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ThumbPrint News

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

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OCTOBER 2013



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FARM VISITS



By Gerald Nyquist
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

My maternal grandparents Adolph and Frances Reiter were born in Macomb County in 1891 and 1896, respectively, and married in 1912, eventually residing in Detroit. They said good-bye to the big city during the early 1940s and opted for a farming lifestyle in Sanilac County. While Grandma and Grandpa are no longer with us, the farmstead survives on Walker Road in Sanilac Township. It's a lovely setting with a beautiful rolling meadow across the road. Ancient maple trees adorn the yard. Their move came at just the right time for little me, born in 1940. Soon after



The Author, Right, and His Brother

they settled-in, my brother Dennis and I matured sufficiently to strike out by ourselves exploring the farm, usually after an initial stop at Grandma's cookie jars, while our parents visited with Grandma and Grandpa. Though we were Detroiters, farm visits were frequent because summer weekends were spent at our nearby cottage on Lake Huron.

The farmhouse was in shambles when the Reiters arrived,

See *FARM VISITS*, Page 16

FIVE Thanksgivings A YEAR

By Robert L. Christensen
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

When I was a boy back on the farm in the 1940s and 1950s, we had "Thanksgiving Dinner" five times a year. We had it at the usual time in November, and we also had it when the oats, and later the wheat harvests were threshed, when the beans were threshed and when we filled the silo. These latter dinner occasions

were when the men of the neighborhood worked collaboratively in getting the job done. When the thresher came to our farm neighbors came to help and, in turn, Dad would go to help them with their harvest.

A threshing rig would come to the neighborhood which was the big event. Farms were scheduled by the operator over a one to two week period (weather permitting). The first threshing machine I remember seemed as big as a locomotive. We could hear it coming nearly two miles away because we lived on a graveled road and the rig had steel wheels. It was drawn by a monster of a tractor called a "Greyhound" which traveled at approximately three miles per hour. The noise of the steel wheels on the stones of the gravel road and the rattling of the machine's sheet metal parts helped to whet the anticipation. On arrival the rig would be set up in place and the long belt that transmitted the power from the tractor to the thresher would be attached. On our farm the threshing rig would set up near the barn and the granary so the threshed grain could

See *FIVE THANKSGIVINGS*, Page 20

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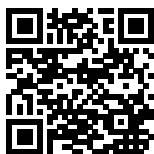
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

When a cherished pet that has become a part of your family passes, the popular saying, "Pets leave paw prints on your heart", takes on real meaning. Recently, the staff of *ThumbPrint News* lost one of their "family" members, Phoebe.

Phoebe had a hard start in life, being a junk yard cat. Adopted by a young family as a kitten, she eventually needed to find a new home when the family moved to a new location. That was when ABC Home and Commercial Services decided to adopt Phoebe as their office cat. Phoebe loved all of the staff and spent many happy hours laying on the desks of various employees



as they went about their daily work. As she became older and couldn't jump as well, she spent hours laying on the floor in any spot of sunshine she could find.

Eventually she was "promoted" to the offices of *ThumbPrint News*, where she resumed spending many happy hours relaxing at the desks of our talented graphic designers. If someone new came in and stood talking with the staff for

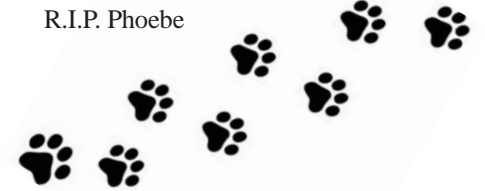
over a couple of minutes, almost inevitably Phoebe would end up coming over and laying down at their feet – often right on top of them.

As Phoebe grew older, we called her

"Snaggle Tooth", as she eventually had only one tooth left. Soft food became the easiest for her to eat and she looked forward to her daily piece of bologna that I would bring her from home. All one had to do to get Phoebe purring was to look at her or talk to her. Yes, when Phoebe passed away recently, she left paw prints on our hearts.

I am sure many of our readers have or have had pets that left paw prints on their hearts. We would love for you to share your story of a beloved pet. Perhaps you have a pet that could do something remarkable. Perhaps you have a touching story of a pet that was rescued. Maybe your pet did something heroic. Share your stories with us and we will choose some of the best to print in either our main monthly edition or our bonus online edition. Don't forget to include a photo of your pet as well. Email your stories and your photos to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Paw Prints" in the subject line.

R.I.P. Phoebe



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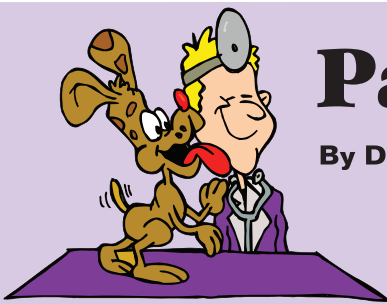
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Pancreatitis in Pets

By Dr. DiBenedetto *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

The job of the pancreas is to produce digestive enzymes that are critical for food digestion and to secrete hormones used in the metabolic process, such as insulin, which aids in the control of blood-sugar levels.

Pancreatitis is inflammation of the pancreas. When a pet's pancreas becomes inflamed, it allows digestive enzymes to escape, causing damage to the pancreas and other nearby organs, like the liver and kidneys. When these enzymes leak out they can cause significant damage and pain. Pancreatitis occurs in both dogs and cats. It often progresses more quickly in dogs, causing a more sudden or acute onset, while in cats it tends to be more of a long term or chronic problem.

There are many probable causes of the inflammation to the pancreas. Some of them are nutritional factors, such as high levels of fat or calcium

in the blood. Trauma to the pancreas, certain medications, or toxins can cause inflammation to the pancreas as well. Obesity linked to a high fat and low carbohydrate diet has also been shown to be a risk factor. Even without the presence of a high fat diet, an animal can have a bout of pancreatic inflammation after eating a meal of fatty foods. This tends to occur more around the holidays, when pets are given table scraps that are not normally a part of their diet.

There are a variety of symptoms that may be observed in animals. In dogs we tend to see vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia, moderate to severe abdominal pain, dehydration and depression. In cats weight loss due to lack of appetite tends to be the primary sign along with dehydration and lethargy.

To diagnose pancreatitis a complete history and thorough physical exam are very important. A CBC, urinalysis and a chemistry panel, including the new caninePLI or felinePLI, which detect inflammation within the pancreas, should be performed. These tests help to rule

out any concurrent diseases that may be causing or contributing to the pancreatitis.

The goal of treatment is to correct dehydration, control any vomiting, to provide pain relief and to provide nutritional support until the pancreas heals itself. The most important step to treatment is to rest the pancreas completely. This is accomplished by giving nothing by mouth, potentially for several days, and maintaining fluid and electrolyte balance with intravenous or subcutaneous fluid therapy. When food is resumed, a bland, low fat, easily digestible food should be fed until the symptoms have resolved.

In cases of chronic pancreatitis a low fat diet may need to be fed for life. Antibiotics are given to prevent secondary bacterial infections. Treatment of other concurrent diseases, such as diabetes mellitus or gastrointestinal disease, may be needed as well.

Pancreatitis can be very unpredictable.

If the pancreatitis is mild, chances of recovery are good and keeping your pet on a low-fat diet may be all that is necessary to prevent recurrences. In other instances, a mild case may progress, or may be treated successfully only to have more recurrences in the future. 🐾

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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MORE ON HORSES - RUNAWAYS



By Robert L. Christensen

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Dad farmed with horses for much of his life (nearly 50 years). He owned his first team when he was 16, which would have been about 1912. He sold his last team in 1957. For 45 years my father took care of, and worked with, a team of horses. The last team, Molly and Queen, were broken to the harness around 1940 or 1941, if I remember correctly. It seemed cruel at the time and even more so today the way you "broke" horses. Dad drove them at a run shouting and whipping them up and down the back lane while they were hauling a stone boat loaded with rocks. (A stone boat was simply a flat sled on which the stones that "grew" in the fields would be placed or rolled onto and then hauled to a fence row or swamp for disposal. Stones were the bane of farmers in our farming area.) The general idea was to totally tire the horses so that you could then persuade them to obey commands.

Queen was "buckskin" and always had an air that she really was born to be the mount for a medieval crusader and not

a Michigan plow horse. She had vitality and style and was smarter than Molly. She seemed to know that if she walked too fast when hitched to the walking cultivator the man would tire out quickly. Thus, she would be excused from that task in favor of slow old Molly where the man could more easily keep up the pace. Dad would usually use Molly for cultivating the young corn and bean plants, which went well as long as she stayed awake enough to keep putting her hooves between the rows of plants rather than on them. Molly was a gray with just a little dappling over her back. She was slow and calm, except when approached unaware from her blind side. She had lost one eye when a colt.

Over the years it became a pattern that Molly and Queen would do their runaway act once a year. You never knew when because, of course, if you had known when, they wouldn't be able to get away with it. It could happen for any excuse, or for no excuse at all that we could see. It would usually be an event involving kicking, bucking, galloping, wild eyes, and

foaming mouths. While we were never hurt during these runaways, they could be dangerous. For example, Loyd Mitchell, our neighbor, was digging potatoes one day and stopped to clear the digger head of vines and was on his knees in front of the digger when his team did a runaway. He was badly injured with compound fractures of both legs and never really recovered before his death by suicide a few years later.

I was personally involved in one of Molly and Queen's runaways. We were digging potatoes and hauling a load of crates to the cellar storage. The potatoes were dug with the tubers and vines on the surface, then picked into bushel wooden crates for transport on the wagon to storage. Upon arriving there the wagonload of crates of potatoes would be parked next to the cellar window. I was emptying the crates down a chute to the cellar while Dad was distributing the potatoes in the storage bin.

As usual, once the wagon was parked, Molly and Queen were still hitched to the wagon drowsing and switching at flies. I was tipping one of the potato crates when the neighbor's teenaged boy came roaring by in his souped up hotrod. Apparently the horses were unaware of his approach because the house masked both for vision and sound. At any rate, suddenly the car shot across in front of their eyes at 70 miles an hour with a billowing cloud of dusk, flying stones, and blating exhaust. Molly and Queen woke, threw up their heads, and were off to the races!

As the wagon jerked forward, I flew off the backend and landed on the grass unhurt. I yelled whoa at the top of my lungs and ran after them to the road. They were already well along on the first quarter mile (somehow they had decided to stay on the road and not out through a field). Crates of potatoes were flying off the wagonbed and there was a cacophony of steel wheels on a gravel road. About this time Dad came up from the cellar to find out what was going on.

When I told him what had happened,

he squinted up the road where a half mile ahead a cloud of dust was rising, spit a stream of tobacco juice on the ground and growled, "Let the sonsabitches go". An hour or so later, after a cup of coffee, I suggested that maybe we ought to go find them. Dad said "no" and that he was still mad enough to kill them. At supper time Melvin Cannon called to report that Molly and Queen had themselves wrapped around some trees on the "wild 80", a tract of trees and scrub about a mile from our farm. Dad thanked him and allowed we'd probably go get them before dark when he was damn good and ready. After the nightly chores were done we walked up the road to get Molly and Queen. I noticed that Dad did not take along the shotgun!

Dad may have had murder in his heart when we started off, but he actually laughed when we found the runaways. They were totally exhausted not only from the run but also from their struggles in the woods. When they ran into the woods they failed to take into account that they still had half a wagon hitched to them and they were very much hitched to each other by the harnesses. The wagon was somewhat the worse for the experience. The rear section had come loose from the front section and was partway back along the route. They still had the front section with the wagon tongue going down between their bodies and that was attached to the neck yokes. Behind that were the front axles, eveners and whiffletrees to which the harness tugs were fastened. As they ran into the woods they managed to get two or three saplings between them and they were twisted around more or less nose to tail. There they had been for four or five hours. It took a bit of doing to get them disentangled and unhitched. We left the wagon behind for that day and drove them home. They were given a great deal of encouragement to try to run and were royally cursed. They were the two most tired and dejected looking pieces of horseflesh that night you might ever see. I wonder if that night one whispered to the other, "Let's do it again next year". 🍂



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Legendary Lavender

By Rennae Hardy*ThumbPrint News* Guest WriterAncient accounts of using lavender dates
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this incredible herb for mummification
and perfume followed by the Greeks and
Romans introduction of lavender into bath
water. Greece is accredited for the spread
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Coco the Clown

By Diane Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

Cab rides are usually just one of those necessities of life that are to be endured when we fly from Detroit Metro Airport and arrive at the airport in Sarasota, Florida. It takes about 15 minutes to ride from the airport to our home in the southern part of the city. Usually, we pretty much ride in silence, except perhaps a few polite moments of small talk with the driver. However, during our last cab ride, we had one of the most pleasant surprises ever.

We were picked up by Graham Ahrhart of Yellow Cab of Sarasota. Small talk eventually turned into a full length conversation that ended way too soon when the cab pulled into our driveway. When it was time for us to call Yellow Cab again at the end of our three weeks' stay to head back to Michigan, we requested that Graham pick us up again so we could continue our conversation where we left off!

Sarasota is known as Circus City and Graham is a part of its history. Graham spent many years as a circus clown, under the name of Coco Jr. However, Graham inherited an additional impressive entertainment history. Graham's father was Michael Polakovs, who performed in the U.S. under the name of Coco the Clown. Michael was born in Riga, Latvia on February 23, 1923 to Nicolai and Valentina Poliakov. Nicolai, Graham's grandfather, was arguably the most famous clown in the United Kingdom during the middle decades of the 20th century. Nicolai created Coco the Clown.



Nicolai Poliakov as Coco the Clown

Nicolai Poliakov was born to a Jewish family in Dvinsk, Latvia (which was then

part of the Russian Empire) in 1900. At eight years of age he ran away and joined the circus. Traveling 300 miles by train to Vitebsk in Belorussia (today Belarus), he persuaded a circus owner to give him a job by telling him that he was an orphan. Nicolai was trained by Vitaly Lazarenko, a clown and acrobat who would become a major circus star in the Soviet Union after the Communist revolution. Later, Nicolai was apprenticed to Rudolfo Truzzi, son of Massimiliano Truzzi, the founder of the great Russian circus dynasty of Italian descent. From there, as they say, the rest is history. Nicolai eventually ended up in the United Kingdom where he achieved widespread fame as Coco the Clown.



Michael Polakovs as Coco the Clown

Michael Polakovs followed in his father's footsteps and became a well-known performer in the United States, touring with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, also as Coco the Clown. Michael is probably



Graham Ahrhart as Coco Jr.

best remembered for his role in developing the character of Ronald McDonald. In 1966 Michael was hired by McDonald's to revamp the well-known character. Michael designed the outfit and make-up that is still used today for Ronald McDonald and actually appeared as Ronald on the first eight television commercials featuring the new character. Michael was married twice and Graham, from his first marriage, is the only one of his six children to become a clown as well.

If you are ever in Sarasota, Florida and are in need of a cab, call Yellow Cab and be sure to request that Graham Ahrhart picks you up. It will be the best cab ride you have ever had! 🍀

Editor's note: If you are a Thumb Bird and you spend part of the year in Florida, why not join our Thumb Birds email list?

The purpose of this list will be to communicate with each other about things to do and see, events to attend, recommendations for restaurants, hotels, etc. and just to share interesting highlights of our Florida experiences. The only requirements to be on this list are that you live or have lived in the areas served by ThumbPrint News and that you now either

spend part or all of the year in Florida. Please send your first and last name, your mailing address and phone number in both Michigan and Florida and your email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Thumb Birds" in the subject line. Alternately, you can mail that information to me at Diane Kodet, ThumbPrint News, 8061 Marsh Rd., Algonac, Michigan, 48001. After the first of the year, I will be sending out invitations to attend our first ever Thumb Birds get together!



MARITIME TRIVIA

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S. Lindsey correctly answered September's contest. Be the first to answer October's question below and you could win a J. Clary collector print!



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September's Question: Where did the term "Son of Gun" originate?
Answer: If a child was born on the vessel who was of questionable parentage, it was listed in the ship's log as a *Son Of A Gun*.

Maritime Trivia Question #8

Commanded by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, how many U. S. Navy vessels fought and defeated the British in the Lake Erie Battle, September 10, 1813?

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HOUSE FOR LIFE

By Paul Welch

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

October is here and that means falling leaves, pumpkins, apple cider, and trick-or-treaters coming to get candy. Fall is well underway and before long, winter will be here. It is time for that end of the year yard work and getting ready for the cold weather. Here are some pointers to help during the winter and benefit you in the spring.

Now that you are done gardening and have canned the delicious produce to last the winter, it is time to take care of the garden. Many people pull the plants from the vegetable garden and dispose of them with the yard waste. Here is a better idea that will give you nice fertile soil for the next year. Pull the plants out of the ground, but leave them in the garden. Next year when you till your soil, most of the plants will have broken down and will mix with the soil, returning nutrients and helping your garden to thrive. Leaves from the trees can also help feed your garden.

You may have noticed that the trees are experiencing tree pattern baldness and have littered your yard with their colorful foliage. I know you might prefer to rake and bag the leaves so your yard looks clean, but there is something else you can do with them. You should use your lawnmower to chop up the leaves, especially if you have a mulching mower, and leave the bits of leaves in your lawn. They will break down and give your lawn nutrients that it needs so it will be nice and healthy in the spring. If there are too many leaves, throw the rest in your vegetable garden and till them into the soil in the spring. Those leaves in the yard are nature's fertilizer and they return nutrients to the soil as they decompose. Best of all, it's free! The downside is that those leaves can also be a nuisance.

When gutters get clogged with leaves, they don't carry water like they should. If you don't want to get up on a ladder, there is a tool that cleans gutters using pressure from your hose. They are very effective and they extend so you usually don't have to set foot on a ladder. This is a safer alternative to the ladder and scoop method done by



most people. Just make sure you aim them to spray towards the end of the gutter so you do not end up taking a really gross shower. Once you get the gutter clean, try using gutter guards to prevent them from getting clogged. There are many different varieties; all of them are very effective and a huge time saver. The better quality you buy, the longer they will last and the less work you will have to do. That means you'll have more time to enjoy things you want to do. Once you have taken care of this round of falling leaves, turn your attention to your windows and doors.

The cold will be here soon and many furnaces might have started running. Check out the caulking around the windows and doors. If new caulk is needed,



first remove all of the old caulk using a caulk removing tool or scraper. Make sure to apply a good quality caulk that has good adhesion and remains flexible. Also check the inside around the windows and doors. While you are at it, check any other possible heat loss areas, such as old or missing weather-stripping, threshold seals, and gaps around pipes that pass through perimeter walls. Put insulating inserts behind the wall plates of switches and outlets on perimeter walls. If you have a crawl space, don't forget to close the vents. These tips will seal your house for the winter season and save you money. That means you can stay warm while you enjoy some delicious cider and donuts.

If you have any questions about your home improvement or repair project, email me at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "House for Life" in the subject line. I will be sure to answer all e-mails.

Editor's note: Beginning with this edition, Paul Welch, will be writing a monthly column entitled "House for Life", which will focus on ideas for each month to maintain your home inside and out. Paul has 15 years of experience working in retail hardware and has been trained and has learned much about home improvement, maintenance and repair. He has run plumbing, tool, hardware, electrical and paint departments. He currently is employed by LumberJack and runs their paint department.



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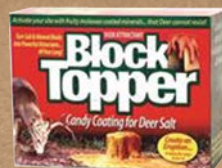
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Dads

By **Lori A.E. Schafer**

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

I often wonder where I will be (mentally) in my life in 20 years. Literally, mentally. I have a girlfriend right now who is losing her father mentally. How does one do that? Accept that? The man who brought you into the world, “created” if you will and raised you, loving you unconditionally. The man whom watched your first step, your first day of school, your graduation from high school and onto your first year of college He watched you marry well, and celebrate the birth of a beautiful grandson and/or granddaughter.

I’m speaking about someone who has answered your questions throughout the course of the main dishes of life, and a person who has been there to celebrate every dessert along the way. The strong, intelligent man you would hide in terror from when you did wrong and the soft, yet gentle man you ran to when your little heart was broken. The first love of a daughter’s life, her hero of all heroes, her Prince of all Princes, her knight in shining armor....her Daddy.

When I was a little girl, I would see my dad as the only man I would ever need. A man who was 6’ tall, maybe over, dark, almost black hair combed back, with an embracing smile and hug that would last for hours. I saw him as a man who loved me until the ends of the earth, as deep as the depths of the oceans ran, and when everyone else was either too busy or they just couldn’t love me like he could at the moment I needed. Along with a stature that scared the hell out of me in my later years when I became that lovely defiant teenager.

All kidding aside, I seriously cannot see this man, this all mighty king in my eyes, lose his ability to remember, speak thoroughly or even struggle to find the words he is trying to get out and stay emotionless as he becomes frustrated

trying to find the words.

My girlfriend is dealing with just that. We have been friends for over 15 years, so her family has become mine and vice versa. She has walked with me through friendships, supported me through job changes, RAN with me through a divorce, helped me move out of my marital home that I knew and helped me move into a place (for time being) I call “home”. So going through this with her is a no brainer. It’s family; it’s what you do. Well, it’s what “I” do.

Her father is an amazing man. He and his wife have raised four wonderful children, two of which are adopted. Right there that tells you what kind of man he is. It takes a special person to open his home to raise a child as his own, and that’s exactly what they are, HIS children. To give love was his life. He did prison ministry work and was very involved in his church. He and his wife have been married for 51 years, with children and grandchildren to love and be loved by. Finally now they are getting ready to live their lives for them. Travel, vacation, little week day trips here and little weekend trips there. Finally. Their time.

But then things started to become foggy.....

Small things at first, Aphasia for one. Trying to get words out that your mind knows and your mouth can speak but the connectors are lost. How frustrating that must be! How embarrassing that must be! Can you even imagine being out to dinner in a restaurant with friends for over 20 years, having good food, cocktails, laughing and reminiscing over stories past, only you are struggling for words, for memories you’ve had! I would be so angry! And how would you feel? Would you feel when people are looking at you, seeing you struggle not knowing if they should give you the time to get things out or try to give you the name of “that” place or “which” party you were referring to.? Would you be thankful for the prompt or be mad because you can get it out; you just needed another minute? And why has everyone in your life suddenly started thinking you need help? How dare they start treating you like a child! “Leave me alone, I can do it myself”

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were the words of my grandmother when I would try to help her put on a sweater or hold her hand to support her when we would walk in her assisted living hallways. The defiant teenagers were suddenly back, and not in a good way. Struggling for independence was now a survival skill instead of the next step to growing up.

I walked with her father the other night in the summer evening air while the family had a discussion of “future care for Dad”. It was hard to watch as they met with saddened hearts, but knowing it was the best and safest decision for his being. As we went out for a walk, while the family talked, he graciously held out his arm for me to take a hold of, still knowing the acts of a gentleman. We walked and talked for quite a bit. He showed me the changes in his neighborhood, some correct, some not, as I politely listened to his stories. I was carrying a book with me that I was currently reading titled *God Girl* by Hailey DiMarco (comes recommended highly by me) and of course being the kind man he is, he offered to carry it for me. It was so sweet. So caring. He spoke of his children and their jobs, his lovely wife and his time in the prison ministry. Then he asked about my family. I kept my answers short but full enough to satisfy his questions.

Then he asked me what I did. Normally that is a loaded question with me. I refer to myself as the “Jill of all trades”. But not

that day, not this time. He had brought me to a sense of peace that I only find in Yoga and a feeling of pure positivity I only gain from church. So I said it. Out loud. “I’m a writer”. Because to me, in my heart that’s what I am. He stopped, looked at me, leaning back a tad to focus on my face, and said.... “That makes me happy”. As it did me.

We stopped at a granite bench and took a seat; he opened my book to a random page and read it:

“Every good present and every perfect gift comes from above, from the Father who made the sun, moon and stars. The Father doesn’t change like the shifting shadows produced by the sun and the moon.” James 1:17

I could feel the tears well up in my eyes for only thinking of my own father, that still strong minded man who remains of sound mind. He patted his pockets and apologized that he forgot to bring his handkerchief, again, never losing the gentleman inside him.


I found the verse he had read ironic for two reasons. One it was from James and this gentle soul’s name is such. And the other for even though things change, the Father does not. So words may be lost and memories forgotten but WHO he is always remains the same.

And for that, I am thankful. 🍀

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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree Artifacts Etcetera

By Gabriel Jones

ThumbPrint News Columnist

There is a gracious senior lady by the name of Imogene. She is a collector.

“Collector of what?”, you may ask.

“A collector of Artifacts Etcetera”

“Artifacts what?”

“Artifacts Etcetera. They are objects of various sizes and shapes that people collect and store in various spaces around the house.”

“Does she have a lot of these so called ‘Artifacts Etcetera’?”

“So much so, that her husband finds it hard to walk around without knocking one or more of these artifacts over. When this happens, there is a loud discussion between them.”

“You don’t mean that she has a lot of ‘Artifacts Etcetera’. You actually mean that she has a lot of clutter around the house.”

“Shhhhh. Don’t say the word ‘clutter’ in her presence. Just say, Hmmm.”

You have a lot of nice artifacts here. Have you ever thought of selling or giving some away so that other people may enjoy them?”

And, before you tell her this, be sure that I’m not too close.

Question: Did our guest question Imogene regarding her great collection of Artifacts Etcetera? (Clutter)

Or:

Did our guest just look around smiling all the while commenting: “What beautiful things you have?”

All I can say is, Imogene and her guest are now the best of friends.

And:

Our guest is now also starting to be a collector of “Artifacts Etcetera”. (Much to the regret of her husband).

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍂



The St. Clair Historical Museum Receives Model of the Steamer *Kaliyuga*

By Charles Homberg

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

The St. Clair Historical Museum & Research Center was recently pleased to receive a model of the wooden steamer *Kaliyuga*. The ship’s model was made by John Foley of Marine City, who is a well-known model builder and the director of the Pride and Heritage Museum in Marine City. The *Kaliyuga* will be on permanent display in the Marine Room of the St. Clair Historical Museum at 308 S. Fourth Street in St. Clair, Michigan.

The *Kaliyuga* was built in St. Clair by master shipbuilder Simon Langell in his shipyard on the Pine River. It was a wooden bulk cargo ship with a length of 269 feet, a width of 40 feet, and weighed 1441 gross tons. It was the largest ship built in the Langell Shipyard. It was side launched into the Pine River in 1887, and an engine built by Hodge & Company of Detroit was installed. Originally, the *Kaliyuga* had two smokestacks, which were later reduced to one. Foley’s model shows the steamer as it was originally built with two. The initial owners were a group of St. Clair and Marine City investors headed by Eugene Smith, a St. Clair sawmill owner, farmer and former mayor. The ship’s name, *Kaliyuga*, comes from the Hindu words *Kali Yuga* meaning “Age of Iron.” Although historian Dorothy Mitts once wrote that in Sanskrit it can also mean “Age of Strife.” The second half of the 19th century was an era of rapidly growing industry with iron and steel manufacturing leading the way. Therefore, we might assume that the ship’s owners likely chose the name to mean “Age of Iron” for a ship that was built to carry iron ore to the new mills of Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Later, the *Kaliyuga* was owned by the Cleveland Cliffs Company and carried iron ore from Lake Superior to the lower lake ports. In 1900, the *Kaliyuga* was engaged in two accidents. The first was on August 4, when the *Kaliyuga* was towing the barge *Fontana*. The two ships were about to enter the St. Clair River from Lake Huron when the *Fontana* was struck by the *Santiago*, a barge being pulled upbound by the steamer *Appomattox*. The *Fontana* sank near the Ft. Gratiot Lighthouse with the loss of one member of its crew. The second incident occurred on November 4, 1900, when the

Kaliyuga ran aground in the Detroit River near Amherstburg, Ontario. Three days later, it was pulled off and then towed to Erie, Pennsylvania.

The *Kaliyuga* came to a tragic end in one of Lake Huron’s legendary fall storms. On October 18, 1905, it left Marquette, Michigan, with a load of iron ore bound for Erie, Pennsylvania. She was under the guidance of Captain Fred L. Tonkin of Painsville, Ohio,

and chief engineer Charles A. Sharpe of Cleveland. The next day, the ship locked through the canal at Sault Ste. Marie and steamed down the St. Mary’s River and into Lake Huron. A gale blowing from the northeast was underway by then, and the *Kaliyuga* is thought to have sailed eastward to seek shelter near the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario. She was last seen about sunset by the steamer *L. C. Waldo* between Middle Island and Thunder Bay Island. At 2:00 a.m. the wind changed direction from northeast to northwest. With winds clocked at 72 miles per hour, the *Kaliyuga* disappeared into the stormy seas along with perhaps 30 other vessels.

Where the *Kaliyuga* sank is a mystery. Her owners, the Cleveland Cliffs Company, searched for her without luck. On October 26, the ship’s pilothouse was sighted near Cove Island and the Bruce Peninsula by the steamer *Lillie Smith*. On October 29, the body of Charles Beaugrand was found ashore near Kincardine, Ontario. He had a notebook in his pocket in which he had written a last letter to his father saying “Good-bye. I have a bank book in the Cleveland Society of Savings.” Three more bodies were found on November 2 along the Canadian shore. The ship had a crew of 17, but a second mate named Charles Murphy had missed the ship when it left Erie, Pennsylvania, so was the only crew member to survive. The rest of the crew numbering 15 men and one woman died.

Foley’s model of the *Kaliyuga* and other displays about ships built in St. Clair can be seen at the St. Clair Historical Museum and Research Center on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. year round or on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the months of May through October. Special arrangements can also be made by calling the museum at (810) 329-6888. 🍂



John Foley with his model of the *Kaliyuga* at the St. Clair Historical Museum

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Geezer Gala **SOCK HOP**

By David Gillis
ThumbPrint News Columnist

Recently, while thumbing through the pages of a novelty catalogue, I came across an advertisement suggesting that a "Geezer Gala" would be a great theme for a fun party. I recall thinking that might be a cute idea for some of my more senior friends until I continued to explore the remainder of the ad.

The effort to market party items centered on a retrospective "sock hop" event. Now I was offended. I remember "sock hops" very well as a part of my youthful informative years and didn't feel that qualified me to be a "geezer" – or did it?

Sock hops were a 1950s phenomenon, a piece of Americana that grew out of the desire of students to dance and being restricted to a high school gymnasium to perform their gyrations. The term "sock hop" was derived from the requirement that hard-soled shoes be removed in order to protect the varnished floors of the gym. For the younger reader, tennis shoes and sneakers were for gym class and certainly not worn to a dance, to church or elsewhere.

These "hops" were a centerpiece of the early rock and roll culture. Normally, the music provided was from 45 rpm records played on a record-player with an amplifier. Rarely would music be offered by a live band and only occasionally would a disc-jockey be employed. They were fairly informal and unstructured.

I can recall some of my first sock hops in the mid-1950s. Although the dances were for high school students, eighth-graders were allowed to attend. I guess the idea was born from some male freshman's desire to appear more mature in the eyes of the female underclassmen. An unwritten rule seemed to prevail that we non-high school boys were there to watch and learn, and that I did.

As the student dancers entered the gymnasium they were reminded by one of the chaperones that shoes had to be removed. In compliance, footwear was tossed in a large pile in the corner. Without explaining anymore about this process, you can only imagine what it was like retrieving your shoes at the conclusion of the dance. And, needless to say, there were always those who left with only one or no shoes.

What's left of my memory allows me to think about standing against a wall and listening to "The Great Pretender" sung by The Platters and Roy Orbison's "Ooby Dooby." Sure, I wanted to dance or,

at least, hold someone of the opposite sex as we slid across the floor. But, as I have explained, there was kind-of an unwritten rule. I was there to learn by watching and listening, which I did somewhat respectfully. That rule, of course, did not apply to the girls who were learning by dancing with the freshmen boys and didn't even know I existed. Oh, well, I could wait until next year.

The year following my sock hop tutorial period began on a more encouraging note. Now, as a freshman, I could expect to romance the eighth-grade girls on the dance floor. I discovered quickly, however, that an entire year of watching others dance did not ordain me with rhythmic movement. And devoting time each day in front of the small screen television viewing the newly introduced "American Bandstand" wasn't of much help either. The exciting sounds of the Everly Brothers' "Bye, Bye Love" and "Diana" sung by Paul Anka provided some cover for the fact I had a couple of left feet. But I danced and I learned.

As time went by, shoeless dances disappeared due to the widespread popularity of sneakers worn for almost every event. The term "sock hop" was replaced with "record hop" and I'm not sure eight-graders can even attend high school dances anymore.

Now, for me, I still needed to determine whether I'm a "geezer" or not. One definition I found states that a geezer is a term that can either carry the connotation of age and eccentricity or that of self-education, including craftiness or stylishness. Given the choice, I have selected the latter explanation.

As I end my journey down memory lane, I can hear in the distance the Platter's singing "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" and "Twilight Time." I didn't really know what Buddy Holly was suggesting when he recorded "That'll be the Day" until possibly now. Maybe I'll just take my shoes off and accept the fact that I am a "geezer" enjoying life as I remember it to be and for what it is today. 🍷

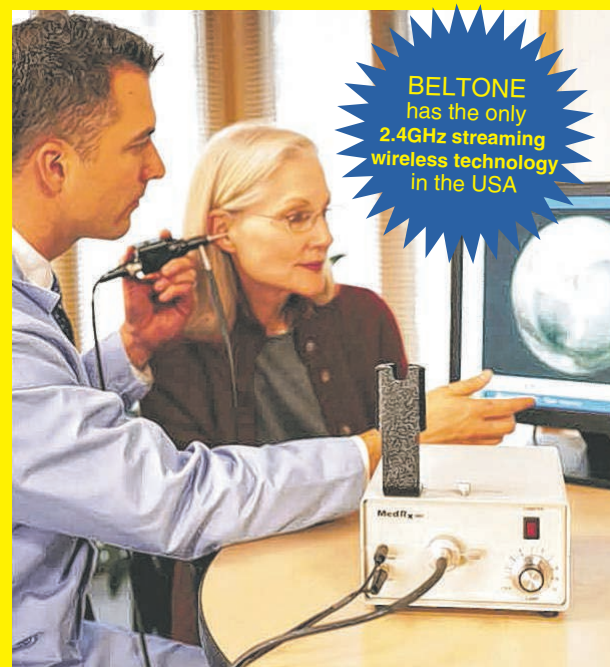


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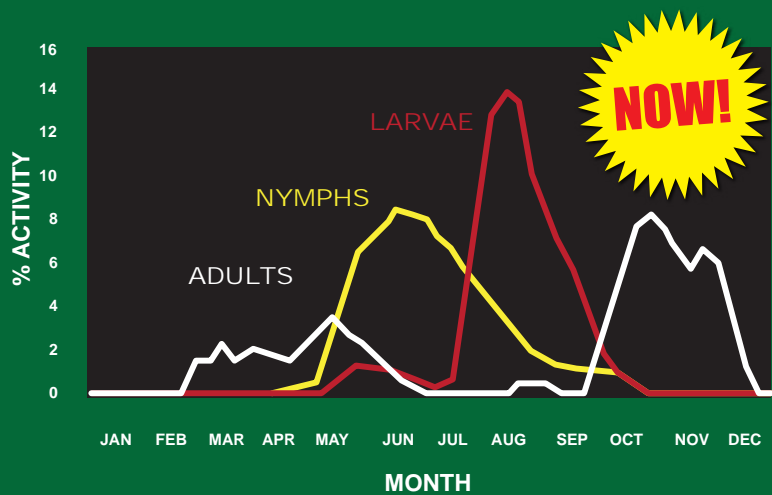
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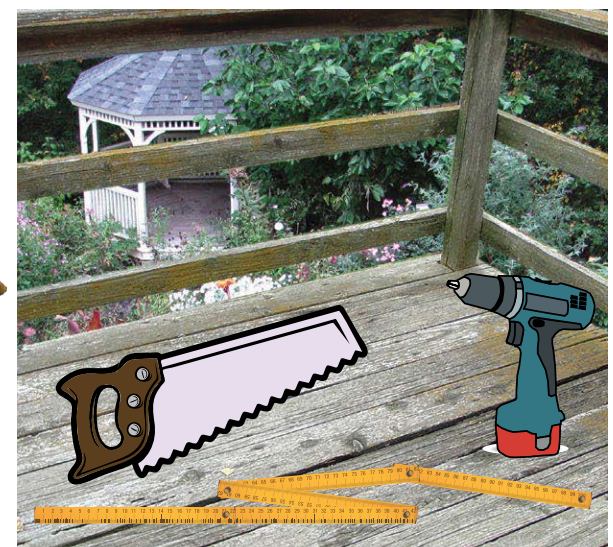


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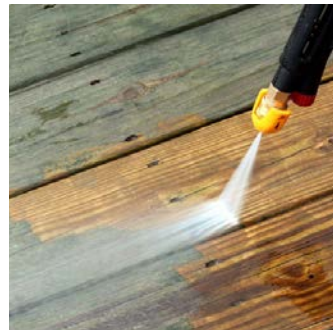
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FARM VISITS

Continued from Page 1

clapboards resembling weathered barn siding. My dad, who helped paint it, said the wood literally sucked paint from the brush. Initially, electrification had not yet reached the area. I recall a hand pump in the yard for water, kerosene lamps and stove, an ice box, chamber pots, an outhouse, and flickering orange light emanating from an isinglass-windowed, nickel-plated woodstove. An aroma of freshly baked bread often wafted from the kitchen. The first telephone had dry-cell batteries and a crank. One placed a call by "ringing up" the operator in town and asking her to make the connection. The farm was updated with modern conveniences as the years passed, but the memories I treasure most are those of the early days. Snow removal from farm roads was not what it is today. Grandpa remembered being snowed-in for six weeks one winter and walking to a neighboring farm to obtain mail. No problem; they were self-sufficient with fresh milk, chickens in the coop, potatoes and flour in the bins, and home-canned goods adorning basement shelves. Another formidable deterrent to interacting with the outside world was springtime mud. There were periods when it was impossible for a car to negotiate portions of Walker Road. Farm roads were often constructed

by digging ditches and spreading the dirt for a roadbed. Topsoil and such are poor roadbed materials. My father referred to Walker as "dollar-and-a-half-road," because it generally was either muddy or dusty, and a carwash back in those days cost about that amount. Farm visits over the bad road were not always optional, because we sometimes delivered eggs from the farm to relatives back home in Detroit.

We two boys, sometimes accompanied by our cousin Donald, were fascinated by all that the farm offered.

As well as acres of crops, with corn towering over our heads, there was the usual menagerie of animals, ancient barns, farm implements, and a farmhouse attic chocked full of keepsakes from an earlier era, even an ornate pump organ and very old accordion. All of this to entertain us; life couldn't get better!

Grandpa initially farmed with horses



but soon acquired his first tractor, a steel-wheeled, crank-start behemoth that noisily spewed products of combustion. Still, he used the horses occasionally in wet areas of the fields. We were allowed to ride the hay wagon between fields and barn, and occasionally rode "shotgun" on the tractor with Grandpa, a special treat. I never rode

a horse, but once was deposited on the back of a cow. It's a toss-up as to which of us was most frightened!

Initially there were three barns, but one eventually succumbed to the wind. Remaining

were a hay barn and a general-purpose barn with a shop and grain storage on the second floor. This second floor was a strong magnet for us boys due to its trove of tools and mechanical equipment. We sat on the "bicycle seat" and foot-pedaled the grinding wheel, fed dried ears of corn into the hand-cranked corn-shucker, and hand-cranked the fanning mill. We discovered a tobacco can of firecrackers on Grandpa's tool-strewn workbench and sometimes "borrowed" a few for future enjoyment. In the hay barn we constructed tunnels and forts with bailed hay and jumped down into the haymow from barn beams above (never giving thought to what we might land on, hidden in the hay). A hand-cranked cream separator in the dank farmhouse basement was fascinating. In my mind, I can still hear its high-pitched whine as we cranked it up to speed. Although undoubtedly deserving at times, we were never reprimanded nor spoken to harshly. Our grandparents loved us!

Dogs "Lucky" and "Coley" were the first I remember at the farm. The latter

was a mild-mannered companion, but the former struck terror into the hearts of the bravest visitor. He was said to have turned mean after an ear infection. Upon arriving at the farm, Lucky would race for our car, barking and growling through bared teeth. We'd sit tight until he was incarcerated in Grandpa's car or in the barn. An alternative course of action involved Lucky's love to hunt. If one produced a gun (even a BB-gun), he'd run for the woods, thinking that we'd follow. Not so. We ran for the house! Later there was "Spot" that loved to grab my pant leg and growl, his form of entertainment, I think. Spot went missing one day, never to be seen again, and Grandpa theorized that a neighboring farm's chickens were involved.

The farm was sold around 1960 when Grandma and Grandpa retired to a modest home in the nearby village of Port Sanilac. Grandma then had more time to pursue her hobby of sewing, and surprised each of her grandchildren with at least one beautiful, personalized quilt. We lost Grandma in 1969. Grandpa lived on in the house until 1973 when he had a fatal heart attack while cutting grass at the township library. Grandpa had never been hospitalized, and I doubt that he was ever treated by a physician. I often visited Grandpa Friday nights in Port Sanilac, arriving just in time for his favorite TV program, *Sanford and Son*. Following a half-hour of good therapeutic laughs, out came the coffee and donuts, consumed while Grandpa reminisced and I listened. The memories are priceless. 🍃



Dr. Nyquist is a retired biomechanical engineer and is a past president of the Sanilac County Historical Society.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Who knew?

Two of my worship committee members were unable to attend our meeting due to the death of their son and left an article for us to read. The chairperson showed us July's *ThumbPrint News* article by David Gillis about his memories of Trinity (United) Methodist Church. I began to laugh; hello again David! He and I were classmates back in high school and youth group.



My position on this worship committee is as an interim pastor assigned to Trinity for one year to help them discern the future of the church. Who knew, or could have expected way back in 1954, when I knelt at the altar rail for confirmation, I would be leading this congregation as their pastor?

Indeed, many of our teachers attended Trinity back then. Mrs. David was my 5th grade teacher. We held our classes in the basement of the Episcopal Church while they built the then new elementary school. The Episcopal Church is now closed.

Mr. Pipple was our biology teacher. Any desire for alcohol or beer for me was squelched when he taught us that "beer is urine of yeast". Yuck! Mrs. Pipple taught me to type. Oh how I hated that class, but typing skills are vital in so many areas of my life.

Often when I shake someone's hand, the words of Mr. King, our school District Superintendent, ring in my ears. It was at our high school graduation rehearsal and he said he didn't want to shake hands with "a dish rag or a bone crusher". It's lead to some interesting handshakes over the years as I learned how to gage the strength of my grip with different people.

Mr. Appleman taught us music. Music is a big part of any worship service and what we all learned certainly comes in handy. But he also taught us tolerance, compassion, self-worth and the ability to take orders. I'll never forget how proud I was to earn my \$25 for playing in the summer concert band on the band shell in the park or how we stopped to play music for one of our handicapped kids on our way to practice for half-time at the Lions Field.

Allene Stewart guided me through feeling like an outsider on the school newspaper. I learned my artistic talents could be useful. Mr. Cole, our chemistry and physics teacher, was always ready to support our curiosity. He also kept us honest. I fought hard to get a better grade on a chemistry test one day insisting he knew that I knew "couple" was two, but I had answered the question wrong and wrong is wrong. Think, use your head.

Mr. and Mrs. Owen were part of our youth group leadership. Mr. Owen was a retired banker. Every time someone suggests they are "too old" for youth leadership their names come to my mind. They weren't there to tell us what to do, or join us in things like a beach party, but they listened, cared and shared their own faith journey.

One of the reasons for my appointment to Trinity is to lead the congregation through what our Discipline calls "paragraph 213". This is "a process for assessment of local church potential". As we work through the process it seems like every church ought to examine itself under such scrutiny. Trinity's sanctuary and undercroft were built in 1922 and are showing their age. Maintaining and heating the sanctuary has become a burden that drains resources that could be used for ministry. Drive by the church and it looks deserted, forlorn. But a church is not a building, it's people. Trinity's heart still beats each week as the family of God meets in the chapel.

We stand on a great cloud of witnesses. The needs of people remain the same. Everyone has the need to love and be loved. What all generations need is fellowship and honesty. Our teachers/mentors lived the values they wanted us to have. There are those who would say real families in the 50s weren't the perfect image that *Father Knows Best*, *Leave It to Beaver*, and *The Nelsons* portrayed. We knew that. We also knew there was an ideal to live up to and forgiveness when we didn't meet the mark.

Trinity U.M.C. is not dead. We serve a risen Savior. The results of the self-examination process await a conclusion but one thing is certain, as the body of Christ, our ministry will go on for generations to come.

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COTTAGE LIVING

By Pamela Grey-Pugliese

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

It's hard to believe it's that time of year again. School is back in session, football season is in full swing, our hours of daylight are becoming less and less and early mornings are crisp and cool. The October fall colors in Michigan's Thumb area are breathtaking! The trees are showing off their brilliant display of colors and deer hunting season has begun. At my cottage, our family likes to wait until the last possible weekend to close up and prepare our little place for the winter hibernation. (Although, we sneak north every once in a while in the winter to check up on things and visit the year-round neighbors!) Unless you use your place for deer hunting, this is a good month to prepare your cottage or cabin for closing time.

- Stock up on RV anti-freeze for the vulnerable pipes, and Rid-X for your septic tanks and toilets. Pack up the food in the cupboards (plastic bins with lids work well for these items and store well too), but be mindful of the contents if you shut your heat off completely all winter. If leaving the fridge plugged in, leave minimal food inside.

- To avoid that musty cottage smell, I have heard dryer sheets work well, but I have found that using white vinegar in a bowl left on the counter works great to absorb odors without leaving the cottage smelling like distilled vinegar! Most home improvement stores sell the five and ten gallon zip lock bags to store your towels and bed sheets in. Using a dryer sheet in the bag can help keep them smelling fresh.

- Block or board up any small holes or crawl space openings in your attic or storage areas to avoid mice, raccoons or skunks from camping out in your place for the winter, although I have been outsmarted on several occasions by small rodents!

- Using weather stripping or plastic around your windows, especially after removing your window air conditioning units, may stop the winter

winds and blowing snow from coming in through the cracks. I like to do some painting and caulking touch ups before the final close up, so the place looks and smells decent when you open the door for the first time in the spring.

- A good fall cleanup and quick landscaping job will make your springtime cleanup that much easier as well. Prune back any hardy plants to give them a strong start once the winter melt comes. Remember to bring in your garden hose if you use one up north. The shower is a good place to store it in case you have some hose leakage.

- Don't forget about draining your hot water tank as good as you can to avoid freezing those pipes. Give your septic system a dose of liquid or powdered Rid-X before closing up, too.

- I like to use old bed sheets sprayed with fabric freshener to cover the furniture from dust or moisture.

- If you store your firewood outdoors, blue tarps and bricks are an inexpensive way to keep the pile somewhat out of the elements. One of the best things I love about the area I have my cottage in, are the friendly year-round neighbors that you can count on to keep an eye on your place for you during the winter months to give you a little peace of mind.

There are many things that add to the beauty of Michigan's Thumb area - the friendly folks, beautiful Lake Huron and the stunning color changes that you can take in as you drive up and back to your favorite little spot in the world! So grab your camera and enjoy the beauty of Michigan's changing seasons and the fun of all the harvest time events and activities! And just think, May is just seven months away! 🍂

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ThumbPrint News Travels to New Mexico!

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 eight 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! The newspaper has even traveled to all of the seven continents.

This month's photo shows *ThumbPrint News* traveling to New Mexico with Betty Ann Trumble of Marysville, Michigan. Here is what Betty had to say about her photo:

"This is a picture of me reading *ThumbPrint News* to my twin grandchildren, Jacklyn and Mark Westrick of Colorado. We are in front of the Capitol Building in Sante Fe, New Mexico."

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?



Sante Fe is the oldest seat of government in the U.S. It was founded as the capital of the province of New Mexico in 1609 by the Spanish governor, Pedro de Peralta. It also has the highest elevation at 6,996 feet, and it is the only round Capitol Building in the U.S."



Where Has Your
ThumbPrint
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Been?



ThumbPrint News has traveled to:
Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, 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.

Eugene F. Black Memorial Scholarship Award

Submitted by **Bryan M. Black**,
edited by **Diane L. Kodet**

The Eugene F. Black Memorial Scholarship Award is awarded annually to an outstanding Big Red Student-Athlete who has demonstrated academic achievement, personal integrity and dedication on the athletic playing field. The recipient for 2013 was Anthony Edwards.

Eugene F. Black graduated from Port Huron High School in 1921. Playing football for the "Big Reds" was his ultimate enjoyment. Black became a statutory law student in the office of former Circuit Judge Shirley Stewart. Following his term of study at the University of Michigan Law Department in 1925, he was admitted to practice law. In 1942, in the middle of World War II, Black enlisted in the United States Naval Reserves (PT boat patrol for Japanese submarines) as a lieutenant. He subsequently returned to practicing law in Port Huron.



Black was involved in many different educational organizations, serving as Chairman of the State of Michigan P.T.A. committee on public school education.

In 1945, Black was elected Attorney General. He was then elected to the Michigan Supreme Court as a Democrat in 1955. Black retired from the Court in 1973. Federal Judge Clifford O'Sullivan of Port Huron said it best at a testimonial to Justice Black in 1973, "Many have felt the sting of the hard blows Justice Black delivered, but none ever hit below the belt."

Eugene Black died on August 4, 1990 in his home on Strawberry lane in Port Huron Township.

Donations to this scholarship can be made out to the Port Huron Area School District with memo "Eugene F. Black Scholarship" and mailed to 2925 Lapeer Rd., Port Huron, Michigan, 48060 or to Bryan M. Black, 4515 11th St., Kimball, Michigan, 48074.

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FIVE THANKSGIVINGS

Continued from Page 1



immediately be put in the storage bins.

The harvests were labor intensive. Family labor would cut and shock the grain to dry at least two or three weeks before the threshing machine was expected to arrive. But when the threshing machine came, it took considerable manpower to get the bundles of wheat or oats hauled from the field to the location near the barn where the threshing machine would set up. Two to four horse-drawn wagons would shuttle from the field to the barn with the bundles of grain. At least two men would be loading the wagons in the field with a man on the wagon who placed the bundles on the wagon so they would not slide off in the transit to the threshing machine. He or a boy (sometimes the farm wife) might be the driver of the team. The bundles would be fed into the machine by two men and another two men would handle the bagging of the threshed grain. These men would then carry the bags of grain to the granary where they were emptied into the storage bins. Thus, including the operator of the threshing rig, there would be at least 10 workers involved. Straw for animal bedding was blown out a pipe at the rear of the machine into a pile for baling later or into the barn where it could be kept dry.

Silo filling took almost the same complement of operations, men and activities. However, the corn for silage would be harvested green and was cut in the field with sickles called corn knives. A man would walk along a row of corn

plants cutting the stalks near the ground and gathering them in his arms which, when full, would be loaded directly on the wagon that hauled the load to the silo filler. I do not remember there being any injuries even though the knives were quite sharp. There was a rhythm to the task that made it move along rapidly. I do remember the small scratches that I would get on my arms and neck from the corn leaves and how the sweat would make them sting.

The farm wives would likewise collaborate to put together the lavish and bountiful dinners for the crews on threshing day. These noontime dinners were not light lunches, but very like the traditional Thanksgiving feast. We generally knew within two or three days when we could expect the threshing machine or silo filler to arrive. My mother would actually be planning for a week ahead of time and her mood would rise to a high pitched emotional state for the last day or so. She would plan a menu in her head and decide what she needed in supplies. Before we had a refrigerator, it was particularly difficult for her because meat and other items that could spoil had to be purchased at the last moment, which was the day before the thresher arrived. These dinners were almost the only times when Dad would provide all the money Mom needed to buy the groceries. At these times he was also being stressed in preparing for the threshing operation, so times were tense at home on the day before because he would have to take time to drive Mom to town to do the shopping because she never learned to drive. It seems clear that both Mom and Dad took pride in the quality and quantity of the food served to the threshing crew and there was a bit of competitiveness among the wives. One or two neighbor wives would come to help Mom get the food cooked and on the table when the men took the noon break. If the threshing started in the morning, a noon dinner was expected. If it started in the afternoon and ran to six o'clock or so, a supper was expected. Threshing did not continue much later than six o'clock.

Early in my memories all the cooking was done on the old cast-iron wood-fired cook stove in the kitchen. The menu required a good deal of baking and roasting, so the kitchen and the rest of the house became somewhat overly warm for the late summer and early fall when these harvest events would take place. Baked items would include bread and rolls (the latter came directly from the oven to the table). The pies were usually baked the day before and included most of the following: apple, pumpkin, mince and berry. A cake might



also be available for the sweet tooth. The men would eat slices of the desserts until they were all gone.

Usually a large pork or beef roast was served to the threshers. Sometime roast chicken was also provided. The meats were always cooked well done. Roasted or mashed potatoes along with rich dark meat gravies were served. There were always baked beans. (All were served family style.) Never have I since experienced the flavor of the rich bronzed crusty exterior of those roasts which might be attributed to the old cast iron stove. Vegetables might include leaf lettuce for the "rabbits" in the crowd, sliced cucumbers or dills, squash, canned peas or carrots (this was before refrigeration and deep freezers, remember). Fresh greens were not typical. These men of Dane and German heritage were meat and potato eaters. In addition to pies and/or cakes there might also be canned peaches or cherries that Mom had canned up during the summer. With their heavy sugar syrups, these were also appealing to the sweet tooth.

After the main meal, which was consumed rapidly by the hungry crew,

would come all the coffee one could drink, as well as cool water from our deep well (no ice). There might also be milk or tea. If the meal was a supper there would likely be a beer, but no one lingered because all had evening chores to do for the livestock. It was tough to have to go home and face two hours of chores after a heavy meal and a day's hard labor.

Only now, as an adult, do I appreciate how much work these five Thanksgivings in the space of three month's time was for the farm women of the day. It is true that they usually would help each other out, but no more than two other women might be involved without really getting in each other's way and on each other's nerves. I'm sure they appreciated the respite when the threshers moved on to the next farms and took their men folk with them. It must have taken a day or two to just clean up and put things away. Somehow, I never remember that we had much of a problem with leftovers. The men tried their best to eat everything in sight. Dad was quick to criticize if Mom ran out of any food item. Perhaps to enforce that critique, he would pass on the news of whose wife had not had enough food on their table. The farmers may have set more pride on the fare at the dinner table than the wives!

While as a boy, I really enjoyed the five Thanksgivings a year, but I am quite sure that the farm wives did not. 🍷



Send Us Your Recipes



In our December 2013 edition we are planning to include a section devoted to our readers' favorite Christmas cookie recipes. Do you have a special recipe that has been handed down through your family, or perhaps have you discovered or created a Christmas cookie recipe that you think is the best? If so, please email it to thumbprintnews@comcast.net before **November 1**.

We will include as many recipes as we have room for in our December edition. Please list the ingredients first and then the directions. We will also need your first and last name and the city in which you live. If you wish to send in a photo of the cookies (and/or yourself) as well (optional), it should be a high quality photo in .jpg format.



Kid's Korner

By Louise Allen
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Here are two great crafts that kids from ages 9 and up can make, with adult help and supervision, to attract wild birds to the backyard this fall.



How to make:

Make a small hole in the base of the cup and thread the string through it, leaving a few inches on either side of the cup.

Melt the fat gently and mix with the birdseed (this should be done by an adult or with close adult supervision). Leave to cool slightly, then pack it into the cup, making

sure the string comes out of the middle of the cup. Leave to cool, even putting in a refrigerator if the weather is warm.

Tear the cup away from the hardened bird treat and tie the string around the cake to secure. Tie the cake from a limb of a tree in your backyard for the birds to enjoy. Be sure it is placed where you can watch the birds out of a window from inside your house.

Treat on a String

Things to gather:

- Disposable 8 oz. foam cup
- Bacon Fat
- Bird Seed
- String



Acorn Squash Bird Feeder

Things to gather:

- 1 Acorn Squash
- Knife and Spoon
- Cutting Board
- Electric Drill or Hammer and Nail
- 1 Yard of Heavy String
- Bird Seed or Suet

How to make:

With a sharp knife, the adult should slice the very top off of the squash, leaving enough of an opening for birds to get into.

With the spoon, scoop out the insides of the squash. These can be set aside to be cooked later, if desired.

With adult's help, drill or use a hammer to create a hole on each side of the rind near the top. For extra balance, four holes could be made, one on each side.

From the outside of the squash, place the string through the first hole and stretch across the squash to pull it through the hole on the



other side. From the outside, pull both strings until about an equal length exists on each side of the squash. Knot the two ends together. (The string across the middle of the squash will allow the birds a place to perch when using your squash feeder.)

Fill the cavity of the squash with bird seed or suet and hang from a low branch of a tree in your backyard where you will be able to enjoy watching what types of birds your squash feeder will attract.

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THUMB AREA

Activites & Events Calendar

October 2013

If you have an event in November that you would like listed in the November issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by October 12, 2013. 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 - October 5, 12, 19 and 26
Super Saturday Storytime, Flint Public Library, 1026 E. Kearsley St., 11:00 a.m. – noon. Each Saturday has a special theme. No registration required. For more information call (810) 232-7111.

Huron

Pigeon - October 5, 12, 19 and 26
Farmer's Market, downtown area, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. For more information call (989) 453-7400 or visit www.pigeonchamber.com.

Lapeer

Lapeer - October 26
Pumpkin Fest and Treat Walk, downtown area. Pumpkin fest from 10:00 a.m. – noon, Treat Walk from noon – 2:00 p.m. For more information visit www.downtownlapeer.com or call (810) 272-7202.

Macomb

Richmond - October 3
"Historic Richmond: The Farms", Richmond Community Center, 36164 Festival Drive, 7:00 p.m. Ursula Adamson will share stories and photos of farms that were featured in *The Richmond Review* in the early 1950s. Many of the farms have been in the same family for at least 100 years. This is a free presentation that is open to the public. For more information email mlogan5477@sbcglobal.net

Mount Clemens - October 6
7th Annual Cemetery Walk, Beth

Tephilaph Moses Cemetery. \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. This cemetery is not normally open to the public. There will also be a Shiva tea. \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members. Both the cemetery walk and the tea have limited spaces available— reserve early by calling (586) 465-2488.

New Baltimore - October 6
Monthly Flea Market, 35511 Main St., 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Tables available. Lunch available. Call Dorothy to reserve a space at (586) 329-4291.

New Baltimore - October 6 and 13
Farmers Market, Washington and Main, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Fresh local produce and foods, artisans and family fun. Michigan Bridge Card / SNAP / EBT accepted and also Double Up Food Bucks (DUFBS). For more information call (586) 557-4841.

Richmond - October 26
16th Annual "Share the Gift" Craft Show, 67055 Gratiot Ave., 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Donation at the door of \$.50 or a canned food item for needy families. Luncheon from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Cookie walk, homemade German potato salad and baked beans. For more information call (810) 392-2528.

Oakland

Oakland - October 5 - November 2
Goodison, Oakland Township Remembered - 1960 to 1980, Paint Creek Cider Mill, 4480 Orion Rd., 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Docents at the exhibit on Saturdays and Sundays. Exhibit donated

by Edward Noble, *The Oakland County Press* photojournalist who recorded day-to-day life as Oakland Township transformed from its rural roots to a residential community from the 1960s on. Free admission. Please visit www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org.

Rochester - October 6
Rochester-Avon Historical Society Walking Tour, starts at Western Knitting Mill/Rochester Mills Beer Company on Water St. (northeast corner of the building), 7:00 p.m. (lasts approximately 2 hours). \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors (age 55+) and students; children under 12 and RA Historical Society members are free. For more information visit www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org.

Rochester Hills - October 16
Veterinary Rehabilitation Therapy and Physical Medicine for Pets Free Presentation, 1894 Star Batt Drive, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Physical therapy for animals? Why not! Structured rehabilitation programs ease the pain of arthritis, improve recovery from surgery, help lessen neurologic problems and improve quality of life. Presented by Dr. Tari Kern. Contact (248) 564-0309 for more information.

St. Clair

Marine City - October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

Tutors for Kids, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 6:00 p.m. Problem with homework? Receive one-on-one free tutoring in the subject of your choice with local high school National Honor Society students. Grades K-8. Call (810) 765-5233 to register.

Port Huron - October 2
Isabella Hu in Concert, Salvation Army Citadel, 2000 Court St., 1:00 p.m. Hu is the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs High School Piano award winner. Presented by the Port Huron Musicale, this free concert is open to the public. A free will contribution is gratefully accepted. If you would like to join us for a catered luncheon at noon, call (810) 765-9500 or (810) 329-5866 for reservations. Luncheon cost is \$9. For more information call (810) 985-3614.

St. Clair - October 2

Flu Shots, St. Clair Library, 310 S. Second St., 11:00 a.m. Shots will be administered by the Visiting Nurses Association for a minimal fee. No pre-registration is required. For more information call (810) 329-3951.

Marine City - October 3, 10, 17 and 24

Farmers Market, Parker and High Streets, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Senior Market Fresh Coupons accepted. Buy local and eat fresh. For more information call (810) 765-4501 or email chamberoffice@marinecitychamber.net.

Port Huron - October 4

Homeschool Open House, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorrin Blvd., 10:00 a.m. – noon. Discover the wide variety of resources and services the library offers to support and enrich your homeschooling experience. Informative presentation, library tour and refreshments. Families welcome. Registration requested by calling (810) 987-7323 ext. 132 or 130.

Marysville - October 7 and 21

Sign Language for Seniors, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 6:00 p.m. Join us for 6 weeks of "Signing for Seniors", which will teach the basics of American Sign Language with a focus on fingerspelling the alphabet, basic conversation, colors, numbers and more. Ages 55+. Registration is requested by calling (810) 364-9493.

Memphis - October 8

Eating Fractions, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 3:00 p.m. Students in grades 1 – 5 who are able to work independently are invited to come to the library and familiarize themselves with the idea of food and fractions. Register by calling (810) 392-2980.

Yale - October 8

Medicine Cabinet Makeover, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 6:00 p.m. Information regarding building a natural solution medicine cabinet. Sampling of aromatics or essential oils may enhance participation in this program but are not expected or required. Registration required by calling (810) 387-2940.

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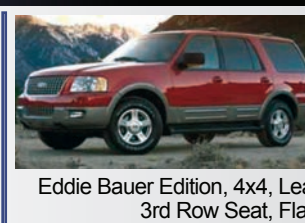
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Capac - October 10

Burlap "Bubble" Wreath Craft, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 6:00 p.m. Adults will make a wreath just in time to decorate your front door for the holidays. Registration recommended by calling (810) 395-7000.

St. Clair - October 11

Motor City Casino Trip, departure from St. Clair American Legion Post, 1300 Clinton Ave. Public is invited. \$35 cost includes round-trip bus transportation, a \$30 casino voucher, bus driver gratuity/tip, and a roast pork/ roast turkey dinner upon return to our Legion. If interested contact Todd at (810) 329-4574.

Algonac - October 12

Bully Busters, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. Martial arts instructor Tyler Brady will host this program for ages 6 and up. For more information call (810) 794-4471.

Kimball - October 16

Library Book Club, Kimball Township Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd., 1:00 p.m. Read a variety of titles and authors. Your suggestions are always welcome. Register by calling (810) 982-9171.

Lakeport - October 17

Lakeport Cemetery Tour, Burtchville Township Library (for beginning of tour), 7097 Second St. Refreshments served at library from 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., tour takes place from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Come learn the meaning behind some of the symbols and etchings on the gravestones. Register by calling (810) 385-8550.

Fair Haven - October 18

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

Marine City - October 18

Halloween Dance, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 5:00 p.m. Do the Monster Mash at our social dance with a Halloween theme. Prizes given for the best, goofiest and scariest costume. Entertainment provided by Pansy and Paula, the Boot Scootin' Divas. \$5 at the door. Light refreshments provided. For more information call (810) 765-3523.

Fair Haven - October 19

Duct Tape Day, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 2:00 p.m. Try your hand at a myriad of duct tape crafts. Ages 12 - 18. For more information call (586) 725-9081.

Lakeport - October 19

Used Book Sale, Burtchville Township Library, 7097 Second St., 10:00 a.m. Join the Friends of the Library for their

semi-annual used book sale with a large assortment of hard cover and paperback books to choose from. For more information call (810) 385-8550.

Port Huron - October 19 & 20

"Cinderella, A Fairy Tale Told in Dance", McMorran Place Theater, 701 McMorran Blvd., 2:00 p.m. Tickets available by calling (810) 985-6166 or through Ticketmaster.

Marine City - October 22

Downriver Helping Hands 10th Annual Chicken Dinner Fundraiser, Riviera Restaurant, 475 Water St., 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. \$8 per person (tip and beverage not included). Help us prepare for the holiday season, while having a good dinner and lots of fun. Raffles, silent auction grab bags, and homemade desserts. Call (810) 765-4494 or (810) 765-3848 for more information.

Port Huron - October 23

St. Clair Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 1115 6th St., 7:30 p.m. Chris Troy from RESA and the St. Clair Museum will present a program on The Harrington Inn in Port Huron. For more information, visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscfng/ or call (810) 989-0399.

Marine City - October 24

Freighter Frank Fritz Presents "The Ghost Army", Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 6:00 p.m. Join us for a spaghetti dinner and a WWII tale of phantasmal proportions of how a "disappearing" army assisted in battles. \$5 per person. For more information call (810) 765-3523.

Sanilac

Sandusky - October 12 and 26

Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. Bring finger foods (for 9:00 p.m.) and friends. \$5 for members, \$6 for guests. October 12 entertainment by The Natural Tones (Sweetest Day Dance) and October 26 by Dick Hedrich (Halloween and pumpkin pies). For more information call (810) 657-9349 or (810) 404-4250.

Lexington - October 18 and 19

Falling Leaves Quilt Show, Trinity Episcopal Church, 5646 Main St., 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Friday and 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Donation \$5. Chinese auction and white elephant. For more information call (810) 359-5456 or (810) 404-3414.

Tuscola

Caro - October 4 and 5
Thumb Area Old Engine and Tractor Association Swap Meet and Flea Market, 188 Park Dr., Tuscola County Fairgrounds. For more information call (989) 673-3430 or email will123@centurytel.net

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General

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WANT TO PLACE A FREE CLASSIFIED LISTING?

Individuals, do you have an item you would like to **SELL?** (No businesses, please!) Place a **FREE** listing for **ONE** item in our October Bonus Edition. By October 10, **email a short description of item (10 words or less), price asked and your phone number to thumbprintnews@comcast.net.** No free ads accepted by phone. Email must include your name (which will not be printed in the paper). Ads will run **FREE** online only for one month.

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 gift basket valued at over \$100 at the end of this year! On December 31, 2013, one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified.

In September's edition, we asked our readers to identify what the object below was.



No one correctly identified the object as a potato/vegetable peeler.

According to an ad from the *New York Tribune* in the early 1900s, this peeler was described as such:

This simple little device is merely an

oval shaped piece of fluted tin, pointed at one end, which fits into the palm of the hand, the middle finger being inserted through the metal loop on the back. Into the tin case is fitted a piece of abrasent, which is a composition material of the nature of carborundum. It is very durable and guaranteed for 5 years by the maker.



For our October contest we are asking the question, "What is it?" Identify what the object is that is pictured above 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 gift basket valued at over \$100. Good luck!

What Happened on This Day in **OCTOBER** in History?

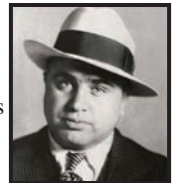
By Diane L. Kodet*ThumbPrint News Editor*

- On this day in 1890, Congress created the Weather Bureau.
- On this day in 1949, the USSR recognized the People's Republic of China.
- On this day in 1913, Federal Income Tax was signed into law (at 1%).
- On this day in 1922, for the first time, the entire World Series was broadcast over radio (WJZ and WGY).
- On this day in 1892, the Dalton Gang ended in a shoot-out in a Coffeville, Kansas bank holdup.
- On this day in 1944, Canadians freed Austria.
- On this day in 1935, the Detroit Tigers beat the Chicago Cubs, four games to two in the 32nd World Series.
- On this day in 1871, the Great Fire killed 200, destroyed over four miles of Chicago buildings, and the original Emancipation Proclamation.
- On this day in 1865, the first U.S. underground pipeline for carrying oil was laid in Pennsylvania.
- On this day in 1865, John Hyatts patented the billard ball.
- On this day in 1969, Blues artist Muddy Waters was involved in a car crash that killed three persons.
- On this day in 1792, Columbus Day was first celebrated.
- On this day in 1936, an explosion caused by leaking gas ripped out section 12 of Cleveland Stadium.



Columbus Day

- On this day in 1885, baseball set all players' salaries at \$1,000 - \$2,000 for the 1885 season.
- On this day in 1944, Soviet troops invaded Czechoslovakia during WW II.
- On this day in 1914, a U.S. post office first used an automobile to collect and deliver mail.
- On this day in 1934, an All-Star Team led by Babe Ruth and Connie Mack set sail to Hawaii and Japan.
- On this day in 1869, the first shipment of fresh oysters came overland from Baltimore, Maryland.
- On this day in 1885, John Ward and several teammates secretly formed the Brotherhood of Professional Base Ball Players, the first baseball union.
- On this day in 1923, Babe Ruth made a postseason exhibition appearance in a Giants' uniform.
- On this day in 1931, Gangster Al Capone was sentenced to 11 years for tax evasion.
- On this day in 1924, the "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip was first published.
- On this day in 1881, the famous gunfight at OK Corral, in Tombstone, Arizona took place.
- On this day in 1925, water skis were patented by Fred Waller.
- On this day in 1948, the flag of Israel was adopted.
- On this day in 1966, the National Organization of Women was founded.
- On this day in 1952, Clarence Birdseye sold his first frozen peas.
- On this day in 1918, the Spanish flu-virus killed 21,000 people in the U.S. in one week.



Don't Miss an Issue!

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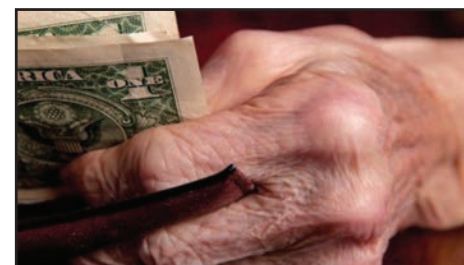
How to Combat Scams Targeting Senior Citizens

According to the Administration of Aging, by the year 2030, the population of people 65 years and older is expected to grow 19 percent - but unfortunately, as this demographic continues to grow, so do the scams against them.

Senior citizens are targeted because they are perceived to be more trusting and easier to persuade. Also, they are likely to have excellent credit and own their homes and they are unlikely to report a fraud because they are often unaware they've been scammed or are ashamed they've been defrauded.

The Better Business Bureau is hoping to educate senior citizens so they will be aware of scams and fraud schemes and can learn how to protect themselves. Below are some common scams that specifically target senior citizens:

1. Health Care/Insurance Fraud: Scammers may pose as a Medicare representative to get seniors to give them their personal or financial information.
2. Door to Door Sales/Repairs: Scammers will often go door-to-door offering repair services or equipment sales. Products purchased may never be delivered, repairs may never be done or refunds won't be received.
3. Funeral/Cemetery Fraud: Scammers will attend the funeral service of a stranger to take advantage of the widower or other family member, claiming the deceased had an outstanding debt with them.
4. Counterfeit Prescription Drugs: Consumers can now refill prescriptions online, but an unauthorized site with the best price may send ineffective or harmful drugs.
5. Telemarketing Fraud: Telemarketing scams often involve calls and email offers of free prizes, low-cost vitamins or health care products.
6. Internet Fraud: Pop-up browser windows simulating virus-scanning software will fool victims into downloading a fake program. In some cases a virus will be downloaded allowing scammers to steal personal and financial information.
7. Grandparent Scheme: Scammers will place a call to a senior posing as their grandchild or a relative in need of help or trapped in a foreign country. They will



usually ask for cash to solve the problem and ask for payment through a money wiring service.

8. Investment Schemes: From pyramid schemes to real estate investments, a number of schemes

have targeted seniors looking to safeguard their cash for their later years.

9. Reverse Mortgage Scams: Scammers like to take advantage of the fact that many seniors own their homes and will send fraudulent letters on behalf of the county's assessor's office offering the homeowner to arrange a reassessment of their property for a fee.

10. Fraudulent "Anti-Aging" Products: Scammer-distributors will suggest bogus homeopathic remedies that do nothing or will use renegade labs to create versions of products which can have health consequences.

To address this problem, the Better Business Bureau has created a program called the Senior Scene designed to keep seniors informed of scams and deceptive business practices in the marketplace and to empower them to act as community advocates against fraud.

The Senior Scene Program includes:

- Senior scam prevention seminars for groups, organizations, senior centers and senior living facilities at no cost.
- The Senior Brigade for seniors interested in becoming the eyes and ears of their communities and to help the BBB fight scams and fraud targeting the elderly and other consumers.
- The "Senior Siren" newsletter for seniors and caretakers interested in staying on top of the latest scams and bad business practices and give them tips on how to avoid them through a monthly newsletter and timely alerts.

Any group, organization or business interested in any aspect of the Senior Scene can contact the BBB at events@emibbb.org or 248-799-0305.

Editor's Note: Melanie Duquesnel is the president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan & the Upper Peninsula, 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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GEL MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS SALE

Ben's 65TH

Ben's 65th Anniversary Sale starts today. Save up to 65% on America's best selling gel memory foam mattresses. Built and designed in the USA, this American made mattress has a 10 year warranty and last four times longer than other brands. Ben's offers free in home service on all Sealy and Stearns and Foster mattresses.

ANNIVERSARY SALE ^{UP TO} 65% OFF



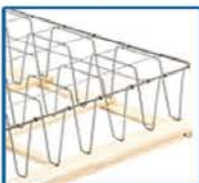
COMFORT

Gel memory foam has the ability to conform to your unique body shape and weight while providing a gentle cooling sensation. This comforting, body-hugging quality creates the sense that your sleeping "in" your mattress and not just "on" it while at the same time helping to keep your body temperature within the optimum range for deep, relaxing, restorative sleep.



SUPPORT

This layer below the gel memory foam is memory foam that delivers conforming support as it enfolds and embraces your body. Beneath the memory foam is a Polycore support system that resists compression and provides proper body alignment.



VALUE

With every Sealy mattress you get a lot for your money. A history of craftsmanship. Modern design. Quality materials. Comfortable mattresses at a fair price. That's the value of Sealy. Ben's guarantees the lowest price.



SEALY QUEEN GEL MEMORY FOAM

\$379 EA.

*Sold in Sets

Twin Mattress \$99

SALE



Sealy Posturepedic Queen Set

\$599

TWIN- \$499 FULL- \$549 KING- \$899



Sealy Gel Memory Queen

25 YEAR WARRANTY

\$1299

TWIN- \$999 FULL- \$1049 KING- \$1799



Stearns & Foster Plush Queen

\$1399

TWIN- \$1199 FULL- \$1349 KING- \$1899

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