrared waves.

One of far infrared light's characteristics is the ability to easily penetrate human tissue, creating a natural resonance which has many beneficial properties. Utilizing a far infrared sauna as an adjunct to your health care regimen can provide numerous advantages.

Detoxification

Sweating is the body's natural and safe way to heal, stay healthy and detox. Sweat carries toxins out of the body and pushes them through the pores. By penetrating the deeper tissues, the detoxifying effect of FIR saunas is significantly increased to detoxify the body of heavy metals, including mercury, lead, cadmium and aluminum plus chemical pollutants such as pesticides and food additives. Detoxification can be used as a preventative tool to aid in the elimination

of impurities while increasing vitality and resistance to disease.

Enhanced blood circulation

Heating the muscles with far infrared produces an increased blood flow level similar to that seen during exercise. The rise in body temperature also contributes to an increase in blood flow. Infrared heat aids in the resolution of inflammatory infiltrates, edema and



exudates. The increased peripheral circulation provides the necessary transport to assist in evacuating the edema which can decrease inflammation, ease pain and speed healing.

Weight loss assistance

A 30 minute session in a FIR sauna can burn up to 600 calories, helping

to assist in a person's weight loss efforts.

Other therapeutic benefits

Pain relief, skin cell rejuvenation and strengthening of the cardiovascular system can all be additional benefits. Basking in the warmth of a FIR sauna is also very relaxing, promoting relief of tension and release of stress. So, the next time you think sauna, think far infrared. It's more than a good place to sweat! 🌿

Editor's Note: Rennae Hardy is the owner of Radiant Beings, 25962

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Inspecting Your Home

By Mitchell J. Kuffa Jr.

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer



Enough of this “winter wonderland” stuff! I want mosquitoes, sweat running down my face and a cool drink in my hand.

Believe it or not, spring is not that far away. You should note a difference in light and temperature. We have entered the return era to warm weather. March winds (which I can live with) lead to April showers and then May flowers. Plus, the days are now getting longer.

Knowing all of this, let me now ask you, how long does it take you to get organized and motivated so as to be able to perform warm weather tasks?

What are these warm weather tasks? Several might be: patching and sealing the driveway (or pouring a new driveway), installing that wood deck that you have been talking about (or cement patio), installing an above ground pool and all of the related fencing, signage, and electrical, replacing that roof that should have been done last year (which hopefully didn't leak during the winter), painting the outside of your house, replacing gutter screens or dead shrubs or cutting down that old dangerous tree (before a storm blows it down on your house).

Do any of these tasks sound familiar? What I find is that by the time summer comes and I get pumped up and organized to perform this work, the season is almost over. There will be graduation parties, weddings, BBQ's, etc. and NO ONE wants to miss any warm weather festivity. Now, we're into July and August, the days start to get shorter and cooler and BINGO . . . Labor Day is upon us! That summer project may not get done once again.

So what is the answer?

GET ORGANIZED NOW! This is the best time of year to get prices from outdoor sub-contractors. They are slow, the weather is killing them and they are sitting around thinking about the warm weather.

Get these sub-contractors, handymen, helpers, etc. over to your place to give you a bid or estimate for your project. Make sure you get several prices. Take time now to research the contractor of your choice as it relates to reputation, licensure, insurance, performance, etc. Check with the Better Business Bureau or the Chamber of Commerce.

I'll never forget the time that I received a referral from a sub-contractor, drove to the house that he worked on, was sitting in my car looking at the workmanship and the homeowner was outside cutting the grass and saw me staring at his house. He asked me what I wanted. I told him that his contractor used his house as a referral. He began to stutter and stammer and told me how horrible his experience was with this contractor. It's a good thing that we spoke. I would have been fooled just by looking.

If possible, buy your materials now while the stores are slow and they are trying to move last year's inventory. Do you know what kind of deals you can get now during this cold and cloudy weather on treated lumber, patio blocks, BBQ pits, shingles and other needed items? Also, if you need any type of drawing, blueprints or layout, now is the time to get it done. At least, make a “take off” so that when the stores start advertising the outdoor materials you will be the first in line with your list in hand.

So put down the remote control, get a cup of coffee or an energy drink, sharpen your pencil and get to work now on that summer project. Utilize this depressing time so that you have more free time to enjoy the long, hot days of summer. 🍀

Editor's note: Mitchell Kuffa Jr. is a licensed builder who performs private home inspections. All questions or correspondence should be directed to Mitchell at (810) 329-4052 or by email to InspectionsbyMJK@comcast.net. His website is www.spectionsbymjkuffa.com.

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SPOTLIGHT: Algonac

Continued from Page 1

combined. Four other stores existed at that time in Algonac and several saloons.

Charles married a young woman living at Pointe Aux Tremble in Algonac and they had four children. One son, Jasper Jessie Poole (known as J. J.), continued in the grocery business that his father had set up in 1837.



Mae and Charles Poole in front of the first Poole's store on Water St. in Algonac, circa 1836

Charles L. Poole died in 1891, the same year in which his son, J. J. Poole, built a new store at the corner of Fruit and Washington Streets, and named it J. J. Poole's. The south side of the store carried dry good, shoes, boots and more and the north side was reserved for groceries. The original store was moved to the corner of Market and Orchard Streets and was converted to a barn. It remained as such until it was torn down in 1953. This time, the Poole family home was separate from the store. A new red brick building, which is still standing today, was built at the corner of Washington and Smith Streets and served as their home.

R. Lee Poole started working at the new store at a very young age. In 1910, he married Maltie Rathborn and raised 10 children, five of whom ultimately stayed and settled in the Algonac area. The Chippewa Indians were regular

customers of the store, dressing in all of their finery and paddling in their canoes across the St. Clair River from the Walpole Island settlement. R. Lee's remarkable relationship with the Chippewa Indians from the Walpole Island settlement was legendary in the area. His mastery of their language was superb. He often said that since he was dealing with the Indians on a regular basis and they had learned his language, it was only polite for him to learn theirs. According to some, the Poole store started many Indians wearing shoes instead of moccasins and hats instead of a head dress. Occasionally, R. Lee would purchase blankets from the Indians to sell in his store.

In 1928, the store was renamed simply Poole's. Another son of Charles, Frank, was also very active in helping to run the store.

Jasper, a son of R. Lee, continued to run the Poole store until April of 1973, when the urban renewal that took place on Algonac's waterfront required the store to be leveled. The store was reopened at the north end of Algonac,



Poole's circa 1970

with Jasper continuing to run it. At that time Poole's had the distinction of being the oldest family run grocery in Michigan. R. Lee Poole died on March 12, 1974, after over 40 years of working at the Poole stores.

In 1979, the longest running reign of

a family grocery business came to an end when the north end location store was finally sold and became Azar's Market. However, the story of the Poole family and their entrepreneurial pursuits remain one of Algonac's most famous legends. 🌱

All you need is this certificate... Save it!

FREE! This certificate entitles the parent to one free **Vibrant Color** portrait (single or group, 2 months up) — your choice of several finished portraits — not proofs. There is absolutely **NO OBLIGATION** to buy anything, but additional portraits may be purchased at surprisingly reasonable prices. These are beautifully posed, professional **COLOR** portraits by **NATIONWIDE Studios, Inc.** — so dress the children colorfully. Only one free **COLOR** portrait per family (50¢ handling charge, refunded if not more than satisfied).

POOLE'S VARIETY STORE
1114 St. Clair River Drive
Algonac, Michigan 48001

HOURS:
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Monday
April 27**

© 1970 NATIONWIDE Studios, Inc. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

If you cannot use this certificate, please give it to a friend.

This Poole's Variety Store advertisement from April 23, 1970 is a certificate for a free Vibrant-Color® portrait from Nationwide Studios.

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We will make a special price on
Canned Goods in quantity.

Oysters Received Semi-Weekly

J. J. Poole & Sons

This advertisement from December 19, 1910 offers Pure Stone Ground Buckwheat or a can of honey for 25¢!



Second Poole's store, built in 1891 — from left: Mike Gray, Jasper J. Poole, Frank Poole, R. Lee Poole, Walter Poole and Indian "Hank" Knagg



Behind the counter, Frank Poole and his father, J. J. Poole, wait on two Indian customers circa 1906.

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Select Early from a Most Complete Line
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J. J. POOLE & SONS
GROCERY and DRY GOODS
80 Years in Algonac Telephone 21

In April of 1924, Poole's advertised Low Brothers Paints & Varnishes. The paint featured in this ad boasts of natural ingredients including "pure" lead. Also note that to call the store, you simply dialed 21.

Jimmy Rankin Quality Meats 4319 Lapeer Road, Port Huron • 810.984.1628
We accept the Michigan Bridge Card. (EBT) 
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HOURS: Mon., Tues., Wed., & Thurs., 9-5:30; Fri. 9-6; Sat. 9-5; Closed Sun.

<p>Order #10 28 Lbs. Net Wt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 N.Y. Strip Steaks • 12 Center Cut Pork Chops • 1 Rolled Beef Roast • 2 Boneless Round Steaks • 2 Packs Chicken Breasts • 2 Packs Sliced Bacon • 1 Slab Spare Ribs • 5 Lbs. Hamburger <p>\$99⁷⁵</p>	<p>Order #8 35 Lbs. Net Wt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Family Steaks • 16 Mixed Pork Chops • 4 Chuck Steaks • 8 Country Style BBQ Ribs • 2 Lbs. Skinless Hot Dogs • 2 Packs Sliced Bacon • 5 Lbs. Hamburger • 2 Cut Up Chickens <p>\$84⁷⁵</p>
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Lexington Clinic	5730 Main Street	Lexington	(810) 359-2605
Ira Township	10127 MC Highway	Ira Township	(586) 716-1371

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.

This month we are again asking, "What is it?" Identify what the object is in the photo below. 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!

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 April edition as well as information about the object or place. In February's edition, we asked our readers to identify the object pictured above. No one correctly identified the object as a donut-hole cutter. The particular cutter pictured is made of heavy duty stainless steel and cuts out five 1 1/4 inch pieces of donut dough at a time.



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**ThumbPrint News
Classified Ads**

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WANTED: NEWSPAPER BOYS OR GIRLS, twelve years and older with parent's consent for the cities of Richmond, St. Clair and other areas doing walking routes for monthly publications. Call (810) 794-2300.

POND TECHNICIAN: ABC Home & Commercial Services has an opening for a certified pond technician. Must have Aquatic Certification Category 5. Call (810) 794-5678.

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ThumbPrint News Classified Ads

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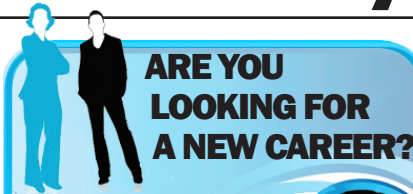
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What Happened On This Day in History?

By Diane L. Kodet
ThumbPrint News Editor

March

1. On this day in 1790, the first U.S. census was authorized.

2. On this day in 1819, the U.S. passed its first immigration law.

3. On this day in 1791, the first internal revenue act was passed, taxing distilled spirits and carriages.



4. On this day in 1809, Madison became the first President inaugurated in American-made clothes.

5. On this day in 1558, smoking tobacco was introduced in Europe by Francisco Fernandes.

6. On this day in 1896, Charles B. King rode his "Horseless Carriage," the first automobile in Detroit.



7. On this day in 1911, the U.S. sent 20,000 troops to the Mexican border.

8. On this day in 1855, the first train crossed the first U.S. railway suspension bridge (at Niagara Falls).



9. On this day in 1994, the Defense Department announced a smoking ban in workplaces.

10. On this day in 1849, President Lincoln applied for a patent – the only U.S. president to do so.

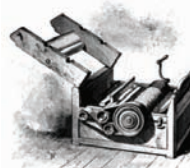
11. On this day in 1302, according to Shakespeare, it was Romeo and Juliet's wedding day.



12. On this day in 1850, the first U.S. \$20 gold piece was issued.

13. On this day in 1888, the Great Blizzard of 1888 raged.

14. On this day in 1794, Eli Whitney patented the cotton gin.



15. On this day in 1867, Michigan became the first state to tax property to support a university.

16. On this day in 1850, Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter* was published.



17. On this day in 1753, the first official St. Patrick's Day was celebrated.

18. On this day in 1818, Congress approved the first pensions for government service.

19. On this day in 1915, Pluto was photographed for the first time (although unknown at that time.)

20. On this day in 1760, the Great Fire of Boston destroyed 349 buildings.



21. On this day in 1826, Beethoven's Quartet #13 in B flat major (Op 130) premiered in Vienna.

22. On this day in 1841, corn-starch was patented by Orlando Jones.

23. On this day in 1794, the first U.S. patent was granted, to Joseph G. Pierson for a riveting machine.

24. On this day in 1629, the first game law was passed in the American colonies, by Virginia.

25. On this day in 1958, Sugar Ray Robinson was the first boxing champ to win five times.



26. On this day in 1804, Congress ordered removal of Indians east of Mississippi to Louisiana.

27. On this day in 1790, the shoelace was invented.

28. On this day in 1885, the U.S. Salvation Army was officially organized.



29. On this day in 1848, Niagara Falls stopped flowing for 30 hours due to an ice jam.

30. On this day in 1842, ether was used as an anaesthetic for the first time by Dr. Crawford Long of Georgia.

31. On this day in 1870, the first African American voted in the U.S. (Thomas Mundy Peterson of Perth Amboy, New Jersey.)



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Thumb Area Activities & Events for March 2011

If you have an event in April that you would like listed in the April issue of *ThumbPrint News*, please email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by March 12, 2010. 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 – March 10
Ask the Lawyer Free Community Seminar, Flint Public Library, 1026 E. Kearsley St., 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Tonight's topic is "Consumer Issues: Debt and Collection; The Fair Debt Collection Practice Act; Identity Theft" and is presented by the Genesee County Bar Association. Space is limited. RSVP at (810) 232-6000 or register online at www.gcbalaw.org.

Huron County

Port Hope – March 13
Spring Fling, Port Hope Village Fire Hall, 4250 North Lakeshore Road. Call Bernie Mar at (989) 428-3200.

Lapeer County

Dryden – March 6
Country Style Breakfast, St. Cornelius Church, 3834 N. Mill St., 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Menu includes eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, pancakes and more. Adults are \$6 and children 4-10 years are \$4. Call (810) 796-2926.

Almont – March 12
Euchre Night, Almont Lions Hall, 222 Water St., doors open at 6:00 p.m., play starts at 7:00 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. Bring a first time player with you and you and the new player play for \$10. Call Don at (810) 798-9609.

Dryden – March 26
Rose's Annual Polish Dinner, St. Cornelius Church, 3834 N. Mill St., 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Menu includes all you can eat traditional Polish foods at \$10.00 per adult and \$5.00 for children 10 and under. Tickets will be sold in advance until March 20, 2011. Call Sue at (810) 796-9767 or Kathy at (810) 796-3842

Macomb County

Richmond – March 3
19th Century Richmond, Schoolhouse at the Village, 7:00 p.m. Bring an artifact, a photo, a household item, or a tool and share the "story" of what you bring. You will also have a chance to preview our museum's new exhibit, "19th

Century Richmond." Sponsored by the Richmond Historical and Genealogical Society. For more information contact Christine at crowley50@comcast.net.

Mt. Clemens – March 6
Maple Sugar Tea, Crocker House Museum, 15 Union St., 1:00 p.m. The speaker will be Jeff Pavlick. Visit www.crockerhousemuseum.com.

Clinton Township – March 14
Greater Clinton Township Historical Society Presentation: Italians in the Detroit Area, Clinton-Macomb Public Library Auditorium, Canal and Romeo Plank Roads, 7:00 p.m. For more information visit <http://www.clintontwp.history.org/index.html>

Oakland County

Rochester – March 11
Mysteries of the Moon, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, 333 North Hill Circle, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Join us as we welcome special guests from the Oakland Astronomical Society. Super cool planetarium set up indoors where we will go "under the dome" to learn some amazing things about the moon and the constellations that are visible this time of year. Telescopes set up outdoors so you can view the moon and stars. (Saturday, March 12 is the rain date.) Call (248) 656-0999.

Rochester – March 12
Sweet Treats, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, 333 North Hill Circle, noon-1:30 p.m. Learn how to tap a maple tree and turn syrup into several sweet treats to sample. We'll boil the sap down to make maple snow candy, make a delicious topping and snack on maple nut sundaes, all the while learning how it is that a tree makes such tasty snacks! (248) 656-0999.

St. Clair County

Marine City – March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
Farmer's Market, inside the Chamber Building at 218 S. Water St., 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Items include artisan breads, rolls, preserves, diabetic and dietetic items, pirogues, potted herb plants, herbal teas, Michigan honey and maple syrup, hand-made soaps, lavender and dried herbal goods, natural pet products, woodcrafts and more. (810) 765-5165 or (810) 765-4501.

East China – March 2
Vision Support Group Meeting, St. John River District Hospital, 4100 River Rd., 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Contact Paul Dailer at (810) 329-5172.

Marine City – March 4
Country and Rock Blast from the Past, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Enjoy a wide variety of music while you jitterbug, line dance, waltz and rock & roll to all-original artist CDs from the 40s, 50s and 60s. Tickets are a \$5 donation

(advance sale preferred). Refreshments provided. Call (810) 765-3523.

Smiths Creek – March 4, 11, 18 & 25
Fish Fry, American Legion Post 525, 7150 Smiths Creek Road. All you can eat! Adults \$6.50, children \$3. 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (810) 367-3244.

St. Clair – March 7, 14, 21 & 28
Euchre at Club Jackpot, Riverside Mall, north back entrance, 7:00 p.m. Are your Mondays boring? Come enjoy playing euchre and having refreshments with great company! Call Barb (810) 765-7271 for more details.

Casco Township – March 8
Potato Pancake Supper for Fat Tuesday, Perch Pointe Conservation Club, 7930 Meisner Rd., 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Hosted by St. Peter Lutheran Church. Menu includes potato pancakes, ring bologna, applesauce and dessert. Adults are \$6.50, children 6-12 are \$3 and 5 and under are free. Regular pancakes will be available, also and Paczkis will be available for purchase. Call (810) 765-8161 for more information or visit www.stpeterfairhaven.org.

Port Huron – March 9
Community Resource Fair, St. Clair County Community College, 323 Erie St., 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. This event is open to the public and all information and on-site services are free of charge. Local community members who are homeless, at-risk of becoming homeless, unemployed, or need help making ends meet can attend this one day fair bringing together more than three dozen local agencies and businesses. Call (810) 966-7840.

Algonac – March 10, 11 & 12
The Mousetrap, presented by Algonac Community Theater, Algonquin Junior High School, 9185 Marsh Rd., 7:30 p.m. Bargain night is March 10, with all seats at \$5 and dinner theater tickets at \$17. On March 11 and 12, the tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for adults and children. The dinner theater tickets are \$20. Dinner is served at the Capri Restaurant in Algonac. Diners make their own reservations by calling (810) 794-7431. Tickets are available at the Capri Restaurant, Kroger and the Water Lily in Algonac. Call (810) 794-3585.

Lakeport – March 10
Name That Tune, Burtchville Twp. Library, 7097 Second St., 5:30 p.m. Test your musical knowledge in an updated version of this classic game as you compete for iTunes gift cards! Registration is required. Open to ages 13-18. Call (810) 385-8550.

Kimball Twp. – March 12
Blue Water Area Humane Society 9th Annual Charity Auction, Port Huron Factory Shops, former Bass Shoe Store, I-94 and Range Rd., 9:00 a.m. There will be furniture, antiques, collectibles, new lady's Huffly Cruiser bike, a child's electric scooter, baseball cards, men's tools, l.p.s and a record player, household knick-knacks and much more. There will also be door prizes,

a 50/50 raffle and food available for sale. Items can be previewed on Friday, March 11, from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Call (810) 794-7906 or (810) 984-2840.

Port Huron – March 16
You Are What You Eat, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 2601 Electric Avenue. Registered Dietitian Rachael Summerville, Mercy Nutrition Services, will present an engaging program for area seniors, age 55 and older, offering fun tips and techniques designed to help them make better food choices and maintain a healthful lifestyle. Free seminar is from 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference room of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Includes refreshments. Contact Rosemary Hunger, St. Joseph Mercy Senior Services Liaison, at (810) 987-1035.

Marine City – March 17
St. Patrick's Day Party, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 10:30 a.m. Riki and Dave Nutting will join us for a morning of fun and singing. Judy Gasiewicz will be accompanying them on the piano. Following a delicious lunch of Irish stew, there will be a short dance program with the dancers from the Port Huron Senior Center and the Washington Life Center. Open to everyone. If you'd like to join us for lunch, please call the Senior Nutrition Kitchen at (810) 765-4724 with your reservation at least 24 hours in advance.

Clay Township – March 22
Phragmites Management Program 2011, Public Meeting, Clay Township Hall, 4710 Pte. Tremble Rd., 6:30 p.m. At the meeting you will hear all the details about the various features of the program, such as training workshops and the deadlines you would need to meet in order to be included in the group permits and to purchase treatment chemicals at government discount prices. Applications to participate in the program will be available at the meeting. Call (810) 519-2985.

Marine City – March 24 & 25
Book Sale Fundraiser, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 9:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Friday. We are accepting book donations. We request that no *Reader's Digest* condensed or romance books be brought at this time. Books may be brought to the center anytime Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.

March 25 – Marysville
Blood Drive sponsored by the Marysville Knights of Columbus #9526. Corner of Ravenswood and Range Roads in Kimball from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. Call (810) 364-6800.

March 29 – Algonac
Reading of "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes", written by Eleanor Coerr, read by members of the Algonac Community Theater, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. Afterwards we will fold origami cranes as a symbol of peace. Our goal is to hang 1,000 cranes in our library honoring the peace movement initiated by the Blue Water Season for Non-Violence. Call (810) 794-4471.

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Wordsearch

ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SEARCH



W	E	E	M	E	R	A	L	D	I	S	L	E	W	F	S	P	T	G	S
L	C	N	U	A	H	C	E	R	P	E	L	Z	G	R	P	V	E	C	G
L	R	O	Q	A	G	T	X	U	O	O	Q	C	G	A	Y	D	A	E	M
P	L	T	R	M	A	G	S	A	O	L	P	N	I	L	B	U	D	L	K
Z	O	S	H	N	L	T	L	E	N	E	S	N	C	R	V	B	O	T	Y
S	R	Y	Q	E	E	H	Y	E	N	L	G	D	E	G	I	L	A	I	M
W	E	E	G	W	L	D	O	A	V	R	D	Y	F	I	T	Y	S	C	M
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V	T	L	R	M	S	I	N	A	D	F	R	C	T	D	Z	U	Z	Q	I
L	J	B	Q	F	T	G	A	E	L	I	C	Y	U	K	R	O	W	N	P
J	I	C	E	K	P	Y	D	Q	S	E	K	A	N	S	R	O	T	M	I
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J	J	L	J	A	C	C	M	A	S	W	E	S	R	H	G	P	Y	U	G
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G	E	C	Z	S	I	N	U	C	U	C	M	Z	K	R	S	T	F	F	I

- BLARNEY STONE
- CABBAGE
- CELTIC
- CORNED BEEF
- DANNY BOY
- DUBLIN
- EMERALD ISLE
- GAELIC
- GREEN
- GUINNESS
- IRELAND
- IRISH
- JIG
- LEPRECHAUN
- LIMERICK
- POTATOES
- SCONES
- SHAMROCK
- SHILLELAGH
- SNAKES
- STEW
- ST PATRICK

Note: Ignore any word spaces if more than one word is used. For example, BLARNEY STONE will appear in the puzzle as BLARNEYSTONE.

So You Want to Buy a Foreclosed House

By Scott Anderson

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

We are in a tremendous buyers' market today for residential real estate, with the almost unheard-of combination of very low interest rates and very low prices. Some bargain hunters are looking for homes which have been foreclosed on and repossessed by banks or government agencies which backed the bank loans.

Are they a bargain?

The short answer is that there are some bargains among bank-owned homes, but these purchases require knowledge and caution. A buyer who wants to purchase such a home should seek the advice of a realtor and an attorney experienced in real estate purchases.

The main difference between buying a home from a previous purchaser-owner and buying a home from a bank or government agency is that the bank has never lived in the home, in most cases has never even visited the home, and therefore can't meaningfully disclose anything about the home's condition or any past problems.

In buying a bank-owned home, then, one very important step is to hire a competent home inspector to thoroughly inspect the property.

After the inspection it may turn out that repairs are necessary. In many cases, banks will not make any repairs, which leads some purchasers into a "Catch-22" situation; the home has to be repaired before a mortgage can

be approved, but the homeowner cannot make any repairs until he takes possession, which he can't do until he can get a mortgage. Sometimes the buyer's only option is to withdraw from the purchase and look for a different home.

How does a buyer purchase a bank-owned home? Some of these homes are sold in the conventional way: a buyer makes an offer, the bank decides whether to accept, reject or counter, and so on until an agreement is reached. This process is similar to the ordinary home buying process, except the bank typically has a great many pages of additional conditions to which the buyer must agree.

Other homes, though, are sold at auction. In some cases this is a silent auction conducted online, where no bidder knows anything about any other bidder (or even whether there are any other bidders). In other cases live auctions are held, which can be a very exciting way to purchase real estate.

Not all homes are available to investors. Some homes are offered only to people who will occupy the homes; others are offered only to owner-occupants for several days, after which investors are welcome to make offers.

There are some good bargains out there among foreclosed properties for people willing to make the extra effort and have the patience to complete these deals. Good luck! 🍀

Scott Anderson will answer all questions sent to him at scott.anderson@kw.com and will choose the most popular questions to answer in this column.

Reader Mailbag: Mary S. writes, "I am going to buy a house with an FHA loan, but people have told me I can't buy any house I want with that type of loan. Is that true?"

Well, Mary, FHA has minimum standards for houses that are purchased with FHA-backed mortgage loans. These requirements are basically there to ensure the FHA is only backing livable homes. The home style and age are not the important things; basic livability is. For instance, the FHA's appraiser must verify that the roof of the house is working (not letting in water) and has at least two years of functional life remaining.

For another example, from the FHA's web site, "Basements must be examined by the FHA appraiser for dampness or wetness, any obvious structural problems and the condition of the furnace, hot water heater, and/or other components located there." Then too, electrical systems must be at least 60 amp, and higher if electric heat is used.

There are many other specific items the FHA looks for, but the goal is to ensure the purchaser is buying a home he or she can live in. Many agents specify in their listings whether a home is eligible for a FHA-backed loan, and your buyer's agent can help you make sure you select a home that works with that type of mortgage.



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Real Estate Consultant
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email: scott.anderson@kw.com

Look at all of the places *ThumbPrint News* has been!

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb (over 560 businesses in eight Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but *ThumbPrint News* has been seen on television, in Bonaire, in Mexico, in Utah, in Nevada, in Georgia, in California, in Illinois, in Pennsylvania, in Alaska, in Nova Scotia and in Iraq!

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, in order to catch up on some that we have received in the past months, we are highlighting not one but FIVE different readers and their photos. Now we can add Florida, Missouri and Costa Rica to the places that the newspaper has traveled! The Wierzbowski Family of New Baltimore, Michigan, sent us a photo they took while visiting their son last August, who is proudly serving in the U.S. Air Force in Pensacola Beach, Florida. Mrs. Wierzbowski wrote:

"We were able to share the *Thumbprint News* firsthand with the oil-spilled beaches of the Gulf of Mexico. Our creativity led us to spell the word 'oil' in the photo. My other son also serves in the U.S. Air Force so the military is near and dear to our hearts."

Jim and Karen Sarb of Dearborn also took *ThumbPrint News* with them to Florida. The photo shows Jim on Shell Key, an unspoiled island near St. Petersburg.

Ricki Tepatti of Fair Haven, Michigan, took a copy of *ThumbPrint News* with him to Pottersville, Missouri and submitted his photo.

Jean Korleski Weaver of Wixom, Michigan traveled to Costa Rica and took a copy of her favorite newspaper, *ThumbPrint News*, with her.

Marty and Kathy Krupa enjoyed a relaxing day on Fort Meyers Beach in Florida, with a copy of *ThumbPrint News*! Their daughter, Kathy, who lives in Sterling Heights, Michigan, submitted their photo.

If you are a reader of *ThumbPrint News* and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an



Left to right: Jerome, Jeremy, Karen, Rachel and Matthew Wierzbowski

Jean Weaver enjoyed a trip to Tamarindo, Costa Rica

Ricki Tepatti in front of the Pottersville, Missouri post office.

Jim Sarb enjoys the *ThumbPrint News* on Shell Key in Florida

Glass of wine, warm tropical sun, sandy beach, copy of *ThumbPrint News* - priceless!

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!

At the end of 2011, our staff will choose the grand prize winner to receive a great prize from *ThumbPrint News*. 🍀

Feature Film Shot in Marine City Nears Completion

The final stages of The Coughing Dog Pictures' latest feature film *Being From Another Planet* have officially begun.

The film, written and directed by Michigan native Joseph Parcell, was shot primarily in Marine City and Richmond, Michigan over the summer of 2010.

"We're really excited now," says Parcell, "It's all coming together very nicely, and we're in that last push towards the finish line."

This is Parcell's twelfth film and second feature film. Four of his films, *Rain*, *The Looker*, *Curiosity*, and *What I've Taken*, have been featured in Port Huron's Blue Water Film Festival.

Parcell has finished editing the film about a boy born to two astronaut parents on the surface of Mars. The entirely Michigan based cast features Michigan State student Brian Hosler, Walled Lake High School student Taylor Parker, and USC student and Okemos native Ross Wyngaarden.

"It was really important for us to keep this production as in-state as possible, and I think we did a pretty good job. The cast and crew were all from Michigan, all the locations were in Michigan, and both the score and any lyrical music were provided by

Michigan artists. We're very excited to be working with Michigan composer Jeff Arwady who is writing all the orchestral music for the film."

Two songs have been provided by Michigan based band Nervous But Excited, a self described pleasantly aggressive folk duo.

"Nervous But Excited was a really good get for us. I hadn't even begun writing *Being From Another Planet* yet, but I knew I wanted their music to be a part of it. We sent them our information and a little video package I had put together asking them to let us use two of their songs, and they got back to us and said they were happy to help us out. It's great because they're another piece of the talent pool in Michigan that we can help share with everyone."

With the Michigan Film Incentives in jeopardy, Parcell says it is now more important than ever to show off what this state is capable of.

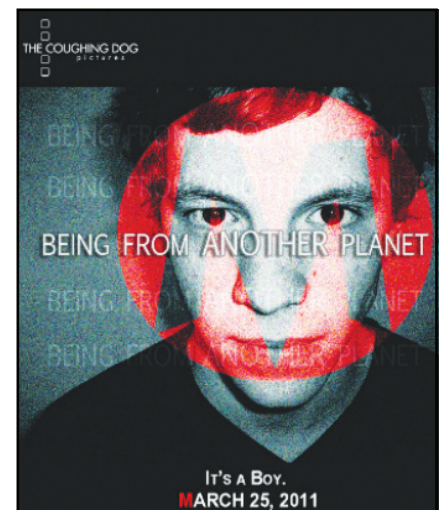
"It's sad to see a new industry go just as it was really getting a good grip, especially in this state where it seems we've been really struggling. I can speak for a few independent film makers in the state and say that it probably won't really affect us as heavily, simply because film making is

what we do, regardless of tax breaks or incentives. Even if these incentives go away, we'll keep doing what we love to do. The saddest part is that it's not hurting us necessarily, but it's hurting crews, and construction workers, and logistics, and costume designers. The hundreds and hundreds of people who are behind the scenes, who are the necessary building blocks of a film, and are often the ones least thanked. All that talent is here, but sadly it will have to leave Michigan to find a state that knows how to handle them."

Parcell is currently working on the visual effects for the film while the score is being written, and says that the film will be ready for release on March 25, 2011. The premiere is going to be held at the Riverside Theater in Marine City.

"It was really important for us to show the film in Marine City first as a way to say thank you to the town for hosting us last summer. It was a great shoot, and everyone was really eager to get involved and offer us locations and props. It was such an inviting experience that we knew the premiere had to be here."

Tickets will be available soon. Information on how to see the film will be available on The Coughing



Being From Another Planet is the story of Martin Andersen-Kushnir, the son of two astronauts, born on the first manned mission to Mars. Martin, now an awkward teenager and faded star, just wants to be left alone. But in his desperate quest for solitude, Martin regains fame overnight and begins to drastically reshape a world he never belonged to.

Dog Pictures' website: www.coughingdogpictures.com, or for more frequent updates, check out their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/beingfromanotherplanet.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

KIDS KORNER

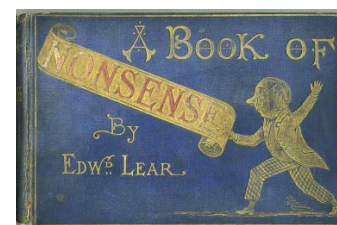
Limericks - Poems that Make You Laugh

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

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.

The first limerick was written about 500 years ago but did not become popular until a man named Edward Lear published his own limericks in 1845 in *A Book of Nonsense*, although he did not use the word "limerick" at that time.



The word limerick is sometimes said to have been a reference to the County or City of Limerick in Ireland where this type of poetry was written in the past. That is one reason why limericks are the perfect kind of poems to read – and to try writing for St. Patrick's Day!

Here are a couple of Edward Lear's poems, which we refer to today as limericks:

*There was an old man with a beard,
Who said, "It is just as I feared!
Two owls and a hen,
Four larks and a wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard!"*

*There was an old man who supposed,
That the street door was partially closed;
But some very large rats,
Ate his coats and his hats,
While that futile old gentleman dozed.*

Now, here a couple more modern-day limericks by Leanne Guenther just in time for St. Patrick's Day:

*There once was a shamrock named Shawn,
Whose leaves first unfurled in the dawn,
He was easily seen,
With his bright leaves of green,
Right up 'til the day he was gone.*

*There once was a shamrock named Pat,
Who tripped on a root and went splat.
She ripped her best leaf,
And sobbed in her grief,
And ruined her favorite hat.*

Now it is your turn. Try your hand at writing a limerick. Don't forget that the last words of the first, second and fifth lines all must rhyme with each other. The last words of the third and fourth lines must also rhyme with each other. Most important, a limerick is meant to be funny!

Send your best limericks by email to: thumbprintnews@comcast.net or by regular mail to: ThumbPrint News, 8061 Marsh Rd., Clay Township, Michigan 48001 and we will print some of the best ones in our April edition. (Maybe you can think of some Easter limericks?) Be sure to include your name, age, school name, city and grade. We will only publish your first name to protect your privacy!

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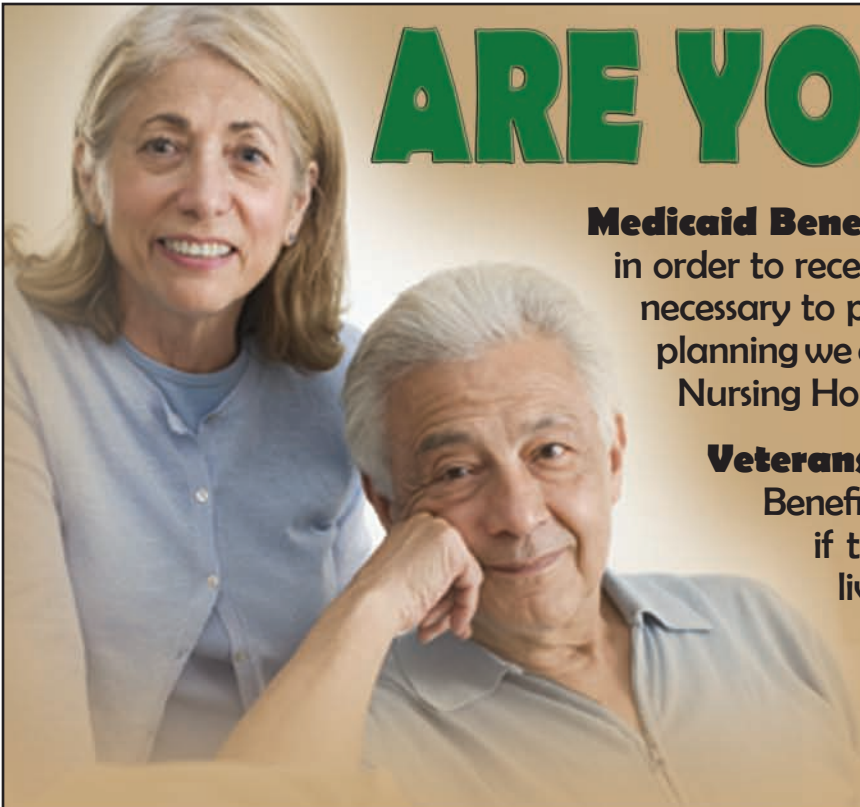
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30 Yard Can

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Up To 8 Ton
40 Yard Can

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