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APRIL 2022

WATCHING OVER SHORELINE INTERESTS

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 2

Garden Guidance



Sunflower Growing Tidbits

By Carol Holtrop
Advanced Master Gardener

Sunflowers, the perfect summer flowers in your garden, are sure to brighten your mood and attract attention from neighbors and wildlife. Just watching the plants grow makes us smile in anticipation of the bright yellow blooms, although sunflowers also come in black, white, red, burgundy, or some combinations of those colors.

Sturdy sunflowers also come in a variety of sizes from towering stalks 16 feet tall down to short, one-foot varieties. Flower heads come in a wide range of sizes, too, and different shapes. If you're looking for small, there are some just four inches across. Looking for big, statement-making blooms? They can get up to 12 inches across. I'm sure there are or will soon be some that push the ends of that range even farther apart. Most probably look like daisies, but my favorite is a short, poofy variety that has a bloom like a pompom, and it still produces seeds the birds love. Which would go best in your yard?

The size of your planting space and the amount

See **SUNFLOWER** on page 13



Upcoming Fishing Fun

By Ryan Walker

I once heard it said that when you are in Michigan you are never more than six miles from a body of water. While I have never personally measured that statement to prove its accuracy, my travels throughout the state have led me to believe it's true. I find it extremely satisfying bragging up the many outdoor activities Michigan has to offer in relation to our freshwater paradise. Friends and acquaintances, both new and old, who don't reside in the Great Lakes State will listen to me expound on the boating, swimming, and fishing opportunities prevalent in a state where you are never more than a few minutes away from water. Several times our conversations have led to questions like, "You can really only fish so much



A 10-inch crappie is a fine catch. While there is no minimum size limit for crappie, the daily bag is 25 per angler in any combination with the other sunfish species.

without getting bored, right?" The shortened answer to that question is no, while the longer, more drawn-out explanation is no; there are so many species, bodies of water, and seasons that I never get bored with fishing in Michigan.

All those fishing opportunities mean there's also a variety of rules and regulations that anglers must keep abreast of before hitting the waterways. A quick visit to the Department of Natural Resources page at michigan.gov will provide most of the information anglers need to know regarding the 2022–2023 fishing season. Let's take a few minutes to review some of the basic angling rules for the upcoming fishing season

See **FISHING** on page 7

Countryside Yarns

TALL TALE OR TRUTH? YOU DECIDE!

A Place to Call Home: Greta's Story Part 2

By Janis Stein

Join in the continuation as Greta's father informs his family of an upcoming monumental change that will have a profound impact on their future.

As the months went by, Father came to terms with our lot in life as he accepted Mother's death. More and more, he would come home right after his shift ended at the mine, rather than gathering at the hall for a beer or two. After the children were down for the night, Father spent his evenings whittling toys for the littlest ones, and not an evening went by when he didn't sit by the fire, a cup of coffee in hand and his head buried in the latest issue of an eight-



With more and more Germans facing political unrest and entire communities discouraged over their trampled freedoms, talks in Saxony turned to traveling to America to start anew. Map courtesy of Wikipedia.

page newspaper called the *Wegweiser*.

One morning as I readied Father's breakfast, I picked up the newspaper and scanned the headlines. Despite my love of reading, I'd never looked at it before – I hadn't the time or the energy – and I was

See **YARNS** on page 21

smile awhile

Words of Wisdom

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9 p.m. is the new midnight.
3. It's the start of a brand-new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
4. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
5. When I say, "the other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

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6. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
7. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
8. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
9. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
10. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
11. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
12. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
13. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
14. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
15. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
16. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
17. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
18. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

events

APRIL 2022

Harbor Beach:

23rd - Annual European Tower Pheasant Hunt - Sponsored by Harbor Beach Hospital Foundation - Ubly Rooster Ranch, 7480 Germania Rd., Ubly - Call 989-479-5023 or Email bvallier@hbch.org

Marysville:

9th - Knights of Columbus #9526 Ladies Auxiliary Craft Show and Bake Sale - 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Free Admission - The Knight Club, 1195 Gratiot Blvd. - Call or Text 810-990-9718 or 248-635-7011

To have your nonprofit event listed here, include the name of the event, city, date, contact person, and phone number.

Deadline for event submission is the 15th of the month prior to month of issue. Mail to: The Lakeshore Guardian, P.O. Box 6, Harbor Beach, MI 48441, or email to editor@lakeshoreguardian.com.

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VOLUME 24 ~ ISSUE 2

“When I was growing up I always wanted to be someone. Now I realize I should have been more specific.”

—Lily Tomlin

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A Great Lakes Sailor

Catherine Schmuck

Part 2

By Janis Stein

Join us in the continuation as our Canadian sailor shares adventures aboard the J. C. Phillips and the Silver Isle.

In June of 1983, Catherine worked aboard the *Louis R. Desmarais*, which became her favorite ship and is now known as the *CSL Laurentien*. Back then, four people worked in the galley, feeding a crew of about 32. Catherine worked on the *Desmarais* two different times, first as a porter. And, thanks to all those doughnuts, the captain of the *Desmarais* invited Catherine's parents aboard for a trip, which was a wonderful experience for all!

Always ready for a new adventure, Catherine and her sister decided to move out to Halifax, Nova Scotia, – they thought working on an oil rig might be fun. The rigs were just off Sable Island, 300 km southeast of Halifax. The sisters enjoyed the city of Halifax, and once safely landed, Catherine would even say traveling to work by helicopter was a cool experience – but she wasn't fond of flying, and she had to wear a survival suit in case the helicopter crashed, a thought that could not be eliminated once it took root.

Catherine quickly realized that, for her, working a 12-hour shift on an oil rig wasn't all that fun. There were over 80 people on the oil rig, thus a shortage of space. It was so overcrowded that not only did Catherine have to share a room, she had to share a bed. When she got up in the morning, she stripped the bed and went to work; her roommate, just getting off a shift, made the bed, climbed in, and slept. Once up, the bed was stripped again, and the cycle continued. Plus, on the lakes, Catherine had grown accustomed to one of her favorite things – long walks on the ship's deck. On the oil rig, there was no going outside, save standing on a little four-foot-square deck.

While working on the oil rig was interesting, it was time to move on. Catherine and her sister made the trip to Europe that they had planned a few years prior. The ships paid very well, and they took the opportunity to travel while they had it.

In January of 1986, Catherine had her first experience sailing aboard a tanker, the *J. C. Phillips*. Tankers hauled various grades of fuel, and she picked up the ship in Chatham, New Brunswick. It was supposed to be a longer job than the three days she was aboard, but they were in the middle of what the captain told her was only a small hurricane! She was so seasick and so scared. What came to Catherine's mind was akin to a Bugs Bunny cartoon where the curtain

would blow way out the port hole and then blow way, way back in. Catherine was lying in her bed, sick, and she knew she just needed to get paid off and get back to land. The captain assured her that it wasn't always like that, but there was no convincing Catherine! This was back in the day when rules were relaxed or nonexistent, and smoking was allowed in the galley, a time when the chief cook had this long ash hanging off the end of his cigarette, ash that Catherine was quite certain would end up in the soup! After three days, Catherine left the ship and disembarked in Halifax, Nova Scotia. While hesitant to go on another tanker, Catherine did pick up a one-week job on one, knowing that it was only seven days and she'd be off again.

Catherine belongs to the Canadian Seafarer's International Union, and thus has only ever sailed on Canadian vessels. The reason why Catherine has sailed on over 20 ships is because she's been on lots of short-running jobs – she'll take anything. Many people at the union hall won't take the short jobs because often they have to pay their own way to the ship, and sometimes pay again to get back home. Plus, a sailor has to find a ride out to the ship, but for Catherine, that's part of the adventure; she enjoys being given a destination and then planning how she'll get there and determining the best mode of transportation – and, of course,



*Once Catherine learns the level of adventurous foods her crew is willing to try, she loves creating new dishes for them that often wind up in the regular rotation. When she first made chicken enchiladas while aboard the *Louis R. Desmarais*, the sailors asked just what it was they were eating!*



Ordinary burgers become extraordinary when sandwiched between Catherine's homemade hamburger buns!

their own way to the ship, and sometimes pay again to get back home. Plus, a sailor has to find a ride out to the ship, but for Catherine, that's part of the adventure; she enjoys being given a destination and then planning how she'll get there and determining the best mode of transportation – and, of course,

See **SAILOR** on page 16

Schools of Yesteryear

By Janis Stein

Colfax No. 5 - Wakefield

Part 2

Join in the continuation to learn the remaining information descendent Hope Wakefield wrote about for a 1938 family reunion, as well as reminiscences documented in a letter to the editor from a student who attended the original log school.

The history of Colfax No. 5, also known as Wakefield School, dates back to 1886 and was located about five miles northwest of Bad Axe as the crow flies. The location of the original log schoolhouse, as shown on the 1890 plat map, stood in the northeast corner of the northeast quarter of Section 18 or the southwest corner of the intersection of Pigeon (M-142) and Pinnebog Roads. A new brick school was built in 1895 in the same location in Section 18, Colfax Township, Huron County.

"In this day when so many thousands of our people look to the government to fight their battles and earn their living for them it is indeed refreshing to review the life of Thomas Wakefield. It is so full of energy, vision and accomplishments. He died October 8, 1896 when only 53 years of age."

Following is another reminiscence, in part, of Wakefield School's early days featured in a local newspaper as a letter to the editor titled "Remembering

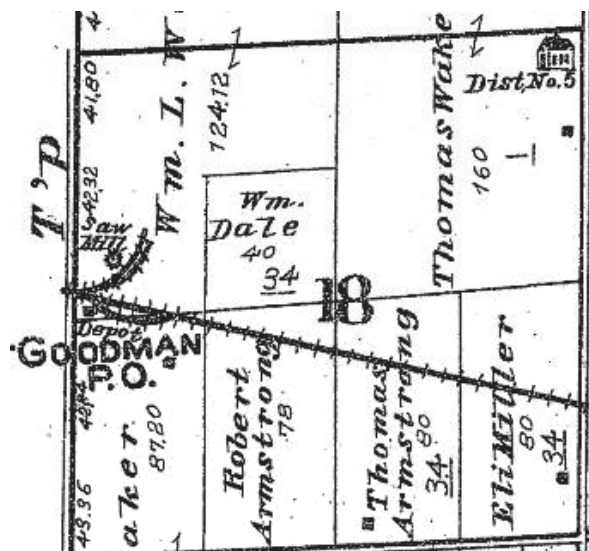
Huron Yesterdays" and written by a man who called himself Grandpa.

"Dear Editor:

"I told you in my last letter how [at] last the settlers were coming into the Wakefield district. Every few days a new scholar came to school and another bench had to be made. It is amusing now to remember the scrutiny those new scholars had to undergo, not only the first day, but every day until another one arrived.

"We very soon became a settlement of just what America is today. It didn't matter where you came from as long as you were glad to lend a helping hand and took an interest in the community affairs. Some of us spoke a different language (most of us were English or German) but we all believed and trusted in one God.

"We decided to start a Sunday School in that old log school. Like everything else undertaken in that neighborhood, it soon was a fine success. Ministers from Bad Axe heard of our efforts and visited us occasionally. As yet, we were not thinking of any particular denomination to align ourselves with. The important thing was to worship God and bring up the children to live right.



This cropped image of Colfax Township's Section 18 on the 1890 plat map shows Colfax No. 5's schoolhouse stood in the northeast corner of the section. Courtesy of Huron County Register of Deeds.

"As time went on politicians got to know we had some votes in that district. The only place to have a political speech was, of course, in the log school house. John Maywood, Editor of the Tribune at that time, brought out George Clark one time to make a speech. He was still in his teens. I remember that all the young fellows would have voted solid for him even had he been running for the president of the United States."

Although the log schoolhouse was already there in 1886 on land from Thomas Wakefield's farm, perhaps officials required the necessary paperwork

to show this parcel belonged to the school district – at least for the life of the school – because on January 30, 1892, a deed (Liber 47, page 455) was filed at the county courthouse showing a one-acre parcel owned by Thomas and Margaret S. Wakefield was sold to "School District Number Five of the township of Colfax in the county of Huron and State of Michigan" for \$40. The description on the deed follows.

"One acre of land in the North East corner of the North East quarter of the North East quarter of Section Number Eighteen in Township Number Sixteen North of Range Number Twelve East. So long as the same

See **SCHOOLS** on page 5

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—An excerpt from the 1912 Annual Statistical Report. Courtesy of the Huron Intermediate School District.

SCHOOL CENSUS of District No. 5 of the Township of Colfax, County of Huron, State of Michigan, for the school year ending July 8, 1912, as taken by John G. Stirton during the last fifteen days next preceding the first Monday in June.

John G. Stirton above named, being duly sworn, says following is a correct list, as taken by him, of the names and ages of all children belonging to District No. 5 aforesaid, five years of age and under twenty, together with the names and address of parent or guardian, and that said was taken in a house to house canvass during the fifteen days prior to June 1, 1912.

Subscribed and sworn to this First day of June, Aug. 1912. (Signed) John G. Stirton
Before me Clerk of Colfax Township

James Murphy
My commission expires April 1st, 1913

(The census list must be sworn to, to entitle the district to public money.)

READ THESE NOTES

1. If the district is fractional, write the names of the children in each township separately under the name of the township, beginning with that township in which the schoolhouse or site is situated. A separate statement must be made to the clerks of the several townships in which the district is in part situated, giving the number of children five years of age and under twenty residing in that part of the district lying within their respective townships.
2. If there is not space on this page sufficient to contain the names of all the children in the district, write the remainder upon ordinary foolscap paper, properly ruled, and attach it to this sheet. Do not use additional blanks.
3. The ages of the children must be given as they are on June 1, 1911. If a child removes from the district during the fifteen days preceding June 1, he should be enrolled in the district in which he is resident June 1.
4. Place opposite the names of pupils enrolled in 7th or 8th grade in the column provided, the number of grade in which they are enrolled.

NAME OF CHILD	AGE	NAME OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN
35. Ethel	6	Wm. Hazzard
36. Stephen	6	Alex. Hardy
37. Lillie	19	Fred Klemmer
38. Irvin	11	" "
39. Roxie	9	" "
40. John	7	" "
41. Albert	6	Wm. Lotter
42. Crete	15	W. H. McCarty
43. Corda	13	" "
44. Lila	7	" "
45. William	16	Wm. Maurer
46. Minnie	18	Stephen Miller
47. Willie	17	" "
48. Roy	16	" "
49. Charles	14	" "
50. Dan	13	" "
51. Leland	5	Jas. Lackenby
52. Alford	19	A. Otterbein
53. Mary	16	" "
54. Clara	16	" "
55. Arthur	12	" "
56. Clyde	18	Moses Shupe
57. Retta	17	" "
58. Ella	15	" "
59. May	13	" "
60. Andrew	10	" "
61. Lee	8	" "
62. Olive	5	" "
63. Edgar	14	Henry Steinbach
64. Betrice	9	" "
65. Roy	17	Geo. Wakefield
66. Dora	15	" "
67. Esther	13	" "
68. Frank	8	" "
69. Robert	7	" "
70. Mary Etta	5	Geo. Woodard
71. Allen Peter Giffel	13	" "
72. Joe Ward	18	J. G. Stirton
73. Ethel	17	Wm. McCumber
74. Grace	19	Henry Dafoe

NAME OF CHILD	AGE	NAME OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN	NAME OF CHILD	AGE	NAME OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN
1. Irma	14	Joseph Armstrong	18. Clayton	6	Melvin Dean
2. Greta	12	" "	19. Irma	14	Albert English
3. Robert	9	" "	20. Eva	10	" "
4. Lester	9	Robert Armstrong	21. Earl	10	" "
5. Avis	7	" "	22. Roy	7	" "
6. Lester	15	Ad. Armsted	23. Ray	7	" "
7. Ledston	13	" "	24. Carrie	17	Fred Holtz
8. Lulu	7	" "	25. Cora	15	" "
9. Floyd	13	Wm. Carr	26. Hazel	11	" "
10. Arthur	11	" "	27. Rilla	9	" "
11. Beulah	9	" "	28. Lillian	18	John Humphrey
12. Helen	6	" "	29. Janet	15	" "
13. Raiford	8	Nelson Carr	30. Earl	13	" "
14. Maxine	6	" "	31. Rachel	13	Wm. Hazzard
15. Harold	17	Henry Dafoe	32. Hattie	11	" "
16. Pearl	11	" "	33. Leona	8	" "
17. Bessie	10	Melvin Dean	34. Lea	8	" "

Author's Note: Some of the above names look like they are spelled incorrectly by today's standards, but the names were listed as spelled on the report. However, difficulty in deciphering a century-old document did exist; some name transcription errors may have occurred as a result.

SCHOOLS from page 4

shall be used for school purposes said one acre of land being Twelve rods wide East and West and Thirteen and one third rods long north and south. It being understood and made one of the conditions of this conveyance that whenever said school district number Five shall cease to use said land for school purposes, that said School district shall convey said land back to the parties of the first part their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns. Said First parties to pay back to said District the sum of Forty Dollars the price this day paid second party to parties of the first part."

More settlers came to the region and within 10 years of the log schoolhouse's construction, it likely became evident to the district's forefathers that a bigger

school was needed. A new brick schoolhouse was built in 1895 on the same parcel, the location description of which was detailed in the above 1892 deed. Over the next four and one-half decades, hundreds of children made their way to Wakefield School to obtain their education.

A description of Wakefield's new school was detailed in the "Sixty-First Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Michigan" for the year of 1897. In addition, the report compared the cost of a district investing in textbooks that were free to the students based on an 1890 recommendation versus other Colfax districts that had not yet followed suit.

"District No. 5, Colfax twp.—This commodious

school house set in the midst of fine, large grounds makes comfortable provision for the 80 pupils of the district, and is a type of the well built and finely furnished buildings of Huron county. The good wood shed, the fence with its turn-stile, the fine flag-staff on cupola, all betoken thrift and enterprise; but the outbuildings are cheap and not in keeping with the rest.

"The well lighted school room is ventilated by transoms over the windows, furnished with good desks well arranged, and equipped with all needful apparatus. Pictures, mottoes, and flags adorn the walls, and the teacher's desk stands in a small alcove lighted by a window at one side. A good book case holds the district

See **SCHOOLS** on page 19

The Doctor's Corner

K2



By Dr. Timothy Grondin

No, not the mountain range in the Himalayas but the vitamin K2, which you may not have heard much about, but it's an amazing vitamin that supports healthy bones and teeth and can even prevent or reverse coronary artery disease. You can get your K2 from cheese or meats and other animal products as well as fermented vegetables, such as kefir and sauerkraut. Here's how it all works in a nutshell, folks.

Basically, you get your calcium from eating deep green leafy vegetables, and when it moves from the stomach to the small intestine, it's carried into the bloodstream by vitamin D. Now that the calcium is circulating in the bloodstream, the vitamin K2 grabs the calcium and carries it off to the bones and teeth. That's how you avoid osteopenia and osteoporosis.

How does it affect the heart? Calcium accumulates in the arteries around the heart in the presence of chronic vitamin C deficiency. The lack of vitamin C leads to nicking and tearing of the artery walls, which is internal bleeding. To stop the bleeding, the body patches the cut with cholesterol and calcium, forming a plaque. The plaque caused less blood flow through the artery, setting you up for a heart attack. Vitamin K2 not only prevents

calcification of the arteries but can also pull calcium out of the plaque, reducing its size and increasing blood flow. In studies it's been shown to decrease heart disease risk by 51 percent and coronary artery disease by up to 44 percent. Impressive!

I started taking a K2 supplement recently, and I do recommend supplements – you're not going to get enough from food. Many K2 supplements come combined with vitamin D3, which is a good idea.

Yours in health,

Dr. Grondin

If you have any questions or suggestions for future topics, feel free to email Dr. Grondin at docgrondin@gmail.com, or call his office at 810-984-3344.

Dr. Timothy Grondin started his career as a medic (corpsman) in the Navy where he examined, diagnosed, and treated people for minor illnesses under the direction of an M.D. When Grondin left the military, he became a nurse and worked on the medical/surgical ward at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital for a number of years. Though he began taking pre-med courses at Oakland University, Grondin changed his mind, choosing to become a chiropractor instead. Grondin graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic in 1988 and has been in practice in Port Huron since 1989.

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Legally Speaking

Do I Really Need a Durable Power of Attorney?



By Amanda Roggenbuck,
Attorney at Law

Sometimes when a client reaches out to set up an estate plan, they want to skip the Durable Power of Attorney. They tell me

their family already knows what they want and how to access the checkbook. I hear them say, "I don't own a lot, and my kids will just take care of it."

While it is wonderful if there is no disagreement in your family, and your kids truly know everything you want to do and need done, it does not alleviate the fact that they don't have legal authority to act on your behalf without a durable power of attorney. A durable power of attorney allows you to decide who can act on your behalf when you can't. It also serves as a vehicle to avoid the necessity of a conservatorship should your health or capacity diminish to a point you cannot make sound decisions.

Going to court to set up a conservatorship takes time, and resources, meaning the people who are closest to you need to go to convince the court that you are not capable of making your own decisions and that they are the person best suited to make those decisions. Unfortunately, oftentimes, this is where families fall apart. Different folks mean different ideas, and family and friends can feel slighted if they are not included in the manner that they think they deserve. A durable power of attorney will generally avoid those issues.

The information in this article is not intended to serve as legal advice nor does it replace consulting a lawyer about your legal situation and questions. Amanda Roggenbuck, Attorney at Law, PLLC is currently accepting select cases in estate planning, family law, business planning, and probate fields.

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FISHING from page 1

and highlight two changes that could impact Thumb-area anglers. The first reminder is that rules for 2022–2023 apply from April 1, 2022, and continue to March 31, 2023.

A frequent question asked each year references the age at which an angler would need to buy a Michigan fishing license. If you are 17 years of age or older and fish in Michigan, you must purchase a fishing license. An interesting side note, if you are turning 17 at any point during the current season, you'll need to buy a license. Anglers under the age of 17 can fish without a license in Michigan. Licenses can be purchased online at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses or at a license agent near you.

An additional reminder for the upcoming fishing season is the number of lines an angler can have out while fishing. No more than three lines per person or no more than six hooks or lures per person may be used. All hooks attached to an artificial bait are counted as one hook. All lines must be under immediate control; it's not a good practice to put lines out and leave them unattended as a number of fish species in Michigan can haul an unattended pole to the murky depths.

Another area of the Michigan fishing guide rules that anglers should become familiar with is in regards to minimum size and daily possession limits. There are several exceptions depending on species sought and

location to be fished, but the standard shore fishing species tend to stay the same. For example, largemouth and smallmouth bass in our area must be 14 inches to keep and a daily possession limit is still five in any combination. Northern pike must be a minimum of 24 inches in and around the Thumb with a limit of two per day. Channel catfish have to be a minimum of 12 inches long, and anglers can keep 10 per day. Yellow perch have no minimum size limit, and a lucky angler can limit out at 25 perch. The sunfish species includes black and white crappies, bluegill, green and hybrid sunfish, longear, pumpkinseed, redear, rock bass, and warmouth. The sunfish species has no minimum size limit, and an angler can take 25 in any combination of the aforementioned species.

One new change for the 2022–2023 Michigan fishing season that may impact Thumb-area anglers is the walleye size limit on Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. Last season, walleye anglers on these two bodies of water were able to keep walleye that met or exceeded the 13-inch minimum size limit. This year the minimum size limit on Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River is 15 inches, which is the same as the statewide regulation. Therefore, there will be uniform walleye regulations throughout the connected waters of the St. Clair-Detroit River system, which includes Lake Erie, the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, and the St. Clair River.

A second change for the upcoming fishing season

is intended to provide a unique opportunity. New underwater spearfishing opportunities for walleye, northern pike, and lake trout have been added for the waters south of the southernmost pier at Grand Haven in Lake Michigan and the waters south of the southernmost pier of the Thunder Bay River, extending south to the mouth of the St. Clair River at the Fort Gratiot Light. This new underwater spearfishing change requires a new underwater spearfishing license along with monthly efforts and harvest reporting requirements.

As the spring and summer fishing seasons heat up, more and more options will arise for Michigan anglers to indulge their passion on a variety of waterways. You are never far away from a chance to hit the water and possibly hook a fish of a lifetime. Be sure to check out this year's fishing rules and regulations, then go wet a line.



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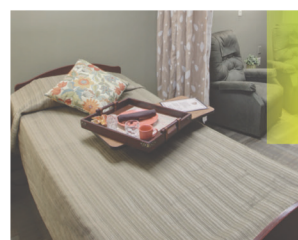
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The Way It Was ...Dealing With Inflation

By Al Eicher

I am not an economist, but I have lived through 87 years of events in our great country's history and know that inflation reduces the value of the dollar. What is inflation? According to the *American College Dictionary*, inflation is the undue expansion or increase of the currency of a country by issuing of paper money not redeemable in coin (gold or silver). Currently, we have 6 percent inflation, the highest since 2008. You might want to think about that inflation definition as we go back in time to when the American government first measured inflation. Inflation was first measured in 1914, month by month. If you go online, you can look at www.usinflationcalculator.com and get the monthly inflation rate for 99 years. The inflation rate in January 1914 was 2 percent.

Let's look at some of the extreme levels of inflation our country has experienced. In March of 1916, it was up to 6 percent, and in March of 1917, it was 18 percent. What do you suppose happened? The high rate continued until December of 1920. Could it be World War I had something to do with high inflation? We printed money to support our allies with the building of war machines.

Let's look at another extreme, and that is Negative Inflation. This occurred from 1921 through 1933. Records indicate Negative Inflation ranged from -1 to

-15.8 over this 12-year period with only a few months going to a positive rate. This had to be the events of the Great Depression. Following the Depression, in 1934, the rate came up to 2.3 percent, and for the next four years, we had average rates of inflation at 2.5 to 3 percent.

There must have been some hints of a major event about to occur because the inflation rate jumped from 2 percent in March to 10 percent in October of 1941. It wasn't long after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the beginning of World War II. During the early war years, the inflation rate peaked as high as 7.5 percent until 1943. From 1944 and through 1945, we had a relatively low rate of 2 percent. Are you seeing a pattern occurring during major events in our history? Back then, our government printing presses were hard at work printing paper money, and that is what is happening today!

What happened after World War II in 1946? The inflation rate went up to 9.5 percent and stayed high up to 1948 before dropping to 3 percent. Along came the Korean War, and in 1951, inflation went up and up to 9.3 percent, which created a government price freeze. Do you recall this war was called a police action? Due to the price freeze, the inflation rate from 1952 to 1968 went down and ranged from 2.5 percent to 3.5 percent. The Vietnam War lasted from 1964 to 1975. From 1968 to 1975, the inflation rate soared to 11.5 percent. The money printing presses were working overtime.

During the months of March, April, and May of 1980, inflation was at 14 percent. I invested in the money market that year and was getting 14 percent interest on every dollar invested. Early in 1980, our American ambassador was killed in Kabul, Afghanistan. Unemployment dropped to 5.6 percent, and McDonald's introduced the first Happy Meal.

In 1980, Jimmy Carter was president, and later that year, the Iran Ayatollah ordered a demonstration on the American Embassy; 53 Americans were taken hostage. It took three more years before America saw a low inflation rate. From 1984 to 2008, we had an average rate of about 3 percent inflation.

So, what can we glean from all this information? Major events in our history created the need to print

more money! Could it be that, with our population increasing, we need to print more money, so everyone has some?

As I mentioned earlier, I am not an economist. I equate inflation to buying things at one moment in time and years later comparing the price for the same item. A good example is that I bought a new Camaro in 1967, the day it was first available, and paid \$2,600. Ten years later, I sold it for the original price I paid. Today, you could pay \$39,000 for that car. I blame government regulations for making autos so expensive. In 1967, a box of Kellogg's cereal was 45 cents, and a Big Mac was also 45 cents, compared to \$3.99 today. In 1967, gasoline sold for 33 cents a gallon; it is more than 10

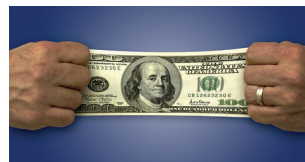
times that price currently. A movie ticket was \$1.20 compared to \$7.50 today. The average monthly rent in 1967 was \$125, and the average cost of a new house in America back then was \$14,250. The Federal Minimum Wage was \$1.40 per hour. Today, I don't see how someone can survive on a minimum wage of \$8 to \$10 per hour, as is still common in some states.

What creates inflation? I think demand, by the consumer, to purchase large or small ticket items, especially in a growing economy, tends to increase inflation. When you feel the future looks bright, you tend to buy more things. The reality is we all need food and transportation and energy to prepare food and heat our homes. When prices for these basic services go up, our standard of living goes down. Plain and simple, inflation is when your dollar buys less than the last time you bought the same item. Without a doubt, Putin's war in Ukraine has increased inflation here as gasoline in some states has been as high as \$6 a gallon.

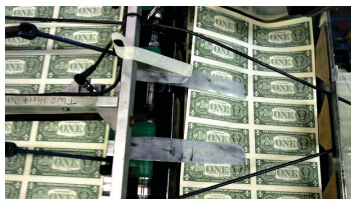
Currently in America, we have more jobs available than workers interested in these jobs. Could it be all the stimulus money we received in the past two years due to the pandemic reduced interest in going back to work? No doubt, there is a need for trained workers. The pandemic certainly hurt our education system! Our education system in America hasn't ranked very high with countries whose students go to school six days a week. The cost of a college education today is unprecedented.

In summary, we need to keep in mind where our money comes from. The money supply in America is not plain paper money or coin or gold bars! Money is also credit, loans, and mortgages. Watch out for those ads that tell you to buy gold and silver to combat inflation. The fact is inflation isn't going away as we work toward a stronger economy...And That's The Way It Is...

Al and Dave Eicher provide television production services to corporations, ad agencies, and nonprofit organizations. They also create Michigan town histories and offer lecture services on a variety of Michigan History Events. You may contact them at 248-333-2010; email: info@program-source.com; website: www.program-source.com.



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Who Am I?

Researching Your Family History

Why Are We Here?



By Grace Grogan

You may know the countries your ancestors came from, but do you know why they came here? What was the motivating force that led people to flee their home countries? Why did people move

to Michigan?

The United States received more than 5 million immigrants between 1815 and 1860. The majority came from Norway, Great Britain, Ireland, Prussia, and German states. The biggest attraction was the possibility of freedom and economic opportunities. Many immigrants left countries where they were subject to political and religious persecution.

More than 700,000 immigrants came to Michigan between 1860 and 1900. Of those, almost 400,000 were born outside the U.S., arriving from Scandinavia, Great Britain, and Ireland. From 1901 to 1910, the majority came from Canada and Europe, including Germany,

Britain, Italy, Austria-Hungary, and Russia.

Michigan became the most popular “go west” destination in the country. The east coast of the U.S. was crowded. Farmland passed to the oldest son, so younger sons needed to go where land was available. In many areas people could not vote, get a job, open their own business, or own land. Michigan did not have these restrictions. You could own land even if you were not white and if you were a woman.

Michigan was a place of economic opportunity. The state was new, and towns were booming. There was a demand for skilled people and businesses, including barbers, bakeries, hotels and taverns, grocery shops, and clothing stores. Logging and mining provided plenty of work for men.

In 1820, Michigan’s population was 8,765, growing to 31,640 by 1830. Property was cheap, only \$1.50 per acre. When Michigan became a state in 1837 the population was 174,543. Immigration and demand drove up land prices. By 1840 the cost for land was \$2 to \$6 per acre.

There are 2.6 million people, or 22 percent of Michigan’s population, who are of German heritage. This is the largest ancestral group in the state. The first influx of German immigrants came in 1825 following the creation of the Erie Canal. The second group was part of the Michigan Land Rush of 1834. Fleeing political persecution, poverty, and mass industrialization, Germans thought of

Michigan as a land of opportunity.

In 1845, Michigan Senator Edwin M. Cust sent a request for a Foreign Emigration Agency to be set up in Germany. Its purpose was to encourage immigration to Michigan. Maximilian H. Allardt opened the office in 1869 and encouraged Germans to emigrate to Michigan. He produced a magazine about the advantages of Michigan living. The magazine was distributed in Germany, Bohemia, East-West Prussia, and Hungary.

Allardt and other agents created reports of recruitment information and passenger lists of people traveling from Europe to Michigan. Check the Michigan Archives for information if you have ancestors from Germany, Poland, or other countries in that region.

As of the 2000 census, Michigan is home to the third largest Polish population in the U.S., and it is Michigan’s second largest ethnic group. The first Polish migration took place in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when about 2.5 million Poles came to the U.S. Hamtramck was originally a German settlement, but by 1914, it was a Polish industrial town.

The second wave of Polish immigration was after World War II, when Poland became part of the Soviet Union. More than 200,000 Poles came to the U.S.,

See **FAMILY** on page 15

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In the Kitchen

with Chef Dennis

Banana Bread with Browned Butter*

It was a typical Michigan winter's day, snowy, cold, windy, damp, dreary. Well, you get the picture.

A good day to do some of the things that I've been putting off. Like reorganizing and inventorying the freezer. In the process I found five very ripe bananas I froze about eight months ago. They're for banana bread. Yes, banana bread sounds really good. But I wanted something different than the same old banana bread.

I put on my "chef's thinking cap." What sounds good to liven up the banana bread? Then, Ta Da! Brown butter and a little cardamom. That was the start of this recipe. So let's start baking!



Total time: 1 hr. 15 min. Prep time: 25 min.,
Yield: Makes one 9-inch loaf or 8 mini loaf pans
(4.75 x 2.75 x 1.5)

Equipment:

- 1 lg. bowl
- 1 med. bowl
- 1 sm. bowl
- 1 wire whisk
- 1 fine mesh strainer or a sifter (optional)
- 1 cooking spray
- Strips of parchment paper or aluminum. Cut strips to place widthwise in pans with about an inch hangover on each side to use as "handles" to help remove the bread once cooled. (optional)
- 1 cooling rack

Ingredients:

- 2 cups (10 ounces) all-purpose flour + 1 Tbs. (reserve for tossing with the nuts, if using)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) salted butter
- 1¼ teaspoons ground cardamom² (optional)
- 2 cups mashed banana¹ (about 4 very ripe bananas)
- ¾ cup packed (5¼ ounces) brown sugar (dark or light)
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup nuts (optional) coarsely chopped. You can chop them finer, your choice. I like "chunkier" pieces. (I use ½ cup walnuts and ½ cup pecans; you can choose to use all of one kind.)
- 1 tablespoon granulated white sugar or caster³ sugar (optional)

Instructions:

Heat the oven to 350°F with a rack in the upper-middle position. Mist a 9- by 5-inch loaf pan or mini pans with cooking spray. Add strips of parchment or foil strips and mist again.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. I like to sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and then add the salt; set aside.



In another bowl, whisk together the brown sugar, eggs, and vanilla until smooth, and set aside. In a small bowl, stir the chopped nuts with the reserved Tbs. of flour until coated. This helps the nuts from sinking to the bottom of the batter and keep them evenly suspended in the cooked loaf.

See **KITCHEN** on page 18

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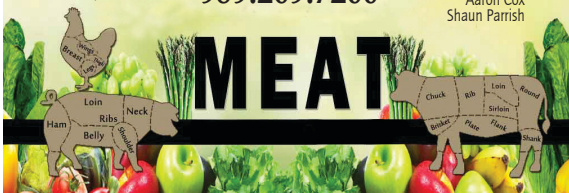
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10:30 Bingocize Sandusky Senior Dining Center 4	9:00 Quilting Club Caro Senior Dining Center 5	10:30 Bingocize Port Austin Senior Dining Center 6	10:30 Bingocize Caro Senior Dining Center 7
12:30 Card Club Caro Senior Dining Center	10:30 Brain Games Marlette Senior Dining Center	12:30 Card Club Caro Senior Dining Center	12:30 Card Club Caro Senior Dining Center
10:30 Bingocize Sandusky Senior Dining Center 11	9:00 Quilting Caro Senior Dining Center 12	10:30 Bingo with a Twist Caseville Senior Dining Center 13	10:30 Bingocize Caro Senior Dining Center 14
12:30 Card Club Caro Senior Dining Center	10:30 Bad Axe NHS Students Bad Axe Senior Dining Center	12:30 Card Club Caro Senior Dining Center	12:30 Card Club Caro Senior Dining Center
10:30 Bingocize Sandusky Senior Dining Center 18	9:00 Quilting Club Caro Senior Dining Center 19	10:30 Bingocize Port Austin Senior Dining Center 20	10:30 Bingocize Caro Senior Dining Center 21
12:30 Card Club Caro Senior Dining Center	12:00 BBQ Vassar Senior Dining Center	12:30 Card Club Caro Senior Dining Center	12:30 Card Club Caro Senior Dining Center
10:30 Bingocize Sandusky Senior Dining Center 25	9:00 Quilting Club Caro Dining Center 26	10:30 Bingocize Port Austin Senior Dining Center 27	10:30 Bingocize Caro Senior Dining Center 28
12:30 Card Club Caro Senior Dining Center	12:30 Bingo with A Twist Caseville Senior Dining Center	12:30 Card Club Caro Senior Dining Center	12:30 Card Club Caro Senior Dining Center

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Thumb Rails

A Kitchen on Wheels for the Troops Part 2

By T.J. Gaffney

This month's topic, and the topic for the next few issues, will be the history, transfer of ownership, move, and eventual restoration of a former Maintenance of Way Kitchen Car of the Chessie System. In the process of being acquired via donation from CSX Transportation by the Sanilac County Historical Museum of Port Sanilac, Michigan, this car was originally built to feed soldiers headed to the warfront. It and its sisters operated throughout Michigan, including the Thumb Region, and helped feed thousands of G.I.'s, who helped win World War II.

Welcome back to Thumb Rails, where we recently started a new series of articles discussing the history of a piece of equipment that is a true veteran, one that transported and helped feed thousands of troops within its steel walls. Designed in the midst of war, it filled a very real need at critical point of World War II, and its impact on both our region's and our country's heritage are worthy of further discussion. Join us as we continue with part two to follow its story from construction and use during the war through its use in Maintenance of Way service and its eventual preservation and restoration by the Port Sanilac Historical Society.

As we noted in part one, our troop kitchen car was most likely built in the first batch of cars produced by the American Car and Foundry company between October 1943 and March 1944. These cars were used extensively throughout the country in conjunction with their sister troop sleeper cars to help move

troops safely and quickly to the warfront. These units were designed to also pair with existing pre-war-built equipment as needed and often were used in regular passenger trains as needed. With the end of World War II in August of 1945, our car and its sisters continued to remain in service to help transport our veterans back home. This process took time, and the troop cars continued to serve in this capacity through the end of 1947, after which many were put into storage. By late 1948, several of these cars had already been declared surplus, and beginning in later 1948, many were sold by the U.S. Army Transportation Corps to the railroads. The railroads in turn subsequently converted these

area on one side of the car soon disappeared. This was soon replaced with stools and a lunch counter, very similar to the type one would expect to see in a classic neighborhood diner of the era. Even with these somewhat simple changes, these cars were vast improvements over the cars that crews had used before, and with their all-steel construction and easy-to-clean-and-maintain surfaces, they were a much safer and sanitary environment for the track gangs and repair forces that used them.

As the years went on, the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway merged with Baltimore & Ohio, and eventually the Western Maryland was added as well, becoming Chessie System in 1973. While this car never wore the colorful orange, yellow, and deep blue scheme that became so popular with the public, our car did briefly have the famous "chessie" cat painted on its green sides for a period. With a home base of Saginaw and briefly Port Huron, the car could be seen throughout the Thumb, even after much of the former Chessie System lines were sold in 1986. Now over 40 years old, the car was seemingly destined for the scrapper...but it had yet



CSXT classroom car #940203, Spirit of Pere Marquette. This car was rebuilt from C&O MOW kitchen car #K102, which was originally built as Army troop kitchen car #K376. In the near future, it will be restored to its as-built appearance.

essentially new or lightly used cars into a variety of new uses. This included baggage cars, express service boxcars, refrigerator cars, and cabooses, while others remained in sleeper configuration for use as bunk cars by Maintenance of Way crews.

Our particular kitchen car is believed to have been sold to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway sometime in 1949 and was used to replace wooden cars that had been downgraded into Maintenance of Way service years before. The Troop Kitchen Car in question is one of the earliest built cars, and most likely the oldest to survive: number K102. As was often the case, several of the excess items not needed by the railroad were removed during the renovation to its new use. In the K102's case, one of its two large Army cast-iron ranges and the majority of the former food storage

another life to give to the railroad.

The Chessie System eventually merged with the Seaboard/Family Lines in the mid-1980s, forming what is now CSX. Our car had developed quite a following with the local railroaders, so much so that they basically hid it from those who wished to scrap it, and instead pulled it into the Saginaw shops and gave it a thorough going over. This included a full repainting into the CSX Corporate paint scheme of battleship gray, blue, and yellow. In turn, the employees of the time, in homage to their predecessors, gave the car a name, *The Spirit of Pere Marquette*. As such, the car continued to be used by rail employees as a mobile kitchen/base, often being seen in the Port Huron

See **RAILS** on page 13

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SUNFLOWER from page 1

of sun you receive in a day will influence your final decision on variety. The type of sunflowers I'm discussing in this article are considered annual plants, but you'll find there are about 70 different annual and perennial *Helianthus* plants in the daisy family *Asteraceae*. You will have your work cut out for you in selecting which one(s) to grow.

Did you know that sunflowers are native to North America and Central America? They may have been grown first by Native Americans in Arizona and New Mexico for food as well as for non-food uses, such as dye for clothing, body art, decorations, and even building material. Explorers later transported plants to Europe (Spain, England, Russia), where they were eventually improved upon for their oil.

Sunflowers, the national flower of Ukraine, are showing up in our news feeds. With the invasion, the sunflower has now become an unofficial symbol of peace. Ukraine has been growing sunflowers since the mid-eighteenth century. They were mainly grown for snacks and oil production. Ukraine eventually began exporting the oil, and along with Russia, they became the major exporters of 70 to 80 percent of the world's sunflower oil.

But, let's get back to growing sunflowers in our own yards. Besides the beauty of the flower for us, there are other creatures attracted to them. Bees and birds love the nectar and seeds, which is great because you get to take a break from filling up your bird feeders once they start blooming. Once they start, they bloom for several weeks, and you'll have constant visitors in your yard, eating their fill until cold weather sets in. They are hardy in almost all of the United States, Hawaii and northern Alaska being the exceptions.

Sunflowers will grow best, and you'll enjoy them most, if they get six to eight hours of sun every day. Watching the flower heads follow the sun gives you movement and a fresh view of the plants throughout the day. They enjoy loose, well-drained soil with an alkaline soil of 6.0 to 7.5, which fits most of the Thumb area of Michigan. If you don't have this kind of soil, you can always grow some of those shorter varieties I mentioned in large pots. Just be sure it's a deep pot because sunflowers like to send their roots down deep into the soil.

Once the soil gets to about 60 degrees, and the danger of frost is past, it is safe to plant the seeds... and they do grow better when planted directly into the soil rather than started indoors. Where I live in Huron County, the last frost date is around June 1. You can search the internet for "frost free dates" for your town.

Plant the seeds about six inches apart, but after they've matured, thin them to the strongest plants 12 inches apart to allow the roots to expand. If you really can't bear to discard the extras, you can dig the young plants up and transplant them to another spot. They'll go through transplant shock, of course, and will probably grow slower and bloom later than

their compatriots. Which gets us into my next topic for you.

Want sunflowers longer than a couple of weeks? Stagger your planting. Plant some early, some a week or two later, and another batch after that. Or, you can plant several varieties. Just look at the package to see how long the growing season is for them and plant accordingly. Some varieties bloom as soon as 80 days, others 120 days. So, in my yard I could plant all on one day and have one variety blooming by the end of August but the other one not until the end of September. That would be a whole lot of blooms for me and those bees and birds to enjoy.

Besides enjoying the blooms in the yard, I enjoy cutting the littler heads for flower arrangements or maybe just one bloom in a tall vase. Many of the sunflowers available now have multiple heads on each plant so they will produce lots of flowers to cut and enjoy. I cut them early in the morning before the heat of the day makes them wilt. They usually last about a week in the house.

If you're patient and haven't cut all the blooms for vases, you can harvest the heads after they've matured and the petals have fallen off. They'll make a wonderful snack. You can also save the seeds to plant in next year's garden as well. If some fall off, you might discover you have "volunteer sunflowers" growing in unexpected places next year. They might not be the same exact plant next year, due to cross pollination, but that will be something to look forward to with anticipation. For now, look through the myriad of catalogs available online or from your mailbox. Happy browsing! I wish you well in your sunflower experience.

Michigan State University Extension offered its first Master Gardener Program in 1978. The first one offered in the Thumb of Michigan was in 1994. Through their volunteer outreach, Extension Master Gardeners share science-based, environmentally sound gardening knowledge and engage citizens and empower communities in a variety of areas.

Being in the Extension Master Gardener Program requires only an enthusiasm for gardening and a willingness and commitment to volunteer, sharing science-based education. Applicants attend training classes to learn basic horticulture principles and environmentally sound practices. Once they complete at least 40 hours of education focused community-based service in Michigan, they earn the title of certified Michigan State University Extension Master Gardener. If you are the type of person who is interested in learning and sharing horticultural knowledge with others, please contact the Huron County Master Gardeners at holtropc@gmail.com.

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RAILS from page 12

"Boatyard," which became its home base for the remainder of the 1990s. Even with an extension of life given to it by the railroad employees, eventually her time in regular railroad service would come to an end. In the early 2000s, the car was parked at the former Pere Marquette Freight House on Carpenter Road in Flint, and there it would remain for the next 20 years, forgotten, rusting and forlorn.

How did our former troop kitchen car end up avoiding the scrapper a second time? How will it make its way to Port Sanilac? What further issues might arise during this process? Stay tuned to next month's article in The Lakeshore Guardian!

Gaffney is owner of Streamline Historic Services, and the author of Port Huron, 1880-1960. Images of Rail: Rails Around the Thumb, published by Arcadia Publishing, is also receiving accolades. Learn about the important contributions railroads made to the Thumb area; copies of Rails Around the Thumb are available through the author at 2747 Military Street, Port Huron, Michigan, 48060. Books are also available through Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com.



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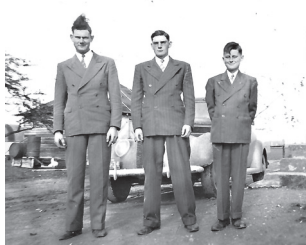
The Stacer Brothers, Remembered Wilfred, Harold, & Quentin Stacer in World War II

Part 2

By Janis Stein

Join in the continuation to read the conclusion of Wilfred's wartime experiences and the beginning of Harold's, who served in the Southwest Pacific Theater.

On November 1, 1943, Wilfred noted he "moved to Hoo Hill," and on June 12, 1944, he along with other troops loaded on the *Thompson*. Within three days, they left Dutch Harbor and arrived at Adak on June 17, 1944. Adak was located approximately 450 miles southwest of Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian archipelago. By the end of August 1942, a major base opened on Adak Island, which allowed operations to shift from Unalaska further west, and Dutch Harbor became a minor support center. Wilfred then traveled to an outpost named Shagak, located on the northeast coast of Adak. On July 2, 1944, Wilfred noted he went to Lucky Point, and on July 15, he returned to Shagak. In two months, Wilfred



Wilfred received this photo of brothers Quentin, Merlin, and Jerome Stacer at home in October 1941. Quentin was drafted in 1944. With their father deceased, Merlin operated the family farm, and Jerome was 14 years old.

returned to Dutch Harbor, arriving on September 16. During Wilfred's involvement in the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, he spent two years, three months, and 25 days stationed in the Aleutian Islands. He served as a rigger and was qualified as a rifle marksman. He endured severe cold and windy weather in Alaska but sustained no injuries. The Army then sent him to Seattle, Washington, where he arrived at 5:40 p.m. on September 22, 1944. He spent four days at Fort Lawton before arriving at North Camp Hood, Texas, on October 1.

Wilfred noted he went on furlough on October 11 at 2 a.m., and he returned to North Camp Hood on November 8, 1944. In December, the Army sent him to Camp Rufus, Oregon, where he arrived on December 31, 1944.

Wilfred left Rufus and went on furlough at 8 a.m. on April 3, 1945, and made his way back home. Anna Stacer must have been thrilled when the furloughs of two of her three sons, Harold and Wilfred, intersected, and they were both home at the same time. It must have been a heartbreaking good-bye when they left once more.

Wilfred returned to Oregon and arrived on April 24. Over the course of the next five months, Wilfred moved around to various camps that included the Vancouver Barracks; Camp Swift, Texas; Camp Stoneman, California; and Camp Beale, California. Wilfred earned the Good Conduct Medal and was honorably discharged on

September 25, 1945, with a rank of Private 1st Class. Wilfred Stacer's last entry in his notebook marked his four years of service and a happy ending. "Got home September 30 3:00 PM."



Private Harold Stacer, Camp Roberts, California, October 1941.

After the war, Wilfred became a well-known carpenter in the Ruth area and was a member of Parisville V.F.W. Post #5740. Wilfred died unexpectedly of a heart attack in 1971 at the age of 59. His funeral service was held at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Ruth, with burial in the church cemetery. Military rites were conducted by the Parisville V.F.W. Post #5740.

Harold Stacer was born in 1914 and grew up on the family farm near Ruth. He could never have predicted then the places he would travel one day, all in the name of war. Harold was drafted on October 8, 1941. The draft interrupted a man's life like nothing else could. Harold had to leave his fiancé, Loretta Holdwick, behind, but his term of service was slated for just one year, so they decided to wait for his return before they married. Lawrence Hunsanger



Private Harold Stacer, Camp Roberts, California, October 1941.

and Irvin S. Kosal, two other local men, also left that Tuesday to begin their service in the U.S. Army, and soon, Harold made his way to Camp Roberts, California, where he went through basic training. In addition to being stationed in California at Camp Roberts, Harold also spent time at Camp Pendleton. And then came the news that Harold was being sent overseas, where he would serve in the Southwest Pacific Theater. Because the Army was perhaps camouflaging the location of its troops, from California, Harold traveled up the coast to Seattle, Washington, before crossing the country by troop train en route to New Jersey. From New Jersey, he boarded a boat and went down the Atlantic, through the Panama Canal, and finally crossing the Pacific. The trip took 42 days.

See **FREEDOM** on page 15

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FREEDOM from page 14

Crossing the ocean was a new experience: Harold witnessed many men hanging over the side when seasickness set in, and the bunks inside were so close that if he raised his knee, it would bump the soldier above him. Spam and canned mutton, twice a day, over and over again, had many soldiers wishing for home and their mothers' cooking.

On April 30, 1942, the Huron County correspondent for *The Times Herald* in Port



Wilfred Stacer, home on leave, posed with his youngest brother, Jerome, in October 1941.

Huron published the following news from Ruth. "A telegram has been received from Pvt. Harold M. Stacer that he arrived safely in Australia. He was inducted in the army Oct. 8 and received his basic training at Camp Roberts, Calif."

Letters home sent via V-mail, short for Victory Mail, were censored to prevent the sharing of information. When Harold wrote a letter to his girlfriend, Loretta, back home, he stated he was located next to a city the same size as where Leo Hessling worked. Loretta then knew that wherever Harold was, he was nearby a city close to the size of Detroit, which could have possibly meant Sydney or Melbourne. Harold knew if he would have written the word, Detroit, it would have been blacked out, and he wanted to give her a clue, so she would have a sense of where he was in the world.

Thanks to Harold's fallen arches, he knew he wouldn't be serving in the infantry. Front-line soldiers and flat feet didn't mix. Earlier, Harold, like all the new recruits, completed testing, so the Army could determine how they could best utilize his God-given talents. The Army realized Harold was blessed with a mechanical mind, something this soldier already knew, a talent he honed from his days working on the family farm. And so it was that during his time overseas, Harold worked in the motor pool as a heavy truck driver and mechanic; he also served as a courier and drove a motorcycle – and boy, did he enjoy that motorcycle!

Be sure to look for the continuation next month when Harold takes on the camp bully...

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Servicemen Harold and Wilfred Stacer made it home to visit their mother, Anna Stacer, at the same time, April 8, 1945. Courtesy of Richard and Cathy Stacer.

FAMILY from page 9

38,000 of them immigrating to Michigan. The third wave was the 1960s to early 1990s with refugees and nonimmigrants on temporary visa.

Michigan has 300,000 people of Scottish heritage, approximately 72,000 who are Scottish-Irish and 57,000 who are pure Scottish. More than 5,000 Michigan immigrants were born in Scotland.

Families left Scotland and came directly to southeastern Michigan from the late 1820s through the 1870s. Most settled in Macomb County, then moved into Lapeer and St. Clair Counties. The Scottish had a hard life in their home country, fighting cholera epidemics, potato famines, political unrest, religious intolerance, and a lack of jobs. After settling, many would write family and friends and encourage them to immigrate to Michigan.

Michigan has 500,000 people with Dutch ancestry, the largest Dutch-American population in the country. People from the Netherlands fleeing religious persecution and dire economic conditions began arriving in Michigan in 1846. By 1900, 40 percent of the state's population was Dutch.

The first set of Dutch immigrants settled in Michigan because of an unforeseen delay. Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte was headed with his group of religious seceders for Wisconsin. Upon reaching Detroit, the lake steamer was unable to continue because the Straits of Mackinac had iced over, closing shipping for the year. The immigrants spent the winter in Detroit, during which time the reverend became convinced that Michigan was preferable to Wisconsin. Wisconsin had a large settlement of German Catholics. Calvinists and German Catholics were not on good terms in the Netherlands, so to avoid conflict, the decision was made to remain in Michigan. The Dutch established the colony of Holland in 1847 and formed the Reformed Church of America, a protestant denomination with Calvinist values.

Michigan is rich in ethnic diversity, thanks to immigrants of the past two-hundred-plus years choosing to settle in the state. Information about why they chose to immigrate from their country or selected Michigan for settlement will add to your family's ancestry story. It may also help you break through brick walls if you know they landed on the East Coast but lost their trail. Michiganders do not consider the state a prime migration destination or "go west" state, but at one time it was.

Grace Grogan is a freelance writer and a member of Detroit Working Writers.

Sunken History & Maritime Treasures

Blue Water Bird Watching

By Kathy Covert Warnes

Second Mate John Paul Perkins, (1909–1990) otherwise known as "Perk," was not yet serving onboard the *J. P. Morgan Jr.*, an ore carrier from the Pittsburgh Steamship Company, when it collided with an Interlake Pickands Mather vessel, the *Crete*. The two ships collided in Lake Superior on June 23, 1948, about 30 miles from the Portage Ship Canal. Perk's connection with the *J. P. Morgan Jr.* began in 1949 when his company placed him onboard as second mate. By that time he had become a seasoned sailor, a confirmed bird watcher, and an inventive creator of his Floating National Forests, which he established on every ship he sailed, including the *J. P. Morgan Jr.*



Captain Perkins, the inventive creator of his Floating National Forests. Courtesy of the Ashtabula County Maritime and Surface Transportation Museum.

See **BIRDS** on page 20



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SAILOR from page 3

great fun is had along the way!

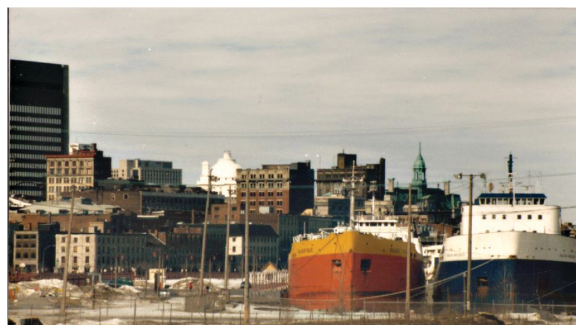
On November 19, 1986, Catherine boarded the *Silver Isle*. According to her discharge book, the *Silver Isle* sailed until December 28, but the discharge book only reflects actual sailing time. Catherine stayed on the ship during the full winter lay-up. At that time, the chief cook and the porter stayed on once the ship laid up; although the deck crew went home, the engine crew stayed for maintenance and repair work that couldn't be done while underway. Catherine was working as the second cook aboard the *Silver Isle*, and when the porter didn't want to stay for lay-up, Catherine agreed to do so. The *Silver Isle* laid up not in the ship section but at the foot of McGill Street in downtown Montreal, and Catherine didn't think it could get much better. It was an amazing opportunity in and of itself. The *Silver Isle* laid up just before Christmas, and Catherine found out that the ship her sister, Lorraine, was on came in on Christmas Eve and laid up behind the grain elevators. Lorraine was working as a porter, so she was staying also. For Catherine, it was the best winter lay-up ever, and when these sisters weren't working, they enjoyed exploring Montreal!

In the spring of 1987, Catherine first boarded a CSL ship, followed by the *Canada Marquis*. Catherine was excited about joining the crew on the *Canada Marquis* because it was slated to cross the Atlantic, a first experience for this sailor who anticipated a great adventure. She



A close-up of the Silver Isle, the ship Catherine worked aboard in November and December of 1986, followed by winter lay-up.

called her parents to tell them, so they could make plans to meet her at the Iroquois Lock to say good-bye. Catherine's excitement was short-lived, however. She received a call from the wheelhouse with the instructions to pack her bags. The other porter wanted to do the trip and bumped her, thus making Catherine's time aboard the *Canada Marquis* a two-day job – and she's still waiting to cross the Atlantic!



Catherine sailed aboard the Silver Isle for about six weeks in 1986 but stayed on during the full winter lay-up. When the Silver Isle laid up not in the ship section but at the foot of McGill Street in downtown Montreal, Catherine didn't think it could get much better – but it did when she found out her sister, Lorraine's, ship was laying up nearby!

After Catherine's two-day affair aboard the *Marquis*, she took the summer off, and in the fall of 1987, she was back on the water, this time aboard the (old) *Baie St. Paul*. She then sailed on the *Oakglen*, and by the summer and fall of 1987, she was working aboard the *Mantadoc*. The *Mantadoc* was the first ship she sailed on that her sister, Lorraine, had previously worked aboard. The sisters never had the pleasure of sailing on the same ship at the same time.

In the fall of 1988, Catherine was slated to work a 30-day job on the *Peter Misener* – but that stint came to a screeching halt, quite literally. With every ship she's been on, it usually takes a few days to settle in, to get used to a new ship and new people. Sometimes the accommodations aren't great; sometimes the galley is awful. There's always a couple-day adjustment

period. But, from the moment she first stepped foot on the *Misener*, she had an uncomfortable feeling. Always a positive person, Catherine knew she'd make the best of it; after all, it was only 30 days. How bad could things go?

It was the month of November, and the *Misener* made its way down the St. Lawrence Seaway. Looking out, Catherine saw the snow coming down, and she knew they would be turning into the Saguenay River soon. She hoped the ship didn't roll because often things fall in the galley that a person might not expect, and then there's the inevitable mess to clean up. As the *Misener* smoothly transitioned into the river, Catherine let out a sigh of relief. The lower Saguenay River is a fjord carved out by glaciers. The view was spectacular with rock walls towering on either side of the river. The beauty of it almost made Catherine forget that uncomfortable feeling she had. Almost.



Liver and onions with bacon and gravy – everyone's favorite!

At that time, there were four in the galley, and they served the captain and chief engineer while the officers picked up their own food. Whenever they traveled below Montreal, they had to carry a pilot, and in the winter, two pilots. The pilots were on the forward end of the *Misener*, and the captain was back

See **SAILOR** on page 17

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SAILOR from page 18

having his dinner. Catherine had a bowl of soup in her hand. All of a sudden, there was a huge crash and the momentum of coming to a dead stop. The alarms sounded immediately, and in the second that it took Catherine to put down her bowl of soup and turn around, everyone was gone! Catherine's training kicked in, and she quickly went to her room where she grabbed her life jacket and survival suit. She then went on deck to the muster station, and the first thing she saw was this huge rock wall. The *Misener* hit a mountain!

Catherine was the only woman on board, and as she was standing by the lifeboat, she could hear the communication over the walkie-talkies determining whether water had gotten into the holds. After hearing that there was indeed water in the first hold, Catherine asked if she could put on her survival suit because that would definitely make her feel better. Her superior told her no, and she understood that they didn't want to cause hysteria. But in this sailor's mind, it was a matter of practicality. She was calm, and yes, they were very near shore, and she could swim to shore if she had to – but to what? There was no beach, only a rock



Catherine's sailing stint in 1987 aboard the Canada Marquis was only a two-day affair.

wall, and how was she going to scale a rock wall?

Be sure to look for the continuation next month to learn the Misener's fate.

All images are courtesy of Catherine Schmuck unless otherwise stated.

If you would like to join Catherine as she sails through her day, follow her on Facebook at Ship to Shore Chef, and if you'd like to order her new cookbook, please visit www.shop.shiptoshorechef.com.

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How Are You?

By Allison Stein

I'm here.

I'm scared.
I'm sad.
I'm angry.
I'm lonely.

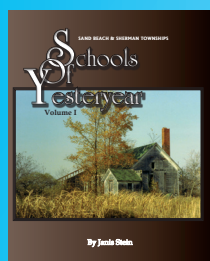
It means I showed up.
It means I have something to lose.

I'm here.
I'm here!

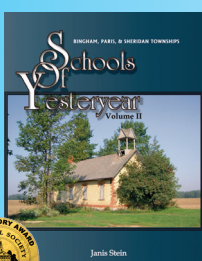
And today that's more than enough.

Allison Stein is the author of three poetry books. She blogs about her journey as a writer and writing consultant at www.allisonsteinconsulting.com.

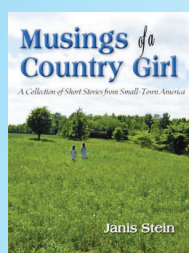
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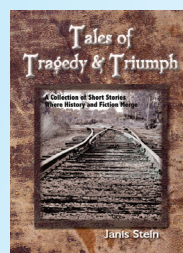
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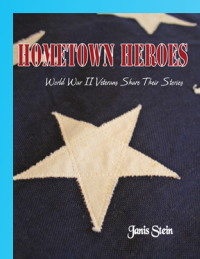
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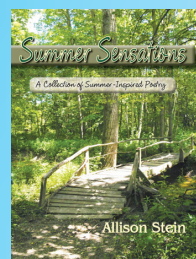
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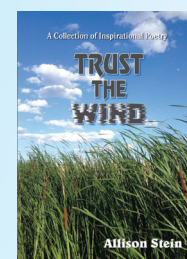
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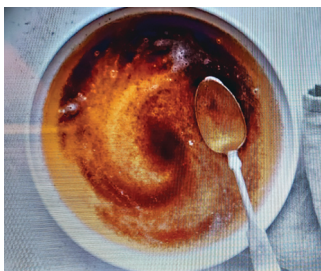
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KITCHEN from page 10

Make the Brown Butter

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt the butter. Once melted, continue to cook, swirling the pan often, until the butter is fragrant and deep brown, 2 to 3 minutes.

Remove the pan from the heat and immediately whisk in the cardamom.



Continue with Recipe

Carefully add the bananas and whisk until combined. (The butter will sizzle and bubble up.) Add the brown sugar, eggs, and vanilla mixture; whisk until smooth. Add the banana mixture to the flour mixture, and using a silicone spatula, fold until just combined and no dry flour remains. Fold in the nuts, if using them, just until blended.

Transfer the batter to the prepared pan(s) and, if using, sprinkle evenly with the white sugar. Bake until the loaf is well browned, the top is cracked, and a toothpick inserted at the center of the loaf comes out clean. Bake 50 to 55 minutes, rotating the pan halfway through.



Cool the bread in the pan on a wire rack for 15 minutes; then, turn out the loaf and cool completely before serving. Cooled bread can be wrapped tightly and stored at room temperature for up to four days or refrigerated for up to one week. They can be frozen for three to six months when properly wrapped. Use plastic wrap, then foil, and put them into a zip type bag. I freeze them using my vacuum sealer for six months with no freezer burn or loss of flavor.

This is Chef Dennis saying "Savor the Food You Eat."

I look forward to your questions and comments.

You can visit me online at my website, <https://YouCanCuisine.com>, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. You can also contact me at The Lakeshore Guardian: <https://lakeshoreguardian.com/contact-us/>.

Chef Dennis Sturtz has worked in many venues in the restaurant business from owner to chef. With a degree from Macomb Community College's Culinary Department, Chef Dennis has, in turn, taught at numerous colleges and institutions, thereby sharing his passion for cuisine.



Chef Dennis Sturtz Sr.

Tips from Chef Dennis:

*Brown butter is regular butter that has been "browned." Cook the butter slightly past its melting point, long enough to toast the milk solids in the butter. This releases in a nutty flavor in the butter that adds a deeper flavor when you replace it for regular butter in recipes. It's easy to make brown butter! If you'd like to know more, please feel free to contact me.

¹Note: Bananas should be measured in dry measuring once mashed rather than by number of bananas used, as they can vary in size. This will ensure enough moisture is added to the recipe and avoid a dry bread.

²Green cardamom is the more common variety of cardamom. Cardamom's complex flavor is what makes it so versatile. It is often used in sweeter dishes, although it will work in savory as well. Green cardamom's flavor is warm, herbal, citrusy, spicy, and even a bit minty all at the same time.

³To make caster sugar, simply pulse or blend granulated sugar until it reaches a finely ground consistency, but not powdery, or you'll end up with powdered sugar. Two or three quick pulses will usually do the trick.



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SCHOOLS from page 5

library, and a large case contains the free text-books that were adopted in 1890 at a first cost of \$82.50. The further expense is shown by the following tabulation:

Year	Cost	Enrollment	Average Per Pupil
1891	\$0.00	60	4c
1892	\$2.25	59	9
1893	\$5.40	65	7
1894	\$4.63	66	12
1895	\$7.80	74	0
1896	\$10.20	72	14

“Compare this expense with the following letters regarding the cost of books in two other districts of this township that are not using free text-books:

“Bad Axe, March 2. Dear Sir—Cost of books for years 1896-7, \$51.28; for this year to March 1, \$30.90. Number enrolled, 59. These figures are correct.

“G. M. Clark, Teacher, Dist. No. 1, Colfax.

“Mr. Spencer—In response to your request for information regarding cost of books to the pupils in Dist. No. 3, Colfax, for the last two terms, I enclose you the necessary information.

“Last term the cost was \$19.60; this term to present time, \$24.54. More books will of course be needed after promotion examinations. As a rule parents are quite prompt in supplying books as soon as needed, but in several instances pupils have been kept back for some time for want of text-books. In one instance an entire class in government was unable to take up the subject for several weeks for want of proper text-books. Our enrollment for current year is 72.

“Anna M. Johnston, Teacher.”

As an aside, Colfax No. 1 referenced in the above excerpt was also known as Big Burning School, which is one of Huron County’s five country schools still open in 2022 at the time of this writing, and Colfax No. 3 was more commonly known as McDowell. This 1897 report also included a comparative table of rural schools in Michigan counties and townships and some of the district’s schools, though not all, within those townships. In 1897, 70 students were enrolled at Wakefield, with the number of students between the ages of five and 20 counted in the last school census totaling 91. The cost per Wakefield pupil to attend equaled \$4.36, and the teacher

—The following poem was written by Grace Wakefield Dean, a student at Wakefield during the 1890s. Grace prepared and read this poem on March 22, 1938, for the Wakefield School reunion. Courtesy of Jim Hartman, grandson of Grace Dean.

Down Memory Lane

I visited the Wakefield School today,
Where I went in days of yore;
And many were the strange faces I met,
As we gathered about the door.

I could not find my same old seat,
A new one was in its place;
But I looked again at the teacher’s desk
Close by the old bookcase.

The teacher taught by methods new,
Learned in a “Teacher’s Training School”;
While I learned readin’, ’ritin’ & ’rithmetic,
Taught by the one old rule.

I thought of the old clock on the wall,
That ticked out years away;
It seemed to me those hands turned back –
Back to my very “first day.”

I saw no more those faces strange,
The teacher and all that was new;
But into my mind a picture loomed
I’ll try and repaint it to you.

I saw again the forest wild,
Waving hemlock and stately pine.
I heard the drumming as a partridge flew
From the nest we never could find.

Three settlers cabins nestled,
Where bears and deer roamed about;
Each glowed with a glad warm welcome,
The “latch-strings” always “hung out.”

Before we could be a school district,
We must have three “on the board”;
At least eight for the enrollment
Then a school we could afford.

Thomas Wakefield was the Director,
The school still bears his name.
And from his log cabin
Half of the enrollment came.

Mr. Ferris was the Treasurer,
“First settler” was his rank,
And from his log cabin came
Nellie, Ina, Lewis, and Frank.

Jacob Shad was the other,
A bachelor in that early day.
And only just this winter
They laid his body away.

The year was eighteen eighty-six,
So you can easily see
How we could build a schoolhouse
By the usual “neighbor-hood-bee.”

Before the school was completed,
From the city to our woods country came
A young fellow bringing his family,
McCarty was his name.

To most of us it’s important, when
To school we first trudge away;
But out-standing in our school history
Is the first time we had a “Last Day.”

We thought we’d have a picnic
Over by Ferris’s in the woods.
And in those old market baskets
Our mothers brought the real goods.

The men built a large platform
For the program under way.
John Maywood and Elmer Johnson
Were the guest speakers of the day.

John Wakefield with a yolk of oxen,
Hitched to an old-fashioned dray,
Brought the only organ in the district,
That our program might be gay.

Tom Armstrong and our Gordie
Brought their violins – just by chance;
And while the sun was shining high,
They had a neighborhood dance.

The clock on the wall keeps ticking
The years, and our forests have passed,
And with them our log school house;
We come to the brick one at last.

The brick was shipped from Bad Axe
In the good old railroad way;
Side tracked down at the crossing
To be hauled some other day.

The Wakefields were the masons,
Alex Parks had the carpenter crew.
They were efficient workmen
As everybody knew.

And when at last it was finished,
And we marched in, in line.
A prouder lot of youngsters
You could never find.

Altho’ I am back at school today,
My hair is well nigh gray.
I cannot join the children’s games
Of “baseball” and “pull-a-way.”

Yet the schoolhouse, like a Sentinel stands,
O’er it floats the red, white, and blue.
May it always stand for America
And all that is right and true.

earned \$30 per month for teaching 200 days of school. According to the comparative table, as of 1897 Wakefield did not have any books in its district library (which conflicts with information provided in the description of the school), nor did Colfax No. 6’s Stanton School, compared with 40 books on the shelves of Colfax No. 3’s McDowell School.

Be sure to look for the continuation next month for additional information detailed in an 1897 report of Michigan’s superintendent of public instruction.

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BIRDS from page 15

Second mate Perk already had maritime and ornithological connections with the St. Clair River. His maritime connection was forged in steel, made from the iron ore that the ships of his Pittsburgh Steamship Company, later to become part of the U.S. Steel fleet, transported from Lake Superior ports to Lake Erie ports.

The water route of the ships, both up and downbound, took them west to east across Lake Superior, through the Locks at Sault Ste. Marie. The next leg of the journey traversed the length of Lake Huron, through the St. Clair River, and Lake St. Clair. The final leg of the journey took the ships down the Detroit River, across Lake Erie for approximately 80 miles, and to the ports of northeastern Ohio, including Ashtabula and Conneaut, where Perk lived.

Perk created his personal scientific methods of on-deck birdwatching. He purchased balled trees and other habitat equipment like branches and perches from friends in various ports along Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie. He set them up on deck along with bird seed and water stations and then placed a park bench in a strategic yet nonthreatening location to sit on while he birdwatched, photographed them, and took movies of them. He created a film called *Birds Ahoy!* that he used in his speaking programs about birds, and that garnered respect in the scientific world as well.

Besides for his personal enjoyment, Perk observed birds for their own sake – their plumage, their habits, their personalities, their grace, their freedom of movement, and yes, their predatory skills, especially those of gulls and hawks, revealing the cruel side of nature. Perk spent years taking meticulous, detailed notes of bird life and behavior.

His notes and the articles he wrote, including one published in *Audubon Magazine*, changed traditional ideas about migratory patterns of birds, including those over the St. Clair River and the Great Lakes.

Perk explained his methods in one of his articles. “Over several years I have kept detailed notes on the migration waves and single birds sighted during the sailing season. Each year a little more data is added until at present the notes include observations, location of ship, weather at ship’s position, barometric and temperature graphs plus the weather synopsis of the location of atmospheric pressures each day for the Great Lakes region.”

Every trip he took up and down the St. Clair River and the rest of the route, Perk observed birds and took notes about their behavior. He described how flocks of birds would rest aboard ship in his National Forests and on suitable places all over the ship. He described their flight patterns and their habits. He elaborated, “The trees were arranged daily according to the position of the sun, and a chair or park bench was placed the correct distance away for the focus wanted. With a bottle of coffee and a few doughnuts handy on the hatch, I was ready.”

His bird watching did not escape the notice of his shipmates. They christened his tree arrangements “Perk’s National Forest,” and they gave him nicknames like “Ranger” and “Nature Boy.” Some enterprising sailors placed an artificial nest complete with four plump grapes in one of his trees and at Christmas, ornaments appeared hanging from the branches. The teasing was good-natured, and Perk described encountering shipmates searching his bird books to identify their ship’s passengers. He also recalled a captain or two calling from the pilothouse that his trees were full of birds.

His ornithological or bird-loving connection existed from his boyhood when Perk roamed the hills of Belmont County, Ohio, seeking, finding, and photographing interesting birds. During his teen and adult years living in Conneaut, Ohio, he examined and explored the local bird populations, discovering that birds had much the same free spirits and migratory lives as sailors. And from the 1930s to the early 1970s when he combined his maritime livelihood with his birding passion, he made significant scientific contributions to the ornithological world from his shipboard perches.

By the time he became first mate on the *J. P. Morgan Jr.*, with several berths in between, Perk could describe the times, places, and participants of

flocks of birds traveling over the Great Lakes and their connecting rivers.

His observations included eagles and their nests in the lower St. Mary’s River and large heron rookery on Stony Island and Grosse Ile in the lower Detroit River. Likewise, they included thousands of gulls and terns on the stone dike below Bois Blanc Island

in the lower Detroit River, flights of black crowned night herons around the western Lake Erie islands, and large flocks of ducks at St. Clair Flats and at Bar Point in the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers.

By the 1960s–1970s in the last stages of his career, Perk had earned the position of captain on several Pittsburgh Fleet ships, including the *Thomas F. Cole*, *Richard V. Lindabury*, and the *John W. Gates*. As his maritime career advanced, so did his Floating Forests and bird watching, recording skill, and contributions to ornithological knowledge. After 31 years of impeccable notetaking, photos, and films, his contributions to ornithological knowledge were impressive. He identified and named seven migration corridors over Lake Superior and many

more over Lakes Michigan, Erie, and Huron, and revealed how the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways overlap with the Great Lakes Flyways. He described previously unidentified flight patterns, flocks of different bird species migrating together, and sighted rare birds where they were not supposed to be sighted. He described birds at play.

Perk summed up his maritime ornithological philosophy. “A complete check list of birds seen on and from the ship (just one ship, the *Benjamin Fairless*) totals 190 species...not much compared to lists compiled ashore, but each year we add a few more species to the total. It is the constant expectation of seeing something more that makes bird watching so fascinating.”

Just a Few Places to Bird Watch Along the St. Clair River

- Thomas Edison Parkway Park
- Pinegrove Park
- Desmond Landing

For more great articles and stories by Kathy Warnes, please visit the following: *Magic Masts and Sturdy Ships* at <https://magicmastsandsturdyships.weebly.com/>; *Meandering Michigan History* at <https://meanderingmichiganhistory.weebly.com/>; *Maritime Moments and Memories – Ashtabula Maritime and Surface Transportation Museum* at <https://maritimemomentsandmemories.wordpress.com/>; and *Monroe Memories and More*, a website of *Monroe, Michigan, history*, at <https://monroemichigan.wordpress.com/>.



The J. P. Morgan, being towed through the St. Clair River. The temporary patch on the hull can be seen. Courtesy of Wayne “Skip” Kadar’s book, Great Lakes Collisions, Wrecks and Disasters, Ships 400 to 998 Feet, originating from the Russell Sawyer Collection of the Port Huron Museum, Port Huron, Michigan.

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YARNS from page 1

quite surprised it was filled with stories about a far-off place in the United States called Michigan. Father came in then and announced the morning chores were complete with the exception of milking the cow; no sooner had Father sat down when Heinrich brought the milk pail into the kitchen so that job, too, could be crossed off the morning's list. As I poured Father's coffee and fetched his plate loaded with fried potatoes and blutwurst, I set the *Wegweiser* on the table next to him and asked him what it was in the newspaper about Michigan that captured his attention. In between bites, he matter-of-factly announced the most shocking news: "We are going to America."

What? America? How could this be? Our home was in Saxony. We were Germans! We knew no other way of life, I protested. Father gulped the last of his coffee before he headed out the door to the mine, and with a parting glance over his shoulder, Father smiled for the first time since Mother's death and left me with the words that reverberated through my mind all day. "We will learn," he said.

I rounded up my four oldest siblings, Anna, Hugo, Heinrich, and Nettie, and grilled them on what they knew about Father's interest in America, particularly this place called Michigan, but they knew no more than I. Distracted all day is what I was. I ignored the mending pile and delegated more chores than usual. The twins went outside to cut more wood. At 13, they maybe should have been more boys than men, but they were already putting on muscle and were not afraid of work. Anna took Baby Etta and Christian, who just turned 2, over to Mrs. Schmidt's, who only the day before had invited them over for the afternoon. Mrs. Schmidt wanted to teach Anna some embroidery stitches while Etta and Christian napped beside the littlest of her own brood. That left Nettie and Maria to care for Johann, and they, happy I excused them from any chores, determined their five-year-old brother was not too young to start learning to play our favorite card game, Skat.

With everyone occupied, I picked up Father's discarded stack of *Wegweisers* to see what I could learn about Michigan. I so loved to read, but since Otto died, and then my mother, there was simply no free time to be had though we did read from our family Bible whenever Father made it home from the mine in time for our evening devotional. I picked up the paper and lost myself in one issue and then another with every turn of the page.

I looked up with a start when Anna walked in carrying Etta and holding on to Christian's pudgy little hand. I had been reading and pondering Father's newspapers for over three hours! Anna was a little put out that I hadn't started supper, nor had I even picked up a sock to mend. She hoped to make a few more stitches on her handkerchief, she said, while Mrs. Schmidt's tutelage was still fresh, but now she would be forced into service in the kitchen – and she was none too happy about it. To me, fancy stitching on a handkerchief was impractical at best, but Mrs. Schmidt had gifted it to Anna, thread and all, and Anna worked so hard at home; I knew she deserved any little thing that brought her joy. More and more what brought Anna joy was spending time with our neighbors; it shocked me to know I was jealous when I realized Mrs. Schmidt was fulfilling Anna's need for a mother. I quietly remarked that I had enjoyed and deserved my few hours away from all the work, too, and then I bit my tongue hard enough to draw blood lest I make a further retort.

I didn't want Anna upset with me, for she was my only friend in this world; I would simply be lost without her.

I paused in my work when I heard a commotion outside. Next, Hugo and Heinrich barreled into the kitchen grinning from ear to ear. The boys were identical in every way, from their blond hair and blue eyes right down to the patched knees on their trousers. They were the spitting image of Otto, and my breath caught at this unexpected moment of grief – oh, how I missed my eldest brother who had made even the most mundane and dreary work fun. While Heinrich stood on his tiptoes to hang Father's gun on its hooks in its spot over the door, Hugo produced from behind his back a string of three squirrels, already cleaned and dressed! The boys' grins were contagious, and their excitement as they told the story of their hunt restored the happiness of the morning to our home once more. The twins solved my dilemma of what we would eat that night. Nettie started chopping potatoes, and I, the turnips, while Anna set to work making biscuits. The squirrels would make a tasty stew!

After Father tasted our supper, he praised each of us in turn – this was something new. Mother had always been generous with her appreciation of any contribution we children made, but Father was another story entirely. Though an overall kind man, Father believed every contribution to the family was necessary and expected, and therefore, praise would only come when something

was achieved beyond the expected.

I watched Father as he listened with great patience as the boys retold their hunting story, slightly embellished, for the third time, and when he asked for Christian and Etta so he could hold them on his lap after supper, Anna and I exchanged another look. Perhaps, Father was finally, at long last, coming out of his depression. I only hoped it to be true. Father had always been an amiable man, but he had lost his spark since Mother died, and because of it, it felt like we'd lost him, too. Ours had always been a happy family; perhaps some of that happiness could be restored after all. With the babes still on his lap, Father scooted his chair closer to the fire and said that after the five youngest were in bed he wanted to talk to Anna, the twins, and me.

The shiver that snaked its way down my spine had little to do with the wind penetrating the chink in the walls of our humble home.

After prayers were said and the little ones, tucked in, we four oldest children gathered around the table to hear Father speak the words that changed our lives. Father explained that America wanted to expand westward, and they wanted strong German men to settle Michigan.

I had already learned from the *Wegweiser* that 10 years earlier President Abraham Lincoln of the United States had passed the Homestead Act of 1862 in an attempt to settle the American West. Only a small amount of money was required for a filing fee in order for a person to stake a 160-acre claim on free public land. This eighteen-dollar investment attracted immigrants in droves as well as Americans who aimed to improve their lot in life. Of that \$18, \$10 was used to make a temporary claim on the land, and the land agent received a two-dollar commission for his services rendered. The remaining \$6 garnered an official patent

See YARNS on page 22

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YARNS from page 21

on the land. Land titles could also be purchased directly from the government for \$1.25 per acre with certain requirements. In order to seal the deal to get free land, the U.S. government required the homesteader to farm the land and make improvements on the parcel, such as building a house and outbuildings, and the new pioneer must live on his homestead continuously for five years.

What I found most interesting was that anyone could make a claim as long as they were 21 years old or the head of their household – women included. In Germany, a wife was no more than a man's chattel. She didn't have a voice unless her husband was actually in love with her – and oftentimes not even then. In Germany, a woman only had a voice if a man allowed her one.

America sounded most intriguing! No wonder the paper called traveling to the New World one step closer to the American dream! To think, people like us could own their own land!

According to the *Wegweiser*, Lincoln's Homestead Act proved effective in encouraging westward expansion, but it did little for Michigan. Surrounded by lakes and filled with sky-high timber, Michigan was unique. Homesteaders didn't give Michigan a second glance when they could travel to states to claim land that they could actually till without dealing with trees and stumps – the stumps, all that was left in some regions where the timber had already been harvested.

When it became clear that pioneers were bypassing Michigan to settle land in neighboring states and further to the west, Michigan Governor Henry Baldwin decided to actively promote Michigan to immigrants in Germany, Prussia, and Posen by appointing Maximilian Heinrich Allardt as Michigan's Immigration Commissioner. Allardt, who hailed from Saginaw, moved his family to Germany, where he established his office first in Frankfurt and later in Hamburg. M. H. Allardt published the *Der Michigan Wegweiser*, and in it, he promoted Michigan's business opportunities, its northern mines, and throughout the state, its fertile soil ideal for farming.

Michigan paid Allardt handsomely for his work, which was to fulfill the translation of *Der Michigan Wegweiser*, meaning "The Michigan Guide." Michigan wanted settlers, and in order to alleviate some of the fear of immigrating to the New World, the state invested in a process to guide newcomers through the transition. While Allardt actively promoted Michigan

and recruited and handled questions and concerns in Germany, another Michigan agent was stationed in New York to facilitate the immigration process, help lessen the challenges that came with language barriers upon the newcomers' arrival to America, and to arrange the final leg of their journey to Michigan. Together, these two land agents helped immigrants move to Michigan without worry of being taken advantage of; they had a reputation for being straightshooters. Michigan wanted hard-working Germans to turn the state into productive farmland and a desirable place to live.

But why would anyone want to farm in Michigan if it was filled with trees or stumps? The *Wegweiser* explained that, too. A great fire swept through large parts of the state in 1871 and burned much timberland. With the remaining timber and slash piles burned, what was left behind was fertile soil. All a man had to do was clear the land of any remaining stumps, plant his crop, and reap the rewards.

Despite now being behind in my work and Anna slightly peeved, I was glad I had taken a few hours to read that afternoon, so I had some idea of what Father was about to say – but still it was a shock. Father said that he had heard at the mine that, over summer, a new group called Colonie Saxonia had started here in Germany, in Dresden. A board of directors had been elected, and the goal was to gain members, up to 300 families, who were interested in making their home in America. After talking with M. H. Allardt, the board set their sights on Michigan. Three representatives of Saxonia had already left, and Allardt, who hailed from a place called Saginaw, recommended they travel there to secure land for the first 50 families slated to depart the following spring in 1873.

Father went on to say that he was going to sign us up. We wouldn't leave in the spring, however; he said the second group was slated to leave in the summer, and we would be part of it. He then told Hugo to crawl on his belly to retrieve a small crock tucked in the corner under Father's bed. Once handed over, Father removed the lid and started counting bills and coins. Mother had saved well her egg and cream money; we all sat eyes wide, mouths open. I never knew Mother had any money stashed; I hadn't known we had anything extra at all. Father smiled then, even with his sad eyes, and told us that Mother had always wanted to go to America to escape our oppression, to ensure we would have religious freedom; after Otto had died in the war, she was more determined than ever to get to the New World before the twins had to serve their

Seeking Donated Items for 4-H Garage Sale Fundraiser

With spring quickly approaching, that typically means we do a lot of cleaning and get rid of items we no longer desire to hold on to. The Huron County 4-H Leaders' Association is planning their annual 4-H "Garage Sale" fundraiser scheduled for May 12–14, 2022, and would be delighted to take items you no longer have a use for.

Donated items will be accepted on Wednesday, April 6, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the 4-H Building located at the fairgrounds in Bad Axe on Fair Street.

Acceptable items MUST be in good condition: household, small furniture, jewelry, vintage, antiques, gently used children and adult clothing, shoes/boots, toys, etc. Basically, any item in good condition is welcome.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of the Huron County 4-H Program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Patti Error at 989-550-2971 or email errerpatt@msu.edu; you may also contact Kari at 989-269-9949 or email verelle7@msu.edu.

obligatory time in the German military. Apparently, they had been saving to do just that. Father said he'd be filling out our application immediately, and once accepted, he would pay the required fees that would cover our fare and travel expenses. Upon arrival in America, we would have 40 acres of land with five years to pay for it. Depending on where exactly we settled, it sounded like Father could gain work at a mine. Father figured the twins would, together, be able to do a man's work, so he was confident we would succeed at making our payments, what with his earnings from the mine and the income the farm would begin to generate with each new crop planted. And to think, at the end of five years, Father would own the land – something not possible in Germany for people in our class!

Be sure to look for the continuation next month as Greta's family learns more about the land available in Michigan. With the knowledge that people in their class could own land in America, there was, indeed, much to mull over.

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A Year of Success with Man Therapy

“Over the past 10 years, 83 percent of suicides in the Thumb region were men,” reports Kari Granz, Thumb Community Health Partnership (TCHP) Program Coordinator. “That’s why TCHP launched Man Therapy in February 2021.” Man Therapy is a campaign to decrease the stigma around mental health concerns and let men know that it’s okay to seek help. The campaign is focused on informing men about mantherapy.org, a website that has tips for dealing with depression and other mental health issues, as well as a list of local services to help men with these issues. The campaign and the website use “guy” humor to cut through stigma and tackle issues like depression, divorce, and even suicidal thoughts head on.

“Feedback about Man Therapy has been great,” shares Granz. “Since Man Therapy was launched in the Thumb, over 1,600 people have accessed mantherapy.org, and 362 have taken the online Head Inspection mental health screening!”

Much of that success is due to the businesses and organizations who have helped promote Man Therapy to community members: businesses and organizations such as Tri-County Equipment and Graff Chevrolet in Sandusky, Nature’s Finest Taxidermist in Minden City, the Gemini Group in Bad Axe, and Tuscola County Courthouse, to name a few.

“In addition, several local men have volunteered to be in videos talking about how mental health issues such as stress, anxiety, and depression affect men in our area,” states Granz. “These videos have been shared on social media as well as in presentations at area events, such as suicide prevention walks, and statewide events such as the Kevin Song Conference. They always start good conversations. After viewing these videos, people in the audience and on social media often share stories of men in their lives who have struggled with their mental health, and how helpful Man Therapy would be to them.”

“Because of its success in reaching men, Man Therapy will be continuing in the next year, so people can be looking for more social media posts, radio ads, billboards, and events featuring Man Therapy in 2022!” Granz reports. “We’re

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also happy to report that the State of Michigan has launched Man Therapy statewide. That effort will expand the Man Therapy reach to all men in Michigan, while TCHP can continue to focus on the needs of men in the Thumb!”

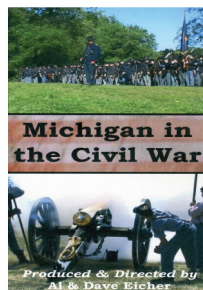
For more information about Man Therapy or to help get the word out about it, call Kari Granz at 810-895-2918, or email tchpmore@gmail.com.

The Thumb Community Health Partnership was formed in 2019, and encompasses Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, Tuscola. The Thumb Community Health Partnership’s Mission is to provide an integrated approach to identify key issues and establish a coordinated response to regional community needs, thereby providing a cohesive regional effort to identify, plan for, and provide interventions that will lead to a healthier community. TCHP members recognize that a unified approach to address mental health and obesity related chronic disease is a priority in the Thumb.

TCHP members include local community mental health agencies, public health departments, eight local hospitals, and the Human Development Commission. These organizations have joined forces to address physical and behavioral health issues in Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties.

This network is the current recipient of a Network Development Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$900,000 with 0% financed with other resources. The contents of documents created through the project are the work of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

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Les Phillips Retires from Northstar Bank Board of Directors

Northstar Bank would like to congratulate Les Phillips on his retirement from its board of directors. Phillips joined Northstar Bank’s board of directors in 2015. His guidance has been instrumental in the growth of the bank.



“It has been a pleasure to work with Les for the past seven years,” said Debbie Cunningham, President and CEO of Northstar Bank. “He has been a valuable member of our board and has set a wonderful example for future board members. We wish him all the best.”

Phillips was the owner of Phillips Oil in Decker. He was a charter member of the Lamotte Township Fire Dept. and retired after 30 years of service. Other affiliations include past board member of the Michigan Petroleum Association, past board member and board chairman of Marlette Regional Hospital, past board chairman of United Healthcare Partners as well as current trustee of LaMotte Township. He and his wife, Carol, reside in Decker.

With assets totaling over \$912 million, Northstar Bank employs approximately 100 banking professionals with eleven branches. Northstar Bank is an independent, locally operated, full-service bank offering a broad range of financial services. Our mission is to guide the way with service, leadership, and trust. We are dedicated to building successful relationships within our communities. Please visit our website at www.northstarathome.com. Member FDIC

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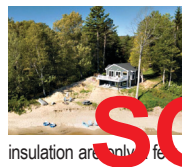
PENDING! Great 40-acre parcel, ready for spring planting! Approximately 3 acres of woods and 37 tiled acres for farming. There is a home on the property; however, it will most likely be a tear-down.

018-22-0003 - **\$312,000**



This 3-bedroom, 1-bath cottage in the village of Forestville is walking distance to Lake Huron. Open concept and extra sitting area in bedroom. There is new paint and flooring throughout. Enjoy the summer nights around the fire pit and the hot summer days under the back covered porch. There is a 13' x 16' storage shed and a little garden shed for all of your yard equipment and beach toys. This 3-season cottage is only a 1 1/2 hour drive from the Metro Detroit area. It is move-in ready and priced to sell!

018-21-0023 - **\$114,900**



240' of Lake Huron frontage, on a sandy beach, with mature trees on 3 sides. Renovated in 2019. Granite countertops, hardwood floors, ceramic tile, cabinets and hardware, ship door walls, solid doors, energy efficient windows, and spray-foam insulation are only a few of the above standard items. The main level consists of a living area with 2 doorwalls that lead to a 14' x 26' deck. The main level also includes the kitchen, laundry, and master bedroom with its own en suite bathroom. There is also a 6' x 10' shed for added storage space.

018-21-0021 - **\$689,900**



Cozy, 2-bedroom, 2-bath home within walking distance to all the amenities of Harbor Beach. This home has an open concept kitchen/dining area, downstairs bedroom, master suite on the second floor, bathroom with jetted tub, vintage woodwork, thermal double pane windows, high efficiency furnace, and the electric has been updated. There is a back deck, brick-paver patio, and a newer 2 1/2 car garage, with heat, electric, and a cement floor, which was built to accommodate larger vehicles.

018-22-0002 - **\$132,900**



PENDING! Remodeled and back on the market! A total kitchen renovation, new flooring, baseboards, moldings, carpet, 2 new exterior doors, light fixtures, and new paint throughout make this home move-in ready. The exterior was upgraded with cement siding boards, and cultured stone was added all the way around the base of the house. Sitting on 2.04 acres, this is the perfect, quiet country home with abundant wildlife for your viewing pleasure.

018-22-0001 - **\$169,900**



This beautiful brick building has been an icon in Forester for many years. It is currently being renovated and needs to be completed. The downstairs floor plan includes 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, kitchen, and living room with an open floor plan. Upstairs area could be a 1-bedroom studio apartment with a separate outside entrance. You can get a peek at Lake Huron and the private fenced-in back yard from the upper deck. There is also a 24' x 32' pole barn and a 10' x 14' utility shed. You are just steps away from a beach access.

018-21-0016 - **\$179,000**



Prime piece of real estate in the village of Port Sanilac. This 2.2 acres is the perfect investment property. There are multiple possibilities, housing units, offices, you decide. Lot size is 300' x 320'. Multi-residential or commercial. A survey is available.

018-21-0004 - **\$154,900**



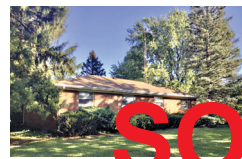
Historical building with 1,500 sq ft. of open floor upstairs and down. The wide open staircase makes for easy access to the basement. There is a 30' x 30' addition on the back of the building and a 30' x 50' newer garage plus 2 additional lots included. The building has a new roof on the front part and all the materials to do the back roof. Many new improvements have been made and some need to be completed. Endless commercial possibilities or make it your own private residence. Walking distance to the beach, restaurant, and park.

018-21-0009 - **\$124,900**



Move-in ready, year-around house or your summer getaway on 1.55 acres. The main house has an open concept, which makes it great for entertaining. 2 bedrooms, 1 full bath, and open loft area. The large sunroom is perfect for your morning coffee or that afternoon nap! The 2-car, unattached garage is great storage for all of your toys or a perfect man cave. Across the street is a 1-bedroom, 1-bath guest house. There is also storage shed. Close to town and the beautiful Lake Huron!

018-21-0022 - **\$179,900**



10 wooded acres of prime hunting property with pond! This 3-bedroom, 2-bath brick ranch home offers an open concept living area and a sea level sunroom viewing the the wooded back yard and pond. Features include: natural wood-burning fireplace, dry basement, 2 1/2 car attached garage, new windows, bedrooms and hallway have hardwood floors. The house is move-in ready, but some updating and cosmetic changes could be made. This home is located between Lexington and Sandusky.

018-21-0027 - **\$264,900**