

Around Town

There has been a lot of activity around town as the citizens clean their property and prepare for clean-up day on May 3rd. Many of us who have trees have been busy picking up limbs that have been left by a very hard winter, and it appears that by Memorial Day Weekend the town will be spruced up and ready for our out-of-town visitors. Can't think of anything that makes me feel better than a haircut or raking the yard.

The Nature Conservancy

Four miles north of Morocco lies 7,600 acres of **The Nature Conservancy** lands, as mentioned in previous issues of this paper. Several readers have asked for more information about the organization and their goals. The following was supplied by Manager, Chip O'Leary and written by Stephanie Frischie who works at the site, specializing in raising some 250 varieties of seeds

Since 1996 The Nature Conservancy's **Kankakee Sands Restoration Project** has focused on recreating natural prairie, wetland and savanna communities

(habitats) on 7,600 acres in the area of the former Beaver Lake. The Nature Conservancy is a private, non-profit conservation organization working locally and around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Staff and volunteers at Kankakee Sands plant native wildflowers and grasses, control invasive weeds and conduct prescribed burns to mimic natural fires that used to occur.

Annually, over 2000 pounds of seed are planted representing nearly 400 different native plant species. The seed is produced at the on-site nursery or collected with permission from the wild on neighboring prairie remnants. At the 120-acre seed nursery near North Newton High School, about 130 species of native plants are cultivated. The series of blossoms and color begin in May and wind down in late October. The nursery is open to visitation and beds are marked with signs that give the common and scientific name of the plant. In the fall, workers and volunteers are busy at the seed barn getting seed ready for planting. Custom and antique equipment (Clipper fanning mill) is used to thresh, separate, sift, weigh and bag the seed.

Once an area is planted with seed, stewards follow up to manage the area by controlling invasive weeds such as Reed Canary grass and Canada thistle. Prescribed fire is used as a tool to recreate the effects of natural wildfires that used to occur on the landscape. Fire benefits the prairie by releasing nutrients into the soil, spurring seeds to germinate, prompting flowers to bloom and controlling tree seedlings that encroach on the open grassland. The restored prairies, wetlands and savannas at Kankakee Sands support rare and/or endangered species. These

Include Northern Leopard Frogs, Slender

Glass Lizards, Regal Fritillaries (butterfly), Plains Pocket Gophers and Old Plainsman (plant). The presence or migration of over 175 bird species delights conservationists and bird watchers.

At **Conrad Station Savanna**, visitors can hike the 1.5 mile loop trail that passes over easy terrain through black oak savanna, restored prairie and the former town of Conrad, with its building foundations and interpretive sign. Watch for the orange circular trail markers on the trees.

There are year-round opportunities for volunteers at Kankakee Sands. On May 12, volunteers will be working at Conrad Station Savanna to clean up trash and litter. Contact the office at 219-285-2184 for more information or visit www.nature.org.

have purchased the old conservation club property north of town and plan to build their home there and open a business in Morocco. Kwik Kerb Creations offers decorative concrete borders, stamped walkways & patios, stone and mulch, concrete countertops, artificial boulders, and other services. They have just completed remodeling a house on South Lincoln and have put it on the market. It is a nice house and would make a good home for someone. Take a look. It is on the east side of the street just a couple houses north of what was the Ray Baird home. Their phone number: 219-365-9250.

Morocco Cooks

Recently Ye Editor met Susan Buhning at the Tea Room. She and her husband, Dan,

Duggleby's Carmels

4 cups white sugar
1 pint Karo white syrup
1 pint half and half
Cook to 238 degrees F.
Add another 1 pint half and half
Cook to 238 degrees F.
Add another 1 pint half and half
Cook to 242 degrees F.
Pour over pecans in a 12" by 16" pan
Use a heavy stainless steel kettle
Earl Duggleby, Medaryville, IN

Many will remember Earl Duggleby, a popular 50's agriculture teacher, who was very involved in 4-H and Future Farmers of America, while teaching at Morocco. He shared this recipe with my brother, Dr. Gordon Born.

Happenings

Rev. Dewey Findley and his wife Kay were recent guests in our town. They were here to accept moneys collected by the Methodist church to install lights at railroad crossings in southern Indiana. As you will recall two of the Findley's grandsons were killed at a crossing near Greenwood. It is always heartwarming to see a group do something about situations that need to be remedied.

Tammie Elijah reports that the Girl Scout's tree planting in the park for Haley Davis was well attended. The Scouts took turns putting a shovel full of dirt beside a tulip tree planted in Recher Park in memory of six year old Haley Davis, who was killed in a tragic accident on April 5th. The girls represented the Daisy, Brownie and Girl Scouts. Pastor Sam Polito of the First United Methodist Church was on hand the girls that Haley would be there watching as they came to sit and remember Haley.

Morocco Lodge No. 372, the order of

Free and Accepted Masons of Indiana recently held a ceremony to honor two of their own, who have been members for 50 years. Al Thomas and Johnny Brunton each received their 50 year pins and a certificate, presented by Don Camblin.

The Masonic lodge is planning an all you can eat chicken supper on June 1st. Be sure to mark your calendars.

Larry Schanlaub is recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery.

Georgiana Roadruck is also on the mend from knee replacement surgery.

Happenings (cont.)

Action Circle of the United Church will meet at the home of Harriet Webb on Monday, May 7th at 1 p.m.

Spring is here. What a treat to see the robins and all the flowering shrubs.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Gerald,

Thanks so much for sending me two months editions of your recent local publication related to the Morocco happenings. It was most appreciated.

Reading your articles, and the names that were mentioned in the news plus the relationship to past residences in the area, sure brought back some memories of many folks that had not entered my thoughts for years. Your references also jolted my recollections of these folks and the place they filled in the past history of the Morocco locality.

I distinctly remember the Saturday nights in the downtown area with its busy shopping by rural citizens, and the band concerts from the old steel wheeled concert wagon. We later took part in them as we grew older, the need to get in town early to get a parking place, the amount of visiting done by families who merely sat in the cars and chatted with passing neighbors, kids shopped diligently to see where you could get the best buy in five cents worth of candy, where we played good and bad guys in the alleys where each store had a trash pile at the back door and I was unfortunate enough to fall, cut my knee and have my first experience with stitches inserted by Dr. Morehouse because Dr. Recher was on night time run to the out County

This was also the time that all the eggs came to town from the farm to be traded to Spradling's store for groceries. In my senior year, I was fortunate to be hired by this store to wash eggs, sack potatoes,

sweep the floors, carry out groceries and run to the basement for items to fill the shelves. I remember the very large old cash register with the really loud bell which sounded every time you opened the drawer. The fact that you knew almost everyone who came in reflected the great feeling of neighbors meeting neighbors and taking lots of time in the shopping duty to trade stories and local news that traveled almost exclusively by this method of getting the news.

I do remember the Saturday salary was one dollar and was greatly appreciated. Bill Spradling did give me a real cold coke once in a while. What a treat. I also learned that almost everyone did have a charge account at this store and many times, no cash changed hands.

The smell of the Home Creamery still lingers in my memory from bringing cream to sell which was separated on a daily basis in the kitchen. The kids got this job and Mother had to clean this contraption each day. The by-product from this duty was called skimmed milk and was enjoyed by many people. Much of the cream also went into homemade butter which was churned each Saturday morning and delivered Saturday evening during our trip to town.

During this weekly trip we also delivered freshly killed and cleaned chickens to customers for Sunday dinners. The job of catching, chopping off heads, scalding and removing feathers was not a particularly pleasant job and my mother could clean and parcel out a chicken faster than anyone. She cleaned thousands in her life time on the farm.

Freshly churned butter was another commodity. We churned each Saturday and delivered to the route of buyers. One pound blocks molded in a special butter

mold which left a flower print on the top was very popular. It stretched my imagination to think anyone could drink this by product of churning, but many really enjoyed this rare treat of butter milk. By the way, the pigs really like the stuff.

The memory of riding home in the old model T and the whine it produced will never be forgotten by that small kid, as he slept on the way home wrapped under a cow hide blanket snuggled next to his brother with memories of chocolate candy and lots of fun and thinking of what we could do next week in town on Saturday night.

I would not trade my childhood experience with anyone on earth and treasure these experiences made possible by two hard working and caring parents who I miss very much.

Keep up the good work; it is appreciated more than you know.

Dave Carlson, Manistee, Michigan.

P.S. Your brother, Bear Grease, was an important and close friend for many years.

Government In Action

Rise 20/20

The Design Team, lead by Chuck Gonczy of Bradley, but a Morocco native, John Morgin, of Roselawn. who owns property in Morocco, and Bob Gonczy, Morocco Town Board President, organized a meeting on April 24th. State officials met at 9:00 a.m. to hear the master plan for the area, designed to better utilize Willow Slough and J. C. Murphey Lake, and intended plans to bring more people through the town of Morocco.

Included in the meeting were State Senator Sue Landske, State Representative Don Lehe, John Davis, Department Director of the Department of Natural

Resources (DNR), Bill Bean, Northern Regional Supervisor for DNR, Don Abraham of INDOT, Steven Ray and Gerry White from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), Edwin Buswell of KIRPC and Newton County Commissioner, Jim Pistello.

Bob Gonczy opened the meeting saying, “With our vision of the master plan, we are seeking endorsements validating what we are doing and allowing us to move forward.” “We brought you decision makers together to plant the seed. When we call and ask for help, we want you to put a face with our name.”

The master plan calls for an extension of CR 275 S from 350 W east to Highway 41. (If one were to take West Street in Morocco north to the curve at the Smart corner, and turn east rather than west, one would get an idea of the proposed new roadway, but don’t try it now or you will wind up in a field). In effect this would give a straight shot to the Slough from 41 and would connect with the east entrance to the Slough. They also envision a south entrance to the area, rather than having to go to the State Line to come through the west entrance.

John Morgin explained that the plan would allow visitors to have a more pleasurable drive through natural settings on the way to the park. “People come here because they love what it is, not what it could be. We want to create an atmosphere that blends with nature.” “We want to give them what they want, lodging, restaurants and things of interest, without impacting on what they come here to see.”

The master plan calls for controlling businesses through zoning so that the corridor between the highway and the park would not become a “tourist trap” They hope to keep things in a rustic motif, so as to intrude as little as possible on nature, (perhaps a lodge like one sees at the Grand

Canyon or Vail, Colorado.)

Willow Slough is now a Class B campground with no electrical hook-ups. There are showers and bathroom available, but many agreed that the campground would draw more visitors if it were upgraded.

Chuck Gonczy said, "When the baby boomers retire, they will want to fish, hike and hunt." "We have what they want and we would like to share it with people from all over the country."

Gonczy has dreams of introducing people to the resources that we often take for granted--LaSalle Fish and Wildlife Preserve, the Kankakee River, the ghost town of Conrad, Kankakee Sands, and the work of The Nature Conservancy in growing seeds to bring back the natural habitat. There is work to be done on the Prairie Chicken Refuge, Bogus Island, Beaver Creek and the Iroquois River.

Chip O'Leary from the Nature Conservancy said their group is "turning the corner" on prairie growth and they are thinking of new ways to utilize their resources. He was very excited by the work of the Rails & Trails committee and their plans for hiking trails connecting to the lands of the Nature Conservancy and to Willow Slough. Birdwatchers come from all over the U.S. and other places to see the multitude of birds, both native and migratory. The area also supports the bald eagle, our national symbol. They are considering having a small herd of bison to help control ground cover as well as an attraction for sight seers.

Bob Gonczy emphasized the importance of signage in attracting visitors. He asked the group to imagine traveling south on Highway 41 and seeing a huge billboard with a picture of Willow Slough and a banner proclaiming, 'Discover J. C. Murphey Lake', and another sign saying, 'Morocco this way'. The team is also

asking help in designing the new intersection linking 41 to the proposed roadway. Don Abraham of INDOT pledged his support and promised to see what could be done at this time.

Commissioner Jim Pistello also thought the proposed roadway was a very good idea. He surmised that visitors could be drawn from Lake County to the Slough. Many are unaware of its existence

Senator Landske apologized for being late to the meeting. Seems that she encountered a flock of wild turkeys and was so fascinated that time got away from her. She quipped, "You don't see too many turkeys with feathers in Lake County." She wisely observed that Morocco relates to Willow Slough as Nashville relates to Brown County and that too much undirected growth causes problems. She felt the solution offered by the design team was excellent and she was really excited by the project, "Controlling growth and change to maintain this pristine area is so important."

In keeping with Morocco being the home of Hoosier hospitality, the group was treated to an old fashioned fish fry. Slough director Mike Schoonveld and Dave Spitznagle who works at the Slough did the honors, cooking and serving the fish. Howie Severs supplied the bluegills (some 220 filets- Wow!)

DISCOVER SCIENCE CAMP

Morocco Projects Unlimited is proud to announce Discover Science Summer Camp on June 25th to 29th, 2007.

The camp will be held at the Beaver Township Community Center and is available for children ages 4-10.

This year's theme is FARM
Monday will be Night Sky
Tuesday will be Weather
Wednesday will be Farm Animals*

Thursday will be Dairy (9-Noon)*
Friday will be Farm Safety and Crops*
An * indicates that these are field trip days.

The cost will be \$25.00/child**
\$40.00/2 children**
\$50.00/3 children**

A double ** means the money is due upon registration and that the above prices are for immediate family members.

The registration deadline is June 8, 1007 with space available for the first 75 to sign-up.

Morocco Projects Unlimited provides camp scholarships. For information on scholarships or the camp contact: Diane Gonczy (219) 285-6328.

The following have donated for the camp this year: Morocco Projects Unlimited, McClellan Township, Beaver Township, Jackson Township, Town of Morocco, Keeblers and Castognia's.

This is an excellent opportunity to introduce your child to the wonders of science; learn about the world around them.

Utility Board

Bob Gonczy appeared at the meeting and gave an up-date on the meeting held at Willow Slough. He indicated that there might be future implications for the changes that had been discussed at the meeting and that he would keep them informed of all decisions that might impact on the utility board.

Decker brought up the summer meter program and commented on the inordinate amount of time it takes to install, monitor and remove them. After a lengthy discussion the Board voted on abolishing the program and having the resolution changed in the policy manual. The vote was 2 for and 2 against, with Ms. Sain casting the deciding vote to remove them.

A number of readers have asked me about the make up of the utility board and how it functions within the governmental

structure.

The Utility Board, like the Planning Commission, is appointed by the Morocco Town Board and serves at its pleasure. They both are advisory boards and are given tasks to study and recommend solutions to the Board. They do not make the final decisions; this is done by the Town Board. Both have besides interested citizens members who work for the Town of Morocco (as Randy Decker and Ms. Sain on the utility board) and on the independent taxing authority (Mary K. Emmrich who is director of the county library). This was done to keep a flow of information between the work place and the two boards intact

Renew Heritage, Inc.

Tim Storey's group is working on two projects. The first to turn the old Laundramat into an evening coffee house with displays of local art and nice quiet music. Renew Heritage is seeking financial aid and volunteers for this project in particular. Area restoration experts believe that with a new roof and some repair, the building is still practical to salvage.

The other project involves giving seminars to help those who are interested in the growing trend of repair and restoration of older home. Contact Jeff Iseminger at 394-2867 or Tim at 474-9624, if interested.

Morocco Boosters

Morocco has always been a town with a strong business orientation. This page contains the business cards of those merchants and service personnel who are boosting the efforts of this paper and the efforts of the town's leadership to make Morocco into a vital community.

We urge you to support them in their efforts to bring you what you need and to patronize their businesses.,

Feature

David Ross of Star Trek Fame

David L. Ross, the son of Tom and Elsie (Hively) Ross spent his youthful years at Morocco. Many of us went to school with him or his brothers and sisters, Marilyn,

Marjory, Tim, Karen and Bobby. Yet, few of us were aware of David's accomplishments after he left Morocco and pursued a career in Hollywood. I knew he had an interesting story to tell and as result the following interview with him on one of his recent visits to Morocco.

David Ross Interview 3/24/07

Born: I am Gerald Born, editor of the *Morocco Times*.

Ross: And I am David Ross

Born: Did you ever dream growing up in Morocco that you would be appearing in a television series and the movies?

Ross: Actually no. I wasn't even one of my dreams to be an actor.

Born: What was your dream?

Ross: To be a cowboy.

Born: It is a long way from Morocco to Hollywood. Tell me how you got there and how you became an actor.

Ross: After I got out of the service, I came back to Morocco, but there wasn't much to do, so I went to Las Vegas and was working at the Sahara Hotel. And that is where I was discovered by an agent from Hollywood. She took me to Hollywood and that is how it all started.

Born: What was the agent's name?

Ross: Tony Kelman.

Born: And how did she introduce you to the scene?

Ross: Actually, I was her first adult client. She had been handling successful child

actors, such as Jodie Foster, and a host of other successful child stars.

Born: So Tony was a fixture in Hollywood?

Ross: Oh yes, but I was the first adult, for she saw something in me that she wanted to develop. And through her I went into a contract with a studio immediately.

At the time Columbia Studio had Sally Field in the top spot. But at one time or another during my career I was under contract with every major studio. Of course the studios at the time had contract actors and they groomed you, taught you acting, voice, everything. They don't do this any more.

Born: Would we recognize any of the coaches you had?

Ross: Nate Chase was a very famous coach west of New York and he was with MGM. I also spent some time at the Actor's Workshop, and that was with Lee Strassburg. That was in LA and even though I was under contract to the studio, yet I wanted to go to his workshop, which was just opening and see what he had to offer and see what I could learn from him.

There were other coaches that were just as good, but Lee Strassburg happened to have a name.

Born: So your agent got you interviews; is this how you got into Star Trek?

Ross: Well, no, before Star Trek I did a

role, if I could quit the shows anytime I wanted to.

Born: So Star Trek was an unknown quantity at the time?

Ross: Yes, this was at the very beginning.

number of other shows. I did the Ty Cobb act, I worked in a whole series of shows, "I Spy," "Man from Uncle," "Wild, Wild West," "Batman," "Bat Girl," and "The Big Valley." At that time if you were good you got decent parts. So you built up a lot of credits. I remember one episode with Sony and Cher. I did a lot of specials like "Marriage is Better".

Born: How long of a time period was this?

Ross: This went on for a few years when the Star Trek show came up; they had already cast the whole show, but then they needed a security guard role. I went to Paramount. I met with Gene Roddenberry, and read for him. He said fine and I would like to put you under contract. I had second thoughts as I didn't want to be type-cast as a space cadet if it wasn't successful. But I agreed with their studio to do a reoccurring

Paramount agreed. They said yes we will let you do that and it worked out well. I could have been in a lot more other TV shows, but I had a commitment to Star Trek.

Born: Did this make scheduling difficult?

Ross: When they had a part for my character, I had to be there for it. However, you always knew a week ahead. The writers knew, so I was able to work it in.

Born: Was this when you were playing Lt. Johnson?

Ross: Yes, I started out playing Lt. Johnson. And I did that for a while. After some time there was a week when Gene Roddenberry went to NASA because he was friends of those people there having been a military pilot and he got a lot of his ideas for Star Trek from them, even like the

bridge by talking with his NASA friends. Also the communicator came from them, but while he was gone for a week, Paramount called me in and said they wanted me as a regular. But I wanted to continue with Star Trek. So they went to the writers and had them kill me off. I got shot with a phaser and the light around me got bluer and bluer. And I thought that was the end. But I got a call from the office and Gene Roddenberry wanted to see me. So I went in and Gene said you are back in the show. Well, Gene, shall I dye my hair and grow a beard. He said you do neither. You are now Lt. Galloway. O.K. And so I became Lt. Galloway. But on that show I was killed two times and brought back to life. It was a scene where I was on ship and met an entity that fed on anger, but I got killed by a Klingon. And they took me into a ship and I was brought back to life. This was a first. Also I was the first to take his shirt off in an episode. Shatner was the first to kiss a girl.

Born: Did this cause any comment?

Ross: No, the writers put it in and Gene said we will leave it. However, people would write in and ask how could you bring him back. That was Johnson and you killed him and now he is Galloway. Gene's answer was "I can do what I want; it's my show". But the fans didn't know what the circumstances were and what went on behind the scenes with Paramount. But Gene was loyal. If he liked you, he was loyal

Born: There are a lot of devoted Trekie fans through out the world. What do you think accounts for this continuing interest that crosses generations

Ross: Well, Star Trek was a phenomenon. During its time on the air it had an O.K. reaction. But after it went off the air, it really took off. And people got into it more, because it was something the people wanted to live. This is the future, and they escaped into the story with us. They identified with a lot of the characters, because it was written that way. I would get fan mail from people who would say, why this red shirt; you are always getting hurt or beat up and not the others. Well we are security and that is what happens to security.

I've been to many conventions and they tell me that they would rather have my part, for I had all the fun and did the dangerous things.

Born: Gene Roddenberry created a whole new universe. What has always surprised me is how readily people entered into it.

Ross: There have been other sci-fi shows, but even while we were shooting we were on the cutting edge. Even special effects, like the doors to the elevator had to open automatically. We just had a guy on the other side of the door pulling a rope. Sometimes it would get stuck and the doors wouldn't open, the whole set would shake and you would walk into them, for you couldn't hesitate; our budget was that small. For example the show we did called "Trouble with Tribbles" which had little furry ball creatures. Everybody in the cast and crew sat around making those. Bill Tice was head of wardrobe and got all of these ratty old furs and shawls and things. We cut them up and glued them on little footballs, tennis balls, and small things and put a hole through it and run a hose through it and used an atomizer ball to blow air through the hose and that would make it move. And so that is how it was set up. But when you looked at the finished product we did pretty good. You couldn't tell how it was made to move. We had to be very inventive. We started out with DesiLou Productions which was this little studio adjacent to Paramount; just a big wall dividing us. Besides the Lucille Ball show, I Love Lucy, Mission Impossible was being shot there and Star Trek. (Interview to be continued in the next issue of *Morocco Times*)

Check it Out!

Alumini Web Site-latest news & pictures.
David DeKoker webmaster, site address;
Moroccohighschoolalumni.org.

Much of the ad copy in this issue has been prepared by Don DeKoker. He has a knack of turning a few rough ideas into solid ads. We work well together and I thank him for the many hours he has contributed to this project. His imagination and inspiration have been very valuable in producing the special edition that you now see.

Backward Glance

Renska DeKoker thought our readers might be interested in the program for the Lions Club Charter Night Banquet roster, which was held on April 2, 1951, and was kind enough to send us her copy.

The group was sponsored by the Rensselaer Lions Club. The purpose of a Lions club is to recognize community needs, to discover the means of meeting those needs and, either by independent effort or through cooperation with other agencies, effect a remedy.

Rinkie, as most of us know her, also checked a 1949 Morocco telephone book and from her recollections compiled the

following list. Ye Editor put in his two cents worth as well on a couple of names she was not sure about. The Charter Members were:

Walter Abraham, W. A. Abraham Elevator Co., Ray Baird, Baird and Storey Implement Company, Herb Barnett, Barnett Grain Company, Henry Brandt, Henry Brandt & Son Chevrolet, Clay Blaney, Spradling's, Robert Bond, Minster, Christian Church, Gordon Carter, Wabash Prairie Telephone Company, Archie Castongia, Castongia Tractor & Equipment Co., John Cronk, School Principal, Van Cox, Morocco State Bank, John Calaway, Standard Oil Company, Don Camblin, Electrician, John Colbourne, Morocco Lumber Co., Jimmy Daddow, James H. Daddow Harness Maker, Lester DeKoker, Morocco Auto Sales, Kaiser-Frazer Dealership, Galen Deardurff, Deardurff Motor Sales, Earl Duggleby, Agriculture Teacher, Vernor Ellis, Editor *Morocco Courier*, Francis Ford, Indiana State Police, Dick Gilbert, Gilbert's Hardware & Appliance, Francis Goodnight, Basketball and Football Coach, Tom Hancock, Funeral Director and Hancock's Ben Franklin Variety Store, Harold Heyer, Moroko Theatre, Howard Desler, Morocco Auto Sales, Kaiser-Frazer, Glenn Larrison, Doctor, David Litman, Cohen Clothing Store, Dave Mosure, Conservation Officer, Don Moore, Moore's Drugstore, Ross Padgett, Peoples Drug Store, Ed Robinson, Attorney At Law, John Robinson, Supervisor County Barn, Stanley Rolston, Minister Methodist Church, Paul Ringer, L. P. Ringer Insurance Agency, Russell Smoot, Smoot Hardware, Milton Storey, Baird & Storey Implement Co., Ed Sheldon, Produce, Harley Smart, Smart Insurance Agency, J. C. Schubert, Doctor, Gene E. Turnpaugh, Indiana State Trooper, Delos Warne, Morocco Livestock Transit,

Bob Williamson, Pharmacist, People's Drug Store

Officers were: President, Robert E. Williamson, First Vice-President, Herb Barnett, Second Vice-President, Ray Baird, Secretary, Jas. H. Daddow, Treasurer, Dave Litman, Tail Twister, Daryl Brandt, Lion Tamer, Dick Gilbert, Directors, Henry Brandt, Tom Hancock, Milton Storey, and Don Camblin.

However, this was not the first charter for the Morocco Lions club. On October, 27, 1930 it received its first charter with the following men as charter members:

W. C. Atkinson, Henry Brandt, Harry Blaney, William R. Brunton, Alex Cassell, Joe M. Chizum, John A. Colbourne, Floyd Cox, James H. Daddow, Arch Elijah, C. M. Hanger, V. H. Hancock, George Hastings, Ross Hagen, George H. Hillis, Charles Harrison, Claude Harris, A. J. Law, Charles R. Meyer, Elmer Parrish, L. P. Ringer and John Ringer.

Over the years this organization became moribund and that was the reason for the reorganization in 1951

Side by Side Mud Drags

Northwest Indiana Mud Racing Series,
2007

Sponsored by Morocco Lions Club
Located on Northeast Side of Morocco
Entry Fee \$25 Classes I A & I B & ATVS,
\$.30 Classes IV & V, \$35 Class VI
100% payback

Race Dates May 12 & 13, June 9 & 10,
Aug. 18 & 19, Sept. 15 & 16, Oct 13 & 14
Times, Saturday Tech Time 1-3. Race time
4 p.m., Sunday Tech Time 9:30 - 11:30,
Race time 1:00 p.m., All classes run both
days.

Gate Fee: \$5.00 (12 & Under Free),
Campouts and Cookouts, Saturday Nights,

\$5.00 for camping, ATV Class,
50/50 drawings.

For information call Junior Jordan at 219-
866-2699 or Delmar Jordan at 219-866-
7313, e-mail muddrags@nwiis.com..

Government in Action

Morocco Town Board

The Morocco Town Board met on May 1st for one of its longest meetings to date. There has been a great deal of activity and reports came from all sides

Bob Gonczy, Board President, opened the meeting on a very positive note with a report on the Master Plan Update held at Willow Slough. He remarked that the meeting was well attended and that a lot of seeds had been planted for the future. The most immediate result was the Don Abraham of INDOT is looking at the proposed intersection for the connecting road. He then offered a thank you to the involved restaurants and to Howie Severs who furnished 20 bags of bluegills for the fish fry.

A ceremony is being planned for a time capsule to be buried during the Homecoming celebration and opened in 2020, 13 years later. He encouraged people to contribute photos, documents and a list of predictions of what they expect our town will be like when the time capsule is opened. Gonczy then produced the heavy, red plastic tote that will be buried. It will be jazzed up with some metal decorations, and put in the ground at 11:30 on May 27th.

Donna Cady, explained that she had emailed the minutes to the members of the board and that part of the bills had been paid out of the old system and part out of the old. The transition to the new software will take some time. Property taxes are due and she will need to pay \$2,000 by May 10th. Dan Blaney submitted a bill for handling the payment of the bond issues for \$525. The bill was temporarily tabled until they had time to study it. The bill from Beam, Longes & Neff was also tabled in order to study it more thoroughly.

Randy Decker, town manager, reported that Jim Shelhart was seeking employment elsewhere and has left the employment of the town. Since Shelhart was a certified operator for the water plant, his absence will require the hiring of someone who has a license. Decker has taken the test, but results are not forthcoming and someone will be needed for the next six weeks to get them through till Decker can assume the position with the proper credentials. They have already contacted someone who may help out for that period.

The town council has tasked the utility board with recommending any rate reductions as well as determining the overall scope of work to be completed as part of the Hydrant/Main Project.

Three have been employed for the

summer mowing, Dave Wagner, Jason Cornell and Jim Elijah, Jr. on an hourly basis. There is also a lot of cleaning to do.

Clean up day for May 5th has been put in place with twelve letters sent to residents notifying them to get rid of junk. Randy Taden will run the sweeper and dumpsters have been ordered to be placed in strategic locations. Also a dump truck will be on hand. Further details may be obtained by calling the Town Hall.

In regard to the emergency plan for the town in case of natural disasters it was reported that many hours had been spent putting it together and that it was nearing completion.

Decker touched on the installation of the new meters and said someone would be employed to help with this project. George Lewis will do a feasibility plan for their installation.

Repair on three roads was needed as holes exist where digging had taken place for the repair of the water mains and drains. He estimated it would require between \$1,100 and \$2,500 for the repairs.

Marshall Brian Runyon reported that there were 24 traffic citations, 3 drug related arrests, 1 theft, and 3 lost license plates. He will be expected to maintain a presence at the pool and the parks to set the tone for the summer.

Mary K. Emmerich requested that the meeting for the Planning Commission be changed back to the original Monday, as the new Wednesday date was not working as well as had been expected. The change was approved with the note that the new dates and time will need to be advertised.

The Planning Commission expressed some concern that no action had been taken on the four properties that had been targeted by them. Some of them have been contacted, but others cannot be located. Attorney Ryan offered an apology on not being accessible to the Planning

Commission and pledged to follow-up on their requests. He commented on the wording of some of the letters on what constituted junk. One recipient wanted a list of the things that were considered junk. He indicated that they should proceed on a case by case basis.

The Commission was concerned about the unsafe buildings that needed attention and were wondering where to go and what their next steps should be. They are in the final stages of drafting what the planning role of the Commission should be.

The Utility Board reported on George Lewis' plan in regard to the Community Focus Fund Grant.

They also requested that the 10 or so summer meters be discontinued and that a refund be given to those who have them, and that the change be reflected in the appropriate resolution. The Town Board accepted their recommendation and discontinued the program.

Attorney Ryan gave an up-date on the Laundromat building. The town has been give the authority to tear it down, should it be deemed necessary. Since the town has sought to protect the interest of Tim Storey in restoring the building, there may be a need to rescind the judgment so the title can be cleared with the Kentland Bank and work continued.

Ryan reported that approximately one third of the outstanding utility bills have been collected. Cady has been furnished the documentation.

Reports from the Ward Chairmen were heard. In Ward I (Marlene Taden) There were complaints about barking dogs at 409 N. Main and the Marshall having unauthorized passengers in his car.

Ward II (Lee Shirer) has just returned from Florida and was absent from the meeting.

Ward III had nothing new to report. However the ward chairman, Jim Elijah, Jr.

has been in charge of the community service people who were painting the curbs in downtown Morocco.

Ward IV (Mike Carden) Not present.

Al Thomas requested assistance from the 50/50 Sidewalk Program. He is having his sidewalk in front of his house with a 4" thick concrete walk. His estimate from his contractor is for \$4,750 and he is seeking one half the cost for the materials. After some discussion he was granted his request.

The Board stated that the money for his project would be granted on a first come-first served basis until the funds were depleted. Those wanting to apply should know that a contractor has to do the job, easements need to be observed, the owner assumes the liability, and the program covers only 50% of the cost of materials. Alan Bannister has the specs that need to be followed.

Natalie Gibson reported on the Main Street Committee of the Rise 2020 initiative. The group has met twice and they have taken a modest step in improving the appearance of the town. They know they have to crawl before they walk and so they are starting by installing 8 American flags and poles at prime locations. (Bingham cautioned them not to put them too close to the curb, where car doors might bump into them). They requested \$3,00 for 24 banner flags with hardware to be installed by Homecoming to welcome people back to our town. LaCosse said that this was a no brainer and the request passed unanimously. The Committee said they are going to hold off on the next phase for a while.

The Rails and Trails Committee met last Saturday and heard that Jr. Yoder has several trees at Beaver Estates that could be used for creating the entrance to the trail and that they were suitable for putting letters on the logs. Dale Wynn will be doing the brick work. It appears that there

just is too much to do and will not be done by the time of Homecoming.

Greg Willis, football coach at North Newton, appeared at the meeting with a request for a software program to aid in coaching by creating individual DVD of the plays being done at scrimmage. Today's youth are very technology oriented and he thought that they would respond to this type more readily than the traditional. Many school already have this type of software. Included in the package was \$6,400 for laptop computers and \$250 upgrades. Over \$4,000 has already been raised through township and private funds. He is seeking funds for the initial purchase.

A lengthy discussion followed and LaCosse and Ryan cited personal experience with football and seemed to support what Willis was asking for, suggesting that the program might need to be scaled back a bit. The Board pledged \$1,000 from tipping fees.

Samantha Glancy also appeared and updated the Board on her progress in raising funds for her ambassador's project and trip. She still needs \$1,000 to hit her goal and is not opposed to doing community service jobs to help raise the remainder. Since the Board had already committed to the project and seeing that she has made a good faith effort they authorized the remainder of the funds she needs.

Community Calendar

Morocco Alumni May 26, 2007

Homecoming May 27, Recher Park

Memorial Service May 28th

Beaver Township Board meets June 4th at the Community Center.

Morocco Town Board meets June 8th at the Town Hall

The Masonic Lodge will host an all you can eat chicken supper on June 1st at the Fire House for \$10.00. The public is invited.

Discover Science Summer Camp will be

held on June 25th - 29th Registration deadline is June 8th for 75 on a first come basis. Camp scholarships available. Call Diane Gonczy (219) 285-6328.

Transitions

In Memory of those Morocco Alumni who have recently died:

1931	Wilma (Hanger) Robinson	Jan 07
1932	Porter Madison	Feb 07
	Lucille (Williamson) Bottorff	May 05
1934	Eva (Deardurff) Gallagher	May 06
1935	Robert (Bob) Jackson	Jun 06
	Howard Kessler	Dec 06
1937	Elsa Mae (Parrish) Yoder Wilson	Oct 06
1938	Raymond Dean Manchester	Jun 06
1939	Craig Uncapher	May 06
1940	Audrey Lois (Hammond) Young	Jan 07
1942	Gordon Sipe	Apr 07
1943	June (Conn) Anderson	Feb 07
1944	James Clark	Dec 06
1947	Richard K. Franklin	May 06
1948	Norma (Bingham) Herriott	Apr 06
	Leon Davis	Apr 07
1951	Carol (DeVelde) Ames	Nov 06
1952	Joyce (Zoborosky) Doty	Jun 06
1953	Robert L. Ramsey	Oct 06
1959	Patsy Bruns	Oct 06
1963	David "Mike" Gulley	Jun 06
1965	Dennis Merchant	Nov 06
1967	Mary Lou DeKoker	Aug 06

Howard Kessler and His Wrist Watch

By Don DeKoker

A few months ago, sometime in August as I recall, I had the occasion to be sitting in the shade and cool of Howard and Betty Kessler's, patio, talking to Betty about the upcoming town meeting with the State's RISE 2020 assessment team, that was coming to Morocco. I was talking to her about some of the great things that could

possibly come out of our effort to help Morocco's downtown and State Street in general; a topic that is one of Howard & Betty's favorites. It was a little before noon and Betty mentioned to me that Howard would probably be home for lunch in a few minutes, from his Implement shop in Brook. And, just at that moment, Howard drove into the parking area behind their house, got out of the car and leisurely walked up to the house with his typical Howard smile.

We exchanged Hi's and Howard ambled his way to a chair near the table, sat down and made the comment that he hadn't seen me in awhile and asked what I was up to. As I talked a little about the upcoming meeting and passed along a hello from Mom (Rinkie DeKoker); I noticed his gold wrist watch and made the comment that it looked liked a pretty nice watch; was it new?

Howard glanced down at his watch and with a little bit of grin, that told me I was about to get one of Howard's famous stories, said, "Oh no, it's not new, this was given to me when I graduated from Morocco High School, as a graduation gift". He went on to say that, "it's been through quite a lot, but it's a 'Benrus' and has really been a great watch. It hasn't given me any real trouble the whole time since I graduated; and that was in 1935". - "I did lose it one time though".

He went on to say; "one time a few weeks after my Army unit had landed at Normandy (*English channel invasion of German occupied France*) and we had finally fought our way up the cliffs, and secured the beach head; I learned that the battalion, that was on our immediate left during the invasion, was the one that my brother was in". As we were reorganizing a little and I wanted to see if he was ok, I asked our commanding office if I could borrow his jeep to go see if I could find my

brother, and he said ok, but you'll have to go at night. Well, driving at night at that point had to be done with the lights out, because it would really draw a lot of fire if you didn't. It was really hard to see; the road was nothing but a winding dirt path and I had to squint through the steering wheel or hold my head over the side to get a glimpse of the ruts that was the road. As I went jolting along I went over a little bridge, brushing my left arm on the side of it and tearing my watch off. I got the jeep pulled off the side of the road and then went underneath the bridge, wading through the little creek looking for my watch. Although there was no moon, I finally spotted a little glimmer in the water and reached in and pulled out my watch. The band was broken, but luckily, it was still ticking and was still in good shape."

"I got back in the jeep and continued on my way. I finally found the Battalion headquarters I was looking for, and went in; asking if they could tell me if my brother was ok. They had received really heavy casualties, maybe 50% or more, and as they looked at the active duty roster, said that Evert Kessler was not there. They told me I could come back later to look through the lists of dead, and seriously wounded, to check if he was on one of them. The next night I was able to come back and after going over the long lists of the dead; found that Evert was not on any of them; and that he was probably in one of the field hospitals along the coast." Over the next several weeks, with the war raging all around him, Howard looked for his brother and seemed to be just behind him, as he went from field hospital to field hospital, asking about his brother and looking at one list after another. When he arrived at the last one and asked if Evert Kessler was there, they said no, he had just been shipped back to a hospital in the U. S. the day before - - Howard was relieved; even

though he knew Evert was seriously wounded; he had made it back.

Howard passed away in December; may he rest in peace in Gods hands; and may his memory and his wrist watch live on. And may we remember to give thanks to that generation; that literally, saved the world from the iron will of a small group of terrible despots and the destruction of our free way of life. May our future generations have heroes as brave and courageous as Howard Kessler and his generation.

This and That

Ye Editor had the pleasure of showing Rodger & Vada Larson, from Minnesota through downtown Morocco. Vada had come to Morocco to discover her roots. Both her Veatch relatives are buried in the Murphey cemetery.

I was able to point out the location of the Veatch hotel (located where Dan Blaney has his office) Land for it had been purchased from Sylvester Brennessoltz, who was a wagon maker in Morocco. He sold it to Eliza Veatch, who built a hotel on

the location. She also purchased the lots where the old town hall and the Baptist church were situated for \$400.

After the death of her husband she sold the hotel to Jemima (Brennesholtz) Graves and it became known as the Graves Hotel. My grandmother, Maude (Graves) Nichols, worked there as a young woman for 50 cents a day. Of course 50 cents bought a lot more than it does now. As a parting gift, Vada presented us a copy of a scrapbook her ancestor, Eliza Veatch, had compiled. What makes it so special is that it contains clippings from the *Morocco Courier* from the 1870's and 1880's. Only a couple of copies of the paper exist from that era. It contains obituaries and articles written by E.V. (Eliza Veatch); quite unusual for a woman to be so literate in those pioneer days, yet this petite little woman expressed herself very well and even wrote poetry for the paper. . A copy may be found in the Morocco library.