

MOROCCO TIMES

Vol. 2 No. 9

Gerald Born, Editor and Publisher

September 2008

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

Around Town

Connie Sell shared this photo with us from the collection of her grandmother, Ruby Belle (Zoborosky) Ackors.. On the back is written , “first track meet in Morocco”. What makes it unique is that it includes not only the runners, but also shows the old Methodist church and parsonage. Taken from the corner of Clay and College, it looks north along Clay street. It is clear that the corner house has been remodeled and it was before the Doty house was built. It was taken prior to 1914 and among the crowd cheering the athletes appears a man in a hat, who very well my be Betty Kessler’s father, Ross Hagen, who coached many athletes during the early years. Her mother, Bessie (Clark) Hagen was born in the parsonage, while her father, Almon J. Clark, was an early Methodist minister here. The identity of the others in the photo is not known.

SMC

The façade of the SMC building (the old Brandt Service Station and car dealership) has been completed. It appears just as good as it did 60 years ago. All it needs is a couple of Shell gas pumps and a few Chevy’s and it would be the same as it was those many years ago. I almost expect Henry Brandt or Wilma Robinson, or Ed DeKoker, and Enlen Brandt to step out of the doorway. However, it is great to see that the building now has a new function and that it will serve the community for many years to come.

Tim Storey and Restoration

We are beginning to see a lot of activity with the buildings that Tim Storey is restoring. We have reported on him buying the old George

Flowers home and moving it to a location north of town, and his efforts to save and restore the old Laundromat and the Sellars filling station.

Ye Editor was interested to learn that Tim has quit his teaching job to devote full time to the restoration of buildings. It shows that he is dedicated to the task and the fruits of his labor will soon be evident. Already old glass has been removed from the Sellars station and bricks have been removed from the Laundromat.

His plans have been temporarily delayed as he obtained a house in Kentland that was about to be demolished and has set about moving it to a location near Morocco.

The *Morocco Times* wishes Tim well in his plans to restore these old buildings and make them once again usable and a vital part of the community.

John Morgin’s Restoration

The *Morocco Times* has also been reporting on John Morgin’s restoration of the house on South Clay at the old Jessen property. Workmen were seen there this week removing the rotted boards on the porch area and removing some of the wood siding in preparation to replace the siding.

Interior work also is in progress. The wooden trim has been stripped and will be ready when the interior walls are replaced.

It will be wonderful to see the old house come back to life. The *Morocco Times* applauds these efforts to restore buildings.

Mason’s Building

The Mason’s building which houses the Corner Tea Room, has been undergoing remodeling and repair. Out front you will notice a new ramp with wrought iron surround

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and hand rail that makes it much easier for seniors who visit to enter. Also at the west side doors, the stoop has been extended and grab handles have been installed so a person will have a place to stand while opening the screen door.

The rear part of the building, where they used to serve meals is also being extensively repaired. The kitchen floor and other soft wood has been replaced and new flooring added. It is making a great improvement. members Lloyd Vencil, Al Thomas and Chuck Flahive have been seen removing debris, swinging hammers and in general getting the job done.

Kelly Tuntland, who plans to open a photographic studio in the back room of the building, has been in negotiation with the lodge and is looking at September for moving her equipment into the building. Currently she is living at 3086 W and 50 S. in the former Lloyd and Mildred Brunton farm house. She is currently open for business there and may be reached at (219) 310-7001.

Morocco Cooks by Jan Yoder

With so many vegetables available from the garden this recipe is just right for those great banana peppers, which seem to ripen at the same time. It can also be used with green Bell peppers, but the banana peppers give it a unique taste.

Stuffed Banana Peppers

8 large banana peppers
 ½ cup canola oil
 1 large white onion, fine chop
 2-3 cloves garlic, minced
 1 pound ground beef
 1 teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon black pepper
 1 teaspoon paprika
 1 pinch thyme (optional)
 1 cup drained, stewed tomatoes
 2 cups cooked rice

Sauce:

1 large can (1 lb. 10 oz.) Hunts four cheese tomato sauce combined with 1 tablespoon sugar and 1 teaspoon paprika..

Cut top off each pepper and remove seeds and veins. Blanch peppers and tops in boiling water 4-5 minutes. Remove from heat, run under cold water, drain and let cool.

In a skillet, heat oil, add onion and garlic and sauté until onions are transparent.

Add meat, salt, pepper and paprika and cook until meat is brown.

In a large mixing bowl, combine meat, tomatoes, and rice.

Stuff each pepper with the meat mixture, attach the top with a toothpick, lay flat in a baking dish and cover with sauce. Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 30-35 minutes.

Freezer Cucumbers

7 cups sliced cucumbers (1/8 inch slice with skins left on)

1 cup sliced white onion
 1 cup sliced green or banana pepper

Mix together in a bowl and add :
 2 tablespoons coarse salt

Set aside.

In a pan bring to a boil:

1 tablespoon celery seed
 1 cup white vinegar
 2 cups sugar
 1 pinch mustard seeds
 1 pinch turmeric

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When boiling pour over cucumbers placed in a large non-metallic bowl. Let stand until cool and refrigerate for 24 hours, stirring occasionally. Bag or box and freeze. Can refrigerate some for immediate use. Keeps well in refrigerator.

Looking for a way to use those bananas whose skins have begun to turn black? This recipe from Harriet Webb’s kitchen is just the answer. It makes a moist cake in which the essence of the bananas really comes through. Do not over bake.

Banana Cake

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup margarine or shortening
- Dash of salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups mashed ripe bananas (about 5 or 6)
- 4 tablespoons hot water
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 3 cups flour

Cream sugar and shortening, add Salt and eggs one at a time until mixed thoroughly. Mash bananas, add hot water with the baking soda mixed into it, and combine with the other mixture. Add flour and mix. Bake in a 9” x 13” pan at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Cool completely and frost, or serve plain.

Frosting:

- 1-4 oz. package cream cheese
- 1 tablespoon cream
- 1 pound powdered sugar or enough to make a spread able icing.

Happenings

A ribbon cutting ceremony took place at the newly remodeled former Intec building, now the Allied Waste Service Center on July 29th Jim Van Weelden, senior vice-president of marketing and planning and development welcomed all to the ceremonies. County Commissioner, Roxanna Hanford did the honors of cutting the ribbon while Commissioners, Jim Pistello and Russ Collins looked on.

The seventeen new employees plan to accept their first call on August 14th More hiring are planned for the Fall.

When asked about the merger of Allied Waste and Republic Services, and the impact it might have on the operations, Van Weelden Said “I can’t say anything, because I really don’t know.”

In discussing the relationship of the county to Allied Waste, Pistello mentioned a \$5,000,000 interest-free loan that Allied had made to the County to build the government center at Morocco.

Jennifer Whitfield, an Allied Waste executive, explained what the new employees will be doing. They will accept calls from Indiana and Central Illinois and the trainees will be given training to give the same quality of service to all.

The current offices are housed in the front of the building, while the majority of the building is still open factory space. Eventually the open area will be carpeted and cubicles built for the employees

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Morocco Projects Unlimited met at the Corner Tea Room with 12 members present and 4 guests, Karen Ross, Kelly Tuntland, Yvonne Gibson, and Betty Hatten

Plans were discussed about the 50th Anniversary Which will be held at the Community Center on September 28th.

Also discussed was a donation to the pancake breakfast to be held on November 1st.

Have you noticed the four new flag poles at the corners of State and Clay streets. Projects donated them with the profits from The Longaberger Basket Bingo, which was Held April 1st at the firehouse

Hostess Ruth Warrick served refreshments of ice cream, fresh sliced peaches and angel food cake with drinks.

Action Circle of the United Church Met on September 8th at Pat James Home with four members present: Shirley Thompson, Grace Martin, Harriet Webb and Pat James,

Delicious refreshes were served. Louise Holley was unable to attend because of her health. She suffered a stroke sometime later and is now in the Intensive Care Unit of the Jasper County Hospital.

Betty Kessler opened the Corner Tea Room on Saturday, August 29th When nieces of Florence Storey came To Morocco for a visit. They were Lorraine E. Nelson of Spacer,

Nebraska, Betty Wisser of Monroe, Nebraska, Shirley Bessert, Pierre, South Dakota, Rore Kessert, of Modern, Nebraska.

The Tea Room was closed during the Pumpkin Vine Fair week.

Karlis Roryalnis of Marsalow, Lativa was a guest at the Tea Room. He was here working at the Nature Conservancy.

Dwayna Bowen and Myra DeGroot Were visitors at the Tea Room on September 9th. Dwayna is still thrilled with her trip to Australia and New Zealand. She told of many interesting things she saw and did on her trip, much to the enjoyment of those at the Tea Room,

At the time of Wayne Kay’s burial, brothers, Jim Kay and wife, and John and Yvonne were visitors at the Tea Room.

Bob and Betty Hatton dropped in On August 13th as did Annetta Van Houten and friend. And on the 19th Malina Serin and Julia Rybecki were guests.

Features

Prelude to Building a Library

Ye Editor was caught somewhat short this month for a feature article. I’m still working on Paul Bailey’s World War II experiences, and the feature article, written by Don DeKoker, for just such an emergency has been

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misplaced, so I am left with the option of either having no feature, or of boring you with my own experiences, and I have chosen the latter.

Cleo Rogers Memorial Library Columbus, Indiana

While studying for my Master's Degree at Indiana University, Bloomington, I took a job at the Columbus, Indiana library to help defray expenses. I was hired to catalog books, as I had done that at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis for four years while working on my undergraduate degree at Butler University.

Little did I know that I would soon be entering one of the most interesting and exciting phases of my 25 year career as a librarian. It soon became apparent that the business community wanted to build a new library to attract executives and their families to the small community of Columbus, Indiana where a number of industries were located. Chief among them was Cummins Diesel, whose engines were found in 9 out of 10 trucks that were on the road at the time (1960).

It was well known that J. Irwin Miller, the CEO of Cummins Diesel had provided the architectural fees for many of the public buildings in Columbus and it was becoming a Mecca for modern architecture. In fact, it would become a catalogue of some of the best known names in the world of modern architecture, including the two Saarinens, father and son, Harry Weise, and other such luminaries.

So I was made Assistant Librarian, the only male on a staff of 17 women and given responsibility of planning for a new library for the future, much to the chagrin of the

Librarian, who had been there for many years and was happy with things just as they were, but had the good sense and grace to know that it was going to happen one way or another.

My first step in this direction was to write to some of the librarians in the state that I had worked with in the Indiana Library Association and whose opinions were respected for their futuristic thinking. My only question to them was “What will the public library of the year 2000 be like.” Soon responses came from Fred Reynolds of Ft. Wayne, Harriet Bard, of Richmond Public Library, Fran Stalker, of the Indianapolis Public Library, Ralph Van Handel from the Gary Public Library, Margaret Rufsvold, Director School of Library Science at Bloomington, Margaret Sheviak, Children's Specialist at the same school and Ed Hayward from the Hammond Public Library and from the South Bend Public Library.

These ideas and the perceived needs of the community were distilled into a plan and it was estimated the amount of space that would be necessary to support these functions. Then the cost of such a structure was estimated. Of course it was prohibitive, as the community had been building schools prior to this and the indebtedness of the community of 25,000 had surpassed its tax-levy potential.

With the able assistance of the Board's lawyers, Robert Louis Stevenson and Charlie Wells, other options were pursued. It was decided by the Board that the only way to be able to afford a new library was to increase the tax base. The town's library has been providing contractual library services to outlying small communities through a book mobile, but it was not adequate. So at my urging we investigate the forming of a county library which would provide better service to

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the outlying towns and provide the taxes needed to construct and operate a new library.

While in Bloomington, I had become good friends with Chuck Hunsburger, the Bloomington Public Librarian. Over long dinners at the Nashville Inn, we planned how to make the above plan work. He was going through a similar process at Bloomington and would soon help organize the Monroe County Library, and I would help organize the Bartholomew County Library. In fact our plans almost became mirror images of each other. We both were successful in getting a county system going, and both formed foundations to receive donations, and both formed a Friends of the Library groups to help with the politics of change and to support future programs of the library.

Of course, there was great opposition at every turn. Anytime one gets involved with taxing there is bound to be controversy. And so it was with both of our projects. Fortunately there were a number of advocates for change in the area and as new board members were appointed, these people were chosen for the position. By this time the friends of the library group had grown to about one thousand members. When the time came for the reorganization, we had assembled a very progressive Library Board, including, Nadge Reed, whose husband headed the Miller’s Financial Arm of Cummins Diesel, Muriel Hamilton, whose husband was CEO of Hamilton-Cosco, Fred Meyer, a Vice-President of Arvin Industries, Maxine Dunlap, whose husband, Jerry was one of the chief contractors in Columbus, John Leech, a broker for the bank, and Helen Rowell, who originally came from Rensselaer, Indiana and became one of my chief allies.

Once the Bartholomew County Library was

formed and the tax base was intact, it was time to start planning in earnest for the new library . World famous architects were contacted and interviews arranged .(Irwin Miller insisted on only the very best if he were to supply the architectural fees) This became one of the most interesting phases of the project for me. I was picking up the architects at the airport in Indianapolis, driving them to the interviews, and often dining them before they caught the air plane to go home. Where else but in Columbus, Indiana would one have had the opportunity to listen to such knowledgeable and talented men, the likes of Philip Johnson, whose home in New Caanan, Connecticut was an icon for modern architecture, or Irving Stone, whose white Standard Oil Building still stands out against Chicago’s skyline. For someone who had read and studied art and architecture throughout college, it was a dream come true.

After much ado, I. M. Pei was chosen as the architect to design the library for Bartholomew County. His projects included Palace Villa de Marie in Montreal, a huge underground retail complex and city plan, the Buffalo Museum and a city plan for Boston.

This diminutive dynamo was the most interesting man I had ever met in my young life. Barely five feet tall he dominated any room with a quiet elegance that was awesome. He was also one of the most intelligent men I had then encountered and had an self assurance that only comes from a privileged past. (His father was President of the Bank of China before the communists took over). It was truly a pleasure working with him.

His first request was for a written building program. He explained that an architect was a facilitator and an artist, but it was up to the client to tell him what to build and when to

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build it, and I as the representative of the board was now the client. This came as a shock to me, for we had no such program. However, for the next month, I labored to produce the document. I took the ideas that we had previously developed, translated them into square footage, showed the relationship of the spaces for the most efficient working and explained each function in detail. In less than a month I produced a twenty-five page building program for Mr. Pei. Later he complimented me on it being one of the best he had worked with.

I.M. Pei was totally unaffected by wealth, position, status or time. This became apparent to me when one day in his New York City office we were deep in discussion about the philosophy of our new library and architecture in general, when his secretary interrupted on a couple of occasions and Pei waved her off a couple of times during our hour and a half conversation. Finally in exasperation she said, “But Mr. Pei, the President of American Airlines does not like to be kept waiting.” As we parted Pei nodded and softly said, “It will do him good; he needs to learn patience.” Such was the caliber of the man.

At about this time I met with Pei’s partner, Kenneth D. B. Carruthers, who was to be the project manager. We became instant friends and continued to be even after the library was built. Ken would later come to Chicago and work for Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, who built the Sears Tower. However, we met often and talked endlessly about architecture. We soon learned that we shared an interest in ancient history and the use of the golden section as a proportioning tool for some of the great architecture of the world, including the great pyramid of Egypt, the Parthenon and several of the cathedrals of Europe. During

our time the French architect LeCorbusier used it in his architectural design. The golden section or golden mean, is based on the value of π and the square root of 5. It is often called the proportion of beauty, for it is also found in the human body and in nature. To make a long story short, we decided, with Pei’s blessing, to use this proportioning system in the library, for it totally integrates the interior and exterior spaces.

What a thrill to know that this would be one of the few modern buildings that would be built in modern times in the U.S.A. with concepts known to the ancient world.

Disembarking from a flight from New York to Indianapolis, I learned that President Kennedy had been shot. I remember the feeling of helplessness at that moment. It was a national tragedy. Hoping that some good could come from it, I wrote a letter to Charlie Halleck, who was then head of the powerful Ways and Means Committee in Congress, where a bill, the Library Services and Construction Act, had been stalled for months. I reminded Charlie that he and my grandfather used to play on the banks of Beaver Lake and that the assassination of a President displayed great ignorance and that the bill before his committee might help educate and enlighten, so that such things could not happen in the future. A week later the bill came out of committee and was signed into law, creating some \$58,000,000 a year for new library programs and construction.. Columbus would later benefit from this legislation as a recipient of a grant.

As an interesting sidelight to the Kennedy connection, I. M. Pei got the commission to build the Kennedy Presidential Library and Ken also worked on the project. Their design was based on a glass pyramid, using the same

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golden section design proportion used in the Columbus library and containing the same angles found in the Great Pyramid of Egypt... Deemed too far out by the Kennedy family, the design was not accepted, only to turn up later in Paris as the new entry way to the Louvre Museum, which created much controversy in the artistic community of Europe. The pyramid was featured in the opening chapter of Brown's book, *The Di Vinci Code*, much of which was based on the mathematics found in the Fibonacci series, which generates the golden section.

The library in Columbus was to be built of brick. Pei was such a stickler for detail that I saw one of his employees, a recent graduate of Yale, meticulously drawing each brick on the façade of the building to make sure they all intersected properly. This insistence on quality and detail was bound to cost more money..

Then came the funding of the building. A two million dollar bond issue had to be floated and there were numerous public meetings and hearings. The costs keep escalating, and even with the money tucked away in the accumulated building fund, there was not enough. An appeal was made to J. Irwin Miller and he gave in addition to the architect's fees of \$250,000 an additional two and a half million dollars for the construction of the new building.

These number do not seem large in comparison to some of the costs today, but let me assure you that in the 1970's they were huge. I doubt if the same library could be built today for \$25,000,000.

Another interesting development took place when the architect presented a plan creating an outdoor public space between the proposed library and the Saarinen church across the

street and the Irwin mansion to the east of the proposed library. To accomplish this two streets had to be closed. This caused almost as much hassle as the organization of a county system and the funding of the new library. But to their credit the Board caught the vision and ran with it. Many of the Friends were skeptical, but were persuaded by meetings and the Board that it would be a good idea. Gordon Jenkins, the libraries insurance agent said, “You can't close that street; I have been going down that road to work for fifty years, and it just will not be right if it is closed.” But closed it was and the library now has a public space that forms an outdoor room in which people can walk, sit and talk free from vehicular traffic. It introduces a humanistic touch to the downtown. When discussion turned to having a sculpture in the middle of the space, I suggested that the English sculpture, Henry Moore, who was very popular at the time, might be a candidate to be considered. He was contacted and much to my surprise and amazement undertook the project on a grand scale (again using the golden section proportion in his design) for a “Large Arch” formed from exaggerated leg and hip bones is truly a work of art. The casting was so large and weighted so much that it could not be transported in the normal manner, but had to be floated down the Ohio River on a barge and transported to Columbus on a railroad car.

The Large Arch Columbus, Indiana

I wish I could say I stayed around for the construction of the building, but I did not. I was so burnt out with the politics and the process and the intensity of the endeavor that I

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took a year off and went to Europe for couple of months to relax. My colleague Steve Suckow took over, built the building, and stayed for 30 years to administer it before he retired. From Columbus, I went to the Illinois State Library to be their building consultant for the newly created Library Services and Construction Act. Out of the frying pan into the fire, but that is another story for another time.

Letters to the Editor

Mr. Born,

It's interesting to get the *Morocco Times* and read the recollections of past years. I wanted to share some of my own experiences and feelings of growth in Morocco.

In 1938 my family, Ray and Hattie Blann, my brother, Leslie, and I moved to the Morocco area. The Blann family attended the Methodist church in Morocco. They lost some military men in the war. I was honored to play taps at their memorial services.

When we moved, I was in Miss Ketcham's 5th grade class and very soon a Mr. Hilmer Jacobson came to recruit children for his band. My brother, Leslie, had a “used” cornet and the family said I could now use it.

My friend, Betty Zoborosky, also started music lessons. I'm not sure when other classmates joined the program, but they were Art Augustine, David Cox, and Paul McClatchey. I was starting band rehearsals at the 7th grade level and my wise, personal teacher was my big school mate, Clay Blaney, to assist my playing.

In 1941 Pat Brunton (Hilda Brunton's daughter), a bass clarinet player and I represented Morocco in a national solo contest in Flint, Michigan. We both received a 1st

place score. The band activities were a highlight. We performed in several places including concerts, soloists, small instrumental groups, and marching band. During World War II years there were district and state contests, but some had to be postponed due to the cut back in supplies and the rationing of gasoline and tires.

How many of you remember the summer band performances on Wednesday nights in the town square? That brought people to listen, shop and walk the streets for socializing. It was a great gathering place for the area.

The community enjoyed motion pictures at the theater and then had two nice drug stores. One, Moore's, had a soda fountain bar and the other a nice area of selected gifts (I remember you mom at the People's Drug Store). My mother clerked at the Parrish Dress Shoppe and later at Spradling's dry goods and grocery store. These, a 5 & 10 cent variety store (the Annex) and grocery stores were the hubs of the town.

My summer days were filled with music lessons and learning 4-H work with friend, Rosemond Hammel. She and I worked at the Fair Ground celebrations organizing 4-H projects for judging. Rosemond also directed by corn detasseling experience!

While I was a teenager it was good to find out on a Saturday night that a friend could get his family car to drive a load of “dancers” over to the Rensselaer Armory. The music was provided by the favorite “Big Bands” of the day.

My last year of high school brought Doris Hodde as the music director. She was the promoter of getting me into a college to study music. This directed my adult life into teaching vocal music for a few years and then

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I transferred to elementary education.

My growing up years in quiet, stable, secure, Morocco, left me not only with a life's journey, but also great memories. It is always enjoyable to recognize faces when I return. I look forward to again seeing Jackie Blann, the Blann families, and cousin Ruth Warrick on my next visit.

Thanks for letting me share some fond memories!.

Wilma (Blann) Swim
Bradenton, Florida

Backward Glance

Toad Puddle School

In a recently discovered cache of photos Ye Editor found an image that has been eluding him for several years. This was the school where my grandmother, Maude (Graves) Nichols had her schooling, along with her brothers and sisters. As late as 1880, when she started school, there was a vast amount of marshland still in the area. She told of walking to school with her friend and classmate, Laura (Brown) Hale and they would jump from muskrat hovel to muskrat hovel in order to avoid the wet spots.

On a sand ridge about one mile west of Beaver Creek, in a field northwest of the present east entrance to Willow Slough, stood Toad Puddle School. On the 1904 map that hangs in the county courthouse it was listed as being Dist. 3 school, though the stone lintel that once formed the front stoop lists it as being in Dist. 12. I still have not been able to resolve the correct number for it, but perhaps one of our readers will be able to shed some light on the matter. It was also known as the Bower School as the Bower family lived nearby, so both designations may be correct.

Almost three generations were taught in this school and one-room schools like it throughout the township. We have been told of the primitive conditions existing in these schools, but there also grew a sense of community around them. They became the center for what little social life there was and became neighborhoods in the best tradition. Box dinners were held there along with spelling bees and Christmas trees, attended by the neighbors who lived in the area and sent their children to school at Toad Puddle.

Friendships and bonds were formed that lasted a lifetime. Even when people moved away from the area, they still remembered the happy times they had spent in the school and in order to keep in touch they formed the Toad Puddle Reunion. The first item I found in the *Morocco Courier* on August 23, 1934 states that “the Toad Puddle Reunion of the old Toad Puddle School was held at the old Hammond homestead on Sunday. Thanks were given by Ed Bell of Galveston to Arnett Purdy, President, Ben H. Graves, President-Elect, Grover Potts, Vice-President, Maude Manchester Secretary, and Maude Nichols, Treasurer.

“Sunday was the annual Toad Puddle Reunion. It was held in the woods one mile west and one mile north of Morocco. This tract of several acres has been presented to the association for holding of the annual gathering by Mr. and Mrs. Phil Potts, who were young folks when the little one-room school house called Toad Puddle was built near there more than 50 years ago. All the teachers, pupils, patrons and neighbors living in this community are welcome. At noon 200 gathered around the tables to sing “America” and stand with lowered heads while Claude Graves invoked the divine blessing before the

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feast was enjoyed.

"Music was furnished throughout the afternoon by Harry Brunton of Enos, Lew Adams of Chicago, Asa Picket of Mount Ayr and Verne Denton of Brook. Barbara Ann, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Puett read a pretty piece. Misses Wanda and Evelyn Purdy sang a duet. Frank Paris sang a couple of cowboy songs, delighting the crowd. Officers-elected were Claude Graves, President, Grover Potts, Vice President, Mrs. Y.D. Deardurff, Secretary and Mrs. Ben Geesa, Treasurer. The oldest couple enjoying the gathering was Mrs. Mary Baker, 87, and Phil Potts, 85, with Tommy Ross, Jr, three months, old being the youngest person attending. Contests for the younger folks and visitors recalling memories of days gone by closed the pleasant times. The meeting ended with the singing of "God Be With You." All hoped to be there again on the third Sunday in August, 1937."

It is not known how long the reunions were held, (probably disbanded during World War II) or how the property was disposed of, or if it may still be on the books as a place to hold the annual gathering of Toad Puddle neighbors. Times were simpler then, but the fellowship was sincere.

Below are some of the students of the Thomas family who attended Toad Puddle:

Charlie & Bessie (Thomas) Sell

The above photo is the wedding photo of Charlie Sell and Bessie May Thomas. They were 15 and 14 at the time. Theirs is a true love story, for they remained married for 63 years and moved to southern Indiana

Below is a photo of Elsie (Thomas) Shrontz and her husband, Keyser Shrontz of Momence, with their children Dorothy, Gurney and Hyatt. They were married in 1897 and this is their

home at Bangor, Michigan

Government In Action

Conservancy Board Highlights

- Sherri Rainford authorized to set a loan from the DeMotte State Bank to pay outstanding bills of \$7,873.14
- Dan Blaney submits bill of \$2,000 for the second half of his annual retainer
- Delta Industrial bill pd for \$3,350,00
- Dan Blaney's bill for \$2,000 for half of his annual retainer
 - Three bills for quarry stone, 4 loads at \$1,153.26, 2 loads at \$1,276.32 and 3 loads at 1,059.12
 - There is \$40,000 in the general budget for paving and stone, but this is not in the conservancy budget
 - Lowell Concrete has a bill for \$210.00, which Randy picked up
 - There is a short fall of \$10,000
 - The Roosevelt project is not complete and landscaping is yet to be called for
 - Project will come in \$35,000 over their budget
 - \$65,000 should be budgeted for next year, but Smart thought it should be \$72,000
 - The assessed valuation has gone down.
 - Dustin Howell requested new tire that was damaged when he backed into an unmarked storm drain on Clay street
 - He was asked if he made a police report. None was made. Tire cost \$326.38. The Board will investigate to see if their insurance covers the loss
 - In regard to the John Raper problem on College the TV camera found many cracks and wear, but could not determine where it connected to the Raper house, since the TV

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camera could not go through.

-A leak was discovered at Roosevelt and Wabash.

-They could not be sure where Ruth Warrick’s tile tied into the main

-Selma Smart’s will be done in the next week or two.

-At Nystroms the connection was not sealed and a check valve was installed. The yard was leveled

-Vic Carlson requested that a tree be taken down.

-NIPSCO plans to top all trees along it lines.

-There is work at Ponders to take the trees down in a line south on Willkie, to drain the property.

-Met with Don Falk and Eugene Yoder and Bill about the north tile, which runs under the foundation of their house.. Recommended that a line 83 feet long by-pass the offending tile.

-At Beaver and Lincoln leave it alone

-On the McCann property east of the tracks on Beaver the waste water goes into a catch basin, but unsure where it goes from there. A tile goes east toward the Railroad. More research is needed to see what the layout is.

- Miller Ditch is mowed and sprayed

-Retention pond was mowed by Rainford

-Next meeting is October 7th

Morocco Town Board Highlight

- No remonstrance to the proposed Grade School Project for the North Newton School Corp.

- Need yet state approval and a public hearing on 10/28

-Will also have to go to the planning commission

-John Sturgill of McMahon told of the Rural Development application forms and the

documentation needed.

-Working on a preliminary design

- A recognized water guy will view the water plant, controls and the addition of the softener Planning a walk through on Wednesday

-First public hearing in October for the proposed water hike

--Need to have a certified operator on the job. Will rely on Decker for day to day operations.

-Umbaugh wants a new agreement since the nature of the project has changed.

-Gonczy and McCann will carry the ball on the rate increase. A series of Rural Development applications will be necessary

-McMahon has already sent a bill for the 30 day period they have been involved.

-It was decided not to charge rental on the meter

-Nothing will be done with fire protection. It will still be collected in the water bill.

-Approximately 30% increase in the water bill is expected

-Some contingencies are expected to “pop up” during the project, e.g. Storm sewers, etc. etc.

- A public hearing is to be held. Will advertise in the Enterprise 10 days before, and post in the Town Hall

-It will take six weeks to get things started

-NIPSCO bill discussed. Current blowers are an overkill at 250 horse power, only need 50 and they are constantly running. Seeking to exchange to a variable speed blower, which doesn’t need to run all the time.

-Sewer Plant--The air compressor is on its last legs. They have to change ever day. New one will cost \$3,900, which will last for two years. The air dryer went out in ‘05 or ‘06 and the plant has been without

-The dump truck purchased in ‘93 has had

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the transmission replaced twice, cost of over \$25,000. Need to bring bids to the board for a new one, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$46,000

- Seek permission to put the old police car on the county auction
 - Mosquito spraying will start again this week
 - A tour of the sewer plant is planned
 - Play Ground Equipment. Maintenance people will contact the Town and the Town will provide the labor and footings for planned changes.
 - Tree trimming and removal was discussed.
- It has been a busy summer
- Catch basins have been cleaned
 - Missing street signs have been replaced
 - Newton/Jasper county has \$100,000 available for assistance to those not covered by FEMA
 - Milestone will be in town on two days to repair asphalt on Clay Street
 - Town Marshall not present-No report
 - Marlene Taden’s resignation from both the Utility Board and the Ward representative accepted with thanks for all she has done.
 - Talked to Gary Burley and the combine downtown has been moved.
 - Still working with Craig King
 - in an e-mail from John Morgin says he will attend a planning commission meeting to bring them up-to-date on his progress
 - What to do with the awnings uptown. Some need to be torn down
 - Public hearing date, October 7th 2008 will need to advertise 10 days prior to the meeting.
 - Ryan will take care of details
 - Still having complaints about the dogs on Beaver street. Steve Gibson has investigated
 - No ward reports, except hearing good comments on the weed control
 - Recent success on fixing up the town.

Wheatfield Grain has painted the tanks that were such an eyesore.

- SMC has repaired the front of the former Brandt building
- Tim Storey appeared at the meeting and reported on the status of his projects. Since the fall of ‘06 he has been working with the Laundromat. Holes have been repaired. An assessment of the building had verified that it is repairable. A funding letter has been received from the bank, The process has been interrupted when he moved a building from Kentland.
- Gonczy commented on his career change in which he will devote full time to the restoration of buildings and historical structures
- A donation was requested from the PTO who plans to have a basket bingo fund raiser.
- There have been complaints that calls were not returned when reports were made about kids on bikes.
- They need to make sure Gibson’s cell phone is working.
- Vandalism at Betty Kessler park was reported.
- Decker commented on the need for better communications

Transitions

Duane P. Dowty

Duane P. Dowty, 59, of Morocco, passed away Wednesday, August 13, 2008, at Jasper County Hospital. He was born in Rensselaer on April 23, 1949, a son of Bernard Paul Dowty (deceased and Opal F. (Brewer) Dowty of Morocco. He was a lifetime resident of Morocco and graduated with the Class of 1969 at North Newton High School. He had been employed for several years at Allen’s IGA, Morocco.

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Surviving with his mother are brothers; Ronald (Sue) Dowty of Rolling Meadows, Illinois and Larry (Cindy) Dowty of Morocco, also four nieces and two nephews. He was preceded in death by his father.

Visitation was Saturday, August 16th, from 8:30 a.m. until time of services at 10:30 a.m. at Steinke Funeral Home, Brunton Chapel of Morocco. Interment followed at Oakland Cemetery. To offer on-line condolences, please visit www.steinkefuneralhome.com.

Many Morocco people were seen at the Earl Park Festival celebrated on the Labor Day weekend.

There was a flea market, lots of food stands, blue grass music, and other attractions. The weather was beautiful and it was an opportunity to greet old friends who made their way to the festival.

Betty Kessler shared this poem written by her mother Bessie (Clark) Hagen as it seems to fit the season perfectly. It is entitled simply,

This and That

It was recently learned this past week that Raymond Bingham, moved to an assisted living facility. His address: Manatee River Assisted Living, Room 5, 820 5th St., West Palmetto, Florida, 34221. He would appreciate hearing for his old friends in Morocco.

In a photo from Ye Editor’s files comes this photo of Edgar “Sam” Rice. I had tried to read the reverse printing, but it was not until Suzie Hall pointed out the icon in my program that reverses the image that I was able to read it.

Dated November 1, 1914, it shows “S. Crandall formerly of the NY Giants, now with the St. Louis Feds and Edgar Rice of the Boston Nationals. Participated with Donovan Ball Team in beating LeRabe, 6-3.”

It appears that an exhibition game had been held in Illinois between Donovan and LeRabe and that these national ball players had been invited to join in the game. It appears that LeRabe gave them a run for their money.

If you haven’t visited the Morocco Public Library and viewed the display of Edgar “Sam” Rice assembled by Tim Myers, you are in for a treat. You will not be disappointed.

September.

My, ’tis the first week of September
What in this month is there to remember?
Days so hot,
Nights so cool,
Youngsters traipsing off to school.
Canning peaches
Campaign speeches
Politics and political speeches,
Crab grass taking flowers and lawn,
Garden enthusiasm almost gone.
Social season starts with rigor
All involved with arduous vigor
But the most important thing we remember
“Tis just three months until December.

The Corner Tea Room is planning to have special events on each Friday of the month this coming season. On Friday, September 19th a special musical event is planned. On Friday, September, 26th, Gerald Born will be on hand to look at any antique you may wish to bring and have more information about and to give an overview of Antiques and Collectables. Having collected since he was 10 years old, he has considerable knowledge, but does not claim to have the expertise of the Antiques Road Show, who have 20 experts on the staff

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and a huge collection of resource material.

Antique collecting should be fun and one should only collect what they enjoy.

There will be other events where music will be featured and other items of interest. One Friday a month will be devoted to those who have birthdays that month.

Since this is the 50th anniversary of Morocco Projects Unlimited, a day will be set aside to honor those who are members and have been in the past.

Come to Corner Tea Room. It is where it is happening!.