

THE TIMES OF MINERAL POINT

ILLUSTRATED

Vol. 4, No. 2

June, 2015

WORDS AND OCCASIONAL WHIMSEY TO AMUSE AND INFORM THE LOYAL READER

HOME DECOR SHOP OPENS

**"At Home on
High Street"**

Local Trio offers
Furnishings,
Window Treatments,
and
Interior Design
Consulting



The doors of the 1897 Brewer & Penhallegan building swing open this month as Becky Cook, Mary Delaney and Ashley McCoy establish a new home decorating center, "At Home on High Street."

Cook and Delaney's retail store will feature furniture, home accessories, and lighting. Cook will offer custom window designs and treatments.

McCoy, a member of the American Society of Interior Designers, will consult with residential and small-scale commercial clients on interior design and home styling.

Furnishings, home accessories, window treatments and interior design often overlap, so the new decor center's three proprietors will be able to offer customers a complete line of design/decorating services.



**MAY SORUM
LAUNCHES
MAY DAY PRESS**

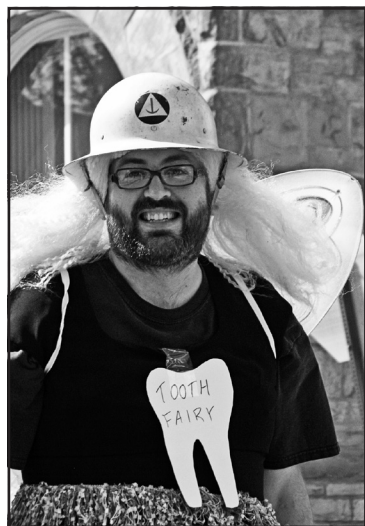
Artist/Designer May Sorum will demonstrate the dramatic qualities of "old-fashioned" letterpress printing, when she opens her new studio on June 6th. Sorum's retail space in the historic warehouse at 111 Commerce Street will offer art printing, note cards and pads, art supplies and much more.

During June Gallery Night, visitors can "ink up," then "Make Your Own Postcard" on an embossed printed page.



GALLERY NIGHT on JUNE 6th

Art in Motion Parade, Carriage Rides, Live Music & Works of Art



It's an explosion of color, costumes, comedy, and local artistry.

The city's "Art in Motion Parade" is a unique feature of a full day of celebration on June 6th, one of four Gallery Nights held during the calendar year.

Arts Mineral Point (AMP), the city's advocacy organization for the arts, accepted administrative duties for Gallery Nights last year and set about building the event's scope. The AMP team has enlarged sponsorship participation in the event, increased the hours the galleries are open for visitors, and beefed up the day's promotion in various publications and popular social media.

The result is a longer, more compelling day for residents and our guests in the city.

The photo of the stunningly-brawny Tooth Fairy [left] is ample proof that the "Art in Motion Parade" observes very few rules and the townspeople enjoy dressing up to celebrate the arts and local artisans.

Chamber President Claire Johnston started the Parade tradition a few years ago to reinforce her notion that "Art should be on the move."

Downtown stores are open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. At noon, the Five Siders offer live music for passers-by in Library Park. The Back Street Serenaders take over from 2:30 to 5 p.m.

Barber Jim Metz brings his buggy and team to downtown Mineral Point for carriage rides from 1 p.m. to 3:30. The horses stop for passengers at the Walker House, next to the city's new "intergenerational" bison sculptures, which are an AMP public arts project.

The parade steps off at 4 p.m., moving down High Street.

The city's galleries feature a range of special attractions, and greet visitors with snacks, beverages, artistic demonstrations, and good conversation.

At Longbranch Gallery, you'll see the work of Dan Wiemer from Red Wing, MN, who creates dynamic, colorful nature paintings; and Paul Elgin from Darlington, WI,

who fashions innovative rustic art pieces.

Brewery Pottery, with 100 artists represented, features Diana Johnston's new series of mixed-media clay clocks.

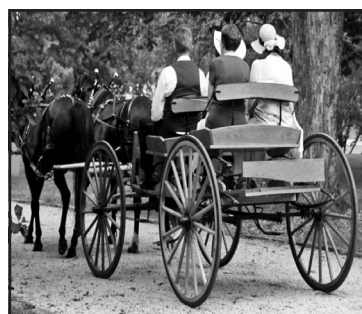
Johnston Gallery will entertain with marionettes made by lifelong puppeteer Ken Vogel. Watch as he explains the process of marionette-making and demonstrates from 5-7pm.

Wantoot Gallery is introducing the "elegant pottery forms" of ceramic artist Frank Ditri and the white porcelains of John J. Richards, functional ware in the style of the Cubism movement.

You'll find the colorful work of Audrey Christie at The Pear.

And, at the Bottle Works Gallery, view the fine black-and-white photographs of local resident Peter Robert Thompson, who studied with Ansel Adams and travels the American southwest to capture haunting scenes of nature.

It all adds up to a fine way to spend a June day!



School Daze in Badger Land



As we went to press, the Wisconsin General Assembly had not yet completed its work on the Governor's Budget, but the May 19th vote taken by the Joint Committee on Finance serves as a likely snapshot for public school funding for the coming fiscal years.

The panel's 11 Republicans and 4 Democrats voted along party lines to approve a resolution that ends months of noisy speculation about Gov. Scott Walker's suggested cuts of \$127 million in per-pupil funding for K-12 education.

The Committee voted to keep annual funding at the current level of the biennial school budget, and to increase funding by \$100 per pupil in the second year of the budget.

In today's media-speak, the action may be called "a rescue," or "a restoration."

Actually, it's a "reduction," and for local schools, the fifth reduction in as many years.

School Superintendent Luke Francois told us, "Putting this into perspective, no increase in year one is actually a cut. Transportation, food service, insurance, and utilities are fixed costs that increase from this year to next, yet the district will receive no additional dollars to offset these expenses."

State funding had increased every year since 2000; but, in 2010, funding collapsed as cuts turned support from Plus-\$200 to Minus-\$600 per pupil.

Local schools scrambled, instituting freezes and other austerity measures to maintain basic educational services.

The state's promised \$100 per pupil increase in Budget Year Two will bring local schools up to to the funding levels of 2008. Unfortunately, 2015 bills are higher than those of seven years ago.

**A FORUM ON SCHOOL
FUNDING - JUNE 2ND,
AT THE HIGH SCHOOL**

THE TIMES OF MINERAL POINT

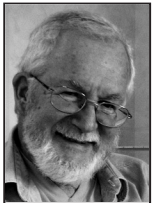
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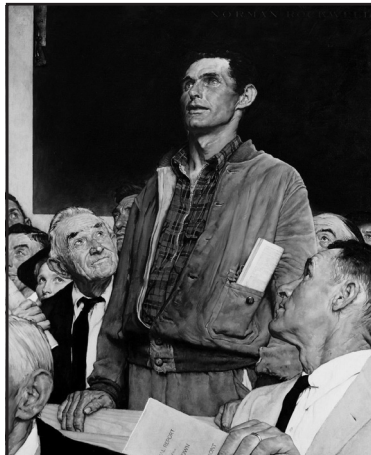
WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Check Sandee Beaman's
Online Events Calend ar
Go to

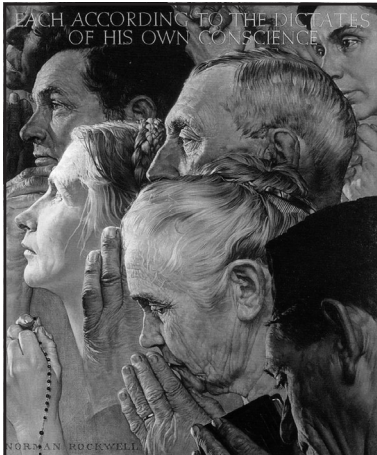
<http://hwy23events.wordpress.com>
And simply click on an event
to get all the details.



FDR's Four Freedoms



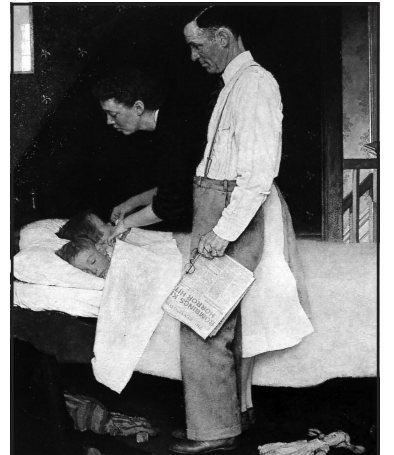
Freedom of Speech



Freedom of Religion



Freedom from Want



Freedom from Fear

The Four Freedoms are goals famously articulated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his State of the Union Address in 1941. Known as the Four Freedoms speech, FDR 's address proposed four points as the fundamental freedoms humans "everywhere in the world" ought to enjoy: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear.

His inclusion of the latter two freedoms went beyond the traditional Constitutional values protected by the First Amendment. In "Freedom from Want," he endorsed economic security as a right, not a privilege. In "Freedom from Fear," he put forward an internationalist view of foreign policy, designed to ease the public's fear of entanglement in a world war.

Over the years, Roosevelt's new goals became central tenets of modern American policy, anticipating what would become known decades later as the "human security" model in social science and economic development.

The speech touched off a storm between supporters and detractors, however, and debate over the virtues and legitimacy of the "Freedoms" continues today, seventy-five years later.

It's important to place FDR's speech in historic context. He was elected president for a third term in 1940 because he represented the security of familiarity—he was someone the electorate *knew* in a time when the world faced danger, instability, and uncertainty. Much of Europe had fallen to the advancing German Army and Great Britain was barely holding its own. Many Americans believed the United States should continue to stay out of the war, but Roosevelt supported Britain's need for American aid, and he saw his January 1941 speech to Congress as the best way to convince the American people of the gravity of the situation.

Thus, in his Annual Message, Roosevelt presented his reasons for American involvement, making the case for economic aid to Great Britain and greater production of war industries at home. The U. S., he asserted, was fighting for universal freedoms for people "all over the world."

Eleven months later, as America entered the war, FDR's Four Freedoms symbolized America's war aims, and in the following years gave hope to a war-weary people because they knew they were fighting for freedom.

THE DECLARATIONS: These are the President's actual words:

"In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression--everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way--everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want--which, translated into universal terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants--everywhere in the world.

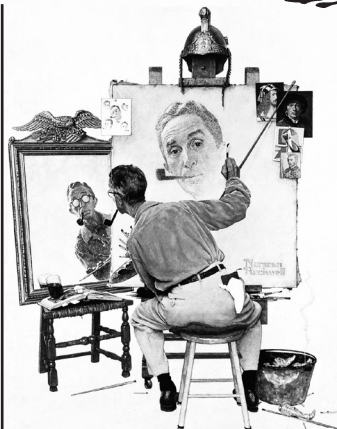
The fourth is freedom from fear--which, translated into world terms, means a thorough, world-wide reduction of armaments, so that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor--anywhere in the world."

Concluding, Roosevelt declared, "This is no vision of a far-distant millennium, It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation, the very antithesis of tyranny which the dictators seek to create with the crash of a bomb."

MAKING THE SPEECH: Roosevelt's preparation of the Four Freedoms Speech was typical of his major policy addresses: using initial drafts from his closest advisors, FDR edited, rearranged, and added extensively until the speech, in seven drafts, was his own.

The famous paragraphs came in the fourth draft. One of his insiders recalled, "We met in the White House study, and FDR announced he had an idea for the closing section of his speech. We waited as he leaned far back in his swivel chair with his gaze on the ceiling. It was a long pause, then he leaned forward again in his chair and dictated the Four Freedoms, so slowly that I was able to take them down on the yellow pad I had in my lap."

THE IMPACT OF THE SPEECH: The ideas enunciated in the Four Freedoms address were the foundational principles for the Atlantic Charter in Aug., 1941; the United Nations Declaration in Jan., 1942; and Roosevelt's vision for a new international organization that became the United Nations after his death. And, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN, honored similar beliefs from Eleanor Roosevelt.



Artist Norman Rockwell's
"Triple Self-Portrait" 1960

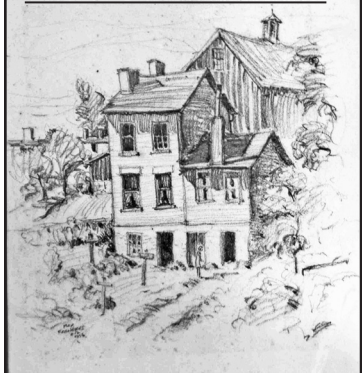
On Feb. 20, 1943 folk artist Norman Rockwell published the first of his wartime prints called "The Four Freedoms." But the story begins a year earlier, in 1942, when the government commissioned Rockwell to make a poster to encourage weapons production. He painted a soldier at a machine gun, with the words "Let's Give Him Enough and On Time." When he took it to the War Department in Arlington, Virginia, an official told him that they were also looking for posters depicting the "Four Freedoms" President Roosevelt had outlined in his 1941 speech to Congress. At his home, the artist tried to figure out how to illustrate it, but he said: "It was so darned high-blown. Somehow I just couldn't get my mind around it."

One morning at 3 a.m. he was lying awake, and he thought about a recent town hall meeting he had attended. One dissenter stood up to explain his opposition to the town's plan to rebuild a school, and even though no one agreed with him, they all listened respectfully. Rockwell realized that this was the meaning of "freedom of speech," and he was inspired to illustrate all four freedoms as the actions of ordinary citizens, using his Vermont neighbors as models. He was in his studio by 5 a.m., and soon had a series of charcoal sketches. He took the train down to Arlington, but the officials at the brand-new Office of War Information didn't want anything to do with him. One told him: "The last war you illustrators did the posters. This war we're going to use fine arts men, real artists." Another official offered to let Rockwell illustrate a manual about calisthenics for the Marines. On his way home to Vermont, Rockwell decided to stop in Philadelphia and see Ben Hibbs, the editor at the Saturday Evening Post. He shared his drawings, and Hibbs was so excited he told Rockwell to stop everything else and paint them as covers for the Post. They were hugely popular. Rockwell received more than 60,000 letters in response, and the War Department realized it had made a mistake and printed four million copies to distribute.

74 years later, how're we doing with these national goals?

One man's opinion on Page Four

AT PENDARVIS:



“MAX FERNEKES’ MINERAL POINT 1940 and NOW”



He recorded history. He also *made* history, as the city’s first artist to earn a living solely through the sale of his art.

Born in Milwaukee in 1905, Max Fernekes first came to Mineral Point in the mid-1930s. Drawn to the natural beauty and dramatic history of Mineral Point, Fernekes sketched with pencil some of the city’s century-old buildings.

Max, his artist wife Ava, and their two young daughters, purchased a decrepit Cornish stone house, restored the venerable building, and spent the next fifty years pursuing their independence as professional artists, an extraordinary accomplishment at that time. Fernekes died in 1984.

Through his distinctive paintings, drawings and prints Max Fernekes left a beautifully crafted record of Mineral Point and environs—not just the old buildings, but the commercial district, town street scenes, neighborhoods and vistas of rural beauty.



Cliff Kranik, of Warrenton, VA, historian and dealer of 19th Century Americana, owns a 20-year collection of thirty-one views of Mineral Point by Max Fernekes, and the iconic images are on exhibit (now through November) at the Pendarvis Historic Site. Mounted in original frames, the images are accompanied by photographs of the locations in the paintings as they look today. In some instances the “then and now” pictures display cosmic changes, and in others, buildings have vanished.

Kranik and his wife Michele conceived the exhibition to compliment the publication of their biography of Max and Ava Fernekes, which they had worked on for more than ten years. Michele died last year. With the book, as yet unpublished, Cliff now speaks of a tribute to his late wife: “The exhibit stands as a memorial to her abiding interest in Mineral Point and the artistic careers and love story of Max and Ava.”



GALLERY NIGHT UNROLLS ON JUNE 6TH

See the news on Page One for details and please support your local art community by “walking the walk” on Gallery Night (and Day), from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

JUNE 6TH IOWA COUNTY DAIRY BREAKFAST

The 31st Annual Breakfast Bash for the area’s farmers and their many fans at the 100-year old Nelson farm, NELS-VALE, 6767 Amacher Hollow Rd., Arena, from 6:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Sat., June 6th. Tour the farm, hear tunes by “Staff Infection,” down pancakes, sausage and eggs, and play Cow Pie Bingo.

VISITOR APPRECIATION DAY AT PENDARVIS

Enjoy the authenticity and rugged beauty of our local state-owned Historic Site, one of the best Mining Museums anywhere. Visit Pendarvis on Sunday, June 7th, and enjoy deeply discounted admission rates, giving new visitors an inexpensive way to experience the fun and excitement of Wisconsin history.

JAMMIN’ ON THE PORCH, JUNE 12TH

A sure sign of summer -- Friday music at Orchard Lawn, and friends and neighbors gathered on the lawn to enjoy their picnic. To launch this years series, Katie Burns brings her voice and guitar to the Gundry home’s front porch. Bring chairs, a bottle, a blanket and a smile when the strumming begins. 6 to 8 p.m.

KEITH HUIE OFFERS IMPROV CLASSES

The artist, author, storyteller, and actor begins his Monkey Business Institute Improv classes on Monday evenings from 7 to 9, beginning June 8th. \$10 per class, workshop size limited to ten. For more info, phone Julia Dailey at 608.574.4811

FILMZMP: ANIMATED SHORTS ON JUNE 14TH

The local film society views the offbeat, over-the-top “Spike & Mike’s Classic Festival of Animation” on Sunday, June 14th, at the Opera House. Social hour at 6, and short-subjects at 7 p.m.

MOSAIC MADNESS, A SMASHING IDEA

Spend a weekend exploring mosaic techniques and the creative uses of colorful bits and pieces of household ceramics. Mixed-media artists Judy Sutcliffe and Heidi Dyas-McBeth will provide materials or you can bring along ceramic or glass items you’ve always wanted to transform into a work of art. Tuition is \$285. Fri., June 19 from 1 to 5; Sat. & Sun. from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Register at the Shake Rag Alley School website.

MEKONS MOVIE ROCKS THE OPERA HOUSE

The Joe Angio documentary film, “Revenge of the Mekons” is praised both as “truly inspirational” and also “a kick-ass doc,” so it must be worth a look for fans of the phenomenal Mekons band. 7 p.m. on Sat., June 20th.

ANNUAL SOCIAL & CITY BAND CONCERT

The city’s Municipal Band presents its first concert of the year on June 25th, at the Annual Pie & Ice Cream Social at the Care Center on N. Iowa St. Enjoy the music and support the Center.

LARRY BUSCH BIG BAND SWINGS INTO TOWN

On the Opera House stage at 7:30 on June 27th: it’s the popular Larry Busch 17-Piece Swing Band, a night of big band standards and a variety of tempos and rhythms. \$20 tickets at Berget Jeweler or brownpapertickets.com



Shake Rag Alley Hires Youth Program Leader

Elizabeth Johanna has joined the staff at the Shake Rag Alley School of the Arts, as the new Youth Program Coordinator.

Johanna, of Blanchardville, brings years of experience in both art and education as well as what the school terms “her wonderful enthusiasm.”

The summer Youth Program features veteran instructors and new teachers, at work on new, creative ideas. Plans call for a fanciful float for the 4th of July parade, a “Be in a Play” event, Laura Ingalls Wilder Day, a performance of “Fractured Fables,” a science workshop on the Sun’s Energy at the Free Arts Camp along with repeats of the school’s other popular classes.

The program runs from June 15th to August 21st, with mid-morning and afternoon classes, one to two hours in length. Costs are holding steady at \$10 to \$12 per class.

“It is going to be so much fun,” Johanna says, “and I look forward to seeing pure delight in the faces of the kids.”



The Summer Reading Program at the Library begins June 10th at 10:30, with a mix of words and tunes. Clever hilarity by Duke Otherwise is called “Musical SuperHero.”

On June 17, Dan Nedrelo brings his animal friends to “Critter SuperHero.” And, on June 24th, the fun moves outdoors as Library Park Super-Heros dress in costumes and enjoy games, crafts and kid karaoke.

Wednesday mornings at the Library spells fun and growing skills for young readers.

THIS JUST IN:



ARISTOTLE CALLS FOR WELLNESS PROGRAM AT WALKER HOUSE



Actually, the famed Greek philosopher didn’t mention the Walker House by name 2,500 years ago, but he did speak of *eudaimonia*, which is traditionally translated as happiness, or well-being. Two modern-day Philosophy scholars at the Walker House are reviving Aristotle’s notions about wellness with new programs for camps, workshops and retreats.

Dan and Kathy Villaincourt have devoted time, energy and their retirement savings to the historic Walker House, in a quest to make the place a peaceful center for flourishing human beings.

The Walker House owners and two other faculty members will offer a series of study sessions designed to “free guests from all shackles and limitations,” and “help guests flourish in body, mind and spirit.”

On June 24, Dr. Vaillancourt will offer a one-day introduction, a “Well-Being Toolbox,” and on June 24th, Beth Turner will be featured in a single-day meeting titled “Forgiveness.” The two classes carry a \$95 fee.

Other Well-Being programs are under development.

Dan Vaillancourt, a Fulbright Scholar, is a Full Professor in Philosophy at Loyola University in Chicago, where he has taught for forty-five years. His wife, Kathy, is an author and poet, and directs the memoir projects in Dan’s aesthetics classes. Beth Turner, broadcast journalist, is a freelance writer and co-owns a video production studio. The other faculty member is Joan Steele, career Coronary Care Nurse and Critical Care Educator.

The goal for attendees?

“You’ll journey from the You that brought you here to the You that will take you home at the end of the program.”

Check the Walker House website or call 608.553.0728



“We can do it!” Local women (and one cross-dresser) at the 2007 Founders’ Day celebration of the Mineral Point Historical Society, an event staged with a “Wartime 1940s” theme.



CONFESSIONS OF AN EX-SNOWBIRD

BY FRANK BEAMAN, EDITOR

One hundred years ago only the richest Americans got to enjoy a vacation. Travel, on foot, horseback, carriage or train, was carried out on an “only as needed” basis, and most people spent their lives close to their home towns.

When the internal combustion engine brought about the automobile age, we started to dream of faraway places. The photo above shows a “Dream Camper” from the 1920s or 1930s. The handmade vehicle was built on a Ford Model T chassis, and boasted a four cylinder engine, wooden spoke wheels, a sit tub for bathing, a small stove for heating, a still for corn liquor, and a tow-along outhouse. (See it behind the cabin?)

Last year, more than forty-five million Americans were campers, and 8.9 million households owned an RV—a motorhome, van or towed camper—to make their road trip more comfortable and affordable. The RV Industry Assn. says RVers save as much as 50% of travel costs. But those big rigs can cost \$150,000.

So, for many, the Dream Camper is still something of a dream. For many Americans, the paid vacation is also a dream, and the luxury of far-away travel remains a fantasy.

Travel has fundamentally changed. We are forced to drive everywhere—to work, school, and the grocery store. We depend on 18-wheelers for our daily supplies. Long rumbling trains carry the heavy goods. And, more and more, we are frequent flyers.

In Urban America’s frenetic race to get from Point A to Point B, yesterday’s dream of pleasant, convenient, and independent travel has become today’s nightmare. We are buried in traffic.

Travel had a glorious age. Families once enjoyed “The Sunday Drive.” Every Sunday. Interstate Highways, built during the Eisenhower years, carried us to far-away scenic destinations on good pavements lined with roadside services. Trains had Club Cars with linen tablecloths. Airplanes pampered passengers and landed on time. Travel was an adventure.

The adventure has become an agony. Crowded airports, cancelled flights, ugly security

intrusions, major highways under construction or jammed with traffic, and unreliable public transport have turned travel into survivor sport.

But, we travel, because we have to, or because we have both leisure time and money enough to manage a few days away from the “daily grind” at home.

For the past three years, my wife and I have flown to a “getaway” in San Miguel de Allende, a colorful, historic city in Central Mexico. We’ve enjoyed the sunshine, food and culture of our southern neighbor as an “escape” from the Wisconsin winter, our chance to “get away from it all.”

This year, however, in mid-February, I came to a slow realization that I didn’t really want to “get away from it all.”

I like “it all.”
I like life in Mineral Point.
Even if life in the Point’s winter involves snow, cold, and a host of inconveniences.

The Mexican culture is noteworthy. The country and its people get a undeserved bad rap from the news media, and living in their community has been inspirational in many ways. Mexicans, most of them mired in a life in poverty, seem to deal with the rough hand they’ve been dealt.

But, Mineral Point has a note-worthy culture as well, with a friendly population and a tolerant, cooperative spirit that makes daily life congenial. And, it’s clear, Pointers are good at dealing with their circumstances—the positives, the negatives, AND the weather.

As the late Mineral Point artist Mary North Allen once observed, “Our city is a place where you can *almost* make a living by doing what you love to do.”

Her words of wisdom are an expression of an uplifting local phenomenon: we are busily Making a Life instead of Making a Killing. And, most of us are making life good for each other as well.

So, next winter, you’ll see an Editor-with-snow-shovel, shivering, but warmed by friendships and community spirit, basking in the priceless privilege of belonging to something bigger and better than a few days in the sun.

The story is in the details.



At Pendarvis House, the small cafe that supported Bob Neal and Edgar Hellum while they restored Cornish cottages on Shake Rag Street in the 1930s, two modern-day “Friends of History” have brought new authenticity to the state-owned Historic Site.

You won’t notice their work from the seat of a passing car, but the improvement is real, and will last for many years.

Matt Ostergrant recently repaired and repainted the cafe’s curbside sign. Matt studied various sign faces used over the years before drawing the meticulous replica.

Jim Stroschein contributed his talents a few years ago, supervising the rewiring/refurbishing of original hand-made street lamps in front of the cafe.

Stroschein and Ostergrant are members of the Pendarvis Memorial Endowment Trust, and both are Past-Presidents of the Mineral Point Historical Society.

The spirit of architectural preservation that motivated Neal and Hellum lives on in the work of these dedicated volunteers.

Ruth Jungbluth
1926 - 2015

We lost another “Friend of History” with the recent passing of Ruth Jungbluth, born in Mineral Point, a teacher at the historic Pleasant View school, farm wife twice widowed, and the informed source for several stories in this newspaper.

Ruth’s family nicknamed her the “Wizard” because of detailed beef cow/calf records she kept for more than sixty years, her lifelong pursuit of historical facts, and geneology studies tracing relatives back to the American Revolution. Ruth was a steller storyteller with a fervent interest in all things historic.

Coleman WAS Willie Loman,
Theater-Goers Agreed



Arthur Miller’s 1949 landmark drama, “Death of a Salesman.”

Coleman, who has acted and directed on every stage in Mineral Point, received glowing reviews for his portrayal during the play’s recent run at the Bartell Theater in Madison.

“A strong supporting cast made each performance both exhilarating and exhausting,” he told the *Times*.

It’s the role all actors want: Willie Loman, a world-weary salesman who loses his job and a bit of his mind, during

FOOTNOTES on the “Four Freedoms”



See Page Two

A review of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s 1941 speech on the “Four Freedoms” is a somewhat sobering experience.

It’s clear we’ve made real progress in some areas of American life. But, when it comes to Freedom of Speech, Religion, Want, and Fear, you might wonder if anyone paid attention to what FDR said.

Speech is now curiously defined by the Supreme Court, so an election has become an auction, and ominous surveillance, litigation, censorship and secrecy often reduce our voices to a timid whisper.

Religion, and ideological skirmishes fought in the name of religion, have often divided people into noisy, sometimes nasty, opposing camps.

Want, in an age of income inequality, often produces only indifference and punishment for the poor, while the income gap grows ever wider.

Fear is, often, the primary weapon of human discourse. It’s used to exploit consumers, hoodwink voters and drive otherwise-intelligent human beings back into their caves. [CAVE = “Citizens Afraid of Virtually Everything”]

Roosevelt, in his twelve years in office, asked fellow Americans for ideas, hard work, and sacrifices unimaginable today, and the citizenry responded. FDR faced facts, and understood change had to happen from the bottom up, not from the top down. Born into wealth and privilege, he recognized the needs of the nation’s poor, and that made him the right man to battle the worst economy in our history.

After World War II, Americans enjoyed a long period of prosperity and pride. The USA was not only the world’s most powerful nation, it was also the world’s *model democracy*, “leading by example.”

Americans trusted their government, and tried to make government work.

Over the years, however, the relationship between government and the public changed. By the time John F. Kennedy delivered his “Ask not” line in 1960, Americans were asking, “What’s in it for me?” And, in the 1970s, Big Business launched its anti-government campaign to drive a wedge between the people and their leaders. It’s worked well.

Today, we rarely hear a call for ideas, hard work and real sacrifice. In today’s hostile interplay between the public and our elected leaders, little is expected, little is asked, little is given, little is accomplished.

But, here’s a hopeful sign. A growing band of citizens is fully aware of the futility of today’s stagnation. More than just “fed up,” these resilient

Americans are willing to face facts and do the right thing, the necessary thing, when they know their duty and are called up for the difficult task.

They hear FDR’s words: “The country demands bold and persistent experimentation. It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something.”

They need someone to call them out, someone like Roosevelt, to ask for ideas, hard work and real sacrifice.

Sadly, that call isn’t coming from today’s White House.

Packaged as “The New FDR,” Barack Obama hasn’t duplicated Roosevelt’s bold “hope/change/action” programs. He said “Yes, we can.” But now, it seems, he can’t.

It’s not because he “did too much too soon.” It’s not because he asked too much of the American public.

It’s because he asked too little.



Wisconsin’s State Slogan.

Simple and straightforward.

Ah, but you may not know the story behind the slogan.

In 1848, Wisconsin held its first election, and the politics of that year were a bit nasty. The Democratic convention was paralyzed by political infighting, and Nelson Dewey finally won the nomination for Governor as the compromise candidate. To everyone’s surprise, he went on to take the popular election and became the state’s first chief executive.

Dewey’s big job was to get the new government up and running, and one of the tasks on his list was to create an official seal with which to emboss legal documents. He asked John Lathrop to design a seal, and the Univ. of Wisconsin chancellor came up with a sketch of a medallion inspired by European models, using the Wisconsin Territory’s old Latin motto, “Civilitas Succes-sit Barbaruin,” or “Civilization Succeeds Barbarism” (a poke at the state’s native Indian tribes, by the way).

Dewey took the sketch to New York to be cast in metal. But, while there, he bumped into Edward Ryan, Justice on the state’s Supreme Court, and the two men discovered they shared a distaste for the fancy Lathrop design and its pretentious Latin motto. So, they promptly sat down on the steps of a Wall Street bank and knocked out a new motto, trying out “Excelsior,” and “Upward” and “Onward,” before settling on the simple “Forward.”

Their impromptu design gave us a slogan that has lasted 167 years.

SOURCE: Odd Wisconsin, by Wisconsin Historical Society