You Can Do It, Too!
Sean Stephenson’s Message to Youth

by Maggie Beyer

When you’re 21 and just three feet tall, born with a rare brittle bone disorder, the view from your wheelchair can give you a different perspective on life. It might stunt some people, but not Sean Stephenson. He’s a young man who has used his disability — a connective tissue and bone disorder called Osteogenisis Imperfecta — to transform his own reality and now wants to share his triumphant secrets of success to help other young adults do the same. A motivational speaker across the country from campuses to Congress, his book, “How YOUth Can Succeed” is now being acclaimed by motivational speakers like Tony Robbins and Les Brown as a strategy for successful life and a way to transform dreams into reality.

Over the years, Beachers have seen Sean wheeling along and waving to the crowds at the annual Long Beach 4th of July parade. Long Beach is a summer base for the family, parents Gregg and Gloria, and sister Heidi, who live in LaGrange, Illinois. Grandparents Charles and Helen Stephenson lived at Stop 20 for 32 years, with Helen moving to the Shores when Charles died. Her home is filled with pictures of the family at different times in Sean’s life — when he was elected governor of Illinois Boy’s State and the American Legion’s representative to Boys’ Nation; as a congressional and executive branch intern, testifying before the U.S. Senate in support of the Flag Protection Amendment in 1998, and cheering sister Heidi on when she graduated from the University of Nebraska last year, headed for a career in opera.
Sean continued from Page 1

Sean's achievements have been a family affair and in helping him rise above the physical challenge that could have held him down, they have all found a special meaning in their own lives. Signing his new book for Helen Stephenson, his grandmother, Sean wrote: To Grandma, Thanks for being the neatest lady in the world. Love Life! Thanks for being you. Like the words from the song, being the wind beneath his wings has meant some choices for his family along the way. Sean's physical disorder is characterized by bones that break easily; he has had more than 200 bone fractures in his two decades, starting from birth when doctors didn't expect him to live. Other grandmothers will know the wrench that Helen felt, when holding him one time as a little boy, she saw a look of pain come over his face and knew a bone had been broken. “Don’t worry, grandma” he said, consoling her, “I just moved in a wrong way.” As Sean moved into teen-age years, his dad Gregg decided he would leave his job as a broker in Chicago, and take over wheelchair duties from Mom, and make his career one of helping Sean achieve all that he could be, now officially assistant to the CEO, his son, in his motivational enterprises company. Sean's mother Gloria, took over an adjunct break-winner's role as international purser with a major airline.

In his visit to Michigan City, President Bill Clinton paid a special visit with Sean Stephenson and his family.

Sean with grandmother, beacher Helen Stephenson.

Sean, Governor of Illinois Boys' State in 1996, with another Governor, Jim Edgar, of Illinois.
Life in a wheelchair didn’t curtail Sean’s other talents as he produced, directed and wrote award-winning talk shows, soap operas, and political interviews during his high school years. He had early on decided to make the most use of what he had instead of being limited by what he didn’t have. Physically challenged, Sean decided he could still be physically fit, and shared his fitness passion in a set of fitness videos called “No Excuses” made with Kary Odiatu, Ms. Fitness Universe, and Uche Odiatu, president of a Canadian body building association, called “No Excuses”. He had made his decision that his calling was to help people overcome their obstacles and make the most of their lives. His talks with schools and organization all over the country made him realize that he had the ability to inspire and energize audiences and that writing a book to reach an even broader audience could take what he had learned from his own life to a higher level. He wanted readers to connect with his success on a personal level.

In an interview with Wendy Foster of the Suburban Life Citizen newspaper when his book came out last October, Sean said that he was surprised that there were just a few books on the market for teenagers and young adults, and that these few were written by adults. He knew he had a special message for young people. “There is so much turmoil with your youth,” he told the reporter. “We have to help them overcome frustrations, get along, enjoy life, all of these things. . . . A lot of our youth are given wonderful tools to succeed academically, but not given enough tools to improve in personal development.”

Sean’s self-published book, “How YOUth Can Succeed. . .Transforming Dreams Into Reality for Young Adults” is his response to that need. Its chapters include techniques for visualization, journaling, and how to share his goal “to spread the message that success is internal, not external”. He states, “When I started harnessing the power of beliefs in my life, that’s when I was able to write this book.”

Sean Continued on Page 4
In the book’s introduction Sean wrote:

“For years I would have traded my physical condition for anything until one day I realized that my physical challenge was a gift, not a burden. It was then that I acknowledged every individual as a living and breathing billboard. I decided that my billboard would convey a motivational and inspiration message to all those around me. I stopped dwelling on what I didn’t have and began focusing on what I did have, which was the ability to inspire, energize, and educate audiences ranging from kindergarten classes to Congress. By the time I was eighteen years old I had addressed thousands of kids, teenagers, and young adults on topics such as substance abuse, self-confidence, and success. The most interesting thing that I have learned from speaking to youth is that, no matter what they look like or what their backgrounds are, they all enjoy succeeding and feeling good. Unfortunately, many kids don’t know how to combine the two to create the ultimate life they deserve. So that’s why I decided to write this. I wanted to bridge the gap between succeeding and feeling good.”

Sean calls his book a road map, meant to be referred to as a motivational manual, and an investment for the future. It includes testimonials from other individuals who share their personal recipes for success. People included are a survivor of the Columbine High School shooting, an instructor at DePaul University who overcame a background of poverty, street gangs, and ghetto life; a captain of the Oxford University crew team; and the Head Coach of DePaul University’s basketball team among others.

Sean has dedicated his book “to all those individuals who are committed to improving the world: May you recognize that first you need to improve yourself.” Priced at $12.95, the book is available (autographed) from SCS Publishing, P.O. Box 148, LaGrange, Illinois, 60525. (Plus a $4 shipping charge for up to four books). Or call 888/281-5170.

To visit with Sean on the Web and say hi to a fellow Beacher, his address is: www.seanstephenson.com
We’re on the ball! Kick off a great move by calling one of our pros to tackle all your real estate needs! (P.S. - Enjoy Super Bowl Sunday!)

623 Pinewood Trail • $179,000
SHORELAND HILLS
3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Remodeled kitchen has white cabinets, ceramic tile floor and French doors to patio. Large family room. Hardwood flooring under newer carpet. Three landscaped lots.

202 Tomahawk Drive • $155,000
POTTAWATOMIE PARK
4 bedrooms, 2½ baths. Sprawling tri-level with large rooms throughout. Sunroom, office, tool/workroom, lower level family room to rear patio area. Close to golf and country club.

Lake Shore Drive • $89,500
LONG BEACH
40 X 150 hillside lot between Stop 15 and Stop 16. Building permits required. Could have fabulous lake views.

10 Marine Drive, Unit 6 • $155,000
MARINA PARK
1 bedroom, 1 bath. Great upper level, corner unit offers wonderful views. Living room has fireplace and sliders to balcony. Storage and laundry on main floor. 55 ft. boat slip included.

509 Dogwood Drive • $102,500
TRAIL CREEK
3 bedrooms, 1½ baths. Living room has cracked marble fireplace, main level laundry with half bath. Hardwood under carpets. Full basement. Fenced back yard with patio area.

6034 North 300 West • $89,000
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
10 acres with 4 spring fed ponds and large wooded area at rear of property. Outdoor man’s paradise. Build your dream home here!
For the past eight years, professional actress/dancer Judith Joseph has lost her false eyelashes to curious 5 year-olds, given away tons of “Razzle Dazzle” and danced on carpeted floors under ceilings so low she’d hit her head when she jumped. This is not the expected scenario for a performer who has worked shows with greats like Bob Fosse, Sammy Davis, Jr., Agnes De Mille and been stand-by for Juliet Prowse.

An alum of American Ballet Theatre and Charles Weidman & Company who took leading roles in New York revivals of “Brigadoon” and “Sweet Charity,” “Annie Get Your Gun” on the road, she prefers to forsake a private dressing room this January and February for dozens of pairs of little hands helping her layer on the tutus for her big solo dance which always turns into a group number.

She performs for each of the 18 Head Start classrooms in Michigan City on January 18, 19, 25, 26, February 1, 2 and 9, in a program part-show and part-educational experience made more accessible for very young children by her coming into their environment. This is a part of the philosophy Joseph developed while working at the National Dance & Theatre Institute in New York with Jacques D’Amboise, who pioneered bringing dance to the inner city kids of NYC. Joseph developed “The Ballet Lady” specifically for pre-K children there in the 80’s, but never thought of doing it herself until start-up funding by the Indiana Arts Commission along with Head Start Director, Bonnie Bernard’s encouragement occurred in 1992. Now the program belongs to the community with sponsorship assistance this year by Lake Shore Foods, Lee Dabagia, Sr., and Hirsch Ford.

Joseph believes in the power of the art of dance to touch each child’s individuality; they understand movement naturally at these formative ages, for with encouragement, they are personally empowered which affects all their learning in general. “The Ballet Lady” insists on discipline and politeness, but offers lots of wild movement time, too. She has herself fallen victim to an over-zealous young Baryshnikov who has decked her with a leap at the knee or a pirouette underfoot. During her visits the children explore and touch real ballet costumes, learn about posture, how muscles stretch, how to execute simple steps and finally to actually create dances of their own aided by “ballet silk” and “Razzle Dazzle.”

The public is welcome to observe these events. Phone the Acting Theatre of Michigan City, 872-4221, for exact times and locations of the various Head Starts.

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Zero Wall Recliners
Space-saving comfort in uniquely cozy styles.
"Curl Up • Kick Back • Stay Toasty"
The LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau (LPCCVB) has recognized Donna Higley as winner of the December R.O.S.E. Award for Recognition of Service Excellence. Donna is a customer service representative at J-Mart Amoco, Westville, Indiana. At a January 16 ceremony at her place of work, Donna was presented with $100, a framed certificate and a rose corsage to acknowledge her as the R.O.S.E. Award winner for the month of December, 2000.

Donna’s favorite thing about her job is the people—she really enjoys working with all the people who come in to the J-Mart. She also says that she likes working with her co-workers and has a fantastic manager. To provide customers with exceptional service, Donna does whatever she can to help her customers and will do anything she can to make them happy. Donna was nominated by an out-of-town visitor who said, “I was broken down a few blocks away from the gas station. Donna helped me by offering a towing service and the use of the telephone to call for assistance.”

The LPCCVB and the LaPorte County Guest Services task force launched the R.O.S.E. Awards program in May 1999. The idea is to recognize and reward employees throughout the county for providing exceptional customer service to visitors. To date, LPCCVB has received over 1,600 R.O.S.E. nominations.
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IF YOU CAN’T MATCH 2 CORRECT RESPONSES, CALL OUR EMERGENCY BEACH HOTLINE AT 1-800-5030
Auditions

Open auditions for the Head Fine Arts and Festival Players Guild production of “Stageview: An Evening of One-Act Comedies,” will be conducted at the Guild’s Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin Street, Michigan City, on Fri., Feb. 2, 7 p.m., and Feb. 3 & 4, 1 p.m.

“When Shakespeare’s Ladies Meet” utilizes an all female cast, “The Last Touchy-Feely Drama on the American Stage” utilizes an all male cast, and the final play in the trio, “The Actor’s Nightmare,” will utilize male and female cast members.

The three comedies will be presented at The Mainstreet Theatre on March 9, 10, 16, and 17. Auditionees do not need to have prepared pieces for the auditions, but calling the Mainstreet Theatre, (219) 874-4269, to indicate attendance at one of the sessions would be appreciated.

Purduettes to Perform at PNC

The Purduettes, the women’s singing group from Purdue University West Lafayette, will perform at Purdue University North Central on Sun., Jan. 28th. The program, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 2 p.m. in the Library-Student-Faculty Building, with seating on a first-come basis.

Part of the world-famous Purdue Musical Organizations, these 48 young women were selected for their exceptional singing and performing abilities and have represented Purdue University at appearances throughout the country.

Utilizing specially arranged music, concerts by the Purduettes are energetic, fast-moving and diversified, including show tunes, pop, country, jazz and other styles. Each member is a potential soloist, allowing the group to feature several outstanding voices at each concert.

Purduettes dates its formation back to World War II, when many of the men of Purdue’s famous Glee Club went into service and a new singing group of 13 women students was formed. Christened “Purduettes,” they completed the Glee Club’s schedule, performing throughout the U.S. until war’s end. The group was reformed in 1952 and has performed continually ever since.

For more information, phone the Campus Relations Office, 872-0527, ext. 5267.

IDNR Hunter’s Education Class

On Sat., Feb. 3rd, The Michigan City Fish & Game Club will sponsor an Indiana Department of Natural Resources Hunter’s Education class. The session will start at 8 a.m. and run until 6 p.m. The club is located at 3091 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City.

The course is free and open to the public. To register, phone Ed Bohle at 800/810-1450, or Buzz Russell at 879-7147.

This course is valid in all 50 states and international.
• Only eight units available for spring 2001
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• Enjoy the Best Beach on Lake Michigan.
• Gated community with indoor pool and clubhouse.
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www.dunescape.com
Children of St. Mary’s of the Lake School in New Buffalo have been preparing for Catholic School Week for months. The children have spent many hours painting furniture for the annual Furniture Art Auction to be held in conjunction with a Book Fair. Throughout the week of Jan. 28-Feb. 2, children, parents, parishioners and friends are welcome to visit St. Mary’s of the Lake School to purchase books or bid on the furniture. The Silent Auction will conclude Fri., Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.

Hours are: Sun., Jan. 28—10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., Jan. 29-Feb. 1—8 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Fri., Feb. 2—8 a.m.-7 p.m.

For more information, phone the school office at 616/469-1515.
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**White Thorne Woods**

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Exceptional Country French 3 bedroom home with nature preserve views from all rooms. Situated on a one acre wooded lot, amenities include a surround sound theater, wet bar, wood floors, master suite with jetted tub and double shower, two fireplaces and a 3 car garage. A truly unique property. Web I.D. #YZJ

**Lake Views**

$390,000

Spectacular lake views are yours from the wall to wall windows in this hilltop wooded setting. With 3 bedrooms and 4 baths and 2800 square feet of living space, this unique home has everything you need. Call for more details or to arrange a showing. Web I.D. #FPW

**Beverly Shores**

$695,000

Offers of the Week! This stunning contemporary design by Helalbird & Root of Chicago, has over 5,000 sq. ft. & an open floor plan to create bright, spacious & elegant style. Surrounded by a pristine dune-land environment within a 1 hr. commute from the Loop, huge deck, central great room with 35 ft. walls of glass & seasonal views of Lake Michigan make this the perfect place to entertain, relax & enjoy the many amenities offered by this dune-land community. Web I.D. #CBR

**Beverly Shores**

$729,900

Enjoy panoramic Lake Michigan views from this spacious, contemporary home with wonderful, wide, sandy beach steps away from the front door. The residence has 3,200 sq. ft., large great room with vaulted ceiling, 4 bedrooms, 31⁄2 baths, screen porch and attached 2 1⁄2 car garage. Web I.D. #AKN

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**Open House**

Sunday, January 28th, 2001

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

All students interested in attending Marquette High School in the 2001-2002 school year along with their families are invited. Financial aid applications, 2001 registration information and February placement exam information will be available. For further information call 873-1325.

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www.marquette-hs.org
Some Trivia to Get You Through the
Super Bowl
by Paula McHugh

Our new president made it through his inauguration this past Saturday.
This coming Sunday is the Super Bowl.
But wait! Stop yawning and keep reading. Please. Because you are about to be presented with the opportunity to impress all your friends with some heretofore deeply hidden facts about some of our former Presidents, compliments of The Beacher.

You are cordially encouraged to cut out this column and keep it handy. Because when you are forced to engage in a round of trivia and are at a loss to recite total yards rushing and the last ten Super Bowl team quarterbacks, you can go on the offensive and switch subjects to a history lesson. One just never knows when the information we’ve provided here will come in handy. And chances are that neither Bush, nor Clinton or even maybe Gore knows about all these little factlets. Here goes.

James Buchanan, our 15th President was the only bachelor to hold the office. His niece, Harriet Lane, served as hostess of the White House during her uncle’s term.

Abraham Lincoln did not grow his beard until after he was elected President. An 11-year old girl, Grace Bedell, wrote him a letter saying that he would look “a great deal better” with whiskers since his face was so thin. Abe took her advice and sent her a thank you letter. This letter is less well known than his famous letter to Mrs. Bixby, written in 1864 to console the mother for her loss of five sons in the Civil War. Not all her sons died in the war, it was later learned. One deserted, and another, once missing in action, was later found and honorably discharged.

Andrew Johnson never went to school. He was 17 when his wife Eliza taught him to write. He learned to read when he was 16.

Ulysses Simpson Grant’s real first name was Hiram. He transposed it to Ulysses Hiram Grant, but when applying at West Point, he was erroneously listed as Ulysses Simpson, which he accepted from that point on. Grant’s first place of choice for burial was West Point, although he scrapped that idea because his wife Julia could not by regulations be buried there. His second choice was Galena, IL, where he received his first general commission. His final choice was New York City, and that became his final resting place.

Grover Cleveland was the only President married in the White House. Before marrying Frances Folsom, his sister Rose acted as White House hostess.

Theodore Roosevelt suffered a double tragedy when his wife Alice and his mother Martha died on the same day (February 14, 1884). His mother died of typhoid fever and his wife died of Bright’s disease. He later married Edith Carow.
First Lady Helen Taft (William Howard) saw to it that 3,000 Japanese cherry trees were planted along the Potomac, the Tidal Basin, and along Riverside Drive in Washington, DC. When you see those cherry blossoms, think of Mrs. Taft.

Woodrow Wilson and Teddy Roosevelt each won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Warren Harding was the first president to ride to his inauguration in an automobile. He was also the first newspaper publisher elected to the presidency.

Herbert Hoover received 84 honorary degrees. He received his 83rd on his 83rd birthday.

The first King and Queen of England to visit the U.S. was during Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s administration. FDR arranged an outdoor picnic where the British royalty (King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) were served hot dogs.

The initial “S” in Harry Truman’s name had no significance, although it was thought to be a way to avoid favoritism since his grandfathers’ names were Shippe and Solomon. Truman also was the first president to televise from the White House.

Dwight David Eisenhower was the first president born in Texas.

John F. Kennedy was at one time a news correspondent for the Chicago Herald-American.

Lyndon B. Johnson’s initials repeated in his wife, Lady Bird (Claudia), daughters Linda Bird and Luci Baines, and even in one of his beagles, Little Beagle. Lady Bird acquired her nickname when she was two years old from the family cook who said she was “purty as a lady bird.”

All the facts provided about the Presidents came from the book, Facts About the Presidents, by Joseph Nathan Kane.

Winter Programs at LaP Co Parks

Owls and More—Tues., Jan. 23, 6-7:30 p.m. Participants will learn about owls, look through owl pellets and go on an owl call. The program is for all ages and is free, however, an adult must accompany children under the age of 18. Meet at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S 150 W, LaPorte.

Moonlight Ski—Fri., Feb. 2, 6-8 p.m. Take your own skis to this event, which will be held snow permitting. Meet at Luhr County Park. Phone 219/324-5855 for ski conditions.

Breakfast With the Birds—Sat., Feb. 3, 8:30-11 a.m., at Luhr County Park. The County Parks Department and the Potawatomi Audubon Society will sponsor a free continental breakfast held in the Nature Center overlooking the bird feeding station.

Fun Ski—Sat., Feb. 3 & Sun., Feb. 4, 1-4 p.m., at Red Mill Property. There will be wacky races and fun activities. Prizes will be given to the winners. Park staff will be on hand to give basic cross country skiing instructions. Phone 219/324-5855 for ski conditions. You must take your own skis to this event.
The Blue & Gray Society

The Blue & Gray Society of Northwest Indiana is an historical society founded in 1999 dedicated to Civil War education and battlefield preservation, with members in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties, Indiana, as well as Cook County, Illinois. The society hosts four dinner/lectures per year, and produces a periodic newsletter, Bivouac.

The organization will host a dinner and lecture featuring noted Civil War author Craig Dunn of Kokomo, speaking on “The 20th Indiana Volunteers of Gettysburg,” on Fri., Feb. 9th.

Dunn has written extensively on the war, and is considered an expert on Indiana’s role in the conflict. Autographed copies of Dunn’s work will be available for purchase following the lecture.

The event begins at 7 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 9th, in the banquet room at Michael’s Restaurant, 2040 45th Ave., Highland, Indiana. Reservations with the Blue & Gray Society are required. The cost of the gathering, including a family-styled dinner and the historical lecture, is $25. For more information, contact John Novick at 219/924-0529, or via email at bluegrayindiana@aol.com

PNC’s European Tour

The distance from Purdue University North Central to the Eastern European cities of Budapest, Vienna and Prague is approximately 4,500 miles. This coming June, a group of travelers will cross those miles to visit those beautiful, historic cities. This Eastern European Odyssey trip, June 21-29, is sponsored by Purdue North Central’s Alumni Association, but anyone interested in travel is welcome to participate.

A unique feature of this tour is the opportunity to travel with PNC Chancellor James Dworkin and his wife, Nancy. Dr. Dworkin is well acquainted with the region, as he has served for several years as a visiting professor at the Budapest University of Economic Sciences.

Developed especially for the Alumni Association by Tauck Tours, Inc., the Eastern European Odyssey is part of PNC’s year-long Odyssey 2001 celebration of the arts.

Cost of the land tour is $2,670 per person, double occupancy, with adjustments for single or triple occupancy. Round-trip air fare from Chicago’s O’Hare Airport is $1,256, based on availability. Those wishing to make their own flight arrangements may do so, and trip extensions are available for those wishing to stay longer in Europe.

Trip reservations and a $550 deposit per person is due on Wed., Feb. 14th, with final payment due Thurs., May 3rd. The trip is limited to 40 persons. For more information, or to obtain a tour brochure, phone the PNC Alumni Association office at 800/872-1231, ext. 5672, or email alumni@purduenc.edu

A brochure is also available on PNC’s website: www.purduenc.edu

Jenny’s for Valentine’s Day, where you’ll love the bread, the wine, the Kansas City Strip, the Thai Style Chilean Sea Bass and Chef Juan Martinez’s seasonal menu. We’re open for dinner beginning at 6 p.m. (eastern time) Wednesday thru Sunday.
Reservations & information: 616-469-6545 or www.jennysrestaurant.com

They’re talking about Jenny’s.

15460 Red Arrow Highway Lakeside, Michigan
The Old Guard Association

Current and former members of the U.S. Army’s oldest Infantry Regiment, the 3rd U.S. Infantry, “The Old Guard” have come together to form an association, and are seeking former soldiers of this historic Regiment to join their ranks. Membership is open to all who serve or have served in any Battalion of the Regiment at any time.

The Old Guard Association (TOGA) was established in 1998 to help develop the common bond which exists among all past and present members of “The Old Guard”. TOGA has successfully staged three annual reunions, where members have shared their experiences and memories in a relaxed social atmosphere.

The organization publishes a quarterly newsletter, PRIDE, for its membership with news of the current active duty contingent, as well as the former members of the Regiment.

The 3rd Infantry Regiment is headquartered in the Washington D.C. area, at Fort McNair and Fort Myer (Arlington, VA). The Regiment is the U.S. Army’s official ceremonial unit and escort to the President of the United States. Its responsibilities include memorial missions at Arlington National Cemetery and maintaining a sentinel at the Tomb of the Unknowns. It is also charged with the defense of the National Capitol Region and maintaining infantry unit tactical proficiency.

For information about membership, or to obtain a complimentary copy of the Association newsletter, contact Membership Committee, The Old Guard Association, 100 Winchell Road, Aurora, OH 44202. Please provide years of Old Guard service and Company/Battalion to which you were attached.

Dunes Volleyball Craft Show

Dunes Volleyball Craft Show will have their annual event on Sat., April 7th, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the Meer Gym located at 317 Detroit Street (corner of Detroit and Pine), Michigan City.

If you are a crafter and would like to be included, contact Sabrina at 872-0640 for an application or more information.
If you want to see how South Bend got its name, put on a pair of your favorite walking shoes and head east on U.S. 20 to the city's center.

There you'll find footpaths on both sides of the Saint Joseph River as it makes it southern-most appearance before heading back north into Michigan.

If you don't believe me, look at a map of Indiana and Michigan, and you'll see that the gentle but majestic St. Joseph River originates in Three Rivers, Michigan, heads westward toward St. Joseph, Michigan, but then takes something of a dip down into Indiana. While some communities along the St. Joe take the river for granted, South Bend celebrates the river that once bore the canoes of Native Americans and French explorers.

Come along now for an armchair tour of South Bend's magnificent riverfront with loyal wife, Natalie the Navigator, Lee and Denise Sahs, who recently moved to South Bend, and this faithful correspondent.

We actually began our tour indoors at the imposing Century Center which sits astride the west bank of the river. I'm not an architect, so I'll respectfully refrain from making any unsolicited criticism about the center’s design, but I will offer this one brief comment: it looks a whole lot better from the inside than it does from the outside.

Ample parking, by the way, is available at a lot adjacent to the Century Center, and the rate when we were there was $3 for a whole carload of explorers.

Upon entering the cavernous Century Century, we were immediately energized by the presence of hundreds of happy, well-dressed women. Turned out they were attending some sort of Mary Kay convention, but that's all we could deduce because security guards were posted at the door of the convention hall to guarantee their privacy. But their whoops and hollers were hardly private. Must have been a good show.

We found our own good show in the South Bend Regional Museum of Art which is housed in the Century Center. Admission was free to the four galleries and gift shop, and we were particularly impressed with the work of Scott Anderson which was appearing in the Art League Gallery.

Century Center is “where it all happens” in downtown South Bend.

The South Bend Regional Museum of Art.

“Male Folly Act I: Herakles and hercules” by Scott Anderson.
An adjunct professor of art at Ball State University, Anderson seemed particularly concerned with what he considers to be the folly of being male in modern America.

In a large acrylic and watercolor called “The Lemon King,” Anderson shows a patriarchal figure falling on his sword as a nearby cut lemon drips red blood. In written notes available at the gallery, Anderson states: “The Male Folly series pokes fun at male conundrums of supremacy and specific notions such as violence and tragic male heroes.”

He can say that again.

We were also impressed with the Alphamark: International Calligraphy Exhibition which was then on display in the Warner Gallery. Being paper freaks, Natalie and I delighted in putting on the cotton gloves provided and thumbing through the delicate calligraphic books on display.

Our friends Lee and Denise Sahs took particular delight in viewing the museum’s permanent collection, particularly the landscapes.

There is always lots to look forward to at the South Bend Regional Museum of Art, where the gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (South Bend time), and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Phone 219/235-9102 for current information.

After sating ourselves on art, we headed down by the river to consider our options. Should we tour the nearby Studebaker National Museum at 525 South Main Street; walk across the street and press the old pigskin at the College Football Hall of Fame at 111 S. St. Joseph Street, explore the Northern Indiana Center for History at 808 West Washington, or should we go off-diet at the South Bend Chocolate Company at 122 S. Michigan?

So much to do, so little time.

We opted for a bracing walk on both sides of the river, a peek into the recently restored Morris Performing Arts Center and a resolution to return to downtown South Bend real soon to check off the rest of our list.

Speaking of the Morris, I did have the pleasure of attending a performance there after the aforementioned visit to South Bend with Natalie. Allow me to digress for just a minute and tell you all about how my friend Dave Rieth treated me and another friend, Suzanne Ballard, a live radio show at the Morris.

While I won’t bore you with all the details of the live radio show, I must tell you that once Dave, Suzanne and I found our seats in the second balcony

River Bend Continued on Page 20
of that hallowed hall, we found time to gawk at the splendid job they did of restoring old Morris who was built in 1922 as a vaudeville house.

We had good sight and sound lights to center stage, but we heard reports from folks on the main floor that their seats were not staggered meaning they were left to look at the backs of the heads of those in the row ahead of them.

A minor quibble because we found the Morris to be an absolutely magnificent venue for enjoying a live performance. And just so you know, stars such as Betty Grable, BB King, Houdini, Johnny Cash, and Henry Fonda have played the Morris which was saved from the wrecking ball in 1959 by a Mrs. E.M. Morris — God bless her!!

The two-hour live radio show ended sooner than Dave, Suzanne and I wanted, but we three fans were delighted to have been part of radio history in the magnificent Morris. A girl across the aisle from us, apparently didn’t share our enthusiasm. Obviously dragged to the show by her parents, the young woman spent the entire show reading a book.

Oh well.

To book your own entertainment at the Morris, call their box office at: 219/235-9190.

River Bend  Continued from Page 19

And back to our earlier tour of downtown South Bend with Natalie and Denise and Lee Sahs.

We four walked up one side of the mighty Saint Joe and down the next and were thankful to South Bend for providing such easy access to their magnificent riverfront. Some cities hide their rivers from view, but South Bend puts the storied Saint Joseph on plain view for all to see and enjoy.

We four certainly enjoyed our hike along the south bend of the St. Joseph, and at least one of our number was giving serious thought to entering the 2001 Sunburst road race on June 9 which takes walkers and runners on 5K and 10K foot tours of South Bend from the College Football Hall of Fame to a finish at the 50 yard line at the Notre Dame football stadium.

Take it from one who’s run both the 5K and 10K, it’s a truly awesome experience. Yes, runners and walkers do indeed get to travel along the banks of the St. Joseph, and the finishing cruise into the football stadium is truly a hoot!

The entry deadline is June 1, and applications are available by calling the CityLine Hotline at 219/674-0900, category 6262, or visit their website at: www.sunburst.org.

Whatever you decide to do, please be assured you won’t be bored by the riverside in downtown South Bend.
**Financial Aid Info Meeting**

Parents and students are invited to a meeting at Michigan City High School on Tues., Jan. 30th, at 7 p.m. in the library. A university financial aid administrator will be sharing valuable information for completing the FAFSA (financial aid form) and answering questions regarding applying for financial aid.

For more information, phone the Guidance Department at MC High School at 873-2050.

**College Goal Sunday**

If you can't attend the abovementioned meeting, plan on attending College Goal Sunday, on Feb. 11, 2 p.m., at the MC Public Library. This event will be covered in the Feb. 8 issue of *The Beacher*.

---

**Grissom Air Museum New Exhibit**

They made history in the skies during WWII, Korea and the Cold War. Now the members of the former 319th Fighter Interceptor Squadron will have their history permanently enshrined at the Grissom Air Museum State Historic Site. The museum will collect and display the artifacts and memorabilia which will tell the story of the famous squadron. The exhibit is expected to be ready by March.

As part of the renowned “Checkertail Clan,” the 319th helped defeat the Germans in the Mediterranean Theatre in WWII. They racked up 122 aerial victories and two distinguished unit citations in their P-40, P-47 and P-51 fighter planes.

During the Korean War, the 319th again served with distinction, downing several enemy fighters, while never losing a single bomber they were protecting to enemy action.

Throughout much of the Cold War, the 319th was equipped with a succession of high-performance jet fighters, and charged with protecting America from potential air attacks. From 1955-1963, the unit was located in Bunker Hill Air Force Base (now Grissom Air Reserve Base). That was the longest the 319th was ever stationed at one base. The unit was finally deactivated in 1977.

Staff and volunteers will work on the exhibit in the next few months, and the first phase of it should be done by March.

Grissom Air Museum is part of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources’ Division of State Museums and Historic Sites. It is located 60 miles north of Indianapolis on Highway 31. The outdoor exhibit area includes 20 historic aircraft and is open 7 a.m. to dusk daily, year round. The indoor museum displays are open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tues.-Sat., beginning Feb. 6. Admission is free. For more information, phone 765/688-2654 or visit the web site www.GrissonAirMuseum.com

Additional information on the 319th Fighter Interceptor Squadron is available at www.319th.com
The Beach Garden Club held their Christmas Luncheon at the Michigan City Yacht Club on Dec. 14th. Dolly Millick was hostess and Kelly Leiby co-hostess.

Entertainment was provided by Lee Behr and Norm Berman with a reading, “I’m Herbert.”

New Officers -- 2001
(front l-r): Vice-President Marilyn McKay, President Marge Hurley.
(back l-r): Treasurer Dolly Millick, Recording Secretary Dorothy Brown and Corresponding Secretary Julie Burke.

(seated): Ruth Meiser.
(standing): June Kelley (l) and Dolly Millick.

(l-r): Betty Duggan, Eddi Hoppe, Jinny Hilf and Dorothy Miller.

(l-r): Jan Clarke and Joan Langley.

(l-r): Joan Langley, Madga Butcher, Marge Hurley and Jan Clarke.

Norm Berman and Lee Behr provided the afternoon’s entertainment with a dramatic reading.
R.O.S.E. Recognition Of Service Excellence

December 2000

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The LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau encourages you to recognize exceptional service in our communities with a R.O.S.E. nomination. Call 872-5055 or 326-8115 for details.
Spring Fling Raffle at Marquette HS

Marquette High School’s “Spring Fling Raffle” is in full bloom, with raffle tickets now on sale at the high school for the April 21st fundraiser at Heston Hills Banquet Center.

The Marquette Parents’ Organization sponsors promise an evening filled with fun and fortuitous excitement as the progressive raffle unfolds...will you win $1,000, $2,000 or one of the other cash prizes as the night grows? Or will you be picked as the big, bloomin’ winner of the $5,000 jackpot?

The fundraiser begins at 7 p.m. with hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. Winners need not be present to win. (Except for the loser’s drawing.)

Tickets are $100 each, for a chance to win one of over $12,500 in cash prizes. You may call the school at 873-1325 to arrange a ticket purchase or stop in the school office at 306 W. 10th St., Michigan City.

Fitness Fundraiser

Gold’s Gym Harbor Country, New Buffalo, is offering a Fitness Fundraiser for St. Mary of the Lake School. A special “buy a 3-month membership and get a 4th month free” offer will be available through Jan. 28th. For more information, phone Gold’s Gym at 616/469-0585. They are located at 530 S. Whittaker Street, New Buffalo.

Funds raised through this event will go toward the general fund for the new gymnasium on the New Buffalo campus of St. Mary of the Lake School. Construction of the gym is slated to begin this year with a projected opening date of Nov. 1, 2001.

CISV Accepting Applications

Childrens International Summer Village is accepting applications for several programs. All 10 year-old students, going on eleven by this summer are invited to participate in the selection process. There will be a mini-village and selection process at Joy School the weekend of Feb. 9th. Also, there are Junior Counselor spots for two 16-17 year-old boys to villages in Dallas and Philadelphia. An Interchange program is in the works for 14-15 year-olds to Luxembourg this summer. CISV Seminar Camp has openings for one 17-18 year-old female to Pittsburgh, and one male to Denmark this July. For more information, phone 874-4105 or 219/326-6680.
Welcome new tenants to our now very full community center. Weil McLain will be conducting classes for their employees with professors from Ivy Tech. This was pulled together very quickly and they are just about moved in and ready to begin. We are glad to have them join our ever growing family!

Winterview Juried Art Show awards ceremony and opening reception was held last Sunday in the Harbar and Lake’s Edge Galleries (because of deadlines, I do not have the results - next week!). The exhibit runs through February 28th. Take some time to stop in and see the wonderful art on display!

If you are interested in renting a room for a party or meeting, or teaching a class, please call 879-3845.

“Lead White-Dead White”

On Thurs., Feb. 8th, 7 p.m., the Krasl Art Center will host the lecture “Lead White-Dead White” with Aimee Marcereau of the Detroit Institute of Arts, Department of European Paintings. This lecture is offered in conjunction with the exhibition “Collars and Cuffs: The Politics of Fashion in European Portraiture 1630 to 1880” on loan from the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Using the portraits in the gallery as a reference point, Ms. Marcereau will present an illustrated discussion about the dangerous and interesting beauty practices in which women (and sometimes men) indulged. Adhering to the 18th century fashion and beauty regimen was a serious issue for anyone attempting to appear fashionable. Women whitened their faces, rouged their cheeks, and built up their hair to towering heights, all with the aid of chemicals whose toxicology often proved lethal and very often to be a fire hazard. Despite the publication of a treatise on the dangers of such cosmetics, nevertheless, a narcissistic embrace of beauty prevailed.

This lecture is offered free of charge. Phone the Education Department at 616/983-0271 for more information, or check the web site www.krasl.org

The Krasl Art Center is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Michigan.

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Catholic Schools Week

Northwest Indiana McDonald's Restaurants and Catholic schools are once again teaming up to present their annual fundraising campaign in support of Catholic Schools Week (January 28-February 3). The theme this year is Celebrate Catholic Schools.

Students in 32 Catholic schools will begin selling McDonald’s coupon books on Mon., Jan. 29. The coupon books have a value of over $22 and cost only $3. Funds raised by the students will directly benefit the local schools.

The sale will continue through the month of February or until the supply of booklets is depleted. The coupons are valid through August 31, 2001 and may be used at any McDonald’s Restaurant in Northwest Indiana.

If interested in purchasing a book, contact your nearest neighborhood Catholic school for more information.

A K Smith Center Open House

A.K. Smith Area Career Center invites the public to an Open House and Apprenticeship Fair at the center, 817 Lafayette Street, on Jan. 30th, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Spokesmen for apprenticeships will also be available to talk to the public about opportunities in the following fields: Automotive Technology, Boilermaker, Childcare, Electrical JATC, Construction, Iron Worker, Laborer, Machinist, Welder, Millwright, Maintenance Machinist, Painter, Plumber, Sheet Metal Worker 20, Tool & Die, Bricklayer, and the Army, Marines, National Guard and Navy.

The following colleges will be in attendance: ITT, Purdue North Central, Lake Michigan College, Baker College, Commonwealth Business College, Michiana College, IVY Tech (Michigan City and Valparaiso).

For more information, phone LaCinda Browning, Vocational Counselor, 873-2120, ext. 422.

VU Multicultural Film Fest

The Office of Multicultural Relations at Valparaiso University is sponsoring a Multicultural Film Fest during spring semester. The films take place at 8 p.m. inside the Martin Luther King Cultural Center, 606 Freeman St., on campus.

The schedule includes:
Jan. 31— “Cesar Chavez-Si Se Puede” and “Muslims in America: The Misunderstood Millions.”
Feb. 13— “Four Little Girls.”
Feb. 20— “The Way Home.”
Feb. 27— “Great Black Women.”
April 11— “The Politics of Love-In Black & White.”
May 2— “The Significance of Cinco de Mayo.”
Valentine Messages

It’s that time again for the Valentine issue of The Beacher. Do you have a Valentine message for someone special? Or perhaps a poem? Our Valentine issue will be published Feb. 8th.

New This Year
Perhaps someone has touched your life in a special way or you met your beloved in unique circumstances. If anyone has a touching real-life story they would like to share with our readers, we want to hear from you!

So mail or drop off your entries to our office at 911 Franklin Street, or e-mail us at beachersallym@bbpnet.com

Deadline is February 2nd.

Fish and Wildlife Art Contest
Wildlife artists may begin submitting entries to the Indiana DNR’s biennial fish and wildlife art contest. Selected artwork will be used for the 2002 and 2003 state migratory waterfowl, trout/salmon and game bird habitat stamps, as well as the acclaimed Hoosier Outdoor Calendar.

The contest is open to all artists, regardless of residency. Entries are accepted through April 12. Two first place winners and two honorable mentions are selected for each stamp category, and two first place winners and ten honorable mentions are chosen in the calendar category. First place artists receive $1,500 and honorable mention artists receive $750. All winning entries will be featured in the 2001-2002 or 2002-2003 Hoosier Outdoor Calendar.

The Hoosier Outdoor Calendar and conservation stamps have become a tradition with Hoosier wildlife enthusiasts. In addition to exceptional fish and wildlife artwork, the calendar features natural history notes, hunting and trapping dates and seasonal wildlife viewing opportunities.

The division’s stamp program began in 1952 with the trout/salmon stamp, which continues to fund trout and salmon management in Indiana. Hunters help grouse, quail, wild turkey, geese, ducks and other wildlife by purchasing waterfowl or game bird habitat stamps.

For more information and an entry form visit: http://www.ai.org/dnr/fishwild/contest.htm

Or write to Art Contest, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 402 W. Washington Street, Room W 273, Indianapolis, IN 46204, or call 317-232-4080.

See examples of art from the sold out 2000-2001 Hoosier Outdoor Calendar at: http://www.ai.org/dnr/fishwild/cal2.html

Support those who advertise in the Beacher! Tell them you saw their Ad!
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:


January 27 — Chess Tournament. 8 am. Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. 219/921-0963.

January 28 — Purduettes concert. 2 pm. Library-Student-Faculty Building, Purdue University North Central campus. Free adm.

January 30 — Mayor’s Coffee. 9:30 am. Mayor Brillson and the “City Team” discuss current issues and answer questions. Refreshments served. Michigan City Senior Center, Washington Park. 873-1504.

January 30 — A.K. Smith Area Career Center Open House. 6:30-8:30 pm. 817 Lafayette St., Michigan City.


January 17-March 4 — “The One Chosen: Images of Christ in Recent New York Art.” Exhibt at the Brauer Museum on the campus of Valparaiso University. Tues, Thurs, Fri, 10 am-5 pm; Wed, 10 am-8:30 pm; Sat & Sun, noon-5 pm. Closed Mon. Info 219/464-5114.

Places to Visit:


Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., Michigan City. Guided tours on Mon-Fri, 10 am, 11:30 am; Sat. noon & 2 pm. Adm. $4/adults, $2/kids 18 and under, free/kids under 3.

Great Lakes Museum of Military History, 360 Dunes Plaza, Michigan City. Info 872-2702 or on the web at www.militaryhistorymuseum.org

New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker St., New Buffalo, MI. Open Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm; Sat-Sun, 10 am-3 pm (MI time). Info 616/469-5409.

Farther Afield:

Through February 28 — Old-fashioned bob sled rides at Buckley Homestead. bet. 1-3 pm. Sundays only. $2 per person. Bobsled holds 8-10. 3606 Belshaw Rd., Lowell. Take I-65 south, exit at Rt. 2 west in Lowell; go to Hendricks Rd, then south for 1/4 mile. 219/696-0769.


Through February 25 — Tobaggan run at Pokagon State Park. (The only one in Indiana). Fri 5-10 pm; Sat, 10 am-10 pm; Sun, 10 am-5 pm. $4 per hr. for 4 people. Located 6 mi. north of Angola, near the intersection of I-69 and Indiana Toll Road. 800/581-0908.
Continuing:
Through February 4, 2001 — Eric Gill and the Guild of Saint Dominic exhibit at the Snite Museum of Art on the campus of Notre Dame University, South Bend. Tues-Wed, 10 am-4 pm; Thurs-Fri, 10 am-5 pm; Sun, 1-5 pm. Closed Mon & holidays. 219/631-5466. or www.nd.edu/~sniteart

Through May 31, 2001 — “Picturing Lincoln: The Changing Image of America’s 16th President.” Exhibit at the Northern Indiana Center for History, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. 219/235-9664 or www.centerforhistory.org

La Leche League Meeting

The February meetings of Michiana La Leche League will celebrate the new baby in your life. If you are expecting, have a newborn, or would like to share your newborn experiences, attend the evening meeting on Feb. 6, 7 p.m., at the OB/GYN Suite of the Michigan City Medical Group, 1225 E. Coolspring Ave.

The morning meeting will be held at 9 a.m., Feb. 8, at Zion Lutheran Church, 9009 Pahs Road, Michigan City.

If you have any questions, phone Susan at 616/469-2904, Kelly at 219/362-2687, or Carol at 872-6201.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

11 a.m. NATIVE AMERICAN MEDICINE. This is a 60 min. video that explores some of the ways Native Americans performed spiritual healing, primal healing, and first aid.

2 p.m. DIANA OF THE DUNES. Once there was a girl named Alice, or was it Diana? She was a young, beautiful, bronze goddess—or was that a bit older and rather plain-looking? Contradiction, mystery, love, strength, and pain surround the tale of Alice Mable Gray, and inspire continued support of the legend of Diana of the Dunes. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium to sort through the facts yourself, and discover a woman who was more amazing than her legend could ever be.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

2 p.m. WATER OLYMPICS. How many drops of water can you fit on a penny? Can water walk a tight rope? Can a paper clip float on water? Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium and discover some of the amazing properties of water. Participants can journey through the water cycle here on our lovely planet, and then try their hands at a variety of fun experiments designed to help you understand some of water’s amazing properties.

For more information, phone 926-1390 or 926-1952.
ATTENTION ARTISTS! ARTIST STUDIO space now available in historic section of Michigan City...just steps away from the South Shore Line! Starting at $125.00 per month, all utilities included. Call Mike Connor at (219) 873-1855.

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ON JANUARY 25, 1890, New York World reporter Nellie Bly received a tumultuous welcome after completing a round-the-world journey in 72 days, beating the fictional 80-day trip of Jules Verne’s Phileas Fogg.

On January 25, 1915, telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell inaugurated transcontinental phone service with a call from New York to San Francisco.

On January 25, 1959, the “jet age” opened in the United States when American airlines scheduled the first transcontinental flight (from New York to Los Angeles) of a Boeing 707.

On January 25, 1974, Yale University acknowledged that its highly publicized “Vinland Map,” was a forgery. This map purported to show North America (as discovered by Leif Ericson) centuries before the arrival of Columbus.

On January 26, 1788, the first European settlers, led by Captain Arthur Phillip, landed in the approximate area where the Australian city of Sydney now stands.

On January 26, 1802, Congress passed an act calling for a library to be established within the U.S. Capitol, a harbinger of the present “Library of Congress.”

On January 26, 1837, with the signing of a statehood bill by President Andrew Jackson, Michigan was formally admitted as the 26th state of the Union.

On January 26, 1875, George F. Green, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, was granted a patent for an electric dental drill.

On January 26, 1880, General Douglas MacArthur, who would become one of the leading American generals in World War II, was born in Little Rock, Arkansas.

On January 27, 1756, English writer Horace Walpole read a fairy tale called “The Travels and Adventures of Three Princes of Serendip.” He was so impressed with their capacity for making accidental discoveries that, in a letter written on this date, he created the word serendipity to describe this ability. This is one of the rare instances in history when the exact date of origin of a word can be documented.

On January 27, 1756, Austrian music composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born at Salsburg.

On January 27, 1832, English author Lewis Carroll, best known for “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland,” was born in Daresbury, Cheshire.

On January 27, 1854, the first regularly scheduled trains began rolling on the Canadian Great Western Railway.

On January 27, 1880, Thomas Edison was granted a patent for an incandescent light.

On January 28, 1754, English writer Horace Walpole read a fairy tale called “The Travels and Adventures of Three Princes of Serendip.” He was so impressed with their capacity for making accidental discoveries that, in a letter written on this date, he created the word serendipity to describe this ability. This is one of the rare instances in history when the exact date of origin of a word can be documented.
On January 28, 1807, London's Pall Mall became the world's first street to be illuminated with gaslight.

On January 28, 1878, in New Haven, Connecticut, the first telephone switchboard went into operation.

On January 28, 1878, the first daily college newspaper, the *Yale News*, began publication in New Haven.

On January 28, 1902, with a gift of $10 million, Andrew Carnegie established the Carnegie Institute.

On January 28, 1915, the Life Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service were merged to form the United States Coast Guard.

On January 28, 1986, before millions of horrified television viewers, the space shuttle *Challenger* exploded over the Atlantic Ocean, bringing death to the seven Astronauts (including school teacher Christa McAuliffe) aboard.


On January 29, 1861, Kansas became the 34th state to be admitted to the Union.

On January 29, 1894, Detroit’s C.B. King received a patent for a pneumatic hammer.

On January 30, 1781, the Articles of Confederation were adopted by Maryland, the last of the 13 states to do so.

On January 30, 1815, Congress authorized purchase of Thomas Jefferson’s library; making it the nucleus of the Library of Congress.

On January 30, 1933, the first episode of the *Lone Ranger* was broadcast on Detroit’s radio station WXYZ.

On January 30, 1948 aviation pioneer Orville Wright died (in Dayton, Ohio) at the age of 76.

On January 31, 1752, American Revolutionary War patriot Gouverneur Morris was born at Morrisania, New York. He headed the committee that wrote the final draft of the United States Constitution, and much of the credit for the wording in the document belongs to him.

On January 31, 1949, television’s first daytime soap opera, “These Are My Children,” was broadcast from Chicago’s NBC studios.

On January 31, 1950, President Harry Truman announced that the United States was developing a hydrogen bomb.

On January 31, 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with the launching of Explorer 1, its first successful launching of a satellite into orbit.

On January 31, 1990, the McDonald Corporation opened 1st first fast-food restaurant in Moscow.
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Behind location, timing is everything. How many times has this happened to you? A co-worker tells a great joke. It involves penguins and ducks and other fowl. You race to your office to write it down, being sure to underline the punch line and when it is sprung. You leave work and head to the gym for aerobics and there tell your class that you just heard the funniest joke. You remember all of the lines. And you even get the punch line right. The only problem is that, while you remembered all of the lines, you reversed the punch line with the last line of the story. Needless to say, instead of laughs, you get only confused looks. While timing is important in jokes, it is also important in library materials. Here’s what I mean:

Last year, the bookstores and libraries were packed with crowds of children and their parents desperately reaching for one of the quickly disappearing copies of the Harry Potter books. At the time, I was sure that a book, which generated such enthusiasm, merited its own column and perhaps a series of articles. Attempting to stay true to the column, I tried to get a copy of one of the books at the public library. But, compared with all of the others who dutifully checked the stacks, I just didn’t have the patience.

So, now, a year or so later, I have finally accomplished the seemingly impossible. I have all four of the Harry Potter books. And over the next five weeks, I’ll escort you through his magical world, a world to which thousands of children and adults have journeyed. Besides, I need a vacation (even if it is via the imagination).

This week’s article will serve as an introduction to the Harry Potter series. There are two important points that I need to clarify. First, Harry Potter is not your typical eleven-year-old. He appears to be, with his skinny frame, heavy glasses, and unmanageable hair. In fact, his aunt and uncle, with whom he lives, have gone out of their way to not treat Harry as anyone special. But, despite how Harry has grown up and how he has been treated by his make-shift family, Harry Potter has a secret identity, an identity that even he does not know until a very strange message arrives via a very strange carrier in the most unusual of circumstances.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone is the first book in the series and tells the whole story. We’ll get to that next week. For now, I want you to think about how every child, and every adult for that matter, secretly longs to discover that he or she has something that no other has, a secret specially tailored and like no other. And everyone should be told so.

The second point that I want to make is that imagination is not a childish thing.

The aunt and uncle with whom Harry had come to live did not approve of imagination. So when Harry would tell stories about dreams he had experienced, or when his uncle would see things that made no sense to him, the fantasies and images were quickly dismissed. I understand that imagination may have its place. You can’t very well run around the office in long underwear with a tablecloth as a cape, pretending you’re Superman. But you can tell the story of Superman and his great adventures, with all the detail you imagined when you wore your cape, to your four-year-old as you tuck him into bed. Timing.

Harry Potter’s aunt and uncle never thought that the time was right to engage in flights of fancy. They didn’t give Harry’s imagination any time. Neither did they give Harry, himself, any time. They dismissed both Harry and his dreams. But, as we will discover during the next several weeks, Harry’s time would come. And it would come with all of the magic and fantasy that children can imagine.

For children, the Harry Potter books are a chance to don tablecloth capes. For adults, the books are a reminder that there’s still a little bit of Superman inside all of us.

And for all, they provide a reminder: We must be careful not to dismiss the dreamer with the dream.
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