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HAMPTON

TOWNE CRIER

PORT BYRON, RAPIDS CITY, SILVIS, EAST MOLINE

January-February, 2005



The Local Election Season is Starting

Local elections will take place this April but candidates must move quickly. School Board and Village/City Board Elections will take place this year. In any local election, candidates may pick up nomination forms and their Candidate's Guide at their local town hall or the Rock Island County Courthouse. The publications may be downloaded from the State Board of Elections Website at: www.elections.state.il.us (There has been confusion about one required form* that comes from the Rock Island County Clerk's Office. Read through your Candidate's Guide, then, if you still have questions, call the Rock Island County Courthouse 309-786-4451.)

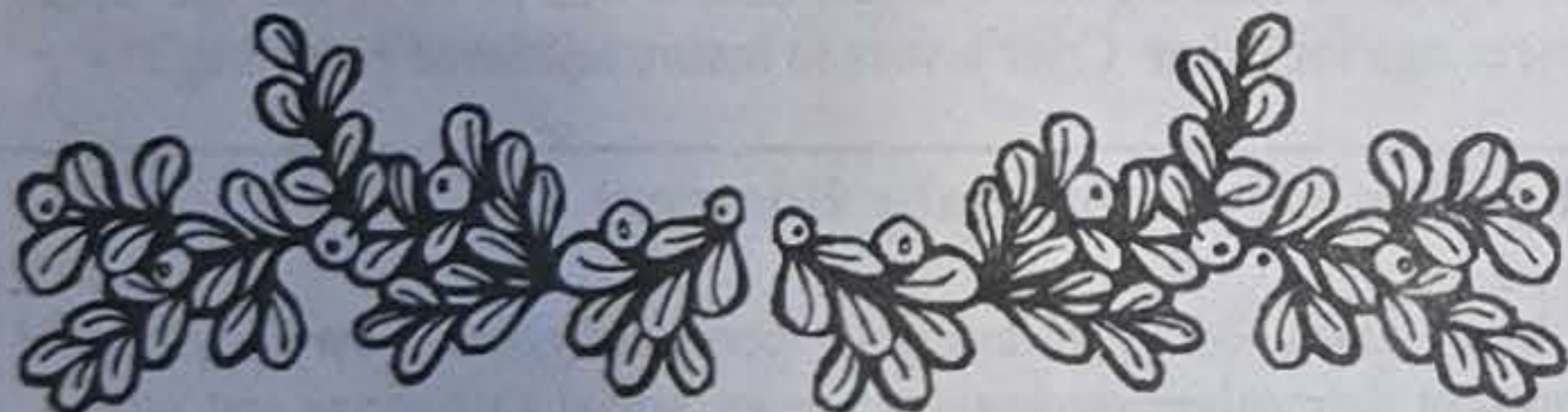
Why so urgent?

In order to run for office, candidates must have the signatures of registered voters in their town on a Nomination form. Gathering the signatures takes time and all forms must be completed strictly according to instructions. They also must be witnessed by a notary before submitting at the Rock Island Count Courthouse. ***Don't plan on last-day submissions in case you need additional signatures or forms which will take time to complete.***

In Hampton, if you want to be on the ballot, you must have at least 25 signatures (preferably more) of registered Hampton voters on a Petition for Nomination, a Statement of Candidacy form, a Receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interest with the County Clerk* and a Loyalty Oath (optional). All forms must be witnessed by a notary and the papers filed **between Noon on Jan. 17th and 5:00 PM, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2005.**

In Hampton, 3 School Board positions are open (see page two for details on what these positions entail). 3 Trustee positions and the office of Village President will be on the ballot this April.

None of these positions requires experience, just an enthusiasm for service and a willingness to learn. Everyone knows elected "first-timers" cannot come fully trained for public service so consider running. Our residents have professional experience, common sense and education that could benefit the community. Patriots do not have to carry guns to serve their country. Those that keep the homeland communities vital and growing also make a huge contribution. Will you run?



A special thank you to those that, round the clock, worked to keep our streets clean. Also thanks to the energy company specialists who restored power to the neighborhoods and the police and fire/rescue departments that protect us regardless of the weather. Your efforts in the recent storm have been noticed!

We appreciate you all!

Box Holder

Hampton Community Open House

January 15, 2005

SPONSOR BY:
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10:00 to 4:00

Hampton School
206-5th Street

For more information call
755-0693 (School) or
thubert@rock.k12.il.us (Email)

- ♦ Shoot-A-Thon
- ♦ Knock-Out Tournament
- ♦ Concession Stand
- ♦ Old Uniform Sale
- ♦ Old Sports Pictures
- ♦ Tour the School



Pride and Tradition

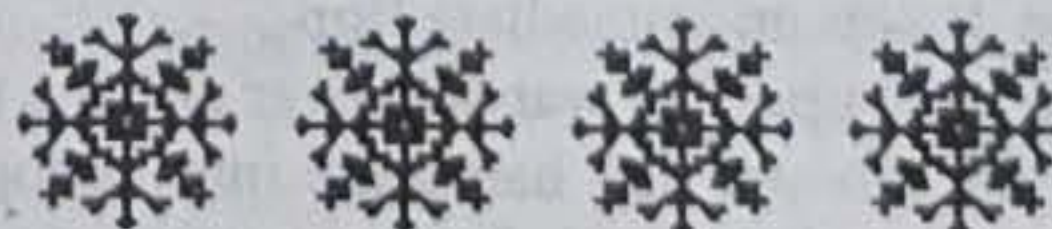
Hampton School Open House on Saturday Jan. 15th

The classrooms will be open from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM so tour the school. See old sports photos and get a snack at the concession stand. There will be a Knock-Out Tournament and old uniforms for Sale.

The Hampton Booster Club is holding a Shoot-a-Thon as part of the fun. This fundraiser is held only once every 4 years and supports the athletic and music programs at the Hampton Elementary School. Hampton's athletic coaches are volunteers intent on a quality education for the area students that includes all the things participating in sports affords - physical fitness, teamwork and self confidence. For details about all the activities, call the school at 755-0693.



Report animal neglect! Please keep an eye on animals left outdoors. They need running water. They must have a shelter from rain and snow that will freeze in their fur and especially some ground cover like straw that drains quickly to offer the animal a dry surface to lay on or walk. If you notice a neglected animal, please call the local police or village hall on their non-emergency numbers with the address and they will investigate.



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Editorial: Annual Afflictions

By your Volunteer Editor Jane Cady

After so many years spent in marketing, I've really got to hand it to the firms that market Glad® containers and Zip Lock® bags. Considering the prevalence of "containeritis", it is amazing that people would purchase additional boxes and bags to clutter up their homes. It's like the cliché about Eskimos buying freezers!

As inevitable as holiday weight gain, as sure as bloated charge card bills arriving in January, a majority of us can count on the annual affliction known in my family as "containeritis". The severity of the attack is determined by the number of containers accumulated from Halloween through New Years Day.

It was not by chance that last month, I wrote up some pieces on what to do with excess baby food jars and brown paper bags. It's because there is so little encouragement to lessen the effects of rampant containeritis in America. Do you suffer too?

Take an objective look at your kitchen counters, cabinets, pantry and even your storage area in the basement or garage. What do you see? If you open the cupboards and see loads of mismatched plastic containers from yogurt, sour cream and whipped topping, you have containeritis. If you could not part with the jar the olives came in for the Christmas veggie platter, or those cute tiny jars from jelly samples you are susceptible. If you have additional storage space in your basement or garage for your accumulated aluminum pie tins, those domed plastic cake containers and numerous coffee cans filled with more jars and butter tubs so old they have gone to sticky slime, you have a serious case. Should you have stacks of washed Styrofoam "doggie boxes" from various restaurants, it's time for an "intervention".

Regardless the excuse given ("I'm this way because I went through the depression" or "I'm just thrifty"), it's time to lighten the load. It will take the tough love and cooperation of every family member to confront the afflicted and effect a temporary remission. (Sorry, there is no permanent cure). Throw away all the accumulated containers and their lids. If the afflicted cannot manage the task, take it out of their hands. Wait until the night before your garbage pick up. Quietly fill bags and boxes with ready to recycle sorted containers, disguise them as best you can and place them out with your regular garbage. Pray that they disappear before the afflicted family member notices. Consider making arrangements with a neighbor to use their containers for the deed. Don't laugh! Containeritis is a serious up-keep problem. Everyone that has actually done such an intervention has marveled at the amount of storage space reclaimed. This year, give yourself some stress relief with an "intervention" and get some order back into your life!

Earl Silas Tupper: Tree Surgeon to Plastics Inventor

January 23, 1947 is one date said to mark the invention of Tupperware by Earl Silas Tupper (1908-1983). Earl was a New Hampshire Tree Surgeon worked for DuPont Chemical Company which had started developing plastics before World War II. Earl couldn't afford to purchase refined plastics for his experiments so asked his employer if he could buy left-overs from DuPont. His supervisor gave him black, inflexible pieces of polyethylene "slag" which was a waste product from the oil refining process. (Refined Polyethylene of that time was used primarily for insulation, radar and radio equipment.) Not to be discouraged, Tupper purified the slag and molded it to create light-weight containers, and dishes that were non-breakable. He developed a plastic container with an airtight lid similar to a paint can lid except in reverse. In 1938, Tupperware Plastics Company was founded and in 1946, Tupper Plastics appeared in hardware and department stores. It was an immediate flop.

Tupper did not give up. The war was over and the troops were coming home. The women that had gone into factories and held jobs that only men used to hold, began to give them up to the returning soldiers. The women had been used to earning money and were open to Tupper's new marketing idea: Home Parties.

The Home Party allowed demonstrations of the new products that overcame any confusion about operating the lids and boosted sales so much that by 1951, all the merchandise on retail shelves had been pulled and devoted to filling party orders only. Today, demonstrations are held all over the world and the net sales exceed \$1.2 billion. It is a rare household in America that does not include several pieces of Tupperware.

School Board Elections

Notes from Superintendent Tom Berg

There are 3 seats open on the Hampton School Board in the April 5th election. The Hampton School Board is made up of seven individuals who oversee the Hampton School District. Each person serves a 4 year term. There are 12 scheduled meetings per year and usually two or three special meetings. Meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. with a couple exceptions. Meetings tend to last from 1-2 hours, some longer, some shorter.

Petitions can be picked up from the Hampton School office from 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. Candidates must secure 50 signatures of voters registered within the Hampton School District. Petitions can be turned in from January 18 through January 25th.

There is no financial pay for serving on the school board, but the personal satisfaction and citizen appreciation is great. If you have questions, please call school Superintendent Tom Berg at 755-0693 or School Board President, Randy Baldrige at 496-2195.

Hampton Village Board Structure

By Editor, Jane Cady

The Village of Hampton Board meets twice a month on the first and third Monday of each month. The Board consists of 6 Trustees and the President each with a 4 year term. Election are held every 2 years to elect 3 new Trustees or 3 Trustees and a President. Each Trustee chairs one committee and serves as a member on two others.

Committees concentrate their efforts in assigned, major areas of Village government. The committee members gather information, negotiate and try to resolve issues on behalf of the citizens.

The committees are: 1.) Administration, Insurance and Code Enforcement 2.) Public Safety 3.) Parks and Recreation 4.) Streets, Alleys & Drainage 5.) Finance & Grant Administration 6.) Public Works. Trustees gradually learn about each committee's functions and issues, no Trustee has to learn everything about Village Government at once.

The board is supported on a daily basis by Village Clerk, Mike Toalson and Deputy Clerk Ruth Spear in the office, Director of Public Works, Mark Larson (Also Fire Chief), Police Chief Larry Hufford and Village Attorney Graham Lee. There are seminars and training materials for numerous facets of municipal government.

Campaign note from the Editor: Hampton School or Village Board Candidates will be given, FREE, ¼ page in the Crier's March-April, 05 issue for use in their campaign for office. As I will be running for Trustee, others will be covering the Board meetings for future Crier issues to insure unbiased reporting.

Fashion Advice for Baby Boomers

Many Baby Boomers are quite confused about how they should present themselves during interviews, social gatherings and where appearances truly count. They are unsure about the kind of image they are projecting and whether or not they are "correct" when they try to conform to the fashions that the designers in NYC, Paris and/or California inflict upon the world.

A study of the situation, the following combinations *DO NOT* go together and thus should be avoided:

1. A nose ring and bifocals
2. Spiked hair and bald spots
3. A pierced tongue and dentures
4. Miniskirts and support hose
5. Ankle bracelets and corn pads
6. Speedo's and cellulite
7. A belly button ring and a gall bladder surgery scar
8. Unbuttoned disco shirts and a heart monitor
9. Midriff shirts and a midriff bulge
10. Bikinis and liver spots
11. Short shorts and varicose veins
12. In-line skates and a walker

Please keep these basic guidelines foremost in your mind when you shop.

Whoever said: "There is no such thing as a stupid question", has never worked in customer service.

To Your Health

By Dr. Walter Bradley

Thank you for the opportunity allowing me to grace the pages of your Hampton Town Crier. I'm Dr. Walter Bradley, Director of Trauma and Emergency Services at Trinity Medical Center. In addition, I am Medical Director of Emergency Medicine Services. Your Hampton EMS program is one of the services that I oversee. I will write occasionally on various subjects, and invite any comment.

We welcome a new year, and with that, have shared the holidays with our loved ones. Holidays are full of hustle and bustle with shopping, roasting the turkey, baking the ham and enjoying family recipes. Holidays can also present challenges, if we may have lost a loved one during the year, experienced a life-changing event, or are just plain overwhelmed with it all. When we feel glum after the holidays, it may be a reaction to expectations not being met. Many times when families living apart come together, old issues resurface. Or, many spend the holiday season alone. I would like to offer a few suggestions to recover from the "Holiday Blues".

When you have joined with family members, focus on the reason for the season. It's not about us. Be gracious and grateful. Don't personalize comments or actions from others. I'm sure everyone has "bigger fish to fry" than to spend time analyzing comments or actions from others. Rise above it. Take the high road. You'll feel better for it.

Remember fellow members of our communities. If someone is alone, invite them for the holiday. If they choose not to accept, please take a care package containing a meal and other goodies to show your thoughtfulness. If you or someone you know is experiencing the "Holiday Blues", here are some thoughts.

Talk about the life changing event or the experience causing the blue feelings. Offer to listen or help.

Finally, friends and neighbors who are alone may have difficulty fulfilling their daily activities, especially with the frigid temperatures. Check on them frequently during the day. Learn their routine. If their light is not on or newspaper not taken it, call or stop by to make sure they're doing okay. The communities around Hampton have a rich history of helping each other. Shovel someone's driveway or walkway. Take them or go to the grocery store for them. Send over a meal. When you think of someone and feel a need to call, don't put it off, and make that call!

I wish you well, have a safe and blessed New Year. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, I welcome them. Please feel free to call my office at 309-779-3048. Take care.

[Editor's note: The Holiday Blues can strike at any time of the year, not just Christmas. Mother's and Father's Days are particularly hard for those that have recently lost a parent. Dr. Bradley's advice applies to each of us personally and reminds us to be sensitive to those around us at all times. Welcome Dr. Bradley!]

How you can reach us

Towne Crier, P. O. Box 224, Hampton, IL 61256-0224
You may write to us or drop off items at 327-2nd Ave.
Hampton or Quinn's Hardware on Rte. 84

**For Jane Cady, Editor Calls: 10AM to 6PM Only,
Mon.-Fri. 309/752-0627, e-mail jec@ix.netcom.com**

Ads or Articles Deadline: 10:00 a.m. the 6th of each month.

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ADVERTISING: Advertising is limited to businesses who may contact us for details on volume discounts and yearly rates. By-issue rates are: Small 4.5"x2-1/2" \$25.00, Medium 4.5" x 4" \$35.00. 1/4 Page 4.5" x 7" \$45. Non-Profit organizations and all obituaries and announcements are free. Circulation is 3,800+ mainly distributed in Port Byron, Rapids City, Hampton, Hampton Township, Silvis and East Moline.

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Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers all have in common?

A. All invented by women.

Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

A. Honey

Q. Which day are there more collect calls than any other day of the year?

A. Father's Day

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase.....
"goodnight, sleep tight."

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What to do with Cardboard Tubes

Use as storage for bits of string, ribbon or yarn. Wind up each piece on a tube, cut a slit in the tube and secure the end in the slit so it doesn't unravel again. Thread several tubes on a hanger for neat, out of the way storage.

Use long, wrapping paper tubes to store linens. Roll clean, ironed table runners, cloth place mats and napkins around the tubes without folds to preserve them for the next time you need them for special occasions. Use the largest tubes for tablecloths.

Keep miscellaneous plastic bags or container covers neatly in a drawer by stuffing them into empty paper towel tubes.

Stop unwanted creases in trousers during storage from one season to the next. Slip longer paper tubes and place over the bottom of hangers. For long term storage of suits or for white summer slacks/trousers, glue a sheet of acid-free white paper over the tube before using for cloths storage. By applying paper tubes to the top wires before hanging sweaters for storage, the shoulders will not be stretched. NOTE: Long term, out of season storage of knit garments should be off hangers! Fold them with tissue paper between the layers. Hanger storage of any knit or heavy material causes tearing and discoloration at the shoulder seams.

Roll up and neatly store any cords in tubes. This applies to extension cords, extra computer/electronic equipment cords, and cords in use on equipment. Keep all cords from lamps and decorative items by rolling up excess wire and slipping a slit tube over the wires. To further disguise the cords, cover the tube with contact paper.

Cover tubes and one end with brightly colored contact paper, fill with candies or small toys then cover open end with same paper. Use as party favors or treasure hunt prizes at kids parties.

Pack one end of a tube with a small wad of crumpled newspaper and tape in place. Fill loosely with small dry twigs, add another wad of crumpled newspaper taped in place. Drizzle with melted wax from candle stubs. Add to kindling and logs for one-match starting in your fireplace.

When planting your garden, cut short tubes to place around seedlings to protect them from high winds, cutworms and hold in moisture.

Sunday Movie Serials By Franciska Rasmussen



We would have dinner early on Sunday so that Mom, the neighbor lady, my sister and I could go to the movies. Westerns were the thing my mom liked best, but the biggest thing of all was the Sunday serials.

In order to see them you had to be at the theater by a certain time (and we were!!!) To get to the movies we had to walk clear across town and no matter what the weather was, we went. I do believe one time when it was 12 degrees below zero we did stay home.

The serials would always stop with a cliff hanger which left you wondering if the hero would be alive next week. I guess I wasn't to bright or I would have figured out if they killed him off in the first three chapters there would be no more serial.

Those were the glorious days of Buck Jones, Tom Mix and Johnnie McBrown. They always wore white hats so you could tell the good guys from the bad. Their horses were a sight to behold. Thinking back, I believe the horses were smarter than some people I know.

Today when I watch a 2 or 3 part mini series and it says to be continued I think of it as today's serials only we don't have to wait till Sunday or walk across town.



Evon Marie Mikulecky, Winner of the 2nd-4th Grade Group



Chelsea Ortiz, Winner of the 5th-8th Grade Group



Samantha Bruner, Winner of Preschool-1st Grade Group



Vonnie Mitton, Winner of the 9th Grade-Adult Group

Results of 2004 River Valley Library Holiday Book Bag Design Contest

Submitted by Dan Mikulecky, Friend of The River Valley Library

We thank the gifted artist who participated in decorating their River Valley Library Book Bags, and for the visitors to the library during the Port Byron Christmas Walk on Dec. 4th, and during the library Christmas Open Houses on Dec. 9th and 10th, who gave their vote to the bag of their choice in each of the four age groups.

We would also like to give a special thanks to the Port Byron DOLLAR GENERAL store for offering to furnish age appropriate gift bags for each of the four age group winners. Kim Jacobs, the store manager is pictured with each of the winners.

Pre-school to 1st Grade group was Samantha Bruner age

2nd Grade to 4th Grade group was Evon Marie Mikulecky

5th Grade to 8th Grade group was Chelsea Ortiz age 13

9th Grade to Adult group was Vonnie Mitton

On behalf of The Friends of The River Valley Library we congratulate the winners and hope this book bag design contest will continue to be part of the Holiday Spirit during future Port Byron Christmas Walks and during the library Christmas Open Houses.

If swimming is good for your shape, then why do the whales look the way they do?

An Invitation from the East Moline Merchants at 833 & 835 -15th Ave.

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Blood is the Heart of the Matter

Mississippi Valley Regional Blood

Help Celebrate Volunteer Blood Donor Month

"With the annual January observance of National Volunteer Blood Donor Month, Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center celebrates the caring spirit of 77,000 donors region-wide who donated 100,000 pints of life-saving blood in 2004.

These donors lead the nation by example, giving at twice the rate of the national average. Their generosity and volunteerism is a testament to the heart of our Midwest character—a character that values family, community, and responsibility. They don't hesitate to roll up their sleeves when called upon. They always find time to care.

It only takes a few hours a year to be a regular blood donor. In fact, in the time it takes to see three movies during the year, you could give blood six times.

One donation only takes about an hour. Just that quickly, you literally can give three patients the gift of a lifetime. That means more holidays and birthdays to celebrate, more family vacations, dinners with friends, more chances to be there for life's milestone moments and its everyday ones. One out of every five people entering the hospital will need blood. Sharing your health through blood donation is an act of kindness that brings healing, and restores hope to four million patients and their families every year. Giving blood is both a privilege and a responsibility, and to those donors who make giving a habit, thank you, for the lives you save."

David R. Green, President & CEO of MVR Blood Center
from a letter printed in the Dispatch on 12/31/04

Local Blood Drive Schedule:

Saturday, 1/15/05 7:30 to 11:30 AM PORT BYRON, IL

The Churches of Upper Rock Island County will have their blood drive at the Countryside Christian Church Gym at 21231 - 52nd Ave. N in Port Byron. Call Robin Campbell at 309-496-1402 **

Saturday, 2/5/05 7:30 to 10:30 AM CORDOVA, IL

First Baptist Church in Cordova Call Devon Gay at 1-800-747-5401 X257 for an appointment **

Monday, 2/27/2005 Noon to 3:30 PM PORT BYRON, IL

Port Byron Community Blood Drive being held at the River Valley Library at 214 South Main Street - Upstairs Meeting Rooms Call Devon Gay at 1-800-747-5401 X257 for appointment **

Monday-Friday: MV Regional Blood Center, 3450-38th Avenue, Moline, IL 309-764-8504 **

**** Walk-Ins are always welcome!**

Blood donation is a safe, simple procedure that only takes about an hour. Donors must be at least 16 years old, in good health and weight at least 110 pounds. A blood donor card or other photo ID is required to donate; 16 year olds must present a signed parental consent form, available from the Blood center or for download from www.bloodcenter.org. Controlled high blood pressure and diabetes are acceptable.

To Schedule an appointment, call at 1-800-747-5401 or log on to www.bloodcenter.org. Walk-in's are always welcome!

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The Story of The Tiny Frog

There once was a bunch of tiny frogs arranged a hopping/running competition to reach the top of a very high hill.

A big crowd had gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants. but honestly, no one in the crowd really believed that any of the tiny frogs would reach the top of the hill. They called out: "It is too difficult! No one will make it!" as more tiny frogs got tired and gave up...

Only ONE continued to gain higher ground and just wouldn't give up! When the persistent, solitary frog reached the top, the other frogs naturally wanted to know how he managed to do it? The winner was asked how he had found the strength to succeed and reach the top? It turned out... That the winner was DEAF!!!!

The wisdom of this story: Never listen to other people's negative or pessimistic comments because they may take your most wonderful dreams and wishes away from you. Always think of the power words have because everything you hear and read will affect your actions! ALWAYS try to speak to others and about yourself in POSITIVE terms. As for yourself, be DEAF when people tell

YOU that you cannot fulfill your dreams!



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Want a "Free" Credit Report?

From your local Better Business Bureau

We have all seen the ads on the Internet or perhaps received an e-mail touting "free" credit reports. The Better Business Bureau warns consumers to be careful when responding to such offers. Some of these online operators do not actually provide credit reports, but may be using their sites as a way to capture a consumer's personal information. Once your information has been obtained, they may sell your information to others who may use it to commit fraud, including identity theft.

The BBB, along with the Federal Trade Commission, urge consumers to take the following precautions when visiting sites or responding to e-mails that offer credit reports:

- ☐ If you receive an e-mail offering a credit report, do not reply or click on the link in the e-mail. Instead, contact the company cited in the e-mail using a telephone number or Web site address you know to be genuine.
 - ☐ Be skeptical of unsolicited e-mail offering credit reports. Be cautious of e-mail from an atypical address, like ABC123@website.net, or an e-mail address ending in a top level domain other than .com, like .ru or .de.
 - ☐ Check for grammatical and spelling errors. Silly mistakes and sloppy copy – for example, an area code that does not match an address – often are red flags that the site may be a scam.
 - ☐ Check to see if the e-mail address matches the Web address. When you enter the company's Web address in the browser, does it go to the sender's site or re-direct you to a different Web address? If it re-directs you, cease the transaction.
 - ☐ Exit from a Web site that asks for unnecessary personal information, like a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for your bank account, the three-digit code on the back of your credit card, or your passport number and issuing country. Legitimate sites do not ask for this information.
 - ☐ Use only secure Web sites. Look for the "lock" icon on the browser's status bar, and phrase "https" in the URL address on a Web site, to be sure your information is secure during transmission.
 - ☐ Watch your credit card statements. If you have responded to a bogus site, you may never receive the credit report they offered for free. But, watch for other charges you did not authorize. Contact your credit card issuer immediately in this case.
- To obtain a copy of your credit report from the three major credit bureaus, contact:

- Equifax at www.equifax.com or call 1.800.685.1111;
- Experian at www.experian.com or call 1.888.397.3742; or
- TransUnion at www.transunion.com or call 1.800.888.4213.

Beginning December 2004, consumers in certain states will be able to request a free credit report according to the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act. For more information on this rule, visit www.ftc.gov/opa/2004/06/freeannual.htm.



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A mother passing by her daughter's bedroom was astonished to see the bed was nicely made and everything was picked up. Then she saw an envelope propped up prominently on the center of the bed. It was addressed, "Mom." With the worst premonition, she opened the envelope and read the letter with trembling hands:

Dear Mom,

It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing you. I had to elope with my new boyfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene with Dad and you. I've been finding real passion with John and he is so nice even with all his piercing, tattoos, beard, and his motorcycle clothes. But it's not only the passion mom, I'm pregnant and John said that we will be very happy.

He already owns a trailer in the woods and has a stack of firewood for the whole winter. He wants to have many more children with me and that's now one of my dreams too.

John taught me that marijuana doesn't really hurt anyone and we'll be growing it for us and trading it with his friends for all the cocaine and ecstasy we want. In the meantime, we'll pray that science will find a cure for AIDS so John can get better; he sure deserves it!!

Don't worry Mom, I'm 15 years old now and I know how to take care of myself. Some day I'm sure we'll be back to visit so you can get to know your grandchildren.

Your daughter,
Judith

PS: Mom, none of the above is true. I swear! I'm over at the neighbor's house. I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than my report card which is in my desk drawer. I love you! Call when it is safe for me to come home.

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COASTING DOWN THE HILL

By Mary Lou Schaechter

As a child my neighborhood was too far away from the school for the children to walk. My mother became the car pool driver who picked up the children and drove us to and from school. There were two reasons she was chosen; she was the only mother in our area who knew how to drive a car and, second, our family owned a Model A Ford.

Crowded into the car were nine children and of these two in eighth grade were as big as grown men. Two sat in the front passenger seat. Of the remaining seven, four were able to sit on the back seat, but the last three had to either sit on someone's lap or kneel on the floor in the small space between the two seats. When we crawled out of the car at the school, some children found their legs had gone to sleep. Seat belts and other safety items had not been invented by then.

As a result of WWII, gas was rationed. To provide school transportation often required drastic measures. Occasionally we would leave home at midnight and with the headlights and taillights turned off, drive into a nearby gas station where we would be sold some gas without using stamps. Farmers received extra stamps for plowing and they would give the ones they didn't need to the gas station owner. To get to work and back, in the summer my father rode a bicycle; in the winter a motorcycle. Ball to save gas.

Mother found a way to save gas each day. Our home was near the top of a two-mile long winding hill on a two-lane highway. When we started down the hill, she turned off the car engine and we coasted down the hill to about a block from the school. Then she would restart the engine.

I can recall a few days of freezing rain when we slid down the hill, sometimes sideways or backwards, with mother steering wildly. Then came the day when freezing rain made it impossible for my father to ride his motorcycle home from the Arsenal. Mother drove there and with a ten-foot rope they tied the motorcycle to the bumper of the car and slo-o-o-wly we headed back home. I was ordered to kneel on the back seat of the car looking out the back window to watch father on the cycle and to yell "stop!" if it fell over. After an agonizing trip, watching the cycle lean from side to side, we arrived home safely.

Gas rationing was not fun

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You can't have everything. Where would you put it?

Chinese New Year is February 9th

The most prevalent language in the world is Mandarin Chinese as it is spoken by over 885 million people. If all six dialects were included, the count would rise to over 1.2 billion people whose primary language is Chinese. Not all live in China. Ethnic Chinese is spoken in Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan and Thailand.

Admire anyone that speaks Chinese! As it is one of the most difficult languages to master. Each character is pronounced as a single syllable although words are usually two syllables. There are no "parts of speech" in this language so most words can be nouns, verbs, adjectives or adverbs depending on their position in a sentence. To make it even more complex, Chinese may be spoken in four different tones. Although the word is phonetically the same, each of the four tones gives the word a different meaning!

The Western world divides the year into the 12 sun signs we know so well. The Chinese use a lunar calendar based on the cycles of the moon. The beginning of the Chinese lunar new year falls somewhere between late January and early February in the West's calendar (which China adopted in 1911).

The Chinese assign an animal to each year. If you were born in the year of a specific sign, you would have the characteristics of that animal similar to the way we think of being born under a particular sign of the zodiac in the Western calendar.

2004 was the year of the Monkey. 2005 is the year of the Rooster. If you were born in any of these years, 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981 or 1993, you were born in the year of the Rooster. Here are the characteristics of "Rooster People":

Deep thinkers, capable and talented, they like to be busy becoming deeply involved in projects. They are unusually disappointed if they are not successful in their endeavors.

Roosters are frequently loners and often have difficulty with relationships as they usually think they are "right", they can be viewed as eccentric and although they appear adventurous they can be emotionally timid. At their worst, Roosters can be selfish and aggressively outspoken but they are always interesting.

Roosters are most compatible with those born in the year of the Ox (1997,'85,'73,'61,'49), Snake (2001,1989,'77,'65,'53,'41) and Dragon (2000,'88,'76,'64,'52,'40).

For additional information, visit the Chinese Culture Center's website at www.c-c-c.org

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There's Always Room for Improvement

In ancient times, a tablet with a mud surface and a stick were all that was needed to record information as very few could read or write. Ink or paint with a brush was great for pictorial writing but again, there was not much call for special devices that would make a standardized mark for written communications. Brushes were replaced by burned vines and twigs (still used today for charcoal drawings in some art classes).

With the advent of the printing press more people learned to read but writing material development seemed to stall in the era of Quill Pens. Quills were made from the large wing or tail feathers of a goose because they were hollow at the base and the stiff tip could be cut at an angle to form a thin point. The sharpened point was frequently dipped into a bottle of ink and made a blotched line of writing unless the writer was very experienced. Right-handed people preferred right wing and left-handed people left wing feathers due to the angle of feathering at the top and the grain at the cut end. Men and women used to carry tiny knives to sharpen the ends of their quills. Today, small knives are called "pen knives".

As early as 1819, John Scheffer received a British patent his half quill, half metal pens. Although called fountain pens, the metal points held a very small amount of ink. The metal point did not need to be sharpened and was easier to carry but the inconvenience of having to repeatedly dip the point into a bottle of ink remained. Jacob Parker, in 1831, patented the first self-filling fountain pen but those early models were prone to ink spills and other failures that made them impractical and hard to sell.

Lewis Waterman, an insurance salesman, patented the first practical fountain pen in 1884. In order to overcome leaks and uneven ink flow, Waterman added 3 grooves to the metal nib and an air hole. His pens had a small piece (where you held the pen) between the metal nib and the barrel that contained the tube filled with ink. This created a neat writing instrument that provided an even flow of ink which created steady written lines.

If you are looking for a reasonably priced item to collect, take a look at writing instruments. There is a wealth of very interesting historical material related to the written word. Also pens offer variety, colors and quality that are almost unlimited. Best of all, they are still plentiful, take little maintenance, are easy to display and are more portable than almost any other collectable.

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.

This is so old it might seem new to you. There are several versions but this is the one from my file.

My friend is a rather old-fashioned lady, quite delicate, especially in her language. She and her husband wanted to inquire about the amenities at a Wisconsin campground, but didn't quite know how to ask about the toilet facilities.

She could not bring herself to write the word "toilet" in a letter, so she finally came up with the old fashioned term, "bathroom commode". This, too, she thought was a bit forward so she again rephrased her letter and referred to the bathroom commode simply as the "BC", writing:

Dear Sir:

"Does the campground have its own BC?" she asked the owner. Now, the owner wasn't old-fashioned at all and couldn't figure out what the woman was talking about. After worrying a while, he came to the conclusion that the woman was asking about the local Baptist Church and wrote the following reply:

Dear Madam;

I take pleasure in informing you that a BC is located just five miles north of the campground and is capable of seating 250 people at one time. I admit it is quite a distance if you are in the habit of going regularly, but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of people pack a picnic lunch and make a day of it.

The last time my wife and I went was six years ago and it was so crowded we had to stand up the whole time we were there. It may interest you to know that right now there is a supper planned to raise money to buy more seats. They are going to hold it in the basement of the BC.

If you decide to come down to our campground, perhaps you would allow me to accompany you the first time you go, sit with you and introduce you to all the other folks. Remember, this is a friendly community.

In the Beginning and as Time Progressed

In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth. And the Earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And Satan said, "It doesn't get any better than this."

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit," and God saw that it was good.

And Satan said, "There goes the neighborhood."

And God said, "Let us make Man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air and over the cattle, and over all the Earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the Earth." So God created Man in his own image; male and female created he them. And God looked upon Man and Woman and saw that they were lean and fit.

And Satan said, "I know how I can get back in this game."

And God created the healthful yogurt, that woman might keep her figure that man found so fair.

And Satan brought forth chocolate. And Woman gained 5 lb.

And God said, "Try my crispy fresh salad."

And Satan brought forth Ben & Jerry's. And Woman gained 10 lb.

And God said, "I have sent thee heart-healthy vegetables and olive oil with which to cook them."

And Satan brought forth chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And Man gained 10lb. and his bad cholesterol went through the roof.

And God brought forth running shoes and Man resolved to lose those extra pounds.

And Satan brought forth cable TV with remote control so Man would not have to toil to change channels between ESPN and ESPN2. And Man gained another 20 pounds.

And God said, "You're running up the score, Devil." So then God brought forth the potato, a vegetable naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition.

And Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fat fried them. And he created sour cream dip also. Man clutched his remote control and ate the potato chips swaddled in cholesterol.

And God populated the earth with broccoli and cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

And Satan created McDonald's. McDonald's brought forth the \$.99 double cheeseburger. And Satan said to Man, "You want fries with that?" And Man said, "Supersize them."

And Man gained 5 pounds.

And Satan saw and said, "It is good."

And Man went into cardiac arrest.

God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery.

And Satan created HMOs.

Folk Remedies #2

As promised, here are some more economical remedies that some use to avoid unreasonably high priced medications:

Varicose Veins: Soak a cheesecloth bandage in apple cider vinegar. Lay down with feet propped up and place the soaked cheesecloth around legs to relieve the ache of swollen veins.

Blood Clots: Unexpected blood clots can occur during prolonged air travel or even sitting at a desk for too long (especially if you have varicose veins). When a clot is suspected, it must be immediately treated by a professional but here are some preventative measures you may take:

.. Wear compression stockings whenever you know you'll be sitting still for long periods.

.. Move your legs and feet. Get up and walk around if possible or extend your legs, rotate your ankles and wiggle your toes.

.. With your doctor's approval, take a low-dose aspirin before flying on a trip expected to be more than an hour long.

.. Drink extra water and avoid beverages with alcohol or caffeine.

.. Wear loose fitting clothing.

.. Don't cross your legs.

.. If you cannot walk around, try to lean forward frequently and change your position in the chair as much as possible.

Tooth Decay: Replace soft drinks with plain tea. Either black or green tea destroy or flush away the bacteria that causes decay. The only thing to remember is to NOT add sugar or milk that will feed the harmful bacteria. If you must have a sweetener, use UNPROCESSED honey which also destroys the bacteria. (Honey is also good for healing infections, treating burns and ulcers).

Toothache: The Egyptians used anise, a licorice-like herb rubbed on the gum. Anise extract may be found in any grocery store's spice aisle. More recently, cloves and oil of clove has been a trusted and very effective remedy. Oil of clove is found in drugstores and in most pharmacy departments.

DENTAL NOTE: Medications like decongestants, antihistamines, painkillers or diuretics that cause "dry mouth" might increase your risk of tooth decay. Your saliva washes away food particles and dilutes the bacteria that causes decay so drink extra water and if you cannot change medications, chew on sugarless gum or a piece of sugarless candy. Increase the number of times you brush your teeth each day, brush gums, top of mouth, tongue and when rinsing, force water through teeth for a thorough rinse.

Is it a Heart Attack?

Let's say that you're driving home (alone of course), after an unusually hard day on the job. You're really tired, upset and frustrated. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw. You are only about five miles from the hospital nearest your home. Unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far. You've trained in CPR, but unfortunately, the person who taught the course didn't tell you how to perform it on yourself.

HOW TO SURVIVE A HEART ATTACK WHEN ALONE

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, without help the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds before losing consciousness. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously.

A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. The deep breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without letup until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and the coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims could get to a hospital.

- Why are hemorrhoids called "hemorrhoids" instead of "assteroids"?
- Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot at them?
- Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?
- If you spin an oriental man in a circle three times does he become disoriented?
- Can an atheist get insurance against acts of God?

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Let There be Light!

In the 1870's lighting a house in a major metropolitan areas was dangerous. Gas lines lead into buildings and through walls ending in jets/openings that were lighted. The open flames were usually covered by a glass globe or shade. The often wavering and weak light remained relatively close to the walls. To light the interior of a room or for serious reading/work, portable, oil or kerosene lamps were used. As you can imagine, the up-keep was tremendous just to keep the smoke stained glass shades clean and the portable lamps filled with oil. Surges in gas supply lines and spills caused many fires so a safe and economical light source was a priority for government agencies as well as individual families.

Contrary to popular history, Thomas Edison did NOT invent the light bulb. He did, however improve on the then, 50 year old idea. By January 27, 1879 when he filed a patent, he and his entire workshop had spent thousands of hours trying to find a reliable filament that would safely glow inside a globe and throw off a long-lasting light. For a year and a half, experiments were done using all types of wires, fibers and more. Success was achieved when an incandescent lamp with a filament of carbonized (burnt) sewing thread was used inside a vacuum inside a clear glass globe.

Previous inventors were not successful because there is very much more to safe, electrical lighting than ever imagined in those days. In order to make a long-lasting light bulb, Edison had to invent a total of 7 more things to make it work.

- A Parallel circuit for Electricity
- A durable light bulb
- An improved dynamo to generate electricity
- An underground conductor network to bring electricity into a home.
- Devices that would regulate and maintain a constant voltage so bulbs would not explode with power surges.
- Safety fuses and insulating materials to protect the home against fires or hot exposed wires especially those around water.
- Light sockets to hold the incandescent bulbs safely and the on-off switches to make them truly easy to use.

All of the above components had to be standardized in size and fit so they could be reliably mass-produced and insure economical use for everyone.

The first time the public had the chance to see an electrically lit building was in December 1879 when Edison's Menlo Park laboratory complex was lighted. We would wonder what all the excitement was about during that first lighting ceremony because those first bulbs were equivalent to a 20 watt bulb of today.

It was another 3 years to develop an electric supply industry to make sure homes could use it. As soon as homes began to have reliable light, the small appliance industry exploded with new inventions like toasters and waffle makers. The list of Edison's inventions include 1,093 patents. We owe this genius much!

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Arbitrator: A cook that leaves Arby's to work at McDonald's

Avoidable: What a bullfighter tries to do

Baloney: Where some hem lines fall

Burglarize: What a crook sees with

Control: A short, ugly inmate

Counterfeiters: Workers who install kitchen cabinets

Eclipse: What an English barber does for a living

Eyedropper: A clumsy ophthalmologist

Heroes: What a guy in a boat does

Left Bank: What the robber did when his bag was full of loot

Misty: How golfers create divots

Paradox: Two physicians

Parasites: What you see from the top of the Eiffel Tower

Pharmacist: A helper on the farm

Polarize: What penguins and white bears see with

Primate: Removing your spouse from in front of the TV

Relief: What trees do in the spring

Rubberneck: What you do to relax your spouse

Selfish: What the owner of a seafood store does

Subdued: A guy that works on one of those submarines

Sudafed: Bringing litigation against the Government

Let it Snow!

By Dr. H. Dan Bobb, Chiropractor

The winter season is full of wonder and merriment until it comes to snow removal. Fortunately most people today have snowblowers which make it considerably easier to move the snow out of our driveways and sidewalks. Here are some do's and don'ts for this season.

Do wear warm clothes, hat, and gloves. Make sure that your jacket covers your back muscles even when bent over.

Don't expose back muscles to the cold. This will make muscles tight afterwards.

Do have your blower gas premixed and ready to go with fresh gas this season. **Start it before the first big snow so you have no surprises.**

Do let the blower do the work, direct it.

Don't try to overpower the blower and manhandle it to go where you want. Push rather than pull.

Do bend the knees and keep the back straight when lifting it

Don't overreach when putting it in a truck or lifting it into a car trunk.

Do shoveling close to the body.

Do try not to twist when shoveling while bent over.

Do switch sides periodically.

Don't use just your right side to throw the snow.

Do push the snow as often as possible instead of picking it up.

Don't overload the shovel, especially with wet snow. If snow sticks to shovel apply PAM or vegetable spray to shovel.

Do buy ergonomic shovels that have bends in the handle.

Don't shovel for more than 20 minutes at a time without a break.

Walk around on break,

Don't sit down for long periods when done.

When you are done, treat yourself to a hot cocoa. I like mine with a touch of butterscotch schnapps for flavor and to take the *chill* off.



LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Johnny interrupted,

"My Mummy looked back once, while she was DRIVING," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

Profound Indian philosophy

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two wolves."

One is Evil. It is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Historical Dates of Note:

January: Capricorn (12/22-1/19) Aquarius (1/20-2/18)

- 1 Betsey Ross, seamstress of US Flag born, 1752
- 4 Louis Braille, inventor of writing system for the blind 1809
- 5 Zebulon Pike, Pike's Peak, explorer of US West born 1779
- 8 Frank Doubleday, Book Publisher born, 1862
- 9 1793 First successful hot air balloon flight in US
- 10 Boxer George Forman born 1949
- 13 First Mickey Mouse Comic Strip Appeared 1930
- 16 1909 Shackleton expedition reached magnetic south pole
- 18 Actor Kevin Costner born 1955
- 19 1978, Last of the original VW Beetles Manufactured
- 23 1789, Georgetown University Founded
- 27 1888, National Geographic Society Founded, Wash. DC
- 30 Actress Vanessa Redgrave born, 1937
- 31 Shortstop & Home Run Hitter Ernie Banks born 1931

February: Aquarius (1/20-2/18) Pisces (2/19-3/20)

- 3 Composer Felix Mendelssohn born 1809
- 7 The Beatles band first arrived in New York City/US 1964
- 9 Chinese New Year on this date in 2005
- 12 George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" premiered, 1924
- 15 Reformer and Suffragist Susan B. Anthony born 1820
- 17 Weather satellite Vanguard 2 launched 1959
- 18 Author, Nobelist Toni Morrison born 1931
- 22 Physicist, radio wave researcher Heinrich Hertz born 1857
- 28 Auto Racer, Mario Andretti born 1940

History's Most Popular Snack

In 1948, 4,000 year old ears of popcorn were discovered in central New Mexico's Bat Cave. (The term "corn" used by the old world farmers and record keepers was a generic term used to describe the most popular grain of the area. In Egypt, corn was probably barley, in England, it was wheat and in Scotland and Ireland, it referred to oats. In America, the term corn was applied to maize and that became the most accepted usage.

In 1519, Cortez first came into contact with popcorn as he invaded the Americas. According to 16th century explorer writings, Aztec Indians held ceremonies related rain and fertility by offering maize and wearing popcorn garlands. There was something magical in the transformation of kernels of corn turning into a white, fluffy food for all occasions.

Native American folklore tells of spirits who live inside each kernel of popcorn who are content until angered when their houses are heated. When too hot, the spirits shake then burst out of their homes dispersing into the air with a pop. Although popcorn kernels appear dry, they each contain moisture sealed in a soft starch which is covered by a hard shell. When you heat the kernels, the water expands, pressure builds and finally the hard surface breaks as the steam explodes. As it explodes, the soft starch inside becomes inflated, turning the kernel inside out with that famous POP!

More recently, popcorn became popular from the 1890's to the depression and was sold by street vendors who followed crowds pushing steam or gas-powered poppers through parks and at fairs. During the Depression, popcorn sold for 5-10¢ a bag and could help feed a hungry family. During that dark time, an Oklahoma banker who's bank went under, bought a popcorn machine and started a business in a small store near a theater. It wasn't long before he had bought back his old properties and was making a good living for himself.

During World War 2, sugar that would normally have been used for snacks and treats was sent over seas. Americans ate three times as much popcorn as usual during that time. In the 1950's when TV became popular, theaters and popcorn sales slumped but quickly resurged with the advent of microwave popcorn. Today, we eat 17 BILLION quarts of popped popcorn each year. That's 54 quarts of popcorn for the average American per year.

The versatility explains some of the popularity of this economic snack. There are books devoted to the preparation and use of popcorn. All forms of topping can be applied to popped corn. Fruit flavors by using Jell-O, flavored butters, formed into snack bars by combining with sticky syrups. Everyone remembers popcorn balls at Halloween! When the hard kernels are removed, the white crunchy part may be ground into small bits used when coating meats for frying or baking or in stuffing or in meat loaf. If you are short of croutons, substitute popcorn. Be creative!

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The newest diets ignore the National Cancer Institute's findings. Popcorn a wholesome, sugar-free, fat-free and low calorie food that provides the fiber we need to promote healthy digestion. High fiber diets may reduce the risk of some forms of cancer and the American Dietetic Association recommends popcorn on their list. "10 Great Ways to Fiber Up!". Even the Feingold Diet for hyperactive kids recommends popcorn because it contains no artificial additives. (The only caution we could find was to keep popcorn from infants and toddlers as the kernels might post a choking threat).

We often hear the term "comfort food" in relation to food that make us feel good when we are under stress or feeling down. There are few of us that do not have great memories of good times and popcorn. If you are like many of us who experience the "after holiday blues", pop some corn, make some hot chocolate and enjoy!

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More Winter Survival Tips

- Make sure your tire pressure is correct. This number might be found on a chart pasted on the edge of your driver's side door. If not, check your owner's manual. There is no standard pressure (32 pounds) for tires. Manufacturers recommend a different pressure for front tires vs back tires. Check.
- In a season of ice, consider purchasing rubber covers/boots to cover the entire wiper holder and rinse flexible blades in a mixture of vinegar.
- Regardless of where you park, thoroughly wash off your headlights, tail lights and turn signals before you travel. BE SEEN!
- When parking outside with an ice/snow storm in progress or anticipated, either lift/extend your wiper blades straight out or place an double layer of newspaper beneath the blades. If your blades are not in contact with the glass windshield, they will not freeze and you will not damage them chipping ice.
- Add an extra 1/2-1 Cup of rubbing alcohol to your windshield washing fluid if temperatures drop. Clear your windshield washer fluid outlets BEFORE traveling or trying to spray the windows.
- Again when parking outdoors, secure an empty bread bag over your rear view mirror(s) so they can be adjusted for safe driving.
- Remember to keep jumper cables, a small blanket, salt, hat, scarf, extra gloves and some type of candy bar in your glove compartment.

If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: Take two and keep away from children. It's a very strange name they picked for "Social Security." For what they actually send you, you can't afford to be "social" nor can you really feel "secure."

Short skirts have a tendency to make men polite. Have you ever seen a man get on a bus ahead of one?

It is hard to understand how a cemetery raised its burial cost and blamed it on the cost of living.

We are born naked, wet, and hungry. Then things get worse.

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

"What an Odd Little Paper"...Towne Crier Doings '04 & '05

The Towne Crier is unusual today in that it is totally run by unpaid volunteers for the good of the communities that are in our coverage area. Monthly, about 3,000 copies are mailed and another 1,000 are distributed through local retail stores and restaurants. Issues are released on the 15th of each month, deadline for being included in an issue is the 6th of each month.

The Crier, as a community bulletin board, supports local not-for-profit organizations by offering free publicity about their activities and fund raisers. At no charge, anyone may contact us with birthdays, anniversaries, thank you's etc. and we will try to include them in an issue. Volunteer opportunities are featured, village and school board notes and announcements. You'll find general interest articles, jokes and schedules in each issue that we hope are useful to our readers. When possible, you'll also see follow-up information and photographs of area events. In a few months, the Crier will again offer free space to candidates for Hampton Village and School Board elections.

The Crier is an enthusiastic booster for local businesses. Due to being only a monthly paper, no classified ads are taken. The advertising fees paid by businesses pays the considerable printing and mailing costs each month. Any excess funds are donated to schools and well known charities.

By way of saying thanks, here are some of the individuals that help bring you the Crier each month in 2004:

Contributors & Columnists:

Jane Nelson-Jammin' with Jane
Rocky Nelson-Historical Interest
Franciska Rasmussen, Mary Lou Schaechter and Colleen Moore
Poncin-Nostalgia
Dr. Dan Bobb-Ask the Chiropractor
Burton Phillips, Sullivan-Phillips Mortuary-Grief & Funeral topics
Tom Berg, Lee Hansenman and Randy Baldrige-School Issues
Kenyon & Brenda Pfau. K & D Woodworks, wood item care
Evelyn Phillips-Antiques by Evelyn-Vintage Jewelry tips
Trustees Kevin Irby and Michaela Vandieren, Village Clerk Mike Toalson and Deputy Clerk, Ruth Spear, information on Hampton Village ordinances

Organizations regularly contributing information for articles:

Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center
American Cancer Society
The Better Business Bureau
South Moline Township Senior Citizen's Center
Laura Lopez for Living Lands & Waters
Dawn Porter for the East Moline Public Library
The entire staff of the River Valley District Library in Port Byron
Hampton Historical Society
Hampton Fire/Rescue Department and Auxiliary
All the Area Churches
PTA, Hampton Youth Committee and Boosters
Hampton Heritage Interpretive Center Action Committee
RiverAction/Riverway

Those that send us internet items or research materials for the short items our readers enjoy and those that physically get the newspaper into your hands each month.

Rick Gillespie, Herm Eggrichs, Jack Coder, Rocky Nelson, Rex Larson, Pat Blackwell and the entire extended Cox and Cady families are all excellent internet gleaners.

In 2004, Harry Sedgwick and Mike Hofstetter have picked up the papers at the Davenport printer and helped to distribute issues to numerous locations from East Moline to Cordova. When in a jam, Mickey Vandieren always finds the time to help layout and glue down the thousands of strips of paper that turn into your monthly Crier. Special mention goes to Tammy and Hope at our post office for quick distribution of the over 400 pounds of newsprint every month.

When schedules become overwhelming and some steam-venting or encouragement is needed, those that have worked on the Crier in the past lend an ear. Thanks to Michaela Vandieren, Randy and Georgina Baldrige, Dianne Nicholas and Pam Hofstetter who keep this me going.

Finally, Harriette Gillespie serves as proof reader for the thousands of items used each year. (If you find an error, it is always in something created in a rush at midnight to meet a deadline.)

THANK YOU ALL!

In 2005, you will see a new columnist, Dr. Walter Bradley who will offer you information on selected medical topics. Bonnie Grebner will be joining the volunteers to cover some of the Hampton Village Meetings as well as apply her considerable artistic skill to freshening up some of our advertising.

Join in the creation of future Crier issues! Call Jane Cady, Editor at 309-752-0627 if you have a special knowledge that you'd like to share with the readers. Short "How-To" and general information articles are always welcome. (Articles about businesses are reserved for our regular advertisers). We have no sports reporters covering elementary or high school events. If you would like to cover this beat, please call!

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Brown Paper Bags and Food

Onions removed from their mesh plastic sacks and put into a brown paper bag in the bottom shelf of your refrigerator will keep for 2-3 months without sprouting.

Fresh fruits like peaches, avocados, pears, apples or tomatoes ripen with the natural gas they let off. Place these in a brown paper bag that retains the gas, leave on the counter and the fruit will ripen faster. Refrigerating fruit or vegetables stops the ripening process.

Store mushrooms in a brown paper bag to keep them fresh.

Drain fried foods or cool cookies on brown paper bags.

Jammin' With Jane

By Jane Nelson

New Year, new snow, new month and I wish for a new me. I have been having a hard time coming up with some new recipes. I saw my friend Pat Marr over the holidays and she suggested I look in the cookbook she gave me last Christmas from her church. I think I have about fifty church cookbooks. I did find it and of course it was the last one I looked through. It is from The Calvary Church of the Quad Cities. If you would like a copy the telephone is 309-752-4168 and the email address is www.calvaryqc.org. I believe Pat tested the recipes and also edited the book. You will be surprised to see yours truly on the first page with Jack Coder's recipe for Garlic Rolls. Here are two recipes I thought would be good for February and Valentines Day. It is a recipe of Pat's

STRAWBERRY VANILLA SPECIAL OCCASION CAKE

1 ½ boxes of white cake mix 1 Qt. Fresh Strawberries
 1 can strawberry filling Tube of red decorator icing
 2 cans cream cheese or vanilla frosting.

Weigh one packet of cake mix. Remove half for this cake and save the other half. Prepare 1 ½ mixes as box directs. Pour batter into two 9" round pans sprayed with PAM. Bake until center of layers resist a light tap (or a toothpick comes out clean. DO NOT OVER BAKE. Remove from oven and cool for 15 -20 minutes invert one layer onto cake platter. Invert the other layer onto wax paper-covered plate.

Spread a thin layer of frosting (using 1/3 of a can) over the bottom layer. Spread 1 can of strawberry filling over the iced bottom layer. Top with other cake layer. Ice sides and top of cake. Write a special message on the top in red icing ("Mom, you are the Best) Just before serving the cake, arrange fresh strawberry halves around the top of the cake.

This is another recipe from the same book. It sounded very interesting and a nice addition to the regular Valentine fare.

OREO BALLS by Terry Logan

1 package Oreo cookies 6 ounces cream cheese, softened
 18 ounces almond bark or white chocolate, melted

Grind Oreo cookies in food processor until powdery. In a bowl, blend Oreo mixture with cream cheese. Form into little balls and drop in melted almond bark (or chocolate). Remove and place on wax paper until coating sets. Stored in a cool place.

You will probably be seeing a few more recipes this year from this book. Since I was looking through my spiral bound books, I ran across one from my teaching days from Learning Tree. It is in Silvis or was, by Illini Hospital. This recipe is from the then owner and administrator Vicki Peterson

VALENTINE COOKIES

1 c butter ½ c powdered sugar
 1 ½ c flour, sifted 1 t vanilla
 ½ c ground almonds 1 c red raspberry jam

Cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Add flour, almonds and vanilla. Mix well and chill slightly. Roll out small amounts of dough cut with heart shaped cookie cutter. Cookies will be made in pairs. Using a tiny heart shaped cookie cutter for another cut out on half of the cookies. Bake on a lightly greased cookie sheet in 350° oven until lightly browned. Remove carefully to wire rack. Cool. Spread solid heart cookies with jam and top with cut out cookies sandwich style. Tiny heart cut outs can be baked separately for tea parties.

Another recipe I found that looks easy to make is from "Family Favorites" from the Neighborhood Kitchens of Great River Christian School Rock Island IL. The recipe is from Charlotte Densford who some of you may have had for a teacher at Hampton Grade School. She taught several grades over the years. I know she had Marc in fifth grade and nurtured his joy in acting with a part in a play they put on for some occasion. I do see her every once in awhile at Retired Teacher's meetings.

CRINKLE COOKIES

1 pkg. Cake mix, any flavor. 2 eggs, room temperature
 4 ½ oz carton Cool Whip Powdered sugar

Mix cake mix, eggs and Cool Whip in mixer until well blended. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls into powdered sugar and roll until covered. Place on greased baking sheet and do not flatten. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes. These are very attractive with chocolate cake mix.

This recipe came in a brochure in the mail. It is called a Potluck Pleaser. It makes 6 to 8 doz. so when I try it I am going to do half a recipe. The recipe came from a Clara Honeyager of Wisconsin.

PECAN PIE BARS

6 cups all-purpose flour 1-1/2 c sugar
 1 t salt 2 c cold butter (no substitutes)
 Filling
 8 eggs 3 c sugar
 3 c corn syrup ½ c butter, melted
 3 t vanilla extract 5 cups chopped pecans

In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar and salt. Cut in butter until crumbly. Press onto the bottom and up the sides of two-greased 15-in x 10-in x 1-in baking pans. Bake at 350° for 18 to 22 minutes or until crust edges are beginning to turn brown and bottom is set.

For filling; combine the eggs, sugar, corn syrup, butter and vanilla in a large bowl, mix well. Stir in pecans. Pour over crust. Bake 25-30 minutes longer or until edges are firm and center is almost set. Cool on wire racks. Cut into bars. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day. All my kids got home for Christmas and Marc stayed until Jan. 5 and helped us bring in the New Year. The next big event will be to take care of Linley while Mindy and Myron go to New Orleans for their 25th Wedding Anniversary. I can't believe they will be married 25 years on the 18th of March.

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft.....Today, it's called Golf.

SOUTH MOLINE TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER EVENTS January-February, 2005

Open Monday through Friday 9:00AM to 3:00PM Paid reservations for the following special events must be received at least a week in advance:

January 10 & 24 February 14 & 28: 11:00 a.m.: **Lunch Box Bingo**. Cost \$10.00 per day. Seating is limited so paid reservations must be made a week in advance. Paper bingo follows lunch. Bring your own daubers. Bring canned food item for Quad City Food Pantry, get "Pantry Pack" bingo sheets FREE.

January 26: **Lunch and Card Games** 11:00 a.m. Cost \$3.00 Cards & games follow lunch.

January 28: **Trinity Foot and Hand Care Clinic** From 9:00 a.m. to Noon. An Appointment is required and advance notification of any cancellation is required. Bring a washcloth and 2 towels. NOT covered by Medicare or Medicaid. Foot Care Cost: \$22.00, Hand Care Cost \$7.00

February 2: 11:30 am: **Euchre Tournament** Cost \$5.00 Played according to Hoyle Rules. Men & Women welcome.

February 9: 11:30 am: **500 Tournament** Cost \$5.00

February 16: 1:00-3:00 p.m. **Senior Citizen's Birthday Party** If you are 60 years old or more, if your birthday is in November, December, January or February, you and a guest are invited for refreshments, games and prizes. Reservations are required by February 8th.

February 21: 1:00-3:00 p.m. **Rules of the Road** No Cost, No reservations necessary

All are welcome at the South Moline Township Senior Center. You do not need to live in Moline, East Moline or Silvis. Residents of all the local communities are welcome. Please visit the easy to find building and check out the facilities. We welcome the opportunity to become your meeting place to share good times!

EVERY WEDNESDAY: T.O.P.S. Club IL#450 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Weigh-in starts at 9:00 AM, meeting follows

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In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts... So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them "Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down." It's where we get the phrase "mind your P's and Q's"

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Boon of Boondoggle?

By Rocky Nelson

Transportation was a huge problem in the early 19th century. Roads were at best, poor, and at worst, impossible. For many centuries mankind has solved the transportation problem by using waterways. In our country the way to the west was by water, either the Ohio river or over the Great Lakes. In these pages, we have discussed at length, the transportation business, chiefly about the steamboats. Using the waterways was the easiest way to transport goods until the advent of the railroads in the middle of the century.

Since water was a better means of transporting goods, we began creating our own waterways. We simply dug canals. Sounds easy but involved great toil and expense. In 1825 we had completed the Erie canal, a ditch between the Hudson River and Lake Erie. This gave the Eastern Seaboard access to the Great Lakes and thus to the West.

In the West (at this time the West included Illinois and the surrounding states) a big problem was in getting from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi. It still required a lot of land transportation. Of course you could sail from Boston or New York via the Atlantic and ultimately transship at New Orleans for the places on the Mississippi. Actually this is the way most goods got to early Hampton. We have only to examine Francis Black's records to see that was how most of the things sold in Brettun & Black's Store got here.

In the 1840s the Illinois-Michigan Canal was completed, opening up a good water passage to central Illinois, but was not much help to us on the shores of the northern Mississippi. Shipping by canal to the Illinois River was OK, but that river runs the wrong way to get to our part of the state.

Early on, there was discussion of a canal from the Illinois River to our part of the West. An early attempt to do this was made in 1837 when land speculators in Putnam County petitioned the Illinois General Assembly to incorporate the Bureau and Rock Island Canal Company. The intent was to build a canal from the Illinois River to the Rock River (at the mouth of the Green River) and thence to the Mississippi. Early Hampton pioneers McNeal and Thompson saw the possibilities of turning huge profits from the increased trade and purchased the land we live on and platted our town. They had ambitions to get rich. Unfortunately, that was not to be. The idea never got off the ground.

The idea only died temporarily. Two surveys of a canal were made in the 5 year period after the Civil War, in 1866 and 1870. The engineer in charge of the 1870 survey was instructed to base his calculations and cost estimates on an enlarged edition of the Illinois-Michigan Canal. The ditch was named the Illinois-Mississippi Canal but soon became better known as the Hennepin Canal, after the town at the Illinois River terminal.

There was a great deal of political wrangling over the new canal. The railroads had come to dominate the transportation business and were not excited about canal competition. The railroad interest had the advantage of being extremely wealthy. There was great dissatisfaction about the high fares the railroads charged, after all they had almost a monopoly on transportation. Opposed to the railroads and in favor of the canal were the Farmer's organizations, notably the National Grange. Also, retailers were on this side, particularly in the small towns. Politically, it was the Republicans for and the Democrats against the canal, but there was substantial cross over. It became clear that the project would have to be federally funded so the whole thing went to the Halls of Congress in Washington, for a siege of endless argument. It was not until 1890 that a bill was passed authorizing a canal. So, after more than 16 years of wrangling the Hennepin Canal was a reality.

It was not built overnight. It was not until 1908 that the canal opened. It was never a paying proposition. The railroads still dominated in transportation. Unforeseen problems also came up. For example, if you have a canal you must have water to fill it. A feeder for the canal was built from the Rock River near Sterling, joining the Hennepin east of Annawan. It happened that the first decade of operation was a decade of prolonged drought so problems of keeping the water level up became significant. Incidentally the places for the placement of the feeder were determined by the altitude of the land masses involved.

The canal was in use up into the 1940's but was never a very significant factor in the transportation business. Today the canal is being made into a recreation area, a worthy use but not what the early developers envisioned. So that's the canal that was to make Hampton rich. Decide for yourself if it was a boon or a boondoggle.

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EAST MOLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

By Dawn Porter

Winners of Children's Postcard Contest: The Winter Postcard Contest winners are Kurt Douglas Coryn (pre-K), Cameron Beard (1-4) and Kelsey Watson (5-6). Thanks to all children who participated and all their relatives/friends who helped them do so.

18 January & 15 February: The Romance Discussion Group will meet from 3:00 to 4:00. Contact Amy at the library if you would like to participate in discussions, but are unable to attend the meetings.

02 February: Come celebrate the 90th season of the Quad City Symphony at the **Mystery Discussion Group**. The discussion group will meet at 6:30 to discuss mysteries with a musical theme. See the library website for some recommended authors.

15 February To 15 March: Friends of East Moline Public Library Group will hold their spring raffle. It will be called the GL-IDES of March and will have a flying theme. Stop by the library to purchase your raffle tickets. Drawing to be held March 15th, the Ides of March!

02 March: The **Sci-Fi Discussion Group** will meet at 6:30. Check the library website for the titles/authors to be discussed.

New Movies & Videos: Lots of video and DVD titles have been added including Spider-Man 2, Stepford Wives and Seinfeld Seasons 1 & 2. Remember, it is not against the law for a child to check out R-rated videos. The library staff will not monitor any items checked out by children. That is the responsibility of the Parents/Guardians. If you are concerned about the appropriateness of items your children sees or checks out at the library then you need to monitor your child during their library visit and while they are checking out items.

Residents of the Village of Hampton: Please consider donating your gently used books, videos, music CD's, DVD's & magazines to the library. These items can be dropped off at the library at any time. If you need help getting items to the library, give them a call and leave a message for me (Dawn Porter) with your name, address and phone number and I will make arrangements to get your items to the library.

Good Read: I was lucky enough to receive an autographed copy of Founding Mothers by Cokie Roberts as a gift. I am halfway through this well written and humorous look at the mothers/wives of many historical figures during the American Revolution. For you readers who will only read non-fiction (and you know who you are!) this is a good choice. The East Moline Public Library has this book in regular print, large print and audio CD. Give it a try.

East Moline Public Library 740 - 16th Avenue, East Moline
Phone Number 755-9614. Home page is www.rbls.lib.il.us/emp
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- ◆ Directions to your Doctor's office include "Take a left when you enter the trailer park."
- ◆ The tongue depressors taste faintly of Fudgesicles.
- ◆ The only proctologist in the plan is "Gus" from Roto-Rooter
- ◆ The only item listed under Preventative Care Coverage is "An apple a day."
- ◆ Your primary care physician is wearing the pants you gave to Goodwill last month.
- ◆ "The patient is responsible for 200% of out of network charges," is not a typographical error.
- ◆ The only expense covered 100% is "embalming."
- ◆ Your Prozac comes in different colors with little M's on them.

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Christmas Walk 2004

Submitted by The R.V.D.L Staff

Main Street in Port Byron was a magical wonderland on Dec. 4th, for the 3rd Annual Christmas Walk.

Business's lights twinkled and their windows were dressed up in anticipation of the evening's activities. At 4:00 there was a hustle and bustle of activity as last minute touches were added. By 4:30 the footsteps of little princes and princesses could be heard on the library steps as they anxiously awaited-for Santa himself.

Not one to disappoint, in a white carriage Santa came, pulled by 4 giant horses with Mrs. Claus by his side. The Claus' were enclosed in Christmas greenery and bows and were dressed in their best finery and fur. Then as out on the street, Santa gave a big shout the library doors flew open, and away they all flew, princes and princess's too, each one to be the first on Santa's cool ride! They clamored and shouted and call him by name. Me first, me first Santa, I've been really good.

But Santa shook his head and said with a laugh there is not much room so we'll have to take turns. Then the kids settled down and listened as Santa a right popular and jolly old elf, shared with them his plan to get them all there in the wink of an eye. When all had arrived at the Gazebo in the middle of town, he set out to crown them princes and princesses of 2004. Then each took a turn, telling of their own Christmas wish, as he laughed and he listed and promise to do his best. The things they wanted most would go right on his list! To each he gave a candy cane and sent them home happy with sweet dreams ahead!

From Santa to window displays, and meeting up with a Snowman, then there's a Grinch, Buddy the Elf and his elfin friends, and an reindeer and why even Little Cindy Lu Who determined to make the Grinch's heart 2 sizes too big! Oh, and all the people they will meet as they walk on their way. To the Village Hall I must go to make my final bid for my favorite celebrity photo or maybe a special Christmas gift! Some popcorn and cookies, a hot chocolate or 2, let's test the chili for the cook-off, and see who wins this year! Oh My! So many, many things to do! The Ice Sculpture Angel, it's quite beautiful to see. That Mr. Storm he's quite the artist when it comes to ice you see!

For the window displays, I can't forget to vote, for the money is important as it purchases a gift to bring a smile to a child's face on this Christmas morn.

The people they traveled uptown and down with the sights and sounds and smells of Christmas all around. But now that its over and all the bids are in it's time to say thanks to some special folks and friends!

To all the businesses we share our undying thanks for without your participation and your beautiful windows our Christmas Walk would not be so great!

To Pat Egan, we all owe you a ton of thanks for months you planned and decorated all about the town, for everywhere we see Santas and snowmen, we know that you were there. Thank you to Mayor, Don Johnson our wonderful M.C., the Port Byron Fire and Police departments for helping to keep everything safe during our walk and everyday. To Jeff Lockwood and his Boy Scout troop who lighted luminaries and kept a fire pit going in the parking lot. To Linda Alquire and the Girl Scout troop # 5308 who did Children's crafts at the library, & Josh Johnson who played the piano in the community room and did a wonderful job. Thanks to Mr. Reece and Mr. Slothower and students from Riverdale Choir and Band for sharing their wonderful talents. To Gibson Funeral home for the use of their lots for handicap parking and to Port Byron Historical Society for providing and driving golf carts for the handicap. To Kitty Stever's and her Civil War Troop, To Mr. & Mrs. Claus, and Mr. & Mrs. Frost for bringing smiles to little faces. Thank you to the Friends of the River Valley Library for providing food and treats, and working so hard to help make the walk a success. To the youth of Messiah Lutheran Church for providing the Nativity. To the Bradshaw's and the Threlkeld's for providing animals for the Nativity. Thank you to Iona Verbeckmos for canceling the envelopes with this year's stamp and to all the following: Steve Sallows, Dustin Knapp, Russ, Candice and Megan Burt, Rich and Jamie Coffey, Sherry Pfaffenbach, Judy, Jeff & Brandon Lockwood, Mitzi May, Lisa Henningsen, Carol Denny, Ruth Speer, Adrienne Biske, Alan Hall, Don Ford, Lori Carlson, Rob Storm -Artistry on Ice, Bob Johnson Carriages, and to anyone who helped in anyway that we may not have listed we thank you, each and everyone, and to the River Valley Library Staff who devoted over 200 hours of Christmas spirit for the community of Port Byron, Lisa Ford, Cathy Burt, Jamie Coffey, Sue Golby, Pam Frohock, Teri Blake, Tara McKay, Judy Lockwood, Ashley Griffin, and Meghan Hollister. Thank you and have a wonderful Christmas.

P.S. Santa would you please build Port Byron a bigger Community Room?

More Bumper Stickers

- ▶ (Seen Upside Down On A Jeep) If You Can Read This, Please Flip Me Back Over...
- ▶ Guys: No Shirt, No Service..... Gals: No Shirt, No Charge
- ▶ Boldly Going Nowhere.
- ▶ Caution - Driver Legally Blonde.
- ▶ How Many Roads Must A Man Travel Down Before He Admits He is Lost?
- ▶ GROW YOUR OWN DOPE--- PLANT A MAN.
- ▶ All Men Are Animals; Some Just Make Better Pets.
- ▶ POLITICIANS & DIAPERS BOTH NEED TO BE CHANGED, AND FOR THE SAME REASON"

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless."

----- Mother Theresa

More Odd Laws, Statutes and Ordinances - Part 2

There has been much in the news lately about freedom of religion vs freedom from religion. Here are some real Laws, Statutes and ordinances from around the country.

Still on the books in Maine, it is illegal to keep a business open on Sunday -- except during the Christmas shopping season.

Written into its Constitution, atheists in Arkansas are disqualified from holding office or testifying as a witness.

The Statutes of Kentucky make it illegal to use reptiles during religious services.

Again California courts take the prize: In Hollon vs Pierce, the California Appellate Court ruled that a city may discharge a school bus driver who believed in the religious sacrifice of children!

Medical Billing Opportunities

From your local Better Business Bureau

If you are looking for a home-based job using your computer, advertisements for medical billing may be appealing. These ads appear on the Internet and in the classified sections of local newspapers. They often claim that you can make as much as \$20,000 to \$45,000 a year working from home full - or part-time - no experience required. The Better Business Bureau warns consumers to be careful. By responding to such ads you may be asked to pay hundreds or thousands of dollars for software and other materials.



Complaints to the BBB about medical billing opportunities allege misrepresentation of potential earnings, software that does not perform as promised and misrepresentation of the market for medical billing services. The reality is that few consumers who pay for medical billing opportunities find clients or make any money, let alone earn the promised substantial income.

Competition in the medical billing market is fierce, especially for those who are new to it. Many doctors' offices process their own medical claims. Doctors who contract out their medical billing typically use established firms, not individuals working from home.

To avoid losing your money to a bogus medical billing business opportunity, the BBB and the Federal Trade Commission advise you to:

A. Ask the promoter to give you the names of many previous purchasers so that you can pick and choose whom to call for references. Interview the references to get a better sense of how the business works. Ask for the names of their clients and a description of their operation.

B. Consult with organizations for medical claims processors or medical billing businesses and with doctors in your community. Ask them about the medical billing field: How much of a need is there for this type of work? How much work does medical billing entail? What kind of training is required?

C. Check with the BBB, state Attorney General's office and the consumer protection agency in your area and the area where the promoter is based to learn whether there are any unresolved complaints about the business opportunity or the promoter.

D. If the medical billing opportunity sells another company's software, check with the software company to find out whether company representatives know of any problems with the medical billing promoter.

E. Before you sign an agreement, consult with an attorney, accountant or other business advisor.

If you have a complaint about a company offering medical billing business opportunities contact your BBB (www.desmoines.bbb.org)

If you get cut off while driving, smile you did it to someone yesterday.

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Professional Automotive Repair
State-of-the-art equipment
ASE certified technicians

A Full Service Automotive Care Center

We welcome domestic & foreign cars, trucks & vans

- A/C Recharging & Repair
- Brakes, Tires, Shocks
- Computerized Alignments
- Engine Cooling Systems
- Transmission Service
- Electrical Troubleshooting
- Oil Changes & Tune-ups
- Major Engine Repairs

NEW! MotorVac CarbonClean Service

A total cleaning system that removes carbon deposits in your engine without the expense of an overhaul.

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|---------------------|----------------------------|
| What will MotorVac | • Improve Fuel Economy |
| CarbonClean Service | • Cleans Fuel Injectors |
| Do For Your Car? | • Regains Lost Performance |

Ph: 309-496-3202

Open 8:00AM to 5:00PM

McCarty's AutoPro Shop

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Convenient - 1 block north of I-80 on Rt. 84

Colona Chiropractic

KATHRYN MEEKER D.C.

Family Chiropractic Care
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Open Monday-Saturday
New patients welcome

512 First Avenue, Colona, IL 61241
(309) 796-3970

YOU GOT STUFF? WE GOT SPACE!

HAMPTON MINI-STORAGE

Is your yard, garage or basement getting too crowded? Store your off-season and less used items with us. Protect your valuables and start enjoying your home again.

Access 24 hours a day 7 days a week

Monthly and Yearly Rates Available

6th Street at State Avenue (Rte. 84)

Right across the highway from Porter's

Sizes Available: 5X10 10X10 10X20 & 10X30

Call 755-5555 OR 912-6030

We have to believe in free will. We have no choice.

TRAVELER'S MART

238 South State Ave. (Rt. 84), Hampton, IL

309-755-4373

Open 6AM to 10PM Daily



Drop in at any time of day for fuel, your morning coffee, newspaper milk, soda, sports drinks or for snacks for home

Stock up here for your Super Bowl party snack and beverages



HAMPTON QWIK LUBE

10AM-6PM Mon.-Fri, 10AM-2PM Sat.



HAMPTON QWIK LUBE COUPON

\$10 OFF any Work \$125.00 or more

FRONT BRAKES •Reg. \$79.99 - With Coupon \$69.99**

**For most cars Expires February 15, 2005

We also change oil flush & refill cooling & transmission fluids systems, replace shocks, tires, starters, general tune-ups too!

NO APPOINTMENT IS NEEDED 309-755-4373

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

ATM Machine



The Inheritance

Due to inherit a fortune when his sickly, widower father died, Charles decided he needed a woman to enjoy it with. Going to a singles bar, he spotted a woman whose beauty took his breath away. "I'm just an ordinary man," he said, walking up to her, "but in just a week or two, my father will die and I'll inherit 20 million dollars." The woman went home with Charles, and in four days she became his stepmother.

Men will never learn.

Who Ever Said Lawyers and Legislators Were Smart?

Unbelievable as it may seem, the following are real!:

In Michigan, it's a misdemeanor for you to make a poster scoffing at someone who doesn't accept a challenge to a duel.

It is against Washington's codes for anyone to ride a bicycle without a "permanent and regular seat".

Here in Illinois we try to set a good moral example for the rest of the world so in our capitol, Springfield, an ordinance has been passed that prohibits commercial establishments from permitting or promoting dwarf-tossing.

New Hampshire, known for keeping their options open when interpreting statutes added a qualifier to the following:

Theft of poaching of a bear or deer is illegal...but only if you're a "natural person".

Arizona, on the other hand passed a Statute to clarify a common term: A "Horse" may also be an ass, a mule or a burro.

In politically correct California, it is illegal for you to possess more than one bear gallbladder. It is also illegal to abuse an elephant. Even more sensitivity is shown in their Food and Agriculture Code which requires that any bull grazing in an open range must be accompanied by at least 30 cows.

Watch for more strange laws in future issues of the Crier!

Birthdays

Belated Happy Birthday to Timothy J. Gavin on December 7th
Belated Happy 90th to Elsie Robinson who celebrated at a gathering of friends at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall on December 19th.

Belated Happy Birthday to Evelyn Phillips on December 20 th
Belated Happy Birthday to Helen Steiger on January 7th

January, 2005

- 7 Helen Steiger
- 13 Anita Gillespie
- 14 Stephanie Hodson
- 17 Denise Braddy
- 18 Benjamin Gillespie
- 20 Donna Cady
- Nathan Ross
- 25 Bill Bunker
- Jack Coder
- 27 Amanda Kruse
- 30 Gretchen Bull



February, 2005

- 6 Brenda Pfau
- 7 Michelle Eimen
- 12 Ann Eliza Haertjens Happy 95th!
- 14 Betty Eggrichs
- 15 Larry Eimen
- 18 Robert Cox
- 19 Johnny Gillespie

Anniversaries

Belated Anniversary Best Wishes to Jack and Beverly Coder on Decembc: 26th.

January, 2005

- 24 Ralph and Diana Cox

February, 2005

- 1 Carl and Sandy Clark (See below)
- 14 Bryan and Angela Cady

Family and friends are invited to help Carl and Sandy Clark celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, February 6th from 1:30-400 p.m. at the Hampton Heritage Center. The Center is located on highway 84 behind the mini golf. (251 S. State Avenue in Hampton). A luncheon will be served. RSVP for the luncheon by calling 309-269-6125 by January 30th. No gifts Please!

Obituaries

Ronald Hofstetter, 58 formerly of Hampton passed away Friday, December 10, 2004. Ronnie had survived 3 transplants and been on kidney dialysis for the past 28 years. He was the son of Donald and Nadine Trimble Hofstetter. Ronnie married Deena Martin on July 9, 1966 in Unionville, Missouri where he was buried.

Ronnie is survived by his mother, Nadine Hofstetter, his wife Deena, two daughters: Rhonda Henshaw and Angie Pearson and two grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Deena or Nadine C/O General Delivery, Unionville, MO 63565

Bloopers from real ads:

- ~ Tired of cleaning yourself? Let me do it.
- ~ Dog for sale: eats anything and is fond of children.
- ~ Vacation Special: have your home exterminated.
- ~ The hotel has bowling alleys, tennis courts, comfortable beds, and other athletic facilities.
- ~ Get rid of aunts: Zap does the job in 24 hours.
- ~ Four-poster bed, 101 years old. Perfect for antique lover.
- ~ Stock up and save. Limit one.
- ~ For Sale: Three canaries of undermined sex.

HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power

Can anybody tell me what it is?"

One child blurted out, "Aces!"

GRISHAMS



*LIGHT & HEAVY DUTY
*COMPLETE ROAD SERVICE
*WINCHING & RECOVERY
*PARKING LOT CONTROL
*JUMP STARTS
*LOCK OUTS
792-8181 East Moline, IL

Hampton Village Board Notes: 12/6, 12/20/04, 1/6/05

- Chief Hufford reported the cigarette compliance checks made recently showed that no one was selling to underage kids in the Hampton area.
- The 1983 Ford F700 dump truck was sold for \$4,500. A motion was passed that the \$4,500 be placed in escrow against the purchase of another truck in the future.
- \$2,009.06 was spent to repair Fire Department extrication equipment after inspection.
- 25 Trees from the Charitable Remainder Trust donated G. W. Schreiner have been planted in Heritage Park.
- Ordinances 04-13, 14, were passed to abate 1955 A&B Bonds.
- Approval was gen for \$225.00 to purchase 2 new tires for the Kubota mower
- Public improvements at the Oak Point Subdivision are in progress.
- The annual part for Village Employees was held at the Heritage Center on January 8th.
- The Village and Rev. Dale McColley and Mr. Steve Paget as representatives of the River's Edge Fellowship Church signed a one year lease for the Hampton Heritage Center. The non-denominational church has leased the Heritage Center ever Sunday morning from 8:00 am to Noon. A short social half hour will begin at 9:30 am followed b services beginning at 10:00 am. The church representatives are responsible for setting up, cleaning and clearing the Center each week.
- The 2004 property tax levy was approved.
- The Fire Department was approved to purchase a stokes basket (\$275.00) and training materials up to \$212.00.
- Donald Harms talked with the board about zoning changes he will be requesting for his property.

Plan Ahead Community Calendar

JANUARY, 2005

- 14 Hampton School-2nd Quarter Ends
- 17 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observed - NO SCHOOL, Hampton Village Hall will be closed**
- 18 Hampton Village Committee Meetings 6 PM, Village Hall
Hampton Village Board Meeting 7PM, Village Hall
Fire Dept. Business Meeting 7PM, Hampton Firehouse
- 20 **Hampton School Parent/Teacher Conferences-1/2 Day Off**
Hampton Fire Auxiliary Meets at Firehouse 7PM
- 21 **Hampton School Parent/Teacher Conferences-1/2 Day Off**

FEBRUARY, 2005

- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 7 Hampton Village Committee Meetings 6 PM, Village Hall
Hampton Village Board Meeting 7PM, Village Hall
- 9 Ash Wednesday
Chinese New Year (Year of the Rooster)
- 11 **Lincoln's Birthday Hampton Village Hall Closed**
- 12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Hampton School Board 6:30 PM, at School
Fire Dept. Business Meeting 7PM, Hampton Firehouse
St. Valentine's Day
- 17 Hampton Fire Auxiliary Meets at Firehouse 7PM
- 21 **President's Day, Hampton School and Village Hall Closed**
- 22 George Washington's Birthday
Hampton Village Committee Meetings 6 PM, Village Hall
Hampton Village Board Meeting 7PM, Village Hall

... A fine is tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
... The only cure for insomnia is to get more sleep.
... Everybody lies, but it doesn't matter since nobody listens.

East Moline Mini-Storage

309-496-2817

Conveniently located at 36th St. & 4th Ave. in East Moline
(near the soccer fields) Various sizes to fit your needs



Store a little or
store a lot.



2024 - 2nd Ave., (Rt. 84) Rapids City, IL

309-496-9000

Gift Certificates & Catering for any size party

Delivering to: Rapids City, Port Byron (Falcon Farms & most rural areas), Cordova (Com Ed), Hillsdale, Hampton, East Moline and LeClaire

FALL HOURS: Mon. thru Thurs.: 4-9:30 p.m.
Fri.: 4-10 p.m., Sat. & Sun.: 11 am-9 p.m.

TERMINATOR MEAL DEAL

20" Terminator Pizza
(Two Toppings)
14 Soft Garlic Breadsticks

\$16.99 plus tax

Expires 3/31/05



LASAGNA MEAL DEAL

Family Size Lasagna
(All Meat, Veggie, or Deluxe)
14 Soft Garlic Breadsticks
for Only

\$18.99 plus tax

Expires 3/31/05



CONGRESSIONAL MEAL DEAL

Large Specialty Pizza
Large Single Topping Pizza
14 Soft Garlic Breadsticks

\$21.99 plus tax

Expires 3/31/05



A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama.

Then, she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

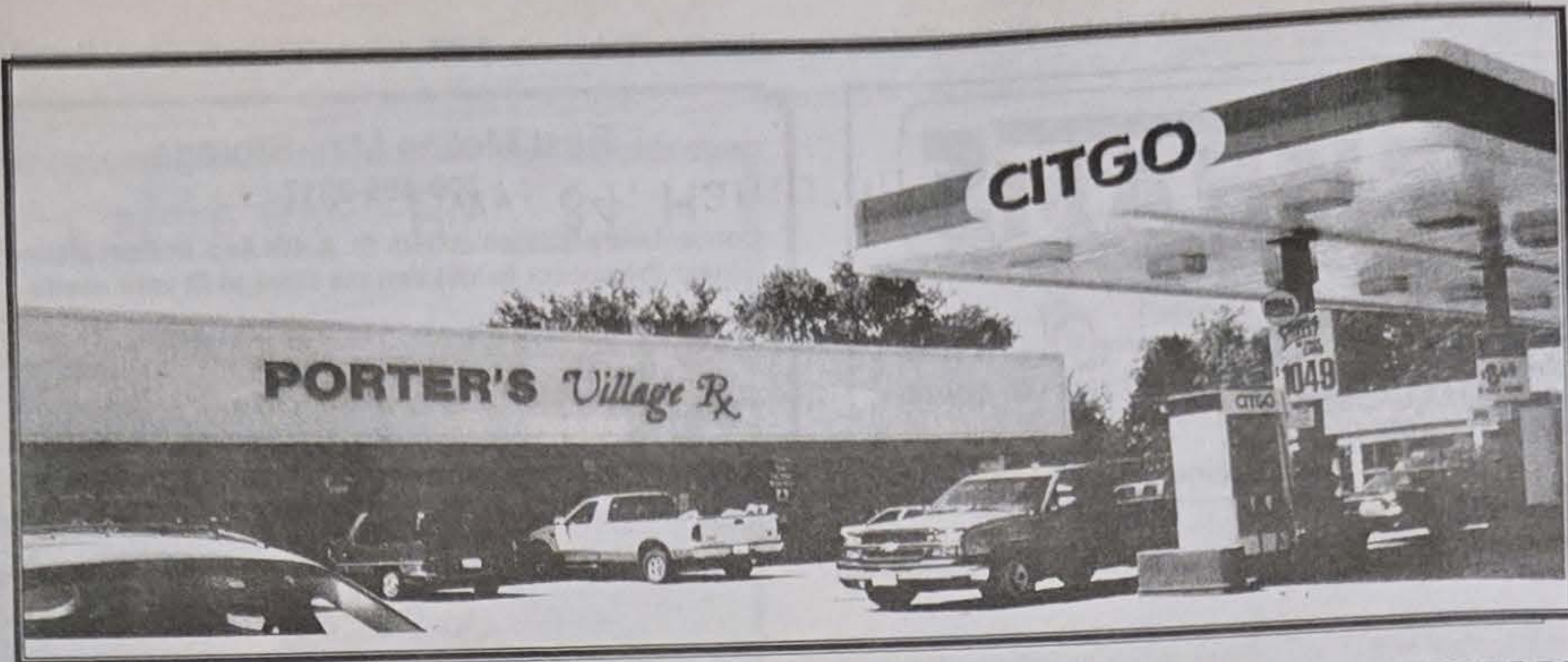
A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

The 23 Psalm

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse.

Little Bobby was excited about the task. But, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd and that's all I need to know!"

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month ... which we know today as the honeymoon.



Pizza Shop Coupon*

Large Pizza - \$1.00 Off
Small Pizza - .50 Off

*Does not apply to weekly Cook's Choice Pizza

COUPON Dessert Pizza

Save \$1.00 on Large
Save \$.50 on Small

Applies to Cherry or Apple Dessert Pizzas
Cannot be combined with any other pizza offer

Topping selections to make PIZZA YOUR WAY!

Pepperoni, Sausage, Onion, Canadian Bacon,
Pineapple, Mushroom, Green Peppers, Extra
Cheese or Sauerkraut

Prepare for your Super Bowl
viewing with our snacks, a
great pizza, something from
our dinner or fryer menu!



COUPON Garden Fresh Salads

Save 40¢

Fryer Menu Coupon

25¢ Off

Any Fry Item: Cheese Nuggets & Sticks,
Mushrooms, Fries, Onion Rings, Peppers,
Veggies, Mac 'n' Cheese Wedges and more

WHILE THEY LAST!
SELECTED PRE-VIEWED MOVIES
VHS TAPES - \$3.99 EACH
DVDS - \$5.99 EACH



Drop in soon for the best selections
from our expanded wine section

Valentine's Day is coming!



Unique hand-crafted Gifts

If you need a hostess gift or want something
special for someone special, stop here first.

K&D Woodworking and Baskets & More
items are here. Shop here for the best
Valentine and Birthday Gifts

**HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES ARE AVAILABLE
AT PORTERS**

Thank You to all those who supported our
Toys for Tots collection efforts this year!

PORTER'S *Village Rx*

621 State Ave.-Hwy. 84, Hampton 755-3862 or 755-3950

OPEN 5:00 AM TO 9:00 PM 7 DAYS A WEEK