

# MOROCCO TIMES

Vol. I No.2

February 2007

Gerald Born, Editor and Publisher

## Around Town

Bill and Yong Lone have just returned from a Caribbean cruise on the Carnival line. They were accompanied by Bill and Linda Everhardt who worked for Bill when he headed maintenance for the CTA in Chicago. Ports of call were Nassau, St. Thomas and St. Martin.

It was a new cruise liner and they reported that it was very clean and comfortable.

On a sadder note, Bill's pet raccoon, Petie, died. Petie was a familiar sight riding with Bill on his Harley-Davidson and really enjoyed the wind in his face. Many say that he was a major asset when Bill was elected Surveyor of Newton County. Petie was 16 years old.

Traveling north on Old 41 major building is taking place at the Steve and Geri Howell home. It appears that a large garage is being added to their property. Steve is in construction and also serves as president of the Water Department Board. Old timers will recall that the house in which they live was built by Kenneth Blankenbaker, when he owned and operated the Railroad Salvage located just south of their property.

If you haven't tried John Davidson's farm fresh eggs, it is worth the trip. John, the son of Mark and Myra Davidson, lives on the family farm just across the State Line in Illinois on State Road 114. The chickens are free ranging in the summer and some lay those blue, low-cholesterol eggs. Sixty chicks had just hatched when I was last there and my thoughts went back to Yoder's Hatchery on Morocco's State Street. John his wife and four children now occupy the farmstead.

Mark Davidson really enjoys his retirement

from Fagen's Pharmacy. Before that he worked at People's Drug Store. Mark now spends more time at the farm, cutting wood, and tending the garden and farming and on occasion works at the drug store. Myra enjoys her grandchildren.

New plate glass windows are in place at Dan Blaney's office addition, which once was Spradling's, a store his grandparents, Bill and Virginia Spradling, operated. Jim Elijah is putting the finishing touches on the snowmobile museum that Dan will open in the rear of the building.

Betty Kessler, her sister, Gracie Rice, and Gracie's daughter, Barb, went to Florida to visit their brother and uncle, Rex Hagen, who has a new guest house on his island off the coast. While there she contacted pneumonia and was in the hospital for a while.

She is much improved and after a week in Indianapolis came home the second week in February. She is out and about, but due to her absence and the inclement weather, the Tea Room has been closed through much of January and February..

Randy Decker and Alan Bannister were much in evidence clearing the snow from the downtown area. They finished just in time for the next snow the last week in January and the BIG one the second week in February. Piles of snow can be seen at every intersection..

Ran into Michael Myers working at Allen's IGA the other day. Hardly recognized him with his very grown-up beard. Seems like only

yesterday he and John Robert Kay helped me move debris from my property to the burning ground. I think they were seniors at the time.

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My how time flies

## Morocco Cooks

### Best Ever Macaroni and Cheese

2 ½ C. uncooked elbow macaroni  
6 T. butter, divided  
¼ C. all-purpose flour  
1 t. salt  
1 t. sugar  
2 C. milk  
8 oz. processed American cheese, cubed  
1 1/3 C. small-curd cottage cheese  
2/3 C. sour cream  
2 C (8 oz.) sharp cheddar cheese  
1 ½ C. soft bread crumbs

Cook macaroni according to package directions a dente; (it will cook some more in the oven); drain. Place in a greased 3 qt. baking dish. In a saucepan, melt 4 tablespoons butter. Stir in flour, salt and sugar until smooth. Gradually stir in milk, bring to a boil and cook and stir until thickened.

Reduce heat; stir in American cheese until melted. Stir in cottage cheese and sour cream. Pour over macaroni and mix well; sprinkle with cheddar cheese. Melt remaining butter and toss with bread crumbs; sprinkle over top. Bake uncovered, at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until golden brown.

This is Ye Editor's all time favorite. The recipe came from my sister-in-law, Sue Born. Not sure where she got it, but it originated with Gwen Miller, a retired farmer from Rolling Hills, Alberta, Canada.

## Happenings

Grant and Tina Christenson of Lake Village announce the engagement of their daughter, Lorna Rae, to Jon Ryan Hayworth. Jon is the son of Ruth Ellen Hayworth and the late Dan Hayworth of Morocco. The wedding plans are for August 11, 2007 at Lafayette, Indiana.

Roger Emmrich attended the Water Department Board meeting. He says he plans to be more active in community affairs. His wife, Mary Kay, is library director of the Newton County Public Library, which includes Morocco, Lake Village, and Roselawn..

Ruth Doty has returned from her stay in the hospital and her doctor tells her to take it easy, but we all know Ruth. She has been out and about..

Ye Editor attended a showing of bamboo baskets at the Art Center of Greater Lafayette, Indiana with his brother, Dr. Gordon and his sister-in-law, Sue. They were fortunate as Noriko Keating, who had mounted the exhibit, was there doing flower arranging and graciously answered many question about the collection of the baskets and how she and her husband, James Keating had started collecting them in Japan ten years ago to be used in the art of ikebana (flower arranging).. The exhibition is free and remains there until March 17<sup>th</sup>.

On New Year's day, Ye Editor drove to Fenton, Michigan to visit his cousin, Dolores Brandt and her daughter, Polly Sheppard, and husband, Dr. Bill, and their two children, Maggie and Claire. Polly and Ye Editor got in a good day of antiquing in some of Michigan's finest antique malls before he reluctantly made his way back to Indiana.

One of the visitors at the Tea Room in January was Wilma Watts Whaley. She asked me if I knew a Gerald Slusser. "Yes, I was named for him. He was a noted surgeon living in New Mexico and my mother's first cousin." "Well, I worked in his office answering the

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phone and making all of his appointments,” she said. Indeed it is a small world. She became a subscriber to the *Morocco Times*. Before Marion Watts’ untimely death they operated the Locker Plant, then called Watts’ Certified Superette. You could buy 3 Banquet TV Dinners for \$1.00. That was in the 1970’s.

Icy conditions and the cold kept many from the Koffee Klatch hosted by Jeanette Hall. Those who braved the cold were Bethel Kendall, Georgie Johnson, Sheri Moore and Wendy Morgan.

Ron Canady of Lake Village, who has been on the waiting list for a heart transplant, had his prayers answered on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The surgery was successful and he would like to hear from friends at Ron & Sandy Canady, William S. Middleton V.A. Hospital; Attn: Amy Brunell, Transplant B. 5078-1500 Over Look Terrace, Madison, Wisconsin, 53705.

Word was received that Rick Kaupke, 54, son of Dottie (Bingham) and the late Dick Kaupke, formerly of Morocco, passed away Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> in Phoenix, Arizona. He leaves a wife and two children.

Steve Pecsénye, 80, of Morocco, husband of Betty Pecsénye, a former pre-school teacher in Morocco passed away in February. No further information has been found at the time of writing.

Raymond Brownfield took an unexpected trip to Indianapolis. They installed a pacemaker. He is now home recovering and glad that the old ticker is still ticking.

Jack Anderson sounds more like himself again. He had the bug that was going around

and for three weeks sounded like a different person. This bug seems like a difficult one to shake. He is the son of Milt and Marilois Anderson and has come back to Morocco to live. Jack serves on the Design Team discussed in our January issue.

Bob and Diane Gonczy’s son Garrett has been in the hospital with pneumonia

Noah Steven, son of Brandy Gulley, grandson of Jane Gulley and the late Steve Gulley celebrated his first birthday on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> with a family gathering at Maw Jane’s house. He received many gifts and a wonderful time was had by all.

While attending an event at Greene’s Antique Mall on Highway 114, Renssler, Ye Editor was talking with Mel Fisher, who spent his childhood close to Bogus Island and attended the Enos school. Over the years he found many Indian artifacts in the area. At the tender age of six he was paid 5c a piece for each one he would bring to his teacher, Flossie Perkins, from Morocco, who taught at the Enos school. That nickel was like manna from heaven for him.

Flossie’s son, Glenwood Perkins, donated his collection of arrowheads and artifacts to the Morocco library, where they are currently on display. One wonders if some of Mel’s finds might be in Glenwood’s collection.

As a footnote the Library is holding an organizational meeting of people who collect surface found Indiana artifacts at the Lake Village library on February 22, at 6:30 p.m. They will also be talking about Conrad and Bogus Island. More information can be had by calling (219) 992-3490.

## Letters to the Editor

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Dear Mr. Born,

I really enjoyed reading the December issue of *Morocco Times*, which was forwarded to me by my mother, Helen Maycinik, who moved to an assisted living apartment in Colorado Springs back in October. She received her copy from Susie Hively in Beaverville, and now I am going to send this same copy to my sister, Susan Nikaido, who lives near Mom in Colorado Springs! As you can see, this copy of the *Times* has traveled many miles!

Thank you for providing us with this fun opportunity to keep up with Morocco news!

Cindy Ewen

Rochester, Minnesota

Dear Gerald,

Thank you for sending the issues of *Morocco Times*. The townspeople must be happy that you are providing such a needed service. It fills a void that I suspect you are best qualified to fill. Enclosed is \$10.00 for my subscription. I really look forward to seeing future issues.

Elbert R. Archibald

Bellair, Florida

## Backward Glance

Recalling the Railroad Salvage brings back memories for many Morocco people. When railroads shipped most of the goods sold in this country, many items were damaged in transit and would be auctioned off in huge lots.

Kenneth Blankenbaker was a real entrepreneur and would buy semi-truck loads of the damaged merchandise and offer it at discounted prices to the citizens of Morocco and the surrounding area.

He started his business in the building that later housed Triangle M on Old 41, and when he outgrew that building, he moved further north and built a huge rambling cement block

building that must have covered some 10,000 sq. ft. of space.

Here could be found just about anything under the sun. Huge bins of canned goods, electrical appliances, furniture, washing machines and dryers and much more, all a little bruised and battered, but some almost like new. I remember one time he had a mountain of fabric sent from the spinning mills in South Carolina and sold it for 5 cents a pound. I bought a hundred yards for under \$10.00. People came from miles around to shop at his store.

From a 1970 *Morocco Courier* comes the price list of goods he had for sale:

Sugar 5 pounds 39c with Grocery Order

Welch's Grape Juice 24 oz. 29c

Vinegar Quart Heinz Cider 29c

Cottage Cheese Meadow Gold 1 lb 22c

Bacon, Food King, 1 lb. 49c

Pepsi-Cola, Flat of 24 6 ½ oz. \$1.39

Country Fresh Eggs, mediums, doz. 9c

With orders of \$5.00 or more

20% off All Remaining Furniture

Kenneth drove a Lincoln Continental and his wife, Luella, always appeared ready to step from a band box. She had two sons, Donnie and Ronnie Elijah by a former marriage and Kenneth had a son, Dean Blankenbaker. After Kenneth died Luella moved to Anderson, Indiana.

The store was demolished in the 80's and now there is a garage on the site and trucks park there.

Some time ago Margaret Protsman gave me a few copies of the *Morocco Courier*, which I found when moving. An article caught my attention from the paper, for I had coffee a couple days before with two of the women named in the article some 75 years ago. See if you can identify them.

**Thursday, June 23, 1932**

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“ The 4-H club met on the evening of June 14 for its annual initiation.

“Due to the stormy evening many of the initiates were unable to be present. The following girls were initiated: Betty Osborne, Mary Leah Irvin, Florence Mashino, Bethel Coatney, Opal Rush and Alberta Graves.

“The club members and guests were entertained by the following program: Initiation service; Dreaming, Lura and Lucille Russell; Club song, members; musical reading, Betty Osborne; Music, violin, Alberta Daddow, Ethelyn Murphey, Mary Leah Irvin; musical reading, Madonna Roush; reading Ruth Blann; solo, Grace Roush; “Come All You Folks,” Club Pledge.

“During the refreshment hour the music was rendered by Lura and Lucille Russell and Jeanette Yates.

Another article from the same paper: Mrs. Lyman Roadruck with her sister, Mrs. Ada Mamerton, and Mrs. Glen Smart entertained a company of friends at the home of Mrs. Roadruck on Monday night in compliment to Miss Helen Best whose marriage to Clay Baird is announced for Friday June 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Government In Action

### Morocco Town Board

#### RISE 2020

At 6:00 p.m. on February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Government Center at Morocco, representatives of OCRA (Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs) met with members of Morocco’s business community to discuss Main Street, an imitative aimed at helping develop the main streets of rural Indiana.

Jo Grandel, Program Manager, presented a four part program for those interested in participating in the Main Street program,

including Economic Development, Promotion, Organization and Design.

Start small, think big, and enlist volunteers were themes she emphasized.

It appears that the RISE 2020 model has been subsumed by the above office and no longer will be used.

Many were disappointed to hear that the town has to have a full time employee devoted to the project to be designated a Main Street town. This was later modified to say that perhaps a volunteer would be able to do the job. However, the application for designation will not be ready at least until April.

The Indiana office is in touch with the National Main Street group in Washington, DC and seems to be trying to coordinate their program with the national effort.

In response to a question as to what advantages exist to those designated as Main Street, Grandel stated that usually extra points are awarded to those who are members and apply for federal grants.

On a positive note, those Morocco business people who were in attendance expressed the need for the group to meet again and decide what they at the local level really wanted to do to make the town more vital.

### Conversancy

The regular meeting of the Conversancy Board was held on February 6<sup>th</sup> in spite of the big snow. There was a lengthy discussion of the dump and the tipping fees. No new business was presented.

### Morocco Planning Commission

The Commission met on January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Morocco Town Hall. Present were President, Phyllis Glenn, Mary K. Emmrich, Bob Grisham, and Shaun Wynn, as was Town Board member Larry Bingham, who was attending to discuss the current ordinance about setbacks and sidelines. Setbacks are now measured from the centerline of the

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roadway, while the County ordinances are determined by the property line. Bingham suggested that they be brought in line with county practice.

After lengthy discussion there was a motion to bring them in line with county standards, which may require a property survey. The motion is being referred to Attorney Ryan for legal opinion.

Shawn Wynn was appointed as liaison to the RISE 20/20 Main Street Initiative, at the request of Town Board President, Robert Gonczy, who appeared to announce the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to help revitalize the old downtown area.

The Commission developed a list of four properties that they believe to be unsafe and need immediate attention. After discussion it was voted that the owners of the following properties be contacted by the Town Board regarding improvements or demolition: The single story Smart House on West Street. The former Sellers Service Station at State and Polk Streets, The former Mashino house on the northwest corner of Lincoln and Beaver Streets. The Former Howard Market on North Polk Street

Glenn asked if the grain processing plant opened by Matt Gibson had been drying corn. Some have heard a dryer running. The Commission had been told that no drying would be done at the facility. Follow up will be done.

Tim Storey reported on the old Laundromat building he is purchasing. The agreement has been made, though title is yet to be transferred. However he has already sealed the bricks and removed loose ones.

Next meeting is on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> subject to the approval of the Town Board for the change from Monday to Wednesday..

## **The Morocco Library**

## **United Methodist Church Water Department Board**

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> the Water Department Board held a public meeting to hear the final report of the \$30,000 grant (Kankakee Iroquois Regional Planning Commission footed \$27,000 of the cost and the Morocco Town Board, \$3,000) assessing the needs of Morocco for providing water for the community now and in the future.

George Lewis, of the firm Hannum, Wagel & Cline Engineering, who conducted the study, was on hand to explain their findings and field any questions that might be raised.

Morocco's water supply system is very antiquated and badly in need of up-dating. The water supply system contains old water mains that are corroded and are of differing diameters so that water flow is hampered at several points.

Some hydrants are located at dead ends along the mains, which lessens the pressure at that point. Creating loops in the mains would help increase the water flow, which is currently under 500 gallons per minute at some locations, well below the established standard. Even moving some of the hydrants several feet to locations where the flow is better would be an improvement.

The study found that of the 200,000 gallons a day being pumped from the town's wells that only 170,000 gallons is being paid for. This fact prompted the town to spend \$63,000 to replace old meters with new ones that can be read electronically from a passing vehicle. Hopefully this will help account for some of the water not being billed, as well as saving a day and a half of time spent reading the meters. An \$88,000 loan has been secured that will cover the cost of the new meters and needed software..

Old hydrants also need to be replaced for some are so obsolete that parts are not

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available. The Eddy hydrant is no longer made

The wells appear to be sufficient for the town's needs. However, should Morocco decide to sell water to other municipalities or the proposed industrial park in Jackson township another well as back-up would be needed and the water lines would need to be extended to the park. The town is currently replacing pump controls for greater efficiency from tipping fees.

President, Steve Howell, questioned the price of cleaning and painting the ground storage tank, some \$130,000. Lewis explained that they had arrived at that figure as they anticipated some of the earlier coats of paint might contain lead and that there might be pinhole leaks that could have contaminated the soil around the tank, and that special procedures have to be followed when lead is encountered. Another questioner asked how much a new tank would cost. The answer, \$200,000.

Town Board President Gonczy was on hand to respond to the report. He said there was no way the town could implement all of the findings of the report at the present time.

The town's indebtedness will not allow a public works bond of that magnitude. The Water tower debt of \$95,000 will not be paid off until 2011, the Conservancy debt of \$235,000 in 2015, the two million Library bond in 2028 and the Sewer in 2040 at a cost of \$33 per month. Other sources will have to be found.

Gonczy suggested that some funds might be forthcoming after the Town renegotiates some of its contracts. He estimated that anywhere between 3 to 7 dollars per household might be available. Under a new Indiana law moneys can be put into a fund for future improvements for the water department. It was not clear whether he was suggesting all of the savings be placed in this fund, or whether some of the

savings might be returned to the individual household.

As a footnote Gonczy attended a meeting of the Newton County Council on January 23<sup>rd</sup> held at the Government Center in Morocco to ask for funds to help alleviate the monthly fees paid for water bills. He asked for help in paying off some or all of the three public bonded debts the town now holds. He estimated that relief from the conservancy district bond and the water tower construction bond alone would save each household about \$10.00 per month.

Sharon Miller wanted to know the amount that Morocco receives in tipping fees. Gonczy estimated that the town receives about 20,000 per quarter through the Good Neighbor Agreement. She also questioned the \$4.00 that appears on the utility bill for fire protection service, whereas, Morocco already pays \$25,000 a year for fire protection.

## **Regular Meeting Morocco Water Board**

On January 29, 2006 the regular meeting of the Morocco Water Department Board was held at the Town Hall.

Discussion centered around the new software the town is purchasing, that will help get a better handle on actual costs. The software system will not allow the transfer of funds from one account to another. This may limit the flexibility that the town has for allocating funds, but it will give a true accounting of what is being spent and where the budget stands at any given time.

The town has a judgment of \$4,600 against it in the matter of the Lyons case. They will pay the for the well.

## **Community Calendar**

### **Beaver Township Board**

Met on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the Beaver

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Township Community Center. Next meeting March 12<sup>th</sup>

### **Morocco Town Board**

Met on February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall. Next meeting March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall

### **Water Department Board**

Met on January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall. Next Meeting February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall

### **RISE 2020**

Met on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> to hear Jo Ella Grandel speak on Main Street Initiative

### **Conversancy**

Met on February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall. Next meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall

### **Morocco Planning Commission**

Met on February. Next meeting, Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall

### **Projects Unlimited**

### **Homecoming**

### **The Morocco Library**

Organization meeting on February 22 for those interested in Indian artifacts at the Lake Village Library at 6:00 p.m.

### **United Methodist Church**

The United Methodist Women invite families and their children to a Valentine Family Night-out Dinner party on Sunday evening, February 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the church dining room. In order to know how to prepare the women need to know the number of adults attending and the age of each child. Call Ruth Warrick or Wilma Kresel.

With the beginning of Lent Pastor Sam invites those with penitent hearts who wish to observe the ritual of Ash Wednesday to come to the church's sanctuary on February 21<sup>st</sup> at noon and 6:00 p.m. to receive their ashes.

## **Transitions**

### **Wilma V. Robinson**

Wilma V. Robinson, 93, of Sun Lakes, Arizona, died Monday January 13, in Hospice

of the Valley in Chandler, Arizona, following an extended illness.

She was born on April 7, 1913, and was the daughter of Bruce and Metta (Hammel) Hanger. She was a 1931 graduate of Morocco High School. She resided in Morocco for 90 years before moving to Arizona.

In 1935, at Morocco, she married Dan Robinson, who died in 1980.

She was employed as a bookkeeper at Brandt's Chevrolet for many years. After retiring, she worked part time for the Newton County Health Department.

She was a member of the United Church of Morocco.

Survivors include a son, Sam (Louise) Robinson of Sun Lakes, Arizona; three great-grandchildren, Steve Martin, Susan Edinger and Sheri (Tim) Moakler and two great-grandchildren, Jack and Sam Moakler. She is also survived by three sisters, Gartha Clark, Barbara (Don) Clarkson and Dianne Hendryx, all of Morocco. She also had many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Wilma was preceded in death by a daughter, Karen Martin, who died in 1983, her parents and two brothers, David Hanger and Bernard Hanger.

The funeral was held at the United Church of Morocco on Friday, January 19 with interment following at Oakland Cemetery. The Steinke Funeral Home of Morocco was in charge of the arrangements.

### **Brad R. Hillis**

Bradley R. Hillis, 25, of Lafayette, passed away at Regency Hospital in East Chicago on Wednesday, January, 17. He was born on December 26, 1981, in Rensselaer, the son of George S. and Rebecca (Moore) Hillis of Lake Village. He had lived in Newton County most of his life.

He graduated from North Newton High School with the class of 2000 and received a

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Business Management Degree from Ivy Tech.  
He attended the Faith Mission  
Assembly of God Church at Shelby, Indiana.  
He was employed at the Tru Green Chem  
Lawn Care of Lafayette for several years.

He is survived by his parents, sister Amber  
(Charles) Winebrenner of Roselawn: brothers,  
Dustin Gary of Lake Village and Cory Hillis  
of Lafayette; special niece, Elizabeth  
Anderson of Roselawn: his grandparents,  
Leroy and Bertie Moore of Oakwood, Illinois  
and many, many friends.

He was preceded in death by his  
grandparents, Ross and Helen Hillis.

Funeral services were held at the Morocco  
Elementary gymnasium on Saturday, January  
20, with Pastor Jack Virgin officiating and  
interment followed at the Oakland Cemetery in  
Morocco

The Steinke Funeral Home of Morocco was  
in charge of arrangements.

But I Really Don't Mind, When I Think With  
a Grin,  
Of All the Grand Places My Get Up Has Been.

## **This and That**

Why, some people ask, do I have advertising  
from California on the Morocco Booster's  
page? Very simple, Sue Pantos is the daughter  
of Louise Plaster and is a loyal booster of  
Morocco. And when I overheard someone  
say, "Oh, yes, she taught me to swim at the  
Morocco pool," I knew that it was the right  
choice to have her among our advertisers.  
And who knows one of us may end up in  
California in need of her service.

This anonymous ditty about one's get up and  
go from the United Methodist Messenger hit a  
cord with me.

I am Fully Aware that My Youth Has Been  
Spent  
That My Get Up and Go Has Got Up and  
Went