

THE TIMES OF MINERAL POINT

ILLUSTRATED

Vol. 4, No. 4

August, 2015

WORDS AND OCCASIONAL WHIMSEY TO AMUSE AND INFORM THE LOYAL READER



DONE!

A small group of fervent dog lovers recently went to work to create a Dog Park for Mineral Point; and, with a helping hand from local officials, their project now seems headed for fruition.

The City Council voted unanimously to arrange a lease for city-owned land in the Industrial Park near the Premium Co-Op facility to allow development of a well-designed grassy area with fencing, a covered shelter, a few dog toys, and an iron-clad set of regulations for anyone bringing their pet to the 1.5 acre park property.

Local advocates studied successful dog parks in other cities, took their case to the City Council, then welcomed the support and expertise of City Zoning Administrator Phil Mrozinski.

Mrozinski walked the area west of the Co-op, then recommended the targeted plot because "it stood out from other spots." He will assist the group in future days as legal and technical obligations are carried out.

Opening day is uncertain because of the details to be worked out, but backers hope to open the park in the fall.

With the Council's favorable vote, the group is setting up a fundraising effort to secure the dollars necessary for improvements at the park site.

Formation under the city's Point Forward umbrella organization conveys non-profit 501c3 status, so a contribution is tax deductible. Send your donation to "Mineral Point Unleashed" in care of the Dairyland Motel, 535 Ridge St., in Mineral Point.

For an email response to questions about the dog park, use aaronandmonica@me.com



The Mineral Point Market - 20 Years, and Counting

THE 2ND "PAINT THE POINT"

OUTDOOR ARTISTS RETURN TO THE CITY

By almost any measure, the first "Paint the Point" artist's weekend in Mineral Point was a significant success.

Plein air artists, about forty in number, said they found the city friendly, welcoming and accommodating. They enjoyed a wealth of "utterly paintable" subjects from which to choose. They raved about the natural beauty of the Driftless area and the thoughtful and determined historic preservation of the city's older buildings.

Their finished canvasses graced the walls of galleries, attracted crowds who speculated on the winning works, and created an "arts-buzz" for the entire August weekend.

The city's reputation as an artistic center bloomed.

The artists hobnobbed with fellow outdoor painters, won handsome cash prizes in the juried competition, and many artists sold their finished canvasses at the price they set.

We're told two of the visiting artists gushed to a volunteer, "Wow, I'd like to live here."

The city received revenue from increased foot traffic in stores, galleries, lodging and dining choices.

The 1st Annual "Paint the Point" deserved a repeat, so the event's principal sponsor, Arts Mineral Point (AMP),

invited artists to return to the city for an encore, the "Second Annual Paint the Point!" from August 5th to 8th.

This year, with anticipated participation increased to fifty-five competitors from all over the U.S., the contest will encompass three categories:



In the *Main Event*, artists will set up easels and paint from Wednesday morning through Friday afternoon. Then a jury of art professionals will judge the single, or two, paintings submitted by each artist.

The *Nocturne Event* begins Thursday evening, Aug. 6th, as participating artists paint all night and turn in their work on Friday morning.

The *Quick Paint Event* commences at 8 a.m. Saturday, and artists have two hours to create a painting in the downtown

historic district. Completed paintings will be hung, judged and available for sale by 2 p.m.

The finished work of artists in the *Main Event* and *Nocturne* competition will be exhibited and offered for sale in a silent auction format at three local venues: Longbranch Gallery on Commerce St., Wantoot Gallery on High St. and 103 Commerce Street. Paintings from the *Quick Paint* will be sold after 2 p.m. Saturday at a fourth exhibit at 261 High St.

Artists compete for \$4,000 in cash prizes. AMP receives a commission on paintings sold.

This year, AMP has invited Haiku poets to visit painters as they work, talk with them to get their point of view, then write Haiku that compliments the painting.

Following the artistic and economic success of the 2014 "Paint the Point", AMP staged a unique "Winter Paint Out" last February, giving outdoor artists a rare opportunity to paint cold-weather Wisconsin.

AMP, founded in 2013 as a non-profit organization to "nurture and promote the arts in Mineral Point," has created the "Paint Outs," built two public sculpture parks and opened an artists' incubator, activities designed to boost the city's artistic stature.

AUGUST 1st: GALLERY NIGHT A SHOWCASE



The city's Quarterly Art Stroll is a pleasant way to greet your Mineral Point neighbors, and the best way to say "thank you" to local artists, artisans and gallery owners, who work so hard to maintain a high level of artistic integrity in the work they display.

The August 1st Gallery Night featured longer hours, with shops open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and increased activity by both the host galleries and arts-related businesses, a growing list of local sponsors.

Now in their 15th year, the city's Gallery Nights are coordinated by Arts Mineral Point (AMP), which is working to increase customer traffic with strong promotion, paid advertising, snacks, live music in Library Park, and compelling artistic feature attractions.



Family fun at the "Clay Stomp."

This month's features are headlined by the annual "Clay Stomp" at Mulberry Pottery, in which potter-teacher Frank Polizzi says, "Get your toes in the mud!" from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at High and Commerce.

At Longbranch Gallery, enjoy the whimsy-works of artist Ken Koskela; see Bruce Fortney's oil landscapes at Brewery Pottery, and potter Joe Cole will be on hand to show and discuss his wood-fired pottery at The Pear.

Visit AMP's website to view 26 Gallery Night locations and a sampling of the event's art, music and dining spots.



www.artsmp.org

THE TIMES OF MINERAL POINT

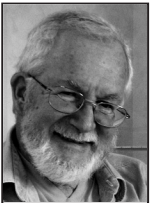
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EDITOR & PUBLISHER

FRANK BEAMAN
INVALUABLE HELP FROM
SANDEE BEAMAN

Photographs by the Editor
unless otherwise noted.

frankbeaman2@gmail.com

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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.

If we are to believe everything we see and hear, "More Jobs!" would resolve most of our national woes. More jobs, we are told, would bring us a thriving economy, rebuild our cities, reduce crime, and reintroduce a sense of pride in "the American Way."

But, as the "experts" chatter about the nation's monthly employment numbers, jobs are simply slipping away. Layoffs, salary/benefit cuts, and sending work offshore have taken a terrible toll, but a more sinister force is devouring jobs: it's our developing technologies, which are quietly but permanently replacing a great deal of human work.

Jobs are -- poof! -- gone.

And won't come back, ever.

A provocative article in *The Atlantic* magazine explores a scary-but-tantalizing thesis: that the unspoken goal of America's 200-year old Industrial Revolution may be near at hand. That is to say, *the human being has almost been replaced by the machine*.

On this page, I excerpt from Derek Thompson's probing essay because his unlikely notion may be the correct one and thus is worthy of our study and discussion. And, it turns out, some of what he envisions we already do, and do well, in Mineral Point.

Thompson points to "high-tech" machines: robots, ATMs, drones, and a host of other devices that use a computer to make decisions a wage-earning human used to make. He employs a simple equation: the capabilities of machines is expanding, but the capabilities of workers remains static, stuck in place by the workers' human-ness.

So, is any job truly safe?

The question is disturbing.

We're a nation of workers, historically proud of our industrious nature. In the U.S., the sanctity of work has shaped our politics, our economics, and our social interactions. We have generally welcomed the steady advance of technology, which has changed farming, factories, our cities, and the way we spend our hours at work and at home.

So, what if work goes away?

It's certain the evaporation of work-for-wages would produce a social transformation unlike anything America has ever seen.

In Thomas Jefferson's time, to his hearty applause, the young nation was a patchwork of small-scale farms on which families grew what they needed to stay on the farm. These farms needed only modest income; they were generally self-sustaining. But, over time, farms gave way to factories, and then, with 20th Century technologies leading the way, manufacturing gave way to Wall Street—to the new world of finance, globalization and automation.

Major inventions launched and almost always played a large role in these historic reshufflings of American life,



The FORD MOTOR CO.

Then
and
Now



A World Without Work?

By Frank Beaman

but with each new technological plateau, innovation created more (new) jobs.

What's looming today is something different: computer science and software engineering are not creating payrolls. Actually, payrolls are shrinking as technology essentially invents us out of work. The total number of jobs is declining steadily and permanently. And, many U.S. workers have dropped out of the labor market, discouraged because their skills are not in sync with today's technological demands.

Many would say, however, that current data won't support a gloomy outlook about "the end of work." Today's job numbers look rosy: 2015 unemployment stands near 5% and 2014 was the country's best year for job growth.

But, there are now three broad reasons to listen to the voices that warn of the end of work for wages:

1. Capital wins while Labor loses. U.S. economic output paid as wages stands at a record low, and *half* of the decline is due to replacing workers with computers. Wages are flat, as corporations demand more worker productivity to fatten the bottom line.

2. The quiet demise of the prime-age wage-earner (25 to 54 years). The numbers of such workers has been trending downward since 2000. Technology's ever-increasing demands have eliminated many jobs for which prime-age workers were trained, and one in six discouraged job-seekers are simply dropping out of the labor market. Young workers have it no better; real wages for recent college grads are down 7.7% since 2000.

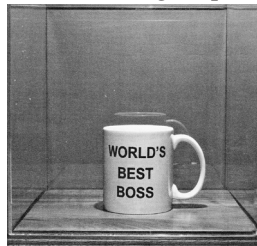
3. The dexterity of today's Information Technology (IT). In 2013, scholars at Oxford University predicted machines might be able to perform half of all U.S. jobs sometime during the next two decades.

The most common U.S. jobs—clerks, cashiers, assembly-line workers and warehouse order-fillers—are the jobs most easily automated.

Additionally, our newest industries just don't require many people to run operations—*computers* already run those operations.

So, is the end of work imminent? No, the signs are murky. But, we'd be wise to examine the possibilities and the consequences, to at least glimpse what our society could look like without universal work.

Science-fiction writers have imagined the machine's workplace takeover as a *positive* event that could mean the end of drudgery, expansive leisure time, and limitless personal freedom, as low-cost computers make life's necessities and luxuries ever cheaper and more accessible. And, a small group called "post-workists"



Workplace Relic, 2015

welcome, even root for, the end of labor, claiming most jobs are repetitive or mindless. The end of wage work, they say, would produce a new golden age of well-being in which time liberated from work would be used for better child-rearing, enhancing personal relationships, taking care of illness, and using colleges as centers for culture, not just job training credential mills.

It's easy to imagine that a re-ordering of America's leisure time activity could produce a more soulful and humane way of life than today's consumer-driven model, with pleasing revivals of esthetic, historic practices and occupations.

But what about the real world, in which someone must pay the rent and put groceries on the table?

Well, a world without work would have, at its core, less overall personal consumption, chiefly because people without money can't spend it. Shopping malls are already dying, victims of technology,

retail dinosaurs starving as their customers buy online.

Big cities, burdened with empty buildings and homes, might well be vacated in favor of smaller towns with affordable dwellings and healthy air, water, food and attitudes.

The self-sustaining family farm might be re-established, allowing former city residents to "get by" on limited income by supplying most of their needs on their own acreage.

In Agrarian America, the people who served farms were abundant: blacksmiths, woodworkers, weavers, toolmakers, and merchants. A new age of forced unemployment could restore an age of craftsmanship and artistry, of work done with the hands or with "new-tech" tools like the 3-D printer. And, freed from constraints of a formal economy, would-be writers, artists and craftspeople would find suitable life as cultural producers.

Two old practices would have a comeback: *repairing*, instead of replacing, and *bartering* for goods and services.

Income might commonly be derived from a variety of jobs, day work, and pick-up jobs found by word of mouth or from local advertisement. The loss of any one of these "spot jobs" would not mean idleness or starvation. Online market sites would allow jobseekers to browse for either a long-term or short-term project into which their skills would fit. (Example, join a crew cleaning up after a natural disaster. Or, tutoring a youngster.)

Working a contingent job doesn't sound like financial security, to be sure, but some people might thrive in a new market where hustle and versatility are rewarded.

There might be real effort to make starting a new small-scale or part-time business easier. We'd need new ways to invest and to make loans. We would also need to find a way to encourage and finance young farmers who must deal with high-priced land.

A big government program, similar to the Depression-era Works Progress Administration, could place millions of idled workers into jobs that would rescue the nation's crumbling infrastructure, build community centers, and restore public spaces. In the 1930s, the WPA placed millions of unemployed men and women into public construction projects that still stand (the Mineral Point swimming pool, for one). The huge program touched almost every American city.

Yes, I know, we need to "get real." The post-workists' visions rest on new ways to distribute U.S. wealth, which would create massive political and social storms. And, all of our traditional notions about work would have to change. Thus, at best, the Post-Work ideal is highly problematic.

But, isn't it interesting that Mineral Point, as an inclusive, cohesive and congenial small town, might serve as a model for "post-work possibilities"?

AWARD - WINNING
WRITERS HEAD TO
SHAKE RAG VALLEY

Local Arts School
offers Authors
“Getaway Visits”

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters and the Council for Wisconsin Writers provide worthy awards for literary talent as authors from all over the state compete for prizes, publication of their work, a role in the Wisconsin Book Festival, and a one-week winter residency at Shake Rag Alley School of the Arts.

The two organizations will honor ten Wisconsin writers this year. They will be offered a five-day stay in the comfortable home at 219 Washington, in Mineral Point, where they will write, or relax, and will be asked to provide community engagement for the Shake Rag Alley school, such as a writing workshop or a literary reading.

The residency program is administered by Kris McCoy, schools librarian and member of the Shake Rag Alley Board. “It’s a win-win situation; the authors enjoy a getaway where they can focus on their craft, and Mineral Point benefits from the opportunity to learn from some of the best writers in the state,” she says.

McCoy says writers often visit local schools to share their stories and demonstrate their talents with students.

Lodging is donated by Don and Lisa Hay, who own the Washington Street 1902 home, and Susan Socher of MP Dining Co. provides a gift certificate for dining.

The Writers Program at Shake Rag Alley is not as well known as the school’s workshop offerings in the more rustic arts and crafts, but the program is a good example of the spirit of the Mineral Point artistic community.

The Academy, “Where sciences, arts, and letters come together to inspire discovery,” publishes a magazine, *Wisconsin People & Ideas*, which is the only quarterly in the state that prints Poetry and Fiction to highlight literary talent. Join the Academy, get a subscription, and read the best entries in the annual writers’ contest.

www.wisconsinacademy.org/



“All good books have one thing in common -- they are truer than if they actually happened.”

- Ernest Hemingway

ON THE LOSS OF TWO LOCAL LEADERS

by Frank Beaman, Editor

MATT
OSTERGRANT

Matt Ostergrant, a Mineral Point resident, succumbed to cancer on July 21st, leaving a widow, a treasured log home, and a legacy of service as a dedicated volunteer and advocate for historic preservation.

This obituary is a column the Editor of the *Times* never wanted to write. In 2004, Matt and Denise Ostergrant moved in two doors down the street from the Beaman’s rock cottage. To welcome them, we knocked on their door and presented a basket of cookies.

We enjoyed their company early and often. We watched as Denise whipped up delicious meals in her 4’ X 4’ kitchen, we cheered as Matt installed the flawless colonial woodbox next to the iron stove, romped with their two Corgis, laughed at old movies, shared produce from our gardens and marvelled at their tall hollyhocks.

And, we stood dumbstruck as observers of their energy as tireless volunteers for Orchard Lawn and other Good Works.

Before they moved to Mineral Point, the couple led the team that beautifully restored a small church in Illinois.

Matt and Denise joined the Board of the Historical Society, and Matt eventually became President. That was after he had become the Man of All Works at the Gundry museum. An architect by training, Matt designed structures, painted signs, and fixed all the things that break in an old house.

And, in his quiet way, he preached Preservation, usually by giving us good examples of the integrity of authenticity.



The *Times* talked to Jim Stroschein, a close friend of the Ostergrants, Matt’s predecessor as President of the Society, and the leader of the long-running restoration effort at the Gundry home. Stroschein said, “Matt Ostergrant moved to Mineral Point eleven years ago and will not be forgotten.

He was scary smart. And perceptive. And exceedingly generous.

And uproariously funny. He did dozens of voices. His impersonation of Mr. Potter from the film, “It’s a Wonderful Life” wasn’t as good as Lionel Barrymore’s — it was better. (Including the snorts at the end of the sentences.)”

Stroschein said, “Matt could stand behind a lectern and give a speech or recite the Latin names for most of the flowers of the Lead Region, but could just as easily drop to the floor at home to wrestle with his two Pembroke Welsh Corgis. He called them his ‘monkeys.’

There are plenty of places around Mineral Point to visit to pay your respects to Matt, places where, as a volunteer, he designed or crafted or did both jobs, Look at the lattice-work Summer House and the Potting Shed at Orchard Lawn or the iconic Pendarvis House sign. Or, take a walk past the gardens and buildings at Shake Rag Alley where he and Denise had volunteered, or their 1840s log house on Clowney Street. Or better yet, go to Mitchell Hardware or Jim’s Barber Shop or Brewery Creek or nearly any business downtown, and the mention of Matt’s name will bring smiles and stories.”

Stroschein’s tribute ended with, “Matt said he sometimes felt that Mineral Point was a movie set and that when he entered the sidewalk along High Street, he became part of the cast. The only thing is, Matt wasn’t acting. The humor, kindness, grace and gentlemanly manner he showed were reflections of his core.

He was the finest man I’ve ever known.”

As Editor of this newspaper, I called on Matt often, when I needed a thoughtful, thorough answer, information without pretense or “fluff.”

And, I counted on him for a laugh or two. Jim mentioned Matt’s talent for impressions; in the photo [left] he *becomes* Bing Crosby, for a mock-radio show at the historical society’s *Founders’ Day* in 2006.

Matt led a life of organized activity, of good sense, of great devotion to his wife and his friends. Sandee and I were proud to be among his friends.

Or, more like his parents.

When I began writing this difficult piece, Sandee reminded me that for more than a decade I’ve always called Matt and Denise “the kids.”

Yes, I did, because I’ve always admired their ability to conduct their lives the way I’d expect them to live if they were truly my offspring.

Matt’s gone now. Denise stands in my affection as a strong and capable survivor.

But, oh God, as anyone who has ever done it knows, it’s tough to bury one of your kids.



“We need ways to feel the spirit of a place. Restoration is like making an offering, the closest thing we have to a pilgrimage.” From *The Same Ax, Twice*, by Howard Mansfield, one of Matt’s favorites

DOUG
HUEBNER



Looking up stuff.

Doug Huebner might be found digging in the gardens of his country home near Hollendale. But, for his loyal blog-friends, Doug was a different sort of digger: the politically-active citizen who patrolled the Internet in the wee hours of the early morning, gathered a batch of cartoons and comments about the news of the day, then sent his findings along to a network of local email followers.

His collection of oddments from the daily news were a morning habit for many of us, invoking laughter, groans, and shouts of outrage.

Doug and wife, Janet, were active people. Doug was the immediate Past President of the Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin. The organization sent this message to members when newsletter editor Shirley Barnes wrote of Doug’s death:

“He never wavered from his commitment to progressive causes. As Grassroots president, he worked hard for health care, immigration reforms, and environmental concerns. He and Janet were always among the first to volunteer. Doug is missed.”

Janet, a Master Gardener, kept Doug busy in the extensive gardens of their lovely country home. When their acreage was open for one of the Shake Rag Alley Garden Tours, visitors might hear him complaining, slyly, about all the shoveling and trimming needed to keep the veggies in and the rabbits out, but always with tongue-in-cheek and his ready Doug Huebner smile.

Indeed, Doug is missed.



“It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work; when we no longer know which way to go, we have begun our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings.”

--Wendell Berry



The August screening for *filmzmp* members is “The Encore of Tony Duran.” It’s an award-winning independent film featuring Elliott Gould, Gene Pietragallo, and William Katt.

The story chronicles the day “Tony finally hits bottom and traces his inspiring rebound from the brink.”

At the Mineral Point Opera House on Sunday, Aug. 9th at 7 p.m., with Social hour at 6 p.m. Guest of members are welcome for \$10.



Young
Filmmakers
Line Up for
Driftless
Film Festival

Ninety young moviemakers, representing seventeen universities from all over the world, have submitted entries for the 2015 Student Showcase Competition, which debuts at the Driftless Film Festival in Mineral Point in November.

The competition is a new educational initiative for the Film Festival, designed to put a spotlight on the work of filmmakers under age 30.

Festival Director Eve Studnicka said, “As a film student myself, I understand the value of a public screening for young filmmakers. It’s validating to have your work challenged and accepted and held to the higher standards of more experienced movie producers.”

Ten finalists will compete for a \$250 Jury Award at the Driftless Film Festival slated for Nov. 5-9 in the Mineral Point Opera House.



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Fiddle and accordion music with a Zydecco beat is coming up at Jammin’ on the Porch, the monthly musical picnic at Orchard Lawn. On Friday, Aug. 14th, the *Cajun Strangers*, from Madison, will make it a lively evening with the sounds of the cajun culture from 6 to 8 p.m. Bring a blanket, your meal, or purchase catered food at the Gundry House.



Here, Pedro Guerrero is 20, a student in Art School who was to become Frank Lloyd Wright’s personal photographer. Pedro’s widow, Dixie Guerrero, now a Pointer, announces an early screening of the PBS program at Madison’s Monona Terrace on September 1st at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

FLOTSAM & JETSAM



BY FRANK BEAMAN, EDITOR

Momentous. No. More than that. It's hard to choose the right words for recent days. "Historic" is too feeble, but it will have to do.

The electronic screens that now deliver the video clips we often mistake for history carried all those brief, cascading images: the Confederate Flag, the White House bathed in rainbow lights, a Pope with a sly grin, and (gasp!) the President as gospel songleader.

Symbols, all. But, the whole story? Well, not so much so.

So, as Resident TruthSeeker and Grump, I urge readers to take the time to go beyond television's sound bites, to find transcriptions that reveal ALL the words, and read them.

Get hold of the Pope's long Encyclical, generally credited only for his statements about Climate Change. Pope Francis laid his moral clout on the line by saying the rich have spoiled the planet at the expense of the poor, repeating his strong positions on injustice and inequality, and suggesting care for the planet depends upon taking care for each other.

White House insiders said Pres. Obama spent five hours rewriting his speechwriter's draft for the eulogy of Rev. Pinckney in Charleston. He expanded on the idea of grace to make it the central theme of the talk. He drew on Scripture, literature and history to speak of reconciliation and healing. And, he inserted lines from his favorite hymn, telling his advisors he might sing a few lines "if it feels right."

Closer to home, on a splendid night at Alley Stage, Jen Logueflower and a company of local musicians presented *HeritageSong*, a showcase for America's classic songs of sadness, celebration, and tribute.

Jen and her colleagues captured hearts and minds that night. The concert became a circle of friends. Even the birds overhead struggled to sing in the right key to avoid dissonance with the players below.

I dare to group President, Pope, and Songwriter because they gave their audiences a virtually identical message: "It's all about all of us." The concert, funeral, and sermon dealt with our common beliefs, shared values, hopes and challenges. The trio spoke of inclusion, not exclusion. They spoke of the real world, troubled and turbulent, but capable of better things in better days ahead. And, they spoke of grace, grace in an ungraceful age.

Yes, *amazing* grace.

Historic fact: 2015 is the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, where the Emperor Napoleon finally "met his Waterloo."



Phrases like that one make sense only if all members of the conversation "get it" because they have a working knowledge of history, literature, the bible or mytholgy. And, I'm told that in today's world a lot of people would know nothing about Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo. They might not even be able to identify Napoleon.

So, whose fault is that?

Shall we blame the schools, which sometimes "sacrifice" classical studies for mundane but "practical" learning?

Or, television's sitcom mentality and limited vocabulary?

Is it because we depend upon Google instead of the bookshelf at the library?

How about the family circle, where history and literature are no longer "table talk," as they once were?

Or, are we dealing with yet another sign of our evolution, a/k/a/ "Dumbing Down"?

Surveys constantly tell us far too many Americans cannot answer simple questions about everyday topics.

So, as a grumpy consumer of any scrap of alarming news about public ignorance, I must wince and stew. Furthermore, if the news is true, it's painful for us Old Timers who still use gems like "Achille's heel." (NOT a physical problem that calls for a fitness exercise!)

I genuinely hope most of us are not missing out on all the colorful, dramatic and instructive stories that lie behind so many of the "old chestnuts."

"Chestnuts?" That's a story for another day. But, if you like a good story, Google it.

2014 was the hottest year ever. Everywhere. So say 400 scientists, reporting from all over the world.

They're concerned about rising temperatures in the oceans, which means rising shorelines. And, they note the heat records are broken in the lower atmosphere, where greenhouse gasses are also at record highs.

Europe is hotter than ever. But the Eastern U.S. got a bit of a break because of an unusual cold winter. That, no doubt, is why we heard the familiar voices of the Climate Change Denial Chorus as they sang another stanza about Global Warming as a left-wing hoax.

U N I N T I M I D A T E D



Tarzan, a lost child raised by a band of gorillas, was not intimidated by the demands of the explorers who found him in the jungle. They wanted prudent, civilized behavior, but his natural instincts won out. He did what the apes had taught him to do: he swung from tree to tree, beat his chest and yelled his famous yell.

Everyone he met loved that yell. So, just a few days ago, he announced he would compete for "King of the Jungle."

But, as he zipped from tree to tree, skeptics jumped up at every stop, asking questions about his qualifications for Jungle King.

Tarzan answered the pesky questions with big, bold tales about his adventures and his flawless record of victories.

Could he wage war? "As a child," Tarzan said, "I was attacked by Kerchak, the giant gorilla, but I killed him and went on to lead his tribe."

His diplomatic skills? "I challenged the Count Raoul de Coude to duel with me."

Someone asked how he'd outlast his political opponents. Tarzan said, "On the boat to Cape Town, I was ambushed and thrown overboard, but I swam to shore."

He spoke of a brush-up with pygmies. "That's how I deal with protestors," he said.

"I fight and I win!"

Finally, he was asked why he always seemed to be angry. "Listen," Tarzan replied, "the only candidates people listen to are the candidates who are always angry."

"And, if you're not angry, you can't start a fight, and if you can't fight you can't win."

Then he yelled his yell.

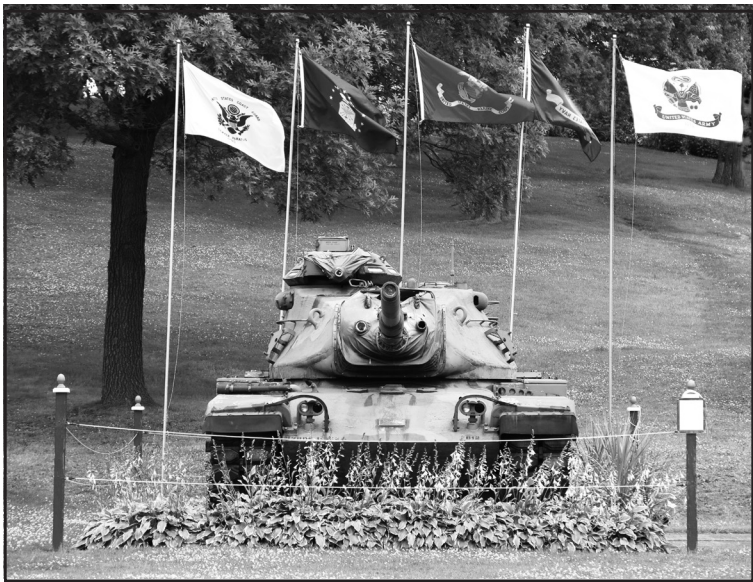
And, everyone was swept away by the sound. They danced. They threw money into the big coconut shell.

"Then you really think you can win?"

Tarzan just chuckled. "Once you've killed a lion with your bare hands and a thin-bladed knife, the rest is easy."



**A Fable
for our times.**



THE BATTLE TANK IN SOLDIERS PARK

In a storied public park, a place originally named to honor the nation's armed forces, the old Patton M60A3 battle tank stands as a monument to the Americans who fought in the wars of the 20th Century.

The August 1, 1996 issue of the Mineral Point Democrat-Tribune includes an account by long-time Editor Jeanie Lewis, telling the community about its new acquisition. The local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) had been selected to receive the weapon from the U.S. Army's tank command, acting through the state's Dept. of Military Affairs.

And, obviously, Soldiers Memorial Park was the right spot to set down the machine of war, because the park was created in 1921 as a memorial to the dead and the surviving veterans of World War I.

"A hell of a lot of fighting machine"

The M60A3 was the third model in a series of battle tanks made by General Dynamics Co. The Patton tank was the Army's workhorse for three decades, from its introduction in 1960 to Operation Desert Storm in 1991, where the tank was clearly the "weapon of choice" for battles fought in the sands.

The main gun on the tank was a 105 millimeter cannon with 63 rounds of ammunition. Next to that gun's long barrel was a machine gun, and many tanks were fitted out with grenade launchers as well. With a 750-horsepower diesel engine, the tank could claw its way across rough country at 10-12 miles per hour and rumble at 30 mph on roadways. Its range was more than 300 miles. It could climb steeply and ford streams up to eight feet deep.

The tank's claim to fame, however, was its gun guidance system. It calibrated various inputs and downloads to aim and accurately fire its guns against moving enemy targets while the tank itself was on the move.

About 15,000 of the "A3s" were produced and shipped to the armies of twenty-two countries. Middle East nations still deploy the tank, although the U.S. has generally moved on to a different sort of warfare.

The U.S. Army phased out the M60A3 in 1997 and the tanks became war memorials for deserving locations. And, Mineral Point was on the list.

Today, flags flutter behind the tank, and its flanks are buried in flowers. The flags salute five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Soldiers Park's Colorful History

On November 11, 1921, the city opened Soldiers Memorial Park. Commemorating both Armistice Day and Arbor Day, teacher Lillian Hosken and her pupils planted three black walnut trees in honor of the Grand Army of the Republic, the American Legion and the Red Cross.

Mineral Point built not only a park but a man-made lake for boating and swimming, and by the spring of 1922 had also built a large dance pavilion, roads, camp sites, tennis courts and a restaurant. A second official dedication added park memorials to the soldiers of the Spanish-American War and World War II.

The pavillion and "The Lake" drew big-name dance bands (a one-night stopover point for musicians traveling between Chicago and the Twin Cities). "Thursday Night Dances" put 400-500 couples out on the pavillion's wooden floor and provided a profit used later to help finance the construction of the park's swimming pool, one of the depression-era projects of the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

In 1935, a 15-20 man WPA crew blasted 4,500 cubic yards of rock from the hillside, put back 1,175 tons of stone, poured almost 900 cubic yards of cement, then filled the Olympic-sized finished project with 414,000 gallons of water.

The years went by. The lake went dry. The dance pavillion collapsed, buried in snow. A bandstand/kiosk was torn down a few years ago.

There have been additions to balance the losses: the tennis courts, playgrounds, baseball diamond, and pleasant places for a picnic or family reunion.

And, in the shadow of the old Patton tank, there's a great spot to watch the fireworks on the 4th of July.

Source: Mineral Point Archives, www.army-technology.com.