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***** Celebrating Labor Day on September 1st! ***** SEPTEMBER 2014

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LEXINGTON, MI



Spotlight on Lexington

By David Odziana

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Reporter

Many cities, such as Detroit and Chicago, have prospered immensely due to the Great Lakes. Even though Lexington is considerably smaller than the aforementioned areas, it owes a great deal of its success to the bodies of fresh water, as well.

When the early stages of development began for Lexington in the late 1830s, the nearest settlement was Port Huron 22 miles away. Only a small trail winding through the thick forest connected the two. The region was perfect for settling, offering an abundance of elk, deer, bear and fish, as well as good soil and wild berries. One of Lexington's first claims to fame was the abundance of strawberries grown there, which gave the settlement



South Huron Avenue, Lexington, Mich. (The Resort Town)

its early nickname "Berry Town". When people began building permanent residences, the area was given the name Greenbush, believed to come from the lush green scenery.

The first white man to build a permanent residence in Lexington was John Smith in 1837, bringing his family of twelve and constructing a home near the lake. Smith and his family didn't reside in Lexington long, leaving shortly after due

See LEXINGTON, Page 14

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Fall Color Tour

By Gerald Nyquist

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer



With few exceptions, each year for about the past quarter century friends Marijean and Charlie and I have embarked on a trip to enjoy nature's fall extravaganza, the changing colors of the leaves. Tours have taken us as far north as Thunder Bay, Ontario, as far south as Louisville, Kentucky, and as far east as The Bay

of Fundy; but most often we have stayed in good old Michigan. Our 2013 adventure began October 2 and was a round-trip from my Traverse City area cottage to the Keweenaw Peninsula - - a 1,180 mile journey. Lower Peninsula color was just off to a good start, but in the U.P. it was spectacular.

Upon crossing the Big Mac Bridge we headed for Tahquamenon Falls State Park via the town of Paradise which hugs the shore of Lake Superior's Whitefish Bay. Lunch at the Berry Patch Restaurant in Paradise was heavenly - - what else could it be - - with a delightful senior-citizen waitress who kept all entertained while waiting for food. The upper and lower falls never cease to impress, and to my mind are right up there in the running for Michigan's most beautiful site. From Tahquamenon we proceeded to Grand Marais for the night, enjoying stout beer with dinner at Lake Superior Brewing Company. We were pleased to see that the famous Pickle Barrel House has been restored and is open as a museum. It was built in 1926 for

See FALL COLOR TOUR, Page 22



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Each year on the first Monday in September, Americans observe Labor Day, a holiday that pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. Created by the labor movement in the late 19th century, it became a federal holiday in 1894.

During the late 1800s, which was the height of the Industrial Revolution in America, the average American worker was working 12-hour days and seven-day weeks just to make ends meet. Although some states set a minimum age for employees, in other states children as young as five or six were employed in factories, mills and mines across the country. People of all ages often faced extremely unsafe working conditions. This was not the best of times for American workers.

Labor unions, which had first appeared in the late 18th century, began organizing strikes and rallies in an attempt to improve working conditions, hours worked and pay earned. On September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to protest these deplorable conditions when they marched from City Hall to Union Square in New York City. This is considered to be the first Labor Day parade in U.S. history.

As other protests took place over the next few years, other cities and municipalities, and finally states, began to recognize a Labor Day Holiday. By 1894, President Grover Cleveland had declared the first Monday in September to be a national holiday, Labor Day.

For many of us, Labor Day also

symbolizes the end of summer and for children, time to go back to school. Parties, parades and athletic events are often held.

I was reminiscing as I wrote this article about my places of employment during my first 60 years.

My first "job" if it could be called such, was when I was probably six or seven years old and my father "hired" my sister and me, plus four of our neighborhood friends, to pick up the "whirly birds" that were littering the lawn. (These were the seeds of the maple trees.) In exchange for each soup can full of seeds, we received a penny. Some arguing must have ensued among the young entrepreneurs, because eventually my father roped off lanes in the grass and each of us had to execute our hours of employment in our own lane. I still am not sure why he disliked those maple seeds so much.

My next job at 12 years old was babysitting. I remember taking a course at the local community center and earning a certificate that I had been trained in how to properly take care of these young beasts. I was pretty good at what I did and often was employed until wee hours of the night (only I was next door to my parent's house, so they could keep an eye on me). I remember how difficult it was to stay awake.

The kids I watched seemed to like to have me there because I would make up stories and they would always be the major character in some adventure of piracy (if it was a boy) or of the rescue of a princess in a castle (if it was a girl).



My first "real" job came at 15, when I worked at Kentucky Fried Chicken (now called KFC). The major thing I learned there was that the Colonel had a secret recipe for his chicken. I found out the secret would remain a secret because the special herbs and spices came prepackaged and even the manager professed not to know what the ingredients were. Unlike today's food regulations, the package gave no clue to the ingredients.

Next it was on to college and the need to earn spending money in addition to studying hard for a degree still existed. I tried working at Pier 1 Imports temporarily when they were opening a new store. I learned how to unpack new merchandise, price and display. But most of all, I learned how to stucco the walls which may (I doubt it) come in useful someday.

After that ended, I worked for Domino Pizza and learned how to be an "itemizer". That was the person who had the highly esteemed honor of putting the toppings on the pizza that the customers wanted. It was the only job from which I was fired.

See *LETTERS*, Page 10

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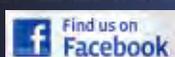


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THUMB BIRDS GET TOGETHER IN ALGONAC

By Louise Allen
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

On August 9, 2014, the 2nd Thumb Bird get-together took place at the log home of Allen and Diane Kodet in Algonac, Michigan. The group has grown to over 70 members and even with summertime being such a busy season, 27 Thumb Birds got together for a delicious potluck luncheon. Boy, do those Thumb Birds know how to cook! Several of the group members who made the first get-together last March in Sarasota, Florida, were there as well as many newcomers to the group.

The weather was perfect and eating and visiting along tables on the side log deck of the

home afforded the members a chance to smell the aromas from the chicken that was being smoked below even before it was served. It made everyone very hungry!

All in all everyone enjoyed the pleasant company and several members found connections from the past.

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 3rd get-together next winter in Florida (date and time not yet established). 🍀



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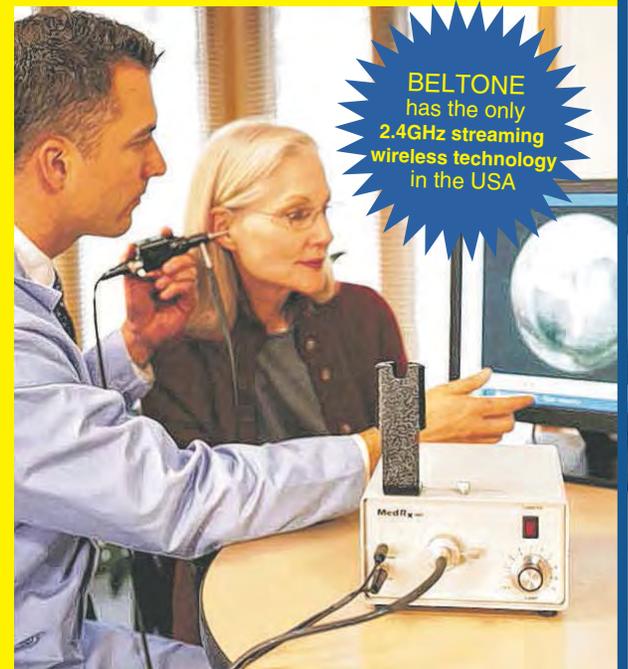
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Lick Granulomas

By Dr. DiBenedetto *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Lick granuloma, also known as acral lick dermatitis, is a skin condition commonly seen in dogs. "Acral" refers to an extremity (leg) and "dermatitis" means inflammation of the skin. The "lick" is thrown in because incessant licking behavior is what causes the problem. These lesions typically occur on the front legs between the elbows and toes but can develop anywhere your pet is licking excessively.

There are many factors that may contribute to the development of a lick granuloma, but almost always, the condition is self-perpetuating. It may be initiated by something that traumatizes or irritates the skin such as infection, allergy, or an embedded foreign body

such as a thorn or splinter. Some experts feel licking may represent a self-soothing behavior (like thumb-sucking) associated



with the release of endorphins. Another possibility is that if arthritis is present in the joint underlying the affected skin surface, licking is equivalent to a person massaging a sore joint. There can also be psychological components, such as boredom, stress, and separation anxiety. But, regardless of the inciting cause the cycle begins with licking and progresses.

The chronic self-inflicted irritation eventually results in thickening of the skin, increased pigmentation (skin appears darker than normal), an ulcerated surface with bleeding, and infection complete with pus, redness and tenderness. The diagnosis of acral lick dermatitis is officially made by

doing a skin biopsy. Your veterinarian may also do a skin scraping to rule out mites on the skin or collect samples for bacterial and fungal cultures. However, making the diagnosis is the easy part. It's stopping the licking that is the most difficult part.

Ideally, identifying the underlying cause would help determine a treatment plan. Since in many cases the underlying cause is not found, there are many therapeutic options to try. Keep in mind that what works well for one dog may not work for another. The options include:

- Bandaging the leg (making sure it is not too tight)
- An e-collar around the head to prevent access to the area, though some dogs do not tolerate these very well

• Applying topical antibiotics and anti-inflammatories frequently if the licking can be prevented

• Oral antibiotics and anti-inflammatories if there is a deep seated bacterial infection

• Laser therapy to help the skin heal

• Acupuncture and/or chiropractic's (have been used with

some success)

If anxiety is the primary underlying issue, working with a behaviorist and developing a behavioral modification program along with the medical treatments to stop the licking may be necessary. The best option may be to seek early intervention before the granuloma gets chronic and much more difficult to cure. 🐾

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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Wine on the Water

By David Odziana

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Reporter

The Visiting Nurse Association Specialized Adult Day Program sponsored the first annual Wine on the Water event held on July 17. The non-profit affair took place at Vinomondo Wine Bar & Brew Pub located in Port Huron at Vantage Point Marina. The evening was held to promote Alzheimer's awareness and all proceeds went to provide care for affected individuals living in St. Clair County and included a full progressive Spanish tapas style dinner and wine tasting. Dr. Annette Mercatante, St. Clair County Medical Officer, covered resources available for people affected by Alzheimer's during her keynote speech, with entertainment performed by Joe DeHeno and Joe Santoni.



Guests socialize before the food and wine is served.



Vocalist Joe Santoni listens as Dr. Annette Mercatante delivers the keynote speech on Alzheimer's and Dementia.



A couple admires the beautifully decorated memory display boards.

Dad and Grandpa Rubbed Elbows with The Purple Gang During Prohibition

By Gerald Nyquist

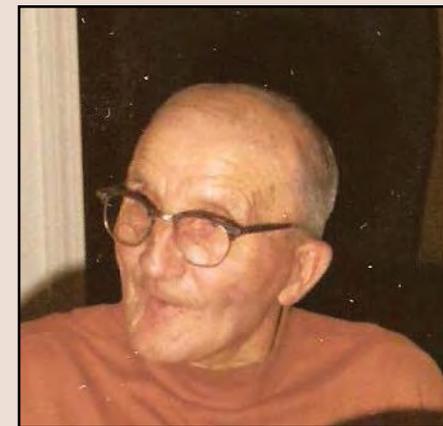
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

I've been reminiscing about experiences related to me by my father Paul G. Nyquist and my maternal grandfather Adolph H. Reiter. When prohibition started in 1919 my father was five years of age and Grandpa was 28; the dry spell (which apparently wasn't all that dry) lasted until 1933.

Sometime during these dry years, as a teenager Dad made one dollar per trip for pulling a booze-laden sled across the frozen Detroit River from Windsor, Ontario to Detroit. Interesting enough, but Grandpa's story is the really good one.

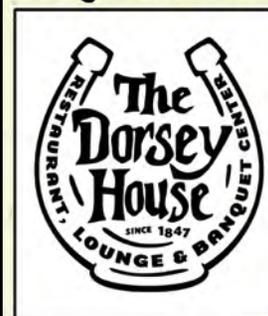
Grandpa and his brother-in-law Andrew C. Schmidt ran a garage on Division Street just north of downtown Detroit. They did maintenance and light repairs on automobiles, washed cars and provided indoor parking. It turned out that this was just what the famous Purple Gang needed for their Buick touring cars used in transporting booze. Grandpa said that the garage's location was in a bad part of town even back then. The Purple Gang was his best customer; they made no trouble and always paid their bills promptly. The Buicks hit the road with 55-gallon steel drums filled with alcohol positioned in place of the rear seats. Sometimes the cars arrived back at the garage with bullet holes. A gang member told Grandpa to tap-off as much whisky as he wanted for his own consumption; did he do so - I don't know! One of the gang made a dramatic

change of profession; he became a revenuer, now out to catch his old chums for participating in the illicit alcohol trade. He was foolish enough to say to a gang member, "I'm going to get you." Shortly thereafter, one morning when Grandpa went to work there was a group of people in the lot next to the garage, staring upward. Atop some sort of pole was the revenuer's head - - just the head, no body. It didn't pay to mess with the Purple Gang! The garage was a profitable business, but along came the stock market crash in 1929 and subsequent depression. Grandpa and Andy had extended credit to some of their customers, who no longer were able to pay, so the garage crashed too. Alas, I didn't interrogate Grandpa for more detail before he passed-away in Port Sanilac, Michigan, just short of his 82nd birthday. 🍷



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LETTERS

Continued from Page 2

The artistic side of me decided that the toppings would look better arranged in happy faces, or other pictures. I guess the manager was not an art aficionado.

From there I worked for W.T. Grant Company, a small chain department store, now long since bankrupt. I was hired as a debt collector. My job was to make phone calls to those people who had charged merchandise but had failed to meet the terms of their contract. I got so good at that that I was "promoted" to a "skip tracer". This was where I had to find people who still owed debts but who apparently seemed to have vanished (skipped) off the face of the earth. I tell you, I actually liked that job. I felt as important as a detective or FBI agent when I actually made contact with someone who the management had figured would be a write-off.

However, none of these jobs were to be my profession. When I graduated from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, with a B.S. degree in Elementary Education, I was fortunate to have two interviews on the same day I graduated in different parts of Michigan. I missed my graduation to attend both interviews in the same day. The first was in Cement City. Yes, I know, I wasn't sure where that was either at first, but it turned

out to be a tiny town below Jackson. My interview was in a school in the middle of a cornfield. I had my second interview that afternoon at Washington School in Marine City, Michigan. Both principals offered me a job. I accepted the Marine City position, I believe mostly because at the time the promise of living near the St. Clair River seemed more attractive than living near a cornfield. Regardless, I hired into East China School District and remained with them for 29 years.

After I retired from teaching, I opened a floral, gift and pet shop called Foxfire Farm. It was good to me and I enjoyed every minute of it. However, after eight years and with the downturn in the economy, it seemed time to move on.

While still the owner of Foxfire Farm, I took on the position of *ThumbPrint News* editor, where I still remain today. I love this job. The writers, advertisers and readers all add such a wonderful positive element to where I am at this moment in my life. I imagine it will be the place I will stay for a very long time. However, thinking back about all of the "jobs" I have had in my life, I truly believe each contributed to who I am, how I think, and where I am headed today.

On this 2014 Labor Day, relax and take a day off from your job. But, also reflect on how your current job and the jobs you have had in the past have all made you the person you are today.

PROVIDE YOUR FAMILY WITH IMPORTANT EMERGENCY INFORMATION

By Carol L. Christensen

ThumbPrint News Contributor

In case of unforeseen illness, accident, or death of you and your spouse, would your children have any idea of who to contact or where to find your important papers and keys? If not, now is the time to provide one of them, or the executor of your will(s), with a full written record regarding these matters.

When my husband and I recently did this, our son-in-law commented that he wished his parents would do the same thing, as he and his brothers would have no idea about how to obtain this kind of information. It is possible your family may be equally in the dark. I would urge you, no matter what your age and family situation, to compile a list for your loved ones.

Here's what to include:

- 1. Where to obtain legal advice** - the name and phone number of your lawyer (if you have a lawyer in another state, remember to list them as well). Also, where your will is located. If you don't have one, get one ASAP.
- 2. Names and phone numbers of close friends and neighbors** (winter/summer,

if you have two different seasonal homes). Also who, if anyone, has a spare key to your home or where you keep one hidden. This will provide a nearby contact in case your family becomes concerned about your welfare. If you live in a condo community, also list the phone number and hours of operation of the condo office. (The office also should have the names of your children on file for purposes of proper identity.)

3. Location of your safe deposit box(es) - name of bank, address and box number, as well as where you keep the box key. Place one child's signature on file at the bank, so they can easily access your box after you die or are too ill to be able to access it on your own.

4. Location of bank statements, investment statements, annuity paperwork, and the like. These may be either in your home strong box or on your computer or both. If you use the internet for banking and other financial matters, then provide the location of the access codes and passwords you use for these.

5. Where you keep past and present income paperwork and records, including yearly income tax records;

titles for car(s), boat, and other vehicles; plus real estate paperwork.

6. Names, addresses, and phone numbers of your various doctors, dentists, and hospitals.

7. The location of your Living Will and Power of Attorney, if you have these (you really should).

8. Include all the needed details regarding each of the life insurance coverages you own. This is extremely important, as the insurance companies do NOT contact heirs; the heirs must contact THEM. Give the \$ amount of the policy, policy number, and the name and address of the insurance company for each one you own. Unfortunately, billions of dollars worth of coverages are never claimed because families are unaware of their existence. There is no law which makes it mandatory for the insurance companies to seek out possible heirs. Ten years after he died, we learned, by chance, of a policy on a bachelor uncle.

9. You may also want to include your funeral preferences as to burial or cremation, type of service, etc. Biographical materials and church affiliation information, including the name

and phone number of the church or temple office can also be helpful.

It will take awhile to compile these details the first time, but can save your family MANY hours scouting them out. Once you've put the information together, all you need to do in the future is to review and quickly update your list every two or three years. You may believe everything remains the same, but when you read through the details you'll be surprised at the number of changes which have been made over time. Banks change names and account numbers; YOU change banks or lawyers or doctors; contacts die or move away; internet access codes change; you may have chosen a different hiding place for your jewelry or coin collection or you may even have sold them in the interim!

There is no need to provide the details of what are essentially your private money matters... that is, exactly how much money you have in total, how your will reads, and so on... but your family does need clues as to where to find those details in order to help you when you have emergency needs which you cannot attend to yourself.



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By Pamela Grey-Pugliese

ThumbPrint News Columnist

If I were to keep up a sort of “theme” when writing this Cottage Living article, my thoughts for this month should really be saved for February, the month of “love”.

What I mean by the “love” part, is the fact that I am full of love for bricks and mortar! Yep, I am talking about my little cottage getaway in Michigan’s beautiful Thumb area! My little place may not be a huge home, but it can sleep about eight people if you include the comfy couches and the roll away beds! It is not surrounded by acres or rows of land, but it can accommodate a huge bonfire and seating for 10 adults and a volleyball net!

The décor is not something you would find in a *Better Homes and Garden* magazine, but it emanates my own quirky style: bits and pieces of old and new family photos, wall hangings and knick-knacks from my home in the city, antique items from my grandma’s home in Hamtramck, framed funny sayings about the dinners that are cooked at the cottage, comical instructions on how to behave in the cottage hang on the walls, and you’ll see the unusual statue that I picked up at a garage sale that quickly became a conversation piece. If my guests enjoy their time at my place and create fun memories then my mission has been accomplished!

I love it that I don’t have to freak out if the place gets a little messy with wet beach towels, occasional dog hair on



the chair or a few dirty dishes in the sink. I actually am okay with seeing the occasional ladybugs trying to find their way out of the light fixture in the bathroom. I have grown to love the slight “cottagey” scent my place has even after it’s been closed up for a week or two.

When I first bought the place, I knew instantly what I would change and add to make it “mine”. The painted walls do not match in all the rooms, but that’s what gives personality to the place. The carpet isn’t plush, but that makes it okay if Lake Huron sand or occasional mud gets tracked in!

The dog gets to sleep on the couch up north, the kids stay up late with friends, walking with flashlights at night, and the kitchen clock is rarely glanced at! In fact, time seems to be irrelevant most of the weekends spent up north.

So, I guess I am “in love” with my little place in the Thumb, so much so that I continue to write articles about my love of owning a cabin and how much we enjoy it! I hope you enjoy reading it as much I enjoy writing about it! 🌱

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LEXINGTON

Continued from Page 1

to crowding. Around this time, many New England residents headed west to escape the cramped conditions of their homeland and often settled in Michigan, where land was easily obtained. The transition was anything but easy, forcing residents to leave land and fortunes behind, for a new life in the United States. In addition to forfeiting their life savings, they also risked being labeled a rebel and faced jail time for their connections with the emigration.

Lexington's natural allure was what set it apart from other settlements, and Charles Lathrop Pack wanted the elegance to remain throughout development. Pack was born in Lexington in 1857 as a third-generation lumberman, devoting a majority of his life to conserving the forests. Prior to WWI, Pack was one of the five richest people in America, investing in real estate and banking, as well as lumber. A doctor by the name of Walter P. Brown came to the area around the same time and shared Pack's view of the settlement, often saying, "Nature has endowed Lexington with more beauty than any place in Michigan. There will a perfect town here someday." While Lexington had a great deal of assets making it an ideal place to call home, people developing the land faced many obstacles. John B. Hyde came to the area in 1836, bringing along horses that he eventually traded for oxen, used by everyone in town for hauling. Corn and hay were yet to be grown, so he was forced to cut down a large maple tree every night in order to keep his oxen nourished.

As with many other settlements in the Thumb, lumber was very important in the early years of development. For



Lexington in particular, a large portion of the trees were used for making shingles. With about three million shingles coming out of the town by 1844, people from the area quickly earned the nickname "Shingle Weavers". When the banks' negligent credit policies caused a panic, handmade shingles were used as currency. A day's work earned 1,000 shingles, which were worth about \$1.00, but were seldom sold for currency. A barrel of pork could be purchased for 20,000 wooden squares. Although timber was extremely abundant in Lexington during the early years, the wood quickly became scarce and the community profited very little from the resource. Speculators purchased up to 72 percent of the land, stripped the majority of the timber and then sold the cleared land for a higher price, leaving little for the residents.

As the need for establishing a residence subsided, focus shifted to becoming self sufficient by planting crops to feed the families. An 1840 census shows 413 residents of Lexington, which covered a larger portion of the state than it does today. The boundaries of Lexington changed a lot during this time because

Sanilac County was laid out in 1822 to include Huron and Tuscola counties. One hundred thirty-seven people listed their occupation as a farmer, although it wasn't done for an income yet because most of the land was still wilderness and there was no way to ship out the goods. Greenbush's name was changed to Lexington when R.B. Dimond and his wife,

who was related to the Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen, came to the area in 1842. Dimond was the second white man to build in the area and held positions of importance, such as the first Justice of the Peace and a teacher in Lexington's first school.

Once the Civil War broke out in 1861, the task of farming the land was put on hold and many residents of Sanilac County dropped everything they were doing to serve in the effort. Captain Israel Huckins came in search of volunteers and quickly rounded up 60 of the area's finest. The first military company formed in the area was the Sanilac Wolverines, which quickly changed to the Sanilac Pioneers, but were better known as Company D, Tenth Michigan Infantry. The company reached its maximum quota by January, 1862, taking part in capturing Alabama and the Grand Review in Washington.

Unfortunately, the war resulted in many casualties and the need for more volunteers to join the fight was prevalent. The 22nd Michigan Infantry was formed shortly after the war began and Sanilac residents who couldn't serve contributed by raising \$3,000 to aid in the effort. While the women of Lexington didn't see action unless they disguised themselves as men, as some did, they also contributed greatly during the war. By creating a Soldiers' Relief Society, troops in the hospital and at camps were supplied with much needed goods, such as clothes, bedding, food and reading material. By the time a draft was held to increase the number of soldiers on the front line, it had no effect on Lexington because all able citizens were already serving long before a draft was thought of.

The town experienced impressive growth up until this time despite the war, but many setbacks graced the town starting around the 1880s. When the county seat was lost, it was a big hit to the economy. Adding to the already tough times, the railroad bypassed the area and fires frequently swept through the Thumb of Michigan, making it tough for the town to continue prospering. Lexington did eventually lose the county seat, although it



Main street in Lexington, MI 1910

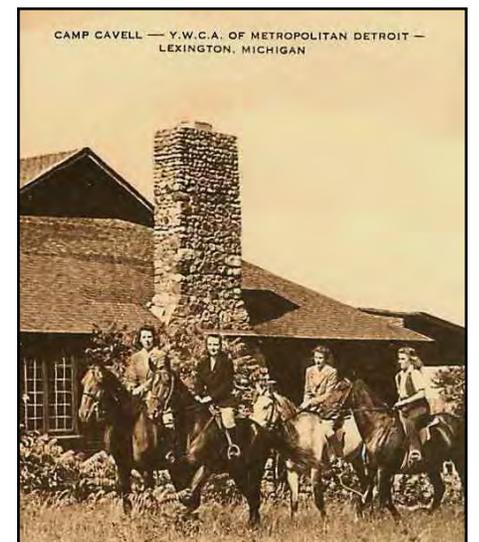
took three attempts over 10 years to get the task accomplished. All the paperwork was completed and the county officers were advised of the move during the second attempt, but the workers remained where they were because some of the paperwork lacked dates or signatures.

Once Lexington obtained docks, it became mainly a trading center, using the lakes to transport goods, but that industry ceased to exist when the docks were destroyed in a storm. As a result of losing the heart of its economy, the town flirted with death until the 1940s, when several small shops and manufacturing plants came to the area, helping the economy and population bounce back. With road conditions greatly improved and automobiles becoming more reliable, tourism came to the area and replaced the trading business.

Today, people frequent Lexington for the sandy beaches of Lake Huron, offering endless water activities and unique small town shops. Although the development experienced trying economic times, it is safe to say Lexington has become exactly what Dr. Brown envisioned it to be when he first graced the landscape in 1853. 🌳



Lexington High School circa 1914



Lexington, Michigan MI 1930s YWCA Camp Cavell Horseback Ride



CHARLES S. PRICE
SHIPWRECK NEAR LEXINGTON
FROM 1913 CYCLONE



By David Odziana

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer and Reporter

The Great Lakes are marvels essential to their surrounding economies, being used for everything from transporting goods to chartering a fishing trip on a sunny summer day. The world's largest surface fresh water system on earth can be described in many ways, but one of the most dangerous waterways on earth isn't usually one of the first to come to mind. With over 6,000 known shipwrecks scattered all over the lakes' floors and more than 30,000 lives claimed in the process, it is easy to see why they are considered so deadly.

In 1913, the Great Lakes were experiencing perfect weather with record-high temperatures and even though November was known to bring the famed November gales, many believed the next few days wouldn't be any different than they had been. These storms would often come with no warning, caused by the mixing of the warm air from the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean, with the frigid Canadian air.

During the worst storm to ever grace the Great Lakes, nearly everyone was caught by surprise, ultimately resulting in the loss of at least 12 ships and more than 250 lives. The storm lasted for four days starting November 7, bringing hurricane-like winds reaching 90 mph, 35 foot walls in the form of waves and snow causing white out conditions. Not only did the storm paralyze anything on the lakes, it also devastated surrounding states with up to four feet of snow, knocking down telephone and telegraph lines and bringing cities to a standstill. The storm came to be

categorized as an "extratropical cyclone".

Although the warning flags were hoisted across the Great Lakes cautioning the arrival of a violent storm once it was realized by the weather forecasters, many ships remained on course. Reason being, most seasoned sailors assumed the flags were typical warnings for November conditions. Creating the forecast at this time in history was very much a guessing game, using observation more than any other tool. Meteorologists often looked at historical records for trends and with reports only coming twice a day, the issue of the information being outdated by the time it was created and even more obsolete once mailed copies arrived days later, caused problems.

With weather changing on the Great Lakes within seconds, the forecasts for the area were even less helpful than for other areas of the country. The national forecast only predicted a possible drizzle, which changed in an instant when the already rough waters became impossible to navigate as the wind speeds tripled in just 30 minutes. By the time many of the ships left the safety of the St. Clair River and entered Lake Huron to experience the weather first hand, the option of turning around was just as dangerous as taking the storm head on. With cyclone strength winds, the U-turn would expose the full length of the ship to the elements, making it highly possible to get caught in a trough and cause the vessel to capsize.

One of the ships to go down in the treacherous storm was the S.S. *Charles*



Great Lakes Freighter Charles S. Price 1910

S. Price, which had a length of 504 feet and weighed 6,322 tons. Built in 1910 by the American Shipbuilding Company, the freighter was mainly used to haul coal. The 1913 shipping season was breaking all previous records of goods transported across the lakes and every vessel was carrying a larger cargo than usual. Many ships were setting sail for one of the last voyages of the season before the water froze over for the winter, when the storm hit. The ship and crew of 28 people departed November 8 from Ashtabula, Ohio, with the waters appearing calm and the ship unknowingly sailing right into the mouth of the storm on Lake Huron. The last to see the *Charles S. Price* before it went under was said to be the *Henry A. Hawgood*, which survived the storm by turning around after experiencing the power of the storm, passing by the *Price* as it was fighting through the cyclone.

Once the storm passed, a steel freighter was spotted floating belly up covered with a thick layer of ice and no identifying marks visible. Many believed it was the *Regina* and thought it collided with the *Charles S. Price* because some victims

were wearing *Regina* life vests. A diver identified the floating shell to be that of the *Charles S. Price* on November 15 with no one aboard the ship surviving the powerful storm. After the vessel floated for a little over a week upside down, the ship eventually sank and settled on the lake bed in 72 feet of water 11 miles southeast of Lexington. Although it is unknown exactly why the *Price* went down, divers later exploring the ship found that its rudder was missing, which would have disabled the steering, most likely contributing to the vessel's demise.

As the body count continued to rise following the storm, finger pointing began. The ship owners blamed the weather bureau and President Wilson shot back at the ship owners for forcing captains to make the dangerous November trips. Nothing came as a result of the claims besides a rise in insurance costs for ships and their cargo.

Coal, which is believed to be from the *Charles S. Price* and other ships carrying similar cargo in the storm, continues to wash up on shore to this day during rough storms. 🌱



November 1913 storm that knocked out communication on the Great Lakes and in Ohio

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snapshots



OF LEXINGTON

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Along with these stories comes the opportunity for small businesses in the chosen city or township to make the adjacent areas aware of what the area has to offer. Next month's Spotlight will be on the city of Armada. If you are a business owner in the Armada area and would like to be included in this advertising opportunity, please contact *ThumbPrint News* at (810) 794-2300.



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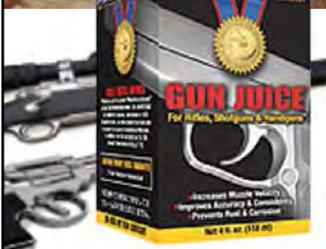
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I've been reading your little newspaper for the past two or three years and thoroughly enjoy it. I really don't understand how you can keep publishing while giving the paper away for free. However, since it's one of the few things in life that I have not seen a price tag on, I really appreciate it. Thank you for the historical information and the little things like word searches and recipes. Notes from area residents are always interesting as well.

Thank you,

Linda Lindblom

Dear Al and the *ThumbPrint News* Crew,

Thank you for the nicely written article that you also printed and framed for me. The outpouring of support from the local communities has made me forever grateful.

All my best,

Gordon J. F. Birgbauer, Jr.
LumberJack Building Centers, Inc. CEO

(Note: We received this letter from Mr. Birgbauer prior to his passing on August 13, 2014.)

Dear Editor (via facebook),

I like the stories about towns, etc. Also I like the contest feature.

Barbara Thompson
Sandusky

Dear Editor,

School supply shopping is a ritual for many families at this time of year. Amid shopping sprees, kids and parents in the Thumb area are looking beyond their own needs and considering the difference a pencil or pen would make in the lives of needy children overseas. More than 300 churches in the Thumb participate in Operation Christmas Child and they are taking advantage of the Back-to-School sales.

For many poverty-stricken children around the world, a lack of basic supplies is what stands between them and attending school. By maximizing back-to-school sales, Thumb area families are stocking up on school supplies for Operation Christmas Child—a massive year-round project in which volunteers pack shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene items and notes of encouragement for children in poverty across the globe.

For more information, go to www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ.

Rev. Cindy Parsons
Media Coordinator
Operation Christmas Child
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Bella Matuszak and her grandmother, Alicia Erenfejcht, were out shopping the sales and purchased crayons and notebooks for shoebox gifts that will be put together by Trinity United Methodist Church in Sebawaing.



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Scherryl Antoniadis

SANGUINE (san-gwən)

By Scherryl Antoniadis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

My dear friend Amanda and I meet almost every Friday to have a leisurely chicks' luncheon, or dinner, depending on our schedules. Where we eat, and what we eat, is of no importance to us. The real reason for our get-togethers is to enjoy a few, very animated, hours of talking and laughing. More often than not, we also manage to squeeze in some shopping or errands before parting ways.

Amanda and I have been friends for several years now, having been introduced to each other by her Aunt Marj. Marj and I live on the same small island about twenty minutes from San Francisco and we commuted to and from work on the same ferry boat. Shortly after Marj and I became friends, Amanda landed a job in the City and she began taking the ferry with us.

Our commute soon became one of the highlights of our day. While many of our fellow passengers were content to spend their voyage reading, working on laptops, or grabbing a quick coffee or glass of wine, our table of rabble-rousers would be regaling each other with stories of psycho bosses, dates from hell, and misadventures of our youth. Our table was always the rowdiest on the boat and . . . of course, we took great pride in that.

The more I got to know Amanda, the more I liked her. I found her to be smart, engaging, and very bubbly -- quite like a flute of champagne! I also soon discovered that her external beauty is surpassed only by her internal beauty; turns out she is one of the kindest and most thoughtful people that I have ever known. She is also an extremely responsible and hardworking young woman. But the trait that I most admire about Amanda is her *sanguine* disposition and outlook on life.

[SANGUINE: an adjective meaning optimistic; enthusiastic; upbeat; spirited; hopeful; confident]

Amanda did not have an "Ozzie and Harriet" kind of upbringing, to say the least. Now we all know that life is not fair, and that each of us is going to face obstacles and disappointment at some point, but it seems to me that Amanda has

had more than her share in her young life. Considering the turmoil of her early years, she could have easily become jaded. But -- with a big assist from her Aunt Marj -- she has learned to cope with life's ups and downs through determination and positive thinking.

I am very proud of Amanda. She is working hard to put herself through school while holding down a full-time job, and still managing to spend quality time (aka "partying") with her family and friends. But it's her bright outlook on things that make her special. Amanda always has a smile on her face. She is always the first to reach out to anyone needing comfort or encouragement, assuring them that things will get better.

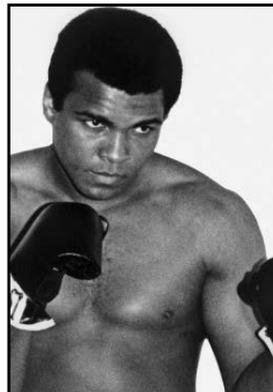
When Amanda and I started hanging out together I thought I could be a mentor to her; it seemed logical considering our age difference. (As we became closer, I told her that she reminded me of my niece; she responded by telling me that I reminded her of her grandma -- ouch!) In retrospect, however, I feel that I have learned as much from Amanda as she has learned from me. And, without a doubt, the most important thing that she has taught me was to never stop "making lemonade" when the going gets tough.

While I was composing this article, I started to search for other folks who share/shared Amanda's sanguine attitude about the world around us. Below are quotes from just a few of the many that I found.

(Cassandra Clare - author) As long as there was coffee in the world, how bad could things be?

(Muhammad Ali - boxer, social activist) If they can make penicillin out of moldy bread, they can sure make something out of you.

(Mahatma Gandhi - statesman,

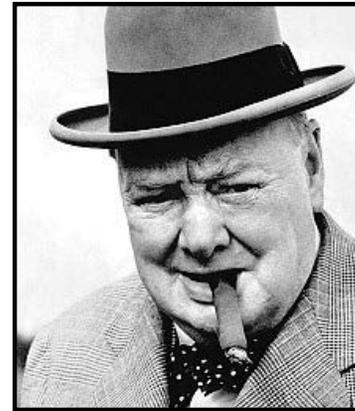


philosopher) You must be the change you want to see in the world.

(Dr. Seuss - writer, poet, cartoonist) Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.

(Betty Reese - officer, pilot) If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in the dark with a mosquito.

(Winston Churchill - statesman, politician) For myself, I am an optimist -- it does not seem to be much use being anything else.



(Anne Frank - Holocaust victim, famed diarist) Think of all the beauty that's still left in, and around you, and be happy.

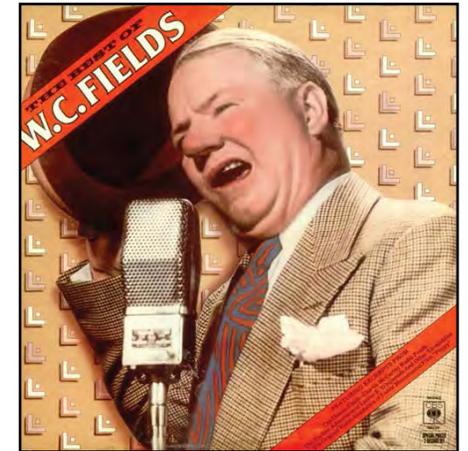
(Alphonse Karr - critic, journalist, novelist) Some people grumble that roses have thorns; I am grateful that thorns have roses.

(Montaigne - writer) My life has been filled with terrible misfortune; most of which never happened.

(Darynda Jones - author) I like to see the glass as half full, hopefully of Jack Daniels.

(George Jean Nathan - drama critic, editor) An optimist is a fellow who believes a housefly is looking for a way to get out.

(W. C. Fields - actor, comedian, author) Start off everyday with a smile and get it over with.



Okay, that last one may not be the best example of a positive outlook, but you get the idea.

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What Happened on This Day in History?

By Louise Allen
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

SEPTEMBER

1. On this day in 1864, Confederate forces under General John Bell Hood evacuate Atlanta in anticipation of the arrival of Union General William T. Sherman's troops.
2. On this day in 1666, the Great Fire of London, which devastates the city, begins.
3. On this day in 1976, the unmanned U.S. spacecraft *Viking 2* lands on Mars, takes the first close-up, color photos of the planet's surface.
4. On this day in 1972, Mark Spitz becomes the first Olympic competitor to win seven medals during a single Olympics Games.
5. On this day in 1975, President Gerald Ford evades an assassination attempt in Sacramento, California.
6. On this day in 1991, U.S.S.R. officially recognizes independence for the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
7. On this day in 1888, an incubator is used for the first time on a premature infant.
8. On this day in 1988, wildfires in Yellowstone National Park, the world's first



national park, force evacuation of the historic Old Faithful Inn; visitors and employees are evacuated, but the inn is saved.

9. On this day in 1969, Canada's Official Languages Act takes effect, making French equal to English as a language within the nation's government.

10. On this day in 1623, lumber and furs are the first cargo to leave New Plymouth in North America for England.

11. On this day in 1916, The "Star Spangled Banner" is sung at the beginning of a baseball game for the first time in Cooperstown, New York.

12. On this day in 2011, in New York City, the 9/11 Memorial Museum opens to the public.



13. On this day in 2008, hurricane Ike makes landfall in Texas.

14. On this day in 1975, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton becomes the first native-born American saint in the Roman Catholic Church.

15. On this day in 1959, Nikita Khrushchev becomes the first Soviet leader to visit the U.S.

16. On this day in 1908, General Motors files papers of incorporation.

17. On this day in 1947, James Forrestal is sworn in as the first U.S. Secretary of Defense.

18. On this day in 1980, Cosmonaut Arnaldo Tamayo, a Cuban, becomes the first black to be sent on a mission in space.



19. On this day in 1948, Moscow announces it will withdraw all soldiers from Korea by the end of the year.

20. On this day in 1850, the slave trade is abolished in the District of Columbia.

21. On this day in 1989, General Colin Powell is confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

22. On this day in 1961, President John Kennedy signs a congressional act establishing the Peace Corps.

23. On this day in 1954, East German police arrest 400 citizens as U.S. spies.

24. On this day in 1947, The World Women's Party meets for the first time since World War II.

25. On this day in 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female Supreme Court Justice, is sworn in.



26. On this day in 1580, Sir Francis Drake returns to Plymouth, England, aboard the *Golden Hind*, after a 33-month voyage to circumnavigate the globe.

27. On this day in 1996, the Taliban capture Afghanistan's capital city, Kabul.

28. On this day in 2008, SpaceX launches the first private spacecraft, *Falcon 1*.

29. On this day in 1932, a five-day work week is established for General Motors' workers.

30. On this day in 1954, the first atomic-powered submarine, the *Nautilus*, is commissioned in Groton, Connecticut.



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The Dime Store Experience

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

September is the month school begins, which is much too soon for a nine-year old boy and none too soon for his mother. We can assume that mom has been busy shopping for school supplies at the nearby big-box store or, better yet, accomplishing the task with a debit card online so the purchases can be delivered to her home. It's a busy time of year, but somewhat easy for mom with all the conveniences available to her, right? Not really!

This nine-year old boy will be entering the fourth grade, it is 1952, and the mother has four children younger than him. Mom is preparing him and all but one of his siblings for the annual school enrollment process. She doesn't drive, lives ten blocks from the center of town, and has limited funds to purchase the pencils, pens, ink, paper, rulers, erasers and the

other necessities for a proper education. She, too, needs to provide new socks, underwear, shirts and blouses for the four children she wants to look good for this year's entry in academia.

So, what's the answer? How does she accomplish all that needs to be done with the barriers she's faced with? The answer was simple living in Algonac in 1952. All could be acquired at Lenzon's 5-10¢ store in the middle of the village.

Downtown Algonac's "Front Street" for those who lived there was a shopping mecca offering almost anything you might want, all in a five or six block area. We had our share of places for grownups to shop; a department store, two drug stores, a couple of grocery stores, two hardware stores, two automobile dealerships and two gas stations. But, for a period of time there was only one dime store until DuLac's 5&Dime opened just two stores away.

As I recall, Lenzon's was initially where my mother got us substantially ready for the day after Labor Day entry into the three-story brick school building that all students, regardless of grade, congregated in. For this then nine-year old boy the shopping trips were the only aspect of the new school year I looked forward to and anticipated being a part of.

Part of the total "back-to-school"

shopping experience was accompanying Mom. Because Dad was at work and, again, she didn't drive, we would all walk the several blocks to the shopping district. She would remind us numerous times during our journey of how important manners were and issued some stern warnings about the consequences should we misbehave or even touch something in the store. I believe that's when I learned to keep my hands in my trouser pockets.

Across the front of the store were plate-glass windows featuring items that would cause you to enter. At this time of year that included a couple of mannequins or as I identified them, "dummies" of children wearing attire just right for the classroom.

As you entered the door of the store you were immediately confronted with a massive glassed-in display of chocolate covered candies, roasting nuts and other delightful goodies I still drool over. What an aroma! And, there was the promise that, if we all behaved, as a departing gift Mom would provide a treat from that counter. Need I say any more about our manners while in the store?

As we ventured to the center of the store on the dark wooden floor, we were accompanied by its responding creaking sound. There were shallow bins with dividers resting on waist-high counter tops where there might be socks in one

and underwear in another. Along one wall you could find women's underwear, nightwear and hand-bags. The display was not as large as the one in the department store down the street, but the prices were lower. On the opposite wall you could find a few men's wear items. Although we frequented the Lenzon's dime store and later DuLac's often during the year, this time of year seemed so important; kind of like a family outing of sorts. It's one place we learned the importance of listening to Mom and the difference between good and bad manners when in public. The consequence of misconduct was passing the candy counter without stopping as we left the store. The reward for good behavior was a brief stop at that counter and walking away with a small white bag of delightful munchies I can still taste.

Some will suggest that the dime stores of the past were no more than the dollar stores of today. I, however, do not agree. There were things you could actually buy for a nickel or a dime, and not everything was made in another country. You didn't have to wait in long checkout lanes and had sales clerks available to help you find something. It taught me, too, that if I didn't do something to irritate sisters while in the store I would not have a prolonged suffering with the thoughts of the candy I might have enjoyed. 🍬

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FALL COLOR TOUR

Continued from Page 1

William Donahey who wrote the comic strip *The Teenie Weenies*.

On day two we headed from Grand Marais to Marquette via Highway H58 which traverses much of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Park. Formerly a gravel road, it is now a wide, smooth ribbon of asphalt all the way to Munising. Marquette is the U.P.'s largest city with a population of about 21,400. In Marquette we cruised through beautiful Presque Isle Park, enjoyed lunch in historic Vierling's Restaurant, explored downtown's many historic buildings, and drove through the impressive campus of Northern Michigan University. Following motel check-in we headed back downtown to The Wild Rover Irish Pub for dinner and another great stout beer. Our delightful waitress said that she was a transplant from the Lower to the Upper Peninsula, a "Troll" who became a "Yooper," so she said that she was a "Trooper." New terminology to me! We met a surprisingly large number of Troopers during our tour.

Our third day destination was the Keweenaw Peninsula, jutting out into Lake Superior. En route along Highway 41 we came upon a sign for Canyon Falls and Gorge on the Sturgeon River near L'Anse. I hit the brakes and turned in; we decided to hike in on the rustic trail. While the falls and gorge were beautiful, we were more fascinated by the strange forest along the trail. Large trees had roots exposed as though they were standing on tiptoes (see photo on front page). Perched atop a large boulder was a pair of trees (one conifer and one deciduous) with intertwined roots hugging the rock's periphery on their way to the ground. Along with other floral oddities, the area seemed like something right out of *The Hobbit*. Maybe Bilbo Baggins was watching! We lunched at the charming Four Seasons Tea Room Restaurant in downtown Houghton. Now in its eleventh year, their menu features sixty-nine varieties of tea (plus another 20 available upon request) as well as tasty sandwiches, soups, quiche and desserts. The interior decor has a warm Victorian flair, and lunch was served on English china. Heading north, we explored historic downtown Calumet, once a booming copper mining town, and marveled at the large number of churches, many of which are no longer in use. Miners came from many European countries, and each ethnic group had its own house of worship.

Continuing north, we arrived at Sand Hills Lighthouse Inn B&B on Superior's shore, northwest of Ahmeek along Five Mile Point Road, for a two-night stay. This being our third visit, Proprietors Bill and Mary Frabotta extended an extra-warm welcome.



Bill and Mary Frabotta, proprietors of Sand Hills Lighthouse Inn B & B

The lighthouse has a Victorian ambiance, tastefully furnished with antiques, and no, you do not have to walk a hall to the bathroom from any of the eight guest rooms. Not only are the breakfasts lavish and delicious, Mary serves gourmet desserts each evening to be enjoyed while she entertains on an antique grand piano. During a stay one learns the history of this 1917 lighthouse (see photo) and the proprietors' fifty-plus years' experience in rescuing this once abandoned historic landmark, finally opened as a B&B in 1996. Bill was a professional photographer in Dearborn, Michigan, for over forty years, and some of his work adorns the walls. We dined at Fitzgerald's Restaurant in Eagle River, north of Sand Hills. Our two-night stay enabled a day trip (day four) to Copper Harbor near the northern tip of the peninsula. North of Eagle River along highway M26 we shopped for in-house produced baked goods and preserves at the Jampot store run by monks of the Poor Rock Abby, Holy Transfiguration Skete, Society of Saint John - a unique experience. We opted for the road over Brockway Mountain to reach Copper Harbor, and on our return trip south along Highway 41 visited Keweenaw Mountain Lodge composed of log cottages and a sizable main lodge building also of log construction, built as a WPA project during the Great Depression. Having earlier downed Mary's scrumptious breakfast, some snacks consumed in the car were an ample lunch, and dinner was later enjoyed at "The Hut" south of Ahmeek.

Departing Sand Hills with full stomachs and fond memories, on day five we headed to Escanaba (population about 12,600) on Lake Michigan's shore and selected a local motel. Logging and iron mining enterprises led to this town's development in the early 1800s. Today, second-growth timber supports paper and lumber industries, and millions of tons of iron ore are shipped annually. My favorite restaurant here is Herford & Hops, a microbrewery where one selects a steak from the cooler and cooks it on a huge grill fired by charcoal briquettes. Thick-sliced bread is available

for grilling garlic toast, and vats of melted butter are at hand for at-will slathering - not exactly diet food. The stout beer was excellent! Following dinner we cruised around near the waterfront for a look at the beautiful old homes.

On day six we proceeded eastward along Highway 2 to the Big Mac. Now a bit anxious to return to the cottage, we skipped historic Fayette State Park near the southern tip of the Garden Peninsula, having visited there in the past. Founded in 1867, iron ore was processed in Fayette, but operations ceased in 1891. Several buildings and the smelting furnaces have been stabilized and/or restored. It's a

must-see for those interested in Michigan history. Upon crossing the bridge we lunched at Darrow's Restaurant in Mackinaw City, always a great stop for wholesome food, pleasantly served. We headed south through the "tunnel of trees" extending from Cross Village to Harbor Springs and arrived back at the cottage in time for happy hour and a home-cooked dinner. Our color tour was a resounding success; the memories will linger. 🍁

Dr. Nyquist is a retired biomechanical engineer residing in Macomb County and is a past president of the Sanilac County Historical Society.

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WONDROUS WANDS

By **Rennae Hardy**

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer



The spiritual origin of the wand and its magical properties reside in an ancient symbolic language presented in certain narratives of Holy Scripture. For example, Moses would stretch out his “rod” and miraculous occurrences would follow. A rod or wand symbolically represents “power.” Moses’ rod symbolized Divine power coming from God. Shepherds carried a traveler’s “staff” which provided support to the body and symbolized the power they exercised over their flocks. Kings used “scepters” to represent the power of truth from God contained within their proclamations, and the Romans used bundles of “sticks” to symbolize the power of law serving the common good of society.

The wooden wand emerges from the universal language of symbolism. Trees are “good” for the balance of nature’s ecosystem, so tree branches (boughs) represent the power of this “natural goodness”. Wands however are not always composed of wood. Crystal wands derived from any variety of stone are used during meditations, massage, and in healing practices. The type of crystal affects one’s focus. Amethyst has anti-inflammatory properties associated with it, so using an amethyst wand enhances the directed intent to alleviate inflammation. When meditating, point the wand toward you to bring in positive energy and point the wand away from you to draw negative energy out.

All wands are an “Extension of Intention” and will provide pin point accuracy in directing one’s intent. The pointed shape creates a bottleneck that concentrates and amplifies the energy channeled through it. The magic (power) doesn’t lie within the wand, but within the heart and moral character of the user. 🍀

ThumbPrint News travels to Germany & France!

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 chalk board). 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 Germany and France with Richard and Barbara Platz of Richmond, Michigan. Here is what Barbara had to say about her trip:

My husband and I were in Germany for our oldest son’s retirement ceremony from the Air Force. Jeff served 24 years. We also attended our granddaughter’s high school graduation from Ramstein High School in Germany. We took our 12 year old granddaughter, Allison with us and showed her the sights.

The picture on the left was taken in Bavaria, Germany, at the Neuschwanstein Castle with our ThumbPrint News. The picture to the right was taken under the Eiffel Tower in Paris away from the rain. We used some of the paper to put on the wet bench so we could sit down. The picture shows granddaughters, Ivey Platz of Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany, and Allison Watson of Belleville, Illinois, with grandmothers, Barbara Platz of Richmond, Michigan, and Diane Bethea of South Carolina.

If you are a reader of ThumbPrint News and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or if you have been able to get a famous person or character to be photographed with our paper, 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. When it does appear, we will send you a complimentary edition. 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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Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah and Washington **AND TO THE COUNTRIES OF** Afganistan, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Bonaite, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Fiji, France, Germany, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Kiribati, New Zealand, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Russia, St. Lucia, Spain and Wales.

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HOUSE FOR LIFE

By Paul Welch

ThumbPrint News Columnist

Children are heading back to school which means that it won't be much longer until the weather is too cold to do anything outside. Time is winding down to finish outdoor projects before the harsh winter gets here. After last winter, it is even more important to make sure your home is ready to survive the snow and freezing cold.

In previous articles I have talked about finishing your deck, protecting your concrete, and sealing up the home for winter. These are important steps to protecting your home and helping it survive the winter. Other things to look at are the areas that are meant to open your house to the outside, windows and doors. While they are good for letting a breeze in and giving you a way to get in and out of your home, they can also create a way for heat to go in and out of your home and drive your heating and cooling bill up. Here are some things you can do to prevent this from happening.

A Good Seal – Windows and doors have strips of foam that create a seal around the edge of the windows and doors. Over time this material deteriorates and will begin to break off. This is easy to replace. Go to your local hardware store and buy a roll to replace it. They have many options to choose from including traditional foam and the better EPDM rubber. Remove all of the old weather-stripping, peel off the back of the new, and stick the new in place. Some types might require more work, such as replacing trim pieces. Once you replace any old weather-stripping, check around the window and check out the bottom of the doors

Sweeping Doors – Many doors have some form of bottom seal that will seal where the door meets the threshold. If your front or back door does not, it is time to look at replacing or installing one. There are a few types from which to choose. If you have a threshold seal that is worn or

missing, you can often find a replacement for the rubber seal. It is a matter of removing the old and inserting the new. If there isn't one to begin with, there are a few choices for you.

There are several types of door sweeps; some install on just the one side while others install on the bottom. There are ones that peel and stick while others are screwed in place. Personally I prefer ones that are screwed in place because they stay attached. Ones with multiple rubber strips seal better than ones with only one. Once you pick the appropriate door sweep, cut it to the right length, and install it on the outside of the door. The door swings inwards when open so when it closes, the rubber will flex under the door making contact with the threshold and creating the seal.

Gaps and Cracks – If you are able to, remove the trim from the inside that is around the windows and doors. Fill any gap between the window frame and the window with a spray expanding foam that is made for use around windows and doors to give you insulation. It is very important that the spray foam is made for windows and doors. Regular spray foam has a higher pressure expansion and will push the frame inwards making the door or window difficult to open or close. If it is made for use around windows and doors, it has a low pressure expansion that will not

push the frame inwards. Also make sure you only fill the gap halfway because it will expand the rest of the way. After using the foam, cut off any excess and re-install the trim.

In With the New – Old windows could be the source of your problem. When windows are new they do a very good job at insulating your home. Old windows are not as good at insulating and become a source for heat to get in or out. If it is within the budget, contact someone to come out and replace your windows before it gets to be too late in the season. If you have the ability and know-how, you can buy the windows and replace them yourselves. If it is not in the budget, at least buy the plastic window insulating kits to give you better insulation until you can replace the windows.

Have a wonderful and safe Labor Day. Summer is coming to a close so I hope you can enjoy what is left. If you have any questions or comments, please e-mail me at thumbprintnews@comcast.net. I will be sure to reply in a timely manner. 🍀

Editor's note: Paul Welch has 15 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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Thumb Area Activities & Events Calendar September

If you have an event in October that you would like listed in the October issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by September 12, 2014. 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 home town to attend any of these events, please call ahead for any changes in dates or times or for any cancellations.

Genesee

Flint - September 5

Solid Foundation C.O.G.I.C. Closet Clothing Give Away, 3730 North St., 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Free. For more information call (810) 444-6870.

Huron

Caseville - September 27 & 28 Halloween in Oak Beach

Oak Beach County Park, all day. This is a fun filled day for everyone to enjoy, even if you just watch the kids. There are many activities like face painting, crafts, games, piñata, a costume contest, story reading, dancing, trick or treating through the park and even an outdoor movie (weather permitting). Call (989) 856-2344 for more information.

Lapeer

Lapeer - September 7, 14, 21 & 28 Summer Sunday Flea Market

Lapeer Center Building, 425 County St., 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Up to 50 booths inside and outside sell a huge variety of items to the public. No admission charge. For information on space rental call (810) 347-7915.

Lapeer - September 8

Lapeer Cruise on Nepessing St., downtown area, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Come one, come all! 50/50 drawing with proceeds donated to The Refuge of Lapeer County. Tons of free parking. Music by B & C DJ & Sound. For more information call (810) 280-2951.

Attica Twp. - September 14

The Hamill Reunion, Attica Township Hall, Peppermill Rd., 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Please bring your family, a dish to pass, non-alcoholic beverage and if you have a picture of yourself about the time that you hired in at Hamill. It's a great time to renew old acquaintances and build new friendships. It has been suggested that we meet every three to five years, so we'd like your input. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at Burger King in Imlay City at 10:00 a.m. and the next meeting is September 3. Contact (810) 724-8247 for more information.

Macomb

Bruce Twp. - September 7 & 21

2nd Annual Farmer's and Artisan's Market, 72955 Van Dyke, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Table fees are \$5 per day. There will be a variety of fresh products, crafts and antiques being sold by many Romeo residents. For more information call (586) 752-9580 or email macombcd@yahoo.com.

Richmond - September 7

Richmond Good Ole Days Classic Car Show, downtown next to Maniaci's Banquet Hall. Enter your car for \$15. Lots of prizes. Call Steve at (734) 320-4163 for more information.

Richmond - September 9

Woman's Life Chapter 855 Meeting, Lois Wagner Memorial Library, 35200 Division, 6:30 p.m. Join us to learn how you can make a difference in

our community too! For more information call (810) 392-5136.

Clinton Township - September 10

Free Estate Planning Workshop, Fern Hill Golf Course, 17600 Clinton River Rd., 10:30 a.m. Sponsored by Estate Planning Professionals of Macomb. Call Laura at (586) 604-7112 to reserve your seat.

New Baltimore - September 13

Walpole Island First Nation Program, Walter and Mary Burke Park (City Park) at Front and Washington Streets. Sponsored by the New Baltimore Historical Society. Opening ceremony at 51065 Washington, in front of the Historical Society's Grand Pacific Museum at 11:00 a.m. Also, vendors and food and bake sale items for purchase. For more information call (586) 725-2770.

Washington - September 14

Autumn Daze Sale Event, Washington Historical Museum, 58230 Van Dyke, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. All items will be featured: crafts, commercial, flea market, antiques, etc. Each space is \$25 with proceeds used to maintain the museum. Set up time is 7:00 a.m. rain or shine outdoors. For more information and an application, go to www.washhistsoc.org, call (248) 652-2458, or email holcombj@comcast.net.

Chesterfield - September 15

New Baltimore Interfaith Choir, Christ, the King Lutheran Church, 29920 23 Mile, 7:00 p.m. Pot luck and season's music distributed. 49th year since its founding in 1966. No fee and no auditions for the 45 voice ensemble. Call Director Bette Carrothers at (586) 725-8051 for more information.

Oakland

Bloomfield Hills - September 7

Sunday School Kickoff Celebration, Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd., 10:10 a.m. For more information call (248) 626-2515.

Bloomfield Hills - September 12

Friday Breakfast, Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd., 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. First timers and guests are free. Presentation included. For more information call (248) 626-2515.

Bloomfield Hills - September 27

Mom to Mom Sale, Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd., 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Gently used baby and children's items. For more information call (248) 626-2515.

St. Clair

Memphis and other St. Clair

County Locations - Entire Month Bottle and Can Drive. Hosted by Women's Life Chapter 855 of Memphis and benefitting the Wings of The Harbor Transitional Living Program for homeless youth in Port Huron. For can and bottle drop off locations call (810) 392-5136.

East China - September 3

Low Vision, Legally Blind and Blind Meeting, St. John River District Hospital, 4100 River Rd., room 2, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. For more information contact Paul at (810) 329-5172 or dailerpaul@hotmail.com.

Fort Gratiot - September 5

Free Blood Pressure and Body Mass Index (BMI) Screenings, Birchwood Mall Food Court, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Heart Healthy educational materials will be freely available as well. No registration required. Sponsored by Partners at Heart and the St. Clair County Health Department. For more information call (800) 326-1811 or go to www.partnersatheart.info.

Port Huron - September 13

19th Annual Walk-For-Life, Pine Grove Park, 9:00 a.m. Public is invited. Proceeds provide free services to our community's underprivileged mothers and fathers. Walkers gathering pledges totaling more than \$200 receive a free commemorative T-shirt. Walkers should register no later than August 30,

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so they have time to ask for pledges. Registration forms are available on-line at BlueWaterBabies.org, at your local church or at the pregnancy center, 1211 Griswold Street in Port Huron. For more information contact (810) 985-4673.

Fair Haven - September 19 Euchre Party, St. Peter Lutheran Church, 6745 Palms Rd., registration at 6:30 p.m., games at 7:00 p.m. \$5 donation. Free goodies, coffee and tea. Hot dogs and pop \$1 donation. For more information call (810) 765-8161.

Casco - September 20 Elimination Raffle, Perch Point Conservation Club, 7930 Meisner, doors open at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m., raffle 7:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Will benefit air, soils, minerals, forest, waters and wildlife by educating our young. Donation: \$100, includes dinner and drinks for 2. Only 199 tickets sold. 1st ticket and every 10th ticket up to 190th ticket will win \$100 and last ticket will win \$10,000. Call Bob at (586) 917-5796 or Diana at (586) 484-9175 for more information.

Marine City - September 20 Marine City Chamber of Commerce Flea Market, 1300 Parker, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. For more information call (810) 765-4501 or email chamber@visitmarinecity.com

Marine City - September 20 Oktoberfest, Marine City Lions Club, 545 Ward St., noon – 11:00 p.m. Live music, food, drink, raffles, bake sale, craft show and activities for kids. Call Marine City Lions Club at (810) 765-9121 for more information.

Marine City - September 20 & 21 Heritage Day, City Hall, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., building tours on Sunday, 3:00 p.m. Trae McMaken performance. Many activities, including barn raising, 15th Michigan Volunteers Infantry, 8th Arkansas Civil War Regiment, dulcimer group,

blacksmith shop, high wheel bicycles, Marine City antique fire truck, petting zoo, and much more. For more information go to www.friendsofcityhall.com or call (810) 765-1296.

Columbus - September 23 Woman's Life Chapter 855 Dinner, Tom's Backwoods Bar & Grill, 8826 Gratiot Ave., 6:30 p.m. Get out, socialize, and meet some new people. Pay for your own meal. For more information call (810) 392-5136.

Port Huron - September 23 Free Blood Pressure and Body Mass Index (BMI) Screenings, Vantage Point Farmers Market, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Heart Healthy educational materials will be freely available as well. No registration required. Sponsored by Partners at Heart and the St. Clair County Health Department. For more information call (800) 326-1811 or go to www.partnersatheart.info.

Port Huron - September 24 St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 1115 6th St., 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Sally Bohs, who will speak about her family and "Native Americans: Friends or Foes". 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, see our website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscdfgg/> or call (317) 600-7813.

Kimball - September 26 Spaghetti Dinner, New Life Christian Academy, three dinner seating times available. For more information and to reserve your tickets, call (810) 367-3770 ext. 100.

Sanilac

Sandusky - September 13 & 27 Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley Rd., 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, \$10 membership per year. On September 13 entertainment provided by The Natural Tones (hot dogs and blue jeans night – hot dogs provided by Club); on September 27 it will be Lighthouse Three. For more information call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Deckerville - September 27 27th Annual Indian Heritage Day, Reid Music Hall, 4028 Ruth Rd., 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This event will feature the lives of Indian women. The Wolverine State Archeological Society will have

members present showing Stone Age artifacts once used. Special presentations will take place throughout the day. At noon the famous Indian potluck luncheon will be held; so bring a dish to pass. A donation of \$3 for adults, \$1 for 5 to age 12, and under age 5 free is suggested.

Tuscola

Mayville - September 13 16th Annual Mayville Museum Car Show and Pancake Breakfast, 2124 E. Ohmer Rd. (M-24), 8:00 a.m. Pre-registration available. Rain or shine. Judged show with awards to the "Top

30" and dash plaques to the first 30 cars. 50/50 raffles and prizes through-out the day. Pancake and sausage breakfast served from 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. For more information call Julie at (989) 843-5809.

Wayne

Flatrock - September 19, 20 & 21 Flatrock Riverfest, Huroc Park, 28700 Arsenal, 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. on Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, noon – 8:00 p.m. on Sunday. Music, car show and swap meet, and much more. Fireworks at dusk on September 21. For more information visit flatrockriverfest.com.



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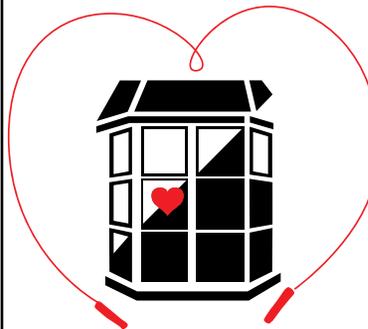
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ThumbPrint News Contest

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, 2014, one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified.

In the August 2014 edition, we asked our readers to identify what the object pictured below was:



considered a sport with competitions held around the world.

For our September contest we are asking the question, "What is it?" Identify what the object is that is pictured below and for what it is used. Remember – go to www.thumbprintnews.com if you know the answer. Good luck! (Picture below was provided by Roy F. Rivard of the Chesterfield Historical Society.) 🌱



All of those submitting the correct answer were entered into a random drawing and, unfortunately, only one person can be the winner for the month. Bruce Bulle of Fair Haven identified the above object as a pair of antique sheep shears. Bob will be entered into our year end drawing for a wonderful surprise gift.

Sheep shearing is the process by which the woolen fleece of a sheep is cut off. The person who removes the sheep's wool is called a shearer. Typically each adult sheep is shorn once each year. Sheep shearing is also



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