Carl O. Reed and the Wide-Awake World of Beverly Shores

by Barbara Stodola

Beverly Shores has become a bedroom community, but never has it been sleepy. Carl O. Reed, whose waking hours are devoted to the subject, will gladly expound upon the differences between what the town is today and what its original developers envisioned.

Frederick H. Bartlett would have transformed the southern shores of Lake Michigan into another Atlantic City, with luxury apartment-hotels and expensive playgrounds for throngs of well-heeled vacationers. His colossal plans were dashed by the stock market crash of October, 1929.

Nevertheless, Reed believes Bartlett would have been pleased with the outcome — a lively, diversified town that passionately preserves its independence and its environment. Beverly Shores owes its diversity, Reed says, to covenants less restrictive than those placed by developers of other communities. It never was restricted to Gentiles. Consequently, liberal residents were attracted — Chicago intellectuals, nature-lovers, university professors, artists, privacy-seekers and rugged individualists.

* Carl O. Reed, 20-year-resident of Beverly Shores, is secretary-treasurer of the Beverly Shores Historical Society. Descendant of a Revolutionary War officer, Carl formerly worked in the advertising department of The Chicago Tribune and was 1st vice-president of the Illinois State Genealogical Society.
Carl Reed  Continued from Page 1

Bartlett was one of the largest developers in Chicagoland when he bought up 3,600 acres of promising real estate, extending from the state prison to the state park, and covering 5.5 miles of lakefront property. He paid $10 million for this choice parcel, a fortune by anybody’s standards, all the more so in 1927.

The Frederick H. Bartlett Realty Company divided the land into two sections, the east section being the Lake Shore Development, and began selling the property from east to west. Most of this development was in Porter County, but two smaller parcels in LaPorte County were North Shore Beach, near Mount Baldy, and South Shore Acres. By 1929, Frederick said he had sold all the lots in the first half, for a total of $15 million, a nice profit on the original investment. He then opened the second section, which he named Frederick H. Bartlett’s Beverly Shores Development.

A huge advertising campaign was launched in 1929 for the opening of Beverly Shores. Free train tickets were given to 1,000 prospective customers, who arrived on the South Shore. A talk was given by Robert Bartlett, Frederick’s younger brother and vice-president of the company. It was Robert’s two-year-old daughter, Beverly, after whom the new development was named.

Beverly Shores was promoted as a 1,400-acre development with fine bathing beaches and an 18-hole golf course, “handy to the Loop by Rapid Electrified Transportation.” By the mid-1920s, passenger trains and motor cars had contributed to the success of golf communities in Long Beach, Indiana, and Grand Beach, Michigan. The Beverly Shores golf course was built south of U.S. 12, the 9th fairway being where St. Ann’s Church stands today. Property was offered for sale on both sides of Highway 12.
“The lots measured 60 ft. by 130 ft. and sold for $675,” Carl Reed said. “Even though most of the lots were inland, the ads implied that you’d be right on the beach. Look at how the streets were named — Atwater, Bywater, Ripplewater — the subliminal appeal to the lakeside character of the town. There were also plans for Edgewater Beach-type hostelries, which were never built because of the Depression.”

What were built, however, were fifty stucco homes, a clubhouse, a hotel, botanical gardens, stables, two gas stations, two train stations, and eventually a school. One of the train stations has been restored to its original appearance, and any number of the homes have been improved and enlarged over the years.

Carl Reed Continued on Page 4

Designs by Frederick Mertz were made available in Beverly Shores, in the second phase of Frederick Bartlett’s development. This Spanish Revival house, Plan B2, was a one-bedroom plan with full dining and living rooms.

Photos by Hallenberg of Chicago showed variations on B plans, as built on the wooded lots of Beverly Shores.

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H.B. Olney Company of East Chicago was engaged to construct the first fifty homes, according to designs by architect Frederick Mertz, who offered variations on designs A, B, C, D and E. The designs were mostly Spanish revival and Mediterranean styles, of a type that had been popularized in new resort towns in Florida and California. The general contractor was Leo Post, one of the Bartletts’ friends from Chicago.

Olney also built a Prairie-style home for himself, high on a dune and reachable off Beverly Drive. It is called “Windy Hill.”

In 1933, at the height of the Depression, Frederick Bartlett sold all his property in Northwest Indiana to his younger brother, Robert, whose faith in the project continued despite the economic downturn. During his first year, Robert achieved a sales total of more than a million dollars. He built “Pine Lodge,” a nine-room summer home for his family, costing $30,000 and situated atop a 112-foot dune. Robert’s daughter Beverly became a close friend of Leo Post’s daughter, Ann Post Carlson.

As a marketing tool, Robert Bartlett bought up numerous buildings from the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair and had them shipped to Beverly Shores. This unique undertaking brought attention and boosted sales Robert Bartlett stayed in business, as owner of the town, until 1946. After his departure, the town of Beverly Shores was incorporated.

Although most of Mertz’s designs had a Mediterranean influence, Plan B4 offered timbered stucco as an alternative, reminiscent of Bavarian or Elizabethan cottages.

At least one of the B4 plans made it through the construction phase in the early days of Beverly Shores. This Hallenberg photo dates from January, 1936.

The Red Top Lunch Room & Service Station was located on Hwy.12, near County Line Road. The building has been converted into a residence.

The transportation center of Beverly Shores there was a Standard Service Station, and across the tracks the South Shore Train Station, which recently was restored.
Following the Century of Progress Exhibition in 1933, developer Robert Bartlett had several homes shipped over to Beverly Shores and used as showpieces. The Rostone House, built of an experimental new material, is shown here after arriving on a barge.

The Cypress Log Cabin, another of the World’s Fair Homes, is pictured here being installed in its new location, on the dune side of Lake Front Drive, Beverly Shores.

A nine-room log cabin was built by Robert Bartlett for his family’s summer home. It was completed in 1934, one year after Robert took over as developer of Beverly Shores.

A 1930s map of Beverly Shores shows the numerous buildings brought over from the Chicago World’s Fair and placed along Broadway and Lake Front Drive.

Mrs. Michael Shuger, a doctor’s wife, is pictured at the Beverly Shores Riding Club.

Ann Carlson, who was two years old when she first came to Beverly Shores, lived in the town the rest of her life. She became a realtor, and was town clerk for a very long time. Before her death, she turned over the original drawings, photographs and documents to Carl Reed and the Beverly Shores Historical Society.
Don’t Miss “The Hobbit”

Fire Hills Arts Foundation Children’s Theatre production of J.R.R. Tolkien’s prologue to the Ring trilogy will be performed at Dunes Summer Theatre, Michiana Shores.

Performance dates are Thurs., July 31 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 1 and Sat., Aug. 2, at 7 p.m.; and Sun., Aug. 3, at 2 p.m. Tickets are $5 general admission and $3 for groups of 15 or more. Phone the Box Office at 879-7509.

(l-r): Bobby Webb, Jr. as Thorin, Lorna Whiting as the Elven Queen, Mary Condon as Gollum, Jenny Vihon as Bilbo Baggins.

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(4:00 – 7:00 p.m. eastern daylight time)

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RSVP by August 8
Reservations suggested
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This lively production is directed by Sam Potter, with musical direction by Sue Rosselli and choreography by Laurie Parpart. The talented cast includes: Michael Metcalf of Rolling Prairie; Robert W. Komendera, Derek Bolka, Jim Jones and Ray Walters, all of Michigan City; Laura Dooley and Angie Shriner from Valparaiso; Rebecca Martin and Ava Brewer of LaPorte.

The chorus features Vickie K. Cash of New Carlisle; Alyssa Whybrew of LaPorte; Christine Wiegand and Bruce Pennington from Michigan City.

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The show opens at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., Michigan City on Fri., Aug. 1, with additional performances on Aug. 2, 3, 8-10, 15-17. All tickets are $10. Seating is limited so reservations are recommended; phone 874-4035. Telephone confirmations will not be made unless there is a conflict.

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2524 Lake Shore Drive • $2,200,000
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2909 Belle Plaine Trail • $795,000
4 bedrooms, 4 baths. Sitting room on upper level off two bedrooms could be used for a wonderful sleeping porch. Designer kitchen with island & high end appliances. Living room features built-in bookshelves & fireplace.

15 Bristol Drive • $286,000
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16179 Water Tower Place • $389,000
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Creating original handmade books is a labor of love for Valparaiso artist Leslie Cefali. This past year she has concentrated on organizing a unique artist book containing works of 45 regional artists. Each artist worked in their medium, and the book includes original watercolors, oil paintings, fiber, photography, printmaking, collages, and glass. Several artists reproduced their paintings for inclusion in the book. Book artists, under the direction of Cefali, assembled the accordion folded book creating 100 limited edition books.

The Artist Book of Artists’ Work is a fundraiser for the Chesterton Art Center. “This book project has been a year and a half in the making. There has been a generous outpouring of support from regional artists and community volunteers, for which we are most appreciative. Over 700 volunteer hours have gone into the production of this project,” states Cefali.

The book is currently available at the Chesterton Art Center for $95. One copy of the book will be raffled at the annual Chesterton Art Fair on Aug. 2 & 3, at Hawthorne Park, Porter. Artists will be available to sign copies of the book at the Art Fair. The Juried Art Fair will feature 134 artists from 18 states and Canada. Cost of admission to the fair is $5 for adults, which is good for both days, and children under 12 are admitted free. For more information, phone the Art Center at 219/926-4711.
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This 2 bedroom, 2½ bath home is cute as can be with an elegant touch. Great open floor plan for easy living.
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“Dance Under the Stars” at Firefly Festival

The Firefly Festival will present BalletMet Columbus on Sat., Aug. 2nd at 8 p.m., at St. Patrick’s County Park, South Bend. The company, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary season, is ranked among the nation's top 15 dance troupes. BalletMet Columbus’ evening at Firefly highlights the virtuosity of the company’s exquisite dancers in works ranging from an elegant classical duet to selections from the captivating Gershwin Dances to Harrison McEldowney’s “Dance Sport,” a hilarious send-up of dancer-athletes fiercely competing at the Olympics. McEldowney added extra segments to this hilarious dance, especially for BalletMet.

Concert-goers will want to set out their chairs and blankets before the performance begins, because early birds will get to watch the dancers take “company class” on stage. Then, at 7 p.m., a member of BalletMet's artistic staff will offer an insider’s insights into the world of dance.

All Firefly performances are held at St. Patrick's County Park, 50651 Laurel Rd., near the Indiana/Michigan state line. The St. Joseph County Parks charge a parking fee of $3/car at Firefly events. The hillside has areas for chairs and blankets. The gate opens at 5 p.m. at which time chairs and blankets may be placed on the hillside. Picnics are welcome. Due to County Parks rules, glass containers and alcoholic beverages are not allowed. A vendor for the St. Joseph County Parks will sell beer and wine. Firefly does not receive any revenue from the sale of food and beverages at the park food court.

Firefly offers sound enhancement for the hearing impaired, as well as Braille and recorded program books for the visually impaired. Rest rooms and drinking fountains are wheelchair accessible, and ushers are happy to assist people at the hillside. A special-needs parking area near the amphitheater entrance is also available.

Tickets are $15 in advance and $18 the day of the show. Youth ages 6-16 are $5 each and under age 6 are admitted free. Phone 574/288-3472 or email firefly@fireflyfestival.com. You can also access their web site at www.fireflyfestival.com
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Literacy Month in Michigan City

Mayor Chuck Oberlie announced that the City of Michigan City will celebrate Literacy Month in September 2003.

“September is Literacy Month in Michigan City,” said Mayor Oberlie, “and we will be focusing on how literacy affects communities, economic development and individuals. The Michigan City Task Force on Literacy will present facts and articles about illiteracy on the city’s website (www.emichigancity.com) and is partnering with others to bring literacy skills to everyone in our community.”

The Mayor’s Task Force on Literacy has invited the Michigan City Public Library, Purdue North Central University, the News-Dispatch, Ivy Tech, Workforce Development, Unity Foundation, Healthy Communities, Safe Harbor, and the LaPorte Literacy Coalition to join forces and address literacy issues in our community.

“When you cannot read, it is difficult to complete a job application, use a phone book, understand street signs, or help your child with homework,” said Mayor Oberlie. “When a community’s citizens cannot read, the challenge of bringing new businesses to the community is even greater. The ability to read and to understand information is crucial to both individual and community success.”

Mayor Oberlie said that his office is also working with the Indiana State Library to create programs for Literacy Month in Indiana. “The Indiana Adult Literacy Coalition’s statewide campaign is ‘Put Your Nose In a Book, Indiana!’, The goal is to create greater awareness of literacy issues in Indiana and to assist those Hoosiers whose literacy skills make everyday life challenging.”

The Michigan City Public Library’s Learning Center needs volunteers to work with adults and children who are learning to read and improving their reading skills. “Helping someone learn to read or to read better makes life better for the entire community,” said Mayor Oberlie.

Volunteers and people of all ages who want to learn to read or to read better can phone the Learning Center at 219/873-3043.

Contact: For more information, contact Robin Kohn, Michigan City Public Library; 873-3049 or rkohn@mclib.org; or Janet Kostielney, Mayor’s Office, 873-1400 X350 or jkostielney@emichigancity.com

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Walking in Another’s Moccasins
by Paula McHugh

Pat and Brandon Scott know what it’s like to walk in another person’s moccasins. As re-enactors who present themselves as members of the Eastern Woodland Lenape tribe, mother and son have done their homework.

Homework in this case meaning researching the history and lifestyle of the Delaware tribe in order to represent the Lenape as accurately as possible at more than 30 re-enactment events around the country this year. The Scott’s—and that includes husband and father Bert, voluntarily give up modern creature-comforts to pursue an ever-increasingly popular weekend lifestyle. Bert sheds his IU-Northwest professor image on weekends and dons the persona of non-moccasin-wearing fur trader.

“I flunked history in high school,” she said. But living history—learning about the day to day lives of people from centuries past and placing oneself back in a period adds a dimension that high school history books cannot even touch.

Pat’s son, Brandon, now 29, picked up the re-enactment bug and more than ran with it. In addition to being honored recently by being officially adopted into the Delaware Nation, the Lenape warrior re-enactor has established a business, Eagle Talon Traders. Brandon began as a fur trader, evolved to Lenape warrior, and as he continued traveling to weekend encampments, his business of providing such things as twined bags, tricornis, beaded garters, and twill-trimmed blankets grew. Pat, who sews various items and works in partnership with her son, keeps busy on weekdays fulfilling order requests.

Pat caught the reenactment bug in 1981, during her first visit to the Feast of the Hunter’s Moon near Lafayette. Now she, husband Bert, and son, Brandon travel to as many as 32 events a year. Pat and Brandon portray members of the Lenape (Delaware) tribe. Bert portrays a white fur trader.

Pat holds up a bright red breechcloth, one of the items sold through son Brandon’s Eagle Talon Traders.

“I never dreamed I’d be doing this,” Pat said. “It just evolved. It’s gotten to where I’m doggone busy.”

She loves every minute of it, too. The shared family hobby, now expanded into a business, has opened the Scott’s to an expanded circle of friends who enjoy sharing research and resources.

“I’m constantly researching. Something always taxes your brain,” Pat said. Finding historical material has become much easier for her since the Internet has replaced the need to travel, say, to the Ft. Wayne library’s extensive historical collection. With her solid research background and the interpretation skills she learned while at the National Lakeshore, Pat feels comfortable in her roles as storyteller, entertainer, and interpreter. Whether at an event or doing educational outreach at local schools, Pat strives for accuracy. The Scott’s have a collection of 200 or so books related to their hobby, concentrated on the Eastern Woodland Native Americans.
Lenape women acquired silver thimbles in trade from white women and sewed them on different articles. The bell-like tinkles add another dimension to the native’s artful costume.

“You just don’t make up stories. You have to find out what happened.”

When not on the road and when not sewing or researching her most current topic, food history, Pat hosts youth groups at her woodsy south Valparaiso home. She gives talks about the fur trade, gathered foods and useful plants, and serves sassafras tea. Older youth sometimes have the opportunity, with parent supervision, to try their hand at throwing tomahawks at a suspended log target.

Pat just returned from a weekend at New Harmony State Historic Park, where she was invited to share her knowledge of the Woodland Indians’ early lifestyle including food gathering and preparation. She made an earlier trip there in April as part of the Park’s Heritage Week festival.

As Pat finished dressing in her Lenape costume for Beacher photos, she explained each piece in detail. In reenactment events, Pat portrays a white captive (common in history, she explains) who lives with the natives.

“I was ‘captured as a 5-year old,’ and I learned to live happily with my ‘new’ family,” she explained. Within the tribe, she learned to weave, and Pat demonstrates weaving outside the Scott’s canvas tent and/or tepee at the events they attend. In all of the research collected and absorbed, Pat explained that she has “gotten to know the person behind the person” that makes her reenactment experience as authentic as possible.

Pat has been researching the life of Frances Slocum, a captured white woman who came to the Mississinewuan tribe.

According to Pat, the Woodland Indians adopted the European women’s chemise, except that the native women wore the garment on the outside, not as an undergarment. The Lenape women wore leggings held up with beaded garters and attached to a thong undergarment.

“The Indian women wore thongs (for their leggings) hundreds of years before Victoria’s Secret came along.”

Over the leggings, the re-enactor wears the Lenape wrap skirt. On hot days, the layers of leggings, wrap skirt, and chemise can be mighty uncomfortable, Pat said. Yet, historical accuracy is not compromised for the sake of a day’s comfort. For adornment, the native women wore beaded, wampum necklaces and silver trade jewelry, and sometimes sewed trade silver ringlets directly onto their wrap skirts. Silver thimbles traded from the white men were also sewn on bags to create a bell-like jingle with any slightest physical movement.
Pat usually wears three pairs of silver reproduction earrings, based on designs from findings of an archeological dig now in the Cruikshank collection. One of her most prized pieces is an authentic 16th century beaded necklace made of Dutch rice beads and given to Pat by a friend who works for the History Channel. Pat “clubs” her long, smooth dark hair—meaning that she wraps red ribbon through her tresses. The tiny, delicate beading on certain items, Pat’s moccasin liners for example, serve a practical purpose, she explained. The blanket wool liner inside the shoe keeps from unraveling when the beads are sewn on the edges. From within one of several medicine pouches draping from her neck, Pat pulled out a surprise find. Call it a coincidence or call it synchronicity, but the re-enactor “just happened” to spot a perfectly intact arrowhead on the ground next to the Scott’s stored teepee poles propped against their backyard shed.

Good medicine.

Pat keeps this arrowhead in her medicine bag. She found it by lucky accident in her backyard when she was putting away the family’s teepee poles.

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Brandon, on the other hand, wears a breechcloth in his role as a Lenape warrior. He wears seven pairs of earrings. He paints his face in the traditional Lenape warrior’s black and red colors. For his mother, Brandon designed a large, silver cross which Pat wears as part of her costume. Brandon also adopted permanent Lenape tattoo designs on his upper legs.

Brandon’s Eagle Talon Traders sells 18th century reproductions of everything from a handful of brass tacks for a nickel to tents and period guns that cost around $2500. Brandon said that his business’ inventory averages $12,000 worth of items for sale to period re-enactors. He plans to complete a company catalog soon. Pat has supplied tricorns—three-cornered French hats—which, she said, was one of her more challenging projects. Pat weaves twine bags that the company sells and she also teaches her weaving skills. The list of items, from hats to bags to beaded garters and match coats keeps increasing. Pat and Brandon have to guesstimate the numbers of people who participate in period reenactments, but the Feast of the Hunter’s Moon near Lafayette drew more than 8,000 last fall, they said.

Pat said that she has no plans to quit traveling to as many weekend events as she has time and energy for, even if it does mean sleeping on the hard ground under a tent two days a week. And she has no plans to quit researching when she is back in the plugged-in world during a normal week. We asked Pat what some of the highlights of her research uncovered.

“I guess the most important thing I might have learned is how equal the women were in the native families. There were women’s councils. They even had the power to vote to see if the men would go to war. Sometimes the military would offer gifts to the women to get their men to fight on their side. The women’s rights movement was started by Susan B. Anthony who went to the Iroquois women in New York and saw how they managed their lives. It was begun in N.Y. Also, our Constitution is based on the Iroquois Confederacy. Hmmm? Isn’t that interesting?”

Rewrite the history books? Nah. Just get to know a period re-enactor. Or talk with the Scott’s.
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Love of Architecture Draws Author to Beach Communities

by Mary Fox

Readers of The Beacher have followed Barbara Stodola as she has written about her travels to art exhibitions in Chicago, Milwaukee and Europe. As they have come to know her through her Beacher articles, they have discovered her well-educated eye as well as her gift with words.

Those who met Barbara during her 15-year tenure as director of the Blank Center for the Arts (now known as the Jack and Shirley Lubeznik Center for the Arts) were acquainted with her interest in history and architecture. While she was the Center’s director, a number of exhibits focused on artists that had connections to the city. People came from afar for the exhibits and bus tours of the John Lloyd Wright homes and the celebrations of Frank Lloyd Wright’s work.

A desire to educate others on art and architecture has secured her teaching positions at universities in Chicago and Indiana. She has taught a course on Frank Lloyd Wright, as well as a history of housing at DePaul University and art history at Calumet College of St. Joseph and Indiana University Northwest.

Her concern with architecture goes back decades. She recalled that while living in Hammond, her home was architecturally distinguished. When asked to help with a house walk in that area, she agreed as long as it was an architectural tour. “We, at that time, brought to attention all the houses that were designed by L. Crosby Bernard,” she said.

It would come as a surprise to no one that Barbara first developed an interest in Long Beach through its architecture. “I worked into the history of Long Beach through the architecture,” she said. “It has a lot of John Lloyd Wright and other homes by architects who are unknown at this time. For incentive to exercise, I would walk up and down these interesting streets.”

Photos of the home in which John Lloyd Wright lived, as well as many other homes, are featured in Barbara’s book Michigan City Beach Communities: Sheridan, Long Beach, Duneland, Michiana Shores. The book, published by Arcadia, is part of the Images of America series of books exploring the history of neighborhoods, towns and cities throughout the United States.

Barbara will sign copies of the book from 2 to 4 p.m. Aug. 3 at the Beverly Shores Depot and Museum. Undoubtedly, some of the people seeking Barbara’s autograph will be the owners of homes from the beach communities featured in the book. Most people who find that their home is in the book, Barbara said, “are really delighted.”

Along with the photos of the homes are sketches of the first occupants and the history of the area. Year-round lake living was endorsed when George Truesdell Vail, president of Michigan City Trust & Savings, bought a home on Lake Shore Drive in 1922.

During Barbara’s research, many aspects of the beach communities piqued a desire to delve deeper into the people and stories behind the community. Even after her manuscript went to the publisher, she continued exploring records and books. Some of her findings have been in recent Beacher articles. “There’s just all these loose ends,” she said about her discoveries.

Some of those loose ends have to do with people connected to Al Capone. George Howlett, whose mother lived in the home named “The Patio” was one such person. Ed Konvalinka, who lived in “Belle Casa” was another.
No matter where the author looked, she did not find Capone in the area. “I have no evidence that Capone ever set foot in LaPorte County, and if somebody has evidence, I sure wish they’d tell me,” she said.

By happenstance, Barbara was able to dispel a rumor that Capone once owned the house called “Villa C” in Long Beach. Coincidentally, while riding the South Shore, Barbara met the woman who lives in what had been the guesthouse. After examining the home’s abstract, the rumor was put to rest for the author. “The person who owned it had nothing to do with Al Capone,” she said.

Just by having a book on the gangster with her during a doctor’s visit, she gained another tidbit. Barbara’s physician pointed out that his grandfather had removed a bullet from Capone. About a week later, the doctor found $1,000 in an envelope on his doorstep. “It makes life very interesting,” Barbara said about discovering such information.

While looking for a link to Long Beach in a book about Capone, Barbara discovered the name “Jake Lingle.” She explained, “He was a Chicago Tribune reporter who bought a house in Long Beach. He was murdered on Randolph Street on the very day he was to move out here.”

Barbara’s diligence in searching for the reporter’s house was rewarded when she talked to the present owner. “It turned out that the homeowner knew very well that Jake Lingle had been the one,” she said.

Homeowners’ abstracts contain information helpful to researchers. Barbara is hoping that Long Beach residents with documents detailing the history of their homes will make them available in the historical room that is being started at the Long Beach Community Center. That will be an aid as Barbara and others continue to unearth facts about the area.

The author will sign copies of Michigan City Beach Communities: Sheridan, Long Beach, Duneland, Michiana Shores from 2 to 4 p.m. Aug. 3 at the Beverly Shores Museum and Depot.

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News From the Art Center Guild

On July 14, the Art Center Guild members and guests of the Lubeznik Center for the Arts conducted their general meeting at the interim site at 720 Franklin Sq. Dr. Ross Blythe, a retired professor at Purdue University North Central, presented an engaging program entitled, “Brush With the Masters” which told of his volunteer program for 4th and 5th graders in the Chesterton School system.

Next Meeting
The next general meeting of the Art Center Guild will take place on Mon., Aug. 11, at 720 Franklin Sq.

Following the business meeting, the featured speaker will be Paul Marshall speaking about “Photography.” Mr. Marshall has been a freelance advertising photographer since 1968. He has also served as president on the board of directors for Dunes Arts Foundation, and is currently serving on the Lubeznik Center for the Arts board.

For more information, phone the Art Center at 874-4900.

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(2324111) Terry Vravis listing
The first-ever art competition sponsored by a St. Joseph, Michigan arts group has produced five prize winners from northwest Indiana.

Termed “very successful” by Berrien Artist Guild spokesman Mike Murphy, the Michiana Annual Art Competition featured more than $5,000 in awards. Residents of nine counties in northwest Indiana and southwest Michigan were eligible to enter works in any medium.

Winner of the competition’s “Best Painting” prize was Judith Rein of LaPorte. Described by the artist as “a watercolor in a mosaic style,” the work, titled “Roofs of Soller,” represents a creative adaptation of a scene photographed by Ms. Rein while on vacation on the Spanish island of Mallorca in 1984.

A latecomer to the art of photography, Larry Spisak of Merrillville won the competition’s “Best Photograph” award. Mr. Spisak, a former superintendent at the Midwest Steel Co. plant in Hobart, took up photography seriously after his retirement in 1988.

Other northwest Indiana winners were Stephen Blackburn of Mishawaka, for his watercolor titled “Sunburst;” Sharon Forrest, also of Mishawaka, for her watercolor “Field of Iris,” and Rose Peterson of LaPorte for her watercolor “Red Trees.” Ms. Peterson also entered the watercolor “Abandoned and Lonely.”

The juried all-media regional art competition attracted some 200 entries from more than 100 artists in the nine counties including Elkhart, Lake, and LaPorte in northwest Indiana and Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren in Michigan.

During the exhibit featuring all of the competition’s entries, from May 2 through June 8, visitors to the Artist Guild’s base in St. Joseph were able to vote for a “People’s Choice” entry. The winner in the Box Factory for the Arts balloting was Tim MacDonald of St. Joseph, whose egg tempera work titled “Red Wagon in a Field” was the public’s choice.
Holder of bachelor’s and master’s degrees in anthropology, Ms. Rein chooses different grades of paper on which to practice her favorite medium—watercolor. “The papers absorb colors at different rates and for that reason call for slightly different techniques.

“I do have some subjects that I like,” she admits. “They include market scenes, landscapes, people, buildings.”

Attending art shows within automobile driving range, Ms. Rein will take as many as 16 separate works to exhibit for sale. “There’s nothing like selling,” she says, noting that “Roofs of Soller,” measuring 24 inches tall by 18 inches wide, sold during the MAAC competition for $700.

In balloting by visitors to the first Michiana Annual Art Competition, the egg tempera work, “Red Wagon in a Field,” was the “People’s Choice.” The artist was Tim MacDonald of St. Joseph.

Four other St. Joseph residents were also among those honored: Ralph Harju, a purchase award for his photo, “Dune Grass;” Bobbie Stagg, purchase award for the watercolor, “Fish Crossing;” Heartha Whitlow, purchase award for the watercolor, “That Dune at Grand Mere;” and Nancy Askin, “Best Mixed Media” prize for her “Spirit Mask.”


**Photos Provide Ideas**

Like many artists, Ms. Rein uses a camera to record memorable scenes. “When I’m looking for a new idea,” she says, “I can rifle through a bunch of photos and settle on one that I like. Then, innovating as I go, I usually finish a work in three to four weeks.

“I developed this mosaic style on my own. I’ve been using it since 1977. In college I had a minor in art, and took courses like Art History. But I never formally studied painting.”

For Larry Spisak, winning the “Best Photograph” award in the art competition was frosting on a cake that has seen him win “11 first-place prizes in various recent contests and a 12th in what he recalls as the William Ralston Award for artistic photography.

“They gave me a camera when I retired in 1988,” he recalls. “That got me into it in a serious way. I’ve taken a couple of seminars in photography, but otherwise I’ve done the learning by trial and error.

“It’s been a big help that I do my own darkroom work, all the matting, all the printing. I do a lot of reading on photography, and I do have friends who are professional photographers. I also like to try new things—like now, I’m getting into digital photography.”

What camera does he favor? “I like the Nikon. I used a Nikon F5 for ‘Gilded Lily’, a still life in color with a kind of red blush in the center and a black background.”

A veteran of 30 years in the steel mill, Mr. Spisak and his wife Virginia spend a couple of months in Florida every winter. “I take a lot of pictures while I’m down there,” he says. “I can usually find some time also for my lapidary work and jewelry designing.”

The Box Factory for the Arts is currently offering an exhibit of Berrien Artist Guild members’ works. The exhibit opened June 20 and will run until August 31. The Box Factory is located at 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph.
9th Annual Leprechaun Hunt

On Sun., Aug. 3rd, 27 leprechauns will hide with their pots o’ gold in the fields of Sharing Meadows in Rolling Prairie. Father Dennis Blaney, President of the Share Foundation, invites families and friends to hunt for the leprechauns and win cash prizes up to $1,000. This year marks the 9th annual Leprechaun Hunt. The festivities start at noon and last until 6 p.m.

Master Chef Philippe Joseph from Stone’s Bones in Munster will once again dazzle the crowd with a feast fitting of an Irish Leprechaun Hunt. He has announced a mouth-watering menu of ribs, roast lamb, corned beef and cabbage, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, fresh roasted sweet corn drawn in butter, assorted salads, beer and wine for adults and pop for the little leprechauns. Leprechaun hunters will also savor homemade zucchini bread with fresh strawberries and blueberries.

Tickets are $40 in advance and $45 at the gate per adult; children 17 and under are free if accompanied by parents or grandparents. Senior citizens (65+) are $35 in advance and $40 at the gate.

Live Irish entertainment will get you in the mood for the hunt. Children of all ages can enjoy hayrides, games, a moonwalk, and boating and fishing for even more prizes. For the shoppers, the Villages of Sharing Meadows will sell their craft items, including beautifully handcrafted birdfeeders and birdhouses, butterfly houses, wine racks, and decorative embroidered dish towels. A live auction will be conducted featuring La-Z-Boy chairs and other household items.

All proceeds from the day will benefit the Share Foundation, a not-for-profit, privately funded organization dedicated to serving the residential, vocational, and social needs of other-abled/mentally retarded adults. Sharing Meadows is the 184-acre residential community that includes residential houses and a camp for other/abled adults. Sharing Meadows is located on LaPorte County Road 300 East, two miles north of U.S. 20, east of Michigan City. Gates open at 11 a.m. For more information, or reservations, phone the Share Foundation at 219/778-2585; email address is share@sharefoundation.org
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Dr. Bonnie Brodkin of Michiana is announcing the engagement of her son, Dr. Christopher Brodkin, a lifelong resident of Michiana, to Dr. Cynthia Levin of Glencoe, Illinois. Her parents, Dr. Murray and Joan Levin now live in Chicago.

Chris was a LaLumiere graduate and went on to Michigan State University and Ross University Medical School. He is now a resident at Cook County Hospital in Internal Medicine.

Cindy is a graduate of New Trier High School. She graduated suma cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. She received her PhD in Psychology from Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

The couple is planning a wedding for March, 2004.
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People interested in adopting will complete an adoption application and be interviewed by an ICS adoption counselor. Upon approval, the adopter is required to sign an adoption contract.

The mission of Independent Cat Society is to adopt to loving, safe, responsible and permanent homes. The organization reserves the right to deny or revoke any adoption for any reason at any time.

The ICS adoption fee is $65 and includes an initial vet exam; spay/neuter; feline leukemia and PIV testing; worm, ear mite and flea treatment; distemper and feline leukemia vaccine; an identification tattoo; a temporary cat carrier; a post-adoption vet exam; and a sample bag of Eagle Pack cat food.

If you can’t make it to the shelter, see the adoptable cats on the web site www.catsociety.org or the ASPCA web page at www.petfinders.org

The ICS shelter is located on Rt. 6 at the LaPorte/Porter County Line Road, Westville. From Michigan City, take US 20 west to County Line Road, turn left and proceed to Rt. 6; the shelter will be on your left. For more information, phone 219/785-4936.

The Independent Cat Society, founded in 1977, is a cageless, no-kill cat shelter. It does not receive any financial support from local, state or federal governments, but relies solely on donations, adoption fees, fund raising, memberships, volunteers and contributions from the community to care for the shelter’s many cats and kittens.
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The Last Word on Horseshoe Pitching

Get ready to pitch some horseshoe. This game was being played before the birth of Christ when Roman armies began to attach metal strips to the feet of their horses to prevent the hoofs from being torn to pieces on the rough terrain over which they moved.

As these first horseshoes were discarded, they were gathered up by soldiers and pitched. Horseshoe pitching has been played continuously from that time to the present.

The game as we know it today came into its own about 1921 at which time pitching became a well organized game that can take its place alongside other individual sports. Little has been written about horseshoe. Anyone can play the game. No one has ever mastered it.

As a former member of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association and 1976 Indiana State Horseshoe Champion Class C Division, my hope is simply to provide those interested in pitching horseshoe with a chance to learn the game. The challenge is there for all ages. A player who knows little of nothing about the game will find everything he will need to get started from some basic instruction.

All you need to do is to find a level plot of ground about 10 feet wide and 50 feet long. Drive two 30 inch stakes in the ground exactly 40 feet apart at the base of the stakes and lean the stakes 3 inches toward each other.

These stakes should be of one-inch steel and should stand 14 inches about the level of the ground.

Run the court in a north and south direction so that you will not be pitching into the sun at any time.

This court will suffice for practice and for some friendly neighborhood games.

The object of the game is to pitch a 2-1/2 lb. horseshoe 40 feet (30 for women and juniors 10-17) so that it encircles the stake for a ringer. Each player uses two horseshoes and the scoring is simple, three points for each ringer, and one point for a shoe within six inches of the stake be it flat or leaning against the stake.

Backyard games usually end when one player scores 21 points, cancellation or count-all scoring method.

Healthwise as sports go, horseshoe pitching has to rate near the top. Fresh air and moderate exercise and a good family game makes it one of the least expensive hobbies. The object of any hobby is enjoyment. One pair of battered old shoes on the back porch might do the trick.

The Pitching Grips

If you are just beginning, I would recommend that in choosing a grip and a turn that you adopt either the 1-1/4 or the 1-3/4 turn--the two most popular open shoe turns perfected by most players. In pitching the 1-1/4 turn, the shoe is grasped open to the left. Less arm action is necessary to accomplish the 1-1/4 turn and the height of flight is slightly lower.

John Foss, LaPorte, is a state champion horseshoe player.
In pitching the 1-3/4 turn, the shoe is grasped open to the right. The 1-3/4 turn requires greater arm action and must be pitched slightly higher to allow additional time for the extra half turn.

Grip the shoe with fingers below and the thumb straight across the top of the blade. The tips of the forefinger and middle finger meet the thumb at the inner edge. The little finger balancing the shoe and the third finger aid in leveling the shoe as it is released.

No matter which grip you choose, practice out the turns and decide which one is most natural and best for you.

The Pitching Stance

Adopting a stance you will stand even with or behind the stake. Standing 18 inches to the side of the stake so the delivery arm swings in line with the opposite stake.

Just where you stand at the start of your step will depend upon the length of your stride. Stand facing the opposite stake with feet parallel so that your step will carry the front foot almost to the 3 foot foul line. If you have a short stride, stand even with the stake.

If you have a long stride, back up as far as you must to keep from stepping on the foul line. Right handed pitchers stand on the left side of the stake.

The placement of the feet varies, the most natural seems to be to stand with the feet even. However, good pitchers will trail with the left or the right foot.

Placing the left foot forward tends to shorten the stride, while placing the right foot forward will lengthen the stride.

These different positions of the feet will change your entire delivery, so I recommend that you adopt one which is comfortable and stay with it.

The Delivery

I shall describe the delivery of a good horseshoe pitcher: Placing the feet in the adopted stance well balanced and relaxed. Eyes on the opposite stake, standing arms full length at the sides gripping the shoes.

At the count of 1, swinging the shoe forward at the opposite stake and with no pause at the count of 2 swinging the shoe backward in an easy manner, bending slightly at the knees and leaning forward at the waist.

The shoe does not pause at the end of the backswing and comes forward at the count of 3 with the forward stop which is planted before the release. Eyes on the stake the shoe passes the standing leg in the flat position and in the front swing bring it to a level position with a free natural roll of the arm.

At this moment, the right knee straightens up to its natural position and the body raises with the swing. Release the shoe as it swings up in line with the eyes and the opposite stake.

Released in a level position, the shoe leaves the hand in a clockwise turn and a follow-through which will give alignment and a good trajectory (height). At no time is there any lost motion in the delivery.

The shoe begins to break open just before it crosses the foul line at the pitcher’s box. The shoe drops open-end first onto the stake. There is a sharp clink as the shoe encircles the stake. A ringer! Enjoy the game!

-----submitted by John Foss

Here John Foss shows the winning delivery that made him the 1976 State Champion (Class C) at the Anderson, Indiana tournament.
“Gardens-Here and There”

18 Artists Gallery of Chesterton, Indiana, will host an exhibition of garden paintings and drawings by Chicago artist, Mary Graham in the month of August. There will be an opening reception on Sat., Aug. 2, from 2-4 p.m., at the Gallery, 540 Indian Boundary Road (Indian Oaks Shoppes), in Chesterton. Phone 219/926-6306 or log onto www.18artists.com

Mary’s education includes a BSN from Loyola University, Chicago in 1962 and a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1990. She has had solo exhibitions at the Chicago Botanical Garden, Evanston’s Campagnola Restaurant, the Northbrook Public Library, Chicago’s Cliff Dweller’s Club and the Fine Arts Building Gallery in Chicago’s downtown historic district.

Mary’s “green thumb” in her own garden and interest in “gardens here and there” during her travels, are illuminated throughout this exhibition.

Opening Reception For New Exhibition

The Judith Racht Gallery will be hosting a new exhibition featuring photography and sculpture that will run through August 24th. An opening reception will take place on Sat., Aug. 2nd, from 6-8 p.m. (MI time). The gallery is located at 13707 Prairie Rd., Harbert, Michigan. For more information, phone 269/469-1080.

Photographers include: C. Joel Beaman, George Blaha, Mark DeBernardi, Renee S. Elkin, Scott David Johnson, Burleigh Kronquist, Michelle Peterson-Albandoz and Marissa Woloszuk.

Sculptors include: Linda Jarman and Bill Zuehlke.
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They missed the best of it, I thought, reading a recent article in the Chicago Trib about Harbor Country. A haphazard stop in New Buffalo and then a whiz up north doesn’t even begin to give you a taste, let alone the flavor, of the towns that line the Red Arrow highway. Not the stops I know, the shops and galleries like Courtyard Gallery, one of the finest, just outside New Buffalo going east or coming west. It also has the friendliest pair of people you might ever meet: owner Gene Halun and director, Melissa Stranad. If you just want to browse, that’s okay, but be sure to go upstairs to see the sculpture garden in the courtyard that gives the gallery its name.

Take the time, however, if you can, and hear the stories that Gene and Melissa can tell about the artists whose work is on display. Run your hands over a creation in glass of abstract pattern and hear the story of the artist who spent 30 years developing the formula to achieve its unbelievable satin smoothness, the texture a one-in-the-world creation. Catch your breath at the beauty of a marble sculpture, all grace and form and flowing line, and believe Gene when he says the artists finds his marble in the same quarry that Michaelangelo mined. Note the patina-tinged bronze called Atlantis with hands outstretched to touch the water, caught in a moment so pure you can almost see the flowing stream. You wonder why I say a quick trip misses the best of Red Arrow? Courtyard Gallery is one of the reasons, a special place where fine original art is more than eye-candy, it animates the soul as well.

On August 9th and 10th, Courtyard Gallery will host a weekend offering a chance to meet Susan Pickering Rothamel and Debra Weld from 1 to 5 pm on Saturday; 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Michigan time. You may have seen Susan Rothamel on TV with Christopher Lowell, show-and-telling about her U.S. Art Quest enterprise and demonstrating her collage work with materials from around the world. She has been showing her work exclusively at Courtyard Gallery for 12 years and she will have recent work on display through August along with Debra Weld who works in mixed media studio jewelry. Courtyard Gallery offers user-friendly art selection with its layaway, packing and shipping services. Open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except Tuesday; Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Michigan time.

Moving along to Union Pier, you’ll find Local Color Gallery with its array of all things wild and whimsical, a gathering of the work of local artists as its name implies. A roster of art classes for children have been held this summer with two coming up in August offering painting, clay, sculpture, and mixed media work, all for just $65. Call 269/469-5332 to sign-up for August 4-8 and August 11-15, from 10 a.m. to noon, Michigan time.
Kids who come to class will find inspiration all around them; grown-ups who come to shop or just mosey around will find the ultimate in unique from Kokopeli to cows in copper; an angel that says either “Welcome” or “Whatever”; or tucked on top an armoire, hand-crafted birdcages that are more than something for the birds. Look in the back room for hanging plaques that look like hand-painted ceramics, but are really wood with a special glaze. Local Color Gallery is definitely the place to find just the right memory to bring back from your trip, all from artists who work and live in the area. Open most day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Michigan time.

I had to see what Patty’s Picks was all about. Who could resist that mustard yellow facade, its 50’s mural on the west wall, it’s perky outdoor sign? Inside, well... not to be believed. It was an experience. Everywhere, but everywhere, there was something. Stuff for kids, for the house, for the beach, for a picnic, for the patriotic. It was cramped with people, taking advantage of the post-midnight madness green tag bargains... kids couldn’t be torn away from their clutch of treasures... a wild, wonderful kind of wackiness filled the air.

Patty is indeed a Patty, Patty Primo who opened the shop four years ago after being a homeowner in Sawyer for 14 years. A former prop stylist for photo shoots in Chicago, it was the same old, same old. Patty came out here and decided to stay. Her Chicago-style get up and go still holds: she is already planning her Harvest Festival and Christmas Bash. Patty’s Picks is open every day from 10 am to 6 pm with time off in January and February and a return in March. Stop in and find that her slogan holds weight: “Good Things for the Home and Soul”.

Local Color Gallery, west of Union Pier.

Whimsical, witty gift ideas.

At the stoplight in Union Pier.

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For the soul: Irish brass tells a story; angels and fairies; lots of Judaic.
Whiting Park Festival Orchestra Concert

The Whiting (Indiana) Park Festival Orchestra, Music Director Robert Vodnoy, announces its third season of free concerts presented at the Whiting Park Pavilion. The next concert in this series will be Sat., Aug. 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. Admission to the park and the concert is free; there is a $5 fee for parking.

The title of this concert is “Bach, Beethoven and Brubeck.” The program will open with “Little Fugue in G Minor” by Bach followed by Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 5.”

Featured guest artists will be the Valparaiso University Jazz Trio. They will perform music by Brubeck, Ellington, Carmichael and Eddie Karam with the orchestra.

For tickets, directions and more information about the concert, phone the Whiting Chamber of Commerce, 219/659-0292.

Promising Picasso’s 2003 Art Show

Fifteen students of Gladys Oberlyn are participating in an annual Art Show that began July 25 and will run through Aug. 15. These exhibitors are: Sari Zaleberg of Grand Beach, MI; Stacey Gagle of LaPorte; Brenda Bridge, Dean Schmelter, Joyce Herring, Joan Green, Marcia Dwyer, and Judy Mervine of Valparaiso; Dorothy Johnson, Helen Petro, Lou DeWulf, and Thelma Temple of Chesterton; Betty Eason and Linnea Hokanson of Porter; and Frank Holzapeel of Kouts.

Gladys teaches a Monday morning class from 10 a.m.-noon, and a Monday evening class from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Chesterton Art Center, 115 South 4th St., Chesterton. The cost of these classes is $60/members and $65/non-members. A one-year membership in the Art Center costs $20 for an individual or $25 for a family. For more information, or to sign up for these classes, phone the Art Center at 219/926-4711.

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$980,000
July 31, 2003

“The Acharnians” Opens at Acorn Theater

The Acorn Theater, Three Oaks, will present an all new, Tripaway Theater production of Aristophanes’ “The Acharnians” on Fri., and Sat., Aug. 1 & 2, at 8 p.m. (MI time).

The production of this still relevant, 2,500 year old, anti-war comedy is subtitled “One Man’s Private Peace During the Compassionate Conservative Bombing Campaign on Canada, The Adventures that Befell Him Thereafter, and What Jesus and the Tooth Fairy Had to Say About it All.”

In this newly revised adaptation by Karin Shook and Kerstin Broockmann, three performers play 27 parts within the span of 90 minutes. The plot revolves around Vox Populi who, when an American-led war with Canada reaches his backyard, fights his way through a nation overcome with a deadly combination of blind patriotism and numb apathy in an attempt to save his family and his farm.

According to Tripaway Theater, “This scathing and hilarious adaptation is a tour-de-force depicting one man’s ignorance, outrage and eventual truce as he creates his own private peace amidst the chaos of a world gone mad.”

Tickets are $15 and can be reserved by phoning the theater at 269/756-3879 or purchased at the door. The Acorn Theater is located in the historic Featherbone Factory at 107 Generations Drive, behind the Three Oaks Post Office on North Elm Street.

Kitchen Wizardry at Panozzo’s

Up-to-date kitchen wizardry will be demonstrated on Zyliss food preparation tools on Sat., Aug. 2nd, noon-2 p.m. (MI time) at Panozzo’s Pantry, 19135 W. US 12, New Buffalo.

A raffle with Zyliss tools as prizes will be part of the entertaining and educational demonstration. The event is open to the public and guests are encouraged to bring questions about food preparation for the demonstrators.

For more information, phone 269/469-9408 or log onto www.aneedtofeed.com

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Partners in Education for Tomorrow, a Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce scholarship program benefiting local students pursuing a career requiring technical education, announces that this year’s 10th Annual Golf Outing will be held at Lost Dunes Golf Club on Sept. 17th. Lost Dunes is ranked by Golfweek Magazine as being in the top 50 of modern American golf courses and is truly a treat to play.

The cost for this event is $175 per person. Cost includes green fees, cart and caddie, tips and lunch. If you would like to be a hole sponsor, the cost is $50.

The format will be a two-person scramble with prizes for low gross and low net score. There will also be closest to the pin awarded for both men and women.

Registration and lunch will be from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and golfing begins with a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

For further information, or to receive a sign up form faxed to you, phone the Chamber office at 269/469-5409 or email hccc@triton.net

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45th Annual Chesterton Art Fair

This event will take place on Sat., Aug. 2 and Sun., Aug. 3, in Hawthorne Park, Porter, Indiana. This juried art fair features more than 130 artists, exhibiting works in a wide variety of media. The hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on both days. Admission is $5 for adults, with no charge for children under the age of 12. Free close-in parking, as well as free shuttle bus service to and from the South Shore Dune Park station. Food, soft drinks, and water are available. Art-related activities for children are also provided.

The Chesterton Art Fair is ranked among the top 100 art fairs in the country by Sunshine Artist magazine, is sponsored by the Association of Artists and Craftsmen of Porter County. All proceeds for the fair go to support the Chesterton Art Center, a not-for-profit organization. For more information, phone 219/926-4711.

Local Artist in Fair
Artist David Langley is among the juried artists participating in this year’s Art Fair.

Bus Trip to Ravinia

A bus trip to the Ravinia Musical Festival in Highland Park, Illinois, is being planned for Aug. 12th. The bus will leave Marquette Mall parking lot at 1 p.m. The group will stop at the Chicago Botanical Gardens for a tour and visit and then have dinner before attending the 8 p.m. program at Ravinia. The Mozart concert will be performed by the Ravinia Festival Orchestra.

Seating will be on the lawn area.
The cost is $35 plus the cost of dinner. The trip is being sponsored by the International Friendship Gardens. For reservations, or more information, phone John Vail at 872-7036; Ramona Hay at 872-0235.
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CyberScribbles
by Paula McHugh

Art What?

I feel cheated. Unlike the folks in Boston and Ohio, I haven't come across any bad art in Beacher Country. That's because we have a cornucopia-full of talent in this area, darn it. Yes, I feel cheated.

Now you would think that the folks out in California would have thought of this first, but Bad Art exhibitions—real, not virtual ones—are the brainstorm of Bostonians. Yes, those guys that we Midwesterners assumed to take the prize the reputation for stodginess have outdone the laid-back, incense-and-mantra-inhaling crowd we stereotype as living in California. The joke's on us, too. Our art here in Northwest Indiana is just too good. We're missing the fun those Bostonians are enjoying.

Log on to Boston's Museum of Bad Art (http://glyphs.com/moba/). After you've done that, you'll understand what I mean. Why can't we have the World’s Second Drive Through Art Gallery and Car Wash? I mean, the artwork was kept safe—they shrink-wrapped the paintings before hanging them in the car wash. The benefit art exhibit was a hit and the proceeds went to the Salvation Army. Now why didn't someone around here think of that? Not that the paintings brought in bushel loads of money.

And speaking of benefits, I know of at least one little place along the Red Arrow Ride that should perk up when they learn that MOBA sponsored a Fine Wine/Bad Art exhibition. “It takes a lot of fine wine to appreciate bad art,” the organizers said.

People around Cape Cod get to enjoy a Gallery in the Woods exhibition of bad art, where the paintings are hung from trees. We have plenty of nature preserves, parks, and trees (Chesterton is designated as a “Tree City, USA” place, for heaven’s sake.

Do bad art exhibitions sound like bad taste?
Depends. The paintings discovered by MOBA, the Ohio Bad Art Guild and others usually come from trash piles. The art is seen as its creator’s “good intentions going terribly wrong.” Sometimes the piece of art is found in a dusty corner of a local thrift shop. Those that are, um, rescued generally are not signed. The artist remains anonymous. That’s a good thing, because I remember the time nine years ago when I was moving and put out at the curb a beginner’s attempt at oil painting. Mine. The subject was an over-painted birch tree trunk with a sad forest background. It may still show up on a bad art website. But hey! If its sale raises money for a good cause, then it’s worth the humiliation.

Boston also puts on another benefit which they’ve dubbed the “Battle of the Museum Titans.” It’s a softball tournament in Boston, so I assume most of the members of museums and galleries there are men. But we could have a bowling tournament in Northern Indiana, and the bad art could be hung along each lane or above the pins.

My head is spinning with ideas. It’s the fault of MOBA and Obag.org. Obag stands for the Ohio Bad Art Guild. I had fun scrolling through the virtual galleries and I’m sure you will, too. Be sure to check out obag.org for “Hobo Examines Donut,” “Monnet’s Clowns of Giverny,” and in the sculpture garden, “Attorney Falling On Ice.” And more. Then gallery-hop over to MOBA and read about their successful live exhibitions. Take in other online exhibitions such as their Bright Colors/Dark Emotions offering.

Then think about some of the ideas-stolen-from-Boston exhibitions we could be having here in Beacher Country. If I still had my dried out old birch tree painting, I’d gladly donate it for a drive through exhibition and car wash for charity. Too late now.

(Send comments and questions to left2write@hotmail.com with “cyberscribbles” in the subject heading).
Another road trip – family first, foodstuff a close second

Do any of you Beacher readers remember the story I wrote about my visit to son Rich in Glenwood, California a year ago? Along with the family reunion, it was all about exploring food, both Glendale’s fancy farmers market and the fine local grocery. Well, here I go again, and it’s the same subject. Rich left California some months ago to return to the Midwest and ended up in Madison, Wisconsin. When I first heard his choice of location, I thought “Oh finally, I’ll get to Dane County farmers market!”

Actually, Rich is now living in a little town a few miles just this side of Madison. Called Cottage Grove, its population has jumped from 400 back in 1959 to over 4,000 these days and is still growing, and fast. A pretty place, its only sizable grocery is Piggly Wiggly, a name I used to giggle about as a child. But I quickly fell in love with Cottage Grove’s smaller but finer food shop – Northside Meats & Deli. I went in on a Saturday morning to buy a newspaper and came out with a fantastic supper for my son to warm up that evening. You see, Northside’s owners Dennis and Gloria Stapelmann have a solid reputation for staging fish fries every Friday night, then serving those goodies from their deli. Mostly cod, the fish is fixed in a variety of ways – Rich’s were dipped in grated potato and beautifully browned. Along with that, a few breaded shrimp (actually, langostino prawns) were also packaged after the fish fry the night before. They looked marvelous and I’m sorry I had to head home before Cottage Grove’s supper hour. Northside carries black angus beef cuts, farm-grown pork and home-made sausages along with a lot of other great stuff. My big purchase there, big in size not price, was a bag of natural real charcoal for my grill, something I can’t find here at home.

The evening before, we’d driven into Madison for dinner. But before eating, Rich wanted to show off Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, one of Madison’s high points of interest. It’s stunning and spreads over a huge property with many buildings and gardens, all inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright and all overlooking Lake Monona. Having reached the third level there, we watched the gathering of an elegant wedding party.

At the same time, water skiers on the lake and riders on the Monona bike path entertained us from below. After enjoying sights from all angles, we then hit The Great Dane, a brewery right downtown near the domed capitol building. Let’s see, Rich had fish ‘n chips (batter-dipped in their own ale, of course) and I had cheese & artichoke dip served in a fresh dark boule loaf, with lots of veggies. That, plus a freshly brewed glass of delicious beer for each of us. The perfect Madison feast.
That night I set my Madison alarm for 5:00 a.m. I'd read that the Dane County farmers market stretches the entire distance of the capitol building's square, which I guess is four long long long blocks, and that it's always jam-packed with customers and just-looking tourists. I wanted to get there early enough to grab a parking place and avoid the mid-day crowds. This Saturday, though, was the most negative time to visit the market. A once-a-year art fair, an enormous one, took over the space around Madison's famous domed building and the farmers' market was reduced to a short two-block area and moved to a street beyond the endless art exhibits.

Getting there about 6:00 a.m., I found a parking space immediately, walked several blocks past the brewery where we'd eaten the night before and happily arrived at my destination. En route, the artists were setting up their booths. I kept going, though, toward the food booths (yeah, food booths are what I call art). Once there, I found lots of Wisconsin cheeses and bakery items among the fresh produce. Beans seemed to be the main issue, lots of bright greens, pale yellows and purples, but I couldn't find my love, fava beans – must be too early. After wandering up and down, admiring this food-art show for an hour or so, I came away with fresh peas in their pods, lovely baby leeks, sweet onions, fingerling potatoes, a bakery item and tomatoes fresh off their Wisconsin vines.

During my rounds, I saw some people's faces that I recognized but couldn't place. They turned out to be a couple who travels to Chicago's Green Market in Lincoln Park every Wednesday with their organic berries, vegetables and edible flowers – Paul and Louise Maki from their Brooklyn, WI, farm. Another booth housing Mammoth Produce offered glistening broccoli, some creamy cauliflower and huge (thus, the name Mammoth) kohlrabi bulbs that were themselves handsome artworks. I'd never tasted kohlrabi, but owner Diane Westra chopped some up, raw, to be enjoyed as snack food. And yes, I certainly enjoyed it. Jamie's Bakery (located in downtown Madison) displayed loads of mini pound cakes along with cookies, muffins, croissants and I walked away with a lemon poppy seed cake. Yum.
foodstuff  Continued from Page 49

All produce at that large and famous market is grown only in Wisconsin and is planted in soil (not hydroponic) with no chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides or fungicides. It looks remarkably fresh and inviting, as well as artistic. I’m definitely going to revisit Rich, Cottage Grove and that lovely farmers market later in the summer. Then, the vendors will be in their usual location and cover their own vast expanse. Maybe I’ll find some favas. You’ll hear about that trip, too.

My last stop was to visit my ex-husband’s nephew whom I hadn’t seen in the years since he moved to Madison from Schenectady, NY. Rich has been seeing him since returning to the Midwest and arranged a visit while I was in town. Seal (yeah, that’s what we’ve called him all his life – I’ve never known where that nickname came from) Feustel has had Multiple Sclerosis for a number of years, but is upbeat, enjoyable, humorous and intelligent, just like he was as a little kid. So good to see him again, and I heartily wished I’d brought him a load of his favorite spaghetti, made with goodies from the Dane County market. I think I’ll add that recipe for his pleasure and for yours, in case you head on up to Dane County some Saturday.

Seal’s Tomato Sausage Sauce …his favorite food back when he was a young kid, and still is!

1/4 c. oil
1 lb. Italian sausage, casings removed
1 large onion, chopped
1/8 c. chopped garlic
1 6-oz can tomato paste
1 28-oz can Italian style tomatoes
1/2 c. water
1 c. chopped fresh basil
Salt/pepper to taste

Heat oil in heavy pot over high heat. Add sausage. Sauté until brown, breaking up with back of spoon, about 6 minutes. Add onions and garlic to pot. Sauté until onions are translucent, about 8 minutes. Mix in paste. Add tomatoes with their juices, water and basil. Bring sauce to simmer until sauce is thickened to desired consistency, stirring occasionally, about 45 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve over pasta of your choice. Seal’s choice has always been spaghetti.
Eli Winski celebrated his 5th birthday with us here at the Community Center. The party had a magical theme and a magician was hired from Abracadabra magic out of South Bend to entertain. Eli and his guests enjoyed the show on our stage and had plenty of rooms to run around in the gym afterwards. The kitchen facility and no cost table and chair rental, thanks to the generous donation of tables and chairs from the Long Beach Civic Association, makes the Old School a perfect place to celebrate.

Edwin has closed registration to Izwin Clay Camp. He has a lovely group and is thrilled with the turn out. The kids are busy creating all sorts of wonderful, whimsical works in clay on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Little Star Montessori School will be making room for a new student in 2005. Congratulations to Mrs. Debbie and her new born baby daughter. Sign up for fall classes is now going on. To register, or for more information, phone 878-8886.

Dancing Feet Yoga Center has on going classes Tuesday through Sunday. Anybody can do it, monthly passes are available and drop-ins are welcome. Phone 872-9611 or visit their web site at www.dancingfeetyoga.com.

We haven’t seen much of the youth theatre group of The Dunes Arts Foundation since they are performing at their summer home in Michiana Shores, however, the behind the scenes activities, costumes and prop making along with an occasional rehearsal still takes place here. Don’t miss their up and coming performances of “The Hobbit” July 31, Aug. 1, 2, 3 or “Curse of the Werewolf” on Aug. 7, 8, 9, 10. For tickets and show times phone the Dunes Summer Theatre at 879-7509. It’s big entertainment for only $5 and your support keeps youth theatre alive in the beach community.

There is a cooperative Artist Studio space for rent on a monthly basis. We are looking for tenants with like interests and that are willing to work out all the fun details of cohabitation. The cost to occupy a portion of a classroom is $125 per month. The room has 763 sq. ft., ample storage and running water. Phone the Community Center to set up an appointment to see the space and meet your roommate.

We have Long Beach sweatshirts, posters, and the new book, Images of Michigan City Beach Communities, for sale here at the Community Center. We are available to meet you most anytime including weekends. Please phone the Center at 879-3845 to set up an appointment.

COMMUNITY = COMMUNICATION IN UNITY
Deep River Grinders

A battle of vintage base ball waged between teams representing two grist mills in Northern Indiana will take place on Sun., Aug. 3, at 2 p.m., at Deep River County Park.

The Deep River Grinders will host the Bonneyville Millers, from Bonneyville Mill in Bristol, Indiana, in a game of 1858 base ball on Grinder Field. Played to gentlemen, without mitts, and allowing no stealing, no leading off and no sliding, these players will demonstrate America's game as it was meant to be played...by gentlemen.

Come cheer for good plays by both teams, then sip an ice cold sarsaparilla as you enjoy a hot dog. Be sure to shout “Leg it!” as players race the throw to first base. For family fun on a Sunday afternoon, you can’t beat base ball. Huzzah!!


Good Time Charley Dance Scheduled

On Fri., Aug. 8th, a Good Time Charley dance will be held at the Strongbow Inn, US 30, Valparaiso. The dance begins at 8 p.m. and the cost is $7. A dress code is enforced: no tennis shoes, t-shirts or jeans are allowed. Also, the dance is limited to those age 32 and older.

Good Time Charley has been providing singles dances in the Chicago area for over 13 years. There will be door prizes, and free parking in a safe and secure smoke-free environment. For more information, phone Ron at 219/465-6258 or Sue at 219/464-9237. Log onto their website at www.GTCSingles.com

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July 24, 2003

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2nd Low Net: Ann Nicolosi
Low Putts: Laura Kearney
Event: Peg King

“A” Flight
Low Net: Terri Deming
2nd Low Net: Gloria Caine
Low Putts: Dorie Mertz
Event: Sarah Blank

“B” Flight
Low Net: Pam Weinberger
2nd Low Net: Sherry Remijas,
Traunte Bransfield (tie)
Low Putts: Seanne Hefferman,
Mary O’Neil, Jane Tiffen (tie)
Event: Eileen Bruce

“C” Flight
Low Net: Mary Lou Linnen
2nd Low Net: Marge Cullen
Low Putts: Marianne Bruce
Event: Jean Guerin

Birdies:
Peg King #8, Missy Grams #14, Connie Sullivan #16

Sunken Approaches:
Laura Kearney #14 & #6, Terri Deming #13

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Member Guest Day at LBCC Ladies Golf

Long Beach Country Club 9 Hole Ladies Golf League hosted their “Member Guest Day” on Thurs., July 17th. The “night before” dinner party was hosted by co-chair Mary James for over 60 women. A sunny day was enjoyed by all with mimosas served on the 4th and 5th holes and cold, wet towels were brought out to all players throughout the morning.

This perfect day ended with a delicious three course lunch during the awards presentation.
And more pre-party guests!—Marj Cullen, Sally Allen, Jayne Krol, Mary Sheridan, Mariana Bruce and Sara O’Keefe.

Having a good time are: Denise Andreotti, Nancy Neil, Ann Nicolosi and Donna Andreotti.

Having a mimosa during golf are: Maureen Mellen, Pat Kelley, Kathy Kenefick and Betty Shay.
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**Diggin' in the Earth**

*with Maggie Beyer*

I am beset by beasties. Deer eating the daylily buds and blooms. Moles and voles chomping at the hosta. Raccoons under the porch having a nosh. All I want is to live in a peaceable kingdom and this is what I get? The world out there is flaming with feuds over hierarchy and borders, but ancient wisdom knows it is really about what’s mine, what’s yours when natural resources get scarce. Think water and its diversion. This puts me in a dilemma. How much am I really willing to share without resorting to violence?

When the deer came last week with her velvet Bambi eyes, I wondered what plants she was after. Now I know. It’s the daylilies that tempted her to come so near. Off went the heads of the hybrids I had waited to see bloom this year, the ones that came from Judy’s Daylily Garden with such delectable names. I had seen just one, a vibrant ruby red with a luscious yellow throat and waited to see the bulging buds show me more. It was not to be. My deer had nipped it in the bud. She ate the whole of that pregnant stalk, and some others that were ready to bloom, stripping the hosta of their blooms on the way out. Now, where I live there are roadsides and ditches blazing with common daylilies. Couldn’t she have had her fill of ditch lilies rather than my hybrid few? This deer must be a connoisseur with a palate only for the caviar of blossoms.

See the bare stalks where flowers should be?

I know there are ways to deter the deer other than bow and arrow as my friends in Beverly Shores have discovered. They fence them in; their gardens, that is. I recall discussions of deer deterrents; one has to do with placing human hair balls in a garden patch. My hair is short with little to spare. Another has to do with placing human... *shall I say waste?*. . . or the one-finger in the air euphemism the good nuns taught in grade school. . . to lay a spoor? I think not. Judy Kroczeck mentioned a chemical that might work and I'll have to get the name. Judy knows the ways of natural healing, so I trust her in this. In the meantime, I'll have to say, *oh, well.*
I'm trying to foil the moles by stomping on their tunnels but the raccoons are another matter. Charlie, my cockapekeapoo canine, has discovered that their thumping under the porch means an intruder has arrived. Like dear departed Rusty, he claws and barks at the floor. Rusty tore up the carpet in his frantic search for the critter that had invaded his domain. The carpet has come out and the wood floor refinished, so Charlie can do no harm in warning them away. I have set a Hav-A-Heart trap. First time out, I caught a raccoon. The next night, I caught a black cat. Neighbor Bill Behr took the raccoon away, (He says he takes them to Beverly Shores), and released the feral cat. I thought the raccoon hunt was over, but again, there has been a thump, thump, thump to set Charlie barking. This could get to be an ongoing chore.

The hydrangea are in full flower; this is a *Janiceia clarkaria*. . .a gift from Jan Clark's garden to mine.

I refuse to let the critters spoil my joy in the garden, however. If I can't have daylilies, I can delight in the hydrangea which are spilling with blooms. I'll just sing the Don Cooper song. . .*Bless the beasts and the children — for in this world they have no voice, they have no choice.* It's just that old ego thing of what I want when I want it, at war with nature's equally driving force. We are promised that the lion shall lay down with the lamb even in a Panglossian world. But, oh, I would like to see those daylily blooms.

And so it is
The Miracles of Santo Fico by D.L. Smith

Can you ever go home again? That’s the question people have tossed around since forever. That was also the question on Leo Pizzola’s mind when he returned to his home town of Santo Fico, a small village along the Tuscan coast of Italy. He had left some 18 years earlier to go to America; Chicago, specifically. He loved his life there, especially Cub’s baseball games. (See, he’s not such a bad guy!) But now he has received a letter telling him of his father’s death. Leo must go back to Santo Fico and sell the family property.

Santo Fico was one of those out of the way little towns that time and tourists had forgotten. There was a town piazza with a fountain that was dry (it was turned off in WWII and no one knew where the valve was to turn it on again), and there was the church which contained the Mystery (a fresco of St. Francis) and the Miracle (the sacred fig tree). Years back, the priest’s father thought that hoards of pilgrims would flock to their little town to see these things, but the road into town was never improved and the main highway stayed 17 kilometers away.

The local hotel, Albergo de Santo Fico, was once a villa that was supposed to have belonged to Cosimo de Medici, “but the Grand Duke thought it was haunted by the ghost of his dead wife, Eleonora, and he refused to ever live there.”

When Leo was twelve years old, his best friends were Franco Fortino, Guido (Topo) Pasolini, and Marta Caproni. Being the enterprising young children they were (in other words, bored to death and itching to do something), they came up with the scheme to make sure the tourists came to Santo Fico. They simply went down to the main highway and changed the signs around so that soon carloads of tourists were mysteriously finding their way into the piazza where young Leo ushered them into the church to witness the Mystery and the Miracle of Santo Fico. Leo was quite the thespian, and told the stories so convincingly to these tourists that they left money with the boy which was always shared with Father Elio. Of course, this meant the hotel had business, too. A prosperous time for all. But all good things must come to an end though, right? Someone from the government finally discovered the mixed up signs and the summer of bustling tourist trade died as suddenly as it started.

The friends grew up, Franco was to marry Marta, and then something happened the night before the wedding which caused Leo to leave Santo Fico. Now he’s back, Marta is giving him the cold shoulder, and Father Elio (Marta’s uncle) is buckling under with guilt that God has forsaken him for some unnamed sin. Marta is a widow (Franco died in a motorcycle accident) with two daughters: Carmen, the rebellious one, and Nina, the kind, sweet and blind daughter. The three of them run the hotel.

That sets the stage for what is to come—a story
with lots and lots of heart. And miscues. And humor. And an earthquake to boot. The characters in this book are, well, characters. They spring to life with the wit and charm and extreme emotions of the Italian race. Crazy schemes run rampant, every one of them quite plausible at the moment of conception.

Holding a dark secret over Leo’s head, Marta makes it clear to him that he must work a “miracle” to restore Father Elio’s lost faith, or else. Leo began to think—How about making the fountain run with cool, clear water again? (It sounded so simple at the time). Or having an angel come down from heaven to absolve the good Father of his sins? This one was Topo’s idea. (This one came off like a bad Italian cinema comedy).

Does good sense prevail in the end? Maybe....maybe not, but you will be entertained and close the book with a smile on your face. You’ll find out, like Leo and the others, that miracles happen when we’re not even looking. This one’s got to be a movie! I demand it!

This is author D.L. Smith’s first novel; I sincerely hope it won’t be his last.

Till next time, happy reading and ciao, paisano!

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 1**
7:30-8:30 p.m. MORE THAN SAND, SUN AND SURF. Hidden treasures abound beyond the beaches of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Attend this inspiring slide presentation set to music, that features beautiful images of this diverse national park. Meet at National Lakeshore Campground Amphitheater.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 2**
9:30-11 a.m. MILLER WOODS NATURE ESCAPE. Your family is invited to join a ranger and explore the natural world of Miller Woods. This is one of Indiana Dunes’ best kept secrets. You and your family will have fun hiking, help feed the animals under the care of the Douglas Center or partake in some great hands-on activities. Bring your binoculars and join a ranger at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education in Miller.

3-4:30 p.m. GOING NATIVE. Nectar-loving creatures such as butterflies, moths and hummingbirds are declining in Dune Country due to loss of habitat. Domestic flowerbeds with their pansies and petunias are showy, however, they lack the nutrition needed by these winged wonders. Join a ranger and members of the Friends of Indiana Dunes at the Memorial Wildflower Garden in front of Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center for some interactive “native” gardening tips.

*For more information, phone 219/926-7561, ext. 225.*

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Introductory Spanish Classes

Introductory Spanish Language Classes will be held at the LaPorte County Public Library in August. They will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m., starting on Wed., Aug. 6 and ending on Mon., Aug. 25. There is no charge and registrations will not be taken. Different words will be taught from those that were taught in the library’s series of Spanish classes in June.

The teacher is Mrs. Lei Sensibaugh, a Spanish teacher at LaPorte High School. She uses a fun, quick, interactive approach. Chairs in the back of the room will be reserved for those who want to listen only.

For more information, phone Mary Hedge at 219/362-6156.

Noted Storyteller on Stage Aug. 10

On Sun., Aug. 10, nationally known storyteller and author Ed Stivender will give two performances in Harbor Country on the Daniel P. O’Brien Performance Stage of the new Parish Activity Center at St. Mary of the Lake School in New Buffalo. He will star in a Children’s Story Fest from 2-4 p.m. (MI time) and at 7:30 p.m. (MI time) will present another set of stories suitable for those in high school and older.

Ed’s performances are a mixture of humor, music, song, dance, story and sometimes seriousness. He has appeared at all the major storytelling festivals, and has been received into the National Storytelling Associations Circle of Excellence. His two books of coming-of-age stories, Raised Catholic, Can You Tell? and Still Catholic After All These Fears were published by August House.

This cultural event is cosponsored by the Harbor Nights Adult Evening Enrichment Series and the St. Mary’s Student Pledge Group, thanks to a generous gift from Cele Trizna Vargo in memory of her husband, Ned Vargo.

Tickets may be purchased at the door; for price, phone 269/469-1515. Proceeds will benefit St. Mary of the Lake School Student Enrichment.
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**Activities to Explore**

**In the Local Area:**

July 30-August 2 — “Fiddler on the Roof.” Festival Players Guild production at the Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Wed-Fri @ 8 pm; Sat @ 6 & 9 pm. Wed. matinee @ 2 pm. Tix $12/weekdays; $13/Fri & Sat. Discount tix available; phone 874-4269.

July 30, August 6 & 13 — Noon Organ Recital at the First Congregational Church, Washington at 6th Street, Michigan City. Free and open to the public. Music begins at 12:15 p.m. for approx. 45 minutes. Info, George Dobie, Trustee, at 219/778-9802.


July 31 — Pickling, Canning and Putting Food By. 6:30 pm at the LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. Free. How to safely preserve your garden vegetables and fruits. 219/362-6156.

July 31-August 3 — “The Hobbit” presented by the DAF Children’s Theatre. Curtain Thurs 10 am & 7 pm; Fri & Sat 7 pm; Sun 2 pm. Tix $5 gen. adm.; $3/groups of 15 or more. Phone 879-7509.


August 1-3 — Ship & Shore Festival, New Buffalo. 5K run/walk, beach volleyball, LasVegas games, beer tent, Lighted boat parade, kids’ rides, arts & crafts. Downtown New Buffalo, along Whittaker St.. Info 800/362-7251.


August 1-3, 8-10, 15-17 — “High Society” presented by the Footlight Players. Curtain 8 pm. Tix $10; phone 874-4035 for reservations. Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., MC. See story this issue.

August 2 — 9th Annual 5K Fun Run in New Buffalo. Register 7:30 am (MI time) at the beach. Free parking for participants. To benefit the New Buffalo High School Bison Boosters. Info 269/469-6004.

August 2 — Farmer’s Market. 8th & Washington streets, Michigan City. 8 am-1 pm.


August 2 — Arts in the Park Program presents Fohnmor (Celtic music). 7 pm (MI time) at Dewey Cannon Park in Three Oaks, MI. Free.

August 2-3 — 44th Annual Chesterton Art Fair. 10 am-5 pm at Hawthorne Park, Waverly Rd., Porter, IN. Juried show featuring 140 artists from the U.S. and Canada. Info 219/926-4711.

August 3 — 9th Annual Leprechaun Hunt at Sharing Meadow, Rolling Prairie, IN. 27 leprechauns have hid their pots o’ gold with up to $1,000 in prizes. Noon-6 pm. Adm. $40/in advance, $45/at the gate; phone 219/778-2585. Live entertainment, food, fishing, boat- ing, hayrides. See story this issue.

August 3 — Barb Stodola Reception & Book Signing at the Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery. 2-4 pm. Ms. Stodola will be signing her new book, Michigan City Beach Communities.

August 3-4-5 — Auditions for “Deathtrap” at the Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Sun, 5:30-7:30 & Mon & Tues, 7-10 pm. 3 adult males & 2 adult females needed. 874-4035.

August 4 — Memoirs. 1:30 pm at the Michigan City Public Library. Open to anyone interested in or already writing their memoirs.

August 4 & 18 — Meditation Group. 7 pm at Michigan City Public Library. New members invited.

August 6 — Mighty Mic Showcase. 6:30 pm at the Michigan City Public Library. Poets, musicians, dancers and video makers are invited to this Open Mic Forum, hosted by Troubadour Poet Richard Fammeree and student host Melissa Dittmann. Free & open to the public. Info 873-3049.

August 10 — Nationally known storyteller and author Ed Stivender to give 2 performances on the O’Brien Stage at St Mary of the Lake Parish Activity Center. 2-4 pm: Children’s Story Fest. 7:30 pm: Stories for high school age and older. Tix at door; for prices phone 269/469-1515. See story this issue.

August 11 — Art Center Guild meeting. 9:30 am at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 720 Franklin St., MC. Photographer Paul Marshall will present the program following the general meeting. Info 874-4900.

August 13 — Movies in the Park. Dusk at the Jaycee Stage in Washington Park, MC. Presented by the City of MC & the MC Public Library. Showing “Some Like it Hot.” This 1959 Billy Wilder movie stars Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis & Marilyn Monroe. Free. Picnic tables available, bring blanket or chairs. Movie is free, but cars will be subject to regular parking fee.

**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.

Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery. In the Gallery: artists Valerie Taglieri & Ron Wenekes- “Twilight Fragment.” In the museum: photo exhibit
of the old Beverly Shores School. Phone 871-0832.

Door Prairie Auto Museum. Located one mile south of LaPorte on US 35. Hours 10 am-4:30 pm, Tues-Sat; noon-4:30 pm Sun. 219/326-1337 or www.dpautomuseum.com

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.


The Depot of Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery, 525 Broadway, Beverly Shores, IN. Adm. free, donations welcome. Open Sat. & Sun, 1-4 pm from May-November. Info about museum, 874-5322; info about gallery, 872-4185.

Farther Afield:


August 1 — TGIF: Music in the Gardens. 5-8:30 pm at Copshaholm Mansion, The Northern Indiana Center for History, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Adm. $5. Bring lawn chair or blanket; food & beverages will be sold. Featuing Danny Lerman.


August 2 — Firefly Festival presents BalletMet Columbus at 8 pm. Gates open 5 pm. Held at St. Patrick’s County Park, South Bend. Tix $12/$16/$5. 574/288-3472 or www.fireflyfestival.com

Through September 14 — “Linda McCartney’s Sixties Portrait of an Era.” Photo exhibit by the late wife of Beatle Paul McCartney. At the Ella Sharp Museum, 3225 4th St., Jackson, MI. 517/787-2320 or log onto www.ellasharp.org

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Travels with Charley:

Watching the Acorn Theater Thrive in Fertile Three Oaks Soil

by Charles McKelvey

In the generations that the Featherbone Factory has existed on Generations Drive in Three Oaks, it is the place where corset stays were once produced from turkey feather quills, and where the Acorn Theater is now offering their first season of visionary live productions.

Yes, a mighty Acorn is flourishing in the fertile Three Oaks soil, and the heavyweights of Hollywood, New York, and Chicago are already flocking to a theater fashioned from soaring space in the 1850s factory to see what Kim Clark and his partner David Fink are up to.

Quite simply the visionary pair are living a dream come true in their 250-seat theater, complete with a lovingly restored 1931 Barton Theater Organ and an Acorn Theater Gallery currently featuring Mandalas by Tina Ullrich.

In fact, when your faithful “Travels with Charley” correspondent went to enjoy a recent performance by the Monologue Ponies, Kim Clark and Tina Ullrich themselves threw open the grate and flung wide the doors.

In addition to serving as a resident artist, Tina Ullrich is also the theater’s hostess. And what a hostess she was the night I appeared — she drew me right into the gallery and theater with her warmth and enthusiasm.

I was entertained for a time by magician and illusionist Michael Oliver, who is well known to patrons of Dunes Summer Theatre. Oliver, I am happy to report, will be a regular “opener” at the Acorn.
Then, as busy as he was with pre-production business, Kim Clark graciously got me a cup of exotic Black Chai tea and then explained that he and David Fink three years ago decided to invest their faith and fortunes in creating a venue for live productions in Three Oaks.

Their hard work was realized during the Art Attack weekend at the end of April when they opened their doors to a variety show that featured the likes of Kahlil Smylie of South Bend who performed his “semi-improvised, semi-remembered” piece titled “Dream” on an amplified banjo with a violin bow.

As if that wasn’t enough of a signal to fans of far-out, they really got things rolling by formally opening in May with Amy Seeley and her one-woman show called “Amy Seeley and the Moline Madman.” Seeley, who works her comedic magic on MTV, wowed the Acorn with her hilarious recollections of growing up in Moline, Illinois with her race car-driving father.

“Art Attack was our test run, and then we really opened up in May with Amy Seeley, and we were literally still painting the bathrooms when people were coming in the front door,” Kim Clark recalled.

Not a problem, nor was the sorry state of the place when Messrs. Clark and Fink set about transforming it into a theater.

“The space had been abandoned for years,” Kim Clark said, “and all of the 35 windows on the second floor were gone, so snow and rain had just come in for years and rotted all that wood. But it created a big hole. But as our architect said, we needed to make a problem into a solution, and we did.”

And did they ever.

Take it from one who has made full use of the concession stand and the artfully decorated Men’s Room, and reclined comfortably through a full production — the Acorn Theater is as user friendly as any Broadway house.
In fact, having been through the Broadway “cattle drive” experience on more than a few occasions, I’ll opt for the Acorn any time.

And, I am pleased to report, there is a whole lot of exciting work to opt for for the remainder of the summer and well into fall.

On August 1 and 2, the Tripaway Theater presents their version of Aristophanes’ “The Acharnians: a great, irreverent evening of One Man’s Private Peace During the Compassionately Conservative Bombing Campaign on Canada, The Adventures That Befell Him Thereafter, and What Jesus and the Tooth Fairy Had to Say About it All.”

Excuse me?

Call the Acorn at 269/756-3879 and check it out for yourself.

And definitely book tickets to the workshop production premiere of “The Grouch” on August 8, 9, 15, 22 and 23. Since this is a summer of firsts for the Acorn, “The Grouch” will be the theater’s first musical, and it promises to be a doozy with book by Jack Helbig and score by Mark Hollmann who won the 2002 Tony for best original musical score with “Urinetown.”

On August 16 you’ll get to hear the Acorn’s 1931 Barton Organ be put through its paces by Scott Smith as he accompanies the original 1920’s film version of “Ben Hur” starring Ramon Navaro.

Kim Clark, who worked his way through Loyola University building and repairing pipe organs, said the Acorn’s Barton is one of the last so-called theater organs made.

“They were made for theaters during the silent film era, and they were designed to replace an entire orchestra with one organist,” Kim Clark said.

A separate feature could and should be written about the Acorn’s amazing Barton Organ and the countless hours that a pair of gentlemen from Grand Rapids, Bill Worthy and Bob Preston, have spent restoring it to its full, 2,500 pipe majesty. Suffice it to say, the old Featherbone with its soaring ceiling and solid walls, is the ideal acoustical setting for such an incredible instrument.

Justin Hayford returns to the Acorn on August 29 and 30 with a fresh new show called “Woman Crooners.”

There will be music for the whole family on September 26 and 27 with a show by Anne Harris’ that ranges from Americana to Celtic to Caribbean and features inventive fiddling, soaring vocals, rhythmic grooves and globally influenced percussion.

Kim Clark and David Fink are certainly doing their best to turn Three Oaks into a destination place for those seeking lively entertainment on the weekends.

They are impresarios on a mission to present creative and unusual works, and they are already succeeding many times over in their first season.

Long may the Acorn thrive in Three Oaks!

The Acorn Theater is located in the historic Featherbone Factory at 107 Generations Drive behind the Three Oaks Post Office on North Elm Street. For information and tickets, please call: 269/756-3879.
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On July 31, 1777, the Marquis de Lafayette, a 19-year-old French nobleman, was made a major-general in the American Continental Army after offering his help to the rebelling American colonies. Lafayette later played a major role in the British defeat at Yorktown.

On July 31, 1790, the United States government issued its first patent. It went to Vermont’s Samuel Hopkins for a process for making potash and pearl ash.

On July 31, 1792, the cornerstone of the United States Mint, the first building erected by the federal government for public use, was laid in Philadelphia.

On July 31, 1877, Thomas Edison took out a patent leading to the development of the phonograph.

On August 1, 1774, British scientist Joseph Priestly became the first person to succeed in separating oxygen from air.

On August 1, 1779, Francis Scott Key, author of “The Star Spangled Banner,” was born in New York City.

On August 1, 1873, Andrew Hallidie successfully demonstrated a cable car that he had designed for San Francisco.

On August 1, 1876, Colorado became the 38th state to join the Union.

On August 1, 1946, the Atomic Energy Commission was established by Congress.

On August 2, 1776, members of the Continental Congress began signing the Declaration of Independence.

On August 2, 1820, British physicist John Tyndall was born at Leighlin Bridge, Ireland. In 1876, he described the action of a “Penicillium” mold in slowing the growth of bacteria. This was more than 50 years before Sir Alexander Fleming’s world acclaimed work on penicillin.

On August 2, 1858, an ordinance was passed by the Chicago City Council providing for the city’s first paid fire department.

On August 2, 1909, the first Lincoln penny was issued by the United States Mint.

On August 3, 1492, three ships, the Nina, Pinta, and the Santa Maria, under the command of Christopher Columbus, set sail from Palos, Spain on a voyage that would end with the discovery of the New World.

On August 3, 1610, British navigator Henry Hudson entered the North American body of water that we now know as Hudson Bay.

On August 3, 1900, World War II newspaper columnist Ernie Pyle was born near Dana, Indiana.
On August 3, 1958, the *Nautilus*, a nuclear powered submarine, became the first vessel to round the North Pole under water.

On August 3, 1984, at the Los Angeles Summer Olympics, Mary Lou Retton scored a perfect 10 on the vault in her final routine.

On August 4, 1790, the “Revenue Cutter Service,” a task force of the U.S. Navy, was created by congress. In 1915 it was combined with the “Life Saving Service” to become the United States Coast Guard.

On August 4, 1792, Percy Bysshe Shelley, looked upon as one of the great poets of all time, was born at Field Place, Sussex, England.

On August 4, 1821, Spain ceded Florida to the United States.

On August 4, 1830, surveyor James Thompson laid out plans for the new city of Chicago.

On August 4, 1916, the United States agreed to pay Denmark $25 million for title to the Virgin Islands. At about $295. per acre, this was a high price for land in those days.

On August 5, 1864, during the Civil War, Admiral David Farragut is said to have given his famous order, “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!” The remark was made as he successfully led his Union fleet against Confederates forces defending Alabama’s Mobile Bay.

On August 5, 1884, on Bedloe Island, visible to all ships who entered New York Harbor, the cornerstone was laid for the Statue of Liberty.

On August 5, 1885, the trans-Atlantic cable, connecting the United States and Europe, was completed.

On August 5, 1957, “American Bandstand,” hosted by Dick Clark, made its network television debut on ABC.

On August 6, 1926, New York’s Gertrude Ederle became the first American woman to swim the English Channel. She accomplished the feat in 14 1/2 hours.

On August 6, 1945, the Enola Gay, an American B29 bomber, dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. An estimated 80,000 people were killed outright.

On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law.
**Most Photogenic Baby Contest**

The Michiana La Leche League is sponsoring their annual Most Photogenic Baby Contest to take place during the Ship and Shore Festival at the lakefront in New Buffalo, Sat., Aug. 2, and Sun., Aug. 3.

Voting, done by the public, at a penny per vote, will take place at the festival.

Many prizes will be awarded, including saving bonds and gift certificates. La Leche encourages everyone to visit their booth at the Ship and Shore Festival and vote for the most photogenic baby.

La Leche League, an international nonprofit organization, promotes good mothering through breastfeeding. For more information on breastfeeding and group meetings, phone Susan at 269/469-9247 or Carol at 872-6201.

**Volunteers Needed For Home Tour**

The Art of Home Tour, part of the Michiana Festival of the Arts, will take place on Aug. 9th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. This tour will showcase some of the most exclusive and unique homes in the beach area and in LaPorte County. The tour is looking for volunteers to greet and direct people at one of the homes and they will receive two free tickets valued at $85 each to enjoy the tour with a friend. Three hours of volunteer time are all that’s required to receive the free tickets.

The tour includes as many as ten distinctive private residences specially selected for inclusion because of its unique interior or landscape design, architectural ambiance or art collections. The Mennon House (The Chalet), The Kessling Estate, Charlie Finley’s former estate and horse farm on Johnson Road are just a few of the residences on the tour. The Art of Home Tour is part of Columbia College Chicago’s summer-long Michiana Festival of the Arts, and proceeds benefit students through scholarships and scholarship endowments.

There are only 100 volunteer positions available, so phone 312/344-7002 to reserve your place and your free tickets.


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Lake County Fair at Crown Point
The 151st Lake County Fair, presented by the Lake County Agricultural Society, will take place in Crown Point, Indiana, Aug. 1-10.

One of the funniest events of the week will be Pig Racing--performing daily at 2, 4, 6 and 8 p.m. Grandstand shows will include such entertainment as Monster Trucks War on Wheels, Mud Drags, Demolition Derby, and Celebrity Donkey Racing.

Admission is $3/adults (16 and older), $1/kids 10-15, free/under 9 yrs. Parking is $3. For more information, please 219/663-3617 or log onto www.lake-county-fair.com
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A sunny kitchen with center island is brand new and has a cozy breakfast nook overlooking the in-ground pool. There’s even a maid’s stairway which doubles as a pantry. A curved stairway from the entry hall leads up to 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. A roomy master suite has ample closet space and a dressing room.

The finished lower level is geared for all kinds of activities: an English pub for friendly gatherings, a large mirrored exercise room to work off those friendly gatherings, a dream workshop, a walk-in cedar closet, and, finally, a wine cellar for everyone’s pleasure.

The 40’ in-ground heated pool has an electronic cover for safety & convenience. Pool house contains bath and hot tub. It’s gorgeous, and it’s all surrounded by professionally landscaped yard and gardens. Call Liv Markle to see another home of distinction.

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