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HAMPTON

TOWNE CRIER

PORT BYRON, RAPIDS CITY, SILVIS, EAST MOLINE

December, 2005/January, 2006



Issued Monthly on the 15th



Eagles and a Hawk ride the wind above Heritage Park



View of Lock and Dam #14 from Illinois side parking lot

THEY'RE BACK! Eagles Returning to the Quad Cities

Eagles have started returning to the Quad Cities. We are gratified by the progress the Bald Eagle has made in re-building their numbers and the part that our residents have played in the annual eagle counts. For all the pleasure we gain from watching these magnificent raptors, they bring some responsibilities.

When driving please be aware of traffic around you. Winter driving is hazardous enough without nature enthusiasts' sudden stops or weaving across lanes when watching the sky instead of the road. Take a moment to pull off the road and savor the sight. One of the very best places to watch eagles is below a dam. They need open water to fish and as water rushes through the dam, the fish traveling with it are stunned so the eagles have an easier time catching them. Lock & Dam #14 just north of Pleasant Valley, Iowa and just off Route 84 in Hampton, Illinois are both ideal observation areas with parking lots.

Everyone needs to exercise restraint when watching eagles, hawks and other birds. There are trees on the riverbanks that appear to be the favorite roosting spot for birds year after year. Once known, it is common for wait near these perching places in hopes of getting some spectacular photographs. Keep your distance (at least 300 feet) and remain as quiet as possible. In the winter, eagles need to conserve body heat and startling them with noise, throwing food or getting too close pushes them into flight that drains their energy.

The Quad City Bald Eagles visit us from December through February or March depending on the weather up north. For the next several months, numerous organizations will hold eagle "watches", "counts", seminars and set up displays throughout the QCA. For a full calendar of local events, visit www.visitquadcities.com



Hampton Heritage Center Hosts The First "Mississippi Java"

November 17th, the Hampton Heritage Center initiated neighborly get-togethers for coffee, doughnuts and some interesting conversations. Currently on display in the Center are paintings of locations of historic interest done by local artists. The paintings were donated to the Hampton Historical Society by Ann Eliza Haertjens. Each canvas has a story to tell so, Rocky Nelson, Historical Society President, gave an informal talk on the significance of each location and funny stories from local history.

More Mississippi Java Mornings are being planned so watch future issues of the Crier for themes and dates and watch for bulletins in the Hampton Post Office.

PARENTS ONLY: December 14, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
The Hampton Heritage Center will be open for a convenient gift wrapping location.

Bring your gifts, paper, tape and accessories and wrap your gifts in peace! You'll be able to get all your packages wrapped in half the time. Large tables will be set up, and friend available to give you a hand with the big items. Sorry, this evening is for adults only!

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Editorial: Hand Written Letters

I enjoyed Joanne Wiklund's piece in the June 1st Metro East about writing letters. I agree that the quicker and more abbreviated our writing task, the shorter time we keep a record of that effort. Mass produced and sent "letters" are more frequent for those on line but few of us regularly save or print them for keeping.

Mine is a family of letter writers and letter savers so the collection I keep is extensive. Those written in the mid 1800's are a historian's dream but the ones I value most are from my own time. For years, as letters came from brothers, cousins and aunts, they were stuffed in drawers, used as book marks and the envelopes marked up with quick notes and phone numbers. When moving, all these letters came to hand. Literally hundreds of them from friends, relatives and especially my brothers. Just reading them again brought back so many forgotten situations and events (both good and bad and sad).

For Christmas, I read the letters once more and sorted them into large envelopes to join old photographs to be appreciated by another generation. Each friend had their letters returned like a time capsule kept waiting for them. The children in the photos and writers of the letters now have children of their own. Baby pictures are compared to the newest generation and the stories recalled in the letters have become part of the family legends once again. There are some advantages to being a family of pack-rats—we are closer than most, sharing and passing down a heritage that adds to a sense of belonging for all.

The feel of good paper covered with squiggles in pen, pencil and crayon drawings can never be duplicated using computers and CDs preserving scanned items. The survival of printed books, magazines and newspapers probably stems from the need of Baby Boomers who prefer holding the printed page, hearing the rustle of paper accompanying the voice inside our heads when we read a letter. Being able to walk from room to room re-reading letters and looking at the photos enclosed, sharing them with friends over lunch in a restaurant is part of our culture.

This holiday season, choose a few friends you really enjoy and do them the honor of hand-writing a letter to them. Nothing fancy or long, just a an expression regard; perhaps a photo or a funny drawing. Perhaps in 20 years or so, a package will arrive from someone you know who will return your letters and photos, like a time capsule held just for you to pass to another generation.

Plan Ahead Community Calendar

December:

- 14 Hampton Heritage Center 6-9PM Wrap Party
- 15 Hampton Auxiliary 7PM at Firehouse
- 19 Village Board 6PM at Hampton Village Hall
- Hampton Truth in Taxation Public Meeting 6PM
- 20 Hampton Fire Dept. 6:30PM at Firehouse
- 26 Hampton Village Hall closed for the Holiday

January:

- 2 Village Board 6PM at Hampton Village Hall
- 9 School Board Meeting 6:30PM at School
- 10 Heritage Center Action Committee Meeting 6:30pm
- Hampton Heritage Center-Public Welcome
- 16 Martin Luther King Day-School & Village Hall Closed
- 17 Village Board 6PM at Hampton Village Hall

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**We will close on December 24th at 4:00 p.m.
and re-open at 8:00 am on January 2, 2006**

The following ordinance is being quoted at the request of the Hampton Village Board and residence attending the meetings on December 5, 2005. Additional revisions have been made to this ordinance which was finalized and approved on 12/5/05.

Ord. 616, October 14, 1996, ARTICLE 14:

FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION – OPEN FIRES

4.14.1: FIRES PROHIBITED: No person shall cause the open burning of refuse or garbage, or conduct any salvage operation by open burning.

A.) No person shall, in the drug free zone around Hampton Elementary School, cause open burning while students are in session. (Ord. 627, October 14, 1997)

4.14.2: FIRES NOT LIMITED BY THIS SECTION: This section shall not limit the open burning of leaves, grass clippings, shrubs, bushes, branches or any other landscape waste upon the premises where it is produced, the burning of landscape waste for agricultural purposes, habitat management (included but not limited to forest and prairie reclamation) or firefighter training. This Section shall not limit the open burning of cooking fires, either charcoal or wood, campfires or other like open fires determined to be recreational in nature.

4.14.3: LOCATION OF OPEN FIRES: (Ord. 05-17, September 19, 2005)

A.) No person shall kindle, maintain, or cause to be kindled or maintained any fire on any private property within the corporate limits of the Village of Hampton unless the fire at least ten (10) feet away from adjoining property line.

B.) No person shall kindle, maintain or cause to be kindled or maintained, any fire on any Village right-of-way, within five feet (5') of the improved or paved portion of any street, avenue or alley.

4.14.4: MONITORING OF OPEN FIRES: (Ord. 05-17, September 19, 2005)

A.) Any person conducting open burning shall ensure that adequate provisions are available to prevent the fire from spreading or burning out of control. Adequate provisions include but are not limited to; garden hose, bucket(s) of water or properly rated fire extinguisher of adequate size to extinguish a fire.

B.) No person shall allow or cause to allow any open fire to be unattended until such fire has extinguished itself or is extinguished by other means. Extinguishment shall mean that all embers are cool and no longer producing heat or flames and there shall be no smoke or smoldering remnants.

4.14.5: AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT: The fire Rescue Chief, his designee, the Chief of Police or his designee may prohibit any and all open fires allowed by this Section when atmospheric conditions or other factors make such fires, in their judgment, hazardous, dangerous, inconvenient or inappropriate to the public.

How You Can Reach Us:

Hampton Towne Crier, P. O. Box 224, Hampton, IL 61256-0224

You may write to us or drop off items at Blimpie or Quinn Hardware in Hampton. **10AM-5PM, Monday through Friday Only**, call 309-752-0627

E-mail to Jane Cady, Editor: jec@ix.netcom.com Please put Hampton Towne Crier in the subject line of your e-mails to make sure they are not missed!

SUBSCRIPTIONS: For those outside of Zip Code 61256, the 2005 subscription rate for monthly copies mailed directly to you is only \$7.50 per year to cover postage and handling. **The 2006 subscription rate will be \$8.00** If, for some reason, the Crier is not issued for a month, all prepaid subscriptions or ad fees will be extended another month. Free copies are available for pick-up at our advertisers' retail locations while quantities last.

ADVERTISING: Advertising is limited to businesses. The Crier has no classified or employment ads. By-issue 2005 rates are: Small: 4.5" W x 2-1/2" H \$25.00, Medium: 4.5" W x 4" H \$35.00, 1/4 Page: 4.5" w x 7" H \$45.00.

At press time, postage rate increases have not been determined. We are sorry but at the least, rates will be equalized with no discounts being given for volume or frequency to any advertiser. All ads in 2006 must be submitted complete, ready-to-print no later than the 6th of each month for the Crier to be released on the 15th.

Non-profit organizations, obituaries, birthdays, thank you notes and birth or wedding announcements are free. Please be brief with submissions. Free space for a non-profit organizations is limited to 4.5" W x 4" H except libraries. Circulation is now 4,000+. (3,000 Copies mailed monthly PLUS 1,000 more distributed through retail stores and offices in Port Byron, Rapids City, Hampton, Hampton Township, Silvis and East Moline and LeClaire, IA.)

Frequency: The Crier is a monthly publication. Issues are released on or just before the 15th of the month. Most major holidays fall after the 15th of the month, by releasing the Crier closer to the holidays, advertising for sales and event announcements are more immediate.

Policies: The Crier is not meant to replace newspapers, it is a community bulletin board for local information, small business support and some entertainment. Letters to the editor are not printed, investigative reports and controversial topics are purposely not included.

And a plug for the Crier: \$8.00 for a subscription through February, 2007. A card with a vintage Hampton photo will be sent to the address you provide to announce your gift subscription. To Order call: 309-752-0627

"Every great discovery I ever made, I gambled that the truth was there, and then I acted on it in faith until I could prove its existence."
Authur R. Compton, Nobel Prize Physicist



River Road Restaurant

421 State Avenue HAMPTON, IL, 309-755-9230



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

New Daily Specials for Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

FISH-STEAKS-PASTAS-BURGERS-GREEK ENTRÉES

2 Homemade Soups & Chili

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Senior and Kids Menus



Gift Certificates Available



Jammin' With Jane

by Jane Nelson

Merry Christmas one and all from the Nelson Family, of course Melinda's family are the Erickson's. Rock would say all good Swedes. "Gud Jul" as Rock would say. All of our kids will be home. Martha and David are coming to the airport in Moline on Christmas Eve, Marc will be here as soon as he can get away, Mindy is coming the day after Christmas and Merlin will be home but doesn't know when yet. I hope I have the dining room table cleaned off by then. It is now piled high with presents to be wrapped. I get slower every year. All the cookie walks are next week which I have found saves me a lot of time and temptation. I did find a couple of recipes you may find useful over the holidays. Mindy made one for Thanksgiving.

Hot Artichoke and Roasted Pepper Dip

- 1 med. leek, thinly sliced & quartered, or 1/3 cup sliced green onion
- 2 tsp. margarine or butter
- 1 14-oz. can artichoke hearts, drained and coarsely chopped
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup mayonnaise, salad dressing or light mayonnaise dressing (Do not make with fat-free mayo or fat-free salad dressing. Dip will not set.)
- 1 7-oz. jar roasted red sweet peppers, drained and coarsely chopped
- 1/8 tsp. ground pepper
- 2 Tbsp. grated Parmesan or Romano cheese
- 1 Tbsp. snipped parsley

Assorted vegetable dippers, flat breads, or crackers

If serving dip immediately, preheat oven to 350°. In a med. skillet cook sliced leek in hot margarine or butter until tender but not brown. Remove from heat. Stir in artichoke hearts, the 1 cup Parmesan cheese, mayonnaise, roasted red peppers, and pepper. Transfer to an 8-inch quiche dish or 9-inch pie plate, spreading evenly. Sprinkle with the 2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese and the parsley. If desired, cover and chill for up to 24 hours before baking. To serve, bake, uncovered, for 20 min. at 350° or until heated through. Or micro-cook on medium-high power for 6 to 8 minutes or until heated through, turning dish halfway through the cooking time. Makes about 3 1/2 cups.

The next recipe is a cake they make at the Belgian Village called Mississippi Mud Cake. It is the best cake I have ever had. I make a quick cake.



Quick Mississippi Mud Cake

- 1 box chocolate cake mix
 - 1/2 Cup coconut
 - 1/2 Cup chopped walnuts.
 - Lg. Jar Marshmallow Creme
- Mix and bake as directed on the box. When cool cover with marshmallow creme. I think it would take about a whole jar. Then I made my fudge frosting and beat it until it was like heavy syrup and poured it over the marshmallow creme. Rock even ate this cake and he never eats cake.

Frosting:

- 1 1/2c sugar
 - 1/3c milk
 - 6 T butter or margarine
- Stir until butter melts. Bring to a roiling boil 1 minute. Add 1 c chocolate chips and 1 t vanilla Beat.

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Mississippi Mud Cake From Scratch

- 1 1/2 cups (3 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups packed dark brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3. oz. unsweetened chocolate, chopped, melted
- 1/4 cup whipping cream
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 6 large eggs, room temperature
- 2 1/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups mini marshmallows
- 2 cups coarsely chopped toasted pecans (about 7 oz.)

Frosting:

- 1 C brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, cut into pieces
- 5 oz. unsweetened chocolate, chopped
- 2 oz. bittersweet chocolate (not unsweetened) chopped
- 2 tablespoons dark corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

For Cake: Preheat oven to 350°. Line two 9-inch square cake pans with 2-inch-high sides with foil, extending foil over sides. Butter and flour foil. Cream butter and both sugars in large bowl until fluffy. Beat in melted chocolate, cream and vanilla. Add eggs 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Sift flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt into medium bowl. Stir dry ingredients into batter, which will be very thick. Divide batter between prepared pans, spread evenly. Bake until tester inserted into centers comes out clean, about 20 minutes. Remove from oven.

Sprinkle 1 1/2 cups marshmallows and 1 cup pecans over each cake. Bake just until marshmallows begin to melt, about 6 minutes. Transfer to racks. Cool cakes completely in pans.

For Frosting: Combine sugar and cream in heavy medium saucepan. Stir over medium heat until sugar dissolves. Cook without stirring until candy thermometer registers 220°, about 8 minutes. Remove from heat and whisk in remaining ingredients. Whisk until all chocolate melts and frosting is smooth. Refrigerate frosting until spreadable, about 1 hour 15 minutes.

Using foil as aid, lift cakes from pans. Remove foil. Place 1 cake layer on plate, marshmallow side up. Spread on 1 1/2 cups frosting. Top with second cake layer, marshmallow side up. Spread remaining frosting in waves on sides (not top) of cake. (Can be prepared 1 day ahead. Cover with cake dome and chill. Bring to room temperature before serving.)

"Our belief at the beginning of a doubtful undertaking is the one thing that insures the successful outcome of our venture."

William James



Always something new to see!
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K&D Woodworking & Gift Shop

625 First Avenue in Hampton
755-6644



Thank You!

The Hampton Volunteer Firefighters would like to thank **MidAmerican Energy Company** for their donation to lockers for the firehouse. Having a secure place to stow their gear when out on calls is really appreciated.

Area children would like to thank the **Hampton Youth Committee** for a wonderful Christmas party at the Heritage Center on 12/3. Also **H. M.** (Santa) and all the **parents and helpers** who set up and supervised during the event. Finally, thank you to **Hampton's Auxiliary** for their financial support of this event.

All those that participated in the Hanging of the Greens at the Heritage Center would like to thank the **River's Edge Fellowship Band** for the music during the event at the Center.



Dale McCaulley, Lead Pastor and Tony Bleeker, Vice-President of River's Edge Fellowship present a check in the amount of \$318.00 to Rick Norin, Hampton Fire Chief. River's Edge held a spaghetti dinner on October 30th to honor, thank, and recognize our community's volunteer fire department.

The Crier would like to thank John Green of TEC Solutions for technical consultations and digital photography equipment. Darrell & Arlene Johnson and Randy Baldrige for all sorts of assistance in getting the Crier to you all. Special thanks to Harriette Gillespie and Becky Gould for proof reading and Mickey VanDieren for back up whenever this editor gets in a jam. Finally, thanks to Tammy Laud, Hope and all those at the post office that have processed thousands of pounds of Crier issues this year!

Jane Cady says "Thank you" to Jolene Cameron for clearing walks after the first snows. Thanks of thinking of my safety!



Special Events and Services Schedule For Local Churches

River's Edge Fellowship at The Heritage Center, Hampton
Christmas Eve refreshments 12/24 4:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service 5:00 p.m.
No Christmas Day Services, Regular Services will resume at 10:00 am Sunday mornings in 2006
Special Anniversary Day Service 1/8/2006 10:00 am

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Rapids City
Children's Christmas Program, Sunday 12/18 4:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Children's Choir 12/24 4:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Mass 12/24 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Mass 12/25 9:30 am
New Year's Eve Family Mass 12/31 5:00 p.m.
New Year's Eve Family Potluck 12/31 6:00 p.m.
New Year's Day Mass 1/1/2006 9:30 am

St. Mary Catholic Church, Hampton
Christmas Eve Caroling 12/24 10:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Mass 12/24 10:30 p.m.
New Year's Day Mass 1/1/2006 8:00 am

Twin Rivers Co-operative Parish Methodist Churches

Christmas Eve Services - 12/24/05
Church of the Cross, Family Service, Port Byron 4:00 p.m.
Grace, East Moline - Candle Lighting Service 6:00 p.m.
Fairfield, Port Byron-Candle Lighting Service 7:00 p.m.
Carbon Cliff-Carols & Candle Lighting 8:00 p.m.
Hampton-Candle Lighting Service 9:00 p.m.
Silvis-Carols & Candle Lighting 11:00 p.m.
Port Byron First - Candle Lighting 11:00 p.m.

Wildwood Baptist Church, East Moline

Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Services 10:00 am

Zion Lutheran, East Moline

Christmas Eve Services 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Service 9:00 am

Except a living man, there is nothing more wonderful than a book! - a message to us from the dead - from human souls whom we never saw, who lived, perhaps, thousands of miles away; and yet these, in those little sheets of paper speak to us, amuse us, terrify us, teach us, comfort us, open their hearts to us as brothers...I say we ought to reverence books, to look at them as useful and mighty things. If they are good and true, whether they are about religion or politics, farming, trade, or medicine, they are the message of Christ, the maker of all things, the teacher of all truth.

- Charles Kingsley

SOUTH MOLINE TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

December, 2005/January, 2006

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 We will be closed December 26, January 2, January 16 for the holidays

January 9 & 23: Lunch Box Bingo. 11:00 a.m. 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. If you bring a canned food item(s) for the Quad City Food Pantry, you'll receive "Pantry Pack" bingo sheets FREE.

January 27: Trinity Food Care Clinic. 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Cost \$22.00 that is NOT covered by Medicare or Medicaid. An appointment is required and advance notification of any cancellation is required. Bring a washcloth and 2 towels.

January 30: Rules of the Road - FREE 1:00-3:00 p.m. Review the basic written and over the road tests

January 25th : Lite Lunch and Cards 11:00 a.m. Cost \$5.00 Cards & games follow lunch. Bring your own foursome

January 4th: Euchre Tournament 11:30 a.m. Cost \$5.00 Played according to Hoyle Rules. Men & Women welcome

December 14, January 11th: 500 Tournament 11:30 a.m. Cost \$5.00

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 a.m., meeting follows

637 - 17th Avenue, East Moline 309-752-2643 This non-smoking, no-alcohol facility is available for rent. Call 755-3332

We're waiting to toast one for you!

Chicken Bacon
Chicken Parmesan

Come in and eat or we'll both starve!



Christmas Eve-Open till 4:00 p.m.
Closed Christmas Day



Ridgewood Center
681 Ave. of the Cities
East Moline, IL

309-755-3663
10:00am-11:00pm

1025 - 18th Avenue
East Moline, IL

309-752-1922
10:00am 10:00pm

Call-Ahead & Catering Orders Always Welcome!

Have and Have Not

Written by Colleen Moore Poncin as told to her by
Franciska Rasmussen

I've been doing a lot of thinking lately about my early childhood. I was brought up with very little in worldly comforts. There were few playthings but I also noticed that our house was very different from the others on our block.

My parents were not born in America. One was from Belgium and one was from Holland. They didn't speak a lot of English at home and I recall that my mother taught herself to read English with wild west and love story magazines.

We had no fans in the house and this was the days before air conditioning, when fans were the best thing you could have to keep cool. We couldn't open the windows for a bit of breeze because the windows had been painted shut. My father had the outside of the house painted on a regular basis. The lights in our house were not the picturesque fixtures of the day, but were just a single bulb on a cord that dropped from the ceiling. Furniture was sparse and strictly functional. There were no decorative end tables.

Christmas after Christmas would come and go and there would be no hint of a celebration at our house. No tree or wreath or pretty lights. At the age of 17 I bought my very first Christmas tree for myself. I lavished that tree with the love and dedication I had missed all my growing up years and loaded its branches with all the special decorations my meager salary would allow.

It's been years and years since all that has happened. I had a happy tomboy childhood in spite of all the things we didn't have. I was often green with envy when I would see the other kids' homes and the way they lived, but somehow I made it through. I did vow to myself, to the best of my ability, that I would Americanize myself, and I would celebrate the holidays, and not live such a Puritanical life.

The most important thing is that I have forgiven my parents, or at least I am struggling toward that end. Strangely enough, all the things mentioned above were available for sale at my father's hardware store! He had many fans and light fixtures. He installed and repaired window screens. The house got painted so often because he felt it was a good advertisement for the store, as he sold lots of house paint there. He could have negotiated very nice furniture with deep discounts from his fellow shopkeepers.

When I bought my Christmas tree, his only comment was that he sold those very same ornaments and lights in his store. I told him that I got them at the dime store on sale.

My parents did not see the need to have the items that they sold to "Americans" in their own home. I feel in some way this attitude warped my childhood and I have spent my whole life valiantly trying to undo that warp. I'm almost there!



Man is so unhappy that he would be bored even if he had no cause for boredom, by the very nature of his temperament, and he is so vain that, through he has a thousand and one basic reasons for being bored, the slightest things, like pushing a ball with a billiard cue, will be enough to divert him.

— Blaise Pascal



MLS#4071194 \$20,000

Port Byron lot in subdivision on cul-de-sac! Half acre plus lot is wooded and home could have an exposed basement! All utilities to lot: Port Byron water & sewer, natural gas & cable. Great huge lot with fantastic backyard view and nice neighborhood! Won't last long.



MLS#4071030 \$30,000

Approximately 1/2 acre parcel near East Moline Industrial Complex. Property is next to storage units and across from North East Park Sports Complex. Lots of possibilities!



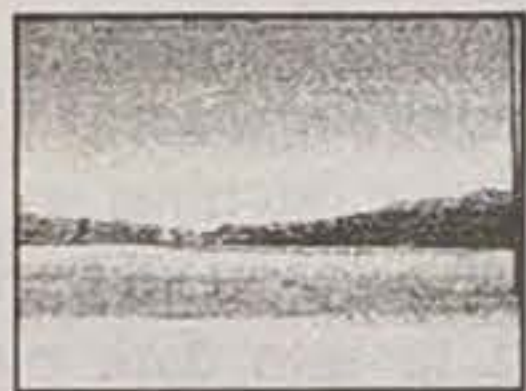
MLS#4070845 \$49,900

Convenient location! Great starter home! 2 BR bungalow w/ many updates including vinyl siding. Owner says newer roof, fur/AC, water heater and sump pump. Ref. & stove stay. Most windows are newer. Some plumbing, electric, heat ducts & insulation newer. Garage is 20 x 20 w/wood heater & opener. Large enclosed rear porch leads to a huge wrap around wooded deck! Nice level lot.



MLS#4070689 \$139,900

Beautiful 2 story 3 BR, 1 1/2 bath home in East Moline. Located near to schools & shopping. Freshly painted in & out. Newer roof, furnace/AC high efficiency. New windows & doors, kitchen cabinets, and countertops. Big bedrooms, large eat-in kitchen, 2 car garage, fenced flat yard with shed, and deck. Huge jungle gym & swing set for kids. Stove, ref., & dishwasher stay. Newer landscaping. Master BR has walk-in closet. More!



MLS# 4071209 \$238,900

62 acres of which 25 acres+ are suitable for farmable wetlands. The 62 acres are in a (CRP) Conservation Reserve Program (1999-2013), 15 yrs and must remain there until CRP contract expires. Some of the property borders on the Rock River. The remainder of the property may be suitable for other ventures. CRP payment is \$4232 per year. Parcel #'s are 06561 & 06569.



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"The world has no room for cowards, we must all be ready somehow to toil, to suffer, to die. And yours is not the less noble because no drum beats before you when you go out to your daily battlefields, and no crowds shout your coming when you return from your daily victory and defeat."

Robert Louis Stevenson

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755-3471

844 15th Ave. East Moline, IL

A Robert Fulghum story about Words of Wisdom

"Dr Papaderos, what is the meaning of life?" Holding a quarter-sized round piece of mirror he said:

"When I was a child, during the war, we were very poor and we lived in a remote village. One day, on the road, I found broken pieces of a mirror. A German motorcycle had been wrecked in that place.

"I tried to find all the pieces and put them together, but it was not possible, so I kept only the largest piece. By scratching it on a stone, I made it round. I began to play with it as a toy and became fascinated by the fact that I could reflect light into dark places where the sun would never shine - in deep holes and crevices and dark closets. It became a game for me to get light into the most inaccessible places I could find.

"I kept the little mirror, and as I went about my growing up, I would take it out in idle moments and continue the challenge of the game. As I became a man, I grew to understand that this was not just a child's game but a metaphor for what I might do with my life. I came to understand that I am not the light or the source of the light. But light - truth, understanding, knowledge - is there, and it will shine in many dark places only if I reflect it.

"I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know. Nevertheless, with what I have I can reflect light into the dark places of this world - into the black places in the hearts of men - and change some things in some people. Perhaps others may see and do likewise. This is what I am about. This is the meaning of my life."

Wave Bottle

In the 60's and 70's, hypnotic, calming wave containers were placed on motorized displays that tipped the bottle from side to side to simulate the movement of ocean waves.

20 Oz. Clear Plastic Bottle* food coloring (6-20 drops)
¼ C. Water Light colored vegetable oil
¼ C. Rubbing alcohol

Mix water, alcohol and food coloring (usually blue). Pour into empty bottle. Fill the bottle with oil. Twist cap on tightly.

*Choose a bottle with smooth, straight sides for better viewing.

A room without books is like a body without a soul. - Cicero

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Time to Think About
Year-end Tax Tips
Submitted by Mark Judy,
Edward Jones, East Moline



Now that it's December, you're probably busy with family gatherings and holiday celebrations. Still, try to find some time to think about a non-holiday topic: taxes. You may have until April 17, 2006, to file your taxes, but you only have until the end of the year to make some moves that could benefit your tax situation - so you'll need to take action soon. Here are some suggestions to consider:

Maximize your retirement account contributions. If you haven't "maxed out" on your 401(k), see if your employer will allow you to make additional contributions before year-end. For 2005, you can contribute up to \$14,000 (or \$18,000 if you're over 50 years old). You typically fund your 401(k) with pre-tax dollars, so, the more you contribute, the lower your taxable income.

Donate appreciated securities to charities - If you have stocks that have appreciated greatly over the years, you might want to donate some shares to charitable organizations. Suppose, for instance, that you bought shares of XYZ stock for \$250, and that they are now worth \$1,000. If you were to give these shares to a charitable group, and you are in the 28 percent tax bracket, you would get a \$280 tax deduction, based on the shares' current market value. Furthermore, because you are not selling the shares, you will avoid having to pay any capital gains taxes on your \$750 profit.

Sell your "losers" - Did any of your stocks lose value in 2005? If so, you may want to sell some of them to take the tax losses. If these losses exceeded your capital gains from selling appreciated stocks, you can deduct up to \$3,000 (or \$1,500 for married couples filing separately) against your other income, reducing the amount on which you must pay taxes. And if you lost more than \$3,000, you can carry over the excess into subsequent years. Consider buying "big-ticket" items now - If you are planning on buying a car, boat or other "big-ticket" item, you may want to do so before the end of the year. If the total sales tax is more than your state or local income taxes, you can choose to deduct any of these taxes on your 2005 federal tax return - but this is the last year in which this benefit will be offered.

Defer income when possible - If you're self-employed, defer billing until late December. If you work for a company, and you're scheduled to get a year-end bonus, see if you can put it off until January.

Delay exercising non-qualified stock options - You will be taxed on any non-qualified stock options you exercise, so you may want to delay exercising them until next year. (Before you make this decision, though, you'll want to evaluate the price and prospects of the stock on which you hold an option. If you hold an option too long, you will eventually be forced to exercise it; if the stock price is down at that point, you might not make much of a profit - and, in a "worst-case" scenario, your option could become worthless.)

If you are unsure about which of these suggestions may be appropriate for your individual situation, see your tax adviser. But don't wait too long - 2006 will be here before you know it.

Good character is more to be praised than outstanding talent. Most talents are, to some extent, a gift. Good character, by contrast is not given to us. We have to build it piece by piece - by thought, choice, courage and determination.

- John Luther

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563-289-2225



Vodka in Your Medicine Chest

The alcohol and other properties of any brand of Vodka may be used for numerous medical applications. The clear liquid is relatively odorless so in a pinch, may be used for these:

1. To remove a bandage painlessly, saturate the bandage with vodka – it dissolves adhesive.
2. Using a cotton ball, apply vodka to your face as an astringent to cleanse the skin and tighten pores.
3. Add a jigger of vodka to a 12-ounce bottle of shampoo. The alcohol cleanses the scalp, removes toxins from hair, and stimulates the growth of healthy hair.
4. Prolong the life of razors by filling a cup with vodka and letting your safety razor blade soak in the alcohol after shaving. The vodka disinfects the blade and prevents rusting.
5. Pour one-half cup vodka and one-half cup water in a Ziplock freezer bag and freeze for a slushy, refreshable ice pack for aches, pain or black eyes.
6. To relieve a fever, use a washcloth to rub vodka on your chest and back as a liniment.
7. To cure foot odor, wash your feet with vodka.
8. Vodka will disinfect and alleviate a jellyfish sting.
9. Pour vodka over an area affected with poison ivy to remove the irritating ivy oil from your skin.
10. Swish a shot of vodka over an aching tooth. Allow your gums to absorb some of the alcohol to numb the pain.

Other Around-the-House Uses:

- A. To clean the caulking around bathtubs and showers, fill a trigger-spray bottle with vodka, spray the caulking, let set five minutes and wash clean – it kills mold and mildew.
- B. To clean your eyeglasses, simply wipe the lenses with a soft, clean cloth dampened with vodka. The alcohol cleans the glass and kills germs.
- C. Spray vodka on vomit stains, scrub with a brush, then blot dry.
- D. Fill a sixteen-ounce trigger-spray bottle and spray bees or wasps to kill them.



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Reaganisms:

Here's my strategy on the Cold War: We win, they lose."

"The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help."

"The trouble with our liberal friends is not that they're ignorant: It's just that they know so much that isn't so."

"Of the four wars in my lifetime none came about because the U.S. was too strong."

"I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandment's would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress."

"The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examination."

"Government is like a baby: An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other."

"Why does Sea World have a seafood restaurant? I'm halfway through my fish burger and I realize, Oh my Gosh.... I could be eating a slow learner."

-Lynda Montgomery

Weather Proverbs and Sayings

- "As many days old as is the Moon on the day of the first snow, there'll be that many snowstorms before crop planting time."
- "The first frost in the autumn will occur precisely 6 months after the first thunderstorm in the spring."
- "If Candlemas Day be bright and clear, we'll have two winters in the year." (Candlemas is February 2nd)
- "If ice in November will bear a duck, there'll be nothing thereafter but sleet and muck."
- "If the goose honks high, fair weather; if the goose honks low, foul weather."
- "The squeak of the snow will the temperature show."
- "Ditches and manure piles smell stronger before a rain."
- "The more weather proverbs a farmer knows, the richer he'll be."
- "Fish and flies will bite just before it rains."
- "If the cock molts before the hen, we'll have winter thick and thin; If the hen molt before the cock, we'll have winter hard as rock."
- "If onion skins are very thin, then winter's mild when coming in. But if onion skins are thick and tough, then winter's long, cold and rough."

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Area News Briefs

Illinois Quad Cities Citizen Police Academy

Join the Moline, East Moline, Rock Island, Silvis and Milan Police Departments, along with the Rock Island County Sheriff's Department and IL State Police District 7 for their 2006 Illinois Quad Cities Citizen Police Academy. The academy runs from January 4th to March 15th with all sessions taking place on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

This is a great way for citizens to get to know and understand how their police departments work. Instruction will be presented by police officers. Participants will have an opportunity to shoot a police-issued handgun, tour the county jail learn about patrol tactics, laws of arrest and participate in a mock trial. Sessions are informal and questions are encouraged. Participants are also encouraged to go on patrol as a "Ride-Along" to witness first-hand, the police officer's work on the beat. Who can enroll? Persons who are at least 21 years of age and live or work in the Illinois Quad City metro area. Applicants will be subjected to a background and criminal history check. Applications may be picked up during business hours at the Moline, East Moline, Silvis, Milan or Rock Island Police Departments, the Rock Island County Sheriff's Department or the Illinois State Police, District 7 offices in East Moline. Interested citizens should contact Captain Doug Burke of the Moline Police Department at (309) 797-0420 or, via non-emergency numbers, one police departments listed above.



Special Quad Cities Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial

A memorial is being built in front of the Rock Island County Justice Center to honor law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty (within a 50 mile radius of Illinois and Iowa.)

Individuals, families and businesses are invited to participate in the memorial project by purchasing inscribed bricks to be placed around the memorial. Bricks may be inscribed with names and dates related to officers or in memory of special people, family names, business or to commemorate a special occasion.

There are two sizes of bricks. 4" x 8", minimum donation \$50.00 8"x8", minimum donation \$100.00. Maximum of 16 letters, 0spaces and punctuation marks per line. The 4"x8" brick will accommodate 3 lines, the 8"x8" up to 7 lines.

Contact Lori Burns at 309-558-3455 for details. If you prefer, write out your brick order on a blank sheet of paper. Give your name, address, phone number and what you would like on your brick as you want to see it. All lines will be centered.

Send your information and donation check made out to:

Q.C. Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial

P. O. Box 354

Milan, Illinois 61264

This may shock you, but I believe the single most significant decision I can make on a day-to-day basis is my choice of attitude. It is more important than my past, my education, my bankroll, my successes or failures, fame or pain, what other people think of me or say about me, my circumstances, or my position. Attitude is that 'single string' that keeps me going or cripples my progress. It alone fuels my fire or assaults my hope. When my attitudes are right, there's no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme, no challenge too great for me.

— Charles Swindoll

Unusual Historical Internet Site

Tammy Laud, Postmaster at Hampton's Post Office has found an unusual internet site for lists of past and present Postmasters by city. For those related to local families that have been in this area for quite a while, it might be interesting to see if a relative was ever a Postmaster. Anyone may look up any US location:

Go to www.upsp.com

Click on: Postal History then Postal History Resources

Click Historian (www.upsp.com/postmasterfinder)

Find Postmaster by city then, type in the name of the city and state.

For most locations, a list of postmasters will appear with the dates of their service. Are you related to anyone you see?

Hampton Youth Committee Holds Holiday Outing

December 3rd, the Hampton Youth Committee along with numerous parents and helpers held their annual outing for the area youngsters. Each child activities are subsidized so the entire day for them only costs \$2.00. The day started with a bus trip to see a movie and have a soda. After the movie, all returned to the Hampton Heritage Center to have lunch with Santa. Many secret Christmas wishes were whispered to Santa while parents snapped photos. To keep the waiting children happy and occupied, they had their choice of make-and-take crafts. Tables were set up around the room and manned by volunteers who helped the kids decorate cookies, make a variety of ornaments and gifts. Even the birds were not left out. If you'd like to make more gifts for the birds, here's how it's done:

Find the largest pine cones possible. Thoroughly spread peanut butter over the entire cone and roll in wild birdseed pressing seeds into the peanut butter. Tie yarn or heavy thread around the top and hang in a tree where you can watch the birds enjoy your gift.



More Reaganisms:

"If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

"The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program."

"I've laid down the law, though, to everyone from now on about anything that happens: no matter what time it is, wake me, even if it's in the middle of a Cabinet meeting."

"It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first."

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

"Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards, if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book."

"No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."

Randolph, Winston Churchill's father, expressed his caustic wit on a visit to the home of Lord Beaverbrook. It seems Lord Beaverbrook's servants, while at home, referred to their master only as "the Lord". When Churchill was seated in a waiting room, the butler is said to have told him, "I'm sorry, sir, but the Lord is walking in the park."

"Oh," said Churchill. "On the lake, I presume?"

Support Your Local Entrepreneurs

Gift giving and the marketing strategies that enticed us to "buy, buy, buy!" have created two distinct types of shoppers: those that still put up with traffic and hiking long distances through a mall and those that prefer convenient door-side parking, individual attention and the unique gifts offered by local entrepreneurs. Which are you?

For decades, many of us have allowed ourselves to be convinced that all celebrations are made better only if the honoree is lavished with a mound of gifts. Daily, we are exposed to advertising messages ranging from expert "guilt-tripping" to "what-will-people-think-of-you" status boasting sales techniques.

It takes some genuine self-examination to realize the economic trap we have fallen into. As shopping consumers and gift givers, we have assumed the requirement of giving multiple gifts to each person regardless of the cost, quality or the damage to our budgets. Since when did five gifts, massed produced by the millions, reflect better on the giver or the recipient than one unique, thoughtfully handcrafted item? Considering time, gas, added impulse buying expense and the stress generated during mall shopping trips, why not change your ways and really savor the holidays?

This year, shop exclusively at the non-chain stores that enhance your immediate area and employ your neighbors. Entrepreneurs know they must offer better quality goods and services in order to attract customers. The once-abandoned business districts in small communities are being converted, not by chain stores but by entrepreneurs, into convenient and attractive places to visit for food, fun and shopping. Only teens want everything just alike with their friends. Reserve adult gift shopping for a time when you can personally enjoy the shopping experience in your immediate area.

The shopkeepers in LeClaire have created a "creative district" that can fulfill all your Christmas needs. On the Illinois side are numerous small businesses from Port Byron down river to Moline that can satisfy the most discerning gift seekers.

An hour on the Internet pre-shopping is worth 5 hours in the mall. Check out the small stores and look up their information before setting out to shop. Just looking at categories of stores will give you ideas for those special people on your list. If you have something particular in mind, call the store before making the trip. See <http://www.kwgc.com> and click on their "QC Area Business Guide". There are businesses listed by category. If you can't decide what specific item to give, consider a gift certificate to an interesting place. Inventory is always changing in an entrepreneur's shop and the actual visit to their stores with a gift certificate in hand is half the fun of the gift. Listed below are those who have advertised in the Crier this year who offer gift certificates:

Ancient Armoapothecary & Massage Therapy	309-912-2036
Antiques By Evelyn Via e-mail:	elp@antiquesbyevelyn.com
Beach Bum Tanning, Rapids City	309-496-1994
Best Choice Meats, East Moline	309-752-0399
Blimpie Subs & Salads, Hampton	309-755-7827
Brother's Restaurant & Gift Shop, Rapids City	309-496-2965
Colona Chiropractic, Colona	309-796-3970
Cyndi White Hair Design, Hampton	309-496-9870
Fyt 'N' Fun, Rapids City	309-496-3434
East Moline Feed Mill, East Moline	309-755-4134
Jimmie Lee's Ribs on the River, Port Byron	309-523-0409
K & D Woodworking, Hampton	309-755-6644
LeClaire Shopkeepers	(Call individual stores)
LeClaire Chiropractic, LeClaire	563-289-2225
Mane Street Hair Co., East Moline	309-715-9080
Mississippi Riverfront Deli/The Expresso Stop, P.B.	309-523-2000
P.C. Wizard, East Moline	309-796-2887
Pies 'N' Such, Hampton	309-752-5295
Porter's Village Rx & Citgo, Hampton	309-755-3862
Quinn Hardware, Hampton	309-755-1641
River Road Restaurant, Hampton	309-755-9230
Subway, East Moline	309-755-3663
TEC Solutions, Rock Island	309-788-7650
Touch of Tuscany, Rapids City	309-496-1764
T's Trinkets & Crafts, Rapids City	309-496-3202
Up Scale Resale & Consignment, Rapids City	309-496-1994
Zarubas Salon & Day Spa, LeClaire	563-289-5754

As a quick locator of Gift Certificate Businesses watch for this symbol on ads throughout this Crier issue.



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25871 Angel Ferry Rd., Geneseo	\$169,900	SOLD-SOLD
301 E. 5th Ave., Colona	\$149,900	<i>Awesome ranch condo/villa</i>
4429 - 51 St., Moline	\$114,900	<i>Great 3-5 Bdrm. family home</i>
1304 - 101 Ave. Ct. West, R.I.	\$94,900	<i>Ranch home in country Atmosphere</i>
1331 - 42 St., Rock Island	\$74,900	<i>Cute bungalow-private cul-de-sac</i>
1127 - 15 St. A, Moline	\$64,900	<i>Duplex or single family</i>
1020 - 16 Ave., R.I.	\$34,900	<i>Great investment property!</i>
5319 - 30 Ave., Moline	\$34,000	<i>.34 Acre lot in town!</i>
2507 - 214 St. N. #295, Port Byron	\$28,900	SOLD - SOLD

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Another Big THANK YOU!

The Crier starts with a very messy process of sorting hundreds of small slips of paper that are pasted to special paper using a light table. Once the rough layout is done, the process can't easily be interrupted. Hence, while pasting up this issue of the Crier, the driveway and sidewalk were neglected although piled with snow. Along came our great neighbor, Chris Larrison and cleaned off the snow so the car could get out to deliver the original pages to the printer. WOW, Thanks Chris!

A New York butcher prided himself on remembering the names of his customers but for some reason "Dressler" seemed to give him trouble. One day, the jolly, large Mrs. Dressler told him to just remember "Dress" and add "ler" to it. She quipped, "I'm a large person who wears a good sized dress. Just remember that it's the biggest thing about me."

Several days later she returned to the butcher shop and stepped up to the counter with an expectant look on her face. It quickly changed to a frown when she was greeted with: "Good afternoon, Mrs. Butler!"

From England: In the Essex village of Ugley, a woman's group changed their organization's name from Ugley Women's Institute to the Women's Institute (Ugley Branch).

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QCTRADE.COM, the Quad Cities online marketplace offers you three different ways to post items online: auctions, fixed price (like classifieds), and straight trades (like a swap meet). This Quad Cities web site is where people can buy, sell or trade for free. There is no charge for insertions, re-listing or final-value fees. You also have the ability to promote your items in a category with several photos to clearly illustrate each piece.

Membership enables you to put your listings on the homepage, feature in the gallery, open a marketplace store, or have your items listed higher in the category search results - all for free.

The site is owned and operated by two entrepreneurs, Scott Fairly of Moline and Bill Murray of Los Angeles. (Mr. Murray is the webmaster for Variety.com). Both men have strong ties to the communities in this area and would like to expand the site to serve both local businesses and the community at large.

<http://www.qctrade.com>

QC Trade.Com

No Final Value Fees

Listings are Free - Registration is Free

No Penalty for Selling your Item

No Sliding-scale fees - No hidden charges

"Among the thousands of tiny things growing up all over the land, some of them under my very wing - watched and tended, unwatched and untended, loved, unloved, protected from danger, thrust into temptation - among them somewhere is the child who will write the novel that will stir men's hearts to nobler issues and incite them to better deeds.

There is the child who will paint the greatest picture or carve the greatest statue of the age; another who will deliver his country in an hour of peril; another who will give him life for a great principle; and another, born more of the spirit than of the flesh, who will live continually on the heights of moral being, and dying, draw men after him.

It may be that I shall preserve one of these children to the race. It is a peg big enough on which to hang a hope, for every child born into the world is a new incarnate thought of God, an ever fresh and radiant possibility."

Kate Douglas Wiggin

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792-8181 East Moline, IL

Samuel F. B. Morse, Father of Modern Day Communications

The legend of the invention of "the greatest triumph which human genius ever obtained over space and time" began when an American artist named Samuel Finley Breese Morse took a trip in 1832 on the good ship *Sully* from Havre to New York.

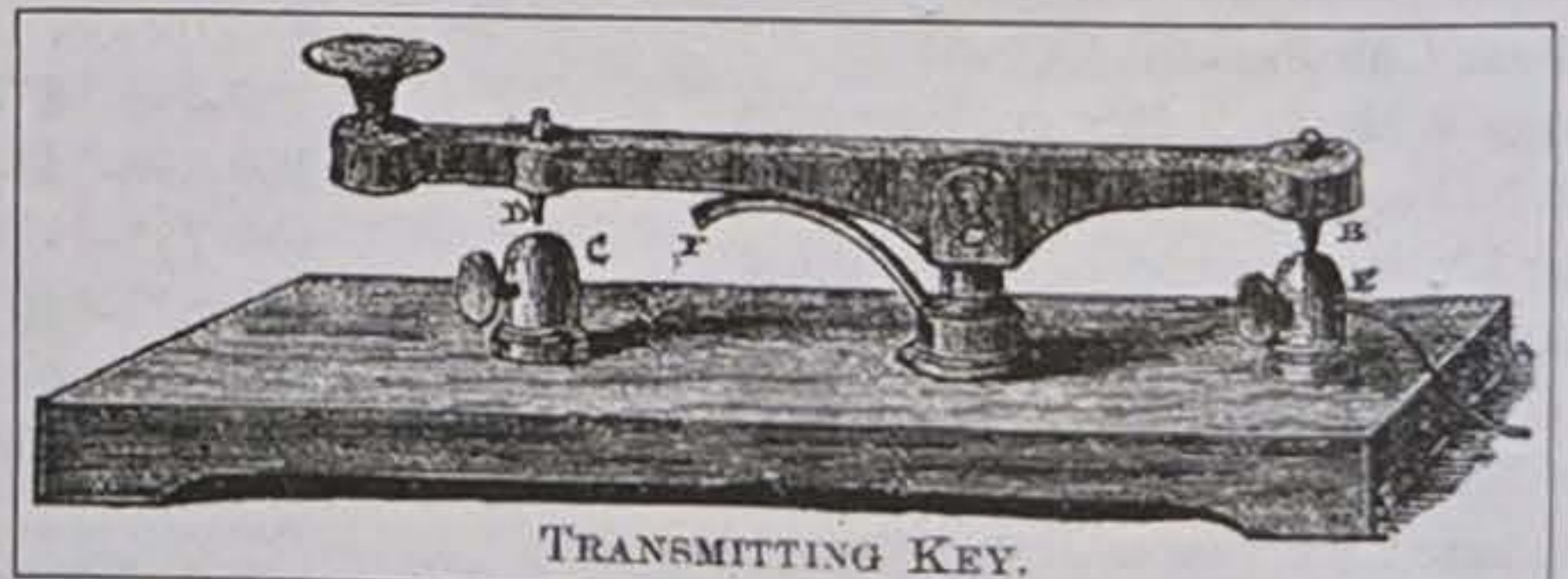
Day after day, the artist talked with a professor about electricity and how Benjamin Franklin proved it could travel along a wire. In the middle of the ocean, the idea of using electricity to transmit messages took such deep hold of Morse's imagination that he left off painting and devoted his time and money to making that idea a practical reality. Others had begun work on similar ideas as early as 1800 but none were successful.

Morse had started his studies at Yale College in Science but through the next 40 years gave most of his time to his art, keeping the study of chemistry and physics, especially electrical and galvanic experiments, as a hobby. His meditations during the ocean voyage saw him arriving in New York with his Morse code alphabet made and sketches of his preliminary machinery drawn out in his notebook.

It would be 12 years of want and struggle until his dream became a reality. During that time, he and his three motherless children were supported by his family and friends. Even when he was successful, no one would give him a patent and our government refused to do anything with it. Finally, in 1843, in the last hours of the congressional spring session, \$30,000 was set aside for trials on a line to be set up between Washington D.C. and Baltimore.

The experiment was finished just before the 1844 Democratic Convention in Baltimore. Mr. Morse received telegraphed dispatches from the convention and read them to a large crowd that gathered around his Washington window. The rapid relay of information was a marvel to all who heard Morse's announcements but when the word came that Mr. Polk had been nominated, many waited until the mails brought confirmation to call the telegraph a success.

As with most life-changing inventions, the story didn't end there. Lawsuits were brought by others saying they had designed the telegraph. After years in the courts, all the suits were settled in Morse's favor. He was subsequently honored with medals and untold wealth from his invention.



TRANSMITTING KEY.

- ..The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as a substitute for blood plasma.
- ..No piece of paper can be folded in half more than 7 times.
- ..Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.
- ..You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching TV.
- ..Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are fifty years of age or older.
- ..The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.
- ..The king of hearts is the only king without a mustache.
- ..A Boeing 747's wingspan is longer than the Wright brother's first flight.

A teacher asked one of her students, "Do you know Lincoln's 'Gettysburg Address'?"
 "No, I don't," the student replied. "But all of the Presidents after him lived at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C."

Communication using Morse Code

The telegraph works because electricity running through a wire can be interrupted to create a signal with only 2 modes. "On" or "Off." Morse's code dealt with the intervals. A short (dot) signal and a longer one (Dash). Today, our computer systems are based on the same principle - "0" and "1".

Untold lives have been saved using Morse Code. Scouts have also spent hours learning the code and creating secret messages passed among friends. Although Morse code has almost ceased to be used since the rise of voice communications, the armed forces still trains up to 2,800 code operators each year. Every US merchant ship must have on board, a radio officer who can transmit and receive Morse Code who must spend up to eight hours a day monitoring the radio for Morse Code distress signals. Ham radio operators, Boy Scouts and many smaller sailing craft still use Morse Code to communicate.

The S.O.S. international distress signal was replaced with "Mayday" in 1977 when satellite-based electronic systems came about. Many think the S.O.S. stands for "Save our Ship" or "Save our Souls" but it officially has no meaning. The signal first used was "QCD" meaning "Attention all Stations" followed by the call letters of the ship. During times of crisis, the longer message was too complicated to remember. During an international conference, it was agreed that the simplistic S.O.S. would be quicker and if the sender could not remember the order of dots and dashes, the continuously repeated message : 3 dots, 3 dashes, 3 dots, 3 dashes would still be understood.

As a winter project, why not teach yourself Morse Code? The chart below should help. There is a very short gap between letters, a medium gap between words and a long gap between sentences. A Dash is equal to 3 dots in length. If you are not tapping out the code, try writing out messages or translating from letters into dots and dashes. There are even some computer programs that will automatically convert text into Morse Code but doing it manually is a better teacher and more fun. For more history and instructions go to the internet and use key words: Morse Code History

A . -	U . . -
B - . . .	V . . . -
C - . - .	W . - -
D - . .	X . . . -
E .	Y - . - -
F . . - .	Z - - . . .
G - - - .	
H	
I . .	
J . - - -	
K - . -	1 . - - - -
L . - . .	2 . . - - -
M - -	3 . . . - -
N - .	4 -
O - - -	5
P . - - .	6 -
Q - - . -	7 - - . . .
R . - .	8 - - - . .
S . . .	9 - - - - .
T -	0 - - - - -

Hands Off Halogen Light Bulbs

Halogen light bulbs are made of a durable quartz glass in order to withstand the higher temperatures (250° C) generated than in a traditional bulb made of soda-lime glass.

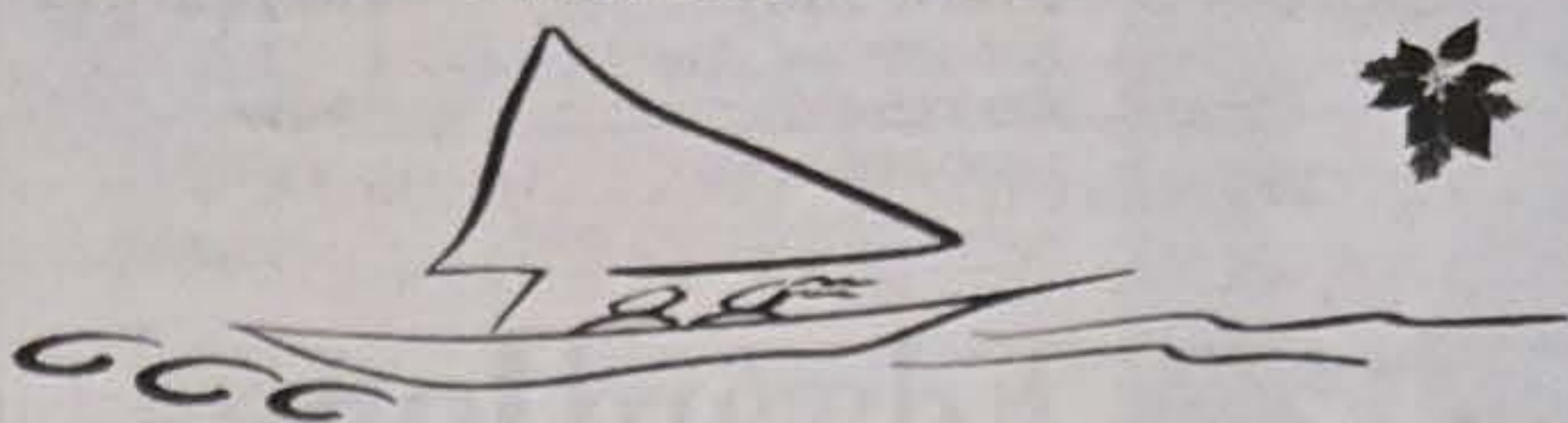
If you touch a halogen bulb, the natural oils from your skin will remain on the glass. When illuminated, the oils will heat and change the crystalline structure of the bulb glass. The bulb might crack or leak. Air can then get into the filament and, in extreme conditions, cause the bulb to explode.

To avoid the possibility of an explosion, use gloves or a thin cloth when inserting bulbs. If you notice oily prints on a bulb, wipe it off with denatured alcohol. ♦

A glamorous s. opper approached a perfume clerk: "Do you have something that will bring out the mink in a man without disturbing the wolf?" ♦

The Mississippi Riverfront Deli 'The Espresso Stop'

101 N. Main Street, Port Byron, IL 309-523-2000
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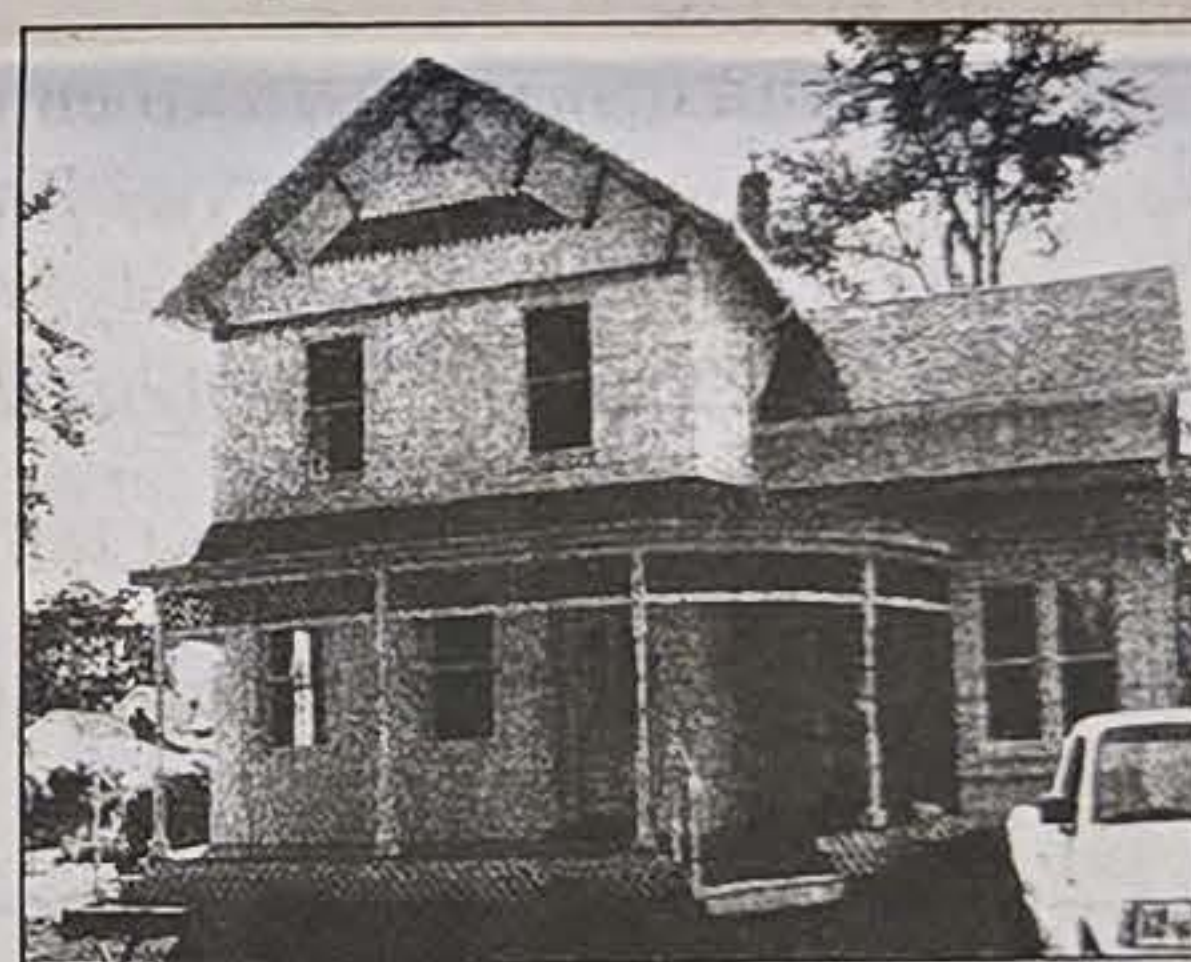
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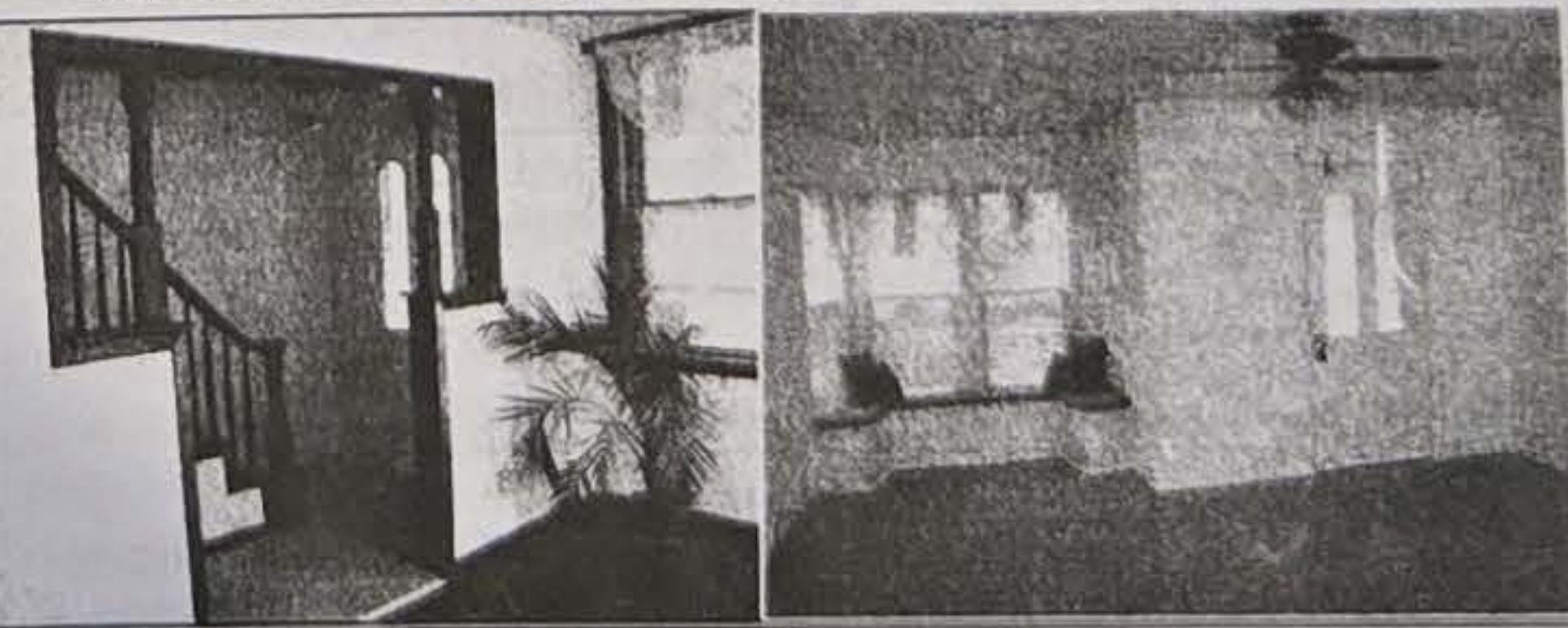
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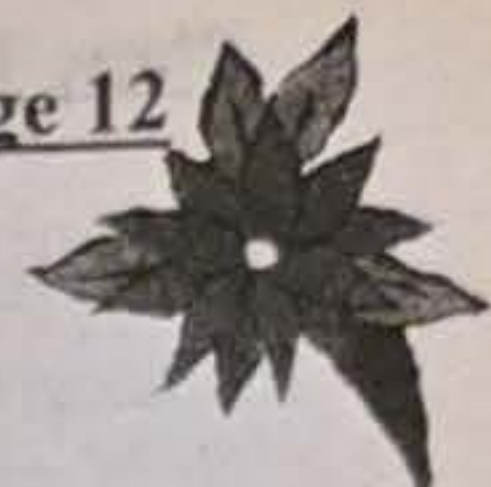
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**Mississippi Valley Regional
Blood Center Schedule**

If you belong to an organization, school or business that would like to sponsor a blood drive, call Devon Gay at 563-823-4120

During the holidays when schedules become crowded with social events and gift shopping, please remember to give the gift of life, donate blood during the holidays when the need is great and supplies tend to run low.

Local Blood Drive Schedule:
Friday, December 16th Port Byron, IL

River Valley Regional library, 214 South Main St., Time: 12:30-4:00 p.m.. Call Devon Gay at 1-800-747-5401 X257 to schedule an appointment or just walk in.

Saturday, January 14, 2006, Rapids City, IL

Churches of Upper Rock Island will hold their drive at the Countryside Christian Church on old Route 292 just down the road from Falcon Farms mobile home park. Time: 7:30-11:30 am. The goal is 35 units so please plan to give. Call Robin Campbell at 309-292-7804 to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins are always welcome!

MV Regional Blood Center, 3450-38th Avenue, Moline. Call 309-764-8504 for an appointment or just walk in! Visit our web site at www.bloodcenter.org

About Those Holiday Poinsettias

What color is the Poinsettia flower? It's yellow. The tiny yellow buds are in the center of the "bracts" (modified leaves) are the true flower and reproductive mechanism for the plant. Because the plants keep their leaves longer than the flowers, plants will remain attractive all the way through the holidays.

From where did poinsettias originate? The showy tropical plants are native to Mexico but also grow naturally in Chile and Peru where they are called "Crown of the Andes".

Who introduced the plants to the US? In the early 1820's, President Andrew Jackson appointed, as the first US Ambassador to Mexico, Joel Roberts Poinsett who was deeply interested in botany. Poinsett introduced the American Elm into Mexico and brought cuttings from a beautiful shrub he found beside a Mexican road to his greenhouse in South Carolina. Famous historian, writer and horticulturist William Prescott named the poinsettia in honor of its discoverer. (Although Poinsett had an outstanding career with the government, his biggest claim to fame was bringing the Poinsettia plant to the US in 1825).

Are all Poinsettia imported from Mexico Today? No, they are commercially grown in all 50 U.S. states with California being the leader by providing about 80% of the over 60 million grown each year. About 90% of all poinsettias are exported from the United States.

Quick Facts:

- Poinsettia, which can grow into a 10 Ft. tall shrub, are NOT poisonous.
- Poinsettia represent over 85% of the potted plant sales during the holiday season.
- December 12th is National Poinsettia Day.
- There are over 100 varieties of poinsettia available with colors ranging from the traditional deep red to pinks, cream and more recently, multi-color or spotted bracts. Hybrids also vary from 6" tall to huge pots sporting traditional pointed or wrinkled bracts and the newest strain with bracts that mimic fully opened roses (look for name "Winter Rose")
- \$220 million worth of poinsettia are sold during the holidays.
- 80% Of poinsettia are purchased by women. The cost of the plant is determined by the number of blooms (bract).
- Keep potted plant soil moist but not in standing water on a plate.
- Keep plants in bright but not direct sunlight, and away from heat sources like fireplaces.
- Commercial growers restrict sunlight from getting to plants for weeks at a time in order to trigger color changes in the bract.
- You may cut the bracts to use in your holiday arrangements.


Village Hall Renovations

The Hampton Village Hall steps have, for years, have become progressively more uneven, slanted and in need of repair. Mud-jacking under the steps was considered as a remedy but as safety concerns also began to include hand rails, the project changed to total replacement of steps and new, sturdy hand rails. Weather delays made going through the basement entrance confusing for residents but the wait was worth it. Now, those visiting the hall, appreciate the even, shallower steps.



Life on the train

A while back, I read a very interesting book that compared life to a train ride or a series of train rides.

"Life is like a train ride, it read. We get on. We ride. We get off. We get back on and ride some more. There are accidents and there are delays. At certain stops there are surprises. Some of these will translate into great moments of joy, some will result in profound sorrow.

When we are born and we first board the train, we meet people whom we think will be with us for the entire journey. These people are our parents! Sadly, this is far from the truth. Our parents are with us for as long as we absolutely need them. They too have journeys they must complete. We live on with the memories of their love, affection, friendship, guidance and their ever presence.

There are others who board the train and who eventually become very important to us in turn. These people are our brothers, sisters, friends and acquaintances, whom we will learn to love and cherish.

Some people consider their journey like a jaunty tour. They will just go merrily long. Others, will encounter many upsets, tears, losses on their journey. Others still, will linger on to offer a helping hand to anyone in need. Some people on the train will leave an everlasting impression when they get off... Some will get on and get off the train so quickly, they will scarcely leave a sign that they ever traveled along with you or ever crossed your path.

We will sometimes be upset that some passengers whom we love, will choose to sit in another compartment and leave us to travel on our own. Then again, there's nothing that says we can't seek them out anyway. Nevertheless, once sought out and found, we may not even be able to sit next to them because that seat will already be taken. That's Okay - everyone's journey will be filled with hopes, dreams, challenges, setbacks and good-byes. We must strive to make the best of it... no matter what...

We must constantly strive to understand our travel companions and look for the best in everyone. Remember that at any moment during our journey, any one of our travel companions can have a weak moment and be in need of our help.

We too may vacillate or hesitate, or even trip. Hopefully, we can count on someone being there to be supportive and understanding.. The bigger mystery of our journey is that we don't know when our last stop will come. Neither do we know when our travel companions will make their last stop. Not even those sitting in the seat next to us.

Personally, I know I'll be sad to make my final stop...I'm sure of it! My separation from all those friends and acquaintances I made during the train ride will be painful. Leaving all those I'm close to will be a sad thing. But then again, I'm certain that one day I'll get to the main station only to meet up with everyone else. They'll all be carrying their baggage...most of which they didn't have when they first got on this train. I'll be glad to see them again. I'll also be glad to have contributed to their baggage, and to have enriched their lives, just as much as they will have contributed to my baggage and enriched my life.

We're all on this train ride together. Above all, we should all try to strive to make the ride as pleasant and memorable as we can, right up until we each make the final stop and leave the train for the last time. All aboard! Safe journey!! Bon Voyage!

(Sent to the Crier by Reader Lee Nordgren Thanks Lee!)

LIVING LANDS & WATERS

The crew from Living Lands & Waters has returned from their trip down the Mississippi to assist Katrina victims. Since September 29th, the crew has been helping to clear the debris in private homes and public thoroughfares. When Chad Pregracke's LL&W barge started south, it was loaded with building materials that returning workers say are not to be found at any cost in the flood and hurricane damaged areas.

The 18 member crew reported their time helping those that had lost everything was extremely emotional but rewarding. The crew mostly lived on the barge during their extended trip. They will winter in the QCA and resume waterway clean ups next season.

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Making It Happen!

A wealthy man sent his beautiful and rebellious twin daughters on a cruise as a graduation present to get them away from their unsuitable boyfriends. He asked his friend, the captain of the ocean liner to please make sure they didn't get into trouble.

For several days on board, they grew tired of being seated at a table with women only. On the third day out, they met the captain and told him that everything about the ship was lovely, except that they were at a table with nothing but women. Both girls put on their most winning smiles and ask if it would be possible for the captain to put them at a table with some nice bachelors.

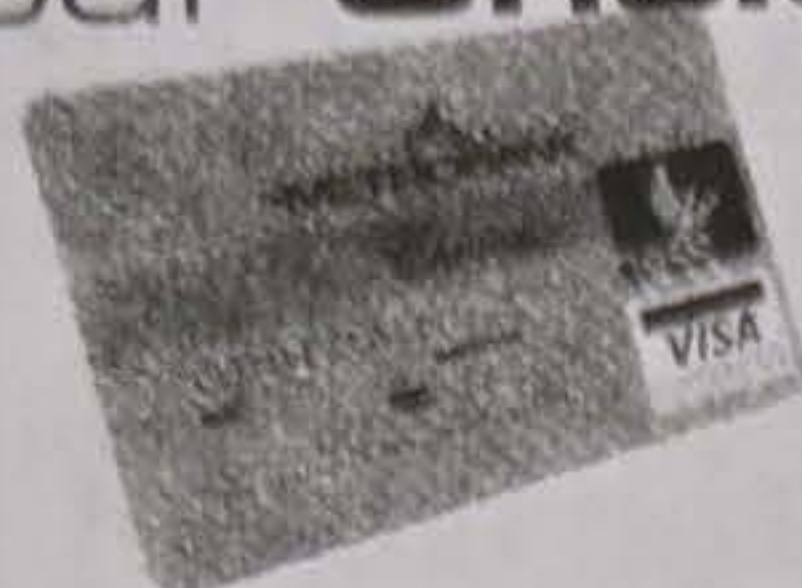
"Certainly, ladies," the captain replied gravely.

That evening, looking their prettiest, they swept into the dining salon to find that the captain had been true to his word: at their new table they were greeted by six smiling priests!

Life is a grindstone; whether it grinds you down or polishes you up depends on what you're made of.

— Jacob M. Braude

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East Moline Library News & Activities

Join the Bestsellers Club: You will automatically be placed on the reserve list for any of the popular authors you choose. Although we can't guarantee how near the top of the list you'll be, it's one less thing you have to do.

Story Time December 20 and 27, 2005

Story time Continues on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM.

Victorian Christmas Raffle Drawing

The Victorian Christmas Raffle begins selling \$1 tickets on **November 15 with the drawing held on December 17th**. Some of the prizes include books associated with that time period, such as craft and antique books. There is also a children's paper doll book and a trim-the-tree book for that period. An autographed History of East Moline book will be given to some lucky person. Watch for additional surprises whenever you visit the library.

Movie Matinee begins at 2:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 21**. Call the Library for movie titles.

Call us for information on our **Winter Reading Program "Hot Fun in the Winter Time"**. The program begins January 3rd, 2006 and ends February 27, 2006.

REMINDER: The library collects Campbell's labels. Please save yours and drop them off in our Campbell's deposit boxes located in the adult room or children's department. Your help is greatly appreciated!

The Library will be closed on December 23-26 and 30-31

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Fall Hours: Mon - Thurs. 9AM-9PM,

Fri. 9AM-5PM, Sat. 9AM-4PM, Closed Sundays

<http://www.rbls.lib.il.us/emp/index.html>

River Valley District Library Schedule

Join us every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month for River Reflections Movies 1:00 p.m. at the Library
12/15: The Polar Express

The First Friday of the month is a stamping class. Join the fun on the first Friday of every month at 9:00 am for a stamping class at the library. Call Beverly Skelton for more information at 309-523-2516.

Thursday mornings is Rhyme Tyme Story Tyme!

Bring the young ones at 10:00 am on Thursday mornings to join Ms. Cathy and Ms. Pam for stories, crafts and fun times.

Pajama Story Time:

Bring the kids to the library at 6:30 p.m. on Fridays - even in their pajamas - and join the fun. Call the library for titles of stories and dates for.

214 South Main St., Port Byron 309-523-3440

M-W-F: 1:00-8:30 p.m., Thurs.: 9:00-1:30 p.m. and 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturdays 9:00-1:00 p.m., Closed Tuesdays and Sundays

www.rbls.lib.il.us/pbp

New Brooms Sweep Clean

Brooms probably came about as a natural solution to the messy way people used to cook. Fire pits or hearth, ashes were always the messy result of cooking fires. Deep ashes would smother new fires so they had to be removed between fires to save fuel and make an even cooking heat. The first brooms were just branches with fine twigs on the ends. To more easily clean a deep hearth, several branches were tied around a longer handle. Through the years straw, grasses and all types of plant bundles were tried but none seem to work well.

About 1797, Levi Dickenson, a farmer in Hadley, Massachusetts made his wife a new type of broom. At this time, many people grew flax and harvested the fibers for weaving into cloth and using the strong fiber as thread or twisting into a strong twine. Levi used this strong twine to bind the tassels of the sorghum plants he raised into a superior quality of broom.

Sorghum was raised for a sweet molasses used in cooking. There are hundreds of varieties of sorghum but in all cases, they are an annual plant with a single stem, ribbon type leaves and tassels. One low-sugar variety we now call "broom corn" grows two feet tall or better and has the longest tassels among sorghums. Broom corn is what Levi used.

Although Levi's wife's praise created a demand for the brooms, they fell apart easily and needed replacing. Levi began to make improvements on how the bristles were attached to the handle. By 1810, a broom making machine had been invented that contributed to the Industrial Revolution. Eventually, holes in the handle, pegs and braces were added under the bristles and several layers of linen twine were used to bind the bristles together as well as secure it to the handle.

The mid-1800's saw the Shakers' religious order making huge design changes. They eliminated woven stems, holes and pegs and used wire to bind their brooms. They put their brooms in a vise while sewing it into the flat brooms we use today. American shops were able to produce so many quality brooms they began to export them all over the world - except England where local craftsmen obtained an embargo against Yankee Brooms. ♦



Broom Lore:

Dozens of old sayings relate to the buying and handling of brooms - apart, of course, from their use as transportation for both witches and their feline familiars:

- "Brooms bought in May sweep the family away."
- "If you set a broom in the corner, strangers will come to the house."
- Lay a broom across the doorway to protect the house.
- Throw a broom to ward off witches.
- Unwelcome visitors will leave if, in another room, you point the handle of the broom toward the door.
- It is unlucky to put a sweeping brush on a table.
- A servant will not get her wages if the head comes off her broom while she is sweeping.
- In order to secure the broom head to the handle, a round hole was drilled in the handle for pegs over which long bristles would be draped just before wrapping the handle with twine. In early days, manufacturer's had drills but no way to make round pegs so, they split wood and drove the resulting square pegs into the round holes. If not done just right, the handle would split. Hence our saying: "A square peg in a round hole" to describe someone that just doesn't fit in.
- Until the problem of securing the bundle of bristles to the handle was solved, a housekeeper could be sweeping ashes from the hearth or dust from her front steps and the bundle of bristles would come loose and go flying through the air. Many believe this is the origin of the phrase "Flying off the handle". ♦

Books are ships which pass through the vast seas of time.

- Francis Bacon

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New Year's Day Superstitions & Observances

There are superstitions attached to the turning of the year:

- Open all the doors on the stroke of midnight to let the old year out.
- Don't lend anything on New Year's Day or you will be lending all year.
- It's bad luck to break something on New Year's Day.
- The first person to enter the house on New Year's Day must come in by the back door and leave the house by the front door.
- For wealth, put coins in everyone's pockets, including children's.
- Don't throw ashes out of the house on New Year's Day in case Christ comes to visit and they land on his face thus, bringing you bad luck.
- Don't wash clothes on New Year's Day; if you do, you wash a family member away.

The traditional theme for New Years is repentance, atonement and resolutions to do better in the coming year regardless of the culture or the day the new year is celebrated. (In the Middle Ages, early Christian societies celebrated the New Year on March 25th, around the time of Easter. Many cultures use a different calendar so, celebrate on a day other than our January 1st.)

In Scotland, where they call New Year's Hogmanay, it is a custom to take a dog to the door, feed him a piece of bread then drive him away with the words, "get away you dog". All the ills and sins of the family were supposed to have departed with the dog.

Another observance has the first visitor of the New Year bringing a gift – a lump of coal. Symbolically, this is to keep the fire going. If the first fire of the year goes out, good fortune is said to be extinguished for the rest of the coming year. ♦

Birthdays

December Birthdays

- 11 Ryan Stapf
- 12 Eric Muench
- 13 Karlee Stapf
- Hilary Graham
- 16 Bernice LaPorte
- 17 Michelle Fluegel
- Michelle Trommer
- 18 Caitlin Becker
- 19 Sherry Arp
- Loren Arp
- Marcia Kruse
- 21 Evelyn Phillips
- Nate Gillespie
- 24 Sandy Rice
- 25 Carol Williams
- 27 Terry Erickson
- 29 Cari Brown Cady
- 29 Norman Muench
- 31 Matthew G. Cady

January Birthdays

- 2 Angela Cady
- 4 Sharon D. Muench
- 6 Jolynn C. Cook
- 7 Donna Cady
- 11 Diana Cox
- 13 Anita Gillespie
- 18 Benjamin Gillespie
- 21 Sarah M. Becker
- 29 Douglas Becker

Anniversaries

December, 2005

- 23 Leonard & Marilyn Hawk
- 23 Ralph & Diana Cox
- 24 Jeff and Donna Cady
- 29 Norma Muench

Man to his psychiatrist: "I have neither illusions nor delusions, Doctor. My problem is that I exist day after day in a world of grim reality." ♦

While driving around looking for a good day care center, two friends talked: "One day, I heard a prophecy that the end of the world was coming this next weekend." said the mother of one. The mother of triplets blinked her tired eyes, slumped a little in her seat and said: "Good!" ♦

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That is a good book which is opened with expectation, and closed with profit.
– A. Bronson Alcott

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Surviving and living your life successfully requires courage. The goals and dreams you're seeking require courage and risk-taking. Learn from the turtle, it only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.

Beautiful Wild Land

By Rocky Nelson

We live in the midst of it but often forget what a beautiful place this is. We notice the sunsets and the river occasionally but generally take it all for granted. I feel sure one of the reasons the early settlers came here was because of its beauty, especially if they came here through the sameness of the prairie. This month we'll discuss this a little bit.

Not far to the north, around Cordova is an area sometimes called Meredosia or the Meredosia bottoms. It is a low area with very sandy soil. It is at the boundary where Rock Island County meets Whiteside County. That sandy soil is good for growing melons. When the kids were small we used to go up to there in the Fall and buy watermelons, cantaloupe, and such things. It is a significant area for other reasons. For those, we need to refer to the past - a few thousand years ago. At that time the Mississippi flowed, not through where it is now, but through the low country to the East, joining the Rock River East of where we live. That old river left a peculiar depression or slough. Even after the river had changed its course, more where it is now, in times of high water the Mississippi still joined hands with the Rock. The old French explorers, the first Caucasians to see it, called it "Marais de Oger". Now, I had a year of French in college, but the vocabulary I learned didn't include those words but I understand they refer to a depression in the earth. When the English-speakers came around they thought it was "Meredosia", and so it is today. As the country was settled, the farmers didn't want the Ol' River to try to get together with the Rock. It was bad for the crops, so they built a dyke to frustrate the Ol' River. Actually, a lot of time, energy, and money were put into the job.

Back in 1965 we had a heck of a flood, the worst in years. You youngsters don't remember when the river covered the low part of East Moline and the inhabitants lived up at old North Campus UT, in the gymnasium. At that time there was real concern that the Meredosia dyke wouldn't hold. It did hold, but I've always wondered if it hadn't and the Ol' River had resumed its old channel, would we all be lowans today? Recent events down in New Orleans show us what that Ol' River can do when it takes a notion.

For all the river problems the country was still beautiful: lots of woods, much of it hard woods-oaks, walnut, hickory, and hard maples. In places, you'd find thick growths of river birch and swamp maples, along with willows on the river bank. I have three of those yellow birch and two soft maples growing in my yard. They came from Meredoia. My father-in-law owned land there.



In that lush countryside there was also much fruit available for the picking-crabapple, blackberry, plum, and numerous varieties of nuts. The early settlers took full advantage of all this, and also the animals that found easy living there. Among them were wolves, rabbits, squirrels, deer, wild cats, beavers, badgers, muskrats, and other beasts for the settlers to deal with. The land was good for growing vegetables and fruit, but it was awhile before wheat, oats, and other small grains, were grown. Not because the land was unsuitable but because milling facilities were absent. Remember how Lucius Wells built a mill in Hampton early on? These were among the earliest businesses to spring up. The settlers needed their daily bread. We might mention the quantities of birds that populated our countryside: eagles, geese, ducks, pheasants and countless smaller birds. Old letters often tell of the noise made by the various birds, some of it melodious, some just noisy. Prairie chickens were numerous and a favorite food. It was the arrival of barbed wire fencing that caused the demise of this little fowl. They decapitated themselves so much they have become virtually extinct.

The early settlers lived with nature and used it. Those who lived near the river did their washing on the river bank. They had plenty of water and wood. Many pioneer women had a big black kettle that they would fill with water, light a fire under it, and boil the clothes along with the soap they had made from the lard from last fall's butchering and the lye, made from passing water through a container of wood ashes. There were generally trees and bushes, handy for hanging clothes.

Life was hard for those early settlers, but by and large they were happy people. After all, they lived in the "Beautiful Wild Land".

Some Tips on Safeguarding Your Money

Submitted by Michael J. Ellis,
Sullivan Phillips Mortuary, Ltd.

The numbers are staggering. Every year according to the North American Securities Administrators Association. Americans lose over \$24 million - more than \$1 million an hour - to con artists over the telephone!

It is hard to believe that anyone could be stupid enough to fall for telemarketing scams - but watch out! Even doctors and lawyers have fallen victim to such schemes. Frequent targets are older people - especially newly widowed. They are conned into investing their "nest egg" - the only returns they receive are heartache.

How to safeguard your money? Law enforcement experts have a few suggestions:

- Don't give out your credit card number over the phone, especially to a salesman who calls unsolicited.

- Don't allow a telephone salesman to pressure you by telling you it's "now or never" for an investment.

- Get all the information you can about the company and investigate it with the Better Business Bureau or a reputable securities adviser.

- And do not be afraid to hang up on salespeople who intrude on your life with a sales pitch. Better to hurt their feelings than to risk money most of us can ill afford to lose.

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.Pericles (430 B.C.)



Dr. H. "Dan" Bobb, Dr. Armon Bert

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you and yours from the doctors and staff at Bobb Chiropractic Center



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If you have questions that you would like to submit for the Hampton Towne Crier column, "Ask the Doctor", call or contact us via e-mail at: DrBobb@bobbchiropractic.com

Mistletoe For All Seasons

Mistletoe is commercially available during the Christmas season but may be grown on a tree in your yard. (Apple, line and poplar trees work well).

A partial parasite with no roots, the plant is started in early spring by making small, shallow flaps in the bark, inserting some of the white berries with seeds and loosely binding over the insertion area. In winter, you will be able to see bare branches festooned with mistletoe. Its leaves are shaped like coat hangers and the berries white. The male and female flowers are borne on separate plants with only the females producing fruit/seeds.

Mistletoe has been valued from early history for its association with fertility and protection. In Roman times, women carried sprays with berries thinking it would increase their chances of conception. Couples kissing under the mistletoe during the holidays probably sprang from this belief.

As a potent antidote to witchcraft and even the devil himself, the sprays were often dried and kept hanging above doors and later windows. These magical powers have particular associations with the Druids (ancient Celtic priests), who used it in enacting their devotions, especially at Yule, a pagan mid-winter celebration marked by feasting and drinking. ♦

Obituaries

Thomas Campbell, 62 of Rock Island passed away on November 7, 2005 near Prairie DuChien, Wisconsin. Mr. Campbell, a popular UTHS teacher, died while on a fishing trip.

Mr. Campbell was born March 24, 1943 in Moline, son to Colin and Helen DeLanghe Campbell. He graduated from UTHS and earned a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and a master's from Western Illinois University. He married Carolyn S. Marckese on October 1, 1977 in Rock Island.

Thomas was a member of Pheasants Forever and loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing.

He is survived by his wife Carolyn, mother Helen Campbell, Hampton, sister Linda McChurch, Costa Mesa, California, a nephew Thomas McChurch and niece Aimee McChurch, both of California.

Many activities open to the community at Wildwood Church

Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 pm and the Christmas Day Service 10:00 am.

Open Gym for the whole family: Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:30 to 8:30. There are lots of things to do for everyone. On Friday nights, 7:00 to 9:00 we have co-ed volleyball in the gym. Bring a friend and join in the fun. There is no cost.

Out-Of-The-Cold Walking Track is open M-F, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, T & Thurs evenings 6:30-8:30 and Friday nights, 7:00-9:00. There is no charge.

Are you interested in **crafts**? We have a craft class remaining for December. Watch the next Crier for the 2006 schedule of craft classes. All are open to the public. Some involve a small cost, others have no cost. For more information on a particular activity, call Darlene at 309-496-2168.

December 16th 6:30-11:30 p.m. is Scrap Friday Night.

Last date to catch up on your scrapbooking for the year 2005. (In 2006, the 3rd Friday night of each month we will meet for scrapbooking).

We are developing a **basketball league for children grades K-4** for this winter called Upward Basketball.

- Equal playing time for every player
- 1 hour practice & game each week of the season
- Evaluation process to provide equal opportunity for improvement
- Each player signs up as an individual, not as a group or a team
- Every player receives: A) Upward Basketball Jersey, B) Upward Basketball T-shirt, C) Individual awards after each practice & game, D) End of the season award And more!

Evaluation night is in January. Practices and games will be held in the Wildwood Family Life Center Call 309-496-9397 for details.

We welcome the community to visit us for any of the above activities in our Family Life Center. You do not need to be a member or a regular attendee at Wildwood to enjoy these events. **We are located at 18717 Hubbard Road, East Moline (2 miles east of Stone's Apple Barn).**

***Merry Christmas and a
Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year***

JUST A MONGREL

By Mary Lou Schaechter

She was here again; that ragged slip of dogdom had come again. She often came at night to lick at the scattered crystals of frozen milk which cling (during the winter) to the rusty pan we use to feed our cat. Her owner didn't want her, so he had pushed her into a burlap bag and turned her loose about fifteen miles from here. Two days later she was here again with bones showing even more clearly and paws worn and bleeding. As she did many nights, she was touring the nearby homes, trying to find enough food to stay alive. We called her "Pepper" since she had brindle spots on white.

That night was different. It was Christmas Eve and we decided to give her a meal. We threw a crust of bread, coaxing her to come close to us. Flinching as though she expected to be beaten, she grabbed the bread, ducked behind the car, and wolfed it down. After throwing a few more pieces of bread to her, we finally managed to touch her head. Shivering from the cold, she then gladly crawled into the welcoming warmth of our house.

We fed her until she could not eat any more and she changed before our eyes. Her ribs barely showed and, because we rubbed it clean, her coat gleamed. Shyly, eyes glowing with love, she crept over to me and placed her moist nose against my hands.

Mom and Dad talked it over and decided we could keep the dog if she would stay. She acted as though she knew where she belonged and curled up among the presents under the Christmas tree, soon falling asleep.

Everyone thought that she was just a mongrel dog we were adopting, but we knew the truth. We knew that she was not "just a mongrel"; she was a gift sent to us on Christmas Eve by the real Santa Claus, the One who quietly weaves our destinies.

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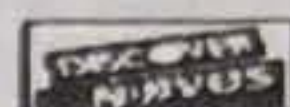
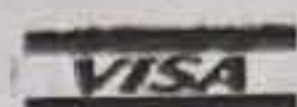
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The Party Goes On and On and On...

By Mary Lou Schaechter

The air was filled with the fragrance of biscuits baking in the oven. Pans of unbaked, rising biscuits added their yeast smell to the atmosphere. Every flat surface of the kitchen held bowls of prepared sandwich fillings, such as egg salad, chicken salad, sliced ham and bologna.



Steaming pans filled with eggs bubbled on the cook stove.

Twice the home had been cleaned from top to bottom. Everything must be dust free and spotless. Paint must be touched up, faded curtains replaced, floors scrubbed, and Christmas decorations hung. My sister and I had been brought here to help grandma in the kitchen.

Neighbors and friends would soon be arriving for the biggest party of the year. Today was New Year's Eve and, though no invitations were ever sent, young adults knew that this was the party of the year. Cars were parked all over the yard where room was always found for another vehicle. Each person arriving brought food and drink to add to the supply.

Nothing could stop the party. When the weather was bad, with freezing rain or snow, my uncles would go down the very steep, curving driveway with their tractor and pull each car to the top of the hill. When a car left, it would slide down the driveway in the deep ruts. This was just part of the fun.

My sister Judy and I stayed in the kitchen to help grandma. We were not allowed to be in the party rooms because we were too young, though once in a while I would be given a tray of sandwiches to put on the dining room table. I walked slowly and pretended to be a guest while I delivered the food.

As the party continued on and on and on, the guests became tired. Three upstairs bedrooms, the largest with four double beds, were available and they would sleep a couple of hours and rejoin the party that lasted until at least January 2nd, with some guests staying even longer.

My uncles and aunts married; the home was sold; the house was demolished; the hill was turned into gravel; the party's over. I believe the joy of the party will continue through this story and in the memories of those guests who had so much fun. The party goes on and on and on.

"To be courageous requires no exceptional qualifications, no magic formula, no special combination of time, place, and circumstance. It is an opportunity that sooner or later is presented to us all. Politics is merely furnish one arena which imposes special tests of courage. In whatever area of life one may meet the challenge of courage, whatever may be the sacrifices he faces if he follows his conscience - the loss of his friends, his fortune, his contentment, even the esteem of his fellow men - each man must decide for himself the course he will follow. The stories of past courage can define that ingredient - they can teach, they can offer hope, they can provide inspiration. But they cannot supply courage itself. For this each man must look into his own soul."

John F. Kennedy

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What do you know about the Squirrels you see every day?

1. How many toes does a squirrel have on each foot.
2. True or False: The Squirrel's tail is used for balancing, as a parachute if it falls, as a blanket, a danger signal a shield plus protection against sun & rain.
3. True or False: a squirrel can see above, below and behind without moving its head but has trouble seeing straight ahead.
4. Squirrels are found in every country in the world except Madagascar, Australia and the polar regions. How long is the African pygmy squirrel?
5. The giant Asian squirrel is over 3 feet long. How far do you think it can jump?
6. What US President brought flying squirrels to the White House as pets?
7. What US President used to gather acorns at Camp David to bring back for the White House Squirrels?
8. Which US President hated squirrels so had them trapped and shipped elsewhere?
9. How does a flying squirrel fly? How far can it go in one flight?
10. How many species of squirrels have been named?



Squirrel Quiz Answers
1.) 5; 2.) True; 3.) True; 4.) Only 5 inches long; 5.) 20 to 30 feet
6.) Teddy Roosevelt; 7.) Ronald Reagan; 8.) Dwight D. Eisenhower; 9.) They don't fly, they glide. The 3-4" squirrels launch themselves from a tall tree, stretch out the membrane between their front and back paws and glide up to 150 feet in one "flight"; 10.) 300 different species

It is easy to fly into a passion - anybody can do that - but to be angry with the right person to the right extent and at the right time and with the right object and in the right way - that is not easy, and it is not everyone who can do it.

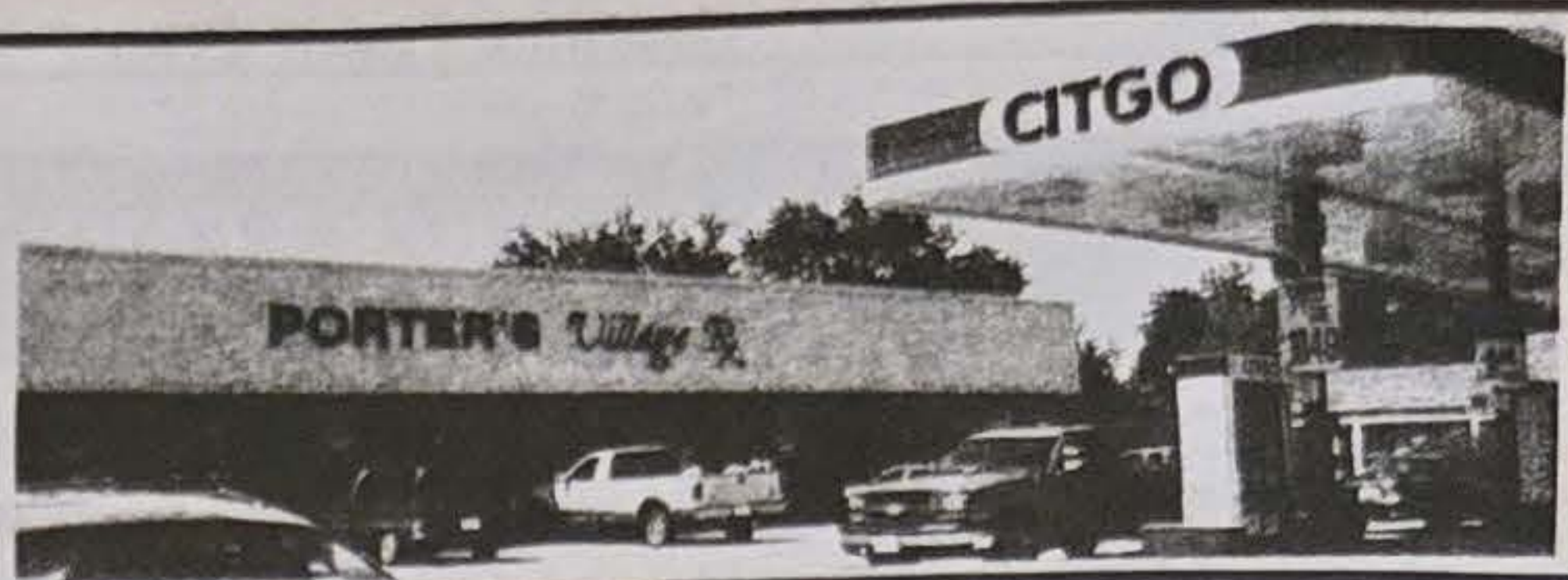
- Aristotle

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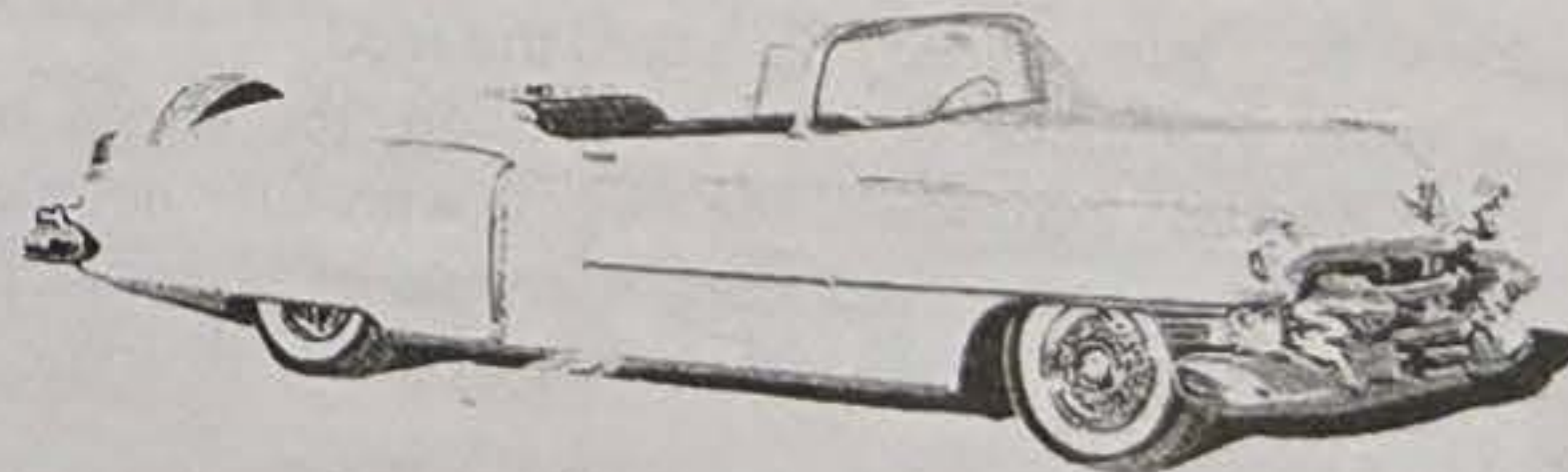


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