

Morocco Times

Vol. I No. 1

January 2007

Gerald Born, Editor

Around Town

Judy and Larry Bingham have added an addition to their home including a two car garage built onto the rear of their home on Michigan Street.

Jeremy Vanderwall is doing a major remodeling of his house on East College. Jeremy is the son of Mick Vanderwall of Rensselaer and a grandson of the late Martin and Imogene Vanderwall.

“Everybody knows Jack” one of my relatives said, but I did not, so I decided to track him down and get acquainted.

Jack and Rita Willier have owned the Morocco Car Wash and Gas Station, Inc. since November of 1994. They came from Lowell to get a little more out in the country. This was the very same reason they moved from Munster, Indiana to Lowell.

Jack was born in the Oklahoma panhandle and raised in a small town in Texas (if you listen carefully, you can still catch a little bit of the southwest in his speech. And if that doesn't do it the cowboy boots do.)

When you enter Jack's realm don't take everything you see or hear too seriously. From the stuffed Jackalope head on the wall (sure looks like a jack rabbit with some horns attached to me) to the bowl of cotton, which was grown in Morocco, they all take on a surrealistic aura.

Jack serves home-made ice cream in the summer and coffee all the time. One can find some of the regulars there every day exchanging observations on just about everything.

Jack's wife, Rita, who comes from an Italian background is an aide traveling with handicapped children from Lake Village, Morocco, and Roselawn. They make their home in the country, but every day you will find one or the other at the station. Jack always

seems to be able to sell gasoline a few cents cheaper than the competition.

While having a cup of coffee at Jack's I had an opportunity to talk with my old friends Wayne and Louise Holley and to learn the whereabouts of their children. This is one of the joys of living in a small town. Parents are very proud of their children and interested in what they are doing.

Louise's daughter, Cindy married Tom Overmeyer and she is a dental hygienist in Zionsville, where they live with their children, Jeremy, Jessica, Jonathan, and Jerrod.

Her son, Erick Gregerson, lives in Colorado and has become a world traveler going to South American, Australia, and other distant places on the globe. They have two daughters, Molly and Gail.

Wally, who works for the county, lost a son in a tragic event.

Wayne's daughter, Donna, who married Wilbur Doty, is a registered nurse and has taught courses at St. Anthony's and is employed at Porter Memorial Hospital, Valparaiso. She says of her grandmother, Maie Holley, she will always be grateful for her determination, strength, her morals, her laugh and her stamina. Wilbur is an electrician.

Carolyn, who married Tim Geller, and was a familiar face at the Morocco Branch of the DeMotte State Bank for a number of years, now has a position that carries much more responsibility and travels among the different branches overseeing things. Tim is a claims rep. They have two children, Kristina and Mark, both married with children of their own.

Betty, who is an art teacher at Winamac, first married Doug Rainford and they had two children, Sean Douglas Rainford, and Alicia Renee. After his death in 1976, she married Ernest Lebo of Winamac and they have Joel Dereck Lebo.

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Wayne's son, Ron Holley, is a carpenter and contractor. He and his wife Mary Gail live in a house he built between Crown Point and Lowell. They have two children Nicholas and Jessica. One of the joys of living in a small town is catching up on what has been happening in the lives of the children of some of the older folk

Morocco Cooks

One-Bowl Chocolate Cake

- 1 C. flour
- 1 C. sugar
- ½ C. unsweetened cocoa powder
- ½ t. baking soda
- ½ t. baking powder
- ½ t. salt
- ¾ C milk
- 1/3 C. cooking oil
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1 egg

Powdered sugar to sprinkle on top.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and lightly flour a 9 x 1 ½ inch round or 8x8x2-inch baking pan.

In a large mixing bowl combine flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Add milk, oil, and vanilla. Beat with an electric mixer on low speed just until combined. Beat on medium speed for 2 more minutes. Add egg and beat 2 minutes more. Pour batter into prepared pan.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until a wooden toothpick comes out clean. Cool cake on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Remove cake from pan. Cool thoroughly on a wire rack for an hour. To serve, sprinkle with powdered sugar and transfer to serving plate.

Happenings

Two weeks prior to Christmas Ye Editor was a week-end guest of Nancy Irsay at her estate in Carmel, Indiana. They attended a

Holiday Homecoming Christmas program at the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, featuring Angela Brown, a dramatic soprano, who is headquartered in Indianapolis, but sings major roles for the New York Metropolitan Opera. She was accompanied by the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra and the Indianapolis Opera Chorus and the Children's Choir of the North United Methodist Church. Afterwards they had dinner at the Glass Chimney in Carmel.

Santa's Chefs

On Christmas Day Santa's Chefs served a turkey dinner to those who might otherwise have been alone on this day. Four years ago John and Donna Kindle, who live on south Main Street, saw a need and started this volunteer effort to provide a traditional Christmas meal to older members of the community and indeed to anyone who might be alone on Christmas Day.

Fifty-two meals were served at the Community Center at the Morocco Fire House and a hundred and ninety-nine delivered throughout the area. The event has grown ever since it was started and the number of volunteers making it happen has also grown proportionally.

Morocco Volunteer Fire Department

On January 1, the newly elected officers of the Morocco Volunteer Fire Department took office (The election takes place every two years.) Chief Larry Bartley, a 25 year veteran of the department, and chief for the past two years, is retiring from the force and turned over the reigns to the new chief, Dan Baird.

Baird, who has served the department for 12 years has been a captain for the past two years, . The new assistant chief, Corrie Meyers has been on the force for almost four years, having previously served as a cadet for five years, becoming a firefighter shortly after his eighteenth birthday. Myers also serves as the department's Medical Director and Paramedic.

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Other officers are: Brandon Goddard, captain, Matt Carlson, captain, and Cheri Glancy, safety officer.

American Legion

Friday night is fish night, Wednesday night, Tacos, and Saturday night, Chicken Wings. .

Letters to the Editor

Backward Glance

When viewing the changes Jeremy Vanderwall is making to his home, my mind immediately turned back sixty years or so when Bruce and Metta Hanger lived in the house. As I recall at that time most of their family had flown the coop, except Dianne, who would later marry Raymond “Windy” Hendryx. Barbara had married Don Clarkson, Wilma was the wife of Dan Robinson, Gartha married Vance Clark, Bernard would marry Evelyn Watt, and David would later marry Mrs. Veryl Lynch, whose husband, Carey, had been electrocuted while working on a high tension line for NIPSCO.

Bruce was then school janitor and was an easy going individual who all of the kids adored. He seemed to be a friend to all of them. Metta, a tireless worker for the Christian Church had a beautiful voice and her rendition of O Holy Night, which she sang each year, was one to be remembered.

Two of their grandchildren lived in Morocco at the time, Gary Clark and Karen Robinson. They both were classmates and friends of Ye Editor.

Chris LaCosse who chairs one of RISE 2020 committees is also a granddaughter, as is Becky Norris, who works at the License Bureau.

Government In Action

RISE 2020

July 26, 2006 marked a day that may help change the future of Morocco. On that day a group of high-powered leaders from a number of Indiana organizations met at the new Newton County Government Center to hear a presentation aimed at the revitalization of our town by the Morocco Design Team, a group of community leaders composed of Robert Gonczy, John Morgin, Randy Decker, Don DeKoker, Duke Gagnon, Dave Ross, Chris LaCosse, Jack Anderson, Barb Morgin, and Chuck Gonczy in which they listed the assets of our town.

The list contained the following points: (1) Morocco is a gateway to the Grand Kankakee Marsh and other natural resources such as Willow Slough, etc. (2) The new County Government Center is located at Morocco (3) A new Waste Treatment Plant and Water Tower are major assets. (4) An Industrial Park adjacent to the Allied Waste landfill four miles east of Morocco is in the planning stage (5) Discussions are underway to build a retirement community with affordable housing. (6) Opportunities exist for the Revitalization of State Street in Morocco (7) There is a possibility of building an new elementary school in Morocco (8) Talk of Small Business Development (9) Rails, Trails, Sidewalks and Streets. Two abandoned railways offer possibilities of walking trails (10) Natural Resources Assets are major, including the Grand Marsh, Willow Slough, Kankakee Sands, Conrad Savanna and Beaver Lake Prairie (11) and there is hope for Youth Engagement through a proposed Extreme Park for Morocco’s youth.

Some of these assets are based on real facts, while others exist only in the realm of possibilities and potentials. However, it seems to be a realistic view of what our community might have to offer in its vision for the future.

A Resource Team assembled by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs has

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successfully used a model called RISE 2020 to assist Indiana rural communities in clarifying their vision for the future and had these recommendations after hearing Morocco's presentation.:

1. The Setting of Priorities, *which must engage the townspeople in the planning process* (my italics, ED), should address specifics and choose three or four projects as priorities for the next year or more.
2. There is a need for Market Analysis and more specific planning including, employment, schools, restaurants, business services healthcare, social services, cultural-leisure-recreational amenities, shopping, childcare, and where the community can realistically draw support.
3. There is a need for professional planning. Names of individuals and organizations were suggested.
4. There needs to be an identification of financial resources that are available to the community and possible assistance from local and state agencies. County commissioners and county council and the Newton County Community Foundation need to be involved early in the process.
5. Every proposed project needs to consider whether it will generate new revenue or whether it will cost the community.
6. The RISE 2020 framework encourages local leaders to consider a multi-faceted economic development including natural resources, business and industrial development and housing.

This brief recap of the results of the July meeting touches only the surface of what is involved in this ambitious plan to assess Morocco's resources, to plan for its future and to manifest these plans in a practical and economic way. Essential to every part of this effort is community involvement. Your opinions and concerns can make a difference. They need to be heard by all who are involved

in planning a brighter future for the citizens of Morocco. .

December Meeting

On December 19, the Design Team met to discuss priorities and to appoint committee heads to proceed with the RISE 2020 process.

The areas selected were:

1. Downtown Development-Don DeKoker chair. DeKoker, a former resident and son of Les and Rinky (DeGroot) DeKoker travels from Elmhurst, Illinois to participate in this effort
2. Trails and Rails-Chris LaCosse, chair. The purpose to develop walking and bike trails.
3. Access to Willow Slough-Chuck Gonczy, chair. The goal is to funnel traffic that goes to Willow Slough through the town.

Bob Gonczy and Randy Decker will serve as liaisons to each committee in order to coordinate the different groups. The chairs will form their own committees from interested people in the community. It is hoped that volunteers will be forthcoming.

Another suggestion was made by John Morgin to buy a house that is badly in need of restoration and bring it back to a livable state to be used as an example of what can be done with older properties.

January Meeting

Two of the core committees met on January 4, 2007 to consider projected plans

Natural Resources, Chris Gonczy, chair, Bob Gonczy and Randy Decker, liaisons..

Community Calendar

Town Board Met January 2, 2007

Transitions

Harland W. White
(former Morocco Principal)

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Harland W. White, age 99, a resident of Westminster Village, West Lafayette, Indiana, died at 1:41 a.m. December 7, 2006

Mr. White was born July 20, 1907 in Indianapolis, Indiana, was early educated at the public schools at Vallonia, Indiana, received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University and had additional education at Purdue University, Ohio University and the University of Hawaii.

Married Mary Lucille (Mock) White on May 25, 1932, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

His professional career included high school mathematics and physics teaching in Redkey, Indiana, and supervision principalships in Twelve Mile and Morocco, Indiana.

Upon his release from the Navy in 1945 he joined the admissions office staff at Purdue. In 1948 he became Associate Registrar, directing admissions and as Executive Assistant to the Dean of the Graduate School for two years. In 1958 he became Director of Admissions, a position he held until his retirement in 1972.

In 1949 Mr. White was the co-organizer of the Indiana Committee on High School-College Cooperation. This committee later became the Indiana Division of the National Association of College Admissions Counselors. Mr. White served on the Board of Directors and in 1958 served as their president.

He served as a consultant to both the Regional and National offices of the College Entrance Examination Board.

He was a 70 plus year member of the Washington Lodge 13 F&AM in Brownstown; a 32nd Degree Mason with the Scottish Rite Valley of Indianapolis; Past Patron of the West Lafayette Chapter 507 OES; and a member of the Lafayette High Twelve Club. He was a longtime member of the Rotary, and held local and state memberships in the Indiana Retired Teachers Association. He was also a Charter member of the Federated Church of West

Lafayette.

In retirement, the Whites spent their summers at Westminster Village and their winters in Fort. Myers, Florida. Mr. White assisted in the 1980 reorganization of Westminster Village, West Lafayette.

Mr. White is survived by one son, William G. White (Hannah) of Lansdale, Pennsylvania; 8 grandchildren, 9 great-great grandchildren and a niece, Mrs. Marion Lewis of Pendleton. Mr. White was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Lucille (December 6, 2001); a son, Robert G. White (February 14, 2003); a daughter-in-law, Elsie Spechler (November 21, 2004) and a grandson, Michael White (February 4, 2005).

There will be a memorial service 10 a.m. Monday at Soller-Baker, West Lafayette Chapel, the Rev. David Mills officiating. Those wishing may contribute to Federated Church, 2400 Sycamore Lane, West Lafayette, Indiana, 47906 or charity of choice. Ashes will be interred at the family plot in Vallonia.

Howard E. Kessler

Howard E. Kessler, 89, of Morocco, passed away on Saturday, December 9, 2006 at Jasper County Hospital, Renssler.

Born May 2, 1917, in Morocco to Earl and Lorena (Smart) Kessler. He graduated from Morocco High School in 1935, and from Indiana University in 1940 with a degree in business and banking.

His marriage was to Elizabeth "Betty" Hagen on August 14, 1941, in Morocco, and she survives.

Mr. Kessler was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving with the 102nd Infantry Division during World War II. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Morocco, American Legion Post No. 146 of Morocco, Grand Lodge F & AM Lodge No. 372 of Morocco and a Life Member of Indiana University. He was owner/operator of the Brook Farmers Supply in Brook for over 52

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years.

Surviving with his wife, Betty, are sons Earl R. Kessler of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Wesley (Sara) Kessler of Brook; daughter, Vicki Hershman (husband Walter T. Daigle) of Indianapolis; eight grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, and one sister.

Visitation was held from 4-8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, at Steinke Funeral Home, Morocco. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday December 13, at First United Methodist Church of Morocco, with Pastor Sam Polito officiating. Interment was at Oakland Cemetery with military rites accorded.

Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, Morocco.

Paul A. James

Paul A. James, 60, of Morocco, died Saturday evening, December 16, 2006 at his home.

Born April 25, 1946, in Rensselaer, he was the son of the late Charles D. and Dora Mae Schultz James. He attended Rensselaer public schools.

His marriage was to Patricia Kay Smart in Morocco on January 6, 1968, and she survives.

He had worked at the Newton County Highway Department for 15 years, then was the owner and operator of James Tree Service in Morocco for 40 years. He retired in 1005.

Surviving with his wife are a son, Scott Allen James, daughter, Sherry Wiseman (Gary Jr.), a brother, Rex James (Margaret) and sisters, Jane Hullings, Linda Fleming (Jack), Connie Tucker, Cheryl Wright (Matthew) and Regina Liebo (Charles), all of Rensselaer, and Joyce Chandler of Fort Myers, Florida.

Friends may call at the Steinke Funeral Home of Morocco, 4-8 p.m. (CST) Tuesday, December 19. Per his request, cremation will

follow the visitation. Several nephews and nieces survive. Two brothers preceded him in death. Memorials are suggested to Jasper County Hospice or the American Cancer Society.

Erma J. Voeller

Erma J. Voeller, 74, of Morocco, died Friday, December 22, 2006, at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

Born December 16, 1932, to the late Robert and Theoline LaCosse Kazort in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, she was educated in the Harvard, Illinois public school system.

Her marriage was to Royal Voeller in June of 1949 in Dubuque, Iowa, and he survives.

Mrs. Voeller was a homemaker and a resident of Morocco since 1969. She was a member of the E.U.B. Methodist Church of Morocco.

She enjoyed decorating her home for holidays, walking and riding a three wheeler.

Surviving with her husband are her children, Howard Voeller (Sue) of Westville, Cindy Sell of Lafayette, Rhonda McElroy (Terry) of Morocco, Jennifer Bower (Kenneth) of Beaverville, Illinois, and Timothy Voeller (Lisa) of Morocco and her siblings, Robert Kazort (Pat) and Claire Kazort, both of Indianapolis, Betty Anne Pease of Spooner, Wisconsin, and Carol Anderson (Don) of Belvidere, Illinois.

Also surviving are 16 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Friends may call from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at the E.U.B. Church in Morocco with services there 11 a.m. Wednesday. Memorials are suggested to the family. Steinke Funeral Home of Morocco is handling arrangements.

This and That

Correction

What's in a name? Everything. We identify with it. We respond to it when called. It is how we are known to our family, friends and

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the community in which we live. It provides a means of identification for our banking, our driver's license, our credit cards, our tax forms and our church roster. From earliest times in our life, through school, and later a name sets us apart from the rest of the herd. By it we are known and when we can't recall another's name it bothers us and we rack our brains trying to remember.

So it is a matter of concern when we don't use the correct name and especially in a local paper where our mistake may be repeated by others.

While attending a meeting of the Water Department, I found that I had given the wrong name to a member of that board. The correct name is Marlene Taden, not Tatum. Our apologies for this error. Now having a face to put with the name, I'm sure the mistake will not happen again.