

# MOROCCO TIMES

Vol. 3 No. 12

Yvonne Gibson, Editor and Publisher

December 2009

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

## *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

### **Around Town**



Downtown Morocco, December 2009.

It's beginning to look, and feel, a lot like Christmas in Morocco.

The first Sunday in December marked the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas tree lighting which included pictures with Santa & Mrs. Claus and delightful treats and hot chocolate provided by Morocco Projects Unlimited. Despite the cold, the turnout was huge.

The annual lighting of the Christmas tree went

off with a bang... literally as a fireworks show accompanied the lighting of the Christmas tree—probably a first for Morocco (compliments of the Town of Morocco).

The North Newton High School Choir was on hand to lead the Christmas Carols. What a magical time it was to be huddled around the lit Christmas tree with hot chocolate in your hands singing “Silent Night” and other Carols.

\* \* \*

The Christmas music playing on the loud speakers at Morocco Glass and Trim started the day after Thanksgiving. It is one of my favorite parts of Christmas in Morocco. Tom Montemayer tells me that he's been playing Christmas music since he purchased the building in the 1970's. The tradition started when the hardware store that once occupied his building played Christmas music in the 1950's and 1960's.

\* \* \*

The Morocco Thrift Shop will be closing at the end of December after serving Morocco for 38 years (in various locations around town). As you may already know, the Thrift Shop is operated by an all volunteer staff. The Thrift Shop has been

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asking for new volunteers to take over the management of the store and to help run things. With no volunteers, the Thrift Shop has been forced to close its doors.

I would like to thank each of the ladies who have volunteered their time to the Thrift Shop, especially Betty Carlson, Phyllis Morgan, Marilois Anderson, Jackie Blann, and Donna Rush. The Thrift Shop will be greatly missed.

\* \* \*

The Christmas star is once again shining brightly on top of one of the elevators at Wheatfield Grain. I'm told the star was there years ago.

\* \* \*

Tragedy struck again at the intersection of SR 114 and US 41 on November 17<sup>th</sup> when a fatal car accident occurred, the second fatal accident within eight days at the intersection. The first accident claimed the life of DeMotte resident Alan Strong on November 9<sup>th</sup>, the second accident claimed the life of Morocco/Roselawn resident Clifford Russell on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

\* \* \*

Recycled Christmas continues at the Newton County Council on Aging (across from DeMotte

State Bank). Bring in a donation for the food pantry and take home a gently used Christmas item. Hours are Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Please support this wonderful cause.

\* \* \*

The house at the corner of Atkinson and State Streets, which I'm told was the former home of Janet Lindahl, has recently been purchased and is undergoing renovations.

\* \* \*

I recently had the pleasure of touring the new sections of Morocco Elementary school. It's impressive. The new elevator and ramps make everything handicap accessible. The new classrooms are large, the art room has a kiln, and the music room has built in floor risers. The new cafeteria will have 15 round tables, two walk in freezers, bathrooms, an office, a separate serving area, and large windows overlooking the new Memory Garden- just to name a few highlights. And the new buildings match the old ones by using the same color of bricks. Morocco has a school with rich history and new charm that they can be proud of.

\* \* \*

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the house that once sat next to the Kentland Library was moved to a

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wooded site on CR 350 S. in rural Morocco. While moving a house is a very large undertaking that costs thousands of dollars, it is usually more affordable than buying a house. Most houses that need to be moved are sold for little or nothing. Transporting the house to it's new location typically costs around \$20,000, another \$4,000-\$10,000 is necessary to move utility lines along the route, and another \$12,000 to \$25,000 covers the basement that the moved home will sit on. Utility hooks up depend on where the home is moved to.



Approaching it's new home.

From an economic and environmental perspective (avoid waste, materials use), moving

a house makes a lot of sense. If you like old houses, it's a practical way to get in one. It gives an old house a new foundation and provides a good opportunity to fix structural problems that would otherwise result in the decline and demolition of the house. One thing to consider is that there is a lot of planning needed, and once the house is set on its new foundation it's recommended that plaster work not begin for several months as the house settles onto it's new (truer) foundation.

House movers also raise up houses in place to allow a foundation or new basement to be made under the house, which is another way to save an old house and the character it provides for a neighborhood. Many houses in Morocco had basements added under them several decades ago, but for some reason this practice isn't seen as often now. It would be a great way to maintain property values in an old neighborhood though, since modern basements can be used more like regular living areas. It's a way to increase square footage to current norms relatively inexpensively, fixes foundation problems, and doesn't require a change in footprint, loss of yard space, or historical appeal.

\* \* \*

The Town of Morocco has earned the Indiana

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Public Employers' Safety award for 2008 for their excellent worker safety record. The award rewards the prevention of accidents among employees and emphasizes the cost savings to governmental agencies by keeping workers on the job.

\* \* \*

Order forms for the Morocco Veteran's Memorial can be found at the Town Hall. Bricks are only \$25 each and can be purchased for any military veteran past or present, living or deceased. If you have any questions, please contact Yvonne Gibson. Bricks will be placed in the Memorial in time for Memorial Day (Homecoming weekend) if orders are placed before April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

### **Morocco Cooks**

#### **Celery Casserole**

**Submitted by: Wilma (Blann) Swim**

Layer the following:

2 cups chopped celery in bottom of approx 12 x 8 inch casserole dish.

1 can cream of chicken soup spread over top.

1 can sliced water chestnuts (drained).

¾ stack of crumbled Ritz crackers.

1 stick of melted Oleo spread over top.

Bake 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Add sliced almonds on top for the last 5 minutes of baking.

\* \* \*

#### **Banana Cake**

**Submitted by: Harriet Webb**

2 cups sugar

1 cup margarine

dash of salt

1 teaspoon of vanilla

2 eggs

2 cups mashed bananas

2 teaspoons baking soda dissolved in 4 tablespoons of hot water

3 cups of flour

Mix well and pour into a 9 x 13 pan.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

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Frost with cream cheese frosting.

\* \* \*

### **Chicken or Turkey Casserole** **Submitted by: Harriet Webb**

2 cups cooked, diced meat  
1 – 7 ounce Creamettes (cooked)  
8 ounces Velveeta Cheese (diced)  
1 pint milk  
2 cans Cream of Mushroom soup  
2 tablespoons chopped onion

Mix together and bake 20 minutes in Microwave  
or 30 minutes in oven at 350 degrees.

### **Cowboy Butter** **Submitted by: Harriet Webb**

1 pound margarine  
1 cup buttermilk  
½ cup oil  
½ teaspoon salt

Beat with mixer until blended.

### **Happenings**

### **RISE 2020 (Rural Indiana Strategy for Excellence) Meeting, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009.**

A small group of Morocco minded individuals met at the Town Hall for a RISE 2020 meeting. RISE 2020 is a comprehensive community revitalization plan for the year 2020. Simply put it's our plan for Morocco by the year 2020.

Historic preservation, growth, and maintaining small town values are key to this plan. Issues discussed were the Willow Slough Corridor (boat tours of JC Murphey Lake, creating a street from the 'Welcome to Morocco' sign north of town to Willow Slough, etc.), Main Street (save our downtown), Rails to Trails, 2010 Census, Grade School Project, Kessler Drainage Project (shovel ready, grants available), Hydrant and Main Project, 'Over the Top', NASP (Nat'l Archery in School Program), Planned Unit Development, Down Town Buildings, a Stoplight at US 41 & SRS 114, Brick Pavers on State Street, Treating Leachate, 'I Shop Morocco', and others.

### **RISE 2020 is vital to Morocco's future.**

**The next RISE 2020 meeting is January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morocco Town Hall. Please join us and bring your ideas. Your input is needed.**

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had by all.

\* \* \*

Rex Hagen was among many others who were recognized for over 50 years in business in the State of Indiana. Governor Daniels welcomed each to a gathering at the Indianapolis State House for a ceremony and pictures. Rex's sister Betty Kessler and other family members attended the meeting and were guests of Rex's at dinner at the Hyatt Regency that evening. Rex was one of 90 businesses recognized that evening.

\* \* \*

Roger and Mary Kay Emmrich, Mark and Myra Davidson, Phyllis and Don Glenn, and Mary Kay's cousins Gary and Norma Thorp met at the 100 Mile House in Fowler on Saturday evening, December 5<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Roger's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday with dinner, drinks, and good conversation.

\* \* \*

Thanksgiving at the Roger & Harriet Webb home consisted of 20 family members and friends.

Turkey and ham were served as well as mashed potatoes, gravy, Broccoli Casserole, deviled eggs, sweet potatoes, a relish tray, stuffed mushrooms, cheese ball, and crackers. Desserts were pumpkin pie, whipped cream, apple slices and homemade ice cream.

No one went home hungry and a great time was

\* \* \*

Recently we ran into Lynn (Russell) Abraham at Greenfield's. She had come down from Schaumburg to meet with some of her classmates (1957) for lunch and good conversation at Los Tres Gatos, the Mexican restaurant on SR 114, in Rensselaer. Attending the festive occasion were: Linda (Mashino) Gibson, Bonnie (Barnett) Storey, Kay (Potts) Lopp, Eileen (Davis) Van Houten, Delores (Webb) Neuschwander, Marcia (Chapman) Carlson, Nancy (Shuey) Coon, Jean (Bridgeman) Leavitt, Lettie (Baird) Waggoner. Later Dave Lindlow stopped by. A good time was had by all.

\* \* \*

Projects Unlimited met at the Library on November 16<sup>th</sup> with 12 members present. Discussions were about the Christmas tree lighting and pictures with Santa. Other projects discussed were Longaburger Basket Bingo and inviting new members to join. President Marlene Taden was hostess and served delicious refreshments.

\* \* \*

Dustin Gary and Amenda Paolone, of Morocco, are the proud parents of new daughter, Audrey

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Christine Gary, born Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, at 3:40 p.m. She weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 17.5 inches long. She was welcomed home by big sister Zoey Jade.

\* \* \*

Maternal grandmother is the late Christine Paolone. Paternal grandma and “pa” are Becky and Sam Hillis and Don Gary. Great grandparents are Leroy and Berti Moore.

\* \* \*

David & Kathy Gregory of Morocco and Steven & Lucy Papaik of Kendallville, Indiana announce the engagement of their children Kara Lee Wisdom Gregory of Ft. Wayne and Michael Vincent Papaik of Hometown, Indiana.

Kara Gregory is a 2003 graduate of North Newton High School, a 2007 graduate of Purdue University in Youth, Adult, and Family Services and will be a 2011 graduate of Indiana University, Fort Wayne in school counseling. She is currently employed as an IPFW Career Services Career Counselor.

Michael Papaik is a 2004 graduate of East Noble HS and a 2008 graduate of Purdue University in Mechanical Engineering. He is currently employed with Voss Automotive, Fort Wayne.

The couple plan to wed on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Fort Wayne.

The Newton County Public Library welcomes Hope Burton as their new Children's Coordinator. She will be traveling between the Roselawn, Lake Village, and Morocco Public Libraries.

\* \* \*

John Yost (Yostie) was fondly remembered by friends at the Newton County Historical Meeting on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Government Center in Morocco. You may recall John from his weekly paper, the Newton County Gazette, his work with the Historical Society, and other publications he did.

\* \* \*

Jane Stephens celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday with an Open House at the Scott Lucas house on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

\* \* \*

Most people have their Christmas decorations up outdoors and it makes for a pleasant evening ride around town. Christmas time is a beautiful season. Enjoy it!

### **Editorial**

If you are a Morocco resident, I'm certain you've

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noticed the rather bare shelves at Allen's IGA. I know it's difficult to buy from a store with such a small inventory but if we, as a town, don't start buying from IGA, it won't be long before they're forced to close their doors. What happens when there isn't a local grocery store to go to?

I'm sure most of you can remember Morocco back in her glory days when all the buildings on State Street were open for business, **when parking was the hardest thing to find in Morocco** especially on a Wednesday or Saturday night. We need to bring Morocco back to her glory days. Imagine not having to leave town to shop and by doing so, jobs will be created and money will be generated for the town.

I'm told of two plans that have been used in other business districts that work. The first is the 3/50 plan, the other is “I shop 185,” or in our case “I shop Morocco.” Both of these plans need not only the townspeople, but also the Town Board, and the businesses on board to make them work. With a group effort, it can be done.

The 3/50 plan is basically a commitment from townspeople to spend \$50 (or more) per month at local businesses and while doing so, they are encouraged to stop by three stores. This can easily be done at IGA, the restaurants, and the

shops around town. The 3/50 plan will stimulate the local economy by generating revenue for local businesses, creating and maintaining local jobs, and bring more tax money to your local government. It also keeps more local businesses open and might even be an incentive for more businesses to open.

The “I Shop 185” is a plan that my dad told me about. My dad owns Blue Sky Bicycles on 185<sup>th</sup> Street in Euclid Ohio hence the name “I Shop 185.” Basically, if you shop at a business on 185<sup>th</sup> Street you get a sticker with your receipt to put on a card. Once you fill up your card with the predetermined amount of stickers, you return the card to a participating business to be entered into a drawing for gift certificates, and other items donated by the participating stores along 185<sup>th</sup> Street. The program just started but my dad says there have already been quite a few people in the store asking about the cards and stickers.

Clearly something has to be done. The less local shopping that goes on, the less local jobs are available. And without local jobs, Morocco is destined to turn into run down, decrepit stop along old US 41.

I ask you to please shop Morocco whenever possible. If you need something, try to get it in Morocco first. The time and money you'll save

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on gas is worth it. If not, the next time you run out of milk, eggs, or bread, you might have to run to Lake Village, Kentland, or Rensselaer to get it.

I challenge everyone to spend at least \$30 at Allen's IGA this month. Make Allen's IGA your FIRST stop for your holiday meal needs.

Save Morocco, Shop Morocco.

### Features

#### **Kit Homes in Morocco: The McPhail Home**



This is a picture of a large photograph Janet Lindahl has of her house. The back reads Doc. and Mrs. McPhail 1940.



The McPhail Home in 2009.

In 1935, Dr. & Mrs. McPhail built their home on Clay Street. Their home is now owned by Janet Lindahl.

The house, I'm told, is a Sears & Roebuck Home (according to paperwork that Janet received when she and her late husband Al purchased the home 16 years ago) although I have not been able to identify which model of kit home it is.

Janet invited me to her house on a rainy fall day. Upon entering her home, I was amazed at the size (3,330 square feet), comfort, and warmth of her home. From the original doors to the beautiful woodwork, I was awestruck. The two story home has three bedrooms and one and a half bathrooms.

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One of the two original entry doors. Note the original hardware of the door and the glass.

Like most kit homes, Janet's house has built-in shelving around the fireplace. She tells me there were built in hutches in the corners of her dining room that she removed during a recent remodel of the dining room and kitchen. The doorways were widened to create a more open living area downstairs.



The fireplace with original built in shelves.

The north side of the home has a very large family room that was once an attached two car garage. Since the original garage was converted into living space, a detached garage has been built. Janet says that although she's glad to have a garage, now that it's detached, it's not always convenient. The home even has a basement.

Janet tells me that the house was all pink when it was built. Apparently Ann McPhail liked pink. Janet said that when she was refinishing the wood (trim and doors), which were painted a cream color when she first moved in, she found pink under it. She told me everything was pink. Imagine my surprise when I found out that when

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Janet said everything was pink, she meant everything was pink- even the exterior of the home was pink when it was built! If you look closely at the picture of the home in 1940, you'll notice large square panels on the exterior- they were pink. Does anyone know what these square panels were originally made of (the house has since been sided)? Janet says the squares were falling apart which is why they decided to put siding on the house.

Janet painstakingly stripped all the paint off of the woodwork and doors of the house. The doors look brand new- they even have their original hardware. The entry doors have beautiful

original glass work with original decorative knobs.

Janet tells me “I just like the house.” And you can tell that she takes great pride in her home, and the history of it.

\* \* \*

It is interesting to note that Janet's grandparents, The Deardurffs) built the Gordon Van-Tine house now owned by the McClatchey's. Janet said her grandmother kept chickens, horses, and cows across the street from their house and that there

was a barn behind their home at one time.



Left to right (standing): Mr. C. A. Grayson- Principal, Otis Smith- Biology, Miss Corbin-Sponsor, Miss Bertha Moore- Art, Caroline Williamson- Home Ec. & Gym. Left to right (sitting): Ann McPhail, Dorothy Odell.

### **Moved Homes in Morocco**

#### **The Deardurff House Move**

**By: Mary Kay Emmrich**

Nelle Deardurff was a widowed lady who lived in a house that sat between what is now the John Bouse home to the south and DeMotte State Bank to the north, facing west on Main Street. Her house was relocated to Michigan and Walker. I knew Nelle from when I clerked at People's Drug Store, as she was a frequent customer. Nelle was quite a charming lady –

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always happy, a little confused, and very kind!

(My sweetest memory of Nelle includes oranges – she was not able to get about in winter weather, so I picked up some groceries for her when I delivered her prescriptions. She had segmented oranges when I arrived, and insisted that I stay to enjoy the wintertime treat. Oranges and tangerines were wonderful Christmas treats in my childhood, and still make me feel festive!)

Dr. Kenneth Deardurff and his second wife, Nelle (Prince) Smart lived in the little house– Dr. Deardurff was an optometrist and jewelry store owner who ran a shop in what is now Shirer-Shuey-Brownfield Insurance Agency on State Street. Jane Gulley helped me remember that Nelle had a son (Richard) by a previous marriage - Dr. Deardurff and his first wife, Hazel Schanlaub, had no children. (Thanks to Donna LaCosse and her wonderful memory and extensive family history research!)

DeMotte State Bank bought the little house after Nelle’s death in the early 1980s, I believe. The Bank then sold the house in 1985 or 1986, with the covenant that it be moved from the property, which the Bank wanted for a parking lot.

I do not recall who purchased the Deardurff

house, just that it was removed from the foundation and place upon beams for the move to its present location in early summer. The Town Board and residents were told that the house would be moved west on State Street, south on West Street, then east on State Road 114 (Michigan) to the new foundation.

Tree trimmers were sent to inspect trees, cutting back overhangs or removing trees from the easement in preparation for the move. I parked in the street in front of our home, and was asked to move my car the night before so that the street would be clear. I had all ready made plans - I took the morning of the move off of work from the Jasper County Public Library, and my parents and I sat in our front yard at 309 West State.

Many other people on the west end of State Street had the same idea – it was quite the festive morning, as neighbors strolled up and down the sidewalks, watching the slow, methodical move, visiting, and keeping an eye out for problems. The move took an entire day – the moving company started at 6 AM, and I remember that the house was at the new site by sunset.

### **Letters to the Editor**

Sending the enclosed picture (not dated), will

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take a guess at 1938 or around that time frame.

The teachers shown in the picture, with the exception of Ann McPhail, held classes in both the Grade and HS Buildings. Miss Odell came to the Grade School for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English, etc.

Many of your readers will recognize these people and wish we had pictures of the rest of the staff.

~Mary Krueger

(The photo Mary submitted can be found in the Features section about the McPhail Kit Home.)

### **Backward Glance By Gerald Born**

As Your Editor, Yvonne Gibson, has been uncovering facts about the kit houses that were built in Morocco during its early years, attention turned to the home of Janet Lindahl, located on South Clay Street. It, too, is a kit house from Sears and was built by Dr. McPhail shortly after his marriage to Ann Younger. Although they were not natives, both people were well known to the Morocco community. Dr. McPhail was a veterinarian and Ann was a teacher at Morocco High School for many years.

Dr. McPhail had the story and a half house built. It was covered with large pink, square tiles with turquoise accent tiles. It anchored the southeast corner of Clay and Indiana Streets and was always neat and well maintained. The Doctor had his office in the rear of the house. He went on calls to local farms. I never remember hearing anyone call him by his first name. Even in the 1944 phone book, he was listed simply as Dr. McPhail. And Ann was just a hop, skip, and jump from the school.

When I started researching this article, I was surprised to find that very little had been written about them, which seemed strange, as they were both involved and prized by the members of the community. Dr. McPhail seems to have located here first. Early on he was in partnership with Daniel Unzicker, and at that time they operated a poultry business. It was located in a long, narrow building on north Clay Street; located across the street from the Harris Creamery to the north and the Baptist Church to the west. Dr. McPhail had his business in the rear of that building, as well. Much later the structure was owned by the Storey Implement Company and was used for storage. Neglected and in disrepair, it was torn down in the 1990's.

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Ann taught English and literature at Morocco High School for over 50 years. Lacking enough data to write a good article, I am now asking your help in finding facts about Ann McPhail's life so that I can do her justice. Popular history, which is what I write for the pages of the *Morocco Times*, is not an exact science. Traditional history was concerned mostly with political history, relating the wars, leaders, and dates when significant things occurred in a particular place, and for many it is boring. Modern history focuses more on people, their culture, their music, their accomplishments, their art and family life. It tries to paint a picture of how things were during a certain period. It does not exclude the politics, but attempts to put them in perspective for the period and hopefully is more interesting than just dull facts.

Ann's life has not been documented, although many remember her teaching and her involvement in the community. So I am asking our readers to help by providing facts and remembrances of this tiny, dynamic woman. Certain facts have been gathered, but not enough to write an article, so please share with us what you know.

Bonnie Deardurff told us that she came from Chalmers, Indiana. Betty Kessler related that she

not only went to school with her, but also taught at the same time she was teaching. A former Sunshine Girl remembers her taking them on an excursion to Chicago to shop and attend Stubby and the Buccaneers. Ruth Ann Shirer reminded me that she taught Sunday school at the Methodist church. Ruth Warrick provided a photo of the 1937 Junior Class Play, which was held in the new gymnasium and which Ann directed. She also located a photo of Ann. Florence Story remembered when Ann married and requested her students to call her Mrs. McPhail rather than Miss Younger. So please send info to P.O. Box 315, Morocco, 47963. Or give me a call at (219) 285-2367.

### **Government In Action Morocco Town Board Meeting Highlights December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

The Morocco Town Board Meeting began with a look back at 2009:

- The Hydrant & Main Project changed from a one million dollar project to a five million dollar project. The Hydrant & Main Project is “huge” said Town Board President Bob Gonczy it should “lower the utility costs of both the water and sewer” with less maintenance required and lower operating costs.
- The Town Marshal changed from Steve Gibson

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to Shaun Wynn.

- The Elementary School project became a reality.
- Project Pride was a huge success. Bob Gonczy noted that cleaning up behind the elevator was one of the many improvements of Project Pride.
- The town purchased a new dump truck using tipping fees (at no cost to the taxpayers).
- The Town Hall was painted, carpeted, and historical photos of the town were enlarged, framed, and hung on the walls.
- New sidewalks were poured at the Police Station and Town of Morocco Shop.
- The Bowling Alley was remodeled at the cost of a quarter of a million dollars.
- Homecoming was “incredible,” the fireworks really added to it.
- The first Christmas Tree Lighting took place in the center of town.

Look forward to 2010:

- RISE 2020 Comprehensive Revitalization Project which is a long term plan to the year 2020 for Morocco.
- “Over The Top” slopes, hills, tops, etc. will be the name of the new sledding, skiing, and skating area the town hopes to create using the land they already own behind the Lion's Club. They will use the soil from the Hydrant & Main project to create a hilly terrain for sledding. There will be

fire-pits, and hopefully an ice skating area. This should be an economical way to bring fun to the town of Morocco. As a bonus, it saves money on the Hydrant & Main project because the excess soil will not have to be hauled out and disposed of.

- Study the possibility of treating Leachate to generate money for the town. Treating Leachate has the potential to earn ten million dollars for the town over ten years. The leachate study is currently 80% complete. Very rough estimates put the cost at 2.5 million dollars to build a new plant to treat the town's waste water and use the existing plant to treat leachate. Bob Gonczy wants to remind everyone that this is just a preliminary study to see if and how this could benefit the town.

- The county allotted \$10,000 for a Reverse 911 Mass Notification System. The town had talked about this at the last meeting. This saves the town money and allows them to try it out. If your phone number is listed in the phone book, you will be included. If you are not listed, you will need to sign up. (I'm sure more information will be posted as the system is implemented.) It can also be used to send text messages and e-mails and is a handy tool for school delays and closings.

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- The Town Board voted to approve \$5,200 to Sunshine Publishing to convert the town's Ordinance Books to electronic copies that are search-able by keywords.

- John Sturgill reported that they Hydrant & Main Project final design was completed in conjunction with Town Manager Randy Decker. The final design will be ready to submit to IDEM by December 15<sup>th</sup>, it will also be submitted to RD at the same time. John said the required advertisements for bidding will be ready for publication on December 15<sup>th</sup> to allow bidding to be completed and the project to continue without any delays.

- BAN (Bond Anticipation Loan) Claims: \$40,756 to McMahan approved 2—1 with Rick McCann opposing. \$606.82 to Leachate study approved 3-0.

- The 2010 Salary Ordinance was accepted. There were no questions or discussions. (I recall at a previous meeting it was mentioned that there would be no raises this year.)

- The roads were paved by the Elementary School, they will be finished next year (this is why they don't look pretty). There was some question as to why the parking on the north side

of the school was not angle parking as was previously discussed.

- Town Marshal Shaun Wynn had 27 calls for service, made 1 arrest, and issued 3 warning citations. He reported that he was having some issues with the patrol car's radio working intermittently and the siren and light switch was having issues. He received an estimate of \$250 for labor excluding the radio which they won't be able to tell until they take the radio apart. \$500 was allotted to fix the car. If more money is needed, it will be addressed at that time.

- Dave Hoaks was interested in filling the position of Building Commissioner. He was voted in by the Planning Commission and the town of Morocco is happy to have him on-board. He is taking over after Alan Banister's recognition.

- The proposed unsafe building ordinance was passed. This ordinance allows for either rehab or tearing down of unsafe buildings.

- A Planning Commissioner is sought for the Planning Commission. This position pays \$25 per meeting. Meetings are the last Monday of the month.

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-Ward Reps.- all wards look good.

- Jane Gulley requested a donation from the town for the Angel Tree. This year the Angel Tree is helping 29 children and 10 families this year. \$400 was given to the Angel Tree.

- Al Thomas from the Masonic Lodge requested a donation from the town for repairs and upkeep to the Masonic Lodge. Approximately \$14,379 was needed for everything but any donation was requested. \$2,000 was given to the Masonic Lodge.

- Doc Schanlaub from Morocco Youth Bowling requested a donation to help pay for the 28 kids on the Bowling League to go to state. It costs \$40 per kid. \$1120 was given to the Morocco Youth Bowling League. They go to state on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of 2010. Of the 28 youth bowlers, 24 are from Morocco.

### **Community Calendar**

The First Annual Craig Blann Memorial Scholarship Fund hog roast, silent auction, and New Year's Eve Party will take place on New Year's Eve (December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009) at the Beaver Township Community Center in Morocco. Dinner will be served from 6-8 p.m. There will

be a silent auction, door prizes, a 50/50 drawing, and a Champagne Toast at the stroke of midnight. Music provided by DJ Chad Wynn. Tickets are \$25 per couple or \$15 per person. Please contact Shaun Wynn for more information or to purchase tickets- 219-869-1777. Get your tickets before they're sold out! (Tickets will be available at the door unless they're sold out.)

\* \* \*

A Ham & Beans donation dinner will be at the American Legion Post 146 in Morocco on December 19<sup>th</sup> from noon until 5 p.m. Proceeds support the Morocco Youth Bowling League.

\* \* \*

Taco nights are back at the American Legion Post 146 in Morocco! Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:30 p.m. tacos are served at the Legion for \$1.50 each. The Legion is also in need of volunteers to help with taco night. If you are interested in helping please call 219-285-6286.

\* \* \*

Rise 2020 meeting, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morocco Town Hall.

\* \* \*

Vintage Dance Club will meet on January 14<sup>th</sup>,

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2010 at 6:30 p.m. The tentative plan is to meet at the library. Questions? Contact Trudie Gruber at 219-285-6074.

Cremation has been chosen by his family.

### **Transitions**

#### **Clifford G. Russell**

Clifford G. Russell, age 66 of the Morocco - Roselawn area passed away November 17, 2009 as a result of an auto accident at the intersection of hwy 41 & 114 in Newton County. He was born August 3, 1943 in Rensselaer a son of the late Earl and Anita (Langley) Russell. Cliff graduated from Morocco High School in 1961 and had lived his entire life in the Newton County area. Prior to his retirement earlier this year he was a cook at Flying J Truck Stop. He had previously been a cook at Merchant's and the Willow Inn. Surviving is a brother, Paul W. (Rose) Russell of Connecticut and three nephews and niece; Ron Brownfield of Morocco, Larry (Debbie) Brownfield of Wheatfield, Bobbie (Novesa) Russell and Susan Russell both of Rhode Island. Preceding him in death were his parents and 2 sisters. Family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society. Friends may call Sunday, November 22, 2009 from 2 until 4:00 P.M. at Steinke Funeral Home Brunton Chapel in Morocco.

### **This and That**

The *Morocco Times* would like to do a feature on the history of the Churches and Parsonages of Morocco. Please submit your memories, stories, and photographs of Morocco Churches and Parsonages to the Morocco Times for publication. Photographs and other correspondence will be returned to you upon request.

\* \* \*

Tim Storey is compiling stories and memories about Sellers' Station and the Pullman Cafe. These stories will also be featured in the *Morocco Times*. Please send your memories to the Morocco Times, P.O. Box 171, Morocco, IN 47963 or call Yvonne Gibson at 219-285-2398 to have her write them for you. Photos would be appreciated as well (we will return your photos to you).

\* \* \*

On your mailing label, above your name and address you will find your expiration date for the *Morocco Times*. If your subscription has expired, please bring your account current and if I have made a mistake and didn't update your expiration date after you paid, let me know. Thank you!

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**JESSIE**

Chapter V

“Can I ask you a question?” Jessie asked

“Sure.” Yvonne said as they walked noticing they had already gone a block without realizing it.

“I took a little walk before I came to the church and saw homes in need of care.” Jessie said stopped in front of a white two story with faded paint and a wrap around front porch with the roof sagging. “I also noticed there were five churches in town all claiming a connection to God.” She turned and looked at the house, watching the old couple inside sitting at the dining room table with worried looks on their faces. Yvonne followed her gaze and felt sorry for the couple who she’d heard was having money problems for the last ten years thanks to high medical bills. “Do you think God approves?” Yvonne was surprised by the question and a little unsure of what she meant.

“About the churches?” She asked Jessie trying to get a handle on what she wanted to know.

“I guess what I’m trying to say is, if they were really doing God’s work, would the couple in the house here be suffering?” She began walking again.

“I don’t know if there’s anything they can do?” Yvonne answered. “Times are hard right now for everybody.”

“But they claim to be speaking God’s words.” Jessie looked at Yvonne so innocently. “Shouldn’t they be using those words to help? Couldn’t they use them to talk to people who could help?”

“I guess.” Yvonne said realizing she had never thought of it that way.

At the corner of State and Main Jessie watched their reflection in the big plate glass windows of the bank as they walked past, her hands moving in a way which resembled someone writing. On a desk in the loan department, papers ruffled and fluttered to the floor, leaving an application opened on top of the desk. It was for the loan of the couple in the white house and across the first page was the word ‘Declined’ in large red letters. As Jessie moved her fingers the word faded and by the time she was done it was replaced with the word ‘Accepted’ at the same time the word ‘Loan’ was replaced by ‘Grant’.

“What are you smiling about?” Yvonne asked when Jessie did a little spin in the middle of the

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sidewalk before she started walking again.

“Just thinking how nice it would be if you had a story tomorrow for your paper about something good for a change.”

“You’re a little odd, do you know that?” Yvonne asked not being able to help it.

“I like to think of it as untainted innocence. Odd is more fitting of the way humanity has become.”

“Why here Jessie? I mean, why are you here in Morocco?”

“Not sure really, but I’m sure when I’m supposed to know I will.”

“Yeah, I guess.” Yvonne said not really sure how to respond. “Where are you gonna stay tonight?”

“My apartment in town, do you want to come and see it?” Her excitement was contagious as Yvonne found herself looking forward to it, never wondering how Jessie found one so quickly, let alone paid for it.

Don’t miss Chapter VI  
Of  
Bradley S. Hartman’s  
First Epic Serial Fantasy  
“JESSIE”  
Coming in January 2010

All characters appearing in this work are fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead is purely coincidental. This is a work purely from the author’s imagination and should be taken that way.

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