



JULY 2021

THE GAD-ABOUT™

Outdoor Information • Museum • Frontier Post



THIS IS A STOP SIGN AT A 4-WAY INTERSECTION. A STOP SIGN MEANS YOU MUST COME TO A COMPLETE STOP BEFORE PROCEEDING THRU THE INTERSECTION WHEN THE WAY IS CLEAR. SEE PG 3



THIS IS A POLICE STOP NEAR A 4-WAY STOP INTERSECTION. THIS IS WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN WHEN YOU DON'T STOP AT STOP SIGNS OR OBEY SPEED LIMIT LAWS. SEE PG 3



KEEGAN O'BRIEN CAUGHT THIS 31 LB. KING SALMON FISHING WITH MIKE SCHHONVELD PG 5



UNSUNG HEROES, CENTERVILLE UTILITY REPAIRMEN, BRUCE CRABTREE AND BOB SHARP RESTORING POWER AT 1:30 A.M. SAT. JUNE 19 AFTER STORM HIT THE TOWN! SEE PHOTO PG 16

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THE GAD-A-BOUT™

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JULY 2021 • Volume XXXIII • NO. 372

Created in 1990 & Published Monthly by Kentucky Colonel Ray Dickerson

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

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Whenever possible a pdf will be sent to verify article after it has been edited. The article won't be published until author gives okay.

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ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: I make it a point when I'm driving to stop at all stop signs and drive the speed limit. It's the law! When I'm driving between Centerville and Richmond Indiana people usually pass me like I'm sitting still. Many of them pass me extremely fast, especially if they have had to follow me for any distance and have no respect for laws of the road.. When leaving Centerville going East toward Richmond the speed limit is 30 mph. Just before you get to the Dollar General the speed limit raises to 50 mph. Which many times given

the amount of traffic, school buses, bicycles, pedestrians walking to and from the Dollar General Store and the normal amount of traffic on U.S. 40 obeying the law should be what is on the drivers mind first and foremost. (Photo by Ray)
Top Right: On the top right hand photo on the cover is this same intersection, except in this photo the Centerville Town Marshall has stopped a driver. I don't know what the circumstances were for this to happen, but in my mind this is what should happen if a driver violates the rules of the road. (Photo by Ray)
Bottom Left: There's a popular saying, "big lure, big fish." That's often the case, but does that big lure need to be on a big reel? For king salmon, the answer used to be yes. These brutes are often caught on "long lines" with more than 200 feet of line between rod tip and lure (Photo by Capt. Mike Schoonveld)
Bottom Right: Late Friday afternoon Sherry told me the weather report on TV indicated we had a chance for severe storms and they had also issued a tornado watch for our area. It was probably around 7:15 when the wind really picked up, large hail was also a possibility too. I told Sherry we better empty the hall closet. This photo was after the power went out, here the Towns only electricians Bruce Crabtree and Bob Sharp restored the power to the town in the wee hours of the morning at 1:30 a.m. (Photo by Ray)

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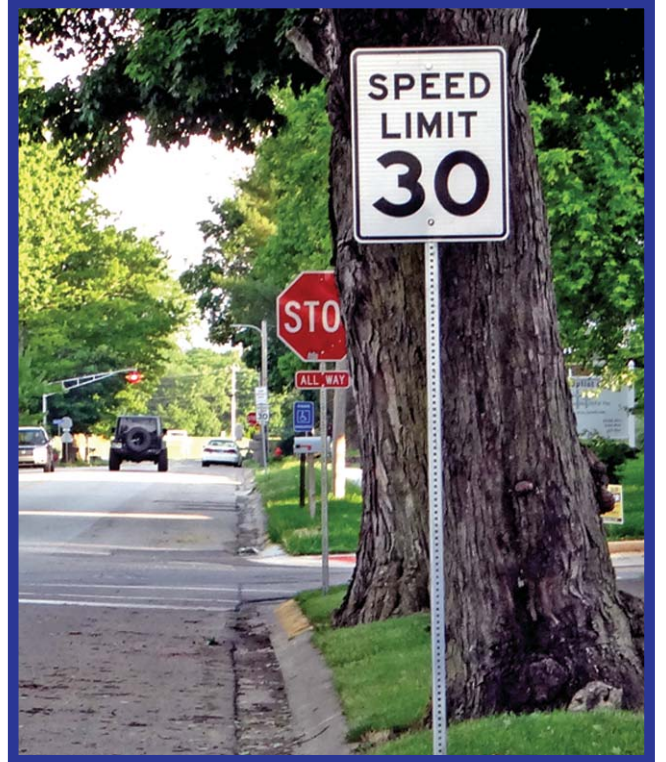
OBEYING TRAFFIC SIGNS SAVES LIVES



Intersection of West Sycamore and Willow Grove Road just north and west of Centerville High and Elementary schools.



Looking east on Walnut Street from South Morton Avenue. Caution, Children At Play, No thru trucks & 20 mph signs.



4-Way Stop Dangerous Intersection at South Morton Avenue and Walnut Street. 30 Mph Speed Zone.



4-Way Stop Intersection at East School and South Second Street. Always be on the lookout for children.



Beginning of Crown Creek Blvd (left) from N. Morton Avenue east to Eliason Road. A Paved Hiking Path (right) begins from N. Morton Avenue ending at Mill Creek Lane.



Going East the paved Hiking Trail at right ends at Mill Creek Lane. Hikers and bikers must continue on the berm of Crown Creek Blvd to reach Eliason Road at the east end. Two hikers are walking west on Paved Hiking Path where it begins at Mill Creek Lane. The bike rider is on the south side berm riding west toward N. Morton Avenue on Crown Creek Blvd. (Photos by Ray Dickerson)

Roaming The Ourdoors



by Ray Dickerson
The Gad-a-bout

Do You Stop For Stop Signs? Do you obey the speed limit?

I make it a point when I'm driving to stop at all stop signs and drive the speed limit. It's the law!
When I'm driving between Centerville and Richmond Indiana people usually pass me like I'm sitting still. Many of them pass me extremely fast, especially if they have had to follow me for any distance and have no respect for laws of the road.. When leaving Centerville going East toward Richmond the speed limit is 30 mph. Just before you get to the Dollar General the speed limit raises to 50 mph. Which many times given the amount of traffic, school buses, bicycles, pedestrians walking to and from



All intersecitons are dangerous in a town if the a large percentage of the drivers don't stop for stop signs and disobey speed zones.

the Dollar General Store and the normal amount of traffic on U.S. 40 obeying the law should be what is on the drivers mind first and foremost.

Today more then anytime before with the amount of traffic we are experiencing daily on the main roads it is extremely important to pay more attention to driving safely and to follow the rules of the road to the letter.

On my cover the top left hand photo is the 4-way stop at the intersection of East School Street and South Third Street. This is a very heavily traveled intersection, especially during the school year, prior to 8 a.m. when school begins and prior to 3 p.m. when school lets out. Especially on East South and West South Street with school kids leaving school and walking home. The speed limit is 20 mph on this street as it should be, the normal speed limit for in town driving.

On the top right hand photo on the cover is this

same intersection, except in this photo the Centerville Town Marshall has stopped a driver.

I don't know what the circumstances were for this to happen, but in my mind this is what should happen if a driver violates the rules of the road.

In Centerville I know for a fact having been observing other drivers intentionally not stopping for stop signs on a scale unimaginable with the amount of traffic in town and the constant appearance of children, families, elderly and other people walking, riding bikes, skate boards and running.

The other night I was getting out of my Van in front of my house after returning from South Street. It was around 11:30 p.m when I heard a car which was coming from the housing addition east of 4th Street on East School Street. The driver did not stop at 4th Street, he or she did not even slow down. The car passed by my Van, the driver did not slow down or stop at 3rd Street, 2nd Street, 1st Street nor Morton Ave. Their brake lights never came on. I thought to myself if anyone had entered any of those 4-way stops (2-way stop at Morton) someone could have been injured and possibly killed due to that persons intentional disrespect for the law.

There is only one cure that could change this trend, a better way to catch violators of the Indiana Driving Code.

We need detectors placed at intervals along the highway, city streets and at intersections. The detectors would monitor drivers actions, especially vilolations and work the same way that detectors currently are used in some of the bigger cities that record your license plate and send you the fine or a summons to appear in court on such and such a date! **This sound harsh? Then obey the driving laws from now on where ever you live!**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by **Tag Nobbe**
Professional Fishing Guide

Fishing Brookville Lake In July 2021

I would think that all the crawl dads in Brookville lake are saying it's about time, woohoo the shad hatch is here. Well this is what I would be saying if I were a crawl dad.

They have been the main food source for a lot of predator fish for 2 months. Sometime in July the young of the year shad show up in the lake in the millions. This is not an edible fish, at least not for humans, but other fish love them. They are a schooling fish that feed the masses. The way they survive is by deception. When they're in a tight bait ball to other fish they look like one big swimming thing instead of 10,000 little things, this is the deception. Every predator fish swimming in the lake is trying to feed on them, but the sheer size is puzzling to them. The shad are spawned on every shore line in the lake and as soon as they're able to swim they move into a bait ball for survival. At first, they look like little swimming back bones. As the bait ball gets bigger, they will move to open water and constantly swim trying to stay in the ball. The bait ball will move all over the lake due to them swimming and the current being made by wind. Sometimes there in deep water and sometimes they are in shallow water, it seems random.

White bass are also a schooling fish, but they are predator not prey. They know they are being deceived and they have a plan, and you will see it in action in July. Somewhere between 8am and 10am on the lake you will see what looks like piranha's feeding on the surface. What this is a big school of white bass feeding on a big school of young of the year shad. Their plan of attack is simple they work as a team to corral the big bait ball of shad and move them to the surface. Once the white bass school have them surrounded, they will rush them all at once at the surface where they become disorganized and the bait ball comes apart. Now the white bass can zero in on each individual shad and feed on them as long as they can hold them at the surface. This is only accomplished with teamwork from both sides.

Walleye feed on shad also, but their tactic is a little different. What they will do is move up on to

a shallow flat or somewhere where the water is thin and wait for a 15-foot-high bait ball of shad to try and squeeze into 10 foot of water. When this happens the shad that are forced to the outside edges are picked off 1 at a time. This all takes place in shallow water in July, when the lake water temperature as been 80 degrees plus for a month. Shad thrive in this hot water, but most predator fish do not. I believe this is nature's way of keeping them separated for the most part.

Two big differences in these two feeding styles is the one you know when it's happening because you can see it, but the other one will be just good timing. I have found over the years that fish feed better in the morning as it is getting light and, in the evening, as it is getting dark.

For catching white bass anything white works. My favorite baits are white rooster tails or white curly tails. You want something with a little weight to it for making long casts. Try to stay in the 1/8-ounce range. You want something that you can cast a long way, but yet the white bass can still get it in its mouth. The best method is to keep your eyes peeled when you're traveling around fishing spots on the main lake. Try and look for activity on the surface. When you see activity on the surface start the big motor up and high tail it over close to them. Not to close though you will make them scatter. Once your close to the feeding frenzy. Just a simple cast and retrieve works the best. If your buddies catching them and you're not, speed your retrieve up or slow it down that is what you're doing wrong.

When you're in this amped up cast and retrieve situation beware of other people on the boat, you

do not want to be the guy with a hook in his chin. I have been there, not cool. The limit is 12 white bass per person so be careful with your count you can easily catch 12 in 12 casts. There is no minimum size limit on them, but you're only allowed to keep 1 over 17 inches.

As far as walleye goes, if you're a troller snow's your time. Have you ever heard a fly fisherman in a stream say you have to match the hatch? Well this is true in the lake also. Most of the year so far, the walleye has been targeting bugs, worms, larva, and crawdads. But now there's a new food in the lake, something that tastes like candy to a walleye and they are everywhere. There are so many shad in the lake in July it can be hard to get a bite. So, you have to improve your odds. One of the ways to do this is by trolling. You will need to be able to troll from about 1/2 mile an hour to 1 mile an hour to get a crank bait to work properly. Trolling gives you the ability to stay in the strike zone and cover a lot of water. If you're not a troller, spoons and blade baits work well also. If your timing is off you're going home empty handed, but if you're doing the right thing in the right spot, the right way you're going to catch them. Keep your eyes on the fish finder, hunt 'em up and hook em up.

Good Luck Tag

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

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Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WRITING ABOUT THE INDIANA OUTDOORS?

I have been writing about the outdoors since July 1972 when I took the chance to ask Vic Jose who published The Graphic Press back then if I wrote some outdoor articles would he publish them. I told him I saw a great need in our area to provide his readers with information on hunting, fishing and recreation opportunities in The Whitewater Valley. After some convincing him he said he would give me a chance with the understanding he could only put me in every now and then when he had the space. I agreed also that I would

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

LITTLE LINE COUNTER SCORES BIG

There's a popular saying, "big lure, big fish." That's often the case, but does that big lure need to be on a big reel? For king salmon, the answer used to be yes. These brutes are often caught on "long lines" with more than 200 feet of line between rod tip and lure and then, when the fish strikes, count on an additional two or three hundred feet being pulled against the drag at the beginning of the battle.

On Memorial Day, Keegan Obrien set a "boat record" for my charter boat when he reeled in a 31 pound king after a long, hard fought battle. The reel he was using was the smallest reel on my boat. The reel was a Shimano Tekota 500A with the line counter option, spooled with 600 feet of 19 strand trolling wire.

When braided line was introduced and became popular with salt water anglers, reel makers adapted. They quickly developed new models specifically for the new, skinny line. These braid-crankers were scaled down in overall size, fitted with relatively massive drag systems and engineered with super-high gear ratios. Size, strictly to increase line capacity, was no longer needed. Six hundred yards of braid will fit on a reel with only a 200 yard capacity for monofilament.

A reel with a full spool of line may wind on 24 inches of line with each turn of the handle. The same reel with only a half-filled spool will wind on only 12 inches per handle revolution.

By the same token, a tough fighting fish pulling line off a reel at 10 feet per second, spins the spool against the drag mechanism twice as fast with a half-

filled reel. A drag system which may handle 100 rpms may fail completely at 200.

Reels for the Great Lakes market didn't adapt. Though the use of braid (or equally skinny wire line) increased, almost all braid and wire line guys continued to use the same reels they formerly spooled with mono. To make it work, they wound on enough mono to nearly fill the reel's spool, then topped off the spool with braid or wire. The line under the braid or wire on top was filler used solely to insure a reasonable amount of line was retrieved with each turn of the handle and to make the drag work efficiently. That worked, but doing this - braid over mono - meant the angler was using a heavy, bulky reel for no good reason.

I don't know if Shimano's newly designed Tekota A models were designed specifically to bridge the gap between braid and mono, but they do and quite nicely. Shimano Tekotas (the original model) are, in the opinion of many, the best Great Lakes trolling reel ever made. I have Shimano Tekotas on my boat, I've fished with them on other boats and have nary a complaint about them. So why change?

The change isn't just cosmetic between the old and new versions. Available (at this writing) in 500 and 600 sizes with the same line capacity as the "non-A" Tekota 500 and 600s, that's where the comparison ends. The originals had a gear ratio of 4.2:1. The "A-Team" has a gear ratio of 6.3:1. (Rough math comparison, with full spools, the A model winds on 37 inches of line, the original 25 inches with each handle revolution.)

The drag on the originals maxed out at 18 pounds; the Tek-As torque down to 24 pounds. The increased

power tells me the drag will perform better, smoother and reliably, however tight it's set, however full the spool.

My test reels (Tekota 500As in the line counter version) performed flawlessly, one spooled with 30-pound braided line, the other with 40-pound 19-Strand Torpedo Wire.

I normally use Tekota 600s for trolling divers because the larger spool diameter gave me an adequate line retrieval per

crank. The higher gear ratio more than made up for the smaller diameter spool. In use, the smaller, 500A was noticeably lighter, the drag held nicely against the pressure on the troll and slipped smoothly when a big fish hit the lure. I ran each diver, at times, with 200 or more feet of line out. I really appreciated the high speed retrieve when reeling in just the diver and lure - no fish - on these longer sets.

Tekota lovers, if you are buying another reel, the Tekota As are as good or better than the original Tekotas and the better means you can easily get by with the smaller 500A if the line capacity suits your needs. Put one on your boat and one day you may get to put it to the ultimate test as I did last May. It will pass the test.

The End



Shimano's Tekota A series allows anglers to downsize their reels and expect up-sized performance. (Author Photo)

FISH LAKE MICHIGAN

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INDIANA'S NORTH COAST CHARTER ASSOCIATION

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FOR LAKE MICHIGAN SALMON FISHING IN INDIANA



This massive king salmon was reeled in using a relatively small, Tekota A reel. (Author Photo)



Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

Sometimes, Fish Do The Craziest Things

(Find someone who claims to be an expert fisherman and ask him what he thinks is the smartest fish. If he points to the big trout mounted on his wall, ask him why it's up there.)

For over 30 years I've fished almost exclusively with fly rods. When I learned that fly fishing is considered to be a gentleman's sport that combines skill with dignity and grace, I sold all my shares in Bubba's Night Crawler Farms Inc. and began investing in such things as weight forward floating line, tippet material and flies with names that would have a stand-up comedian roaring with laughter. Now, rather than tell someone I caught a six inch rainbow on a Wooley Bugger, I explain that I accidentally stepped on it. There is no dignity in using bait with a name like that.

My son Tony has also taken up the sport and now handles a fly rod with skills far surpassing mine. That is, he is more successful in untying a fly from a limb ten feet above his head, and he can lay a fly on the surface with no more commotion than dropping a small brick. Whereas, I may be more accurate in presentation (there's a graceful word), it usually arrives at warp speed and hits the water like a canoe paddle. This technique works well during the cicada season since these miniature B-29's look like they've been shot down when they blunder onto the surface. I'll be out of luck however, for the next 17 years.

Recently, Tony and I decided to try our luck on our favorite trout stream, in spite of the competition from the aforementioned cicada herd. I'll be glad when those noisy critters return to the earth and leave some of the fish a little hungrier. As we stumbled over slick rocks and boulders to mid-stream, we noticed schools of large carp moving aside to let us pass. I explained to Tony that compared to trout, these "bottom grubbing scum suckers" were like break dancers compared to ballet dancers. "In other words, they ain't got no class," I said.

As we worked upstream, we noticed the carp were working the surface - something I had never noticed before. I always thought of them as hogs with their noses buried in a feed trough. Tony tied on a Humpy Hairwing (how's that for a sophisticated name) and cast it to one of the surface ripples. Unfortunately, a huge carp did an un-carp like thing and rose to the surface and sucked it in like a bellybutton sucking up lint. With line sizzling off the reel on his lightweight 7'-6" rod, he yelled, "What am I supposed to do now?"

"I dun'no. You caught it, so it's your responsibility. Just think of it as adopting an ugly kid."

Since a five or six pound carp can pull like a tank, Tony made little headway for a few minutes. Finally, he simply lowered his rod tip parallel to the surface, grabbed the line and yanked. "Darn," he said. "That fly cost me \$1.75." I couldn't resist the temptation. "Just look at it this way. Now, there's a carp in this stream that's worth \$1.75 more than it was a while ago."

This incident shattered my belief that carp are the garbage eaters I had always believed. I've never seen one even remotely interested in a dry fly, but if we fish that section of the stream again, I'm going to tie on a cherry bomb with a two minute fuse.

The next afternoon we decided to fish calmer waters in Ray's pond, a friend who demands proof of any fish pulled from the water. In other words, keep what you catch to avoid over-population. Since Tony and I practice catch and release, he seldom believes what we tell him we pull from the pond. On this day he accused us of being common, ordinary hillbillies who would lie to their mother about where the still was hidden.

With calm winds and mild temperatures in late afternoon, we were soon pulling a number of good sized bluegills and an occasional small bass from the water. While I worked along the cattails on one side of the pond, Tony moved to a cove on the opposite side. At his "Oh Yeah's", I would watch as his seven foot Diamondback rod bent to another slab sided 'gill. Then, his tone changed to, "Holy (expletive)!"

Having snagged another bluegill, he was playing it in when it suddenly seemed to get a whole lot bigger and far more aggressive. From the far bank I watched as he dragged something out of the water that looked like it had been bypassed on the evolutionary order of things. It seems a lunker bass had taken a liking to the

'gill and had proceeded to swallow half of it down.

Drug half out of the water, I'm sure the bass must have been re-thinking it's opinion of wimpy bluegills as a food source. As Tony tried to figure a way to get around the 'gil and grab a lip on the bass and pull it ashore, the lunker barfed up the 'gill and flopped back into the water where it swam casually away. To add insult to injury, the bluegill spit out the fly and followed the bass. I don't know where Tony learned all those prime expletives, but he's

too big to wash his mouth out with soap. When Ray showed up from all the commotion, Tony told him about the fish and warned him against letting his smaller calves water at the pond. Ray left, muttering something about letting retards run free on his property without proper supervision. Tony however, said he won't go back without at least a .357 as back-up. ■

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

do it for free. I wrote that column for free for quite a long time until I began commercial screen printing, then I traded my articles to him for a display ad in his paper.

If anyone is reading this article that has a yen to write about the Indiana Outdoors and has a business, I am willing to trade an article from you and advertise your Indiana business in The Gad-a-bout for free. Several of the current writers appearing in The Gad-a-bout trade their column for my advertising their business. I will do the same for you.

If interested in talking about this contact me by e-mail raythegadabout@gmail.com or call my cell phone 765-960-5767. Leave me a voicemail if I don't answer. I will get back to you as soon as I can.

I am interested in just about anything that provides readers with information on activities about the Indiana outdoors and some indoors also.

THANK YOU LETTER FROM READER RICHARD AYERS FATHER OF REBECCA

A short time ago I got a call from Rebecca White who lives in Sullivan, Indiana inquiring about The Gad-a-bout newspaper. She told me her father, Richard Ayers who also lives in Sullivan missed reading The Gad-a-bout. She was inquiring about there not finding it anymore.

I told her that I stopped printing The Gad-a-bout with the October 2020 issue due mostly because of the Covid-19 pandemic. That now it was only available on my website, www.thegad-about.com. She said that her father didn't have a computer and that he is 93 year old fisherman and knife collector. I told her I had several friends in Sullivan, did she ever know Bill Beeman or Joe Trotter who owned Trotter's sport shop there? She told me she knew both of them.

I suggested I could send her father a few of the last issues in the mail if she wanted me to. She said that would be great. I got their address and thanked her for calling me, she thanked me and we hung up. I put several copies in the mail to her father. A few days later I got a real nice letter from Richard Ayers thanking me for sending him the papers.

I've received quite a few inquiries from readers who have all of a sudden not been able to find the paper copy they have found in their areas for 30

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

STEVE'S MARINE

AT BROOKVILLE LAKE • 765-458-7527

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News of Native American Indians in Indiana



by Shirley Willard
Fulton County Historian, Rochester, Indiana

Before Fulton County Entered The Scene

The land that became Indiana was once part of the state of Virginia. Indiana was part of Illinois County and was claimed by Virginia from 1778 to 1783, when it was turned over to the Federal Government.

The Northwest Territory was created in 1787, which included Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Revolutionary War General Arthur St. Clair was appointed Governor of the Northwest Territory.

After General St. Clair was defeated at the Battle of the Wabash in 1791, he was appointed Governor of the Illinois Territory which included Indiana.

General Anthony Wayne defeated the Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794, and after the Treaty of Greenville, Ohio, more settlers moved to Indiana Territory, created in 1800, with General William Henry Harrison as Governor. The Indiana Territory included Illinois.

When Indiana became a state in 1816, there were 18 counties, all in the southern third of the state. The northern two-thirds of the State was Indian Territory. The area that is now present-day Fulton County was part of Carroll County, created on January 7, 1828, but was transferred to Cass County when it was created December 18, 1828. In 1835 Fulton County was created by an act of the Indiana State Legislature. The county actually was organized in 1836 and elected its first officers.

The northern half of Indiana was occupied by the Sioux Indians, but as the Euro-Americans moved westward, they pushed the Indian tribes further west. Thus the Sioux were forced west to the Great Plains by the Delaware and soon after, the Miami moved into what became Indiana territory, and finally the Potawatomi, c. 1750.

When Fulton County was created by act of the Indiana state legislature in 1835, there were four Indian reservations in our county: Aubbeenaubbee, Tiosa, Massac, and Kee-wau-nay. There were only three townships: Rochester, Richland, and Liberty.

With the removal of the Potawatomi expected in 1838, five more townships: Henry, Wayne, Union, Newcastle, and Tippecanoe – name later changed to Aubbeenaubbee, were added; being carved from the original three.

The first Europeans to set foot in the area that became Fulton County were French fur traders. Possibly the very first was Alexis Coquillard, who had a contract with the American Fur Company to trade with Chief Aubbeenaubbee in 1820.

However, it is also possible that the first white people were missionaries, such as Rev. Isaac McCoy, who visited Chief Menominee's village in Marshall County in 1821. He traveled around Indiana and kept diaries of his travels, but Fulton County did not yet exist and he could only name rivers and Indian villages.

No doubt, noted Indians such as Little Turtle and Tecumseh came through here, but it is not recorded. We do know that Fort Wayne (built in 1719), Fort Ouiatenon at Lafayette, and Fort Vincennes were trading posts, and that means that Indians and traders traveled between them, which may have brought them across parts of the future Fulton County.

In 1791 General James Wilkinson routed the Miamis and destroyed Olde Town on the Eel River north of Logansport. Some of his soldiers may have crossed into the future Fulton County.

In August of 1810, Tecumseh and his followers held a meeting with General William Henry Harrison on the lawn of the Governor's house at Vincennes. Tecumseh wanted the white "invaders" to leave so that the Indians could have their own state. William Polke was one of the interpreters at this meeting, which almost ended in a fight, but Tecumseh withdrew and came back the next day to talk. Polke later became Fulton County's first white settler in 1830, when he came to survey the Michigan Road. Polke built the first frame house (the white house now located at the Fulton County Historical Society grounds), established the first village and post office (named Chippeway in 1832) and was the first postmaster. Because it was spelled Chippeway, not Chippewa, I assume that is how they pronounced it. ■

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

years. As much as I would like to have kept the paper copy going I had to end it due to many reasons. The only thing I can do is to publish it on line. It looks the same, still has several of the writers who have been in it for many years. I'm eighty now I will keep it on line for as long as I'm able - I still enjoy publishing it.

If you've got a Indiana Outdoor article you would like to have put in it - send it! See page 6 for more info and my contact info.

ARKANSAS ALLOWS PUBLIC SCHOOL HUNTING SAFETY COURSE FOR P.E. CREDIT OUTDOORS TOMORROW FOUNDATION

HAS CURRICULUM READY TO GO

OTF-Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Partnership
Already in Place Makes 'Outdoors Adventure' Lessons Available Now to All Schools

GoOTF.com

DALLAS – May 12, 2021 – An Arkansas law

passed last month allows all public schools and school districts in the state to offer hunting safety courses to grades 5 through 12. Senate Bill 161 allows schools to incorporate the courses into their physical education, health and safety curriculum.

Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation, the leading provider of outdoor skill, safety and conservation curriculum to schools nationwide, is already partnered with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to make its Outdoor Adventures program available in middle and high schools across the state.

"This great news is made even better as P.E. teachers or school districts will not need to reinvent the wheel and develop a curriculum," said OTF Board Chair Ricky Fairchild. "Our Outdoor Adventures program is available right now to help engender a love, passion and appreciation of the outdoors in Arkansas' youth and to promote hunting safety."

The Outdoor Adventures program is a fun, interactive course where students are taught life-long skills using an integrated, 34-unit curriculum comprised of math, science, writing and critical thinking skills. The 290 detailed lesson plans cover angler education, archery, hunter education, boater education, orienteering, survival skills, camping, outdoor cooking, challenge courses, backpacking, mountain bike camping, paddle sports, rock climbing, shooting sports, CPR/first aid and fauna, flora and wilderness medicine. OA teachers can pick units specific to their region and local ecosystems.

"As many schools return to in-person classes, this offers a new and engaging way to get students focused after a year of in-home learning," said Scot McClure, OTF director of education. "Some educators return to the classroom needing to develop entirely new curriculums. Outdoor Adventures has that curriculum ready to go."

Founded in 1981 in Dallas, Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation is a public nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. For many schools, grant money offsets the cost of the program, plus OTF offers matching funds for equipment as new schools join. Additional grants are available in Arkansas through the Department of Rural Services from fine money collected by AGFC officers. The resulting classes can be taught as a P.E. course, local elective or with agricultural science and wildlife management.

The Outdoor Adventures education program is offered in 657 schools in 41 states nationwide with more than 65,000 students participating each year and 350,000 program graduates. Each OA student spends 180 hours learning outdoor education per year. The program has totaled 11 million classroom hours of outdoor education to date.

For press material, visit www.130a.com

Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation

Since 1981, the Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation (OTF) has made its mission to teach outdoor education and promote wildlife conservation through the Outdoor Adventures program, currently in 643 schools across the country. The curriculum, impacting more than 285,000 students

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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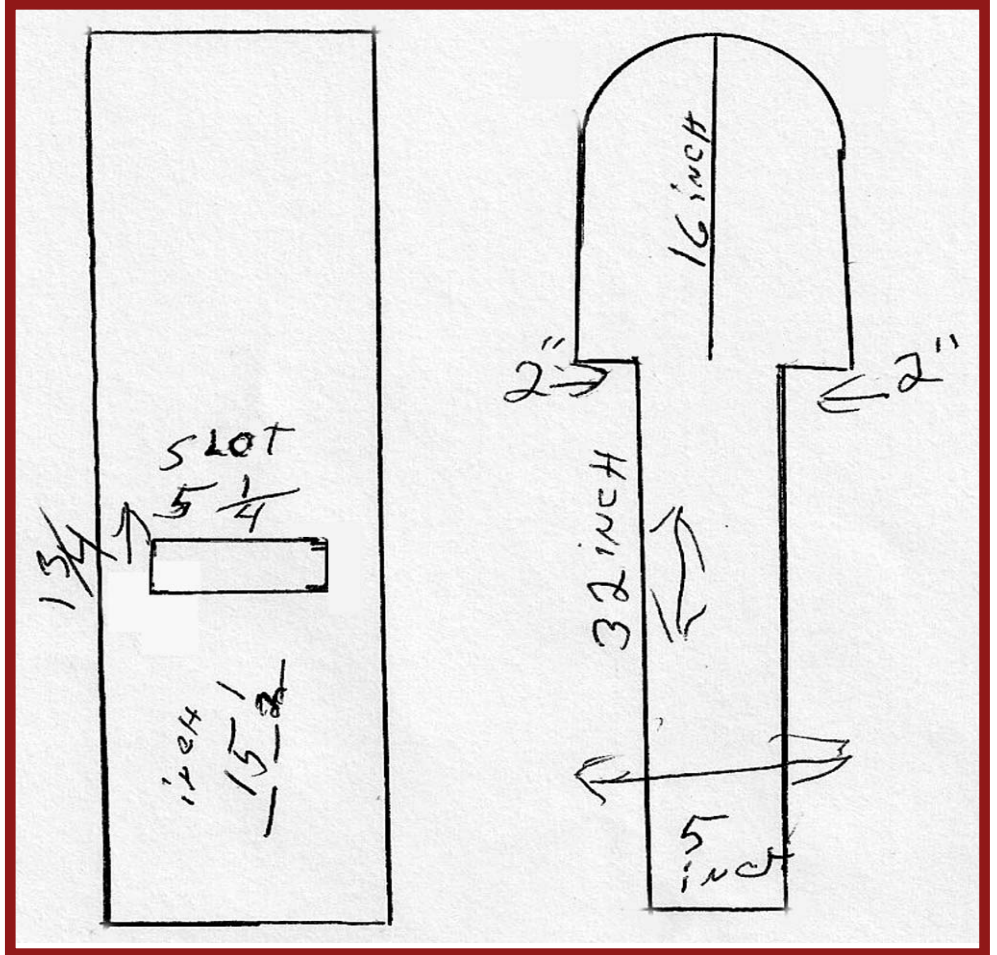
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Eugene Fannin (Author) holding the two boards he cut and put together to construct his Trapper Chair. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)



See instructions to build your own trapper chair below. (Drawing by Eugene Fannin)



Eugene stuck his tomahawk in the wood target next to a playing card he and Travis had clipped the edges throwing tomahawks at it at another time. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)



Eugene standing next to wood target with tomahawk and playing card still in it. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

Whitewater Valley Indian Trails



by Eugene Fannin

Portraying A Trapper

Sometime back in the 1990's I decided I wanted to portray a trapper and go to community events to talk about furs and trappers of long ago. I went to several events and purchased several skins. I also had two deer skins that I had tanned myself.

I set up a lean to type tent and talked to people young and old. Most children have not touched a real beaver or fox pelt. I also had some tanned leather so they could feel the leather before it was made into hand bags and shoes.

I also dress in buckskins and some native American attire. The chairs were set out in front of the lean to. I also let my visitors sit on the chairs so they could feel how comfortable they were to sit on.

When I built my chairs the lumber was not expensive, but today lumber cost much more. The chairs could be made in the wild from several trees, and would have been made only when you would be in camp for long periods of time.

(Instructions on how to build your own Trapper Chair, see detailed drawing at top of this page)

I used two eight foot two by ten pieces of lumber to build my two chairs. (*Note -Only buy one board per trapper chair*)

I cut a slot fifteen and one half inches from the ground. The second piece I cut to fit in the slot. You will need to measure a chair that is comfortable to you to get the correct height for you.

Buy one 2 x 10 board to make one Trapper Chair. Cut the board in half.

Measure the height of one of your kitchen chairs. From the ground up to the top of the seat,

(ours are 16 inches).

I then cut the bottom of the slot at fifteen and one half inches from the ground. The slot should be one and three quarter inches tall and five and one fourth inches wide.

This will make your seat seventeen inches above the ground.

Take the second half of the board and measure up the board thirty two inches and mark it.

Saw in two inches on each side.

Then rip saw out the two inch cuts. This will leave the remaining piece five inches wide.

This will give you one quarter inch clearance when you insert this piece into the slot to form the seat.

To make the rounded front of your seat measure up twelve inches where you made the two inch cuts on both sides.

Round this portion off with a saber saw.

All that is left to do is to put it together, adjust the height and sit down.

(**About the authors:** Eugene Fannin, his wife, Gladys and I have been friends for quite some time. If I remember correctly we first met back in the Spring of 1976 when I was publishing the "Outdoor Gad-a-bout." They Wendell and Vicki Hedges owned an Archery business at the west



Eugene's Trapper Chair put together and ready for sitting around a camp fire with other trappers talking about their trapping experiences. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)



Eugene sitting comfortably after setting the height in his trapper chair. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)



Eugene's tomahawks he purchased in Friendship, Indiana. Eugene is an experienced tomahawk thrower, he attends and participates in tomahawk and knife contests.



Left to Right Bill Yarbrough, Eugene Fannin, ? and Dan Rothrock. Eugene not only played the part of William Wells, he also learned the Miami Indian language and sign language too.

edge of Richmond, F & H Archery Shop. The four of them attended archery competitions as often as possible. I had an article in my June/July 1976 issue. Back then my first Gad-a-bout was published just six times a year. In the June/July issue 1976 I announced to the readers that Gladys Fannin at my request wrote her first article of her new archery column in that issue. I ended that Gad-a-bout with the June/July 1978 issue. I realized wanting a publication and making it work took more than just wanting it.

I began the current Gad-a-bout in April 1990. In 1991 when I held a meeting at Treaty-Line Pioneer Village looking for volunteers to join me in an endeavor to put on Frontier Days, The Story of Miami Chief Little Turtle, William Wells and Francis Slocum. Sitting among the group was Eugene and Gladys Fannin. We performed that epic story until 2001. Eugene portrayed an early American Trapper and Gladys re-enacted his wife. She also had a great deal of input in the Francis Slocum story along with Louise Jennings and several other volunteers.

When I decided to begin publishing The Gad-a-bout again after I cancelled it in October 2020 due to the Covid-19 virus. I asked Eugene if he could write me an article for The Gad-a-bout. We sat down and he told me about his interest in the his-

tory of the Whitewater Valley and a map he has been working on about the Indian Trails here. His first article appeared in my March 2021 issue and was titled Whitewater Valley Indian Trails, and was about Drinking Water.

In my April 2021 issue Eugene wrote about The Mound Builders.

The article in this issue hits the nail on the head as they say. Eugene fits into his trapper image like a glove.

Above is a photo I took at Frontier Days during the re-enactment of a parley between General Anthony Wayne (Bill Yarbrough), William Wells (Eugene Fannin), another Indian Chief (?) and Miami Chief Little Turtle (Dan Rothrock).

Eugene, Gladys and so many other volunteers made Frontier Days Re-enactment a huge success. Of all the things I've done throughout my life, it was the most interesting and enjoyable of all of them. ■

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Scot McClure, OTF director of education. "Some educators return to the classroom needing to

develop completely new curriculums. Outdoor Adventures has that curriculum ready to go."

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Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation

Since 1981, the Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation (OTF) has made its mission to teach outdoor education and promote wildlife conservation through the Outdoor Adventures program, currently in 643 schools across the country. The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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July 19th-22nd



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Do you have a child in your life age 7-13 that has a passion for history? **YOUR WCHM** is excited to host Destination History: A Journey Through Wayne County, where campers will learn all about the History of Wayne County and Indiana from the First People of Indiana to WWII. The camp will be conducted via Zoom July 19th-22nd and will last about 1.5 hours per day. Our camp will start around 1:00 p.m. every day and could potentially go until 3:30 p.m.

The cost for this summer camp will be \$40 dollars for non-members and \$35 for members of the museum. Pricing includes a camp shirt, supplies for activities, and a certificate for completion of the camp. Sign-up today by stopping by the museum at 1150 N A Street, calling the museum at 765-962-5756, or emailing our Education Manager Maggie Smith at education@wchmuseum.org. Feel free to email Maggie with any questions, comments, or concerns.

The last day to sign-up for the camp will be Friday July 9th so we can get the t-shirts made in time for camp.



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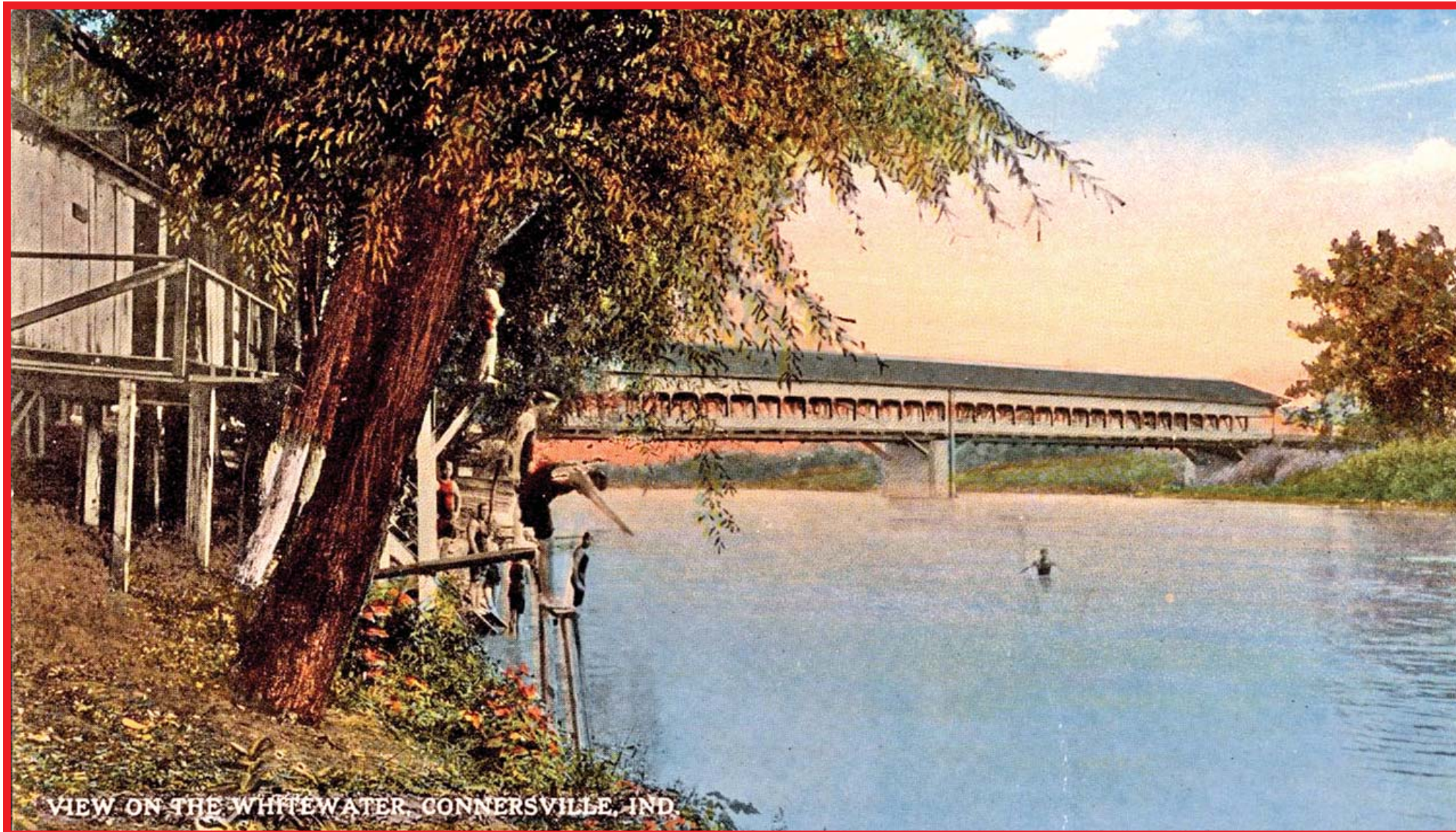
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VIEW ON THE WHITEWATER, CONNERSVILLE, IND

Original bridge was built by Hiram J. Woodcock for approximately \$6,347.00 and completed in 1838. It was 175 feet long by 21 feet wide. It stood for almost 50 years. (Author Photo)

Whitewater Valley History



by **Donna Schroeder**
Fayette County Historical Museum

Ole Man River

If you've ever been in my neck of the woods, you probably know about the Whitewater River. It starts in southern Randolph and Wayne Counties and flows into the Miami River, a tributary of the mighty Ohio. There is no true whitewater on the river, but it is the fastest flowing in the state of Indiana. Every time I visit the Ohio River, it amazes me to think that part of it came from the Whitewater.

Now that we have the basics out of the way, I'll tell you what I think about when I look at the river. First of all, it terrifies me. I have an unreasonable fear of being in water. I like to fish, and I love to watch the river, but I don't want to be in the water. I don't know why I have this phobia, and I'm too old to bother with therapy, so I am what I am. I have dipped my toes in the Atlantic and the Pacific, and that's as far as it needs to go for me.

On the other hand, I love and respect the river. There are so many great stories associated with it. Betty Frazier staked a claim on the banks (before the land was sold by the government). When Sheriff Hannah came to penalize her, she tricked him into crossing at a point where she knew he and his horse would be submerged. Betty was a colorful character.

The earthquakes in 1811 changed the course of the river and made the water splash out of the banks, according to the history books. That would have certainly been an event to behold.

Connersville's first cemetery was close to the river - too close! When the river began to take the bodies, the cemetery was moved to higher ground.

The river itself was a source of transportation and a guide for the Native Americans and settlers. It became a source of water for the canal, and that developed into a path for the railroad.

As the town grew, it became a center of recreation and remains that today.

One thing has always stood out when I think of the Whitewater. There is a reminiscence written by an early settler about how the mail was delivered. He describes the stage splashing through the river, pulled by four horses, and how the boys would hitch a ride to the post office. When the river was too high, the mail was taken to and from the stage by canoe.

That brings me to the point of this piece. I began to wonder what happened in the years between the stagecoach and the covered bridge that vanished years ago. Some research was in order.

About 1836, people began to ask about the possibility of a bridge, with three different petitions being circulated, each proposing a different location.

The citizens agreed that a committee should be appointed to approach the state for funds to finance a bridge. To make decisions fairly, another group of men was chosen to make the final decision on the type of bridge and its location. The second group was appointed from neighboring counties by their governing bodies..

The state okayed the funds, and an engineer was chosen to look at all three locations and estimate the cost of building at each. Ultimately, the most expensive location, at the place where people were in the habit of cross-

ing, was chosen. The estimate was broken into three sections and included the following amounts: \$672.00 was allowed for excavation, \$2700.00 for 540 cubic yards of masonry work, and \$2975.00 for a 175 foot wooden structure to be 21 feet wide.

There appears to have been a bit of hesitancy on the part of builders to take on the job, but one man decided he was up to the task. A newcomer to the community, a carpenter named Hiram J. Woodcock, declared he could build the bridge.

Hiram was a native of Pennsylvania who brought his family here somewhere around 1837. He had married Sarah "Sally" Stone in Litchfield, Connecticut, in 1821, and several of their children were born there. At the time he agreed to do the work, he was almost forty years old - not a young man in those days.

Hiram rented a sawmill near Bunker Hill. (If you aren't familiar with the area, that's at least five miles from where the bridge was to be placed.) He planned the bridge, cut the pieces at the mill, hauled them to town, and finished the bridge in 1838. One wag noted that Hiram was somewhat bent to one side and voiced surprise that he was able to build a bridge that was level.

At the same time, the plans for the Whitewater Canal were also underway. Hiram's daughter, Elizabeth, had married a young man named Gayle Ford. Ford would be remembered as the captain of the first canal boat to reach Connersville, so conquering the Whitewater was a family affair, or so it would seem.

Hiram and his eldest son, Ozias, were in the lumber business here for many more years. After an unsuccessful run for county treasurer, Hiram and Sarah, with their daughter and son in law, Louisa and Joseph Nichols, moved to Stark County, Illinois. Sarah died there in 1870, and Hiram died after 1880.

Hiram's incredible creation was used for almost 50 years, having been updated a little in the 1860s. In 1887, the contract was made with A. M. Kennedy of Rush County to replace the old structure. The new Kennedy covered bridge, one of the longest in the state at 332.5 feet, cost about \$8900.00. Hiram's bridge was auctioned off at the courthouse. The winning bid by Charles Brookbank was \$25.00.

The Kennedy bridge was also in use for almost half a century and was replaced in 1935. The 1935 bridge was replaced with the current

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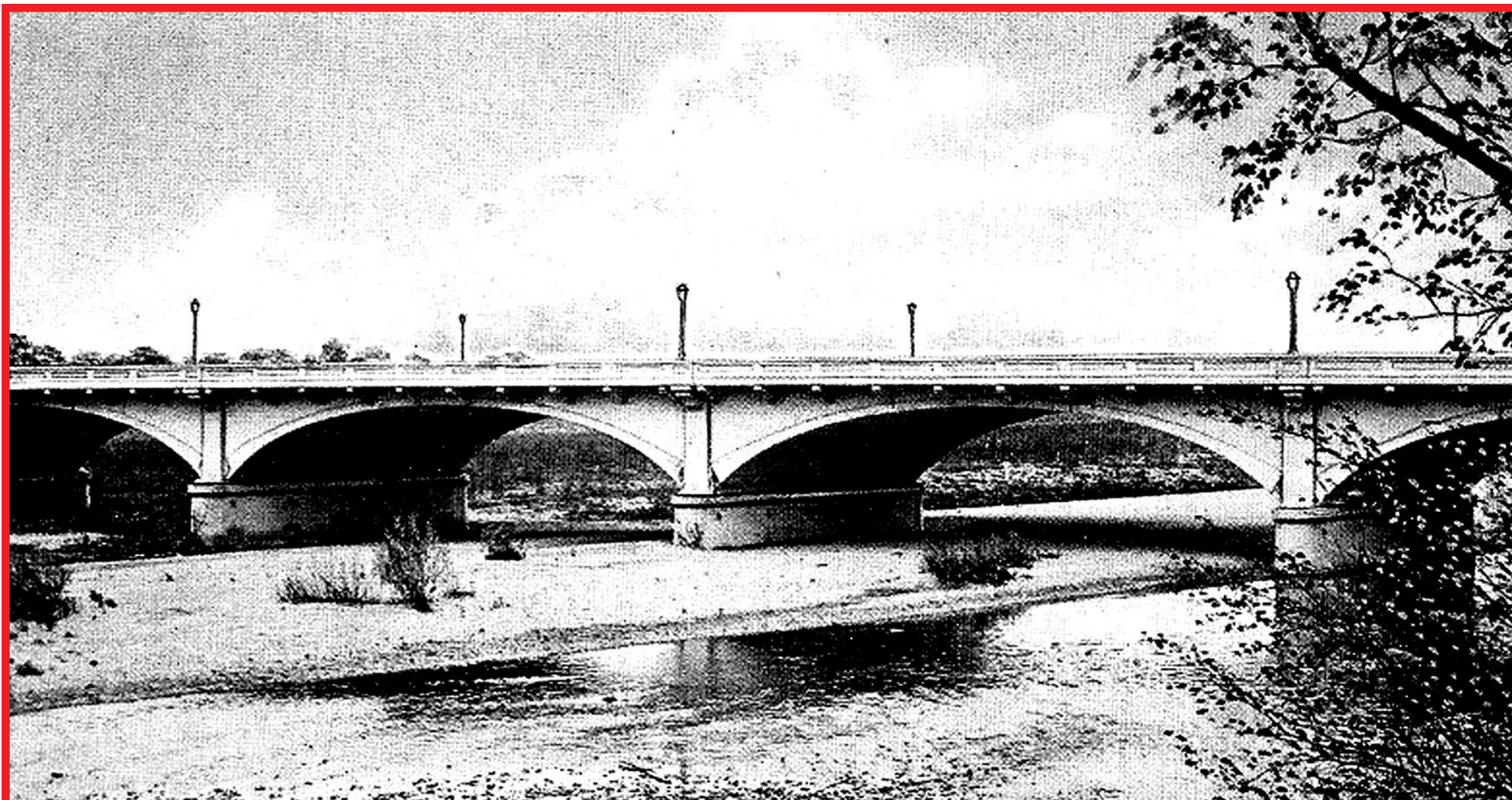
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CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



Hiram's covered bridge was used for 50 years, updated in 1860. It was replaced by A.M Kennedy in 1887. In 1935 it was replaced by the current bridge you see today. (Author Photo)



Replica of 1887 Bridge on display at our Museum of the A.M. Kennedy structure. It was 332.5 feet long and cost \$8900.00. (Author Photo)

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Author giving lessons on metal detector use. (Photo by Susie Creason).



One of the couples learning to use a detector. (Author Photo)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Promoting the Hobby

Every time I attend a detector club meeting or go to an open hunt, I hear someone talking about how we have to get more kids involved in metal detecting to keep the hobby going. This is definitely the truth, but not the whole truth. There is another side to that coin. A silver side.

A while back, I received an email from a lady who read one of my detector stories in a newspaper. I always put my contact info at the bottom of my articles so I can receive comments, pro or con, about my writing. This lady, named Emily, said she really liked the detector article she just read and wondered if I would consider doing an online talk to her senior church group. This group used to meet once a month for a "Lunch & Learn". They would go to lunch somewhere and then have a speaker talk on different topics. Since COVID, it is a "No Lunch, Still Learn".

She told me that there would be around 20 seniors, ages 60-90, who would join us on the computer on Google Meet. I didn't know how to do

that, but Emily told me she would teach me. My wife said she could help also. I agreed to do it. When the time we scheduled arrived, I had a couple detectors, a pin pointer, digging knife, and a few detected items we had found over the 40 years we had been detecting on the table to show to the group.

I talked about 40 minutes about how we got started, places we had been, treasures we had found, and more. When I was finished, the group had questions for another 20 minutes. When I asked, only one or two said they had ever used a detector. I hoped they had learned something and were at least interested in the hobby.

I guess they enjoyed the talk. They asked the group leader if she could get us to come to their church and bring some machines and teach them how to use them. They were on the south side of Indianapolis and we were an hour north, but I said we would be glad to come. We signed off and Emily said she would make all the arrangements at a time to suit me.

She contacted me later, and we set the date. I told her I would have lunch somewhere near to them before we began and asked if any of her group would be interested in joining us. She said probably not, because they had not gone out as a group since the pandemic started. Before our date arrived, she let me know that 19 of her group said they wanted to go to lunch with us. It was their first time out in over a year. We met at a local restaurant, and I did some more talking while we ate. When we finished, we all drove to their church.

They had a lot of property, with several old house sites, a large empty lot, a soccer field, playground, and more. While we unloaded our machines and gear, I told them the soccer field and playground were our best spots. Unfortunately,

church school was going on and my two spots were covered with little kids. I gave quick lessons on the detectors, pin pointers, and how to dig properly. We headed for the two old house sites.

Imagine Susie and I running around, chasing the 17 seniors who showed up, answering "What is this sound?" And "Come help me dig this." And, "Why am I just digging junk?" After about two hours of this, some of the group were worn out and starting to straggle back to the vehicles. That's when I had a chance to look around and saw the kids were gone.

We had found literally nothing decent. Not a single coin, toy car, or anything resembling a relic of any kind. Pull tabs, a bunch of old bottle caps, and a lot of can slaw was brought to the light of day. While everyone was taking a break, I wandered over to the soccer field. That was when I was told there used to be an old concession stand there. I started swinging my detector. Beep. Beep. Beep. Beep. Coin. Coin. Coin. Neat car key with a color Star Wars design on each side. My machine was still sounding off on nearly every swing, but I figured I had to go back and tell our seniors goodbye.

One of the ladies had a huge bag full of snacks she had made for us to eat on the way home. There was enough snacks to eat for three days! All of the folks thanked us and said what a fun time they had, asking where could they buy a detector and what kind to get and other questions. Then the big one. "Can you come back and do this again next month?"

What could we say? I guess we have found some new converts to our hobby.

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

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Two gentlemen with their great find. A smashed pop can lid. (Author Photo)



Besides metal detecting, I was also giving lessons on dowsing. (Author Photo).



This is a collection of the finds of the day. Mostly trash, but that is part of metal detecting. (Author Photo)

We Are Looking for Metal Detecting Sites by Rich Creason

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

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

Call 765-215-3478 or email at eyewrite4u@aol.com.

Roaming The Outdoors

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curriculum, impacting more than 285,000 students since it began, is accessed by 60,000 students annually in 40 states, including archery, shooting, fishing, camping, first aid, boater safety, hunter education, outdoor cooking and more. The OTF also provides grants for equipment, free workshops and teacher training and is accredited by state parks and wildlife commissions from each state. More info about Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation, and how to bring the Outdoor Adventure curriculum to a school near you, go to goof.com.

PATOKA LAKE HOSTS 16TH "THUNDER OVER PATOKA" JULY 3
Patoka Lake is hosting its 16th annual "Thunder over Patoka" fireworks show at its beach on July 3 at 10 p.m. For campers staying in the modern campground, the show can be seen from the section C viewing area in the 300 loop.

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POWERFUL STORM DARKENS THE TOWN OF CENTERVILLE JUNE 19TH



Centerville Utility Electricians Bob Sharp and Bruce Crabtree standing next to their truck parked in our west neighbor's drive- way on Monday, June 21, 2021 after they repaired a wire on her roof. Earlier that day they restored the electric power on our neighbor's pole on the east side of our house that was damaged during Friday' storm. After the storm roared through Centerville Friday evening these two electricians worked into the wee hours of Saturday morning behind Dave Harveys' home where a fuse at the top of the power pole behind his house was damaged. They finished repairing it at 1:15 a.m., fifteen minutes later at 1:30 a.m. the TV and my lamp light came on. About that same time the air conditioner came on too. See photo on cover in the bottom right corner, I took that night photo while Bob and Bruce were still working on the pole fuse from quite a distance away. I couldn't get any closer to where they were working, I had just got out of bed at 1 a.m. when I noticed their light at the top of the pole, grabbed my camera to take the photo behind my garage - oops!!...not fully dressed to wander out in the dark or get closer so to speak!! (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

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Roaming The Outdoors

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Beach concessions will be open and available for all food and refreshment needs.

WITZ-FM 104.7 will broadcast themed music during the event and will also stream the music at witzamfm.com and on their iPhone and Android app.

The entrance fee of \$7 per vehicle for Indiana residents and \$9 for out-of-state residents is required for the Newton-Stewart State Recreation Area, located north of Wickliffe on State Road 164. For more information regarding this program or other interpretive events, call the Nature Center at 812-685-2447.

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

UPDATE: INVESTIGATION COMPLETE INTO FIRE THAT DESTROYED ELEVEN BOATS AT PATOKA LAKE (DUBOIS CO)

The investigation conducted by Indiana Conservation Officers and the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office has concluded that the fire at Hoosier Hills Marina was accidental in nature and most likely was caused by an electrical malfunction. The fire did an estimated \$2.5 million worth of damage.

Release as of February 19, 2021

Indiana Conservation Officers are investigating a fire that damaged or destroyed twenty-two boats at Hoosier Hills Marina located at Patoka Lake.

At approximately 8:45 a.m., smoke from a boat in the "A" dock was observed. The cause of the fire is still under investigation by the State Fire Marshalls Office. No injuries were reported.

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This is what Sherry and I saw in our back yard after the Friday evening storm ripped through Centerville. Late Friday afternoon Sherry told me the weather report on TV indicated we had a chance for severe storms and they had also issued a tornado watch for our area. I had been visiting Eugene Fannin earlier and didn't get back until late so we didn't sit down for supper until around 7 p.m. It was probably around 7:15 when the wind really picked up, large hail was also a possibility too. I told Sherry we better empty the hall closet. The last damaging hail storm I remember was way back in 1965, it was quarter size and damaged lots of aluminum siding and vehicles. At around 7:30 still eating my supper, I was sitting in the front room close to the door, the wind blew a bit harder. I reached up and opened the door again, it was getting darker with a lot of debris floating and a few limbs fell from the tree across School Street. I closed the door and told Sherry to get in the closet, just in case. I continued monitoring the situation, the wind increased to its highest peak and as quick as it began the wind subsided. I told Sherry she could get out of the closet. We finished eating our supper. At 8:15 we went into the back yard to see what kind of damage we had. This wind did more of its damage higher up on our tree. The two larger limbs on the ground fell from the very top of our tree. It took me a while to find the verticle limbs that they fell away from. After the last storm a year or two ago we had Jack Smith come and cut the limbs back to better protect our tree damaging the neighbors electricity. I took the photo above on Sunday morning. As you can see in this photo my neighbors electric wires are lying on the ground again. Well one good thing, we didn't get any hail. It took me all day to cut up the larger tree limbs and haul all of them to the front and pile them up as neatly as possible so it would be easier for the town employees to grind and haul them away. I've already called Jack to come cut this tree completely down. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

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During the initial investigation it was determined that after the fire started efforts were made by Hoosier Hill Marina staff to put out the fire. Two boats were moved from the docks, creating a fire break.

The marina is closed at this time while fire crews continue to monitor for potential hot spots. Staff from the marina are working to contact the affected boat owners.

Responding agencies included the Celestine Fire Department, Schnellville Fire Department, Dubois Fire Department, Memorial EMS, Dubois County Sheriff's Department, Dubois County Dispatch Center, Indiana State Police, Army Core

DNR AND PARTNERS INVESTIGATING SONGBIRD MORTALITIES

Indiana DNR has received reports of sick and dying songbirds from five counties. DNR is working with the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (IN ADDL) and the USGS National Wildlife Health Center to determine the birds' cause of death.

The five counties are Monroe, Clark, Jefferson, LaGrange, and Lake.

The affected songbirds showed neurological signs of illness as well as eye swelling and crusty discharge.

"Several species are being affected," said Allisyn-Marie Gillet, DNR ornithologist, "including blue jay, American robin, common grackle, Northern cardinal, European starling, and a few others.

Several samples have been sent to IN ADDL.

Gillet said that all bird samples submitted have tested negative for avian influenza and West Nile virus. Final laboratory diagnostic results are pending.

The following recommendations are good practice for anyone who experiences sick or dead wild birds on their property:

- Use the DNR sick/dead wildlife reporting tool at on.IN.gov/sickwildlife to alert DNR staff.
- Stop feeding birds until the mortality event has concluded.
- Clean feeders and baths with a 10% bleach solution.
- Avoid handling birds. If you need to handle birds, wear disposable gloves.
- When removing dead birds, wear disposable gloves and place birds and gloves in a sealable plastic bag to dispose with household trash.
- Keep pets away from sick or dead birds as a precaution.

Additional information will be shared when final diagnostic results are received.

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

ASPHALT RESURFACE PROJECT TO CLOSE LANES ON S.R. 252 NEAR BROOKVILLE

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Ind.— Indiana Department of Transportation contractor Paul H. Rohe Company plans to begin work on or after Wednesday, June 23, on a \$660,000 asphalt resurface project on S.R. 252 in Franklin County. Lane closures with flagging will be in place east of Brookville, in addition to local street closures with

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Roaming The Outdoors

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temporary signals for curb ramp removal and replacement between U.S. 52 and the Whitewater River bridge.

The contract was awarded in early May 2021 and is expected to be complete by mid-September. Motorists are reminded to slow down, use extra caution, and drive distraction-free in and near construction zones. All work is weather-dependent and schedules are subject to change.

Stay Informed

Motorists in Southeast Indiana can monitor road closures, road conditions, and traffic alerts any time via:

Facebook: [facebook.com/INDOTSoutheast](https://www.facebook.com/INDOTSoutheast)

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[Google Play store for Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.indot.carsprogram)

WARBIRD RIDES WEEKEND

JULY 16-18, 2021 AT LUNKEN AIRPORT

Jim Stitt has sent me information on their next scheduled Warbird Rides Weekend, see flyer on page 18. This event will take place July 16-18 at Lunken Airport.

The Cincinnati Warbirds EAA Squadron 18 is a 501C3 non-profit educational organization founded in 1996 whose mission it to: Preserve historic military aircraft; Honor our veterans and current military for their service and sacrifice; Educate the public about the role they played in defending our freedom and building our country; Inspire future generations to continue the legacy.

The Cincinnati Warbirds organize and sponsor numerous events including displays of historic warbirds, trips to airshows and museums, educational seminars and scholarships, warbird restoration projects, and other functions of interest to members.

I recommend this event to all my readers. I've been invited to their events many times. Visit their website www.cincinnatiwarbirds.org for more information. The Warbirds members are doing a great service for all Americans by preserving all the vintage aircraft the American pilots flew protecting America since the Wright Brothers built the Wright Flyer.

Whitewater Valley History

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

bridge in the early 1990s, although some of the supports from 1935 were incorporated into the current bridge.

The next time you drive across the current bridge, try to picture the coach, the canoe, the Woodcock bridge, and the Kennedy bridge, faithfully serving our county since the beginning.

The Fayette County Historical Museum has a beautiful scale replica of the Kennedy bridge on display. The Whitewater Valley Railroad is nearby and offers a scenic trip along the path of the canal and river to Metamora. Come visit us soon!

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