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## Around Town

A buzz heard all over town concerned the success Bob Gonczy had with his efforts in obtaining funding from the County Commissioners and the County Council to relieve a portion of the indebtedness of the Town of Morocco. Gonczy is President of the Town Board.

He appeared before the group and presented the case for getting relief from some of the tax burden caused by bond issues that had been passed after years of neglect to remedy many of Morocco's infrastructure problems.

He was successful in getting his request for \$340,000 approved by the Council and the Commissioners. More details will be found in the Government In Action column.

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While visiting the Morocco Library I ran into Betty Carlson and Judy Schultz working in the Local History Room. They were removing the senior class pictures from the frames in order to put them into a new rack like those used for wall paper samples to be housed with other Morocco artifacts.

It is a good idea to get the photos at eye level where they can be seen and studied. Jayne Gulley explained that they had been housed at Allen's IGA and were given to the library, and since there wasn't enough room to hang them, this was the solution that Mary K., had found.

They also showed me a group of photos that Bill White, the son of Harlan White, had just donated to the library. They covered Harlan's tenure as principal at the Morocco School during the early 40's and contained many that I had not previously seen.

The library staff is also planning to have a

number of display cases filled with Morocco school artifacts for the alumni and the homecoming, as had been mentioned by Mary K. at a library board meeting I recently attended. Seeing all of the wonderful photos inspired Ye Editor to return home and bring back all the Old Gold and Blacks he had purchased at Ruth Corbin's sale as well as my senior cords and class sweater to donate to the cause.

If you have any items pertaining to Morocco history, the library is a worthy place to house them, for they tell me that many patrons are using the collection.

Speed Harrison and Betty Kessler both told me that the class of 1935 would not be represented among the photos. They graduated at the height of the depression and there was just not any money for class pictures.

I also learned that an archaeology club has been organized under the umbrella of the library and it will meet the third Thursday of the Month at the Lake Village library at 7:00 p.m.

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Residents of Morocco were shocked to learn of an accident at the intersection of SR 114 and US 41 in which Christina Kendall of Rensselaer collided with a 2000 Mack dump truck.

Haley Davis, her six-year old daughter sustained serious injuries and was airlifted to Comer Children's Hospital in Chicago, where she later died.

Christina Kendall and her two-year old son were taken to the Jasper County Hospital; the extent of their injuries was not known at the

time. Her obituary will be found in the Transitions Section.

Haley attended kindergarten at the Morocco

Elementary school, and Principal Karen Spencer said that a counselor would be available for the class.

## Morocco Cooks

### Chocolate Sheet Cake

2 cups sugar  
1 cup oleo  
1 cup water  
2 eggs  
½ teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
2 cups flour  
¼ cup cocoa  
½ cup buttermilk  
1 teaspoon baking soda

Boil oleo, cocoa and water. Pour over sugar and flour mixture. Add rest of ingredients. Bake 20 minutes at 400 degrees

Frosting: Boil ½ cup oleo, 6 tablespoons milk, 1 teaspoon vanilla, ¼ cup cocoa. Add 1 pound powdered sugar and 1 cup nuts (optional). Frost when cake is warm.

This was Joyce Elaine Morgan's recipe, which was passed on to Marie Morgan, which in turn was passed on to Ruth Warrick, and appears at many church functions;

## Happenings

### New Local Non-Profit Group Started

Ye Editor met up with Tim Storey at one of the many town meetings and inquired about the building on State Street that he and others intend to preserve. He agreed to write a brief article about the group's goals, which follows:

While many people recognize the value of preserving the beauty and craftsmanship of the older homes and buildings in Morocco, almost no one feels that they have the money or time to make a significant impact. Some of the work needing done is difficult and requires

specialized training to make the repairs last, and this often leads to the conclusion that the repairs are not practical due to the cost.

A few local residents have formed a non-profit group called Renewed Heritage, Inc., to help address this problem. The group has other goals related to "renewed heritage" for the future, but for now the focus is on preservation.

The first part of the strategy is to provide a way for community members to pool their resources so that, together, we can make a significant impact. As many are aware, plans are in place to turn the old Laundromat into a coffee house with occasional live and recorded music (both quiet) and with local art for sale. (It will be open in the evening so as not to compete with Mel's or the Tea Room!) This project is not practical for an "investor", but through community support, a significant building from Morocco's history can remain in place and serve the town.

The second part of the strategy is to provide training through preservation and repair experts, so local residents can tackle projects at home, or at least be aware of their options. Many people feel they need to "rip out the old and replace it with the new", but there is durability, value, and charm in many of those old things that is now being recognized. There seems to be a growing trend in practical preservation and Renewed Heritage wants to help interested local residents be a part of it--and save money in the process. Workshops are often held in larger towns, such as Lafayette and South Bend, but groups such as the non-profit Historic Landmarks of Indiana are willing to come here.

Renewed Heritage is evaluating workshop options now which would include, among other topics, how to paint wood siding and trim to avoid peeling, repairing old windows and making them energy efficient, restoring rotted wood, lead safety, masonry, and maintenance.

If you are interested in supporting or learning more about Renewed Heritage, Inc., please call Jeff Iseminger at 394-2867 or Tim

Storey at 474-9624

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Tammy Elijah told me of a memorial tree planting for young Haley Davis. It will take place on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Recher Park at 11:00 a.m., sponsored by the Girl Scouts, Troop #2541, which Tammy heads. Anyone who would like to attend is invited to participate.

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Ye Editor had the pleasure of meeting a delightful young couple from California who had come to Morocco to explore his roots. Their names, Bob and Charlene Lanning. They discovered the Tea Room and soon we were chatting like old friends. They hit it lucky, for Ruth Warrick had lived in Washington Township where the Lannings lived and knew the family quite well.

Bob and his wife had brought their daughter, Carly to the National Concert Band Festival held at Butler University in Indianapolis and had decided to come to Morocco to see if they could find anything about his father, Jesse Lanning, who left here at an early age. His grandfather was Russell Lanning and his grandmother was Russell's first wife, whose name has been lost in time.

Of course we knew Russell and Ruby (Kemper) Lanning, and the first person we thought they should meet was Bonnie (Lanning) Hoskins and Paul. Bonnie is Russell and Ruby's daughter. Ruth took them to see Bonnie and also to the Russell Chapel cemetery, where it was thought they were buried. It was a cold day so they did not tarry long at the cemetery and did not find the grave. But Ruth on a warmer day again visited Prairie Vine cemetery and found Omer Lanning, who is a step-brother of Russells.

Robert Lanning was born in Burbank, California as was his brother. Their parents, however, met in Shanghai, China, where Jesse Lanning was working as a Flying Tiger for China Air Transport. They returned to the states when the Communists took over the mainland.

A few days ago a package of exotic teas from the Lannings arrived at the Tea Room to

say thank you We look forward to their return. And by the way Bob has just subscribed to the *Morocco Times*.

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The women of the United Church have been busy making noodles for their annual Easter bake sale. Those helping were Lisa Laffoon, Myra Davidson, Shirley Thompson, Sharell Clark, James Rybecki, Pat James, Louise Holley and Harriet Webb. They made 130 bags in all.

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Easter Sunday dinner at the Roger Webbs was attended by Steve and Beth Hivley and family, John and Cindy Hively & family, Kim Risner and girls and Scott Hivley family. A good time was had by all.

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The United Methodist and The United Church joined together for Good Friday services at the United Church. It was a very meaningful tribute led by Pastor Sam Polito.

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The United Church men cooked and served Easter breakfast to many members before church services on Sunday.

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Allen and Nancy Myers have returned home after spending three months in Florida.

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Peg Hamann had been hospitalized for an ulcer and an inflamed esophagus. We wish her a speedy recovery.

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David Pufahl is recovering from surgery after having a cancerous kidney removed. There were also spots on his lung and treatment will begin at a later date.

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Ron Canady is happy to home after several months at the VA Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, following a successful heart transplant.

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Georgeana Roadruck had successful knee surgery on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

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Subscribers, Ruth Shirer has just returned

after an extended stay in Arizona, and Bill Wiltfang returned from Florida where he was visiting his brother, Clifford over the winter.

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Myra (Cory) DeGroot also returns this month to her Hammond home, after an extended stay with relatives.

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Have you noticed that someone has taken responsibility for changing the events sign in Betty Kessler Park. Phyllis Glenn, who owns Glenn Florals and is located across the street from the park is now keeping the sign up-to-date. She said it was driving her crazy when things were left on the sign that had already taken place.

## Backward Glance

### Morocco Boy Scout Band

The Morocco Boy Scout band, which made its debut last season (1931), has made wonderful progress in band music, is continuing rehearsals and constantly growing more proficient...

Originally sponsored by the Lions club, which has continued to promote the concerts and give the boys every encouragement, the large group of Morocco's young hopefuls has developed into a crack boys' organization under the leadership of Director Charles E. Bassett. Following is a list of the boys and the instruments they play:

Solo Clarinets: Delbert Williams, James Hope, Robert Larrison, Jack Brunton, Delvin Brandt.

First Clarinets: Harry Dale Billings, Ansel Best, Stanley Harrison, Donald Camblin

Solo Cornets and Trumpets: Earl McClatchey, Melvin Elgas, Vane Harrison, Lloyd Kilmer, Daryl Brandt, LaTell Shuey.

First Cornets and Trumpets: Rue Gene Starr, Dee Bryant, Vance Stine, Jack Williamson, Roy Merchant.

Trombones: John Garmong, Lawrence Brandt, Lawson Cox, Oscar Lock.

Altos: Maurice Blann, Russell Yoder.

Basses: George Flowers, Jr., Galen

Deardurff.

Baritones: Max Ketcham, Enlen Brandt, Buster Reams

Saxophone: Albert Yates.

Drums: Jennings Kennedy, Claudie Ackors, Robert Ackors.

The band concerts must have been well attended, for the Town Board adopted Band Concert Parking Regulations and Traffic Rules:

Effective June 15, (1932) the north and south street between the alley at Sherman White Creamery and State street, and the alley at the telephone office and State street will be used for parking purposes only during the period of the band concert, beginning at 7:45 p.m. Cars so parked in this space will remain parked until the concert is over, at which time they will arrange for other curb parking space and clear the street for traffic.

State Street will be open for the convenience of necessary through traffic only, with no U turn at the band stand, and cars must pass the band stand at a slow rate of speed protecting the safety of pedestrians. Frequent trips by the same car passing the band stand will not be tolerated. Curb parking permitted on State Street as usual. (From the *Morocco Courier*, 1932)

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Ye Editor met up with Speed and Stan Harrison at Mel's Diner the other night and talk turned to the Boy Scout Band of which they were members. They had become so proficient and well known that by the next year (1933) they were invited to perform at the opening of the World's Fair in Chicago. They appeared before thousands of people in Soldier's Field and were well received by the crowd.

## Government In Action

### Beaver Township Board

The Beaver Township Board met on April 2, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. Dan Baird, Board President, called the meeting to order.

Much of the business centered around preparing for summer activities. \$1,200 was allocated for a concrete pad to be built, and \$5,000 for pool improvements.

Shirley Deardurff, Township Trustee, is preparing for the summer employees. Two bids were received for mowing. Tavis Napier bid \$35.00 a month and American Turf, \$32.00. They gave the contract to Napier, since they had no weeding to do with his firm and he was licensed to spray the needed chemicals.

Deardurff is looking for a park manager and an assistant manager. Only one applied for the managerial position, Devin (Miller) Whisker, who had previously been in management at Fair Oaks Dairy doing all of the scheduling for the employees there. She had done this for 2 years.

Baird commented that the position only pays \$3,500 for the manager and \$2,900 for the assistant. They had filled both positions in the past, and that they had to operate within those constraints. The job starts in mid-May and continues through the Memorial Day weekend until school lets out. The pool is open 11:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Supervision is need there all the time. Last year there were no guards and the manager and assistant manager had to supervise the pool when it was open.

Heather DeYoung worked last year and the question was raised whether she could work on an hourly basis, since they have the money budgeted. She will think about it.

Devon will get her certificate by mid-June, which is necessary for the job. Also Amanda Lockmiller, is the youngest on the staff and she will be 16 in June. Corey Myers will do a CPR course for them. Denise Hickman is coming back and they need three more on the staff to make to complete it for a total of six. Drew will work full time, and Mr. Hall might be interested in the assistant managers position.

Deardurff said she would keep working on the staffing.

The chaise lounges have arrived for the pool

and Chris Schultz got them unloaded. There is more equipment to come. Shirley needs help between 9-3 as the concrete table weigh 1050 pounds each. It was suggested that they be set on the blacktop and wait till they were ready to place one at the shallow end and one at the deep end.

Talk turned to the various projects in which the board participates. In a letter from the State Board of Accounts it specifies that the Board can only contract with not-for-profit groups who look for money from the township, and further that the contracts are necessary and that they have to be only for the benefit to the people of Beaver Township.

For this reason the Board was unable to meet the request of the North Newton Spanish Trip. Suggestions were made of other avenues they might pursue.

They were able to support the Science Camp by providing \$1,000 for insurance. A contract is being written that places the liability with the sponsoring group as it was before.

It was reported that Projects had met on April 16<sup>th</sup> and the Book Bags were going to be continued. Teachers had instituted the project, and eight year commitment. The bags are stuffed with the things kids need for school.

Lois Hensel appeared to update the board on the progress for this year's Homecoming. She said her group appreciated the liability insurance that Beaver Township is underwriting for the Homecoming, the Moonwalk and the Lion's train.

Dave Clements reported on the fire house operations. All trucks are going to be fitted with a battery charger, at \$1,000 each. This keeps the batteries for the fire trucks charged and ready to go. An automatic ejecting device insures that trucks will not leave while still plugged in and cost an additional \$600 apiece..

The are investigating a hose tester, and will know more by May. SCBA air tanks and air packs should arrive between now and the end of May.

They are trying to get new uniforms at last year's prices, which are in effect until July and they there will be a 25% increase in the price

from \$800 to \$870 a set. They plan to put everybody on the force in brown and establish a five year rotation for replacing the uniforms.

The financial report showed that there is \$10,000 in a rainy day account and \$15,000 invested in CD.

After a discussion it was decided to change the next meeting date to April 23rd instead of May 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>, as members of the board might be in the fields then. The place remains the same, but the time was changed to 7:00 p.m.

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### **Conservancy District Board**

Bill Smart, Board President, called the meeting to order.

Two claims were approved, one for \$4,902.01 to Eugene Yoder and another to Zyran for \$2,087.25, both had done work on the mains. This leaves a balance of \$7,500 with a payment due of \$3,702.63 on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Some of the breaks in the water mains were discussed. Three leaks had occurred, all under the streets, on College Avenue, across West Street, and on Beaver Street by the old Doctor's office.

At Rapers they jetted water both ways to see if the drains were working. Water was not running to the east. A new manhole has been constructed at Martha Peacock's. The catch basin is not finished, the outlet pipe is 8 inches too high.

The building Pistello is doing for the county in the east part of town was discussed, and its impact on the Conservancy. They are on good terms with him and he can do what he wants to anyway.

There was a sink hole on college in front of Colbournes. Water from Raper's basement will be pumped out. Linda Hickman's basement filled up with water. Her tile goes through the alley, so they are not sure what the problem is. Also water was reported in the Delos Warne house basement. It appears that the foundation needs a drain. They are half way through Nancy Brandt's. Work continues on catch basin on Gary Goddard's property.

They need a better camera to trace water flow. They have done work at the funeral

home, where there is a French drain that goes down into stone. Perhaps a new one needs to be put in. They discussed putting dye into the basement of one house to see if it were draining into the system.

Steve Luther was at the meeting to discuss the study they had contracted with his firm. Originally the firm had been employed to design a pipe for the Kessler ditch, known as the Kessler Tile Improvement. \$35,712 had been allocated for the field work and to prepare specs. The drain would parallel the existing manholes, crossover pipes and headwall. There seems to have been three different alternatives offered. The county surveyor wanted to dig an open ditch, and leave the original pipe at the same height. They debated how and where to go under US 41.

Luther said the design was 75% complete, in which they did not lower the tile, but split the field in half. They had submitted a \$67,900 bill, which had been paid, but not all invoices had yet been paid. There are still outstanding bills for \$22,560 and \$6,790 is still owed.

The Board wanted to get the project completed and off the books. They asked for the drawings as the project has been in the works since 2003 or 04.

The Conservancy has only \$3,000 left in their operating budget to get them till June when they have a tax draw. They have two draws from taxes of \$56,000 each, which should allow them to pay their bills. Until then they may need to extend the DeMotte Bank line of credit.

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Ye Editor must admit that he left the meeting a little more than slightly confused. Having not been privy to what has gone on before, it is difficult to keep up with the many facts and figures that were banded about. For that reason I stayed on after the meeting and asked Bill Smart for some clarification, not only to the above study and what it was intended to accomplish, but also about the impact of the gift from the County Commissioners, which we had just learned about that day.

I asked him a question that had been put to me earlier that day by one of my readers. “Just what did that money pay for and what does it mean to us common people?”

Smart explained the bonds for \$415,000 had been offered in August of 1995 to pay for two new drains going out of the town of Morocco. They were 24 inches in diameter and one extended from the American Legion to the southwest to Beaver Creek, and the other extended from the Pullman to the northeast to the Sam Deardurff ditch and into Beaver Creek.

The bonds were held by thirty bond holders and they were being paid off at the rate of \$40,000 a year for principal and interest. \$235,000 remained to be paid before the bonds could be retired. It was this amount that Gonczy asked for relief, and was granted.

The Conservancy District was organized to improve the drainage for the district at about the time the bonds were issued. It included three independent taxing authorities, which had responsibility for the water shed. They were the Kennedy ditch, the Werner ditch and the Board of Trustees ditch drainage areas. It was argued that the tax levies were insufficient for the drainage needs and did not coordinate with the overall waste water needs of the Beaver Township area, so one authority was created.

It is unclear whether other projects were paid for from the bonds or not. Smart was not on the board when these initial expenditures were made, but thought that some equipment might also have been included such as a rotor rooter and a safety cage, which the county is now using. There may have been a special tax levy to pay for the retention pond located at the new government center, which handles much of the waste water from that facility.

Time did not allow us to discuss the Kennedy Ditch Improvement project. What is clear, however, is that the savings on the bond retirement to the community will be substantial. It had been estimated that the ditch tax may be decreased by around \$40.00 next year. Unless of course, there are other

projects currently in the works that may have an impact on the Conservancy District.

### **Morocco Town Board**

The Morocco Town Board met at 7:00 p.m. on April 3, 2007 at the Town Hall. A sense of euphoria filled the room as it had been learned by many that day that Bob Gonczy, the President of the Town Board had been successful in his efforts to get relief on two of the outstanding bond issues that were being paid for by the citizens of Morocco--the Conservancy bonds and the Water Tower bonds.

Scott Carlson and Scott Madison attended the meeting and congratulated Morocco on the presentation before the Newton County Council, of which they were members. They represent the interests of Morocco on the Council and were instrumental in helping to get the funds.

Gonczy, in turn, thanked them for their efforts and outlined the sequence of events that led to the grant. Council member, Sharon Miller, made the motion for the funding at the Council's regular meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Scott Carlson seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed, and given to the County Commissioners for their action. On motion by Jim Pistello, seconded by Russ Collins, the Commissioners also unanimously passed a motion granting \$340,000 to pay off the debt. \$235,000 of the money was for the Conservancy bonds and \$97,200 was for the water tower. In addition current interest was allowed, some \$2,200 for the water tower and \$15,600 for the interest on the Conservancy debt.

Both Carlson and Madison agreed that Morocco had done their homework and Carlson congratulated the Board on having “one hell of a President.” Gonczy was understandably pleased with the action of the Council and the Commissioners. But Gonczy said, “I almost fell off my chair when Miller announced that they would not only allow us the \$340,000, but would give an additional \$100,000 for seed money for a grant for the

water main and hydrant project.”

Gonczy thanked Carlson and Madison for sponsoring the measure when the town needed their help. Jeff LaCrosse chimed in with his thanks as well and said “that the people of Morocco should thank you every time they see you on the streets.”

Larry Bingham, also a board member, commented that “We’ll see a reduction in the bills in 2007. I thank the council and the commissioners for their help.”

With the reduction of payments for the water tower and the recent renegotiations of garbage pick-up and other contracts, utility bills should be lowered by \$8.00 to \$10.00 a month, which would be a blessed relief to those residents on a fixed income.

Carlson congratulated the Board on their hard work. “You had all the background work prepared and it made the decision a lot easier.”

When the Council was questioned about what they would do when other county towns want them to pay off their bonds as well, Miller stated that they had better do their homework like Morocco did.

Gonczy added that the timing for seeking funding for the water mains and hydrants project could not be better, as infrastructure is the top priority for the state of Indiana in its funding of grants. While most get at low to moderate priority, Morocco gets a top grade.

There will be a public meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May and there will be a public hearing in June on the grant proposal, and it will then be submitted to KIRPC in July for financial consideration, environmental impact studies, site control and the like to prepare for the grant application to be submitted in September, 2007. Grants will be awarded in December. Once the grant is approved, open bids will be advertised in May of 2008. This is when the matching funds would be restructured and the request sent to the Council and Commissioners. Work could start around June of 2008, if the grant was given to Morocco.

Marlene Taden reported for Ward I. The reps met and chose May 5<sup>th</sup> as Clean Up Day starting at 6:00 a.m. She requested that five

dumpsters be on hand and 12-15 brooms. They plan to do wide advertising, on water bills, in the papers, on Channel 15 and Cable TV, backed up with flyers and signs at Kessler Park and the Community Center.

The success of the day will be dependant on the residents of Morocco and they want to be sure they are aware of the effort.

Taden also reported for the utility board since Randy Decker had not yet arrived at the meeting. She, Decker and Sam Davis had attended a three hour seminar near Delphi, which she said was very helpful to the utility board.

Decker and Alan Banister will be attending a roundtable discussion at Wheatfield on a new paving method that is reported to cut costs.

Decker arrived and continued the report. The West well has been serviced and it is up and running. It had not been serviced since the 80’s so there was an additional \$1,900 charge for the service.

Everything is in place for the installation of the new meters. They will be placed as time allows. 53 households now have the remote meters out of the 550 that need to be installed. Jim Garland, water consultant, wants to meet with Randy in the next two weeks.

The patching of roads was briefly touched upon. Decker then asked for summer help. Both mowers are ready to roll. One of them is 18 years old and with all that is going on, Decker suggested the town contract for the mowing. It would involve liability insurance and would cover one or two individuals. Since a line item already exists it should not be a problem. After some discussion the board agreed to have the mowing contracted out.

The skate park equipment has arrived. April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> have been scheduled to install the equipment. Decker estimated it would take three men 80 hours to complete the task. He is asking for as many volunteers as possible to assist.

FEMA will reimburse 75% of costs for emergency snow removal during the blizzard in February. Decker thanked, Ray Chambers, the director for his help in obtaining the funds.



The vacancy for Ward IV needs to be filled. The emergency Management Plan is 20-30% completed. Dean, Logston & Neff took a survey of the cracks in the wall of the water holding tank, but didn't feel a test of surrounding area was necessary, cost \$2,500.

The Morocco Homecoming is progressing well. A tentative schedule has been released, which includes an 8K Huddle, a Moon Walk and a train ride. Also there will be an adult Pedal Pull.

Projects reported it again sponsoring a Science Camp for ages 4-8 this year. It has been expanded to include ages 9-10. And the Focus is on the Farm. The town of Morocco will support this effort to the tune of \$2,000.

There were 55 participants last year and 90 % of them were from Morocco. Cost is \$25.00 per pupil

The town election is drawing nearer and they are still looking for candidates.

Tim Storey reported that the building he is buying is going through foreclosure. He will keep the Board informed.

The next meeting of the Town Board was set for May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

## **Community Calendar**

Beaver Township Board met April 2nd at 5:00 p.m. at the Beaver Township Community Building. Will meet again on April 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the same place. (Note this is a change from their advertised schedule)

Conservancy District Board met April 3, 207 at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Will meet next on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Morocco Town Board met April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Will meet again on May 1<sup>st</sup>

Rise 2020 Main Street Committee has a meeting scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Corner Tea Room, corner of Clay and State Streets at 6:30 p.m.

Rise 2020 Master Plan for Willow Slough will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Willow Slough State Fish and Wildlife Area. Many dignitaries as well as the Design Team

will be present.

Tree planting memorial for Haley Davis at Recher Park at 11:00 a.m. sponsored by the Girl Scouts Troop #2541 on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

May 5<sup>th</sup> Morocco Clean Up Day All day, starting at 6:00 a.m. Dumpsters will be available. Citizens are urged to spruce up their own properties and discard unwanted items.

## **Transitions**

### **Gordon Neal Banister**

Gordon Neal "Corky" Bannister, 77, of Earl Park passed away March 25, 2007, at VA Illiana Health Care, Danville, Illinois. He was born on November 24, 1929, in Brook to Minnie (Erb) and Harrison Banister.

"Corky" was a lifetime resident of Jasper and Newton Counties. He was raised in the Enos area and attended school there. He retired from farming in 1991, and had worked for Amsy Schultz and James Printy. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War. He was a member of the V.F.W. and the Disabled Veterans. He married Margaret Ann Sisney of September 1, 1951, in Kentland. She passed away February 24, 2007.

He is survived by six children, Leuvada (Harold) England of Remington; Ruth Ann Cenerdy of Rensselaer; Harrison (Brenda) Banister, Clyde (Kathy) Banister, both of Fowler; Lisa (Charlie) Bennett, Earl Park and Joe Banister, Florida; on brother Homer Glen Banister, Roselawn; two sister Fay (Gail) Perkins of Kokomo and Elizabeth (Ralph) Rogers of Arkansas; 12 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and two great-great grandsons.

Gordon was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, five brothers, Early, Ray (wife Juanita) of Remington, Laurence (wife Delores) of Morocco Carl (wife Kathryn) of Morocco, Erbie (wife Mary Kathryn) of Renssler and three grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, April 14 at 10 a.m. EST at the Earl Park Presbyterian Church with fellowship time to

follow. Interment with military rites will be at 2 p.m. EDT at Memory Gardens Cemetery, Rensselaer. Memorials may be made to the family.

### **Ernest “Ernie” Standish**

Ernest, “Ernie” Eugene Standish, 74, of Brook died Thursday, April 5, 2007 at 1:45 p.m. at the Illiana VA Healthcare Center, Danville, Illinois. He was born November 21, 1932, in Brook to the late Wayne and Carolyn Jane “Jennie” (Curtis) Standish. He was a lifelong resident of Brook.

Standish was a U.S. Navy Veteran serving in the Korean Conflict. He married Wanda Storey of Morocco on February 24, 1954, in Cedar Lake, Indiana. She survives. Mr. Standish was a contractor in the excavating and construction business in Brook for several years, a barber at St. Joseph College and in Brook, and owned and operated the car washes in Brook and Goodland. He was a member of the Brook American Legion.

Survivors include his wife, Wanda Standish of Brook; four sons, Earl (Cathy) Standish of West Lafayette, Jason Standish of Brook, Mathew Standish of Chicago, Illinois, and Corey Standish of Brook; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; two brothers, Larry Standish of West Lafayette and Norman (Charlotte) Standish of Pueblo, Colorado, and a sister Margaret (John ) Robbins of Bunker Hill, Illinois.

He was preceded in death by a son, Ken Standish and a daughter, Amber Standish, a sister Sue Hitchins and a brother, Richard Standish.

Graveside services with military rites were held Saturday, April 7k at 11 a.m. at the Oakland Cemetery in Morocco. Reverend, Ken Marsh officiating. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association.

Arrangements were by the McMullan-Stitz Funeral Home Kentland.

### **Haley Nicole Davis**

Haley Nicole Davis, 6, passed away April 6, 2007 at the University of Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital. She was born March 26,

2001, in Crown Point to Christina (Shiyan) Kendall and Brandon Davis.

Haley was a kindergarten student at Morocco Elementary School and was a member of the Rensselaer Park Department Youth T-Ball and Soccer organizations. Haley enjoyed animals, including her dog Kenzie, and her fish.

She is survived by her mother and step-father, Christina and Brian Kendall of Rensselaer; her father Brandon Davis of DeMotte, brother Collin Kendall at home, maternal grandparents, Steve and Catherine Shiyan of Rensselaer; maternal great-grandmother, Dorothy Ashby of Portage; maternal great-grandparents, Steve and Sharon Shiyan of Hobart; paternal grandparents Don (Maggie Ault) Davis of Wheatfield, Esther (David) Komenas of North Carolina; paternal great grandmothers, Sadie Davie of DeMotte and Esther Jasobsma of Winamac and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

The family received guests at the Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer on Tuesday, April 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. CDT. Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Interment followed at the Weston Cemetery in Rensselaer. Memorials may be made to the Riley Hospital for Children, c/o Riley Children’s Foundation.

### **This and That**

This anonymous ditty about one’s get up ago from the United Methodist Messenger hit a cord with me.

I am Fully Aware that My Youth Has Been

Sp

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

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It has been a very gratifying experience editing and publishing the *Morocco Times*. I wasn't sure that there would be a readership for a monthly newspaper that contained only items related to Morocco, both old and new. However, the response has been great, and encouragement comes from all quarters, from those who live in Morocco and those former residents, who are "hungry for news of my home town".

The paper started as an experiment and that is why there was only a subscription for six months. If it had been a flop, I could quietly fold my wings and return to my retirement and enjoy life in a place I truly love. However, it has been an overwhelming success and it looks like it may continue for as long as my feeble body is able to produce it. It certainly has destroyed any idea of retirement and has added frustration and pressure to my life that I thought I did not need. But after four months of living with the *Morocco Times* I can't imagine my life without it. So thank you for your support.

As with all things, there is a price to be paid. With rising postage and other costs, I will have to charge \$25.00 for a full year's subscription starting in June. Please bear with me as I work out the bugs in the subscriptions and distribution