Nobody could be happier than Jerry Hyndman that the 101 Building, in Michigan City, will soon be converted into an art center. As the designer of the original office building, Hyndman feels “it will adapt beautifully” to its new usage, and he himself is delighted to see this change take place.

The prominent location of the building, opposite City Hall and the Police Station, is appropriate for another building serving the public. Its proximity to Lake Michigan is a definite plus, and Hyndman is deservedly proud of the way the building reflects the curve in the road. “This was my first thought when I saw the site — fitting the building into the curve.”

The design commission had been given to dh2w, where he was practicing at the time. Hyndman subsequently opened his own firm and became a licensed architect in Illinois, Michigan, Maryland and Ohio, as well as Indiana, where his contemporary designs brought a fresh look to the beach communities. Now retired, Jerry enjoys gardening, walking the dogs with wife Debbie in their wooded acreage, and keeping in touch with former clients.

“They were all different,” he recalled. “One person had prepared 13 pages of notes. Others left all the details up to me. One lady burst into tears when she saw the model for their house, because her husband had just been transferred to New York and she couldn’t bear the thought of not building the house, after all that planning.”
Hyndman Continued from Page 1

In a career that spanned 30 years, Hyndman had an unusually high percentage of residential work — 73 new houses and countless remodelings — altogether 218 projects. Most of the homes are in the local beach communities, stretching from Dune Acres up to Grand Beach. Their situation on Lake Michigan posed special design problems, because “rarely do you want windows facing north, but since everybody wants a view of the lake, we end up with predominantly northern exposures.”

Au Bord du Mer is the name of this lakefront home designed by Hyndman for a couple in Long Beach. The large site allowed space for a protective wall, enclosing a rose garden and muffling street noises.

On the interior as well as the exterior, strong horizontal and vertical posts frame the view of Lake Michigan and establish a setting where each piece of furniture looks like sculpture.

Borrowing a page from Frank Lloyd Wright, Hyndman butted glass panes together at the corners so that the view continues, uninterrupted.
The most important design feature, in Hyndman’s estimation, is integrating the building with the landscape — and in this respect he borrows a thought from Frank Lloyd Wright — “The building should be of the hill, not on the hill.” The dunes present innumerable opportunities for developing this concept: lower-level windows facing eye-level dune grass, rooms staggered on different layers of the hill, foot-bridges spanning spaces from one hill to another.

Natural materials are used, wood and stone, and whenever possible the exterior materials are carried indoors. The colors are also based on nature’s palette, the taupe and beige tones of the sand, a soft grey drawn from the bark of white oak trees. Although the homes are often quite large, they bring a gentle presence to the site, rather than overwhelming it.

Hyndman Continued on Page 4

Like a piece of free-standing sculpture, this circular stairway punctuates the landscape while connecting lower to upper levels.

The irregular terrain of this home in Duneland Beach called for a series of elevated footbridges, linking house with garage, garden and street. The natural woodland setting has been preserved.
The terrace of this Dune Acres home is set into the hill, and flagstone paving used outdoors is continued inside. Large, uncurtained windows afford views in all directions.

On a narrow lot in Sheridan Beach, the wall has been bumped out just a bit, to accommodate a dining area and view of the lake, looking straight through the house.

A massive fireplace of natural stone dominates the dramatic living room of this home in Dune Acres.

Sheltered walkways connect the house with screened-in porch, playing off the concepts of inside/outside and shelter/exposure. Natural materials in muted tones are chosen to blend with the landscape.

This Grand Beach home was planned to maximize the view and to assure that, no matter what future buildings go up, this home will always have a view of Lake Michigan.
The open floor plans characteristic of Hyndman designs have played an important role in unifying the residential buildings, and now will come into play as the 101 Building is transformed into an art center.

“The building has elegant offices,” he said. “They were designed by Bruce Gregga from Chicago. There is a large open space that will be wonderful for displaying art work. Eventually some of the other areas will be developed into classrooms.”

Hyndman is not at all surprised that Shirley Lubeznik decided to give the building to the Art Center, in Jack’s memory, because their previous generosity pointed in that direction. “I loved Jack Lubeznik,” he said, “and the whole family — wonderful clients, wonderful people.” At one point, Jack even talked Jerry into serving on the Art Center’s Board of Directors.

When the 101 Building was designed for Restaurant Management and Crowe-Chizek, Hyndman was a partner in the local design firm dh2w— the “d” standing for Hal Driggs, the “w” for Ray Warren, and the two “h’s” were Pat Haas and Jerome Hyndman. Jerry does not remember who came up with the firm’s name, reading like a chemical equation, but he designed the logo. The firm is still in existence, but not with its original partners.

One of Jerry’s earliest projects was the Northwest Athletic Club. He also designed Zion Lutheran Church at Pahs Road and Woodland; it is an octagonal shape, with seating around the central open space.

Although his clients have all been memorable, one changed his life. When Debbie Brown came back from Arizona to be in the family business, she wanted a one-bedroom house, in an A-frame design. Jerry talked her into a two-bedroom house that is not an A-frame. Their conversations went on for days, weeks, months. Finally Jerry had to quit being her architect, because he became her husband. That was 23 years ago. They still live in the house that is not an A-frame, and their conversations still go on for days, weeks, months.
Christening Gown has Proud History

As told by Lillian Coffee

As I sit down to write this true story, the calendar tells me that today, December 9, 2002, is my mother’s 110th birthday.

Early in the year 1892, in a small rural community near Cleveland, Ohio, Marie Stevenson Palmer (born in 1842), received a letter from her 19 year old daughter. How elated she was to read that Mary would bear her first child in December. Marie quickly busied herself to fashion a christening dress for her newest grandbaby. Much embroidery and hand crocheted lace would embellish that long dress.

So we find that in December 1892, Esther Collier was born to Rev. Thomas Jefferson Collier and Mary Palmer Collier in Canton, Illinois.

I can imagine Marie’s pleasure after her long journey by train to see baby Esther baptized in the lovely hand fashioned dress.

On July 23, 1972, Michael Anthony Coffee, Esther Collier Notley’s great-grandson, was baptized at Notre Dame Church, Long Beach, Indiana, wearing that same dress, eighty years later.

Last month on November 16, 2002, my great-granddaughter, Abigail Lillian Coffee, was baptized at St. Mary’s of the Immaculate Conception in Niles, Michigan. She is the daughter of Michael Anthony and Terie Coffee.

Yes, baby Abby wore that same one hundred and ten year old still beautiful, lace and embroidered long christening gown.

I think her great-great-great-great-grandmother would be very, very pleased.
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Hot Music For a Cold Night

Vintage music of the 20s, 30s and 40s is celebrated by three veterans of the Chicago music scene—Lance Brown, Mike Levin and Doug Lofstrom. After appearing this past summer at Chicago's Navy Pier, they will bring the fun and art of jazz, swing, and blues to the Festival Players Guild's Mainstreet Theatre stage on Sun., Jan. 12, at 2 p.m.

Chicago Expression describes its program as a “journey into the music and humor of three decades.” Their love of lively patter and a bit of exaggeration gives a show “that will move the body and tickle the funny bone.”

Lance Brown (guitar, ukulele and vocals) has 25 years of experience as an actor, musician and entertainer. His nationally recognized one-man show “A Tribute to Will Rogers” has received rave reviews throughout the country. Lance brings his special brand of vintage music, scat-singing and humor to the trio.

Mike Levin (saxes, clarinet, flute and vocals) is one of Chicago’s top jobbing and studio musicians. His concert and recording work has received high praise from National Public Radio, The Chicago Tribune, The Intermezzo, Media Muse as well as many others.

Doug Lofstrom (bass and vocals) teaches music full-time at Chicago's Columbia College. He is a classical composer with roots going deep into jazz who has had his compositions played and recorded by numerous city and community orchestras nationwide.

All seats for the performance are reserved; phone the box office at 874-4269. The theatre is located at 807 Franklin Street, Michigan City. Tickets are $12/adults, $6/students high school age and below. Senior citizen and group rates (10 or more) are also available.

Chicago Expression is presented with support from the Michigan City Enrichment Corporation and the Northern Indiana Arts Association, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.
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110 N. Lake Ave.
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“One Night Jam” at Chicago Street Theatre

Chicago Street Theatre’s “One Night Jam” concert series welcomes the return of audience favorites, the singer/songwriting team of Lowen & Navarro.

This magical evening of intertwining harmony and melody will take place on Sun., Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. The Chicago Street Theatre is located at 154 W. Chicago St., Valparaiso.

Eric Lowen and partner Dan Navarro have been writing and performing together for over twenty years. They achieved national fame in the 80s when Pat Benatar had a smash hit with their song, “We Belong.” Their trademark is tightly-integrated music and vocal harmony that has been compared to the Everly Brothers and Simon and Garfunkel.

Opening the evening will be returning special guest Ralston from Michigan. Audience reaction to his last three CST performances has been phenomenal, and he’s back with the songs they loved then plus a handful of new ones.

Tickets are $22/in advance, and $25/at the door. Seating is limited and reserved; phone the box office at 219/464-1636 or log onto www.ctgonline.org

Writer’s Rendezvous Meeting

The Michigan City Public Library’s Writer’s Rendezvous will not meet in January. The group’s next meeting will be Thurs., Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. New members are welcome and are encouraged to bring writing samples to the meeting.
January 9, 2003

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Hesston Steam Museum Is New Home to Brookfield Zoo Trains

After standing idle for 17 years, the steam trains which ran for many years at the Brookfield Zoo have a new home. The train collection, also known locally as “the Donnelley Trains”, have been transferred to the Hesston Steam Museum in Hesston, Indiana located halfway between LaPorte and New Buffalo. Cooperation between the Brookfield Zoo board of directors, the Cook County Forest Preserve Board, and assistance from the Donnelley Family made the donation possible.

Due to the many years of standing idle, a detailed restoration will be needed before the steam engines will be ready to haul train fans once again. Several of the coaches will need new roofs and complete refinishing. However, the directors of the Hesston Museum are optimistic that at least one of the engines and a couple of the coaches will be operational sometime next year, offering those who remember riding the trains at Brookfield Zoo a chance to re-live those childhood memories.

The collection of two steam engines, one switch engine, eight coaches, and support equipment was assembled by the late Elliot Donnelley, famed Chicago publisher and philanthropist, and installed at the Brookfield Zoo in 1968. In 1985 plans for a large marine mammal exhibit caused the railroad to discontinue operations and the equipment was moved to Cook County Forest Preserve storage buildings in Maywood, Illinois where they have been for the last 17 years.

The “Donnelley Trains” were built as two foot gauge equipment: The two foot gauge meaning the distance between the rails. It is also referred to as “narrow gauge”. The only continuous narrow gauge railroad within hundreds of miles is located at the Hesston Steam Museum with over two and a half miles of mainline right of way. Since Elliot Donnelley had been a founder and board member at the museum for many years, it seemed natural to relocate the trains to Hesston.

The Hesston Steam Museum operates every weekend, rain or shine, from Memorial Day thru Labor Day, and Sunday thru September and October. The museum is located just south of the Indiana/Michigan state line, about three miles east of Indiana Highway 39, on LaPorte County Road 1000 North.

For more detail, or questions contact John P. Edris, general manager, Hesston Steam Museum, 872-7405.
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- $1,650,000
- Bonnie “B” Meyer.

Magical 2.10 Acre Location in Union Pier. Completely rehabbed 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage with private pond, open living concept and charming bunk house. 400 sq.ft. screened porch. Beautiful natural landscaping.

- $389,000
- Call Elaine Musse.

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- Call Bonnie Meyer.

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News From the Art Guild

On Dec. 18th, the John G. Blank Art Center Guild members participated in the dedication of the new art facility, The Jack and Shirley Lubeznik Center for the Arts. The Lubeznik family, namely, Shirley and her sons, Rod and Glenn, have donated the multi-level 101 Office Building on West Second Street to become the new home for the Center for the Arts. The Jack and Shirley Lubeznik Center for the Arts reflect the long standing commitment to the arts by Shirley Lubeznik and her late husband, Jack. The two-story building, which was designed by Jerome Hyndman in 1981, is worth more than one million dollars with 14,404 square feet of floor space. The new art center will open for its first exhibit in late spring of this year. As Bunny Fisher, President of the Blank Center Board of Directors, stated upon accepting the donation, “We stand to become a cultural jewel in Northwest Indiana and the region.”

Holiday Luncheon

On Dec. 9th, Art Center Guild members and guests enjoyed the annual holiday luncheon at the art center. The celebration included special holiday salads, desserts, and festive holiday musical strings within the glittering setting of the secular and sacred Victorian stained glass exhibit. Donations to the Homeless shelter enhanced the spirit of giving. Hazel Schlicker, Program Chair, announced the monthly art program for 2003 and introduced some of the local and regional artists who will be presenting. The art presentation follows the 9:30 a.m. general meeting which is scheduled for the second Monday of the month. The Museum Shop and annex will be open at the meetings as well as Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

January Meeting

On Mon., Jan. 13th, Sandi Thayer, local artist, will present “An Historical View of Buttons: From Ornamental Disks to Art Deco”. Ms. Thayer will display her antique button collection and share insights to contemporary trends with buttons. The presentation follows the general meeting at 9:30 a.m. Refreshments will be served. Guests are invited to attend.

For more information, phone 874-4900.
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Area Artists Celebrate “Seasons”

The Area Artists Association of the John G. Blank Center for the Arts announces a group exhibit entitled “Seasons” opening Jan. 11 and running through March 15. The theme of this exhibit is especially appropriate for the opening of a new calendar year, as it will attempt to capture a visual review of the cycle of nature during the course of a year. Artist members of the Association will each show a recent work of art representing their interpretation of one of the four seasons.

The following artists who are participating are active exhibitors at the Center and in the region: Bea Baker, George Brakenridge, Tom Brand, Susan Henshaw, Laurel Izard, Lars Jensen, Connie Kassel, Clint Rigg, Sara Scherberg, Fred Semmler, Edwin Shelton, Nancy Sprague, Robert Stanley, Carole Stodder, Valerie Taglieri, Ron Wennekes and Kitty Wolf.

These Area Artist members are productive fine artists who work in a wide range of art disciplines and consistently show work of high quality. Expect to be impressed by expressions in a variety of media including paintings, drawings, prints and photos as well as ceramics, wood and metal sculpture. The exhibit will run concurrently with the exhibit “African & Oceanic Art from the Lawrence P. Kolton Collection.”

The public is invited to the opening reception for both exhibits on Sat., Jan. 11, from 7-9 p.m. “Seasons” can be viewed in the Area Artists Gallery on the second floor. Regular gallery hours are Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The John G. Blank Center for the Arts is located at 312 East 8th Street in Michigan City; phone them at 874-4900.

Harbor Country Book Club

The Harbor Country Book Club will meet on Tues., Jan. 28, at 7:30 p.m. (EST), at the Harbor Grand Hotel in New Buffalo. The selections for the month are: fiction, Bombay Time by Thrity Umrigar, and non-fiction, The Age of Kali by William Dalrymple. New members are invited to attend.
Mary Beth Atkinson is a convert to St. Anthony Memorial. She had no intention of coming here, until a late-night gallbladder attack forced her to. Her first-hand experiences in the emergency department, outpatient surgery and with Surgical Associates, Dr. Troy and Dr. Lorimer, helped Mary Beth see the light. “I was shocked,” she said. “I had the best experience there. I received quick, excellent care, and the staff blew me away with their kindness. Whatever you’ve heard, you need to check out St. Anthony Memorial. I would go back for sure.”

Mary Beth Atkinson, Recent Patient
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- **Outpatient Surgical Services**: Convenient same-day care in a hospital setting. Now with Fast-Track registration.
- **Surgical Services**: Comprehensive array of procedures. Renovation of surgical suites beginning in 2003.
Computers have opened up new worlds and new options for people such as Christina Karamesenes. Christina, whom many locals know from her appearances at Mighty Mic nights at the Michigan City Library (and/or from her massage therapies at Long Beach Spa), has a program called Jaws (from Freedom Scientific) that reads text to her. The voice synthesizer sounds a little bit like the infamous Hal of “Space Odyssey,” but that’s where the comparison ends. Jaws is friendly and helpful, and certainly not rebellious.

“Jaws reads text but not graphics, and the program interacts beautifully with Internet Explorer,” Christina said. Although her computer has a monitor, Christina has no need for it due to her visual impairment.

Christina’s involvement with computers to help her with tasks such as banking, bill-paying, and written correspondence began years ago, when she learned that her eyes would slowly lose their usefulness. Not a person to be immobilized by fear or self-pity, Christina took charge of the situation by taking a position with A.T. Kratter & Company, a business in the business of selling adaptive computer technology and working with vocational rehabilitation counselors nationwide. Part of her job involved training visually impaired voc-rehab clients to use adaptive programs in furthering their job skills. So, while she was still fully-sighted, Christina went about teaching others and also learning for herself the technology that would allow her to maintain self-sufficiency and independence.

Christina has used her computer to help establish the nuts and bolts parts of her massage therapy practice that she maintains in Long Beach. Quite an inspiring lady, huh?

According to Christina, the vocational-rehab program’s goal is to train individuals to be independent and to increase their employment skills, but they do not offer services for children or senior citizens. To learn more about adaptive computer technology, run on over to Lighthouse International at http://www.lighthouse.org/resources_adaptive_tech.

Here you will find the following overview, among other helpful information: For people who are visually impaired, adaptive devices make information accessible by converting standard size print to synthetic voice, large print, or Braille.

Synthetic voice devices “read” material aloud. A computer that simulates human speech creates the synthetic voice. With synthetic voice, people who have little or no vision can use computers or read books or other printed material independently and without the assistance of a sighted reader. (Often synthetic voice is referred to as screen-reader software.)

Large print devices electronically magnify material. With these devices, people with limited vision can read computer screens, printed matter, or view pictures.
Braille devices can make computers accessible to people who use Braille. They permit Braille input of information; display computer input in Braille; or print in Braille.

There is an array of adaptive devices designed specifically for use with the standard PCs found in homes and offices. With the addition of an appropriate adaptive device, people with impaired vision can do word processing, use spreadsheets, and perform most computer tasks via Braille, voice, or large print. PCs do, however, require certain features to work with the adaptive device. Before making a purchasing decision, be sure to check that the PC you select can be used with the adaptive device you plan to use.

Send your questions, comments, or website recommendations to me at: left2write@hotmail.com with “cyberscribbles” in the subject heading.

Books and Coffee Series at VU

Valparaiso University Professor of English, Dr. Edward Uehling, will open the University’s annual Books and Coffee series on Thurs., Jan. 9, with a review of Tim O’Brien’s book, *July, July.*

The Books and Coffee series, sponsored by the Department of English, will be offered weekly for eight weeks at 4 p.m. on Thursdays. The discussions will be held in the Union Great Hall, except for the meetings on Feb. 13 & 20, which will be held in the Mueller Hall Refectory. The sessions are free and open to the public. The sessions include a discussion with the audience following the review.

Other reviews in the series include:

Jan. 16 -- *Take on the Street: What Wall Street and Corporate America Don’t Want You to Know,* by Arthur Levitt, reviewed by Dr. Wendy Pirie, associate professor of finance;

Jan. 23 -- *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold, reviewed by Dr. Dorothy Bass, director of Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith;

Jan. 30 -- *High and Mighty: SUVs-The World's Most Dangerous Vehicles and How They Got That Way,* by Michael Pollan, reviewed by Dr. Laurie Eberhardt, associate professor of biology;

Feb. 6 -- *Nine Horses* by Billy Collins, reviewed by Dr. John Ruff, associate professor of English;

Feb. 13 -- *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World* by Michael Pollan, reviewed by Dr. Kathleen Mullen, professor of theology;

Feb. 20 -- *Caramelo* by Sandra Cisneros reviewed by Dr. Larry Niedner, professor of theology;

Feb. 27 -- *Sandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy* by Jane Leavy, reviewed by Dr. Fred Niedner, professor of theology.

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Nashville Boasts Some of the Grandeur that was Greece

by William F. Keefe

Why stand in line, lug luggage, sit scrunched in an airplane seat made for a stuffed Teddy Bear, and watch your knuckles whiten when you can tour a monument to ancient Greece in music country? Why, indeed.

The original Parthenon stands, mostly in ruins, as the crowning glory of the hill called the Acropolis in Athens, Greece. The western world’s only reproduction of the Greek temple adorns a low hill in a Nashville, Tennessee park.

The American facsimile, with dimensions that duplicate those of the original to an eighth of an inch, has for years buttressed Music City’s self-conferred reputation as “The Athens of the South.” Other attractions that justify that appellation are Nashville’s many educational institutions and various public buildings constructed in the Greek classical style.

This goddess who became the pagan protectress of the city of Athens, and in fact gave her name to the ancient Greek city, may not make you forget Grand Ole Opry or Elvis the Pelvis. But for me, Athena and her magnificent temple put frosting on the cake whose main contents are visits with the three of my offspring who live in the Nashville area.

You just might find 100 Elvis impersonators if you explore Nashville and other Tennessee cities. You might even find Elvis himself if the sightings are to be given credence. But you can look anywhere in the world and not find another Parthenon.

Think Parthenon. Phidias did. He was the classical Greek sculptor who created the statue of Athena in the middle years of the fifth century B.C.E. No one that I know has explained how the Greek artist lifted the plates of gold and ivory from which he fashioned the mythological goddess around a wooden frame.
We know more about the methods used by Nashville sculptor Alan LeQuire, who completed the modern Athena. LeQuire had a small army of aides when he started work on the statue in 1982. He also had levers and lifts and blocks and tackles.

Much research went into LeQuire’s work, and the modern Athena faithfully reproduces Phidias’s classic work. The little guy standing in her right hand is Nike, the winged goddess of victory and gym shoes. Take another look at Nike; she’s six feet tall. Athena’s left hand and arm support a 17-foot shield and a 36-foot spear, symbols of her role as the deity of war.

The marble pedestal on which Athena stands is five feet high. On its front panels are extraordinarily detailed bas-relief figures representing the gods and goddesses who gathered to celebrate Pandora’s birth. Pandora, in Greek mythology, was the first woman.

When we saw the pedestal in the second week of July, the panel was receiving its golden coat. Technicians were proceeding through seven stages, from cleaning and prepping to application of the final coating of gilt.

The City of Country Music first undertook construction of a full-scale replica of the Parthenon as a way to house the international art exhibition for the 1897 Centennial Exposition, says a brochure. Nashville’s pavilion was constructed of brick, wooden lathe, and plaster and even then was intended to reflect the city’s reputation as the “Athens of the South.” Following the exposition, due to popular demand, the city left the temporary structure standing.

By 1921, faced with crumbling pediments and decaying plaster that were defacing the city’s popular landmark, the Park Board authorized reconstruction with permanent materials.

What came about then could serve as an object lesson for any city debating preservation of popular and symbolic landmarks. Committed to a complete makeover, the city authorities had the Parthenon’s interior redesigned to conform more closely to the floor plan of the Grecian original. The lower floor of the 1897 structure became an art gallery that still today houses both traveling art collections and a 63-item permanent exhibit that has been adorning the lower level walls since 1931.

History treated the original Parthenon most unkindly, putting it through invasion and war, letting various invaders store supplies within the hallowed premises, and in general dragging one of the ancient world’s most magnificent buildings through the torments of both neglect and wilful desecration.

History has had only about 105 years to deal with the Nashville Parthenon, but this time we have no complaints.
Nashville Continued from Page 21

Remember 1931, a banner year for the Parthenon replica. The Great Depression was deepening, but not even that could stop the city's planners. On May 21, 1931, the records show, the rebuilt, permanent Nashville Parthenon reopened its doors. In the next month over 10,000 visitors passed through those huge portals. The visitors came from 46 states and 12 foreign countries.

So thorough had been the reconstruction that nothing much needed changing until 1987. That year the city began a far-reaching renovation that included modernization of the four lower-level art galleries and the addition of an entrance for visitors at the east end, a gift shop, and various visitor facilities. Over the 20-month renovation workers also completely revamped galleries and offices. Among the permanent art exhibits is the Cowan Collection of American Art, a gift to the Parthenon in the years 1927 to 1929. Artists whose works remain permanently on display include William Merritt Chase and Winslow Homer.

Ascending from the gallery level you enter the Naos, the huge hall at the eastern end of the building that was, in the original Parthenon, designed to accommodate Phidias' towering Athena. The room serves that function for LeQuire's statue today.

As you reach the top of the wide stairs from the lower level, the figure of Athena seems to fill the hall, dominating the sight lines and dwarfing everything else in view. But look around. The 10 ambient Dorie columns taper slightly toward the top and have 16 to 20 shallow grooves, or flutes, that run vertically from bottom to top.

A bird-like Nike perches in the palm of the nearly 42-foot statue of Athena. The stacked columns encircling the great hall of the Parthenon are visible in the background. (Keefe photo)

Leave Athena for a moment. Enter the Treasury behind her, the smaller hall that in ancient times served as the repository for gifts to the goddess. There are four more columns here, but these are Ionic, the type that has scrolls high up, with the scrolls connected by a horizontal band.

A good measure of the spirit that the City of Nashville brought to the construction and later revisions of the Parthenon may be found in the so-called Elgin Casts.

As the history of this building reveals, its inspiration and mystique stem from an ancient, extraordinarily creative past. A footnote on that past indicates how Nashville's planners literally left no stone unturned in their dedication to authenticity. They delved into history.

Between 1801 and 1804, British diplomat Sir Thomas Bruce, 7th Earl of Elgin, removed a collection of sculptural fragments from both pediments of the original Parthenon. The fragments, now known as the Elgin Marbles and housed in London's British Museum, had been scattered around the Parthenon as the result of an explosion that had caused irreparable damage in 1687.

During the rebuilding of Nashville's Parthenon, casts of the Elgin Marbles were purchased from the British Museum for sculptors Leopold and Belle Kinney Scholz to use in forming the molds for the pediment figures.

(These) working models that (the) sculptors...used in creating the larger figures which compose the pediment sculptures on either end of the exterior of the Parthenon are located either side of the Treasury. Each grouping depicts an important story involving Athena.

The results of the steps taken to create a perfect copy of the original Parthenon are, in short, visible both on the outside of the building and inside it. The east pediment—the triangular segment of the roof at the east end—portrays goddesses and gods on Mount Olympus at the moment of Athena's birth. Armed, she faces her father, Zeus, as Nike prepares to crown her.

Depicting another scene from Greek mythology, the west pediment shows Athena and Poseidon struggling for control of the land of Attica, the plain/penin-
sula on which Athens stands. Poseidon was the god of the sea. Inside the great upper-floor hall in which Athena holds court, the visitor can not only view and study the Elgin casts; it’s also worth the effort to make the acquaintance of the pediment models, which are situated at both ends of the Treasury.

To appreciate fully the magnificence of the Nashville Parthenon, and by extension to imagine the architectural triumph that the original represents, it’s recommended that you walk around the entire structure. Your walk will take you over the 237-foot length and the 110-foot width of the structure. Don’t forget to count the 46 Doric columns that line the four sides.

>From the hill on which the Parthenon stands you can enjoy a bird’s-eye view of Centennial Park, once part of a 640-acre farm and today the green setting for flower gardens, benches, a lagoon, and other attractions and diversions. Nashvillians treasure the park as well as the Parthenon because it provides a pleasant, relaxing haven not far from the city center.

At one time the northern terminus of the Natchez Trace, the famed migration trail to the Southwest, Centennial Park was initially the property of pioneers in the Nashville area who purchased the tract for 50 cents an acre. “It was used as a staging and assem-

Tennessee marble in constructing the interior floors, and cypress from the Florida Everglades went into the ceiling.

Need a memento of your visit? The Parthenon gift shop purveys a broad range of unique and decorative souvenirs. There’s also a moderately priced, fascinating selection of clothing, games, jewelry, stationery, original art, and reproductions of Greek antiquities.

While you’re shopping, bend an ear to the music that’s frozen in stone upstairs. . . , the unheard melodies issuing eternally from the panel at Athena’s feet.
It started like an ordinary Christmas. Our three children and their families were scattered over the holidays from Maine to Texas to Minnesota. My wife Rose’s sister Marion arrived Christmas Eve. After church Christmas morning, Rose and Marion started to work on a jigsaw puzzle. After a nap, I started to read a book.

We heard fire sirens, but paid little attention until the sirens stopped in front of our house. Marion looked out the window and said, “Oh my gosh, the house across the street is on fire!”

Not merely on fire, but the entire upper level was engulfed in flames pushed by brisk winds off Lake Michigan. A fireball of flame and black smoke rolled across Lake Shore Drive, threatening houses on the hill side of the Drive. Fortunately, the winds, gusting at 28 mph, were blowing the flames and smoke away from us.

When the winter winds blow strong across the lake, breaking waves batter the beach and smash against seawalls. During one storm years ago, raging water ripped away two-thirds of the bluff above the beach, including a stairway of ours. We never replaced the stairway, figuring the gods of wind and water wanted it gone. One winter’s evening when our three children were young and the wind was up, my nervous wife moved them away from the front room with its picture window view of the lake. A few minutes later, the picture window exploded into a million glass pieces. The memory of this still makes me nervous. Sometimes only fate and good luck saves you from disaster.

The people who were in the house across the street were both lucky and unlucky. They lost their clothes and their Christmas presents, but not their lives. They were renters, nine of them: grandparents, parents and children. After escaping the flames they pulled their car into our driveway to decide what to do next. A woman stood beside the car, unable to avert her eyes from the blaze, muttering over and over in a sotto voice, “Oh my God! Oh my God!” It was 27 degrees, but she wore no coat. Rose suggested she don one and offered several times to let her or her husband bring their children into our house. They eventually drove away.

Before they departed, we learned what happened. It was around 2:00 PM on Christmas Day. They were watching TV and had started a fire in the fireplace. The house, despite having been offered for sale recently at $895,000, never impressed us as being particularly well maintained. Apparently a gap had opened between the fireplace and the surrounding walls. Suddenly, there was burst of flame in the fireplace. The husband said he touched the wall next to the fireplace to see if it was hot, and his hand went through. Flames had already reached the wallspace. They ran immediately out of the house.

By the time Marion alerted us to the fire and I looked out the front window, the house was beyond saving. I had never before seen a fire so intense—and I was standing in my living room close enough to feel the heat! My immediate concern was, were we in danger? I quickly put on shoes, grabbed a coat and walked down to the blaze. Given the direction of the wind, our house didn’t seem threatened, but I went back and got my wallet. If the wind shifted and our house caught fire, at least I’d have my driver’s license and a Visa card so we could check into a Red Roof Inn. At my suggestion, Rose secured her wallet and a few vital documents as well.

If you had only a few minutes to save as many items as possible from your burning house, what would you choose? My life’s work exists in four filing cabinets in the attic, but to ascend to the attic with a fire raging below would be suicide. Scrapbooks filled with photos of my family life, lovingly assembled by my wife these many years, are more accessible in shelves in our living room, but would you risk your life to save even them? Imagine standing shivering in front of a burning house and watching your life melt with it. As renters, the people involved in the fire across the street at least had little commitment to that house. The clothing and Christmas presents scattered around a tree they lost can be replaced. Lives cannot.

I decided to view the fire from the beach below, walking down to Stop 28 for access. As I looked upward from the beach, I realized that not only was the one house afire, but so was the recently remodeled house next door. The fire had jumped the narrow gap between the two houses. The roof of the second house had caught fire and, even as I watched, fire engulfed the floor below. Firemen heroically were pouring water on both houses, but it was obvious that they would be unable to save even them? Imagine standing shivering in front of a burning house and watching your life melt with it. As renters, the people involved in the fire across the street at least had little commitment to that house. The clothing and Christmas presents scattered around a tree they lost can be replaced. Lives cannot.

I quickly put on shoes, grabbed a coat and walked down to the house along the beach. Friends transported her away, but not her cat, which had to be retrieved later. That seemed cruel to the cat, but a yard between the widow’s house and the burning houses made it unlikely that the fire would spread further—and it didn’t. Within an hour, the flames were out, only because by then there was little left to burn. The fire would continue to smolder through the night with firemen continuing to spray the fire scene with water. Trees and bushes nearby became splattered with ice. A groove three feet deep was cut out of the property across the street from us, caused by water rolling down the road and taking the shortest route to the beach.

The wind shifted to the southwest the morning after Christmas Day and died. Waves subsided. The lake became flat again. The sun appeared in a cloudless day. Lake Shore Drive was reopened. We spent the day...
after Christmas at home, content to spend the day watching neighbors stroll by to survey the damage. Sometimes, like tour guides, we went outside to join them. After only a few conversations, we had our speeches down to a routine. “We looked out the window, and all we saw was fire…” says Rose. “The flames were so intense, I thought the houses across the street might catch too…” adds Hal.

I chatted with a real estate agent friend of mine. He had been in charge of selling the property. “I was selling a house,” he said. “It looks like now I’ll be selling a lot.”

If there is a positive side to the experience, the view from my office window has improved dramatically. With the burned houses out of the way, I can look northward up Lake Michigan toward New Buffalo, Michigan. But it’s an expensive way to improve the scenery.

We love life, but we also love our house where we have lived now for nearly forty years. When we were house-hunting, Rose walked in the front door the first time and experienced a sudden feeling of déjà vu. “It’s as though I’ve already lived here,” she said. On warm summer evenings, we sit on a balcony across the street and watch the sun set. On clear nights, you can see the lights of Chicago skyscrapers on the horizon. The buzz of powerboats drives us crazy sometimes in the summer, but that is all not to like. People who were around in 1964 before we claimed the house still refer to it as the “McCarthy House,” after the people who sold it to us. It may take another decade or two before our name gets firmly attached.

During one of our walks up and down Lake Shore Drive to inspect the damage, we chatted with a neighbor, whose house was even closer to the blaze. A mailbox near his driveway melted, but the wind blew most of the smoke up and away. “A lot of people in this community are going to be checking their fireplaces,” he told me.

I know I will.
Beach Garden Club Luncheon

The Beach Garden Club had their annual Christmas luncheon on Dec. 5th at the Duneland Beach Inn. In lieu of exchanging presents, members brought toiletries for the homeless.

Mary Sunderland guest of Barbara Washburn, and Edmar Hoppe.

Dorothy Miller, Marian Schoonaert and Julie Barry.

Magda Butcher, Jinny Hilf, Dorothy Brown and Mary Caress.

Susan Kelley, daughter-in-law of June Kelley, and Donna Hennard.

Jinny Hilf and guest Marjorie Lou Hammond.

Hostesses Dolly Millick and Julie Barry.

Cheri Hruskocy.
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-Mikail Pinette

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For years I've celebrated Thanksgiving all by myself, and in a pleasing manner. Why? Because I serve my feast (my and my family's favorite meal of the year) the following weekend since my kids have holiday plans with in-laws, exes, plus multiple other Thanksgiving-day events. Too, during all my work years of waiting 'til the weekend, I found a couple days free for preparation were the prayer’s answer, instead of one single morning – that’s never long enough to put together a glorious feast.

When I moved to Michigan City a few years ago and was planning my family’s first Indiana feast for Thanksgiving-Saturday, I decided to take a drive up the Red Arrow and look for a spot to have some restaurant turkey on the real Thanksgiving. All the restaurants were closed! These guys are obviously more family-minded than the restaurateurs in Chicago, my former home. It was a pleasant day, so I kept heading east, enjoying the drive. Suddenly, up popped Schuler’s in Stevensville. I’d been there once for dinner long ago, and remembered enjoying both the ambiance and the food. Since it was the only place between Michigan City and Stevensville that was serving a holiday meal, the parking lot was jam-packed. So were the dining rooms. That’s when I discovered the bar.

No, I didn’t go to the bar to drink. I went to the bar because every table and chair in the house was filled with celebrating multi-generational families. I have never been a barfly, but I found sitting on a high stool, with the football games blaring and the busy waitstaff hustling up service for their customers, pleasant conversations all around me, rather relaxing. I ordered my turkey dinner, chatted with the bartender – mostly about food, as is my custom. The usual – turkey, dressing, squash, cranberry sauce, rolls, pumpkin pie, all with a glass of Chardonnay. Yes, charming. In fact, so charming that I’ve driven up there every Thanksgiving since!

No other Thanksgiving diners, Shellie and Tim Hicks from Coloma, Michigan.

Then I smile and hustle all the way home, anxious to start my own dinner preparation. That evening, it was a side-dish that could be put together in advance:

### Mashed Potato Casserole

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serves</th>
<th>10 to 12 servings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ingredients</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>4 lbs. Yukon Gold, peeled and cut into 3/4” chunks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cream Cheese</td>
<td>8 oz. light cut into pieces, at room temp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese</td>
<td>1 c. (4 oz.) shredded sharp Cheddar cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>2/3 c. milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter</td>
<td>2 T. unsalted buttet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chives</td>
<td>Salt/pepper to taste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chives</td>
<td>2 T. chopped fresh chives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Position a rack in the center of the oven and preheat to 350°. Butter a 13 x 9” baking dish.
2. Place the potatoes in a large saucepan and add enough lightly salted water to cover by 1”. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce to medium-low. Simmer until the potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes. Drain and return to the pot.
3. Mash the potatoes until chunky with a handheld electric mixer. Add the cream cheese, 3/4 of the Cheddar, milk, butter and salt & pepper to taste. Mix until smooth. Stir in the chives. Spread evenly in the baking dish and top with remaining 3/4 of Cheddar. Bake until the cheese is melted and the casserole is heated through, about 30 minutes. Serve hot.

And then Christmas arrived – in a rush, as always. Again, my family’s feast was traditionally arranged for the weekend after the 25th, so in the midst of those preparations, I put on my blinking Noel earrings and headed to The Grille, main restaurant of the Blue Chip Casino. I knew there wouldn’t be an ordinary restaurant open on Christmas day – all those family people were, yes, with their families. I’d never been

Schuler’s chef Abe serving the Thanksgiving bird.
to The Grille. It was very posh and friendly. I couldn’t sit at the bar because the bar was closed. Is that an Indiana law, closing a bar on Christmas day? Is Christmas a legal holiday? But there were plenty of tables to choose from. Many of them filled up before I left, so I wasn’t the only Christmas-out diner.

My waitress Becky took me back to the kitchen to say hello to the chef. Surprise! It was Chef Ron Chibicki, previously the executive chef at Basil’s, here in town. The Grille is lucky indeed to take him on. When I asked for a light dinner, he and Becky suggested pretty portobello ravioli in a light cream sauce. And since I couldn’t have my usual glass of Chardonnay, I enjoyed bottled water right out of the silver wine bucket. Classy water indeed. A lovely meal, but I was champing at the bit to begin my own holiday dinner.

I stopped at Al’s on the way home from my early-Christmas dinner and picked up some ingredients for:

**Holiday Wild Rice** (ah, it doesn’t HAVE to be a holiday – try it tomorrow)

- 6 to 8 servings
- **My family loved this!**
- 1-1/3 c. wild rice (8 oz.), rinsed and drained (or a combo of rices – wild, white, brown)
- 4-3/4 c. turkey or chicken both, homemade or low-sodium canned (yeah, I used the stock made and frozen from my Thanksgiving turkey carcass)
- Kosher salt
- 5 T. unsalted butter
- One 12-oz. pkg. loose pork sausage meat
- 1 c. finely chopped onion
- 1 T. finely chopped fresh thyme leaves
- 12 oz. Cremini mushrooms, sliced 1/4” thick
- 3 T. finely chopped flat-leaf parsley
- freshly ground black pepper

In large saucepan, combine the wild rice, 4 cups of the stock and salt to taste. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce to maintain a gentle simmer, cover and cook until tender – about 60 minutes. Drain and transfer the rice to a large bowl.

In a medium sauté pan, heat 1 T. butter over medium heat and add the sausage meat. Cook, breaking it up with a wooden spoon, until it loses its raw color, about 10 minutes. Drain off excess fat and stir the sausage meat with the rice.

In the same pan, heat 2 T. butter over medium-low heat. Add the onions and cook until golden, about 15 minutes. Add the thyme and cook 2 minutes more. Add to rice.

Preheat oven to 350º. Melt remaining butter in same pan and add the mushrooms. Cook until wilted and lightly browned, about 10 minutes. Add to the rice. Add the parsley and 3/4 cup of stock. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer to 9x13” casserole dish, cover with foil and bake until heated through, about 30 minutes.

Happy all-holiday eating, whenever and wherever.....
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

January 9 — Flying Carpet Travelogue series presents “The Maltese Welcome.” 7:30 pm at the Elston School Theatre. Ken Lawrence presents this look at the island nation of Malta. Tix $5 at the door.

January 11 — YogaKids free class. 10:30-11:30 am at the Old School Community Center, Long Beach. For kids 7-12 yrs. Info 872-9611 or visit www.yogakids.com

January 11 — Marquette High School Chili Dinner. 4-7 pm in the school cafeteria. Tix at the door: $3/adults, $2/students. Take outs are $5.

January 11 — Southwest Michigan Symphony concert. 8 pm (EST) at the Mendel Mainstage, on the campus of Lake Michigan College, 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, MI. Tix $31/29 for adults, $27/$25 for seniors & students; phone 269/982-4030.

January 12 — “Chicago Expression” in concert at the Festival Players Guild’s Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St., MC. Featuring jazz, swing, and blues music. Tix $12/adults, $6/students high school age and below. All seats reserved; phone 874-4269 or fax 879-6377.

January 13 — Art Guild meeting. 9:30 am at the John Blank Center for the Arts, 312 E. 8th St. Program by Sandi Thayer: “An Historical View of Buttons.” Refreshments will be served; guests invited to attend. Info 874-4900.

January 13 — Play ‘n Learn Chess. 4:30-5:30 pm at the LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. For those who are beginners or want to learn new strategies. Free; held the 2nd Monday of each month. Info 219/362-6156.

January 15 — Blood Pressure Screening at the MC Public Library. 2 pm. Free. Bring your list of meds and blood-pressure card.

January 16 — United Way of LaPorte County Annual Meeting. 5 pm at the Blue Chip Conference Center & Casino, Michigan City. The public is 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


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”

**Farther Afield:**

January 12-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.

January 14, 21, 28 — Free clinic on a cappella harmony presented by the Sweet Adelines International for all interested ladies. 7 pm. Free. Held at River Park United Methodist Church, 920 S. 23rd St., South Bend. Info 574/288-2688 or log onto http://home.attbi.com/~riverbend


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**FRIDAY, JANUARY 10**

7-8:30 p.m. **SONGS OF THE FRENCH-CANADIANS.** Join the French-Canadian musicians, Gerald and Sharon Cote, as they perform for your listening pleasure. Gerald will also lead a sing-a-long with our French speaking and Canadian guests. Meet at Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11**

1-2:30 p.m. **SNOWSHOEING IN THE DUNES.** Join a ranger for this exciting foot-altering experience. There will be a discussion of the interesting winter adaptations of our forest friends while traveling cross-country on snowshoes. Snowshoes will be provided. Limited to 15 people, so reservations are necessary by phoning 926-7561, ext. 225. A hike with the shoe of boot of your choice will be given in the event of too little snow. Meet at Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center.

3 p.m **FEEDING TIME AT CHELLBERG FARM.** Help a ranger feed the farm animals.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12**

1:30-2:30 p.m. **WINTER IN THE SAVANNAH.** Take a walk with a ranger through Miller Woods and explore this beautiful oak savannah in winter. Learn how the plants and animals survive in this wonderful, yet dangerous, habitat. Meet at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education in Miller.

*For more information, phone 926-7561, ext. 225.*
The Unity Foundation Scholarships

The Unity Foundation is offering six, full-tuition, four-year college scholarships to LaPorte County residents. The scholarships, funded by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc., provide full tuition, required fees, and a special allocation of up to $800 per year for required books and equipment for four years of undergraduate study leading to a baccalaureate degree at any accredited Indiana public or private college or university.

The scholarships will be awarded based upon academic achievement and demonstrated service to the community. Scholarship applications are available at area high schools, or by phoning the Unity Foundation at 879-0327, or email unity@uflc.net

Applications must be received at the Unity Foundation office no later than Feb. 14, 2003.
SW Michigan Symphony

The Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will ring in the new year on Sat., Jan. 11th, at 8 p.m., with its “Orchestral Showcase.” The performance will take place at Mendel Mainstage, on the campus of Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, MI.

The concert will open with the entire orchestra performing Johann Strauss’ “Overture to die Fledermaus” which is based on a French musical farce by Meilhac and Halvey and provides a framework for delightful waltzes, arias and ensembles.

Five principal players will continue with five solo concertos: Haydn’s “Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra, F-Flat Major,” “Concertino for Clarinet and Orchestra” by Carl Maria von Weber; “Zigeunerweisen (Gypsy Airs), Op. 20” by Pablo de Sarasate; Debussy’s “Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun;” and, Beethoven’s “Romance in F Major, Op. 50.”

The concert will conclude with the entire orchestra performing Rimsky-Korsakov’s “Capriccio Espagnol.”

Tickets for the concert are available at the SMSO office, 513 Ship St., St. Joseph, MI, or by phone at 269/982-4030. Tickets can also be purchased at their web site, www.smso.org. Ticket prices are $31/$29 for adults, $27/25 for seniors and $7 for students. There are also a limited number of $15 discount tickets available.

Good Time Charley Dance in Valpo

Good Time Charley has been providing singles dances in the Chicago area for over thirteen years. The evening includes door prizes, free parking in a safe and secure smoke-free environment. The dress code is strictly enforced which includes slacks, button shirts, sweaters, sport coats, dresses or suits. No tennis shoes, t-shirts or jeans are allowed. Age is limited to 32 and up.

Upcoming dates are Jan. 10 & 24, Feb. 7 & 21. All dances will be held at 8 p.m. at the Strongbow Inn, U.S. 30 in Valparaiso, just off Rt. 49. Admission is $7 and the dress code is enforced. For more information, phone 219/465-6258 or 219/464-9237. Their web site is www.GTCSingles.com

Clinic on A Cappella Harmony

River Bend Chorus, the South Bend Chapter of Sweet Adelines, International, will be offering a free clinic on a cappella harmony for three weeks to all ladies interested in singing.

The clinic will be taught by award-winning certified director, Sherry Berkley, at River Park United Methodist Church, 920 S. 23rd St., South Bend. Classes will be held on three consecutive Tuesdays, Jan. 14, 21 & 28 at 7 p.m. (EST).

For more information, phone 574/288-2688 or log onto http://home.attbi.com/~riverbend
Travels with Charley:

It’s Great to Skate, When Too Much Holiday Food You Ate

by Charles McKelvy

Okay, here we are smack dab in the middle of the old “bread and water” penitential period of the year. We’ve all dragged the old bathroom scales out from under our beds and put them back under the glaring florescent lights where they are faithfully and accurately recording the full extent of our holiday gluttony.

It ain’t pretty, is it?

No, it certainly is not, but then we don’t have to go over the cliff with our post-holiday guilt trips either, do we?

No, of course not.

The solution, dear friends, is to use all those store credits we got when we returned the gifts we didn’t really want or need and buy ourselves shiny new pairs of ice skates. Better yet, we can just set $3 aside and head on up to the Howard Ice Arena at 2414 Willa Drive in St. Joseph, Michigan and rent a pair of either hockey or figure skates and avail ourselves of the fabulous exercise opportunities that only a meticulously groom, refrigerated, regulation-size hockey rink can offer.

If you have any doubt, please go to your handy Beacher archives and check-out my entry on pages 32 & 33 of the February 7, 2002 edition that was titled: “The Freedom of Skating at the John & Dede Howard Ice Arena.”

Can’t find it?

Doesn’t ring a bell?

Then please allow me to take you briefly back to the morning of Saturday, January 19, 2002 when the grand opening of the John & Dede Howard Ice Arena actually occurred.

I didn’t need an alarm clock to awaken me that Saturday, because I had had visions of skating around a for-real rink for hours on end for the low, low, low opening day price of $0 dancing in my head all night.

And I had been praising the names of John and Dede Howard, because they were the couple whose generous donation made the $1.2 million rink happen.

Allow me now to repeat what I said on February 7, 2002:

“THANK YOU, JOHN and DEDE HOWARD for making an old hockey player very, very, very, very happy!!”

Oh, I was one happy skater just about twice a week that first season at the Howard Ice Arena, and I was back Thanksgiving Weekend 2002 for the inauguration of the second season and was so elated that I related the following attempt at poetry:

No need for post-holiday blues,
Missies and Stus,
Not with the friendly staff and crews
Ready to put some skates on you
The whole winter through
At the rink that was made
For me and you(s).
Okay, so I should stick with prose, and I know I’m waxing a little corny here, but it’s because I have waited far too long for something like the Howard Ice Arena to appear on my horizon. What with the wimpy winters we’ve been having here in the Great Lakes Region the last several years, there just hasn’t been any chance of skating on ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, or backyard rinks.

Ice skating is a great way to burn off holiday calories.

Ice just hasn’t been happening, and while various folks have floated rink possibilities in places like New Buffalo, nobody was been making serious ice until John and Dede Howard came along.

Okay, enough gassing from me, and time for you to gas up your car and head on up to St. Joe via I-94 east to the Niles Avenue exit for St. Joseph. Then north on Niles to Napier and then right on Napier. You’ll see the rink on your left and be sure and take the first left on Willa Drive and follow signs to the free parking lot or look for free parking on the side streets.

In addition to loads of open skating Thursday through Sunday, they’re also offering figure skating classes, youth and adult hockey leagues, and a great warming house with restrooms, a fireplace, and plenty of hot chocolate and coffee and candy on sale at a reasonable price.

For the latest information and schedules, please call them at: 269/983-8795. They’ll fill you in, and then you can join me there in filing off all those pounds we filled in for the holidays.
Free YogaKids Class at Old School

Dancing Feet Yoga Center, located at the Old School Community Center, will be hosting a free YogaKids class on Sat., Jan. 11 for children ages 7-12. The class will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

YogaKids integrates reading, storytelling, music, art, yoga and movement to educate the “whole child” with comprehensive learning. Children will learn to stretch, breathe, relax and enjoy in fun and playful ways.

A phone call to reserve a space for your child is requested, but not mandatory: 872-9611. Their web site is www.yogakids.com

MHS Chili Dinner

Marquette High School, Class of 2004, will be sponsoring a Chili Dinner on Sat., Jan. 11, from 4-7 p.m., in the school cafeteria. This will be a great chance to socialize before the Homecoming basketball game. Tickets are $3/adults and $2/students and are available from any student, at the school office or at the door. Take outs will be available for $5.

United Way Annual Meeting

The United Way of Greater LaPorte County will hold its annual meeting on Thurs., Jan. 16, at 5 p.m., at the Blue Chip Conference Center & Casino in Michigan City. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. For more information, phone 800/399-7222.

Sons of Norway Meeting-Jan. 18

Members and guests of Scandiana, the Sons of Norway Chapter for Northwest Indiana, will watch a video of Oslo’s extensive Vigeland sculpture park at their January 18 meeting. The park contains 212 pieces created over a forty-year period by a single artist. A potluck supper of soup, sandwiches and dessert at 6 p.m. will precede the program in the Westchester Library annex, 100 W. Indiana St., Chesterton.

For more information, phone Jerry Moe, 219/465-4176 or Nancy Tuznik, 872-4946. Visitors are welcome.
Wondermusic of Oz Spring Classes

Wondermusic of Oz spring music classes will begin on Jan. 21, offering a rich program of age-appropriate musical learning activities for infants through 8 years. The 14-week classes meet once weekly, and promote language, coordination and social interaction skills.

All classes are designed to teach the elements of music in a group setting of enthusiasm, excitement and fun. Classes are conducted at the Music of Oz Studio, located on the corner of 4th Street and Pine Street in Michigan City. For a complete listing of classes, phone Pattie Flory, 874-9191.

The Great Chefs of Harbor Country

The Harbor Nights Enrichment Series presents The Great Chefs of Harbor Country with two exciting programs in the month of January.

Thurs., Jan. 9, 7 p.m. (EST) with Chef Patty Panozzo at Panozzo’s Pantry, 19135 W. U.S. 12, New Buffalo. Her program will feature “Cabin Fever Party Fare.”

Thurs., Jan. 26, 5:30 p.m. (EST) with Chef Sam Luna of Jenny’s Restaurant, 15460 Red Arrow Hwy., Lakeside.

Reservations are required for either program; phone 269/469-1515. There is a $20 donation per event and proceeds benefit the cultural enrichment of students at St. Mary of the Lake School.

PNC New Student Orientation—Jan. 11

All new students enrolled in spring semester classes at Purdue University North Central are invited to attend New Student Orientation, set for Sat., Jan. 11, from 8:30 a.m.-noon at the Westville campus.

Registration from 8:30-9 a.m. will be followed by a continental breakfast. After welcoming remarks from PNC Chancellor James B. Dworkin, students and their parents will have the opportunity to attend informational sessions, computer lab orientations and take a campus tour.

The event is free, but registration is requested; phone 872-0527.

I Don’t Know How She Does It

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On January 9, 1788, Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the United States Constitution.


On January 9, 1959, General Charles de Gaulle was proclaimed the first president of the Fifth Republic of France.

On January 9, 1968, Surveyor 7 landed on the Moon, ending the series of United States unmanned explorations of the lunar surface.

On January 10, 1776, Thomas Paine published his influential pamphlet “Common Sense.” In his call for American independence from England, he wrote; “Everything that is right or reasonable pleads for separation.”

On January 10, 1881, actress Sarah Bernhardt opened at the McVickers Theater for her first Chicago engagement.

On January 10, 1901, oil was discovered near Beaumont, and the great Texas oil boom was underway.

On January 10, 1946, radar signals were bounced off the moon’s surface, marking the first man-made contact with our only visible satellite.

On January 11, 1759, the first life-insurance company in America was founded. It went by the name of the “Corporation for Relief of Poor and Distressed Widows and Children of Presbyterian Ministers.”

On January 11, 1770, Benjamin Franklin shipped the first rhubarb to America from London.

On January 11, 1805, an act of congress created the Michigan Territory.

On January 11, 1878, Brooklyn milkman Alexander Gambil made the first delivery of milk in glass bottles.

On January 11, 1935, Amelia Earhart took off from Honolulu in her successful attempt to become the first woman to make a solo flight across the Pacific Ocean.

On January 11, 1982, Chicago’s schools were closed in the wake of record-breaking temperatures of 26 degrees below zero.

On January 12, 1773, America’s first public museum was established in Charleston, South Carolina.

On January 12, 1856, painter John Singer Sargent was born in Florence, Italy.
On January 12, 1876, Jack London, famous American novelist and short-story writer, was born in San Francisco. London was the author of more than 50 books. Of these, “The Call of the Wild,” written in 1903, is the best known.

On January 12, 1896, Dr. H.L. Smith, a professor of astronomy at Davidson College, made the first X-ray photograph in the United States.

On January 13, 1733, James Oglethorpe, along with 130 colonists, arrived in Charleston, South Carolina, in route to settling what is now Georgia.

On January 13, 1864, composer Stephen Foster died (penniless in a New York charity hospital) at the age of 37.

On January 13, 1906, the first advertisement for a radio, a Telimco selling for $7.50, appeared in Scientific American magazine.

On January 13, 1966, Robert Weaver became the first black Cabinet member when President Lyndon Johnson appointed him Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

On January 14, 1559, Elizabeth I was crowned Queen of England.

On January 14, 1639, Connecticut’s first constitution, known as the “Fundamental Orders,” was adopted at a meeting in Hartford.

On January 14, 1741, Benedict Arnold, American Revolutionary War general, and the nation’s most famous traitor, was born in Norwich, Connecticut.

On January 14, 1742, English astronomer Edmond Halley, who discovered the comet that bears his name, died at the age of 85.

On January 14, 1914, Henry Ford started the assembly line that reduced the time of putting together a car from over 12 hours to 93 minutes. This contributed to lowered automobile prices, smog, energy shortages, traffic jams, fast food restaurants, and Arab dominance of the oil market.

On January 15, 1759, the British Museum was officially opened in London.

On January 15, 1870, in a cartoon that appeared in Harper’s magazine, the donkey was used for the first time to symbolize the Democratic Party.

On January 15, 1922, the Irish Free State was established.

On January 15, 1974, “Happy Days” (that was to become one of the longest running sitcoms on TV) premiered on ABC.

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“I am married but am not a wife, have children but am not a mother. What am I?”

That’s the question Kate Reddy asks herself in this oh-so right on target, first novel by Allison Pearson. The book is titled I Don’t Know How She Does It: The Life of Kate Reddy, Working Mother.

Ladies, this book is for all of us who have tried to balance a demanding job, husband and children. Do we have stress in our lives?...Up to our eyeballs. Do we have guilt?....Up above our heads. But we roll with the punches and even manage to find some humor in our crazy lives. That’s the beauty of this story: Author Pearson reveals both ends of the rainbow and everything inbetween.

She not only tells of the frustration of being a working mother, she also finds a lot of humor and irony along the way. As our story opens, Kate is in her kitchen at 1 a.m. trying to “distress” mince pies bought from the bakery to look like she baked them herself. Her pride (and guilt) will not allow her to let her daughter Emily take purchased goods to her school’s Christmas party.

Oh, but that’s just the tip of the iceberg. Kate talks about the children’s nanny, Paula: “.....I see the person who is with my children all the hours I’m not.....” Then there’s the non-working neighbors who either say “I don’t know how you do it!” or “Are you still working full-time?”

Our heroine is a hedge fund manager in a very old, very established money management company in London. Kate is good at her job, and at age 35, has been around long enough to understand that testosterone still rules in the business world. “Chauvinism is the air I breathe—a bracing blend of Gucci Envy and salty gym residue......When I first came to the city I smelt the smell and recognized it immediately as power.”

Despite the inequalities, she likes her job, which, by the way, earns her more money than her architect husband. Kate has to be ready to hop a plane for New York, Paris, Brussels, or wherever, at a moment’s notice. That is, after she has bought her daughter’s birthday presents, ordered the cake, answered her emails and picked up two new pair of shoes on her lunch. Although her job has made her street smart and presents opportunities for casual affairs, Kate fends them off and worries constantly about her children and obsesses about lost time with year old Ben and six year old Emily. A lot of her feelings are told through a series of emails sent to her best friend.

The climax of the story involves a bit of “payback” and the ending will either satisfy you or make you think our Kate has caved in to the pressures of her life.

I totally enjoyed this book. From love and marriage to children and career to doubting her own sanity, Allison Pearson tells us a story which must come in part from her own life. She is a weekly columnist in the London Evening Standard and a member of BBC2's Newsnight Review panel. Her husband is Anthony Lane, a writer for the New Yorker magazine. And, she has two children.

The only thing that might impede your enjoyment of this story are the names of British politicians and entertainers she throws in for humor or emphasis and, of course, there are the British slang words used. Think we speak the same language? See if you already know these few British words that come up in the book along with their American “translation.” Knickers (women’s underwear); loo (the bathroom); queue (a line of people); tights (panty hose); car park (parking lot); boot (trunk of car).

Till next time, happy reading!
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CAN’T RETIRE YET, but golf is your life. This 5 bedroom, 3 bath home wrapped by the golf course can be your vacation home till then. Room for all the family and guests too. Southern exposure screened porch off kitchen is extra dining space. 16 x 20 master suite is in separate wing. 3 decks, solarium, double garage. $429,000

A CATHEDRAL of tall trees surround this log cabin on 2½ Michiana Shores lots. High ceilings, fireplace, large kitchen plus dining room, master suite, den or third bedroom, large deck off kitchen. Short walk to beach. $449,000

THE GATHERING PLACE for the family is the large kitchen with enough space for a Brownie Troop. Carpet is new, and rooms have just been painted. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths. Walk to shops, grocery, churches. 2½ car garage. $97,500

*Licensed in Indiana and Michigan