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OCTOBER 2010

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AVAILABLE IN DECEMBER 2010 NEW SPECIALTY
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WW II SEABEE VETERAN (S) PULLOUT - PG 15-18



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THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: Freshwater shrimp raised on a Putnam County farm make a tasty meal for visitors during the three-day harvest on Labor Day weekend. The young lady holding the plate of shrimp is Christy Cox. She is the daughter of farm owners Keith and Katrina Henderson. See their website:

shrimpfarminginindiana.com/ See more on Page 22. (Photos by Phil Junker)

Top Right: This license plate will go on sale in December of 2010. Twenty-five dollars from each plate fee will go directly into the Indiana NWTf Super Fund Account to be used on conservation projects and outreach programs in Indiana. All of it stays in Indiana. See page 4. (Randy Showalter)

Bottom Left: The vehicle with the deer in the front seat happened in Minnesota, but it can happen anywhere at anytime, especially at this time of the year. The deer whistle near this photo is the one I have been using for six years now. I have one on all of my vehicles. It works for me. See Sgt. John Bowling's column on page 10 for more on avoiding deer/car crashes. (Photo Submitted by Jack Petruska, Iron MN)

Bottom Right: A composite photo of my Dad, then MMS Petty Officer First Class Raymond "Gene" Dickerson in the center who was a SeaBee in the U.S. Navy, the banner behind him is the 79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion banner. To the right is a photo of my Mom, Rosemary "Rosie" Dickerson and to the left is my brother, Robert Eugene Dickerson, (his graduation photo). The three are gone now, but their lives live on in my memories. On pages 15 thru 18 is a story about Dad when he was a SeaBee and a mystery I finally solved. See page 15-18 & 28.

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

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See page 32 to plan your outdoor activities in Indiana with Eric and Cara Stallsmith's Indiana Online Outdoor Recreation Guide and Free Indiana Cabin Rental Guide.

Where Do You want to go this weekend?

NWTF SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE

We were just advised that our application for a specialty license plate in Indiana was approved this summer. This plate will go on sale in Dec. of 2010. Twenty-five dollars from each plate fee will go directly into the Indiana NWTF Super Fund Account to be used on conservation projects and outreach programs in Indiana. All of it stays in Indiana.

Folks can ask for this plate at their local BMV license branch. We believe the hunters of Indiana will enjoy the design of this plate and it will give them a chance to show their support of conservation in Indiana.

I would like to ask if you could help me spread the word on this first ever Indiana Conservation Organization Specialty License Plate.

Randy Showalter, Regional Wildlife Biologist
The National Wild Turkey Federation
260-982-7935

rshowalter@nwtf.net

NEW COLUMN DEBUTING IN NOV

Beginning with the November Gad-a-bout, The Gad-a-bout will have a column written each month by an Indiana Conservation Officer.

NEW ALSACE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

I'm writing to tell you about our Sausage and Pancake Breakfast the New Alsace Conservation Club will be holding on **Sunday, October 31, 2010**. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 AM till noon at the New Alsace American Legion. The menu will consist of biscuits & gravy, sausage & pancakes, home fries, eggs to order, fruit, coffee & juice. Cost is \$7.50 for adults, \$4.00 for Children under 10, and Children under 3 eat free.

The Legion Home is located north west of New Alsace off N. Dearborn Rd. on Legion Rd. Watch for signs. For more information call 812-623-2431.

Our club is a non-profit organization and would very much appreciate, if you can announce this with your current events.

Directions: Take I-74 west to St. Leon Exit, S. on St. Rd.1, right on N. Dearborn Rd. 3mi. to New

Alsace, right on Legion Rd. 1/4 mi. Or, east of Sunman on Eastern Ave., thru "S" turns, 4 mi. on N. Dearborn Rd., left on Legion Rd.
New Alsace Conservation Club
Dale Back, Secretary, 10571 N. Dearborn Rd., Sunman, IN 47041
Phone 812-623-2431

BOZARTH CRAPPIE TOURNAMENTS SEPTEMBER 18 & OCTOBER 2-3

Bozarth Country Store on Salamonie Reservoir is holding two Crappie tournaments, the one in September will be on Saturday September 18th Prizes will be drawn and handed out to all fishermen that are present at the Friday night seminars.

Bozarth's tournament in October will be a 2 day event and it will be fished on both the Mississinewa and Salamonie Reservoirs. Friday night they will draw which reservoir to be fished the first day and the other the next day. A two day total weight will determine the winners.

For more information call Ryan or Fletcher at Bozarth's 765-981-4522.

SEPTEMBER COMING EVENTS

Sep 24 Open Mic Music Night Metamora Music Fest Stage Lower Lane, sign-up 6 pm, Performance 7 to 10 pm Come and listen or share your talents. FREE - Food & Drink available from Metamora Lions Club.

Sep 25 Courthouse Day Tour and Ice Cream 1-4 pm at the Wayne County Courthouse in Richmond, IN FREE Event.

Sep 26 Vintage Clothing Fashion Show & Tea 200 years of how people dressed in the Midwest, 2:30 pm at Reid Memorial Hospital's Lingle Auditorium, Richmond, IN \$10 Adults, \$7 Children 12 and under. E-mail celafever@gmail.com or call 765-489-5429

OCTOBER COMING EVENTS

Every weekend in Oct - Metamora Corn Maze 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Located 1 mile east of Metamora, across from the Hearthstone Restaurant. Cost \$5.00

Oct. 1-3 Canal Days 10:00am - 5:00pm
42nd Annual Metamora Canal Days Festival.
See Page 12 to find out all about this festival.

Oct. 1-3 Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry Show Indiana State Fairgrounds.
See Page 14 to find out all about this Show

Oct 2 Wayne County in Harmony 3:30 pm

Richmond Community Orchestra & County Choir
Centerville HS Auditorium Free Event
*Singers from the county are invited to sing in the choir. For more information contact: E-mail celafever@gmail.com or

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Talking Leaves



by Golden Eagle

Fall is in the air

Fall is in the air. The wind is a bit sharper and rain soaks the ground.

The leaves, having finished their job are slowly changing color and breaking loose from the branches and slowly swirling to the ground. Than there are the colors. Those wonderful reds, yellows and browns that brighten our days and give us something to remember before the dull days of winter set in.

It used to be the time for me to take long walks in the woods. I'd watch the squirrels scurry about preparing for winter and see the birds massing for their annual flight south. If I was really lucky I'd see a flock of Canada Geese fly over making a perfect 'V' in the sky, calling out as they go hurrying by, to any stragglers, to come up and join them before it was too late.

Once upon a time, before the do gooder's took over the world, you could smell the

burning leaves in several yards around the neighborhood. Of course, if your lucky, there are still some homes with a real fireplaces which send out the smell of wood burning on the night air. And, if your real lucky, you might be invited to a wiener roast or to make 'smores' over a campfire.

Than, of course, this is the season one of my favorite holiday, 'Samheim' or as you know it 'Halloween' The ancient Celtic New Years Eve..The Night of Darkness..When the spirits of the dead return to avenge themselves on the living, who did them wrong. Each family gathered in their home, the men armed as though waiting for an enemy attack. Food was placed outside to appease the spirits. The fire was put out and the fireplace cleaned. A new fire was laid but not lit. At dawn a fire was lit in the village square. A woman of the family went out, escorted by an armed male. She obtained an ember from the central fire and took it home to light the fire in her hearth, Thus began the New Year.

Amazing how out of this came the celebrating on 'All Hallows Eve'. The night before the Christian Holy Day of All Saints and all the customs we have today of dressing in costumes (evil spirits) and Trick or Treat (appeasing the spirits with food.) Other customs have been added..carv-

H.M.S. ENTERPRISES

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Golden Eagle telling an Indian story at Frontier Days Rendezous in front of Quakerstown Store. (Ray Dickerson) ting a pumpkin from Ireland (where it was a turnip); bobbing for apples from England and many others that have come and gone over the years.

Finally there are the harvest festivals in and around the small communities which make up the look of what's left of America's glorious past. Corn Roasts; Bar-B-Qs; Apple Festivals; Pancake Breakfasts all are a part of the living breathing days of October.

There are still some places, maybe you know of them, when walking through a wooded section you can still fill the spirits of the Miami, Shawnee and Wyandot warriors watching from the trees. Look quickly and you will see them before they slip away into the shadows.

May Grandfather Great Spirit always guide you in your journey over the four hills.

Old Chief Says:

There are two kinds of people; those who work and those who take the credit.

Try to be in the first group; there is less competition.

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Shimano fishing products are great and Shimano supports fishermen's rights (Mike Schoonveld Photo)

Shame on Shimano? Hardly!

I'm not a Shimano "purest" but I do have a lot of Shimano gear on my boat and I've used a lot of Shimano rods and reels on other people's boats. I like the Shimano tackle as well as, and many times, more than the other brands I own and use. It's good stuff, well made and price-wise, you get what you pay for.

I don't know where Shimano ranks among the other makers and purveyors of fishing rods and reels in the country. Easily, near the top, if not at the top of the heap. What I didn't know, however, is Shimano is also a big name in bicycling. I suppose those are bicycle fans well aware of Shimano's bike stuff who didn't know they also made fishing stuff.

The people in the Natural Resources Defense Council, however, were and are aware of the corporate connection between Shimano fishing and Shimano bicycling. They are also aware of Shimano's involvement with several other groups concerned with the direction the Obama administration's Inter-Ocean Policy Task Force seems to be taking. As a result, the NRDC has launched a campaign, aimed at bicyclists, called Shame on Shimano.

If you recall, the IOPTF was set up to steer federal efforts towards a comprehensive plan to manage the federally owned waters off our coasts and Great Lakes. The initial meetings of the task force invited participation by shippers, oil companies, commercial fishing representatives and other stake holders but snubbed any involvement by recreational boating and fishing interests.

The initial drafts of the task force lumped commercial fishing and recreational fishing together as one group, showing a complete misunderstanding of both groups. Their goals, capabilities and the impact socially, environmentally and economically of commercial and recreational fishing are completely different and at times, diametrically opposite.

The initial and subsequent drafts of the task force plan embraces the failed "California" plan as a

model for ocean management. In California, both the state and federal government have established Marine Protected Areas (which place restrictions on boating, fishing and other uses) including numerous Marine Life Reserves which basically place large chunks of near and offshore areas out of bounds for any use.

Imagine heading out of your favorite port on the Great Lakes where the mouth of the tributary stream and it's offshore waters, 2 1/2 miles in either direction and 5 miles out into the lake have been declared a MPA with no fishing allowed. That's only a 25 square mile area, says the bureaucrats who drew the lines. Compared to the total lake, it's nothing! Tell that to the California anglers who can no longer fish the mouth or near shore waters of the Russian River, the Sacramento River and numerous other river mouths or the best fishing waters near Catalina Island or the Channel Islands.

No doubt the Shimano executives (whose American interests are based in California) have seen first hand what these closures, instituted since the 1999 passage of California's Marine Life Protection Act, have done and are doing to the recreational fishing business in the Golden State. No doubt, that's why they have ponied up big bucks to help the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus and others work to insure the impact of the IOPTF on recreational fishing is minimized.

Despite their conservation-friendly sounding name, the Natural Resources Defense Council, is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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Scott Skillet Woodcock caught this nice walleye while fishing with me on Brookville Lake. (Photo by Tag Nobbe)



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Catch 'em if you can

This is the time of the year when things start to change. Water temperature starts to drop, days get shorter, winds starts to blow, and fish start to move from their summer patterns. So if you want to continue to catch fish you have to move with the fish. Most of the summer the water temperature has been in the mid 80's with a thermo cline around 25 feet. A lot of the fish we caught this summer were from 10 feet down to 25 feet. But now with the surface temperature cooling off this will change the places, depths, times of day, and the way fish feed. All summer long fish have been feeding on crawl dads, bugs, worms, shad and just about anything else they can get in their mouth, including each other.

All the shad that were spawned this year are now feeding on photo plankton from one end of the lake to the other. This also means that all the predator fish are from one end of the lake to the other. This in turn will make it difficult to locate fish just by finding the bait. When trying to locate fish you'll have to think oxygen, water temperature or just places that the particular fish your targeting like to live.

For example, large mouth bass like to hold next to some kind of structure and they like to be shallow if they can. So with the water temperature cooling off you should target shallow structure now instead of deep structure. But you still have to determine if they're on the main lake, back in the coves, the upper or the lower end of the lake.

That's just one particular fish though if your targeting walleye, striped bass, white bass or any other main lake feeding fish it can be a whole different ball game. If your timing is right you can catch a lot of fish. But if you get their even if you on the right spot after their major feeding time it, can be difficult to coax them to bite. With so many eating size shad in the lake it doesn't take them long to get full.

What you need to do is have about four spots that you catch fish on. Move from spot to spot at different times of the day fish from the top to the bottom till you catch a fish. When you do then that's your pattern, stick with it as long as it works.

There again though, with the water temperature changing, these fish will be on the move from the main lake to the coves and in around standing

timber or all the way to the upper end of the lake or they might stay right where they are. Remember there are 3 things that play a big part in where you find fish oxygen, water temperature and food. If you have all that, then the fish can be there. Keep an open mind and keep trying different techniques in different spots, just because something worked yesterday doesn't mean it's going to work today.

Things to use for bass : Tube baits, Spinner baits, Buzz baits or shallow diving crank baits.

Things to use for walleye : 1/16 and 1/8 oz jigs such as whistler jigs and weed weasels tipped with live bait.

Things to use for white bass 1/8 oz jig and 3 in. white curly tail or an in line spinner like a rooster tail.

Things to use for striped bass 1/2 oz white buck tail jig or big heavy duty surface baits.

If your a crappie fisherman a 1/16 oz plain lead head jig and tube tipped with a crappie minnow or wax worm is awful hard to beat. Look for them in all the deepest coves around under water brush or standing timber.

A jiggng spoon is another option. This a great bait for catching every thing in the fall. The best way to fish a spoon in shallow water is to under hand pitch it at about a 45 degree angle, then drop hop it back to the boat. For fishing a spoon in deep water, say about 45 feet deep the best way is straight up and down. Simply let the spoon free fall all the way to the bottom. From there hop it up and let it flutter down. We have caught everything that is swimming in that lake on a jiggng spoon in the fall.

Good Luck Tag If you need more info E-mail me at tag@tagnobbe.com or go to the web site www.brookvillelakeguide.com or call my cell phone 765-265-3238. I guide fish for walleye, striped bass, and crappie starting mid April

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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Tom Cooper with his trophy elk taken with a bow in the Teton mountains of Western Wyoming. (Photo by Rob Cooper)



Rob's Elk - Rob Cooper with his trophy elk taken with a bow in the Teton Mountains of western Wyoming. (Photo by Tom Cooper)

Father and Son Realize Elk Hunting Dream

by Tom Cooper
Owner Buck Scrape Taxidermy

I have dreamed of hunting elk in the Rocky Mountains ever since I was a young boy. Several years ago, my son Rob and I decided to make this dream come true and began looking for an outfitter that hunted the way we like to hunt, was honest about our chances of success, and maybe most importantly, fit our budget. After exhaustive research and reference checks, we chose an outfitter in western Wyoming.

We made our first trip to this hunting camp in 2007. Full of anticipation and not fully knowing what to expect, we could not have been happier with the experience. As we traveled by horseback up the mountain each morning, hours before daylight, I would envision scenes from the Jeremiah Johnson movie as they passed through the forbidden burial grounds. On the fourth morning of this hunt, we came across a group of elk with a nice bull in it. I shot

a nice bull with my son Rob finishing the job with a perfect 70 yard shot. We had a fantastic time and both experienced the thrill of taking a nice animal even though it was only one between us. We immediately made plans to return as soon as we drew another tag, which was two very long years. Needless to say, we both now had elk fever.

In early September 2009, we returned to the same camp to again chase Wyoming elk with stick and string. This time, knowing a little more of what to expect, we had both ramped up our preparation through rigorous physical conditioning and shooting routines. The first day of the hunt was one that will never be forgotten. We left camp around 4:00 a.m. and rode for several hours to get to where we wanted to be by first light, approximately eight miles from the trailhead. Unlike my first hunt two years ago, this time I was not thinking of any movie character or the beauty of the moun-

tains, I was more focused on the hunt. We tied the horses and hiked up the last ridge, and immediately spotted a big bull with some cows to our right, and a solitary bull to our left up on a side of the mountain. Rob and the outfitter went after the herd bull while I and the guide went after the other bull. Rob stocked in close to the herd and had a good setup, but unfortunately, the big bull pushed his cows in front of him as he came to their calls, and it was all over after a few of the cows got downwind. Meanwhile, we continued to work on the other bull on the opposite side of the timber patch. The bull would continually bugle



Taxidermist Tom Cooper in front of several animals he has mounted, displayed at a wild game dinner Tom has sponsored for several years. (Photo by Tom Cooper)

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Rob and Tom Cooper on horseback packing out Tom's trophy elk. (Photo by Tom Cooper)

to the calls, but would not come down the mountain. However, as soon as the larger herd bull left the area, solitary bull became more confident and started to come. I was set up in front of a big pine, and knew that I would need to draw as soon as the bull disappeared into a small depression. However, just as the bull's head disappeared and I was about to draw my bow, a spike bull showed up and stared right at me not more than fifty yards away. I knew if I moved to draw, the spike would blow, taking the bigger bull with him. So, I stood still as the bull came up out of the depression and walked right up to within about 10 yards of me. I drew as he turned broadside to pass by, but of course, he saw the movement and trotted away.

We slowly worked our way through the timber across the edge of the mountain. Then as the guide made an occasionally soft cow call we heard some-

thing moving through the brush just below our position. Rob pushed ahead and set up in front of a pine, while the guide and I moved back a little and began to softly cow call. Minutes later, a nice bull appeared through the timber approximately 35 yards from Rob's setup. Rob patiently waited for the right opportunity, and then sent an arrow clean through the bull's vitals.

After taking several pictures, we quartered the bull and laid the meat in a cool place before continuing on up the mountain. We spent the afternoon up on a high ridge glassing the valleys below where we spotted an abundance of bedded elk. As evening approached and the elk started moving, we witnessed a once in a lifetime opportunity; a real rut-fest. We estimated that we had at least seven bugling bulls in the valley directly below us and a herd of well over fifty elk. Once we felt we knew where the herd bull

was pushing his cows, we hustled to get in position in the timber just below a huge elk wallow. Rob set up beside me, video camera in hand, while the outfitter and guide set up fifty yards behind us on top of the ridge. For the next hour and a half, we had cows, calves, and smaller bulls all around us. Rob filmed several cows and small bulls within a few feet of my setup while I stood absolutely frozen. Then we heard what we thought was a bigger bull working his way to our position. As soon as his antlers appeared, I drew and selected a shooting lane. As he entered the shooting lane, I released and watched in disappointment as my lighted Tracer neck flew right over his back. I had guessed the distance at 30 yards, and later ranged the distance at only 20 yards and at a steep downhill angle.

The next afternoon we rode up a tall ridge just behind camp where we could glass all around. Within an hour of light left, we spotted a nice bull across a canyon at almost the same elevation as we were. We estimated that it would take well over an hour to take the horses around the rim and get above the bull. After some discussion, we decided that one of the guides would take the horses back to camp, while the other guide, Rob, and I would bail off the ridge, straight down to the creek bottom below, and back up the opposite slope to where the bull was. We literally ran the entire way, and by the time I got to the bottom I was just about shot, but then we had to climb the other slope. We eventually got within a few hundred yards of the bull. The bull responded to almost every call we made. However, the bull was reluctant to leave his cows. We tried to get closer several times, but the wind kept changing direction with the unstable thermals. Eventually we decided to back out before the bull winded us and blew out of the area.

After a restless night, we started out on foot early the next morning, and heard a bugle just as we neared our targeted destination. Just after light, we spotted a bull above us and I moved ahead to get set up. We continued to stalk over the ridge and spotted him again. Using my range finder, the bull was 51 yards away but I had no shot from where I was standing and even though it was a nice bull it was not as

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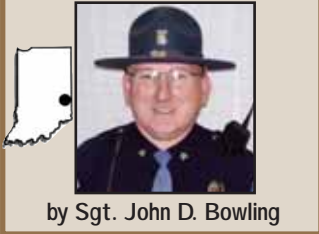
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News from the Indiana State Police



by Sgt. John D. Bowling

You're home has been Burglarized Now what do you do?

I was recently speaking to a neighbor when he asked if I knew the home directly behind mine had been burglarized a couple weeks before. He said someone had broken in while the woman was sleeping and stolen her purse. I wasn't even aware the crime had occurred, which got me to thinking, if you're a victim, what should you expect to happen during an investigation?

I hope you never have to be a victim of a crime; however, statistics say we all will be sooner or later. Years ago, when I was at the academy, I was home for the weekend. We came back from a family function to find a van screeching out of our rural driveway. As I rounded the house there were two males with my screen door open, one with his shoulder against my back door.

Of course, they just needed to "use a phone, to call for a ride." Being a good trooper trainee, I was armed, so I held them at gun point and made the call for them. I got them a quick ride to the Wayne County Jail. We all wish this scenario would happen more often, but most often it does not. Most often you will arrive home to find your door kicked in. What should be your next step?

Never enter your home. There may be burglars still inside who could hurt you. By entering, you also could destroy valuable trace evidence left by the bad guy. Call us and let us clear the house and begin an investigation. I've been at burglary scenes several hours, or just one or two. We generally will call our crime scene technician, our "CSI Guy," to collect any evidence left behind.

I always approach every case as if the home broken into was my own, and I've always trained trooper trainees to do the same. Like most people, I don't have much, but what I have I worked hard to get. Like you, I have no use for a thief, regardless of "why" he is stealing. So after the crime scene technician is done, I start my investigation.

The very first thing I do is a neighborhood check. Make sure EVERYONE within two to three blocks, or in a rural setting, four to five miles, is contacted and made aware of the crime, as well as asked if they saw or heard anything suspicious. I also contact mail

and paper carriers as well as trash collection, because they are out at odd hours and certain times see vehicles they know don't belong in a certain area. It only makes sense the more eyes and ears I have working for me, the more likely I am to solve a crime.

Now CSI has ruined the public's perception of our job. They have the neatest of gadgets and ALWAYS solve the crime in an hour. Investigations take time, and in my nineteen years I have found, are usually only solved with good old hard work and time-and it never hurts to have a little luck along the way.

Tips to Help Prevent Burglary

A great place to start with an investigation would be preventing the crime from occurring in the first place. There are some simple steps you can take to make your home a little tougher to break into. After all, criminals are lazy, that's why they steal instead of work like you and I.

You can start with an alarm system. It doesn't matter if you install it or get one that is professionally monitored. Make sure it is backed up by a battery system in case your power is cut, and make sure it has a loud alarm that will sound when tripped. Mount outside lights that are motion activated. They will light up your yard and save you money by only turning on when needed. Noise and light is not a burglar's friend.

Don't let roofers or other workers in your home to use the phone or bathroom-they could be "casing" your home for a later break in. Often burglars will come to your home and knock on your door to "ask directions," or ask if you need your gutters cleaned out, then come back later to clean out your home. More often than not it's someone who has recently been in your home and knows what he wants and where you keep it.

Never put on Facebook when and where you're going on vacation. We have worked cases where thieves saw this and broke in knowing the victim was gone. Have timers on lights and appliances when out of town and make sure neighbors know you're going to be gone. Have a neighbor pick up mail and newspapers, or have delivery stopped. If there is snow on the ground, have neighbors clear your drive or at least drive through the snow to make your drive looked used.

Keep curtains closed so workers or burglars can't look in and see what you have. Make sure windows are alarmed. You can also drill a hole through the upper part of the lower frame and into the lower part of the upper frame. Put a nail or screw through the holes to lock the two window frames together. Just slip the nail out when you want to open the window.

Another good deterrent is a dog. They don't have to be big or mean, but need to bark when something is amiss. Burglars hate noise AND noisy neighbors. If a strange vehicle is in the neighborhood or someone soliciting work, let us check them out. You may be saving a neighbor or yourself a future break in.

Avoid Car - Deer Crashes

Each fall the annual crop harvest coupled with the beginning of hunting season and the "rut," (deer

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EATIN' WHAT YOU KILL

I've seen too many people (supposedly hunter/sportsmen) go into the woods and kill animals just to have some target practice with no intentions of eating their kill. I was taught by my dad to aim only at what I intended to shoot, shoot only what I intended to kill, and kill only what I intended to eat or give to someone who would appreciate a mess of wild game.

I've watched and heard men brag about shooting woodchucks and leaving them to rot in the field. Now there's a waste if you've ever seen one. Wood chucks aka (also known as) groundhogs, whistle pigs, or marmots are one of the best wild game meats there is. They are complete vegetarians as far as I know and if it hadn't been for Mr. Wood Chuck our family would not have had meat on the table through the week when I was growing up. Mom did serve chuck roast or chicken in some form or other on Sundays when relatives came to visit (for the free meal I think).

I was taught at an early age how to hunt ground hogs and to keep them out of our garden. My brother and I averaged killing one groundhog a day through the summer months that we tended a double garden down by the river on our farm. We only occupied the farmhouse during the summer months because it had rich mucky ground that was perfect for growing potatoes, tomatoes, and sweet corn, some of the favorite foods of Mr. Whistle pig.

We always aimed for the animal's ear, which I dropped it in its tracks and kept it from running back into its hole. We even used #0 Victor steel leg hold traps and attached the chain to a length of cable, which was hooked to a stake and pounded deep in the ground. We shoved the trap down the hole to where the groundhog had to step in it in order to get out. It was easy to dispatch the "hog" with a ball bat and save the price of a .22 bullet.

If the groundhog was young and tender it went into the frying pan after a short time of parboiling in water and garlic. It was rolled in a mixture of flour, salt, pepper, and paprika and fried in bacon grease. If the groundhog was mature then it was parboiled a long time to kill the wild taste and tenderize it before frying. If the groundhog was a gray muzzler and really old then it was parboiled for a lot longer time and then put into the pressure cooker before being made into a stew or soup or dried into jerky strips.

We also had squirrel in season come fall when the groundhogs were starting to hibernate. Our season opened around the mid-

dle of October and between my brother Joe and me, we kept our family supplied in squirrel meat. He and I leaned toward fried squirrel whereas Dad and Mom favored a big bowl of squirrel gravy. This turned my brother and me off as we didn't like to see the squirrel head floating in the gravy with the empty eye sockets staring at us and a brown tooth grin on its face. Mom and dad liked to crack the skull and eat the cooked brains; we didn't.

Mom did make a nice Brunswick stew though which is another reason why we started cleaning the squirrels down by the creek and burying the hide and guts along with the head where our dog couldn't dig them back up.

BRUNSWICK STEW
 (In less sophisticated circles this is called Squirrel Stew.)

- 2 squirrels (skinned, gutted, quartered - equal amounts of groundhog meat or wild rabbit may be substituted for squirrel)
- 2 tsp. salt Water
- #12 Dutch oven 1 (15 oz.) can lima beans
- 1 (10 oz.) can condensed tomato soup
- 1 (15 oz.) can whole kernel corn
- 1 onion (slice thin) 3 potatoes (slice thin)
- 1 tsp. sugar 1/4 lb. butter
- salt and pepper to taste

Place squirrel pieces in the Dutch oven and cover with water. Add the salt and simmer until tender (about 1 and 1/2 hours). Remove squirrel from pot and de-bone the meat. Return meat to the broth in the pot and add the tomato soup, onion, potatoes, lima beans, sugar, salt, pepper, and cook until onion and potatoes are tender. Add corn and butter; cook an addition 5 to 10 minutes. I have been known to 's-t-r-e-t-c-h' a pot of Brunswick stew by throwing in another squirrel, a chicken drumstick or two, a ham hock, some leftover green beans, some canned tomatoes, and maybe whatever else is loose or leftover in the refrigerator. This basic stew should serve four but until after everyone has eaten before telling them what your Brunswick stew has in it. Some people don't like to eat 'tree rats'.

If you have access to deer meat or you kill a deer and don't know how to 'fix' tenderloins, steaks, chops, roasts or even want to learn, then have the whole deer made into deer burger and have it packaged in 1-pound packages for easy handling.

Deer burger can be made into deerburger patties, meatballs, or it can be spiced, formed, dried, and made into what I call jerky burgers. Cooked, it can be added to soups, stews, spaghetti, chili, or macaroni and cheese.

KAMPFIRE DEERBURGER SOUP
 (Use moose burger, elk burger, or regular ham-burger if you're out of deerburger.)

- 2 lbs. deerburger
- 1 medium to large onion (diced)
- 1 lump of margarine (about the size of a walnut)
- 1 large potato (cubed - peeled if you're squeamish)
- 1 or two large carrots (sliced)
- 1/4 medium sized head of cabbage (shredded)
- 1/4 cup rice
- 1 to 4 bouillon cubes or to taste
- 1 small bay leaf (crushed)
- 1/2 tsp. thyme
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 6 cups water
- 1 (15 oz.) can of tomatoes

In the bottom of a #12 Dutch oven, brown the deerburger and onion in the margarine. Add water, potatoes, carrots, and cabbage. Bring to a boil and sprinkle the rice into the mixture. Add all remaining ingredients except the tomatoes. Cover and simmer for 1 hour. Just before serving, add tomatoes and skim off any fat that forms. Should serve 8 adults or 4 hungry Boy Scouts.

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CANAL DAYS - OCTOBER 1-3, 2010



Looking at the Metamora operating Grist Mill through the Park, Duck Creek crossing is in the background. The Grist Mill is operated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)



The canal boat Ben Franklin III glides quietly along the Whitewater Canal in Metamora, IN. Horses, Bill and Red pulling the canal boat from the toepath, an artist sits and paints a scene along the canal as they pass. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

Canal Days Started in 1969

by Al Rogers
Canal Days Chairman

It seems to me there was a group called "Canal Town Arts & Crafts (C.T.A.&C.)". Within this group were Paul Baudendistel, Jim Wendel, Wilda Dawson & Franklin La Paris, among others. Well these four were talking in Wilda's backyard in August 1969 and came up with the idea of Canal Days! It was there brainchild.

They then went to the meeting of c.t.a.&c. and presented it to the whole group, who liked it.

Bud Hyde, another member, said he knew a lot of antique dealers and would pass the word along. The first year was free! No charge to set up. There were approximately 25 dealers that first year.

I was one of those dealers, we sold antiques at our farm in Dearborn County. So when Bud told me on the Sunday before Canal Days on our way home from the Hearthstone, we always stopped at Bud's on the way home, that this event was to take place the following weekend in Metamora, I said to my wife, lets try it, its free!

Bud said, "because its free get here early."

So I was there by 6:30 am, I was the first by almost 2 hrs. Paul Baudendistel came down from his apartment and greeted me. I told him my story and he asked me to go to Brookville with him to help get barricades. So I did and that was the last weekend in September. Same as canoe races, the rest is history.

The organization has changed its name 3 times since then. Now its Historic Metamora Inc., and the cost of a booth in the 42 years since went from 0 to \$175.00 for the weekend. Also it is now a 3-day event & the dealers went from about 25 to about 600. Our crowd went from about 200 to about 150,000.

Canal Days has done just what it was intended to do, attract shops and tourists to the town. I'd say mission accomplished!

(Note: During Canal Days you won't be able to park within the town. All parking areas will be covered with vendor tents; Parking is available across Hwy 52 and past Duck Creek Crossing.)

CANAL DAYS 2010

Oct. 1-2-3 10 am till 5:00 pm. One of Indiana's most popular festival. You'll find hundreds of outside vendors including antiques, artist, crafts and collectibles all along the Whitewater canal and throughout the entire village of Metamora. Extended hours for both canal boat and the mill. For information about the event or juried rental space along the canal call 765-647-2194. Sponsored by **Historic Metamora, Inc.** www.metamoraindiana.com.

Enjoy Metamora Canal Days without worrying about parking. Train excursion leaves Connersville Grand Central Station at the times listed below. Friday Oct 1 departs 10:00am w/2 hour layover. Saturday Oct 2 departs 10:00am w/4 hour layover and 12:01pm w/2 hour. Sunday Oct 3 departs 10:00am w/4 hour layover and 12:01pm w/2 hour.

All trains departing Metamora for the return trip to Connersville on October 2 & 3 will combine and depart as one train. Call the Whitewater Valley Railroad at (765) 825-2054 or visit the Railroad website for more info and prices www.whitewatervalleyrr.org/

Canal Days 1976

by Ray Dickerson

In 1976 I wrote this about "Canal Days" in the then, "Outdoor Gad-about" the magazine.

"Fall coats the trees in fiery reds, blissful oranges and bright yellows. The days are comfortable and the nights cool for good sleeping. During the days the sun beams a different glow as the days grow shorter.

In Metamora, IN the early morning chill warms the memories of residents who have lived in this, one of the oldest

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 27

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nineveh heritage festival october 8-9, 2010

Nineveh Heritage Festival Oct. 8-9, 2010 (Downtown Nineveh)

"Painting the Town"
Honoring artist and Nineveh
William Merritt Chase

with dedication of Indiana Historic Landmark

This years festival will be held Oct 8 from 3 to 9 pm, and Oct 9 from 9am to 9 pm

Calling all princesses.....

Girls in K-6 grades are eligible to enter the *Nineveh Heritage Festival Little Princess contest*. Rehearsals are from 10:30 am to 4 pm at the Crossing Church at the entrance to Prince's Lakes. Participants will learn a dance that they will perform at the pageant open to the public that night at 6:30 pm. Contestants will receive matching festival T-shirts to wear at the pageant and during the festival. Entry fee is \$12.

The girls will be introduced Oct. 9 at 6 pm on the entertainment stage and will again perform their dance. They will ride in the parade at 10 am Saturday. Register by September 23 at Ed's Trading Post or call Joyce Rice at

Pumpkin Pie Contest & Auction Friday

Bring your best pumpkin pie to the Post Office on Friday from 3 to 4 pm for a chance to win \$50, \$25 and \$10 prizes. Judging begins at 5 pm. Pies will be auctioned off immediately following judging with proceeds going to the *Nineveh Heritage Fund*.

Friday - October 8th

5 pm Pumpkin Pie Contest at the post office, with pie auction immediately following judging.

4 to 8 pm Bean Supper sponsored by Mt. Carmel Christian Church

6 pm Introduce the festival princess and dance by contestants on the entertainment stage

6 pm Karaoke Contest on the entertainment stage

8 pm Eclipse Band at Eds Trading Post

Saturday - October 9th

7:30 to 9:30 am Pancake Breakfast at the fire station

10 am Parade - Prayer by Pastor Paul Taylor followed by the singing of the "National Anthem" courtesy of Camp Atterbury

11 am to 6 pm Fish Fry at the Masonic Lodge

2 pm Dedication of the William Merritt Chase Historic Landmark

Head to Toe Salon with demos and displays by Rick Wilson and other local artist.

Pumpkin painting for the kids.

All weekend - October 8-9

Camp Atterbury historical displays and memorabilia at the post office

Indian Creek FFA Pork chops & home made ice cream

Entertainment on the entertainment stage

Balloon Sculptures by "Ole Glory"

Fun for kids at Mutual Savings Bank

Memorabilia on display

next to Cornerstone Contracting Silent Auction and Vendors Smoke Eaters Barbecue

FOR FESTIVAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chairman Mike Duncan 317-933-2898

Vendors Marvin Neff-Peggy Murray

Eds Trading Post 317-933-4867

Parade Leroy Rice 317-679-9580

Entertainment Jim Young 317-946-7979

Silent Auction Art McGee 933-2785

WILLIAM MERRITT CHASE

William Merritt Chase, was born in 1849. Schoolmates remembered him as a boy who didn't care for sports or playing, but sat and drew pictures of animals and trees. He once painted a "portrait" of a calf with house paint as his brother struggled to hold the calf still. The family moved to Indianapolis when he was 12. Chase studied art in Indianapolis, New York and Munich, where he strayed from the European style to stark, black paintings and introduced light into his scenes, becoming one of the first American impressionists.

In 1878 he opened his lavish Tenth Street Studio in New York where he hosted cultural events and taught students including Georgia O'Keefe and Rockwell Kent. He helped establish the Shinnecock Summer School of Art and Chase School, promoting a style internationally recognized as distinctly American.

Nineveh qualified for an Indiana Historic Landmark to honor Chase, which will be dedicated at 2 pm Saturday Oct. 9th. See displays on the artist and meet Rick Wilson and other local artists.

NINEVEH HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Since early 2007, a group of Nineveh residents, business leaders and representatives of organizations and Camp Atterbury have met to plan a town festival and organize other community projects and events.

An endowment fund was opened with the Johnson County Community Foundation with a goal of raising \$100,000. The fund will provide annual grants for local organizations and community projects such as a community center and sidewalks. Donations for the endowment are being accepted. Checks may be made payable to the Johnson County Community Foundation and mailed to Bob Wright, 7475 Grizzly Drive, Nineveh, IN 46164.

The Committee would like to thank artist Luke Buck for his watercolor creation of the Nineveh School. Luke has donated the proceeds of the limited edition prints to the endowment fund. Prints are \$75 and are available at Cornerstone Contracting in Nineveh or call 317-933-2916.

All interest persons are welcome to attend meetings, held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in Nineveh Masonic Lodge.

(Editor's Note: The Nineveh School was one of the schools used in the making of "Hoosiers." It was torn down to build the new Post Office but, Join Nineveh Oct 7-8 as they celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the movie "Hoosiers" (some scenes filmed in Nineveh).

2010 Nineveh Heritage Festival

Oct. 8 & 9
Friday, 3—9 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.— 9 p.m.



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Rose Wimmer with her Gem Trees. Rose is a wire artist and does wire sculpture. The trees she makes by twisting non tarnish craft wire into the tree trunk. It is all one piece of wire. She then puts real gem stones on the tree for leaves and mounts the whole thing on a mineral specimen that could be apart of a mineral collection. Each one is one of a kind. (Photo by Van Wimmer)

Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry Show October 1-3, 2010

(www.toteshows.com)

12th Annual Fall Indianapolis
Bead, Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show
Indiana State Fairgrounds

The 12th Annual Fall Bead, Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show will be held at the Indianapolis State Fairgrounds in the Agriculture/Horticulture Building at 1202 East 38th Street in Indianapolis, Indiana on **October 1-3, 2010**, Friday 10 am to 6 pm, Saturday 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday 11 am to 5 pm.

Adult admission is \$5.00. Tickets are good all three days. Children under the age of 16 are admitted FREE plus Door Prizes.

Newspaper Staff and all guest accompanying them to the show admitted FREE.

Custom work and repairs while you visit, food is available. This show has a larger building with more dealers, more choices and more to see and do.

You will find Jewelry makers, goldsmiths and silversmiths from all over the United States who can construct, repair, design or make original jewelry from customer-selected gems, stones, opals and crystals. Gem trees, wire wrap, wire sculpture, pearls, stone beads, stone setting, amber, opal, mineral and fossil dealers. Hourly door prizes including Gold ring with a precious stone to be given as a Grand Prize. Members of the 500 Earth Science Club and



Rose & Van Wimmer standing inside a pre-historic fossilized shark jaw and with teeth. (Photo by Van Wimmer)

the Indiana Bead Society will be present with a display. Visit their display and meet the members. Find out about the club and all their great activities. Jerald Day will be demonstrating and teaching classes in silversmithing continuously during the show. Classes available on Friday and Saturday evenings. Demonstrations.

Pat Westby from the Dayton Gem & Mineral Society will be demonstrating the art of making Lampwork Beads each day. Individual classes in wire wrapping will be available.

Questions may be directed to Van Wimmer - Show Director at (540) 384-6047 or to the Indiana State Fairgrounds at (317) 927-7503.

Van Wimmer will be back to Indianapolis March 25-27, 2011 for their 13th Annual Spring Indianapolis Bead, Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. Be sure to mark that date on your calendar.



Mei Leung of Canton Collectibles with her high quality real stone beads and pearls. (Photo by Van Wimmer)

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Treasures of the Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows www.toteshows.com

12th Annual Fall Indianapolis
Bead, Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show
Indiana State Fairgrounds - Ag/Hort. Building
1202 East 38th Street - Indianapolis, Indiana
October 1-3, 2010

Friday & Sat 10am-6pm Sunday 11am-5pm

Admission \$5 Ticket good all 3 days
Children under age 16 Free - Hourly Door Prizes
Custom work & repairs while you wait - Food Available
Beads - Pearls - Minerals - Fossils - Silver & Goldsmiths
Displays by 500 Earth Science Club & Indiana Bead Society
March 25-27, 2011 = 13th Annual Spring Indianapolis Show

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)

I have been wanting to do a veteran's story about my dad, MMS Petty Officer First Class, Raymond "Gene" Dickerson for quite some time here in The Gad-a-bout and also include more on his Seabee buddies.

This month, 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 won-

derful 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 Cecilia 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 Siekman from Green Bay, WI, Janice Plaskett from Canton, OH, Jeannie Winter from Norfolk, VA, Leroy and Shirley Gamble from Forest Grove, OR (we were saddened to hear that Leroy Gamble passed away in 2009 too), Robert and Carolyn Huls from Pekin, IL and Guy and Miriam Large from Orange City, FL. Since that reunion we've had Seabee Veteran articles from Leroy Gamble (who passed away in 2009), Chuck Sarahan and Daniel Moriarty. I was hoping for more articles, but time and distance takes its toll; on my visit to the 65th Reunion I intended to get a few more articles from them in person, but that wasn't to be I guess.

Today, Monday, September 13, 2010 I talked by phone to Lenore and Fred Hummel (they are the organizers for this years Seabee reunion to be held at Gettysburg, PA). I called them wanting to know some things about the attending members and the upcoming reunion. We had a nice chat about that and some other things too. They said they expected 12

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



The Navy Seabees insignia, their motto was, "Can Do."

"Mom and Dad"



A composite photo of Mom and Dad at left, Rosemary "Rosie" Dickerson, born June 30, 1915, died July 22, 1990. Dad at right, Raymond Eugene Dickerson, every one called him "Gene" 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 reunion.

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79TH CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 62ND REUNION ON OCT 7-11, 2007

79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Seabees from L to R, Front row: Joe Acetta, Fred Hummel, Bill Burke, Jack Taggart, Daniel Moriarty and Charles Sarahan. Back row: Leroy Gamble (deceased), Conrad Shope, Robert Huls, John Serra, Lindy Lindruff, Guy Large and Vern Siekmann.



79th Construction Battalion Queen Bees from L to R, Front row: Janice Plaskett, Dot Accella, Ruth Burke, Erma Sarahan, Cecilia Taggart (deceased) and Lenore Hummel. Back row: Wilma Dickerson Woodford (my sister), Jeannie Winter, Marian Large, Mary Lindruff, Isabelle Serra, Shirley Gamble, Carolyn Huls and Joyce Siekmann

former Seabees to be there, but couldn't provide me with any names yet. I will be sending them copies of this issue to hand out to those Seabees who do attend with their Queen Bees (wives). They are going to send me information on the 2011 reunion. I hope they have a wonderful reunion. Most of them (Seabees) were discharged in the Fall of 1945, so it has been 65 years since they left the Navy.

At the time of the 2007 Reunion, I thought dad had been on Okinawa with these same guys who attended the reunion, who was in Alaska with him.

Prior to attending the Seabee reunion, with the help of Jeannie Winter, whose father was a Seabee (she takes care of the Seabee website too), she told me where to go on the Seabee website to find the muster lists of the LST's the Seabees were on, so I could find my dad's name. I searched all the muster lists, but couldn't find dad's name on any of them.

It was puzzling until the last couple of days, after searching in every nook and cranny of the military websites and other documentation including his Alaska Cruise Book and the 1990 newspaper interview, I found him.

A couple of months ago I found a newspaper article written about him in our, then local newspaper, it read, "He 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 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. See copy of it on page 18.

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 Kadema 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. See photo of this publication, entirely made by hand, all artwork is hand drawn, see copy of it on page 18. 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. 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 reunion 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 he 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.

Carrol's interview with dad in June 1990 is reprinted here with permission from Carrol Rhodes.

Local Man Shares Memories of WWII

Cold barracks....Quonset huts....Navy chow....
Raymond Eugene Dickerson Sr. remembers it all...including the spectacular beauty of the Alaskan



Seabee Fred and Lenore Hummel enjoying their meal at the Eden Resort Inn in Lancaster, PA the evening of October 10, 2007. They are the hosts for the 65th Reunion being held in Gettysburg, PA September 26 to 30, 2010. I enjoyed talking to them today, 9-13-10.



Jeannie Winter's father was a Seabee. She answered my original e-mail and even posted Dad's photo on their 79th Battalion Seabee Sailor in the Spotlight page. I was thrilled. She asked if I would like to attend the 2007 reunion in Lancaster, PA. My sister, Wilma, who had originally found the Seabee website, and I both attended the 2007 CB reunion in Lancaster, PA.



When dad gave me his Alaska Cruise Book, I was shocked to see my brother Bob (R) and I (L) in the back on page 73, the page was titled, "Our Children."

CBMU 624, 244 SEABEES ATTACHED TO MARINE AIR GROUP 933 IN TASK FORCE 58



Dad told Carrol Rhodes in his interview that in the Fall, you could tell when the snow was comin'. A mountain they called "Old Barometer" would get a small white cap on top ...and it would just keep comin' down. This is one of Dad's photos of a mountain in Alaska near them. Don't know if this is "Old Barometer" or not.



Dad took this photo at Okinawa. I don't know if he was on board ship or on land. The white lines above the F4U Corsairs are tracer bullets. I would guess that they were under a Kamikaze attack (Divine Wind). Nineteen American ships were sunk during these attacks on Okinawa, 199 ships were damaged according to U.S. Navy records.



Dad walking along the street in Honolulu, Hawaii. A stamp on the back of the photo reads, "4 for \$1.00 Movie -Land Pix." On the front he wrote, "Love from Gene."



Dad almost wrote a letter on the back of this photo he took on Okinawa, he is on the left. He wrote, "This is Joe Whitnack and L.D. Middleton and I won't say who the other guy is, but I think you have seen him before. 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. 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.

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 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 it's 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 tablecloth 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 re-assigned. 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 (fore-runner 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 AUG 14, 1945 DAD LEFT OKI NAWA OCT 4, 1945 ON THE USS TOPEKA



USS Topeka CL-67 in Manila Bay, Philippine Islands, July 1946. A Baltimore class heavy cruiser is in the background. On October 4, 1945 Dad and 528 other Veterans on Okinawa were picked up by the U.S.S. Topeka (CL-67), a Cruiser and taken to Portland, Oregon. (Naval Historical Center Photo)



Above Photo: Dad with Gladys Turner, Bud's wife. (Photo by Bud Turner). Bottom Photo: In Alaska, Bud Turner at left and Dad at right. On the back Dad wrote: Dear Son: "This is a picture that you will like, the fellow with me is R.G. Turner, a swell guy and a real mate. I guess you know who the other guy is." From Dad

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 Carol Rhodes "The Crusader" newspaper.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



The 79th Construction Battalion "MAINTAINER." Published weekly by the 79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion, c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California. Publisher Lt. Comdr. A. T. Brown. This is Volume 1, number 37 dated Thursday, 31 August, 1944.



The Topeka Sunflower is published by the men of the USS Topeka on the 23rd of each month. Captain Thomas L. Wattles, Commanding Officer. This issue is dated August 23, 1945. The USS Topeka photo is above; this is the ship Dad came back to the states on in 1945.



Blackout was the 79th Construction Battalion's mascot. In the Alaska Cruise book the photo doesn't have a paw print like this one. On the back Dad wrote, "Note paw print like this one." Evidently Blackout personalized this one for Dad.

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Dog Tales



by Alan "Grizz" Smith

I'm Looking Forward

As usual I made my annual trip Labor Day weekend to the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Richmond for the annual Autumn Oaks competition. And as always my good friends at the United Kennel Club were all very busy putting on a first class event. Every year I think to myself that this event is bigger than the year before and that it cannot possibly get any larger, yet every year it seems to do just that. Beside the full array of every breed of conhound and most every strain within those breeds there were also a nice selection of cur and fiest dogs and a few beagles on the grounds also. I didn't compete in this event this year; instead I kind of just kicked back and enjoyed myself. I spent most of my time visiting with old friends and reliving hunts of the past. We talked about past hunts, old hounds that have been long gone, our present dogs and some up and comers. I also spent a fair amount of time just walking around looking at all of the hounds on the grounds which is something that I haven't taken the time out to do for several years now. I believe I've been to at every Autumn Oaks for the last 21 years. It's always a great time and I've made a lot of friends there. This year it was nice to not be competing or have to rush around trying to get a cast into the woods, it had been several years since I had the opportunity to just kick back and enjoy the event. My hats off to



Author and John Lang (nephew) with five early season geese. Also on this hunt but not pictured was Patrick Shaffmaster and Chad Dunkel. (Alan Smith Photo)



Matias Silva (Authors Nephew) with the results of his first squirrel hunt. Also pictured is the author and his Buckskin Plott, Honey. (Alan Smith Photo)

those of you who helped with the event as it is a lot of work and it is often a thankless job.

The weather has finally started to cool down in September and I've been getting in some squirrel hunts when I'm able. I've found a few squirrels cutting on hickory nuts and a few cutting on white oak acorns but the majority of the squirrels I've taken have been cutting on locust pods or feeding in the edges of corn fields. Most of the hickory nuts that I've cracked open and checked have larva in them and the meat of the nut is black. I've checked 20 plus trees and several nuts from each tree and I've only found two nuts that were not infested with the larva. This explains the lack of squirrel activity under all of the hickory trees that I've tried to hunt under. My youngest nephew turned eight years old this month and I took him on his first squirrel hunt the morning of his birthday. We managed to bag a couple of bushytails and boy was he excited. I think I have the making of another hunting buddy in the works. As the leaves start falling this month the squirrel hunting should really start to improve.

but this early season just never seems to work out for me or my hunting buddies. I get all fired up because I haven't been able to hunt geese for eight months, plus the bag limit is five instead of the two birds that you are allowed in the regular season. The geese are not near as spooky because they haven't been shot at in several months. That's plenty of reason to get fired up! I spend two weeks looking for birds and gaining permission to hunt and then when season comes in on September 1st it just all falls apart. It seems the birds will not leave the parks, golf courses and school yards and if they do there is no rhyme or reason to their actions. This year I had over 200 geese in a pasture that I hunt on a regular basis, they were there everyday all day long for over two weeks, then the day before season came in they just quit using it. Oh well it's bound to get better! Right? I've got one weekend left and who knows maybe my luck will change. Besides I have had a blast already and I've had the opportunity to hunt with my good friends Patrick Shaffmaster, Chad Dunkel, Lee Hannon and Lee's daughter Kristen. I've also got to take my nephew John Lang and my nieces Angel and Reyna Silva on their first goose hunt. I think I have a bunch of young hunters living with me now and I'm looking forward to seeing what the rest of the season will bring.

As I'm writing this we are in the middle of the early (September) goose season. I'm not sure about everyone else



Pictured left to right are Reyna Silva, Matias Silva and Angel Silva with their new Plott puppy they bought at Autumn Oaks.. (Alan Smith Photo)

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by John and El McCory

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law had a frame, axle and wheel aligning business in Indianapolis so that process was done at little expense.

I think all of us took our turns with the camper on family vacations although mother and dad probably had the longest trips to the West, Southwest and Southeast. They kept us guessing with tales of wheels going off the edge of back-roads in Colorado, having to clean up the inside of the fold down after going miles on gravel roads, etc. Usually traveling with friends, members of mother's family and people from their church they'd give onlookers tours of their home-made camper. Upon occasion my dad would forget to waterproof parts of the canvas, and in spring the rains would inevitably find the weak spot, usually the end on which the guests were sleeping. Another story and laughing point for dad.

It was at Spring Mill State Park that I believe El had her first fold down camper exposure. My parents brought her down with them when they came down to visit me in the summer of 1965. I was park naturalist there for a few weeks while the regular naturalist worked the State Fair. It was in this camper we had had our experiences in Bennett Springs, Missouri and in Cahokia Mounds Park, Illinois during the Spring Break of 1966, after having been married in November of 1965. I had written about these experiences in one of our first columns about the mouse in the pit toilet and the fishermen clomping up the stream on the first day of trout season.

Most people will agree food almost always tastes better after having been cooked over a wood burning fire. Mother and dad nearly always cooked over a fire on outings and while traveling. Eventually they (graduated?) to a portable gas burning stove and to charcoal. The tastes and smells just aren't the same. We see many changes in camping taking place as we travel the states and abroad. More and more RV resorts and campgrounds are allowing only gas, electric or charcoal grills and no wood fires. When working as a park naturalist during the years of 1957-1970 we poured water on a lot of burning coils in vacated weekenders' campsites. A little wind could have devastated some of our Indiana State Parks. I can only remember a few smoldering fires we had to extinguish in our 31 years as campground owners/managers. I still believe camp food tastes better cooked over wood fires. As a biologist I know about many of the studies showing the changes in the composition of the food when cooked like this, but occasionally it couldn't hurt too much if one has good health otherwise. Mother and dad lived 98 and 93 years, respectively. Eventually our scientists will probably develop methods for our body to ward off carcinogenic materials so we can eat over-the-fire cooked food without fear. We can hope so anyhow.

We campers still have to be vigilant as to some of the forgetful or vagrant thoughtlessness that takes place in our precious natural parks i.e., state and national parks, forests, memorials, and the many city and county parks that are being saved for people to enjoy without having to travel a great distance.

Late one night a fisherman knocked at our door at our campground and said a fisherman had left and had scattered his fire ashes over the ground. (I had mowed the area a couple of days before and the mowed grass had dried.) As I looked out toward the north lake a grass fire was starting to spread. We quickly awakened some campers, grabbed buckets, and our bucket brigade, with water from the lake eventually put out the fire. A quicker and more brisk wind that night would have been big trouble. We've

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Outdoors Tales



by Phil Junker

Fresh shrimp raised on Indiana farm

Shrimp fried or broiled or boiled are good eating. The fresher the better. Add some corn on the cob, new potatoes, and yum!

A number of times during my Air National Guard days while training at Savannah, Ga., I would drive out to Thunderbolt and buy shrimp at the boat. In later years, I purchased them from boats in Cajun County in Louisiana. But, I never thought I would buy them fresh from ponds in Putnam County, Indiana.

A year ago, I heard about a freshwater shrimp farming operation near Coatesville. In late August I saw a sign about the upcoming three-day shrimp harvest festival at the farm of Keith and Katrina Henderson on Labor Day weekend.

Loving shrimp and being naturally inquisitive (some would call it nosy), I decided to check it out.

Keith and Katrina have lived on the farm just north of State Road 240 for several decades, and a few years ago decided to try shrimp farming.

"My dad read an article about freshwater shrimp farming, and decided to learn more about it...He's always up to some kind of new excursion," said his daughter, Jaclyn, who was busy in the office area of a barn selling visitors bags of fresh shrimp.

With the aid of Purdue University, the Hender



Katrina Henderson scoops up shrimp to be washed and prepared for sale at her Coatesville farm.(Photo by Phil Junker)



One of the small shrimp ponds on the Keith and Katrina Henderson farm near Coatesville is drained and shrimp captured as visitors watch the muddy operation..(Photo by Phil Junker)

son's started their operation with one pond and have added an additional pond each year, and now have four.

They buy tiny juvenile shrimp and stock them in the ponds during May. Twice daily, Katrina feeds the small shrimp a corn-based feed. By Labor Day, the juveniles have turned into jumbo shrimp.

The ponds are drained one at a time. Hundreds of people come to observe the operation and watch the shrimp being dipped from the shrinking water. The captured shrimp and placed into ice water, which kills them before they are taken to the barn for washing and sale.

At the three-day event, meals of fried or boiled shrimp are sold. There also is fresh corn on the cob, red potatoes, and slaw.

There are other stands selling a variety of products, games for the kids, and adventurous youngsters can join in the mud and try catching the final few shrimp in each pond.

To add to the shrimping theme, the Henderson's purchased a disabled shrimp boat and brought it to the farm, where it was dry-docked close to one of the ponds.

Katrina says they recently read about someone who is farm raising blue crabs. "We're checking into blue crabs as a future project, but Purdue doesn't know anything about it, and we haven't been able to find detailed information either."

But, they are still looking. Maybe in a couple of years, visitors can have a choice between a shrimp or crab dinner.

###

BOW FISH TOURNEY -- Asian carp have become a serious nuisance in rivers in the Midwest, including those in Indiana and Kentucky. Beyond being a nuisance, they have become dangerous. They jump into boats, sometimes striking occupants. Due to their size, they can cause injury, possibly death.

Almost no one wants to eat them, and few practical uses have been found for them. They can be turned into pet food or fertilizer, but the economics still aren't there to make it worthwhile for fishermen to catch them for sale.

The exotic fish escaped from ponds several decades ago in Arkansas, and now they are in rivers by the millions. Officials are working hard to keep them out of the Great

CONTINUED ON
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Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

FISHIN' FRUSTRATION

I've always been led to believe that fishing is supposed to be relaxing and fun. Set your alarm four 4:00 a.m., grab your favorite pole, tackle box, and a can of worms and walk across the fields and through the woods to your favorite honey hole. Make a little bow tie out of a worm on the hook, cast it in and relax, letting the cares of the world slip off your shoulders.

Baloney!
First, who in their right mind would roll out of bed in the middle of the night simply because they've been told that "the big ones" always start feeding at an early time of the day? As a rule I don't normally catch "big ones"; that is unless you count anything eight inches long or under as "big uns". The biggest drawback to rising early is having to look at myself in the mirror anytime before the sun is up. Imagine gazing at something that looks like a Sasquatch after a night at Bubba's Bar and Grill. I'd do better just wading into a stream with my knuckles dragging the bottom, suddenly snatching a fish and eating it raw while letting out a mournful howl. So, I don't get up to go fishing until around 8:00 or 9:00, then eat a casual breakfast and watch t.v. for an hour to get into the proper depressed state of mind.

I'm not the neatest person when it comes to storing my gear. Rods are stacked in a corner of the garage and somehow manage to get their lines wrapped around each other in twisted knots. After working ten minutes to get at least one free I wonder if I slept through an earthquake during the night that wriggled the darned things around and snarled the lines. The tackle box looks like a serious explosion in the economy section of a sporting goods store. I've never been able to understand how spinner baits with all those treble hooks can get tangled with each other. Earthquake, again. Also wound into the mess is always a ball of line that I had to cut off when an unrepairable crows nest showed up on a reel. I hate people who litter, so I drop the mess into the tackle box where it immediately wraps itself around everything with hooks.

By noon I'm ready to go. But, according to the experts it's now too late to snag the big ones, so I settle for the puny little bait snatchers that finally come out after the big 'uns have gone back to their holes. But the average fisherman like me still has one more chance. According to the experts, early evening until and even after dark is when those big ol' boys will be back on the prowl. Now we're talking. I can handle fishing at that time of day. That is, unless I have interruptions.

One evening last

week I decided to use the fly rod along a breakwater here at the lake. A neighbor kindly lets me fish along his dock and breakwater where I have ample room to fling a fly. With one exception. He has a flag pole flying Old Glory, and having left one of my better bead head nymph's in it last year I was being cautious about my back cast. First cast, a bluegill. Second cast, another gill. Third cast, The American flag. Standing at attention, I saluted it, cited the Pledge of Allegiance, broke another bead head off on it and went home. What a record. Two pudy bluegills and a flag. Let's see someone else top that one.

A couple of days later I was back and taking special care as to the distance of the flag from my position. Two little gills later my cell phone rang just as I was trying to get one of the little minnows off the hook. It was my 97 year old mother.

"Hi ya mom", I yelled, "Could you hold on a minute while I get this fish off the hook?" Mom doesn't hear too well these days, so I wasn't surprised when she said, "Dishing? Why are you dishing?"

"Fishing, mom. I'm fishing".
"Where are you fishing?"
"At the lake".
"What lake?"
"The big one in our front yard".

In the meantime I had rolled the line back out and another skinnier gill took the fly. Again, I asked mom to hold on while I reeled it in. She hung up on me. Now my mom was honked at me because of my love of fishing for scrawny little bluegills. Whenever she decides to answer my return calls I'll apologize to her.

Shortly afterwards, to add insult to injury, Rollin and I went out for an evening of relaxed fishing. Yeah, right. While I sat at the stern of the boat and he at the bow, he pulled in ten crappie to my one. I watched him closely and used the same colored jigs, fished at the same depth, and worked the line just like him to no avail. I finally asked him what brand of aftershave he was wearing so I could pick up a bottle before the next trip. Finally, darkness fell and we switched to spinner baits for bass. Trolling and casting along a shoreline littered with boat docks, trees, and stone breakwaters after dark is my idea of a fisherman's nightmare and a lure manufacturers dream. Rollin has fished since his mom removed his last diaper and he can put a lure wherever he wants with his eyes closed. As for me, being able to see obstacles only as dim shadows, I'd cast and wait to hear a splash if the big spinner hit water. Rollin admonished me to put it closer to the shore. I'd tell him to put it where no sunburn is possible because I had already left a small fortune in baits this summer attached to various docks, stumps and rocks. Finally, I decided to take a chance on a long cast behind the boat parallel to shore. I didn't hear water. Pulling back on the rod, it was snagged solid on something. We trolled back, following the line with a flashlight and found I had hooked-----a duck box.

A Duck Box? What's a duck box? It was a thing that looked like an oversized bird house on a piece of five foot tall pipe by the waters edge. Rollin explained that they were there to attract woods ducks during the nesting season. "Well, take the \$%#@% things down after the ducks are through using them".

I shouted.
Fifteen minutes later, fishing cautiously, I hooked what had to be the stump of a giant Sequoia in about fifteen feet of water and lost the only spinner bait I had. And, breaking it off left me with a huge ball of line wrapped around the rod tip. It's now in my tackle box, snarled with a bunch of things with treble hooks.

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The Simple Life



by Jack & Leslie Turner

New Beginnings

This is our first article under the column "The Simple Life. I, Jack, am no stranger to the Gad-A-Bout. I wrote "Trap Lines" for the better part of fifteen years. Leslie now joins me, not only as my writing partner, but soon-to-be-life partner.

While our by-line says, "Jack & Leslie Turner", we are actually days away from our wedding which will be September 17th in Dillsboro, Indiana.

We started dating last summer and soon discovered that we had many common interests, several of them relating to the outdoors. Over the past sixteen months we have spent literally hundreds of hours along waterways, in the fields & forests and on the backroads of Indiana.

Almost immediately, Leslie wanted me to educate her on fishing. She had fished in the past with live baits, but was curious about lures and when and how to use them.

One night I went to Leslie's apartment and we sat at the kitchen table for forty-five minutes as I emptied my tackle box of artificial baits such as spinners, crankbaits, buzzbaits, poppers, etc. I addressed their applications with consideration to water conditions (depth, clarity and temperature) and targeted species.

Later I discussed with Leslie other accessories

such as bobbers, lead weights, leaders, swivels, line and the rods and reels themselves.

It wasn't long after our educational session on fishing that Leslie was able to put her new knowledge into practice. As we often do now, we fished for largemouth bass, bluegill and crappie. Leslie's success was almost immediate as she caught and landed her first largemouth bass using a crankbait.

We fish four or five times a month and Leslie prides herself in selecting the artificial baits as well as catching the fish and releasing them unharmed.

This summer, we decided to have our first annual "J & L Outdoors Bass Classic" tournament. This tournament consisting of just two fishermen, Leslie and Jack, is a three day tournament with the winner having caught the most largemouth bass.

Another interest we now share is hunting arrowheads. Jack has been an arrowhead collector for approximately twenty years so he shared his knowledge with Leslie on that topic. This spring we went into a couple of plowed fields in Hamilton County, Ohio in search of artifacts left behind by that inhabited those grounds many years before us.

A third outdoors related interest we share is taking day long drives in rural Indiana. We travel the backroads and country landscapes stopping frequently to take photographs of beautiful scenery such as wildlife, meadows, farms and undisturbed creek beds. Frequently we stumble upon old schoolhouses, churches and barns and the occasional general store.

We have been blessed to have been able to take several weekend trips. One of those trips was to Oak Park (suburb of Chicago), Illinois where we were able to tour the boyhood home and museum of Ernest Hemingway, one of Jack's favorite authors.

Twice we were able to visit Johnstown, Pennsylvania, a city ravished by three major floods. Johnstown also has the distinction of having the world's steepest inclined plane and hosting the annual AAABA (collegiate level) baseball tournament.

Over time we want to experience together small game hunting, running a trapline and treasure hunting utilizing a metal detector.

In order that we may have opportunities for success in our outdoors endeavors, we are constantly seeking out new lands. It is our hope that we will get invited onto private properties to hunt, fish, trap and search for arrowheads. In doing so,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



Leslie with a nice Largemouth Bass caught at a private pond near St. Leon, IN. Jack Kneeling alongside a creek in Friendship, IN. Locations like this are ideal places for reflection. (Photos by Jack and Leslie Turner)

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slide from the holder. I have rod holders attached to my ice fishing box and sled and they work as intended. But if the fishing (catching) is slow, I like to prospect. This means leaving a rod or two on the ice while drilling and probing another hole. Sometimes there is enough snow to allow a small ridge to be built close to the hole. The rod is propped up on this ridge with the tip end just over the ice hole.

A fish taking the baited hook will need to work against some of the rod's length, giving the rod-tender time to gingerly slip and slide, hopefully in time to grab the rod and bring in the fish. These thoughts were going through my mind as I was searching for an answer to this problem.

The solution has been in use for 3 years and no rods lost or even close to being lost. The materials needed, even if purchased, will cost very little. Quite likely these scraps of stuff are laying about in the workshop or at least in the workshop of a friend.

Materials needed: a piece of PVC pipe, 1 - 1/4 inches in diameter and 10 - 12 inches in length; a 1 X 4 inch pine or spruce board, 24 inches in length and two 1 - 1/4 inch drywall screws.

Cut one end of the PVC pipe at a 20 degree angle. Fasten the tapered end of the PVC to the board with the drywall screws. Cutting the 20 degree angle may be a bit of a chore, but try this. Lay the board on the floor or the workbench, place the rod handle in the PVC pipe and eyeball the necessary angle. The tip of the rod, angling upward, should be about 1 foot above the level of the bench or floor.

The tip end of a 30 inch or 24 inch ice rod will clear the end of the board, allowing either a tight line set-up or the use of a bobber. With the exception of a very large fish, the hooked fish will play against the bend of the rod. If a spinning reel is used, adjust the drag to compensate for the pull of the fish.

These rod holders may be transported to and from the ice in or hooked on the lip of a five-gallon bucket. After the first holder is completed, the second and third ones will be a snap and while you are at it, make a couple for your ice fishing buddy. He or she will appreciate it.

This writer welcomes your comments at edgeoftheprairie@shcglobal.net.

Save Ice Fishing Rig

At times, one can make better use of idle time, such as when you are ice fishing and one of the rods just disappeared down the hole drilled in the ice. Oh yes, been there - done that.

The time after the above mentioned event, allowed for a bit of thinking. The fish had not cooperated until this particular member of the finny folk tribe latched onto the baited hook and swam away. No idea what it was, maybe a good sized bluegill, a largemouth bass or even a channel catfish - all present in this farm pond.

Now this was not the first ice rod I ever lost down an ice hole, but now I was determined that it would be the last. Since the lost outfit was a made-for-ice fishing 2 foot rod with spinning reel attached, there was reason to pay attention to the other two rods laying on the ice.

Anyone who has ice fished, at least for 5 or 10 years, has heard that scraping sound as the ice rod heads for the hole and you are some 10 to 15 steps away. Running across the ice to grab the rod may be a prudent thing to do for someone less than 30 years of age, with flexible bones, but for one past 75 years, it is probably best to just wave goodbye.

There are bent wire affairs on the market which generally serve the purpose of saving the rod, but sometimes these will tip forward, allowing the rod to



Home made ice fishing rig to keep tackle from being pulled into the hole and out of sight. Actual rig in use by author above, lower right side view drawing. (Photos by Don Bickel)



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Outdoors



With Rich Creason

An Apple a Day

John Chapman was born in 1774 in Massachusetts and died sometime in either 1845 or 1847 (depending on whose account you believe) in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He spent most of his adult years wandering around Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana planting apple seeds. Most of us know him as Johnny Applesseed. While most of us recognize his name and have a general idea of his history, we all know his product.

One of our earliest foods was applesauce in a small jar. As we got older and grew teeth, we began gnawing on a whole apple. We added an apple to our school lunch box and some students even took an extra shiny one for the teacher. Then we learned the line "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." (I'm not sure that really worked, but I liked apples anyway.) Then the best treat was a slice of warm apple pie covered with real whipped cream for Sunday dinner dessert. Sometimes, late in life, we lose our teeth, revert back to earlier times, and stop chewing the whole apple and must return to the applesauce. But between those early and late years, we go through a lot of America's favorite fruit.

When I was young (many decades ago), there were a few common varieties of apple. Red and Golden Delicious, Winesap, Jonathon, McIntosh, and a few more could be found in any grocery or orchard. Then Granny Smith (my favorite!) was added to the list. Now, Gala and Jonagold, and Fuji, and many more can be found anywhere apples are sold. My personal opinion is to ask at your local orchard which they recommend for baking, snacking, apple sauce, or even cider. Often a mixture of two or more is the best choice. (My favorite pie recipe contains Granny Smith and McIntosh.) They will probably let you sample any variety you wish. Don't try that at the grocery store!

Eating a fresh apple right off the tree is the easiest way to enjoy this fruit and requires the least amount of equipment. If you want to make pies, the only additional equipment needed is a small knife to cut the slices, a pie pan, and the extra ingredients (plus an oven for baking.) I actually use a device which cores and slices the apple by turning the handle. It can also peel them, but I usually leave the peel on.

If you prefer applesauce, you must cook the apples, then, process them through a ricer or some other type of strainer to separate the juice from the

seeds and peel. (I have a Squeeze Strainer by Garden Way. It is probably 30 years old and still in great shape.) Then, preserve the sauce by canning or freezing. I freeze most of mine in plastic zip bags.

After you've made the applesauce, (or use the store bought variety), you can also dry some of it into apple leather (like a fruit roll-up). This is done by spreading the sauce fairly thin (practice makes perfect) onto sheets of plastic wrap and putting them on the shelves in a food dehydrator if you have one. (I have two, an Equi-Flow and an Excaliber.) When the leather is done, it will be stiff but not brittle. I then cut it into two inch wide strips and roll it up, tie it with dental floss, and store it in air tight containers. I imagine the same process can be done in the oven at about 140-150 degrees on a cookie sheet, but I haven't tried this. If you want the dried fruit without making the sauce, just slice some apples about 1/8 inch thick and dry them the same way until they are the right consistency.

Dried fruit, whether apples or most other fruits, will actually have a better, stronger, flavor because most of the water is gone, leaving a more concentrated taste. One word of caution—while dried fruit is very tasty, do not eat a lot of it at one time. When I first started using my food dehydrator, I processed apples, grapes, apricots, pineapple (great), and other fruits. When finished, I had to try them all. I was fine until I then drank a large Pepsi. When mixed in my stomach with the dried fruit, the liquid rehydrated the food and it regained its normal size. I then felt like I had just finished a pie eating contest. Very uncomfortable.

Probably my favorite apple product is cider. Unfortunately, it takes a special piece of equipment—a cider press. It also takes a lot of apples which can be expensive unless you have a good source (or your own orchard). I have a sturdy, four foot tall cider press which I built from a kit almost 40 years ago. I clean the apples, often three or four varieties, and then place them in a box on top of the press. It has a toothed wheel which grinds the apples (peels, seeds, and all) when I turn the crank. The shredded apples then fall into a round container made of wooden slats fastened with spaces between the slats to allow the juice to flow out. The container is lined with a cheesecloth bag. This kit also came from Garden Way a long time ago. I don't know if they still have these items or not.

Then, I place a large, heavy piece of wood sized to fit inside the round container on top. I start turning the handle on top of the press. This slowly presses down on the lid, squeezing the liquid from the contents of the bag. The juice runs out the sides and bottom into a waiting container. I then strain the cider and pour it into waiting jugs. The mass of seeds, peels, and stems remain in the bag to be emptied, and then I start again. I put a couple jugs into the refrigerator for immediate use and store the rest in my deep freeze until needed.

If you don't have the time, patience, equipment, or desire to go through the above processes, you can always buy your dried apples, fruit leather, applesauce, or cider at the store. You can even get your apple pie there. Just don't forget the whipped cream.

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





The Order of RED MEN

Greetings: From the Improved Order of Red Men.

Our Miami Tribe meets in Richmond, the third Thursday each month at M.C.L. Cafeteria to eat and our Council Fire is lit at 6:45 p.m. We meet for the purpose of Freedom, Friendship, and Charity.

Every two years we have a National Convention in the state where the Great Incohonee is from. This year our meeting will be in Mansfield, MA. from September 26 through October 1. We will have one or more Great Representatives from each of the several states, along with Past Great Incohonees, and

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The apple trees at a local orchard are loaded this year.. (Photo by Rich Creason)

guests. The Degree of Pochontas is the Women's Auxiliary and will meet at the same time.

Each state each year have their own Great Council Improved Order of Red Men's meeting. Indiana's will be Oct. 21 through Oct. 24 in Indianapolis with our local tribes throughout Indiana sending their representatives and Past Sachems (Chiefs).

Locally each month we try to have a speaker come and share our great history of the United States.

Please come and join us.

Look for us on the internet at

WWW.REDMEN.ORG Call Malcolm Greene at 765-966-6404 for additional information.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

actually a rabid group of so-called environmentalist driving a consistently against hunting, fishing, conservation and any other "wise use" of natural resources. Their assault on Shimano (visit www.shameonshimano.com) is an outrageous misrepresentation of the facts about a company who has led the outdoor industry in supporting scientific research, habitat improvement, youth programs and fishery conservation efforts across North America for decades. Most fishermen know this.

So their campaign is being waged by encouraging bicyclers (who may not know much of Shimano's fishing business) to choose competing brands of merchandise because of Shimano's involvement with the groups trying to insure the IOPTF recognizes and respects the needs and issues of the recreational fishing industry. If bicycle fans fall for the play, shame on them. THE END

So You Wanna' Catch More Fish

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

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News From The Indiana State Police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

mating season) makes deer movement more prominent and the number of car/deer crashes increase. Motorists are reminded to use extra caution when driving in rural areas of Indiana. Deer are generally more active in the early morning (pre-dawn) hours or the hours just after dusk but could be on the move at anytime.

In my home county and surrounding counties, there were 564 car/deer crashes in 2009. Wayne County was first with 210 followed by Henry County with 137. There were 67 in Franklin County; 58 in Rush County; 55 in Fayette County and 37 in Union County. Each year more than a third of ALL car-deer collisions in these counties take place in October and November.

Motorists should take the following precautions when driving in rural areas to avoid having a crash involving a deer.

When possible use high beam headlights at night and be aware that deer could be standing on or near the side of the roadway.

Drivers should watch approaching vehicles and observe what may break their headlights beams; it could be a passing deer. This technique allows extra time to slow your speed and be alert for the deer.

Watch for reflections from the deer's eyes.

Where there is one deer there are often several. Do not assume you missed the deer because more could follow. **BE ALERT!**

If your vehicle strikes a deer do not touch it. A frightened or wounded deer can cause you serious bodily injury. Remain in your car, make sure you and your passengers are safe, and call the police to obtain a crash report for your insurance company. You should report this as you would any other crash.

Finally, as always, **BUCKLE UP!**

For more information concerning deer habits, population, and trends in your area contact your local conservation officer or the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife at 317-232-4080. Well this winds down another month's article. Remember, I can be reached at jbowling@isp.in.gov anytime you have a question or comment. Thanks for allowing all of us to serve all of you, and for reading this article. Be safe, and we will talk next month.

Elk Hunting Dream

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

nice as the one we had seen the evening before.

A few minutes later, we heard a bugle back down the slope towards the creek and instantly recognized it to be the herd bull that we had stalked the evening before. We crashed down the steep slope and got set up in a small clearing. I set up in front of a tree. Rob was beside me with the video camera, and the guide was cow calling about 20 yards behind. We had only been set up for a few seconds when here came the bull I had only dreamed of. A big 6x6, 340 class bull bugling all the way as he quickly moved in our direction. This time I had no thought of Jeremiah Johnson, the beauty of the mountains or my previous misses. I was 100% focused on this bull and confident of my shot. As the bull came up through the timber it was like everything was in slow motion. I drew my bow and when he was 20 yards away, broadside to me, I let my arrow fly. I instantly heard that very familiar thump. Rob turned to me and said "You just killed a monster".

I got to live my dream of a lifetime, and best of all, my son was right beside me to share the experience. We enjoyed the remaining three days fly fishing on the Snake River and planning our next adventure.

About the author:

Tom, is a retired Regulatory Scientist for a large pharmaceutical company. Tom and his wife Pat live in Greenfield, IN where he currently is a full time taxidermist. Tom and his oldest son Rob enjoy hunting all species including turkey, deer, bear, and moose; but bow hunting elk has become their favorite.

Rob, lives in Elmwood, NE with his wife Jodi and two kids Ashlyn, 12, and Cole, 8. When not hunting, he is a consulting nutritionist for cattle feeding operations throughout the Midwest and western states.

To contact Buckscape Taxidermy call 317-498-4372 or see his website: www.buckscape.com.

Metamora Canal Days

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

towns in Indiana.

October is the month for the original "Canal Days" celebration. Metamora is the only town in the nation that has a operating canal and railroad running down the main thoroughfare of the town.

During the Canal Days Festival, all kinds of crafts and age old occupations emerge in this small midwestern town.

Metamora is normally a town of attraction, but during Canal Days an extra aura of magic appears enhancing the quaint shops lining the narrow streets.

To get an idea of a Metamora scene in your mind, close your eyes and picture this scene — it is noon, the sun is warm, but there is a hint of Fall in the air as a slight breeze tickles your nose as it skitters here and there. Off in the distance you hear the sound of a steam engine huffing and puffing towards you. Then the high pitched sound of the steam engine whistle bellows a warning to clear the track ahead. Beside you the sloshing of water emits a new sound as the Valley Belle (now Ben Franklin III), a canal packet for passengers, floats past you on the Whitewater Canal as it did in days gone by pulled by two horses on the towpath. Ahead of you towards the louder sound of the train coming, the canal water cascades over the paddle wheel of the Metamora Grist Mill powering the gears and belts to turn the huge stone which is grinding the shelled corn into corn meal.

As you open your eyes merchants and craftsmen mingle and tend shop dressed as they once did during the hey day of the canal and steam engine. Along the streets and canal, Fall colors adorn the many trees and off in the distance, the hills of Franklin County display a natural scenic vista.

Come visit Metamora this year, you'll not soon forget it. The Gad-a-bout Territory abounds with scenic attractions. Read future Gad-a-bouts for other places to visit, twelve months out of the year, now in 2010 you can read The Gad-a-bout by logging onto my website: www.thegadabout.com.

Indiana Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

season bursts.

An advantage of hunting early season bucks prior to the rut is that it enables you to attempt to take a particular buck before he ends up who knows where searching for does – and possibly disappearing from your hunting area and into someone else's.

Hunters all too often wait for the rut before getting serious about tagging a trophy buck, and while the odds are much higher as November rolls around, big bucks can still be had before then. Hey, if nothing else, spending time in the stand early in the season will give you a better game plan for the rut if you don't get a buck before then.

Every year a lucky few hunters put their names in the record books at the start of the season. By careful, diligent scouting prior to the season and hunting low-impact areas near food sources, they have figured out the recipe for success – and so can you!

Camping Here and Beyond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

all heard and have seen pictures of 1000's of acres of forests, homes, parts of towns, many lives, etc., destroyed by lightning fires, carelessness, and pyromaniacs. Just over a year ago we were traveling the interstate 210 south of the San Gabriel mountains near San Fernando, California and saw the smoldering ruins of dozens of RV's, buildings, etc. when a fire that had swept down out of the mountains. Eventually it was found to have been caused by a careless camper and then the wind took over.

Let's be vigilant and report or put out any fire that looks suspicious. Have a great last few days camping and cooking out before winter. Call or e-mail us if you have suggestions about which we can write or any questions we might be able to answer. John and El McCory, 260-637-3524 or jmacnut@yahoo.com.

Outdoors Tales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Lakes.

Bow fishermen have decided to hunt (fish) them from boats for fun and competition. And while, hunters can't begin to make a dent into the exotic carp population, the sport can get rid of some of them.

A tournament was fished at Derby on the Ohio River in August, with bowfishermen from six states participating. Fishermen from Kentucky and Indiana took the top three places in the overnight shoot.

Bow fisherman scouted Thursday and Friday before the tourney and saw lots of fish, however a thunderstorm rolled through just before the tourney and seemed to slow carp activity. However, plenty of fish were shot.

Each boat could weigh-in a 20-fish limit. Many of the carp shot are used for fertilizer.

The winning team was called Fat Pac and weighed in 474 pounds of fish. Team members included Chris Lee of Central City, Ky, and Jason Green of Boonville, In and Matt Shillenger of Stratford, Wis.

Second place with 372 pounds went to Team Double Shot, three anglers from Kentucky. The team included Josh Board and Jon Brande of Hawesville, and Brandon Drane of Cloverport.

In third place with 345 pounds was Midwest Bowfishing. The team included Mel Greer and Rich Bruner from Boonville, IN, and Damon Cheatham of Henderson, KY.

There were a number of first-time tournament shooters participating, include Arica Cole of Princeton, In, who shot her first Bighead carp. It weighed 42.9 pounds.

Adam Burton of Tell City, a bowfisherman himself, organized the tourney.

#####

Contact Phil Junker by email at outdoorscribe@yahoo.com

The Simple Life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

we will be able to share our experiences and knowledge with you, the readers of the Gad-About. We also want to see and meet people, to hear about their lives—especially those in rural Indiana and Ohio. We are greatly interested in the lives of farmers.

There is a lot this newlywed couple wants to experience together. It is our hope & prayer that what we see and do and later share with you will be informative, educational and perhaps may give other couples & families motivation to do things together outdoors.

Enjoy the beauty of the fall and go out and create memories that will last a lifetime.

The WWII SeaBees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

"Heartbeats" Rosie Dickerson, (Mrs Raymond E. Dickerson Sr) of East South St. was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis last Friday for tests and observation.

(Editors note: Mom passed away on July 22, 1990, not long after this article appeared in The Crusader newspaper. Some of the Seabee wives at the 62 reunion in Lancaster, PA told Wilma and I that they remembered Rosie and Gene being at that reunion and that our mother wasn't feeling very good. It had been a long drive from Centerville to Bakersfield, CA and back to Centerville again.)

Here at 105 East South Street I am still sorting through boxes and drawers of dad's dating back to before he died. Last week I found a copy of his discharge paper, the front. You had to read it backwards, the paper was black like a carbon sheet with the letters in white, but reversed. I scanned it then inverted it and it came out the right way in black print. Haven't found the back side yet. Would like to find that one it will have his war assignments. I would really like to know exactly where he served his country. I gave up trying to find any record of Marine Air Group 933. I did find CBMU 624 and Task Force 58. Task Force 58 I found when it sailed where it went, its losses, battles won and its trip to Okinawa. I would just like to know what type of ship he was on enroute to Okinawa and all the port of calls it made. He sent lots of letters home, but I haven't been able to find them.

I found this poem along time ago tucked inside of Dad's Cruise book. The source is unknown:

"The SeaBees"

*"The Navy needed fighters and the Navy men need;
So they organized the SeaBees who would fight and work again
They took electricians, welders, riggers, bullmen, butchers, cooks and bakers, too,
They put them in the Navy and taught them proper things to do,
With machine gun and a rifle the SeaBee learned to shoot,
We used a big machete—a thousand other things to boot;
They taught us how to march and drill, they taught us how to dress;
They even learned to manage to get "seconds" at the mess."*

*"They taught us all the many things in thirteen weeks or less
And what they didn't teach us, the rest we had to guess.
When we finished up our training and left for Island "X"
We had all our own equipment—it sure loaded down our decks.
The Japs they held the island when at last we have in sight,
We knew that they were ready so we went prepared to fight;
We landed under heavy fire with plenty of shot and shell,
But we rushed up to the beachhead and gave them plenty hell.
We soon had wiped the Nippons out and then we went to work,
Every SeaBee did his duty—a SeaBee doesn't shirk;
We built a mighty landing field, a barrack and a dock
About a hundred miles of road we made from solid rock."*

*"We got things finally squared away, 'twas pretty to be seen;
Then we went back to the beachhead where we saw our first Marine.
They had followed in behind us though it's said they got their first,
We had everything completely fixed—they could even quench their thirst,
From the Halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli
I USED to be the Leathernecks but now it's all SeaBee.
And when we reach the Pearly Gates and Stand at Heaven's Scene
There'll be a SeaBee waiting there to greet the first Marine."*

Next month read about the "Avenue of Flags." ■

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

call 765-489-5429


Oct. 8-9 Nineveh Heritage Festival
Downtown Nineveh "Painting the Town"
See Page 13 to find out all about this festival.

Oct. 8-10 Outdoor Sports, Vacation & Cabin Living Expo Indiana State Fairgrounds Indianapolis
For more visit www.coliseumproductions.com or www.SportsCabinTravelShow.com or call 917-584-7527

Oct 9

Oct. 16-17 Overland Limited Wild West Train.
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Oct 23-24 Metamora Pumpkinliner Whitewater Valley Railroad from Connerville to the pumpkin patch. Your train ticket includes round trip train service, a hay ride to and from the patch, and a pumpkin for each child 12 and under. Trains depart on Saturday Oct 23rd & Sunday Oct 24th at 10:00, 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30. Call The Whitewater Valley Railroad at (765) 825-2054 for more information and reservations. \$

Oct 29 A spooky open mic night. Signup 6:00pm Music from 7:00pm-10:00pm. Mill Street Pizza on Main Street in Metamora. Come dressed up in your costume and make some music or just come and listen. Free.

Oct 29 Wild West Train to dinner. Whitewater Valley Railroad. Enjoy a Wild West

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CONCRETE CREATIONS

I must apologize publicly to Shari Hargis, owner of Concrete Creations. Last year I took the photo above and promised I would put it in The Gad-a-bout. She was set up at Farmer's Pike Festival just inside the gate. Well it didn't happen. I forgot.

This year she was set up in the same spot. I took a photo of her and her two daughters, this time I said, "It will be in the October Gad-a-bout. Shari, this time it is in here.

Shari has been advertising in The Gad-a-bout for quite a while and I really appreciate her being in my paper, as I do with all of the advertisers in The Gad-a-bout. Without businesses like Concrete Creations The Gad-a-bout would not exist.

At Concrete Creations you can purchase quality lawn and garden statuary, both Retail and Wholesale, they have a new Gift Shop featuring Warm Glow candles, plus 60 different fragrances, Oils and Oil warmers. They also have lighted Infinity mirrors and Solar Memorial items.

Concrete Creations is located at 7210 W. 100 N, Farmland, Indiana. You can call them at 765-468-8739 or e-mail her at concreteranch@verizon.net.



Top Photo, from left to right: Shasta, Collin, Shari and Brandi Hargis in their booth space at the 2009 Farmer's Pike Festival. Shari Hargis, has been in the concrete statuary business since 1994. Bottom Photo: Shasta, Shari and Brandi Hargis in their booth space at the 2010 Farmer's Pike Festival. This year besides their lawn and statuary items they have added Warm Glow candles and more. For more information see their ad at the bottom of this page. (Photos by Ray Dickerson)

ROAMING THE OUTDOORS CONT'D

themed Twilight Limited Train to Dinner excursion departing at 6:00pm from downtown Connerville. Cost \$39.00 Call the Whitewater Valley Railroad at (765) 825-2054 for more information and reservations.

Oct 30 – Safe Trick or Treating in Metamora
5:00pm – 7:00pm. Free.

YOUTH OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE 2010



The Hoosier Tree Dog Alliance and the Rush County Coonhunters paired up on July 31, 2010 for the first annual Youth Outdoor Experience. At 9 am registration began, and children of all ages began to file through the door. Concessions were manned by the Rush County Coonhunters, and free donuts and

drinks were available to the parents and children, compliments of Hoosier Tree Dog Alliance. There were many things to look at such as products from Fields' Outdoor Adventures, deer heads and fish mounts from Jerry Adams Taxidermy as well as watch Jerry patch a buffalo skin throughout the day; Jerry also donated a free youth mount that was won by Sean Donovan. Sgt. William Samuelson was present to talk with youth about the Army, and allowed the children to try on his Army gear. The Indiana Conservation Officers had a display and a video that parents and children could sit down, relax and watch while they munched on a hot dog with a cold drink. There were also displays with information available from the Rush County Safe Shooters, Hoosier Tree Dog Alliance, and wildlife habitats, done by Nathan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Yazel, a wildlife biologist for the DNR. Once outside Jeff and Debbie Hovious, with their bluetick, Turbo, were there with many coon hunting supplies, such as lights and coon squallers that kids could check out and try on. There were two other dogs present for the kids to see the different types of breeds, a redbone and a treeing walker, brought by Liz Dice. Debbie also did a demonstration for the kids to see how to show a dog on a bench and how a dog tracks and trees a raccoon. Bill Stiers had his trapping supplies and answered questions that anyone may have had. Merrill Carrigan with Flatrock Hunting Preserves was there with information on bird hunting, as well as performed a live demonstration with a dog and how it points. The kids really enjoyed the demonstration, as well as getting to pet the bird! Mr. Carrigan also worked alongside Chuck Emsweller with Tree County Quail Forever. Their chapter donated a youth gun, which was raffled off and won by Cole Jones. Mr. Carrigan also donated a free hunt to a youth and their parent at Flatrock Hunting Preserve which was won by Nick Bengé. Moving off the back porch of Rush County Conservation club to the west side of the building was Jim Owens and David Hasecuster, which demonstrated their fishing boats and held a casting contest, in which a small container was set in the grass and the kids had to cast a fishing pole and try to make their lure into the container. The winners' names were put in a bucket to be drawn out for a tackle box. The winner of this was Crosby Jackman. Mr. Owens also held a raffle for a youth and a parent to go out on Brookville Lake for a one day fishing trip. This trip was won by Jared Stutzman. A fly fishing demonstration was also done by Dave Johnson. He gave information about fly fishing as well as allowed youth to take a shot at casting a fly fishing rod. In the back of the building, the conservation officers brought equipment for an archery range and a BB shoot. The Rush County Safe Shooters helped kids in properly shooting the equipment and then later on in the day, the Safe Shooters performed a trap shooting demonstration and then allowed for others to try shooting trap as well. There was also an animated turkey calling demonstration done by Indiana Conservation Officer, Andy Cline. He answered questions about turkey hunting and calling.

All in all it was an eventful day. With approximately 50-60 kids who strolled through, participated in events and asked questions, it was a relaxed, educational day for children of all ages and gender. The Hoosier Tree Dog Alliance and the Rush County Coonhunters would like to thank all that participated in preparation of the spectacular day as well as the youth, parents and all organizations that helped to make it a great day. A big thanks goes out to those who donated door prizes that were drawn on the hour, every hour. Congratulations to those who won those prizes.

Liz Dice, HTDA Director
Rush Co Coonhunters Secretary
 (765)265-1522



Gary Coffey took this 24 lb. Turkey in Jennings County. It had a 11 inch beard with 34mm spurs. North Vernon, Indiana. (Gary Coffey Photo)



The Wilson family enjoyed success this Turkey season. Opening morning brought two beautiful birds for Tasha and John. Tasha's first turkey ever weighed 24 lbs, had an 11 1/2" beard and 24mm spurs. She was even more happy that husband John's bird weighed in at only 21 lbs. The very next day was their son Tyler's (age 7) turn and he took his first turkey, a hen that sported an 8 1/2" beard and weighed 19 lbs. Way to go! (Poor Boy Country Store Photo, Eckerty, IN)



Devin Albertson caught this 17 lb. Carp at Lake Salinda on 7-28-10. (Red Barn Bait Shop Photo, Salem, IN)

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8 year old Jerry Austin Eversole took this whitetail doe with his single-shot 410 in Franklin County the Fall of 2009. He lives in Brookville, IN. (Jerry Eversole Photo)



Richard Sturgeon from Connorsville caught this 8 lb Largemouth Bass out the Whitewater State Park Lake in the Spring of 2010. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Dave Lainhart from Centerville with grand kids. At left 4 year old Liz Lainhart and at right 9 year old Catie Lainhart caught this Largemouth Bass on a night crawler in a farm pond on 9-8-10 (Photo by Dave Lainhart, proud Grandpa)

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\$651.00	\$336.00	\$224.00	\$168.00	\$84.00	\$63.00	\$56.00	\$42.00
2-11 TIMES \$6.00 PCI	2-11 TIMES \$6.00 PCI	2-11 TIMES \$6.00 PCI	2-11 TIMES \$6.00 PCI	2-11 TIMES \$6.00 PCI	2-11 TIMES \$6.00 PCI	2-11 TIMES \$6.00 PCI	2-11 TIMES \$6.00 PCI
\$558.00	\$288.00	\$192.00	\$144.00	\$72.00	\$54.00	\$48.00	\$36.00
12 TIMES \$5.00 PCI	12 TIMES \$5.00 PCI	12 TIMES \$5.00 PCI	12 TIMES \$5.00 PCI	12 TIMES \$5.00 PCI	12 TIMES \$5.00 PCI	12 TIMES \$5.00 PCI	12 TIMES \$5.00 PCI
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