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ThumbPrint News

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



FEBRUARY 2014

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Slavery in the Thumb

By William S. Easton
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Whether or not there ever was any slave ownership in the Thumb area of the state is an interesting historical question. The simple, and I believe correct answer is, that there is no record of any ownership of Negroes (then the acceptable name for the race) in the general area known as the Thumb including the present counties of Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac, Huron and Tuscola. Not always considered a part of the Thumb, census figures for Macomb County for 1840 identify a few Negroes, along with Indians and "other foreigners". Whether or not they were slaves or former slaves is unclear. There is no record of the famous Macomb family residing in the county that bears their name. Nevertheless the brothers William and Alexander were large property owners, including all of Grosse Isle. Both had slaves, with William's numbering twenty or so. The county was named for a son of Alexander, General Alexander Macomb, who achieved fame during the War of 1812, and is remembered with a statue in front of the court house in Mount Clemens. He left the area as a young

man for private schooling in the East so probably owned no slaves himself.

Slave ownership in this part of the Midwest existed before African-Americans were brought here by settlers from New England and other eastern colonies. Indian tribes often made captives of other tribe's members whom they defeated in battle. Some were even adopted to replace fallen warriors. These remained in captivity so long as needed by the victors, who were mostly nomadic hunters. Eventually they were either set free or won that freedom in further warfare. Unlike the tradition on the plantations of the South, the native slaves were not bought and sold, nor were their offspring considered property. Several of the so-called "Civilized Tribes", especially the Cherokee, took captive blacks as slaves. And, of course there was considerable



General Alexander Macomb

See *SLAVERY*, Page 8



The Adventures of Bagel the Beagle

By Robert L. Christensen
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

[Note to the reader: The text in bold face are the views of Bagel!]

For those who don't know beagles, a beagle is a medium-small dog that has a mixture of black, brown and white fur. He has long droopy ears which often brush the grass when he's smelling with his nose to the ground. The beagle is usually very friendly to people and likes to be petted except when he's investigating

smells. He loves to trail other animals. His specialty is tracking rabbits.

His other talent is his ability to "sing". Almost all beagles sing operatic arias, hitting both high and low notes with great enthusiasm when trailing rabbits. In this way he informs the "Boss" that he's scented a rabbit and will follow that rabbit wherever it goes, singing all the way. (The "Boss" is the beagle's special human who feeds him and takes him hunting and out for car rides.) The "arias" might cause those who do not know beagles, to think he is being mercilessly tortured! On the contrary, they signal the excitement and enthusiasm he feels for the chase. In fact these chases appear to be great fun for both the beagle and the rabbit. It should be noted that the beagle almost never actually catches the rabbit because when the rabbit tires of the chase it usually finds a place to hide. Game over!

Bagel was a beagle! Bagel had a much more adventurous life than just chasing rabbits. He lived in a neighborhood where all

See *BAGEL THE BEAGLE*, Page 16

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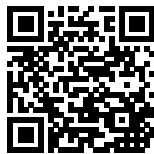
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



February.....Valentine's Day. Ah, the memories.....

When I was in elementary school back in the 1950s, the biggest, most anticipated holiday for most of the kids was Christmas. I imagine that is probably still the same today, with Halloween running a close second.

However, the holiday that was most anticipated as celebrating during the regular school day was Valentine's Day. For a whole week prior to the actual day, cardboard shoe boxes were elegantly decorated with construction paper hearts, ribbons, bows, cut-outs from last year's Valentine cards and any other precious bits of embellishment that could be collected from home. Sometimes we decorated the boxes at home, but, more often than not, precious learning time was set aside during the regular school day for this most important of holiday art projects. (With the increased demands put on teachers for accountability to standards set to help children achieve well on state mandated tests, I imagine this isn't done today in too many classrooms.) After the boxes were decorated, a slit was made in the top in which colorful Valentine cards would be inserted on Valentine's Day.

The preparation and anticipation were both intense. Cards had to be chosen from the local five-and-dime store or, as was the case with the majority of kids, created at home, with the help of a crafty mom. There had to be enough cards for everyone in the class (as teachers were generally pretty strict about not giving out cards to just a chosen few). Then, of course, came the laborious chore of carefully printing out each classmate's name on their envelope from a carefully prepared list provided by the teacher. (Teachers were smart; they figured out that the time spent on the Valentine art project at school was replaced by having kids have to practice their penmanship for an hour or more at home!)

Even though a card had to be given to each and every classmate, those that were deemed the best or the most special were always carefully chosen to go to one's best friend or, as one advanced to the higher grades of elementary school, perhaps someone of the opposite sex.

Now the anticipation would begin. Who would receive those Valentines that were perceived to be the "best"? Also, of course, there would be childish gossip as well.

Probably second only to the actual receiving of cards on Valentine's Day – and maybe just as exciting – were the Sweethearts conversation hearts. Everyone always received a handful from the teacher or from some kind parent who had donated a bag or two. Then the fun began! Could we spell something special by combining more than one? Could we send a subtle message to one of our classmates by putting one on the corner of their desk when they weren't looking?

Ah, those were the days.....Simple, but important. Happy Valentine's Day to all of our readers!

Sweethearts Remembered

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

Since it is nearing Valentine's Day, one might assume that this article is going to talk about my remembrances of past boyfriends. However, that is not the case. I will let those secrets remain.

I am talking about Sweethearts candy, those small heart-shaped conversation candies sold each year around

Valentine's Day. Each heart is printed in the factory with a message, such as "Be Mine", "Kiss Me", "Miss You", or some such affectionate phrase.

The origins of Sweethearts goes back to 1847 when Oliver R. Chase patented a machine to cut lozenges from wafer candy (similar to Necco Wafers) and started a candy factory. In 1866, Oliver's brother, Daniel Chase, designed a

machine that could press sayings made from food dyes onto the candy. His early sayings were often used for weddings and included "Married in pink, he will take a drink", "Married in white, you have chosen right", and "Married in satin, love will not be lasting".

The heart-shaped conversation candies that became Sweethearts began in 1901.

In the 1990s, Necco vice-president, Walter Marshall, updated some of the sayings and retired some of the others. New sayings included "Call me", "Email me" and "Fax me", among others. Hundreds of suggestions for new sayings are received by the candy factory each year and every year since, new sayings, in keeping with the times, are added.

Today Sweethearts are made by the New England Confectionary Company, or Necco, who manufacturers nearly eight billion Sweethearts per year. Approximately 100,000 pounds of hearts are made per day from late February through mid-January of the following year. As Valentine's Day approaches, they sell out in about six weeks. Sweethearts candies are the number one Valentine's Day candy purchased – even greater than boxes of chocolate.

In 2010, the classic pastel candy formula was abandoned and the new candies introduced were softer, with vivid colors and all new flavors, including chocolate, tart and smoothie. A sugar-free version was also offered. The drastic changes led to much criticism from fans and in October of 2011, Necco returned to offering Sweethearts once again in the original flavors and colors (while offering the new recipes from 2010 as well). Today Necco has also added versions in Spanish as well as their new Dazzled variety.

On page 25 there is a Word Find of some of the most memorable actual Sweethearts candy heart sayings from all time.



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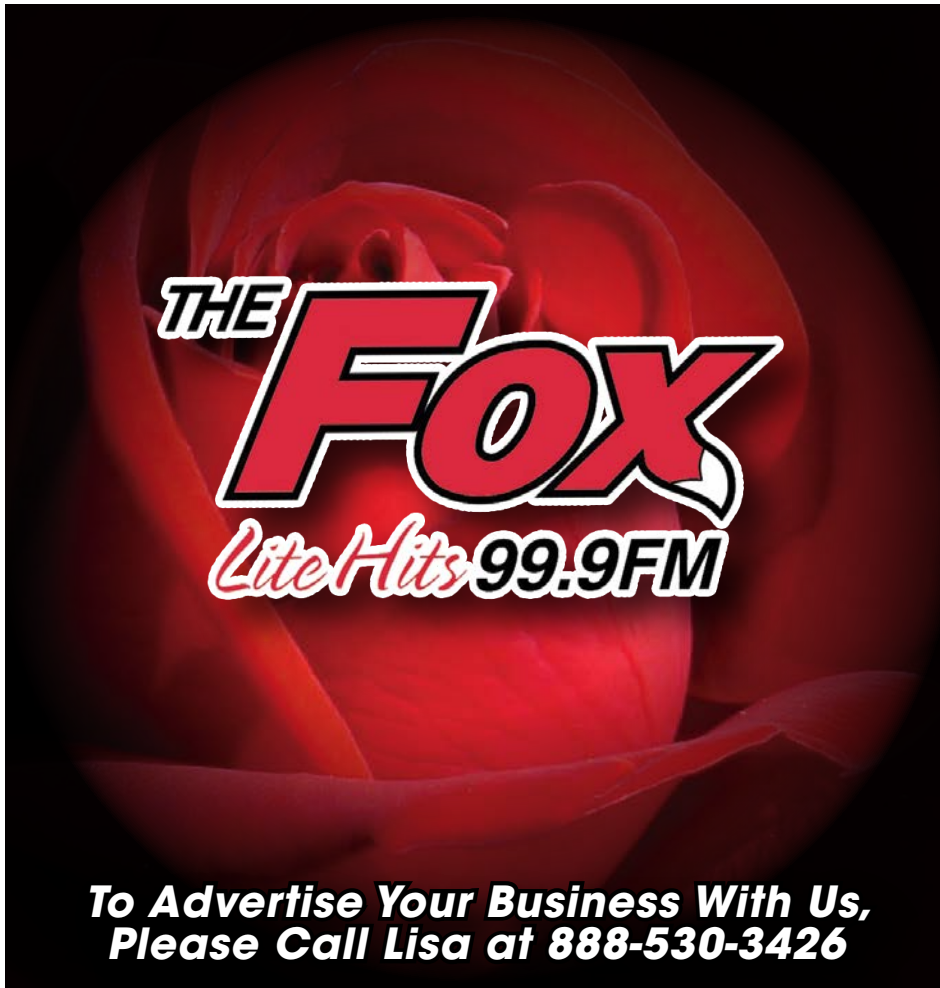
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FAMILY FEATURES

It's easy to share in the fun of Valentine's Day by serving those you love sweet treats that are a healthier alternative to ordinary, heart-shaped confections.

Forget the expensive flowers, wines and chocolates. To really show you care, be a cupid and give your sweetie healthy, delicious treats that feature juicy watermelon. Naturally dressed in the holiday's hue of vibrant red, using this fabulous fruit in recipes adds color to the spread of any Valentine's Day party, whether large or intimate.

Mouthwatering watermelon treats

For an elegant, upscale treat, serve Watermelon Petit Fours, which feature sweet watermelon, candied almonds and is topped with your favorite decadent frosting. Get the kids in the kitchen with Watermelon Cupcakes for a new take on the beloved classic. Served with pineapple cream cheese frosting, kids will love helping you decorate these darling delights.

If you really want to make their hearts skip a beat, carve an adorable Lips and Love Basket. Fill it with all of your sweetie's favorite fruits for a fresh, flavorful display they'll devour in a heartbeat. Remember, nothing shows your love more than edible gifts crafted by hand. For more sweet ideas, visit www.watermelon.org.



Watermelon Cupcakes

Yield: 8 servings

- 8 cupcake liners
- 8 cupcake shaped pieces of seedless watermelon
- 2 cups pineapple cream cheese frosting
- Sprinkles for garnish

Place liners in 8-cup cupcake tin. Cut 3-inch-thick slices of seedless watermelon. Cut round cupcake-sized pieces from slices. Put watermelon cupcake in each liner. Place dollop of frosting on each cupcake. Decorate as desired with sprinkles.

Watermelon Petit Fours

Yield: 12 servings

- 12 (3-inch) cubes of seedless watermelon
- 3/4 cup frosting
- 12 candied almonds
- Sugar in the Raw, for sprinkling

Arrange watermelon cubes on serving platter. Place frosting in zipper bag and trim off bit of one bottom corner. Decoratively pipe frosting onto each watermelon cube. Place almond at top of frosting on each petit four. Sprinkle with raw sugar and serve immediately.

Lips and Love Basket

- 1 to 2 long, oval-shaped seedless watermelons
- Cutting board
- Green dry erase marker
- Kitchen and paring knives
- Melon baller
- Assorted cookie cutters (X, O and heart shapes), if desired
- Wooden skewers
- Toothpicks
- Strawberries
- Fruits to make fruit salad filling
- Large bowl and spoon

Wash watermelon under cool running water and pat dry. On cutting board, place watermelon on its side and cut off 1/4 to 1/2 inch from stem end being careful not to cut too deep into white part of rind to provide sturdy base.

With marker, draw scalloped line around width of middle of watermelon. Use paring knife to cut along marker line,

then separate the two halves. Use melon baller to scoop out watermelon for your base.

Cut top half of watermelon in half and use dry erase marker to draw large set of lips on one half. Use paring knife to cut out lips. Once you have general shape, carefully carve away rind. Use paring knife to shape lips into more finished look.

Cut remaining 1/4-inch-thick slices and cut hearts, X's, O's or other shapes, discarding rind.

Attach lips to top of base using wooden skewers and toothpicks.

Slice strawberries lengthwise into 1/4-inch slices, keeping strawberry tops on for decoration, if desired. Attach slice of strawberry with green top to center of each scallop using toothpick. Use rest of strawberry slices in fruit salad for fruit bowl.

Place fruit bowl on serving platter, fill with fruit salad and garnish with slices of fruit cut into hearts, X's and O's, if desired.



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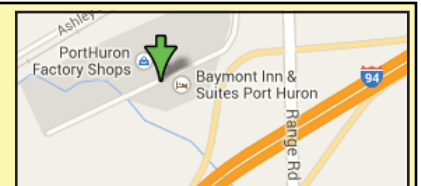
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By Diane Kodet
ThumbPrint News Editor

Hello, Thumb Birds! Hopefully by now you have flown from your nests in the frozen North Country and are now enjoying some much needed sunshine in balmy Florida.

As promised, we are planning our first Thumb Bird get-together and you are invited! We have chosen Saturday, March 1, at 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. or so (rain or shine). Finger foods and nibbles along with refreshments will be provided under our tiki hut in Sarasota, Florida. Come and get to know each other and talk about all things Michigan and Florida!

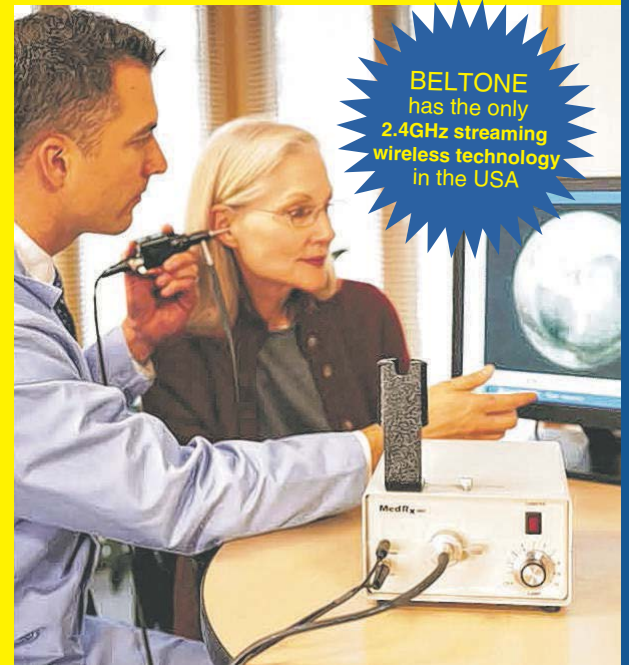
If you have already joined our Thumb Bird group, you should have received an invitation by email or by mail (if you do not have an email address). If for some reason we missed you, please email me at thumbprintnews@comcast.net so I can get the information out to you.

If you have not yet joined our Thumb

Bird group and would like to do so, the only requirements are that you live or have lived in the Thumb of Michigan and that you now spend part or all the year in Florida. Email us your name and addresses in both Michigan and Florida, your phone number, and an email address where we can contact you. The purpose of this group is to share ideas, places to visit, restaurants, etc. that have to do with our Florida experiences and to occasionally get together in both Florida and Michigan to talk about all things Michigan and Florida. Email your information to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and I will get out more information to you about our first get-together. If for some reason you cannot attend, we will also be planning a second Thumb Bird event in Michigan for the later part of summer or early fall. Watch future editions of *ThumbPrint News* for more information.

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HOUSE FOR LIFE

By Paul Welch

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

We are well into winter and cabin fever is setting in. Many of us are ready for spring so we can go outside and do something, anything but staying inside trying to stay warm. While staying warm you may want to look at your energy bills. The cold of winter reveals just how energy efficient our houses really are. It is also a time to plan energy saving projects to pursue once winter ends.

I Feel A Draft – There is nothing worse than being in a warm room and feeling a cold draft. Windows can be a big source of heat loss, especially if they are old. Today we see commercials for new energy saving windows to cut down on energy bills. They are a really good way to keep your home warm and your heating cost down. Just make sure you shop around for the best price and go with a reputable company. Check reviews from customers online or ask people you know if they can recommend one for you. If new windows are not in the budget, make sure your current windows are caulked well and use the plastic window kits during the winter. Be careful if you have cats that are not declawed. They like to play with the plastic creating holes and making it useless. You can also use a weather seal tape to seal gaps where window panes meet with windows that open. This is the first step in reducing heat loss.

Walls Protect Us – A less detectable source of heat loss could be the walls around you. You may not realize it, but old or improperly installed insulation in the walls could be causing heat loss. Unless you have infrared vision like in the movie *Predator*, you should have someone come in with a thermal imager and test your walls for cold areas where insulation is no longer effective. If your house needs new insulation, you can do it yourself or hire someone to do it once the weather warms up. Ask about the advantages of different types of insulation. Fiberglass is less expensive but can fail if not installed properly. Stone wool is easy to install and lasts but can be expensive. Spray foam also lasts and fills in completely but is usually installed professionally. Blown insulation can be done without tearing down walls but requires you to either rent a machine or hire a contractor. Now the heat you have will stay in your house longer.

More Than Just the Furnace – We

have all heard of the “horrors” of using a space heater. They cause fires, carbon-monoxide poisoning and kill people. The truth is that there are some very safe space heaters out there. They usually come with some form of overheat protection and/or tip over protection to prevent fire risk. They also have protection from carbon-monoxide poisoning as well. The more you spend on a heater, the safer they are. If you use a good quality space heater, they can save you money on your heating bill. If you set your thermostat lower than normal and use the space heater in rooms that you are in or use the most to make them more comfortable, you will see your electrical bill go up a little and your gas bill drop even more.

“Clean Heat” – Furnace filters help your furnace last longer. They protect the motor from dust and keep it working efficiently. During the winter, it is important to change your furnace filter on a regular basis. Not all filters are the same. The cheap blue fiberglass filters are basic protection and need to be changed monthly. The better pleated filters should be changed every three months. If you suffer from allergies, some pleated filters also help reduce allergens like pollen that can be in the air. Be careful with older furnaces because better filters restrict the airflow somewhat and may cause it to work harder.

With these steps, you can not only save money on energy bills, you will keep yourself cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. Stay warm and think spring. It will be here before we know it. If you have any questions, e-mail me at thumbprintnews@comcast.net with “House for Life” in the subject line. I will be sure to answer all questions. 🌱

Editor's note: Paul Welch has 15 years of experience working in retail hardware and has been trained and has learned much about home improvement, maintenance and repair. He currently is employed by LumberJack and runs their paint department.

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SLAVERY

Continued from Page 1

intermarriage and breeding between the two “minorities”.

Comparable to actual slave ownership was the legally recognized practice of “Indentured Servitude”. That meant an individual, usually young, able and male, would agree to remain in his employer’s (master’s) service for a given number of years before being allowed to seek other work or becoming a paid employee. Often this binding contract was based on the cost of passage from England or Ireland, that had to be repaid with labor. Southern plantation owners had used this program sparingly, preferring the certainty of absolute ownership of not only the black worker but also his family.

During the period of French rule of the Midwest, ownership of blacks received the overt approval of the Catholic Church. According to research cited in a *Detroit Free Press* series in 2001, a priest baptized two young black men at St. Anne’s Church in the old section of Detroit for wealthy Louis Campeau, with the understanding that he would sell them only to Catholics. Detroit Census figures for the years of the American Revolution show the numbers of blacks to be just over one hundred, not a very high percentage of the 1,776 total population. A recent DNR study commissioned for the Bi-Centennial of the War of 1812 concluded that there were only a small number of slaves, “mostly Indians”, at that time. A research paper showed numbers of slaves as 32 in 1830, with none in 1840 after it was banned in the new state’s first constitution. There was little need for the slaves for fur trading, which was the major 18th Century industry, so captives either worked on farms surrounding the city or helped in the households of those families with many children.

There was slavery in the original northeastern colonies, but on a much smaller scale than in the south. The merchants of New England had little use for them in their commerce, although of

course, they were active in the shipping trade of bringing them from Africa. Otherwise, the more prosperous business person might retain a few as house and yard servants.

Recognition of slavery played a part in the extensive negotiations leading up to the ratified Constitution. While the salutary words of the Declaration of Independence that “All men are created equal”, remained in the minds of the drafters, they tried to avoid direct reference to those estimated 685,000 black individuals of the new nation’s almost four million population in 1790.

The southern delegates were able to negotiate the three-fifths provision for voting purposes; i.e. that Negroes were to be counted as three-fifths of a person in arriving at a state’s population for entitlement to representation in Congress. (Indentured servants were fully counted while Indians were ignored.) The Constitution’s Article IV provision for extradition of criminals between states was understood to apply to runaway slaves, a violation of the owner’s property rights.

By the mid-19th Century, the invention of Eli Whitney’s cotton gin increased the need for slave workers in the South. Europe had demanded more cotton for clothing so that the plantation masters used teams of slaves to separate the usable cotton fibers from sticky green seeds on the machine’s rollers. This happened at a time when many in the country hoped that the “peculiar institution” as it was sometimes called when the description “slavery” was not acceptable might be withering away. Northern merchants found other cargo for their ships. The “Mother Country” England, to which the former colonists still looked for guidance, abolished such commerce and the practice of slavery



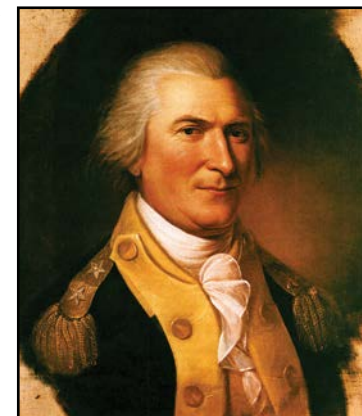
itself in 1833. Upper Canada, still a colony, likewise abolished slavery. Thus it became a “promised land” destination for slaves fleeing from the South via the Underground Railroad.

The present state of Michigan was a part of the Old Northwest Territories, along with Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and eastern Minnesota. Until there was enough population to petition for statehood, it was governed by the Northwest Ordinance.

That historically important document was passed in 1787. Among its drafters was Arthur St. Clair, the first governor of the territory, for whom the name of the river and county was changed from the original Saint Claire. Article VI of the Ordinance prohibited the ownership of slaves in the territory. However, that was not uniformly enforced. For example, Judge Augustus Woodward, another prominent Detroit name, ruled in 1807 that slaves here before a certain year, 1796, must remain slaves, as would their children until age 25. This “grandfather clause” had been unsuccessfully challenged by a freed slave couple, Peter and Hannah Dennison, seeking release from bondage for their four slave children from their master who was a British woman resident of Detroit. Slavery was abolished by Article XV of the Michigan Constitution approved in 1835, effective upon the state’s admission in January 1837.

Residents of the present Thumb area had little or nothing to do with slaves. Stories of the Underground Railroad, the route by which blacks escaped from owners in the

South, are centered around southwestern areas of the state, such as Cass County and Battle Creek, both prominent stations on the railroad. When travel through Detroit to Canada became dangerously well known to the bounty hunters, some runaways ventured further north to stations along the St. Clair River. Reverend Oren Thompson, a supporter of John Brown, and the Donihoo family have been recognized for providing safe stops on the railroad.



General Arthur St. Clair, for whom both the county and the river were named

Thompson is buried in the famous Detroit Elmwood Cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Donihoo have Underground Railroad memorial plaques in the City of St. Clair’s Hillside Cemetery. According to family legend they had owned slaves in Virginia whom they probably brought along when they moved to the Michigan territory in 1835, planning to set free across the border to Canada.

One story of such travels is related in a DNR website. It seems that one Melinda Paris, born to a slave father and free mother in Paris, Kentucky, had escaped with her mother and siblings at a young age to Indiana. There her mother found work as a tailoress and they lived peacefully. However, Melinda married a black who had a history of being both free and enslaved. When his Kentucky master tracked him north with bloodhounds the couple fled to Canada, via the railroad. Later they were employed by General Simeon Brown, who brought them to the city of St. Clair where he owned a hotel according to Melinda’s story related just prior to her death in 1892.

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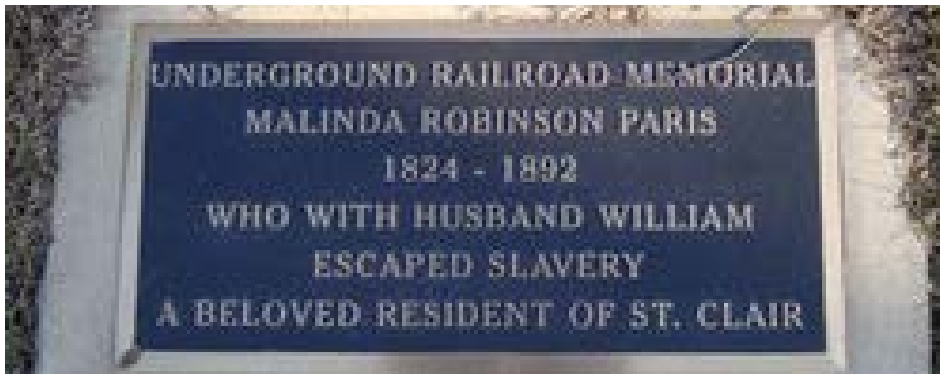


St. Clair County by A.T. Andreas contains an interesting passage captioned "Slavery in Michigan", interesting to readers today because it reflects the view of at least one contemporary observer. While whole passages could be quoted, just a couple will provide the flavor of that opinion. It is not that of Andreas, but taken from a paper prepared by J.A. Girardin, apparently with historian Andreas' approval: "The negro slaves were well treated by their owners.... As a class the Negroes were esteemed by our ancient population.... Many anecdotes can be related of Africa's sons among our ancestors and they as a class were well cared for and educated by their kind masters."

It contains the cryptic conclusion: "Yet, he was a slave, liable to be bought and sold." (P.103-105).

Author's note: My mother, a school teacher, was born at the end of the 19th Century in Missouri, which had been a slave state. Family lore is that her father, born and orphaned just before the Civil War, was raised by his grandmother who had house slaves.

REFERENCE: A recently published book (2010) by Ann Arbor, Michigan historian Carol E. Mull, *The Underground Railroad in Michigan* (McFarland & Co. Jefferson, N.C.) (2010) is the single comprehensive source of authority on that subject, with little mention of activity in the Thumb, except along the St. Clair River. Mull also cites a paper by Suzanne Franz filed with the city of St. Clair Historical Commission.



Underground Railroad memorial marker for Malinda Robinson Paris

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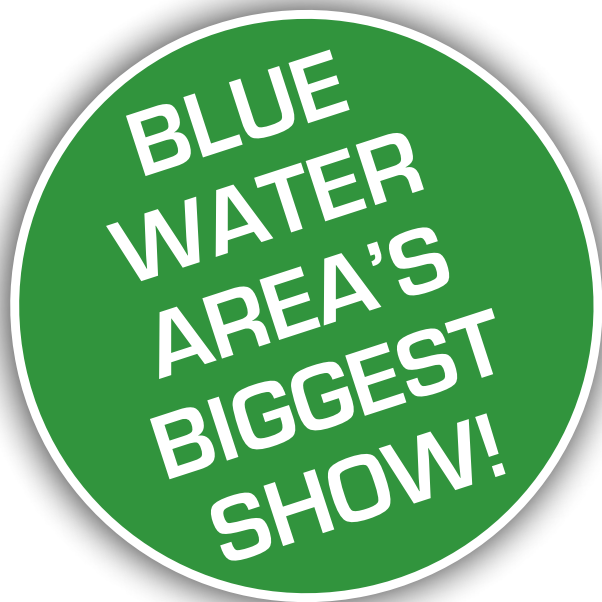
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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

CAN YOU TAKE IT WITH YOU?

By Gabriel Jones

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Recently, my wife and I were discussing the amount of mementos and treasures (clutter) in our present home which we have been living in for 53 years. There are husband memories and treasures, and wife memories and treasures.

In our discussions, I mentioned, "We should get rid of some of these things. It's getting a little crowded around here and besides, you can't take it with you, when the time comes."

She would answer, "Oh yes, I'll take mine with me," and laughingly say, "I'll take it all with me wherever I go."

I also laughed and said, "Dear, St. Peter won't let you through the gates with all your stuff."

We both laughed again and then went to bed.

That's when my wife had this dream...

She's standing before St. Peter's gates with trucks behind her with all her belongings and treasures.

St. Peter says to her, "You can't enter these pearly gates with all those

things. If you leave them behind, then you can enter."

My wife says to St. Peter, "You've got to let me in. I led a good life. I belong here."

"That may be so, but you can't bring anything in with you."

My wife sits down in front of the gates and starts to cry when she hears a voice behind her.

"You can come over here with all your things, I'll let you in."

She turns around and sees a figure that she is unsure of.

The figure again speaks to her, "Come this way with all of your treasures. I'll let you in gladly. I'll even have some workers help you carry in all your things."

My wife smiles, hearing all of this kindness from this person.

As she turns to tell St. Peter that she is going the other way, the figure behind her tells his workers.

"Bring in all her things. Gather them with the other treasures that we have taken in."

"MORE FUEL FOR THE FIRE!!!"

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🐿

MARITIME TRIVIA

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No one correctly answered January's contest. Be the first to answer February's question below and you could win a J. Clary collector print!



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Question #9: When was the Great Arctic Cyclone?
Answer: It was November 11, 1940, also known as the Armistice Day Storm or The Black Friday Storm. It was the first time a storm was referred to as The Great Arctic Cyclone.

Maritime Trivia Question #10
When was it scientifically proven that the Great Lakes seas created more stress per square inch than had ever been recorded on any ocean vessel?

Email Your Guess to marineart@jclary.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The Cottrellville Township Historical Society has another set of pictures for identification. I took this picture at the Cottrellville Township Picnic (I believe two or three years ago) and the fellow holding the picture of the family farm did not write his name down for me. So, we are searching for the identity of the family farm and the fellow holding the picture.

Thanks,
Cottrellville
Historical Society
Pat Runyon,
Secretary



Dear Editor,

The Marysville K of C needs crafters for our March 1st Craft Show.

We also need the sale advertised in the February issue. I am not sure how to get both in.

We had to change the date from April 5th to March 1st so I am in an advertising frenzy.

Your assistance would be so much appreciated.

Crafters wanted!

Call Judy at (810) 650-5419
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Joan Horbes

Dear Editor,

The January issue made it to the Port Huron McDonald's. I enjoyed it, particularly the lead article on Ira Township. It is a little unusual to have a settlement taking a given name, but postmasters were important figures in early days. (Just a note: neither the writer nor your proof readers caught the error on page 12, where the word "ancestors" was used when "descendants" was intended, describing Walpole island settlers.)

William Easton

Editor's note: Thank you for bringing the error to our attention.

Dear Editor,

The best lines I've heard in a while in our overly politically correct society, David Gillis' column: "For those who read this column...and believe I sometimes become too patriotic...I offer no apology". Thank you. Expressing our patriotism is not something we should feel apologetic to ANYONE for.

Keith J. Schuld
New Baltimore

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LOVE IS IN THE AIR

By **Rennae Hardy**

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Historically, the ancient Egyptians used aromatic oils to promote health, beauty, virility and romance. Without question, essential oils carry many therapeutic properties. Additionally, certain essential oils are considered an aphrodisiac. Cleopatra is believed to have enticed Mark Anthony into her bedroom using the exotic aroma of rose petals.

Aromatherapists acknowledge the quickest way to have an essential oil effect the body is by inhalation through the nose. During the inhalation of an essential oil an area of the brain called the limbic system is stimulated. The limbic system governs our moods and emotions. Certain scents trigger varying responses. An aphrodisiac oil has the potential to invoke romantic feelings.

Seven, sensual, mood setting scents top the list of seductive oils and will compliment any romantic occasion perfectly. Jasmine blossoms

are picked at night capturing the essence of moonlight. Jasmine is hypnotic and magical. Rose/Rose otto is delicately sweet, sexual and strongly feminine. Patchouli exudes passionate muskiness. Clary sage uplifts with its euphoric herbaceous aroma. Sandalwood heightens the senses with an embracing balsamic fragrance. Sweet orange / Neroli invites pure joy with its adventurous and refreshing scent. Ylang ylang is an exotic floral that awakens one's deepest desires, dissolves one's inhibitions and exudes succulence.

Sensual blends are capable of creating an arousing atmosphere and inspiring great passion. To add a little romance this Valentine's Day, try this blend in your oil burner: two drops ylang ylang, one drop rose geranium and two drops orange. The seductive scent will carry you away ... Love is in the air! 🌿

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Be Well... Be Radiant !!

ThumbPrint News travels to Russia!

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (over 1000 businesses in nine Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but readers have also taken *ThumbPrint News* with them to many different states and countries (listed on the right on the bulletin board). *ThumbPrint News* was even seen on television on the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and at Walt Disney World in Florida with several of the Disney characters! President Lincoln even enjoyed reading it! The newspaper has traveled to all of the seven continents.

This month's photo shows Louis Kovach of Richmond, Michigan, reading *ThumbPrint News* in front of St. Petersburg Cathedral in St. Petersburg, Russia on September 1, 2013. Louis says,

I was on an Overseas Adventure Travel tour to the Baltic States and St. Petersburg. It was a great tour.

If you are a reader of *ThumbPrint News* and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or if you have been able to get a famous person or character to be photographed with our paper, you may submit an email and photo to us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net (jpeg format preferred). Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number. Please be patient as you wait for your photo to appear in *ThumbPrint News*. When it does appear, we will send you a complimentary edition. There are many places where *ThumbPrint News* has not yet been – and lots of famous people to track down. Who will be the next person to help us in our quest? 🌿

A little more about St. Petersburg

Saint-Petersburg is considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world, being an important center of tourism in Russia. In 2010, Saint Petersburg was visited by about 2,300,000 foreign tourists (mostly from Finland, Germany, the United States, Sweden and France).

Saint Petersburg was founded by the first Russian emperor Peter I in 1703. Peter I wanted the new city to be important in maintaining the water routes from Russia to Europe.

From 1712 till 1918, the city was the capital of the Russian Empire and the residence of the Russian emperors. In 1918 the central government bodies moved from Saint Petersburg (then named Petrograd) to Moscow.

Where Has Your
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ST. PETERSBURG

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Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah and Washington **AND TO THE COUNTRIES OF** Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Bonaire, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Fiji, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Kiribati, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, St. Lucia, Spain and Wales.

BAGEL THE BEAGLE

Continued from Page 1

kinds of things were happening! Bagel's second most favorite thing after chasing rabbits was sampling new foods. Of course, his boss gave him nice bones now and then to chew on. While he liked them all, he really preferred beef bones. Pork chop bones came next, with lamb last. He liked chicken bones, too, but he was not supposed to have them. (Once in awhile the lady next door would sneak a wing to him that was really tender and juicy, but Bagel never told on her.)

His own lady-Boss would put the chicken bones in the garbage bag and Bagel could smell them. If nobody was looking he would dig one out and hide it behind the couch in the living room. Unfortunately, somebody always seemed to find it just about the time it started to smell really good!

[Yeah, I do love bones but I prefer to have them buried for awhile to "ripen" and become more flavorful. Then I like to bring them in the house on the carpet where it's easier to hold them down for chewing. My lady-Boss gets all twisted out of shape when I do that, though I don't know why. A little grease on the rug never hurt anybody and I prefer the smell of a ripened bone to that yucky air freshener she uses!]

An older beagle named Jack lived next door. Jack had learned to ride a bicycle. Bagel had never wanted to try that! It looked so uncomfortable to sit on the bicycle bar and hold on to the handlebars with his front paws!

[I hate to think it, but I suspect Jack has been "fixed". I certainly couldn't sit on that bar. I guess "whatever floats your boat". He sure is proud to go riding down the street with his human. To him it must be almost as much fun as when I ride in the truck with my Boss. Oh man, it's heaven to have my head out the side window with the wind blowing my ears straight back! I do get a bug in the eye now and then, but it's worth it! When he lets me sit in his lap with my head out the window, I can almost believe I'm doing the driving. You should hear me when I see other dogs along the road. I let them know who's the top dog

in town! My Boss starts to yell too, AT ME!! He doesn't understand that I'm really protecting him and the truck!]

Bagel loved it when his family had a party. Sometimes they would let him stay in the house when the guests came. If Bagel was quiet and didn't get noticed he could often beg some tidbits.

[Oh Mister, that cocktail sausage looks so good! Ma'am, I know you don't like that deviled egg, and I would be ever so grateful if you would let me take care of it for you.]

Unfortunately, he would finally be noticed and taken to his doghouse. But after the party was over, he was often let back in the house where he found lots of goodies spilled on the floor, some of which he wasn't supposed to have!

[Oh heaven - chips, popcorn, shrimps, pieces of cheese and lots more! I have found that some things humans eat don't taste very good. Then it's best to just quietly deposit them behind the couch. I do enjoy a good party!]

Bagel loved to go with his human to the dump! The "dump" was a place the Boss would go every Saturday to dispose of the household garbage and trash. Bagel was allowed to stick his head out the window as they were driving along and his ears would flap and flop. It seemed as though he was flying. Then, when they got to the dump, there would be all these big birds flying around and some would land on the ground. The wonderful smells were a powerful temptation. He dearly wished his human would let him out so he could chase the birds, but the Boss was very careful to make sure that Bagel stayed in the truck. He had to content himself with barking and howling, even though the birds ignored him.

[You guys don't know how lucky you are. If I got out of this truck, and you guys would just stay down here on the ground, I'd show you who's boss! I can outrun you any day of the week. Teeth will beat beaks any time. I can yell louder than you, too!]

Because Bagel loved to ride in cars, anytime he saw an open car door, he would hop in, check it out, and be ready to go for a ride. Sometimes, as a bonus, he found good things to eat there too. For example,


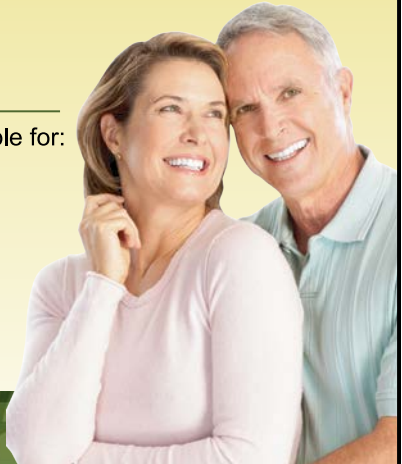
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one time he hopped into a neighbor's car and found a submarine sandwich on the seat.

[Wow, the car door is open. Something smells wonderful. It's in a bag here on the seat. I don't think they will mind if I just smell of it. I wonder what's in there? They won't notice if I take just a taste. Uh-oh, I can't leave it like this. It's better if I take it away. They probably won't miss it. I better eat it fast so they won't know I took it. I'll get out of sight in the back yard. Oh, that was good!!!]

But in an hour or so he began to feel unwell. His stomach churned and Bagel groaned.

[Maybe that stuff that was in there with the meat wasn't so good after all. My stomach feels awful. Urrrupr !!! Ah, now I feel better. -- Uh-oh caught !!]

The sandwich had been missed and a search took place that led to the discovery of the sandwich wrapper and a sick Bagel!!! The worst, though, was the scolding he received from his Boss and being tied up for several days afterward!

Another time, when his humans had something called Christmas, some older humans came to visit. They brought brightly wrapped packages and were carrying them from the car into the house. Bagel was thrilled to see they left the car door open.

[Oh goody, the car door is open. Wonder what's in there? Ah, here's a box that smells really good. I think I'll take it back to my doghouse. They'll

never notice it's gone with all the other boxes and packages. Who knows, maybe it was intended for me anyway.]

He had found a small box that had a strong smell, sort of like the pieces of cake that sometimes fell on the floor during a party. The temptation was too great and Bagel scampered off to his doghouse with the box. He didn't know that what he had was a very rich kind of cake called a fruitcake.

[This is sure a tough cake to chew. It's sticking to my teeth. I guess I better just bite off big pieces and swallow them whole. Then, I better get rid of the evidence and hide the paper back of my house. Now it's time for a nap..... Oh Oh, Owww. My tummy hurts!!!! OWWWWW!!!]

Again, Bagel was sick and again he was quickly identified as the thief. This time he was not punished. It was Christmas and the humans felt sorry for him because he was obviously very much regretting what he had done.

Bagel was a friend to all. He liked people and other dogs. He even tolerated cats. However, he once tried to make friends with what he thought was a black and white kitty. As his family came home in the car one night, the headlights revealed Bagel very closely following a black and white animal across the driveway.

[This animal looks like the cat that used to live with my family. It's black and white like our cat, only a little bigger and with a bushier tail that he's holding



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up. I want to get a good smell of this animal and make friends. Maybe we can play tag in the yard. Why is he lifting his tail up like that? What is that stuff he's spraying? Oh, my eyes! What is that awful smell???

He had gotten too close and learned to his dismay that the animal was a "skunk"! The skunk did what skunks do when they feel threatened – it sprayed Bagel in the face with "eau de skunk"! The result was that his Boss had to give Bagel a bath with "TOMATO JUICE"!

[What's going on? I know I smell bad but I can lick it off. Oh YUCK!! What's this? Is that blood you're rubbing on me? That's not petting. Don't rub so hard! What's that hose for? Oh, that's cold! Now I'm all wet. Let me loose so I can shake it off. Why won't you let me in the house? Okay. Where's my supper?]

Bagel was also a collector of useful and decorative things for furnishing his doghouse. These included various toys belonging to his family's children (and sometimes those of neighbors) as well as particularly smelly socks and sneakers, shoes, and rubber boots. It made for a living space in his doghouse that was particularly "His"!

One winter night Bagel's Boss decided it was too cold for him to stay in the backyard doghouse. After his evening run, Bagel was brought into the house and shown a bed in the basement furnace room. Later that night the family was awakened by Bagel's mournful cries from the basement.

[Oh, Ow, my paw hurts! It's leaking! It won't stop even when I lick it! What can I do? I need my Boss, but he's asleep. Maybe if I howl loud enough he'll come and help me. Oooooow, Owwww, Ooooooooww! It's working, he's coming, he's here!!! He'll know what to do.]

His Boss went to tell him to be quiet, but when he opened the door and turned on the light he discovered why Bagel was crying. There were bloody paw prints all over the floor of the room. One of Bagel's paws had a bad cut that must have happened when he was on his evening run. It was bleeding without stopping! All his anxious pacing back and forth had kept the wound open. His Boss quickly found some bandages and tightly wrapped the paw to put pressure on the wound to stop the bleeding. The next day he was taken to the vet and three stitches took care of the problem. The cut healed with no further problem.

The Boss would take Bagel hunting during the fall and winter months. On one of these hunting trips, Bagel was chasing a rabbit that ran and ran until it was almost night. The Boss called and called for Bagel so they could go home. But Bagel would not give up the chase. He was having too much fun! So finally the Boss gave up. He laid his hunting coat on the ground near

where the truck had been parked and went home, intending to return early the next morning. Shortly after dark Bagel decided it was time to go home and came back to where the hunt started. There he found the Boss's coat and laid down on it for the night.

[Where is the Truck? Why didn't the Boss wait for me? I don't know how to get home from here. Maybe if I cry somebody will come and rescue me. I'm tired. I guess I'll lie down on this coat. The Boss will surely come and get his coat. I want my supper! Woe is me! Is that an owl?It's daylight again. I hear the truck. It's the Boss. Boy am I glad to see him!!]

Another adventure happened one day when Bagel and his family were out walking on a back street in town. He was used to being on the leash on walks but the family never walked as fast as he wanted. So he was usually out at the end of his leash pretending he was pulling an Eskimo sled instead of a human.

[It's a nice day out here. There's lots of interesting smells. Hey, look at that. Is that a dog or a small horse? Wow! Is he big! This looks like more than the neighborly let-me-smell-you greeting! Slow down man!! Whoa, that's not friendly!!]

Before anyone realized what was happening, the monster dog had his teeth clamped on Bagel's throat. Bagel's Boss reacted quickly and yelled at the St. Bernard while he was prying the huge dog's jaws open to release Bagel. The St. Bernard's Boss came racing to the scene and took him back to his house. Bagel was unhurt because his collar had kept the big dog's teeth from penetrating his neck. Once the St. Bernard was safely in his house Bagel howled and lunged at the end of his leash!

[Get me out of here before I show that bully who's who!!!]

Bagel's family often took him for other walks. One of the places they liked to go had woods, lots of low bushes, and an open field. They would walk around and stop and talk and point at things. Later, when they went there it was to look at a house that was being built. Bagel would be let loose to run around the field so he could check out all the delicious smells. The best smells were from rabbits. There were lots of them, as well as squirrels and birds they called grouse. This was fun. He always hated to have to leave and go back home. Then came a day when the whole family moved to this new house, and this became Bagel's new home.

[So this is where we live now. I can't believe I'm surrounded by my most favorite thing - rabbits! We can play hide and seek all the time. I'm going to love it here. This is beagle heaven!!!]

It really was!!!

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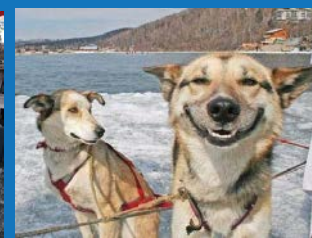
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Grandma's Piano

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Alright everyone, sing along with me, "Put on your old grey bonnet with the blue ribbon on it, while I hitch old Dobbin to the shay. And through the fields of clover, we'll drive to Dover, on our golden wedding day."



Don't know that one? Well, try this one: "The Camptown ladies sing this song, doo-da, doo-da. The Camptown racetrack's five miles long, oh, de doo-da day." Not that one either? You would have had you been with me on one of my many visits to Grandma's house over six decades ago. In fact, you might have joined her and me in "The Darktown Strutters Ball", "The Good Old Summertime" and one of my very favorites, "The Beer Barrel Polka".

I have often written about memories of time spent with my paternal grandmother, Nina. As I compose this brief treatise I can picture myself sitting next to her on the piano bench as she pumped the pedals and the perforated paper rolls caused the keys to jump with melodious sounds. The lyrics to the songs were printed on the rolls and as the music was played we were able to sing along. Looking back, I find those times at the piano to be some of my best memories of Grandma. She was in her element – happy.

My trip down memory lane has caused me to stray from my original intended focus on the player piano, which I've discovered many younger people have never heard about. When I mention a player piano to my grandchildren they think I'm talking about a computerized or digital instrument. Allow me, then, to regress to my intent.

So, you may say, "What's with pumping the pedals and perforated paper rolls?" Well, allow me to explain.

What I'm referring to is an older player piano, which was normally a regular piano, but also included a mechanism that was powered by pumped air and read paper rolls with specific perforations on them. When the mechanism read the perforations it caused the piano keys to be played. Those who played these instruments were called pianolist who controlled the music being played through the use of two air pump foot pedals. Production

of this type of piano peaked in the mid-1920s and sales began to decline due to improvements in phonograph recordings.

The piano roll was a way of storing music to be used to operate a player piano. It was a continuous paper roll with small holes punched into it. The perforations represented note control data. As the roll moved over a mechanical reading system known as a tracker bar, each perforation played a single note.

As I return to the player piano in Grandma's house, most of the time she would begin singing as the music was being produced by the rolls. I couldn't sing very well, but neither could Grandma. We just seemed to enjoy each other's company there on the old oak bench. We would often begin our musical duet with a spiritual song or hymn. A favorite of hers was "This Little Light of Mine", which she said she sang to my father and his siblings when they were my age.

When Grandma became tired of pumping the piano's pedals, I would drop to the floor and work them with my hands. That never did work very well and lasted only for a couple of songs. Besides, I couldn't read the words on the rolls and wasn't able to sing.

Grandma's musical talents extended past pumping the pedals on a player piano. Although she couldn't read music, she could chord and taught me some songs I still remember even if no one else does. I marveled at how her fingers danced over the black and white keys as her hands moved swiftly along the keyboard. I spent hours practicing the few chords she taught me. I still find myself chording "Bobbed Tail Rooster" on my wife's keyboard and another song about an old cowboy who took to womanizing, drinking and gambling until he was shot and was dying. His last words relating to his demise were, "Take me to the grave yard, lay the sod o'er me, for I'm a wild cowboy and know I've done wrong."

When I tell others about Grandma's piano I'm often asked what happened to it. Well, to Grandma it was only another piece of old furniture and a disappearing means of entertainment. So, when no one would take it, she had my uncle break the oak Warfield piano into small pieces and placed it at the roadside for normal trash pick-up. Accompanying the piano to the sanitation dump were several boxes of piano rolls dating back to the early 20th century. I can almost hear coming from a distant field, "Take me to the grave yard, lay the sod o'er me.....". 🌱



Myasthenia Gravis and Megaesophagus

By Dr. DiBenedetto *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Myasthenia gravis is a disease of the nervous system that occurs in dogs and less commonly in cats. There are two forms of the disease, congenital and acquired. Jack Russell terriers and Springer Spaniels are the most common breeds to have the congenital form. While German Shepherds and both Golden and Labrador Retrievers are the more likely to develop the acquired form with aging. Dogs with the congenital form are born without the receptors in their muscles that receive the impulses from the nerves that tell the muscles to contract. Clinical signs will develop very early in life, around six to eight weeks of age and progress very quickly to paralysis and death.

The acquired form is the more common form that we see in dogs. The primary cause of acquired myasthenia gravis in adult dogs is an autoimmune disorder. With this

condition the pet's own immune system is destroying the receptors in the muscle. The big difference with the acquired form is that the symptoms can be very variable. It can affect enough muscle groups to cause overall generalized weakness or in some cases there can be enough destruction to cause respiratory paralysis and death, but in the majority of the dogs we see it only seems to affect the muscles of the esophagus. When the muscles of the esophagus are affected they become weak and develop what is called a megaesophagus. When this happens the esophagus dilates and is no longer able to contract and push food down into the stomach. Food then sits in the esophagus until it is regurgitated back out through the mouth. This process is often confused with vomiting, which is the forceful ejection of food from the stomach that is accompanied by a retching sound. Regurgitation on the other hand is the passive expulsion of food from the stomach with no retching. Regurgitation will cause food and liquid particles to be aspirated into the lungs

causing aspiration pneumonia. Most dogs present with symptoms of regurgitating, coughing and difficulty breathing due to the pneumonia. Chest radiographs need to be taken to confirm the abnormal esophagus and the pneumonia. There is also a blood test that looks for antibodies in the blood that have been formed by the immune system to attack the receptors in the muscle, confirming a diagnosis of myasthenia gravis.

Treatment of this disease is complex. When presenting with aspiration pneumonia that must be stabilized and treated first. Medical management then consists of using a special medication that helps enhance the nerves transmission to the muscle to allow better contractility, plus any dog with megaesophagus needs to eat from an elevated food bowl and should remain standing for ten minutes after eating to let gravity help bring the food into the stomach. In severe cases corticosteroids are used to help shut down the immune system but it is very important to make sure that pneumonia

is not present before starting steroids. Preventing aspiration pneumonia gives a much better quality of life and long term prognosis. Some owners spend 20 – 30 minutes twice a day feeding their dogs with megaesophagus to prevent aspiration pneumonia. Over time this becomes very difficult to maintain. These dogs also have a hard time maintaining a good weight and become very thin. 🐾

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) 585-2622 for other pet related questions.

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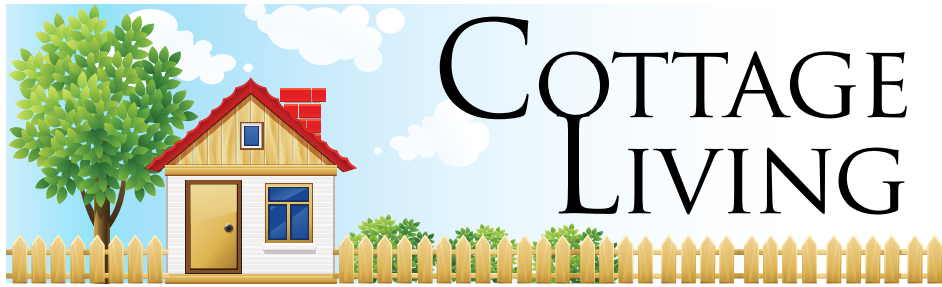
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By Pamela Grey-Pugliese

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Our winter so far has been a typical Michigan winter, unpredictable. A few record snowfalls followed by unusually warm temperatures come as no surprise if you've lived in Michigan for any length of time. Generally, this time of year cottage and cabin maintenance is minimal, except for a few mid-winter check-ups. Owning a seasonal home for me means relating everything to my up north little paradise. I find myself wondering how a certain item will look at "the cottage", saying "should I buy 2 of these, for home and up north?" or "could we use this for the cottage?" or "This will look great up north", etc.

Concerns and conversations about how my place is holding up with the winter weather is constantly on my mind when I am at my home in the city, which no doubt drives my family crazy!

February is here and I couldn't help but

wonder what its origin really means so I decided to relate its true historical meaning to... what else....my cottage up north and Michigan's awesome Thumb area. My relations are in parentheses and italics.

Having only 28 days in common years, it is the only month of the year that can pass without a single full moon. This last happened in 1999 and will next happen in 2018. *(That's okay, we have the beautiful full moons and starry skies of summer, coming!)* February is National Bird Feeding Month *(won't be long now, before our bird feeders are busy with our up north birds and their babies!)* In Argentina, they celebrate something called "A Day of the Sun" *(yes...we will soon feel the warmth of the sun!)* Canada celebrates "Flag Day" on the 15th *(I can see and hear our stars and stripes of Old Glory flapping in the breeze on my deck as I write this!)*.

Wikipedia states the month of February as this:

Historical names for February include the Old English terms Solmonath (mud month) *(lots of that in Michigan's springtime!)* and Kale-monath (named for cabbage) as well as Charlemagne's designation, Hornung. In Finnish, the month is called *helmikuu*, meaning "month of the pearl"; when snow melts on tree branches *(making way for the trees to bud out!)* forms droplets, and as these freeze again, they are like pearls of ice. In Polish and Ukrainian, respectively, the month is called *luty* or *лютий*, meaning the month of ice or hard frost *(thaw and freeze in Michigan can all happen in one day!)*. In Macedonian the month is *sechko* (сечко), meaning month of cutting [wood]. *(This is where we begin to gather and cut wood preparing for the summer bonfires in the Thumb!)* In Czech, it is called *únor*, meaning month of submerging [of river ice *(we have the Lake Huron ice!)*]. Croats call the month *veljača*, whose meaning is unknown but may come from the word for "greater," a possible reference to the days increasing in length. *(The Thumb area in my opinion, is "greater" and*

knowing that our days are getting longer, which means warmer temperatures are coming!)

The coming warmer weather, no matter how slow it may seem, will roll in soon and our "to-do" list for our cottages will increase, but with that feeling comes a sense of excitement that soon enough, the grass will slowly become greener, flowers and trees will soon start to bloom, the robins will be out in full force, we start to peel off the heavy layers of clothing, the smell of spring will be in the air and friends and family will begin to visit my little place and new memories will be made for the new year. So, hang in there, summer people, because March is only a month away, and I for one, **can't wait!** 🌱

Reference source: Wikipedia *(The free encyclopedia)* ~ & Google 2014.

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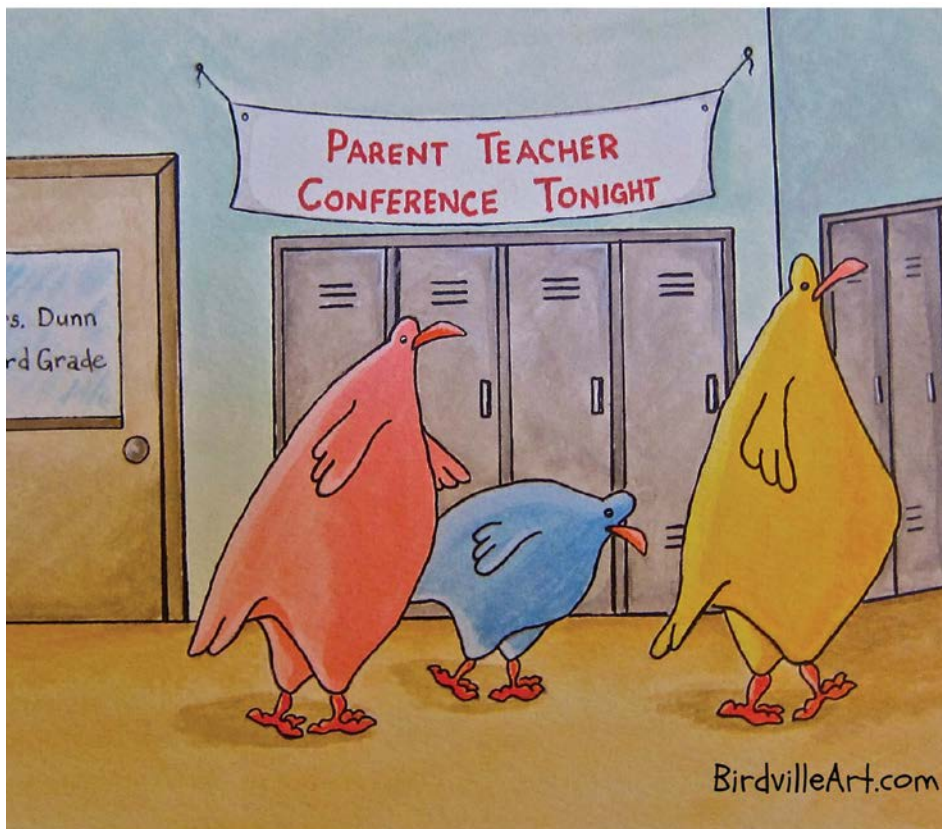
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What have we told you about fowl behavior?

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ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, email us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Contest" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, phone number and full address. Of all persons submitting correct answers by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of this year! On December 31, 2014, one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified.

In the January 2014 edition, we asked our readers to identify what this object was:



Randomly selected from those submitting correct answers was Wanda Srebinsk of Sandusky, Michigan, who correctly identified that the object was an antique chatelaine. Wanda will be entered into our year end drawing for a wonderful surprise gift.

A chatelaine is a decorative belt hook or clasp worn at the waist with a series of chains suspended from it, each of which would hold a useful household object. It was very popular from the 1860s until the end of the century.

Chatelaine is a French noun, the feminine derivative of *chatelain*

meaning "mistress of the castle".

In her role, she would need to carry items such as a time piece, keys to the pantry, note paper and scissors. Some garments had pockets; however, it was not considered feminine to carry bulky items. Only delicate hankies resided in the lady's pocket. Some items such as her time piece or scissors were expensive, so it was important to keep track of them. Chatelaines were born of this necessity.

Chatelaines were even worn by ancient Roman woman that contained ear scoops, nail cleaners and tweezers.

For our March contest we are asking the question, "What is it?" Identify what the object is that is pictured below and for what it is used. Email your answer to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. Again, be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are correct and are entered in the random drawing at the end of the year for a wonderful surprise gift. Good luck!





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THUMB AREA

Activites & Events Calendar

February 2014

If you have an event in March that you would like listed in the March issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by February 12, 2014. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

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

Flint - February 1
Super Saturday Children's Storytime, Flint Public Library, 1026 E. Kearsley, 11:00 a.m. Conductor Handsome Harry shares the famous story, *The Polar Express*. For more information go to www.fpl.info.

Huron

Bad Axe - February 2
Daughters of Isabell Euchre Card Party, Knights of Columbus Hall, 1038 S. Van Dyke, 1:00 p.m. \$5 admission includes lunch and cards. There will also be a 50/50 raffle with proceeds towards Our Lady of the Lakes Schools. For more information call Ruth at (810) 347-0624.

Lapeer

Lapeer - February 16
Knights of Columbus Council 1987 Polish Dinner, Bishop Kelley Catholic School Community Room, 926 Nepessing St., 1:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Advance tickets only! \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12, under 5 free. Call (810) 664-8909 or (810) 797-5190 for more information or to purchase tickets, or stop by the Immaculate Conception Parish Rectory at 814 W. Nepessing St. Sale will benefit St. Vincent DePaul Society for aiding Lapeer area families with utility needs this winter.

Lapeer - February 22
Ducks Unlimited Dinner, Lapeer Center Building, 425 County Center St.,

doors open at 5:00 p.m. Banquet, raffles, hunters' tables, live and silent auctions, tons of guns and much more. \$40 each, \$300 table of 8, \$250 Sponsor, \$25 Greenwing. Online ticket sales end on February 15. For more information call Todd at (810) 728-3473, Steve at (810) 614-5241 or Steve at (810) 869-4806.

Macomb

Richmond - February 6
Identifying Old Photographs, Richmond Community Center, 36164 Festival Drive, 7:00 p.m. This free program is open to the public and is sponsored by the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society who will be sharing their knowledge about identifying and dating old photographs. Attendees are encouraged to bring old family photos which Glenna Jo and Bill will help date. For more information call Mary Ellen at (810) 329-5797.

Oakland

Waterford - February 8
Oakland County Roller Derby Take On Flint Derby Girls, Waterford Rolladium, 4475 Highland Rd., doors open at 6:00 p.m., bout begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door (cash only). Kids 10 and under are free. For more information go to www.oaklandcountyrollerderby.com.

St. Clair

Fair Haven - February 1
Kid Kreations, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd. Drop in between

10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and make a heart picture frame for Valentine's Day. Ages 5 - 12. For more information call (586) 725-9081.

St. Clair - February 1
Lego Club, St. Clair Library, 310 S. Second St., 1:00 p.m. Build Lego creations based on a theme with your friends to display in the library. We supply the Legos. Ages 5 - 12. For more information call (810) 329-3951.

Algonac - February 3, 10 and 24
Scrabble, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 1:00 p.m. Scrabble lovers meet weekly to play this popular game. Limited to 12 players. For more information call (810) 794-4471.

Yale - February 3
Senior Craft Day, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 10:30 a.m. Come and join us for a craft and lots of fun. Registration is requested by calling (810) 387-2940.

Marine City - February 5
Van-Go Art Classes for Seniors, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 1:30 p.m. Join us along with local artist Jane Weis as we create a winter scene using mixed media. Registration is required by calling (810) 765-5233.

Marysville - February 5, 12, 19 and 26
Teen Time, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 3:00 p.m. All teens welcome. Come and get homework help, hang out with friends, do crafts, or play games. For more information call (810) 364-09493.

Marine City - February 6-22
The Snug Theatre Production of I Do! I Do!, 160 Water St. \$20. Please call the box office at (810) 278-1749 for specific dates and times or go to <http://thesnugtheatre.com/>.

Memphis - February 6
Dinner and a Movie, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 5:30 p.m. Join us for a romantic movie. For more information call (810) 392-2980.

Port Huron - February 10
Sojourner Truth - Live, Port Huron

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Library, 210 McMorran Blvd., 6:30 p.m. The talented storyteller Rosie Chapman will perform as Sojourner Truth and will include audience participation which is designed to entertain all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the St. Clair Library. For more information call (810) 987-7323 ext. 132 or 1130.

Lakeport - February 4 and 18
Senior Art, Burtchville Township Library, 7097 Second St., 1:00 p.m. Explore your creative side. Learn a variety of artistic skills from local artist Nancy Davies by attending our every-other-week art club. All ages of adults are welcome. Call (810) 385-8550 for more information.

Kimball - February 6
Basic Computers, Kimball Township Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd., 6:00 p.m. Are you new to computers? Do you know how to use a mouse or where to find the desktop? Learn the fundamentals of a computer's hardware and software, as well as how to use the mouse and keyboard, and purchasing tips. Registration is requested by calling (810) 982-9171.

Fair Haven - February 8
Daddy/Daughter Dance 2014, Fair Haven Elementary School, 8361 Broadbridge Rd., 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. All Fair Haven girls and their fathers (or other important men in their lives) are invited to create wonderful memories! Get dressed up, grab your daddy, and enjoy music by a D.J., special snacks and receive a goody bag filled with fun prizes. Tickets are on sale at the Fair Haven school office. Advance tickets \$25 per couple, \$30 at the door. Daddy and two daughters, \$40 in advance, \$50 at the door. Price includes color 4" x 6" photograph, goody bag,

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refreshments (cheese and crackers, fruit tray, beverages and dessert). Proceeds will go to the PTG to benefit Fair Haven's students. For more information call (586) 725-7911.

Capac - February 13 and 17
Kid Kreations, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 4:00 p.m. Elementary-age children, bring your friends to the library to hear some great stories and to do a fun craft. For more information call (810) 395-7000.

Fair Haven - February 21
Euchre Party, St. Peter Lutheran Church, 6745 Palms Rd., registration at 6:30 p.m., games start at 7:00 p.m. Free goodies, coffee and tea. \$5 donation. Hot dogs and pop, \$1 donation. Cash prizes. For more information call (810) 765-8161.

St. Clair - February 23
St. Clair Polar Plunge, St. Clair Boat Harbor, registration begins at 1:00 p.m. at the Voyageur, 525 S. Riverside Ave. Parade of costumes and plunge will start at 2:00 p.m. Awards and Post Plunge Party begins at 3:00 p.m. The St. Clair Polar Plunge is supported by the Water Warriors. Since 1991, the Water Warriors have raised funds and awareness to support the life-changing programs of Special Olympics Michigan. For more information contact Jim Adams at (248) 688 9603.

Sanilac

Lexington - February 8
Blue Water Traditional Acoustic Open Mic Coffeehouse, Trinity Episcopal Church, 5646 Main St., 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Sign-up begins at 6:15 p.m. Free admission but donations are appreciated. Refreshments provided. 50/50 raffle for the benefit of Thumbfest. Come early to get a good seat. For more information contact Dawn at dawnmalek@comcast.net.

Sandusky - February 8
Thumb Dance, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple St., 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Everyone welcome - bring finger foods

for 9:00 p.m. and friends. \$5 for members and \$6 for guests (regular dances). \$10 membership per year. On February 8 entertainment provided by Dick Hedrich & Son (Valentine's Dance) and on February 22 by The Natural Tones. Call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250 for more information.

Port Sanilac - February 16
Black River Blue Grass Boys, Sanilac County Historic Village and Museum Church, 228 South Ridge St., 3:00 p.m. This group of "boys" has too much fun performing, and their enthusiasm spills over into the audience. Tickets \$10, students \$5, under 12 free. For more information call (810) 622-9946 or visit www.sanilacountyhistorical.org.

Tuscola

Caro - February 22
Caro Polar Plunge, Caro Golf Club, 1080 E. Caro Rd., registration begins at 11:00 a.m. Parade of costumes will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the plunge will take place at 12:00 p.m. The Awards and Post Plunge Party will begin at 12:30 p.m. By participating in a Polar Plunge around the state you are helping to raise funds for over 19,000 athletes who participate in Special Olympics Michigan. Special Olympics Michigan is a year round program offering sports for those with intellectual disabilities. For more information call Eddie Crosby at (989) 529-8290.

Caro - February 22
Farm Collectibles and Toy Show, Brentwood, 178 Park Drive. Sponsored by The Thumb Area Old Engine and Tractor Association. For more information call (989) 673-3430.

Wayne

Grosse Pointe Shores - February 22
Winter Inspiration Walk, Edsel and Eleanor Ford House Visitor Center, 1100 Lakeshore Rd., 10:00 a.m. For cost and more information call (313) 884-4222 or email info@fordhouse.org.







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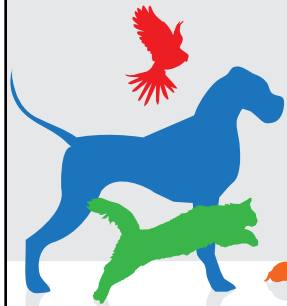
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I R O A L R A L X T R N G R U T Z Q G L
I D I E H I A R Y E E E Q T H U K M Z O
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A O S O L E D U D L O O C V Z X Y U I Y
O I H E C R P U E S I W W I S C M I P D

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| BE HAPPY | LOVE BUG |
| BEST DAY | MAGIC |
| CALL HOME | MY HERO |
| CHARM ME | NO WAY |
| CLOUD NINE | SAY YES |
| COOL CAT | SMILE |
| COOL DUDE | SUGAR PIE |
| CRAZY | TEXT ME |
| DIVA | TIME OUT |
| FOR EVER | TWEET ME |
| GIRL POWER | TWO HEARTS |
| HEAT WAVE | WHIZ KID |
| HONEY BUN | WISE UP |
| IN STYLE | YEAH RIGHT |
| I WONDER | YOU ROCK |
| KISS ME | YUM YUM |
| LAUGH | |



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6601 Burroughs Ave • Sterling Heights, MI 48314**Toll Free (866) 452-3911 ~ (586) 803-9393****www.microlonproducts.com****What Happened on This Day in History?**By **Diane L. Kodet**

ThumbPrint News Editor

February

Editor's note: The flavor of this column is slightly different than normal, as one of the most romantic holidays, Valentine's Day, is celebrated this month. So, with tongue in cheek, here are some of the most romantic events that took place on each day in

February in history:

1. On this day in 1964, the Beatles' "I Want to Hold Your Hand", becomes their first #1 hit and stays #1 for 7 weeks. (Holding hands is just the beginning.)



2. On this day in 1870, Mark Twain, 34, married Olivia Langdon in Elmira, New York. (I wonder if he used his real name or his pen name?)

3. On this day in 1994, actor Jean-Claude van Damme (32) wed Darcy Lapier (28) in Bangkok.

4. On this day in 1994, the 10th Soap Opera Digest Awards took place and *Days of Our Lives* won.

5. On this day in 1977, "In the Mood" by Henhouse Five Plus Too (Ray Stevens) peaked at #40.

6. On this day in 1995, Beach Boy Brian Wilson wed Melinda Ledbetter.

7. On this day in 1901, Queen Wilhelmina married Prince Heinrich von Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

8. On this day in 1895, Tchaikovsky/Petipa's *Swan Lake*, premiered in Petersburg.



9. On this day in 1953, the *Adventures of Superman* TV series premiered in syndication. (Who could forget about Lois Lane and Clark Kent? What happens at the office stays at the office!)

10. On this day in 1840, British queen Victoria married her cousin Albert von Saksen-Coburg. (?????)

11. On this day in 1916, Emma Goldman was arrested for lecturing on birth control. (No comment on why this was included.)

12. On this day in 1955, the McGuire Sisters' "Sincerely" single went to #1 and stayed #1 for 10 weeks.

13. On this day in 1867, Johann Strauss' "Blue Danube" waltz premiered in Vienna.

14. On this day in 1984, Singer Elton John married Renate Blauel in Sydney, Australia.



15. On this day in 1903, the first Teddy Bear was introduced in America, made by Morris and Rose Michtom. (That soft cuddly creature is given almost as often on Valentine's Day as bouquets of flowers are.)

16. On this day in 1966, the Beatles top British rock charts with "Please, Please Me".

17. On this day in 1906, Theodore Roosevelt's daughter Alice married in the White House.

18. On this day in 1972, John and Yoko end a week of co-hosting the *Mike Douglas Show*.

19. On this day in 1934, Bob and Dolores Hope married (and remained married for 69 years).

20. On this day in 1673, the first recorded wine auction was held (London). (A little bubbly, anyone?)

21. On this day in 1952, Liz Taylor's second marriage took place (Michael Wilding). (Unlike Bob and Dolores Hope, Liz managed six more marriages, for a total of eight.)

22. On this day in 1900, Hawaii became a U.S. territory (a great place for a honeymoon).



23. On this day in 1915, Nevada enforced a convenient divorce law (in case the romance doesn't last).

24. On this day in 1924, Johnny Weissmuller, swam the 100m record (57 2/5 seconds). (Tarzan, Jane, come on, what could be more romantic?)

25. On this day in 1982, the final episode of *The Lawrence Welk Show* aired. (My father never missed an episode when I was growing up.)

26. On this day in 1984, Pak Awang (84) married his 80th spouse. (I guess Liz Taylor had nothing on him.)



27. On this day in 1956, Elvis Presley's released "Heartbreak Hotel".

28. On this day in 1993, Tony Curtis wed Lisa Deutsch as his 4th wife.



29. On this day in 1940, *Gone with the Wind* won eight Oscars.

Happy Valentine's Day to all of our readers! Make it a romantic one!

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