

THE TIMES OF MINERAL POINT

ILLUSTRATED

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WORDS AND WHIMSEY DEPICTING THE GOOD LIFE IN MINERAL POINT, WISCONSIN

The HISTORIC LIVERY BLDG SAVED!

Frank Byrne Accepts Bldg's. Challenges

A WORK IN PROGRESS

The Penberthy Livery, a building with a storied history, has been rescued from imminent structural collapse, and will re-open as a sturdy, handsome commercial enterprise at 303 Commerce Street.

Frank Byrne, who dove into architectural preservation as a teenager, is working with a small construction crew led by Tim Hoppenjan to stabilize the Livery and restore it to "rustic charm stage." Using salvaged and recycled materials, Byrne has rebuilt the east and north walls, torn off a ramshackle porch, replaced siding and wooden beams, repaired stone work, roofing, and interior walls, and has also "put back" many of the Livery's original features.

The endangered building has been made strong and stable; and, when the work is done, the Livery will be ripe with promise as a business place for the buyer Byrne hopes to find "about a year from now."



Byrne is the Deconstruction Mgr. at Habitat for Humanity in Madison, and his collection of architectural salvage is part of the de la Pear Gallery. He has worked on several residential and commercial buildings in the city, to bring out what he terms "their re-use potential."

(Continued on page 3)



What If?

For many of us, the study of history reminds us of those dreary classroom quizzes:

Q. Most decisive battle in the Norman conquest of England?
A. Battle of Hastings in 1066.

Pretty tedious. But, history has a playful side, and if you study history long enough, you'll discover a delightful game called "What If?"

A Local "What If?"

In the photo above, the first building is the Pendarvis House, the tiny cottage that attracted the attention of Bob Neal and Edgar Hellum in 1935. The two men shared an affection for the century-old rock dwellings that were being torn down to salvage useful stones. They bought the two-room building for \$100, then rehabbed it, and opened a small antique store. But, the house felt cramped, and the lot was less than 30 feet across the front. So, they jumped at the chance to buy adjoining properties, both north and south of the cottage, at 1936 Depression prices.

Actually, they just wanted that birch tree! Striking, with wide limbs and dramatic color, perfect as a garden centerpiece. But the landowner on the corner would not sell the partial lot; he demanded purchase of the house as well as the tree -- for \$450, \$5 down and \$25 a month. Neal and Hellum swallowed, bought the ugly house, and set to work. They ripped the siding from the house to reveal the logs, and hauled

wood from nearby farmsteads to create the handsome facade that now distinguishes the place they named Polperro.

As the Polperro restoration continued, Hellum established credit at the lumberyard and the hardware store. The pay scale was forty cents an hour for the lead carpenter, twenty-five cents for helpers, all hands working eight hour days.

Trelawny was next. The two-story house north of Pendarvis House (with just four feet between the buildings) cost \$275 in 1936, and months of hard work on that structure made it Neal and Hellum's residence.

Meanwhile, their struggling antique shop gained an unlikely reputation. Neal often served tea and Cornish pastries to friends who visited the store. The friends came back with other friends. One day, a Madison newspaper article, praising the cafe's authentic foods, brought curious visitors to Mineral Point. By the spring of 1937, Pendarvis House was serving full meals -- pasties mostly, to about twenty diners who called ahead and did not dare be late.



Eventually, the Pendarvis House catered to celebrities; its menu was nationally ranked.

Bob Neal wrote, "At this time the idea came to us that we could develop a typically Cornish historical group of houses." Hellum and Neal hauled in small historic structures from the Driftless area, and bought and restored the impressive Cornish Rowhouse on Spruce Street.

"The more we considered the possibilities, the more we realized that we possessed something both historically and artistically unique," said Neal. "Something inspired us."

Well, do you think that "something" might have been the Polperro Birch? Was it that graceful tree that lured the two men into purchase after purchase, into debt, into years of exacting, backbreaking work? And, ultimately, into Mineral Point's roster of community legends?

That's the "What If?"

What if "the people who owned the pop factory," had been willing to sell the land that held the birch tree? Would that have been the end of the Neal & Hellum restoration effort, as they simply settled in comfort, using the Pendarvis House as their business with their living quarters nearby?

The only answer, of course, is "maybe." Or, "who knows?"

But, on cold dark nights in the winter ahead, you might consider this as your Mineral Point "What If?"

And enjoy the game!



ARTS GROUP IN LAUNCH MODE

Arts Mineral Point (AMP), working to enliven the city's arts community, has drafted plans for a fundraising event in early April 2014, and are now inviting townspeople to join as "Founders," in order to build a working fund for future arts-related events.

The independent non-profit organization recently dedicated the first of several planned sculpture parks by installing public art objects on a plot of land west of the Jamie Ross Gallery on High Street.

The arts-support group will announce its membership benefits at the fundraising event in April, when seed money will be gathered to establish a treasury. Planners are also relying on early contributions from "AMP Founders," whose \$25 donation will entitle them to art news delivered via personal email messages.

The group's first major arts endeavor is slated for a weekend in August 2014, a "Paint Out" in which visiting artists set up easels on the streets and in two days paint subjects that portray Mineral Point's unique attractions. Finished paintings will be judged, shown in galleries and offered for sale, with cash prizes for winning artists. It's hoped this "plein air weekend" will become an annual event, drawing visiting artists and curious crowds to the city.

The organization's goals are to develop a dynamic artistic climate, to promote and nurture local artists, and to boost the city's artistic reputation.

While the AMP website is being constructed, learn more by visiting the *Arts Mineral Point Facebook* page.



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IN THE INTERESTS OF
COMMUNITY AWARENESS
AND FURTHERANCE
OF HISTORIC UNDERSTANDING

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Drop by, say Hello
and pick up your copy
of the Times.

...and look for our pages
in May 2014!

**Dozen Distinctive
Destinations**

NATIONAL TRUST FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION



HO HO HO

On Dec. 7, Santa Claus pays a visit to the Cabinet Shop at Shake Rag Alley from 10 to Noon. It's family fun: kids give Santa their holiday wish list, then pose with the Jolly Old Elf for a photograph (\$8) to take home. From 10-3, while the youngsters are enjoying the Shake Rag campus, they're invited to take part in a variety of arts and crafts workshops.

There's no better way to start the Christmas season!

WINTER AND SPRING AND LIFELONG LEARNING

The new Shake Rag School catalog of courses and Workshops has just been published. You'll find old favorites and several exciting new opportunities for learning and fun. The online version allows attendees to browse for the course they would enjoy and then sign up for it.

www.shakeragalley.com



The campus at Shake Rag Alley is always open, and in winter it's a pleasant stroll through the historic valley where the city's first settlers built their rough cabins. The spring that supplied water for those pioneers still bubbles, and the creek flows alongside snowy pathways.

Pick up a Walking Tour brochure at the entryway kiosk.

WRITERS GATHER



The Winter Writers Series is underway, with events scheduled through April 2014.

Since 2011, the Shake Rag Alley School has partnered with the Council for Wisconsin Writers, Wisconsin People & Ideas, and the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission, to offer a week-long Artist-in-Residence Program.

Winners of the annual writing contest of the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts & Letters enjoy a week of uninterrupted time to focus on a project of their choice.

From November through April, writers stay in Shake Rag's inspiring lodging while participating in workshops, readings and community outreach activities.

Max Garland, the state's Poet Laureate, will be one of the visitors in the city.

On Monday, December 2nd, Poet Kara Candito will conduct an evening workshop for beginners and intermediate students. The session, titled "Revision and Reimagination," pays special attention to the art of revising poetic work. All participants must submit some work in advance, so check the details on the website before signing up. Tuition is just \$15.

Kara Candito is the winner of the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry.

A novelist, Shauna Singh Baldwin, is the featured artist in January, along with Children's Writer Kathleen Ernst.



The FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT in WISCONSIN - 1935 TO 1942

Two years into Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, nearly ten million Americans were still out of work and millions of Depression-Era families faced destitution. In 1935, Congress funded the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the jobs program built bridges and roads and cut forests.

WPA Director Harry Hopkins also set up a program for artists and writers. "Hell," he told critics, "they've got to eat, just like other people." Project Offices sprung up, like mushrooms, all over the nation.

The main assignment of each state office was to publish a travel guide for tours and

day-trip sightseeing at local landmarks, accompanied by essays on the state's historic resources and its scenery.

The guide produced for Wisconsin is a fascinating, if somewhat dated, look at small towns and big cities. Mineral Point, where the WPA built the swimming pool in Soldier's Park, was host to a group of writers who pieced together "The Story of Mineral Point, 1827-1941," a 178-page book with vivid woodcut illustrations. Serious historians say the book has factual flaws, but it reflects the talents of its authors. Visit the library and check out a copy of the book.



GALLERY NIGHT

The traditional Candlelight Gallery Walk begins at 5 p.m. on Dec. 7, as High Street glistens with 800 sparkling luminaria to welcome the city's visitors into studios and galleries, open until 9 p.m. Dick Josh and Merle Freymiller of the Kiwanis Club will roast chestnuts — where else?! — at Chestnut & High Streets. It's a lively holiday celebration, with refreshments at many stops and good conversation everywhere. And it might be your golden opportunity to find a treasured work of local art.

AT FOLKLORE VILLAGE

A holiday season packed with events: Swiss-German carols, crafts, dances, tree lighting ceremonies, and a German Social & Potluck. On Dec. 28, the 66th Annual Festival of Christmas & Midwinter Traditions — a holiday delight! (Registration Required) www.folklorevillage.org - phone 608.924.4000

A MUSICAL XMAS STORY

Old Befana, based on pre-Christian tradition, is the Santa in Italian and eastern-European holiday celebrations. Shake Rag Alley Stage brings you Ken Lonnquist and musical friends to tell the old story at the Mineral Point Opera House in a one-time family-friendly matinee, at 2 pm on Dec. 8. It's original music, professional singing, an unusual tale with a positive message of hope and goodwill. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/519372

A "SING OUT MESSIAH"

The Rural Musicians Forum celebrates the holy season with two performances of Handel's always-impressive "Messiah." Talented local singers will establish the musical bed for a community singalong called "a jubilant opportunity for family and friends to join the chorus." Dec. 6 at the United Methodist Church in Dodgeville, and on Dec. 8 at St. John's Catholic Church in Spring Green. Leslie Damaso, of Mineral Point, is a featured soprano, with other soloists, instrumentalists and a rehearsed choir. <http://www.ruralmusiciansforum.org/>

A WALKER HOUSE GALA FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Walker House will glow with the spirit of the season on Gallery Night, Dec. 7, as the historic inn welcomes "Aspiring Young Professionals" for a Gala Dinner with an inspired theme. The evening displays the skills of the high school visual arts, music and technical arts departments. Student's art works will grace the walls in picture frames fashioned by the tech arts kids, and the tunes in the background will be provided by the school's young musicians. Hosts Dan and Kathy Vaillancourt will serve a homecooked meal; and, after the dinner, the two galleries will be open to the public from 6:30-9:00. There will also be guided tours of the lodging rooms. The students will sell \$15 tickets for the gala, and the Walker House will donate \$7.50 of every ticket to start an Art Fund at the school. Photographer Randy Larson and artist Lesley Stephenson are guest professionals for the night. The Vaillancourts hope to host 125 diners.

For information call Ms. Stephenson at 608.987.0730, ext. 418.



Dan Vaillancourt, the genial host at the historic Walker House, greets some of the costumed throng -- double the number he expected -- at a Halloween dinner party.



The exact figures are not yet available, but both attendance and profitability for the 4th Annual Driftless Film Festival far surpassed the totals from previous years. “In fact,” said Phil Mrozinski, the fest’s Executive Director, “we sold more tickets at the Opera House, alone, than were sold in 2012 at all three movie theaters where the films were shown.” “The economic impact on the city is significant,” he said. In his view, the festival reached “a turning point in its evolution,” as patrons praised the quality, themes and atmosphere of four days of entertainment.

“Just a bunch of movies” became something *much more*: “a true cinema experience — good films that work well with each other.”

AT THE MINERAL POINT LIBRARY



PICK A CARD AND SHARE A STORY

Before the Internet and Smart-phones came along, readers may recall, Americans went to their neighborhood public library and rummaged in the little cards within the drawers of the wooden card catalog. There, they’d jot down the Dewey Decimal System number for the book they would then request at the front desk. That was the drill, then.

New book-search technologies have made the card catalog a museum piece, but Library Director Barbara Polizzi and her staff have come up with a delightful use for the old artifact. The Mineral Point Library is inviting townspeople to go to a special card cabinet near the Help Desk on the main floor, choose one of the old book cards, turn the card over to the blank side, and write something they would like to share with the community. “It could be an original poem, a quote, a memory, a joke, a recipe, a picture, a drawing or a tribute to someone,” Polizzi said. The card will be re-filed alphabetically, with the title of the submission, its date, and the name of the contributor.

“Let’s call it a Community Card Catalog,” said the Librarian, “An organized listing of the culture of our city and its residents.”

BACKSTORY: A 72-Drawer Card Catalog Repurposed

The Library’s reference computers have replaced the card catalog, but the library staff has found a way to use the wooden pieces that were in storage during the building’s remodeling. One 9-drawer chest is being used for its original purpose in the Archives. Two other chests have become small tables, reflecting the library’s past. After a year in Don Hawkins’ garage, the big chest will hold the community’s cards — our mementoes.

CITY’S ARCHIVE: Optometry Gear Honors Local Doctors



Archive Curator Mary Alice Moore poses with two recently-acquired cases containing the vintage optometry devices of local Doctors Ludden and Ridley. The leather kits, outfitted for eye examinations through the use of dozens of lenses in special spectacles, were donated by Judy Hohler and Dr. David Kjelland.



Pointer Mary Rink shows us her recent donation to the city’s Archive, a part of the library’s Mineral Point Room. It’s an Ava Fernekes print, typical of the colorful art work of the wife of Max Ferneke. The couple are considered the first Mineral Point artists to work full time at their trade.

Mary says she bought the painting from the flamboyant artist 50 years ago.

The Livery’s Lively History

(Continued from Page 1)

Abner Nichols, a mainstay of local myth, built his stone “Mansion House” on the plot of land at the Livery site, at the foot of High Street, and as early as 1836 it was the leading hotel in the old lead mining region. “Uncle Ab’s” hostelry was known as the district’s best place to eat, drink and stay the night, although at least one account called it “a place where hellfire and damnation broke out every night.”

Henry Dodge, hero of the Black Hawk War in 1832, was sworn in as Wisconsin’s first territorial governor in the building.

Over the years, the building passed through several hands, as a hotel and livery stable, and in the early 20th Century it emerged as the Penberthy barn, renting out carriages and providing the city’s ambulance and funeral hearse services.



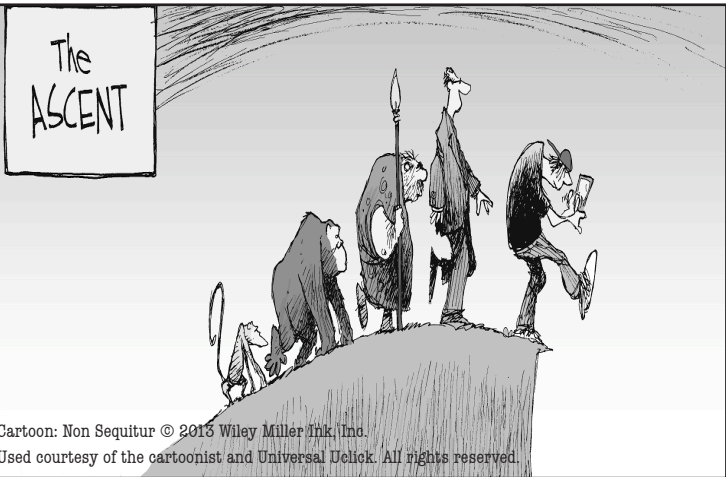
The stalls for horses are still there, on the Livery’s lower level. At Commerce Street level, a large room can accommodate a sizable crowd, and that expanse is familiar to those who last saw the building as an antique mall. There are commodious rooms upstairs as well; but, on the building’s west side, there are eight smaller rooms that flank a kitchen/bathroom core, with a separate entry stairway from the sidewalk. A deck is under construction on the north side where the falling-down porch used to be.

“For far too many years,” says Frank Byrne, “owners used a BandAid approach to building maintenance, and a lot of the structural problems were due to cobbled-together work. We had to fix those to save the building!”

Byrne admits his one-year target for completion is “optimistic.” He is discussing a few financial options as the work on the project continues. “One possibility is using the space as an auction house,” he says, “but as an advocate for historic architectural preservation I need to know that the future owner of this place shares my vision, and respects the great history of the old building.”



1900- A parade float in front of the Penberthy Livery Bldg. (Photo: Min.Pt. Historical Society)



Cartoon: Non Sequitur © 2013 Wiley Miller Ink, Inc. Used courtesy of the cartoonist and Universal Uclick. All rights reserved.

Former Vice President Dick Cheney told interviewers that what the United States gained as a result of the war in Iraq was that Iraq now does not have weapons of mass destruction.

Duly noted.

About 500 children and teenagers die in U.S. hospitals every year from gunshot wounds, and another 7,500 are hauled to a hospital after taking a bullet from a handgun. The total is up by more than 60 percent over the last decade.

In Childersburg, Alabama, a 19-year old boy was shot in the neck, during a recent “Stop the Violence” basketball tournament.

Almost 40 percent of American babies under age 2 now use a smartphone or tablet before they can speak full sentences. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children of that age should experience NO screen time at all. Fat chance!

A middle school football coach in Oregon (the state, not the Wisconsin town) held a team party at a Hooters Restaurant, which features the most predominant features of its waitresses. Some parents were outraged, but the coach defended himself, “It’s a fine venue, but if you have a dirty mind, you’ll find dirt.”

Fox News host Elisabeth Hasselbeck suggested on her show that pregnant women 65-years-old and older were losing their doctors because of President Obama’s health care reform law.

The 2014 calendar for the House of Representatives has been released, and it shows members will work only 113 days. That’s down from 2013, when House lawmakers were scheduled to meet for 126 days. Only 107 days were scheduled in 2012.

Here’s reassuring news. The United Nations has agreed to set up an “International Asteroid Warning Group” to share information with participating nations, should astronomers spot a deadly, earthbound asteroid. The U.N. says it will coordinate a mission to deflect the space chunk by flying a spaceship into it.

Then there’s the couple from Tinley Park, IL, who watched the Bears-Packers game at the Sideline Tap in Mayville, WI.

After a few drinks, the husband, an ardent Bears fan, made a bet with his Packers-fan wife. Da Bears won and so did he, and he said he’d definately carry out the terms of the wager. So, after more drinks and some giggling, the pair went out into the alley, smoked a cigarette or two, and then, as agreed to, he tasered her twice across the buttocks. The wife filmed the act on her cell phone.

The police report said she was good natured until he used the taser gun a third time, which led to a loud argument and a lot of tension inside the saloon. The sheriff finally sorted it all out.

As far as we know, they are still united in wedlock.

“Hell yeah, it hurt,” she said.

HANLON’S RAZOR is an adage that states:

“Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity.”



THE TIMES GOES INTO HIBERNATION

With this issue, the Times of Mineral Point suspends publication for a “hibernation period” extending until May 2014, when Badgers venture out of their holes, blinking in the bright sunlight and sniffing around where veggies will later grow.

Winter in Wisconsin is a time of great beauty, warm fires and good friendships, but the usual bustle of activity slows during the winter months, and this newspaper will reflect that slowdown. We look forward to greeting readers in the spring.

(Okay, before someone points this out: badgers do not hibernate. I just made that up. They do put on weight during autumn in preparation for winter, and if it is especially cold they may remain in their dens for a few days.

The Editor has picked up pounds in recent months, too, in preparation for the coming hibernation.)

FLOTSAM & JETSAM

by the Editor

“History is just one damn thing after another.”
-- Arnold Toynbee

Too true, Arnold. Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address was one thing. Kennedy’s murder was another, much more damnable, thing. We’ve commemorated both historic events in recent days, and that’s a very good idea. We can, and we *should*, learn from our past. (Also, I’d have to say, looking back is sometimes more fun than looking at present-day life.)

As a journalist, I’m not quite old enough to remember days with Honest Abe, but I have sharp memories of Jack. To the inevitable “Where Were You?” question, I reply that I was on the air, reading a midday newscast, and my colleagues shuttled in bulletin after bulletin. My 30-minute news program turned out to be a ten hour broadcast. It tested my professionalism, big time!

The anniversary of the Day in Dallas is poignant. And, it’s useful, if we use it to compare the mental state of the nation, then and now.

In my view, the sniper’s bullets did the most damage to our fundamental beliefs. In November, 1963, the nation’s most powerful institutions — government, the military, the churches — were considered good and trustworthy. We even trusted Wall Street and the global corporations. Then came the horrors: JFK, Bobby, Martin, VietNam, Watergate, the church scandals, dozens of political sexcapades, and the bubbles and meltdowns.

John F. Kennedy appealed to “our better angels.” Fifty years later, history will likely reflect “a race to the bottom,” in which faith, hope and trust — fundamental institutions — have been displaced by anger, confusion and fear.

Some of us simply shrug. Some of us are outraged. Most of us feel helpless. So . . .



If you are in need of an item for your Thanksgiving List, make it this one:

Mineral Point is a farm town with artists, a pastoral place with people who are more inclusive than exclusive, more generous than stingy, more open than closed in their outlook on life, an authentic place that frowns on pretense or ostentation, a place of simple values and solid and pragmatic traditions, a place where good outpaces greed.



Thomas Jefferson called for a nation of family farms in which Americans would live in productive, independent harmony, growing almost everything they needed, with the land divided equally between rich and poor, and our total population put to work in agronomy, avoiding the burdens of ugly, complex, and crowded cities.

Instead of carrying out T.J.’s Agrarian Revolution, we opted for factory-made stuff during the Industrial Revolution; and when we stopped making things, we bumbled our way into today’s destructive Wall Street Revolution.

We are now paying the price for those historic decisions, and for all the ways we turned our back on the rural life.

In 2008, we shelled out \$700 billions on governmental bail-outs to shore up our fractured economy. What if we had used just \$5 billion for agriculture? Not for factory farms, mind you, but sustainable family farms, the kind Jefferson advocated. Just \$5 billion, a pittance compared to other federal spending, could have regenerated 50 million family farms. Those farms could have put millions to work — almost full national employment.

If farming could be made “cool,” and if startup money was available, the family farm could attract young people (now flipping hamburgers) to a more meaningful place in society, with solid long term security, accepting hard work and a farm life’s risks, but with a chance to earn something better than a pink slip from XYZ Corporation. They could even grow their own food.



Wisconsin’s people, in 2012, spent \$15.9 billion in the state’s 25 Indian casinos. And, in fiscal 2011-12, the State Lottery rang up \$550 million in ticket sales. (Up in Marinette County, the spending averaged \$200 per person.)

Here’s one more number: our state Legislature’s 2012 Budget totalled \$66 billion.

Okay, let’s do the math. So, people stood in line and spun the wheel to pony up money equal to almost 25 percent of the Badger Budget?? Wow!

Yes, I know, life is all about making choices, like what we should do with our dollars.

But, I’d lay odds that a lot of the gamblers who *lost* their discretionary dollars are grumbling about the high cost of living. Or state taxes.

In fact, I’d bet the farm on it.



ISIDOR & FERDINAND



Yep. It’s Frank Beaman, the young radio reporter, in 1965. I typed out newscasts at three CBS-radio stations for more than twenty years, and “Ed Murrow’s Boys” were my heroes, alongside Walter Cronkite (of course!) and Fred Friendly, the conscience behind the triumphs of CBS News. But, I reserve a special place in my home-grown Hall of Fame for I. F. Stone.

Isidor Feinstein Stone, better known as I.F. Stone, or “Izzy,” was an independent and radical investigative reporter who told us, back in the 1960’s, “All governments are run by liars and nothing they say should be believed.”

He had Lyndon B. Johnson in mind when he wrote that line. The LBJ White House, along with Stone’s peers and press colleagues, considered Izzy a pariah because he challenged government deception and news media complicity in all that deception. Stone confronted the high-placed lies at a time when no one else had the guts to do it.

As television became our major source of information, we turned to “Uncle Walter Cronkite,” whose old-fashioned delivery was in the best tradition of CBS News. In earlier times, Edward R. Murrow and his news corps presented the day’s news with clarity, integrity, ethics and purpose.

But, for Press Courage in the face of harsh criticism, my award goes to Izzy Stone, that solitary writer, that one lonely voice, who published a four-page weekly newspaper that took on the biggest foes and most searing questions and skewered them. His challenges included fascism, the Holocaust, McCarthyism, the arms race, the civil rights movement, and the Vietnam war.

Izzy lived long enough to see his views vindicated. His columns were at last recognized as dissent, not treason.

As Ed Murrow pointed out, during his famed McCarthy expose, “We must not confuse dissent with disloyalty. When the loyal opposition dies, the soul of America dies with it.”

I.F. Stone spoke truth to power in the turbulence of the 1960’s, in what has come to be called “the Golden Age of Journalism.” Izzy was not a celebrity journalist; no, he was instead a *cerebral* journalist.



And so was Fred Friendly. Ferdinand Friendly Wachenheimer was a New Yorker who changed his name when he graduated from college and began work as a reporter at a local radio station. He served as a war correspondent during World War II and joined CBS-News in 1950. It was then he renewed a former partnership with Ed Murrow, and the pair were radio pioneers with “Hear It Now.” Then, they brought the show to television, essentially inventing the TV news documentary, weaving together unrehearsed interviews, reports from the field, original film clips, and commentary both bold and brave.

Friendly produced the “See It Now” broadcasts, which revealed hunger in America, a variety of crimes against the public, the ugly side of the “Red Scare”, and the dark regime of the witch-hunting Sen. Joe McCarthy.

But, after seven years on the air, Friendly, Murrow and CBS Chairman William Paley had a blazing showdown in Paley’s office. The network boss told Murrow he was tired of the constant “stomach aches” the program caused as it covered controversial subjects. That marked the beginning of the end of “See It Now”, and the last episode aired in July of 1958.

After he was made President of CBS-News, Friendly often butted heads with network executives in a tussle between the CBS commitment to hard news over commercial interests. He quit in 1966 when CBS scrapped coverage of a hearing on Vietnam to show a re-run of “I Love Lucy.”

That, no doubt, is why Fred Friendly, stalwart champion of fairness and ethics in journalism, ruefully told a late-in-life interviewer, “Television makes so much money at its worst, that it can’t afford to do its best.”

LAST WORDS

In 1959, the Postmaster General unveiled a new invention to produce “INSTANT MAIL.” The “fax-mail device” was fed handwritten pages from letters that simultaneously popped up on a receiving device thousands of miles away. The machine could handle three letters a second, and experts believed it could be made to handle *thousands* per second.

With special fax-transmission paper and opaque envelopes, the writer could simply drop the message into a slot at the post office, where it would be fed into the transmitting fax machine.

President Eisenhower and the U.S. Postal Service were very excited about this breakthrough, thinking wide use of such a system might lower the going rate for a letter from the then-current 7 cents.

The eventual outgrowth of fax-mail, of course, is e-mail, and the development of e-mail has arguably done more in the last twenty years to cripple the postal service than to make it “cutting edge.” That’s a twist the innovators of 1959 could never have imagined.

ABSO-BLOOMING-LUTELY, it turns out, is an old linguistic construction, not something born of modern-day vulgarity, although that is the way we often hear it. There’s a name for it, too. It’s TMESIS, which goes back to ancient Greece and means “inserting a word into another word for intensifying effect.”_____

Prof. EDGAR W. WHAN was 93 when he died this year, leaving behind his wife of 70 years, valiant service in World War II (in Okinawa, and post-war cleanup in Tokyo Bay and Hiroshima), and a long and distinguished career as an English teacher at Ohio University. Whan brought three generations of students the sense of his commitment to human rights and the human potential. He demonstrated in the 1963 March on Washington and thereafter spoke out for peace, dignity, and equal opportunities for all, including prisoners, the poor, the homeless, and those in hospice care, as *he* was at the end.

He said his 50-year hobby, baking bread, reflected his dedication “to nourishment of body and soul in the cause of serving others.”_____

LINES FROM A SPEECH
AT OHIO UNIVERSITY IN 1982

Share your bread,
use your freedom,
be angry at oppression.
Love peace,
say “Sir” to nobody.
Hear the pain in the world.
Laugh from the belly,
defend the poor, the old,
the crazy,
And you will be beautiful.
Beautiful.

-- Edgar W. Whan, PhD

FROM OUR SHAMELESS PLUG DEPARTMENT

Sandee Beaman, invaluable “Asst. Editor for the *Times*,” has a lively online Events Calendar, the area’s best answer to “What’s happening?”

Go to <http://hwy23events.wordpress.com>
and simply click on an event to open it and discover all the details

If you want periodic event updates via email, send your name
and email address to sandeescalendar@gmail.com