THE TIMES OF MINERAL POINT

ILLUSTRATED

Vol. 4, No. 3 July, 2015

WORDS AND OCCASIONAL WHIMSEY TO AMUSE AND INFORM THE LOYAL READER

GAD & PICK:

Miner's Pub Opens

The rough and rowdy lead miners of early Mineral Point ended their long, arduous day at a pub, kicking back with a pint and a few laughs.

Now, modern-day Pointers can also enjoy the conviviality of a pub, conveniently located at the foot of High Street.

Anne and Bruce Palzkill have leased the "Set in Stone" building, and are opening an eclectic new bar called **Gad & Pick, A Miner's Pub.**

The name was selected, Anne told the *Times*, "because we envisioned a place that showcased the city's historic roots." A local history book spoke of the tools used by the local lead miners, and the pick and gad caught the Palzkills' attention. (They have a pick to hang in their bar and are searching for an authentic gad, a pointed iron bar or spike.)

Local historians provided useful research, and the large Palzkill family, a group made up of many trades, brought their various talents to the startup "ToDo" list.

Jared Whitford, a nephew who is a wine distributor in Madison, will guide beverage selections for the bar.

"Our general idea is to extend inviting and comfortable hospitality to the city's local residents and visitors. We'll serve beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages and 'Finger Foods' — our 'Pointified' versions of Spanish Tapas plates. We'll also offer 'Provisions': WiFi service, handmade and found items, photos, local art, and Wisconsin novelties."

"Gad & Pick," Anne Palzkill says, "will be a place to gather with friends and family for conversation, a board game, or trivia nights."

A Mineral Point pickup band, atop a flatbed float in the city's Fourth of July parade

HONOR THE "SPIRIT OF '76"

We call it the Fourth of July.

Not too long ago, we called it Independence Day.

Back in the 1770s, in the original Thirteen Colonies, it was traditional to celebrate the ruling British king's birthday every year with summer bonfires, parades and speeches. But, in 1776, after the early skirmishes of the Revolutionary War, that tradition changed radically: the citizenry staged a mock *funeral* for King George instead, but they kept the bonfires, the parades, and the speeches. And, someone always read the new Declaration of Independence aloud.

A good idea!

Then, as now, the day celebrates America's indomitable spirit of patriotism at the traditional events: parades, picnics, fireworks, foot races, rallies, concerts and reunions.

It's much more than just "a day off," and it *should* be much more than "a day to do whatever you want to do."

Thomas Jefferson and the others who drafted the stirring Declaration in 1776 used high-flying words — "Liberty, Self-determination, Freedom, the Pursuit of Happiness" — but they weren't talking about "unrestrained license in the selfish pursuit of personal pleasure." They called for individual rights, but with a strong sense of citizen responsibility. THAT'S the "The Spirit of '76."

Spirit of '76, by Ohio painter Archibald MacNeal Willard in 1875

The Declaration signed on July 4, 1776 told England the American Colonies regarded themselves as independent and sovereign states, free from the tyranny of the privileged ruling class, with political power vested in the will of the People. The Declaration gave a young nation an experiment called "democracy", a revolution of ideas, an improbable historic event in which the strong voices of a few patriots energized Early Americans who had previously felt that independence from the control of London was only a dream.

No one present at the beginning had any idea how things would turn out. In the history of the world, there had been no successful colonial rebellion against imperial domination.

The War, fought 1775 to 1783, relied on farmers called in from their fields to beat back the British army, the most powerful military force on the globe. Then, a fraternity of colonials patched together their new Republic, governed by representatives who are elected by the citizenry.

Jefferson & Co. have given us a gift, and a challenge. No other nation gives its citizens well-defined rights, based on a Constitution written to provide power to "We the People."

"A Republic," T.J. famously said, "if you can keep it."

Think about that; and, as the fireworks dim, dig out your Civics Class copy of the Declaration of Independence, our most important document. Read it aloud, as the Patriots did.

DEMOCRAT-TRIBUNE EDITOR TAKES SCHOOLS POSITION

Joelle Doye to serve as District Communicator

After eight years as Editor of Mineral Point's weekly newspaper, and eight recent months as a part-time schools media coordinator, Joelle Doye, 31, will enlarge her role. On July 1st she begins full-time work as Communications Director for the local District schools.

"I will miss many things about the Democrat-Tribune," Doye told the Times. "I'm grateful to the newspaper for teaching the skills—writing, journalism, and photography — that have equipped me for my new work."

Following a debate on the need and cost of the job, the School Board recently voted to create the new position, seen as a means to improve communications with parents, the news/social media, and the taxpaying public. Doye will work with the Press, pursue publicity, provide Board meeting summaries and other documents, set up information and quick-response networks, conduct surveys, develop an alumni base, strengthen relationships with business and service clubs, create a blog, and perform other services.

"I'll listen to everyone who'll keep me in the loop, because feedback from the public is vital," she says. "We're working to provide more transparency and build trust."

Doye's has a degree in Education. "My heart never left it," she says, "I'm passionate about school issues. The schools are important to Mineral Point, and we all need to know that, even if we don't have a child in the classrooms."

[Editorial Note: Joelle has gained maturity on the path from Kid Reporter to Communicator. We wish her Good Luck in a tough job.]

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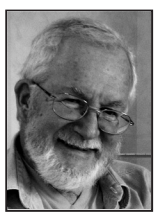

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Call the FREE Shopping News at (608) 348-2374 if you are not now receiving each Tuesday's delivery.

Or… visit our WEBSITE to read every issue.
timesofmineralpoint.org

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.

LOCAL SCHOOLS TAKE A HIT FROM STATEHOUSE BUDGETMAKERS

A well-attended Grass Roots Public Forum in early June heard District Schools Superintendent Luke Francois issue a fact-filled warning: Mineral Point Schools will be adversly affected by the state's budget for the next two years.

"We are now experiencing declining enrollment and increasing poverty," Francois said. "The cost to educate our students goes up while the revenue to educate students goes down." That pattern is familiar to the rural schools in Wisconsin, about 50% of all schools in the state. Mineral Point has seen shrinking state aid in the last four years. When the Superintendent arrived in the city in 2011, the local district had already eliminated programs in foreign language and family and consumer education, had cut or reduced staff, frozen salaries, and increased teacher contributions to health insurance and the state's retirement system.

Additionally, the district faced a structural deficit of $1.1 million. "Financial ruin," he said.

"The Mineral Point community approved a referendum to end the deficit, but the schools are in a death spiral every year because money from the school funding formula cannot cover increasing expenditures for better school performance."

Francois said the schools have scrambled to keep up, and have been forced to issue new hats to the staff to fill essential positions. (Meaning five jobs for Francois, and extra jobs for the Principals and many teachers.) School Nurse and Police Liaison positions are part-time, and there is no social worker or instructional coach to support teachers.

Buildings and grounds suffer, too. Francois cited 60-year old plumbing, asbestos in floor tiles, aging boilers, worn carpets, crumbling parking lots and "a water heater that literally has visible flames through the side wall of the tank." The High School's athletic field has waited for bleachers and lights for twenty years. And, classrooms without air conditioning have forced the closing of summer school each of the past three years.

In the real world of everyday learning, the schools face fixed costs over which schools have little control. Property insurance goes up 43% as the state kills the Local Government Insurance Property Fund. Transportation costs rise 6.5% this year, up $315,000. Health insurance, food services, electricity and Internet costs, fuel to run the buses and heat the buildings, all increase.

The district must also bear increased costs for special education services, in part because the state has frozen that funding for the past eight years.

But, in the new state budget, there is no scheduled increase for state-imposed revenue limits for the next two years. "Next year's budget," Francois said, "will be comparable to the level of funding in 2009, but it obviously costs more to educate kids in 2016 than it did in 2009."

The Superintendent cited a report in the *Wisconsin State Journal* that points to a 7.5% decline in enrollments in rural school districts from 2000 to 2010. That slide penalizes the rural schools because their revenue limits, which are tied to enrollments, drop at a rate of about $10,000 per student. Doing the math, that's $10,000 less in school aid, while the continuing costs of running the buses, food for the cafeteria, and paying custodians, teachers and administrators remains steady.

"So where," Francois asked, "do the schools cut back to fill the gap?" He answered himself, "Most often reductions come at the expense of what is good for kids."

When fixed expenses outpace state revenues, cuts have to be made, angry parents and teachers fill the boardrooms as the blame falls on school officials instead of state lawmakers, and referendums pass or fail. It's that way in every school district across Wisconsin, and it's clear there's a shift in revenue distribution under way: the suburban schools and private charter schools are draining the pool of dollars while rural schools struggle for adequate funding.

"Our schools' deficit will grow to $800,000 in as few as five years," Francois told the audience, "and will use up the current fund balance by 2018."

Luke Francois was blunt in his final remarks to a gloomy audience. He pointed out state government's legal responsibility to public schools under the terms of the Wisconsin Constitution. "I publically declare," he said, "that Wisconsin is no longer fulfilling its mission to provide the financial basis for equal educational opportunity for our children."

VOLUNTEERS BADLY NEEDED

YES, WE KNOW YOU'RE BUSY, BUT . . . If you can donate a few hours to a good cause, join the hard-working crew at Shake Rag School, which needs GARDENERS, HANDY-PERSONS, GRANT-WRITERS, MARKETING/FUNDRAISERS, BLOGSTERS, GO-FERS, MESSENGERS & EVENT ORGANIZERS -- Please contact: kitto42@gmail.com or megan.shakeragalley@gmail.com

HeritageSong:
All-American Melody and Story.

As a holiday-eve sequel to her earlier musical tributes, Jen Logueflower has created a collage of bold Independence Day melodies — the timeless American songs, tied together with an historical narrative and contemporary comment.

HeritageSong draws on a collection of familiar patriotic standards, spirituals and folk songs, with fresh vocal and instrumental arrangements written by Logueflower and performed by a talented local group of ten music-makers.

The format is similar to her 2011 and 2013 PoemSong productions at Alley Stage, but instead of poetry she gives the audience old musical favorites and special treats, such as the Bill of Rights and "words on the base of the Statue of Liberty," but in melodic form.

Friday, July 3rd at 7:30 p.m. on the outdoor Alley Stage. Tickets $17.50, Students $12, at Shake Rag School. For reservations and advance tickets call 608.987.3293.

WOODLANDERS WEEKEND OFFERS 50 WORKSHOPS

The annual **Woodlander's Gathering** pulls a population of rustics — artists and learners — to the Shake Rag Alley School of the Arts. Over four mid-summer days, they carve, chop, weave, lash, drill, saw, and, most importantly, they celebrate their creative skills.

Often called"Summer Camp for Adults," it's a marathon of imagination and hands-on instruction, with dozens of choices for workshops in twig furniture, mosaic and stone work, blacksmithing, garden art and much more. Whether you are an experienced artisan or a beginner, the school's faculty will open your mind to what's possible when you take a few scraps from nature's storehouse, add a little of your own muscle, and go home with a prized possession.

Check the website to see all the possibilities for fun and lifetime learning in a gorgeous natural setting.

A Wild Pointer Party

City Celebrates End of 1832 War

When the three months of the Black Hawk War drew to a close, the rowdy mining camp called Under the Shake Rag had very few buildings but boasted three taverns. The men who dug in the "badger holes" on the nearby hillsides frequented those rude watering holes because, as it was written, "Of money was plenty but of care there was none." Those words are taken from the venerable *History of Iowa County, 1881*, a resource for much of our local history.

Here is a verbatum account, in the book's archaic language, vividly describing an 1834 celebration that took place after the Battle of Bad Axe ended the skirmishing between the White Man and the Sauk/Fox tribes.

There had not been any demonstration of a public character previous to this time of such magnitude, so it was determined by the entire community that they would indulge in a grand barbecue, with roast ox and everything on a magnificent scale. Uncle Ab Nichols [tavern keeper] was the presiding genius at the feast, than whom none better could have been found in the State, and Captain John O'Neill was Marshall of the Day and general master of ceremonies.

At the proper hour, he, in company with a noble band of "dragoons" arrayed in fantailed jackets of blue, with peaked hats on their heads, from which fluttered red feathers, and armed with a collection of muskets, shotguns, horse pistols, old army sabers, and mounted on "slim, slick and slender" long-eared and short-tailed nags, rode forth to meet General Dodge, the principal figure of the occasion, and escorted him to the scene of operations.

But who can adequately portray the scenes of the day: speechmaking by Gen. Dodge, D.M. Parkinson and many others; Then, feasting in the open air under a procession of boughs erected on the banks of the Mineral Point Branch, just opposite the end of High Street, which concluded with a dance that was begun as soon as dinner was over and continued until the following day, when the fiddler was exhausted, and they had to stop.

The crowd was immense for that time, yet that was nothing strange, for nearly everybody was present from within 25 to 40 miles around. Those who were there will never forget that day, for they probably never experienced the like of it, before or since.

3 • HERITAGE SONG – A PATRIOTIC SONGFEST

What could be better than a stirring mix of history and well-narrated music, in an extra-special setting on the outdoor Alley Stage? Read about the Pre-4th Gala in the story on Page 2.

4 • THE INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE & MORE

The mid-summer Holiday lasts all day! At 8 a.m., hit the road with the 34th Annual "Gettin' the Lead Out" run, 2 or 5 miles on our hilly streets. The 4th of July Parade steps off at 11 a.m., followed by the Noon Steak Sandwich Lunch (hot dogs, too) at Water Tower Park, with music by the Alen Bauman Band & Special Guests. Ball games continue all day at Soldier's Park, where you'll find Pie a la Mode at 6 p.m., hear the City Band's annual concert, and watch the big fireworks display about 9:30 p.m.

9-12 • WOODLANDERS WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

In its 14th year, the annual Woodlanders event offers four days of rustic adventure for crafts lovers of all skill levels. Read about the possibilities on Page 2, grab the big Shake Rag Alley School catalog or check the school's website, and sign up!

10 • BIRD CALLS AT JAMMIN' ON THE PORCH

This month's picnic concert features the sounds of the Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers, musicians Joe Hart and Nikki Grossman from Viroqua WI. Bring a basket and a bottle, or buy a sandwich on the grounds at Orchard Lawn. 6 to 8 p.m.

10-12 • HAIKU RETREAT WITH TOM PAINTING

Haiku devotees have an opportunity to hear Tom Painting, one of the leading teachers in the country, conducting workshops at Foundry Books. Contact Gayle Bull at jgbull@mhtc.net

14 • THE MEKONS ONLY SMALL-TOWN GIG

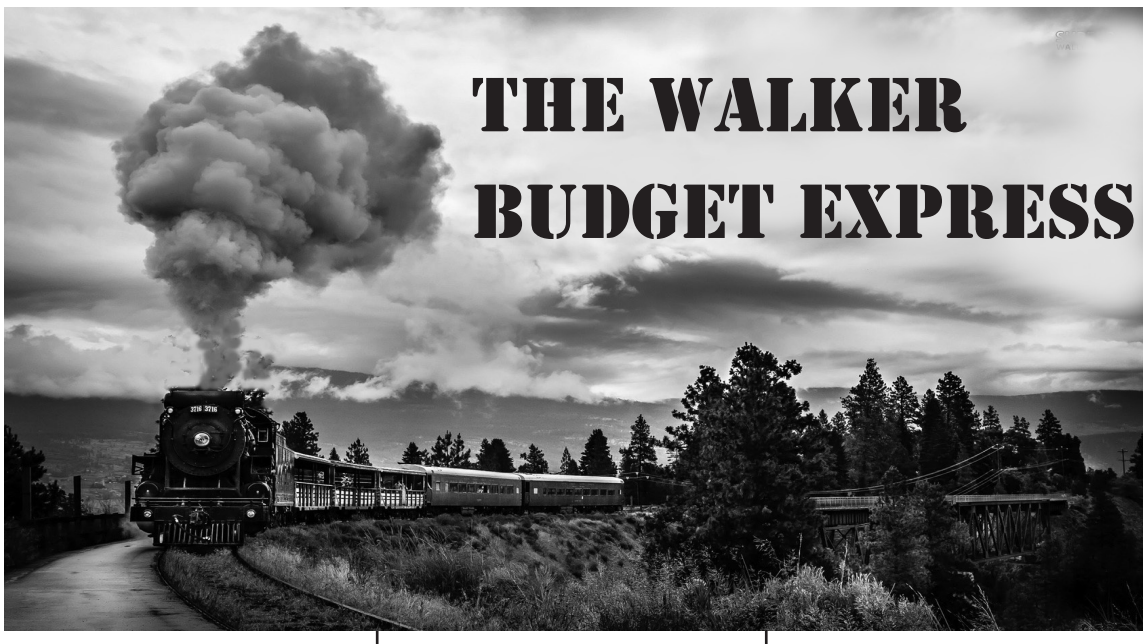
The most prolific of the early British punk-rock bands hits the Opera House on July 14th, with their post-punk blend of rock, country and folk music. It's their only small-town stop on their current U.S. tour. Tickets, $15 at Berget Jewelers.

25 • FERNEKE LECTURE AT WALKER HOUSE

If you've enjoyed the Max and Eva Fernekes exhibit, now at Pendarvis, listen to the tender, happy and quirky background story on the couples' "Life, Love and Art in Mineral Point," an illustrated dinner presentation by the renowned art historian Cliff Krainik. July 25th. Cocktails at 6:30, a Cornish meal at 7, the talk at 7:45. Reservations required. Tickets: $13.

Details: www.thewalkerhouse.org/contact/

At the city's Art in Motion Parade, the multi-talented Roland Sardeson donned an artist's smock and beret, took on the role and attitude of an Impressionist painter, and pushed his mobile easel down High Street. Here, he pauses at the Green Lantern Gallery to chat with Jane Kavaloski, in a scene one could imagine as taking place during a day way back in Van Gogh's time.



THE WALKER BUDGET EXPRESS

BY FRANK BEAMAN

The Walker Budget Express is shaking the soil in Wisconsin like a steam-driven train roaring through a nearby railway crossing.

An edgy taxpaying public asks, "Are we now on track, or have we slipped off the rails?"

Spelling out all the details and measuring the likely impact of the Walker Budget would overwhelm the limited space on these pages, so I must appeal to readers, as good citizens, to visit a reliable source of truthful information and study how the state's elected officials will use the dollars that shape and often dictate the quality of Wisconsin life.

Chances are, few people will change their political stance after examining the budget process. We tend to see what we want to see, and we stick with our past allegiances. So, voters will "Stand with Walker," or feel they've been "Crushed by Walker's Legislative Locomotive."

But, whether you are outraged or you applaud, no one should be surprised. The route for the Walker Express was mapped out several years ago.

Truth is, the people of Wisconsin are both divided and conquered, pretty much the way Scott Walker envisioned it in a chat with one of his early big-money backers, a 2011 conversation that wasn't supposed to go public: "We're going to start with our budget adjustment bill," Walker said. "The first step is, we're going to deal with collective bargaining for all public employee unions, because you '*use divide and conquer*.'"

Scott Walker has made good on that strategy and a few other promises he made to his backers, a loose coalition of conservative donors, think tanks and right-wing radio hosts. These sponsors paved the political road for Walker, then a little-known Milwaukee County Executive. He got the attention of conservative benefactors well before his 2010 election by pledging to "go big and bold," to battle labor unions and liberals, to partner with business, and deliver on tax cuts and school choice.

His early patron, Michael W. Grebe, was his campaign chairman in 2010, the Recall election, and in 2014. Grebe is president of the Bradley Foundation, a source for ideas and tens of millions in financing for conservative causes. As a tax-exempt nonprofit, the Bradley Foundation cannot by law donate to Walker's campaigns, but in 2010 provided more than $2 million in grants to think tanks that promoted Walker's small-government platform.

The Foundation also sent dollars to Grover Norquist's *Americans for Tax Reform*, the *Heritage Foundation*, and to *Americans for Prosperity*, the Koch Brothers' group that staged Tea Party gatherings at which Walker spoke.

And, as the Express rolls along, we see the long shadow of the corporate-funded *American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)*, which writes model legislation as a "convenience" for conservative state governments. Act 10, the first of the "bombs" Walker promised to drop in 2010, mimics the ALEC draft of an anti-union bill.

But, even before he opened his 2010 campaign, Walker clashed with unions and called for cost savings by cutbacks in the public sector. He praised privatization as a cost-cutting device. He even imagined disassembling the very offices he then administered.

Furor over Walker's early action to cripple collective bargaining gave him a national network of donors and groups, who ponied up $37 million to defend Walker in the Recall, with 2/3rds of that sum from donors outside Wisconsin.

And, at some point, talks began to focus on the White House, and road trips to greet conservatives who are hungry for a leader willing to take big risks for Republican goals.

On national TV, Walker's 2014 victory speech boasted, "In Wisconsin, we get things done." From that day to now, his team has "used divide and conquer" to *convince* wealthy backers and all conservatives that, indeed, the Walker Statehouse "gets things done."

Walker has the will, *and* the votes, to be as aggressive as he wants to be, because the GOP Wave of 2010 gave him the Governor's chair and all three branches of state government: the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. Lopsided majorities in the Senate and Assembly meant the Republicans could enact their agenda with scant opposition from Democrats, who simply lacked the votes to hinder the tide of GOP measures and the conservative ideology embedded in those proposals. (As a Democrat from the Assembly told a local audience, "When we have 36 votes and they have 63, we might as well be fence posts.")

The only thing that slowed down the Walker Express was a degree of discomfort among Republicans who feared public pushback over the harsh austerity of budget proposals. Hearing loud outcries from so many affected targets, and reading the protest petitions, the GOP's Joint Finance Committee was reluctant to give the Governor everything he asked for. They pulled back or watered down several of the budget measures to soften the most severe funding cuts, to table punishment aimed at Progressives, and to erase the social policy items, tucked into the budget, that were unrelated to the state's fiscal condition.

But, the budget-writers did not derail the Walker Express. The hands that shovelled coal for the Walker locomotive boosted the GOP's platform for limited government, free market economics, tax relief for the wealthy, privatization, and favors for big business. And, almost as a sideshow, lawmakers enacted several conservative social positions.

It's fair to say the budget has produced more howls than cheers, and the Governor's Approval Ratings have dropped in recent days. News reports, Internet chats and water cooler conversations all seem overwhelmingly negative. Critics shout about slashed funding for education, the environment, health care, transportation, rural interests, and anti-poverty groups, and by the punitive tone of attacks on political or social enemies.

The oft-expressed sentiment is that the new budget tears down more than it builds.

Defenders of the budget concede the spending plan is often contrary to the public will, but say its provisions will ultimately benefit the state.

Let's face it, the arguments will not change anything. At a recent forum on the new state budget, State Representative Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville) faced an angry audience and answered questions about possible changes in the budget by saying, no less than eighteen times by one count, "Well, unfortunately, the train has already left the station."

"Well, here's another nice mess you've gotten me into."
-- Oliver Hardy to Stan Laurel (1930)

FLOTSOM & JETSOM

BY FRANK BEAMAN, EDITOR

I love sight gags. And slapstick, as in the old films: the Laurel & Hardy, Groucho Marx, Buster Keaton, Danny Kaye epics. My all-time favorite is *Airplane!* and I was thrilled to meet the creator of that masterpiece, Jim Abrahams, when he taught classes at Shake Rag Alley a few years ago.

I know, I know. My readers, subjected in recent editions to my sober-sided Geezer Rants, will *surely* find it hard to believe I can be anything but deadly serious.

Well, I'm *not* always serious. And, stop calling me Shirley.

I take pains to tell you about my lighter side, because, in this issue, I print a few critical views of the Governor's new budget and gloomy predictions about our schools.

It's not that I'm in "attack mode." No. I sound off on "The Walker Budget Express" to lend needed historic perspective Walker's agenda and the Legislature's support for it.

Looking back on the 2010 election and the GOP's total takeover in the Badger State, I ask *Times* Readers, "Well, what did you expect?"

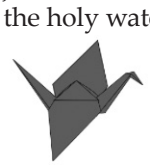
I'm certainly aware my commentary may offend some of my readers. I'm not a happy camper when I feel I need to "sound off." I'd rather focus on our good life in a remarkable small town and the good progress we're making in so many of our endeavors. But, when I study what's happening under the Capitol dome, I'm not only *motivated* to write critically; I'm OBLIGATED to write critically.

During thirty-five years as a news reporter, I exercised great care whenever I wrote about the political process. That was during the 1960s and 70s, the so-called "Golden Age of Broadcast News." In those lost days, reporters simply told their audiences what had happened, usually right after it happened. News accounts referred to the past, but did not speculate on the future.

There were few pundits. And, because news reporters were not celebrities, they had few ways to exaggerate their exploits in the field. (Brian Williams & NBC, please copy.)

That was a different day, in a spin-free media world, a day better than today's 24/7 "gotcha journalism," in which almost everyone is offended by almost everything.

Even the Pope faces some nasty backlash. He dares to speak out on climate change, gay marriage, and other hot buttons. I'm guessing there are voices shouting, "Hey, Francis, just break the wafer, sprinkle the holy water, and be quiet."



Pope Francis is on the record for world peace, too.

A world free of nuclear weapons is also the vision of the Iowa County Citizens for Peace. Their membership, and all who want to join in, will fold paper origami cranes at a Mineral Point fun/work session on July 8th & 15th at the Library, from 1 to 3 p.m. The peace group hopes to send 1,000 cranes to Los Alamos, where the atomic bomb was created. It's all part of a nationwide effort to send 70,000 paper birds to New Mexico, to mark the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima/Nagasaki. The symbolism is interesting: using the ancient Japanese art of paper-folding to commemorate Japan's worst tragedies.

Maybe we could get a group of Pointer volunteers together and fold a few thousand red origami paper BADGERS. We could send them off to our elected lawmakers in Madison to remind them they work for the people of Wisconsin, not the transnational corporations, not the billionaires who own the political process, and not the Governor & Possibly Next President of the United States.

Surely I can't be serious about this. True.

But, stop calling me Shirley.

AMP Scores a JEM Grant

At a recent Walker House ceremony, the Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism presented a $7,200 grant to officers of Arts Mineral Point(AMP).

The Joint Effort Marketing (JEM) award is earmarked for heightened marketing and promotional activity for AMP's Second Annual "Paint the Point" event, in August.

The Wisc. Tourism Secretary, Stephanie Klett, emphasized the economic impact of the plein air event, which draws artists from a wide geographic area to Mineral Point where they enjoy executing outdoor paintings of the region's natural beauty. "The arts are very important to communities across Wisconsin," she said.

Klett reported that the state's tourism economy totaled $18.5 billion in 2014. Iowa County tourism rose 7% last year, and business sales attributed to tourism topped $52 million, supporting more than 425 jobs and collecting more than $3 million in state and local taxes.

Last fall's three-day "Paint Out" was considered a major success, attracting artists for a juried competition and exhibiting and selling their works. AMP followed up with a unique "Winter Paint Out" in February, which was also well-attended and well-received.

AMP will use the JEM grant funds for radio and print advertising to boost interest in the August event.

AMP Team Leader Ried Knapp said, "We work with a limited budget, to keep our projects sustainable, and this award from the Tourism Department will help us grow the "Paint Out," bring more artists to Mineral Point, and enhance the city's artistic reputation."

DOING IT RIGHT:

The virtues of Historic Preservation

For many years, Kathleen Nutter has worked at her looms on the 2nd floor of the 1866 Clauer Building at 232 High Street. This year, however, she is moving her hand-weaving studio and shop to the ground level, in the space vacated by Town & Country.

Kathy and Paul Backstrom are doing more than opening a new shop. They are bringing the stone building back to its historic roots. Working with a contractor, Alex Hendricks [Photo, right], the couple are chipping paint, sanding the Lanyon iron columns, and working to restore the twin front windows and the store's interior rooms to their historic profiles.

It's an expenditure of time and money some would call unecessary, but Paul and Kathy are among the proud Pointers who place value on the city's architectural heritage and are pledged to align their property with preservationist authenticity and integrity.

A few doors away, at 214 High Streeet, Dee Hooks and her husband are tearing at the walls and ceiling in her DeeConstruction Studio, after aquiring the 1860 Hanscom Bookstore building last year. The structure once housed a seamstress, and sewing machines. To mark progress, Dee has set up a window display with more than 500 wooden thread spools that have fallen from hidden places as their careful restoration continues.

Showing a sense of humor while working long, hard days with hands-on reconstruction is emblematic of the Mineral Point attitude.

The number of well-done historic preservation projects should be applauded because "taking the building back in time" is often an expensive voluntary effort performed only by those who realize historical character is important to our city, and that preservation makes both aesthetic and economic sense.

Buildings that are inside the city's Historic Overlay District are subject to the regulations of the city's 1987 Preservation Ordinance, and property owners must obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness before making changes to the exterior of their buildings. There is some confusion about the demands made by the ordinance, but it's easy to simply ask yourself "Does my building have historic significance?" If it does, check in with the city's appointed Historic Preservation Commission, a panel made up of your neighbors. They want to be *partners* with historic property owners, offering good advice, money-saving tips, tax credit information and reliable guidance on how to comply with the regulations.

Hip-Hip-Hooray for those who are "doing it right!"

Gathered around the city's latest example of public art, Bill Grover's "Will Rust for Peace," AMP revelers include (L to R) Kandy Keuler, Ainsley Anderson & her kids, Sharon Rowe, Kathy Vaillancourt, Allen Schroeder, Ried Knapp, Brian Stuart, Dorothy Meade , Kathy Knapp, Bruce Howdle, Bill Grover, Joy Gieseke, Tourism Sec. Stephanie Klett, Lori Pittz and Debi Heisner

LAST WORDS

Writers of newspaper headlines toil in total anonymity, but among the ink-stained and intemperate fraternity of tabloid scribes, Vincent Musetto of the *New York Post* stands out. He spread across the *Post's* Page 1 for April 15, 1983, the words that are widely credited as the most anatomically evocative headline in the history of U.S. journalism:

HEADLESS BODY IN TOPLESS BAR

He died -- where else? -- in the Bronx. Vince was 74.