

Around Town

Correction: Margaret Protsman's 100th birthday open house celebration will be held at the United Church Fellowship Hall on Saturday, July 14, 2007, not at her residence. The hours are still 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. No gifts please.

Neighbor, Gary Tichachek, recently returned from Wisconsin where he had taken his mother so she could attend a meeting of the tribal council. Seems that the tribes gaming operation has brought in big bucks and she wanted to be sure to cast her vote on the disposition of the money.

Nancy (Colbourne) Harding was in town the week of June 19, closing up the Colbourne home and emptying it of its contents in preparation for its new owners. The Harrison's, Angie and Jack, hail from Marion, Ohio and have two children, Jackie, 18, and Zachary, 2. Jack is the plant manager of S & S Plastics at Kentland. They are currently remodeling and from all reports seem to be enjoying their new home and the community.

Carol and John Kessler attended a May wedding in Sarasota, Florida that was quite an upscale affair. Their new friends from their Florida winter stay had a wedding with black tie and formal wear required. Carol was resplendent in her black and white formal and wouldn't you have liked to have seen John in a tux?

Have you noticed the banners that have been placed on the light poles around town with a "Welcome to Morocco" slogan. These colorful banners are the work of Natalie Gibson and her downtown development committee with the help of the town of Morocco. Nice touch.

Speaking of Natalie, she has opened a new business on Highway 41 called Morocco

Sport and Hardware. It brought back memories of my father's general store at Schneider. They have a little bit of everything; nuts, bolts and nails, a bait and tackle shop, lawn and garden items, hunting supplies, pet and livestock feed and equipment. They also have a lunch counter, with Seattle's Best coffee, Krispy Kreme Donuts, and assorted Sara Lee Muffins. You can order chili, soup of the day and the house specialty, pork burgers and pulled pork sandwiches, etc. Ye Editor sampled the chili and the pork burgers. Excellent!

It is a Gibson family business, Natalie, Matt, and Amy are the owners, with Natalie being the senior partner. The store hours are 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Mon. thru Sat.) and 7:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. on Sundays. You can call or fax your orders ahead of time and they will be ready for pick up. They also have daily specials.

The store is a work in progress and they are adding stock to it daily. Coming from the east a number of signs announce the entrance and they are planning signage to attract more highway traffic. The store is located on the northeast corner in what used to be the AmeriGas building at the intersection of US 41 and State Road 114.

Natalie is a personable young lady and would appreciate your patronage.

Ye Editor was pleased to see that a home belonging to his great-great-grandfather, Benjamin Graves, was getting a face-life.

Located on what we old timers call Corbin's Hill, and more lately the home of High School history teacher, Ruth Corbin, the house was one of the first to be built near the newly formed town and it sheltered old Ben and his 10 children, many of whom married in Morocco and left descendants here.

At least four houses have reportedly been sold recently. Tina Vanderborg's parents from Crown Point have purchased the Mort Regnier home.

The Bernadine Miller house was sold by the First Methodist Church and the funds put into a trust. Interest from the trust will be used for ongoing expenses.

Donna Cady sold her home to a couple from Valparaiso

The Danna Gully house was sold to an older couple from Chicago.

Mary Lois Hensel is recovering from knee surgery and is currently in therapy and doing well according to her husband, Dave Hensel.

Memories of long ago were brought back when Betty Carlson brought in an antique dish for identification. Ye Editor put on his antique hat and told her what he thought it was, and then realized that he had seen the exact bowl filled with candy when he used to be the fourth at bridge with Daisy Kay, when he was a lad of sixteen and the rest were well into their 80's.

The First United Methodist Church of Morocco welcomes a new youth leader, Ben Beckett. A recent Butler graduate, he plans to continue his studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. His mother, Rev. Susan Beckett is pastor at the Brook UMC. His father, Michael Beckett is laboratory manager in the Radiation Oncology Lab at the University of Chicago Hospitals. Young Beckett has a passion for sports, music, and trivia.

Morocco Cooks

Deep Dish Rhubarb Pie

Pastry for two crust pie.
4 cups rhubarb
3 eggs, slightly beaten
½ cup sugar
1 cup sugar
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon or nutmeg
2 tablespoons cream
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 stick butter

Prepare crust and line a 9" deep pie pan with crust. Have 2nd one ready for top.

Cut rhubarb into bite size pieces. Beat eggs, ½ cup sugar, lemon and cream and pour over rhubarb. Mix to coat. Let stand 5-10 minutes. Mix 1 cup sugar, 1 cup flour and spice. Pour over rhubarb in crust, dot with butter, and place top crust over pie. Bake 10 minutes at 450 degrees and 30 minutes at 350 degrees or until bubbly and done.. May need to cover the top with foil during the last 10 or 15 minutes to prevent crust from becoming too brown.

From the Born Family Cookbook.

Happenings

On June 13th the Homecoming Committee met for a cook out at the American Legion and went over the latest Homecoming to identify the strengths and weakness of the event. Tentatively the date had been moved ahead one week for next year.

Vena Fredericks, Martha Peacock's daughter, visited the Tea Room on Wednesday, June 20th. She was in town visiting her mother.

Irene Deardurff reports that she attended the Brook Alumni Banquet this year. It was her 70th year out of school, graduating in 1937. Out of 26 members, only four were there, Harold "Tony" Nelson, Beulah (Martin) Putt, Helen Thompson and Irene. They had a very nice dinner and she enjoyed seeing her class

mates

Betty Kessler park in downtown Morocco was the scene of a birthday party celebrating Betty Kessler's 90th birthday. She was joined by 87 of her family members and many local residents wishing her a very special birthday. A bountiful table was prepared by her children, Wes, Vickey, and Capp, featuring brats and everything else that one could possibly want. Tables were set up and special music was arranged by Don DeKoker, including favorites from the 40's and 50's. Dave Murphey provided the tapes and some even were dancing to the music. Everyone reported they had a good time. There must have been 125 well wishers at one time or another.

Projects Unlimited met at the Corner Tea Room on June 18th. Sheets were passed to sign up for selling tickets at the Fair. They discussed what to do with the money from the fishing trip project and Betty Kessler was to find from Chris LaCosse what was needed for the 20/20 Rails and Trails project. Everybody wished Betty a very happy birthday.

Harriet Webb hosted a party for her twin brother, Dean Graves and wife, from Arkansas and spent an enjoyable day with them.

Baseball season is over and many will now take their vacations. From all reports that kids really enjoyed themselves.

The Discover Science Camp was well attended. Activities were held in the Community Room of the Fire House and it also served as a departure point for the field trips. Seventy-five children participated.

Letters to the Editor

Ye Editor

Enclosed find check for \$25.00 for 1-year subscription of the *Morocco Times*.

I recently picked up a copy of the *Morocco*

Times and found it very interesting. I am not a resident of Morocco, but had close ties to this town. My wife, Jean Hafstrom, was a resident and graduate from Morocco High School in 1938.

I grew up on a farm east of Donovan, Illinois, just across the Indiana/Illinois state line. I became a member of the Morocco Boy Scout Band in 1933 and played with the band in the Chicagoland Music Festival. We also played a concert at the Hall of Flags at the World's Fair at Chicago in 1933 and again in 1934. I continued to play trombone in the Morocco Boy Scout Band for several years.

I have a unique story to tell that I met my wife playing in a Boy Scout Band. In 1937, the Ackors' boys, Claude and Bob, our wonderful drummers, went on vacation. We had another snare drummer, Dave Hanger, but we called on the bass drummer from the high school band. Jean Hafstrom was that girl. I took Jean home from band practice one night and started dating her. In 1940 she became my wife. I lost Jean in 1988 and I am now in my 94th year. I still come to Morocco to eat and visit with friends.

Wendal Munson
Kankakee, Illinois

Many of us old timers remember Jean and her brothers Jack and Ivan Hafstrom. I especially remember her mother, Hazel (Smart) Hafstrom, who played just about the best rag-time music on the piano that I have ever heard, and often accompanied her brother, Rex Smart, who played the trumpet and really made it sing. One of my fondest childhood memories was listening to Rex, who lived next door, start playing at dusk and filling the evening summer air with his magic music.

Dear Gerald,

You probably don't remember me since I married and moved from Morocco in 1951.

I believe you took my place as Drum Major of the high school band. My husband, Gene Parsons, was Drum Major from 1945 to 1949. I was majorette with Nancy Colbourne and

then my last year (1950) I was Drum Major. We both have so many good memories of our high school years.

My sister Marilois Anderson has sent me the *Morocco Times* and Gene and I have thoroughly enjoyed reading it.

Gene worked at the Courier all through high school and learned the printing trade from the ground up with Leo Hyatt and Alan Augustine as his teachers. Gene remained in the printing trade all his working career--53 years, and enjoyed it very much right up until his retirement.

The best of luck to you and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Bobbie (Carter) Parsons
Concord, California

Bobbie, of course I remember you and Gene! I learned how to be a Drum Major by watching both of you while I played in the marching band. I was the Drum Major from 1950-51 until I graduated in 1954 and enjoyed every minute of it, especially marching during the football games. It was a wonderful time and we were fortunate to have lived in those days.

Gene's parents lived down the street from us on Beaver Street and I knew his sister, Shirley, as she was closer to my own age. She dated one of the Franklin boys at the time, so I saw a great deal of her as the Franklin's lived next door. What a great time we all had in Morocco.

In a letter from Helen Maycinik I found the following dissertation entitled "A Small Town" It had been passed on to her by Cora (Kalfise) McDonald and it brought a smile to my heart, so I pass it on to you.

Helen also writes, "Your *Morocco Times* is like a letter from home."

A Small Town

A small town is where you don't have to guess who your enemies are, your friends will tell you.

A small town is the only place on earth where people past middle age are called by their first names when they saunter down the street.

A small town is where everyone knows everybody's car by sight, also where and when it goes.

A small town is where it is hard for anyone to walk to work for the exercise, because it takes too long to stop and explain to people in cars, who stop, honk, and stop to offer them a ride.

A small town is somewhat like a big family, ornery distant cousins, renegades and all.

A small town is where city folks say, there is nothing to do. But those who live there, don't have enough nights in a week to make all the meetings and social functions.

A small town is where everyone becomes a neighbor in time of need.

A small town is where many teenagers say there is nothing to do, then they are surprised to learn their big city peers are saying the same thing.

A small town, when all is said and done, is a very nice place in which to live.

A small town knows all the news before it is published. They buy the home town paper to see if the Editor gets it right (Author unknown)

Feature

David L. Ross Interview (Concluded)

In last month's issue the second installment of an interview with Morocco native son, David L. Ross, was published. David, the son of Tom and Elsie (Hively) Ross spent his young years at Morocco. Many of us went to school with him or his brothers and sisters, Marilyn, Marjory, Tim, Karen and Bobby. Yet few of us were aware of his accomplishments after he left Morocco and pursued a career in Hollywood. This installment concludes the interview.

Born: Do you get residuals from the movies?

Ross: No, when Bill Tice called me I was in Tahiti, very happy. Bill said that everybody had agreed to do the movie, and they couldn't get a hold of me. But then he found I was in Tahiti and offered me a part. Gene wants you to do it. I called Gene and they were giving you little up front money and it was very low, but you would get a piece of the action down the road. I did that once before in a movie and there was no piece of the action down the road, so I said Gene I think I'm going to have to pass on it. Well, we know what happened. It was a big success. So I called Gene and said Gene my friend, old buddy, how are you. I'm fine Dave, how are you. I'm great. I see your movie was a success. Ya, it is fantastic. I hear you are doing the second one. Ya, I'd like to be in it. No, Dave, Sorry. Listen I backed you through the Television show and couldn't believe it when you said no to the movie. So I tried to explain to him. No, he said. We are like family and everybody else did it, I thought you would have done it with very little money up front just for old time sake. I protected you at Paramount and I'm sorry. Gene are you joking? No, I'm dead serious Dave. So now I have to protect my rights. When they came out with their big web site at Paramount on Star Trek, they refused to put me as a crew member. I have an attorney working on this now. But the lady that Gene Roddenberry married (she had one little part in one of the shows and did some voice-overs) is listed on the crew of Star Trek. So my attorney has been arguing about this. But I was a crew member, not a guest, and should be listed, but when Gene died, his wife assumed complete control and has named herself now the mother of Star Trek. He is arguing about pay for all the spin-offs and you have to go to the Screen Actors' Guild and it takes forever. VHS and the boxes they came in there is my likeness on the box. They have no right to use my image, but they do it anyway. At the Star Trek Experience in Las Vegas yet they sell all the stuff that relates to Star Trek. I went to Vegas and saw all those things that are being

sold. We need an accounting

Born: Is there anything in your Star Trek experience that we have not touched on that you think is important?

Ross: There were good times, bad times. It was a lot of fun. I lived in a trailer. But I drank too much.

Born: Was the process anything like you thought?

Ross: When I first came I was impressed with the fact I could order anything I wanted to eat and it would appear. Steak, eggs, home fries, anything. But you get burned out. It was the fun of knowing that you could get just anything you wanted.. You always had doughnuts and fruit. But it is hard work. You don't realize how much work it is. A day could take up to 12 hours and then you had to take off the make up go home and learn the lines for the next shoot. You have no time and are exhausted. It is hard work. You don't have time for the glamour until you have a hiatus and then there is time to enjoy. Then there were the trips to New York to plug the shows. They would take the cast and we would talk to a lot of people. There were lots of reporters, magazines and other media, and we would answer their questions. We were living out of a suitcase, and eating meals that were not good for you. Going from one place to another that was your free time, but that's part of being on a TV show. We went to so many conventions, even went to Canada, all over. After a while you try to get out of it. Then they would set up local interviews. Gene would ask us to do it. You wouldn't necessarily have to do it, but if you were smart, you knew it was expected.

Some of the directors would come and say we want the Big Four out here. That would upset everybody. William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelley and myself, and they would call us the Big Four. In my first couple of episodes I just had a small trailer, you didn't

spend much time there, but when you weren't working, it was a place to go. I got so I would spend time with the crew, who, when they weren't busy would sit around and play cards. Some of the guest actors would not socialize with the crew. However, they had more fun and were more interesting.

Most of these guys who ran the lighting and the cameras could make you look good, so it was good to know them. I had to learn. Billy would come up to me and say he is shading you. What do you mean? He is standing so as to cast a shadow over you when you are on camera. So from then on I would say whoa back off you are standing in my light. Oh, I'm sorry he would say, but he knew what he was doing.

Born: How do you think the Star Trek experience changed you?

Ross: Oh, it changed me a lot. I always had a lot of guts. At that time I didn't feel insecure. I could go in front of a thousand people and speak and it wouldn't bother me at all. I had self assurance, and was not intimidated by anybody. But being an Indiana boy, just out of the service, I had to be groomed with the voice and everything else. I feel comfortable with myself. You know. I learned to dance, how to walk, I had to speak with marbles in my mouth and they placed a candle in front of me and if the flame did not move you were not projecting.

On the other hand many of the guest actors were so broad because they had been only stage. They knew how to project, but they had to tone it down. Many of them were overacting. The stage was different from TV. The magic box is not forgiving. If you did something wrong, it catches it. Many of the New York actors had a problem with it. But I was lucky. I was not doing stage. I had a lot of problems. When I was under contract with Universal, they would give us scenes to do. You came to work and were expected to be there doing something. So we spent time rehearsing this scene from "Cat on the Hot Tin

Roof" and presented it to Joyce Selznick, from the Selznick family, who was head of talent—a tough lady. So I thought we did well. She stopped us. No, David, I want you to do it like Paul Newman did it in the movie. No, I will not do it that way. Well, yes you will. No I'm not Paul Newman, I'm David Ross. Well she said you can leave and I'll talk to the head office, and we'll see. And they contacted me and said well we will have to let you go. She had that kind of power and they had a contract with her and would give in to her. So I left and my agent was upset, but I did a lot of work for Universal after that and there were still a few old executives left. I asked if she was still there. But she had retired. You were right. Why do it like Paul Newman, when you weren't him. She just wanted to do it her way or no way. A lot of people left because of her, who later went on to be very successful. She would demand when she had a barbeque at her big house at Beverly Hills, the Selznick mansion, on the week-ends and everybody had to show up even though they should have had the weekend to themselves. Yet, they had to be there. She just wanted the actors there for atmosphere. She behaved like a queen. It would have been different if you could meet people of consequence at those parties, but that did not happen. However, there were good functions. When the studios had a premier, we would go and take one of the actresses with us. It was nice. The Hollywood scene was different. I was never a follower. If I went to a party it was because I wanted to go. If I went to a function, it was because I wanted to go. People respected that. I had a certain criteria for my friends. I had to like them and I had to like being with them. The majority thought they had to go to a party because it was thrown by someone and for political reasons, because they needed to be seen there. And this developed a certain respect. I enjoyed many for their wit and charm and they were comfortable with me because they knew I wasn't looking for anything from them. One of my best friends was Barbara Streisand and I used to go to her house just her and I and we'd

go down the basement, where she had a projection room set up, a little theatre, and she and I would watch movies, and I was considered one of her best friends. She could talk to me and I never wanted anything from her. She had a hard time finding people who weren't wanting something. I was invited to the big parties and sometimes I would go. I went through some of Barbara's hard times, when she divorced Elliot Gould, when she broke up with the hairdresser, he was the worst. I was instrumental in breaking it off with them. He chewed out the maid for letting a friend in her kitchen to wait for her. I left and said I would never come back. She called me up and I told her what had happened and she said she was so sorry and that she was breaking up with him. He showed her a lot of affection, but was not a nice person. I would always say, well I'm from Indiana and if I like somebody, I like them. I didn't know any different.

Born: I understand you have dated some very beautiful women, though.

Ross: Oh, yes. I have dated all of Charlie's Angels, except for one. Yes, I went through the whole list of very beautiful women. Cheryl Ladd, Jacqueline Smith, and there are so many. I didn't have a steady until Neil McQueen. Most of them wanted to further their career. I took her to a bowling alley, and an arcade. I took my clue from Warren Batty. When he would break up with one of his many romantic affairs he would say, I'm not worthy of you and they would end up friends.

Born: How did you meet up with the McQueen woman?

Ross: Well I met her at a party at Rock Hudson's. There were a lot of people there and she sat down beside me and we started talking. She is very attractive, very bright, very nice lady. She always looked like a million dollars. Being Steve McQueen's wife, I thought she might be snobbish, but she was

not. I said what's wrong you look a little down? Well my husband, Steve, and I are separated. And he has a new girl friend, Ali McGraw. And afterward when we were leaving, she asked me if I would like to go have a drink. I said sure and we went to a place. As a result I asked her is she would like to go out sometime. She said she would love to. So after about three weeks of dating she lived in this house like a castle and asked me to move in. I didn't hesitate and I moved in with her and we lived there for seven years. The reason we broke up was she wanted to get married, and I didn't at that time. I think I was halfway in love with her, but she wanted to get married and I didn't. We spent some time apart. After a few months I started dating again. When I did get married at the Beverly Hills Motel we had a lot of guests, and Neil was there. She wore a blond wig. So after I got married, she got married again.

Born: What was Steve McQueen's reaction to all of this?

Ross: It took a few months for Steve to calm down. He would call and want to speak to Neil. No, I said that would only end up with her in tears and I wouldn't let him talk with her. He threatened to come over with a ball bat. Come on over I said, I'm not afraid of you. But we turned out to be friends. His kids liked me I was fair with them and we started going out. A bunch of us guys would go out on Saturday to the Pacific Coast Highway at Malibu and drink and raise hell. Steve was a womanizer. The other guy appeared in 2001 a Clair DeLeau, Gary Lockwood and other actors we would get real smashed with all the tourists and girls.

Born: It sounds like wild living, David.

Ross: Oh yes, I was wild. At Universal once I was doing a scene and I got on a motorcycle and the throttle stuck. I didn't get hurt, but it upset the men in the tower, for they witnessed it all. They told me never again. If you had

gotten hurt it would cost us big bucks and if one of the tourists had been killed, it would be very bad. Don't you ever do that again.

Born: Looking back, would you do things differently?

Ross: Honestly I see people here in Morocco who had a normal life. I think that is neat. I missed out on much of the life of my sisters, not being here all the time. I admire people who lived that way. I probably wouldn't have changed my life. It is hard to imagine my life without some of the experiences I have had. Let's go to Mexico City for lunch. Or to go with Barbara Streisand shopping is an experience not to be believed.

I was pretty well grounded being in the service. I knew what was right and wrong. I went to a party at Sammy Davis' house and in the bathroom there were lines of coke with these little silver spoons. I had been to many parties, but never one like that one. Many were doing it, but Neil or I never did it. She was a gypsy. That's what dancers were called on Broadway. She had a special room set up in her house. She was health conscious. She remained in great shape. Warren Batty had the top of the Beverly Hills Hotel that he used for parties all the time. And he had a couple of guys that would bomb. Some of them just came off the bus.

Born: What advice would you give to a young actor who is having dreams of acting?

Ross: Today my advice would be to learn the craft. Knowing it is not going to be easy. You are not going to be discovered in a drug store serving malts. You are not going to be discovered here and there. You are going to have to earn it. Today it's up to the agent. Learn the craft. Take lessons. Beauty is not all of it. Go to college. Don't count on your looks, it is not going to get you anywhere. There are so many roles out there for character actors. You can be a star being a character

actor. There are a thousand beautiful women for ever one that can act. Once you get it right, and don't even bother if you don't know the craft. You don't learn it overnight. You might think you are natural, but those days are over. So many things you have to know as you go along, and unfortunately there is no one who is willing to teach you. If you want to improve your voice, you have to go out and pay for it. Even now at colleges you will not find people to can direct people to the right path for the camera or stage. Don't try to be somebody else. Always be yourself. Even in a character it has to be part of you. You don't have to experience it, but you draw on anger, and other things you know.

Born: You don't consider yourself a method actor then?

Ross, No. After James Dean was dead, everyone wanted to be James Dean. They would slump around a light post, collar up, head down. Those days are gone. James Dean was one character. They never knew just who he was. They didn't know whether he like boys or girls. He liked both. He didn't know what to believe about himself. He started after the movie "Giant" to believe what had been said about him. He was far out being what he was in school. All the actors tried to be like him.

Born: This has been great. Is there anything we have missed?

Ross: I was in underwater demolition in the Navy. That is before they had Seals. Before I got discharged we were instrumental in creating a training program for the Seals. They were a tough outfit.

Born: Do you miss acting?

Ross: With my heart operation I can't be sure about the future. And nobody wants to hire you when they know there is a health problem.

Born: How did your family react to your career?

Ross: When my aunts came out, they were fascinated when Rock Hudson dropped by. There was a lot of space between us. My father didn't know about my work until he saw a picture in a magazine. My brother Tim handled it well. He used to come and we would go out to dinner. He met Marlon Brando. You loose touch. I was invited to Michael Cains' wedding..

Born: You mention one of your daughters. How many children do you have?

Ross: I have four. Steven and David and then I have two daughters from my last marriage. They are Tahitian as my wife was from a prominent Tahitian family, and I met her when Marlon Brando said come over and visit and I met her there and fell in love and had two beautiful daughters by her, Leiana and Maea that is a Polynesian spelling. Maea is in Reno and doing crafts, and she was here for a while. They spent most time in Nevada as it was safe and there was a nice school there. The girls had been in France and had learned to speak French there, so they corrected their French teacher at times. They have been everywhere, England, France, Tahiti; they have a very big window to view the world through, whereas many of their classmates have very small windows. What is your favorite food, escargot. My second wife is Malynda; Marava is her Polynesian name. We are now separated.

The youngest son, David, is in Japan and has a business there. The oldest is Steven is in San Francisco. My youngest son started a line of clothes called Blunt, which has been very successful. His "Head Games" has been sold for a lot of money. David just got married to a Japanese girl. The oldest is still playing the field.

My first wife was a showgirl when I met her in

Las Vegas and came from Alsace Loraine where she was an interpreter. She speaks 7 languages fluently and worked for the financial community. My boys would come to visit with Neil and me. Beatrice, my first wife, now owns a flower shop in LA. She is still there and a nice lady.

My son is not sure where he wants to live here or Japan. Leiana just had my first grandchild. They came back to Morocco once and sort of remember. When Leiana came with me to visit Morocco she said this is not the Morocco you were talking about. And it dawned on me that I had described to her the Morocco I knew as a child.

End

Backward Glance

Last year Susie Hall shared an early copy of the *Morocco Courier* with me. It was dated October 10, 1890 and advertised Recher & Recher, Physicians & Surgeons, Lockwood & Bell, Barbers and Hairdressers, Ladies Hair Clipping, a Specialty, and in addition had a newsstand located in the shop, Chicago Daily Papers every day, periodicals, magazines and all kinds of latest novels constantly on hand. Frank Davis advertised as an attorney-at-Law and a notary public.

One of the news items caught my eye. "About 125 of our citizens took in the Hay Palace Wednesday and about 90 yesterday. A great many are there today seeing the sights."

The Hay Palace was located at Momence and was described by Kay Hess in her book, *Momence, the Making of a River Town, c1985*.

"In May of 1890, the business men of Momence formed a stock company to raise the sum of \$7,500 for the erection of a Hay Palace and hold an exhibit of the products of the great hay-growing district of this part of Illinois and

Western Indiana. The project was also to include all the features of a fair.

“By September work on the structure was about complete. The building was 206 feet in length and 166 feet wide in the center. The plan of the building was that of a circular area in the center flanked to the north, south, and west by wings 50 feet wide. A circular gallery, 18 feet wide swept around the center circle, which had a roof 87 feet high. This dome was covered with a thatch of straw.

“The walls of the structure were built entirely of bales of hay, with some baled straw used as ornament. Battlements of bales gave the place the appearance of a castle. There were small windows placed for ventilation, but one of the main attractions of the Palace was the lighting--hundreds of electric lights were hung from the trusses which supported the roof and from the rails of the gallery. This was the first great use of electric lighting in this part of the state.

“The inner pillars were decorated with ears of corn, evergreens, wild flowers, and the galleries were used for displays of regional products.”

Many Morocco residents probably took the train to Momence to see the Hay Palace.

In the same paper was found the R.R. Timetable of the Chicago & Indiana Coal Road, the steam rail road that ran past Morocco’s elevators and northwest to Momence and now only exists in the minds of some of us old timers.

Trains pass Morocco as Follows
Going North

Passenger.....	8:40 a.m.
Mail.....	3:47 p.m.
Local.....	6:30 p.m.
Through Freight.....	3:00 p.m.
Going South	
Mail.....	11:15 a.m.
Local.....	6:45 a.m.
Through Freight.....	3:00 p.m.
Passenger.....	6:30 p.m.

G. A. Royster, Agent
Morocco, Indiana

In the same paper we read:

- *New Wall paper at Stoner and Purkeys
- *You can get a scratch book for a penny at Shafers
- *The frost is on the punkin and the fodder is in the shock
- *A. E. Chizum sells the best block coal at \$3.00 per ton
- *For Sale--A saloon, house and lot, G. Curtis
- *Found--On the Fair Ground a bunch of keys. Owner can have the same by paying for this notice.
- *Roasted coffee at D. W. Roadruck’s for 15 cts. per pound
- *Get your cigars and tobacco at Hope’s Restaurant

Government In Action

Utility Board

In a marathon meeting that lasted from 5:05 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. the Utility Board met on June 25, 2007 at the Town Hall to consider the effect the gift from the County Commissioners had on current projects and the possibility of rate reduction.

Steve Howell called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were Sam Davis, Marlene Taden, Jim Geesa, Randy Decker, Bob Gonczy, Scott Madison, and later Larry Bingham and Jim Pistello.

Under old business the summer meter program was reinstated and appropriate amendments have been made.

Sam Davis, Randy Decker and Marlene Taden went to the Utility Board Training session near Delphi which dealt with the fiscal aspect of Utilities and reported that it was a great session.

Bob Gonczy appeared to talk about the hydrants and mains project and the reduction of the water rates. Since the Clerk/Treasurer was not in attendance nor was Rene Sain, Utility Clerk, it was not possible to know what

the current status of the accounts were.

Gonczy stated that when the Town Board took office they inherited a mess, as all the money went into one pot and it was allocated in a haphazard way. Without tipping fees they couldn't have paid their bills.

With the new software and line items in the budget, it is now possible to know what is being spent and what the financial status of the budget is at any given point in time. It is estimated that with the new more effective water meters that an additional \$30,000 may be generated.

He reminded the Utility Board that the process that led to the grant from the county started in December and the money was not granted until April. The town is at a crossroad in trying to improve water delivery to the town and replacing obsolete hydrants for the safety of the town.

The Utility Board has met twice since the granting of the money and have proceeded to plan for applying for a grant to be applied to the hydrant and main project.

Gonczy stated flatly that the town can't raise utility rates, and this had produced a dilemma which members of the Utility Board struggled with the remainder of the meeting.

Gonczy had received a communication from Council Member, Sharon Miller, asking why the utility rates had not been reduced by \$10.00 as promised. Gonczy contends that during his presentation he had given three options for rate reduction and that only one had been heard and that this was the one reported in the *Morocco Courier*, making it appear that the Town Board had now misrepresented itself in this matter. However he thinks that they are all still on the same page, and would like to see the town preserve its credibility.

Gonczy then explored how it would be possible to effect a \$10.00 reduction in the water rate. The retiring of the water tower bonds would create a savings of approximately \$4.00 on each water bill. Also the garbage pick up has been renegotiated and there was a \$2.00 savings that could come off the bill. In

addition, if the fire protection portion of the bill was allocated to a separate line in the budget and the service provided by Beaver Township was paid for from another fund, that would eliminate another \$4.00 from the bill, thus accounting for a possible 10.00 reduction in the rate.

County Commissioner, Jim Pistello, appeared stating that he wanted to help. He was adamant that the action of the Utility Board needs to be explained, for the perception of Commissioners and Council members alike was that there would be a \$10.00 reduction in Morocco's water bills. He said that this needs to be resolved and it cannot be allowed to fester. It was suggested that tapes of the meeting where Gonczy made the presentation be viewed to get a clearer idea of how any miscommunication may have occurred. Gonczy was invited to the Commissioners meeting on Monday July 2nd at 8:00 a.m. to explain his position in the matter.

Scott Madison indicated that he saw where Gonczy was coming from and that the tapes might be helpful in understanding what transpired.

Pistello then removed himself and discussion turned to the grant proposal for the hydrant and main project. The proposal is due by July 18th of this year and there will be a public hearing on Thursday, July 5th at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. There was a vote to proceed with Phase I of the hydrant and main project contingent upon funding (Phase I has to do with new mains for the north and south end of town) The grant proposal is being written by K-IRPC (Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission). Edwin L. Buswell, Community Development Planner, in charge.

The proposal is due by July 18th and the full proposal application by Sept 22nd. They will need to know at that time where the funding is coming from and a local match will have to be in place by then. Possible sources include local banks, state revolving loans, and Rural Development funds.

Various options were explored as to the

range of monies needed for both Phase I and Phase II of the project. Ed Buswell said that his group will proceed with requesting the full amount of one million five hundred thousand, but that could be amended, if the Utility Board adjusted its plan.

It was also discussed how to build up a reserve in the Utility Board's budget for future projects and maintenance. President Howell commented that even if the \$10.00 reduction could be put into effect this year, it is quite probable that the rates would have to go up again next year.

The Utility Board is pressing forward on a number of fronts and it was mentioned that the CFF proposal has to be ready by January.

Another bit of business was transacted before Jim Pistello left the meeting. He proposed to give all of West Street to the town in exchange for a small section of 114.

Commissioners Meeting

At the regular meeting of the Newton County Commissioners and the Newton County Council on June 25th Bob Gonczy appeared to explain why the Morocco Town Board had not met the expectations of some council members in regard to the monies received to retire bonds and reduce the water bills.

Gonczy had sent a letter to the *Morocco Courier* outlining his concerns after Sharon Miller had questioned why the water bills were not being reduced.

Following the outline of the letter he reviewed his original presentation to the Council and his recommendations to the Utility Board, which included eliminating the \$4.00 collected for the retired water tower bond, an additional \$2.00 for the renegotiated garbage pick up, and another \$4.00 per month, when the fire protection contract with Beaver Township was placed in another fund.

Gonczy said in his presentation, "The wheels of government turn slow. Not everyone is willing to invest hours and hours of personal/family time to try to make a difference. I'm asking you to please not turn

this positive action into a negative."

Three of the Council members, especially Denny Rainford, were disgruntled because Gonczy had sent them e-mails and tried to call and communicate with them about the matter and thought they were being harassed. They preferred to discuss it in open meeting. Gonczy's comment, "Talk to me." Inferring that some problems needed to be addressed immediately and cannot wait for scheduled meetings.

However, the council urged Gonczy to communicate with the citizens of Morocco about the water bills, stressing how important they thought communication was.

Scott Madison said that they had listened to the tapes of the original meeting and that Gonczy had done exactly what he said he would do. There being no other questions, Gonczy thanked the council for holding him accountable and left.

Beaver Township Board Meeting

Dan Baird, President, called the meeting to order. Among the items discussed for the Beaver Township Park and Recreation area were: The August 1st LQI Pool Party, a half-price season pass, the need to remove old light poles and the cement dugouts from the premises, the pool ladder has been ordered, there is a need to sand blast and repaint the pool this fall and to paint the building. Various ways of accomplishing these tasks were discussed. The pump house and shed also need painting.

The pool party sponsored by the LQI radio station would be open free of charge, but a \$1.00 pool entry fee was discussed, rather than the normal \$3.00. It was thought that this would attract more people.

It was decided to offer a half-price season pass after the 4th of July at \$75.00 for a family and \$35.00 for a single. This has been done in the past.

The bleachers and light poles are stacked up in the southwest quarter of the park. The concrete needs to be removed, but it is too large for Eugene Yoder to handle. Joe

Warrick suggested that it might be buried. Deardurff will get an estimate for removing all the debris.

A number of requests for funds had been received:

George Ade Memorial requested money for a van, price \$43,000. Since vans are available for older citizens at the Council on Aging in Beaver Township, the request was denied.

The Newton County Fair requested funds. The request seemed rather vague and prior to the meeting the Fair Board was told that they should resubmit their request.

The Junior Achievement Program asked for funds to operate the program at Morocco Elementary. The group needs \$1,176 to operate the program and they are trying to support themselves with various projects. The Board voted to participate in funding of the project.

Brian Runyon appeared to request funding for the National Archery program at the school. \$2,800 is needed for equipment. It would start as an after-school program and 55 students have already indicated they would be interested in participating. He pointed out that not all young people are athletes and this program would help get them active and out into Mother Nature. He will also go to other townships for help with the funding.

In order to give money to the project it would have to be affiliated with the school and the national organization would have to be a not-for-profit organization. Deardurff will investigate before action will be taken.

Diane Gonczy appeared to say thank you to the township for their support of the Science Camp. She said that it was a great success with at least 75 children participating. They gathered at the Community Room of the Fire House.

No report was given for the Fire Department as Dave Clements was absent.

The financial report included the paving of the back parking lot. \$2,700 will be taken from the miscellaneous fund for the project and the county will help out as well.

The tanker has been repaired. It needs to be

looked at to make sure the repairs are working.

The new budget will be presented to the Tax Board, which meets at Benton County and Deardurff asked for any recommendations to be submitted before July 13th.

Planning Commission

Phyllis Glenn, President, called the meeting to order.

Bob Gresham was commended for 14 years of service on the Planning Commission. He will retire from the Board on July 1st.

A number of building permits have been issued.

Jim Wilson appeared on behalf of J. B. Equipment seeking a variance on new construction at his welding shop, located at the old Milt Storey Building. After answering a few questions, it was approved.

Dave and Peg Lindlow appeared to see about a fence. It was decided that it was consistent with the ordinances and that building could proceed without a variance.

Warren Baker wants to put a four foot porch on the front of his house. After some discussion his request was granted.

The old Laundromat was discussed. It is still locked up in the Kentland Bank with a number of liens on the property. Gresham thought that the Board's commitment to the project has passed and that something needs to be done. The legal status of the building needs to be clarified for the building in its present state presents a hazard.

The town is being sued by Tom Montemayer over some vehicles that were towed away. The town's position was that he did not have a valid license to operate a used car lot.

The Commission wants to be included in the 20/20 plans.

Community Calendar

Utility Board Meets on July 30th at the Town Hall at 5:05 p.m. Steve Howell, Pres.

Planning Commission Meets on July 30th at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Phyllis Glenn,

Pres.

Beaver Township Board Meets on August 27th at 5:00 p.m. at the Beaver Township Community Center, Dan Baird, Pres.

Conservancy Board Meeting moved to July 10th at the Town Hall at 5:00 p.m. and again on August 7th Same Time Bill Smart, Pres.

Town Board Meeting moved to July 10th at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. and again on August 7th Same Time Same place. Bob Gonczy, Pres.

(If you have a function you would like placed on the community calendar, please send me a note at P.O. Box 315, and I will be glad to put in on the calendar. Don't expect me to remember those dates that you tell me in passing. I need to have it in writing. Ye Editor)

Transitions

Ivan Westley Babbitt

Ivan Westley Babbitt, age 89, of Morocco, Indiana passed away at his home on July 2, 2007 after a few months illness. He was born in Morocco, Indiana on August 4, 1917, the son of Charles and Catherine (Bachelder) Babbitt (both deceased). He was a lifetime Morocco resident having lived in the same house for 67 years. Ivan was educated in the Morocco Schools.

On January 28, 1939 at Beaver Church in Donovan, Illinois, Ivan married Mamie Anderson (she survives). He served with the U.S. Navy, was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Morocco, belonged to the Morocco Masonic Lodge #372 F & AM and the Knights of Pythias. Ivan worked at the Standard Oil Company, Indiana State Highway Department and Per Pak in Brook, Indian, retiring in 1982.

Survivors include daughters Kathryn (Steve) Niedert of Crown Point, Indiana and Marilyn

(Marvin) Hert of Brownsberg, Indiana; grandchildren Joe (Robin) Strole, Bryan (Stacy) Niedert, Jennifer Niedert, Traci (Matt) Gunning, Holli (Eric) Mason and Carri (Tim) Beaver; great-grandchildren, Braden and Meah Strole, Griffin and Tanner Gunning and Kaylee Niedert. Preceded in death by two daughters, Melva Strole and Marjean Babbitt and one brother.

Funeral services will be held Friday, July 6, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Morocco with Pastor Sam Polito officiating. Interment at Oakland Cemetery of Morocco. Visitation will be Thursday from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at the Steinke Funeral Home of Morocco. Memorials are suggested to the First United Methodist Church of Morocco.

Michael A. Bechert

Staff Sergeant Michael A. Bechert died June 14th in San Antonio, Texas, from wounds he received while on patrol in Iraq.

Mike planned to make the Army his career and was on his second tour of duty when killed.

Pulled from a burning vehicle, 90 percent of his body was burned. The Army was able to stabilize him and he was flown back to Texas, where he died with his family around him.

He joined the Army in 2001 after receiving his GED. He served in the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division out of Schweinfurt, Germany.

He met his wife, Daneila, in Germany and they have a 20 month old son, Brandon. He was buried in Hope, Indiana on June 24th, next to his mother, who died when he was just six years old.

Bechert was raised by his father, Michael, who has resided at Morocco for about 10 months and his grandfather, George Bechert of Inverness, Indiana

This and That

While having coffee with the ladies at

Greenfields Bonnie Deardurff described a new technique of raising tomatoes that seemed interesting. "If you want all the tomatoes you can use, just plant them in a bale of straw, water it and they will produce many fine tomatoes." Ye Editor was fascinated and that same day bought a bale of straw and three tomato plants which now reside in the bale in full sun. They didn't even wilt and appear to be healthy plants. Stay tuned for a report on their progress.

For Sale: Two air conditioners. Just had central air installed and have two used air conditioners. Price \$50.00 each. Call 285-2367

For Sale: 5 ½ yards blue velvet material. Very expensive when new. Price \$50.00 takes all. Call 285-2367

For Sale: *Source Material for the History of Roselawn, Shelby and Thayer*, Compiled by Gerald Born and Sharyn Harvey. \$25.00 plus postage. Call 285-2367

Election time is drawing near. Time to toss you hat into the ring.

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