

Bombs Away



500-lb. bomb along the road in front of Matt's shop.



Matt Hurd holding photo of a B17

By Allen Beatty

Recently, I had the joy and privilege of meeting with a Bryan, Ohio, businessman who makes a unique product (legally)—bombs!

Now don't worry – Matt Hurd's interest in bombs is historical military.

You can't miss his shop on U.S. Highway 127, where a 500-pound bomb greets you to the driveway.

A B-17 Ignites Interest

Matt's interest in making replica bombs began in 1997 when he attended an air show in Toledo and was taken in by a B-17 Bomber on display.

He was intrigued by the small size the crew had to navigate as well as the cold temperatures they endured.

In fact, he shared "The number one injury was frostbite because the temperature could reach 50 below zero at those altitudes... where the skin just peels off.

That is Fahrenheit -- not wind chill!

"The temperatures required the crew to wear specialized cold weather flight suits."

Matt was stirred by the sacrifices these men made during bombing missions in World War II where the U.S. lost 25,000 airmen beating the Third Reich into submission preparing for the allied offenses to victory.

Commencement of a Hobby

I asked Matt "How did this air show in 1997 transition to a business in 2000?"

He replied, "When I attended the show I expressed to the presenters my admiration for the planes.

They told me, "Yes, but we have so few these days because we can't get spare parts."

Since Matt was and still is a machinist by trade, a conversation was struck up on machining and making spare parts.

The next thing you know he started assisting in mak-

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Poor Will's Farmland News Almanack

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August 26 - September 1

For the Third Week of Late Summer

I used to sit on the Spring Slough Trestle to read and write and dream, spending time as wisely as I knew, watching the years pass, at first slowly, and then with increasing swiftness, and never counted a moment there ill spent.

August Derleth

The Phases of the Moon

July 29: The Katydid Moon is full.

August 5: The Moon enters its final quarter.

August 15: The Field Cricket Moon is new.

August 19: The Moon enters its second quarter.

August 26: The Field Cricket Moon is full.

The Weather in the Week Ahead

This is the week that frost becomes possible in the northern states; snow even occurs at the upper elevations in the Rocky Mountains and in Canada.

Here in the Midwest, the third major high pressure system of the month brings chances of highs in the 70s a full 40 percent of the time on August 24, the first time since July 6 that odds have been so good for milder weather.

As that cool front moves east, the period between August 25 and August 27 usually brings a return of warmer temperatures in the 80s or 90s.

The 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th each carry a 30 percent chance of highs in the 90s, and the 25th and 26th are the last days of the year on which there is only a ten to 15 percent chance of mild weather in the 70s.

On the 28th, however, the final cool wave of August approaches, and even though chances of 90s remain strong, the likelihood for chilly highs only the 60s or 70s jumps to 30 percent.

August 30 is typically the coldest day of the month, and it brings a 50 percent chance of a high just in the 70s, the first time chances of that have been so good since the last day of June.

Nights in the 40s or 50s continue to occur an average of 40 percent of the time, and the morning of the 29th brings the slight possibility (a five percent chance) of light frost, for first time since the beginning of June.

Chances of rain are typically 35 percent per day now, with the exception of August 28, on which date thunderstorms cross the region 65 percent of the years in my record.

The 25th and 26th are usually the sunniest days this week.

Natural Calendar

The lowering sun accelerates its message to

the monarchs and swallowtails, to the fall webworms and to the Hickory Horned Devils (the caterpillars of the *Citheronia regalis* moth).

It is high Late Summer: Beds of false boneset and trellises of virgin's bower break into bloom.

Tall blue bellflower and burdock and euonymus keep their blossoms, and fields glow with seven-foot wingstem, tall coneflowers, early purple ironweed, late bouncing bets and black-eyed Susans.

The autumn crop of raspberries darkens.

The latest flowers of the season are getting set to open.

Bur marigolds, zigzag goldenrod, tall goldenrod, Jerusalem artichokes, broad-leafed swamp goldenrod and small-flowered asters are budding.

Plums and grapes and elderberries sweeten. Insects still are everywhere.

Cicadas and katydids and crickets are still loud.

Fold-wing skippers still chase each other in the morning sun.

The very first of the black walnut leaf turn and leafdrop began in the middle of Leo, and now the walnut trees are quickly yellowing.

Yards and paths fill with their leaves. Sometimes the black walnut trees are completely bare by the first days of September.

The horse chestnuts follow, then the cottonwoods, then box elders.

Judas maples, betraying the messiah of June with red and orange, foretell October.

Yellow jackets come to feed in the fallen fruit, and ground hornets build nests.

Murmurations of starlings sweep over the fields, and long flocks of grackles and blackbirds follow the harvest.

Robins congregate in the woodlots, gathering for migration.

Peaches, blackberries, second-crop raspberries, plums and elderberries sweeten, then close their seasons.

Hickory nuts, buckeyes and pecans fall to earth.

Journal

Crickets were still singing when I went outside at 6:00 a.m. Doves started at 6:22, cardinals at 6:29, crows at 6:42, crickets quieting as the sky lightened.

The yard silent by 6:55.

The sun rose at 7:00 (like on March 7), the day's length moving toward 13 hours, an hour lost from the morning, an hour lost from the evening since solstice.

Average temperatures down 4 degrees from the peak in July, highs down 4, lows down 4.

At South Glen, milkweed pods fully developed, milkweed bugs still mating. All the white vervain is gone.

Only one or two blossoms on the small-flowered agrimony.

Golden patches of linden along the roadsides. Honeysuckle berries orange, one tall goldenrod plant opening.

First autumn violet blooming in the path be-

yond the barn.

Lizard's tail dropping its foliage into Yellow Springs Creek, damselflies hunting in the pink smartweed.

Burdock forming burs, Joe Pye weed almost all brown, knotweed just beginning to bloom, wild cucumber fruits an inch long. Jumpseeds have started to jump, and the first aster of the year is open.

Tulip trees are yellowing at the college, cottonwoods turning all at once, elms and catalpas, hackberries blanching, some Virginia creeper leaves deep red on the path, some black walnut and buckeye trees almost bare.

Locust leaves all over the parking lot at school. Some ash and maple foliage blushing.

A long flock of blackbirds flew over Beaver creek when I was there this morning.

Blackbirds filled the telephone lines in Xenia, and hundreds of yellow cabbage butterflies swarmed along Wilberforce-Clifton road this afternoon.

At home, peach leaves drift down into the dahlias, knotweed half in bloom, new mullein sprouting in the iris bed, virgin's bower opening on the trellis, stonecrop coming into bloom by the front porch.

Dragon flies still hunt at the pond. New England aster buds are purple by the north trellis. Fireflies and Japanese beetles almost gone, chigger bites still itching on my right calf and ankle.

ALMANACK LITERATURE

Always Look Where You're Going by Eunice Hicks Willard, Ohio

One evening when she came back from the outhouse, Mom told Dad, "Tommie, there's got to be another outhouse built."

Dad said then he would build another one beside the old one.

He would tear the other one down later.

So one morning, Mom and I and little Sister Polly walked up to the barn, and Mom found out one of her hens had hatched out a gang of little chickens, or bitties, as Mom said.

Then Mom said, "I can't let the hen and little bitties stay at the barn.

Some varmint will get them," meaning some animals.

So she said, "I know where I will put them," and she took them to the old outhouse beside the new one, but she didn't tell Dad.

Then one morning early, Dad walked out to the outhouse, and he went into the old outhouse instead of the new one.

That old hen flogged him so badly he didn't take time to get his pants all the way up!

He came back to the house and said, "Rose, why did you put the old hen and her chicks in that old outhouse?

Darn near scared the wits out of me!"

Mom laughed and laughed and said to Dad,

"The next time, look where you're going!"

Then all our family laughed together.

FN

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The Pearl of Great Price

Words of Inspiration

By Rev. James Strawn

Jesus once told a parable that was complete in just a single sentence: *"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it."*

Even a casual reading makes clear that here we are to learn something about priorities.

Often, this parable is applied directly to individual Christians.

There is much that can be learned from the fact that we daily make choices with our time and resources...these choices indicate what is most important to us.

People daily *express* all sorts of things about what they supposedly value.

Yet, it is a general truth that they show far more accurately what is important to them through *the things that they do*.

This can apply to relationships, to social values, to financial goals, even to church attendance.

It is not uncommon for families to forgo hearing the word of God and caring for their brothers and

sisters in Christ in favor of activities that are banal at best.

Choices eventually become habits – habits change values.

Sometimes this is sad indeed.

Imagine a parent who continuously insists his child is important or even most important, but who regularly neglects the needs of that very child.

The same could be said of the manner in which wives and husbands treat one another.

Actions demonstrate priorities.

What is your true pearl of great price?

So Jesus' words can certainly lead us to ponder what it is that our behaviors show about what is *truly* important to us.

But Jesus' one-sentence parable has another common interpretation.

It is often seen to refer to Jesus Himself.

St. Paul described the work of Jesus in this way: *"..for the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross, despising the shame..."*

Here, Paul expressed that the pre-incarnate Son of God *willingly chose to take upon Himself the world's guilt, bearing its sin.*

John the Baptist proclaimed it in this way, pointing at Jesus: *"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."*

So here, our Lord Jesus chooses to give all, to suffer all, to redeem all.

Jesus has done this as an expression of the highest and most pure love.

He Himself said: "No greater love has a man than this, that he lays down His life for his friends."

Apart from Jesus, it is true, we were no "perfect Pearl."

But here, we see the point of the parable in the fact that the merchant sold all he had to have the one pearl He treasured in love.

So we observe, in this parable, on the one hand our own failures with respect to what we ought to treasure and on the other, our Savior, whose *suffering and death for us has, in love, has redeemed us from the just consequence of our failures here and in all areas of our lives.* FN



St James Lutheran Church
22881 Monroe street
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Worship Schedule
Sunday Morning 9:30 a.m.

Blast From The Past...

Tranquilizing Gems I 977

- It's great to be a gentleman, but it can be a hindrance when you get angry.
- If you want to keep a secret, don't tell a friend that has a friend that has a friend that has a friend.
- The time for people to put money aside never seems to come.
- A snap judgement often comes unfastened.
- Instead of grumbling when people don't understand you - be glad.
- Some juvenile delinquents are children who put away childish things.
- It only takes a few rehearsals to make a fool of yourself.
- Few people ever got tuckered out exercising kindness.
- A white lie is a black lie whitewashed.
- Rest when needed has never been time lost.
- Pride is dangerous when you are proud of being humble.
- Once you start to lie, you need a sharp memory.
- Some honeymoons end with an eclipse.

Get Me A Civil Rights Lawyer!

1976 - By: Wayne Eicher

I bought a cow, named her Spot,
Taught her how to pace and trot.

Got a sulky for the racing sport,

For Spot a special udder support.

Brushed her tail, combed her hair,

Entered the race down at the fair.

Ran like the wind, won every heat,

That cow just would not be beat.

The other drivers weren't satisfied,

Claimed we should be disqualified.

They had a rule, to me 'twas news:

Every entry had to have on shoes.

Put Ma's on the front, mine on back,

She came in first again, all right,

Though the high heels slowed her a mite.

They took away our new racing silk,

Said we watered the track with milk.

Now the latest trotter in the nation

Can't race any more. Discrimination !

Well I'll Be 7/65

The family of pigs had just moved into their new home on the farm. It was an extremely neat metal enclosure with a soft sandy floor and a fountain in the center which sprayed water so the pigs could bathe and keep clean.

"Oh, goody," said one of the pigs as she looked over the new abode, "this is just what I've always wanted - a fountain pen!"

Two visitors in a home were waiting for the hostess when the little four year old walked in.

They looked her over very carefully, then one spelled to the other, "She's not very p-r-e-t-y is she." Before the other woman had a chance to say anything, the little girl replied, "No, I'm not, but I'm awfully i-n-t-e-l-l-i-g-e-n-t."

"Oh, I so like the scenery around her," observed the vacationist. "But the people up here are queer."

"Wa-al, yes, that's so," replied the New England farmer, "But one good thing, most of them go back home by October."

A bishop, walking through a village one day, called at a country cottage for a glass of water. The old lady who brought it was awed and nervous. To put her at ease the bishop said: "This is beautiful water. Where did you get it?" The old lady replied, "From the Lord, my pump."

A jaunty salesman parked his foreign sports car in front of a village store and went in. When he came out, a farmer was looking the car over. "Well, what do you think of it?" asked the salesman. And the farmer just said, "Picked that one 'fore it was ripe didn't ya?"

An American couple on a tour of rural France had their baggage sent to a small inn ahead of them. When they arrived, they were cordially greeted by the manager, who assured them with the few English words he knew that he had made every arrangement for their comfort. he had even registered them taking their names from their luggage" "Mr. and Mrs. Genuine Cowhide."

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OFFICE OF PUBLICATION
104 Depot Street, Archbold, Ohio 43502
(ISSN 0093-5832)

PUBLISHED TUESDAYS
Periodicals Postage Paid At
Archbold, Ohio 43502

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Farmland News, PO Box 240
Archbold, Ohio 43502-0240

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:
(payable in advance)

1 year: \$62

MEMBER: National Newspaper Association
Ohio Newspaper Association

DENNIS ROTH, Publisher, Oct. 1959 - Oct. 1966
NANCY A. & O. ROGER TAYLOR, Publishers,
Oct. 1966 - Jan. 2001
JED W. GRISEZ, Publisher, 2001 - 2014
DIANNE LANTZ, Publisher, 2015 - 2025

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2026 Williams County Fair Schedule

Free Daily North Midway Entertainment & Activities:

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Show, All American Pet-
ting Zoo, Pig Races, Wood
Carver

Saturday, September 12 Veterans' Day

9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
8:00 a.m. : Junior Fair
Opening Ceremony - Show
Pavilion
9:00 a.m.: U.S. Flag Rais-
ing Ceremony - Infield
9:00 a.m.: Junior Fair
Goat Show - Show Pavilion
10:00 a.m.: Junior Fair
FFA Project in place in Gil-
lette Building
12:00 Noon: Flower Show
Judging - Gillette Building
1:00 p.m.: Junior Fair
Poultry Show - Show Pavil-
ion
2:00 p.m.: Horticulture
Judging - Gillette Building
2:00 p.m.: Royal Gather-
ing
4:00 p.m.: Baked Goods
Auction - Under Grandstand
4:00 p.m.: Crowning
of Fair Royalty - Thaman
Building
7:00 p.m.: **Rough E Ro-
deo** - Grandstand
Sunday, September 13

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8:30 a.m.: Church Ser-
vice - Show Pavilion
9:00 a.m.: Junior Fair
Swine Show - Show Pavil-
ion
9:00 a.m.: Junior Fair
Horse Show - Horse Arena
1:00 p.m.: Rides Open -
Armbands \$25
4:00 p.m.: Kids Fishing
Derby - Pond
7:00 p.m.: **Bellamy Bros.
& The Isaacs** - Grandstand

Monday, September 14 Kids Day

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
8:30 a.m.: Junior Fair
Sheep Show - Show Pavilion
9:00 a.m.: 3:00 p.m. - Kids
Day Events- See Fair Book
11:00 a.m.: Rides Open -
Armbands \$25
2:30 p.m.: Junior Fair
Beef Show - Show Pavilion
5:00 p.m.: Kids Bike
Giveaway - Grandstand
7:00 p.m.: **High School
Band Show** - Grandstand

Tuesday, September 15 Senior & Disability Day

9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m.: Junior Fair
Dairy Show - Show Pavilion
12:00 Noon: Junior Fair
Rabbit Show - Show Pavil-
ion
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.: Band
Nashville Station - Activ-
ity Pavilion - Sponsored by
Parkview Care Center
5:00 p.m.: Rides Open -
Armbands \$25
6:30 p.m.: Junior Fair An-
imal & Me Program - Show
Pavilion
7:00 p.m.: **Horse Pulls** -
Grandstand

Wednesday, September 16
12:00 Noon: Show 2
Flower Show Judging - Gil-
lette Building
1:00 p.m.: **Harness Rac-
ing** - Grandstand
5:00 p.m.: Rides Open -
Armbands \$25

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Armbands \$25
6:00 p.m.: Northwest
Ohio Showman of Show-
men Invitational - Show Pa-
villion
6:00 p.m.: **Power Wheels
Derby** - Grandstand
7:00 p.m.: **Demo Derby**
Grandstand
Junior Fair Release times
for animals not in the Live-
stock Sale before 8:00 a.m.
or after 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 19
9:00 a.m.: Junior Fair
Livestock Sale - Show Pa-
villion
1:00 p.m.: Rides Open -
Armbands \$25
4:00 p.m.: KOI Drag
Racing - Infield Track

Sunday, September 20
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Classic - Show Pavillion

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FN

5:00 p.m.: Junior Fair
Showmanship Sweepstakes
- Beginning in Horse area
with rest in Show Pavilion
Thursday, September 17
5:00 p.m.: Rides Open -
Armbands \$25
6:00 p.m.: Junior Fair Pa-
rade Line Up
6:30 p.m.: Junior Fair Pa-
rade - Grandstand
7:00 p.m.: **Youth Night
Activities** - Grandstand -
See Fair Book pg.14

Friday, September 18
5:00 p.m.: Rides Open -


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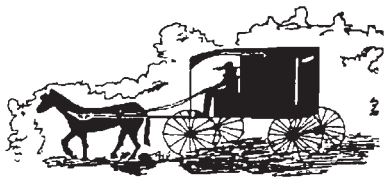
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The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



Visit To Sugarcreek

A good name for a good horse.

Okay, we can't debate forever on what her name will be — besides, there is a new puppy joining our farm in the near future that would also deserve a name.

We were still hanging in the balance; there really were too many options.

Then one night we had a family over for dinner.

They have become close to our family.

The Amish lifestyle was never a part of their lives, but somehow we just clicked.

Whenever they'd come down from Chicago they'd stop by; while Daniel was still with us, he and Mr. Dave would talk for hours about hunting, maintenance that would need to be done on their vacation home, or simply about life.

Daniel enjoyed those times.

How well I recall those first times they would come by our house and Mrs. Michelle would come to the door with her little son and daughter.

Little did I imagine where our relationship would take us.

When Mr. Dave's uncle was drawing close to the finish line of life on earth, Daniel went down to his log home and spent precious time with him.

After his passing, we as a family were honored to join family members for a memorial ceremony on the dock of his lake, where we would sometimes go to swim or fish.

I can still see those flower petals floating gently over the water as we sprinkled them on the ripples.

It was a beautiful day; together we were reminded of the brevity that life holds.

We do not know what the next moment will hold for any of us.

A year later there was the heart-rending reality of breaking the news that Daniel was hurt... and went home to be with Jesus.

Now when they came to

see us, there were dimensions we never expected to brave together. Their support was real.

Mrs. Michelle would come by with food dishes or offer to come help me with any needed projects.

Sometimes we'd just sit together, share tea, and discuss motherhood.

That first time Mr. Dave came after Daniel was gone, I was quite curious when I saw them carrying a long, flat package.

"Whatever could it be?" I wondered.

Upon opening it, I was amazed.

It was a green road sign, just like you would see on the corner of a street.

This is what it said: Daniel Yoder Way. Precious.

Now that Daniel is no longer here, I find comfort in still connecting with some of his friends.

When Dave's family recently came to the area for a week and a half, we had the honor of hosting them for supper.

It was refreshing, and I treasured the time together.

After supper the older boys wanted to go look for deer.

Us ladies decided to take the open wagon and bring the children along for a drive to see how many deer we could find in the neighboring fields.

My children were especially pleased to take their two children along.

Their daughter Lucy, who is 16, has an amazing knack for having fun with children and staying in charge in a good way without getting them too rowdy.

Wyatt, who is 13, has helped Austin in numerous ways — getting him geared up for hunting or passing on a bicycle or other items he had outgrown.

Most of all, when there is a praying mother, there is a special touch on growing children who leave behind a strength that blesses others.

So on this summer evening we all piled on, that is, besides Mr. Dave, who had another appointment after supper.

As we started down the

Recipe Of The Week

Candy Crispies

1 cup dark corn syrup	6 cups Corn fFlakes
1 cup sugar	5 cups Rice Krispies
1 cup half and half	1 cup coconut
	1 cup salted peanuts

Boil corn syrup, sugar and half and half together until it reaches the firm ball stage.

In a bowl, combine Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies, coconut and peanuts. Pour syrup over top and mix thoroughly.

Press into a 9x13x2-inch buttered pan.

Cut into squares when cooled.

This Recipe of the Week is from Eva George, McComb, Ohio

Note: Eva George is now deceased, however for several years, she has mailed us envelopes of her recipes and she loved the recipes in the paper.

We plan to keep using them, we think that she would want that.

dirt road we were talking about the latest name we were tossing around for the new horse.

"We've been thinking about Selah," I said.

I went on to tell of some of the verses in Psalms that end with the word "Selah," such as Psalm 3:4, which says, *"I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah."*

"The word "Selah" instructs us to pause and meditate.

In the same way, as we think of her name, we are prompted to pause and meditate on the wonder of God's provision — how He gave us a horse for Father's Day when we missed our faithful old horse, and how He never short-changes us, even when He takes away what is near and dear to us!

Imagine how silly it felt when we were discussing her name and Selah stopped right there on the road.

"Does she know what her name means?" we laughed.

Was she trying to put it into practice?!

After a bit it wasn't so funny anymore.

She would not move.

I tried this, I tried that — she'd go a little, then stop abruptly. She even stopped while going down a curvy blacktop hill.

"Why, it's not even safe," I told myself.

She would not go.

I don't profess to be the greatest horse lady, but I do like my horse, and she always does anything I ask her to do.

What was going on?

At one point we decided to see if we could get her turned around and head home. It was a chore, but we got 'er done.

At about that point she found her gears once more and clipped down the road.

Okay, of all things, what does that tell us?!

"Maybe you just need to change her name!" quipped Lucy.

We brainstormed over what name would really motivate her to go for it.

"Cheetah!" she said. "Go, Cheetah, go!" Together we laughed as we clipped on toward home.

Thankfully, with just a bit of extra teaching, she now takes us whenever and wherever we need to go, even with her new name, Selah!

I'll be passing on Mrs. Michelle's ice cream cookie recipe.

Enjoy making it with some youngsters and listen to their squeals as they

squish ice cream with their fingers!

Mrs. Michelle's Ice Cream Cookies

1 cup butter softened
2 cups flour
1 cup vanilla ice cream
1/2 cup blueberry or strawberry preserves (or another favorite flavor)

Mix softened butter and flour, then add ice cream. (If you have little ones helping you, you'll be sure to get giggles from this part!)

Chill until dough is slightly firm.

Form into balls and place on cookie sheet.

Flatten slightly and press a thumb print on top.

Fill center with your choice of preserves.

Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

Readers may write Gloria with culinary or cultural questions at: Gloria Yoder, 10510 E. 350th Avenue, Flat Rock, IL 62427. FN

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My Mini Car Museum

The Empty Nest

by Becky Corwin-Adams

I have always loved cars... I don't really like "common" cars, I prefer bright colored cars.

Our first new car was a metallic green 1976 AMC Gremlin that we bought in North Dakota.

Our next two cars were Mustangs – a 1965 and a 1967 model.

However, when our kids got older, none of those small cars were suitable for a family vehicle so we sold them, one by one, and replaced them with a mini-van.

When we lived in Englewood, we started attending car shows – I bought a Mustang and a Charger, Randy bought a Mustang convertible.

We had four cars and a one car garage!

I started collecting metal car signs and soon the wall of our small garage was covered with Mustang signs.

We also had a shelf for our car show trophies.

At that time, my bucket list consisted of having a big garage where I could display all of my signs and other automotive collectibles.

In 2019 we decided to build a house in the country on our 31 acres, not a big house but we did need a big garage.

We drew up the plans for our new house and to no surprise, the garage was almost as big as the house.

It has room for four cars and lots of room for storage.



Our granddaughter had given us a very large wooden framed Mustang sign, which for four years was stored under the bed in our spare room in Englewood.

One of the first things we did when we got settled in the new house was to hang up the signs in the garage.

The biggest wall has nothing on it except Mustang signs.

A side wall has a section for Dodge Charger signs and Gremlin signs.

I also collect Hot Wheels and Matchbox Cars...only die cast cars that coincide with my signs.

I have steel display racks for my die cast cars, which are still brand new in the package.

When my great grandson was about two-years-old, I showed him my cars explaining to him that they are just to look at, not to play with.

I did buy some later that he could play with at our

house.

A few years ago, we became the owners of two Mini Coopers, so I added some Mini Cooper signs to our collection.

Recently we became Jeep owners, so of course I had to

start a wall for Jeep signs.

We call our collection the "Mini Car Museum".

Our family members enjoy looking at the collection, however, they are probably not looking forward to removing all of those signs from the walls when we move on to the "car show in the sky".

I do feel bad about putting so many holes in the drywall

(Continued on Page 8)



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MINI CAR

(Continued From Page 7)

in our garage.

My cousin Kevin Etchen owner of Etchen Drywall did all of our dry wall work.

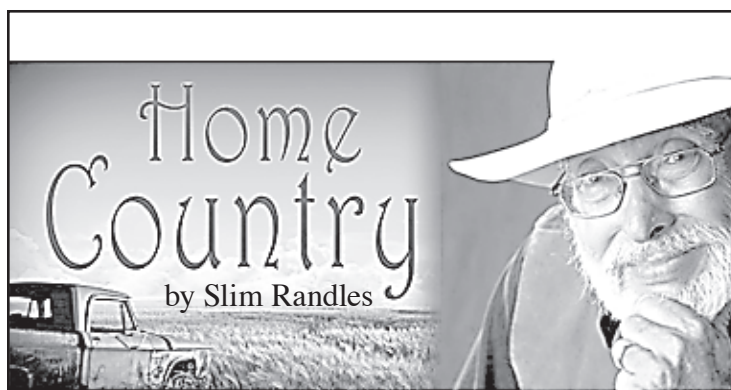
He owns Etchen Drywall in Edgerton.

He has seen photos of the garage and every time I see him in person, I apologize for the holes.

Well its just another item crossed off my bucket list!

Becky Corwin-Adams is originally from Defiance and now lives on a 31-acre farm in Williams County.

She and her husband have two sons, four grandchildren, two great grandchildren, five cocker spaniels, and two corgis. FN



Joe Glidden died 105 years ago, and millions of cowboys in New Mexico would celebrate if they knew why, and if there were really millions of cowboys in New Mexico, which there aren't.

Now while you're parsing that sentence, let me explain that Joe Glidden was a farmer in Illinois and his wife, his daughter and his two sons all died before Joe was 38.

In a fit of despondence, he invented barbed wire.

In 1874, in another fit of despondence, the United States let him patent the darned stuff.

Depression is a terrible thing.

Why else would a lonely farmer take a perfectly good coffee grinder and teach it to wrap sharp points around a piece of harmless, smooth wire, turning it into the bane of every rancher's and cowboy's existence?

So it was that, since 1874, the West got fenced, and cowboys got torn up, and bluejeans had to be made stiffer, and cowboys had to find wives so their shirts could get mended, and some doctor had to invent tetanus shots.

So what happened to Joe Glidden after he came up with barbed wire?

Well, he remarried, was elected sheriff of his county,

became one of the richest men in the United States, and eventually owned a 250,000-acre ranch in Texas, a hotel, a bank and a newspaper.

Ain't no justice in this world.

The late Cleofes Ortiz, who was declared an official state treasure here in New Mexico, used to play old-time fiddle music for school children all over the state.

This maestro of Starvation Peak always used to wait for the inevitable question to arise when one of the sharp-eyed kids would notice he was missing the end of one of his fingers.

His eyes would twinkle and he'd tell the kids, "When I was a kid, we were too poor to buy violin strings, so I had to use barbed wire."

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Bombs featured on calendar of Matt's



500-lb pre-fuse

BOMBS

(Continued From Page 1)



Frisky, one of six shop cats.

ing spare parts.

Matt's interest and the camaraderie with the group grew to the point that he was fitted with a flight suit and started traveling around the country for air shows.

During one of the shows a visitor asked, "Why aren't there any bombs?"

That conversation prompted the thought: "Why not make replica bombs?"

Next thing you know Matt is making historical bombs for the aircraft.

When I visited him, he was painting bombs yellow for a Jimmy Doolittle exhibition.

Yellow Bombs??

Why yellow?

As it turns out for some reason, during the first World War, when aviation was young the bombs were painted yellow.

Therefore, when the second war broke out that's what they had...keep in mind not much of a military build up was going on in the U.S. during the isolationist period of the 1920s and 1930s.

It finally occurred to military planners – why do we have bright yellow bombs laying out on the airfields for the enemy to see?

Colonel Jimmy Doolittle, whom you may have seen in movies or recalled in history, was called upon by his country for a special mis-



500 lb. bombs painted early stage of WWII



500 lb. bombs painting stage

sion: to bomb the Japanese homeland shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

This bombing mission was to send a direct and clear message to the Emperor of Japan and all of the Japanese that while they caught us off guard at Pearl, we still had the manpower, machinery, and guts to pull off a direct hit on their homeland.

It was much more of a psychological attack than anything.

The problem was – the bombers didn't have enough fuel to bomb Japan and return.

They purposely went knowing that after they bombed, they would fly as close as they could to the Chinese coast and land at a pre-selected airfield.

There were several who bailed out before making it to the airfield, however, working with Chinese guerrillas who were fighting the Japanese there were several who returned safely but sadly some did perish.

The Shop

Matt's shop resembles a

museum with a workshop in the middle.

One corner is the office with computers, file cabinets, etc., and the middle is the open work area.

One side has supplies and several completed bombs are displayed from the ceiling.

The bombs are made out of rigid polyethylene.

He received some assistance from Jim Gallaher, a friend from his regular job, on making the mold of the bomb.

Everything on the bombs

are as they were – except the explosive material, of course.

His wife Jill, who helps with some molding now, greeted me upon arrival and was busy working the surrounding landscape of their peaceful property.

Matt and Jill's "kids" and "assistants" are six cats: Fern, Blackie, Hazel, Frisky, Tangie, and Momma.

Some of the kitties watched from a distance, but only Frisky, who was

(Continued on Page 10)



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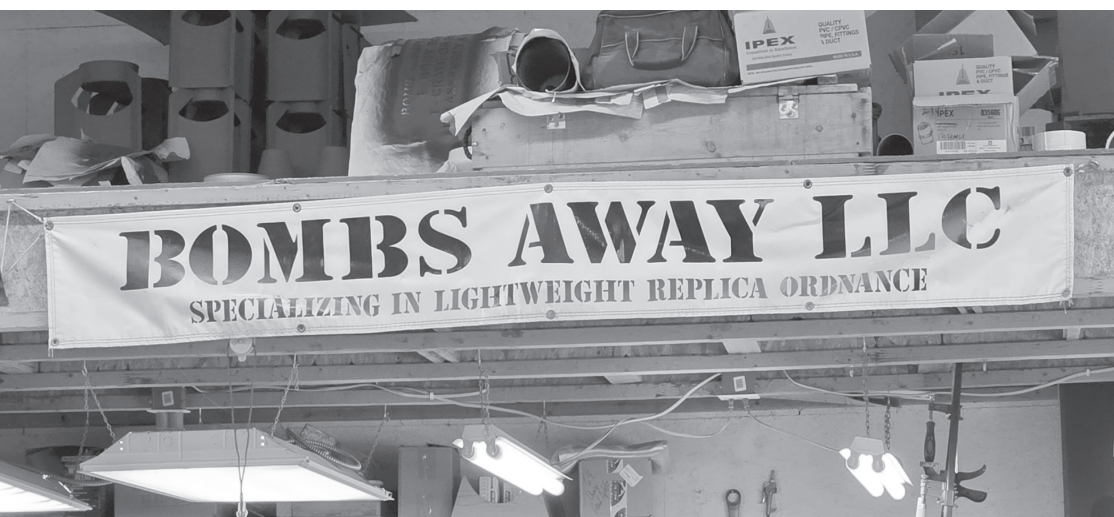
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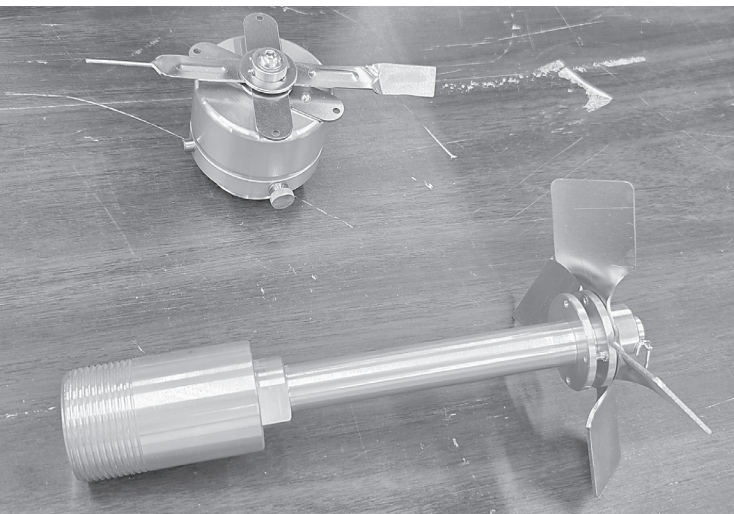
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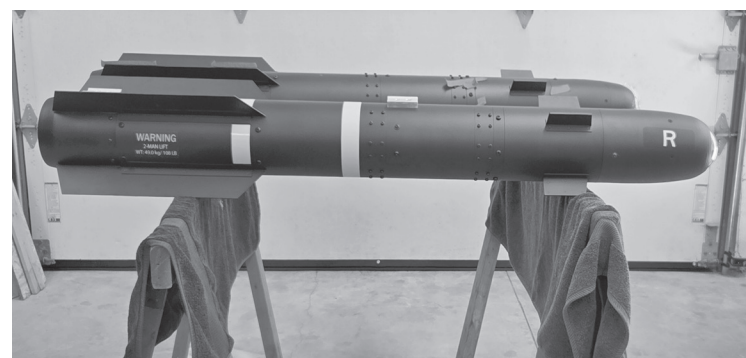
The Bombs Away banner in Matt's shop.



Fuses of 500 lb bombs



Front of Hell Fire Missile with guidance



Side of Hell Fire Missile



Variety of Bombs hanging from the shop ceiling.

BOMBS

(Continued From Page 9)

enjoying the office chair allowed me to take a picture.

While Matt works at his main job Monday through Thursday, his weekends, especially Friday, are devoted to Bombs Away.

Matt contracts with 18 different suppliers for various parts and processing.

Restaurant

The Bombs are on display at various locations including the Yankee Air Museum in Detroit.

However, it's not all military shows or historical museums... Bombs Away provides bombs for a chain restaurant in Texas.

This is similar to Cracker

Barrel with bombs!

The visit was fascinating in its own right with the displays, but it doesn't end there.

His bombs have even been featured in four different movies including the latest version of "Midway!"

Recently my wife Molly and I watched that movie and I pointed out, "Hey that bomb was made by Matt in Bryan!"

Bombs in Modern Warfare

It is not just World War II bombs that are produced.

Bombs Away has also provided retro fittings for Corsairs in the Korean War era.

That drew my attention since my dad was in that war that was technically not

a "war" and is still an ongoing conflict even though the guns are *generally* silenced.

The truce is only held by a cease fire that has been in existence for over 70 years.

The corsairs feature 5-inch-high velocity aircraft rockets.

Bombs Away productions are also on display for Harrier Jets in the form of Hell Fire missiles at the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division in China Lake, California.

I asked Matt about the choice of 100 versus 500-pound bombs...his answer was the 100-pound bombs can be easily mounted on the planes bottom.

The 500 pound ones require more storage in the aircraft and have more drag.

For more information visit the website: BOMBS AWAY.

Although we only discussed the ordinances in this article, according to the website there are at least 20 types Matt has produced.

Fuel, Oil, and Divine Power

I was fascinated to learn that each aircraft engine of

the WWII era drips oil naturally while requiring 30 gallons of oil burning per hour.

Each engine uses 50 gallons of fuel per hour!

As we parted ways Matt wanted to make one thing clear – he was very uncertain about this business, so he turned to God in prayer and God said, "You make them, and I will sell them."

It has been like that for over 20 years, and claims

God gets the full credit for his talents, production, and orders.

Al Beatty started delivering newspapers in Sherman's hometown of Lancaster, OH) and is an Assistant Professor of Accounting at Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio. Al Beatty and his wife Molly are grandparents to several and Al enjoys writing for fun." FN

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Time Traveling - 1856 to 2026

Williams County Fair

Isn't it amazing how almost every one of the County Fairs in our area of Northwest Ohio and Southern Michigan have been in existence since the 1850's.

They have survived through the bad times and flourished in the good times, but each has remained strong thru the years and have continued to grow.

What would the founding members of each Agricultural Society have thought if they could have seen into the future of how their visions for a County Fair remained strong and continued into the 21st century: astonishment-perhaps or disbelief -no, great joy-yes!



Early Fairgrounds, Montpelier, Ohio

Early Years

This September, the Williams County Fair in Montpelier, Ohio will mark their 170th year.

Back on June 14, 1856 the Williams County Agricultural Society was organized in the old Williams County

Courthouse in Bryan, Ohio.

The first Williams County Fair was held that year around the Courthouse Square from October 7th to the 8th.

Featured examples located

in the Courthouse were:

- Farm produce
- Domestic arts
- Manufactured articles

The livestock were tied to the fence around the Court Park, and horse races were held on the streets around the Park with twice around for a heat and 3 heats made a complete race.

Receipts for that first fair were reported at \$200.00 and expenses were \$150.00...the Fair was a success!

On June 1, 1857, the Ag. Society authorized execution of a 5 year agreement with Alfred P. Edgerton to lease land between the Evansport Road and the Lafayette Road for a fairgrounds in Bryan, Ohio.

(One will recall that Mr. Edgerton was a very prominent individual in NW Ohio, who provided ground for the Defiance County Fair in Hicksville, Ohio and who the town of Edgerton, Ohio is named after.)

The Ag Society developed a fairground with a 7-ft. high fence made of ash, maple and beech boards around its perimeter.

A huge tent was erected for displays of quilts, knot work, rag carpets, crocheting and other articles.

Due to the immensely large crowds within the tents, aisles were created with ropes to keep the public

back from the displays, and guards even hired to assist in keeping crowds from tracking over the exhibits.

One competition held at the Fair with awards was for the best stump puller and the best team of 6 oxen in a yoke, and horse races were held on the new track.

As there was no grandstand built yet for the horse races, and due to the size of the crowds, a tree house was erected for the Judges to be in to view the races and determine the winner.

2025 Power Derby



Tri-State Fair

The Fair would continue to be held in Bryan thru 1886....but wait let's back track a little bit first...prior to 1856, Williams County was part of a Tri-State Fair that was held along the Michigan state line in Northwest Township, Williams County, Ohio.

Farmers from Indiana, Michigan and Ohio would participate and display their choice produce here as well

(Continued on Page 12)



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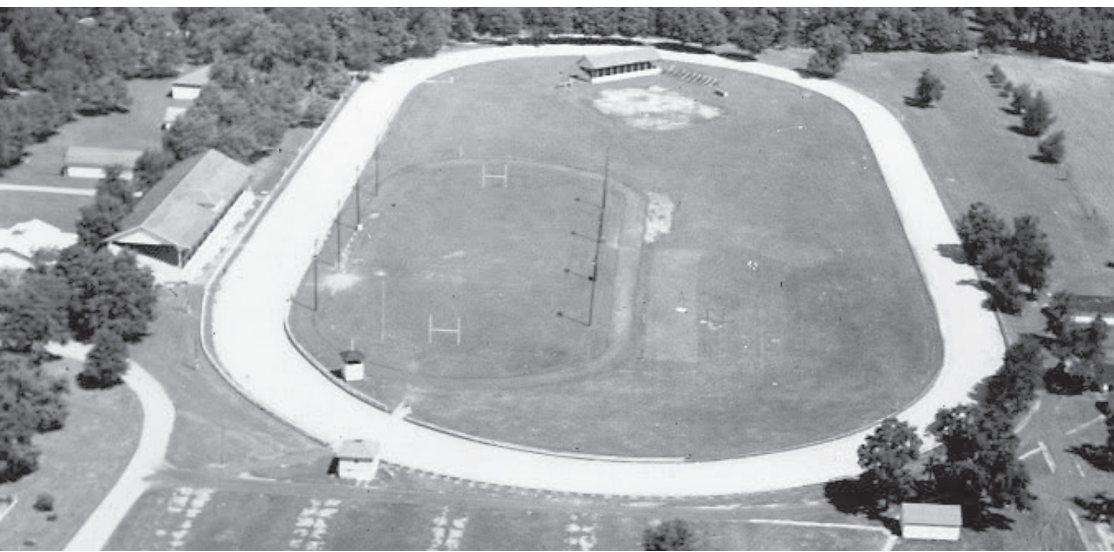
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1938 aerial view of the fairgrounds



1952 Joie Chitwood Thrill Show



Greased pigs contest in the 1960's



Horse pull Montpelier, Ohio

TIME TRAVELING
(Continued From Page 11)

as enjoy other activities of interest.

(Note: Today there is no trace of this Fairground that it once existed.)

Also in late September of 1857 a 3-day Fair was held in West Unity on the Jacob Bohner farm.

A few more fairs were held in the West Unity area prior to the Civil War breaking out in 1861, but

these eventually ended forever once the war began.

Due to the "unsettled condition of the country and the coming draft during the Civil War no County Fair was held in 1864 in Bryan.

It did resume in 1865, and in 1866 the Ag Society constructed a new Fairground at the NE corner of Rd. 13 and Paige Street on land they had leased consisting of 20 acres.

This Fair was very successful until differences arose between those who wanted a "pure agricultural fair with no races or shows" versus those who felt "a pumpkin and a cow" were not enough.

To top it off in 1883 the Fair had a beer tent that allowed to be had and some young girls were overheard talking with "unseemly loudness".

This was followed with other incidents and the Fair Board had had their fill of complaints and disgruntled comments and said "fine... the disgruntled ones should organize a little fair and run it themselves."

Land Purchase
On March 7, 1885, the Montpelier Union Agricul-

ture Company was founded and the following year they were able to purchase 37-1/2 acres on the east side of Montpelier for a fairgrounds.

This land was brought from the estate of the town founder John Bryner for \$11,500.00, and was to be

(Continued on Page 13)

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1950's Concession Stand



2025 Animal and Me

TIME TRAVELING (Continued From Page 12)

used to build exhibition grounds and for a racetrack.

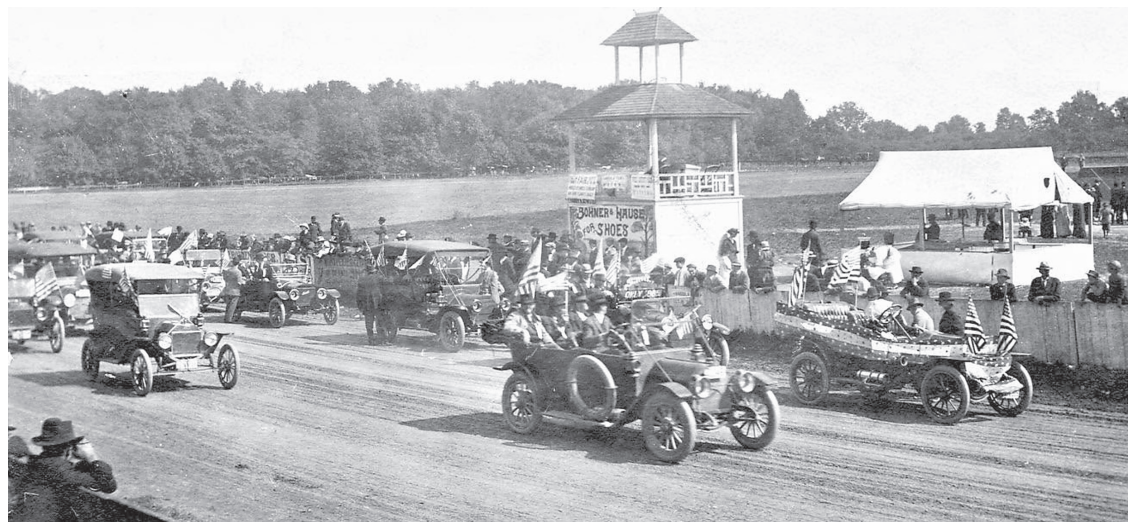
The first buildings erected were a Grandstand, Floral Hall, and the Red Cross building.

In September 1886, the first Fair was held at the new location and was fi-

nanced by selling stock at \$10.00 a share.

The year of 1886 saw 2 fairs held in Williams County - one in Bryan and one in Montpelier.

The community of Bryan was so absorbed in drilling for oil and natural gas and raising money to get the Mackinaw Railroad line thru town in 1887, efforts



1915 G. A. R. Boys



Vintage Williams County Fair

to support the fair met with little support.

The next following 3 years no fair was held at the One Mile Bridge property by Bryan, and it reverted back to the lessees of the property, according to the terms of the original lease.

The Montpelier Union Agricultural Co. still held continued to hold Fairs at their location in Montpelier for more than 10 years, but by 1899 the this Fair was a "bust" and no fair was held that year.

The Fairgrounds were purchased at Sheriff's Sale in September 1899 by J.W. Pew and others who then sold the ground to the Williams Co. Ag Society on January 4, 1900 for \$8500.00.

In September 1900 the Fair was billed as "the first annual Williams County Fair" in Montpelier and it has continued at this location ever since.

Hometown Hero

The late 1890's found a

hometown boy making his first appearance on a road to fame.

Harry Six of Bryan, Ohio was born in 1881, and was eventually known as "Dare Devil Six".

At the age of 16, he made his first dive at the Williams County Fair diving off of a 110 foot ladder into a tank of water.

(Continued on Page 14)



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1911 Horse Exhibit at Williams Co. Fair, Mountbellew, Ohio.

1911 Horse Exhibit

TIME TRAVELING

(Continued From Page 13)

Later, Harry became known as a "high diver", and was known as a famous American professional high and shallow water daredevil diver.

He performed a variety of unusual stunts, including

blindfolded dives from extreme heights into shallow tanks of water.

He set world records, won championships, however these dives took a physical toll on him, especially on his eyes due to the severe physical impact and water pressure.

In 1913 Harry was forced

to quit diving and by 1917 was completely blind.

The Grandstand

In 1936 the WPA (work program) built a 150 x 50 ft wooden frame grandstand that would seat 2300 people for a cost of \$12,285.00.

The grandstand remained standing until April of 1974 an arsonist "torched" the grandstand and it completely burned to the ground...to this day, no one has claimed responsibility for the fire or has been caught.

1979 found a new grandstand constructed of steel and concrete to replace the burned structure at a cost of \$400,000.00.

Entertainment Over The Years

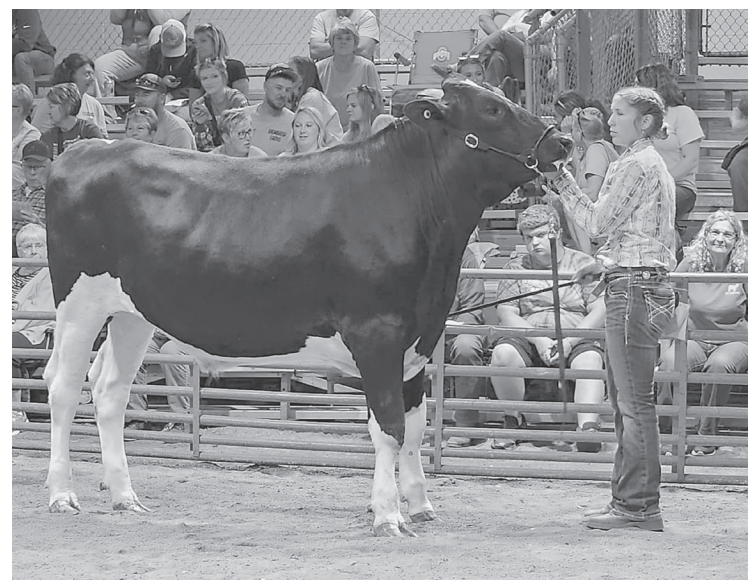
During the 1930's the Agricultural Society was able to purchase 17 additional acres of land around the Fairgrounds, and the Historical Society built its museum on the Fairgrounds in 1968.

In the early 1900's, some unique racing went on at the Fair "cattle racing" where cattle were hitched to a sulky to race around the racetrack as well as horses.

One mid century favorite entertainment was "Joie" Chitwood's thrill show featuring stunt driving.

George Rice Chitwood, nicknamed "Joie" was an American race care driver and business man known for his daredevil acts in the

(Continued on Page 15)



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Cattle Races

TIME TRAVELING (Continued From Page 14)

thrill show.

In 1942 after stuntman Earl "Lucky" Peter died, his wife was unable to sell off the equipment of the show during wartime, so Chitwood took it over and made

the show his own.

It was so successful he cut back on racing and focused more on entertaining.

Often called "hell drivers" he had 5 units that toured across North America for more than 40 years thrilling big cities and small towns.

The 1950's a favorite vin-



very special Fair to visit.

Hope to see you there!!!

Note: Farmland News would like to thank the Williams County Historical Society and Kevin Maynard for their contributions.

Photos courtesy of Huffman Photographic archives from Williams County Public Library and Richard Schmucker, Pioneer, Ohio. FN

(Continued on Page 16)

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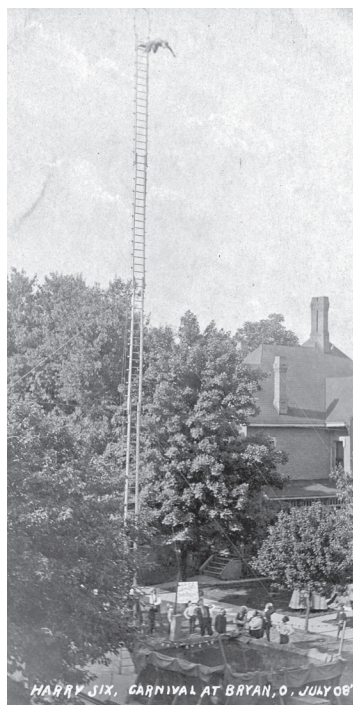
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Harry Six 1908

tage lineup at the Fair was "Roy Acuff and the Smoky Mountain Boys" and the Louvin Bros. - Charlie and Ira.

This lineup and the concerts in years to follow by Grand Ole Opry stars and classic country drew in massive crowds.

Fast forward to 2026, the Williams County Fair will be held this year September 12 thru September 19, 2026, with headline entertainment such as:

- The Isaacs and the Belamy Bros
- Harness racing
- KOI drag racing
- Rodeo
- Demolition Derby.

They will also have the "Animal and Me" livestock show featuring those individuals with special needs, besides the 4-H livestock shows, the midway rides and games and everything else that combines to make the Williams County Fair a

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Memorable Trip to Italy and France

Submitted by Millcreek West Unity FFA

After nine days of traveling in Italy and France, the group of FFA and community members returned home in time to celebrate the 4th of July!

The group began their journey on June 25th flying from Detroit to Philadelphia, and then Philadelphia to Milan, Italy where they were met by the guide, Beniamino, on the morning of June 26th.

After meeting up with another FFA chapter from Pennsylvania to complete the group, they traveled to Turin taking a walking tour of the city and having dinner at a local restaurant.

The following day, on June 27, the morning began with a guided tour of the city of Turin from a local guide.

Before lunch, the group visited Museo Nazionale del Cinema and ascended the Mole Antonelliana, Turin's iconic elevator within the museum, for panoramic views of the city.

In the afternoon, the group was given the opportunity to explore the city of Turin on their own.

Many visited the Royal Palace of Turin, or the Museo Egizio, the largest collection of Egyptian artifacts outside of Egypt.

Another highlight was the Cattedrale di San Giovanni Battista where the holy shroud is preserved.

On June 28, the group traveled to Cuneo, making several stops in small towns to visit and explore the farming in the region with a local guide.

One of the stops was Castello di Grinzane Cavour in the Langhe hills of Piedmont, Italy, famous for



Cuneo Cooking Class - Bryce Peters, Nate Wieland, Ashtyn Sanders, Evan Siegel, and Conner Sanders learn to make gnocchi at Open Baladin in Cuneo.



Monaco Visit - Conner Sanders, Ashtyn Sanders, Nate Wieland, Evan Siegel, and Bryce Peters on a terrace overlooking the small sovereign city state of Monaco.

its association with Count Cavour, a key figure in Italian unification, who served as its owner and mayor.

Before a tour of the castle, the group was given the opportunity to stroll among grape vineyards, and learn more about the production

of grapes.

The following day, June 29th, the group was again joined by a local guide who met the group to walk them through several agri-focused tours.

To begin the morning, the group toured a veal farm, learning about beef production in Italy and humane rearing practices.

Then, the group toured a fruit processing facility,

Gullino, where they learned about the cleaning and packaging of local produce.

They were also able to try different varieties of the local produce which were unique to the region.

For lunch, the group stopped in Saluzzo where they were able to select a restaurant with local cuisine and visit the beautiful Cattedrale di Maria Vergine Assunta.

For the afternoon, the group toured Agrion, a fruit research facility specializing in integrated pest management practices and organic farming methods.

On June 30, the day began with a visit to Molino Bongiovanni, a historic flour mill, learning more about the processing, packaging, and shipping of Italian flour.

For lunch, the group traveled back to the city of Cuneo for a cooking class with a local chef at Open Baladin learning to make gnocchi and hazelnut cake, which they then had for lunch.

The afternoon was filled with a tour of a dairy farm and centuries old cheese making.

At Cooperativa Agricola La Poiana - Valle Grana, the group learned more about dairy farming in the Alps and the process of making cheeses unique to

(Continued on Page 18)

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Dairy Farm and Cheese Factory Visit - The group listens to the guide at La Poiana discuss how they make Castelmagno cheese.



Olive Grove Visit - The group listens to a local guide at Olio Ferrari explain how olives are harvested from trees.

TRIP

(Continued From Page 17)

the region. La Poiana is specifically noted for the tradition of making Castelmagno cheese which only around seven people in the

world have been trained to make.

After the tour of the dairy and cheese production process, the group sat down to a tasting of the variety of cheeses made at La Poiana and within the region, be-

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fore heading back to Cuneo for an evening of dining and exploring the city.

After three days in the region of Cuneo, the group began their journey through the Alps to arrive in the city of Nice, France for supper on July 1st.

During their travel to Nice, the group stopped in the Liguria region to visit a family owned olive grove and take an in depth look at olive oil production.

At Olio Ferrari, the group was joined by a local guide and given a detailed account of how the family sustainably maintains the olive trees, harvests the olives, cold presses, and stores the oil for the production and sale of olive oil.

Students were able to try their hand at using the harvesting tools that the family uses in December to harvest ripe olives.

At the end of the tour, the group was given samples of the products produced at Olio Ferrari, and given tips on what to look for when selecting their own olive oil in grocery stores.

Upon reaching the city of Nice, France the group was given a walking tour of the city before eating supper at a local restaurant and checking into the hotel for the evening.

Thursday, July 2, began with a tour of the family owned perfumery company, Fragonard, in Grasse, France.

A company guide ex-

(Continued on Page 19)



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Cuneo Town Square - The whole group in Piazza Galimberti in Cuneo. Carolyn Dorsten, Stacey Wieland, Christy Saul, Katie Frey, Ashtyn Sanders, Abbie Sanders, Eli Siegel, Conner Sanders, Evan Siegel, Nate Wieland, Bryce Peters, and Covin Sanders.



Royal Palace of Turin - Bryce Peters, Evan Siegel, and Nate Wieland in a hallway displaying historical armor in the Royal Palace of Turin.



Evan Siegel, Bryce Peters, Conner Sanders, Ashtyn Sanders, and Nate Wieland on a terrace in the village of La Morra overlooking the beautiful vineyards of the Piedmont region.

TRIP (Continued From Page 18)

plained the historic process of creating perfumes from flowers and other plants from the region, and how the company expanded to using plants from around the world.

She also took the group

through selecting scents that match their individual body chemistry, and how to identify quality perfumes.

After the perfumery tour, the group traveled to Monaco where they were given a walking tour of the small sovereign city-state before taking time on their own to explore and take time for lunch.



Veal Farm Visit - The group takes a picture in thier biosecure outfits during their visit to a veal farm. Carolyn Dorsten, Ashtyn Sanders, Katie Frey, Christy Saul, Stacey Wieland, Conner Sanders, Abbie Sanders, Covin Sanders, Eli Siegel, Evan Siegel, Nate Wieland, and Bryce Peters.

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In the afternoon, the group returned to Nice for an afternoon of exploration and free time in the city.

Many group members went to the public beach where they swam in the Mediterranean Sea for the afternoon, while others shopped and tried out local cuisine before eating supper at another local restaurant and celebrating a birthday of one of the students.

The group of FFA and community members returned home on Friday, July 3rd with new perspectives and appreciation for other cultures, in addition to appreciation for the support of the West Unity and Alvordton communities that supported them through fundraising for this amazing travel opportunity!

Students also mentioned having a new appreciation for air conditioning and ice!

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TRACT #2: Approx. 25.1 acres on the SE corner of Co. Rd. J & 22 with frontage on both roads. Soil types are primarily Lenawee. Mostly tillable.

TRACT #3: Approx. 86.2 acres between Tracts #2 & #4 with frontage on Co. Rd. 22. Soils are varied with Lenawee, Del Rey, Kibbie, Colwood and Latty. Mostly tillable but with a small woods of approx. 3 acres at the SE corner of the Tract.

TRACT #4: Approx. 24.3 acres farmland directly north of the turnpike and south of Tract #3, fronting on Co. Rd. 22. A ditch borders the tract to the north. Primarily Kibbie and Fulton with some Colwood soils. Mostly tillable.

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