

THE TIMES OF MINERAL POINT

Vol. 3, No 3

ILLUSTRATED

July, 2014

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

INNOVATION KITCHEN TO PIONEER “VIRTUOUS FOOD CYCLE”

—★—
**Method: Farm to
Kitchen to Local
Consumers.**
—★—

The Wisconsin Innovation Kitchen (WINK), one of Mineral Point's most creative enterprises, is developing new pathways designed to bring fresh, lightly processed local foods to market.

The Founding Director, Rick Terrien, is buoyant about all the possibilities for expanding WINK's agricultural services, which could make the Mineral Point area “the regional foods capital of the United States.”

Earlier this year, Terrien formed Innovation Kitchens LLC, a spin-off from the Hodan Center, which owns the Kitchen. The new corporation functions as an independent sales organization and as a manufacturer's representative for the Hodan Kitchen.

Terrien has developed new relationships with many family farms and has begun buying foods to be processed at the Innovation Kitchen, then sold to area restaurants who want to feature local ingredients on their menus.

The new company has also opened a retail produce store in Middleton featuring foods from regional farms and products made at the Mineral Point processing center. The market sells to customers who walk in the door but also serves as a “tasting room” for area chefs, restaurant owners and food service workers. If these business people like what they see and taste, they will order larger quantities of the sustainably-raised crops from regional family farms. The Middleton market gives home canners and freezers a place to buy in bulk, and enjoy safe, healthy produce while supporting regional agriculture.

(Continued on Page 3)



STRIKE UP THE BAND!

For a small farm town, we are pretty good at parades. We hold them as often as possible, recruit plenty of marchers, and make a good deal of noise.

You need all those things to stage a good parade. It's a big bonus if the parade is linked to a holiday; but, holiday or not, the stomp down High Street is something we do well.

All in good fun. Always.

We love our parades; and why not? As pageants, they illustrate the meaning of the American ideal, “Of, By and For the People.”

No single event yields as much visual variety, as many subjects for snapshots: the sidewalk crowd unfolds their canvas chairs, the bands come by with all those determined drummers, the flatbeds roll by with their costumed characters, the kids skurry for thrown candy, and clowns, dogs, horses, bikes, vintage cars, trucks, tractors old and new, fire engines — all jerk along at start-and-stop speed.

With this panorama, we are telling our local stories: who we are, and why we're here.

This is genuine Americana, not the overproduced “as seen on TV” version.

No, the Mineral Point take on parades is the Real Thing. That's true whether the parade commemorates Memorial Day, Halloween, Homecomings, or CornishFest, Art in Motion, Santa Claus — whatever.

This month, of course, we will mark the 238th anniversary of our nation's founding on the Fourth of July. It's our chief patriotic event, although not the only one. Our celebration on July 4th is a special sort of small-town happening; it begins early and consumes the entire day. “Gettin' the Lead Out” is the apt title for our morning run/walk, a test for competitors who will learn first-hand about the city's hilly



streets. The parade steps off at 11 a.m., followed by a BBQ lunch at Water Tower Park, with Point Five's music, and an evening Ice Cream Social and City Band concert at Soldier's Park. And, finally, the fireworks.

Can you suffer from an overdose of American tradition?

For those of us lucky enough to live with flags, fireworks and freedom, a parade is much more than an hour in the sun.

Our way of life is that of a democracy, however damaged it is, and attending a parade is a form of voting. At a parade, you are casting your vote for what was, what is, and what may be. You stand at the curb, watching the past, the present day, and the future pass by.

Many parades celebrate our patriotism, of course, but also point up Mineral Point assets: agriculture, art, architecture and ambience.

Thus, an hour on High Street is an exercise in community pride, an expression of the value and importance of friends and neighbors.

You stand with your townspeople, applaud, and go home with good feelings that will stay with you for several days.



A TOAST TO ART ON THE STREET

High Point Arts Sculpture Park has added another fine example of public art. It's “Prairie Joint,” a tall, rusty steel/stainless creation by Chicago sculptor Jason Verbeek.

Several members of Arts Mineral Point (AMP) gathered to celebrate the arrival of the work. Additionally, master mason Roland Sardeson has contributed a viewing bench, a stone slab atop three aligned tree stumps, on the Jamie Ross property at the top of High Street.

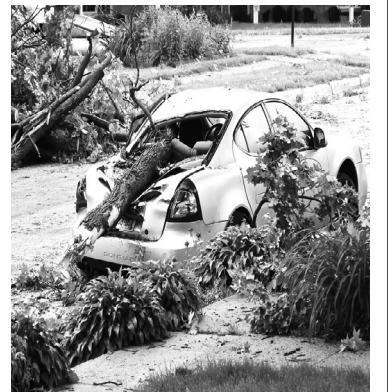
AMP is busy with preparations for the city's first plein air arts weekend, “Paint Out,” on August 7-9. The organization expects to see as many as forty competing artists on the streets of Mineral Point during two days of outdoor painting. AMP's leadership contacted 700 artists, from throughout the Midwest, and registrations are flowing in. The weekend's anticipated artist output, some 120 paintings, will be sold at silent auctions in three local galleries on Aug. 9th. Eleven sponsors are providing cash and prizes to support this “first-of-its-kind” local event.

www.artsmp.org or Facebook



PHOTO: Local Sculptor Peter Flanery, the Public Arts chair for AMP, celebrates the new arts acquisition on High Street.

Ouch!



JUNE 16-17, 2014

THE TIMES OF MINERAL POINT

Published by



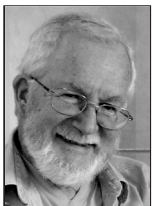
MINERAL POINT PRESS

216 NORTH IOWA STREET
MINERAL POINT, WI 53565

PARTNERS WITH POINT FORWARD

2014

IN THE INTERESTS OF
COMMUNITY AWARENESS
AND FURTHERANCE
OF HISTORIC UNDERSTANDING



EDITOR & PUBLISHER
FRANK BEAMAN

Photographs by the Editor
unless otherwise noted.

frankbeaman2@gmail.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ainsley Anderson
Gregg Bennett
Ried Knapp
Andy Lewis, Galena
Megan O'Connell
Lauren Powers
Rick Terrien
Jeremy Weaver, Dixon

PRINTED BY
WOODWARD PRINTING SERVICES
PLATTEVILLE, WISCONSIN
© COPYRIGHT 2014



THE TIMES OF MINERAL POINT

is published without cost to its
readers and printed without
advertising content.

Pick up the **TIMES**
in several locations
in the city.
THANKS, merchants !

We send an issue to every
home in Mineral Point,
tucked in the bundle of the

ShoppingNews

with delivery during the
first week of each month,
May through December.

Call the **FREE Shopping News**
at (608) 348-2374 if you are not now
receiving each Tuesday's delivery.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Check Sandee Beaman's
Online Events Calendar

Go to

<http://hwy23events.wordpress.com>

And simply click on an event
to get all the details.



Yes, and how many times must the cannon balls fly
Before they're forever banned?

Bob Dylan - Blowin' In The Wind

After serving two terms, The Father of Our Country was exhausted by politics. He gave a memorable farewell address urging Americans not to fall into the trap of partisanship, and to always remain focused on American interests above foreign alliances. A few years later, Pres. John Quincy Adams declared, "America does not go abroad in search of monsters to destroy."

But, for the past sixty-four years, America *has* gone abroad, searching for monsters to destroy. We have fought undeclared, unnecessary, unwinnable wars, which drained our treasury and optimistic spirit and cost the lives of our young men and women.

There were seventeen military encounters during the Clinton-Bush years, and as our volunteer army skirmished, American schools, roads, bridges and social programs suffered from staff cuts, budget strangulation, even abandonment. The price we'll pay for the neglect of domestic structure is beyond imagination.

The American public has become weary of "little wars," the preemptive, perpetual, sometimes falsely fabricated conflicts that have only served to create new enemies abroad, soil our reputation as "the good guys," and help recruit terrorists into the enemy camps we vow we are trying to destroy.

We are beginning to ask, "Why Do We Fight?"

There is no better time to ask "Why?" than on two holidays we observe at this time of year: Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. We should remember that those days were once somber: Decoration Day (marking the graves of soldiers) and Independence Day (marking our turn away from foreign domination).

American history generally recognizes three generals for their battlefield successes, but the trio didn't relish their victories:



My first wish is to see this plague of mankind banished from the earth, and the sons and daughters of this world employed in more pleasing and innocent amusements, than in preparing implements, and in exercising them, for the destruction of mankind.

-- George Washington

There never was a time when, in my opinion, some way could not be found to prevent the drawing of the sword.

-- Ulysses S. Grant



I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity.

-- Dwight D. Eisenhower

President Obama is making speeches that try to define our policy on war; but, as is his habit, he sounds more like a professor than a Commander in Chief, so the Hawks are upset. Some of them believe our national identity depends on military might. They fancy the USA as the World's Policeman. And some of them profit handsomely by making war's expensive implements. So, marching under the flag of "national defense," the politicians, the Defense Industry, and the popular press keep alive a century of scary mythology, fearmongering designed to legitimize our view of the necessity and usefulness of war.

We address dangers, real and imagined, by repeating wars that resolve nothing. Staggering military budgets are enacted, the bugle plays Taps in a new place, and the nature of war, itself, changes. War is no longer fought eye-to-eye. In today's war, a random step on a roadside bomb ends a life; a drone controlled from a California airbase ends a life in Afghanistan, and then the "pilot" goes home and sits down for dinner.

We number the casualties on the evening news. We do not count the dead civilians, now listed only as "collateral damage."

We salute the members of our volunteer armies, as we should, for their enormous sacrifices. They deserve much more support.

But, perhaps, today is the moment to ask "Why do we fight?"

The answer, my friends, is blowin' in the wind . . .

CAN YOU DIG IT?



STREET WORK, ELSEWHERE



Last month, the *Times* went in depth (no pun intended) on local water mains. We pointed to the city's current dilemma: century-old High Street pipes are indeed a pressing problem, but there are other problems that command the city's attention as well. Further, funding for infrastructure is lacking; and, finally, lengthy street repairs could hamper local retail trade.

Thousands of other cities, large and small, suffer similar situations because of "a long ToDo list and a short purse."

This month, we explore news from other cities, to see if their experience might yield useful ideas for Mineral Point.

The photograph above is a view of downtown Dixon, IL, where 15,000 live alongside the Rock River, fifty miles west of Chicago.

Dixon is repaving its main business area, a \$5 million, 22-block project to fix aging water and sewer utilities and replace streets and sidewalks.

The city's Building Dept. told the *Times*, "We're digging one or two blocks at a time, rather than a long stretch, to give shoppers access to storefronts, and we keep a pathway open to the shops and offices, even if it's compacted gravel."

Galena, IL used a similar game plan for a downtown street repair program that was so successful the city's merchants threw a party for the construction crew when the work was finished — on time and on budget. Galena ran gravel paths and boardwalks to storefronts as crews dug, block by block, and directed traffic to parallel streets near retailer's back doors.

"The biggest thing," said City Engineer Andy Lewis, "was good communications with everyone involved." The city and its main consultant, Strand Associates of Madison, held weekly meetings and circulated a newsletter among contractors and the business places in the work area.

Galena's \$18 million Tax Increment Financing (TIF) work was accomplished on a tight time frame, about three months, with a completion target of July 1, to open by the busy tourist season.

The water and sewer lines, built in the early 1900s, compare with utilities in Mineral Point. During the repair work,

Galena crews extended fire service runs to all buildings to enable new sprinkler systems.

The digging was carried out with few public complaints, Lewis said. Asked about lessons learned, he said, "Don't be daunted. Keep everyone on board and keep moving."

Show me the Money!

Janesville, WI will hold a referendum in November, to allow citizens who complain about street conditions to open their wallets as well as their mouths. The Janesville City Council has pledged to make needed repairs, but will ask residents how much they should borrow to do so.

The Council's referendum asks voters for permission to exceed the state's tax levy limit every year starting in 2015 to produce \$1.2 million a year for local street repairs. Engineers say Janesville must spend \$4.2 million on repairs to catch up with its failing infrastructure, but can raise only \$200,000 because of levy limits.

If residents say "no" to the increase in property taxes, the council will likely borrow all the money needed for repairs. Council members say that will cost more in the long run because of interest on the borrowed dollars.

Mayor Gregg Bennett spoke of the property tax levy in his interview with the *Times* last month, exploring the option of a tax increase as cash-strapped Mineral Point seeks ways to fund infrastructure repairs.

Asked by the *Times* if the Janesville initiative is "a good answer to the problem?" the Mayor said, "It's the ONLY answer."

The mayor's math

The Mayor invites citizens to "compare apples to apples when looking at taxes." To elaborate, Bennett gets personal: "My property tax bill is about \$5,200 a year, so that's \$433 a month; but, because taxes support education, construction, security, and other municipal services/expenses, city government gets only 30% of the levy, so that works out to \$130 per month. Compare THAT," he says, "with your monthly outlay for other utilities and your cable bill, cell phone and internet services."

"But," the Mayor declares, "everybody seems to think property taxes are too high."



ROASTER PILES

Lethal Leftovers

In June, we traced some of the history of the mining industry in Mineral Point, which brought world recognition to the city and filled the area known as the Mineral Valley with buildings and transport for massive lead and zinc production in the 19th and early 20th Century.

Our story ended with the collapse of the local mineral industry and the closing of the railroad line, the departures that made the once-bustling valley a ghostly wasteland.

There's more to the story: when the gigantic Mineral Point Zinc Co. ended all its operations in 1928, and the busy railway line fell quiet, the valley inherited tired gray buildings: the forges, furnaces and factories of boom times.

And there were also lethal piles of mining residues.

A roaster pile is the waste from an old-time, inefficient ore refining operation that left metals including zinc in the processed ore. Roaster piles were red-hued heaps, laced with lead and arsenic. The toxic runoff had killed Brewery Creek, the stream that ran through the valley. Its waters ran orange in an ugly ditch that extended a mile south of the city. There were no fish.

The landscape, like the old industry, was dead.

That's the way things stayed for several decades. Buildings were demolished or moved with special care to disturb the soil as little as possible. Nature slowly reclaimed the hills.

In 1980, the Environmental Protection Agency named the Mineral Point Roaster Piles one of its Superfund cleanup sites. That launched a federal, state, and local work project designed to cover the toxic red piles with a four-foot shield of non-toxic clay and topsoil, a layer considered deep enough to decontaminate the site.

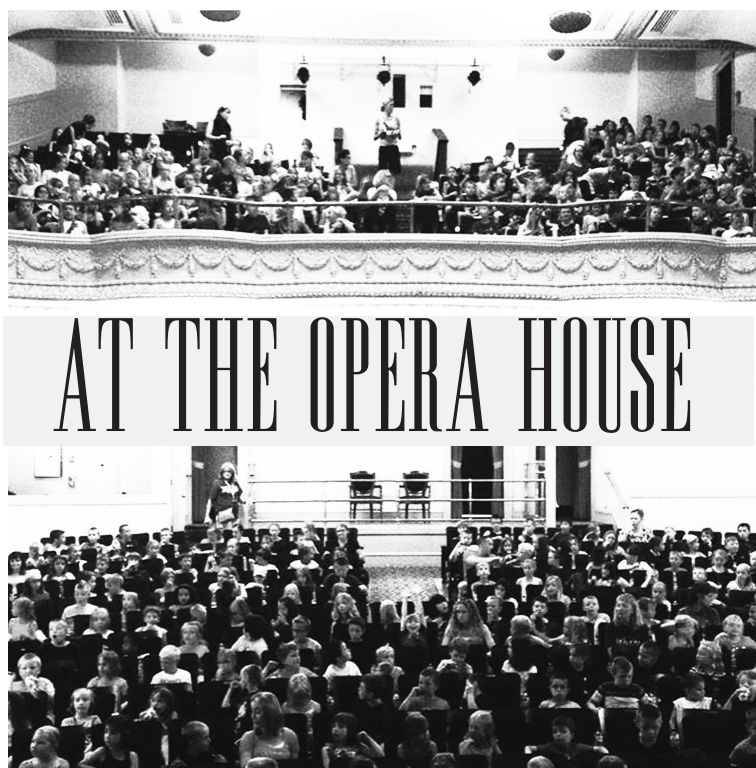
The state's Dept. of Natural Resources(DNR) brought in chemists, engineers and field workers in the mid-1980s, and partnered with Mineral Point in a \$1.5 million program to push the toxic heaps to a pair of city-owned hills on both sides of the Cheese Country Trail, which now follows the old railway bed out of the city.

If you walk that nature trail today, you walk in safety. Look beyond the city's waste treatment plant to the green hill where the roaster piles are buried. And then salute the Pointers of thirty years ago, who worked with energy and sophistication to overcome an ugly environmental problem.

"Country Bumpkins??"

No way!

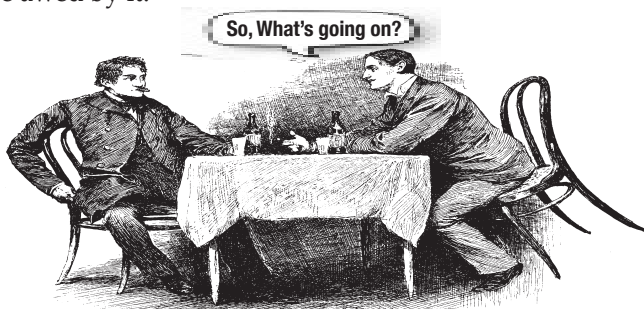
SOURCE: Conversations with Gregg Bennett and others, EPA, government records, archives.



A few days before her departure for Edgewood School in Madison, Pointer Elementary School Principal Anne Palzkill stood on a local stage and looked at a packed house — her school's total enrollment, ready to view 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs II,' provided by the Public Library.

A bit later, Anne told Facebook fans:

"I took this photo because it was exciting to see the Opera House full of local children, teachers, and volunteers! The kids were mighty cooperative with my intro, 'keep your feet off the seats, pick up your trash, and be respectful of this spectacular building.' To the MPOH, thanks for the opportunity — most of the children had never entered the building before, and they were awed by it."



13TH WOODLANDERS GATHERING

The rustic arts, nature crafts workshops get under way July 10 and continue for three days of varied activity at Shake Rag Alley School for the Arts. It's a summer camp for adults, a chance to learn from nature & meet new friends. www.shakeragalley.com

POINT 5 STRUMS, SELLS NEW CD

The popular music group entertains on the outdoor Alley Stage on July 12, with tunes underway at 8 p.m. The band is hoping to have their new CD ready for sale at the event.

HUSTLE & BUSTLE ON WATER ST.

The Walker House has hired Karla Vogel as Events Coordinator, and she tells us the historic resort is cooking dinner on July 17 for Tour Wisconsin Bicycle Group and a fundraising breakfast for a local volleyball team on July 20th. The building's Cornish-style Pub and other rooms are expanding their services. Summer hours are 8 a.m. to Dusk on Fri., Sat., Sun. and Monday. Read about all the possibilities at www.thewalkerhouse.org

"LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS"

Call it, if you will, a comedy horror rock musical. The tunes are based on 1960s styles — rock and roll, doo-wop & Motown.

Alley Stage promises a modern spin for the 30 year old community theater classic. On the stage of the Mineral Point Opera House at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturdays, July 18-19 & 25-26

CRADLE OF AMERICAN HAIKU FEST

The gathering of Midwestern Haiku poets is July 25-27, with readings, workshops and more, as planned by bookseller Gayle Bull, a pioneer in Haiku. The Festival includes a quarterly meeting of the Haiku Society of America and Saturday night dinner at the Walker House. Contact info@foundrybooks.com

HEADS UP: Save September 4-6 for an excursion that entertains travelers who follow Wisconsin history. The **Friends of the Wisconsin Historical Society** plans a three-day Lamers Bus tour of historic places along the Great River Road. These trips are reasonably priced, with stops at well-researched destinations, authentic tour narrations, and pleasant camaraderie among history-lovers. www.friendswisconsinhistory.org

Innovation Kitchen

(Cont. from Page 1)

Rick Terrien believes that by combining the capacities of regional farms with the output from a professionally-managed commercial kitchen, and adding a retail outlet for food sales, new opportunities for business development will spring up.

He points out that buying foods direct from the farmer will also eliminate a good deal of inherent waste in the food system by establishing what he calls "a smart grid for regional foods."

In addition, Terrien and his company are helping food entrepreneurs launch and grow new food businesses under the WINK umbrella of services. Several new brands are already on the market and are winning awards and building toward national distribution. "There are other rent-by-the-hour kitchens," Terrien said, "but WINK is the only place I know that will professionally prepare custom recipes for commercial sale." The Kitchen's specialty is small, artisan-scale food preparation, using new ideas and solid experience to help build successful new markets for the products of Wisconsin's fertile fields.



Mike Wolkomir entertains with "Prairie Nightmare," the song he wrote to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the deadly Barneveld tornado.



Eight years ago, the Mineral Point Historical Society staged its first Founders' Day, and the characters from The Wizard of Oz reminded the outdoor audience of the year 1939, when eleven brave local citizens stepped up, saved the Gundry home from the wrecking ball, and founded the historical society.

The organization celebrates the 75th Anniversary of their founding with a big party at Orchard Lawn on August 9th.



GARDEN TOUR A TEXTBOOK EVENT

The Stuff of Study for the Local Economy

The 6th Annual Shake Rag Alley Garden Tour gives us a glimpse of a weekend event that brought visitors to the city and encouraged the spending of tourism dollars.

The arts and crafts school's Executive Director Megan O'Connell said 136 tickets were sold for Saturday tours of five local gardens, the largest turnout in recent years.

Both local gardeners and those from other cities enjoyed a picture-perfect June day. The tours drew people from the Chicago suburbs, Madison, Eau Claire, Oshkosh, Dubuque and other cities. Each visitor was handed a list of places to dine and shop, accompanied by good verbal advice and encouragement to "See Mineral Point!"

From post-tour interviews, it's evident the tourists DID spend time — and dollars — at local business places.

It's clear from past experience that weekend events bring welcome trade to the city. It's also clear that face-to-face interactions make it more likely the tourists will return.

(Compiling hard data on tourism's economic impact is something we *should* be doing. It's only smart marketing)



FLOTSAM & JETSAM

by Frank Beaman, Editor

Don Quixote is my hero. I know, he's an anti-hero. But, these days, our supply of heroes is desperately short, and the daily news destroys our trust in the few heroes we have left. So we need a hero who is truly believable, even if he's something of a doofus. In 1620, author Miguel de Cervantes created Quixote as the Man of La Mancha, a lovable bumbler who "dreamed the impossible dream" but was knocked off his horse again and again as he pursued his fantasies and delusions.

Sounds a lot like me. Some would say, though, that I look and act more like Sancho Panza, the Don's sidekick and fictional foil. Bumping along on his ass (his donkey), Panza chased after his master, reciting trite little proverbs. Don Quixote ignored them all. Like Sancho, I'm short, potbellied, and I'd have to admit I spend far too much time on my ass.

Seated, that is, at the keyboard of a personal computer. I compose this newspaper on a big, sleek, backlit iMac desktop computer that offers 4 gigabytes of memory — that's one million times the memory built into the 1977 Apple II, the first real personal computer.

In the Age of the PC we stand in awe of technology. But, the social consequences of New Age technology are beginning to worry us. Sitting, alone, in front of some sort of glowing screen may be isolating us, driving us apart, killing our ability to converse, or to focus on what we should keep in real focus.

I can't really blame the PC for the way it wastes my time. It's only a machine, with an "on-off" button. And, there's no law that says I have to check my email twice a day, or "like" people I don't know, or spend untold hours looking at mildly diverting stuff online.

The computer is a smart, indispensable tool, a frustrating companion, and a time-waster.

I *could* be *doing* something.

That thought takes me to my second personal hero: Mickey Rooney.

In the old Andy Hardy movies, Mickey would slap on his toothy grin and run up to Judy Garland and a crowd of other teenagers, shouting, "Hey, kids, let's go out to the barn and put on a show!!"

No one ever told Mickey to get lost. They put on the show, and it was a good one.

Mickey never suggested the kids sit in a circle, looking down at their smartphones.

Heroes Don Q. and Mickey didn't wait for a committee, a grant, or an opinion poll. They took action, even if their cause was good only for laughs.

Methinks many of us have drifted to a timid, depressed outlook on life, caused by the day's myriad uncertainties. We try to keep up with the news we need, but often abandon it because it's "just too awful." We decide to ignore a situation because we feel helpless about improving the circumstance. We make judgements, and often make decisions, with our viewpoint burdened by fear and suspicion, not acceptance, excitement and optimism. We often expect failure, and thereby encourage failure. We make failure happen.

In today's atmosphere of paranoia and paralysis, we ask, "Yes, but what if something goes wrong?"

What if, instead, we said, "Okay, I hear your words and I'll help you make it happen."

That is, go right, not wrong.

When we look for trouble, we find it. When we expect success, we find it.

Don Quixote and Mickey Rooney brought childish enthusiasm to their work and play. We ridicule childish enthusiasm. Maybe we shouldn't.

In today's world, skepticism is natural and healthy. It will keep you from tilting with windmills or staging barn-shows. But cynicism, the automatic "no," or "can't," or "won't," gets nothing done.

What about, "Let's try it!"

Reversing the "Brain Drain"

It's heartening to note that three young Pointers who pointed their feet elsewhere for a time have now returned to Mineral Point and have jumped into volunteerism for Good Works in the city.



Luke Tredinnick, a grad of UW-Platteville, taught guitar at both a multicultural center in Dubuque and a high school in Galena, then came home as conductor for an Alley Stage production, played trombone at Orchard Lawn, and joined the music department at the high school. Luke will coordinate "Jammin' on the Porch" events for the rest of the season.

One of his classmates from MPHS 2002 is **Claire Johnston**, manager of the family-owned Johnston Gallery.



Claire left the Point for college, lived in Minneapolis and Madison for five or six years, then returned home. She is President-Elect of the Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the Shake Rag Alley Board. She's also credited as founder of the annual Art in Motion Parade. (where she bikes in the photo).



When he was a 13-year old wannabe woodcarver, **Mike Christensen** met Shake Rag Alley founders Judy Sutcliffe and Sandy Scott, and they gave him the first of thirteen summer scholarships for the arts school. He worked as grounds keeper/intern as his summer visits lengthened, and evolved from Woodlanders student to instructor. After college he moved to Mineral Point, became the manager of the Long Branch Gallery and joined the Shake Rag Board where he serves as Treasurer.



HISTORIC NON-PRESERVATION Why should we care about it?

Out of respect for the town, I won't reveal the location of a monstrous remuddling project that buried the graceful lines of a fine home.

Suffice to say, the building owner should have known better. And, so should the city that allowed something this ugly to ruin a row of historic buildings on the hill above the city's main highway.

That city should realize— as ALL cities should realize—that it is in large part the *physical* character of a community that defines its identity, expresses the city's values, and gives a locale its sense of place.

You live in a prime example of this truism. Visitors return to Mineral Point because of "the look and feel" of the city. They are drawn by our old buildings; and then discover, to their delight, that handsome architecture is accompanied by a friendly population, some of whom are artists, musicians, and authentic craftspeople. Visitors feel welcomed.

But it takes more than just a logo and a slogan

Pulling Mineral Point from the ugliness of forty years ago took hard work, scarce dollars, and the shared intelligence and courage to do the right things to give the city its architectural character.

That challenge, the basis for the artistic renaissance of the mid-1970s, still faces us today.

We have empty storefronts and problems with the city's infrastructure that concern us. But, they should not defeat us, and what's more, they *could* galvanize us to action.

One sign of a healthy town is its simultaneous ability to preserve its culture—that is, its history and heritage—while inventing a *new* culture—that is, developing fresh expressions that fit current times.

The concept of historic preservation is often seen as a form of stagnation, of concern only to City Hall or paid professionals. In fact, heritage and history can be the basis for innovation and advancement to

boost the local economy. Thus, it's everybody's business

Where are the models for growth?

The literature of historic preservation is rife with information and blueprints for cities large and small. In Virginia, the non-profit Historic Staunton Foundation (HSF) offered free design services for downtown business owners who agreed to restore storefronts, and some of HSF's 500 members formed a local investor's group that bought vacated buildings and then actively recruited new owners for the properties. The city carried out street beautification work and buried phone and electrical cables. Staunton now claims a 279 percent rise in average property values since 1983; and, since 2000, private investors have provided more than \$50 million for projects offering historic tax-credits. In Staunton, "Restoration is the engine of economic growth."

That's just one city, taking action instead of curling up beside its problems for a little nap. Other examples abound.

You talkin' to me?

Successful communities commonly work to establish these concepts: creative ideas (both time-tested and new), careful study of all possibilities, drafting and enforcing restoration rules and codes, involvement of all trusted local organizations, building streetscapes for arts and cultural expressions, a strong commitment to long-range goals, open discussions about programs and projects, and a firm belief that *growth* will sustain the cost of civic improvements and programs.



JUST FOR PUN

There was this guy who sent ten different puns to ten friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. The friends kept in touch with the guy.

No pun in ten did.