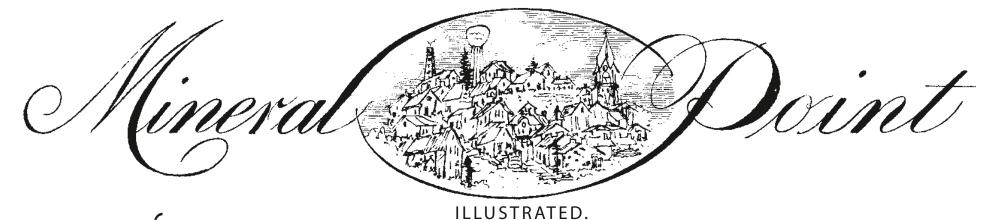
# THE TIMES OF



EDITION NO. 6

MAY, 2009

PUBLISHED BY THE MINERAL POINT PRESS

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



### BALLOONS, BELLS and MANY OTHER FESTIVITIES PLANNED FOR JUNE 13th

The cornerstone for the oldest courthouseinWisconsinwastappedintoplaceon Dodgeville's main street in 1859, and 3,000 celebrants enjoyed a day of free barbeque and speeches by prominent local dignitaries.

After months of planning and hard work, the low a County Sesquicent en ni al Committeewill note the 150th anniversary of the building by staging a spirited recreation of that cornerstone day on the courthouse grounds.

### THE OLD DODGEVILLE vs. MINERAL POINT WAR TO **END WITH HANDSHAKES**

As part of the festivities, the people of Mineral Point (with tongue in cheek) will at last relinquish the long-simmering grudge against the City of Dodgeville for "snatching the Courthouse away from us."

At the site of the original lowa County courthouse, Library Park on High Street, "historical figures and characters" will conduct a ceremony befitting the occasion, a balloon release will symbolize the flight of resentment, and then participants will ride bicycles to Dodgeville to present a token of forgiveness to county officials. There will, of course, be proclamations and handshakes.

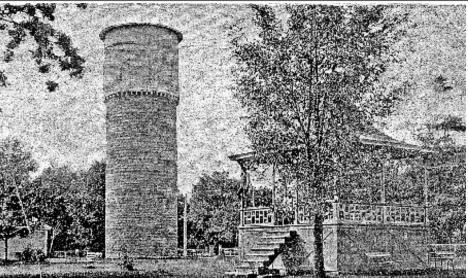
### SESQUICENTENNIAL DAY

When the Forgiveness Riders arrive, the courthouse bell will ring, followed by a Commemoration Ceremony on the building's front steps. Artifacts will be selected for two time capsules, tours and slideshows will provide local history, and horsedrawn wagons will tour Dodgeville. There will also be music by local musicians, and food provided by Iowa County 4-H members.

Don't miss this hallmark of civic pride!



[See the history of The Quarrel on p. 10]



# THE EDITOR PLANTS A FEW SEEDS

Writingword afterword, in the hope I might have something to say, I sit at a computer keyboard as the seasons change, glimpsing the creeping green transformation from my office window. Publication is a solitary and far too personal endeavor. It lacks the proper social balance needed for living congenially with friends in a small town.

Most of all, an avocation that forces a man to sit down and type all day keeps the man indoors, out of nature, out of the flow of things as winter turns to spring, and then to summer.

Smart people, I remind myself, go outside to watch the miracle of photosynthesis, how a tiny seed becomes a tall and sturdy object of natural beauty or, better yet, a gift for the dining table.

In late March, I filled a plastic tray with potting soil, a little water and a handful of seeds, nuggets carrying the spark of life. "Keep them moist," I'd been told, "and give them light and heat."

Pretty simple, right? And, Wow! The zinnias were up in two days. The vegetable and herb seeds, likewise, broke ground in a hurry. And then all I had to do was, "wait 'til you see four leaves and transplant 'em."

Things that mature from seed to showpiecearealmostmusical, richwith the harmonies of Nature. Their song of growth and hope brightens all those hours spent at the computer, and overwhelmsthegloomoftheday's badnews.

I've decided this is the year I plant a garden. And I'm pledging to get up out of the chair and tend the garden during the busy summer months. With six good friends and neighbors, we've developed a vegetable patch out back.

At harvest time, we won't compete with vendors at the Farmers Market, but we'll have a hundred days in the sun and a hundred hours of good, honest conversation as we work the garden's beds. Sure beats word processing by a mile!

ABOUTTHE PHOTO: A 19th-Century view of the Mineral Point Water Tower &  $City Bandstand in Water Tower Park. \ (MPHS Collection; in the Mineral Point Room)$ 

# **FEATUREDINTHISISSU**

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# WORKMEN MOVE TO OPERA HSE.

Theater Shuttered for One Year; Construction Under Way. Seating & Mechanicals to Be Restored to Vaudeville Splendor.

# **FUNDING ON TRACK**

Committee Thanks Generous Community for Support; Promises "State of the Art," but With Vintage Appearance.

Asarchitects, tradesmen, and fundraisers rolluptheirsleevestogotowork, the backers of an impressive campaign look ahead to a restored Opera House, which they say could change the complexion of Mineral Point.

A year of construction will result in a civic auditorium that will be the setting for traveling shows, musical and theatrical events, lectures, book, film and drama festivals, dance events, firstrun movies every week, and much more.



The theater's renovation will breathe new life into the Mineral Point economy as well as its cultural climate. The unique municipal building, with its well-equipped performance arts center, adjoined by the local library and historical archives, will make the city a hub for regional tourism.

# CHALLENGING WORK IS PLANNED

The planned work projects include new heating and cooling, lighting, sound and electrical systems, digital technologies, new "period" seating and a bold carpet, stagerigging, extensive plaster work and vibrant restoration painting, and sprinklers to bring the building in compliance with fire codes.

The rebirth of the Opera House will bring together the city's key elements—art, architecture, history and heritage—under one roof.



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

Modest costs are satisfied through the generosity of our readers.

For which we thank you.

Frank & Sandee Beaman



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





by Frank Beaman



When the first issue of **USA Today** hit the streets in 1982, I was, as a working journalist, an entrenched member of the oh-so-serious troupe of traditional scribes who declared that newspaper, "just right for those who find TV News too challenging."

We knew the American public did not really want micro-stories, mere snippets of information, and the flash and dash of computerized color and all that graphic tomfoolery. No, indeed. The American public, we were certain, respected what we worked so hard to give them: the news they needed to make all the correct decisions as citizens in a democracy. Even if our news product was sometimes boring.

We were, of course, wrong. <u>USA Today</u> is now the Number One Daily, and it has replaced the great gray New York Times as the nation's "tip sheet" — the place where assignment editors go each morning to compile the stories they'll cover that day.

Likewise, "People" magazine was once a little half-joke, spun off by its owner, Time Magazine, because the savvy publishers could sniff a new national thirst for celebrity and scandal. Well, "People" has nowgrownuptospawndozensofimitators.

During this 1970's and 80's, well-paid broadcast and print consultants traveled from newsroom to newsroom, flashing slides and rolling out ratings that convinced otherwise sensible journalists that their audience wanted "flash and trash."

The people who ran the newspapers, radiostations and television outlets—those we call "the mass media"—bought into the argument. And the news product changed. Most working reporters didn't want the change, because they felt they were doing a responsible job with their mission. But the industry's honchos, the geniuses, those who write the checks, told reporters to "go out and chase Britney."

So the memos went out: and TV News was then re-written for the sixth-grade mentality. And most newspapers simply fell into lockstep behind USA Today.

The cheapening of the news product was a scheme that was self-fulfilling. The newsrooms dished out trivia, happy-talk and other chatter, and wow-pow pictures, while devoting their precious news minutes and columns to events and stories thatwere easy to cover: crime, fires, car wrecks, and the like. The city council was adjudged "too boring." Politics and economics were handled like horse-races, mere recitations from a poll or the Dow Jones average. And then cable TV came along with a gaggle of celebrity shows and today's twisted view of "reality." And, over the years, the viewing and reading public began to think, "Okay, that's what the news IS."

And thus the geniuses were able to proclaim, "You see? They're conditioned to it!"

That's the history. Little by little, over the last three decades, the American news audience has been handed junk journalism instead of serious news coverage. And they have chosen to accept it. And that gives the practitioners of News Lite the right to blame their failed mission on the audience, saying, "We give the public what it wants."

And yet a respected Pew Research Center survey reported that a vast majority of Americans believe there is too much news coverage of celebrity scandals. And most people blame the news media for all the attention paid to the celebs. Bubba-and-Bubble-gum journalism,

once only a fringe-area nuisance, is now a major cultural force in the information industry and a real threat to the kind of meaningfulnewscoverageweneedsobadly.

It's just a matter of available space. There are only so many minutes in a newscast, and so many column inches in a print publication, so if Ms. Britney's shaven head claims those column inches, anin-deptheconomicreportgetsbumped, and readers lose information that would equip them to work within the democratic system to fix economic ailments.

There is no better example of the hole we've dug for journalism than the current economic crisis. We depend on the newsgatherers to keep us informed, especially when so many dollars are involved, but they let us down. In 2007, when the story of the mortgage problems of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac broke, the airwaves were pumping out stories about Anna Nicole Smith's death, and the jail trip of Paris Hilton. In 2008, when the SEC falsely told the Senate that it had oversight of the credit rating agencies under control, the commentators were cooling about Brad and Angelina's newborn twins. Then, when the depth of the economic collapse became clear, the print, radio, TV and cyberspace industry fell back to what they do so well—they shouted doom and gloom like Chicken Little on steroids.

If the mainstream media had spent its time reporting on the chain of events that produced the collapse of the economy, instead of pop culture delivered with pop commentary, we might have a voided to day's financial crisisal together, because we might have known enough to act to head it off.

This should concern us, one and all. If there ever was a time to "Grow Up and Get Serious," it's right now. And President Obama weighed in on that topic on Jan. 20. When he was sworn in he said, "Let us put aside childish things." (Note to Popular Press: "Report on his policies as well as his puppy.") -

It's a dilemma. We are weary of the trivial and the silly, but too tired to do the necessary work to find the good journalism that most assuredly is out there.

The news industry has grown fat with huge profits from feeding us pabulum for twenty-five years. It will be slow to return to the old, more expensive way of operating. Foreign news bureaus will die, the "Big Three networks" will become almost irrelevant, newspapers will close, and the ungovernable Internet will be bothour best hope and our worst nightmare.

You, and I, want responsible news coverage. We want the Truth. We will find it, in small amounts, on television, often on obscure channels. We'll find it on the radio, but not on the typical station. There are still some great newspapers. A number of magazines are doing the very best work in journalism right now. And the Internet is an unbelievably fruitful source for information and informed opinion, but it's also populated by some of the worst charlatans and outright nut cases in recorded history.

Is it worth the search? Yes, we need good journalism more than ever. Is it out there? Yes, but only if we do the hard work necessary to discover it, support it, and carry its Truths to others.

But, as a start, something everyone can do, we need to "put aside childish things."

Sorry, Britney.



The writing desk of Ulysses S. Grant. His battlefield dispatches to his troops were models for concise, clear language.

# Our **ContributingWriters**

LARRY BLAKELY Baseball Writer. "Christmas Cookies" p. 19

**KATIE GREEN** Spring Green Author. "Gold Rush Q & A," p. 15

**CHUCK HATFIELD** Historian, Pres., Friends of Wisc. Historical Society. "Love Letters" p. 9

NANCY PFOTENHAUER Treasurer, Min.Pt. Historical Society. "County Seat Wars" p. 10

RICK ROLFSMEYER Strong advocate for Rural Life p. 4

**BEN RUSSELL** Photographer, Volunteer. "A Look Back & A Look Ahead" p. 16

**BILL SPEVACEK** Activist, Countryman, Novelist. "Mineral Point Wrestling," p. 10

JUDY SUTCLIFFE Artist, Teacher, Gallery Owner. "Art Winder" p. 17

> KATRINA VANDENBERG Poet & Essayist p.7



Citizenry Apathetic & Unresponsive.

We used this image to launch "Our First & Quite Possibly Our Only Caption Contest." There are no winner's names to print. No entries. Zero. Zip. So, suffice to say, it is "Quite Possibly Our Only."

# ORCHARD LAWN PHASE II RESTORATION CONTINUES

Summer season tours of Orchard Lawn will continue, although the historic Gundry home is undergoing an ambitious restoration in its double-parlors, dining room, and other chambers, to bring the house to restored splendor. The society plans a Grand Opening at the conclusion of Phase II restoration work, in early 2010. TOURS: FRI & SAT, 1 to 5 •• SUN 11 to 2

# PENDARVIS SITE OPENS MAY 12

The Pendarvis State Historic Site opens its gates for a summer of informative tours led by costumed interpreters in the old Cornish miningcommunityandnearbywalkingtrails.

MIDSUMMER PUB NIGHT • JUNE 20 CORNISH FESTIVAL • SEP. 25 - 27 PUB NIGHT • SEP. 25

CROWDY CRAWN/TASTE OF M.P. • SEP. 26

# STATE'S OLDEST RAILROAD DEPOT

Awarded "Best Interpretive Site" by the Wisc. Trust for Historic Preservation, the MineralPointDepothasaddedanHOGauge replica of the local rail yards to its brilliant collection of railroad and mining artifacts. THURS - SAT, 10 to 4 • SUN, 12 to 4 See our story on page 10

# ALLEY STAGE AT SHAKE RAG ALLEY

Original dramas performed in an intimate outdoor theater carved from an old quarry.

OPENS JUNE 20 • PLAYS THURS - SUN

See a short preview on page 4

# A MINERAL POINT 4TH OF JULY

An old-fashioned Fourth! Fun, food, music and much more, from dawn to dusk, when the FIREWORKS start.

Get the rundown on page 4

# **WOODLANDERS GATHERING**

Walk away from this adventure in the rustic arts and crafts with new treasures for your home—and YOU made them! JULY 10 - 13 at SHAKE RAG ALLEY See our story on p. 7 • Calendar on p. 14

## JAMMIN' ON THE PORCH

Make it a picnic! Easy-going music from local bands, in the grassy gardens at the Gundry House, Orchard Lawn. 5:30, 2nd FRIDAYS ALL SUMMER LONG See our story on this page.

# **IOWA COUNTY FAIR HITS TOWN**

Come out to the Fairgrounds in Mineral Pointandenjoytheanimals, the farmshows, food contests and the carnival midway too! SEPT. 3 thru 7 • www.iowacountyfair.org

# S.W. WISCONSIN FALL ART TOUR

Fifty local artists open their studios to visitors on a stunning autumn weekend. It's a color-packed drive from Mineral Point to Baraboo, and a chance to watch artisans work, up close and personal. OCT. 16 - 18. See our story on page 7

# AND THESE "GALLERY NIGHTS"

. . . when the city's many shops and art galleries remain open until 9 p.m. A great way to meet the artist, enjoy light refreshments, and greet your neighbors.

JUNE 6th and AUGUST 1





# Old Photo Show is a Big Crowdpleaser



mphs glass plate photo collection a hit with opera house audience

It was local history on the big screen, with active audience participation, and the mid-winter photo show proved to be a majorentertainmentandeducation event for the Mineral Point Historical Society.

Nancy Pfotenhauer, society Treasurer and lead researcher, provided the narration for a series of remarkable images from the MPHS glass plate collection. Hundreds of these historic negatives have been digitalized, which allows the old photos to be enlarged to reveal details unseen in the photos original size. Close-up views show hidden human figures, items displayed in store windows and signs reflecting century-old prices for goods.

The clarity of the digitally-zoomed areas in the images brought oohs and ahhs from a large, vocal audience. Pfotenhauer sharedher experiences indating the events shown in the photographs, and spoke of her more exciting discoveries and surprises.

The MPHS collection includes 1,300 photos and 2,500 slides, portraying life in Mineral Point from 1875 to 1910.

Some 650 of the glass plate negatives werefound under a stair well in the Gundry and Gray building, when the ground floor was being fitted out for Wisc. Power and Light Co., and were destined for a dumpster before one of the utility's executives took the plates home and stored them in hisgarage. When his estate was auctioned, local history buffs Ted Landon and Mick Nelson organized a group who bought the glass plates for the historical society.

The collection grew with donations from the Tucker family, preservation ist Bob Neal, Helen Johnson, Dodgeville photographer Jerry First, and others. Volunteers Pat Ripp and Dean Connors printed, scanned, catalogued and archived the images.

Connors, the former bookseller, placed a CD copy of the collection at the Mineral Pointroom, wheretoday interested persons can search for a target photo, or just view the collection and draw offaselected image.

The society has a slide of virtually every home in the city, thanks to Mary Gordon's donations. The slide collections of Prof. Phil Lewis and artist Mary North Allen have also enriched the MPHS in recent years, and townspeople have donated additional photographs to a grateful society.

Many of the MPHS images are now available for online viewing thanks to a collaboration with Wisconsin Heritage Online and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

To see the growing online collection, justclickon<u>www.mineralpointhistory.org</u>

 $(And\ if\ you\ have\ a\ photo\ to\ contribute,\\ contact MPHS by telephone, mail or website)$ 

Mineral Point residents love the town's rich history, if attendence at lectures is a valid measurement of community interest.

On a chilled January afternoon, a crowd packed the Alliant Center for the historical society's Annual Meeting.

Art historians Lisa Scott and Alex Marr opened the society's lecture series with a slide show and commentary on the off-beat folk artist Nick Englebert, who left his native Austria-Hungary to honeymoon in Hollendale. There, he settled on a plot of land along Highway 39 and, over the years, built the whimsical world of folk statuary called GrandView. Englebert switched to painting in 1950, when his arthritis slowed his work with concrete and mosaics. Englebert was a recognized member of the rural arts program, a singularly American form of cultural nationalism.

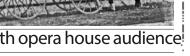


Mary Jean James, Mary Jane Rideout and Joyce Buckingham weren't the only ones getting a chuckle from the nostalgic trip that was MPHS Lyceum No. Three.

The trio discussed the life of farm women with gusto and wisdom. Between them, they represent some 200 years of farm experience in the Mineral Point area.

Their stories pointed up the hardships of rural life, but its many rewards as well. All three women endorsed farming, "living close to nature," and their anecdotes about the realities of farm existence amused their audience and brought nods of recognition from friends who have shared similar experiences.

The speakers have spent their lives in fields and pastures. Mary Jane Rideout still lives in the 1915 house where she was born. When someone asked about early household inconveniences there, she answered, "Yeah, we had running water. You ran out of the house with a bucket, ran to the pump, then ran back in."



# Jammin on the Porch: In the Groove Again.

The Mineral Point Historical Society's popular Friday night concert series is back for another summer season, with four events planned for the expansive lawn at the Gundry home.

June 12 - Wooden Nickel Orchestra: Country, folk and swing with Strings and an occasional Yodel.

July 10 - Point Five, the local acoustic band with great vocal harmonies. Aug. 14 - The Fly Rights, with their wide playlist of favorites.

Sept. 11 - Dealin' celebrates their thirty years, from country rock to R & B.

Bring a blanket, a basket, a bottle, and a broad smile. It's a pleasant evening with friends, fun and food at Orchard Lawn.

Music from 5:30 to 7:30 Summer's 2nd Fridays at Orchard Lawn 234 Madison Street

IT'S, LIKE, TOTALLY OFFICIAL.



"Cool" may not be the first word that pops into mind when you think of the many charms of Mineral Point, but a sizable group of voters have spoken, and they've told <u>Budget Travel</u> magazine that:

•A. The population is less than 10,000. B. It enjoys proximity to Nature. C. The town appears to be on the upswing.

D. It attracts attention due to its real quality of life, arts and the restaurant scene.

E. A nearby airport allows quick visits.

More than 3,000 savvy travelers voted for Mineral Point; and, although that total was only 13% of the votes racked up by the winning "Coolest" town, it was enough to grab 8th-Place honors.



The magazine described Mineral Point in this way: "A rural English village filled with 19th century stone cottages, all surrounded by Wisconsin's rolling hills, dotted with farms. It has a growing artist community; and you can find organic greens!"

<u>Budget Travel</u> looked for places "that had some kind of edge to them, as opposed to cutesy places," and for "big-city culture in a small locale," for "big-city quality, big-city ambience, transported to a small town."



On Earth Day the Sierra Club announced the winners in its "Cool Cities" video competition ("Solving Global Warming, One City at a Time") The winners are North Hempstead, NY and Chicago suburbs Gurnee and Naperville. The video entries will be uploaded to YouTube.



# FOUNDERS' DAY IV JULY 24th

Get Out that Poodle Skirt! and Celebrate in 1950's Style with Dinner, Music, Dancing and Historic Memories A Night of Fabulous Fifties Fun at Orchard Lawn

www.mineralpointhistory.org



"In Wisconsin history, Mineral Point is Mecca."

The city also played a role in the history of the early days of the American Midwest."

-- Jim Stroschein, President, Mineral Point Historical Society



**CONSENSUS:** Mineral Point Farmers Market Ranks Among Best in State.

### Opening Day is Sat., May 2nd

Few small towns can boast a Farmers Market with the quality of Mineral Point's Market, and that's why the market has grown considerably in the last few years. Purchase locally grown organic produce, organically grown vegetables, naturally raised beef, pork and chicken, fresh eggs, jams, syrups, honey, flowers, perennial plants, baked goods, candles, soaps, photos and art, and more!

It's a great way to celebrate the growing trend toward the consumption of fresh local food, and it's also "the place to be on Saturday mornings."

Get there early for the best selection. And to get the word in advance, sign up to receive the weekly e-mail newsletter. Send an e-mail to federman@charter.net

The Mineral Point Market welcomes fulltime or part-time vendors—and you can "try out" the market with a Daily Vendor fee of \$8.

For information: mineralpointmarket.com, starfarm@mhtc.net, 608.967.2319 or federman@charter.net, 608.987.2097



# ASTAR-SPANGLEDCELEBRATION

# Independence Day in Mineral Point is

classic small-town Americana, a blend of old-fashioned patriotism, food, spectacle, music and fun that's sure to make midsummer a memorable time for the family.

From sunup to sundown, the holiday's schedule of events is packed, and jovial crowdsarealwaysonhandforthefestivities.

8:00 5K Run - 2K Walk - Soldier's Park and the Streets of the city. 11:00 - Big Parade down High Street 11:30 until sellout - Chicken Dinners in Library Park 6:00 Ice Cream Social - Soldier's Park 7:00 A City Band Concert - Soldier's Park, and FIREWORKS at Dusk.



www.mineralpoint.com

# ARCHITECTURAL HISTO

The Mineral Point Historical Society, in collaborationwithlocalphotographerRichard Melnick, are creating a high-tech walking tour of ten historically significant local buildings. The project will enable tourists with MP3 players to download a podcast and listen to a descriptive narration for each site, as they explore the architectural and personal stories of ten public builindgs.

Additionally, the tour offers clips of oral histories about each building, featuring the memories and comments of Mineral Pointers.

The free self-guided podcast audio tours will first be offered on Sat., June 6, coinciding with Gallery Night, when local businesses are open until 9:00 p.m. On that date, at each designated stop on the tour, there will be a vintage photo from the MPHS glass plate negative collection, alongwithMelnick'scontemporaryphotographs of architectural details of the city buildings, and a portrait of the oral history interviewee.

The tour highlights include the old railway depot, the 1915 Opera House, St. Paul's Mission Church, the Pendarvis site,

mascot dog from the Gundry & Gray building, and the Evergreen Ballroom on the second floor at 22 High Street.



An average time per location is five

minutes, enabling the viewer to complete the walking tour in one to two hours.

In June, the tour map and podcast will be available for tourist download online, via a link from the historical society website, www.mineralpointhistory.org or on the website of the Chamber, www.mineralpoint.com.

The tour's handicap-accessible locations are noted on the map, and a printed transcript of the audio portion is available on the same webpage as the map and podcast.

For future viewing and historic research, thephotographsandrecordedinterviewswillbe held in the permanent collection of the Mineral Point Room, the city's historic archives.

The Mineral Point Architectural Walking Tour podcast is funded in part by grants from the Wisconsin Arts Board (in con-The 4th OF Ji junction with the National Endowment Arts), the Humanities Council of Wisconsin, and individual donors.

> Melnick is an accomplished photographer who relocated to Mineral Point about two years ago. He says, "I chose this area of all places in this nation to live because I was so enamored of the architecture, history, and surrounding nature." Of the walking tour he says, "it emphasizes the historical importance of each location and encouragesinvolvementbythecommunitytosave more of the structures for future generations."

> Jim Stroschein, Pres. of MPHS, assisted Melnick with interviews and the audio production. "This project fits into the historical society's overall mission to preserve the history of Mineral Point," he said. "The interviewees have their own personal histories, told at each stop on the tour, and it's important to record these oral histories now, while it's still possible," Stroschein said, "and with the podcast we're telling their twentieth-century stories in a new and innovative way: via download from the Internet."

> "Being powerful is like being a lady." If you have to tell people you are, you aren't." Margaret Thatcher, former British Prime Minister

### Shake Rag Alley Stage Sets Its 2009 Season



Artistic Director Coleman Speaks of "Theater Under the Stars"

"New theatre companies, like new restaurants, often don't make it. Now in our third year, we're starting to think that Alley Stage may be around to entertain audiences for years to come. Our vision is simple to state (but not so simple to produce): affordable, quality, original theatre on an intimate outdoor stage. Theatre you can reach out and touch, and theatre that reaches out and touches you. Theatre you won't see anywhere else.

This season we'll hear how science, and dreams, created the Russian space program; see a young girl bring together two unlikely women in an effort to save a young man; muse over a puzzling post-Katrina mystery; and stand witness to upheaval in a Chicago city neighborhood. Four new plays by playwrights from around the US (including one from right here in Mineral Point)."

Info • www.alleystage.com • See our Calendar pages

Tickets 800.838.3006 or 608.987.3292

# A Different Kind of **EconomicDevelopment**

RICKY ROLFSMEYER is a man with strong affection for history, and for the rural life. He follows up on his interests with action, as a volunteer for several organizations, and he has taken a key role in shaping the Old Lead Region's growing economic development efforts. Rolfsmeyer wrote the following article for the colorful Portal Wisconsin Arts and Culture Blog, after attending a recent awards ceremony in Fennimore. We reprint his words with his permission:

It wasn't long ago that conversations about economic development were not about artists, small farms, micro-enterprises, or about independent people like me who make our living from home because we have the good fortune to have Internet service.

Oftentimes the emphasis of business assistance programs seemed more of a trickle-down kind of thing: "Give a big incentive to a large concern and they'll build a factory or something and provide jobs." That's not a bad thing in the eyes of many, but to some it was the only way to do it.

My "Aha Moment" came a day after our regional economic development conference, when I realized that I had watched almost an entire slate of awards for good economic development go to small business entrepreneurs and those who help them be successful in their ventures.

Small business is the bedrock of many local economies. Over a quarter of the workers in Iowa County, where I live, are self-employed, and there is a much greater incidence in neighboring areas. My neighbors run their own businesses and I am self employed, too.

But a new job here or a new job there is not newsworthy; and, in terms of what's hot, we weren't. At best we were ignored, but for the most part we didn't even exist in the eyes of policy folks (self-employed folks are not included in unemployment rates and other commonly-used indicators).

I've worked in community development most of my career. I realize that paradigm shifts can develop slowly. But after the awardsceremony, Istarted to think that much of what I promoted for so many years had arrived. The spotlight was on the little guy.

We're seeing more and more economic development programs aiming to assist the entrepreneur. A good example is Arts-Build—aneconomicdevelopmentprogram of UW-Platteville intended to utilize the arts to foster economic development and grow the economy of the region by expanding existing and developing new art-related businesses. For this to happen, the university had to recognize that the arts were an untapped resource in the local economy—one worth investment.

When ArtsBuild started in 2004, the hope was that as many as sixty artists

might be reached and that some would participate. In a matter of weeks there were over 200 involved. The program now provides opportunities for education, marketing,partnershipsandnetworking—the latter is critical for new businesspeople.

A newer UW-Platteville effort—Local Fare—works with small agricultural producers to expand the Local Foods market and build a local/regional food system.

The awards were part of the annual conference of Building Economic Strength Together, the economic developments park plug of southwest Wisconsin. Accolades went to an Extension Agent who gets Crawford County entrepreneurs together, a dairy supply company from Darlington, a new regional bicycle roadmap with tons of tour loops, and a young graduate of UW-Platteville who loves robotics and built a great little company around his dream. The Woman in Business award went to an angel who has dedicated her life to helping rural folks with handicaps obtain productive work. The City of Benton won the Cool Community award. It was a wise choice—it IS a cool community!

A big treat for me was being in the room when the folks who run the Driftless Market in Platteville received the award for Regional New Entrepreneur.

Emphasizing the economic value of the local artistor entre preneur recognizes thateconomies can be grown on estepatatime. And besides that, most local artists, farmers or the home office worker will not leave for the next tax or cash incentive. We're where we are for other reasons. Besides many of us who are lucky enough to have good telecommunications tools can market our products and services anywhere.

Clearly small business is the economic backbone of Wisconsin and most of the Midwest. Cool communities and neighborhoods can grow many of their own jobs, and when economic developers recognize and support this, we all benefit.

There is some great information on the economic impact of the arts and creative industries on the Arts Wisconsin website.

They'll be the first to tell you that art is not a frill!

### RICKY ROLFSMEYER,

from Hollandale, Wisc. (pop. 283) Exec. Dir., Wisconsin Rural Partners, Volunteer Director, "Grandview" Chair of Iowa County Area Economic Development Corp.

• SEE RELATED STORY on Page 21

what might have been

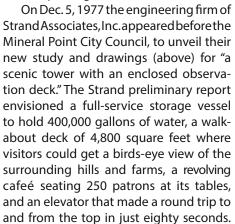
# AWhacked-Out/Vateower?

Details of Serious Discussions on "A Tank with Spinning Restaurant"

A small town's water tower becomes the city's logo, because it defines the skyline. And the community's water tower is sometimesthetouchstoneforcontroversy.

Witness the unique tower in Mineral Point's Water Tower Park. It was built in the mid-1980s, on the site of a more traditional model, a tower on stilts. During construction, some of the townspeople groused a bit about the rusty steel chosen for the sides of the support structure, and there was chatter about the tower's un-

usual shape. But, if some of the plans discussed back in 1977 had come to pass, the watertowerwouldhavehad a passenger elevator that would zip diners up 105 feet to the observation deck and its spinning restaurant!



The first question on that winter night was, "How much will it cost?" Well, that figure went up and up as the discussion continued over several years. In 1977 it was \$725,000, to be funded by an increase in both the water rate and the town's propertytax. (\$537.70 perhousehold, on average.)

Strand Assoc., March 1978

But the spinning eatery was also cranked into the math. The study stated that the elevator ride could be priced at \$1 for adults, half fare for kids, and the lure of the scenic supper place would pro-

duce as much as \$45,000 per year. That, the report suggested, would help pay for the construction. And state and federal monies would help, but there would likely be a per-household cost of as much as \$60 per year.

The talk about the fancy tower raged on for several years, before Mayor Harry Hutchinson appointed a Blue Ribbon Commission on Water Resources to decide the issue. The controversy—a contest between pragmatism and innovation—and all the usual difficulties with funding, dragged the project into the mid-1980s, before the actual tower construction got under way.

Thus, no restaurant, no tourist platform, no elevator. But, yes, the martiniglass shape.

So you can love our current model, or hate it, but it pretty clear that the water tower sure isn't what it might have been.

We are grateful to Bill Martinelli and Howard Isnor, of Strand Associates in Madison, who dug into old files to produce a sheaf of engineering drawings used in this account.



## Est.1843, Dubbedthe 'Iron Brigade Band' in Civil War, Still Blowing

In the boom times, when the mines and furnaces of the city were thriving and nine trains arrived at the old railroad depot every day, the City Band would hop aboard "The Businessman's Special", to ride the rails of Wisconsin and play at all the train stops, loudly promoting MineralPoint'seconomy.(Seephotoabove)

The City Band has served the city well. George Priestly organized the first musical group in 1843, and over the past 166 years the band has gained and lost membership, but its purpose as a civic booster organization has remained strong. The band's history also records many outstanding players, all local volunteers and musicians from nearby towns. In 1880, John Phillip Sousa, the fabled bandsman, called Adam Dresden "simply one of the best coronet players I've ever heard." In the 1920's, W. W. Paynter, a self-taught clarinetist, saw his son John leave Mineral Point High School and gain widespread renown as a U.S. composer. Will Gundry, son of merchant Joseph Gundry, played an 1888 piano recital with the band, and "his Chopin nocturnes pleased the audience."

The City Band became known as "The Iron Brigade Band," during the Civil War. And in World War I, the band

made frequent trips to Dodgeville, to see off soldiers from Camp Grant who were headed for the battlefields of Europe.

For many years, the band was a fixture in parades, fairs, pageants and frequent concerts played in the bandstand in the Water Tower Park. During the nation's Great Depression, the band brightened spirits with music for downtown ice cream socials in Library Park, when hamburgers cost a dime and beer was sold for a nickel.

Julie Tredinnick, the City Band's current Treasurer and its "Go-To Person," says the band "really has its heart in the community." Brian Carter reorganized the band in 1986 to play for a civic celebration, and the Band began welcoming younger musicians. They finished off their concerts with ice cream parties on High Street, adding a social presence to the ensemble.

The first concert of 2009 will follow tradition, with an ice cream social at the Mineral Point Care Center. Then, the band grows to seventy players under Eric Amweg's baton, for the city's 4th of July concert, played just before the fireworks at Soldiers Park. The final summer performance entertains listeners in Library Park.

Be sure you are on hand, to give the City Band a round of well-earned applause.

# A Wild PointerParty

### CITY CELEBRATES END OF INDIAN CONFLICT

When the three-month Black Hawk Warended in 1832, the rambunctious mining camp variously named Shake Rag and Mineral Pointboasted three taverns, but few other buildings. Digging in hillside "badger holes," the town's miners worked hard by day, but at night the rule was hard play, because "of money was plenty, but of care, apparently, there was none." Those words are excerpted from the venerable History of Iowa County, Wisconsin, 1881, and we print here a verbatim account of an 1834 celebration of victory at the Battle of Bad Axe, which ended the Sauk/Fox skirmish:

"There had not been any demonstration of a public character previous to this time of such magnitude, so it was determined by the entire community that they would indulge in a grand barbecue, with roast ox and everything on a magnificent scale. Uncle [tavern keeper] Ab Nichols was the presiding genius at the feast, than whom none better could have been found in the State, and Capt. John O'Neill was Marshal of the Day and general master of ceremonies. At the proper hour, he, in company with a noble band of "dragoons" arrayed in fan-tailed jackets of blue, with peaked hats on their heads, from which fluttered red feathers, and armed with a collection of muskets, shotguns, horse pistols, old army sabers, and mounted on "slim, slick and slender" long-eared and short-tailed nags, rode forth to meet General Dodge, the principal figure of the occasion, and escorted him to the scene of operations.

But who can adequately portray the scenes of the day; speechmaking by Gen. Dodge, D.M. Parkinson and many others; then, feasting in the open air under a protection of boughs, erected on the banks of Mineral Point Branch, just opposite the end of High Street, which concluded with a dancethatwasbegunassoonasdinnerwas overand continued until the following day, when the fiddler was exhausted and they had to stop. During the day, the cannon, which was being fired ceaselessly in honor and commemoration of almost everything to be thought of, was finally loaded nearly to the muzzle, and the grand explode of the occasion took place, with the engine of destruction being blown into pieces.

The crowd was immense for that time; yet that was nothing strange, for nearly everybody was present from within twenty-five to forty miles around. Those who were there will never forget the occurrences of that day, for they probably never experienced the like before or since."





Old Lead Region celebrations on St. Piran's Day in March included a local meeting of the Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society, and menus featuring special Celtic foods at Mineral Point restaurants.

Each year, Cornish folk the world over honor the memory of St. Piran, the Patron Saint of tinners. According to Celtic tradition, his missionary work in Ireland ended badly, as he was thrown over a cliff into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck. But St. Piran floated to the surface, drifted to Cornwall, went ashore to preach, and went on the convert many to Christianity.

Legend has it that he discovered tin in Cornwall when he noticed that a trickle of white metal was oozing from a large black rock he had used to build a fireplace.

Translated to art, that image became the Cornish flag, a white cross on black.



The Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society took part in this year's first Heritage Day, held at SW Wisc. Technical School, by sharing photographs, books, maps, swatches of Cornish tartans and samples of Saffron cakes, and—of course—the pasty at lunchtime. The video, "Cornwall, Land of Myth and Beauty" was shown.

CONTACTS: Society Pres. Jim Jewell at <u>kernewekjewell@mhtc.net</u>; or Catherine Whitford, The Mineral Point Collection, at 151 High St., telephone 608.987.9930

## TRY CORNISH ICE CREAM • PAGE 23

# A WALK IN CORNWALL?



CORNISH LUGGER
Once, the proudest punt of the fishing fleet; now, a fine sail off Cornwall's rugged shore.

There are several books about hiking through Cornwall, and there are books about the Duchy's natural history, but this volume deftly combines the two, offering forty walks with detailed maps, directions, distance and time estimates, stunningphotos, and helpful tourist info.

Wild About Cornwall by David Chapman Search for it or import, about \$20



Mineral Point City Band





# THE PRESIDENTIAL PEN ON PAPER



### Considering the Chief Executive As Writer

Abraham Lincoln, usually considered the finest American president, was also the bestspeechwriter. We quote him every day. His formal addresses, his inspiring letters, his off-the-cuff remarks, even his rustic jokes, all carried hissense of the power—and the playfulness—of the English language.

We recognize that there is a strong relationship between leadership abilities and literary skills. Lincoln certainly had both. Thomas Jefferson's brilliant writing lifted a young nation; his words gave the nation its sense of purpose. Franklin D. Roosevelt, likewise, carried the nation through difficult times with the words he spoke.

The Roosevelts—Teddy and Franklin—had help from speechwriters, but it was their optimism that shone through in their speeches and conveyed their messages to the American public. FDR's "Nothing to Fear" line was actually written by author

Napoleon Hill, and was later featured in his book, "Think and Grow Rich." But Roosevelt's first inaugural address is so much more than that single line, as he reminded his rapt audience that the nation's "common difficulties" were "only material things." The entire speech is worth reading today, as America deals with times that are similar to those of 1933.

Roosevelt was comfortable with the new communications tool of his time — the radio. And FDR's contemporary, Winston Churchill, made the British lip even stiffer in his wartime radio speech, "We shall fight on the beaches, the landing grounds, in the fields and in the streets, in the hills — we shall never surrender."

John F. Kennedy used, not radio, but television and displayed a ready wit as well as the ability to deliver a strong line. Kennedy had, among his "best and brightest" team, the invaluable speechwriters Arthur Schlesinger and Ted Sorenson, men who could spin policy into poetry. Part of the power of their work was their use of unusual word structure, such as their, "Ask not!" But television, itself, produced JFK's triumph over a less-attractive Richard Nixon in the first debate, although those who only listened to the radio broadcast thought Nixon won. Kennedy exploited the Press, because news reporters admire quotable public figures, especially when they can deftly deliver one-liners.

Kennedy spoke with the broad accents of Massachusetts, and got away with it. George W. Bush was a bit less successful, speaking with the voice of a back-slapping Texan. Our grandchildren are not likely to quote his warning to Congress, about our economicperil, "Thissuckercouldgodown."

There are other presidents who produced inspiring words. Ulysses S. Grant can claim only a mediocre presidency, but his letters to his wife are beautifully tender, and his battlefield dispatches are models of clarity and straight-forward purpose.

And two presidents—Washington and Eisenhower—distinguished their careers by leaving them. The Farewell Addresses of these Commanders in Chief are prophetic, and reading these speeches is a very good investment of time. (It's easy to grab good material from the ever-present Internet.)

But Lincoln was the master, a superb writer, and he wrote his stirring phrases all alone. With pen on paper. He could have enjoyed a successful career in literature, wholly apart from politics.

Lincoln sometimes got suggestions from his cabinet and his two principal secretaries, John Hay and John Nicolay, and Sec. of State William Seward helped with Lincoln's first inaugural, but Lincoln vastlyimprovedonSeward'sideas,andtook Seward'spedestrian proseto great heights.

We have no recordings of Lincoln's speeches, and that's probably a good thing. He was a better writer than speaker. We DO have recordings of Franklin Roosevelt's speeches, and it is his performance that often makes the words sound better than mere cold words lying on the page.

But Abe Lincoln's words were never cold. Although he was heard only by

small audiences, his words carry power across all the years and around the world

The best example, of course, is Lincoln's fabled Gettysburg Address, noted by the attending Press as, "The President also spoke." His second inaugural, well known for its line, "With malice toward none" set the tone for the reconstruction he would not live to see. And his parting remarks to

his Springfield neighbors are a remarkable study of warmth and conviviality.

And then there are his letters, the missives and the telegrams he sent—to his battlefield commanders, to various associates, and the families of young soldiers. They are touching, consoling, stern, concise, and occasionally comical.

Lincoln worked well with the tool of communications of his day – the printed word. He worked for brevity, recognizing the space limitations of a column of type. He cast aside rhetorical flourishes and heavy detail, and instead produced work that was timeless, flawlessly constructed, profound, philosophical, and never partisan, pompous or pedantic.

Fast-forward to 2009, the age of the TelePrompTer, in which a president enjoys abatteryofspeechwriters, sometowrite the serious stuff and one or two to write gags.

Can Barack Obama rise above those impersonal advantages, to bring genuine eloquence, witand power to his words? His start was auspicious, by most measures. The book of his youth, <u>Dreams from My Father</u>, is a well-crafted literary effort, a strong story of the American Dream. <u>The Audacity of Hope</u> is considered a lesser book, written to boost his campaign, but it is still very worthwhile material.

Our new president is clearly a man who values the power of words, salutes their importance, and enjoys the play of metaphor. Mr. Obama can write. And he reads. And he reads, and respects, history.

Like Lincoln, Roosevelt and Kennedy, he is at ease with the technology of the times, and gives every indication that he planstousealloftoday's modernelectronic tools to deliver his ideas to an anxious but cynical public. Americans are weary of words, it is true, but most of us are simply hungry for words that are real enough, and strong enough, to lift the national spirit.

# A. Lincoln and"TheBigOne"



### No, he didn't write it on the back of an envelope!

It's an old falsehood, one you've no doubt heard many times: "In November, 1863, Abe Lincoln scribbled the Gettysburg Address during his train ride to the cemetery in Pennsylvania." It is only one of many myths about the 16th President; a persistent myth, but it's simply not true.

The fact is, Abraham Lincoln was very careful and very serious about the words he wrote. And the last thing he would do would be to stand up in front of a crowd and ad lib from rough notes.

### What's the Real Story?

The facts emerge from various sources, as many as we can gather from our study of the man and the mood and the moment.

Abraham Lincoln wrote the words of the Gettysburg Address in the White House. The speech's topics beganto crystallizein mid-summer, four months before the speech, when Lincoln's telegraph crackled with the astounding news of twin victories for the Union—at Gettysburg and out West at Vicksburg. Both battles ended on July 4th; and on that day, Grant's siege at Vicksburg and Lee's defeat at Gettysburg are considered turning points in the Civil War.

The dispatches from his commanders must have brought great cheer to a gloomy president, and given him a measure of resolve to speak boldly of national priorities.

By the time he received the invitation to come to the cemetery "and give a few appropriate remarks," Lincoln had already considered the central themes and purpose of the speech. And he had quite consciously decided to make this speech "a big one."

### How Did It Come Together?

Actually, he was fashioning the words in his mind on that fateful Independence Day, 1863. When the word spread about the twin Union triumphs, a small crowd of well-wishers came to the White House. The President raised a window for a brief but friendly exchange, and gave that crowd a preview, saying something like, "You know, it's been about eighty-seven years since the Founding Fathers sat around, talking about the principle that all men are created equal." (Not the exact words, obviously, but clearly he was trying out words and phrases.)

### And the "Nuts & Bolts?"

He wrote the speech, read it to others, re-wrote, read it aloud, polished it, worked over it during the two weeks before the trip, practiced the speech at the home of Judge Wills in Gettysburg, and only then was ready to ride that horse for the two miles to the cemetery.

### No Wonder it was That Good!

Abraham Lincoln considered his words, and wrote well. But he was also a very savvy politician, who knew which words would be, and should be, important and lasting.

Ever notice that his most famous hand-written letters and speeches—the ones we quote—were always written to fill a single page, and employed pristine penmanship?

We think Lincoln <u>knew</u> that his best words would be reproduced. And framed. And would hang in our national museums.



# **ACapitolCaper**

On April 1, 1933, the front page of the Madison <u>Capital Times</u> gravely announced that the state capitol building lay in ruins after a series of mysterious explosions.

The newspaper's account attributed the explosions to "large quantities of gas, generated through many weeks of verbose debate in Senate and Assembly chambers."

The paper ran this picture—by modern standards slightly phony—but readers in 1933 were fooled. And angry. One reader declared the April Fools joke was, "not only tactless and void of humor, but also a hideous jest." (Most folks found it un-funny because the building actually had collapsed during the 1880's, killing many people.)

# "VIOLENT, INSULTING LANGUAGE" Then a Shot Rang Out!

Wisconsin's stormy Legislature has seen and heard shouts and lamentations from its elected body over the years, but in 1842 two assemblymen let their rage get the better of them and the tragic result was murder under the Capitol dome.

At a public session of the legislature, Charles Arndt of Green Bay addressed his fellows, and implied strongly that fellow member James Vineyard had told a lie on behalf of a political appointee. The attending news media reported that Vineyard responded to the implied accusation with language that was "violent and insulting."

The outburst led to a quick adjournment of the session, but when others filed out of the chamber, Arndt stayed. He approached Vineyard's desk and, as the Press put it, "requested Vineyard to retract his statements, which he refused to do, repeating the offensive words."

Arndt smacked Vineyard in the head. And before anyone could step between the two angry men, "Vineyard moved back a pace, pulled a pistol, and shot him dead."

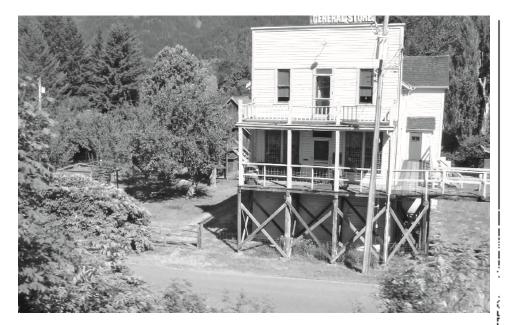
In the spectator's gallery, Arndt's elderly father, in Madison for a visit with his noteworthy son, instead witnessed his murder.

The Territorial Council expelled Vineyard. He stood trial in Green County, his home district, and the jury found him "not guilty." Vineyard then went on to reelection in 1849, after he had served as the Lead Region's representative to the 1846 Wisconsin Constitutional Convention. And in 1850, he followed the trail to California's Gold Rush, and died out West in 1863.

British author Charles Dickens was touring in the United States when Arndt was gunned down, and Dickens used the violent incident in his "American Notes," as an example of "the revolting evidences of the state of society" on the frontier.

Source: Wisc. Historical Society "Odd Wisconsin" by Erika Janik.

 $\underline{www.wiscons in history.org} \ for \ details.$ 



# **Nails**

# by Katrina Vandenberg

I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU yet how haunted I felt when I saw the Harkin store. It stands alone, its wide porch the Minnesota River, on a deserted overlooking stretch of county highway thick with cottonwoods.

In mid-nineteenth-century Minnesota, Harkin's general store and post office was a Super Wal-Mart, a destination for people who lived several days in any direction from the bustling town of West Newton. The last stop for steamboat traffic on its way upriver, West Newton boasted saloons and blacksmith shops, a hotel, livery stable, sawmill, and wagon works. It was the ideal place for an enterprising farmer like Alexander Harkin to build a store in 1869. But the town died when the railroad was built through New Ulm, eight miles southeast.Peoplestoppedtravelingbyriverboat. Harkin shut his doors. The townspeople burned down all the other buildings—just for the nails. West Newton vanished. And when Harkin's grandchildren finally unlocked his store again sixty years later, they found his entire stock waiting on the shelves, unopened mail in the slots.

Today, if you give two dollars to a guide dressed up as Harkin, you can enter the store and handle those goods yourself. On shelves and in barrels, staples like sugar, hairpins, bolts of cloth, and a handful of medicines like laudanum and bitters display the comparative modesty of what we could make, and could afford, before we infused oil's energy—one barrel contains up to twenty-five thousand hours of human work, a concentration found in nothing else—into our lives. Ask to try on a pair of shoes, and you'll learn there's no difference between the left and the right; place a pair of eyeglasses on the bridge of your nose, and squint—you would have had to settle on the prescription that came closest. Black tea, all the way from Asia, was the flashiest item you could buy.

Getting those goods to Harkin's store was expensive. You, too, might burn down a building for the nails, because they cost a lot: nails are dense, thus heavy and costly to ship. And so, although the railroad

doomed West Newton, it was aboon to NewUlm's brewer, August Schell, who had been delivering beer (also heavy, costly to ship) by horse-drawn wagon. The farthest he could deliver was a day's journey, twenty five miles. The day I saw the Harkin store, I drove over one hundred miles in my compact car. I traveled the last eight between New Ulm and the store on a whim.

I wonder whether I would have connected the Harkin store to peak oil if my retired father had not called the day before to tell me that General Motors had cut his health insurance. My father had been the general foreman of an engine plant, and I grew up near Detroit, a town not unlike West Newton. In Detroit, too, we thought our comfortable way of life would last forever; when fortunes turned, our townspeople, too, burned buildings and left.

We say that those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it. But we do know history, and still we can't imagine structuring our lives any other way. We know, for example, that a whole indigenous way of life was destroyed when white settlers hunted the buffalo into near extinction. Now, just as Native Americans staked their lives on the buffalo, we stake ours on monoculture and oil. We suffer from a collective failure of imagination.

Because metaphor has the power to shape what we believe, we need to make new metaphors to live inside.

I have to hope for my parents that Detroit is not West Newton, and for the children in my life that our culture, at peak oil, is not the Harkinstore.

What if our lives don't end with us shutting the door on piles of useless, unsold goods? What if the train whistling in the distance is not a frightening omen, but an opportunity?

What if we take the nails-dense and dear, the small things most worth saving-but don't leave? What if we build something better?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Katrina Vandenberg lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, teaches at Hamline Univ. A visiting writer in residence at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Vandenberg was a Fulbright fellow and artist in residence at the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Redwing, Minnesota. She is author of Atlas: Poems (Milkweed Editions) This essay appeared in the March/April issue of Orion Magazine. It is reprinted with her kind permission.

# AUSPICIOUS LAUNCH FOR AUTHOR CHRISTOPHER RANSON



Chris Ransom is the city's newest published author, and his first novel, Birthing House, has sold 100,000 copies in England and Australia, prior to its U.S. release in August. The horror novel is linked to his 140year old home in Mineral Point. One reviewer said, "It kept me up until the wee hours in a way few novels have, since Carrie went to the prom."

# WOODLANDERS **WEEKEND AT SHAKE RAG ALLEY**

The Art of Rustic Furniture Creating with Natural Materials



# FRIDAY - MONDAY, JULY 10 - 13

The popular Woodlanders Gathering brings nature-lovers to Mineral Point from cities all over the United States.

Experiencedwoodcraftersmeetadventurous beginners in this three-day festival at the Shake Rag Alley School of the Arts.

The valley is part of the event's charm. In the original settlement of the city's old lead miners, nine historic buildings serve as classrooms for informal and inspiring learning sessions with a talented faculty. Participants will create furniture, garden art, and much more, using hand tools and natural materials like twigs and branches, fresh green willow, gourds, stone, hypertufa, and more. Enjoy demonstrations, hands-on workshops, and open discussions with artisans from across the continent, plus plenty of networking and sharing with kindred spirits. Come for a day, or for the weekend. It's summer camp, but for adults!



# A SHAKE RAG SUMMER WRITING CONFERENCE

Shake Rag Alley's author and educator Dean Bakopoulos is setting up a summer conference for writers and student writers, scheduled for the week of Aug. 9.

Bakopoulos has recruited, as one of several instructors, the popular Wisconsin author and humorist, Michael Perry.

The session is designed to provide inspiration, networking, and hands-on classroom experiences, all in the pleasant rustic setting of the local school of the arts. | special event for the first weekend in October.

# LOCAL DEBUT fo BLACKSMITHING



Arts School Forges Ahead Big Summer Class Program

We often think of blacksmiths as the barrel-chested men who once nailed shoes to the hooves of horses, or their modern counterparts who pound out black iron trinketsinthecountry's pioneer recreations.

But in the 19th Century, blacksmiths were popularly known as "mechanics," and it was a title they earned and deserved. They fashioned steel machinery parts, and repaired metal goods for the home, barn, field and factory. Blacksmiths kept the nation's machinery running.

The first known blacksmiths in early Mineral Point formed Duncan & Parker, and the histories show they started up in 1830, or perhaps a year earlier.

Smithing enjoys a revival in Mineral Point this year, as the Shake Rag Alley School for the Arts dedicates its hillside barn to a new blacksmithing program, which offers six classes in May. (The school slated four classes and they filled so quicklytheywereobligedtoaddtwomore.)

Denny McKernan, a longtime and very persistent advocate for blacksmith skills classes, has made mechanical improvements in the old building, and added anvils and coal forges, thanks to a gift from Brent Starck, owner of Cafe Four.

Two area instructors, Greg Winz and Keith Ray, are setting up shop in the barn, and several new instructors have signed on. Alongside Winz and Ray, Eric Donaldson, from Pecatonica, IL, David Day from Neenah, Wi, and Bob Tuftee, from Bettendorf, IA will teach a total of eleven beginning and advanced blacksmithing sessions during the summer.

The classes teach beginners benthooks, fireplacetools, chandeliers and chains, camp ware, and shovelmaking. Two sessions will focus on making a Bowie-Coffin knife.

In addition, Dick Davis from Traverse City, MI and David Eagan from Madision will do blacks mithing demonstrations during the annual Woodlanders Gathering on July 10-13. And Dick Davis is planning a

Get Info on Shake Rag Alley's many courses & events at www.shakeragalley.com • For more events see p. 14



# Tour the Country Roads; Shop for a Local Masterpiece.

Each fall, during the third weekend in October, Mineral Point, along with Dodgeville, Spring Green and Baraboo, become a picturesque haven for travelers, with miles of magnificent color, combined with some of Wisconsin's most talented artists.

Artists open their studio doors and demonstrate their craft for visitors on the Fall Art Tour. In the past twelve years, the Tour has become a celebration of the work and lifestyles of some of the area's best-known artists.

Fifty-one fine artists and crafts people—painters, sculptors, potters, weavers, jewelers, glass artists, woodworkers, quilters and mixed-media artists-welcome you into their personal workplaces, which include country shops, an historic brewery, restored downtown buildings, and an old schoolhouse just to name a few - tucked among the dramatically scenic hills, valleys and quiet smalltown streets of southwest Wisconsin.

Mineral Point artists say they receive as much as twenty percent of their annual income from this event.

The tour is so in demand that artists wishing to be part of the event have to be put on a waiting list. In fact, a number of communities in Wisconsin and neighboring states have used this model in the last few years to establish their own art tours.

The Fall Art Tour October 16-18, 2009



Info at www.fallarttour.com or the Mineral Point Chamber or any participating gallery.



WORDS
ABOUT
WORDS
by Frank Beaman

# The Inaugural Poem, Reviewed.

When Poetry, a Private Pursuit, Goes Public

For his inauguration in January, the new President asked Elizabeth Alexander to write, and then perform, a poem for the occasion. She obliged, and gladly. As an infant, she had been carried to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on the day Dr. Martin LutherKingtoldthethrongabouthisdream. Shehad volunteered in the campaign to elect a fellow African-American, a man she had known in Chicago in the 1990's, a man she knew had deep respect for the power of well-chosen words. Thus, she carefully chose the phrases for the stanzas of "Praise Song for the Day."



Say it plain: that many have died for this day.
Sing the names of the dead who brought us here,
who laid the train tracks, raised the bridges,
picked the cotton and the lettuce, built brick by brick the glittering edifices
they would then keep clean and work inside of.

As a tribute to the struggles of Black Americans, the words, indeed, sing strongly. But many of the critics—some with literary credentials, some simply screeching from nameless cyberspace—were not kind. She got the full treatment: a plum assignment, a big crowd, a moment on television, and then the bad reviews.

But she had drawn a tough assignment. Tribute poems originated with classical Latin poets, to honor leaders and commemorate both sad and gala ceremonies. Over the centuries, the "occasional poem" has been used to accentuate the sentiment of an event, to infuse the event with affection. Only one contemporary event routinely features poetic recitation to capture the sentimentality of the moment: the wedding.

Today's poetry is not the poetry of Horace and Flavius Rusticus Helpidius: grand and glorius words designed to complement ceremony, social puffery, words more political than poetic, words that offend no one, and yet make a single special event more personal.

In today's world, the shouted recitation of a Roman-style Tribute poem would be uncomfortable for both the poet and the audience, and it would be unfair to ask for such a performance. Poetry's tone, in today's world, is private. It's intimate, solitary, internal and unscheduled. Most people want their poetry on the page, not in a pageant. They want poetry delivered in a whisper, not over a loudspeaker. Today's poetry speaks, not of special events, but of everyday events.

This is where Alexander triumphs. The language of "Praise Song for the Day" fulfills its obligation to inspire, but in the common tongue of everyday Americans, hungry for hope:

Each day we go about our business, walking past each other, catching each other's eyes or not, about to speak or speaking.

and
Someone is stitching up a hem, darning a hole in a uniform, patching a tire, repairing the things in need of repair.

We cross dirt roads and highways that mark the will of some one and then others, who said I need to see what's on the other side.

...and as the poem builds its ending:

Praise song for the struggle, praise song for the day. Praise song for every hand-lettered sign, the figuring-it-out at kitchen tables.

...and the necessary call for affection:

Love beyond marital, filial, national love that casts a widening pool of light.

This may not be poetry that dazzles. But it's poetry appropriate for America in 2009, written in small, intimate voice, in spite of her big intended audience. Indeed, Elizabeth Alexander seems very comfortable with everyday language.

"Ars Poetica #100: I Believe"
Poetry is what you find
in the dirt in the corner,
overhear on the bus, God
in the details, the only way
to get from here to there.

(Excerpted)

Poets everywhere should take heart that the President, following the example of other Chief Executives, invited the reading of poetry on his big day. This is a president who reads poetry, even writes it, and he was signaling that it matters in a civilized culture.

In the above photo, Mr. Obama is pictured just after the inauguration, signing one of his first declarations, calling for a National Day of Renewal and Reconciliation. Two rather poetic objectives, you might observe, for a planet awash in violence, suspicion and fear.

# HAIKU FOR THE DEAF

Mineral Point played host to a unique poetic event in mid-February, a Haiku reading for deaf persons. Gayle Bull, owner of Foundry Books and a leading advocate in the Haiku poetry world, invited the performers to the city, and promoted the event to deaf patrons all over the Midwest.

The session at the Opera House drew interesting reviews: some in the audience felt that Haiku poetry, when accompanied by sign language and theatrical movement, was even more dramatic than Haiku as usually read.

Jerome Cushman, a much-published poet and performer with familial roots in this area, teaches at the National Technical School for the Deaf, in Rochester, New York. His remarks and narration provided the voice for a strong Haiku performance by Jack Williams, one of Cushman's students at NTID, who "acted out" the message contained in the poem.

The program featured Williams' poetry and the work of other Haiku masters whoaredeaf. Members of the audience were encouraged to bring a short poem or Haiku, written on a card, for Williams to perform.

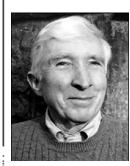
Bookstore owner Bull summed up, "American sign language for the stage has depth and breadth, with both aesthetic and emotional qualities."

The audience, drawn to Mineral Point from many cities in mid-America, obviously agreed.



Gayle Bull and her late husband, Jim, fostered a young Haiku movement, and she remains an energetic booster for this branch of poetic enterprise. In 1963, Jim and Gayle published the first English language magazine devoted to Haiku, and later established <a href="Paper Mountain">Paper Mountain</a>, a journal of ephemera and Americana.

Jerome Cushman happily settled into life in Mineral Point for several weeks. He absorbed some of the city's artistic atmosphere, and contributed to it, but he has now returned to teaching in New York.



John Updike

"Kaleidoscopically gifted writer"

"I like middles," John Updike once said, "where extremes clash and ambiguity restlessly rules." He found his "middles" in the lives of mid-life, middle-income American suburban dwellers, and he set his scenes well, cranking out a new book every year and producing scores of stories, essays, some criticism, and even a little journalism. Detail often drove the narrative, so sharp was his practiced eye. But he could be playful, and harmonic, as in this short poem (which MUST be read aloud). ROGER BOBO GIVES RECITAL ON TUBA:

Eskimos in Manitoba, Barracuda off Aruba, Cock an ear when Roger Bobo Starts to solo on the tuba.



# High Street Boo Opens With Salu PasBlobOccupancy:

"Set in Stone" Shop was once Ted Marr's Landmark Gas Station at Foot of the Hill

# EXTENSIVE REMODELING DONE!

Shelves Stocked: NewBooks, Yarns, Wines, Coffees, Cards & Food Confections



OWNERS & MANAGERS

Jay Homan (cap) Wife Diane (r.) Daughter Ellie Manager: Rod Schlimpert

Fibres: Molly Walz (seated)

It is a bookstore, with a selection of popular works on display, but with a latte and coffee bar, and aisles to wander in search of wines, organic and gourmet confections, greeting cards, magazines, and the fiber arts of the Molly Walz gallery La Bella Vita.

Books manager Rod Schlimpert says if a book isn't on his shelves, he'll order it for the reader without shipping charges.

The store is the latest community improvement from the Homan family, and they celebrated with a Grand Opening. In weeks ahead, Set in Stone will feature local writers and artists at the city's newest gathering place. Customers can enjoy the Sunday newspaper in comfortable seating by the stove or around a game table. In warm weather, patrons can also relax outside and enjoy the perennial garden.

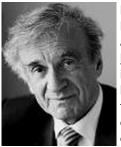
And, in a corner of the children's area, a bright yellow Shell Oil pump, circa 1950s, pays tribute to the long-time gas station at 210 Commerce Street.



Owner Jay Homan & Artists Tom Kelly and Diana Johnston enjoy Opening Day.

"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference."

- - Elie Weisel



Nobel Peace Prize winner and author of <u>Night</u>, a haunting account of his childhood in the Buchenwald concentration camp.



### by Charles Hatfield

There was a flurry of emails waiting for me. I quickly clicked on one after another, deciding which to answer now, which I hoped to answer later, and which to send tothebottomlessrecyclebinsomewherein the bowels of my compurer. I know it was the Christmas season, but I was just too busy to open all the seasonal "Fw" messages sent by people I didn't even know. I felt like Scrooge as I dumped them all in the bin. Maybe later I'd tackle the rest. "How did people survive without email and computers?" lasked to no one in particular.

My eyes, however, strayed to a dark object at the top of a large bookcase that holds hundreds of my mother's books. It was a small, old handmade chest, wearing the scars and dents of at least seventy years of frequent use. I took it down and opened the lid to look again at it's priceless contents—a packed row of old letters. And a yellowed penny postcard that bore the postmark of Townsend, Wisconsin, May 24, 1937, with the address of my mother.

1937. The Depression was still holding the farmers of southwest Wisconsin in its despairing grip. In January, my father and mother had vowed to be married that summer, but only after six more months of work for Dad in a CCC camp at Boot Lake near Townsend. It was the only way they could get enough money to begin married life. Through the spring, their letters reflected hearts filled with love and optimism, along with feelings of frustration because of their separation. But in early May, Dad's letters stopped with no explanation. Mom's repeated entries in her diary reveal her anxiety: "Went down to the mailbox. No mail from Raymond."

I turned that postcard over then, and read my Dad's hurried, awkward note:

May 24, 1937 Dearest Ella, touch with you. Please trust me. I am heading West with 3 I only made up of my buddies. my mind to go Don't know when abt. an hr. ago. nor where I will In haste, Raymond be back. I will promise to keep in

I have read this post card and all of the other letters and cards in the chest several times. I know how it all turns out. But each time I read them, I am amazed at the profusion of emotions and insights expressed in these messages from long ago.

These precious letters have given me a glimpse into the lives of my mother and father that I could not have experienced in any other way. I now know that when I had the chance, I didn't ask the right questions, and didn't listen as well as I could have when I was given answers.

The letters were a gift from my folks a second chance to connect to their history and, thus, to my own — and the envelopes and letters reveal the stains and marks of frequent handling. Mom described how, in the years before my Dad's death, they spent evenings reading the letters to each other, sharing again those windows in time.

I never understood why my dad just up and headed west without considering how it would affect Mom. It always seemed like an immature, irresponsible thing to do, but neither would offer any other explanation. Then, at my mother's death, I received the chest. I was first drawn to a trail of brief tourist letters, from North Dakota, Montana, Idaho and, finally, Electric City, Washington. None offered a hint of Dad's real purpose.

Then in a letter of May 28, I found the answer I had been looking for. It was a secret he kept to protect the honor and dignity of his struggling parents. He wrote that he had gotten a job working on the great Grand Coulee Dam, and went on to explain how exciting and important it was to have such a highpaying job in such a spectacular place.

Then, in the middle of this description, he wrote,

You wonder why I quit the Corps, when I was supposed to be saving for the big day, don't you? Well now, please never let this get any further than you. Not a soul. The folks didn't get one of my last checks, one for \$50. & they wrote me that they had used everything I had sent home to be saved -it was everything I had. Of course, they really needed it. But I was staying away from you, trying to get ahead & didn't & I was pretty discouraged&theboyscoaxedmeto come out here with them & I came. But if a person tries long enough he will succeed & I hope we do soon.

I sat back down at my desk. I had twenty emails in my box. It is said that, because of the computer and all the other electronic inventions, this generation is the most "connected" in history. Perhaps. It is true that in just seconds we can text or email a communication to someone on the other side of the world. But in the process, we may have lost the value of these bits of history to our future lives and the generations to come. Will any of my emails survive, to be shared by my great¬-grandchildren seventy years from now, no matter how personal and informative they may be? I am doubtful.

Until we find a way to preserve these electric "letters" and, just as importantly, understand why we should do so, I would recommend that we keep writing letters, on paper, to the ones we love. Future generations will be thankful.

Write Letters. Save Letters.

And Love History.

### Thanks. Mom.

About the Author: Chuck Hatfield, of LaFarge, WI, is a man with wideranging historical interests. He serves as the leader of Friends of the Wisconsin Historical Society, the support organization for the WHS. Reprinted with his permission, this is his "President's Message" from "Pillars," the FHS newsletter. Ed. Note: In the interest of full disclosure, we submit that the Editor of the <u>Times</u> also serves on the Friends of WHS Board of Directors.



# PRES. LINCOLN BLOWS A METAPHORIC WHISTLE

16th President Had a Way With Words

Here's one more Abe Lincoln story. While Lincoln was still a trial lawyer, traveling the courthouse circuit in downstate Illinois, he once referred to the opposing counsel, a man of many words but few thoughts, as "very much like a small steamboat that he had once seen on the Sangamon River."

Too-Honest Abe "That boat had a seven-foot whistle connected to a five-foot boiler," said the lawyer Lincoln, "so every time it blew its whistle, it stopped dead in the water."

# The WISCONSIN **HISTORICAL SOCIETY: the** Months Ahead

((1))

# AMBITIOUS PLANS ANNOUNCED!

"GREAT DEPRESSION" LECTURE SLATED FOR SHARON, WISCONSIN

On Sunday, June 7, Friends of the Wisconsin Historical Society will visit Sharon, a stateline historic town, during its 13th "Model A Days" celebration. Many Midwest Antique Car Clubs will drive 300 old autos into Sharon, as the city marks the times with storefront displays and 1930's costuming.

David E. Kyvig, History professor at Northern Illinois Univ., will speak at 11:00 a.m. at the United Methodist Church on "Everyday Life During the Depression," the topic of his best-selling book. FHS Volunteers will work stations at a Soup Kitchen on the city's main street, and apple carts, signage and other visual elements will portray the stark drama of the times.

Mineral Point will have a cheerful group on hand when festivities begin at 9:00 a.m.

**BUS RIDES TO BARABOO RINGLING MUSEUM & BADGER ORDNANCE SITE** 

The interested public is invited to join the Friends of WHS Annual Meeting in nearby Baraboo on June 24, 2009.

A chartered bus from Madison will take visitors to the colorful Ringling Circus Museum, for a look behind the scenes at the Big Top. Then, after lunch, the group will tour the historic Badger Army Munitions plant, once an employer for thousands of Wisconsinites, and the largest ammunition plant in the world when it was built.

The 7,000 acres in Sauk County are to be shared by six landowners, as the barren site is redeveloped into a variety of projects.

A 3-DAY TOUR OF THE LINCOLN SITES IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

The annual FWHS Fall Bus Tour usually attracts a small but lively group of travelers. This year, they will enjoy an in-depth look at Lincoln lore in the Illinois state capitol.

A comfortable chartered bus leaves MadisononSept.14andreturnsonSept.16, withpleasantaccomodations in Springfield.

The new State Museum & Lincoln Library, the Lincoln family Home, the Law Office, and other stops are planned.

FANCY FROCKS AND FUN IN FALL FASHION SHOW

On Oct. 24, a women and children's fashion show will splash Victorian colors at the Wisc. Historical Society Museum on Capitol Square in Madison, featuring the fashions of 1850 to 1900, some made from patterns from a WHS collection.

The 1:00 p.m. program invites audience participation, to make the history of clothing come alive in a refreshing and entertaining way. Refreshments, too!

## WHS In Year 2010

A HUGE Antiques Auction! and a massive VIET NAM VETS REUNION at Lambeau Field!!

### WWW.WISCONSINHISTORY.ORG/CALENDAR

# ∥lead miner's bold challenge leads to brawl



Editor's Note: In our columns, we sometimes speak of the lead region's rough-and-ready early years, and of the rude saloons where "hell and damnation were likely to break out at any moment."

Reader Marion Paynter Howard, of Darlington, sought to enrich our "Hell Collection" by sharing Damnation the following story, from the pages of a rustic journal written by Esau Johnson, a smelter who came to the area as early as 1825, and ten years later played the role of witness to a tavern brawl. The combatants were typical miners in the old lead refrom Midwestthe "Americans" ern states and "Cornishmen" who had come to the U.S. from the British Isles.

### Hereis Esau's account of the events:

"One evening, some of the Cornish English got two American boys into a house, and went to whipping the boys with a horsewhip." The victims' screams drew a rescue team of Americans, who pulled a log from a nearby woodpile and used it as a battering ram to knock down the door of the house, and then rushed in to confront the Cornishmen.

"One of my hired hands," wrote Johnson, "a little Yankee named Hiram Hobs," absorbeda few punches, but had the best of two of the Cornish miners. He then declared that he, Hobs, was "King over the English, that he had the English under his thumb."

That night the English brought Henry Rablin, their biggest and best brawler, into town from Pedlars Creek, a distance of seven miles. And in the morning, in Abner Nichols' tavern on Commerce Street, they issued a challenge to Hobs: to fight Rablin, "in the American style, to hurt each other so bad as they could."

The challenge stated that if Hobs prevailed, the Cornishmen would indeed call him King.

Esau Johnson told Hobs he would surely lose. "You are a little scrub and Rablin is a big bully." Hobs replied, "I can whip any God Damed [sic] Englishman."

Word of the upcoming fight spread through Mineral Point, and the townspeople "had their feathers up with glee like peafowl."The crowd formed a surrounding ring as the two men faced off, with their seconds behind them, and tensed as the ylistened to the countdown - "one, two, three."

The big man knocked Hobs to the ground and jumped on him. Hobs bit down on one of Rablin's fingers and rose up. Rablin jerked his finger from Hobs' mouth, yanking out two lower teeth as well. Then the men clinched, and Hobs, his mouth still clamped on Rablin's right thumb and threw the bigger man down, churned Rablin's face in the dirt, and began punching him in the ribs.

The bully said "Enough!" Three times. "When they parted," it was said, "they had to choke Hobs loose from Rablin's thumb."

The reluctant Cornish English honored their word. They transported little Hobs to the Martin V. Burris Saloon and called him out as "King Hiram Hobs." And according to Johnson's journal, "they called him King as long as he was in the country."



Thank you, Marion Paynter Howard, for sending this tale to the  $\underline{\text{Times of Mineral Point}}$ . This eyewitness account was among several papers donated to the LaFayette County Historical Society by a member who lives in South Milwaukee. The society maintains a museum at 525 Main St., in Darlington, open from 1 to 4 p.m., seven days a week.



# breants Contrais

The Railroad Depot:

A Restoration? No! A Resurrection! The County Seat War



When the miners were digging their first badger holes, in 1827, they were digging in Crawford County, Michigan Territory, not that many of them knew, or cared. lowa County, Michigan Territory, wasn't created until January 1, 1830, with the seat of county government designated as Mineral Point and the federal court following soon after.

The County's first courthouse was a small log cabin with a log jail next door, although, as often as not, both the Court and the county board met in Ab Nichols' "Mansion House" rather than the small and inadequate official county building.

In 1835, the people of Mineral Point put up \$575 to build better facilities, a two story log building with four separate courtrooms, located on the village square. A new jail was supposed to be built at this time, but the old one was actually incorporated into the new courthouse, as is.

Noroomwasprovidedinthecourthouse for the county clerk, treasurer, or register of deeds. By 1841, the lack of offices was severe, and a large log and frame, one story building was put up next door to the Courthouse for the county officials.

The following year, the County Commissioners voted to sell the log courthouse and jail and build a new stone structure. Consequently, the log buildings were removed and the new stone courthouse, complete with portico and dome, was built on the site, with workstartingin 1843 and completed in 1844.

Meanwhile, the boundaries of Iowa County and the political situation were changing. On July 4, 1836, the Wisconsin Territory was formed, with Henry Dodge sworn in as Governor, at the courthouse square in Mineral Point. One of the first acts of the Territorial government was to carve Grant County out of Iowa County's west side and give land on its east side to Green and Dane Counties. This Act also designated Mineral Point as the county seat of the remainder of lowa County.

In 1846, the County was divided again, with the southern portion cut off to form Lafayette County. These boundary changes left the county seat, Mineral Point, in the southern part of the county. Soon after this final size reduction, grumblings were heard and agitation was begun to move the county seat to a more central location.

In 1855 two petitions were presented to the by then State of Wisconsin seeking  $the {\it removal} of the county seat. One petition$  $proposed the new site to be {\tt Dodgevillewhile}$ the other favored Linden. The Dodgeville pe tition went to a Senate committee headed by Amasa Cobb, a prominent Mineral Point lawyer. Cobb's committee rejected the petition, citing the cost of building a new court house when the county already had adequate facilities in Mineral Point and stating that in 1847, after a spirited contest, "the inhabitants of the county have with great unanimity acquiesced in its permanent location there."

The question came up again in November, 1858, when the voters of Iowa County, by a majority of 350, voted to move the county seat to Dodgeville. The election was challenged as not having been properly "noticed" and in 1859 the Supreme Court of Wisconsin nullified the results.

Mineral Point, of course, was jubilant. In addition to pride, designation as the county seat assured the lucky community of economic success. In those days before telephones, and long before copy machines, fax machines, and email, lawyers in the

[Con't. in Column Two]

Bob Grishaber stood up at a dinner of the Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce. He was to accept an award for the tireless work done by he and his wife Suzette Trigalet, in their six-year effort to restore the state's oldest surviving railway depot. Heshockedhisaudience, tellingthem, "The general public doesn't know that if we had delayed even a few more days before we shored up that old building, it would have been a pile of rubble." Grishaber went on to say that engineer's reports put the structure on an "extremely endangered list," in danger of imploding, after 142 years of hard service to the old rail lines serving the city's massive lead and zinc operations.

But shore it up they did, launching a long battle with the construction issues facing the stricken depot. In 1998, the non-profit Mineral Point Railroad Society (MPRS) was formed, and hard-working volunteers began to turn plans into reality, to turn an eyesore into one of the state's best museums of mining and railroading.

MPRS Project Mgr. Dave Knapp worked with Joe Daniels Construction Co. to repair the time-damaged depot, and save the stone arches and original windows. Then, the museum idea blossomed when board members David Kjelland and Dave Martens started their research for a book, establishing what would later become the foundation for the museum collection. Fellow board member Richmond Powers worked to raise funds, and further polished the concept of a railroad educational center within the structure.

A large collection of rare artifacts came from old photos and documents, interviews with historians and railroaders, and from dozens of families who kept some of "Grandpa's gear" in the attic, barn and basement. Two career railroad workers, Cletus Hying and Delrosa Bruns, donated their artifacts, and told dramatic personal stories that are repeated in the museum displays.

The colorful walls and glass cases in the museum's rooms speak to the success of the team of researchers and "hunter-gatherers."

Dr. Kjelland says more than two hundredpeoplemadesomesortofcontribution to the museum project, in various ways.

The story told by all the bits and pieces of history is, in many ways, the story of Mineral Point's economic boom and bust. The first train pulled into the depot in the summer of 1857, one year after two local stonemasons built the depot. In all, five buildings were constructed for rail operations, and later a two-stall roundhouse went up during the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul line's era of the 1880's. By 1891, as busy rail cars brought in coal for the smelters and lugged out the finished metal products, the local zinc works was the largest in the U.S.

Over the years, the Mineral Point Railways hauled lead and zinc, farm products and lumber, and finally passengers, as the pace of mining and railroading evolved. And, during the Civil War, the rails carried soldiers to and from the battlefields.

Butby1930,thezincplantwasclosed,and onlyoneemployeeremained—CharlieNeal, whosesonBobNealco-foundedPendarvis.

In 1969, Cletus Hying, the depot's last full-timeagent, locked the building's doors. When the finished museum was opened with great celebration in 2004, Hying used his depot key to open the doors once more.

PONTERWRESTLING by Bill Spevacek When Cord Yager won a state championship this winter, he became the 45th high School wrestler from Mineral Point to

claim that honor in the program's 45 year history. Check out these Pointer statistics: 18 WIAA Div. 3 team and individual team championships,

598 team wins and only 107 losses, A jaw-dropping .848 winning record, SWAL conference champs 30 times, 30 times regional, 18 sectional champs

Many wrestlers from the school have gone on to wrestle at major colleges, and one, Mike Medchill, now an Arizona physician, was a national champion.

What accounts for the success of the Mineral Point wrestling program? You get a hint in a visit to the wrestling room at the high school. Its blue and white walls, with school records and the names of the 189 Mineral Point wrestlers who have qualified for state tournaments, give you the same strong sense of tradition that permeates the Green Bay Packers' Lambeau Field.

"Tradition is a big part of it," says Coach Scott Schmitz, only the second coach the program has had, following the program's founder and coach for 24 years, Allen Bauman. "From the start Al convinced his kids that they can win. And they did. Each new class of wrestlers sees the names of state qualifiers and winners on thewalls, and the team's achievements, and they want to be a part of that tradition."

Schmitz, himself a Point wrestler and state champion in 1980 and 1981, took over when Bauman retired in 1987. He brings in the celebrated coach (and still a Mineral Point resident) to talk with the wrestlers from time to time about what it takes to win.

Enrollment at Mineral Point High School is not large, which makes it hard to field winning teams in basketball and football, sports increasingly dominated by tall and heavy young players. But wrestling, on the other hand, is a sport in which anyone, from 103 pounds on up, can compete if he has the right combination of conditioning, training and desire.

Schmitz says the Pointer's conviction that determination and hard work pay off probably goes back to Mineral Point's mining days and to the immigrants who cleared and farmed the county's hilly land. He quickly points out that the qualities that lead to wins on the wrestling mat translate to success in life. The school's wrestling alumni include many who went on to successful careers in business, farming, medicine, education and other fields.

No program such as Mineral Point wrestling could be successful without the active, enthusiastic support of parents. Here that support goes well beyond the usual car-pooling and sideline cheering that you see anywhere that parents care about their kids. Mineral Point's Wrestling Hall of Fame is sprinkled liberally with parents who have played key roles in the program's success.







Page 10

Visit The Old Depot • It's A Great Experience!

county set up their practices close to the courthouse. Additionally, anyone coming to the courthouse on business was likely to do someshoppingintownbeforeheadinghome.

When Mineral Point learned that the "County Seat Question" was settled in their favor, they literally brought out the big guns. The Mineral Point Tribune reported "Mr. T.J. Otis arrived here about three o'clock this morning, and in a few minutes the whole city was aroused by the firing of cannon, ringing bells, etc. About seven o'clock, 'Young America' formed a procession and with tin-trumpet band marched through the different streets . . . making the air ring with their huzzas. Our City Cannons not being large enough to shout forth victory in a manner loud enough to suit our citizens, a messenger was dispatched on the morning train to Warren, to procure a large 12-pounder . . . A delegation of our citizens have gone out in the direction of Dodgeville this afternoon, with the 'Big Guns' for the purpose of giving our neighbors at the would-be County Seat a salute."

The victory didn't last long. In 1861, the question was again put to the voters and this time was decided in favor of Dodgeville by a margin of 162 votes.

Curiously, the City of Dodgeville laid the cornerstone for the new Courthouse in June, 1859, even though the relocation of the county seat was in process of appeal to the Supreme Court, and the building was completed by July of 1861, months before the "County Seat Question" was finally settled.

As the County grew, space in the "new" building was inadequate to meet its needs. . In 1894 a two story addition was built on the west end of the Courthouse. In 1927, a second addition was added, forming an ell to the building, and in 1995 the large, \$2 million addition was added to the west side of the building, forming the lowa County Courthouse as we know it today.

The Hebrew Bible has no word for "history." Only "memory."

PHOTO by the cheering Noreen Doney, of nephew Bo Doney and guy he pinned.

# MINERAL POINT GALLERIES & STUDIOS

Against the Grain, 31 High St., 987-2329 (Don Mahieu)

Bohlin Gallery, 22 High St., 987-5444 (Leslie Bohlin)

Brewery Pottery Studio, 276 Shake Rag 987-3669 (Diana & Tom Johnston)

Chestnut Hill Studio, at Howdle Studios, 225 Commerce St., 987-3335 (Jan & James Johnson)

Green Lantern Studios, 261 High St., 987-2880 (Carole Spelic' & Richard Moninski)

High Point Arts, 310 High St., 987-3163 (Jeremy Ross)

High Street Arts, 33 High St., 987-3701 (Co-op led by Cate Loughran)

Howdle Studio, 225 Commerce St., 987-3590 (Bruce Howdle)

Johnston Gallery, 245 High St., 987-3787 (Tom Johnston)

La Bella Vita Fibre Gallery, at Set in Stone Books, 210 Commerce St., 987-1123 (Molly Walz)

Longbranch Gallery, 203 Commerce St., 987-4499 (Sandy Scott & Judy Sutcliffe)

LIST CON'T. IN COLUMN NO. 4

# CELEBRATE SUMMER IN WISCONSIN!





# VISITING IN MINERAL POINT?

The well-constructed, lavishly illustrated TOWN BOOK will prove to be
AN INVALUABLE GUIDE TO THE CITY

CHAMBER of COMMERCE • 225 HIGH ST. & many ELSEWHERE places.

M Studio & Gallery, 234 High St., 987-2039 (Phil Mrozinski)

The Mulberry Pottery, 14 Jail Alley, 987-2680 (Frank Polizzi)

Prairie Oak Artisans, 207 Commerce St., 987-3757 (Karma Grotelueschen)

Sandy's Palette, Yarn products at Set in Stone Books, 210 Commerce St., 987-1346 (Sandy Jones)

Sirius Sunlight Glass Studio, 218 High St., 987-2716 (Chuck Pound & Jill Engels)

Smeja's Studio, 30 Doty St., 987-3607 (Cheryl Smeja)

Spotted Dog Gallery, 148 High ST., 987-2855 (Ann Alderson Cabezas)

Story Pottery, 210 Commerce St., 987-2903 (Harriet Storey)

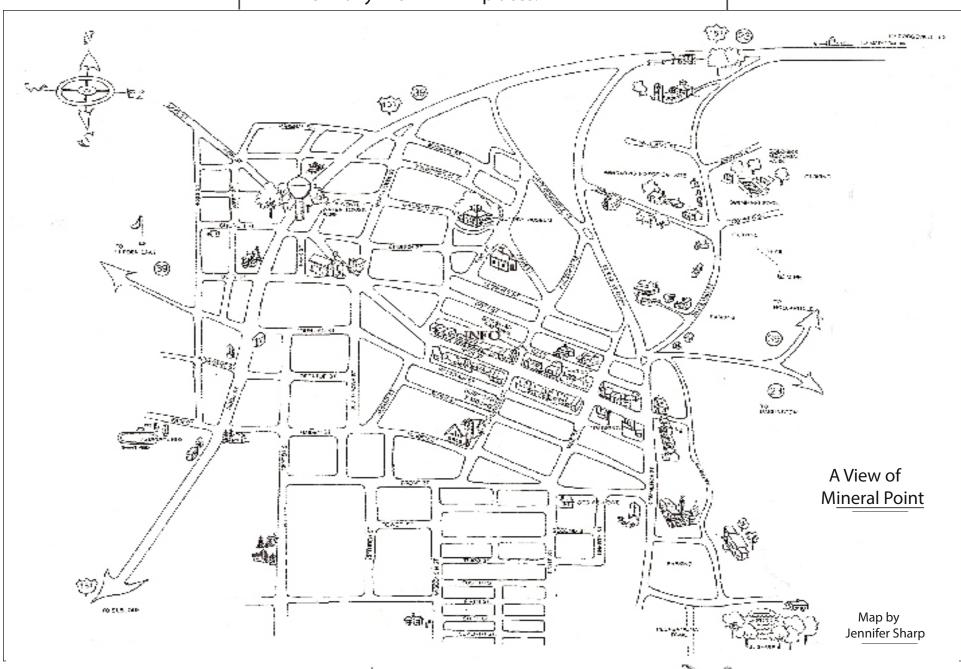


## BOOKSTORES

The Foundry Books, 105 Commerce St., 987-4363 (Books/maps/rare/antiquarian)

Set in Stone, 210 Commerce St., 987-1123 (Books/Fibre Arts/coffee & more)





### 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



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

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

### TAL CONTACTS

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

# GOINGS ON: PLEASE PULL



# **MAY**

1 MINERAL POINT, FFA Plant Sale 3-6PM Greenhouse, Ag Building. Flats & 4-packs of vegetables & flowers, geranium pots & hanging baskets, 987.2321 Ext 38

1 MINERAL POINT, Non-professional artists invited to enter Wisc Regl Art Pgm (WRAP) exhibit, \$20 entry fee, limit 3 pieces per artist, entry blank due 5/18/09, artwork due 5/23/09, For exhibit guidelines & entry blank go to www.shakeragalley.com or call 608.987.1560 1 PLATTEVILLE, Artisan Cheese Tasting, Driftless Market, 95 W Main St, 5-7PM, features Roelli Cheese's Dunbarton Blue, 608.348.2696 www.driftlessmarket.com 2 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market OPEN-ING DAY, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM, www.mineralpointmarket.com 2 MINERAL POINT, Mardi Gras, Ludden Lake Country Club, 1350 W Lake Rd, \$20, includes appetizers & live music, Proceeds for Technology needs of the Mineral Point School District 6:30-12:00 PM, Tickets at the door. 2 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, Spring Family Day 1-4PM, African drumming 1 PM, Petting Zoo, Plant herbs to take home 2-4PM, Free, 3210 County Rd BB. Website www.folklorevillage.org 608.924.4000 2 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village "Old Time Barn Dance" 6:30 potluck, then dancing, The Barley Brothers w/Caller Ann Carter, \$4-\$6 See above entry

2-3 BARNEVELD, Botham Vineyards & Winery Open House, 10AM-5PM, Wisc cheeses & Sjolind's chocolates w/wine Free tours 11:30 & 3:30, 8180 Langberry Rd, 888.478.9463 3 MINERAL POINT, SW Wisconsin Cornish Society Annual Meeting & Potluck, Bring silverware & a dish to share, 12:30PM, Public Welcome, Congregational Church, 300 Maiden St, Program 1PM by HS students back from Redruth, in Cornwall, www.cornishfest.org 3 DODGEVILLE, Iowa County Humane Society's Quadrupedal Century Fundraiser, hilly, 35, 55, 75 & 100 miles, 608.935.7573, register at www.ichs.net/quadrupedal.html Start Dodgeville Middle School, 951 W Chapel, sag support, showers & meal. 4 SPRING GREEN, Acoustic Jam, at Spring Green General Store, 2-3:30PM, 137 S Albany 608.588.7070

4-14 DODGEVILLE, Plant Sale, Iowa Grant High School Greenhouse, 462 County IG, Mon-Fri 2-7PM, Sat 9AM-1:30PM, Flowers, Hanging Baskets, Tomatoes & Peppers 5 DODGEVILLE, Wood, Stream, & Prairie Walk with Brian Pruka, ecologist, meet at Friendship Center, 3973 Evans Quarry Rd, 6:30PM, 608.575.2001, Free, Wear sturdy shoes. 6 MINERAL POINT, Red Cross Blood Drive, 12 Noon-6PM, Mineral Point High School (note: different location for May only), 705 Ross St. www.givebloodlife.org 6 SPRING GREEN, American Players Theatre Opens Season: The Comedy of Errors, The Philanderer, The Winter's Tale, Hay Fever, King Henry V, Get tickets at 608.588.2361 or www.playinthewoods.org, Season begins 6/4 9 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water ower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM 9 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam, The General Store 3-5:30PM, 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070 Free

9 SPRING GREEN, Mother's Day Eve, The General Store, Jodi Amble & her bands -- jazz, gypsy, classics, \$7, 6-9 PM, 137 S Albany www.springgreengeneralstore.com 608.588.7070

9 SPRING GREEN, 3rd Annual Jeanene King Memorial Fitness Trail 5K Prediction Run/Walk, Start 8AM \$20 Register behind River Valley Middle School 7-7:45AM only, Park in HS lot 12 MINERAL POINT, Pendarvis Opening Day 10 AM-5PM, Explore a Cornish Miner's Colony with Costumed Guides, Last tour 4PM, 114 Shake Rag St, 608.987.2122 www.pendarvis.wisconsinhistory.org 12 DODGEVILLE, Wood, Stream, & Prairie Walk with Brian Pruka, ecologist, See details in May 5 entry

13 PLATTEVILLE, Green Bay Packers' Tailgate Tour, next to Instant Shade Nursery, Party 6-8:30PM, mingle w/Packer representatives, \$25 608.348.8888 www.packers.com 15 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village, All-Ireland Fiddle Championship, Irish fiddler Liz

Carroll In Concert 7:30 PM Make Reservations, \$10-\$15, See May 2 entry for addr. etc 16 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM 16 DODGEVILLE, Uplands Garden Club 11th Annual Plant Sale, 8-11AM (arrive early), Ley Pavilion Harris Park, All welcome, Annuals, herbs perennials, vegetables, trees, shrubs, 608.924.3793

16 MINERAL POINT, Tea & Sweets at Trinity (Episcopal Church), 409 High St, 2-4PM, Proceeds to Orchard Lawn Restoration Project, Tickets \$5 at Bobbi Jo's Interiors, Bergets & Mineral Point Collection, 608.987.9930 16 DARLINGTON, Cinco de Mayo Festival, 11AM-Midnight, Festival Grounds, ballgames, authentic American & Latin cuisine, Music, salsa making, salsa dancing, Mariachi Band 608.776.4970 www.darlingtonwi.org/festivals. 16-17 PLATTEVILLE, Ballet Arts Apprentice Ensemble & students of SW Academy of Ballet Arts perform, Sat 4:30PM, Sun. 2:30PM, Platteville Comm. Theatre, 75 N Bonson St, Free www.balletsaba.com 608.345.8020 19 DODGEVILLE, Wood, Stream, & Prairie Walk with Brian Pruka, ecologist, See details in May 5 entry 23 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water

Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM
23-24, HIGHLAND, Spurgeon Vineyards
Winery Great Chocolate & Wine Trail, 10AM5PM, 16008 Pine Tree Rd, 608.929.7962
www.spurgeonvineyards.com
24 SPRING GREEN, "Bob Fest," Outside
the General Store - Dozens of musicians play

the General Store - Dozens of musicians play 9 hours of Bob Dylan songs, 11AM-8PM, special menu, local beers on tap, bring lawn chair/blanket See May 9th entry for addr., etc 25 DODGEVILLE, Memorial Day Parade, Downtown, 10AM

30 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM 26 DODGEVILLE, Wood, Stream, & Prairie Walk with Brian Pruka, ecologist, See details in May 5 entry

30 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village "Scandinavian Saturday Night Social 6:30 Potluck then Turning dances of Scandinavia, \$4-6, See May 2 entry for addr. etc

30-31 MINERAL POINT, Wisc Reg'l Art Program (WRAP) exhibit open to the public 1-3PM both day at Smeja's Studio, 30 Doty St, 608.987.1560



# **JUNE**

3 OREGON, Uplands Garden Club, Public welcome, Meet at Oregon Earth Spirit Farm 6:30PM, nursery &gardens, 4385 Oak Hill Rd, 608.835.8907 www.myearthspiritfarm.com 4 MINERAL POINT, Family Playgroup with Anne Galle, Ted Galle Park, Ages 2-7 w/a parent (siblings welcome), 9:30-11AM, Free 5-6 FENNIMORE, 20th Annual Sewing & Quilting Expo, SW Wisc. Tech. College, classes, workshops, vendors, National & local presenters, food, Pre-Register 1.800.362.3322, 1800 Bronson Av, www.swtc.edu 6 MINERAL POINT, Iowa Co. Annual Dairy Breakfast, food, live music, kids events, 6:30-11AM, no reserv. needed, lowa County Fairgrounds, 900 Fair St, 608.987.2478 Adults \$6 Kids \$3

6 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM 6 MINERAL POINT, Min. Pt. Hist. Society's First day to download an audio podcast and map (for MP3 players) of a walking tour of 10 historical MP buildings. Old photographic displays and recent photographs by Richard Melnick at each site. Download podcast at www.mineralpointhistory.org or www.mineralpoint.com

6 MINERAL POINT, GALLERY NIGHT, Galleries & shops with refreshments open til 9PM, A great way to spend an evening, 608.987.3201 www.mineralpoint.com 6 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village "Old Time Barn Dance" with Chirps Smith & Friends w/caller Dot Kent, Potluck 6:30 Dancing after, \$4-6, 3210 County Rd BB, 608.924.4000, www.folklorevillage.org

7 MINERAL POINT, Pendarvis Visitor Appreciation Day, 10AM-5PM, Last tour 4PM, Adm.\$2 this date, 114 Shake Rag St, 608.987.2122 pendarvis.wisconsinhistory.org 7 DODGEVILLE, Lions Flea Market Antiques & Collectibles Sale, Ley Pavilion, Harris Park, 8:30 AM-3PM, Adm. \$2, dealers call 608.935.3926

7 SPRING GREEN, Acoustic Jam, Spring Green General Store, 137 S Albany, 2-3:30PM 10 DODGEVILLE, Lands End Summer Concert Series, Harris Park, 7 PM, Bring a lawn chair, Food Avail. Free

11 MINERAL POINT, Family Playgroup with Ann Gorgen, Ted Galle Park, Ages 2-7 with a parent (siblings welcome), 9:30-11AM, Free 11-14 DARLINGTON, 43rd Canoe Festival, Festival Grounds, Canoe race on Pecatonica River Calamine to Darlington, arts, crafts, chicken BBQ, carnival, dancing, stockcar races, softball, steak feed, teen dance, Fireworks, 608.776.4970&www.darlingtoncanoefest.com 12 MINERAL POINT, MPHS "Jammin' on the Porch", Orchard Lawn, 5:30-7:30PM, Bring lawn chairs, a picnic dinner & drinks. Wooden Nickel, Country folk & swing, 234 Madison St 608.987.1180 www.mineralpointhistory.org 12-14 PLAIN, St. Luke's Festival, Music, food, fish fry Fri, Run &Walk on Sat, chicken dinner Sunday, Polka Mass at St. Lukes Church, pie auction, bingo, 1240 Nachreiner, 608.546.2482 www.stlukesfestival.com 13 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water

Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM 13 MINERAL POINT, Gather at Library Park on High St, (check time) Historical figures conduct a forgiveness ceremony & balloon sendoff in connection w/the 150th Anniversary of the Iowa County Courthouse & Min. Point's loss of the courthouse to Dodgeville; then a bicycle cadre heads to Dodgeville w/a token of forgiveness, www.mineralpoint.com 987.3201 13 DODGEVILLE, Iowa County Courthouse 150th Anniversary, (rain or shine), courthouse & grounds, program, tours, food stands, horse drawn wagon rides, music, 11AM-3PM, bury time capsule 3PM Watch for details 13 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam, General Store 3-6, 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070 Free 14 SPRING GREEN, Bach Dancing & Dynamite Concert 2:30 & 7:30 PM, Taliesin Hillside Theater, Cty Rd C, Tickets at Frank

608.255.9866
15 SPRING GREEN, Rural Musicians Forum Concert, Unity Chapel, 7PM, County Rd T off Rt. 23, 6514 Hillside School Rd, \$5 at the door, 608.588.3009 www.unitychapel.org
17 Mineral Point, Tree Farm Day Camp with Anne Galle, Weekly on Weds from June 17 to Aug 13. 9AM-3PM, Ages 4-11, \$40/day includes lunch, great outdoor activities, crafts, music, & more 608.987.3311

Lloyd Wright Visitor Center \$32 Adults \$10

Students, www.bachdancinganddynamite.org

17 DODGEVILLE, Lands End Summer Concert, Harris Park, 7 PM, Bring lawn chair, food avail. Free

18 MINERAL POINT, Family Playgroup with Ann Gorgen, Ted Galle Park, Ages 2-7 with a parent (siblings welcome), 9:30-11AM, Free 20 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM, UW Ext on site with samples & recipes 20 MINERAL POINT, COUNTRY GARDEN TOUR, 5 country home gardens, 2 in-town home gardens, a nursery display, folk art site & Shake Rag Gardens, 9AM-4PM, Self-Guided Tour Tickets \$12 OR a 4-Hour Bus Tour of gardens w/"Wisconsin Gardener" Shelley Ryan \$35 9AM-1PM, Tickets avail. at 18 Shake Rag, 608.987.3292, or www.shakeragalley.com 20 MINERAL POINT, Opening Night for Alley Stage, "Hard Times" with master storyteller & Guggenheim Fellow Dean Bakopoulos reading a short story written for this occasion, enlivened by his own humor. Orig. music by Katie Burns, Aaron & Monica Dunn, \$20, 1-800-838.3006, 608.987.3292 or at box office, 18 Shake Rag St, www.alleystage.com 20 MINERAL POINT, Pendarvis, Flavor of Wisconsin book signing by author, Therese Allen, Program 1:30-3:30PM, 114 Shake Rag, 608.987.2122 20 MINERAL POINT, Pendarvis, "Midsummer Pub Night", 7-10PM, Live Music & Cash

20 MINERAL POINT, Pendarvis, "Midsummer Pub Night", 7-10PM, Live Music & Cash Bar, \$10, 114 Shake Rag, 608.987.2122 20 HIGHLAND, Spurgeon Vineyards Wine & Cheese Party, Free samples of cheese & wines, tours, grilled buffalo burgers 11:30AM-4PM, small fee for premium cheeses & wines, 16008 Pine Tree Rd, 800.236.5555 www. SpurgeonVineyards.com 21 MINERAL POINT, Fly-In/Drive-In Break-

fast, Iowa County Airport, 3151 St. Rd 39, 7AM-12:30PM, \$6 in advance at Hodan Ctr, 941 W Fountain, \$7 at the door. Proceeds to

Hodan Center, 608.987.3336 21 SPRING GREEN, Bach Dancing & Dynamite Concert 2:30 & 7:30PM, Taliesin Hillside Theater, See 6/14 Spring Green entry . 24 DODGEVILLE, Lands End Summer Concert, Harris Park, 7 PM, Bring lawn chair, Food avail. Free

25 MINERAL POINT, Family Playgroup with Ann Gorgen, Ted Galle Park, Ages 2-7 with a parent (siblings welcome), 9:30-11AM, Free 25 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage Preview of "Red Moon Rising In The East" 8PM, 18 Shake Rag, 608.987.3292, \$10 donation www.alleystage.com

25 MINERAL POINT, Ice Cream Social, Pie & City Band Concert, Front of Mineral Point Care Center, 6:30PM, Bring lawn chair, 109 N Iowa St, 608.987.2381

26 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage Opening Night of "Red Moon Rising In The East" Directed by Coleman, with Doug Mackie as Korolev, a Tour-de-force celebration of the life of Sergei Korolev, mastermind of the Soviet space program, 18 Shake Rag, 8PM, \$20, Tickets 1.800.838.3006, 608.987.3292 or www.alleystage.com

26 MINERAL POINT, "Junior Idol" 7PM, Min.Pt High School, Sponsored by 4H Clubs to benefit the Library & Archives Expansion 27 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM 27 MINERAL POINT, Annual Brat Feed/Auction & Raffle, Fund Raiser for Mineral Point Rescue Squad, 907 Ridge St, 4:30-7:30PM, 608.987.2752

27 SPRING GREEN, Family Day at Taliesin, 10AM-3PM, free activities for families, tours, live music, food. Pre-Registration required 877.588.7900

27-28 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage "Red Moon Rising In The East", 8PM, Sat. \$20, Sun. \$15, See June 26th entry for details 27-28 SPRING GREEN, 40th Annual Arts & Fine Crafts Fair, 200 Artists, nationwide showing, Free, Sat. 9AM-5PM, Sun.10AM-4PM, Downtown, Jefferson St, 608.588.7082 www.springgreenartfair.com 28 SPRING GREEN, Bach Dancing & Dyna-

28 SPRING GREEN, Bach Dancing & Dynamite concert, Taliesin Hillside Theater, 2:30 &7:30PM See 6/14 entry for details 29 SPRING GREEN, Rural Musicians Forum Concert, Unity Chapel, 7PM, See 6/15 entry



1 DODGEVILLE, Uplands Garden Club, Public welcome, meet at Tippy Top Organic Orchard 6:30PM, 5792 Mill Rd, 608.583.3612 2 MINERAL POINT, Family Playgroup w/Ann Gorgen, Ted Galle Park, Ages 2-7 with parent (siblings welcome), 9:30-11AM, Free 2 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage "Red Moon Rising In The East" Directed by Coleman, with Doug Mackie, 18 Shake Rag, 8 PM, Tickets \$15 at 1.800.838.3006, 608.987.3292, or www.alleystage.com

2-5 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village "Midsummer Festival" Registration Required, Dance & Music traditions from Scandinavia & around the world, Workshops in dance, music, crafts & childrens program, See May 2nd entry for address etc

3 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage "Red Moon Rising In The East", 8PM, \$20, See July 2 entry 3 MINERAL POINT, Fireman's Dance, Iowa County Fairgrounds, 900 Fair St, 9-12PM, Raffle, Music by "Straight Shot", \$5 per couple 4 MINERAL POINT, OLD FASHIONED 4TH OF JULY, Free Festivities all day. "Getting The Lead Out" 2 & 5 mile Run/Walk 8AM, Pre-Register 608.987.3201, Soldiers Park, Shake Rag St, Huge parade down High Street 11AM, Chicken dinner in Library Park, 137 High St, 11:30AM to Sellout, Evening events at Soldiers Park on Shake Rag, Ice Cream Social 6PM, Band Concert 7PM, Fireworks at dusk, Bring chair/blanket www.mineralpoint.com 5 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage "Red Moon Rising in the East", 8PM, \$15, See July 2 entry 5 SPRING GREEN, Unity Chapel, Speaker, 11 AM, Freewill offering, www.unitychapel.org County Rd T & Hwy 23, 6514 Hillside School Rd, pound cake & drinks in the grove after 5 DARLINGTON, Tunes at Twilight, Festival Grounds off Main St, Tom Black, Broadway hits, 7-8:30PM Bring a lawn chair;

# **OUTTHESE PAGES & KEEP HANDY.**

food vendors on site, www.darlingtonwi.org 608.776.4970

5 SPRING GREEN, Acoustic Jam, The General Store, 2-3:30PM, 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070

8, 15, 22, & 29 MINERAL POINT, Family Yoga 6-6:45PM w/Paul Mross, Shake Rag Ctr for Arts, 18 Shake Rag 608.987.3292 9 DODGEVILLE, Family Playgroup w/Ann Gorgen, Wilson Park, Ages 2-7 with a parent (siblings welcome), 9:30-11AM, Free 9 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage "Red Moon Rising In The East", 8PM, \$15, See July 2 entry 9-12 DODGEVILLE, Festival of the Parks, midway, rides, chicken BBQ, Beer, Fireworks at dusk on Sat, 608,935.2703 9-13 PLATTEVILLE, Vietnam Moving Wall Memorial, U of Wisc Platteville campus, "Celebration of Heroes" Big Opening Ceremony, many related events, veterans parade, Formal Closing Ceremoney, To volunteer call 608.348.8888 www.platteville.com 10 MINERAL POINT, "Jammin' on the Porch", Orchard Lawn, 5:30-7:30PM, Bring lawn chairs, a picnic dinner & drinks, "Point Five" Band, folk/bluegrass/country & jam w/a mix of contemporary songs & powerful vocal harmonies, 234 Madison St, 608.987.1180 www.mineralpointhistory.org 10 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage, "Red Moon Rising In The East", 8PM, \$20 See June 2nd entry

10-13 MINERAL POINT, Woodlanders' Gathering" Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag, Over 50 hands-on workshops, Creating with natural materials, Beginners to advanced, Register 608.987.3292 or online. Classes & details at www.shakeragalley.com,www.woodlanders.com 10-13 MINERAL POINT, Rustic Showcase & Sale at Longbranch Gallery, as part of Woodlanders Weekend, 203 Commerce St. Call 608.987.4499 to sell rustic furniture etc 11 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM 11 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage Final Night of "Red Moon Rising In The East". 8PM, \$20, See June 2nd entry

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

11 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Prairie Walk & Talk 3PM, Homemade Ice Cream Social & Potluck 6:30PM, See May2nd entry for addr etc

11 DODGEVILLE, Fireworks, Harris Park

608.930.5228

12 SPRING GREEN, Unity Chapel, 11 AM, Speaker, See July 5th entry for details 12 DODGEVILLE, Farmers' Apreciation Day Parade, downtown 11AM, then BBQ & events at Harris Park 608.935.3371

12 DARLINGTON, Tunes at Twilight. Music by the Dang-Its, See 7/5 entry for details 12 SPRING GREEN, American Players Theatre's 30th Anniversary Celebration & Touchtone Theatre Dedication, 1-4PM & The General Store/APT Jam Band with American Players musical concert, silent & live auction, Tickets \$10, Space limited, 608.588.2361 or www.playinthewoods.org

13 SPRING GREEN, Rural Musicians Forum Concert, Unity Chapel, 7PM, \$5 at the door, See June 29th entry for details 15-19 DARLINGTON, Lafayette County Fair, fairgrounds, Rt 81, Grandstand shows, Midway, www.darlingtonwi.org 776.4828

way, www.darlingtonwi.org 776.4828 16 DODGEVILLE, Family Playgroup w/Ann Gorgen, Wilson Park, Ages 2-7 with a parent (siblings welcome), 9:30-11AM, Free 16-19 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Hardanger Fiddle Assoc. of America Workshops, Master teachers featuring music & dance traditions from Telemark Norway w/Olav Sem, & Kenneth De Gala. Visit www.hfaa.org for registration & information, See May 2nd entry for addr etc May 2nd MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage Preview of "Rose Colored Glasses" 8PM, Suggested donation \$10, 18 Shake Rag 17 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage Opening Night of "Rose Colored Glasses, Directed by Heather Murn w/Victoria Mecozzi, Anna Galle & Margaret Ruf, A dramatic tale set in an Irish pub & a Jewish delicatessen - about friendship, salvation, religions & cultures. 8 PM, \$20, 18 Shake Rag, 608.987.3292,

1.800.838.3006 www.alleystage.com

Ext. on site w/free samples & recipes

18 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water

Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM, UW

18-19 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage "Rose Colored Glasses" 8PM, Sat. \$20, Sun. \$15 See July 17 entry

19 SPRING GREEN, Unity Chapel, Speaker, 11AM, See July 5th entry for details 19 DARLINGTON, "Tunes at Twilight with Rising Gael," See July 5th entry 22-26 SPRING GREEN, Country Sampler Quilters 5-Day Road Trip More info 608.588.2510, www.sgcountrysampler.com 23 DODGEVILLE, Family Playgroup w/Ann Gorgen, Wilson Park, Ages 2-7 with a parent (siblings welcome), 9:30-11AM, Free 23 DODGEVILLE, Iowa Co. Historical Society's Ice Cream Social, pie & plate lunch 4:30-7:30PM, Museum, 1301 N Bequette St 23-24 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage "Rose Colored Glasses" Thurs \$15, Fri. \$20, See July 17th entry

24 MINERAL POINT, Mineral Point His-

torical Society's Founders' Day Lawn Party Celebrates the 1950's, Orchard Lawn, 234 Madison St, Live music, appetizers, drinks, food, dancing, and fun! Advance Reservs. required, 1950's dress optional but encouraged. Call or check website for cost, times & ticket sales start mid June, 609.987.2884. www.mineralpointhistory.org/events/foundersday.html 24 MINERAL POINT, Red Cross Blood Drive, Noon-6PM, Rescue Squad Bldg, 907 Ridge St, 24-Aug. 2, RICHLAND CENTER, "Man of La Mancha" directed by Andrew Sharp, 7PM, Sun matinee 2PM, Reserv. call 608.604.7758 25 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM 25 DODGEVILLE, 10th Annual Blues Fest, Bands 1-10PM, behind courthouse, food, drinks, fun family event 608.935.9200 26 SPRING GREEN, Unity Chapel, Speaker, 1 1AM, See July 5th entry for all details 26 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage "Rose Colored Glasses" See July 17 entry, 8 PM, \$15, 26 DARLINGTON, Tunes at Twilight, The Wundo Band. See July 5th entry for details 26-Aug. 1 SAGBRAW, Schramm's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across WI, Call 608,843.8412 for info 27 SPRING GREEN, Rural Musicians Forum

Concert, Unity Chapel, See July 13th entry 30 DODGEVILLE, Family Playgroup w/Ann Gorgen, Wilson Park, Ages 2-7 with a parent (siblings welcome), 9:30-11AM, Free 30-31 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage "Rose Colored Glasses" 8 PM, Thurs. \$15, Fri. \$20, See July 17th entry

31 MINERAL POINT, "Adult Idol," Singers of all genres, Beer sales, 7PM, Fairgrounds, 900 S Fair St

31-Aug 1-2 BOSCOBEL, 17th Annual Muskets &Memories Civl War Era Re-Enactment & GAR Encampment, Kronshage Park, over 1000 participants, Military camps & battles, costume ball, band concerts, kids' activities \$8 Adults, \$4 Kids 7-12, Family rates, 608.375.2672,www.musketsandmemories.net



1 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwv 151, 8:30-11AM 1 MINERAL POINT, GALLERY NIGHT, Galleries & shops with refreshments open til 9PM, A great way to spend an evening, 608.987.3201, www.mineralpoint.com 1 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage "Rose Colored Glasses (see 7/17 entry above) 8 PM, \$20 1-8 MINERAL POINT, Stage, Screen & Story, workshops at Shake Rag Alley w/actors & actresses from stage & screen, Register 608.987.3292 or www.shakeragalley.com 2 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage Final Performance "Rose Colored Glasses (see 7/17 entry above) 8 PM, \$20, 2 SPRING GREEN, Acoustic Jam, The General Store, 2-3:30PM, 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070 5 DODGEVILLE, Uplands Garden Club (public welcome), Stonefield Manor, 407 E Madison, 6:30PM, Ed Schulz, Pres. of Hosta Society, will speak 5-9 DODGEVILLE, Lands End Huge Warehouse sale, Harris Park, New merchandise daily, 608.935.9341, Wed 8/5 9AM-7PM, Thurs-Sat. 8/6-8/8 7AM-7PM, Sun 8/9 10AM-

4PM, Mon 8/10 9AM-4PM

6 DODGEVILLE, Family Playgroup w/Ann Gorgen, Wilson Park, Ages 2-7 with a parent (siblings welcome), 9:30-11AM, Free 6 MINERAL POINT, Hog Roast, MP Care Center, Bring a dish, 5PM, Music by Lyle Foley, 109 N Iowa St, 608.987.2381 6-8 MINERAL POINT, A New Play by Bill Svanoe, part of Stage & Screen week, Alley Stage, 18 Shake Rag, 608.987.3292 www.shakeragalley.com, www.alleystage.com 6-10 COBB, 51st Annual Cobb Corn Roast, music, parade, fast pitch tournaments, food & drinks, open-pit chicken BBQ & sweet corn Sunday at 11AM, Scheper Park 7 MINERAL POINT, City Band Concert, Library Park, 137 High St, Bring a lawn chair. Check time-about 6:30PM

7-9 MINERAL POINT, Wisc HS Reg'l Rodeo, HS Cutting, Fri 1PM, Jr Wrangler Rodeo 5PM, Open Barrel & Team Roping Jackpot 7PM, Sat HS Rodeo 1 & 7:30PM, Sun. HS Rodeo 1PM, 608.987.2664

8 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM 8 MINERAL POINT, City-Wide Garage Sales 8 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam, The General Store 3-6PM, 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070 9 MINERAL POINT, St Paul/St Mary's Parish Festival, Outdoor Service 10:30AM at Orchard Lawn, 234 Madison. then BBQ chicken dinner, games & music

9 BARNEVELD, Botham Vineyards & Winery Annual Vintage Celebration 11AM-5PM, Vintage wine & rare sports & race cars; Live music, outdoor wine bars, picnic food, \$5 for adults; Kids u/12 free. No pets, 8180 Langberry Rd, 888.478.9463 www.bothamvineyards.com 10 SPRING GREEN, Rural Musicians Forum Concert & Taliesin Chorus, instrumental & vocal, Taliesin, Free, donations welcome, Rt 23, 608.588.2511 Ext 351

10-14 MINERAL POINT, Creative Nonfiction Workshop & Writers' Retreat, with Author Michael Perry, Register early, Mon-Thurs 9AM-5PM & Fri 9AM-Noon, Manuscript deadline 7/1/09 See www.shakeragalley.com for more info, 608.987.3292

11 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage, Author of "Population 485" Michael Perry & other nationally acclaimed writers reading & entertaining, 7:30-9PM, 18 Shake Rag, 987-3292 www.alleystage.com

13 DODGEVILLE, Family Playgroup with Ann Gorgen at Wilson Park, Ages 2-7 with a parent (siblings welcome), 9:30-11AM, New theme each week, Free

13 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage, Premier of "Voodoo Here Now 5", 8 PM, Suggested donation \$10, 18 Shake Rag, 608.987.3292

13-16 MINERAL POINT, DODGEVILLE, SPRING GREEN, MAZOMANIE, Theatre & Art Bicycle Tour, Bike & enjoy 2 theater venues, rural artisan studios, art galleries, great food, www.shuttleguytours.com (Limit 50), 50-60 miles/day

14 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage Opening Night of "Voodoo Here Now 5", This is about the graffiti on discarded refrigerators in the French Quarter after Hurricane Katrina & conversations on a balcony to determine their meaning. Directed by Doug Mackie & Starring Ann Cabezas, Ainsley Anderson, Kurt Meyer & Sam Murn, 8PM, 18 Shake Rag Alley, \$20, 800.838.3006 or 608.987.3292 www.alleystage.com

14 MINERAL POINT, "Jammin' on the Porch", Orchard Lawn, 5:30-7:30PM, Bring lawn chairs, a picnic dinner & drinks, Band "The Fly Rights", Jazz standards, cowboy songs, western swing, 234 Madison St, 987.1180 www.mineralpointhistory.org 15 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM 15 DODGEVILLE, Dairyland Dare Cycling Challenge in SW Wisc., Chip-timed 100K-300K; limited to first 750 riders signed up then a lottery system selects 250 add'l riders 7/4/09, register at www.dairylanddare.com \$75, For 66K untimed \$60

15-16 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage, "Voodoo Here Now 5" (see 8/14 entry for details), 8 PM, Sat. \$20, Sun. \$15

16 MINERAL POINT, 4H Dog Show, 9AM, lowa County Fairgrounds, 900 Fair Street 16 SPRING GREEN, 5th Annual "4 PeteSake Day", Run/Walk 9AM, Live Bands & General Store/APT Band, 10:30AM-7:30M, Silent Auction 11-6PM, kids' activities, food, drinks, & Raffle for Tranquility Canoe worth \$5600, rain or shine, North Park,

19 SPRING GREEN, Taliesin Open House & Garden Reception, Free, Route 23, Experience the home & gardens, 877.588.7900 19 SPRING GREEN, 4th Annual Slow Food Festival by the Arts Coalition 6PM, Spring Green Comm Church, 151 E Bossard St, 608.583.4041 for details/foods for competition 20-21-22-23 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage, "Voodoo Here Now 5" (see 8/14 entry for details), 8 PM \$15 on 8/20, 23, \$20 on 21/22 22 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM. UW Ext on site w/free samples & recipes 22 SPRING GREEN, Car Show, 8AM-4PM, Downtown, Awards 3:30, \$5 fee to participate, 24 car classes, Live music. 24 SPRING GREEN, Rural Musicians Forum Concert, Unity Chapel, 7PM, See June 29 entry for details 27-29 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage, "Voodoo Here Now 5" (see 8/14 entry for details), 8 PM, Thurs \$15, Fri & Sat \$20 29 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM

30 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage, Final Per-

30 DODGEVILLE, Lions Flea Market An-

Bennett Rd, 8:30 AM-3PM, Adm. \$2

formance of "Voodoo Here Now 5" (see 8/14

tiques & Collectibles Sale, Harris Park, 598 N



entry for details), 8 PM, \$15,

### **SEPTEMBER**

3-7 MINERAL POINT, Iowa County Fair, Fairgrounds, 900 Fair St, www.iowacountyfair.org has sched & camping info. Live music, midway, food, beer, animal exhibits, showings & judgings, 4H exhibits, horse pull, harness races, antique tractor pull. Most days 8AM-10PM, free parking, 608.987.3490 4-5 MINERAL POINT, Alley Stage "The Front Steps" A staged reading of a new play by local playwright Marcia Jablonski, winner of the Wisconsin Wrights playwriting competition, Set in the 1970's on the front steps of a tenement in a changing Chicago neighborhood, cultures & generations clash but come together again, \$15, 8 PM, 1.800.838.3006 or 608.987.3232 www.alleystage.com 5 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM, UW Ext. on site w/free samples & recipes 6 MT HOREB, 31st Wright Stuff Century Bike Ride, 30, 60 & 100 miles. Meet at Tyrol Basin Ski Lodge, 3847 Bohn Rd, 7 AM, Limit 650 riders, pre-register www.bombaybicycle. org/events/wsc 608.836.1369 6 SPRING GREEN, Acoustic Jam, The General Store, 137 S Albany, 2-3:30PM, 608.588.7070 Free 7 SPRING GREEN, Beatlefest at the Spring

Green General Store on Labor Day, Inaugural event marking Todd's 50th birthday, 8 hours of Beatles songs performed by a wide variety of musicians 11AM-8PM, See May 9th entry 11 MINERAL POINT, "Jammin' on the Porch", Orchard Lawn, 5:30-7:30PM, Bring lawn chairs, a picnic dinner & drinks, Band: "Dealin", mixing classic blues w/original songs, 234 Madison St, 608.987.1180 www.mineralpointhistory.org 11-12 SPRING GREEN, Spring Green Literary Festival, w/authors Tony Earley "Jim The Boy", Hillary Jordan "Mudbound", & Ben Percy "Refresh", FRI 7-9PM, Free, Readings by authors, Gard Theater, 111 E. Jefferson, Open to the public. SAT. 8:30AM-5PM, Hillside School, Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin, Rt 23, \$45 pre 6/15 (\$55 after), Students \$25, Contint | breakfast, Authors lecture & lead workshops 9AM, catered lunch in dining room. Read books before if possible. 20 registrants can opt to attend a Writers Workshop w/Ben Percy 1:30-4PM for an extra \$25 pre 6/15 (\$30 after), 608.588.3009, Register www.springgreenlitfest.org/AboutLiteraryFestival.htm

11-13 PLATTEVILLE, Annual Historic Encampment, displays, Demonstrations Craftspeople from around the US, music, military skirmishes, authentic period foods, Fri 8:30-5PM Sat 11AM-6PM, Sun 10AM-3PM, Moundview Park, Corner Madison & Cty BB www.platteville.com, click Attractions, 608.348.8888

CON'T. ON FOLLOWING PAGE

11-13 PLATTEVILLE, Annual Dairy Days, concessions, arts & crafts, flea mkt, dairy show, live bands, Legion Park off Pitt St, Fri 5-10PM, Sat 9-6, Sun 9-4 12 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM 12 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam, The General Store 3-6PM, 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070 12-13 DARLINGTON, Pecatonica Valley Antique Days, Lafayette County Fairgrounds, Route 81, flea markets, antique tractors & machinery displays Sat 11-6PM, Sun 11-2:30 PM, 608.776.4970

18-20 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Squirrel Moon Contra Dance Weekend, workshops, meals & dances & potluck Sat. 6:30PM, bring dish to share, Fri. 6-10PM, Sat. 8:30AM-Midnight, Sun. 9AM-12:30PM, See May 2nd entry for addr, ph etc. Get registration form at http:// sprott.physics.wisc.edu/squirrel/flyer09.htm 19 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 151, 8:30-11AM 19 SHULLSBURG, Harvest Days 10AM-5PM, Live music, art, food, antiques & primitives for sale, 608.482.1438 www.shullsburgwisconsin.com 20 DARLINGTON, Fall Festival, 4-8PM, Hayrides, bonfires, games, food, music Free, www.darlingtonwi.org 608.776.4970 22 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Walking Jim Stoltz "Forever Wild" Celebration of America's Wild Places, live music, poetry, multi-media images Call for details 608.924.4000, See May 2nd entry for addr etc 25 MINERAL POINT, Red Cross Blood Drive

Noon-6PM, Rescue Squad Bldg, 907 Ridge St. 25 MINERAL POINT, Pendarvis, Cornish Fest Pub Night, Live Music, cash bar, 7-10PM, Spruce St. off Shake Rag St, \$10, 608.987.2122 25-27 MINERAL POINT, 17th Annual

Cornish Festival & 3-day Celtic Celebration, Tours of Pendarvis, Orchard Lawn, Railroad Depot, Odd Fellows & Rebekah Museum, 608.963.3529, www.cornishfest.org Pick up brochures w/schedules & see next 8 entries: 26 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 51, 8:30-11AM 26 MINERAL POINT, Pancake Breakfast, Masonic Temple, 310 High St, 7:30-10:30AM, \$5 26 MINERAL POINT, Cornish "Taste of Mineral Point", Library Park, 137 High St, Tickets on site, 10AM - 2PM www.cornishfest.org 26 MINERAL POINT, Pendarvis, Crowdy Crawn, "entertainment w/a mixture of things", Cornish storytelling, lore, laughter, traditional crafts, demonstrations of skills like lace making, spinning & quilting, 12 NOON-4PM Free, Spruce St. off Shake Rag St 26 MINERAL POINT, Miner's Buffet, Hodan

Ctr, 941 W Fountain St, \$12.95, 608.987.3336 26 MINERAL POINT, Concert, Jewells & Turner Collins, Congregational UCC Church, 300 Maiden St, \$10, www.cornishfest.org 27 MINERAL POINT, Cornish Parade down High St. 12-12:30PM

27 MINERAL POINT, TOUR OF HISTORIC HOMES, Library Benefit Event, 10AM-4PM. Tickets for \$10 (may be higher) at homes on tour, or earlier at Bobbi Jo's Interiors, 46 High St. & the Library, 137 High St., 608 987-2447. Homes shown www.swls.org/member.mi.htm 26-27 DARLINGTON, Historic Racing Festival, Darlington Raceway, Prices vary based on seating, 843.395.8877 or http://www.darlingtonraceway.com



### **OCTOBER**

2 SPRING GREEN, Doane College Choral Concert, Taliesin Hillside Theatre, Route 23, Check time etc. 608.588.2511 Ext 351 or email chamblen@mail.com 3 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 51, 8:30-11AM 3 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village "Harvest Family Day" 1-4PM & Old Time Barn Dance & Potluck 6:30PM, bring dish to share, See May 2nd entry for addr etc 4 SPRING GREEN, Acoustic Jam, The General Store, 137 S Albany, 2-3:30PM, 608.588.7070 4 SHULLSBURG, "Cheesefest", music, hayrides, arts, crafts, antiques & flea mkt, food booths & Cheese, 608.965.4579 www.shullsburgwisconsin.org 10 MINERAL POINT, Farmers' Market, Water Tower Park, Bus. Hwy 51, 8:30-11AM 10 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam, The Gen-

eral Store 3-6PM, 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070

munity Folk Dance with guest instructors from

10 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Com-

around the US, call for time See May 2nd entry for addr. etc.

10-11 HIGHLAND, Spurgeon Vineyards Harvest Festival, wine sampling, Taste of Wisc, live music Sat.& Sun, grilled buffalo burgers, brats & hot dogs 11AM-4PM, See May 23-24 entry for addr etc

16-18 SW WISCONSIN'S 16TH ANNUAL FALL ART TOUR IN & AROUND MINERAL POINT, DODGEVILLE, SPRING GREEN, & BARABOO. Visit respected artists in their homes & studios as they demonstrate & sell their work, 10AM-6PM daily, Complete info, brochures, maps & artists at art galleries & shops in each town & at www.fallarttour.com 608.356.7805

17 MINERAL POINT, FINAL FARMERS' MARKET, Library Park (Note different location) 137 High St. 8:30-11AM 23-25 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village Swedish Dance & Music Weekend with workshops by Ross Lester, Swedish dance inst. & the Dahlin family teaching fiddle music, music & dance party, Reserv. needed Call 608.924.4000, See May 2nd for addr etc



## **NOVEMBER**

1 SPRING GREEN, Acoustic Jam, The General Store, 137 S Albany, 2-3:30PM, 608.588.7070

6-8 SPRING GREEN, Country Sampler American Country Christmas Open House, 133 E Jefferson, 608.588.2510 www.sgcountrysampler.com 7 DODGEVILLE, Folklore Village "Old Time Barn Dance & Potluck 6:30PM, bring a dish to share, See May 2nd entry for addr etc

11-14 SPRING GREEN, Country Sampler's "Boxwood & Berries Annual Gathering", 133 E Jefferson, 608.588.2510, www.sgcountrysampler.com 14 SPRING GREEN, Bluegrass Jam, The General Store 3-6PM, 137 S Albany, 608.588.7070 Free 26 THANKSGIVING

27-28 MINERAL POINT, Holiday Open Houses, Call 608.987.3201 or check www.mineralpoint.com for details 27-29 DODGEVILLE, Holiday Parade & Sales - Downtown

27-29 SHULLSBURG, 19th Yesteryear Christmas & Open House, Water St, annual tour of homes on Sun, fireworks, 608.965.4579

www.shullsburgwisconsin.org 28 MINERAL POINT, Library Benefit Card Tournament & Evening DJ Dance at the new Bubbas, 52 High St 608.987.2447 More details closer to event.



**SANDEE** BEAMAN, she who builds this giant events collection, takes in bits and pieces of information about upcoming events via emails, letters, postcards, news releases, messages in bottles, and tiny scraps of paper. Tell her YOUR "goings on," by telephoning 608.987.1199, or with her email, <u>sandeeb@charter.net</u>

## **SHAKE RAG ALLEY CENTER FOR** THE ARTS

### **CLASSES**



SEE DETAILS FOR ALL CLASSES AND CHILDREN'S CLASSES AT WWW.SHAKERAGALLEY.COM 608.987.3292

MAY

1-3 Beads & Bangles Weekend Fri. 7PM to Sun.5PM

2 Power Doll Necklace, Di Sterba 10-12 9 Wine Bottle Tumblers, Carole Spelic', 9AM-Noon

9 Mom & Daughter Wire & Bead Bracelets, Cheryl Smeja, 1-4PM

14-16 Soft Pastel 3-Day Adventure, with Kay Brathol-Hostvet, Thurs-Sat 9AM-4:30PM

15-17 Altered Art Attack, Assemblage Figures, Sharon Stauffer, Fri. 7PM -Sun. 3PM

16-17 Making a Movie with Your Video Camera, Jim Stroschein, Sat & Sun 9-3:30PM

17 Making Clocks With Gourds, Terri Schmit, 1-5PM

23-24 Visions & Revisions, Revising Your Short Story or Novel, Dwight Allen, Sat & Sun 9-4

30 Felting Jewelry & Small Items, Nonda Van Gulden 1-4PM

JUNE

6 WRAP Workshop--Discussion/critique of artwork, Ann Alderson-Cabezas 9:30AM-3PM

6 Salish Loom--Beginners, Jane Potocki, 9:30AM-4:30PM 6-7 Advanced Knife Making, Keith Ray,

9AM-4PM 7 - July 19, Reading Like A Writer,

Dean Bakopoulos, Sundays 5-8 12-14 Mosaic Madness Weekend, Judy Sutcliffe & Heidi Dyas-McBeth, Fri. 7PM, Sat & Sun 9-4:30PM

13 Into To Basic Blacksmithing, David Day 9AM-4PM

13 Vintage Handkerchief Quilt or Pillow Christine Tharnstrom 9-4PM

13 Faux Frames, Tom Kelly 1-4PM 13 Planning Your Web Site,

Cheryl Smeja 9AM-Noon 15-19 Fiction Boot Camp with Author Dean Bakopoulos,

9-5 Mon-Thurs & 9-Noon Fri 20 Spinning From Sheep To Skein: Intro to the Basics, Kriss Marion 9-4

20 Hammer & Tongs: Intro to Blacksmithing, Greg Winz 9AM-4PM 20 COUNTRY GARDEN TOUR, See June

20 entry in calendar for details, Self-Guided 9AM-4PM, \$12, or Bus Tour \$35 9AM-1PM

21 Paint a Gourd Birdhouse, Dan Soman, 1-4PM

21 Growing & Cooking With Herbs, Diane Bober 1:30-3:30 PM 21 Herbal Lotions & Salt Scrubs,

Shelley Ryan 9AM-Noon, 22-25 Magic Camp FOR KIDS K-6th K. Tennessen 10-11AM Daily

26 Golden Acrylics Lecture & Demo, Bonnie Cutts 7-9PM 26-28 Acrylic Collage & Transfer

Images, Bonnie Cutts, Fri-Sat 9-4, Sun 9-3

27 Cast Carved Hypertufa Slab, Carole Spelic 9AM-Noon, 27-28 Fireplace Tools Weekend,

Eric Donaldson, 9AM-4PM 27-28 Socks--Unraveling the Mystery,

Sandy Jones 1-4PM, 28 Hammered Copper & Silver Wire Bracelet, Deb Donaghue 1-4PM 28 Mosaic Memory Vessel,

Heidi Dyas-McBeth, 1-4PM 29 & July 2-3 Papier Mache' Critters FOR KIDS K-6th grade, Carole Spelic 1-2PM

8, 15, 22, & 29 MINERAL POINT, Family Yoga 6-6:45PM, P. Mross 10-13 Woodlanders' Gathering See Aug 10-13 entry in Calendar 15& 22 Flower Drying & Arranging, FOR KIDS K-6th grades, Heather Moeller 1:30-2:30 18 A Good Day to Dye, Linda Derrickson 9:30-4:30PM 18 Make a Market Tote, Carole Spelic 9AM-Noon 18 Digital Photography 101, Deedra Oberle 9AM-4PM 18-19 Altered Art Attack II: Jewelry, Sharon Stauffer 10AM-4:30PM 19 Beginning Photoshop Elements, Cheryl Smeja 9AM-4PM 20-23 Chandelier Week, Eric Donaldson, (steel & copper chandelier) 9AM-4 Daily 24-26 Mosaic Shish-Ka-Bob Weekend, Judy Sutcliffe & Heidi Dyas-Mc Beth, Fri 1-5, Sat & Sun 9-4:30 25 Collage Workshop, Rita Yanny 9AM-4:30PM 25 Putting Yourself Out There: Blogging Basics, Kriss Marion 1-4PM 25 Hammer & Tongs: Intro to Blacksmithing, Greg Winz 9AM-4PM 26 Wire Wrapped Jewelry, Cheryl Smeja 9AM-4PM 26 Dyeing Yarn, Roving & Clothes,

**AUGUST** 

1 Tall Bird Feeder or Plant Hanger, David Day 9AM-4PM,

Potocki 1-4PM

1-8 Stage, Screen & Story Workshops, See Aug 1-8 entry in calendar

Nonda Van Gulden & Jane

2 Heart Hook Towel Holder, Chisel, Candleholder, David Day 9-4PM 8-9 Fiber Mixed Media--Accordion Book

Sharon Stauffer 9:30AM-4PM 9 Intro to Silversmithing,

Kay Rashka 9AM-4PM, 10-14 Creative Nonfiction Workshop

& Writers' Retreat, with Author Michael Perry, Register early, Mon-Thurs 9AM-5PM & Fri 9AM-Noon,

Manuscript deadline 7/1/09 15 Painted Silk Scarves",

Karma Groteluschen 9-11AM 15 Fabulous Fused Glass.

Sherry Viktora 9AM-4PM 15 Leaf Embossed Leather & Canvas Bag, Cheryl Smeja 9AM-4PM

15-16 Get Hooked on Blacksmithing, Bob Tuftee 9AM-4PM

16 Foldforming Copper Sheet For Jewelry, Deb Donaghue 1-4PM 17-18 Learn to Knit, FOR KIDS K-6th

Kriss Marion 10-12AM 21-23 Mosaic Caberet Weekend,

Judy Sutcliffe & Heidi Dyas-Mc Beth, Fri 1-5, Sat & Sun 9-4PM 22 Batik & Dyed Fabric,

Cheryl Smeja 9AM-4PM 22 Papier Mache' Vessels,

Carole Spelic' 1-4 PM

22 & 9/19 Elizabeth Zimmerman Surprise Jacket, Sandy Jones, Nonda VanGulden 1-4PM,

Learn, work on project, reconvene 9/19 23 Fun Handmade Beads,

Sharon Stauffer 1-4PM

29 Hammer & Tongs: Intro to Blacksmithing, Greg Winz 9AM-4PM 29-30 Digital Arts & Crafts With Photo

shop Elements, Cheryl Smeja 9AM-4PM

WEBSITE www.shakeragalley.com or call 608.987.3292 FOR CLASS SCHEDULE FOR SEPT-NOV.



The true wealth of the California Gold Rush of 1849 may well be the literature it produced. The non-fiction of this American adventure—the diaries, letters, journals, memoirs, the official documents, even menus and legal papers—all read like fiction. The spirit of the westward trek of the miners is captured in the work of frontier humorists -- Delano, Derby, and Mark Twain. But for romantic prose, Bret Harte is the premier writer. He created the larger-than-life image we associate with the mining camps; he transformed the camp's squalor into the stuff of stouthearted myth.

Mineral Point sent its men to the California gold fields and a shaky date with destiny. Local accounts speak of a flood of Pointers packing hurriedly and leaving, when the word of the discovery at Sutter's Mill reached the Midwest.

And today, the 49ers live on in the robust stories of Kathleen Willmarth Green, who knows the territory as a former home, and writes with conviction about the hardships, triumphs and all-too-human prejudices that characterized the short-lived search for gold.

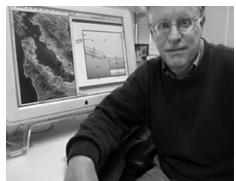


Katie Green lives in Spring Green, and has been a feature writer, journalist and essayist since 1957. Her Gold Rush history, Like A Leaf Upon The Current Cast (2001), is now in its third edition, and her newest book, Deborah Whitney of Shady Flat, is an historical novel about a child of the California Gold Rush and pioneer period, a book designed for the Young Adults market.

A sequel to Deborah Whitney of Shady Flat is well along. It is called (tentatively), <u>Deborah Whit-</u> ney, <u>Daughter</u> of the <u>Mountains</u>.

Katie contributes her words to several local publications, and writes for the Mineral Point Historical Society newsletter.

<u>Deborah Whitney of Shady Flat,</u> is published by Pineneedle Press. It is available at Foundry Books and Set in Stone Bookstore in Mineral Point.



Baywatcher Tom McKone

We spoke to Katie Green to learn of her interests in the Gold Rush, as seen from the viewpoint of a well-transplanted Californian, now settled in the Wisconsin hills.



1. In <u>Deborah Whitney</u>, you write of the long trek to the gold fields of northern California, and the rugged life in the mining camps. Some of those who made the trip were Cornish immigrants who had left places like Mineral Point, and they must have felt like foreigners in a strange land, when they looked around their new settlements in the Sierras, right?

KWG: Not at all. They mostly settled in the lower altitude goldfields, which were rolling hills, but not craggy and precipitous peaks, as found a bit farther up in the Sierra mountains. I've not been to Cornwall but I imagine it felt much like the "Old Country." In Gold Rush California, they got right to work building beautiful slate walls, stone houses, and making pasties! The Cousin Jacks worked in the mines, of course, and they imprinted the area with their unique mining expertise and culture.

Did California recognize the many contributions of miners from the Midwest, in place names and in other ways?

KWG: Surely. The names on the land often betray Midwestern roots. The area has a hodgepodge of Indian names, many colorful descriptive names (e.g. Poker Flat, Big Nose Ridge, Red Ant), also people's surnames, and other ethnic names such as Cornish Flat and Wisconsin Hill. It's rare to find native Californians—or, at least, families who have been in the state more than a generation or two. A very high proportion are Midwestern transplants even now. The currenteditor of my hometown newspaper in northern California is a Michigander.

3. What is it about the Gold Rush that interests you the most?

KWG: When I read the earlier historians'accounts of the goldfield region where I grew up, I couldn't help but notice that there were some huge gaps in what they wrote about. For instance, what about the women's and children's experiences on the frontier? And when I perused the contemporaneous writings—court records, etc.—I saw scandalous prejudice and injustice visited upon many non-English-speaking immigrants, especially the Chinese. These were issues that had been largely ignored before. (Happily, in recent years this is being rectified.) And the discussion of that time's environmental damage was cursory.

Therefore, I took up my pen to fill in the missing dimensions of the Gold Rush story. These same issues—prejudice, exploitation, injustice—canbeextrapolatedouttofitalmost any account of a "roaring frontier society."

4. Some say that in the 19th Century, the United States tipped, East to West, and the most reckless and foolhardy people tumbled toward the West Coast, while the more staid and traditional Colonials stayed behind. Who were the adventurers that made up the roster of the 49ers?

KWG: In the 1800s, the eminent California historian, H.H. Bancroft, wrote that the goldrushers were "the toiling farmerwhosemortgageloomedabovethe growing family, the briefless lawyer, the starving student, the quack, the idler, the harlot, the gambler, the hen-pecked husband, the disgraced. . . with many earnest, enterprising, honest men and devoted women." But notice the order of importance he gave these categories! Personally, I think it was just what the testosteroneladen young men did at that time because it was a great happening. Crooks and failures are always attracted to frontiers. My own great-grandfather dashed off to take a look around, too -- I hasten to add that he was among the test osterone group.

5. And are there lessons for us, in the continuing impulse to follow Horace Greeley's advice, to, "Go West, Young Man!"?

KWG: I'm so old that I didn't even know there still IS an impulse to go West. Besides, as ever I find myself moving contrary to the tide, and have reversed the trend by coming back to the Middlewest.

Most of the great places are spoiled in California, quite frankly, fallen victim to over-population and exploitation.

There is, however, a free-wheeling and adventurous spirit that's alive and well in some places out West, and that isn't necessarily true here in the Midwest. And there used to be an acceptance of people who are "different". I'm very disturbed by the conservative backlash against giving ordinary civil rights—such as marriage—to gay persons, as demonstrated by the vote in the recent election in my native state.

Should people go West? Why not?

Wny not?

Roaming is a good tonic for young people (or those young at heart). One learns many things from trekking around with eyes wide open, ready to appreciate the extraordinary diversity of this amazing country of ours.



### GOLD RUSH STILL HAUNTS SAN FRANSISCO BAY

"There's gold in them thar hills!" has been updated into a grim modern-day warning, "There's mercury in that thar Bay!" When miners used mercury by the wagonload to extract gold flecks from sediment they created a toxic legacy that is still finding its way into tributaries that feed the San Francisco Bay. An innovative new study indicates that it may take as long as 50 years to change the mercury concentrations.

Tom McKone, a staff scientist in Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory says, "We have to live with the messes we make for a long time. It's been 150 years since the Gold Rush, and we're still paying for it."

# Getting Kids Next to Nature

### Tree Farm Day Camp

When you listen to Ann Gorgen, you know this women is passionate about kids. And sunshine. And fresh air.

She has found a way to lure young children away from the TV and video games, and bring them to our natural environment. It's the Tree Farm Day Camp, a project of the Family Resource Center of Iowa County. The camp opens during the summer, from June 17 to Aug. 13, and the campsite comes to Mineral Point for five weeks from June 4 to July 2.

"Summer in the Big Red Barn means a day in the outdoors," says Gorgen, "with hiking, frog catching, exploring trees and rocks, a stream walk, and witnessing wildlife first hand."

The day camp also features arts and crafts, and supplies recyclable materials and the instructions to trigger the kid's creativity. And there are music and science activities as well. "Our camp is unstructured," Gorgen says, "it focuses on the interest of the youngsters."

Learning just happens naturally in the outdoors, according to this teacher of young people. "And children who grow up playing in the woods, loving nature, will take good care of the planet."

Here's her busy schedule:

DAYCAMP:

Every Wednesday, June 17 to Aug. 13 For ages 4 to 11, from 9:00 to 3:00 \$40 a day, includes lunch Sign up for a day or the entire summer.

PLAYGROUPS AT THE PARK, where parents and children play together, meet new friends, share a story and a craft:

Five Weeks at Ted Galle Park in Mineral Point, Musical Theme, Thursdays - June 4, II, 18, 25, and July 2. from 9:30 to 11:00 for ages 2 to 7 (but siblings are welcome) It's free!

Five weeks in Dodgeville at Wilson Park Thursdays, July 9, 16, 30, Aug. 6 and 13 from 9:30 to 11:00, with a new theme each week, for ages 2 to 7, although younger and older siblings can join in. Free.

"The kids will come home dirty, tired, in love with nature, and hopefully they will tell you, "That was the best day of my life!"



RECOMMENDED BOOK FOR KIDCAMP: Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv. Paperback.

The opening lines:

"For children, nature comes in many foms. A newborn calf; a pet that lives and dies; a worn path through the woods; a fort nested in stinging nettles; a damp, mysterious edge of a vacant lot. Whatever shape nature takes, it offers each child an older, larger world separate from parents. Unlike television, nature does not steal time; it amplifies it. It serves as a blank slate on which a child draws and reinteprets the culture's fantasies. Given a chance, a child will bring the confusion of the world to the woods, wash it in the creek, and turn it over to see what lives on the unseen side of that confusion."



When I see birches bend to left and right I like to think some boy's been swinging them.

- - Robert Frost



# A Look Back & A Look Ahead

by Ben Russell

For Christmas in 1980 I received a copy of a book just off the

press titled The Book of Predictions, compiled and written by David Wallechinsky, his sister Amy Wallace, and their father, the novelist Irving Wallace. Participants, those who made the predictions, were many and varied. They included scientists, businessmen, military men, psychics, science fiction writers, futurists, and those in many other disciplines. I still have the book, which is probably the only thing I have from that Christmas, and every couple of years or so I pull it off the bookcase and leaf through it, looking for predictions that might have come true in the intervening years and for clues about what might transpire in the near future.

Fortunately, I never made any stock market selections or altered my life style based on these prognostications.

Still, the predictions are fun to look at, so a few days ago I opened the book once again to see what's in store for next year— 2010. On the medical front, it looks like good news. If your doctor discovers you've developed any type of cancer and it's in the early stages, not to worry. It will be completely curable. Even if some malady befalls you that would require removal of a limb or an organ, again not to worry. There will be an open market for used and reconditioned spare body parts from which to choose a replacement. (This has already become a reality—heart and liver replacement, for example—but not quite yet to the extent foreseen.) While you're recuperating from having your new body part affixed or implanted, you will be able to enjoy watching friendly robots clean your hospital room. Furtherpredictedmedicaladvancesinclude a cure for the common cold and an antidote for obesity. Also, the cause of aging will be found and a cure developed for it.

As a result of all these spiffy medical advancements, we won't have to worry much about taking care of ourselves but we'll still live a long time. According to one of the book's futurists, the average age of death in 2030 will be 120. Some futurists even predicted the beginning of eternal life on earth starting around 2030, thanks to an anti-aging pill. A probable consequence of the pill, however, will be a rapid increase in the divorce rate among couples who soon decide they don't want to spend eternity with each other. And church attendance will quickly decline, too.

People living longer—or forever—will rapidly lead to an overpopulation problem. But one future-seer offered this solution: H.O.M.E.s, which is an acronym for High Orbital Mini Earths. There will be dozens of small man-made earths that will be orbiting our own earth and on which some 250,000,000 people will be living. The predictor was Timothy Leary. Wait. That Timothy Leary? Oh, sorry. Never mind.

Other futurists, however, with a more serious outlook (and less influenced by mind-altering substances) also foresaw space travel and space living as being part of our lives between the years 2008 and 2030. An anthropology professor at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, thought there would be "large scale colonies and cultures established in outer space "by 2008.Arthur Clarke, scientist and science fiction writer (author of 2001: A Space Odyssey) predicted "space cities" by year 2010. But Trudy Bell, a member of the editorial board of Scientific American, got it right when she said there would be vacations in space and space tourism by 2010. Way back in 2001, the wealthy American businessman Dennis Zito became the first civilian space tourist when he flew into outer space on a Russian spacecraft for a nine-day trip that cost him \$20,000,000. It is said that he spent a lot of time looking out the window and listening to opera music. Since Zito's history-making trip, four others, three men and a woman, have made similar forays into space with the Russians.

This year comes close to the predictions seen in the book. 2009 will be the year space tourism begins for real. British gazillionaire Richard Branson has set up a company called Virgin Galactic which offers short suborbital flights. More than two hundred people have already made reservations, at \$200,000 each, for a two-and-a-half hour flight that will take them sixty-eight miles above the earthand render them weightless.

The Soviet Union was still a great power in 1980 and it weighed heavily on the minds of the book's writers, who tried to predict the future at that time. Evidently no one had even a premonition that newly-elected President Ronald Reagan would soon stop the Ruskies in their evil tracks. A man who was a strategic and Soviet foreign policy analyst for the CIA believed that by 1993 the U.S. would cease to be a great power and that the USSR would be "approaching hegemony over most of the world." Another person thought the Soviets would establish a colony on the moon by 1990; still another said there would be a three-year "near war" involving the U.S. and the USSR, waged between 1990 and 1993, in which both sides would detonate nuclear weapons in the sea close to certain cities. The U.S. would drop a bomb in the Gulf of Finland near Leningrad, while the Russians would bomb the Atlantic Ocean near Sandy Hook, N.J. (Sandy Hook, New Jersey? Don't ask me about the military strategy in that one.)

Another errant prediction about Russia was that by 2010 it would be so technologically advanced that the country "will attempt to change its past with scientific information carried by tachyons, which are particles that move backward in time."

Without comment, here is a list of some of the other more fascinating predictions that have yet to materialize:
An artificial brain that shows emotions will be developed.

Solar powered satellites will beam energy to earth.

Rockets will be used for intercontinental travel.

The Vatican will be moved to Jerusalem and a black pope elected by 2010.
The first commercial hydrogen automobile will be developed by 2010.

Basketball goals will be raised from 10 feet to 12 feet.

By the mid-1980's, clothing will contain built-in electronic gadgets to change color, pattern, and flexible shaping at will according to the wearer's mood.

People will be able to walk across the Atlantic Ocean because there will be many cities built on the ocean's surface, all connected by flexible bridges. This, by 2000.

The list could go on, but you get the idea.

Did those who peered into the future back in 1980 ever get anything right? Well, yes, on occasion. Bell Laboratories, for instance, said, "A promising new cordless telephone will provide increased mobility in the home and office." Lawyer Melvin Belli predicted thetelephonewouldbeautomaticworldwide and that there would be video on it as well as audio. And psychic Bertie Catchings predicted that everyone would have a portable

telephone that could be carried in a purse orpocketby 1990. Anotherwriter described a pocket-sized computer that seemed remarkably similar to today's BlackBerry.

The aforementioned Bertie Catchings also predicted that by 1985, "road maps would actually be computers built into the dashboard of your car." Sounds like today's Global Positioning System.

Science fiction writer Harry Harrison foresaw there being a microcomputer in every car that controlled engine fuel and air supply, monitored tire pressure, etc. And, although this one was pretty easy to predict, it's still worth mentioning: "Conservative and liberal religious groups will still be fighting over sexual matters (premarital sex, homosexuality, etc.) in the early 2000s."

Now that we've seen a few hits and a lot of misses, what did the futurists fail to predict? Here's my list. Perhaps you can add to it.

The election of a black U.S. President 9/11

The internet (This omission amazes me)

Our two wars with Iraq Our war in Afghanistan

Our current recession

Digital cameras

The rise of radical Islam

Global warming

Obviously, making predictions is a risky business. One wonders how those who were quoted in the book feel now, thirty years later, when so few of their prognostications have become reality.

Perhaps the book's contributors would agree with Wilbur Wright, or with Poul Anderson. Wilbur, who along with his brother Orville made the first manned flight in 1903, said: "I confess that in 1901 I said to my brother Orville that man would not fly for 50 years. And ever since, I have distrusted myself and avoided all predictions."

Anderson, a science fiction writer whose predictions fill two-and-a-half pages in the book, woundups aying, "The only prediction I feel any confidence in making is that any predictions I make are sure to prove wrong."

He was right.



BEN RUSSELL's high school yearbook predicted he would become a Hollywood film director; instead he became a trade magazine editor. He now volunteers for a host of community projects, and Ben's fine rural photographic landscapes capture SW Wisconsin's moods.

"Whatever befalls the earth befalls the people of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it."

-- Chief Seattle



# One of a Kind?

Believe it or not, it's one choice from a catalogue of unique little buildings from Rustic Way, of Elk River, in Minnesota.

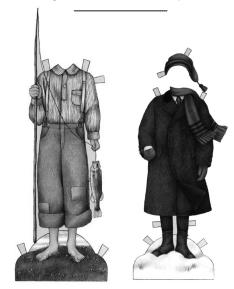
In a booth at the Lake Home and Cabin ShowinMadison,fourth-generationwoodworker Dan Pauly speaks of his passions: barn wood, craftsmanship and whimsy.

Pauly's love for old barn wood stems from family history: his great-grandfather Henry emigrated from Switzerland and built barns in the countryside near his new home.

Carrying on Henry's legacy, Dan uses reclaimed local barnwood in many of his creations, including his trademark fairyland-like cottage building, which come in different sizes and are custom designed and crafted into a guest cottage, a play house, garden shed, outhouse or a European sauna. Each creation creates smiles.

The buildings are built at Rustic Way andshippedtothesite. Pricesstartat \$6,500.

Pauly's rustic shop also crafts wildlife panels, picture frames, many home furnishings and other wood products.



### HISTORICALPAPERDOLLS

The Wisconsin Historical Society has downloadable "his n' her" vintage paper dolls on its popular website. The dolls salute Rascals and Caddy Woodlawn, two great books about the lives of kids in Wisconsin long ago. Just go to www.wisconsinhistory.org and click on "Just for Fun," find the paper dolls site, read a bit about the two authors Sterling North and Caddy Woodlawn, and then print the images. All that's left is to cut out the clothes, and use the tabs to put authentic wardrobes on two fine young Badgers.



Author Sterling North's 1913 home in Edgerton, Wisc., Open to the Public.



# MINERAL POINT RESIDENCE SPITS OLD COINS

In our last issue, the <u>Times</u> published an account of the 1927 celebration of the Mineral Point Centennial, marking a full century since the village was founded. The City Fathers had commissioned a zinc medallion, extolling the Lead Region's agriculture and the mining of minerals.

In the same edition of the newspaper, wefeaturedlocal woodcarver John Sharp, as we invited readers to "Meet the Artist."

In this issue, both the Medallion and the Artist are back. We find they are connected. Connected, and in an intriguing way.

# THE STRANGE STORY OF A HOME ON FOUNTAIN ST. & ITS HIDDEN TREASURES

John and Jennifer Sharp purchased the four-square house on Fountain Street in 1990, knowing full well that it needed a lot of work to bring it up to date. Sharp, then supplementing his artist's income by working in Tim Marr's construction crew, figured he could handle the restoration.

Built in the 1840's, the old house had "goodbones":hand-hewnpostsandbeams joined by mortise and tenon, with scattered bricks in the walls, left there when the building was moved from its former location on High St. (Where Bargain Nook now stands). To "rescue" the house, Sharp jacked up the structure, put in new foundations, repaired brickwork, and tore off the old clapboard siding.

One day, working on a ladder propped against the back wall, Sharp removed a few siding boards, then reached into the cavity and pulled outsawdust, debris, and years of accumulated lint...and hewas bombarded by coins. "Tumbling out of the wall," he said.

# **ASTONISHING DISCOVERY!**

The next day, Sharp shared details of the amazing event with his co-workers on the building crew, and fellow carpenter Tim Hughes, smiled, nodded, and then said he though he could explain the mystery concerning the contents of those old walls.

"My mother," Hughes said, "used to go over to that house to play when she was young, back in the 1930's. She told me stories about it, and said the favorite thing kids did at that house was to go upstairs to PUT MONEY IN THE BANK."

The children slid coins into a baseboard slot, where the wall meets the floor, apparently to hear the rewarding "clunk" as the coins fell into the wall pocket. Now, we can assume that the youngsters would not deposit nickels and dimes in their "Bank," because those coins had real value — they could be used to buy candy. So, instead, they used those 1927 Centennial medallions, the ones that were always lying about in the house.

Today, the commemorative medallions fetch a handsome price as collectors' prized items. But the kids of Fountain Street could never have guessed that their throwaway coins would be sought after.

Sharp counted thirty medallions, and a couple of low-value French coins, in the loot that fell out of the wall. He has given most of the discs away to those he knows have great respect for Mineral Pointhistory.

And <u>some</u> of the zinc coins have gone to a few people who just love a good story.

THE "BANK'S" WALLS HELD THEIR SECRET FOR 60 YEARS

### PART OF A COLLECTION

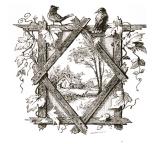
# Art Winder • A Portrait of an Elder Gentleman by Judith Sutcliffe

Judy Sutcliffe enjoys a rich, busy life in Mineral Point. She is an artist, working in several media, and she teaches everything from hammered jewelry to concrete sculpture as the co-founder of the Shake Rag Alley School of the Arts. She is also co-owner of the Long Branch Gallery and is active in many facets of community life.



To her poetry, she now adds short essays. This is the first of her new collection to be published, and the <u>Times of Mineral Point</u> is pleased to present it to our readers.

Judy says, "I have about 40 pieces so far in what I'm titling 'A Collection of Old Men.' They are remembrances of a number of remarkable elderly gentlemen I knew either casually or closely since I was a child. I started writing these for one of Dean Bakopoulos' prose writing classes at Shake Rag Alley. Dean was encouraging and inspiring, and once I got started, I haven't been able to stop. I still have a couple more stories to write to complete the book."



An enormous lilac bush grew in Art and Nellie's frontyard, somewhat obscuring the old grey farmhouse, which had seen no paint in recent years, if any, ever. Today, all is gone, the scent of lilacs wafted far away, nothing left of the house, the trees, the bushes, the daylilies that didn't need tending, the outhouse, all gone. Nothing now but pasture. If an archeologist happened to dig there someday, for no particular reason, he might turn up, amid the arrowheads, a Prince Albert tobacco can or rusty rings from horse harness.

My dad's woodland acreage was just down the gravel road from Art Winder's gate, and Dad befriended Art and Nellie from the start. The fifty-four acres of trees and wildflowers were my father's way of de-stressing from being a 24-hour-a-day country veterinarian in western lowa. There was no telephone in the cabin hidden up a hill, beyondthe pond, amidthe hickorytrees.

For some reason, my father hankered after pine trees. He grew up in flatland Kansas, and possibly a vacation with mom and my squabbling little sister and me in Colorado marked pine trees for him as serene, quiet, and restful. And maybe he just decided to make a big deal of planting a lot of pines because he knew that Art Winder still had a pair of plowhorses.

He had, at that time in the mid 1950s, a wind-upKeystonemoviecamera. Mymother managed to catch a few seconds in black and white of Art's big horses and behind them my dad with the reins slung over his

shoulders, hanging tightly on to the plow while leaning back and trotting his boots along at a mighty fine pace. Mom and my sisterandmefollowedalonglater, thrusting the pine seedlings into the plowed furrow.

Most of the pines died, despite a lot of watering and concern, but one group did survive. Decades later, it always seemed like entering another world to walk into that pine grove. No grass, no wildflowers, no weeds, just soft brown needles on the ground, a strangely silent, meditative space with the everpresent lowa winds reduced to soft whisperings. The resting place for my father's and mother's ashes.

It was a treat for my sister and me to visit the Winders. My parents would stop the car at their mailbox, and we'd run up the weedy path to the porch, which was laden with boxes and buckets and old tools. A honeysuckle vine, healthy and heavy, weighed down the porch roof.

Art's three hounds would reach us first, shaking their rear ends off, jumping up for kisses. Art would shamble out the screen door, his old knees bowed a bit, his chest still broad, a shock of white hair falling across his wide forehead. Nellie would be right behind him, a heavy stocky woman in a large cotton dress, with bare legs in lace up work shoes. She had short, straight grey hair, an ugly big nose, and shebreathed heavily as she walked, tipping from side to side. I found it hard to imagine how Art had ever fallen in love with her.

We'd always be invited to come inside and set awhile. This was an adventure that we loved to share with unsuspecting young friends. We first entered the kitchen. Right in front of us was a big round table, stacked about two feet high with old pots and pans, cereal boxes, jars, emptybutunwashed, and emptyfoodcans. Once we caught Art eating lunch from a tin pie pan, half on, half off the table, there being no room for the entire plate.

"Best breakfast I ever had," he said, waving a large hand over the mountain on the table, "was the summer when the honey bees made a hive right up there in the attic. We could just hold our biscuits out and catch that honey dripping down. Nothin' better."

He and Nellie normally entertained in the living room, which you reached through a corridor of newspapers stacked on chairs. Nellie wrote the local rural gossip column for the Guthrie Center paper and apparently had saved every issue for a great many years. Inside the living room, we would either have to stand or remove a stack of papers from a chair to sit down. My parents would sit, but my sister and I and our friends from town would stand up so as to get closer to Art. He always engaged us in conversation.

"What's your name?" he'd ask the stranger. Then, "What's your politics?" Clear answers to that one were to be avoided, in the hopes he'd proceed directly to question number three: "Can yeh dance?" Our friends had been coached to say "Yes," and that would bring the old fiddle out of its case. Old fingers, flattened on the tips from a lifetime of strong fiddling, would seek their accustomed places, and the dance tunes would leap forth.

There really wasn't enough space for dancing, but we'd always jump around and twirl and laugh, enough to keep Art playing for a good lively while.

My mother realized one day that Art's memory was failing, and she asked him if he'd write down his memoirs for her. He actually did that, handwritten on two sides of one sheet of paper, a stream of images that poured forth from his past:

pretty women, a petite gloved hand in his, driving cattle across the plains into Canada, staying overnight at a hospitable sod house, sleeping with the pretty daughter in the same bed with a bundling board between them but hands that crossed the barrier, following Indian families moving camp with horses and travois, playing the fiddle for dances, dancing with a woman in a red dress, and on and on. I knew then that Nellie must have been pretty in her salad days, as Art was a romantic fellow then, with an eye for loveliness.

Around the time I was away in college, my parents became increasingly worried about the old couple's ability to care for themselves, especially in winter. Their son in Washington state readily agreed to let my parents be official guardians. The sad thing they knew they had to do was to move Art and Nellie to the Friendship Home. It was for their own good. Nellie had a fine time at the nursing home, with lots of people to socialize with. Art, however, was sullen and depressed. He felt betrayed. He missed his dogs and the country. He wasn't interested in getting out his fiddle.

During my Christmas break one year Mom and Dad brought Art and Nellie over to our small house for dinner. Afterwards, everyone but Art sat around the kitchen table drinking home-canned grape juice and playing cards. Art wouldn't budge from the living room chair. I went in and sat by him.

He talked to me of the "mud baby" I'd made out of clay in the ditch by the acreage one summer, nearly life size. "I'd watch the carsputontheir brakes and backup," he said, "they couldn't figure out what that was."

I told him how much I liked the memoirs he'd written, and I commented on the number of pretty ladies he'd known in those days. He turned to glance toward the kitchen group, who were laughing and chatting, then he said, in a lowered voice, "I'll tell you my secret." He leaned toward me and whispered, "Cocoa butter. You just put a little in a can lid on the stove, melt it. It works really good. In all those years Nellie and I only had one child."

I thanked him and said I was really glad to know it.

Somemonthslatermymothercalledme in the dormitory at Iowa City to tell me that Art had died. The moment she said that, I saw Art's dogs all leaping up, paws to his chest, tongues licking his grizzled chin.

Never did try the cocoa butter. But I appreciated the advice.







We shouldn't make fun of the loon. Up here in the North, we watch loons without recognizing that "the looney life" might very well be a lifestyle we should envy and aspire to. After all, loons drift along, seemingly without any enemies or predators, nonchalantly floating, they sing their own kind of song, they preen whenever they want to, and when hungry they merely yodel and dive for a fish.

But the serenity of the Loon Life is fleeting. The loon is in trouble. The Northern loon is dying at an accelerated and very unnatural rate—one fifth of loons tested by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are contaminated with enough mercury to disrupt breeding. And Loons in Trouble may be emblematic of many other creatures in the food chain, including human beings. A National Academy of Science report warns that 60,000 babies born in the U.S. each year could have been exposed to enough mercury, while in the womb, to cause permanent brain damage.

Most of the sick birds live in lakes near strip mines, where the tops of the hills have been blasted off to get at layers of coal, and the geologic leftovers are shoved into the lakes, making them toxic.

Thus, we now destroy our forests to grab a little fuel away from Mother Nature. It seems we have forgotten that a forest reflects a pattern, an intelligence that has been tested over millions of years. The natural order—sunlight on leaves, soil conditioned by productive decay, plant adaptation to climate, the role of bees, termites and worms—make up a complex "community-in-balance," one that thrives, without waste, without "progress."

But Man, declaring himself Supreme and Logical, seeks to change the natural order of things, to ignore the lessons of the flora and fauna. Our destruction of forests, plains, rivers, lakes, oceans – our natural habitats –will kill off fifty percent of all the known animal species by the next century.

Traces of three hundred industrial chemicals can be found in the umbilical cords of American infants. Thus, we risk children's lives to air condition homes that are on average fifty percent bigger than they were just thirty years ago. With five percent of the world's population, America generates twenty-five percent of the carbon dioxide that is clobbering our climate.

The warnings are all around us. We read them, and toss them aside. We salute those who speak of a "land ethic," but pay no attention. We honor Rachel Carson, Aldo Leopold, and so many others who have pointed out the folly of our arrogant tinkering with Nature. Yet, the destruction continues, and the factory farmers, the land grabbers and the barons of fossil fuel insist that what we do is "logical." Is it logic? Or is it looney?



This article was inspired by a thoughtful piece in Orion Magazine, Nov./Dec. 2008

For those too young to remember them, Looney Tunes were Warner Bros. animated cartoons that ran in many movie theatres from 1930 to 1969, featuring popular characters such as Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig & Elmer Fudd, Sylvester & Tweety, Taz, Wile E. Coyote & Road Runner, Foghorn Leghorn, Yosemite Sam, Pepé Le Pew, and Speedy Gonzales.

# THE HUMAN HABITAT

May is Wisconsin historic preservation and archeology month



# NEEDED: SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

"In the romantic and picturesque, in an exuberance of trees and shrubbery, and in comfortable and pleasant homes, the city is excelled by few towns in the west; while its building blocks of solid masonry will bear comparison in architectural style and strength with those of any of its sister cities."

-- Words taken from the Mineral Point City Directory, published in 1859.

"The importance of Mineral Point's heritage is reflected in its historic architecture, which reveals the character of those who came here before us. And it is a part of our heritage that can slip away from us if we do not actively promote the preservation of one of the finest stocks of early to mid-nineteenth century architecture in all of the midwest."

The late Bert Bohlin, an activist and defender of the city's history, wrote those eloquent words as his preface to a small pamphlet defending the practice of historic preservation. Bohlin also told his readers, "The legal power to protect historic places lies chiefly with the people, and with their city government, and with the city's 1987 Historic Preservation Ordinance, which provides a regulatory method for protecting historic character."

Overtheyears, our architectural heritage has been saved by citizens who have spent their time and money to preserve our city's unique architecture. The most successful preservation has been performed voluntarily by those who realize that preserving historical characterisimportant, and that preservation makes both aesthetic and economic sense.

Just think about it. Restoration simply requires less time and money than starting construction from scratch, and it changes the building emphasis from material stolabor, which can mean more local jobs. It really costs no more to use good plans, good materials and good workmanship, and property values rise when a solid building is bought and "sweat equity" is combined with rehabilitation dollars. Property owners may also be entitled to a tax credit.

But the most significant reward is preserving quality construction. Today's building materials are designed to last fifteen years; then, the suppliers tell us, it's time to replace or discard the original. But, as a quick look around Mineral Point will tell you, old stone homes and storefronts are standing proud after 150 years. These historic buildings draw an "historic premium" when they are sold. Neighborhoods are improved and property tax revenues goup, as vacant buildings are rehabbed into good use. And tour is misenhanced.

So, do the right thing, willingly. But also keep in mind the law, which makes specific demands on the citizenry: the Historic Preservation Ordinance and the city's zoning law REQUIRE property owners to obtain permits for new building, remodeling, demolition, signs and other forms of construction. So, if you've decided to change the appearance of your property, please exercise your responsibility to visit City Hall to let the volunteers, your neighbors on the city's Historic Preservation Commission, know about your plans.

Mineral Point resident John Sharp, a woodcarver and carpenter, heads the Commission, which was established as a seven member panel. Sharp points out that the "right thing" is not what the members of the commission decide it is. It's what the city's preservation law specifies. And, the specifics of the ordinance, its "legal language," may demand study and interpretation.

That's where the commission can help the property owner, if there is a healthy cooperative relationship between the two. "We all know there are serious questions about personal property rights, and a building owner might feel the commission is infringing on those rights," says Sharp. "What we want is a partnership," he says, "in which commissioners, as experienced builders, can offer suggestions to save time and money. The whole point is preserving Mineral Point's unique architecture."

The language of the preservation ordinance speaks of "landmark structures" and "contributing buildings" within variously designated areas of the city. To avoid some of the confusion of these terms, the commission suggests the property owner simply ask, "Does my home have historical significance?" If so, changes in the property will probably require commission review, a Certificate of Appropriateness, and a building permit.

Approaching these requirements positively will avoid hard feelings, make the construction go much more smoothly, and will allow the property owner to feel a sense of pride in "doing the right thing" for the city's architectual heritage.



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TheIndustrialRevoloution began when we decided it would be better to make things than to grow things. But we don't make much anymore; we send our iron ore abroad and it comes back as steel, and we ship our forests to foreign lands, then logs are shipped back to us as boards. Today, it would seem, we merely consume what is grown and fabricated for us, overseas.

That might strike you as a bit looney. In recent years, consumers bought homes, even if they couldn't afford them, precipitating the current housing crisis. Once again, following looney logic, we did littleto improve good homes in our existing neighborhoods; instead, we developed fields and pastures into ugly subdivisions where McMansions sprang up on treeless plots.

Farmland is simply vanishing in southern Wisconsin, and at one of the fastest rates in the nation. More than 3.5 million acres have been gobbled by bulldozers in the past thirty years.

Gov. Jim Doyle's new budget will try to pump life into a 1977 law designed to protect farm land. A few cities have bought development rights from farmers to preserve acreage. And those who own land, and love the land, are contracting with land conservancies to make sure the family's most precious asset stays alive as cropland, pasture and prairie.

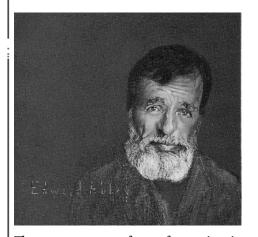
Now that's an idea that's not too looney.

# PRESERVING THE LAND & BLOCKING URBAN SPRAWL

When the prairie wagons rolled across the Military Ridge, high ground beween Ridgeway and Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin had more than five million acres made up of grasslands with scattered oak savannas. Most of that prairie has given way to land development. But the Military Ridge area now claims at least twenty remnants of the old prairies, thanks to a contagious effort by a few landowners and a few organizations that preserve the Wisconsin turf with love, and with legal documents.

Farm families are discovering the ease and benefits of working with land conservancies, arranging easements that protect the conservation values of the property as part of the deed, and continue to block urban development, even if the land is sold.

Driftless Area Land Conservancy 338 N. Iowa Street. Dodgeville 608.930.3252 driftless@mhtc.net



The most common form of terrorism in the U.S.A. is that carried on by bulldozers and chainsaws. It is not enough to just understand the natural world; the point is to defend and preserve it. Sentiment without action is the ruin of the soul."

- - EDWARD ABBEY Writer, "Desert Anarchist" 1927-1989

# Christmas Cookies



Larry Blakely 🌋



I'm not much of a cook, but every Christmas, to honor the memory of my parents, I make special cookies. I take care not to burn them, but if I do I also take care not to utter any profanity.

When I was a little kid, I liked to spy on people. For reasons I cannot fathom but are no doubt fraught with dark psychological implications, I got a kick out of watching people when they didn't know they were being observed.

One drizzly day in late December when I was five years old I had my father under close surveillance, peeking through a crack in the back door of our ramshackle single-car garage. My dad, who was good with his hands, labored at his cluttered workbench, crafting what would turn out to be an all-time favorite Christmas gift—a racecar built from scrap lumber. After sawing the end off a 2x4 that he was fashioning into a brake, Dad paused, scraped a wooden match with a fingernail and lighted an unfiltered Pall Mall cigarette, then returned to the task at hand.

A short while later my father performed that classic carpenter's trick, smacking his thumb with a hammer. The cigarette fell from his lips and the hammer fell from his hand as he clutched his thumbandy elped the single most gloriousword I had ever heard: "Son of a bitch!" Now there was a word.

I loved the sound of that dynamite word—I thought it was a single word of course—repeating it over and over inside my noggin, getting the cadence just right. "Sonofabitch." As I slipped away, I whispered it again and again under my breath. "Sonofabitch." What a sweet word rolling off the tongue.

From the context I vaguely understood this was no mere peas hooter of a word to be launched willy-nilly into everyday conversation, but rather was the heavy artillery, reserved for those special occasions when things went amiss in a major way. So, of course, I couldn't wait for a chance to show off the latest addition to my vocabulary.

The opportunity soon presented itself, coming on the morning of December 24th.

While I entertained myself with a picture book in the corner, my mom was baking her secret recipe cowboy cookies when she got a telephone call from one of her friends. She was yakking away and completely forgot about the cookies in the oven. Momfinally remembered, said a hurried good-bye and then raced back to the kitchen. When shethre wopen the oven door, heavy smoke billowed out, filling the air with the festive holiday scent of charcoal.

Snatching an old flour sack that served as both dishtowel and potholder, mom tossed the panof blackened cookies into the sink. As she did she said something tame, somethingaltogethermild, something nowhere near potentenough for the occasion. Something along the lines of, "Oh, my."

Fortunately, I was sitting nearby and just happened to know a far more appropriate word, so I proudly uncorked the big gun. "Son of a bitch!"

Mother was not favorably impressed. In fact, she pretty much came unglued, which was a reaction that seemed to suggest this word somehow had a mysterious meaning well beyond a simple declaration that things had gone amuck. Once she regained her composure, mom sputtered, "W-w-what did you say?"

I elected not to go for an encore, because it appeared she had heard me quite clearly the first time. So I sat mute.

Next she threatened a most perplexing punishment. "Do you want your mouth washed out with soap, young man?"

"Uh, no." The answer seemed to me self-evident, but I could see no connection whatsoeverbetweensuchahandywordand having a bar of Ivory shoved into my mouth.

Then my mom demanded to know where I had heard such "gutter language."

That gutter association was lost on me, but to my credit I didn't give up the old man.Instead I sat staring at the speckled lino $leum, shrugged and said \, meekly, "Idunno."$ 

Although I cannot recall any, possibly my mother made other threats that day, perhaps even went so far as to suggest Santa might very well bypass the house of a pottymouth. I do remember that mom wasted no time relating the incident to my father, who I suspect was hard-pressed to stifle a smile as he tried to feign shock.

The afternoon of Christmas Day, while my dad and I fine-tuned the steering on my snazzy new vehicle, we had a little man-to-man chat about certain words that were best left inside the garage, so to speak. Frankly, I still didn't quite get it.

But rest assured, whenever my mother hovered within earshot, that most wondrous and most powerful of words never again escaped my lips.



### **About** the author

In what he calls "the best career change ever," Larry Blakely went back to school at age 49, and earned a Masters in writing. He joined Clark College in January 2003 and teaches English composition and creative writing at the Portland, Oregon college. He has published a collection of short fiction, Dust & Dreams: Stories of Life, Love & Baseball, which was nominated for two awards, as well as stories in a variety of literary magazines.

Larry tells us, "I'm a weary old baseball writer who was all set to retire next year until my retirement accounts wound up in the toilet. Now my accountant says I need to keep working till I'm 127.

This story may have sparked a lifelong passion for words and their peculiar power to provoke strong reactions. And, I'm happy to report, my mouth remains a soap-free zone to this day."



### Dodgeville Library Launches Global Issues Discussions

GREAT DECISIONS has enjoyed a small but important crowd of followers for more than fifty years, people who know there are great decisions that need to be made, and individual citizens can play a role in the discussion and the final outcome.

The Great Decisions Discussion Program is the oldest and largest grass-roots world affairs education program of its kind in the country. Each year, the Great Decisions editorial board selects eight of the most pressing global issues and regions that will be the focus of the briefing book, television programs, and online resources, and then publishes a program and a briefing book to guide discussions in the nation's living rooms and auditoriums.

Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin and the Dodgeville Public Library are sponsoring a series of discussions, designed to broaden citizen awareness of current affairs. The first session features guest moderator John Simonson, on Thurs., May 7, at 7:30 p.m., on the topic "The Recession in Southwest Wisconsin."

A second such program takes place on May 11, when John Mish begins a Monday through Friday two-week class at 8 p.m. "Beginning Internet for Seniors" is taught at the Library until May 22.

Two of the Great Decisions programs will be offered to the interested public this year, to test audience interest in the series.

On May 14, a Great Decisions discussion centers on "Energy & the Global Economy," and on May 21, the topic for a Great Decisions discussion is "Afghanistan and Pakistan." A briefing book with helpful, well-

researched articles on each subject is used as a common starting point for discussions. Great Decisions meetings feature

open and fair conversation, without requirement for consensus. Materials from the Foreign Policy Association are available at the Library prior to each session.

Pre-Registration is required. All of the Programs are free.

For more information contact Vickie Stangel, Librarian, at 608-935-3728 ext. 12 or via email at vstangel@swls.org.





# If Lou Costello Bought a Computer

Are you old enough to remember Bud Abbott and Lou Costello? Do you know their "Who's on First" routine? And are you also too old to REALLY understand computers? Then, you'll fully appreciate this Internet sketch:

ABBOTT: Super Duper Computer Store, Can I help you?

COSTELLO: Thanks. I'm setting up an office in my den and I'm thinking about buying a computer.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: No, the name's Lou. ABBOTT: Your computer? COSTELLO: I don't own a computer. I

want to buy one. ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: I told you, my name's Lou. ABBOTT: Not Mac. Then, Windows? COSTELLO: Why? Will it overheat? ABBOTT: Do you want a computer with

COSTELLO: I don't know. What will I see when I look at the windows?

ABBOTT: Wallpaper.

COSTELLO: Never mind the windows. I just need a computer and software. ABBOTT: Software for Windows?

COSTELLO: No. On the computer! I need something I can use to write proposals and track expenses and run my business.

What do you have? ABBOTT : Office.

COSTELLO: Yeah, for my office. Can you recommend anything?

ABBOTT: I just did.

COSTELLO: You just did what? ABBOTT: Recommend something.

COSTELLO: You recommended something?

ABBOTT: Yes. COSTELLO: For my office?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: OK, what did you recommend

for my office? ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yes, for my office!

ABBOTT: I recommend Office with Win-

COSTELLO: I already have an office with windows! OK, let's just say I'm sitting at my computer and I want to type a proposal. What do I need?

ABBOTT: Word. COSTELLO: What word? ABBOTT: Word in Office.

COSTELLO: The only word in office is

ABBOTT: Word in Office for Windows. COSTELLO: Which word in office for windows?

ABBOTT: The Word you get when you click the blue 'W'.

COSTELLO: I'm going to click your blue 'w' if you don't give me straight answers! What about bookkeeping? Do you have anything I can track my money with? ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: That's right. What do you

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: I need money to track my

ABBOTT: It comes bundled with your

COSTELLO: What's bundled with my computer?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: Money comes with my

computer?

ABBOTT: Yes. No extra charge. COSTELLO: I get a bundle of money with my computer? How much?

ABBOTT: One copy.

COSTELLO: Isn't it illegal to copy money? ABBOTT: Microsoft gave us a license to

COSTELLO: They can give you a license to copy money?

ABBOTT: Why not? THEY OWN IT!

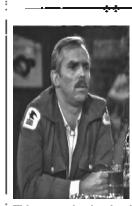
(Costello finally makes the purchase. Then, a few days later)

ABBOTT: Super Duper Computer Store, Can I help you?

COSTELLO: How do I turn my computer

ABBOTT: Okay. Click on "START"...."





"Well you see, Norm, it's like this . . . A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first.

This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Now, as we know, excessive intake of alcohol kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the

slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. And that, Norm, is why you always feel smarter after a few beers."





# Agricultural Economics in Ancient Egypt: "Just Go to the Well."

Can you imagine a government that operates an efficient farm system, a system sensitive to the weather, a farm system that adjusts prices and taxes to benefit both growers and consumers?

Well, say hello to the Pharoah, and then meet the Nilometer, the secret to effective crop management practices along the Nile River in ancient Egypt.

First, you need to understand the river. The Nile is the greatest irrigating stream in the world. The northern section of the river flows almost entirely through the desert sands where there is

River

no rainfall and where almost 95% of the population of ancient Egypt lived intotal dependence on the river's flooding, which each year put down a rich layer of soil along the river's banks.

If the annual flooding peaked at the optimum height of sixteen cubits, food crops sufficient to feed the nation for a year would then be expected.

But if the river's peak level didn't reach thatheight, orwentfar above it, crops would fail and starvation would be the result.

Thus, farming the Nile has always played a major role in Egypt's politics, economics and social life. The pharaoh controlled the Nile, and in return for the life-giving water and crops, the peasants would cultivate the fertile soil and send a portion of the resources they had reaped to the Pharaoh. He or she would in turn use it for the well-being of Egyptian society.

Egypt's engineers came up with some intriguing projects to give its farmers a fair deal. They built several water level gauges, called "Nilometers," housed in wells dug alongside the waterway, and connected to the river by one or more conduits. Because "water seeks its own level," the rise and fall of water levels on the river is exactly reflected on the wall of the well. And, over a period of many years,

the official Egyptian scribes kept a precise record of the river's levels. They were able to predict the success of the crop year; and, most importantly, they regulated the year's taxes by the result of their flood records.

That's the astonishing part of the Nile story! It's what they did with all that carefully-recorded information they gathered over the years, giving their bureaucratic annual bookeeping chores a human face and a social conscience.

The system evolved this way: when the river level topped at sixteen cubits—near 25 feet—an excellent crop would surely be

harvested, so the farm prices went down while taxes went up. This, because it would be a time of abundance. And when Mother Nature played her dirty tricks, and there was a drought or a flood, farm prices were raised so the farmer would be able to survive from year to year, and the taxes were then reduced so the poor population wasn't penalized for the effect of bad weather.

18 Disaster

16 Abundance
15 Security
14 Happiness
13 Suffering
12 Hunger

So simple. Smart.

Compassionate.

And, in today's world, impossible.

Today, the Aswan high dam controls flooding, so farmers must use fertilizers instead of relying on natural flooding to build alluvial soil. But most farming along the river is still primitive, hand work done in a cooperative spirit with the natural order of climate and river conditions.

The ancient number-crunchers, who sat on the edge of the shaft dug into the desert and carefully recorded the water levels, have been replaced by complex modern political concerns and the give-

and-take of the commercial marketplace. The "Nilometer" is now just an item on the tour guide's walk-and-talk agenda.

But, in the Egypt of two thousand years ago, what a splendid idea it was!



Several Nilometers still exist, including the most well-known, South of Cairo  $\,$ 



We're all atwitter about Twitter, the electronic network designed to answer the timeless question, "What are you doing?" Now, you can tweet to THOUSANDS of your casual friends, "I'm eating a hamburger RIGHT NOW!"

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DURING TROUBLED TIMES

Two Local Business Success Stories:

Entrepreneurial Spirit is Alive and Well in Wisc.

# THE OLD "FRONT "ARTHROSCOPICOGGNG" DAIRYBOX"ISBACK ITSPRECISIONFORESTRY

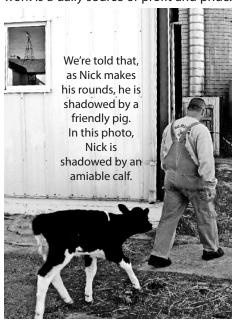
Nick Kirch took over the family's farm when his parents retired. The 450 acres near Barneveld was the place where he had grown up, and it was a traditional Wisconsin dairy operation, selling milk to bigger producers. But Nickhad other ideas, and his determination and stamina have paid off. Blue Marble Family Farm now sells milk and dairy products to a retail areastretchingtoChicago—torestaurants, coffee shops, groceries and farm markets. And he delivers to homes that have the old-fashioned cooler box on the front porch.

The farm makes milk, cream, butter, smoothies and yogurt products from a herd of seventy-five grass-fed, hormone-free cattle. He pasteurizes at low heat, doesn't homogenize, and bottles the results himself in the bottling plant he built. Blue Marble sells milk only in glass bottles, because "it stays colder and tastes better."

His standards are high. Less than 10% of milk in the U.S. meets Blue Marble specifications for a cream line milk with no additives and a sweet, fresh taste.

Kirch says he launched his enterprise "to bring the farmer and the consumer back together." Hetakesahomespunphilosophic approach to his work, and his beliefs are as fresh as his products; the emphasis falls on "good farm practices to make a superior line of dairy food for his customers." Bigger producers told him the customer cared only about price, but Kirch believes customers will pay for better quality. The world's food chain and the needs of the planet are a part of his philosophy as well.

And he enjoys family life on the farm. His dream in 1995 is today's reality, and his work is a daily source of profit and pride.



To find out if Nick delivers to your area, visit<u>www.bluemarblefamilyfarm.com</u>and enteryourzipcode,orphone608.924.2721

The Blue Marble Mission Statement:

"To create a relationship between the farmer and consumer for the sustainability of the earth." The timber industry is in trouble, a victim of short-term profiteering—forest owners overharvest the forests, then the giant timber corporations employ cheap labor in the Far East to cut up logs grown in America, ship the lumber back to the U.S., and flood the shelves of the bigbox stores with inferior wood products.

But, in nearby Spring Green, Jim Birkemeier asks, "What if timber was grown, harvested, manufactured and then sold direct to customers in Wisconsin by small, community-based businesses?"

At his Timbergreen Farm, that is exactly what he is doing. Birkemeier and Shawn Olmstead run a forestry operation on 300 acres, as well as a retail store in Spring Green, and they offer a wealth of information—andstrongopinion—attheir website—www.timbergreenforestry.com.



The firm uses modern machinery and traditional forestry know-how to carefully manage the trees they harvest and, "just let the good trees grow." Birkemeier  $says\,200,\!000\,wooded\,acres\,in\,lowa\,County$ are "not managed," and thus offer an opportunity for small-scale forestry. He uses a solar kiln and a mobile sawmill, shown in the photo, which is hauled into the forest and backed up to the tree just downed. The result is quarter-sawn boards, cut at the site. And there is no clear-cutting in the Timbergreen camp; trees are selectively harvested, as few as one tree per acre. It's a precision low-impact operation, and some have even called it "arthroscopic."

Wisconsin has passed a new law that allows homeowners to source locally grown and milled dimensional lumber for new homes. The new legislation is flexible, allowing the use of rough-sawn and even green (not kiln dried) lumber for studs, joists and the like. That opens a door for businessesthatcancompetewiththeclear-cutters who are leveling western forests.

You can call it "Ecopreneuring"—a new generation of ultra-small scale businesses, with the enticing promise of high quality and new jobs to boost the local economy.

"No one sees the potential, even though it is right in front of their eyes. We need a new view and knowledge of our forests."

# Newsmaker:



Q & A with the newly-appointed Executive Director of the Iowa County Economic Development Corporation, in Dodgeville, WI

Interview by Frank Beaman

# Rick Terrien serves as

the first Executive Director of the new Iowa County Economic Development Corp. He was named to that post in December.

He is a 1975 graduate of St. Mary's Univ. in Winona, MN, where he studied Organization Policy and Philosophy, and became a disciple of small-business start-ups. His first such venture was sparsely funded, but grew and prospered for twenty-five years. And ten years ago, he launched Universal Separators, again on a shoe-string, and was awarded nine patents (and several business awards) for a device that removes oils from industrial process fluids, so that both the fluids and oils could be diverted from the waste stream and recycled. "We did it all," he says, "with committed friends, great ideas, and smart execution."

So Rick Terrien is a teacher-preacher for the entrepreneurial spirit. He makes heavy use of websites and writes his own blog to fire up those who have dreams.

"Dreams," he says, "are what economic development is all about—it's all about combining courage, intelligence and organization." And Terrien is convinced that small size can also be an advantage in a business climate like that of Iowa County.

"I see this area in Wisconsin as an incubator for small, environmentally-friendly business," he recently told a Dodgeville audience. "In the arts and small-scale agriculture, there are viable possbilities for sustainable business growth."

When you speak of "small and sustainable business," are you talking about "Mom and Pop Business?"

"My business mantra is 'sustainable equals repeatable.' Businesses that have sufficient organization and professional processes in place can grow and prosper. These can be 'Mom and Pop' firms. Or just 'Mom.' Or, they can be agriculture related, tech related; they may involve any number of the industries Iowa County is rich in, including tourism, arts, distribution and manufacturing. In my mind, sustainable enterprises have good planning, management, accounting, and execution skills, independent of their size—I've seen this work beautifully with one-person arts enterprises, and I've seen it work with 1,000 person manufacturing firms.

I believe that, in Iowa County, we have abase of creative, dedicated entrepreneurs (and those who want to be!) to make us a world leader in sustainable enterprise."

Butatthemomenteveryoneisscared, because of the national recession. Isn't this a bad time to start a business?,

"Exactly the opposite! This is no time to crawl under your desk. I believe that, right now, Iowa County is in a good position to capitalize on the assets our citizens have nurtured over several recent decades. Iowa County, if marketed right, is in a better position to work through this bad economy and emerge from it quicker than many other places in our region, moving into the 'next economy'—that is, the system that must inevitably follow all of today's economic difficulties.

And, Iowa County officials want to get ready for this 'next economy.' My task is to let everyone know that 'we are open for business.' That means giving support to existing business, supporting new business, and attracting start-ups to the area."

Terrien, in his first 130 days on the job. held meetings, visited interested business and civic groups, advised entrepreneurs, created strategies and policies, and energized a county website. He is organizing an Inventor Club, a mentor group and several business partnerships in a variety of fields.

Youareworkingtosetupafooddistributioncenterin Highland. Is that a good example of the kind of business we need?

"This project is in the early development stages, and certainly isn't a 'done deal,' but my own business radar makes it feel very possible. Iowa County has a good share of the funding in place, while working with people from Highland to create the facility—a vegetable processing and freezing plant that would distribute quick-frozen vegetables to institutional users, privatelabel food distributors, and contract food manufacturers. We have been working with government agencies as well as many local farmers and producers in our region.



The main idea is to boost the area's agricultual infrastructure with the new facility, allowing farmers to market their products in ways that deliver increased revenue to them. We are hoping the new processing plant will bring related foodprocessing plants to the area. lowa County is a natural, strategic hub for this work.

We also believe that we have the regional and national buyers in place to deliver these new revenue stream stothelow a County area.

We would like to be open in late pring or early Summer of 2010 if all the pieces fall into place. Many bridges yet to cross, so keep your fingers crossed!"

The goal, then, is not major industry, but business with a home town view?

"I think good economic development must reflect the goals and the culture of the communities served. I also strongly believethateffectivedevelopmentmustserve everyone on the economic scale in those communities, from top earners to those working for the minimum wage. For me, economic development carries the implication that individuals, as well as the bigger organizations, can participate in the growth. Goodeconomicdevelopmentbenefitsboth."

You are an "idea man", an inventor, an entrepreneur. But it's risky stuff. How important is innovation? Or is it a betterstrategy to do the old things well?

"Innovation, invention and entrepreneurship usually involves improving on a pre-existing idea, product or service. I would strongly say that it's best to continuously look for ways of doing the old things better. In this economy, what is risky is to do nothing and rely on others to take care of us. I believe it is far LESS risky to try out new ideas and concepts, looking for ways to diversify and strengthen our economy.

I have a bad history when it comes to doing things everone else wants to do. I come from the school of thought that says that when trouble is in the air, you run toward the sound of the guns.

Today's sour economy is hurting people in very real ways, but I believe our new Iowa County organization can make a positive impact on a grim situation."

Which part of our economy needs the biggest buildup?

"I have a bias toward entrepreneurship. I think that enabling people to enter the world of commerce with their own small, sustainable enterprises builds our local economyandbuildslocalcommunities.The more we can diversify our local economy, themoreentrepreneurialourareabecomes, the more vibrant and liveable our communities become. This attitude attracts people with knowledge, talent, and enthusiasm, building growth in the region in sustainable ways that serve everyone involved."

Andhowshouldthatbuildingbedone? Helping the existing enterprises in the county to strengthen their economic positions is an immediate goal of our new office. We do that through site visits, and  $assessments, then working \,to\,get\,the\,tools$ and services businesses need. Training new entrepreneurs is also an immediate goal; this is being done on a case-by-case basis right now. We are organizing lowa County's first Entrepreneur and Inventor Club.

These strategies create a platform for learning how to start businesses and share information, tips and ideas. The existing small businesses participate, as dope op lejustbeginning to explore the idea of their own enterprise. I've talked up these tactics aroundthe state in the past several years and foundthem to be very valuable for all involved.

Buttheremustberoadblocks, right? Sometimes, I think the biggest roadblocks are our own assumptions. It's just too easy to get cynical and defeatist, given today's news headlines. Yes, there is some bad news out there, but the stock market is not the sum total of the economy. The bad news doesn't mean you should not get started in some new enterprise. Just the opposite! The bad news means you should look for ways to strengthen your economic position, starting today.

You write about "three action steps for communities." What are they?"

For me it's a no-brainer: we need good universal broadband, virtual incubators, and micro-lending. Broadband improvements bring speed in communication; high-tech business incubators teach skills and get businesses rolling; and simple new micro-funds could provide the kickstart. People would find it's easy to get a small fund together through a grassroots effort involving small contributions that add up to a sum that can be used as seed money to start new enterprises.

Citizens should vote with dollars, if they want their community to 'go greener,' and should establish what might be called 'a green micro-lending fund.' Here in Iowa County, a green microfund of \$10,000 would be a good start.

As people start new businesses, some of the borrowers will succeed, others might fail. Nobodyshouldexpecthomeruns—thisishard work. It's day-in and day-out, and one foot in front of the other. But this is how communities get built: by choice, not by accident"

Howwouldyoucharacterizethereactionsyouaregettingfrommostquarters --enthusiastic, lukewarm, cool.....what?

"My focus is on realistic, action steps we can, and should, all take now. I'm trying to open doors. I'm working to strengthen existing businesses that want the help. I'm helping new entrepreneurs launch in ways that are increasingly sustainable. Sometimes just showing up and telling people there is hope out there in the economy is important. I'm trying hard to work at all levels of the county — in the Towns and Villages, as well as in our Cities. I'd say the reaction I'm getting has been very supportive. Yes, even enthusiastic. (Of course I never know what they say when I leave!)"

For anyone working in economic development, the goal is to start as many new enterprises as you can. Forget about what business sectors they should be in. Forget about where you're going to get the grants. Forget about the daunting odds against success. Just find a way to get people some optimism and some help.

People are looking for positive steps they can take. The Board of the new Iowa County Economic Development Corp. has given me the opportunity to make that happen for all the citizens of lowa County who want to participate.

I did a Wisconsin Public Radio interview recently, and I also testified to a Committee of the Wisconsin Assembly to talk about this approach. It's clear to me that Iowa County stands way out in front for its progressive, proactive approach to economic development and I'm very grateful to be able to contribute to that effort.

RICK'S NUMBERS: Iowa County Econ. Develop. 338 N. Iowa, Dodgeville, WI 53533 Phone 608.930.2000 Website:www.lowacountyedc.org Email: Rick Terrien@lowa County EDC



HOW WOULD GEN. FOCH HANDLE A SOUR ECONOMY?



"Hard pressed on my right. My center is yielding. Impossible to maneuver. Situation excellent. I am attacking!"

— FERDINAND FOCH Famed French General led a counterattack in battle of the Marne, in WWI.



### don't let opportunity slip through your fingers

If you own historic property, you have an opportunity to benefit from the work you've done to maintain and improve your building.

Here's the rundown on some of the possibilities, gathered from the extensive websiteoftheWisconsinHistoricalSociety:

The Division of Historic Preservation has partnered with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Ad Council in a three-year advertising campaign to promote the value of saving our historic places. It's called "History is in Our Hands."

In Wisconsin, the Office of Historic Buildings documents and records all historic architecture, statewide, and serves as a clearinghouse for information on historic architecture. It also funds private reseach on local history, to increase public understanding of the past. The office maintains a statewide architecture and history inventory, administers both the State and National Historic Registers, administers survey and inventory subgrants, and provides educational services.

### IF YOU OWN INCOME-PRODUCING PROPERTY

Owners of historic income-producing properties in Wisconsin may be eligible for two income tax credits that may help pay for their building's rehabilitation. The Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation administers both programs in conjunction with the National Park Service. The programs are: Federal Historic Preservation Credit.

This program returns 20% of the cost of rehabilitating income-producing historic buildings to owners as a direct reduction in their federal income taxes. Wisconsin Supplemental Historic Preservation Credit.

of the cost of rehabilitation to owners as a discount on their Wisconsin state income taxes. Owners who qualify for the Federal Historic Preservation Credit automatically qualify for the Wisconsin supplement, but the project must have National Park Service approval before beginning any work.

Remember, the goal of the program is to preserve significant buildings, but it is also an income tax program and so must meet IRS and Wisc. DOR requirements.



"Be yourself' is about the worst advice you can give some people."

- - Tom Masson, literary editor of Life magazine in 1893.

Before you apply, we suggest you talk to your accountant to see if the program will work for you. We also strongly recommend you carefully read through the program requirements, available online.

### ... AND FOR WISCONSIN HOMEOWNERS

The Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation administers a program that provides 25% state income tax credits for the rehabilitation or repair of historic homes in Wisconsin.

In order to qualify, your personal residence must be one of the following:

••1.Listedinthestateornationalregister;or 2. Contributing to a state or national register historic district; or 3. Be determined through the tax credit application process to be eligible for individual listing in the state register.

And, you must spend at least \$10,000 on the following types of eligible work within a two-year period:

- 1. Work on the exterior of your house, such as roof replacement and painting, but not including site work such as driveways and landscaping;
- 2. Electrical wiring, not including electrical fixtures;
- 3. Plumbing, not including plumbing
- 4. Mechanical systems, such as furnaces, air conditioning, and water heaters;
- 5. Structural work, such as jacking up

If you cannot meet the \$10,000 minimum investment requirement within the two-year period, when you apply you may request a five-year expenditure period.

All applications must be reviewed by DHP staff prior to the start of any work, to make sure that the homes are historic and that the proposed work will not have a harmful effect on the houses' materials and historic features. This review usually takes less than three weeks.

### OTHER RULES AND GUIDELINES

Because this is both a historic preservation program and a program of income tax credits, other rules and guidelines exist. Before you apply, we urge you to request and read through the application materials.

Tofindoutmore, gotothewebsite of the Wisc. Historical Society, and on the home page find "Historic Buildings & Preservation." Click there, and keep clicking until you'vegatheredalltheinformationyouneed.



www.wisconsinhistory.org



"Simplify, Save time, Reduce effort," And, "Liberate vourself from toil." Those phrases, and many more like them, have become the siren song of consumer technology for many years. Unfortunately, the vision of an age of technological simplicity is an illusion, a selfdefeating dream. The facts sing a different song. Facts show us that as people add more and more "time-saving," and "labor-saving" equipment to their homes, their cars and their lives, things don't become simpler and easier. Instead, their days become even more complicated and demanding, even more rushed.

Historians and sociologists have been hard at work on several studies of this phenomenon and have focused on several generations of American women who sought to "save time" by using new household appliances. The problem is that as the women of the studies adopted so many of the new mechanical "conveniences,"theyalsochanged their expectations about what their "good life" should include. So, over several decades, a pattern emerges, as families deal with cleaning, cooking and daily household management: new gadgets actually take up more time and effort, but they are welcomed because they seem to enhance people's material well-being. The growth of the automobile and the suburbs adds to the equation. It's clear that families now spend enormous amounts of time taking care of the supplies, services and repairs that are needed for the everyday maintenance of the so-called "American good life".

The minutes and hours "saved" are never put in the bank and thus they never draw any interest. The phantom of simplicity and ease vanishes as people frantically dash about trying to squeeze out the last ounce of satisfaction.

But surely the smart equipment now on tap for our domestic tomorrow will help us achieve a more trouble-free existence, our dream way of life?

Maybe. But look at the best-equipped families in America's high-tech neighborhoods and how they are now arranging their everyday lives. A recent study in USA Today suggests that, if anything, the rat race is being reproduced and intensified. Adults worklonghours, commutelong distances and spend little time at home. Their children are shuttled from schools and day care centers to soccer games and musiclessons. Momand dad stay in touch by cell phone, and coordinate the next day's agenda by synchronizing their BlackBerrys when they meet at night.

The picture that emerges is of a sizable portion of the population living an endlessly busy, complicated, precariously balanced, strung-out existence in which most of the traditional boundaries between work and leisure have simply evaporated.

Ernest Schraube, a German psychologist now finishing a sabbatical in the U.S., was asked what he found most surprising about our country. "Oh, yes," he said, "one thing that amazes me is how hard Americans work and how little free time people have. They fill their days with activity and seem to leave little room to relax or be with family or friends. By European standards, this is unthinkable. In Germany, our work week is only thirty-five hours and we have six weeks paid vacation. I don't know how you Americans stand it."

But stand it we must, cramming more and more tasks into already harried days, and using digital technology as the glue to hold things together. It never seems to occur to us that real time could be saved by doing away with the clutter that all the "time-saving" has brought into our lives.

And, oh yes, by remembering how to relax.

practice it. Henry David Thoreau gave us a short definition, saying it is "living an examined life." Meaning, a life in which you have determined what is important, or "enough," for you, and have discarded the rest. But for a more modern definition, many people turn to Duane Elgin, author of the classic book Voluntary Simplicity: "The essence of voluntary simplicity," he

Simple living has just about as many

definitions as there are individuals who

said, "is living in a way that is outwardly simple and inwardly rich, embracing frugality of consumption, with a strong sense of environmental urgency, a desire to return to living and working environments which are of a more human scale, and an intention to realize our higher human potential." In his 1977 book, Elgin said he believed that the voluntary simplicity movement would change national goals.

### **Values Central To Voluntary Simplicity**

"There are many values congruent with voluntary simplicity that radiate out, so to speak, embracing local and global, the idealistic and practical, and the worldly along with personal concerns." Here is Elgin's skeletal list of the values that lie at the heart of an emerging way of life. MATERIAL SIMPLICITY—Living a nonconsumerist lifestyle "based upon being and becoming, not having." And asking, 1. Does what I own or buy promote healthy activity, self-reliance, and involvement, or does it induce passivity and dependence? 2. Are my consumption patterns basically satisfying, or do I buy much that serves no real need? 3. Is my job and lifestyle dependent upon installment payments, maintenance and repair costs, and the expectations of others?

HUMAN SCALE—The cold indifference of corporateandgovernmentalenvironments should be decentralized to be comewarmer, more understandable and manageable. SELF-DETERMINATION—Aimed at a kind of consumption that assumes greater control over one's personal destiny, i.e., to grow your own, make your own, to do without, and to exercise self-discipline. ECOLOGICAL SANITY—Awareness that the earth's resources are limited, with all that implies for conservation, reduction of environmental pollution, and maintenance of the beauty and integrity of Nature. PERSONAL GROWTH—Working to clear away external clutter, to be freer to explore an "inner life" of material simplicity, selfsufficiency, and amore human scale to living. "Just a few moments of reflection reveals howpowerfullyreinforcingthesevaluesare."

### And What Voluntary Simplicity Isn't

It's not all "back-to-nature." Urban life is not incompatible with VS. It isn't living in poverty—that's the opposite of simple living. It's not a social panacea, but provides long term hope for success.

It is not a movement that relies on "heart more than head." Advocates include some of the most creative and capable intellects, artists, and humanistic people in the world (and the movement is indeed global).

In short, it's not a fad. Its roots reach deeply intotheneedsandidealsofpeopleeverywhere, addressing our most critical issues: the load on ecosystems, the complexity of our institutions, and the rise of violence and alienation. Duane Elgin sums up by saying that, "Voluntary simplicity is an old idea whose time seems at last to be arriving."



**Voluntary Simplicity:** Toward a Way of Life that is Outwardly Simple, Inwardly Rich

1977, by Duane Elgin

Source Mat'ls: Excerpted from USA Today



# The Opposite of Fast

. . . is slow. And the flip side of Fast Food is, of course, Slow Food, which is a slowly-growing movement, world-wide.

Slow Food International was started by an Italian activist, Carlo Petrini, in 1986, to protest the opening of a McDonald's outlet near the Spanish Steps in Rome. Petrini was concerned about a number of rapidly disappearing Italian food traditions. He reasoned that, just as plants and animals can become extinct due to pollution of their habitat, so can the nuances of cuisine, and that can not only change eating habits, but also local cultures and economies.

Think in terms of social justice and biodiversity as you explore two very different ways to eat a meal. Your average Big Mac is a vestige of a cow that was raised on the clear-cut rainforests of Brazil. The finished product is industrial, homogenized, sterile, and above all, standardized. It is served in a building that looks the same in Madison and Madrid, by thoseofminimumageandminimumwage.

Now, the opposite. You are in France, in an outdoor cafeé in a hilltop town in Provence. A competant third-generation waiter places in front of you an assortment of olives, cheeses and sausages. Every item was created in this one village, including the crusty bread still warm from the brick hearth. The wine that you sip has no label on its bottle, as none of it is ever shipped outside the town. Now you know "slow."

Slow Food has struck a responsive cross-cultural chord. The organization now claims 80,000 members in fifty countries. Although the U.S. acceptance has been, er, slow, there are 12,000 American members who subdivide into more than 150 local "convivia," or volunteer groups, that organize harvest dinners, farm tours, tastings and potlucks.

The mission of the organization is in transition, according to Erika Lesser, the executive director of Slow Food USA. "Our mission has evolved over the years, from the ideals of old-school gastronomy (long lunches, good wine) in the late 1980s to a new 'eco-gastronomy' (biodiversity and pleasure on the plate)." The current mantra is "good, clean and fair food," a systems approach to food that incorporates politics, social justice and new definitions of quality.

Slow Food is a revolutionary concept so simple it's beyond genius. It blends farmers' collectives, co-operative food movements,traditionalfoodproducers and small-scale beverage producers with their economic partners—restaurateurs, chefs, nutritionists, environmentalists and consumers. Eventually, this will give the academics and politicos a strong message, "to return food production to sane and sustainable production practices."

SlowFoodfocusesattentiononthefood producer and the consumer, and away from the international food commodities geo-market and bankers and lobbyists; back to the local farmers' markets and local growers instead of multi-national corporations; and back to environmentally sustainable farming practices rather than those of slash/burn/exploit agro-business.

Slow Food is an idea, a way of living and a way of eating. It is a global, grassroots movement with thousands of members around the world that links the pleasure of food with a strong commitment to community and the environment.

The Madison chapter of Slow Food USA brings together "people interested in experiencing, celebrating and preserving our food traditions." On its website, the organization says, "We support artisan producers committed to sustaining the

land and who develop products of excellent taste—our Wisconsin farmers, cheesemakers, sausagemakers, winemakers and brewers." The Madison chapter and a group at UW-Madison offer taste education programs for school children and community members, and they sponsor a number of food projects. "At our informal gatherings we share fine foods from Wisconsin and around the world, and promote a slower, more harmonious rhythm of life."

Browse for ideas and inspiration — but slowly — at <a href="https://www.slowfoodwisconsin.org">www.slowfoodwisconsin.org</a> And to get the bigger picture:

Slow Food U.S.A. 20 Jay Street No. 313 Brooklyn, NY 11201 Telephone: 718.260.8000



Food consumers — that's most of us, right? — need to be aware of the continuing foolishness of all the current Food Fads.

Accuse the food giants of consumer exploitation, if you must, call their practices devious, or even unconscionable, but don't ever believe that the food corporations are "asleep." They're wide awake.

Within hours of the latest Food Headline, the grocery processors will hit the shelves with new boxes that, in food's hyphenated new language, will proclaim "low-fat," or "Sat-fat free," or "all-natural," often meaningless or misleading terms because current food regulations demand few specifics to back up the imaginative claims for health benefits.

Many studies contradict each other, leaving the consumer confused and under-informed, a condition that allows Big Food to lead buyers through a maze of marketing into fear-saturated territory — Diet of the Year, or the Nutrient of the Month, or the Scare of the Day.

The smart American consumer pays scant attention to all of this media chatter.

One well-known food critic, author Michael Pollan, summed it up this

way in his book, In Defense of Food:

'The Year of Eating Oat Bran' — also knownas 1988 — was a coming-out party for the foods cientists, who succeeded ingetting oat bran into nearly every processed food sold in America. Oat bran's moment on the dietary staged idn't last long, but the pattern now was set. Every few years since then, a food product has taken its starturn under the marketing lights. (Here come the Omega-3s!)"

If you missed Terry Gross's spectacular NPR interview with author (and Science and Environmental Journalism professor) Michael Pollan, it's been archived and you can hear it at <a href="http://www.npr.org/tem-plates/story/story.php?storyId=95896389">http://www.npr.org/tem-plates/story/story.php?storyId=95896389</a>

There's been a lot of discussion about Pollan's open letter to the new president that appeared in the New York Times. He stresses how the next "Farmer in Chief" will need to develop a coherent food policy. You can read the article at <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/magazine/12policy-t.html?hp=&pagewanted">http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/magazine/12policy-t.html?hp=&pagewanted</a>



Today, the rearetwice as many overweight adults as the rewere 25 years ago, and threetimes as many children and teen agers.



# CORVISHCE REAM

Your Diet Starts Tomorrow

When in Rome, do what the Romans do—buy a gelato. In Paris, enjoy the glaces, scooped up for you at the sidewalk cafes.

But if your journey takes you to Lands End, be sure to try the ice cream!

In the late 19th Century, visitors began spending weekends in the quaint seaside resorts of Cornwall, and dairy farmers found a new income source by making ice cream from the milk and cream of their herds. By the 1920's, ice creamparlors dotted the cobblestone streets of Cornish towns.

Today, this iconic food treat has been re-launched, after a long hiatus because of war-time rationing and the frequent use of non-dairy ingredients that damaged the quality of the traditional product.

Cornish ice cream is emblematic of the Celtic life: its hard, fragmented, and hand made—it won't start dribbling down onto your fingers. It's tasty. Cornish kids even sayittastesbetterthanmum'sricepudding.

We offer a recipe from a current popular magazine, published in Cornwall, for cooks who are not only adventurous, but very, very patient. We've converted metric measurements into standard cupfuls. And we checked out the "Single & Double Cream" ingredients with the tartan-clad Catherine Whitford, at the Cornish Corner on High Street, who sells clotted cream and knows the secrets of Celtic cuisine.

If you are REALLY brave, and have a

SOURCE: CornishWorld Magazine, a generous gift from Norm & Carole Rule.

## MAKECUROWNICORNEHIEREAM

1 1/4 Cup single cream (try whipping cream)
1 1/4 Cup double cream (find clotted cream)
1 Vanilla pod
4 lg. Egg Yolks
1/2 Cup Granulated Sugar

Pour the two creams into a large saucepan. Split the vanilla pod, and scrape the seeds into the cream, along with the empty pod. Heat the mixture, but remove it from heat before it boils, and leave it to stand for 30 minutes. Put the egg yolks and sugar in a bowl and whisk until the mixture leaves a trail when the whisk is lifted. Back to the creams; remove the pod, and slowly add the cream mixture to the egg/sugar, stirring continuously with a wooden spoon. Then strain the mixture into a sauce pan, and cook on low heat for 10-15 minutes -- don't let it boil, and keep stirring until the mix is thick enough to coat the back of a spoon. Remove from heat and let it stand for one hour, stirring it occasionally. After an hour, freeze the mix in a freeze-proof container, uncovered, for another 1-2 hours. When the mix has begun to set around the edges, turn it into a bowl and stir with a fork until smooth. Then return it, yet again, to the freezer for 2-3 hours.

### William Trebath's recipe for Cornish Heavy Cake, 1859

Mix 14/2lbs of flour with toz of butter. 12nz of carrouts, 25x of moist sugar and a teaspoon of salt. Add to the above a pint of elected cream with 2 well beaten eggs and a plass of brandy or runs. Make them into a paste. Fold the cake into a bot tin, scorethe top. Bake in a spake oven for 45 minutes.

### Orange Shrub

3 parts of juice to a gallon of rum and it/shs of eager. The sugar to be dissolved in the juice - mix structure in a cask, skaking it 2 or 3 times a day ber 4 or 5 days, then but it stand and beaule it off. • To make a panish of the shruh - to 2 ladles of shruh add 1 of compact to your tasts.

# ANDESTOUBLE VIEW LABOURD LORADITONS

Be aware that, in 2009, Cornwall is jumping with the colors, sounds and foods that are the very latest thing.

Furthermore, a few clever Celtics blend the old and new to good advantage.

Meet Rebecca Matthews and Brendan Sleeman, who launched Spin a Yarn Co. three years ago. They offer a quirky line of modern cotton sportsware, each piece emblazoned with old Cornish expressions, but carefully defined for passing viewers.

For example, a tee shirt bearing a front that reads, "Proper Job," then gives us the accompanying definition, "That strikes me as a favourable proposition."

Becky says, "Our Spin a Yarn shop is all about good ways to express Cornish identity and our Celtic heritage, but in a contemporary and wearable way."

She takes orders from as far away as Australia. The success of the clothing line reminds us that Cornish life is changing in today's new global marketplace.

Be aware that your overseas order is for expensive imported goods. Soyoum aywant to put their website in your "Dreckly" file.

www.spin-a-yarn.co.uk

"Dreckly" = "an unspecified time in the future."





I love baseball. And my team is the Chicago Cubs. I know, I know...but read on.

When I was very young, I played sandlot baseball, the sport of the All-American boy, in vacant lots and paved schoolyards. I played hooky from school to listen to the World Series on the radio. But when Dad took me to Wrigley Field on a bright afternoon in 1945, and Andy Pafko won the game for the Cubs with a grand slam home run, I was hooked.

I think of baseball fondly, because in today's hectic times, any sort of leisure time activity executed in a slow and restful pace—and thus considered boring—is an activity I think we need to admire.

But the sport of baseball has given us news headlines we'd rather not read.

After that grand slam afternoon, I played a little softball. Second base. And in the 1970's, as a radio reporter for WGN, I used my free pass for the Wrigley Press Box, ate hot dogs, drank Old Style beer, and sang badly in the seventh inning, all in the good company of some of the great sports broadcasters and many of the players.

My warm regard for the Cubs is not in the least overshadowed by the team's ugly record, or their inevitable collapses in season after season. That is what the Cubs do.

To write this essay, I will use words that will pay tribute to two outstanding Chicagobaseballlegends,butscoldanother.

Although it may no longer be "America's Pastime," Major League baseball is one of our most American institutions; and, for those who play it, it's a profession.

Professions and institutions have rules that define them, govern them, and distinguish them. An athlete's embrace of the principles of good sportsmanship become part of his identity, as does the farmer's relationship to his land, or the artist's pure devotion to her craft, or the surgeon's duty to "do no harm." Rules are forged by tradition and a slow evolution toward better ways to perform. And the rules become guiding principles.

Guidingprinciples, thus, are much more than merewhim, more than the indulgence of self-discovery and self-importance.

New generations should not simply invent new principles or discard the older, revered practices because they are no longer convenient or profitable. Rather, they learn the institutional rules, absorb them as life principles, and change only what is a benefit for the profession. The followers of "the rules" are not slaves to old traditions; rather, they the designers of new and better traditions.

With all this in mind, meet Andrew Pruschka, the hero of the 1945 Cubs thriller I remember so well, which came during the year of the team's most recent World Series appearance. It was the only game his mother ever saw him play.

Nicknamed "Handy Andy" because he was good at both hitting and fielding, Andy

Pafko, a child of a Polish family, was raised on a corn farm near Eau Claire in Wisconsin. A five-time All-Star, he batted a lifetime .285 average in 1,852 games. The Cubs brought him to the big leagues in 1943, buying his contract from Green Bay for \$1,000 and setting his salary at \$500 a month. He never made more than \$30,000 a year, a respectable pay package then, one-third of Babe Ruth's sum, but nothing like today's astronomical figures for superstars.

A quiet Lutheran, Pafko said, "I lived a mile or so from Wrigley Field in the Sheridan Plaza Hotel, didn't smoke or drink, and walked both ways to and from the games."

Andy's humble lifestyle and clean living paid off. During a 17-year career, Pafko was one of the few players to appear in four World Series with three different teams. After his playing days, he coached in the minor leagues, and now has retired to civic work, baseball-as-spectator, and golf in the Chicago suburbs.

Hedoesn'thesitatetocomparethewaythe game is played today with its earlier model. "I was known as a line-drive hitter, but some of my line drives cleared the fence," he says modestly. "I could hit, but I took pride in my outfield play." And he thinks today's stars "don't execute" – don't hit the cut-off man, can't bunt, can't hit-and-run. "Those little things win ball games." Further, "They can't play when they hurt, as I did many times. And they all swing for the fences, every time up."

And four years ago, another Chicago Cub icon said many of the same things.

Ryne Sandberg's stirring 2005 speech, when he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, included these words: "I was in awe every time I walked onto the field. That's respect. I was taught you never, ever, disrespect your opponents, teammates, the organization or the manager, or even the uniform. You make a great play, act like you've done it before; get a big hit, look for the third base coach and touch all the bags." He saluted the other greats in the Hall, "These guys did not work to pave the way for players who swing for the fences every time up and forget how to move a player over to third. It's disrespectful to the game of baseball that we all played growing up." Sandberg, the flawless glove, concluded, "I didn't play the game right because I saw a reward. I played it right because that's what you're supposed to do."

Sandberg's Cooperstown speech is an example of how people talk when they are defined by their devotion to an institution.

But Sammy Sosa, yet another popular Chicago Cub, slid off the pathway of basic principles. A great ballplayer and a consummate crowd-pleaser, Sosa chose the lie over a culture of respect for the game. Sammy famouslycorkedhisbat, and heinjected steroids, then he denied it. And, now we read about Barry Bonds, Alex Rodriguez and more than a hundred others, today's petulant baseball

millionaires who have forgotten their institution's rules, if they ever learned them, and have disgraced baseball by disrespecting it.

Should we also speak of some of the Bankers, whose code of conduct once made them appear stodgy, before they joined the Wall Street hooligans and pulled the country over the cliff? Should we speak of the tarnished Captains of Industry and Commerce, or the elected officials we can no longer dare to call Public Servants, or the Agro-Giants who turned sustainable farms into factories? Or the Journalists who dig for ratings points instead of facts?

Allhaveabandonedtheprinciplesoftheir profession. The result is not the liberation of their self-expression, or positive evolution for their profession's principles. It is, rather, the destruction of their institutions.

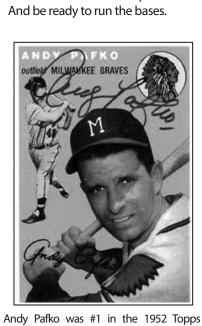
This is an irresponsible time, too often characterized by self-indulgence, greed, and alltheothercomponentsoftoday's wide open "Winner-Take-All" mentality. We mock many of our institutions because their rules and principles make demands upon us, by "impeding personal exploration and enforcing conformity." Right. But, they also save us from our weaknesses, and define what life is asking of us. And, no, "everybody does it" is no excuse. There ARE a few absolutes in life's big game, "Right and Wrong."

We all lose when our faith in so many institutions is eroded by ugliness, cynicism, moral corruption, and habits of good behaviorthathavesimplybeentossed overtheside.

Draw up a list of the people in public life you admire most. And total up how many of your personal superstars have folded up their egos and tucked them in their pocket to honor their profession, their social function, or their institution. Think of Ernie Banks, of Hank Aaron. And many others. Team Players.

We may try to make up the rules as we go along, but it would be wise to take the field with a sense of respect for them.

And be ready to run the bases



Andy Pafko was #1 in the 1952 Topps baseball card set. In mint condition, it's a card worth thousands of dollars, because most collectors simply put their cards in numerical order and rubber banded the stack, causing extra wear and tear on the top card.



Ryne Dee Sandberg took his place in baseball's Hall of Fame after making ten consecutive All-Star appearances and winning nine consecutive Gold Gloves from 1983 to 1991. His career .989 fielding percentage is a major league record at second base.

