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Horses are part of any parade and especially a Christmas Parade like the one here in Pendleton, Indiana.



The snow box in Kid Zone with youngsters making angels and playing in the "snow" while Frosty watches.

The Santa House, sponsored by Fredricks Contractors, with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available here at 2 PM to greet the children and get their pictures taken with the famous couple.

Shopping will be available all day as many of the local merchants will be offering special bargains for the visitors. Over 50 outside vendors will be set up along the streets of downtown with a huge variety of wares available to look at and take home.

Become a Sugar Plum Princess at the Sugar Hair Salon from 8 AM to 2 PM located at 118 S. Pendleton Ave., just south of the downtown stoplight. Caroling will be on the steps of the Post Office by the Pendleton Heights High School Choral Group at 3 PM. Other special groups who help make this event a success are the Pendleton Cub Scouts and the Pendleton Garden Club who judges the Window Display Contest. Many other groups, businesses, and individuals, spend their time, money, and effort to make Christmas in Pendleton enjoyable for all. Very special thanks to St. Vincent Anderson Regional Hospital, Pendleton YMCA, and St Vincent Medical Group for their sponsorship and support.

Be sure to stop at one of the many dining establishments in Pendleton for lunch, but be sure to allow time to be finished by 1 PM for the start of the big parade sponsored by Citizens State Bank. The

Snow Queen and princesses will be waving at the crowd, and of course, the big man himself, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be rolling by in a carriage instead of a sleigh.

As soon as the parade is finished, the great snowball toss will begin. Over 2500 "snowballs" will be passed out for tossing back and forth across the street. Most of the local stores will be open from 9 AM to 6 PM while the outside vendor booths will open at 9 AM and close at 4PM. While the Christmas in Pendleton event is free, there is a cost of \$5 for the bracelet for the youngsters to participate in the activities inside the Kid's Zone.

Pendleton is located along the banks of Fall Creek in southern Madison County. It is easily reached from the north or south on Interstate 69 at either exit 19 or 22. State Roads 36, 38, 9, and 67 will also bring you to this historic town. For info on booth space, parade, or sponsorship information, contact Cayla Truman, Event Coordinator at 765-610-6737 or at ct.christmasinpendleton@gmail.com.

NOTE: This four-page full color Christmas in Pendleton special pullout is sponsored by the advertisers on the center pages. You can locate these businesses on the map by utilizing the numbers 1-14 located in the bottom left or right hand corner of their advertisement. You can then find them on the street map by their number. See the inset for down-

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Happenings in Metamora, Indiana



by **Janice Hunsche**
Owner of Kaleidosaurus Books

Metamora, Indiana Activities for Nov-Dec

It's hard to believe that Christmas is almost here. But first, we need to say goodbye to fall and what better way to do that than the Metamora Annual Chili Cook-off on Nov 3 at the firehouse. The festivities start with live music from 11am-3pm. Chili tasting and judging starts at noon. There will be awards for first place, second place and people's choice. So if you make a great chili without beans this is a fun contest to enter. For entrance forms, rules, and more information please visit http://www.metamoraindiana.com/chili-cookoff_entry.htm.

The open jam session with the Baggy Bottom Boys is Nov 14 and Dec 12 from 6-8pm at the Cat and the Fiddle. All are invited to attend and join in. In case you are wondering what happened to Acoustic Final Friday, it takes a 2 month hiatus and returns Jan 25, 2013 from 7pm-10pm at the Cat and the Fiddle.

Metamora loves the Christmas season and starts it off on Nov 17, the Saturday before Thanksgiving, with the 29th Annual Metamora Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. This is a fun program from 6:30pm-7:30pm at the gazebo. Music is provided by The Baggy Bottom Boys, as well as sing-alongs, the Christmas Story, free hot chocolate, coffee, and cook-

ies. Who knows? Maybe even Santa will show up. The last big festival of the year is Christmas Walk. This year Christmas Walk is Nov 23-Dec 16 but many of the shop owners are planning to be open Dec 21, 22, and 23 as well. The hours are Friday and Saturday 10 am- 10 pm; Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. The grist mill will be open noon-9pm. If you've never been then stop by and enjoy the festivities. Luminaries light the pathways and lanterns the canal, the shops are decorated for Christmas. Santa is at the Santa House and would love for you to stop by and get your picture taken. Carolers are strolling throughout the village and of course you should be on the lookout for that special gift in the many shops that make up the village.

The Whitewater Valley Railroad runs several holiday themed trains this time of year. Nov 16-Dec 16 the Polar Express Train departs from Connersville's Grand Central Station. The Polar Express comes to life for a journey through the quiet countryside and a special visit to the 'North Pole' with Santa Claus. Cost \$29 per person. This train sells out early. Reservations are required. More information and reservations: <http://www.whitewatervalleyrr.org/excursions/> or call (765) 825-2054.

Nov 23, the Friday after Thanksgiving, the Santa Claus Limited Train Excursion will be running. This is a one day event. The train departs the Connersville station and picks up Santa along the way. Once on board Santa will visit with each child on the train. Departures are at 10am, 12pm and 2pm. Tickets are \$7 for ages 2 and up.

One of the fun things to do during Christmas Walk is to take the train from Connersville. The Metamora Holiday Special will be running Nov 23, 24, Dec 1, 8, 15. This train sells out early. Reservations are required; call the reservation hotline at 765-825-2054. All trains depart at 4pm with a 3 1/4 hour layover in Metamora. Cost Adults \$25, Children 2-12 \$15.

Once Christmas walk is over Metamora closes down for the winter. Most of the shops are closed until spring although a few of the hardier shop keepers stay open all winter long. If we don't see you during the Christmas festivities have a happy holiday season and stop by and see us next year. ■

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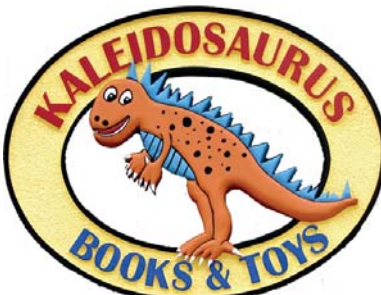
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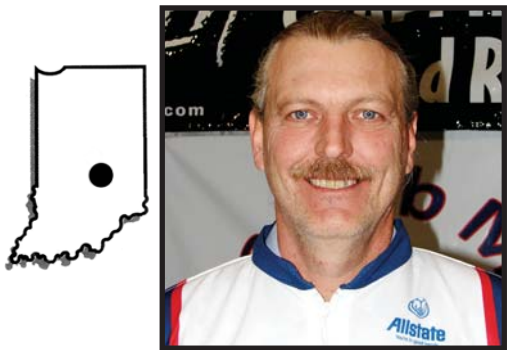


Glen Gill and Tom Hankins with their winning Salamonie crappie. (Author Photo)



Tom Hankins and Glen Gill with their winning Ohio River crappie. (Author Photo)

Indiana Slab Masters



by Ron Bilbrey

INDIANA CRAPPIE TOURNAMENT SERIES

Winter is quickly on its way and the 2012 Indiana Slab Masters tournament series is coming to an end. In order to give each of the last four tournament lakes some coverage before the end of the year, I'm going to give the results and some facts from each of the last four tournaments, which were held at Salamonie, Cataract, Ohio River (Tanners Creek) and Brookville Reservoir.

As I write this, I think back to three years ago, when I started fishing small local tournaments with my son, since then I have learned not only about tournament fishing but crappie fishing in general. Being a member of the Indiana Slab Masters has in fact made me a better crappie fisherman. With hearing each team share the details of how and where fish were caught to win the day's event and through conversations with other fishermen, I've learned from my mistakes and have been offered other possibilities on where to catch bigger crappie.

If you are an avid crappie fisherman and have a little competitive spirit, come out to one of the Slab Masters tournaments and meet some of the competitors in this series. They are all good guys, and they will help you any way they can. (Probably not by giving you their best spots) but most will point you in the right direction to catching bigger crappie. I

speak from experience, as they have all helped me at one time or another. Some have answered my questions and some have even offered to take me out with them to learn some of their techniques.

Now don't get me wrong, you do learn a lot by talking about fishing, but there is no substitute for practice and time on the water. Myself, I probably spend at least two weekends a month on the water as well as two weeks of vacation-time each year, including my next vacation which will be spent on Kentucky Lake at the end of October. The following are the results from the last four regular season tournaments.

SALAMONIE TOURNAMENT

The lakes of the Wabash are what I consider to be my home lakes, because I fish the Salamonie more than any other lake in Indiana, so I always look forward to fishing this tournament. This year, a major cold front moved in just before the tournament started and made it tough to catch fish but as always someone finds good quality crappie. This year it was Tom Hankins and Glen Gill who won the 2011 classic on the lakes of the Wabash; these guys have figured these lakes out quick with two top finishes on this reservoir. Tom and Glen were using Lake Fork Baby Shad and Juiced up Baits to catch their winning fish in the brisk winds. Only 15 of the 32 teams weighed in a full limit of seven fish the five top teams and their weights are as follows.

- 1st Tom Hankins and Glen Gill 7.78lbs
- 2nd Jeff Yeakle and Jonathan Brumley 7.40lbs
- 3rd Charlie and Paul Hildreth 7.17 lbs
- 4th Mike Bledsoe 6.88lbs
- 5th Gary and Allen Reed 6.62lbs
- Big Fish- Mike Bledsoe 1.61lbs

OHIO RIVER (TANNERS CREEK) TOURNAMENT

First I would like to thank Jim Raymer for the results and facts from the Ohio River tournament which due to other obligations I could not attend, Jim is a good friend who is dedicated to the sport of Crappie fishing and a true sportsman believing strongly in catch and release and strives at every tournament to make sure all fish are released back into the water alive and strong.

The Ohio River greeted our members with hot temperatures, hot fishing, and a similar outcome as many other tournaments this season. Our BnM

points champs were decided and they left no doubt in anyone's mind that they are the team to beat. Finishing in first place on the Ohio River and the 2012 points champions, the team of Tom Hankins and Glenn Gill, they have won 3 tournaments this year and two in a row. Tom and Glenn were spider rigging with two poles and each casting a third using Lake Fork Baby Shad, and spraying their baits with Juiced Up Baits, Tom and Glen found the bite better not tipping with minnows. The following are the top five teams from the Ohio River Tournament.

- 1st Tom Hankins and Glenn Gill 6.90lbs
- 2nd Tommy Allen and Troy Chandler 6.74lbs
- 3rd Larry Yates and Tim Allen 6.51lbs
- 4th Jim and Bob Raymer 6.29lbs
- 5th Eric Milsaps and Jason Snyder 5.45lbs
- Big Fish Tommy Allen & Troy Chandler 1.30lbs

CATARACT TOURNAMENT

Conditions for the Cataract tournament were brutal with 100 degree days leading up to the tournament and 90 degree temperatures on tournament day. High temperatures made for a tough bite and a tougher time keeping fish alive after catching them. After hearing stories from other competitors I feel we did pretty well only losing one fish in the live well, unfortunately it was our biggest of the day. Would it surprise anyone to read that Tom Hankins and Glenn Gill won this one as well? Their third straight tournament win. Tom and Glenn were again using Lake Fork Baby Shad and Juiced Up Baits fishing in 8-14 feet of water to catch their fish. Top five teams include.

- 1st Tom Hankins and Glen Gill 5.78lbs
- 2nd Don Licht and John Williams 4.92lbs
- 3rd John Quinn and Gale Risner 4.73lbs
- 4th Ron Bilbrey and Don Mandrell 4.46lbs
- 5th Doug Laake and Ryan Rohl 4.45lbs
- Big Fish Tom Hankins and Glen Gill .95lb

Brookville Tournament

With high winds and high waves (from the large boats that frequent Brookville) conditions were tougher than tough outside the idle zones. Then add a severe cold front passing through on the Friday before the tournament and you have some of the worst conditions to fish a tournament in, but with 19 teams capable of moving into the top ten in the BnM

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



Glen Gill and Tom Hankins with their winning Cataract crappie. (Author Photo)



Don Licht and John Williams with their winning Brookville crappie. (Author Photo)



Winners of the Trapping contests. (Author Photo)



Charlie Masheck of Hoosier Trappers Supply doing a Coyote Demo. (Author Photo)



Hal Sullivan talking about using Conibears. (Author Photo)



Kenny Peregrine talking about Beavers.. (Author Photo)

Indiana State Trappers Association



by Dr. Fred Philips, DVM

ISTA 51st Convention and Rendezvous, a success!

The ISTA 51st Convention and Rendezvous was held on Sept. 21 & 22, 2012 at the Tipton County Fairgrounds, Tipton, IN. The weather during the day, Friday and Saturday, was absolutely beautiful. Vendors had begun setting up Thursday and didn't get finished till Friday afternoon. Booseway Tom Morelock did an absolutely splendid job organizing the Convention and setting up the demonstrations.

Demonstrations began on Friday morning and continued through Saturday afternoon. I have misplaced my list, and I am on a deadline, so to the best of my recollection there were demonstrations on coyote trapping

by Charlie Masheck, beaver by Kenny Peregrine, skinning beaver by Tom Morelock, canines by JR, conibear usage by Hal Sullivan, dog proof traps by Jeff Dunham, and many more that I am missing. My apologies to anyone I have missed here, and my great thanks to every one who helped with getting the demonstrations set up and done. All members of the Board pitched in somewhere.

Through the weekend, door prizes were handed out every couple of hours. Tickets for the Bear Trap donated by Sterling Fur Co., and the two gun give-away sold briskly. The Bear Trap was won by Deane Brady. Brian Garr won the Henry Lever action and Brian Wilson won the Marlin .22. A voting station was set up where people could use their change to vote for where they would like the next Convention to be. Tipton received 1100 votes while the next closest was Peru with 100.

Friday night saw the ISTA Benefit Auction and a planned members dinner. The Auction went very well with Corbin Bultemeier making the call as long as the rain held off and let him be heard. The Auction had to be paused twice when the rain pounding on the metal roof became just too much to hear anything. The Auction was extremely successful and generated in excess of \$2,000 for the ISTA. After the Auction, the Board held a Meeting to take care of house keeping items. Next year the cookout will be before the Auction and on Saturday there will be a silent auction of specific items from 8am - 2pm.

Saturday broke bright and shiney with the ground just a little damp. The Vendor buildings were opened at 8am and the first door prize was given away at 10am. The crowd was modest, but the vendors say that the sales were good. At 10 am the Membership meeting


began and it was over by 10:45am. NAFA presented the ISTA with a check for over \$1500. Our big thank you to NAFA doesn't seem to be enough gratitude. President Fred hung around to talk with several members and answer questions for another hour. At 4pm, the Election closed and ballots were counted. All incumbents were re-elected to their positions and changes of their expiration dates have been made on the website, www.indianatrappers.org.

Two awards were then handed out. Avery Setser received the Youth Trapper of the Year Award. Avery has been very active with the ISTA helping with her Dad's, Tom Setser, Trapper Education Class and even manning the Booth at the Convention. Way to go Avery. Dan Watkins received the Trapper of the Year Award. Dan was instrumental in getting our Trapper Education classes going. It is through these Classes that we will be able to keep the tradition of trapping alive. Dan was unable to attend our Convention due to his health, but Bill assured me that he would get his award.

Well, there is so much more to report, but I just do not have the room here. See the website: www.indianatrappers.org to read and see more in the near future. I cannot thank everyone who helped out, and made this Convention the success it was, enough. However, I have to especially thank Keith Winkler of Sterling Fur, Sterling, OH, for his multiple donations of materials for the Auction and the Bear Trap. Also NAFA for it's unending support of the ISTA and the fur industry in general. There are so many to name, that I will have to do it on the website.


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Fred "DR" Philips
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Bob and Jim Raymer came in 1st overall with 5.75 lbs. (Author Photo)



Ron Bilbrey and Damon Phillips came in 2nd with 5.31 lbs. (Author Photo)

Great Lakes of the Wabash River - Fishing News



by Ryan Pershing
Mgr of Bozarth Country Store

Bozarth's Crappie Tournaments Raymers' Dominate

The month of September concluded the 2012 season for the Bozarth crappie tournaments. Our last two tourney's of the year were held on the 15th and 29th of September and as you will find out proved to be difficult times for our fishermen. The theme of these tournaments turned out to be the challenge wasn't the quantity of fish caught but rather the quality of the fish! Teams didn't seem to have a problem landing crappie but they did have a problem landing the big



Doug Clay and Elmer Griffey tied with Big Fish that weighed 1.23 lbs. (Author Photo)

ones. There was one team that was fortunate to locate a few stumps holding big fish and then utilized this location to catch the big ones and sweep both tournaments. That team was Bob and Jim Raymer.

Our September 15th tourney had 14 teams entered and turned out to be a nice day and as mentioned earlier was a tough day on the lake to land the big ones. Team Raymer, fishing their two stumps, caught 13 fish total but of those fish was able to weigh in a total of 5.75 pounds and capture first place. They used a Southern Pro tube



David Bowser tied with the Big Fish with a weight of 1.23 lbs. (Author Photo)

tipped with a shiner to land the winning total. Coming in second place and also with an impressive total weight considering the conditions was the team of Ron Bilbrey and Damon Phillips with 5.31 pounds. Rounding out the top three was David Bowser with 4.98 pounds. The Big Fish came down to a two way tie as David Bowser and the team of Doug Clay and Elmer Griffey each landed a crappie that weighed in at 1.23 pounds. These teams should be lauded for their

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Bob and Jim Raymer repeated as champs with a total weight of 5.6 lbs and Big Fish of 1.32 lbs. (Author Photo)



Steve Pershing and Mike Bowser came in 2nd with a total weight of 4.55 lbs. (Author Photo)

efforts as there were only 5 of the 14 teams able to top the three pound weight for seven fish!

Our season ended on September 29th and it included 12 teams that battled to claim title as the Bozarth Classic champs. Teams were able to choose to fish either the Salamonie or Mississinewa Reservoirs. Much like our previous tourney held two weeks earlier teams had trouble locating the big fish. Once again, Team Raymer came away victorious as they went back to the same two stumps they fished in the previous tournament and it proved to be the right move.

Fishing the Salamonie, they used a Southern Pro jig tipped with a shiner and fishing 9 to 10 feet deep they were able to bring a total of 5.6 pounds to the weigh in table and repeat as champions. They said they only caught a total of nine fish all day but the ones they caught were good ones! They also captured the Big Fish award with a crappie weighing 1.32 pounds. Congratulations to Team Raymer for the repeat victory! Coming in second place was the team of Steve Pershing and Mike Bowser with 4.55 pounds. They were fishing in 5 to 10 ft of water off the points.

Capturing third place with a total weight of 2.5 pounds was the team of David Bowser and Doug Maddox.

We would like to thank all teams for participating in our tournaments and hope to see you all again next year. These events are a lot of fun and give the chance for anglers to fish in a relaxed tournament atmosphere. We would also like to thank Ray Dickerson and the Gad a Bout for allowing us to share our fishing adventures with you. For more information about our fishing tourneys you can contact us at (765) 981-4522. ■

INDIANA SLAB MASTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

points race there was a good turnout of teams. The crappie did not cooperate on this tough day and several teams came to the scales with less than their seven fish limit. Don Licht and John Williams had no trouble catching their limit of fish and brought 5.94lbs to the scales to capture first place in the Brookville tournament. Don and John fished live bait under a bobber in 8 foot of water around standing timber to catch their seven fish limit and secure second place in the BnM point's race. Congratulations to the top ten teams in the points race.

- 1st Don Licht and John Williams 5.94lbs
- 2nd Larry Yates and Doug Allen 5.07lbs
- 3rd Charlie and Paul Hildreath 4.77lbs
- 4th Tommy Allen and Troy Chandler 4.40lbs
- 5th Damon Phillips and Maggie Phillips 4.09lbs
- Big Fish Damon and Maggie Phillips .94lb

Hope everyone enjoyed the regular season tournaments as much as I have this year and thanks to all the officers that put this tournament season together. Look for the 2012 classic coverage in the next issue.

Tight Lines everyone
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Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

Almost Year 'Round Fishing

The fishing season is almost over. At least for me it is. I have a rule when it comes to being comfortable and enjoying myself while wetting a line. "If I ain't sweatin', I ain't fishin'". I've had numerous opportunities to fish during the cold months, but with every invitation I explain that fish are like geese. They migrate south in the winter and I'm not going to waste my time trying to catch the few that are either too weak or too dumb to make the trip. I confess to violating that rule a few times in the past when I've tried to work a rod with snow blowing up my nose, or going after trout by crunching through a thin ice layer wearing thermal long johns under waders. But as far as I'm concerned, you only stick your finger in a light socket a couple of times before you learn a lesson.

So, I spend the winter months reminiscing about the summer's so-called exciting fishing adventures. Not that there were a lot of heart stoppers, but I've found that the older you get, the more your eyesight changes, and as a result the fish seem to be getting bigger. What was an eight inch crappie last year now looks like a keeper. I can't wait until I'm eighty years old and anything I catch will be worth a trip to the taxidermist. I can see it now. The walls of my room in the nursing home will be lined with mounted examples of four inch bluegills and seven inch crappies.

With the first snowfall I'll be sitting in my rocker in front of the window, my shawl wrapped around my shoulders, my dentures floating in a glass of water and a copy of "How To Keep A Straight Face While Lying To Your Grand Children About The Size Of The Fish You Used To Catch" laying on my pill table. But before my head lolls back and I start making noises like a cheap chain saw, I'll recall those times on the lake with Rollin.

There are those who fish to live and those who live to fish. Rollin falls into the latter category. He must know every fish in the lake on a first name basis because he has caught every one of them at one time or another. The semi-retired owner of a large tool and die and production stamping operation, he turned part of the reigns over to his son and began making a larger nuisance of himself with the local fish population.

Armed with a 20 foot Triton bass boat and a 200 horse engine he can outrun anything short of a Double A fuel dragster in getting to his favorite fishing spots. As for fishing equipment, Bass Pro Shop calls him occasionally to ask if he has a certain piece of gear that he would like to sell. I'm amazed every time he opens a locker on the boat to select a rod or a bait. There are short rods, medium length rods and long rods, each equipped with a reel best suited for whatever he's going after. His lure selection is contained in compartmented boxes the size of glass showcases in a jewelry store. After years of fishing this lake he has discovered what colors the local crappie prefer in jigs, much like the proprietor of a clothing store knows which customer prefers what color outfits.

A normal day of fishing starts with him picking me up at the dock. He always asks where I would like to go. That's like asking a guy with a push lawn mower where he would like to start mowing a three hundred acre lawn. He knows my normal answer is going to be "I dunno", and since he already knows where the little finned delinquents are probably hanging out, he pegs the throttle. After what feels like two seconds from pulling the eject handle in an F-16 fighter, he deploys the drogue chute and we coast into one of his favorite spots and the trolling motor is lowered. Now the fun begins.

One of Rollin's favorite methods is jigging for crappie. Seated on the bow swivel chair with two loaded rods, the trolling motor control under his right foot and his eye on the fish finder screen between his feet, the battle is on. With lines lowered on either side of the boat we troll slowly looking for the enemy. From my position on the stern chair Rollin looks like a old western sheriff facing down an outlaw on the main street of Grimy Gulch. As for me, I like to cast. So, while I'm beating the water into a froth and catching nothing, Rollin is snaking crappie out, sometimes two at a time. Occasionally, he turns around and asks if I'm catching anything, to which I reply, "Mind your own business." Eventually, I give in and load another rod and join him in the jigging contest. However, he still beats me five fish to one and I inevitably ask what color jigs he's using.

"One is called a Paris Lady Of The Night. It has a pink body with green stripes and a purple and orange tail covered with sparkly things. The other is a Chicago Thug in black and crimson."

Grumbling, I normally scratch through my tackle box looking for anything even close to those color combinations. Since my selection is pretty sparse compared to his, I usually settle for something in lavender and chartreuse, or green, yellow, and violet polka dots. In spite of all my efforts, he still out fishes me by a large margin. I know that fish are color blind and I finally figured out why he pulls in more than me. The fish in this lake would rather be jerked out by a hot shot business owner than a worn out old engineer. But, I intend to turn the tables next year. My jigs are going to be tipped with a little something with a fuse and a flashing light attached. I'm going to call it The New Jersey Bomber. Lets see Rollin top that one. ■

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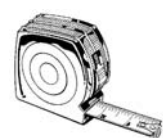
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by **Don Bickel, Forester**

Hal, PETA and Deer

I like to read, in fact, I love to read. Reading was a part of growing up on the farm. Our library was a small, a little alcove fitted with several shelves on each wall just down the hall from my sister's and my bedrooms. The windows on this reading nook looked out over the pasture and the crop field beyond.

Hal Bench is a reader also. He says there is nothing to beat a newspaper, magazine or good book when there's a fire going in the wood stove and it is feeling like snow outside. And even sometimes in the summer when it is cool in the shade, a time spent on the back porch in a "rock-er-cheer" can be time well spent with a book in hand.

Several days past, I was on my way down to Hal's. It is a wonderful time to get out and see the fall colors. This year, it would seem the trees are putting on their finest fall coat. Have you ever attempted to identify the trees by their color and shape? During the summer, with all in green it can be hard to visually separate one tree from another.

But, now the yellow, rounded shape of the sugar maples and the taller, purple tinge of the white ash can really make a statement of the

wood's edge. If the wood's area is damp, the common red maple makes a show of it's fall red leaves. The sassafras, although now losing its leaves, was yellow to deep orange. Regardless of the identification, don't miss the show, whether on Main Street or out in the country.

Yep, Hal is home, the pick-up is just off the edge of the driveway. I've driven down here to set up a deer stand back in Hal's woods. This fall, I found a place where several deer trails come together and now in that part of the woods, a buck or two or three are making scrapes. If the weather remains cool and onto cold, the high point of the rut will begin about the second week of November.

Hal's stand is on a deer trail crossing Sugar Creek over a shallow riffle. I wouldn't ask or even consider setting in that stand until Hal has taken a deer and that will probably happen during the opening weekend.

A deer each is all either of us need or want. However we might consider a second one if we know of someone who would use the venison.

I didn't have to knock on the back door, since she, the Missus, saw me pull in the driveway. "Hal's in the front room by the fire, go on in."

"Donald, hit's good to see you. Set in the cheer over yonder. It's not quite cold enuff to hunker down by the fire. I'll bet ya' come down to put that ladder stand back in th' woods. I seen a purty nice buck th' other day out behind the chicken house and he wuz headed to that part of the woods."

"Course, he crossed down at the crick crossin' before he got to the chicken house. Now if he does that on openin' day, I'll let you help me drag him to the pick-up."

"Well, thanks a bunch, Hal. But if I catch him in the woods headed for the creek crossing, you can help me drag him out."

"Donald, I wuz jist readin' the paper here and there's a letter about the good PETA is doin'. Now from what I know they got their facts a little mixed up."

"Hal, sometimes it's hard to know what some

people are getting at. It's a cinch, I've got nothing good to say about PETA or People Eating Tasty Animals. Some think when there is no more hunting, PETA will be satisfied, but don't you believe it. When stores don't sell meat and chickens and pigs run in the street, then they might be happy. By the way, you didn't read about PETA rescuing pets from any of the hurricanes or floods. And I'll bet you won't, all their money goes to talk and how they want to convince our school kids it's wrong to keep a canary in a cage, a goldfish in a bowl or a dog on a leash."

"Wal, Donald, sumtimes hits more then I kin understand or mebbe want to. And now they's pickin' on poor ol' Brent Wheat. Why whuts' wrong with a last name lik' thet? Don't thet feller know how fine a good piece of bread is with a good piece of meat? Now wouldn't it be sumthin' if everbody wuz named after meat. I believe I'd pick squirrel."

"Well, while we are kicking around "Letters to the Editor", there was one in the Indy Star that I read. Seems a Jennifer down at Vincennes thinks we've got to go out of the state to get a wall-hanger buck. She says, it's because of the deer seasons, that these hunters pay big money to kill big bucks in Illinois, Missouri and other places."

"Now, I tell you whut, Donald, . If you want a layin' hen, you don't kill it when it's a fryer. It takes a 4 or 5 year old buck to git a set of trophy horns. If you want to see where the beginnings of these big racks are, jist spend a little time at a check-in place on opening day of gun season.. Th' dates of th' season don't have much to do with gitin' a big buck. But th' trigger finger does."

"You are right, Hal.. When those little fork-horns and basket-racked six and eight points are checked in, at times the guys that killed them laugh about the guy checking in a doe. But the hunter that took the doe is doing more for the future of the deer herd and the possibility of a big-racked buck two or three years down the road, than the buck killer who is bragging about his 2 1/2 year old eight point."



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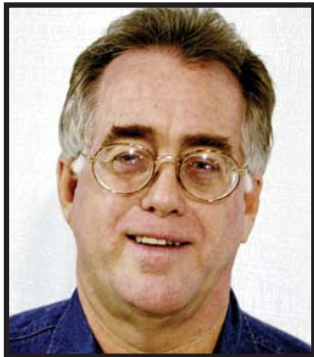


This is a closeup of the Horseshoe Falls (Canadian side) from the Maid of the Mist.



Benjamin Marques enjoyed the various cannons of Fort Niagara. (Author Photo)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Chasing the Niagara Rainbow

The "Maid of the Mist" rocked as we drew closer to the massive wall of water. Over 75,000 gallons per second dropped from the American Falls 200 feet above as we passed. The Horseshoe Falls on the Canadian side was flowing at almost 700,000 gallons per second as we approached. The sun shining through the water droplets always creates a rainbow across the Niagara River and often there is a double rainbow. If the sun is shining, you can always find a rainbow here hiding in the mist.

The mist from the Falls would have soaked us if not for the complimentary rain ponchos we were wearing. The roar of the cascading water made normal conversation impossible. Our two cameras, one waterproof, the other with a waterproof cover, clicked constantly even though we had been here numerous times. We were visiting Niagara Falls, one of the most impressive and beautiful spots I've seen in six decades of traveling.

On this trip, Susie and I took our daughter, Angi, and our seven year old grandson, Benjamin to see this spectacular destination. They had been here two years ago, and Benjamin had asked to return ever since.

We started by making reservations at the Comfort Inn the Pointe. This is where we always stay when coming to this area. Prices are reasonable, the staff is courteous and helpful, the rooms are great, and it's the closest hotel to the Falls. It's so close to the Falls you can feel the mist. Walk

out the back door, cross the street and you're in Niagara Falls State Park. (Go to www.comfortinthepointe.com or call 716-284-6835.)

Next, we acquired four Niagara USA Discovery Passes, available at many locations around the area. This booklet has tickets to the Maid of the Mist boat ride (an absolute MUST when here), Cave of the Winds, Niagara Gorge Discovery Center, Niagara Legends of Adventure Theater, and the Aquarium of Niagara. Buy the booklet and save 30% off the individual prices.

We decided to use our tickets on the Maid of the Mist first. After donning our rain ponchos, we boarded the boat, cameras at the ready. We approached the Horseshoe Falls so close we had to look up to see the top. Water from the mist ran down our faces. The captain held his craft in the turbulent water close to the base of the Horseshoe Falls for several minutes before continuing past the American Falls and back to the dock. The first time we took this ride many years ago, when we reached the landing, Susie said "Let's get two more tickets and do it again!"

As we disembarked, I asked Benjamin if he was ready for more water. Naturally, he was. We walked a short distance and surrendered our tickets for the Cave of the Winds. This boardwalk leads visitors zigzagging down and back up bringing them closer and closer to the thundering waters of the American Falls. More and more water came streaming under and around the walkway. We finally arrived at the entrance to the Hurricane Deck.

For those brave enough, this optional narrow section will actually lead close enough to touch the thundering water. Most adventurers find it easier to back towards the Falls using the guardrails to push themselves further. The force of the wind off the falling water is trying to push them away and it's a struggle to see if they can reach the far end of the walkway. The noise is deafening and the power of the Falls is unforgettable. Benjamin opted to watch while I made my trip to challenge the Hurricane Deck.

After this adventure, it was time to make our choice of dining spots. Niagara Falls (the city) has many outstanding choices. For our first evening, we picked the Hard Rock Café because it was on the way toward our hotel. That evening, the fireworks display over the Falls was at 10 PM, but we were too tired to go watch. (The following night,

we did walk over to the Falls from our hotel to watch the colored lights display illuminating the tumbling waters.)

The next day, our discovery tickets admitted us to the Niagara Legends of Adventure Theater showing The Falls Movie. This 45 minute film whisks you back 12,000 years to teach you the history of the area, take you on an exhilarating ride over the Falls, and show you death defying stunts by the daredevils who challenged the fury of Niagara Falls.

After the movie, our next destination was the Niagara Gorge Discovery Center. This is a hands-on attraction for the entire family with multiple interactive displays depicting the history, geology, and other aspects of the entire region.

While not on our Discovery Passport tickets, we continued farther along a few miles until we arrived at Old Fort Niagara. Over 300 years of history are on this site. These buildings have been preserved as they were almost three centuries ago for the public to view. Three flags fly over the Fort symbolizing France, Britain, and the United States, which held the Fort for various periods. Tour the inside (and outside) of this setting and learn its colorful history and watch reenactments of Fort Niagara's past glory.

By this time, we were ready for a late lunch. The Niagara Tourism folks know us well and always direct us to small, well known (by the locals) eateries. We prefer dining where the food is great, the crowds are small, and at locations few tourists know about. This time, we were directed to the Youngstown Village Diner just a few minutes from Fort Niagara. Our table overlooked the nearby marina and we watched the boats sail by as we ate. Everything we ordered was excellent and the selection was huge. Find this diner at 425 Main Street in Youngstown. Call 716-745-9858 for information or directions (but it's very easy to find).

Our two days were almost over. We could visit the last location on our Discovery Passport, the Aquarium of Niagara, or return to view the Falls one more time before our departure. While the Aquarium has outstanding viewing, demonstrations, and even feedings of its creatures, nothing can beat the sights and sounds of Niagara Falls. We made our choice. The Aquarium will have to wait for our next visit.

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

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Attending the 67th 79th Naval Construction Battalion Reunion in Richmond/Centerville, Indiana was 4 Seabees from the 79th NCB, 1 Seabee from CBMU# 624 and 1 Seabee from the 123rd NCB. Above in (Left Group) on the left is Kay Johnson, Sales and Banquet Manager for The Quality Inn in Richmond, next to her in front left to right is Lenora Hummel, Joyce Seikmann and Timie Creedon. Back row left to right, Fred Hummel-79th NCB, Vern Seikmann-79th NCB, Tim Mahoney-CBMU# 624 and Jeannie Winter. (Right group) in front row left to right, Janice Plaskett, Charles Lawburgh-123rd NCB, Glenna Lawburgh and Don Palme-79th NCB. Back row left to right, Ray Dickerson, Conrad Shoup-79th NCB and Dennis Good.

U.S. Navy 79th Construction Battalion / CBMU# 624 Celebrated at 67th Reunion in Richmond/Centerville, Indiana

Article & Photos by Ray Dickerson
(Except where otherwise noted)

It took a long time getting here to the 79th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion 67th Reunion that I volunteered to host on Wednesday September 14, 2011 in Pekin, IL at the 79th's 66th Reunion.

Actually it goes a lot further back than that to when my Dad, Raymond Eugene Dickerson joined the U.S. Navy Construction Battalion (NCB) nick named Seabees) on July 2, 1942. After training at Camp Bradford, VA he was assigned to the 79th NCB and sent to Kodiak, Alaska. Returning to Port Hueneme, Camp Parks California where he was re-assigned to Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit# 624 and was then sent to Okinawa landing their with Marine Air Group 33 on April 1, 1945. After the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan he came back home aboard the U.S.S. Topeka.

Returning to civilian he continued doing what he did before enlisting in the Navy, being a d--- good auto mechanic, then delivered new trucks all over the U.S., Canada, Alaska and even Central America. On June 28, 1992 he died in Centerville. I'm



MMS 1/c Raymond E. Dickerson, Sr.

typing this article in my former bedroom of our house here on South Street, the old home place.

Even though we hunted and fished together all of my youth and adult life, hardly ever did we talk about WWII and his being a Seabee. Maybe an occasional conversation waiting for a fish to bite or waiting for a squirrel to begin cutting a nut or just to move. Dad belonged to the VFW, American Legion and Marine League and I suppose that is where he reminisced about WWII with them. I don't know for sure.

Then in 2007 I received an e-mail from my sister, Wilma who had been flying back from Washington state and had been thinking about Dad's trip out that way in 1990 to a Seabee reunion. She had her laptop with her and googled "The Seabees" to see what came up. She found the website for the 79th NCB, Dad's former unit. She sent me the website address to me in case I wanted to check it out.

Well, not only did I check it out, Wilma and I got invited to the their reunion by Jeannie Winter, webmaster for the 79th NCB website. We attended that reunion in Lancaster, PA where we got to know a swell bunch of Seabee families from across America.

Thanks to Queen Bee Lenore Hummel, wife of Seabee Fred Hummel from Ephrata, PA in 2010 she gave me the contact information for a friend of hers (high school classmate), retired Major General John Hurt. He advised me to contact Quantico Marine Base in Virginia, Historical Records. I sent Quantico an e-mail on September 20, 2010 requesting information concerning my father, MMS 1/c Raymond E. Dickerson who served with the Seabees on Okinawa. I told them I wasn't in any hurry.

Three days later I got an e-mail from GS11 Annette Amerman from Quantico, VA which included a e-mail from Gina Nichols, Historian at Port Hueneme giving me complete information on the movement of Dad in the South Pacific.

Talk about a quick response.

Since that time, thanks to Gina Nichols (Port Hueneme, CA) and Linda Streuding (Gulfport, MS) there's not much I don't know about my Dad a U.S.

Navy Seabee and many, many more Seabees.

Since Pekin, Illinois and volunteering to host the 2012 Reunion here in Indiana I've been in contact with several more Seabees across the United States trying to find 79th NCB and CBMU# 624 members to invite to the reunion. As you can see from the photo above, I didn't have much luck finding many still alive or well enough to travel here.

Through out the next few pages you will get to see what we did at the 79th NCB 67th Reunion which I was given permission from the 79th Seabees at Pekin, IL reunion, to invite members of CBMU# 624 to our reunion here September 23-27, 2012. The reason being that Dad served with both the 79th NCB and CBMU# 624 and it was in his honor I wanted to host this event.

I had no idea the amount of work it would take to host the 67th 79th NCB Reunion, but I can tell you for sure it was well worth the effort. It helped me by attending the 2007 and 2011 reunions by knowing what kind of things they liked to do. Probably the biggest challenge was finding someplace for them to visit. Here in Indiana, we don't have much in the way of Navy facilities or enough water to float a battleship or a Tin Can (destroyer) for that matter. Last year at Pekin the LST 325 berthed in Evansville happened to be in Peoria, IL, which gave the Seabees an excellent activity. I did contact that LST group to see if they might be up near Cincinnati in September 2012, but they said they didn't plan that far ahead.

I had Reunion sport caps printed for those who wanted them, a couple of banners like the one shown at the top of this page, that Quality Inn let me display for when the Seabees arrived and for one for Webbs Antique Mall in Centerville for when they arrived there on Monday afternoon.

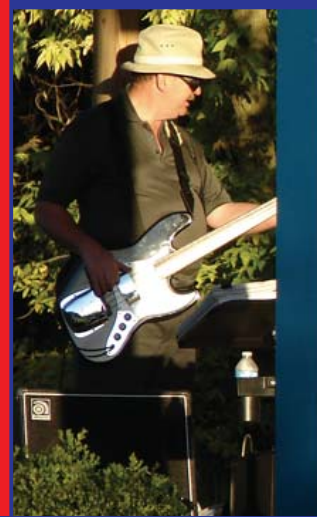
So I planned the following activities you will read about in the next few pages and information about the 79th NCB, CBMU# 624 and other Seabees who joined in to make our reunion very special and about one who didn't get to come on page 36-37

Most of the Seabees arrived on Sunday afternoon
CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

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1st Photo: On Monday, after meeting for breakfast at the Quality Inn, we traveled to Webbs Antique Mall, which is located at 200 Union Street in Centerville for the Seabees to visit until it was time for us to gather in Maplewood Park for a catered meal and vintage World War II music of the big band era. From left to right, Webbs Antique employee Ruby Carpenter, Lenore Hummel, Fred Hummel, Jeannie Winter, in back Rev. Woody Woodford, sitting in front Wilma Woodford, in back Joyce Seikmann, Janice Plaskett, Conrad Shoup, Vern Seikmann, Dennis Good and Jim Webb. 2nd Photo: Jim McKinney, leader of his Jazz Band "Moment's Notice" playing his trombone for the Seabees. 3rd Photo: "Moment's Notice" Jazz Band playin "Swing Band" era music for Seabees in Maplewood Park in Centerville Monday evening, from left to right, Paul Moran on bass guitar, Tom Walker on keyboard, Jim McKinney, Jim Johnson on drums, Dorothy Combes singing for the Seabees and Bill Perkins on flugelhorn. 4th Photo: Time to eat, meal catered by Hometown Deli & Catering, l to r, Woody Woodford, Jeannie Winter, Dennis Good, Vern & Joyce Seikmann, Janice Plaskett, Lenore and Fred Hummel. 5th Photo: Conrad Shoup, Eric Marshall, Priscila and Doug Christian. 6th Photo: Wilma Woodford and Carrol Rhodes. 7th Photo: Esther Kaucher, Jeannie Dunlap and Sherry Dickerson. 8th Photo: Gary Killen who helped me provide music for the meal.

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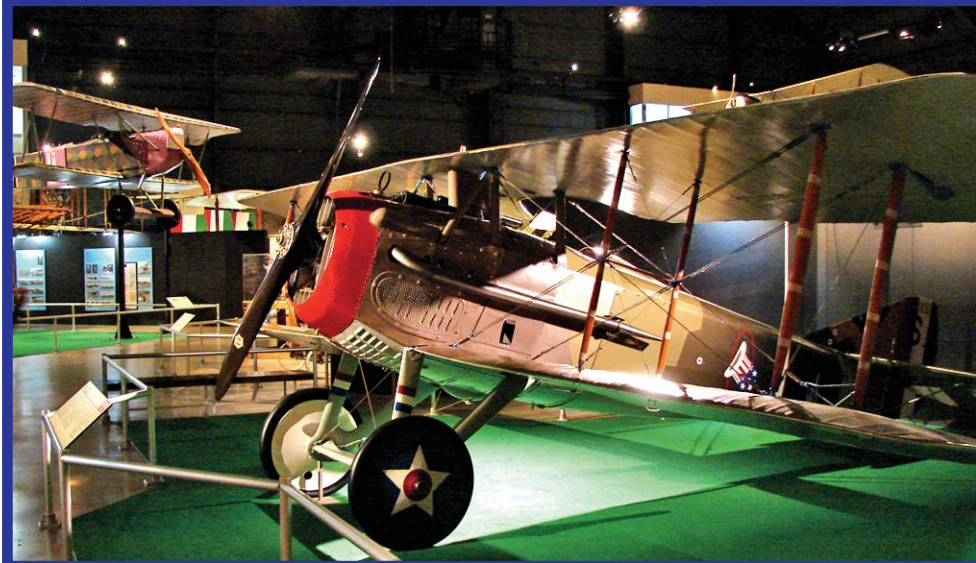
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1st Photo: Maplewood Park one of two shelters at right, on the stage Jim McKinney's "Moments Notice" Jazz band performs vintage "Swing Band" music to the delight of the audience. 2nd Photo: Special guest, Queen bee Dorothy Combes, sang special songs to the Seabees and guests. 3rd Photo: School Bus driver Mr. Philip Alvey drove us to the Air Force Museum on Tuesday, September 25th. Philip was an excellent driver, safe and very courteous. 4th Photo: Our school bus. 5th Photo: Seabee Conrad Shoup and Janice Plaskett enjoyed our trip to the Air Force Museum. 6th Photo: World War I airplanes in the Air Force Museum. 7th Photo: Jeannie Winter standing next to a World War II B-26 bomber, similar to the one her Uncle flew in the war.

SEABEES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31
 at the Quality Inn Conference Center and Inn in Richmond around 2 to 3 p.m. Lenore and Fred Hummel from Ephrata, PA though were early birds they arrived on Saturday evening. Don Palme from Greenville, Ohio registered for the Reunion, but due to his being a care giver for his wife he would only attend Wednesday, the day of the banquet. Jeannie Winter was arriving at Dayton International Airport at around 12:30 p.m., I was waiting in the Cell Phone parking area for her call that she was in the terminal waiting for me. We arrived back at the Quality Inn around 1:30 p.m.

Jeannie asked me enroute when Don Palme was arriving, she was anxious to talk to him in person. She had found out earlier that Don and her Seabee father, Fred Taake were on LST 736 in the South Pacific. I told her he would be in Richmond on Wednesday.

When we went through the door we saw many familiar faces waiting in a room off to the right, check in was at 3 p.m. Joyce Seikmann came out and gave me a big hug, saying she and Vern were eager to see me again. Others waiting was Janice Plasket from Canton, OH and Conrad Shoup from Fremont, OH. Keeping them company was Fred, Lenore Hummel and Dennis Good all from Ephrata, PA. Later on my sister Wilma and her husband Woody arrived. Woody is a Methodist minister, they couldn't come until after their church activities were finished back home in Danville, KY.

The only two missing was Tim Mahoney and his daughter, Timie Creedon who would be arriving in Dayton on Tuesday and they would meet us at the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum and come back with us on our bus.

Oh yes, there was one other, my wife Sherry, who had to work during the reunion, but was with me

every step of the way after she got off work.

After meeting everyone I left to pick up Sherry at home, she and I had to load up all the food and drinks, stop at Walmart to load the pop and ice into the coolers and deliver it to our hospitality room at the Quality Inn. Sherry and I had a room on one end of the hospitality room and Wilma had a room on the other end. The Quality Inn really gave us a good deal, we had to meet their criteria and did, we got the hospitality room and Banquet room free of charge. I recommend them for your next reunion, you can call them at 765-966-7511, ask for Kay Johnson, tell her you talked to Ray Dickerson who held the Seabee Reunion there September 23-27, 2012. They are located at 5501 National Road East in Richmond, Indiana. Exit either way off I-70 and travel west past the third stoplight, watch for a left turn (U turn) and go back east a very short distance into their parking

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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SEABEES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

lot. Early on Monday many of us had the free hot breakfast at the Inn, let me tell the food was plentiful and delicious. I then went to get the 12 passenger van I leased and returned to the Quality Inn. At around 1 p.m. we traveled to Centerville, IN, where I live, I dropped the Seabees, family and friends off at Webbs Antique Mall located at 200 North Street in Centerville.

I then left to set up the shelters at Maplewood Park to get ready for the caterer to set our meal up at around 4 p.m. I enlisted the help of Gary Killen, a good friend, to set up a sound system so we could play Big Band era 78 rpm record music while the Seabees, family and friends ate their meal. Due to the low number of Seabees who came I took the liberty of inviting several friends to eat with us including my dear friends, Esther Kaucher, her daughter Jeannie Dunlap, Carrol Rhodes, Doug and Priscilla Christian and a Vietnam Seabee Veteran, Eric Marshall from Richmond. I also invited Gary and his wife to eat with us and my wife, Sherry, arrived after work. It was a little blustery and chilly, the weather had suddenly turned fall-like the same day Fall arrived on Sept. 22nd. I thought I had a building available to use, nearby, in case of inclement weather, but didn't. So everyone was a good sport dressing for the cooler than normal weather and brisk wind.

While we were eating the really good and warm food, from the Hometown Deli and Catering business brought to us from Richmond, we listened to Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Frank Sinatra, Doris Day, Gene Krupa, Harry James and more on some 78 rpm records given to me by Rich Creason who writes and sells advertising for The Gad-a-bout. The sound quality was kind of scratchy, but that just added to the moment.

Soon Jim McKinney and his Jazz Band members arrived, they began setting up their instruments and sound equipment for their 6 to 7 p.m. music show on the Performance Center stage in the park. I found Jim from the band director at Centerville High School. Jim came highly recommended and if you have a need for a really good high quality jazz band you can reach Jim at home **765-966-5719** or his cell **765-969-6063**.

At precisely 6 p.m. Jim McKinney introduced his band, Paul Moran on bass guitar, Tom Walker on keyboard, Jim Johnson on drums, Bill Perkins on flugelhorn and himself on trombone.

Then he introduced Dorothy Combes, who was going to do a special song (s) for the Seabees, she

sang directly to us (see photo on page 33), her rendition of the Seabee Song. She was great, I know those in attendance appreciated her tribute to them. She also sang "I'm Sick of Guadalcanal" and "God Bless America." I wondered at the time if she had a connection to the Seabees.

Since that evening I have learned a bit more about Dorothy Combes, who by the way will be 85 in a few weeks. She was married to a Seabee who was in the 26th NCB at Guadalcanal and Tulagi in the South Pacific, Roy E. Combes, Jr. On Tulagi Roy suffered greatly from a bomb concussion and had to be sent home. Roy passed away November 22, 1999. In a future issue of The Gad-a-bout we will all know more about this wonderful Lady and her very special Roy.

For the next hour Jim's Jazz Band played vintage hits of the "Swing Band" era including A String of Pearls, Stompin' at the Savoy, Don't Get Around Much Anymore, All of Me, A Foggy Day, I'm Getting Sentimental Over You, Ain't Misbehavin', Perdido, I've Got You Under My Skin, Sweet Georgia Brown, Indiana and Moonlight Serenade, The Mood and others. His special guest, Dorothy Combes sang a couple more songs too.

For those who would enjoy hearing Jim McKinney here is where he will be appearing next:

Upcoming Notice Moment's Notice Gigs

Oct 18 Grand Opening, Holiday Inn, Richmond, IN, 5 to 7 PM.

Oct 27 With Donna Frost, Taffy's, Eaton, OH, 7:30 to 10 PM.

Nov 3 Joe's Pizza, Richmond, IN, 5:30 to 8:30 PM.

Nov 9, Common Grounds Coffee Shop, West Richmond Friends Church, Richmond, IN 7 to 9:30 PM.

Nov 24 Taffy's, Eaton, OH, 7:30 to 10:30 PM.

Dec 4, Historic Christmas at the Depot District, Richmond Furniture Gallery, Richmond, IN 6 to 7 PM.

After the music show ended we cleaned up the area, loaded into our van and I took the Seabees back to the Quality Inn.

I reminded everyone that we would be leaving the Inn at precisely 8 a.m. Tuesday morning for Dayton.

Sherry and I went to the Hospitality room and visited for a while. Sherry spent the night at the Inn and got to try out the jacuzzi in our room, she liked it.

We got up early to eat breakfast before the bus got to the Inn. She couldn't go to the museum with us.

At about a quarter to 8 a.m. the bus was sitting outside in the parking lot. I introduced myself to the driver as we boarded the bus. We then traveled to the United States Air Force Museum near Dayton, OH.

We were scheduled to leave at 3 p.m. or before depending on how long everyone wanted to stay. As



CBMU# 624 Seabee Tim Mahoney from Houston, TX and his daughter Timie Creedon visiting the Air Force Museum near Dayton. Standing here in front of the B-29 that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaaki, Japan and made it possible for Tim to go home instead of being part of the invasion force that would have gone to Japan.

it turned out we didn't leave until 3 p.m.

I've been to the Museum many times, in fact I had visited it in April to see how long it took to get there, what facilities they had for senior citizens, how long it took to walk the entire area, food availability, and other amenities. I spent six hours there photographing about every plane in the museum and visiting the memorials on the grounds outside. We arrived at the Air Force Museum right on time, we all went our separate ways to see the museum. I first went to information desk to see a friend. He remembered me, we chatted for quite a while. I then headed for the World War II area. I run into Conrad and Janice, Jeannie, Philip Alvey, Eric, my sister Wilma, Joyce and Vern Seikmann. No one wanted to leave early.



Left Photo: 79th NCB Seabee Don Palme from Greenville, OH with Jeannie Winter on Wednesday, the only day Don could attend the reunion. They had talked previously by phone about his being on LST 736 in WWII.



Center Photo: Seabee Vern and wife Joyce Seikmann standing next to Oliver, the Quality Inn's mascot.



Right Photo: Sherry Dickerson at left and our good friend Esther Kaucher from Centerville. Esther took me to get my drivers license back in the 50's, but that is another story I'll tell you some time.

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Attending the 79th NCB and CBMU# 624 67th Reunion banquet at the Richmond Quality Inn was from left to right, front row: Joyce Seikmann, Sherry Dickerson, Lenore Hummel, Janice Plaskett, Wilma "Dickerson" Woodford, and Esther Kaucher. Middle Row: Nancy "Seikmann" St Clair, Jeannie "Taake" Winter, Vern Seikmann, Glenna Lawburgh, Charles M. Lawburgh, Don Palme, Fred Hummel and Timie "Mahoney" Creedon. Back Row: Dan Miller (SMSA), Dennis Good, Tim Mahoney, Conrad Shoup, Pamela Minnix, John Minnix, Rev. John "Woody" Woodford, Eric Marshall and Ray Dickerson.



Everyone enjoyed the banquet meal, many went back for seconds, me too.

Seabee families, friends and guests enjoying each others company for the banquet.

I was becoming concerned about Tim who was to meet with us at the museum. He and Timie was flying into Dayton from Houston, TX at around 12:20 p.m. and I hadn't heard from him. Then my cell phone rang and it was Tim. They were on their way but wouldn't be here right away. Later on they called me again and said they were down at the Information booth in the museum. So I headed towards them, they stowed their baggage in a locker and we headed back into the museum.

As it approached 3 p.m. I got a call from Wilma asking if we were going to get together to leave before 3 p.m., she was in the Cafeteria with the others, so we headed their way. Philip Alvey, the bus driver headed out to bring the bus up to the loading area, then we all got aboard and headed back to Richmond and the Quality Inn.

It had been a good day, everyone was a bit tired, it was a free evening to do whatever. Six of us got into Janice's van and went to Fazoli's for supper or for you other people, dinner - depending on where you hail from.....

After we returned everyone went to the hospitality room to munch on snacks, drink whatever we wanted to drink, talk and look at pictures, scrap books and memorabilia that we had all brought to the reunion. I had received two packets of photos and other mementos, one from Ms. Maybelle Mooney from Independence, MO, whose husband had died,

she wanted me to let the Seabees at the reunion look at them. Also Belle Howard from Forsyth, GA sent some additional photos and memorabilia to add to what I got from her earlier. You might remember I did a article on her husband, Buddy Howard, a couple issues ago. Buddy had passed away too. I tried to get her son, Nolan, to bring her up here for the reunion in trade for giving him a fishing trip on Brookville Lake. He likes to fish for Walleye, but it didn't work.

Most everyone stayed in the hospitality room until late, mostly due to us having a free morning and early afternoon on Wednesday, we would be attending our reunion banquet at 7 p.m. followed by the business meeting to see who would be hosting the 2013 reunion.

I slept in Wednesday morning, missing that hot breakfast. But needed the rest.

Don Palme the Seabee from Greenville, OH came to the Inn to spend the day with us and met with Jeannie Winter, whose father was in the 79th NCB (see story Jeannie wrote about him in the April 2012 Gad-a-bout at www.thegadabout.com). Jeannie had contacted him earlier by phone about her father and him being on LST 736 together when they traveled from Saipan to Okinawa in May of 1945. She had been searching for some time to find someone who was on the LST with her dad. Jeannie is the webmaster for the 79th NCB on their website

www.79thseabees.com.

As the day passed, evening was approaching and I began to prepare for the banquet. I checked downstairs and the banquet room was all set up, the only thing needed was food and people.

Due to my not finding very many new Seabees to come to the reunion, we were short on our count so I took the liberty of inviting some local Vietnam Veteran Seabees and a few others too. I became aware of two additional guests who were coming to the banquet because they were picking their parents up to take them home to Wisconsin. Vern and Joyce Seikmann daughter and son-in-law, Gary and Nancy St Clair.

Our banquet attendee list included Seabee Fred and Queen bee Lenore Hummel from Ephrata, PA their nephew Dennis Good also from Ephrata; Seabee Don Palme from Greenville, OH; Queen bee Janice Plaskett from Canton, OH; Seabee Conrad Shoup from Fremont, OH; Seabee Vern Seikmann and Queen bee Joyce Seikmann from Green Bay, WI; Jeannie "Taake" Winter from Norfolk, VA; Seabee Tim Mahoney and daughter Timie Creedon from Houston, TX; Seabee Charles and Queen bee Glenna Lawburgh from Milan, IN; Ray (son of Seabee Ray Dickerson) and Sherry Dickerson from Centerville, IN; Rev. John "Woody" and Wilma Woodford from Corinth, KY; guests - Vietnam

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

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SEABEES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

Veteran Seabees Eric Marshall and Steve Brasfield from Richmond, IN, John and Pamela Minnix from Centerville, IN; guest Dan Miller, representing the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association from Danville, KY and guest Esther Kaucher from Centerville, IN.

I would like to mention the names of fellow Seabees who wanted to come, but for various reasons couldn't make the trip. Seabee Bob and Queen bee Carolyn Huls from Pekin, IL; Seabee Charles "Chuck" and Queen bee Erma Sarahan from College Park, MD; Seabee Joe and Queen bee Dot Accetta from Pearl River, NY; Seabee Bill and Queen bee Ruth Burke from Livingston, NJ; Seabee Guy and Queen bee Mirian Large from Orange City, FL; Seabee Lindy and Queen bee Mary Lindroff from Bakersfield, CA; Seabee John and Queen bee Isabelle Serra from Caldwell, NJ; Seabee Jack Taggart from Collegeville, PA; Seabee Earl Dushane from Fallon, NV; Seabee Joe Rudy from Jeanette, PA and Seabee Richard "Dick" Patrick from Ashland, KY. Our thoughts and prayers are with them always.

At 7 p.m. we sat down to a wonderful meal in the Quality Inn Banquet room with the room filled with United States Navy Seabees, their wives, guests and friends. My brother-in-law Reverend John "Woody" Woodford said a prayer for the meal.

Again I must say the Quality Inn did a superb job of serving us a great meal and all the trimmings, no one left the room hungry.

After the meal Dan Miller who had called and asked if he could attend the banquet got up to tell us about the the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association (SMSA). Dan is the Chief Development Officer, he is the grandson of a WWII Seabee.

Dan told us all about the purpose of their organization which in a nutshell focus's on the children of

Seabee family's. He informed us that the Seabees are just as active in the military today as they ever were in WWII, in fact maybe more so. Except now they travel around the world at a minutes notice, highly mobile and expressing their motto "Can Do!"

From their newsletter, from the Chairman "The SMSA awarded the first four scholarships to children of Seabees in 1972. The Seabee Memorial wouldn't be dedicated for several years, but the mission was clear as these four students got \$500 and began their college educations. As we celebrate the past 40 years of scholarships, our mission remains just as clear - help educate the children and grandchildren of Seabees! Over the past 40 years, SMSA has helped over 700 students go to college with scholarships totaling over \$3,000,000. We now have 116 Named Scholarships, three of them Jumbo scholarships which will be award \$4,000 or \$5,000 every year....We have a wonderful shared heritage. The future of SMSA is bright. Please join us with your ideas, your time and your contributions and truly help the deserving children in our Seabee family get a college education. Dave Nash, RADM, CEC, USN (Ret.)

The address for the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association, Inc., P.O. Box 6574, Silver Spring, MD 20916

Dan said it better in person, their cause is great and I personally hope that some of you find it in your heart to support the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association.

We next held the business part of the gathering. The only subject was who attending would like to host the 2013 Reunion. Unfortunately no one came forward. I told everyone that I had talked to Chuck Sarahan on the phone previously and he mentioned to me that he might consider hosting the 2013 reunion. I still have to talk to him about that and will

do so immediately after I finish the November Gad-a-bout.

We then adjourned the business meeting. I thanked all of them for coming to our 2012 79th NCB and CBMU# 624 Reunion and to have a safe journey home and added I hoped to see them all again at the 2013 79th NCB Reunion.

All that was left officially to do was meet for the last time for breakfast Thursday morning, then all go our separate ways home.

Myself I wasn't finished with my responsibilities, I had to take Sherry and Esther Kaucher to Centerville so I could use Sherry's car to go to Dayton Airport later on. She arranged to get a ride to work very early Thursday morning, she works at Reid Hospital in the Cafeteria.

I had to deliver Tim Mahoney and his daughter Timie to the Dayton Airport in the wee hours of Thursday morning, then take Jeannie Winter there later on. While I was waiting for my first trip to Dayton I packed up all the food, drink and other in my van.

After returning to the Quality Inn from Dayton, I dozed for about an hour then went for my last delicious "free" hot breakfast in the Inn at 6:30 a.m. The usual early rising Seabees and friends were already there eating. Then it was time to take Jeannie to Dayton.

When I got back my only chore left in Richmond was to fetch my wife from work, drop her off at the Quality Inn so she could drive her car home and I could take the van. I hate to admit this, but I was happy it was all over or was it?

I had gotten several e-mails from Carolyn Huls about Bob since August 25 when she told me they couldn't make it to the reunion. On September 28th she wrote, "My wonderful husband, my best friend, passed away this morning at 12:45.

Read about my trip to Pekin, 10-5-12 at right. ■



Top Left Photo: Robert "Bob" Huls October 17, 1926 - September 28, 2012, Bob's photo at left and Urn at right. In between the 79th NCB Reunion Cap I took to him in Pekin, IL. Top Right Photo: Flower arrangement I sent to Carolyn Huls for Bob on behalf of the 79th NCB and all his Seabee friends who attended our 67th Seabee Reunion in Richmond, IN. Lower Left Photo: Local Military Honor Guard firing volley of shots as a salute to a fallen Veteran. Lower Center Photo: U.S. Navy Honor Guard from Chicago, IL salutes and plays taps for fallen Veteran. Lower Right Photo: Honor Guard folds American Flag then gives folded flag to Bob's wife, Carolyn Huls. (Photo by Marlene Breden)

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Robert "Bob" Huls the last time we saw him at the 2011 79th NCB reunion in Pekin, IL last September.

An Unscheduled Trip to Pekin, IL

by Ray Dickerson

After I got the e-mail (as stated at end of reunion article at left) from Carolyn Huls, "My wonderful husband, my best friend, passed away this morning at 12:45."

I sent flowers with a card with all of Bob and Carolyn's Seabee friends names on it. I e-mailed her that I would be attending Bob's funeral there in Pekin on Friday, October 5, 2012.

I left at 3 a.m. for Pekin, IL arriving there an hour early, I forgot that they were on CST. But I found that the Preston-Hanley Funeral Home was open and most of Carolyn's family was inside. They let me go on inside. Carolyn thanked me for coming and for sending the flowers, she took me over to where they were located. Others came in and I mingled with the increasing number of people who came to pay their respects to Bob.

The funeral service was wonderful, I don't know if that is the proper way to describe it, but the minister touched on all of Bob and Carolyn's life there in Pekin, family, friends, co-workers, etc.

After the service I told Carolyn that I had driven my van and I wanted to go to the Cemetery. She told me I could ride with her brother, Lloyd Breden and his wife Marlene. I went outside with her, she pointed to Lloyd's car, she got in also. What a privilege, I've never said it in print, but I admired Bob Huls a great deal, I know my Dad would have liked him too, them both being in the 79th NCB, not together physically, but in spirit. Here I was following right behind Bob travelling with Carolyn too.

We traveled for some distance to Swan Lake Memory Gardens in Peoria where Bob would be laid to rest. As we arrived the local Military Honor Guard stood ready as we passed. At the tent two U.S. Navy Honor Guards stood at attention as the family was ushered into the tent. After the minister held the service, the local Military Honor Guard fired 3 volleys of gunfire to salute the fallen Veteran. Then on cue the Navy Honor Guard played taps in honor of the fallen Veteran. Then they took a folded flag off the table where it had laid during the service, unfolded it, refolded it and gave it to Carolyn Huls (see photos at left).

The service was over. Lloyd drove us to the clubhouse on the lake where we had a fish fry at the 2011 Seabee reunion in Pekin.

You can log onto www.preston-hanley.com then click on Robert Huls to read Bob's obituary. ■

GOT A GROUP TRIP IN MIND NEED A BUS???

When I was looking around for transportation to take the 79th NCB to Wright Patterson Air Museum near Dayton. I had the good fortune of finding the Student Transfit, LLC. Their Transportation Administrator, Darlene Morrison did all the arranging for me. Contact them at: 3175 Salisbury Rd. N., Richmond, IN 47374, Phone 765-973-3449, Fax 765-973-3308. ■

On The Cutting Edge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Time: 9:00-10:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Location: Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York (Tickets), Sponsor: Commission on Presidential Debates, Participants: President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney, Moderator: Candy Crowley (CNN Chief Political Correspondent). The substance of the second presidential debate will take the form of a town meeting, in which citizens will ask questions of the candidates on foreign and domestic issues. Candidates each will have two minutes to respond, and an additional minute for the moderator to facilitate a discussion. The town meeting participants will be undecided voters selected by the Gallup Organization.

The moderator works for CNN, another Liberal news media member whose broadcasts lean more left than right. However, I do like Piers Morgan because he is a typical bloke, he follows orders well from CNN, but takes us on an occasional trip into a unbiased destination every now and then. As for the rest of the CNN announcers I only watch them to get a sample of their subjects because I don't like to watch advertising on the other station, so I switch back and forth to avoid the advertising announcements. The problem here is that it seems anymore all the stations are running ads at the same time, which thwarts my effort. My favorite station on TV is Encore, no ads and I spend a lot of time watching black and white westerns, some color.

The last Presidential debate will be on Monday October 22, 2012, Topic: Foreign policy, Air Time: 9:00-10:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Location: Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida (Tickets), Sponsor: Commission on Presidential Debates, Participants: President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney, Moderator: Bob Schieffer (Host of Face the Nation on CBS). The format for the debate will be identical to the first presidential debate and will focus on foreign policy.

The first debate was on Wednesday October 3, 2012, Topic: Domestic policy, Air Time: 9:00-10:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Location: University of Denver in Denver, Colorado (Tickets), Sponsor: Commission on Presidential Debates, Participants: President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney, Moderator: Jim Lehrer (Host of NewsHour on PBS)

The debate focused on domestic policy and was divided into six time segments of approximately 15 minutes each on topics selected by the moderator and was announced several weeks before the debate. The moderator opened each segment with a question, after which each candidate had two minutes to respond. The moderator used the balance of the time in the segment for a discussion of the topic.

The debate (s) was and/or are being moderated by PBS, ABC, CNN and CBS. The National TV Liberal media giants. Now that's unfair and unbalanced. ■

Indiana Dept Natural Resources

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Department, Indiana Conservation Officers continue to make up a good chunk of the primary instructor staff. The curriculum includes boat operation in heavy currents, various rope system rescues both horizontally across the river and vertically, shore-based and boat-based rescue techniques, low head dam rescues, proper rescue knots and their usages, medical considerations, etc. You get the idea. To successfully complete the week-long school all students participate in practical rescue scenarios during which each rescue team is evaluated. Each student must also, independently exhibit proficiency in rigging the various rope systems and knot tying. Of course, there is always a written test to top it all off, isn't there?

Many have found this to have been an exhausting school to attend and complete. But, I cannot recall anyone that has ever told me that they did not learn a great deal, nor meet some really neat people or have any less than a huge amount of fun. And that's not commonly said of any long running, physically demanding training course.

I'm confident that my words haven't painted a picture to do the IRRS complete justice. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, and there are many more pictures and much more IRRS information you can view by visiting www.indianariverrescue.com.

Be Safe. ■

Outdoors Tales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Front Porch, It is a nonprofit that was opened by the local ministry. Only the cooks are paid, the rest of the staff are volunteers. There are no fixed prices and the foot is great. People pay what they feel they can afford.

Should you decide to visit Ellsworth and the Front Porch, there is a wonderful shop across the street that features Michigan raised or built products.

The Junker's trip was a pleasant getaway with very little planning. For the most part, it just happened. The weather was beautiful and nothing was more enjoyable than a sunset across the lake one evening after a rain. The sky was golden, and I was lucky enough to grab my old Nikon for a photo. It will be a lasting memory of a fun trip with wife, Phyllis, and our dog Tyler. And by the way, Cedars Resort is pet friendly.

If you go, possible websites:

Pure Michigan tourism: www.Michigan.org

Cedars Resort: www.cedars-resort.com

Front Porch: www.frontporchellsworth.org

###

Contact writer Phil Junker by email at:

outdoorscribe@yahoo.com

For more outdoors with Phil Junker, contact his blog at: outdoorscribe.blogspot.com ■

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Cody Pies of Brookville, IN caught this 35 pound Shovel Head catfish in a private lake in Camden, OH on 9-16-12. Note: Ray, I'm sending this photo of my son hoping to get in your paper. I grew up in Centerville, IN, you probably remember my Dad, Jerry Catron and my Grandpa Harold Catron. I'm a long time reader of The Gad-a-bout, thanks for the informative reading. (Photo submitted by Cody's Dad, Dale Catron)



Bailey Baker, age 9, of Williamsburg, IN took this 7 point buck during the 2012 youth hunt. (Submitted by Lynn Tool Company, Lynn, IN)



Dylan Redd, age 11, of Connersville, IN took this doe in Union County on 9-30-12 during the 2012 youth hunt with a Mossberg Model 500 shotgun. This is Dylan's first deer. (Submitted by James Redd)



Colin Roush, age 6, of Shoals, IN took this doe at 30 yds with a 20 ga. shotgun hunting the 2012 youth hunt with Jordan Hurt a White River Outfitters employee. (Photo submitted by Cody Roush, White River Outfitters)

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Sean (Carlos) Howard of Cambridge City caught his first Pike on Lake Vermillion in Minnesota on 9-9-12. He caught it on live bait, it was 41 1/4" long and weighed 16 pounds. Sean is a local UPS driver. (Photo by Steve Corrington, Steve's Marine, Liberty, IN)



Terry Lamb of Cambridge City caught this 38" Northern Pike on Lake Vermillion in Cook Minnesota on 9-9-12 using live bait. he is a local UPS delivery driver. (Photo by Steve Corrington, Steve's Marine, Liberty, IN)

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