

MOROCCO TIMES

“When tongue and pen alike are free; Safe from all foes dwells Liberty” Tom Gundy

Around Town

Change seems to be the only constant, and so it was with Morocco during the past month.

The first major change happened when Republic Services, Inc. purchased Allied Waste. Republic engages in waste management and garbage collection, recycling, transfer and disposal of non-hazardous solid waste for commercial and industrial businesses and municipalities. It is the third largest waste management company with an annual income of 12 billion dollars. The company plans to move its headquarters from Florida to Arizona.

At this time it is not known what impact this merger will have on Allied’s plans for the former Intec building or its projected use. Stay tuned.

The second change that will have a major impact on the citizens of Morocco occurred when Fagen’s Pharmacy, located in Allen’s IGA Store, was closed. Jerry Fagen sold his business to CVS. It came as a shock to the community when many went to the pharmacy counter to have prescriptions filled and found only this sign:

“ Pharmacy Department Closed: Prescription Records have been transferred to 107 Cullen St. 219-866-5400 “.CVS

It seems the volume of prescriptions did not justify keeping the pharmacy open. Many are now ordering their scripts through the mail with the new part D for prescription drugs.

Employees said that they were receiving the brunt of criticism since they were there, even though they had no say in the matter.

It is doubtful that in this age of big business that Morocco will have a pharmacy in the near future. This is the first time in over 125 years that Morocco has been without a drug store.

Allen’s Morocco IGA Store

One of the best changes that has and is taking place is the remodeling Allen’s Morocco IGA Store. Ownership has recently changed hands when Allen Meyers sold the business to his son, Tim Meyers, who runs the Roselawn store, and to Grant and Tina Christenson, who manage the Morocco IGA.. Tina is Allen’s daughter and Tim’s sister.

The business had its beginnings in 1948 when Allen Myers was working at the Royal Blue Store located on State Street next to the Moroko Theatre then owned by Geneva (Camblin) Russell. Geneva told Allen that she was planning on retiring and that he was going to buy the store. Allen protested that he didn’t have the money, but Geneva was persistent and told him that she would show him how it could be done and show him she did. He was already in partnership with his sister-in-law, Leanna Davidson, who then operated the D & M Shop, a “jot-‘em-down store” purchased from Orville Purdy and were off and running. Davidson & Myers sold the convenience store to Gerald Bouse, who renamed it the Minit Shop, later selling it to his brother, Ralph..

Allen built the new store on Polk Street (Old 41) in 1964 and since that time it has been an institution in the community., servicing the needs of three generations. He brought with him from the old Royal Blue Store, Mary Katherine Porter, who was in charge of produce, Leanna Davidson from the D & M Shop, who wrapped meat and Evy Russell, who worked in the office. Grant entered the business soon after he married Tina and has

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been involved in the store ever since.

When I asked Tina why the remodel, she replied, “It needs it desperately. Some of the floor tile has been here since the store was built.” Though not a huge mega-market it is Morocco’s supermarket and is modern in every sense.

The sleek new black refrigerator cases will nearly double in size the space available for produce, dairy and meat products allowing for a greater variety of goods, presented at a convenient height and easily accessible

Tim Myers commented, “We would like to bring many of the same formats as our meat, dairy and frozen departments we currently have available at Roselawn. We hope to implement the same ad and customer rewards programs as well.”

Grant said they are shooting for completion by the end of August and are planning a grand reopening around Labor Day.

The newly remodeled stores will feature historic images throughout. (Ye Editor has furnished some of them for both stores) and a Sam Rice Corner, a sit down café area, where one can have a cup of coffee, eat one of the good lunches from the deli, and generally enjoy an ambiance of Sam Rice baseball days.

The *Morocco Times* extends the very best wishes to Tim, Tina and Grant for the continuing success of their stores and our appreciation to Allen and Nancy Myers for their dedication to the town and its people throughout the years.

Morocco Cooks by Jan Yoder

Spinach and Bacon Salad

This family favorite--my father loves it--was given to me by a friend back in the 1980’s. Combine and chill:

- 1 pound fresh spinach, washed & drained
- 8 strips of fried bacon, crumbled
- 4-6 hard boiled eggs, sliced
- ¼ cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- ¼ cup mozzarella cheese, shredded
- Red onion, thinly sliced, as desired

We use either hot bacon dressing* or Hidden Valley Ranch dressing (the one you mix with milk and mayonnaise in a packet is best, but one can use bottled as well). *To make hot bacon dressing, stir ¼ cup sugar into some hot bacon drippings, add ¼ cup vinegar, whisk and pour over the salad.

Mud Pie

Years ago there was a restaurant in Lafayette, Indiana called the Cork & Cleaver. They specialized in serving this wonderful dessert and also offered their recipe to customers. This is one of my favorites for summer.

- ½ package Nabisco chocolate wafers (I have also used Oreo Cookies and they work as well)
- ½ stick butter, melted
- 1 gallon of coffee ice cream
- 1 ½ cups fudge sauce.

Crush wafers and add butter. Mix and press into 9 inch pie plate. Cover with softened ice cream and put in freezer till firm. Top with cold fudge sauce. Refreeze for 10 hours. Top with whipped cream and slivered almonds

Delicious Chicken Salad

We sold a lot of this salad at the coffee house where I was the cook.

This recipe serves two people. Ingredients may be increased if you want a larger salad to serve a group.

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Whole chicken breast, cooked and cubed
 Red grapes, sliced in half
 Pecans, chopped (optional)
 Miracle Whip to moisten
 Dash of Cinnamon

Combine all ingredients adding Miracle Whip until salad is moist. Add cinnamon to taste.

Happenings

June was a busy month at the Tea Room. On the 5th of the month it was visited by Audrey Johnson, Juanita Banister, Alice Nemecek, Lillian Floyd and Barbara Pettit-Regnier

And the 17th brought Bob and Charlene Lanning and their daughter Carly, who live in California. They had been vacationing in New York City and made a special stop-over in Chicago so they could again visit the town and show their daughter how different life is in our small village as compared to the California life style. Learning of Carly's interest in not only music, but also things Chinese, I took them on a tour of my two houses, which are filled with Chinese things. The day did not last long enough, but we spent the last couple of hours on the front porch of the old house swinging and watching dusk settle in. It can't be much better than that, friends, good conversation, and the sounds of the night critters getting ready for their rest. I only wish the fireflies had been out casting their special magic on the scene. Perhaps next time.

On the 18th The Corner Tea Room had a special party for those who had birthdays in June. Many friends came to enjoy the

refreshments and the informal entertainment supplied by Diane Elijah, Pastor Sam Polito, and Al DeSilva. Shirley Story not only sang, but also shared her original memory poetry to the delight of all. Al's rendition was so clever that he was asked to sing it again.

Betty Kessler wants to thank all who contributed and are supporting our efforts to make Morocco a good place in which to live.

Among the celebrants were nine people who were 90 years old or older. At the risk of omitting a name, those celebrating birthdays and their friends who attended on the 18th and later on Betty's birthday were: Shirley Storey, Ruth Ann Shirer, Mary Lou Rainford, Marilyn Kruger, Lillian Floyd, Mary Zelivetz, Ruth Doty, Bev Knoezer, Al DeSilva, Betty DeSilva, Edmere Falk, Grace Kennedy, Dianne Hendryx, Lillian Hevidejs Alice Nemecek, Myrna Anderson, Jean Laffoon, Garnita Webb, Kelly Tuntland and children, Mary Zunman, Wilma Brunton, Trish Stepe, Alice Warne, Gerald Born, Wayne & Louise Holley, Pastor Sam Polito, Diane Elijah, Jan Yoder, Ollie Hagen, Ruth Warrick, Judy Styck, Joan Carlson, Marian Strosinski, Jackie Blann, Grace Kennedy

On June 25th the Red Hat Club “The Newton County Belles” met at the Tea Room and invited the Goodland chapter to come as their guests.

The room was resplendent with red hats and attire of various shaded of lavender, purple, and lilac.

Most of the local club was known to Ye Editor. At the head of the table sat Ruth Doty, whose son, Bob, and his wife, Joyce, were in school at the same time as I was. Ruth was a member of my mother's pinochle club. Ruth's granddaughter Suzie is here from Arizona and will be an off and on guest of Ruth for the next

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couple of weeks.

Next to her sat Leona Pasel, who along with her late husband, Ed, have carved a special niche in my heart. When my father, John Born, had to give up his business in Minnesota for health reasons and return to Indiana, it was Leona and Ed that made a place for him helping Ed with his grocery store. He died at Brook in 1963 feeling useful.

Lillian Floyd sat next to her and Lillian was also a member of my mother’s pinochle club. Lillian is always the same, cheerful, positive and has a good word for everyone.

Mary Zelivetz, a new friend, sat at the far end of the table. When I found that Mary was a good friend of Stella Rainford’s when she lived in Lake Village, I knew that she had to be O.K.

Next came Marian Strosinski and Bev Knoezer. I found out who they were when I was more involved in the Newton County Historical Society. I feel that I know Bev’s husband’s uncle, Leo Knoezer. better than her, as he was my neighbor when I lived at Hammond. He also owned the oldest Cadillac dealership in the country and my uncle, Everett Wright, when they stopped producing Packards, changed his allegiance to the Cadillac and would purchase a new one every other year. Being a car enthusiast he would take me to the showroom from time to time, which was located not far from their home, to see the new models. What a thrill to sit in the seat of a new Caddy. And Leo Knoezer was very cordial--a nice man.

The Goodland contingent consisted of Loretta Doe, Joyce Nevitt, Carolyn Rheude, Betty Griffin. Seems as though I am missing one of the ladies, but I’m sure I will hear who it was.

Conversation covered a wide swath of topics, from preservation of the depot at

Goodland to tattoos and piercing, as fashion statements What can we say? The Red Hatters are an interesting group, that now have chapters in every state and also abroad.

Projects Unlimited met at the home of Janet Burton on June 16th. It was decided that workers would sell fair tickets again this year, which they did.

A Main Street Meeting was held at the Library on June 23rd. David Terrell and Jo Grandel were in charge. Those in attendance were Dan & Donna Blaney, Natalie Gibson, Harriet Webb, Bob Gonczy. They talked about grants that were available. Grandel is moving to Ohio There will be a conference on October 16-18.

Nancy Myers, Harriet Webb, Shirley Mahan, and Cindy Polito enjoyed lunch out last week at the Colonial Inn in Kentland. These neighbors get together a few times a year for catching up on each other’s activities.

Brian and Becky Goddard have purchased the house at 208 Wallace Street and with their children have settled in. Nice to see an empty house come back to life.

Melissa Pass, who is the assistant clerk at the Town Hall had her baby two months premature. Mother and daughter are doing well.

Mike and Carrie Bell have a new addition to their family, little Micah Timothy was born on July 4th and welcomed home by big sister and brother Myra and Marcus.

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Editorial

Ye Editor hasn't seen as much drama since the early 50's when Bircey Whaley rang the party line and reported flying saucers over their property south of town. Many responded to the call, called others and took off to see the phenomenon.. The aliens put on quite a show. For two and a half hours there were things going on in the sky that just did not make sense to us common folks.

The Utility Board offered a surrealistic repeat at their June 30th meeting as ideas bounced off the walls and conclusions whizzed around the room at a dizzying pace.

Bob Gonczy was there and condensed in his inimitable way in 15 minutes what went on at a “special meeting on Sunday night.” that lasted for at least two hours. (This explained why there were so many cars at the town hall on Sunday night).

Now let's see if I got this right. Gonczy had just returned from Indianapolis and the Capitol building where he had been invited to accept the grant from the state for the hydrants and main project, but they may not accept the \$500,000 for other avenues have opened that might make it impossible to accept the grant.

And since the community had already approved \$500,000 for the project to be raised by bonds, wouldn't it be wonderful to use that money to leverage participation in a new grant that would allow the town to do the whole enchilada that had been projected prior to the current one, so they might not be able to accept the state grant. Bye, bye \$500,000..

At that point I felt like I was witnessing a bait and switch con game that is as old as the hills. Since the town had already committed to the lesser figure, why not use that amount to leverage a \$4,500,000.00 project like the town

manager has wanted all along. No--these are elected officials and they wouldn't play such a dangerous game would they?.

John M Sturgill of McMahon Associates, Valparaiso, Indiana, presented a slick proposal, the kind that usually costs \$8,000 to \$10,000, being careful to distance his company from any prior involvement with the Town Board, by citing the sources for the material in his presentation. His organization has been “following the progress of the town of Morocco” and his sources for data about the town came from The Midwest Contract Operations, Inc (MCO) Never heard of them, but there are many things I have never heard of. Anyway MCO seems to have all of the studies commissioned by our Town Board and supplied/sold on demand that data to McMahon Associates.

The report was prepared on June 18, 2008 and the report issued on June 20, 2008. Very impressive. Most such studies take weeks, if not months. It is entitled *Evaluation of Project Alternative and Funding Opportunities for the Proposed Water System Improvements Project in the Town of Morocco, Newton County, Indiana*. Which raises a question. If McMahon had followed Morocco's progress so closely, why did not the company propose this solution before the town applied for the state grant? It would have saved a lot of time, energy, and embarrassment

Anyway John M. Sturgill, a very persuasive young man, presented the evaluation and outlined how the total project could be done with a new federal funding source, which would pay seventy-five percent of the four million plus and save money on salt and chlorine treatment as well. There would be a new well, ground water tank storage, complete replacement of the water mains (and hydrants?) a new building to house them and

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anything else needed for a water delivery system. And of course it had to be done soon, as there was only a eighteen month time frame in which to change the direction of the current project. Sound too good to be true? Maybe. It did occur to me that in a different time and place that Sturgill could have made a good living selling snake oil remedies at the county fair.

The things that Morocco had to do to be considered were outlined by Gonczy to the Utility Board., and he told the Utility Board what he needed to have in place to pursue the new grant.

Marlene Taden became the official cheerleader for accepting those conditions immediately and unconditionally. She explained her expertise in these matters came from the 3-day seminar she and other members of the board attended last year at Delphi and offered the specious argument that there had not been a rate hike in five years. (Bully, I thought, for those who kept it in line.) She offered no reason for needing the rate hike other than it was required if the board was to go after the new grant. At one time the Water Department was a service to the community that supported all of the town's expenditures.. Now it appears that it is a business, and the town resident is only the object of income for the utility, Sad,

Most of the members of the Utility Board were very quiet during this presentation and had few questions about the evaluation and its relevancy to the current project.

Taden, however, saw her role clearly and proposed a 30% rate hike in the water portion of the utility bill, which passed without much discussion..

If this were not enough, Gonczy, introduced another measure that would add \$25,000 to the coffers of the Morocco Utility Department.

He explained that the \$4.00 for fire protection would no longer be collected in the water bill, but would be coming out of the general fund. as a contractual service However, he would keep the \$4.00 and call it a meter rental, thus the \$25,000 could be used as a capital reserve fund, which the state suggests. This appears to be adding insult to injury, for haven't the meters already been paid for and now we are being charged rent.. Come on fellows. However, it clearly shows that Gonczy in not interested in lowering the monthly water bill paid by his constituency. Collecting money on the utility bill is too convenient a Cash Cow that the Board seems to think is the solution to all money woes and they are not prepared to give it up.. I can think of no better use of tipping fees than to fund this function and remove it from the water bill. Those high water bills discourage people from moving to Morocco, thus shrinking our tax base.

It is nice to send students to Europe, to provide the Legion with a new oven to boost its business, and other such good things, but, why not use tipping fees for something that will benefit all, rather than a few?

The only protest to the actions taken by the utility board was voiced from the floor at the Town Board meeting by Cindy Dowty, which is ironic, for her husband, Larry Dowty, and Dan Blaney were the architects of the present rate, created fifteen or so years ago for which we are now paying dearly. However, it does not negate her observation that there are many in the community who can ill afford the price of water, sewers, etc., etc.

It may sound wonderful to get a brand new system for a mere million dollars rather than repairing the old one for five hundred thousand.. However, someone has to pay for the million dollar bond., which will add a great deal to our indebtedness for the next 20-40

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years and in light of the impending bond issue for the schools, and another for over a million for the Kessler ditch, it is not insignificant. And this is to say nothing about the current economic climate in which we find ourselves. The cost of gasoline and the resultant galloping inflation which causes many of us concern need to be factored into any expenditure of funds..

But not to worry. If the public exhibits as much apathy as it did at the last public hearing on this issue, (I and one other person attended) then the Town Board will have no problem in passing whatever it wants.

My poor mind is still reeling from all the data that went whizzing by, so I will wait for a press release from the Town Board for the details of their new scheme and the commitment they have made to it before further comment on what the implications might be..

Ye Editor posed an interesting question at the meeting. In light of the new meters is it now possible to charge for the actual use of water rather than paying for a minimum, as there are many of us, who do not use the minimum and are therefore subsidizing heavier users. Decker said that this would never happen. Never say never I have always heard.

Features

Wayne Holley’s World War II Experiences

We left Wayne on Guam just getting ready to go to the island of Leyte and so continues his story.

JK- How did they get the tanks to Leyte?

WH- LSTs. We went there with our LSTs. We were parked just below the airport for awhile until we went in and wiped the Japanese out.

JK- Did you go to another island from there?

WH- Yes, Iwo Jima was after Leyte.

JK- Well, it took us 5 days to clean up Iwo Jima and then we went over to Okinawa.

JK- Was Ernie Pyle (*See Notes Below*) killed on Iwo Jima?

(*) Note: Ernest Taylor Pyle (August 3, 1900-April 1, 1945) was an American journalist who wrote as a roving correspondent for the Scripps Howard newspaper chain from 1935 until his death during World War II. His articles about out-of-the-way places he visited and the people who lived there, were written in a folksy style much like a personal letter to a friend. He enjoyed a loyal following in as many as 300 newspapers. Born at Dana, Indiana, he spent three months serving in World War I. He offered a fox hole view of the Second World War news.. (Extensive material may be found on Pyle on the Internet. ED.)

WH- No , he was killed on a small island, el Shima close to Okinawa. We had arrived and were getting ready to unload. We were waiting for orders to go into the island. Ernie Pyle climbed up a steep bank of a hill that was directly in front of us and was shot. A Colonel asked where Ernie

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Pyle was killed and I pointed out the place. I said, “Right up there at the top of that hill.” It was maybe 100 feet from the LST we were going to unload. Then the Colonel went up there and he got killed as well.

JK- Snipers?

WH- Yes, They wrapped Ernie Pyle up like a mummy. He laid on the bank for a couple of days before they could get him transferred out. After we had finished up on Iwo Jima, which was about 5 days, we went from there into Okinawa at night, landed our tanks and got organized. We were under fire all night and we discovered the next morning we had lost the last officer we had.

JK- You were under fire during the night?

WH- Yes, all night long we were under fire. They had what they called buzz-bombs and one of them fell right beside my tank and that is what busted my ear drum. My tank was just about totally covered up from the dirt and rock. It was buried some 15 or 20 feet in the rock.

JK- Was that tank usable after that kind of hit?

WH- Oh, yeah, it really rocked us, but we did not get a direct hit. The bomb hit right beside of the tank and just covered us up with dirt. Our officer was dug in underneath the tank.

JK- He was sleeping underneath the tank?

WH- Yeah and he had a hip blown off and

lost his radio operator who was there as well.

JK- OK So he was not killed then he was just injured.

WH- Yeah, he was injured; he lived through it, or I hope he did. I never heard from him after that. Of course they took him away to give him treatments... The radio operator got his arm torn off, it put him out of commission, so we were short another officer and tank there.

JK- How many tanks did you have left at that point?

WH- 17

JK- So what happened to the company at that point?

WH- I took over the company and I organized them. I got on the radio and told them to just keep our tanks 100 feet apart and not to stop for anything. Prepare yourself for battle; we are going in. We took off to the scene of the battle. The Marines had been tied down for a couple of days, so their tanks were all blown up and everything was in disarray. I said do not stop them tanks for nothing; we are going to go through and open up the field so that the Marines can take charge. There was a man from Rensselaer by the name of Earl Markus and I put him in charge of the rear and I was in front.

JK Did a Marine General get on the radio and try to hold you back a little?

WH – Yeah, he tried to stop us, but I told

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the General, “Leave us alone; we are going to open up the field. That is what we promised to do and we are going to do it. “ That kept us on the move for quite awhile after we got the field opened up.

There was a single file of Japs coming down the mountain on the same morning. We split up the tanks; ½ went on one side of the mountain and ½ on the other side. We killed everything we could see. The tanks were kept off the roads where they would be an easy target. Every time a tank was hit, the Marines were there to repair them; I used three different tanks in that battle. We cleared about 40 acres and we headed south for Ormat, a town at the end of the island. We fired three shells into the city and the Japs came marching out with white flags. The Marines were there to take prisoners. A Marine Infantry division took over after we went through and opened up the field.

JK- If you encountered a cave armed with guns, how did you handle that?

WH- There were a lot of tank guns in caves. We would go in and go around and flank them out. We would point a 105 right in the cave and fire and that would be the end of them. We went up each side of the mountain and cleared them out as we went. I had three replacement tanks myself. When we got out of our tanks, we took our machine guns with us and a couple hundred rounds of ammunition swung over our shoulders and fire behind us if threatened.

JK- So, if the tank was disabled you could get out that bottom trap door with the

Thompson sub-machine gun?

WH- Yeah, we would get out of the tank and load up our 30-caliber machine guns and work our way back. Then the Marines would have another tank ready and put us in it. Marines were furnishing us tanks to do the rest of the cleaning up.

JK- After Okinawa was cleaned up, what did you do?

WH- We went down to Luzon.

JK- In the Philippines?

WH- In the Philippines. We sat down there. We got all new tanks and everything there ready to go into Tokyo Bay. We had our maps and everything was ready to go into Tokyo Bay. While we were there they dropped the atomic bomb and we did not have to go; that was about the end of it.

JK- You were pretty happy about that, I imagine?

WH- Oh, you bet I was, while we were on Luzon we took trucks down to see where the men were killed when they left the island. I can't remember the name of the road that we went on, but it was the last stand of the Americans on the island.

JK- OH, Bataan and Corregidor?

WH- Yeah, the march of the Bataan as they called it.

JK- The Bataan Death March. You saw that road?

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WH- Yeah we went all through that, but they dropped the big bomb and then we did not have to go to Tokyo Bay.

JK- You did not have to go up to Tokyo Bay. If you had gone, what kind of ship would have transported you?

WH- Oh, that was right on the island we were on.

JK- They would have taken you on a LST to Tokyo Bay?

WH- Yeah, we probably would have had a LST take us, but when they dropped the bomb that was the end of it.

JK- Then you can home; did you come on a troop ship?

WH- Yes, we came home on a troop ship to the United States and we landed at Los Angeles.

JK- Well, tell us a little bit about the Japanese on those islands; they put up a pretty good resistance for what they had to fight with didn't they?

WH- They did not have a lot of big artillery, but what they had we wiped them out as we came through.

JK- What about the air, did you have any Japanese planes bothering you?

WH- Oh, yes, we had 1,400 ships on the landing at Okinawa and we had battle after battle overhead when a Jap plane came by our ships were all firing at them. When

they came by, they never got out of the plane and were shot down.

JK- Shot down from the ships or the American airplanes? Did you have any Kamikaze damage?

WH- The ships were out at sea. We could see them, they were flying over and when the Japs got over us, down they went. Every ship along the way was firing at them, so they never got away.

JK- The Japs did get one ship that you saw, however?

WH we had a ship that unloading and one Jap plane went right through the hold of the ship and, of course, it sunk the ship right there and we lost 16 men who were unloading that ship.

JK-When you were fighting the Japanese on the islands of Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Guam, Leyte; did they have any weapons that could stop your tanks?

WH- No, they didn't. They had some anti-tank guns, I forget what the caliber was on them, but they would not penetrate our tanks

JK- They would not penetrate a Sherman Tank?

WH- No, we had one tank that had 11 hits before the Lieutenant got killed. He got his head chopped off.

JK- He was up top sticking his head out?

WH- Yeah, he was taking orders from

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some general in the background. He was following orders, but he did not make it out.

JK- What else can you tell us about the island fighting.

WH- Oh, I can not think of anything that would be to their advantage. They fought with hand grenades and rifles and a few, but very few, Jap tanks which were like tin cans. Our 50-caliber would knock it out.

JK- Your 50-caliber machine guns would penetrate a Jap tank?

WH- Oh, yeah, it would set them on fire right away.

JK- Did you have tracer bullets to use.

WH- Every third shell that went out of the machine gun was a tracer so we had no trouble hitting our target

JK- Well, this is John Kessler interviewing Wayne Holley in Morocco, Indiana in 2005 (with 2008 updates). Wayne has related his World War II experiences from many, many years ago. We are going to make copies of this tape. Dan Blaney and I are cousins of Wayne. We are going to send a copy to the Library of Congress. They have a project encouraging World War II Veterans to document their experiences and will hopefully add this to their archives. Wayne, is there anything else you would like to say in parting?

WH- No, nothing I can remember, I am 90 years old, my head is not working quite as good as it should. You will find out when

you get older that you do not remember quite as well.

JK- And thank you Dan for taping this interview and making a copy. This is in Morocco, Indiana.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Gerald,

This is a picture of the 1914 graduating class. They had a picnic sometime early in the 1930's--perhaps 1934 after 20 years. It was held in Recher park I remember going to it.

Back Row Boyd Smart, _____, Ross Padgett, Van Cox Middle Row: I don't know any of the middle row. Front Row: Bethel Murphey, _____, _____, Hampton, wife of the sheriff, Alice Kessler.

There may be someone who can identify the others.

Vic Carlson is my cousin and I enjoyed reading his war experiences and also the *Times*.

Roberta (Kessler) Musser
Petaluma, California

Thanks for sending the photo, Roberta. The man in the second row reminds me of Paul Ketcham. I will take it to the Tea Room and see if anyone else can identify the others..

Backward Glance

During the past month Jim Elijah did repairs on my house on the northeast corner of Beaver and Polk. The raccoons had torn away part of the porch roof in order to make a home for themselves. I had live trapped a whole family, four small ones, their parents, and one

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grandparent and released them to the wild, so I was sure that we could enclose the roof and not catch one of the critters inside.

A whole series of remembrances came as I focused on the repairs. My grandmother’s uncle, Captain Dan Graves had the house built for his third wife, Rachel (Barkhurst) Graves. My mother’s uncle, Bill Nichols, was the carpenter, who built it. And it was lived in by Dan’s daughter, Mildred Merle Graves, until I purchased it in 1968 for my mother. Many said I should tear it down, as it had been neglected for so many years, but I thought it could be rehabbed and so spent over a year putting it back together. It provided a home for my mother, Gay Born, for the next 45 years.

Captain Dan had been dead many years when I purchased the house, however, I felt that I almost knew him, for Merle Graves, his daughter, was part of our extended family. Not a week went by that she was not a visitor in our home and over the dinner table she would tell of her father and his various exploits.

Daniel Morgan Graves was born January 5, 1830 in Coshocton County, Ohio, the son of Benjamin and Polly (Pierce) Graves, who were early pioneers in Morocco and are buried in the Murphey Cemetery. Before his death in 1917 he raised two families, one by his first wife Elizabeth Graham, by whom he had three children, Flora Frances, Charles and Frank Graves. Only Flora remained in Morocco. He married George H. Murphey who with Kennedy operated a general store on the northeast corner of State and Clay, which would later become the Morocco Electric Hatchery. Their daughter, Lora, married Edward Gardiner, who worked for many years in Evanston, Illinois as a mail carrier. After the death of both of their spouses, Ed married Mrs. Geneva (Camblin) Russell, mentioned

earlier in this issue..

Capt. Dan started his second family after the Civil War, when he married Rachel Ann Barkhurst from Tippecanoe County. They had four children, Orth, Raye, Lola, and Merle.

Prior to his Civil War experiences, Uncle Dan farmed, but when this was interrupted by war, he took up the Union cause and enlisted in Company A of the One Hundred and Twenty-eight Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

He was passionate in his belief in the Union cause. His grandfather, Joseph Graves and his great-uncle, John Graves had both left Virginia because of their distaste for chattel slavery and came to the state of Ohio in 1812 in order to be under a government which did not condone slavery.

Daniel Morgan Graves, named for the famed Daniel Morgan of Revolutionary times, obviously lived up to the name. He was a fiery orator and capable of raising the zeal of his fellow Indiana citizens. He recruited as far away as Brookston and Lafayette and even traveled into Illinois to bolster the spirits of his contemporaries there.

However, before being mustered into the above regiment, he was commissioned by the Governor of Indiana to recruit a cavalry company, which he did. He was an expert rider and a crack shot; this coupled with his firm belief in the cause of the Union made him an excellent choice for the job.

He was mustered into service on January 7, 1864 as Captain of Company K, Twelfth Indiana Cavalry, in which capacity he served until he was mustered out on November 21, 1863.

Other Newton County boys in the Twelfth were Henry E. Ash, Mahlon Fell, William Fleming, Albert S. Graves (a nephew of Uncle Dan’s) Thomas Staten, and Elijah M. Standridge.

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Capt. Dan participated in all the marches, raids and campaigns of the regiment in Georgia and Mississippi and was present at the capture of Mobile, Alabama.

Under the military government of Mississippi, Capt. Dan commanded the sub district of Starkville until 1865, when he was sent with a detachment of three companies under his charge to Austin, Mississippi. He then went to Jackson to serve as a member of a court martial assembled there. He was part of the mounted honor guard that escorted the casket of the slain president, Abraham Lincoln.

Capt. Dan espoused the patriotic cause even after the Civil War. He became one of the founders of Morocco Post 111, G.A.R. and was the commander of the post from its inception until at least 1883. The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) was a social and service organization composed of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Their goals were three fold: Fraternity among Union Veterans, Caring for needy veterans, widows, and orphans of veterans and Loyalty to the United States and its Constitution.

Closely associated with the G.A.R. were the Woman's Relief Corps (W.R.C.) Sons of Union Veterans and the Ladies of the G.A.R. Aunt Rachel was actively involved with the latter group until her death in 1917, as was Merle.

The above photo was taken in front of Capt. Dan's house and shows the Owl Club, of which Raye Graves, his daughter, was an early member. The young ladies are L-R. Raye Graves, Fannie Darroch, Virginia Kessler, Cloa Harpole, Marge Kessler, Bertha Padgett, Lizzie Robertson, Mary Kessler, Stella Best, Mayme Ellis, Lela Kessler and Ora Smart.

Government In Action

Highlights of Board Meetings

Utility Board Meeting 6/30/08

- Bob Watts, new board member introduced.
- John M Sturgill, general manager, McMahon Associates, Valparaiso, presented proposal that would allow the board to revamp their current hydrants and main project to do the original 4.3 million dollar project with a new federal source of funding that would pay 75% of the cost and save on maintenance budget, which is a large part of the \$190,000 currently being spent at an actual cost of an additional \$500,000.
- Gonczy outlined how the hydrants and main project would be done with the current grant in place and the money's on hand, estimating that it would take from 10-14 years to complete.
- The McMahon proposal would require and additional five hundred thousand, but would also save on the high maintenance fees. Gonczy explained that there is not a lot of time as the scope of the project would have to be changed and there is only an 18 month window in which to do this.
- Total cost of the alternative project would be \$4,300,000, but it is estimated the maintenance costs could be cut in half.
- There is still a 38% loss of water that is being pumped.
- Gonczy explained that certain things would have to be in place to seek funding for the alternate project. In effect they would be starting all over.
- The \$4.00 in the water bill for fire protection is currently being negotiated to be taken out of the water bill and put in as a contractual service paid to Beaver Township.
- Gonczy proposes to leave the \$4.00 in and use it for a capital reserve fund as the State

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suggests and calling it a hydrant rental fee.

-Marlene Taden moved that the water bill be increased by 30% and Sam Davis seconded.

Motion carried.

-Watt moved that the rate for water use be the same for everyone. In the past there was a declining rate for those who used the greatest amount of water. His motion passed.

-Some new hydrants have been installed

-There is still a leak at the Retirement Homes on Route 114 that has not been found

-The pump at the lift station on Route 114 is being replaced Decker found a new pump

-The high water bill for the Methodist church was investigated. Turns out that their boiler was the source of the problem.

Some additional information came out of the meeting that will be of interest to our readers. Did you know that you can drill a well on your own property, if the water lines do not cross existing town water line? I didn't. When Ye Editor asked several years ago, wanting a well for watering flowers and plants, I was told that Morocco has an ordinance forbidding it. However Randy Decker said that he had researched the situation and that it is possible for people to have their own well.

Morocco Planning Commission 6/30/08

-Steve Graham has not started building on his permit

-Jack Harris permit on College almost finished.

-Lafoon's expansion going well, Alan asked to check it out.

-AT & T Internet Program still in the works

-Gonczy met with Attorney Ryan about adopting county system of fees for those who do not keep up their properties.

-Bill Hesser's permit is in progress

-No letters have been sent as yet to the

town's top eye sores (they are waiting until fines and fees are adopted)

-Earl Cain's Shedd has been contacted and they may agree to the town's recommendation.

-Spangler's at Walker & Roosevelt have been contacted about clean up.

-They are seeking a replacement for Jeremy Vanderwall on the Board. Bob Gresham is recovering from open heart surgery and declined. Dale Kressen will be contacted.

-JB has moved back the new fence to code specifications.

-Guidelines for Pole Barns have not been completed. Duke Gagnon has requested this in order to show consistency.

-Nate Gibson needs a new permit for building in Beaver Creek Estates.

-IGA is putting in \$500,000 of improvements in their store. They are requesting some tax abatements.

-Republic has merged with Allied Waste

-Duvalls want to split the 2 houses on Short Street per zoning laws. Not possible as there is not enough property.

-Steve Gibson reported on park maintenance. The pavilion needs to be repaired; there needs to be a garbage can placed at the pavilion, and the light timer needs to be adjusted so it remains lit after dark.

Morocco Conservancy District 7/1/08

-There was a need to renew the loan with the bank until the next tax draw comes in, which is due on July 31st. The fall draw will be on 11/1/08.

-The Kessler Tile project was received from Chris Kaufman of Beam Longest and Neff.

Construction Cost Estimate

1. Administrative	\$ 50,000
2. Site work	396,000
3. Gravity Storm Sewers	1,034,740
Total Construction Cost	1,480,740

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Construction Contingencies	148,260
Total Estimated Construction Cost	\$1,629,000

-Larry Holderby, thought this was way out of line. His preliminary estimate had been \$368,000. The report was tabled until the next meeting.

-They will start digging on College. The blacktop had been cut at the intersection of College and Roosevelt. Elevations will be taken..

-It is estimated the installation of the PVC, perhaps in a bed of gravel will be in the neighborhood of \$25,000 to \$50,000. They will get some quotes.

-They authorized a \$5,000 draw so Sherri will have enough in the checking account to cover the bills.

-Relocating the catch basin at Martha Peacock's is also planned at the same time.

-A number of drainage issues are actively being investigated. The College Street project is the #1 Priority. Others include Don Falk, which may develop into a bigger project, Tammy Ponder, Selma Smart, Beaver and Lincoln, the funeral home, King Clark, Randy Allis, the Kessler farm, Beaver and Polk and Nystroms, 210 W. Grove by the pine trees and by the former Irvin Mashino's .

-Gonczy will contact Congressman Visclosky concerning the Kessler Tile Improvement Project.

-Gonczy will also get in touch with the county about paving the road down by the Lion's club.

Morocco Town Board 7/1/08

-Gonczy told of going to Indianapolis to attend the CDBG ceremony and a tour of the State House, the Supreme Court, etc.

-John M Sturgill was unable to attend the meeting to discuss the McMahon Associates

alternative to the current hydrants and mains project.

- First the Utility Board recommended to institute a flat rate rather than a declining rate. It will be researched

-Secondly they proposed to collect a \$4.00 charge for hydrant rental to accumulate in a general capital fund for repairs. This would replace a \$4.00 charge for fire protection, which would come out of the general fund, and would amount to about \$25,000 which would be paid to Beaver Township on a contractual basis.

-Thirdly there would be an increase of 30%. The average if between 28.50 and 37.50 for other communities and Morocco has not had an increase in five years.

-There has been one meeting with Beaver Township about hydrants, but this has yet to be negotiated.

- About nine blocks of roads will be done. It is hoped to have this completed by August

- Bids have been taken on sidewalks. They are waiting for more data.

-There needs to be a handicapped accessible ramp put on the Mason's building at State Street and Clay.

-\$3,000 is being spent for tree removal. Decker has a list of trees that need to be cut down. Stumps have also been removed.

-Thank you notes have been sent to those connected with the Homecoming Hustle.

-They will recoup the cost of the theft in the Utility Department through insurance.

-Budget preparation has begun for next year. -They need to make sure that Bob Lyons is disconnected

-The retention pond has been mowed and sprayed. The county will help out.

-Town Marshall was absent therefore no report.

-Pat Ryan answered the question concerning

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fireworks. Anyone less than 18 cannot have without the permission of the parent. Some laws have been criminalized so they can be enforced.

-The revamping of the town's building fees are being done to mirror those at the county level.

-There was discussion of the legal fees charged in connection with the bond issue. They should not exceed the \$25,000 level and probably will be much less than that.

-The vacancy on the Planning Commission will be filled by Dale Kressen and it was voted on

-Ward Rep. Gil Glancy reported on a sidewalk that needed repair.

-In Ward III Ruth Warrick is taking advantage of the 50/50 deal for sidewalks. The materials will be around \$800.

-It was decided that a Port-a-Potty was needed in Recher's Park and to surround it with three panels.

-Cindy Dowty appeared to protest the raise in the water bill rate. Many in town cannot afford the high utility bills she said..

Transitions

Mary Ella Tolleson

Mary Ella Tolleson, 73, of Morocco passed away y Sunday, June 14, 2008 at her home. She was born July 6, 1934, in Morocco, to William and Nedra J. (Rich) Wiltfang.

Mary was a lifetime resident of Morocco except for living for two years in Ironton, Missouri. She was a 1952 graduate of Morocco High School. Mary was a legal secretary for 35 years, having been employed for Dan Blaney, Attorney at Law, Ed Robinson, Attorney at Law and Bill Sammons, Attorney at Law, all of Morocco. She was a

member of the United Methodist Church of Morocco where she was a member of the United Methodist Women and volunteered at the UMW Thrift Shop. Mary had a passion fir quilting

On April 27, 1956, at Lafayette, Indiana she married Tillman “Tim” Tolleson, who passed away in 1997.

Mary is survived by son, R. Scott (Melissa) Tolleson, Springfield, Missouri; daughter Susan (Steven) Pizer, Morocco; grandchildren, Jamie Pizer, John Pizer, Cody Tolleson and Chase Tolleson, brothers; Clifford Wiltfang, Hollywood, Florida, William Wiltfang, Morocco, and Philip (Marita) Wiltfang of Bradley, Illinois, and sister, Janet Storey, Morocco.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, June Simonin.

The family received friends at Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer on Wednesday, June 18, from 4-8 p.m. Funeral services were Thursday June 19, at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church of Morocco with Pastor Samuel Polito officiating. Interment followed at Oakland Cemetery in Morocco. Memorials may be made to the Multi Sclerosis Society, Jasper County Hospital Home Healthcare, and Hospice or the United Methodist Church of Morocco

Also see www.jacksonfuneral.com.

Calvin A. Schultz

Calvin Arthur Schultz, 69, of Big Sandy, Tennessee, passed away at his home on Wednesday June 18, 2008. His wife Kathryn (Pullins) Schultz survives. The couple was to celebrate 50 years of marriage on June 30, of this year.

Born March 19, 1939, in Morocco, Indiana, he was the son of Firnot and Hilda (Steinke) Schultz, both deceased. Calvin was employed

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with Inland Steel in East Chicago, Indiana as an industrial mechanic foreman. Upon his retirement from Inland, Calvin and Kay moved to Big Sandy, Tennessee, where the warmer climate allowed him to enjoy his hobbies of golf and fishing. He was a loving husband, dad, grandpa, brother and friend. He will be greatly missed.

He leaves two daughters, Cyndi (Mathew) Wiseman of Morocco and Kristynn (Andrew) Ammerman of Murfreesboro; four sons, Craig (Marcie) Schultz of Roswell, Georgia, Chris (Kelly) Schulz of Morocco, Clint Schultz of Green Bay, Wisconsin and Eric Schultz of Big Sandy, Tennessee; eight grandchildren, Andrea and Christopher Schultz, Chad and Casey Schultz, Kirk Schultz and Britt, Kevin and Kayla Wiseman; three sisters Beatrice Brinkman of Rensselaer, Indiana, Vivian Walker of Farmersburg, Indiana and Marjorie Layhew of Big Sandy; one brother, Bernard Schultz of Morocco.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Maxine Lomax and Evelyn Hileman; four brothers, Gerald, Ralph, Lorain and Michael Schultz.

A private graveside memorial service is planned for Monday, June 23, at Ramble Creek Cemetery near Big Sandy. The family has requested that memorial contributions be made, in lieu of flowers, to the Henry County Medical Center Hospice, 311 E. Wood Street, Paris, Tennessee, 38242

William Ohlund

William “Bill” Leslie Ohlund, 58, of Phoenix, Arizona, formerly of Morocco, passed away Wednesday, June 11, 2008. He was born in Chicago, Illinois on December 12, 1949. He moved to Morocco as a young man and later moved to Phoenix.

He was the son of Andrew and Julia Ohlund,

both deceased, of Buckeye, Arizona, formerly of Morocco. He is survived by his wife Carol of 20 years, sons, Billy, 28, Colton, 20, and daughter Kayla, 13, all residing in Phoenix. He is also survived by three brothers and ten sisters; his twin, Bob of Mesa, Arizona, Andy (Charlotte) of Fowler, and Steve (Lu) of Kentland, Pat (Mike) Gorecki of Joliet, Illinois, Karen Brownfield of St. Anne, Illinois, Annie (Steve) Goodman of Goodyear, Arizona, Judy (Dave) Smart of Morocco., Tina (Rodney) Cone of Buckeye, Arizona, Vange (Jeff) Anderson of Lafayette, Indiana, Nita (Steve) Davis of Buckeye, Arizona, Julie (Tom) Kramer of Chicago, Illinois, Mary (Troy) Isebrand of Dayton, Ohio and Lydia (Kevin) Arnold of Rensselaer, Indiana.

Services for Bill were held at Menke Funeral Hoe in Sun City, Arizona, June 16, at 1 p.m. with a private burial at Sunwest Cemetery in El Mirage, Arizona.

Margaret Protsman

Margaret E. Protsman, 100, a lifelong resident of Morocco, died at 11:45 a.m. Friday, July 11th 2008, at Jasper County Hospital in Rensselaer.

She was born July 20, 1907, in Morocco, to the late David A. and Margaret (Spence) Protsman. She graduated from Morocco High School in 1925.

She was a homemaker, and a member of the United Church of Morocco.

Visitation was 10 a.m. (CDT) until services at 12 p.m. (CDT) Tuesday at the United Church of Morocco, the Rev. Royal Voeller officiating. Interment followed at Oakland Cemetery, Morocco. Gerts Funeral Home in Brook was in charge of arrangements (219) 275-6161.

Surviving are two nieces, Janet McKelvey (husband: Robert) of Traverse City, Michigan

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and Betty Turnley of Fremont, Indiana. Preceding her in death were 3 brothers, Francis, Roscoe and John. Memorial contributions can be made to the United Church of Morocco or Jasper County Hospital Home health Care and Hospice.

This and That

A number of things slipped through the cracks while Ye Editor prepared for his vacation and while he was away. Since he handles everything from gathering the news, writing it, abstracting and digesting it, handling the subscriptions, and delivering and mailing it, often things do not get done that need to be done. Truly it is a one man band, and if it were not some good help in a pinch, it might not be done. Thank you Harriet Webb, Ronnie Rush, and the girls at the Tea Room.

One such news item concerns one of our stellar and talented young citizens, Denise Hickman., who on April 24th entertained the Rensselaer Care Center patients with some songs on her violin. Her great, great uncle, Harley Hickman (92 on May 15th) is a resident there. Also at that time Carrie Evelyn Linduska was there recovering from a broken arm (Ye Editor can report that she is now recuperated and home as he sat next to her at Margaret Protsman’s post funeral meal).

Denise also played a couple songs with Mr. B as he played the guitar. It sounded great. Several of the Rensselaer Care Center employees told Denise to come back again anytime.

This was such a “good news item” I was sure my readers would want to know. Sorry to have missed it Denise. Denise is the daughter of Linda and Dennis Hickman and I understand she plays several instruments.

Ye Editor received an invitation to a Mid-Summer Open House welcoming a new associate, Jessica L. Hoover, and in celebration and expansion of the Law Offices of Blaney and Walton on July 25th from Dan Blaney and his associates and staff, Jeffrey D. Drinski, Jessica L. Hoover, Gina Zyllo, Rebecca Goddard, Tami Jackson and Anna Clark