



THE GAD-A-BOUT™

JUNE 2022

Outdoor Information • Museum • Frontier Post

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GAD-A-BOUT TERRITORY



ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE IN CENTERVILLE, IN SUNDAY MAY 22, 2022. GRAND MARSHAL'S LEFT TO RIGHT KENT DUANE SHANK, TOM DUNGAN & DRIVER - SEE PAGE 2



WWII VETERAN MMS PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS RAYMOND "EUGENE" DICKERSON U.S. NAVY SEABEE'S 1942 - 1946. ALASKA & OKINAWA - SEE PAGES 3,16-18



THIS YEAR'S 2022 COPS CYCLING FOR SURVIVORS TRUCK IS IN SPECIAL MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT EUGENE LASCO, INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION, END OF WATCH FEBRUARY 21, 2021; RESERVE DEPUTY JAMES DRIVER, MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, END OF WATCH MARCH 29, 2021; SERGEANT THOMAS SAWYER, HAMMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT, END OF WATCH JUNE 17, 2021; DETECTIVE GREG FERENCY, TERRE HAUTE POLICE DEPARTMENT, END OF WATCH JULY 7, 2021; CORPORAL ROBERT NICHOLSON, CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, END OF WATCH SEPTEMBER 26, 2021; RESERVE DEPUTY JAMES HIRTZEL, JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, END OF WATCH OCTOBER 12, 2021; TOWN MARSHAL ANTHONY HINSHAW, LOSANTVILLE MARSHAL'S OFFICE, END OF WATCH NOVEMBER 25, 2021; AND, SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER JOHN SPARKS, CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, END OF WATCH DECEMBER 8, 2021. (INDIANA STATE POLICE PHOTO) SEE PAGE 22

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READ THE GAD-A-BOUT On Line @ www.thegadabout.com



THE GAD-A-ABOUT™

JUNE • Volume XXXIII • NO. 380

Created in 1990 & Published Monthly
by Kentucky Colonel Ray Dickerson

IN THIS ISSUE

Or by the name given to me by Golden Eagle
in 1995 **LOKA'DWE ICHUTAKU YUSHEDON'**
Translated *"Man who gets things done!"*

TO CONTACT THE GAD-A-ABOUT

CALL RAY'S CELL: 765-960-5767

"If no answer please leave a message."

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MMS Petty Officer First Class Raymond Eugene Dickerson, CBMU 624 Seabees, 1914 - 1992. Dad was a Mechanic. He opened Dickerson's Garage in the building at right after we moved into the house behind the garage shortly after he returned from Okinawa aboard the USS Topeka CL 67. He and 528 other veterans on Okinawa headed for home on October 4, 1945, they were picked up there and taken to Portland Oregon. You can read his entire story on page 15-28 in my October 2010 Gad-a-bout on my website www.thegad-about.com in the archives.

Today I publish The Gad-a-bout in the house and use Dickerson's Garage to store all the equipment I've used in all my different occupations and hobbies since taking over ownership after Dad passed in 1992. I was the only one who wanted the property of my family.

It's been a busy life time for Sherry and I, we've been married for 55 years. She deserves a medal for putting up with me all those years!

Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson
The Gad-a-bout

UPDATE ON GAD-A-BOUT MUSEUM

To those who have inquired about my proposed Gad-a-bout Museum I wrote about last year. It's still my plan, but I've got a great deal of work to be able to reach that goal. I'm hoping to get the attic cleaned out first so I can store quite a bit of the items currently residing on the garage floor that will be displayed in the museum. I've been fortunate in living and experiencing a great deal of interesting endeavors, occupations and experiences.

Another much more timely obstruction is tak-



The future Gad-a-bout Museum hopefully. This property dates back to March 8, 1814. According to my Abstract of it. Also listed was The United States of America, by James Madison, Pres., May 11, 1816. The first owner was a James Black, Jr. Recorded April 4, 1820. We moved into the house behind the garage in 1946 after my father, Raymond Eugene Dickerson, returned home from Okinawa in 1945. He opened Dickerson's Garage in it in 1946. It's still Dickersons Garage. My monthly Light and Water bill is addressed to Dickerson's Garage at 105 E. South Street. The memories of Dad working on cars in it are alive and well to this day. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

ing care of cleaning and removing quite a bit of outdoor clutter I've got to remove from the property. I've been focusing on that the last couple of weeks. Biggest problem with that is the frequent wet weather and it causing a longer wait for contractors being able to maneuver on the wet ground. Hopefully Mother Earth will not need the extra weight in our area the rain brings and provide some dry weather for a while. That would be a great help and of course as you know I'm still publishing The Gad-a-bout, which can only be read on my website www.thegadabout.com. I wish I could print it again, but my age, cost and lack of good advertising sales help available makes it impractical. I send pdf's to a great number of people who don't have the needed electronic devices to view it on line. Time moves on!

CENTERVILLE BUSINESSES SEPTEMBER 1973

In this issue on the Centerfold (pages 12-13) is a map of Centerville, Indiana with all the businesses located on the map at their approximate location in September 1973. The business names are listed in alphabetically order with artwork of either a business logo or a drawing of an object representing their type of business drawn by me.

My very first publication was the Whitewater Valley Gad-a-bout that was published by me from July 1973 to July 1978. It was a Bi-monthly publication. It was named the Outdoor Gad-a-bout when I ended it in 1978.

In September/October 1973 there were 40 businesses in Centerville at that time.

In this issue there is only one business still in Centerville that appeared in the September/October 1973 issue. In 1973 Bill Senters business was called Senters TV-Service. Today in 2022 Bill Senters business is The Old Clock Shop and is still located in the same location at 320 South Ash Street, Centerville, IN 47330 that it was in 1973. His advertisement is at the bottom of page 12 in this issue.

Listed at right are the 40 businesses that are

located on the map of Centerville on pages 12 & 13, look for their number to find the location where they were located back in 1973.

1. Alcorn Antiques
2. Al's 66 Service3
3. Busby's Outboard Motor Sales
4. Catron's Key & Locksmith Shop
5. Centerville Auto Sales
6. Centerville Bike Shop
7. Centerville Hardware
8. Centerville Feed & Grain
9. Centerville Soda Bar
10. Country Side Antiques
11. Donut & Coffee Shop
12. Druley's Barber Shop
13. Eastern Indiana Insurance Agy
14. Frame Builders
15. Ford's Regal Market
16. Harris Jewelry Store
17. Helen's Antiques Shop
18. Hickory Hill Sportsman Club (Floyd Nixon)
19. Jackson & Son Florist
20. Jim Corders Auto Chek
21. Jody's Restaurant
22. Killens Service Center
23. Kinder's Standard Service
24. Livingston Mobile Homes
25. Penny's Barber Shop
26. Ramey Body Shop
27. Rhoades Sunoco Service Station
28. R.D. Reed, Auctioneer
29. Senters TV-Service
30. Smith Appliance Store
31. Standard Dry Wall Products
32. Suburban Antiques
33. The Crusader
34. The Finishing Touch
35. The First National Bank
36. The Second National Bank
37. Tuttle's Drive-In
38. Twin Pine Antiques
39. Vaile House Antiques
40. West House Ceramics

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Outreach Team Chair



by Kevin Smith

CUMC Outreach Team

May was a very busy and rewarding month for the CUMC Outreach Team. Back in April we were notified by Lindsay Sankey of the Co-Alliance Cooperative Association that we were to be the recipients of a \$2,500.00 grant to our Monthly Food Ministry. We did not apply for this grant, we were selected by Co-Alliance to be the recipients because of our track record over the past four and one-half years of providing nutritional assistance to Centerville and Wayne County families that need it the most. On Friday, May 6th, several of our food ministry team gathered in the food room to receive the check from Lindsay. Imagine our surprise when she informed us that Kevin Still, CEO of the Co-Alliance Cooperative, increased the amount of the check to \$3,750.00! (See photo.) Thank you Kevin Still, Lindsay Sankey, and the Co-Alliance Cooperative for continuing to have faith in our Monthly Food Ministry.

Then, on Monday evening, May 9th, the Centerville Lion's club held their annual awards banquet. The Lion's acknowledge various groups and individuals for their community service. Our very own CUMC Monthly Food Ministry was recognized for providing nutritional assistance to area families that need it the most. (See photo.) Thank you to the Centerville Lion's Club for recognizing our food ministry's service to our community.

Saturday, May 14th, was food collection day at the US Post Office. On that day postal carriers collected food from around the county and brought it back to the Richmond Post Office for sorting and distribution. Our combined food Ministries (Annex and Monthly Food Ministry) received 450 pounds of food from the USPS efforts. Thank you to Vanessa Sams and all postal carriers at the Post Office for collecting food items, to Sally and Ken McCaslin for organizing, and to Liz Smith, Patty Jenkins, and Jess Price for sorting. Another example of how our community takes care of each other.

May is also the month for another quarterly Faith Promise distribution. Checks went out on May 16th to all eleven ministries that we support with Faith Promise dollars. Don't forget to check out the thank you notes from these ministries that are posted on the bulletin board in the elevette hallway. Your support is greatly appreciated and needed.

Our next Monthly Food Ministry will be held on Saturday, June 18th, from 10:00 - 11:00 AM.

"...You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11



Co-Alliance Cooperative Association Lindsay Sankey presented the CUMC Monthly Food Ministry with this check for \$3,750.00! Front Row: CUMC members left to right: Mary Livingston, Karen Dickson, Pat Bowers, Dave Angi and Co-Alliance Representative Lindsay Sankey. Back Row: Bob Morrow, Sam Dickson, Elizabeth Smith and Ken Martin. (Photo by Liz Smith)



Centerville Lion's Club Representative Dennis Stephen presenting the CUMC Monthly Food Ministry with a plaque recognizing them for providing nutritional assistance to area families that need it the most. CUMC members from left to right: Jim Potter, Sam Dickson and Kevin Smith. (Photo by Liz Smith)

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

GRADUATE INDIANA CONSERVATION OFFICER K-9 SCHOOL

Eight K-9 teams that completed the DNR

Division of Law Enforcement's nine-week K-9 Resource Protection program were recognized during a graduation ceremony held today on the south lawn of the Indiana Statehouse.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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Pastor Ted Chalk sitting on the floor of the Centerville Methodist Church holding the attention of the children as he tells them about Jesus and uplifting passages from the bible. Note how each of these children are paying attention to Ted. In my mind I think there is a bond of friendship here that is irreplaceable. From left to right: Silas Williamson, Maggie Williamson, Madalyn Angi, Lily Snyder, Isaac Snyder and Brody Smith. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

CENTERVILLE & RICHMOND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



by Pastor Ted Chalk

Why Pastor Ted Chalk Is So Special To Everyone

by Ray Dickerson

Pastor Ted Chalk in my mind represents a goodness in a world that needs his mindset now more than ever before.

Sherry and I have only been attending the Centerville Methodist Church again for several months now. But we enjoy it mostly because Pastor Ted Chalk and his congregation are so friendly and open to meeting and so genuine in their friendship towards everyone who attends church there.

There is one segment of Ted's ministry that really



Pete Angi in the balcony of the Centerville Methodist Church controlling all the facets of the Multi Media equipment used by the church to display songs, prayers, announcements and messages on the wall. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

resonates with me and that is his taking the time to recognize the children. Early on in his sermon he invites all the children in the church to sit with him in front of the middle section of the pews. He sits on the floor and the children sit along the bottom of the altar banister (see above photo). All of his attention is focused on the children while teaching them about God and somehow always keeping their attention focused on what he is telling them. Occasionally one or two of the children might casually look away, but not for long. All in all

the children really enjoy their time sitting with Pastor Ted, he is so personable with them with a little humor mixed in with true awareness of their age and likely hood of growing and understanding why they are so special to him and the church. Oh, they get candy too.

The Centerville Methodist Church is located at 112 S. Morton Ave., Phone: (765) 855-5576, Website: www.centervilleumc.org.

Sunday Church service begins at 9:30 a.m. ■



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Our Next Monthly Food Ministry:

Saturday, June 18,
2022
10:00 - 11:00 AM

Want to help? Send donations to:
CUMC Monthly Food Ministry,
112 S. Morton Ave.
Centerville, IN 47330

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

MY COUSIN KENT “DOC” SHANK CO-GRAND MARSHAL CENTERVILLE ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE, MAY 21, 2022

Due to our area being slammed by high winds and a tornado threat yesterday, Saturday May 21st the Armed Forces Day Parade was moved to Sunday May 22, 2022. Last months issue I had an official application for the parade in it you might recall.

I just learned a few days ago that my cousin Doc Shank is a Co-Grand Marshal of the parade, along with fellow Veteran Tom Dungan. I have fond memories dating back to when my father was in the South Pacific during WWII, we lived with Aunt Kate, Doc, Dick and Grandmother Shank in Centerville on South Morton Avenue on the south side of the Friends Church. (Today there is a paved parking lot where her house use to be).

I remember sitting in their front room once and Doc was trying to get me to try my hand at playing some notes on a musical instrument he had at home. I’m not sure what it was exactly, but I had to hold it on my lap. It was actually too big for me to hold by myself, it wasn’t the tuba, but similar. John Wambo played one of them when I was in the band later on. I just can’t remember it’s name. Anyway Doc let go of it letting me hold it and I busted my lip on the mouth piece. He took it back as quick as he could. Doc was in the Centerville Band, Henry Fornoff was the band leader at that time I think. After graduation Doc’s older brother, Dick went into the Navy stationed on the west coast. Doc on the other hand was drafted into the Army and was sent to Germany.

I’m going to enjoy taking his photo tomorrow, Sunday May 22, 2022 on U.S.40.

I’ve visited Doc and his wife Evelyn on many occasions in recent years. Thanks to him I learned more about our ancestry, especially our Great Grandfather George William and grandmother Katherine Kinsey Dickerson. We’re at a dead end though about who was our Great, Great Grandfather and Grandmother. I’m still looking though.

Hope it don’t rain tomorrow, hope to see you at the Armed Forces Parade Sunday, May 22, 2022.

AND THE HITS JUST KEEP ON COMING

If something doesn’t change in the thinking and action of the President of the United States and his fellow staff who are in charge in Washington, our country isn’t going to be fit to live in any more.

I have lived in America for 81 years and up until this President’s time in office it hasn’t been half bad, there have been some ups and downs, but at least those in charge knew how to rectify his problems and do something to cure them.

The current President evidently knows how to ruin the American Dream, but not how to wake up and “Make America Great Again!”

Vote with common sense in the upcoming elections and make sure to “Make America Great

Again!”

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21) TEAMS FROM FOUR STATES AND ZAMBIA

Graduating teams came from the states of Indiana, Virginia, Kansas, and Washington, as well as from the African country of Zambia.

The two participants from Africa are handlers for the Zambia Department of National Parks and Wildlife. Both handlers have countrywide wildlife authority in Zambia. The new teams will focus on detecting bush meat, elephant ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, firearms, and ammunition.

Indiana’s K-9 program started in 1997 with a pilot program of two teams. Because of its effectiveness, the program grew to a team of 13 K-9 units throughout the state. At least one K-9 unit serves in each of the 10 Indiana DNR Law Enforcement districts. The Indiana K-9 program is both well respected in the Hoosier state and recognized as one of the nation’s best. In addition to the states represented in this year’s school, Indiana has also helped start and train teams from natural resource agencies in Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, and Oregon. The Indiana K-9 program trains teams that serve in Indiana in man-tracking, wildlife detection and article searches. All canines are trained to locate white-tailed deer, wild turkey, waterfowl, and ginseng. They may also be trained to locate other species, depending on where in Indiana the handler is stationed. Indiana teams excel in man-tracking and locating firearms.

K-9 teams provide the conservation officers in their districts another tool to help stop poaching. In the past 25 years, Indiana K-9 teams have been involved in thousands of such cases. K-9 teams have been used to find concealed game and guns, as well as to find shell casings in road hunting and spotlighting cases. K-9 teams are used to find lost hunters as well as poachers who have tried to hide from officers. Because of their unique abilities, K-9 units are often requested by other state and local law enforcement agencies for help in locating evidence, missing persons, or fleeing felons.

GYPSY MOTH, NOW CALLED SPONGY MOTH, AERIAL BTK TREATMENTS TO CONTINUE NEXT WEEK

Aerial treatments conducted by Indiana DNR divisions of Forestry and Entomology & Plant Pathology to slow the spread of gypsy moth, now called spongy moth, in Marshall County will continue next week. Sites in LaPorte and Noble counties were completed, Thursday, May 19, 2022, but weather prohibited treatment in Marshall County. That 71 acres site will be completed next week as soon as weather permits.

Gypsy moth, now called spongy moth, is one of North America's most devastating invasive forest pests and has caused thousands of acres of defoliation across the eastern United States.

Treatment begins shortly after sunrise but could be delayed until later in the morning or to the next day due to unfavorable weather conditions such as morning fog or rain. Treatment should take about an hour.

During treatment, a yellow airplane flying 75-125 feet above the treetops will conduct the treatment, starting at sunrise and continuing through

out the day, as the weather and flight schedules permit. With favorable weather, treatments may be completed by late morning or early afternoon.

The airplane distributes a spray containing the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, referred to as Btk, into the treetops of infested areas where gypsy moth caterpillars feed on tree leaves. Btk kills gypsy moth caterpillars by disrupting their digestive systems after they ingest it.

Btk has been used for decades by gardeners and does not adversely affect people or animals. People who live or work near the treatment areas might want to stay inside when the planes are flying and for about 30 minutes after treatments are complete. This gives the material time to settle out of the air and stick to treetops. For more information on Btk, call toll-free at **1-866-NO-EXOTIC (663-9684)** or call your county extension office.

If the weather cools and slows the emergence of the caterpillars, the treatment application could be delayed until the following week. Updates will be posted on **Twitter @INdnrinvative**. DNR will also issue news releases to update the status.

Once treatment begins, rain or high wind may interrupt it for that day. If that happens, treatment would resume the next suitable day and continue until all sites have been treated.

To determine if your property is in the treatment areas or to view maps of all treatment locations, or for more information about gypsy moth, see gypsymoth.IN.gov.

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

INDIANA CONSERVATION OFFICERS HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICE & AWARDS CEREMONY

A ceremony was held today to remember fallen Indiana Conservation Officers and recognize current officers for their excellence while serving the .The seven members of the DNR Division of Law

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Misfires And Snags



by Dan Graves
"Humorist Writer"

To Mushroom or Not to Mushroom

Every year I wrestle with the decision to spend time (or waste it, depending on my viewpoint at the time) looking for those spongy little bug factories called edible mushrooms. And every year I can't resist the temptation to wander through the woods in hopes I might find a few of the things. Personally, I don't really care for them, especially after finding the best ones nestled up to a dried cow pie. But my wife loves them, so for her sake I devote a few hours every spring in a mostly vain effort to find at least one mess for her. I never bother to tell her where I found them and I don't think she would care if they came from the bottom of a compost heap.

We own eighteen plus acres in Franklin County that is entirely wooded and by all appearances is a perfect location to find baskets of the things. According to everything I've read about prime mushroom habitat I should trip over one at every third step. Apparently the local mushrooms either haven't yet read the book or I'm incapable of seeing anything less than three feet tall. During the ten years we've owned the land, only one year produced what I would call a bumper crop. Judy got about four good messes that year and the other nine produced nothing but excuses from me as to why I didn't bring any home. One year I packed my favorite .22 target pistol along while I scanned the trail to the shooting range looking for the little fungi. Since I didn't find any, in my opinion, there wasn't any reason to continue past the range, so I spent an hour punching holes in targets. When I got back to the cabin and proudly showed her the targets and the few holes in the black, her only reaction was, "where are the mushrooms?" That was a tough one to lie my way out of, but I managed it by explaining to her the effect of the phase of the moon and its influence on mushroom growth.

"Last year you told me it was because of storms along the Pacific coastline" she said. "What will it be next year? Meteorites impacting the Arctic Circle?"

My biggest problem in hunting mushrooms is concentration. I try to follow the suggestions by experienced hunters, such as forming an image of a mushroom in your mind. Supposedly, this will help you spot the elusive little buggers. I really try, but inevitably I find myself thinking about how to dismantle the carburetor on my old BSA motorcycle or envisioning the last time a fish rose to take a fly. At those times I believe on the saying, I listen but I don't hear, I touch but I don't feel, and I look but I don't see. I wonder how many times I've walked right past a six inch tall morel and had no clue it was there. Another thing that interferes with my concentration is the condition the woods are in after a hard winter. Dead limbs litter the paths and hang from the branches of smaller trees. During the first weeks of warm weather I feel it's my civic duty to clean up the mess left by Mother Nature. So, I spend most of my time while mushroom hunting cleaning up her mess by pulling down dead limbs and moving others off the trails. After all, we wouldn't want a poor deer to trip and break something. Since very few if any species of edible fungi grow in trees, I normally come back empty handed but armed with some excuse as to why. However, these "reasons" are beginning to wear thin with Judy. And every year it gets tougher to try to convince her that I'm sincere. She didn't buy the swamp gas thing and the attack by a pack of rabid squirrels got me a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for supper.

This year, however, I got by with explaining how it was too cold during March and April for them to grow, even though I've read where the little assassins sometimes come up through snow and have even been found growing through cracks in asphalt. If she knew these statistics I would probably have been scraping around on our county road in six inches of snow.

Every year though, I get in the doghouse when she asks a neighboring farmer how many he's found. The traitor always relates how he's already found a couple of pickup beds full and the season is just warming up. Next year I'm going to write him a check in return for a little white lie even though that may open me up to annual blackmail for the rest of my life.

I've never seen anything that causes as much springtime trouble as a stupid little mindless fungus armed with the best of camouflage and no set pattern as to where it can be found. Sometimes I wish they were armed with a vicious set of teeth and a real attitude towards humans. Then, armed with the target pistol I could pick them off at my leisure from up in the tree where they chased me. At least that would be a lot safer than trying to explain to Judy why I came back empty handed for another year.

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Enforcement who have died in the line of duty since its inception in 1911 were honored in the auditorium of the Indiana Government Center in Indianapolis. Those officers, listed with their end of watch date: **Sgt. Ed Bollman**, Feb. 13, 2018; **F/Sgt. Karl E. Kelley**, April 17, 1998; **ICO Thomas Deniston**, Oct. 16, 1990; **ICO James D. Pitzer**, Jan. 2, 1961; **Robert S. Perkins**, May 27, 1958; **Warden William J. Nattkemper**, April 27, 1926; and **Warden William J. Peare**, April 27, 1926.

Indiana Conservation Officers are law enforcement officers for the DNR, and the DNR Division of Law Enforcement is the oldest Indiana state law enforcement agency. A total of 214 conservation officers serve the state.

After the memorial ceremony, the division recognized current individual officers for their outstanding service.

District 2 **Officer Andrew Harmon**, assigned to Wells County, was selected as the James D. Pitzer Indiana Conservation Officer of the Year. The award establishes Landis as the top officer of 2021, as selected from the 10 district Officer of the Year recipients.

The Pitzer award is named for Conservation Officer Pitzer, who was killed in the line of duty in Jay County. The Pitzer recipient demonstrates professional ethics, attitude, and service to the public while demonstrating dedication to the principles of the conservation of natural resources and the enforcement of laws affecting the department. The officer must also demonstrate the ability to provide a positive influence, develop camaraderie within the ranks, and gain the confidence and respect of fellow officers.

Capt. Nate Berry received the Director's Leadership Award for his work overseeing officers in the southern portion of the state and assisting the agency to navigate COVID-19 and the 2021 ICO hiring process.

District 6 **Officer Joe Tenbarger** was recognized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) as the state's Boating Enforcement Officer of the Year and for his leadership in in boating education.

District 1 **Officer Matt Maher** was presented with the 2021 Waterfowl Protection Officer of the Year award for his enforcement of waterfowl regulations and his related performance in public education and community interaction.

Conservation **Officers Hunter Law** of District 1, **Rob Klakamp** of District 8, **Travis Stewart** of District 9, and **Terri Millefoglie** and **Alex Neel** of District 10, were honored with Life Saving Awards for their exceptional actions that resulted more about DNR Law Enforcement at on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

STEVE'S MARINE



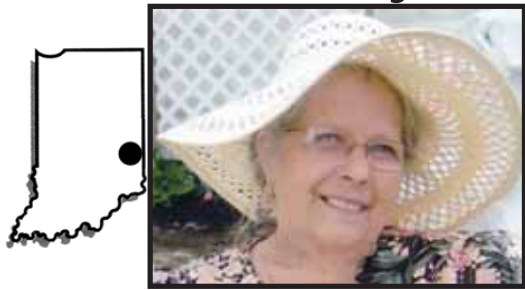





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Whitewater Valley History



by Donna Schroeder
Fayette County Historical Museum

A Mahogany Miracle

The name Dan Patch might not be familiar to many folks today, but almost everyone knew of it at the beginning of the last century. His legend lives on in the annals of horse racing history.

The story begins with a man named Dan Messner, a resident of the town of Oxford in Benton County, Indiana. Messner was a store-keeper who lived in the town and maintained a nearby farm. He had married a well educated lady, and their life was uneventful. From all indications, the couple was neither rich nor poor. Dan kept their store. They spent any extra money on trips to the theater in Indianapolis or vacations.

Mr. Messner wasn't particularly interested in his farm. He appears to have known little about running it, and it's said he didn't own a horse until, that is, the fateful day he attended an auction where a mare named Zelica was being sold. If the story is true, Messner raised his hand to greet a friend and became her owner. Too embarrassed to say he didn't mean to bid, Dan paid the \$255.00 and took Zelica to the farm. The next two years were uneventful. Zelica, who had problems with a leg that had been injured sometime before he bought her, lived a peaceful life.

Messner had a neighbor who hit upon the idea of taking his horse and Zelica to Illinois to be bred to a horse named Joe Patchen. Joe was a distant cousin of Zelica. He was also said to have a terrible disposition, but he was an outstanding specimen. In April of 1896, Zelica gave birth to her colt. To the dismay of Messner, the colt was barely able to stand due to his legs being quite crooked. Messner's neighbors called him "Messner's Folly" and suggested he should be put down, but there was something special about the colt. It was said that he seemed to look into a person's eyes and see their soul. Messner gave the horse his first name, Dan, and the first part of Joe Patchen's second name.

A local livery stable owner by the name of John Wattles saw something in the colt and took over his recovery and training. By the age of four, Dan Patch stood 64 inches tall at the base of his neck and weighed 1165 pounds. He was a beautiful shade of reddish brown, and he could run like the wind. In addition to being a champion, Dan Patch retained his gentle disposition throughout his lifetime.



Dan Patch with sulky. (Author Photo)



Daniel with the wagon he donated to our Museum. (Author Photo)

In 1906, Dan Patch set a new record for the mile at 1 minute and 55 seconds, and the rest is history. Messner had sold him for \$20,000 in 1902 to a man named Sturgis. Sturgis sold him for \$60,000 to Marion Savage of Minneapolis the same year. Savage owned the International Stock Food Company there. He moved it to Hamilton,

Minnesota, and the town's name was later changed to Savage.

Dan Patch continued to be a household name for years. Some events refused to allow him to enter, knowing that other horse owners wouldn't participate in races against him. Savage is said to have made at least fifteen million dollars from the

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Dan Patch was sold to Marion Savage of Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1902. (Author Photo)

licensing of the Dan Patch brand. In 1916, Savage was taken ill with a heart ailment. While Savage was hospitalized, Dan Patch died, and Savage's condition worsened. Whether from the shock of losing his horse or from the natural progression of his illness, Marion Savage died thirty two hours after the death of Dan Patch.

Both Oxford, Indiana and Savage, Minnesota celebrate the legend of Dan Patch with annual festivals. You can learn more about the famed horse and his legacy at www.danpatch.com.

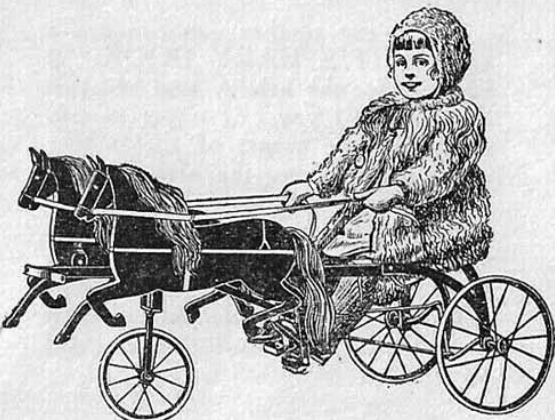
What does that have to do with Connersville? In 1912, the Dan Patch Novelty Company was started here. They manufactured toy wagons and cars for children. In 1916, the company produced 50,000 toy cars. The toys were exhibited at trade shows in Chicago and New York. The factory was in the former site of the Connersville Buggy Company in the 800 block on the east side of Eastern Avenue. Production appears to have ended in the mid 1930s.

For years, our museum had hoped to acquire a Connersville built toy from the company. Enter another Dan - or two. Daniel Pumphrey has donated a Model 76 Dan Patch wagon that was probably made in the 1920s in memory of his grandfather. While the earliest wagons had wheels with wooden spokes, this one has metal wheels with rubber tires. On the side is painted the famous time - 1:55 with a picture of the famed Dan Patch.

Jackson Township farmer Daniel John "Sam" Pumphrey (1919 - 2010), the grandfather of the current Daniel, was the lucky owner of an early wagon. He is pictured with his brother Glen looking on.

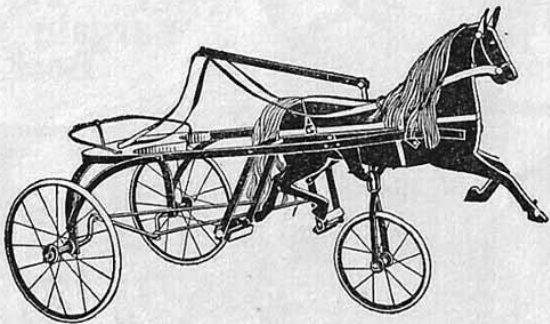
Historic Connersville is extremely grateful to Daniel and his family for the donation. It is on display in the lobby of the Fayette County Historical Museum. We are open 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Come visit us soon at 200 West 5th Street in Connersville!

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Dan Patch Novelty Company was started in Connersville, IN. in 1912. They manufactured toy wagons and cars for children. In 1916 they produced 50,000 cars that were exhibited at trade shows in Chicago & New York.



Jackson Township farmer Daniel John "Sam" Pumphrey (1919 - 2010), the grandfather of the current Daniel, was the lucky owner of an early wagon. His brother Glen is behind him. (Author Photo)

was in the right place at the right time this morning, saving the life of a Kokomo man.

Robert Boyd, 76, was rescued in Mississinewa Lake at approximately 10:25 a.m. by Indiana Conservation Officer Hunter Law.

Boyd was operating his watercraft when he was thrown from the vessel. ICO Law, who was on a routine patrol in the area, overheard a boat engine rev up and then quickly turn off. ICO Law quickly located the unoccupied boat in the middle of the lake.

ICO Law discovered Boyd just underneath the surface of the water. Boyd was transported to shore where EMS transported him to Community Howard Regional Health for evaluation.

Boyd was not wearing a personal flotation device (PFD). A safety lanyard turned off the

engine when Boyd was ejected. Without this safety precaution, the boat could have circled Boyd or struck another object.

Conservation Officers urge everyone to wear a PFD and for all boat operators to wear a safety lanyard.

Units on scene assisting Indiana Conservation Officers include Wabash Fire-EMS, Mississinewa Park & Reservoir Staff.

** UPDATE **

TWO KILLED IN POLICE-INVOLVED SHOOTING NEAR PALMYRA

Harrison County – Wednesday, May 18, 2022: Detective Christopher Tucker and Crime Scene Investigators with the Indiana State Police in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

dnr.IN.gov/lawenfor.

OFFICER SAVES KOKOMO MAN THROWN FROM BOAT

(Peru) An Indiana Conservation Officer (ICO)

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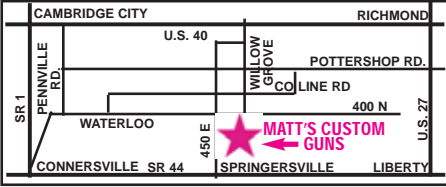
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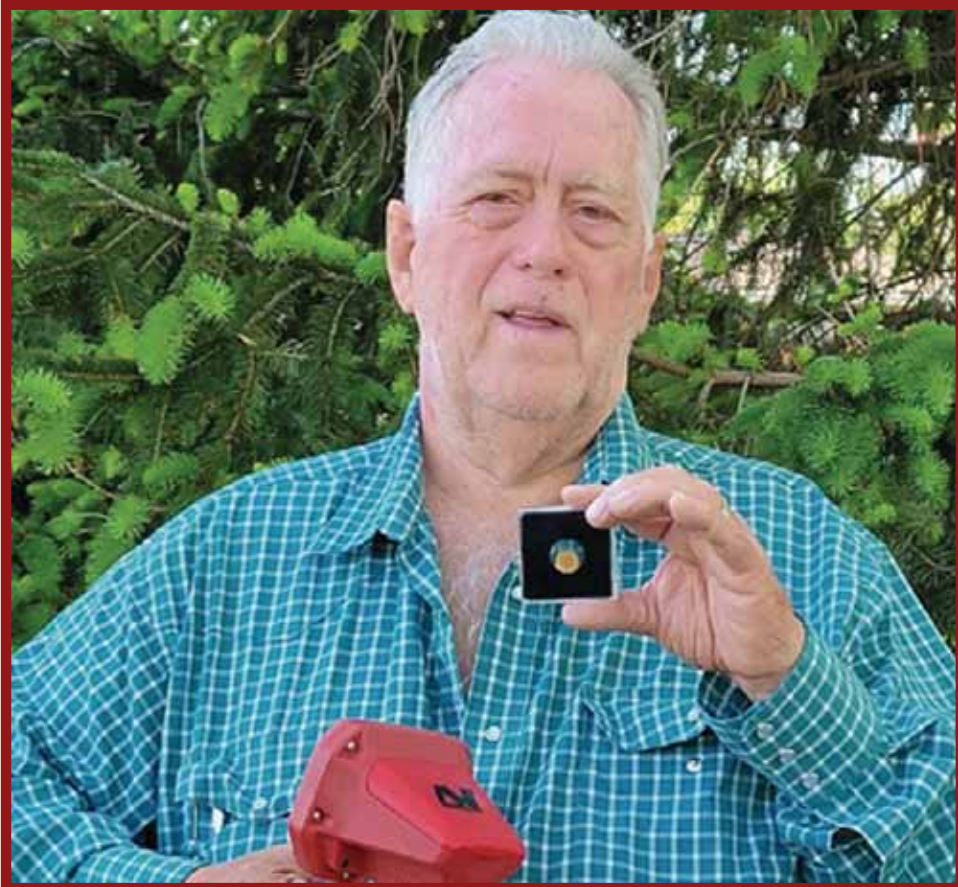
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Author with Minelab Vanquish 540 metal detector & gold coin found in hunt. (Author Photo)



Gold coin won in the Oklahoma hunt. (Author Photo)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Success in the Sooner State

Two weeks after we attended the KaDoHa #4 metal detector hunt in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, Susie and I went to Pryor, Oklahoma to try our luck at the Three Forks Treasure Hunters 35th National Treasure Hunt. These were both “seeded” events where the entrants pay a fee to participate. The sponsoring club then buries silver coins, other old coins, and numbered tokens which are redeemed by the finder for assorted prizes.

We mailed in our \$285 (each) entry fee several weeks in advance to qualify for the early bird prize and I then called AAA to get my trip tik to show the best route to our destination. I found it would be around 650 miles from home. This surprised me because the Arkansas hunt was 750 miles away. I didn’t think Oklahoma should be closer than Arkansas. After looking at a map, I saw we were going to the northeast corner of the Sooner state while before, we went to the southwest corner of The Natural State. Almost exactly 100 miles different.

Next, I made reservations at the Holiday

Inn Express in Pryor. The hunt sponsors had reserved a block of rooms for the greatly reduced price of \$79 a night. When we checked in on Friday night, we found the room was extremely nice and very large. In the morning, we enjoyed the full breakfast with pancakes, eggs, fried potatoes, sausage, bacon, and assorted rolls, yogurt, cereal, and more. This was the first time since the pandemic hit where our lodging offered a full breakfast.

Early Saturday we drove to the hunt site which was nearby at the Mayes County Fairgrounds. We unloaded our chairs, metal detectors, and put our boots on since it had rained hard the night before. I helped Max set up his Minelab awning and display since I write publicity stories for Minelab Metal Detectors. We then went to the Event Center where registration was and all the prizes for the day were on display. Hamburgers, hot dogs, nachos, and assorted other lunch items were available in this building. We had a quick lunch and returned to the truck to get ready for the first hunt.

I adjusted the length on my Minelab Vanquish 540 machine, checked the earphones and batteries, and strapped on my coin pouch. I then made sure my digging knife was in the pouch as was the Minelab Pro Find 35 pinpointer I carried. Susie did the same thing. I helped her with her new Vanquish 540. This was the first hunt she would be using this detector. I gave her quick instructions on its use. For this event, it was simple to use. The machine has a screen with numbers which show up as the coil passes over something metallic. Number 20 means a new penny, 25 is old pennies or dimes, 30 indicates a quarter and 33 usually is a half dollar. Since the targets were buried less than two inches deep, I told her to look for the coin number, then check the display

on the screen for the depth indicator.

We lined up for the first hunt. It was buried older pennies painted with numbers for \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10 and \$20. I told her to look for number 25 on her machine with just one or two arrows indicating depth. Since this was a fairgrounds, there was a lot of trash. This showed up as many different numbers on her display. Even if she saw a 25, I told her not to dig it if the detector indicated over two inches deep. I ended up with coins totaling \$36. Susie got a little over \$20.

The second hunt was starting soon. It was for buried silver half dollars. Figuring the number of hunters and the amount of halves they said were buried, I figured there was about three coins per person. I told Susie to watch for number 33 and again just an inch or two deep. She ended up with three coins and I was able to find seven.

Next was the hunt for gold coins. The field was planted with wheat pennies. Some were painted gold with the letters DOS on them. This stood for the Dos Pesos, 1945 Mexican gold coins to be won. There was 20 of these for about 120 people. I knew I would be hunting hard trying to find one of the right pennies. I did find one of the winning targets. There was bingo and a night hunt scheduled later, but we decided to go back to our hotel, have an early dinner, and get some rest for the next day.

First hunt on day two was a repeat of day one. Pennies with painted numbers were buried. Again \$1 to \$20. I found a \$10 and two \$5’s. I also found two \$2 and four \$1. We used the cash to buy our dinner on the way home Sunday night. Hunt number two was for silver quarters. I found 11 of those. I don’t remember how many Susie found. The last hunt of the day was for assorted silver coins plus tokens for prizes. I finished with

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Ten silver half dollars we found at the Three Forks Metal Detector Hunt. (Author Photo)



Eleven silver quarters which ended up in our coin pouches. (Author Photo)



The other side of the gold coin won in the Oklahoma hunt shown on Page 10 (Author Photo)

15 dimes and no tokens. Susie found about that many and two prize tokens. Nothing good. A hat and t-shirt and some kind of outdoor floodlight.

Overall, she came close to earning her

entry fee back. I finished with around \$400. I would have just broken even except for the gold coin. It is valued around \$135. I will keep it a while and see if gold keeps going up.

Our next scheduled hunt is in Michigan. I think our daughter and husband and our grandson will be going on that one with us.

It's just a one day hunt, but less than three hours from home. It will just be a one day trip. We have more hunts scheduled this summer in Indiana and in Kentucky in September. There is one in Alabama in October which may get put on our calendar.

The author may be reached at eyewrite4u@aol.com.



Around 30 silver dimes we found. Mostly Mercury dimes. (Author Photo)



Wheat pennies found in the ground in the gold coin hunt. (Author Photo)

We Are Looking for Metal Detecting Sites by Rich Creason

My wife, Susie, and I have been metal detecting together for over 40 years. We are always looking for new areas to search. If any of you readers have an older house, more than 80 years old, we would like to get permission to detect your yard for coins, buttons, relics, etc. We also are looking for farm fields which used to have a house site, cabin, school, church, etc. on the property where we can search when the crops are off. If you are interested, we would be glad to teach you how to use one of our detectors on your property while we are there.

We also search for lost rings if you know the general area where they were lost. Please reply if we can have permission to metal detect on your land. Thanks, Rich.

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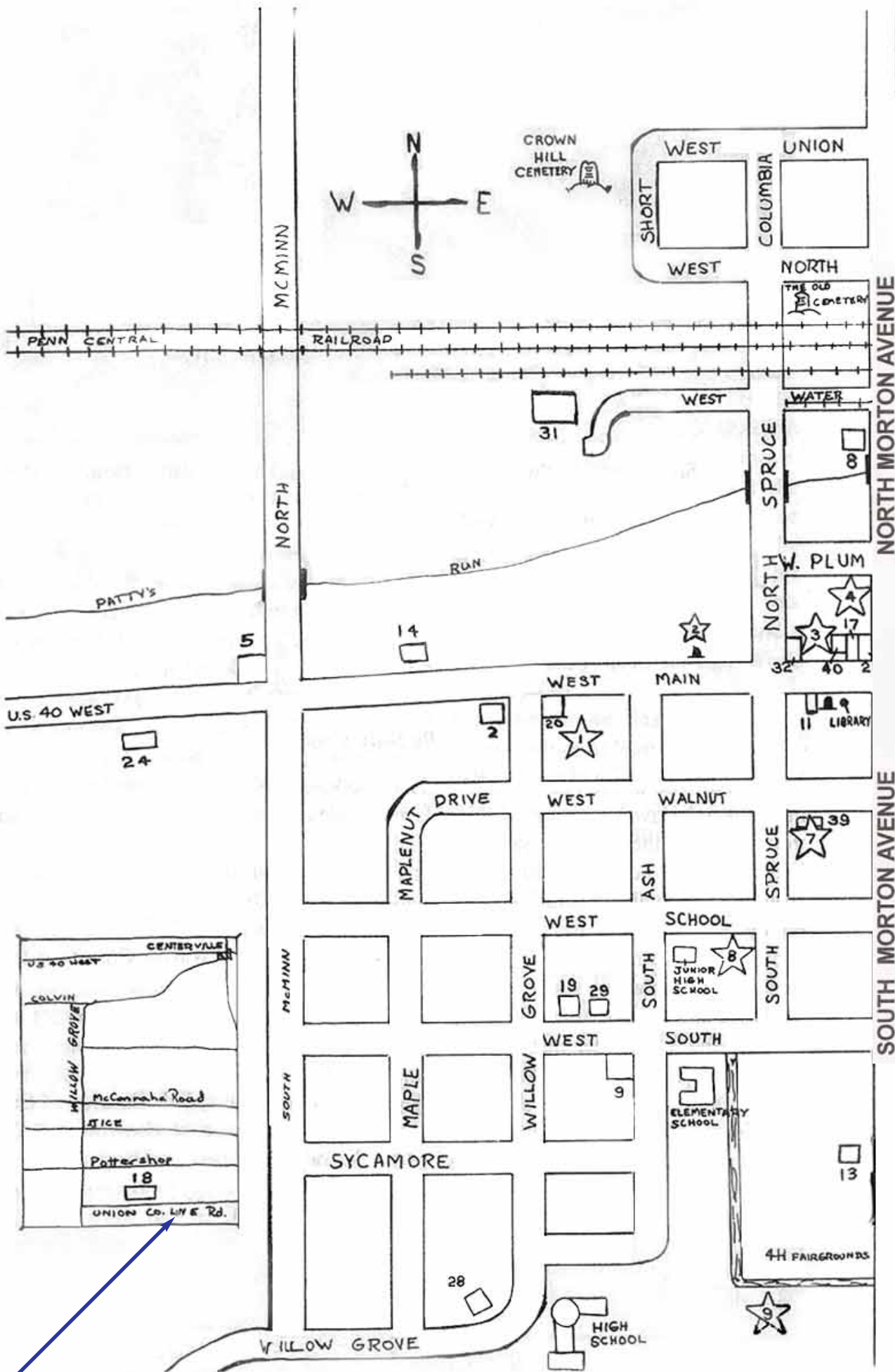


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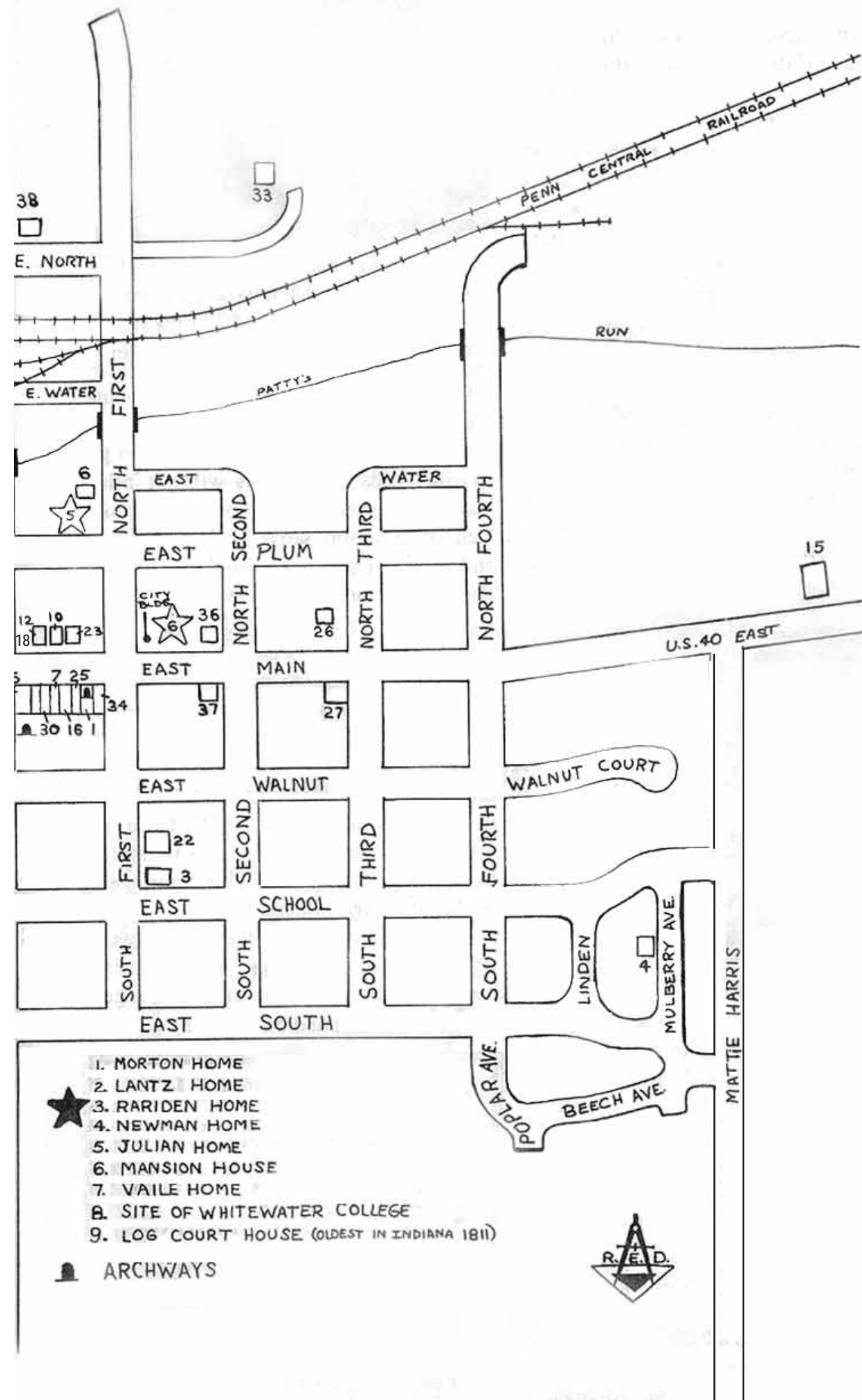
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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe
Professional Fishing Guide

Flat out fishing

When you stand on the shore looking out across Brookville Lake what you see is flat water. When you're on a boat looking at the bottom through a depth finder you see what it hides. Hills, valleys, trees, rock piles, drop edges, flats and fish. If you're a fisherman the next thing that goes through your mind is how can I put a fish in my live well. This all comes down to trial and error.

What you have to figure out is how all these different species of fish are using this structure to eat and keep from being eaten. You need to see the fish, be the fish. Brookville Lake has a pecking order. It is governed by the ecosystem. For example if you want to catch crappie you have to know where crappie live within the lake, how and what they feed on. To start, crappie are a schooling fish. They do not depend on each other to help each other feed but they will school together. What you're looking for is some kind of cover.

Look for a tree that has fallen in the lake, due to shore erosion. The tree limbs on the fallen tree provide a great spot for crappie to live. Crappie is a fish that likes to suspend in the water column, but wants to do it next to something like a fallen tree. Little young of the year fish also like to live in amongst these tree limbs along with bugs and larvae. There are a few different methods to catch crappie. The most popular is under a slip bobber. This consists of a bobber stop, a bobber, a sinker and a hook tipped with a crappie minnow. What you do is cast the rig to the fallen tree. Let the line pay out till the sinker pulls the line through the slip bobber to the bobber stop. This determines the depth of the bait. Give it a few minutes, if you don't see any movement in the bobber reel up and adjust your bobber stop up or down the line to change the depth of the bait. You will know when you're at the right depth by watching the bobber. Another good method is a jig and tube. What I like to use is a plain 1/16 ounce jig and a 1 1/2 inch tube tipped with a minnow or wax worm. What you do is cast the bait to the fallen tree. As soon as the bait hits the water start a slow steady retrieve back to the boat. What you're feeling for is just a little tick. A lot of times it's pretty subtle, so pay attention. If you cast and don't get any bites, count the bait down to a different depth before you start your retrieve. Remember this is all trial and error.

Another great fish to fish for is white bass. White bass is also a schooling fish, but these fish use each other as a team. They are like one big eating machine. They will use their sheer numbers to move an entire school of bait fish, swimming in the main lake, to an area where they can trap them against something and pound them till their hearts content. In the spring you can find them feeding in the river that feeds the lake or along any shore. In the summer though they will stay off shore roaming the main lake looking for unsuspecting schools of bait fish. A great way to catch this fish is to troll crank baits. Just flat line troll anything that looks like a shad. A good place to start is rip rap covered shore lines.

If walleye are more to your liking hit the flats. A flat is a continuous stretch of Lake Bottom that does not change in depth. When fishing a flat there are a few things to pay attention to. First, is the flat itself, what's the depth of the water over the flat? Second, is there any structure on the flat that could possibly hold fish? Third, where is the drop off edge of the flat? One good way to learn a flat is troll over it from every angle, all the while looking at your depth finder. If you have a GPS system mark a few spots when you're looking around. Come back throw out a mark- er buoy on it and fish it. If you catch a walleye, bingo if not move on. This is why it's called fishing and not catching. When you're trolling around just tie on a crank bait that dives about 10 to 12 feet. As you move forward at an idle let out about 75 yards of line lock in the reel and just idle around over the flat. This is all trolling is. Try to troll over the irregularities you saw looking around earlier or just troll the drop edge of the flat. When you catch a walleye remember the speed you were going, how deep the water was, and where you were at on the flat, then just repeat it.

If you need help with crank bait or jig selection, we have what you need at 52 Pik-up Marathon in Brookville. We open at 5 am and close at 10 pm, 7 days a week.

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If you need more info go to my web site www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com or stop in at 52 Pik-up Convenience store and tackle just south of Brookville on State Road U.S. 52. We have a full line of live bait, tackle and Fried chicken to go. So, when you ask for chicken liver, be specific. Lol

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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

SUCK IT UP WHEN FREEZING FISHE AND GAME

I have a love/hate relationship with vacuum sealer machines. I love them because if you have limited freezer space there is no other “nearly” foolproof method to compactly freeze fish, game or most any other item with “nearly” zero freezer burn.

I hate them because of the “nearly” and when it comes to the vacuum sealing, it’s the machine doing the sealing that determines the extent of the “nearly.” I’ve never used a “home” model that nearly always sealed perfectly. The worst ones I’ve used produced a good seal only about half the time when packaging fish. None I’ve used have ever produced a perfect seal every time. I really hate it when I find packages which had appeared to be perfectly sealed when put in the freezer but they weren’t and they’d lost their seal after a few weeks or months. If it had been unsealed for months, freezer burn is assured.

So last fall, when NESCO offered to supply me with their VS 12 Deluxe Sealer to use and evaluate, I accepted, but I told their representative, I would be approaching the project as a skeptic. So far, much of my skepticism has proven to be unfounded.

An early November trip to Lake Erie provided me a good supply of “test fish” for my evaluation. An opening day buck provided some venison loin chops and late season mallard breasts are now vacuum sealed and packed away in my freezer.

In all, my wife and I had packaged 32 meal-sized portions of the fish, duck and venison before I wrote this review and we’ve used it extensively since. I didn’t keep the stats on the venison sausage, ice fishing fillets and other products we sealed, but the results were equally impressive.

The two-stage vacuum pump in the VS12 sucked the air out of the packets in a few seconds at which point the machine automatically switches to the sealing phase. That takes about 15 seconds more. We used the “double” seal mode so instead of a single “weld” at the top of



The NESCO VS12 is the first vacuum sealer Capt. Mike has given his “seal” of approval for shrink wrapping fish and game before freezing. (Author Photo)

the sealed bag, two separate seals are melted across the width of the pouch. The instructions indicate this is best for “moist” products like we were packing.

It also has normal and low vacuum settings. Low pressure is for sealing things like dry cereal or other crushable items. Normal is for everything else.

Our test results were perfect. All 32 packages sealed perfectly the first time, and after being in the freezer for a several months, all the packages still in the freezer remained tightly sealed. (We did open some of the test packages early. Walleye fillets for dinner or mallard sandwiches for Sunday lunch were too inviting.

So far, five-star results! Good Housekeeping magazine rated the VS 12 number one in head to head tests against nine other top brands.

We did our sealing with pouches and packag-

ing material rolls sold by NESCO. NESCO says other brands of bags or rolls will also work with NESCO machines and NESCO packaging material looks and feels identical with Food saver and Cabela’s bags I’ve used previously.

I thought about waiting six months or a year to open these first pouches we produced to test their longevity, but I was impressed enough with the NESCO VS 12 that I’ll give it my conditional “seal” of approval for now (pun intended). I didn’t want to hear from readers who had been shopping for their first vacuum sealer or thinking of replacing the one they are currently using with a message like. “I wish you’d done this review earlier before I bought one or those other brands.”

NESCO products are widely available at online and retail outlets or directly from NESCO at: www.NESCO.com.

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79th U.S. NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION KODIAK, ALASKA



First tour: 79th Construction Battalion, Company D, Platoon 2 near Kodiak, Alaska. Dad is sitting in the front row at far right. On the back of the picture he wrote "the best platoon of the fighting 79th Battalion, To My Sweetheart Rosie from Gene."



Second tour: CBMU 624 Seabees near Kadena Air Field on Okinawa, landing there on D-Day April 1, 1945. Dad is in the front row at the far left. There was 15 names on the back in their hand writing. If anyone recognizes themselves in these photos call me.

Dad's Tour of Duty USN Seabee 7-3-42 to 10-29-45 CB Reunion 07 Revisited

by Ray Dickerson (Son)
(Photos by Ray Dickerson Sr & Jr)

This is a partial reprint of an article I wrote in my October 2010 Gad-a-bout about my Dad. I've been wanting to do a updated veteran's story about my dad, MMS Petty Officer First Class, Raymond "Gene" Dickerson for quite some time. Dad died June 28, 1992.

In September 2010 I had planned on attending the 79th Construction Battalion's 65th reunion at Gettysburg, PA from September 26 thru the 29, but due to other circumstances, I couldn't attend.

My sister, Wilma and I attended the 62nd reunion of the 79th Construction Battalion on

October 9-11, 2007 at Lancaster, PA. We had a wonderful time visiting with the former 79th Construction Battalion Seabee members and their wives, who attended. Having attended that reunion we became active members of the Seabee reunion family because our dad was a member of the 79th Construction Battalion too. We met a few Seabees at the reunion who served with our dad in the Aleutian Islands, he was in Company D, Platoon 2 in Alaska. The Seabees who were in Alaska at the same time as Dad attending the 2007 reunion was: Joe Accetta and his wife Dot from Pearl River, NY, William and his wife Ruth Burke from Livingston, NJ, Lindy and his wife Mary Lindroff from Bakersfield, CA, Daniel Moriarty from Marco Island, FL, John and his wife Isabelle Serra from Caldwell, NJ and Jack and his wife Cecilia Taggart from Collegeville, PA (we were saddened when we heard that Cecelia Taggart passed away in 2009). Other members of the 79th Construction Battalion at the 62nd reunion were as follows: Fred and Lenora Hummel (65th Reunion organizers) from Ephrata, PA, Chuck and Erma Sarahan from College Park, MD, Vern and Joyce Siekmann from Green Bay, WI, Janice Plaskett from Canton, OH, Jeannie Winter from Norfolk, VA, Leroy and Shirley Gamble from Forest Grove, OR, Robert and Carolyn Huls from Pekin, IL and Guy and Miriam Large from Orange City, FL.

A couple of months ago I found a newspaper article written about Dad in our, then local newspaper, it read, "He (Dad) was transferred to Seabee MU 624 outfit with 244 men, attached to Marine Air Group 933. They were put in Task Force 58....."

It was then that I discovered that Dad had served with two separate outfits while in the U.S. Navy, the 79th CB's in Alaska and CBMU 624 in Okinawa.

Dad's **first tour of duty** was with the **79th Construction Battalion, Company D, Platoon 2** arriving on island "X" of the Aleutian Islands



The Navy Seabees insignia, there motto, "Can Do"

"Mom and Dad"



A composite photo of Mom and Dad above, Rosemary "Rosie" Dickerson born June 30, 1915, died July 22, 1990 and Raymond Eugene Dickerson, born June 13, 1914, died June 28, 1992. They were married on June 29, 1935.



The official 79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion banner. It is hung out for all to see at each 79th Battalion Seabee reunion. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)



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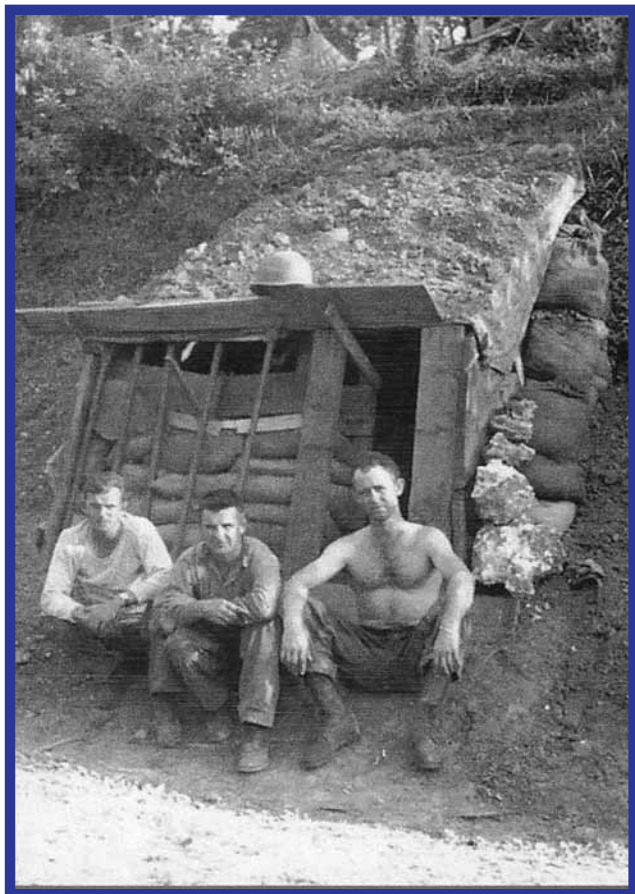
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Dad walking along a street in Honolulu, Hawaii. A stamp on the back of this photo reads, "4 FOR \$1.00 Movie-Land Pix." On the front Dad wrote "Love From Gene" than sent it home to Mom here in Centerville, Indiana.



Dad almost wrote a letter on the back of this photo to Mom. From left to right Gene Dickerson, Joe Whitnack and L.D. Middleton. Dad wrote: Darling this thing in the back of us is our up-to-date fox hole that the three of us can sit in during an air raid and shoot the bull here on Okinawa. We have another name for it, but you wouldn't be interested. Better not show this to little south paw (me) or he might leave home. Lots of Love to Bobby Gene, and Ray Earl. Rosemary I Love You, Gene.

May 10, 1943. Known as island "X" back then for security reasons, known now as Kodiak, Alaska or to be exact Old Woman's Bay Naval Air Station near Kodiak, Alaska. He and his shipmates left Alaska in the fall of 1944. I have dad's 79th USN Construction Battalion Cruise Book from his tour in Alaska and the last copy of the Maintainer, Vol. 1 - Number 37, a weekly publication of the 79th dated Thursday, August 31, 1944 published before they left Alaska for stateside. All of the pictures and graphics were hand drawn.

His **second tour of duty** was with **Seabee CBMU 624 Unit attached to Marine Air Group 933 assigned to Task Force 58** for a 63 day all expenses paid trip from San Francisco, leaving January 1, 1945 with several other stops including Honolulu, Hawaii, Marshall Islands, Christmas Island and a three day rest stop at Eniwetok before arriving at their destination just in time for D-Day at Okinawa, April 1, 1945. The Seabees and U.S. Marines went ashore in a combined effort to take Okinawa and take over and establish air strips to launch air strikes against Japan. The initial work at Kadena Air Strip was accomplished by the 1901st Aviation Engineer Battalion and CBMU 624 on April 4. At Yontan Air Strip the 58th Battalion, CBMU 617, and the 802nd Army Aviation Engineer Battalion were at work on that strip by April 3. Task Force 58 when it got to Okinawa was partly made up of seven heavy carriers (the Hornet, Yorktown, Bunker Hill, Wasp, Enterprise, Lexington, and Essex), eight light carriers (the Bataan, Belleau Wood, Monterey, Cabot, San Jacinto, Princeton, Cowpens, and Langley), seven new battleships, eight heavy cruisers, thirteen light cruisers, and sixty-nine destroyers. (Information about the invasion of Okinawa was found in a Naval Historic Center document on the internet)

CBMU 624 was on Okinawa until the end of the war. Then on October 4, 1945 Dad and 528 other Veterans of Okinawa were picked up by the U.S.S. Topeka (CL-67), a Cruiser and taken to Portland, Oregon. He was discharged on October 29, 1945 at the Great Lakes Naval Station. I have a copy of the Topeka Sunflower a monthly publication published by the crew of the USS Topeka. For a long time I couldn't figure out why dad had this book, nor what the "Topeka Sunflower" was, at least up until yesterday when I found a website dedicated to the USS Topeka (CL-67) a proud Navy Cruiser of the line that helped defeat the Japanese at Okinawa and other battles. In the documents' narrative it told about the Topeka picking up 529 servicemen at Okinawa taking them to Portland, Oregon. In Dad's interview with Carrol Rhodes he told her that "They finally got passage on the USS Topeka to Portland, OR." that was in the fall of 1945, that had to be when he got this copy of the Topeka Sunflower I am looking at here. It and the Seabee Maintainer from Alaska all the art work and pictures were drawn by hand.

Accompanying this article are several photos dad took in Alaska and the South Pacific. I have no idea how he got them developed or when, nor what happened to the camera he had with him, wish I did. (Note - it might still be in my Barn, I

hope so.) Very few photos he wrote anything on the back. Some he did and had messages to us at home on the back, identifying the fact that he had sent them home in letters. A few he told me what was in the photo, others I pieced together from his Cruise Book, the Seabee reunions and some guessing.

Following is an article written by Carrol Rhodes which was published in "The Crusader" on Thursday, June 28, 1990 here in Centerville. She and her husband Joel published The Crusader for many years here, they both helped me get started with my first publication in 1973.

I came across this article while sorting through boxes recently in (formerly Dad's) garage, now mine. After Dad passed away on June 28, 1992, with written permission of my brothers and sisters I took possession of the home place. This article answered many of the questions, but not all of them that were never asked or answered by dad prior to his passing. Dad never talked about his WWII experiences and would evade direct questions.

Here is Carrol Rhodes interview with dad in June 1990 is as follows. I want to put it here because it is Dad telling his story, not me interpreting what he told me years ago.

Local Man Shares Memories of WWII

by Carrol McConnaha Rhodes

Cold barracks....Quonset huts....Navy chow....

Raymond Eugene Dickerson Sr. remembers it all...including the spectacular beauty of the Alaskan wilderness. And the interminable waiting for the order to begin the invasion of Okinawa.

June is a special month for the Dickerson's who live at 105 E. South St. in Centerville, IN. Ray just marked his 76th birthday. He was born June 13, 1914 in Spring Grove Heights (north part of Richmond). He and his Rosemary will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on June 29, 1990....and Rosie's birthday is the last day of June.

The Dickerson's are just back from a motor trip to a Navy Reunion of old friends and World War II buddies held at Sky Mountain Lodge, Stallion Springs, near Bakersfield, CA.

"We had a great time," said Ray of the reunion. It was a gathering of the remaining men who once served 1244 strong in the 79th USN Construction Battalion of the Seabees....known as the "Fighting Builders".

The Indiana Historical Society is calling upon Hoosiers to share their memories of World War II, as part of an effort to commemorate the 50th anniversary of America's entry into the worldwide conflict.

So, we asked Ray Dickerson Sr. to tell us his story.

Carol asked, "How did it begin for you, Sir?"

"Well....I enlisted in the Navy as a Second Class Petty Officer in Pensacola, FL and was sworn in on July 4, 1942. So many of us were enlisting back then, they couldn't handle us all at one time, so I was sent back home for two months of inactive duty.

Then I got called to Norfolk, VA for boot camp. Next I was assigned to Ship's Company. I didn't

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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like that. They had me working in the garage as a mechanic on Navy vehicles....same type of work I did before I joined the Navy."

Four months rolled by. Dickerson never got boot leave, so he applied for leave to get home for Christmas. His chief said, "OK." So, Dickerson went out and bought Christmas presents for his family back home. When he went to pick up his leave papers, they were not there. Dickerson was upset.

He went to the garage, told his Chief he didn't like his procedure. One thing led to another. Dickerson decked the Chief. That was it. Dickerson was put on report and promptly told that he would be going on the next unit to leave the country.

Dickerson did not get home for Christmas that year.

Next thing he knew, he was out of Ship's Company and assigned to the 79th. Biloxi, MS was their first stop for 33 days of military training, with all Marine D.I.'s (drill instructors) who pushed the men fast and hard.

The unit was issued jungle clothing. They presumed they were heading for the South Pacific. "Not so," recalls Dickerson, adding, "they goofed up a lot in the Navy!"

His unit boarded a train in Gulfport, MS. They rode four days straight...arriving in Seattle, WA three days before Christmas.

The men shipped out on Christmas Day, on board the USS Chaumont (a World War I ship), with men sleeping four deep in the hold. They did not know their destination. It turned out to be ...not the jungle...for the ship docked at Old Woman's Bay Naval Air Station near Kodiak, Alaska!

The jungle gear was soon turned in for polar parkas, sheepskin coats and clothing more suitable to the climate. The Government also requested the men to return their rations of "chocolate that wouldn't melt," which had been issued for jungle use. However, Dickerson remembers that not all that chocolate found its way back to the ship's store. "It tasted just as good in the arctic as it would have in the tropics," he said.

On duty with the 79th Battalion, Dickerson was back doing mechanical work in the garage. He recalls, "In the fall, you could tell when the snow was comin'. A mountain called, "Old Barometer" would get a small white cap on top...and it would just keep comin' down. Once we had 33 straight days of rain and fog. Nothing could come in, no planes, no mail, the first plane to get through brought booze for the officers. They always came first."

Some other things Dickerson recalls about living in Alaska: the times you could read all night, because of daylight around the clock in the summer time; the abundance of big, mean mosquitoes; liberty in Kodiak, where he bought souvenirs and a table-cloth with a map of Alaska on it for Rosie...which she proudly showed me.

The 79th came back to the states in 1944, but not before they helped rebuild a Russian Orthodox church which had burned in Kodiak. The Seabees donated money to the project and did much of the labor.

Once back in the states, Dickerson was reassigned. That's when he felt he got into the "real" war.

He was transferred to CBMU 624 outfit with 244 men, attached to Marine Air Group 933. They were put in Task Force 58, and the unit left the states...again...on Christmas. Dickerson never did

get home for Christmas during the War.

Assignment this trip: to prepare for the invasion of Okinawa...an island near the coast of Japan.

He tells of cruising in the Pacific for something like 63 days...with occasional stops at various islands, including the Marshalls, Christmas Island and a three-day rest stop at Eniwetok.

Dickerson's outfit entered Okinawa on April 1, 1945. Objective: Kadena Air Field. He reports they had American planes sitting on the Kadena air strip five hours after the invasion.

There was no hostility that first day. The Japs had moved back, inland and taken refuge in mountain caves where they holed up for the duration. It took flame-throwers (forerunner of the napalm used in Korea and Vietnam to flush out the enemy from the caves.

Dickerson says the Japs admitted that, "when they lost Okinawa, they had lost the war."

Carol asks, "Tell me about the biggest morale builder during the war...the U.S. Mail. Did it come through alright?"

Dickerson replied, "Yes, pretty regularly when we were in Alaska, and it was uncensored. But when we were headed for Okinawa, everything was censored."

The war ended in August 1945. Dickerson and company were still in Okinawa waiting for transportation home. They finally got passage on the USS Topeka to Portland, OR. He was later discharged at Great Lakes Naval Station. His discharge papers, dated October 29, 1945, are framed, and still hanging on the wall in the Dickerson living room today.

He has fond memories of some of the USO shows that visited his camp...including actress Olivia de Havilland, Bing Crosby, and Bob Hope. He remembers the Bob Hope Show, with all the officers sitting up front. When Bob came on stage to start the show, he put his hands over his eyes, and said the light shining on all that brass up front was blinding him. He asked the officers to move. They did.

Dickerson says his last tour of duty was the best. When he returned home after the war, he moved his wife Rosie and sons, Bobby and Raymond Jr. to Centerville in 1946, where they have lived for 44 years. Three more children were born: Rosemary Kathleen, known as Kathy, Wilma Elaine, and George William. The Dickerson's have enjoyed having their children and grandchildren close by through the years.

Since the war, Dickerson has made several commercial trips to Alaska...delivering oil rigs. He's been all over the state...clear up to Fairbanks, Point Barrow and Prudhoe Bay. The first time he drove the Alcan Highway, it was still under construction. He jokes that it was worse than driving on East Main Street in Richmond right now.

The June '90 reunion of the 79th was supposed to be the last reunion. But somehow, the spirit of the men of the 79th would not be denied. They're planning another reunion next year. This time in Lancaster, CA.

by Carrol Rhodes "The Crusader" newspaper.

Ray here, I carried on the tradition of attending Seabee reunions after Dad passed. Wilma and I attended the 2007 Seabee Reunion in Lancaster, PA. I continued attending until the very last one in Ephrata, PA.

The last Seabee Reunion Sherry and I attended was also in Ephrata, PA. It may have been the last one, I'm not certain of that. But there are very few

of the large group we first met back in Lancaster, PA in 2007 that are still alive today. Fred and Lenore Hummel who were almost always the ones who put the reunions together have both passed along with so many of the others we got to know since 2007. It's now 2022, Dad joined the Navy in 1942. The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941, that was 81 years ago. Their average age would have been 17-19 years old plus 81, most of them would be 99 or more or less years old by now. They were so young and very brave!

Thank God the tradition continues to this very day as American young men and women continue the tradition serving in all the military branches. ■

Roaming The Outdoors

UPDATE ON-GOING INVESTIGATION

**** UPDATE ****

TWO KILLED IN POLICE-INVOLVED SHOOTING NEAR PALMYRA

Harrison County – Wednesday, May 18, 2022: Detective Christopher Tucker and Crime Scene Investigators with the Indiana State Police in Sellersburg continue their investigation into the police-involved shooting that occurred on SR 135 just south of Palmyra on Monday. Part of that investigation included interviews, collection and examination of physical evidence, collection and viewing of video evidence, and attending the autopsies of both deceased.

As a result of their investigation, and in conjunction with the Harrison County Prosecutor's office, Investigators have provided more details into the tragic event.

Investigators say that shortly before 9:30 p.m. Monday, Justin Moore pulled his vehicle to the side of the highway after apparently running out of gas. Justin Moore then asked a local resident for gas, or money to obtain fuel, before returning to his car which was still partially in the roadway. A short time later, Reserve Officer Zachary Holly, from the Palmyra Police Department arrived to assist. Jacob McClanahan, and a friend who were travelling together in a pick-up truck on SR 135, also stopped to assist.

At one point during the interaction, Officer Holly asked Justin Moore if there were any weapons in the car and Moore advised there were not. Justin Moore was however in possession of a small knife, which Officer Holly asked Moore to place it back in his vehicle. The investigation reveals that as Justin Moore entered his car to return the knife, he quickly turned around brandishing a shot gun and fired at Officer Holly. Officer Holly then returned fire with his department pistol. Justin Moore fired the shot-gun a second time and fatally struck Jacob McClanahan. Officer Holly continued to return fire with his department weapon, fatally striking Justin Moore.

Medical aid was given to both gunshot victims after the shooting, and numerous officers from the Harrison County Sheriff's Department, the Palmyra Fire Department, Harrison County EMS, and the Indiana State Police responded to the scene.

Investigators have not been able to determine why Justin Moore, who is from Owensboro, Kentucky, was travelling in Indiana.

This investigation is ongoing. ■



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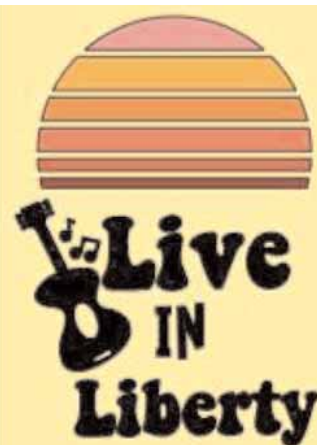
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May 4



June 1



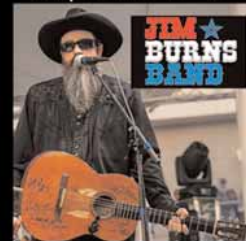
July 6



August 3



September 7



1st Wednesday of the month 6-8:30pm!

Announcing

LIBERTY 4th of July Festival

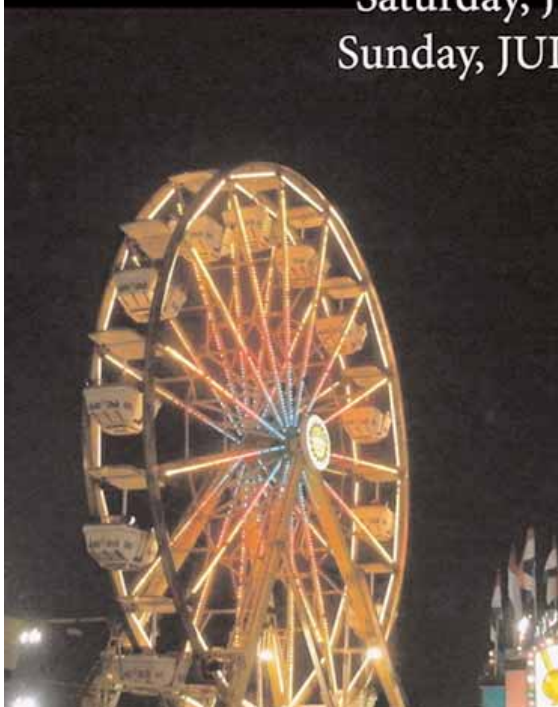
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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR FIELD TRIPS TO STATE PARKS, LAKES

Educators interested in taking K-12 students on field trips to an Indiana state park or state-managed lake in the 2022-2023 school year can receive financial help through the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation (INRF).

Grants from the Discover the Outdoors fund are available for public, private, parochial, or home-school educators, according to INRF executive director Jody Kress.

"The Foundation's mission is to celebrate and preserve Indiana's natural legacy," Kress said. "This grant gives children an adventure that showcases some of Indiana's natural and cultural treasures and teaches the importance of protecting and preserving them for everyone to enjoy."

Since the grant program's inception in 2013, a total of 153 grants have been awarded, providing the opportunity for more than 17,000 students to visit state parks at less cost to the schools and students.

Indiana has 24 state parks, eight state-managed lakes, two state recreation areas, and two off-road state recreation areas eligible for field trip funding that will engage students in learning about Indiana's fish, forest, wildlife, natural habitats, conservation, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

"These trips help children understand how previous generations viewed the significance of Indiana's natural and cultural resources, and at the same time let them make great memories that they will carry into adulthood," said Ginger Murphy, deputy director for stewardship for DNR State Parks.

The maximum grant award is \$250 per application.

Applications are accepted from May 1-June 30 prior to the school year for which the grant is requested. Applications must be postmarked no later than June 30.

Applicants will be notified by Sept. 1 regarding potential grant awards. The grant application is at on.IN.gov/state-park-group-programs. Read more about the impact this grant has had at indiananrf.org/the-inrf-difference/education.

A video explaining the program is at youtu.be/uC4QjhsBLO8

The INRF is accepting donations to the fund from individuals, businesses, and anyone else who supports the idea of getting kids outdoors. The fund was established in memory of Tom Huck, a longtime DNR employee who was an ardent supporter of outdoor experiences for children.

For further information, including how to donate email: discoveroutdoorsgrants@dnr.IN.gov.

To view more DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

PATOKA LAKE HOSTS KAYAK TOUR JUNE 11

Bring your kayak and join the naturalist for a tour on Patoka Lake on Saturday, June 11 leaving from the Little Patoka Boat Ramp at 9 a.m. A caravan to the boat ramp will meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Patoka Lake office.

Paddlers will see a rock quarry and waterfall. Beaver and bald eagle have also been seen along

the route. Bring life jackets, preferred snacks, refreshments, and sunscreen for this 5-mile journey. The tour is not suitable for beginner kayakers or children under 12 years old.

Non-motorized boat launch permits are required and will be sold at the event for \$5. They can also be purchased at the Patoka Lake office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily.

For more information regarding this program or other interpretive events, please call the Nature Center at 812-685-2447.

Patoka Lake (on.IN.gov/patokalake) is at **3084 N. Dillard Road, Birdseye, IN 47513.**

PATOKA LAKE HOSTS BEGINNER ARCHERY LESSON, JUNE 5

Learn about archery from a certified instructor during an introductory lesson at Patoka Lake's archery range on Sunday, June 5 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. All equipment will be provided.

This event is limited to 15 participants age 8 and older, and the cost is \$5 per person. Advance registration is required. Call the Patoka Lake Nature Center at 812-685-2447 to reserve a spot.

The entrance fee of \$7 per vehicle for Indiana residents and \$9 for vehicles with out-of-state plates is required for the Newton-Stewart State Recreation Area, located north of Wickliffe on State Road 164.

For more information regarding this program or other interpretive events, please call the Nature Center at 812-685-2447.

Patoka Lake (on.IN.gov/patokalake) is at **3084 N. Dillard Road, Birdseye, IN 47513.**

INDIANA CONSERVATION OFFICER K9 GRADUATION CEREMONY WAS HELD FRIDAY MAY 20TH

The Indiana Conservation Officer K9 Graduation Ceremony was held May 20, 2022 on the South lawn of the Statehouse in Indianapolis.

The ceremony was held to recognize the graduation of eight K-9 teams from the DNR Division of Law Enforcement's K-9 Resource Protection Program. The nine graduating teams represent the states of Indiana, Kansas, Virginia and Washington, as well as the African country of Zambia.

INDIANA CONSERVATION OFFICERS TO HOST RECRUITING EVENT MAY 23 (LAPORTE COUNTY)

Anyone interested in becoming an Indiana Conservation Officer is encouraged to attend a recruiting event that DNR Law Enforcement's District 10 will host in LaPorte County.

The recruiting event is Monday, May 23, at 6 p.m. at Red Mill County Park. The address is **185 S. Holmesville Road, La Porte, 46350**

District 10 includes Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Starke counties.

The event will cover duties of a conservation officer, the competitive hiring process, preparation for the written exam, preparation for core values training, and physical agility testing requirements. Participation at either recruiting event does not

guarantee participants a position.

To see if you qualify and to complete the pre-screen exam, see on.IN.gov/dnrlaw and click on Become a Conservation Officer.

Questions regarding the District 10 recruiting event should be directed to ICO Nicole Baumann 219-741-7000, nbaumann@dnr.IN.gov.

SPRING MILL HOSTS VILLAGE TASTING EXPERIENCE, JUNE 11

Sample the offerings of central and southern Indiana distilleries during Spring Mill State Park's first Village Tasting Experience on June 11 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. in the park's Pioneer Village.

The event will help raise money to purchase a still and improve displays for the park's own 1824 village distillery.

The event cost is \$30 for those staying at Spring Mill Inn or the park's campground and \$40 for everyone else. That cost includes a sample from all distilleries in attendance. All other purchases from those businesses must be made in cash.

Participants must be 21 or older and show identification upon arrival. A shuttle service will be provided to and from the campground and inn. Those not staying at Spring Mill Inn or the park campground must have a designated driver with them. Free soft drinks and appetizers will be available for the designated driver. The event will go on rain or shine.

Advance registration is required by June 8 and can be made by calling 812-849-3534 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. The event is limited to the first 300 people to register. Payment must be made when registering. There are no refunds.

Park admission during the event is \$7 per vehicle for in-state residents and \$9 per vehicle for out-of-state residents.

Spring Mill State Park (on.IN.gov/springmill-sp) is at **3333 State Road 60 East, Mitchell, 47446.**

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

AERIAL BTK TREATMENTS FOR SPONGY MOTH SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY MAY 19, WEATHER PERMITTING

Aerial treatments conducted by the Indiana DNR divisions of Forestry and Entomology & Plant Pathology to slow the spread of gypsy moth, now called spongy moth, in selected areas of Marshall, Noble, and LaPorte counties were scheduled to take place Thursday, May 19, weather permitting.

Gypsy moth, now called spongy moth, is one of North America's most devastating invasive forest pests and has caused thousands of acres of defoliation across the eastern United States.

Treatment begins shortly after sunrise but could be delayed until later in the morning or to the next day due to unfavorable weather conditions such as morning fog or rain. Treatment should take about an hour.

During treatment, a yellow airplane flying 75-125 feet above the treetops will conduct the treatment, starting at sunrise and continuing through-

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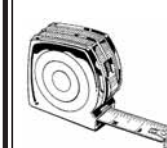
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out the day, as the weather and flight schedules permit. With favorable weather, treatments may be completed by late morning or early afternoon.

The airplane distributes a spray containing the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, referred to as Btk, into the treetops of infested areas where the moth's caterpillars feed on tree leaves. Btk kills the moth's caterpillars by disrupting their digestive systems after they ingest it.

Btk has been used for decades by gardeners and does not adversely affect people or animals. People who live or work near the treatment areas might want to stay inside when the planes are flying and for about 30 minutes after treatments are complete. This gives the material time to settle out of the air and stick to treetops. For more information on Btk, call toll-free at **1-866-NO-EXOTIC (663-9684)** or call your county extension office.

If the weather cools and slows the emergence of the caterpillars, the treatment application could be delayed until the next week. Updates will be posted on Twitter **@INDnrinvasive**. DNR will also issue news releases to update the status.

Once treatment begins, rain or high wind may interrupt it for that day. If that happens, treatment would resume the next suitable day and continue until all sites have been treated.

To determine if your property is in the treatment areas or to view maps of all treatment locations, or for more information about gypsy moth, see gypsymoth.IN.gov.

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

**KIDS FISHING DERBY AT PATOKA LAKE
SET FOR JUNE 4**

Patoka Lake will host its annual Kids Fishing Derby on June 4 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Osborn Ramp off State Road 145.

The event is for children 12 years old and younger, who must be accompanied by an adult. Prizes and plaques will be awarded. Fishing starts at 9 a.m., and the awards ceremony will be at 11 a.m. Anglers should bring fishing poles, tackle, and bait.

For more information regarding this program or other interpretive events, call the Nature Center at **812-685-2447**.

Patoka Lake (on.IN.gov/patokalake) is at **3084 N. Dillard Road, Birdseye, IN 47513**.

**PLEASANT LAKE MAN INJURED IN
ORV ACCIDENT (ALLEN COUNTY)**

(Leo) A Pleasant Lake man was seriously injured in an off-road vehicle (ORV) accident in Allen County last night.

At 8:52 p.m., Allen County 911 received a call that a resident in the 8500 block of Gerig Road discovered an ORV overturned and on top of the operator.

Garrett J. Mozena, 27, was removed from underneath the machine and transported to Parkview Regional Medical Center for treatment of a head injury.

Preliminary investigation showed Mozena was attempting to turn onto Gerig Road when he lost control of the ORV, causing it to overturn.

Mozena was not wearing a helmet or any other protective riding equipment at the time of the accident, which is still under investigation.

Conservation officers were assisted on-scene by the Allen County Sheriff's Department and Three Rivers Ambulance Authority (TRAA).

Conservation officers remind everyone to always wear a helmet, protective riding gear, and a seat belt/safety harness if the ORV is equipped

with one, and always avoid alcoholic beverages when operating an ORV.

**INDIANA CONSERVATION OFFICERS TO
HOST RECRUITING EVENT
(FOUNTAIN COUNTY)**

Anyone interested in becoming an Indiana Conservation Officer is encouraged to attend a recruiting event that DNR Law Enforcement's District 3 will host in Fountain County.

The event will be held on Thursday, May 26, at 6 p.m. at the Fountain County Fairgrounds at **476 U.S. 136, Veedersburg, IN 47987**.

District 3, located in west-central Indiana, includes Benton, Boone, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Warren, and White counties.

The event will cover the critical portions of the 2022 Indiana Conservation Officers hiring process, including duties of a conservation officer, preparation for the written exam and core values training, and physical agility testing requirements. Participation in the event does not guarantee participants a position.

To see if you qualify and to complete the pre-screen exam, see on.IN.gov/dnrlaw and click on [Become a Conservation Officer](#).

Questions regarding the event should be directed to Sgt. Blaine Gillan, **765-427-8338**, bgillan@dnr.IN.gov.

**DNR LE HOSTED RECRUITING EVENT
ON MAY 19 FOR DISTRICT**

DNR's Division of Law Enforcement hosted a conservation officer recruiting event on May 19 for District 1, which included Elkhart, Fulton, Kosciusko, Marshall, Miami, St. Joseph, and Wabash counties. Elkhart and St. Joseph counties currently have conservation officer vacancies. The event was at Potato Creek State Park, located at 25601 State Road 4 in North Liberty, at 6:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in becoming an Indiana Conservation Officer was encouraged to attend. The event covered critical portions of the 2022 Indiana Conservation Officer hiring process, including duties of a conservation officer, preparation for the written exam, preparation for core values training, and physical agility testing requirements.

Conservation officers are eligible for a variety of benefits, including take-home vehicle; cellphone and computer; all necessary equipment to perform job tasks; comprehensive medical, dental and vision coverage; paid vacation; holidays and comp time; scheduling allocations; and three paid hours per week to maintain physical fitness. Salary for second-year conservation officers is \$56,271.

To see if you qualify to be an Indiana Conservation Officer and to complete the pre-screen exam, see on.IN.gov/dnrlaw and click on [Become a Conservation Officer](#).

PUMPKINVINE TRAIL EXTENSION IS OPEN

The Indiana DNR, Next Level Trails (NLT) and the Town of Shipshewana opened the recently completed Pumpkinvine Trail extension in Shipshewana on May 6.

The 0.97-mile asphalt multi-use trail was constructed by the town with help from a \$953,482 Next Level Trails grant.

"Trails are a vital investment in our communities across the Hoosier State," said Dan Bortner, DNR director. "The DNR is proud to partner with towns like Shipshewana to complete this major

trail extension. Shipshewana should be proud too, as this is the first Round 2 project to open."

The completed project extends the trail east into Shipshewana from its previous terminus outside of County Road 850 W. It follows North Street and ends in North Park, eliminating the prior on-road connection into town and improving access to residential neighborhoods and the downtown business district.

The Pumpkinvine Trail now forms a regional trail network by connecting the towns of Shipshewana, Middlebury, and Goshen. At Goshen, the Pumpkinvine intersects with the Maple City Greenway and Maple Heart Trail, which travel north to Elkhart. The network totals 25 miles of trail between the four communities.

"Trails are essential in a community for families to get out and enjoy themselves," said Bob Shanahan, Shipshewana town manager. "This extension will help our town grow and improve the quality of place for current and future residents."

"This would not have been possible without the Next Level Trails grant, so we are thankful to the DNR who helped make this project come to life."

As part of Gov. Eric J. Holcomb's Next Level Connections initiative, NLT is the largest infusion of trails funding in state history. The \$150 million program is administered by the DNR and facilitates critical trail connections within and between Hoosier communities.

The Town of Shipshewana was awarded funding for the Pumpkinvine Trail extension as part of the second round of NLT, which Gov. Holcomb announced in March 2021.

Including the Pumpkinvine Trail Extension, nine NLT projects are complete, totaling 23.6 miles of trail.

More information about the NLT can be found at on.IN.gov/NextLevelTrails.

To view more DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

**JOHNSON RECEIVES OSBORN
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Scott Johnson, a DNR wildlife science supervisor, has received the Chase S. Osborn Award for Wildlife Conservation from Purdue Forestry and Natural Resources.

The award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to wildlife conservation in the state of Indiana.

Johnson has worked at DNR for 35 years. In his earlier years, he was the nongame mammalogist for the state, working on conservation projects for Franklin's ground squirrels, Indiana bats, Allegheny woodrats, river otters, and bobcats.

After 30 years in the field, Johnson was promoted to wildlife science program manager where he led a staff of 20 natural resources professionals and supervised statewide conservation efforts. A few years later, Johnson moved into his current role of leading statewide conservation and management programs and coordinating Indiana's endangered species conservation efforts.

The recent recognition adds to a long list of awards Johnson has received during his career. He has previously received awards from the Midwest Bat Working Group, the Indiana Chapter of the Wildlife Society, the Sassafras Audubon Society, and the Indiana Wildlife Federation.

For additional details about the award and Johnson's career, see bit.ly/3OjAL9j.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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COPS CYCLING FOR SURVIVORS 21ST ANNIVERSARY RIDE

Cops Cycling for Survivors announced plans for their 21st annual bicycle tour of Indiana as well as unveiled the memorial photos on their support truck in anticipation of National Police Week. The group, whose aim is to raise awareness of and actively support survivors of Indiana law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, will bike nearly 1,000 miles over 13 days in July to honor fallen law enforcement officers and their survivors. This year, special recognition is given to the eight (8) Indiana line of duty deaths from 2021.

In 2002, Cops Cycling for Survivors began with a ride to Washington, D.C. to honor fallen officers. The cyclists now ride through Indiana meeting with survivors of officers to support them as they continue to deal with the loss of loved ones. The group honors the more than 450 Indiana officers killed in the line of duty by reading a memorial for each officer during the tour. Cops Cycling for Survivors vows to never let Indiana's fallen heroes be forgotten and to support the survivors of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the citizens of the state.

Cops Cycling for Survivors makes every attempt to contact survivors, including family, co-workers, descendants, and others, of fallen officers but may not contact information for some. Survivors are asked to be in touch with the group at Cops Cycling for Survivors, PO Box 597, Ellettsville, IN 47429, by phone 812-727-0725, or email copscyclingforsurvivors@gmail.com. Interested cyclists may also contact the group for more information on joining the ride for all or parts of the ride. Cyclists include survivors, law enforcement officers, and friends of law enforcement. Cyclist registration deadline is June 10, 2022.

In addition to memorializing Indiana's fallen officers, Cops Cycling for Survivors raises financial support for survivors. Proceeds from the annual ride provide line of duty death benefits for primary survivors as well as fund scholarships, camps, and other avenues of support for survivors. The group also assists Line of Duty Death Justice as survivors work through years of court dates, including parole hearings and appeals. More information and a donation page are found at <http://www.copscycling4survivors.com/>. Cops Cycling for Survivors was granted 501(c) 3 status as a not-for-profit in late 2011 and is no longer directly affiliated with Indiana Concerns of Police Survivors (IN COPS).

The 2022 Cops Cycling for Survivors truck was also unveiled this week (see cover). While the group rides in support and memory of all fallen officers, each year the support truck honors officers killed in the line of duty from the previous year. This year's truck is in special memory of Lieutenant Eugene Lasco, Indiana Department of Correction, End of Watch February 21, 2021; Reserve Deputy James Driver, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, End of Watch March 29, 2021; Sergeant Thomas Sawyer, Hammond Police Department, End of Watch June 17, 2021; Detective Greg Ferency, Terre Haute Police Department, End of Watch July 7, 2021; Corporal Robert Nicholson, Clark County Sheriff's Office, End of Watch September 26, 2021; Reserve Deputy James Hirtzel, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, End of Watch October 12, 2021; Town Marshal Anthony Hinshaw, Losantville Marshal's Office, End of Watch November 25, 2021; and, School Resource Officer John Sparks, Clark County Sheriff's Office, End of Watch December 8, 2021. Recent line of duty deaths in 2022 will receive recognition next year.

Dates and route locations for the 2022 Cops Cycling for Survivors in Indiana ride are:

July 11, Indianapolis - Richmond
July 12, Richmond - Bluffton
July 13, Bluffton - Angola
July 14, Angola - South Bend
July 15, South Bend - Merrillville

July 16, Merrillville - Kentland
July 17, Kentland - Terre Haute
July 18, Terre Haute - Princeton
July 19, Princeton - Jasper
July 20, Jasper - Jeffersonville
July 21, Jeffersonville - Madison
July 22, Madison - Bloomington
July 23, Bloomington - Crown Hill Indianapolis

As the group rides through locations, area residents are encouraged to show their support for law enforcement officers and the survivors of fallen heroes in whatever meaningful manners may arise.

INDIANA STATE POLICE INVESTIGATING OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

Cedar Grove-Yesterday evening, the Indiana State Police began investigating an officer involved shooting that occurred in Franklin County, Indiana.

The initial investigation by Detectives with the ISP-Versailles Post indicated that deputies from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office responded to an address on Main Street in Cedar Grove, Indiana at approximately 10:30 last night after receiving a report of an adult male who was suicidal and in possession of a gun.

Upon arriving at the residence, the deputies encountered the man who was still in possession of a firearm. It is believed that the man fired at least one shot at the officers. The deputies returned fire, striking the suspect at least one time. No officers were injured in the incident. The deputies provided immediate medical attention to the suspect. He was transported to University of Cincinnati Medical Center for treatment of the injuries he sustained. His condition is unknown at this time.

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office requested the Indiana State Police conduct the investigation into the incident.

The investigation is ongoing. The name of the suspect as well as the name of the officers involved are being withheld at this time.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the case will be forwarded to the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office for review.



INDIANA STATE POLICE REMINDS MOTORISTS TO 'CLICK IT OR TICKET'

Sellersburg—The Indiana State Police Sellersburg Post, along with other agencies across Indiana, will be increasing patrols as part of the national "Click It or Ticket" enforcement campaign ahead of Memorial Day weekend. For the next three weeks, officers will be out in full force making sure drivers and passengers are buckled up and children are properly secured.

Their goal is to reduce the number of traffic injuries and fatalities from lack of seat belt use, a continuing concern. Data from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) shows that unbuckled motorists make up almost 40% of all passenger vehicle deaths in the state.

The overtime patrols are funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with grants administered by ICJI.

Since the "Click It or Ticket" initiative began more than 20 years ago, seat belt use has gone up 30% in Indiana to 92.9%, which is slightly higher than the national average of 90.3%.

Despite making progress and advances in vehicle safety, in 2020, 226 unbuckled vehicle occupants lost their lives on Indiana roads – the second highest in the past decade. Young drivers, especially males, were the least likely to be buckled during a crash.

"We cannot tolerate another deadly year like the one we just had on our roads," said Devon McDonald, ICJI Executive Director. "Many of the people we lost would still be alive today had they made the decision to buckle up. Seat belts make a difference. They save lives."

Research has repeatedly demonstrated the safety benefits of seat belts and the dangerous consequences when people choose not to use them. Buckling up can reduce the risk of injury or death in a crash by 50%. Without a seat belt fastened, people can be ejected from a vehicle and killed, and that risk increases if the driver is speeding or impaired.

Tragically, vehicle collisions continue to be a leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 13, and NHTSA data shows that approximately 46% of all car seats are being used incorrectly. Parents and caregivers who do not buckle up are more likely to have kids who are improperly restrained.

"There's nothing more tragic than reading the news about a child who was injured or killed because they weren't properly secure in a vehicle," said Robert Duckworth, ICJI Traffic Safety Director. "Parents are responsible for their child's safety, and car seats are only effective if and when used correctly."

Indiana law requires the driver and all passengers to buckle up. Children under age eight must be properly restrained in a federally approved child car seat or booster seat.

Throughout the campaign, officers will be watching for seat belt and car seat violations while conducting high-visibility patrols during the day and night, when unrestrained driving is at its peak. Drivers can be cited for lack of seat belt use, but also for each unbuckled passenger under the age of 16.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to make sure children are in the right car seat and that it's used correctly and properly installed. Resources can be found at www.nhtsa.gov/TheRightSeat. To schedule an appointment with a certified car seat safety technician at one of Indiana's 100 fitting stations, visit on.in.gov/SafeKids.

JENNINGS CO MAN ARRESTED AFTER METH FOUND DURING TRAFFIC STOP

Dupont-Yesterday, May 17, 2022, a Paris Crossing, Indiana man was arrested on drug related charges following a traffic stop in northern Jefferson County.

The investigation began shortly before 8:00 am when Trooper Randel Miller observed a Dodge Dakota traveling eastbound on South Street in Dupont in excess of the posted speed limit. Trp. Miller conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. During the course of the traffic stop, Trp. Miller became suspicious of criminal activity taking place.

Trp. Miller deployed his K-9 Bosco to conduct a sweep of the exterior of the truck. Bosco alerted to the odor of illegal drugs coming from the vehicle. During a search of the vehicle, troopers located a lunch box that contained 15 grams of suspected crystal methamphetamine along with drug paraphernalia. Additional drug paraphernalia was located in other areas of the vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle, Robert J. Graham, age 44, Paris Crossing, Indiana was arrested on charges of Possession of Methamphetamine, Level 4 Felony, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Class C Misdemeanor.

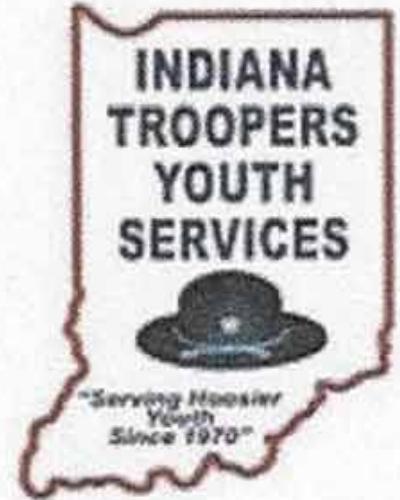
He was transported to the Jefferson County Jail where he was incarcerated pending his initial appearance in court.

Trp. Miller was assisted by Sgt. Adam Bullock, Indiana State Police-Versailles.

Under the Law, criminal charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. ■



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