

THE TIMES OF

Mineral Point

ILLUSTRATED.

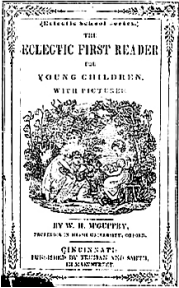
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Winter 2007-2008

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DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE UNIQUE HISTORY & CULTURAL ARTS OF MINERAL POINT, WISCONSIN

The Boyer School:



Oldest
in Wisconsin?

Early Church
& Courtroom?

A recently-restored log cabin at the Shake Rag Alley School for the Arts may be “all of the above.”

“We’re 95% sure of those historic roles for the 1828 building known as the Blacksmith’s Cabin,” says Alan Pape, Historic Restoration Planner, who has served the Wisconsin Historical Society, Old World Wisconsin, and in the 1970’s worked with retired florist Al Felly to reshape Shake Rag Alley as a tourist destination.

Pape returned this summer to teach two workshops on log cabin restoration methods. While working with volunteers to shore up, re-roof, and re-chink the cabin, Pape was puzzled by an odd configuration of the doors and windows of the structure. Pape’s experience with four pioneer schools led him to an “educated guess” that the cabin had been a public building and had been converted to a residence.

He shared his theory with his students and enthusiasms boiled over. Jeffrey Schave, a history teacher in the Platteville school district, enrolled in the restoration class, dug into records in the UW-Platteville’s Wisconsin Room, the Mineral Point Archives, and Iowa County census rolls and property maps. Schave also spent hours on the Internet. Pape, at the same time, was exploring authoritative sources to solidify his hypothesis. A major discovery came when an old plat of the Shake Rag valley showed a “school lot.” And the more the history detectives dug, the more they found to support their conjecture.

The payoff for the research is two papers, one by Schave and another by Pape, that make this contention:

... that the log structure on a Shake Rag hillside has survived 179 winters, a move to a new foundation, tacked-on room additions, and a slathering of stucco and clapboard siding, as well as the city’s boom and bust economy, and that it is indeed the Boyer School, cited as a “Temple of Learning,” and in all likelihood the earliest school in the state.

Pape says the last piece in the puzzle will be to determine who bought the building in 1835. With that knowledge in hand, a state-wide survey would establish the validity of this year’s findings, allowing Shake Rag Alley to lay claim to “a Wisconsin’s First.”

Story continues on Page 6



A Day in November

From our Signs of the Times Dept.: We note that the Christmas season, now generally viewed as an economic indicator, no longer begins on the last Friday in November. It begins before the leaves turn. And, if we do things right, the pumpkins and black cats are replaced — overnight — by the holly and Santas. And, with an eye on the relentless calendar and the daily countdowns, we plan, go, buy, wrap, and, at the last, hang the twinkling lights.

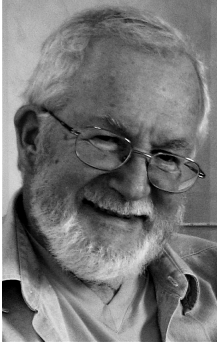
But then there’s that little interruption in the year end hubub, that quaint and quiet day called Thanksgiving.

It is the most modest of our holidays. And yet, in its way, the most powerful of our holidays, as measured by the trouble so many experience as they struggle to get home in time to honor it.

It’s a Hallmark Holiday, to be sure, but without the overblown pageantry, or the need to be out and about, and without the gift exchange and the subsequent credit card shock. This day is not about money. It’s about friendship and love. The feast is too big, perhaps, and the football game too long, but those may be the day’s only problems. We are warmed by a gathering of those we care about. Noon needs to instruct us on how to count our blessings, or remind us that it’s important to do so. And gratitude is our only task for the allotted 24 hours. The celebration has no artificial boundaries imposed by custom or consumerism. We can make Thanksgiving whatever we want it to be. And what we want, what we need, what we hunger for, is a day away from it all, an interlude, a respite from the demands of a world that is too much with us.

It’s just a single Thursday in November. But it’s certainly a day to be thankful for.

Newspaper
Enjoys
“A Life
of Its Own”



Frank Beaman,
Editor

Vol. 1, No. 2. In newspaper language, that means “another chance.”

Reaction to our first issue, back in June, was positive and encouraging. We heard the words we wanted to hear: “It’s just what we need,” and “I read it cover to cover.” Also, “we want more.”

We’re grateful. And we are especially grateful to the Mineral Point Historical Society, which inspired and paid expenses for the first edition of The Times.

Fact is, those costs were relatively modest because there was no paid compensation for the two men involved in the writing, editing and layout work. I worked with the words, a pleasant job for a retired journalist. And graphic artist and designer Richmond Powers gave the paper its rich “vintage visuals.”

As it turned out, the hours spent in gathering the stories and designing the pages proved to be joyful recreation for both of us. Being active players in the magic of creation was reward enough.

So continuing the newspaper—and expanding to three publications a year to mark the Seasons—is the next stop for the Beaman-Powers team.

We are incorporating as the Mineral Point Press, to publish The Times and to take on other projects that blend history, art and the endless possibilities of thoughtful words on a printed page.

When I told the Board of the Mineral Point Historical Society of our desire to “take the newspaper independent,” the character of that goodhearted organization emerged in the words of its Treasurer, Nancy Pfothner. “This is exactly what the historical society should do,” she said, “to provide a start for a worthwhile endeavor that can then take on a life of its own.”

We’ll do our best with the economic challenges of “life on our own,” struggling to pay the necessary costs of paper, ink, and printing, but striving to keep The Times a publication that remains “Free to Loyal Readers.” We’ll explore all options to cover costs: advertising, fundraising, or subscriptions. But uppermost in our minds will be our continuing promise: to write intelligently about the area’s cultural life and its rich history, and to chronicle upcoming events as a heritage tourism guide for our visitors.

We welcome suggestions. And we sincerely invite our readers to tell us what you think of our stories, printed here, and the stories you’d like to see in future editions.

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of historic understanding

Offices:
213 Clowney Street
Mineral Point, Wisconsin 53565

Editor
Frank Beaman

Design & Production
Richmond Powers

Contributors
Santee Beaman
Coleman
Rink DaVee
Tamara Funk
Joy Gieseke
Dan Mack
Alan Pape
Carole Spelic'
Bill Spevacek

Acknowledgements
Matt Ostergrant
Mike Kroll
Phil Mrozinski
Graham Lee
Barb Polosi
Catherine Whitford
Jim Kackley
Sandy Scott
Judy Sutcliffe
Wisconsin Historical Society
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unless otherwise noted

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This edition of
Times of Mineral Point
is published in memory of



E. Frank Beaman
b. June 22, 1905
on a homesteader farm in Iowa
d. Nov. 8, 2007
a remarkable century in history.

As he always summed it up,
"From the Outhouse
to Outer Space."



Comments, Queries, Contributions?
Wet the nib and write
Frank Beaman, Editor
The Times of Mineral Point,
P.O. Box 169
Mineral Point, Wisconsin 53565



December 1st—Gallery Night and the Annual Christmas Walk



By Carole Spelic'
Green Lantern Gallery



History of a Uniquely Mineral Point Event

It's happening again - almost incredibly, for the 25th time! It's Mineral Point Gallery Night, an event fashioned 7 years ago, with its roots still showing. Late in 2000, local artists and gallerists Sue John, Richard Moninski and Philip Mrozinski were commiserating—or should we say, conniving? The big annual art event, Fall Art Tour, had come and gone, and hugecrowdshaddemonstratedthattherewere plenty of folks out there who were interested in visiting an arts-centric community like Mineral Point. As they talked, Phil recalled the regular gallery openings he'd become used to in Chicago, and Richard spoke of a recent New York City experience: the wine, the cheese, the camaraderie, the new art. Could there be a similar regular event in Mineral Point—something to highlight the ongoing achievements of the established artists and changing exhibitions of the galleries? As with so many MineralPointideas—poof!—aneventwasborn.

The structure for Gallery Night was simple. Richard, Phil and Sue approached the existing galleries and determined that there was interest in participating in the event. A quarterly schedule was set up for April, June, August and December. A totally cooperative situation evolved—eachgallerypaysafee, which is then applied toward promotion, in the form of a postcard (6000 at last count), a press release (going out to 45-plus print media), posters, and radio spots on NPR affiliates in Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota. All organization and promotional work is done by volunteers from the gallery community.

Each gallery night, several galleries are featured. They offer their own new work or new exhibitions so that repeat visitors can count on always seeing something fresh and exciting. Sue feels that this requirement also serves as important inspiration for each participating artist.

The first gallery night was in December, 2000. The group chose the date in order to coincide with the Chamber of Commerce Candlelight Shopping event. Sue recalls that the weather was perfect, and, in spite of our modest expectations, the evening was ultimately considered a huge success—the streets were full of happy folks walking from place to place, and the artists and other businesses were delighted!

Richard notes that "a pleasant surprise has been the enthusiastic support of local patrons. The bulk of our out-of-town visitors are from Madison, but there are regulars from Chicago and Minneapolis as well. Attendance has been growing, and we still have much potential for reaching a larger audience." This year, Gallery Night received a grant from the Mineral Point Tourism Commission, which is being applied to broaden the poster distribution and radio spots further into neighboring states.

Phil stresses that Gallery Night is "a totally independent event—it's run by the artists for the benefit of the whole city. Our goal is to get people to visit Mineral Point."



Simple pleasures are the last refuge.
— Oscar Wilde

The December First Gallery Night is Special

It's Candlelight Shopping,
with many stores and
16 galleries open from 5 to 9

FEATURED GALLERIES
Sirius Sunlight
at 218 High Street, Tel. 987-2716
La Bella Vita
at 154 High Street, Tel. 987-2105

Once again, Jill Engels and Chuck Pound, owners of Sirius Sunlight Glass Studio, will turn down the electric lights in their store and will take the "Candlelight Shopping" theme quite literally with dozens of colorful glass candles burning brightly, bringing that special warmth and glow of the season to their gallery. Add to that trays of home-made cookies and treats provided by Jill's mother, Betty Engels, and you will have a truly unique shopping experience in this day of bright lights and crowded malls.

In addition to their gallery of fused, slumped, sculpted and stained glass creations, expect to find lots of fresh, new work for decorating your home or for giving. Jill's work will include colorful little accent lamps and stained glass angels. Chuck will show fused glass plates and handmade marbles, and his bright little glass icicles—a Mineral Point Christmas tradition for over 20 years—with new styles added in 2007.

Besides the glass art created by Jill and Chuck, this little shop carries the work of other Engels family members, all born and raised in Mineral Point.



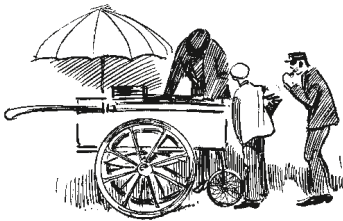
The Art of Fibre is the name of the
Gallery Night feature at La Bella Vita.



From Proprietor Molly Walz:
"Our area affords us a wide array of fibre and fibre artists. Join us for a celebration of fibre artistry. Several local artisans will be demonstrating their craft for an evening that is sure to inspire."

Chestnuts Roasting...

At the corner of High Street and—what else?—Chestnut Street. Stop, watch the roast and enjoy the crisp brown treats. It's a festive and timely addition to Gallery Night on December First.





Walker is Back in Town!

Walker HOUSE, that is.

FABLED INN TO RE-OPEN DEC. 31



The traditional refrain for New Year's Eve is, "Ring out the Old and Ring in the New," but Joe and Sue Dickinson (shown above) plan to turn that couplet around. The new owners of the landmark Walker House Inn plantoopentheirdoorstothecommunityon Dec. 31, and insist they'll "Ring in the Old."

The Dickinsons have devoted the past two years to a multitude of chores designed to "ring out the new;" that is, to remove the architecturalanddecorativeelementsadded to the historic building in the 1980's.

The result? The Walker House looks the way it did in its early days as the Mineral Point Hotel at 1 Water Street.



Repair and restoration work includes extensive stonemasonry and tuck pointing, a new roof, reworked drainage systems and rebuilt windows. Lots of windows. All that, and updates in the building's huge kitchen, which will serve a large restaurant, a banquet room, and a captivating wood n' stone Pub, a room that patrons of the Inn remember as one of the most striking in Wisconsin.

The Dickinsons strove to make their construction work historically authentic, working from old photographs and written records. With the city's Historical Preservation Commission looking on, carpenters, masonsandengineersexecutedmechanical improvements,tohidemoderntechnologies inside the 19th Century building.

The heating and cooling systems, for instance, have been damped down, so patrons in the rooms and restaurant will hear no rush of circulating air.

The Walker House front door is traditional, but the floor of the restaurant foyer is warmed by radiant heating pipes buried under your feet.



"The work will never end," Sue Dickinson says, "but it will be work in progress." The New Year's Eve opening will take the wraps off the Cornish Pub and may include the nineguestrooms,whichoccupythetopfloor of the building. Then, with the Pub open for business, craftsmen will finish construction in the main dining room.

The operation will be a family business, with son Paul now on board, to "do whatever I need to do."

Joe Dickinson says, "Our slogan is, 'Walker is back in town.' It's all about putting it back historic, with the right atmosphere—no neon, no plastic." And referring to the persistent story that the old hotel is haunted, Joe chuckles, "The 1980's stuff has got to go, but the ghosts are welcome to stay."



Meet the WalkerHouseChef

The menu at the Walker House Pub will feature a number of Cornish dishes, part of planned "pub food" cuisine designed by Chef Michael Hayes, who brings 20 years of cooking know-how, and a spirit of culinary derring-do, as he moves to Mineral Point from Knoxville, Tennessee.



"The big culinary trends right now are the Land-Farm Table and the Slow Food movement," says Chef Hayes, "and I'm all over them! I'm intrigued by the idea of sustainablerestaurantoperation,wherewe can deal with local farmers, and do bulk purchasing from neighbors who live in a 50-mile radius."

Hayes is tailoring the Walker House food service to this goal: "good food from local purveyors, keeping the money within the community."

Try a Recipe?

We asked Chef Michael Hayes for one of his recipes, something right for the season of the year, and his suggestion was this one, a complement to game taken during the deer season. It's his favorite sauce for venison, "really simple and totally amazing...."

Venison Sauce

6 ounces of Burgundy
Half lemon -- zest and juice
3 T balsamic vinegar
3 T sugar
3 T grape, red currant or mint jelly
or mint-apple is my favorite for this recipe

3 T Tomato Paste
4 oz Burgandy
Several 1 T cubes of chilled butter

Over medium heat, bring first 5 ingredients to a light boil.
Reduce this mixture to half the volume.

Add 3 T of tomato paste and 4 more ounces of burgundy, and reduce to a "back of the spoon" consistency, then start adding 1 T cubes of cold butter by adding one cube and whipping it in, then add the next and repeat until the sauce gets really creamy. Adjust with Salt and Pepper.

A bit of history

The Walker House was built, as the Mineral Point Hotel, in 1841, in anticipation of the coming railroad.



SHAKE RAG ARTS SCHOOL HIRES AUTHOR BAKOPOULOS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Capping three years of success as a unique learning laboratory, the Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts has hired its first executive director, a move designed to enhance good management and funds development, but with a bonus: a powerful creative writing program.

Dean Bakopoulos joins the staff at Shake Rag Alley in January, charged with new initiatives in organizational management as well as the other usual duties of a professional director. In addition, he will establish a creative writing curriculum, a community literacy program and a series of literary events. He will continue to teach his popular prose writing workshops.



Bakopoulos lives in Mineral Point with his wife, artist Amanda Okopski and two young children. He comes to his new job from a similar position at the Wisconsin Humanities Council, where he was the founding director of the Wisconsin Book Festival. He is also a nationally acclaimed author, and recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts literature scholarship. His first novel, Please Don't Come Back from the Moon, captured the New York Times Notable Book Award for 2005. His second novel is to be published in late 2008.

Bakopoulos says the lure of the work was, in part, the lure of the landscape. "The first time I stepped foot on the Shake Rag campus, I knew that I would be a part of it someday. It's that rare sort of place—inspiring not only for its beauty and architecture, but also because of the work that goes on there and the sort of warm, friendly and innovative people it attracts. I just felt a sort of magical calling to the place, as a writer and as a community arts organizer. Writing and art changed my life as a young man and gave me a sense of calling and purpose; I think the arts can foster better citizens, economic growth, and stronger communities. I want to be a part of that mission."

And the President of the Arts Center

provided a lighthearted footnote on the new director's management responsibilities, usually covered under "other duties as assigned." Sandra Bailen Scott says, "As is the Shake Rag way, you'll probably see Dean—on occasion—cleaning a gutter or digging in the dirt. Please feel free to contact him or drop by and introduce yourself."



Santa comes to Shake Rag Alley



Santa listens carefully as his young visitors recite their Christmas Wishes, and then a keepsake photo of a happy youngster is snapped.

A holiday treat for the entire family!

at Shake Rag Alley
Saturday, December 8th
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.





Mineral Point Historical Society 2008 Lyceum Series Announced

Increasing interest in the historical society's Lyceum has dictated a move to accommodate record crowds by utilizing the Dining Room at the Old Royal Inn for the popular Sunday lectures. MPHS Pres. Jim Strochein said, "This year's line-up is outstanding and I expect large turnouts again. The success of the lyceum series should be a source of pride for all of our members, as it is through their generosity—by giving extra donations during the Annual Fund—that we are able to make these events free and open to the public."

Sunday Jan. 27, 2008 2 p.m.
Royal Inn, Mineral Point
MPHS Annual Meeting & Lyceum
"Mineral Pointers Remember"
Panel discussion. Three longtime Mineral Point residents share memories.

Sunday Feb. 17, 2008 2 p.m.
Royal Inn, Mineral Point
MPHS Lyceum "Gone but Not Forgotten:
Milwaukee's Lost Homes of Grand Avenue"

Curator of the Pabst Mansion, John Eastberg will show slides and discuss the 70 homes that once lined the most prestigious residential street in Wisconsin. Mr. Eastberg's presentation is supported by the Wisconsin Humanities Council, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the State of Wisconsin, and individual donors.

Sunday March 30, 2008 2 p.m.
Royal Inn, Mineral Point
MPHS Lyceum "Wisconsin's Famous and Historic Trees with R. Bruce Allison"
Author of several books, including "Wisconsin's Champion Trees" and "Every Root an Anchor" Mr. Allison will lead an illustrated discussion of landmark Wisconsin trees.



Pendarvis Enjoys Boosts in Attendance & Revenues

The doors at Pendarvis State Historic Site have closed for the winter season, but on an upbeat note. Attendance and revenue in 2007 rose 16.6% and 12.9% from the previous year, a rosy result shared by the other sites operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Overall crowds jumped up 7.3% at the state's 10 sites. The Pendarvis increase was second-highest in the group. "I can't recall when all ten experienced a boost," said Allen Schroeder, Director at Pendarvis. He credits aggressive marketing, partially funded by Room Tax, which "keeps our name out there." Schroeder says Mineral Point's tourism has benefitted from the "2007 Distinguished Destination" rating of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and

editorial exposure in the popular "Midwest Living" magazine. Director Schroeder also points to "a general phenomenon," the expanding travel interests of the Baby Boomer generation. "Boomers, nearing their retirement years, want to learn about history," he says. "They want to be involved, not as passengers on a tour bus, but as active players, walking about and talking about their heritage. And Mineral Point is a Baby Boomer destination."

THE STATE HISTORIC SITE AT PENDARVIS
SHOWCASES THE FURNITURE AND
FURNITURE MAKERS OF PIONEER
MINERAL POINT IN A
CONTINUING EXHIBIT,
RUNNING THROUGH 2009
Visit www.wisconsinhistory.org/pendarvis/



MPHS 2nd Annual Founders Day is Declared Success

A festive crowd of 175 members and guests went "Back to the Forties," to celebrate Founders' Day 2007, the signature summer event of the Mineral Point Historical Society.

The annual dinner party, staged on the lawn at the Gundry home, featured 1940's period costumes, the foods of the decade served in a "Mess Tent," a USO Stage Show, and dancing to the music of the big bands, played by the Ken Kilian Quartet.

Two tables were set with memorabilia from World War II, and an exhibit carried out the society's educational objectives.

Two Mineral Point "legends" were inducted into the Gundry Legacy Society, recognizing their significant contributions to the historical organization. Folk artist Max Fernekes was awarded posthumous honors, and Lois Holland, age 100, was cited for her volunteer efforts and exemplary spirit.

Ticket sales for Founders' Day brought in a profit for the society, and planners expressed their appreciation to the community for responding so generously.

Work is already under way on next year's celebration, which will employ a 1920's theme.



Most popular costume?
"Rosie the Riveter!"



Kiddleywink Pub Night



Fortified by a mug of Brewery Creek stout, four revelers enjoy one of many events in the annual Cornish Festival, a September 2007 celebration of Mineral Point's lineage from Cornwall. The setting was the tiny stone pub dug into the hill beneath the Pendarvis row houses. Guest artist Angela Davy-Thomas, who operates a 500-year old pub in Cornwall, brought her hearty good nature to town and sang several performances in Mineral Point. In this photo, she shares a joke with Carolyn Hunt and Will and Diane Sterba.

Gundry House Work Progresses



Surprise! The chicken coop isn't a coop, after all. It's more like a Potting Shed, a small garden center for the Gundry family, who maintained a carriage house, wood shed, barn and vegetable and flower gardens nearby. It is the only out-building that survived in 1939, when the last-minute formation of the Mineral Point Historical Society pulled the wrecking crew away from the Orchard Lawn property.

And today, the "Coop" is being rebuilt. After some revealing excavation and the study of old photos, Matt Ostergrant drew up working plans, then worked with John Sharp to jack up the shed. Dora and Burnell Rowley donated large stones to support the building, and Ted Landon cut additional stones. Contractor Rob Edge is finishing the construction.

In the photo above, "Wood Wizard" Joel Duncanson fabricates the shed's cupola at his shop on Clowney Street.



Meanwhile, the Gundry grounds look like a war zone, as workmen led by stonemason John Hubbard, and earthmovers from Ivey Construction are rummaging in the driveways, strengthening the rock base, adjusting drainage patterns and realigning the stone "soldiers" that line the old carriage-ways.

It's all a part of Phase II of the historical society's ambitious restoration of the 1868 Gundry House, funded by member donations and a matching grant from the Jeffris Foundation.

Inside the house, a committee is researching photographic and written records, Gundry family documents and topical journals to assure an historically authentic restoration of the home's double parlors, dining room, halls and other spaces.

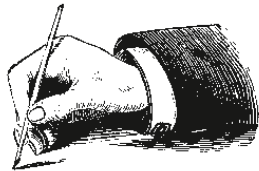
Additionally, the Society's extensive photo collections—3,200 slides and 1,200 prints—are being organized. The images cover the years 1865 to 1995. And the MPHS artifact collections are being sorted, photographed, authenticated and catalogued.

ASSOCIATED PRESS COLLECTIONS

AT WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON UW CAMPUS IN MADISON

Now, through Dec. 31, the "AP Story" is told on exhibit panels, on loan from the wire service, highlighting AP news coverage since 1846.

See the display at WHS Headquarters, 816 State St., on the UW campus at the corner of Langdon St. and Park St., across from the Memorial Union building in Madison.



No harm's done to history by making it something someone would want to read.
— David McCullough



Alley Stage Year One

Bravo!
Encore!

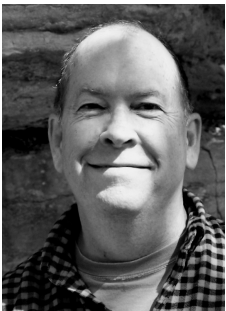
A YEAR-END SUMMARY BY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR COLEMAN

Can a rural Wisconsin town of only 2600 people sustain a professional summer theatre? Would there be sufficient talent to mount successful shows? Would the local audience respond? Would tourists find us?

Those questions loomed large in 2007 as we struggled to complete the new 120-seat outdoor Alley Stage at Shake Rag Alley. The good news is that we pleased a diverse audience with solid directing and acting in world-premiere productions, and that remarkably, we came out on budget. Smack-dab, right on budget. Amazing.

It could only happen in Mineral Point. And in 2008, it's going to happen again. Before we'd even finished taking the lights down after the last show of the season, we'd started working on the next.

In September and October we read more than 40 new plays contending for 2008 production. We're starting to line up actors and directors and designers and technicians, many returning from our first season. The business plan is being updated and a new budget prepared. Plans are underway to upgrade our lighting and sound, and replace some of our wooden benches with a more 'ergonomic' design.



But the exciting news of the moment is the selection of our first play for 2008 – the world premiere of a two-person adaptation of Willa Cather's MY ÁANTONIA by Florida playwright Stephen J. Miller.

No one has captured the spirit of America's Midwest frontier better than Willa Cather, and Miller has brilliantly transformed her novel onto the stage.

If you are interested, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved in Alley Stage as we prepare for our 2008 summer season. We need actors, designers, volunteers. And sponsors. We're committed to keeping our ticket prices affordable, but we can only do that by maintaining healthy audiences and a strong pool of donors.

To find out how YOU can help, contact us any time at 608.987.3292, or email: info@alleystage.com, or visit our website at www.alleystage.com

1917 REVISITED

Award-Winning Museum To See Completion of Diorama in 2008

After a three year undertaking the 5 x 12 foot artisan-constructed diorama will debut this spring in the Children's Room at the Mineral Point Railroad Museum. Built by Progressive Model Design (based in Romeoville, Illinois), a professional outfit responsible for jaw-dropping dioramas in Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry and Allied Model Trains in Los Angeles, California.

The Mineral Point diorama will offer a detailed glimpse of the Mineral Point railyards of 1917 and promises to be a spectacular addition to the museum's already impressive collection.

MEET THE ARTIST

Bruce Howdle



INTERVIEW BY FRANK BEAMAN

He is perhaps the "most titled" member of the Mineral Point artistic community. First and foremost, he's an Artist—painter, sculptor, muralist. A Scholar—he has earned Bachelor, Master and Master of Fine Arts degrees. He is a dedicated Teacher, a 15-year stalwart in the UW college system who travels widely to work with young people. He is owner of commercial property, and considers authentic historic restoration of buildings to be a vital mission. He's an accomplished Raconteur—just ask him and you'll get a great story. And then he is a Bon Vivant and Man About Town—Bruce dons colorful costumes to brighten lighthearted community events.

You might also call him a Rabble Rouser, "one who incites by arousing passions." He'd be proud of that one. His passion erupts from a seemingly placid outer surface, and you'll remember what he says.

Howdle came to Mineral Point in 1976, as a Platteville student of artist Bud Wahl, who at that time had established an "art incubator" in the Commerce Street building now known as the Foundry Book Store. For \$60 a month, Howdle rented a small unheated studio and bunked there for five years, one of about 60 young artists who found shelter, companionship and creative space in the Foundry during that five-year period. He built his artistic skills, and learned valuable lessons in the hardships of self-employment. "When you have no boss, you need to have self-discipline."

Howdle was drawn to the city by the old rock buildings and the landscape. "Mineral Point has remained a historic wonder for two reasons," he says. "It didn't burn down, as many small towns did in the 1800's, and it never got rich enough to bring in a lot of bulldozers." He is a proud owner of the "middle building" in the old Globe Hotel complex on Commerce Street, the location of his studio. The apartment he shares with his wife, Sue, sits above his gallery. Howdle bought the property in 1983, and he says three building owners in that city block—Dr. Timothy Correll, Roland Sardeson and himself—sat down together and pledged to replace the shabby "modernized" facades that marred the street, to take the storefronts back to the day of the striking Globe Hotel.

Drive by the area at the foot of High Street today, and you will see that they have accomplished their goal. Howdle is ready with a lecture on "adaptive re-use," to blend the look of history with the practical elements of a working building. And he speaks of what he calls "the caretaker's responsibility." He says, "What the property-owner does to a building affects the commerce of other buildings in the neighborhood, because when you're gone, everyone else is stuck with the decisions you made."

A similar rule applies to art, he believes. "In the Arts, continuity of design is your responsibility." This implies that the artist must develop a thoughtful approach to his work, something "not easy in the feast-or-famine world of creative endeavor." Some artists, he says, cannot deal with the demands of self-discipline coupled with an obligation to create a lasting product. "They fall back to security," he says, "and



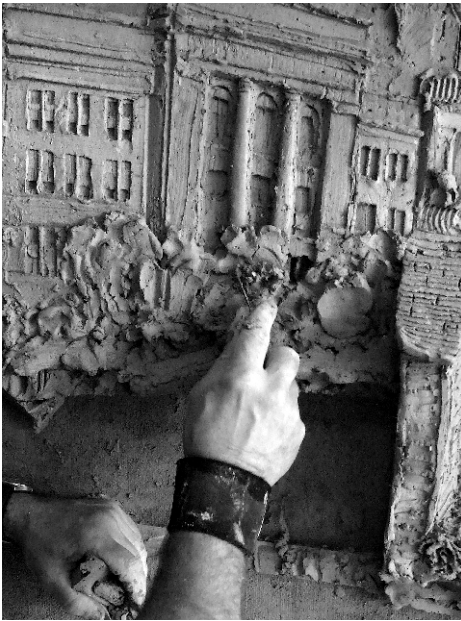
The artist sits amid two clay murals, each 40 feet long, sculpted for South High School in Sheboygan. The work goes up during the Christmas break.

go to work for their Dad." Interestingly, though, "these dropouts are often the buyers of good art."

He smiled, ruminating on the artist's responsibility. "We are keepers of Quality of Life." A pause. "I'm attempting to be a part of it."

Howdle likes his life. "I make my choices; no one tells me how to do what I do, and I try to make my commissioned work look the way I want it to look."

One of his staple items, along with his twisted mugs and his zany gift wraps, are his famous ceramic pigs. "I grew up on a farm with 400 head of cattle and lots of pigs. I know pigs. And when I sculpt my pigs, I don't do a caricature of a pig—I try to capture the spirit and character of the pig." A chuckle, and, "That's why each one is different."



He heaps praise on Mineral Point. "When I came here, 30 years ago, I was a painter, jeweler, sculptor, potter—I had no idea which field would be the right one." The shaking and sorting that followed, he says, was a natural phenomenon in a climate that fosters creativity. "My work changed, and I hope it will keep changing."

His first commission for a mural was in 1977, and other commissions followed a

sporadic pattern. But, since 1993, he has worked on one or more large sculpted clay murals each year.

Howdle is now leading a team in a \$2.5 million restructuring of the Art department at UW-Platteville, filling purchase orders and drafting programming for the ceramics and sculpture curricula. He teaches because he wants young artists to replace those of his generation. "My concern is that there are too many gray haired artists, and many fledgling artists cannot earn enough to pay the overhead expenses"

"They need encouragement, inspiration, and—yeah—cheap housing," he says. "They need to find a wonderful, welcoming, eclectic art community; with, let's say, 20 artist-owned studio-galleries. They need to find a Mineral Point, a place unlike anywhere else."

Optimist:
Day-dreamer more elegantly spelled
– Mark Twain

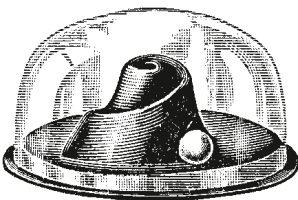
WEIGHING IN

TODAY'S 21 YEAR OLDS HAVE:

- watched 20,000 hours of TV
- played 10,000 hours of video games
- talked 10,000 hours on the phone
- and sent or received 250,000 emails or instant messages
- More than 50 percent of them have created web content

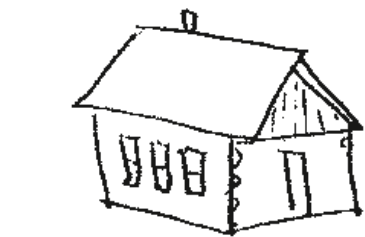
-More than 70 percent of U.S. 4-year olds have used a personal computer.

Google searches per month=2.7 billion and 230,000 visitors signed up for My Space on the web...today.



THE EVOLUTION
OF THE BOYER
SCHOOLHOUSE

The Boyer School log cabin, when erected in 1828, was finished with “carpenter’s quality,” a professional construction method, unusual at a time when most Mineral Point residences were “crude log huts.”

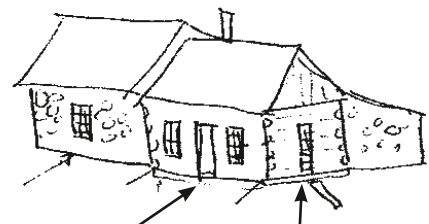


Sketch 1: 1828-1835

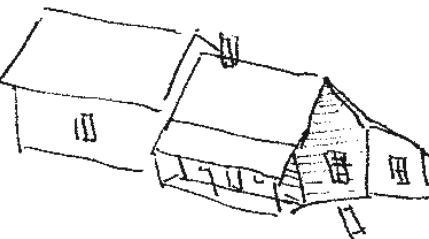
It was used variously as a church, courtroom, and a private school run by Robert Boyer, who lived nearby. The school closed at the outbreak of the Black Hawk War; and, although most log buildings were razed to build the walls of forts for the war, the school survived, probably because of its construction excellence.

It was sold for \$15 to a local resident in 1835, and moved from “the School lot” to a new foundation next door.

Sketch 2: 1835-1860

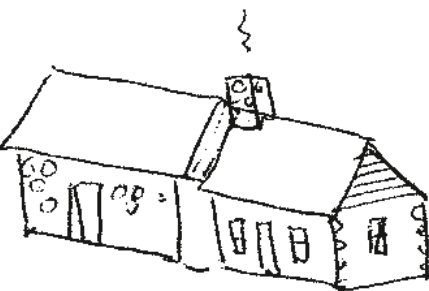


logs moved from window to door.



Sketch 3: 1860-1972

Over the years additions, porches and stucco and clapboard siding changed the appearance of the building, and two logs were switched from one spot to another, to close a doorway on the gable end of the building and create a new doorway on the cabin’s sunny side. This transformation is what attracted Pape’s attention, and led to the “Aha moment.”



Sketch 4: 1972-2007

In 1972, Al Felly launched a major reclamation, and Alan Pape participated in it. The building was stripped of its modern elements, and Felly built a central fireplace of local stone standing between the original ‘16 X 16’ cabin and a room furnished as a blacksmith’s forge.

And in 2007, Pape led a work crew to another significant overhaul of the structure, and made some exciting discoveries.

Alan C. Pape has restored more than 100 pioneer homes, and worked for a time with Al Felly, drafting designs for two structures at Shake Rag Alley: the Cabinet Shop and the Potter’s Barn. From Shake Rag Alley, Pape went on to develop Old World Wisconsin.

Illustrations by Alan Pape

One must think like a hero to behave like a merely decent human being.
– May Sarton



Pape, left, supervises a volunteer restoration crew.

Heritage Tourism

by Alan C. Pape

This summer, I spent an inspiring thirty days at Shake Rag Alley, helping to re-restore their old miner’s cabin. Shake Rag Alley is one of the most interesting and innovative Arts Programs I have ever experienced; and that historic valley, home to the early lead miners, satisfies all seven of the things a visitor wants when they visit a place. For that matter, so does most of Mineral Point.

I learned about the “Seven Needs of a Visitor” from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Heritage Tourism Initiative, a program of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, launched back in the early 1990’s. My project at that time was to help develop new businesses based on the ethnic heritage of a 14-county region stretching alongside Lake Michigan. Today, that overly-optimistic regional project has been scaled back and reorganized, and now targets just one small ethnic community in Sheboygan County.

Our struggles to create new ethnic tourist destinations along Wisconsin’s east coast were similar to Mineral Point’s first efforts to attract tourists. Back in the 1940’s, while developing the Pendarvis site, Robert Neal and Edgar Hellum constituted a two-person heritage tourism committee. These two fellows somehow knew intuitively what visitors wanted at their site. The visitor attraction elements that Bob and Edger included were the same as the ones I learned about many years later from the National Trust.

So, if we say that “Pendarvis did it right,” it might be helpful to review and study the basic visitor needs. If Mineral Point doesn’t have them, loses them, or doesn’t stress these elements, many visitors will not return, and they certainly won’t recommend Mineral Point to their friends.

Seven Heritage Tourism Needs

Scenery: Over a thirty-year period, Pendarvis became a set of beautiful adaptively restored Cornish miner’s buildings with awe inspiring landscaping. The “Boys” removed anything that did not contribute to the beauty of their property. They also embellished their properties; in effect, inventing some new history while presenting a lot of the old. They added scenery; such as the goldfish pond made out of dry laid stone behind the Trelawney House. They renamed Hoard Street as Shake Rag Street, an example of home-grown marketing techniques that, today, the National Trust would not endorse. But the work Neal and Hellum did was clearly aimed at pulling everything together into

“an experience for visitors,” and a treat for the eyes.

Food: Visitors want to sample the local ethnic fare. The Cornish and English pub and parlor food that Pendarvis offered created talk among visitors, “all the way back home to Chicago.”

Lodging: Pendarvis offered a one or two room cabin up the hill from the stone buildings. These were crude compared to today’s B&B’s, but it was still part of the charm of the visit, and tied lodging to Mineral Point’s history.

Gifts: The old Pendarvis cafe sold separately some of the Cornish inspired food products that were made on site. The product selections weren’t big, but it did provide opportunities for visitors to not only take souvenirs along but to order them through the mail, months later.

Hands-On-Experience: I doubt if the fellows at Pendarvis ever let their visitors tour the inside of a lead mine, swing a pick ax, or carry some lead ore out to their cars. But they DID stage cooking classes, and they encouraged volunteers for the building and landscaping projects. Simply touring a site like Pendarvis is not enough for most modern travelers; they want to smell, touch, feel, and experience something connected with the specialness of the site, to sit in a Cornish Pub and learn some pub songs and stories while downing a few pints of stout.

Accurate Information: Hellum and Neal collected everything they could get their hands on relating to lead mining, area history, and local traditions, furniture, and architecture. Although they never wrote a training manual for guided tours on the site, they were able to intelligently answer questions about the site’s history and provide relevant facts and theories.

Meeting New Friends: Lastly, we all enjoy making new friends. Visitors to the Pendarvis site back in the early days were delighted to meet the “Boys” and tell others about their “off the beaten path Cornish experience.” All of us have a basic need to tell others about our discoveries and positive experiences, and hundreds of visitors felt that they left as friends of the personable fellows at Pendarvis.

Fast Forward to today

Making new friends is much more powerful than most of the other points described. The connections and memories born out of new friendships linger longer than the information imparted, the taste of the food or the scenery. And Mineral Point’s contagious friendliness is a major asset.

In fact, Mineral Point embodies the seven tourism needs remarkably well. There is always room for improvement, but the city is on track for a highly successful heritage development in the days ahead.

Shake Rag Alley’s extensive hands-on workshop offerings are helping to bring many new visitors to town.

I interviewed Robert Neal back in the early ‘70’s about his extensive local history collections. I understand that much of those materials are now available to the general public at the Local History Research Center in the Mineral Point library. I hope everyone takes the time to visit and use this wonderful community resource. Accurate information also includes brochures, maps and interpretive signs.

Food, Lodging and Gifts should reflect the historic nature of the community.

Owners and builders are using imaginative construction and remodeling methods to restore historic structures, which add to the natural beauty of the region’s hills and valleys.

Most important, it’s clear that many people are working to make new friends of our visitors.

I hope this review of tourism motivators is helpful in understanding what has contributed to making my visit to your community a lasting positive experience. Personally, I can’t wait to come back to Mineral Point next year. The place deeply satisfies my interest in communities that are friendly, vital, artistic, and heritage based.

A verbal art like poetry is reflective; it stops to think. Music is immediate, it goes on to become.

– W.H. Auden



SHOWTIME!

Opera House Restoration Committee
Convene Center Stage

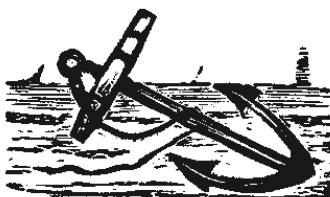
Surrounded by props from another century, a thirteen member committee recently met on stage at the Mineral Point Municipal Theatre, also known as the ‘Opera House,’ to discuss the completion of Phase I, Historic Structures Report (to be completed by next spring), and fundraising.

Presenters Lauren Powers, Jeanne Lambin, and Ted Landon, fresh off the heels of a Theatre Restoration Seminar at the Pabst Theatre in Milwaukee, shared with the group advice gleaned from the seminar’s panel of experts.

The information was enthusiastically received and will prove to be useful during the restoration of Mineral Point’s Theatre.

Committee member Phil Mrozinski was also acknowledged for initiating the restoration of the theatre as well as his support of the theatre’s pivotal role in the community.

Committee Members are: Phil Mrozinski, Jim Kackley, Tim Marr, Jeanne Lambin, Carol Rule, Coleman, Dave Knapp, Lauren Powers, Ted Landon, Greg Merrick, Joy Gieseke, Sandy Scott, Richmond Powers, Jeff Donaghue, Kandi Keuler, Jim Strochein.



Wintertime
Hike
Bike
Skate
Adventures



Winter in Wisconsin offers a wealth of opportunities for those hardy enough to get outdoors and get moving!

There are plenty of trails, natural and man made; and, with snow providing crunch under your feet, the beauty of the landscape and the health benefits of good exercise will make a wintertime trail trek a pleasure.

Here's a rundown on a few possibilities:

HIKING AND WALKING There is a 40 mile Military Ridge State trail running from Dodgeville to Madison, and the 23-mile Sugar River State Trail connecting New Glarus, Monticello, Albany, & Brodhead. There is no charge for walking these state trails. Check it out. www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/trail/html For info on the Sugar River State Trail, call 608.527.2334. Also, walking-hiking at Belmont Village Park on Mound Avenue in Belmont and at the Blackhawk Recreation Area, 608.623.2307. You can walk on the Cheese Country Trail from Mineral Point to Monroe but ATVs and snowmobilers and cross country skiers also use this trail. Check www.tricountytrails.com or 608 574-2911. There are also hiking-walking trails at most state parks. The Wisconsin DNR, Bureau of Parks & Recreation maintains some hiking trail information online at www.wiparks.net Some Wisconsin state trails require a year or day pass. See www.tricountytrails.com for details.

TOUR BIKING First, check out www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/trails and choose "biking." Then see Military Ridge State Trail, a 40 mile trail which runs from Dodgeville thru Ridgeway, Barneveld, Blue Mounds, Mt. Horeb, Riley, Klovenville, & Verona. And, see Pecatonica State Trail, 10 miles, linking Belmont with Calamine and the Country Cheese Trail. You can also bike on the 23-mile Sugar River State Trail out of New Glarus which connects New Glarus with Monticello, Albany, and Brodhead. Blue Mound State Park, home of a summer Endurance Biking Event, has 7 miles of endurance trails. Check www.friendsofbluemoundstatepark.org For a free copy of the Wisconsin Biking Guide, including detailed maps & descriptions of 30 designated bike trails, mountain bike trails, and on-road loop tours, call 800.432.8747 or order on-line at www.travelwisconsin.com The Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin can be reached at 608.251.4456 or online at www.bfw.org. There are also bike tour maps for sale through the Bike Federation.

MOUNTAIN BIKING, Check out that DNR website mentioned above, under Tour Biking. Specific trails are 5.1 miles at Blue Mound State Park, 8 miles at Devil's Lake, 12.6 miles at Governor Dodge Park and Y3 miles at Yellowstone. You can also ride on the Cheese Country Trail from Mineral Point to Monroe. See www.tricountytrails.com 608.574.2911. More info from the Wisconsin Off-Road Bicycling Association www.worba.org.

HORSEBACK RIDING: www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/trails/horse.html Ride at Governor Dodge & Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. Horses may be ridden on the Cheese Country Trail from Mineral Point to Monroe, but ATVs and Snowmobiles also use this trail. www.tricountytrails.com

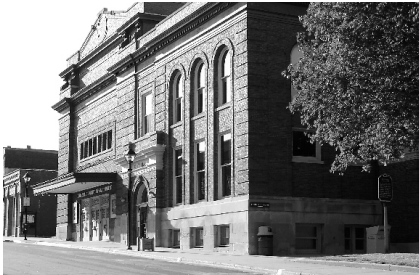
INLINE SKATING on the last portion of the Military Ridge Trail, from Verona to Madison. Info at 608.437.7393

MINERAL POINT
LIBRARY LAUNCHES
FUNDS CAMPAIGN



The Mineral Point Municipal Building is a rare architectural gem, housing three important services together under one roof: City Hall, the Library and the Opera House. The 1915 building is in need of major refurbishing, and a new fundraising effort is getting under way to make necessary upgrades possible.

Don Hawkins has agreed to serve as Chairman for the capital campaign, saying that working to provide a state-of-the-art Library is, in his view, "a basic citizenship responsibility."



Successful fundraising would lead to formation of a construction plan for the 1,610 sq. ft. public library, the Mineral Point Archives and its storehouse of important historical materials, and the adjoining City Hall with offices and council chamber.

In a letter to the community, Hawkins says, "It's about time. We must face the facts. The space available for the present library does not accommodate the needs of a 2007 media communications center. The municipal building does not have an elevator. Plumbing is in need of a major upgrade." Pointing to the ground floor Mineral Point Room, he says, "the historical collection is not safely stored or displayed."

The archive, a treasure trove for historical research and genealogy, occupies only 716 sq. ft. of space that was once the City Jail, and overhead pipes and building deficiencies have been a serious concern for some time.

An educational brochure is available, detailing the history of the building, its present-day problems, and the possibilities for future improvements.



VISIT THE
MINERAL POINT ROOM

It's the city's leading historic resource, located underneath the Public Library, with an entrance off Library Park.

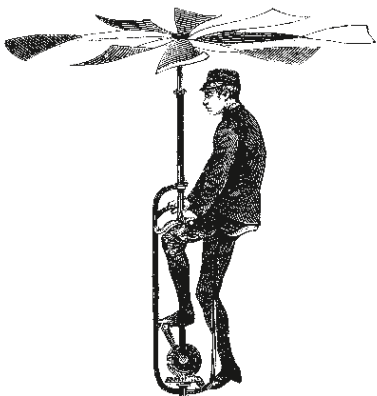
A collection of books, news files, photos, maps and letters awaits the scholar and anyone with a curious itch to know more about Mineral Point history or your family tree.

HOURS

Thursday afternoons Noon-4
and Saturday from 10-4



For more information,
call the Library at 608 987-2447,
or email minptroom@hotmail.com



Wi-Fi Spots

Chamber of Commerce 225 High Street
M Studio 234 High Street
Shake Rag Alley 18 Shake Rag St. Street



2007 A YEAR
TO CROW ABOUT

by Chamber Director Joy Gieseke

It was a quiet start to 2007 in Mineral Point. And then, at the end of January, I got a phone call. It was the National Trust for Historic Preservation calling with an announcement that set this year apart from many. The call was to congratulate Mineral Point on being selected as one of the National Trust's Dozen Distinctive Destinations for 2007. Now, most of us who live here have thought that all along, but it's really an honor to have that confirmed by a prominent national organization.

In the announcement, Richard Moe, the President of National Trust, calls Mineral Point, "A quintessentially American town with a strong sense of belonging, a welcoming attitude and tremendous community pride." Of course, one of the criteria for receiving the award is the attention that Mineral Point has paid to its place in history and the preservation of our architecture.

Mineral Point is especially good at recognizing our responsibility to be good stewards of history. But the impressions that most people have of Mineral Point are really about more than interesting buildings. The building themselves would not be what they are today without the people who inhabit them, and the people who have made them inhabitable over the years. It's been said before, but it's worth repeating, that we owe a debt of gratitude to the many people who have recognized the importance of caring about our history, to the point of dedicating their lives to it.

In the spring of this year, Mineral Point appeared in Midwest Living Magazine not once, but twice. The first time was as one of the Next Big Things, the second as one of the 100 Best Small Town Getaways.

I have had the privilege of escorting several travel writers around Mineral Point and southwest Wisconsin this year. Some have arrived wondering what all the fuss is about. All of them have left promising to return because they simply did not have enough time to take in all they wanted to see. This quote from Jerry Harpt sums it up perfectly: "I knew I would like

it. I just didn't know how much."

From our perspective, we have had a wonderful time showing these folks around too. It's so true that we often neglect to see what's in our own backyard. And our backyard is full of some really good things and great people. Take for example, our new Alley Stage. It took some real vision and resourcefulness to carve an intimate theatre into a hidden nook in the hillside. Thanks to a lot of people, we had a summer of first rate, original plays right down the street. I've been hearing about next season – you won't want to miss the 2008 performances. Next year marks the 15th year for the Fall Art Tour – an event that has been so successful that it's being copied all over. Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts is a truly a remarkable testament to a community with a deeply rooted spirit and sense of community. Then there is the Cornish Festival, the Fourth of July, Gallery Nights, the County Fair, the Saturday Market, a list of activities that goes on and on.

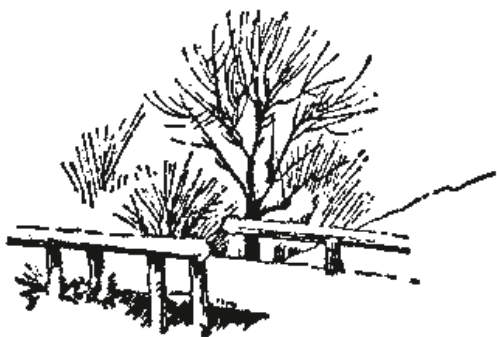
And we have what can only be described a first rate group of independent business owners who make shopping in Mineral Point something that you just don't find in many small towns anymore. Some of these folks are adding some fun opportunities to get together on a regular basis – like Scrabble Night and Knit Night to name two of them. These are just a few examples of the creativity and the determination to help ideas work that make Mineral Point stand out as an outstanding place to visit and a great place to live.

2008 will undoubtedly bring about more new and exciting reasons to be a part of Mineral Point. Keep your eyes open and check our website often for updates. Then bring your family – bring your whole neighborhood if you can, and be a part of the Mineral Point experience. The web address is www.mineralpoint.com. The street address is 225 High Street. You're always welcome at either one.

MINERAL POINT VITAL CONTACTS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
608.987.3201 888.764.6894
www.mineralpoint.com
CITY CLERK 608.987.2361
DEMOCRAT-TRIBUNE 608.987.2141
HISTORICAL SOCIETY 608.987.2884
HOSPITAL - UPLANDS, Dodgeville
GENL INFO 608.930.8000
LIBRARY 608.987.2447

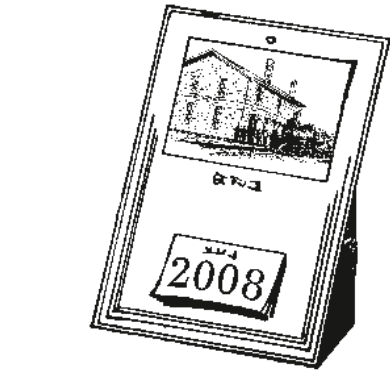
POLICE Dial 911 - Emergencies Only
Non-Emergencies 608.987.2313
RESCUE SQUAD Office 608.987.2752
OPERA HOUSE movies 608.987.2642
PENDARVIS SITE 608.987.2122
RAILROAD MUSEUM 608.987.2695
SCHOOL SUPT. 608.987.3924
SHAKE RAG SCHOOL 608.987.3292
SHERIFF, Iowa Cty 608.935.3314



DECEMBER

1 MINERAL POINT Gallery Night & Candlelight Shopping. Refreshments. Galleries open until 9 p.m. 608.987.3201 or website www.mineralpoint.com
1 MINERAL POINT Trinity Gift Fair, Trinity Episcopal Church, 608.987.3019
1 DARLINGTON Grace Lutheran Cookie Walk 8:30 p.m. Holy Rosary Breakfast with Santa, click www.darlingtonwi.org
1 DARLINGTON Holiday Parade 6:30 PM then Festival at Darlington Festival Grounds, Visit with Santa & Light Floating Christmas Trees on River www.darlingtonwi.org or 608.776.3067
1 NEW GLARUS St. Nicholas Day Holiday Shopping Specials & Holiday Craft Show & Cookie Sale at Swiss United Church 1.800.527.6838 or website www.swisstown.com
1 DODGEVILLE Folklore Village Barn Dance, 6:30 PM, Potluck, Ol' Man River Band 608.924.4000 www.folklorevillage.org
1 SPRING GREEN General Store, "Lost Conversation" with Bob Dries, Scott Stieber & Judi Swenson 2-5 PM 608.588-7070 www.springgreengeneralstore.com
1 PLATTEVILLE "Holiday Home Show" Home Tour, 10:00-4:00 sponsored by Grant Co. Historical Society & "Old Home Enthusiasts", call 608.348.8888
1 SPRING GREEN "Christmas in the Valley" See performance at 7:30 PM
1-2 CAVE OF THE MOUNDS Caroling Continues entry.
1-2 SPURGEON VINEYARDS & WINERY Christmas Open House 608.929.7692
1-24 GALENA Annual Light Up the Valley self-guided tours through 6,800 acres amid rolling hills and valleys of NW Illinois to view beautifully decorated homes. Call 815.777.2444
2 MINERAL POINT Breakfast With Santa at the Red Rooster Cafe 608-987-3201
2 SPRING GREEN "Christmas in the Valley" See Dec. 1 entry - performance at 2:30
3 SPRING GREEN Monday Poetry Society, - share poems, prose & music, General Store, Free. Open mic. 608.924.9234 www.SpringGreenGeneralStore.com
5 DARLINGTON Stores Open until 8:00 608.776.3067
5-6 GALENA "Cooking With Class" Holiday Appetizers Galore. Reservations required, Goldmoor Inn 1.800.255.3925 to see what is included and for costs.
6 MINERAL POINT - Madrigal at the Comfort Inn, Children's Madrigal 608.987.3201 www.mineralpoint.com Tickets at Bergets, Comfort Inn & Old Royal Inn.
6-8 PLATTEVILLE "An Evening in December" Dec. 7 - 8:30 PM Community Free Evangelical Church, Christmas Music, \$5 608.348.7330 Dessert & coffee at intermission.
7 MOUNT HOREB Friday Festive Eve & Friends of the Library Wine Gala 608.437.5914
7 RICHLAND CENTER "Treasures Music with Jambeau with Lena", folk, jazz, blues, Christmas fun, Mid-Eastern dinner served. Blue Highways, 165 N Central Ave. 608.647.7358
7-8 SPRING GREEN "Christmas in the Valley" See Dec. 1 entry—performance at 7:30 PM
7-9 SPRING GREEN Country Christmas, Tour of Homes, Caroling, Shopping, Entertainment, Fireworks choreographed to Christmas music. 608.588.2054
8 MINERAL POINT Madrigal at the Old Royal Inn www.mineralpoint.com or

608.987.3201 Tickets at Bergets, Comfort Inn & Old Royal Inn
8 MINERAL POINT Santa at Shake Rag Alley, photos with Santa, Classes in making gingerbread houses, reindeer antlers, Santa ornaments, Collage Gift Boxes, and more—for kids & families. 10 - 3 PM, Call Diane Sterba at 608 987.3292 or www.shakeragalley.com
8 DODGEVILLE 2007 Holiday Parade at 6:00 PM, Downtown Call Kathryn 608.935.1496
8 DODGEVILLE Folklore Village, Kids & Families Scandinavian Holiday Activities 3-5 PM & Santa Lucia Program 6:30 PM 608.924.4000, www.folklorevillage.org
8 SPRING GREEN General Store, Bluegrass Jam 3-6 PM 608.588.7070 www.springgreengeneralstore.com
8 LANCASTER Santa Visits Courthouse, Pictures with Santa call 866.472.6894
8-9 PLATTEVILLE Nutcracker Ballet, Center for the Arts, 7:30 PM 800.362.5515
9 MINERAL POINT "Lessons and Carols", 7 PM, Trinity Church 608.987.3019
9 MOUNT HOREB 7th Annual Holiday House, 888.765.5929 www.trollway.com
9 SPRING GREEN "Christmas in the Valley" See Dec. 1 entry-Performance 2:30 PM
10 SAUK CITY "Throw A Wine & Cheese Party" Cooking School at Carr Valley Store, 6:30-9:00 PM \$35 608.683.3441
10 MINERAL POINT "Open Mic Night" at Old Royal Inn, 7:00 p.m. 608.987.1545
12 DARLINGTON Shops Open until 8:00 p.m. 608.776.3067
14 DODGEVILLE Folklore Village, Holiday Concert & Tree Lighting 7 PM 608.924.4000 www.folklorevillage.org featuring Monroe Swiss Singers
15 DODGEVILLE Folklore Village, Candle Lit German Tree & Potluck, 6:30 PM Call for reservations 608.924.4000 www.folklorevillage.org
15 LANCASTER Santa Visits Courthouse, Pictures with Santa 866.472.6894
15 GALENA "Night of the Luminara" 6-9 PM Streets, steps & sidewalks will be lined with 5,000 candle-lit luminaries 815.777.9050
18 PLATTEVILLE "Cocoa & Carols" 7 - 8 PM, Platteville City Hall Auditorium; Choirs performing holiday music, 608.348.9741
19 DARLINGTON Shops open until 8:00 PM 608.776.3067
22 MINERAL POINT SCHOOLS Winter Break begins
23 MINERAL POINT Cantata "Season of Wonder" First United Methodist Church 9:30 AM & Encore at the Opera House in the evening Call 608 987 2700 for the evening time.
25 DODGEVILLE Community Christmas Dinner for everyone from Iowa County Noon-1:30 p.m. at Culver's Restaurant. For reservations or a delivered meal, call Mary King 608.935.5386
28-JAN 1 DODGEVILLE Folklore Village, "60th Festival of Christmas & Midwinter through Traditions" Register early. 608.924.4000 www.folklorevillage.org
29 SPRING GREEN General Store, "Tiger Moon" featuring Jodi Amble-Dear August 6-10:30 PM \$10 in advance, \$14 at the door. Limited tickets available. Mix of jazz, classics, & country. 608.588.7070 www.springgreengeneralstore.com
29-30 DODGEVILLE Youth Hockey Girls Tournament, Harris Park Ley Pavilion www.iwyha.com 608.437.7044



JANUARY

Watch for: Mineral Point Wellness Fair to be held in January at the High School—should be a terrific event!
2 MINERAL POINT SCHOOLS resume classes
4-5 GALENA "Glaze & Graze" at The Great Galena Cookery. 2 evening workshops; each participant glazes a 3-piece bisque dinnerware set, prepares a gourmet meal then dines on the newly created dishes. \$100 per person. Call for details & reservations 815.777.0354
5 BLUE MOUNDS Blue Mound Candlelight Cross Country Ski-Hike 608.437.5711 6:00-9:00 PM Bonfire, hot cocoa, & marshmallows free. Brats, hot dogs & chilli for sale Candlelight Hike goes on even if there is no snow. www.friendsofbluemoundsstatepark.org-candle.htm
11-13 DODGEVILLE Youth Hockey Mites & Pee Wees Tournament, Harris Park Ley Pavilion www.iwyha.com 608.437.7044
12 GALENA "Bald Eagle Bus Tours" 4-hour tour viewing eagles feeding, roosting, and nesting. Adults \$60, children under 17 \$40, 815.594.2306
15-FEB. 7 MINERAL POINT Shake Rag Alley Children's after-school classes for Grades K-5 3:30-4:45 PM Tues. thru Thurs., Call Diane Sterba at 608.987.3292 for class information & to register or check and register online at www.shakeragalley.com
18-20 NEW GLARUS Winterfest Veterans Rally, 1-800-362-5515
19 DODGEVILLE Folklore Village Saturday Night Social 6:30 PM, Potluck, 608.924.4000 www.folklorevillage.org
19-20 WISCONSIN DELLS "Flake Out Festival" Celebrate water in every form! Official snow sculpting competition, horse-drawn wagon rides, winter games, pony rides, fireworks, kids craft corner, food & more www.wisconsinidells.com
21 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY-check celebration schedules in local newspapers.
25-27 MINERAL POINT Shake Rag Alley, Women's Journey Weekend Retreat, "Into The Wilderness" 608.987.3292 www.shakeragalley.com Diane Sterba
26 DODGEVILLE Folklore Village, In Concert: Lou & Peter Berryman, Musical Humorists. 7:30 PM 608.924.4000 www.folklorevillage.org
26-27 DODGEVILLE Youth Hockey High School Tournament, Harris Park Ley Pavilion www.iwyha.com 608 437-7044
27 MINERAL POINT Historical Society Annual Meeting & Program "Mineral Pointers Remember" Panel discussion with three longtime Mineral Point residents who will share memories and stories, Held at Old Royal Inn, 2:00 PM 608.987.2884 www.mineralpointhistory.org



FEBRUARY

2 BLUE MOUNDS Blue Mounds State Park Candlelight Cross Country Ski-Hike 6 - 9 PM See Jan. 5 entry above for phone number and information
5 DODGEVILLE Folklore Village, Barn Dance, Kettle Creek, with caller Tim Jenkins, 6:30 PM Potluck, 608.924.4000 www.folklorevillage.org
2-3 PRAIRIE DU CHIEN Annual Fisheree, ice fishing competition, headquarters at Lakeview Marina Bar & Restaurant, County K, outing for the entire family, fishing prizes, and evening entertainment. Fisheree WILL BE HELD - ice or no ice. Info at 800.732.1673.
5 PLATTEVILLE "Grascals" 7:30 PM, Center for the Arts, 800.362.5515
9 DODGEVILLE Folklore Village, In Concert: Liz Carroll & John Doyle, Irish Fiddle & Guitar Virtuosity 7:30 PM, 608 924.4000 www.folklorevillage.org
9 GALENA Bald Eagle Bus Tours See Jan. 12th entry for details.
10 PLATTEVILLE "Great American Trailer Park Musical", 3:00 & 8:00 PM, Center for the Arts 800.362.5515
14 VALENTINES DAY Check local newspapers for events.
15 PLATTEVILLE St. Augustine Elegant 6-Course Dinner, Live Music, Tuxedo-clad waiters, Linda Thomas 608.348.7530 www.uwpcatholic.org
15-17 DODGEVILLE Youth Hockey Squirts & Bantam Tournament, Harris Park Ley Pavilion www.iwyha.com 608.437.7044
16 SPRING GREEN General Store, Annual Paul Bentzen Event, Blue Grass Band & Jam with Jambalaya and other special foods, 608 588-7070, www.springgreengeneralstore.com
16 GALENA "Bald Eagle Bush Tours" See Jan. 12th entry for details.
17 MINERAL POINT Historical Society Lyceum, "Gone But Not Forgotten: Milwaukee's Lost Homes of Grand Avenue" Speaker: John Eastberg, Curator of the Pabst Mansion will show slides & discuss 70 prestigious homes, Old Royal Inn, 2:00 PM 608 987 2874 www.mineralpointhistory.org
19-MAR. 13 MINERAL POINT Shake Rag Alley, Children's After School Classes 3:30-4:45 PM Kindergarten thru 5th grade Classes Tues. thru Thurs. Call Diane Sterba at 608.987.3292 to register & find classes scheduled or check-register at www.shakeragalley.com
22-24 MINERAL POINT Shake Rag Alley, Women's Journey Weekend Retreat, "The Journey Begins", starts Friday evening, 608.987.3292 www.shakeragalley.com Diane Sterba
23 GALENA "Bald Eagle Bus Tours" See Jan 12th entry for details.
24 MINERAL POINT "2nd Annual Brain Games" sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce 608.987.3201 www.mineralpoint.com
28 PLATTEVILLE Rastrelli Cello Quartet, 7:30 PM, UW Center for the Arts, 800.362.5515

BUNDLE UP & ENJOY THE SEASON

the events...and then, enjoy them!

MARCH



2 PLATTEVILLE "The Bachelors" Theatre 7:30 PM, UW Center for the Arts, 800.362.5515
2 MINERAL POINT "St. Piran's Celebration." 12:30 p.m. Lunch & program. Call Jim Jewell 608.623.2772 or www.cornishfest.org for location
6 PLATTEVILLE "Time for Three" Brahms to Beatles, 7:30 PM UW Center for the Arts 800.362.5515
8 PLATTEVILLE Shakespeare's "The Tempest" 7:30 PM, UW Center for the Arts, 800.362.5515
8 GALENA "Bald Eagle Bus Tours" See Jan 12th entry for details.
14-16 DODGEVILLE Folklore Village, Cajun Music & Dance Weekend, 608.924.4000 www.folklorevillage.org
15 GALENA Amish Quilt & Furniture Auction, 9:30 am Auction at Apple River Stagecoach Event Center, 446 E. Stagecoach Trail 815.221.0392
15-16 MINERAL POINT Celtic Weekend, Shake Rag Alley 608.987.3292 or www.shakeragalley.com Workshops & Fun all weekend
17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY Check local newspapers for events.
22 NEW GLARUS Annual Fire Dept. Dinner
23 EASTER
25 APRIL 17 MINERAL POINT Shake Rag Alley After School Children's Classes 3:30-4:45 PM Grades K-5, classes Tues. thru Thurs. Call Diane Sterba at 608.987.3292 to register-check classes scheduled for these dates, or check and register online at www.shakeragalley.com.
25 MINERAL POINT "Beijing or Bust" Participate in the Olympic Torch Challenge. Gather a team & walk 6,490 total miles as a group by Aug. 8th. 608.987.3201 www.mineralpoint.com
28 MINERAL POINT "Garden Getaway Kick-Off" www.shakeragalley.com 608.987.3292
29-30 MINERAL POINT "Garden Getaway" Shake Rag Alley. 18 classes. Call or email to register www.shakeragalley.com 608.987.3292
30 MINERAL POINT Historical Society, Lyceum "Wisconsin's Famous & Historic Trees" with R. Bruce Allison, Old Royal Inn, 2:00 PM 608.987.2884 or www.mineralpointhistory.org

APRIL



5 MINERAL POINT Gallery Night and Shopping; Galleries open until 9:00; refreshments, 608.987.3201 or online www.mineralpoint.com
4-6 MINERAL POINT Shake Rag Alley

Women's Journey Retreat "Finding the Treasure" Starts Friday evening. 608.987.3292 www.shakeragalley.com
4-6 DODGEVILLE Folklore Village, Scandinavian Music & Dance Weekend, 608.924.4000 www.folklorevillage.org
10 PLATTEVILLE East Village Opera Company, Rock & Opera. 7:30 PM UW Center for the Arts 800.362.5515
Botham Vineyards Annual Spring Open House CALL FOR DATE, 608.924.1412 Usually late April. www.bothamvineyards.com
12 MINERAL POINT City-Wide Garage Sales, some begin April 11. 608.987.3218
15 TAX RETURN DUE
18-20 DODGEVILLE Folklore Village, "English Country Dance & Music Weekend," 608.924.4000 www.folklorevillage.org
20 PLATTEVILLE African Children's Choir, 7:30 PM, UW Center for the Arts, 800.362.5515
20-27 EFFIGY MOUNDS Earth Day Annual weeklong celebration of America's National Parks, 3 miles West of Marquette, Iowa. Call 563.873.3491 for details on conservation projects, programs, and hikes.
26 NEW GLARUS VFW State Loyalty Day Parade Call 800.527.6838
29-MAY 23 MINERAL POINT Shake Rag Alley's Children's After School Classes 3:30-4:45 PM. Grades K-5, classes Tues. thru Thurs. Call Diane Sterba at 608.987.3292 to register and check class schedule or check and register online at www.shakeragalley.com



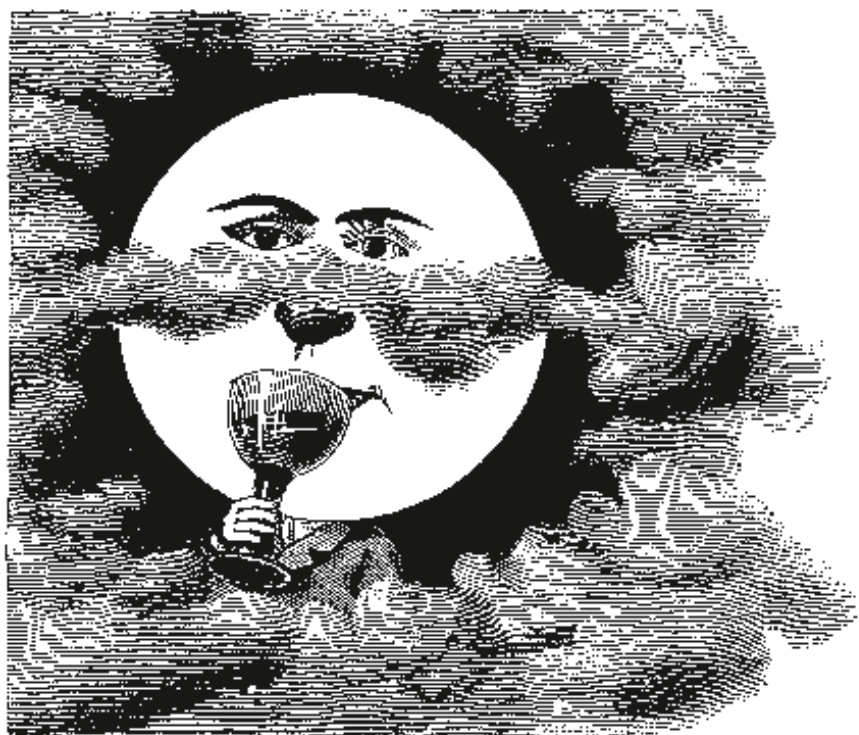
MAY

7 PLATTEVILLE "Chicago" 4:00 & 8:00 PM, UW Center for the Arts, 800.362.5515

WATCH FOR MORE EVENTS SLATED FOR THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY IN THE SUMMER EDITION OF THE TIMES

This Events Centerspread & the Winter Sports Roundup on p. 10, were compiled by Sandee Beaman, who is not really a nosy person, but is simply interested in "what's going on." Contact her email, sandeeb@charter.net, or if you use envelopes—how quaint!—write to her at:

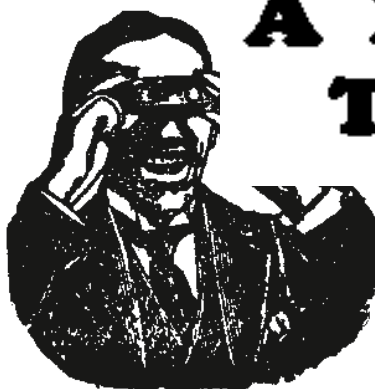
The Times of Mineral Point
P.O. Box 169,
Mineral Point, WI 53565



Happy New Year!

This year New Year's Eve arrives on a Monday. We at the Times of Mineral Point thank you for reading and wish you a safe and Happy 2008.

A Peek Into The Future:



Coming in the Times
of Mineral Point 2008,
'Times of Summer' Issue

Into the Mixed Media

In the Spring & Summer edition of The Times of Mineral Point, our periodic "Meet the Artist" series continues with a long chat with Mineral Point's Tom Kelly, whose work in wood, canvas and mixed media is admired by an international audience. And you've probably seen his work in your own home—brought in the mail. That secret revealed, in The Times in May 2008.



An Interview with Julia Dailey

One year ago this Virginia-born actress mesmerized audiences with her spellbinding performance of Edgar Allen Poe's "Tell-Tale Heart." Recently, she was again lauded for her convincing performance in an Alley Stage original, "Last Days of a Translator." In our next issue the Times sits down with this talented actress for a candid discussion on craft, cue, and her casting in Alley Stage's two-person adaptation of Willa Cather's, My Antonia.

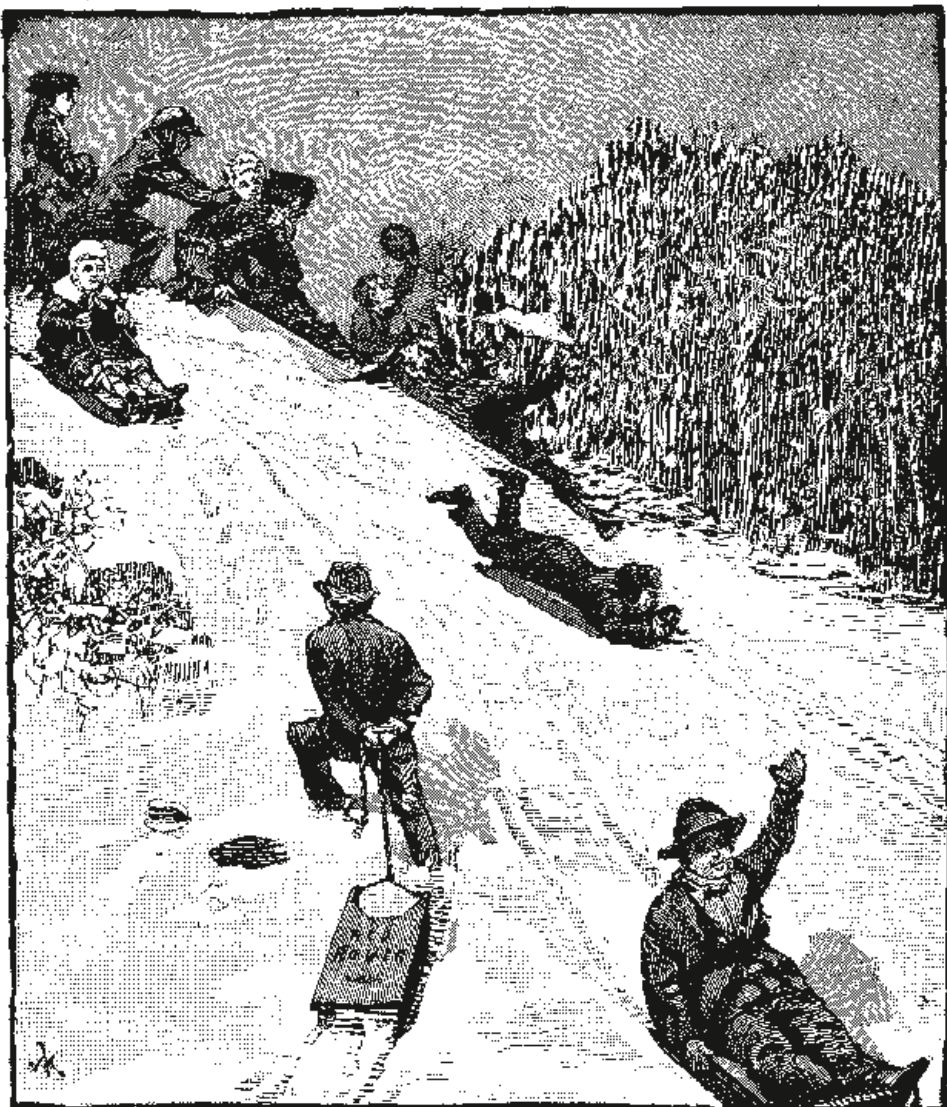
Also...

Summer Sizzlers: June Gallery Night, Old Fashioned 4th of July, Lights Up on the Alley Stage, Woodlanders Gathering at Shake Rag Alley

Summer Events Calendar: So much to do you'll forget you have a t.v.

Sinipee: Atlantis on the Mississippi by Cliff Krainik

And our continued assortment of views and oddments, in fact and in fancy.



Herein, an Exhaustive Roundup of Winter Sports Info

Our area promises superlative cross country and downhill skiing, and fun for fans of the snowshoe, ice skate, ATV, snowmobile, and sled.

We have several State Parks and Trails in the area to accommodate people of all ages and abilities. You can telephone the parks at the phone numbers listed below, but you can also get a great deal of information about each state park and what they offer by going to the websites www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks or www.stateparks.com/wi.html.

The website www.dnr.state.wi.us has information about rules and regulations, annual passes, day passes, trail passes, ATVs, snow mobiles, etc. In 2007, the annual passes were \$25 for entry to all state parks — \$10 for Seniors and \$35 for out of state residents. Day passes were \$7, \$3 and \$10 respectively. A one hour drive through a park costs \$5.

State parks and trails in our area are:

Belmont Mounds State Park, Belmont 608.523.4427
 Blackhawk Recreation Area, NW of Dodgeville, Highland 608.623.2707 www.blackhawklake.com
 Blue Mound State Park, Blue Mounds 608.437.5711 For events info check www.friendsofbluemoundstatepark.org
 Browntown-Cadiz Springs State Recreation Area, New Glarus 608.966.3777
 Cheese Country Trail, Mineral Point to Monroe 608.574.2911, www.tricountytrails.com
 Devil's Lake State Park, Baraboo 608.356.8301
 Governor Dodge State Park, 3 miles North of Dodgeville on Route 23 608.935.2315
 Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, Dodgeville 608.935.3368
 Military Ridge State Trail, 41 miles, Dodgeville to Madison 608.437.7393
 Natural Bridge State Park, Baraboo 608.356.8301
 New Glarus Woods State Park, New Glarus 608.527.2335
 Sugar River State Trail, New Glarus 608.527.2335
 Tower Hill State Park, Spring Green 608.588.2116
 Yellowstone State Park & Lake, Blanchardville 608.523.4427

For a free copy of Wisconsin State Park Visitor's Guide, call 800.432.8747 or order online at www.travelwisconsin.com.

For WEATHER REPORTS check www.crh.noaa.gov/flodof.html or call 608.249.6645, and for:

SNOW DEPTH & CONDITIONS in Crawford County call 608.326.0270, Grant County 608.723.2157, Iowa County 608.935.0399, Lafayette County 608.776.4048 & Sauk County 608.546.5011 or visit www.travelwisconsin.com

ATVs, check www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/lr/atv/atvtrails.html and for registration check www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cs/registrations/ATV.html

The Lafayette Cheese Country Trail is a 47-mile trail that runs from Mineral Point to Darlington and Darlington to Monroe with a 17 mile extension to Pecatonica. Call 608.328.9430 There is also an 18 mile trail in the Fayette & Wiota area that connects to the Cheese Country Trail in Darlington, call 608.776.4850. Mineral Point ATV trails are closed 9 PM to 6 AM, and Monroe ATV Trails are closed from 11 PM - 7 AM. See www.tricountytrails.com or call 608.574.2911 where Lee McCarville can answer many trail questions. ATVs require a special trail sticker which costs \$15. For a free copy of the Recreation Guide & more information on ATV trails, call 800.432.8747 or order online at www.travelwisconsin.com Also, check with the ATV Association at 920.565.7532 or visit www.watva.org Get ATV licensing and regulation information from www.dnr.state.wi.us or 608.266.2107.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, check www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/ski/xc.htm

There are cross country ski trails, and sometimes candlelight skiing, at the following state parks: Blue Mound 8.7 miles of trails, Devil's Lake 16.2 miles, Governor Dodge 20.7 miles, the Lower Wis-

consin Riverway 27 miles—not groomed, and Yellowstone 3 miles.

On Jan. 5 & Feb. 2 Blue Mounds State Park has Candlelight Cross Country Skiing & Hiking from 6 to 9 PM. Cost is just a daily or annual fee sticker. Free hot cocoa, marshmallows, a toasty campfire, with brats, chili, etc. for sale on site. 608.437.5711 There is also cross country skiing on the 23-mile Sugar River Trail out of New Glarus. For information on this trail, call 608.527.2334 and for Blackhawk Recreation Area, northwest of Dodgeville near Highland, click on www.blackhawklake.com.

Cross Country skiing is also available at Devil's Head—see information under downhill skiing for Devil's Head and at Devil's Lake State Park in Baraboo

www.wiparks.net or 608.356.8301 and at Mirror Lake State Park in Baraboo, www.wiparks.net or 608.254.2333.

Cross Country Skiing is available on Cheese Country Trail, but may not be ideal due to ATVs and snowmobiles on the trail; see www.tricountytrails.com or call 608.574.2911. For CC Skiing info on Pecatonica State Trail, call 608.328.9430, and at Yellowstone State Park in Blanchardville, 608.523.4427; at Military Ridge State Trail 608.437.7393; Governor Dodge State Park 608.935.2315 & White Mound State Park in Hillpoint call 608.546.5011 A general website is www.wiparks.net.

DOWNHILL SKIING Nearby, it's the Tyrol Ski & Snowboard Area, with 16 trails open from late November to March 31, 2008. Free ski lessons for beginning skiers and snowboarders. There are giant slaloms, slalom, bordercross-skiercross competitions. There are also races beginning in December, and Freestyle events start Jan. 10. Tyrol Basin is located at 3487 Bohn Rd, Mt. Horeb, WI. See www.tyrolbasin.com or call 608.437.4135. Chestnut Mountain Resort in Galena, IL also has skiing & snowboarding, and a winter carnival on Feb. 23-24. Check out www.chestnutmountain.com or 800.397.1320.

At Wisconsin Dells there is skiing, with lessons for children at Christmas Mountain Village Resort, see www.christmasmountainvillage.com/skiing.html or 608.254.3971.

Cascade Mountain in Portage, WI has 34 trails and 10 lifts, snowboarding and snow tubing. Kids under 12 ski free. 800.992.2754, www.cascademountain.com Devil's Head Resort has downhill skiing on 28 trails, as well as cross country skiing, ice skating, and snowboarding. www.devilsheadresort.com and www.devilsheadresort.com/dhr.info/w.left.tickets.aspx 800.472.6770

ICE FISHING at Blackhawk Recreation Area, northwest of Dodgeville near Highland, on a 223-acre lake, call 608.623.2707. Also 2 lakes at Governor Dodge State Park, 3 miles North of Dodgeville on Route 23, 608.935.2315, and Yellowstone Lake, which sponsors an Ice Breaker or Fish-er-ee in February.

Call 608.543.4427 for dates.

Check out www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/specific/findapark.html, and for more information see www.dnr.state.wi.us or call 608.266.2621.

ICE SKATING, in Dodgeville at Harris Park Ley Pavilion from 6:00-9:00 pm No charge except for skate rental.

Weekends, but call for information at 608.935.9971. The Ice Wolves Hockey Team also plays here. Devil's Lake in Merrimac, near Baraboo, has ice skating as well as downhill skiing, cross country skiing, and snowboarding, see www.devilsheadresort.com

Baraboo Ice Arena, Pierce Park, 608.356.9805. Also, the Five Flags Center in Dubuque, Iowa 563.589.4254, and Wisconsin Dells has Dalton-Poppy-

Waterman Ice Arena, call 608.253.8339. Governor Dodge State Park has ice skating on Cox Hollow Lake.

SLEDDING check Governor Dodge State Park for Twin Valley Beach sledding & Cox Hollow on Campground Road.

SLEIGH RIDES A to Z Percherons, Highland 608.623.2888 [\[rons.com\]\(http://rons.com\) & at Wisconsin Dells: Christmas Mountain Village 608.554-3971 \[www.christmasmountainvillage.com\]\(http://www.christmasmountainvillage.com\) & Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort, 1.800.867.9453 \[www.wildernessresort.com\]\(http://www.wildernessresort.com\)](http://www.atozperche-</p>
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SNOWBOARDING Tyrol Basin, located in Mt. Horeb at 3487 Bohn Road, has several runs, special events, races and a snowboarding team. For information, call 608.437.4135 or see www.tyrolbasin.com. For Reservations, call 608.437.4754, and for ski reports call 608.437.4386. Tentative season dates stretch to March 31, 2008. There are USASA Halfpipe and boardercross-skiercross competitions with skiers and snowboarders of all ages and abilities are welcome. These are held in January-March. To find out more information about the snowboarding team, contact Jon Winkler at 608.669.8591. There is also snowboarding at Chestnut Mountain Resort in Galena, IL see www.chestnutmountain.com or 800.397.1320. There is a Reality Check Snowboard Championship at Chestnut Mountain on Feb. 23. Also, there is snowboarding terrain at Devil's Head, in Merrimac near Baraboo, as well as downhill skiing, ice skating, and cross country skiing. See www.devilsheadresort.com.

Cascade Mountain in Portage has snowboarding as well as downhill skiing and snow tubing. www.cascademountain.com or 800.992.2754.

SNOWMOBILING Check the website www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/lr/snowmobile/trails.html.

For Snow Mobile Registration and information: www.dnr.state.wi.us/caer/cs/registration/snow.html.

Snowmobiling is allowed on the Sugar River State Trail, which in 24 miles connects New Glarus, Monticello, Albany, and Brodhead.

Blackhawk Recreation Area northwest of Dodgeville near Highland also has snowmobiling, www.blackhawklake.com.

Blue Mounds State Park, 608.437.5711 and Governor Dodge State Park, with 15 miles of trails, 608.935.2315

Yellowstone Lake/Park, with 4 miles of trails, at 608.523.4427

Also, you can snowmobile on the Cheese Country Trail from Mineral Point to Monroe, but you'll need 4 inches of snow to snowmobile there, check www.tricountytrails.com or 608.574.2911, or 17 miles on the Pecatonica Trail, call 608.574.2911, and at Military Ridge State Trail, 608.437.7393 General info at www.wiparks.net or www.dnr.state.wi.us and for snowmobiling licensing and regulations, call 608.266.2107.

For a Free Wisconsin Snowmobile Trails Map or Recreation Guide, call 800.432.8747 or order on-line at www.travelwisconsin.com For membership and contact information about local snowmobile clubs in all 72 Wisconsin counties that groom and maintain Wisconsin's 22,000 miles of trail, contact the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs in Appleton, WI at 920.734.5530 or go to www.awsc.org.

SNOWSHOEING info at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/trails/snowshoe.html.

There is snowshoeing in most parks, but not on the groomed cross country ski trails. There are specific snowshoe trails at Belmont State Park, 0.5 to 2 miles, call 608.523.4427, or Blue Mound State Park, 3.5 & 7 miles, 608.437.5711, Devils Lake, 0.5 to 5 miles, 608.356.8301, National Bridge State Park, 2.5 miles, call 608.356.8301, and New Glarus Woods 608.527.2335.

SNOW TUBING Cascade Mountain in Portage, WI., with downhill skiing and snowboarding as well. click on www.cascademountain.com or 800.992.2754.

Also at Christmas Mountain Village at the Wisconsin Dells, www.christmasmountainvillage.com or 608.254.3971





Agriculture’s Quiet History

by bill spevacek

Mining gave Mineral Point its name and the colorful history that the community continues to celebrate. But the miners are long gone. Had it not been for the fertile land surrounding the city and the industrious immigrants who tamed it, Mineral Point might today be little more than a ghost town.

The first settlers to till the land were a few lead miners who did not join the exodus of miners reacting to a sharp drop in lead prices in 1829. It wasn’t until after the Black Hawk War and the establishment of a federal land office in Mineral Point in 1834 that farm settlement began to pick up.

During the 1840s, agriculture developed as the lead industry faded. In 1847, the federal government began releasing lead lands for sale to farmers, and with the California gold rush, prices of land for farming fell. That word quickly reached Europe, and adventurous men and women set sail for the cheap land and a new life in southwestern Wisconsin.

My great-grandfather, Mathias May Sr., was one of them. He arrived here from the Moselle River region in Luxembourg in 1853 at age 17, drawn by the presence of his earlier arriving countrymen. He spent many days walking the area searching for the land he wanted. He found it between Mineral Point and Mifflin, rolling hills similar to his homeland. He sent for his parents and five brothers and sisters. His father, Nicholas May, used his mustering out pay as a conscript in the army of Napoleon III to pay for the family’s passage and the land. The May family story differs only in the details from that of thousands of families who settled in Wisconsin from Germany, Austria, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Bohemia, Poland and other countries, as well as eastern United States.

It was a tough life, clearing the land, building a house and barn, planting and cultivating a crop, with the help only of horses and neighbors. Wheat was the cash crop for early Iowa County farmers, who relied on cows, hogs, chickens, orchards and vegetable gardens to feed their families. Farm machinery started showing up on area farms in the 1870s. Wheat yields fell after several decades, and by the turn of the century dairying was the main source of income for the 2,300 or so farms in Iowa County.

Following World War II, many area farmers turned to beef production. Mineral Point soon became recognized nationally for the quality of its beef. Local farmers continue to diversify into such niches as lambs, goats, organic foods and specialty cheeses.

The success of area farmers generated related businesses that propped up the city’s economy: cheese factories, creameries, seed and feed dealers, machinery sales and the whole range of retail businesses.

For a century and a half, agriculture has been quietly supporting the Mineral Point economy and creating its own history. That history does not seem to be

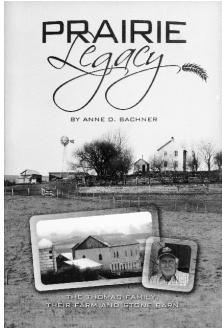
gathered in one place and its story told—another challenge for historical societies and the area’s best story-tellers.

About the Author

Bill Spevacek grew up in Madison. He and his wife, Pat, retired to Waldwick Township from Milwaukee in 1996 after a career in journalism, advertising and public relations. His mother, Gertrude May Spevacek grew up on the family farm in Linden Township. Bill recalls many happy summers as a child on that farm with his grandparents, where he learned to appreciate farmers’ work ethic and love of the land.



PRAIRIE LEGACY



A new book by Anne D. Bachner

The Thomas family has farmed the land west of Barneveld for four generations, enduring nature’s wrath, human tragedies, and the economic uncertainties of rural life. Harold Thomas and his son Doug actively work the fields, pastures, home and outbuildings.

Local writer Anne D. Bachner has turned family stories and her own research into a rich new book that captures the hardships and triumphs of both pioneer and modern farm life. Hardcover, at \$16.99, with proceeds to the Driftless Area Land Conservancy, which acts as steward for a share of the Thomas prairie property.

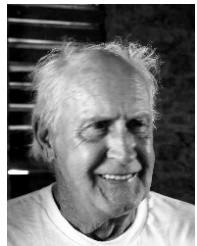
Better than any argument is to rise at dawn and pick dew-wet red berries in a cup. — Wendell Berry



THE THOMAS FARM

A Priceless “Prairie Legacy”

The old, old hills of Barneveld are cut by a four-lane swath of modern civilization, Highway 18-151, the link between Dubuque and Madison. Just off the pavement, motorists will see an agricultural cathedral in stone. It’s the Thomas Barn, an immense structure with classic roof lines, Roman style arches carved in thick native limestone walls, and earthen ramps leading to a loft that holds hay for horses and up to 1,000 head of cattle. Standing proud after 150 years of continual farming, the Thomas barn is emblematic. The house, outbuildings and acreage around the barn reflect the sum total of the cultural, agricultural, and natural resources of Southwest Wisconsin all in one place.



How fitting, then, that the fourth generation patriarch of the Thomas family should wisely provide for the historic preservation of the place. Harold Thomas, his wife Amy and their son Doug have contracted with the Driftless Area Land Conservancy to ensure that the 180 acre farm and its buildings will not be substantially changed by urban sprawl from Madison. An easement protects the barn, as an historic landmark, and 80 acres of pristine prairie pasture, a natural habitat for 14 rare bird species and a wealth of wild plants.

Doug Cieslak, Executive Director of the Driftless Area Land Conservancy, said, “The place is an absolute gem, and all of the region’s rural character and its quality of life are embodied in the Thomas farm. This project represents the culmination of many local talents coming together in a common cause to preserve our shared land legacy.”

Proceeds from the land transfer paid for a new roof on the barn, and grants and federal preservation programs will pay for a variety of improvements while the family continues to farm.

On the day Harold Thomas hosted his 85th birthday party in the barn he spoke of his bond to the place, and the warm feeling he experiences, knowing that the land and what the Thomas family has created on that land will remain in good hands for future generations.

NAME THE NATION

Richest in the world
Largest military force
Center of world finance
Strongest educational system
Currency the world’s standard of value
Highest standard of living

Great Britain, in 1900



DRUM SOLO

MINERAL POINT BUILDINGS LISTED IN 1976 ROUNDUP OF “HISTORIC WISCONSIN ARCHITECTURE”

In Wisconsin’s pioneer period, three major population centers thrived: Green Bay, Milwaukee and Mineral Point. An early family of architecture emerged about 1835, as Mineral Point enjoyed its first boom time as a lead mining city.

Pioneer building was characterized by one overriding rule: “use close-at-hand native materials.” In the other Wisconsin centers, nearby forests were harvested to build log structures, but the most available building material in a mineral town was, of course, local stone. It was simply hacked and blasted from the surrounding hills, and the Cornish, Welsh, Irish and German settlers were accomplished stone masons. They gave the state a distinctive list of rock homes and storefronts, which may have been equaled but was never excelled anywhere in the nation.

A roundup of architectural gems are listed in the 1976 edition of Historic Wisconsin Architecture. Of the 76 buildings in the collection, author Richard E. Perrin selected ten from Mineral Point, including the Railroad Depot, Odd Fellows Hall, the Pendarvis and Polperro Houses, Trinity Church, the Mineral Springs Brewery, stores along High Street and a handful of private residences.

Ten out of 76. Not too shabby, eh?



ON THE TOWN: WISCONSIN ARTS BOARD

The Wisconsin Arts Board conducted a series of town meetings during the month of November, and the Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts plays host to the Nov. 29 session.

Topics on the Arts Board agenda for the year include: imminent changes in the grants program, a discussion of the “public value” of the arts, and a report on news and trends throughout the state.

For more information on the agenda or meeting sites, contact Karen Goeschko, Asst. Director for Programs and Services, at the Wisc. Arts Board, call 608.267.2026 or karen.goeschko@wisconsin.gov or visit the website www.arts.state.wi.us

Farm Snowscape

White hills in every direction and a haze of snow in the air. A cluster of white-roofed barns and sheds fades into the flannel grey shadow of surrounding windbreak trees.

—Judy Sutcliffe



Ballet School Founder Launches Theatre of Ballet Arts

Many didn't realize until the 2006 Nutcracker production was presented on stage at the Mineral Point Opera House that there was a home-grown ballet organization in town. And yet, the Southwest Academy of Ballet Arts has been training and nurturing dancers for nearly eight years under the direction of Summer Hamille.

Hamille began her ballet training over 25 years ago in her hometown of Marion, Iowa. Understanding the importance of diversified training, she added other dance disciplines: jazz, tap, character, ballroom, and modern, to become a well-rounded dancer.

After a move to Minneapolis in 1983, Hamille began training in the Russian Vaganova method under Lirena Branitski, a former soloist with the Kiev State Opera and Ballet in Russia. She has participated in workshops taught by Russian Masters Gabriela Komleva (Kirov), Luba Gulyeva (Kirov), Max Ratevossian (Bolshoi) and Lirena Branitski (Kiev). In addition, she has trained under former American Ballet Theatre stars Ted Kivitt, Lise Houlton, and Bonnie Mathis. Additionally, Summer has performed with the Minneapolis Dance Theatre, St. Paul City Ballet, Continental Ballet Company, and Branitski Ballet Company in the Minneapolis area as well as the Madison Ballet in Wisconsin. She has also held roles from corps de ballet to principal dancer and performed in many full-length ballets including "Coppelia," "Cinderella," and "Golden Bough," and has danced excerpts from others such as "Swan Lake," "Don Quixote," and "Giselle."

While in Minneapolis, Hamille trained students in the Russian Vaganova method of ballet for 15 years. In 1999 Summer moved to Darlington and taught for the Wisconsin Academy of Ballet (Spring Green) and the Monona Academy of Ballet Arts, Inc. (SABA) in Mineral Point in June of 2000. Two years later she took over a studio in Platteville, expanding coverage of the southwestern Wisconsin area.

Over the years other dance disciplines have been added to the SABA class offerings to round out the dancer's training. These include ballroom, jazz, musical theater, modern and belly dance; and are offered in short-term sessions to introduce students to these disciplines.

Young children's dance for ages 3-7 has been popular permitting little ones to experience dance and begin developing an appreciation for music and movement. Enrollment is open throughout the years for introductory classes.

As ballet students gained in strength and technique, a performing group was formed—Apprentice Ensemble—to allow serious students the opportunity to explore dance on a higher level. They rehearse for two hours once a week and focus on learning variations and excerpts from classical ballets with side-trips into jazz, character, and contemporary choreography on point shoes. This group has been involved in parades, community and fundraising events, and special performances.

To step up their education and experience, and provide residents of the area with a local and affordable holiday favorite, SABA joined with the Shake Rag Players and the Platteville Community Theatre in an historic collaboration to produce the Nutcracker ballet. Its success went beyond expectations in Mineral Point, thanks to the very supportive community. Because of the interest, the Nutcracker will be an even-year production, the next being in 2008.

Upon the heels of that production, Summer decided a formal ballet organization would be needed for the purpose of mounting the Nutcracker and other productions for the enjoyment of the community.

Recently, the Theatre of Ballet Arts, Inc. was established as a non-profit entity to promote ballet and provide an educational value to the community. Board members serving this organization are Liz Heimerl, Richmond Powers, Nona Hyytinen, Jim Harris, Mike Rumke, and Summer Hamille.

To Learn More about SABA
& The Theatre of Ballet Arts
Contact Summer Hamille at:
608.345.8020

email: SABABallet@netscape.net
Theater@hughes.net



"Shake Rag," Myth-named?

The name Shake Rag was not brought to Mineral Point by the Cornish who settled in the area. There is no tradition of rag shaking in Cornwall, nor were there communities called Shake Rag anywhere in the British Isles. Moreover, Shake Rag was used as early as 1827, thereby preceding the arrival of the Cornish in the 1830s.

On the other hand, we are told one could find Shake Rags in Illinois, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, and elsewhere. A famous 19th century Shake Rag community in Hopkins County of western Kentucky was settled by emigrants from the pre-Revolutionary town of Shake Rag in North Carolina, who named the new town after the old. These Shake Rags were neither mining towns nor significantly Cornish.

It seems no coincidence, then, that the earliest settlers of Mineral Point were American citizens who came via Illinois and Missouri from Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, and New England.

Shake Rag communities characteristically had a rough reputation, as did the early boom town Mineral Point. A Shake Rag town was typically a place where, "Only one man in captivity would admit to living there," a place where "no one would want to set foot in." It's no surprise, then, that local citizens changed the name of the street to Hoard Street.

A shake rag, shack rag, shake bag, shag-rag or shag-bag can mean a disreputable person, a beggar, rogue, rascal, a disreputable appearance, or "a poor sneaking fellow." A commanding officer in the Revolutionary War called the thin, shivering and ragged soldiers, his "shake-rag" soldiers, possible alluding to their North Carolina background.

In the monumental History of Iowa County of 1881, reissued by the Iowa County Historical Society, on page 661 there is a statement that "the provincial sobriquet of 'shake-rag' or 'shake-rag under the hill'...was conjured up in the fertile brain of (tavern owner) 'Uncle Ab' Nichols, who was ever alive to any occurrence that furnished food for diversion." Thus, it is unlikely the name Shake Rag was original with Mineral Point. Best guess, from North Carolina via Kentucky and Illinois.

But, Mineral Point's Shake Rag Street certainly has left its unsavory connotations far behind and we are all very proud of our modern Shake Rag, irrespective of where the name came from.

Source: Research compiled by Dean Connors & Myron Bergenske, submitted to the Democrat Tribune in August 1996

But wait! There's more!

The name "Shake Rag" is shortened from "Shake-Rag-Under-the-Hill." The hill referred to the Mineral Point Hill. The "Shake Rag" area included the entire northeastern or earliest portion of the village of Mineral Point.

There have been many explanations for the Shake Rag name circulating in local folklore. The following are some of them.

•The name "Shake Rag" was applied to the Commerce and Shake Rag Street area because of Mrs. Matilda Hood's boarding house located nearby. Mrs. Hood had no dinner bell to announce noon meals, so she waved or displayed a large red cloth out of an upstairs window to signal her boarders that dinner was ready.

•Good-natured rivalry between neighboring villages encouraged "unofficial" names for the various mining camps:

Dirty Hollow/Dodgeville
Pokerville/Blue Mound
Peddler's Creek/Linden
Hardscrabble/Hazel Green
Shake Rag/Mineral Point



When the Territorial Legislature for Wisconsin Territory met in Belmont in 1836, one of Mineral Point's residents suggested his community for Territorial Capitol, to which one of the Belmont faction replied in a tone of withering sarcasm: "That is rich! Shake Rag, indeed!" (Wisconsin Historical Collections, Vol. VI, 299)

•Cornish housewives would signal their mining husbands that lunch was ready by shaking kitchen rags out the front door toward the nearby mines.

•From History of Iowa County, 1881: "Females, in consequence of the dangers and privations of those primitive times, were as rare as snakes upon the Emerald Isle; therefore the bachelor miner, from necessity, often performed the domestic duties of cook and washerwoman. The preparation of meals was indicated by appending a rag to an upright pole, which, fluttering in the breeze, telegraphically conveyed the glad tidings to the men at work on the hill. Hence, the circumstance, at a very early date gave the provincial sobriquet of 'shake-rag' or 'shake-rag-under-the-hill.'" (History of Iowa County, 1881, 60-661).



"Remuddling"

At the foot of High Street stood the Globe Hotel, built in 1868 to replace an earlier hotel on the same site, at 227 Commerce Street. President McKinley signed the guest register in 1869. Like most of the "commercial vernacular" buildings in Mineral Point, the structure lost its proud heritage in the mid-20th century, and a string of occupants imposed a series of "improvements" that resulted in the architectural monstrosity shown in the 1976 photo below.



In the "meet the Artist" feature on page 5, Bruce Howdle speaks of an agreement by three property owners, to bring back the Globe Hotel block with historic authenticity. Stonemason Roland Sardeson, who owned the property, and

Dr. Timothy Correll, who owns it today, put their historic values and hard work into the transformation of the building, which now houses a medical clinic and an apartment.



Remember, remuddling is the bane of historic preservation, and a blight on beautiful old neighborhoods.

Slapping up stucco, or vinyl, and then nailing on a few Phony Tudor planks? Nope, that's not Restoration, or Historic Preservation.

It may be Americana.

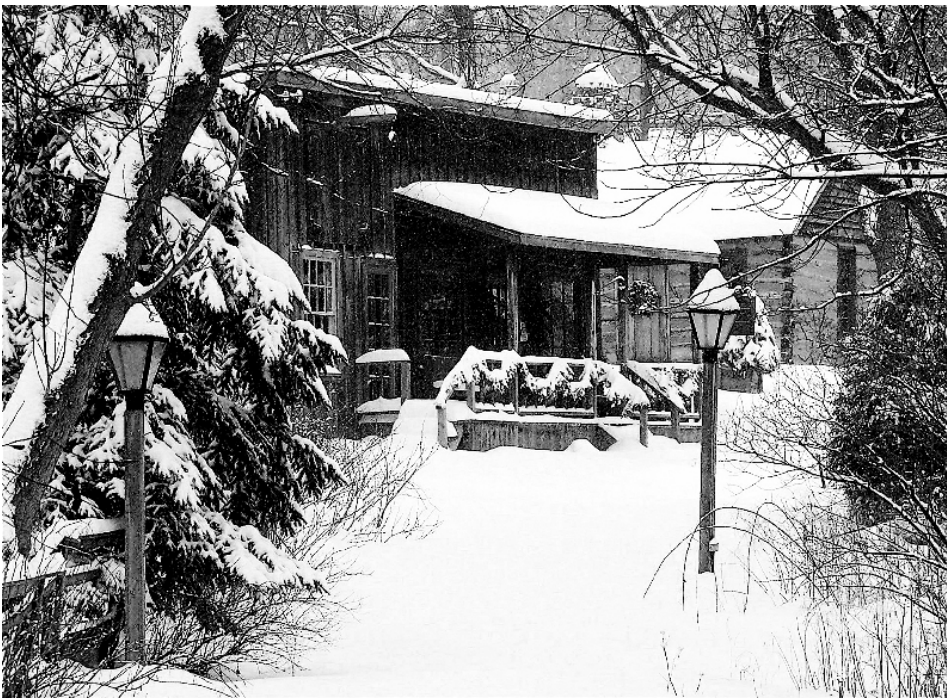
It's probably best called "kitch."

But it ain't Preservation.

If you are thinking of remodeling an historic building, get good advice from someone who cares about restoring or preserving the real thing.

And don't "remuddle."





Shake Rag Alley - '07

By Judy Sutcliffe

On October 14, Shake Rag Alley celebrated its third anniversary as an art school. And the year 2007 brought new challenges and rewards.

This year, for the first time, the school offered weekend workshops year round. Over 200 classes were offered, and 850 students responded, anxious to learn how to make a rustic willow chair or a hypertufa fountain or how to enhance a digital photo or write a better opening for a story. Several classes were offered for each weekend from the end of January through the first two weekends in November. Several larger weekend events—Garden Getaway in March, Mosaic Madness in June, Woodlanders Gathering in July, and Stage & Screen in August—drew students from our local area as well as metropolitan areas such as Madison, Milwaukee, Rockford, Chicago, and the Twin Cities. Additionally, nearly 60 Elderhostel students visited Shake Rag for a series of art and craft demonstrations.

Shake Rag students often stay overnight in Mineral Point and enjoy a vacation weekend at every lodging establishment in town; and, when rooms are available, in Shake Rag Alley's three guest rooms over the Stagecoach House or in the Mousehole suites right next door, managed by the Shake Rag office.

Shake Rag Alley's mission is not only to run a good art school but also to preserve and use the historic buildings on the 2.5 acre property. A lot has been accomplished this year. The Ellery House, used primarily for a multicultural arts program for area children, finally got the new roof it so badly needed, and a new furnace besides. Grants from the Dubuque Racing Association contributed significantly, as did the Chris Finkelmeyer fundraising concert of a year ago.

The log cabin has an new cedar shingle roof as well, plus a few new logs and a new floor, all much needed to keep this 1830s structure alive and well for the future. Restoration expert Alan C. Pape taught log cabin skills in June, and plans to teach again in mid-May through mid-June 2008. And, as noted elsewhere in this newspaper, Pape and Platteville teacher Jeff Schave have come close to proving that the cabin may be the oldest schoolhouse in Wisconsin.

The cabin's new roof covers the stone building behind the cabin as well, and it will now be possible to start putting blacksmithing equipment together for eventual classes there. Dennis McKernan recently acquired an antique forge in excellent condition for the shop.

2007 marked the creation of Alley Stage, our wonderful summer theater built in the old quarry, with a rock cliff as

backdrop to the open stage. Coleman came up with the idea and ran with it all the way, along with a lot of volunteers. Many thanks to good work from Amber Westermann Design, Tim Marr Construction, Terrill Landscaping, Reed Rigging, Wisconsin Electric Service, Sardeson Stonescaping, and the many others who built or donated money for 60 benches, helped out with tickets and snacks, and so much more. Grants from the Wisconsin Arts Board, Kohler Foundation, and Alliant Energy Foundation helped with expenses. Two original plays enlivened the stage on weekends during July and August. People loved watching the stars on stage as the stars came out in the sky over the quarry and the overhanging trees. Next season starts June 22, 2008, and will feature three plays across the summer nights.

We're very happy to announce that Dean Bakopoulos will become our Executive Director in January. We look forward to the progress Dean will bring to our endeavors, with his management skills and his creative writing classes. (See page 3) His staff includes full or part time workers Sarah Carpenter, Diane and Willie Sterba, and Karla Vogel, with occasional cafe assistance from Harriet Ridnour.

Tim Marr joined the Shake Rag Alley board of directors this summer, joining hard working board members Sandra Scott, Jim Kackley, Judy Sutcliffe, Sharon Stauffer, and Cheryl Smeja.

Shake Rag Alley is one more good reason why Mineral Point is one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Dozen Distinctive Destinations." Come and see.

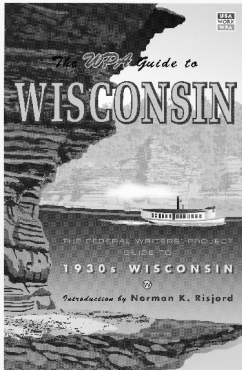


As 2007 draws to a close, Shake Rag Alley staff and board volunteers are preparing a spring catalog of workshops to be mailed in early January. Dates to mark on your calendar for next year:

Garden Getaway March 29-30
Mosaic Madness June 13-15
Woodlanders Gathering July 11-14
Stage & Screen August 4-9.

Phone 608.987.3292
or visit www.shakeragalley.com

WPA Guide to Wisconsin



BOOK REVIEW BY JOSEPH FRONCZAK

We've been duped. For those of us who grew up in Wisconsin, it happened in fourth grade, between lessons on recycling and remainders, when a well-mannered teacher taught us a version of our state history more domesticated than a Holstein cow. "Marquette and Joliet hopped in a boat—the priest got a school named for him, the fur trader a prison. Black Hawk was very brave, and then Wisconsin became a state, 1848. 'Badgers' was a derogatory term for miners so dirt-poor they dug homes in hillsides, and this was bad—that people used mean names, not that people lived in holes, but nobody was to blame for any of this. And then there were cows."

The lesson learned was clear: Wisconsin's history is rather irrelevant and even more boring, so we went on to the fifth grade and beyond without giving the state's past a second thought.

But if you pick up a copy of The WPA Guide to Wisconsin, reissued by the Minnesota Historical Society Press, you'll finally think again.

The WPA Guide unveils a forgotten history of the state so rich with strangeness and drama that it makes a lie of the cardboard narrative we rely upon. It breathes life into long-buried stories of the farmers' cooperative movement, railroad barons and lumbermen, immigrants displaced by the failure of the European revolutions of 1848, literary wives of Indian agents, armed missionaries, and singing lumberjacks. The WPA Guide also finds Native Americans not only in the lost past of Black Hawk, but in the authors' Great-Depression present, still facing the same old dilemmas. And this perhaps is the book's highest achievement—the guide's writers continually tie the past to modern Wisconsin, illuminating how the world we inhabit was raised on the mudsill of our history.

First published in 1941, The WPA Guide was a collective effort, cobbled together by the workers of Madison's branch of the Federal Writers' Project, the artistic arm of the New Deal Works Progress Administration. The FWP incubated some of the nation's greatest literary talents: Bellow, Wright, Ellison, Cheever, Hurston . . . and the Madison branch boasted the legendary marsh poet Lorine Niedecker and Aldo Leopold, who later authored the classic 'A Sand County Almanac.'

Yet the book was almost never even published. A cowboy politician from Texas denounced the FWP as treasonous because the project refused to censor its writers. In Wisconsin, the newly-elected Republican governor promptly directed the state legislature to cut the guide's entire publishing budget because of the nasty, but true, things the book said of his party. The situation was absurd: legislators, a profession not known for literary talent, panning the book of Niedecker and Leopold as poorly written—politicians denouncing it as politically biased. But Wisconsin's librarians came to the guide's rescue, as the Wisconsin Library Association picked up the publishing bill, and the Minnesota Historical Society reissued it. It hurts our state pride to rely on Minnesota to restore Wisconsin's strange history, but, as I learned in fourth grade, "At least Wisconsin has even more lakes than the "Land of 10,000 Lakes."

The WPA Guide to Wisconsin
651 pp. \$19.95, from Wisc. Historical Society & On Line.

Harry Potter and the Baptism of Dust



A WACKY WISCONSIN STORY

Once upon a time, Wisconsin had a Harry Potter. He was a reporter for the Milwaukee Journal, covering the Madison Statehouse news in the 1880's. Thirty years later he told this story to another journalist, and it's the only known account of a unique method to limit political debate.

In 1869, when it was built, the Assembly chamber featured a grand chandelier, hung from the domed ceiling. Because it took so long to light all the candles, and then extinguish them, the chandelier was removed, leaving a large hole in the ceiling, and a surrounding collection of dust deep enough to shovel.

One day a legislator—whose name, unfortunately is lost to history—decided to take action against his long-winded colleagues. He ordered a Capitol staffer to climb up into the ceiling loft, and stretch a heavy plank across the hole, propped up on one end by a stick, from which a cord descended into a closet just off the Assembly floor.

The next day, when a member of the opposing political party was droning on and on, the inventor slipped into the closet and gave the cord a solid jerk. The plank crashed down on the attic floor, sending a shower of dust cascading down on the lawmakers. They promptly gaveled the session to a close.

No one knew who did it. Then the legislators thought about the prank with the plank, and ordered the board and stick to be reset. A page was hired, at \$2.50 a day, to keep the trap ready. And some of the pols brought umbrellas into the chamber.

Because any member could sneak out and yank the cord, everyone was suddenly on best behavior. Speeches became shorter, voting faster, and the people's business was conducted more efficiently.

Eventually the hole was patched up. We don't know what impact that had on the assemblage, so that will have to be another story for another day.

Source: From an account in the Odd Wisconsin Archive of the Wisc. Historical Society, posted in July 2007.

The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak.

— Hans Hofmann



Did You Hear?!

Mineral Point, Wisconsin is a 2007 Dozen Distinctive Destination®, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation®.



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

DOZEN DISTINCTIVE DESTINATIONS 2007



Thank You
for reading
The Times
of Mineral
Point



“Catch the Spark”

Sustaining Community Activism

by Daniel Mack,
Rustic Designer & Author,
Founder of the Woodlanders Event

Editor’s Note: The Annual Woodlanders Gathering in Mineral Point took place this summer, and as an option for early arrivals, Shake Rag Alley offered a morning “think tank” with Woodlanders organizer, Dan Mack. About 40 people pulled up chairs or sat in the grass to hear Mack’s thoughts about the so-called “Green Revolution,” and “Sustainable Lifestyles.”

He posed a few questions: How can things change? How can interests, passions and feelings make their way into public behaviors and perhaps into laws?

We asked Mack to sum up his thoughts from that pleasant morning:

Believe it or not, this is meant to be an encouraging set of comments, but from everything we see and hear, we seem to be living in a time of disaster. Who among us does not feel the dis-ease? The War, the Other Wars, the General Climate Change, the Seasonal Weather Change, and a long parade of doctors and “experts” who give us glimpses of our own mortality. Have you ever seen so many ads on TV for treatments that deal with what are generally the symptoms of aging? Have you ever seen so many warnings that we are in terrible danger?

I was concerned that the whole issue of the environment was getting bogged down by an emphasis on technology and too many “oughts” and “shoulds.” In fact, the Sustainability Movement often resorts to some of the tactics it criticizes others for, pointing fingers of blame, making harsh demands and accepting no compromises. I sensed that the depressing Medical Model was operating here. That model starts with the assumption that we are sick, dying, damaged, incompetent, incapable, failing, dashlacking, disabled, dying, sick... get the point? Wow! Just using this as the starting point does a lot to make it happen.

I suggested, instead, the Potluck Model. No “oughts” or “shoulds,” but instead, “Here we all are!” In a Potluck World, we assume that people care, that people are interested in surviving, and having others survive, and the planet survive. This model immediately builds a team of people to work on an issue; it doesn’t split everybody up into the sick, sicker and sickest. The potluck model invites all who care and all who come to bring something to add to the discussion, and to the solution. It assumes that everyone has something to share. This allows for everybody, regardless of age, training, and interest, to participate and feel respected. At a potluck, you don’t point out deficiencies; but instead you nurture associations in which everyone contributes and listens.

One purpose of any good potluck is to get fed and share your food. So too with the Potluck Model of community issues. Ask right away, How can this meeting feed people? What can happen here that will make them want to come back?

I mentioned Roger Tory Peterson’s words on the excitement of watching birds: “Catch the Spark!”. Once you Catch the Spark, you are never the same, because your life has the capacity for discovery, joy, awe, wonder. You feel playful.

So how can we present community issues, environmental issues, issues of sustainable living, in a way that helps people “Catch the Spark”?

There is no easy answer. But here’s another term: it’s “emotional environmentalism,”

and it’s directly tied to “the Spark,” to joy, wonder and awe. By tying environmentalism to emotionalism, I mean to say that there will be no real environmental movement until it roots in people’s emotions. Those emotions run quite a bit deeper than a short list of mere proscriptions for sustainability, the “shoulds” and “oughts,” the “dos” and “don’ts.”

How can people learn to feel a commitment to sustainable living? Here’s a short list:

1. Contact with Nature

Before, during and after the awakening of the sustainable conscience, there has to be idle moments in Nature herself. Walks, hikes, sunsets and sunrises, rain, wind, mud, grass. People have to “feel” a need and desire for a sustainable life. The coincidences and minor accidents of contact with nature remind up of the awe, wonder, caprice and mystery of life itself.

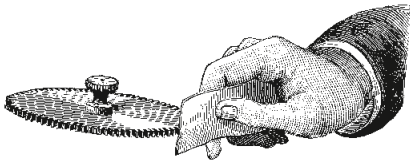
2. Stories

There have to be shared moments with others. This is the trading of stories about what happened on the walk, what was seen, avoided and collided with. We are storytelling animals. Storytelling about nature keeps the spark alive.

3. Opportunities to transform

We need chances to see ourselves do things, learn things, get better, and maybe worse, at life’s tasks. This is a huge part of living. In it, we join with all other life in a constant state of changing. Our culture tries to teach us that things are stable; that certain processes can be altered, stopped or reversed. Most of us know better. Experiencing and embracing the transforming qualities of nature and our role in it is another basic way to actually feel the environmental emotion I mentioned earlier. Exactly what does this mean? It means we enjoy the challenge and risk of learning new things, meeting new people and watching the ways we both change and stay the same. The Woodlander Gatherings are opportunities to learn more about ourselves, others and nature.

4. Finally, that simple statement by Gandhi: “Be the change you want to see.” Your change is different from mine and mine from another’s. But together, all, each in our way, can begin to create a sustainable life.



MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW, and JOIN DAN MACK and a Wonderful Group...

For the annual Woodlanders Gathering July 11-14, 2008 a four-day event that draws rustic wannabees from all over the nation to the learning valley on Shake Rag Street.

More than 50 topics are explored in hands-on workshops and demonstrations, giving participants the opportunity to construct everything from willow furniture to woven hammocks.

“It’s all natural, nature-based fun and imagination, a creative adventure with natural materials and what can be made from them.”

A poem is a mirror walking down a strange street.

— Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Mary’s List

18 STEPS TO SUSTAINABILITY

Mary Caulfield of Harrisburg, PA has created a number of ideas to share sustainability, things we actually can do, individually and as a group. See her list on the Woodlanders website, www.woodlanders.com

Sustainability encompasses more than just screwing in a compact fluorescent light bulb or throwing vegetable peelings on the compost pile; although those are both good places to start. Environmental responsibility is only one part of the sustainability equation. We also need to consider Economic and Social responsibilities.

We encourage you to share your ideas and actions with us. Here are a few of our favorite ideas, actions and websites to get the forum started. Many of them are free or low cost. We hope you’ll find some new ideas that you can use, and that you’ll send us your favorites.

1. Take Care of Yourself physically, mentally and spiritually. Take time to move your body, recharge your batteries, reflect on the day and eat well, with lots of water and good food.

2. Practice the Three R’s

Reduce. Waste reduction means consuming and throwing away less. Here’s where composting comes in. But also buying durable, long-lasting goods and downsizing just about anything you can think of.

Reuse. Repair items or donate them to charity or community groups. Use cloth napkins, refill bottles, use durable coffee mugs, etc.

Recycle. Turn waste into resources and keep it out of the landfill. Recycle as much as you possibly can, including glass, plastic, metals, cardboard, all papers, junk mail, clothing, etc. Take your own bags back to the grocery store. Visit www.epa.gov/garbage/reduce.htm

3. Find locally produced goods to reduce transportation costs and embodied energies.

4. Support businesses and organizations that reflect your core values.

5. Volunteer in your community. Sustainable Living is community-building.

6. Use cleaning & laundry products that are environmentally friendly, non toxic and will improve your indoor air quality.

7. Dry your laundry in the great outdoors if possible. It’s very cost effective.

8. Use compact fluorescent bulbs, if appropriate. Not every lighting application is a good candidate for CFLs. Don’t use them in lights that get turned on and off frequently; this can dramatically shorten the bulb life. And, when they expire, return them to the store for disposal, because they contain mercury.

9. Use the National Green Pages from Co-op America. Visit www.coopamerica.org for information on green discounts, recycling items you thought you couldn’t, socially responsible investing and more.

10. Participate in a Community Supported Agriculture or CSA group, if one is available to you, or grow your own vegetables if you have the space. If you cannot do either of those, buy food that is in season.

11. How big is your carbon footprint? Go to www.carbonfootprint.com. Start a local Low Carbon Diet Group.

12. Use low or no VOC—volatile organic compounds—paints.

13. Avoid vinyl if at all possible. Vinyl is very toxic to manufacture, and difficult to recycle. This is easier said than done. Vinyl appears in many products ranging from vinyl siding and fencing to medical products to Elmer’s Glue, and especially in building products.

14. Automobiles. Try one less errand a day. Try to walk to one errand a day. Consider ride-sharing for business and social events. Buy used vehicles. If you do buy new, get a hybrid vehicle, though it takes 17 years to pay back the carbon costs of creating even a hybrid.



15. When you need to buy a new appliance, look for the Energy Star label and research durability and repair records at www.ConsumerReports.org.

16. Water: Consider a water filtration system instead of bottled water. And in most places the standards for tap water are stricter than for bottled water. www.coopamerica.org can get you started on this. Look into grey-water use in the garden and yard, but be sure and check with your local building codes department first to see if it is allowable.

17. If you’re planning to remodel, add on or build a new house, get a copy of Your Green Home from www.BuildingGreen.com, publishers of Environmental Building News. Depending on the size of your project, you may want to consult with a design professional who is familiar with sustainable building design. Consider tracking down a green builder.

18. Add insulation to your attic.

DUBUQUE RUNS A WINTERTIME FARM MARKET

SATURDAYS TIL APRIL 26
9 TO NOON

1044 IOWA STREET

-- enter from the alley --

Find locally grown produce,
baked goods, and MORE



Local fare

CAN YOU change the way you consume your food?

BY RINK DA VEE

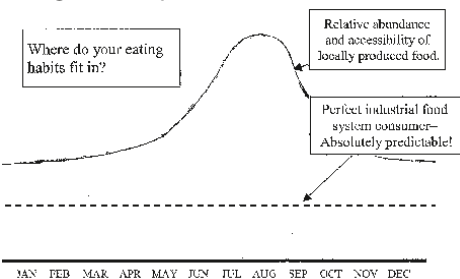
I know you’ve heard about it, but I’m here to tell you that there is a growing movement to eat foods produced from the region where you live; or, using the popular slogan, to “eat your view”.

A new Office of Continuing Education initiative called Local Fare has just begun, to look at ways we can support this movement right here in Southwest Wisconsin.

Our first project was to hold a series of listening sessions with food producers who operate throughout the region that stretches from Monroe up to Vernon and Crawford Counties. As we poured through the comments from the meetings, one theme rose to the top: “we need to increase demand for local products in our region through promotion and education.”

It seems obvious, doesn’t it? Local food is fresh-picked, locally made, and thus more delicious. And ultimately, putting dollars in the pockets of local producers puts more dollars in the local economy.

But to make a basic change, we need to change a lot of personal food habits.



This graph represents our challenge. The top bell curve represents foods available locally, with an obvious peak during the summer when our fields are bountiful with a selection that rivals any other part of the world. The bottom line, which goes straight across, represents the “ideal eater” in the industrial food model — not the LOCAL model, but the INDUSTRIAL model. Like the man in the movie “Super Size Me,” who has eaten a Big Mac every day for 20 years, this line shows no variation for season or location. Yes, it’s a great model for today’s industrial food system—unchanging customers’ demand.

You might not relate to this model, because you may think you eat a variety of foods, but you might be surprised when you see how much corn is in your diet (read the bestseller, *Omnivore’s Dilemma*, by Michael Pollan). As an example, I discovered that when I bought a sour cream dip for my chips the other day that the top ingredient was corn syrup, instead of milk (in fact there was very little dairy in it). The American food system, with its emphasis on highly processed items, puts most of us somewhere on that bottom line, trapped in a “food rut.”

How can we increase the demand for local foods and bring the two lines on the graph closer together? Well, as a start you can think about where you fit into this graph, and start working to bring your eating habits to the point where they more closely parallel the top line—to enjoy the wealth of local meat, cheese, fruit and vegetables.

For the sake of our health, and to support local farms, we as a community need to look at how we can expand our horizons as food consumers. I can guarantee you that farmers are working on increasing production, making our products more convenient to you, and offering a greater selection throughout the year. But you can take part in this movement, too. Becoming a “localvore”—a catchy term for people who focus on eating products from



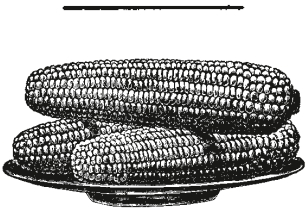
within a certain distance of their home—is not easy. It takes effort. But here are a few suggestions:

1. Check out www.localharvest.org or www.savorwisconsin.com for a listing of farms, markets and restaurants where you can eat local food products.
2. When you have a party, serve a meal prepared from local ingredients.
3. Cook with new foods and search out new recipes.

Young people are catching the spirit. Holly Jelinek, a 15 year old from Bagley, was asked if she sees anything positive in a new way of eating, and she said it all: “we have the chance to try new stuff”.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Rink DaVee is co-owner of Shooting Star Farm and coordinator of the Local Fare initiative at UW-Platteville School of Continuing Education. He encourages anyone who wants to contribute their experience to building a strong local food system in SW WI to contact him via e-mail at daveer@uwplatt.edu



ORGANIC FOOD was once a hobby for hippies...then a luxury pursuit for wealthy folks...but now it’s about to be widely recognized as the most effective way to deal with world hunger and the ecological damage we are inflicting on our planet. A large-scale switch to organic food would reduce both hunger and environmental destruction.

Critics have long held that organic growing reduces crop yields; but, grudgingly, many farmers are beginning to admit that, done right, organic farm methods can increase crop yields while building up the soil, not tearing it down with chemicals.

So what about daily life in the American kitchen?

Cooking with local, fresh, organic food gives you minor irritations, traded for much tastier, healthier nutrition.

Expect to pay more for local fare, but recognize that a higher local price allows the farmer to farm in a more ecologically-friendly way.

Local foods require more care in preparation, because they’re not designed for a long shelf life.

So, a few extra pennies and a little more work at the sink? Sure, and it’s worth it!

“Eat Local” is not a fad. People are voting with their forks for a different sort of food system.



If I were reincarnated I’d want to come back as a buzzard. Nothing hates him, or envies him, or wants him, or needs him; he’s never bothered or in danger, and he can eat anything.

— William Faulkner



CARROT VS. TWINKIE

Junk food in a time of Plenty

by Frank Beaman

First, a confession. I love to eat. I will eat almost anything. Except not coconut. Further, I am fighting to keep my weight under some sort of control—not an easy task in a time of bewildering food choices.

This column shakes out a few things I’ve learned about the American way of eating and our ludicrous U.S. food system.

One thing I know from reading and travel: it is possible to eat delicious, healthy, economical meals, and all at the same time. But, in this country it’s hard to do that because of the way we get our food. As a result, we face what the surgeon general calls “an epidemic of obesity.”

I’ve created a bit of fancy; it’s about a public health research worker who has just dropped down from Mars. I see him asking, “Why does a nation that’s overfed and overfat live with government agricultural policies that are at cross-purposes with its public health goals?” Then he asks, “How come people with the least amount of money to spend on food are the ones that are the most overweight?”

So I’ll try to answer the Martians questions, by pointing out the obvious truth: we eat the way we are told to eat, and that’s the way the food giants have arranged it, with the government’s help.

You probably know that in the American supermarket, where some 30,000 items tempt you, the aisles are laid out so the fresh foods—dairy, meat, fish and produce—stand on the fringe, while towers of processed food and drink dominate the center of the store. If you have a dollar to spend, the “energy dense” processed foods are your bargain. Your dollar will buy 1,200 calories of chips or cookies, but only 250 calories of, say, carrots.

Foods we correctly call “junk” are the least healthful in the store; they contain less water and fiber, but more fat and sugar, so they are both less filling and more fattening. They’re

heavily promoted and advertised, positioned well in the stores, and their jazzed-up, synthetic, manufactured flavors are irresistible to the conditioned American consumer.

The Twinkie is a junk icon: 39 ingredients, most chemically made without the fuss of real pastry, 290 calories per serving, 37 grams of sugar. And intricately packaged in plastic, backed by a hefty marketing budget. How can a supermarket sell Twinkies for less money than a bunch of carrots, which provide real nutrition at about 30 calories a pop?

To answer that question, you have to get out the Blame Machine. And there’s plenty of blame to go around. To make it simple, just “Follow The Money.” Food makers have discovered they can make food like substances at less cost than real food. Chemical additives give the product a long shelf life, and consequently more chances to sell. The grocery chains realize a better markup from imitation food. All sorts of middlemen—truckers, distributors, advertisers—take a cut.

And the farmer? The farmer gets the fewest pennies out of the food dollar.

Also, blame the Farm Bill, and this is the year that Congress puts a farm bill together by gathering a handful of midwest legislators together to thrash out mind-numbing details behind closed doors. Nobody pays attention, because most of the American populace thinks farming is just a quaint activity in which no one has a stake.

You may be certain that the Farm Bill will bankroll the commodity crops that make up the Twinkie—corn, soybeans and wheat are three of the top five subsidized crops. The farm bill once featured limits on production or a price support mechanism. But today the bill is, mainly, subsidies for the power crops, and the subsidies foster overproduction of these crops, because commodity farmers get a check based on how many bushels they can grow.

The result is a food system awash in corn-sugars and soy-fats, as well as dirt-cheap meat and milk from grain-fed animals.

The government does almost nothing to help the grower of fresh produce.

So, Mr. Martian, that’s the answer. The least healthful calories to power the body are the cheapest to make, and the corporations who make the “faux food” enjoy the blessings of Washington D.C.

What to do? For several ideas, read Rink DaVee’s article on this page, and “vote with your fork” for a system closer to our homes, a fresh-picked system, a system that allows farmers to grow for the marketplace, not the paycheck, a system that makes the farm bill a FOOD bill.

Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man’s ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.
Heigh-ho! sing heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then, heigh-ho! the holly!
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,
Thou dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friend remember’d not.
Heigh-ho! sing heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then, heigh-ho! the holly!
This life is most jolly.

— William Shakespeare



A Celtic Christmas & Benediction



In ancient times, the peoples of the Celtic lands were fearful as autumn became winter. They observed the natural rhythms of the earth and skies with understandable trepidation. It was a time of beginnings and endings, of dark days that finally lengthen, of bitter cold and welcome heat, of roots from the cellar and then emerging seeds struggling up through rock and mud.

The uncertainty that characterized the ancient Celtic times is largely absent in today's world. We don't need to build a fire for heat and light, or worry about food and shelter; we simply turn up the thermostat, pull on the parka, and catch the weather report on the internet.

But lurking beneath our modern response to the season, we may sense the old roots of humanity, and the mysteries of dark and light, of heat and cold, of life and death. And it is the season for what many consider the deepest mystery, the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ.

Pre-Christian Celts looked at their natural world as the product of a divine source. The great wonder, they thought, was that creation had produced anything more

than a harsh life on a rugged landscape. They attributed the world's abundance to a divine presence, and they celebrated what they perceived as a fusion of the natural and the supernatural. Thus, they could accept, as at least plausible, a faith tradition that spoke of the divine becoming human. The great story, that a man came from God, as His son, and then returned to God through reincarnation, did not seem to the Celtic mind as too farfetched.

As early as the first century, then, the Celts embraced the central Christian concept and most of the proclamations of the early church.

Today, religious tradition follows a similar course, in the daily life of modern Celts. But with a Celtic twist, as exemplified in an account from Patrick Thomas, the Welsh author and Anglican priest:

"...in every Welsh nativity scene, a washerwoman accompanies Mary, Joseph and Jesus at the manger. For the Celtic tradition, if Jesus isn't born daily into the common household, then there's really no point of celebrating his birth at Bethlehem."



The Deep Peace of the Running Wave to you,

The Deep Peace of the Flowing Air to you,

The Deep Peace of the Quiet Earth to you,

The Deep Peace of the Shining Stars to you,

and the Deep Peace of the Son of Peace to you.