Some people say “Why” and shrug their shoulders. Some people say “Why not” and charge ahead. It was a let’s do it spirit that inspired the founders of the Sinai Forum fifty years ago, the spirit that brought world leaders to Michigan City over the years to share their experiences and open the window to new worlds of thought.

Dr. Milton and Sylvia Bankoff were a young couple getting started in Michigan City back in 1953 when they brought the idea of a public affairs forum to Rabbi Karl Richter at Sinai Temple. He and others thought it was a good idea, and the Sinai Forum was born. “We never thought it would last,” Sylvia Bankoff said. But interest grew and community support followed.

“Everyone on the Sinai Forum committee has been wonderful throughout the years,” Sylvia Bankoff said. “We would gather for lunch and brainstorm about speakers.” She recalled an editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal that she thought seemed especially insightful in her writing as a possibility for the Forum. She hesitated at first, but then thought ‘what the heck’, and wrote her. The journalist replied she would be happy to speak. ‘No one has ever asked me before,’ was her reply. That “why not” spirit worked.
It sparked the first Sinai Forum and kept it going through its 50 years. The message that Sylvia would pass on to others with ideas about enriching community life is: “Just do it,” she said. “We succeeded well beyond our original thoughts.”

“We have tried hard to keep our membership fees as low as possible over the years to reach as many as possible,” Sylvia said, “But each year it has been harder as speaker’s fees go up. We were lucky in the early years to get some noted names when they were on the brink, before their popularity soared. There is something special about seeing people in person, even if you know them on television.” She went on to say that the first season tickets were just $4, and the first series brought speakers like a member of UNESCO, photographer Margaret Bourke White, and celebrity Ruth Chatterton; national figures like Eleanor Roosevelt, Ralph Bunche, and Bill Kurtis were among those who came for no fee at all. “Today our memberships only cover half the costs,” she continued. “We couldn’t do it without support from community leaders.”

This coming Saturday, September 13, the Sinai Forum will celebrate its 50th season with an opening anniversary series program featuring world famous Irish tenor Ronan Tynan and honoring some of the people who were among the first supporting members of the Forum. The 2003-2004 season will continue in the Sinai Forum tradition with other noted speakers offering insight on world happenings, expanding science frontiers, and worldwide views of humanity and human spirit as it has since it began in 1953.

Sylvia Bankoff speaks for her late husband and herself when she says: “I am hopeful for the future of the Forum. We have good people to work with who will work just as hard defining the future without forgetting people from the past, enlarging our horizon with new formats and community appeal. I have so much gratitude for everyone I have worked with over the years. From our small committee in the Sinai Temple we have spread community-wide. It’s not just the Temple anymore, the Sinai Forum has become much bigger than our original concept, far beyond where we ever thought we would go.”

PNC Students Produce Commemorative Book

Last spring, students in the Organization Leadership department at Purdue University North Central took on a leadership service task to join in the 50th anniversary celebration of the Sinai Forum. Working with faculty assistant professor Cynthia Roberts, and Wendy Levenfeld, Forum board member, the students — Katy Callan, Harriet Wisdom, Fay Matthews and Rade Obradovich — researched the history of the Forum and interviewed board members and patrons. As part of their upper level credit course, they focused on the role of the Sinai Forum in the community’s cultural development. Judy Jacobi, director of public relations for the University, supervised the production and the book will be out in time for the 2003-2004 50th anniversary season.

The opening anniversary celebration program of the Sinai Forum on September 13th that will be held at the Michigan City High School and honor some of the people who were the first subscribers to the Forum 50 years ago will include Indiana State Senator Anita Bowser. Senator Bowser, a professor at Purdue North Central for over 40 years, said: “I was there when the Sinai Forum began and at a time when Purdue North Central was just beginning, still holding classes in the Barker Mansion. As a college we welcomed the extra intellectual stimulus that the Sinai Forum brought to our students. When we grew to a university campus, the Forum was still there to meet our students’ needs. I hope it continues for a long, long time.”
Library to Offer “Best of Forum” Series

“We couldn't get by without community help.” That's what Sylvia Bankoff said about the Sinai Forum. The Michigan City Public Library has long been one of its community partners. Celebrating the Sinai Forum's 50th anniversary, the library is now engaged in a project to bring “The Best of the Forum” to viewers of Channel 99. For over 15 years, the Library has videotaped speakers at the Sinai Forum and now has hundreds of tapes in its archives. In a project coordinated by Don Varda, marketing and development director, and Robin Kohn, public relations director, it will offer the most popular of the Forum’s speakers on public access Channel 99 this fall.

“The Best of the Forum series we are working on just continues a natural collaboration we have with the Sinai Forum because of the cultural impact of its programs in the community,” Don Glossinger, library director, said. “Over the years we have taped the Forum and offered people the opportunity to buy their memberships for the Sinai Forum at our Circulation Desk just as we are doing this year.

Don Varda, who had been with the public access studio since the 90's when the library supervised its management, became custodian of the archives of the studio when Comcast took over the city’s cable operation.

Along with the videotapes of the Sinai Forum presentations, the collection includes tapes of the Writing Out Loud series that go back 19 years to when David Hoppe first began the series with a grant from the Indiana Humanities Council.

“I think it’s our partnerships with community events like the Sinai Forum and others that have led to the Michigan City Public Library receiving the State Programming Award sponsored by the Indiana Library Federation last year as well as in 1991 and 1997 when Kay Franklin was with the library,” Robin Kohn said. “We did 443 community programs reaching over 14,000 people last year.”

Don Varda, marketing and development director, will produce “Best of the Forum” to air on Public Access Channel 99.

Robin Kohn, director of public relations, stands before the Michigan City Public Library’s wall of awards.

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From Valueland to Al’s Supermarket

With the cutting of the ribbon on Sun., Sept. 7th, Valueland, 2600 Franklin St., unveiled their recent extensive remodeling and a change to their name. The store is now officially Al’s Supermarket, sharing the same name as the rest of the family of Al’s stores. A large crowd of well-wishers attended the ceremony.

Gil Pontius, CEO of Lakeshore Foods Corp., welcomes guests and makes opening remarks.

Al Pontius, the founder of the Al’s and Valueland stores.

Prior to the ribbon cutting, Mayor Chuck Oberlie (r) and Roundy’s representative, Rick Schmitz (l) present Mike Wolf of the Salvation Army a check for $10,000 to replenish the Army’s Food Pantry.

You could win a Bose Wave CD Radio just by shopping with your Value Plus Card.

As part of our celebration of the Grand Opening of our newly remodeled Franklin Street store, you’re automatically entered to win when you use your card, but no purchase necessary if you enter at the courtesy counter. (Further details at store.)
REducted from $630,000 to $589,000 for Fall purchase. Four bedroom, three and one half bath pristine log includes four acres of hardwoods, evergreens and mumms, along the shores of a stocked five acre lake. Come view peace and tranquility only ten minutes from New Buffalo.

Very Affordable raised ranch in Shoreland Hills. Enjoy the privilege of the private association beach with this four bedroom, two bath home situated in a dune with rear deck and brick patio. Cul-de-sac is shared with only one other home. Only $228,000

Dramatically Reduced Shoreland Hills Ranch with three bedrooms, two and one half baths, rear deck plenty of storage in the enormous basement and attached garage. An incomparable value with private association beach. Price went from $289,000 to $269,000 for quick sale.

Seasonal Changes only glorify this one owner three bedroom two and one bath home in Galena. Wildlife abounds on the two acres of mature evergreens easily viewed through walls of windows. Enjoy a country kitchen and cozy fireplace as fall approaches. Just reduced from $259,900 to $249,900. Don’t let this get away.

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Bonnie “B” Meyer 219/874-2000
Ronan Tynan to Open Sinai Forum Season

The melodious voice of this world famous Irish tenor will be singing from a classical and contemporary repertory in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Sinai Forum.

Concertgoers can also be a part of the festivities after the performance at a dessert reception provided by Truffles Bakery.

The Forum will honor their 50 year subscribers and this golden milestone in their history.

The concert and reception will take place at Michigan City High School, Sat., Sept. 13th, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Regular tickets cost $60 for the season of six programs and may be purchased at the door. No single program tickets are sold. Memberships may also be purchased at the Michigan City Public Library Circulation Desk. Student tickets are available at no cost from Purdue University North Central and LaPorte County high schools.

For more information, phone 219/926-3182.

Michiana Amateur Computer Society

The public is invited to attend the next meeting of the Michiana Amateur Computer Society. The group will meet on Tues., Sept. 16, at 7 p.m., in Room 142 of the Michigan City High School. There is usually a presentation, plus time for questions and answers. At this meeting, there will be a program about files and folders, including the basics of creating and copying.

The MACS meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month (except for January and July) and is a multi-computer club with help and information for almost anybody.

For more information, phone Paul at 879-4273.
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 Tickets are now on sale for the October 26th Performing Arts Costume Party featuring Bruce Hastel of Bad Finger in concert. This “Music Room” fundraiser will take place on Sunday afternoon from 1-5 p.m. We are accepting donations for our silent auction and would love to add your name to our list of volunteers. To reserve your tickets, make a donation, and for more details on how to join the fun, phone Christina at 874-4674 or the Center at 879-3845.

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**The Old School Community Center**

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879-3845

2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach

We invite you to come join us here at “The Second Saturday Open Mic” this Saturday evening from 7-9 p.m. Our hostess, Christina Karmesines, owner of Long Beach Spa, opens the show with the featured artists duet of the month, Shilo Crossing. Dave Raby and Julietta Satter are known for their compelling compositions, lively old-time music interpretations, and passionate vocal harmonies. They are multi-instrumentalists and rotate between guitar, mandolin, fiddle and percussion. Their passion and energy is a rare treat to experience. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for set-up, performers sign in on the blackboard and take the stage in the order they appear. Admission is a minimum $2 donation which includes a slice of Little Giants Pizza and a beverage. Come share your talent or join the audience and enjoy the show.

This Saturday’s Open Mic will feature Shiloh Crossing (Dave Raby and Julietta Satter of Porter Beach, Indiana). The duo can be seen at venues throughout NW Indiana, including the Front Porch in Valparaiso and with Save the Tunes Council at the National Lakeshore Visitor Center. For a schedule of appearances, phone 219/926-3457.

Tickets are now on sale for the October 26th Performing Arts Costume Party featuring Bruce Hastel of Bad Finger in concert. This “Music Room” fundraiser will take place on Sunday afternoon from 1-5 p.m. We are accepting donations for our silent auction and would love to add your name to our list of volunteers. To reserve your tickets, make a donation, and for more details on how to join the fun, phone Christina at 874-4674 or the Center at 879-3845.

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September 11, 2003 Page 9

Angella Braden German
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The SEA GULL Inn
Location, location, location!!! Lake Michigan’s tourist & vacationMecca offers this great Commercial & Business Opportunity! Located in downtown New Buffalo, just 2 blocks to the beach! All 3 Lots are in the Central Business District, which zoning allows for greater expansion & adjacent parking lot! Large rear yard has courtyard potential, space for goldfish pond, swimming pool, etc.…Perfect for offices or vacation rentals!

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3 ANITA LANE, LAKESIDE
NEW CONSTRUCTION - Walk to Lake Michigan!! Wooded ¼ Acre & Deeded Beach Rights! Custom cottage by CHS Builders: 4 bedrooms + loft, 4 baths, 2220 sq. ft., fireplace, cathedral ceilings, skylights, hardwood floors, central air, screen porch, open deck & covered front porch. Top-of-the-line finishes throughout. Great potential as vacation rental. $569,900

19691 CATALPA, MICHIANA, MICHIGAN
WALK TO LAKE MICHIGAN - New Construction with private beach rights! Beautiful home blends naturally into the wooded surroundings. Custom built by CHS Builders. Features 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, & top of the line finishes: stone fireplace, oak floors, skylights, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops. Grohe fixtures & thermo-masseur bath. Full basement (9 ft. hgh) with washer, dryer & freezer! Large wrap around deck invites you to rest, enjoy nature & the Michigan summer. $425,000

THREE OAKS
Spacious and well maintained Cape Cod offers 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, fireplace, hardwood floors, enclosed 24 x 12 porch & attached garage - all on an oversized lot & half! Home Warranty. All appliances stay. Neat & clean with private backyard overlooking crops. Must see! $125,000

VACANT LAND
SECLUDED & CONVENIENT! Wonderful 66x132 lot in the Village of Three Oaks. Location borders the township, with views overlooking open farmland. Just 7 miles to Lake Michigan. BRING ALL OFFERS! $10,000

WALK TO BEACH! Located on the lakeside of downtown New Buffalo, this 66x132 lot is cleared, level & ready to go with water & sewer at the street. PLUS: R-3 multi-family zoning allows for multiple dwelling units: like a duplex, guest cottage, or vacation rental villas! $99,900

12.3 ACRES in New Buffalo! Build, invest or develop with enough acreage & road frontage for a P.U.D., horses, lot splits, or one large estate. 75% woods. Country setting with beautiful mature trees & wildlife. 5 min. drive to lakefront. $150,000

NEW LISTING - NEW BUFFALO
Craftsman’s Home on 2 Lots! Stone fireplace, hardwood floors, new ceramic tile in bath, large enclosed deck, stainless steel refrigerator & new cooktop, additional 22 x 16 detached garage, central air & treehouse! Walk to lakefront beach! City water, sewer & natural gas. 1 year home warranty. $179,900

NEW BUFFALO
Walk to downtown & BEACH!!! Great 4 bedroom home with hardwood floors, bright kitchen, remodeled bath with ceramic tile, backyard deck, full basement, rec room, newer furnace & central air. Fireplace possible, City water, sewer & natural gas. One Year Home Warranty. $135,000

New Listing - New Buffalo

Stay tuned for Coldwell Banker Open House Extravaganza Sept. 27th & 28th
The New Buffalo Lions Club has announced that Tracey Fix, New Buffalo High School Class of 2003, has been awarded a $1,000 Lawrence C. Hattenbach Fine Arts Scholarship. The scholarship is administered by the Lions Club for the Hattenbach family. The late Lawrence Hattenbach was a long-time member of the local civic organization. He was widely recognized for his graphic arts work in the field of advertising. The scholarship is offered to a student pursuing a career in Fine Arts, Design or Architecture.

Beside her artistic pursuit, Ms. Fix was also involved in athletics and various extracurricular activities at New Buffalo High School. She was part of the mock trial team and an active member of Project Close-Up, a group that travels to Washington, D.C., for a week-long look at our government at work.

Ms. Fix has just begun her college studies as a freshman at Olivet College where she is pursuing dual careers in art and marketing. Tracey is the daughter of Kathleen and Gerard Fix of New Buffalo. Siblings include Emily, 19 (also at Olivet), Matthew 16, and Kathryn, 13. Ms. Fix was also the recipient of an Olivet Art Scholarship.
515 Birchtree Ln., Michigan City
Clean, newly painted and recently updated. This main floor unit offers ease of access and parking in pleasant surroundings. Move in condition, one bedroom (15 x 11), all appliances, heat and water paid in assessment ($160 monthly). 
$75,000
#89922 Ask for Rick @ 874-2121 ext. 36

336 W. Small Rd., LaPorte
Fairy tale setting! Looking for a sense of seclusion, water views and a “park like” atmosphere? Located on 9.4 acres, this property features a pole barn, pasture area, pond, tennis court, 3 car attached garage, and a fabulous home with over 5400 sq. ft. of living space and many amenities. 
$99,900
#85943 Ask for Amy @ 874-2121 ext. 28

4366 Wilmens Trl., LaPorte
Quality built 2 story Colonial home features include 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, main floor family and laundry room, 2 fireplaces and a new 3 season porch. Crown molding thru-out main level, master bedroom has private bath w/whirlpool tub & walk in closet, finished walk out basement, intercom system. All of this on 1 ½ lots in desirable Vintage Hills Subdivision. 
$249,900
#83398 Ask for Rose @ 874-2121 ext. 18

7376 E. Grace Ave., New Carlisle
Near New Prairie High School, this fabulous 6 bedroom, 3 bath home built in 1994, is located on 1.89 acres and features a gorgeous inground pool, professional landscaping, a huge pole barn and more! There’s way too many quality details to list here! Call today to see this home! 
$249,900
#85944 Ask for Amy @ 874-2121 ext. 28

2705 Floral Trl., Long Beach
Elegance and grace greet you as you enter this impeccable Long Beach home set on top of a dramatic dune with seasonal lake views. This 5 BDR, 3 ½ Bath, boasts of upscale amenities in newly remodeled and custom decorated home. New maintenance free steel roof. Mature landscaping with perennial flowers throughout. And the list goes on. 
$680,000
#83288 Ask for Daiva @ 874-2121 ext. 32

Miami Trl., Michigan City
A RARE FIND!!! Beautiful lake view lots in desirable Duneland Beach. Build your dream home close to the clouds, but don’t dream too long. Come and see the possibilities that await you in the Malibu of the Midwest. 
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#83931 Ask for Dianne @ 874-2121 ext. 49

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This is what you have been waiting for!!! Beautiful waterfront and non-waterfront lots in Long Beach. This area on Lake Claire is fabulous with panoramic views and waiting for you to build your new home. Michigan City water and sewer. Lots are selling fast! Call today for details! Only 1 water lot left!

202 Garden St., LaPorte
Truly an unbelievable property that has privacy! You cannot see this quality home from the road. Features include 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, full finished basement, custom Amish Kitchen with ceramic floors, Dacor appliances, Fisher Paykel dishwasher & greenhouse. Beautifully wooded, almost 3 acres of land with landscaping galore and private patios. Call for your private showing! 
$449,000
#92131 Ask for Larry @ 874-2121 ext. 19

9 Bristol Dr., Michigan City
Elegant 3 bedroom, 2 ½ bath home close to Lake Michigan. Dramatic foyer, formal living and dining room, main floor family room with fireplace, spacious kitchen, luxury bath off master bedroom, full finished basement, beautiful lot with sprinkler system and much more! 
$319,000
#92069 Ask for Larry @ 874-2121 ext. 19
Two Unique Shows at The Acorn

The Acorn Theater in Three Oaks is offering two programs this weekend:

Friday, Sept. 12, “American Klezmer.”

This brand new musical features members of the famous Maxwell Street Klezmer Band and an international cast, and will be performed as a concert reading. Written by Joanne Koch and Sarah Blacher Cohen, with music composed by Ilya Levinson and lyrics by Owen Kalt, this original musical follows a lively group of itinerant musicians moving from Eastern Europe to America in 1910.

American Klezmer celebrates the popular “Klezmer” idiom, described as soul music of Eastern Europe and Jewish Jazz, in old songs and new. These immigrants have romantic and practical problems expressed in humorous and touching numbers.


Bawdy, fun and musical, The Weird Sisters sing tight harmonies backed by the jazz musicians The Strange Brothers. The sisters are played by Bonnie Shadrake, Amy Binns-Calvey and Brendan Kelly, all current company members of the Noble Fool Theater Company and veterans of the Chicago music and theater scenes.

According to the producers, this show is not appropriate for children or those lacking a sense of humor.

The shows begin at 8 p.m. (MI time). 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 Dr., behind the Three Oaks Post Office on N. Elm St.
Entertain on 4 decks in these 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath townhomes.

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LONG BEACH REALTY
Get a Scoop and More at Temple News Agency
by Paula McHugh

It’s not a newspaper office, and it’s not a temple. Temple News Agency is an old fashioned soda fountain, gourmet coffee bar, cyber café open every day of the week.

The green awning outside the red brick building at 816 Jefferson in LaPorte reads Temple News Agency.

To the uninitiated, the name is deceptive. You can get the news here, yes. In print. More often in conversation. You can come in two’s or fours or solo. Whichever way you walk through the door, you’ll feel like you’ve returned to a familiar and cozy memory. Even if it’s your first visit here.

Come in and look around. The old-fashioned soda fountain stirs and whirrs up images of an earlier era of soda jerks serving up phosphates to an Archie or Veronica.

Your eyes wander from the seafoam green vintage Hamilton Beach milkshake machine to the glass-doored oak cabinet, up to the blackboard menu and all the way to the stamped-tin ceiling. No wonder grandparents love to bring their grandchildren here for their very first ice cream treat. But sweet-tooth treats are only the tip of a reason to stop in at Temple.

When the place opens at 6:30 in the morning, most folks want not ice cream, but their ritual jolt of java. A cup of joe at Temple can be straight up, or French-pressed, espressoed, latte-ed, flavored. Your choice, as owner Mike Sitar would say. Have chai. Or have hot tea. However you like it. Anytime of day. Have it with ice cream. Have a Green River. That will bring back memories and add a touch of originality to your customary morning brew.

You’ll find the atmosphere at Temple cozy. Friendships are formed here, old acquaintances renewed. You won’t feel like a stranger walking in for the first time. After a few visits, you may decide to make a ritual of returning often. Mike calls his regular clientele “a supportive group who watches out for each other.” On Temple’s website (http://templenews.tripod.com <http://temple.tripod.com/> ), Mike describes some of his “irregular regulars.” It’s a place to discover...
and blend in with the local color. Hang out often enough you, too, might receive nickname status. Yes, there is a distinct camaraderie that is apparent at Temple. Charles and Natalie McKelvy hang out at Temple as often as they can. Readers may remember Charlie’s travels describing his and Natalie’s visit to Temple in a past Beacher issue.

Choose your morning fishwrapper and settle in for awhile. This isn’t a place where you have to hurry off to somewhere else, unless your boss expects you to be at work on time. If you’re too cheap to buy the morning edition and want something to read, feel free to browse through the collection of old yearbooks locals have donated to the place. Grab the lounge chair (also donated) but don’t spill your coffee. Or sit at a table. Open the notebook you brought along and start writing your latest chapter. Or just stare at the walls. Mike says that most of the stuff on the walls comes from Temple’s customers. There’s a lot of local history on the walls.

If you’re a late sleeper, then come for lunch. Wash a foccacia bread creation down with a milk shake and top it off with a sundae. While you’re at it, buy a few chocolates, gourmet-made around the corner in South Bend. If that’s too much sugar for you, then stick to black coffee or have a pickle. Right now, Mike’s Back to School pickles are available. Soon there’ll be Halloween pickles. Then the seasonal Christmas pickles.

Places like Temple News Agency are rare these days. Yes, LaPorte has a local treasure here. Some national chains have tried taking a cue from places like Temple by decorating with local high school logos and such. But it’s not the same and we all know it. Places like Temple march to the pace of a unique drummer. It’s a “Cheers” kind of place—a coffee bar, an ice cream parlor, a cyber café. It’s also a place where musicians gather to strum and pick, jam and create to the appreciation of an audience ranging from tots to nonagenarians.

Temple, for those wondering about its name, is located in the Masonic Temple building. News Agency heralds back to 1918, when the establishment started out as the “Chicago News and Magazine Agency.” In 1929, the name changed to Temple News Agency. Go to the back of the building and you’ll see the graffiti scratched into the bricks, now just a memory of the former newsboys who waited out in the alley for the bundles they’d be delivering. Temple thrives with chunks of local history and tradition. Mike, who has owned the place for more than 8 years, did some expanding after he bought the original narrow little space. He knocked out the wall in what used to be a floral shop next door. A framed chunk of that wall with a pencil-written message from a customer is one of the more curious pieces of memorabilia that decorate the walls of Temple.

Temple Continued on Page 16
This 1904 Kingsbury upright gets played during musicians, open mike nights. The acoustic music is less performed than it is created, Mike says. Customers of all ages are invited—and encouraged—to come out and appreciate the local talent.

The extra room created from the former floral shop allows space for more tables, a sofa, two pianos, and a small stage area for the local musicians. Mike has an old Kingsbury upright and a recently donated Baldwin spinet, along with a few other pieces of musical equipment in the large, full-windowed room. A bass fiddle stored in back came in handy not long when a trio of jazz musicians passed through, Mike said. It was all the group needed—totally unexpected—to do a little impromptu jamming on a weekday afternoon.

Owner Mike Sitar, an Elston grad and former manufacturing executive, likes music. A guitar player himself, he likes to work with people who want to play music. One of Mike’s favorite memories is when he accompanied his daughter Sarah as she sang to the crowd. Musicians come at various times—Sunday afternoons and certain weeknights—to share their tuneful styles with one another and with Temple customers. Mike likes the musicians who come to “create” music rather than to “perform.” Spontaneity rules. Mike thinks it’s great for young people to see the musicians creating music instead of performing. Especially a generation of youth who have formed their notions of what music is from MTV.

The first “music”—if you could call it that—heard in the once-floral shop-turned-Temple’s music room came from a back-room buzzer, Mike explained. Just another interesting bit of local history. Part of the room, long ago, had been a walk-in cooler for flower storage, Mike said. The cooler door, when closed, would lock a hapless worker inside and cause all manner of chills. The buzzer had been installed as a rescue device. Or that’s how the story goes. We would have preferred hearing something a little more colorful, something from a scene out of the movie, “The Sting.” No need for the buzzer any longer, of course, and a few cups of Temple’s gourmet coffees can give you a buzz instead.

LaPortians are fortunate to have Temple News Agency right there in their neighborhood. But it’s a short enough drive for the rest of us in and around Beacher Country to sample the delights and surprises that await at LaPorte’s only old fashioned soda fountain and coffee bar and internet café. It’s easy to find being just a block south of Lincolnway. If coming from the north on Hwy 35/39, go one block past the bridge to Jefferson and turn left. Look for the green awning on your right. The coffee (and other treats) will be waiting for you.

A vintage Hamilton Beach shake mixer still serves up tasty shakes at Temple. Mike says that chocolate is still his customers favorite flavor.

Most of the memorabilia found on the walls at Temple have been donated by Mike’s customers.
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Lake Michigan Coast Week Sept. 13-20

Lake Michigan is many things to many people. It is a source of recreation, drinking water, industrial resources and other uses beyond measure. Understanding the lake is important to Northwest Indiana.

Beginning next week, Hoosiers in Northwest Indiana are invited to share the wonders of the Lake Michigan region during Coast Week, Sept. 13-20.

Sponsored by the Lake Michigan coastal program and other area organizations, a variety of events will celebrate the diversity and splendor of the Lake Michigan coastal region.

Events will include:
* Coast Appreciation Day at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore,
* A storm water management demonstration using a level spreader system at Coffee Creek,
* A shoreline dynamics presentation about the factors that affect sand movement and beach formation along Lake Michigan, and
* A workshop titled “Finding the Right Balance” at Sand Creek Country Club.

Wherever your interests lie, there will be an activity or two that you’ll find interesting and exciting. To find out more about the activities listed above or the other events, point your Web browser to http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/news/coast-week03.html for additional information.

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$329,000
The Unity Foundation announced that a $500 Agricultural Scholarship has been awarded to Lyndsay Cross of LaPorte. She is the daughter of Carol Allen of LaPorte, and the late Ron Cross.

Lyndsay began her college education at the University of Findlay by completing a Bachelor’s of Science in Biology and Pre-Veterinary Medicine as an Honor’s Scholar. She worked throughout her undergraduate schooling as a zoology teaching assistant.

After her undergraduate career, Lyndsay was accepted to Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine. She has finished two years at Veterinary School with only two more years to complete — a total of eight years of higher education!

The LaPorte County Row Crop Food Producers Team established the Agricultural Scholarship Fund in the Unity Foundation of LaPorte County for local residents who seek degrees in agricultural sciences or related field. Each year a selection committee chooses a student for this scholarship and presents this award at the “Annual Ag Tour and Barbecue.” The award was presented on Aug. 13 at Garwood Orchards and Farm Market.

The Unity Foundation of LaPorte County is a charitable organization that has attracted over $12 million to create a permanent pool of funds to benefit LaPorte County. It serves donors, nonprofit organizations and the community and has made possible over $3 million in local grants. The vision for the Unity Foundation is to promote a sense of community, unfettered by traditions or boundaries of the past and energized by what can be achieved in the future. For more information, phone 879-0327 or toll-free at 1-888-89UNITY.
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“Get Your Kicks on Route 66”

Members and guests of the 18-women’s golf league at Long Beach Country Club were invited to “Get Your Kicks on Route 66” as they journeyed back in time for their annual guest day. Organized by Route 66 Travel Directors, Barb Macudzinski and Marci Meyer, golfers took the off ramp into this bygone era to see how America traveled in the 1920’s-60’s.

Signs first appeared in 1927 and the final slogans were written in 1963. This is a sampling of the signs that were lined up and down each fairway at Long Beach:

**Does your husband**

**Misbehave**

**Grunt and grumble**

**Rant and rave**

**Shoot the brute some**

*Burma-Shave*

Route 66, the “Mother Road”, was a 2,400 mile stretch of highway that started in Chicago and ended in California. Billboards also lined the Route, and for guest day, golfers saw signs advertising old trading posts, motels, drive-in movie theaters, tourist traps and diners.

The first stop along Route 66 was the Long Beach Trading Post for caffeine and road maps. Elvis and James Dean just happened to be driving thru Long Beach on the morning of guest day, so golfers had pictures taken with these two celebrities who were in their 1956 Packard Convertible. The Packard was on loan for the photo session through the courtesy of Dennis Moran and Dave Moon of the Rag Top Museum in Michigan City.

Outside on the golf course, Les Lincke waved his checkered flag and a shoot-out from the 150 yard marker began. The flurry of golfers, golf carts, and golf balls on the fairway resembled a mixed-up road rally.

Remember Burma Shave signs….those little jingles that travelers used to watch for when driving along America’s highway? Each sign contained one sentence of a long slogan, so you would drive by, read one phrase of the sentence aloud, and anxiously await the next sign along the highway to read. Burma Shave
The Harley Stop on Hole #14 proved to be a favorite, as bikers Sherry Remijas and Mary Beth Morgan served Iced Cappuccino and Biscotti to the weary travelers. Golfers were wishing they could take a ride on the sparkling Harley Davidson sitting on the tee box and loaned by biker Lynn Haverstock, but not having the appropriate leather attire or helmets, they continued on with their golfing travels.

The final stop was the Long Beach Road Kill Patio Café for substance and the awards. Wearing pink t-shirts with “66” emblazoned on the front, the Long Beach “diner girls” served golfers such delicacies as Scorpion Soup, Coyote Ribs, Raccoon Eyes, Chunks of Skunk, and for a final treat, in true 50’s style, a old-fashioned banana split. Not familiar with road kill terminology???: this menu is gazpacho soup, barbeque baby back ribs, home-made onion rings, and Executive Chef Scott Proffitt’s potato salad.

Treasurers from the Trading Post were then awarded to the winning golfers, and before golfers were dismissed to enjoy the rest of their ride, they were presented with a “Gone Golfing” wreath for their front door.

Sparkling Route 66 purses centered each table and the lucky winners of these purses were the golfers on teams having the longest putt, longest drive and closest to the pin shots.
The Travel Guides and Pit Crew for this production, in addition to Macudzinski and Meyer, include Barb Beardslee, Joan Carey, Terry Deming, Peg King, Vangie Kuhn, Fran Lysaught, Nancy Neil, Kathy Osborne and June Salmon.

The ride along Route 66 would have been difficult had it not been for the cooperation and support from Long Beach General Manager Scott McHale, PGA Head Professional Brian Godfrey, Assistant Professional Sean Shaia, Golf Course Superintendent Nick Sinnott and the staff of both the club and the pro shop.

The 18-Hole Golf League at Long Beach Country Club urges readers to visit the Rag Top Museum in downtown Michigan City, where you will see a fantastic collection of automobiles and memorabilia that could be found while traveling along Route 66.

----submitted by Marci Meyer
7th Annual Ethnic Festival at IFG

This Sat., Sept. 13th, the International Friendship Gardens will host its 7th annual Ethnic Festival from 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Featured will be fine artists and ethnic crafts, ethnic dancers, international dancers and music, Native American reenactors, ethnic food and a children’s area. Admission is $5/ages 13 and up; $3/ages 6-12; under 5 yrs. admitted free. Senior citizen tickets are $4 and an entire family can enter for $20.

Local artist Neil Kienitz will be on hand to autograph his South Shore poster which will be for sale. Performers for the day include:

**Opening Ceremony**
In purple kilts, playing bagpipes and drum (Bridget Cletcher and 3 students) will lead people from the entrance gate, down the wedding path to the Wedding Area Stage. Dr. Houck will welcome guests and Bridget will present a small educational program with music.

**Dance Stage**
10 a.m. Flavia Cheng; 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi demonstration; 11 a.m. Nordikids-Swedish; Noon. Ballet Folklorica-Mexican; 1 p.m. Kazna, Lebanese Mideastern Belly Dancer; 1:30 p.m. Dancer-Sword Dance; 2 p.m. Kazna, raks sharki; 2:30 p.m. Mayer School of Irish Dance; 3 p.m. Chicago; 3:30 p.m. Gingarte Capoeira (on grass); 4 p.m. Evelyn Lisik, Polish National Anthem; 4:30 p.m. PRCU Polish Dancers; 5:30 p.m. Good Time Cloggers

**Wedding Stage Area**
11 a.m. Diamond Tones (popular dance tunes, jazz); noon. County Minstrels-Europe & British Isles; 1 p.m. John Watson (Swedish & Scottish); 2 p.m. Croatian Strings—Junior Tamburitzans; 3 p.m. John Arama-Romanian traditional and folk; 4 p.m. The Gemini.

**African Garden**
There will be some special programs happening at the African Garden. Check the schedule on Saturday.

**Rose Garden**
There will be musicians from time to time during the day near the Rose Garden in the Celebration Area playing music for those that might wander that way.

**Native American Garden**
During the day there will be Native Americans interpreting life and answering questions as people visit their area.

Please note: participants mentioned above were scheduled at time of printing. Additions and other changes may be made prior to actual date of festival.
Study the Solar System With Your Kids

Purdue University North Central’s Office of Continuing Education is now offering the class, Solar System Sleuths at Adler Planetarium. The first class will meet at Chicago’s Adler Planetarium on Sat., Oct. 11 from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Following classes will be held at the PNC campus on Thursdays, Oct. 16, 23, & 30 from 6 to 8 p.m. This class is open to students in grades 4 through 6 and an adult teammate. This new concept helps parents to see first-hand how their child learns as they study the solar system together.

The fee is $144 and includes supplies. Early registration is encouraged and class size is limited.

For information about this course, phone 872-0527, ext 5343, or log onto www.pnc.edu/ce. Registration forms can also be found on this Web site.

Movies in the Park-Sept. 12

The next Movies in the Park will be held on Fri., Sept. 12, at dusk in Washington Park. This collaboration between the City of Michigan City and the Michigan City Public Library is part of the Task Force on Literacy. This month’s feature is “The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers.” This PG-13 rated movie is free and will be shown on a screen donated by AJ Canopy of Michigan City at the Jaycee Stage in Washington Park. Michiana Resources will have a concession stand on site with popcorn, sodas and other tasty treats available at reasonable prices.

Picnic tables will be available, but audience members are welcome to bring their own chairs as well. It is recommended that blankets or warm sweaters should be brought along as the evening breezes off Lake Michigan can be quite cool.

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Red Cross Sunflower 5K Run/Health Walk

A 5K run and health walk will be held at 9 a.m. on Sept. 20 in LaPorte. The race will begin and end at LaPorte’s YMCA and include historic Michigan Avenue and the Beechwood golf course.

The event is sponsored by the LaPorte County Chapter of the American Red Cross as part of the festivities of LaPorte’s Sunflower Fair. Obtain entry forms from the Red Cross at 113 Warren Rd., Michigan City, or by phoning 874-4247 (days) or 219/362-1034 (evenings).

Register on race day for $20 ($15 in advance). Under the age of 13 may register for $10 at all times. The first 150 participants will receive a t-shirt.

Front Porch Players

The community theater group, Front Porch Players, will present a one-act play, “Actions Speak Louder Than Words” at the 1839 Courthouse Museum in Berrien Springs, Michigan. The single performance will be Sun., Sept. 14th, at 3 p.m. (MI time). Admission is free, and reservations are not required.

The play is based on the American Girl book Meet Samantha, and was written by American Girl author Valerie Tripp. The popular American Girl series of books features the adventures of several fictional girls living in various eras of American history. Samantha is an upper class girl living in an American city in 1904.

In the play, Samantha befriends a lower-class servant girl named Nellie. Front Porch Players is a new theater group of actresses aged 9-12. Michelle E. Sagala, a junior at new Buffalo High School, directs the play. Although no admission is charged, the cast of “Actions” will be accepting free-will donations for the charitable organization, “Food For the Poor.”

For more information, phone the Berrien Springs Historical Association at 269/471-1202.
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Gallery Talk Highlights Diverse Exhibits

The diversity contained in four unique exhibits at Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art will be explored in a Gallery Talk by Gregg Hertzlieb, museum director, on Wed., Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. in the museum.

The museum's current exhibits, ranging from French fashion designs to Buddhist sculptures and paintings, are the most varied to be shown at the Brauer Museum at one time, Hertzlieb said.

The exhibits include vivid and intensely autobiographical works by Chicago painter Paul Sierra, who fled Cuba during his childhood, and images of Northwest Indiana's industrial landscape by photographer Gary Cialdella.

The four exhibits—"Returning to Form: Buddhist Art from India to Tibet," "Chic Destinations: Yves Saint Laurent Designs," "Drawn from Life: Paintings by Paul Sierra" and "Gary Cialdella Photographs from the Calumet Series"—are showing in Brauer now through Oct. 5th.

Brauer Museum is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; from 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Wednesday; and from noon-5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday during the academic year. Admission is free. Docent-led tours are available Sundays at 2 p.m. and group tours may be arranged by phoning 219/465-7926.

Author Reading by Harry Mark Petrakis

Harry Mark Petrakis is the author of thirteen books and has twice been nominated for the National Book Award in Fiction. He will do a reading from his novel, Twilight of the Ice, at the Michigan City Public Library on Sun., Sept. 14 at 2 pm. The public is invited for this free program.

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In 1932, Dr. Edward Blinks built this home in Long Beach, on property he had owned for a long time. The land, he claimed, had been the home of the original "hermit" whom he and his childhood friends often visited.

Dr. Blinks graduated from Northwestern University and Baltimore Medical College and then returned to Michigan City, where he married Florence Tillotson and went into practice with Dr. Alvin G. Tillotson, his father-in-law. Dr. Blinks was a strong advocate of exercise. He rode horses daily, swam in the lake often, and lived to the age of 80.

In 1897 the two doctors, Tillotson and Blinks, built a hospital on Sixth Street, the first "modern" hospital in the city. They both lived to a ripe old age. Dr. Tillotson died at the age of 90, in 1937, at which time he had been the oldest doctor in the state of Indiana. In 1925, Dr. Frank Warren engaged local architect Samuel Boonstra to design a six-story office building on Franklin Street. He named it the Warren Building and used the top floor for his examining and waiting rooms.

Dr. Warren had a unique plan for developing a healthy community. He bought up more than 300 acres of land, including a private beach on Lake Michigan, which played such a crucial role in the growth of Michigan City, also had a great deal of importance in the early history of health and medicine, and in the curious founding of Pottawattomie Park.

Dr. Edward G. Blinks, born in Michigan City January 1, 1869, was one of the first persons to proclaim the healthful aspects of swimming in the chilly waters of Lake Michigan. As a child he played in the dunes, and as an adult he bought property along the lake — years before the land was subdivided into Long Beach.

Believing strongly in the benefits of early detection, Dr. Warren also required physical examinations before being permitted to buy a homesite. The purchaser’s testing was to be done at the Warren Clinic, and was to include blood, laboratory and X-ray work, "for it must be known that he is of at least average health." Since the health of the purchaser’s family "necessarily enters into" this format, health examinations were also required for the wife and children of the prospective home-owner.

Believing strongly in the benefits of early detection, Dr. Warren also required follow-up exams every 90 days, more often if necessary. "The preliminary examination," as stated in the brochure, "will consist of every ultimate test and check-up, such as efficiency tests of the kidney, electrocardiographic and x-ray examination of the heart and great blood vessels, chemical tests of the blood for waste products and every refined method of checking up the human mechanism."

The home-owners were not to be charged for these services. According to Dr. Warren’s plan, one-half of all proceeds from the sale of homesites would be invested in a trust fund, and the returns from investments would cover the cost of periodic health exams. This plan was to be implemented for 15 years.

Back in the mid-19th century, when the town of Michigan City was developing, there were less than 150 hospitals in the entire United States. The average life expectancy in 1900 was 46.7 years. Lake Michigan, which played such a crucial role in the growth of Michigan City, also had a great deal of importance in the early history of health and medicine, and in the curious founding of Pottawattomie Park.

Dr. Frank Warren, born in Michigan City January 1, 1869, was one of the first persons to proclaim the healthful aspects of swimming in the chilly waters of Lake Michigan. As a child he played in the dunes, and as an adult he bought property along the lake — years before the land was subdivided into Long Beach.

In support of his plan, Dr. Warren quoted statistics from life insurance companies, and pointed to practices in the Orient where, he contended, "many of the high-caste orientals pay their doctors to keep them well, and when they become ill, their doctors’ pay ceases until strength and health have returned."

The promotional literature emphasized the values of living in communion with Nature, in a park-like setting, far removed from "the present high speed, artificial life" that was resulting in disease and premature death. Under his plan, Americans would return to "the laws of nature, namely, those of relaxation under restful conditions, obtaining quiet, undisturbed sleep, eating proper food, and enjoying healthful recreation and pure air with unrestricted sunshine."

"It should be distinctly emphasized that you do not associate this plan with a real estate or medical promotion scheme," said Dr. Warren. His motivation was to achieve a long and healthy life for each resident. Under Dr. Warren’s plan, "the mortality rate in Pottawattomie Park will be much less, and the life expectancy many times greater than that of any other community in the country."

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At the turn of the century, the benefits of “taking the waters” resulted in the development of numerous health spas at natural springs and oceanside resorts. On the shores of Lake Michigan, there were also practitioners who capitalized on this trend. The Dr. Leeds Sanitarium, at 4th and Franklin Streets, invited patients to “Come here for Showers, Tub-baths, Turkish Baths & Hair Dressing.” Dr. Leeds treated “all diseases except insanity and acute infections,” and advertised his usage of “electricity and massage.” He was also the township physician during the 1920s.

The Leeds Building, still standing at 4th and Franklin Streets, was the location of Dr. Leeds’ Sanitarium. The 1902 building was constructed on the site of an earlier, 1857, structure.

In 1904, St. Anthony Hospital was opened by the Sisters of St. Francis. The 80-bed hospital cost $80,000 to build, much of which was donated by Mrs. John H. Barker.

In 1904, the township physician, advertised his “Electric Light and Cabinet Baths” in the Michigan City directory of 1921-1922.

Quarantine signs are grim reminders of the diseases later conquered by immunizations — diphtheria, smallpox, measles, scarlet fever.

An old-time operating table is one of the prize possessions of the county historical museum in Watseka, Ill.

Dr. Frank Leeds, the township physician, advertised his “Electric Light and Cabinet Baths” in the Michigan City directory of 1921-1922.

Dr. Leeds Sanitarium
Phone 413
424 Franklin Street
MICHIGAN CITY
Electric Light and Cabinet Baths

Electricity and Massage
Green Under Treatment Neutral Sanitarium
All Diseases, except Insanity and Acute Infected
Treated by Modern and Positive Therapeutics
Patient Home for a Restorative while in Sanitarium
Treatment. Special nursing, room and board for selected cases.

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The LaPorte County Historical Society Museum has replicated an old-time doctor’s office, with roll-top desk, medical instruments, and a cane-back wheel chair.
PNC Youth Classes Make Learning Fun!

Purdue University North Central’s Office of Continuing Education is again offering youth programs for students in 1st-8th grades. Children of all abilities may join the hands-on learning opportunities to discover the world around them really works.

These classes unite math and science, language arts and visual arts. Children are taught by highly qualified and motivated teachers and professionals, all here to bring fun and learning together.

The MVP: Mind, Vision, Possibility Program is a unique program for students in grades 6-8. This fall, young students can register for “Writers Rule!” a class that explores many genres of writing for aspiring authors, and “The World Under the Water,” which has children act as young oceanographers exploring the mysterious deep.

Wonderful Weekends emphasizes hands-on learning and inquiry for children in grades 1-5. Children can join “Learning Lab for Young Scientists,” “From Spongebob to Shakespeare,” “Around the World with the Magic School Bus,” “May the Force be with You!” or “Exploring Spanish.”

Super Saturday is a program for academically, creatively and artistically talented children in grades 1-5. Whether it’s studying tiny things in “Microscopic Worlds” or painting like a master in “Ready, Set, (van) Gogh,” kids gain confidence in their abilities. Other classes include “Living Mathematics,” “Secret Formulas,” “Rock Hounds, Let’s Roll,” “Wild Safari,” “Young Survivors,” and “Math Carnival.”

All classes meet Saturdays, Oct. 4-Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to noon at the PNC campus. The fee is $129, which includes supplies and a t-shirt. Children may sign up with a friend or sibling and both will receive a 10 percent discount. They do not need to enroll in the same class. Early registration is encouraged, as class size is limited.

For more information about these courses, phone 872-0527 ext 5343, or visit www.pnc.edu/ce. Registration forms can be found on this Web site.
Environmental Education Programs

LaPorte County Parks offer Environmental Education programs free of charge for school groups, scout troops, and other groups. Programs are available Monday through Friday at Luhr County Park, Bluhm County Park, Red Mill County Park, or Creek Ridge County Park.

Many different topics can be focused on during a program, from pond studies to senses to identifying plants and animals. Programs need to be reserved at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned visit. Contact the Luhr County Park Nature Center at 219/924-5855, between 8:30 a.m. and 1-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday to place reservations for a program or to get more information.

The Depot of Beverly Shores Museum

The Beverly Shores Depot Museum is currently displaying the Indiana Historical Society’s exhibition “Who Do You Think You Are?” The exhibit highlights the different ethnic groups that have played a role in Indiana’s heritage. Maps, photographs, statistics and graphics tell the stories of how groups immigrated to the United States and specifically Indiana. It looks at why they immigrated and where they chose to settle in Indiana. This exhibit is a feel-good family outing and runs through September.

The Depot of Beverly Shores Museum and Art Gallery is located at 525 Broadway, Beverly Shores, just north of U.S. 12. Admission is free, donations are welcome. The Depot is open Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 p.m., from May through November. Phone them at 871-0832.

Treat a Buddy to Lunch!

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Saturday    12:00 Noon-10:30 pm
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- Warm Apple & Stilton Puff Tartlet

Some of our entree’s featured are...
- Bacon Wrapped Filet with apple spinach confit
- Seared Duck Breast with honey & anise
- Crusted Lamb Chops with mint pesto
- Divor Scallops deglazed with blood orange and pinot gris
- Black Sesame Crusted Salmon in ginger broth reduction
- Linguine with New Zealand mussels and spicy tomato broth

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(219) 324-5683
Historic Downtown LaPorte
Labor Day weekend brought grandson Bill in for a visit on his way to the Harley-Davidson 100th anniversary celebration in Milwaukee. Let’s meander, he said, and see what’s happening. We would end at Bridges for lunch as we always did when grandkids visited, when the bridge came up for trains and boats. It was still a seafood delight to lunch there as in the old days. But this was a new day and a new museum beckoned, Rag Tops. What a museum...what a display... my first visit opened my eyes to this new Michigan City attraction. Not only vintage cars telling a history of the 20th century, but recreated service stops, an antique corner offering collectibles for sale, a gift shop offering memorabilia, and toys that included models of, what else, Harleys. Wow, this is bigger and more than I expected, said Bill. Me, too.

Harry Anderson, director of Rag Tops, gave me a quick tour as Bill was drawn to the 1951 Harley Davidson WL in the roped-off display. Was he imagining sitting in the seat of that hog and burning some rubber? I had to see a car I knew was in the museum, the 1957 Ford Skyliner retractable hardtop, a car that my husband and I had owned. We drove it to Mexico and drew a crowd wrapped in serapes at every local square, gaping in wonder at what the gringos had brought as we pushed a button and the top rose out of the trunk to settle over the car. There must be many other family memories lurking among these vast collection of cars. Much more notable than the Skyliner, was the Dragster parked nearby, NHRA winner at Houston Raceway Park, top-fueled to make 331 mph in the quarter mile at 4.3 seconds when its parachute opened to brake its stop. (Dragsters, and Harry Anderson is one, will know the proper way to say this.)

A big draw is the ’68 Dodge Charger, the General Lee from the Dukes of Hazard show of the 70’s. “This was the car that every kid wanted at that time,” Harry Anderson said. Grandson Bill was no exception. As a young boy, Bill lived near Soledad Canyon in California where he had seen the corps of cars used in the televised show, waiting for their turn at the high-flying stunts. He rubbed his hand at the bumps and dents still there under the paint.

Kids are high on the list of attractions and events planned for the future at Rag Tops, Harry Anderson added. The back room is being readied for 30 or 40 more cars that he and Dennis Moron, founder and director of the board that manages the not-for-profit museum, were on their way to see that weekend at the Auburn auction, with an expanded area available for birthday parties and other celebrations complete with Chuckie Cheese Show. Plans for the future include educational programs for schools and seminars on car care. Something for everyone at Rag Tops, including a new Lionel train set-up for train devotees. This is one local attraction that is definitely going to attract. Open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
“It’s time to open your shop,” her husband said. That’s just what Brenda Selbach did, joining with Kim Conoon to open The Summer Solstice at 605 Franklin Street, Michigan City on June 21st. Open the door and you enter another world, soft music, a wafting scent in the air, new age eclectic everywhere you look. Local artists have found it, too...an angel painted by beacher Eleanor Condon heralds Diagon Alley and there they are, broomsticks waiting for Harry Potter fans against the wall. Striking, starkly beautiful matted photos by Judge Robert Gilmore hang by the door, art in architecture found by his inspired eye. Artist Jenny Trainor adds her creations in fused glass, striking flares of color in plates, vases and jewelry. Betsy Opyt, Miss Indiana of 2001, has introduced her line of light-catching beaded jewelry.

Of course, if its new age, there are candles and oils, music and books, and much, much more, including herbal teas. “Mad Hatter” is a favorite, Brenda said, with its hint of licorice; Sniffle Tea with elderberries and yarrow is a choice for winter colds. For drying skin, try Sun Dog Hand Cake. Of course, since this is my bent, I was drawn to a small carved soapstone angel from Kenya. Summer Solstice opened on the summer solstice, and has year-round plans including meditation and drum circles. Come holiday time, find earth-friendly musical instruments for children. For any time, gift baskets can be gathered to order. Open every day except Sundays, a Meet and Greet event is however planned for Sunday, September 21st, from 4 to 6 p.m. Be prepared to love every minute you spend...there’s Shanti, Shanti, Shanti in the air.

Stop in at The Framing Station at 912 Franklin with an eye on holiday times ahead. All framed artwork is now on sale. Check out the CD’s that offer over 1750 images of old Michigan City, area scenes and historical documents; all can be printed out, suitable for framing, great accents for your home or gifts. Look for new posters in the room lined with posters proclaiming the charm of South Shore, Chicago and New York World’s Fair scenes. Think ahead to preserving memories of a special event in a shadow-box frame designed by award-winning JoAnne Finney. Take advantage of advice for all your custom framing from experts at The Framing Station, 912 Franklin Street, Michigan City.
Bridal Gown Exhibit Extended

Due to the overwhelming public response to the Northern Indiana Center for History’s “Veiled Illusion: Vintage Bridal Gowns in the Oliver Mansion,” the exhibition will be extended through Sept. 28.

Set against the backdrop of the exquisite rooms of the Oliver Mansion, 20 elegant bridal gowns from the Center for History’s collection are shown in a series of delightful scenes. Admission to the exhibit is $8/adults, $6.50/senior citizens (60+), $5/children 2-17 & college students. Tours are offered Tuesday-Saturday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.; Sundays 1 & 2 p.m. The Northern Indiana Center for History is located at 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. For more information, phone 574/235-9664 or log onto www.centerforhistory.org

Museum Features Permanent Collection

The LaPorte County Historical Society Museum displays thousands of objects, all donated by individuals and families, which collectively tell the history of LaPorte County. The Pioneer Log Cabin display contains furniture and household items originally made and used by the settlers in the 1830s. A Victorian period parlor, dining room, and bed chamber show the styles of the late 1800s. Other exhibits of antique porcelain dolls, toys, farming tools, and the W.A. Jones Collection of Ancient Weapons are perennial favorites.

Museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The museum is located in the County Complex building in downtown LaPorte, behind the Court House. Admission is free; donations are accepted. The facility is accessible to those with physical disabilities. For more information, phone 873-7014, ext. 276, or log onto www.lapcohistsoc.org
PNC Offers SAT Review Courses

High school students who want to prepare for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) can find help through special classes offered this fall by Purdue University North Central’s Office of Continuing Education. The SAT results are used by many colleges and universities to determine admission and also as a basis for many scholarship programs.

SAT Review Verbal Section meets one Monday and one Wednesday on Oct. 6 & 8, from 6-9 p.m. SAT Review Math Section meets one Monday and one Wednesday on Oct. 13 & 15, from 6-9 p.m. The cost of each section is $89; however, students may sign up for both sections for $158.

To register, phone 872-0527 ext. 5343, or visit www.pnc.edu/ce. Registration forms can also be found on this Web site.

Oil Painting Portrait Workshop

The Art Barn is hosting an oil painting portrait workshop Sept. 15-19 by Harry Ahn. He believes that portraiture is the most exciting of any subject matter attempted by an artist. The workshop will begin with a portrait demonstration from the model focusing on the basics of anatomy, placement of values, color, mixing and design.

Harry Ahn was born in North Korea. He got his initial training in art in Seoul and later studied in Canada. Since 1990, Ahn has taught at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He has had numerous exhibitions and awards including, most recently, best Korean portrait painter in the U.S. In addition to the workshop, Harry Ahn is the featured artist for the month of September.

The Art Barn is located at 695 North 400 East, Valparaiso; phone them at 219/462-9009 to register, or for more information, or email ArtBarn@aol.com

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The Deep Web

While I was doing my usual surfing ritual preparing for this week's column, I came across the term, “the deep web.” Not exactly certain what it meant, I soon found myself on a search index page at profusion.com. Here, a vertical list of subjects, beginning with Arts & Humanities and ending with Web lead to all sorts of stuff for the information-seeker. I decided to look up hints on cleaning brass drawer pulls.

At profusion.com, I clicked the subject link, “Living,” which led me to the subjects, “consumer tips and how-to.” At the how-to index search box, I typed in “clean brass.” The deep search utility then came up with nine website choices. Does it sound like a lot of clicking to you so far? Maybe so, and maybe not. In what seemed a snap, I was at doityourself.com, where I found enough information about cleaning brass than I ever needed to know. All of it was interesting and informative, and after I learned about using vinegar and salt I moved on to silver cleaning. I’ll spare the details here except to tell you that sterling and rubber is a very bad combination. Curious, I stuck around doityourself.com a little longer to read about recipes for homemade cleaners, stain removers, and air fresheners. I learned a half-dozen creative uses for fabric softener sheets, too. They act like a magnet to pick up dog and cat fur and they also repel mosquitoes that hang around your patio.

You may have heard of DoITYourself.com because the website is listed as one of Time magazine's top 50 choices. I guess I took the roundabout route to find this handy site, which I immediately bookmarked for future reference. By the way, this website recommends local contractors to contact for remodeling and other jobs, but I could not find any in our area. Local contractors—and that includes handypersons, wallpaper hangers, painters, etc. may want to register their names and services at this site as an extra marketing tool.

I’m not sure if profusion.com is any faster or better than a Google search, but the former did lead me directly to non-commercial type choices. I like the idea
of a subject index for searches, and my home-page from
day one continues to be the Westchester (Chesterton)
Public Library subject index (http://wpl.in.us). Google
is nice and handy and has a variety of new bells and
whistles, including a Google toolbar that blocks pop-
ups and can be installed on your computer. But I think
every surfer should also have a “deep web” search index
book marked for ready reference, too. I rarely use
Boolean searches but I’ll attempt to tackle a few and
then provide you with a how-to-do-it in a future col-
umn.

I’m preparing to take another long-distance trip soon.
I’ve spent a great deal of time researching airline and
car rental fares and have found the website,
JohnnyJet.com a big help. Call it a deep web search
tool for all things travel. This website is recom-
mended by so many big media (USA Today, MSNBC,
etc) that it’s probably already on your list of bookmarks.
I’ve booked my airline tickets, but it took me an hour
or more of searching individual airline sites, and
sites such as Orbitz, Smarter Living, Travel Hunters
and Travelocity for best buys. As of this writing, I’m
still working on the car rental part. I found—and then
lost—a great site that gave me the total cost of a car
rental. Most of the sites give only the base price. You
can get the percentages of all the other tacked-on fees
but you need a calculator to figure out the total car
rental cost. Quite by accident, I discovered that I
could get a total cost estimate by entering a bid at
Priceline.com. That is not how Priceline wants you to
use their website, of course, but it helped me figure
out what I needed to know. Meanwhile, I’m still try-
ing to locate the website that lists numerous car
rental companies along with a complete breakdown
of the additional taxes and fees. If you know which
one I mean, I would appreciate hearing from you.
Readers who use car rental services would appreci-
ate knowing the web address and I’ll pass the infor-
mation on to you in a later column.

(Questions, comments can be sent to left2write@hotmail.com with “cyberscribbles” in the subject head-
er).

Watercolor Instruction

By James F. McComb

at “The Coop” in Union Pier

For information call: 269-469-6434
The Sand Creek Labor Day Celebration was held in Chesterton August 30 and was the largest dining room I’ve ever seen, with green green grassy fairways underfoot surrounded by sand traps galore. Those sand traps quickly became great big sandpiles for little kids to enjoy. My friend/foodstuff staff Pat Latchford (yes, she has changed the name Pat Thorne back to her year-long name) went along and had just as much fun and food as I did.

The outdoor dining room was made up of cheerful tents filled with lovely wafting aromas. It was the most pleasant summer day we’d had, weather-wise, for more than a week – now, that’s a good omen. Station One, among the putting greens, was titled The South and contained a whole hog roasted with citrus and apples, then finely shredded and served on a bun with Jack Daniels BBQ. There were delicate fried green tomatoes as well as what they called whole dill pickles – big chunks of spicy cucumber on a stick like a lollipop. I’ve wanted to taste a roasted hog for years – it was certainly worth waiting for (sorry, Beacher readers, I didn’t get the recipe). That station was decorated with a headless manikin wearing a belle-of-the-ball gown – As you see, Pat Latchford provided the perfect head for the photo.
Next, Station Two, *The Heartland*. Herb roasted chicken that looked divine but I passed it up for bratwurst and German style kraut, also on the table. With that, I tried the cole slaw and an old Midwest favorite, green bean casserole topped by crispy onions. It was perfect, of course.

At the third station *The Southwest* theme included beer braised ribs, pinto beans, jicama & cilantro slaw and cheddar chipotle cornbread. That appeared to be the most popular station with the longest line of all. Staff Pat tried the ribs and raved, but I missed them early in the evening, then the lines became much too long – extending into the sand bunkers. There was a huge crowd at this event.

My favorite was station four, *New England Clam Bake*. Oyster bar, boiled potatoes, corn on the cob, steamed clams and mussels, peel and eat shrimp – all, of course, with great red sauces. I overloaded on that one and enjoyed every morsel. Of course, I needed a locker room shower when I was through with all those finger-lickin’ goodies, but I didn’t get it.

Now that’s only a few of the foods available on or near the putting greens. There were also goodies like sweet and sour cucumbers, baked macaroni and cheese, melons, ice cream treats and pastries for dessert. It went on and on. A yummy Labor Day celebration.
Picnic  Continued from Page 45

But the big party wasn’t all about food, of course. The annual event also included a huge tent to house the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra. Beginning before dark, they performed a variety of classical as well as popular music like Euryanthe Overture, Symphonie Espagnole, International Dixieland Jamboree, La Bamba, and Sergeant Peppers. Great audio equipment made it sound like we were indoors at Orchestra Hall. As the sky darkened, spectacular fireworks began to light up the universe over and beyond #5 fairway, as hundreds of us oohed and aahed.

A lovely tradition, all of it, but as you know, my number-one-favorite was that food. Hundreds of us guests thank Chef Travis Dale and his notable staff for the huge and marvelous picnic and all the great non-food-stuff that went with it.

SOUTHERN FRIED GREEN TOMATOES
1 c. stone-ground white cornmeal (available in specialty food shops)
6 green tomatoes, cut into thick slices
2 T. olive oil
4 T. unsalted butter
1/2 c. firmly packed dark brown sugar
1/4 c. chopped fresh coriander or Italian parsley
freshly ground black pepper to taste
Dip the tomato slices into the cornmeal, coating them well on both sides. Heat the oil and butter in a heavy skillet. Add the tomato slices in one layer (you will need to fry them in several batches). Sprinkle the tops with brown sugar and sauté over medium heat for 2 to 3 minutes. Turn the slices and sprinkle with more brown sugar. Continue cooking until the sugar caramelizes. Watch carefully so they don't brown. Turn once more to caramelize. Remove to a warm platter and sprinkle with the coriander and a few grindings of black pepper.
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In Memory Of...

Robert Allan “Bill” Schumm Romoser died on August 30. His sudden departure left all who knew and loved him with a profound sense of sadness and loss.

He leaves two daughters, Leslie R. Rylee (Robert) of New York City, and Whitney R. Savignano (Nicola) of Beverly Farms, MA and three grandsons: Preston Rylee, Michela Savignano and Costantino Savignano. A brother, Richard who resides in San Diego, CA and a sister, Jean Reiter of Goshen, NY also survive.

Mr. Romoser was a graduate of the Haverford School and Yale University and was a U.S. Army veteran. He worked for more than 30 years as a trust officer and later as a Vice President of the Northern Trust Company Bank in Chicago. In addition to his family, Mr. Romoser leaves many loving friends and his two most devoted companions, his dogs Lollypop and Aleka.

A memorial service was held in his honor on Sun., Sept. 7 on the beach at Stop 38, Michiana, Michigan, with many family and friends present. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to the Washington Park Zoological Society, 115 Lake Shore Dr., Michigan City, IN 46360. Attn: Lane Theriac, Director.
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605 Franklin Sq. - Michigan City, IN
“Little Jewels” on Display

“Little Jewels”, a series of watercolor paintings by James F. McComb, will be featured at an opening reception for the artist at the Musikantow Gallery-Studio in Hesston, on Sat., Sept. 13, 3-7 p.m. The show will run through Oct. 4th. The Musikantow Gallery is located at 10411 N 200 E, Hesston (about 1/2 mile north of the Heston Bar and Grill on the grounds of a retired riding stable).

McComb’s “Little Jewels” have a particular resonance in the Michiana area as they speak to the smaller scale and pleasures of this locale. They bring close-up many of the easily overlooked gems that dot the local countryside.

This year, three of McComb’s works were selected for the Lakeland Regional Health Center. The painting featured in McComb’s Watercolor Workshop ad in the Harbor Country Guide was purchased for the new Booth Library at Eastern Illinois University. Other work appears in the collection at Northwestern Memorial in Chicago as well as collections around the U.S. and Mexico City.

McComb and his wife Alene Valkanas divide time between their home in Chicago, where she directs The Illinois Arts Alliance, and their Union Pier home in Michigan. For more information, phone 219/778-9828 or 269/469-6434.

Annual Fall Plant Sale

On Sat., Sept. 13, in addition to their annual Ethnic Festival, International Friendship Gardens will also hold its Annual Fall Plant Sale from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The Ladies of the Gardens Guild will offer many plants suitable for fall planting. All of the ladies are Master Gardeners and will help customers to select plants best suited for your yards and gardens.

The entrance to IFG is on U.S. 12, just east of Liberty Trail. For more information, phone 878-9885 or 874-6359.
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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

September 11 — Writer’s Rendezvous. 6 pm at the Michigan City Public Library. New members invited to attend. Visit the web site www.mclib.org


September 12 — Movies in the Park. “The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers” will be shown for free at the Jaycee Stage in Washington Park, MC. Bring blankets or chairs if you wish; picnic tables will be set up. The movie is rated PG-13. A concessions stand will be available. This program is a collaboration between the City of Michigan City and the Michigan City Public Library.

September 12 — “American Klezmer.” Stage show at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI. 8 pm (MI time). This original musical follows a lively group of itinerant musicians moving from Eastern Europe to America in 1910. Tix $15; reservations 269/756-3879 or purchased at the door.


September 13 — Farmer’s Market. 8th & Washington streets, Michigan City. 7:30 am-1 pm.

September 13 — New-to-You Paperback Exchange. 10 am-noon at the Michigan City Public Library. Bring in new or almost new paperbacks and trade them for new-to-you books. Open to all ages.

September 13 — Annual Fall Plant Sale at International Friendship Gardens. 8 am-4 pm. Ladies of the Gardens Guild, all Master Gardeners, will help you select. Use Gardens entrance on US 12, just east of Liberty Trail. Info 878-9885 or 874-6359.

September 13 — 7th Annual Ethnic Festival at International Friendship Gardens. 10 am-5:30 pm. Musical performances and demonstrations, ethnic food & a special children’s area. See schedule elsewhere in this issue. Use entrance on US 12, east of Liberty Trail. Adm. $3/ages 6-12; $5/13 and over; $4/seniors 60 & over; $20/families. Info 878-9885.

September 13 — Second Saturday Open Mic at the Old School Community Center. 7-9 pm; doors open at 6:30 pm for set-up. Adm. $2 donation includes slice of pizza & beverage. Share your talent or enjoy the show. Info 879-3845.

September 13 — The Weird sisters on stage at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI. Backed by The Strange Brothers jazz musicians. 8 pm (MI time). Not appropriate for children or less sensitive viewers. Tix $15; reservations 269/756-3979 or at the door. See story this issue.
September 14 — Author Reading by Harry Mark Petrakis. 2 pm at the Michigan City Public Library. The author will read from his ninth novel, Twilight of the Ice.

September 16 — Michiana Amateur Computer Society meeting. 7 pm at the Michigan City High School, Room 142. Presentation followed by q & a session. Public invited to attend.

Places to Visit:

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


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

International Friendship Gardens. Hwy. 12 just east of Liberty Trail, Michigan City. Featuring gardens of many nations and wooded foot trails. Open May-Oct., Sat. & Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. No adm. charge, however, donations accepted. 878-9885.

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:


This perfect cottage in the woods rests on 5.5 acres. The elegant tree lined driveway beckons you to your private hideaway. The 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage has many extras including a sunroom, 1 fireplace, kitchen with French doors leading to the flower garden, a wine cellar and a screened in gazebo. There is a 2-car garage and the wooded trails lead you to blueberries, cherries and apple trees. (2327185) Jaye Gintautas listing. $235,000

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Travels with Charley:

Steamboat Docked on Labor Day Due to Mishap at Hesston

by Charles McKelvy

We begin with the earnest hope that this finds the owner of the famous Hesston steamboat, one Jim Kincaide, fully recovered from the mishap he suffered at the Hesston Steam Museum on Labor Day in the rain.

According to various Hesston volunteers, Kincaide, who lives in Elkhart, slipped and fell on the rain-slicked deck, badly cutting his arm. Hesston, of course, was well-prepared for such an emergency, and the duty fire truck transported Kincaide through the mud to the gate where an ambulance was waiting to whisk him to the hospital.

Again, we pray, Mr. Kincaide, that your injury was minor and that you are completely on the mend, and that you and your marvelous steamboat will be back next Labor Day to grace Hesston’s Duck Lake.

For indeed Labor Day 2003 seemed incomplete without the majestic sight of the number 4 lifeboat from the Great Lakes steamer Alabama plying the still waters of a lake that seems to attract more swans and Canada geese than ducks.

I know I was mightily disappointed as I arrived midday on Labor Day for Hesston’s annual Steam Show extravaganza only to see a fire truck with its emergency flashers come dashing out of the grounds toward the gate.

The only thing missing on Labor Day was Jim Kincaide at the helm of his steamboat.

I reckoned that a visitor might have had a heart attack or something and headed on over to Duck Lake for my long overdue date with the steamboat. I had every intention of putting my old sealegs back into gear and riding the boat for a turn or two around the lake, and, of course, interviewing Jim Kincaide about how he restored the boat.

But then, as I was dodging the mud puddles, I heard the following announcement over Hesston’s intercom: “There will be no more steamboat rides today.”
I went over for a look at the boat anyway, but there was no one about, so I figured sea service at Hesston had been annulled due to the rain. Although that didn't really make much sense, because I could see that lifeboat number 4 had a canopy over her boiler and benches.

I certainly did not connect the ambulance at the gate with the cancellation of cruises on Duck Lake.

At least not until sometime later when I was heading over to Hesston Junction for a ride through the rain on the Flying Dutchman Scenic Railroad with the hopes of spotting a wild turkey or two. I glanced over at the steamboat and saw a Hesston official heading down the gangway toward the boat.

So I followed after him and explained that I had come to Hesston in hopes of writing a feature for *The Beacher* on the steamboat.

"He stripped it down and beat out the dents in the hull," the Hesston man said. He added that Jim Kincaide installed the boiler on a boat that was not originally equipped with one.

He then reminded me that before the steamboat saw service in Duck Lake, it was put on static display next to the steam crane with its boiler fired up and screw turning.

Labor Day 2003 marked either the third or fourth year that Mr. Kincaide's marvelous steamboat added a nautical dimension to the Steam Show.

I went aboard the steamboat to take the requisite photos for this article, and as I sat there under the canopy I could feel Jim Kincaide's pride in his craft. Everything was ship-shape and ready for an admiral's inspection, and the only thing missing was the skipper.

Again, we pray that this will find him fully recovered and back at the helm of his mighty steamboat.

Ed. update: It has been reported that Jim had 15 stitches in his injured arm and is resting at home. This photo was taken the day before the rain came down.
On September 11, 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed secretary of the treasury.

On September 11, 1814, in the War of 1812, a United States fleet scored a decisive victory over the British in the “Battle of Lake Champlain.”

On September 12, 1948, Maine’s Republican Margaret Chase Smith was elected to the United States Senate, becoming the first woman to have served in both houses of Congress.

On September 12, 1953, in Newport, Rhode Island, Massachusetts Senator John Kennedy married Jacqueline Bouvier.

On September 12, 1958, the United States Supreme Court ordered Little Rock High school to admit blacks.

On September 12, 1959, Russia launched the first rocket to the moon.

On September 13, 1874, Austrian composer Arnold Schonberg, who developed a unique style of writing which he called “the technique of composition with 12 tones,” was born in Vienna.

On September 13, 1954, Edmund Muskie was elected governor of Maine, becoming the state’s first Democratic governor in 20 years.

On September 14, 1741, George Fredrick Handel, having worked without interruption for 23 days, finished his composition of The Messiah.

On September 14, 1752, Great Britain, along with her American Colonies, adopted the Gregorian calendar.

On September 14, 1886, George K. Anderson, of Memphis, Tennessee, patented the typewriter ribbon.

On September 15, 1916, during World War I, units of the British army became the first to use military tanks.

On September 15, 1959, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev arrived in the United States to begin a 13-day visit.

On September 15, 1963, four black children were killed when a bomb exploded in a Birmingham church.

On September 16, 1930, the Massachusetts village of Shawmut changed its name to Boston.

On September 16, 1995, a federal jury in Anchorage, Alaska ordered Exxon Corp. to pay $5 billion in punitive damages to those harmed by the Exxon Valdez oil spill of March 1989.

On September 17, 1923, Hank Williams Sr., a pioneer in country music, was born in the Alabama village of Georgiana.

On September 17, 1947, Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal took the oath of office as the first Secretary of Defense.
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9 Hole League
September 4, 2003
Championship Flight
Low Net: Linda Wilson
2nd Low Net: Jane Krol
Low Putts: Donna Hennard
Event: Jan Plecki

“A” Flight
Low Putts: Adele O’Donnell, Joan Carey, Jean Geoghegan (tie)
Event: Terry Deming, Kathy Brennan, Jean O’Neill (tie)

“C” Flight
Low Net: Tami Mullins
2nd Low Net: Mary Rose Berger
Low Putts: Betty Duggan
Event: Mary Lou Linnen
Sunken Approaches: Terry Deming #18
Birdies: Jo Vine #16

18 Hole League
September 2, 2003
Event: Low Net

“A” Flight
Event: Connie Sullivan
Low Gross: Mary Sheridan
Low Net: Donna Hennard
Low Putts: Sue Luegers

“B” Flight
Event: Nancy Pavletic
Low Gross: Marge Hurley
Low Net: Kathy Brennan
Low Putts: Joan Lincke

“C” Flight
Event: Dorie Mertz
Low Gross: Betty Duggan
Low Net: Bobbie Blank
Low Putts: Adele O’Donnell
Sunken Approaches: Donna Hennard #13

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Exit Wounds by J.A. Jance

Someone had told her once...that the truth will set you free. The story she was about to tell was the truth, but would it really free her of the demons that plagued her? What if she only made things worse? What if telling damned her forever?

Those were the thoughts of Carol Mossman the last day of her life. In a few hours she would be shot in her trailer and die while trying to crawl to the phone. Who would want this woman dead? She lived alone in the desert in the outskirts of town and was an animal hoarder—she had seventeen dogs of varying ages, sizes and breeds. No one knew much about her—that is, until the animal control officer, on a routine visit to the home, found the dogs all dead in the trailer of suffocation, and Carol dead of gunshot wounds.

Carol Mossman’s murder wasn’t the only one that day; two more young women were found bound and naked and just as dead in a nearby town. Serial killer on the loose? Just coincidence?

This book had me hooked. I found myself reading while walking around the house, while putting clothes in the washer....heck, I almost took it in the shower with me.

Do you like mysteries? Westerns? Psychological drama? It’s all here. The story takes place in Cochise County Arizona and centers around the local sheriff—Joanna Brady. Yes, a lady sheriff. Her husband, Butch Dixon, is a househusband and struggling author who stays home and looks after Jenny, Joanna’s 13 year old daughter from her first marriage.

Andy, Joanna’s first husband, had been a deputy sheriff campaigning for the office of sheriff when he was gunned down by a drug dealer’s hit man.

Even Joanna’s father had been a sheriff—I guess her running for office after her husband’s death was natural progression.

This book is one of a series about Joanna Brady, but the great thing is, you don’t have to have read previous books to understand the characters. Author Jance does a fantastic job of weaving past histories into the present story so that you have a clear understanding of the main characters.

As Joanna starts the painfully slow process of gathering evidence, making phone calls, taking statements, we also see the other side of her life away from the sheriff’s office. And here’s where author Jance really shines. Carol Mossman’s murder isn’t the only thing on Sheriff Brady’s plate. The reader follows her through the days as she balances directing her staff, shuffling through the mountain of paperwork on her desk, sitting in on interrogations, and all while squeezing in some campaign time at local fairs, dinners and civic events. It’s quite a schedule. And then there’s finding time to watch her daughter compete in barrel racing. Did I mention Joanna has just found out she’s pregnant? One more little detail of a very complicated life. How will the voters take this piece of information? Joanna’s bouts of vomiting made me think of Frances McDormand as the pregnant sheriff in the movie “Fargo” where she is throwing up by the side of the road during an investigation. Very funny stuff.

Joanna’s investigation hones in on Carol’s family—a family that is anything but mainstream. Incest and bigamy, as well as a religious cult, rear their ugly heads as Joanna gets closer to the real reason behind Carol Mossman’s death.

I loved the blending of Joanna’s life with all the intricacies of running the very political sheriff’s department. Joanna’s everyday life as wife, mother, law enforcement officer and political campaigner is a refreshing change from mainstream mysteries. Not better, just different.

This is a total package. Trust me, you’ll get your money’s worth on this one.

Till next time, happy reading!

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