

THE TIMES OF

Mineral Point

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Opera House
UNWRAPPEDWorkmen Install Mechanicals;
Ceiling Scaffolding Removed.

GLORIOUS PAINT SCHEME REVEALED

The current phase of the Mineral Point Opera House restoration project is nearing completion, with the project on target for an April 9th Grand Opening.

The historic vaudeville theater now boasts updated heating and cooling systems, needed electrical and fire safety improvements, vintage-style seating and new aiseways, and a stunning and historically-authentic paint and plaster makeover.

Phil Mrozinski, President of the theater's governing corporation, praised the work of two Madison firms: the general contractor, Joe Daniels Construction Co., which also renovated the historic Mineral Point Railroad Depot, and Strang Architects, which came up with the design concepts. The theater's colorful decor is the work of Conrad Schmitt Studio, founded in 1889 in New Berlin, Wisc., the same theater artists who painted the Opera House when it was being completed in 1915.

The MPOH Committee has raised \$15 million of the project's \$2.2 million cost. Lauren Powers, the fund-raising Chair, credits the city government for its support, and points to a \$500,000 gift from an anonymous benefactor, a generous grant from the Jeffris Family Foundation, and vitally important individual contributions from town residents.

Fund-raising continues for the project's Second Stage, which will refurbish the old dressing rooms and replace the sound, lighting and rigging systems. Phase Three will make the outside look as grand as the inside.

The theater restoration is part of a larger reconstruction project, to update the adjoining Municipal Bldg., with its Public Library, City Hall, and Historic Archives. As planned now, the Library will gain much-needed space, expanded electronics, and comfortable reading areas. The fragile documents in the Archives will be protected with new humidity, light, and air quality safeguards. And a new elevator will be installed, to serve the three tall floors of City Hall.

The Library Committee reports a Nov. 1 total of \$1.1 million raised in the current fundraising campaign. Their goal is 50% of the project's \$5 million dollar estimated cost.

There's a welcome sense of cooperation between the Library and Opera House teams, as they continue their quest for the dollars needed to make the city's historic building fit for use in the 21st Century.



Sanity is under siege. After a decade scarred by polarized, partisan social and political warfare, we enter a new decade that seems doomed to more of the same angry divisions and nasty diversions.

This is the Age of Versus. Conservatives vs. Liberals; Elephant vs. Donkey; Tree-Hugger vs. TeaBagger. Greed versus Glut.

It seems like any show of unity, any evidence of cooperation, is now so unusual it makes big news headlines. And then the headlines run on—you guessed it—FoxNews versus MSNBC.

How, when, and why did so many of us forget, "when winning or losing is all there is to the contest, everyone loses."

Grandma told us so, right? In this issue, our back page explores the many vital lessons learned at Grandma's knee.

Elsewhere, we pay tribute to the area's beef farmers—not what you'd call "cattle barons," to be sure, but more like good neighbors with a strong sense of place,

who share the excitement when their kids win a ribbon at the Iowa County Fair.

We also report on the Driftless Food Initiative, and its great promise for small-scale, sensible local agriculture.

Here in the rolling hills of the Driftless Area, we're pretty far from all the noise, finger pointing, and slanderous slogans. We tend to look for plain answers; and, being people of the land, we are interested mainly in what works. We believe in our families, in daily milking chores, and in running our small business well. We DO know something about battles—we've taken on the big box store and the other big dairy state, the one on the west coast.

But we are too busy for "versus."

We're busy, working to make a decent living, and we realize the value of what we already have—the "Four A's" on our report card: agriculture, architecture, art, and ambience—the wondrous resources that make Mineral Point so unique.

THE PHOTO: The Hyde Mill on Mill Creek, created in 1850.
With the passing of the colorful Ted Sawle, the acreage is on the market.



FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE



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Hodan Center's
Innovative KitchenSTATE-CERTIFIED COOKER
LIKELY THE
LARGEST IN THE MIDWEST

The Hodan Innovative Kitchen is scheduled to begin operations in early 2010, and its launch is big news for the Mineral Point community, for the Center's ongoing programs to aid people with disabilities, and for local food growers who will be able to use the new kitchen to turn out new products.

When completed, the existing building alongside Bus. Rte. 151—once a fast-food hamburger joint—will open as a retail food store, and the 7000 square foot kitchen addition behind the store will boast a huge walk-in cooler and modern food-preparation equipment. The Hodan Center will process and sell its extensive line of Papa Pat's® food products on weekdays, but during nights and weekends the kitchen will be a public access facility, open on a rental basis to people who are starting and growing their own food business.



Entrepreneurs could use the kitchen to perfect their product at an affordable price, then use the kitchen for a low-budget "shake-down cruise" and finally begin full production in a "professional, state-certified facility," which will allow growers to legally sell their products in food stores, restaurants and gift shops.

Food Services Manager Annette Pierce will offer advice, training and other Hodan services such as labeling and packaging. Start-ups can also get help drafting a business plan. And a culinary school is planned.

The Hodan Innovative Kitchen was built with a \$750,000 Wisc. Dept. of Commerce grant. A campaign is now under way to fund the purchase of major appliances and other necessities.

Tom Schraeder, Hodan's Executive Director, said, "Our Innovative Kitchen will be well-used, truly a community asset that will mean new jobs for our disabled client-employee work force and new opportunities for entrepreneurs."

For More on Exciting New Initiatives
in the World of Local Food, read page 3.

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IN THE INTERESTS OF COMMUNITY
EDUCATION AND THE FURTHERANCE
OF HISTORIC UNDERSTANDING

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

Some of our costs are satisfied
through the generosity
of our readers.

For which we say "thanks!"

Frank & Sandee Beaman



Comments, Queries, Contributions?

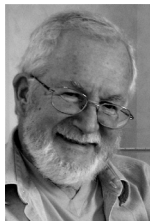
Wet the nib and write

Frank Beaman, Editor,

The Times of Mineral Point,

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Mineral Point, Wisconsin 53565



Notes on the News

by Frank Beaman

The most tragic thing about contemporary journalism is that it actually matters very little. Tragic, because true democracy demands quality journalism. And because good journalism could change the world.

"Changing the world?" Ah yes, that was the reason I went to work in journalism in 1961. As a young English Major, equipped only with a love of our language and a burning curiosity about the world around me, I thought I could play a role in the dynamics of the time by simply describing the action. Kennedy was in the White House; giants enlivened Congress; we had a Space Race, a Cold War, and a hot Civil Rights struggle.

The credo in my small-town radio newsroom was plain and simple: "the journalist's job is to gather, weigh, organize, analyze and present information people need to know in order to make sense of the world." I was taught that if I was to earn a place in the profession—journalism was considered a profession then—I would need to honor my obligation to my news sources, colleagues, bosses, and my audience: "to sift and sort with patience and fairness through the day's events in order to present the most honest approximation of the truth." That duty did

not change when I left my small town for the streets of Chicago in the teargas and turmoil days of the Sixties.

That was then.

I have watched and listened with sadness and anger as old-style journalism has been pulverized into something called "content"—into News Lite, a product that is slick, streamlined and simple-minded. In today's news business, the new obligation, it seems, is to boost the customer base so as to improve the corporate bottom line, without regard to the quality of public discourse or the quest for elusive truth.

News that is presented as "info-snippets" does not connect the needed dots to show the audience the pathway to genuine understanding of current events.

Good journalists—and yes, there are world-class journalists out there—are forced to work for the big media corporation's bottom line, which means they often must abandon the kind of reporting that is too complex or challenging, the only kind of reporting that can provide a true measure of the world's untidy realities.

Across the nation, commercial/corporate radio, television and newspaper operations are cutting jobs. Foreign news bureaus are shutting down. The giant media conglomerates gobble each other, and radio stations and small-town dailies are bought and sold like hog futures. Print journalism, which in recent years produced a thirty percent profit for newspaper stockholders, is pronounced "all-but-dead." The shouting ideologues are

multiplying on cable news outlets and talk radio, chiefly because their shows are cheap to produce. Meanwhile, young people turn to Facebook, U Tube, Jon Stewart, Colbert and David Letterman (perhaps because late-night humorists ask questions and make points the mainstream media can't or won't).

A generation of profit seeking has led to a scarcity of real news, to a daily diet of noisy triviality in once-reliable news presentations, and, for most of us, to a growing sense of decline, of rot, of loss. The business of news does not play well with the craft of journalism.

About a year ago, the Associated Press conducted a study of news consumption that showed many Americans suffer from "news fatigue"; that is, they are debilitated by information overload but unsatisfied by their news experiences. The more overwhelmed they are, the less effort they are willing to put into the search for real meaning and insight from the shabby news coverage they receive.

So, as Wiley Miller's (above) cartoon

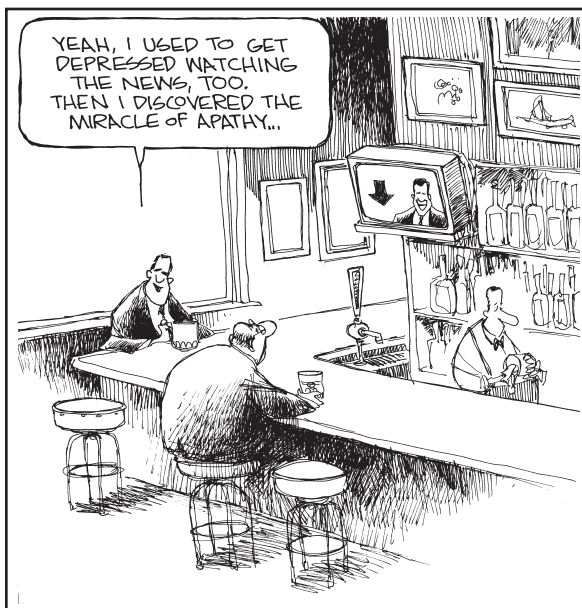
suggests, a growing sense of helplessness and rage has driven a news-hungry public to the "off" switch, to "the miracle of apathy."

Apathy is not a good answer to any problem that badly needs solving. Journalism needs to reinvent itself, and all of us can help. As members of the news audience, and consumers of news, we need to become much more active in the grass-roots media reform movement that is now getting underway. We need to write letters to the networks and local stations to tell them we will no longer watch newscasts that enter-

tain us but do not explain anything. We need to paper the newsroom with memos about sloppy work. We need to personally contact reporters who fail to tell the full story, or twist it around their own opinion. We need to use Letters to the Editor to combat the widespread misinformation and outright lies told by those who are quoted in newspaper columns. We need to send misguided email warriors to the appropriate websites to check their "facts." And when a journalist does a good job, we need to loudly applaud.

But, you ask, what about the hour-by-hour quest for news you can use? Well, here are a few ideas, habits that work for me, although I don't presume they are ironclad rules for newsgathering:

1. Read a good newspaper every day, on line or in hand. Here's an option: just skip over, just ignore, the crime, fire, crash, and celebrity news, the "one-day" stuff that can only



Non Sequitur (c) 2009 Wiley Miller. Reprinted by permission of Universal Press Syndicate.

make you believe the world is out of control. Concentrate on longer, more important fare.

2. Find a radio station that gives a good portion of its entertainment minutes to "hard news" reporting, not just headlines on the hour. Keep the station playing in the background all day, as your source for breaking events and a sense of "what's going on."

3. Switch away from yesterday's old standbys—the network newscasts and the local half hour of glitz, giggles and glamor. Chances are, they're only a daily habit that has become a waste of time. Find a television outlet that reports a world view and gives viewers a longer experience with its stories and interviews. Since most of us get our daily information from TV, we must do research to choose our newscast as carefully as we would our new car.

4. To bring a little balance to your news experience, shun the talk shows, which have a lot of heat but no light. A noisy airing of half-baked opinion may look a little like news, and sound a lot like news, but it's not news. And the presentation of two extreme viewpoints does not really leave the audience at a philosophical midpoint between opposing sides of the debate, as the talkmeisters claim. Actually, audience members are drawn to one of the extremes, the viewpoint that most closely reinforces beliefs they already hold.

5. If electronic journalism doesn't do its job—and right now it is NOT—you will be forced to find most of your news in non-electronic places. I think the very best places for intelligent news coverage are magazines. So I suggest you read news magazines, not the weeklies but serious journals that sample a wide spectrum of opinion and a variety of views drawn from both domestic and foreign news locations. Also, read heavier analysis in magazines that devote space to longer articles.

6. Read books. Read non-fiction books.

7. Finally, remember that news is just a commodity, a product aimed at news consumers. And, thus, you can allow as much of it, or as little, as you want in your life.

Am I really saying, "Just turn it off?"

No, quite the contrary. I am urging you to work to establish habits that are sane and sensible, to move your eyes, ears and mind beyond the media's prevailing entertainment and propaganda, even if that means throwing out your old viewing and reading habits. I am saying you should not be lured into the media's "sorta-news" realms, but should instead pick news sources that will broaden your knowledge of current affairs, sources that rise above today's trivia and troubles, above all the prevailing entertainment and propaganda.

In the interests of healthy public discussion, good journalists work hard to get the facts right, to report as close as possible to verifiable truth, without favoring one side. But because so many journalists are now pretty-but-petty, it is YOU who gets stuck with all the work of sorting and sifting for the Truth. And, to be sure, it is hard work. But what's at stake is of critical importance: it's the information we need to know to protect and preserve our freedoms.



In Cumberland, Maryland, a local police reporter had so many duties piled upon him that he no longer had time to go to the Police Station for his daily reports. Management came up with a solution: put a FAX machine in the police station and let the cops send over the news they thought the paper should print. So, just imagine:

Q: "Any police brutality today?"

A: "Nope. If there is some later, we'll FAX a report of it over to you."

Source: Leaving Readers Behind: The Age of Corporate Newspapering, published as part of the Project on the State of the American Newspaper under the auspices of the Pew Charitable Trust.

UPCOMING

ALL THE DETAILS ON PAGES 6 & 7

CANDLES ON GALLERY NIGHT

The traditional Candlelight Gallery Walk begins as sundown on Dec. 5th, as High Street glistens with the light of curbside luminaria, and local artists welcome the city's visitors to their studios and galleries with refreshments and fresh conversation. It's a holiday celebration, and an opportunity to find a work of local art. Don't miss it!

ST. NICK COMES TO TOWN

Have breakfast with Santa Claus at the Red Rooster Cafe on Dec. 6th. And on Dec. 12th, take the kids to Shake Rag Alley for Santa's crafty Workshops, plus a photo with the jolly old boy at the Cabinet Shop, from 10 to 3 p.m.

HOLIDAY MUSIC

The Mineral Point Madrigal is sung at 5:30 on Dec. 3rd, with a repeat performance with the Children's Madrigal at 3:30 on Sunday, Dec. 6th. And enjoy a Traditional Anglican Festival of Lessons and Carols, given at Trinity Episcopal Church at 4:30 on Dec. 13th.

"SANTALAND DIARIES"

On December 3, 4, 5, & 6, Alley Stage will present local funster Sam Murn in a contemporary Christmas tale, SANTALAND DIARIES by National Public Radio's David Sedaris. The production, directed by Heather Murn, will be staged in the Cabinet Shop at historic Shake Rag Alley.

VALENTINE "BITES"

On February 12, 13, & 14, Alley Stage will again present "Love Bites II," five original stories of amorous adventure by our favorite regional authors. Staged in the parlor at Orchard Lawn, it's a benefit for the Mineral Point Historical Society. Special dining and lodging packages will be offered through the Mineral Point Chamber's website and the Alley Stage website, click on www.alleystage.com. Tickets: Go online, or by phone 800-838-3006, or Shake Rag Alley 608-987-3292.

BRAIN GAMES IV

Get your team members together, and sign up at the Chamber for the city's favorite contest for smarty-pants. Feb. 28 at the Quality Inn.

Opera House Profiled in Theatre Roundup

The 1915 Mineral Point Opera House is featured as one of the state's most significant vintage theaters in Encore! The Renaissance of Wisconsin Opera Houses, a new publication of the Wisc. Historical Society Press.

Encore! was written by Brian Leahy Doyle, a Shullsburg native, UW-Platteville graduate, now a theater director and free-lance writer in New York. He signed his book and greeted Pointers at Foundry Books in October.

The handsomely-illustrated book focuses on the colorful history of ten of the state's old theaters constructed during the 19th century and subsequent vaudeville period.

Encore! The Renaissance of Wisconsin Opera Houses, by Brian Leahy Doyle
Wisc. Historical Society Press, 2009



Historical Society Slates Local History Lyceum Series

The Mineral Point Historical Society's crowd-pleasing winter lecture series begins in January, moving the podium to the Old Royal Inn, and promising three informative and entertaining discussions.

On Jan. 24, "Prairies and Grasslands of Southwest Wisconsin" will be presented by Katie Abbott, project coordinator for the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area (MRPHA). Her slideshow will illustrate the tall grass prairies the early settlers encountered as they trekked into the Midwest, and the stretches of prairie that still exist. MRPHA provides management services for more than 1,000 acres of grasslands, and protects 2,500 acres from urban development.

The January lyceum is held in conjunction with the historical society's annual meeting.

On Feb. 21, two grandsons of a Wisconsin barrelmaker will speak of the lost craft of the cooper, and will explain how the Hess white oak kegs were built and maintained. Gary and Jim Hess will give the audience photographic views of the Frank J. Hess & Sons Cooperage factory, which operated in Madison from 1904 to 1966. Several historic breweries stood in Mineral Point, including the state's first commercial beer brewery, built in 1835 by John Phillips of Cornwall.

The March 21 Lyceum will be the 2010 installment of the popular "Mineral Pointers Remember" series. The topic will be "Beef Farming" and will feature a panel of long-time cattle producers from the area, who will recount their family's farm stories as well as their view of the economic significance of beef farming in local agriculture.

The three lectures will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Old Royal Inn, 148 High St.

For more information about the MPHS Lyceums, visit the Society's website, www.mineralpointhistory.org



A Gift Idea

If you're looking for the perfect holiday gift for someone who is interested in local history, here's a good tip: give a vintage photo!

The Mineral Point Historical Society has acquired a large-format digital printer, which allows the reproduction of views of the city from the landmark MPHS photo collection.

Black/white images, printed with (stable and non-fading) archival paper and inks, can be produced in 13" X 19" size, and can be framed with or without matting. It can be a striking feature on the wall of a home or office!

For a peek at some of the photo possibilities, visit the MP Chamber on High St., where several large photos are hanging.

MPHS volunteers will help you find a specific historic view, or you can browse 150 images from the collection on the MPHS website. When selected, simply note the "GPNC" number, and send a check for \$35 to the Society at P.O. Box 188.

Information at
www.mineralpointhistory.org



Shake Rag Alley School of the Arts Marks Five Years

The celebration came in October, and it was a relatively quiet, almost pensive, time for reflection on the many accomplishments of the Shake Rag Center.

In the past five years, the organizer's dreams have become concrete plans, the ideas have become events, and the learning experiences have become "musts" for thousands of visitors from all over the United States.

Shake Rag Alley has been host to more than 1,200 arts and crafts classes, drawing some 8,000 registrations—that amounts to about 3,000 individual students—and the nation's economic troubles seemed to sharpen student interest in the Shake Rag workshops. "We think financial hardship made people think about personal creativity, about going back to the basics, and that's what we teach," said the center's co-founders Sandy Scott and Judy Sutcliffe.

The founders, staff, an active board of directors, and dozens of volunteers have dealt with a number of issues in the past five years. The non-profit organization scraped funds together to pave, re-roof, paint, dig, plant, and maintain the property's nine historic buildings. And a corps of volunteers reworked and improved Alley Stage, the theater built in an old quarry, to stage impressive original dramas under the stars.

All of this on a shoe-string budget. Shake Rag School has proved to be an economic engine for the city, the central reason mid-westerners drive to Mineral Point and spend their dollars on food, lodging and shopping.

The children's summer program was a treat for 280 of the area's youngsters, and this year's Country Garden Tours weekend brought many gardeners to Mineral Point.

Shake Rag Alley is a folk school, but so much more. Its special workshops on writing, stage and screen, and women's fellowship have launched careers—and changed a few of them.

Those who have spent a few hours in the green haven called Shake Rag Alley leave as changed beings. They've learned some new craft, perhaps. But they've also learned something as old as knowledge itself—they have learned the thrill of creating something with their mind and their own hands.

COMING UP, AT SHAKE RAG ALLEY

February 26 -28 Women's Winter Retreat
February 27 Bent Willow Small Stool
March 6 Silk Screened Note cards
March 6 Facebook for Personal use
March 13-14 Accordion Book Mixed Media
March 13 Wild Painted Furniture
March 13 "Photographing your Art"
March 14 Photoshop Elements, Intermed.
March 20 - 21 Use a Graphite Pencil
March 20 Facebook for Business
April 9 - 11 Hands-on Art History
April 10-11 Bent Willow Chair
April 10 Digital Photography 101
April 16 - 18 "3 Days Writing Like Crazy"
April 17 Salish Loom • Batik Dyeing
April 18 Art Scarves: Felt w/ Wool & Silk
April 18 Explore Your Mosaic Style
April 23 Paper Bangle Bracelets
April 24 Hammered Wire Jewelry
April 24 Felted Beads and Accessories
April 24 - 25 Figurative Painting
April 25 Chain Maille Earrings
April 25 Memory Wire Bracelet
April 25 PMC Charms
and April 27-28 "GARDEN GETAWAY"

Driftless Foods

A 3-PHASE FARM INITIATIVE

Using the Lead Region's Rich Resources for "The Art of the Possible"

The "Locavore Movement," the world of growing and eating local food, is an idea whose time has come. The increasing demand for locally grown and locally processed food-stuffs often outstrips the supply, providing a bright spot in a dark 2009 national economy.

As we begin a new year, a major local food initiative is now being pieced together in Iowa County; and, although the project isn't attracting much attention, the concept carries huge promise: satisfaction for food consumers, profit for individual entrepreneurs, and significant growth in the local farm economy.

The plans shun large-scale "factory farming" in favor of a more sustainable model for smaller-scale agriculture, which utilizes smart business practices designed to produce steady, long-term growth.

The three-phase food initiative would put as much as \$25 million into several local food facilities. Current plans call for development of entrepreneurial-style food businesses, which include: an individual quick frozen (IQF) vegetable processing plant; centers to process local poultry, goats and sheep; hydroponic food production; and a regional pet-food line.

The business model for the county-wide project is being drawn by Rick Terrien, the director of the Iowa County Area Economic Development Corp., and Mark Olson of Renaissance Farm near Spring Green, who turns the fresh herbs he grows on three acres into seven product lines he markets nationally.

Terrien says a coordinated, county-wide food initiative is a better economic development strategy for Wisconsin's rural counties than "chasing smokestacks" and trying to attract big companies. "We want to turn Iowa County into a 763-square-mile (business) incubator," he said.

From a producer's point of view, the concept will allow the grower to take raw agricultural products to a nearby facility and have them processed on a scale that is economical, which allows the producer to compete in a larger market. Terrien suggests that innovative Iowa County agricultural enterprises could serve a population of about 35 million people, living within a regional market area.

In recent months, the Driftless Foods advocates have worked to establish an IQF vegetable processing plant in Highland, designed to run at a freezing rate of 2,000 pounds per hour. The output of such a plant would help with a problem: as much as half of the state's harvested produce is wasted because of bruises, or early frost, and is thus "not perfect." Damaged produce, however, can be used in a quick-freezing facility, to make salsa and other products. Over a single growing season, some 385 acres of vegetable production would flow through the plant, providing 1.5 million pounds of IQF finished product. The new IQF facility is essential to developing other parts of the plan.

Seen initially as a three-year project, the current project plans call for construction of a total of six centers, all of them stand-alone businesses, but inter-dependent, as "an appropriately-scaled, self-sustaining network."

Management of these facilities would be structured as a hybrid blend of non-profit and profit-making entrepreneurial models.

It's a grand idea, still in the "What If?" stage, but the outline offers economic good sense for Iowa County because it builds upon resources the county already possesses. So the "What If?" could well become a "Can Do!"

AGRO BONANZA SEEN!

1921: A MINERAL POINT SNAPSHOT IN TIME



RAILROAD DOCUMENT REVEALS CITY'S PRIDE & PROSPERITY IN "THE ROARING TWENTIES"

The decade known as the Roaring Twenties did not begin with a roar. In 1921, Warren G. Harding greeted a few visitors on the White House porch and promised them "a return to normalcy." That must have been music to the ears of Americans shaken by the high cost of World War I, a deadly race riot in Tulsa, and the passage of the Volstead Act prohibiting the sale of alcohol. But those events, as well as a year of economic hardship caused by tightening the swollen war budget, were pushed aside as the U.S. entered the 1921-1929 period now known as the Era of Prosperity.

In Mineral Point, the decade looked promising, according to eight green-shaded pages from a small City Directory published by the railroads that then served the city. This rare artifact was donated to the Mineral Point Railroad Museum by Larry and Sue Bunce. With the permission of the museum, we reproduce some of the directory's narrative —without editing or embellishment:

IOWA COUNTY BANK
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS **\$150,000.00**
Million and a Half Resources
Member of the Federal Reserve Bank
We Make Abstracts to Titles of Lands in Iowa County
BANKING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
NO ACCOUNT TOO SMALL

—1921—
POCKET DIRECTORY
—OF—
MINERAL POINT

Wisconsin
COMPLIMENTS OF BUSINESS FIRMS ADVERTISED HEREIN

The Bank That Backs the Farmer and the Home Business Man
Farmers and Citizens Bank
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$52,000.00
A General Banking Business
TO Save Is To Have
One Dollar Starts a Savings Account

(This page, the front cover, and all other pages, carry advertisements at the top and bottom of the column.)

Mineral Point was, as the small directory described it, "A Live Town In a Prosperous Community."

Its population was 3,000, an incorporated city and industrial center served well by its railways and state trunk highways 28 and 62.

THE INVENTORY OF CITY RESOURCES

"Has five churches of different denominations, two well-organized banks, a good hotel, two weekly newspapers and a splendid representative list of all other business houses where the wants of the community are well supplied.

As to industries, the city has Mineral Point Zinc Company, manufacturing ore and separating oxide of zinc and sulphuric acid; a calf feed manufacturing company, creamery, two cheese factories, two ice companies, ice cream factory, two bottling works, sorghum mill, three cigar factories, a fully-equipped machine shop, a cement block manufacturing company, an okra plant, and a farmers' shipping association.

Several zinc industries are also in close proximity."

POINTING WITH GENUINE PRIDE

"The city has all the latest improvements: 24-hour light and power service, water works, a well-equipped fire department, modern gymnasium, two city parks, two picture theaters, paved streets, cement walks, and maintains a white way.

The city has a large municipal auditorium, one cities of several times its size could well be proud, and is an auditorium, library and city hall combined. The Opera House part seats 700 people, has full electrically-equipped stage, dressing rooms, ladies' rest room, and is equipped in the latest theater designs.

The city also maintains a free camp site for tourists, and the Iowa County Fair is held here annually, and the event is always noted as a very successful attendance."

THE SCHOOLS GET GOOD MARKS

"In educational advantages the city is on a par with those several times its size, having a full accredited state high school, two public grade schools and a parochial school, all being modern and up-to-date, where children are given the benefits of a course in domestic science, manual training, science and a commercial course in addition to a high school education."

A PLACE TO START A DAIRY FARM; START AN UP & COMING BUSINESS

"Mineral Point is situated in one of the finest grazing regions of the state, the grasses and forage growing in abundance, and are of a superior variety. Livestock raising and dairying are the chief industries

and are very extensively practiced. The soil is of rich clay loam and especially adapted to the dairy business. Land is worth \$150 to \$200 per acre and is an investment worth the careful consideration of those who are looking for a prosperous place to locate.

Direct market facilities are to be had with Chicago (the world's market) and the shipment of livestock, poultry and dairy products excels those of larger cities."

"The business men are wide awake, energetic and of wide business acumen, who are ready at all times to lend assistance and can be depended upon for their cooperation. Industries will also find a hearty welcome and encouragement here."

"FOR THOSE VISITING HERE,
THEIR STAY IS ONE THEY MAY
RECALL WITH PLEASURE."

Those words, pulled directly from the text, seem to summarize the central selling point of this remarkable little promotional booklet, and constitute an invitation to tourists: to "ride the rails to Mineral Point!"

For a day. Or perhaps longer.

And, as we see in the schedule below, the ride wouldn't cost much.

Railway Fares

MINERAL POINT TO—

Belmont	\$.76	Janesville	3.18
Calamine	.35	Madison	4.75
Plattville	1.03	Milwaukee	5.94
Darlington	.60	Portage	6.19
Gratiot	.99	Chicago	7.04
South Wayne	1.35	LaCrosse	10.24
Dill	1.48	Green Bay	10.30
Browntown	1.53	Minneapolis	15.97
Monroe	1.86	St. Paul	15.54
Juda	2.20	Whitewater	3.97
Shullsburg	1.45	Richland	
Brodhead	2.45	Center	7.04
Albany	2.72	Linden	.96
Monticello	3.09	Highland	1.65
New Glarus	3.34	Whitson	
Orfordville	2.70	Junction	1.20
Hanover	2.88		



THE TIMES IS GRATEFUL to Richmond Powers, for sharing a copy of the railway's pocket guide, and to MPRS President David Kjelland, for welcoming its publication.



THE LOCAL ZINC INDUSTRY

The optimism of 1921 is
tempered by the day's reality;
ZINC WAS SINKING FAST!

Miners in Wisconsin's Old Lead Region threw aside as worthless a lightweight yellow substance they called "dry bone." It was such a plentiful nuisance in the mines that, to be rid of it, the byproduct was ground into paving material for the city's streets.

But as the lead mines were worked down to water level, tests revealed the discarded dry bone was valuable. It turned out that zinc carbonate, when converted to white zinc oxide, was the basic ingredient of good paint.

For more than fifty years, Mineral Point, "the lead capitol," enjoyed fame and fortune in a new role, as "a zinc smelter's paradise." 1)

By 1891, the largest zinc oxide works in the U.S. filled the entire valley south of the city's thriving railroad depot, and rail lines fed the mills, smelters, roasters, and sulphuric acid separators by hauling coal from Illinois and ore from scattered southwest Wisconsin zinc mines. The Mineral Point Zinc Co. merged with the New Jersey Zinc Co. in 1897, and a year later the Mineral Point & Northern Railway Co. started seven years of track-building to haul ore from Linden, Highland and elsewhere—some sixty-five scattered zinc mines and mills were in operation.

The zinc industry reached its peak in 1917, then declined rapidly. Prices plunged in 1920; and, one by one, the mines began closing. By 1924, the last mine was closed along the rail right of way, and the railroad's profits dropped as the population of the area's cities shrank. In the winter of 1929-30, the MP&N carried only twenty-eight passengers, about one rider every third day.

In January 1928, all mines in the Mineral Point area were shut down. The acid plant closed two months later. And the Railroad was doomed; its assets sold for scrap in 1930.

Thus, just ten years after the railway's optimistic 1921 City Directory bragged about "the minerals of Mineral Point," the zinc industry was dead. And wild flowers bloomed in the roadbeds where the railroad tracks once groaned under heavy loads.

SOURCE: 1) Mineral Point • A History, by George Fiedler

We Specialize to Give You Service
MRS. MILLIE HORN
—ART NEEDLEWORK—
Corsets and Ladies' Furnishings
If It's New We Have It;
If We Have It It's New

IVEY'S PHARMACY
—THE REXALL STORE—
Toilet Preparations, Drug Sundries,
Kodaks and Supplies
PAINTS AND WALL PAPER
Grammophones and Old Records
Special Attention to Prescription Filling

TOURIST TROUBLES OVERCOME
AUTO INN MOTOR COMPANY
P. O. Vivian, Prop.
Studebaker and Overland Motor Cars
SERVICE ON ALL CARS
Storage, Accessories and Auto Parts
YOURS FOR SERVICE

MINERAL POINT BOTTLING WORKS
Groth & Noble, Props.
Manufacturers of Everything in Carbonated Beverages—Distributors of the Famous Val Blatz Cereal Beverages
Nuff Sed



"FRIENDS OF WHS" VISIT LINCOLNLAND

SEPTEMBER BUS TOUR TO
ILLINOIS CAPITOL
PLEASES HISTORY BUFFS



BUT LEADS TO A STARTLING DISCOVERY!

This is a view of the Old Illinois State Capitol building, as seen through the wavy-glass windows of the Lincoln-Herndon Law Office. One of Springfield's many historic sites, it is said to be the space where the 16th President practiced law in a 4th-floor room overlooking the Capitol on the city square.

Just one small problem. Pres. Lincoln didn't really work in this room, but in a far less glamorous chamber at the rear of the building, with a humdrum street view.

Historians researching the life and times of Seth Tinsley made the discovery while digging through historic evidence about the merchant, whose dry goods store occupied most of the building. A careful search of Tinsley's advertising revealed that his business carried an inventory of goods far too large for the supposed first-floor store—it must have spilled into other floors in the building. And, the ads called the dry goods store "four stories tall."

A team's historical detective work produced a correct view: Tinsley's Dry Goods filled the bulk of the building's side facing the square. A post office, federal court, and the attorneys' offices—including Lincoln's—were rented out in rooms in the back, south, side of the building.

Oops!

This may be something of a shock to the 35,000 people who tour the Lincoln-Herndon museum each year, and casts doubt on an office replica in the new Lincoln State Museum.

But, in reality, the discovery should not change Lincoln lore. The site is, indeed, the place where the young prairie lawyer practiced his profession. The South office—the real location for Lincoln's desk—is really just a few feet further from the Old State Capitol.

And, please don't forget, that's the spot where Honest Abe told his fellow Illinois legislators, "A house divided cannot stand."

**For more about Events, Tours, and
the many other good works
of the
Friends of the Wisc. Historical Society
click on
<http://friendswisconsinhistory.org>**

JOIN F.W.H.S. Today!



Before



After

New Erbach Project Saves 1852 Residence

"Just call it Number Ten," chuckled Peter Erbach, as he stood in front of his latest home reconstruction effort, the makeover of an appealing historic Mineral Point dwelling.

His affection for old buildings is a natural complement to his passion for interior decorating, antique home furnishings, and the choice of "the right color." But Erbach knows the restoration of a derelict house is much more than picking the right color.

His tenth project involved major structural repairs.

The home at the corner of Iowa and Maiden Streets was bought from the estate of an elderly resident two years ago. Research shows the house was built by a pharmacist from Kentucky who settled in Mineral Point in 1852.

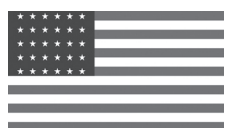
Erbach and a small work crew cleaned "eight rooms and twenty-seven hallways," and preserved the home's woodwork, flooring and the clapboard siding, which had been hidden under slate panels for many years. They tore off a sagging porch, removed the second story at the rear of the house, and moved truckloads of soil to deal with drainage problems.

Today the house stands on sturdy stone foundations; it is outfitted with new six-over-six windows, rebuilt chimneys, and its new dry stacked stone walls have been fashioned into a patio. It is now a modern, fully functional home, structurally sound, but with the historic "bones" of the house preserved. More than preserved—improved.

Erbach has lived in some of his completed projects. This home, however, is for sale. "It was a wreck and I knew it," he said, "but saving wrecks is something I enjoy."



Erbach, in rear, with his crew



Old World Vintage Auction Planned

If you are pondering what to do with a family heirloom, please consider making a donation to a benefit auction of antique and vintage items slated for April 23rd- 24th at Old World Wisconsin Historic Site in Eagle.

Friends of the Wisc. Historical Society is seeking tax-deductible donations of items from across the state for the charity event, "Wisconsin—Our Flag's 30th Star," to provide funds for the WHS, its museum on Madison's

Capitol Square, and ten historic sites managed by the state's historical organization.

FWHS will provide knowledgeable advice about antiques (more than 99 years old) and vintage items (50-99 years) and donors get a tax receipt, accompanied by the thanks of the state's most-active historical support group.

Contact Riene, at info@eagle-house.com
Debbie, at jimcard@mc.net or
<http://friendswisconsinhistory.org>



Welcoming Our Vietnam Vets Home

As a coalition of state organizations honor their service with a weekend event in Green Bay, as many as 100,000 Wisconsin Vietnam veterans will get the welcome many of them did not receive back in the 1970's.

"LZ Lambeau" begins May 21, 2010 with a La Crosse to Lambeau motorcycle rally; the "Back in the World" exhibit by the Veteran's Museum of Madison; a Vietnam-era vehicle show; and the arrival of a Huey helicopter at the Lambeau "landing zone" (LZ). "The Moving Wall," a half-size replica of the Vietnam memorial in Washington, will be unveiled.

On Sat, May 22, a day of tailgating and fellowship will end with music, a few speakers, and video clips from the Wisconsin Public Television documentary "Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories." A companion book to the TV work will also be sold.

The event continues through May 23. The Wisc. Historical Society (WHS) coordinated the big homecoming for the state's veterans, and planners expect a massive crowd. That's fitting, because the Badger State supplied more Vietnam service personnel than any other state.

Catherine Whitford Enjoys Old Family Farm in Cornwall

How about "This Old House?"

The Trehawke Barton acreage is listed in the Doomsday Book, published in 1086 as the census of William the Conqueror. And 923 years later, the farm stands proudly in fields trod by beef cattle and sheep, and the ancient building serves guests as a country inn.

"Three-foot walls, and no nails—it's built with wooden pegs," says Catherine Whitford, the city's leading authority on All Things Celtic. She made her fifth visit to Cornwall in July to trace her family name, "Hawke," to its roots in the sturdy stone farmhouse.



"It has a hidden stairway to the outbuildings and two 'hiding holes,' carved to protect the home from bandits, Danes and Vikings."

In the photo, Whitford stands with Ronald James, a Cornish cousin, and her daughter, grand daughter and great grandson. Her travels took her to Penzance and to Plymouth, where grandfather Robert Hawke sailed in 1872 for America and ultimately found a home in Linden, Wisc.



Here we see Founding Father John Adams, with an imagined BlackBerry in hand, as he ponders the day's entry in his personal diary.

Perhaps it would be this actual entry: "August 6, 1809. Thick fog. Scanty Wind. On George's Bank, Lat: 42-34. Read Massillon's Careme Sermons 2 & 3. Ladies are sick."

If it were a tweet, it would be 109 characters, well below Twitter's 140-character limit.

This was pointed out by an alert high school student, who, while paging through the archives of the 2nd President, noticed Adams' bite-sized diary entries looked a lot like tweets, leading to the notion that Adams might well be answering Twitter's eternal question, "What are you doing right now?"

The diary's words about "Massillon's sermons and sick ladies" are typical of Adams' daily scribbling. His entries reflect his favorite books, most memorable meals, and the day's weather conditions.

The student's discovery in the archives led to a bold decision and a new project for the Massachusetts Historical Society, headquartered in Adams' home town, Boston. Saying it hopes to connect today's online generation with the nation's historic past, the society has begun posting Adams' day-by-day updates from 200 years ago on Twitter.

(If his Aug. 6 entry seemed a bit lame, the day's memo for Aug. 15, 1809 is MUCH more exciting, don't you agree? "Weather fine. Wind scanty. Lat: 44-13. Long: 53-40. This afternoon I found the Caboose* on fire.")

*NOTE: The word Caboose, in archaic usage, was a kitchen on a ship's deck.

GOINGS ON:PLEASE PULL



DECEMBER

2 DODGEVILLE, Uplands Garden Club Meeting, 7 PM, All Welcome, Call 608.935.3728 Ext 12 for location.

2 PLATTEVILLE, Driftless Market Jewelry Party, “Wire, Glass, Shells, Wood, & Stones” by local jewelry artists. 5:30-7 PM, 95 W Main St, 608.348.2696

3 MINERAL POINT, “SANTALAND DIARIES” presented by Alley Stage & Shake Rag Alley, with funny man Sam Murn in the beloved modern Christmas tale by NPR regular David Sedaris. Directed by Heather Murn. Staged in the intimate Cabinet Shop at Historic Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag, at 8 PM Tickets \$15, call 1.800.838.3006 or 608.987.3292, Seating is limited. PG-13

3 MINERAL POINT, The CHRISTMAS MADRIGAL Performance & Dinner with 16th Century A Capella Renaissance Music, Ludden Lake Supper Club, 1350 W. Lake Rd, Adults \$27, Children \$12. (Special children’s menu) Cash bar & appetizers 5:30-6:30 PM, Festivities 6:30 PM, Dinner & Madrigal singing 7 PM. Tickets from Bergets, 257 High St, 608.987.3218, Ludden Lake 608.987.2888, or Beth Martin 608.935.9778.

3 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Afternoon Seniors’ Concert with Katie Waldren, 2 PM, 3210 County BB, 608.924.4000

3 DODGEVILLE, View the PBS Frontline film “Obama’s War” 7-9 PM, followed by a discussion, Dodgeville Public Library, 139 S. Iowa St, 608.935.3728

4 MINERAL POINT, “Make ‘n’ Take Holiday Project” with Carol Getman, 12-4 PM, \$3. at her shop within the Mineral Point Collection, 151 High St. Pre-Register 608.987.9330

4-6 SPRING GREEN, Country Christmas Weekend, “Friday After 5” Art, hot beverages, seasonal merchandise & specials at retail shops, galleries & restaurants until 9 PM. Saturday events: Breakfast with Santa, Bake Sale, Tour of Homes, Lunch & Fashion Show at The Bank Restaurant (Resv. 608.588.7600), Christmas Quilt Show, River Valley Craft Bazaar, Cookie Walk & Luncheon, Free Children’s Movie, Merchant Open Houses, Horse-drawn carriage rides, Ice Carving, Holiday Block Party & Tree Lighting, fireworks. For times phone 1.800.588.2042 or www.springgreen.countrychristmas.com

4-5 MINERAL POINT “SANTALAND DIARIES” presented by Alley Stage & Shake Rag Alley with funny man Sam Murn. \$20 both nights. See Dec 3rd entry for details.

5 MINERAL POINT Winter Farmers’ Market 9 AM - Noon, Old Royal Inn, 43 High St. Cinnamon & pecan rolls, croissants, cookies, made-to-order egg omelet sandwiches, home-made breads, vegetables, beef, pork, chicken, eggs, tomatoes, apples & more. Want to be a vendor? Call Jennifer 608.219.6959

5 MINERAL POINT, GALLERY NIGHT & CANDLELIGHT SHOPPING UNTIL 9 PM, Join in Nostalgic City-wide Shopping, as hundreds of luminaria line High and Commerce Streets. Galleries & shops have treats for holiday shoppers. Chestnut Roasting & hot cocoa on Iowa Street. Holiday music enhances the festive atmosphere. Galleries feature fine art, hand-made crafts, pottery, glass, basketry, furniture, jewelry, painting, sculpture, weaving, woodwork, photography, and

much more. Several area restaurants will extend their hours to allow shoppers to enjoy both the art & dining. For details, see www.mineralpoint.com/art/gallery_night.html

5 MINERAL POINT, Green Lantern Studio, as part of Gallery Night, presents Richmond Powers & Others with the final Capitola Review presentation for 2009 & a special evening of Visual Art, Poetry, Music, & Fiction. Artists Reception & original art work for sale, 5-9 PM, Free, 261 High St, 608.987.2880

5 MINERAL POINT, Story Pottery & Leaping Lizards, as part of Gallery Night features local artist Charlie Baker from 6:30-7:30 PM, showing his collection of pop-ups & chatting about paper engineering. Also, Pottery by Harriet Story, catering by Barb Brown, Music by Jen Logue-flower. Open until 9PM, Corner Chestnut & Fountain Streets, 608.987.2902

5 MINERAL POINT, Longbranch Gallery, as part of Gallery Night, features Keith Huie, known for his wacky & whimsical art. Prints for sale, or Keith will create original works of art for you from 5-9 PM, 203 Commerce St, 608.987.4499 or <http://www.longbranchgallery.com>

5 MINERAL POINT, Antiques & Flea Market Sale, Old Royal Inn, 43 High St, as part of Gallery Night, 9 AM-8 PM. Scott Stieber’s music 2-5 PM, 608.219.6959

5 MINERAL POINT, Carol Getman, as part of Gallery Night, will be “Demonstrating Rubber Stamping & Embossing Techniques For Holiday Cards & Envelopes”, Free. 5-9 PM, See 12/4 entry for details.

5 MINERAL POINT, Holiday Gift Fair, Baked Goods & Lunch, Trinity Episcopal Church, 403 High St, 10 AM-3 PM,

5 MINERAL POINT, Cookie Sale, at Faith Lutheran Church 8 AM-2 PM, 400 Ridge St, 608.987.3654

5 DARLINGTON, Lighted Christmas Parade & Festival, 6:30 PM, then a visit from Santa, Christmas carols, hot chocolate, bonfires & lighting the floating Christmas tree. 608.776.3067

5 DODGEVILLE, “Compulsive Overeating” class. taught by Christine Tsubokura, LCSW. 10:30-11:45 AM, Uplands Hills Hospital, 800 Compassion Way, \$5, Pre-register 608.935.2838

5 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Kids & Families: Gingerbread Galore, 1-3 PM, Bring a bag of small candy for decorating & sharing & a box to take your items home safely \$5 Adults, \$4 Teens, \$3 Children, 3210 County BB, 608.924.4000

www.folklorevillage.org

5 DODGEVILLE, Breakfast with Santa, 8-11:30AM, Plymouth Congregational Church, 115 W. Merrimac, 8-11:30AM, 608.935.5727

5 DODGEVILLE, Santa Secret Shop, 8:30 AM-1:30 PM, Dodgeville United Methodist Church, 327 N Iowa St, Children Pre K - 6th grade can buy Christmas gifts for family & friends. Gifts from \$1-\$10, Christmas movies, cookies, tables of other goodies for adults, bake sale & lunch. Call 608.935.5451

5 DODGEVILLE, “Miracle on Iowa Street,” 5th Annual Winter “Light” Parade 6 PM, Retail Open Houses, sales & refreshments all day, Santa downtown 4-6 PM 608.935.1496

5 DODGEVILLE, Hot Chocolate & Santa, Coffee, Goodies & Caroling, Dodgeville United Methodist Church, right after the parade, Call Juanita at 608.574.1138

5 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Barn Dance, Potluck 6:30 PM, Bring a dish to share, Dance after to the Kettle Creek

String Band with Caller Sue Hulsether 3210 County BB, 608.238.3394

5 SPRING GREEN, Music by “Lost Conversation”, The General Store, 3-6 PM, 137 S Albany St, 608.588.7070

5-6 SPRING GREEN, Taliesin Bookstore & Gift Shop, Open Sat 10 AM-5 PM, Sun. 11 AM-4PM, Last day open in 2009. 5607 County Hwy C, 608.588.7900

www.taliesinbookstore.com

6 MINERAL POINT “SANTALAND DIARIES” presented by Alley Stage & Shake Rag Alley with funny man Sam Murn. \$20, See Dec. 3rd entry for details & tickets.

6 MINERAL POINT, Christmas Madrigal Performance & Dinner With Adults & Children K-12th grades, See Dec 3rd entry for ticket info & details. Times for this date are: 3:30-4:30 PM Cash Bar & appetizers, 5 PM Festivities, 5:30 PM Dinner & Madrigals

6 MINERAL POINT, Breakfast with Santa, Red Rooster Cafe, 158 High St, 10 AM-1 PM, 608.987.9936

6 DODGEVILLE “Afghanistan/Pakistan: Round-Table Discussion,” spon. by Grassroots Citiz. of WI - 3-5 PM, Free, Stonefield Apts., 407 E Madison

6 SPRING GREEN, Acoustic Jam, The General Store, 1:30-3:30 PM, 137 S Albany St, 608.588.7070

6-7 DODGEVILLE/SPRING GREEN, House on the Rock Christmas Celebration, Free Admission for area town residents, 9AM-5 PM, 5754 State Rd 23, Call to see if your town qualifies 608.035-3639. Note: Christmas at House on the Rock runs 11/6/09 to 1/3/10 with special exhibits & “more than 6,000 Santas.”

9 DODGEVILLE, Iowa County Area Entrepreneur and Inventor Club Meeting, with Ulrich & Alex Sielaff of Sielaff Corp. in Mineral Point discussing growing a manufacturing business in SW WI & creating innovative product lines, 6 PM at Stonefield Village, 407 E Madison, <http://www.iowacountyedc.org/5100.html> 608.930.2000

11 MINERAL POINT & DODGEVILLE, Food Drive to benefit SW Cap Food Pantry, Point Foods, 622 Dodge St, Mineral Point & Piggly Wiggly, 622 Dodge St, Dodgeville, food & cash donations welcome. 11AM-6PM, Sponsored by the Iowa County Democrats

11 MINERAL POINT, “Introduction to Stamping in Holiday Style” with Carol Getman, 10 AM-Noon, \$10, See 12/4 entry for details

12 MINERAL POINT, SANTA & SANTA’S WORKSHOP at holiday decorated Shake Rag Alley, Magical day for children, 10-3 PM; Photos with Santa 10 AM-2 PM \$8, Christmas craft workshops (including gingerbread houses) \$3 each, 18 Shake Rag St, 608.987.3292, www.shakeragalley.com

12 MINERAL POINT Winter Farmers’ Market 9 AM - Noon, Old Royal Inn, 43 High St, See 12/5 entry for all that is offered.

12 DODGEVILLE, United Methodist Church, 327 N Iowa St, Children Pre-K to 6th grade can buy Christmas gifts for family & friends, See 12/5 entry.

12 MINERAL POINT, “Combined Embossing Designs with Stamping” by Carol Getman, 10:30AM-12:30 PM, \$11, See 12/4 entry.

12 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Scandinavian Holiday Crafts & Activities, 3-5 PM, \$2-4, See entry below, or the website.

12 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Saint Lucia Program & Saturday Night Social, 6:30 potluck (bring a dish to share), Saffron buns, Swedish songs, & dance, All welcome, Reserve early Tickets \$2-\$6

3210 County BB, 608.924.4000

www.folklorevillage.org

12 DODGEVILLE, Communities United Music Festival, all proceeds benefit Iowa County Programs, “Free Fall” at Jeffrey’s, 113 E Chapel, 4:30-7:30 PM; “Six Nights Alone” at Red Room, 108 E Merrimac, 7:30-10:30 PM; “Blackwater Gin” at Time Out, 237 N Iowa, 10:30 PM-1:30 AM

12 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam, The General Store, 3-6 PM, 137 S. Albany 608.588.7070

13 MINERAL POINT, “Paper Folding & Triore Tree” by Carol Getman, 1:30-3:30 PM, \$12, See 12/4 entry for all details.

13 MINERAL POINT, Festival of Lessons & Carols for Advent, Trinity Episcopal Church, 403 High St, 4:30 PM with Musical Prelude 4 PM, Hymns, Carols, Solos, Instrumentals & Readings. Open to all.

15 DODGEVILLE, Celebrate Christmas with Holiday Songs by David & Matty Olson & Dawn Van Epps, 6-7 PM, Public Library, 139 S Iowa St, 608.935.3728

15 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Open Mic & Jam Session, 7-9:30 PM, See 12/12 entry for details. All welcome.

18 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Holiday Concert & Tree Lighting, 7 PM, Monroe Swiss Singers singing & yodeling, paying homage to Swiss/German heritage. Plum Grove Church onsite. See 12/19 entry.

19 MINERAL POINT Winter Farmers’ Market 9 AM - Noon, Old Royal Inn, 43 High St, See 12/5 entry.

19 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, German Tree Night & Dance - Social & Potluck, 6:30 PM (bring dish to share), lighting of candles on fresh cut tree, singing & dancing. Reserve early, Tickets \$2-\$6. See 12/12 entry for address, phone etc.

19 SPRING GREEN, Music at the General Store, 137 S Albany Details www.springgreengeneralstore.com or 608.588.7070

20 MINERAL POINT, Cantata, “Rejoice Believes” With a choir of area singers (2 Locations) United Methodist Church, 400 Doty St, 9:30-10:30AM, 608.987.2700 & Trinity Episcopal Church, 4PM, 409 W. High St, 608.987.3019

22 MINERAL POINT, Red Cross Blood Drive, Noon-6 PM, Mineral Point Rescue Squad, 907 Ridge St, appointments 1.800.448.3543, 608.987.3033 or www.givelife.org

25 DODGEVILLE, Iowa County Christmas Dinner, Culvers Restaturant, 1122 N. Johns, Free to All, Sit-down dinner Noon-1:30 PM, Deliveries within 10-12 miles Call Mary for reservations, 608.935.5386

26 SPRING GREEN, “Chi Chi Jazz Trio” at The Spring Green General Store, 2-5 PM, 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070

28-31 MINERAL POINT, “Gaming at the Mineral Point Library”, During Christmas break, Kids & families bring PlayStation2 or Wii games & board games to share. The library will supply game consoles, large screens & tables. 10 AM-5 PM, 137 High St, 608.987.2447

28-Jan 1, DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, “62nd Festival of Christmas & Midwinter Traditions” --Celebration & Great Music featuring Lee Otterholt, Balkan Dance, Hilde Otterholt - ethnic traditions from around the world - dancing, crafts, workshops, music, storytelling, culture sessions, food & children’s programs. Reservations, call 608.924.4000, www.folklorevillage.org

31 SPRING GREEN, New Year’s Eve Party, The General Store, 8 PM - 12:30 AM, \$5, Music by “Another Roadside Attraction”, a new band with Todd/other musicians. 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070

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.

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

For more information, call the Library 608.987.2447 or send off an email – minptroom@hotmail.com

WI FI



BREWERY CREEK
at 23 Commerce Street

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
at 225 High Street

M STUDIO
at 234 High Street

SHAKE RAG ALLEY
at 18 Shake Rag Street

MINERAL POINT VITAL CONTACTS



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
608 . 987.3201 888 . 764.6894
www.mineralpoint.com

CITY CLERK 608 . 987.2361

DEMOCRAT-TRIBUNE 608 . 987.2141

HISTORICAL SOCIETY 608 . 987.2884

HOSPITAL – UPLANDS, Dodgeville
GENL INFO 608 . 930.8000

PUBLIC LIBRARY 608 . 987.2447

POLICE Dial 911 – Emergencies Only
Non-Emergencies 608 . 987.2313

RESCUE SQUAD Office 608 . 987.2752

OPERA HOUSE (Closed Temporarily)

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

OUT THESE PAGES & KEEP HANDY.



JANUARY

2 BLUE MOUNDS, Blue Mounds State Park, Candlelight Ski, Hike or Snowshoe on groomed candlelit loops. Bonfire, free hot drinks & marshmallows, Guided hike 7 & 8 PM, Brats, chili, hot dogs & baked goods for sale. Cost: A Daily or Annual Park Sticker on arrival. 608.437.5711
2 SPRING GREEN, Music at the General Store, 137 S Albany 608.588.70709 or www.springgreengeneralstore.com
3 SPRING GREEN, Acoustic Jam, The General Store, 1:30-3:30 PM, 137 S Albany St, 608.588.7070
6 MINERAL POINT, Valentine card making with Cheryl Smeja & Sharon Stauffer at Smeja Studio, 30 Doty St, 7-9 or 10 PM. Cards will be sold 1/30 - 1/31 (see entry below) 608.987.3292
6 DODGEVILLE, Uplands Garden Club Meeting, 7 PM, All Welcome, Call 608.935.3728 Ext 12 for location & topic.
9 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam, The General Store, 3-6 PM, 137 S. Albany 608.588.7070
13 MINERAL POINT, Snow Art for pre-schoolers with Di Sterba, Shake Rag Alley, \$5, pre-register 608.987.3292
13 MINERAL POINT, Valentine Card making with Carol Gettman. See 1/6 entry.
15-17 NEW GLARUS, Winterfest Veterans Rally, Veterans from all wars and all supporters welcome. Parade, music, dances, poker, run, dinners, & more. Call Ron at 608.251.6411 for details or online at <http://www.war-veterans.org/winter.html>
16 SPRING GREEN, Music at the General Store, 137 S Albany See Jan. 2nd entry.
16 DODGEVILLE, Class "How Am I Doing At Taking Good Care of Me?" taught by Gretchen Spiegel, Ph.D. LCSW. 10:30 AM-11:45 AM, \$5, See 12/5 entry for details.
20 MINERAL POINT, Valentine Card Making with Glee Bilderback from Galena, Info same as 1/6 entry above.
23 SPRING GREEN, Music at the General Store, 137 S Albany See Jan. 2nd entry.
24 MINERAL POINT, Mineral Point Historical Society Annual Meeting & Lyceum, "Prairies & Grasslands of SW Wisconsin," 2 PM, Old Royal Inn, 43 High St, Free, 608.987.2884 www.mineralpointhistory.org
27 MINERAL POINT, Valentine Card Making with Sharon Stauffer, See 1/6 entry.
30-31 MINERAL POINT, 2nd Annual Sweetheart Art, hand-made artistic valentines by artists & the Women's Art Group, 10 AM-3 PM, Original Valentine cards on Sale at Shake Rag Alley Cabinet Shop, 18 Shake Rag St, 608.987.9232 \$2 Adm. includes homemade sweets & treats.
30 SPRING GREEN, Music at the General Store, 137 S Albany See Jan. 2nd entry.
31 PLATTEVILLE, [The Capitola Review](http://www.capitolareview.com) Artist Reading at Driftless Market, 1-3:30 PM, Come enjoy poetry & other writings from the latest [Capitola Review](http://www.capitolareview.com), 95 W Main St, 608.348.2696



FEBRUARY

2 MINERAL POINT, "Tuesdays at Trinity," Trinity Episcopal Church, 7 PM, 403 High St, Free, Call 608.987.3019 for topic.
3 DODGEVILLE, Uplands Garden Club Meeting, 7 PM, All Welcome, Call 608.935.3728 Ext 12 for location & topic.
6 SPRING GREEN, Music at the General Store, 137 S Albany See Jan. 2nd entry.
6 PLATTEVILLE, Driftless Market's "Revitalize Your Core" Open House on Wellness & Beauty. Jewelry & Chakras from Bella Designs by Lauren Powers, body work techniques from Trinity Massage & Harmony House Reflexology (\$), Refreshments, 11 AM - 2 PM, 95 W Main, 608.348.2696 or www.driftlessmarket.com
6 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Barn Dance, Potluck 6:30 PM, Bring a dish to share, Dancing follows, Music by The Barley Brothers, Caller Tim Jenkins, old time squares, New England Contras, and

Appalachian big circles, See 12/12 entry.
6 BLUE MOUNDS, Blue Mounds State Park, Candlelight Ski, Hike, & Snowshoe on candlelit loops. See Jan 2nd entry.
7 SPRING GREEN, Acoustic Jam, The General Store, 1:30-3:30 PM, 137 S Albany St, 608.588.7070
10 MINERAL POINT, Heart Art for pre-schoolers with Di Sterba, Shake Rag Alley, \$5, pre-register 608.987.3292
12-14 MINERAL POINT, "Hearts Over Mineral Point, A Valentine's Weekend", Alley Stage offers "Love Bites II," five original stories of amorous adventure by favorite authors, Dean Bakopoulos, Marcia Jablonski, Caleb Stone, Jane Guill & Coleman. Benefit for the Mineral Point Historical Society, staged in the parlor of Orchard Lawn, 234 Madison St. Special Dining & Lodging packages offered thru www.mineralpoint.com & www.alleystage.com. Tickets: call 1-800-838.3006, or Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag St, 608.987.3292, or 608.987.3201
12-14 MINERAL POINT Valentine Shopping Specials, all around town.
13 SPRING GREEN, The General Store's "Paul Bentzen Day" mid-winter bash featuring special food, Bluegrass jam 1-5:30 PM & an evening concert TBA, 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070
www.springgreengeneralstore.com
20 MINERAL POINT, Green Lantern Gallery Reception & Opening of "The Things We Love", 6-8 PM, 261 High St, Details at 608.987.2880
20 DODGEVILLE, Class "Laughter, The Best Medicine" taught by Jean Warrior, Ph.D, 10:30 AM-11:45 AM, \$5, See 12/5 entry for details
20 SPRING GREEN, Music at the General Store, 137 S Albany See Jan. 2nd entry.
21 MINERAL POINT, Mineral Point Historical Society Lyceum - Stories from the Hess & Sons' Cooperage & Mineral Point's Brewing History, 2 PM, Old Royal Inn, 43 High St, Free, 608.987.2884
www.mineralpointhistory.org
21 MINERAL POINT, "Family Event --- Making A Gnome House," at Shake Rag Alley, with Di Sterba, 18 Shake Rag, \$10, pre-register by 2/19 at 608,987.3292 or www.shakeragalley.com
23 MINERAL POINT, Book Club Meeting, 7 PM, Trinity Episcopal Church, 409 W High, Call 608.987.2447 for book title.
24 MINERAL POINT, RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, Noon-6 PM, Mineral Point Rescue Squad, 907 Ridge St, Call 1.800.448.3543 or 608.987.3033 for an appointment, or go to www.givelife.org
26-28 MINERAL POINT, Women's Winter Retreat, "Life is a Journey", Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag, Pre-Register & check lodging options at 608.987.3292 or www.shakeragalley.com
27 SPRING GREEN, Music at the General Store, 137 S Albany See Jan. 2nd entry.
28 MINERAL POINT, "4th Annual Brain Games", 2 PM, Trivia contest of not-so-trivial significance, Quality Inn, 1345 Bus. Pk. Rd, Put your team together & contact Joy at the Chamber for cost & information 608.987.3201 or www.mineralpoint.com
28 DODGEVILLE, Last night for open skate, 2:30-5:30PM, Harris Park, Ley Pavln.



MARCH

2 MINERAL POINT, "Tuesdays At Trinity," Trinity Episcopal Church, 7 PM, 403 High St. Free, Call 608.987.3019 for topic.
3 DODGEVILLE, Uplands Garden Club Meeting, 7 PM, All Welcome, Call 608.935.3728 Ext 12 for location & topic.
6 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Barn Dance, Potluck 6:30 PM, Bring a dish to share, Dancing follows. See 2/6 entry.
6 SPRING GREEN, Music at the General Store, 137 S Albany See Jan. 2nd entry.
6 MINERAL POINT, St. Piran's Day (Cornish celebration), Dinner & Program. Call Judy 608.623.2293 for time & location.
7 SPRING GREEN, Acoustic Jam, The General Store, 1:30-3:30 PM, 137 S Albany St, 608.588.7070

13 DODGEVILLE, "Pitch In at the Park" Gov. Dodge State Pk, Split firewood, pick up trash, help with project construction. Call 608.935.2315 for time/location.
11-14 DODGEVILLE, 2010 Film Festival, "Making It Home". For details check www.makingwisconsinhome.org or call Bob at the Chamber 608.935.9200
13 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam, The General Store, 3-6 PM, 137 S. Albany 608.588.7070
13-14 MINERAL POINT, "Accordion Book Mixed Media" w/Sharon Stauffer, Shake Rag Alley, Fabric books with incredible papers, techniques & embellishments 9:30-4:30, 18 Shake Rag, 608.987.3292 www.shakeragalley.com for details..
18 DODGEVILLE, "Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution" Great Decisions Series, 7 PM, Pre-Register 608.935-3728, Public Library, 139 S. Iowa St <http://dodgevillelibrary.com>
19-21 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village "Spring Swedish Weekend" Fiddle & dance workshops. Pre-Registration Required. Check www.folkloreivillage.org or call 608.924.4000, 3210 County BB
20 SPRING GREEN, Music at the General Store, 137 S Albany See Jan. 2nd entry.
20-21 "Graphite Pencil Drawing" w/Rhonda Nass, Shake Rag Alley, 9-5 PM, Bring a sack lunch, See 3/13-14 for address etc
21 MINERAL POINT, Mineral Point Historical Society Lyceum, "Mineral Pointers Remember: Beef Farming" 2 PM, Free, Old Royal Inn, 43 High St, 608.987.2884 www.mineralpointhistory.org
23 MINERAL POINT, Book Club Meeting, 7 PM, Trinity Episcopal Church, 409 W High, Call 608.987.2447 for book title.
24 MINERAL POINT, Easter Art for pre-schoolers with Di Sterba, Shake Rag Alley, \$5, pre-register 608.987.3292
25 DODGEVILLE, "The Persian Gulf" Great Decisions Series", 7 PM, Pre-Register 608.935.3728, Public Library, 139 S Iowa St, <http://dodgevillelibrary.com>
27 DODGEVILLE, Iowa County Humane Society "Artists to the Rescue" Fundraiser See www.ichs.net or call 608.935.1381
27 SPRING GREEN, Music at the General Store, 137 S Albany See Jan. 2nd entry.
27-28 MINERAL POINT, The GARDEN GETAWAY, Shake Rag Alley, Weekend of lectures (such as "Growing & Cooking with Herbs") & Creative Workshops in garden art & the art of gardening. Classes described in the Spring Catalog. See www.shakeragalley.com or 608.987.3292

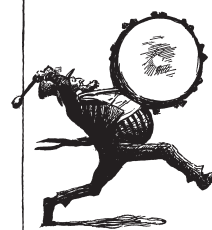


APRIL

3 MINERAL POINT, GALLERY NIGHT, All Galleries open 5-9 PM, featuring fine art, hand-made crafts, pottery, glass, basketry, furniture, jewelry, painting, sculpture, weaving, woodwork, photography, refreshments and more. 608.987.2516 www.mineralpoint.com/art/gallery_night.html lists galleries/restaurants
3 DODGEVILLE, Iowa County Humane Society "Paws Fur a Cause" 5K/2Mile Run/Walk, Contact ICHS for details 608.935.1381 or www.ichs.net
3 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Barn Dance, Potluck 6:30 PM, Bring a dish to share, Dancing follows, See 2/6 entry for details.
6 MINERAL POINT, "Slash Your Food Bills & Eat Better, Too" with master gardner Jean-Margaret Merrell-Beech, 7 PM, Trinity Episcopal Church, 403 High St, (enter on Iowa St), Free
7 DODGEVILLE, Uplands Garden Club Meeting, 7 PM, All Welcome, Call 608.935.3728 Ext 12 for location
8 DODGEVILLE, "Global Financial Crisis" Great Decisions Series, 7PM, Pre-Registration 608.935.3782, Public Library, 139 S Iowa St., <http://dodgevillelibrary.com>
9-10 MINERAL POINT, GRAND RE-OPENING of the "Theatre for All the People", THE BEAUTIFULLY RENOVATED MINERAL POINT OPERA HOUSE, www.mpoh.org or Phil 608.987.2516 or Joy 608.987.3201
9-11 "Hands-on-Art History" with Carole

Spelic, Shake Rag Alley, Enjoy presentations and great art projects. See 3/13 entry for details.
9-11 DODGEVILLE, "Folklore Village Cajun Dance & Music Weekend," w/ Paul Daigle, accordion, Jason Frey, fiddle, & Maureen Mullen, dance. Dance w/John & Charlie Terr.Details www.folkloreivillage.org
608.924.4000, 3210 County BB
10 MINERAL POINT, City-Wide Garage Sales, 7 AM-Close. Some homes open 4/9. Maps at homes & Bergets, 257 High St, 608.987.3218
10 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam, The General Store, 3-6 PM, 137 S. Albany 608.588.7070
10 DODGEVILLE "Pitch in at the Park" Gov. Dodge St. Park Split firewood, pick up trash,help with project construction. Call 608.935.2315 for time/location.
10-11 "Make a Bent Willow Chair" with John Schakel, Shake Rag Alley 9-4 PM daily, See 3/13- entry for address etc.
15 DODGEVILLE "U.S. China Relations" Great Decisions Series, 7 PM, Pre-Register if possible 608.935.3728, Public Library, 139 S Iowa St
16-18 MINERAL POINT, Shake Rag Alley "3 Days Writing Like Crazy" with award-winning author Jane Guill, Shake Rag Alley, a double-spaced writing sample is requested, See 3/13 entry for info.
18 MINERAL POINT, Family Event - "Making Papier-Mache Creatures" w/ Di Sterba, \$10, Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag St, Pre-register by 4/16 608.987.3292 or www.shakeragalley.com
21 MINERAL POINT, Animal Art for pre-schoolers with Di Sterba, Shake Rag Alley, \$5, pre-register 608.987.3292
23-25 MINERAL POINT, Shake Rag Alley "Beads & Bangles Weekend", Paper Bangle Bracelets with Sharon Stauffer, Hammered Wire Jewelry w/Judy Sutcliffe, Felted Beads & Accessories with Cheryl Smeja & more, See 3/13-14 for address.
23-25 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, English Country Dance & Music Weekend with The Bare Necessities, Dance & Music Workshops, 3210 County BB, Pre-registration required 608.924.4000 www.folkloreivillage.org
24 DODGEVILLE, City-Wide Garage Sales All day
24 SPRING GREEN, DODGEVILLE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FREE CLINIC ANNUAL AUCTION & FUND RAISER, 6-9 PM, House on the Rock Resort, 400 Springs Dr, Spring Green, Appetizer Buffet, Cash Bar, Auction & Music by the Larry Bausch Jazz Quartet with Cleo Ware, \$25, RSVP Monica at CCFcauction@gmail.com or 608.987.0046
24-25 "Figurative Painting" w/artist Jeb Prazak, Shake Rag Alley, 9-4:30 daily, Fundamentals to succeed in any genre as you lay in & complete a painting. Good knowledge of drawing and painting experience required, See 3/13-14 entry for address etc
27 MINERAL POINT, Book Club Meeting, 7 PM, Trinity Episcopal Church, 409 W High, Call 608.987.2447 for book title.

**THEN, ON MAY 1, 2010,
THE FARMERS MARKET OPENS,
SPRING IS IN THE AIR,
AND THE NEXT EDITION OF
THE TIMES OF MINERAL POINT
WILL BE PUBLISHED!!**



SANDEE BEAMAN gathers all this information about coming events from emails, letters, postcards, memos, or news releases, or sometimes messages in bottles and tiny scraps of paper. Tell her YOUR "goings on," by telephoning 608.987.1199, or email sandeeb@charter.net



WANDERING ALONG HIGH STREET



Clarence Mitchell
behind the counter

Mitchell Hardware: Third Generation Celebrates a Century of Small-Town Retailing

In 1910, with the city's early paving crews working out in front, Clarence Mitchell opened a hardware store at 148 High Street.

It was the beginning of a success story. Clarence, adopted son of a Mineral Point native, worked in that businessplace until his death in 1949. His son Robert took the firm and eventually grew the store into the present three adjacent buildings at 250 High St.

Today, the sons of Bob Mitchell manage a variety of retail, hardware, and home repair services. Most members of the large Mitchell family have worked in the store over the years.

At age 90, Bob's memories are clear. "In the early days, Dad and I were the only electricians in town. We wired homes, and sold lamps, light bulbs, radios and vacuum cleaners—anything electrical. [See photo] In 1975, Mitchell became a True Value merchant to use the chain's vast buying power. "But we've always been an old-fashioned hardware store," he said, "with a big inventory and lots of friendly personal service."

Asked about competition from the big box home stores, he recalled a conversation with John Trotter, founder of the True Value chain, who told Mitchell, "Just out-service them!"

Mitchell and his "Sons of Mitch's" will mark their 100 years in business with a customer appreciation event in the Spring.

Catherine Palzkill Rings Up 47 Years at Ivey's



She stocks the display racks with greeting cards, sorts school supplies and other staples at Ivey's Pharmacy, but most of us know her as the familiar face at the store's cash register. She's been an Ivey's employee since 1962, when she was laid off at Burgess Battery and listed Harry Ivey's drug store as a place she might enjoy her job. She says she likes greeting customers, but today's technologies—the store's computers—are sometimes a bit of a headache.

Storefront Update Takes Bldg. Back in Time



Lowry White enjoys "carefully re-habbing old buildings." And his latest project is a good example, a new facade for the offices at 256 High St. White finished the apartment on the lower floor, then ripped off the drab streetside panels and installed new custom-made windows and doors to complete an authentic historic facade. "It was an easy construction job," he said, "and it gave a neighborhood eyesore some badly-needed character." In the photo, carpenter Brad Jones nails trim.



•~•~• [We Were the Land Girls] ~•~•~

By Angie Butler
of Penzance

We were the land girls,
We came in thousands,
From the towns and back streets,
From the factories and our threatened, stifling homes.
We searched for green fields, for fresh air, for freedom.
We came to Cornwall.

We worked the land, we ploughed and planted,
We rose at dawn to endless toil,
We fed the nation at war.

We came from Manchester and Wigan,
We left behind London and Leeds.
We came to Bodmin and Truro and to Penzance
And the fields of Tresco on the Islands.
Places with names that spelt mystery and magic.

Our homes were sheds and caravans,
Cold and damp and cheerless.
Our homes were hostels, with laughter and singing,
And shoulders to cry on.

We found homesickness, hard work and discomfort
We found tears and tantrums.
We found happiness and friendship, love and loyalty.

We milked and mucked and shoveled and swept.
We earned the reluctant respect of men we worked with.
We now have thanks, and medals, and a place in the Parade.

We are the Land Girls,
Our memories come in thousands.



Reprinted with permission of the poet.

Angie Butler is an artist, a teacher in Primary Grades in Cornwall's schools, an author of children's books and a proud Cornishwoman. Visit Angie Butler on the worldwide web, at www.westcountrygiants.co.uk/landgirls.asp

The Story Behind the Poem

During the Battle of Britain in World War II, as German bombs fell in London and Nazi U-Boats torpedoed the Merchant Ships, the British Isles were dangerously close to starvation. The Women's Land Army was hastily formed, and 70,000 young women, most of them in their teens, were recruited to do the grubby agricultural chores normally done by men who were away in Britain's armed forces.

Thus, high-spirited city girls suddenly found themselves in 1940 rural Cornwall, clearing stones, pulling thistles, cutting brocolli on frozen fields, and tending the unending potato harvest. There were few

tractors in those war years, so most of the work was done by hand, using horses.

The women's army played its part well; but, sadly, came up extremely short on well-earned recognition. At war's end, the Land Army became the "Forgotten Army," with no benefits and scant public notice or gratitude.

It wasn't until 2000 that the "Land Girls" marched at the rear of a Remembrance Day parade. Some sixty years after all their backbreaking work in the farm fields, when "the girls" were mostly in their Eighties, they were at long last awarded their official "badges." It was tardy recognition, to be sure, but so richly deserved.

THE CORNISH PHRASE OF THE MONTH IS: "MY A VYNN EVA KOREV"
WHICH MEANS "I WOULD LIKE TO DRINK BEER." IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY...SOME GOOD CORNWALL DAY.

Global Issues & Great Decisions



Winter Discussion Series Planned

The Dodgeville Public Library and the Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin will play host to several foreign policy discussions during the winter months, by exploring the Afghanistan/Pakistan dilemma in early December and launching a "Great Decisions" series on global issues in March and April.

Last year, two Library forums discussed "Energy and the Global Economy" and "Afghanistan/Pakistan," utilizing the guidelines and printed materials supplied by the "Great Decisions" Program of the Foreign Policy Assn. The small but enthusiastic Dodgeville Library audiences requested a repeat of the program and the Library and Grassroots organization have responded with a more ambitious lineup of winter sessions:

Dec. 3 - "Obama's War," discussion to follow a documentary film by the Frontline news team of National Public Television. Dodgeville Public Library at 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 6 - "Afghanistan/Pakistan: a Round Table Discussion and Potluck." After dinner, chairs are pulled into a circle for conversation. 3-5:00 p.m. at Stonefield Apartments in Dodgeville (These free public events are co-sponsored by the Dodgeville Public Library and Grassroots Citizens for Peace & Justice.)

Thursday Night Discussions: The "Great Decisions" Series.

March 18 - "Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution" in Iraq and Afghanistan.

March 25 - "The Persian Gulf"

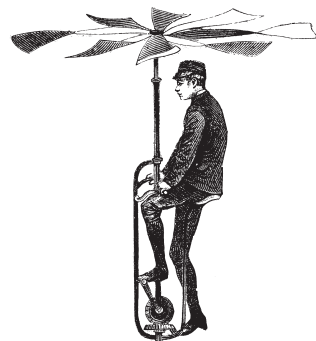
April 8 - "Global Financial Crisis" from 2007 to the present.

April 15 - "U.S.-Chinese Security Relations"

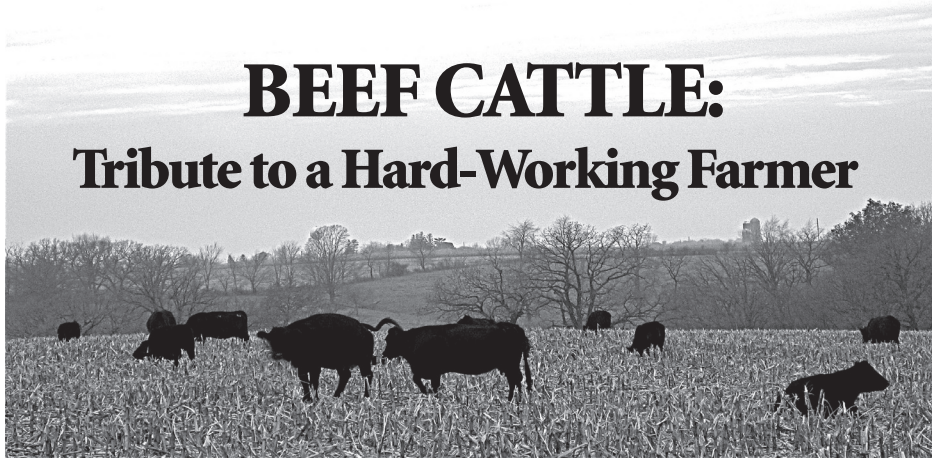
(These discussions take place at 7 p.m. at the Dodgeville Public Library. The sessions are free, but pre-registration is required.)

For information, and/or to sign up, contact Vickie Stangel, Library Director, <http://dodgevillelibrary.com> or Phone 608. 935.3728, ext. 12; or email vstangel@swls.org

The non-profit Foreign Policy Assn. has sponsored the Great Decision talks for more than fifty years, in an effort to stimulate public discussion on critical world issues. The program's editorial board provides briefing books, television programs and online resources for the chosen topics. The library will order several briefing books to be placed on reserve in the library, along with the accompanying DVD and recommended books on each topic. Participants may choose to order their own briefing books. Resources including the video clips are available on the Foreign Policy Association web site: <http://www.fpa.org> and click on "Great Decisions."



Those born in 1978 thru 1997, the so-called Net Generation, are now the largest generation in size, with 78.5 million people in the U.S. Weaned on technology, they will dominate the 21st Century, if you count up their total numbers alone.



BEEF CATTLE: Tribute to a Hard-Working Farmer

Cattle farming has always played an important role in the economic and social life of Mineral Point; and both farming and our better-known regional attribute—mining—have enjoyed high national regard because of geologic ingredients that make up the the Driftless Region's hills. In the case of beef farming, the ingredient is the limestone in the soil beneath the rich grass of local pastures.

For many years, beginning in the 1800's, beef cattle bred and raised near Mineral Point went to Chicago's meat market as "Pointers," exceptional animals that fed on calcium-rich grass, hay and water. The area's reputation for high-quality beef production endures. "The formula is pretty simple," says Jerry Marr, a long-time "cow/calf" operator. It's "good soil = good plants = good meat = good people." But Marr says there are other factors that make local beef production successful: the skills of the beef farmers who perform all the chores—day after day—to properly clean and maintain the barn and the fields, feed and care for the cattle, and carefully manage to get the cattle to the right weight and the right market.

In 2007, Iowa County claimed about 388 beef farms raising more than 12,000 beef cattle and feeding cows and calves on grass, hay and grains. Most of the farms were relatively small-scale agricultural enterprises, "father and son" or "mom and pop" operations. Herd size is also in the moderate range compared to mega-farms or factory beef operations. Most of the local herds are tended by a farmer who works "hands-on" using low-tech, low-cost farm methods to avoid the high expenses of computerized and "fancy" modern innovations.

Some local farmers fear that, because they lack the finances for the high-tech approach, they are losing out to corporate farms. Actually, Iowa County is gaining beef farms. But, they are smaller. Gene Schriefer, Interim Ag Educator for the UW-Extension office in Dodgeville, says a number of larger farms are being split into smaller 40 to 50 acre operations and "farmettes," which makes the total count of farms higher. Schriefer is concerned, however, about a different local statistic: the number of area dairy farms is dropping.

Further, the national average age of the beef farmer is 57 years, and even higher here. Schriefer thinks the job description simply scares the younger, or would-be, farmer. "Expensive to get into; it's long hours, hard work, and it's a risky business

from year to year," he says. Farm prices and other variables make cattle production and dairying a year-to-year gamble.

And farming, like most other industries, tends toward bigness. It takes a lot of turf to raise a calf to market size. Jerry Marr says that, on a typical beef farm, one cow and her calf need to walk 1.5 to 3 acres of pasture to feed through the summer. And, the animals need an acre of hay, alfalfa, silage, or corn and soy feed to maintain nutrition through the winter. So a farm's acreage often determines herd size.

A number of local farmers are trying out the process of finishing their cattle on grass alone. But this "grain-free" option can mean higher expenses, chiefly for keeping the animal longer and for exercising the option of fertilizing pasturelands. There's no certainty the price of beef will support the increased costs. "So the jury is still out," Marr says, "and conflicting data is confusing the argument over grass versus grain."

The outcome will depend on the American consumer," he concludes, "If the general public likes the taste and texture of grass-fed beef and appreciates the health benefits of the leaner product, farmers will meet the increased demand, as they always have."

But, American consumers, especially older eaters, love the classic beef steak, a marbled cut of beef from a grain-fed, fatter animal. So the debate will likely continue for several years.

It's all a part of a large transformation in the way meat and seafood reach our dining rooms and restaurants. The neighborhood meat market and the town's locker plant are largely relics of the past. Beef, by and large, is raised on a range, fattened in a huge feed lot, processed by minimum-wage cutters, wrapped in plastic and tossed into a refrigerated truck.

Whether we'll demand, and pay for, a different meat delivery system is an intriguing question. Before 1940, all beef was raised on grass—no one even knew about grain as feed. Over time, corn became the cheap alternative, the feed lots grew large, and medications and hormones appeared.

Today, consumers seem to be closing an historic circle by moving agriculture toward sustainable farm methods, free-range livestock, and fresh local vegetables and fruit.

Iowa County farmers can be proud of their consistent ranking in the Top Five Counties in Wisconsin beef production. And as good neighbors, we can ALL be proud.



Photo: courtesy of George Walkenkamp

The way to the market was by rail. Back in the day when Chicago was "meat-packer to the World," the Mineral Point & Northern Railway served farmers along its route, and joined the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad as the major shippers of agricultural products to and from this area.

The MP&N was built to haul zinc ore into Mineral Point from the nearby mines in Linden, Highland and elsewhere, but

the line also carried fuels, building materials, wagons, household goods, eggs, dairy products, grains, and the area's prized cattle.

Monday's prices were usually the highest at the many area stockyards, so on Mondays special trains were put together.

On Nov. 29, 1909, the engine in the photo puffed from Highland to Chicago with twenty cars filled with livestock, one of the largest stock trains ever to run on the MP&N line.

Iowa County Show Cattle: A National Reputation



By Bill Spevack

Go to any cattle show around the country, and there's a pretty good chance that among the blue ribbon winners are one or more steers or heifers with genetic roots in Iowa County. This area has a decades-long reputation for producing winning livestock at county fairs, state fairs and international competitions. It's a big industry here, and an even bigger benefit for the young men and women who raise and show the animals.

The tradition goes back to around World War II, when a dozen local dairy farmers turned to beef production, to diversify and to take advantage of the outstanding pasture grasses native to Southwestern Wisconsin. Today, their grandchildren are breeding and developing award-winning beef cattle.

Many champions have been bred and raised on local farms and shown by family members. Others are sold as 4-H projects for young men and women around the United States.

Mineral Point calves have a good reputation among farmers and ranchers who want the best for show competition, and show judges consistently recognize the qualities found in the animals raised here.

Early on, the champion show steers were Angus, Herefords and Shorthorns, but today they are cross-bred with Chianina, an Italian breed, and Maine-Anjou cattle, from France. Thus identifying and matching the characteristics of heifers and bulls that will produce champions has become a combination of science, art and experience.

Iowa County cattlemen, such as Scott and Jerry Gaffney, George Graber, Mick James, Jerry Marr, Bob May, Gregg May, Doug

and Mike Schmitz, Bruce Suddeth, Dave Thomas and Greg Tonkin, have gained national prominence over the years.

And any of the cattlemen would point out that the greatest benefit of raising and showing cattle—or swine, dairy cows, lambs and other farm animals—is what the youngsters themselves get from the experience. Bob May says that preparing an animal for show teaches young people responsibility. "Get up early, feed and water it, clean the stall, then get ready for school. After school, do it all again, but don't forget your homework," he said. "It isn't just doing chores. A kid is responsible for that animal and its health, checking its feet and skin, making sure it gets proper nutrition, grooming it, even keeping an eye on the sky to watch for lightning."

Debra Ivey, Iowa County 4-H Youth Development Agent, conducts classes in livestock handling, including cleanliness, transportation safety, administering medications, and handling animals under special conditions at county fairs and other shows. "It's not only to teach the kids," she says. "It's a way of assuring the quality of meat purchased from the kids after the shows."

Ivey said a 2004 survey of Wisconsin youth involved in animal science projects found 4-H members were more likely than non 4-H youth to set goals for themselves and achieve them, to understand and practice ethical decision making, to serve in leadership positions and to take responsibility for the decisions they make.

Bill Spevack enjoyed summer days in Linden with grandfather Nicholas May, a pioneer in Angus beef production in Iowa County, and the "cattle talk" gave Bill an appreciation of the industry. After a career in advertising and public relations, he retired with his wife, Pat, to the Town of Waldwick. He has published two novels and has "a couple of other writing projects" in the works.

GOOD REWARDS: MUCH MORE THAN TROPHIES

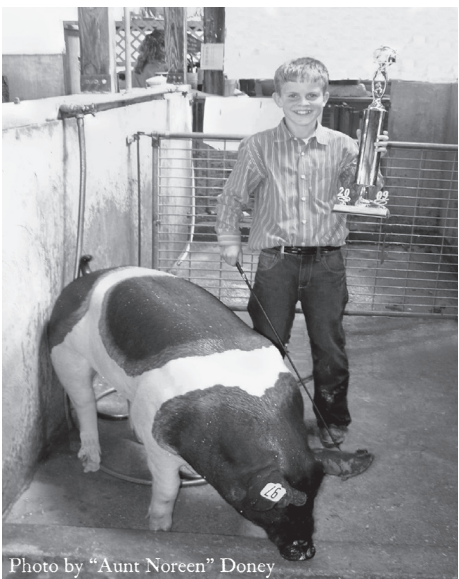


Photo by "Aunt Noreen" Doney

Here stands the proud young Matt Doney, after he—and Rocky—took the trophy for Reserve Champion Showmanship at the Iowa County Fair. For the 13-year old, it was his second year at the Fair, and his first outing at the State Fair in August. Matt, the son of Todd and Cindy Doney and a 4-H member, lives in Mineral Point but keeps his animal at a farm on the outskirts of town.

He says a special relationship between boy and pig emerges from months of hard work, feeding, grooming and maintaining the animal's good health. "I got to know Rocky," he said, "and he got to know me."

The payoff is in character-building; not the trophy, not the blue ribbon, but the rewards that come with a job well done.

Nothing wrong with a trophy, though!

A SHOW STEER NAMED "CRACKERJACK" AND A FARM GIRL'S PRIZE-WINNING ESSAY

Mineral Point's legendary real estate agent Lucille May is a Pointer through and through. Attuned to local history, she volunteers her time to heritage causes, and speaks with pride of her early years on the farm, of her seven farm children, and of the importance of keeping local agriculture alive and well.

Lucille loves a good story, and gave us this one: her young daughter Colleen, as an industrious 4-H girl, raised a show steer and, like the lad in the story above, developed a close bond with the big animal as the months of pre-show work went by. After the show's prizes were handed out in the beef exhibition hall, Colleen sat down at the family typewriter to express her feelings for "Crackerjack."

She sent the essay off to Milwaukee, and the judges named it one of the Best in State.

"Early last fall, I met a very special friend," she wrote, "who looked at me tenderly."



She wrote of their walks together, their "talks," their meal times (sharing the candied goodies from the Crackerjack box), repeated lessons in good grooming, which paid off when "he looked like a black sheet of walking velvet."

And, after the Big Show, their goodbye.

"Ya know, we've really been all around together and I wish I could tell you all about this wonderful sort of a friend. His personality, his physique, his beautiful brown eyes, his quiet moments, his smooth, shiny, full black hair, his baby ears, his soft, long neck. But this all had to end. All good things must come to an end, so I'm told, and I found myself begging my sister and Dad to lead him on the big truck to the never-never land—where ever that may be.

And this is how I felt toward my show steer

—Cracker Jack,

the best friend I could ever have had!"

Today, Colleen is Holly Ipsarides, a dental hygienist in Germantown, Wisc. Lucille tells us she still subscribes to the Angus Journal.

THE BEE MAN



A STORY
FROM HER COLLECTION
BY JUDITH SUTCLIFFE



My parents' house was just across the street and downhill from the old mechanics garage where my pottery shop was located in Audubon, Iowa. A block farther downhill from my parents' house, Troublesome Creek, a poor, struggling vale of tears, wended its way through abandoned tires, chunks of cement, broken bottles, and a strange reddish sludge, to reach one of the Nishna Botna tributaries.

The houses lining the scruffy edge of the creek bank were old, small, and in disrepair. One of them had window shades pulled down all around the house. Mr. Cole lived there alone. He was known as the bee man, because he was a beekeeper. He mostly kept to himself.

My pottery shop had a wooden garage door facing the street, through which cars used to be driven for mechanic's work. It had a little door cut through the middle of it. When I first set up shop, a friend and I had painted a cheerful fairy tale forest scene on the big door. The little door appeared to be the entry into a large tree, with friendly rabbits peeking out from behind it.

In the summer time, I'd push the big door up out of the way and enjoy the warm breezes and the occasional folks who'd poke their heads in to see what I was working on. It was warm in the pottery, and I was usually barelegged and barefoot, powdered lightly with clay dust.

The beekeeper walked by almost every day, like clockwork, headed uptown. I'd always say "Hello" to him. He was quite tall, thin and rangy. He was always clad in the light brown cotton shirts, trousers, and caps that my father, who also wore them, called "sun tans." They were no-nonsense workwear. "Bees don't like animal fibers," Mr. Cole explained to me one day. "I only wear cotton. It keeps them calm."

The bees apparently didn't notice his knee-high, tight-fitting, brown leather boots.

My father, recently retired from veterinary work, had great respect for Mr. Cole. He told me how one time when he was at a farm near the edge of town, the farmer pointed out a swarm of bees in the yard. Dad phoned Mr. Cole who drove out there immediately with a box of some sort. The bee man quietly reached into the swarm with his bare hands and picked up the bees.

He had another unusual talent. He played the violin. My mother, who was always digging for the creative vein in everyone, discovered it. Probably more to encourage him than to play herself, she got out her old violin from its ragged black cardboard case, and she'd practice a little and chat with him about fiddle playing. She was pretty awful, but she could manage an old Missouri hymn or two. She would trade ragged sheet music with Mr. Cole. It was never clear to either my mother or me how good a violin player Mr. Cole was, because he only played for himself, in his home. But it was a pleasant and neighborly connection between these two.

One evening I was sitting at my parents' kitchen table chatting with them over

the remains of a light supper. There was a knock at the screen door, and my mother got up to answer it. Mr. Cole's voice entered the room. "I am sorry to put upon you at your supper time, but I wonder if you might have a G string you could loan me. I have broken mine and have no extras at the moment."

My father and I carefully studied the bread crumbs around the remaining slice or two of homemade white bread, while my mother got her violin case from under the bed. "Well, I thought I had one here," she muttered. "Oh, here it is." She took the scant little coil to the doorway, where Mr. Cole still stood outside on the stoop, having refused an invitation to enter. "Will this do?" she said.

"I am most grateful," he replied. "I will replace yours as soon as I can order a new one."

It was mother, in her eternal creative quest, who found out that Mr. Cole knew some Spanish. She herself remembered enough Spanish from high school to sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" in Spanish and recite most of El Pobre Pollo, the story about the sky falling on the little chicken. That gave her one more topic of conversation with this intriguing neighbor, and she loaned him her sheet music for La Paloma, the dove.

We all had these tenuous connections with Mr. Cole, though much about him remained, and yet remains, mysterious. I had never had a chance to study Spanish, but I liked the idea. So I suggested to him one day that he bring me a Spanish phrase every day when he walked by, so I'd learn a little bit at a time. His gaunt and nearly toothless face wrinkled itself into a semblance of a smile.

He proceeded to bring me Spanish snippets for a week or so. There were two of these Spanish offerings he brought me which I remember to this day. One was a conjugation: "beso, besas, besa, besamos, besais, besan." I had to repeat that one several times for him before I got it right. He didn't tell me what it meant, only that it was a typical conjugation.

I'm not sure today that the grammar is quite right on his second sample, but this is exactly how I memorized it almost 40 years ago: "Su seguro servidor que besos sus manos y pies." "It's the polite way," he explained to me, "to sign a letter."

I looked up the words in my mother's Spanish dictionary one day, and it means, "your humble servant who kisses your hands and feet." The verb besar means to kiss.

It was only years later that it finally occurred to me that Mr. Cole's Spanish exemplars, the words he had selected as typical examples, were very odd choices.

JUDY SUTCLIFFE, artist, craftsperson, poet and wordsmith, also co-owns Long Branch Gallery and is a co-founder of the Shake Rag Alley School for the Arts. This story is drawn from her "Collection of Old Men."

Storybook Time at the Library

The Mineral Point Library's own "kid magnet," Children's Asst. Diane Palzkill, is planning two sessions of "Preschool Story Time" during 2010 – from February through April, and September through November.

Each Monday morning at 10:00 a.m., preschoolers (some are 2 1/2 years old, some 3 1/2), as well as parents with babies, grandparents and caregivers happily greet each other in the children's section. When Diane opens with the familiar "action song," everybody joins in. Then, almost magically,

the children are quietly sitting on the floor, as Diane reads from a carefully selected picture book. Each week has a theme—owls, airplanes, snow, or turtles—and the session's related activities and crafts help provide the reading-readiness skills the children will need when they enter school.

A special treat is shared before a closing song brings the program to an end around 10:45 a.m. Kids and adults check out books, DVDs and CDs, then—librarians swear it's true—"skip down the stairs."



"Gabe" Palzkill, son of Bruce and Anne Palzkill, drew this sketch of the Wm. Jones home on Ridge Street in Mineral Point in 2006. His detailed rendering was part of the public schools' 4th Grade Historical Buildings project, as a spirited group of young boys and girls stood in front of the city's structures with pad and pencil – and learned a bit about art, history and architecture, all at the same time.

Gabe's teacher, Paige Grimm, says, "He may become a cartoonist in the future because he has such a dry, clever sense of humor along with his artistic ability." And the 23-year veteran teacher says, "I love teaching 4th grade because the curriculum for Social Studies requires we teach the history of Wisconsin and Mineral Point."



"Inspire Creativity" at Shake Rag Alley Youth Enrichment Program

by Diane Sterba, Program Director

"Our classes encourage children to develop new talents, confidence, and self-esteem, while exploring a broad spectrum of the arts and humanities. This, in a nurturing and non-competitive environment in our historic and natural setting. Here children also learn about themselves, their value to the community, and their place in the natural world."

The Youth Program for 2009 was "all fun all the time," a happy ten-week learning experience, with thirty-one activities, eighteen instructors, and 300 kids. Less than half of them came from Mineral Point; others came from nearby cities and from far-away states.

The 3rd Laura Ingalls Wilder Day was a HUGE success. Thirty kids, shown in the photo above, came for the August event. I got help from Michelle Swain, Jane Potocki, Heather Moellers and other volunteers as we offered activities that would have been popular in Laura's Day: embroidery, making candles, weaving, making cornhusk dolls, and turning a crank to make old-fashioned ice cream. Square dancing, too, in Shake Rag Alley's historic buildings.

We received \$200 from United Funds for summer programs, a sum that was put towards our two Free Arts Days and the Free Sign Language class; and we used an anonymous donation to hire Ann Gorgen for two one-hour sessions during our two Free Arts Days.

A couple of new additions on the site are wonderful. A new playhouse was built by the husband of Tatiana Katara ("the Fairy Lady") and others during the Woodlanders Weekend. It is now decorated with the help of children from the "Paint a Piece of Furniture" class and a mural made by the Free Arts kids. The Free Arts Day kids also created the new, colorful fence leading up to the Ellery House.

Additionally, a middle school drama troupe wrote an original play for the Dodgeville Public Library, which donated \$100 to the summer program. The theme this year was "Be Creative," a good fit with the Shake Rag School's goal. The kids all became famous historic characters who "came to life" when they were painted on a canvas. Thus the title: "Magic Paintings."

And there was so much more!

The first 'after school' program started on Nov. 1, 2004, just two weeks after the school bought the property. Within several weeks, classes were filled and were operating five days a week with ten children in each session. The after-school classes have always cost \$6 each, including materials. This does not cover all the expenses, but the SRA Board has continued to support the youth programs throughout the years.

We have settled into a program of two afterschool classes a week, plus one home schooling session a week (as requested), one preschool program a month, and a variety of family events on weekends.

Besides a multitude of Arts & Crafts classes, we offer Creative Drama, Spanish and Hispanic Activities, Multicultural Stories and Crafts, Nature Crafts, and Music.

See www.shakeragalley.com to choose Creative Classes!



A Little WooWoo on Elder Mound

by Katie Green

Among the multitudinous pleasures and treasures of the Driftless Region is the fact that we dwell in the midst of such a rich and yeasty historical record, some of it physical, some of it just the stuff of legend. For the part of me that is a cultural historian, it's basically heaven on earth every day around here. On one recent occasion, the convergence of two of my main interests—native American culture and Gold Rush adventurism—was almost too intense and glamorous to bear.

Allow me to explain, as this is a potential experience of awe and wonder for virtually anyone willing to put him or herself out a little.

On a little hill outside Muscoda, Wisc. is an effigy mound—not just an average effigy mound, but one that functions spectacularly as a calendar mound when paired with a series of smaller mounds on a ridge across the road (Hwy 193). The mound is on private property, but access is generously shared by the steward and "owner", Frank Shadewald, upon asking and receiving permission. At the solstices and equinoxes, Mr. Shadewald hosts an official viewing from the top of what is now called "Frank's Hill", allowing respectful persons to trudge up and witness the holy alliance between long ago native ingenuity and the antics of our wheeling sun.

Members of the Ho-chunk nation still routinely observe sacred ceremonies there, incorporating the cornwoman and the eagle effigies on the crest of the knob in seasonal rituals which are no doubt like those of their far distant ancestors. There is also a council fire ring off the crest on the east slope of the hill, giving witness to humankind's seeming need to palaver and negotiate every aspect of life. The property is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and so enjoys the protection it so richly deserves—unlike, alas, many examples of the Mound culture, which have been obliterated in the last century and a half by subsequent waves of uncaring farmers, roadbuilders, town founders and what have you. As I understand it, the eagle mound on Frank's Hill is one of only two left from a band of sixteen eagle mounds that once existed in the immediate vicinity. The other of those two survivors is only a so-called "ghost mound" — it was ploughed down, but at certain times of the year the outline can be seen from the way the grain crops grow on the imported soil of the ancient mound. What a thrill it must have been in the past to look down and see the entire flock of eagles, land-locked but soaring in the imagination!

Ceremonies on "Frank's Hill" have been taking place for the last 1,000 years or so — a mere bagatelle in the great rollcall of years

since humans morphed out of slimemold, but impressive by the lights of our modern, throwaway culture. The first white settler to "own" the mound property, Andrew Elder, was a Scots immigrant by way of North Carolina. This Andrew Lawson Elder (1818–1891) and a friend, heading toward Eagle Township with a team, nearly drowned at some ferry crossing when the ferry sank. Undeterred, he acquired some land, built a log home at the bottom of the mound, married a considerably younger woman, and took off for California two weeks after the wedding with a male friend from Highland to take part in "The Excitement" out West. How long Elder mined is unknown, but eventually he wandered home, as most did who survived the trip and tribulations in the mining camps. Apparently he did well in California, as his grand daughter remembered seeing stacks of gold money stored in a treadle sewingmachine drawer on the home place, gold that reputedly was buried later somewhere on the property.

Andrew Elder's wanderlust was nearly unquenchable, as he no sooner returned from the West but he grabbed his violin and became a musician on the riverboats between New Orleans and St. Louis. He came home periodically to father children (his wife, Julie, must have been running the farm and raising the kids virtually alone) and died on the home place in his 73rd year. The property remained in the family until 1977, and fortunately the other owners between the Elders and Frank Shadewald protected the mounds until they could be declared an official historic site.

On September 21st—a threatening and overcast day that discouraged others from coming—I was among a small group who climbed "Frank's Hill" to be rewarded by informative talks by Frank Shadewald, a Ho-chunk elder, and a retired professor who likes to survey mounds. Then the woowoo began. The clouds parted, a spectacular sunset flamed to the west as the sun lined up over the autumnal mound across the road, and a vivid rainbow appeared on the eastern horizon behind us.

We were bathed in an aura as old as time-out-of-mind. Then, as darkness fell, the clouds rearranged themselves and rain began to fall. I'll never be the same.

Katie Green, who lives in Spring Green, is a journalist, essayist and feature writer who pleases young and old with her bold stories about America's rich history, especially the California Gold Rush.

News about the discovery inspired Californians, who dug down twenty feet. Shortly thereafter, the Los Angeles Times proclaimed, "Traces of 200-year old Wire Found!" The conclusion was that "our west coast ancestors had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers."

One week later, The Capital Times in Madison, Wisconsin, printed this good news:

"After digging as deep as thirty feet in his pasture near Stoughton, Ole Olson, a self-taught archaeologist, found absolutely nothing.

Ole has therefore concluded that, three hundred years ago, Wisconsin had already gone totally wireless."

WHAT WE EAT IN ONE WEEK

Source: "Hungry Planet: What the World Eats," by Peter Menzel



The Revis family, who take their meals in North Carolina, eat a little fresh foods (see tomatoes and grapes on the edge of the table) but generally buy "convenience foods" -- cans, jars, boxes, bags, bottles, and that good ol' American favorite, Pizza!

Total food expenditure = \$341.98 per week



The Manzo family of Sicily, the home of Pizza -- but there's no Pizza on their table. It's "Mediterranean" grains, vegetables, very little meat, or canned, bottled and boxed processed foods.

Total food expenditure = Euros 214.36 or U.S. \$260.11 per week

The Ahmed family of Cairo buys their fresh vegetables, grown in the Nile valley, from neighborhood stores, along with flatbread from street vendors.

Beverages are the only items made in a factory.

Total food expenditure = 387.85 Egyptian Pounds, or \$68.53 U.S.



When the Ayme family of Tingo, in Ecuador, gather around their open fire, all the processed foods have disappeared -- simply a matter of "no access to available foodstuffs."

Total food expenditure = \$31.55 U.S.



And for the Aboubakar family of Breidjing Camp in the African nation of Chad, food is a survival issue, not a gourmet experience.

Total food expenditure = 685 CFA Francs or \$1.23



But the honors (!) for "Most Costly Diet" goes to the Melander family of Bargeheide, in Germany.

The bottled brews add up. And the table groans under the weight of its many dairy products and all those cold cuts and wursts.

Food expenditure for one week: 375.39 Euros, a staggering \$500.07 U.S.



Archeologists in New York, digging at a depth of ten feet, uncovered traces of copper wire dating back a hundred years, and concluded that their ancestors already had built a functioning telephone network more than one hundred years ago.

What would Grandma Do?

by Frank Beaman

Occasionally, in my more foolish, youthful moments, I would be tempted to tell my beloved grandmother, "I just can't do that." Her reponse would be an arched Scotch-Irish eyebrow, and stony silence, as she waited for my next, inevitable, question, "Well, then, just how can I do it?"

Anna Jane Waymire would reply, "Young man, you put your left foot down, and then your right foot, and you get marching!"

I have never found better advice for living a useful life; and, having attained her age without attaining her wisdom, I think each day about the simple and sturdy lessons she taught, the examples she set, and I realize with gratitude that her life had enormous impact over mine.

Grandma came to live with my family when she was sixty years old, only a few years after her husband died in 1927, and for many years my mother's mother served as the family guardian, playmate, teacher, and often our spiritual advisor.

For my two sisters and me, she was a quiet, strong and shining presence in our lives—a role model, as we would put it if we use today's inadequate psycho-phrase. She taught me "the ABCs" at age three, and taught me to read at age four. The hours we spent together in our crowded flat behind Beaman Cleaners produced my present-day love of history, geography, language, and my life-long respect for the power of words. With Mom and Dad busy in the shop during the dark days of the Great Depression, my sister Judy and I spent each day's hours with "Grandma Anna." We enjoyed games, did our school homework, did the household chores, and talked with her about the world around us. My sister Kathy, fourteen years my junior, also benefited from many of the same experiences, and gathered much good counsel from "the Waymire Way."

Once, after a spat with my parents, I told Grandma I intended to run away from home. "Good idea," she replied, "I'll go with you." And so we packed a bag and a lunch and set out on foot in the streets of Hammond, Indiana. We walked about six blocks without a word between us, and then I slowed, pulled up, and asked if maybe we should return. My grandmother's sly smile finished that day's quiet lesson.

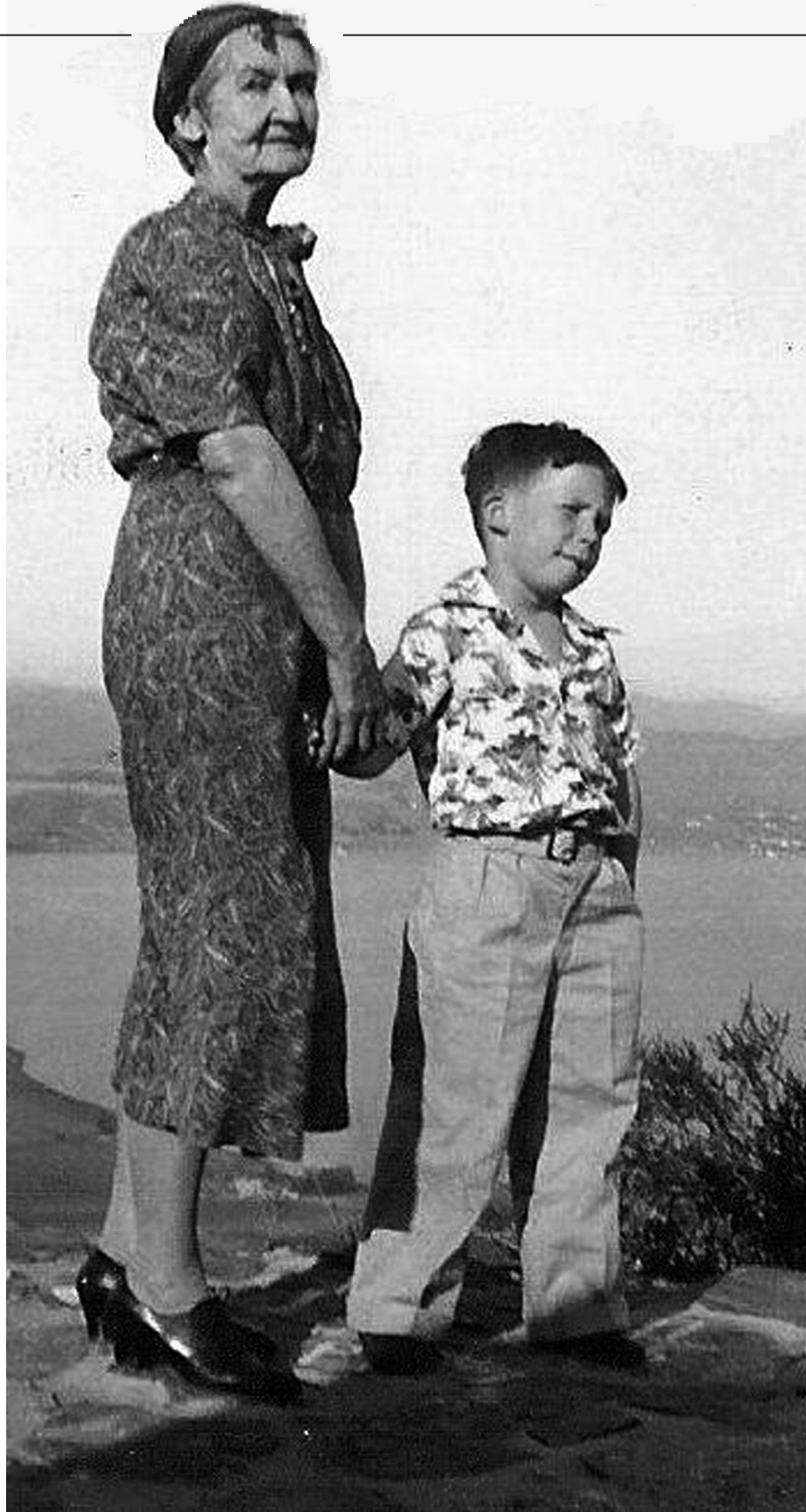
Her style was "first-person" and "hands-on"

As we grew up, Judy, Kathy and I listened, fascinated, to her stories. We always assumed they were true, and they were gems of American history. She told us that when she was a nine year old farm girl, the outlaw Jesse James stopped at the family place, and she was given the task of watering his horse while her mother cooked chicken n' dumplings for the James Brothers. When her family lived in Independence, Missouri, she often went down to the trailhead to watch the covered wagons depart for California.

She also told us, without a trace of self-pity, of a turning point in her childhood: the day in the pasture when she ran from a charging bull, jumped the fence, caught a heel and shattered her knee. The bones didn't set right, so she carried one stiff leg for the rest of her days.

The bull was the only thing she ever ran away from.

In a useful life that stretched from 1867 to 1961, she walked softly on the earth. No one I've ever known cared less about material possessions. No one I've ever known cared more about other human beings.



ANNA JANE WAYMIRE of Kokomo, Indiana at California's Lake Tahoe with a much younger Hoosier, a grandson she dubbed "Dode."

I can clearly picture the way she welcomed her callers, seated, the stiff leg out in front, leaning forward to listen intently to their words. She gave encouragement, but not advice. And, before the guests left, she would touch their arms, then pronounce their flesh good—it was her special blessing.

She disliked pretenders, and she seemed to have the ability to read people's inner workings—to sense their souls—upon first meeting. She didn't get angry with phonies; she just didn't give her time to them.

Kindness, she often said, was life's most important trait, and there was no worse sin than judging another person by appearance alone, or feeling superior to anyone else.

Her daily example reminded us that "complaining solves nothing and hard work solves everything." Long before motivational speakers talked of "breaking a problem into small chunks," Grandma Anna talked of simply "using the left foot, and then the right."

She never lectured or preached. She spoke in clear terms of her beliefs, of good works for others, of honesty, the Golden Rule, and of acceptance of "those who were different." She lived her long life with determination, common sense and compassion, putting on these virtues each morning as she would her worn print dress and her sensible shoes.

Kind reader, if you have come to know me personally you know that some of Grandma Anna's lessons didn't "take." In the press of life in a more modern time, I have forgotten some of the principles she so simply set before me, and I have bent a good number of her Rules of Conduct.

For which I say, "Grandma, I'm sorry."

But as I think about the many ways she shaped my view of life and living, I have found cause to celebrate, and to believe Grandma Anna would share in the joy I've experienced while whizzing past some of life's milestones.

She paid close attention to what the study of history could teach her, and I think she would applaud the effort to revisit history in the pages of this newspaper.

As the daughter of a Union soldier in the Civil War, as both farm girl and big city woman, she read the newspaper every day and stayed "plugged in" all her life. I think she would applaud the effort to advance a forgotten school subject once called "Civics" by writing, here, about current events.

Grandma Anna had few possessions to show. Most of her life she lived in a small room in a home that wasn't hers; and she kept only a few treasures. Occasionally, she took them out to recall their history, sometimes in the company of a grandchild, but she took

pains to tell us that the item was not important—what was important was the memory.

That is how my sisters and I were taught the meaning of the word "enough."

During my last long, serious talk with my grandmother, at the height of the Cold War in the late 1950's, she expressed disappointment in that decade's runaway abundance. "Capitalism," she said, "has become Materialism." I don't think Grandma would be surprised that, of all the 20th Century "isms," materialism is the "ism" that ultimately triumphed. But, she certainly wouldn't applaud that victory. And, she would probably arch that Scotch-Irish eyebrow if asked to view my collection of "stuff," stacked in my overlarge house.

But she would LOVE Mineral Point.

She would call me fortunate, which indeed I am, to have discovered a new home, a dot on the map, where many of her philosophies flourish, where many of her beliefs are practiced every day.

She would share with me a sense of renewed hope that people in a community could understand and share her values—honest and uncomplaining hard work in the interest of others—a place that strives to keep those values alive in day to day endeavors.

She would rejoice in the knowledge that, somewhere in a self-absorbed world, there were people who cared about personal relationships more than class distinctions. She would delight in the knowledge that a community of many different backgrounds, occupations and values could unite to solve community problems in a frank and friendly way, without pretense and without soliciting outside interference.

She would laugh when she was told that, in Mineral Point, denim is the garb of choice, and that no one pays attention to costume as a measurement of social strata.

She would celebrate the community's shared interests, those of town and country, of farmers and artists, of old and young, of straights and gays, of rich and poor. As rowers in the same boat, the cooperative spirit of these diverse groups would make good sense to her, and to her it would be forward progress..

She would get up and get moving, to attend the Friday football game, the Farmers Market, and the Cornish pasty dinner at the church. She would cheer for the Pointers, Badgers, and Packers, not because football is important but because an outdoor event is a healthy ingredient for good fellowship.

She would also cheer for women's rights, for the old-fashioned concept called the Common Good, and for equality among races, genders and income levels.

She would have strong words for the miscreants who broke the Golden Rule, told lies, or those who were proud of their prejudices. Or their possessions.

She was a strong woman who liked plain talk, hard work, and a small clothes closet. Most of all, what distinguished her, and made her a treasure to those within her wide circle of admirers, was the unselfish gift of her time, her energy and her love.

She gave those who knew her and who loved her a simple way to make good choices in a complex and sometimes ugly world: just ask, "What would Grandma do?"

And then put your foot down.

Left foot first.

An unexpected bonus came as I put these words together, as my sisters and I reminisced and shared our cherished memories of childhoods made remarkable by our favorite ancestor.