

Birch Barker

Weekend of Aug. 2, 2003



The winners are
over there ...

Photo by Tim Steffen

Hey there, hi there, ho there... First of all, an apology from Staples. Last week's Barker was missing an entire page. Seems that the "technician" who did the setup accidentally got two pages stuck together and missed it entirely in the proofing stage ... hence the blank back page (something we'd never do on purpose). The good news is that Staples printed this week's Barker at no cost (after I threatened 'em pretty good).

In case you missed it, the Men's Golf was a blast — as you can probably tell from the expression on Fred Freihofer's face (above). The weather and the golf were great, the food was yummy (thanks Pitts), the service was excellent and the beer was cold (thanks Tim).

Thanks to everyone who jumped in to help out — Rich and Patrick, Erica and Steve, Jim and Debbie, Sally, Lee, Bob, Stu, John, and of course Sandy. Thanks to the sponsors and the people who donated door prizes ... oh, heck, thanks everybody — like the song says, "we get by with a

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

little help from our friends."

Kind of a quiet weekend going on (except for the kid's luau this afternoon).

Quick reminders: the Women's Golf/Lunch is next week, and the annual Corn and Sausage roast will be Aug. 9 at the club (\$6 for adults, \$3 for kids under 12) — new stuff this year, includes "healthier" foods like chicken and green salads.

Vice Commodore Stu is busy making plans for the Fall Dinner on Aug. 23. It will be a square dance at the Camp again — watch next week's Barker for details.

Dave Bouwkamp has finished the info booklet for the lake. It was originally designed to place in rental cottages, and it's filled with boating regs (and safety info), as well as all kinds of other useful things for visitors. If you want one, contact Dave or any board member.

The Freihofers still have the JA project skier-down safety flags on sale (just \$5) — which can double as a "send-help"

flag for the car, if you drive a lot like me.

Another bright spot ... BLYC's Able Treasurer Holly has reported that membership is just slightly below last year's level, so I guess my constant pleas and threats have as been nearly as effective as printing the names.

But don't let it go to your heads ... I said *ALMOST*, which means we are still below where we should be ... so if you still haven't paid, you can still help.

So pay your dues, have fun and above all, be safe.

-Commodore Phil

BLYC Calendar

- Aug. 2 Kids Luau, 1 pm
- Aug. 4 Last day to register for Women's Golf/Lunch
- Aug. 8 Women's Golf/Lunch
- Aug. 9 Corn and Sausage Roast
- Aug. 16 Board Meeting 9 am
- Aug. 16 Kids Regatta 2 pm
- Aug. 23 Fall Dinner



We are always soliciting and accepting materials for future publication. Just put the materials in the red Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore) or e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com. If you must, mail to Phil Vitale, 122 So. Michigan, So. Bend, IN 46601, or fax your items to (574) 232-3853. To contact me by phone, call 476-1680 or (574) 232-3735.

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

Birch Lake Notes

KIDS LUAU!!!

Join us today from 1-2:30pm for the KIDS LUAU!!! Wear your grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts, and get ready to LIMBO!! Hope to see you there!

-Paula Russell

Ladies Extravaganza

Time is growing short to get your reservations to Katha Machalleck or Peg Cowen by Monday, Aug. 4 for the Fun in the Sun Golf and/or the Luxurious Luncheon at Lindy's.

Since this Luncheon will be the summer's get together for Birch Lake ladies, those attending only the luncheon (ordering off of the menu) will be asked to donate \$3 for incidentals and to take part in the drawings for the FABULOUS door prizes. There will also be an auction for our on-of-a kind donations — featuring an original painting with a scene of Birch Lake and a home-decorating consultation.

Many already made their reservations; there is room for more! Call today!!

-Peg Cowen, Pam Mullin,
Judy Olson, Becky Wiseman

Camp News

We have had a wonderful summer this year and we thank all the lake residents for everything they do. Our candle lighting ceremony begins around 8 on Friday, August 8th. I can't wait to see you all at the Yacht Club Dinner.

-Mr. Dug

News from the Cove

by **SUNNY WATERS**
who is a shoe fanatic and your
lake excoitroire (check your
Webster)

Here I sit, pen in hand, and yet I can't come up with the slightest gibberish. Things are just too focused on sailing, swimming, cocktails, cute grandchildren (mine, the best), etc.

Speaking of cocktails, the Cove has a wonderful lady who shared a sweet tale with me. Many years ago she volunteered to join other pretty girls at a U.S.O. dance hall. There were many young men who relished a dance with lovely, gracious girls. Loretta Agnew caught John's eye and they danced until dawn. Eventually, Loretta's last name became Drolet. Such dear people. Wonderful neighbors. We miss John and his

marvelous wisdom and humor. Oh yes, she was a close friend of M.T.

On to the tough stuff...

It's the annual loosestrife saga. B.S. and I comb the shores to keep Birch Lake in good state. The loosestrife is easy to spot. The stalk is green on the top, with nasty bright purple blossoms. It should be carefully picked and tossed in a strong plastic bag. Stalks must be bagged also and burned or put in a large vase to give to someone you don't like (just joking). Take a ride to Cory Lake and look at the multitude of loosestrife, then ask yourself and friends if Birch Lake would be all right to allow acres of loosestrife. B.S. and I need helpers before it gets out of hand. It's time to say "Until we meet again." PS: July 22 is the anniversary of John Dillinger's death. Oddly



enough, B.S.'s father, who was named John, had a good resemblance and was called over by various law enforcement agents. Fortune saved him. OK, Ima Foodnudge, SHOW YOUR FACE. PS: are you married to my cousin? TELL ME!
-Your Loving SUNNY



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

Volunteers, donations wanted for Tannadoonah roof

On August 23rd at 7 a.m. we will be re-roofing the Nurses Infirmary at Camp Tannadoonah.

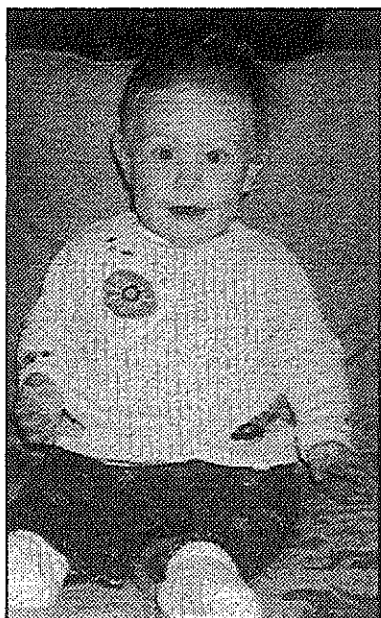
Donations for the cost of the roof, along with volunteers to help with the project would be greatly appreciated for an early start and finish project.

To donate, call Don Harman 476-2039 or Tom Rogers (cove) 476-2383. To volunteer, just show up!

-Tom & Don

Barker Kid of the Week

This week's Barker Kid of the Week is the adorable Caroline Amelia Cotton. Caroline is the grand daughter of Bruce and Sue Wagner. If you would like to see your special kid in the Barker, just e-mail, mail or drop a photo into the Barker Box at 63174 Birch Rd (east side). If you drop off a photo, please put it in a sealed plastic bag so the weather won't destroy it.



LADIES GOLF/LUNCH

Friday, August 8

Park Shore Golf Course
9 am golfing

Noon Lunch (at Lindy's,
between Cassopolis and Dowagiac)

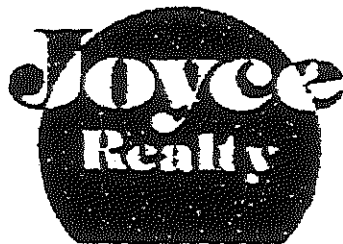
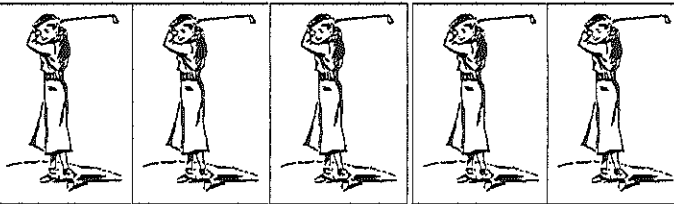
\$25 entry fee

Fee covers golf, half a cart, and lunch at Lindy's

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Reservations? Questions? New Golfer?
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



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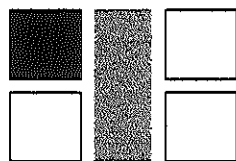
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summer at Birch Lake!

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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The tale of the Birch Lake slave wagon

SLAVE WAGON DISCOVERED ON BIRCH LAKE BOTTOM

Divers today continued efforts to recover what they believe to be a wagon that local legend says has been at the bottom of Birch Lake, near Vandalia, MI, for more than a century.

At various times over the years, swimmers in Birch Lake have reported finding what seemed to be parts of a wagon in 15' of water at the east end of the lake. Where the divers are working is not far from the cottages of V.M. Ball and Chester Hemminger of Elkhart.

On February 15, 1937, the Dowagiac Daily News published an account that Perry Storey of Vandalia had told members of the Cassopolis Service Club and the businessmen's association of Cassopolis that his father had told him about the wagon.

SEEN BY DIVER

The summer before, Storey said, a diver said he had seen the wagon under water. In the days of the Underground Railroad, by which escaped slaves escaped from the South, Penn township in Cass County was a terminal for the railroad. The Negroes were given safe haven by Quaker farmers who had migrated to Cass County from Pennsylvania, and who had given the name Penn township to their settlement.

In 1847 slave owners of Bourbon county, KY, organized an expedition to



come to Michigan to recover some of their runaway slaves. The Birch Lake Barker, mimeographed publication circulated several years ago among Birch Lake residents, carried this account of that invasion: "They arrived in the month of August and camped near Shavehead Lake.

They knew exactly where the runaways were living, as they had sent a spy up the previous winter. "The spy made several maps and reported their location to the slave owners."

ROUTED BY QUAKERS

"The Kentuckians captured several men, women and a baby living on the Odell farm. The alarm spread, and from all over the Birch Lake area angry farmers gathered, armed with guns, scythes and clubs. The Kentuckians were stopped and surrounded at the Osborne farm. Their wagons were overturned and later dumped into Birch Lake."

The residents at Birch Lake today believe it is one of these wagons that has been located. The Underground Railroad

traveled by two routes. One northward from Cincinnati, through Indiana, the other from St. Louis, through Illinois.

MARKED BY MONUMENT

They converged just east of Cassopolis at the home of Stephen Bogue. A monument now marks this spot on M60, at what has become known as the Elk Park farm because of the herd of elk maintained there by the Bonine family in Cass county. The Bonines no longer own the farm.

Stations of the route were about 20 miles apart.

One is believed to have been in an old home in Bristol. The Birch Lake divers say the wagon on which they are working is buried upside down in sand and marl, and task of uncovering it will be long and tedious. Friday they used an air hose to blow silt deposits away from a wheel and worked it free. They worked until 5 o'clock Friday evening and were to resume work today.

I wanted to share this Birch Lake legend with all my fellow Birch Lakers, young and old. I remember hearing this story as a child, and have often wondered how many of these wagons could still be on the bottom of the lake. This is how the article appeared in The Elkhart Truth dated in the 1950's.

-Submitted by Julie Ball Lacy

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Birch Lake Recipes of the Week

Heath Bits Monkey Bread

2-15 oz pkgs frozen bread dough rolls
 ¼ cup sugar
 1 ½ t. cinnamon
 ½ cup chopped nuts
 ¼ cup brown sugar
 1 6oz.pkg Heath Bits divided
 1 3 oz pkg regular (not instant) butterscotch pudding dry mix
 ½ cup margarine, cut in small pieces

Preheat oven to 350

Grease a bundt pan. Lay frozen bread dough balls in bottom of pan. Mix sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle over dough. Sprinkle

remaining ingredients over dough in order listed above.

Cover with a towel and let rise 4 hours at room temperature (or make before you go to bed and pop in oven when you get up). Place on a sheet of foil on oven rack (to catch the drips) Bake at 350 for 30-40 minutes or until golden brown. Let set 5 minutes and then invert onto platter. Serve WARM!!!

Irish Coffee Pie

1 3 ½ oz pkg vanilla whipped dessert mix (Dream Whip)
 2 t. instant coffee powder
 ½ cup cold milk

3 T. Irish Whiskey
 ½ cup whipping cream

In small mixer bowl combine Dream Whip and instant coffee powder. Add milk' beat at high speed of mixer one minute. Blend in 1/3 cup water and Irish Whiskey' beat at high speed till fluffy, about 2 more minutes. Whip cream; fold into a prepared pie shell and chill for 3-4 hours. Garnish top with additional whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

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-Happy Cooking, Darlene Troyer

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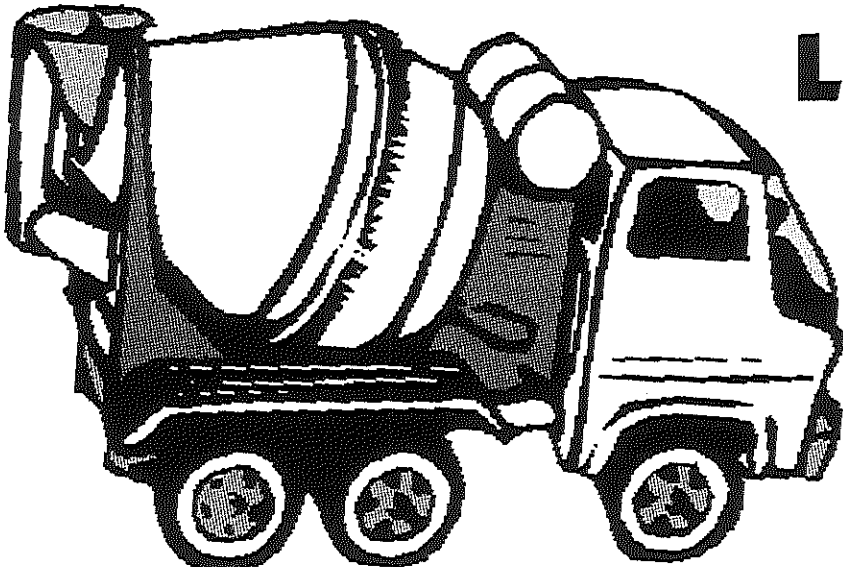
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BLYC Sailing and Boating News

Back in the paper again

Due to a printer's error, the results of the racing didn't get into the Barker last week (how

many of you noticed the full, blank page in your Barker?).

Oops.


According to our sailing historian, this is the first time since 1978 that the sailing news has been omitted.

So we're giving you a

This Week:

Sunday Races

Sunday, Aug. 2 11 am
Alternate start: Noon



double dose this week ...

Don't forget the Kids

Regatta on August 16 — join us at the Harman's at 2 pm for a fun day on the water!

Harold Cranmer
2003 Fleet Captain

Birch boaters lead the county in boat checks

Sgt. Dan Covey, the head of the Cass County Sheriff's Department's Marine Division, has reported that Birch Lake led the county in the number of boats that have been voluntarily checked by his department.

Covey said that on the day he and his crew checked boats for safety (and issued stickers indicating compliance), that 35 boats were checked at Birch Lake, compared to 14 that were checked at Diamond

Lake, the group with the second highest number.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The officers, board and members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club would like to thank Sgt. Dan and his crew for their ongoing efforts to help us keep our lake safe. Thanks, also, to all the lakers who turned out — your participation and interest is appreciated by all of our neighbors!

Here are the results of the 7/20 competition:

Sunfish:	1st race	2nd race	Place
Jim Bolinger	DNF		2a; 1531.7
Dave Olson	2	3	3a; 1505.8
Rick Russwurm	3	2	4a; 1437.1
Dewayne Weaver	1	1	1a; 1548.1
Erica Vitale	2	1	1b; 1574.4
Sandy Vitale	3	2	2b; 1550
Chad Plaia	1	DNF	3b; 1531.7
Jody Meyers	DNS	3	4b; 1444

MCs	1st race	2nd race	Place
Harold Cranmer	1	Dsq	3; 1456.3
Don Harman	2	2	2; 1487
Rick Harman	4	3	4; 1446.8
Scott Troeger	3	1	1; 1533.3
Phil Vitale	5	4	5; 1348.9

Here are the results of last weekend's competition:

Sunfish:	1st race	2nd race	3rd race	Place
Jim Bolinger	2	1	2	1; 1540.2
Dave Olson	1	2	1	2; 1525.2
Rick Russwurm	4	3	3	4; 1435.1
Dewayne Weaver	3	4	3	3; 1518.3

Erica Vitale	2	2	1	1; 1564.2
Sandy Vitale	3	3	2	3; 1530.8
Chad Plaia	1	1	DNS	2; 1563

Doug Weaver (Cat)	1	1	1	1
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MCs	1st race	2nd race	Place
Harold Cranmer	3	3	3; 1459.2
Don Harman	2	2	2; 1495.9
Rick Harman	DNS	DNS	DNS
Scott Troeger	1	1	1; 1549.3
Phil Vitale	4	4	5; 1357.9

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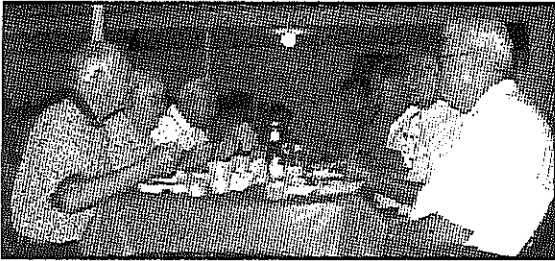
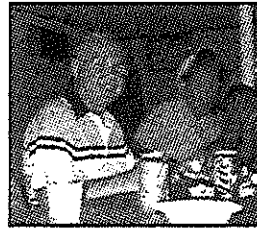
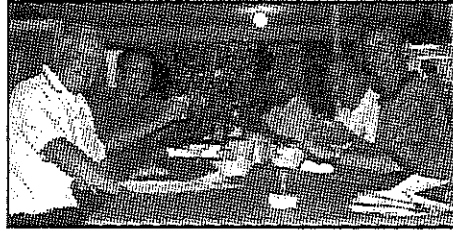
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Scenes from the men's golf outing dinner



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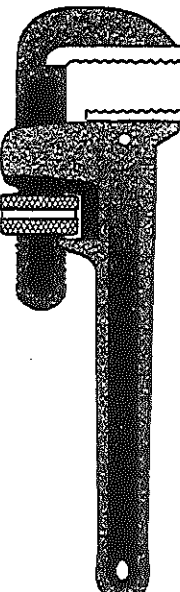
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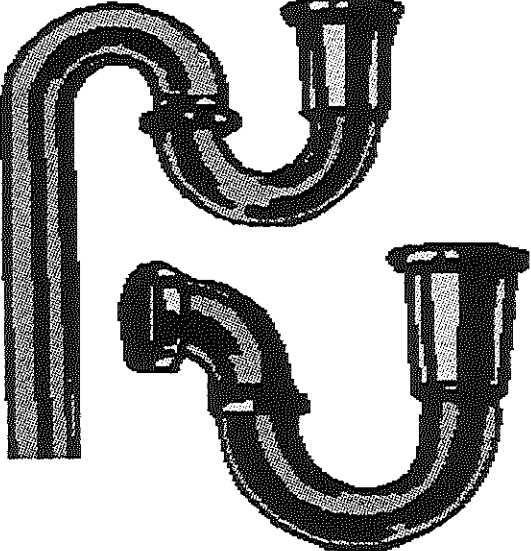
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Stu's Star Stuff

One of the most recognizable star patterns in the sky is high above the north shore on summer nights. The Big Dipper, most likely the first constellation we each ever noticed or recognized, is also called Ursa Major, the Big Bear. Ancient Egyptians saw the pattern as a hippopotamus, not ever having seen bears. The Big Dipper can be used as a starting point to finding many other constellations and individual stars. One that would seem most obvious to look for next would be the Little Dipper. I always find this a treat to be able to see, because none of the stars in Ursa Minor, or the Small Bear, are very bright. Being at the lake away from (most of the) bright lights allows us to see some of the

fainter stars that would otherwise be blocked out by city glare.

The handle of the Dipper is the Little Bear's tail and the Dipper's cup is the Bear's flank. The star at the end of the handle is Polaris, the North Star. The North Star is not very bright, but it has a special function in the sky. Because it indicates true north, sailors have used Polaris for navigation for centuries. If you were to stand on the North Pole of the Earth, Polaris would be directly overhead. It would remain overhead all night long, while all the other stars in the sky circle around it. Because the Earth has a slight wobble in its spinning motion, like a spinning top wobbles around, Polaris is only temporarily at

the North Pole. This wobbling is called precession. In about 14,000 years, Vega will be the North Star and another 14,000 years after that, it will be Polaris again.

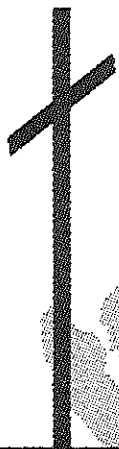
To find Ursa Minor, first find the Big Dipper. If you follow the two stars at the end of the cup upwards (out of the cup of the Big Dipper), the next bright star you will run into is Polaris. The distance to Polaris on the sky is about five times the angle between the two stars at the end of the cup of the Big Dipper. Because they are so useful for finding the all-important North Star, these two stars are known as the Pointer Stars. They are also called Dubhe and Merak. Merak is the one at the bottom of the cup.

Next week, "arcing to Arcturus", dumping water on Leo's back, and the lady with the mirror.

-Stewart Spratt

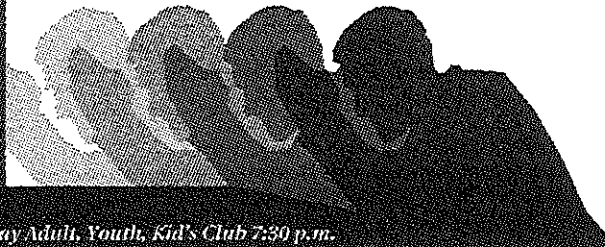
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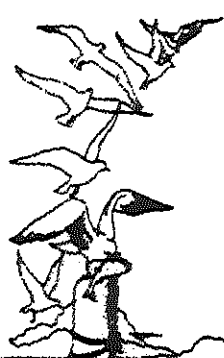
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A Life that Matters

One of the questions people ask fiction writers is "Where do you get the ideas for your stories?" My usual answer is that they come from everywhere, but many of them come from the pages of newspapers. Last winter when Shirley Anne and I were in Naples, Florida, I saw an article in the local paper about a wealthy socialite from Tampa who had recently been released from prison.

She conspired with two men to murder her husband, and all three of them went to prison "for life." One of the men died in jail, the victim of another killing, and the second man is still serving time. The woman, who had been in prison for 27 years and whose health was failing, had been paroled. She had done her best to slip away quietly to live with relatives in some small Florida town, but the press remembered her and dug up her story once again.

Before the death of her husband she was a beautiful, wealthy, popular, woman whose social calendar was always full, and who was admired and envied by many. She traveled extensively, lived in a gorgeous home, and dressed in clothes that few can afford. Today she is sick, tired, broke and nearly friendless, and she is starting over.

I cut that article out, not because I had any interest in the details of her crime, but because three questions nagged at me:

- What would a person in those circumstances do now?
- When was the last moment before the crime when she might have called the whole thing off?

- Why do some people waste themselves while others fill each day with the best they can find?

The first of those questions became the generator of a short story that will appear in *Hand-Held Crime* later this month, and the second will influence a book I'm beginning in the fall, but the third question brought me back here to Birch Lake and to John Scofield.

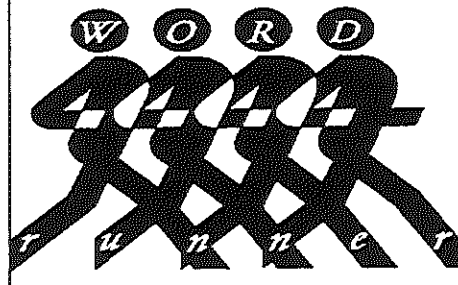
John and his wife Laveta have lived in the cove for almost all of the 41+ years I've been coming to Birch Lake. They bought a lot between the Wentworths and (what became) the Waggoners and built a home that looks as well kept and well made today as it did when I watched it go up four decades ago.

The Wentworths, Starr and Millie, were Shirley Anne's parents, so we saw a lot of the Scofields. Their older daughter, Anina, or Nina as we knew her, was about the age of our daughter Lisa, and the youngest Scofield, Dawn, was the age of our daughter, Dawn. The girls played together and kept their eyes on the Scofield son, John (Mike), every summer, until we bought our own place on the East side of the lake.

Over the years, John and Laveta were perfect neighbors, and when Starr became ill, John's help enabled Millie to hold onto her place until she was really ready to sell. We lived far away during some of the worst times and John looked out for our family.

Dean Davis has told me wonderful John Scofield stories that demonstrate what

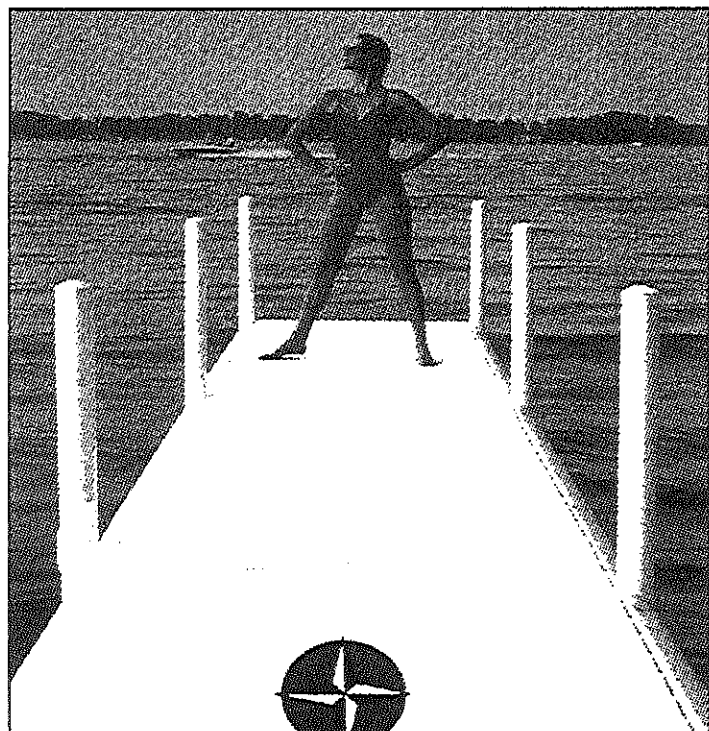
By The wordrunner



a wise and thoughtful fellow John was, and Bill King speaks of John as though he was talking about a brother. Nancy Walker's voice was full of emotion, gratitude, and admiration, when she told me how John "showed up each morning, wearing his tool belt" to help her family build their house "as though it were his job." "I was never able to thank him enough," she said.

He worked without fanfare or pay for dozens of people and causes around the lake. He was lean and strong and handsome and he lived a life that demonstrated to any who watched him, how to live a good life. John was incapable of bragging or of bringing attention to himself, but he did so many fine things for so many of us that they could not all go unnoticed.

Think of that sad, empty woman from Florida. What a waste she made of her life and what damage she did to others. Couldn't she have been a glorious person if she had known John Scofield and followed his example.



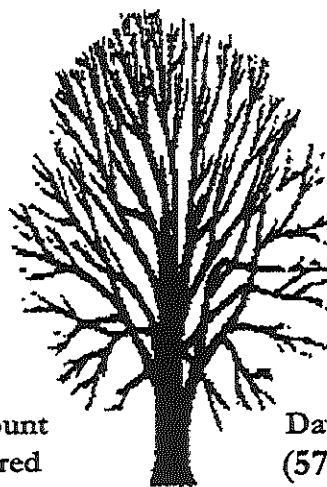
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There are dozens of members of the Homeowner's Association; contact a board member for more information.

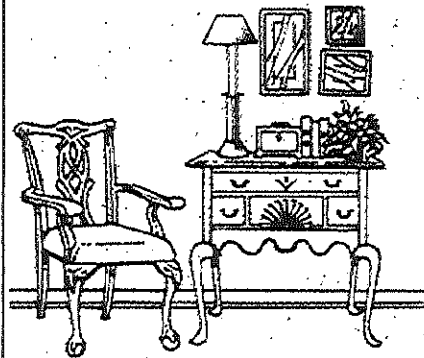
The ABCs of unhealthy eating

by: Ima Foodnudge's evil twin, Skippy

A: Be sure to eat all of Almond Joy candy you can get your hands on.	F: Fudge. Chocolate. Ok?
B: Beer ... and none of that light stuff!	G: Gravy, gooseberry pie and gooey chocolate, ok?
C: Chocolate. Enough said?	H: Hostess Ho Hos, Twinkies and Sno-Balls.
D: Donuts. Chocolate ones, ok?	I: Ice Cream. Chocolate, of course, ok?
E: Lots of eggs, with lots of bacon, cheese and grits, and	Editor's note: Ima is on vacation and her twin filled in for her.
	hot buttered buttermilk biscuits (also knows as the plaque omelette).

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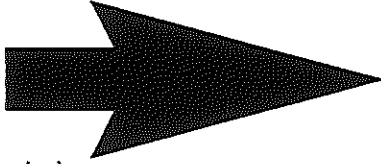
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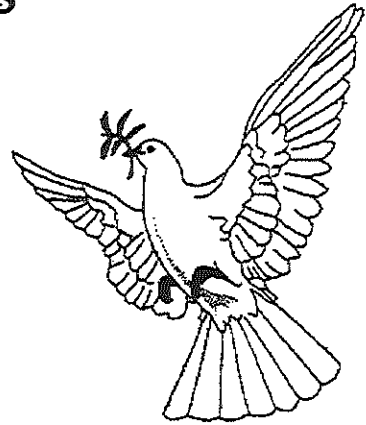
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FOR SALE BY OWNERS (Bud & Louise Rieth): Year-round home on Northwest side of Birch Lake (Cove). Large 2-story house, 4400 sq. ft., 3 Bedrooms, 2-1/2 Baths, Large Living Room, Family Room, Kitchen, & lots of closets. 69 feet frontage. Separate Guest House with 3-Stall Garage, 2 Bedrooms, Living Room, Kitchen, & Bath. 1-1/2 acre lot. Price: \$695,000. Call Louise or Bud for appt. 269-476-2174

LAKEFRONT HOME FOR SALE — 75' frontage, 2,500 sq ft, 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 great rooms, sunroom, laundry, floor to ceiling windows facing lake. Large deck, oversized garage, many extras. Call Dean and Phyllis Davis 476-2396.

2003 Nissan Outboard, 9.9 Hp, 4-stroke, electric start. Only 2 hours use. \$1,700; \$25 more with new battery. Can be seen at 63286 Birch Rd. (east side), or call 476-8897.

Aqua-Step, a spring-loaded heavy-duty stainless steel padded step to mount to the rear of a wave runner. Step remains in the up position (out of water) until needed, then pulls down to make an underwater step at the rear of the boat for boarding. This unit will fit all wave runners and is new with all parts and full easy installation instructions. \$35. Call Bruce Harlan 476-9714.

Small microwave oven. Perfect for the lake. \$20.

Large microwave oven. Perfect for the lake. \$45 OBO on either. Call Stewart Spratt at 476-2113.

For sale: Swim raft with ladder. 6 yr. old. 1/3 of new (\$1,200) = \$400. Has small leak. Contact Bob Morrison, 14860 S. Shore, or call 574-250-4945.

FOR SALE: DYNASTY SKI BOAT 17' I/O with OMC Cobra 175 HP engine. Original owner and in very good condition with Trailmaster color coordinated trailer. Includes Shoremaster boat lift with electric hoist and new canopy. \$6500 for complete combination. Call Kruggel's (269)476-2169

For Sale: Fiberglass sailboat with trailer. 2 Main Sails. Length: 16'. Mast: Wood Call: 574-273-5367 after 5 pm.

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WANTED TO BUY

Wanted to buy: small boat trailer. Call 476-2526.

Wanted to buy: 1 pair water skis. Willing to pay cash or trade for microwave. Stu Spratt 476-2113.

Looking for used wakeboard preferably a beginners board, with bindings included. (574) 272-3683

We are looking for a recreational (ski) boat. If you are thinking of upgrading or selling your boat, contact the Carmen Soldato Family

WANTED

Wanted: 16+ foot Jon Boat needed for Porter Twp Fire Dept. Lake Rescue Squad. Contact Mike Holdeman at chief@ptfd.org.

RENTALS

3 BR cottage on north shore. \$650/week. Discounts available. Call Stewart Spratt at 574.291.3227 or 269.476.2113.

North Shore cottage for rent, available through September. Sleeps six. \$850 per week. Contact Fred Frehofer at (574) 272-3683 or send e-mail to ffrehofer@aol.com.

MISC.

FREE — four empty plastic barrels; ideal for swim raft. Come get 'em at the Bad-Patty and Good-Bill Luecht house, east side.

SERVICES

Housecleaning: Call Shanna at (269) 501-9379. I'm located on the south side and I am available to clean your home weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or seasonally.

Babysitting: Call Shanna on the south side of Birch Lake at (269)501-9379.

Babysitting: Please call Amanda Lacy at 476-2102.

LOST

Dropped ski — blue, red and black, HO Xtra JC 59 lost along the east shore. Please call Scott Troeger at 476-9898.

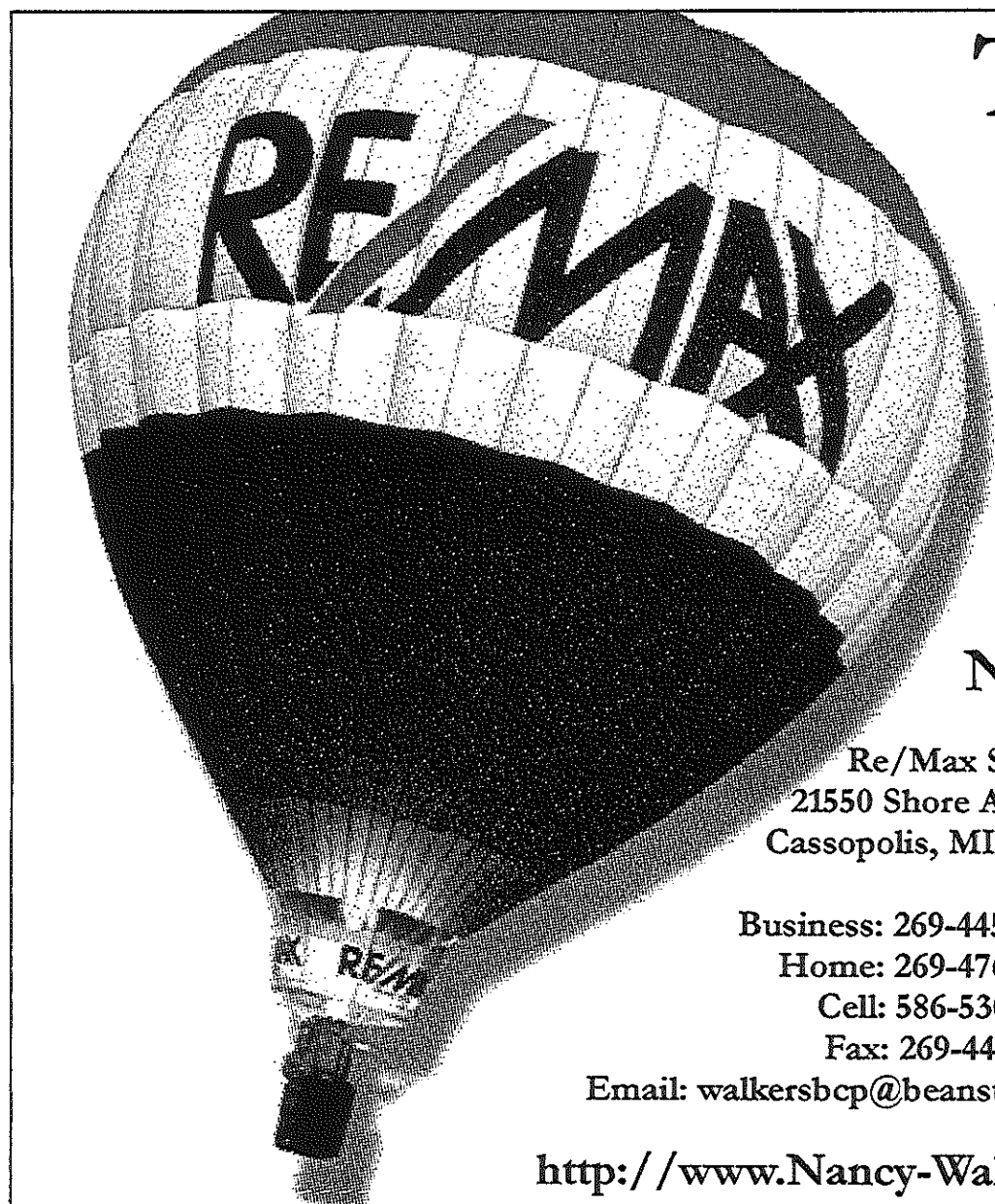
Lost: during storm of July 5: swim fins with colors blue and black. If found, please call 476-2526.

FOUND

We found an Electra EP blue waterski in the middle of the lake. Contact Frank or Elizabeth Parkinson at 476-9293

DIRECTORY CORRECTION

Cheri LaPier's e-mail is incorrect in the directory. The correct address is Momiap1@aol.com



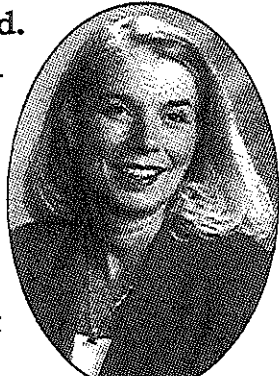
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