

MOROCCO TIMES

Vol. 2 No. 3

Gerald Born, Editor and Publisher

March 2008

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

Around Town

Allied Waste; A Done Deal

Quite a bit had been heard of late that Allied Waste might be moving to the Intec building to house a customer service call center, creating between 300 to 400 jobs. In fact, it seems that negotiations had been going on for some time .

Allied Waste became the owner of the Intec building on February 28th, when the closing took place.

On Friday, March 7th leaders of the county and concerned citizens met at an open house in the former Intec building to hear plans for the future. Governor Mitch Daniels spoke as well as county officials and representatives of Allied Waste

County Commissioner, Jim Pistello, with his faithful sidekick, attorney, Pat Ryan, led the negotiations. Pistello, who has had 25 years experience in solid waste management represented the interests of the county very well.

Allied Waste operates a network of 300 collection companies, 164 transfer stations, 169 active landfills and 53 recycling facilities in 37 states and Puerto Rico. It is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AW. In 2006 its total revenues amounted to \$6,000,000,000.00 dollars (That's 6 billion folks.) In the last quarter of 2007 it declared a \$41,000,000 profit for its shareholders. Shares are currently selling for about \$10.00.

Allied is not requesting a tax abatement. The Intec site accounts for nearly 1/3 of the assessed property evaluation of Morocco. The only subsidy request would be for job training incentives, which would come from the State of Indiana as well as \$1.8 million in

performance based tax credits.

However, Newton County will pay for some infrastructure improvements at the Intec site, like enlarging the parking lot, leveling the septic system, rerouting fiber optic lines from Mt. Ayr to the building, and assistance with marketing and recruiting employees.

Allied has indicated that it would spend two to three million dollars upgrading the Intec property at the corner of Highway 41 and Highway 114 (Michigan Ave) from an industrial function to an office function.

To offset this expense Allied proposed lowering the tipping fees it pays at the landfill by \$.30 cents per ton the first year (approximately 2/3) and \$.15 cents per ton thereafter (approximately 1/3). Also the “gate rate” would increase to \$35.00 per ton. This was acceptable to the county.

It is unclear how the county plans to make up the lost revenue or when it would be feasible that taxed income would offset the loss. It is clear that the county's income would be significantly reduced.

Other factors are also involved for the huge trucks that bring a never ending supply of garbage put a severe strain on the roads. Several have commented on the safety factor already. And undoubtedly legal problems might arise if the landfill should spring a leak.

Last year Allied Waste asked for “400 qualified employees, with starting salaries between \$12.00 and \$14.00 per hour, with medical, dental and retirement benefits and additional opportunities for advancement.” which resulted in over 1,200 applications, and they are still coming in.

Specifics of the agreement are:

- Newton County agrees to reduce tipping fee per ton of waste by .30 cents per ton for one year from the formal closing of the purchase of the Intec facility and to reduce

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tipping fee per ton by .15 cents per ton each year thereafter

- Newton County agrees to permit Allied Waste to increase its gate rate to \$35.00 per ton
- In the event Allied Waste fails to employ at least 300 people by August 1, 2014, the county has the right to rescind the reduction agreement and tipping fees will revert to previously agreed rates.
- Newton County will pay the expense to have the parking lot at the Intec facility
- Fee per ton of waste by .30 cents per ton for one year from the formal closing of the purchase of the Intec facility and to reduce tipping fee per ton by .15 cents per ton each year thereafter.
- Newton County will assume the reasonable expenses associated with rerouting the local fiber-optic lines to the building site.
- Newton County will provide (at its expense) a recruiter to assist Allied Waste in marketing and recruiting necessary to meet the required amount of employees needed for the support center.
- Newton County will grade to the level of the current septic system area and remove the old piping at no expense to Allied Waste prior to occupying the site.
- Allied Waste will execute its proposed plan to locate its consolidated support center in Morocco and all reasonable efforts will be made to refurbish and open this facility on or about June 1, 2008.
- Whenever possible Allied Waste will give preference to Newton County residents in the selection and hiring process for the proposed facility.
- Whenever possible Allied Waste will give preference to and utilize local labor and contractors in the construction and refurbishment of the proposed facility.

Jennifer Whaley, county economic development director, has compiled a “Positive Impact” summary detailing a \$227,000 benefit in yearly personal and real property taxes and an estimated \$116,000 benefit in income taxes based on a \$11.600,000 payroll from the call center. These figures were based on a 400 job base and assume that the employees come from Newton county.

Jim Van Weelden, senior vice president of Market planning and development for Allied Waste said in an interview that by the time the improvements are done that Allied Waste would have a \$74,000,000 investment in the corner at Michigan Avenue (Highway 114) and 41.

Allied Waste was represented by Attorney R. Steven Ryan, father of Attorney Pat Ryan. The two are not business partners and sometimes represent competing interests.

All said and done the agreement offers a promise for 300 jobs for the area and allays the fears that there would be an empty building on Highway 41.

As a footnote Thomas H. Van Weelden, resigned as president and member of the board of Allied Waste to pursue other interests. On March 4th a new chief executive, Charles Cotros, 67, assumed the position. The firm is based in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Already large trucks have been hauling away the mound of black top soil that was located at the rear of the building in preparation for the new parking lots.

A blaze swept through Maynard Derflinger’s Garage on North Polk Street on Valentine’s Day totally destroying the garage and contents. The fire stopped just short of an apartment and a large shed that had been attached to the garage. From the blackened

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remains it appears that his antique tractors, expensive testing tools and everything else is a total loss. The only thing remaining is the sign “Maynard’s Garage”

We all were saddened by the extent of his loss, which was a life-time collection of tools used in working on machinery, as well as the vehicles stored in the garage.

Steve Hivley is recuperating at home after having hip replacement surgery on February 18th at Northwestern Hospital in Chicago.

Morocco Cooks-By Jan Yoder

Crunchy Cheddar Casserole

6 cups water
2 ½ teaspoons salt
1 ½ cups uncooked grits (not instant)
½ cup butter
4 cups Cracker Barrel medium sharp cheddar cheese
3 eggs, beaten
(garlic to taste)
1 tube Ritz Crackers

Combine water & salt. Boil and stir in grits. Cook as container says. Remove from heat and add butter, 3 ¾ cups cheddar cheese. Stir until melted. Add small amount of grits into beaten eggs, then add to all the grits.

Pour into a 2 ½ quart casserole (or 9” x 13” pan) Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Crush Ritz Crackers and sauté in butter and sprinkle with garlic salt in sauté pan. Sprinkle over top of casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

When I worked as a cook in a coffee house I changed the name of this casserole from Grits

Casserole I found many people loved it who said they did not care for grits. Also the Cracker Barrel Cheese is the main flavor and I think this brand is what makes it so good. Try it and see if you agree. It goes well with ham.

Quick German Supper

1 pound polish sausage, sliced
2 cans green beans
2 cans of German potato salad.

Heat sliced sausage in oil or olive oil, then add remaining ingredients in a large fry pan until heated and flavors blend.

My good friend gave me this easy recipe when I visited her this week. She served cold Harvard beets and rye bread with it. Oh, so good.

Three Bean Salad

1 can black beans, drained
1 can white beans, drained
1 can baby lima beans, drained
1 red pepper, fine dice
2 stalks of celery, fine dice
1 small onion, fine dice
2 hard boiled eggs, diced (reserved cooked yolks for dressing.)
1 clove garlic, crushed and fine dice

Dressing:

½ cup white vinegar
½ cup white sugar
½ cup canola oil
Mix together and add the cooked egg yolks that have been mashed
½ teaspoon black pepper
1 teaspoon dill weed
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ cup finely chopped parsley (or other green herb such as cilantro, anise, or dill)

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Pour over well drained beans.

This healthy salad looks good served on shaved lettuce. It will keep in the refrigerator up to two weeks.

Happenings

A Valentine party was held at the Corner Tea Room. The 22 people present were entertained with music provided by Shirley Storey at the keyboard, Rev. Jeremy Eisle and Rev. Sam Polito on guitars and the whole group providing back-up.

Cindy and Sam Polito had given the place a festive look with hearts of all kinds decorating the tree and with red table cloths completing the theme. A number of red flowers were sent to Betty, so that it was a bright and cheery atmosphere in spite of the bitter cold outside.

Among the guests were Janice Yoder, Samantha Glancy, Megan Woolsey, Connie Sell, Karen Zackfia, Ruth Eisle, Carolyn Weston, Erin Glenn, Ruth Warrick, Bon Beckett, Selma Smart, Joy Bartholomew, Gerald Born, Barbara Russell, Wilma Kresel, Joan Carlson, Wilma Watts Whaley, Harriet Webb, Neil Riley.

Judge Jerry Leach was again a no-show at the meeting of the Morocco Neighborhood Watch group held on February 19th at the Morocco Community Library. The Judge called at 9:00 a.m. and said that his daughter had to be at a make-up basketball practice and he would not be able to fulfill his commitment.

Since this was the second time the Judge was unable to meet with the group, Jill Mullikin said that they would probably not try again, but that the group would proceed without the Judge’s expert advice.

One volunteer has already come forth to be a block captain. Town Marshall Steve Gibson was on hand to report on his progress on revising the ordinances on the curfew. Rick McCann was also at the meeting to show support for the effort from the Town Board.

Mullikin put forth a schedule for future meetings. They will meet quarterly at 6:00 p.m., on Tuesday’s just prior to the Town Board Meeting.

The Action Circle of the United Church met at the home of Pat Doty on February 11th with seven members present: Pat Doty, Pat James, Louise Holley, Joan Triplett, Shirley Thompson, Georgiana Roadruck and Harriet Webb. Making noodles for the Easter sale was discussed. Orders will be taken up to March 14th, and the noodles will be made March 17th and 18th at the Fellowship Hall. To order call Jean Laffoon. Snacks were served.

Projects Unlimited met at the Tea Room on February 18th with Joann Zackfia as hostess. Ten members were present. The Longaberger Basket Bingo fund raiser was finalized for April 1st. For tickets call Sylvia Eddy; they are \$20.00 which includes a salad bar and dessert. Also discussed was what project we were going to spend the profits on. Several ideas were discussed; but no decisions were made. Refreshments were served by the hostess.

4-H Busy Beavers

The Busy Beavers 4-H club met on February 11th to elect officers for 2008. The results: Stephen Blaney, President, Neil Riley, Vice President, Lacie Rieck, Secretary, Richard Watts, Reporter, Matthew Sickler, Treasurer, Andrew Harwood, Song Leader, Maya Bell and Alisha Watts, Recreation, and Michela

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Rieck, Health/Safety Officer.

Geranium Sales have begun! They cost \$1.25 per plant. Contact any of the above members to reserve your flowers and think Spring.

There will be another meeting on February 25th at the Beaver Township Community Center.

Wilma Kresel entertained members of the Prairie Herb and Garden Society at the Tea Room on March 12th. Present were Donna Hoover, Connie Kingman, Gen Mathews, Georene McKnight, Elsie Selby and Dinah Todd, all from Rensselaer.

The group maintains the Log Cabin Garden at the Jasper County Fairground and plants the herbs around their log cabin. Annually in the Spring they host a plant sale, yet to be announced. The group will sponsor two field trips this year, one to the Chicago Botanical Garden and the other to the Lavender Garden located at Lebanon, Indiana.

The ladies enjoyed the art work and quilts on display and the lovely refreshments furnished by the hostess, served with tea, of course.

Features

World War II; As It Happened to Me

By Vic Carlson

(3rd Installment)

In the last installment we left Vic at Camp Kanshapara, India and continue with:

Training Center, Ramgarh, India

I found myself on another train with Ramgarh, India as our destination. Ramgarh Training Center was located in East Central India. Thousands and thousands of Chinese troops were flown here from China and trained and equipped by the Americans.

I had been assigned to the 124th Cavalry Regiment which was a Texas National Guard unit and the last horse Cavalry Regiment of the U.S. Army. Up to assignment here they had served border duty between the U. S. and Mexico.

In general, the troopers were older than we replacements and were rather unruly and a hard-bitten lot. We soon learned the 124th's limited beer ration had been taken away because several troopers had shot up a local bordello after a number had contracted a “social disease” after visiting the establishment. The 124th Cavalry had Cavalry boots and britches, campaign hats, saddles and bridles, harness and light weapons. In fact, everything a horse Cavalry unit needs except the horses, which they were expecting anytime. I envisioned myself riding off to battle astride a Cavalry horse into the jungles of Burma. However, this was not to be as we soon learned that the proud Cavalrymen were to be “dismounted”, turned into foot soldiers, and trained as part of a long range penetration unit with pack mules for transportation. This was almost more than the troopers could take, but take it they had to. The unit was renamed the “124th Cavalry Special”.

I and a friend that I had become acquainted with at Camp Kanshapara, Todd Brenneman of Iowa, were assigned to “B” Troop and put in a rifle squad. He had also been trained as a radio operator. We were given new M-1 Garrand rifles which had been packed in Cosmo line, a grease like protectant and told to disassemble and clean the new pieces. Neither of us had trained with this model and we didn't know how to proceed. With no infantry training, we felt like two square soldiers being forced into round holes. We went through channels and gained an audience with the troop commander, a captain of the old Cavalry

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school. He was wearing Cavalry boots and britches, a campaign hat, pearl handled revolvers, and a handle bar mustache. He could have stepped out of a Civil War movie! We explained our training had been in communications and requested we be transferred to headquarters troop and the communications platoon. His reply went something like this: “Troopers, you have been assigned to B troop and by God, B troop is where your asses will stay! We’re under strength under our new table of organization and I need every damned man and boy I can lay my hands on. Request denied. Now get your asses back to your rifle squad!”

Todd and I talked it over and decided to go over his head (which wasn’t usually too smart in the Army) and approached the communications officer in Headquarters troop. Lt. Cail heard us out and immediately told us he was in need of two radio operators and would request we be assigned to his platoon in Headquarters troop, 1st Squadron. This was done and we were relieved to be assigned work for which we had been trained and had knowledge of. I might interject here that later, in Burma, B troop suffered a desperation “Banzi” (suicidal) attack on one occasion and suffered extremely high casualties in that engagement. Todd and I, as ill-trained rifle men, would not have fared too well in that situation in all probability. I’m getting ahead of my story, I believe.

The 124th Cavalry Regiment, and the 475th Infantry Regiment trained as a long range penetration force which was to operate in Jap held territory in northern and central Burma. We were supported by 75 millimeter pack artillery units, mule borne, portable surgical units (similar to the “MASH” unit on TV., except their equipment was also carried by mules), quarter master pack mule units, a

remount company, Burmese Kachin Rangers, a detachment of K-9 war dogs and a detachment of Nesi (Japanese American) interpreters. We were to be supplied by air drop from cargo planes. Burma was very mountainous with steep trails and jungle in the valleys with roads practically nonexistent in the area we were to operate in. The total command was known as the “Mars Task Force”.

Our organization was the only U.S. Ground combat unit in the China, Burma, India theater of war. There were American soldiers serving with the Chinese army in Burma as advisors, but the main objective of the U.S. Army in this theater was in supplying the Chinese war effort and helping supply the British and their colonial units of Indian, Australian, and African origin. The Air Force fought the Japs in the skies and hauled a staggering amount of war material to China to support the war in China. The Himalaya mountain ranges were mainly between India and China to the north. Flying this route was called “flying the hump”.

We trained for several months at Ramgarh with special courses in jungle survival and warfare. We were educated concerning all the diseases and climactic conditions we would fact. Diseases such as malaria, scrub typhus, amoebic dysentery, elephantitis, and others were common in this part of Asia. Disease and the harsh climate caused more casualties than actual warfare among both the allies and Japanese in Burma.

Our radio unit was divided into two sections each containing several operators, cryptographers, mule skimmers, and radio repair men. I might explain the cryptographers encoded and decoded all messages. Sgt. Droemer, a Texan, was in charge of one section and I was put in charge of the other. I was a Corporal at this time, but received a

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promotion to Sgt. Soon after we began our campaign.

Whether we were properly trained or not, it was time to leave India and proceed to Burma.

Camp Landis, Myitkyina, Burma

We left Ramgarh on a narrow gauge railroad and went east until we reached the Irrawaddy River where we loaded on to a large riverboat which was somewhat like the paddle wheelers used on the Mississippi in the 1800's. This boat ride was unique, but not very enjoyable for me as I became sick and developed a high fever. All I could do was tough it out until we reached our destination. Upon reaching Camp Landis, Myitkyina, Burma, I was put in a small field hospital and diagnosed as being infected with malaria, which was common in India and Burma. I believe the treatment I received was “kill or cure” as the first dose of pills was 17 in number, Included were sulfa, codeine, atabrine, quinine and others.

After a few days treatment I began to feel better but smell worse as I hadn't had a bath for over a week and had perspired heavily with the fever associated with malaria. The bathing facility was the nearby river. I made it down the bank fine, but being somewhat weak from the fever, I had some trouble climbing back up the bank after the bath. However, I was fortunate as the fellow lying on the cot next to me had scrub typhus and his chances were almost nil and there was no cure for this at the time.

I was released soon and joined my unit at Camp Landis and made a rapid recovery from the malaria attack. This was a staging area for the Mars Task Force units. The important transportation center of Myitkyina was a few miles to the south of us. It had been recently taken back from the enemy in a long siege. A small American group of volunteers led by General Merrill and popularly known as

Merrill's Marauders had a large part in capturing the city. The remnants of the Marauders were assimilated into the Mars Task Force and these experienced jungle fighters were an asset to the force.

At Landis we had more training and prepared for our eventual departure into the mountains and jungle. I had learned that a Morocco boy, J. D. Padgett was at Myitkyina in the Air Force. I found time to catch a ride to the air base and looked him up. We had a good visit and it was great to see a friend from home on the other side of the earth. I was a pipe smoker and J. D. gave me several pipes he insisted he would not use.

A Trek Through Burma

It must have been about a month before Christmas of 1944 when we pulled out of camp and headed towards Jap held territory to the east. We carried the radio equipment on pack mules and we carried everything we owned on our backs. We wore jungle combat fatigues, (we had only one pair) and when they became unbearably dirty, you washed them in a river and wore an extra pair of underwear while the fatigues dried. We each carried one blanket and a rubberized poncho which doubled as rain apparel and two snapped together made a two man pup tent.

Your backpack held all your belongings and your entrenchment tool was attached. Your web belt carried two canteens for water, a jungle machete, rifle bayonet, and several hand grenades. Of course you carried your rifle (which weighed 11 pounds) and a bandoleer of 30 caliber ammunition.

We marched for about 50 minutes and then rested 10. When the call came down the column “Take ten”, the mules soon learned and would stop dead in their tracks. I remember one red sorrel mule who would sit on his back haunches with his pack saddle and

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load during the break--an unusual sight!

For several miles we followed the Ledo Road which was being built by U.S. Army engineers. When completed it would join the Burma Road and once again provide a land route to China. Of course at this point the Japs controlled the Burma road. They had to be cleared out of Northern and Central Burma before the hook up could be made. Although the road was fairly level compared to the mountain trails, it was very dusty. (To be continued)

Letters to the Editor

Mr. Born,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for my complementary subscription to the *Morocco Times*. I look forward to each issue that has come my way to find out more about such a vital community. You do a great job of highlighting the lives and experiences of the people in your town.

Thank you again for the subscription and feel free to call me if you have any questions I might be able to help you with.

Gerry White
Northwest Indiana Community Liaison
Community Affairs Division
Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs
Indianapolis, Indiana

In a letter to Morocco Alumni Don DeKoker thanks Ye Editor for the *Morocco Times* and Dave DeKoker for creating the MHS Alumni website.

“I would like to suggest to all you alumni out there, don’t be shy or worried about signing up for the MHS Alumni website; it’s safe, and it’s really a pleasure to check in on what’s

happening with our alumni. It’s great to see and read what’s going on in the old home town. Dave (and from Tampa, no less) has done such a terrific job of putting it together **and keeping it updated**. We’re all very fortunate that someone’s willing to provide such a rich and classy presentation **and at no cost!** Come on in the water’s fine; the more the merrier; e-mail Dave and get internet connected. It’s a kind of glue that can help us all stay up to date and linked together; besides that we really need to keep Dave engaged, if he doesn’t do it , who will? He is even delivering the *Morocco Times* now.

“I’d also like to commend Gerald Born for his skill and efforts with the Morocco newspaper, *Morocco Times*. He’s put some real life back into old Morocco and refreshed us all with his publication. Think of it; launching a newspaper in today’s world; in Morocco--how risky is that! And, what a style he has; it’s like many of his readers tell him, “it’s like getting a letter from home”, what a treat. I’m sure most of you can imagine the time, energy and expertise of doing such a job today. I see that he is providing the MHS Website with the back issues--what a terrific thing to do. To all of us that appreciate these efforts and those kinds of things, I suggest that we reward those who toil for us, by subscribing to the *Morocco Times*--it’s only \$25 a year--and sign up for the MHS Alumni Website; As you can see, I really appreciate what these guys are doing and I hope you will too.

Don DeKoker
Elmhurst, Illinois
Backward Glance

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James Cary Murphey

Few of the 50,000 who visit Willow Slough annually are aware that they owe their pleasure to one man from Morocco. Also there is probably a new generation of Morocco residents that do not know the name of J. C. Murphey, the man responsible for the creation of Willow Slough and for whom the lake is named.

James Cary Murphey, or “J. C.” as he was affectionately known, was a remarkable man. On October 7, 1957 at the age of 90 he closed the door of his law office on Morocco’s State Street after 52 years of continuous service, the oldest living member of the legal profession in Indiana at the time. The day was commemorated as the James Cary Murphey Judicial Day in the Newton Circuit Court by the Newton County Bar Association. He was an old fashioned lawyer, often doing more consulting on the streets than in his office.

Born at the end of the Civil War to James Monroe and Amanda (Archibald) Murphey, he was a great-grandson of the town’s founder, John Murphey. He was 37 when he started his law practice, having been a farmer, a wood worker and cabinet maker, a deep-well contractor, a real estate broker, an insurance salesman, and a Justice of the Peace prior to entering the legal profession.

His keen mind absorbed much of the history of the area and he was later called upon to supply facts for later day historians (Ye Editor included), which he always did with quiet dignity. He was involved in the development of the legal system of the county.

Two of his great-uncles from Morocco, Silas and John F. Johnson, and an uncle, Pierce Archibald, served as representatives to the Indiana State Legislature, so he was early acquainted with the laws of Indiana and the effects they had on his family, friends and

neighbors.

“J. C.” will long be remembered for his conservation work. For years he maintained a cabin and motor boat on Frenchman’s Sluice, a branch of the Kankakee River near Honeysuckle Island on which a cabin was built (now located near Sumava Resorts). Many guests shared its pleasures including a camping ground for the Camp Fire Girls under the leadership of Sarah (Archibald) Roadruck. Numerous family picnics were held there with long tables and tempting food.

The camp was named “Caw-Caw” by his then tiny tot, Carrie Evelyn. At another period several hundred people attended a Fourth of July celebration there. The camp of the well known naturalist, and narrator of early tales of the Kankakee river, Ned Barker, was adjoining. His participation in all the activities added much color and interest to the affairs. It was here that “J. C.’s” concern for the preservation of wildlife was nurtured. Conservation was often a topic of conversation.

Consequently, J. C. Murphey worked for years with state and federal agencies in the creation of Willow Slough Fish and Game Area and later with the State Conservation Department of Indiana in clearing title to the lands that were later to become a part of Willow Slough. He charged no fee for his service. He worked at all levels of Conservation. He headed the Newton County Conservation Clubs for several years and became a commissioned conservation officer (game warden) with full uniform of that office. Due to his interest and efforts the Indiana Department of Conservation with the aid of federal funds purchased about 3,000 acres of mostly waste land about 4 miles northwest of Morocco upon which a lake of 1,700 acres was created. As a tribute to him and his concern for conservation the lake bears his name, “J.C.

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Murphey Lake.”

His daughter, Carrie Evelyn Linduska, who managed his office through much of his legal career remembers writing hundreds of letters in the pursuit of getting Willow Slough created. She now lives within a stones' throw of the Slough near where her mother Ceturah (Bower) Murphey attended a one room school, Toad Puddle. Also many will remember her sister, Bethel Murphey, who was a fourth-grade teacher at Morocco for many years.

Government In Action

Morocco Town Board

The Board met on March 4th at the Town Hall. After the pledge of allegiance, Bobby Gonczy, the Board President introduced County Commissioner, Jim Pistello, who attended to answer question about the recent acquisition of the Intec building by Allied Waste and to invite those present to an open house to be held on March 7th to discuss the plans to install a support center for Allied Waste.

Pistello thinks the purchase will put Morocco on the map. There was stiff competition from Chicago, St. Louis and Merrillville. The building fit their agenda and the negotiation process took six months.

The transaction did not cost Morocco anything in subsidies and the company will not be asking for tax abatements from the town. They have promised that Newton county residents will be the first to be hired.

Pat Ryan praised the leadership involved in getting the company to locate here and saw a lot of good that will be coming the counties way.

These sentiments were echoed by Gonczy, Gagnon and Rick McCann, who sit on the

board.

Spring cleanup was discussed. The town looks like a war zone after a very hard winter. There will need to be patching of the roads to deal with the pot holes.

Gonczy commented that now was the time to get involved in the controversy of grade school consolidation, verses keeping the elementary schools in the communities.

Randy Decker reported that there were 5 breaks in the water main and one that he could not find. Also since the water tower was struck by lightning, they have had to manually check the pumps, which takes round the clock monitoring. This has been going on since February 4th.

In regard to the insurance claim at 207 S. Dewey St. the Board has verbally said that they will pay the claim.

It has been a rough winter and the town has submitted \$36,000 in damages to FEMA for main breaks, valves, overtime, fuel, etc.

There is a safety concern after an inspection of the water plants. There is no alarm system in case of a chlorine leak. This would cost \$15,000-20,000.

In regard to the public hearing on the application for funds for the hydrants and main project; due to a technicality in advertising schedule the meeting had to be rescheduled to March 10th at 5:00 p.m. This should not hold up the process however.

Decker also commented on the hydrant at Michigan and Main and the one at Ruth Doty's. They have been waiting for the weather to clear. He urged patience.

Someone had complained about something hanging from a power line downtown. Turns out it was a pair of tennis shoes that had been tied together and tossed over the line.

Steve Gibson the town marshal reported that he had made 27 calls, two for dogs, six for

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traffic, one drug arrest, and the rest of a general nature. He is working on the dog and curfew issues.

For the time being the curfew set for 15, 16 and 17 year olds to be in is 1 a.m. and those less than 15, 11 a.m. every day.

As far as the dog issue the Board needs a standard policy, to set standard fees and provide penalties for dangerous and barking dogs.

Pat Ryan reported on the appointment of a bond attorney, Bowes, McKenney and Evans located in Indianapolis, who will work on an hourly rate and Ice and Miller, bond council.

The Utility Board Report approved the purchase of two hoses one 3” diameter and one 6” diameter. They still have no estimated cost.

They recommend a program of valve exercising. It is critical to identify and isolate the valves, like the 8” on Polk Street. This perhaps could be added to the hydrant and main project.

Steve Darabaris reported for the Planning Commission on the Terry Lafoon request. Alan Banister, Building Inspector, thought there would be no problem. No one objected that was contacted about adding a residence to the Styling Stall on Michigan Ave. It appears that it is in compliance and Banister recommended that it be accepted.

Darabaris commented on the list of “eye sore” properties that had been submitted to the Board last year and requested that they be addressed. They will start with the list and Ryan will work with them

Conservancy Board

Bill Smart, President of the Board, called the meeting to order. Board members, Rick McCann, Duke Gagnon, Larry Holderby, Randy Decker, Sheri Rainford were present

Brian Meier and his wife, Lisa, were first on the agenda and they expressed their continuing frustration with a drainage problem they have been having for some time.

They have sandbagged around the house (some 400) in an attempt to slow down the water which floods their basement. They had Eugene Yoder view the problem the last large rain and he thinks that it is caused by an overflow of surface water. The water appears to come from the southwest and he suggested that it comes from the farm field.

The Meiers had to stay up all night as they had no heat and the temperature in the house dropped to 40 degrees.

McCann said he had access to a 3” pump and that they should call him when there is a problem.

Meiers made it clear that he had never threatened to sue the town, but was interested in slowing down the water so that it could be pumped.

Moving on to the problems on College Avenue they discussed the need for a catch basin at Roosevelt and College.

The College Avenue problem is getting worse. They thought that an access manhole at the location would assist in determining the source of the water. They thought that it was surface water, but that people in the area have two or three sump pumps going nonstop.

A plan had been devised by Larry Holderby, the County Engineer, to run a new drain from the south end of Roosevelt to College in hopes of taking care of the water flow.

It may take a two-step deal, the first east-west on College and then the Roosevelt branch starting at the south end and connecting at College with a new manhole being constructed and incorporate it into the existing system. However, no action was taken.

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Utility Board

The Utility Board met at 5:05 on February 25th at the Town Hall.

Old Business included the property at 112 E. Grove Street, Morocco Glass and Trim, and the hearing on the Water Main Project at 6:00 p.m. on the 25th.

Attached to the minutes was a copy of a letter from Pat Ryan. The public hearing was not put in the paper the way it should have been and another hearing was scheduled on March 10th at 5:30 p.m.

Under new business Jackie Kirkland explained that she had moved here a year ago and there was a leak in the toilet raising the water bill to \$140 per month. She was seeking a one time leak adjustment for the property at 307 State Street. It will be written up.

Marty McKaskie appeared about a rental property of his on Washington Street. The old tenant was being billed the owner thought it was being paid by the new tenant. He was seeking an adjustment. The bill was in arrears and the town was seeking for the \$23.00 late fee. It appeared to be an honest mistake, but Decker wanted a print out of the history of the bill. Home owner is responsible for any just debt just as he is for fire protection.

On February 4th a calamity occurred and it took four days to get it up and running. This had to be done manually, so the crew has been on call 24 hours a day. They have soft controls and can't isolate the station. They need to put in a new valve.

On February 22nd lightning hit, and it will cost the town a bundle, an estimated \$37,000. It will be billed as lightning caused.

It will take a month to get it up and running. They are to bet back to the town today. They are keeping a log of the times it takes to handle it manually. 9 times on Saturday and 6 times on Sunday. It has to be done.

At Beaver & Polk Street there was a leak in the 4" main and it took a \$1,600 clamp to fix it. At Polk and West street a 8" leak. Also one in the main from the old water tower to the new one. The hydrant at Ruth Doty's has been leaking for days. It will take \$3,200 to isolate it.

Several breaks have occurred. One at the Scott Lucas house occurred when the "T" blew out and could not be isolated. It was necessary to insert a valve.

The hydrant at the Tracy Marshall house is dead. It will only be a matter of time till new clamps have to be ordered. Only 6 are left and they cost \$1,600 per clamp. The hydrants cost \$4,000. They need to have clamps for all sizes to provide protection when needed. One leak on Beaver at the Shirer residence has not yet been found.

In some of the above cases a radio tracker is used and it costs \$400 for the first hour and \$175 for each additional hour.

A leak behind the minute shop was inexpensive to repair; it took a \$42 clamp. In one instance one residence had an estimated 30,000 gallons of treated water in their basement.

Overtime has been logged as follows: Scheidt 56 hours, Bannister 13 hours, Decker 71 hours. This money may be recovered as part of the \$60,000 relief.

In addition to the needed clamps it was also stated that a hose that would reach from the sewer plan to Beaver Creek was needed as a backup, approximately 200 feet in length.

It was also recommended that the shut off valves be located and that they be exercised. At a cost of \$60,000

The hand held devises for reading the meters are fast and Banister tested them.

On a water plan walk through there was a violation in the Chlorine Room, which needs a

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vent, so there will be a formal write up. If the town gets fund from the state, they will mandate that this be corrected. It was suggested that the hydrants and main project be increased to absorb this cost.

They are looking at options for the infiltration that occurs at the waste water plant and spoke of a smoke test, meters in the pipes, etc. etc.

The state asked to provide a pressure test. Jeff Rowell estimated it would take a month.

The hydrant at 411 W. State street didn't have a shut off valve. When the weather if better it will need to be dug out and have a valve installed.

At 6:00 p.m. in the same room was held the public hearing for the Hydrants and Mains project. Edwin from the Kankakee Regional Planning Commission was there to answer questions

The town is applying for a \$500,000 focus fund grant from the state. They have already received a \$30,000 planning grant and George Lewis was hired.

The town asked the question what was needed for the next 20 years. Although the town missed the first grant go around, infrastructure is the first consideration and we also qualify regarding the number of low to moderate income residents.

The project is for \$1,000,000. Morocco is not the only town applying. There are 69 other proposals and only 25 will be granted. The town should know by the middle of May and construction could begin in the fall.

The Board solicited letters for those at the meeting, both in support of the project and those opposed.

The \$400,000 will be for 20 years with an interest rate of 2.9%. Studies are now being done to see how much it would add to the water bill. Gonczy estimated that it would be

\$3.00 or \$4.00. Umbaugh will audit the books of the Utility Budget and will give an official figure somewhere in the near future.

This is only Phase I and other will follow.

There needs to be another well and other upgrades. The ground storage tank needs to be cleaned and painted. Elevated tower also needs cleaning and painting. Modifications have to occur in the Chlorine room.

17 breaks have occurred. They are applying for disaster aid and there may be \$37,000 recovered from insurance. It has been a very hard winter and a few streets have been torn up, and it is estimated that from the leaks there is a loss of 140,000 gallons a day.

Transitions

Eugene E. Bushman

Eugene E. “Gene” Bushman, 73, of Mt. Ayr, passed away Monday, January 21, 2008 at Jasper County Hospital. He was born at Lake Village in Newton County, December 23, 1934, the son of Elva and Nellie (Yott) Bushman. He was educated at the Morocco Public Schools and had been a lifetime resident of Newton County.

On August 1, 1992, he married Nola “Jan” Cook in Newton County. She survives.

He was an assistant superintendent at LTV Steel for 34 years and a service technician at Hicks Gas in Rensselaer for 17 years. He had served in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the Fellowship of Living Hope Church in Rensselaer. He was also a member of the Lake Village Archery Club; Boy Scout Leader, Pact 53; former Trustee of Lake Township in Newton County and was a Little League Coach in Morocco. He loved to hunt and fish and was a huge NASCAR fan.

Children surviving are: Kevin Bushman of

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Morocco, Steve (Becky) Bushman of Roselawn, Kelly (Kevin) DeYoung of Lake Village, Lisa (Mike) Bateman of Rensselaer, Harrold (Nancy) Yoder of Hobart, and Allen (Dianne) Cook of Tennessee. Twelve grandchildren survive along with several nieces and nephews. Surviving siblings are Don (Shirley) Bushman, Webb (Judy) Bushman, Evelyn (Norman) Telford, Linda (Larry) Midkiff, Christine (Wayne) Nunn, Bud (Sherry) Bushman, Angie (Dale) Lomax, Nancy (Rich) Hayes, all of Lake Village; Carol (Larry) George of Washington state Gene (Connie) Bushman of Arkansas.

Preceding him in death were his parents, a daughter, sister and brother.

Friends called at Steinke Funeral Home in Rensselaer on Wednesday, January 23rd from 4 to 8 p.m. Funeral services at the Fellowship of Living Hope Church, Rensselaer, were held on Thursday, January 24th at 10:00 a.m. with Pastor Edwin Bontreger officiating. Interment followed at Lake Village Cemetery with Military Graveside Rites.

Memorials are suggested to Jasper County Hospital Home Health & Hospice. Steinke Funeral Home of Rensselaer was in charge of arrangements.

Jon L. Lynn

Jon L. Lynn, 62, of rural Morocco, passed away February 17th at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lafayette. He was born in Chicago on March 24, 1945, the son of Earl and Dorothy (Johnson) Lynn, both deceased.

He moved to Newton County at the age of two. He graduated from Morocco High School in 1963. He was a farmer most of his life and had been a former employee of INTEC in Morocco, working there for nine years.

He was affiliated with the “Word of Life Outreach Ministry”. He loved hunting, fishing, and cooking on the grill.

He was married to Ora Taylor in Kentland and she survives. He is survived by children, Lolance D. Lynn of Texas; Ora Arizona Coffee of Minnesota; Callia J. H. (Mrs. Dexter) Thompson of Kankakee; Chena S. (Mrs. Eddie) Baty of Matteson, Illinois and Coty E. (Theresa) Watkins of Sun River Terrace, Illinois.

A sister Patty (Mrs. Jim) Wilson of Munster and a brother Jim (Connie) Lynn of Champaign; 16 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 2 nephews survive.

Friends may call from 4 till 6 p.m. on February 20th at the Steinke Funeral Home, Brunton Chapel of Morocco, with services starting at 6 p.m. Memorials are suggested to the family.

Kenneth C. Parli

Kenneth C. Parli, 82, passed away January 22, 2008. He was the former owner of Parli-Sayler Real Estate Co. He always found himself in a position of leadership, which included Boy Scouts of America, North Star Masonic Lodge, Wichita Consistory and Midian Shrine Temple.

He is survived by his wife Helen Parli; son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Marvin L. (former pastor of the United Church in Morocco) and Dorothy Parli of Elkins, W. Virginia; a sister Margaret Parli of Wichita, Kansas and grandchildren Jonathan Parli, Sean Parli, Emma Tajchman and Jenna Parli.

He was predeceased by son, Roland Parli.

Michael Myers

Michael L. “Mike” Myers, 66, of rural Morocco, died February 5th at Home Hospital, Lafayette. He was born October 19, 1941, the

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son of Romaine and Charlene (Kaiser) Myers. He was a 1960 graduate of Morocco High School. On July 9, 1962, in Mt. Ayr, he married Marilyn Jo Miller; she survives. He was a lifetime area farmer. He was an avid reader with a zest of life and a thirst for knowledge.

Surviving children are two daughters and a son, Brian (Peggy) Myers and Kyra (Nathan) Gibson, of Morocco and Shane (Brian) Pilarski of Francesville, Indiana. Eight grandchildren survive, Vanessa Mathias; Kristen, Wade, and Megan Gibson; Sarah and Ezra Myers; Emily and Jacob “Bob” Pilarski and a great-grandson Landsen Gibson; siblings; Tony Myers of Remington, Jo (George) Antcliff of Eloy, Arizona; Terry (Neil) Beier of Schneider, Indiana, Rick (Gail) Myers of St. Joseph, Michigan, Vance (Debbie) Myers of Kentland, Jill (Jim) Bridges of Greenwood, Indiana, and Dusty Myers of Virginia. Preceding him in death was his mother.

Friends called from 4 till 7 p.m. (CST) Friday, February 8th at the Morocco Community Center. Funeral services at the Morocco Community Center were Saturday, February 9th at 10 a.m. (CST). Interment will follow at a later date. The family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society.

Elizabeth J. “Betty” Padgett

Elizabeth J. “Betty” Padgett, 81, of Brook passed away Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 6 a.m. at the George Ade Memorial Health Care Center in Brook. She was formerly from Morocco. She was born February 2, 1927 in Hammond, Indiana to William Howard and Elizabeth (Neuefeind) Etheridge. She was a 1945 graduate of Morocco High School.

She married J. D. Padgett on December 14, 1946 in Morocco. He preceded her in death

October 17, 1998, in Rensselaer. She was a homemaker and attended the First Christian Church of Brook. She was a former member of the Eastern Star. She enjoyed gardening and playing cards.

Betty is survived by two sons, Jerry D. Padgett (Darlene) of Brook and David L. Padgett (Kim) of Brook; one daughter, Sharon J. Baire (Kenneth) of Lakeland, Florida; two brothers William H. Etheridge of Bollingbrook, Illinois and Glen D. Etheridge (Karen) of St. Michael, Minnesota; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Visitation was February 8th from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Gerts Funeral Home, Brook. Funeral services followed at 11 a.m. with Rev. Ken Marsh officiating. Interment took place at the Oakland Cemetery in Morocco.

Memorial may be made to the George Ade Memorial Health Care Center or Jasper County Hospital Home Healthcare and Hospice.

Velda L. “Peg” Hamann

Velda L. “Peg” Hamann, 93, of Morocco, passed away on Sunday, March 2, 2008. She is survived by two sons, Ronald (Georgene) Hamann of Schneider and Donald (Ann) Hamann of Lowell, two daughters, Donna Young of Momence and Karen (Jeff) Henke of Lowell; 17 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Veryl Graves of Momence and Harold Dean (Sylvia) Graves of Arkansas; two sisters, Ethel (Tom) Jones of Roselawn and Harriet (Roger) Webb of Morocco; numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold, her parents, John and Ruby Graves and eight siblings.

She was a former owner of Morocco Laundry Mat. She was a member of the United Church of Morocco.

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Funeral services were Friday, March 7, at 11 a.m. at the Sheets Funeral Home, 604 E. Commercial Ave., Lowell, with Pastor Phil Humber officiating. Burial followed at Sherburnville Cemetery in Sherburnville, Illinois. A visitation was held on Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial gifts may be made to the United Church of Morocco.

This and That

Several have asked about the tax rebate checks that were recently received by Newton County homeowners.

Last year, the Indiana General Assembly passed a law mandating that refunds be paid to taxpayers who have Homestead exemptions on their properties. Money for these refunds came from revenue obtained for selling licenses to use slot machines at two horse racing tracks in Indiana.

Only a parcel of land that has a homestead exemption received a rebate. A parcel that has delinquent taxes did not receive a check in the mail, but the money was credited to the unpaid tax.

Newton County received some \$547,000 in homestead credits from the state. The refund was figured from a percent that the state provided for each township.

TOPS stands for “Take Off Pounds Sensibly” and is an organization dedicated to helping overweight people analyze their eating habits, then by nutrition and exercise achieve their goal of losing weight. The group meets every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. CST in the Morocco Library. Meeting last only an hour

Eleven faithful members of this group, which began in March 2007, lost a total of 152 pounds, or an average of about 14 pounds each by the end of the year. Call Chapter Leader,

Amy Wynn at 285-6638 for more information.

Since the Lion’s Club is no longer accepting recycled aluminum cans, they may be left at the Corner Tea Room. Boxes will be available for those who wish to recycle their cans. Proceeds will be used to help defray expenses at the tea room.

It has been announced that Roger Webb’s niece, LeAnna Pappas has been chosen as the next Bachelorette. She was the last contestant on the Bachelor, but was not chosen, nor were any of the others. Filming has begun and the show will air on TV in the Summer.