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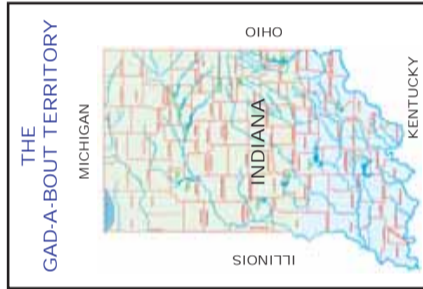
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**THE POLAR PLUNGE IS COMING TO  
LIBERTY FEB 25, 2017 SEE PAGES 14-15**



**2017 CINCINNATI TRAVEL, SPORTS & BOAT SHOW  
HART PRODUCTIONS JANUARY 13-15 & 18-22**



**"MY DAD HAS HAD A KNACK OF FIXING  
OLD SNOW MOBILES" - SEE PAGE 11**

**ADVERTISER INDEX PG 2 / ARTICLE INDEX PG 3**

### Potawatomi "Trail of Death" march: Sept. - Nov. 1838

Designates 1838 Potawatomi "Trail of Death" route starting in Indiana, crossing Illinois and Missouri, and ending at present day Osawatimie, Kansas.

In September 1838 over 800 Potawatomi Indian people were rounded up and marched at gunpoint from their Indiana homelands. Many walked the 400 mile trail to the mouth of the Mississippi River where they were crowded onto 40 diked, mostly children, of typhoid fever and the stress of the forced removal.

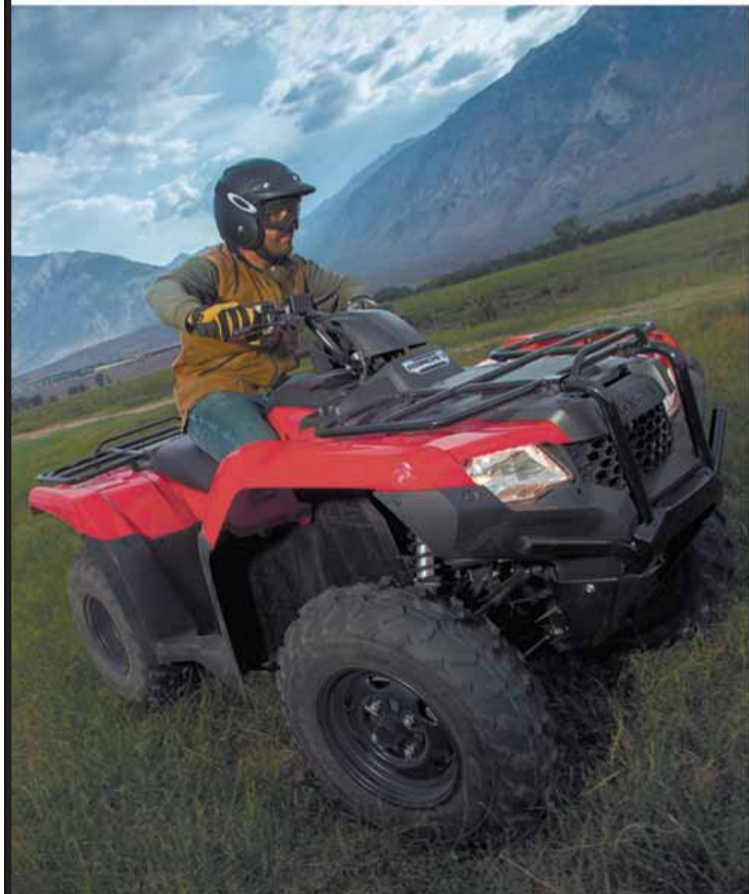
People shown here were all Potawatomi painted by artist Geo. Winner in 1837. All went to Kansas in either 1837 or 1838. Reproduced with permission of Historical County Historical Association, Leavenworth, Kansas.

**THE POTAWATOMI TRAIL OF DEATH IS A REGIONAL  
HISTORIC TRAIL PART 1 - SEE PAGES 22 - 23**

**READ ABOUT COVER PHOTOS ON PAGE 3**

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# THE GAD-A-BOUT™



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JANUARY 2017 • Volume XXVI • NO. 322

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### ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

**Top Left:** Our very fist Polar Plunge will happen at Whitewater Memorial State Park on February 25, 2017. Please join our mascot "Paw Bear" and our Special Olympics Team in supporting this great event with all donations going to support athletes in our county as well across the state of Indiana. This is all about Family fun and our communities joining together to make a difference in the lives of Special Olympics athletes. There will be an after Bash Splash Party at Frames Outdoors Archery Range after the plunge. There will be hot drinks, food awards, door prizes and a silent auction at this event. See Pages 14-15 (**The Polar Plunge Logo**)  
**Top Right:** The 2017 Cincinnati Sport, Boat & Travel Show will be held at the Duke Energy Convention Center in downtown Cincinnati January 13-15 & 18-22 Presented by RAM @... 60 years and still turning pages! We're all about playing on the water, playing over water, playing in the water, and

playing around the water! For more information log onto <http://cincinnatiboatshow.com/>. (**Chip Hart Productions Photo**)  
**Bottom Left:** Well, it's that time of year again. Trade in your flip flops for snow boots and hope you have enough wood for the stove. Although the Farmers' Almanac isn't calling for an extremely harsh winter, you never know when one good snow storm could blow in. So, keep a cup of hot chocolate on stand-by. (**Cole King Photo**)  
**Bottom Right:** Indian removal, emigration, Trail of Tears, Trail of Death, The Long Walk – these are names given to the terrible journeys the American Indians were forced to walk from their homes in the woodlands and forests of the East and Midwest to the plains of Kansas and Oklahoma in the 1800s. (Permission to reprint this Potawatomi "Trail of Death" map in January 2017 issue of The Gad-a-bout given by Shirley Willard, Rochester, IN - 12-10-16)

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# Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

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## LIBERTY POLAR PLUNGE 2017 SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> WHITEWATER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

Lonnie Snow called me the other day asking if I could help promote the Special Olympics Polar Plunge to be held at Whitewater Memorial State Park on February 25, 2017. See page 14-15 (center-fold) for more information.

Plunge participants, raising a minimum of \$75.00 in pledges, take a quick dip into the ice cold waters of Whitewater Memorial State Park. – Often dressing in costumes to make the “bucket list” as a memorable as possible. We will have heated facilities to change clothes in and restrooms available.

I got an e-mail from Lonnie since I finished the feature article so I’m putting it here:  
Ray

If you could mention we need plunge sponsors and items for the silent auction at Frames Outdoors it would be appreciated. I will have you an article for February’s paper. Frames Outdoors will have a Yeti Large cooler and some other items up for silent auction starting January 1st with a donations going to Wayne County Special Olympics. Some of the monies raised

at the polar Plunge will go toward starting a Special Olympics program in Union County.

Thanks Lonnie Snow, Wayne County Special Olympics County Coordinator, Ph. 765-732-3636 e-mail [lsnow1952@yahoo.com](mailto:lsnow1952@yahoo.com)

## EASTERN INDIANA GEM & GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC (EIGGS) GEM SHOW MARCH 3-5, 2017

The 44th Annual Spring Show, Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil Show and Sale will be held at the Kuhlman Center inside the Wayne County Fairgrounds at 861 North Salisbury Road, near Richmond, Indiana March 3 - 5, 2017.

The Spring Show will be open Friday & Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a donation for Adults \$5.00 / Senior Citizens (60+) \$3.00 / Students (7-18) \$1.00 / Under 7 Free / Scouts & Leaders in uniform Free.

They will be having a raffle again this year. One item that everyone would like to win is a beautiful piece of a Celestite Geode. Don’t miss this event.

Activities include Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, Crystals & Fossil Dealers. Exhibits, Displays, Door Prizes -- Silent Auctions, Children’s Activities. Demonstrations of Fluorescent Minerals, Micro Mounts, Gold Panning & Wire Wrapping, Fossil Cleaning, Glass Bead Making, Flint Knapping & Faceting. They have good food there too.

If you would like to set up a booth at this years show contact John Lamont by calling 765-647-4894. For information call 937-339-1966.

## DICK HILL & SON TO THE RESCUE OF JANUARY GAD-A-BOUT DEADLINE

Why is it when you have a deadline either the computer, internet or heat decides to quit. I was on South Street working on the January Gad-a-bout. I wasn’t paying attention to the furnace, but should have. It was running but no heat, it was about 4 a.m. so I shut the computer down and went home. I called Dick Hill & Son at around 7:15 a.m. At 9:30 a.m. Rick arrived, checked the furnace, he said the igniter was bad. He fixed it and I had heat in no time at all. Thanks to Dick Hill & Son I made my deadline, I’m sending it in today, right on schedule, too!

## PART 1 OF THE POTAWATOMI TRAIL OF DEATH REGIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL BY SHIRLEY WILLARD

Shirley Willard, former president of Fulton County Historical Society for 30 years, 1971-2001 sent me this historical article about the Potawatomi “Trail of Death” march: September - November 1838. It is quite lengthy and will appear in The Gad-a-bout in several parts. See page 22 in this issue to read Part 1.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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# So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe

Professional Fishing Guide

## Fishing Brookville in January

Two things to remember when fishing Brookville lake in the winter. The fish are going to be deep or shallow. The reason I say this is they are usually not anywhere in between. When I say shallow I mean 3 to 5 feet deep, and when I say deep I mean 35 to 60 feet deep.

A lot of where you fish depends on the species of fish you are fishing for. I have found over the years of winter fishing that largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and medium size channel cats tend to want to stay shallow in the winter. While walleye, flat heads, large channel cats, and blue cats want to be deep. Crappie and blue gill can go either way.

The best way to fish for deep fish is with baits that make a lot of noise and vibration. I like to use blade baits, spoons, and jigging rapalas, over using live

bait. I think the constant noise and vibrations attract the fish to strike. When you try to use live bait that deep, the pressure changes makes it impossible to keep the bait alive. You can find all my favorite colors and sizes of spoons, blade baits, and jigging rapalas at 52 Pik-up in Brookville. These baits work great for catching walleye and catfish in the deep cold water of winter. What you look for is fish on the bottom with your fish finder. The best thing to do is keep an eye on your fish finder as you idle around in different water depths. Don't even put a pole in the water till you see fish on your fish finder. Now I don't mean scattered fish on the fish finder. I mean fish that are holding tight to the bottom, these are the fish that are feeding. This is what you are looking for.

For fishing shallow I like to use a floating popping bait, swim bait or a live minnow on a light wire hook. The reason I like these baits is that they can be fished slow. With today's technology just turn on your side scan and take a look if you see fish cast to them. If you don't have side scan, you'll just have to go old school and cast to what you think should be there. Fish points that fall off quickly, rocky shore lines, or shallow mud flats. When your fishing, keep an eye out for schools of shad on the surface. This is a good sign that there are feeding fish close by.

Another option is the river. The river below Brookville lake never freezes, even in the harshest winter it will flow all the way till it meets the west fork of the whitewater river. This particular river is unique. It has 6 different species of suckers, it has huge carp, it has rainbow trout, it has brown trout, and every fish that is in the lake is also in this river. I have caught suckers on sucker rods in the middle of winter using red worms. A lot of times you catch two at a time.

If your a fly fisherman this river is right up your alley. Most all of the river is wade-able with just a pair of hip waders. What you have is a stretch of river that starts out at the stilling basin at the bottom the dam. The stilling basin is a 35 foot deep concrete box with a 30 foot concrete wall that calms and stills the river where it comes out from underneath the dam. The water that is coming from the lake is coming off the bottom giving you a constant 45 degree water temperature even in the winter. This will let you fish the river year round just remember you can

only keep trout from the last Saturday in April to the end of December. A four or five weight 8 to 9 foot fly rod is perfect for the size trout in the river. The brown trout have a 18 inch minimum size limit and the rainbow have a 7 inch minimum size limit. The bag limit is 5 but only 1 can be a brown trout.

If you are not a fly fisherman a 6 foot medium light graphite spinning rod will work just fine. Small in line spinners, salmon eggs, minnows or night crawlers all catch trout day in and day out.

The stilling basin at the dam is a great place to catch catfish and walleye. The bait of choice in the winter are minnows, blade baits, or spoon. In the fall the lake is pulled down 8 feet to winter pool. This starts around October 15th, and if you want to see how a stilling basin works this is the time to check it out. It is so violent it's worth seeing, but don't bring a fishing pole for this trip, wait till the middle of winter. Once they get the lake drawn down to winter pool the current in the stilling basin will go slack. This is when you want to be fishing at the stilling basin area. Vertical fishing over the walls of the stilling basin with a 1/4 to a 1/2 jig tipped with a minnow is a good choice. If your not a live bait fisherman try a 1/2 ounce Hopkins spoon or a blade bait, anything that resembles a minnow, will work.

I sure hope this helps you die hard fishaholics get through the winter. If you need more help stop in at 52 Pik-up. I'm usually there in the afternoons.

Good Luck Tag

If you need more info e-mail me at [tag@tagnobbe.com](mailto:tag@tagnobbe.com) or go to the web site [www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com](http://www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com) or call my cell phone 765-265-3238

I guide fish for walleye, and crappie starting mid April till the mid December 7 days a week on Brookville Lake. We fish out of a 2015 Lund Pro V 2075 with a 250 Honda motor. I supply everything all the way down to cleaning the fish. I can take 1 - 4 people. The price is according to how many people go \$450.00 for 4 people \$375.00 for 3 people \$325.00 for 2 people and \$275.00 for 1 person. We start at 7:00 am and fish till 1:00 pm. To schedule trips call me on my cell phone 765-265-3238.

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## News from the Indiana State Police



by Sergeant John D. Bowling  
Public Information/Recruiting Officer

### Indiana State Police Seeks Recruits for 77th Recruit Academy

Indiana State Police Seeks Recruits for 77th Recruit Academy

The Indiana State Police is now accepting applications for the 77th Recruit Academy. Individuals who are interested in beginning a rewarding career as an Indiana State Trooper may apply online at <http://www.in.gov/isp/2368.htm>. This website will provide a detailed synopsis of the application process as well as information on additional career opportunities with the Indiana State Police Department.

Applications must be received via e-mail by 11:59 pm (EST), on Monday, January 2, 2017. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted for the 76th Recruit Academy.

Basic Eligibility Requirements and consideration factors for an Indiana State Trooper:

1. Must be a United States citizen.
2. Must be at least 21 and less than 40 years of age when appointed as a police employee.
3. Must meet a minimum vision standard (corrected or uncorrected) of 20/50 acuity in each eye and 20/50 distant binocular acuity in both eyes.
4. Must possess a valid driver's license to operate an automobile.
5. Must be willing, if appointed, to reside and serve anywhere within the State of Indiana as designated by the Superintendent.
6. Must be a high school graduate as evidenced by a diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED).

The starting salary for an Indiana State Police Department recruit is \$1,445.75 bi-weekly during the academy training. At the completion of academy training, the starting salary is \$39,213.00 a year. The Indiana State Police also offers an excellent health care plan, which includes medical, dental, vision and pharmacy coverage for both current and retired employees, along with their families. The Indiana State Police pension program provides a lifetime pension after 25 years of service. Additionally, the Indiana State Police Department provides comprehensive disability coverage and a life insurance program.

Interested applicants can obtain additional information about a career as an Indiana State Trooper by visiting <http://www.in.gov/isp/3041.htm> to find the recruiter assigned to your area.

### Hobbies "Required"

Often when speaking to high school kids, I get the question of "What's the most stressful part of your job?" My answer is that there is no one thing in particular for me, for many reasons. Unfortunately over the years I've seen a lot of death, carnage and other things you hope the average person never has to see. We also deal with high stress situations of all kinds, and often have to be people of action and not reaction on calls.

We are required to make decisions in a split second that can affect the lives of those we serve, as well as ourselves and our families, forever. Then there is always the danger that goes with every traffic stop we do, whether it's someone trying to hurt us or the possibility of getting run over or hit as we sit on the side of the road.



Sergeant Todd Wallace with the fine buck he killed with his Mathews bow in early November. (Author Photo)

I think that's why the men and women that do this job will tell you it's important to have hobbies that get you away from it all. Nearly all of us hunt and fish.

Speaking of hunting, I've included a picture of my friend and co-worker Sergeant Todd Wallace with the fine buck he killed with his Mathews bow in early November. I've also included a photo of 14 year old Jared Zeiger, son of Pendleton District Sergeant Jeff Zeiger, with the buck he killed in gun season.

I can think of no better way to get away than to get out in the deer woods and put the phone on silent. One thing all of us in this job agree on is that you need quality family time, and hobbies, to keep life and the things that are truly important, in perspective.

### Two New Troopers At Pendleton Post

Pendleton - Two new troopers reported for duty at the Pendleton Post on 10/31. They were two of 55 new troopers reporting to their districts of assignment following graduation from the 76th Indiana State Police Recruit Academy, which took place on



14 year old Jared Zeiger, son of Pendleton District Sergeant Jeff Zeiger, with the buck he killed in gun season. (Author Photo)

Thursday, October 20th. The probationary troopers completed 22 weeks of intense training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield. During the training period, the recruits received in excess of 950 hours of law enforcement training which included criminal law, emergency vehicle operations, traffic law as well as training in other facets of law enforcement including criminal investigation, crash investigation, self-defense, first responder, and other general law enforcement related areas of instruction. The newest members of the Pendleton State Police Post are Mark Dupart, age 27 of Henry County, and J.T. Burns, age 27, also of Henry County. Dupart graduated from Shenandoah High School in 2007, and was in the U.S. Army from 2007-2014. He will be assigned to work in Wayne, Fayette and Union Counties.

J.T. Burns graduated from New Castle High School in 2007, and worked as an EMT and para-

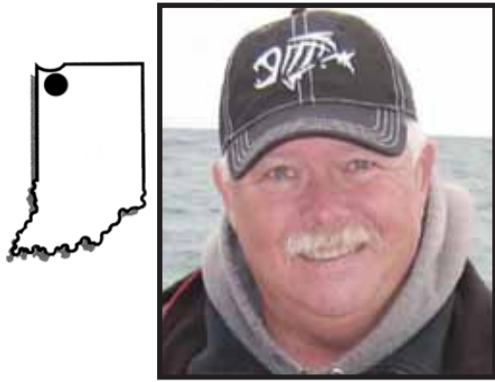
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 15**

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# Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

## GREAT LAKES CLASSICS

When I first started fishing the Great Lakes for salmon and trout most of the lures in my arsenal were left-overs from fishing excursions for bass, pike and other freshwater fish. There really weren't that many lures designed strictly for these newfound strangers to our inland seas. A few of these "general purpose" lures held on and are still



Few lures say "Great Lakes" like the venerable J-Plug. (Author Photo)

popular today. Most of my Great Lakes tackle box is filled with lures which were Great Lakes born and bred. Surprisingly few of these lures have caught on outside the Midwest. What are the iconic lures no Great Lake fisherman would be caught without these days?

**CUT PLUG:** No lure says "salmon" more than the cut plug. Think J-Plug, Captain's Plug, Silver Hoard and a half dozen others. J-Plugs were the original, the others are close copies. Legend has it, when salmon first came to the Great Lakes, tackle shops couldn't stock enough J-Plugs to sell to the crowds flocking to fish for the salmon, so they rented the lures. I'm not sure what the rental fees were, but a renter had to put down a \$100 deposit to ensure the lure wasn't lost or absconded.

Cut plugs are still very popular and will catch every species of salmon and trout swimming the lakes.

**TROLLING SPOONS:** Great Lakes fishing is a trolling game and it didn't take long for fishermen to realize their old Red Eyes, Cleos and DareDevles didn't troll as well as thinner, trolling only, spoons. Dozens of companies sprang up around the Great Lakes producing a wide variety of thin "flutter" type spoons. Few of them sell elsewhere, but perhaps they should. The paint jobs on these are nearly works of art. What started as simple green/silver or red/gold models are now multi-hued specimens with names as wild as the paint jobs.

**STICK BAITS:** In areas where walleyes are dominant, long, skinny smelt or shiner imitators are killers. Rapala, Rebels, Rogues and others are top producers. They can be run on long lines, lead-

cores, downriggers and divers and come in a variety of colors.

I've always had great luck when walleye fishing with either gold finishes or firetiger, depending on light levels. Morning, evening and cloudy days, go with the firetiger. In bright sunny middays the gold patterns get my nod.

In areas where salmon are predominant, go with the jointed versions of these same lures. The segmented body accentuates the action in the lure, much like a thin, trolling

spoon has a "wilder" action than a casting spoon.

For salmon, I always choose models painted in "hot" red, chartreuse or green colors. The days when jointed stickbaits are hot seem to coincide with the days I'm sporting a peppy trolling speed. Is this a coincidence?

**TROLLING FLIES:** Don't confuse a trolling fly with streamer flies often used by fly rodders wanting to mimic minnows game fish are chowing. Trolling flies don't need the intricate hackles and eyes on them to be effective. They are basically one or more colors of mylar tinsel from an inch to four or more inches long that trail behind some sort of attractor. No one knows why a dodger and fly or a flasher and fly is so appealing to fish. The theory I believe is the dodger or flasher appears to be a feeding salmon or trout and that excites a nearby salmon or trout. They swim up to investigate and when they spot the tinsel following the attractor, they nab it thinking it's a morsel missed by the other fish.

**MEAT RIGS:** Trolling with real baitfish has been a successful tactic on the West Coast for decades. It's only become popular on the Great Lakes for about the past decade or so. As the mus-sel cleared water became manifest, conventional lures became less effective. At times, the scent trail left by a real bait or filet from a live bait is enough to overcome the hesitation of a salmon or trout to strike a regular spoon or plug.

Meat heads that impart a wounded baitfish spin to the meat is also an action not duplicated by any other type of lure. Sometimes it's not the meat, it's the funky action enticing the bite.

THE END

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# TREE CITY METAL SALES

Article by The Wagler Family

Tree City Metal Sales was started in 1998 by Perry Coblentz on his home farm. The business was moved to where it is now located at State Road 3 and County Road 650 North in 2002.

Steve Wagler, who was on Perry Coblentz's Pole Building construction crew, bought the business in 2004 along with his wife, LeEtta and their family of eight children, when Perry moved out of state.

Our construction crew is operated by Micheal Detweiler (Steve's nephew), other workers are Eldon Detweiler, Jason Detweiler, Leroy Stutzman, Bob Austerman, Kyle Miller, Robert Wilder and Samuel Atherton.

Our second building was built in the winter of 2014-15. We than started bending most of our metal trims. We also stock more insulations, metal, lumber, windows, doors and screws.

Our Trim Folder was bought in 2014, five other trim machines were put in soon there after.

Our metal comes from Graber Post Buildings in Montgomery, Indiana. Steve is originally from Montgomery. Graber Post delivers to our shop twice a week and will also deliver whole building packages right to the job site when needed.

Our metal comes in 22 different colors and available in three different styles. We will also make special orders on several styles from another company.

Our business is family operated. Steve's son, Stephen, does the paperwork and loading. His daughter, Amy, is the trim maker and helps where needed. Stephen also helps Amy with the trim. The children all help to keep the shops cleaned up and all work together.

Our crew has been to states as far as Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, Alabama and all over Indiana. Packages have been sent to Florida, Michigan, Virginia and is available to be shipped anywhere in the United States.

Stop in and talk with Steve, he has everything for your Building needs. Call 812-663-4863 or Cell 812-525-6272 or visit our shop located at 50 West 650 North, Greensburg, IN, 47240.

Interview & Photos by Ray Dickerson

On November 29, 2016 I arrived at Tree City Metal Sales at around 9 a.m. as Steve Wagler and I

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Tree City Metal Sales located at State Road 3 and County Road West 650 North, Greensburg, IN 47240



Top Photo: Types of metal trim bends made on bending unit. Middle Photo: Insulation bundles and Wrap. Bottom: Customers line up to pick up their metal orders.



Top Photo: Wrapping Trim bundle.. Middle Photo: Metal Trim machines: Rat Guard, Ridge Cap, J Channel and Fascia Cover. Bottom Photo: Trim in racks.

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Left Photo: Metal Trim Bending Machine. Right Photo: Acu-Form Metal Trim Cutter



Left Photo: Trimmed Metal ready to be wrapped and picked up or delivered. Right Photo: Trim Coil and Lumber.



Left Photo: Variety of Trimmed Metal, Bent and wrapped, also sheet metal. Right Photo: Sheet Metal on racks.



Left Photo: Metal bent for all uses and bubble wrap rolls. Center Photo: Garage Door packages. Right Photo: Lumber being moved inside warehouse.

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## Outdoors



With Rich Creason

### Elk Numbers Rising in the East

"To ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat, and our hunting heritage". That is the mission statement of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. A simple statement, but a hard task to accomplish. But this is what the RMEF has been doing for over 30 years.

Almost 20 years ago, I received a call from Don Blakley, who was at that time, a Regional Director for the Foundation. He was starting a new chapter of the RMEF in East Central Indiana. Several men from the Anderson, Muncie, and Winchester area were meeting and he somehow found my name. He asked if I would come to the meeting as a journalist and get the group some local publicity. Being the dummy that I am, I thought I could attend the meeting, write a story about what happened there, and be done. Wrong!

Somehow, I was persuaded to join the committee and the first fundraising banquet of the newly formed chapter was held in Muncie on August 26, 2000. February 4 of 2017 will be the date of our 18th Annual Banquet and Fundraiser. I am still on that committee, having been Chapter Chairman for most of those years. Wayne Hogg of Winchester, who was also a charter member way back then, is also still on our committee.

Over these many years, I have seen the RMEF continue to grow and accomplish its mission statement. I was so impressed with their work that after my first year, I signed up as a Life Member. While I have only hunted elk one time, and never took a shot, while sitting on the side of a Colorado mountain hearing a wild elk bugle, I knew why they were working so hard to save these animals.

Back in the late 1900's, the RMEF returned elk to the mountains of Kentucky. I don't know if anyone dreamed how successful that stocking would be. In 20 years, the elk have not only filled the planned area of habitat allotted, but also have filled the surrounding buffer zone because of their population explosion. Mild winters, abundant food, and few predators accounted for this. Hunting was opened and bulls with huge racks were taken.

Now, just two decades later, elk are being trapped in Kentucky and relocated to other eastern states, hopefully to have the same success as our neighbor to the south did. The RMEF has helped



This 6 X 6 bull elk bugles his challenge to any and all comers. The sound of this echoing through the mountains is unforgettable. (Photo by Fred McClanahan, Jr.)

return or expand herds in Ontario, Arkansas, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and hopefully soon in New York, and West Virginia. No, Indiana doesn't have, and probably never will have, wild elk reestablished here. Partly because of the human population and the lack of the huge wild spaces required by these animals, we just don't have the proper habitat for their success.

But, you may ask, "Why should I support an organization like RMEF when Indiana doesn't have any elk?" Go back to the first sentence of this story. "To ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat, and our hunting heritage." Are you interested in whitetail or mule deer? Turkey? Bear? Pronghorn? Ducks? Will you or your children ever want to fish for trout in a mountain stream?

Habitat is also necessary for birds, butterflies, and rainbow darters. A mountain meadow looks better full of wildflowers than condominiums. Not only western states benefit from the good works of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Here in Indiana, we receive money in the form of grants to Women in the Outdoors, 4-H Shooting Sports, Archery in the Schools, Hunters Feeding the Hungry, and many more worthwhile organizations.

The RMEF has protected more than 1.1 million acres of critical wildlife habitat in 22 states as of the summer of 2016. They have opened or secured public access to almost one million acres across elk habitat. A lot of money comes to the Foundation from the efforts of volunteers in over 500 chapters across the country and legacies left from private benefactors.

But is this money being spent wisely? Apparently Charity Navigator thinks so. Go to [www.charitynavigator.com](http://www.charitynavigator.com) and see that the RMEF is rated four star, with over 90% of the funds coming in are actually used to support the mission. Log on to [www.rmef.org](http://www.rmef.org) to find out more facts and figures about the organization and

what it does.

How can you as an individual support the RMEF? For \$35 a year, you can become an RMEF member. Plus, right here in Indiana, there are many chapters which hold fundraisers to support the cause. Chapters are in Elkhart, Terre Haute, Evansville, Indianapolis, Valparaiso, Bloomington, Columbus, Lafayette, and Ft Wayne is in the process of restarting their chapter. Of course, my favorite is here in the East Central Indiana area. Our annual banquet will be on Saturday, February 4, 2017, in Pendleton.

We will have a live auction with around 35 items, a silent auction with probably 60 choices, and numerous assorted raffles. We are offering guns, fishing tackle, hunting and camping gear, a MEC 12 gauge reloader, Vera Bradley, Kitchen Aid and other ladies items. Our auction will include a Bradley Smoker, Golf for 4 at Hawkstail in Greenfield, fishing trips to Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee, Musky fishing in Indiana, walleye in the UP of Michigan, and lodging at Sportsman's Lodge on Lake of the Woods in Minnesota. We have donated certificates for Wolverine, Danner, and LaCrosse boots.

We will have autographed books from several outdoor writers, cast iron cookware, knives, elk, deer, turkey, and predator calls, jewelry, kid's items, and even a certificate for a visit to the hypnotist to stop smoking or lose weight. (I went to him and lost 22 pounds!) Our event includes a catered sit-down meal. For more information or an invitation to our event, contact me at **765-649-8482** or at my email below.

Our grandson, Benjamin, is now 11 years old and wants me to take him to Hunter Ed and start him hunting. With groups like the RMEF around, he will have the opportunity to do so for many years.

The author may be reached at [eyewrite4u@aol.com](mailto:eyewrite4u@aol.com).

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Left Photo: My dad has been fixing old sleds for two decades. This is an old picture of him on a Panther snow machine he helped get running. (Author Photo)



Right Photo: This was our old Kawasaki Drifter. As you can see, we pull people on tubes in the snow. (Author Photo)

## Adventures in Indiana



With Cole King

## Tis The Season For Snowmobiling

Well, it's that time of year again. Trade in your flip flops for snow boots and hope you have enough wood for the stove. Although the Farmers' Almanac isn't calling for an extremely harsh winter, you never know when one good snow storm could blow in. So, keep a cup of hot chocolate on stand-by.

Ever since I can remember, my dad has always had a knack for fixing up old snow mobiles. He takes a lot of pride in pulling old snowmobiles out of barns and repairing them, because some of them may not have seen the light of day in ten years. He is full of quirky little phrases when it comes to the hobby, and one of his favorites is "Ride it for a half hour, work on it for four." When I was about four years old, the first thing I ever drove was a 1980s SkiDoo Citation 3500 that my dad had brought back to life. I can remember many vintage sleds moving through our household, whether they be a money maker or a fun piece for us to have. Dad had been doing this long before I was born, and I have heard countless stories of 60's and 70's machines he regrets selling. Now, I have a mid 80's Yamaha Excel III. I bought this sled two to three years ago via Craigslist in

Crawfordsville. Just like all of our other patients, it didn't run either, but dad got her purring like a kitten. I always sit around waiting for the first opportunity to ride, but the rule of thumb in the King household is "No snowmobiling until there are three inches of snow on the ground." I can recall first getting my Yamaha, I was so excited after every little flurry I would run outside with a ruler and stick it in the snow. Finally, my chance came, and I am still in love with that machine. It has always been a reliable and fun sled, and I am proud to call myself its owner. Unfortunately, at the end of last winter, it started having some trouble running, so needless to say, I will be tinkering on that before the first snow. My father has again upgraded to a 1991 Polaris Indy Trail, bought from our friend "Rocko." Neither of our machines are show pieces, and they sure aren't new by any means. We look at it as a fairly cheap hobby that is a fun activity for everyone in the family. It is a way to get us out of the house when there is nothing better to do on a cold winter day. As we ride year after year, we adapt to the hobby a little bit more to make it more enjoyable. For instance, I started out just wearing our four wheeler helmets when we rode, but the goggles always fogged up and my face froze. Two years ago, my dad bought me a true snowmobiling helmet, fit with vents to prevent fog, and a full face mask to protect me from the wind. This year, someone may get a new pair of mittens for Christmas, or perhaps some thicker socks. One key aspect of snowmobiling is learning to roll with the punches. We have better gear to protect us from the cold, and we have learned to always carry a spare set of spark plugs just in case something happens. In worst case scenario, always carry a tow strap. (Unfortunately, it has been used a few times.)

Due to the age, our snowmobiles take a little work in the fall to get running again. When the temperatures start to drop and November comes to a close, we always pull our snowmobiles out of our lean-to, and inspect the engine for any signs of a mouse nest or any other problems. Part of the

fun in having vintage sleds is trying to get them to run again. Many things can go wrong on a snowmobile, and it is not always easy to find parts for a thirty year old contraption. In years before, we have always gone to Lost Lake for antique snowmobile parts, but unfortunately, the owner John Smith passed away and we are not aware of the status of the business. John was always kind and accommodating when it came to his shop, and I am sad to hear that he is no longer with us.

We have talked our friends into many other hobbies, and snowmobiling is just one more on the list. A while back, I found an old picture from the mid 1990's showing my father selling my uncle Brian a 1973 John Deere snowmobile. Two years ago, we talked our friend and neighbor Jay Bousman into buying a 1980s Scorpion TK440 a friend of a friend had sitting on a trailer behind his garage. The seat was torn, the windshield was missing, and when trying to move it, a mouse even ran out from under the hood. We got her running, and after a good waxing, she wasn't too bad to look at. Unfortunately, after several break downs on the trail, he sold this sled and hasn't bought another since. He may love the tube riding and the after-trip bonfires, but vintage sled owning is not for him. Even with unreliable old beaters, you can still have fun. Jay has an empty lot in his backyard, and we would always meet there on the weekends and pull each other behind the snowmobiles on inner tubes, sleds, or metal disks. Due to the lack of trust and age of the sleds, they are no longer worthy of the nice trails up north. So, Dad has always called the sleds we own "Indiana Ditch Bangers." If you scratch a ski, it's no big deal. We didn't get them off the show room floor, they are just meant to toy around with. These older sleds may be more work in the long run, but are a lot less stress and responsibility. No payments, no debt, no worries.

So this winter, don't be afraid to ask your friend or neighbor about that old snowmobile they have sitting out back. Dive in, get dirty, fix it, and have some fun. ■

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By focusing on food sources and not pushing too deep into the timber, the late season can be the right season - provided you can tough it out! (Author Photo)

fields well before legal shooting light ends.

Another trick I use during the muzzleloader season is to ditch my stand sites that are in the timber or on field edges. When it's cold and the rut is over, deer do not want to move a whole lot. Doing so requires energy and they know it. To conserve energy, they tend to bed very close to the food source. For example, the stand just inside the edge of the timber that was great during the rut and earlier may now right where the deer are bedding. They may no longer travel to the same bedding areas they once did in the early season, opting instead to now bed

# Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

## Don't have a deer yet...Some of the best hunting is yet to come

There is no doubt that by now most of the deer in your hunting area have become quite reclusive after being hunted for two solid weeks by a barrage of gun hunters. After opening day, the general firearms deer season can be one of the hardest times to take a deer. Deer catch on quickly and after only a day or so of the onslaught of the orange clad army, they realize what's up and go on the down-low until the madness is over.

The good news, however, is that once the general firearms season has ended, most of the hunters are out of the woods for what could be one of the best times to tag a great buck. Less hunters in the woods allows the deer herd to return to some sense of normalcy. Consider this: The vast majority of the deer harvest takes place during the shortest season – the general firearms season. This means that most hunters have gotten their deer by now. Also, the weather during the muzzleloader and late archery seasons can sometimes be downright bru-

tal, keeping many would-be hunters indoors. But don't let that get you down; this is one of the best times to wrap your tag around a trophy buck – or plump doe – for that matter.

During the black powder and late archery seasons, concentrate on hunting food sources. Deer in general, but especially bucks, have to obey their stomachs this time of year if they want to survive the winter. During the rigors of the rut, bucks may go two weeks or more without really eating as they are constantly on the move searching for receptive does– losing as much 20% to 25% of their body weight. For this reason, their number one priority Come January is strictly to put that weight back on. Once you have found their preferred food sources, keying in on them should eventually put a deer in your sights. Picked corn fields are a favorite late season food source for deer as they scour the earth for any spilled corn. So are standing soybean and winter wheat fields, so if you do not plant food plots, don't worry. In the Midwest, crop fields are easy to come by. If there is snow on the ground, it is very easy to see if deer have been feeding in the field or not. Areas that have been dug out while they search for and/or munch on grain are quite noticeable in snow.

I prefer hunting evenings in the late season. Since you are keying in on food sources at this time of year, I have discovered that morning hunts usually are not quite as productive as afternoon ones. That is not to say that morning hunts can't pay off, I just feel that the odds are better in the afternoons. I have discovered you have a better chance of spooking them while trying to slip into your stand on morning hunts during the late season as you will generally have to either cross a grain field or skirt the edge of one to get to your stand and if the deer are in them, your chances diminish. Also, the deer don't seem to move as early in the mornings in the late season but you can almost set your watch to them in the afternoons, often times entering the

near the field. For this reason, consider staking out in a fence row. Or a field edge is fine, but make sure it is one you can get to easily and undetected. Don't walk along an entire section of timber. A corner of a block of timber would be a better bet.

I remember one season several years ago when a buddy called me up on the evening before the last day of muzzleloader season (the season ended on Christmas Eve that year) and asked if I was deer hunting the next day. "Nah, I think I will go ice fishing instead," Was my reply. My buddy emphatically reminded me that the following day would be my last chance to muzzleloader hunt for the year and that I would have the rest of the winter to ice fish. "I haven't seen a buck in three weeks," I gasped. "Tomorrow could be the day," he replied.

So, reluctantly, I went deer hunting that day. Before the hunt was over, I had a buck on the

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ground. It doesn't always work out that way, but it can. Muzzleloader and late archery seasons can be some of the most brutal and challenging, but they can also pay off big. Whether you kill a deer or not, just being in the woods enduring the conditions while enjoying the sheer nakedness of the landscape drenched in wintery bliss should make the hunt worth it.

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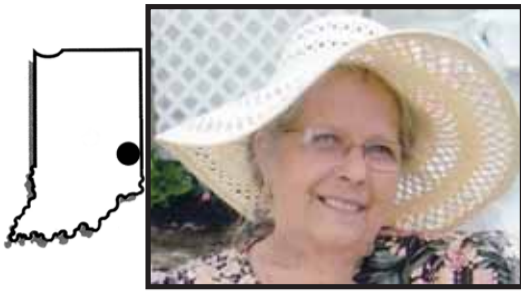
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**Visit Fayette County, IN For The Fun Of It!**



by Donna Schroeder  
 President of Fayette County Tourism Bureau

**THE NOVEL FUNERAL**

I don't know how many of you share my love of the past, but during the long, cold days of winter, it's time for me to turn my attention to genealogy. I'm also quite fond of City Cemetery in Connersville, one of our local historic treasures, so a tale that combines the two is a source of great enjoyment for me.

This month's story involves one of my distant relatives and happened in the 1890's. I like it because it shows how gossipy the press was in those days. I don't think any relatives would be offended by my sharing, but I've changed the names and omitted dates - just in case.

The following articles appeared in the local newspapers of the day.

**THE OBITUARY**

Miss Sally Smith died at her home on West Second Street at 12:45 o'clock this Wednesday morning. She had been a sufferer for several months. The disease lately manifested itself in the right lung and was the cause of her death.

She had been a member of the Presbyterian church for several years and had ever been a prominent Sunday school and society worker for the church of her choice.

The funeral services will be conducted from the late residence by Rev. Jones at four o'clock Friday afternoon. Burial in city cemetery.

**MISS SALLY SMITH HAS A NOVEL FUNERAL**

Miss Sally Smith who died here last week was a queer character. She requested before she died that her remains be "laid out" on the piano and instead of a funeral sermon, a temperance lecture be delivered as if she herself were doing the talking. Her instructions were carefully carried out. In life she was a

music teacher - enthusiastic, and also an indefatigable worker in the cause of temperance - a strict prohibitionist. After death came, kind friends placed the body on the piano which she loved so well.

When the undertaker came with the cooling board, the corpse was placed thereon and then the board with its occupant was deposited on the piano. There temperance lecture was delivered by Rev. Jones, an ardent Prohibitionist and strictly in compliance with the request of the deceased. The pall bearers were also fervid workers in the cause of temperance.

**MISS SALLY SMITH'S WILL**

The last will of Miss Sally Smith was submitted to probate, to-day. Even by this, her uncompromising attitude and unusual zeal for the cause of temperance were shown. Throughout her life her greatest efforts were expended in labors in the W.C.T.U. After her death, her pall bearers, as published in this paper, were chosen from the Prohibitionists, as was the officiating minister. As a final act her estate is disposed of to the interest of this work. The W.C.T.U. Industrial School for girls at Hadley, Indiana, is given the house and lot owned by her in this city, being part of lot No. 70 in Harlan's plat. The proceeds of said lot are to be applied to the erection of a dormitory for the school. All of the residue of her real estate she bequeaths to the trustees of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Indiana to carry on the work of said union.

All of her personal property she bequeaths to her mother, Clara Smith, who is also named executrix of the will.

**SMITH WILL CASE**

Has Been Compromised and Property Returned  
 Clarence Conner, attorney for B. A. Smith in the matter of breaking the will of the late Sally Smith, went to Indianapolis, Saturday, and met the trustees of the Women's Christian Temperance Union at the office of W. F. McCoy, and completed a compromise, B. A. Smith receiving a quit claim deed for all property willed to the organization by the late Sally Smith. The will being allowed stand. Mr. Smith then dismissed the suit. Sally Smith was a peculiar character, and the complaint alleged she was of unsound mind when the will was made, she making a disposition of a good deal of property to the Women's Christian Temperance Union, hence the action. It is said that many stories in circulation in regard to her request to be "laid out" on a piano, etc., were entirely false, and emanated from the fact that she was very eccentric.

SO - was she laid out on her beloved piano? The facts are lost to time, as none of my family knows the true story. It seems that, like today, the media recognized this type of story would sell newspapers. These days, I'm sure the story would be all over the internet, as well.

Sally rests in City Cemetery. A small stone marks the spot, and you would never guess that her death attracted such notice. That's why I love the time consuming process of genealogy. You never know which story will make you smile or bring a tear to your eye.

The next time you're in our fair city (or anywhere that there's a picturesque cemetery), pause a moment and consider that every person there had a story to tell - or one that was told about him/her.

As always, we invite you to visit Fabulous Fayette County!

Wishing you and yours a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year!

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Freezin' For A Reason mascot "Paw Bear" with supporters of the 2017 Polar Plunge to be held at Whitewater State Park standing in front of Frame's Outdoor where the after plunge party will take place free to plungers and costs \$5 for all others.



L to R: Lonnie Snow, Wayne County Special Olympics Coordinator, Special Olympics mascot "Paw Bear," (Lonnie's wife Sonie Snow in costume), Richmond Mayor Dave Snow a big supporter of the plunge and Beth Schweigel in Mayor Snow's office in Richmond.



### The Polar Plunge is coming to Liberty: Be ready to take the Plunge

Photos and Article by Lonnie Snow

Our very fist Polar Plunge will happen at Whitewater Memorial State Park on February 25, 2017. Please join our mascot "Paw Bear" and our Special Olympics Team in supporting this great event with all donations going to support athletes in our county as well across the state of Indiana. Special Olympics provide those athletes with intellectual and physical disabilities with an opportunity to participate in several sports at a local level, area, and state competitions. This event has raised over 4 million dollars since it began in 2000 for Indiana Special Olympics. The Polar Plunge raised over \$650,000 dollars last year.

This is all about Family fun and our communities joining together to make a difference in the lives of Special Olympics athletes. There will be an after Bash Splash Party at Frames Outdoors Archery Range after the plunge. There will be hot drinks, food awards, door prizes and a silent auction at this event.

Indiana counties joining to highlight this event in our communities are Union, Franklin, Fayette, Shelby, Rush, Wayne, and Decatur. You can participate as an individual or form a team to take the plunge. The cost is \$75.00 for 18 and over, \$50.00 for students over 12. You can visit the Indiana



Freezin' For A Reason mascot "Paw Bear" with a young girl on its lap at Christmas In Our Home Town celebration in Liberty December 3, 2016

Special Olympics web page at [soindiana.org](http://soindiana.org) for more details and photos of past Polar Plunge Events. If your business or organization would like to make a donation or participate in this event please contact: Lonnie Snow, Wayne County Special Olympics County Coordinator Ph. 765-732-3636 e-mail [lsnow1952@yahoo.com](mailto:lsnow1952@yahoo.com).

**LIBERTY INDIANA POLAR PLUNGE**  
Date: February 25th, 2017  
Plunge Time: 11:00 am  
After Plunge at Frames Outdoors 12:30pm  
OUR GOAL IS \$20,000.00

Plunge participants, raising a minimum of \$75.00 in pledges, take a quick dip into the ice cold waters

of Whitewater Memorial State Park. – Often dressing in costumes to make the "bucket list" as a memorable as possible. We will have heated facilities to change clothes in and restrooms available.

Participants must be at least 12 years old on the day of the plunge. Participants under 18 years of age must have a signature from a parent or guardian. The waiver can be downloaded at [www.soindiana-rod.org/polarplunge](http://www.soindiana-rod.org/polarplunge)

#### Polar Plunge Prizes

- Raise a minimum \$75.00 and receive the official Polar Plunge long sleeved t-shirt
- Raise \$300.00 - \$499.00 and receive the official Polar Plunge beach towel
- Raise \$500.00 - \$999.00 and receive embroidered Polar Plunge Backpack
- Raise \$1,000.00 - \$1,999.00 and receive Polar Plunge Hoodie or Duffle bag
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Special Olympics mascot "Paw Bear" standing with members of the Liberty Fire Department at the annual Christmas In Our Home Town celebration in Liberty, Indiana December 3, 2016.



The Glisson Family Express taking children for a ride at the Christmas In Our Home Town celebration in Liberty on Union Street. Special Olympics mascot "Paw Bear" the center of attraction as the barrels circle her carrying laughing riders.

A Team is a group of 10 or more who plunge together.

This event is open to the public and all spectators are welcome.. There is an after plunge party at Frames Outdoors just north of the park entrance. This is free to all plungers and cost \$5.00 for all others. You will receive your awards at the after plunge party. Music, food, drinks, door prizes and a silent auction will be provided. **WE WILL BE RECOGNIZING OUR SPONSORS.**

**REMEMBER YOU ARE FREEZIN FOR A REASON: SUPPORT SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF INDIANA AND LOCAL COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS PROGRAMS.**

Contact: Lonnie Snow  
lsnow1952@yahoo.com or 765-732-3636

**Additional Information Liberty Polar Plunge**  
Saturday, February 25, 2017  
Registration and Check-in  
Plunge 11:00 a.m.  
Whitewater Memorial State Park  
1418 South State Road 101  
Liberty, In 47353

Support Special Olympics Indiana by joining the fun of the Polar Plunge. Join us for this extreme fundraising event for the warm at heart.

Participants must raise a "bear" minimum of \$75 (\$50 minimum for students with a student I.D.) to take a daring dip into Indiana's winter waters. All funds raised by the event benefit Special Olympics Indiana.

Register online or get the App  
[www.polarplungin.org](http://www.polarplungin.org)

**Virtual Plunger**

Get the "thrill" without the "chill"! Sign up today to be a part of the virtual plunger program. Participants are eligible for the Plunge incentive items starting at the \$75 level to receive the souvenir t-shirt.

**Super Plunger Program**

Only for the bravest souls and the warmest hearts, the Super Plunger program dares participants to go beyond the call of duty. Contact Scott Furnish to learn more about the Super Plunger program and meet a few of our Hall of Famers who plunged multiple times in one year and raised more than \$4,000 to benefit Special Olympics Indiana.

**News From The Indiana State Police**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

medic for New Castle EMS until attending the State Police Academy. Burns will also be assigned to work Wayne, Fayette and Union Counties.

The two new troopers will put their recruit academy training to work in the field as they begin 12 weeks of field training, where they will be paired with experienced troopers specially trained to serve as Field Training Officers. Upon successful completion of the field training program, they will be issued their own police cars and begin solo patrol responsibilities.

Thanks for reading and for allowing all of us here at ISP to serve all of you. All of us here at the Pendleton Post would like to wish all of you a Merry and safe Christmas.

**Tree City Metal Sales**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

previously scheduled.

Tree City Metal Sales has been advertising in The Gad-a-bout for quite a long time. One thing I noticed right off Steve, his daughter, Amy and son, Stephen keep very busy.

I was really impressed when I was taking these photos, Steve has equipment that can do anything when it comes to forming it for builders or contractors. I was amazed listening when Steve got a call in a matter of seconds he wrote down the order. He jotted down type, size, grade, etc., then told the customer when the item would be ready for pickup or when it will be delivered. One call in particular he wrote down the special order and told the caller it would be cut, bent and ready in an hour. Could you ask for better service then that? Now days I think it's incredible.

Tree City Metal Sales is very easy to find, see below and see map on page 8).

From Indianapolis take US 52 southeast to Rushville turn right onto SR 3 drive south, continue south thru SR 244 intersection, than you will cross the Little Flatrock river, watch for the road sign 650 North on your right, turn right and right into Tree City Metal Sales entrance (there is a white fence around their buildings).

From Cincinnati, OH take I-74 west to Greensburg exit at SR 3 north, continue north through the town of

Sandusky, watch for the road sign 650 North on your left, turn left onto 650 North and turn right into Tree City Metal Sales (there is a white fence around their buildings).

From Louisville, KY take I-65 north to Exit 9, turn right onto US 31 north, turn right onto SR 403 which turns into SR 3 in Charlestown. Stay on SR 3 around Greensburg continue north through the town of Sandusky, watch for the road sign 650 North on your left, turn left onto 650 North and turn right into Tree City Metal Sales (there is a white fence around their buildings).

From Fort Wayne take I-69 south to exit 86 turn right onto SR 3 south bypass Muncie stay on SR 3 thru Rushville, continue south thru SR 244 intersection, than you will cross the Little Flatrock river, watch for the road sign 650 North on your right, turn right and right into Tree City Metal Sales entrance (there is a white fence around their buildings).

**Roaming The Outdoors**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

I consider it an honor to publish this historical article, especially considering that period of our American History that is hard to believe our forefathers were so cruel to our Indian forefathers.....

**2017 CINCINNATI SPORT, BOAT & TRAVEL SHOW**

The 2017 Cincinnati Sport, Boat & Travel Show will be held at the Duke Energy Convention Center in downtown Cincinnati January 13-15 & 18-22 Presented by RAM @... 60 years and still turning pages! We're all about playing on the water, playing over water, playing in the water, and playing around the water! For more information log onto <http://cincinnatiboatshow.com/>.

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# Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

## Deer Hunting From The Porch

Every year at this time hunters anxiously await the opening of deer season. Bows are tuned and arrows sharpened, muzzle loaders cleaned and sighted in and now with new rules for firearms in place, legal high caliber ammunition is disappearing off the shelves. Camo comes out of the closet and tree stands go up. Opening day finds hunters up before dawn and in their stands watching for the big buck or a fat doe to add to the freezer. In some state parks, burgeoning deer populations have necessitated allowing hunts to reduce the herd to avoid starvation from an inadequate food supply and the risk of too many deer roaming the roads surrounding the parks.

I'm not a deer hunter for a number of reasons. We don't have a freezer large enough to hold all the meat from a kill and I'm not about to spend seven hundred dollars for a larger freezer, not to mention what it would cost to process one and the cost of the license and doctor bills to cure pneumonia from sitting in a tree stand in a freezing rain. Also, from other past experiences with buck fever, I know I couldn't hit a bull elephant in the bum with an M60 mounted on a tripod. However, due to certain circumstances, I may be forced to change my mind about deer hunting.

We moved to LakeWoe BeGone nine years ago where one stand of old growth trees left almost two acres of lawn to decorate. I planted twenty 12" tall white pines, a curly willow, four peach trees, a lone Norwegian spruce, two Bradford pears, two white spruce and a tree of some kind that keeps our annual swarm of Japanese beetles happy. By my calculations, on my 115th birthday I would be able to sit on the porch and gaze out across our vast estate of

mature tree covered acreage. The local deer population had other plans.

The following spring I noticed a reduction in the number of trees with any greenery on them. A number of the pines and three of the peach trees looked like stick figures, their greenery gone. Also, for the entire winter the ground around the bird feeders looked like battle zones from all the deer tracks. That first summer we lost over half of the pines while the peach trees struggled and spit out a new crop of leaves even though they hadn't grown an inch in height due to being nibbled. By the end of the next spring all but one of the pines were gone and I had given up all hope of enjoying peach cobbler even though one peach tree appeared to be immune to attack and was actually growing. Desperate to save the scrawny remains I surrounded them with mesh which ended up being strewn all over the yard and wrapped around lawn mower blades. The curly willow had fallen victim to a buck who used it to rub off its antlers, resulting in a broken main trunk. I wrote it off as a loss but it struggled back and recovered the next summer. By the fifth summer the last pine was gone, the curly willow looked like an explosion in a mattress factory, the Norwegian spruce had been totally destroyed and removed and all the bark on the Japanese beetle tree had been rubbed off. Apparently, deer don't like the taste of Bradford pear or white spruce as these trees are healthy and growing. Also, the lone remaining peach tree finally spit out what looked like peaches, although they were so hard and the same size, they could have been good substitutes for golf balls. Even the deer wouldn't eat them although some other critter did.

I start my days early with a cup of coffee, sitting on the front porch at sunrise and watching the wildlife. Waterfowl, birds and those cute little nuisance rodents called chipmunks (that's another story) help welcome another day. Nothing compares to the morning sound of geese and the gentle pitter-patter of tiny clawed feet as a chipmunk scurries under your chair on its way to its burrow in the front flower bed with a section of insulation from a wire under the hood of your car in its mouth. On the other hand, deer are an exception to this tranquil scene. They often come across our yard in their trip back from the lake and stop to inspect what's left of our trees. That's when this peaceful scene is interrupted by screams of "Giddouddahere you scruffy flea bags"! Lately I've been considering whether to use the .308 or the .270 and what kind of a bargain I might get on a good used deep freeze. ■

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Left Photo: This is the Mesa Tactical aftermarket shotshell carrier with an integrated picatinny rail. Its mounting system makes for a solid platform for mounting a scope or red dot on your shotgun. This picture is from the Mesa Tactical's on line catalog. <https://mesatactical.com/products/category/shell-carriers-with-integrated-picatinny-rail/>. Right Photo: A Chicago style screw cutout to view the method of attachment. Basically it is a post with female threads for a male threaded screw? (Author Photos)

## Random Notes from: Prairie Wolf Gun Repair



by Marshall Smith

Gunsmith, NRA Life Member, Retired LEO

### GUNSMITHING

I had another interesting job come into the shop this last month. It was a Remington 870 12 gauge that had a folding stock and a Mesa Shell carrier scope mount added to convert it to a tactical style shotgun. The complaint was that the safety was too hard to work. It was, for all intent and purpose, frozen in place. It had been placed into the safe position and couldn't be pushed off. I had to use a hammer and brass punch to move it. The 870 can be disassembled easily for cleaning. After checking to make sure the gun is unloaded and the chamber is clear by sliding the pump action open. The move the slide forward about halfway, then unscrew and remove the magazine cap. Next grab the barrel between the muzzle and the magazine tube and pull the barrel off. Push the action bar fully forward and then depress the left shell latch inside the receiver. Now you can pull the action bar and bolt assembly out of the receiver. Next you'll want to remove the trigger assembly by pressing out the front and rear trigger plate pins.

The trigger assembly can now be removed from the receiver, pulling the rear of the assembly down and forward and it will rotate out. This is as far as you need to go to disassemble the gun for any maintenance and cleaning.

The owner had installed the aftermarket shotshell carrier with an integrated picatinny rail and an aftermarket folding stock with pistol grip. The shotshell carrier used Chicago screws to mount the device giving the picatinny rail a solid attachment to the receiver. For those of you who are not familiar with Chicago screws they are also described as a steel post, sex bolt, tee-nut, or binding post. The post can be made of steel, aluminum, brass, or plastic. In this instance the post was exactly the length needed to span across the receiver with out collapsing or crimping the receiver against the trigger plate. The folding stock with pistol grip was attached using the 870's stock attachment point and that was the problem.

How so, you ask? The pistol grip mounts directly behind the trigger plate and has a cutout to accept the trigger plate base. The cutout in the pistol grip was not cut to the correct size and when the stock screw was tightened down it forced the trigger plate forward binding the Chicago screws and the deforming trigger plate around the safety button freezing it and the pins in place. To correct the problem the cutout in the pistol grip had to be lengthened so as to give the trigger plate room to "float" on its pins.

Lesson here is that when adding aftermarket parts to your gun check and make sure that everything fits and functions correctly. The new plastics and fiber reinforced plastics used to make aftermarket parts and add ons change shape and size after molding. Many of those parts are not really a drop-in part and will need some fitting to function well. If you notice anything amiss after installing the parts and you're not sure of what is causing the problem, take it to a gunsmith to have

it installed.

### GUN RIGHTS

Michael Bloomberg is at it again using his over abundance of wealth to try and take away your right to protect yourself, to own a firearm. I can't go into the entire article here but get on your computer and go to this website to read what Bloomberg is up to. <http://www.buckeyefirearms.org/fake-grassroots-effort-take-your-guns>. If you don't have a computer or can't get to the library to use one of their computers send me a self-addressed and stamped envelope and I'll send you a copy of the article. In short the article describes how the Bloomberg machine is buying local failing anti-gun groups with large donations to the group and bringing in Bloomberg's professional lobbyists to lobby local businesses and governments to ban guns. Bloomberg is without a doubt a rights grabbing terrorist. Yes, I said Terrorists. They are pushing for gun free zones which quickly become the "Terrorist's Playground". That, in my opinion, makes Bloomberg and his cronies just as much a terrorist as those who follow the teachings and directions of ISIS or any other terrorist organization.

### Quote of the Month

"Let's make America Great Again" - President Elect Donald Trump, 2016

That's all for this month. These notes are mine alone and do not represent the opinion or position of anyone, just me. If you have a question or a comment on guns, gunsmithing, gun rights, or would like to just make a comment email me with your comments at [PrarieWolfGuns@gmail.com](mailto:PrarieWolfGuns@gmail.com). I'll try and answer your questions as best I can and some answers may be included in this column.

Remember, Be Safe, Be Aware, Be Responsible  
Marshall

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# Outdoors in The Whitewater Valley



by Dave Wilcox

## Things to do on a nasty day

Once we get Christmas and New Years behind us we are always looking for something to do. The days are short and usually nasty out. I try to find time to go through my fishing reels and also it is a good time clean the guns.

I start out on the fishing reels by taking off all of the line that is on the reel. Cause by the time you use it all summer the line is usually shot. Depends on what you are working on, a spin cast or spinning reel. I take them apart so I can get to the insides. I spray them down with WD-40 to get the old grease, dirt and sand out of them. It's handy to have an air tank to give 'em a shot of air and blow them out good. Then put a little reel grease on the gears and oil on the bearings, should be good to go and get it back together. Put new line on it and it will be ready to go fishing come spring.

I do about the same thing when I clean my guns. Lots of times if you hunt in bad weather you'll get moisture in places that you don't want it.

There is some oil that Remington has out called



Antion Parks caught this 10 pound Blue Cat on 12-3-16. (Dave's Triangle LLC Photo, Brookville Lake)

REM-Oil, I use it a lot. I think it works very well. I even use it on my fishing reels quite a bit.

I have found that if you use a heavy oil and are hunting in really cold weather it will slow the cycling of your gun down.

I have a little old Winchester 20 gauge automatic that will not operate right if I put heavy oil on it when it's cold outside. When I use the REM-Oil it never fails.

Hopefully every one had good holidays and are having a Happy New Year when you read this. It won't be long we'll be thinking about mushroom hunting.

The winter time is also a good time to catch up on inside chores.

Won't be long it will be time to go to the Indy Boat Show.



Here I am with my daughter Danielle who took this button buck on 11-13-16 in Union County. (Author Photo)

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## This is a Story as Related to Dave Wilcox by Denny Lee who was fishing on Whitewater Lake

I had been fishing at Whitewater State Park and since it was now getting late I turned on my trolling motor and headed back to the dock in my 8-foot, pond jumper boat. I tied up the boat and jumped out on the deck (well, "climbed" would be more appropriate to the 72-yr. old that I am!). I walked up to my car in the parking lot and opened the trunk, put on my waders, tossed my pants in the trunk then started to climb in the car when I noticed another fisherman attempting to load his boat on the trailer. I walked down to the ramp to help him load - because that's what boaters do - then turned and walked back to my car.

That's when my troubles began. Because, you see, I discovered my car was locked. And, in my haste to load, I had dumped my pants in the trunk and, of course, my keys were in my pants pocket. But no problem, right? I would just call my wife to bring me another set of keys....wrong! Guess where my phone was? Yeah, in my pants pocket....in the trunk... of a locked car. Well, luckily for me, the fisherman I had just helped load was still there and let me use his cell phone to call my wife. No problem! Well, there wouldn't have been a problem if she'd have answered her phone. But of course she didn't! She never answers her phone! Why does she have a cell phone if she never answers it??

Now, I thought to myself, what do I do? Graciously, the nice fisherman who loaned me his phone then offered to drive me home, even though it was totally out of his way since I lived in Everton and he lived in Richmond. (I wish I had thought to get his name so I could thank him properly for going out of his way to help an old fisherman.) But I sheepishly got into his truck and off we went.

Arriving home, I was in for another surprise because I found that my wife wasn't home, but I thanked the kind guy and assured him she would be home soon and sent him on his way. Now, it was really getting dark by this time and who knew where my wife was or when she would be home, but there I sat. Finally, about 9:00 pm in she drove. With the situation explained, I grabbed the second set of keys and off we went back to the lake. My troubles were over and a long day ending. Wrong!

It was now fully dark. But I got in my car and began backing the boat trailer down the ramp. About halfway down the ramp, my wife turned on her car lights to help me (she claimed) see where I was going. Unfortunately, the lights in my eyes only made it worse. As I was backing down, I thought to myself that I'd better straighten up my trailer and try again. So I put the car in forward and tried again to move back up the ramp. Only that didn't work because the tires were spinning and I was getting nowhere.

I opened the door just a crack to see where I was and water poured in. I struggled to get the door opened wider, but the car started sliding back from the pull of the trailer. As the water got deeper and deeper, I thought to myself that this just might be how the old guy goes down. Finally, getting my panic under control, I managed to shove the door open just wide enough to squeeze out and swim back to shore in that cold, cold water. By this time, my wife was out of the car and running toward the water. She grabbed me as I pulled myself out of the water and together we watched the car as it submerged, its lights still shining.

There we stood, the quiet dark night all around us, watching my boat sitting forlornly at the dock and my car sitting silently at the bottom of the lake - it's lights still shining - and I remember thinking what should I do next. Shivering so hard I could hardly walk, we got back to my wife's car, she turned the heater up full blast and I made the first call - on my wife's phone, of course, because mine was now at the bottom of the lake.

We called Strong's Body Shop in Connersville and explained what had happened. Strong's called the Liberty Fire Department who contacted their water rescue team and all were soon on their way. Our next call was to one of our sons, Bret, in Connersville who arrived shortly with some dry clothes. We had hardly finished explaining what had happened to him when all the commotion started: the Liberty Fire Department arrived with siren blaring and lights flashing, the Liberty Fire Department Rescue Team arrived with their scuba gear, the Liberty Police Department arrived, the State Conservation Department arrived followed by Strong's and their wrecker....for some reason they all kept their flashing lights on, I think it was to keep me feeling worse than I already did. All these guys were smiling and joking as they went about their business in a very accomplished fashion. One of the scuba divers explained this by commenting that this certainly wasn't the first time this had happened. I'm not sure if that made me feel better or worse....I just remember how dumb I felt. And it didn't help when a conservation officer walked toward me with his clipboard to get information. When he asked me what happened, I looked at him and just said, "I was stupid."

The scuba team dove down, attached a cable to the car and trailer so Strong's could haul them out with the wrecker. And, of course, my son had to really rub it in by posting pictures on Facebook of his father's latest escapade. But around midnight the excitement began to die down. By that time Strong's had loaded my car and was heading back to Connersville with it, the scuba divers had changed out of their gear, the fire department, police department and conservation officers had headed back to Liberty, and my wife and I were left alone there in the nice, warm car contemplating all that had happened and thinking how happy I was to be alive. Bret attached my trailer to his truck, backed down the ramp, loaded my boat & we all headed home around midnight.

I wish I could say that was the end of my humiliation but, ironically, it was just beginning. The next morning I arrived as usual at the Chrome Grill in Connersville where I meet my buddies, Joe and Troy, for breakfast every morning. Joe asked why I was driving a different car, and I told him I had car problems and that I didn't want to talk about it. Well, naturally, that answer just wasn't enough for my buddy Joe. He wouldn't let it go. He kept asking where my car was and what had happened. I finally told him it was at Strong's. Pretty soon, I looked up from eating my breakfast and both Troy and Joe had disappeared. Oh, brother! I knew exactly where they were. Adrian the waitress asked, "Now, where did they take off to?" I told her not to worry, that they'd be back before I drank my second cup of coffee. Sure enough, in they came and had the complete story. To this day, two years later, those guys haven't let me live this down. By the way, I now have a 4-wheel drive SUV. Oh yes, and a new phone. But there's another story about that, too! If there's a moral to this story as Forrest Gump says "Mama says, stupid is as stupid does."

**Editor Note: If you have an interesting story, send it in as a guest writer, it will appear when I have space. ■**



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This is a bald eagle that was perched high above a cottonwood tree that overlooks my pond. As I was pulling into my drive I noticed this big blur with a bright white spot and was amazed when I found it to be a bald eagle visiting my property! (Author Photos)



After retrieving my camera I captured a few still pictures of the eagle. However, as I approached him to try and get a better picture I spooked him and he went flying into the western sky. This picture illustrates how large the eagle was leaving my cottonwood tree.

# Great Lakes of the Wabash River - Fishing News



by Ryan Pershing  
Mgr of Bozarth Country Store

## Eagle Watch Returns

As we now enter the "off season" here at the Great Lakes of the Wabash and turn our focus to the cold wintry days ahead of us, I want to remind everyone there are still several opportunities to take advantage of and enjoy what these properties have to offer. As the temperatures begin to fall and we start to see the snow and ice return it also marks an increase in activities that are very popular to this area such as ice fishing, hunting, and snowmobiling. We are very fortunate to have the amount of land and resources available to us that allow us to enjoy the ability to get outside and do the things we love doing. Having three different properties (Salamonie, Mississinewa, and Roush), that provide an abundance of land and water all within a short drive of each other is a blessing in disguise for all of us outdoor enthusiasts.

In addition to the abundance of available land and water to take advantage of, we are also very fortunate to have the services of the Upper Wabash Interpretive Center. Armed with a very knowledgeable staff, the Interpretive Center which is located at the Salamonie Reservoir property provides several programs and activities that are very informative for all ages. One upcoming event I want to highlight is their annual Bald Eagle Watch. This is an annual event that takes place on Saturday, February 11th and again on Sunday, February 12th. The Eagle Watch has become a very exciting time for people

to gather and not only learn about the eagles but also witness them in their surroundings as you will be taken to several well-known spots to see them in action. The day will begin with a program at the Interpretive Center then will continue with a trip to not only see but learn all you want to know about the amazing eagle. There are no fees to attend this event and the Wabash Interpretive Center will have hot dogs and hot chocolate available for a free will donation. For more information you can contact the Upper Wabash Interpretive Center at (260) 468-2127.

I would like to add a few personal stories I have encountered with the eagles over the past few weeks that will help shed light on the efforts that was put forth to help reintroduce them into our areas. My first experience was an early day in November when I decided to take an evening and test my luck to catch some crappie below the bridge at State Road 105. I had been there for a little over an hour when I noticed some commotion happening above and when I looked up I saw two eagles soaring effortlessly directly above me and then I continued to look toward the west and noticed two more eagles. After having my attention, I had to take about a 10 minute break from fishing just to sit and watch them in action and I have to say it was truly amazing to witness their beauty in action. After witnessing these eagles and telling my family about the encounter, my luck continued the following day as I was heading home and as I entered my drive I happened to notice this big blur with a bright white spot sitting at the top of a very tall cottonwood tree that overlooks my pond behind my house. As I hit the brakes to see what was going on, lo and behold, it was indeed a massive bald eagle sitting right there in my tree looking every part of a brave and bold eagle. As you could imagine I rushed into my house to grab my camera and was able to snap a few shots of him before I spooked him and he drifted away ever so gently into the western sky.

These types of stories are becoming more and more steadily told in this

area and we have to be appreciative of the efforts put forth to help reintroduce these mighty birds back into our backyards and give people like us the chance to see them in action. If you have yet to take a moment and see these eagles in action then I highly encourage you to attend one of these events provided by the Interpretive Center and I believe you will not be let down. It is truly a wonderful moment to sit back, relax, and watch them do their magic.

In closing, I would like to take a moment and inform you of some dates to mark on your calendars as well as other events to look forward to in the near future. To start with you can mark your calendars for March 4th through March 12th as this will mark our annual Bozarth's Spring Tackle Sale. This is a great time to stock up for the year as well as to take advantage of the best prices of the year. We also plan to have a few seminars about fishing techniques courtesy of the Indiana Slab Masters. Details on these events will be coming soon so be sure to check in the upcoming editions for more information. Speaking of the Indiana Slab Masters, their upcoming 2017 schedule will be available on their website at [www.indianaslabmasters.com](http://www.indianaslabmasters.com) and does include a few events here at the Great Lakes of the Wabash. We also plan to have our Bozarth Crappie tournament dates finalized by the start of our spring tackle sale. As always, we would like to invite you to visit us here at Bozarth's Country Store where we have a store with a "bit of everything" and while you are shopping be sure to enjoy one of our several food options from our excellent menu. For more information you can contact us at (765) 981-4522. ■

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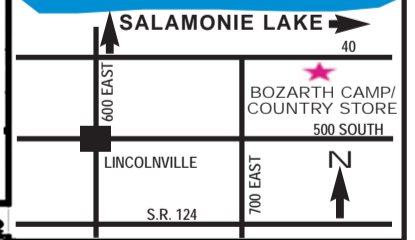
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**Indiana State Trappers Association**



by Dr. Fred Philips, DVM

**The Season Is On**

As you read this, the trapping season in Indiana is in full swing. Everything is open. I have even had a few people call me about finding trappers to do their trapping thing. Recently a person called a former member, who then called me, looking for several trappers because she had at least six (6) otter devouring the fish in her pond. Guess we didn't trap them all out last year. A few trappers were lined up, but I don't think they were all members of the ISTA either.

In talking with this former member, I asked why he still wasn't a member? His answer was that he had changed jobs and had no time to trap. What does that have to do with supporting trapping, I asked? Well..... It just so happened that I had another former member in my office a few days later. He asked me about the Indiana State Trappers Association (ISTA) some, and then told me that he had gotten out when the politics got too thick. Say what? That is exactly the time we need every person who sees nothing wrong with trapping, involved, or at least as a member. I have said it before, and I will say it again: Supporting trapping and the ISTA has absolutely nothing to do with personality conflicts. If you do not like something the Board has done or is doing, please feel free to let us know. You may not know all of the details of the decision, and learning of them may change the way you think. Better yet, run for office. Let the members elect you to the Board, but beware, if you do not get elected, don't take to social media berating those who did get elected. That does not support trapping and obviously the members chose your opponent over you. You should now support the Board and their actions even if you do not like one, or more, of the individuals. We have to stick together, and demonstrate that any anti-trapping issue will be fought by us. We cannot take the attitude of the ISTA may go its way, and I will go my way and not support the ISTA, or the FTA, or the NTA. And by all means, if you like what the Board is doing, let us know that too. It always reinvigorates me when I get a card from a member who thinks that we, the Board, are doing just fine.

**HIP HIP HOORAY!!**

Montana trappers defeated the I-177 bill that would have outlawed trapping and snaring on all public lands. Many trapping Associations, from across the country, supported the Montana Trappers

financially and mentally. The NTA got involved with its media experts and the FTA supplied a lot of money. Numberless individuals sent in what they could or held fundraisers in their communities to raise funds and get signed petitions to help support the trapping issue. After all it involved PUBLIC lands. They won. We won. But this was only one battle, the war wages on, and without your support of the trapping organizations, eventually the anti will win.

**On another note, there will be no fur sale by the ISTA in January, 2017.**

There will be an ISTA fur sale on **FEBRUARY 11, 2017**

At the Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1079 W. 200 N., Peru, IN 46970. The doors will open at 8 am with a setup similar to last year where the fur moves toward the sellers sitting at the east end. Everything else should work out as it did last year. Bring that extra skin or two to donate to the ISTA so that we will be able to continue to do what we do.

**Please spread the word. February 11th, 2017, same place, same time.**

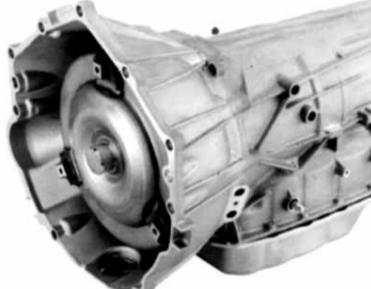
Also, we are looking for eight (8) vendors / tail-gater's who will to pay \$25 for a @12' X 12' spot inside the building to sell whatever they have to offer. Tables and chairs will be provided. They will be against the north and south walls of this building. Their fees will essentially pay for our use of the building. Tube steaks, buns, condiments, coffee and soft drinks will be provided as usual and Free Will offerings / donations toward them will be accepted. We could use some new blood to help run this event, especially, a couple of teams to list the fur and help out in general in moving the fur. Let us know at the door or give me a call at **765.938.1806**.

Thank you for your support of the ISTA.

Watch your top knot. Keep your eyes along the skyline.

Fred "DR" Philips, DVM  
 Pres. ISTA

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# The Potawatomi Trail of Death is a Regional Historic Trail

## Part 1

By Shirley Willard

### About the author:

Shirley Willard, Rochester, Ind., was president of Fulton County Historical Society for 30 years, 1971-2001. During this time she led the group to found the Trail of Courage Living History Festival in 1976, build a new museum in 1987, move a round barn in 1990, and move 12 old buildings for a living history village called Loyal, Indiana. (See [www.fulton-countyhistory.org](http://www.fulton-countyhistory.org).) She has been Fulton County Historian since 1982. She and her husband have traveled the Trail of Death many times with Potawatomi who are descendants of those on the 1838 trek. Working with the Potawatomi, the Willard's have been instrumental in getting the Trail of Death recognized as a Regional Historic Trail and getting 80 historical markers and 150 historic highway signs erected to mark the original 1838 route. (See [www.potawatomi-tda.org](http://www.potawatomi-tda.org).)

### In box introduction:

Indian removal, emigration, Trail of Tears, Trail of Death, The Long Walk – these are names given to the terrible journeys the American Indians were forced to walk from their homes in the woodlands and forests of the East and Midwest to the plains of Kansas and Oklahoma in the 1800s. Beginning in 1820 with the removal of the Delaware, the forced removals continued from Indiana with removals of Potawatomi and Miami until 1851.

The worst removal in Indiana was the one in 1838, known today as the Trail of Death. Not nearly as well known as the Cherokees' Trail of Tears, which also began in the fall of 1838, the Trail of Death was the forced march of the Potawatomi from northern Indiana to eastern Kansas.

### The beginning of the article:

History can be very cruel! Today's headlines keep us reeling with terrorist attacks, murders and child abuse. In the 1830s the big topic was Indian removal. Sad to say, the cruelties of history have not always been somewhere else; sometimes they took place in Indiana, a generally peaceful and tranquil rural state.

In the fall of 1838 a terrible thing happened right here in Indiana. A group of peaceful American Indians were rounded up by soldiers (actually volunteer militia, forerunner of the National Guard) and forced to march from Indiana to Kansas. It is called the Trail of Death because 42 died of the 859 who started out. There were many removals from Indiana from 1820 to 1851 but on most of them, no one died. On others only a couple of people died. The Trail of Death was so named because more died on that 1838 removal than any other removal from Indiana, but not near as many as on the Cherokee Trail of Tears, which took place at the same time.

General John Tipton, Logansport, was sent by Indiana Governor David Wallace to round up the Potawatomi Indians and take them to the state line. On Sept. 5, 1838, the Potawatomi were marched at gunpoint down Rochester's Main Street single-file. Menominee and two other chiefs were transported in a jail wagon. William Polke of Rochester was the federal conductor from the Indiana state line on to Kansas. Polke's house is preserved by the Fulton

County Historical Society beside its Round Barn Museum. Polke had been a missionary to the Indians and was known to be their friend. He and Father Benjamin Petit did all they could to help, but many Indians died of fever, probably typhoid, on the 660 mile trek to Kansas. Father Petit died on the way back at St. Louis, Missouri. A historical marker and map to honor Petit was erected beside the Fulton County Museum. An identical marker was placed at the Jesuit Archives in St. Louis.

They were known as the Mission Band, Wabash Band or St. Joseph Band in Indiana. But today most of the Trail of Death descendants are members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation with headquarters in Shawnee, Oklahoma. They signed a new treaty in 1861 that made them U.S. citizens, hence the name Citizen Band Potawatomi. (In 1996 they changed their name to Citizen Potawatomi Nation.) But some chose to stay in Kansas and are members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi with headquarters in Mayetta, Kansas. Some fled north from the round up in 1838 and joined the group that is now the Pokagon Potawatomi in Michigan. Some went further north to join the Forest County Potawatomi in Wisconsin and/or the Potawatomi Band of Canada. Some joined the Kickapoo's and went to Mexico.

Forty treaties were signed by Potawatomi, more treaties than any other U.S. Indian tribe. There were Potawatomi warriors in many battles, both won and lost by the Indians. Some Potawatomi from the territory that became Indiana fought in the Battle of Fallen Timbers in Ohio in 1794. There were many Potawatomi in the Battle of Tippecanoe when Tecumseh's brother, Tenskwatawa The Prophet, was defeated by General William Henry Harrison in November 1811. Potawatomi fought on the side of Tecumseh and the British in the War of 1812. Potawatomi were in on the fighting at the siege of Fort Dearborn (Chicago) and Fort Wayne in 1812.

But 24 years later they were living peacefully in northern Indiana and southern Michigan, trying to be farmers and adjust themselves to living among white men. Many of them had been baptized by Baptist and Catholic missionaries. Some of the old warriors, such as Chief Kee-wau-nay, were still alive and were forced to move west in the 1830s.

The treaties of 1836 made at the Tippecanoe River north of Rochester were not treaties to end war but to force the Indians to give up their land and leave Indiana. The Potawatomi signers of the treaties sold their lands for 50 cents to \$1 an acre and agreed to move west in two years. Menominee and several other chiefs tried but were unable to get the treaties rescinded, even though it was true that the treaties were a fraud. They were told by lawyers that if they could get it into court, the treaties would be invalidated. The treaties of 1836 became known as the Whiskey Treaties because whiskey was given liberally to get the Indians to sign. Many Indians who signed did not live here but came to collect the gold payment. Some Indians buried their gold so that the white traders could not cheat them out of it if they got drunk from fire water. Many years later an Indian came back from Kansas and spent all summer digging along the Tippecanoe River north of Rochester. But the map his grandfather had drawn to show where he buried his gold did no good because trees on the map had been cut and rocks had been moved.

### Chief Menominee – Potawatomi Leader

The Trail of Death starts at the Chief Menominee statue south of Plymouth. A sign on US 31 points west to the Chief Menominee monument. Motorists

on the highway may well wonder who Chief Menominee was. And why did the Indiana state legislature erect a statue of him in 1909?

Was Menominee a famous Indian chief? Yes and no, certainly not as famous as those who came later and went down in history as fighters, such as Crazy Horse, Geronimo, and other western Indians. The state of Indiana, named for the Indians, forced its Native Americans to leave early in the 19th century before most of Indiana even had newspapers. The western Indians who gained a nation-wide reputation fighting for their freedom, were born at a time when telegraph and news reporting and publishing were more advanced – hence their names entered many more books and their exploits were recorded in history in a more prominent way.

Menominee was revered by his followers as the Potawatomi Preacher, but he did not attain the fame of The Prophet or other well known leaders. The Prophet and his brother Tecumseh wanted to create a separate Indian nation and drive the whites out. After their defeat at the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811, another Indian prophet came along, named Kenakuk. He was a Kickapoo and he taught humility, avoidance of warfare, sobriety and hard work. Kenakuk led his people west of the Missouri River to a new reservation. That left Menominee as the final of the Indian prophets of Indiana. (Rev. Isaac McCoy gave Menominee the title of a prophet in 1821.)

Menominee preached abstinence of alcohol too. He had a coup stick on which he made a notch for every sermon he preached. Apparently he did not travel widely so was not known widely as a preacher. However, his village grew from four wigwams in 1821 to about 100 wigwams and cabins in 1838. At that time he was urging his followers to become Christians, adopt white man's ways and become farmers, so the Potawatomi could stay in Indiana instead of having to go west.

Menominee's claim to fame is that he stood fast and refused to sign the 1836 treaty to sell his land for \$1 an acre and move west. He did sign four other treaties, the first one being the treaty made October 2, 1818, in which the Potawatomi ceded the land south of the Wabash River. The next treaty Menominee signed was October 16, 1826, at the mouth of the Mississinewa River, which ceded land for the Michigan Road and required the government to provide a blacksmith and a mill at Lake Manitou for the Indians' use. The October 26, 1832, treaty, signed on the Tippecanoe River north of Rochester, gave 22 sections (same as 22 square miles) of land to Menominee and three other chiefs to share: No-taw-kah, Muck-kah-tah-mo-way, and Pee-pin-oh-waw. He also signed the treaty of December 15, 1834,

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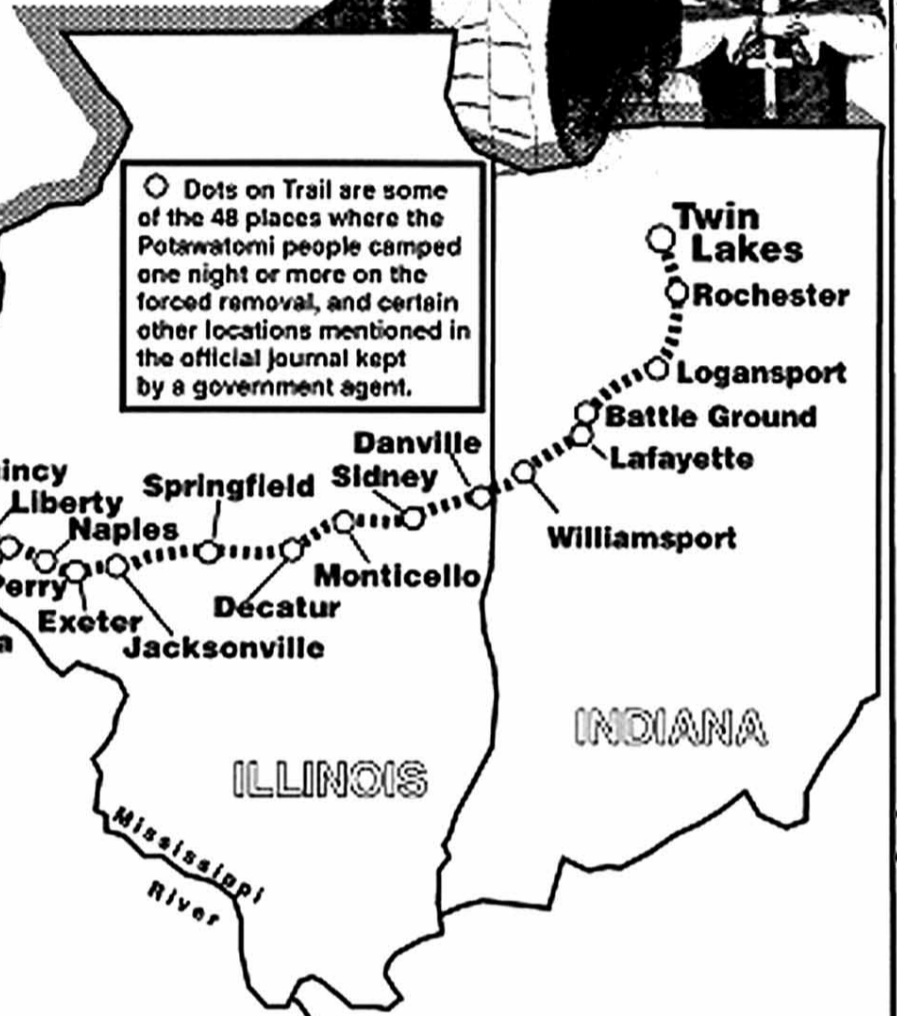
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# Potawatomi "Trail of Death" march: Sept. - Nov. 1838



**Designates 1838 Potawatomi "Trail of Death" route starting in Indiana, crossing Illinois and Missouri, and ending at present day Osawatomie, Kansas.**

In September 1838 over 850 Potawatomi Indian people were rounded up and marched at gunpoint from their Indiana homeland. Many walked the 650-mile distance, which took two months. More than 40 died, mostly children, of typhoid fever and the stress of the forced removal.



○ Dots on Trail are some of the 48 places where the Potawatomi people camped one night or more on the forced removal, and certain other locations mentioned in the official journal kept by a government agent.

People shown here were all Potawatomi painted by artist Geo. Winter in 1837. All went to Kansas in either 1837 or 1838. Reproduced with permission of Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Lafayette, Indiana.

(Permission to reprint this Potawatomi "Trail of Death" map in January 2017 issue of The Gad-a-bout given by Shirley Willard, Rochester, IN - 12-10-16)

which shut down the mill at Lake Manitou dam. But he did not sign the other treaties, a whole series of them at the Tippecanoe River north of Rochester, which contain the X marks of various chiefs.

Abel C. Pepper, the Indian agent, was ordered to get the Indians to sign the treaties, and he used whiskey and promises to get them to sign. He made many treaties that all say the same thing: sell the land and move west in two years. In 1836 there were five treaties signed at the Tippecanoe River north of Rochester, two treaties at Logansport, and two treaties in Marshall County. All nine treaties required the Potawatomi to move west in two years.

Menominee's partners, No-taw-kah, Muck-kah-tah-mo-way (Black Wolf) and Pe-pin-oh-waw, gave in and signed a treaty August 5, 1836, at the Yellow River south of Plymouth. But Menominee held out and still refused to sign. He even traveled to Washington, D.C., to talk to the President (Andrew Jackson). In February 1837 a delegation of Potawatomi from Indiana went together to D.C. and the group signed the treaty February 11, but not Menominee. In this treaty they agreed to move to land southwest of the Missouri River. This last treaty was meant as a confirmation of all the other treaties with individual chiefs for their respective bands and

families. Those who signed were supposed to be the Head Chiefs. Because Menominee's name is not on the treaty, Pepper claimed Menominee was not a real chief.

Chief Pokagon also refused to sell his land, but he was able to make a treaty with the state of Michigan allowing his people to stay. Menominee had no such luck. The governor of Indiana just wasn't going to allow the Indians to stay partly because he wanted money from land sales to build roads and canals.

The Marshall County History (1881) stated that a man named Wise interpreted and wrote down Menominee's speech. He had to be able to write fast or used some form of short hand. He must have thought Menominee's was the best speech given at the council for those are the only words recorded. "When Pepper made his final appeal and threat of force, and all had had their say, Menominee rose to his feet and drew his costly blanket about him, showing below his splendidly worked leggings and moccasins, a wonder of skill. His white head towering

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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# Gad's Corner

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Send Photos to: The Gad-a-bout, 105 E. South St., Centerville, IN 47330 or E-mail .jpg photos to: [raythegadabout@gmail.com](mailto:raythegadabout@gmail.com) Questions Call Cell Phone: **765-960-5767**



Alex Kersey of Brookville took his first deer on Nov. 19, 2016. (Submitted by Robin Catron)



Trever Thomas took this 6 point buck on 11-13-16. (Red Barn Bait & Guns Photo, Salem, IN)



Scott Nixon took this typical 14 point buck aged 5 1/2 years old on opening day 11-12-16 at 4:00 p.m. (Submitted by Scott Nixon)



**Doug Smith**  
November 12, 2016  
9 Point 183 #  
This is Doug Smith pictured with his 9 point buck that weighed 183 pounds on November 12, 2016. (Bozarth Country Store Ryan's Photo, Lagro, IN)



Hagan Amburgey caught this 15 inch crappie that weighed 1.68 lbs. in Salamonie Reservoir on 11-12-16. (Bozarth Country Store Ryan's Photo, Lagro, IN)



Keivan Hamilton took his first deer on 11-12-16. (Red Barn Bait & Guns Photo, Salem, IN)



Michael Gray took his first deer on 11-12-16. It weighed 195 lbs. and had 12 points. (Red Barn Bait & Guns Photo, Salem, IN)



Ryan Pershing took this 11 point buck on November 12th in Wabash County! Ryan is Manager at Bozarth Country Store and writes a regular column in The Gad-a-bout, see Page 20 in this issue. (Bozarth Country Store Ryan's Photo, Lagro, IN)

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This is Evan Kirkover pictured with his first buck taken on November 12th. Congrats Evan! (Bozarth Country Store Ryan's Photo, Lagro, IN)



This is Braxton Munson pictured with his first buck taken on November 13th. Congrats Braxton! (Bozarth Country Store Ryan's Photo, Lagro, IN)



This is Richard Palmer with his 10 point buck taken on November 12th. (Bozarth Country Store Ryan's Photo, Lagro, IN)



Carlie Case with her 1st deer taken in Decatur County on November 14th. (Submitted by Alex Case)



Yancy Edlin took this 12 point buck on 11-12-16. (Red Barn Bait & Guns Photo, Salem, IN)



Carl Robinson took this 8 point, 160 lb. Buck on 11-16-16. (Red Barn Bait & Guns Photo, Salem, IN)

## Potawatomi Trail of Death

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

above those around him, he said in substance: "The President does not know the truth. He, like me, has been imposed upon. He does not know that your treaty is a lie, and that I never signed it. He does not know that you made my young chiefs drunk, and got their consent and pretended to get mine. He does not know that I have refused to sell my land, and still refuse. He would not, by force, drive me from my home, the graves of my tribe and my children who have gone to the Great Spirit, nor allow you to tell me that your braves will take me, tied like a dog, if he knew the truth. My brother, the President, is just; but he listens to the word of his young chiefs who have lied; and when he knows the truth, he will leave me to my own. I have not sold my lands. I will not sell them. I have not signed any treaty, and I shall not sign any. I am not going to leave my lands, and I do not want to hear anything more about it."

This was sometime before August 6, 1838, the deadline for moving west peacefully. No date is recorded with the speech, simply that it was given in a council meeting on the north bank of Pretty Lake in Marshall County.

Father Benjamin Marie Petit wrote to Washington, D. C., to try to help Menominee, but this is the answer he got: "I do not wish to speak of it," said the President. "Your names are on the treaty; your lands are lost," said the Secretary of War. "But here is one of the witnesses to the treaty who will show you how everything was a fraud." "I do not need to be shown, and we did not need your signatures; the great chiefs of the nations were entitled to sell your reserve."

Almost everyone with an interest in Indiana history has read Menominee's speech, but did you know that he apologized for it? That's what Father Petit wrote to Abel C. Pepper in a letter dated July 31, 1838. Maybe Menominee did not actually apologize and Petit was trying to smooth things over. Petit realized that Menominee's defiance would attract the wrath of the government and maybe bring soldiers.

That is exactly what happened. The Governor of Indiana, David Wallace, sent General John Tipton to recruit soldiers to round up the Potawatomi.

### Trail of Death

From August 30 to September 3, 1838, the Potawatomi were rounded up by Gen. John Tipton and volunteer soldiers.

(Volunteer means they were not regular army and

they were not drafted either. But they were paid. A list of the soldiers and what they were paid is on microfilm in the National Archives. Fulton County Historical Society published a book with this list: Potawatomi Trail of Death – 1838 Indiana to Kansas. This book of 440 pages has original sources for the Trail of Death: 1838 diary, Father Petit's letters, muster rolls, George Winter pictures, Gen. John Tipton letters, biographies of several Potawatomi families who had ancestors on the Trail of Death, index, bibliography, more. It is available for \$40 plus \$6 shipping from Fulton Co. Hist. Soc., 37 E 375 N, Rochester IN 46975.)

Riding on horses, the militia rounded up every Potawatomi Indian they could find for five days, in a radius of about 30 miles from Twin Lakes south of Plymouth.

On September 4 the Indians were marched out and headed east from Menominee's village to the Michigan Road. They camped the first night at Chippeway, a tiny village on the Tippecanoe River. There were hundreds of campfires as their camps spread from William Polke's log cabin trading post on the south bank of the river to William Polke's house/ stagecoach inn, a mile north of the river.

The next day, September 5, they were marched at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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September 2016, Kentucky Youth Gun Season. Jackson Kelsey age 11, took his first doe deer in Kentucky. He used a .44 mag lever action Marlin rifle. Sitting in a box stand his Dad was able to film the event. Jackson shot the deer at 45 yds. Dropped it. A wonderful memory. Thanks to ConnectedAfield.com and Dr. Hafele for allowing the hunt. (Submitted by Glen Kelsey)



My name is Jerrold Brown and I live in Southeastern Franklin County. I am 68 years old and have been hunting for 50 years. In all that time, I have never seen a piebald deer in the woods. I do most of my hunting now on my farm in Switzerland County. I got pictures of this deer last year when he was a button buck. No one saw him while hunting last year. This year on November 8th, he showed up within fifteen yards of where I had the trail camera last year. I was able to harvest him with my Elite Synergy 32, 40 - 50 pounds and a 100 grain Schwacker. He field dressed at 85 - 90 pounds and had 6 small points but he was still a trophy for me! Submitted by June Brown



Glen Kelsey ConnectedAfield said, "I had the Deer Gods with me this Sunday as I went to Tree Church. Harvested this 9-point Jamber Whitetail of 174 lbs. He was walking behind a doe on crop field. My 12 ga. Remington knocked him down at 50 yards. Avg. Joe Staff. (Submitted by Glen Kelsey)

## Potawatomi Trail of Death

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

gun-point single file through Rochester, a line of about 859 Indians stretching over a mile long, from one end of town to the other. Menominee, Black Wolf, and Pee-pin-oh-waw were transported in a jail wagon. (No-taw-kah had died.) Friendly settlers' wives came forward and gave the Indians hoe-cakes to take along. Ten-year-old William Ward followed the Indians, wanting to go west with his little Indian friends. But his mother caught him a mile south of town and dragged him home. (She caught up with him about where McDonald's is today - Rochester

poet Robert Deamer wrote in a poem that the big M stands for Menominee). Ward wrote about the incident in Home Folks - A Series of Stories by Old Settlers of Fulton County, Indiana in 1910 and told how he wrote to the Potawatomi and continued his friendship with the Indians the rest of his life. ■

### TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE

**Editor's Note:** Due to the length of Shirley's story I will put it in future issues as I have space for it. You might remember when I put my Frontier Days narration in last year, it took a while.



SKeith Kelsey: My son Keith Kelsey, finally nocked one down. His 12 ga. Remington 870 Express is always a sure weapon for the job. He's always texting in the deer stand on ConnectedAfield hunt app. Keeping up with the business end is the maintenance necessary to make the Connected-Afield app function for all of you to enjoy. His Franklin Co. trophy weighed 203 lbs field dressed. It has 11- point 154 2/8" super mass measurement. (Submitted by Glen Kelsey)

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Alyssa Wilson age 14 of Brookville took this 8point on 12-3-16 with a crossbow. (Photo from papaw and mamaw Catron)

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