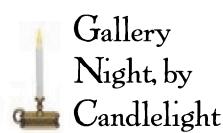
THE TIMES OF



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ILLUSTRATED Winter 2008 - 09

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Mineral Point's historic downtown area -High and Commerce Streets-will sparkle with hundreds of glowing luminaria on the final Gallery Night of the year-Saturday, Dec. 6, an evening of Candlelight Shopping when most stores will be open until 9 p. m. Many will offer treats and holiday music to make it a truly festive evening. The featured galleries include High Point Arts, Bohlin Gallery, Sirius Sunlight and the Spotted Dog.

Peaceful. Friendly. Charming. You'll find it's nothing like typical holiday shopping.

RIGH STREET BOOKSTORE

The historic Ted Marr gasoline station at the bottom of the High Street hill is "set in stone," and that has become the name for Mineral Point's new bookstore, which opens in January.

Inside, soft chairs surround a big stove, with a coffee pot, and thousands of books, nearby.

The latest of several projects in the city by Chicago businessman Jav Homan, "Set in Stone" will offer a range of books, from fiction to children's literature, as well as greeting cards and magazines. On Sunday morning, the store will feature major newspapers in the reading area.

Rod Schlimpert, a retired teacher who has settled in Mineral Point, will manage the bookstore. He says the store will sell choice wines and packaged organic delicacies from "Food for Thought," a Michigan supplier. "We'll brew up coffees, lattes and espressos for our customers," says Schlimpert, "but we won't open food and wines in the store, because we don't want to do damage to the books." He also spoke of plans to display local art, as a promotion for the city's artists. And there will also be book-signings from time to time.

Jay and Diana Homan will select the books offered for sale, and customers will also be able to place an order for a title. Homan, who lives nearby on Commerce St., bought the Marr service station "to develop the site for public enjoyment." During a lengthy construction period, he replaced some of the stone in the old structure, installed plumbing, commissioned a mural by artist Tom Kelly, and transformed the former driveway into a large patio with seating for strollers.

And as a sort of salute to its former life, Homan has placed a refurbished vintage Shell Oil gas pump inside the new book emporium.



Barack Hussein Obama

the son of a white woman from Kansas and a black man from Kenya, raised by grandparents who had neither power nor wealth, has been elected the 44th president of the United States of America.



It is, ofcourse, a significant moment in our nation's history. And, as with so many historic moments, it is a point in time shaped by many other moments, events, mere happenstance, and connections with the past.

Another Illinois politician opened the door to a multi-racial vote. Abraham Lincoln's signature on the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 gave a voice to the voiceless. And the Voting Rights Act of 1965 gave overdue votes to the voteless.

The Obama inaugural will take place in 2009, a centennial year for the NAACP, the oath of office, Mr. Obama may very which was founded after a bloody race riot in Springfield, Illinois, the city that was | for American politics, in almost every way.

Lincoln's home, where Mr. Obama broke into politics in the state legislature, and where he launched his presidential campaign on the steps of the Old State Capitol.

A blink in time, and Chicago's Grant Park, a battleground in 1968, becomes a common ground for the Obama celebration.

Those are some of the threads that make up the tapestry of the recent election, but it's also important to note that Nov. 4, 2008 may mark veritable confluence of historic currents: In economics, it may be the end of the nation's Boom Times, begun in the 1980's. Looking at the generations, we may see an end to "Baby Boomer Supremacy," which began in the tumult of 1968. And politically, the November vote may signal the end of the long Conservative dominance of the national political landscape.

We have lived for many years in the shadow of the Vietnam era, debating the issues of the 1960's - war and peace, civil rights, and the clash of cultures.

Barack Obama is beyond those times. He is "post-Viet Nam." He is also "post-Boomer," and "post-Bush & Clinton" as well.

His election tells the nation, "Get over it!" Born in the year John Kennedy took well represent a dramatic new direction

December **Fete Planned** for Local **Wordsmiths**

Literary Gala at Foundry Bookstore for Authors & Poets

"The visual artists of Mineral Point get plenty of well-deserved recognition, but our writers are sometimes overlooked."

With those words, Foundry Books proprietor Gayle Bull unveilled her plans to host a celebration of local authors in her bookstore at 105 Commerce St.

The party is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Dec. 7. A number of local authors will attend, and the public is invited to join our area's literary figures at the event.

Jerome Cushman, who teaches creative writing at a New York institute for the deaf, will be among those who read from their works.

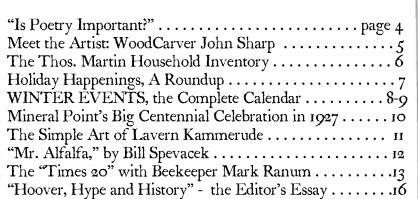
Chris Ransom, a Mineral Point newwhose first book, "Haunted House," will be published in June, will also read a chapter from the horror story.

Other authors from the Mineral Point area include Anne Bachner, Dean Bakopoulos, Lois Holland, Paula Dail, Mark Speltz, Bill Spevacek, Judith Sutcliffe, and the Shake Rag Alley School's writing team, Danielle Trussoni and Nikolai Grozni. Contributors to the Capitola Review, a locally-produced literary publication, have also been invited.

Lucille May will bake and serve her tea biscuits, accompanied by coffees and teas, and books of local writers will be on sale.



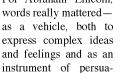
FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE



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He wrote the letters. legal and political arguments, and the inspiring speeches we all recite. For Abraham Lincoln, words really mattered-



sion and empowerment. Lincoln had a literary career that is inseparable from his life story.

Since Lincoln, few presidents have written their own words, words with power. But now there's Barack Obama, another prodiguous reader, and a writer of strength and brilliance. Clearly, another man to whom "words matter."

"White House Writers" In our Spring 2000 issue.



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We work, without pay, for the joy of creative enterprise and for community good will.

Modest costs are satisfied through the generosity of our readers.

For which we thank you.

Frank & Sandee Beaman



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ONE MAN'S OPINION:



Truth & Technology

by Frank Beaman

Forty years ago, as "the new radio guy," I installed a microphone atop a wooden desk in the Press Room at Chicago City Hall. I typed my stories on an old Underwood. I used a razor blade to edit audio tape. To report a breaking story, I had to find a pay phone. My colleagues from the newspapers carried only a pad and pencil. Cameras, in that bygone world of daily news, were shoulder—mounted monsters carried by the three—man television crews.

In 1968, we six City Hall reporters had to do everything—writing, editing, and fact-checking—at our desks. Today, however, Chicago's big and totally—mobile press corps reports on Mayor Daley with laptops and BlackBerries—electronic gear that would have been the stuff of my dreams.

Unfortunately, the high-tech tools of the trade have made news-gathering almost too simple, too easy to do. It's no longer necessary to spend years as an apprentice — anyone with a cell phone can be an instant reporter.

Further, "info-tainment" has become the performance standard of the newsroom bosses and big media corporations. All these elements have lured some reporters away from the basic chore of journalism—the quest for Truth—and into a new craft in which a news reporter marshals a handful of words and a battery of electronic paraphernalia to produce a razzle-dazzle reconstruction of the truth.

A "reconstruction" because, while the raw elements of the story – the Truths – may be present in the final product, the account has been jazzed up, amplified, and emboldened.

In my long-ago radio newsroom, the goal was quite simple: we told the audience what happened that day. Our tools—cameras, tape recorders, and phones, were used only to reinforce the truthfullness of our news accounts.

How quaint! How honest! And how . . . dull. Today's news is, um, more "colorful."

The impact of technological change has been breathtaking, but not altogether healthy.

Technology, however, is not the primary enemy of Truth. A larger and much more sinister problem is the way information is <u>managed</u>.

Sixty years ago, the White House staff was small, Senators didn't have Press Secretaries, didn't use public relations consultants, and no one had even heard of a creature called a Media Coach. People who had been elected to a position of public trust believed it was their obligation to explain their actions. They usually spoke out on their own.

Today, almost everyone in public life is media trained, everyone spins the facts, and many simply lie, and smile, and lie again.

It is the job of journalism to catch those lies, dig for the facts, build a truthful account of what has happened, and reveal the hidden part of a story.

That job isn't getting done, by and large. But thoughtful, hard-working news reporters feel that they, like their audiences, are victims in a system that seems to believe that news consumers are stupid, hungry only for news-garbage, and incapable of finding a middleground between the views of Bill Maher and Rush Limbaugh.

There is a very real movement under way, to reform many of the ills of today's media system. It is a battle against the media giants, their regulators and the lazy attitudes that have allowed the rise of junk journalism and manipulative news management.

Meanwhile, as consumers of the news, we are not entirely helpless. We can, and should, demand better reporting, to demand a simple, truthful account—just "what's going on." We can use today's technologies—email, text messages and the like—to contact reporters and their bosses with an instant criticism of shoddy work. We can use the broadcast ratings system to speak clearly of our right to "turn it off."

The daily news is just a commodity. And as its consumers, we need to ask its producers, "Is it the daily news, or just the daily noise?"





Last year's snowfall broke the old records in Wisconsin, with more than a hundred inches of the white stuff, day after day of shoveling, sniffling and swearing.

Just in case the weather deals harshly with southwestern Wisconsin once more, we may take comfort in the recollection that in the land of our local heritage—Cornwall— the weather is rugged and harsh on many days. The rocky, rugged, gray landscape has given the Cornish people a spirit of dogged determination that is reflected in the history of the hardy immigrants who landed in Mineral Point in the 1830's.

From the old pagan days to today's church practices, Celts work hard and then find ways to celebrate their special days with food, drink and merriment. And if, in the weeks ahead, you are struck down by cabin fever, take note of these winter holidays, Celtic style, and join in the fun:

Imbolic – Feb 2nd – marks the midpoint of winter, the time when things begin to get better(?). Traditionally, it is a time of hope and planning, with purification and fire as the prominent factors. Make candles and light them, and plant a seed for the coming Spring. Christians call this holiday St. Brigid's Day, and also Candlemas, to mark forty days after the nativity of Jesus, when Mary would have attended a purification ceremony following the birth of her son. Today, weather folk call it Groundhog Day, because in the old tradition forecasters watched to see if snakes or badgers came out of the ground.

St. Piran's Day - Celebrated by the Welsh on the 1st of March, with music, singing, dancing, food, fun, and good conversation.

Ostara – March 21st, the first day of Spring, when night and day stand equal. It's a traditional time of planting, but around here you'd be smart to plant only the coolest of the cool crops.

Beltaine — April 30th or May 1st or thereabouts, the midpoint between Spring Equinox and Summer Solstice, second—largest and most important Celtic festival. House fires were extinguished and then relit from hilltop bonfires, using sacred wood, in honor of the Celtic god Beli. This old holiday evolved into modern May Day.

<u>Litha</u> – June 21st, the Summer Solstice, first day of summer and longest day of the year, also known as "Mid–Summer's Eve." It celebrates the light and the sun, which provides life, and it's a time to gather herbs when they are most potent.

<u>Lughnasadh</u> – Aug. 1st midpoint between Summer Solstice and Autumn Equinox, and the beginning of the harvest season, a time to dismiss regrets, say your farewells and prepare for winter, with ceremonies that involve breads, grains, and harvest corn dolls.

Mabon – Sept. 21st, the first day of Autumn, marks the death of the sun god. The holiday is considered a day of magic, due to the rare balance of light and dark, and its a time for thanks and learning, and the repairing of all things.

Learn more by contacting the Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society, organized in 1991 to "preserve our Cornish heritage, to preserve our Cornish identity, and to strengthen our ties with our Cornish relatives and friends."

The Society meets twice a year—a St. Piran's Day meeting on March 8 and the Annual Meeting on May 3. For details, visit their website at www.cornishfest.org



TIMES OF MINERAL POINT CAPTION CONTEST

The EDITOR is of the FIRM BELIEF that

The IMAGE captured in the Above Photograph OFFERS OUR READERS
an OPPORTUNITY for jolly creative endeavor.

PONDER THE POSSIBILITIES

SUBMIT YOUR CAPTION BY MARCH 1, 2009

THE FINE PRINT: To the Times P.O. Box 169, snail-mail your entry, written in everyday English, no Profanity. Just a slip of paper — no need to embellish the entry. Your words cannot run longer than the space of two lines. A Cultural Proclivity Panel will choose a winner, and the Funniest, or Most Inventive, Sharpest, or Least-Disgusting caption will appear in our Spring issue, due upon the streets about May 1. The Times is extremely non-profit, thus RENUMERATION is solely YOUR NAME under what may very well be your Finest Literary Effort.



Cornish Fest Caravan Rolls into Mineral Point



At the annual "Taste of Mineral Point," food festival in Library Park, the Illinois Region Model A Restorers Club drove into town and made City Hall and the Opera House look like a page out of the past.

The event, part of the annual Cornish Festival weekend, played to a big crowd on a glorius early Fall day. The Pendarvis Historic Site staged its popular events, "Crowdy Crawn" and "Kiddlywink Pub Night," and Orchard Lawn, the Opera House, Hodan Center, the Odd Fellows Museum, the Railroad Depot, and the Old Royal Hotel hosted events as well. The Shake Rag Alley School held classes in Celtic art, a quilt show opened, and geneology seminars helped trace Cornish heritage.

Photo by Joy Geiseke

Shake Rag School Sets Winter/Spring Events

Mineral Point's School of the Arts is working on a variety of upcoming events. Writer Dean Bakopoulos, with an assist from stage director Coleman, plan a Valentine's Day 24-Hour Play Festival on the theme of what else? – LOVE. Late on a Friday, area playwrights stay up all night writing a one act play based on a few rules of the day. Early Saturday morning, directors get the scripts, and a few minutes later, the actors show up and start practicing. Saturday evening, YOU show

up to watch a great group of brand-new plays. Shake Rag Alley's Wednesday evening

Women's Journey group will craft special valentines to sell before the plays begin, or on a related occasion. It's fundraising fun.

The folks at Shake Rag who develop classes that bring participants from miles and miles around are also working on 2009 workshop ideas. The popular Garden Getaway is slated for March 27-29, so check the internet for the schedule and sign up early. And an exciting new program will begin in May - blacksmithing! Under the pavilion roof of the Potter's Barn, blacksmithing classes start with some very

basic, step by step workshops, and gradually add more advanced skills as time goes on.

Also in 2009, with dates and details yet to be announced: the witty author and musician Michael Perry will return to Mineral Point, under Shake Rag Alley sponsorship. The acclaimed Country Garden Tours will happen in June. And Mark Twain (in the remarkable likeness of storyteller and musician Jim Post) will light up a night with his lecture.

It's Shake Rag Alley's mission that makes these unique programs possible, and you won't find these offerings elsewhere!

Roland Sardeson Frank Beaman

Lyn Anglin Maureen Grimm Julia Dailey

Aids Alley Stage

Edgar A. Poe Reprise

In the days just before Halloween, by flickering candlelight, in the stone front parlor of the historic Cothren House, characters from the pages of Edgar Allan Poe's tortured writings came to life once more. The presentation was a "Best of Poe" recital, featuring local actors who have delivered Poe's lines in years past during performances at Orchard Lawn. Popular favorites such as "The Cask of Amontillado," "The Imp of the Perverse" and "The Tell-Tale Heart" were punctuated by Poe's poetry and even a bit of Poe nonsense. Cothren House owners Don and Lisa Hay hosted the two-night event, serving up a reception in their home's dining room and offering after-the-show drinks in their lovely mahogany and stone pub. Proceeds from the event benefitted Alley Stage at Shake Rag Alley.

Fall Art Tour: Studios Open Doors to Patrons



The annual Fall Art Tour featured the full range of Autumn outdoor colors as hundreds of arts patrons visited the opened studios and homes of artists in four host communities: Mineral Point, Dodgeville, Spring Green and Baraboo, and in beautiful country settings between those towns.



Artist Audrey Christie shows her woodcuts Left: A busy afternoon at the Brewery Pottery

This way to the

The Chatauqua is Coming to Town!!

In the best traditions of show business, the Mineral Point Opera House will "Go Dark with A Bang," as the unique 1915 community theater closes for restoration work.

The Lake Superior Big Top Chatauqua will present a musical review on Thursday night, March 26, as a "last show" for the Opera House stage, just before the beginning of an April 1st hiatus that will stetch over ten months.

"We're delighted we can say goodbye-temporarily-in this colorful way, with the Bayfield Chatauqua players and a show that's an explosion of sound, light, music, and fun," said Phil Mrozinski, who chairs the Opera House Restoration Committee.

"Culture under the tent" has enjoyed a rich tradition in the Midwest. Starting in 1874, the Assembly of Lake Chautauqua, in New York, offered adult education in the sciences and the humanities. Soon after the turn of the century, traveling Chautauquas took the form of tent shows, moving from town to town during the summer, offering lectures and entertainment. The town of Bayfield hosted a number of Chautauquas during the years preceding World War I, and a permanent Chautauqua landed in Bayfield in 1986 after Warren Nelson (now Artistic Director) and his Lost Nation String Band attracted the attention of community leaders.

Musicians, fans and Bayfield townspeople pitch in — literally — to set up the tent at the beginning of the season and help keep things running smoothly throughout the summer.

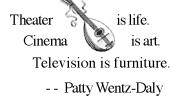
To date, twelve different Chautauqua Original Musicals have been presented under the Big Top, along with regional favorites and nationally renowned entertainers like Taj Mahal, Bill Monroe, The Smothers Brothers, Willie Nelson, Arlo Guthrie, Johnny Cash, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Garrison Keillor, and the Kingston Trio.

Today's Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua continues to advance its own mission and the ideals of the original Chautauqua movement, by touring in the off-season, with what they call "big dang deals" (and a few "medium-sized dang deals") for schools and community theaters throughout the region.

The show in Mineral Point can be considered "medium-sized." But, according to Mrozinski, there's nothing mediocre about the review that will hit the Opera House stage.

More details and an announcement on ticket sales will be published soon. Chances are, the seats on the main floor,

as well as the balcony, will fill up with an excited crowd. It will be a pleasant way to put the theater to sleep for a few months.



Is Poetry Important?

A Book Poses the Question

Nearly a thousand books of poetry are published in the United States each year—there are more poems out there than anyone could read in a lifetime of doing nothing else.

But, in his book titled Why Poetry Matters, author Jay Parini concludes that, sadly, and for most people, it doesn't matter. It is, as Parini points out, "a still, small voice," drowned out by the mass media's noises, and by "ear—phones downloading into the heads of mllions on the subways and byways of the world."

Poetry is, indeed, a province of the subculture in today's world, and it doesn't matter in any public sense. But, in the flow of history, the turn away from verse is a recent event, coincidental with new technologies that began at the beginning of the 20th Century.

In 1880, Matthew Arnold—no mean poet himself—wrote, in "The Study of Poetry," that, "The future of poetry is immense, [because] mankind will discover that we have to turn to poetry to interpret life for us, to console us, to sustain us." Arnold drummed away on that theme in a series of essays, conceding that he couldn't fully explain the power of the poem, but, "the human spirit feels itself to attain a more adequate and satisfying expression in poetry than in any other mode of activity."

Arnold argued that it is culture—and not religion, philosophy or science—that should reign supreme in the 19th Century British social order. He would have defined culture as something like "the best that could be thought and said—peace among the social classes urbanity the happiness of a stroll in Hyde Park without fear." He recognized that these were aspirations at best, but he hoped the kingdom's three populations—the aristocracy, middle class and the working class—would all benefit from poetry's ability to speak to their better selves.

But on the last page of "The Study of Poetry" Arnold sees a dark portent: the growing taste for mediocrity in literature. And, in 1896, writer Henry James is more blunt: he called it "trash triumphant."

More than a century later, it's true that prose, the common language of common minds and common tastes, has pushed poetry aside. It's also true that science has largely pushed aside the more poetic view of Nature as "magical." It's true that much of religion now functions without its once—important literary heritage. And it's also true that much of our popular culture appeals to the worst in our language, and not to the better.

But most of what has happened is simply due to the breathless pace of development, a pile up of events, with invention stacked atop invention, which sends us to guidebooks, not to a volume of verse.

So much in contemporary life asks us to "move on!" while accepting things as they are, to absorb words while performing other tasks, to divide our attention by paying little attention to anything for very long. Novels and on-screen fiction propels us through time, to the past or to the future, but poetry asks us to live in the pinprick of the moment.

Poetry asks—no, requires—us to slow down, to pay attention by concentrating the mind, to dig up and dig out meaning by examining the intricacies of words, the flow and the friction of word upon word, and the mysteries of lyric form.

That is why, despite small fan clubs in a world of big crowds, despite allegiance that is whispered in a world that shouts, despite our seeming indifference to the destruction of our language. . . yes, poetry does matter.





Dover Beach

by Matthew Arnold

The sea is calm tonight.
The tide is full, the moon lies fair
Upon the straits; on the French coast, the light
Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand,
Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay.
Come to the window, sweet is the night-air!

Only, from the long line of spray
Where the sea meets the moon-blanched land,
Listen! you hear the grating roar
Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling,
At their return, up the high strand,
Begin, and cease, and then again begin,
With tremulous cadence slow, and bring
The eternal note of sadness in.

Sophocles long ago
Heard it on the Aegean, and it brought
Into his mind the turbid ebb and flow
Of human misery; we
Find also in the sound a thought,
Hearing it by this distant northern sea.

The Sea of Faith
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled.
But now I only hear
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,
Retreating, to the breath
Of the night-wind, down the vast edges drear
And naked shingles of the world.

Ah, love, let us be true
To one another! for the world, which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night.





Poet, professor and critic; son of the headmaster at the Rugby School; his first book of poems published 1849; inspector of schools from 1851; his Essays on Criticism and Culture and Anarchy (1860's), which expounded his literary and social creed, were enormously influential. A lively conversationalist, affecting a combination of foppishness and Olympian grandeur, he read constantly, widely, and deeply, and in the intervals of supporting himself and his family by the quiet drudgery of school

inspecting, filled notebook after notebook with meditations of almost monastic tone. In his writings, he often baffled and sometimes annoyed his contemporaries with the apparent contradictions between his urbane, even frivolous manner in social settings, the "high seriousness" of his critical views, and the melancholy, almost plaintive tone of much of his poetry.

Coming Soon to a Bookstore Near You: Poetry Session #2

Following a successful outing that featured twelve poetry readers and an appreciative audience of thirty, a second in the "Poetry Series" has been announced by Gayle Bull, proprietor of Foundry Books. The session is set for a Sunday afternoon in January. Jerome Cushman, a UW graduate from southwestern Wisconsin who teaches poetry and dance at an institute for the deaf in New York, will read from his haiku and poetry. Refreshments will be served. The exact Janary date and time will be announced.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING UPDATE:



Opera House to Close on April 1

Call it "collaberation," call it "consensus," or call it simply "common sense," but the paired campaigns to refurbish the Mineral Point City Hall, Library, Historic Archives and the Opera House are progressing well.

But the upcoming changes may disrupt a few schedules and change a few plans. The historic Opera House closes on April 1, to spend about ten months completing Phase One of its restoration, under the supervision

of the Strang architectural firm of Madison.

The Opera House Restoration team will launch a fundraising effort in January, to gather the final \$750,000 to complete Phases Two and Three. Chairman Phil Mrozinski says the team's \$2.25 million project has benefitted from individual contributions, a Phase One \$500,000 grant from the Jeffris Foundation,

along with equal amounts from the city and an

anonymous donor, for a total of \$1.5 million. Updating and refurbishing seating, heating and cooling, and stage and theater equipment for the 1915 vaudeville house will make the landmark theater a premier performance venue for Southwest Wisconsin, When the Opera House reopens, it will be "A Theatre for All People," dependent on community support.



Film Group Moves Screen

The closing of the Opera House will mean that Mineral Point's Sunday evening Film Society is shopping for a temporary location for its movie screen and digital projection system.

"We don't want members to forget the Opera House," said the society's Chair Phil Mrozinski, "so we'll continue our monthly screenings, but at a new place. We're looking at some of the possibilities."

The Society's art and foreign films are shown on the third Sunday of each month.

Check info@mpoh.org or call 987.2516

Library Events Succeed

A variety of fund-raising events have brought dollars to the treasury for the Libary Fund, as local businesses and other organizations stepped up efforts to share revenues. Three events, a Tour of Historic Homes, a "Live Art Auction," and the publication of a local cookbook, produced additional monies. And Mineral Point High School solicited funds by mailing letters to alumni, and by passing the hat at 2008 high school class reunions.

A summer mailing resulted in 500 contributions. A number of grants rolled in, and others are being explored. And members of the Library Board and the Building Campaign Committee have set a good example by personal donations and volunteer service.

About \$1 million in cash, bequests and pledges have been received, as gifts continue to arrive. The Libary Fund goal is to raise

The Libary Fund goal is to raise half of the estimated \$5 million needed to replace the current Senior Center with a three-story building, expanding the Library, relocating the Archives, and refurbishing the city offices and City Council Chambers, which will be made accessible with a new elevator.

The Municipal Building project is generating new community excitement as it moves forward.



MEET THE ARTIST:

John Sharp



A Well - named
Mineral Pointer
Combines
Creative Carving &
Community Service



Interviewed by Frank Beaman

The walnut tree stands in the center of the studio, and the warrior carved in the tree's stout trunk looks proud and defiant, as if he would like to emerge from the wood and again stage battles in the war that bears his name.

John Sharp smiles as he looks at his project, which represents several months of research, before setting to work with steel knife and mallet. He has now reached the final stages of his sculpture of Black Hawk, the leader of the Sauk-Fox tribes, an American Indian whose dreams died in Wisconsin in 1832.

Books about the Indian chief lie open on the table. As a woodcarver who cares about history, John Sharp wants to get the details right. That's the way he has pursued his art, his craft and his life.

Also, quite simply, he loves wood. He studies the history and characteristics of a piece of wood before he sculpts it.

A few years ago, a catalpa tree fell on the lawn at the Gundry home in Mineral Point. John helped clear the old tree away, and saved a scrap of its wood to sculpt into a beautiful trophy of leaves and pods. He gave it to the historical society, and it hangs on a wall at Orchard Lawn.

and it hangs on a wall at Orchard Lawn.
It's as if he brought the wood back to life.

Most of his work—historic and Western American figures and wildlife—now graces private homes. His largest sculp tural work, a seven foot western animal scene, adorns a local country home. And you'll see his carved doorways around town, along with other samples of his work with wood.

A few pieces are on display, however. A mahogany wall relief of a marsh scene with cattails and lily pads, and a butternut carving of a boy with fishing pole and a successful catch, both are on display at the Uplands Health Center in Dodgeville.

Everything he's done is "one of a kind." He works, and respects, wood in its many forms—as building material, as kindling for his stoves, and as the raw stuff of art.

His home, four low-slung buildings sprawled along Old Darlington Road, is a symphony of woods. Sharp and his artist wife Jennifer, a watercolorist, built the place in one year with their own hands, on land that once held a salvage yard. They cleared it, built up the soil, installed a garden, and then worked with wood to construct Jennifer's thoughtful design for a home that is beautiful, efficient and environmentally friendly.

Their home is comfortable with nature, reflecting the values of the owners. Its cozy atmosphere glows with the care the Sharps have lavished on their

rooms. Jennifer's paintings and mosaic work add color, and John's carpentry skills are evident in the doors (he made them all) and the kitchen cabinets, counter tops, closets, windows and walls.

"The frame and roof went up pretty quickly. The details took longer," says Sharp.

The couple met and married in Utah in 1972. "I was following my father's footsteps in the insurance business," says Sharp, "and carving wood as a side venture. But Jennifer convinced me that it was time to become a working professional." They opened a gallery and shared the space to display her paintings and his carvings. Jennifer also convinced Sharp that her home, Wisconsin, deserved a closer look.

"That's were you'll find the <u>real</u> trees," she said. And, during a trip to deliver three statues to a patron on Chicago's North Shore, their delivery vehicle made a stop in Mineral Point.

They fell for the town, and bought a run-down farm near Ludden Lake.



In this photo, John Sharp holds up the small wooden statuette he carved for his parents, as a Boy Scout project, when he was twelve years old.

At one time, they owned a gallery on Commerce Street, a house on Fountain Street, and the rough property on Old Darlington Road, They sold all of it to move to a pretty town in Oregon, a place they discovered on an RV trip.

But they quickly found they wanted to return to Mineral Point. And they were able to buy their homesite back, thanks to the generosity of the new owner. "He sensed that we really wanted the place," Sharp says.

John worked for a time on a local construction crew. His carpenter's skills seem as acute as his more artistic pursuits.

Born in the Oakland Army Hospital during World War II, Sharp carved his first statue while a Boy Scout in Salt Lake City, working toward a merit badge. He earned a paired degree in Botany and Western American History. And his life—long interest in Western landscapes, animals and peoples is evident in his body of work, and in the eclectic collections that decorate his home and studio.

His fondness for history also shows up in the volunteer services he has performed and in his hard work to restore local architectural treasures. He was treasurer of the Mineral Point Historical Society in the 1990's, and now serves as Chairman of the city's Historic Preservation Commission, a position that often includes the thankless task of policing inappropriate building practices. He serves because, "I love the city's architecture, and it's important that building and remodeling are done in a way that's compatible with history."

Sharp teaches classes in woodcarving at the Shake Rag Alley School of the Arts, loaning his valuable tools as well as his advice to beginners. And his cookouts have been a popular feature of the Woodlanders Weekend for several years.

His solid public service record is natural, he explains, "as a way to work positively for a community that has done so much for us."

It's his painstaking attention to "the details" that sets the tone of his work, whether it's a wood carving project or an on-site building inspection to assure that a home remodeling doesn't stray from historic validity.

You sense the care he puts into his work, as he begins carving a statue. Step One is a clay model of his subject, and then he uses paper or photos to enlarge the model to actual size as a template for his carving. He hollows out the trunks of the trees he uses, and patiently waits for the wood to dry, to avoid cracks. "There's a lot of time spent in study, reading about the subject and just looking at the wood," he says.

"Then and only then do you get out the carving tools and the mallet," Sharp continues.

And, what's ahead?

As for Black Hawk, he'll stand in Sharp's studio, along with a few other recent projects. If you would like to see this work, give John a call and stop by.

He'll continue his chairmanship of the city's embattled Historic Preservation Commission, striving to strike a balance between homeowner's rights and the need for historical integrity in the community.

But at the age of sixty-four, Sharp says his work for patron's commissions has ended. He'll do only what he has done with Black Hawk—turn wood into life.

"It's therapy," he says. "I'm a happy man, with a wife, a home and work I love. I simply like working with my hands, head and heart. . .building things."





"When you clench your fist, no one can put anything in your hand, nor can your hand pick up anything."

-- Omoro Kinte, in "Roots"

On the old City Dock in Annapolis harbor, a modest statue of Alex Haley graces a low stone wall. He holds a book in his lap, and his hands express his thoughts to a group of children—in—bronze, sprawled on the turf at his feet.

Countless children have learned important lessons from Haley, author of the acclaimed television miniseries "Roots" and the Pulizer prizewinning book on which it was based. In classrooms today, young people watch tapes of the 1977 programs, now considered milestones in both broadcasting and civil rights. A stunning 85% of TV homes watched the shows each week, as millions of American viewers discovered a dramatic way to understand the struggle of Africans in the New World.

Alex Haley told the story of his family tree, beginning with the proud Kunta Kinte, who was kidnapped and brought in chains to the Annapolis dock in 1767. The Kinte-Haley memorial is the only monument in the United States commemorating the name and place of arrival of an enslaved African.

The memorial's centerpiece, the statue of Haley reading a book to three children, was finished in 1999 — seven years after Haley's death. Ten markers listing human values such as diversity, family and love complete a circle, with related quotes from "Roots," a granite compass rose symbol and a globe that can point visitors toward the country of their origin.

"When you clench your fist, no one can put anything in your hand, nor can your hand pick up anything," reads a plaque dedicated to forgiveness, followed by the words, "Knowledge of history can be the first step away from anger and bitterness. Truth leads to understanding, and understanding and forgiveness lead to reconciliation and healing."

"Hear me!" says the plaque honoring diversity. "Though we are of different tribes and tongues, remember we are the same people!"



LA AMISTAD, a two-masted Schooner built in the U.S. in the 19th century, was not designed a slave ship, but often carried slaves from Africa to America. It was the scene of a revolt by African captives in 1839, and a legal battle over the status of Africans, La Amistad became a symbol in the movement to abolish slavery. The ship shown in this photo is a careful reproduction of the original, built in the shipyards at Mystic Harbor, Connecticut, where visitors may go on board to learn more about the dramatic history of the ship.



Laundry

by George Bilgere

My mother stands in this black
And white arrangement of shadows
In the sunny backyard of her marriage,
Struggling to pin the white ghosts
Of her family on the line.
I watch from my blanket on the grass
As my mother's blouses lift and billow,
Bursting with the day.
My father's white work shirts
Wave their empty sleeves at me,
And my own little shirts and pants
Flap and exult like flags
In the immaculate light.

It is mid-century, and the future lies Just beyond the white borders Of this snapshot; soon that wind Will get the better of her And her marriage. Soon the future I live in will break Through those borders and make A photograph of her—but

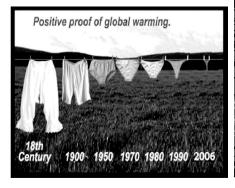
For now the shirts and blouses
Are joyous with her in the yard
As she stands with a wooden clothespin
In her mouth, struggling to keep
The bed sheets from blowing away.

"Laundry" by George Bilgere, from The Good Kiss. The award-winning poet teaches contemporary literature at John Carroll University in Cleveland, and is the host of the spoken-word radio show, WORDPLAY. University of Akron Press, 2002. Reprinted with permission



FURTHERMORE:

Alexander Lee founded Project Laundry List in 1995, to promote the benefits of outside clothes drying: saving money on the utility bill, avoiding lint fires, bleaching and disinfecting naturally, extending the life of clothing, better smells and crisper feel, no wrinkles, outdoor exercise, and time management (because you can walk away from a clothesline without worrying about turning off the machine). "Hanging Out" proves you can take small steps to help the environment by conserving energy. For facts and fun, see www.laundrylist.org



News from the Historical Society:

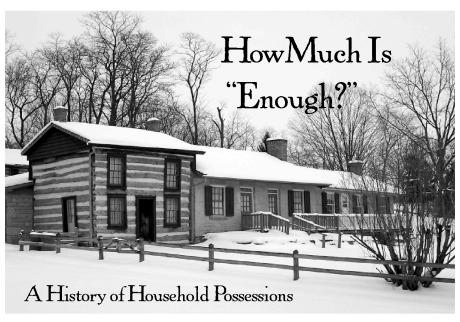
Farm Life Exhibit Ends Successful 18 - Week Run

"Farm Life," an exhibit staged by the Mineral Point Historic Society, celebrated the area's agricultural heritage and the vital role agriculture has played in the city's history.

The exhibit was a collaborative effort. More than thirty farm families loaned the exhibit more than 100 photographs and artifacts, and twenty-five MPHS volunteers welcomed over 650 visitors. And as part of the society's educational outreach, all of Mineral Point's fourth grade students and FFA students came to the Farm Life show, along with special education and summer school classes.

The society partnered with local 4-H clubs for a bake sale, worked with area businesses to promote the exhibit, and hosted a recognition party for volunteers, exhibit contributors, and financial donors. Additionally, Wisconsin author and storyteller Jerry Apps treated an audience at the Opera House to the premiere reading of his newest book, <u>Old Farm</u>.

Although the exhibit has ended, many have expressed a genuine interest in sharing their family's stories and the Mineral Point Historical Society is committed to helping preserve and document the area's agricultural past. Perhaps the greatest compliment the Farm Life exhibit could have received were the often-repeated comments in the visitor's log book—"This exhibit should be permanent" and "Thanks for telling this history."



The Thomas Martin family was among the earliest Cornish arrivals in the village of Mineral Point. Martin and his wife, Ann, had lived in a town just north of Redruth, now Mineral Points sister city in Cornwall. The family left Liverpool, England, on August 1, 1830, and after nine weeks at sea, landed in New York, and traveled across the country to Wisconsin, then a part of the Michigan Territory. In 1836, the year the Wisconsin Territory was formed, Thomas Martin was listed in the census as heading a household of thirteen.

Although Martin worked as a miner in Mineral Point, he began to buy up real estate in the village and in rural areas as investments, and by 1839, owned seven large village lots and eighty acres of rural land. Three years later, in his twelfth year in Mineral Point, Thomas Martin passed away, leaving to his son John the property containing the log portion of the Rowhouse (shown above).

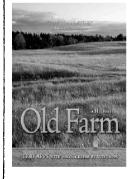
The probate inventory of the estate left by Thomas Martin represents a fairly complete picture of most of the worldly goods owned by an average family in its later years. Some objects that the family must have owned, such as cookwares, are missing, but this list still reflects a typical household inventory for early settlers in southwest Wisconsin.

2 bedsteads	1 wash tub	2 hymn books	1 cooking stove, utensi
1 feather bed	4 milk pans	8 schoolbooks	and pipe
1 straw bed	1 coffee mill	1 washboard	
five blankets	1 strainer	1 saw	Fifteen oxen
2 quilts	1 mirror	2 axes	steers
2 pillows	1 tray	1 grindstone	cows
2 bolsters	1 watering pot	2 augers	pigs
2 sheets	6 knives and forks	3 planes	some farm equipment
1 chest	6 spoons	2 chisels	
2 tables	6 cups and saucers	1 drawing knife	
3 chairs	6 plates	bushel measure	
3 benches	1 dish and pitcher	1 broom	
2 buckets	2 Bibles	Source: Pendarvis Historic Site	



Luxury homes, such as this one outside Annapolis, Maryland. boast four bedrooms, 4 ν 2 baths, his-and-hers toilets, a closet with a cathedral ceiling, multiple pantries and decks. 4,000 to 6,000 square feet of space, four garages, prices approaching \$2,000,000. "People want more, more, more of everything," says one architect. Beyond what we can plainly see — the elaborate playset and the patio furniture in the gazebo — we are unable to list the contents of this suburban manor, and thus cannot make a comparison with the Thos. Martin estate.





Growing up on a Waushara County farm profoundly influenced author Jerry Apps, who recently shared stories of the rural life in a lecture at the Mineral Point Opera House. In this, his latest in a series of books

anchored in the sandy soil of Wisconsin, Apps makes the land itself the main character in the story, along with animals, trees, and wild-flowers—all players in the repeating cycle of life on a farm. Apps, his forebears, and now his wife and children, have cared for the farm—not so much to make a living as to enhance their lives. Apps chronicles the family's efforts—always earnest, if sometimes ill—advised. "Every piece of land, small or large, has a story to tell. Of how it was shaped and formed and became what it is through various geological forces, how it continued to be changed, for better or worse by the people who lived on it, walked over it, farmed it and raised families on it."

Color photographs by Apps'son Steve highlight the ever-changing landscape in every season, and hint at the spiritual gifts that are the true bounty from the place they call Roshara.

Old Farm, A History. by Jerry Apps Wisc.Historical Society Press – \$29.95





Mildred Kalish grew up on her grandparents' farm in Iowa in the depths of the Great Depression, a "not so pretty" girl, her high school's valedictorian, then a radio operator for the Coast Guard in World War II, and then professor of

English for many years. She filled the steamer trunks of her mind with her memories of small-town life in a "hardy-handshake Methodist" family. The resulting book, <u>Little Heathens</u>, is a loving but unsentimental portrait of a remarkable legacy of kinship, kindness, and remembered pleasures and hardships.

"I've only recently become aware of my good fortune in having grown up in an environment where everyone knew everyone else. In our community no one was a stranger. We were privileged to live with the comforting conviction that we had absolutely nothing to fear from people. We knew there were dangerous forces and conditions over which we had no control, but we were confident that no person was out to do us injury. This atmosphere created in us a sense of security, a sense of belonging in the world. Is there a more valuable gift than that?"

Little Heathens tells wonderful stories of life on the farm, but also offers recipes for country cuisine and "how-to" advice about skin and hair beautifiers, medical potions and a host of other household necessities. The book realistically captures childhood in a world of hard work in hard times, but points as well to the simple rewards of the rural way of life.

It is a delightful excursion through past times. (And we'll wager you'll tiptoe off to the kitchen to try to make homemade marshmallows, after you've read page 141.)

Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits During the Great Depression. by Mildred Armstrong Kalish – Bantam Press – \$12.00



Scrooge & Marley, Madrigals and Dancing Mice

FOR TICKET INFO ON THESE EVENTS, PLEASE SEE OUR BIG CALENDAR, PAGE 8

Celebrate the holiday season at Shake Rag Alley, and see a benefit revival of Coleman's one-man adaptation of the



Old You-Know-Who

Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol," opening Dec. 5 & 6, then on Dec. 11, 12, 13, with a Sunday matinee on Dec. 14. It's just the way Dickens wrote it, but Coleman uses voices and faces to give

life to all twenty-six characters in the play. The setting is the intimate charm of the Cabinet Shop at Shake Rag Alley, shown below, all decked out for the season.

Costumes designed by Sher Alltucker, and music performed by Dr. Paul Biere.

Tickets are \$18, or buy a \$40 "Dinner Show" ticket that includes a four-course meal at Mineral Point's new restaurant, Cafe Four. Note that seating is limited.

(Please see Coleman's Commentary at right)



Another popular event is the Mineral Point Madrigal, a traditional holiday celebration in song that features the melodies of the season, followed by a holiday supper. Two evenings are planned: Dec. 4 (with children's madrigal singers) and Dec. 13, at the Old Royal Inn. The songfest begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30.

The Theatre of Ballet Arts presents the bright, colorful music and dance of the family's

favorite ballet, The Nutcracker, on the stage of the Mineral Point Opera House, Dec. 19 and 20, at 7:30 p.m., with a 3:00 p.m. matinee on Dec. 21.



The Nutcracker is a fairy tale—ballet

in two acts, by Peter Tchaikovsky, composed in 1891 to enhance the story of "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" by E.T.A. Hoffmann.

The Director of the Theatre of Ballet Arts, Summer Hammile, first brought the holiday performance to the Opera House in 2006, with plans to present it every other year.



MINERAL POINT ROOM

It's the city's leading historic resource, an invaluable aid to scholars, geneologists 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.

 $\begin{array}{c} \mbox{HOURS: Thursday afternoons from Noon to 4} \\ \mbox{and Saturday from 10 to 4} \end{array}$

For more information, call the Library 6089872447 or send off an email $-\underline{minptroom@notmail.com}$



News from the Historical Society



From Orchard Lawn, the home of the Mineral Point Historical Society, comes word of their 2009 Lyceum series, a winter program of informative lectures dealing with historical topics. These Sunday afternoon gatherings have attracted increasing numbers in recent years; in fact, the audiences have been so large that the Society has been forced to schedule the events in locations other than the lovely front parlor at the Gundry home on Madison St. In 2009, however, another location will be a mandatory move because of construction work and historical research now underway as part of Phase II of the ambitious restoration at the 1868 Italianate mansion. Plaster work is being completed in the home's double parlors and dining room, and careful restoration is planned for several of the rooms, and for the extensive grounds of the family home of Mineral Point's most—prominent merchant. The Joseph Gundry family lived in Orchard Lawn until 1939, when the property was deeded to the historical society as a museum and headquarters. Here is the Lyceum schedule:

Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009 – 2:00 p.m., Annual Meeting and Lyceum, "Art of Nick Engelbert"
Presenters are James Zanzi, Alex Marr and Lisa Stone.
Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009 – 2:00 p.m., A second lecture in the Lyceum Series
Sunday, March 15, 2009 – 2:00 p.m., the final Lyceum.

The Orchard Lawn home tour season begins on May 29, and the Gundry House is open for week—end visitors through late September. The society also sponsors "Jammin' on the Porch" throughout the Summer Music Season, and has scheduled the popular Founders' Day event for Friday, July 24th.

BECOME A MEMBER & GETTHE SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES!

CALL MPHS at 608.987-4882 or visit www.mineralpointhistory.org

Chestnuts roasting on High St.

Volunteers from the Mineral Point Kiwanis Club will again stage a wonderful holiday tradition, by roasting chestnuts at the corner of High Street and —what else!—Chestnut Street, a perfect treat for shoppers during Gallery Night Candlelight Shopping on Dec. 6th.





BREWERY CREEK

SHAKE RAG ALLEY

M STUDIO

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

at 23 Commerce Street

at 225 High Street

at 234 High Street

at 18 Shake Rag Street

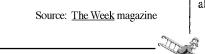
It's All for a Good Claus

Santa comes to Mineral Point for a 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. breakfast visit with boys and girls at the Red Rooster Restaurant, on High Street. The jolly old fellow greets families with youngsters on Dec. 7.

And on Dec. 13, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus are heading for their annual visit at Shake Rag Alley. Bring your little ones for special photos taken with Santa, for cider and cookies, a bowl of chili, and for special classes in gingerbread-cottage-making, snow-flakes, ornaments, and other holiday craft classes for children. And Christmas trees will twinkle in the valley at Shake Rag Alley,

... and THIS JUST IN: SANTA CLAUS DEFIES PRINCIPLES OF AERODYNAMICS

Most of us believe Santa's annual flight is indeed a remarkable feat, but experts now agree that the act of delivering gifts to the world's good boys and girls is even more astonishing than we thought. Sweco, a Swedish engineering firm, calculated that, assuming Santa visits 2.5 billion homes every Christmas, he has thirty-four microseconds per household to get in and out; that's about a tenth of the time it takes for a housefly's wing to flap once. To complete his task in forty-eight hours, Santa's reindeer must travel at a speed of 3,604 miles per second. Another analysis makes St. Nick's accomplishment still more astounding: it calculates that Santa's sleigh, weighed down with presents and traveling at supersonic speed, would encounter such massive air resistance that it should burst into flame within four milliseconds of takeoff. The scientists could not explain how Santa manages to defy the laws of physics.



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HOSPITAL - UPLANDS, Dodgeville
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PUBLIC LIBRARY 608.987.2447



"So, Coleman, Just How DO you memorize the full 90-minute text of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'?"

"That's the question I'm asked often, but to me, the memorization is the least interesting part of taking on the role, or all of the roles, of the tale. So, let's get this out of the way, so that I can get to what I think is much more interesting.

Living in the woods helps a lot, and my good dog Milo takes me on long walks every day. Milo might well be considered my understudy. Once, twice, three times a day, we climb the wooded hills together. Milo sniffs out critters while I spit out lines, step after step, mile after mile. Every day. For months. The truth is, I hate memorizing and I'm not good at it. It's hard work. But when I'm walking in the woods with Milo, somehow, it's not hard work at all.

But these walks, wonderful in all four seasons, aren't the most satisfying part of performing Scrooge (and Tiny Tim, and all the ghosts, and everyone else in 'Christmas Carol'). It's the story itself, and the richness of the original language of Dickens.

Dickens remains so widely read and performed, almost two centuries after his writing, because he spoke simple truths with elegance. He understood people, and he knew how to display them on a page, to give them each their own distinctive voice.

Every time I recite his words, I find something different in them, another layer of meaning, another nuanced level of emotion or empathy or insight. One might think that several years of reciting the same words might get boring, but it never has. Each time, there's always something new.

And then, when I get to perform his words in front of an audience, it becomes all new all over again. Each audience is different. Each telling is different. And each is the same. Each glows with the magical tale of Dickens' Scrooge and his encounters with his ghosts, which is to say, with himself. In the end, Scrooge's story is our story, the story of each of us. And as I stand on the stage or you sit in the audience, we all connect, together, to a story whose meaning never fades, and whose message always inspires."



The Evolution of the Camera Sept. 4, 1888



"You press the button, we do the rest," was the promise from George Eastman, as he introduced his new Kodak box camera. It's rolled, flexible film was far less bulky than the glass plates used until this easy—to—use model was patented.

For \$25, the photographer could shoot a roll of film, then mail the whole box back to Kodak, and within a few days get the snapshots and a reloaded box camera, ready to click again.

The word "pixel" wasn't listed—or thought about—in the dictionary, 120 years ago.

Source: Smithsonian Magazine, Sept. 2008

VITAL CONTACTS

POLICE Dial 911 - Emergencies Only Non-Emergencies 608 . 987.2313 RESCUE SQUAD Office 608 . 987.2752 OPERA HOUSE movies 608 . 987.2642 PENDARVIS SITE 608 . 987.2122 RAILROAD DEPOT 608 . 987.2695 SCHOOL SUPT. 608 . 987.3924 SHAKE RAG ALLEY 608 . 987.3292 SHERIFF, Iowa Cty 608 . 935.3314



GOINGS ON: HEREUNDER,



DECEMBER

1 SPRING GREEN, Mostly Mondays Poetry Society, Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St, Open Mic, Share poems, prose & music, 7–9 PM, 608.588.7070

www.springgreengeneralstore.com 2 MINERAL POINT, Lecture on St. Nicholas, 7PM, Trinity Episcopal Church, 403 High St, 608.9873019

4 MINERAL POINT, Traditional Christmas Madrigal Performance & Sit-down Dinner with 16th Century A Capella Renaissance Music, Old Royal Inn, 43 High St, Tickets Adults \$30, Children \$10, at Bergets, 257 High St, 608.9873218 or Old Royal Inn 608.9874530 or 608.935.9778 Performance 5:30PM, Dinner 7:00 pm, Adults will be joined by Children's (Grades K-12) Madrigal, Vegetarian & Gluten-free menu also offered; specify when purchasing tickets, children's menu available with \$10 ticket

5-6 MINERAL POINT, "A Christmas Carol", a one-man adaptation from Charles Dickens with Coleman performing all 26 characters.At Shake Rag Alley, Cabinet Shop, 18 Shake Rag, 8PM, Music by Dr. Paul Biere, Tickets for show only \$18, Option for Dinner Show \$40 (A 4-course dinner at Old Royal 12/5 & Cafe Four on 12/6 & 12/11-12/13) at 6 PM followed by performance at 8 PM, tip & beverage not included. Buy tickets at www.allevstage.com or Shake Rag Alley 608.987.3292, Performances 12/11-12/14 also. See entry below. 5 DARLINGTON, Tour of Homes 2-8PM, Tickets \$10 at Memorial Hosp, Driver Opera House, First Banking Center & First National Bk www.darlingtonwi.org or 608.776.3067 5 MT HOREB, Friday Festive Eve & Trollway Art Walk, 5-8PM, on the streets of Mt Horeb, holiday music and studios, galleries & shops with specals & serving refreshments 5-6 SPRING GREEN, Library Country Christmas Bake Sale, Fri. 5:30-7:30 PM, Sat. 9AM-Noon, Community Room, Spring Green Library. Homemade baked goods & an assortment of books, 230 E Monroe 608.588.2276 www.scls.lib.wi.us

5–7 BLUE MOUNDS, Caroling at Cave of the Mounds, 2975 Cave of the Mounds Rd. Visit with Santa & create a holiday craft, Local groups perform holiday songs Fri at 6 & 7PM, and Sat & Sun at 2 & 3PM. 6084373038 5–23 PLATTEVILLE, Rollo Jamison Museum Annual Feasts & Festivities, 405 E Main St, Mon–Sat 10–5PM, Sun 12–5PM, Children's Toys, Victorian tree, 1880's dining room & kitchen, 1940's living room & kitchen, electric toy trains, musical performances, call for times 608.348.3301, www.mining.jamison.

6 MINERAL POINT, Gallery Night And Candlelight Shopping, Please join us for Nostalgic City—wide Shopping on Candlelit Streets. Galleries & Shops, serving refreshments, will be open 'til 9 PM featuring fine art, hand—made crafts, potttery, glass, basketry, furniture, jewelry, painting, photog—raphy, sculpture, weaving, & woodwork. See www.mineralpoint.com/art/gallery/night.html for details & extended restaurant hours 6 MINERAL POINT, Trinity Episcopal Church Gift Fair, 403 High St, 10AM—3PM, 608,9873019

6 SPRING GREEN, Music at The General Store, 137 S Albany, Scott Stieber 2–3:30 PM & Lori & Mike Schmidt 3:30–5:00PM, 608.588.7070. www.springgreengeneralstore.com 6 DARLINGTON, Christmas Parade & Holiday Lighting of Floating Christmas Tree, Visit with Santa, 6:30PM, 608.776.3067 www.darlingtonwi.org 6 DODGEVILLE, Open House & 4th Annual Holiday Parade, Shops Open Downtown, Enjoy treats & hot chocolate. Parade 6:30PM, 608.935.1496 or 608.935.9200

6 DODGEVILLE, Santa's Secret Shop, 8:30AM-1:30PM, Dodgeville United Methodist Church, 327 N. Iowa St, Kids thru 6th grade can shop for family & friends. Gifts \$1-\$10, Reindeer & elves help children shop & wrap gifts, Donations welcome, Lunch & baked goods available 608.935.5451

6 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Barn Dance with Chuck Homemann & Friends, Caller Tim Jenkins, 8PM, 608.9244000, 3210 County BB, 608.238.3394 & for more info www.folklorevillage.org

6 SPRING GREEN, Tour of Homes 10AM—Noon & 1:30–4PM, four beautiful architectural homes, www.springgreen.com 608.588.2054
Tickets at The General Store, Nina's & The Flower Shop, There is a lunch & fashion show Noon–1:30. See entry below

6 SPRING GREEN, Country Christmas, Breakfast with Santa 9-11AM, Luncheon/ Fashion show by Ninas Dept. Store Noon-1:30 PM at The Bank Restaurant & Wine Bar. Christmas Quilt Show 9-5PM, 24th Annual River Valley Craft Bazaar 9-4PM, Country Christmas Open House at all merchants 10-5PM, Horse-drawn carriage rides 10-6PM, Holiday Block Party, Tree Lighting, Refreshments, Entertainment & Santa, Fireworks & Music 6PM, December Skies/Telescopes 6:30PM, and an Evening with Francis "Hank" Dedrick with accordion, & bohemian folk carols. Call 1.800.588.2042 for locations & info 6 SPRING GREEN, Taliesin bookstore and Gift Shop & Riverview Terrace Cafe open for one day in Dec. for shopping, lunch, & warm goodies, County Hwy C, 608.588.7900 www.taliesinpreservationorg 6 SPRING GREEN, "Souper" Supper 4-7PM,

Spring Green Community church, 151 E. Bossard St, Tickets at door or 608.588.2442 Carryouts and Drive thru available 6 MT HOREB, Holiday Festivities at the Mt Horeb Public Library, 105 Perimeter St, 10AM—Noon, Pictures with Santa, holiday crafts, Letters to Santa, storytime, Cookie walk at Library 9—Noon

6 MT HOREB, Holiday Wine Tasting Gala at Hoff Mall downtown, 101 E Main Street 7–10PM Featuring over 50 wines & serving delectable delights. Call 608437.5239 or stop at LeCork Wine & Spirits, 1204 Bus. Hwy 18/151E for tickets, \$25 each or \$30 at door 6 NEW GLARUS, St. Nicholas Day, Holiday Shopping Specials, Cookie sale at the Swiss Church 9AM until sellout, Lunch with Santa at New Glarus High School 11–2PM, Open House at The Swiss Center of North America 10–4PM, Swiss Historical Village Museum events starting at 5PM. www.swisstown.com 608.527.2095

6-7 HIGHLAND, Spurgeon Vineyards & Winery Christmas Open House 10-5PM, Sample wines & holiday fare, collect recipes, & check out a wide selection of cheese & wine-related gifts, 16008 Pine Tree Rd, County Q, 5 miles west of Highland, WI, 1.800.236.555 www.spurgeonvineyards.com 7 MINERAL POINT, Breakfast With Santa at Red Rooster Cafe, 158 High St, 10AM-1PM, 608.987.9936

7 MINERAL POINT, Foundry Books, Celebration of Several Mineral Point Authors & Poets, Impromptu readings, 2–4:30PM, 105 Commerce www.foundrybooks.com 608.9874363

7 MINERAL POINT, "Lessons & Carols" 7 PM, Trinity Episcopal Church, 403 High St, 608.9873019

7 MINERAL POINT, "Beginning Knit—ting" with Sandy Jones, 1—3PM, la bella vita yarn shop & fibre gallery, Make a basic scarf, \$30 plus cost of yarn, 215 Commerce St. 608.9870300

labellavita@charternet.com

9 MINERAL POINT, "Open Mic Night" at Old Royal Inn, 43 High St, 608.9874530, Come with music, poetry, or to listen & have dinner 11-14 MINERAL POINT, "A Christmas Carol", a one-man adaptation from Charles Dickens performed by Coleman. See 12/5-6 entry above for details. Performances are at 8PM except 12/14 matinee at 2PM. Cost is \$18 for show only (except for 12/14 when it is \$14). Dinner/option mentioned above in 12/5-6 entry is also available 12/11-12/13 12-14 PLATTEVILLE, "The Nutcracker" performed by the Theatre of Ballet Arts, Fri. & Sat. 7:30 PM, Sun. 3PM, Platteville Community Theater, at Platteville Municpal Auditorium, 75 N. Bonson St., Reserved Seating \$12 for Adults, \$9 Children & Seniors. General Seating \$10 & \$7, Tickets at Annie's Downtown Wine & Cheese, 20 E. Main St, 608.348.9463

13 MINERAL POINT, Shake Rag Alley, Pictures with Santa in the beautifully decorated valley, 10AM-Noon & 1:00-2:30PM Children's Workshops all day from 10AM-3PM, Gingerbread houses, Making Christmas Fairies, Christmas Ornaments, Decorative Christmas Boxes, Holiday Rhythm Sticks, Stenciled Gift Bags & Beaded Snowflakes, All classes \$3 each, Photos with Santa \$7, Cafe will sell chili, hot dogs, hot chocolate, and cookies, 18 Shake Rag, 608.987.3292 www.shakeragalley.com 13 MINERAL POINT, Madrigal Performance & Sit down Dinner (Adults only Performing) See 12/4 entry for details & ticket info. 13 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Scandinavian Holiday Crafts & Activities 3-5PM, Learn Swedish Sankta Lucia songs, make ornaments & see entry below

13 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, St. Lucia Program & Saturday Night Social, 6:30PM potluck, dancing at 8 PM, Often sells out so reserve early \$2-\$6, See 12/6 entry for info. 13 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam at The General Store, 3-6PM See 12/6 entry for address, phone, etc.

13 DARLINGTON, 4th Annual YMCA 5K (3.1 Mile) Reindeer Run/Walk, 8AM, Start & finish at Darlington YMCA, ctc btripp@upperdymca 13 MT HOREB, 20th Annual Lighting of the Tree 5PM, Parade, Music, & Community—wide potluck—bring a dish to share, 5–8PM, Downtown, 6084375571

14 MINERAL POINT, "Basic Knitting" with Sandy Jones 1–3PM, See 12/7 entry—all details the same

14–17 MT HOREB, Annual Holiday House Walk 4–8PM, Tickets \$12 in advance \$15 day of. Get tickets at local businesses, the Chamber Office or the School House the day of, or at www.trollway.com 6084375571

at www.trollway.com 608437.5571 17 MINERAL POINT, Red Cross Blood Drive, Noon-6PM, Mineral Point Rescue Squad, 907 Ridge St. Please give blood & help save a life. 19 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Holiday Concert & Tree Lighting 7PM, Monroe Swiss Singers paying homage to Swiss & German heritage with singing & yodeling. Held at Plum Grove Church onsite, then walk to Farwell Hall to sing around a freshly cut, candle-lit evergreen tree \$2-\$6, 3210 County BB, www.folklorevillage.org 608.238.3394 19-21 MINERAL POINT, "The Nutcracker" performed by the Theatre of Ballet Arts, Fri. & Sat. 7:30PM, Sun. 3PM, Opera House, 139 High St, Reserved Seating Adults \$12, Seniors & Children \$9, General Seating \$10 & \$7 Tickets at Bergets, 257 High, 608.987.3218 20 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, German Tree Night, Potluck supper & lighting candles on 14-foot tree, singing and dancing. Popular, reserve early \$2-\$6 depending on age, see 12/19 entry for address etc 20 GALENA, IL, "Night of the Luminara",

1000's of luminaras light up streets, side—walks, and steps for shopping 6–10PM
20 SPRING GREEN, Music at The General
Store, Adrienne Cole Applegate 2–5PM, See
12/6 entry for address & details

21 MINERAL POINT, Cantata, "Seasons of Wonder" with an ecumenical choir from the area, United Methodist Church, 9:30–10:30AM, Coffee & fellowship following, 400 Doty, 608.987.2700

20-22 MT HOREB, Christmas in the Village: The Gift" Dinner & Christmas Show, upstairs at Grumpy Troll, 105 S Second St, Sat 2PM & 7PM, Sun & Mon 7PM, Adult tickets \$30, Chilldren 9 & Under \$25. Reservations: call 6084370151 or email fortestudios@aol.com 27 SPRING GREEN, Music at The General Store, Melanie Devaney 3:30-5PM, See 12/6 entry for address, ph & website 28-Jan 1 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village 61st Festival of Christmas & Midwinter Traditions--Seasonal celebration and Great Music including Yid Vicious Klezmer Music, Amy McFarland Festival Band, Steve Wintraub Klezmer Dancing & Beyond, Songs, Crafts, Children's Programs, culture sessions, & fantastic food, 3210 County BB, Call 608.238.3394 or check www.folklorevillage.org for details. Need to pre-register 29-31 PLATTEVILLE, Rollo Jamison Museum Holiday Feast & Festivities, See 12/5-23



entry for details.

JANUARY

3 BLUE MOUNDS, Blue Mounds State Park, Candlelight Ski & Hike, 1 & 2 mile groomed candlelit loops, Hike or snowshoe on 34 mile candlelit paths, Bonfire, free hot drinks, marshmallows, Guided Hike at 7PM & 8PM, Brats, chili, hot dogs & baked goods will be for sale, Cost: Daily or Annual Park Sticker—purchase upon arrival. Trail passes waived for night of event, For info 608437.5711 or heilk@dnr.state.wi.us

5 SPRING GREEN, The General Store "Mostly Mondays Poetry Society" Come share poems, prose & music 7–9PM, See 12/1 entry for details

10 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam at The General Store, 3–6PM, 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070

13 MINERAL POINT, "Open Mic Night" Old Royal Inn, 7–9PM, 43 High St, 608,9874530, Share music or poetry, listen & have dinner MINERAL POINT, DATE To Be Announced: Call for the date & time during the NFL playoff games of "It's About Time for Breakfast at Tony's Tap", pancakes, eggs & bacon, a fund raiser for the Mineral Point Library & Archives Improvement & Expansion Project, 608,987,2211.

15-18 NEW GLARUS, Winterfest Veterans Rally. This is the only Veterans Reunion held in the middle of winter anywhere in the US. All veterans from all wars and all those who care are welcome to attend & be part of this fantastic weekend. Hospitality suites, parade, music, dances, poker run, dinners, & more. It's January in Wisconsin so dress warmly. For all details & motel information, call Ron Lewis 608.251.6411 (days) or Bill Hustad 608.517.2942 for dinner info & http://www. war-veterans.org/Winter.htm 17 SPRING GREEN, Music at The General Store, Better Daze 2-5PM See 12/6 entry 17 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Saturday Night Social & Dance, 8PM, Potluck 6:30 PM, See 12/6 entry for address, phone. etc 17 GALENA, IL, Bald Eagle Bus Tour, 8AM, Guided 4 hour tour of bald eagle wintering communities & learn about eagles habits, preservation efforts, etc. Reservations required 815.594.2306, Adults \$75 Children under 17, \$50. Departs from Stoney Creek Inn, 940 Galena Square Dr www.galena.org

THE REGION'S BEST CALENDAR

18 MINERAL POINT, Film Society —check www.mpoh.org/mpfs.html for name of film. Doors open 6PM, Film 7PM. If not a film society member, please make reservations at 608.987.2642, \$10 includes some food & drinks, Held at the Mineral Point Opera House, 139 High St

24 SPRING GREEN, Music at The General Store, 2–5 PM, 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070 www.springgreengeneralstore.com
25 MINERAL POINT, Historical Society Annual Meeting & Lyceum, 2PM, "The Art of Nick Englebert" 608.987.2884 Free. Location to be announced. www.mineralpointhistory.org
31 SPRING GREEN, Music at The General Store, 2–5PM see 1/24 entry for details & to

31–Feb 1, PLATTEVILLE, Rollo Jamison Museum Winter Toy Train Exhibit Sat 10–4, Sun 11–4, 405 E Main St, 608.348.3301 www. mining.jamison.museum

check website for musicians



FEBRUARY

2–SPRING GREEN, The General Store "Mostly Mondays Poetry Society" Come share poems, prose & music 7–9PM, See 12/1 entry 3 PLATTEVILLE, UW Platteville presents "Ailey II", popular dance company, 7:30 PM, Tickets \$8–\$22, Call Box Office 9–5PM 608.342.1293

7 SPRING GREEN, Music at The General store 2–5PM See 1/24 entry for details 7 BLUE MOUNDS, Blue Mounds State Park, Candlelight Ski & Hike, See 1/3 entry, All details the same

7 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Old Time Barn Dance, Potluck 6:30PM Potluck, Dance 8PM, All ages & experience levels welcome, all dances taught, See 12/6 entry for address & other information

7–8 PLATTEVILLE, Rollo Jamison Museum Winter Toy Train Exhibit Sat. 10–4, Sun. 11–4 See 1/31 entry for address. etc

7–9 MINERAL POINT, Winter Knitting Retreat, la bella vita yarn shop & fibre gallery, 215 Commerce St, 608.9870300, contact labellavita@charternet.com for details, about lodging, meals, classes, etc.

10 MINERAL POINT, "Open Mic Night", Old Royal Inn, 7–9PM, 43 High St, 608.9874530, Share music or poetry, listen & have dinner 12 PLATTEVILLE, UW Platteville presents "The Czech Symphony Orchestra featuring Avery Fisher & Jennifer Frautschi, 7:30 PM, Tickets \$8–\$26, Call Box Office 9–5 at 608.342.1293

14 VALENTINE'S DAY

14 SPRING GREEN, The General Store's "Paul Bentzen Day" a mid-winter bash featuring Paul's jambalaya, a bluegrass jam 1–5:30PM, & an evening concert.TBA www. springgreengeneralstore.com 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070

14 GALENA, IL, Bald Eagle Bus Tours See 1/17 entry for details

15 MINERAL POINT, Film Society film, Check www.mpoh.org/mpfs.html for name of film. Doors open 6PM, Film 7PM, \$10, includes some food & drinks. If not a film member, please make reservation at 608.987.2642 Held at Mineral Point Opera House, 139 High Street

15 MINERAL POINT, Historical Society Lyceum 2PM, www.mineralpointhistory.org Call 608.987.2884 for location & lyceum title 15 PLATTEVILLE, UW Platteville presents "Jesus Christ Superstar" at 3PM & 8PM, starring Ted Neeley in the title role & Living Colour's Corey Glover as Judas, Tickets \$22– \$40, Call Box office 9–5PM at 608.342.1293 15 SAUK CITY, Carr Valley Cheese Cooking School, "Studying Up on Cheese" with Jeannette Hart, author from Milwaukee, WI, 3:30-5:30PM, Includes 2 free cookbooks, 807Phillips Blvd, 608.643.3441 Details at www. carrvalleycheese.com Most classes \$45. 21 SPRING GREEN, Music at The General Store 2-5PM See 1/24 entry 22 MINERAL POINT, 3rd Annual Brain Games, Call Joy at the Mineral Point Chamber for information, location, & cost 608.987.3201 22 DUBUQUE, IA, "Winnie the Pooh" from Disney Live! 1:30PM, Five Flags Arena, 4th St & Locust, Tickets \$14-\$46 563.557.8497 23 HIGHLAND, VillageWide garage sales, 8AM 25 MINERAL POINT, Red Cross Blood Drive, Noon-6PM, Mineral Point Rescue Squad, 907 Ridge St. Please give blood & help save a life! 27-28 GALENA, The B & B innkeepers present a who-dunnit weekend, begins with live entertainment on Fri eve & murder-mystery dinner/theater Sat eve. Tickets \$75 plus cost of 2-night stay at participating B & B. For more info call 888459.1847 28 SPRING GREEN, Music at The General Store 2-5PM See 1/24 entry 28 GALENA, IL, Bald Eagle Bus Tours See 1/17 entry for all details



MARCH

2 SPRING GREEN, The General Store "Mostly Mondays Poetry Society" Come share poems, prose & music 7–9PM, See 12/1 entry for details

2 SAUK CITY, Carr Valley Cheese Cooking School, "Goose for Dinner" with Goose Sorenson of Solera Restaurant & Wine Bar in Denver, CO 6:30–9PM, See 2/15 entry for details & website

7 SPRING GREEN, Music at The General Store, Vick Terpstra & The Fiddlers, 3:30–5:00 PM, Check—may be 2nd band 2:00–3:30PM. See 12/6 entry for address etc

7 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Old Time Barn Dance, 6:30PM potluck, 8PM Dance, See 12/6 & 2/7 entries for address etc.

8 MINERAL POINT, St. Piran's Day Cornish celebration, Dinner & Program 12:30PM, Old Royal Inn, 43 High St, 608.9874530. Note: Annual Meeting & program will be Sun. 5/3 at Old Royal Inn 1:30 pm For more details go to www.cornishfest.org

10 MINERAL POINT, "Open Mic Night", Old Royal Inn, 7–9PM, 43 High St, 608.9874530, Bring music or poetry or listen & have dinner 14 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam at The General Store 3–6PM See 1/10 entry 15 MINERAL POINT, Historical Society Lyceum 2PM, Old Royal Inn, 43 High St, Call 608.987.2884 to check website for location & lyceum title www.mineralpointhistory.org 15 SAUK CITY, Carr Valley Cheese Cooking School, "Dreaming of Food" with Jason Gorman of Dream Dance in Milwaukee, WI, 3–5:30PM, See 2/15 entry for details & website

17 ST PATRICK'S DAY

17 PLATTEVILLE, UW Platteville presents "Footloose" The Musical, 7:30PM, Tickets \$16—\$30, Call Box office 9–5PM 608.3421293 20–22 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Cajun Dance & Music Weekend with the Cajun Aces & many more. Music & dance workshops & delicious food, full & part—time options, Preregistration required see 12/6 entry for address, & website for more info 21 SPRING GREEN, Music at The General Store 2–5PM See 1/24 entry for details 22 MINERAL POINT Film Society Film showing, see 1/18 entry for information

26 MINERAL POINT, "Big Top Chatauqua Musical Review", Sound, Light, Music, and Fun! Opera House, 139 High St., Call for time & ticket info, 608.987.2516 or 608.987.3201 www.mpoh.org or www.mineralpoint.com 28 SPRING GREEN, Music at The General Store 2-5PM See 1/24 entry for details 27-29 MINERAL POINT, Shake Rag Alley, Garden Getaway, 18 Shake Rag, Always a great weekend of creative workshops in garden art & the art of gardening. Classes will be described in the spring catalog due out in January & on the website www.shakeragalley. $com\ 608.987{-}3292\ Pre{-}Register\ if\ possible$ 29 SAUK CITY, Carr Valley Cheese Cooking School "Hunting for Morels" with Brian Jurkowski of Morels Restaurant in Middleton, WI. 3-5:30PM, See 2/15 entry for details and website.



3–5 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Norwegian Springleik Dance & Music Weekend featuring guest teachers from Norway: Tor & Randi Stallvik & Ivan Odnes & Oysten Rudi. Workshops in Norwegian fiddle & dance. Full & part—time options avail. Pre—Registration Required. See 12/6 entry for address & web—site for more info.

4 MINERAL POINT, Gallery Night, Galleries open 5–9PM serving refreshments & offering fine art, hand—made crafts, basketry, pottery, collage, furniture, glass, jewelry, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, weav—ing, woodworking, & more 608.9874178 www.mineralpoint.com/art/gallery/night.html lists all participating galleries and restaurants with extended hours.

4 HIGHLAND, City-Wide garage sales 8AM 608.929.7781

6 SPRING GREEN, The General Store "Mostly Mondays Poetry Society" Come Share poems, prose & music 7–9PM, See 12/1 entry for details

7 SAUK CITY, Carr Valley Cheese Cooking School, "Award Yourself With One of the Best" with Kent Rathbun from Abacus & Jasper's Restaurants in Dallas, TX, 6:30–9PM, See 2/15 entry for info & website

11 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam at the General Store 3–6PM, See 1/10 entry 12 EASTER

14 MINERAL POINT, "Open Mic Night", Old Royal Inn, 7–9PM, 43 High St, 608.9874530, Bring music or poetry to share or come listen and have dinner

18 MINERAL POINT, City-wide Garage Sales 7AM on

19 MINERAL POINT, Film Society film showing, See 1/18 for details however location will be changed due to Opera House restoration—please phone or check website for details 608.987.2642 www.mpoh.org/mpfs.html 24—25 MT HOREB & BLUE MOUNDS, City—Wide Garage Sales. For information call 608.437.5914 or info@trollway.com 24—26 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, English Country Dance & Music Weekend featuring the Bare Necessities, Workshops in dance & music, full & part—time options avail, Pre—registration required. See 12/6 entry for address & website for more info

25 MINERAL POINT, Community Connections Free Clinic Auction, 6PM, The Old Royal Inn, 43 High St, \$25 includes dinner & live music, RSVP CCFSauction@gmail.com or 608.341.7207,

www.communityconnectionsfreeclinic.org 25 DODGEVILLE, City-Wide Garage Sales, 608.935.9200 26 SAUK CITY, Carr Valley Cheese Cooking School, "Mmmmm...Chocolate for Dinner?" with Mindy Siegel of Hot Chocolate Restaurant & Dessert Bar in Chicago, IL, 3–5:30PM See 2/15 entry for details & website

HIT THE TRAILS!

You can get information about each state park & trail, including rules, regulations, annual passes, day paases, trail passes, ATVs, cross country skiing, snowshowing, snowmobiling, etc. at: www.dnrstate.wi.us.org/land/parks or www.stateparks.com/wi.html & see below also:

PARK & TRAIL CONTACTS:

Blackhawk Recreation Area, NW of Dodgeville near Highland 608.623.2707 www.blackhawklake.com Blue Mound State Park, Blue Mounds 608.437.5711

Cheese Country Trail, Mineral Point to Monroe, 608.574.2911 www.tricountytrails.com Governor Dodge State Park, 3 miles N of Dodgeville on Rt. 23, 608.935.2315 Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, Dodgeville

Military Ridge State Trail, 41 miles Dodgeville to Madision 6084377393 New Glarus Woods State Park, New Glarus 608.527.2335

Sugar River State Trail, New Glarus 608.527.2335

608.935.3368

Tower Hill State Park, Spring Green 608.588.2116

Yellowstone State Park & Lake, Blanchardville 608.5234427

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Check http://dnr.wigov/org/land/parks/ski/index.html There are 10 miles of cross country ski trails at Blue Mound State Park, Blue Mounds, WI, 17 miles at Governor Dodge, Dodgeville, 27 miles, not groomed, along the lower Wisconsin Riverway, Dodgeville, 4.2 miles at Yellowstone State Park near Blanchardville, 24 miles of trails at Sugar River Trail out of New Glarus, 23 miles at Blackhawk Recreation Area NW of Dodgeville, and 40 miles at Military Ridge State Trail out of Dodgeville. You can get exact information for each trail from the website above or call 608.266.2181. Many trails require park admission stickers and/or state trail passes.

CC 22



A Message from Sandee Beaman, Who Builds This Big Calendar

When I compile the winter issue, it's hard to pin down information for events that occur after Dec. 31st because most organizations, and most of us individuals, haven't had time to think about 2009, let alone pinpoint dates and details for the new year.

I thank the Chambers and the many volunteers who worked to contribute event information for this calendar.

Our next newspaper is due out May 1, 2009. So, if there's an event coming up, May through August, and you want it included in the Spring issue, please contact me at 608.987.1199, or send me an email — sandeeb@charter.net.

Enjoy the busy season!

Sandee

Mineral Point Celebrates with 1927 Zinc Medallion

by Clifford Krainik

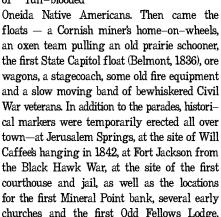
On a Sunday morning, July 23, 1927. <u>The Milwaukee Journal</u> carried a fullpage illustrated story proclaiming that,

An epidemic of pageantry has struck Wisconsin's southwestern corner this summer, where five towns of the old lead mining district, in honor of their centennials, are producing historical pageants.

The festivities began on July 1, appropriately in Linden, where lead ore was first discovered by American settlers in 1827. Dodgeville celebrated its Centennial by starting with a town homecoming on July 3 and continuing with an old fashioned Fourth of July party filled with two evenings of pageantry at the baseball park. Shullsburg and Montfort hosted their own special Centennial galas. But it was in Mineral Point during the first weekend in August where the most extensive and elaborate celebration occurred.

One of the exciting features of Mineral Point's four-day Centennial Celebration was the parade of floats. Starting each day at 10:00 a.m., and lasting for more than thirty

minutes, a dazzling array of oldhistorical floats ascended High Street, to the enjoyment of thousands of spectators.The national colors were carried by several young World War I veterans. followed by a band of full-blooded



In addition to the numerous floats and the historical markers, it seemed that the entire business district was transformed into a sidewalk museum with relics of Mineral Point's past prominently displayed in every shop window. There were old mining tools and pistols, coins, arrowheads, fine silver and important china, an ancient shawl, spinning wheels, collections of postage stamps, musical instruments, daguerreotypes and faded photographs. Gundry and Gray Co. presented an elaborate exhibit of furniture and clothing of early days. All of these personal heirlooms were identified and lovingly attributed to their past owners—ancestors alive only in the memory of their families.

In a front page story, <u>The Iowa County Democrated</u> exclaimed that the Centennial Celebration was "an affair that will always be remembered!"

To keep that memory alive, the Mineral Point Centennial committee commissioned what they considered to be a "fitting" memento.



As noted in the pages of <u>The Iowa County</u> <u>Democrat</u> on July 28, 1927, with the headline:

PERMANENT CENTENNIAL RECORD IN ZINC MEDAL SOUVENIRS. To fill the need of a suitable souvenir, the Centennial committee arranged for the purchase of a large number of Centennial medals commemorating Mineral Point's hundredth birthday. These medals have now arrived and are ready for distribution. As zinc is the metal identified with this region, it was chosen for the material of the medals and the New Jersey Zinc Company kindly furnished the zinc necessary.

On one side of the medal is the design of the City Seal; on the other side is a view of the Mineral Point Zinc works, our chief industry, and a design showing a hilly pasture, representing the 'Blue Grass Region.' The medals have been struck off with the same care and workmanship as that employed on coins and the result is very pleasing.

Because of the large quantity purchased, it is possible to sell these medals for 25 cents, although if only one

were struck off. the cost would prohibitive be for the average person. The profit from the sale of the medals will be used to help defray the expenses of the celebration. This presents a good opportunity for every man.woman and child in the Mineral

Point region to do his or her bit to make the celebration a success. The medals are not only a very pleasing souvenir, but their purchase enables the committee to finance the extensive and elaborate program that has been provided.

The Prairie Schooner float passes City Hall and the Public Library building.

Mineral Point was the most populated, affluent and politically important town in the Lead Mining Region during the late 1820's through the beginning of the Civil War. Long before gold became the driving force that would pull men inexorably westward, lead held out the allure of great and instant wealth. The mining, smelting and transporting of lead, or "mineral" as the massy ore was simply called, was the very reason southwest Wisconsin was settled. The exhaustion of the shallow lead deposits dramatically affected the prosperity of the region until the early 1880's, when zinc mining and cattle production restored economic stability. By the turn of the century, over thirty zinc mines were in full operation in the Mineral Point area and the mines and processing plants were the major industries and chief employers.

Examples of the Mineral Point zinc Centennial Medal appear from time to time at antique shows, estate sales, and auctions. My guess is that the old families of the city have kept these mementos, and have handed down the quaint tokens, and that even now a few of these zinc treasures lie, wrapped in tissue and resting securely, in sock drawers, biscuit tins and jewelry boxes.

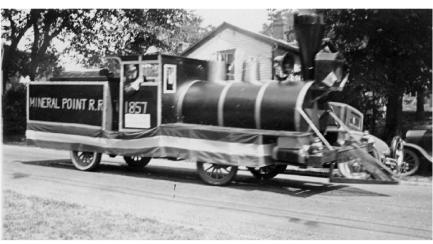
THIS ARTICLE was first published in the Mineral Point Historical Society newsletter in the Summer issue of 2004. We reprint it with the permission of the author and the organization.

CLIFFORD KRAINIK is a photographic historian residing in Warrenton, Virginia, now writing the combined biographies of Max and Ava Fernekes, who are generally credited with being the first artists to rely on Mineral Point for a full-time income, sparking an artistic rebirth in the 1940's.

A 1927 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION SCRAPBOOK



During four gala days of downtown parades, the "Early Mining Days" is readied to get rolling.



On a stretched automobile chasis, it's the "Mineral Point Railroad" commemorative float.



The "Old Fire Equipment" float plods up High Street as a quiet crowd lines the sidewalks. In 1927 — the year Lindburgh flew across the Atlantic — the fire station in Mineral Point stood at 145 High St., with a bell tower on the roof. Phoebe's Nest gift store maintains its history with an attractive panel of old photos and news accounts of the day.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS THROUGH THE COURTESY OF THE MINERAL POINT ARCHIVES



LOCAL AUTHOR PUMPS OUT GAS STATION TREATISE

If you can remember the day when you drove your car into a gas station, and a human being appeared at your windshield to ask, "Fill 'er up?" you'll enjoy a new book that chronicles the history of sixty Wisconsin gas stations that still stand as reminders of a time when "full service" meant something really special.

State Historian Jim Draeger and Mineral Pointer Mark Speltz-frequent contributor to the Times-bring readers images of the old buildings, and tell the larger story of the gas station's place in history and American culture. Speltz said his work on the book taught him the value of "ordinary" buildings: "All types of buildings, structures, and landscapes, no matter how common, have meaning, a vital lesson that was often reinforced as Jim and I wrote Fill 'er Up: The Glory Days of Wisconsin Gas Stations. They serve as connections to the past and reflect the values and interests of those who built them and lived and worked in them. When we lose historic buildings, we lose, among other things, an important part of what grounds us in the present—our local history.

Consider the lowly gas station. These seemingly humble buildings are important touchstones to a larger narrative—how the automobile shaped the twentieth century.

In Mineral Point gasoline was available at hardware stores, a curbside pump, the city's first filling station, and then a plethora of stations built and demolished over time. The remaining historic stations in the city soldier on in various ways. We have former stations that now sell cheese and beer; a 1920s prefabricated structure—the first real filling station-in a precarious state; a newly rehabilitated stone station evolving into a bookstore; and a number of family businesses or franchises seeking new ways to make a living. All of these stations reflect changes in our community, or in the desires of their owners, and thus the history of our built landscape. The family history and neighborhood memories connected to these places are an important part of our community's past."

of Wisconsin Gas Stations
by Jim Draeger & Mark Speltz,
a companion volume to their Wisc.
Public Television documentary.
220 pages; 250 illustrations.
Hardcover \$29.95 from WHS Press



Lavern Kammerude's "Rural Art-of-the Soul"

Midwestern farmers have fed America with milk, meat, grain, eggs and produce for all of the years since the frontier moved west. Many of these farmers have also produced art. Most of the art is intuitive art, guided by an inner voice that speaks to a tired farmer, telling him to come in from the fields and paint a road sign, a barn mural, a birdhouse, or a mailbox from old farm implements. A farm woman, meanwhile, hears a voice that sends her to the flower garden or the quilting bee as she

bustles about her house, decorating in a style you might call Prairie Proud.

Once in a great while, a farmer's art reaches beyond his fencerows, and into the heart and soul of others who share his common history and his common experiences. LavernKammerude was one of those unlikely artists, a man who discovered oil painting late in his life, never really understood or relished his fame, but who left behind a solid collection of rural art scenes that authentically reconstruct the scale and the spirit of farm life in the first half of the 20th Century.

Pete and Mary Kammerude's third child, La-

vern, was born in 1915, in a room on their farm South of Blanchardville in Lafayette County. The boy worked with field horses, in that premechanized day, and his love of the big animals produced sketches of horses in his school notebooks. And, in the notebooks of his mind, he was storing graphic memories of farm life. His schooling ended in Grade Eight, when he went to work as a hand on the family farm, the usual pattern for young men in those times.

In 1934, he married Mildred, his lifetime partner, and left the Kammerude fields to work as a riveter building bridges. His grandfather's death, five years later, sent him back to his parents at the farm they inherited. Then, in the 1950's, he gave up the farm as "too much work for too little money" (the common complaint of that decade) and began a thirty—year job as a rebuilder of automobile parts.

Opening his gifts for his 55th Christmas, Kammerude found a set of oil paints and a few brushes. His mother had remembered his fondness for sketching horses as a boy. The would—be painter went to the local lumber yard, bought a sheet of masonite hardboard, and splashed colors onto it. He enrolled in a mail order correspondence course that promised artistic skills in a few weeks. He painted in a small room in his home after work and supper.

Lavern Kammerude first "went public" in familiar surroundings—Hank Anderson's Tavern in Argyle. Hank liked the pictures and bought seven or eight of them to hang in the tavern. Then the local Farm Credit Services office put up a painting, and others started to buy. As his reputation spread, and a few dollars trickled in, Kammerude remained modest about his talent, shrugging off the compliments, and plugging away at his after—work pursuits.

When Gerald Regan came into his life in 1976, a twelve-year odyssey began. It produced a wealth of rural art and a bit of national exposure for "an artist who fully expresses the rural life and landscape."

Those who watched Kammerude at the easel said he would sit for long periods of time—with a cigarette, silent and still—as his mind percolated childhood memories of life on the farm. Then he would pick up a brush. His wife said, "It was all in his head."



SWEET CLOVER SCHOOL served the Mineral Point area when each township was divided into rural school districts encompassing six miles in area. Lavern Kammerude used an old photograph to jog his memory of the place. Judging from the model of the car, the picture could be dated in the late 1920's. Note the farmer, putting a crop of grain in the ground with his old "broadcast" seeder. (See accompanying stories at Right) Gerald Regan, who amassed an impressive Kammerude collection, commissioned this painting of the school. Regan attended sixth grade there-



Kammerude in his studio with the partially completed "Sweet Clover School." This was Kammerude's last painting, finished the day before he died in 1989.

When you look at a Kammerude picture, you see a setting from 1910 to the 1940's, and rolling hills, horses pulling vintage implements, a diverse group of people in family or party scenes, with fine details scratched into the oil paint. A trademark image was a young boy, followed by a dog, carrying water through the grass to an older person. In his painted panels, Kammerude portrayed his past life, his neighbors at work and play, simple farming methods—idealized views of a Golden Age, showing the joys of rural life but ignoring its dangers and hardships. His body of work presents a way of life; it is agri-culture, not agri-business.

Folklorists call him a "plain painter," not strictly of the traditional school, and not as sentimental as Norman Rockwell or Grandma Moses (although he read their books) but just as capable of telling a story in paint.

Fact is, Lavern Kammerude, the talented but reluctant rural artist, simply told the truth.

A Proud Pointer: GERRY REGAN

Who Pointed Out Kammerude's Hidden Talent

Gerald Regan grew up on a dairy farm in the 1930's, one of nine children in a rural setting, who lived with the seasons and depended on good neighbors to cut the hay, fill the silo, thresh the oats and shred the corn. He left Mineral Point High School to join the Marines just before the Korean War; and, although he never again lived in the city he remembered his small town farm days with fondness. And, he looked for works of art that recalled life on the land of his childhood.

One day in 1976, he found a painting that grabbed his heart and took his life in a new direction. As an executive with the Surge Dairy Equipment Co., he traveled all over North America, and one day paid a call at the Production Credit Assn. office in Dodgeville.

On the wall in the

manager's office was an oil painting of a Fall scene, with rolling hills, geese overhead, and a man and his wife and their son, who was husking corn out of a corn shock. "An old farmer down bv Blanchardville painted it, and gave it to us, so we hung it up there," the manager explained. Regan drove out to the Kammerude family farm that afternoon. He met and talked briefly with the 61-year old folk artist. On the spot, Regan commis-

sioned a number of old farm scenes of haying, threshing, and cheese-making.

Pleased with the outcome, he ordered still more paintings, and admirers joined in after seeing the pictures on Regan's office walls. Regan's lifetime interest in representative farm art paid off. He became agent for Kammerude and commissioned seventeen paintings, all executed in the artist's modest, honest and highly detailed style.

In the early 1980's, Regan spoke to the Wisconsin Art Board about the farmer who took up oil painting at age 55, worked in a tiny crowded room at his family farm, and recreated the "Golden Age of Farming" from memory with vivid colors and lively action. The Board sent a van to Regan's home, and installed the entire collection in the Governor's offices in Madison. Subsequently, Kammerude won the Wisconsin Heritage Award. National magazines picked up the story. Regan then established a mail order sales business with Kammerude's works, and he began showing the paintings at old time steam threshing shows, where he found a receptive audience. In 1990, Regan helped the Wisconsin Folk Museum in Mt. Horeb publish Threshing Days, a book with 21 pictures in full color with explanatory text by Chester Garthwaite, who had been Regan's Ag teacher back in Mineral Point. The 104-page book is still selling.

Regan sold his art business to the Mt. Horeb Folk Museum, and he donated his collection of original art to the Lafayette County Historical Society in Darlington.

In contented retirement, Regan lives in Elgin, Ill. "Lavern was a genius," he told this newspaper. "Born with great talent, he held in his memory all the details of old farm life.



SCHOOL DAYS in the 1930's

The intertwined life stories of Lavern Kammerude and Gerry Regan find a common focal point in the Sweet Clover School, a frame building that once stood on County Highway DD, representing one of six school districts in the larger Mineral Point school system. The one-room school was moved to a half-acre lot, according to local histories, and served rural children until it was torn down in 1962, after an auction of its lumber.

During the 1930's and 40's, the era represented in Kammerude's painting of the old school, students in the Mineral Point area attended classes in a number of schools like Sweet Clover, schools with fanciful and colorful names. The teacher, who earned \$65 a month, conducted her school day in fifteen-minute segments: a quarter-hour for a handful of kids in the third grade, followed by a quarterhour spent with fourth graders, and so on, until the day ended, interrupted only by lunch and a recess. In a school like this, the teacher (usually single, female, with one year's training since high school) performed all the chores for the eight grades enrolled there: teaching, starting the furnace, keeping the building clean and supervising the playground activity.

Sweet Clover School drew up its own rules for conduct, called the Seven Laws: "Be there when the morning bell rings. Don't leave your seat without permission. Come in promptly from recess. No noisy play outside. Don't damage books or furniture. And, of course, no talking or whispering." The teacher was to keep track of all infractions, and she enjoyed the power of expulsion.

A list of necessary school supplies: a box of crayons, a writing table, an eraser, a ruler, and a penny pencil. Students brought home—made paste to the school, and in the winter it froze.

In the 1930's, Bob Terrill attended the Pleasant View School, a single-room white frame building commonly remembered as Skunk Hollow School, as did his father, Floyd Terrill, earlier in the century.

"School years were shorter then, as there were no snow days. The students just grabbed their Flexible Fliers and headed down hills to the school in the valley. If it were timed right, a kid could come downhill just as the teacher rang her bell. Mittens and jackets dried on and around the woodstove.

The last day of school found all students picking up sticks and limbs and 'spiffing up' the schoolyard to get ready for the big school picnic. There was a ball game and the fathers would join in to prove they still could run bases. Another big occasion was May Day, when all students went picking the first wildflowers. The Christmas program was held in the afternoon, of course, as there wasn't any electricity for lights.

Teachers boarded at homes in the school district during the winter months, and several stayed with the Terrills over the years. Those teachers definitely would know if you did your homework then."

Bob Terrill's memories end with, "The school was offered for sale after 1955-56, and Fred Radtke bought it. He moved it up the hill to his farm and used it as a hog house."

Threshing Days, a collection of Kammerude's prints, at the Library or online.



"ALL THINGS ROWDY"

The Boom-and-Bust city of Mineral Point was founded in 1827, but "founded" may be a word far too elegant to describe the village in that year. A bit more accurately, call it a brawling mining camp, a place rife with swindlers, land schemes, card sharks, and strong liquor. And, in the town's combative atmosphere, there were also a large number of lawyers to contest every point of view.

After 1830, Mineral Point became the County Seat of Iowa County, an area in the Michigan Territory including what is now known as Iowa, Lafayette, and Grant counties. It was estimated that ninety-five percent of the region's population was male, with most of the men originating from southern states including Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Louisiana, Georgia and the Carolinas. These were the men who dug rough "badger holes" in the hills, to pull out minerals. The more sophisticated Cornish miners came to the city a bit later.

The center of that early mining camp is today the intersection of Commerce and High Streets. At the foot of the long High Street hill stood Abner Nichols' hotel, "The Mansion House," a series of three or four log cabins linked together by passageways. Eating, dancing, and gambling went on in the Nichols tavern at all hours of the day or night, along with card playing, faro, and roulette. And all games were accompanied by raucous music from a fiddler.

An overnight guest at the tavern is quoted as saying, "It was the sort of place where a miner might crawl into bed wearing his hat, coat, knife, and boots, and might awaken to find others had joined him in bed during the night." The only other hotel in the city was equally rude and crude, yet these were also the places at which the leading men of the Michigan Territory stayed while in the area on business.

In this rancorous atmosphere, talk led to argument, and argument led to feuds, duels and fist fights, which were considered more entertainment than conflict. One account has it that two Cornish immigrants, William and Lavinia Rablin were shocked in 1835 to spend their first day in Mineral Point as witnesses to seven knockdown brawls-on a Sunday!

The city's ugly temperament was thought serious enough to warrant special attention when Mineral Point drew up a charter to incorporate in 1837:

"Section 6: Any person hallowing, shouting, bawling, screaming profane or obscene language, fighting, dancing, singing, whooping, quarreling or making an unusual noise or sounds, in any house or in any part of this corporation, in such a manner as to disturb the good people of the neighborhood....shall be fined twenty dollars for the first offense..."

Today, at the foot of High Street, where the old tavern stood. Nichols Street leads down the hill to the old Power Plant and the Cannery.

A street sign is not much of a monument to the legendary tavernkeeper, but the rich lode of stories about Ab Nichols and his saloon linger on

This account relied on research conducted by the Pendarvis Historical Site, with materials gleaned from History of Iowa County 1881 and Miners' Free Press 1837.

The nose of a mob is its imagination. By this, at any time, it can be quietly led. - - Edgar Allan Poe

The Cornish Pasty, an Unlikely Treat.

From the wild Cornish coast, where smugglers left a rich legacy of excitement and adventure and Cornish miners toiled deep in tin and copper mines, there has come to Mineral Point and wherever Cornish miners have gone, one dish that is unforgettable once tasted. It is the Cornish pasty.

In Cornwall the miner's life was frugal at best and the diet most spare. The housewife did what she could with things at hand. The early pasties, called "hoggans", were a lump of unleavened bar-

ley dough with a bit of fat pork imbedded in it, then baked before the fire, which provided the noon "croust" (meal) for the miner deep in the mine. Gradually the Pasty evolved to the form as we now know it: a wheat flour pastry crust enveloping potatoes, onions, and small pieces of meat. It's a complete meal. The crust had to be sufficiently hard so it would not collapse on the way down the mine shaft inside the miner's pocket.

The cottage fireplace was cleverly used to bake the pasty. A three-legged iron plate was put over raked-out coals, the pasty placed on the plate, then covered by an iron "baker". Coals were piled around and over the baker. In about an hour the pasty was baked. Once it was determined to be finished and uncovered, those housewives fortunate enough to have cream made a small opening in the top and poured in a small amount of cream. This method of baking was probably used in Mineral Point in the Cornish stone cottages which used fireplaces for heating and cooking.

Many a new daughter-in-law failed her test in her Cornish mother-in-law's eyes if she did not know how to make the pastry just "short" enough, or know how to do the "crimp" (a folding, twisting, pinching motion) with which the edges of the pastry were sealed. Some stranger to the art of pasty making, disbelieving that raw ingredients would bake completely inside the crust in an hour, would pre-cook the ingredients. Her Cornish husband would say, "E' and a gude stew, na' a pasty."

Among the Cornish women in this area, there were on-going discussions about pasty making and each good cook had her own notion of what was proper, much relying on the way "Mauther" did it. There was the argument of "do you put the ingredients in layers on the crust, first the potatoe slices, then the onions, topped by bits of beef and suet, or do you combine them all first?" Many a disagreement was about the use of turnip (rutabaga), but all agreed: no carrots. Some did not want to make a vent for the steam to escape but thought the steam should be contained. Then there were those who swore by suet in the crust instead of the usual lard. If one good cook poured in a little cream at the end of the cooking time, another would use a little broth or gravy. Some would place a tea towel over the hot pasties as they came from the oven to allow them to "steam". Others would not. No steaming for them.

Cornish miners worked hard and were hungry men. Their pasties were as big as a dinner plate. [Ed. Note: In the photo above, the fabled pasty from Pendarvis House served a table of six diners]

Individual pasties now are much smaller. In Cornwall, pasties are eaten in hand, without forks. In America they are eaten with a

fork Chili sauce is the usual accompaniment.



From the pen of the late Jayne Watkins, of Dodgeville, a long-time member of the Iowa County Historical Society. It was printed in the Uplands Reader III, published in 1986, a worthwhile collection of local legend, lore, poetry and art, still available at the ICHS online bookstore.



Bob Neal, at the pasty oven in the kitchen of the fabled Pendarvis House Cornish restaurant (1930's) Photo from "On the Shake Rag," courtesy Mineral Point Room & Pendarvis Site

CORNISH PASTY

A recipe from Cornwall

Pastry: 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour 1 teaspoon salt 1 cup lard 3, 4 cups ice water-more or less 1/2 cup finely diced rutabaga 4 medium potatoes, sliced thin

1 to 2 large onions, chopped 11/2 pounds sirloin steak, in small cubes 1/2 cup suet, cut fine, or add 1 tablespoon butter to top of filling

1 teaspoon salt 2 teaspoons pepper

Preheat oven to 450 degrees, turning it to 400 degrees when Pasty is placed in the oven.

Pastry: In a large bowl measure in flour and stir in salt. Cut lard into small pieces and drop into the flour. Then, work with a pastry blender or two knives until the mixture is like coarse meal. Slowly dribble in the ice water, stirring with a fork. Use just enough water to make a dough that follows the fork. Make into a ball, wrap, and chill.

Filling: Mix rutabaga, potatoes, onions, steak, suet and season with the salt and pepper. Mix well.

Method: (An 8 inch plate will help form the pasty.) Quarter the dough ball. Roll each into an 8 inch circle, place on plate. Cover one half of the circle with filling. Moisten the edges with water, fold top half of circle over the filling. Press edges together. Gently lift, fold and twist (to "crimp") to seal. Place on a baking sheet and repeat the process with the remainder of the dough and filling. With a sharp knife slash a small vent in the top

Bake in a 450 degree oven, but turned immediately to 400 degrees. Bake 15 minutes, then reduce heat to 275 degrees. Bake for an additional 40 minutes, 1 hour total. Serves 4.

Serve the Cornish pasty with chili sauce. Cole slaw and pickled beets round out the meal. If there might be any appetite unsatisfied, saffron cake or plum preserves with clotted cream should be served.

However, one Cornishman declined all the "extras" on this menu, remarking, "W'en I'da 'ad pasty, I dawa' nathan else!"

IEd. Note 2: Don't bother to ask a nutritionist about a dish made with lard. white flour and suet. Chances are, the guru would turn thumbs down. And don't even start to talk about calories.]



CORNISH PASTIES are on the menus of Mineral Point cafes: Red Rooster on High St., Walker House on Water St., Pointer Cafe on Ridge St. & others when they feature Cornish cuisine.



Mineral Point's 'Mr. Alfalfa"

By Bill Spevacek

One of the most important advances in Midwestern agriculture has deep roots (please pardon the pun) in the Mineral Point area. I'm talking about the development of alfalfa as a vital food source for dairy and beef cattle.

When settlers began clearing land and establishing farms in the second half of the 19th century, their first and virtually only choice for hay was timothy, a hardy perennial grass that was satisfactory for feeding horses but of limited value for cattle. By itself, timothy was deficient in protein and minerals and susceptible to hot, dry weather. When planted along with red clover, the protein problem was largely corrected. Nitrogen-fixing clover helped sustain soil fertility, but was good for only two or three years before fading out, leaving only the timothy.

Early in the 20th century, a few farmers were planting alfalfa, a non-native plant in the pea family, brought here from Europe. It offered promise, but was not ready to supplant the timothy and clover partnership. Here's where the Mineral Point connection comes in.

Lawrence F Graber grew up on the family farm south of Mineral Point, attended Hazel Dell elementary school and graduated from Mineral Point High School in 1906. He received bachelor and masters degrees in agronomy from the University of Wisconsin and a PhD. from the University of Chicago. He joined the Department of Agronomy at UW, and stayed until his retirement in 1957. He died in 1977. It is widely acknowledged that in his 27 years on the UW faculty, Professor Graber did more than any other individual to develop more productive legumes and grasses for forage.

Professor Graber has been described as the "high priest, prophet and evangelist who exhorted Wisconsin farmers to grow alfalfa." But more than preaching, Graber spent years experimenting with soil conditions, seed varieties, fertilizers and pesticides. Alfalfa's roots-five feet or more deep-are an obvious advantage over timothy in withstanding drought. But rains can wash away neutralizing minerals and turn the soil acidic, a condition corrected by adding lime. He spent years finding the optimum combinations of phosphate and potash, as well as minor elements such as iron, zinc, copper, manganese and boronwith the aim of both better plant growth and animal nutrition. Many of his experiments took place on the family's Iowa County farm.

Today, alfalfa is used throughout the world as forage for cattle, most often harvested as hay but also made into silage, with typically three or four cuttings a year. It is the highest yielding forage plant and has the highest feeding value of all common hay crops. It is adaptable to a wide range of climates, from cold northern plains to hot deserts. Wisconsin is among the leading alfalfa growing states in the U.S., and Midwestern states produce about half the alfalfa in the country.

So next time you savor a slice of fine cheese or a tasty steak (or enjoy a delicate salad of alfalfa sprouts) give your quiet thanks to "Mr. Alfalfa," Mineral Point's own Lawrence Graber.

A Wisconsin Historical Marker stands at the Iowa County Fairgrounds in Mineral Point, proclaiming Lawrence F. Graber "Mr. Alfalfa," to recognize his years of research in agriculture.

The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity.

Dorothy Parker

THEOR THINDES 20:

TWENTY QUESTIONS AND TWENTY ANSWERS



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?
Read the whole interview, and get all the details on this complex and fascinating topic. Click on Mark Ranum's website, www.1887 Brand.com

BEEKELEPER MARK RANTOM

interview by Frank Beaman



G.M. Ranum, the Founder, 1953

Gilbert M. Ranum was fifteen years old when he acquired his first bee hive, a gift from his brother who traded an old sewing machine for the bees.

G.M. Ranum grew the business to 200 colonies, his son Edward pushed the family's bee population much higher, and Edward's son John helped take the business to its 1970 peak of 1500 colonies. The Ranum tradition continues with Edward's youngest son Mark, his wife Annie, and their family, proudly marketing bee products in retail outlets and at their farm on Fort Defiance Road, south of Mineral Point, near Waldwich.

An informal, friendly conversation with Mark Ranum at the Farmers Market sparked this interview, in the "Times 20" format – questions and answers.

1. Since 1887, the Ranum family has made a living by keeping bees busy. It would seem to be a simple business: the man provides the hive and the bees make honey. Is it simple?

A. Beekeeping is often romanticized as "the gentle craft," but the cold reality is that the beekeeping industry has become just another agribusiness, and one of the most complex, combining livestock management, "animal" health, processing techniques, technological change, marketing, and business savvy. My grandfather never had to worry about mites, Israel Paralysis Virus, systemic insecticides, mass bee migrations for pollination, or an import market that floods our stores with adulterated, illegal honey from places like China. So beekeeping isn't simple—not these days, and not for my grandfather in 1887 either.

2. You speak of "livestock management." What's the relationship between man and bee?

A. As in any ag-related business, you're dependent on the crops and the creatures you care for. If they do well, you do well. What threatens them threatens you. Most folks read about "bee problems" and say, "So what?" The truth is that every element of all the creation around us matters greatly, and our whole society is dependent on even the little bee in more ways than most of us can imagine.

5. In recent years, news headlines spoke about Killer Bees. Are these insects a big threat?

A. Well, it's a VERY aggressive strain, but the more north you go, the fewer of these African bees you find. And they can be controlled, so I don't see a big issue here

4. More recently, the headlines speak of a massive drop in the population of bees, and the impact that will have on our crops. Why are all these bees dying off?

A. Ya, the die-off is very real, and it has affected this area, but the causes and effects of these die-offs seem to be interrelated, so it's hard to diagnose. The name most publicized is "Colony Collapse Disorder," but this name focuses on only a narrow set of symptoms, which allows the officials who inspect hives in Wisconsin to claim, "There are no confirmed cases of CCD in the state." That's misleading.

In my own operation, we lost 80% of the colonies one year, only to lose 70% the next, and losses this year were 30%, which is above the economic threshold for the business.

Almost every beekeeper I know has, to some extent, seen similar losses. To say "no confirmed cases" tells me someone wasn't looking very hard, or just didn't want to see.

5. What's causing this nightmare in the hives?

A. In my opinion, it's simply the result of the industry going places where it aught not have gone. Let me explain. In the wild, bees migrate on their own, but very slowly. They "swarm" to make natural splits in their population, to maintain and increase the number of hives in the wild. But the new swarm is built close enough to the mother hive that the migrating bees have time to adapt to viruses, parasites and other maladies. A natural way to keep maladies in check also happens when some of the hives simply die under the load of a disease or pest. And some hives overcome this danger, and go on to become resistant strains.

6. Would you call this "natural selection?"

A. A form of micro-evolution, it's the key to the adaptation and thriving of any creature. But the trouble comes when man intercedes, stopping or changing the natural adaptation process because of his economic interests—looking at business and not the big picture for the species. Man also aggravates the situation by transporting bees all over the place, without limits, so that the maladies travel with them and there's no time to adapt to new surroundings.

7. If moving the bees around is such a bad idea, then why do we do it?

A. Beekeepers quickly figured out they could get extra income from the service of pollination-hauling colonies of bees to an orchard or cranberry bog and getting paid handsomely. And, as a bonus, bringing home unique honey gathered in the orchard. In the past, most of this work was done near the home hives, but now the situation has lost control, with semi trucks carting bees from one state to another—say, to the almond trees of California. Making pollination into an industry has sped the outbreak of diseases and parasites, overwhelming the bees' ability to adapt and survive. Blame? Well, insecticides, farming practices, changes in the weather, cell phone towers, who knows what? But, in my opinion, most of the problems we beekeepers are currently facing are of our own design.

8. Do you see a way to get this situation back to some sort of sustainable level?

A. Realistically, the genie is out of the bottle, and change will be very difficult, but there are some alternatives. Honeybees are not the only pollinators. Others—like bumble bees—could do some of the pollinating, and in some cases more efficiently. Although their use would reduce the beekeeper's revenue, it could be the key to reducing some of the movement, and hence the spread of maladies.

9. So, does beekeeping need reforms, rules?

A. There's just too much money chasing in our current system, and the big corporate powers call the shots. Agriculture is now a highly competitive industry and farmers are almost forced to "go with the flow" to stay profitable. I think if farmers realized the real impact of their actions, different choices would be made. As it is, we are creating vast monocultures: huge fields producing only corn or soy, with all trees cut down and weeds in pastures routinely sprayed with herbicides. Genetic modification and insecticides in crops make the whole plant toxic. All these things drastically effect the environment for the bees.

10. Then we need to do battle with chemicals, as they've done in much of Europe?

A. Yes, and it's more than just farm land. Bees travel a circle three miles across, and they are influenced by anything in that big area. There are hives atop some of the skyscrapers in Chicago, and they do well because they have no competition, but they suffer from chemicals used on suburban lawns. By spraying lawns, killing all the once—respected plants such as Dutch clover, we have created a deadly and sterile environment, just for the sake of good looks!

11. What about imported and tainted honeywhat effect do they have on the honey market?

A. The Chinese government has a hard time enforcing food standards because there are so many small producers, so we hear reports that some honey from China contains antibiotics, contaminants, is cut with 49 percent corn syrup and imported as "bakers blend" to avoid import duties. Millions of pounds are imported illegally and relabeled "pure honey." Detecting the corn syrup requires expensive DNA testing, so this practice usually goes uncaught. Illegal imports have decimated the honey market, forcing the beekeeper into "chasing the dollar" just to stay in business. As consumers, we should be aware that it is hard to enforce domestic food safety laws, but nearly impossible to police imported products.

12. Speaking of global concerns, do bees tell us anything about global climate change?

A. I'm no expert on global warming and I'm not convinced the current weather cycle we are seeing is completely human—driven, but I can see significant changes in the weather patterns. My grandfather, G. M. Ranum, kept extensive farm diaries that included a daily account of the weather. Our weather, today, is, in my words, "more radical," with extended periods of radical weather that cut up the bee season. A beekeeper looks at the weather as either being a "good bee day" or a "bad bee day." The wind, temperature, humidity, and sunshine, all have to be right to make it a day when the bees can do their work of pollination and nectar gathering.

13. And the major difference between your grandfather's weather diary . . . and yours? A Simply put the number of "good hea

A. Simply put, the number of "good bee days" is becoming more and more rare.

14. Stringing all this together, could we actually be talking about the end of the species?

A. We are moving bees around in a forced and artificial way, which overwhelms their ability to adapt, and we continuously intercede in their natural selection process. These factors have created an unsustainable environment that now requires—no, demands—man's intervention. It's clear to me that natural populations of honeybees are a thing of the past. Only a radical choice could save them. That choice would be to keep our hands off the bees for a few hundred years, and let natural patterns re—establish. And that's not going to happen.

15. We have reached the point where I could ask, cynically, "So What?" So, what if the bee population is rapidly declining?

A. You can usually eliminate one part of God's creation without seeing major immediate impact, so you might say, "If the honeybee becomes extinct, there are other pollinators, and honey is only one of many sweeteners available, so maybe we could merely adjust our diet." But that is not seeing the whole picture. To me, the honeybee is the canary in the coalmine—and its demise is shouting at us that something is greatly wrong. My guess is that the fall of the honeybee would be followed by the fall of other bee species as well. If that happens, we can all get out there on our hands and knees, and use

Q-Tips to hand-pollinate the millions of acres of plants that require pollination for survival.

16. So, we throw up our hands in despair?

A. No, there are things we can all do. First, be an informed consumer and read the label. Look for indications of good, sustainable beekeeping practices. Don't buy on price alone. Meanwhile, the industry and individual beekeepers need a course in the Golden Rule, so we make choices that are best for both the bee and the consumer. We ALL need to think about the impact of our choices—from the flowers we plant, the chemicals we use, the cars we drive, the way we use up fossil fuels, and the politicians we vote for.

17. If YOU were writing the rules for the bee industry, what would you write?

A. Wow! What a scary thought! I guess my first response is that my faith provides an awesome set of rules that tells me that all of creation suffers as we get further and further away from the Creator's intentions. So, let's start by enforcing existing import laws, to level the playing field for producers. Let's get back to a producer-driven National Honey Board, and take the reins of regulation away from importers and packers. Let's limit the movement of bee colonies and increase funding for research on alternative pollinators. Let's look carefully at farm methods and the chemicals used on our fields and pastures. And we need more emphasis on sustainable agriculture. You know, we just need to do all the

18. Meanwhile, what role should honey, as food, play in our daily diet?

right things for all the right reasons.

A. Honey, used in proper moderation, is a well-balanced collection of sugars that strengthen the immune system. Annie and I cook with it and love what it adds to foods. The key to getting full benefit is getting honey in its "closest to natural" state.

19. The tone of this interview has been pretty gloomy. Can you give us a few insights into some of the rewards of beekeeping?

A. There's a spiritual benefit to our work. These little creatures bring me closer to the Creator. It's hard to witness their vast complexity and not acknowledge the existence of God. And of course, there is nothing quite like being in a beautiful secluded woods in autumn, sampling new honey right from the comb. Ah, life is good! And I think that being involved in a business that has so much family tradition with it has also been a real blessing.

20. So what's ahead for Ramm's 1887 Brand?

A. I hope, tomorrow. And God willing, the day after that. Whether this business goes on

to another generation is less important than what good it does right now. If I've learned anything from my involvement with the bees, it is that we all have a short time on this earth,



Mark Ranum works his hives.

and the scope of our physical impact is limited at best. It's our heritage received, and our legacy left, that connect us to the past and ultimately to the future. And the choices we make right now will be the yardstick by which we are measured by generations to come.





<u> Thir Cornish "Chirishmas Bush"</u>

In Cornwall the tradition of hanging up the "Bush" goes back to a pagan festival celebrating the Winter Solstice. It was a holiday fixture in English homes long before it was supplanted by its German counterpart, the Christmas tree.

The construction of the bush is a memento of the practice of human sacrifice practiced by the Celts before the coming of Christianity. In this rough and rugged time, large cages of "withies" (the old English word for willow branches) were fashioned, and human victims were crowded into these cages. At midnight on the solstice eve they would be burnt as an offering to the solar deity, to furnish that god with renewed power to rejuvenate the soil. So the "Bush" is a celebration of the coming of the sun god and new life. With the introduction of Christianity the tradition was revised by the first Christian missionaries, who would cut Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe bushes using a bronze sickle and then bless the cuttings before handing them to the people who would take them home to make the bush. In the Christian era, the bush was used to celebrate the new life that had come with the birth of the baby Jesus. It's an example of the way the church used many of the old traditions, but "refurbished" them in the practice of their new faith.

Source: A.K. Hamilton Jenkin, "Cornwall and its People" Pub. 1934

HOW TO MAKE A BUSH

Use willow canes to make two hoops. Fasten these, one inside the other, to make a ball shape. Decorate the hoops with Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe (which were believed by the old ones to have magical powers since they stayed green when everything around them was dying). Wrap the holly and the ivy around the hoops. Fasten an apple inside the top, and hang the mistletoe below the hoops.



On Solstice Eve, the 20th of December, secure the bush to the ceiling near the front window of the house. Then, taking great care, fasten a red candle inside the bush and light it just before midnight. Invite fellow celebrants to form a ring and dance under "the kissing bush." Make sure you extinguish the candle before leaving the room.

has been quite a I have to say we've been particularly blessed with the arrival of the used to say, "It's so true that it's really We opened this year with a resolution to Our latest hobby is _ _. It's really a lot of fun. turns ____ this year, and My, how time flies! We hear that has moved back home at the age of Here's hoping he/she finds himself/herself without another stint Enclosed are pictures from our big trip to tried to stop for a surprise visit at _ but apparently they were not home. has been acting up a bit, but otherwise I can't complain. Our neighbor, _ _ has had trouble with _. Poor __ Here's hoping that _____ brings you wonderful things. May the blessings of the season be upon you, and happy days from all of us! Love. Family

C-SPAN

Important. Boring. But, still, important

In the day when American public schools taught "the three Rs," the study of government and politics was known as "Civics," and it was deemed important for the young people who would one day vote and govern our country.

In today's schools, history, geography and civics are less taught; they've given way to math, science, and career preparatory subjects. So, when young Americans are quizzed about their nation, how it came to be and how it works, many students come up short of knowledge. Adults aren't doing too well in this area, either.

Study after study shows weakness in our national grasp of what we once called Civics.

But there's an outstanding resource out there, in almost every American home. Its quality is consistently high, and it's free! It's C-Span (officially, the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network), a cable television network dedicated to non-stop coverage of government proceedings and public affairs programming.

All programs on the three C-SPAN's are unedited, uncensored and commercial free, with few voice-over announcements. The main C-Span channel features live coverage of the House of Representatives. C-Span2 covers the Senate, and airs the many hours of Book TV on weekends. And C-Span3 covers other live events and broadcasts archived historical programming.

The television service is augmented with video programming from the online service of C-Span.org, which offers stories and streamed video clips of public events, forums, and historic materials. The C-Span website also offers a good program guide.

The birth of C-span is an interesting story. Brian Lamb, the network's chairman, conceived the idea while working at a broadcasting industry magazine. Noting the decline of public affairs programming during 1970's, the rise of the entertainment shows, and aware that the news organizations were all cutting back on coverage of political and governmental topics, Lamb used guilt and guile to force the major television networks to fund a low-cost, modest viewer service that would do what the big boys refused to do – beam "civics" into American homes.

Launched with \$25,000 in 1979, C-Span, and Brian Lamb, are still on the air. And today, C-span receives no government funding, and sells no advertising. It strives for neutrality and a lack of bias in its public affairs programming.

Poor C-Span! Without all the big "sponsor's dollars," the impoverished network can only send its cameras to an event—a speech, forum, book talk, or the House and Senate—where the technician just turns on the camera and lets it run. That means the final broadcast just documents the event, without narration, punditry, background music or computer graphics.

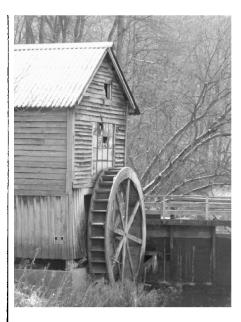
So, if you are a bit weary of TV's overproduced news and politics. and its theatrics, shouting, finger-wagging and posturing, but you're still hungry for information about the way your country works, you might give C-Span a try.

At first, it may seem boring, because it doesn't look like the kind of television news coverage we expect – it just looks they way an event looks when you're actually there.

And you may stumble over an intelligent three-hour discussion, taped back in 1988, and find yourself surprisingly fascinated.

If you are curious now, you should be warned that watching C-Span can be very habit-forming. If you get "hooked," there's a name for you. The political junkies and the involved citizens who make up a growing cult of viewers often refer to themselves as "Spanners" or "Spanheads."





IOWA COUNTY GOES "ECO"

News from Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin

At its October meeting, the Iowa County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution declaring that Iowa County is now an Eco-County. With that action, the county joins a number of other counties and municipalities throughout the state that have endorsed the sustainable principles of The Natural Step.

The Natural Step is an international notfor-profit organization dedicated to research, education and advisory work using proven, scientific models to help organizations make solid and sustainable decisions. Since 1989, Natural Step has worked with thousands of corporations, municipalities, schools and other organizations to prove that moving strategically toward sustainability leads to new opportunities, reduced costs, and dramatically reduced ecological and social impacts.

The Iowa County resolution states, "Iowa County acknowledges that a clean and healthy environment determines the quality of life, where the environment can support and sustain the community, and where citizens are committed to local and regional cooperation and a personal philosophy of stewardship."

In the coming months, members of the group "Sustain Iowa County" will be working closely with County Administrator Randy Terronez to help implement creative ways to foster sensible and sustainable practices in local governments, businesses and homes.

To learn more about this effort or to get involved, contact Shirley Barnes at grassroots@merr.com or call 608.623.2109.

DOUGHT I STILL SO TO THE

All four Dodgeville public schools are undertaking a new two-year project to assure that Dodgeville school facilities are environmentally safe and healthy. Staff, students and community members are all part of the team, which is headed by Dodgeville teachers Chuck Tennessen and Karri Roh-Wasley. Students will gain "real life" learning experiences as they help with both assessment and implementation parts of this effort.

The statewide "Green and Healthy Schools" project is a joint project of the Dept. of Natural Resources and the Department of Public Instruction

To learn more, contact Chuck Tennessen at twotens@yousq.net or call 608.987.3835.



FROM OUR 'SIGNS OF THE TIMES" DEPT.

The news headlines that spoke of 2008
Third Quarter Corporate Earnings were dismal.
Because the economy had soured.
But, two firms did well.

But, two firms did well.

Stocks of McDonalds and Tupperware soared.

A sign of things to come? Cheap fast food and leftovers?





CAUTION:

THIS RAILROAD YARD IN THE MINERAL POINT ZINC VALLEY

 \cdots IS NOT THE **REAL THING!**

Railroad Museum Rolls Out New HO gauge Model Railway

It has astonishing realism. It has the look of heavy industry, grubby buildings served by locamotives and rail cars, busy workers alongside the tracks, and a tangle of signals and wires that connect the parts of the massive complex. It looks, in short, very much like the zinc works valley of Mineral Point in 1915.

But it's an HO gauge table-top diorama, a way to make 3.5 millimeters, (0.13780 inches)

equal one foot. A team of professional Model Railroaders worked in this miniature scale, to create a wondrously detailed replica for the Mineral Point Railroad Museum. It is original, built from scratch (no kits), and with exacting model craftsmanship. It's historically valid—a vivid mix of industrial A "crowd" waits at the Depot, with their vehicles and the railway roundhouse in the background.

vistas, sounds, and lights. With just a little tiny bit of whimsey. The museum's new diorama, stretched along the length of a second-floor room in

the 1856 building, duplicates the sprawling rail yard, the roundhouse, the foundries, smelters, and other industrial elements of Mineral

Point at the height of its busy-ness. To carry tons of ore into and out of the city, two rail lines thrived in the valley in 191. The Mineral Point & Northern was owned by the local zinc factory and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, which became known as the Milwaukee Road.

With a sizable gift from a Wisconsin benefactor, the Mineral

Point Railroad Depot hired professional railway modelers from all over the nation to construct the replica rail yard surrounding the old depot building. Dave Martens, a Californian with an interest in railroading, and Dr. David Kjelland, the museum's Curator, supervised the team.

Martens and Kjelland had compiled vintage photographs and data for a book about the railway center. That produced the idea for the diorama, and the Depot board decided to place the finished model in the museum's Children's Center.

Working with hundreds of old photos, topographical studies, and maps gathered in recent years, the modelers laid down road beds and tracks, placing scale buildings, trees, miniature people and animals, cars and trucks, utilities, and a host of other items, to give the project the startling realism evident in the pictures that accompany this article. Visitors will see the city's broad zinc valley

> from bluff to bluff, with the railroad tracks running down the center. The model features the zinc works, a cattle stockyard, a lumber yard, and a good number of other structures. The historic Walker House sits on the hill, looking down on the panorama.

The photo below shows a truck loading boards at the old lumber yard on Commerce St., and the roundhouse turnabout is pictured at a site that is now the parking lot at Tony's Tap.

Local residents will enjoy refreshing their memories of the zinc works, and all the other

> buildings, as they view the rail museum's lifelike work

A single HO gauge train chugs along on a network of spur tracks, and the lively sounds of railroading are reproduced in this model, operated by a hidden computer.

The new display opened for public viewing in

late November, and should be a headliner in December, when the museum is open from Noon to 4:00 p.m., Sat. and Sun. In May, when the depot opens after its winter hibernation, the hours are Thurs., Fri., Sat., 10:00 to 4:00, and Sunday from Noon to 4:00 p.m.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: The story of the "resurrection" of the "doomed" Railroad Depot





Close up view at the Lumber Yard

There's nothing really new about rough and tumble treatment for office-seekers. In 1828, while log huts were being knocked together in the young town of Mineral Point, Andrew Jackson was running for President. His campaign was marred by vicious public attacks on his previously married wife, Rachel, labeled a bigamist and adulteress.

And, sadly, her heart couldn't handle the stress. He won. But she lost. She was dead three months before the inaugural.

ONE WOMAN'S VERY PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF A FOOD CHALLENGE

YOU JUST CAN'T **GET MORE LOCAL** THAN THIS

BY KARI SPELIZ C

Last summer Mark and I started "eating local." We made it a point to buy all our vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs and dairy products as close to our home as possible. This was not hard to do in Mineral Point. We had been members of a vegetable CSA, Middlebury Hills in Barneveld, for a couple of summers, and had been part of a Spring CSA with Greenspirit Farm. We also went to the Farmers Market in Mineral Point whenever we were home on the weekends, and we tended a small garden of vegetables in our side yard. We also tried to limit purchasing prepackaged, processed food. As the summer ended and winter came upon us, we were very conscious of our food purchases. For Mark, buying local food-meat, eggs and dairy-was not difficult; but, as a vegetarian, winter became a challenge for me. So we had to go to the grocery store for other food items.

By using both CSAs, we had been able to eat pretty locally for seven months-not bad huh? It felt so good and tasted so great to be eating local food.

And changing the way I ate led to a change in careers for me! About the same time we started eating locally last summer, I started to get burned out at my corporate job, a highstress, fast-paced job in commercial interior design. You may be thinking, "how could picking out fabrics and paint be stressful?"

But that is not <u>really</u> what the business was centered on. It was all about laying out interior spaces and selling office furniture. And, as anyone who has worked in sales knows, it's not about what you are selling, just that you sell as much as you can as fast as you can.

As last winter approached, Mark kept telling me to think about changing jobs, even changing careers. At first I was hung up on money-trying to think of something where I would earn the same salary. When I couldn't come up with anything, I got very depressed. I felt like I was stuck. Then we started doing the math, and we realized that by tightening our belts and giving up a few things, I could look at a broader range of job options.

So, what did I want to do? What could I do that would make a difference, and put a smile on my face every day? (I wasn't smiling much by that point)

One day my co-workers and I were sitting and talking about what we were really passionate about in our lives (besides our Significant Others of course). I listed walking, reading, cooking and growing vegetables. Of all those, I said, I could enjoy spending hours cooking and gardening. After this discussion, the thoughts lingered in my head. I realized that anytime I got stressed out and started thinking about what else I could do cooking and gardening always came to mind.

After an extremely bad week at work, I wondered what it would be like to work for a CSA. Mark had mentioned earlier that Chris Klaeser and Camela Decaire at Middlebury Hills were going to hire this year. When I brought this up, Mark said they had already found a couple who would be wokrking for them. I felt like I had been punched in the stomach—here I thought I had come up with a great idea, and it was not to be. Mark said he would check the following day, just to make sure. I was sitting in my 'cube' at my previous job when he called. "The deal with the couple fell through," he told me, "and I mentioned to Camela that you would be interested in working for them, and she was really excited!" I felt like I had won the lottery.

I couldn't believe this was a real possibility! That weekend we went over to their farm and discussed my working for them. They hired me, and I gave my notice on Monday. Most people reading this do not know me, so they cannot understand how uncharacteristically impulsive this was for me. However, after I finished giving my notice to three separate supervisors, a sense of relief flooded over me. I knew I had made the right decision and this

was the opportunity that I had been looking for. So, you can't get more local than this. I now work for my CSA, and I receive a free share along with my paycheck. My boss Chris tells me to "Go Grocery Shopping" when we have an abundance of certain veggies. This summer I have enjoyed so many vegetables, and my cooking skills have expanded as I have tried to find new and creative ways to use all of them. Unfortunately, I haven't purchased many vegetables from the Farmers Market (sorry Rink and Jennie), but Mark has continued to buy meat, eggs, cheese, and bread from there this summer. I have also had a garden this summer, but have to admit I have not been real excited about it after working out in the fields all day!

So I can say that eating locally has completely changed my life in the most wonderful way. Because we started eating locally and supporting local merchants as much as possible, I was able to expand my way of thinking about how we lived. I was able to reflect on what was really important in our lives, and I was able to make the needed changes. I go to work each day happy to be doing so. I get to work outside with two human coworkers and five animal coworkers (two dogs and three cats plus a dozen chickens or so-and I love animals). Everyday I get to see Calvin, Chris and Camela's one year old son. I start my day out with a hug from him. This is a huge change from starting out my days by receiving phone calls from clients thinking the world would end if they did not receive their desk on time.

Now I go home each night physically exhausted, not mentally exhausted. I happily tell Mark what I do each day, instead of complaining about clients and projects. I also put a healthy, locally produced meal on the table-a meal I helped grow and harvest. So when asked by anyone if I ever regret my decision, I say without hesitation "Never!"

With this issue of the Times, Mineral Point resident KARI SPELTZ joins her historianhusband Mark Speltz as a Contributing Writer



"With a Little Help from a Friend"

In 1964, singer-songwriter Paul Simon and his friend Art Garfunkel recorded a folk album, "Wednesday Morning, 3 A.M." It was a flop, and Simon, then 23, moved back in with his parents.

Without telling Simon and Garfunkel about it, a record producer added electric guitar, bass, and drums to one of the album's cuts. and he released it as a single. "The Sound of Silence" went to No. 1 on the pop charts.





Hoover, Hype, and History

The Editor's Essay, by Frank Beaman



"Herbert Hoover," I say.

And you say, "Yeah, the guy who stuck us with the Great Depression!" "Well, history tells us. . ."

And you say, "Naw, Hoover handed us Black Friday, the day the Market crashed, then the Great Depression was under way."

And I say, "Well, actually. . ."

"And if FDR hadn't ended the Depression in his first hundred days..." you say. "But actually it was 1941 and the War that ended it," says I.

This imaginary conversation was created to set the scene for an essay on the importance of historic context, the necessity for a more complete understanding of the many forces that create our popular history, and the misunderstanding produced by placing imprecise labels on public figures in a era of spin, sound bites and bumper stickers.

A closer look at Herbert Hoover and the Great Depression may also provide historic links to current economic turmoil, new leadership, and the real likelihood of "hard times."

The Great Depression is one of the most misunderstood events in American

The Great Depression is one of the most misunderstood events in American history. The generally-accepted view is that Hoover did little to avoid it, and that Franklin Delano Roosevelt took office in 1933 and promptly brought us out of it.

Barack Obama, his place in history already assured, takes the oath of office in a few days. Like Hoover, he faces a severe economic crisis. He may emerge as "the New Hoover," whose inaction and mistakes fed the nation's misery. Or, powered by hopeful oratory and aggressive legislation, Mr. Obama may win the title "the New FDR."

The parallels between 1928 and 2008 are stunning, real, and instructive. Let's look back.

What caused the Great Depression? The wisdom of the day says it shouldn't have happened.

The Federal Reserve Board had been established in 1913 to prevent the kind of economic collapses that had caused earlier national depressions. However, some of the Fed's actions actually created some of the problems that led to the Stock market crash.

In the late 1920's, government intervention in the economy was higher than it had ever been. The nation's big banks wanted government protection and bailouts, and the banks were willing to endure a little government regulation in return. The Fed was staffed with people from the industry it was supposed to watch over, who most likely felt that "what's good for banks is good for America." So, during the post—World War I boom times, the Fed cut interest rates and pushed the money supply up by 60%. "Buying on margin" entered the American vocabulary, as "the privileged few" over—extended themselves to take advantage of the soaring stock market.

In 1929 the Fed realized that it could not sustain its policies, but when the agency started to raise interest rates, the whole house of economic cards collapsed. Wall Street crashed and the bank panics began.

But did the Great Depression really begin on Black Friday? No. Only 2% of all Americans owned stock; so, at the time, that single bleak October day in the Stock Market was

considered rather trivial – it had little real impact on the population. (Just two months later, the New York Times didn't even list the Crash in its roundup of "Major Events of 1929").

The headlines in the Twenties were mostly about the punishments dealt by Nature. The flooding in the Gulf states and the immense Dust Bowl had devastated regional economies. The nation's farms were mired in an agricultural recession that began far earlier than the Market's collapse. Millions of rural Americans were living 19th Century lives of backbreaking poverty.

The economic impact of World War I lingered on in the 1920's doing economic damage. But, primarily, it was poverty that led to more severe poverty. New machines boosted industrial productivity by 32% in the '20's, but wages went up only 10%. Corporate profits, however, soared by 62% during the decade, so the wealthiest 5% of the population prospered. But most Americans had to be frugal with income of less than \$1,500 per year. Consumer spending slowed, and mature industries, such as housing and autos, had been "bought up." (It was simply impossible to sell any more products to people who couldn't afford them.) We seemed to have forgotten that mass consumption – the key to capitalism – functions well only if income distribution allows consumers to buy the goods coming off the production lines.

These are the circumstances that confronted Herbert Hoover in 1930, the second year of his term, and it's why some historians now say his four years were doomed from the start.

It's not that Hoover was a do-nothing president; it's that he intervened in the wrong way. He swung into action when he took office in 1928, but many of the acts passed by Congress and signed by Hoover were of the worst kind, raising taxes and tariffs, which had the effect of raising prices or keeping them artificially high when they should have been dropping.

Ironically, Roosevelt, the president who implemented so many massive government programs with his New Deal, campaigned on the platform, "a balanced budget and economic non-intervention." So what did he do upon getting into office? He expanded on Hoover's earlier strategies, and thus continued to exacerbate the depression. But he also generated a whirlwind of congressional action and public works programs that forged his place in presidential history.

The Depression actually began in 1925, and lasted until the U.S. went to war in 1941. Federal spending skyrocketed as the country geared up for war, and that huge boost to the economy seems to have brought the depression to an end.

If he had been elected in 1920, Hoover might have been considered one of our Great Presidents, a "boy wonder," our best qualified problem—solver. Born in an Iowa cottage, educated in mining and geology at Stanford, Hoover improved everything he touched, as an engineer, humanitarian, and as a reformer and visionary who spoke of "an end to poverty" in 1928.

A self-taught historian, he wrote forty books. There was never a hint of scandal, and he never took a salary. After he left the White House, he gave his country fifty years of brilliant post-presidential initiatives, some of which still bear his name.

Hoover took office as the most-admired man in the U.S., and left with lines of Americans shouting, "We want bread." And his limited public relations skills allowed the Democrats, his own G.O.P., and the popular press to hang him

out to dry, as "the father of the Great Depression."

Barack Obama, a man who reads history, knows the risks of a troubled presidency in an Age of Hyperbole. He knows that Hoover was an early victim of the advertising and promotion industry, which placed him on a pedestal as a "miracle worker" before toppling the pedestal to made him the scapegoat of our national disgrace.

Mr. Obama's year, 2008, is an election year in which hype drove history. The news was often shaped by panels of pundits and bands of bloggers, cynics who exaggerated the campaign's gossip and floated the Slogans du Jour. Serious, thoughtful and reflective observation was not much seen or heard in the daily headlines.

But Mr. Obama's campaign operated in a place hovering somehow above the mass media thunderstorms, in a cooler, more cerebral place. He spoke of hope and of change, as did his opponent, but he seemed to speak with an awareness that his tasks would not be easy, or short-lived. He answers excited calls for a new NewDeal with caution and a sober sense of patience, as if determined not to push the FDR comparison too far.

But the President-elect also seems to be channeling his inner FDR, repeating Roosevelt's words about "fear itself," and hinting of an activist start to his presidency. His study of history has taught him that Hoover was trapped by a decade of Progressive Republican economic policies that favored the rich and squeezed the working class, while gambling on growth through speculation in the stock market. "Change" was the watchword in the 2008

campaign because it simply <u>must</u> come. A pileup of history must be dealt with. And a new political cycle has begun. The election of Ronal Reagan in 1980 started an unraveling of Roosevelt's New Deal. There may be an effort to revive it, because many Americans now realize that deregulated business will not regulate itself, and that worshiping the gods of profit at any cost in a winner-take-all economy may end up destroying capitalism itself. Our new president may prove to be, not a "socialist," but the one who rescues capitalism from its own worst tendencies.

Can we be certain about any prediction, a rosy, hopeful outcome? Of course not.

We can learn much from the serious study of the nation's Great Depression, of Hoover and Roosevelt, and of FDR's New Deal. History invites such comparisons. But if the study of history is to be useful and productive, it should be done in an atmosphere free from the cheap and easy labels we slap on unpopular leaders. In a time of sweeping change, war, and economic peril, there is no benefit to shouted slogans, quickie solutions, or history bent to conform with a political or idealogical strategy. We will need, instead, to pursue policies that are much more somber and careful.

Hype offers no direction, no guidance. History DOES offer guidance, by showing us a map of the pathway of the past, to give us a choice of directions for the future.



