There was this woman on the phone to a talk-
show host and her voice was turned up so as to
be heard miles away and the chap with the
microphone told her not to be so angry and she
said to him, “I’m not angry, I’m Irish.”

The Irish, such as herself, seem to have
ways of being different from other people in the
world for whatever their reason. For certain they
are able to support such distinction in this about them, that
Ireland is the only place in the whole world, to my
knowing, where it is said there are leprechauns.

I had no intention at all to be thinking about
leprechauns when I went to Ireland a few years
back on a writing assignment.

It was the afternoon of a day during which I had spent
most of the time interviewing people and the doing of that
had left me with a bit of thirst. So I stopped in at a pub
in the Sandymount section of Dublin, a nice place which
I had visited on previous trips and was glad to be back there.

Shortly after seating myself at a small table, with my back
to the wall where I could survey the scene of it all, there came
through the far door and the near door a collection of jolly
folk. These were young men and young women who
were evidently regular patrons, as possible to
assume since they made for a certain portion of
the bar, and greeted the counterman as a close
acquaintance.
A Bit of the Little Bit  Continued from Page 1

Having exchanged the news of their day and being served their customary quenchers they quieted for the space of a first sip during which one of the girls noticed me.

“You’re a Yank,” she said.

I admitted to that and the word went around among them. “Mind is we come over?” she said.

No need for me to answer. They were enroute while the question was being asked. Drinks in hand they dragged stools from other tables and sat around. There were introductions and talk about America and some venturings into politics on both sides of the water. A change of course in the conversation seemed appropriate so I asked about the current play at the Oscar Theatre, not far from where we were. I had seen “Peg ‘O My Heart” there the last time I had been across.

No more live shows at the Oscar they told me. Not since the one that had a nude girl starting things off by coming in front of the curtain to say, “Ladies and Gentlemen, may I have your attention?”

“I Imagine that, in Dublin of all places?” said one.

“It was a howl of a show,” said another. “But the leprechauns closed it down.” They were agreed about that.

Later, back at my accommodation, houseman, Paddy, got the bathwater running with the help of a raw potato which he jammed on the top of the drain opening from which he had removed the sleeve.

“I’ll leave the spud in case you need it,” he said. “It’s one of them leprechaun tricks.”

Why leprechauns in Ireland? No one seemed to think it was odd that I asked.

“Well, we do have an abundance of rain now, don’t we? It’s what keeps Ireland green, doesn’t it?” Frank wasn’t really posing questions so there was no need to interrupt his thought with answers.

“So, we have a great supply of rainbows.” Frank squirmed back to a comfortable sag in his chair. “What do you do with rainbows all over the place and no use for them whatever?”

It sounded very much like the first leprechaun was involved with the first rainbow and I said so. I also said that made it sound sort of biblical. It also meant that Noah had been the first human to see a leprechaun.

“Right enough,” Frank said. “You will remember there was something about a couple of the old fella’s boys getting him a few gargles which may have had something to do with it.”

There were other responses from other folk in other places.

“There were the first settlers who came here and the second settlers came after them.” McCarthy, the academic, had the floor. “The first settlers were stubby little folk and peaceful enough. So, when the next lot showed up, with their bad tempers and being taller and all that goes with it, those who had been here before took to getting themselves out of the way by going underground. Ever since then, in Ireland, there have been people on top of the ground and people under it.”

So it went, wherever I did, including Limerick where there was no end of home-made intelligence from the geniuses gathered in Liam’s place, with himself directing the flow of traffic.

The off-duty policeman advised that I talk to the English because they talked to leprechauns all the time, a habit of theirs which had profound side effects...

Nuldoon had sold me a shillelagh that afternoon at his shop with the assurance there was nothing like a tap on the head for water on the brain. “Leprechauns now, is it? You’ll do better askin’ the leprechauns to explain the Irish rather than the other way around.”

It was worth a try and Des was just the lad to try it on. He is an
Irishman and analyzing is part of his profession. We sat in his parlor which was a bit more formal a place than our acquaintance required but Des and his boys were building a boat in the kitchen. They would have to remove a kitchen wall to get it out but the wife had been wanting a larger kitchen ever since they bought the place, so no harm done. Des told me the Irish needed their leprechauns.

“Otherwise we would have only the British to blame for the way we are. There’s that awful business of guilt about ourselves. We aren’t what we should be and we know it.”

We had another go at a “round collar”, which is a short form of referring to a pint of Guinness.

“We hide behind our leprechauns and we don’t have to feel all that responsible for what happens. Take that business about the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. It’s a sort of reproach to our spendthrift ways. Money means a lot to our leprechauns because it means very little to ourselves.”

There were no lamps turned on in the room. The late twilight and the flickerings from the fireplace made for a sort of seeing which helped the thinking.

“We are a pessimistic people so our leprechauns are the optimists we are not. They have all the fun we think we would like to have, but shouldn’t.”

There was a sound of a car swinging into the drive. There would be other things to talk about. Des got up and so did I.

“But most of all our leprechauns are useful in that they are a little more odd than we are that helps to explain where we get some of the daft ideas.”

“Like building a boat in the kitchen?” I asked.

“Exactly,” he said.

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Green With Envy? Beacher Writers Celebrate Saint Patrick

by Paula McHugh

Montgomery, McConnell, McElvey, Fitzpatrick, Bowie, Keefe, Maggie and McHugh. If ever there was a reason for The Beacher folk to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, this wee collection of Irish ancestry says it all.

So what if Maggie's last name isn't Irish? Her first name certainly qualifies. And let's add a McCarver while we're at it. I don't know about McConnell, but the McHugh name here is inherited through marriage only. Did you know that James McDonough published The Long Beacher for a year or two? Terence Sheehan would be proud of all of us.

And did you know that Saint Patrick was not of Irish ancestry? Any good Irishman will know that. Not being Irish myself, I did not know. The only thing I was told about—rather sternly—by my former husband was never, EVER, to wear a speck of orange on March 17. Our firstborn was given the proper Irish name Brian, which otherwise would be “Bernard.” Seamus=James; Sean=John; Liam=William, Tadhg=Timothy; Eamonn=Edmond.

Yes, Saint Patrick was born in Britain, in the village of Bennaven Taberniae. His father was a church deacon and the son of a priest. In the 5th century, celibacy of the clergy in Europe was not an issue. Patrick was kidnapped from his father's farm by Irish pirates when he was 16. For the next six years, he lived in slavery in Ireland, where he was ordered to mind sheep and cattle for a farmer named Milcho in Ulster. Around 407 AD he escaped. His plan was to return some day to the land of his captives in order to convert the pagans to Christianity.

And he did return. His earlier experiences in captivity became an advantage because he had learned the Irish folk customs and language. As a Bishop sent to Ireland from Rome, Patrick confronted the Druid's High King, and conversions followed. With the ability to speak to the Irish in their native tongue, Patrick's humility and resolve won the day. Using a shamrock as metaphor, Patrick explained the mystery of the Trinity to his new flock of followers. The Patron Saint of Ireland is said to have plucked the shamrock on the Royal Hill of Tara in County Mayo. Noteworthy is the fact that Patrick became Saint Patrick before the Church had begun the practice of bestowing sainthood upon those selected, a status that was never refuted later.

Saint Patrick is said to have authored a hymn called “The Deer's Cry.” Those familiar with the Navajo “Blessingway” will find a similarity:

The Deer Cry: “Christ be with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me…”

Navajo Blessingway: “I walk with beauty before me, I walk with beauty behind me, I walk with beauty above me, I walk with beauty below me…”

Now you know a little about Saint Patrick and the origin of the shamrock symbol. But what about that pot of gold you see on posters, cards, and other symbols that appear around March 17 (which is said to mark the date of his death in AD 461)? That pot of gold can be interpreted as a symbol of Ireland's inheritance of the values that their patron saint brought them.

Saint Patrick converted the Irish people to Christianity and became Ireland's patron saint.
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Beth Henley’s Pulitzer Prize winning comedy, “Crimes of the Heart,” opens at Michigan City’s Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St., Fri., March 15, 8 p.m. Other performances will be Sat., March 16 at 2 p.m.; Fri., March 22 & Sat., March 23 at 8 p.m.

Initially presented by the Actors Theatre of Louisville, then off-Broadway, and finally Broadway, the comedy teems with humanity and humor as it examines the plight of three young Mississippi sisters betrayed by their passion. In spite of the dysfunctional troubled family’s almost limitless array of problems, reviewers have described the play as “warm-hearted, irreverent, zany and brilliantly imaginative” and “somewhere between parody and melodrama; between the tragic and goofy.”

Set in Hazelhurst, Mississippi, “Crimes of the Heart” tells the story of the ever-accelerating misfortunes of the three Magrath sisters as they struggle to escape the pain of their past and ultimately seize the future. They first came to Hazelhurst parentless after their father left them and their mother hung herself and the pet cat. Now, years later, they have gathered to await the news of their grandfather, the family patriarch, who’s dying in the local hospital.

Lenny, the oldest sister, is celebrating her 30th birthday and on her way to becoming a spinster. Her prospects for marriage are diminishing rapidly and she is the one who has stayed home to take care of “Granddaddy,” who’s in the hospital with “all those blood vessels popping in his brain.”

Meg, the middle sister, quickly outgrew Hazelhurst, but is back after a failed singing career. They have enlisted the aid of a bright, young, nerdy inexperienced lawyer to save their youngest sister, Babe, a dim-witted sugar-holic, from an attempted murder charge after her decision to shoot her husband who had been abusing her. Barnett just happens to have had a long-standing crush on Babe.

Presented by the Festival Players Guild through cooperation with Head Fine Arts, the play is directed by Brant Beckett. Cast members are Kelly Carlin (Portage, MI), Michele Phillips (Sawyer, MI), Tom McClure and Carol Miller (both of Chesterton), Lindsey Edson and Neil Kubath (both of Michigan City).

Tickets are $11 for adults and $5.50 for students high school age and below. Group and senior citizen discounts are also available. All seats are reserved; phone the box office at 874-4269.

The programs of the Festival Players Guild are presented with support of the Northern Indiana Arts Association, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.
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Happy Day ABC Museum!

ABC Children’s Museum will mark its one year birthday at Marquette Mall with a celebration on Sat., March 16th. Everyone is invited to see how the museum has grown in its first year and to share in a huge birthday cake compliments of Old Country Buffet. The restaurant’s mascot, OC Bee, will be on hand to welcome visitors from 1-3 p.m. and will cut the cake at 2 p.m.

Admission is free all day on March 16, thanks to a grant from The Unity Foundation, so come early to explore the many interactive exhibits the museum offers, and stay to help celebrate.

ABC Children’s Museum is located in Michigan City’s Marquette Mall and is open Wed., Thurs. & Fri., 1-5 p.m., and Sat. from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Weekday mornings and early afternoons are available for school groups, and Sundays are reserved for birthday parties. Admission is $3/adults and children; family memberships are available for $35 per year. Phone 874-8222.

Native Plant Sale

Sat., April 6th will be the 6th annual Native Plant Sale organized by the Friends of Indiana Dunes. It will be held at the Indiana Dunes State Park Pavilion, Rt. 49 at Lake Michigan from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

A free hour-long program “Don’t Run Off! Percolate! (Building Rainwater Gardens)” will be given by Agrecol Senior Ecologist Steve Banovetz at 9 & 11 a.m. in the Nature Center Auditorium. Tips and tricks of “Wildflower Seed Propagation”, hands-on demonstrations, will be conducted by Spencer Cortwright, Indiana University Northwest Ecologist.

More than 100 plant species, including woodland flowering plants and ferns, dry prairie plants and grasses, medium prairie and wet prairie flowering plants, and a large selection of native shrubs, will be offered. All varieties are potted (shrubs are bagged).

To guarantee availability of desired plants, preordering is advised by March 16. Preorder pickup will be at a separate designated area on April 6.

For more information, phone the Friends of Indiana Dunes at 219/926-7561, ext. 230.
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The LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau has unveiled a new logo to represent the county. The new “LaPorte County Northern Indiana” logo replaces the old “Northern Indiana Harbor Country” logo.

The new logo incorporates many aspects of LaPorte County from the vegetation that includes marshes in the central and southern portions of the county, to beautiful Lake Michigan in the north. The family symbolizes LaPorte County as being safe and a place to do many activities together.

The new logo was designed by the company of Lambo & Landsman based on a brand personality study conducted for the Bureau, to find out how residents of surrounding regions and past visitors perceived LaPorte County. The result is a family-oriented, traditional yet progressive area, and a colorful, inviting logo for LaPorte County that captures that essence.

For more information on the logo, or other events in the county, phone 872-5055 or 800/634-2650.
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“Years before his murder on the Bridge of Montereau, Duke John the Fearless of Burgundy commissioned a jewel called the Three Brethren. It was the shoulder-knot of a cloak, a triangle of stones connected by crude spurs of gold. It was wide as a piece of armour across the collarbone. The jewel gained its name from its three balas rubies, which were identical in every way.

“If I close my eyes I can see them, always.”

Those are the opening lines from this week’s book recommendation, The Love of Stones by Tobias Hill. The narrator is Katharine Sterne, a young woman who has forsaken love, family and any semblance of a normal life to chase across the Middle East to England to far Japan in an obsessive search for this 500 year old jewel.

Obsession can be a good thing......in small doses........but does it lend itself to a sane lifestyle? That’s the question, and the ultimate problem, here. “The Three Brethren has lured me through 500 years of history, and in the history of jewelry 500 years is only the beginning.” The gospel according to Katharine.

To be truthful, the book starts out slow. Katharine Sterne is not a sympathetic character. Most of the book she seems one-dimentional. It is only her endless search, this “love of stones,” that defines her. “My life is part of the story of the Three Brethren, not the other way round.” But most of the time it is hard to figure out who Katharine really is. Do you want her to be successful? “The Brethren is always ahead of me, solid as a sextant.” Leading her where? And how long will this journey take? What will be the final destination?

I’m not sure when the whole thing caught my attention, but I suddenly found myself carrying the book with me to the laundry room one day and reading as I dumped clothes from the washer to the dryer. From then on I was hooked.

The book travels back and forth in time as we follow both Katharine and the various owners of the Brethren over two continents and through five centuries of human history. It makes for an interesting parallel. Katharine tells the reader: “I see history only through the life of the Three Brethren, and it is like peering through the wrong end of a telescope.”

From royal court to royal court, the brooch had made its way from France to a Mogul emperor, Mohammed Ali Khan.... “He is a man who lived for the sensation of touch. His skin has been polished smooth by lovers.”

The emperor gives the Three Brethren to King George the Third of England who passes it on ultimately to Queen Victoria.

It is here in the early part of the 19th century that we meet two Jewish brothers, Daniel and Salman Levy, who leave their home in Baghdad to make their fortune as goldsmiths in England. The sights and smells of industrial London will fill your imagination as you travel with the brothers up the Thames for their first look at Western culture. You will feel, as I did, an instant sympathy for these two innocents, whose simple faith in their knowledge of stones only brings them disappointment and disaster.

The poetic undertones of this book are no accident since Tobias Hill is the author of three award-winning collections of poetry. His short-story collection, Skin, won the 1998 PEN/Macmillan Award for fiction.

If you have a passion for jewels and precious stones, you are sure to appreciate this story.

If you have a passion for words and the sensations they evoke, you will inhale this story.

Till next time, happy reading!

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Reference Sites, Mouse & Windows History

I don’t own a laptop; otherwise, I would be bringing you additional southwestern-based websites for you to check out. Yes, I’m still in Arizona. Please make sure that winter has left completely before I return home, will you?

Here I sit with piles of snow to gaze at out the window. I’m really still here in Indiana as I write this column, which won’t see light for two weeks. I’m just pretending to be somewhere amid the cactus, Palo Verde trees, pinyin pines, sagebrush, and other delights.

My website recommendations this week begin with an ancient history of computer capabilities. Well, not ancient, but from circa 1968. The place was the Stanford Research Institute. The occasion was a seminar for computer professionals. The speaker was Douglas Engelbart. Engelbart invented the first computer mouse by the way. If any of you readers are curious about the pioneer days before the PC explosion, you can get the full story by logging on to a streaming video presentation of Engelbart’s talk. Maybe only computer nerds would be interested. But it offers a piece of history, and you’ll see the early models of using multiple windows in the video demo. Log on at http://sloan.stanford.edu/MouseSite/1968Demo.html.

I haven’t been happy with BlueMountain.com’s new members-only e-card service. You can still get a small assortment of free cards to send, but the site is just not the same. I don’t blame them for charging, but I’m cheap. I’m always on the lookout for sites that let you send free e-cards. One sure bet is to log on to a travel-related site (usually a metro area’s visitor information site). I found some nice photo e-cards at Phoenix’s visitors’ site, but you have to put up with a small ad that runs across your choice of card.
Lady Golfers Wanted!

North Course Women Nine Hole Golf is looking for new members. They will meet on Monday mornings. For information, phone Diane at 872-5956.

Better yet, I found a very classy selection of free e-cards from the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Impress your friends by sending them a MoMa card. The website address is http://moma.e-cards.org/.

Now for a mention of some handy reference websites. Say, for example, that you are aware of some Area Code changes in other states, but you don't know the new prefix. You can log on to http://decoder.american.com/ to find out the changes. Speaking of... Aren't we lucky that we've been able to keep "219" around here? Or did LaPorte have to change their new prefix? I'll have to log on to the decoder to find out.

You've seen those ad banners for Classmates.com and other ads telling of services to find long-lost friends. Or perhaps you want to do some digging, sort of like a background check, on a particular individual. You might be able to find the information at the Public Record Locator. Log on to www.pac-infor.com and search away. You can be sure that top journalists use this site, particularly for investigative reporting.

Last but not least, there are a few sites worth mentioning pertaining to the law, new laws, and general legal information. Two that you might want to check out are www.nolo.com and www.findlaw.com. When you've finished surfing both, click on over to www.overlawyered.com for some incredible courtroom stories.

That's all for this week. I'm not taking e-mail letters while on vacation, so yours will be unread for at least a week.

Happy cybertrails to you!

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$5 Students

March 15, 16, 17
Friday & Saturday Curtain 7:30 p.m.
Sunday Matinee Curtain 2:00 p.m.

For Reservations Call 219-362-5113

Tickets Available: Hilibsh Drugs, Roxy Music, LaPorte Savings Bank, or at the box office prior to performance.

SWCD Annual Tree Sale

Orders are currently being taken for the LaPorte County Soil and Water Conservation District’s annual spring tree sale. The goal of the sale is to encourage landowners, schools, and residents to become local stewards of their local natural resources. This event is the biggest fundraiser for the district and the money is used to sponsor the many conservation education programs offered by the SWCD.

The varieties for sale are: American arborvitae, Colorado blue spruce, Norway spruce, Canadian hemlock, white pine, and Douglas fir. These evergreens are $15 for a bundle of 10 trees. Also available are red oak, dogwood, sugar maple and tulip poplar. These trees are $7.50 for a bundle of 5 trees.

The Homeowner’s Packet costs $15 and includes 2 white pines, 2 Colorado blue spruce, 2 Douglas fir, 2 dogwood and 2 red oaks.

Wildflower seed is available for $3.50 an ounce.

To request an order form, phone 219/362-6633, ext. 3 or stop by the office at 100 Legacy Plaza West, LaPorte. Pickup will be April 3rd at the district office.

For more information, log onto www.laporteswcd.com

New Phone Numbers for NB Schools

The telephone numbers for New Buffalo Area Schools have been changed. Although callers using the old number have been receiving a recorded message with the new numbers, that recording will soon stop.

The new numbers are: Superintendent’s Office, 616/469-6010; Elementary School, 616/469-6060; Middle School, 616/469-6003; High School, 616/469-6001; Guidance Office, 616/469-6005; Transportation Office, 616/469-1650.

St. Mary of the Lake School Registration

New students entering kindergarten through grade 8 for the 2002-2003 school year, may register by appointment during the week of March 18-22, at St. Mary of the Lake School in New Buffalo. Phone the school office at 616/469-1515. Birth certificate and immunization record are required.

Parents and prospective new students are always welcome to visit St. Mary of the Lake. Registration for the Kaleidoscope Preschool and Fours’ Program will take place during April, the Month of the Young Child.
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Try it now at:
When one door closes, another one opens.

Long Beach Elementary School, built in 1927, closed its academic doors in the late spring of 1997. But the doors to the Old School did not stay locked for long. Long Beachers had too many fond memories of their student days, as well as their children's, to let the one-story John Lloyd Wright-designed building go the way of the wrecking ball.

Since its new beginning four years ago as the Old School Community Center, the halls that once echoed the voices of school children now host a flock of new voices. What started slowly as an effort to fill the empty classrooms with activities geared to all ages, has mushroomed into an effort to keep track of the waiting list for organizations that wish to rent space within its sunny and welcoming rooms.

The Michigan City Art League has found a large classroom for members' art studies.

A directory in the Old School's entry tells only a partial story of the tenants who have found a second home here.

“All the rooms are occupied,” Susan Vissing explained as we circled the inner halls to see how things have changed since this writer's initial visit back in March 1998. The April 16, 1998 edition of The Beacher featured the “new door” that was opening under the new name, Old School Community Center. At that time, the local Boy Scout troop was holding its meetings there, and former Center director Kim Blowers told me how, for example, the former library would "make an ideal preschool area."

And it has, indeed. As Susan leads us around the glass-walled area, young Montessori students begin to stir as naptime ends. Outside in the courtyard, red and yellow toys brighten up the winter landscape. Along the western entrance, rope lights frame the door and lead to Dancing Feet Yoga and Yoga Kids' studio. Little Star Preschool has already dismissed for the day, and other young students will be coming over to the Center after regular school hours for supervised gym activities.

Next door in the Lake's Edge Gallery, Frank Pishkur's works in clay and paper are on display.

The Beatles would certainly approve of the happening place that the Old School is today. The Harbart Gallery recently featured an exhibit titled, "Sgt. Pepper's Only Arts Club Band."

But youngsters are not the only ones who have made the cozy converted building a vibrant and vital part of the community. A big chunk of activity here can be attributed to the huge pool of outstanding artists who have found a second home within the Old School's walls. Yes, the Old School Community Center is an art-full place!

Connie and George Kassal curate the Harbart and Lake's Edge Galleries, and Connie immerses herself in her creative endeavors a few yards away in her studio space. In another area of the building, the Michigan City Art League has adopted a former classroom for its own teaching and learning space. Valerie Taglieri and Ron Wennekes also have their own art studio in the building. It doesn't take long to figure out that a bevy of creatives continue to find ways to express their inner artists here. Walk in the front entrance and notice the happy solar facial expressions on the wall in front of you. Susan explained that the sunny countenances are the products of a recent art class here.

A sign on the bulletin board near the lending library asks, "Have you seen the bathrooms?" You must visit the bathrooms even if you don't need to use them. Are they a work of art? Yes. During your visit to the Old School, make sure you visit the men's room and the women's room. It would probably be wise to knock on the opposite gender's door first for clearance, but don't pass by either one because you are bound to regret it later. If you're just too timid, well, The Beacher has provided photos for you, but they are not in color, so it's not the same as a first-hand inspection. Hal Higdon has added his own brand of humor above the urinals in the men's room. The women's room is, should we say, more demure? Monet and Cassatt and DaVinci. Water fountains welcome you, and Picasso adds a little spark. You'll find a cop in the men's room. Don't even ask....

Over near the gym, the art students from St. Paul Lutheran have traced in the beginnings of their own mural-type project for the restroom walls.

Speaking of drama (were we?), the Children's theatre of the Dunes Arts Foundation uses the Old School for its winter quarters. And the former kindergarten room will soon evolve into a banquet room space, according to Susan.
Old School Continued from Page 21

The Long Beach Civic Association has donated several round tables for the octagonal room with its distinctive convex wall and fireplace. The former tot’s bathroom has been redesigned with an adult-size kitchen sink, a chest freezer and refrigerator for food service. Susan envisions the room to host future wedding receptions, anniversary parties and other food- and fun affairs. Susan has arranged to have famed electric guitarist Max Brown, former colleague of Les Paul and Bing Crosby, to perform at the Old School this coming June. Susan said that she met the master musician during a visit to Front Porch Music in Valparaiso, and she was thrilled that Max agreed to do a concert at Long Beach.

Susan had another room-in-progress to show us, where The Beacher plays a minor role. The soon-to-be-completed reading room is currently a work-in-progress, with stacks of old newspapers and boxes of photographs being sorted for future visitors. Donors have dropped off copies of the Long Beacher as well as early Beachers, old photos and other early publications. Susan said that she is looking for old Beachers from the 1990’s to fill in some of the gaps of missing issues. Meanwhile, a campaign is underway to have the various papers bound, and anyone wishing to donate $25 for a bound volume is urged to contact Susan. The room will soon have a sofa and coffee table, thanks to local donors the Carsten family, and more furniture donations are needed to round out the room set aside for catching up on treasured Long Beach memories. Paula Trout is co-sponsoring the Historical Room, and though things “are still in the developmental stage” according to Susan, there are plans for a revolving historical photo exhibit of prints from past decades that could include lectures highlighting Long Beach’s history during each decade. Susan also said that plans for a Sunday morning coffee-and-pastries drop-in are in the planning stages, too.

Art, yoga, preschool. Baseball, too. In former classroom number 5, nets and other summer game paraphernalia sit waiting for the Lakeshore Rangers to come...
Jim Cleveinger describes the work that went into stripping down the gym floor as Arden Carlson and Susan Vissing look on.

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in for their meetings. And business, too, occupies a space just down the hall for the folks from Weil-McLain. Susan’s weekly **Beacher** report of Old School activities has helped get the word out about the variety of programs already in progress. She appreciates the many calls she gets from people with new ideas, and in her role as director, she hopes to find ways to successfully follow-up on the requests from people in the community. As we take our leave, Susan fields a call from a reader who wants to know if there will be an Easter egg hunt. Susan jots a note. “People call for information and to suggest activities, and that’s how new ideas develop,” she said. And although Susan spends just Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Old School working, her enthusiasm for her job doesn’t quit when she walks out the door. It just spills over at home, where she spends time brainstorming more ideas for fundraisers and fun-raisers for the heartbeat of Long Beach.
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FRIDAY, MARCH 15
7:30-9 p.m. MUSIC HERITAGE SERIES: SONGS OF OUR CELTIC NEIGHBORS. Join the Save the Tunes Council as they sing “Thistle and Shamrock” songs from the Celtic (Scottish and Irish) community of Northwest Indiana. Meet at the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16
10 a.m.-11 a.m. WINTER DETECTIVE WORK. Do you like the Blues Clues or mystery books? If so, come and join a ranger for a hike through dune country in winter. Young and old alike will enjoy learning about our many animal neighbors and their interesting survival skills. Explore their habitat and search for evidence of their activities. Meet at the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17
10 a.m.-noon. FISH’N THE DUNES. Join a ranger and members of the Northwest Indiana Steel-headers Assoc. for this intro to Dune Country’s “fish’n holes.” Learn about the hot spots in the area as well as the different fish species found in these waters. Meet at Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center.

For more information, phone 926-7061, ext. 225.

Singer/Songwriter in Concert
On Sat., March 16, 7 p.m., the Chicago Street Theatre’s “One Night Jam” acoustic music series will be trying something new: Talented singer/songwriter Les Sampou will be making her debut appearance in Northwest Indiana.

Les Sampou, a Boston-based musician, has four CDs out, two on Flying Fish/Rounder Records. “Borrowed & Blue” is her fourth release. It consists of sixteen country blues songs, originals as well as classics by Robert Johnson, Tommy Johnson, Mississippi John Hurt and many others. Sampou accompanies herself on her steel-string and slide guitar. Go to www.lessampou.com to get a sneak preview.

Tickets are $15 in advance or $18 at the door; phone 219/464-1636 or email box-office@ctgonline.org

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Kumihimo Classes

The Chesterton Art Center is offering a new and different class called “Kumihimo.” It is the ancient art of Japanese braiding often described as “weaving with rainbows.” Kumihimo is a Japanese name, but many of the patterns come out of South America and Africa.

The class is a one-evening class, and is being taught by Bonnie Kruk. There is a choice of evenings: Tues., March 19 or Tues., April 16, from 7-9 p.m. The cost of the class is $15/members and $20/non-members. Held at The Chesterton Art Center, 115 South Fourth St., Chesterton. For more information, or to sign up, phone 219/926-4711. The center is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on weekdays and 1-4 p.m. on weekends.

March 5, 2002

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3. 3 Stooges    23   13

HIGH TEAM GAMES      SCORE
1. McInerney #1  645
2. Gutter Nurses  636
3. One Pin       624

HIGH TEAM SERIES     SCORE
1. Gutter Nurses   1859
2. McInerney #1   1828
3. MC Dental Smiles 1790

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES     SCORE
1. MaryLou McFadden 186
2. Susan Wrenn     180
3. Char Cook       178

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES  SCORE
1. MaryLou McFadden  511
2. Char Cook        504
3. Kim Fellows      457

5-10 split picked up by Connie Althoff
3-9-10 split picked up by Ruth Werdine
Turkey: Susan Wrenn
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SATURDAY, MARCH 16
10 a.m.-5 p.m. HUNTER SAFETY COURSE. Call ahead for more information or to register. Preregistration is required. Phone Stephanie at 926-1952. The course will be held in the Nature Center Auditorium and will continue on Sun., March 17 from 1-5 p.m.
2 p.m. INTERACTIVE NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY EXPLORATION. Join environmental educator Elma Thiele, Cora Thiele, and scout leader Allen King as they lead this exploration. Bring a camera, if you like. Meet at the entrance to the Nature Center.
7 p.m. IN LOVE WITH THE CANYON. Come share in this beautiful celebration of the Grand Canyon, nature and the life of John Thiele. John was the former Director of the Richardson Wildlife Sanctuary. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17
10:30 a.m. OUR PRECIOUS WATER. Come explore an aquatic ecosystem via video and learn how wetlands have important hydrologic and water quality jobs to do. This 1/2 hour video also explores some of the ways human activity can impact water quality and what people can do to help. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium.
2 p.m. IN SEARCH OF GREEN. Come take a walk through the duneland and search for the color green! The leprechauns may even provide a bit of good luck along the trail. Meet at the entrance of the Nature Center.

For more information, phone 926-1390 or 926-1952.

Sons of Norway Meeting
W. Richard Biggs, a professional maker of violins, cellos, violas and bows will describe examples of his work and perform on a Scandinavian-style violin at the March 16th meeting of Sons of Norway Scandiana Chapter. The meeting in the Library Annex, 100 W. Indiana St., Chesterton, will begin with a 6 p.m. potluck dinner.
For more information, phone Jerry Moe, 219/465-4176 or Nancy Tuznik, 872-4946. Visitors are welcome.

MHS Presents “Little Shop of Horrors”
Marquette High School Theatre Department will perform the musical comedy “Little Shop of Horrors” on March 15-17 and 22-24. Friday and Saturday curtain will be at 7 p.m., and Sunday matinee will begin at 2 p.m. The play will be performed at the Marquette Auditorium Rudy Hart Theatre. Tickets are $8/adults and $5/students/senior citizens.
This production is based on the film by Roger Corman and screenplay by Charles Griffith; book and lyrics by Howard Ashman and music by Alan Menken.
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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

March 14-18 — “Amelie.” A film by Jean-Pierre Jeunet, nominated for 5 Academy Awards. Rated R. French language with Eng. subtitles. Thurs 7 pm; Fri & Sat 6:30 & 9:30 pm; Sun 3:30 & 6:30 pm; Mon 7 pm. Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, MI 616/756-3522 or www.vickerstheatre.com

March 15-16, 22-23 — “Crimes of the Heart.” Pulitzer Prize winning comedy at the Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St., MC. Fri @ 8 pm; Sat March 16 @ 2pm, Sat, March 22 @ 8 pm. Tix $11/adults, $5.50/students. Reservations 874-4269.


March 15-17, 22-23 — “McBeth, the Rock Opera.” Presented by the North Coast Cultural Association, written by Dan Schaaf. Fri & Sat 8 pm; Sun 3 pm. 4th Street Theatre, 125 N. Fourth St., Chesterton. Tix $10; reservations’ 219/926-7875.

March 15-17, 22-24 — “Little Shop of Horrors.” Presented by the Marquette High School Theatre Department. Fri & Sat @ 7 pm; Sun @ 2 pm. Tix $8/adults, $5/ sen. cit. & students. Held in the Rudy Hart Theatre in the Marquette Auditorium.


March 16 — Sons of Norway Scandiana Chapter meeting. Held at the Library Annex, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Potluck 6 pm, program after. Info Nancy Tuznik, 872-4946.

March 17 — MC Public Library’s Spring Film series: “Divided We Fall.” Academy Award nominee in 2000 for Best Foreign Film. 2 pm. Czech language with Eng. subtitles. Free and open to the public.

March 17 — Bailey Foundation Sausage, Egg & Pancake Breakfast, Lestinsky Auction & Sharon Sawaya Bake Sale. 7 am-1 pm. LaPorte Armory, 2391 St. Rd. 2, LaPorte. Tix $5/adults, $2/kids under 12. To raise funds for the Bailey family: 3 of 5 members have cancer.

March 18 — Talk by Consul General of Israel to the Midwest Moshi Ram on peace in the Middle East. 7:30 pm. Valparaiso University Union Great Hall. Free & open to the public. Info 219/464-5114.

March 20 -- Blood Pressure Screening at the MC Public Library. 11:30 am. Bring list of medications and blood pressure card.

March 20 — Duneland Weavers Guild meeting. 10 am. 100 West Indiana St., (Thomas Memorial Branch Meeting Center Annex), Chesterton. All welcome. Info Bonnie Kruk, 219/926-7682.


Through March 29 — The Clothesline Project on display at PNC in the North Gallery Lobby of the Technology Bldg. on campus. Mon-Fri 8 am-9 pm; Sat 8 am-4 pm. Display of shirts created by women who have survived acts of violence. Info Patricia Carlisle, 872-0527, ext. 5241.

Places to Visit:
ABC Children’s Museum. Marquette Mall. Wed-Fri 1-5 pm; Sat 10 am-4 pm. 874-8222.
Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., Michigan City. Guided tours on Mon-Fri, 10 am, 11:30 am. 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

LaPorte County Historical Museum, county complex in downtown LaPorte, Indiana. Hours 10 am-4:30 pm, Tues-Sat. Adm. free; donations welcome. 219/326-6808, ext. 276 or www.lapchistsoc.org. February exhibit: Warming Trend — Antique Coverlet Display.

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.

John G. Blank Center for the Arts, 312 E. 8th St., Michigan City. Gallery hours Mon-Fri, 10 am-4 pm; Sat, 10 am-2 pm. 874-4900.


Farther Afield:
March 16 -- St. Patrick’s 54th annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner Dance. 6-11:30 pm. $8 per person (must be 21 to attend). Cash bar & the band “Soundsations.” Letko Hall, 811 Tyler St., Walkerton, IN. Reserve tables: 219/586-7401.


March 20 -- Blood Pressure Screening at the MC Public Library. 11:30 am. Bring list of medications and blood pressure card.
Travels with Charley:

You See the U. (of) C. While Hiking Around Hyde Park

by Charles McKelvy

Forget what T.S. Eliot wrote about April being the cruelest month; the cruelest month, according to my wife Natalie is that which contains her birthday: February.

And according to Natalie, the best place in which to experience the great grayness of her natal month is in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, which, of course, is home to the world-renowned University of Chicago.

Natalie, by the way, was graduated from that august institution of higher learning in 1972 with a B.A. in History and she later claimed an M.B.A. from her alma mater while working a full-time job as a journalist. Like her late Aunt Betty used to say: “Natalie is such a brain-child.”

Oh yes, my dear wife of nearly 25 years is quite the intellectual, and on a particularly dreary day in February she invited me to discover just why she spent so much time in the library at the University of Chicago.

But we had about a half-hour on the clock before the museum was set to open, so we took advantage of having dressed for the weather and hiked through the wet snow to nearby Wooded Island where we had the Japanese Garden all to ourselves. The Chicago Park District is in the process of restoring the lagoons in Jackson Park, but the Japanese Garden is already a gem, having been given a major make-over in the early 1990s thanks to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago and Mayor Nishio of Osaka City, Japan.

Chicago and Osaka, you see, are sister cities, and when Mayor Nishio toured Jackson Park while on a visit to Chicago in 1993, he donated funds on behalf of his city for the garden’s improvement. It was renamed the Osaka Garden, and, as Natalie and I discovered that dreary February day, truly a place of beauty and serenity any time of the year, regardless of the weather.
As a bonus, we spotted a male Hooded Merganser swimming by his lonesome out on the lagoon. We also saw a bonafide Hyde Park birder, complete with sensible shoes, high-powered binoculars, and a well-thumbed copy of Roger Tory Peterson’s indispensable *A Field Guide to the Birds*.

Flush with our success in the field, we headed on over to the Museum of Science & Industry for a free day of poking around the always engaging exhibits. But what to our wondering eyes should we behold upon entering but the notice of a change in free days. Thursday was plain out, and the new plan was too confusing to ponder, so we headed west on 57th Street to the heart of the University of Chicago.

We first crossed under the railroad viaduct, and Natalie ignored my appeal to board the next available Metra train for the portal to adventure that is the Randolph Street Station.

“All right,” I said, disappointed, “but I want a deluxe tour of the University of Chicago as consolation.”

And that’s just what I got from a distinguished member of the class of ’72.

We started at Breckenridge Hall on the Midway where Natalie lived during her sophomore year. To demonstrate that the old hall was full of character, she took me inside where we learned from a friendly woman that the building was being converted into temporary office space to accommodate various university officials who were being uprooted by other construction projects on campus.

Then we hiked westward along the Midway and discovered that the Chicago Park District had thoughtfully constructed a refrigerated ice skating rink and warming house right about mid-campus. Unfortunately, the rink was closed the day of our visit due to inclement weather, meaning it had been too warm and rainy to maintain good ice.

Natalie said skating on the Midway in winter was one way students maintained their sanity during
winter quarter, and she hoped the new rink would be back in action soon.

We were soon touring the Classics Building where Natalie had spent so much of her undergraduate years, and we refueled in the Classics Cafe with some killer coffee and bagels. We could not help but eavesdrop on a pair of professors at the next table who were busily eviscerating some poor graduate student who was not measuring up to their high standards.

Natalie groaned and later noted as we hiked around the quad that she was the only woman in sight wearing bright red. “They’re all wearing gray, black, or brown,” she said. “They blend in with the gray buildings.”

Indeed, even the sparrows, pigeons, starlings, and squirrels were blending in with the gray buildings.

To bust our gray mood, we headed on over to the university’s David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art at 5550 S. Greenwood Avenue where admission is always free and where they were featuring an exhibition by Chinese artist Mu Xin of his landscape paintings and prison notes. (It’s there until March 31, so head on over to Hyde Park if you want to get a real feel for what it was like to be a victim of the Cultural Revolution. Phone 773/702-0200 for more information.)

We were heartened to learn that Mu Xin now lives safely and peacefully in the United States and shares our love of opera. In fact, his love of opera got him through his long prison ordeal in that he would set a lighted match in the dirt and watch it burn out all the while pretending that it was a dying diva in a Verdi or Wagner opera.

We agreed that we had done the smart thing by visiting the Smart Museum of Art. (So you know, they open weekdays at 10 a.m. and weekends at noon. They close Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 4p.m. on Thursday at 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 6 p.m. And they have plenty of free parking.)

As we walked back to our car, I asked Natalie if she wanted to move back to Hyde Park and maybe work in some way for her alma mater.

She fixed her gaze eastward toward the lake and our home in Harbert, Michigan on the other side and said simply and firmly: “No way. Once was enough. Now take me home.”

And that I dutifully did.
Upcoming Events at VU

**VU Chorale Concert**
The spring tour by the Valparaiso University Chorale will culminate with a performance in the Chapel of the Resurrection on campus at 7:30 p.m., Tues., March 19th. The Chorale recently opened a six-state spring tour with a performance in St. Louis.

Tickets are $10/adults, $5/senior citizens and non-VU students.

The Chorale, conducted by Dr. Christopher M. Cock, Phyllis and Richard Duesenberg professor in Lutheran music, offers audiences a unique opportunity to reflect on recent world events. The group will perform major portions of Maurice Durufle’s “Requiem” and James MacMillan’s “Cantos Sagrados”. There will also be motets of Schutz and Mendelssohn, music texts of William Shakespeare and familiar hymns and spirituals.

**Chamber Band Concert**
The Valparaiso University Chamber Concert Band will reprise a three-state spring tour with a performance in the Chapel of the Resurrection on campus Wed., March 20th. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $10/general admission, $5/senior citizens or students.

The band, conducted by Dr. Jeffrey Scott Doebler, associate professor of music and director of bands, will feature a performance of Kallman’s “Yankee Doodling: A Young Person’s Guide to the Concert Band,” a musical showcase interspersed with humorous narration. The band will also perform a rousing and patriotic “Sousa Concert” and excerpts from DeMeij’s Symphony No. 2: “The Big Apple.”

**Women’s History Month**
Several VU women will celebrate Women’s History Month by sharing their experiences as artists on Fri., March 22nd., in a program entitled “Women and the Visual Arts: A Celebration.” The program, presented by students and faculty members, will be held at 5:30 p.m. in room 1412 of the Center for the Arts. It is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

For more information on either of these programs, phone 219/464-5114.
On March 14, 1804, Austrian composer Johann Strauss was born in Vienna.

On March 14, 1812, in an effort to buy military equipment to use in the war against England, the United States issued America’s first war bonds.

On March 15, 1820, Maine became the 23rd state to be admitted to the Union.


On March 16, 1802, the United States Military Academy was founded at West Point, New York.

On March 16, 1850, Nathaniel Hawthorne’s famous novel, The Scarlet Letter, was published in New York City.

On March 16, 1926, Robert Goddard launched the world’s first liquid-fueled rocket.

On March 17, 1843, St. Patrick’s Day was celebrated in Chicago for the first time.

On March 17, 1912, the Camp Fire Girls organization was officially formed.

On March 18, 1959, President Dwight Eisenhower signed the Hawaii statehood bill.

On March 18, 1965, somewhere in the wild blue yonder, the first spacewalk took place when Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov left his capsule. He remained outside the spaceship for approximately 20 minutes.

On March 19, 1687, French explorer Robert Cavelier de La Salle, the first known to have navigated the full length of the Mississippi River, was murdered by mutineers somewhere in the area that is now Texas.

On March 19, 1872, Russian ballet producer Sergi Pavlovich Diaghilev was born at Perm, Novgorod.

On March 19, 1979, Congress began televising its day-to-day meetings.

On March 20, 1828, Norwegian poet and dramatist Henrik Ibsen, who is looked upon as the father of modern drama because of his promotion of realism in the theater, was born in Skien.

On March 20, 1985, Alaska’s Libby R. Teller became the first woman to win the 1,100-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, traveling from Anchorage to Nome in 18-days, 20-minutes and 17-seconds.
The Old School Community Center
E-mail: community@lbrealty.net
879-3845

2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach

The Town of Long Beach is sponsoring a community Easter Egg Hunt on Sat., March 23rd, starting at 10 a.m. Our plan is to hide eggs in the center courtyard for ages 5 and under and outside on the playground area for ages 6-12. We have decided to make this a rain or shine event, therefore if necessary we will move the activities indoors. We need a few volunteers to hide eggs Sat. at 9 a.m. and to sell juice and donuts from 10-11:30 a.m. All proceeds will go towards our Volleyball Equipment Fund. Call the Community Center if you can help out.

Thanks to Jim Clevengers, Dave Sechrist, and the Long Beach Street Department gang, the gym has a fresh coat of paint and looks fantastic. The trim work has already begun and Little Star Montessori volunteered to paint the lines on the gym floor this weekend which will allow us to apply a final coat of sealer the following week. If all goes according to schedule, we will have Open Gym and Rock & Roll Rollerblading the week of March 25th.

The “Head of the Class” exhibit, featuring the work of teachers at the community center, is now on display in the Harbart Gallery. The Lake’s Edge Gallery presents “Wood Fired Ceramics” by Jon Hook. Visit Tues. & Thurs. from 1-5 p.m. or by appointment.

The Harbart Gallery is hosting “Art Night” an evening to get away and work on art in the company of other artists the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. Phone 878-0399 for information.

The Historical Room Project is beginning to take shape and we have decided to expand our concept beyond making old Beachers and photographs available to our community. We invite you to share your stories and photos of people and places of interest in our community past and present. Please send your stories and photos to the Center. The best overall information will be awarded some sort of fabulous prize yet to be determined. We need someone to upholster our bench style sofa. The donation of fabric, services, or finances would be greatly appreciated. Our goal is to have all cosmetic renovations completed by the 1st of May so we can concentrate on new and exciting events.

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Westwood</td>
<td>50 x 100’</td>
<td>Shoreland Hills</td>
<td>$19,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talahi</td>
<td>143 x 105’</td>
<td>Michiana Shores</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut</td>
<td>169 x 120’</td>
<td>Grand Beach</td>
<td>$110,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glidden</td>
<td>46 x 118’</td>
<td>Sheridan Beach</td>
<td>$74,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Shore Dr</td>
<td>40 x 120’</td>
<td>On the beach!</td>
<td>$325,000</td>
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</table>

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Jim Laughlin  
Sharon Kienitz
ILLINI LODGE was the name given this Long Beach Tudor when it was built in the 1930’s. The seven delightful rooms include 27-foot living room with wide, low windows, natural finish woodwork, handsome stone fireplace, and hardwood floors. The adjoining sunroom now a playroom, adds to the light and airy feeling. Spacious formal dining room seats guests and family. Upstairs, three bedrooms include 23-foot master. Only 3 blocks from Lake Michigan, the clean lines of the English Tudor together with weeping mortared brick construction and 255 foot lot make this a most distinctive home. $264,900

SEVEN SECLUDED ACRES surround unique chalet on the rolling hills of horse country. Custom built of antique brick and barn siding, hand-hewn post and beam and solid oak doors. Large center island in Corian kitchen. Family room has second fireplace. Three bedrooms. Two sliding glass doors open to wrap around deck, 40 foot tumbled brick patio, and professionally landscaped yard. Basement, 4 car garage.

$329,000