What were you doing on New Year’s morning?
1). Watching the Rose Bowl Parade.
2) Sleeping in after a late night of partying.
3) Nursing a hangover.
4) Beginning a new diet.
5) Attending an auction.

If you answered #5, then you may have been among the hundreds who gathered for a treasure hunt of sorts at the National Guard Armory in Valparaiso. Early birds arrived in plenty of time to soberly inspect row upon row of antiques and collectibles that would be going up for bid beginning at 10 a.m. on the first day of the New Year. The scene at the Armory in Valparaiso would be repeated in several other places around the Midwest on New Year’s Day. The party for auction lovers didn’t appear to include hangovers from the night before, although java in carryout cups was a common sight along with numbered bid cards sticking out of pockets and pocketbooks.

Auctioneer Chuck Howard and his business partner Diana Cook organized the multi-estate auction in Valparaiso, which included dozens of pieces of fine antique oak and mahogany furniture pieces—drop front desks, marble wash stands, bedroom sets, dressers, sideboards, and at least one pier mirror. Glass and pottery lovers swooned over the assortment of Roseville, Depression glass, Fostoria, Hull, McCoy and more. Tables with an assortment of goodies from old wind-up toys to paper ephemera magnetized collectors and the just-plain-curious. The personal property of two separate estates, one of which came from a self-described pack rat, required three separate auction rings running simultaneously. So large was the accumulation of treasures at the Armory that the auction continued non-stop until the gavel came down for the last time around kickoff time for the evening’s Rose Bowl game.

Auction Continued on Page 2
Auction  Continued from Page 1

Elaine Cole of Liberty Township arrived an hour and a half before auction time to have a good look around at all the items up for bid. A veteran collector and auction-goer, Elaine spied a century-old travel diary that piqued her interest. After a careful inspection, Elaine knew that she wanted to bid on the diary, written by a schoolteacher from Massachusetts who describes in detail her first-class passage across the Atlantic to England and beyond. Luck was on Elaine's side, as it turned out.

“It (the diary) was one of the first things up for bid on that table,” Elaine said. “The diary was in a box with a bunch of other things, so I got the whole box.” Elaine's winning bid got her the diary she wanted and several small figurines, all for a grand total of $15.

Attending a live auction is a learning experience. While millions prefer to sit in front of their computers and keep track of the items for sale on eBay, a live auction lets you look at the merchandise first-hand, make your bid, and if you’re the lucky winner, take home your treasure(s) the same day. If the idea of bidding at a live auction intimidates, then attend one or two first, just to observe the procedure. The notion that scratching your nose at the wrong time will win you a “white elephant”, often a concern to newbies, is unfounded. Auctioneers and their ringmen look for raised hands and confirm with eye contact and pointing to be sure of the bidder’s intent.

The earliest cited auction in the Oxford Dictionary was in 1595 and historical references to auctions can be traced back to 500 BC. Some people may think that auctions are scheduled only in the warmer months around the Midwest, but nothing could be further than the truth. As witnessed in the Armory on New Year’s, auctions are scheduled year ‘round, and if a person wanted to—and was willing to put a little mileage on the car, he could find an auction going on somewhere in the U.S. any day of the year. If you want to avoid becoming an auction addict, then the simple solution is to refrain from getting a bidding card before each auction begins. (Yeah, right, you say.
Auctioneer Chuck Howard answers a question from one of the prospective bidders. Howard said the biggest shock of the day was the selling price for a log of postcards—$4500.

That’s the equivalent of a kid in a candy store with no pennies and a mean store clerk.

Auctioneer Chuck Howard said that New Year’s Day is the best day of the year for an indoor auction, with the following two or three weeks coming in a close second. The worst time, he said, is between Thanksgiving and Christmas, when people want to shop the stores for holiday gifts. But the time lag between November and the first of January makes it an excellent time because people are waiting for auctions to resume. The best time for an outdoor auction, at least from the auctioneer’s standpoint, is in early April “when people are itching to get outside in nice weather for the first big sale,” Howard said.

Howard, who has been an auctioneer for the past seventeen years, went to his first auction when he was 15 years old.

“When I heard the auctioneer, I said to myself, ‘What’s so hard about that?’ I’ve always talked fast. So I went to auctioneer’s school—a one-day crash course.” Howard explained that auctioneers have to pass a license exam which has to be renewed every two years by Indiana law.

Auction Continued on Page 4

Auctioneer Chuck Howard (at desk in the background) starts the bidding.

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Auction Continued from Page 3  

Howard has won high praise from those in the business. Dealer Jerry Evans, who worked the New Year’s auction as a ringman, describes Howard as “the most honest person I know.”  

“I once saw Chuck find items stuck underneath an old drawer that the estate owner didn’t know were there. They were old silver coins and loose diamonds worth a good deal of money and Chuck pointed them out to the owner. Someone with less integrity might have taken those same items without telling the owner, but Chuck isn’t like that,” Evans said.  

Howard describes auctions as “big business” today, saying that the “ma & pa country auctions” are becoming a dying breed. Students in auctioneering schools are now learning things such as the psychology of selling and merchandise display. And auctions are more specialized than they used to be. One can attend an auto auction, a baseball card auction, a horse auction, or just about any category imaginable.  

Howard also explained how auctioneers got to be called “Colonel.” During the Civil War, the officers were in charge of selling off the Army surplus, and the name came to be associated with sellers of surplus goods. Although Howard doesn’t use “Colonel” in front of his name, he prides himself on his speedy and rhythmic chanting style. He said that the prize for the fastest chanters go to the tobacco auctioneers, however.  

“The chant is something you’ve either got or not,” Howard explained. “It’s not something that you can learn. But the more you do it, the more comfortable it becomes.”  

According to the auctioneer, the rule of thumb is to sell an item a minute. Most auctioneers start the bidding process on their best items within the first hour. They know that the longer the auction goes, the sparser the crowd will become.  

And you wondered why auctioneers talked so fast? Howard said that the biggest surprise of the day at the Armory was the high bid of $4500 for a lot of 6000 postcards.  

“That was a shocker. A 1950’s Coke machine went for $1500, and an Icart etching brought $2100.”  

Current “hot” items that people have been seeking are 1950’s furniture, according to the auctioneer. He sees is as a reflection of the interest shown by the Baby Boomer generation. Meanwhile, cast iron toys are “out” and 50’s wind-up toys are “in.” Howard’s job means that he needs to keep a continuous eye on the value of items, and he keeps tabs by talking with dealers who specialize in different categories of collectibles and antiques. He uses the Internet to help him in his work, too.  

Howard suggested that auctions offer an excellent way for a young couple to start their household. Most items sold at auction average ten cents on the dollar, he estimated.  

“Where else can you buy a coffeepot for a buck?” Howard asked.  

Or, for that matter, a hand-written travel diary describing a journey across the Atlantic a few years before the Titanic?
Cost for a new villa - $299,000. There are still some bargains on the Beach!! Come take a tour of the private beach, the heated indoor pool, and a 3 bedroom, 2½ bath villa. Start your year round vacation today.
“Snow Babies” at the County Library

Parents and their little ones are invited to come inside the LaPorte County Public Library for a special lap-sit program about winter and snow. Wear warm clothing and if there is snow, everyone will go back out and enjoy a fun activity.

The program is free. For more information, phone Children’s Services at 219/362-7128. The library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. in downtown LaPorte.

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“A Musical Afternoon” at the Gardens

On Sun., Jan. 26, International Friendship Gardens will present a program entitled “A Musical Afternoon” at St. Andrews Episcopal Church from 2-4 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

“A Musical Afternoon” will feature the Duneland Chamber Ensemble, instrumentalists performing show tunes, light classical numbers, and perhaps, Mozart. There will be vocalists as well.

The ensemble is under the direction of Daniel J. McNabb, well known in local musical circles. He is retired from the Michigan City School System where he was a teacher and choral director.

St. Andrews Church is located at the corner of U.S. 12 and Moore Road. Admission is $12, with proceeds benefitting the Gardens. For reservations, phone 872-0235, or mail a check to: International Friendship Gardens, P.O. Box 8834, Michigan City, IN 46361. Tickets will also be available at the door.

LBCC Ladies Bridge

December winners

1st place: Marge Pecn & Helen Stephenson 5670
2nd place: Jean Clancy & Jay Davis 4550
3rd place: Marian Kelly & Bev Else 4410
1655 N. 500 E., Michigan City
Fabulous 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 3056 sq. foot all brick ranch home on 5.725 acres. This home boasts of quality and has so many extras. Fantastic Florida room with hot tub overlooks inground pool. This home is neat as a pin with so many features. Close to Lake Michigan, Chicago and I-94.
$439,000  #62268  Ask for Larry @ 874-2121 ext. 19

101 S. 400 W., LaPorte
1 1/2 story on 1.5 acres. Nicely landscaped private setting. Lg. family rm w/fireplace and sliding door to deck w/bar & enclosed patio room & tennis court. Beautiful entry w/formal liv/din. room. Owner’s suite has lg. European - bath w/Jacuzzi and Electronics Shower Toilet. Kitchen w/appliances has breakfast nook and totally open to family room.
$259,900  #72950  Ask for Nancy @ 874-2121 ext. 34

3738 Malaga Dr., LaPorte
ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS is how this wonderful, newer home can best be described! Features start at the front door with this home’s magni-
cent leaded glass door and continues into the spacious, elegant living room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace. A fantastic great room combination with vaulted ceiling features an upscale kitchen, dining room and informal sitting area with gorgeous ceramic floors and sliding doors to the adjoining covered patio.
$274,900  #74423  Ask for Amy @ 874-2121 ext. 28

2729 Wozniak Rd., Michigan City
This fabulous 3 or 4 bedroom, 2-story home sits on a stunning 9.4 wooded acres. It features a formal living room and dining room, family room, large country kitchen, hot tub room, 2 fireplaces and so much more including a 30 x 40 6-stall horse barn, plus another 2-story barn, security and sprinkler systems, intercom, electric gates and riding paths. Truly special!
$599,000  #45630  Ask for Larry @ 874-2121 ext. 19

4928 W. Schultz Rd., LaPorte
You’ve found perfection with this beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath ranch in “feels like new condition!” Features include a walk-out basement with family room and possible 4th bedroom, formal dining room, living room with cathedral ceiling; floor to ceiling stone fireplace and more! Convenient country location in LaPorte school system.
$219,900  #74714  Ask for Amy @ 874-2121 ext. 28

744 Happy Landing Lane, Michigan City
Brand new quality construction! Beautifully finished ranch home with features you’re looking for. 3 nice sized bedrooms, master bedroom has its own bath & walk-in closet. Great room is stunning w/cathe-
dral ceilings & large windows overlooking private deck & large wood-
ed lot. The lower level has daylight windows, beautiful brick fireplace and a full bath. So many quality features, you must see this house!
$219,900  #73464  Ask for Larry @ 874-2121 ext. 19

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Be sure to watch our Century 21 Home Show Sundays 10 a.m. - Channel 48 in Michigan City and Channel 45 in LaPorte
Ken Mayner is not your usual parrot owner. As far as he knows, he is the only breeder of the colorfully-plumed birds in all of Northwest Indiana.

Ken, whose day job is a kindergarten teacher for the Gary school system, has been breeding Eclectus for the past seventeen years. And according to Ken’s description of the process, it’s not a hobby for those who like plenty of snooze time.

“I have to set my alarm clock every two hours after the chicks are born,” Ken explained. That’s because Ken has to hand-feed the newborns ‘round the clock during their first week of life. He uses a small dropper filled with premixed formula to deliver the sustenance needed for the tiny chicks to grow and thrive. As the weeks pass, the time between feedings increases, but the hobbyist’s diligence toward his hatched brood never lets up. In seventeen years, Ken estimates that he has raised between 600 to 1000 Eclectus, all which have gone on to good homes. Ken makes sure of that, he said, by interviewing the prospective new owners to get a feel of how invested they are in caring for the colorfully-feathered pets.

Ken started out years ago as a parakeet owner and eventually graduated to bigger varieties. He said he was attracted to the Eclectus’ talking ability and their colorful plumes. Ken’s breeding pair, Irving and Rosie, give him plenty of entertainment.

“Irving thinks he’s a human,” Ken said. Irving’s vocabulary includes everything from the standard “Hello” to “Holy Cow” and snippets of tunes such as “I left my heart in San Francisco.” Ken explained that Irving has a fear of moths. When one fluttered in through the patio door on a summer evening, Ken heard Irving tell the moth to “get out of here.” According to Ken, it was a devilish voice coming from Irving. Cat and dog owners cannot make such claims, after all.

When this Beacher writer visited Ken at his home in South Haven, do you think that Irving would talk? Of course not. Irving just stared. Maybe he saw the camera, pen and notepad and had a second sense about talking in front of a “reporter.”
“It’s unusual for Irving not to talk when someone is here,” Ken said. But when Ken left the room for a minute to retrieve a copy of his book, Eclectus Moments, Irving did say something. What, we could not quite make out. But Ken later said that Irving has been known to call out “Ken, where are you?” when his owner is out of the room.

The babies that Ken nurtures after they hatch will not show their gender for several weeks, according to the hobbyist. At two weeks, the chicks begin to develop a gray down. By five or six weeks, the chicks’ sex can finally be determined by the color of its pin feathers. The males show green, and the females, red. Ken’s schedule of feedings gradually decreases as the birds mature. By eight weeks, Ken needs to feed them only once a day. Care of the chicks puts a crimp on any vacation plans that Ken might want to make. And during the two-hour feeding routine, Ken takes the tiny chicks along to his classroom when school is in session.

“The kids are scared at first,” Ken explained. “Once the fear factor is erased, they warm up to the birds.” The kindergarteners, most from disadvantaged homes, get to see the Eclectus raising process firsthand.

“I like to expose my birds to people and company,” Ken said, adding that the feathery pets need motivation and stimulation to learn to talk. When he is gone during the day, Irving and Rosie listen to the radio or television.

Ken’s book, Eclectus Moments, is one of a series of six the hobbyist and author has published as a helpful guide for breeders and owners. The first of the series features photo illustrations of his breeder birds, the nesting box, and the chicks’ evolution from newly-hatched to 8-week old ready-to-fly parrot.

“To see the babies blossom is a thrill—a real miracle,” Ken said. “I take it for granted, but others have told me that I have a natural talent as a breeder.”

For more information about Eclectus breeding or owning a parrot, Ken can be contacted at (219) 364-1000.
CONGRATULATIONS
Randy Novak

Micky Gallas Properties is pleased to announce Randy Novak as TOP PRODUCER for the year 2002.

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3618 Ponchartrain • $549,000
Michiana Shores
Fabulous floor plan! Open, bright and so inviting 3 bedroom, 3 1⁄2 bath home. Tons of storage, extra living space in basement level. Japanese fountain in rear terraced garden. Easy walk to beach. The perfect escape!

3119 W. Shorewood Drive • $274,900
LaPorte
Come visit this sprawling 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath modern home in the country. Located on cul de sac between Michigan City & LaPorte. Vaulted ceilings, skylights, & open loft area. Jetted tub in master bedroom, tile entry, Laundry room in basement. Rear deck has hot tub, dry bar, expansive property with rear fencing & storage shed. Come be a part of this family friendly neighborhood!

17 Constitution Drive • $129,000
Congress Park
Great 2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse! An immaculate property with a great floor plan. Newer carpet, screened porch, gas fireplace in living room. Located within many conveniences, gated community with private pool & well maintained properties. Come & explore the possibilities.

2932 Mt. Claire Way • $335,000
Long Beach
Warm & inviting updated 4 bedroom, 2 bath cottage. Cathedral ceiling & fireplace in living room, formal dining room, bright new kitchen, wood floors throughout. Rear access, easy stroll to Lake Michigan.

3211 W. Shorewood Drive • $274,900
LaPorte
Come visit this sprawling 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath modern home in the country. Located on cul de sac between Michigan City & LaPorte. Vaulted ceilings, skylights, & open loft area. Jetted tub in master bedroom, tile entry, Laundry room in basement. Rear deck has hot tub, dry bar, expansive property with rear fencing & storage shed. Come be a part of this family friendly neighborhood!

2801 Belle Plaine Trail • $449,000
Long Beach
Lovely Tudor style 4 bedroom, 3 bath home on 3 lots bordering golf course. Living room has fireplace, built-in bookcases & French doors leading to outside. Cozy window seats in bedroom, den or office with lots of windows. Great family home!

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**Birding in Indiana**

**Bald Eagles**

Bald eagles by the hundreds are soaring into Indiana air space this winter. As lakes and rivers freeze up north, angling eagles wander south in search of open water.

“In summer months, we have a population of about 75 adult bald eagles in Indiana. In January and February, the population can soar to over 200,” said John Castrale, Indiana Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist.

Castrale spots more bald eagles in a day than many Hoosiers will see in a lifetime. He and his crew will zip along 700 miles of Indiana rivers and 300 miles of lake shoreline in a low-flying helicopter, swiveling chopper and necks to spot migrant and visiting eagles during the DNR’s annual bald eagle survey. Last year, Castrale logged 204 bald eagle sightings. In 2001, he counted a record 280 birds.

The count so far this year is down, probably due to relatively warm weather in Indiana and states to the north.

“It has been fascinating to see bald eagles make such a great comeback,” said Castrale. “I have flown these same rivers and lakes for nearly 15 years. Prior to 1987, we never counted more than 25 eagles and it wasn’t until 1992 when we first reached 100 birds.”

DNR is helping people find great bald eagle watching spots with online reports and guided eagle watch events. The DNR’s eagle watch web page (http://wildlife.IN.gov) features frequently updated reports on where to find wayfaring eagles, eagle ID tips, and information about DNR’s bald eagle restoration program.

Indiana’s eagle restoration program and other endangered species programs are funded by voluntary donations through the Endangered Wildlife Tax Checkoff on the Indiana income tax form.

**Where to Get Tax Forms & Information**

State and federal income tax forms are available at the Michigan City Public Library or the LaPorte County Public Library and its branches (the nearest one is the Coolspring branch on Johnson Road).

**Phone Numbers**

For Federal IRS tax information: 800/829-1040  
For Federal IRS forms/publications: 800/829-3676  
For Indiana tax information: 317/232-2240

**Internet Addresses**

Federal tax forms & information: www.irs.ustreas.gov  
Indiana forms & information: www.ai.org/dor/tax-forms  
Other states forms & information: www.taxadmin.org/fta/link

Tax forms are NOT available at the Post Office.

**MC Community Concert**

"Cantus" will perform in Michigan City on Jan. 21st.

The Michigan City Community Concert Association, Inc. announces the third concert of four during the 2002-2003 season. “Cantus” will perform on Tues., Jan. 21st at 7:30 p.m., at the Michigan City High School Auditorium, Pahs Road.

“Cantus,” founded in 1995 at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, has become a full-time, professional ensemble, gaining recognition as one of the finest male vocal chamber ensembles. Their performances have been met with overwhelming praise for their unique blend of youthful vitality and polished nuance.

“Cantus” repertoire spans many periods and genres, including Gregorian chant, Renaissance motets, contemporary sacred works, art songs, folk music, spirituals, jazz standards, and pop.

In addition to its work as a performing ensemble, “Cantus” is active as a proponent of music education, encouraging people of all ages, and especially young men, to sing. Its members are frequent clinicians at festivals, elementary and middle schools, high schools, and colleges and universities across the country.

Single admission is $17.50 at the door.

**Internet Class at Library**

Basic Internet classes will be held at the LaPorte County Public Library on Wed., Jan. 22nd at 9:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Phone 219/362-6156 and make a reservation. There is no charge for this class.

Basic Mousing 30 minute tutorials on computers for those new to computers are also available by reserving a time at the Information Desk, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte.
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Enjoy an olde-fashioned English menu of Potato Soup along with a choice of a 1.5 lb. Turkey Leg, Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, fresh Halibut or Fish & Chips...each with all of the trimmings for just $ 9.95

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Select Minestrone Soup or an Italian Salad to go with your own custom designed Pasta dish and Garlic Bread for just $ 9.50 in the Grill Room.
There’s a great selection of Pastas, Sauces & Toppings for you to mix & match.

TEN BUCK THURSDAYS
Thursdays from 5 p.m.
One of our most popular Grill Room Winter Warmers offers you a Green Salad along with an entree selection of Chicken Vesuvio, Pot Roast of Beef, Fried Battered Cod or an Apple Stuffed Pork Chop...with all the trimmings.

OTHER WINTER SPECIAL EVENTS...

BRUNCH
on Saturdays & Sundays 12-3 p.m.

MIND FULL MONDAYS
will return in January

Consulting the Oracle

The next time you do a Google search, type in “ask the oracle” (yes, use the quote marks) and see what happens. You’ll get several pages worth of websites offering you the chance to, um, “ask the oracle.” But it will take much more sifting than you want to do to come up with the super-duper all-inclusive “Ask the Oracle” site that I found. By accident, no less. Or, as some of the other oracle websites might have told me, my “pure soul” led me to it.

The “Ask the Oracle” website that I found has a longish URL, so be certain to copy it correctly: Http://12.27.0.34/oracles/oracles.asp?orig=redir. Got that? Good. Now let’s have some fun.

When you type in that long, long website address you will be taken to a page full of colorful choices. Think of a question, and choose among a menu that includes astrology, Tarot, Runes, I Ching, numerology, a fortune cookie, “yes or no,” word oracle, electric almanac, or “friends & lovers.” Some of you may want to plan to spend the day at this website.

And as if that isn’t enough, most of those menu choices contain subcategories once you click their pretty little individual icons. Within astrology, you can choose between “yesterday”—a natal portrait, “today”—just as it says, or “tomorrow”—a brief summary of your stars over the next three weeks. Click on the Tarot icon, and you will be given a choice of 12 card spreads and 6 different deck choices. In Runes, you have 7 spreads from which to choose. The I Ching delivers 7 styles, but styles here mean nothing more than a choice of colors. In Numerology, choose one of 3 report types among seven decks. For the Word Oracle, choose one or all of these categories: fortune and advice; philosophy and wisdom, or sarcasm and humor.

As I mentioned earlier, plan to spend the day at this website (I exaggerate). You won’t be able to resist trying out every one of the choices available to you. Unless you are absolutely in a hurry. In that case, click on the Fortune Cookie. You’ll be given an immediate answer to your pressing question. Whether the fortune cookie’s sage advice makes any sense to you is another question—one that only you can answer. Or not. Another quick and easy oracle to consult is the “Yes or No.” Just don’t ask any open-ended questions when you consult that one.

Of all the choices of oracles to consult, “Electric Almanac” impressed me the most. This oracle recommends the best dates for you to: start things, write or sign contracts; buy things; repair things; get your hair cut; get along with a boyfriend or girlfriend (or start or end a relationship); see a doctor or dentist; plant or harvest; and, curiously, dig for gold or drill for oil. All you have to do is pick a category, type in your birth date, and wait for the oracle to present you with a chart for the upcoming week.

Nowhere on this website does it say, “For enter-
Sharpen Your Computer Skills at PNC

Spring courses from Purdue University North Central’s Office of Continuing Education offer an opportunity to learn several computer skills. The schedule includes:

**Introduction to Windows 2000:** Wed., April 9 & 16, from 6-9 p.m. Covers basic and intermediate skills that apply to Windows 95, 98 and NT 4.0 and Windows 2000. You will learn how to create, rename, delete, save, cut, copy, paste, and edit files and folders. You will also learn to perform routine maintenance via the Windows Utilities program. The fee is $99 and a textbook is included.

**Introduction to MS Excel XP-2002:** Tuesdays, Feb. 4-25, from 6-9 p.m. Offers an introduction to the basic concepts needed to get started in this spreadsheet application. Topics covered include entering data into worksheets, using workbooks, formatting data, creating simple formulas and charting. The course requires a basic knowledge of Windows or the Windows Introduction class. Fee is $199 and textbook included.

**Introduction to Access XP 2002:** Wednesdays, Feb. 5-March 5, from 6-9 p.m. An introduction to the concepts of databases and the use of this particular application in a variety of ways. Topics include what is a database/data, tables and forms, filters, queries and keys, sorts and reports. Fee is $239, textbook included.

**Word XP:** Wednesdays, Jan. 22-Feb. 12, from 7-9 p.m. Covers three basic areas using Word (creating tables, formulas and charts; using mail merge to create labels and designing a newsletter). A basic knowledge of Word, as well as basic keyboarding and mouse skills are required. Fee is $169, textbook included.

To register for these courses, phone the Office of Continuing Education at 872-0527, ext. 5343 or visit www.pnc.edu

Support those who advertise in the Beacher! Tell them you saw their Ad!
CPR Class Offered at St. Anthony Memorial

St. Anthony Memorial Health Centers is pairing with the American Heart Association to offer CPR training to the community.

The CPR class will be held Sat., Feb. 8, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in Saint Francis Hall, located on the lower level of the hospital.

Cost of the basic course is $20. The cost for those seeking certification is $25-$30 and a $10 reference fee. Fees assist in instructor payment; they do not reflect income to the American Heart Association or to St. Anthony Memorial Health Centers.

Participants will learn adult, child and infant CPR, as well as foreign object airway obstruction removal. Additional teaching stations will be provided for those seeking certification to fulfill work requirements.

Phone St. Anthony Memorial Education Department at 877-1404 to register. Upon registration, you must identify if you are seeking a certification course and/or if you have any special learning needs.

A minimum of ten students must register for the class to be held. If registration requirements are not met, those who have registered will be contacted and their payment returned.

Field Station Early Learning Center

Spaces are still available for the afternoon session of Purdue University North Central’s Field Station Early Learning Center preschool program. Preschool classes meet Tues-Thurs from January to the end of May. The Center is located at Central Beach in Beverly Shores, in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and offers an innovative curriculum for pre-kindergarten children 4-6 years old.

For more information, phone the Field Station at 874-2470 or the Office of Continuing Education at 872-0527. Log onto their web site at www.pnc.edu

Purdue Bell Choir to Perform at PNC

Purdue University North Central will host a performance of the Purdue Bell Choir on Sat., Jan. 26, at 2 p.m., in the Library-Student-Faculty Building cafeteria. The event is sponsored by the PNC Alumni Association and admission is free.

The twenty members of the Bell Choir are under the direction of Jonathan Swoboda. The choir incorporates traditional handbell ringing with innovative techniques and varied musical styles ranging from classical to jazz.

Organized in 1979, the Bell Choir combines a five-octave set of Whitechapel handbells with a four-and-a-half octave set of Schulmerich handbells to perform as a double choir.

The Bell Choir is part of the nationally known Purdue Musical Organizations and has traveled to perform its unique style of music in several states. Concert mementos will be available for purchase.

Further information can be obtained by phoning the PNC Alumni Office at 872-0527, ext. 5697.

MHS Registration

Marquette High School is now accepting registrations for the 2003-2004 academic year for all grade levels. The next placement exam for incoming freshmen will take place on Sat., Feb. 1, from 9:30 a.m. until noon, at the Scholl Student Center. Reservations are required as well as a $15 testing fee.

Incoming freshmen who have already preregistered by taking the placement exam will receive a letter in the near future with a scheduled appointment to register for fall classes.

For further information, phone the Guidance Office at 873-1325. To view current happenings at the school, log onto their web site at www.marquette-hs.org

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

1:30-3 p.m. SECRETS IN THE SNOW. Explore beautiful wooded dunes in search of wildlife activity in the snow. If conditions permit, snowshoes will be used. Reservations are required by phoning 926-7561, ext. 225. Meet at Dorothy Buell Memorial Center.

3 p.m. FEEDING TIME AT CHELLBERG FARM. Help a ranger feed the farm animals.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

1:30-3 p.m. WINTER ON THE DUNES. Trundle over dunes to see winter’s signature on this windswept landscape, and search for wildlife activity in the snow. Then head to the beach to see the amazing features of shelf ice. If snow is deep enough, the park will supply snowshoes. Meet at West Beach parking lot.

3 p.m. FEEDING TIME AT CHELLBERG FARM.

For more information, phone 926-7561, ext. 225.
On a patient satisfaction survey about her son Tyler’s care, Linda Williams rated St. Anthony Memorial a “5” in every category but one. She gave our lab technician a “5+++++++”! She said, “Tyler needed a blood test a few months ago. The lab tech was absolutely fabulous! She was nice and gentle and really good at what she did. She got the sample with the first try. Tyler whimpered a bit, but he was all excited when it was done. Everyone in the reception area clapped. He thought he was just the biggest boy! One person can make a difference BIG TIME, and it seems everyone there is like that. They care like family.”

Tyler Williams, recent patient and JacQues Smalley, lab technician

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**Leading the Way**

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**Ice skating is now available** at the Community Center behind the building on the old tennis courts. A huge thank you to Bart DeLaBarre and the Long Beach Park Department for working diligently to bring this delightful winter activity to our community. Use of the ice skating rink is at your own risk. We strongly encourage parental supervision and all common sense rules apply. There is no skating when temperatures are above 32 degrees as damage may occur to the water barrier. The Community Center building is not open to the general public on the weekends.

Our **belly dancing instructor** is unavailable on Thursday evenings due to a scheduling conflict. Since most of you preferred Thursdays, we are searching for someone else to lead the class. If we are unable to find another teacher, there is a possibility of offering the class on Wednesday evenings. Your comments and suggestions concerning this turn of events are welcome.

The **Qi Gong class** being offered by the Dunes Arts Foundation is currently starting at 3:30 p.m. on Monday afternoons. An additional class may take place at a later time if there is sufficient interest. Please contact Kristine Kysel to express your interest and ask for more information at 874-2865.

**COMMUNITY = COMMUNICATION IN UNITY**

**PNC's Super Saturday**

Registration is underway for Purdue University North Central’s Super Saturday classes for high ability youngsters. The three-hour courses for children in the 1st through 8th grades will be offered on six Saturday mornings, Feb. 1 through March 8, on the PNC campus.

Classes are offered in the area of Letters and Languages and Science and Math. The classes are designed for fun as well as to develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills. Each is structured for a specific age group. The fee is $109.

Fun with Dr. Seuss (grades 1-2), Rock n’ Roll High School (grades 6-7), and Mad for Marketing (grades 6-8) are the Letters and Languages courses for spring.

Science and Math courses offered include Now You’re Cookin’ with Science (grades 1-2), Living Mathematics (grades 1-2), Baby Animals (grades 1-3), Rock Hounds, Let’s Roll! (grades 2-3), The Final Frontier (grades 2-4), Wild Safari (grades 3-4), and Colorful Chemistry (grades 5-6). Super Saturday is sponsored by PNC’s Office of Continuing Education. For more information, or a registration form, phone 872-0527, ext. 5343, or log onto www.pnc.edu

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**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Events**

Purdue University North Central will remember Martin Luther King, Jr. on Mon., Jan. 20, by participating in a variety of activities, including the 3rd annual PNC Dialogue, featuring the video “Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks” and subsequent discussion.

This is part of a day long series of events sponsored by the LaPorte County Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee and supported by PNC, Michigan City Public Library, Michigan City Schools and LaPorte Community Schools. All events are free and open to the public.

The day will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a Unity Breakfast at the A.K. Smith Center in Michigan City. The theme for this year’s event is “Diversity: Living & Learning Together.”

The PNC Dialogue will start at 2:30 p.m. in the Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02 on campus. Program coordinator Robert Mellin, continuing lecturer of English, will present “Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks”, a video recently released by Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center. A facilitated discussion involving PNC faculty and students will follow.

The last event will be hosted by the Unity Council of Healthy Communities of LaPorte County at 4 p.m. in PNC’s Assembly Hall to introduce Community Study Circles. This kicks off the Community Study Circles on Racism and Race Relations to take place in February. This will be an opportunity to learn what a study circle is and how to participate. A study circle will meet at PNC on six Thursdays from 3-5 p.m. beginning Feb. 6. For more information, phone Patricia Carlisle, 872-0527, ext. 5241.

**Adult Learning Classes at Art Center**

Many adult learning classes are starting during the month of January at the Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. 4th St., Chesterton.

“Organizing Your Paper Work” with Bobbie Atzhorn, opens on Thurs., Jan. 30, from 7-8:30 p.m. and is a one-session class designed to help you organize. The cost is $10.

Mary Ann Pals starts another beginning drawing class teaching how to see and how to draw. The cost is $60/members and $65/non-members for a 6-week session.

Another ceramic class is being offered by Teresa Maletta in late January. Phone the center, 926-4711 for more information.

New to the center will be a prismacolor class taught by Fred Holly. He teaches a step by step method good for beginners.

On Feb. 21 & 22, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., there will be a Henry Bell watercolor workshop at a cost of $55/members and $70/non-members.

All classes are held at the art center. For more information, phone 926-4711.
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-Mikail Pinette

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Conversational Italian courses will be offered again this spring through Purdue University North Central’s Office of Continuing Education.

Aldo Durazzo, a native of Italy, will teach these courses designed for people who travel to Italy for business or pleasure, or for those who have a general interest in Italian culture.

Italian the Easy Way will meet Thursdays, Jan. 30-April 3, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The fee is $199 and includes a textbook.

More Italian For Your Enjoyment will meet Thursdays, April 10-June 12, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The fee is $199 and textbook is included.

For information about these or other spring courses available through the Office of Continuing Education, phone 872-0527, ext. 5343, or log onto www.pnc.edu
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“Will it be like Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory?” Patrick asked.

No, the tour guide at Harry Quality London Chocolates assured as we started our tour. Too bad, Patrick wouldn’t mind wallowing in a vat of chocolate.

The Harry London Chocolate Factory in Canton, Ohio, we have been assured, is the place to find out how candy is made, as well as sample a generous assortment of chocolate. That sounds like time well-spent, so Patrick, Tom and I ventured there with my mom.

Harry London is a former Canton steelworker who began making candy with his father, Gilbert, as a youth. Making chocolate gifts for friends was a hobby for Harry that turned into a career after more and more requests came in for candy. People did not want to wait for their holiday present. Harry quit his job at the mill and began making candy in his home. He built his first chocolate factory in 1955. Another one replaced it forty years later, and now candy-making activities cover 200,000 square feet.

Quality is a priority at Harry London. Candy with a visible imperfection is placed with the boo-boos. Those are reserved for the people on tour and the staff. By the time we left, I had more than my share of peanut butter nuggets, fudge, peanut butter krispies, mocha melts and chocolate pretzels. It’s quite all right that all the truffles and caramels made recently were perfect.

Viewing a film about chocolate, we smile at columnist Bob Greene’s quote, “Any sane person loves chocolate.” As we learn the history of humanity’s involvement with chocolate, we are grateful that chocolate is no longer just for the affluent but sorry that physicians have stopped prescribing it as a cure.

Entering The Chocolate Hall of Fame, we get a look at Harry London and the home where chocolate-making began in Canton. We see a photo of the 25-pound chocolate egg that a dentist once ordered for a gift. Harry has died, we learn, but his offspring are continuing the tradition. The candy is now sold as far away as Japan, Malaysia and Hong Kong. More than 150 candies are in the gift shop. Corporations give the candy for gifts, and schools and other organizations use it for fundraisers.

In the tank room are tanks that can hold 80,000 pounds of chocolate and make 7,680,000 pieces of chocolate. A pipe carries corn syrup to the gourmet kitchen, where the centers of the gourmet chocolates are filled.

It is our misfortune to tour the factory at the end of the year, a time when inventory is done. Instead of making chocolates, the workers are counting candy. We watch the gigantic stainless steel container in which 100 pounds of ingredients are mixed, however, all the action we see is on video in the different areas. At one stop, the video shows how the cherry cream is put in the centers of the candy and how 100 caramels are wrapped a minute.

At the wedding and party mint room, I am surprised that such a large factory takes special orders. A worker spends days decorating the special-occasion orders as well as Santas and bunnies for the holidays. The dozen 26 to 28-pound Santas made each year are fully decked in confection of red suit, black boots and white beard.

We see the room where trays of caramels are cooling down, as well as where the candies are coated in chocolate and the cooling tunnel. A chocolate faucet that operates with a foot pedal is pointed out. Wouldn’t we like one of those in our home?

Our tour guide explains that accidents happen in chocolate factories just as they do elsewhere. Should the pressure gauge on a pipe go out, chocolate will spray. Such incidents are quickly noted and cleaned.

Throughout the factory, the pipes and walls are white. The guide explains that the workers all wear white. That way, dirt is noticed. Everything must be clean, and workers may not use perfume. Such scents would permeate the chocolate, changing the flavor.
In the gift shop, we have our fill of samples. I tell my sister later that I have a headache from eating too much chocolate. “Feeling sick is a sign of a good tour,” she replies. Thanks, Little Sis.

Harry London's Gift Shop is the place for buying souvenirs for Glenn, who could not make the trip to Ohio to visit the relatives. Poor kid had to fly to California to see the West Coast relatives with Grandma. Sure that he missed out while in his short sleeves in Death Valley, we buy him London mints.

Tour hours at Harry London Quality Chocolates are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reservations are not required but are recommended, especially during busy seasons. Tours are about 45 minutes. For Sunday tours, call 1-800-321-0444 for seasonal hours. The factory is located at Exit 113 off I-77 in North Canton. The web site is www.harrylondon.com.

Should lunch or dinner still be needed after the tour, we recommend the Hartville Kitchen for Amish cooking. The Hartville Kitchen is located minutes away at 1015 Edison St. NW in Hartville. I especially love Amish food for the soups, noodles and pies. The Amish Kitchen did not disappoint. My chicken noodle soup was filled with big chunks of chicken and wide noodles. My banana cream pie had slices of banana and a rich banana flavor. The others at our table enjoyed their chocolate peanut butter and coconut cream pies and pork chops. After eating, the Hartville Collectibles, a 20,000 square feet space of gifts and collectibles in the same building, can be toured. Hartville Kitchen is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. five days a week. It is closed Wednesdays and Sundays.
Scientists contend they've discovered how onions make people cry. When chopped or crushed, they create and release an eye irritant that make crocodile tears flow all over the kitchen. Researchers have discovered a previously unknown enzyme that plays a key role and they hope to block it.

Leave those onions alone! We onion lovers will go on donning our underwater goggles, or simply reach for the box of kleenex. (By the way, it is said that freezing the onion for 20 minutes before chopping helps keep the tears away.)

There are sweet onions (Vidalias, Walla Wallas, Mauis), yellow onions, red onions, Bermuda onions, leeks, scallions, shallots. The list goes on and on. Onions are used in many ways beyond being sliced and placed on top of burgers.

-- Caramelized shallots, thinly sliced, are great as a topping for meats, salads, etc. (for caramelizing onions in the oven instead of in a sauté pan, roast at 350º until they have a nice caramel color. Watch closely.)

-- The leek has been prized by gourmets for thousands of years. Nero believed leeks would improve his singing voice and is said to have eaten prodigious quantities to that end.

-- Shallots, an essential ingredient in the restaurant world, are favored for their mild onion flavor and are used in the same manner as onions.

ROSMARY-GLAZED VIDALIAS
1 c. dry red wine
2 T. sugar
1 T. chopped fresh or 1 tsp. dried rosemary
1 T. fresh lemon juice
1/8 tsp. ground cloves
1/8 tsp black pepper
2 medium Vidalia or other sweet onions, unpeeled
(aabout 1-1/4 lbs.)
Cooking spray
2 tsp. olive oil.

Preheat oven to 400º. Combine first 6 ingredients in a small saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium, cook, uncovered, until reduced to 1/2 cup (about 10 minutes). Set aside.

Cut onions in half lengthwise. Place onions, cut sides down, in a small baking dish coated with cooking spray. Drizzle oil over onions. Cover and bake for 25 minutes. Uncover and bake an additional 20 minutes. Remove from oven. Turn onions over, and pour the wine mixture over. Bake for an additional 20 minutes or until tender, basting every 5 minutes. Serve onions with wine mixture. Serves 4.

PEARL ONIONS IN CREAMY ONION SAUCE
1 stick unsalted butter
1 c. dry bread crumbs
3 medium onions, finely chopped
1/4 c. all-purp flour
2 c. milk
2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
2 pkg. frozen small whole onions

Preheat oven to 350º. Melt butter and pour half into small bowl and stir with breadcrumbs.

Add chopped onions to remaining butter and cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, until onions are soft but not brown, about 5 minutes. Sprinkle flour over onions and whisk to combine, bout 1 minute. Increase heat, slowly add milk and cook, whisking constantly, about 5 minutes. Stir in salt/pepper.

Place whole onions in 2 qt. Baking dish. Pour onion sauce over and mix well, spreading onions in an even layer. Bake 40 to 50 minutes or until topping is crisped and sauce is bubbling around edges.

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And now for my favorite. I've uncovered a weird recipe for onions. I didn't get a photo of this dish – it wasn't very pretty. But, oh man, the taste. Do you like onions? Do you like blue cheese, good blue cheese? And butter? And good narrow bread baguettes. No, this is certainly not a low cal dish. And its supposed to be a side dish – I found it better used as (1) a starter or (2) a resting place for a nice broiled lamb chop. I'm told you can soak narrow slices of onion (red, yellow, white) in milk or water to blanch the flavor a bit. I didn't – I left it up to the flavor blending of the good blue cheese and the melted butter. That worked very nicely. Try this one, you fellow onion lovers.

**ONION BLUE CHEESE BUBBLE**

- 10 ea. 1/2” slices good baguette
- 1-1/4 lb. red onions, thinly sliced
- 1/2 lb. blue cheese, crumbled
- 6 T. unsalted butter, softened
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1-1/2 tsp. basil
- 1 tsp. dill weed
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Arrange bread slices on dry baking sheet. Bake in preheated 400º oven 4 to 6 minutes or until lightly crisp and lightly toasted. Line bottom of lightly greased 8-1/2 by 11” baking dish with toasted bread without overlapping.

Separate onion slices into rings. Cover bread with onions rings. In small bowl combine remaining ingredients. Spread over onions. Mixture will be lumpy and some onions will remain covered. (I told you it was weird.) Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until top is bubbly and lightly browned. Watch carefully during final 5 minutes to avoid burning onions.

While I was working on this story, I discovered a great cookbook at the Michigan City library: *Onions, a country garden cookbook* by Jesse Ziff Cool. She tells us onion definitions (of themselves and their relatives), their seasons, seed sources if you want to grow your own. I was delighted by the recipes, like onion soup topped with crispy shallots and Gruyère toasts, roasted onions and figs with Gorgonzola croutons, winter squash and onion cheddar torta suggested for breakfast, meatloaf with caramelized onions.

Happy onions.

---

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Happy onions.
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

January 16 — United Way of LaPorte County Annual Meeting. 5 pm at the Blue Chip Conference Center & Casino, Michigan City. The public is invited to attend.

January 17 — Bookmarks at Noon. Nixon: Alone in the White House by Richard Reeves will be reviewed by Valparaiso University History Professor Buzz Berg. Free & open to the public. Held at the MC Public Library.

January 18 — Sons of Norway Scandiana Chapter meeting. 6 pm potluck to be followed by a video of Oslo’s Vigeland sculpture park. Held at the Westchester Library Annex, 100 W. Indiana St., Chesterton. Info: Jerry Moe, 219/465-4176 or Nancy Tuznik, 872-4946. Visitors welcome.


January 19 — Brass Ensemble Student Showcase. 3 pm. Held in the Duesenberg Recital Hall on the Valparaiso University campus. Free.

January 20 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day Events:
2:30 pm. PNC Dialogue in the Library-Student-FacultyBldg. Assembly Hall, Rm. 02 on the PNC campus, Westville. “Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks” video will be shown.
4 pm. Introduction to Community Study circles. Held in PNC’s Assembly Hall on campus. Info Patricia Carlisle, 872-0527, ext. 5241.

January 20 — Meditation group. 7 pm. Held at the MC Public Library. New members welcome.

January 21 — MC Community Concert. 7:30 pm. “Cantus,” all-male vocal chamber ensemble, in concert at the MC High School, Pahs Rd. Tix $17.50 at the door.

January 22 — Internet Class at LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. Register for 9:30 am, 1:30 pm or 6:30 pm class. 219/362-6156. Free.

January 23 — Books and Coffee series. The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold to be reviewed by Dr. Dorothy Bass. 4 pm in the Union Great Hall, Valparaiso University. Free & open to the public. Discussion follows review.

January 26 — Great Books. 2 pm at the MC Public Library. The Possessed by Fyodor Dostoyevsky will be discussed (reading through Part 2, chapter 8). New members invited.

January 16, 2003

phone 872-0235 for reservations.

**Places to Visit:**

- Great Lakes Museum of Military History, 360 Dunes Plaza, Michigan City. Info 872-2702 or on the web at www.militaryhistorymuseum.org
- New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker St., New Buffalo, MI. Open Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm; Sat-Sun, 10 am-3 pm (MI time). Info 269/469-5409.

**Farther Afield:**

- January 12-March 2 — Notre Dame Architecture Student Drawings: Designs for a New Snite Museum. New exhibit at the Snite Museum of Art on the campus of Notre Dame University, South Bend. Opening reception Sun., Jan. 26, 2-4 pm. Adm. free. Regular gallery hours: Tues & Wed, 10 am-4 pm; Thurs-Sat, 10 am-5 pm; Sun, 1-5 pm; closed Mon & holidays. Info 574/631-5466.
- January 21, 28 — Free clinic on a cappella harmony presented by the Sweet Adelines International for all interested ladies. 7 pm. Free. Held at River Park United Methodist Church, 920 S. 23rd St., South Bend. Info 574/288-2688 or log onto http://home.attbi.com/~riverbend

**Unity Foundation Scholarships**

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County is offering a variety of scholarships to LaPorte county students working toward their college degree.

Applications and required attachments must be postmarked or received at the Unity Foundation office no later than April 10, 2003. Applications and details for these scholarships are available at the high schools, or contact Unity at 879-0327. Scholarship descriptions can also be found on the Access LaPorte County Internet site: www.lc-link.org
Travels with Charley:

A Jolly Jubilee Tour of Saint Meinrad with Brother Maurus

by Charles McKelvy

Although he is now all of 70, Brother Maurus has the youthful vigor of a 20-year-old, and he owes that to the good, orderly life of prayer and work he leads with his fellow monks at Saint Meinrad. And, in a nod to The Beacher’s own Hal Higdon, Brother Maurus is still an active runner and heads out into the Swiss-like hills surrounding the archabbey at least three times a week.

Plus, as Guestmaster, he is Saint Meinrad's official tour guide.

And, as stated in the opening paragraph, he is one heavenly tour guide who can truly skip backwards while revealing the hidden treasures of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

How many tour guides do you know who can skip backwards while describing the wonders of a 3,844-pipe organ to a group of hyper-active school children?

Not many?

Then you need to make a pilgrimage to southernmost Indiana and take a free tour of Saint Meinrad Archabbey with Brother Maurus Zoeller, O.S.B.

That O.S.B., by the way, stands for Order of Saint Benedict, and Brother Maurus has been a Benedictine monk since August 10, 1952 when he thought he would just try it out for a couple of months to see if he liked it.

Well, the good Brother, who hails originally from a farm in northwest Ohio, liked the monastic life so much that he decided to stick around long enough to celebrate the 50th Jubilee of his Monastic Profession on August 10, 2002.

To help Brother Maurus celebrate his 50th Jubilee, a small group of us adult males from northwest Indiana and southwest Michigan joined Brother Maurus recently for one of his energetic tours of the Archabbey. Father Archabbot Lambert Reilly, O.S.B. himself warned us that we had better wear our best walking or running shoes in order to keep up with Brother Maurus, and we were glad we did, because the spirit-filled septuagenarian set a brisk pace throughout his hour-long tour that had some of us 50-somethings gasping for air. (After all, we were at “altitude” up there in the hills of southern Indiana’s “little Switzerland”.)

As you would expect of a monk, Brother Maurus was wearing sandals. Only his sandals were of the sort you would buy at a running store. You know what I mean — those sport jobbies made for running, climbing, and just plain zipping along at a bracing pace.

And zip along we did with a most merry monk who told us “that I could not find a better way to spend my life. I was 18 when I joined the monastery, and I never dreamed it would be my life.”
Brother Maurus said he was the 12th of 13 children and was inspired into religious life by the devotion of his hard-working German-American parents who managed to keep a family farm going during the Great Depression. However, when he entered Saint Meinrad in 1952, he figured he probably wouldn’t like it and then would go off and join the Navy and see the world.

But by the time he celebrated the 40th anniversary of his Monastic Profession, Brother Maurus reckoned that he was probably not going to join the Navy after all.

The Navy’s loss is certainly Saint Meinrad’s gain, and I gainsay any notion you might have of not making your own pilgrimage down to Saint Meinrad for the full tour with Brother Maurus and a time of rest, reflection, relaxation, and that good food and hospitality for which the Benedictines are famous.

As for the tour I took with Brother Maurus, I’ll let the photos accompanying this article speak for themselves.

And to speak with Brother Maurus and his confreres about availing yourself of some good Benedictine hospitality at Saint Meinrad, please call the guesthouse at: 1-800-581-6905, or visit: www.saintmeinrad.edu/abbey on the Web or e-mail: mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

Saint Meinrad is located about halfway between Evansville, Indiana and Louisville, Kentucky. From Michigan City, proceed to Indianapolis via your favorite route, and then take I-65 south to I-64 and follow I-64 to Exit 63 (Ferdinand/Santa Claus), turn south on State Road 162, turn left on SR62, go four miles through some gorgeous farmland and be prepared to stop being prepared.

For when you come around that last bend and see Saint Meinrad Archabbey gleaming on the hill, you’ll know you have come to a place of peace. Just remember to bring your best walking and/or running shoes.
On January 16, 1778, France initiated recognition of the autonomy of the United States. This contributed to America’s winning the Revolutionary War and achieving independence from Great Britain.

On January 16, 1883, Congress passed a bill creating the United States Civil Service system.

On January 16, 1936, Florida’s “Hialeah Race Track” installed the first electric-eye photo-finish camera to record the winner of each horse race, eliminating forever the question of which horse really came in first.

On January 16, 1944, American General Dwight Eisenhower took command of the Allied Invasion Force.

On January 16, 1964, the stage show “Hello Dolly,” starring Carol Channing, opened for a long Broadway run.

On January 17, 1706, Benjamin Franklin, elder statesman of the American Revolution, was born in Boston. During his long life he achieved fame in 21 lines of endeavor: He was a philosopher, statesman, man of letters, journalist, author, essayist, printer, publisher, economist, scientist, linguist, inventor, politician, capitalist, engineer, educator, diplomat, abolitionist, humanitarian, historian, and mathematician. Franklin had only two years of formal schooling.

On January 17, 1778, Captain James Cook discovered the Sandwich Islands (now the Hawaiian Islands), naming them after Lord Sandwich, head of the British Admiralty.

On January 17, 1871, Andrew Hallidie received a patent for a cable car system. The first cars began operating in San Francisco in 1873.

On January 18, 1782, American orator Daniel Webster, recognized as one of the ablest lawyers and statesmen of his time, was born in Salisbury (now Franklin), New Hampshire.

On January 18, 1911, pilot Eugene Ely landed his plane on the deck of the USS Pennsylvania, anchored in San Francisco Bay, for the first successful landing of an aircraft on the deck of a ship.

On January 18, 1912, an expedition led by English explorer Robert Scott reached the South Pole, only to discover that Roald Amundsen had arrived there first. Scott and his party died during the return trip.

On January 19, 1809, Edgar Allan Poe, “Master Teller of Tales,” who is recognized throughout the world as one of America’s greatest authors, was born in Boston.

On January 19, 1825, Ezra Daggett and his nephew, Thomas Kensett, obtained a patent for their process of storing food in tin cans.
On January 19, 1915, Frenchman George Claude patented the neon tube used in advertising signs.

On January 19, 1918, Dr. Herbert Kalmus was granted a patent for filming motion pictures in color. It was first used in a film titled “The Gulf Between.”

On January 19, 1937, Howard Hughes set a transcontinental air record when he flew across the United States in slightly more than 7 hours and 28 minutes.

On January 19, 1955, with the permission of President Eisenhower, a presidential news conference was filmed for television for the first time.

On January 20, 1801, John Marshall was appointed chief justice of the United States.

On January 20, 1887, the Senate approved an agreement to lease Hawaii’s Pearl Harbor as a naval base.

On January 20, 1891, Mischa Elman, Russian/American violinist, poet, and journalist, was born in the Russian town of Talnoye.

On January 20, 1941, Franklin Roosevelt became the first American to be inaugurated for a third term as president.

On January 20, 1986, Martin Luther King Day was observed as a federal holiday for the first time.

On January 21, 1813, John Charles Fremont, American explorer, soldier, and political leader, was born in Savannah, Georgia. In 1856 he was nominated as the Republican Party’s first candidate for President.

On January 21, 1915, the Kiwanis Club was founded in Detroit.

On January 21, 1954, the Nautilus, the world’s first atomic-powered submarine, was launched at New London, Connecticut.

On January 21, 1959, Hollywood motion picture producer Cecil B. DeMille died at the age of 78.

On January 21, 1976, Britain and France put the first supersonic Concorde into service.

On January 22, 1788, Lord Byron, one of the greatest of English romantic poets, was born in London.

On January 22, 1789, the first American novel, “The Power of Sympathy,” was published. It was a story of lust, seduction, incest, and suicide, and set the pattern for American novels of the day.

On January 22, 1791, President George Washington appointed a commission to survey the District of Columbia.

On January 22, 1849, dramatist August Strindberg was born in Stockholm, Sweden.

On January 22, 1973, at his ranch in Texas, former President Lyndon Johnson died at the age of 64.
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New Exhibits at the Brauer Museum

Exhibitions of etchings by one of the premier surrealists and photography by an internationally known photographer opens Jan. 24 at Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art.

An exhibition of more than 30 of Salvador Dali's Shakespeare etchings remain on display in the museum's main gallery.

Nearly 50 photographs by Lauren Greenfield will be on display in the 1214 and 1215 galleries. Works from the museum's permanent collection will be on display in the other galleries. The exhibitions run through March 23.

There will be an opening reception at 7 p.m. on Fri., Jan. 24, in the museum, which is located in the Center for the Arts on campus. It is free and open to the public.

The etchings by Spanish surrealist Dali are based on the works of Shakespeare. The etchings are on loan from the Salvador Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida. Archival copies of Shakespeare's "As You Like It" and "Macbeth" and text panels also are included in the exhibition which was brought to the University with the help of Marshall Rousseau, a VU graduate and the retired director of the Salvador Dalí Museum.

"The Dali Museum rarely loans things to other museums, so this is a special exhibition for us," said Gregg Hertzlieb, director of the Brauer Museum of Art.

The exhibition of Greenfield's work includes the photograph "I Approve of Myself-Showgirl" which is part of the museum's permanent collection. The exhibition, "Fast Forward: Growing Up in the Shadow of Hollywood," captures images of what it is like for teenage girls growing up in the Los Angeles area. Photos from the exhibition were included in Greenfield's 1997 book of the same name. Her recently published book Girl Culture also focuses on that theme.

Greenfield's work has been featured in The New Yorker, Harper's Bazaar, National Geographic, and The London Sunday Times Magazine. Greenfield will give a lecture at 7 p.m. on Sat., Jan. 25, in Duesenberg Recital Hall in the Center for the Arts. It is free and open to the public.

"Many consider Greenfield a modern master," Hertzlieb said. "Her work is relevant and deals with concerns with adolescence, popular culture, self-image and female identity."

On Fri., Feb. 21, Marshall Rousseau will give the lecture "From English Major to Dali Museum Director" at 7 p.m. in the Duesenberg Recital Hall.

On Wed., Feb. 26, at 7 p.m., Hertzlieb will give a gallery talk about the exhibitions in the museum.

The Museum is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues., Thurs. and Fri.; from 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Wed.; and from noon-5 p.m. Sat. & Sun. The Museum is closed Monday.

There are free, docent-led tours at 2 p.m. every Sunday.

For more information, phone 219/464-5365.

The Piano Tuner

by Daniel Mason

Burma in the late 19th century......when was the last time that subject came up at the breakfast table? Here's the gig: Britain was trying to subjugate the Burmese; wars and skirmishes had been going on for years. I don't understand why. There were so many tribes all speaking different dialects, all run by local princes and their henchmen. What's the point? I guess the British were still caught up in that "sun never sets on the British empire" line.

Anyway, The Piano Tuner takes us on a bizarre assignment from London to the northeastern interior of Burma in 1886. Our hero, Edgar Drake, is a piano tuner whose specialty is the French made Erard piano. The British War Office contacts him about making a trip into Burma to tune an Erard grand piano owned by Surgeon-Major Anthony Carroll. The kicker in this strange scenario is that they will pay him a year's wages for a trip that should take no more than three months. Who wouldn't be intrigued?

The obvious question surfaces: what is a British officer doing with a grand piano in the middle of a soon country? Perhaps it was the old adage "Music hath charm to soothe the savage beast." (Was that written by a Brit?) It seems Carroll has his own way of dealing with the natives and tales of his escapades traveled up and down the rivers of Burma, enhanced in the telling, of course. But the plain fact was that he was keeping peace in an otherwise explosive area.

The trip into Burma takes fully half of the book's 318 pages, but I found that illuminating, not tedious. From boats to trains to horseback, Drake takes in everything he sees and shares his wonder with the reader. The lush landscape of this far Eastern country is brought to life through his gentle observations.

Finally arriving at the village of Mae Lwin, Drake doesn't know what to make of Carroll. Instead of being the stiff-backed military man, Carroll knows and enjoys music and literature and finds his greatest joy in gathering and cataloguing the plants and flowers of the region.

Mesmerized by the land (and one particular woman), Drake tunes the piano, completing his appointed task, but finds himself reluctant to go back home.

There is a surprise ending to this story, one, I confess, I didn't see coming. This is another of those "love it or leave it" reads. Some might find the narrative boring; others will find it stimulating. The New York Times Book Review had this to say about The Piano Tuner: "Thoroughly engaging, an excellent early 21st century reproduction of a late Victorian novel....The reader finds an excellent guide to the wonders and sorrows of another place and time."

This is a first novel for author Mason, a medical student, who spent a year studying malaria on the Thailand and Burmese border.

Till next time, happy reading!
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THE LEAVE BEHINDS. The owner says they will leave the furniture and the furnishings in this 4 bedroom, 3 bath Long Beach home. Hidden on .87 acres of wooded dune, only 2½ blocks from private Lake Michigan beach, there is perfect privacy for decks, balconies, brick patios. No grass to mow, just enjoy the beach. Possession negotiable. $660,000

CALL FOR DIRECTIONS to this hard to find Long Beach contemporary with the golf course on 2 sides, over ¼ acre lot and 2700 plus square feet of comfortable living area. 5 bedrooms, 2½ baths, lets everyone have a bedroom. The family rom is available for guests. Screened porch, dining room. Double garage. $429,000

LOCATION, LOCATION! Ease into this pristine two-story town home with two full baths and built-in garage. High ceilings and dramatic windows in living room. Sunroom, dining room and deck look out onto nature preserve. All appliances come with home. Available immediately. $105,000

DIRECTIONS: Carroll Ave. to Indian Ridge Condominium

NEW LISTING

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, January 18 • 1-3:00 p.m.