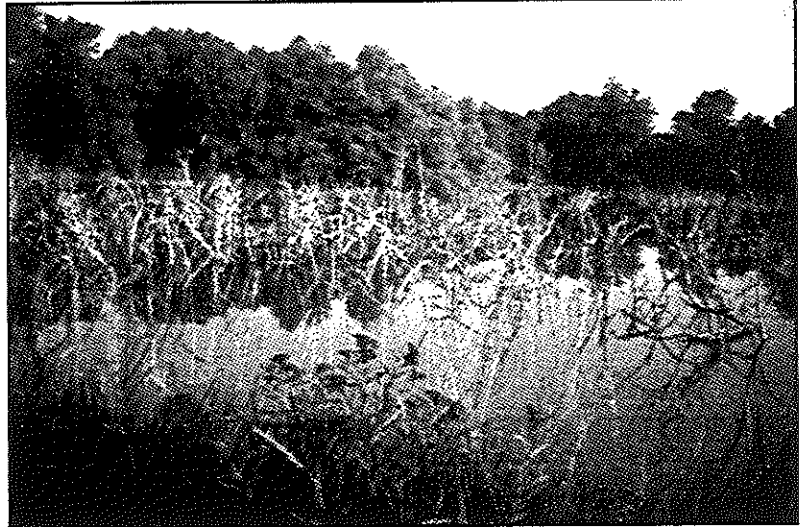
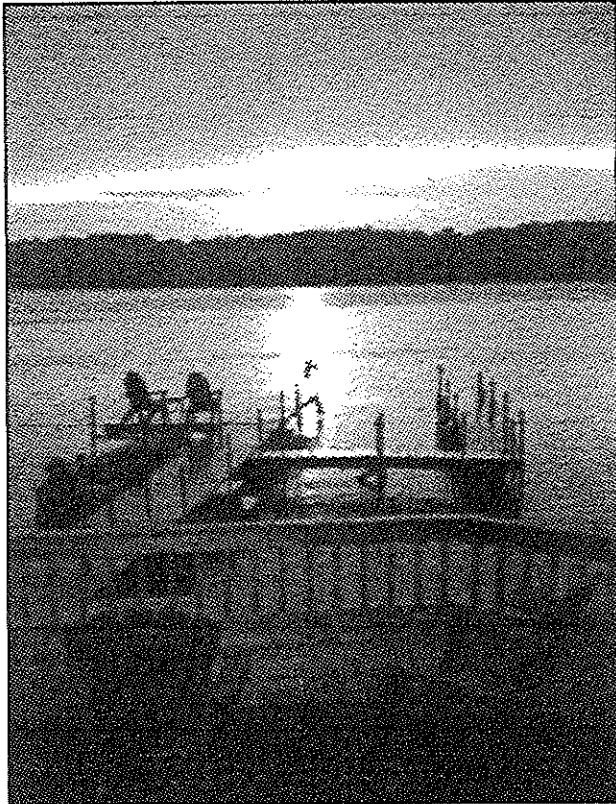


Birch Barker

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

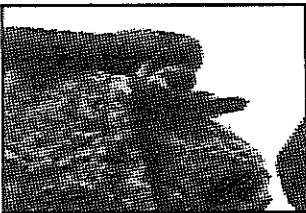
Volume Ten, July 28, 2001

July in the neighborhood



The Birch Lake neighborhood has a lot of faces in July, and this year, most of them have been hot. Here are a few scenes that greeted lakers this week as rains and high humidity drove many people indoors (or into the water).

photos by Phil Vitale



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

I hope everyone found a treasure at the Birch Lake Garage Sale. It was nice getting around the lake checking out the sales.

I spent a lot of time in the lake last weekend trying to get some relief for the hot weather. Hopefully, it will cool down a little for the golf outing. John Ball has the outing filled with 60 golfers. Good luck to the participants.

The Ladies Luncheon is close to being sold out according to Maryann O'Neill. It's

nice to see the outstanding participation at these events. I want to thank the chairpersons for setting up these interesting and exciting events.

There is still room to sign up for the Ladies Golf Outing or just come to lunch with the golfers at Lindy's. I know Mardy Miller and Betsy Custard have a fun morning of golf planned with some fantastic prizes. Come join the fun.

Betsy also tells me the final order of sweatshirts has been placed. For those of you who ordered sweatshirts at the pancake breakfast and Vice Commodore's party, your order

is in and ready for pick up. The later orders should be in next week. Southsiders pick up your orders from Denny Weesner and all others pick up at Betsy's or Mardy's house.

Buzz and I have delivered most of the video tapes. If you haven't received yours, you can pick it up at one of our houses.

I want to thank everyone that purchased sweatshirts and VHS tapes. There were great fund raisers and the proceeds help underwrite many of the events we have plus help with the up keep of the Yacht Club.

*Your Commodore
-Mike Machalleck*

Birch Lake Calendar

- 7/28 - KIDS Science 12:30-2 pm
- 8/1 - Ladies Luncheon, 12:30
- 8/3 - Ladies Golf & Lunch
- 8/4 - Jimmy Buffett Party
KIDS Olympics 10:30 am
- 8/11 - Kids Regatta 1 pm
- 8/18 - Corn & Sausage Roast
BLYC Board Meeting 9am
Homeowners Assn. 9 am
- 8/25 - Fall Dinner/Annual Meeting
- 9/3 - Labor Day Regatta
- 11/22 - Turkey Day Regatta



If you have items for the BARKER, please put the materials in the Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore) by 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, or e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com by Monday at Noon. If you must, mail (10 days prior to desired publication date) to Phil Vitale, 122 So. Michigan, So. Bend, IN 46601, or fax your items to (219) 232-3853. To contact me, call Phil at 476-1680 or (219) 232-3735.

Note: All times in the Barker are IST (Indiana Standard Time) unless stated otherwise

Birch Lake Notes

Jimmy Buffett Party

Join us Saturday, Aug 4th at 7:00 PM (Indiana time), at Desdemona's Rocket Ship (BLYC). Break out those "Island Clothes" and join us at Sharkey's Bar for Margaritas, beer, and various other libations, and of course, Jimmy Buffett music. Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share.

-Jim and Sally Beck

Doba inducted

Several Birch lakers spent Saturday evening watching Bill Doba's induction into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. This is a well-deserved recognition of Bill's outstanding career as a player and a coach.

Bill played ball at New

Carlisle and Ball State and coached at local high schools including Goshen and Mishawaka. Bill then went on to coach at IU, Purdue, the Citadel and has been at Washington State University for the past 12 years.

A complete story is on page 5 of the July 22 South Bend Tribune.

Congratulations Bill, Judy and family.

"Peaceful Waters of Birch Lake"

August 1, 2001
12:30 Indiana Time
\$9 per person

This year's luncheon is planned around the theme "Peaceful Waters of Birch Lake." The lake may not always

be peaceful but it is where we all come to seek peace and unwind. The committee has great plans for decorating the Yacht Club with this theme and we hope you will be able to attend this relaxing afternoon for women. You will not be disappointed!

While you munch on an array of appetizers you will have plenty of time to enjoy the craft items that will be on display. A variety of hand-made items by several Birch Lake crafters will be on sale, so don't forget your checkbook! Visit with old friends, take time to make new friends and meet your Birch Lake neighbors before lunch is served.

Make sure you leave room

for lunch, as a tasty menu has been planned. Shish Kabobs will be grilled to perfection by some of the finest grilling experts around, the men of the East Side!

Don't be late, you don't want to miss out on any of the fun, fellowship, crafts, food or the door prizes that will be given away!

There are a limited number of tickets for the Ladies Luncheon and they are flying out the door! If you haven't got yours yet, call now so you won't be disappointed because you waited too long.

Call: Darlene Troyer 476-2639 or Helen Toth 476-2877. Tickets will not be sold at the door, reserved seating only.



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Kids say the silliest things

Kid pet quotes:

A puppy always has bad breath — even after a tic tac!

-David 9

Never trust a dog to watch your food!

-Cody 6

Playing ball with the dog isn't fair, they have 4 legs to run with!

-Wyatt 4

Dog treats don't taste as good as they look!

-Rick 49

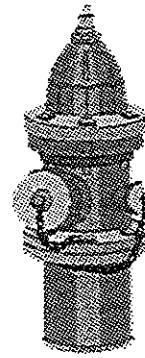
The Nose Knows: Ever notice the first thing Fido does when you walk in the door is sniff your legs? He smells where

you've been and even how the experience affected you. Dogs sniff each other and each other's secretions to tell age, breed, sex etc. The membrane inside the nose is four times greater in area than in humans, and there are over 200 million scent receptors in the nasal folds compared to our 5 million. Moisture on the nose helps to capture and enhance the scents. This is why Fido licks his nose so much. Maybe we should be asking Fido to smell the meat first to see if it smells OK to eat?

Have as much fun this weekend as a Lab in a tennis ball factory!

-Fido's Friend

Checking his p-mail



Sailing News

Even a little bit of wind is better than none at all! Sunday our sailors came out to intense heat, and very little wind, but persevered to complete two races in each class. Don Harman captured two first place finishes in the MC Class, followed by his son Rick, and Harold Cranmer in the first race. Rick also finished 2nd in the second race. Harold did not start the second race due to rigging problems. In the sunfish division, Bob King scored two victories. In the first race, DeWayne Weaver finished second, followed by Rick Russwurm third, and Jeff Howard fourth. In the second stanza, Jim Bolinger finished

second, Rick Russwurm third, Jeff Howard fourth, and Jodi Meyers fifth (in her new boat), Dewayne Weaver sixth.

Thanks to all of you for coming out. These are the first races we've been able to have since the 4th of July Regatta!!

Thanks to Don Harman and Harold Cranmer for setting the marks. Also thanks to my crew on the committee boat, my wife Sally, Phil and Sandy Vitale, and Bruce Wagner. Security was provided by my Chocolate Lab Stewart!!!

See you on the water.

-Jim Beck, fleet captain 2001

PS Don't forget the Kidzgatta, Sat. Aug 11 at 1:00.

Ladies' Golf Outing

Park Shores Golf Course, Cassopolis

Friday, August 3, 9 am (IST)

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Betsy Custard 476-9835 or 219-255-8894

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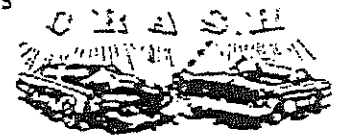
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Birch Lake "Wildlife" - MAYFLIES

by Darlene Troyer

One of my many childhood memories of Birch Lake is of Mayflies. I remember visiting my Uncle John & Aunt LaVeta at the lake before my parents bought our house on the east side. When we came to visit they would periodically have these bugs hanging on their house, the pier and everywhere in between. It seemed like thousands of bugs to me! You couldn't walk without hearing them crunch, yuck. I thought that Birch Lake must be a very buggy place to live. In 1963 my parents bought the house we now live in and I soon learned that Mayflies inhabited the East Side of Birch Lake as well as the Cove. My parents had bought a home on this "buggy" lake as a retreat!

Whoever heard of a retreating with thousands of bugs? Those Mayflies became a source of fascination for me, they were so delicate and they reminded me of tiny sailboats that sailed on the breezes of Birch Lake. I truly felt sorry for them as they lived such a short life and I was always glad I was not born a Mayfly! The mayfly hatches have dwindled considerably over the years on Birch Lake but we had a considerable hatch a few weeks ago that brought back this memory. So, this week's Wildlife article is all about the Mayfly.

There are approximately 120 Mayfly (Ephemeroptera) species. Most Mayflies have two tails but some three tailed species are present. These tails are visible throughout most of the developmental stages. In the adult the tails are often as long as the body. Mayflies have two large, upright wings, and most have two very small hind wings. Spring Mayflies tend to be dark in color with dark gray wings and dark brown or olive bodies.

Summer Mayflies are lighter in color, most likely to blend in with the background and escape their many predators. The wings become pale gray and the body is yellow to pale buff or olive. Then in September and October, emerging flies are darker again.

Mayflies require clean, unpolluted water

that is generally well oxygenated. They are one of the first aquatic species to disappear when water pollution occurs. The use of gasoline motors on our lake and the resulting pollution keeps the Mayfly population on most of our lakes relatively low.

Mayflies live in flowing or still water and occasionally can be found at depths to 200 feet. Life Cycle of the Mayfly: Egg, Nymph, Dun (sub-imago), Spinner (imago), Adult! Adults swarm and mate in flight. In these swarms the male adult will fly up and down (dippers) while the female flies through the swarm. In this pass-through, a male seizes a female and mating takes place. These mating swarms generally occur at dawn or dusk.

Eggs are deposited while the female adult is in flight skimming over the water's surface where she will lay as many as 8,000 eggs. Some species will submerge below the surface to lay their eggs among the vegetation. The egg hatches into an underwater form called a nymph that will develop while hiding on or under the lake bottom vegetation, often burrowing into the mud.

Nymphs feed on algae, and vegetable or organic matter that has settled to the bottom while they grow. The nymphs grow from a very small size through progressively larger stages, each stage is accompanied by a molt.

The insects hatch in the lake sediment, where they can spend up to two years before swimming to the surface and flying to shore. When the nymph is fully grown, it swims to the surface and changes into a winged fly called a dun (sub-imago) by splitting its nymphal skin and emerging from it. They vary greatly in shape, depending on the ecosystem they have become adapted to, such as fast or slow water. The whole process, from the time the mayfly nymph swims to the surface of the lake and the eggs are deposited, takes only 72 hours.

Dun (sub-imago) hatches usually begin around the last half of April. Hatches continue throughout the season right up until the first fall frost. Mayflies may hatch "en masse" in a

few hours or it may take several weeks for the brood to complete a hatch. The dun is not an adult but is fully winged.

The dun often sits on the water with its wings held upright over the back as they dry. Once the dun has dried its wings, it takes flight and lights on nearby trees, buildings, sidewalks and roads. Here at the lake they seem to prefer house screens, decks and piers. They rest for a period of a few hours to a few days while gradually transforming from dun (sub-imago) into adult as they undergo a final molt into a spinner (imago). Spinner (imago) The adult spinner does not feed after this transformation.

They will mate within a few days and then immediately die. The dead or dying adult will then lie on the waters surface with wings spread and, at that point, is referred to as 'spent.'

The mayfly is a water quality indicator. This year the mayflies have alighted along the Pennsylvania shore in record numbers — at least four times more numerous than two years ago. Ok, so what does that have to do with Birch Lake you're wondering? It appears that as much as we detest the zebra mussels they have been found to be an unlikely benefactor. These rapidly multiplying stripped black and white mollusks filter large amounts of water as they feed on algae and impurities, which allows sunlight to reach deeper depths. Strange as it may sound, the zebra mussels are reported to be cleaning up the water so that we have oxygen in the lower reaches of the lake and it is believed that there is a strong correlation between their arrival and the mayfly's resurgence. These aliens who hitchhiked from southern Russia's Black and Caspian Seas to the Great Lakes in ocean-going ships' ballast in the late 1980's are considered the scourge of the waterways. They are here to stay at Birch Lake but they may be a benefit to the lake in some small way after all.

Take time to enjoy the wildlife Birch Lake has to offer! Respect them so that they will be around for generations to come!

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PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE PROJECT

Last year marked the start of the Birch Lake "Purple Loosestrife Project." Nine sites were identified on the shorelines of Birch Lake. All nine sights were cleaned up by

1. Identification
2. Bagging to prevent the seeds from spreading before the plant is dug out
3. Digging the plant out.

This year, so far, one new sight has been identified and one old sight has returned. We need to keep looking for the pinkish-purple flowers. This plant blooms from June through September along the shoreline. Although it has been found on all the shores of Birch Lake, it seems to favor the West Shore where two thirds of the past sightings have been identified. If you see this weed or are not sure, please let us know so we can identify and advise or assist in the proper removal of this weed.

Purple Loosestrife can sprout about a centimeter a day. Mature plants produce between 100,000 to 2-million seeds every year. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has dubbed it "**PUBLIC ENEMY #1.**" Purple Loosestrife is an exotic species, therefore has no natural enemies. Sometimes referred to as the "*PURPLE PLAGUE.*" It is a serious problem.

The seeds are believed to have made it to the U.S. in the 1800's via ship ballasts dumped into New York harbor and in imported wool. Helped along by inland waterways, Loosestrife spread to ponds, marshes and river banks. It was an easy invasion. Loosestrife left its natural predators back in Europe. The plant can produce millions of seeds per plant. Loosestrife is among the 12 most wanted "alien species" putting it in the company with zebra mussels and brown snakes.

-From MLSA Michigan Riparian

Purple Loosestrife Sales Are Banned In Michigan

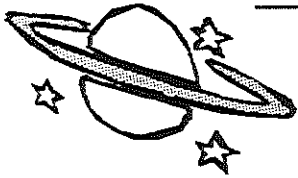
Purple loosestrife is a native of Europe and Asia which has spread throughout much of United States and Canada. As often occurs with exotic species, the plant has no natural enemies. Sometimes referred to as "purple plague," it is a serious problem. Because the flower is so attractive, purple loosestrife has been sold as an ornamental plant. Recently, many states including MICHIGAN have banned its sale.

-From Sea Grant, Michigan State University

House Bill #4774 was introduced by Representative James Middaugh on May 5, 1995 and was signed by Governor Engler on October 24, 1995. It became Act #182 Public Acts 1995. The Act amended "THE INSECT PEST AND PLANT DISEASE ACT: Act #189 Public Acts of 1931, and became effective on March 28, 1996. House Bill #4474 would create an act to regulate the planting, cultivation, sale, offering for sale, distribution and transportation of certain non-native plants and to specify penalties for selling Purple Loosestrife.

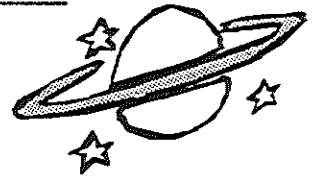
Act 182 Provisions (Section 16a; paragraph 2, & 4) (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, in this state, a person shall not sell, offer to sell, or distribute seed from Purple Loosestrife. (4) As of January 1, 1997, retail sales of Purple Loosestrife are not allowed in this state except for cultivars developed and recognized to be sterile and approved by the director of the department of agriculture.

-From MLSA Michigan Riparian



Stu's Star Stuff

The moving planets



Why do planets change position in the night sky?

If you have not seen the early morning sky in a week or more, you might be caught off guard by Venus' swift motion. Two weeks ago it was near Saturn. Now Venus has past Saturn and is barreling toward Jupiter. Venus will pass 1 degree below Jupiter on August 6. Continue following it through early August and watch Venus close the gap.

Tomorrow and Monday the Moon is near Mars. Sunday it's 9 degrees to the upper right of the Red Planet, and 6 degrees (12 moon diameters) above Antares, in Scorpius. Monday

night the Moon is 7 degrees on the other side of Mars, to the planet's upper left.

So why does it seem that the planets are in a different location in the sky from one night to the next? The planets appear to change position against the "fixed" stars in the night sky because of the relative motion of both Earth and the planets as we all move along in our orbits around the Sun. The swift-moving inner planets, Venus and Mercury, can move from morning to evening appearances and back again in as little as a few months. The giant outer planets such as Jupiter or Saturn, with orbits taking decades to complete, appear to move more

slowly against the background of stars.

Most of the time, the planets move EASTWARD through the stars. But for awhile each year, they stop their eastward motion against the background of stars, then turn around and start to move WESTWARD — a motion known as retrograde.

This change in course baffled astronomers for millennia. But in the 1500s, Nicolaus Copernicus suggested that the retrograde riddle could be solved by assuming that Earth and all the other planets revolve around the Sun — a blasphemous notion (much like IST) that gave birth to modern astronomy. The planets themselves are still moving

forward in their orbits — only our perspective changes. Earth is closer to the Sun than Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, so we move faster. As we overtake and pass these planets, they appear to move backward — just as a car you overtake on the highway appears to move backward against the background of buildings and trees for awhile.

Next week, the Subaru logo and a horrifying thought. Until then, try to coerce yourself into rising early enough to keep track of Venus and Jupiter. The show never stops, so enjoy. It's free.

-Stewart Spratt



Best of Beck's Bistro

Roast Beef and Parmesan Curls

6 cups mixed salad greens, torn, washed, and dried
2 celery stalks, washed and thinly sliced.
1 16 oz piece (about 3/4 inch thick) deli roast beef,

cut into 2 1/4 inch strips.

1 6 oz jar marinated artichoke hearts, drained and halved

1 cup cherry tomatoes, washed and halved

1/4 cup black olives

4 Tlbs Olive Oil

1 1/2 Tlbs red wine vinegar

1/2 tsp dried basil

1/2 tsp salt

Pinch of Pepper.

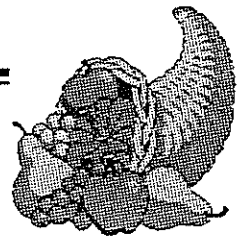
1 2oz wedge of Parmesan, at room temperature.

Place salad greens and celery in a large serving bowl. Add roast beef, artichoke hearts, tomatoes, and black olives. For dressing, whisk oil, vinegar, basil, salt, and pepper in a small bowl. Pour dressing over salad; toss to coat. Arrange on plates. Shave large curls of Parmesan with a peeler for garnish. Serves 4 to 6

Spiced Rum Mai Tai

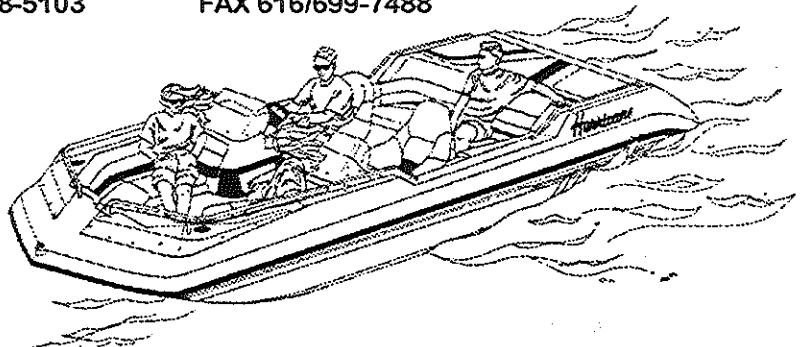
11/2 oz Captain Morgan Spiced Rum
1/2 oz Lime Juice
1/2 oz Almond Syrup
1 tsp sugar
2 oz Orange Juice
dash of Grenadine

Combine in a shaker or blender. Strain over ice in a high-ball glass. Garnish with a slice of lime.



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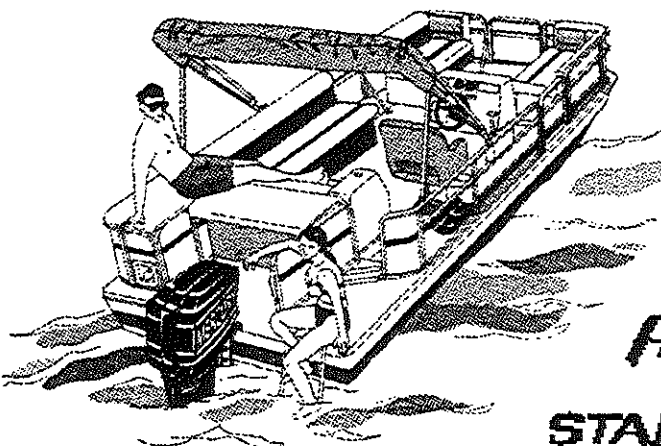
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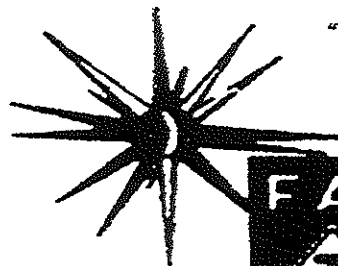
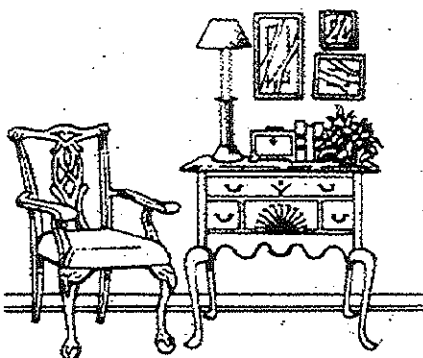
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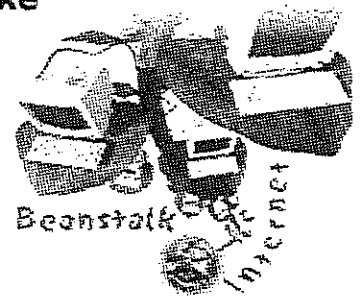
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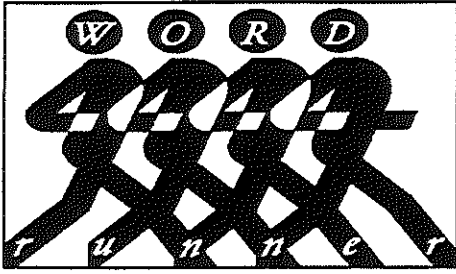
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Somebody's Hero

Once we move to the lake in late May, we try to spend as little time away from here as we can. We scan the weather forecasts in search of the lousiest day of the week so we'll know when to go grocery shopping, and we try to bunch 50 errands into one trip rather than split them up and create less hectic and more doable schedules.

Late last August we turned a cloudy Wednesday afternoon into a shopping marathon, and while Shirley Anne chased through one list of "things to get," I worked on another. Division of labor doesn't always work in our household because I have a tendency to sacrifice bargain shopping for speed buying, but we wanted to get back home early, so she turned me loose with a credit card and an assignment or two.

I sailed along South Bend Avenue near Notre Dame and decided to detour to a record and CD store adjacent to a frozen yogurt shop in one of the shopping plazas west of Ironwood. As long as I was breaking ranks, I might as well maximize my indulgences and squeeze in both unscheduled stops before my rendezvous deadline with my more disciplined wife.

When I entered the music shop two cus-

tomers were browsing the racks and two clerks stood behind the counter, chatting. As I strolled the first aisle and stopped at a bargain bin, I noticed one of the clerks, a very pretty young woman in her early twenties had turned her back on her colleague so she could watch me. Maybe I looked like a potential shoplifter, I thought, but when I returned her glance, she smiled warmly, and I knew I'd never seen her before.

When I reached the jazz section I began flipping through the inventory and suddenly she was standing beside me.

Another smile, a bigger one this time.

"Can I help you find something?"

"No, thanks," I said. "I'm not looking for anything in particular, just browsing."

"We have some other jazz recordings in those boxes in the corner, and Rock is on the next aisle if you like that too."

"Okay. I do and I'll take a look at all that." I moved sideways a step or two. Did she give this level of attention to everybody? It seemed unlikely.

"I haven't seen you in here before," she said.

I nodded. "It's been a while. I don't get over this way that often."

She crossed her arms behind her back and rocked on her heels and toes as she watched me flip CD's. "I've only been working here a few months, so I've probably missed you."

"Uh-huh." By this time I had become pretty damned uncomfortable, because I had no idea what was going on. As much as I hate to admit it, I wasn't such a big hit with most pretty young women when I was 22, and I certainly haven't attracted hordes of them since then. Shirley Anne saw something in me back in the early sixties, but she was then, as she is in all ways now, atypi-

cal.

"You don't remember me, do you, Mr. Blue?" my new admirer said.

It was my turn to stare. "No, I don't"

"I've always wanted to tell you how much I appreciate what you did for me."

"You have?"

"You are definitely my mother's hero."

"I am?"

"You class was really tough, but you were one of the best teachers I've ever had, and you're the only person who has ever gotten me to understand anything about math. You gave me a C but I really felt good because I knew I had learned something."

And at last, came the dawn. "Do you go to IUSB?"

She gave me a "Surely, you've got to be kidding" look. "Yes."

"Then you've mistaken me for my brother."

"You're not Jeffery Blue."

"Nope," I said, "I'm his non-teacher brother."

She blushed. "Oh, I'm sorry. I took a class from him two years ago, and I never run into him at school. I was sure you were him."

"I'll be sure to tell him what you said. I know he'll appreciate it."

I bought a couple of CD's and left the shop on the run. I had to skip the frozen yogurt so I could be on time to meet Shirley Anne. It felt a little weird to have been the object of such adulation only to lose it when my mistaken identity came to light. I guess that it is so rewarding to be somebody's hero that it feels good even if the experience lasts for only a moment, and even if the spotlight you stand in was intended for somebody else.

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A letter from our friends at Camp Tannadoonah

July 12, 2001

Mr. Machalleck, Commodore
Birch Lake Yacht Club
14874 Birch Lakeshore Drive
Vandalia, MI 49095

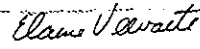
Dear Mr. Machalleck and the Birch Lake Yacht Club:


Thank you for your dedication to Camp Tannadoonah. Your pancake breakfast was a great success again this year! Many lake residents had an opportunity to visit with friends and enjoy the pancakes.

Your financial support is greatly appreciated. The donation will help with many camp improvements and possibly the storm clean up.

We enjoy having the lake youth attend the camp and look forward to serving future generations of campers on Birch Lake.

Thank you for your support!


Elaine Veevaete
Executive Director


Kay Schilling
Board President



Birch Lake Yacht Club Contributions

\$ ___ - BLYC Member Dues (\$20 / year)
\$ ___ - Homeowners Assoc. (\$10 / year)
\$ ___ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
\$ ___ - Building Improvement Fund
\$ ___ - Fireworks Display Fund
\$ ___ - Water Quality Program
\$ ___ - Other _____
\$ ___ - Riparian (\$7/yr, provide address)

TOTAL _____
\$ _____

Make checks payable to:
Birch Lake Yacht Club

Mail to:

Holly Troeger, Treasurer
1516 Ash Drive East
Elkhart, IN 46514

Drop off:

63696 Birch Road (call 476-9898)

HANDY TIP

MUSTY BOOKS can be a real problem especially when they sit enclosed in your cottage all year. Here's a easy way to remove the smell. Place the books in a brown paper sack along with some clean cat litter. Close the bag tightly and leave for a week. When you take the books out there will be no odor!

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