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ThumbPrint News

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

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

MARCH 2015



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Motor Home Born in Brown City

By **David Odziana**

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Reporter

Brown City has long been known for being an agricultural town. However, many people don't know that it was also the birthplace of one of America's great pastimes.

The area we know today as Brown City received its start in 1854, when William and Margaret Brown, along with their four sons and two daughters, came to Burnside Township, entering claims for 680 acres in both Burnside and Maple Valley Townships. The Browns were the first family to settle the area and as the lumbering industry began to diminish, the short-term residents began giving way to permanent settlers. With depleting forests, villagers began turning their cleared land into farm fields, becoming a town built around cultivation. Helping with the growth of the area was the rich black soil and fresh water from numerous wells, which were perfect for farming, as well as the nearby Deanville Mountain that offered a seemingly endless amount of sand and gravel.

With the new industry came new growth and the surrounding areas soon received more quality schools and libraries. By 1878, the Port Huron & North Western Rail Road was completed, with the narrow gauge road passing through the farms of Robert and John Brown. At the time, Robert owned 200 acres, which resided on the south side of modern day Main Street. His brother John owned the property on the north side of the street, which he then platted in 175 village lots. When the Brown brothers first obtained this property, it was untouched forest with no settlers within 10 miles. They began cutting roads in order to reach their property. Robert eventually donated the site of the present depot, and starting on May 17, 1881, Brown's Settlement was renamed Brown City, in honor of the Brown family. Once the first train came through Brown City on December 23, 1880, business on



Brown City Sign, contributed by James G. Anderson

See *MOTOR HOME*, Page 14

POINTE AUX BARQUES FINGERNAIL OF THE THUMB

By **William Easton**

ThumbPrint News Contributing Writer

Port Austin, known as the "Tip of the Thumb", is at the northern point on Highway M-25, where many have traveled the Lake Huron Circle along Saginaw Bay. They could stop at two state parks, Port Crescent and Sleeper, named for the governor who established it. Port Crescent at the mouth of the Pinnebog River is the site of a ghost town of that name which was destroyed in the 1881 fire. That makes for an interesting scenic drive.

BUT I am going to head in the other direction. That is: travel east and southeast along the Lake Huron shore away from Port Austin. There I discover that Port Austin is not actually at

the Thumb's tip, just as Copper Harbor is not at the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula. Both are bordered by bits of land a little further north and east, although their claims remain mostly unchallenged. Port Austin Township is about 16.7 square miles and has a population of 1591 according to the most recent U.S. census. This brief travelogue takes us to a much smaller township on our journey off M-25.

Just east of Port Austin is the miniscule township of Pointe Aux Barques. It comprises just 1.6 square miles, with parts of three



See *POINTE AUX BARQUES*, Page 8



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I realized the other day once again something I had almost forgotten – how much I love books. It isn't that books have become any less important to me than they ever were, nor do I use them any less than I ever did. I just hadn't recently thought about their continuing importance in my life.

What caused me to once again sense that wonderment of the written word was the opening of a brand new library in the neighborhood in Florida where I choose to spend a short period away from the cold Michigan weather for a few weeks each year. I figured since I am a resident of Michigan and not of Florida that I wouldn't be able to get a library card at this new library. However, a phone call let me know I was mistaken. As long as I owned property in the county and could prove it by bringing in a copy of my latest tax bill, I could get a card.

So, since the new library was only about ten blocks from my house and the weather was a sunny 70 degrees, I decided it would be the perfect chance to get some exercise and walk to check out this new neighborhood addition.

I have to admit that I haven't been to the library in quite a while. It seemed to me the last time I went to one in Michigan that there happened to be more librarians than patrons at the time. And, the few patrons that were there were mostly on the computers taking advantage of free internet access. My thoughts were that the

library, per se, might very well be a dying institution with the advent of computers, the internet, tablets, e-books and so on.

However, when I walked into this new neighborhood library, I was amazed. It was packed. The people had piles of books, DVDs and more piled in their arms, waiting to check out. I decided to start perusing the aisles to familiarize myself with the different sections and suddenly I became once again just like a kid in a candy shop. I saw dozens of books I wanted to check out. I even looked at the DVDs, something I never do, and saw some old movie titles that I had always wanted to watch but somehow never did.

All I could think of was that old quote by Frank Zappa, "so many books, so little time".

I walked backed to the librarian's desk to fill out my application for a card. When she had completed my enrollment, I asked her how many books I could check out at a time. She answered, "100, but only 10 DVDs." One hundred books? Really? Does anyone ever really do that? The librarian assured me that they do. She stated a woman just a few minutes ago had checked out 55. Wow! I know I don't have that much time for reading books before they would be due back in.

However, I did find five rather thick books – and two DVDs. Happily, I started my walk back to my house with my armload. Unfortunately, I hadn't planned

very well and had no bag to carry them in. Although I was only 10 blocks away, by five blocks my arms were hurting. It was just a good thing that I hadn't gone with the maximum amount of books that I could check out!

Books have the power to do so much. They entertain. They instruct. They make us think about things we might never have thought about before. Most of all, books have the power to change us.

I was thrilled that I once again remembered how important books are to me.

A book is made from a tree. It is an assemblage of flat, flexible parts (still called "leaves") imprinted with dark pigmented squiggles. One glance at it and you hear the voice of another person, perhaps someone dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, the author is speaking, clearly and silently, inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people, citizens of distant epochs, who never knew one another. Books break the shackles of time—proof that humans can work magic. —Carl Sagan

I now think libraries will be around in some form for a very long time. So, while us Michiganders still have some more cold, wintry and perhaps snowed in days before spring comes back once again, curl up with your favorite book and be transformed to your happy place! 📖

Freighters get stuck as the St. Clair River jams with large pieces of ice, forcing ships to wait for area ice breakers on January 16, 2015.

Photo by David Odziana



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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, go to www.thumbprintnews.com and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting correct answers by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of this year! On December 31, 2015, one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified.

In the February 2015 edition, we asked our readers to identify where the roadside decoration pictured below can be found:

Of those submitting the correct answer, Sharon A. Gehle of Allenton, Michigan, was randomly chosen to be entered into the year-end drawing.

Sharon identified that this decoration can be found along the roadside on Almont Rd. in Allenton, Michigan.

For our March contest we are asking for our readers to identify the object to the right and describe its use. Remember, go to www.thumbprintnews.com if you know the answer. Good luck! 🍀



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Grandpa's Toolbox

By Gerald W. Nyquist

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

My paternal grandfather, Carl Oscar Nyquist, was a machinist all of his working years, initially following in his father's footsteps where both worked for Bofors Corporation in Karlskoga, Sweden. Bofors manufactured a variety of metal goods including huge military weapons. He was born in 1882 and entered the United States at Boston in 1906, achieving citizenship in 1917.

Like many immigrating Swedes, Grandpa took up residence in Moline, Illinois; he was employed by Moline Plow Company. While in Moline he met and married his wife, Emma Jonsson, also a Swedish emigrant. Later they moved to Detroit where Grandpa first worked for Dodge Brothers Motor Car Company, ending his career as a tool and die maker at Shores Manufacturing Company owned by his son, my father, Paul Gustave Nyquist.

I acquired Grandpa's machinist's toolbox and tools in about 1967, when he and Grandma were no longer able to care for their Eastpointe home. Over the ensuing years the box and contents followed me around Michigan from Eastpointe to East

Lansing, Croswell, Lexington, Traverse City, and finally to my current residence in Macomb Township. As the year 2015 fast approached, it was time for this faithful old veteran to receive some tender loving care. I tightened loose drawer panels, polished rusty metal hardware, cleaned and polished the varnished wooden drawer fronts and the metal exterior of the box. New felt liners for the drawers completed the project. I had cleaned the tools decades earlier; they were still presentable. The tools are really old, some perhaps from Sweden and some with U.S. patents dating to the late 1800s. Approaching my 74th year, I decided that it was time for the toolbox and contents to pass to a younger generation. It's now under the stewardship of my cousin Donald's son, David Nyquist, and it is my hope that eventually it will be cherished by his son, Ryan. Carl Oscar and his wife Emma are buried in White Chapel Cemetery, Troy, Michigan. The toolbox lives on. 🌱

Editor's Note: Gerald Nyquist is a member of the New Baltimore Historical Society and a former president of the Sanilac County Historical Society.



Carl Oscar Nyquist



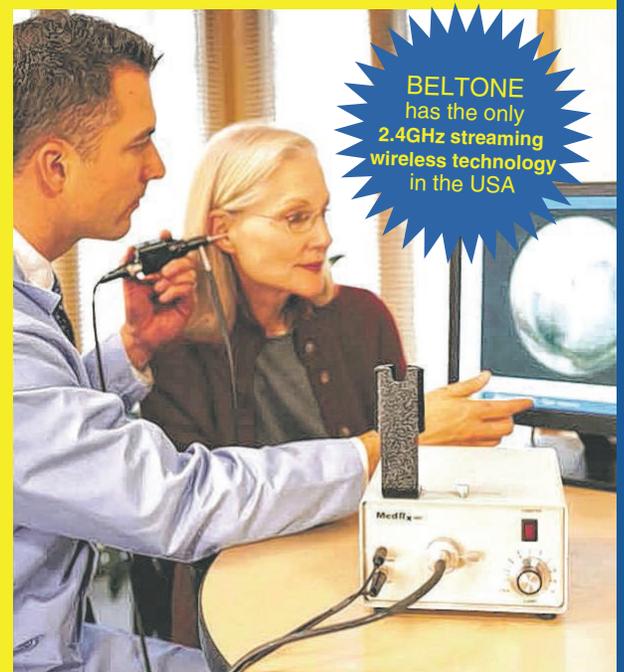
Grandpa's toolbox and tools

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Sauerkraut - Yum or Yuck?

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Sauerkraut! Yes, that's the topic for my column this month. And, you may ask why. Allow me to expound on this specially selected subject.



First, you need to know that as a youngster I grew up in a home where my mother tried her very best to satisfy my father's irrational devotion to foods my siblings and I considered weird and often obnoxious. While attending school as a young man Dad worked for a small meat-processing company in Richmond where animals were slaughtered and where what he considered to be fantastic sausages were made. He developed a life-long taste for them. As an adult with a family he would shop at Zimmerman's Meat Market in Marine City each Saturday. He would return home with large quantities of lunch meats I personally wouldn't feed to the animals that were sacrificed for their production. My sisters and I would normally respond with a "yuk," which would irritate Dad. I might mention that my mother wouldn't eat them either, but never complained about his obsession.

One of Dad's favorite "delights" was corned beef and cabbage, which Mom would prepare often. I don't recall anyone but my father ever eating it, but I could always tell when it was being prepared. I had no doubts as I entered the house what Dad was having for supper. The aroma, or should I say odor, was startling and would last for hours throughout the house. I was convinced then and remain confident that the Lord created cabbage primarily as a food for rabbits and should only be used by humans in coleslaw.

Now, that's a long dissertation to address my selected topic of sauerkraut. Hopefully, you will begin to see the connection. It was my father's less-than-normal eating habits that introduced me to the smell of cooked cabbage. And, over the years I have found only one other cabbage-based food that produces an even worse odor. Yes, that's sauerkraut.

I was recently recruited to assist with my church's sauerkraut dinner fundraiser. This is an annual event created by the mostly German men of the church

more than 68 years ago. I reluctantly volunteered because the proceeds are used for special needs within the community. However, there was a condition to my stepping forward; that I wouldn't have to work in the preparation or serving of the sauerkraut. My job was of a promotional and administrative nature.

So, what have I learned? Well, did you know that although sauerkraut (German for "sour cabbage") is thought of as a German invention, it was Chinese laborers building the Great Wall of China over 2,000 years ago who ate it as standard fare. Chinese sauerkraut is made from shredded cabbage fermented in rice wine. Most likely it was brought to Europe a thousand years later by Genghis Kahn after plundering China. In Germany instead of using the wine they cured it by sprinkling salt on the shredded cabbage. The water is then drawn out of the cabbage to make the juice that is seen accompanying the kraut. The Dutch, who were great sea traders, used sauerkraut on their ships as it did not need refrigeration and helped prevent scurvy.

Are you aware of the many, many recipes that use sauerkraut as a base ingredient? Just imagine how tasty these are: sauerkraut pizza, kraut salad, Reuben burger, sauerkraut egg rolls, sauerkraut smoothie, sauerkraut soup, sauerkraut with bacon and wieners, krauted sloppy joes, and German chocolate sauerkraut cake. Everyone has heard of a Reuben sandwich and I've talked with people who have eaten the cake. They tell me that they assume the sauerkraut is coconut. I know, too, that you can have sauerkraut pizza at Murphy Inn in St. Clair. However, I'm still searching for someone, anyone, who has tasted a sauerkraut smoothie.



By the time you read this essay on the leafy vegetable fermented in brine, the annual event that promoted its writing will have passed. I will have done my best to stay out of the kitchen and away from those serving hundreds of sauerkraut and pork dinners. I will have survived hours of the raucous smell that permeates my church for days. And, I will have escaped yet another year of not surrendering to everyone saying, "You gotta try it!" To them my response is the same shared with my sisters so many years ago: Just a simple but resounding, "Yuk!" 🍌



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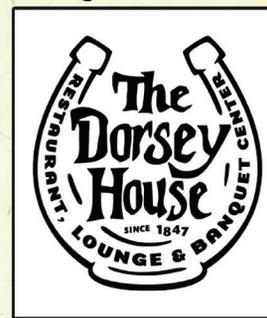
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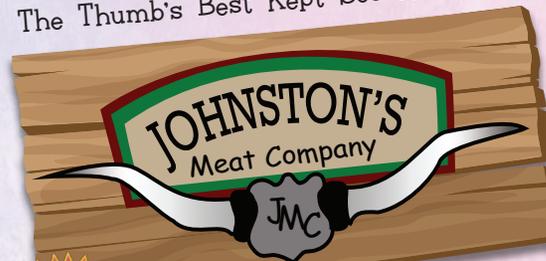
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2. On this day in 1836, Texas declares independence from Mexico on Sam Houston's 43rd birthday.
3. On this day in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signs the conscription act compelling U.S. citizens to report for duty in the Civil War or pay \$300⁰⁰.
4. On this day in 1793, George Washington is inaugurated as President for the second time.
5. On this day in 1984, The U.S. Supreme Court rules that cities have the right to display the Nativity scene as part of their Christmas display.
6. On this day in 1899, aspirin is patented following Felix Hoffman's discoveries about the properties of acetylsalicylic acid.
7. On this day in 1933, the film *King Kong* premieres in New York City.
8. On this day in 1790, George Washington delivers the first State of the Union address.
9. On this day in 1936, the German press warns that all Jews who vote in the upcoming elections will be arrested.
10. On this day in 1933, Nevada becomes the first U.S. state to regulate drugs.
11. On this day in 1969, Levi-Strauss starts to sell bell-bottomed jeans.
12. On this day in 1985, the United States and the Soviet Union begin arms control talks in Geneva.
13. On this day in 1935, a three-thousand-year-old archive is found in Jerusalem confirming biblical history.
14. On this day in 1967, John F. Kennedy's body is moved from a temporary grave to a permanent one in Arlington Cemetery.
15. On this day in 1892, New York State unveils the new automatic ballot voting machine.
16. On this day in 1935, Adolf Hitler orders a German rearmament and violates the Versailles Treaty.
17. On this day in 1910, the Camp Fire Girls are founded in Lake Sebago, Maine.
18. On this day in 1942, the third military draft begins in the United States.
19. On this day in 1931, the state of Nevada legalizes gambling.
20. On this day in 1982, U.S. scientists return from Antarctica with the first land mammal fossils found there.
21. On this day in 1939, singer Kate Smith records "God Bless America" for Victoria Records.
22. On this day in 1794, Congress passes laws prohibiting slave trade with foreign countries, although slavery remains legal in the United States.
23. On this day in 1775, American revolutionary hero Patrick Henry, while addressing the House of Burgesses, declares "give me liberty, or give me death!"
24. On this day in 1947, Congress proposes limiting the presidency to two terms.
25. On this day in 1915, the first submarine disaster occurs when a U.S. F-4 sinks off the Hawaiian coast.
26. On this day in 1982, ground is broken in Washington D.C. for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
27. On this day in 1958, the United States announces a plan to explore space near the moon.
28. On this day in 1979, a major accident occurs at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island nuclear power plant.
29. On this day in 1886, Coca-Cola goes on sale for the first time at a drugstore in Atlanta. Its inventor, Dr. John Pemberton, claims it can cure anything from hysteria to the common cold.
30. On this day in 1943, Rodgers and Hammerstein's first collaboration, *Oklahoma*, opens on Broadway.
31. On this day in 1918, Daylight Savings Time goes into effect throughout the United States for the first time.



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POINTE AUX BARQUES

Continued from Page 1

sections of land, a section being 64 acres. There are only ten people shown as living in this small township, with that number and household composition unchanged from the 2000 to the 2010 census. Still it is one of the 1254 recognized townships in the state, perhaps the smallest in area and population.

Equally interesting as the minute size - at least to one fascinated by Thumb area trivia - is the geographic fact that it lies further north than the "Tip" claimant. How did I come to that conclusion? The Port Austin coordinates are: 44.0453N. The Pointe Aux Barques coordinates are: 44.0614N. Interpreted for the non-map reader that means the latter lies just a bit north of the former. How much? Generally in the northern hemisphere meridians are about 69 miles apart, which are subdivided into smaller distances of sixty minutes and sixty seconds. Although both townships



lie on the same latitude, they are .016 minutes apart. Again doing the math, I conclude that the tiny township of Pointe Aux Barques is actually just over a mile north of its larger neighbor.

"PAB", as the locals (Port Austin representatives) call it, actually has its own distinct moniker, "Fingernail of the Thumb", that describes a thin jagged rock formation along the east side of the township, best seen from the lake. So, if Port Austin is the tip of the thumb, that tip has a nail on the end of the thumb. (Remember, for most purposes the thumb is also a finger, hence its nail is a fingernail.)

As for the origin of the French name, it may have been given by the missionary priest, Claude Allouez, who thought its shoreline resembled a ship's prow. Also, it is suggested as meaning "point of little boats", impassable for larger vessels. Literally, the translation could be just "tip of the boats".

Another local landmark with an appropriate nickname is a small rocky



island offshore called Turnip Rock". Several excellent images have been captured by amateur photographers - and yes, it certainly does look like a turnip with shrubbery growing from it. The nearest land is private property, so this small island should be reached only from the lake.

Kayaking would be a way to combine some exercise with the unique view. (There is a kayak rental business in Port Austin with a web site.) From the bloggers' comments some friction exists between the nearby summer property owners and those who wish to visit this unique spot. As far as I can determine, no such restriction limits access to the "fingernail". According to state sources, the rock is sandstone eroded over the centuries, so much so that man has cemented its base to prevent the turnip from tumbling into the water.

The Pointe Aux Barques Light was constructed in 1847. Its replacement, which was built a decade later, is still operational. It is not actually in the small township but several miles south near Port Hope. Navigation along the shoal lined lake shore proved difficult for the roughly 75 miles north of the Fort Gratiot Light built in 1825. Later additional lights were added at Port Sanilac and Harbor Beach.

All have been an invaluable assistance to sailors during the last two centuries. Water depth along the Lake Huron shore is quite shallow with dangerous shoals to be avoided. The Pointe Aux Barques Light, remotely controlled by the Coast Guard, has a state memorial marker in the surrounding county park.



Back in the 1.6 mile township there is a nine hole golf course. Well maintained, it has a full time manager, clubhouse, etc. However, it lies behind the gates of a 900 acre "private family community". (Yes, that includes the private property from which one should not view Turnip Rock.) In fact, if my school arithmetic is still correct, the 900 acres on which some 66 cottages are located takes up most of the township's 1024 acres. Unlike other Thumb area private compounds, these

See *POINTE AUX BARQUES*, Page 25

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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

INCOME TAX FOR SENIORS - READ ON!

By Gabriel Jones
ThumbPrint News Columnist

Wife: "Gabriel!"

Gabriel: "Yes, love?"

Wife: "I see that you're working on our income tax."

Gabriel: "Well, I'm not exactly working on our taxes, dear. I'm only gathering up the files for the tax man. He told me what files to bring."

Wife: "You are going to the same tax man that you went to last year, aren't you?"

Gabriel: "That's for sure love. Remember, he was recommended by our senior investment advisor. Before going to him, I used to really struggle for days trying to figure things out."

Wife: "I remember, dear. I tried not to bother you while you were working."

Gabriel: "But now, I only have to gather up the files that he told me to bring."

Wife: "When you bring them, do you have to wait long while he figures things out?"

Gabriel: "No love, that's the point. I come in the door with the files and sit next to him and his computer. He'll ask me for a certain file and then enters the information. This keeps going until he finishes both the state and federal taxes. When he finishes, he will then tell me how much of a refund we will receive. First he'll say what the state refund will be. Then I will say, 'Great'.

But when he tells me what the national refund will be, I will yell, 'HOORAY'.

That's why I'm smiling now, love. I want to yell 'HOORAY' again."

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍀

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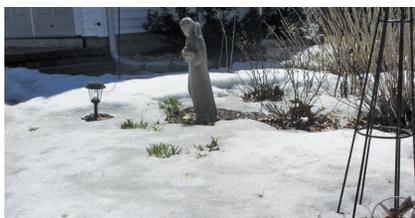
By Patricia Cosner Kubic

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer



This morning I saw something that made me stop mid-step. No kidding, I almost jammed my knee. I looked a second time to make sure that my imagination wasn't up to her old tricks again. And what I saw was true and bright. Immediately, my heart slowed down, you know the kind of slowing pace that happens when you feel actual relief.

My day was brought to a halt by something that could fit on the tip of a just sharpened number two pencil. It was the most beautiful shade of green that I've seen in some time (or at least, since the most beautiful shade of green on my last Christmas tree). It was the green tip of my yellow lilies poking through the remains of another Michigan winter that, once again, gripped us for far too long.



But, thanks to that tiny green tip, I knew in an instant that I was, that we all are, on the home stretch from another dingy winter. "Is Spring ever coming?" That's the cry that is heard around our world. And that itty bitty green tip is our resounding "yes!"

I know there still are piles of the winter lying around, but beneath those soot-colored mounds are the beginnings of another well earned spring. We know very well that winter is the tough season; everything seems harder. Just getting out the door takes effort: coat, hat, gloves and scarf - nowhere close to just sliding on flip flops and prancing out the door. And then, getting out of the driveway can many times

be your cardio workout for the day. All that, and you only made it to your side street. Nope, winter is not easy. On top of that, the single digit temperatures that are frustratingly reported as the "high for the day" bite us as we drop off the kids, hit the grocery store, check on Mom and slide back into our driveways.

I know by this time of year it seems like spring takes forever to get here, but the winter wait must be why it is always so exciting to see another sign of spring - your first robin. Really, do you hear friends and family from other states get so excited about seeing something as common, yet always so beautiful, as their first robin of the year? I don't.

I know it can be hard to believe, but the day is coming when all we have to do is throw on a light weight jacket. No more bundling up. And that day is March 20th and, according to the *Farmers' Almanac*, exactly at 7:02 am. When you work your way through our hard, and sometimes dangerously hard winters, like we do year after year, the colors that show up from those little green tips sprouting in all our yards and neighborhoods are the bright spring we spent the last few months waiting to get.

I hope very soon that you will see a green bud or maybe the puffy red breast of a robin returning home. And when you do, I hope you let out a big long sigh, just like the relief that comes at the end of a hard day's work. Actually though, what I really hope you do is rejoice at seeing the signs of spring. That certainly is something you earned.

Congratulations on another winter job well done. Happy spring! 🌱



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ThumbPrint News travels to South Africa!

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (over 1000 businesses in nine Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but readers have also taken ThumbPrint News with them to many different states and countries (listed to the right on the chalkboard). ThumbPrint News was even seen on television on the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and at Walt Disney World in Florida with several of the Disney characters! The newspaper has traveled to all of the seven continents.

This month, ThumbPrint News traveled to South Africa with Debbie and Fred Jagow of Troy, Michigan. Debbie sent in the photos on our chalkboard to the right and had this to say about her trip:

My husband, Fred, and I traveled to South Africa in August of 2014, for a safari in the Limpopo Providence. While there we took along our reading materials. ThumbPrint News was one of those items. We enjoyed the elephant safari and our visit to South Africa. I was impressed how smooth the "ride" was on my elephant. We ended our ride beside a small lake. After sliding down the side of the elephant to the ground, I heard a noise which the guide identified as hippos and he pointed them out! What a day! The land and the people of South Africa were wonderful. Even though it was their winter, we were impressed with seeing animals in the wild.

I was born and raised in the Port Huron area. Fred and I live in the Troy area where we both work in health care. I maintain my ties to the community through my sister's family (Steven and LuAnn Jones) and my parents, Richard and Joyce Orr. I come home at least once every other week. LuAnn passes ThumbPrint News to us to read. I enjoy the stories and keep up on the businesses in the area. Thank you ThumbPrint News!

If you are a reader of ThumbPrint News and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place, you may submit an email and photo to us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net. Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number. Please be patient as you wait for your photo to appear in ThumbPrint News. There are many places where ThumbPrint News has not yet been – and lots of famous people to track down. Who will be the next person to help us in our quest? 🍀

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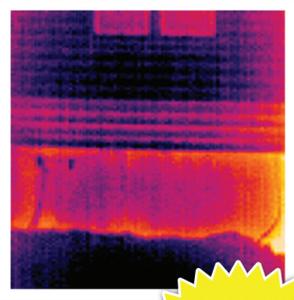
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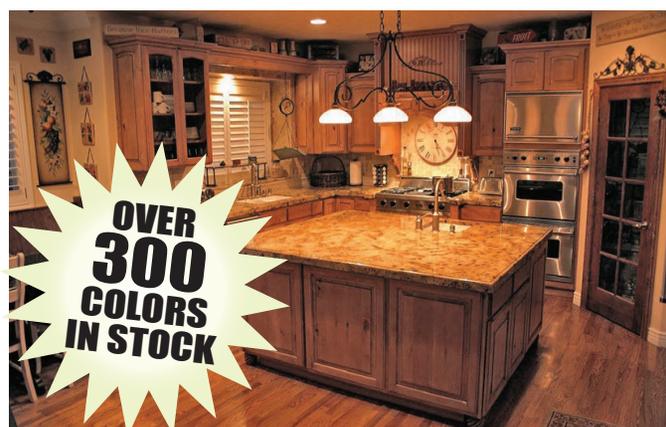
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The New Math of Relationship

By John Vincent Senkus

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Romance is all about making your partner feel extra special. But unfortunately, for many, romance, just like Marley ... is "dead as a door nail." And broaching the subject can be a bit perilous, as the topic of romance is probably responsible for more "eye rolls" than any other matter within relationship. It creates as many polarized viewpoints as does the discussion of politics (except politics is a lot easier for most to talk about). Just as conservatives and liberals can't seem to agree on much of anything—so it goes with many couples when it comes to romance.

Some see romance as a short term occurrence during the stages of new love, associating it with increased levels of various hormones. Anthropologist Helen Fisher looks at romantic love as typically being a 12 to 18 month process, stating that "The decline of romantic love is undoubtedly evolution's doing. Intense romantic passion consumes enormous time and energy. And it would be decidedly disruptive to one's peace of mind and daily activities (including rearing children) to spend years obsessively doting on a lover. Instead, this brain circuitry evolved primarily for one purpose: To drive our forebearers to seek and find special mating partners, then copulate exclusively with "him" or "her" until conception was assured. At that point, ancestral couples needed to stop focusing on each other and start building a safe social world where they could rear their precious child together."

Author Susan Page, believes that a lifelong connection to a soul mate is a newer concept to mankind. In most of human history, and still prevalent in

many cultures, marriage was primarily for raising children, obtaining a place in society, and for security—not for intimacy and romance. She writes the last several decades have provided the Sexual Revolution, the Women's Movement, and the Human Potential Movement. And for many, this emotional evolution continues with their higher expectations from relationship: A lifetime of equality, romance, sexual passion, and deep intimacy. Their desire is that intimate relationship provides a lover, partner, and friend; strongly connecting couples mentally, emotionally, sexually, and spiritually.

Others see romance in a very negative vein. Barbara Sher, therapist and career counselor, sees romance as a myth that can't last, believing that "romantic love" prevents real love. She states the odds of finding romance are just about as good as winning the lottery, and that romantic love is a form of addiction. Jungian analyst James Hollis believes "That of all the ideologies that possess the contemporary soul, perhaps none is more powerful, more seductive, and possibly more delusional than the romantic fantasy that there is someone out there who is right for us, the long-sought soul mate." This he calls *the magical other*, "The one who will truly understand us, take care of us, meet our needs, repair the wounds, and, with a little luck, spare us the burden of growing up and meeting our own needs."

I believe many of the negative views of romance have a lot more to do with lust, passion, and excessive dependency than with true romance. Lust has its roots embedded in gratification; passion is often times associated sexually, but without love and intimacy it's just a physical release; and being too catered to can stunt our growth. True enough, there are those that

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may latch onto these "romantic aspects" too tightly ... thereby choking off love's normal course of development. They are too afraid of commitment, the work that needs to go into cultivating a mature relationship, or what they may lose *after* the exhilaration of new love wears off. Non dimensional lust, passion, and reliance may sweep you off your feet, but it's all superficial. You end up crashing, because there are no other ingredients of love and romance to cushion your fall.

Romance is not just an initial blast of emotional rocket fuel, and it isn't a frivolous illusion either. Like everything else, it must be balanced. Too often, romance is exclusively associated with the beginning stage of potential love. While it does play a significant role in developing the inertia required to keep a new relationship's momentum going forward, especially when "reality starts setting in"—*romance has a more enduring and permanent role*. True romance should be an ongoing part of loving relationship. However, for it to be successful, it must have equilibrium with the other components of love. Too much focus and expectations on romance (or any other relationship feature) while having neglect elsewhere, is a recipe for failure. Just because romance can be "misused" does not disqualify or minimize the positive role that it can play in a healthy relationship.

Sure, there are those brand new, exciting, and passionate factors that come along with a new relationship—but romance isn't exclusive to only young love. Sweet, passionate, and comforting romantic facets can develop and evolve over the long term. *Actually, there are elements of romance that can intensify over time*. The longer and better you know your partner, the more you can "customize" your romantic moments and planning details. This can apply to a heart felt gesture, a simple evening at home, or a more elaborate excursion. Your increased intimate familiarity enables you to do those things that would have been impossible when your love was new—you just couldn't have known your partner then as well as you do now.

Romance isn't temporary, an illusion, or emotionally unhealthy. It's not complicated nor is it something to fear or dread. In fact, by connecting your gestures of loving acts, it can be quite simple and pleasurable. Romance is a fundamental building block of intimate relationship, and its loving expression should be an ongoing occurrence, regardless of how long you have been together!

Thanks for reading! Please send any questions or comments to 1and1equal3@gmail.com.

In our next column, we will review the four elements of romance (and identify which one is absolutely essential!). 🐾

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MOTOR HOME

Continued from Page 1

Main Street began to flourish.



Between 1879 and 1883, 12 businesses came to the area, giving the settlement a great deal of early success. The surrounding villages of Deanville and Burnside were bustling with business, but once the railroad was laid, residents began relocating to Brown City. The railroad was obtained by Flint and Pere Marquette in 1889, changing it from a narrow gauge to a standard gauge rail road. By 1891, the two surrounding settlements were nothing more than ghost towns. Farmers in Brown City began growing numerous crops, such as cucumbers, sugar beets, sod, flax and peppermint. Dairy farming was also a large focus for many farmers, making Sanilac County the leading milk-producing county in the state for many decades. In 1896, Brown City officially became a village and a few years later boasted businesses, such as a flax mill, wagon factory, foundry, plow factory, brickyard and a canning factory - all of which helped supplement the agricultural economy in its own way. Following a spat over five loads of gravel in 1907, Brown City removed itself from Maple Valley Township, becoming a fourth class city.

Once many of the modern amenities for farming became available, growers now had more time to spend on other activities. This spare time led to Brown City becoming responsible for facilitating the creation of a staple for travelers and camping buffs alike. A local farmer in the area, Ray Frank, chose to spend the extra time he had to concoct a motor home for his family to use starting in the mid 1950s. In the first few years of his new project, he constructed four RVs on his farm just northeast of Brown City. His experience in engineering and automotive most definitely came in handy. Each time Frank began building a self-propelled RV, it was always with the intention to keep it for his family. Since the motor homes were so unique,

every time he was close to completing a unit, he would undoubtedly be approached about purchasing his creation. A main reason they drew so much attention was because of their uniqueness. Frank's creation wasn't simply a trailer with wheels and an engine added, nor was it built on an existing bus or truck chassis, as most were at the time. Due to the fact that Frank's units were designed from scratch with the intention of becoming an RV, his invention was the first time the term *motor home* was used to describe an RV, ending use of the term *house car*.

Beginning in 1958, Frank, along with other business owners in Brown City, organized an Industrial Development Corporation to assist Frank Motor Homes financially. After traveling with his family to find suppliers for his business, Frank eventually went directly to the Dodge Division of Chrysler, in hopes to purchase bare truck chassis. Unfortunately, Dodge wouldn't sell directly to Frank, but he



Ray Frank, father of the motor home

was directed to a Dodge dealership, where he met Lloyd Bridges, who agreed to sell him his first 100 chassis. As it turned out, Bridges became one of the first dealers to sell Frank Motor

Homes. Production for the motor homes started slowly with only six sold in 1960, but a year later, 131 units were purchased. The RVs were first designed with a boxy aluminum body and a molded fiberglass tail and nose section, which was a first for the industry. As time passed, Dodge engineers became more involved with the product, which eventually led to it being renamed the *Dodge Motor Home* in 1962. Frank's revolutionary motor homes were the first constructed on an assembly line, and with a new all-fiberglass body with rounded edges coming a year later,



FRANK MOTOR HOMES, INC.

Frank Motor Home Factory
(Contributed by James G. Anderson)



Dodge Motor Home

1963 Dodge Motor Home (Frank Motor Homes)

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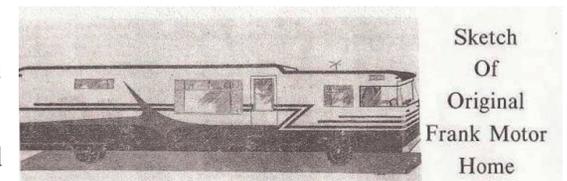
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sales began to soar.

In 1963, there were over 700 Dodge Motor Homes sold, which were available in a 21-foot and the more popular 27-foot model. The all-fiberglass bodies changed the RV industry in a monumental way, as it eliminated the need for paint jobs and didn't dry rot like previous materials did. Both models sold for around \$11,000 and came fully equipped with many innovative features, such as a couch that converted to a double bunk bed, a double basin and a waste incinerator. A main reason the Dodge Motor Homes remained so successful was because they were able to be sold at trailer dealerships, as well as franchised automobile dealers, because of their uniqueness. It also didn't hurt that they were much more affordable than other units being



Sketch Of Original Frank Motor Home

(Contributed by James G. Anderson)

Homes in the U.S. than all other RVs combined. Due to financial strains caused by many of the new innovations, Frank was forced to sell his company to two investors, who bought the patents and body molds, renaming the company Travco Corporation. The Dodge chassis was the most popular used to construct motor homes for the next 20 years, which some say was caused by Frank choosing to use them to build his motor homes.

Following the sale of his first company, Frank attempted to construct a self-contained motor home fit for two people. He began by producing seven units, which he called the *Cruiseair*, but the idea never caught on and the venture was abandoned. Frank continued his vision of creating an RV that was smaller and able to fit in a standard garage, which would become the first of its kind. The company that arose from this idea was Xplorer, which was established in 1967 in Brown City, known for producing custom-

custom made. So many of these units were sold during the first few years of production that by 1967, it was believed there were more Dodge Motor



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Melanie Duquesnel

Advice for Avoiding Automobile Repair Scams

When your vehicle needs repairs, you don't need a crash course in auto mechanics, but you should know how to find a reliable shop and mechanic. Better Business Bureau recommends following a few key pointers to ensure that your automobile gets fixed without a glitch.

What do you do when your windshield wipers stop working, your left taillight burns out or your brakes give out? Some may opt to fix the problem themselves, but many turn to the services and handiwork of auto repairmen. While most auto repairmen are honest and forthcoming, consumers need to be on the lookout for those that are trying to make a quick buck. It's important for consumers to be on the lookout for scams like overcharging on repairs, charging for labor that was never performed, and performing shoddy work.

Every year, BBB receives thousands of complaints against auto repair services and fields millions of inquiries from consumers looking to find a reliable business in the industry. Most of the complaints received by BBB fell under billing, service, and refund and exchange issues.

BBB recommends considering the following advice when taking your car in for auto repair services:

- **Check your warranty.** If you have a problem with your vehicle while it is still under warranty, follow the manufacturer's instructions, which may require that repairs be made at an authorized dealership.

- **Ask around.** If you are looking for a qualified, independent shop, ask friends for recommendations, or request a list of BBB Accredited Businesses that do the type of auto repair you need. Be sure to check with BBB about the shop's reliability at www.bbb.org/detroit.

- **Look for shops that display certification.** For major work, such as brakes, transmission or engine repair, you will need to find a shop employing a

specialist. Look for a repair facility that has ASE Certified technicians, is an AAA Approved Auto Repair Shop, belongs to the ASA Automotive Service Association and is an Accredited Business with the BBB.

- **Ask all the questions that you need.** Don't be embarrassed to request explanations. Don't rush the technician into making an on-the-spot diagnosis of the problem. Ask to be called and apprised of the problem, course of action, and cost of work before any work begins.

- **Before authorizing repairs, get a written estimate for parts and labor.** Tell the shop to get your permission before making additional repairs. Ensure you receive notification by having the service manager write a request on the bottom of the repair order. Give phone numbers where you can be reached and, before you leave, be sure to understand all shop policies regarding labor rates, guarantees, and acceptable methods of payment.

- **Get everything in writing.** When you pick up your vehicle, get an explanation of all work completed and get all guarantees in writing. Ask that any major new parts that have been installed be pointed out to you. Your repair bill should be itemized so, if a problem occurs later, you can prove the item is covered by the guarantee.

For more auto tips and to search for trusted businesses in the auto field, visit the BBB Auto Resource Center at go.bbb.org/auto.

Editor's Note: Melanie Duquesnel is the president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan & the Upper Peninsula, which 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 by visiting www.bbb.org.

built motor homes. Frank believed that Americans wanted a coach that was easier to drive and park, so he produced all classes of motor homes, as well as the first production class B unit, beginning in 1968. Before Frank started building his van-sized RVs, the only units similar to his were produced in Germany out of Volkswagen busses, which were considered underpowered. Frank's version of the mini motor home was top of the line and he continued to use Dodge chassis as he did with his Frank Motor Homes, remaining part of Xplorers for 36 years.



1973 Dodge Xplorer 224 Motor Home (Frank Industries, Inc.)

option proved to be the most popular. Today, Xplorer motor homes are still considered extremely well built, with the price tag reflecting that claim, as some models fetch upwards of \$80,000 or more.

Ray Frank spent his life pushing the envelope for building recreation vehicles, achieving many great innovations throughout his career. A major contribution was his all-fiberglass body, which remains the most important composite in RV construction today. During his time producing Dodge Motor Homes, he was credited with creating almost every feature included in a class A motor home. As a result of all of his contributions to the motor home industry, Ray Frank was inducted into the RV/MH Hall of Fame in 1978 and is considered by many to be the *Father of the Motor Home - giving Brown City the title "Home of the Motor Home"*.

Frank continued with his new venture, which was extremely successful, until the late 1970s. He then retired to a more tropical climate, leaving the business and all operations of the company to his family. They continued to conduct business until 1995, when the company was sold to Joe Murray and Dave Bockstanz. Even after Frank's family sold the business, Xplorer continued production in Brown City for nearly seven years, until it was removed to Elkhart, Indiana, under the ownership of Startracks Custom Vehicles. Throughout the years, Xplorers came in class A, B and C, with class A being the most luxurious and expensive of all models, but the class B



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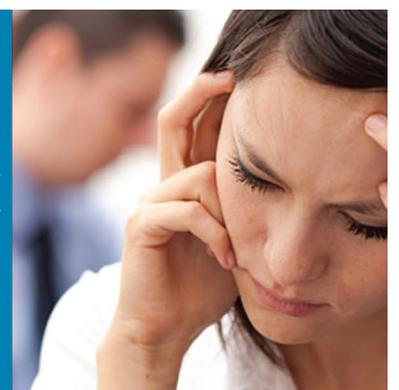
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HOUSE FOR LIFE

By Paul Welch

ThumbPrint News Columnist

With the arrival of March we are coming to the end of winter and the beginning of spring. This is the perfect time to start planning your projects for the coming season. Planning is important because it will help you get them done and avoid rushing to get things done before winter gets here once again. These are a few areas to look at to see if they need to be worked on.

Deck Maintenance - The most common fair weather project is the deck. Decks require constant maintenance. If you have a composite deck, you have to clean it on a regular basis. If you have a wood deck, it needs to be cleaned and, every few years, you have to put a coat of stain on to preserve the wood.

To check if the wood is sealed, throw a little bit of water on the deck. If the water beads up, you are still good. If the water is starting to soak in, you need to apply a coat of deck stain. If you use a solid color stain, look for spots where it is starting to wear or peel off. If you see the wood underneath, apply a new coat. Also check the boards for any rot or decay. These pose a safety hazard and should be fixed immediately.

Blacktop or Concrete - Concrete porches and driveways need your attention. Years of winter and ice melt will take their toll on concrete and cement. Look at the condition of the surface. Fill any cracks that have formed and patch any holes. If the surface is pitted, you can apply a skim coat of cement after applying a bonding agent to the surface. If severely damaged, look into having it replaced. After structural issues are dealt with, apply a clear sealer or paint that's appropriate for the type of cement surface.

Blacktop is similar because it must be patched if there are any cracks or holes. Every few years you must also apply Blacktop sealer to protect it. Many hardware stores sell crack fillers and cold patch to repair any damage and the sealers for protection making this an easy DIY project.

Too Cold - You may have noticed that your house was colder or that your heating bills were high. It may have been a thermostat issue. Check your thermostat first. If you have an old manual thermostat, try replacing it with a new digital thermostat. They are better at keeping the house at a constant temperature and saving you money. If your thermostat is fairly new, it may

be your insulation. Have a reputable professional come and examine your home with a handheld thermal imager. They will let you know where any cold spots are and what can be done to improve the insulation.

A Roof Over Your Head - If you noticed any leaks during the winter warm ups or at the start of spring, they need to be addressed. Check the source of a leak by looking in the attic at the underside of the roof. Look for any areas of staining on the wood. It may be a matter of sealing some flashing or it may be a bigger issue. Also figure out the age of your roof. A well installed roof will last about 15 years. If you are getting into that area, or the shingles are becoming less flexible, consider having the roof replaced.

That Beautiful Lawn - Lawn care not only looks nice but can increase your home's value. Go by the issues you had last year to know what to expect. Whether it was weeds, moles, insects or lawn disease, create a plan to keep your lawn healthy and to address these issues. Regular mowing, watering, and possibly fertilizing may be in your plan to nurture and maintain a healthy lawn.

Money and Time - You may have more projects than funds or time. We have busy lives and it can be a challenge to find the time or energy to do projects. Careful planning can go a long way, but may not allow you to get to all projects. You may not have enough money to cover all the projects that need to be done. Doing the project yourself instead of hiring someone can save you a lot of money, but the project may still be very expensive. Some years it can seem like everything needs to be done. My advice is to choose the projects that must be done and make sure that they are the ones you complete. Other projects that are less important can be put off until later. The roof is a good example of a project that must be done when there is a problem.

I hope everyone is getting excited for spring. I know I am. Remember to be safe and know your limitations. If you have any question or comments, e-mail me at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and I will reply in a timely manner. 🍀

Editor's note: Paul Welch has 16 years of experience working in retail hardware and has been trained and has learned much about home improvement, maintenance and repair. He currently is employed by LumberJack and runs their paint department.

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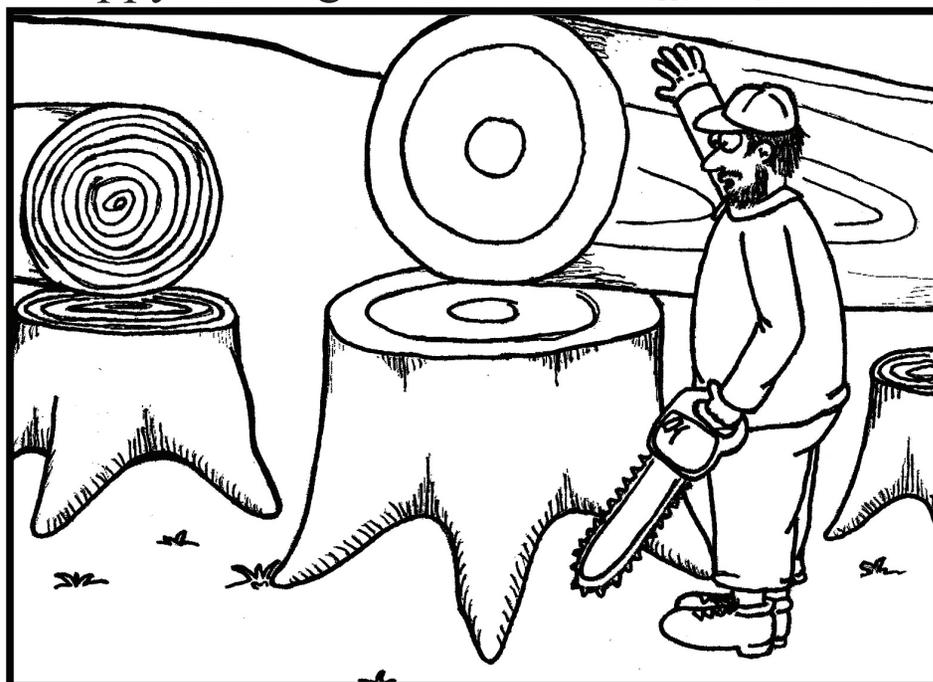
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Thumb Birds

The Third Thumb Bird Gathering
Sarasota, FL
Feb. 7, 2015

Over 90 readers of ThumbPrint News are now official Thumb Birds!

If you have not yet joined our Thumb Bird group and would like to do so, the only requirements are that you live or have lived in the Thumb of Michigan and that you now spend part or all of the year in Florida. Email us your name and addresses in both Michigan and Florida, your phone number, and an email address where we can contact you. The purpose of this social group is to share ideas, places to visit, restaurants, etc. that have to do with our Florida experiences and to occasionally get together in both Florida and Michigan to talk about all things Michigan and Florida. Email your information to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. We will welcome you to the group and send you an invitation to our next get-together in either Florida or Michigan.



In the February 2015 edition of *ThumbPrint News* in the "What Happened on This Day in History" section on page 4, the Day 9 fact should read that "On this day in 1994, Nelson Mandela becomes the first black president of South Africa." However, we mistakenly printed it as "South America". Our apologies to the readers for the error.

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Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)

By Dr. DiBenedetto

ThumbPrint News Columnist



Photo courtesy of isosphere @FreeDigitalPhoto.com

Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is a devastating viral disease that occurs worldwide in both wild and domestic cats. FIP is caused by a feline specific coronavirus. There are two forms of this virus. The form that most cats carry is called feline enteric coronavirus (FECV), which rarely causes any significant disease. The enteric virus is contagious and most likely excreted into the environment by a number of routes, including oral and respiratory secretions, feces, and possibly, urine. It appears that close, sustained contact between cats (i.e. a mom and her kittens, multi-cat households or catteries) is required for transmission. FECV is relatively unstable outside of the body and most common household detergents will rapidly inactivate the virus. It is when this enteric virus mutates into the form that has the ability to cause disease that we then refer to it as the FIP virus (FIPV). The mutated FIP virus does not

appear to be spread from cat to cat like the enteric virus and from what little we do know about the disease it takes not only the mutated virus to be present but a weakened immune system for the clinical disease to develop.

Diagnosing FIP is challenging. There is currently no test that can distinguish between the harmless intestinal coronavirus and the deadly FIP coronavirus. The majority of cats that are diagnosed with FIP are young, usually between three and sixteen months of age with over half being less than a year old. Signs of FIP can arise weeks, months, and in rare cases years after initial infection. There are two major forms of FIP, an effusive, or “wet” form, and a noneffusive, or “dry” form. Generally, cats will exhibit the signs of the dry form more slowly than the wet form. Symptoms include loss of appetite, weight loss, lethargy, anemia, and a

persistent fever that does not respond to antibiotic therapy. The effusive form is further characterized by an accumulation of fluid in the abdomen, the chest or both. Early in the disease process, the cat may exhibit only the symptoms of the dry form. The wet form tends to progress more rapidly. These cats may quickly appear pot-bellied due to fluid accumulation in the abdomen. Once the fluid is present, examination of the fluid is usually sufficient to make a diagnosis, thus making the wet form much easier to diagnose than the dry form.

Unfortunately, treating FIP is even more frustrating than diagnosing it. To date, there is no known cure or effective treatment for FIP. Some treatments may induce short-term remissions in a small percentage of cats; however, FIP is a fatal disease. Treatment is generally aimed at supportive care, such as good nursing care, good nutrition, and alleviating the inflammatory response of the disease. Supportive care can also include fluid therapy to help

with dehydration and draining of the accumulated fluids can be attempted, but if drained too often, the cat will lose large amounts of protein which can exacerbate the condition. However, palliative care is only used to maintain quality of life and patient comfort until humane euthanasia is chosen. Research is ongoing to find other treatment options, but because of the unique nature of this virus a cure may not be possible. 🐾

Editor's note: Dr. DiBenedetto is a veterinarian at Maple Veterinary Hospital located at 2981 Iowa in Troy, Michigan. The hospital website is: www.MapleVeterinaryHospital.com. Dr. DiBenedetto can be reached at (248) 585-2622 for other pet related questions.

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It's a good time for a Farm Insurance Review!



Thumb Area Activities & Events Calendar MARCH

If you have an event in April that you would like listed in the April issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by March 12, 2015. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

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

Genesee

Flint - March 28

Backyard Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop, Greater Holy Temple, C.O.G.I.C., 6702 N. Dort Hwy., 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Bob Tritten, MSU Extension District Fruit Educator, will be running this outdoor demonstration at two community orchards. We will also visit the Uni-Corn Community Garden. Participants will learn the basic methods of pruning young and bearing fruit trees. Pre-registration required by March 25, 2015. Will be held rain or shine (walking is required). \$10 per person. Contact Deb Hamilton at (810) 244-8547 or email hamiltod@anr.msu.edu. Make check payable to "edible flint" and mail to: MSU Extension, 605 N. Saginaw St., Suite 1A, Flint, MI 48502.

Huron

Bad Axe - March 7 & 21

Tip of the Thumb Dancers, Huron County Senior Center, 150 Nugent Rd., 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Potluck dinners begin at 6:00 p.m. Admission for dances, \$5. Bring finger foods and friends. Cancellations on WLEW and WMIC radio. On March 7, it is our Mardi Gras with entertainment by Light House Three. On March 21, potluck first, then it is our St. Patrick's Day Dance with entertainment by The Natural Tones. For more information call Jerry at (989) 269-6348.

Lapeer

Almont - March 10

Almont/Dryden Senior Meeting and Potluck Lunch, Almont Lions Club, 222 Water St., noon. For more information call Dan at (810) 798-8321.

Almont - March 14

Euchre Tournament, Almont Lions Club, 222 Water St., doors open at 6:00 p.m. with play starting at 7:00 p.m. \$15 donation includes prizes and food. Proceeds benefit Lions Club humanitarian projects. For more information call Dan at (810) 798-8321.

Macomb

Richmond - Rest of March through April 10

Cozy Up & Read, Teen and Adult Reading Program, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, 35200 Division Rd. The Friends of the Library will donate \$1 to the library for every book read by library patrons (up to \$600). Be sure to fill out a slip each time you read a book, and drop it off at the Winter Reading display in the New Book section.

Richmond - Rest of March through May 1

Flower Power Fundraiser, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, 35200 Division Rd. 50% of each sale goes to new

materials for the library. Order in person at the Circulation Desk or online at www.cityofrichmond.net (go to the link for the Lois Wagner Memorial Library). For more information call (586) 727-2665.

Richmond - March 21

Richmond Historical Society's 3rd Annual Tea, Maniaci's Banquet Hall, 69227 N. Main St., doors open at 1:00 p.m., seating at 1:45 p.m. Hat contest, auction table, hat sale, beautiful tables with scrumptious tea, sandwiches and sweets. Fanny Farmer, portrayed by Kim Parr, will also attend. Tickets \$25 – may be purchased at Sew Together, Richmond Flower Shop and the Lois Wagner Memorial Library or by calling (586) 727-7773.

Memphis - March 28

Euchre Tournament, Memphis Lions Hall, 34758 Pratt Rd., play begins at 7:00 p.m. \$10 donation with prizes for the top three scorers. All proceeds go to humanitarian projects of the Memphis Lions Club. For more information call Frank at (810) 392-3717.

Oakland

Troy - March 7, 14 & 21

Maple Syrup Time, Stage Nature Center, 6685 Coolidge Hwy., various times. Program starts with a short introduction to maple syrup making indoors and then participants can hike the trails to see how sap is collected. Afterwards, participants will stop in a sugar shed and see the wood-stocked sap evaporator in action. Tour finishes with syrup tasting over warm mini-pancakes. Presentations every half hour between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Call (248) 688-9703 for cost information or to register, or visit www.troynaturesociety.org.

St. Clair

Casco - March 1

St. Paul's 20th Annual Chili Cook-Off, Perch Point Conservation Club, 7930 Meisner Rd., 4:00 p.m. \$8 adult, \$5 children 6-12, kids 5 and under free. Price includes chili, hotdogs and snacks. Silent and live dessert auction. For tickets call Linda at (810) 765-4858 or (810) 765-4808.

Port Huron - March 2

Happy Birthday Dr. Suess Open House, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorran Blvd., 4:00 p.m. We are having a party! It is as plain as can be! I want you to come and celebrate with me! Ages 12 and under. For more information call (810) 987-7323 ext. 132 or 130.

Lakeport - March 3, 17 & 31
Senior Art, Burtchville Township

Library, 7097 Second St., 12:30 p.m. Explore your creative side! Learn a variety of artistic skills from local artist Nancy Davies by attending every other week. All ages of adults welcome. Registration requested by calling (810) 385-8550.

Marine City - March 3

Computer Class - Microsoft Word 2, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 1:00 p.m. Prerequisite: Microsoft Word 1. Build on your Word skills. Learn to do paragraph formatting, more about how to modify text, copying text and inserting clip art. Registration requested by calling (810) 765-5233.

Memphis - March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

Small Wonders, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 11:00 a.m. Ages 3-5 join us for a story and craft or game. For more information call (810) 392-2980.

St. Clair - March 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 & 31

Small Wonders, St. Clair Library, 310 S. Second St., 10:30 a.m. Let us introduce your child to the world of literature. This rich assortment of stories, poems, nursery rhymes and simple crafts can stimulate their imaginations and enlarge their world. For more information call (810) 329-3951.

Yale - March 3

Celebrate Dr. Suess' Birthday, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 5:00 p.m. Crafts, snacks and fun. Registration is requested by calling (810) 387-2940.

East China - March 4

Low Vision, Legally Blind and Blind Support Group Meeting, St. John River District Hospital, room 2, 4100 River Rd., 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The speaker will be Bill Mortimer, a student from the Leader Dog School, and his dog Max. For more information contact Paul at dailerpaul@hotmail.com or (810) 329-5172.

Capac - March 5 & 19

Kid Kreations, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 4:00 p.m. Have fun making various craft projects. Ages 5-10. For more information call (810) 395-7000.

Kimball Twp. - March 5-7

New Life Christian Academy's Fine Arts Department Presents Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Port Huron Northern Performing Arts Center, 1799 Krafft Rd., March 5-7 at 7:00 p.m. and March 7 at 2:00 p.m. Ticket prices: \$10 students, \$12 seniors/military and \$14 general admission. For more information or to reserve tickets call (810) 367-3770 ext. 100 or visit www.nlcaschool.com.



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Marysville - March 5
Computer Class - Microsoft Word 2, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 10:00 a.m. Prerequisite: Microsoft Word 1. Build on your Word skills. Learn to do paragraph formatting, more about how to modify text, copying text and inserting clip art. For adults. Registration requested by calling (810) 364-9493.

Algonac - March 7, 14, 21 & 28
Knitting and Crocheting Circle, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 1:00 p.m. Share your love of knitting and/or crocheting at the library. Experienced and Newbies welcomed. Donations of yarn and needles graciously accepted. For more information call (810) 794-4471.

Port Huron - March 7
Ice Fantasies 2015: Storybook Heroes, McMorran Place Arena, 701 McMorran Blvd., 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Presented by members of the Port Huron Figure Skating Club. Students and seniors \$8, adults \$12. Group rates available. For more information email Linda at lsmurray@cogeco.ca.

Port Huron - March 7
"Think Spring" Vendor Show, 1430 Military St., Suite A, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Sponsored by The Visiting Nurse Association and Blue Water Hospice, this event will feature 30 different artists, crafters and area small businesses. \$1 admission will help benefit the Specialized Adult Day Program, which provides care for those with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Tours of the adult daycare center and informational materials also available. For more information call (810) 984-4131.

Port Huron Township - March 7
13th Annual Blue Water Area Humane Society Charity Auction, 4100 Griswold Rd., doors open at 9:00 a.m., auction begins at 10:00 a.m. Preview Friday, March 6, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Vintage toys, Barbie collections, accordion, acoustic guitar, Precious Moments, records, box lot yarn, furniture, tools, flat bottom boat with motor - and much, much more coming in each day. Food available for sale. Accepting donations of items (tax deductible). For more information call (810) 794-7906 (days) or (810) 984-2840 (after 5:00 p.m.).

Kimball - March 10 & 24
Kid Kreations, Kimball Township Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd., 3:30 p.m. Make a different craft project each week. Ages 3-12. Registration required by calling (810) 982-9171.

Algonac - March 12, 13 & 14
Friends of the Algonac-Clay Library Book Sale, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 9:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Donations of gently-used hardcover and paperback books are being accepted. For details call (810) 794-4471.

Capac - March 13 & 27
All You Can Eat Fish Fry, St. Nicholas Church, 4331 Capac Rd., 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., or until sold out. Meal includes baked or fried fish, french fries or baked potato, mac and cheese, coleslaw, roll, dessert and beverage. Adults \$9, children 12 and under \$4, children 5 and under are free. Carry-out available. For more information call (810) 395-7572.

Yale - March 13 & 14
Spring Craft Show (St. Patrick's Day, Easter and First Communion), Yale Senior Center, 3 First St., 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Vendor spaces available for both days \$20. Vendor scavenger hunt with door prizes. Free Admission. For more information call (810) 387-3720.

Marysville - March 15
Marysville Coin Club Annual Coin Show, American Legion, 299 E. Huron Blvd., 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Over 40 tables of dealers for all your coin and supply needs. Free admission. Gift bags available for the first 30 children. For more information call Logan at (810) 516-2386 or Jane at (586) 801-1044.

Fair Haven - March 20
Euchre Party, St. Peter Lutheran Church, 6745 Palms Rd., registration at 6:30 p.m., games start at 7:00 p.m. \$5 donation includes free goodies, coffee and tea. Hot dogs and pop \$1 donation. Cash prizes. For more information call (810) 765-8161.

Fair Haven - March 21
Kid Kreations, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 10:00 a.m. March is Reading Month! Drop in to create a unique project featuring Dr. Seuss. Ages 5-10. For more information call (586) 725-9081.

Kimball - March 21
Craft Show, Bake Sale and Used Book Sale, K of C Hall, 4521 Ravenswood, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. There are 50 tables and admission is free. Sponsored by the K of C #9526 Auxilliary. For more information call (810) 364-4635 or (810) 650-5419.

Marysville - March 21 & 28
Grace Hospice of Marysville

Volunteer Training Sessions, Grace Hospice, 1985 Gratiot, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. For more information on how you may become involved, contact Marsha Westerman, Volunteer Coordinator, at (810) 294-8583. Must be 18 years or older to attend this meeting.

Kimball Twp. - March 22
New Life Christian Academy Annual Open House, 5517 Griswold Rd., 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Families are encouraged to visit our preschool through 12th grade classrooms, meet the teachers and view the curriculum. Information packets available. New students accepted for the 2015-16 school year. For more information call (810) 367-3770 ext. 100 or visit www.nlacaschool.com.

Port Huron - March 25
St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 1115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. Topic will be "Basic Genealogy and Researching in St. Clair County", plus other information. Anyone new to genealogy and creating a family tree should attend the meeting, including anyone with a research question. Members of the group will be available to answer questions. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree may visit our programs as a guest or become a new member of the group. For more information call (317) 600-7813 or visit <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscfhg/>.

Avoca - March 28
Spring Craft Show, Avoca Community Hall, 5396 Kilgore Rd., 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. To rent a table call (810) 300-2399.

Casco - March 29
Palm Sunday Worship, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 5322 Palms Rd., 8:30 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. with Holy Communion. For more information call (810) 765-4808 or visit www.stpaulscasco.com.

Sanilac
Lexington - March 14
Blue Water Folk Society Presents the Acoustic Open Mic Coffeehouse, Trinity Episcopal Church, 5646 Main St., 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Sign-up begins at 6:15 p.m. Admission is free; donations are welcome. Refreshments provided. 50/50 Raffle to benefit Thumbfest 2015. Bring a non-perishable food for Project Blessing. For more information email Dawn at dawnmalek@comcast.net.

Sandusky - March 14 & 28
Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. Bring

finger foods (for 9:00 p.m.) and friends! \$5 for members, \$6 for guests (regular dances). \$10 membership per year. On March 14, it will be our St. Patrick's Day Dance (Club provides chicken) and entertainment provided by Melody Magic. On March 28, entertainment provided by Dick Hedrich & Son. For more information call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Port Sanilac - March 15
Concert in the Museum Church, Sanilac County Historical Village and Museum, 228 South Ridge St., 3:00 p.m. What would a St. Pat's Day celebration be without our very own "Ourselves" performing? And with musician's name like "Schlichting", you know it has to be Irish. As usual, they are always a fun "foot stomping" group. \$20 adults, \$10 students. Included in the ticket price will be corned beef sandwiches with beer or root beer. Seating and standing room limited to the first 497 people (114 inside seating), (389 standing outside - dress warm). To reserve in advance call (810) 622-9946.

Marlette - March 17
Red Cross Nursing During WWII, Marlette Village Hall, Council Chambers, 6435 Morris St., 2:00 p.m. Presented by Kathy Freeland. Sponsored by the Sanilac County Genealogical Society. Free. For more information call (810) 705-1680.

Tuscola

Mayville - March 30 through April 11
Mayville Loose Threads Quilt Club Annual Quilt Show, Mayville Library, 6090 Fulton St., during Library hours. Open house will be April 1 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Light refreshments, demonstrations, quilt appraisals and fabric vendor will be available. For more information email Karen at withers6147@sbcglobal.net.

Wayne

Royal Oak - March 7 & 8
Wild Winter Safari Social, Detroit Zoo, 10 Mile Rd. and Woodward Ave. Escape the winter "blahs" with hot drinks and cool treats. Ice cream and hot cocoa will be available for purchase at a discount. Animal arts and crafts, entertainment, zookeeper talks and a winter safari scavenger hunt all add to the fun. For Zoo hours and admission prices visit www.detroitzoo.org or call (248) 541-5717.

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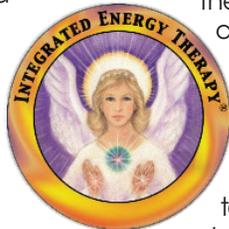
Integrated Energy Therapy®

By Rennae Hardy

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Integrated Energy Therapy® originated with Stevan J. Thayer (Center of Being, Inc., Woodbury, New York) and like Reiki is an attunement based energy therapy technique. Students are attuned by a Master as part of their training and the attunement permanently expands their human energy field to be a vessel for IET®'s distinct (violet angelic ray) energy vibration.

Integrated Energy Therapy® focuses on clearing suppressed cellular memories and emotions (including karmic ones) from the energy anatomy and human energy field. IET® is based on a unique cellular map in which nine primary areas of the energy anatomy are identified as storing specific latent or forgotten emotions and are targeted for



clearing. Nine individual healing angels of the energy field (Ariel, Raphael, Gabriel, Celestina, Faith, Cassiel, Daniel, Sarah and Michael) correlate to their respective cellular memory area.

Integrated Energy Therapy® is an "active" energy therapy. Once the practitioner has flooded the cellular memory with energy, he / she directs the angelic vibration through a personal angelic energy heartlink, and uses powerful IET® integration points, as well as extracting release techniques to clear even the deepest energy blockages.

Integrated Energy Therapy® and Reiki are both transformative as well as complimentary healing energy approaches. Moving our imprinted "sleeping" issues out of our physical body's tissues can be a liberating first step to wellness and self-healing. 🌱

POINTE AUX BARQUES

Continued from Page 8

cottages can be sold with listings ranging from several hundred thousand to well over a million dollars - or rented for \$3500 weekly with free golf. Their literature concludes: "As you enter the gate...time slows down and the simple pleasures of living become priorities."

Stanford Crapo, a president of the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad, started the community in 1896. A grandson of the state's 14th governor, Henry Crapo, presumably used his political heritage to help have a resort statute passed in 1897. Both the township supervisor and clerk have principal residences in the Grosse Pointes, so are not among the Census enumerated ten residents.

Maps show public roads crossing the township and its hall is located at 9036

Linwood. So curious travelers such as myself can drive through the private community with the identical name as the public township during the off season – no guards at the gate. But drive carefully one must, since just beyond the hall the route narrows to an unpaved single track. However to find food and lodging one must return to the tip, Port Austin. Unfortunately, the landmark Garfield House, named for the visiting Ohio congressman and briefly the twentieth president, closed in 2011.

Coincidentally, Harbor Beach, which I visited recently, also has an exclusive gated community, Harbor Beach Resort Association, as does Harsens Island with its "Old Club" off limits to the public on South Channel Drive. All offer interesting lifestyles that can be enjoyed only vicariously by nonmembers. 🌱

Anchor Bay Power Squadron (ABPS) Basic Safe Boating Course

Submitted By John Niebieszczanski

Whether you're a captain or a passenger, knowledge about safe boating may save your life! Update your skills! Share your knowledge!!

A Public Basic Safe Boating Course will be offered in the Northern Macomb and Southern St. Clair Counties area.

The course will be taught over four to five weeks, on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m., beginning February 23, 2015, at the Chesterfield Fire Station, 33991 23 Mile Road (23 Mile & Baker Roads), Chesterfield, Michigan. (Walk-ins will still be accepted on March 2, 2015, if first meeting is missed.)

Space is limited, so pre-registration is strongly recommended. We encourage families to take the course together. Minors will need to be under the supervision of an adult during class time.

There is a \$40 charge to cover the cost of the student workbook, chart and other materials for this course.

Topics covered include elementary seamanship, basic navigation, boating rules, safe operation, piloting, knots and boat terminology. The U.S. Power Squadrons (USPS) offer these boating courses as a public service to adults and teenagers in over 500 local areas nationwide, through chapters like the Anchor Bay Power Squadron (ABPS).

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Sipping Spirits to Survive

By David Odziana

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Reporter

While alcohol is viewed by many as nothing more than a social indulgence today, it was once considered a necessity for sailors to survive long voyages.

When man first began traversing the waters in search of new land, water easily sufficed the crew's needs to remain hydrated because the ships didn't travel far from the harbor. During the voyages, water was held in casks or barrels, but the stagnant water quickly became slimy and developed algae. One way to postpone the water from becoming undrinkable was to sweeten it with beer or wine, but this concoction was still prone to spoiling.

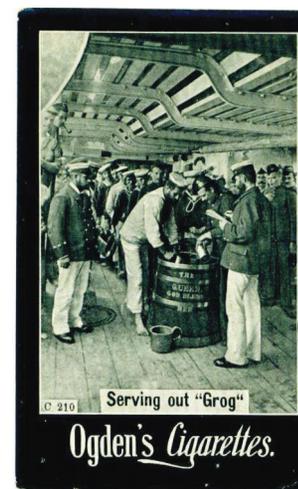
The first navy to provide sailors with beer was the English starting in the early 1500s. The original ration, also known as a tot, was one gallon of beer per day. The issue arose once the voyages required the crew to travel farther away from home, making it difficult to store a gallon of beer per person per day, not to mention drinking all of it before it became sour. Eventually, nearly every nation supplied their navy with some ration of alcohol.

Although rum began gaining popularity in the Indies around 1655, it wasn't officially included in the British Royal Navy rations until 1731, but it was used as a substitute for quite some time whenever the supply of beer or wine ran out. During the early years of rum rations, only ships in the West Indies were awarded rum,

which was originally issued at 80 percent alcohol, given in equal amounts twice a day. The availability of rum came in 1655, when Vice-Admiral William Penn captured Jamaica, which had scarce amounts of beer and wine, but had plenty of rum due to the naturally occurring cane sugar. Penn used this as a replacement for his crew's beer rations, which often diminished before the voyage was completed, forcing the captain to find a substitute to keep the crew from rioting. Not only did the rum take up drastically less room than the beer and wine, but it also proved to stay fresh for a much greater amount of time. Although rum rations were given in order to keep crews hydrated, it was also believed a little rum would keep sailors brave during battle, as well as steady the nerves of the gun crews. It was also

distributed in hopes that it would take the sailor's minds off life at sea and the many hardships they faced. At the point when battle vessels were needed on the water more frequently, conditions on ships worsened. Samuel Johnson, a famous 18th century writer, described life on a ship as, "being in jail with a chance of being drowned, but a man in jail has more room, better food and better company." It was also discovered when traveling to warmer climates that the wine would turn to vinegar and the beer would spoil much faster, causing more issues for the captain and crew.

The original rum ration was two *gills*, or a half pint of rum, which eventually became the drink of choice over all other options. While rations were eventually set as a standard for all vessels, it was the responsibility of each captain to determine which drink and how much he wanted his men to consume prior to regulations being set. As a result of the potent rum replacing the gallon of beer, behavior due to drunkenness became a big problem for most navies. On August 21, 1740, Vice-Admiral Edward Vernon ordered a quart of water to be mixed with the half pint of rum prior to being issued, which became part of the regulations by 1756. This mixture came to be known as *grog*, named after Vernon, whose nickname was *Old Grog* because he always wore a waterproof cloak made of grogram. Vernon also suggested lime or lemon juice be added to the mixture to make it taste better, but



Serving Out Grog Cigarette Card circa 1902

unknown to him at the time, also resulted in his troops avoiding diseases, such as scurvy because of the daily dose of vitamin C. Another problem with pure rum was many crew members hoarded their rations for a few days before drinking it all at once, but adding water helped put an end to the hoarding. While mixing water with rum became common practice in the navy, the amount of water to mix varied depending on the admiral and it was still common for additional tots to be given out for good behavior or heroic acts.

As a result of attempting to control the effects of rum at sea, many new responsibilities arose. The most important role was undoubtedly the *Purser*, which was commonly known as the *Pusser*. The *Pusser's* job was to make sure the liquor



Rum being measured out in messdeck of HMS Vidal 1970

contained the correct percentage of alcohol. Since this was considered such an important job, it was often given to a very dependable member of the crew. This was a dangerous position because if the rum was too weak, the *Pusser* faced a beating from the crew, but if it was too strong, he would be reprimanded by his superiors. The process to ensure the spirits contained the correct amount of alcohol is responsible for coining the term *proof*. This would be done by mixing rum with gun powder and lighting it on fire. If the dilution was executed correctly, the gun powder would ignite and then fizz out, but if there wasn't enough water, it would be considered to be over proof and the *Pusser* would experience an explosion a few feet from his face. This was practiced until 1818, when the hydrometer was invented, which set the average level of navy rum at about 51 percent alcohol-by-volume.

While a ration of alcohol, also known as a *spirit ration*, was first practiced by the Royal Navy, the United States also began offering tots to its crews in 1785. Their daily allowance started at four ounces of rum, which was quickly reduced to two ounces of rum, whiskey or brandy, five years later. However, there were

exceptions to this rule. Troops about to enter battle were allowed a double ration of the available liquor starting in 1794, which was extended in 1799 to include troops performing manual labor duties. This continued in the American Navy until 1832, when a daily ration of coffee and sugar, which was instated by President Andrew Jackson, slowly changed the spirit rations for the United States. In 1862, Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles banned liquor from all naval ships except those needed for medical purposes, becoming the first nation in over a century to abolish rum on its ships. Luckily for the sailors, beer and wine were not included in this law. Although grog was already abolished for sailors, the rules didn't apply to captains, who were still able to drink in the wardroom and wine messes. This lasted until 1914, when Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels announced General Order #99, which abolished these messes.

By 1806, the Navy attempted to introduce whiskey in hopes it would replace the rum ration, but rum was still preferred by most sailors - so much so that it became the official beverage of the Navy in 1831. Due to disorderly actions of most crews, the Admiralty decided to cut the ration in half to a quarter pint of rum in 1823, which equaled to one *gill*. To compensate for the decreased tot, sailors were issued cocoa, tea and a pay increase of two shillings a month. The crews were also given additional rations of meat starting in 1824, but since one *gill* back then was equal to four double whiskeys in today's standards, it was still a very strong allowance. Beginning in 1850, Admiralty's Grog Committee became responsible for researching the issues caused by spirit rations. Their findings concluded that there

is a direct link between drunkenness and issues with discipline, recommending that rum rations cease. Instead, the rations were simply decreased again, this time down to a half *gill*, or an eighth of a pint.

Starting in the 20th century, views of the crew's daily indulgence began to change. Adding to the concern was warfare no longer simply consisted of loading and aiming cannons; it evolved to require much more mental attention. Sailors now had to operate highly technological equipment, including flying supersonic aircrafts and managing advanced electronics. This led to the decision of the Royal Navy to end the rum rations, with the last tots being handed out on July 31, 1970, on the *HMS Endymion*. This day came to be known as "Black Tot Day" and it was reported that sailors memorialized this monumental change in naval history in many different ways, such as holding a funeral or throwing the remaining rum overboard. In compensation for the loss of the rum ration, crew members were given two pints of beer a day.

Surprisingly, the Royal Navy wasn't the last to abolish rum rations - not by a long shot.



The Rum Ration Cigarette Card 1937



Example of barrel used to store rum

The Royal Canadian Navy continued this practice until 1972, while the Royal New Zealand Navy didn't abolish tots until 1990. One navy that never issued a ration of rum was the Royal Australian Navy, but luckily for the sailors, they were authorized to receive rations while aboard Royal Navy ships. Although no navies practice daily rum rations today, the Royal Canadian Navy does give out rum on special occasions, such as their navy's 100th anniversary, which was celebrated on June 29, 2010. Rum was once such a large part of life in the navy that many rum bottles are still adorned with sailor inspired art to this day, carrying on the tradition that was practiced for many centuries.

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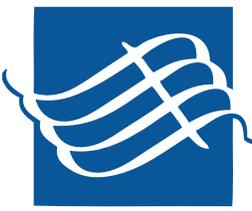
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