For the Love of Cats

by Paula McHugh

If cats have nine lives, then part of the credit has to go to people such as the members of the Independent Cat Society.

Tucked into three acres near the corner of County Line Road and U.S. 6 in Westville, this no-kill shelter is a haven for homeless felines. More than fifty loving, caring shelter volunteers tend to the care of the cats and kittens that find their way to the safe and loving haven. “Finding their way” usually involves a scenario in which a Good Samaritan makes the effort to transport a stray over to the Westville facility on weekends. Friends of the furry felines are encouraged, however, to adopt one—or even more than one—of the shelter’s animals.

Twelve-year volunteer Marti Rukavina gave us a tour of the Independent Cat Society’s two buildings and filled us in on what services the non-profit performs.

“Volunteers help with adoptions, transport the cats to the veterinarian, and help with fundraising, among other things,” Marti explained. “Lots of the animals need homes—we have 125 now. Another 25 to 50 need foster care.”
Love of Cats Continued from Page 1

The cats designated for foster care have special needs requiring a quiet, loving environment. These cats may be recovering from surgery and need a place to recuperate, or they may be expecting kittens. Or, like Rusty, an elderly cat which is going blind, a quick placement would help the animal become adjusted to his new home's boundaries before losing all of his sight, Marti explained.

Potential adopters are screened carefully before a cat leaves the shelter. According to Marti, she and the other volunteers need to make sure that the adopter can afford to take care of the pet and demonstrate responsibility. Volunteers also expect adopters to keep the cat indoors at all times. Persons wanting to adopt one of the pets are required to sign a contract which requires, among other things, that the new owner give his cat wholesome food and water, regular vet exams and shots, report loss or theft, refrain from giving the cat away to others, and agree to follow-up home inspections.

The adoption fee of $65 includes spaying or neutering, worming, flea and mite treatment, a number of tests and vaccinations, an ID that is tattooed on the cat's tummy, and a free initial visit to the veterinarian. Adopters also receive a packet of helpful care information, a complimentary bag of cat food, a toy, and a cardboard carrier for transport. And if you or someone you know is a cat lover but adoption is not possible, then the Adopt-A-Pet program allows you to sponsor one of the shelter's cats for just $10 a month. A sponsor receives a biography and photo of his cat and can come to the shelter to visit his furry friend.

The mission of the ICS is to educate pet owners, particularly when it comes to neutering and spaying. "That's so important," Marti said, "since there are already way more cats (in the world) than owners for them."

According to an article written by Becky Zurawski in the ICS' newsletter, one female cat and her offspring can, in just seven years, produce 420,000 cats. To help alleviate the numbers of cats and dogs that have to be euthanized each year, the Doris Day Animal League began a Spay Day in 1995. More information about the annual February event can be obtained by calling Spay Day headquarters at (202)546-1761, or log on to their website at www.ddal.org/DDAF/SpayDay, or contact the Independent Cat Society at (219)785-4936.

Marti said that the Independent Cat Society has a mailing list of 5,000 animal advocates spread throughout the United States. All funding for the non-profit rests on monetary and in-kind donations from individuals and the ICS maintains an active fund-raising schedule. Currently, raffle tickets for a trip for two to Las Vegas are being sold by members, and on February 8, volunteers will be presenting an "Open Your Hearts Open House" at the Ogden Dunes firehouse. They will be bringing several cats ready for new adoptive homes, along with a bake- and crafts sale.
Marti Rukavina has been volunteering at the shelter for the past 12 years. “I have a special fondness for tabbies,” she said. Marti is holding Tango, who is waiting for a new home.

Pet owners can have their pet portraits taken by Woof Studios. The February open house is just one of many that the ICS sponsors around Northwest Indiana during the year.

Marti allowed us to tour the pole barn shelter that is usually off-limits to the public. A full-capacity of 125 felines share communal space within seven warm and clean rooms, and the atmosphere is anything but noisy. A few meows followed the pitter-patter of a few paws as some of the more curious kitties came over to inspect the strange flashes of light. Cameras here are not common, of course. What we saw was a serene group of fluffy fur balls—some stretching, many napping, several curled up cozily in a wicker basket—all dreaming, no doubt, of the day a new owner would come and make them a home just for them. In another part of the shelter, cats that had recently undergone surgical procedures slept quietly in an isolated area reserved for them.

The homeless cats have ample room to roam in each of seven separate rooms.

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Love of Cats Continued from Page 3

Feral cats had their own area of the shelter, too, and all the cats have windows to perch by and plenty of room to exercise their limber bodies. Order reigns.

According to ICS President Susan O'Leary, the pole barn shelter was erected in 1991. Just a few years ago, a 600-square foot screen-enclosed cat “porch” was added on the north side of the building. Little cat doors allow the residents to enjoy the outdoors during the warmer months.

Last year the ICS celebrated its 25th year of caring for homeless cats. It all began in Beverly Shores in 1976, where a group gathered to discuss the formation of a “no-kill” shelter. The first shelter, in Michigan City, housed 35 cats and five area veterinarians provided discounted spay/neutering and medical care. For the next dozen years, the shelter site had to move six times with volunteers continuing to place as many of their charges as possible in new, permanent homes.

Ten years ago the society started a building fund, and for the next six years, worked to raise money to purchase land for a permanent shelter. The cats yet to be adopted were then moved to the newly-constructed pole barn shelter in Westville.

The biggest expense for the Independent Cat Society is in veterinary services and medical procedures for the animals. Much of the supply of cat food comes from an Indiana company, Eagle Pack of Mishawaka, and litter is delivered in bulk. The ICS employs individuals for shelter cleaning and for medi-cators, but the bulk of the day-to-day operations is fueled by dedicated volunteers who invest as much time as they can spare helping the homeless cats.

Volunteer Susan Ogg, a member of the Cat Care Committee, explained that she and the others keep updated by reviewing monthly procedure manuals. Watching the volunteers help out at the shelter is watching a labor of love. And there is plenty of room for more volunteers, whether working out front or behind the scenes, according to Marti and Susan.

What the Independent Cat Society wants most, of course, are more people willing to open their homes to the lovable cats. The ICS has a “lifetime return” policy which means that they will take back any adopted cat if the cat’s guardian feels he can no longer care for the animal. The ICS members will also help answer any cat owner’s questions.

The shelter adoption hours are Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. For more information about adopting or donating time or money, call (219) 785-4936.
1655 N. 500 E., Michigan City
Fabulous 3 bedroom, 2½ bath, all brick ranch home on 5.725 acres. This home boasts of quality and has so many extras. Fantastic Florida room with hot tub overlooking ground pool. This home is neat as a pin with so many features. Close to Lake Michigan, Chicago and I-94.
$439,000  #62268  Ask for Larry @ 874-2121 ext. 19

101 S. 400 W., LaPorte
1½ story on 1.5 acres. Nicely landscaped private setting. Lg. family rm w/ fireplace and sliding door to deck w/bar & enclosed patio room & tennis court. Beautiful entry ... - bath w/Jacuzzi and Electronics Shower Toilet. Kitchen w/appliances has breakfast nook and totally open to family room.
$259,900  #72950  Ask for Nancy @ 874-2121 ext. 34

1,444 N. Cortland, LaPorte
Beautiful home with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, open concept family room/kitchen/breakfast area, formal living room and dining room, and a finished basement with an add’l family room and wet bar. The master bedroom has a walk in closet and master bath with a Jacuzzi tub. Attached 2 car garage, C/A and a tiered deck are just some of the features.
$214,900  #78425  Ask for Rose Pollock @ 874-2121 ext. 18

2729 Wozniak Rd., Michigan City
This fabulous 3 or 4 bedroom, 2-story home sits on a stunning 9.4 wooded acres. It features a formal living room and dining room, family room, large country kitchen, hot tub room, 2 fireplaces and so much more including a 30 x 40 6-stall horse barn, plus a 30 x 40 storage barn, plus another 2-stall barn, security and sprinkler systems, intercom, electric gates and riding paths. Truly special!
$599,000  #59630  Ask for Larry @ 874-2121 ext. 19

2465 N. 400 W., LaPorte
Beautiful 3 bedroom, 3½ bath home! Family room with fireplace open to kitchen, formal living & dining rooms, owners suite has huge bath & walk in closet. Spacious rooms throughout. 2 car attached garage and 2 car detached garage which could be used for a pool house which has a 2nd floor - could also be used as in-law suite. Great house.
$289,900  #77947  Ask for Nancy Rich @ 874-2121 ext. 34

616 Oakland, Michigan City
Almost new open concept home is ready for you. This 1.5 story, 3 bedroom, 2.5 baths and 2 car garage is waiting for you. Low maint. cedar exterior, large deck and charming front porch. There is also a finished family room in the basement. Most window covering, all appliances and bar stools stay. Balcony over looks front entry and living room.
$208,000  #59690  Ask for Karen Rohde @ 874-2121 ext. 19

40 Marine Dr., Michigan City
One of a kind 3 Bdrm condo overlooking Lake Michigan and Trail Creek. Completely renovated in 1996-97. Comes with deeded 50’ boat slip that was dredged in 2002. Slip include elec. boat lift for 16-17 ft. boat plus dock box. Security gates, tennis court, pool, plus common area/dock.
$269,000  #69931  Ask for Steve or Barb @ 874-2121 ext. 26 or 37

Marine Boat Slip #44, Michigan City
40 foot boat slip at Marine Park East. Very nice boat slip. This slip as well as the channel was dredged in 2002. Don’t rent when you can buy! Electric & water, owners of slip have the right to use pool. Great location near the bath house.
$34,900  #78425  Ask for Larry @ 874-2121 ext. 19

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Musical Director
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Sun., Feb. 23 .............. 2:00 pm 
Thurs., Feb. 27 .......... 7:30 pm 
Fri., Feb. 28 .............. 7:30 pm 
Sat., March 1 ........ 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm 
Sun., March 2 ........... 2:00 pm

LaPorte Little Theatre
Reservations Required
219-362-5113

Black History Month Program at Library

Purdue University North Central’s Odyssey Cultural Arts Program and the Michigan City Public Library will collaborate in a Black History Month event to take place at the library on Sun., Feb. 9, 2 p.m.

The dramatic vignette “A Sunday Morning in the South” by Georgia Douglas Johnson, written in 1925, and a one-act play, “Black Souls” by Annie Nathan Meyer, written in 1932, address a range of historical issues, such as lynching and the education of blacks in the segregated South. The program will be free of charge.

Abel Meeropol’s “Strange Fruit,” an early jazz protest song about lynching, will be sung. The song was popularized by Billie Holliday and was one of the first times that a jazz song was used as a political statement.

Following the dramas, Arlene Dunn and Becky Williams of The Race Relations Council of Northwest Indiana; Judy Jacobi, coordinator of the PNC Odyssey Arts and Cultural Programs and J. Allen Johnson, program organizer and director, will facilitate a brief dialogue.

A light refreshment reception with the cast will conclude the event.

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Bonnie “B” Meyer

Sawyer—An Australian “Queenslander” near the shores of Lake Michigan. Imagine living in an exquisite, sophisticated treehouse perched atop a sand dune with dramatic views of Lake Michigan and the peaceful wooded ravines. Characteristic of the “Queenslander”, it has a wide covered and screened porch surrounding the house. With over 4000 sq. ft. of living space, the timber frame interior created huge open spaces filled with light. There are 4 bedrooms, gorgeous hardwood floors, a “to-die-for” kitchen, a home theater and a complete 2 bedroom guest house overlooking Lake Michigan.

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Located on a wooded acre in Eiffel Towers, you will find another dream home by Robin Gantman. Enter the world of casual sophistication with the soaring pine ceilings and 48 inch fieldstone fireplace. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, open gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops and stainless steel appliances and finished walkout lower level. Only 3/8 of a mile to the private association beach.

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Debbie Jacobson

Irresistible!! Country Cottage loaded with charm. Designer interior with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, professional English garden, potting shed, screened gazebo and just around the corner from a great beach.

$465,000

Gail Lowrie

Enjoy All Seasons in this three bedroom, 3 bath Duneland Beach contemporary. Appreciate screened porch, decks, patios and private Lake Michigan Beach in summer. Curl up beside the floor to ceiling fireplace after winter walks.

$355,000

Bonnie “B” Meyer
Opera Favorites—Feb. 9

On Sun., Feb. 9, the Fine Arts Board of the Presbyterian Church (LaPorte) will present a program entitled “Opera Favorites.” The performers are faculty staff and students from Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan. Included will be selections from “Song Cycles” by English composers Benjamin Britten, Roger Quilter and Gerald Finzi. Also on the program will be selections from “The hermit Songs” by Samuel Barber and “Blue Mountain Ballads” by Paul Bowles; both American composers. The program will conclude with selections from Mozart’s “Marriage of Figaro,” Menotti’s “The Medium,” Bernstein’s “Candide,” and Puccini’s “Madama Butterfly.” A small opera chorus will provide segues between some of the opera arias.

Stephen Zork, baritone, Associate Professor of Music, has served as Director of Choral Studies at Andrews University since 1991. He maintains an active studio for voice majors and oversees the graduate choral conducting degree.

Mr. Zork earned diplomas in Piano Performance and Music Theory from London’s Royal Academy of Music. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Music Education and a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Pacific Lutheran University.

Soprano Jannie Pedersen-Smith has been an Adjunct Instructor of Voice at Andrews University and a Music Instructor in the Lake Michigan College Music Department for the past six years. She has her Bachelor’s degree in Music Education and a Master’s degree in Choral Conducting.

Peter Cooper, pianist, is Chairman of the Department of Music and teaches piano at Andrews University. He has also been appointed to the keyboard faculties of the University of Michigan All-State program at Interlochen and the International Music Festival in Berrien Springs, Michigan. His schooling includes graduating with distinction from the Conservatory of Music of the University of Missouri-Kansas City; as a Fulbright/DAAD Grant he continued his conducting and piano studies at the State Conservatory of Music in Cologne, Germany; and he received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano performance from the University of Michigan.

The program will begin at 4 p.m. The Presbyterian Church of LaPorte is located at Kingsbury Ave and U.S. 35 South. Child care will be provided and the church is handicapped accessible. There will be a free-will offering and a reception after the concert to meet the performers.
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*Licensed in Indiana and Michigan
Valentine Craft Program at Library

Make a special valentine for your special someone at the Michigan City Public Library’s Valentine Craft program, on Tues., Feb. 11, from 4-5 p.m. Learn how to make some fun crafts to take home. This program is designed for children in kindergarten through 5th grade.

For more information, phone 873-3045 or stop in the Youth Services Dept. at the library.

“Light the Way” on Exhibit

The Michiana Humane Society’s “Light the Way” will be on exhibit at The Framing Station, 912 Franklin St., Michigan City, from Feb. 12-March 6. Area artists have been busy again. Due to the success of the 2002 designer birdhouses, the Society’s 2003 Spring Fling will feature lamp creations designed by local artists and craftspeople. After the 3-week exhibit, the lamps will be auctioned at the Humane Society’s Spring Dinner/Dance/Auction on March 8 at Pottawatomie Country Club. All proceeds benefit the care and feeding of the animals at the shelter.

Invitations and information for the event will be available at The Framing Station and the Michiana Humane Society (872-4499). Exhibit hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Come Help Us Celebrate!

It’s our third anniversary at Karwick, and we want you to help us celebrate! Each Friday this month, we’ll have free refreshments, and other surprises. What’s more, open a new account, and you’ll get a free gift - and - you’ll be entered to win a certificate for dinner for two! Stop in and see why: “You’ll Love This Bank!”

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Reflective Exhibit at Arts Club of Chicago
by Barbara Stodola

“Paintings are pools you see things in.” The metaphor is apt, particularly in the case of the Peter Doig exhibit currently on view at the Arts Club of Chicago. Numerous subjects are set beside a pond, or floating on one, and their reflections invite interpretation.

If the paintings seem hard to describe, the reason may be that Peter Doig is deliberately trying to create “something that is difficult if not impossible, to put into words.”

If the paintings look unlike others you have seen, the reason may be that the artist was born in Scotland, raised in Canada and now lives in Trinidad, after a number of years spent in London. Along the way, a variety of influences have been absorbed, both from art history and from his colleagues.

“Ghost Canoe” is an abandoned boat on a darkened sea teeming with lively objects quite unlike those on shore. “Road House” is similarly deserted, although a string of party lights hints at a recent presence. The sense of isolation recalls Edward Hopper, but the textured surfaces and abstract elements betray a contemporary idiom.

If the paintings seem hard to describe, the reason may be that Peter Doig is deliberately trying to create “something that is difficult if not impossible, to put into words.”

“100 Years Ago” has a mystical, symbolist quality: a bearded man radiating an aura, and a reflection that inexplicably accentuates the buttons on his vest. “Pinto” is centered on a lone horse, set in a swamp and munching away on blobs of oozing paint. Interestingly,
Although Peter Doig’s work is well-known in England, Germany and Switzerland, this is his first major exhibition in Chicago. Providing a forum for avant-garde artists, particularly those unknown to local audiences, has long been a mission of the Arts Club of Chicago. Its present building, an elegant space designed by John Vinci, is ideally suited to this purpose.

The Arts Club was founded in 1916, but only six years ago moved into its first permanent home, a two-story structure at the corner of Ontario and St. Clair Streets. Previous club facilities had been rented — most notably the space at Ontario and Rush, with its floating steel staircase and interior designed by Mies Van der Rohe, a building demolished despite the anguish of club members and preservationists worldwide.

Today the Arts Club’s future is guided by a 50-person Board of Directors, consisting of Chicago’s leading art critics, dealers, financiers and philanthropists (one of whom is Carter H. Manny, Jr., a long-time resident of Sheridan Beach, who previously practiced architecture in Chicago.)
MC Senior Center Winter Ball

The Michigan City Senior Center, Washington Park, announces its Annual Winter Ball will be held on Sun., Feb. 16, from noon-4 p.m. This year’s ball will feature Tom Milo’s Beachcombers. This is a great opportunity for an afternoon of dining on delicious cuisine from Great Lake’s Catering, socializing with friends, and dancing with one of Northern Indiana’s finest entertainers.

The Beachcombers are a popular combo whose members are all part of The Tom Milo Big Band. The group’s instrumentation consists of piano, bass, drums, guitar, saxophone, and trumpet. Whenever possible, Jason Milo, an extraordinarily talented conga drum/timbale player, joins the group. The group plays all types and styles of music, which gives them appeal to audiences of all ages.

The band has appeared over much of Northwest Indiana, but frequently travels into neighboring Michigan and Illinois. Besides Tom Milo on drums, the other band members are Fran Milo (keyboard and vocals), Dale Anderson (guitar and vocals), Brent McKessen (bass-retired Air Force Band member), Dennis Feece (saxophone), and Bob Ball (trumpet).

The dance is open to the public. Tickets can be purchased at the Michigan City Senior Center, Two on the Lake in Washington Park. Cost is $15 per person and includes a catered dinner from Great Lakes Catering featuring Apricot Chicken, Italian Beef, Green Beans Almondine, Wild Rice Stuffing, New Baby Potatoes, fresh garden salad, dinner rolls, dessert, coffee and punch.

The last day to purchase tickets is Wed., Feb. 12 by 4 p.m. You must be 21 or over to attend. Phone the Senior Center at 873-1504 for more information.

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Architect designed house smack on the beach near Stop 3.

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Beach prices are so much higher that splitting the expense and the good times makes sense.

We are flexible on timing. We can even use weekdays and you have weekends. The house also could be divided easily into two independent parts with three bedrooms each for privacy.

The house has 5 (6?) bedrooms, 3½ baths, a full basement, three decks (on three levels), a huge living room, dining room, and a big loft. Separate entrances are on all three floors, lake views from all rooms, a screened porch, attached garage, and all appliances.

House was featured in the Chicago Tribune Sunday magazine several years ago.

We must list the house for sale in a few weeks if you do not come and work out a sharing arrangement! OUCH!

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Fri. 9:30 - 8, Sat. 9 - 6

Naturally Wood Furniture Center
Puerto Vallarta in the Dunes Party

Hot! Hot! Hot! Mariachi band! Latin band! Latin dancing instructors! The Dunes Arts Foundation is holding a mid-winter dinner and dancing benefit for the Dunes Summer Theatre at El Nopal Restaurant, 110 W. 9th Street, Michigan City. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 15.

A full Mexican dinner buffet, soft drinks, music and dancing are included in the $25 charge. There will be a cash bar. Suggested attire is bright, colorful, resort-like clothes. Get creative. Get rid of the winter blahs. Wear red, hot pink, you name it.

The Dunes Summer Theatre will announce its summer line-up of shows for the 2003 season. Audition dates will be announced along with other Dunes’ upcoming events.

All proceeds benefit the musicians, set and costume design for the 2003 season.

For reservations and information, phone Dani Lane at 269/469-7992 or email her at lane27560@aol.com

ICS Valentine Open House

Celebrate Valentine’s Day at the Independent Cat Society’s annual “Open Your Hearts” open house on Sat., Feb. 8, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The event will take place at the Ogden Dunes Community Firehouse.

Highlights include a baked goods sale; sale of cat crafts, toys and catnip sleeping mats and ICS apparel. Tickets will be sold for the Viva Las Vegas trip raffle. Refreshments will be served.

Woof Studios will be taking pet portraits for a sitting fee of $5; phone 219/865-9889 for an appointment. Walk-ins will be accepted.

The Ogden Dunes Firehouse is located in Ogden Dunes on Hillcrest Road. From I-94 take the 249/Port of Indiana exit. Go north to Rt. 12, the west to Ogden Dunes entrance.
Long Beach Golf Course view from the front and Lake Clare (with all that it has to offer) from the rear! Huge master suite with sauna, 2 fireplaces, 3 full baths, 3-4 bedrooms with possible guest accommodations on main floor, 3 car garage. $299,000

More golf! 260' frontage right on Briar Leaf with one year membership included in this almost new 4 bedroom, 2½ bath home with full basement, screened porch, fenced yard, 3 car garage on almost an acre! Easy drive to New Buffalo and the Lake. $264,000

Your “dream home” on one or both lots with private association pool, water and sewer available. Wooded level adjacent building sites in Kimball Woods starting at $38,500.
“There’s snow to the east and snow to the west,” complained Mike Terrell, a ski friend from Traverse City, Michigan. “We’re just caught in the middle.”

Indeed, looking out the window of our condo overlooking the golf course at Crystal Mountain Resort in Northern Michigan, all we could see was bare grass. This might have been acceptable were it June and were we golfers, but it was January, and we were skiers! We had come to Northern Michigan to ski—and you can’t ski very well without snow.

Our ski trip was a Christmas present for our grandchildren. We chose Crystal Mountain, located near Thompsonville, one of our favorite ski destinations. Despite a splendid sprinkling of snow in Long Beach that provided us with a White Christmas, and despite winter storms that socked other parts of North America (a friend from New Hampshire claimed four feet in her back yard, and she didn’t sound happy), the upper Midwest remained bare as we moved into the New Year. Each morning I would check Crystal’s website (www.crystalmountain.com) and learn that the cross-country trails were closed for lack of snow. (Crystal’s toll-free number is: 800-968-7686.)

That was less of a problem for our ski vacation plans than you might have suspected, because the same website reported 56 inches of artificially-made snow on the downhill trails. Our grandkids (being kids) prefer downhill over cross-country; their grandparents are more content sliding over flatter trails through the woods, where you are less likely to get hit by an out-of-control snowboarder. Our plans included two days skiing at Crystal, followed by two more days at Garland, a golf resort where cross-country skiing is the main winter bill of fare.

Early afternoon on New Year’s Day, a Wednesday, we headed north up I-96 through Holland and Grand Rapids, connecting with 131 (also an expressway) to Cadillac, where we shifted to two-lane 115 for the final part of the journey. We like Crystal Mountain not only because of good skiing and the ambience around that skiing, but also because of its proximity. Four hours after leaving Long Beach, I was lighting a fire in the three-bedroom condo we had rented for our stay. Crystal offers several fine restaurants for dining (Wild Flower and the Thistle Pub & Grille), but we had forgotten to secure reservations. At the end of the busy holidays, both restaurants were jammed with an hour’s wait for tables. We settled for pizza at the Little Betsie Bistro in the main lodge, not a bad option when it comes to grandkids, and I made reservations for Wild Flower for the following night.
Thursday morning was taken up with logistics: renting equipment and signing up for ski lessons. The two youngest grandkids, Wesley and Holly, were eligible for the Crystal Kids program, limited to those 12 and under. The oldest, Kyle, was not. His mother Camille bought him an hour-long private lesson, and he spent the rest of the day skiing with me. Although they are expensive, I am a strong believer in ski lessons, particularly early in the season. Too many novices injure themselves because they have no idea how to ski in control; getting “lessons” from a well-meaning friend often does more harm than good.

In the years we have been skiing together, Kyle and Wesley have long bypassed me in skiing ability. We first took Kyle with us to Park City, Utah at age five. As our other grandchildren, based in Long Beach or elsewhere, passed that magic age, we integrated them into our family skiing plans. Fortunately, all seem content to “ski slow with Grandpa.” On the second day, that’s what the two boys did. Holly, meanwhile, had connected with a friend her age in ski school, so they spent the day together.

After skiing on Friday, we headed for Garland, which is in the center of Michigan, near Lewiston, a two-hour drive east of Crystal. We were meeting a group of ski writers there for a weekend of meetings and skiing. With 48 holes, Garland counts golfers as its principle clientele, but the tree-lined fairways prove perfect for cross-country skiing—again, when there is snow!
uses one, which when the temperature is below freezing is enough to manufacture a mound of snow that he can push around a kilometer-long loop. This was enough snow for our group, not all of whom were skilled in Nordic technique.

Even without snow, my wife Rose would have considered a visit to Cross Country Ski Headquarters an unqualified success. She found two sweaters in the shop at bargain prices: one, a tan turtleneck; the second, a knit sweater with moose decorations. You can’t get more North Woods than that. Rose couldn’t figure out which one to take. In the spirit of Christmas, I advised her: “Take both!”

Garland offers packages attractive to guests who have no interest in skiing. One is the Zhivago Night (as in the Boris Pasternak novel and David Lean film, Doctor Zhivago), consisting of a sleigh ride to the Buckhorn Lodge with a gourmet five-course meal and a mandolin player awaiting you. Naturally, the mandolin player strums “Lara’s Theme” from the movie. The cost of $439 per couple is not cheap, but it includes lodging as well as the feast. How often does Garland present its Zhivago Night? “As often as enough people want to go,” says manager Barry Owens. In winter, that usually means four or five times a week, but reserve in advance at 877-4GARLAND, or through the website: www.garlandusa.com.

On Saturday night, our group went ice fishing on a frozen pond. To fish in winter—for those of you who missed the Matthau and Lemmon movie Grumpy Old Men—you cut a hole in the ice. Rainbow trout, we were told, were lurking below the ice eager to gobble our bait, but it seemed like an hour passed with nothing but nibbles. I shifted between a bonfire and the ice to see if anyone was catching anything other than a cold. Rose yielded the pole she was using to another person, who soon after yanked a trout nearly a foot long from the pond. We might have thought our family cursed, but our son Kevin soon caught a similar-lengthed fish. A weekly event most winter weekends at Garland is the Gourmet Glide, a cross-country ski event with stops every few kilometers for eating treats along the trail. Catch a fish during the Gourmet Glide, and they’ll cook it for you on the spot.

Sunday morning, I went for a run on the golf course and realized that enough snow (a trace) had fallen overnight so that I might have been able to ski if I carefully picked my route. We had breakfast in

Herman’s Dining Room in the main lodge, the largest log structure east of the Mississippi River. Stuffed animals glare down at diners from beams, including a mountain goat over the fireplace. Grandson Wesley ordered oatmeal with brown sugar both mornings. Real oatmeal, not Instant. He remembered it from a previous visit to Garland several years before.

Following breakfast, we piled our ski equipment—downhill and cross-country—into our van and drove south along I-75 and 127 to home. The return took us maybe five hours. As we were exiting the expressway near New Buffalo, we saw snowflakes in the air. The ski trails that were bare of snow during our visit are now deep with snow. If you’re tired of staring out the window and cussing the cold weather, try a trip north into Michigan to escape those winter blues.

A stuffed mountain goat glares down on diners s at Garland.

Hal Higdon is a resident of Long Beach. Visit his website at: www.halhigdon.com.

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Next Travelogue Program-Feb. 13

First train to the Grand Canyon on Sept. 17, 1901.

From sea to shining sea, Stan Walsh will take you on a tour of our own country in the next travelogue on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m., in the Elston School Theatre.

Share the spotlight with lighthouse keepers and park rangers; remember Lowell Thomas, who made a travelogue in Alaska and later with Lawrence in Arabia. Visit Arthur Pack's Ghost Ranch in New Mexico and ride the steam train to see the sunrise on the Grand Canyon. See New York in the rain, Mystic Seaport and Washington Irving's Hudson River Valley. Hear songs of the Blue Ridge Mountains and catch the spirit of adventure along waterways and on mountain peaks.

Embrace America, forever beautiful, in a new digital-cinema documentary. Individual tickets will be sold at the door for $5.

Salvation Army Plans Open House

In conjunction with their recently completed remodeling, The Salvation Army of Michigan City will hold a Building Dedication and Soldiers Rally on Sun., Feb. 9, beginning at 2 p.m. Tours and a reception will follow the ceremony. The building is located at the corner of Franklin and Green streets.

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- Mikail Pinette
foodstuff by carolyn mcconnell

“On the road again….. Just can’t wait to get on the road again…Goin’ places that I’ve never been”… from Willie Nelson

This home cook on the road, Claire Warshaw, grew up in Massachusetts, never knowing the first thing about cooking. Claire’s mother was not her mentor – she’d never enjoyed cooking. It was her little brother, Warren Carpenter. He filled that role when, upon graduating nursing school and moving into her very own apartment, Claire suddenly realized she couldn’t just head for a cafeteria, she had to cook! Warren came to visit soon after she moved in and was shocked at the bare kitchen. What? No pans? No bowls? No nothing? C’mon, Claire, we’re going shopping, big shopping.

By the time little brother left a few days later, he’d taught Claire how to make (1) roasted chicken, (2) spaghetti and (3) a baked potato. And, looking around the refurbished kitchen Warren had stocked, she now knew what that mysterious word “staples” meant. After a few years of eating those three items again and again, Claire fell in love and married Myron and discovered real talents in the kitchen. Myron could cook. He’s a chemist and Claire thinks he and his colleagues are excellent in creating dishes because chemists, of course, are adept at measuring and mixing. As often happens among those colleagues, Allen, a fellow-chemist and neighbor, once called the Warshaws and invited them over for an impromptu 4-course dinner. It was excellent, as always.

But, you ask, what’s this about Cook on the Road? Well, when Myron retired a couple years ago, they decided to tear down and rebuild their summer home in Michigan. They’d spent years of summers in Union Pier and wanted a roomier retirement home on their favorite property overlooking the lake. So they found the perfect architect, put him to work and took off in their grand motor home. Thus, Claire (sometimes, Myron) became the cook on the road.

The motor home’s kitchen is extremely well equipped, with large refrigerator and convection oven/microwave. And neat, too. When not fixing or serving a meal, custom-made counter tops can be unfolded to cover sinks and stovetops, so it becomes one long smooth and handsome counter surface. The narrowness of the kitchen is not noticeable, just the efficiency and the comfort/beauty. Of course, in pleasant weather, many entrees are prepared outdoors on a grill, with the sides and salads put together in that efficient kitchen. The Warshaws all-time favorite is outdoor-grilled chicken, marinated in soy, lemon pepper and tarragon. Yes, Claire has come a long, long way from that first cooking experience. (Thanks, little brudder.)

Cooking on the road

Dining in the motor home

Trailer home is too big to photo
roast instead of Compu-broil.

Myron and Claire lived in their motor home for months right after his retirement. They covered a lot of road territory, cooking all the way – Arizona, California, Utah, New Mexico – ending up, that trip, in Kentucky. Another journey covered the extent of the East coast, up to and through beautiful Maine. They always stopped at pre-arranged motor home rallies where they attend cooking classes and travel seminars, along with thousands of other travelers. Besides learning new on-the-road recipes, one of the highlights was discovering new and different local grocery stores for their food shopping while covering the entire country.

Right now, the Warhaws are temporarily off the road. During this winter’s weather, they’re staying with friends in Union Pier, still preparing meals daily with enjoyment, while overseeing the construction of their new home down the road (to be finished hopefully in March). After spending considerable time in the motor home’s compact kitchen, the new one on land will feel like a palace. Facing the lake, with lots of windows, its centerpiece will be an 11-foot island with an ell-extension for seating guests. The kitchen is enormous with even a pantry to add more space for Claire’s now familiar staples.

But, you know, as soon as weather permits, they’ll probably be on the road again, in spite of the completion of their inviting new home, “insisting that the world keep turning our way...Like a band of gypsies we go down the highway, we’re the best of friends.”

Motor Home Chicken. Chicken pieces–skin off, boned. Sprinkle liberally with lite soy sauce, moderately with lemon pepper, lightly with tarragon. Marinate 15-20 minutes. Broil 6-8 min. each side or roast at 350 degrees for 25 min.--your choice.
Adult Soccer League Forming

The Sunset Coast Soccer League will have their first organizational meeting on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m., hosted by the Kickers Soccer Club, 2601 Hetler (Royaltown Township) off Niles Avenue between St. Joseph and Berrien Springs, Michigan. All interested players are invited to attend.

The league, consisting of men’s, women’s and coed teams will begin play in late April and will run through the end of September. Games will be primarily on Sunday afternoons at the Kickers Club. Although adult soccer is primarily for those over the age of 18, under 18 teams may play. As the league grows over the next few seasons, teams will be divided into divisions such as Open, Amateur, over 30 and over 40 as well as under 23.

The league is open to all interested persons, beginners and experienced. Clinics will be held in late March to help beginning players learn the basics and feel more comfortable prior to their first games.

The league has already been registered and is affiliated with the Michigan Soccer Association, United States Adult Amateur Association, and the United States Soccer Federation. Players and teams will be covered by medical insurance, and will be able to participate in tournaments in Michigan and throughout the U.S. through the affiliation with USASA. Michigan will host the Region II National Cup Finals in Detroit on the last weekend in June. Teams that qualify from the Sunset Coast Soccer League will be able to participate in this major USASA tournament, with the champions of eight different divisions participating in the National Finals in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in late July.

The league meeting is for all interested players, team managers and captains, referees and coaches. Anyone wanting to play that is not on a team will be placed on teams that are formed through registration. Sponsorship packages are available. For more information, phone league president Debra Sober, at 269/849-3262 after 5 p.m.

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Dinners include Soup or Salad, Fresh Veggies, and choice of House Mashed Potatoes, Baked Potato or French Fries.

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Collaborative Websites

First I'll answer your question. A collaborative website is one in which anyone can participate in a themed project and where the whole becomes more than the sum of its parts. Individual creative efforts become part of a large work of art. The entire process is democratic, open to anyone interested in exercising his or her creative muscles, and discovering a new definition of community beyond chat rooms and discussion groups.

Exercise your curiosity by heading first to 20 things. 20 People. 20 Days (www.20things.org http://www.20things.org/). Begun by a woman named Judith, this project became so popular that its originator had to add more groups of 20 people each. The first time around, Judith asked 19 others to create 20 pieces of art in 20 days (as she would do also) and to send them to her with a self-addressed stamped envelope. After she received the materials, she compiled them so that each contributor received back art created by the other participants. To join in on the fun, you have to sign up for the 20 things mailing list to be notified of a new swap. Judith suggests that the art can be 20 of the same thing or 20 different things, just so they don't go beyond a maximum size of 12 cubic inches. Any materials (except hazardous and harmful can be used). If Judith's idea grabs you, she suggests that you start creating your 20 pieces now. Just be sure to sign up for the email notification.

Another art project that originates in Germany and has attracted a worldwide group of contributors is called Communimage. So far, over 1700 contributors from 73 countries have uploaded close to 20,000 total images to the communal art grid. Contributions range from beginner to professional, and savvy computer knowledge (not necessary, however) by some participants allows for strategic placement of a particular image on the digital “canvas.” It’s easier to go to the website to see it than having me attempt to explain it. Anyway, when the communimage project was still young, the collaborative image could be printed from any computer. And the captured image made the rounds of some prestigious galleries in Europe. Today, with its burgeoning growth of new contributors, the image’s current size is 13x10.5 meters and growing.

The Mirror Project is devoted to like-minded individuals who photograph themselves in all manner of reflective surfaces and upload their images to this website. Other collaborative photo projects on the net involve leaving a number of disposable cameras in different spots around the world and instructing the user who shoots the last frame to mail the camera back to the project manager. The resulting images are eventually uploaded to the websites. Except for the Mirror Project, these photography collaborations are, in my opinion, lame. I take enough bad shots of my own, for
heaven sakes, so why would I (or you) want to look at wasted film?

Since “art” includes writing, let me mention a few communal projects that are worth a look, and potentially a contribution from you. Fifty-Word Fiction challenges writers to, ah, cut the fluff and instead contribute an interesting beginning-middle-end within the required word count. The contributions already posted on the website are fun to read and a good lesson for us writers who tend to wordiness and irk editors.

The final website of the bunch I’m going to mention this week is 300 Loveletters. This site is less a true collaboration than those mentioned previously, but since it’s getting close to Valentine’s Day I threw it into the mix anyway. When you reach the homepage, you’ll see a large grid of different color boxes. Each box is color-coded to indicate who the receiver is: lover, friend, family member, strangers, etc. The letters are all written by the same person to different people in her (his?) life. The author states that part of her purpose is to connect and find affinities with anyone. She plans to glue her written letters to the outside of envelopes so that the mailman or anyone else can read them. And, the author has completed 400, not 300 letters so far. Note well that the language is r-rated from time to time. If you’re looking to lift some of the words for your own valentine card or letter, look elsewhere. You’ll get the feeling that you are a voyeur plumbing the psychological depths of this author’s thoughts and feelings.

I know. You’re wondering where the uhrs are for these websites. I want to make it easy for you this week. Just log on to the first website I mentioned, 20things.org. You will find links to all the others and more.

(Have a question, comment, etc? Send them to left2write@hotmail.com with “cyberscribbles” in the subject heading. And thanks to the fans who have sent me kind email about this column).

LB PTA Scholarship

The Long Beach PTA Scholarship Fund is again awarding a $500 scholarship. The PTA has been awarding this scholarship since 1986. When LB Elementary School closed, the PTA money was left to fund the scholarship. Any high school senior, local or otherwise, is eligible to apply. They must have been a student of Long Beach Elementary School for a minimum of three years. They also must have a 3.0 GPA and submit a 200 word essay. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of merit only, financial need is not considered.

Applications are available at all local high school counseling offices, or by contacting Maryann Dobben at 879-6355. Complete applications must be received by midnight April 15, 2003. The scholarship will be awarded at the winning student’s Academic Award Program.

Miller’s Winter Dinner Specials for $10 or Less

**DICKENS’ DINNERS**
Sundays from 3 p.m.
Enjoy an olde-fashioned English menu of Potato Soup along with a choice of a 1.5 lb. Turkey Leg, Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, fresh Halibut or Fish & Chips...each with all of the trimmings for just $9.95

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Wednesdays from 5 p.m.
Select Minestrone Soup or an Italian Salad to go with your own custom designed Pasta dish and Garlic Bread for just $9.50 in the Grill Room. There’s a great selection of Pastas, Sauces & Toppings for you to mix & match.

**TEN BUCK THURSDAYS**
Thursdays from 5 p.m.
One of our most popular Grill Room Winter Warmers offers you a Green Salad along with an entree selection of Chicken Vesuvio, Pot Roast of Beef, Fried Battered Cod or an Apple Stuffed Pork Chop...with all the trimmings.

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(approximately 30 minutes. Booked as couple only.)

All Appointments must be accompanied by the appropriate coupon. Offer expires February 28, 2003

special chocolate classes at library

The Michigan City Public Library’s Youth Services Department is celebrating February with two programs of chocolate delight.

Art Studio Class (9th - 12th graders)
Sat., Feb. 8, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Space for 20 students. Susan Kay Rosso, a local artist and teacher, assisted by Melissa Payne, will facilitate students in exploring the wonderful world of chocolate using a variety of art materials. All materials will be supplied.

Colonial Chocolate Party (6th - 8th graders)
Mon., Feb. 17, 2-4 p.m. (3 sessions: 2-2:30 p.m., 2:45-3:15 p.m., and 3:30-4 p.m.)

Space for 20 per 1/2 hour class. Find out how chocolate got introduced to the U.S., then enjoy a sampling of delectable colonial treats like hot chocolate, tantalizing cookies and other chocoholic delicacies.

For more information, or to register for either class, stop in the library, or phone 873-3045.

spring theatre classes for children

The Dunes Arts Foundation begins its spring classes in Children’s Theatre for ages 11 and up beginning 1 p.m. Sat., Feb. 15. Classes will be held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and the students will be in a Spring Show produced during the first two weeks of April.

Creative Dramatics Classes for children ages 6-11 will be held on Saturdays beginning Feb. 15 at noon at the Old School Community Center in Long Beach.

Registration for these classes will be at the Community Center on Sat., Feb. 8, from 1-3 p.m. For more information, or to register by phone, call Joann Saxon at 879-8060.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7
7-8 p.m. WINTER WATERFOWL. Bird watching in the Indiana Dunes is interesting year around, as each season brings on a new wave of migrants. Join a ranger for a slide show featuring the birds that spend all or part of the winter in the various marshes, ponds, and lakes in the dunes. Learn why they stay and how they survive in these frigid waters. Meet at Paul H. Douglas Environmental Education Center in Miller.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
2-3 p.m. WONDERS OF WINTER. Experience the beauty of dune country in winter. Search for animal tracks, insect homes, and other signs of life in the leafless forest while learning their survival strategies and other fascinating winter trivia. Meet at Bailly/Chellberg parking lot.

3 p.m. FEEDING TIME AT CHELLBERG FARM. Learn the importance of domestic animals to an early 20th century farm while you help the ranger feed the resident livestock at Chellberg farm barn.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9
1-3 p.m. A WINTER DAY ON THE FARM. Learn how farm kids entertained themselves on cold winter days in the late 1800s. Play old fashioned games, do a typical farm activity and go outside for some winter fun. Stay after the program to help Farmer Jim feed the farm animals. Meet at the Chellberg Farmhouse.

For more information, phone 926-7561, ext. 225.
CHEROKEE PIPE CIRCLE

Everyone is welcome to come Pray & Sing
2nd Monday of each month
February 10, 2003 • March 10, 2003
7:00-9:00 p.m.
The Michigan City Fish & Game Club
3091 East Michigan Blvd., Michigan City
No one is refused for lack of donation. Suggested donation is $5.00 + tobacco. Bring a drum or rattle if you have one, a pillow or blanket to sit on.
Any Questions Call Laura 219/878-1769

Valentine’s Day Tantra Yoga Intro

Dancing Feet Yoga at the Old School is offering a special Valentine’s Day program. Tantra is the path of living from a place of transcendental enlightenment. All is divine in this moment. Our breath, our thoughts, our loves our day-to-day living, all divine. The program is for individuals or couples. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring a deep fulfilling awareness to any relationship, most importantly the one with yourself. You will experience a shared, felt sense of peace and oneness through conscious partner stretching, breathing and meditation.

The program will take place at Dancing Feet Yoga, Old School Community Center, on Sat., Feb. 15, from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. The cost is $65 per couple or $35 per person.

Please come dressed in comfortable clothes to stretch in. Asana will be included. This workshop is suitable for anyone wishing to deepen their practice, or to learn more about the basics of Tantra Yoga. Don has been a practitioner and teacher for 30 years. He is co-owner of Dancing Feet Yoga Center.

Pre-register by phoning 872-9611.
Directions at dancingfeetyoga.com

College Goal Sunday-Feb. 9

Purdue University North Central will join the state College Goal Sunday event for college-bound students and their families, on Sun., Feb. 9, from 2-4 p.m., in Michigan City’s Marquette Mall meeting room.

College Goal Sunday is a 14 year-old statewide program that provides free financial aid information and assistance to Indiana students seeking admission to any Indiana college, university or technical institution. The event is open to potential students of all ages. Last year, more than 5,000 Indiana students received assistance in completing their financial aid paperwork at College Goal Sunday. In the 2002-03 academic year, Indiana students are expected to receive $120 million in state aid alone.

Copies of the FAFSA will be available, but students should also bring any financial aid forms they have received from the colleges and universities where they intend to apply.

Twenty-first Century Scholars are encouraged to attend to receive help in completing the FAFSA and other paperwork necessary to receive their Twenty-first Century scholarships.

College Goal Sunday is sponsored by the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association, in cooperation with the Indiana Career and Postsecondary Advancement Center, the state Student Assistance Commission of Indiana and the office of Twenty-first Century Scholars. It is funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc., Lumina Foundation for Education and USA Funds.

For more information, contact the PNC Financial Aid Office, 872-0527, ext. 5493 or visit the College Goal Sunday web site at www.CollegeGoalSunday.org
**The Old School Community Center**  
E-mail: tolbc@adsnet.com  
879-3845

2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach

**Belly Dancing** with Julia Boody begins this Thursday evening at 6 p.m. in the Lake's Edge Gallery. This is a beginners class, all shapes and sizes are welcome, and no previous dance experience is necessary. The cost for six sessions is $36. Our goal is to loosen up and have some fun. Advanced registration is suggested. If you would like to join us, call the Community Center at 879-3845 and leave a message.

We have space available to rent for parties, classes and events. Our Community Room was designed with artists in mind. The facility has eight large tables and seats forty people comfortably. There is paper available to cover tables for messy projects. The room has been freshly painted and we aren’t too concerned about the carpeting. Renters may use a portion of shelving to let projects dry or to store materials.

Room #4 is spacious at around 1000 sq. ft. and it has a partial kitchen attached. Leaded glass windows and a fireplace add to its charm. This room has been used for baby showers, theatrical performances, civic meetings and The Girlfriend Sale.

The Gymnasium has a cement floor and is lined for basket ball. One hoop can be hoisted out of the way fully exposing a 24 ft. stage. The large windows let in plenty of sunlight and the space is cheery even in February. With a full kitchen attached, the possibilities for use are endless. We have rented the gym for birthday parties, awards ceremonies, dances, arts and crafts sales, basketball, art classes and wedding receptions.

The Community Center is home to permanent tenants as well. Little Star Montessori, Dancing Feet Yoga, Dunes Arts Foundation, and four artist studios conduct business here. There is room for one more resident at this time. To rent space, take a tour of the building or for more information call the Community Center at 879-3845.

COMMUNITY = COMMUNICATION IN UNITY

**Owl Prowl at Red Mill County Park**

On Tues., Feb. 11, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., the LaPorte County Parks Dept. will be offering an Owl Prowl free to the public. Participants should go to the Canada Lodge at Red Mill County Park, 0185 South Holmesville Road (west of LaPorte and south of Michigan City), to learn about owls, examine owl pellets to discover what they eat, and take a naturalist-led hike along the Little Calumet Headwaters Nature Preserve to try to call some up close. A family event that is sure to be fun for all. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Phone the Parks Dept., 219/324-5855 for more information.
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

February 6 — Books and Coffee series. Nine Horses by Billy Collins, reviewed by Dr. John Ruff, assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and associate professor of Eng. 4 pm in the Union Great Hall, Valparaiso University. Free & open to the public. Discussion follows review.

February 6 -- Belly Dancing class. 6 pm at the LB Old School Community Center. $36/six sessions. Register at 879-3845.

February 7-9, 14-16, 21-23 — “Same Time, Next Year.” Presented by the Footlight Players. Curtain time 8 pm on Fri & Sat; Sun matinee at 2 pm. Tix $9; reservations at 874-4035. Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., Michigan City.

February 7-8, 14-16, 20-22 — “A Few Good Men.” Presented by the Community Theatre Guild at Chicago Street Theatre, 154 W. Chicago St., Valparaiso. Curtain 8 pm on Thurs, Fri & Sat; Sun matinee at 2:30 pm. Tix $12/adults, $10/sen. cit., $8/students; phone 219/464-1636 or log onto www.ctgonline.org

February 8 -- Independent Cat Society Open House at the Ogden Dunes Community Firehouse. 10 am-5 pm. Pet portraits taken for $5. See story this issue.

February 8 -- Chinese New Year Celebration at the LaPorte County Public Library. 11 am-noon. Tanagrams, storytelling, Chinese checkers & more. 1st part of program for young children; 2nd part for school-age. Free refreshments. No charge or registration. 219/362-7128. 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte.

February 8 -- Dunes Arts Foundation sign up for Children’s Theatre classes. 1-3 pm at the Old School Community Center, LB. Joann Saxon, 879-8060.

February 8 — 53rd Annual Valentine Tea. 1 pm at First United Methodist Church, 7th & Pine Streets, Michigan City. All women invited; no tickets or charge. Romantic barbershop harmonies provided by The Interstate Roadshow Quartet. Presented by the United Methodist Women.


February 11 — Books and Coffee series at Purdue North Central. 4:30-5:30 pm in the Library-Student-Faculty Bldg. Assembly Hall, room 02. This week—Serious Play: How the World’s Best Companies Simulate to Innovate. by Michael Shrage, reviewed by Dr. Tom Brady, associate professor of Industrial Engr. Tech. Free & open to the public.

February 11 -- Michigan City High School annual enrollment and scheduling evening for parochial school students. 6:30 pm. Info MCHS Guidance Office, 873-2050.

February 11 & 25 — Great Decisions. 6:30 pm. This foreign policy discussion group returns for a 5th season. Meetings twice a month through May. Registration
February 6, 2003

is limited; phone the Michigan City Public Library, 873-3049 to register and for reading material. Topics for the month: Multilateralism and Unilateralism and Afghanistan.

February 13 — Writer’s Rendezvous. 6 pm. The Michigan City Public Library’s Writer’s Club has a new attitude. Come meet with published and aspiring writers to discuss, critique and learn about the process of writing.

February 13 -- Travelogue series: “From Sea to Shining Sea.” 7:30 pm in the Elston School Theatre. Tix $5 at the door.

February 17 — Meditation group. 7 pm at the Michigan City Public Library. New members invited to attend.

Places to Visit:
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.lapcohistsoc.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 269/469-5409.
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. New exhibits: “African & Oceanic Art from the Lawrence P. Kolton Collection” and “Seasons” in the Area Artists Gallery. On display Jan. 11-March 15.

Farther Afield:
Through March 2 — Notre Dame Architecture Student Drawings: Designs for a New Snite Museum. New exhibit at the Snite Museum of Art on the campus of Notre Dame University, South Bend. Opening reception Sun., Jan. 26, 2-4 pm. Adm. free. Regular gallery hours: Tues & Wed, 10 am-4 pm; Thurs-Sat, 10 am-5 pm; Sun, 1-5 pm; closed Mon & holidays. Info 574/631-5466.
February 12 — Winter Video series at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, MI. This week: “Ginevra’s Story.” Free & open to the public. Bring your lunch; coffee will be served. Art instructor T.L. Pliger will lead a discussion after the video. Noon (EST). Info 269/983-0271 or www.krasl.org
Back in the days when Natalie and I were young, carefree, foot-loose, and living on the North Side of Chicago, we would often celebrate the end of a working week in winter by walking home from our jobs in the Loop to our apartment near DePaul University.

We lived, as we said back then, “in DePaul.”

And that was back in the late 1970s before the area around Fullerton and Sheffield got too pricey for our blood. Why, just to digress a while longer, I was even able to afford season tickets to DePaul basketball games at nearby Alumni Hall. Yes, there was a time back in the Dark Ages when they actually played on campus, and there was nothing like a bracing winter’s walk from our flat at Lill and Racine south to the big game and then home again, home again after what was usually another thrilling Blue Demons victory.

Anyway, those halcyon days are long ago, but certainly not forgotten.

Certainly not forgotten are those wondrous Friday evening walks in winter from the Loop through the Gold Coast, Old Town and Lincoln Park to our third-floor apartment. I guess that’s why Natalie and I got married in the first place way back in 1977 — we shared a mutual love of long walks.

And those long winter walks when we were newlyweds certainly cemented our marriage, and they gave us a great chance to unwind from our brilliant careers in public relations and journalism. Plus, they gave us a chance to admire the architecture along the way, observe the urban fauna which mostly consisted of the “trashy trio” of pigeons, starlings, and sparrows, and to do a modest bit of — well — peeping into windows.

Yes, I confess, we were a couple of regular old — or should I say — young peeping Toms and Tomasinas out there on Friday evenings in winter (and spring, summer and fall) on the North Side of Chicago. But it was all harmless fun, and, as a couple of writers, we used those candid glances into the apartments and homes of our neighbors as creative exercises.

As in:
“I wonder what that couple is arguing about right now.”

“Yeah, look at the look on HER face.”

“No, look at the look on HIS face.”

And so on and so forth all the way home to Lill and Racine where we would hungrily devour whatever the pair of us could cook up in a half hour or less.

Again, those were the days, or evenings rather. But they’re gone and not likely to come back any time soon.

So, since we’ve been happily settled here in Harbert, Michigan since 1987, we have contented ourselves with long, lingering evening winter walks through the local countryside and up and down the beach.

And the beach is just where we were on a recent Friday afternoon in the current winter when the full force of the first season of the year was upon us.

I mean let’s face it, weather fans, recent winters have been definitely on the wimpy side, but this 2002-03 edition has been something of a delight for those who truly delight in cold, snow, ice, and frost. Yes, despite all the predictions of a mild winter, we have been blessed (or cursed if that is how you see it) by a for-real, genuine article of WINTER.

Yes, friends, that’s Winter with a capital W, and that rhymes with “rub-a-you” the right way. (Or the wrong way, if you insist.)

Yes, friends, and this current robust winter has served up something that’s been missing lo these many years on this side of the big lake — ice shelves and other arctic-like formations along our beach.

So, to celebrate the true return of winter, Natalie and I set out (minus Mikita the cat who wisely remained at home curled up in a warm corner of the...
house) on a polar expedition up and down what in summer is one crowded place — our beach. But on that Friday afternoon in question — we had the whole place to ourselves.

And it was so quiet we could hear the ice cracking.

Now, don’t tell Natalie this, but one of us, whose name shall forever remain unknown, darted out on the ice itself when Natalie wasn’t looking and actually snapped a few shots from that amazing vantage point. Natalie actually did get wind of that, and let her words of admonition be a caution to all who might be entertaining similar foolhardy notions: “YOU IDIOT!! YOU COULD HAVE FALLEN THROUGH THE ICE, AND THEY WOULDN’T FIND YOU UNTIL SPRING!!!!!!!”

So take Natalie’s words to heart, and cover your heart with layer upon layer of the very warmest clothing you can find in your closet, and, before spring comes along and ruins it all — head out on your own polar expedition this winter — right along your own friendly, neighborhood, ice-capped beach.
MCHS Program for Parochial Students

Michigan City High School will host its annual enrollment and scheduling evening for parochial school students on Tues., Feb. 11. Welcome and an introduction to the evening’s activities is scheduled in the school library for 6:30 p.m. that evening.

Mark Francesconi, the principal of the school, will start the evening with a welcome and general introduction to the school. The staff of the guidance department will be present to handle enrollment and discuss the students’ four-year plans, graduation requirements, and the diplomas available to graduates. Course selection guides will be distributed and students will be able to select courses for the next school year.

Most families will be able to complete the enrollment process during the evening. Those who wish to do so should bring with them a copy of the student’s birth certificate, the student’s social security number, and a copy of his/her immunization records.

If you have any questions, contact the Michigan City High School Guidance Office at 873-2050.

Long Beach
Women’s Bowling
January 28, 2003

Team Standing                Won     Lost
1. We Got Some              14       2
2. Graceful Gutters         13       3
3. Chickaming Chicks        11       5

High Team Games             Score
1. Back Alley Bar           522
2. Gutter Nurses            521
3. Chickaming Chicks        470

High Team Series            Score
1. Back Alley Bar           1480
2. Gutter Nurses            1383
3. We Got Some              1330

High Individual Games       Score
1. Chris Ripley             195
2. Becky Pendergast         193
3. Bev Else                 185

High Series Scratch         Score
1. Chris Ripley             532
2. Kim Fellows              522
3. Bev Else                 502

3 strikes in a row: Ginnie Johnson, Connie Althoff, Sue Luegers, June Salmon, Tami Mullins
3-7 split picked up by Bev Else
5-7 split picked up by Fran Merrion
3-9-10 split picked up by Ruth Werdine
On February 6, 1756, Aaron Burr, Vice-President under President Thomas Jefferson, was born in Newark, New Jersey. His promising political future ended when he killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel.

On February 6, 1971, after a 33-hour stay on the Moon, the Apollo 14 astronauts prepared to head back to earth.

On February 7, 1827, the first ballet to be performed in the United States opened at New York’s Bowery Theater.

On February 7, 1931, aviator Amelia Earhart and publisher George Putnam were married.

On February 7, 1964, thousands of screaming fans welcomed the Beatles when they arrived at New York’s Kennedy Airport for their first American tour.

On February 7, 1837, for the only time in the nation’s history, the United States Senate chose the vice president. Richard Mentor Johnson was selected after no candidate received a majority of the electoral votes.

On February 7, 1931, aviator Amelia Earhart and publisher George Putnam were married.

On February 7, 1910, the first charter was issued to the “Boy Scouts of America.”

On February 7, 1922, President Warren Harding had the first radio installed in the White House.

On February 9, 1870, an Act of Congress established the United States Weather Bureau.

On February 9, 1889, Congress elevated the Department of Agriculture to Cabinet status.

On February 9, 1971, the Apollo 14 spacecraft returned to earth after its crew made the third Moon landing.

On February 10, 1846, members of the Mormon faith left Nauvoo, Illinois for their exodus to the West.

On February 10, 1893, Comedian Jimmy Durante was born in New York City.


On February 11, 1808, in the Pennsylvania town of Wilkes Barre, hard coal was used for the first time as fuel for heating.

On February 11, 1847, American inventor Thomas A. Edison was born in the Ohio village of Milan.

On February 12, 1791, American inventor and philanthropist Peter Cooper, who built the first commercial steam locomotive to operate on an American railroad, was born in New York City.

On February 12, 1878, Fredrick Thayer, a resident of Waverly, Massachusetts, was granted a patent for the baseball catcher’s mask.
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February 6, 2003Page 40
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Dancer by Colum McCann

“What we, or at any rate I, refer to confidently as a memory.......is really a form of storytelling that goes on continually in the mind and often changes with the telling.......In any case, in talking about the past we lie with every breath we draw.”

William Maxwell
So Long, See You Tomorrow

These words appear at the front of this week’s book recommendation. A very interesting and thought provoking opinion. Is history memory? Or is memory history? Perhaps the two words are interchangeable. Historians base their writing on interviews with witnesses, official documents, diaries, etc. Therefore, we can conclude that history is someone’s view of the facts presented before him, objectively, we hope. Much easier to do in the case of a battle or time period, more difficult in relating someone’s life story.

Colum McCann has already proven himself as a worthy storyteller—two novels, two short story collections, numerous articles in respected magazines, literary awards. Now he has taken on one of the ballet world’s greatest dancers, Rudolph Nureyev, and given us a different perspective on the man. Is everything in this book 100% correct? Of course not, but McCann didn’t set out to write a bio, he wrote a novel. And a more beautiful read I have not had in a while. The lyrical prose of McCann, combined with the intriguing life of Nureyev, has got to grab the attention of dyed in the wool bibliophiles.

Nureyev was born in Russia 1938 and grew up in the small town of Ufa. We learn of his formative years not through mere facts and figures but through the thoughts of those around him: his family and others who influenced his life in one way or another. These small parcels of thought and memory not only relate Nureyev’s life but the life of a small Russian town of the 40s and 50s. There is no introduction of who is telling the story on a given page, but you figure it out easily as you pick up on the beginnings of a boy destined to grow beyond the confines of the house every time they dance together.

We first see Rudi during WWII proudly dancing for Russian soldiers in the hospital, a mere slip of a boy who gathered cheers and a lump of sugar from the appre-
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Michele Meden
Dave Walsh
Jim Laughlin
Jerry Lambert
Steve Solberg
LONG FOR A GETAWAY? See this Stop 37 Michiana cottage less than one city block from Lake Michigan on 1½ wooded lots with great privacy. Window walled living room with fireplace and deck. Sunny dining room. Large kitchen with sliders to screened deck. 2 bedrooms plus den or third bedroom, 2 baths. $449,000

NEAR EVERYTHING BUT neighbors. 214 foot lot gives room to garden, play outside games, enjoy teenage music without worrying the neighbors. Three bedrooms, 2 baths, large family room, separate dining room. High efficiency furnace, new central air, roof 2 years old. Large double garage. $134,900

INVITE BOTH SIDES OF THE FAMILY to this 9 room contemporary surrounded by natural landscaping and shaded by tall trees. Great room with fireplace. Skylights overlook spacious living area. Four bedrooms, 3 baths, family room. Central vacuum. Vaulted ceilings. Furniture and furnishings included. Short walk to Lake Michigan. $660,000

FOR RENT: year round, unfurnished 2 bedroom apartment, large deck. Opposite Lake Michigan. $750 per month

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