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ThumbPrint News

An imprint of places and people at work and play in the Thumb of Michigan

MAY 2010



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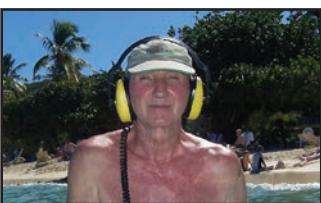
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The Captain of Russell Island

By **Ralph McKinich**

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Russell Island is a small private island of approximately 200 acres located between Algonac and Walpole Island and it separates the St. Clair River into the North and South Channels. Russell Island is actually made up of three islands, including Anderson Island on the northwest and "The Gold Coast" on the southwest.

Russell Island has about 150 cottages, which are summer homes for people from many different parts of Michigan. There are no cars on the island. The only motorized vehicles

that are allowed are golf carts. The islands are divided by many canals and cuts, which are connected by wooden bridges for walkers and golf carts.

The island is accessible only by private watercraft, or by the Russell Island ferry which is docked next to the Algonac ferry that takes cars and passengers across the St. Clair River to Canada. The Russell Island ferry is a passenger only ferry (though a few dogs manage to gain passageway with their owners.)

In the summertime, each weekend brings throngs of people waiting to board the Russell Island ferry. Usually



The Russell Island Ferry with Captain Bud Breitmeyer at the helm.

See **THE CAPTAIN**, Page 20

Let's Go Flying!

By **Diane L. Kodet**

ThumbPrint News Editor

"It is really freeing when you are up there. All the problems of everyday life are left below." These words were spoken by Robert Montgomery, who had just returned from flying at the Saint Clair Flight Academy, which is at the St. Clair County International Airport in Kimball Township.

Robert, who owns a house in Lexington and a condo in St.

Clair Shores, is a respiratory therapist who began taking flying lessons as a hobby and has now logged over 100 flying hours in Michigan, Wyoming, Montana and Florida. When Robert first began his lessons, it was at a different airport than the St. Clair County International Airport. He went through four instructors who didn't seem to be giving him the type of instruction he desired to have. That was when he changed



Keith Kodet of ThumbPrint News gets his first flying lesson.

See **FLYING HIGH**, Page 36



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Something today is making me feel optimistic about the state of the economy in Michigan's Thumb area and I think it is the strengths I am seeing in small and family-owned businesses as I travel the back roads in search of photos and story opportunities for *ThumbPrint News*.

It has been said that small business is really what drives the United States economy. According to the Small Business Administration, over half of the nation's private workforce are employed in what is classified as a small business – those with fewer than 500 employees. Small businesses make up more than 99.7% of all employers.

How many of our readers remember their first jobs? I do. Mine was working in a fast food restaurant chain. Statistically, most young people are first employed in a small or family business. These are the backbones of our neighborhoods. Many family members may work together to make the business succeed. They take pride and ownership in their work and develop personalized relationships with their customers and offer high-quality products and impeccable customer service.

In this issue of *ThumbPrint News* we feature so many small businesses in our stories and in our advertisements. There is Haack's Farm Greenhouses in Columbus, who keep the entire family involved in every aspect of growing and selling plants. There is Steve Grosso, of Grosso's

Trucking and Supply in Ira who started his small business straight out of high school and now has a customer base that includes many persons who have become lifelong friends and hunting partners. There is Port Huron Building Supply in Port Huron that began in 1946 as a family business and still provides quality service to contractors and the public. There is Tom Jusko of Jusko's Greenhouses in Richmond who now runs a business started by his parents and continues to expand his offerings each year in spite of the economy.

In this issue we give the "Thumbs Up" award to Joe and Cathy Peters for recently opening The Dairy Boy in Marysville, after purchasing an ice cream business on Gratiot Avenue that had been a staple of the community for a long time until it closed a few years back. We are glad its back!

ABC Home and Commercial Services in Algonac instructs the drivers of its service vehicles that they must stop at all lemonade stands they see during the

summer when they are servicing a neighborhood because these are examples of entrepreneurship at its best.

These businesses and business owners, and countless more like them in the Thumb Area make me optimistic that Michigan can recover from the hardships of the past few years because the spirit, enthusiasm, commitment and basic belief in the goodness of people lives on with them.

A sobering statistic from the Small Business Administration is that four years after start-up, only half of all small businesses remain open. It is up to us as a society to help increase those odds. Support your local businesses by buying their products and services whenever possible. Evaluate carefully new city, state or national ordinances or laws for their effect on small businesses. We in the Thumb Area not only lose job opportunities when a small business closes its doors, but often lose a treasure that has helped weave the fabric of what our communities are today.

DIANE KODET
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*



Correction to the April 2010 Edition

In the April, 2010 edition of *ThumbPrint News* one of our cover stories was "Say Goodbye to Old Marysville High." On the cover, we mentioned the grand celebration that will take place on June 5, 2010 when the current Marysville High School closes. However, on

page 36 of the same edition we mistakenly gave the date as June 6, 2010. The celebration takes place on June 5. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

DIANE KODET
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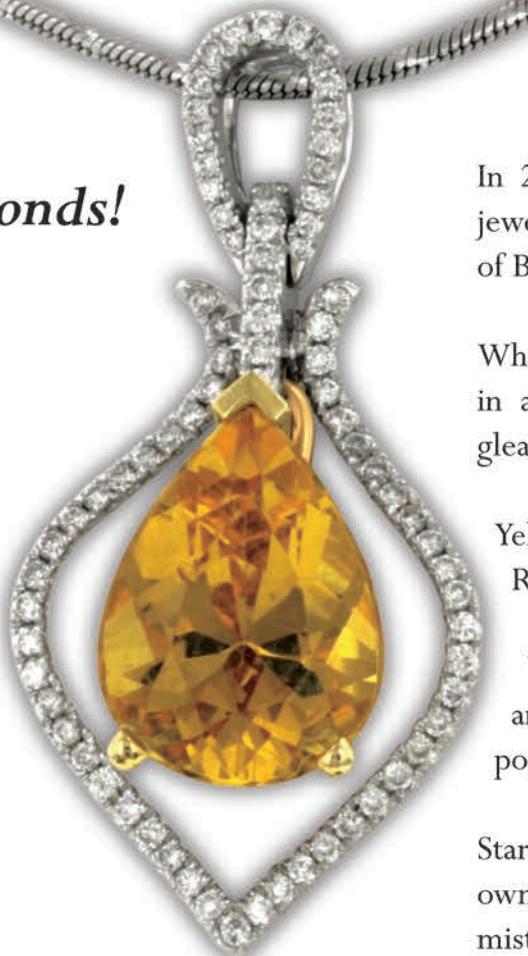
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Barbershops – A True Piece of Americana

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

"It is a place where your senses are stimulated – what you see and hear, how things feel, the wonderful smells," says Michaelene Ste. Ece. "It is like a home away from home."

"People come here to relax, talk and hang out," says Paul Kopcan.

"I really enjoy the personalized aspect of the profession," contributes Jim Milhoan.

"It is the last refuge for men," believes Dave Fair.

All four people are talking about barbershops, which seem to be a fading institution in many cities and towns. However, these four people, Michaelene, Paul, Jim and Dave, are trying very hard to keep the tradition and romance of the barbershop alive. All four also share another thing in common – they are licensed by the State of Michigan as barbers and own their own barbershops.

If there was a golden age for barbershops it would have been from the 1880s until the 1940s. The clientele was all male during these times and it was a place where men went to socialize. Most men visited the barbershop at least weekly but some even made it a daily habit.

Barbershops in many towns were eloquent, with marble counters,



Barber shop circa 1899

elaborate wood-carved barber chairs, fine leather chairs for waiting, crystal chandeliers, and rows of colorful shaving mugs and blown glass tonic bottles. To a gentleman, this was the place to go to relax, much the same as the local saloon.

Barbershops started to decline in 1904 when safety razors were first mass marketed by Gillette. Many soldiers, who were issued them along with straight razors during World War I, chose the former once they returned home. Getting shaved at the local barber shop became more of a special occasion than something that was done daily or weekly.

Other things that contributed to the number of barber shops in each town declining were the marketing of at-home haircutting kits by companies like Sears and Roebuck, the 1960's era when the fad became longer and shaggier hair and the 1980's era when both men and women began to frequent the new unisex styling salons.

Today, Paul Kopcan, the owner of Main St. Barber Shop at 23149 Main St. in Armada, is worried that barbers are a dying breed. "Kids don't come in here and ask how they can learn to be a barber like they did in the past," he says. Paul has been a barber for 20 years. Two years ago, he purchased the 1952 building where his shop is today. The building was the sight of an original Armada barber shop.

Daniel Weed, who has lived in Armada for 55 years, got his first haircut in the building that now houses Main St. Barber Shop. He likes the "man conversation" he can have while getting hot lather applied to his face and neck. That



Dave Fair, co-owner of Dave and Jim's Barber Shop in Port Huron, gives Guido Ofeno of St. Clair a haircut while partner Jim Racz watches.

conversation today centers mostly around politics and the economy, according to Paul. "I have never seen so many nervous people come in here. On some days, I almost feel like I have to be a psychiatrist at the same time for them," says Paul.

Paul, on the other hand, is glad that he chose barbering as a profession. "This job is somewhat recession-proof. Even in tough times, people still want to have a good haircut for weddings and funerals."

To learn his profession, Paul attended the only barber college left in Michigan, the Flint Institute of Barbering. It was a one year course that required 2,000 hours of

schooling, practical internship, and passing of the State Boards before he received his barber license.

Paul is passionate about preserving the art of barbering. He collects everything that has to do with his profession, including leather straps, barber poles, straight edge razors, shaving mugs and more. The chair that provides comfort to his clients was made in 1920 by the Kokan Company out of St. Louis, Missouri.

Paul will cut women's hair as well as men's, though the décor and conversation definitely makes this a guy's hangout. He encourages fathers

See BARBER SHOPS, Page 30

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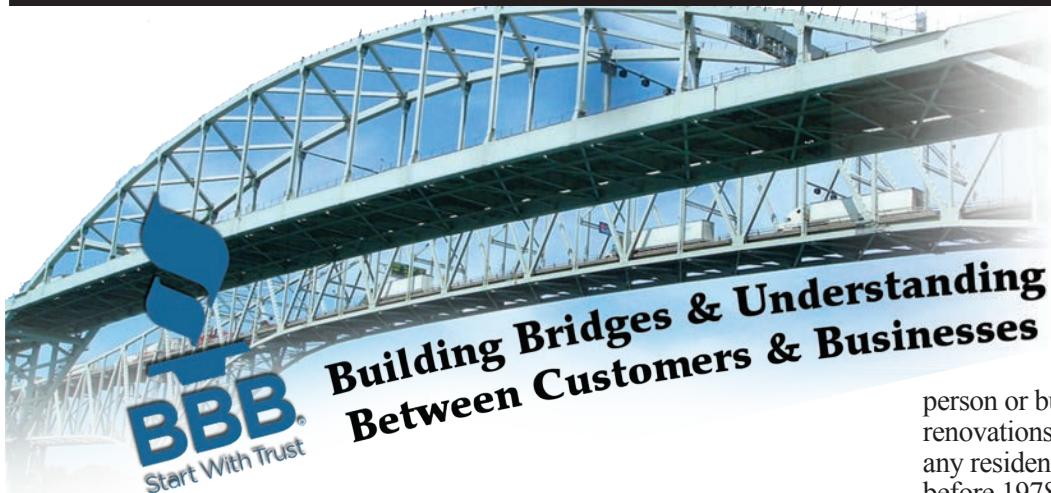
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Consumers and Contractors Should Be Aware of New Lead-based Paint Rule

By Tim Burns

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

If you own or lease a home that was built before 1978, or are in a business that involves making repairs to these residences, it is important to be aware of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule that took effect on April 22, 2010. This regulation creates new educational requirements and procedures for containing construction debris for contractors that could potentially impact the amount of work and cost involved with completing a home improvement project. It could also improve the health and safety of a household from the threat of lead paint and dust during and after renovations.

Lead is a toxic metal that was used for many years as a pigment and drying agent in "alkyd" oil based paint until it was banned from residential

use in 1978. Lead exposure, especially for children under six years old, may cause a range of health effects ranging from behavioral problems and learning disabilities to seizures and death. Remodeling or renovations in older buildings containing lead-based paint can often generate lead contaminated dust that can settle on floors, walls and furniture. Under these conditions, children can ingest lead dust from hand-to-mouth contact or in contaminated food. Settled lead dust can re-enter the air through cleaning, such as sweeping or vacuuming, or by movement of people throughout the house. The primary goal of this new federal rule is to protect children from lead tainted dust contamination resulting from home renovations and repairs.

The Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule now requires special certification and procedures for any

person or business that performs renovations for compensation to any residential property constructed before 1978. This includes home improvement contractors, window replacement companies, as well as plumbers, electricians, painters, maintenance workers and landlords who perform repairs and renovations themselves. In addition to residential homes, this rule also applies to any public building or commercial building built before 1978 where children under the age of six are present on a regular basis. This includes, but is not limited to, child care centers, schools and hospitals. Specifically, these requirements apply to maintenance, renovation or repair activities where six square feet (about the size of a poster) or more of a painted surface is disturbed inside or where 20 square feet (about the size of a door) or more is disturbed on the exterior.

Consumers should ask for proof of certification from their contractors before work begins on these types of projects and be aware that these new regulations may create some additional inconveniences and costs as more stringent efforts are now required to contain work areas,

minimize dust and clean up debris for projects that have the potential for lead contamination. Businesses affected by the new regulation should also be aware that failure to comply with the new rule could result in fines of up to \$37,500 per violation and the potential loss of a good reputation in the community for ignoring the law.

Businesses in compliance with the EPA will have been approved as a Certified Renovation Firm, will have received the necessary training and certification from an EPA-accredited training provider for Lead Safe Work Practices, will have assigned a Certified Renovator to be present at each project, will provide consumers or tenants with the EPA pamphlet "Renovate Right" prior to the start of any qualifying project, will ensure that lead safe work practices are used throughout the project and will maintain records documenting that the required information has been provided as subject to the rule.

For more information on the Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule, visit www.epa.gov/lead or call the National Lead Information Center at (800) 424-5323. 

Editor's Note: Tim Burns is the Public Affairs Director for the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan. BBB is a non-profit organization that fights fraud and promotes ethical business practices in the local marketplace through its business accreditation, consumer education and dispute resolution programs. Contact your local BBB by calling (248)223-9400 or visiting www.bbb.org.

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CINCO DE MAYO

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Happy Cinco de Mayo (Spanish for "fifth of May") to our *ThumbPrint News* readers! It is a day in the United States where many areas celebrate the culture of Americans who have Mexican ancestry by dancing, having ethnic foods and drinks and, of course, partying. It is, however, much more. It is also a celebration of freedom and liberty.

In Mexico itself, Cinco de Mayo is more of a regional rather than a national holiday. It is celebrated primarily in the state of Puebla. On May 5, 1862, under the leadership of General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin, the French forces were defeated at the Battle of Puebla. The French had attacked Mexico and had plans to take over the country to force payment of a debt that was owed to them. Mexican soldiers were greatly outnumbered by the French Army, who had not been defeated in almost 50 years and, since then, no country in the Americas has been invaded by an army from another continent. This is why Puebla celebrates Cinco de Mayo today. (Some Americans incorrectly believe that this is the

Mexican Independence Day which really falls on September 16, and is actually the most important patriotic holiday in Mexico.)

If you want to participate in an authentic Cinco de Mayo

celebration in the Thumb area, nothing can beat the celebration at Our Lady of Guadeloupe Hispanic Mission at 3110 Goulden Street in Port Huron. Starting at 10:00 a.m. and continuing until 6:00 p.m. on May 8 (not May 5) there will be Mexican games, authentic foods and music, a parade and piñatas for the whole family to enjoy.

There will also be a menudo contest, with a first prize of \$100. Menudo is a traditional thick soup, similar to chili, and is made with hominy (dried corn kernels that have been treated with an alkali) and tripe (made from the stomachs of various farm animals) in a clear broth or occasionally a red chile base. In Mexico, it is served on special occasions. Other ingredients usually include lime, chopped onions, cilantro, crushed oregano and crushed red chili peppers. Menudo is usually eaten with tortillas.

From 8:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. the Cinco de Mayo celebration continues with a dance for everyone in the family to enjoy. Tickets for adults are \$10.00 and children's tickets are \$7.00. Music will be provided by the Mexican band, Grupo Energia. The public is invited to all of the day's events. For more information call (810) 985-5212. 

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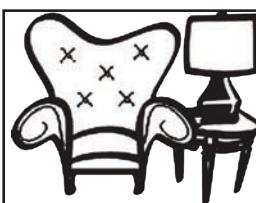
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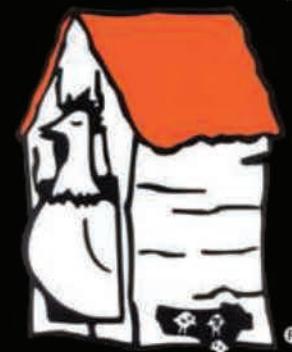
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Ask the Audiologist

By Lisa Bont
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

What causes swimmer's ear and how can it be treated?

It's May and many of you will be taking part in visiting and swimming in our state's treasure trove of fresh water lakes and streams. However, it can also be the onset of a long and painful season for some. Those who suffer from swimmer's ear (otitis externa/external otitis media) can experience itching of the ear canal, redness and mild discomfort. If left untreated, it can progress to temporary hearing loss, long-term chronic otitis externa, deep skin infections, bone and cartilage or even wide spread infection. Prompt treatment by your physician can help prevent these more serious side effects. Not all external otitis is caused by swimming, but any moisture in the ear canal can result in bacteria or fungi invading the skin of the external ear canal.

To diagnose swimmer's ear, many physicians simply need to examine the ear canal. This will lead to various treatments such as the cleaning of debris from the ear canal, an acidic solution to return the ear canal to its normal acidic environment, antibiotics to fight a bacterial infection or antifungal medication to fight a fungal infection and steroids to reduce any swelling. Often analgesics will be recommended to help with any discomfort.

Your audiologist will promote prevention and, when around water, whether it is showering or swimming, will recommend various preventative treatments. Keep your ears dry after moisture exposure by tipping the head slightly to one side to drain the moisture. You can use a blow dryer at the low setting, positioned a foot or more away from the ear, to speed drying as well. Some over-the-counter drops are also helpful to dry the ears. Drops can be made at home as well by combining one part white vinegar to

one part rubbing alcohol and putting the solution into the ear as a rinse. Do not put any foreign objects in the ear to scratch or remove debris yourself as this could scrape or irritate the delicate skin of the ear canal and leave you open to possible infection. Custom swim plugs can also be made for your ears by having your audiologist take an impression of your ears and then send the impression off to a lab to construct from hypoallergenic material. Custom swim plugs will offer the greatest protection against moisture.

Can loud noises damage hearing?

Noise exposure is prevalent in our world today and is hard to escape. Both adults and children can be exposed to intense levels of noise and risk hearing damage. Here are some tips to help you to make better decisions on hearing protection:

- If you are in an environment where you must raise your voice to be heard, you may be risking permanent hearing loss, so try to limit your exposure to these types of places.
- If you are in noise that can be measured above 85 decibels, take a minimum of a 15 minute break every few hours.
- Musicians, heavy equipment operators, dentists, truck drivers and any other individuals working in loud noise should try to limit their exposure as much as possible and wear ear protection while working.

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Editor's note: Lisa Bont is a Certified Clinical Audiologist at Advanced Audiology Services, 3158 Gratiot Blvd., Marysville, MI 48040. For other questions about hearing call her at (810) 388-9400.

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Pieces of Algonac/Clay Township History

R. Lee Poole or "Chief Waywanosh"

Submitted by The Algonac/Clay Township Historical Society

In 1836, the Poole family immigrated from Marketdrayton, England, to Manchester, Michigan. (Manchester later became the town we know as Algonac today.) They founded a general store that was a combination grocery store, shoe store, drug store and meat shop. Descendents of the original family continued to run the store through the end of the twentieth century. R. Lee Poole was the third generation to become involved in the family business. The store became the oldest continually run family business in Michigan.

R. Lee Poole was born in Algonac on June 22, 1888. He began working in the family store in his childhood. Later, when the store was divided into a clothing shop and a grocery store, he took over the grocery part of the business. R. Lee married Mattie Rathburn in 1910 and together they had ten children.

Although Poole's Grocery was an integral part of the early Algonac community for purchasing meat and groceries, many people came to the store for another reason. R. Lee Poole had an elegant handwriting style that was reminiscent of John Hancock's signature on the Declaration of Independence. Customers would ask him to write their names, which would then be framed and saved. His eloquent handwriting style was also requested when awards were given out by the town, such as Citizen of the Year or when entries were made in the Funeral Book (which told the name of the deceased, the minister or priest and all of the bearers of the casket). The Algonac/Clay Historical Society Museum houses a copy of this book.

Fred P. Gilbert

An example of R. Lee Poole's writing from an envelope at the Algonac/Clay Historical Society Museum

In addition to being a business owner, R. Lee was a Mason and the Village Clerk. As a Mason, R. Lee held almost every position possible. He devoted himself to the organization and was given The Royal Arch Mason Meritorious Award in 1960, an honor that is given only rarely.

R. Lee became a part-time clerk for Algonac in 1943 and a full-time clerk in 1956. His job required him to issue building permits, to keep records, to inform the citizens of Algonac of the rules and ordinances and to diplomatically handle complaints. He remained in that position until he retired from it at age 80 in 1968. His retirement salary at that time was only \$50.00 per month!

R. Lee played the violin and the piano and entertained his family and friends, the members of the church he attended, and the organizations to which he belonged.

R. Lee is probably most remembered for the special relationship he had with the Indians of Walpole Island. As a young man, he learned their language and spoke with many of the elderly Indians in Chippewa or Ojibwa. He was given the title of "Honorary Chief Waywanosh" in 1948. He once acted as an interpreter for the Indians in a court case in Port Huron. He also had the honor of bestowing the name "Tahquamenon" on Helen Milliken (the wife of William Milliken, the Governor of Michigan at the time) when the Artain first came to Algonac. (The Artain travels across the United States bringing museum quality art work to citizens of smaller communities.)

R. Lee spoke many other languages as well. He wrote a dictionary that defined all common words in English, Latin, Spanish, French, German and Chippewa. The dictionary, along with the headdress he received as honorary chief, are now part of the Algonac/Clay Historical Society Museum's collection.

For a period of time, R. Lee Poole wrote a column in *The Algonac Courier* called "The Indian Corner." Reprinted below is the column he wrote on February 2, 1950: (This has NOT been edited.)

I have been asked on many occasions, to recite "the Lord's prayer" in Indian, but I rarely do so, as it is rather silly to recite words in a language which cannot be understood, for the curiosity of it, even tho it be in our own true American tongue. However, it may be interesting to our readers to have it in print for your future reference in your scrap book. For this reason, I have chosen for this weeks subject "The Lord's Prayer;" as recorded in St. Matthey, 6:9-13. Line for line, it is as follows:

Negeche Nos non ke shgoong ayah yun.

(Our Father who art in Heaven)

Tuh keche nan gegahda kedeshe necoswin.

(Hallowed be thy name).

Kedo kuh mah win tuhpe begoshuh muh gud.

(Thy kingdom come)

A'she duh wand mun tuh dodum emung geshe uhkeeng.

(Thy will be done in earth.)

Tuh pesheco e'wede Ishpeming.

(As it is in Heaven).

Me she nong nogoom an duhso keeshegug bah quazhegun.

(Give us this day our daily bread).

Ahbewayan meshenong kushe muh je dodox goyin,

(And forgive us our debts).

A she ahbe wayan, mung gid wah kuhmuh jedood wemgegig.

(As we forgive our debtors).

Kago shouh she kong gan quade banduhgoce wenig,

(And lead us not into temptation).

Qunshe nongatuh muhje shewabe zewing.

(But deliver us from evil).

Keen muhke debanon ke do Kumuhwin,

(For Thine is the Kingdom.)

Kuhya mush ke we ze win, kahya peshe gan dog kezewin,

(And the power, and the glory.)

Puh na kuh kenig. AMEN

(For ever. AMEN)

In explanation: the opening sentence, "Nege she Nos non," conveys the idea of the great universal Father; and in same line "ke shoong" is used here, meaning "up in the sky" rather than the word "Ishpeming" meaning Heaven, as is used in the 4th sentence. In the 5th line (last word) the familiar word



R. Lee Poole, aka Chief Waywanosh

"bahquazhegun" (bread) is found.

So, if you have found this interesting, cut it out and paste it in your scrap-book, for future reference.

R LEE POOLE

Editor's note: The Algonac/Clay Township Historical Society Museum is located at 1240 St. Clair River Drive in Algonac. The museum is open from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. ThumbPrint News invites other historical societies in the counties covered by this newspaper to submit articles of interest in regards to the history of towns and people in their area's past for consideration for publication in future editions. It is the editor's goal to eventually have a monthly columnist from each of the counties. If interested, please email thumbprintnews@comcast.net or call (810) 794-2300.

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Just Go To Jusko's for Customer Service that Can't Be Beat!

By Ralph McKinich

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Back in 1979, Stan Jusko had big plans for his thirty acres of land in Richmond just three and a half miles east of downtown Armada on Armada Ridge Road – he would plant tomatoes and then sell them to help support his growing family of one boy and two girls. So, he purchased 20 flats of tomato seedlings from a local greenhouse grower.

Stan plowed the land with his tractor and knelt on his knees on the large clumps of clay that comprised much of his unamended soil. He labored and toiled and kept the garden weed free. He could almost taste those juicy red tomatoes as he sliced them for a sandwich – and the thought of the extra money he would make also made all of the grueling work worthwhile.

However, when the tomatoes finally ripened, Stan's dreams fell apart. All of the tomato plants were the type that produced miniature yellow pear tomatoes. Although these are delicious, they aren't what most customers are looking for when purchasing tomatoes from a farm market stand. When he later questioned the grower of the seedlings about what had happened, she merely stated that those must have been the kind of seeds she was given. She didn't realize that heartbreak was the only reward for Stan's back breaking work all season long.

Even though this was a rough beginning for Stan, it may have turned out to be a godsend. He decided that he would grow his own plants from seed from then on. Stan's first greenhouse was 8' wide by 16' long and was heated by a homemade barrel stove that he stoked with wood from used pallets



Sharron Jusko remains a part of the family business.

that he picked up at a location in Richmond. He would stoke the stove at 9:00 p.m. and then again at 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. But it worked and he grew beautiful seedlings that winter which were planted, grown and the vegetables that were harvested sold.

The rest is history. The following year, Stan put up a 100 foot frame greenhouse. Business increased again. Having run out of money to buy pre-made greenhouses, Stan built another 100 foot one out of wood with his brother. Eventually, with the help of his son, Tom, five more greenhouses were built using what Stan calls "old farm ingenuity." He even built a rolling machine that was used to bend the pipes that were needed for the frames that is still in use in the family business today.

The Jusko family continued to grow vegetables for sale until 1996. That year the family once again faced a devastation to all of their hard work. They had planted over 40,000 tomato plants and the time was nearing harvest when the entire crop was hit by tomato blight, a disease that makes the tomatoes and plants appear to have mold growing on them and also renders the tomatoes unusable.

Stan decided it was once again time to change directions. As each new greenhouse had been added and the family was involved in growing other items now, such as flowers, hanging baskets and patio pots, the struggle between growing and harvesting vegetables and the demands of growing flowers had almost become too much. Stan decided to end the vegetable business and to concentrate full-time on the growing end of the business.

Stan originally had started the business more as a hobby than as a livelihood, even though it provided a small additional income. It was his son, Tom, who really took a hold of the business and decided to make it what it is today. As Stan says, "My son did most of the work, but he listens very well!"

Tom was involved in the family business since about the age of 10. As Tom says, "I provided a lot of slave labor." It was not until he turned 20 that he really decided to make greenhouse production his career. At that time, he went with his father to buy seedlings at a large wholesale greenhouse and the row after row of



Stan (far left) and Tom Jusko observe employee Diane Muglia preparing flats.

plants fascinated him. At 21, Tom took over the family business, though his dad and his mom, Sharron, are still an integral part.

Today, Jusko's Greenhouses raise all kinds of flats of flowers, vegetable plants, patio pots, over 40 kinds of herbs, 40 kinds of hostas, and 40 kinds of daylilies that are sold to both the retail and wholesale trade. He tries to grow new varieties each year that he hopes will be in demand, such as the new petunia from Proven Winners called Pretty Much Picasso™, that he says is going to sell out quickly this year. Their specialty, however, is hanging baskets. This year, starting on February 1, they planted over 25,000 baskets! One that Tom is most proud of is a variety that contains nine different varieties of a flower called million bells. Once full grown, the flowering basket will be almost three feet across.

Customer service is paramount to the Jusko family. Their mission is "to provide the best product and an easy, convenient shopping experience for our customers." True to their word, they do that every day during the planting season. The cement floors provide a clean environment for the customers to shop, the wide aisles provide enough space, and the well-placed signage makes it easy to identify varieties and prices.

The customer service sometimes reaches even further than one would expect. Tom remembers a few years back when a new customer asked Tom to fit as many flats of begonias as he could into her Dodge Neon. Tom managed to fit 54 flats inside, thinking that the customer would be quite surprised. Her response was

simply, "Great, now I only have to make two trips!" Although surprised at the amount of her purchase, Tom's willingness to help made her a customer for life.

Tom is also concerned about the environment. He uses his one acre pond for irrigating his greenhouses and also feeds any runoff water back into the pond, so as not to deplete the ground water.

The communities of Richmond and Armada have been good to the Jusko family and Tom thinks it is his duty to give back. He has been the Lieutenant of the Volunteer Armada Fire Department for the past 10 years. Though sometimes the rigors of managing the greenhouse production and the demands of firefighting can be, in Tom's words, "insanity," he wouldn't have it any other way. He says commitment to community, family and friends is what it is all about.

Tom and his wife have three daughters who are yet to be involved in the family business. When asked if Tom hopes they will be some day, he has this to say, "If they want to that would be great, but if they don't, that is ok too." Then Tom goes back to working with his automatic transplanting machine, which can produce almost 250 flats an hour. He knows his customers, who come from as far away as Lapeer and Petoskey, will be needing them soon and he doesn't want to disappoint them.

Editor's note: Jusko's Greenhouse is located at 29615 Armada Ridge Rd. in Richmond and is open seven days a week during the growing season. Their phone number is (586) 727-GROW.

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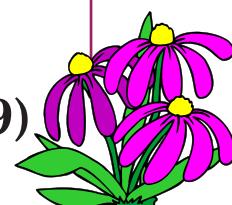
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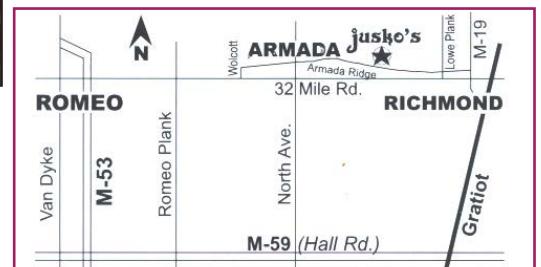


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Editor's Note: Starting with the first edition of ThumbPrint News in October of 2009, we have always invited our readers to share stories and information about their family's roots. This month, Ken Reeves of Marysville, Michigan, who has been involved in genealogical research for quite some time, shares information he has discovered about his ancestors who have roots in the Thumb Area of Michigan. Ken is hoping that some distant relatives in the area might see the article and will want to contact him by email at kenreeves@att.net.

Family Roots

By Ken Reeves

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

John Miller, my maternal great-grandfather, was born on January 5, 1823 in Hesse-Cassel, Germany. Not much is known about John's family back in Germany other than an old letter from a brother, Martin. John's sister, Christine (Christiana), either came to the United States with him or followed later, for she is found married to Robert Theile of Prussia and appears in the 1870 Wales Township, Michigan census.

John immigrated to the United States about 1848 and settled in Brooklyn, New York. While living there, he met Theresia Sophia Engel, who had immigrated from Saxony with her family. Theresia was born November 1, 1830. John and Theresia married and had a son, August, born in 1853 while living in Brooklyn. John and Theresia then moved westward to Michigan along with Theresia's family about 1854.

The Engel family was made up of father Nicholas Engel, mother Maria Kreckle Engel and children Richa, Gusta, Lavina, Ernest, William, Christine, Lottie and Mollie. They traveled by way of the Erie Canal and ended up in Detroit where they acquired a wagonload of supplies to go to Wales Township in St. Clair County. They left in the spring and the mud was so deep that Lavina, Christine and the other children had to get out and walk much of the way. Maria was able to ride. They settled on a farm next door to Wallace Hartson. He was a young school teacher nearby. Wallace and Christine (daughter of Nicholas and Maria) were married when Christine was 16.

John and Theresia settled on a farm near Lambs, in Wales Township, and neither spoke any English. John opened a tinsmith shop in Memphis, but didn't succeed at it because of the language barrier. Born to John and Theresia in Wales Township were children Matilda in 1855, Adolph in 1856, Pauline in 1860, Jack in 1862, Edward in 1865 and lastly, my grandfather, Ferdinand, in 1867. When Theresia died on June 26, 1893, John was overcome with grief. He visited her grave every day. One day, he didn't come home. When his family later searched for him they found that he had committed suicide upon his wife's grave in the Lambs Cemetery.

August married Normanda Wilkinson and they lived most of their lives near Memphis

The first picture below is the August Miller family. Pictured under that is the Ferdinand and Lily Miller family in 1919.



and later moved to Port Huron. Matilda married Charles Durfee, Adolph married Ella Douglass, Pauline married Amos Kessler, and Jack married Agnes Bowes. Brothers Edward and Ferdinand married two daughters of Melvin Lamb, after whose family the community of Lambs was named. Edward married Christiana "Kit" Lamb and Ferdinand married Susan.

The book entitled, *Biographical Memoirs of Saint Clair County, Michigan*, published in 1903 by B. F. Bowen Publishers in Indiana, says this about Melvin Lamb:

This late resident of Wales township, St. Clair county, Michigan, was born in Rensselaer county, New York, December 31, 1833, and died in Wales township December 5, 1888. Melvin Lamb was a son of John and Cynthia (Thurber) Lamb, of English descent. John Lamb was the proprietor of a hotel while a resident of the state of New York, whence he came as one of the first settlers in Wales township, St. Clair County, Michigan, and here followed the pursuit of agriculture the remainder of his life. To the marriage of John and

Cynthia Lamb were born four children, John A., a farmer who married Helen Carpenter; Melvin, whose name is given above; George H., who was the first husband of the present Mrs. Lamb, but is now deceased; and Augustine, who is also deceased. When John Lamb settled in St. Clair County the woods were thronged with Indians, but they were peaceable, and when Mr. Lamb would arise in the morning he would frequently find a host of Redskins clustered around his fireplace. He was a Democrat in politics, was a good and pious man, and died in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church.

September 28, 1867, Melvin Lamb was united in marriage with Harriet Permellia Pennock.

The children who graced the union of Melvin Lamb and wife numbered eight, the first of whom, Elva, died young; by the second birth came twins, Cynthia and Susan, of whom Cynthia is married to Arthur Sperry, a farmer, and Susan to Ferdinand Miller, also a farmer; Augustine, likewise a farmer, is married to Julia Van Volkenberg; Christiana is the wife of Edward Miller, who is managing the old homestead; Charles and one other died in infancy, and Whipple N. is still at home.

Melvin Lamb was a patriotic, true and gallant soldier and served two years in the Civil war, as a member of Company A, Forty-sixth Pennsylvania Infantry. He was a Freemason and was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Maccabees. Until the day

of his death no man was more highly honored in the community in which he passed away, and the good name he has left to his family is a richer heritage than the worldly wealth that it was his to bestow.

Mrs. Lamb was married at the age of eighteen years to George Henry Lamb, younger brother of Melvin Lamb, and who died three years later, when she became the wife of the subject.

Melvin later wrote in 1883 of his family's move to Wales Township when he was 16 years of age. He stated, "Many of the roads were corduroy roads, which means that logs were cut of sufficient length, but without much reference as to uniformity of size, and laid lengthwise across the road. Let some of the young people of the rising generation ride for two or three miles on such a road now and they will be able to form some idea of the style of roads the early settlers had to build and enjoy."

Jack Miller as a young man went to Alpena where he worked as a hostler in a livery stable. He met and married Agnes Bowes there. They left Alpena a year later and lived on a farm near Emmett, Michigan.

Later, in 1896, Jack and his brother Ferdinand moved about six miles from Sandusky. Today you will still find Miller Road where the brothers farmed. Jack Miller later moved to a farm in Watertown, Michigan, near Sandusky, in 1904. Jack and Agnes had one son and five daughters. Jack was killed on May 23, 1918 when his team of horses ran off and threw him

from the wagon, breaking his neck. His son Russell was in Europe at the time fighting in WWI. Agnes died twenty two years later at the home of her daughter, Irene, in Watertown.

The marriage of Ferdinand Miller and Susan produced four children, Harriett, Helen, Eldred and Manville. Ferdinand and Susan moved from Sandusky to Port Huron where Susan died in 1908 during childbirth. Susan and the stillborn daughter, also named Susan, are both buried in a grave simply marked by a stone that says "Mother" in the Lambs Cemetery along with many of the Lamb family.

Ferdinand later married Lillie Rensink, a childless widow. She had moved to Michigan with her husband Henry from Akron, New York. Henry was killed at the Port Huron Salt factory (later known as the Morton Salt Co.) in what is now, Marysville, Michigan, along with two fellow workers when wood bracing gave way and they were accidentally buried below 30 tons of coal.

The marriage of Ferdinand and Lillie produced children Althea in 1916, Earl in 1917, Eileen (my mother) in 1919, Naomi in 1920, and Wayne in 1925. Ferdinand made his living in Port Huron as a carpenter. He built many homes in Port Huron and barns and an ice house for the Pollina Dairy Farm in Fort Gratiot. Lillie died in 1959 and Ferdinand in 1963 at the age of 96. My mother is now the last living child and she is nearing her 91st birthday in April.

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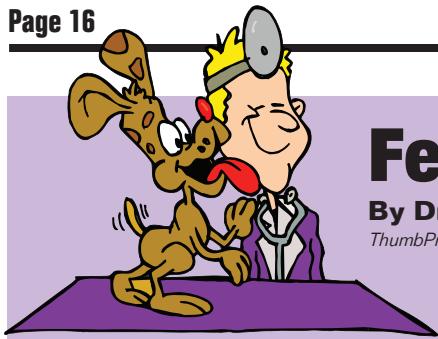
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Feline Vaccines

By Dr. DiBenedetto
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Last month, we brought you information about canine vaccines. This month, we are going to talk about feline diseases and preventive vaccines. When it comes to the health of your cat, keeping vaccines up-to-date is a primary medical need.

Feline vaccines are especially important if your cat spends time at the groomers, at a boarding kennel, or just roaming around outdoors. Indoor cats can be exposed to feline distemper and upper respiratory viruses from strays roaming through your yard.

Unvaccinated cats carrying feline viruses can shed a virus as they pass through your yard. The virus can be carried into your house by the wind passing through an open window or on your shoes and clothing. If your pet is unvaccinated and exposed to a feline virus, your pet can catch the virus, just like people catch the flu.

For the on-going health of your cat, it is extremely important that routine vaccinations are given at regular intervals from six weeks of age throughout your pet's senior years to prevent major diseases. The immune system of cats is similar to that of humans. Kittens and seniors have more difficulties fighting off infections than middle-aged cats.

Therefore, it is extremely important to start vaccinations early and to assure proper levels of immunity by continuing vaccinations throughout your cat's life.

Not all cats need to receive all vaccinations and not all cats will need the same vaccines throughout their lives. Your veterinarian will base your pet's vaccination protocol on your pet's individual risk of exposure that should be evaluated annually. But minimally, all cats should be vaccinated for the core vaccines that include: feline distemper (also called Panleukopenia), Rhinotracheitis, Calici Virus, Chlamydia and Rabies.

It is extremely important that pet owners understand the importance of vaccinating their cats for Rabies. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), Rabies is reported

in cats more than in any other domestic animal in the United States. Pet owners need to be aware that once symptoms appear, Rabies is close to 100-percent fatal. Indoor cats have been exposed to Rabies when rabid bats have flown into the house and when rabid animals, such as skunks, have ripped through door screens. Outdoor cats have even more opportunity to be exposed to a rabid animal. The best advice is to vaccinate all cats and dogs for rabies.

The following table lists the feline vaccines that are available through your veterinarian. Each virus is defined along with risk factors for exposure. If you can answer yes to any of the risk of exposure criteria, then your cat should be vaccinated. You'll notice that the core vaccines have been checked "YES" since all cats have a risk of exposure for these viruses.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FELINE VACCINATIONS

Based on the risk factors indicated for each feline vaccine listed below, rate your cat's exposure risk by checking YES or NO. If you check YES to any risk factors, your cat should be vaccinated for protection.

Feline Distemper and Upper Respiratory Diseases

DISTEMPER – Also called Panleukopenia, is a highly contagious potentially fatal viral disease that affects a cat's gastrointestinal system.

RHINOTRACHEITIS, CALICI VIRUS, AND CHLAMYDIA – These viruses are highly contagious viral infections that attack the respiratory system. These diseases are sometimes fatal to kittens.

RISK FACTORS: All cats are at risk for feline distemper and upper respiratory diseases that are spread by airborne viruses that can be carried into your own house on your clothes and shoes or on breezes through open windows. Your cat is also at high risk of exposure in outside areas where other cats have roamed. Skunks can also spread these diseases to areas where your cat can be exposed.

FREQUENCY OF VACCINATION: Annually unless replaced by annual titer testing.

Rabies – A fatal viral infection of the central nervous system which is transmitted through the saliva of an affected animal and poses a serious public health threat.

RISK FACTORS: Rabies affects ALL mammals, including humans, dogs, cats, raccoons, skunks, bats and fox. Local animal control officials have reported that rabid wild animals have been recently found in the Troy and Sterling Heights areas.

RABIES RISKS FOR INDOOR CATS: As strange as it may sound, indoor cats have been exposed to rabies. One feline patient captured a rabid bat that came into the house through the chimney while the owners were out. Another family was suddenly surprised when a rabid skunk ripped through the screen door and attacked their cat. Fortunately, for both families, their cats had been vaccinated for rabies which eliminated the risk of exposure for the pets and the families. You never know what may happen. Be safe – be wise – vaccinate for rabies!

FREQUENCY OF VACCINATION: The initial rabies vaccination is given for a period of 1 year. At the time of the first rabies booster vaccine, the duration of the vaccine resistance period becomes 3 years. From then on, rabies vaccinations are boosted every 3 years.

LICENSING: Your veterinarian will provide you with a Certificate of Vaccination that you will need to present to the pet licensing department for your municipality. Some municipalities require licensing of both dogs and cats. Please check with the pet licensing department of your municipality to be sure of the laws governing your pets.

Feline LEUKEMIA Disease – A contagious virus which inhibits the immune system and results in various types of cancer and other chronic diseases. The virus is present in saliva, urine and other bodily fluids and is typically passed from cat to cat by bite wounds and less likely by general contact, including licking, biting, and sneezing. There is no treatment or cure for a Feline Leukemia infected cat.

RISK FACTORS: Cats at high risk for Feline Leukemia include outdoor cats, cats in multi-cat households, stray cats, and kittens of mother cats with Feline Leukemia. Detection of this disease is vital, since it is almost always fatal. Cats must be Feline Leukemia tested to assure that they don't have the disease before they can be vaccinated.

FREQUENCY OF VACCINATION: Annually if at risk of exposure.

Feline IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (FIV) – A contagious and potentially fatal viral disease that interferes with the immune system of cats. Once infected, the virus lives in the blood system of an infected cat throughout their life. There is no treatment or cure for a FIV infected cat. FIV cats can live for years but stress may cause an FIV cat to die suddenly. FIV cats should be kept separate from non-FIV-infected cats to prevent further spread of this deadly disease.

RISK FACTORS: FIV is spread from cat-to-cat primarily through bite wounds, as the virus is shed in high levels through saliva. Outdoor cats are at higher risk for contracting the disease. Although rare, it is possible for a mother to pass the infection to her kittens.

FREQUENCY OF VACCINATION: Annually if at risk of exposure.

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Some time ago, during a snowfall, my snow blower broke down and I had to move the snow with a shovel. Well, I injured my shoulder in the process and it bothered me for quite some time. I thought that it would slowly go away, but it didn't. I finally saw my doctor and he had me go for some shoulder therapy.

Besides the exercises that I did with the therapist, he also gave me exercises to do each day at home. Some of the exercises involved a stretch band which he furnished,

Memoirs from The Restless Retiree Exercise, But Don't Use Pop Cans!

By Gabriel Jones

but the other exercises involved a one pound weight for each hand, which we didn't have.

The closest thing I could find for the weights were pop cans which were 12 ounces each. No problem. Grip them firmly in each hand, and do the exercises. It worked well enough until one can slipped out of my hand.

The can hit the floor and exploded pop all over the basement!

I meekly cleaned it up before my wife could see the mess.

Next, I went to the kitchen to

do my exercises using soup cans this time instead of pop cans. It worked fine again, until another catastrophe happened. I somehow got too close to the brass light fixture hanging over the table.

Crash went the can against the brass light.

Luckily, I didn't hit the glass shade, but I bent the fixture. I quickly put the cans away, and tried to straighten out the light.

The next day, as I was starting to do my exercises again in the kitchen, my wife just happened to say, "Would you move over,

so you don't hit the light fixture again?"

She startled me when she said this. I didn't think she heard the crash yesterday, but she did. Somehow, she now watches me carefully as I attempt further exercises.

Why?

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree.

Editor's note: Follow the adventures of the Restless Retiree every month in ThumbPrint News!

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Barber Shop Trivia

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

- In Egypt, barbers were well established by 500 B.C., performing such duties as shaving beards and heads and constructing false beards for both men and women!
- Public barber shops, called tonstrinae, were a part of ancient Rome in 300 B.C. The cutting of hair was usually performed by women.
- The Bible has several references to barbers.
- The first recorded organization of barbers was formed in 1096 in France.
- Before the 1700s, in addition to cutting hair, barbers throughout Europe pulled teeth, performed minor surgery, and practiced bloodletting. During bloodletting, patients squeezed a pole to allow their blood to flow more freely. The pole was often painted red to mask bloodstains. At the end of the operation the pole was wrapped in the white bandages used during the operation and put outside the shop to air. As a result, a red-and-white pole became associated with barbershops and barber guilds adopted it as their trademark.
- During the 18th century, barbers became wig makers when wigs became the rage.
- How the blue stripe began to appear on barber poles in the United States has two different versions. One says that the blue stands for veins. The other says the blue was added for patriotic reasons.
- The first barber licensing law in the United States was passed in Minnesota in 1897 and required at least an eighth grade education and twenty-five weeks of barber school.
- At the turn of the century, barbershops outnumbered saloons in many towns.
- The William Marvy Company in St. Paul, Minnesota is the last remaining barber pole factory in the country.



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The Captain: Russell Island

Continued from Page 1

they bring with them are all sorts of boxes containing groceries, supplies and other necessary items for their stays on the island. There are no public lands there; the passengers must have cottages on the island or be guests of someone who does in order to board the ferry – and the captain makes sure of it!

The captain is Captain Bud

Breitmeyer, who is somewhat of a local legend in the area. He personally built the ferry out of the hull of a burned out steel 42-foot Chris-Craft Roamer pleasure boat. The windows were salvaged from an old school bus. He has maintained and been the captain of the ferry for the past 28 years, providing service six days a week throughout the season.

Captain Bud is even more of an integral part of Russell Island than just as the captain of the ferry. He also takes care of the roadwork on the island, the garbage service and the general transport of materials on and off the island. He will also help out with backhoe work and building new septic fields.

Captain Bud says that Russell Island is "Michigan's Unknown Treasure." There is only one time

a year when the general public can get a glimpse of the laid back life style of the island – at their annual summer picnic when the island welcomes everyone. The all-day event draws hundreds of people. The island owners each cook delicious foods for a potluck at the park. Games for all ages give everyone something to do, while a band or disc jockey provides entertainment. The whole event is reminiscent of times gone by.

Before the summer rush begins, Captain Bud is already working to make sure the ferry will be ready for its first annual passengers. This year, in April, the ice flows coming down the St. Clair River wrecked havoc with the pylon

to which the ferry docks. The ice snapped it off below the water line. Captain Bud contacted a local diver, Keith Kodet, and arranged to have a barge with a crane rendezvous with them at the ferry dock. The coordinating of the repairs was something to see, but to Captain Bud it was just another normal day of making sure that everything would be ready for the upcoming season. The Russell Island property owners know that Captain Bud Breitmeyer is "Russell Island's Well-known Treasure!"



Diver Keith Kodet prepares to locate the submerged, broken pylon.



Captain Bud and the Russell Island ferry



The crane on the barge is used to remove the broken pylon.



Captain Bud readies the chain attached to the crane.



The replacement for the broken pylon

Diver Kodet and Captain Bud coordinate their plans for removing the broken pylon.

The History of Russell Island

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

In the spring of 1802, Christian Frederick Denke, a Moravian missionary from Nazareth Hall, Pennsylvania became the first person to attempt to settle on Russell Island. His purpose was to establish a mission for the Chippewa Indians. Christian stayed with the Harsen family on the present day Harsen's Island while he was building a cabin on Russell Island. He ended his stay with them, however, when a fire caused by a gunpowder explosion destroyed the Harsen's cabin and killed two of the Harsen family members.

Christian completed his cabin on Russell Island. Having learned the Chippewa language, he translated Bible passages and hymns into their language to use in his missionary work. He also planted crops of potatoes and tobacco. However, when the government passed a law prohibiting the sale of liquor to the Indians, they blamed Christian and became hostile toward him, causing him to abandon the mission in March of 1803.

The next recorded land settlement on Russell Island took place shortly after the War of 1812 when Lewis I. Brakeman and his wife, Candace, settled there. Other early settlers included Azel and Rennett Abel, James and Catherine Dunlop, Joel Tucker, Bartlett A. Luce and Thomas B. Clark.

However, the person who gave his name to Russell Island was Samuel Russell who was born in Northern Ireland on July 22, 1813. Samuel came to Algonac and on January 13, 1841 married Sarah C. Smith. He became one of the most prominent men in the county and held many positions including Custom House Officer, Clay Township Justice of the Peace, Sheriff of St. Clair County and Clay Township Supervisor. He was the owner of Russell Island from 1855 to 1858.

In 1858 Samuel Russell sold the island to John P. Clark and George Clark. The island was then rented out for pasturage for many years. Upon the death of George Clark, five prominent Detroiters secured deeds for parts of Russell Island from the Clark family.

Around 1905, Algonac merchants purchased Russell Island from the Detroit, Belle Isle and Windsor Ferry Company for \$1,700 with the purpose of creating a summer resort. The resort became known as Camp Algonac which was a tent city (it was also known as White City). Travelers arrived in Detroit by train from various inland cities in Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Ohio, boarded steamboats and traveled to Algonac, where they were ferried to Russell Island in naphtha launches. The July 14, 1908 edition of *The Bryan Democrat* from Bryan, Ohio described Camp Algonac in the following article: (Provided in its unedited form!)

TO CAMP ALGONAC \$11.15

For an exceedingly attractive and enjoyable vacation outing, the Tented City, Camp Algonac, affords an opportunity to residents of inland cities, and those residing on the lake waterways as well, that has no equal when real enjoyment, solid comfort, recreation and rest away from tiresome routine of every day life, at small cost, is taken into consideration.

Camp Algonac is situated on Russell's Island in St. Clair River and is probably the most beautiful spot nature ever designed for rest and recreation during the summer months. It is celebrated as one of the most healthful water resorts in the north and affords splendid fishing and bathing facilities.

The management of the resort has installed, under the best sanitary conditions, tent accommodations for several hundred people at one time. The accommodations consist of wall tents, 10 x 12 feet, with canvas floor, fitted out with new cot beds, bedding and camp stools with back. The tents are supplied with flies which render them heat and water proof.

The meals of the campers are served in a large dining tent, and, up to the present time from the very opening of the season, only words of praise have been heard as to the bill of fare and table service afforded. So it can readily be seen that the usual disagreeable features of camp life are eliminated in the proposition that the management has to offer.

The beauties of the water trip on the White Star Line steamers from Toledo to Algonac are almost beyond description.

The sanitation of the camp has been installed under the supervision of the board of health of Michigan, and the drinking water supply, which is unsurpassed, is furnished by a number of deep artesian wells.

A system of 2,000 candlepower arc lights, situated at frequent intervals, furnishes night illumination that lengthens the days enjoyment and makes pleasant the evening on a bathing beach that has no equal on fresh water. Campers don bathing suits in the tents and step into the water within a hundred feet of the tents on this wonderful white sand beach 2,500 feet long and from 200 to 400 feet wide.

Ample police protection is provided, making it safe for families, woman folks and children to take the outing unchaperoned. No undesirable persons are permitted on the island and no intoxicating liquors are sold upon the grounds.

Entertainment of various sorts is provided upon the island for the campers.

Camping parties are now being organized for eight day outings every Monday to Monday during July and August at Camp Algonac, transportation both ways, 20 meals and seven nights lodging, covering everything is furnished at a rate of \$11.15 from Bryan. Excursions leaves every Monday morning. See J. H. Ried for particulars.

Visitors were not allowed to cook their own food so that beauty and cleanliness could be maintained. Almost 1,500 visitors at a time could be accommodated on the island. Businesses on the island at the time of Camp Algonac included barbers and hairdressers, a post office and physicians.

Russell Island was described in brochures of the time to be the "Gem of the Great Lakes." Camp Algonac was approximately 187 acres, including 43 acres of oaks with walkways, swings and rustic seating. Every activity imaginable was available, including boating, swimming, fishing, croquet, tennis,

bowling and billiards. The view from the South Channel was fabulous, as steamships passed down the St. Clair River at the approximate rate of one every four minutes.

Camp Algonac continued in full swing until 1909 when the camp basically went broke and was closed. Until 1912 or 1913, however, campers came and went on their own to Russell Island and enjoyed the beautiful outdoor scenery.

In 1914, the Russell Island Company, Inc. was formed by William W. Hannan, a Detroit developer and William L. Carpenter and Flavius L. Brooke, both justices of the Michigan Supreme Court, who had received the title to the part of Russell Island that was formerly owned by Walter Campbell. The island was then subdivided and individual plots were put up for sale. George Brown of Algonac was hired as the general caretaker of the island. George and his wife built a house on Russell Island and remained there with their five daughters until George's death in 1962.

Russell Island today is part of Clay Township in St. Clair County and has grown to have over 150 cottages which provide summer homes to over 150 families. The Russell Island Yacht Club is the social center of the island today. It is the only store on Russell Island today, selling candy, ice cream, pop, pizza, beer and the like. Many events are hosted at the Yacht Club. The Russell Island Property Owners' Association now represents the interests of the Islanders, takes care of the playgrounds and docks and subsidizes the Russell Island Ferry. Those lucky enough to venture on to the island today will inevitably be taken back to another era when life seemed more simple and carefree. It is an atmosphere the Russell Island dwellers wish to preserve far into the future.



The Russell Island ferry with Russell Island in the background.

Mother's Day - 98 Years as a National Holiday

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

On May 9, people in the United States will pay tribute nationwide to mothers for the 98th year as the holiday of Mother's Day is observed. Although celebrations honoring mothers can be traced back to the spring celebrations in ancient Greece which honored Rhea, the Mother of the Gods, our modern day celebration began in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day. The work of three women in particular inspired the proclamation.



Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis

The first was Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis. She was born in Culpeper, Virginia, on September 30, 1832. After marrying, she moved to the town of Webster. In 1858, as a young Appalachian homemaker, she worked to improve health and sanitary conditions through a series of Mother's Day Work Clubs that she organized in several Virginia cities. The clubs raised money for medicine, hired women to help out in families where the mothers were ill and also provided inspection guidelines for bottled milk and food. In addition, classes were organized that taught nursing and sanitation.

Webster, in Taylor County, was a major stop on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the town became a strategic site during the Civil War. The Mother's Day Work Clubs declared their neutrality, under Ann's urging, and treated, fed and clothed the soldiers on both sides who were stationed in the area. Ann devoted herself to the Clubs' mission, despite the fact that she was dealing with personal tragedies in her own life. She was the mother to twelve children, eight of whom died before becoming adults.

As the war was winding down, the Jarvis family moved to Grafton. In 1865, Ann organized a Mother's Friendship Day in Pruntytown to

bring together, in peace, soldiers and neighbors of all political beliefs. This became an annual event for several years.



Julia Ward Howe

The second woman who influenced our modern day celebration of Mother's Day was Julia Ward Howe. She was born in New York City in 1819. She is most remembered as being the author of the famous poem, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," which was later set to music.

During the Civil War, Julia also worked with soldiers on both sides. She realized that the devastation was far greater than just the death and disease she dealt with on a daily basis. She was profoundly influenced by the suffering she saw in the widows and orphans of soldiers who were killed in the war and by the economic devastation that followed the war.

In 1870, Julia Ward Howe took on a new cause when war again began to surface with the Franco-Prussian War. She called for women to come together across national lines and join together to oppose war in all of its forms. She issued a Declaration that she hoped would spur women to action. Influenced by the work of Anna Jarvis, she attempted to get a formal recognition of a Mother's Day for Peace, but her attempts failed.

The third person who influenced the establishment of a national Mother's Day was the daughter of Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis, who was also named Ann. When the elder Ann died on May 09, 1905, the younger Ann followed in her mother's footsteps and started her own crusade to found a memorial day for mothers. She began a letter-writing campaign to urge ministers, businessmen and congressmen to establish a holiday that would increase respect for parents and strengthen family bonds.

The first Mother's Day was celebrated in Grafton, West

Virginia in 1908 in the church where the elder Ann had taught Sunday school for many years. (Today, Grafton is home to the International Mother's Day Shrine.)

The Mother's Day International Association was started on December 12, 1912, to promote and encourage meaningful observances of the event. From there, the custom of celebrating Mother's Day caught on, spreading eventually to 45 states. It was six years later, in 1914, that Mother's Day was officially proclaimed for the first time to be a national holiday when President Woodrow Wilson read these words:

Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the said Joint Resolution, do hereby direct the government officials to display the United States flag on all government buildings and do invite the people of the United States to display the flag at their homes



The International Mother's Day Shrine in Grafton, West Virginia.

or other suitable places on the second Sunday in May as a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country.

Mother's Day is now celebrated in all 50 states and has crossed international boundaries with celebrations on various dates in many countries around the world. 🌸

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Mother's Day Trivia

Gathered By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Here is a collection of fascinating Mother's Day Trivia – some hard to believe, yet true!

- ♥ In the majority of the world's languages, the word for "mother" begins with the letter M.
- ♥ The youngest authenticated mother is Lina Medina, who delivered a 6½ pound boy by cesarean section in Lima, Peru in 1939, at the age of 5 years and 7 months!
- ♥ The oldest authenticated mother is Satyabhama Mahapatra, a retired 65-year-old schoolteacher in India who gave birth to a baby boy on April 9, 2003. The baby was conceived through artificial insemination using eggs from the woman's 26-year old niece and sperm from her niece's husband.
- ♥ The mother who holds the longest interval between the birthing of her two children is Elizabeth Ann Buttle whose daughter, Belinda, was born on May 19, 1956 and her son, Joseph, who was born on November 20, 1997. The babies were born 41 years 185 days apart. Elizabeth was 60 years old when Joseph was born!
- ♥ The highest officially recorded number of children born to one mother is 69. The first wife of Feodor Vassilyev of Russia between 1725 and 1765 gave birth to 16 pairs of twins, seven sets of triplets and four sets of quadruplets. Sixty-seven of the babies survived past infancy!
- ♥ There are 84 million mothers in the United States.
- ♥ August is the most popular month in which to have a baby.
- ♥ The average age of a woman giving birth for the first time in the United States is 24 years and 8 months.
- ♥ There are more phone calls made on Mother's Day than on any other day of the year.
- ♥ Mother's Day is the busiest day of the year for restaurants and for florists.
- ♥ While nearly 80 percent of Americans will buy a card for their mothers this year, 83 percent of the cards will be purchased by daughters.
- ♥ Anna Jarvis who started Mother's Day celebrations also filed a lawsuit in later years to have them stopped, as she was despondent that Mother's Day had become too commercialized. She had hoped for a day of reflection and quiet prayer by families, thanking God for all that mothers had done. She lost her fight.

I Remember Mama

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist



Grace Gillis Hart

I Remember Mama was first written as a musical play in 1944 and then used for a feature film four years later. It eventually became a favorite weekly television series in the 1950s and centered on the lives of a fictional immigrant family of the early 20th century in America.

I believe most of us who can remember watching the ongoing story of the Hanson family could see small bits and pieces of our own lives as the daily activities unfolded before us on the small black and white television screen in the corner of the living room. The story, of course, focused on the matriarch of the family and of her wisdom, love and guidance. The program would always end with the oldest daughter's memories narrative about the family and conclude with the words, "But, most of all, I remember Mama."

Each of us has a mother and memories of her as we grew up, which perhaps is why the fifty-year old series still has appeal. The month of May provides us with a Sunday set aside for the celebration of the love and care given by this special person in our lives. For some, I assume the views and recollections about childhood and the memories of their mothers will vary. But mine, after many years, are vivid and provide some of my greatest treasures, just like a television program.

My bank of memories as I have aged has grown larger and now holds warm thoughts of a childhood blessed with my mother's love and the many sacrifices she made for her children. Since I was the oldest and the only boy in a family of five children, my observation point was a little different than that of my siblings. I felt her special love, and could witness it as she worked hard to raise the five children she gave birth to in the short span of seven years.

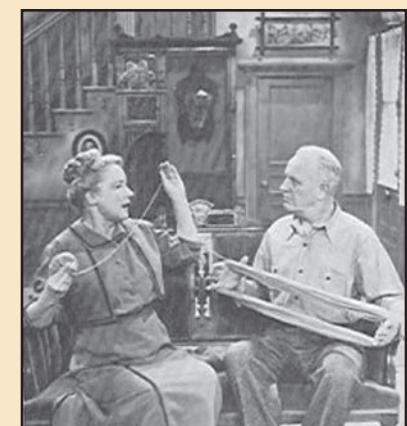
As I was struggling with the process of maturing, my mother was always the "wind beneath my wings," protecting me from those things she felt would harm me. When I experienced disappointments, she was there to offer comfort and understanding. When I did something explicitly unacceptable, as I often did, she provided the needed discipline in what I now recognize as a loving way. When I was hurt, she was too and, I'm confident, shared in my tears. She participated in my joys, my trials and my proudest moments. As I grew older she inspired in me a thirst for life and all that it offers. And, her spirituality strengthened mine even though she was not aware that was happening.

My mother was and is an exceptional and generous woman, a model for others, and truly God's gift to me. I'm confident that my fond description of this special lady is shared with many others as they think about their mothers, especially at this time of year.

There are integral aspects of each of our childhoods that make us who and what we are today. Many can be attributed to the intangible gifts from our mothers.

Possibly, it's a loving, sharing and supportive nature that you not only cherish, but are now able to pass on to your children. Maybe it's a characteristic of strength, patience and thoughtfulness that is now a part of your personality. It could be the consistent encouragement to never give up and to discover your real potential through education and a good work ethic. It might even be your desire to be polite, courteous and respectful as taught to you by a caring mother. The greatest gift may very well have been your spiritual beliefs and an ongoing strength found in true faith.

Regardless of the memories, we all need to remember that mothers are truly phenomenal. Their love is undaunting, unquestionable, and possibly to others, even unreasonable. To me, a mother's love is compassionate, flawless and unconditional. As we enter the month of May let's each enjoy all that it offers, but, most of all, let's remember Mama.



I Remember Mama was a weekly television series in the 1950s.

A Special Tribute to Mothers from ThumbPrint News Readers



Rachel Perkins of Algonac with her mother, Lana Baird, of Algonac

My mother is special because she has been the rock of our family through triumphs and adversity. She has remained strong in her faith and her love for us.



Kathleen Camden of Pennsylvania with her mother, Ruth Boss Camden

My mother was a teacher before she married and raising six children always brought that teaching ethic, subtly to us. She shared her wisdom and calmness with me throughout her life. The house was always filled with kids – her own and their friends. She led by example rather than words, and always made sure we had enough – enough to eat, enough to wear, enough love. She was also a good listener, offering advice only when asked. She loved the lighthouses and gardening and this love lives on in my own daughter and in me.



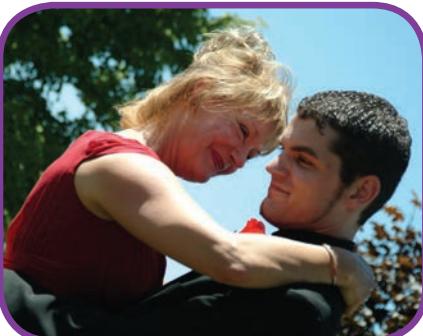
Michelle Patterson of Marysville with her mother, Andonina Marie Baril of Roseville

My mother's love is unconditional. She remembers everybody's birthday and always sends a card. The sweet scent of Skin So Soft will always remind me of her.



Tena Rick of Algonac with her mother, Ann Baslee, of Port Orange, Florida

If only one word could best describe my mom, it would be 'giver'. She is the most giving person to her 9 children and grandchildren, to her church, her friends and to Meals on Wheels. Most of all she is a giver of her heart. I love you, Mom! Happy Mother's Day to the best mom ever!



Francis J. Sampier with his mother, Vicki Sampier, of Harsens Island

My mother is special to me because no one believes in me more than her, no matter how big or challenging my ideas are. My memories of her include her warmth and her laughter, like when we play board or card games together or watch movies. More importantly is her great spiritual advice she still instills in me to this day. She puts a smile on my face and inspires me to make her proud.



Lori Montgomery of Algonac with her mother, Linda Osobka, of Macomb

Mom, I wouldn't be who I am today without you. You taught me to be kind to others, to be honest and to live simply and I love you for that. I love you, Mom!



Joan Worswick of Algonac with her mother, Kathleen Camden, of Pennsylvania

My mom and I have a close relationship and have traveled extensively together. We share a love of gardening, the ocean, scrapbooking, lighthouses and life! We enjoy each other's company and laugh a lot when we're together. I treasure every moment I have with her!



Barb Kozel of Algonac with her mother, Doris Pearson, of Harsen's Island

My mom has always put her children first. She worked hard to provide us with a good life.



Patty and Pam Allen of Algonac with their mother, Lorraine Allen of Algonac

Mom is special to both of us. She is the mom that you could count on for everything, good or bad. We are still so lucky to have her in our lives.



Derek Irwin of Cottrellville with his mother, Carol Irwin, of Marysville

My mom has always been and forever will be my biggest fan!



Max Tavolacci of Algonac with her mother, Jennie Cieszynski, of Hamtramck

My mom is so special – she does everything for her children.



Amanda Gill of Marine City with her mother, Karry Gill, of Cottrellville

Being an only child, my mother is my best friend. We enjoy playing cards, shopping and going out to eat together, and always have a blast.



Dawn Miller of Marine City with her mother, Sharron Patterson, of Marine City
The most memorable thing from my childhood is the millions of hours my mom gave up for me, hauling me to horse shows, trail rides and countless 4-H programs. Thanks, Mom!



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The Roots Go Deep at Haack's Farm Greenhouses

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

From the time that Glen Haack could barely walk, he was helping his mother and father, Allan and June, care for their 200 acre vegetable farm in Armada. At one time, their farm was one of the largest zucchini producers in the area, in addition to producing a wide variety of vegetables. Glen became involved in every aspect of farming, from the tilling to the planting, to the harvesting, marketing and selling of the produce. Although the work was difficult at times, Glen loved it and knew at a young age that he would follow in his parents' footsteps and also become a grower for his livelihood.

At the age of 15, Glen built his first greenhouse on his parents' land. He passionately grew flowers and vegetables of many kinds, which his father sold at Detroit's Eastern Market. The following year, Glen put up another greenhouse and then another. Many of Glen's family and friends helped work in his expanding business, including his future wife, Sabrina.

When Glen and Sabrina married



From an early age, Glen worked with his father, Allan Haack, on their vegetable farm in Armada.

in 1993, they purchased 80 acres of land in Columbus, at the corner of Palms Road and Yager Road. A year later, the five greenhouses that by this time Glen had built on his parents' land were taken down and reassembled on Glen and Sabrina's property. For the nine years following, Glen and Sabrina took care of 67 acres of vegetables and grew flowers and bedding plants that were sold mostly to other farm markets and at Eastern Market.

It was not until 2001 that Glen and Sabrina started directly selling to the public from their greenhouses. Today there are 11 ground to ground gutter connect greenhouses where they grow vegetables, herbs, over 15,000 hanging baskets, patio pots, flats of flowers, perennials and much more. Overall, there is over an acre of greenhouses all under one roof, with wide, cemented walkways and shopping carts for their customers' convenience. Haack's Farm Greenhouses today sells to both retail and wholesale customers.

Haack's Farm Greenhouses attracts people from many different areas, who consider the greenhouses to be a destination shopping experience. Glen and Sabrina will custom design pots of all sizes, including ones that are brought in by the customer, directly to their customer's specifications and then will grow them out for a few weeks until they are just right for taking home.

Glen and Sabrina are also concerned about the environment and try to do as many things as they can to go green. The water that is used in the greenhouses is recycled. The water that comes off the gutters after a rain goes into their pond. Most of their vegetated crops are rooted by them, which cuts down

on cardboard, Styrofoam, packaging material and fuel. Any other materials that can be recycled are recycled. Fertilizing and spraying are kept to a minimum and only done when absolutely necessary.

The high quality plants and excellent selection is what keeps Haack's customers coming back. But, there is something else that returning customers come to see and that is Glen and Sabrina's four boys, Zack, Alex, Nick and Thomas, whose ages range from 8 to 15. As Glen says, "Our customers have grown up with the kids." Just as Glen was intimately involved with the growing process as a young boy on his parents' farm, his children have grown up in the greenhouses from the time they could crawl. Many customers are just as anxious to see how much the boys have grown when they return each spring as they are to see what new plants Glen has grown for the season!

For Glen, this close family bond with his boys is one of the joys of what he has chosen to do. "I could have chosen a lot of different things in life that probably would have brought in more money than this greenhouse business does," says Glen, "but I would never give up the opportunity I have had to watch my boys grow up. I've been involved with them every day. I saw them take their first steps. I wouldn't have missed those things for the world." Glen hopes someday to pass the torch down to his boys, if the interest is there – and it seems to be. All four of the boys help out on a daily basis with different facets of running the business.

Glen's and Sabrina's roots are in



Glen and Sabrina Haack, along with their four children Thomas (holding flower) Alex (just behind Thomas) with Zack just behind him and Nick next to Alex.

the soil – and in their family. They have built special relationships with their customers. Last year, even in one of the worst periods in history for Michigan's economy, their business continued to grow. The Haack family knows what it takes to succeed – hard work. That is something that was instilled in both Glen and Sabrina at a young age and something they are passing down to their children. It is a welcome sight to see this special quality in a family today and is part of what keeps Haack's customers coming back each year. 



Following in his dad's footsteps, son Thomas began helping at the greenhouses at an early age.

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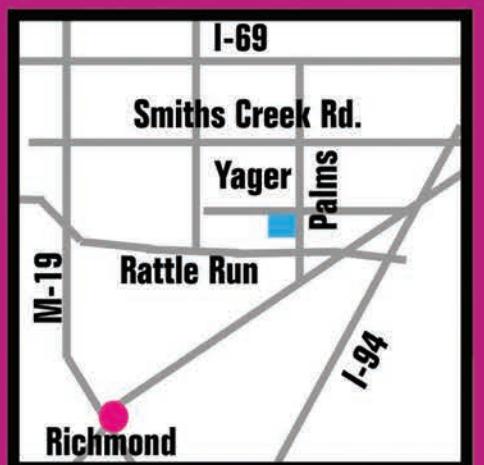
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Barber Shops: Americana

Continued from Page 4

and sons and grandpas and grandsons to spend some time together by providing refreshments, old video games (like Packman), a bean bag toss and even a horseshoe pit outside in warmer weather. (For the dads, when they aren't there with their sons, he even keeps cold beer and a bottle of Captain Morgan in the refrigerator, just in case the need arises.)

When asked what he thought was the most unusual style he ever had to cut in his career, Paul emphatically states that it was the mullet. "Business in the front, party in the back as they say," says Paul. "I never did like that cut."

Paul's specialty is the flat top, which he feels is one of the hardest cuts to do. "I have clients who come from all over, including North Branch and St. Clair Shores just because of how I cut a flat top."

Jim Milhoan has been a barber for 30 years. Two weeks out of high school, he entered barber school in Toledo. In 2001 he came up to Lakeport, Michigan from Ohio and opened Jim's Barbershop, which is a one chair barber shop within about a 12' x 12' area, located at 7125 Lakeshore Road. He comes from a long line of barbers, including his father who is still a barber in Lexington



Jim Milhoan, owner of Jim's Barber Shop in Lakeport, comes from a family of barbers.



Paul Kopcan, owner of Main Street Barber Shop, gives Daniel Weed a trim.

Heights. "My father is old school," says Jim. "He thinks everyone needs the clippers!" Two of his brothers who live in Arizona are also barbers, as is his father's wife and one of his brother-in-laws. His sister and daughter have both completed their cosmetology certificates.

Jim's shop doesn't do the old-fashioned straight razor shaves for the face. He says they take too long and he would have to charge more than his customers would be willing to pay. Besides, Jim says, with the worries today about spreading AIDS and hepatitis from contact with an infected person's blood, many barbers just won't risk it.

The hardest haircut Jim has ever done was on a cadaver. "The guy just laid there and it was hard to cut the hair on the back of his head. Of course, no one was ever going to see that part anyway," says Jim.

Jim's sense of humor really comes out when he relays some of his barbering stories, like the time when a biker came into his shop with long hair and a beard that hung all the way down to his stomach, a "belly beard",

as Jim calls it. The gentleman had decided that he wanted everything cut off, but wanted his moustache left. With the customer's back to the mirror, Jim did what was asked of him. When it came time to cut the moustache, Jim decided to play a joke on the customer. He left the sides of the moustache hanging down just as long as the beard had been prior. When Jim turned the customer around so he could see the results, the man was certainly surprised, but, to Jim's amazement, decided he was going to leave it that way. A week or so later, Jim heard a bike honking outside his shop and he went out to look and there was his customer on his Harley with his moustache ends thrown over his shoulders. As he sped off, they trailed straight out in the wind.

Another favorite joke of Jim's is when a regular customer of his comes in who always wants a traditional short Marine haircut. If he has some unsuspecting people waiting in the shop for a cut, he will start by cutting short little spots with the clippers all over the client's head, so that little splotches are showing everywhere.

He loves the expressions on the faces of the people waiting when he turns his client around into their full view, before he proceeds to do the actual cut.

Dave Fair has been a barber since 1963. He opened Dave's Barbershop in Port Huron in 1974, after attending barber school in Detroit. He says that at that time almost all of the barbers in training were men. Jim Racz, who attended barbing school quite a few years later, says when he was a student, out of the 45 who were learning, only 8 were men. Jim and Dave became partners in 1999 and changed the name of the shop to Dave and Jim's Barber Shop. It is located at 1308 McPherson.

Most of Dave and Jim's clients today are men. Dave says he can count on one hand the number of women that he cuts. They do see a lot of first time cuts, however, for young boys, who may be brought in by either their mom or their dad. "We have more pictures around town of us with kids than Santa Claus," says Dave.

Dave and Jim have developed a very loyal clientele, such as Guido Ofeno of St. Clair who travels up to their shop whenever he is in need of a cut. At 82 years of age, Guido has a full head of hair. "He's got every hair he was born with," states Dave. Guido says that he attributes that to drinking good Italian wine. Then, there is Steve Knowlton, who is now 41 years old and got his first haircut ever as a youngster from Dave and is still coming back on a regular basis.

Dave and Jim do very few straight razor shaves anymore, perhaps only one every three or four months for an elderly gentleman who still insists.

The most unusual cuts Jim remembers is when there was a fad of carving initials and sports star's numbers into the hair. Both Dave and Jim thought it was strange, but fun to do, as it gave them a chance to showcase their artistic talents.

Dave has developed a close bond

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to his customers who come back on a regular basis. He will even go to a person's house if they have been a loyal customer to cut their hair when they become unable to travel to the shop anymore. "When they have given me their business for so many years, I can't abandon them when they need me," says Dave. The hardest part of the job to Dave is seeing someone pass away that has been coming to their shop on a regular basis for a long time. The barbershop chair seems empty when that happens.

Michaelene Ste. Ece is the owner of The Plaza Barber Shop in the mall in St. Clair, at 201 N. Riverside Ave. As a woman, she is in the minority as a barber, but feels that she is the perfect choice to run a man's barber shop. She has decorated her shop with hunting paraphernalia, a trophy board where adults and kids can post a picture of themselves with something they are proud of, whether it be from hunting, fishing, sports, or a picture of their restored car. She wants her shop to be a place where they can come and spend time together and has outfitted it with a checkerboard, card games, toys for younger children, books on the Civil War and more.

Michaelene truly loves being a barber and feels that it is much different from being a hairdresser. She should know because she has been both. Michaelene has been cutting hair since she was 11 years old. A relative entered her into a contest when she was 16 that won her a free ride to beauty school. After deciding that she wasn't interested in doing perms and nails, but loved cutting hair, she attended barber college in Detroit in 1970.

"It is really different being a barber than a beautician," Michaelene says. "Especially the smells. If you walk in my shop you get a heady aroma of steam, hot

lather and aftershaves. I love it. In contrast, if you walk into a beauty shop, you smell chemicals from perm solutions, such as ammonia, and the sharp smell of acrylic nail polishes. That's just not for me."

Michaelene is an avid proponent of a man being a man, and teaching that to his son. One of her favorite websites is devoted to "The Art of Manliness" (www.artofmanliness.com) and supports her belief that fathers need to bond more with their sons, and accompanying them to a barbershop is just one tradition that needs to be restored.

Michaelene says that boys who come into the barber shop with their fathers often want her to lather them up behind the ears and around the neck, like she does for the dads. However, she makes them wait until they are 13 years old before she will do it. "Many boys will come in right on the day that they turn 13 so they can get their 'adult' haircut, complete with lather. It is a real treat for them. I can almost see them sit up straighter in the chair. It is a rite of passage for them."

Michaelene is optimistic about the future of the barber shop and actually sees her clientele increasing. She attributes that to several things. "A barber shop is a wonderful place to hang out all day. The conversation is easy, the smells are wonderful, and the visuals are great."

Barbershops truly are a piece of Americana. Some believe they are vanishing, some think that they might just be an elixir in these trying economic times. However, a true barber shop is something every person – man or woman – should experience. It can only be equated to visiting an authentic butcher shop, a family-owned bakery, a country store or a farm market stand. These small businesses are the backbone of America and are something all of us in the Thumb area should celebrate.



Michaelene Ste. Ece of The Plaza Barber Shop in St. Clair prepares to give 6 1/2 year old Domenick Simacola of St. Clair a haircut, while his father, Jason, looks on (seen in reflection in the mirror).

Herbal After-Shaves

Rosemary Skin Freshener (for normal to oily skin)

Ingredients:

- 3 oz. rosemary water (made by boiling rosemary sprigs in water, cooling, and straining out plant particles)
- 1 oz. alcohol (vodka or rubbing alcohol)
- 1 tsp. vegetable oil

How to make:

Combine all ingredients in a glass bottle and shake. To use apply a small amount over the face after shaving. (Rosemary is a garden and culinary herb and is used for its rejuvenating, refreshing and astringent properties.)



Vintage ad for Gillette Safety Razors

Chamomile Face Splash

Ingredients:

- 3 oz. chamomile tea (made by boiling chamomile flowers in water, cooling, and straining out plant particles)
- 3 oz. witch hazel (available at most drug stores)
- A sprig of sage

How to make:

Combine all ingredients in a glass bottle and set aside for one week. It is then ready to use on the face after shaving. Leave the sage in. (Chamomile is good for oily skin, reduces swelling and is stimulating to skin. Sage is astringent and is a fragrant soother for abrasions. Both chamomile and sage are garden and culinary herbs.)

Editor's Note: The above recipes were adapted from Jim Long's booklet, entitled: Just for Men – Herbal After-Shaves, Hair Rinses and Other Preparations from the Garden. It was published in 1992 by Long Creek Herbs. The ISBN number is 1-889791-03-2. The booklet can also be purchased at Foxfire Farm Country Store, 8061 Marsh Rd., Algonac, Michigan.

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Metal Detector Saves the Vacation - For Two Couples!

By Allen R. Koden

ThumbPrint News Publisher

Both my wife and I are avid travelers. Though our business doesn't allow us to get away too often, we always plan that once-a-year special getaway that we can look forward to all year. Our vacation usually occurs during one of the coldest months of the year in Michigan – January. Therefore, we usually choose to head somewhere warm.

The last few years we have chosen to take a Caribbean cruise. My wife loves the beaches and can spend hours relaxing in the sun, sipping a few pina coladas, and just enjoying the different cultures. Although I enjoy those things also, I get bored just lying in the sun for too long. That is where my hobby of metal detecting has been a godsend – I can enjoy doing that while my wife enjoys the vacation in her own special way.

I started metal detecting years ago with an inexpensive model of machine. It wasn't very sophisticated and couldn't discriminate between bottle caps, scrap metal or something of value, such as coins or a ring. Still, it brought me many weekends of fun, metal detecting in parks, in fields after the local carnival had left town and in other areas where the public had gathered. I found my fair share of coins, a few inexpensive pieces of jewelry and other trinkets. I was always looking for that elusive treasure!

About a year and a half ago my wife finally convinced me that I should get a better quality metal detector, since it was a hobby I really enjoyed. (It didn't take too much convincing on her part!) I

researched several different brands and decided on a new one made by Fisher. The great thing about this one was that it could be used to metal detect in the water also.

That was when vacationing on the beaches became much more appealing to me. (Maybe that was my wife's plan all along!) Two years ago, I took it along with us on our Caribbean cruise. My searches in the ocean yielded a few treasures – a silver religious medal on Aruba from some unlucky tourist's necklace, a crucifix about four inches long that came out of the water in Isla Margarita looking black and crusty, but, when cleaned up, turned out to be made of silver. (An estimate by a local jeweler placed it to be 150 to 200 years old.) Of course, I also found coins from all over the world – probably that had fallen out of tourists' swimming trunk pockets while they were being bounced around in the waves of the warm tropical ocean.

Each found treasure (whether of any value or not) fuels my yearning to search some more. However, one of this year's metal detecting adventures during another Caribbean cruise turned out to be the highlight of my experiences so far.

This January, when our cruise ship, *Caribbean Princess*, docked in Oranjestad, Aruba, my wife and I immediately headed for a cab to take us to Palm Beach. This was about our fifth visit to Aruba and nothing can beat the four miles of white sandy beaches and warm waters of this area of the country. A long boardwalk stretches for miles in front of the high rise hotels that line this beach.

Water sports of every imaginable kind are available, as are delicious foods and drinks from thatched roof restaurants that are built precariously on piers over the ocean. We love this place.

My wife settled down on one of the beach chairs under a tall coconut palm and I headed out into the ocean with my new metal detector. I worked my way in a pattern

back and forth, searching for treasures on the ocean floor. About half way down Palm Beach, I hadn't had a lot of luck yet, when a gentleman in bathing trunks approached me.

"Will that machine find objects in the water?" he asked.

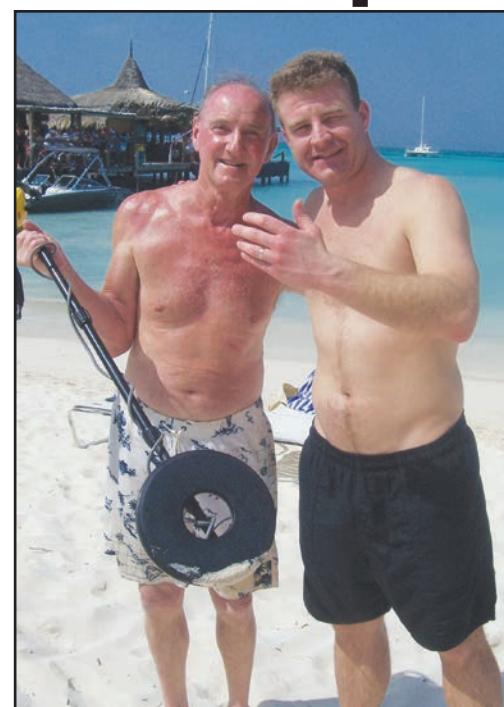
"Yes it will," I replied.

After I started talking to him I found out that his name was Tom Ryan and he lives in Columbus, Ohio. Tom was on a five day vacation in Aruba with his wife, Jaclyn. I also found out that, despite his calm demeanor when asking me about what my machine could do, there was a small amount of panic apparent in his reason for asking. You see, Tom had left his hotel room on Palm Beach and had decided to take a jog along the beach. When the hot Aruba sun became a little too much for him, he decided to cool off in the ocean. That was when he realized that his wedding ring was missing! He assumed it must have come off in the water. He wanted to know if I would help him find it.

Of course I would help him, but inside I knew this was going to be like finding a needle in a haystack. Although the waters of this area are sparkling clean, they are not crystal clear because the ocean waves constantly churn the white sand of the ocean bottom around, making it impossible to see to the bottom more than a couple of feet from the shore. The waves also will cause the settling sand to cover a lost object, such as a coin or a ring, in a matter of minutes. It had been about 15 minutes since Tom had lost the ring. Plus, Tom was not even sure on the area of the beach where he had lost it. Remembering his exact location in the vast expanse of the blue waters was going to be a long shot!

Tom and I headed to the area of the beach where he thought he had lost the ring. He guided me to go out about eight feet into the water from the shore. The depth of the water there was about four feet. I asked Tom to stay in one place and I would start metal detecting in a grid around him.

Unbelievably, after only about three



Tom Ryan happily displays the ring Allen Koden recovered for him.

minutes into the search, my metal detector began beeping, indicating on the gauge that I had found what appeared to be a ring. It would just be too much of a miracle if this was the one that Tom had lost. Before I used my underwater scoop to dig it out of the sand on the floor of the ocean, I had him describe his ring to me. Sure enough, when I brought the scoop to the surface and the sand fell through the openings in the bucket, there was Tom's ring in all of its shining glory!

Tom was so relieved. He said what could have been a disaster to his otherwise wonderful vacation had now been averted. He offered me a reward, but the challenge of the hunt, the actual finding of the ring, and the happy look on Tom's face was all that I needed. This had been just as much a highlight of my vacation as it had for him.

Later, when I was back metal detecting in the water again and my wife was back on her beach chair doing what she likes to do, Tom came up with a note for me and gave it to my wife. He once again told her to thank me and headed down the beach. Later, when my wife gave me the note and I opened it up, he had managed to sneak a small reward inside anyway. That was certainly not necessary, but just one more mark in the great times I am having with this interesting hobby. 



Allen Koden enjoys underwater metal detecting.

Getting Into Metal Detecting as a Hobby

By Mark Branton

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Michigan Treasure Hunters is a club devoted to metal detecting with about 140 families as members. As President of the club, my goal is to get the novice acquainted with metal detecting as a hobby, give advice as to the appropriate equipment needed to begin and to acquaint them with the treasure hunters' code of ethics.

Most beginning treasure hunters dream big. They think, "Maybe, I will find that \$20 gold piece or the elusive 1916 D Mercury dime, or a lost cache of jewelry." Well, most likely that will not happen. I have been detecting for 30 years and I still have to keep my day job! Last year I netted 9,400 coins, thirty of which were silver.

When getting started, researching metal detectors should be your number one priority. Not all metal detectors are the same. There are so many manufacturers out there and most of them have their own website. While comparing prices, models and manufacturers, keep one thing in mind – the price. As a novice, I would not recommend the least expensive machine nor the most expensive. The least expensive models usually have a depth of only one to two inches, and that would surely get a person discouraged right away. Then there are the high-end detectors with all of the special gadgetry, which can be complicated to learn. My rule of thumb is to get acquainted with a mid-range detector and then move up from there. I myself use a Tesoro Silver uMax. It weighs 2 lbs. 2 oz. and it runs on one 9-volt battery. It has a depth of six to eight inches. Since I have tennis elbow, a lightweight machine suits me just fine, and I even

recommend a mid-range detector to all novices because the learning curve is very simple.

One source of information on metal detecting is YouTube with instructional videos and pointers from metal detecting hobbyists and pros. Our club, Michigan Treasure Hunters, and our sister club, Great Lakes Metal Detecting, both have their own websites which have a wealth of information for beginners. These websites are www.michigan treasurehunters.com and www.greatlakesmetal detecting.com.



The Tesoro Silver uMax is a mid-range detector recommended for beginners.

If you don't have a computer, there are two publications that give great advice for beginning metal detector hobbyists: *Lost Treasure* and *Western and Eastern Treasures*. These magazines have testimonials, stories and instructions from individuals in the field.

Other equipment that a beginner should consider, in addition to the basic metal detector are a nail pouch to put trash in, knee pads, gloves, a digger, such as the quality ones made by Lesch, and a whistle (in case one gets lost).

It is important that wherever a person metal detects that a "Code of Ethics" is followed. The objective is to make the ground look as if no one had disturbed it. There are basically three rules:

- Fill all of your holes.
- Pick up all of your trash.
- Observe all school and park rules.

Be sure to check with local or state regulations when metal detecting in parks. Only about four state parks in the state of Michigan allow metal detecting and these only have limited sparse areas in which to hunt. A lot of local parks and county parks charge

a fee to detect, which is usually anywhere between \$5 and \$10. If you get caught without a permit, your equipment – even your vehicle – could be confiscated. It is always best to check with the park authorities.

For me, metal detecting is a very enjoyable hobby. It is such a thrill to see that gold ring or silver coin come out of the ground. I also enjoy returning jewelry if it has an inscription. I like to see that person's face light up after receiving back their lost property.

Our motto with the Michigan Treasure Hunters is: "We leave it

cleaner than we found it." Get out there, have fun, obey the "Code of Ethics" and best of luck in all of your treasure hunting pursuits!

Editor's Note: Michigan Treasure Hunters meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, February through November, in the gymnasium at the rear of Faith Lutheran Church in Livonia. The church is located on the north side of 5 Mile Road between Merriman and Middlebelt. The club welcomes interested persons from the Thumb Area to join them at their next meeting.

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Working Hard and Playing Hard is Steve Grosso's Way of Life

By Ralph McKinich

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

At 17 years of age, fresh out of high school, Steve Grosso became an entrepreneur. After purchasing a three yard dump truck from a former employer, he began a hauling business that 29 years later has grown into the enterprise Grosso Trucking and Supply at 10015 Marine City Highway in Ira.

Today Grosso Trucking and Supply utilizes six trucks to haul and deliver driveway material, pea stone, gravel, sand and topsoil to an area from Detroit to Utica to Port Huron. Steve prides himself on having quality products and providing top-notch customer service. In addition to hauling materials, the company also does grading, dozing, demolition work and creates septic fields for customers.

Grosso Trucking and Supply accepts broken concrete and asphalt, which they grind up into driveway mixes. They offer two sizes of ground concrete – a three inch size which is used to form a base and the 21A size, which is the same size as a limestone road mix would be. Crushed asphalt is offered also. According to Steve, both are less expensive than limestone, can be regraded fairly easily and are just as durable. A big benefit for the environment is that they are made out of recycled materials. When asked which is preferable, the crushed concrete or crushed asphalt, Steve replied, "It is really just a matter of color choice. Crushed concrete is grayish in appearance, while crushed asphalt is black. It depends on the look the homeowner wants for their landscaping."



Working hard and playing hard is Steve Grosso's motto.

Steve's business, like most Michigan businesses, has seen some decline due to the state of the economy. However, he remains optimistic. When asked why he thinks his business continues to survive, Steve said, "We treat people right – we are fair and honest. We have a good customer base and the guy upstairs watches out for us."

The thing that Steve likes best about the business is getting to meet people. Because Grosso Trucking is locally owned and operated, he has had the opportunity to build relationships with his customers. As Steve says, "Customers don't just know of us, they know about us. Many of our customers have become lifelong friends."

Many of the friends Steve has made also became hunting partners of his as well. Steve is passionate about hunting, as is evidenced by the dozens of mounts on the walls in his office. He travels extensively

in pursuit of game, including deer in Alberta, Canada, caribou, mountain goat and bear on Kodiak Island in Alaska, elk in New Mexico and moose in New Hampshire and New Foundland. Yearly he organizes hunt trips for himself and his friends to Kansas, where they rent a cabin on 6,000 acres of land.

Steve hunts not only for the mounts, but for the meat as well. His favorite game is moose or elk. Mountain goat he processes into hamburger and chops and he says it tastes a lot like venison. One of his prize takes was a deer with a 182 inch rack that he got in Canada in 1994.

Steve puts himself wholeheartedly into his business. He realizes what a valuable asset his customers are and treats them as such. He works hard – but plays equally hard – and often the people involved in both aspects of his life are the same because they have become his friends as well.



The walls of Steve's office at Grosso Trucking show the evidence of his hunting trips.

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Flying High: Flying Lessons

Continued from Page 1

to St. Clair County Airport, with Skipper Steffens as his instructor. "Skipper is absolutely the best flight instructor around," says Robert.

Hearing those words about Skipper relieved a little of the anticipation I had that day, as I sat in the waiting room of the Saint Clair Flight Academy, along with a member of our *ThumbPrint News* staff, Keith Kodet, who also happens to be my son. We were there because Keith was going to get his first flying lesson and we had been told that he would be taking off, flying and landing the plane himself! It was good to hear that there was going to be a highly-rated flight instructor in the plane with us!

ThumbPrint News had been contacted in mid-February by an organization called Let's Go Flying, which is the learn-to-fly program that is sponsored by the nonprofit Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, to arrange an introductory flight at a local flight school, with the purpose of allowing us to describe to our readers what it's really like to fly a plane. Of course, their goal is to encourage others to consider learning to fly as a hobby or even as a profession. Nicole Lasorda, of Let's Go Flying, arranged for Keith to take his first lesson from Skipper, and I would go along as a reporter and photographer.

We had to wait several weeks for the wintery weather to settle, but when the day finally arrived that we had arranged, it was a gorgeous, calm and sunny day. Snow piles still lined the edges of the runways, but

the runways themselves were clear.

Keith and I spent a couple of hours visiting with Skipper, learning about his background and how he came to be a flight instructor and getting the basic information Keith would need before actually heading out to the runway.

Skipper has been interested in flying since he was four years old and flew with his uncle, who was the assistant airport manager at an airport in Phoenix. Skipper first took flying lessons in Texas at the age of 16 when his father was stationed there in the Air Force. Skipper served his country in Vietnam and, when he returned home, used the GI Bill to become certified as a flight instructor. He has now been flying for over 40 years and has been an instructor for the past 20.

When Skipper talks about flying and especially about teaching others to fly, he truly shows his expertise as a teacher and also the compassion he has for his students. He says one of the pure joys he gets from teaching others to fly is seeing the transformation take place from the student's apprehension about learning to fly to their total comprehension and enjoyment. He believes that the way people learn best is by doing. "I will never let a student get into a situation that he or she can't get out of," Skipper says.

The economy has really had its effect on Saint Clair Flight Academy, as it has with most businesses. "In the past, I would have students lined up every day who wanted to learn to fly," says Skipper. "But now it is beginning to be cost prohibitive for many. Fuel



My view of the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron from the back seat of the Cessna.

for these small planes is around \$4.50 a gallon and the plane will burn about 10 gallons per hour. Although there are many variables, I have done research to find out what it will cost a student, from start to finish, to obtain their private pilot certification and it is in the range of \$7,970 to \$11,370. They have to do a minimum of 40 hours of flying time also."

The plane that Keith is going to learn to fly today is a Cessna 172SP. Skipper bought the plane in 2001 at the cost of \$170,000. Fortunately for him (and for us) he says that he has had only a few minor problems with the plane. It is now time to head out to the runway to see this vehicle.

This is my first close up encounter with a Cessna and I am surprised how small it appears – and fragile! Skipper has the plane doors open and, looking inside, I begin to wonder if there really is going to be room in the front seat for both Skipper and Keith, who are both tall, rather large men. The plane is only a foot or two taller than me (and I am short at 5' 3"). A little apprehension begins to set in.

Skipper and Keith spend about a half an hour doing a safety check all around the outside of the plane. He explains what the different parts are called, many of which have French names. Then, suddenly, Skipper says, "It's time to go flying!"

I climb into the backseat of the plane, which, if I was claustrophobic, just might cause a slight problem. Keith and Skipper squeeze into the front seat. We all put on our earphones, which will muffle some of the noise, but will also allow us to communicate with each other and with the airport

controllers. Skipper has a set of controls also, but says that he will only be using them should Keith run into a problem. Skipper begins to instruct Keith on the take-off procedures and, before we know it, Keith is taxiing down the runway. This is where I begin to think, will we actually get off the ground?

Before I can even have second thoughts, Keith is up in the air! And the scenery is magnificent! Skipper tells us that we will be flying in an approximate 30 mile radius of the airport, except that we will not be able to fly into Canada.

While Keith is receiving further instructions on how to fly the plane, I am thoroughly enjoying our adventure and snapping as many photos as I can. We fly down to Anchor Bay and can see the frozen lake and the snowmobile tracks zigzagging across it. The St. Clair Flats area seems surrealistic in the winter landscape. We turn to the east and head into Algonac. Both Keith and I find our houses below us. Then we head north, with Marsh Road as our guide, so we can snap pictures of the *ThumbPrint News* office from the sky.



Skipper Steffens and Keith Kodet next to Skipper's Cessna 172SP.



Skipper instructs Keith in some pre-flight safety checks.



Flying over Anchor Bay, we can see the snowmobile tracks in the frozen lake.

From there, Keith flies us along the St. Clair River, heading towards Port Huron. Huge chunks of ice are floating down the river. He veers a little too far into Canada, so Skipper guides him back into Michigan air space. Suddenly, the Blue Water Bridge is in view in its full glory below us and the adrenaline starts pumping. It was quite a sight!

Heading north past the bridge, we see how Lake Huron is almost totally iced over and now can comprehend the fears that are being generated in local news stories about what is going to happen when they begin to break up.

All too soon, Skipper says it is time to head back to the airport. Reality sets in again. Keith is going to land the plane! Somehow, that would seem to me to be the most difficult part of all. However, with Skipper's expert instruction, Keith gently lands the plane on the runway with, I have to admit, less bumps and jogs than many commercial flights I have taken in the past.

This will be an experience Keith and I will never forget. Keith admits all of the controls intimidated him a bit but wouldn't have given up this chance for anything. Keith and I would both encourage any readers of the *ThumbPrint News* who have ever had a desire to learn to fly, to take an introductory lesson from Skipper at the Saint Clair Flight Academy.

For those who don't want a lesson, Skipper can also schedule times for passengers to go up in his Cessna with him, just for the experience – like the young lady Skipper remembers from a few years back. She was only three years old and her father asked her what she wanted for her upcoming birthday. Her father's hobby was flying large scale model

planes. The young lady said she wanted to go for a ride in her father's plane. Her father explained that, even though she was small, she would not fit in the model plane. Later, unknown to his daughter, he arranged to take her and her sisters up in a real plane for her birthday. Skipper was the one who piloted the plane for the birthday surprise. Skipper says he will never forget that experience. The young lady actually had the chance to sit in her father's lap and take the controls of the plane. Skipper says he has never seen someone so young who could articulate her thoughts so well and who was a natural at learning to fly. "Taking this young lady up was the highlight of my career. She was a pure delight." As Skipper talks about this experience, tears well up in his eyes, showing the genuine compassion he has for flying and for helping others to experience the same joy.

Editor's Note: Saint Clair Flight Academy, Inc. is located at 150 North Airport Drive, Kimball Twp., MI 48074. The office number is (810) 364-3900.

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EXPERIENCED FLORIST for high-volume floral shop open seven days a week. Need to be able to make funeral arrangements, corsages, every day arrangements and holiday pieces. Only highly motivated individuals need apply. Room to grow into a management position. Foxfire Farm Floral Shop, 8061 Marsh Rd., Clay Twp. (810) 794-5108. Salary based on experience and will be discussed during interview process.

EXPERIENCED SALESPERSON wanted for selling ads and classifieds for ThumbPrint News. Position requires both days on the road and days in the office. Need reliable transportation as person that is hired will be using own vehicle when on the road. 8061½ Marsh Rd., Clay Township. (810) 794-2300.

WANTED: NEWSPAPER BOYS OR GIRLS, twelve years and older with parent's consent for the cities of New Baltimore, Richmond and St. Clair doing walking routes for monthly publications. For more information call (810) 794-2300.

Temporary FLORAL DELIVERY DRIVERS

Needed for May 6, 7, 8 and 9 (Mother's Day). You must use your own vehicles and purchase your own gas. You will be paid \$10 per successful delivery. Delivery area will be St. Clair County, Macomb County, Oakland County and Sanilac County. If interested, please call (810) 794-2300 and ask to speak to Diane no later than May 4. Foxfire Farm Floral Shop, 8061 Marsh Rd., Algonac.

Thumb Area Activities & Events for May 2010

If you have an event in June that you would like listed in the June issue of *ThumbPrint News*, please email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by May 12, 2010. There is no charge for the listing.

Editor's note: Before traveling beyond your home town to attend any of these events, please call ahead for any changes in dates or times or for any cancellations.

Genesee County

Flint – May 13

"Ask the Lawyer" Community Seminar, Flint Public Library, 1026 E. Kearsley St., 6:00-7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Genesee County Bar Association, free legal advice seminar. This month's topic is "Internet Law and Privacy: Harassment and Freedom of Speech." There is limited seating. Must pre-register by calling (810) 232-6000 or online at www.gcbalaw.org.

Davison – May 16

F.A.N.s (Family Adventures in Nature) 3rd Annual Slimy Salamander Stomp, Hogbacks Area, Stanley Rd. Meet in the fishing lot between Henderson Rd. and German Rd., 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Join For-Mar naturalist and salamander fanatic, Teresa Yoder, on a hunt for salamanders. Dress to hike and get muddy! Not recommended for children under five years. The cost is \$3 per person. Pre-registration is not required, but organized groups are asked to call (810) 736-7100 before attending.

Huron County

Pigeon – May 5

Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show, Scheurer Hospital, 170 North Caseville Rd. Sponsored by Scheurer Hospital Auxiliary. Call (989) 453-2977.

Caseville – May 9

Mother's Day Breakfast, Eagles Club, 7017 East Park Drive. Call (989) 856-4104.

Caseville – May 28-31

Trash and Treasure Days. Garage sales throughout the entire town. Call (989) 356-3818.

Lapeer County

Almont - May 8

Euchre Night, Almont Lions Club, 222 Water St., 6:00 p.m. (Play begins at 7:00 p.m.) Lunch served between sets. Prizes for top three scores, refund for low score. Call (810) 798-9609.

Lapeer - May 27

Swing Out Parade, downtown area, Courthouse Square and Nepessing St., 6 p.m. This is the annual parade for graduation for local area schools.

Macomb County

Richmond – May 2

Michigan Military Moms, Richmond VFW Hall, 34339 32 Mile Rd., 1:00 p.m. We are an organization of moms supporting our sons and daughters in the U.S. Military. All are welcome. Call Kathy at (586) 727-1680.

Richmond – May 15

Mom to Mom Sale & Bake Sale, St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, 37601 31 Mile Rd., 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. It is that time again to do some spring cleaning.

Now is the perfect time to sell your children's gently used clothing and toys or to purchase new for them. Rent an 8-foot table for \$20. All proceeds go towards building repairs, except for the proceeds from the Bake Sale, which will go to the American Cancer Society. Admission is \$1.00 per person. Please contact Tracy at (586) 747-4268 or at schark06@comcast.net.

Romeo – May 19

Michigan Military Moms, Romeo VFW Hall, 70455 McVicar Rd., 6:30 p.m. We are an organization of moms supporting our sons and daughters in the U.S. Military. All are welcome. Call Kathy at (586) 727-1680.

Mount Clemens – May 22

Manatee 5K Run, Two Mile Fun Walk, Metro Huron-Clinton Metropark. Raises money for the Save the Manatee Club and is hosted by L'Anse Creuse High School. Contact Lesley Argiri at (586) 783-6729 or largirl@hotmail.com.

Oakland County

Clarkston – May 1

Amphibian Amble, Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks, 9501 Sashabaw, 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Spring is the time for frogs, toads and salamanders to "amble" down to the ponds for breeding and egg laying. Each type of male frog makes a particular call, so it is easy to hear who is active. Join us for an evening of pictures, a game and craft. Then hike with us to listen and look for our favorite amphibians. \$3 per person. Pre-payment is required.

Davisburg – May 9

Intergenerational Golf Outing: Mother's Day Three Person Scramble, Springfield Oaks Golf Course, 12450 Andersonville Rd., 3:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. Teams of three, each a different generation, will play nine holes each. Golf, food and prizes are included. The cost is \$75 per team. Carts are extra. Participants must pre-register one week in advance. To register, contact Laurie Stasiak at (248)858-4929, or by e-mail at stasiak1@oakgov.com.

St. Clair County

Algonac – May 1

Mom and Me Day, Foxfire Farm Country Store, 8061 Marsh Rd., 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Mother's Day is just a week away. Bring mom down to Foxfire Farm's greenhouses where kids and moms can create a patio pot of gorgeous flowers and plants that can be enjoyed all summer long. Our landscaping professionals will be on hand to help you choose the pot, dirt and plants that will compliment any décor and will offer advice and tips for planting and creating the container garden. Prices will vary depending on the pot, dirt and plants chosen, but participants will receive 25% off EVERYTHING they purchase that day to make their patio pot. (Offer excludes items already on sale and cannot be combined with any other special offer.) Call (810) 794-5108 to register.

Marine City – May 1 & 3

Book Sale, Marine City Public Library, 300 South Parker Street. Call (810) 765-5233.

Marysville – May 2

All You Can Eat Bacon, Egg and Pancake Breakfast, Marysville Masonic Center, 1569 Michigan Ave., 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Adults are \$5, children four and under are free. Contact Al Johnson at (586) 907-7125.

Marysville – May 4, 11, 18 & 25

Bingo, Knights of Columbus Hall, Range Rd. and Ravenswood Rd., 10:20 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Twenty-one games in all, ranging from \$25 to \$600, depending on attendance. Benefits the Holy Cross Activity Center. (810) 765-8751.

Kimball – May 5, 12, 19 & 26

Wednesday Night Bingo, Marysville Knight's of Columbus #9526, 4521 Ravenswood Rd., 6:30 p.m. Doors open two hours prior to the start of Bingo. Call (810) 364-6800.

Fort Gratiot – May 7

Kid's In Distress Annual Silent Auction, Birchwood Mall, 4350 24th Avenue, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Bidding is open until 3:00 p.m. on May 9. Kids in Distress is a non-profit organization serving kids throughout St. Clair County. There will be hundreds of items to bid on, both big and small. Contact Christie Burke or Jane Robinson at (810) 326-4505.

Emmett – May 7 & 8

Emmett Lions Club Annual Yard Sale and Consignment Sale, Emmett Lions Hall, 10830 Mary Street, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Kimball – May 7, 14, 21 & 28

Farmer's Market, corner of Range Rd. and Ravenswood. All are welcome. For more information, call (810) 364-6800.

Port Huron – May 8, 15, 22 & 29

Flower Market, Great Lakes Maritime Center, 51 Water St., 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. More than 10 Michigan flower growers will offer trees, planting flats, potted flowers, fruit trees, perennials, annuals, herbs, ornamental grasses, hanging baskets – and more! (810) 985-4817.

Port Huron – May 11

Blood Pressure and Body Mass Index Screening, Great Lakes Maritime Center, 51 Water St., 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Provided by Port Huron and St. Joseph Mercy Hospitals' Partners at Heart and St. Clair County's Health Department. Call (810) 985-4817.

Marine City – May 13 & 14

Yard Sale/Flea Market, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Friday. We are accepting any items you may want to donate, with the exception of furniture and clothing. The yard sale will be held inside the gymnasium. Call (810) 765-3523.

Marysville – May 14

Lincoln Day Dinner, Alexander's Banquet Hall, 1195 Gratiot Ave., 7:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for a single or \$70 for a couple. This is the chance to have dinner and discussions with Republican candidates for county and state elected positions. Honorary Candice Miller is a keynote speaker. Checks should be sent to St. Clair County GOP, P.O. Box 610493, Port Huron, MI 48062 by May 7. For details, call (810) 989-1605, email stclaircountygop@gmail.com or visit www.stclaircountyrepublicans.org.

Marine City – May 11

25th Annual Senior Prom, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 5:30 p.m. A buffet dinner will be provided by COAST at 6:00 p.m., followed by live music from the Big Band Era presented by Sentimental Journey. Tickets are \$15 per person for members and \$19 per person for non-members. There will be a King and Queen chosen for the evening and door prizes. Tickets are on sale at all of the Council on Aging, Inc. centers county wide. Call (810) 765-3523 for more information.

Emmett – May 16

Emmett Lions Roast Beef Dinner, VFW Hall, Main Street, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The event is being sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary.

Algonac – May 18

Algonac Lioness Meeting, 1765 Washington St., 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month. We are actively seeking new members who are interested in helping our community and the less fortunate. Snacks are provided. For more information call Sharon at (810) 794-2072, Yolanda at (810) 794-5132 or Joyce at (810) 208 5366.

Port Huron – May 22

Kites for a Cause, Great Lakes Maritime Center, 51 Water St., 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Buy a kite for chance at grand prize – a 131-ft. Cobra. Event benefits Studio 1219's Children's Art Program and SONS. Rain date Sunday, May 23. (810) 985-4817.

Port Huron – May 26

American Business Women's Association, ViVon Chapter, Networking and Informational Event, Acheson Community Resource Center, 514 McMoran Blvd., 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Are you a woman interested in new trends in business, personal or professional growth, and education? Call Cathy Alderman at (248) 583-2632 by May 19.

Port Huron – May 26

St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 1115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. We welcome guests and new member to our meetings. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree is encouraged to join. Meetings are open to the public at no charge. Visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~misccfhg or call (810) 989-0399.

St. Clair – May 27

St. Clair Farmer's Market, Riverview Plaza, north parking area, 1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. The Farmers' Market will showcase Michigan grown produce along with fresh eggs, honey, maple syrup, bison meat, baked goods, jams, trees, shrubs, flowers and perennials. The market will run every Thursday through October 30. Call Liz Mathews at (810) 985-3983.

Cottrellville – May 29

Bake Sale and Raffle, VG's Supermarket parking lot, 6764 River Road, 9:00 a.m. until ? This is a fundraiser for Helping Hands. Call (810) 765-3848 or (810) 765-4494.

Sanilac County

Port Sanilac – May 15 & 16

Free Open House for Sanilac County Residents, Sanilac County Historic Village and Museum, 228 S. Ridge St., noon-4:00 p.m. (810) 622-9946.

Port Sanilac – May 28 & 29

Memorial Day Flea Market, Sanilac County Historic Village and Museum, 228 S. Ridge Street, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (810) 622-9946.

Tuscola County

Vassar – May 1

City-Wide Rummage Sale, throughout whole community of Vassar, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Caro – May 6

Car Seat Fitting Station, Caro Fire Department, 317 S. State Street, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. For an appointment call Jen Gezequel, (888) 580-5437, ext. 495, or email jgezequel@sanilaccmh.org.

A Ghostly Investigation in Adair, Michigan

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

Only a couple of days after the March 2010 edition of *ThumbPrint News* came out in which we featured a story called "Black River Paranormal Hunts for Thumb Area Ghosts," Jim Anderson of Black River Paranormal received an email from a young woman, Stacey, in Adair, Michigan, who was in need of their services.

Stacey had grown up in a house in downtown Adair with her two brothers and her parents. In the 30 years that her family had lived there, they had encountered many unusual happenings that they thought might be attributed to "ghosts." Stacey however, did not deem these entities as harmful. In fact, she even credits one ghost for saving her life. "When I was younger," says Stacey, "I slept upstairs and it was cold and unheated. Finally, we bought a brand new electric space heater. While I was sleeping one night, I was awakened by someone grabbing my leg and yelling my name. When I opened my eyes, no one was there, but my space heater was on fire. The ghost literally saved my life!"

Stacey's father, Joe, has also had his own encounters. He said they usually occur when he is in bed. He will think that his wife is coming into the bed in the dark, but when he rolls over, no one is there. Joe says, "I don't believe in ghosts, but I tell them that if they want to continue living in the house, just don't scare me!"

Currently, Stacey lives elsewhere, but the home is still occupied by her parents and her brother, who is also named Joe. They all feel comfortable living with the ghosts and don't feel threatened in the least. However, Stacey's other brother, who is a



Stacey and her daughter Katie in the family home

preacher, refuses to sleep upstairs anymore as he claims that the ghost tries to harass him. Stacey's husband and cousins also have had less than pleasant encounters that cause them to avoid this area.

After Stacey read the article in *ThumbPrint News*, she decided she wanted to find out more about the permanent house guests, so she emailed Black River Paranormal. They contacted me, as I had asked to go on a local ghost hunt for a follow-up article in a future edition of *ThumbPrint News*.

So, just before dark, on March 27, I headed out to Adair with another reporter to join the ghost hunting team. It was an extremely chilly night, so I was glad our investigation was going to take place inside. However, before entering the home, Andy Anderson, one of the founders of Black River Paranormal, filled me in on the history of the home.

"This home was built in the 1800s. The current family moved in around 1978 to 1979. At one time, part of the home was a country store. Across the street, there was a hospital for injured returning Civil War soldiers and next to that a town hall. Adair was once even a major railroad stop. Unfortunately, most of the information we can gather is from word-of-mouth, as the building containing older records for Adair burned down at one point in history," says Andy.

After our introduction, we entered the home. It was charmingly decorated and just exuded history in its walls, floors and the construction methods that were used. The family was all sitting around the kitchen table and welcomed us as if we were coming to a family reunion. They were apparently thoroughly enjoying and anticipating the upcoming investigation.

We spent two hours exploring the different rooms of the home, sometimes in the dark, and sometimes with the lights on. The team used tape recorders, which they will replay later while listening for Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP), which is unknown sounds and voices for which there is no logical explanation. To some ghost hunting groups, these can sometimes

be used to confirm the presence of spirits. (The team had made a previous visit to the home six days prior to this visit and claim that they captured several EVPs, including one of a man saying 'Go Away!' and one of a man with a deep voice saying, 'I need to talk to you.') They also brought along a digital camera on a tripod, which they use to try to capture orbs, streaks or auras of light that may not be visible to the naked eye. A compass is another tool that is used, as well as a "ghost meter," which is an EMF meter similar to those used by electricians to locate electrical currents. When our reporter questioned where a person could buy a "ghost meter," Richard Elliott, another member of the team, replied, "On the Internet, on ghostmart.com!"

One of the most interesting devices used in the investigation, was a pendulum on a string. Apparently, not all members of the team are successful using this device, but Richard Elliott is. As Andy, other members of the team and some of the family members addressed questions to the spirits that they believed were present in the rooms, Andy would direct the spirit (or spirits) to answer by causing the pendulum to move in a circle if the answer to the question was "yes" and to move back and forth if the answer was "no".

The pendulum definitely moved in response to the questions, though I was not totally convinced whether it was being moved by a spirit or somehow by Richard himself. The family members seemed more convinced than I was. Whether the stuff of fact or fiction, the pendulum brought out some of the details about the ghostly presences.

Allegedly, the apparition was a man by the name of Abraham Peters. At one time in the mid 1880s, he was the owner of the general store that was a part of the home. During one unfortunate poker game at the house, he was robbed and shot. He was in his mid-forties and left behind a young wife, but no children. His wife went on to live for about another forty years and then succumbed to diphtheria. She also now haunts the home. Apparently, they were content to remain as spirits in the home and like the current family members. Abraham



In a photo taken by me, Andy Anderson has an "orb" above his head as he prepares for the investigation.

admitted that he was the one who grabbed Stacey's leg that night when he saved her from the fire upstairs.

All in all, it was a very interesting evening. Black River Paranormal team members seem to believe in what they are doing. They are friendly, fun to listen to, and will share stories about their paranormal experiences. They are not into it for a scam, as there is no fee involved for their services. My reporter and I both went into the experience with open minds. It was our first ghost hunt. Prior to going, neither one of us have had any definitive experiences that would convince us of the existence of ghosts nor have we ever read or been told anything that would totally convince us that ghosts could not exist, and that is pretty much where our thoughts still lie today. We also tape recorded and took digital pictures. Listening to the two hour tape, I did not hear anything that I would call an EVP (admitting of course that I am an amateur at this). Of the over 100 pictures I took, however, I did have several that showed orbs. Even though I have read the scientific reports that explain away the existence of orbs as particles of pollen or dust, or light that is refracted off the lens of the camera, I have to admit that I did get a little bit of a tingling feeling at the back of my neck wondering if, just perhaps, there was the smallest bit of a chance that I had actually captured the energy of one of these spirits. For now, the jury is still out for me, but I certainly want to thank Black River Paranormal for letting *ThumbPrint News* come along on the hunt! 

What Happened On This Day in History?

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor



1. On this day in 1883, "Buffalo Bill" Cody put on his first Wild West Show.

2. On this day in 1876, the United States stopped minting the 20¢ coin.



3. On this day in 1933, the first United States medical college opened in Philadelphia.

4. On this day in 1846, Michigan ended the death penalty.

5. On this day in 1925, John T. Scopes was arrested for teaching evolution in Tennessee.

6. On this day in 1960, President Eisenhower signed the Civil Rights Act of 1960.

7. On this day in 1914, the United States Congress established Mother's Day.



8. On this day in 1926, the first flight over the North Pole took place (Bennett & Byrd).



9. On this day in 1899, the lawn mower was patented.

10. On this day in 1797, the first Navy ship, the *United States*, was launched.

11. On this day in 1967, the 100,000,000th United States phone was connected.



12. On this day in 1932, Goofy, aka Dippy Dawg, first appeared in *Mickey's Revue* by Walt Disney.

13. On this day in 1942, the helicopter made its first cross-country flight.

14. On this day in 1607, the first permanent English settlement in the New World was established at Jamestown, Virginia.

15. On this day in 1672, the first copyright law was enacted by Massachusetts.

16. On this day in 1965, Spaghetti-O's were first sold.



17. On this day in 1971, Washington State first banned sexual discrimination.

18. On this day in 1652, Rhode Island enacted the first law which declared slavery to be illegal.

19. On this day in 1898, the United States Post Office authorized the use of postcards.

20. On this day in 1830, D. Hyde patented the fountain pen.

21. On this day in 1819, the first bicycles (swift walkers) in the United States were introduced in New York City.

22. On this day in 1943, the first jet fighter was tested.



23. On this day in 1785, Benjamin Franklin announced his invention of bifocals.



24. On this day in 1899, the first auto repair shop opened – in Boston.

25. On this day in 1922, Babe Ruth was suspended for one day and fined \$200 for throwing dirt on an umpire.

26. On this day in 1927, Ford Motor Company manufactured its 15 millionth Model T automobile.

27. On this day in 1937, Richard Drew invented masking tape.

28. On this day in 1742, the first indoor swimming pool opened at Goodman's Fields in London.

29. On this day in 1968, the Truth in Lending Act was signed into law.

30. On this day in 1498, Columbus departed with six ships for his third trip to America.

31. On this day in 1969, John Lennon and Yoko Ono recorded "Give Peace a Chance."

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ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, email us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Contest" in the subject line. All correct answers received by the 15th of the month will be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township. The winner will be announced in the June edition as well as information about the object. The photo above is of last month's object. No one correctly identified the object which is a tongue scraper. In Victorian times, after a night out of eating and drinking, it was common practice to clean the tongue with a tongue scraper. The one that is pictured is made from a flexible band of tortoiseshell with ivory handles.



In the resting position it is flat but would have been held between thumb and index finger of each hand and used in a U-shape to scrape the tongue. This month we are asking the question, "What is it?" Identify the object in the photo below. Send an email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net if you think you know what this object is. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are the winner of the random drawing for a gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store. Good luck!



You Can Still File Your 2009 Tax Return

By Cindy Redmann

Tax Consultant

Did you miss the April 15 tax deadline? There is still time to file. There are no penalties for filing late if you are getting a refund. If you owe the IRS, the sooner you file the quicker

the penalties stop accumulating. The IRS does offer an installment agreement to set up monthly payments if you can't pay your entire balance due.

Make sure you account for all of the 1099's you received on your tax return. IRS computers have gotten better at matching the copy of the 1099 sent to the agency with your tax return. A mismatch can trigger a letter from the IRS and maybe further scrutiny.

If you're claiming any deductions for gifts to charity, make sure you have receipts. For any charitable donation of \$250 or more, you must have a letter from that charity; a cancelled check will not suffice. The IRS is now asking for such paperwork in "correspondence audits".

If you already filed your income tax return and forgot to include something (maybe a W-2 you received after filing) or you know you made a mistake, it is imperative that you amend it. The IRS is three to four years behind in catching some mistakes, which means they are now dealing with 2006 tax returns. It would be better for your integrity if you amended your own return, rather than wait for three or four years of penalties and interest, when the IRS caught up to you.

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At Ink & More, recycling is real. In fact, it is at the very center of what we do and who we are.

Ink & More (formerly Rapid Refill) is founded on the idea that we could turn used, empty inkjet and laser toner cartridges into useable products for our customers, all while saving them money. This was a great idea then and an even better idea today. While our business has certainly grown to many new products, services and stores spanning across the country, our belief in recycling is still put to work every day.

Each Ink & More store collects used, empty inkjet and laser toner cartridges, saving them from reaching landfills. Many cartridges that aren't returned to companies like Ink & More for recycling end up incinerated or placed in landfills around the world — destroying a large amount of fully reusable products and negatively impacting our environment.

Recycling is more than a slogan; as part of our mission to promote environmental responsibility Ink & More stores use recycled materials wherever possible. Our product retail slat wall is made from recycled wood products, the countertops are made from crushed sunflower seed shells, and we use recycled paper whenever possible.



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A septic tank is a holding tank that is designed to accept the waste produced by a household (800-1500 gallons average per tank depending on the tank size). The liquid is the most important part of a tank function. The liquid is energized with billions of rich anaerobic (good) bacteria that live, breed and feed on the solids that come into the tank from your home.

If a tank is pumped completely out, you are removing all the good liquid, and in less than a week, the tank will be filled again from standard household use (shower, toilet, laundry, dishes, etc.). The state of Michigan estimates that a person will use 60 gallons per person per day. If a four person household uses 240 gallons a day multiplied by seven days, that equals 1,640 gallons. A tank will, on average, fill back up in less than one week. Only a small amount of liquid goes to the field each day. The rest remains constantly in the tank and holds the good anaerobic bacteria that continually eat the solid waste.

If there is a problem with your system, it may be one of five things for 95% of most gravity-fed systems:

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- 2) Build up of solid material because anaerobic

bacteria may have been killed off from household chemicals (cleansers, bleach, etc.) that may require more frequent removal

- 3) Blockage or broken baffle from the outlet to the field
- 4) A plugged filter
- 5) The field

The field can become oversaturated due to heavy rains or poor drainage, which can cause the tank to fill back up as we are pumping it. This liquid needs to be removed for proper tank function, which will incur an additional charge. A normal working system needs only the scum and solids removed (that the anaerobic bacteria cannot consume), but the option is up to the consumer. If pumped completely, start-up bacteria should be used to help jump-start the system again. This can take a long time. A healthy system needs the billions of bacteria to consume the solids entering the tank. This keeps the tank function working properly.

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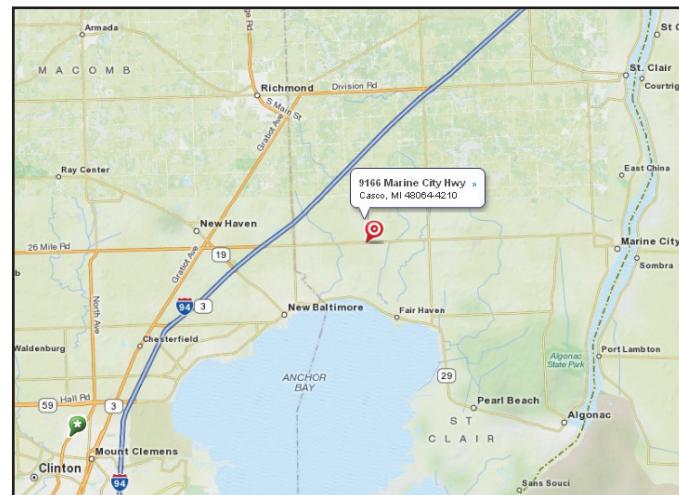
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Urgent Care Clinics are Welcomed Additions to Six Thumb Area Locations

By Ralph McKinich

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Think back to a time when you or a family member received a non-life threatening, but serious, injury. You may have thought about calling your family doctor, but then realized that his or her office was closed. Or perhaps you or a family member came down with an illness that would best be handled by starting to immediately take a prescribed medication, but you cannot get an appointment at your regular doctor's office for several days. You may have thought that the emergency room at the hospital was the only other option. If you lived in St. Clair County prior to 1994, that would have been correct.

In 1994, Physicians HealthCare Network was established in St. Clair County. They became the first to provide the Blue Water area with Urgent Care walk-in clinics. There

are now five different locations in the cities of Marysville, Ira, Fort Gratiot, Port Huron and Lexington. All except the Lexington location are open seven days a week. All have hours that are convenient for the majority of families.

Each Urgent Care location is staffed by physicians who are certified by the American Board in Family Medicine. Each specializes in treating all non-life threatening emergencies, as well as providing on-site x-rays, EKG's, the ability to provide stitches, if needed, and lab testing. In addition to the Urgent Care services, each also provides complete family health care services covering all ages.

Doug A. Dolph, who is the Executive Director of Physicians HealthCare Network, sees the Urgent Care clinics as providing a wide-range of medical related needs. "These clinics are like the

front door to a whole group of specialists", says Doug. "We have doctors on board who specialize in everything from pulmonary critical care to neurology, if that is what is deemed necessary."

Another advantage of the Urgent Care clinics is the convenient hours and the multiple locations. When an injury occurs away from home, any of the clinics will accept that person as a walk-in patient. Depending on the type of insurance coverage, the clinics often are much more affordable than an emergency room visit would be.

Physicians HealthCare Network provides needed services in a friendly, convenient way during those stressful times in life when medical care is needed. It was definitely something that was desperately needed in the Thumb Area.



Doug A. Dolph is the Executive Director of Physicians HealthCare Network.

Editor's Note: For more information or for the addresses of all of the clinics in the network, see their ad below left or go to www.physicianhealthcare.com or call (810) 385-4441.

Physician HealthCare Network Urgent Care Centers

South Clinic	1641 10th Street	Port Huron	(810) 984-5700
Marysville Clinic	3350 Gratiot	Marysville	(810) 364-4000
North Clinic	4190 24th Avenue	Ft. Gratiot	(810) 989-7770
Lexington Clinic	5730 Main Street	Lexington	(810) 359-2605
Ira Township	10127 MC Highway	Ira Township	(586) 716-1371

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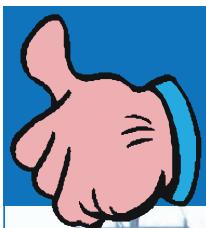
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AUGUST 14 – 7:00-9:00 P.M. CUSTOMER APPRECIATION NIGHT. Come and enjoy hot dogs and refreshments on us, games for the whole family to enjoy, and music and entertainment. Event will take place inside the greenhouse, rain or shine! Sit back, relax and let us show you our appreciation for being a customer of Foxfire Farm and/or ABC Home & Commercial Services. There is no charge for this event – it is OUR GIFT TO YOU! However, we do ask that you RSVP no later than August 11 so that we will be sure to have enough food for everyone to enjoy.

SEPTEMBER 25 AND 26 – 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. FALL FESTIVAL! On both days at Foxfire Farm's Country Store. Games, prizes, crafts, rides, pumpkin painting, food, straw maze, a bouncy house, kiddiepillar ride AND MORE! A small ticket price is charged for most activities. Reasonably priced activities encourage families to have a great time together – at a price they can afford!



OCTOBER 22, 23, & 24 – 7:00-9:00 P.M. THIRD ANNUAL NIGHT FILLED WITH PUMPKIN LIGHT. Over 400 decorated and painted pumpkins will be lit inside a warm greenhouse for the viewing pleasure of everyone in the family! Cost per adult is \$5.00, children aged 2-12 are \$2.00. Two and under are free. All pumpkins and Halloween decorations will be clearance priced for last minute shoppers! All carved pumpkins will be available to purchase at \$5.00 each and can be bought on those nights but cannot be picked up until October 25.

Sudoku

ThumbPrint News Sudoku

7		5		8				
			2			7		
	3			1		5		
1	2	6		9	3			
	8					4		
	6	7		8	1		5	
	4		6			2		
7				5				
			7		9		1	

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square. Good Luck!

Where Has Your ThumbPrint News Been?

Four issues ago we started a contest called "Where Has Your ThumbPrint News Been?" The first winner was Geri Muthler of Geri's Gifts in New Baltimore who showed us her unique way of displaying our newspaper before she gives them out as free "gifts" to her customers. Next month brought us a real surprise when an as of yet unidentified reader sent a copy to the *Jay Leno Show* and one of the ads inside (for ABC Home and Commercial Services' Septic Division) ended up as the focus of one of Jay's jokes on national television! February's edition featured our newspaper being enjoyed by the owners of the Windsurf Beach and Bar in the Caribbean island of Bonaire. In March, our newspaper traveled to Mexico and was being read in front of the pyramid at Chichen Itza. This month, while visiting Monterey, California, a Marine City resident was walking near the Monterey Bay Aquarium and found a tourist reading *ThumbPrint News* and took this picture. It just goes to show you that *ThumbPrint News* can even be found on the West Coast!



If you are a reader of *ThumbPrint News* and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or have done something unique with it, you may submit an email and photo to us. (The photo should be in jpeg format.) Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number in case we have further questions.

At the end of 2010, our staff will choose the grand prize winner to receive a wonderful prize from *ThumbPrint News* – and, if you are a business, we will do a feature story on your business for FREE in the January, 2011 edition! 

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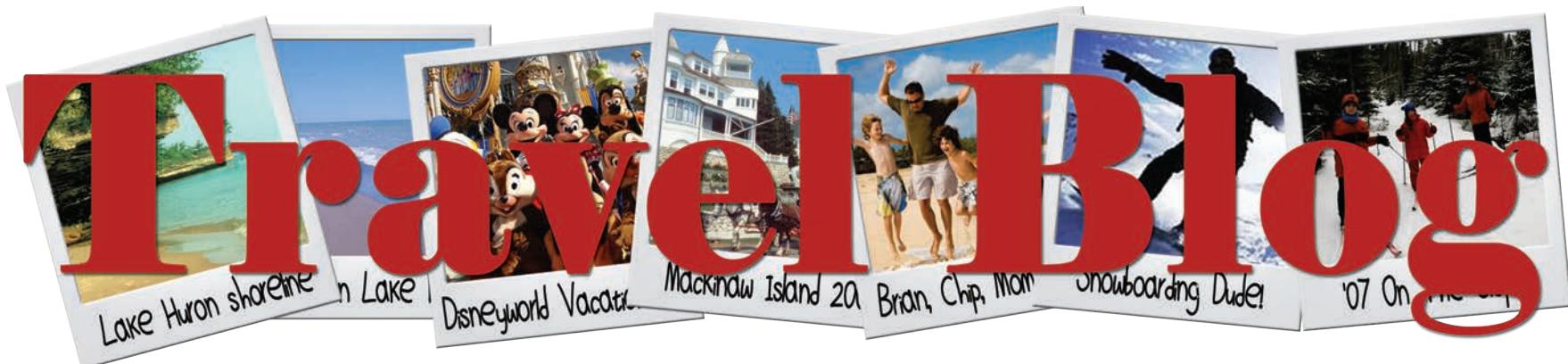
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In the Thumb



Harsens Island

Harsens Island is a wet, marshy island at the mouth of the St. Clair River. It is an island that is rich in history. At the turn of the century, it was a prime destination for visitors from the Detroit area who would board the steamship, *Tashmoo*, and make their way to one of the many luxury hotels on the island or to one of the family-owned cottages. Though the hotels no longer stand, today Harsens Island is still home to many summer cottages and approximately 2000 permanent residences. Accessible only by ferry from Pearl Beach or by boat, it retains that vacation feel all year long. People seem to be more relaxed and laid back there. Duck hunting, boating, swimming and fishing are ever popular sports. Bluegill, bass, perch and walleye are assessable by launching boats at any of the several DNR access points or marinas around the island. Spring through fall are the most popular times to visit, as ice jams in the St. Clair River can occasionally make Harsens Island inaccessible for up to several days. The small village of Sans Souci has one of the only year-round dining establishments on the island. There is daily dining and weekend entertainment, music and dancing inside the Sans Souci Bar and Restaurant. In the summertime, a grassy eating area and outside deck provide an opportunity to dine while watching or photographing the Great Lakes freighters navigating their way down the St. Clair River.

Outside the Thumb



Battle Creek

Although Battle Creek has been long known as being the “Cereal City,” a better reason to visit the area is Southern Exposure Herb Farm located at 11269 N. Drive North. This is truly worth a day’s trip. Located in the beautiful countryside of Calhoun County, there is a wonderfully fragrant herbal and Christmas shop, gorgeous winding herb gardens with exquisite resting places and carefully placed garden decorations beckoning visitors to explore. There are also elegant areas to hold showers, weddings and other events and Southern Exposure offers complete event planning services. Tents are set up outside to accommodate large groups and smaller groups can arrange for intimate gatherings in one of the well-appointed themed dining rooms.

Open daily from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. from April through December, they also offer specialty dining events and workshops. Their website, www.southernmoon.com, has a complete spring 2010 schedule of their offerings. Southern Exposure’s owners live in an idyllic garden setting in a home right on the property, which is surrounded by expansive horse farms. The gardens are exquisitely maintained – the kind every gardener longs for – not a weed in sight, all flowers that have finished blooming trimmed – and, yet, there is hardly a groundskeeper in sight. Everything is perfect for a day of quiet, peaceful relaxation and meditation in the garden paradise surrounded by hundreds of varieties of herbs, perennial and annual flowers, climbing vines, roses and the inevitable butterflies and birds that are attracted to the serene landscape as well.

Outside the State



Jamaica

Ocho Rios (Spanish for “Eight Rivers”) in Jamaica used to be a fishing village but now caters to tourists who arrive by plane or by any of the major cruise ships that use this city as a port of call. There are numerous restaurants and night clubs in Margaritaville and Dolphin Cove, where tourists can swim with dolphins and interact with the giant iguanas. No visit to Ocho Rios is complete, however, without a trip to Dunn’s River Falls, a major Caribbean tourist attraction that attracts thousands of visitors each year. The waterfalls are terraced like giant steps and are about 900 feet high. Accompanied by guides, visitors can climb the falls and stop to rest in several small lagoons along the way. Lush, tropical vegetation lines the edges of the waterfalls and provides welcome shade from the hot tropical sun. Dunn’s River Falls is unique in that it is one of very few waterfalls in the world that empties directly into the sea.

Editor’s note: In each issue, The Travel Blog briefly highlights three travel destinations – one in the Thumb area of Michigan, one outside of the Thumb area, but still in Michigan and one outside of the state (it could be anywhere in the world.) We are inviting our readers to submit short articles (approximately 250 words) with one picture of a favorite place you have visited in your travels. Email them to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and you may see them in a future issue of ThumbPrint News!

Free Food!

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Are you looking for ways to lower your food costs? How about getting food for FREE? Nature has provided a wealth of wild plants that have edible parts, many of which can be used to make delicious meals. You just have to be able to learn to identify which plants are safe to eat, what parts are used and how you can prepare them. These books will get you started in your wild culinary adventures.

The Forager's Harvest: A Guide to Identifying, Harvesting, and Preparing Edible Wild Plants by Samuel Thayer ISBN-13: 978-0-9766266-0-2

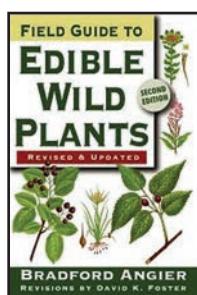
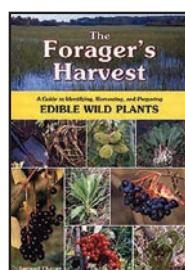
This is one of the most complete books around on using edible wild plants. The individual chapters cover everything from identifying edible plants, harvesting the plants, preparing the plants, cooking the plants and storage of edible plants for future use. Hardly anything is left out of this book. The numerous color photos help the beginner identify plants in the field from similar species.

Edible and Medicinal Plants of the Great Lakes Region by Thomas A. Naegele ISBN-10: 0-923568-37-9

This guide covers useful plants that are specifically found in the area of Michigan where we live. It not only covers edible uses of plants but also medicinal uses as well. This book is very detailed and quite technical. The illustrations are in black and white, rather than in color, so it appears to be more for someone who has the basic knowledge of useful plants and is looking for more advanced information. The index is a great resource in itself, giving multiple ways to look up a plant or its uses.

Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants by David Foster and Bradford Angier ISBN-13: 978-0-8117-3447-9

This book is another excellent guide to wild edible plants. The colorful illustrations help the novice to recognize plants found in the wild. What is really impressive about this book is the individual histories that are given on each plant detailing how they have been used in the past. It reads like a novel and can be enjoyed even by the person who is not going to actually go out and forage for their dinner!



The King of All Useful Plants

The Cattail

By Ralph McKinich

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

One of the most useful plants has got to be the cattail (*typha latifolia*). It can be found growing in ponds, marshes and roadside ditches throughout all of North America, Mexico and parts of the Caribbean islands. Every part of this plant is usable in some form. Let's take a look at how the different parts of the cattail have been used in the past and how they can be used today.

The fluff from the mature flower heads has been used in the past to stuff pillows and was even used in stuffing life vests because of its buoyancy and insulating factors. The fluff also makes great tinder and gives off a lot of heat. In fact, even in the rain, the inside of the cattail head will usually remain dry making it a great fire starter in emergency situations.

The mature stalks of the cattail have been used as building materials in the past. They have been thatched to make roofs. They have helped to bind walls together. The stalks have also been used as a weaving material to make baskets and mats.

Undoubtedly, one of the greatest values of the cattail is its high rating as a survival food. Some part of the plant can be harvested and eaten in every season.

Cattails have fibrous roots that grow under the water. Unless the water is frozen solid, these roots can be harvested year round. The bulbous parts are quite starchy and taste like a potato and can be cooked like one. Eaten raw, they make great



The common cattail is one of the best edible plants.

survival food. The roots can also be dried and then stored for later use. If the roots are boiled they will yield a starchy paste that can be used to thicken soups or stews.

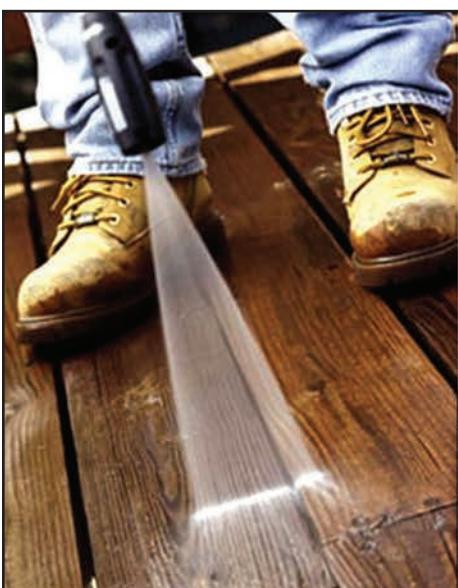
The young shoots of the cattail can be eaten raw or boiled and have a similar taste to a cucumber.

The green flower heads, before they turn brown, taste like corn on the cob when cooked.

The yellow pollen from the flower heads can also be used as a thickener. It is easiest to harvest by shaking the heads into a paper bag. It can also be combined with flour when making bread.

Although cattails can aggressively take over a swamp or small pond, environmentally they are a valuable shelter for many waterfowl, birds, fish and insects. They also act as an excellent natural filter for swamps and ponds.

With all of cattails uses as food, as an insulator, as tinder, as a building and a weaving material, this plant truly is the king of all useful plants! 



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- a grub control application mid-summer to help prevent serious fall damage to your lawn
- a fall application to prepare the lawn for winter and early spring green-up

Remember, there are no binding contracts for lawn care, only agreements that can be altered at any time. For the best lawn results, contact us now for your May application at (810) 794-5678.



Advertorial

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If a homeowner or contractor has a blueprint of a home or building to be built, it can be brought into Port Huron Building supply for a quote on all of the materials that will be needed to complete the home or project from the ground up. There will be no need to go to one place for the lumber, to another for the plumbing parts, to a cement yard for the cement – everything that is required can be found at one location – Port Huron Building Supply. With the decline in the housing market in Michigan, Port Huron Building supply is aggressively seeking new business. Give them a chance to quote on any building project. You will be surprised at how competitive they are!

Many individuals and contractors are taking advantage of the low prices that can be had on foreclosed homes during these hard times in Michigan. Everything that is needed to repair or remodel these homes is available at Port Huron Building Supply, including, but not limited to, window and screen repair, the service of cutting keys and re-keying locks, cutting and threading pipe, roofing materials, insulation (including complimentary use of their insulation machines, when insulation is purchased there), electrical supplies, paint, lumber, brick, block, flooring and countertops.

Kitchen remodeling is a specialty for Port Huron Building Supply. They offer computer drawn 3D lay-outs of kitchen designs, that will allow the remodeler to see the proposed project in several different views prior to purchasing the materials to complete the project. Changes can easily be made and visualized before beginning, avoiding costly mistakes during the construction process.

Whether the building project is big or small, Port Huron Building Supply, as their motto says, helps you to "Do it Best." Stop in and see everything they have to offer!

Can Your Insulation Leave You Cold?

Most people believe that insulation only keeps the cold air out of your home in winter. However, insulation is also effective during the summer helping to keep the warm air out. Air conditioners can cause expensive electrical bills in the summer. If heat is coming in, insulation is a relatively quick and easy correction to this problem if installed by an experienced technician.

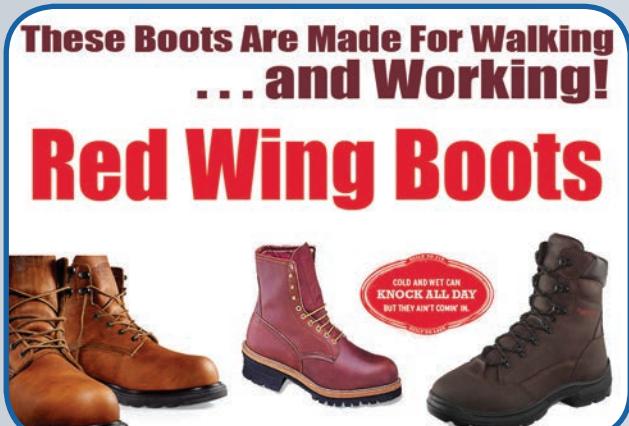
ABC offers insulation services; our head technician has over 21 years of insulation experience. Take advantage of the tax credits that are still available and call today for your free estimate. Remember ABC Home & Commercial Services covers the entire Thumb of Michigan. Call us today at (810) 794-5678.

Port Huron Building Supply

Since 1946

Family-owned and operated since 1946, we are a full line do-it-yourself and contractor building center serving home owners and professional contractors in Port Huron and the Thumb area.

ALSO OFFERING: • Brick • Block • Lumber • Hardware • Paint • Plumbing • Electrical • Windows
• Cut keys • Re-key locks • Cutting & Threading Pipe • Computerized Kitchen Design



State Certified Concrete Plant

**3555 Electric Avenue
Port Huron, MI 48060
810.987.2666**

Store Hours:
Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat. 7 a.m.-1 p.m.



Attention!

Wartime Veterans and Surviving Spouses

Did you know that many Wartime Veterans and their surviving spouses or widows are eligible for a tax-free pension benefit from the Veterans Administration?

The Aid and Attendance (A&A) Special Pension is a benefit that may be available for veterans and/or surviving spouses who are at least 65 years old to assist with the cost of long term care, including in-home caregivers. It is a non-service connected disability benefit, meaning the disability does not have to be service related. Please call for further information regarding the VA A&A pension for yourself or a loved one today!

The Aid and Attendance Improved Pension Benefit

Maximum Benefit for 2010

Beneficiary	Monthly Pension
Married Veteran	\$1,949
Veteran Alone	\$1,632
Surviving Spouse/Widow	\$1,055

**Simasko, Simasko
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Attorneys
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To find out if you or your family members qualify for this benefit and for more information, please call:

(586) 468-6793

www.simaskolaw.com