

THE TIMES OF

Mineral Point

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LET'S GO  
TO THE  
IOWA COUNTY FAIR

It's a sure sign of the season, as dependable as the falling leaves — trucks roll toward Mineral Point and the Iowa County Fair gets underway on Aug. 28 at the fairgrounds southwest of the city. Exhibits, livestock judging, live music, food contests, 4-H events and a variety of farm displays are featured, along with the ever-popular harness races at the grandstand, a demolition derby, and the rides of the carnival midway. Truck and tractor pulls are also big hits with the fairgoers.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FAIR

The five-day event was organized as a major social event for the county, when it opened in 1851 in Dodgeville, and it was declared a big success, but the fair lapsed into a five-year hiatus and did not resume until 1856, which is the date used to calculate its history. In 1855, the "County Seat War" erupted, with petitions to the State Legislature from Dodgeville and Linden seeking to remove county government from Mineral Point. For several years, that political tug-of-war had strong impact on the county's premier summertime event. In 1858, Mineral Point broke away and held its own festival, and dueling fairs were staged in Dodgeville and Mineral Point — a week apart — until about 1914, the year Dodgeville held its last fair.

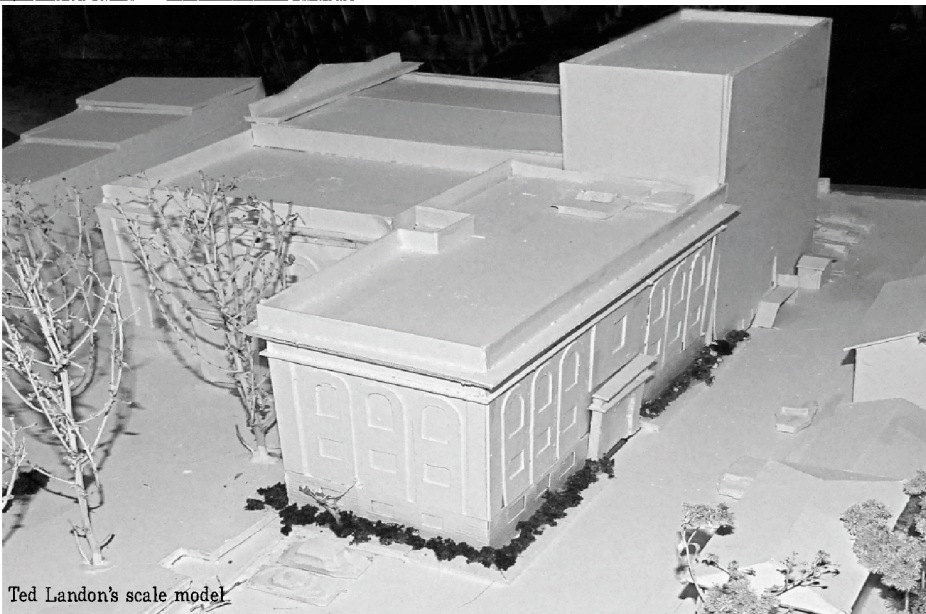
IT'S MORE THAN GOOD, CLEAN FUN

In the 1850's, exhibitors paid \$1 to show their stuff, and the public's gate fee was only 10 cents. Today, the money picture is far different. The Iowa County fair enriches Mineral Point in a number of ways: it brings weekend visitors to the city, to shop, enjoy restaurant meals and local lodging, it polishes the city's position as an agricultural center, and it offers farmers — young and older — a good opportunity to exchange ideas with others who live off the land. It gives the County Fair's visitors fresh air, vivid colors, interesting people, and a good look at 21st Century farm life.

AUGUST 28 THRU SEPTEMBER 1



WWW.IOWACOUNTYFAIR.ORG



Ted Landon's scale model

MORE THAN A FACELIFT

Two fundraising campaigns, separate in structure but joined in a fervent common cause, are designed to produce the dollars to bring Mineral Point's unique Municipal Building into the 21st century and open its rooms to wider use by the public. Plans to expand the city's Library and the historic archives of the Mineral Point Room were announced in 2006, along with a proposal to make City Hall offices and the Senior Center more accessible. A citizens group was formed and a Library Fund drive got under way. The City Council pledged financial support to the effort, contingent on successful fundraising figures. The \$5 million project would replace the current senior center with a three-story structure, which would become a part of the Municipal Building. The library would be expanded, the Mineral Point Room would be relocated, a community center would be developed, and an elevator would serve city offices and the city council chamber. Architecturally, it's rare to find city offices, a library and a stage, all under one roof. Recent surveys indicate the 100-year old

Municipal building is structurally sound, but in need of extensive mechanical updating. A second group of concerned citizens is discussing ways to restore and improve the Opera House, and the City Council has voted to provide financial support for the \$2.2 million theater project, which would update both the interior and all mechanical elements of the 1915 vaudeville house. The group's fundraising effort has gathered more than \$1 million toward the project, which would refurbish seating, heating and cooling, the stage and theater equipment. Bruce Palzkill, seven-year veteran of the Library Board, and Don Hawkins, Fundraising Chair, are spearheading the Muni Bldg. Campaign. And Phil Mrozinski chairs the committee working to make the Opera House one of the area's premier performance venues. Mineral Point Mayor Gregg Bennett backed the twin campaigns, by posting a letter to the community: "The structure is a local landmark, well worth restoring and maintaining for your use today and for future generations to appreciate."

FOR EVENTS SLATED TO BENEFIT THIS PROJECT, SEE P. 12

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FALL ART TOUR:

A PLEASANT DRIVE IN THE COUNTRY  
AS  
STUDIOS WELCOME GUESTS

Here's a personal invitation from fifty-one of the finest artists in southwest Wisconsin: "Come to visit our studios!" That warm welcome is the idea behind one of the area's most popular annual events, the Fall Art Tour. Four artistic communities — Baraboo, Spring Green, Dodgeville and Mineral Point — invite the interested public to drop in on artists in their homes and studios, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the weekend of Oct. 17 through 19. And there's no charge for the tour, the studio visits, or the gorgeous autumn scenery. Visitors follow a map (available in both the Fall Art Tour brochure and the Tour website, [www.fallarttour.com](http://www.fallarttour.com)), to find the kind of art they fancy. And, once inside the artist's studio, they have a rare opportunity to chat with the creative hosts, watch them demonstrate their techniques, and get a peek at how they live their personal lives. Mineral Point Tour Coordinator Diana Johnston says, "Every artist has a personal way of working, and every studio is different, so the Fall Art Tour is a high energy time for everybody, and it's the personal connection between the artists and their visitors that makes the Tour so very special. Everyone goes home with some good stories."

Many studios are located in the rolling hills and valleys of the Driftless Area, making the drive from place to place exciting and rewarding. It's a self-guided tour, but each community has opened a Tour Headquarters to help travelers and answer questions; In Baraboo, stop at Cornerstone Gallery, 101 4th St., phone 608.356.7805. For Spring Green and Dodgeville, see the No Rules Gallery, at 120 S. Albany St., Spring Green, phone 608.588.7509. Mineral Point's tour headquarters is Johnston Gallery, at 285 High St., phone 608.987.3787. The Mineral Point arts community is represented by the work of fifteen artists, who live, work and show their wares in the city. It's all a part of the rich variety of the town, with its historic stone buildings, lovely landscapes and friendly people. The Art Tour brochure features lodging and dining spots in the participating cities. If you are thinking of a pleasant Fall weekend in the country, this is THE event.



WWW.FALLARTTOUR.COM



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the joy of  
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through the generosity  
of our readers.

For which we thank you.



Comments, Queries, Contributions?

Wet the nib and write

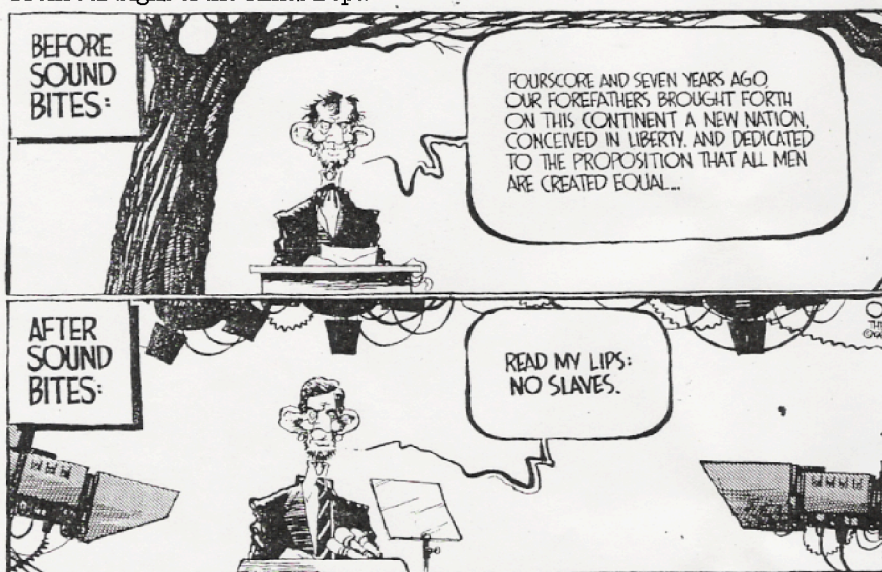
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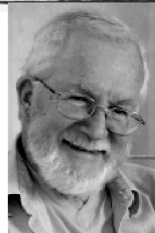
From our Signs of the Times Dept.



ONE MAN'S OPINION:

## News in Bits & Bites

By Frank Beaman



My career as a news reporter began in the 1960's, at one of those "All Things to All People" radio stations, the kind that used the pubic airwaves to serve their communities so well. They're gone now, of course.

During the turbulent 60's, television displaced the newspaper as America's primary source for information about our world. But both broadcast and print news media took their responsibilities seriously in those days, so much so that academic types now call the decade "The Golden Age of Broadcast Journalism."

In that era, newsrooms, print and broadcast, just reported what happened. Only that. People got a newscast three times a day, and what they heard was straightforward, fair, square, and when compared to today's frothy newscast, pretty dull. Our goal was to make plain words work hard, so the listener would grasp the meaning and the content. News was presented without "emotional color" (for that read "acting") and without sensational content, without fanfare. "Getting it Right" was more important than "Getting it First," and what was most important was "Doing no damage to Truth." Listeners faithfully tuned in to news reports, and trusted those reports because they trusted the reporters (Think of Walter Cronkite). Further, Americans listened carefully, so that, as members of the Informed Electorate, they could make intelligent decisions based on the information they got from radio and TV.

What about "sound bites?" Well, in the 60's, when audio tape was edited with a razor blade, the actual voice of the "newsmaker" was used sparingly, and only when the recorded quotation added something vital to the story. These "voice actualities" were, on average, forty-two seconds long. (Look it up!)

Today, "sound bites" are, on average, only seven or eight seconds long. (Check it out!) The "bites" are short, the stories are short, and the total time allotted to real news is short, almost to the vanishing point. (Hold

a stopwatch on a typical newscast to find out for yourself how little time is devoted to actual "hard news" that would be useful to a listener hungry for information.)

Much of what's available to today's Uninformed Electorate is simply a raucous collection of crime, calamity and celebrity, pumped up but dumbed-down, mere newsbits and newsblurbs.

It's not news. It's only SortaNews.

Broadcast news has shifted, from information to entertainment, "attitude," personal opinion and shouted viewpoints — a "no-no" in the Cronkite era. Instead of simply telling the audience "what's going on in the world," most of today's news presentations terrify while at the same time titillating (a pretty nifty trick!), giving their audience the false impression that the world is out of control.

The news media further polute our already fragmented and polarized cultural atmosphere by playing a cynical game: airing news reports that simply reinforce the beliefs and biases held by individual members of the audience. This deepens the prejudices, as the audience "takes sides" — Left vs. Right, Red vs. Blue, etc.

The correct role of a responsible news media is to "play it down the middle," provide facts, and thus help the audience formulate an informed opinion over time.

There is some very good journalism out there; but, sadly, there are many news outlets that behave like high school kids staging a skit for Homecoming. The result is a mix of sloppy work, cliches, manipulation, triviality and outright silliness.

You might label it a joke, but if it's a joke it's a cruel one. In these complex and troubled times, the american public needs solid, reliable coverage of current events. We're not getting it from the "talking boxes." We get, instead, gossip, slogans, fleeting computer and photo images, and an endless stream of mindnumbing commercials — at a time when the Electorate badly needs perspective and wisdom.

## Rural Studio Mixes Architecture With Aid to Needy Families

The Mineral Point Press in June presented a lecture by Prof. Jason Coomes, outlining the philosophies and practices of Rural Studio of Alabama, one of the nation's most celebrated architectural enterprises.

The late Samuel Mockbee established the studio in 1993, and recruited architecture students to design and build homes and public buildings, to be constructed of natural and recycled materials, which were then given away to some of the poorest people living in rural counties of Alabama and Mississippi. Students have built more than

175 community projects and charity homes since the studio's founding, giving the innovative workshop international recognition.

Prof. Coomes spoke and showed photographs of the studio's projects in a Saturday afternoon performance at the Mineral Point Opera House, drawing a large and appreciative audience of townspeople and visitors, including a number of architects from throughout the region. Contributions and grants funded the lecture, a benefit performance for the Mineral Point Opera House restoration.

## Farm Life Exhibit Continues

A landmark building on Mineral Point's historic High Street is the setting for a dramatic exhibit of Farm Life in Southwest Wisconsin, and the popularity of the presentation has given it continued life until mid-October.

The Mineral Point Historical Society opened "Farm Life: A Century of Change for Farm Families and Their Neighbors" on June 27. The exhibit has been very well received and attendance has continued to rise since the opening.

The exhibit is located at 203 High Street in the heart of downtown Mineral Point and will be open through Oct. 19, 2008. Hours are Fridays and Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 3 p.m.

Local farm families generously shared their stories, photographs, and artifacts for the exhibit, and agricultural history comes to life through the memories and stories of those who grew up on farms, attended rural schools, participated in FFA and 4H, helped make ends meet on area farms, and witnessed widespread changes in farm life. Visitors will recognize themes common to rural life and many of the joys, pleasures, and challenges faced by farm families and communities nationwide.

A traveling exhibit about agriculture in Wisconsin, developed by the Chippewa Valley Museum, is also on display.

Admission to the exhibit is \$5.00 and the ticket is good for free return visits until the exhibit closes in October. The ticket also entitles visitors to a free tour of Orchard Lawn, the Italianate home of the Gundry family, currently being restored. Visitors will also receive discounted admission to Pendarvis and the Mineral Point Railroad Museum. Children 12 and under are admitted free. For more information, call 608.987.2884 or click on [www.mineralpointhistory.org](http://www.mineralpointhistory.org)



**Farm Author  
Jerry Apps**

on

**"The Country Life"**

at the

**Opera House, Sept. 11th**

Well-known author Jerry Apps will be in Mineral Point for a free reading and presentation on Thurs., Sept. 11, 2008. This special engagement is part of the Mineral Point Historical Society's summer-long Farm Life initiative and will be held at the Mineral Point Opera House at 7:00 p.m.

Born and raised on a Wisconsin farm, Apps is the author of more than twenty-five books, many of them on rural history and country life. An engaging speaker and talented storyteller, he will read from several of his books, including Country Ways and Country Days and In a Pickle: A Family Farm Story. He will also be promoting his newest book, Old Farm: A History, due out this fall from the Wisconsin Historical Society.

App's presentation, entitled "Stories from the Land," is sure to remind Mineral Point area farm families of party-line telephones, farm life before electricity, and how farm kids and parents worked together to make a living on small family farms.

\*\*\*

This special event is free and open to the public thanks to the generous support the Farm Life project has received from area businesses, organizations, and individuals.



# Literary Festival at Taliesin

Three Top Writers in  
Spring Green — Sept. 12 - 13

The green swept river valley that drew Frank Lloyd Wright to Wisconsin is the setting for the 11th Annual Spring Green Literary Festival, featuring three prominent writers in two days of readings and workshops at the Hillside School.

For the 2008 edition of "Litfest," as it is popularly called, once again the tranquil atmosphere of Taliesin East, the Wright architecture school, serves as a backdrop for a pleasant weekend designed to inspire readers and would-be writers.

Participants get to know the authors, hear passages from books and poems, and learn how ideas evolve into completed stories.

Award-winning authors Charles Baxter, James DeVita and Honor Moore headline the event, reading from their works on Friday, Sept. 12 in a two-hour presentation at the Gard Theater in downtown Spring Green. The event is open to the public without charge.

On the following morning, the festival conducts author workshops, discussions and book signings. Registration promises a Saturday that would include author presentations, a catered lunch, and an option to spend the afternoon in two different ways: either in face-to-face discussions with DeVita and Moore, or in a workshop with Prof. Baxter that involves individual coaching in writing skills. At 4:30 p.m., the two groups convene in the intimate Hillside Theater for closing festivities.

Baxter is a Midwesterner who teaches at the Univ. of Minnesota. He is best known for his book *The Feast of Love*, nominated for the National Book Award. His latest novel, *The Soul Thief*, is about a graduate student who suspects his identity is being appropriated. Reviewers say Baxter's books are "luminous investigations of the prosaic — quiet, gracious and deeply felt."

DeVita is a well-known face and voice in Spring Green. He is an actor and core member of American Players Theater. In his novel, *The Silenced*, he tells of a young heroine whose identity fades as her civil liberties are methodically taken away in the name of protecting the state.

Moore's new book, *The Bishop's Daughter*, explores her relationship with her father, an Episcopal priest and activist bishop in Washington D.C. during the Lyndon Johnson presidency. The book earned a Guggenheim

Fellowship. A poet and playwright, Moore teaches in the graduate writing program at the New School and Columbia University.

The Spring Green literary event is centered on a theme: the authors explore issues of personal identification — identity stolen, lost, or in conflict.

The Hillside School, a part of the 600-acre Frank Lloyd Wright estate, stretches alongside Highway 23, south of the Wisconsin River at Spring Green. The building that houses the School of Architecture offers dramatic spaces in wood and stone, and a dining room, exhibit area and 100-seat theater, along with beautifully landscaped grounds for strolling in the river valley.

For information on the featured authors and the annual Literary Festival, visit the website at [www.springgreenlitfest.org](http://www.springgreenlitfest.org).

Check out the Writer's Corner and other links that provide important information on the literary arts. If you have other questions, send E-mail to [info@springgreenlitfest.org](mailto:info@springgreenlitfest.org), or phone 608.588.3009



## Foundry Books Hosts Poetry Reading

Poetry devotees read, and an audience of thirty people applauded, as Foundry Books on Commerce Street played host to "Poetry Series, Vol. 1", an informal afternoon of rhyme, refreshments and good conversation.

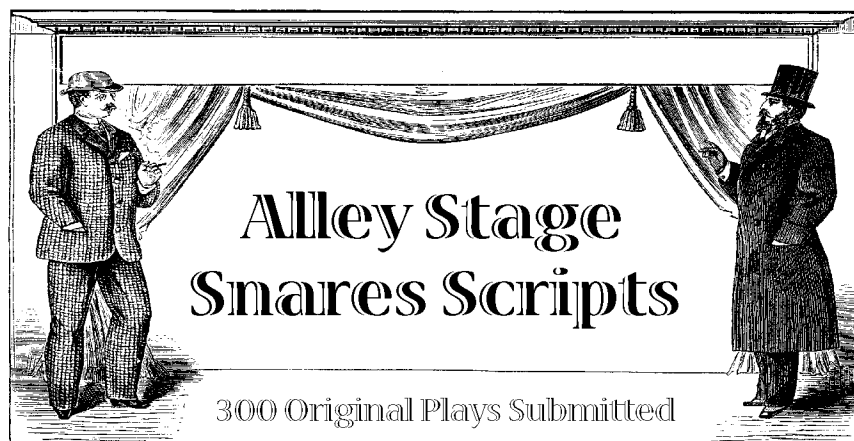
Hostess Gayle Bull, and Mineral Point residents Michael Donovan, Doral Frost, Lois Holland, Shannon Marr, Mark Miskelly, Richmond Powers and Bruce Rowe read poetry, most of it their own work. The setting for the recitations was the private quarters at the rear of the bookstore, an intimate and comfortable space that allowed the readers to speak without a microphone. The 1847 ironworks building has a colorful history, which includes its use as a communicational crafts center in the 1970's, a gathering spot for young artists who were newcomers in Mineral Point.

"Poetry Series Vol. 1" garnered good reviews from an appreciative audience. Another poetry session is in the planning stage, but no date has been announced.

# A Picture-Perfect Independence Day



The weather was just right, the crowd was big, as the bands, floats and marchers brought traditional color to Mineral Point's big 4th of July parade. The holiday celebration featured its traditional components: a morning walk-run, outdoor concerts, fireworks at dusk — and in Library Park, the American Legion fixed 800 grilled chickens, and sold every last one of them!



As its second season draws to a close, the outdoor theater at Shake Rag Alley presents its final play, "I See Her Everywhere."

And the theater's management is setting aside hours of reading time for a mountain of submitted original manuscripts, to narrow down choices for the Summer season of 2009.

Coleman, Artistic Director of Alley Stage, says he has received more than 300 original scripts in less than eighteen months of operation. Only five productions have hit the stage. The ratio of "usable versus discarded" is bad news for would-be playwrights, and also represents a headache for those who must judge the submissions. Alley Stage can produce only three plays per season. And Coleman points out that few scripts would be a "fit" on the theater's outdoor stage, where space is limited, the cast must employ local and regional actors, and the material must have the right kind of appeal to the Shake Rag Alley audience.

"I See Her Everywhere" is a "fit."

The 2008 season's third play, "I See Her Everywhere" meets all the criteria. "It has everything we love in live theater: a compelling story, an interesting setting, fully drawn characters, great dialogue, and a big heart," says Coleman.

The natural backdrop of Alley Stage provides the perfect rustic setting for the production, in which a father has taken his teenaged son to Minnesota's Boundary Waters to help the boy recover from the horror of a Columbine-like shooting. The play examines family ties, the generosity of sacrifice, and the resilience of human spirit. Coleman terms it, "always poignant, at times funny, and ultimately uplifting."

It's the work of playwright Caleb Stone, of Dodgeville. Reed Gaines, a talented Madison East High School actor, plays the boy. Adam Wacker, of Platteville, frequently seen at the Dubuque Opera House, is the father, and

popular Mineral Point actors Roland Sardeson and Ann Alderson-Cabezas also appear. The drama ends Aug. 31.

After the final curtain calls, Coleman will devote his time to reading scripts and planning next year's Alley Stage season. He says, "There are plays from New York and L.A., but also from Tennessee, Virginia, Hawaii, England, Australia, and South Africa. I read them all — the good, the bad and the ugly. And the exceptionally good."

Coleman says the theater wants to present plays that demonstrate the wide range of good writing done by playwrights who are struggling for their first or second production.

"We aim to present a variety of types of plays," he says, "comedies, some mysteries, historical settings and serious drama, which give our audience more choices and to offer our actors different types of roles." "Our season," he says, "is a menu of offerings, each one interesting and distinct on its own, but which when combined tell the story of who we are as a theater company."

# State Historical Society in City for Pasty, Protocol & Pendarvis



Members of the Wisconsin Historical Society enjoyed a plateful of Cornish Pasty, and then Figgyhobbin, at their midday Annual Meeting at the Old Royal Inn. Forty-five members rode the bus from Madison, toured the Capitol in Belmont, the Mineral Point Railroad Depot and the Pendarvis Historic Site.





General views such as this show several houses, in addition to 208 N. Chestnut, before 1915. Photo - Mineral Point Archive

# How to Discover the History of Your House

by Mark Speltz



The Speltz home today. Photo - Joel Heiman

**"Many common Wisconsin homes have dramatic stories to tell, so you never know what might be revealed as you peel back the layers."**

When my wife and I purchased our house at 208 North Chestnut Street in Mineral Point six years ago, I was determined to learn as much as possible about its past. Although I wondered—like most new homeowners—about those who lived there before me, I soon uncovered more than a simple architectural history of our house. While I would love to share the results of my research (published this past spring in the Wisconsin Magazine of History), this article simply outlines many of the sources you can use to research the history of your house in Mineral Point or elsewhere in Wisconsin.

You'll discover, in addition to the architectural history of your house, how the house has changed over time because of changing technology, materials, and tastes. You'll also begin to establish a narrative that weaves through the lives of many former Mineral Pointers—a long line of individuals and families who have celebrated, grieved, and faced life's joys and challenges within the same four walls.

History is ever present in Mineral Point. In 1971, Mineral Point became the first town in Wisconsin to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The large historic district includes wonderful stone buildings constructed by immigrant miners and builders from Cornwall, England. The hilly streets about town are filled with significant structures, including the state's oldest surviving railroad depot, a two-story-high stone structure built in 1856; a 1914 Municipal Building and Opera House; the Jones Mansion; and the Gundry House, now home to the Mineral Point Historical Society.

Yet, many of the 500-plus structures in the Mineral Point Historic District are not architectural masterpieces, but simple buildings and houses that contribute to the town's unique historic character. The majority of us live in average houses, but these simple homes and buildings have many stories to tell about their past. The sources outlined below are beginning points but are sure to make the history of your house come alive by adding personality, character, and context to the story.

A wide variety of records and resources are available to researchers interested in discovering the history of a house in Wisconsin. The sources listed below are commonly available at local archives, such as the Mineral Point Archive, Iowa County courthouse, Southwest Wisconsin Room in the Karrmann Library at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, and at the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison.



## Getting Started

Although there is no set order in which to consult the resources below, a good place to begin is to determine when the house was constructed. By identifying the architectural style and understanding when particular styles were commonly built in Wisconsin, you can narrow your focus to the period when the house was constructed.

## Wisconsin's Architecture and History Inventory

You may live in a house located within the Mineral Point Historic District or one that was included in an architectural survey completed years earlier. If so, a preliminary amount of information was recorded and entered into Wisconsin's Architecture and History Inventory (AHI), which is searchable online at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi/](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi/) or call 608.264.6512 for more information. The database can be explored by county, city, and address, or by style or historic function.

## City Directories and Telephone Books

If old city directories exist for your community, they provide the means to uncover information about previous owners or occupants. You may also discover the resident's occupation, the names and relationships of all occupants, or if they owned a business. If you don't know the name of the past owner, early directories often have reverse indexes so you can search by address. Using multiple directories, you can build a list of occupants, and determine how long they lived there. However, in some cases the address (both the number and the street name) of the property may have changed over time. In these cases, fire insurance maps provide the street name and house number during the year of the map update.

Local libraries and historical societies typically have directories and phone books. The few that exist for Mineral Point are available at the Mineral Point Archive. The Wisconsin Historical Society has a large collection as well for cities elsewhere in Wisconsin.

## Tax Records

Tax rolls and assessment lists document the acreage, valuation, owner's name, and the name of the person paying the tax. The records can help determine the age of the house by noting changes to the property's value, and develop a chain of ownership. Many of these records are held in the Wisconsin Historical Society Area Research Centers statewide. For more information on the research centers visit <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/arcnet/>, or call 608.264.6460 for more information. If you cannot find the information you seek there, contact your local tax assessor. The Iowa County records are available at the well-equipped Southwest Wisconsin Room in the Karrmann Library at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

## Deeds

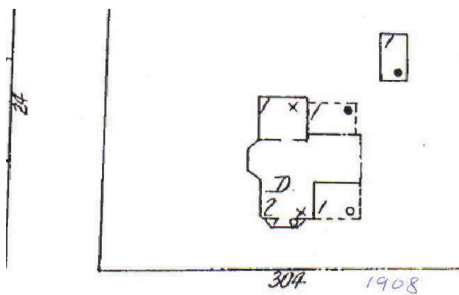
Deeds to property are held at the county Register of Deeds office in the Iowa County courthouse building and will help you establish the chain of title for the house. Starting with the name of a past owner, you can work forward or backward, determine when the house changed hands and how the transaction took place, and confirm the names of the owners.

## Building Permits

Most cities in Wisconsin regulated building activities, but unfortunately for house researchers, the resulting records may no longer exist. Old permits and case files may include a wealth of information including cost, construction date, alteration date(s), and names of owner, architect, and builder. Researchers should begin by contacting the city or county agency responsible for enforcing building restrictions.

## Maps

Plat maps, birds-eye views, and real estate atlases are resources that will provide additional information on the location of your house. Early maps may help you to track changes to the street name or house number, or to see the pattern of development in the area. Maps in rural areas will help identify owners of neighboring lots. A variety of maps are available at local archives and at the Wisconsin Historical Society.



## Fire Insurance Maps

The Sanborn-Perris Company created maps of American communities to assist fire insurance underwriters in determining fire risk. Although other companies also made insurance maps, Sanborn-Perris documented 325 different Wisconsin communities and updated their maps every five years. Coverage varies but the earliest maps were made in 1883 and most continue through the 1930s. The Mineral Point Archive has a set of these maps. The Wisconsin Historical Society has an extensive collection of these for much of Wisconsin. Because some information in the maps is conveyed by different colors, the black and white microfilm copies are less comprehensive.

## Census Records

Well known to genealogists, federal population census records for Wisconsin date back to 1820 and provide house researchers with information about past residents, such as name, sex, race, state or country of birth, year of immigration, and occupation. Online databases, such as Ancestry and HeritageQuest, are available free at the Wisconsin Historical Society and serve as tools to make searching the records more efficient.

## Photographs

Old photographs of your house will answer many questions and may even prompt a few more. The best sources of historic photos are the photo albums that belong to descendants of previous owners. Consider contacting former residents and checking with neighbors to see if they have any photos that

include your house in the background. The Mineral Point Archive and Mineral Point Historical Society have extensive photo collections. Be sure to look at as many photos as possible of your street, neighborhood, and nearby businesses as your house may be visible in the background.



Images from former residents offer clues to uncovering the history of our house. Photo - Mary Alice Moore

## Trade Catalogs

Catalogs published by millwork companies and other materials suppliers document the wide variety of products available to the builders during the time your house was constructed. These catalogs may help determine when your house was built, where the materials came from, or when changes were made. Some mail-order catalogs, which sold blueprints or kit houses, included floor plans and colorful renderings that may resemble your house.

All of the sources outlined above will help you assemble a social history of the house that includes the people and not just dates and materials. Your narrative will be richer because of the stories about the individuals who lived there, celebrated important milestones, and made the house a part of their lives during its long history. Good luck with your research.

Many thanks to Daina Penkiunas and Jim Draeger of the Wisconsin Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office for their comments and assistance.



**MARK SPELTZ** is a historical researcher for American Girl, a Matell firm. A student in Public History at UW-Milwaukee, he won the History Dept. A.T. Brown Award for "best graduate paper" in 2005-06. He is co-author of *Fill 'er Up: The Glory Days of Wisconsin Gas Stations*, forthcoming from the Wisc. Historical Society Press. (Also a PBS special TV program). Mark serves on the board of the Mineral Point Historical Society; and led in the formation of the Farm Life Exhibit, a historical society project open in downtown Mineral Point this summer.

The article, "If Ordinary Walls Could Talk: Piecing Together the History of My House" documents the mysteries, insights, and stories of Mark Speltz's house history detective work. It appeared in the Spring 2008 issue of the Wisconsin Magazine of History. You can purchase the issue or read it online at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/wmh/>.





## WOODLANDERS GATHERING: A JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY

The Seventh Annual Woodlanders Gathering brought a rustic population — artists and learners — to Mineral Point in mid-July, to whittle, saw, chop, weave, lash, drill, carve and — most importantly — to celebrate their creative skills.

The Shake Rag Alley School of the Arts opened its 2.5 acre campus to more than 100 students, for a 3.5 day marathon of imagination and hands-on instruction, drawing participants from all over the United States. Dozens of workshops offered topics of interest to both beginning and experienced rustic artists — twig furniture, rustic architecture, mosaic and stone work, garden art, and a host of other artistic enterprises that use natural materials and found objects to create works of rustic beauty.

It's a festival of potential and possibility, in which men and women visit a gorgeous natural setting — the Shake Rag Alley valley — and open their minds to unfamiliar and exciting opportunities to take a few scraps from nature's storehouse, use simple tools and a little muscle, and go home with a prized possession.

The school's faculty simply calls it "A Summer Camp for Adults."

Daniel Mack, acclaimed rustic designer and author of several books on the rustic arts, conducted a number of sessions during the weekend, pointing up his philosophic view of the creation of artistic objects from natural materials. "It's a collision of cultures," Mack said, "where nature meets geometry." His belief is that making something beautiful from forms of nature not only changes the shape of the natural object, it also changes the life of the creator. Mack says "It's fusion, natural materials, but patterned by man, materials in harmony, celebrating the energy of the woods."

Mack was a headliner at the first Woodlanders Gathering in 2002, and has returned to Mineral Point from his home in upstate New York each summer to serve as instructor and mentor. He praises the quality of the faculty, the natural setting for the classes in Shake Rag alley, and the event's informality. Mack calls the place, the course offerings, and the personal networking "almost magical."



For many of the students of the workshops, the weekend is a reunion with woodlanders they've met before. And, for a good number of beginners, it's a weekend of discovery, as they come to realize that they have artistic capabilities they didn't know they possessed.

Jim and Christie McNab left their rural home to spend four days at the gathering. Christie writes, "We packed in as many classes as we could and were completely worn out by the end, but we now have many lovely pieces of furniture and art for our home and garden. We never had time to even try our hand at any art-form when we lived in the city. I always find great inspiration at Shake Rag Alley because of many factors, including the beautiful surroundings and gardens, the quaint buildings, the sense of community, the spirit of whimsy and fun that permeates everything done there, and the many dedicated, creative artists who teach there. Shake Rag is a very special place that enriches our lives in a very meaningful way."



Matt Ostergrant wields paint brush

The work in Phase II of the Orchard Lawn restoration is now in full swing, inside and outside the 1868 home of the Gundry family. A construction crew has installed large pipes to improve the site's drainage. Another crew has improved the driveways and stonework. And, as shown here, carpenter Rob Edge and a number of vol-



Head Carpenter Rob Edge

## Restoration at Gundry Home Continues Apace

unteers have now completed their work on the small shed that was the only outbuilding to survive the near-demolition of the property in 1939.

Wallpaper, carpet and paint analyses inside the house are also yielding clues, as the Mineral Point Historical Society coordinates its effort to take the building back

## Shake Rag Alley Initiates Economic Development Effort

The Board of Directors of the Shake Rag Alley School for the Arts has voted to place new emphasis on aiding the financial health of the Mineral Point community, by offering the sort of educational programs and course choices that would attract an audience from a wide geographic region.

At a recent board retreat, the directors discussed increased promotion of cultural tourism at the school, as a means of generating improved economic development in the community.

Executive Director Dean Bakopoulos summed up the meeting, saying, "Shake Rag Alley is an evolving organization. Because of the phenomenal growth and amazing community support we have received in our short, four-year history, I felt we needed some time to assess our performance as an arts school and arts center. The board spent two days talking about

some of our biggest success and challenges, and adopted a 'Visions & Values' statement to guide our organization in the years ahead, as we aim to build community and inspire creativity in southwest Wisconsin."

In its visions statement, the board pledged to work to better involve Mineral Point residents in Shake Rag courses and events, and to provide free programs, need-based scholarships, and inviting arts experiences for both experienced artists and novices.

The board spoke of striving to be "active members of the community," by participating in civic and social initiatives and partnerships with other organizations.

In its summary statement, the board of the Shake Rag Alley School said it will provide for the city "a wealth of arts opportunities that are often unavailable in rural communities, important to local residents because creativity is an essential part of human happiness."



Dean Bakopoulos



David & Tari Engels

## Founders' Day Celebrated with Food, Fashions and a Flock of Flappers

One of the community's most popular "time machines" worked its magic on July 31, as the Mineral Point Historical Society marked its Third Annual Founders' Day by taking about 120 patrons back in time to the "Roaring Twenties."

The lawn at the Gundry home was set with white tables and chairs, crisp linens, china and silver, and a single rose in a vase surrounded by strings of pearls — to complement a candlelight dinner from Cafe' Four at the Chesterfield. On the edge of the home's broad front porch, a 1920's-style Speakeasy was in full operation, and a few steps away, an old Ford sedan rolled up, then rested, to serve as backdrop for dozens of photos.

In keeping with its educational mission, the society reviewed historical elements from the decade, and the audience answered 20's Trivia questions as part of the evening's festivities.

The Stellavovas played "Cafe Jazz" for dancers who had taken the time to learn the Charleston and the Two-Step.

The history group inducted three new members into the organization's Gundry Legacy Society, to recognize their significant contributions to Orchard Lawn

and the community. The inductees were: Serena Nelson, for forty years of writing and research on local history; the late Ken Colwell, a local weaver who gave volunteer service, inspiration and financial support to the Society; and Dean Connors, former bookseller and MPHS officer, noted for his stalwart efforts in historic preservation.

The president of the historic society, Jim Stroschein, spoke of the work under way on the house and grounds as part of Phase Two of the Gundry restoration. He

stressed the Society's goal — careful restoration to former architectural glory — but he said the museum would be put to frequent use by the community, without rules and restrictions. "No velvet ropes," he pledged. Founders' Day was first celebrated in 2006, to commemorate the action

taken in 1939 by eleven Mineral Point residents, who saved the Gundry family home from threatened demolition, and who then organized the local historical organization.

The society employs a decade from history as the theme for the big party on the lawn — the 1930's for the first year, and the 40's for the 2007 event. Next year's theme has not been announced.



Dining a la "Roaring Twenties"



## Shake Rag Stage and Screen Workshops: A Full House in August

Hollywood and Broadway came to Mineral Point once more, as the Shake Rag Alley School for the Arts conducted its annual Stage and Screen Week, and the campus reverberated as award-winning actors, producers, directors, filmmakers and screenwriters taught workshops that brought experienced views to aspiring show-biz students.

The instructors also brought a new comedy production to Mineral Point, written by the clever Bill Svanoe, and performed by Joan Darling, Judy Kerr, Kerry Shear and Mike Wiley on the stage at the Opera House on Friday night, capping a single week of rehearsals for the cast, who spent their days as teachers in Shake Rag Alley classrooms. The contemporary play, "Lost and Found," entertained a full house. A previous Svanoe comedy, "Pants on Fire," is reportedly under consideration for New York production, after its premiere in Mineral Point two years ago.

Wiley presented his one-man show, "Jackie Robinson, A Game Apart," at the city's UCC Church on a mid-week evening.

Writer/Director Blake Bradford added something new for the week's offerings: a class on "Stage Combat," taught with a touch of comedy by Bradford and movie fight choreographer Matt Klan.

The Stage and Screen event is the result of a fortunate happenstance, a story best told by Shake Rag's Sandy Scott, who met the talented show business team of Bill Svanoe and wife Joan Darling at performing arts workshops in Iowa, and later invited them to Mineral Point. To her surprise and delight, the couple agreed to come and said they would bring their colleagues. The professional actors and producers have enjoyed the atmosphere of the city, and the Shake Rag valley, and have returned to conduct a week of hands-on workshops without compensation. They donate their time and talent, and the students, the school and the city get the rewards.

How's that for a story with a happy ending?!



**"It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat."**  
— Theodore Roosevelt

## So...Where is this landmark?



If this Mineral Point building has historic or personal meaning to you... tell us about it. Write the Times of Mineral Point, at P.O.Box 169





# MEET THE ARTIST

## LESLIE BOHLIN

Interview by Frank Beaman

She holds a degree in Industrial Management, based on a fondness for computer technology. Her left brain – the analytical side of her mind – is more active than the creative right side, or so she says.

She also says that kind of thinking – patterned and organized thinking – is what led her to her art and her craft – weaving.

Meet Leslie Bohlin, the dog-loving, left-brained fabric artist who owns the Bohlin Gallery, a former feed mill and rough-and-tumble saloon. She has transformed the building at the bottom of the High Street hill into a Mineral Point architectural gem.

The local limestone and the tall windows give the 1876 warehouse a glowing and distinctive character. A phantom painted sign can be faintly seen on the building's west wall, a souvenir from the 1920's, when the structure was the Martin mill and a thundering wheel ground the grain, upstairs.

Inside, it is a house of many colors, many threads. Her looms – large and smaller – occupy space at the rear of the gallery, surrounded by spools of yarn and fabrics, from which Bohlin fashions a variety of woven confections for the home and a collection of striking wearing apparel.

"I started weaving when I was a Brownie Girl Scout," she says. "My parents inspired me; my mother's fondness for fabric was always a treasured part of my life, and I admired my father's skills as carver and woodworker." She adds, "And I shared my parents' dream: to, one day, open an art gallery."

Bert and Jean Bohlin came to Mineral Point in 1978, when Bert retired after a career in labor relations for a number of corporations. "Mom and Dad said they were not going to get involved in too many community activities; but, rather, would enjoy the simple pleasures of their hobbies – woodworking and needle crafting," says Bohlin. "Well, that idea lasted about two days." Leslie's father became a major figure in historic preservation. He served several years on the Wisconsin Historical Society board, and threw his energies into the formation of the Pendarvis Trust, fighting off a move to combine Pendarvis artifact with historic treasures at Old World Wisconsin. He also worked on the germ idea for today's popular Fall Art Tour. He signed his work "Citizen Bohlin," and his writings and outspoken public positions on community issues drew both criticisms and praise. Mostly praise.

Born in Louisville, Leslie grew up in a number of places, and left Purdue Univ. with a diploma in computer science and industrial management. Weaving remained her passion through her adult years; and, while living in Chicago, she took weaving classes from Denise Cavanaugh, a nun in St. Charles, Illinois, and when visiting Mineral Point studied with the late Ken Colwell at the old Brewery on Shake Rag St.

"Like my parents, I fell in love with Mineral Point when I first saw the place," she says. Her Wisconsin visits began in 1978, and she discovered a small artistic group, "an eclectic, wonderful mix of people who got together for potluck dinners at the Foundry, the communal artists colony." She met sculptor Bruce Howdle on her second day in the city, and found friendships in the company

of Harriet Story, Joel Duncanson and others. Those friendships matured during the next two decades, but it wasn't until 1998 that Bohlin and her husband moved to Dodgeville. Four years later, after unfortunate personal circumstances, she was fiercely determined to change her life, and she grabbed the chance to swing open the doors of an art gallery, fulfilling the Bohlin family dream.

Before making an offer to buy the old tavern at Commerce and High Streets, she called her mentor, Sister Cavanaugh. Gravely ill with cancer, the nun came to Mineral Point, to look at what was then Pilling's Pub, with a sign out front that read "no luncheons served." She struggled with her walker to the rear of the littered



building. "She climbed onto a bar stool," Bohlin recounted, "a pin ball machine to her left and a bowling game to her right, and she sat there in uncharacteristic silence for a time. Finally, Sister simply said, 'I can see it – this is the right place.'" Leslie quickly signed the contract, recruited an architect and local builder Tim Marr, and began seven months of work that produced a striking gallery space and the large upstairs apartment where Leslie and her pet dog live.

"The building talked to me as we worked," says Bohlin, "just like the architect said it would. The plans called for a dropped ceiling, but when we discovered the massive 3 X 14 inch joists overhead, we simply sandblasted the black paint away and uncovered the natural wood that gives the gallery ceiling its rugged texture today."

The Bohlin gallery claims a wide-ranging inventory of interesting items: sculpture, woodcarvings, jewelry, prints and paintings, pottery, as well as the work of "Les' Looms." Leslie shares sales-counter duties with her mother, and says, "I'm so grateful I have my Mom by my side in this endeavor."

A recent series of medical mishaps resulted in a stay in an assisted living facility and a regimen of physical therapy. However, Leslie

says her friends were great aid to her during her months of recuperation. And now, fitted with a boot and brace for one foot, she says. "I'm determined to keep going, to keep weaving and greeting customers."

Asked about "the allure of the loom," she says weaving combines the creative with the mechanical, the left brain with the right brain, and thus satisfies her craving for both an artistic and technological pursuit. "The ancient craft of weaving was the precursor to the punch card," she says. "Do you remember the punch card? It was the early starter for computer technology for business, and it was simply lines and spaces. Just like the warp and woof of the loom."

She joins other artists in the city who are uncomfortable with the economic realities of the creative life, as people travel and spend less, resulting in far too many slow days in the galleries. "We are too much a well-kept secret," she says, "and we need to get people off the highway and into shops and studios." Bohlin would like to see signage – more effective but with signs tastefully executed – to draw visitors to Mineral Point.

"The artist's life is troublesome," she says. "Sales are intermittent, not steady and reliable, so most artists and artisans need a second source of income to make a living." She points out that the city's well-established artists own their studios, so escalating rents are less a problem in Mineral Point than in many artistic communities. But property taxes, she believes, may drive some artists out of business, or even out of the city.

However, her enthusiasms run high. "I've got the best job in the world," she says. "I meet people from all over the world, I have caring friends, and I still have time for my weaving."



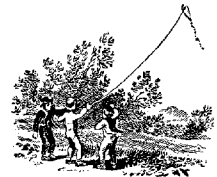
### Where Iowa County Works

Local Employment statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau show that, in 2004, almost one in three workers in Iowa County commuted to the Madison Metro area for their jobs. The figure was 30.2%, and that represents about 3,271 people.

They are the ones whose sighs, screams and curses could be clearly heard during the past winter's record snowfall and frightening road conditions.



## Connecting Kids with Nature



All that time kids spend in front of a television or computer screen isn't just making them pudgy. It's also a problem because of what screen time doesn't do: it prevents kids from establishing a fundamental connection with nature.

Children spend an average of slightly more than 4.5 hours in front of some sort of glowing box each day, according to the Centers for Disease Control. It would seem that button pushing has replaced the unorganized forms of outdoor play, and that many of today's kids only leave the family room to join the over-organized world of team sports.

It's a fact that every generation of young people is adjudged fat and lazy by the older generation; but, in today's electronic age, it's fair to ask if the absence of time in nature will harm children's minds as well as their young bodies.

Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods, Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, believes the divide between young people and the outdoors is connected to the rise in children's obesity, along with emotional and attention-deficit disorders. He points to a shrinking attention span, likely the result of watching constantly changing electronic entertainment.

Louv says this "broken bond" with nature is eroding mental, physical and spiritual health. And he worries about the fate of our environment, for children raised without an affinity to nature are less likely to respect and protect it in the future.

Fortunately, the solution to this one is a "no-brainer." The solution is as close as our back doors, where our kids could pass through (after turning off their game sets) and go outdoors for unstructured play – exploring, digging a hole, or just looking for interesting shapes in the clouds.

We are not speaking of what some would call "old-fashioned outdoor pursuits" – tree climbing, frog hunting and fort building. As much fun as those activities are, they are often hard to stage in today's urban setting. No, we are talking about something simple: time spent under open skies, time spent discovering the surprises of nature, time spent with nothing more than curiosity about the natural world around us.

We are surrounded by green spots in a gray landscape, even in the big cities. Parks and playgrounds are open to kids who only need to learn to find them a bit more attractive. And parents should let their youngsters be their own guides, on hikes in woodlands and prairie trails, to allow them to make their own discoveries.

Mineral Point kids, who live near good city parks and among rolling hills and farmland, are indeed fortunate. The delights of nature are close by. Accessible. And free.

But, it should be obvious, you have to get up out of the chair to find them.



The peculiar grace of a Shaker chair is due to the

fact that it was made by someone capable of believing that an angel might come and sit on it.

-- Edward Andrews



# ZEN HABITS

BY LEO BABAUTA – FROM HIS BLOG.

Simplifying can sometimes be overwhelming. The amount of stuff you have in your life and the amount of things you have to do can be too big a mountain to tackle.

But you don't have to simplify it all at once. Do one thing at a time, and take small steps. You'll get there, and have fun doing it. In fact, you can do little but important things today to start living the simple life. These are not 10 difficult things, but 10 Simple Things that you can do. Today.

1. Make a short list. A list of the 4-5 most important things in your life. Simplifying starts with these priorities, as you are trying to make room in your life so you have more time for these things.
2. Drop one commitment. The one that you dread doing. Something that takes up time but doesn't give you much value. Take action today to drop that commitment. Contact the appropriate person and say you don't have time. You will feel relief.
3. Purge a drawer. Or a shelf, or a countertop, or a corner of a room. Not an entire room. Use that small area as your base of simplicity, and then expand from there. Here's how: empty everything into a pile, pick out only the most important things, the stuff you use and love, and get rid of the rest. Put the stuff you love and use back, in a neat and orderly manner.
4. Set limits. You set limits for things you do regularly, then try to stick with the limits. Today, all you have to do is set limits for a few things in your life. Tomorrow, try to stick with them.
5. Simplify your to-do list. If it's more than 10 items long, you can probably find at least a few items that can be eliminated, delegated, automated, outsourced, or ignored. Shorten the list. This is a good habit to do once a week.
6. Free up time. Free up 30 minutes a day for thinking about simplifying. How can you free up 30 minutes a day? Wake up earlier, watch less TV, disconnect from the Internet, do email only once today, shut off your phones, do one less thing each day.
7. Clear your desk. Here are the basic steps: Take everything off your desk and put it in a pile; process the pile from top to bottom, one item at a time. Do not defer decisions on any item, deal with them quickly. Either file the item immediately, route it to someone else, trash it, or note it on your to-do list and put it in an "action" folder. Repeat until your desk is clear. From now on, at least once a day, process it in the same way as above.
8. Clear out your email inbox. This has the same psychological effect as a clear desk. Your choices are to delete, archive, respond immediately, and a few variations. Process each email like that until the inbox is empty.
9. Move slower. Eat slower, drive slower, walk slower, shower slower, work slower. Be more deliberate. Be present.
10. Single-task. Instead of multi-tasking, do one thing at a time. Stick to that one task until you're done. It'll make a huge difference in stress and productivity.

Easy enough? Well, sure. It's, uh, simple.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Leo Babauta writes the Zen Habits weblog. He is married with six kids, living on Guam. He is a writer and a runner and a vegetarian. Check out Zen Habits at <http://zenhabits.net/>.

## MINERAL POINT ROOM

It's the city's leading historic resource, an invaluable aid to scholars, genealogists and the curious. Located in the lower level of the Public Library, the archives offer a collection of books, news files, photos, maps and letters.

HOURS: Thursday afternoons from Noon to 4 and Saturday from 10 to 4

For more information, call the Library 608.987.2447 or send off an email – [minptroom@hotmail.com](mailto:minptroom@hotmail.com)

# We're "Jammin' on the Porch"



The view is through the oculus, the round "eye" window that graces the upper facade of the Gundry home, "Orchard Lawn." For this photo, Jim Stroschein's camera looked down from the attic, where many of the Mineral Point Historical Society's archives and artifacts are stored, to capture the crowd at a Friday evening "Jammin' on the Porch" concert.

"Jammin'" has become one of the city's most popular events, offering informal fun for the family on the lawn in front of the broad front porch as local bands play at twilight time.

The 2008 Summer season featured four jam sessions with music ranging from folk to rock, from blues to red-white-and-blue. The audience brings lawn chairs or a blanket, food and drink, their pets — and a good attitude.

Gallery-owner and String Bass Player Carole Spelic' books the talent, working with Alan Schroeder and other members of the sponsoring historical society board of directors. There is no admission charge, but the Tip Jar is on hand, and usually filled, for the musicians on the porch.

## On Sept. 12 -- Catch "Better Daze"

Coming to Madison from Ukraine via Munich, vocalist Julia Rudnitzky spent many years fronting the German band Flatpet before forming Better Daze shortly after her move to the States.

Guitarist/vocalist Steve Brown was bitten by the music bug at an early age, after attending a concert in San Francisco. He has played with many bands, including the long-running Chicago-based blues band Dealin'.

Bass Player/vocalist Dave Hopper has played guitar since his high school days, in numerous bands including Mineral Point's memorable trio 151. He works at songwriting, recording projects in his home studio, and will be hosting "Open Mic Night" at the Old Royal Inn, on the second Tuesday of each month.

Guitarist and vocalist/harmonica-ist (huh?) John "Johnny Rocket" Haarbauer has a hefty musical resume stretching from the old barracks circuit of the Oklahoma panhandle to east coast venues that could have seen the likes of Sinatra and Springsteen. John's country twang adds what many would call a "fourth dimension" to the Better Daze sound.

Drummer Rob Steffen used his sticks for a stint with Rob and the Electrodes back in the '70s, and he resurfaced with Chicago's Laughing Boys in the mid 90s.

Together these musicians are known as Better Daze, a band of many styles, heavy metal to country pop with lots of stops in between.

So bring your picnic and go Jammin' on the Porch on Sept. 12. The music begins at 5:30 -- the fun lasts until well after dark.



Photo by Jim Stroschein



Q: What's the difference between a drummer and a savings bond?

A: Only one of them will mature and make money.

... Submitted by "Better Daze" drummer Rob Steffen

# Mineral Point Scores in "Best Town" Contest

## City cited for Beauty, History

Rack up two more stunning honors for Mineral Point — as "Wisconsin's Most Beautiful Town", and the state's "Best Town for an Historic Getaway".

Almost 3,000 people voted in a poll taken by the on-line tourism service aptly named Wonders of Wisconsin (WOW!), which proclaimed: "Our motto is 'No more best kept secrets!' and where travel in Wisconsin is concerned — we mean it. Words like 'awesome,' 'hidden gem,' 'unsurpassed,' and 'unique' get a much-deserved workout in Wisconsin, and our mission is to find and share those really special 'wow destinations' that are the essence of travel in the state."

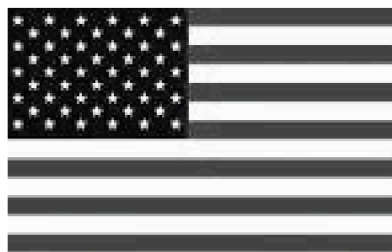
There were twenty categories in the opinion poll, and Mineral Point took two First Place designations, edging out Cedarburg and Door County's Ephraim as "Most Beautiful Town." In the category, "Best Historic Town," it was simply no contest — Mineral Point captured 30% of the total vote. The city also placed second in the scoring for its "Most Distinctive Architecture," and "Best Town for Galleries and Arts."

In the summary account for the competition, the tourism agency spoke of "...the town itself, its buildings, its roads and its natural settings."



Neighboring communities also took honors. Spring Green was named "Best Town for Theater and Entertainment," reflecting the influence of the Taliesin School and the American Players Theatre, and voters applauded the city's "Distinguished Architecture." Blue Mounds won a First as "Best Town for Hitting the Trails," and Hollandale's Grandview sculpture garden placed in the "Folk Art" category.

Read all about it at the website, [www.wondersofwisconsin.com](http://www.wondersofwisconsin.com), and sign up for their e-mail newsletter, which offers details on state day trips that won't overspend your travel budget in a time of \$50 gas fill-ups.



"What we mean (by patriotism) is a sense of national responsibility... a patriotism which is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."

—Adlai Stevenson 1952

## WI



## FI

BREWERY CREEK  
at 23 Commerce Street  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
at 225 High Street  
M STUDIO  
at 234 High Street  
SHAKE RAG ALLEY  
at 18 Shake Rag Street

## MINERAL POINT

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DEMOCRAT-TRIBUNE 608 . 987.2141  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY 608 . 987.2884  
HOSPITAL – UPLANDS, Dodgeville  
GENL INFO 608 . 930.8000  
PUBLIC LIBRARY 608 . 987.2447



## VITAL CONTACTS

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Non-Emergencies 608 . 987.2313  
RESCUE SQUAD Office 608 . 987.2752  
OPERA HOUSE movies 608 . 987.2642  
PENDARVIS SITE 608 . 987.2122  
RAILROAD DEPOT 608 . 987.2695  
SCHOOL SUPT. 608 . 987.3924  
SHAKE RAG ALLEY 608 . 987.3292  
SHERIFF, Iowa Cty 608 . 935.3314



# Autumn in Mineral Point is cool!

## AUGUST



26-31 SPRING GREEN American Players' Theatre (APT) Plays run thru 10/5/08. 608.588.2361 [www.playinthewoods.org](http://www.playinthewoods.org)  
August plays: A Midsummer Night's Dream, Widowers' Houses, The Belle's Stratagem, Ah, Wilderness, Henry IV, plays on various days and times  
27 MINERAL POINT, Old Royal Inn Five-Course Seasonal/Local Dinner, Music pre dinner 5:30PM, Dinner 6:30PM, Can walk in but reservs preferred, 43 High St, 608.987.4530 or 608.987.4120 (day)  
28-9/1 MINERAL POINT, Iowa County Fair opens, Fairgrounds, 900 Fair Street, 608.987.3490 [www.iowacountyfair.org](http://www.iowacountyfair.org) has schedules, camping & other info, Adm. \$7, Kids 12 & under Free, \$25 for season pass, Free parking. Open 3-10 PM Thurs & 8Am-10PM Friday-Monday, Live music Fri-Sat nights  
29-31 MINERAL POINT, "Farm Life: A Century of Change for Farm Families & Their Neighbors" Exhibit, Fri & Sat Noon-5 PM, Sun. Noon-3 PM, at 203 High St. Adm. \$5 includes free return visits, 1 free tour of Orchard Lawn & discounted admission to Pendarvis & Railroad Museum. 608.987.2884 [www.mineralpointhistory.org](http://www.mineralpointhistory.org)  
29-31 NEW GLARUS, 71st Annual Wilhelm Tell Festival, Drama, Tell Grounds. Hwy W, Concert in Fest Tent Fri, Yodeling Contest Sun, Book Sale, Ethnic Fashion Show, art fair, 800.527.6838 for schedule & ticket info [www.wilhelmtell.org/calendar](http://www.wilhelmtell.org/calendar)  
30 MINERAL POINT, 24 Hour Play Festival, Alley Stage, See 5 new plays, Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag, 8 PM, Tickets at 608.987.3292 or [www.alleystage.com](http://www.alleystage.com)  
30 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, 8:30-11:00 AM  
30 HIGHLAND, Firemen's Picnic, Highland Village Park, 755 Main St, Chicken BBQ Starts at 11AM, Volleyball, slo-pitch tournaments, 608.929.4997  
30-31 RIDGEWAY, 40th Annual Labor Day Celebration, Parade, Chicken BBQ at noon, Bands from Noon to 1:00AM  
31 NEW GLARUS, 45th Annual Fine Art & Craft Fair, downtown, 9AM-4PM, music, food [www.swisstown.com](http://www.swisstown.com) 1.800.527.6838  
31 SPRING GREEN, River Valley Area Flood Relief Benefit, Full day of music with live bands, Food & beverages, softball, 11AM-Midnight North Park  
31 MT. HOREB, 30th Wright Stuff Century Bike Ride. 30, 60 & 100 miles, Meet at Tyrol Basin Ski Lodge, 3847 Bohn Rd, 7AM, Limit 650 riders, pre-register at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) 608.836.1396 Details at [www.bombaybicycle.org/events/wsc](http://www.bombaybicycle.org/events/wsc)

## SEPTEMBER



5-7 MINERAL POINT, Rug Hooking Workshop with Suzanne Hamer, Fri 5-7 PM, Sat 9-5, Sun 9-1, Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag, [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com) 608.987.3292  
5-7 MINERAL POINT, Farm Life Exhibit See 8/29-8/31 for location and times  
5-7 PLATTEVILLE, Dairy Days, concessions, arts & crafts, flea mkt, dairy show, truck/tractor pull, live bands, Legion Park, off Pitt St, Fri 5-10 PM, Sat. 9-6 Sun 9-4 608.348.8888 [www.platteville.com](http://www.platteville.com)  
5-7 PLATTEVILLE, Annual Historic Encampment. Craftspeople from around the U.S., demonstrations, displays, music, military skirmishes, authentic period foods Fri. 8:30-5, Sat. 11-6, Sun. 10-3, Moundview Park, Corner of Madison & Cty. BB,

Encampment info at <http://www.platteville.com/he/historic%20encampment.htm> or call 608.348.8888  
5-30 SPRING GREEN, American Players Theatre (APT) See entry for 8/26-31 for details. Same plays in Sept.  
6 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, 8:30-11AM  
6 MINERAL POINT, DARLINGTON, ETC., Tri-County ATV Fall Ride & Raffle, Ride the Cheese County Trail, the Peca-tonica State Trail, and Lafayette County Trails & Routes, 608.574.2911 or [www.tricountyatv.org](http://www.tricountyatv.org)  
6 NEW GLARUS, SchuetzenFest, 7AM, Tell Grounds, Hwy.W, East of New Glarus, small bore shooting competition, 608.527.3277, [www.ngschuetzenfest.com](http://www.ngschuetzenfest.com)  
6-7 DARLINGTON, Pecatonica Valley Antique Days, Lafayette County Fairgrounds, Route 81, Flea markets, Antique tractor & machinery display, Sat. 11-6, Sun. 11-2:30, [www.lafayettecounty.org](http://www.lafayettecounty.org) or call 608.776.3067  
7 SPRING GREEN, Hymn Sings (29th season), 2PM, Sponsored by Rural Musicians Forum, Nondenominational. Free, refreshments are served. Wyoming Valley United Methodist Church, Route 23, 5 miles S of Spring Green, 608.588.7082  
7 SPRING GREEN, Concert at Taliesin, Nathaniel Bartlett, Madison marimbist, 3-5PM, \$10, Hillside Theater 6604 Cty. Hwy 23, 608.588.3216 [www.ezwebcalendar.com/taliesinevents](http://www.ezwebcalendar.com/taliesinevents) or [www.taliesinpreservation.org](http://www.taliesinpreservation.org)  
8 SPRING GREEN, Mostly Mondays Poetry Society, Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St, Open Mic, Share original poems & music or favorites by other authors, 7-9PM, 608.588.7070 [www.springgreengeneralstore.com](http://www.springgreengeneralstore.com)  
8 to Oct 27th, MINERAL POINT, Conversational Spanish, Shake Rag Alley, meets Mondays 7-8PM, 18 Shake Rag St., 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
9 MINERAL POINT, Open Mic night, Old Royal Inn, 43 High St, 7PM, Free, Come share your talents, 608.987.4530 [www.oldroyalinn.com](http://www.oldroyalinn.com)  
10 SPRING GREEN, Taliesin Garden Reception & Open House. Park at Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center, Hwy 23 & Cty Rd C, Bus takes you to Taliesin. Free. Can go in house & gardens. Check times at [www.taliesinpreservation.org](http://www.taliesinpreservation.org) about 4:30-6:30PM, 608.588.7900 or 608.588.7090 or [www.ezwebcalendar.com/taliesinevents](http://www.ezwebcalendar.com/taliesinevents)  
11 MINERAL POINT, Jerry Apps Farm Reading & Presentation, Author of 25 books, many on "rural/country life" Opera House, 139 High St, Free 7PM 608.987.2884 [www.mineralpointhistory.org](http://www.mineralpointhistory.org)  
11-14 BELMONT, School Community Fair, Carnival, Parade, music, exhibits, dance downtown. Sat., horse show; Sun., tractor pull. 608.762.5600  
12 MINERAL POINT, Jammin' on the Porch, the lawn of Orchard Lawn, 234 Madison St, 5:30-7:30PM, "Better Daze" playing rock favorites, Bring your lawn chair or blanket, picnic & drinks 608.987.2884 [www.mineralpointhistory.org](http://www.mineralpointhistory.org)  
12 SPRING GREEN, Literary Festival, 7-9PM, Gard Theater, 111 E Jefferson St, Readings by authors James Devita, Charles Baxter & Honor Moore, Free, Open to the public [www.springgreenlitfest.org](http://www.springgreenlitfest.org) 608.588.3009 See Sat events in 9/13 entry below  
12-14 MINERAL POINT, Farm Life Exhibit, See 8/29-31 entry for times and location  
13 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, 8:30-11:00AM  
13 SPRING GREEN, Literary Festival, Mix of readings, intimate group discussions with authors listed above, 8:30-5PM-Tickets \$55 (Students \$25)

Includes Cont. breakfast, all-day conference on Sat., catered lunch, extra \$30 for optional Writers Workshop, Hillside Theater, Taliesin, 6604 Cty. Hiway 23. 608.588.3009 or [www.springgreenlitfest.org](http://www.springgreenlitfest.org)  
13 & 9/20 MINERAL POINT, Papier Maché 3-D Vessels 1 & 2 with Carole Spelic', 9-Noon, Shake Rag Alley, 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
13 MT. HOREB, 6th Annual Thirsty Troll Brew Fest, Beer sampling, over 100 different beers, Live music by The Pints, food from area restaurants Noon-5PM, Tickets \$30 (Couple \$55) 608.437.5914 [www.trollway.com](http://www.trollway.com)  
13-14 MINERAL POINT, Photoshop Elements: Layers, Composites& Effects, with Cheryl Smeja. Shake Rag Alley, Sat-Sun 9-4, 18 Shake Rag, 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
14 DODGEVILLE, Iowa County Humane Society (ICHS) All day Reunion and 10th Year Celebration at the Shelter, 3207 Bennett Rd. 608.935.2884 [www.ichs.net](http://www.ichs.net)  
19-21 MINERAL POINT, Farm Life Exhibit, See 8/29-31 entry for times and location  
19-21 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village "Squirrel Moon Contra Dance Weekend", Workshops, meals and dances all weekend, potluck Sat., bring a dish to share, Fri 6-10PM, Sat. 8:30AM-Midnight, Sun. 9AM-12:30PM, Dances begin 8PM, 3210 County BB, Call 608.238.3394 or 608.924.4000 or Download registration form and brochure at <http://sprott.phys.ics.wisc.edu/sances.htm> or check [www.folklorevillage.org](http://www.folklorevillage.org)  
20 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, 8:30-11AM  
20 SHULLSBURG, Autumn Harvest Days, 10AM-5PM, Live Music, Dancing, Art, Food, Antiques & primitives for sale, parade, 44 historic bldgs, Farmers' Market in Gazebo Park, 608.482.1438 [www.shullsburgwisconsin.com](http://www.shullsburgwisconsin.com)  
20-21 MINERAL POINT, Make a Bent Willow Chair with John Schakel, Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag, Fri-Sat 9-4PM 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
20-21 BLUE MOUNDS, Festival of the Mounds, Mounds View Park. Live music, ChickenWing Cookoff judging & tasting, softball & volleyball tournaments, beer tent. Parade at 11AM Sunday followed by Chicken BBQ at Noon. 608.437.3791  
21 MINERAL POINT, Film Society Film, Doors open 6PM, Movie 7PM Check film at [www.mpoh.org/mpfs.html](http://www.mpoh.org/mpfs.html) \$10 includes film, snack & drinks. If not a member, call 608.987.2516 to reserve a space  
21 DARLINGTON, Fall Festival, Music & Food, hayrides, farmers mkt., games, pumpkin decorating. Festival Grounds, 4-8PM, 608.776.306, [www.darlingtonwi.org](http://www.darlingtonwi.org)  
23-Nov 11, MINERAL POINT, Tuesday Night Writing Workshop with author Danielle Trussoni, 6-8:30PM, Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag, 608-987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
24-26 MINERAL POINT, 3-Day Intro to Soft Pastels with Kay Brathol-Hostvet, Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag, Wed. to Fri., 9-4:30PM, 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
24 MINERAL POINT, Old Royal Inn Five-Course Seasonal/Local Dinner, Music pre dinner 5:30PM Dinner 6:30PM, Can walk in but reservs preferred, 43 High St, 608.987.4530 or 608.987.4120 (day)  
24-26 MINERAL POINT, 3-Day Escape with Colored Pencils with Rhonda Ness, Wed-Fri, 9-4:30PM, Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
24-Nov 12th MINERAL POINT, Wednesday Night Fiction Workshop with Dean Bakopoulos--in Madison, 6-8:30PM, Call

for location 608.987.3292, [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
26-27 MINERAL POINT, "Quilts in the Cornfield", Iowa County Fairgrounds, 900 Fair St, Fri. Noon-8PM, Sat. 9AM-3PM, Admission \$4, Demonstrations Vendors, Raffle, Quilt Appraisal, Many quilts on display, some for sale, Proceeds to Upland Hills Auxiliary 608.930.8000  
26-28 MINERAL POINT, Farm Life Exhibit See 8/29-31 entry for times and location.  
26-28 MINERAL POINT, 16th CORNISH FESTIVAL & Celtic Celebration, (See article in this newspaper), 3 days, workshops, music, dance, food & more -- all over town For more info call 608.987.2122 or check [www.cornishfest.org](http://www.cornishfest.org) & see below  
9/26 North American Cornish Genealogy Seminar, Comfort Inn, Mineral Point, 8:15-4PM, [www.cornishfest.org](http://www.cornishfest.org) 608.623.3529 or 608.963.3529 or Tickets at door  
9/26 Kiddleywink Pub Night at Pendarvis, pub games, live music, and camraderie 7-10PM, Spruce Street, off Shake Rag St., \$10 for Pub ticket, Cash bar  
9/27 N. American Cornish Genealogy Seminars, 10-2PM, Mineral Point Public Library, 137 High St, Mineral Point Opera House 139 High St, & Trinity Episcopal Church, 409 W High St [www.cornishfest.org](http://www.cornishfest.org) 608.623.3529 or 608.963.3529 or Tickets at the door  
9/27 All day events: 8AM Pancake Breakfast at Masonic Lodge, 310 High St; Make a Celtic Leather Bracelet with Sheryl Smeja, 9-Noon, Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag St. 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com); Tours of Mineral Point, Pendarvis, Orchard Lawn, Railroad Museum & area farms; "Crowdy Crawn" (Mixture of fun) 10-4PM at Pendarvis, Spruce St. off Shake Rag St; Classes at Shake Ray Alley (see 9/27-28 entry below), plus Model A Ford Car Show on High St.; Performances at the Opera House 2PM; Tea & Scones at the Royal Inn, 43 High St, 3-5PM; Cornish Miners' buffet at Hodan Center, 4:30 - 7PM 941W. Fountain St.; Irish Band, "Rising Gael", \$10, 7:30PM, at the Opera House, 139 High St. For full schedule 608.963.3529  
9/28 At 9:30AM An 1850's church service at Trinity Episcopal Church, 409 W High St.; Tours; Classes at Shake Rag Alley; Beginning Knot Design with Jan Johnson, 9-Noon & Advanced Knot Design 1-4PM, Celtic Decorated Cards with Carol Getman 1-3PM, Celtic Spirituality with Cecilia Saran 1-3PM (see 9/27 entry above); High Tea (with a meal) at the Old Royal Inn, 43 High St., 3-5PM  
For full schedule, Call 608.963.3529 or check [www.cornishfest.org](http://www.cornishfest.org)  
26-28 NEW GLARUS, Octoberfest, Downtown, award-winning beer from New Glarus Brewery, Live music with bands & food all weekend, Begins Fri. at 6 PM, Sat. 11AM-1AM, Sun. Noon-5 [www.swisstown.com/oktoberfest.shtml](http://www.swisstown.com/oktoberfest.shtml) or phone 1.800.527.6838  
27 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, 8:30-11AM  
27 SPRING GREEN, Concert at Taliesin, Third Coast Percussion Quartet, 7:30PM \$10, Hillside Theater, 6604 Cty Hwy 23, 608.588.7900 [www.taliesinpreservation.org](http://www.taliesinpreservation.org) or [www.ezwebcalendar.com/taliesinevents](http://www.ezwebcalendar.com/taliesinevents)  
28 MINERAL POINT, Tour of Historic Homes, Library Benefit Event, 11:30-4PM, 8 homes, Tickets & maps at Bobbi Jo's Interiors, 46 High St. and White Picket Mercantile, 206 Commerce St, 608.987.2500, 608.987.2447 (Library) or [www.mineralpoint.com](http://www.mineralpoint.com) - (See story, list of homes on p. 12)  
28 NEW GLARUS, Swiss Historical Village Oktoberfest, 10-4PM, 612 7th Av, cheese making by Wisc. cheese masters &



# And here's how to make the most of it.

many other demonstrations, \$7 Adults, \$3 Kids, 608.527.2317, [www.swisshistoricalvillage.org](http://www.swisshistoricalvillage.org)  
28 FENNIMORE, Annual Heritage Day at the Railroad Museum, 610 Lincoln Av, 10-4PM, Antique cars, tractors, engines & Old World demonstrations. 608.822.3446 [www.fennimore.com](http://www.fennimore.com)



1-5 SPRING GREEN, American Players Theater (APT) see entry 8/26-8/31 for details; all but Henry IV playing in Oct. Season ends 10/5/08  
3-5 MINERAL POINT, Making a Slate & Mosaic Memory Coffee Table with John Werner, Shake Rag Alley, Fri 6-9PM, Sat 9-4:30PM, Sun 9-2PM, 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
3-6 MINERAL POINT, Farm Life Exhibit, See 8/29-8/31 entry for times and location  
4 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, 8:30-11:00AM  
4 SHULLSBURG, Annual Cheesefest, Music, hayrides, arts & crafts fair, antiques & flea mkt, food booths & a lot of cheese. Breakfast by Shullsburg Fire Dept. 608.965.4579 or [www.shullsburgwisconsin.org](http://www.shullsburgwisconsin.org)  
4 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Harvest Family Day--call for times. Old Time Barn Dance with The Flyrights & caller Vicki Mecozzi at 6:30PM - potluck, bring dish to share, Traditional American dances, old-time square dancing, New England contras & Appalachian big circles, See 9/19-21 entry for website and info.  
4-5 MT HOREB, 27th Annual Fall Heritage Festival, Main Street, Sat. 9-5 & Sun. 10-4, fine artists and crafters, Farmers' market, buggy rides, Quilt Show at 106 N Grove St 608.437.1710, Sons of Norway host FROKOST Sat. 8:30-12:30PM, an authentic fall Norwegian breakfast at 106 N Grove St, 608.845.9423 or 608.437.5914 [www.trollway.com](http://www.trollway.com)  
5 SPRING GREEN, Hymn Sings, 29th Season, 2PM, sponsored by Rural Musicians Forum, See 9/7 entry for info and location  
5 SPRING GREEN, Mostly Mondays Poetry Society, Spring Green General Store, see 9/8 entry for details  
9-11 SPRING GREEN, 4th Annual Boxwood and Berries Gathering, at Country Sampler, 133 E Jefferson, featuring two primitive designers, Maggie Bonanomi and Stacy Nash - trunk shows, projects and more, info at 608.588.2510 and [www.sgcountry sampler.com/events.html](http://www.sgcountry sampler.com/events.html)  
10 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Cajun Dance with "The Cajun Strangers", Lessons 7:30PM, Dance 8PM, see 9/19-21 for information  
10-12 MINERAL POINT, Farm Life Exhibit See 8/29-8/31 entry for times and location  
11 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, 8:30-11:00AM  
11 MINERAL POINT, The Magic of Batik Dyeing with Bonnie Laverty, 10-3:30PM, Shake Rag Alley 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
11 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Southern Wisconsin Old Time Fiddlers' Assoc. Dance, 1-4PM and Saturday Night Social at 6:30PM, Potluck and bring dish to pass, Dancing, Games, & Singing, See 9/19-21 entry for address & info  
11-12 HIGHLAND, 18th Annual Harvest Festival, Spurgeon Vineyard and Winery, 10-4PM, Hwy Q, 16008 Pine Tree Rd, Winery tours and tasting, hayrides thru vineyards, Taste of Wisconsin, live music 12-4 PM, grilled buffalo burgers & brats,

608.929.7692 [www.spurgeonvineyards.com](http://www.spurgeonvineyards.com)  
14 MINERAL POINT, Open Mic night at Old Royal Inn, (see 9/9 entry for details)  
14-17 MINERAL POINT, "Photoshop Elements Extreme" with Cheryl Smeja, Shake Rag Alley, Tu-Fri 9-4PM, 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
17-19 SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN'S 15TH ANNUAL FALL ART TOUR, 51 highly respected artists welcome you into their homes and studios and demonstrate their work in and around Mineral Point, Dodgeville, Spring Green, & Baraboo. Complete information, maps, & artists at [www.fallarttour.com](http://www.fallarttour.com) brochures & maps in advance 608.987.3787, 608.588.7509 or 608.356.7805 and at galleries and shops in each town, Open 10AM-6PM  
17-19 MINERAL POINT, Farm Life Exhibit—FINAL 3 DAYS, See 8/29-31 entry for times and location  
18 MINERAL POINT, FINAL FARMERS' MARKET OF 2008, Water Tower Park, from 8:30-11:00AM  
18 MINERAL POINT, Make a Bent Willow Chair with John Schakel, Shake Rag Alley (see 9/20-21 entry for details)  
19 MINERAL POINT, Film Society Film at the Opera House, Open 6PM, Film 7PM, Details at [www.mpoh.org/mpfs.html](http://www.mpoh.org/mpfs.html) If not a film group member, call 608.987.2516 to reserve a place. \$10 incl. snack & drinks  
22 MINERAL POINT, Old Royal Inn Five-Course Seasonal/Local Dinner, Music pre dinner 5:30PM Dinner 6:30PM, Can walk in but reservs preferred, 43 High St, 608.987.4530 or 608.987.4120 (day)  
24-26 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Fall Swedish Dance and Music Weekend, with Lena Jonnson from Sweden, Call for details, See 9/19-21 for info  
25 MINERAL POINT, Exploring Your Mosaic Style with Heidi Dyas-McBeth, 9-5:30PM; Watercolor Fall Leaves & Berries with Jan Johnson, 10-3PM; Digital Scrap Booking with Photoshop Elements, with Cheryl Smeja, 9-4PM, Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag St. 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
25-26 MINERAL POINT, Visions & Revisions: Revising Your Short Story or Novel, with Dwight Allen, 9-4PM, Shake Rag Alley, 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
30-11/2 BLUE MOUNDS, Halloween at Cave of the Mounds, Storytelling, seasonal snacks & candlelight hike, 2975 Cave of the Mounds Road, 608.437.3038 [www.caveofthemounds.com](http://www.caveofthemounds.com)  
31 DODGEVILLE, Halloween Festivities for Families, 4-8PM, United Methodist Church, 327 N Iowa Street, dinner, movie, goodies, 608.935.5451  
1 MINERAL POINT, Intro to Japanese



Bookbinding with Judy Sutcliff, 9-4PM & Silk Screened Cards with Bonnie Laverty, 9-4:30PM, Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag, 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
1 DODGEVILLE, Annual Arts & Crafts Fair, Middle & High School 9-4PM Vendors & others call 608 935 7300 for details  
1 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Old Time Barn Dance, Caller Sue Hulsether, 6:30PM, Potluck, bring a dish to share, see 9/19-21 entry for info  
2 MINERAL POINT, Altered Books with Sharon Stauffer, 9-4:30PM & Nuno (Felted) Silk Scarves with Kriss Marion, 1:30-4:30PM, Shake Rag Alley 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
3 SPRING GREEN, Mostly Mondays Poetry Society, Spring Green General Store

(see 9/8 entry for details)  
4 ELECTION DAY--PLEASE VOTE  
6-8 UW PLATTEVILLE, "Dancing on Lughnasa", Center for the Performing Arts, Main Street, on campus, For tickets see [www.uwplatt.edu/arts](http://www.uwplatt.edu/arts) or call 608.342.1298  
8 MINERAL POINT, Shake Rag Alley Holiday Giftmaking Workshops, 18 Shake Rag St., Celtic Hammered Wire Jewelry with Judy Sutcliff 1-4PM, Silk Scarves in Shades of Fall with Shelley Ryan 9-Noon, Dimensional Leather Bracelet with Cheryl Smeja 1-4:30PM & Felted Purse, Felted Soap with Nonda Van Gulden 1-4:30PM & Gift Boxes and Tags with Carole Spelic' 9-Noon. 608.987.3292 or 608.987.4499 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
8 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Annual Folkfare Fundraiser & All day Shape Note Sing, Dancing, Desserts, Drawing. 7:30-11PM, See 9/19-21 entry for info  
9 BLANCHARDVILLE, Lutheran Church, Norwegian Supper featuring rommegrot, klub, lefse and more. 4472 Saints Rd, 6 miles SW of Blanchardville, for times and cost call 608.543.3088  
9 UW PLATTEVILLE, "Simply Sinatra" Tickets at [www.uwplatt.edu/arts](http://www.uwplatt.edu/arts) or 608.342.1298 See 11/6-8 for location  
11 VETERANS' DAY--watch newspapers for local events & parades  
11 MINERAL POINT, Open Mic Night, Old Royal Inn, see 9/9 entry for details  
11-12 MINERAL POINT, Salish Loom (Beginning on Sat., Intermediate on Sun.) with Jane Potocki, 9:30-4:30PM, Shake Rag Alley, 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
14 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Mark Dvorak in concert, call for times and see 9/19-21 entry for website and info  
14-16 SPRING GREEN, "A Country Sampler," sponsoring a 3-day bus trip to several quilt shops in MN and WI. Fee includes lodging and food. Leaves 7:30AM Fri, Reservations required 608.588.2510 [www.sgcountry sampler.com/events.html](http://www.sgcountry sampler.com/events.html)  
15 MINERAL POINT, Join All Saints' Gospel Choir from Milwaukee, at Shake Rag Alley & Trinity Episcopal Church. For workshops & performances, for choir directors, soloists, and musicians, followed by dinner 5:30PM. [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com), call 608.987.3292  
15 MINERAL POINT, All Saints' Gospel Choir and Combined Choir Concert, 7:30PM, Opera House. 139 High St., 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
15 UW PLATTEVILLE, Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, Tickets at 608.342.1298 or [www.uwplatt.edu/arts](http://www.uwplatt.edu/arts) See 11/6-8 for location  
15 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Sat Night Social 6:30PM, Potluck - bring dish, games, songs, dancing, see 9/19-21 for info  
18 DODGEVILLE, Iowa County Humane Society Fund Raiser, Holiday Pet Photo Sessions, 3207 Bennett Rd, 12-3pm, 5 x 7 photo \$10, RSVP 608.935.1381  
22 HIGHLAND, Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Free Family Style dinner, 12Noon, Call Sharon Olson 608.929.7490 for location  
23 MINERAL POINT, Film Society Film at the Opera House, Doors open 6PM, Film 7PM, See [www.mpoh.org/mpfs.html](http://www.mpoh.org/mpfs.html) If not a film group member, call 608.987.2516 to reserve place. \$10, Includes snack & drinks  
23 DODGEVILLE, Free Thanksgiving Day meal delivered within 10-mile radius 608.935.3841  
27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING  
28-30 SHULLSBURG, 18th "A Bit of Yesteryear Christmas", open house at Water Street shops, & Annual tour of homes on 29th, lighted Christmas parade 7:30PM -- fireworks. 608.965.4579 or 608.482.1438, [www.shullsburgwisconsin.org](http://www.shullsburgwisconsin.org)

29 MINERAL POINT, "It's About Time" Live Art Auction, Library Benefit Event, 7PM appetizers, desserts & cash bar, 8PM Live Art Auction, No entrance fee, held at the restaurant "Four at the Chesterfield", 20 Commerce St, 608.987.2447 [www.mineralpoint.com](http://www.mineralpoint.com)  
30 DARLINGTON, Tour of Homes 4-8PM, 608.776.4466 [www.darlingtonwi.org](http://www.darlingtonwi.org)  
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1 SPRING GREEN, Mostly Mondays Poetry Society, Spring Green General Store (see 9/8 entry for details)  
4 MINERAL POINT, Madrigal Performance & Sit-down Dinner with 16th Century A Capella Renaissance music, at Old Royal Inn, 43 High St. Adults will be joined by Children's Madrigal, Tickets at Bergets, 257 High St, 608.987.3218, or Old Royal Inn 608.987.4530 or 608.935.9778  
6 DARLINGTON, Christmas Parade 6:30PM, 608.776.3067 [www.darlingtonwi.org](http://www.darlingtonwi.org)  
6 MINERAL POINT, Candlelight Shopping and Gallery Night—Nostalgic shopping with candlelit streets & refreshments, Galleries & Shops open 'til 9PM,  
6 SPRING GREEN, "Country Christmas" Craft Bazaar, quilt show, fireworks, live music, Tour of Homes [www.springgreen.com](http://www.springgreen.com) 608.588.2054  
6 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Barn Dance, 608.924.4000, see 9/19-21 entry  
7 MINERAL POINT, Breakfast with Santa at the Red Rooster Cafe, 158 High St, 608.987.9936, [www.mineralpoint.com](http://www.mineralpoint.com)  
9 MINERAL POINT, Open Mic Night at Old Royal Inn (see 9/9 entry for details)  
11-14 MINERAL POINT, Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" with Coleman's one-man adaptation as Scrooge & many other characters, Shake Rag Alley, Cabinet Shop, 18 Shake Rag, Call 608.987.3292 for times & tickets, [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
13 MINERAL POINT, Santa at Shake Rag Alley, kids classes, pictures with Santa, 18 Shake Rag, Call for times 608.987.3292 [www.shakeragalley.com](http://www.shakeragalley.com)  
13 MINERAL POINT, Madrigal Performance (Adult performers), Old Royal Inn, See 12/4 for details

## Sandee Beaman



researches, edits and composes this Calendar of Events. Sandee and (Editor) Frank moved to Mineral Point in September 2003, and "It was our best decision! A beautiful town with genuine, trusting, and friendly people; it's like going back about forty years to a simpler time and place...but with so much going on!" She loves to show visitors around and introduce new people to the joys of living in Mineral Point. In 2001, Sandee retired after 36 years of helping people at the Social Security Administration. That spirit guides her many volunteer activities. If you have an event you would like included in the next newspaper, please email her at [sandeeb@charter.net](mailto:sandeeb@charter.net) or call her at 608.987.1199. Sandee also has developed a list of about 110 names, addresses, telephone numbers, and websites for Mineral Point and Southwest Wisconsin — a handy reference for your desk. If you would like her to email it to you, just send her your email address.





## CORNISH FESTIVAL & CELTIC CELEBRATION-

16TH ANNUAL EVENT UNFOLDS ON SEPT. 26th

Kernow vys vykken!

It translates to "Cornwall Forever!" and it's an annual sentiment as Mineral Point recognizes its Celtic legacy with three days of fun, food, legends and lore. The 16th Cornish Festival and Celtic Celebration begins Sept. 26 with a geneology seminar at the Comfort Inn. This session features four speakers, who explore five centuries of history about the Cornish influence in the United States, and the impact of Cornish immigrants on this part of Wisconsin.

The focus is geneological research, and the speakers will detail how to develop and interpret sources. Some of the classes are held at the Mineral Point Library, where students can use the resources and receive personalized instruction.

Look for weekend tours at the historical society museum at Orchard Lawn, classes at Shake Rag Alley School, and a Quilt show at the Iowa Coounty Fairgrounds. And on Friday, Sept. 26, tours at the Pendarvis Historic Site provide an overview of the city's early Cornish settlement in the 1830's as miners came to Wisconsin. The Pendarvis tour, conducted by staff guides, gives visitors a look at how those early families lived and worked. At 7:00 p.m. Friday, it's Pub Night at Pendarvis, an evening of fun, Celtic music and spirits at the Cornish rowhouses along Spruce St. The tiny Kiddywinks Pub in the hillside at Pendarvis is the setting for ancient games, live music and "a bit of beer and cheer" until 10:00 p.m.

On Saturday, tours of Mineral Point and surrounding farms will take place, and the Pendarvis site will host "Crowdy Crawn" ("Bits of This and That") from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

A morning lecture at the Opera House will feature Shirley Morrish, with notes on the 60,000 or so women who worked in Cornish mines as "bal maidens."

You'll need an appetite for the lunch served in Library Park. It's "Taste of Mineral Point," and it's an opportunity to try Cornish pasty, the meat pies that the miners carried, and other Celtric treats.

Drop by the Railroad Museum, at the foot of Commerce St., from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and at 2:00 p.m., at the Opera House, listen to "Navan," an A Capella group singing Celtic songs in the native language.

Then it's tea at the Old Royal Inn, a Cornish Miners Buffet Supper at the

Hodan Center, and back to the Opera House for more Celtic music, "Rising Gael."

Sunday's schedule includes a Home and Garden tour, repeat tours, and a visit to the city's Odd Fellows Museum, concluding with afternoon High Tea at the Old Royal Inn.

Get the full story and schedule in our centerspread events calendar, on line at [www.cornishfest.org](http://www.cornishfest.org), or pick up the festival's brochure, anywhere in town.

Contact the Cornish Society of Greater Milwaukee to reserve your place at the Geneology Seminar (Hurry on this one!)

A block of rooms at the Comfort Inn has been set aside for festival guests, discounted if you call before Sept. 15., at 608.9874747.

## About Pendarvis



Nestled in a rocky and deeply wooded hillside, the Pendarvis Historic Site comprises six historic stone and log cottages, built by Cornish miners in the 1830's and restored a century later. The city's lead-mining boom is the topic for authoritative tours by Pendarvis staff members, which include glimpses of the miners life in the settlement, and walks to nearby mines, and

a look at a 43-acre restored prairie setting.

**For further information  
about times, tickets and  
other details, contact:**

**[www.cornishfest.org](http://www.cornishfest.org)**

**or send e-mail to  
[pendarvis@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:pendarvis@wisconsinhistory.org)**

**or**

**Contact the Chamber at  
[www.mineralpoint.com](http://www.mineralpoint.com)  
Phone 608.9873201**



**For even more -  
much, much more -  
See "Cornwall Explored"  
on page 13 of the Times**

## Horses of Iowa County



By Bill Spevacek

One of life's great pleasures is driving around southwestern Wisconsin and soaking in the thousand hues of green in our hills, bluffs and valleys. Accenting that rolling beauty are herds of Angus, Holsteins and Herefords, feasting on the grass and reminding us "life is good."

Scattered among the cattle are horses. Beautiful animals, grazing, resting and playing. But never working. Rarely do you see a horse with a rider. Mostly they seem just to hang out, without a care in the world.

That prompted the question: "What do horses in Iowa County do?"

The answer: "A lot."

Many are used for breeding. Mineral Point barber Jim Metz, for example, breeds and trains Morgan horses. Get a haircut and mention horses, and you quickly learn that his horses are a labor of love as much as a business.

Veterinarian Dr. Robert Goodweiler of Dodgeville raises award-winning Percherons, a large, docile draft horse that did much of the field work on local farms until after World War II. Many high-stepping Percherons work in multi-horse hitches, and others find careers on Amish farms.

Sam Palzkill of Mineral Point raises quarter horses, a popular and sturdy breed of saddle horse. Quarter horses are so-named because they run best for up to a quarter of a mile. Some area farmers keep a quarter horse or two for herding cattle in terrain too rough for ATVs. Recreational riding often involves quarter horses.

Paul Kjelland of Mineral Point founded and heads the Southern Wisconsin Mounted Search and Rescue Patrol, which goes in on horseback where ATVs, people and dogs cannot, to find lost children, adults or pets.

Kent Mayfield and Jack Ford raised Arabian horses in Clyde Township. Until recently, when they sold off their herd and prepared to retire, they sold horses all over the world. They once sold a mare to the king of Morocco.

Many of the horses you see on Iowa County hillsides are used by local riders in western sports competitions, such as barrel racing. Mineral Point is a center of rodeo activity, and you might mark your calendar for the Wisconsin High School Regional Rodeo at the fairgrounds every August. And plan to attend the Iowa County Fair on Labor Day weekend to watch local harness racers compete.

Other area horse owners are involved in dressage — training horses in obedience and precision of movement — for equestrian competitions ranging all the way up to the Olympics. A fast-growing sport for local Arabian horses and their riders is endurance racing, with competitions of twenty-five to fifty miles.

Still, many horses that you see loafing on local hillsides do nothing more than that. Many have outlived their usefulness for breeding or competition, yet their owners are reluctant to part with them. There is a bond between humans and horses, thousands of years old, like the bond between humans and dogs. Maybe that's the fascination that makes you want to stop along the road and take a horse's picture, or let it nibble an apple from your hand.



Bill Spevacek enjoys the proverbial "retirement home in the country," in Waldwick Township, after a career in journalism, advertising and public relations. His second novel, *Millen County Standoff*, is on sale online and at Foundry Books in Mineral Point.

## Buckskin Brown and the Recycled Shingles

A Tale from Odd Wisconsin History

Back in 1853, the pine trees that grow along the banks of the Wisconsin River were some of the first ever harvested in the state. At its height, the lumber industry boasted 100 saws, running in twenty mills, and seventy million board feet of pine floated down the river on massive log rafts, headed for St. Louis and other markets.

The makeshift rafts were guided by men who wore the title "River Pig" with apparent pride. Their work was hard and dangerous, and when they played, they also played hard and dangerous.

On one river drive, when the lumber trade in Wisconsin was still young, a raft piloted by River Pig Buckskin Brown pulled up to the shore in Sauk City. Brown and his crew were tired. And thirsty. And broke.

They carried a bunch of wood shingles into the town, and approached a saloon keeper, asking if he would accept shingles in trade for whiskey. The bar keep agreed, telling the crewmen, "Just take 'em out to the back yard."

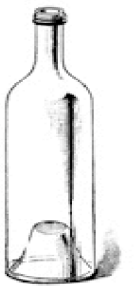
That took care of the first round of drinks. But the thirst persisted. Then, two of the men came in the front door, with shingles in their arms, to purchase a second round. Again, they were told to carry the shingles out to the yard.

The evening went on that way, with the exchange of shingles for drinks, until the loggers said goodnight and wobbled back down to the river bank.

Later, Buckskin Brown said, "Some of the boys claimed they sold that bunch of shingles eleven times, and then carried all the wood back to the raft." Brown didn't say he knew the number of transactions, for sure and certain, but he said he knew "we had all the whiskey we wanted."

There's no record of what the saloonkeeper might have said, on the morning after.

This tale was excerpted from the Odd Wisconsin Archive, property of the Wisc. Historical Society. Read the stories online [www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org), and also in Wednesday issues of the *Wisconsin State Journal* newspaper in Madison.

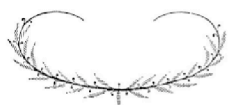


## Digital Project Puts Aldo Leopold Papers on Worldwide Web

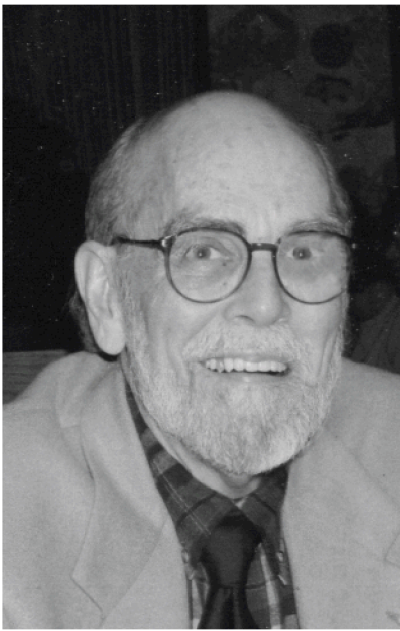
The University of Wisconsin Archives' complete collection of material from the renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold has now been released to the reading public.

A digitalization project, funded by the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Baraboo, allows online reading of early diaries, notebooks and journals, a folio of loose drawings, and Leopold's U.S. Forest Service diaries (1899 to 1933), his hunting journals (1917 to 1945) and the journals describing life in the fabled Leopold Shack, covering 1935 to 1948. These documents were hand written, and thus are not searchable online, but users can browse through the images, and zoom in on subjects of interest.

The diaries and journals are available in two ways: The main collection at <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/AldoLeopold/>. Also, try <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/wiarchives.uw-lib-leopoldpapers>.







# The Times 20

with  
the poet  
Miller Williams

Interview by Frank Beaman

Editor's Note: Poetry is a staple on the editorial shelves of this newspaper, and we have been privileged to reprint the work of the award-winning Arkansas poet Miller Williams. His thirty-three books constitute a major body of work, and he is regarded as one of American's best-loved writers. He has described himself as the product of the rural, small-town South, and he cherishes one journalist's description of him as "the Hank Williams of Poetry."

Miller's good-natured cordiality, shown to our requests to feature his poetry, led to this interview, formatted in the Q & A form of "The Times 20" – twenty questions and twenty answers.

1. Is the art or craft of writing a poem a "calling?" If so, when and how were you "called to poetry?"

A. It's a calling in the sense that eventually one is likely to become aware of the roots of one's talent. One can think of it as a calling if it's important to think the talent took root by a deliberate planting of the seed. All I know is that I began to focus seriously on the writing of poetry when I was six.

2. A "genesis moment" for an English major?

A. When I enrolled in college I declared a double-major in English and foreign languages; as the first semester came to a close I was called into the office of the head of the psychology department. He held the aptitude test I'd taken-- along with all other members of the freshman class--a few weeks earlier. "Mr. Williams", he said, "your test shows that you have no real aptitude in the use of language. If you don't want to embarrass your parents, you must change your major to the hard sciences immediately".

3. So you took his advice?

A. I had been taught to accept the word of my superiors, so I immediately changed my major to physiology with a minor in chemistry. I taught these subjects on the high school and college level for ten years before Flannery O'Connor recommended me for an English opening she'd read about at LSU. They couldn't believe that the candidate they were looking for taught biology at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, but they couldn't ignore Flannery, so they wrote and invited me to send them some work.

Shortly after I mailed them a couple of stories and some poems, they called and asked me when I could get there.

4. What literary figures influenced your work as a younger writer, and who speaks to you most eloquently today?

A. My recognizable influences have been quite a number, including Auden, Bishop, Brooks, Ciardi, Donne, Cunningham, Eberhart, Eliot, Frost, Hardy, MacLeish, Nemerov, Nims, Owen, Ransom, Roethke, Thomas, Wilbur.... I had a classroom of teachers. They all still take turns waking me up in the morning.

5. What are some of the wellsprings for your poems?

A. A reader of my work could answer this as well as I can -- maybe better, because the response would be more objective. I can say, though, that when I sit down in the evening with a yellow legal pad on my lap and a pen in my hand, the phrases that fall onto the paper most often have to do with the fancies, frustrations, and sometimes the fulfillments experienced by ordinary folks--something I'd observed or experienced.

6. What inspires you deeply?

A. I'm most inspired by seeing a personal experience begin as frustration and resolve as enlightenment. I try to turn this into a poem that begins as the poet's and ends as the readers'.

7. Can you give us a picture of the way you tackle your craft, in a "typical" day of work?

A. No two days are alike, except that I usually start out looking over scribbles I've left on the legal pads, beginning to say some of them aloud and letting some sort of pattern begin to form as I hear the words spoken. I pay a lot of attention, as a poem matures, to eliminate any unnecessary words and to make sure that every line is a dependent or independent clause.

8. Are your surroundings important as you create – your studio, your community, your landscape?

A. It really doesn't matter where I am physically--in my study, the porch swing, or an airplane seat.

9. Ever "blocked" – simply out of ideas and inspiration?

A. No, not yet.

10. What themes do you most often employ?

A. As I told you earlier, my yellow pad fills up with observations about daily life – the experiences of ordinary people. One has to be careful, though, in labeling the "theme" of a poem; one of my most anthologized poems-- "The Caterpillar"--is not truly about the worm.

11. We've written in earlier issues that you delivered an historic poem at the 1997 inaugural of President Bill Clinton, joining the poet Robert Frost in that distinctive honor. Can you give us a glimpse of that day?

A. It was an enlightening and joyful experience; I still run into people--sometimes from foreign countries--who say good things to me about when they saw and heard "Of History and Hope" on their TVs and radios.

12. If that was your best day, what did your worst day as poet look like?

A. It's difficult to decide which of several bad days was my worst -- having a poem published with typos, hitting a dry spot when no inspiration for a new poem came through to me for a month, or having a columnist with a political axe to grind describe the inaugural poem as a piece of junk.

13. A showbiz question: we'd guess that the concert performances with your daughter, singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams, "Poetry Said/Poetry Sung", are unique in the world of rhyme and rhythm. How do you put a show together?



A. We were asked to perform together for some time before we decided to give it a try at the University of Pittsburgh. It went over quite well, and has been increasingly well-accepted as we've developed a sort of on-stage conversation, taking turns speaking one to the other, with me saying something to her after a song and she responding after the next poem. The audience clearly enjoys the father-daughter exchange.

14. What's your vote on vocal presentations – should poetry be read aloud?

A. Absolutely, poetry is to be read aloud. Even when I'm alone and reading the work of others, I vocalize it. Good poetry embodies a music of its own, and when we hear it, the words are more convincing.

15. You show us a well-developed sense of humor. Can we gather that you believe we need not take poetry as too somber and serious?

A. A good poem can sound somber or light-hearted; what the good poem is telling us is always serious.

16. What do you think of the way poetry is generally taught in schools and colleges?

A. In my experience--when I was teaching--I rarely had a problem with this. Now, with the fad of un-patterned, unresolved pieces relating almost exclusively to the poet's experience, I don't feel sure enough about what's going on most places to answer this question with any certainty.

17. How would you teach the subject?

A. I would do my best to show my students that a poem addresses the world we live in, begins as the poet's, ends as the readers', has no word it can do without and none that has to be looked up, is built of lines that are independent or dependent clauses, so that the reader goes to the next line for more than grammatical reasons, and has rhymes that seem to fall into place by accident, unforced.

18. And, in uncertain times marked by literary fads, should we assume poets would be wise to keep their day jobs?

A. I've never known a poet whose support came from the publication of poetry. Nearly every one has been a college faculty member, something that usually gives one suitable colleagues and a useful library, as well as a salary.

19. A couple of questions, now, from the well-worn interviewer's handbag: What advice would you give a young poet who is struggling for deserved recognition?

A. I would advise the poet to find a publication that publishes poetry akin to that poet's work, and submit work to it. Then, to find an older -- at least a somewhat successful poet -- doing the same sort of work, and with no pretense develop the sort of relationship that will bring counsel. Finally, to read poems to those the poet lives with, to see if they seem to address any life but the poet's.

20. And -- customary last question -- what's next for Miller Williams?

A. I've been at work for some time on a memoir; it runs now up to the year 1970. I hope to bring it up to wherever I am before my memory fades. The story of my life may be of interest to others not necessarily because it uncovers the roots of my poems, but because of the people who've been with me as I've lived it. It's as if one came to my birthday party and spent the hours in a circle of those whose presence, concern, and simple genius have done much to make the birthday meaningful. To say that the circle included Robert Frost and Hank Williams, Flannery O'Connor and Alex Haley is to say a lot, but leaves a lot unsaid.



The poet and his wife, Jordan, celebrating at "Christmas on the Square" in Fayetteville, Arkansas, last December. She had undergone six months of chemotherapy following cancer surgery, and had just alighted from the back of a camel to pose for this photo.

Contemporary poet Miller Williams' next collection of poems, Time and the Tilting Earth, is scheduled for publication in November. His most recent book, Making a Poem: Some Thoughts about Poetry and the People Who Write It, was released by the LSU Press.





## EXPLORING THE HEART OF WISCONSIN WITH THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mid - September Bus Tour Scheduled

Follow historic Highway 51 from the Wisconsin Dells up to Hurley... it's a special travel program of the Wisconsin Historical Society — the "Shades of Autumn" bus tour.

On Sept. 16-18, WHS welcomes travelers to one of the series, "Connections in Time and Place," sponsored by Friends of WHS, with Tour Director Judie Balderson.

Highlights of the three day tour include: Indoor birdwatching with the acclaimed bird art exhibition at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum; a learning session on the traditions, customs and arts of the Lac du Flambeau Band of the Lake Superior-Chippewa Indians; and the Waterfalls in Hurley, at the top of Wisconsin.

"Great people, great stops, great meals, a ton of Wisconsin history and Fall scenery galore"

Friends Member - Dble \$515  
Friends Member - Single \$595  
Non-Member - Dbl \$545  
Non Member - Single \$625

The Badger Line Bus leaves Dutch Mill Park & Ride, in southeast Madison.

For more information, contact Judie Balderson 715.259.7934

## 60 Midwest Farmers Roll Rigs Across Wisconsin



"Tractor Cruise USA 2008, the Summer Ride", rumbled through Mineral Point in mid-June, with sixty midwest farmers behind the wheel. The caravan stopped along the way for tours and talks with agricultural businesses and implement manufacturers. In this photo, Jerry Weincauf, a Racine County farmer, was celebrating a few days on the road, rolling along from Dubuque to Kenosha in company with his son, Nate.

### IS ANYONE OFFLINE?

E-mails sent, worldwide = 5 billion a day.  
AOL uses send 1.6 billion messages a day.  
U.S. business spends \$10 billion per year to delete bothersome spam messages.  
Facebook = 1 million users join each week.  
For sale on E-Bay, right now = 18 million items.

Source: World Features Syndicate

# Library Fundraisers Set

## Three Events to Benefit Local Project

The campaign to raise funds for the 100-year-old Mineral Point Municipal Building is in full swing, and a trio of events is on tap, to bring more dollars into the ambitious effort to upgrade the Library, City Hall, and the historic archives of the Mineral Point Room. A local citizen's group has made a lengthy study of the best and most economical ways to refurbish the existing library, create a compatible building addition for more library space, and relocate the Archives Room to a safer environment. To accomplish these goals, an area-wide campaign seeks to raise \$2.5 million from private donors, businesses and foundations. Many area residents, MPHS alumni and other friends of the Mineral Point Library have already made generous contributions. It is expected that city funding will provide for updating the building's infrastructure and improvements to adjoining areas. More information on the status of this project and how you can help is available from the library's website at [www.swls.org/member.mi.html](http://www.swls.org/member.mi.html) or contact the Library Director at 608.987.2447.



### TOUR OF HOMES:

On Sunday, Sept. 28, a special tour of eight homes offers visitors a peek into an eclectic variety of Mineral Point dwellings. Property owners promise visitors a rare chance to explore their unique homes and grounds.

1. The 1878 James Polkinghorn Building, at 111 Commerce St. Ulrich and Nancy Sielaff have magically transformed a warehouse.
2. The Kitto and Baker Homes, 163 Spruce St. & 58 Shake Rag St. Sisters Catherine Kitto and Dorothy Baker show us the Old (1830) and the New (2007)
3. The Cothren House, Log Cabin and Stone Cottage, 320 Tower St. The Hay Family show us an historic two-acre estate.
4. The John and Bobbi Jo Rury Home, 411 S. Iowa St., is classic 1913 brick American four-square, nicely updated.
5. The Jim and Cheryl Smeja Home, 416 Front St., a 1905 Queen Anne and Craftsman style home with fabulous landscaping.
6. The James and Margaret Turkington Home, at 315 Washington St. is an 1894 Queen Victorian-Farmhouse.
7. The Schaaf-Graber Home, at 104 N. Iowa. Nancy Graber's bungalow is a family heirloom.
8. Orchard Lawn - The Gundry House, at 234 Madison St. is the city's 1868 Italianate landmark home on nine acres of gardens and grounds.



### LIVE ART AUCTION:

You can look forward to an elegant evening of fabulous food, amazing art and great company! The "It's About Time - Live Art Auction" will be held Sat., Nov. 29, at Cafe' Four at the Chesterfield at 20 Commerce Street in Mineral Point, starting with hors d'oeuvres, desserts and cash bar at 7:00 p.m. followed by a Live Art Auction at 8:00 p.m.

A complete list of all donating artists, including picture and description of artwork will be viewable on the Mineral Point Library website: see [www.swls.org/member.mi.html](http://www.swls.org/member.mi.html).

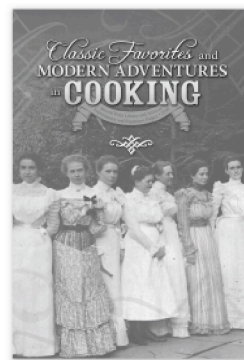


Bruce Palzkill, Library Board Member, points to planned building improvements.

## A Classic Cookbook

Readers will digest and delight in this book filled with favorite recipes from the friends of the Mineral Point Library, to support the Mineral Point Library and Archives Improvement and Expansion Project.

The Cookbook committee: Chairperson Carol Paynter, artist Tom Kelly and Librarian Barb Polizzi, would like to thank everyone who shared their recipes in this very local collection of tasty foods.



Cover photo courtesy of the Mineral Point Library Archives.

Kristin Mitchell Design

## Would You Like to Try One of the Cookbook Recipes?

### Blanche's Salad Dressing

1/2 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon mustard  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 tablespoons flour  
2 eggs, beaten  
1/2 cup vinegar  
1/2 cup water  
Mix together first four ingredients, add eggs, vinegar and water. Cook until thick.

The late Blanche Treweek was the second library director and served the city of Mineral Point for 47 years.

To order cookbooks, contact:  
The Mineral Point Public Library 608.987.2447  
Write: Mineral Point Public Library, 137 High St. Mineral Point, WI 53565



Tour of Historic Homes -  
Sun., Sept. 28, from 11:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
Tickets & maps will be available at Bobbi Jo's Interiors on High Street and the White Pickett Mercantile on Commerce Street  
Contact Barbara Polizzi or Lisa Hay at [www.mineralpoint.com](http://www.mineralpoint.com) - phone 608.987.2447 (Library)



It's About Time Live Art Auction -  
Sat., Nov. 29 - 7:00 p.m.  
Hors d'oeuvres, Desserts and Cash Bar  
8:00 p.m. Live Art Auction - No Entry fee  
Cafe' Four at the Chesterfield, Commerce St.  
Contact: Barbara Polizzi, Nonda Van Gulden or Kristin Mitchell  
[www.mineralpoint.com](http://www.mineralpoint.com) or 608 987-2447 (Library)



## OL' SHEP

A Memory, from John J. Waelti

Back on the farm, we had a succession of dogs, each of them named "Shep." I was out of high school before I learned that dogs had any other name than "Shep." OK, so I'm exaggerating, but not much.

Farm dogs in those days had three primary functions -- chasing cows, announcing visitors and disposing of bones and table scraps. The bones and "better scraps" served as sustenance for Ol' Shep. The inferior vegetative stuff went out to the chicken yard. We had never heard of garbage disposals. Ol' Shep and the chickens served that purpose very well. Nothing was wasted.

The only time I remember purchasing dog food was on one occasion when Ol' Shep got too close to the hay mower and suffered a severe cut on his leg. He was lucky not to have lost it. He spent several days in the cool air under the back porch and we fed him some purchased dog food. Shep soon healed and was back to his accustomed table scraps and milk filched from the cat dish during milking time.

When I moved away from the farm, took up city life and a heavy travel schedule, low maintenance became the Lifestyle Order of the Day. That meant no pets. Then, after what passes for "retirement," my wife opined that we ought to have a dog. We ended up with not one dog, but two, "Buddy" and "Tia."

Sure, I knew it wouldn't be quite the same as with Ol' Shep in the farming days of yore. But little did I know.

Wife Sherry tells me one day that she has to go down to the pet store. "I have to get some flossies for Buddy and Tia."

I was incredulous. Flossies? For dogs? Ya gotta be kidding. I know there have been some impressive advances in the field of dental hygiene, but this was preposterous!

Sherry patiently explained that these were processed beef tendons. And, yes, indeed, they were good for teeth.

"Well," I thought, "since those of us in these so-called advanced industrial nations consume more processed food, I suppose it's only natural that dogs will, too." (In fact, I read in the Wall Street Journal one day that some marketing guru was trying to peddle flavored sparkling water for dogs and cats.) So Buddy and Tia get their flossies. I can only hope we're not making sissies out of them.

How did Ol' Shep get by without flossing his teeth? I finally figured it out. When he was chasing cows in from the pasture at milking time, he sometimes got a bit impatient with a laggard. So he would grab the tail and let it slide to the brush end, through his teeth. I guess that resembled multiple strands of floss dragging through his ivories.

Ol' Shep was ahead of his time. He was simply practicing a primitive form of flossing. No need for purchased flossies. For Ol' Shep, low maintenance was the rule.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: John J. Waelti is a native of Monroe Township. A former Prof. of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota; he is Prof. Emeritus at New Mexico State Univ. He can be reached at [jjwaelti@tds.net](mailto:jjwaelti@tds.net).



A Stroll down Fore Street, Redruth



Image supplied by Redruth Chamber

Fore Street is the main drag in Mineral Point's sister city in Cornwall, and according to the internet news from the city's Chamber, it has been a good few months for Redruth, the old Cornish mining town.



Redruth U.K. Parade

With a national award for its town centre, and plans drawn for a big makeover of a rundown industrial area, it would appear that the number one topic on Fore Street in downtown Redruth is — you guessed it! — the Economy.

But in Land's End, on the rugged gray southwest corner of the United Kingdom, the talk is not just about dollars. Angry Citizens of Cornwall are also talking about Independence, about breaking away from England. A boisterous secessionist group is trying to carve a country out of Cornwall. It's part of a significant unrest in the U.K. Some in Northern Ireland still advocate unification with Ireland, and the Party of Wales wants an independent Welsh state.

It's this kind of in-your-face spirit the Cornishmen brought to Mineral Point in the early 19th Century. They had within themselves an instinctive and cherished love of their heritage and homeland, deep-rooted during 400 years under Anglo-Saxon occupation. The major factor, however, was economic. In the 1800's the Cornish tin mines were declining, wages were low, and the struggle for food and shelter made migration attractive. That's when the men in the mines got word of the rich mineral deposits in the Northwest Territory in America.

In 1830 the first Cornishman, direct from the old land, reached the settlement that is now Mineral Point. In the next twenty years he was followed by great numbers, scattering throughout towns and settlements in the mining region. Those first settlers saw a landscape that looked similar to the little villages of their homeland, and in one particular wooded ravine they found a spring, abundant stone in nearby bluffs, and proximity to the hillside lead mines. A cluster of rugged little limestone cottages grew, nestling in the ravines, and the community was known as Shake-Rag-under-the-Hill, and later as just "Shake Rag."

Today, Shake Rag Alley reflects the spirit of the city's early settlers, with the School of the Arts brightening that little ravine, busy with arts and crafts, learning and community betterment.

Hoare's Lane:  
An Old Cornish Trail on  
Mineral Point's South Side

One vehicle wide, rough, curving, overhung by trees, with moss-covered dry-stacked rock walls on either side, Hoare's Lane drops away from 9th St. at the American Legion Hall, traversing a handful of homes as Dream St. before swinging to the east as a country lane, gully-washed and bramble-filled, and finally emerging on Ferndale Road.

John A. Hoare was born in Cornwall, and began working in the mines at age 10. He came to America in 1843, settled in Mineral Point, and — as did many miners — used his savings to buy land, amassing 260 acres adjoining the old city limits on the town's southwest side. His 1836 marriage to Miss Sallie Murrish produced seven children, in a home filled with music. Three of the sons attended musical colleges in Chicago before opening Hoare Bros., a piano and organ store, and they taught music as well.

The lane connected the family farmhouse with the farm's outbuildings and thence to the roadway into Mineral Point. The Hoare School was built on land shaved off from the farm, in the building that now houses the American Legion chapter.

Ruth Jungluth, whose active interest in local history is backed up by personal recollections, picks up the story: "The rock walls were built by John Hoare's sons during slack times for farming. The father declared, 'The devil finds work for idle hands,' and he made sure his boys didn't suffer temptation." Ruth's mother and grandmother both attended the Hoare School, walking from their country home along the Milwaukee Road railway tracks to the point where they could climb Hoare's Lane to the school.

Ruth Jungbluth is concerned about what she sees as "destruction" of the old 1850's trail. Construction, age and the natural growth of vegetation has damaged some of the stone walls, and the lane to Ferndale Rd. is badly eroded and almost impassable to auto traffic.

But it's a beautiful location for a stroll; for, as Ruth points out, the lane is "a perfect replica of the rock-lined trails built in Cornwall for centuries."



What's Cooking  
in Cornish Kitchens?



The early settlers in Mineral Point were a hardscrabble lot, from all accounts, and life in this small mining town was dreary, sour and hard. The trees, stunted by the axeto fetch timbers for the mines, bore no leaves; the chilly gray weather was in keeping with the dismal aspect of the place. In 1837, English geologist George W. Featherstonehaugh — pronounced Fan-shaw — visited Mineral Point and left a most colorful description in his book, A Canoe Voyage Up The Minnay Sotor. He was unimpressed with the mines, and found Mineral Point: "An exceedingly miserable place...peopled by greedy, vulgar adventurers...a nest of spectators, with workmen following in their train."

The food, it seems, matched the mood of the town — dreary stuff indeed, with little to comfort the appetite and the same wretched diet, day after day. Featherstonehaugh found the food as unpalatable as the citizenry. He recalled "a never-failing repast of coffee, rice, treacle (like molasses) and bread and butter." And when he asked questions, he found that "the inhabitants produced nothing of any kind whatever for their subsistence, not even a cabbage, for there was not a garden in the place, and that they were as dependent upon others as if they were on board a ship." And later Featherstonehaugh wrote: "A more melancholy place than Mineral Point I never expect to see again: we have not tasted a morsel of fresh meat, or fish, or vegetables, since we had been here."

In all probability, the early Cornish settlers in Wisconsin wouldn't have known their diet was all that meager. It was what they knew from their homeland, where the coarse, barren soil and the severe weather of Cornwall made the harvest almost impossible. There was little food to be had, and what was on the table was unsavory. In the period from 1700 to 1830, miners often complained of physical exhaustion from lack of food, and children suffered from hunger, appearing drawn and listless.

Peasants along the rugged coastline ate the pilchard, a herring-like fish, heavily salted, eaten with fingers.

Small grains were common, such as pil-las, customarily boiled into a porridge. For his lunch, the minor carried a "hogan" or "croust", a heavy slab of unleavened barley bread, which was occasionally flavored with molasses. Barley bread appeared at all meals, in one form or another — wheat flour was too expensive to use for baking.

CORNISH PIES

Eventually the Cornish pie came to dominate the diet of the working-class. Anything was considered fair game to fill a pie, and many leftovers or items considered too unsavory to serve plain could be disguised inside pastry crust.

Nothing was too big or small, too tough or too greasy, nothing was considered too common or unclean to compose a Cornish pie. Fish and eel were cooked into pies, muggety pie was made from sheep and calf entrails, squad pie contained vegetables and a young pigeon. Herby pie was vegetarian in character, and Likky pie — leeks pie — survives as a recipe today.

By the 19th Century, the Cornish pasty, or meat pie, was standard fare among mining families — a humble pastry of "croust" filled with beef, potatoes, onions and suet, bubbling inside the shell. An occasional turnip or rutabaga might be added. Miners carried pastys because they would "stand up" to his surroundings, tucked in a muslin bag in a pocket, or in a tin lunch bucket.

Other staples in the Cornish kitchen include potatoes, introduced about 1650 A.D., saffron (now one of the most expensive spices) that was sold in Mineral Point at Christmas time, plus clotted cream (made by scalding milk and then storing it in ceramic containers), and dried currants.

Cornish cuisine is, thus, the simplest of fare, a diet casually put together from table scraps — whatever was available.

Somehow, though, it seems "right" for the people it fed, the hard-working Celtic citizenry of tough little towns.

The Cornish people may take little cheer from their foodstuffs, but at least they can chuckle when quoting one popular legend:



*"The Devil would never come to Cornwall, for fear he would be made into a pie."*

This account is condensed from research written at the Pendarvis Historic Site, with thanks to Curator Tamara Funk. The Featherstonehaugh quotations are drawn from History of Iowa County, 1881.

Conversational  
Cornish



Can you respond to Cuzin Catie?

'Ello M'love! 'E's some lovely to walcom 'ee.

'Commot on in an I'll put on a nice dish of tay an we can'ave a sit down. 'Ess, m'love, 'tis been a bit warm, idn uh?

'Ere, 'ave a few of these bisquits. I tried a new recipie. Ferrin's thy're not but I'm pleased with 'em, crisp an all.

An thy're naw boughten buns. Do 'ee mind when 'ee used to get saffron at the bakers an 'ee warn't like boughten buns, do uh?

Sorry m'love to 'eave 'ee out, but 'mchores 'ave got to do.

Now, this is a MODERN dialect, provided by the devotedly Cornish Catherine Whitford, a/k/a Cuzin Catie. Ms. Whitford and her little dog dispense good cheer and Celtic books, apparel and home furnishings at the Cornish Connection on High Street.

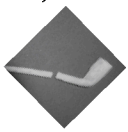
Here are a few other samples of old Cornish expressions, still in use among "thorough Cornish" in the old lead region of Wisconsin:

"As lev," is "as leave," used as "I'd as lev do en as not."

"braav," meaning "excellent", used to respond to the greeting "Ow is 'ee gettin' on, you?" The answer is "braav and keenly."

"Crib" is lunch, or "a bit o' crib."  
"Forthy" means "forward, or bold," as, "E's a forthy lad."

And to "touch pipe" is to sit down and rest; the miners — most all smokers — would say, "Come, let's touch pipe a bit"



Glossary from The Cornish in SW Wisconsin, by Lewis Albert Copeland, 1898, part of the Wisconsin Historical Collection.





# What's YOUR Consumption Factor?

"Sustainability" is one of our much-used environmental buzzwords, and may be suffering the same gradual degradation in meaning as the overused "Green" and "Natural." Politicians, activists and public relations spinners are speaking of "sustainability;" and, as you would suspect, sometimes misuse the word.

For the record, economic development or the use of natural resources can be said to be sustainable if kept at a pace or level that does no damage to the environment and does not deplete the resource. Economic sustainability is maintained by living within our means, and avoiding a mortgage for future generations. And we maintain sustainability when we replace natural resources as quickly as we use them up.

Jared Diamond, Prof. of Geography at Univ. of California, says the average rates at which the world's people consume resources like petroleum, forests and metals, and produce wastes like plastics, paper and greenhouse gases, are about 32 times higher in the so-called First World — North America, Western Europe, Japan and Australia — than in the nations of the developing, or Third, world.

## ALL ABOARD THE GRAVY TRAIN!

The population of the First World about 1 billion, consuming and wasting at 32, while the other 5.5 billion people on the planet get along with per capita consumption rates well below 32, mostly down towards only one or two. Think of it this way: each one of we 300 million Americans consumes as much as 32 Kenyans. So, with ten times the population, the U.S. consumes 320 times more resources than Kenya does.

People who live in the Third World are aware of this difference in per capita consumption, although they don't know that the factor is as high as 32. And those who consume so little want to enjoy much more, to emulate the high-consumption lifestyle that they constantly view on popular television and see firsthand in big corporate stores, offices and restaurants spreading across the globe.

## WHAT DANGER LURKS THERE?

When Third Worlders believe they can never catch up, they begin to think about emigrating from their poor nation to the more prosperous nations. And when they think their situation is hopeless, they get frustrated and angry and they may become terrorists or may support terrorists whose targets are the rich and privileged citizens of the world.

So, while the developing nations struggle, quite justifiably, to increase their consumption rates, we need to pay attention to total world consumption. If China and India were to catch up to U.S.

consumption, the total world rate would triple. And if the whole developing world caught up, it would be like increasing the world's total population to 72 billion.

## CAN WE HANDLE THAT CROWD?

A few decades ago, the talk was about "the population explosion." Now we realize that a better measure is what all people consume and produce. Optimists claim we could support a world population of 9 billion, up from today's 6.5 billion. But, as we run out of natural resources, no one could claim we would be able to handle a world with 72 billion inhabitants.

Prof. Diamond says promising the developing nations that a changing their policies would produce western material standards is "a cruel hoax, an impossible dream." A more honest statement might acknowledge that, "right now, we expect the developing world to keep starving so that we First Worlders can enjoy our current prosperity without competition from the Third World."

That will have to change. The only approach China and other developing nations will accept is to aim toward more equal consumption rates around the world, but the world doesn't have enough resources to accomplish consumption equality.

## ARE WE HEADED FOR DISASTER?

"No," Prof. Diamond says, "we could have a stable outcome if all the world's nations converge on a consumption rate that's higher than the poverty rate but lower than today's 32." He admits, "Americans might not want to sacrifice our living standards for the benefit of other people in the rest of the world, but whether we get there willingly or not, we shall soon have lower consumption rates because our present rates are unsustainable."

Talk about an Inconvenient Truth! This is bigger than Al Gore's movie, bigger than the Kyoto Protocol, bigger than the current crop of self-congratulatory corporate "green initiatives." We're talking about the necessity for changing the way we do business and live our daily lives.

## HOW MUCH DO WE GIVE UP?

A little sacrifice might not hurt. We live in a country where "worth" is usually measured in dollars, where a majority of the people eat too much of the wrong foods, with immense waste from billions of things simply tossed away. Our massive consumption contributes little or nothing to our quality of life. In Europe, oil consumption is only half of the rate in the U.S., yet Western Europe's standard of living is higher by most criteria — life expectancy, health, infant mortality, financial security in retirement, vacation time, good public schools and support of the arts. America's

gasoline guzzling affects none of these measurements. We waste huge portions of the world's fisheries and forests, although we know how to manage them sustainably. There are countless practices that could reduce our use of our natural resources, but we need real action, action that aims higher than all the "Green Top Ten Tips" in the newsstand magazines.

Importantly, we may not have a choice. We may be forced to live with lower consumption rates in the future, as per capita rates elsewhere are rising. Diamond contends that this is a desirable, not a dreaded, prospect. "We already know how to encourage these trends," he says, "but what's lacking is political will." "The world has serious consumption problems," he says, "but we can solve them if we choose to do so."

Doug Huebner, who lives out Hollandale way, is an active member of Grassroots Citizens of Southwest Wisconsin, and tipped us off to news accounts about the Consumption Factor, from which this article was written.



## sus.tain (se STAYN) c.t.

1. keep from sinking or falling, uphold; support. 2. endure.

- Funk & Wagnalls, Std.

So what does "sustainability" mean? It's meeting the needs of today without compromising the future. It's looking at the whole picture, it's using a systems approach — being aware that protecting our air and water shouldn't require a heavy use of energy, and that growing our food shouldn't damage our environment.

It's following the four Natural Steps: 1. Cutting back on fossil fuel dependence and the wasteful use of scarce metals and minerals, 2. Cutting back on chemicals and synthetic substances, which never break down, 3. Protecting our land, water, wildlife, soils and ecosystems, 4. Meeting human needs fairly and efficiently.

## Source:

Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin

The Grassroots organization conducts forums on public issues, and acts in the interest of progressive local constituents.

See the website, [www.grassrootswise.com](http://www.grassrootswise.com)

## Green & Healthy Schools

Sustainable communities keep an eye on the triple bottom line — the economic, environmental and social health of their towns and villages. It's like a three legged stool — if one leg is missing, the stool collapses.

That's the idea behind Sustain Iowa County, a newly formed citizen action group that's working with Iowa County officials, school districts, builders, homeowners and others to encourage sustainable practices. The group's kickoff was this Spring at Dodgeville High School, and more than 100 residents came together to talk about how they could take sustainability personally.

Since then, Chuck Tennesen and Karri Roh-Wasley, both Dodgeville teachers, are working to implement a "Green and Healthy Schools" program for Dodgeville schools. They presented their ideas to the school board in early August and already have volunteers ready to go to work. A Mineral Point parent is interested in exploring a similar idea for local schools, and is looking for other interested parents and teachers.

The "Green and Healthy" approach has many benefits. Students perform better because an improved school environment makes learning more accessible. Decreased building operating costs are another plus, says Tennesen. Additionally, student participation is a key factor in the assessment process and problem-solving. As future decision-makers, the students will need a solid understanding of energy and resource management, he says.

To get involved in the "Green and Healthy Schools" initiative in Iowa County or to learn more about it:

Chuck Tennesen, 608.987.3835 or [fivetens@mhtc.net](mailto:fivetens@mhtc.net). — Karri Roh-Wasley at [rohkarri@verizon.net](mailto:rohkarri@verizon.net) 608.935.1030.

## Eco-Municipality Team

Another effort, an outgrowth of the Sustain Iowa County kickoff, is the Eco-Municipality team, led by Brad Glass, Carol Anderson and Shirley Barnes. They've met with officials from Iowa County and Dodgeville to tell city leaders that a number of other Wisconsin cities, towns and counties are already on the road to becoming eco-municipalities. Glass, Anderson and Barnes will be presenting the concept to the Iowa County Board and Dodgeville City Council in early Fall. In the meantime, they'll be researching the experiences of successful eco-municipalities around the state. Like "Green and Healthy Schools", eco-municipalities are concerned about the triple bottom line — the economic, environmental and social health of their communities — when making purchasing decisions and training employees.

To learn more about what it means to be an eco-municipality or to get involved, send e-mail to Shirley Barnes at [grassroots@merr.com](mailto:grassroots@merr.com) or call 608.623.2109.

## Or...just bag it.

A "bag it" team first got together at the Sustain Iowa County kickoff. The team now seeks others who might like to take on this assignment. The goal of this group will be to push practical solutions by cutting back on the use of plastic and paper bags in Iowa county. Contact Shirley Barnes at [grassroots@merr.com](mailto:grassroots@merr.com) if you are interested.







**"EAT LOCAL" CHALLENGE**  
**SEPT. 5TH - 14TH ARE DIET DAYS**

It's a simple idea: just "eat local," the way everyone did a few generations ago...the way they do in most parts of the world today. But the idea is enjoying new currency in this time of higher food prices due to higher transportation costs. And books about eating slower, smarter, and closer to your dining room table are now on the best-seller lists.

A statewide effort will be launched to persuade Wisconsin's population that eating close to home is simply common sense, with benefits to food consumers, food providers and the community at large.

The 2008 "Eat Local Challenge" asks food buyers to spend at least 10% of their food budget with vendors who live within a 100-mile radius, and to enjoy that local food for at least ten days.

Be careful before saying, "Hey, that's a cinch!" Today's supermarkets offer some 30,000 items, and the typical vegetable in the produce department has traveled some 1,500 miles. The American food system has long relied on cheap fuel and heavy advertising and marketing, so putting out fresh, local products is not a part of the usual food routine. So you'll have to read labels, ask questions and spend time doing a bit of research before making a purchase, to meet the standards of the Challenge.

However, you'll like the payoff!

And, after you've gone through the exercise, you may discover that you have changed your food-buying habits. And you'll have the satisfaction that comes from awareness that you have helped local farmers, helped

your city, and helped the planet, by saving some of the energy that typically belches from the exhaust pipe of a big refrigerator truck.

Why eat local? Here are a few points made by two familiar faces at the popular Mineral Point Farmers Market, Lois Federman and Rink DeVee (both involved in educational programs that preach the virtues of a more sensible food system):

1. It's safe, because the food changes hands less often and must meet established standards for contamination. 2. It's healthy, because the fresher the food the more nutritious it will be. 3. It's fun, because chatting with growers — and asking questions — is as pleasant as it is informative. 4. It helps the economy, because the farmer gets a larger share of the food dollar, and those dollars circulate inside the community.

And the best part is that it tastes great! Foods lose flavor over time and over the road, but food picked a few hours earlier is "the real deal." Just pop a fresh cherry tomato into your mouth, and you'll get the message.

Why not sign up for the 2008 Wisconsin Eat Local Challenge, using the website link below? Download a form to help you keep track of your food spending during the ten days of the challenge. At the end, take the Survey. You might win a prize, and the (confidential) results will be a part of a report that will be presented at the 2nd Annual Food Summit, in Eu Claire in January.

The Food Challenge is a great way to get involved with good consumerism, healthy agriculture, and the delights of a Fresh Feast.

## LOCAL FARE: THE ADVENTURE OF FINDING FRESH FOOD

The current quest for all things local, organic and renewable reminds us of an agrarian America, 150 or so years ago, when everybody ate local food, because — quite simply — all food WAS local. And organic. Fertilizers and pesticides hadn't been invented. In many towns, nearby greenhouses extended the growing season. Families grew their own food, stored some of it, and traded for their foodstuffs carefully. All that, in a day when the family kitchen was located in the home, not at the drive-through window.

A century later, during World War II, backyard "Victory Gardens" produced half of all American food consumed during the wartime years.

So setting the family table with seasonal, local, just-picked food is not a new idea.

Unfortunately, however, the concept runs contrary to the machinations of the U.S. food system. Advertising, conflicting health information, food fads, the marketing of convenient "fast" foods, and the wealth of supermarket food selections, all seem to have convinced Americans that tasteless and chemically-altered foods are the norm, and that mere "food substances" are almost as nutritious as real food.

And so the nation is greatly concerned that generations of young people don't know what real food tastes like, where it comes from, or why it's important to physical well-being.

The “Eat Local” and “Slow Food” movements address this problem. But those movements can be as problematic as the concerns they deal with, unless discussion is marked by common sense, realistic aspirations, and plain talk.

Not even the most rabid localvore would want to turn the clock back to the traditional Pilgrim Springtime diet of turnips, potatoes, dried apples and pumpkins. The happy prospect for today's consumer is that we can have the best of all food worlds. We can build our day-to-day diet around seasonal and fresh food, grown and picked by someone we can greet face

to face. We can browse at farm markets, open air bazaars and health food shops. And at the supermarket, we can carefully choose the food we take home, discovering exotic tastes and hundreds of foods not previously available to American food shoppers.

A cornucopia, indeed! The secret, of course, is that most elusive quantity in today's busy world: taking time to do the right thing, for our bodies, our families and our environment.

**FOUR RESTAURANTS — ONE FOOD PHILOSOPHY:  
“LOCAL FOODS ARE THE COOK’S BEST FRIEND”**

At Brewery Creek restaurant, Jeff and Deborah Donaghue tell diners, "Food can be 'fast,' and 'easy to prepare,' and some of it can be delivered by trucks, ready to serve. But it's hard for food to be really good if it's fast and easy at the same time."

The Brew Pub's food principles are: "use natural, fresh, quality ingredients — and buy them locally," and, "make all that you can from scratch, using basic ingredients." (And that includes the beer!)

Across the street, the new Cafe' Four at the Chesterfield follows similar guidelines, when choosing foods for their pizzas and tasty entrees from the wood-fired oven. Owner Brent Starck recently invited Roberto Caporusio, from Naples, Italy, to work with the staff and use "Wisconsin's bounty from local farmers and artisan food makers."

Chef Webb, the major domo at the Old Royal Inn, regularly stages multi-course dinners to showcase local foods, themed events that introduce new dishes made from familiar regional ingredients.

And at the Walker House, Chef Mike Hayes has signed off on a local food manifesto, for the catering they practice while the historic restaurant is under construction.



**MADISON'S  
FOOD FOR THOUGHT  
FESTIVAL**

**Information, Recipes, Cooking  
Demos, Live Music & Good Food  
-- Opens Sept. 20th**

The Food for Thought Festival is an annual event in Madison, an outgrowth of the popular Farmers Market on Capitol Square. The festival is a forum to explore and celebrate our many opportunities to eat pleasurably, healthfully and sustainably.

This year's event features a keynote address by Michael Ableman, founder of the Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens, in southern California. The guest chef is Monique Jamet-Hooker, a teacher and author with a life-long interest in food and travel.

**Sat., Sept. 20th from 8 to 1:30**  
just off Capitol Square  
See [www.reapfoodgroup.org](http://www.reapfoodgroup.org)

## Calorie Burning: the totally Historic & Authoritative View

Fundamentally, we look very much like our hairy-backed ancestors from the Stone Age, even if we think we are much more sleek.

The world we live in, however, is fundamentally different from Ancient Times in one way — in the way we consume, and burn, our calories — the units of heat that give our bodies the energy to do what needs to be done.

Our multi-great great great granddads had to use a rock to kill what they ate...but we just pick up the phone.

Consequently, the calorie-burning day of the cave dweller stands in striking contrast to the typical day of the 21st Century man.



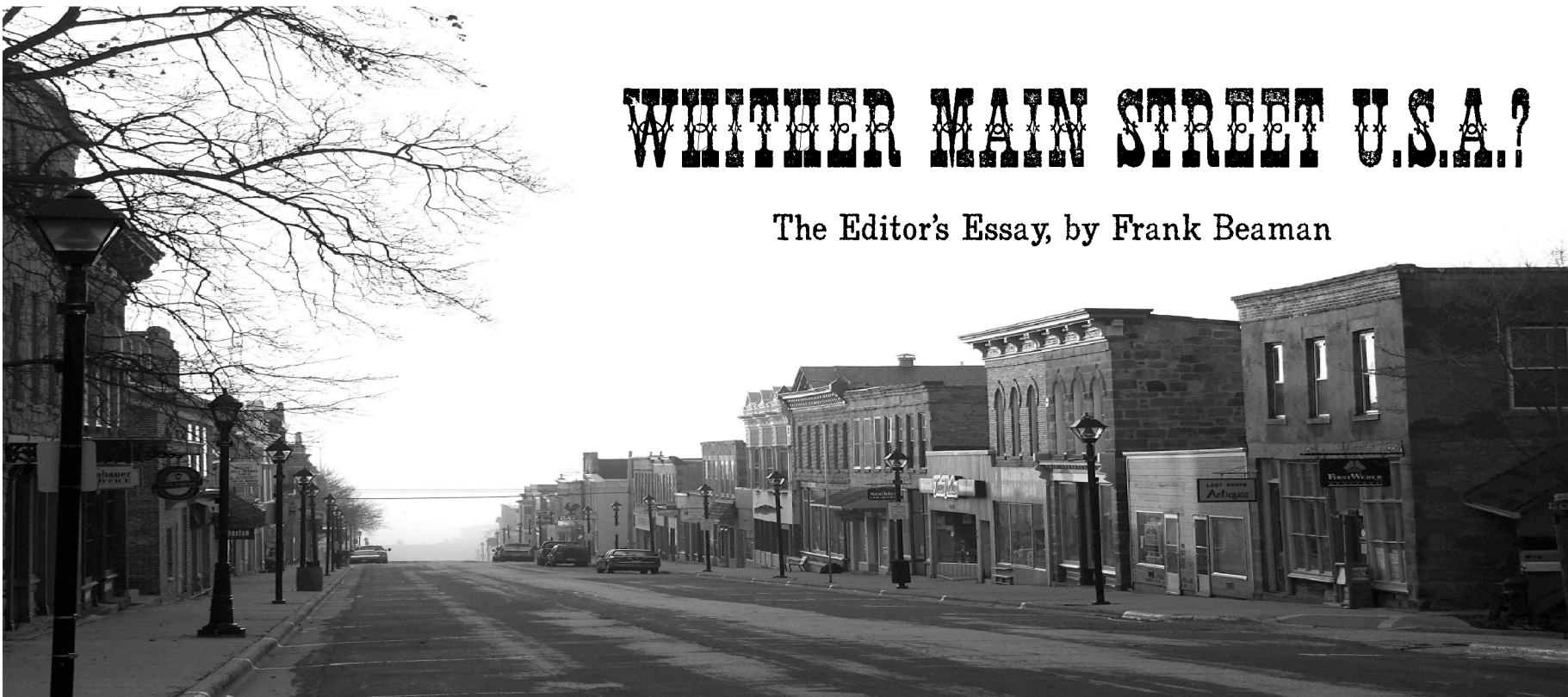
## ANCIENT TIMES



## MODERN TIMES

|                                  | Calories<br>burned | Ingested<br>as food |   | Calories<br>burned | Ingested<br>as food |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| 7-8 a.m. Hunt for breakfast      | 500                |                     | 7-8 a.m. Grab an Egg McMuffin at drive-up     |                    |                     |
| 8-9 Still hunting for breakfast  | 500                |                     | window on way to work                         | 166                |                     |
| 9-9:20 Run away from breakfast   | 901                |                     | 8-9 Eat Egg McMuffin at desk and              |                    |                     |
| 9:20 - 11 Hunt for smaller, more |                    |                     | check e-mail                                  | 100                | 300                 |
| docile breakfast                 | 832                |                     | 9-10 Eat pineapple Danish; read report        |                    |                     |
| 11-Noon Kill rabbit and          |                    |                     | on possible corporate acquisition             | 100                | 106                 |
| carry it back home               | 435                |                     | 10-Noon Attend meeting to discuss need        |                    |                     |
| 12-1 p.m. Skin breakfast, chop   |                    |                     | for more meetings                             | 210                |                     |
| wood for fire to cook it         | 650                |                     | 12-1:30 Drive, eat lunch at Fat Boys Bar-B-Q  | 149                | 900                 |
| 1-2 Cook breakfast and eat it    | 124                | 517                 | 1:30-2 Flirt with new secretary in Personnel  | 55                 |                     |
| 2-2:30 Regale your fellows with  |                    |                     | 2-2:30 Conference call with Los Angeles       | 50                 |                     |
| tale about killing breakfast     | 67                 |                     | 2:30-4 Type up the Gorsky proposal            | 172                |                     |
| 2:30-3 Beat up fellow who calls  |                    |                     | 4-4:10 Grab, eat candy bar at vending machine | 17                 | 280                 |
| you a liar                       | 437                |                     | 4:10-5 Talk to old college buddy on 800 line  | 83                 |                     |
| 3-5 Sit around in dazed stupor   | 49                 |                     | 5-5:15 Drive to Health Club                   | 27                 |                     |
| 5-6 Eat more breakfast           | 100                | 330                 | 5:15-5:45 Jog on treadmill                    | 378                |                     |
| 6-7 Do dance in honor of the     |                    |                     | 5:45-6 Shower, dress, drive home              | 56                 |                     |
| spirit of breakfast              | 305                |                     | 6-7 Open a bruskie, order and eat pizza       | 112                | 625                 |
| 7-11 Sleep                       | 299                |                     | 7-11 Watch TV; drink 2 more brusksies,        | 338                | 306                 |
|                                  |                    |                     | eat tortilla chips and salsa                  |                    | 455                 |
| ANCIENT MAN'S CALORIES           | 5,199              | 847                 | MODERN MAN'S TOTAL CALORIES                   | 2,013              | 2,972               |





# WHITHER MAIN STREET U.S.A.?

The Editor's Essay, by Frank Beaman

"Main Street U.S.A." It's one of the most popular attractions at Disney World. Walt's "Old Fashioned Downtown" is a cunningly nostalgic trip back in time, a charming collage of old brick and stones, flickering lamps, benches under shade trees, welcoming doorways in warm little cottage homes, and picture-perfect storefronts. As you ride by in a Disney trolley, you slowly realize that, about a century ago, a downtown street like this one, with just a handful of business places, satisfied a small town's basic needs. There was one of each kind of store — food, clothing, hardware, pharmaceuticals, town services. No mall. No Big Box. No advertising. Oh, and no cars.

Thousands of people fly across the country, book expensive rooms, pay big bucks for admission, and then stand in a very long line, just to spend a little time in this half-acre of Americana. and when the spectators finally leave this carefully crafted place, they say they loved to soak, however briefly, in its atmosphere.

But it's all fake!

Walt Disney knew how to push our buttons, to make us believe that kind of old street, and its shops and homes, might still be around as a "working model." Actually, America started losing its Main Streets sixty years ago.

## A BRIEF POST WAR CHRONOLOGY

The United States emerged from World War II as a world superpower. The nation had been transformed from an industrial wannabee to the most awesome production colossus the world had ever seen. But the men (they were all men) who ran the new industries were worried. "What can we make on our assembly lines, now that we're not making jeeps and fighter planes?" Then, "How do we keep profit margins at their wartime highs?" Finally, "If we come up with new products, how can we sell them?"

The questions found All-American answers:

1. The war's heavy industrial demands had brought farmers to the cities and women into the factories, constituting a huge work force that could continue the output of heavy goods and products, and with low wages and cheap energy costs.

2. Postwar construction and the Baby Boom produced a new market for almost everything. The trick was to convince American purchasers that what had previously been considered luxuries were now to be considered necessities.

3. To serve Americans who were in a hurry to buy homes, cars, and "new luxury-necessities," production quality standards were reshaped, relaxed a bit to allow for planned obsolescence and quick turnover — it was the beginning of the "throw away society."

4. Because gasoline was cheap, distance didn't seem to matter anymore, and we started building massive highway systems, planning auto-dependent destinations and advocating two-car families, drive-ins, and leisure activity at the wheel.

5. And we built homes! The biggest mass migration in the country's history — the move to the suburbs — was set in motion by government subsidies to GI's, alluring real estate promotion and aggressive mortgage practices. The inner city's neighborhoods were boarded up, and the shadows in the ghetto grew longer. But on the edge of town, Americans drove to the new malls, which mushroomed miles from the city center, and bought what they were told were their needs for suburban living.

6. The New American Family took its purchasing cues — some would say its marching orders — from a new invention that became an overnight fixture in every home. Television was, and is, the most effective sales tool ever conceived, and explosive growth in the late 1940's ushered in today's consumerist movement. When the TV said "buy," everyone bought.

## CITY DESIGNS ARE TRANSFORMED

The postwar evolution brought with it a new mindset among the professionals who designed the strip malls, industrial parks, manufactured homes and urban renewal projects — all standardized solutions to city problems, although some of the problems were only imagined. Urban planners called for extravagant energy use, reliance on the automobile, and the availability of easy money to tear down the old and build up the new. The urban templates were replicated everywhere, which is why every mall in every city looks identical. These patterns totally disregard the peculiar charm of the particulars of place.

## THAT WAS THEN, WHAT ABOUT NOW?

Today, we see the flaws. We know we must reclaim our lost cities. We speak of sustainability, of "building green," of historic preservation. Today's city planners speak of a "new urbanism," which looks a lot like the "old urbanism" of Disney's Main Street. But they are trapped by fifty years of past practices. When they do battle against, say, a parking lot, the new crusaders must confront zoning and building codes that were written in an era of cheap fuel and heavy bulldozing. The post-war urban codes now make a revival of the traditional Main Street difficult, because such places would now be illegal to build.

A few cities have been "gentrified," by enticing brave homeowners — wealthy ones, usually — to lofts, condominiums and fix-ups. But by and large, the evolution of the modern urban pattern has left the inner city to the poor, while offices, shops, factories and strangely massive homes are built in the treeless lots of suburbia.

American cities, since the end of W.W.II, have been gradually abandoned. In many ways, the flight to the suburbs mimics the earlier migration from farms to cities, which began when the nation chose Industry over Agriculture. Thomas Jefferson warned us, told us to remain on sustainable farms, but we were a people in a hurry.

## ANY EXCEPTIONS?

Here's the good news: If Orlando is a bit unrealistic for your current airline or gasoline budget, just take a walk down High Street in Mineral Point— yes, Down is easier than Up — and look around. You've found another Main Street. Not a stage set, but pretty close to the fantasy model, and much more authentic.

High Street presents a human face to the world, with curbside cordiality and a pace of life that in many ways resembles Disney's "Typical Town of Yesteryear." But it wasn't designed by entertainment consultants in Florida at multi-million dollar cost.

The community reflects the values of the era before 1945, when city designs revolved around human beings instead of automobiles. Also, let's admit, Mineral Point was mired in an

economic downturn in the post-war period, and couldn't afford to "tear down and rebuild." That's why the old stone buildings survived, to live again as architectural treasures. But in the 1970's, during a limited economic recovery, the city made the most of the situation and grew both physically and artistically, with new vitality as a living community.

Leaders of this renaissance sought to create a climate, as a background to dramatize the skills of the town. They didn't try to re-create a "Main Street", or "Miner's Village." They didn't insist on rigid authenticity down to the last brick, clapboard and hand-forged nail. They weren't building a museum, they were building something far more interesting to both tourists and townspeople: an energetic, functioning community. This process involved making smart choices, choices that recognized and exploited the city's natural resources and built upon them with prudent city improvements — but nothing from textbooks, nothing fancy.

So, today, the downtown is ringed by densely populated middle-class neighborhoods — safe, secure and affordable. Homes remain a mix of high-income and low-income residences, not concentrated pockets that denote income class. Streets welcome people on foot, and shopping is a stroll, not an orchestrated tour in the gas-guzzler.

In its studios and galleries, live-in artists struggle to make a living doing what they love to do. Visitors can watch the wood-carver as the chips are flying, and artisans will answer questions without a trace of weariness. If visitors buy what they see being created, that purchase is welcomed because the purchase supports the Arts community.

Mineral Point isn't a perfect city, but its imperfections are interesting. Most important, the simplicity and sustainability of living here has forged a community spirit that calls for participation by those who live in the city, to work to make every day more pleasant, instead of sulking, isolated and angry, behind double-locked doors.

Pointers have regard for, and respect for, their neighbors — far beyond friendliness, into an area of trust that is richer and deeper. And it's lasting.

We all turn out for the big parade, with the bands and the fire engines and the old cars, the horses and the clowns. But, as proud Pointers, we can say "we" because our moments of community are not lost on the morning after the parade.

