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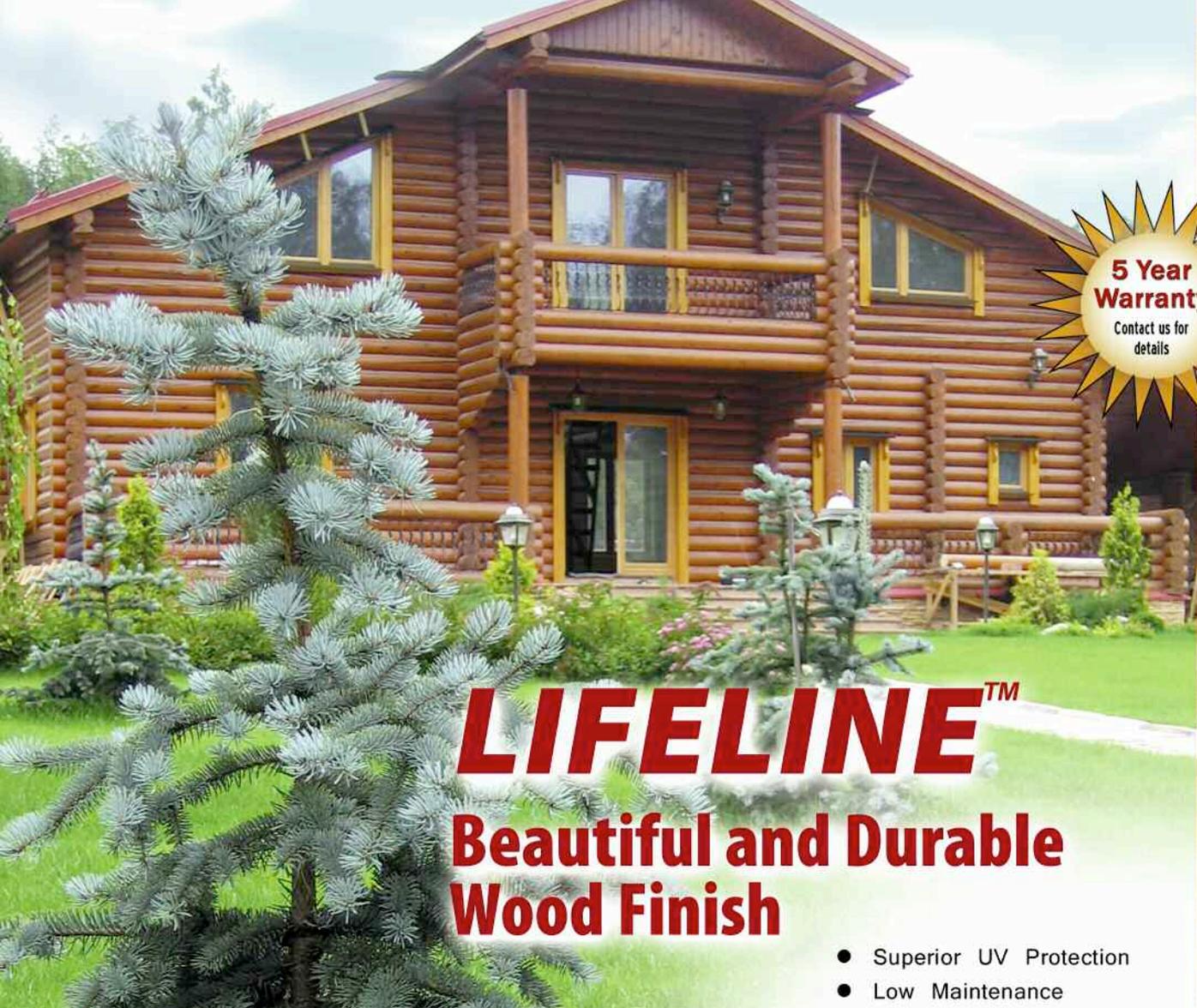
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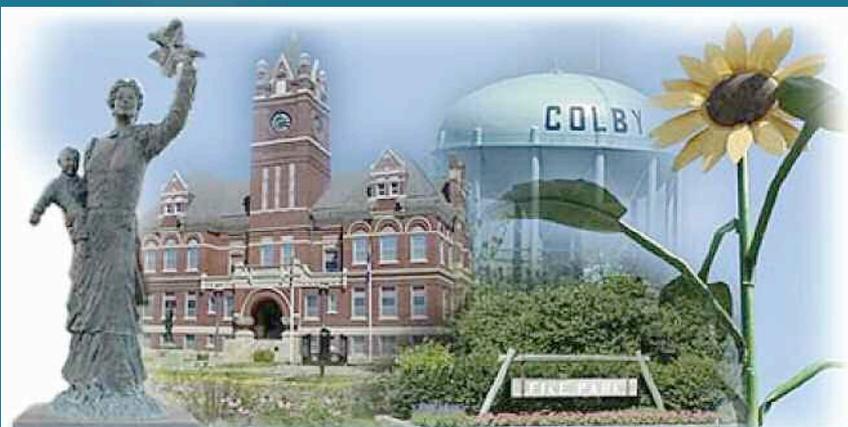
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IN THIS ISSUE...

TIMES ARE TOUGH FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS and yet this is just the culmination of bad public policies pursued by Democrats as well as Republicans over the last 30+ years. Our democracy has been hijacked by big corporations, banks and the super rich, who have bribed our politicians to pass laws favoring their selfish interests over our nation's economic and social well-being. It's an outrage and it's destroying our country. *Midwest Today* has always been known for its well-researched and in-depth lead stories, and we don't disappoint in **The War On the Middle Class**. ■ We proudly present some newly discovered color photos of WWII America, bringing to life **The Greatest Generation** as never before. ■ Covergirl **Kristen Bell**, a Michigan native, is a down-to-earth girl at heart. ■ With more people adopting cooking as a hobby, they are now **Dining In Style**. ■ Missourian **Jane Wyman** is probably best remembered from the TV drama "Falcon Crest" but she also had an illustrious film career, besides being the ex-wife of Ronald Reagan. ■ Some South Dakotans are joining forces in **The Fight To Save the Wild Horses**. ■ Your suspicions are confirmed in **Grant Wood: A Look Behind the Facade of the Farmer-Painter**. ■ We invite you to listen to our **Midwest Today Radio Edition** each week on a station near you, or online: www.midwesttoday.podblaze.com

We hope you enjoy this issue!

— The Editors

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Who Will Defend Iowa's Elderly?

TERRY BRANSTAD'S RETURN TO THE IOWA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE for another term, after having previously served for 16 years in that post, is viewed with alarm by advocates for the elderly because his earlier administration had a terrible record of enforcement of nursing home regulations. Once again he's chastizing regulators for what he calls a "gotcha attitude" when it comes to protecting older Iowans in care facilities.

There are 24,000 people in the state's nursing homes, many of whom have no family or friends to protect their interests. As the *Des Moines Register* reported, the last time he was in office (1983-99), Branstad's administration was accused by other state agencies of being too lenient on homes where elderly Iowans had been injured or died as the result of abuse or neglect. State Auditor Richard Johnson, a fellow Republican, found in 1995 that the inspections department was not complying with the state's own legal requirements for examining each Iowa care facility at least once every 15 months. Only one of Iowa's 459 residential care facilities had been inspected the previous year.

After Iowa Long-Term Care Ombudsman Carl McPherson issued a report in 1995 that said the inspections department was "negligent in the protection of our most vulnerable and dependent citizens," the *Register* reported he had been muzzled by the Governor. Branstad received illegal campaign contributions from nursing home operators that same year.

State Ombudsman William Angrick also concluded the inspections department had failed for eight years to adequately enforce state and federal laws governing nursing homes and was itself violating federal law by failing to adequately penalize care facilities even in cases where deaths had occurred.

In 2002, the Department of Elder Affairs was caught covering up the most egregious examples of abuse by creating two sets of inspection reports, including a sanitized version issued to the press. Then-Gov. Tom Vilsack, a Democrat, cracked down.

There were a series of assaults at the Urbandale Health Care Center in 2009 where residents were choked, kicked, punched and sexually abused. There were at least 18 separate attacks — some by a resident wielding a broken coat hanger — that were

documented in the nursing home's own records.

Yet it was fined only \$400. As new head of the Iowa Dept. of Inspections and Appeals, Dean Lerner discovered that for 20 years state officials had routinely downgraded serious violations related to resident injuries. The facilities were being fined \$500 or less, rather than \$10,000 or less, as the law required. He stressed enforcement and the total amount of state fines doubled in one year, to \$217,533.

Some nursing homes then tried to frighten elderly residents by saying state bureaucrats were trying to force them out of their homes and dictate where they can live. They have lavished lawmakers with trips and freebies.

Recently, Branstad claimed Iowa had "dramatically increased the fines" against care facilities. But that's misleading. Statutory penalties for health care violations in nursing homes remained at the same level for 23 years until 2009. Then, while fines increased for intentionally hurting or murdering an elderly resident, a bill passed unanimously by the Iowa Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Chet Culver actually *eliminated* a broad range of fines against Iowa nursing homes that fail to meet minimum health and safety standards. One of the self-identified violations that will now be exempt from fines is insufficient staffing, which is considered to be the biggest contributor to resident neglect in nursing homes. Other exempt violations include: failure to meet residents' nutritional needs; failure to provide adequate dental care; failure to have competent, licensed administrators or caregivers; and failure to have a qualified nurse on duty.

Branstad recently tapped Rep. Rod Roberts to head the Dept. of Inspections. Roberts and his wife have ties to a Carroll, IA nursing home his office will oversee. He introduced a bill that would have capped pain and suffering damages to be awarded to patients in the event of an injury or death caused by an Iowa nursing home or health care provider. ■



ADDICTED TO THE WEB? YOU'RE NOT ALONE

ACCORDING TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE JWT ADVERTISING AGENCY, MOST Americans say they cannot go for more than a week without surfing the internet, preferring web browsing to friends and sex. Of 1,011 Americans studied, 15% said that they would not be able to do without the web for more than a day, 21% could go no more than a couple of days, and 19% of participants said that a few days would be enough. Only a third of respondents said that they could live without the Internet for a week, and generally these people had no internet connection.

Most of those surveyed said they would feel restless, bored and isolated from the world. Almost half of all respondents said that mobile phones and the Internet have become essential parts of their lives; 28% of people said they spent more time on the net than talking with their peers and friends; and 20% of respondents said they had less sex because they spent that time on the world wide web.

Among all activities, going on the Internet was #1, followed by mobile phone use, while such activities as TV viewing, communicating with friends, reading newspapers and sex are rated as less important. ■

A New, Legal High?

SOME INDUSTRIOUS MARIJUANA USERS have seized on an obscure but easily accessible substance that mimics the drug's effects on the brain, creating a popular trade in legal dope that has stymied law enforcement authorities. The users are buying a particular brand of incense that is produced in China and Korea — a mixture of herbs and spices — that is sprayed with a synthetic compound chemically similar to THC, the psychoactive ingredient found in pot.

Authorities in Johnson County, Kansas say it is spreading to high school students. Users roll it up in joints or inhale it from pipes. It can lead to a lower body temperature, partial paralysis and the temporary inability to feel pain, according to the DEA. But so far it's legal. ■

Bailed Out Banks Finance Predatory Lenders

WHEN BIG WALL STREET BANKS tanked the economy, Americans lost an estimated \$14 trillion in wages, savings and housing wealth. Yet taxpayers were forced to bail out the fat cats. Now many of those banks are returning the favor by extending credit to payday lenders who sucker consumers into a spiraling debt trap. That is the claim in a new report published by National People's Action (NPA), the Chicago-based community organization.

"The very same banks that helped tank the economy are now helping the bottom feeders of the industry," says George Goehl, Executive Director of NPA. "The report shows that a \$300 payday loan could end up costing you \$750. If Al Capone was alive today, I bet you could get a better deal from him."

Wells Fargo, Bank of America, and JP Morgan Chase received \$95 billion in Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) bailout funds in 2008. These banks continue to be subsidized by the taxpayers, receiving near zero-percent interest funding via the Federal Reserve. While the big banks have refused to invest in American factories and small businesses, they have decided to support the predatory payday loan industry which charges customers an average effective interest rate of 454% on small loans.

The Wall Street banks have extended almost \$3 billion in credit over the last few years to publicly traded and privately held payday loan companies. An esti-

mated 22,300 payday loan stores nationwide make \$30 billion in loans each year. Wells Fargo is the worst offender financing one third of the payday loan stores.

There are as many payday-lending outlets as there are McDonalds and Starbucks combined. The majority of their customers are working people with jobs but no access to affordable credit. Sixty percent of borrowers take out 12 or more loans a year. "But small loans can add up to a big debt trap," says Kevin Connor, author of the new report.

For instance, Kansas payday loan victim Mitzi Rivers-Singleton took out a series of small loans that added up to about \$3,000. Over a seven-year period she ended up paying \$30,000 in fees.

The biggest payday loan company is the Orwellian-named Advance America, a publicly traded firm listed on the New York Stock Exchange with over 2,500 outlets in 32 states. Wells Fargo, Bank of America and U.S. Bank provide a total line of credit to the firm of \$300 million at interest rates ranging from 4% to 8% on the loans. In recent months, Advance America's booming profits have been noticed and it has been touted as a "good investment" by Wall Street insiders.

One former employee of Advance America explains some tricks of the trade. Speaking on the condition of anonymity (because he and other employees were forced to sign a confidentiality agreement upon leaving the firm), this former shop employee says that many of his clients

were on disability or Social Security: "They would come in for a small loan and write a check to the company dated the 3rd of the month, when their government checks would arrive. All the Advance America employees were required to come in early on that day, so we could quickly cash their checks and wipe out their checking accounts."

The goal is to get customers to continually renew their loans. "We had to call in our numbers every night to Advance America's corporate headquarters. They were not interested in numbers on who paid off their loans, but on who renewed their loans. They wanted folks to pay the interest rate and keep the loan going and going," says the former employee.

This man also worked for a time in the collection department where he was instructed to go to people's place of employment first. "We would not tell their bosses where we were from, but we would carry a clipboard with our name on it in a prominent way. We would request that a person be pulled off the factory floor, not to collect, but to keep them on the hook. The key was embarrassment and intimidation."

Big banks continue to finance wealth destruction via payday loan operations, a type of disaster capitalism that our corrupt politicians have failed to stop. ■



U.S. Record In Iraq Is Worse Than Saddam's

AMERICANS, WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THE FACT THAT THERE WERE no weapons of mass destruction found in Iraq, always console themselves by saying, "At least we got rid of a vicious dictator." But now it is clear that the "government" that replaced Saddam's has more to answer for than he did. Not only that, but the United States and its allies aided in the torture and criminality committed in the name of justice, when not committing atrocities on their own. America's last rationale for the war has vanished: in waging war we did not improve the lives of Iraqi citizens. In fact, we made that country over into a living hell.

The release of 400,000 pages of classified documents by Wikileaks reveals that the sanctions and war killed, maimed and destroyed more civilians than Saddam did, even during the most diabolical periods of his rule.

Revealed are countless atrocities and the deaths of at least 66,000 Iraqi civilians at the hands of U.S. and British soldiers and Iraqi personnel who had joined the allies. Men were burned, some were dismembered, others were tortured and killed slowly; women were shot, children too — killed before they grew.

The Wall Street banksters who control the U.S. government are rapidly taking custody of

the world's resources by deploying the U.S. military to open other nations' resources to exploitation by the banksters who then get them for free (free in this context meaning: at the expense of the rest of us).

America fears the demise of its reserve currency. Saddam was on the verge of using the euro instead of the dollar in Iraq's oil transactions, thus putting enormous pressure on Bush and Blair.

The military-industrial-media complex's revenue stream diminished after the Viet Nam occupation and further diminished after the Berlin Wall fell. But the never-ending Iraq/Afghanistan/Pakistan occupation will assure the military-industrial-media complex an eternal revenue stream. Persistently high U.S. unemployment will provide a defacto draft (a stream of eager recruits who have no other employment opportunities).

The terrorist threat is real, but in a sense it is also a self-propagating threat: every civilian we kill creates a dozen new terrorists in the form of friends and relatives who want to wreak their vengeance on the "evil American empire" that invaded their land and killed their brother or sister or daughter or husband or wife.

George W. Bush, Tony Blair and their armies have never had to face proper, international judicial interrogations. Much the same meme is being used to describe the fiscal crisis. Rather than seeing it as a criminal act and one that was planned so as to loot the Treasury, it was simply one where errors were made in overseeing the financial system. ■ — Matt Andrews



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for a mouth right now."

-Rainbow



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THE WAR ON THE MIDDLE CLASS

Over 30 years of Washington corruption has given us joblessness, lack of health care and affordable housing, child poverty and vanishing pensions. And it's only going to get worse.

Opinion & Analysis by **NEAL LAWRENCE** • SENIOR WRITER

ON MAY 6, 1935, WITH THE COUNTRY IN THE MIDST OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION, PRESIDENT FRANKLIN Roosevelt signed an executive order to create the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA put millions of Americans to work constructing buildings, painting murals to decorate them, and performing plays for audiences that had never before seen a dramatic production. In the process, many were saved from poverty and starvation and the economy began to revive. During its eight-year history the WPA employed more than 8,500,000 people on 1,410,000 projects, and spent \$11 billion. It built 651,087 miles of highways, roads, and streets. It constructed, repaired, or improved 124,031 bridges, 125,110 public buildings, 8,192 parks, and 853 airport landing fields.

When President Roosevelt was vilified by Republicans who accused him of being a socialist, he proclaimed "I welcome their hatred," and pushed heavier taxes on the wealthy, as well as new controls over banks and public utilities. He helped people avert home foreclosures, established unemployment insurance, and strengthened the enormous work relief program for those without a job. And that's just for starters.

Today, the need for a direct jobs program is either as great, or even greater than during the Depression. Fifteen million people have become unemployed since the Bush recession hit in late 2008.

But there is no jobs bill to speak of. No WPA to hire those who can't find work in the private sector. Unemployment insurance doesn't reach half of the unemployed. The average time needed to find a job has risen to a record 35.2 weeks.

An estimated 40% of Americans are in real trouble. Their jobs, incomes, savings, and homes are on the line. At least 14% are delinquent on their mortgages, 2.2 million are in foreclosure, and 15 million owe more on their houses than they're worth.

Millions are not going to be able to heat their homes this winter. Millions of others are going to have to choose between buying medicine and buying food because they can't afford both. Homelessness is on the rise, even among veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. Tent cities reminiscent of the Hoover years have sprung up around the country and in some metro areas like Las Vegas, the homeless are living



An endangered species: American families are under assault as never before.

underground in the "flood tunnels."

Of the world's 24 richest nations — a list the U.S. tops — our children rank 23rd in material well-being, 22nd in health well-being, and 19th in education well-being. An entire generation of kids are being written off, sentenced to crowded schools, broken families, dangerous streets, and joblessness. This is the tinder for social explosion.

America is literally falling apart. Roads

and bridges are crumbling, pipelines are leaking, schools are dilapidated, and public libraries are being closed. State and local taxes are rising while services are being cut. Teachers and firefighters are being laid off.

It's going to get worse because the GOP, while claiming to support states' rights, has killed a bonds program that had previously helped states raise billions and avoid defaults. The Republican goal is to push states

into bankruptcy as part of a broader scheme to bust public employee unions and wipe out their pensions, the latter of which are the latest target for thievery by the upper classes. Pensions are being blamed for rising property taxes, but the real causes are the decades-long obliteration of a fair tax system, and the looting of the treasury to bail out big banks and finance military misadventures abroad.

There were also the S&L, ENRON, and WorldCom scandals which undermined the solvency of pension funds and left dedicated workers penniless in their retirement years.

American society is unraveling in the context of increased violence and widely-available guns (thanks to conservative policies), of underfunded and unavailable medical care, especially mental health services (thanks to conservative policies), of a widespread belief that government is the enemy of the people (thanks to conservative rhetoric), and of millions of increasingly desperate people (thanks to an economy screwed up by conservative governance).

Jonathan Tasini says that "By abandoning their responsibility in society, the richest among us have consigned millions of people to a retirement of poverty and a struggle to survive. The richest have benefited from the services provided by the public workers in our country but they refuse to pay their fair share, and so public workers are cast off."

Washington says nothing can be done, that there's no money left. Of course that's not true. Politicians have just deemed the wealth of the rich and corporate profits off-limits to taxation. While the safety net is being frayed, police and spying agencies are getting more powers and funding to deal with potential citizen uprisings and unrest.

Corporate profits are at their highest level in U.S. history. The bulk of the increase in profits during the fourth quarter was in the financial industry rather than manufacturing and other productive sectors. A whopping \$33.3 billion out of the total corporate profits increase of \$44.4 billion went to the banks and investment houses that workers have bailed out with tax dollars. Much of the rest of the corporate profit, in the non-financial sector, was also taken out of the workers' hide through increased "productivity" growth, meaning they had produced more for less personal income.

Former International Monetary Fund chief economist Simon Johnson says the fact that the financial industry is dictating the government's response to our economic problems is "the quiet coup." He bemoans "the reemergence of an American financial oligarchy" that had been broken by the banking regulations imposed during the New Deal in response to the Great Depression. As Robert Scheer explains it, "Franklin Delano Roosevelt's sensible regulations were gutted by Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, and tragically Obama has failed to restore them. The Wall Street lobbyists got their way and unfettered greed prevails."

American corporations currently have \$2 trillion in cash sitting on their balance sheets, but they're not hiring. They're brazenly rewarding their fat-cat executives with enormous bonuses that are unconscionable in size, while 40 million people are on food stamps and 50 million have trouble putting food on their table. Sixty one percent of Americans "always or usually" live paycheck to paycheck, which is up from 49% in 2008 and 43% in 2007. Over 21% of all children in the United States are living below the poverty line. A staggering 43% of Americans have less than \$10,000 saved for retirement and 24% of American workers say that they have postponed their planned retirement age in the past year. More than 40% of people who actually are employed are now working in low paying service jobs.

In the midst of this deep recession, the collective personal wealth of members of Congress increased by over 16% between 2008 and 2009, with more than half of all members — 261 — being millionaires. "Congressional representatives on balance rank among the wealthiest of wealthy Americans and boast financial portfolios that are all but unattainable for most of their

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constituents," said Sheila Krumholz of the Center for Responsive Politics.

Disturbingly, many members of Congress hold stock in corporations which are at the heart of the financial crisis: Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, Wells Fargo, Citigroup, and JPMorgan Chase.

Less than 1% of Americans have similar wealth. The income of average Americans has been so eroded that there is not enough purchasing power left to keep the economy growing without going into debt.

Once upon a time, the United States had the largest and most prosperous middle class in the history of the world, but now that is changing at a blinding pace. Those who touted the benefits of NAFTA and GATT, failed to mention that the "global economy" would mean that American workers would have to directly compete for jobs with people on the other side of the world where there is no minimum wage and very few regulations. The big global corporations have greatly benefited by exploiting Third World labor pools over the last several decades, where some workers earn as little as 22 cents an hour.

No matter how smart, how strong, how educated or how hard working Americans

are, they simply cannot compete with foreigners who are willing to put in 12 hour days at less than a dollar an hour.

Ever since Ronald Reagan was President, businesses have gotten tax incentives to move offshore. Now 41% of our economy belongs to the financial sector — quite a change from the 8% pre-Reagan.

What Obama Should Do...But Won't

MOST ECONOMISTS SAY THERE ARE really only four sources of potential growth in our economy: consumer spending, business investment, trade and government. The first three are on life support, while the Obama White House bungled the stimulus plan, helping the right in discrediting government intervention, which is still the best and only option.

We're being told by politicians that the high rates of joblessness are the "new norm," but the real goal is to make people disposable, especially seniors. Slashing social services increases the pool of workers desperate for any sort of paying job, pushing down wages and benefits. This is promoted under the rubric of "personal responsibility," but it's a sop to the rich.

President Barack Obama has all the statutory power he needs to rescue Americans from financial Armageddon without having to deal with obstreperous members of the GOP — or his own party for that matter. Like Franklin Roosevelt, he could create millions of jobs by executive order. As Jeanne Mirer (a labor lawyer) and Marjorie Cohn (a professor of law) argue in an essay they wrote urging Obama to use his authority to put people back to work rebuilding the nation's badly neglected infrastructure, "Remember when the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, which created the \$700 billion Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) was passed, one of the purposes was to preserve homeownership, and promote jobs and economic growth. Much of the TARP money has been repaid and the administration refers to the profit on the payments. If one assumes an average cost of one job is \$50,000, 6 million jobs could be immediately created for \$300 billion; 12 million jobs could be created for \$600 billion. *Because this is already appropriated money, Congressional Republicans could not block it.*

"This direct job creation would be bold. It would also be highly stimulative," Mirer and Cohn acknowledge. But "it would not add to the deficit because it is already appropriated money. Furthermore, one third of it would come back immediately in taxes, and more importantly, the growth in demand from this number of added jobs would expand private sector job growth and grow the overall economy."

The right wing has so dominated public discourse for the past several decades that many people have bought into the false notion that "Government does not create jobs, only the private sector does." But as

Ralph Nader illustrates, "Government not only creates jobs, taxpayers have paid trillions of dollars for research, development and tax credits that are given over to build entire industries. These include the semiconductor, computer, aerospace, pharmaceutical, biotech, medical device and containerization industries, to name a few. The Pentagon created the job-producing internet. When the government funds public works or expands the armed forces, millions of jobs are created."

Unfortunately, says Arun Gupta, President Obama has "shunned jobs programs on a massive enough scale to revive the economy because [it] would shore up benefits, wages and labor bargaining power, thus cutting into corporate profits."

Gupta notes that "the Obama administration has consistently fought for policies that involve *weakening* labor — such as its attacks on auto workers and teachers and the cynical gesture of calling for a freeze on the pay of federal workers — driving down wages, letting unemployment rise, and squeezing social services and benefits, all to transfer more wealth upward."

According to economist Rick Wolff, "high-net-worth' Americans have around \$12 trillion in investable assets, which excludes the value of their homes. A 13% wealth tax would wipe out the entire 2010 federal budget deficit of \$1.56 trillion while doing little to crimp the economy because this money is literally lying around."

The lifestyles of the rich would not be impacted at all. But many politicians are sociopaths who put their selfish interests first. They are *not* going to force the rich to pay their fair share because it might jeopardize their getting campaign contributions.

Although candidate Barack Obama campaigned as a populist, and filled stadiums with his inspirational rhetoric and bold promises of "change you can believe in," he has betrayed his supporters by governing like a corporatist, deferring to the plutocracy. He has preemptively made one capitulation to the GOP after another.

The President even joined Republicans in trying to re-brand the tax deal as a "stimulus" program. But if the tax cuts for the rich in 2010 did not produce a recovery, why should we expect that the same tax rates will change the economy in 2011?

Obama's deal to reduce the payroll tax by two percentage points will increase the deficit by \$120 billion. It's all part of a cynical plan to fabricate panic over Social Security so it can be cut along with pensions.

Republicans accuse Mr. Obama of being a Marxist and a socialist, but U.S. corporations are getting massive returns on their investment in him. (Does that mean Wall Streeters are Marxists and socialists too?) Two-thirds of them pay no federal tax on their income. These corporations get to veto any law that would eat into their profits, like a freeze on kicking Americans out of their homes while the banks' dodgy and illegal boom-time mortgage contracts are clarified,

THE U.S. NOW HAS A MORE UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH THAN "BANANA REPUBLICS" LIKE NICARAGUA, VENEZUELA AND GUYANA.

or a transition away from climate-destabilizing oil and coal. And they rake in a fortune from the reality that 44% of the entire federal budget is spent on a grossly overinflated war machine — a figure that is growing rapidly on Obama's watch.

Regrettably, Barack's Neville Chamberlain-like policy of appeasement toward the GOP coincides with the resurgence within the Republican party of extremist ideas which had been held at bay for decades, but which have exploded anew now that there's a black man in the White House. These ideas can be traced back to the John Birch Society — a radical group so far to the right it was even denounced by arch conservative William F. Buckley, JR.

As Norman Solomon sees it, "the President has empowered, not countered, the right wing by moving in its direction on a wide range of basic policies and governance formulations. Rather than staking out decent, progressive, populist positions and defending them with moral fervor, the Obama administration — in the midst of catastrophically high unemployment — has enforced and reinforced the identity of the national Democratic Party as defender of an untenable status quo. This approach has aided the far right — helping corporate-funded and often xenophobic 'populists' to masquerade as the agents of change."

Obama has repeatedly made concessions that undermine the legacies of the New Deal, the Fair Deal and the Great Society. He has embraced the false GOP narrative that our economic problems stem from too much government. He has failed to uphold *habeas corpus* and other precious civil liberties. Shockingly, Obama intends to bypass Congress and the Courts by issuing an executive order setting up a new legal system for indefinite detention of people such as at Guantánamo. But postponing a determination of guilt or innocence is wholly un-American, and threatens the liberty of every single citizen because it will damage the due process guarantees which have built up over the years to protect each one of us.

Mr. Obama has also given in to the necons by expanding the war in Afghanistan and endorsing torture and assassination.

Harvey Wasserman notes that Obama "became the first man in history to accept the Nobel Peace Prize with a pro-war speech. With Bush's Secretary of War by

his side, he ceded to the military our nation's most critical decision. He doomed our domestic economy and global ecology by burying us still deeper in the lethal quagmire of perpetual war. When Obama caved on Afghanistan, so did his Presidency."

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have also taken a terrible toll on the poor and middle class. Over 4,400 members of the U.S. armed forces have perished, with nearly 32,000 wounded in action, 320,000 suffering from brain injuries, 171,000 diagnosed with post-traumatic-stress disorder, and thousands more suffering from mental health problems, hearing damage and disease. Obama and Vice President Joe Biden promised the Afghan war would wind down by 2011, then they said 2014 and now they're saying the U.S. will remain there even beyond that, despite 68% of Americans being against it.

All of this has prompted some to speculate that Obama was a Trojan horse. It may be that he is just incompetent on every level. But there has always been something suspicious about Barack's meteoric rise, considering his slim resumé: He had been merely an ineffectual Illinois state senator who had voted "present" more than 100 times instead of taking a stand, and then gone on to be U.S. Senator for only two years before he became a candidate for President. Many still wonder: how is it possible that this man who is a member of a minority group, who had virtually no national name recognition, was magically able to raise more money from Wall Street than any other Republican or Democrat in history?

Democrats have paid a steep price for Barack Obama's betrayal of core party principles, as an estimated 29 million who voted for him in 2008 did not vote in 2010.

Serious New Threats To Democracy

FIVE RIGHT WING JUSTICES ON THE Supreme Court — John Roberts, Clarence Thomas, Sam Alito, Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy — recently wiped out a century of campaign finance laws designed to prevent corporations from using their immense resources to buy elections. Over 60 nonparty groups paid for 150,000 commercials and an untold number of direct-mail attacks in a frenzy of spending estimated at \$4 billion to promote far-right candidates in the 2010 mid-term elections.

Rupert Murdoch's propagandizing FOX "News" encouraged Tea Party disruptions of Democrats' "town hall" meetings. Reagan protégé Grover Norquist bragged that support for Obama's agenda "changed when thousands of people went into the street and terrorized Congressmen." Extremists have taken over the GOP.

They cite the faltering economy as evidence that "the stimulus did not work," even though they forced the watering down of the stimulus bill. They turned the very Wall Street bail-outs they supported into a rallying cry against the Democrats,

and have characterized as “socialism” the “government takeover of health care,” despite the fact that the Obama plan is a huge windfall for the for-profit health insurance industry and health stocks have soared. They have characterized the jobless as “lazy,” and repeatedly blocked an extension of unemployment benefits, causing immense hardship for millions of Americans and draining purchasing power from an already sputtering economy. They have denounced deficits despite the fact that their party transformed Clinton’s \$127 billion budget surplus into a \$455 billion deficit, and they demanded we borrow \$700 billion in order to give more tax cuts to the super rich. They are bullying the Fed itself into giving up completely on trying to reduce joblessness. Republicans oppose anything that might help sustain demand in a depressed economy — even aid to small

businesses, which the party claims to love.

After the recent mid-term elections, incoming House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) — who once took to the House floor to distribute fat checks from Big Tobacco to members who voted their way — quickly gathered the bank lobbyists together. He pledged to weaken or repeal the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Republicans are challenging the regulation of derivatives, the very things Omaha billionaire Warren Buffett called “financial weapons of mass destruction.” They are vowing to repeal health care, leaving 32 million Americans uninsured.

Rep. Eric Cantor, the House Majority leader, wants to repeal the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-wage workers and cut a staggering \$25 billion from support for poor mothers and children. Spending on Head Start, education and public health will

be targeted for deep cuts as well. The GOP has vowed to slash \$100 billion from domestic programs, largely those intended to help the most vulnerable.

Carter, Reagan and Clinton Started This Mess

SOME OF TODAY’S PROBLEMS CAN BE traced back to 1979, when Jimmy Carter was President, and Democrats controlled the White House as well as Congress. They lowered the top rate of the capital gains tax from 48% to 28% — an enormous boon for the wealthy. Important labor and consumer reform was defeated. Unemployment and inflation increased the misery index.

Then came Ronald Reagan, who launched a full-scale war on the middle class with his “supply-side” economics. Its very purpose, according to David Stockman, Reagan’s Budget Director, was to transfer

WHAT OBAMA DID WRONG

BARACK OBAMA WAS BROUGHT TO POWER BY THE “DONATIONS” — ACTUALLY investments — of Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, IBM, Morgan Stanley, General Electric, and others. So it is hardly surprising that he has largely served their interests.

James Galbraith says “The original sin of Obama’s Presidency was to assign economic policy to a closed circle of bank-friendly economists and Bush carryovers: Larry Summers, Timothy Geithner, Ben Bernanke. These men had no personal commitment to the goal of an early recovery, no stake in the Democratic Party, no interest in the larger success of Barack Obama. Their primary goal, instead, was and remains to protect their own past decisions and their own professional futures. He chose his team, knowing exactly who they were. And this tells us what we need to know about who he really is.”

Galbraith says “Law, policy and politics all pointed in one direction: turn the systemically dangerous banks over to Sheila Bair and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Insure the depositors, replace the management, fire the lobbyists, audit the books, prosecute the frauds, and restructure and downsize the institutions. The financial system would have been cleaned up. And the big bankers would have been beaten as a political force.

“Team Obama did none of these things,” Galbraith laments. “Instead they announced ‘stress tests,’ plainly designed so as to obscure the banks’ true condition. They pressured the Federal Accounting Standards Board to permit the banks to ignore the market value of their toxic assets. Management stayed in place. They prosecuted no one. The Fed cut the cost of funds to zero.

“The banks threw a party,” Galbraith says. “Reported profits soared, as did bonuses. With free funds, the banks could make money with no risk, by lending back to the Treasury. They could boom the stock market. They could make a mint on proprietary trading. Their losses on mortgages were concealed — until the fact came out that they’d so neglected basic mortgage paperwork, as to be unable to foreclose in many cases, without the help of forged documents and perjured affidavits.”

On the jobs front, Obama refused to follow the lead of Christina Romer, head of his Council of Economic Advisers, or Nobel Prize winners Paul Krugman and Joseph Stiglitz. All three said he needed a stimulus package that was at least 50% larger than the one he proposed. Nor did he create a new WPA, like Franklin Roosevelt did when the country faced a similar free fall.

If Obama had immediately embarked on a long-overdue program to rebuild our nation’s decaying infrastructure as a way of reviving the economy and restoring our competitiveness, it

would have dramatically lowered unemployment and boosted consumerism.

In late April 2009, when his poll numbers were still in the 60s, President Obama should have aggressively pursued financial reform and attached conditions to the second part of TARP (such as requiring that bailed out banks make more loans to small businesses).

Matthew Rothschild says that “Obama could have, and should have, nationalized Bank of America and Citibank, or at the very least, compelled them to halt foreclosures and write down the principal on all their mortgages by 25 or 30%. But Obama didn’t get anything from the banks in exchange for the hundreds of billions of dollars the Treasury doled out, and the trillions in guarantees. And so the bankers laughed all the way to the vault.”

Obama followed the same insider strategy by striking secret deals with the big pharmaceutical and health insurance industries while squandering time futilely seeking nonexistent bipartisan support from Republicans.

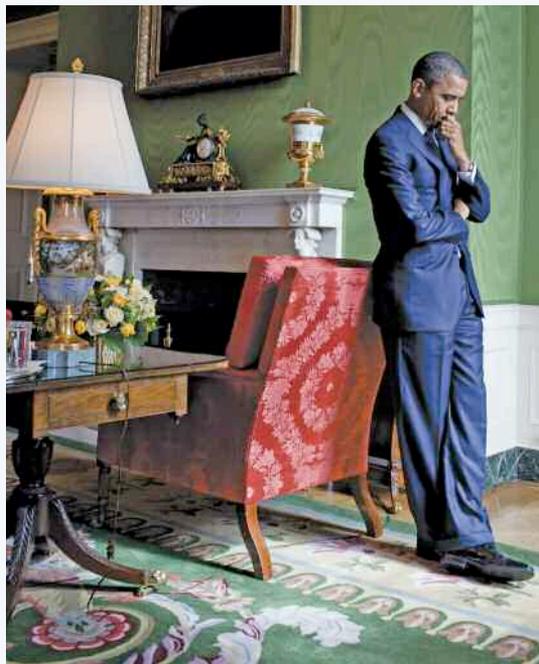
Adam Green says that “On an issue like the public option — that *The New York Times* said in June 2009 had the support of over 80% of Democrats, over 70% of independents and at that point over 50% of Republican voters — when Democrats failed to really fight for that, well, that’s the way you lose your base, that’s the way you lose independents that voted for Obama...”

The President refused to even let proponents of the public option have a seat at the table. Literally. He also didn’t push Harry Reid to give the health care bill to Iowa Senator Tom Harkin’s committee, instead of throwing it into the arms of Sen. Max Baucus, who’s been an insurance industry shill.

Jerome Karabel observes, “In pursuing health care reform, Obama seemed to forget that he had come to the White House with the help of the biggest grassroots mobilization since the 1960s. The troops who had done so much

to elect him were ready to be called into action in the battle for genuine health care reform. But they were told, in effect, to stand down; the White House sent out word that activists should stop pressuring wavering Senate Democrats to support more robust reform.”

During his campaign, Barack Obama assailed the Bush tax cuts for the rich more than 50 times. Although Republican leader John Boehner admitted that “of course” he would vote for tax cuts for the middle class if there was no other option, Obama inexplicably offered a “compromise” which entailed giving the GOP the tax cuts it wanted for the rich — and more. Thus Obama turned his back on the people who elected him and the majority of Americans who oppose giving the wealthy another tax break. It will also lead to higher tax bills for individuals with incomes below \$20,000 and families that make less than \$40,000. That’s because while their payroll taxes are being slightly reduced, they will lose \$400 or \$800 from the elimination of the Making Work Pay credit. It’s a *bad deal*. ■



wealth and income upwards. As Robert Freeman recalls, "It cut the marginal tax rate on the highest income earners from 75% to 35% while dramatically expanding spending for war. The results were two-fold: massive federal debt and an astonishing rise in the share of income and wealth going to those who were already the wealthiest."

With his bobble-headed, superficially sunny disposition, Reagan declared that "government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem."

This mantra has been repeated *ad nauseum* in the years since to justify the disempowerment of the working class, destruction of our manufacturing capacity, and ruthless gutting of social programs that once protected middle Americans. The reality is, government is the only force powerful enough — if it were energized on behalf of the people — to counter the might of avaricious multinational corporations.

Beginning in 1981 the Reagan administration effectively stopped enforcing antitrust laws, allowing monopolies to gouge everyone who had to buy their products.

Robert Freeman says that under Reagan, "the government actually provided tax subsidies so that corporations could eliminate jobs in the industrial Heartland and ship them to Mexico and later, China, India, and other low-wage countries, reducing wages and pitting American workers against each other for those jobs remaining."

Ronald Reagan politicized the CIA by placing his campaign chief William Casey in charge, who in turn, picked a young CIA careerist named Robert Gates (later Bush and Obama's Secretary of Defense) to purge the analytical division of its long tradition of objectivity. With the help of CIA propagandist Walter Raymond, Jr., the neo-cons began to use "perception management" — fear, exaggeration and lying — to control how the American people would see and understand things. Today's talk of "death panels" is an example.

Hailed as the man who "won the Cold War" (a fallacy; Moscow largely imploded on its own), Reagan played the role of the nation's kindly grandfather. But he stoked racist sentiments, targeting supposed black "welfare queens" and encouraging white men to see themselves as victims of "reverse discrimination." It was clever misdirection.

As Robert Parry asserts, "even as working-class white men were rallying to the Republican banner (as so-called 'Reagan Democrats'), their economic interests were being savaged. Unions were broken and marginalized; 'free trade' policies shipped manufacturing jobs overseas; old neighborhoods were decaying; drug use among the young was soaring.

"Unprecedented greed was unleashed on Wall Street, fraying old-fashioned bonds between company owners and employees."

Chris Hedges points out that "Regulations, which we have dismantled, were the bulwarks that prevented unobstructed brutality and pillaging by the powerful and

protected democracy. It was a heavily regulated economy, as well as labor unions and robust liberal institutions, which made the American working class the envy of the industrialized world. And it was the loss of those unions, along with a failure to protect our manufacturing, which transformed this working class into a permanent underclass clinging to part-time or poorly paid jobs without protection or benefits."

(In the 1940s a third of private sector employees were unionized. Now it's down to just 7.2%. Unions only remain strong in the public sector, where membership is 37%. The GOP wants to destroy this).

The national debt quadrupled between 1980 and 1992. And the bank deregulation that began in the early 1980s reached its apex when Bill Clinton signed off on the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, one of whose authors was (former) Sen. Jim Leach of Iowa. This disastrous bill eliminated the Glass-Steagall Act's separation between the high rollers of investment banking and the properly conservative, insured and regulated activities of commercial banks entrusted with the life savings of ordinary folks. With a stroke of a pen that he then presented as a gift to Citigroup CEO Sandy Weill, Clinton opened the door to the too-big-to-fail monstrosities that have inflicted so much misery on millions of Americans.

Among Heartland Senators supporting repeal of Glass-Steagall were Dick Durbin (D-IL), Charles Grassley (R-IA), Kit Bond (R-MO), and Kent Conrad (D-N.D.). Opposing repeal were Tom Harkin (D-IA), Russ Feingold (D-WI) and Paul Wellstone (D-MN).

A year later Clinton signed off on the Commodity Futures Modernization Act, promoted most fiercely by his Treasury Secretary, Larry Summers. It exempted from the surveillance of any existing regulatory agency or laws all of the deceitful financial gimmicks and credit default swaps that have proven to be so ruinous to the jobs and homes of tens of millions of Americans.

Though George H.W. Bush had dissed Reagan's "voodoo economics," his son would repeat Reagan's policies and double the debt again between 2000 and 2008. In attacking Iraq, George W. Bush not only made the biggest geopolitical blunder in history, he imposed a catastrophic financial burden on the U.S. which is approaching \$10 trillion. Currently, for every dollar spent by the federal government, 40 cents is borrowed, primarily from China.

Under Bush, the share of national income going to the top 1% increased from 9% to 24% (the highest since 1928, just before the Great Depression). The share going to the top one-tenth of 1% of income earners more than tripled.

Robert Freeman says that "Shifts of this magnitude over such short periods of time have never been seen in American history. With the rich getting much, much richer, it means that everybody else is getting poorer. And in fact, real wages for median workers are lower today than they were in

1973. While the inflation-adjusted income of the bottom fifth of workers fell by \$6,900 between 1979 and 2007, the top 1% saw its annual income increase by \$741,000!"

To try to keep up with living standards Americans resorted to debt. They increased their personal debt-to-income ratio from 62% in 1980 to 130% in 2008. When housing prices fell 35% in the recent collapse, it left Americans with a smaller share of equity in their homes — 48% — than at any time since the Great Depression. The share they have lost has been taken by the banks.

But even as more than five million homeowners have lost their homes, the wealthy had their losses covered by the Bush and later Obama administrations.

Robert Freeman says that "In other words, all of the income and wealth gains for middle Americans from the 'golden years' between 1945 and 1975 have now been wiped out. Or more accurately, have now been transferred to the very rich. The top 1% holds 34% of the nation's wealth while the bottom 50% holds just 2.5%. The bottom 40% owns absolutely nothing."

The top one-tenth of one percent of Americans now earn as much as the bottom 120 million of us. They're top executives of big corporations and Wall Street, hedge-fund managers, and private equity managers. The average income of top-earning Americans rose from \$91 million in 2008 to \$519 million last year. Astonishingly, the 74 Americans in the top wage category made just as much money as the 19 million who made the least.

Former Labor Secretary Robert Reich points out that "The marginal income tax rate on the very rich is the lowest it's been in more than 80 years. Under President Dwight Eisenhower — who no one would have accused of being a radical — it was 91%. Now it's 36%. Much of the income of the highest earners is treated as capital gains, anyway — subject to a 15% tax. The typical hedge-fund and private-equity manager paid only 17% last year. [Yet] the top 15 hedge-fund managers earned an average of \$1 billion."

Deficit Commission Ideas Will Hurt the Poor

NOT HAVING THE GUTS TO RAISE taxes on the rich, President Obama appointed a Deficit Commission co-chaired by former Sen. Alan Simpson who has described the nation's seniors as "the greediest." It proposes to cut the federal government's budget deficit by \$4 trillion over the next decade. But 75% of the "savings" will come from destroying programs that help the poor and middle class.

For example, the Commission proposes cutting the tax deduction for mortgage payments. Robert Freeman argues that "not only will this render housing much less affordable for millions of prospective home buyers, it will reduce housing prices, perhaps substantially, for without the tax writeoff, buyers will be able to afford much

KANSAS BILLIONAIRES VS THE U.S.

ACCORDING TO FRANK RICH OF *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, WEALTHY ZEALOTS LIKE THE BILLIONAIRE Koch brothers of Wichita, Kansas have "financed a fringe agenda that tilts completely toward big business...while dismantling fundamental government safety nets designed to protect the unemployed, public health, workplace safety and the subsistence of the elderly." Yet Koch companies have benefitted from \$100 million in government contracts since 2000.

David and Charles Koch are richer than anybody in America except for Bill Gates and Warren Buffett. Their family fortune was initially made by Fred Koch aiding the Marxist Bolsheviks and helping Stalin set up oil refineries. Fred later helped organize the John Birch Society.

In 1989 David and Charles were sued by their brother William, who accused them of running a "criminal enterprise." That same year, a Senate Committee alleged the brothers skimmed millions of dollars in oil from federal and Native American land. Charles paid the federal government \$25 million in penalties to settle the lawsuit.

In 1997, a Senate investigation found what it called "an audacious plan to pour millions of dollars in contributions into Republican campaigns nationwide without disclosing the amount or source," using a shell corporation "financed in whole or in part by Charles and David Koch" in order to evade campaign-finance laws.

As Frank Rich explains, the Koches are the latest incarnation of "those corporate players who have financed the far right ever since the du Pont brothers spawned the American Liberty League in 1934 to bring down FDR. You can draw a straight line from the Liberty League's crusade against the New Deal 'socialism' of Social Security, the Securities and Exchange Commission and child labor laws to the John Birch Society-Barry Goldwater assault on JFK and Medicare to the Koch-[Rupert] Murdoch-backed juggernaut against our 'socialist' President."

Koch family foundations gave Dick Armey's FreedomWorks \$12 million and Koch-controlled foundations doled out \$196 million from 1998 to 2009 to rightwingers. Koch Industries spent \$50 million lobbying and its political action committee spent \$4.8 million.

Jim Hightower reports that "Much like McDonald's churns out Big Mac franchises," the Koch's political arm "can pop out a grass-rootsy-looking, cookie-cutter political operation on demand. Its menu includes such garnishes as hoked-up studies, alarmist talking points, deceptive attack ads, divisive hate messages, celebrity and religious endorsers, and a menagerie of media stunts."

Frank Rich says "David Koch ran to the right of Reagan as Vice President on the 1980 Libertarian ticket (it polled 1%). His campaign called for the abolition not just of Social Security, federal regulatory agencies and welfare but also of the FBI, the CIA, and public schools — in other words, any government enterprise that would either inhibit his business profits or increase his taxes. He hasn't changed. The Koch brothers must be laughing all the way to the bank knowing that working Americans are aiding and abetting their selfish interests."

It's bizarre to see blue-collar workers angrily demand that they be left without healthcare, that their schools be de-funded and that millionaires pay less tax. The Tea Party railed for the continuation of Bush's tax cuts for the rich, the abolition of the estate tax, and more assorted trickle-down Reaganomics policies. But as David Horsey notes, "these average working class people won't see an extra dime from any of it. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the latest champion of Glenn Beck and the Tea Party, is on the record as saying that there is a good side to sending American jobs overseas. Rich people are putting Tea Partiers in the unemployment lines, and the Tea Partiers are screaming to get rid of unemployment benefits."

Horsey says "What they're rallying for goes directly against their own interests. They are forced to work two jobs, live in prison cell-sized homes, and eat crappy processed food precisely because of these trickle-down Reaganomics ideas that they claim to want so badly. One wonders if they'll keep singing that tune when the man from the bank comes to kick them out of *their* homes next." Horsey expounds that "Real American jobs seem not to be of genuine concern to these folks — or at least to those who are their favored candidates and spokesmen. The public statements...of Rand Paul, Sarah Palin, Sharron Angle, Joe Miller, Christine O'Donnell, Jim DeMint, Glenn Beck and their cohort reveal their true priority. And that is to turn back the clock to a time before Medicare, Social Security, environmental safeguards, unemployment insurance, the Securities and Exchange Commission, civil rights laws, consumer protection and any other government function or agency that seeks to protect the average American from the vicissitudes of the market economy and the depredations of powerful corporate interests. In the imaginations of these libertarian purists, life was lovely in this republic before progressives like Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson began meddling with the system and set America on the long, dark trudge to Barack Obama's totalitarian socialist rule.

"Yes, what a glorious time it was back then, before government started setting some rules. The free market picked the winners: oil companies, railroads, mining companies, sweat shop owners, polluters, timber barons, plantation owners, the meat packing industry; and the losers: child laborers, mine workers, mill workers, sharecroppers, people sickened by degraded air, water and land, as well as by tainted food. Greed and exploitation ruled a Gilded Age where the income gap between the industrialists in their sprawling mansions and the workers in their tenements was wide. Considering the current compensation gap between Wall Street billionaires and middle class folks, a return to that happy 19th century utopia seems well under way." ■



less house. This will decimate the sole source of wealth of tens of millions of Americans.

"It is housing wealth that undergirds retirement security for the middle class. Or, at least it did until one out of four homeowners went underwater on their mortgage in the recent bank-triggered collapse," Freeman asserts. "Then, even as the Commission plans to decimate home prices and owner equity, it proposes cutting back benefits to Social Security recipients.

"And this is being proposed at the very moment that the bank-owned Federal Reserve Board is beginning to print hundreds of billions of dollars to bail out the banks from what's left of their toxic assets still held from the housing crash.

"The ensuing inflation is going to destroy the value of retirement incomes at exactly the moment that 77 million baby boomers head off into retirement. It was exactly this process of money printing and bankrupting of retirees that destroyed the German middle class in the early 1920s, giving rise to Adolph Hitler."

The Commission's proposals would increase co-pays and deductibles for Medicare, making it unaffordable to millions. It proposes taxing as income the health insurance benefits millions receive from their employers. The Child Tax Credit would be eliminated as would 10% of all federal government jobs. This, at a time when 20% of the workforce is underemployed.

The Commission's proposals would lower the maximum tax on the highest income earners, from 35% to 24%. The nominal tax rate on corporate income would fall as well, from 35% to 26%. "There is nothing proposed to raise taxes after so many decades of steadily amassed wealth," says Freeman. "Of course, there will be no claw-backs of the trillions of dollars transferred to the rich under the phony duress of 'saving the system' during the height of the financial crisis. No proposal that the cap on earnings subject to Social Security withholding should be removed. (That proviso alone would raise more than half a trillion dollars over the next decade).

"But the war in Iraq, which was entirely premised on lies, has proven a huge boon to the rich weapons makers, bankers, logistics companies and oil companies that Bush used to coddle as his 'base.'"

The financial bailout cost \$13 trillion — all of it going to the very richest people on the planet. There is not a syllable in the Commission's report proposing getting any of that back to help reduce the deficit.

Robert Freeman concludes, "The Commission's proposal is the most naked, undisguised declaration of class warfare. Its agenda is not to reduce the deficit but rather to reduce what is left of the American middle class, of workers, to a condition of servitude, of feudal peonage. Their poverty will make them docile and subservient. This will make possible the final looting of America by those whose sociopathic greed has brought it so low already." ■

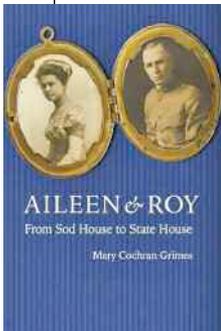
HEARTS BEATING FOR LIBERTY: WOMEN ABOLITIONISTS IN THE OLD NORTHWEST

by **Stacey Robertson**. A professor of American Heritage with an interest in Feminism, Ms. Robertson documents the history of the anti-slave movement that occurred in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The author determines that Western women helped to keep these states slave free by supporting a Quaker-led boycott of slave goods, aiding runaways and free blacks in their towns, and working alongside male abolitionists. These female-led antislavery groups targeted racism laws and public opinion in order to build schools for blacks and help integrate them into society. This view of slave history shows the importance of how women, who so often have been left out of the history books, played a pivotal role in this early effort to desegregate the “western states” that became the heart of the Midwest. While

these women could not yet vote to influence elections, their strategy was to “use their influence over their husbands, brothers, and associates [to keep them from voting] for none but those who will aid the cause of humanity.” Brave women indeed.

AILEEN AND ROY: FROM SOD HOUSE TO STATE

HOUSE by **Mary Cochran Grimes** is a memoir about the author’s parents. She chronicles her father’s three terms as



Governor of Nebraska (1935-1941,) and his years of public service. The author’s mother, Aileen Gantt, grew up in North Platte and taught school. Written with the guide of family letters and memoirs, this tale illustrates a quaint and poignant picture of small town life on the plains at the turn of the last century. Mary Grimes’ parents were pioneering figures in the development and advancement of the state of Nebraska in an era when the state could have faltered.

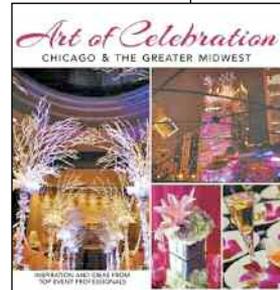
CHASING ALLIECAT by **Rebecca Fjelland Davis**. Sadie Lester, a 16 year old girl, along with her younger brother, leave Minnetonka, Minnesota to stay with relatives for the summer in the Mankato township of LeHillier. But the home of her mom’s brother and his wife and children becomes claustrophobic as more displaced relatives invade the cramped quarters. Sadie’s boredom is only eased by the handsome Joe and an eccentric local marathon biker named Allison Baker. Nicknamed AllieCat due to her agility and speed on a bike, her life is far more complicated and tragic than her no-nonsense persona implies. When Sadie, Joe and Allison go out on the trails one day they are horrified to find a priest left for dead in a ravine. Allie goes to call the police but isn’t heard from again until the Fourth of July bike races and festivities. Questions about Allie’s past and her connections to the priest and the trio of rednecks who stalk the teens could put all three of them in grave danger. A well done suspense!

AMELIA EARHART: THE TURBULENT LIFE

OF AN AMERICAN ICON by **Kathleen Winters**. The author, an aviator herself, did not focus solely on Amelia as a hero; rather she mentions the Kansan’s financial problems, marriage to George Putnam, and spontaneity at flying that ultimately got her killed. The technical side to flying a plane and the mechanics behind such a task are also included in detail. Amelia’s final flight is explored from the point of view as a professional, not a fanatic. This unique bio of this remarkable woman is given the star treatment by a woman with the knowledge and zest to report on the most famous woman of the air.



ART OF CELEBRATIONS CHICAGO AND THE GREATER MIDWEST. From planners, caterers, and entertainers to floral designers, ice sculptors, and lighting gurus, this book shares the passions and motivations of the event industry’s most popular specialists — and even a few of their best-kept secrets to executing unforgettable occasions. Each affair is accompanied by lighthearted editorial, providing a look behind the scenes at birthdays, corporate functions, religious milestones, and charity galas. With beautiful, lavish photos. ■



Child abuse is reported on average - every 10 seconds -



Founded in 1959 by Sara O’Meara and Yvonne Fedderson
PREVENTION and TREATMENT of CHILD ABUSE

Over 5 children die every day from abuse in the home.

Get Help.

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline
1-800-4-A-CHILD

Please donate today at:

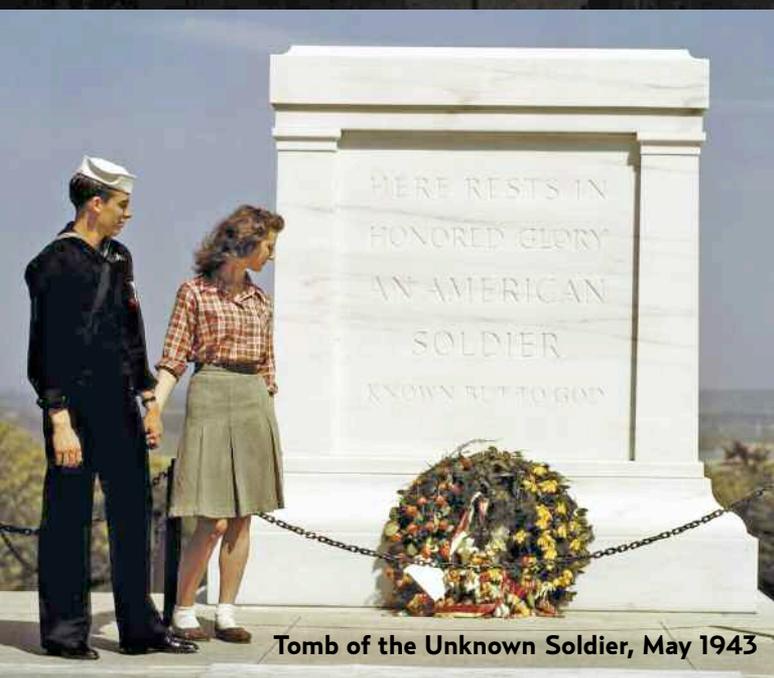
www.childhelp.org

Though African Americans in uniform had fought and bled for the United States throughout its history, rarely had they been treated as equals to whites. When this photo was taken at Ft. Belvoir, VA in 1941, our armed forces were still not racially integrated and would not be so until President Truman ordered it in 1948.

**KEEPSAKE:
NEWLY
DISCOVERED
COLOR PICS
OF WWII
AMERICA**



The Greatest Generation



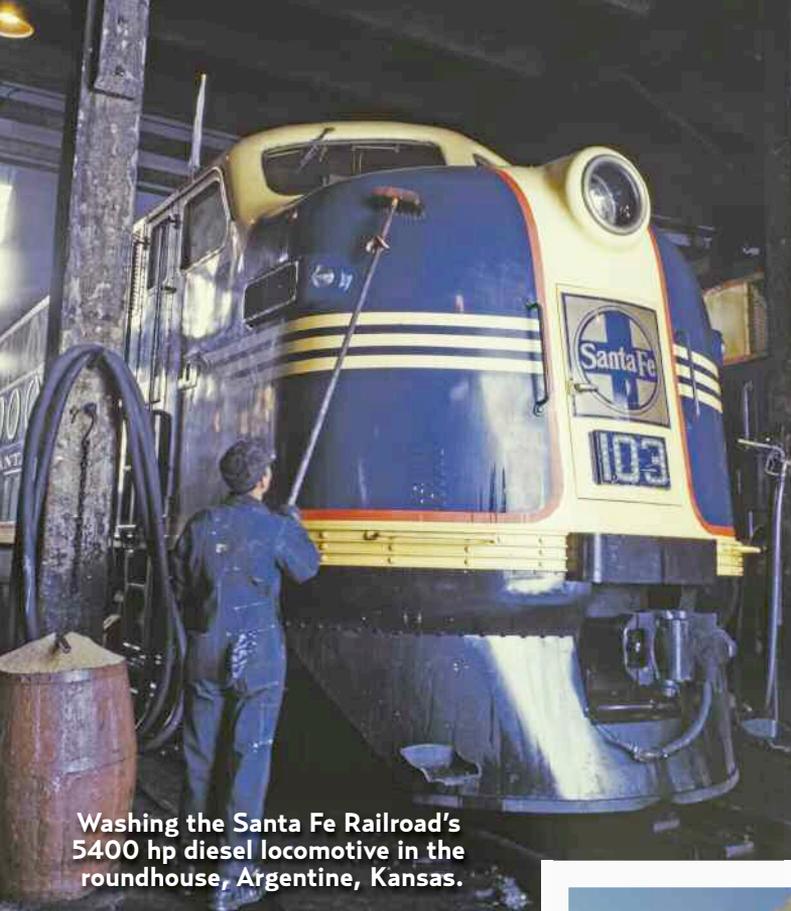
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, May 1943

THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR WERE documented on a huge scale by thousands of photographers who created millions of images for newspapers and mass circulation, large-format magazines like *Life*, *Look* and the *Saturday Evening Post*. When war was declared following the attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, photographers for the U.S. military representing all of the armed services joined the mass media in covering the battlefronts around the world. But almost all of these images were captured on black-and-white film, because that was the most practical at the time.

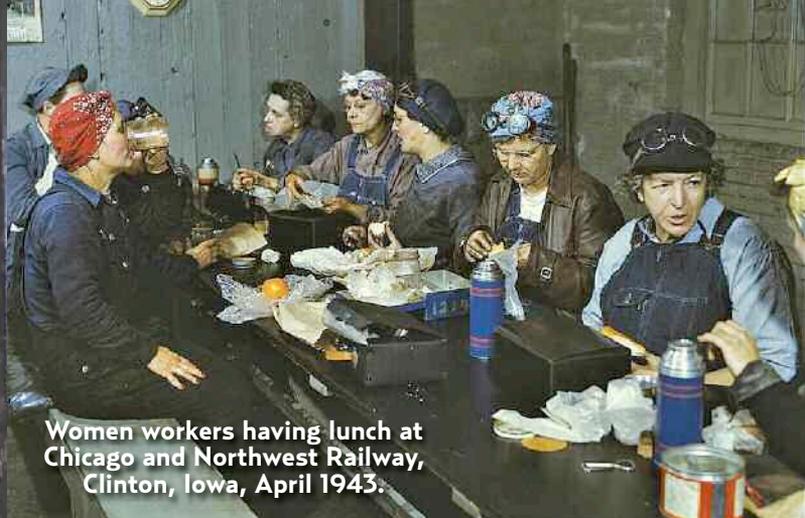
Recently some long-lost and exceedingly rare color photos were discovered in the Library of Congress — a cache of color transparencies ranging in size from 35 mm. to 4x5 inches. They depict the war years on the home front, and were shot by photographers working for the United States Farm Security Administration and later the Office of War Information between 1939 and 1944.

To the post-war generations accustomed to thinking of this era in shades of gray, these vivid images bring to life "the greatest generation" as never before. On this and the following five pages you'll see the way it was.





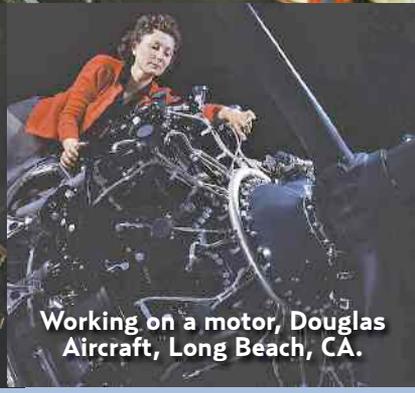
Washing the Santa Fe Railroad's 5400 hp diesel locomotive in the roundhouse, Argentine, Kansas.



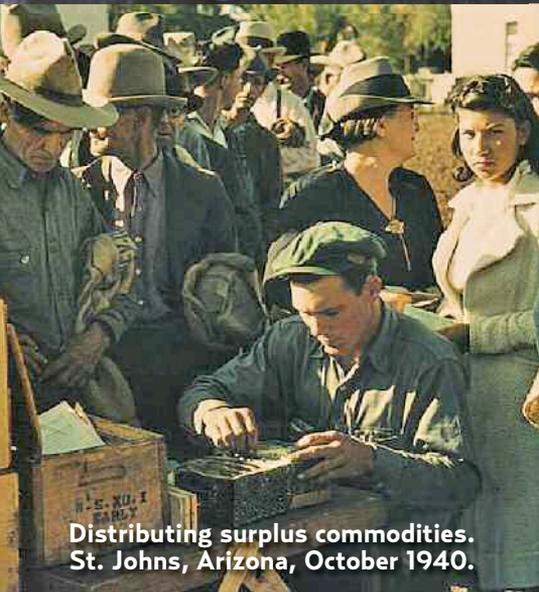
Women workers having lunch at Chicago and Northwest Railway, Clinton, Iowa, April 1943.



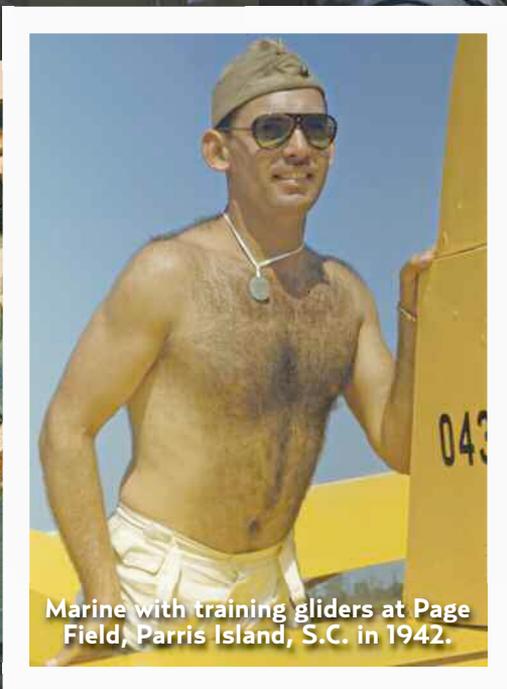
Riveter working on bomber, Consolidated, Ft. Worth, TX



Working on a motor, Douglas Aircraft, Long Beach, CA.



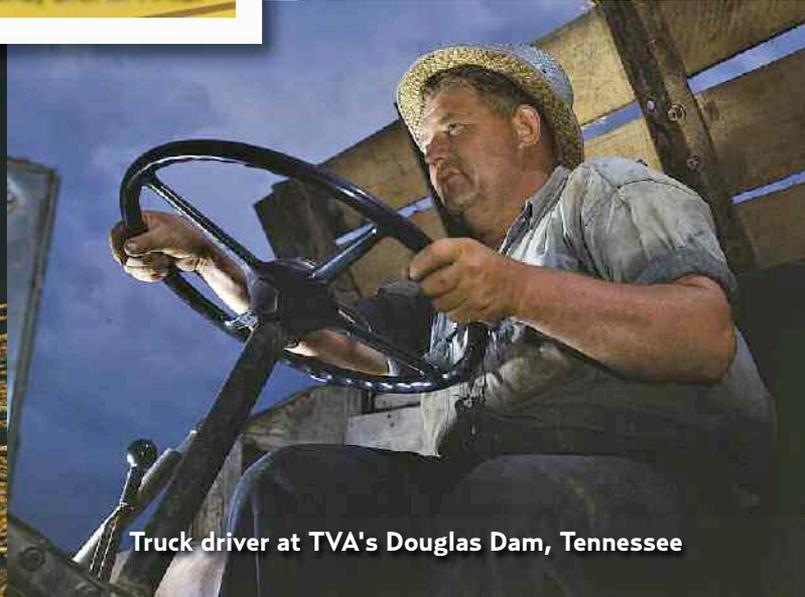
Distributing surplus commodities. St. Johns, Arizona, October 1940.



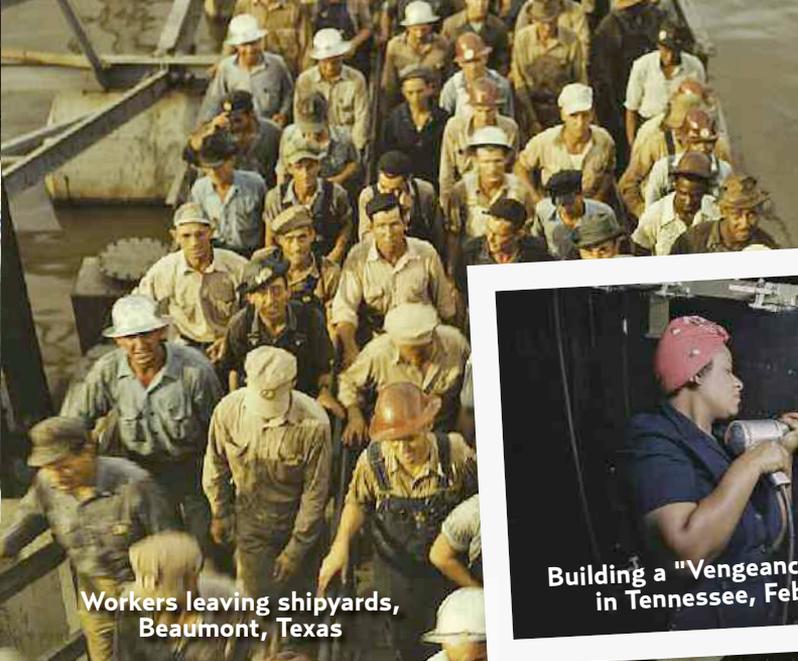
Marine with training gliders at Page Field, Parris Island, S.C. in 1942.

AN ERA OF TRUE PATRIOTISM: Unlike today's wars of choice in Iraq and Afghanistan, whose burdens fall solely on the families of those who enlisted while most Americans are aloof and unaffected, World War II united our country in a common purpose: to defend freedom. There was shared sacrifice and everyone did their part. Farmers redoubled their commitment to help feed the nation as factories retooled to support the war effort. Women entered the workforce to replace the men who had gone off to fight, doing a "double shift" of work and caring for the family and home. Neighborhood grocers did the best they could, but WWII saw rationing of staples like flour, sugar, and tires. Though the outbreak of war helped to end the Great Depression, hunger remained a problem. Soup kitchens did brisk business. Carole Lombard and Norman Rockwell promoted war bonds and Kate Smith sang Irving Berlin's "God Bless America."

Woman at Vega Aircraft, Burbank, CA checking electrical assemblies



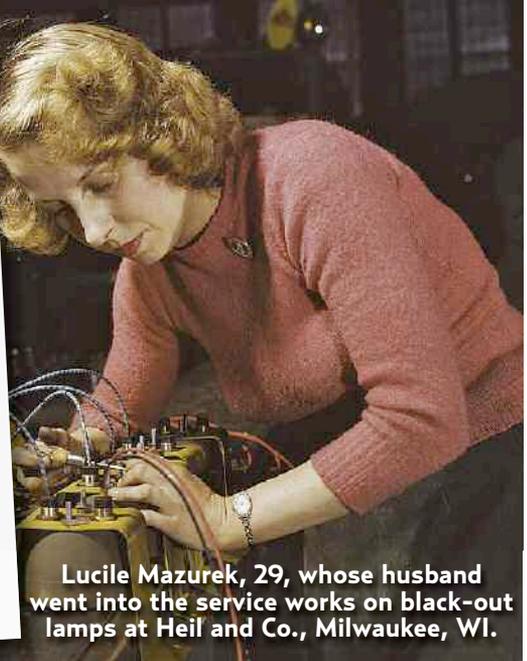
Truck driver at TVA's Douglas Dam, Tennessee



Workers leaving shipyards, Beaumont, Texas



Building a "Vengeance" dive bomber in Tennessee, February 1943



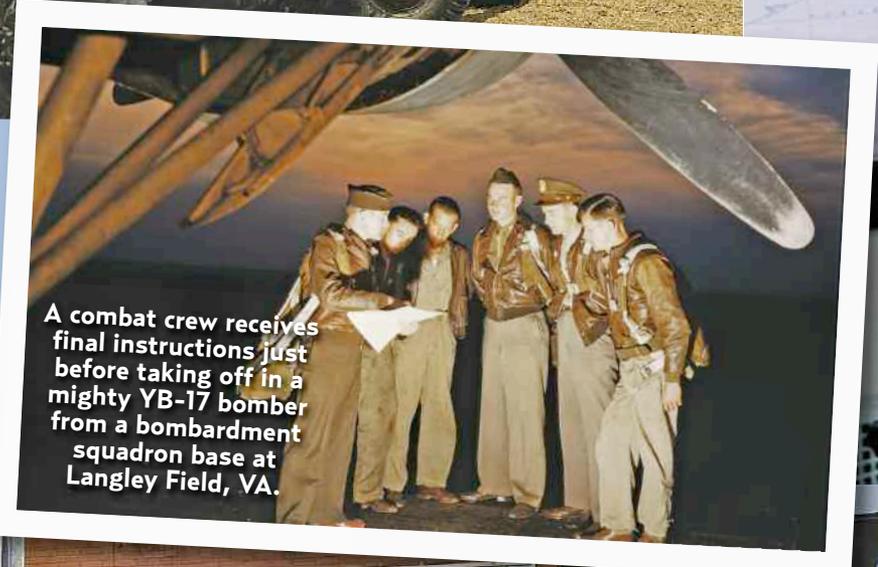
Lucile Mazurek, 29, whose husband went into the service works on black-out lamps at Heil and Co., Milwaukee, WI.



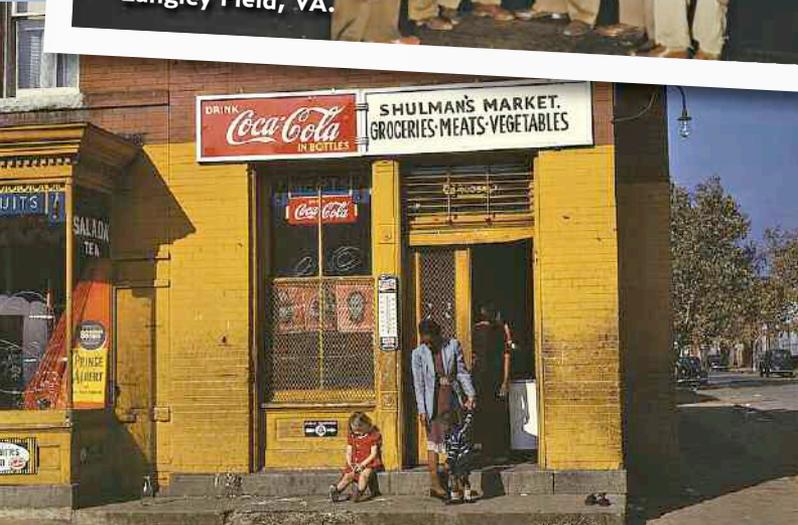
Marine motor detachment, New River, N.C.



President Franklin Delano Roosevelt became a father figure to Americans and kept the nation together.



A combat crew receives final instructions just before taking off in a mighty YB-17 bomber from a bombardment squadron base at Langley Field, VA.



Shulman's market, on N at Union Street SW, Washington, D.C.



Tank crew standing in front of an M-4 tank, Ft. Knox, KY.



Rural school children, San Augustine County, Texas, 1943

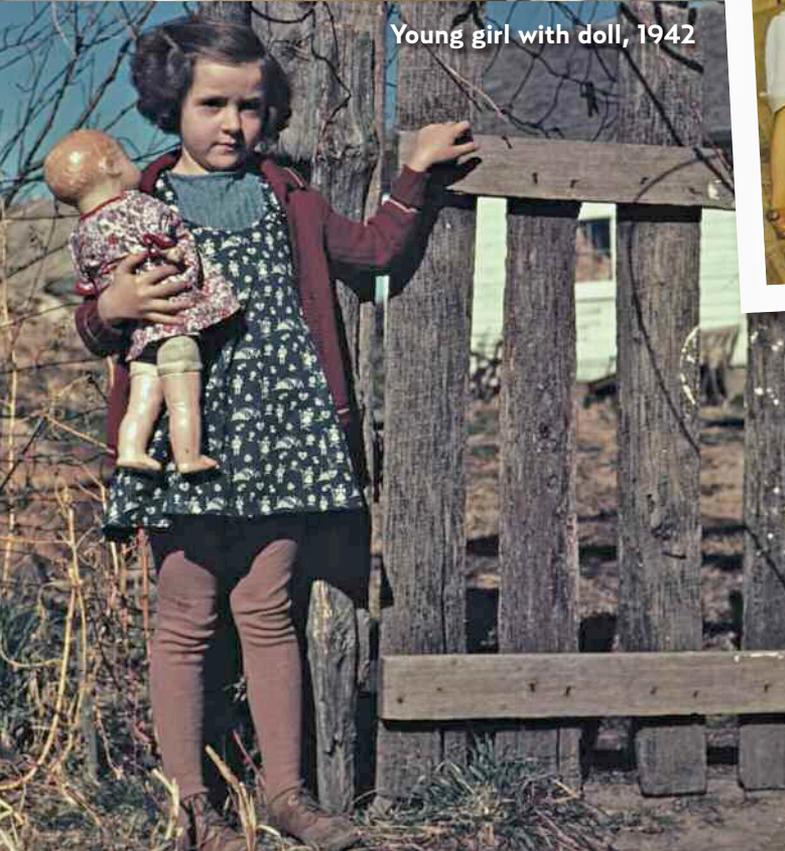


Children, half of Polish and half of Italian descent, at a festival in May 1942, Southington, CT.

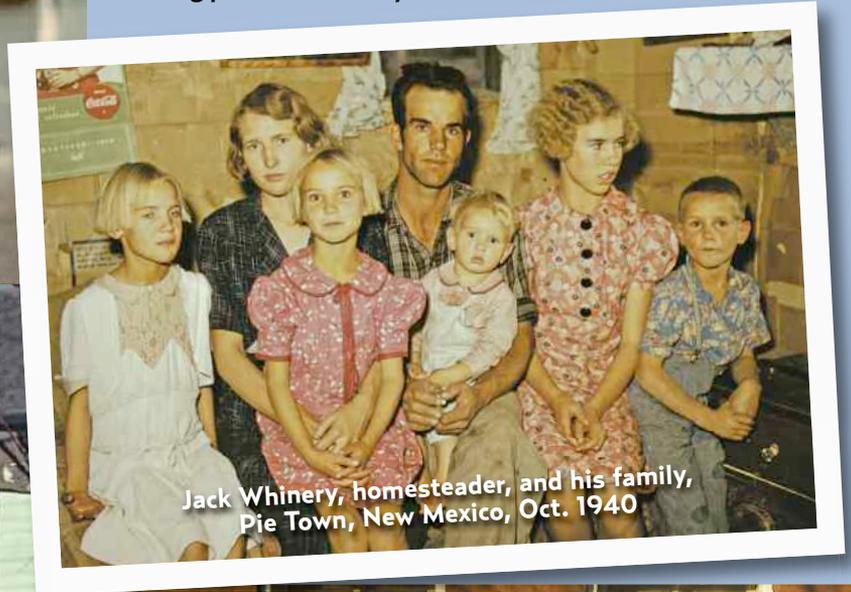


Little boy near Cincinnati, Ohio

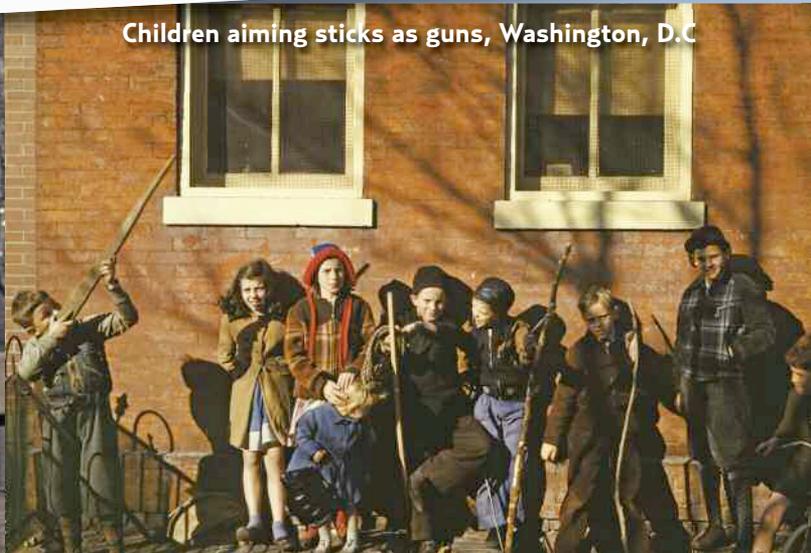
GROWING UP IN THE '40S: Children were often educated in one-room country schools which combined all the grades. (Tests showed they excelled over their big city peers). In an era of scarcity, mothers made shirts and blouses from flour sacks, and hand-me-downs were common. Some families lived in sod houses or tar paper shacks, and an evening meal might consist of biscuits and gravy. Families commonly had a home "Victory Garden" (everybody pitched in to help). Deprivation was the norm, so nobody thought of themselves as poor. Older children often took care of their younger siblings. At Christmas, a child might get an orange in a stocking plus one small toy.



Young girl with doll, 1942

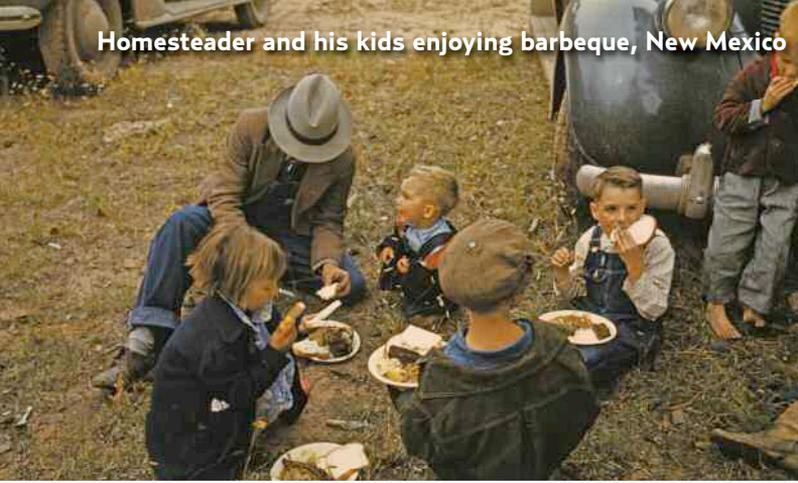


Jack Whinery, homesteader, and his family, Pie Town, New Mexico, Oct. 1940

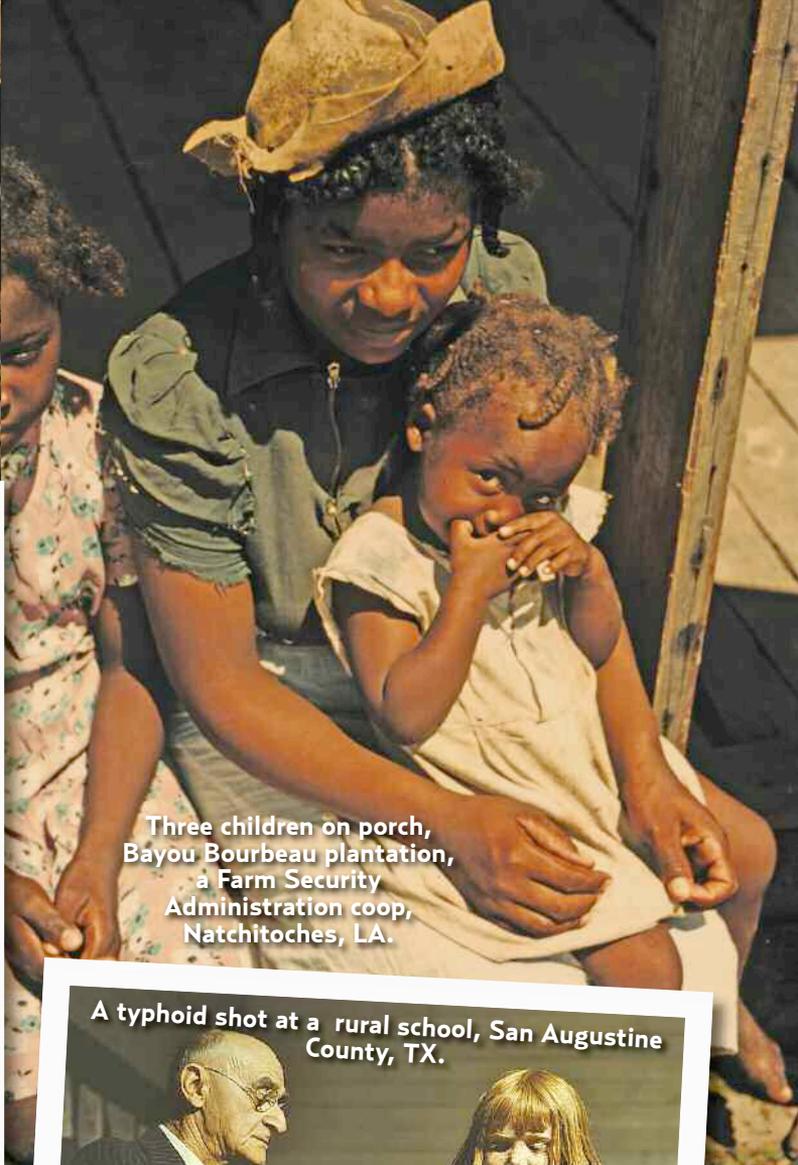
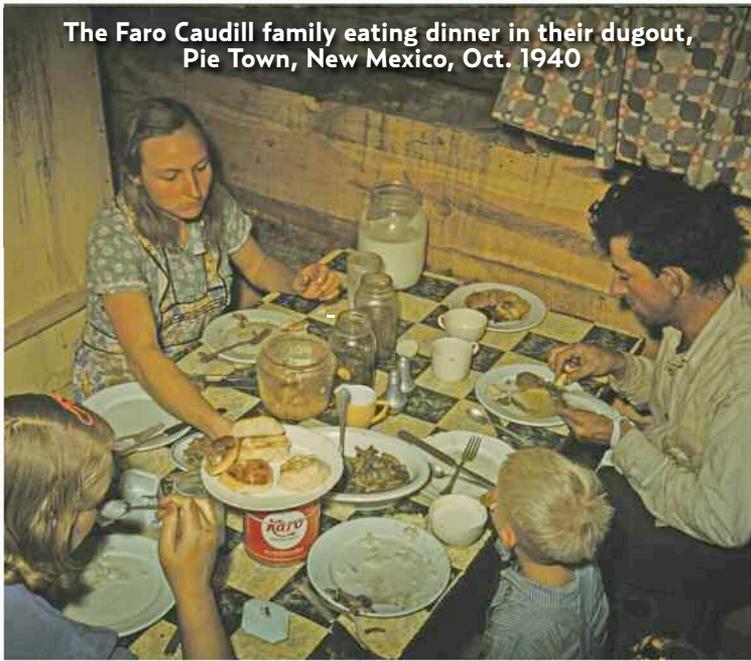


Children aiming sticks as guns, Washington, D.C.

Homesteader and his kids enjoying barbeque, New Mexico

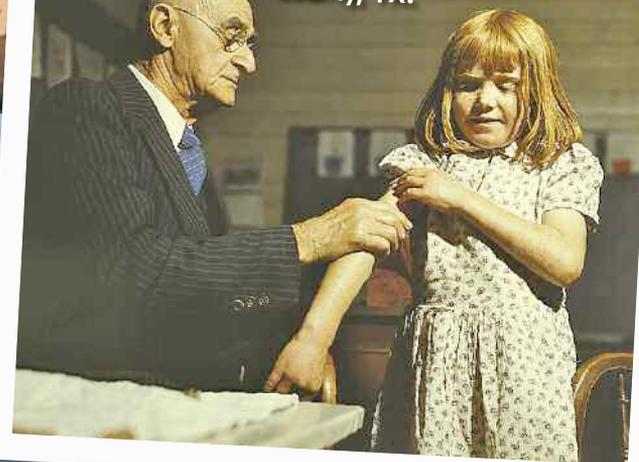


The Faro Caudill family eating dinner in their dugout, Pie Town, New Mexico, Oct. 1940



Three children on porch, Bayou Bourbeau plantation, a Farm Security Administration coop, Natchitoches, LA.

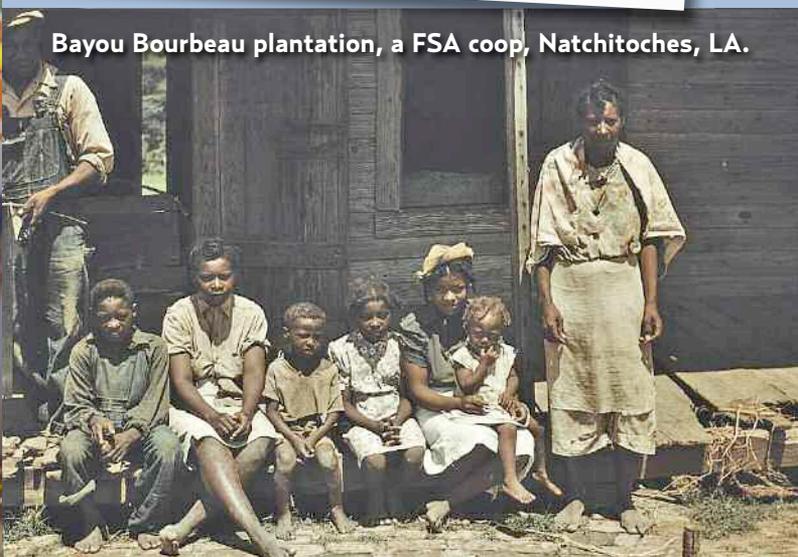
A typhoid shot at a rural school, San Augustine County, TX.

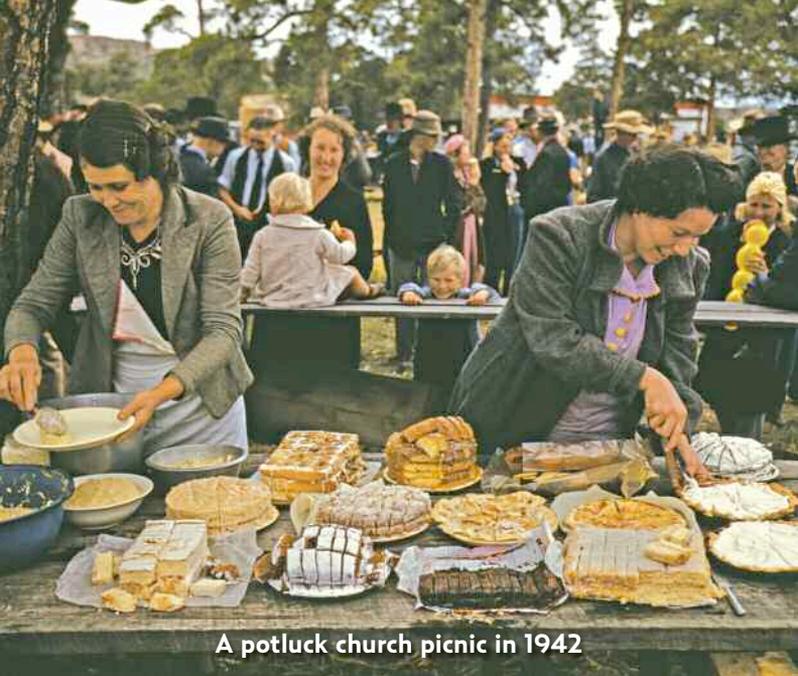


Boy beside window display of Christmas ornaments, 1941



Bayou Bourbeau plantation, a FSA coop, Natchitoches, LA.

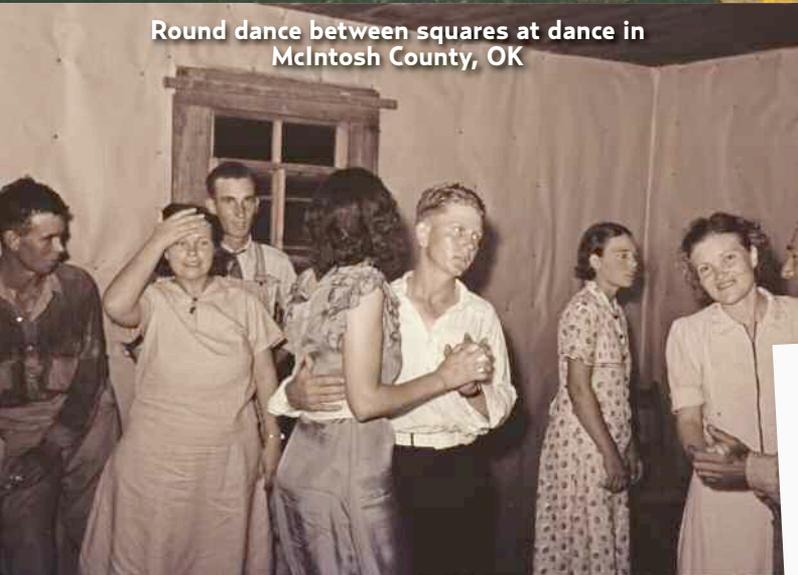




A potluck church picnic in 1942



Downtown Lincoln, NE on a Saturday morning, 1942



Round dance between squares at dance in McIntosh County, OK

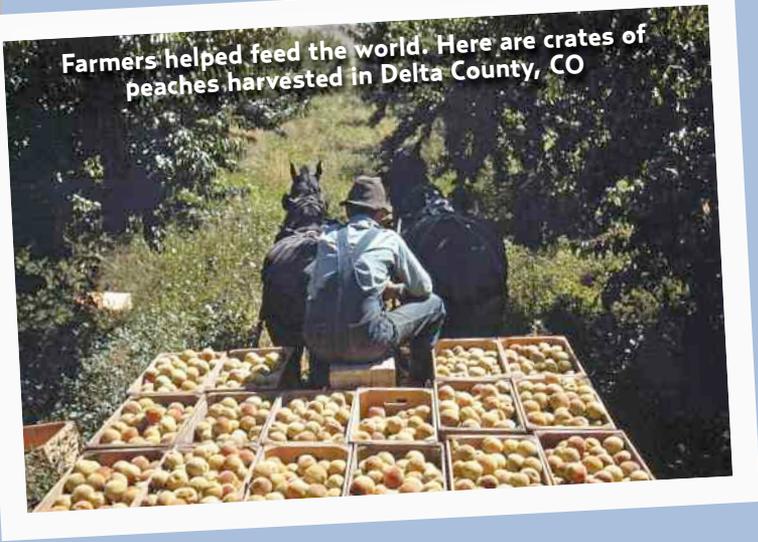
AMERICANS CAME TOGETHER: After working hard all week, families might "go to town" on Saturday morning to do their shopping. Times were tough but Americans did not neglect the "assembling together" prescribed in the Good Book. If anything, the war drew people closer. Church was an all-day affair, with Sunday school, morning worship, afternoon social, and often an evening service too. The simple pleasures of life were celebrated. Baseball was the national pastime and movie theaters drew huge audiences. Radio had dramas, comedies, and war reports. Everybody read the local newspaper. An evening out for adults might be spent listening to Big Band music (either live or on a jukebox) and enjoying a rum-and-Coke. Farmers toiled seven days a week.



Most families had a larder of home-canned food



Farmers helped each other plant and harvest crops.

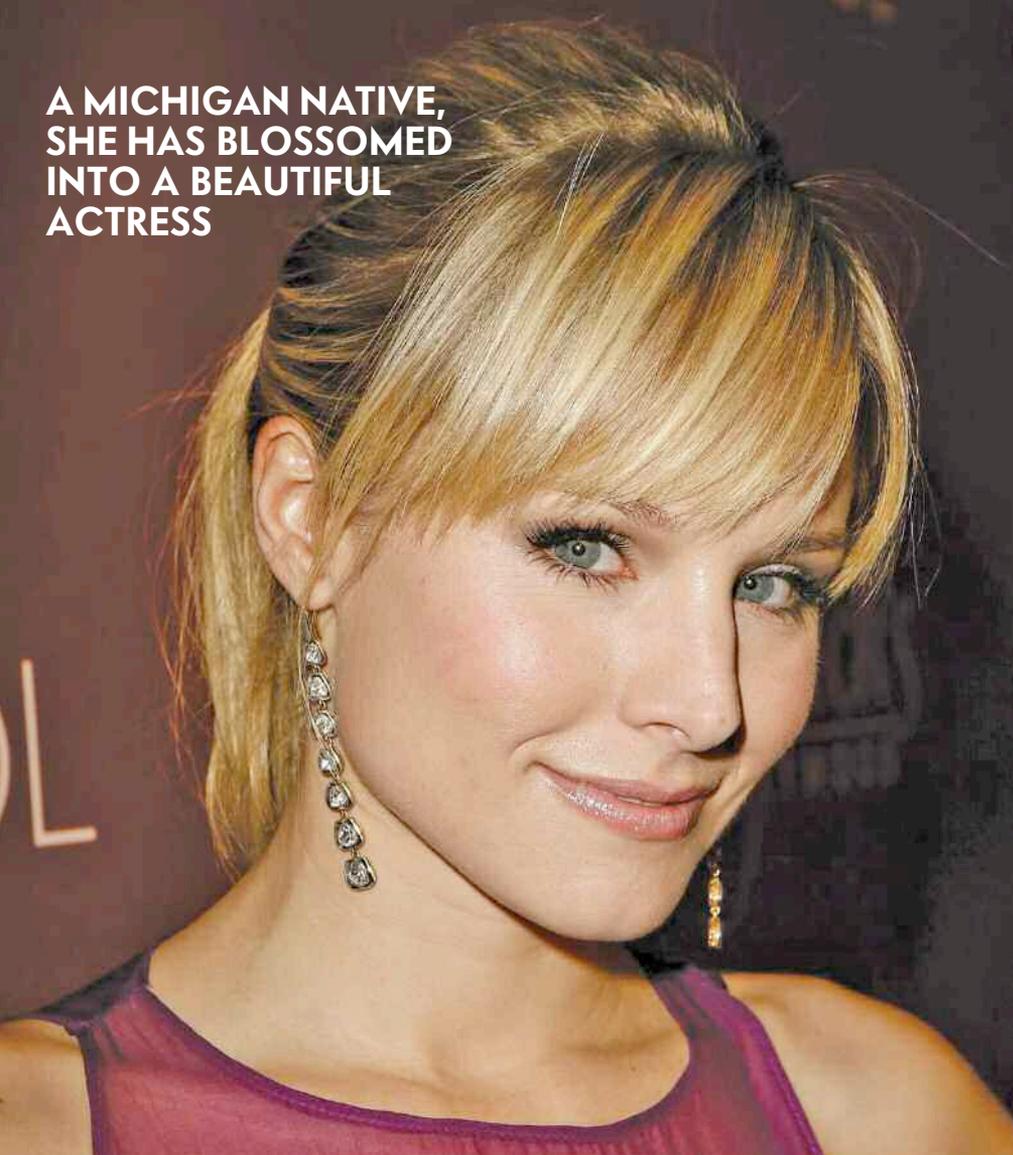


Farmers helped feed the world. Here are crates of peaches harvested in Delta County, CO



Mountaineers and farmers trading mules and horses on "Jockey St." near the Court House, Campton, Wolfe County, KY.

A MICHIGAN NATIVE,
SHE HAS BLOSSOMED
INTO A BEAUTIFUL
ACTRESS



MI. An animal lover and vegetarian since age 11, Kristen fostered animals from the Michigan Humane Society. Senior year she was voted "Best Looking Girl" while enjoying drama and music clubs. After high school the aspiring actress moved out East to study at New York University where she majored in musical theatre.

In 1998 Bell undertook acting lessons and then made her Broadway entrance playing Becky Sawyer in "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer." After moving to Los Angeles, Bell made an uncredited appearance in her first film "Polish Wedding." Kristen became the star of "Veronica Mars," in 2004 portraying a high school (later college) student who moonlights as a private investigator alongside her detective father, solving mysteries every episode.

"I loved Veronica right off the bat," Kristen mused. "She was so strong and I think it is so important because there are so few shows that portray women, especially young women as being strong and being able to stand up for themselves." Its first two seasons revolved around a recurring mystery that climaxed in the season finale. The last year focused on smaller mysteries solved over the course of several episodes. This show first aired on the UPN, then was switched to the CW. In 2006, Bell won the Saturn Award for "Best Actress on Television."

Also in 2004, the young woman starred in the tear-jerker Lifetime movie "Gracie's Choice." In the film, Kristen plays a 17-year-old heroine who adopts her three younger siblings after their grandmother, played by Diane Ladd, dies, and their drug addicted

Kristen Bell The Bombshell Next Door

mother, Anne Heche, goes to jail. The remarkable true story become one of the highest ranking TV movies on Lifetime.

After "Mars" was pulled, Kristen made appearances on the TV program "Heroes" and then on the widely popular "Gossip Girl," as the show's narrator. She played the title vixen in the 2008 comedy "Forgetting Sarah Marshall." Matt Pais of the *Chicago Tribune* wrote the film was, "the kind of movie you could watch all day because, like a new flame, you can't get enough of its company and are just glad to see where it takes you."

Following that success, Bell made the 2009 comedy "Couples Retreat," portraying a woman who has trouble conceiving with her husband, played by Jason Bateman. They decide to take a vacation to "Eden" seeking couples therapy. The only way to get the discount they desire is by

I DON'T SUBSCRIBE TO THE IDEA that aging is a bad thing," remarks cover girl Kristen Bell. "I'm extremely optimistic about what lies ahead of me. Look at Glenn Close, Helen Mirren, and Meryl Streep. They're the best at what they do, and beautiful too." However, Kristen, 30, maintains a youthful glow straight out of the high school bleachers. She started playing 17-year-old Veronica Mars in the self-titled CW hit show when she was 24 years old. An impressive string

of movies followed suit after "Mars" was cancelled in 2007. But despite the blonde bombshell persona, Kristen is a philanthropist who prefers friends and family to celebrity.

Kristen Anne Bell was born on July 18, 1980 in Huntington Woods, Michigan, which is a suburb of Detroit. Her father Tom Bell directs the WOAI-TV news in San Antonio. Her mother Lori is a nurse. After her parents divorced in 1982, they subsequently remarried giving Kristen two half-siblings and four step-siblings. Bell attended Shrine Catholic High School in Royal Oak,

recruiting three other couples to come along. Those friends agree to the deal, while unaware that their marriages are in just as much trouble.

In 2010, Kristen made the romantic comedy "When in Rome," in which her character travels to Italy to attend her younger sister's wedding. She takes several coins from a fountain, not realizing that according to lore, whomever owned the coins will then fall in love with her—through hilarious means. Despite the movie being widely received, it wasn't all fun and games. The actress burned her leg on a moped during filming. Also that year, she reprised her role as Sarah Marshall for the spin-off sequel "Get Him to the Greek." Roger Ebert said the movie was, "under the cover of slapstick, cheap laughs, raunchy humor, gross-out physical comedy and sheer exploitation." Yet he conceded it "also is fundamentally a sound movie."

Another film, released in September of 2010, and entitled, "You Again," is a light comedy starring Jamie Lee Curtis, Sigourney Weaver, and Betty White. But the film did poorly with critics. *New York Times* reviewer Stephen Holden wrote, "There is not a laugh to be found in this rancid, misogynistic revenge comedy," declaring "Like so many Disney movies, 'You Again' exalts shallow, materialistic values, then tries to camouflage its essentially poisonous content with several layers of sugar coating and weepy reconciliation."

Despite appearing in a few flops, Bell is a popular cover girl and the object of many men's fantasies. The petite, perky blonde has also become a fashion enigma despite her objections. "My first inkling that I had an opinion about fashion was in the early '90s when I called my dad out for wearing a cutoff, midriff-baring B.U.M. Equipment sweatshirt." But couture dresses and \$1,000 pairs of shoes don't interest the starlet nearly as much as the home shopping networks and browsing consignment shops do. She is proud to be a savvy shopper. "I'm the only person I know who shows up at restaurants at 4:30 p.m. for the early bird special," she laughs. Kristen also claims to only own 20 pairs of shoes, compared to the hundreds and even thousands other celebs brag about possessing. In a recent edition of *In Touch*, the ingénue commented, "When you do red carpets, the reality is not every person you see owns the stuff." Kristen prefers her \$8 Cover Girl Lashblast mascara to the more expensive varieties as well.

Fancy culinary opportunities aside, this down-to-earth Heartland native loves to dine at the regional burger chain Big Boy. "I go there a lot," Kristen confides. "I crave Midwestern food and atmosphere — there's no bull---t. Sometimes when I know I'm being watched or judged, it creates a scary sense of insecurity that I didn't used to have [before becoming famous]. But none of that exists at Big Boy." Her love of burger joints is complicated by her vegetarian habits. Perhaps she orders the cod or grilled

cheese? She is reported to enjoy some form of dessert after every meal of the day, even breakfast.

"I don't believe animals have to be hunted, raised, or killed for fashion," Bell told PETA. "People have to look at the big picture. A collar of fur for a human meant suffering and death for an animal. It's just pointless." She also told the organization, "I have always been an animal lover. I had a hard time disassociating the animals I cuddled with — dogs and cats, for example — from the animals on my plate, and I never really cared for the taste of meat. I always loved my brussels sprouts!"

She Has a Passion For Animals

BESIDES SUPPORTING PETA AND avoiding meat, Bell volunteers with the Humane Society and at Farm Sanctuary events. Despite her love of animals, the star came under scrutiny after appearing in a *Lucky* magazine photo shoot done in Alaska in which the actress wore a parka trimmed with coyote fur. Controversy aside, Bell often attends benefits for non-profit organizations dedicated to animal welfare. Today, she owns a Welsh Corgi-Chow Chow mix named Lola, a

"I WAS NOT HOMELY ENOUGH TO PLAY THE NERDY GIRL AND NOT NEARLY PRETTY ENOUGH TO PLAY THE PRETTY GIRL."

Welsh Corgi-Chihuahua mix called Shakey, and a black Labrador Retriever named Sadie. Kristen adopted the 11 year old dog after he survived Hurricane Katrina. Bell won the Helen Woodward Animal Center's 2009 Humane Award.

Interested in politics as well, Bell campaigned for Barack Obama, visiting college campuses in Missouri to promote the candidate and encourage voter registration. Alongside "Veronica Mars" costars, Bell is active with Invisible Children Inc, which draws attention to the struggle of Northern Ugandans who are caught in the midst of a civil war between the government and Joseph Kony's "Lord's Resistance Army." "That's one of the main reasons why I'm involved with Invisible Children. They believe they can save the world with a smile on their face. It doesn't have to be people begging and people crying and shoving guilty information into people's faces. You can tug at the heartstrings, but you can also say I'm having a great time helping. Want to come?"

In 2007, Bell ended a five-year relationship with former fiancé, producer Kevin Mann. Soon after, Kristen began dating fellow Michigan native Dax Shepard, who also appeared in "When in Rome." In

January 2010, the couple became engaged. Despite her sex pot image, Bell quipped that dating "makes me want to vomit. And not out of grossness — OK, a little bit out of grossness, but just nerves." Bell explains, "I've always been a serial monogamist."

Recently, Bell was featured in the Cher/Christina Aguilera high drama musical "Burlesque." Kristen, who darkened her hair for the role, played Christina's rival, Nikki, who gets bumped as a lead dancer, and spirals into a jealous rage. Kristen, who loves this type of movie role, commented on the challenge of learning high energy dance numbers. The film was released Thanksgiving 2010.

"Movie 43," "Scream 4," and "Dance for the Mirlitons" are films Bell appeared in that are now in post-production. She is currently filming "Everybody Loves Whales," slated for release in 2012. The movie centers around a nonprofit worker and a government employee who collaborate in the effort to free gray whales who have become trapped in the Arctic Circle. Other cast members include Drew Barrymore, Ted Danson and John Krasinski.

Being only 5'1 and having a condition called strabismus, that makes her right eye not align with her left, Kristen Bell never saw herself as leading lady material. [I always played roles] and looked and acted ten years younger than [I am]. Nevertheless, "Something magical happened when I turned 25 — I looked in the mirror and was like, *You might not get carded for an R-rated movie anymore.* Like I didn't have a little stick figure anymore." Many of her onscreen characters have had tomboy traits. "[I] was not homely enough to play the nerdy girl and not nearly pretty enough to play the pretty girl."

As this actress matures, she wants to age gracefully and try her hand at producing and being a comic. She prefers cooking for friends and making lavender lemonade instead of fancy evenings out. Quiet dinners and nights playing card games and board games, or watching "American Idol" or rooting for the Detroit Red Wings hockey team is her idea of a good time. Her friends, family, and roommates, (as many as six lived with her at once), are her priorities in life.

She plants an organic garden of herbs, fruits, and vegetables and likes to stay in shape. "Some kids don't like salads or Brussels sprouts; I just never liked meat. I'm a rabbit in disguise," the actress humbly admits.

Kristen Bell has proven that whatever project or organization she feels passionate about receives her time and attention. Whether it's acting, campaigning, volunteering, attending red carpet events, or playing Scrabble with her fiancé and friends, Kristen Bell is a woman of many talents and abilities. One never knows what direction Ms. Bell will be heading in next, or what character she will be playing up on the silver screen. ■



Ever at ease in front of the camera, Kristen takes time to blow a kiss to some fans. Just as athletic as she is pretty, she enjoys a game of bowling as well. Despite her sleek professional look in this classic black dress, the film "Couple's Retreat" was a humorous endeavor for the star. This hombody prefers quiet time in the privacy of her home compared to Hollywood parties. Never one to shy away from fashion, Bell poses for some photographers in some tantalizing gowns. A life-long animal lover, Kristen owns three dogs and she volunteers with the Humane Society.



THE BAD SIDE OF HUMAN NATURE

MINNESOTANS NICE? UMM...MAYBE NOT all of them. Not long ago I was going through Minneapolis with my brother-in-law Todd. We were on our way to a movie. Todd was driving. He was a bit jumpy because a recent accident had knocked the muffler off his car and now it sounded like a chainsaw. So he stayed off the interstate and took side roads. It was the long way around to the theater, but we were in no rush.



We made fine — if slow — progress, and by and by we came to a good-sized intersection. The light was red. We were in the right lane, intending to turn as soon as the cross traffic cleared. And this was where Todd made his big mistake, if you can call it that: he pulled too far forward. Not much, mind you. Maybe three feet too far, just enough that the front end of the car was blocking the crosswalk.

No big deal. But maybe it was, because sure enough, here came a pedestrian crossing the street. She was a striking lady — mid 30s, long blond hair, dark dress pants, fancy high-heeled boots that came to just below her knees. She carried her purse on her left shoulder. Her stride was long and purposeful. She was wonderfully elegant. She may have been coming back from work, or returning from an early dinner, or just going out for drinks with friends.

And Todd's car was in the way. Not much in the way, remember. Just a step and a half to her left, then around the front of the car, and a step and a half back to her right was all she needed to reach the sidewalk on the other side. But as she reached the car and maneuvered around it, she smoothly extended her right arm. Her hand held a key. "Screeeeeeee," right across the hood, as she walked. And she never broke stride. "Hey!" I yelled. "She just keyed your car!"

Todd quickly opened his door and stuck his head out, even though by now she was over on my side, walking away down the sidewalk. "Hey!" he shouted. "Hey lady! Lady!"

Her pace didn't quicken or slow. She didn't look back. It wasn't possible she hadn't heard him. Todd has a big voice, honed from years of singing in musical theater. I could have been a block away and still heard him.

"Hey! Hey! Hey!" he continued, the pitch of his voice rising with each angry hey.

He ducked back inside the car, his teeth grinding together and his eyes bugging out like lemons. I thought he was going to let it go, but then in fury he cursed, rammed the gear into park and leaped out of the car, sprinting in pursuit of the blonde.

Meanwhile, our light had turned green. Cars stacked up behind us. I heard one horn begin to blow. Then another. And another. I slunk low in my seat and hoped no one saw me.

Todd was back in three minutes. She'd denied everything, of course. Said it must have been her purse that accidentally brushed against the hood. Todd called her a liar and said he felt sorry for all the people in her life. She called him a freak and a stalker. He said she was evil. She said he was psycho. And so on and so on.

I told Todd if we didn't hurry up and get out of there we'd have a dozen angry drivers racing over to key his car.

Eventually we made it to the movie. It was "A Serious Man," which was set in Minnesota, about bad things happening to a good person. It was excellent.

I don't think Todd saw the irony. ■

You can hear Dr. Tim Pearson regularly on the Midwest Today Radio Edition, which you can access anytime, 24/7 at: www.midwesttoday.podblaze.com



ASUEDE BLOUSE WITH AN ELEGANT BOW DONE IN AN ENTICING EGGPLANT shade will add a touch of class to any outfit. When it's cold out, you don't want to leave the house carrying one of your summer clutches in a ridiculous neon yellow color. Nothing says cold weather has arrived like burnt brown, grey, and black tones fashioned into this smart tote bag. Leaf, trig, and bark patterns are interspersed on this lovely piece which will transition from autumn to winter effortlessly. I think the silver studs and rhinestones at the top are a nice feminine touch.

Every woman will need a cute pair of gloves this season; why settle for something boring, when you spend so much time finding that slimming coat and decadent scarf? These cotton soft hand warmers come in the ever flattering grey, but the Christmas bow at the wrist is unexpectedly flirty.

The Cochni Leopard Ankle Booties from designersimports.com have the practicality of mules with the look of boots. With a hidden zipper at the side, these beauties will add some pizzazz to any occasion



MIDWEST GIRLS ARE HIP

By SARA JORDAN



— afternoon coffee with the girls to serving cocktails at your dinner party.

A red purse is a must for your wardrobe, but this crimson variety is so rich and commanding. The black trim and stitching adds nice contrast.

Satiny fabric has stellar sheen, especially when dyed bright teal. With a cinched waist and button down front, this blouse would look fabulous with black dress pants, chandelier earrings and your leopard booties.

The name for the stone of these earrings is quite apropos. Watermelon tourmaline is a rare gem that naturally occurs in a tricolor pattern. Its green rim resembles the skin of a watermelon, the pink is the fruit, and the white between layers looks like the rind. This style is mined in South Africa, Brazil, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Sri Lanka. I love the lariat style of these earrings set in 14k gold. An 8-mm size like this will run you in the \$200 range, but this stone is worth the price. Note the juicy pink tourmaline beads at the top.

Brown high heeled loafers with red tops and black soles remind me of cherry cordials, which are my favorite sweets this time of year.

Don't get left out in the cold. Treat yourself to some seasonal must haves, and stay inside the fashion loop. ■

STYLE NAOMI LENOX

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SHOT GLASS

THE ARCHETYPAL SHOT GLASS PROBABLY dates back at least 200 years to Italy, where a small glass was used for drinking grappa, which was sipped slowly. Yet the concept of the shotglass seems to be a fairly American phenomenon. Many European countries have the tradition of a cordial or aperitif as an after-dinner drink, for which there are special glasses, but they are usually smaller and more fragile than the classic shotglass.



In the U.S., a "jigger" of whiskey or rum was sometimes given to hard laborers like ditch diggers to relieve their weariness.



In the late 1800s, and leading up to the start of Prohibition in 1920, many American distilleries propagated slim whiskey glasses bearing advertisements which were etched. The glasses were decorated with a range of photographs and designs. But the term "shot glass" did not become common until the 1940s when New York attempted to standardize the volume of a dose or "shot" of spirits.

The traditional shot glass consists of transparent glass with a thick bottom, thin walls and wide mouth. It can be round or square. It typically holds 1.5 fluid ounces. Other sizes include the **double shot** (3 ounces, or double the amount of a single) and the **"pony"** shot (a smaller 1 ounce serving for fine liqueurs and aged spirits).

Although the shot glass is still the most common accessory in any bar, it is less often utilized as a unit of measurement. While neighborhood taverns leave the pouring to the bartender, many hospitality corporations operate machinery in their bars to guarantee perfect accuracy with each pour.

Still the shot glass is used to serve straight booze that is typically quaffed in one gulp.

Collectors use the shape, composition and, if applicable, the print on the glass to determine its age. The value of a piece that can be dated easily increases dramatically over ambiguous glasses whose provenance is unknown.

Limited printings and vintage materials, such as Depression Era carnival glass, milk glass, and uranium glass, cost more. While commercially printed glasses with sports teams and school mascots appeal to fans, serious collectors look for more rarified materials to give their collections greater depth.

Edible shot glasses are the rage these days. They come in flavors like candy cane, chocolate wafer and mint. This is indeed the best way to drink and eat at the exact same time, and a fabulously fun party novelty. ■



Dining In Style



Eve Middleton

A RENEWED PASSION FOR HOME COOKING HAS INSPIRED NEW DINING ROOM TREATMENTS

HOMEFRONT

THE UPSWING IN POPULARITY OF THE Food Network and Cooking channel, et al, and the enthusiasm with which people are learning some rather advanced culinary skills, has brought about a renewed emphasis not only on *what* we eat but *how* we eat. Let's face it, some of these delectable kitchen creations are too fancy to just stand and eat over a sink, or in a corner somewhere.

As designer Eve Middleton explains, "the dining room is back, but not necessarily in the traditional sense of the formal sideboard, hutch and serving cart. Though you are seeing a return of those as well."

She says "the natural trend these days is to surround a nice table with equally attractive furnishings. A prime example is the bright sunroom (pictured above), which features comfortable seating to permit guests and family to relax while the finishing

touches are applied to the meal, and yet talk to the hostess. The homeowner's collection of antique clocks and louvered windows and skylights, put this dining experience in a happy context."

Eve says "the log home dining room (upper right) is one of my favorites, with its zebra print rug, accent lighting and sconces of greenery. Notice the formal swag draperies which relieve the rusticity of the room. The candleabra and high back chairs give this room panache.

"The use of mirrors on three walls of a dining alcove in an open floor plan (photo center right) dramatically expand the limited space. The circular, glass-topped dining table prevents the room from looking too rectangular. Incidentally, a round table also promotes conversation."

The lakefront home (lower right) adopts what Ms. Middleton calls "a contemporary

and minimalist approach to dining with its no-frills table and Art Deco chairs. Here the outdoor view is the star attraction."

Eve says that a wood table — a garage sale find — "with the ladder-back chairs works well in this cozy setting in an older home, with a sunny window, plants and hurricane lamp. It's divine!" (Right).

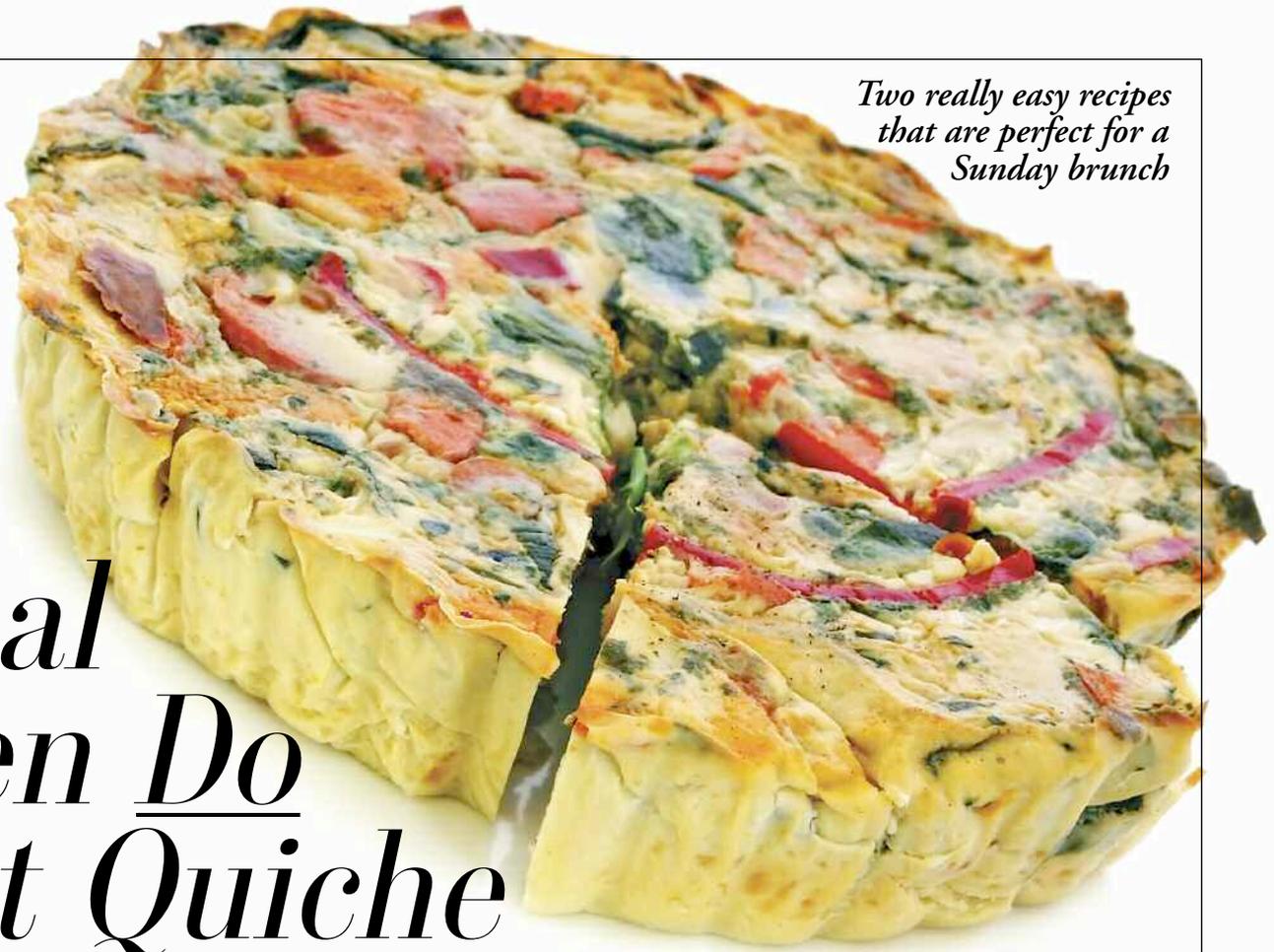
Ms. Middleton admits some new dining sets can be pricey, but she prefers scouring used furniture stores, recently picking up four Duncan Phyfe style dining chairs painted black, for only \$50 each.

"You just need to decide your personal style, then think through the elements you're going to combine," she advises. "Having a special place for eating helps you relax and aids digestion," she observes. "Even when I'm home alone I light candles when I eat. You tend to slow down and really savor the food that way." ■



*Two really easy recipes
that are perfect for a
Sunday brunch*

Real Men Do Eat Quiche



BEFORE THE BOOK, “REAL MEN Don’t Eat Quiche,” and before the “Food Police” (a group Julia Child always referred to as “grumpy”) decided quiche somehow wasn’t p.c., the French custard tart was beloved on our shores. Of course, it’s never stopped being loved in France, from whence it sprang.

As Dorie Greenspan writes in her book, “On the Road and In the Kitchen,” “When lunchtime rolls around in Paris, quiche is on the menu of just about every cafe in town, including the one on my corner, where the type of quiche changes every day and, no matter the quiche *du jour*, it’s ordered by stylish, impossibly slim women and just as many hip guys. What we think of as old-fashioned, they think of as lunch, or an easy supper, or a dish for brunch or, cut into thin wedges or small squares and served at room tem-



perature, the perfect nibble with an after-work glass of wine.”

I’m glad to report that a young man named Matthew Godfrey, who is as macho as they come, and works at a West Des Moines, Ia. fitness center, is a devotee of quiche. He sometimes serves it with a glass of champagne as a Sunday morning brunch to impress a young lady. He even makes his own pie shell though he admits (*see photo*), it can be a messy job.

GARDEN QUICHE

Partially baked deep pie shell
2 Tablespoons vegetable oil
1 medium onion, sliced

1 garlic clove, minced
5 cups vegetables (fresh spinach, carrots, tomatoes, onions, mushrooms)
1/2 red bell pepper, cut in strips
3 large eggs
1/2 cup Ricotta cheese
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon marjoram
1/2 cup grated Jack or Swiss cheese
Sauté onion and garlic until tender (not brown). Add rest of vegetables, stir fry for 2 minutes. Add 2 Tablespoons water and cover. Steam 5 minutes. Beat eggs, add Ricotta cheese, salt and herbs; mix well. Spread vegetables in shell. Pour egg mixture evenly over top and sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 325° F. for 40 minutes.

APPLE RAISIN DESSERT QUICHE

1/3 cup raisins
1 quiche shell (9 inch)
3 large apples
2 large eggs (or 1/2 c. egg substitute)
1 cup whipping cream
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1-1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
Sprinkle raisins on bottom of quiche shell. Peel, core and slice apples; arrange over raisins.

Whisk together eggs, cream, sugar and cinnamon; pour over apples. Bake in 375° oven for 50 minutes or until custard is nearly firm. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving or serve at room temperature. *Enjoy!* ■



JANE WYMAN

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JANE

JANE WYMAN CAME INTO PROMINENCE AS A pleasing character actress during the Golden Age of Hollywood. Longing to be freed from typecasting, she would slowly receive recognition as having leading lady potential. Wyman would succeed playing strong-willed, and sometimes unglamorous heroines. She even won a Best Actress Oscar for a movie in which she never uttered a single word. Wyman wed five times; twice to the same man. She saw the loss of two children in her lifetime. Jane appeared in over 80 films, had two successful TV shows, and has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame — one for motion pictures, and one for television. But perhaps her most memorable role came in the form of matriarch Angela Channing in the hit 1980s nighttime soap “Falcon Crest.” The show dominated television, while her most famous ex-husband’s political career reached its apex.

But Wyman avoided political notoriety at every corner. Regardless, she remains the only ex-wife of a U.S. President, making Ronald Reagan the sole divorced Commander-in-Chief in history. Wyman is also the only spouse of a President to win an Academy Award. Despite being hounded by the press for the remainder of her life to comment on her former spouse, she considered it to be in “poor taste” to do so.

Press releases sent out from studios in the 1930s preferred embellishment and enchantment when marketing their contract players. For whatever reason, Jane did not dispute false stories or claims about her earlier life. In fact, she seemed to be at the helm of the re-creations. Jane’s exact date of birth has been under speculation for decades. Some accounts claim she and her daughter Maureen have the same birthday of January 4th. Different years, earlier and later, have also been listed as her year of birth. There is a general consensus that Jane was born Sarah Jane Fulks on January 5, 1917 in St. Joseph, Missouri.

The actress did comment on her strict upbringing at the hands of Emma and Richard Fulks. “I was reared under such strict discipline that it was years before I could reason myself out of the bitterness that I had brought from a childhood hemmed in by rigid rules, many of which I broke without knowing it and was punished long afterward by being denied something I had joyously anticipated.”

Her parents were considerably older than



BORN IN ST. JOSEPH, MO, SHE BECAME AN AWARD-WINNING ACTRESS AND A STAPLE OF AMERICAN TELEVISION AND FILM. SHE MARRIED AND DIVORCED RONALD REAGAN.

Sarah Jane, and already had a teenaged son and daughter by the time she arrived. Appearances are not always deceptive. The young girl lacked any real bond with the Fulks, because they were not her real parents. Wyman's birth parents were Manning Mayfield and Gladys Christian. In 1921, her mother filed for divorce, and Mayfield died the following year of pneumonia. Gladys moved to Ohio, and placed her young child with her neighbors — the Fulks. After Richard Fulk died in 1929, Emma took Sarah Jane out West to be closer to family.

Jane, like many future well-known actresses, started out as a chorus girl at 20th Century-Fox. "I couldn't do the steps but I looked all right," Wyman later reflected. "I had those skinny long legs and that was what they wanted." In addition, Wyman worked typical after-school jobs as a teenager. One notably was as a donut froster. Her first film role came in the mold of such a dancer in the 1932 film, "The Kid From Spain." The brunette had lightened her hair to get noticed. She played alongside other "blonde" hopefuls such as Betty Grable, Paulette Goddard, and Lucille Ball.

The following year, Sarah Jane wed Ernest Wyman, although she never publicly discussed this union. She only claimed to have been married once before Reagan. In "Dutch: The Authorized Biography of Ronald Reagan," author Edmond Morris claimed this early marriage is on record with the state of California. In addition, Morris stated that Reagan alluded to Wyman's first marriage when he told him in 1989, "What you have to look at [is] that there were a few husbands before me." Another answer to how Jane claimed the last name of Wyman, was due to the fact that Emma Fulks' one-time husband had been named Dr. M.F. Weyman, a man Sarah Jane knew in her youth.

Jane believed she could go on forever playing the button-nosed, fast-talking, not-a-brain-in-her-head secretary, chorus girl, or the leading lady's sister/best friend/confidant indefinitely. In the 1936 film "Stage Struck," for instance, Dick Powell asks Jane's character what her name is. "My name is Bessie Fufnick. I swim, dive, imitate wild birds, and play the trombone." She made ten films that year, including a brief appearance in "My Man Godfrey," musing, "But you have to look fast to see me." Jane would make eight movies the following year, including her first top-billing for "Public Wedding," opposite William Hopper, Hedda Hopper's son, a popular flick "Mr. Dodd Takes the Air," and "Smart Blonde," which was the first film in which Sarah Jane Fulks was credited as "Jane Wyman."

In 1937, Wyman married "officially" for the first time to a man twice her age. She wed Myron Futterman on June 29, 1937. They separated after three months of marriage, after Jane discovered that the man who already had a teenaged daughter, did not desire more children. The divorce was finalized on December 5, 1938. But before she became unattached, Jane set her sights on a handsome contract player she would invite to sit with her at lunch. Although more interested in Wyman as a friend, Jane nonetheless pursued a romance with the popular "Dutch."

By 1938, Wyman got her chance to make a picture with the man she fancied — Ronald Reagan. They costarred in the film "Brother Rat," which also featured Wayne Morris and Priscilla Lane. Jane finally persuaded Reagan to go out with her, and a courtship ensued. The young actor was born on February 6,

1911, in Tampico, Illinois. In the 1989 memoir "First Father, First Daughter," their eldest child Maureen Reagan wrote, "the movie magazines called them the ideal Hollywood couple, and in a way I suppose they were, at least in the eyes of their studio bosses; for awhile, at least, theirs was a match made in press-agent Heaven.

"My parents had announced their engagement on stage during one of Louella Parsons' Vaudeville-style tours — a routine that wasn't exactly in the script — and from that moment on 'Aunt Lolly,' had taken credit for bringing them together. (Louella was fond of the young couple, and even teased Wyman by calling her a "walking Christmas tree," due to her love of bold costume jewelry.)

"Like my father," Maureen continued, "she was another Hollywood transplant by way of Dixon, Illinois, and she was pretty much a fixture in our household during the early years of my childhood. I still have some clippings in which Aunt Lolly figured publicly that my parents should have named me after her, because of the history they all shared." The "All-American" couple married on January 26, 1940. Her engagement ring was a 52 carat amethyst ring, in which Reagan later gave her a matching brooch.

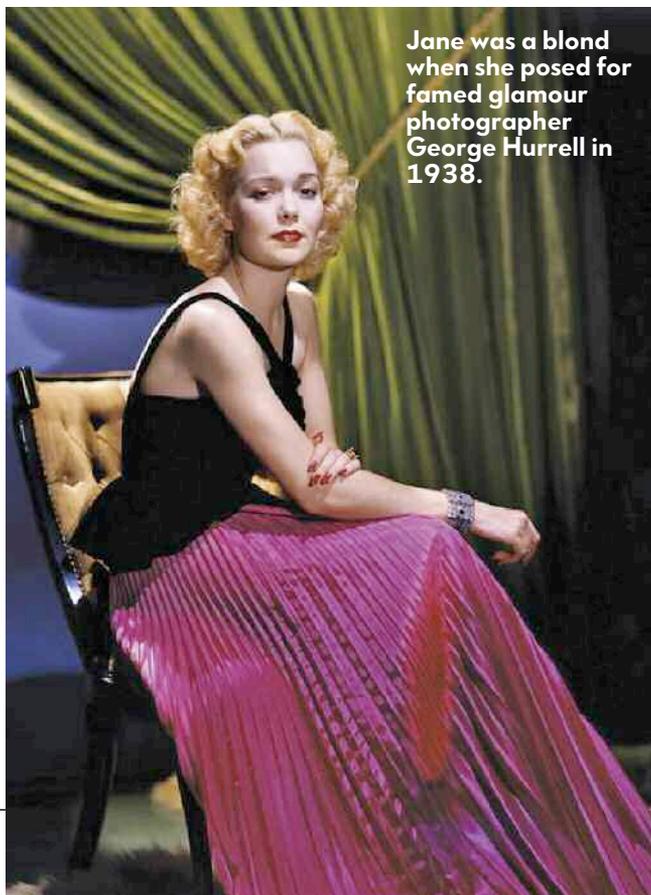
Both continued pursuing acting roles, with Ronald advancing faster than his wife. He wanted to play George Gipp in the film, "Knut Rockne, All American." To get the role, Reagan went to friend Pat O'Brien, who was set to play Knute Rockne. Reagan got the part, scoring "one for the Gipper." Jane, on the other hand, was struggling to get parts she could be proud of playing. The couple did make a movie together entitled, "Tugboat Annie Sails Again." While Wyman's career was lackluster, she did get involved in the war effort. Jane entertained at the Hollywood Canteen, and proved herself as a capable singer. She also loved to sing for friends at cocktail parties and other get-togethers.

On January 4, 1941, the couple welcomed their first child, Maureen, into the world. Now the "Brad and J. Lo" of the '40s, as son Michael would later describe them, this power couple had settled into domestic bliss, with the fan magazines and newspapers following their every move.

The same year she became a mother, Jane appeared in the comedy, "You're in the Army Now." She holds the record for the longest screen kiss, which was done with Regis Toomey, clocking in at three minutes and five seconds. Jane made, "Larceny, Inc" in 1942, and other noteworthy pictures include, "Make Your Own Bed," "The Doughgirls," (with friend Ann Sheridan and Alexis Smith,) and the star-studded "Hollywood Canteen," all made in 1944.

In 1945, the Reagans adopted Michael when the child was only a few days old. Apparently, Maureen had wanted a baby brother, and pestered her parents enough that the couple decided to adopt a baby boy.

Jane made the period piece tearjerker "The Yearling," in 1946, in which she was nominated for a leading Oscar. One year later, Jane would find herself pregnant with another girl, but the child, named Christine, died the day after she was born premature, in 1947. It wasn't until she convinced Jack Warner in 1945 to loan her to Paramount for "The Lost Weekend," with Ray Milland that Jane Wyman was viewed as having star potential. The movie won Best Picture of 1945.



Jane was a blond when she posed for famed glamour photographer George Hurrell in 1938.

Wyman scored her biggest film role in "Johnny Belinda." While Jane was preparing to make the movie, the Reagan marriage was falling apart. During the war years, "Ronnie and Janie" were the perfect couple. Reagan had enlisted in the army, and Jane sold war bonds and kept the home fires burning. In Michael Reagan's book, "Twice Adopted," he described the day his mother asked his father for a divorce, "One day in mid-1948, Dad came home, and Mom told him the marriage was over. He was stunned...Dad blamed himself and his busy schedule with the Screen Actors Guild for the failure of his marriage."

Although there were allegations of an affair between Jane and "Belinda" co-star Lew Ayres, Wyman denied the accusations.

Reagan reportedly cracked to a friend, "Maybe I should name Johnny Belinda as co-respondent [for the divorce.]" But Wyman cited other reasons for the split at the divorce hearing. "Politics built a barrier between us. I tried to make his interests mine, but finally there was nothing to sustain our marriage," she lamented.

Reagan told Hollywood writer Gladys Hall, "It's a strange character I'm married to, but — I love her... Please remember that Jane went through a very bad time when, after the strain of waiting for another baby, she lost it. Then perhaps, before she was strong enough, she went into 'Johnny Belinda.' It was a taxing, difficult role. Perhaps, too, my seriousness about political affairs has bored Jane."

However, that didn't stop Reagan from being elected to a full term as the SAG president a month after the divorce.

In "Johnny Belinda," Jane played a deaf/mute teenager who is raped and becomes pregnant in a seaside village in Nova Scotia. While preparing for the role, Miss Wyman studied at a school for the deaf for six months, learning sign language. She memorized the lines of the other actors and performed with her ears plugged.

Archer Winsten, writing in *The New York Post*, called her performance "surpassingly beautiful. It is all the more beautiful in its accomplishment without words." While Jane was in the spotlight, receiving one A-Movie role after another, Ronald was re-building his life.

Her friends assured her she would be nominated for an Academy Award. They were right. She was up against Olivia De Havilland, friend Barbara Stanwyck, Irene Dunne, and Ingrid Bergman. The night of the ceremony, Jane took home the Best Actress Oscar. On stage, she made the shortest acceptance speech on record, "I accept this very gratefully for keeping my mouth shut. I think I will do it again." This film was one of only a dozen on record to be nominated for best actor and actress and best supporting actor and actress. Barbara Stanwyck, assured she would win that year for "Sorry, Wrong Number," kidded Wyman that she would allow "her award" to be kept at Wyman's home.

Wyman's Ex Meets A New Woman

ON NOVEMBER 15, 1949, RONALD REAGAN, SITTING PRESIDENT of the Screen Actors Guild, was approached by a young starlet named Nancy Davis, who had been wrongly placed on the Hollywood blacklist. She contacted Reagan in hopes of having her name taken off the list. Reagan told her that she had been confused with another actress of the same name. A friendship was forged, and the two began casually dating. Nancy enjoyed Reagan's daily musings about world affairs and politics far more than Ms. Wyman had.

Davis made her first film in 1949, and appeared in "East Side, West Side," that same year alongside Jane's best friend Barbara Stanwyck.

Marriage seemed the natural step for Ronald and Nancy, but Reagan had his doubts, as did his ex-wife Jane. But in her 1989 memoir, "My Turn," Nancy wrote, "I could see that Jane knew how to play on Ronnie's good nature. She had convinced him that he shouldn't get married until she did. It took me a little time, but I managed to unconvince him." Nancy and Ronald married on March 4, 1952.



Ronnie and Jane in happier times

Also in her memoir, the second Mrs. Reagan wrote, "Maureen and Michael lived with their mother, and Ronnie would often drive over to Jane's big house on Beverly Glen to see them, especially on holidays. Sometimes he'd ask me to come along, and I did, although this wasn't exactly my idea of pure joy. Jane was perfectly nice to me, but these visits were awkward. Not only had she been married to Ronnie, but she was very much The Star, and it was her house and her children. I felt out of place, and I was a little in awe of her."

Despite being "a little in awe" of Wyman, in her memoir, Nancy had no qualms about criticizing the parenting skills of her husband's first wife. "Jane Wyman sent Maureen and Michael to Chadwick, a boarding school in Palos Verdes, about an hour from Los Angeles," she wrote. "Michael was only

five and a half when he started at Chadwick, and I found that appalling. Ronnie did too, to the point where he thought seriously about filing for custody."

Nancy went on to say "Michael went through a turbulent adolescence, and when he was 14 his relationship with his mother had deteriorated to such an extent that a psychiatrist recommended that he would be better off moving in with us." At age 16, Michael asked Nancy if she could help him track down his birth mother. Nancy wrote, "Ronnie and I had the same business manager as Jane Wyman, so I called and asked him to find out." Wyman was understandably furious.

However, in his book, Michael Reagan recalls his childhood differently. "I had succeeded in getting out of Mom's house, only to discover that I was just as uncomfortable and unhappy in Dad's house." But despite being the adopted child of two celebrities, Michael took the chance in the book to be at peace with his parents: "It was easier to blame Mom for putting me in boarding school, even though that was the best she could do as a single mother... I blamed Nancy and Dad for making me sleep on the couch in Pacific Palisades."

Ms. Wyman starred in "The Glass Menagerie" in 1950, which garnered mixed reviews. The following year, Jane made "Here Comes the Groom," with Bing Crosby. The duo sang the Carmichael/Mercer song, "In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening," which debuted in the film, and won a 1952 Oscar for Song of the Year. Also released in 1951 was "The Blue Veil," in

which the actress was aged from 20 to 75, spending 14-plus hours a day wearing thick rubber makeup that was taken off with gasoline. "My face looked like raw beefsteak," she quipped. The film also features Joan Blondell, Agnes Moorehead, and a young Natalie Wood. Jane Wyman won a Golden Globe for Best Actress. Her next significant role was in "Magnificent Obsession," opposite Rock Hudson. *The New York Times* called her performance in this spiritual film, "Refreshingly believable throughout."

In 1953, Jane Wyman appeared in the Barbara Stanwyck film, "So Big." A string of well-known movies such as "All That Heaven



Jane sang a duet with Bing Crosby in 1951.

Allows,” “Miracle in the Rain,” and “Pollyanna,” would see Wyman’s career through the end of the decade. Jane began making frequent TV appearances on “General Electric Theatre,” “Summer Playhouse,” “Lux Playhouse,” “Westinghouse,” “Desilu Playhouse,” “Bob Hope Presents,” and “The Chrysler Theatre.” She hosted her own series, and was nominated for an Emmy Award in 1957. While popular in the beginning, the show was canceled after three seasons.

Jane Was A “Character Actress” Whose Roles Affected Her Moods

MAUREEN REAGAN WROTE OF HER MOTHER’S TIME WORKING IN television, “It wasn’t until I got to be a teenager and she started doing ‘Jane Wyman’s Fireside Theater,’ a 1950s television anthology series that allowed her to play a different depressing character each week, that I realized what was happening. You see, movies in those days took about three to six months to shoot, which meant we had to live with Mother’s wide personality swings for months at a time, but television dramas were often cranked out in less than a week. By that time we would sit around and wonder whether Mother would come home from work as a Maryknoll nun or an ax murderess, but we’d learned to accept her sudden about-faces as part of the territory when it came to Mother and acting.”

While home from Chadwick on Hall-oween, Maureen and Michael met their mother’s boyfriend, bandleader Fred Karger — three years their mother’s junior — and his daughter Terry. The kids went out to go trick-or-treating, and when they returned, they were informed of the adults’ plans to marry. Maureen recalled this revelation with less than fond feelings. “Boom! Instant extended family! Just add water and stir.” She went on to say, “I can’t tell you how odd it was to meet someone one minute and then to find out he was marrying your mother the next... Mother and Fred didn’t waste any time. They eloped the next day.” Maureen recalled being handed bags of rice to throw at the bride and groom when they returned home. “I’m not sure, but I think I might have pelted Fred with clumps of rice a bit harder than tradition called for.”

A week before her mother’s surprise wedding, Maureen and Michael’s half-sister, Patti was born. Maureen somberly recalled witnessing her father play with the new baby, throwing her in the air and catching her. He called the new baby Shorty. “Well, I died a thousand deaths,” the eldest daughter lamented, “Because of course that was the name he used to call me.” Maureen recalled a visit eight or so years later when Michael had gone to live with their father and Nancy. It was only when the young man showed up at the door, that Patti was even told she had a half brother.

“So Patti came up to me at one point during my visit and said, ‘Did you know that Michael is my brother?’ And I said. ‘Yes, of course I know that. And do you know what that makes you and me?’ ‘No, what?’ ‘That makes you and me sisters.’ Patti was apparently quite upset by this news, cried, and told Maureen that she was not her sister. When Maureen confronted her father as to why she had been so overtly left out of her half-sibling’s life, he replied, “Well, we just haven’t gotten that far yet.”

Even Nancy admitted their relationship with Reagan’s first children left something to be desired: “Maureen liked me better when I was her friend Nancy Davis than she did when I became her stepmother, Mrs. Ronald Reagan.” But if Maureen was to feel replaced, the birth of yet another sibling would try the patience of the eldest Reagan children. A second child, Ronald Reagan, Jr, was born on May 28, 1958.

While Reagan had become a father again, and seemed to be happily remarried, Jane’s marriage to Karger was on the rocks.

The couple separated on November 7, 1954, and received an interlocutory divorce decree that December.

Possibly seeking some kind of solace from the divorce, Jane converted to Catholicism after she and Fred broke up. She also insisted that her children follow suit.

In an interview with *Coronet* magazine that ran in the January 1956 edition, writer Richard G. Hubler commented, “Miss Wyman has the typical specialist memory of an actress; She forgets the names of her closest friends and her own telephone number, while remembering every word of a script and, as she puts it, ‘every shadow on a face.’” Wyman also commented on how she preferred not to discuss her ex-husbands, and instead liked to focus on movie roles to which other women could relate.

Even though she vowed marriage was not in her future, she was frequently spotted dating younger men throughout the years after her divorce from Reagan. However, she and Karger walked down the aisle for the second time on March 11, 1961. This reconciliation only lasted four years.

Also that year, Jane’s 20-year-old daughter Maureen became involved in an abusive marriage. Her husband, a police officer ten years her senior, would accuse her of adultery, was possessive and jealous, would beat her, choke her and even rape her. The first that Maureen’s parents learned of this was when she

wrote about it in her autobiography 30 years after later. She had not felt comfortable in confiding in them.

Maureen actively campaigned for her father for Governor of California. Unfortunately, Reagan’s status as divorcee concerned his campaign managers, who didn’t want to acknowledge that he had even been married to actress Jane Wyman, let alone that they had two children together. Stu Spencer told Maureen she should “dig a hole and pull the dirt in over [herself] until after the election.” Obviously hurt by this comment, she turned to her father. “If you pay someone to manage a campaign, then you’ve got to give them the authority to do it as they see fit,” Reagan lamely replied. Maureen commented wryly, “So Michael and I were ‘rubbed out’” by her father’s campaign team.*

Even though Jane’s children, Maureen and Michael Reagan, continued to be publicly snubbed by her ex-husband’s political operatives — who even omitted their

names from campaign biographies — Ms. Wyman never rose to defend them.

In a 1968 newspaper interview, Jane was asked why she never commented on her marriage to Ronald Reagan, then Governor of California. She reasoned, “It’s not because I’m bitter or because I don’t agree with him politically. I’ve always been a registered Republican. But it’s bad taste to talk about ex-husbands and ex-wives, that’s all. Also, I don’t know a damn thing about politics.” Reagan was also tight-lipped on his former union with Wyman. In his 1990 autobiography, “An American Life,” Jane is only briefly mentioned. “That same year I made the Knute Rockne movie, I married Jane Wyman, another contract player at Warners. Our marriage produced two wonderful children, Maureen and Michael, but it didn’t work out, and in 1948 we were divorced.”

*Maureen Reagan later supported the Equal Rights Amendment (though her father did not). She was active with the United Nations and was the first daughter of a President to run for political office, seeking to become a U.S. Senator from California in 1982, and a Congresswoman in 1992. In 1994, she became a member of the Alzheimer’s Association. She passed away in 2001, from melanoma at age 60. “Frasier” actor David Hyde Pierce eulogized her by saying of his late friend, “When she was given lemons, she did not make lemonade. She took the lemons, threw them back and said, ‘Oh, no you don’t!’” A feeble Jane Wyman attended her daughter’s funeral, but Ronald Reagan was too ill to attend.



Maureen, Ronald, Michael, Jane

Though Nancy Reagan had been harshly critical of Jane Wyman's parenting skills, her own children — Ron, Jr. and Patti — had a worse relationship with Nancy than Jane did with Michael and Maureen.

Patti feuded with her parents, calling her father "clueless," and her mother "a pill-popping shrew" who slapped her around.

The youngest Reagan child, Ron, Jr was defiant in other ways, becoming a professional ballet dancer, as well as an Atheist.

Yet when a young Michael Reagan was molested by a counsellor at summer camp, he kept the abuse hidden for years, not feeling he could confide in either of his parents. Michael believes his father wouldn't have been President being married to Jane Wyman. "He needed a Nancy, who was willing to give up her career to be there, by his side," Michael reflected.

1981 proved to be a memorable year for both Reagan and Wyman. Ronald Reagan was inaugurated as the 40th President of the United States. Jane expressed no regret in divorcing him, and was nothing but encouraging and supportive. Her career would not be eclipsed, nor would Wyman quietly fade away. She was about to star in one of the most popular television dramas of the decade — "Falcon Crest."

Made in the mold of "Dynasty" and "Dallas," the show was set in the fictional Tuscany Valley, California. The evening soap opera centered around matriarch Angela Channing, (played by Wyman,) and her family's vineyard. The series ran for nine seasons on CBS, and encompassed 228 episodes. Wyman won a Golden Globe for Best Actress in 1984, at age 67. Friend Barbara Stanwyck had first been offered the lead in the show, but turned it down. Besides having an illustrious film career like Wyman, Stanwyck had previous television success, namely in her 1960s western series "The Big Valley." The complete first season of "Falcon Crest" became available on DVD for the first time this year.

In retirement, Wyman stayed busy oil painting and working for the Arthritis Foundation for more than 20 years and served as chairperson. When Ronald Reagan died on June 5, 2004,

Wyman released this statement: "America has lost a great President and a great, kind, and gentle man." However, she did not go to his funeral. Jane passed away on September 10, 2007 at her California home. She had been battling diabetes and arthritis, but died in her sleep from natural causes. Son Michael told the press, "I have lost a loving mother, my children Cameron and Ashley have lost a loving grandmother, my wife Colleen has lost a loving friend she called Mom and Hollywood has lost the classiest lady to ever grace the silver screen." A devout Catholic, Wyman was a member of the Dominican order at the time of her death, and was buried in a nun's habit.

Jane Wyman wasn't an overnight success. She made 40 films before she won an Academy Award. She struggled with typcasting, and instead of seeking out any old role to play, she waited patiently for the right ones to come along. Wyman believed that there was no reason a husband and wife couldn't both be wage earners, even if it meant spending less time with her children. Jane triumphed in television at an age when most actresses retired. Despite several divorces in a time when women didn't leave their husbands, Wyman supported herself and remained diplomatic when discussing her marriage to Ronald Reagan. She was active in the arts for over 60 years and was known for her dignity and professionalism. In addition, Wyman supported charities and raised her children to be productive citizens, amid catty remarks by Nancy Reagan and entanglement with the Reagan First Family. It was Jane Wyman who once said, "The opportunity for brotherhood presents itself every time you meet a human being." ■



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the legend
lives on



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KEEPING FAITH MATT ANDREWS

HIDDEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

THE APOCRYPHA OR DEUTEROCANONICAL BOOKS OF THE OLD Testament have been the source of controversy in the Judeo-Christian world for centuries. These books contain histories, wisdom, fables, and signs of the end of times. The Greek Orthodox and Catholic Churches' Bibles recognize 14 of these numerous books. Some Protestant groups, such as the Anglican Church, emphasize historical significance, but don't regard them as Canon.

A few of these Apocrypha titles include: 1 Esdras, 2 Esdras, continuations of Esther, 1 Macabees, 2 Macabees, and the Wisdom of Solomon. But what are the origins of these books, and why have some Bibles included them, (such as the original 1611 King James), while most Protestants reject them?

The key argument is that these books were not written in Hebrew — the language in which the other books of the Bible were written. Saint Jerome disregarded these books during his translation of the Bible into the Latin Vulgate around 400 AD. No Hebrew version of these texts was found at the time, only the Greek. Jews included the Apocrypha in the Greek Old Testament called the Septuagint. At the Council of Trent in 1546 the Apocrypha was deemed Divine and thus included in the Christian Canon.

The Apocrypha was used by Jews during the Diaspora, which was the scattering of Jews from Palestine after the Babylonian Captivity. The Sanhedrin in Jerusalem authorized the translation of the Hebrew scrolls into Greek around 275 B.C. According to the Talmud, this version hung alongside the Hebrew text in Jerusalem during the era of Jesus, and therefore, Jesus was aware of both editions.

About 60 years after Christ's death, a group of rabbis met to anoint a Hebrew Bible that rid their Canon of any Greek translations. At that point, the widely read Greek Old Testament of the past 300 years became null and void, as did the Jewish use of the Apocrypha. Early Christians used the Greek Old Testament, as Greek, (spoken by the Jews of the Diaspora), was the international language of its time, and thus the tongue to speak as missionaries. The Jews, distancing themselves from the Christians, preferred the Hebrew Bible. Meanwhile, the entire Christian Church continued using the Greek Old Testament.

Because of this Hebrew/Greek divide, early Christians were in a quandary as to how to regard the Greek books rejected from the Jewish Bible. These Christians put the aforementioned books in a category called Apocrypha, from the Greek apokryphos, meaning "hidden." The Old Testament of the Christian faith retained the Apocrypha without much dispute until the Bible was translated from Latin to German by Martin Luther in 1522. He discarded the Greek Old Testament, replacing it with the Hebrew one as his base. A skeptic of the Catholic mandated scripture, Luther placed the Apocrypha in between the New and Old Testaments, (as they can be found today in some Bibles. The Catholic Church intersperses these books throughout the Old Testament).

When the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the late 1940s, 30% of the nearly 1,000 documents were Apocrypha in nature. These writings were not solely in Hebrew; many were found to be written in Aramaic and Greek as well. Interest in the Apocrypha continued when in 1952, the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church requested that the Standard Bible Committee include the Apocrypha in their revisions. By 1977, all the accepted texts of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches were included in that version of the Bible.

For Catholics who believe in Purgatory, a passage from one of these books seems to justify it: (2 Maccabees 12:43-45): "2,000 pieces of silver were sent to Jerusalem for a sin-offering. Whereupon he made reconciliation for the dead, that they might be delivered from sin." And in Tobit 12:9, the justification of good works over grace alone reads: "For almsgiving saves from death and purges away every sin."

But we can point out passages in the Old Testament in which the Gospels repudiate, and modern society condemns: (Exodus 21:20-21) If a man beats his male or female slave with a rod and the slave dies as a direct result, he must be punished, but he is not to be punished if the slave gets up after a day or two, since the slave is his property. Or what about Deuteronomy 22:28-29 that orders a man who rapes an unclaimed virgin to then marry her to make her noble?

Today, the Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches deem the Apocrypha as Holy. Those faiths constitute the bulk of practicing Christians, so in theory most Christians believe the Apocrypha is the inspired word of God. Protestants and Jews consider these books an excellent account of history of the Diaspora rich with culture and value. ■

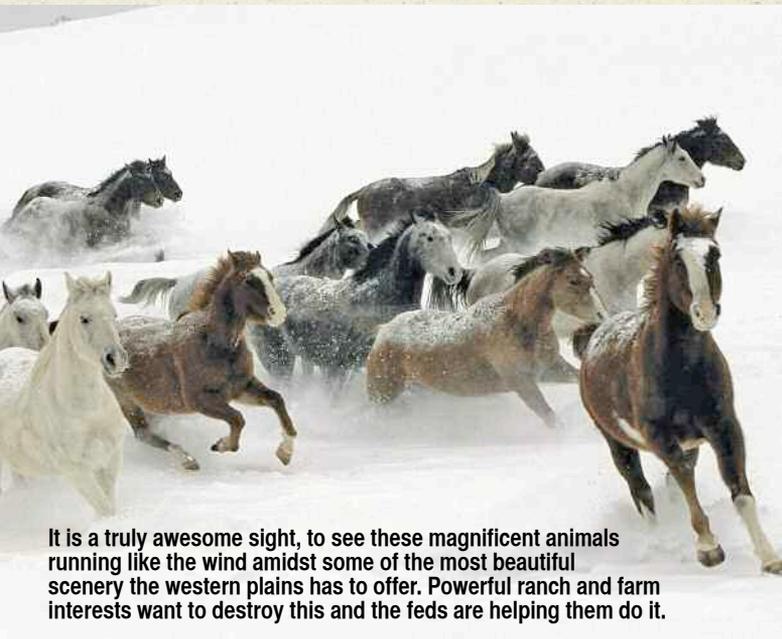


country chronicle

A MAGAZINE-WITHIN-A-MAGAZINE PRESENTED AS A REGULAR FEATURE OF MIDWEST TODAY

the fight to save the wild horses

a south dakota rescuer and the cheyenne river sioux rally to oppose the bureau of land management's roundup of these majestic symbols of freedom



It is a truly awesome sight, to see these magnificent animals running like the wind amidst some of the most beautiful scenery the western plains has to offer. Powerful ranch and farm interests want to destroy this and the feds are helping them do it.

By Woody Sculley

WILD HORSES CAN STILL be found on public lands and special wildlife refuges in many parts of the United States.

They are beautiful creatures, embodying a free spirit and a mysterious allure that few can resist. It may not be this way forever, though.

These horses are in danger of becoming extinct because of the growth of cities, towns, and even factory farms.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) claims that there about 29,500 wild horses and 3,500 burros, in 199 herds roaming ten Western states.

But In reality, the BLM has no accurate current inventory. Independent analysis of BLM's

own numbers reveal there may be only 15,000 wild horses remaining on public lands. Yet the BLM insists drastic action is needed to reduce the number in captivity.

Because the animals have few natural predators left and do not provide sport for hunters, government officials say a quota must be taken into captivity each year. Some of the captive horses are adopted by members of the public, but 90% end up going to slaughter in Mexico and Canada.

The BLM spent over \$30 million in F.Y. 2010 to capture more than 12,000 of these animals, removing them from their rightful Western ranges, which cost \$21 million →



The beauty of these wild equine is unknown to most Americans, who don't realize the feds are jeopardizing the survival of these animals.

a year to feed. "We don't want to do euthanasia, but we are up against the wall on our budget," a spokesman claims.

Deanne Stillman, author of a new book, "Mustang: The Saga of the Wild Horse in the American West," comments: "Horses blazed our trails, they fought our wars, they are the greatest icons of freedom. The word 'euthanasia' suggests that the BLM will be putting these horses out of their misery. But they are not in misery in the first place. It's the most cynical thing I've ever heard."

In the mid-1800s, when stockmen released up to 40 million cattle on the plains — where horses had lived for centuries without destroying the grazing — at most two million mustangs were held responsible for the suddenly depleted range.

Then came railroads and roads, cars and tractors, tanks and combine harvesters. In the 1930s, millions of pounds of wild horsemeat were processed into dog food.

Critics charge the BLM is yielding to ranch and farming interests by still scapegoating wild horses and burros for range deterioration even

though greater damage is caused by privately-owned livestock, which outnumber the free-roaming feral horses more than 200 to one.

Moving wild horses and burros east off their Western homelands to "sanctuaries" in the east and Midwest at an initial cost of \$96 million creates significant health concerns if animals adapted to western landscapes are managed on wet ground and rich grasses.

It also subverts the intent of the 1971 Wild Free-roaming Horse and Burro Act, which passed Congress unanimously and mandated that horses be preserved "where presently found." The Act preserves wild horses and burros in over 300 areas of publicly owned rangeland in the west, forbidding their exploitation, harassment and removal. Regardless, only 30 million acres remain of the 54 million acres designated primarily for wild horse use in 1971. Over 100 herds have been completely removed by the BLM and most remaining herds are too small to insure their long-term survival.

A 2009 district court case held that "Congress did not authorize BLM to 'manage' the

wild horses and burros by corralling them for private maintenance or long-term care as *non* wild free-roaming animals *off* the public lands."

Singer-songwriter and wild horse adopter Sheryl Crow, a Midwest native, had joined The Cloud Foundation and many others calling on President Barack Obama and Secretary Ken Salazar to place an immediate moratorium on roundups before the proposed Calico roundup of 2,500 wild horses in Nevada in December 1, 2009.

But Obama and his Republican Interior Secretary ignored the pleas. Bands including two-month-old foals were chased down off the mountaintop by helicopter for 10-15 miles in more than 90 degree heat resulting in trauma and lameness.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management further infuriated animal advocacy groups by rounding up wild horses from the Pryor Mountains along the Montana-Wyoming state line last September.

But a South Dakota rescuer and the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe continue Nature's way of handling wild horse herds. Unlike the BLM's disruptive practice of chasing terrified horses with helicopters, the Lantry, S.D. methods are based on the natural harmony of wild horse herds and harems.

Karen Sussman, president of the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros (ISPMB) based in Lantry, preserves one of America's greatest historical treasures — the genetically pure and rare herd of wild horses from Gila Bend, AZ.

In 1999 when the BLM threatened to remove the Gila herd at the request of ranchers, Sussman stepped in. Eventually she brought the herd to a beautiful ranch four hours north of the Badlands, on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, in Lantry.

Although the BLM claims that roundups of wild horses are necessary to reduce their numbers and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance, Sussman and other activists like the Colorado-based Cloud Foundation and Front Range Equine Rescue

vehemently disagree.

Karen Sussman claims that when the BLM does roundups, they disrupt the harem system that has been in place for over 500 years. The wild horses never band up the same way again. Without supervision from the wiser stallions that have been removed and that typically maintain harmony in the herds, the younger stallions take charge. "It's analogous to having fifth graders running the neighborhood," Sussman opines.

The young stallions breed with fillies, and the fertility rates skyrocket. This is the direct result of harem bands being destroyed as stallions

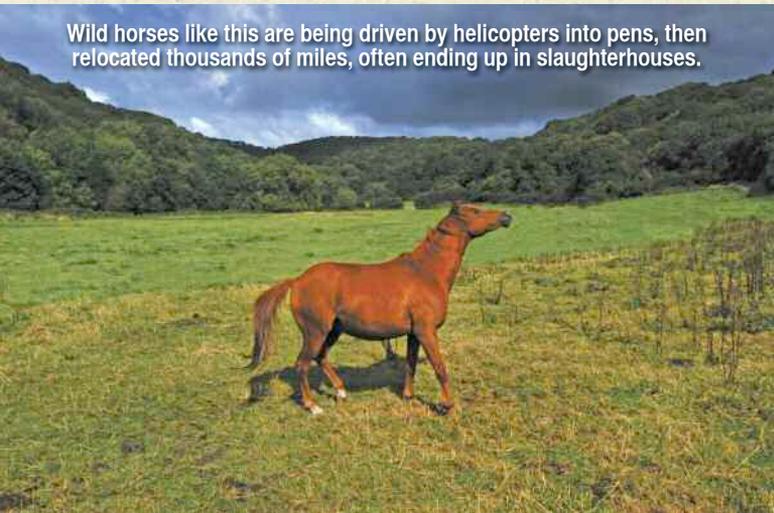


Mane flying, a wild horse gallops freely...for now.

are separated from their mares when captured in roundups. Devastating harm is done to the horses' social and emotional lives as well.

Return to Freedom has partnered with Jim Kudrna of Soldier Meadows Ranch in Nevada to offer the BLM a cost-effective alternative to rounding up the wild horses. "What we are proposing is not another sanctuary, but a new direction for the management of wild horses that keeps them on the range and save millions of tax dollars," says Neda DeMayo. Mr. Kudrna, tells us, "We feel that we can make a real difference in the whole area by repairing the water sources and creating a habitat that is conducive to all the wildlife in this beautiful area." BLM has not responded. ♦

Wild horses like this are being driven by helicopters into pens, then relocated thousands of miles, often ending up in slaughterhouses.



sweet renewal

By Susanna Conner

MELTING SNOW STREAMS off our barn's tin roof and feeds the rivulets winding down the muddy driveway toward the pond. The ducks splash in the sheets of water shimmering on the spongy ice.

This morning I walked through the sugar bush, where our maples grow amid oaks and sassafras. I snapped a maple twig, and a sparkling head of sap swelled and fell onto the snow blanketing the tree roots. Maple sugaring season had arrived, and for my family, a new farm year had begun.

The miracle of sugaring ensnared my husband and me over 25 years ago, and we still enjoy capturing the first run. We are eager to shed the weariness of Winter and embrace Spring's renewal.

Standing beneath a broad maple, my husband turns the brace and the drill licks out bits of bark and wood. Sap begins to ooze into the small hole and then gushes down the trunk. I tap in a spile and slip a metal bucket crowned with a tin roof onto it. *Plink, plink.* Sap strikes the bucket's bottom — the closer the drips, the swifter the flow. We work our way through the sugar bush and the melody from the buckets follows us.

As our household celebrates this Spring ritual, family and friends offer their help. Our octogenarian friend, Rich, stokes the wood fire beneath the evaporator so that we can collect sap. Friends' children snatch buckets and race from tree to tree as we march through the mud to the sugar shed. Steam billows from the vent in the shed's roof, and the moist air smells like maple sugar candy. Boiling sap makes everything sticky.

Suddenly the spiles are dry, the buckets silent. As we wash up the equipment and stack it in the barn, the Spring peepers sing to us. On our shelves are rows of Mason jars filled with amber syrup to sweeten the coming year. ◆



first bright colors of the year. While many of us think of them as early Spring bloomers, some varieties of Crocus will bloom in the Fall.

Natives of Southern Europe and Asia, Crocuses are as popular in other parts of the world as they are in your own back yard. Their early blooms brighten up the landscape around the world with white, yellow, blue, and light orange flowers above thin grass-like leaves. These small plants grow just three to four inches tall. Best of all, they are easy to grow and very prolific.

While many people refer to them as bulbs, Crocuses are actually corms, a bulb-like stem.

Not only are crocuses good flowers in the garden, they make good houseplants. You can easily force them to bloom indoors.

The word "Crocus" is Latin for Saffron. Knowing this, it should not surprise you that Saffron comes from the stigma of the Saffron Crocus. But, it takes thousands of flowers to get an ounce of Saffron. ◆



growing snow crocus

WHAT'S THAT SPLASH OF color poking up through the melting snow? Why, it's a Snow crocus, the earliest flowers in Spring! They often burst into bloom with the first thaw, even while snow is still on the ground. All they need is for the soil to defrost just enough

for their leaves to push through the snow laden soil. These hardy flowers will begin to grow with a warm spell in late Winter or early Spring. If it snows again before they bloom or during bloom, that's okay. They will be unharmed. It only takes a few days growth to blossom into the

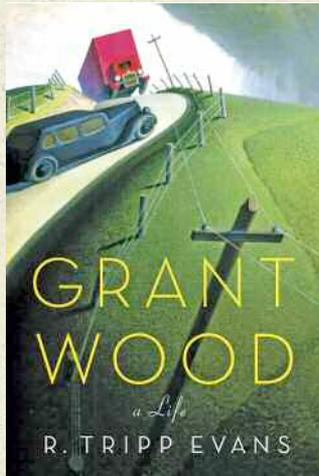
WITH WINTER-WEARY HEARTS WE LONG FOR SPRING TO unfold. We are ready to see hills and valleys green again. We wait with sweet expectancy to hear the returning robin's song. But we have to bide our time. January brings brutal cold, but in February come the deepest snows. The wind can force its way through an overcoat or the walls of a normally weathertight farmhouse. Then one day, great bare patches show in the pasture. What a joy it is to watch the water drip from the weathered eaves on the south side of the barn as the morning sun starts spreading its warming rays and the days lengthen. The creek will open for the thaw, and we'll hear and see the rushing, thumping masses of ice sweeping downstream with the current. Wintertime is ebbing! Suddenly, we notice buds on trees and bushes. One morning in March, I open my garden gate and smell the scent of sun-warmed soil, freshly tilled and damp. A weathered, board fence encloses neat beds waiting to be planted with onion sets and seed potatoes. Hope abounds in my awakening garden. The grassy paths are still matted from the heavy load of January's drifted snow, but in a corner, ivory flecks the grass where small white violets hint at the beauty that will flourish in the coming months. The skies are pussy-willow gray, as daffodils thrust blunt green fingers from the soil. Hyacinths are coming up, and forsythia buds are fat. We have made it through another Winter and all around us there is new life. ◆



country almanac
By Mary Brooks

grant wood: a look behind the facade of the “farmer-painter”

IOWA ARTIST GRANT WOOD’S “American Gothic” is the most recognizable American painting. Only the “Mona Lisa” has been more parodied. As Tripp Evans notes in his groundbreaking new biography of the artist, (“Grant Wood: A Life”), when it was



first exhibited in Chicago in 1930, it made an instant global celebrity out of Wood: “Never in the history of American art had a single work captured such immediate and international recognition; by the end of 1930, the painting had been reproduced in newspapers around the globe... Never before, either, had a painting generated such widespread curiosity about its artist.”

Wood, who was born in the small town of Anamosa, Iowa, in 1898 and spent nearly all his life painting in the Hawkeye State, depicting its countryside and inhabitants, was said to stand for the flinty, manly virtues of heartland America. *The New York Times* proclaimed that Wood, who styled himself a “farmer-painter,” had earned his “*toga virilis*” for, as Evans summarizes it, “ending Americans’ perilous fascination with impressionism.”

Grant himself encouraged this anti-intellectual, quintessentially American, and rigorously heterosexual version of his persona and the origins of

his art. He famously declared in a newspaper interview, “All the really good ideas I’ve ever had came to me while I was milking a cow.”

The public image Wood constructed of himself even extended to the way he dressed. As one prominent critic eulogized him on his death in 1942, “In past years artists adopted smocks for their own — the working attire of French peasants. Grant Wood wore the work clothes of his own country when he painted, overalls such as a farmer or mechanic would choose.”

But all of this was an elaborate charade. Although he spent his earliest years on the family farm, Wood spent most of his boyhood time hidden away in a dark basement, his refuge where he could draw and paint, sequestered from the disapproval of his distant and authoritarian father, who considered such artistic proclivities “sissified.”

Wood’s father died when he was quite young, and Grant then moved to Cedar Rapids with his mother and sister, with whom he lived for most of the rest of his life until, as part of his camouflage, he contracted a loveless, unconsummated, unhappy, and brief marriage.

Far from being inspired by milking cows — an activity he only engaged in occasionally in his young boyhood — Wood told his wife that he felt “disgusted and dirty” by it.

And as a young man Wood wouldn’t have been caught dead in overalls; he was, in fact, something of a dandy, as photographs in this copiously illustrated volume from Wood’s “bohemian,” European period clearly show. His earliest vocations were not in farming but as a jewelry designer, interior decorator, and in theatrical

production. One friend described the shy Wood’s voice as sounding “like the fragrance of violets made audible.”

Wood’s previous biographers have turned a blind eye to the fact that he was a deeply closeted homosexual. Evans documents the always-chubby Wood’s infatuations (many of them apparently unrequited and sublimated into parental role-playing) with an unending series of slim, dark-haired young men who were his students, protégés, and secretaries. As the bartender in a famous Cedar Rapids watering hole Wood favored put it, “Wood was only gay when he was drunk.”

Evans is brilliant in documenting the new school of regionalist, “authentic” American art of which Wood became a symbol in the 1930s after the stunning success of “American Gothic.” This was launched with a 1934 *Time* magazine cover story written on orders of its conservative nationalist publisher Henry Luce and was impregnated with an explicitly xenophobic, anti-modernist, and extremely homophobic ideology. Not only was homosexuality illegal and known homosexuals jailed or condemned to horrific “treatments” by psychiatric ghouls in mental hospitals, but the very art movement that had made Wood a central figure was unrelenting in its condemnation of same-sex orientation. Wood’s exposure would have threatened not

only his reputation but his income as well. There were several points in Grant’s life at which exposure of his homosexuality seemed imminent. In the late 1920s, he was blackmailed by a young man



over their relations. And though he piled layers of protective cover on his public image, Wood was stifling in his closet, and from time to time this was reflected in his work.

In 1937, he produced for sale by mail a lithograph, “Sultry Night,” that showed a handsome, full frontal nude man beside an outdoor bathtub pouring a bucket of water in a slow cascade over his head. Declaring the work to be an example of pornography, the censors at the U.S. Postal Service barred its publisher from distributing it or featuring the image in its catalogues (although not banning the many female nudes the publisher carried).

Wood was forced to publicly defend the “innocence” of the work as a recalled scene from his boyhood, something Evans shows was more than unlikely.

In “Grant Wood: A Life,” author Evans reveals the dark ironies in Wood’s portrayals of Heartland America and its culture that he traces back to the artist’s love of H.L. Mencken, whose contempt for that backwater culture he shared. It is evident in Wood’s work for those who wish to see it, and Evans is a reliable guide.

In the book’s epilogue, Evans pays tribute to Paul Rinard, Wood’s last secretary. Rinard became a powerful backroom policy broker, first with Iowa’s liberal Governor Harold Hughes in the 1960s, then joining the staff of Senator John Culver, who at Rinard’s funeral in 2000 called him “the intellectual godfather of Iowa’s progressive agenda for half a century.”

From the 1970s on, Rinard was “a defender of gay and lesbian civil rights — a courageous stance that struck even Culver’s younger staffers as radical. It would be difficult to explain Rinard’s commitment to this issue,” writes Evans, “especially during a period when its advocates were so scarce, without taking into account his profound loyalty to Wood. The artist might have led a far happier life,” Rinard believed, “had he been able to live in a more authentic way — safeguarded from the fear of losing his job, his reputation, or both, for being exposed as a homosexual.” ♦

THE QUAD CITIES

There's lots to see and do in the Quad Cities, comprised of Davenport, and Bettendorf, Iowa plus Moline and Rock Island, Illinois. Escape the winter cold at the tropical sun garden in the Quad City Botanical Center, one of the world's most unique conservatories, featuring a 14 foot indoor waterfall, 70-foot skylight peak, plus ferns, palms, bromeliads, orchids, birds of paradise and hundreds of other exotic tropical wonders!

Best place to stay is the Hotel Blackhawk in Davenport. Built in 1915 and on the National Register of Historic Places, the hotel has hosted U.S. Presidents, movie stars and athletes. It recently reopened after a \$45 million restoration.

Hotel Blackhawk boasts 130 guest rooms and extended-stay suites with full kitchens, flat screen TVs and wireless internet, a state of the art fitness center, swimming pool, hot tub, sundeck, salon, bowling alley and game room. Enjoy contemporary American cuisine in Bix Bistro. Reservations: 888-525-4455.

Hotel Blackhawk is connected to the River Center and Adler Theater, the latter of which is a historic art deco venue which plays host to world-class entertainment.

This neighborhood is in walking distance to the Mississippi River, restaurants, a riverboat casino, live music at the Redstone Room and the Figge Art Museum, which is currently hosting exhibitions on abstract expressionist Mercedes Matter, and the corporate art collection amassed by William Hewitt, former chairman of John Deere and Company. It features work by Grant Wood, Alexander Calder, Toulouse-Lautrec and Marc Chagall.

The John Deere Pavilion, located in Moline, Illinois is recognized as the world's most comprehensive agricultural exhibit.

Nearby there's Vintage Varieties Antiques, Dead Poet's Espresso, and a 1940s' style supper club, Johnny's Italian Steakhouse. The Red Crow Grille in Bettendorf is the only restaurant in eastern Iowa to boast the Wine Spectator's Award of Excellence.

The Isle Casino offers 24-hour gaming action and Iowa's largest hotel complex with over 500 rooms.

Enjoy the exciting action of the Quad Cities Mallards ice hockey team.

Each year, up to 2,500 Bald Eagles make the trees and bluffs along the Mississippi River their winter roosting grounds. You can go on a Bald Eagle Safari with Bob Motz by calling Bob at 309-788-8389.

WESTBY, WI

The 88th annual Snowflake Ski Jumping Tournament Feb. 3-5, in Westby, WI attracts not only U.S. ski jumpers but competitors from around the world. The ski jump complex at Snowflake consists of five jumps all located in the same area of beautiful Timber Coulee. The largest is a 118 meter Olympic-sized hill used for national and international competitions. The Snowflake Ski and Golf Club also offers a beautiful nine-hole, par-three golf course at the base of its five ski jumps for warm weather enjoyment. 608-634-3211.

BELOIT, WI

Begin a new adventure in Beloit. Eat all kinds of great food. Curl up in a cozy boutique hotel suite. Stroll the dazzling downtown. Explore their cross country trails. Enjoy their fabulous variety of life music. Don't miss the exhibition hockey at Edwards Ice Arena. 800-423-5648.

COLBY, KS

Experience early prairie life in a sod house,

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a one-room school, a country church and a 1930s farmstead located on I-70 on the high plains in Colby, Kansas. On exhibit is the World-Class Kuska Collection of Nellie McVey Kuska. She collected dolls, furniture, clothing, quilts, toys, glass, ceramics, silver, souvenirs, household items, tools, musical instruments, coins, clocks, stamps, guns, minerals, and art. The Prairie Museum of Art and History also debuts "Over Here! Over There!" honoring those who served. 785-460-4590.

AIR FORCE MUSEUM

Located at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio, the National Museum of the United States Air Force is the largest military aviation museum in the world. Included are planes, uniforms, vehicles, equipment and artifacts galore, plus dioramas that bring historic settings to life. You won't believe how extensive this facility is. There's a gift shop, IMAX Theater, Valkyrie Cafe and Memorial Park. 937-255-3286.

MARSHALLTOWN, IA

Enjoy the restored Orpheum Theater Center (including coffee shop), Matchstick Marvels, Fisher Art Gallery, Binford House (an 1874 Italianate marvel). Coming up: the big Garden Extravaganza on May 11. 800-697-3155.

BURPEE MUSEUM

Rockford, IL boasts the first-class Burpee Museum of Natural History. Its exhibits include "Jane: Diary of a Dinosaur," The Children's Gallery, "The First People," "Windows to Wilderness: Exploring nature in the Rock River Valley," and the Dean Olson Specimen Viewing Lab. The latest exhibit, "Giants: African Dinosaurs" runs from Feb. 19-May 15, 2011. 815-965-3433.

GROUT MUSEUM DISTRICT

Waterloo, Iowa, offers five distinct museums to discover our past, present and future, and your place in it. Exhibits include "Watson, Can You Hear Me Now?" (the evolution of communication); "M.A.S.H.: On the Front Lines of Medicine" (the U.S. Mobile Army Surgical Hospital). You can pet a 12-foot python, fire an air cannon, or create your own laser show. 319-234-6357.

PLYMOUTH, WI

Just east of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, Plymouth offers visitors four seasons of great recreational opportunities. Winter sports bring visitors to snowmobile and ski, both downhill and cross-country. There is also antiquing, fine arts, festivals, great dining and live entertainment. 888-693-8263. ■



Clockwise Air Force Museum; Quad Cities Botanical Center, John Deere Pavilion; Grout.

BOTTOMS UP!

ALCOHOL DOES HAVE ITS BENEFITS TO MANKIND

STUDIES SHOW THAT MODERATE drinkers are generally healthier than those who do not drink and those who drink excessively. Research indicates that moderate alcohol consumers have fewer heart attacks and strokes and have less incidence of conditions such as high blood pressure, peripheral artery disease, cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, diabetes, arthritis, osteoporosis, kidney stones, digestive ailments, stress and depression, hepatitis A, pancreatic cancer, gallstones, liver disease, etc. The list goes on.

Here's what your favorite beverage can do for you. *Moderation is the key.*

BEER

Heart Disease: The University of Texas at Dallas reported that those who drink moderate amounts of alcohol are 30-40% less likely to suffer from coronary heart disease, compared to those who don't drink at all.

Vitamin B6: Beer provides a 30% increase in vitamin B6 into the blood plasma — something that neither wine nor any other liquor can do — which prevents the build-up of the amino acid homocysteine. People with high levels of homocysteine are usually more prone to an early onset of heart and vascular disease.

Stroke: *The New England Journal of Medicine* states that those who drink beer moderately are 20% less likely to suffer a stroke.

Bones: Research at King's College and St Thomas's Hospital in London shows that because beer is one of the richest sources of silicon, one pint a day supplies a person with 20% of the average daily intake of silicon, which may be one of the most effective ways for young people to help keep their bones strong.

Relaxation: Beer has a relaxing effect on the body, resulting in less stress and better sleep patterns.

Elderly: It has been proven that beer helps promote blood vessel dilation, sleep, and urination, particularly among the elderly.

VODKA

Disinfectant: Vodka can be used as a disinfectant, since it is essentially diluted alcohol. When doctors or medical supplies are not within reach, vodka might be a more readily available alternative to treat a wound.

Fever: Since alcohol evaporates faster than water, a fever could be reduced by rubbing vodka onto one's body.

Blood Vessels: Up to two shots of vodka a day can actually be beneficial: Small amounts of quality vodka can help prevent atherosclerosis. This is a disease that affects our arterial blood vessels.

Stomach Sensitivities: Because vodka is so highly distilled, consuming it in small doses could tackle conditions such as thrush, candida and irritable bowel syndrome.

Hangovers: One scientific analysis found that vodka had only a small fraction of the content of the toxic alcohol methanol. This, combined with the fact that vodka has virtually no coloring or flavoring chemicals, reduces your chances of getting a bad hangover.

GIN

Preventing water retention: The juniper berries found in gin have a diuretic action, which results in the likelihood of passing more water. Juniper berries were originally used as an herbal remedy for diseases of kidneys and liver.

Arteries: Researchers discovered that drinking moderate amounts of gin could reduce inflammation in the blood, which has been linked to artery-clogging plaque buildup and heart disease.

Arthritis: The consumption of homemade gin-soaked raisins has become a popular folk remedy for arthritis. It's not scientifically clear how or why it works, but many people swear it relieves arthritis pain. It involves pouring raisins into a bowl and letting them soak in gin for about two weeks. Roughly nine of these raisins are to be eaten each day to help you with arthritis pain.

WHISKEY

Cells: Whiskey contains plant compounds which protect the body's healthy cells. These come from the oak barrels in which whiskey is stored during maturation.

Heart Disease: A study in the *British Medical Journal* found that in small doses, whiskey could help protect against heart disease, strokes and cataracts.

Cancer: In 2005, a scientific conference in Glasgow revealed that the ellagic acid found in whiskey could help fight cancer. This acid, which is also found in soft fruit, supposedly absorbs rogue cells in the body.

Sleep: Whiskey as a hot toddy is often recommended by doctors to help induce sleep.

Sore throat: It is believed that adding a spoon of honey and lemon to whiskey can help soothe a sore throat.

SHERRY

Arteries: According to scientists, sherry contains polyphenols, which are believed to reduce the risk of coronary artery disease.

Cholesterol: Sherry increases the body's production of "good" cholesterol, which helps the body get rid of potentially harmful cholesterol.

BRANDY

Vitamin C: Because of the high level of antioxidants produced during the distilling process, scientists claim that 30ml of good brandy would give the equivalent antioxidant potential as the daily recommended intake of vitamin C.

Heart Attacks: French research has shown that a regular dose of brandy can reduce the potential of heart attacks and clots from occurring.

GUINNESS

Heart Disease: Researchers at the University of Wisconsin found that because Guinness contains antioxidants — similar to those found in fruit and vegetables — a daily pint of Guinness with a meal reduces the chances of cardiac attacks, as well as heart clots.

BAILEY'S

Intake: Though it has high alcohol content, and saturated fats, its sweetness may restrict alcohol intake. The cream will also slow down the absorption of alcohol compared to non-mixer drinks.

WINE

Heart Disease: Research shows that red wine is beneficial to your heart health. It is believed that the antioxidants present in the skin and seeds of red grapes provide protection to the heart.

Cancer: Research scientists in North Carolina discovered a chemical found in red wine which helps to fight cancer. The chemical, called trans-Resveratrol, is found in grapes, mulberries, raspberries, peanuts, muscadine grapes, including scuppernongs, and many other fruits and nuts.

Joints: According to studies at the University of Milan, white wine contains tyrosol and caffeic acid, which partially suppress the inflammatory reaction that occurs in conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis.

Researchers found that while grape juice has antioxidative benefits similar to wine, it does not lower LDL cholesterol levels compared to red wine. ■



Best Value Restaurants



A FREE GUIDE TO SELECT HEARTLAND EATERIES

SH CAPRI, 1205 E. 85th, St. Louis, MO. Located in the basement of the Renaissance Grand hotel, this place has class! Start with a Winter Chopped Salad that features romaine, roasted beets, crumbled blue cheese, lightly pickled red onions, sliced fingerling potatoes, bacon and candied walnuts with a sherry vinaigrette. You can also add salmon to that. Exquisite! A popular entree is local Italian sausage and Ozark Forest Mushrooms Risotto with Grilled Shrimp. We also like their Grilled Ruby Red Trout that includes Broccoli Rabe, Parsnips and Carrots with a Tomato Vinaigrette. Try the Rigatoni with vodka sauce or chicken cacciatore.

Of course, being St. Louis the Capri restaurant serves great barbecue. They smoke all their meats over hard fruitwood chips until tender and have a special sauce.

They offer luscious deserts like a chocolate sampler, but our favorite is the blueberry cobbler served with buttermilk panna cotta...which is an Italian custard. L/\$22/D/\$40. (314) 418-5900.

SH VIVO Restaurant and Bar, 607 W Broadway Ave., **Fairfield, Iowa**, is one of the best, most reasonably priced dining establishments in the Midwest. And we don't say that lightly. Head chef Noah Lobdell and Assistant Chef Tiffany Weber really know their



sauce; Eggplant Parmigiana — when was the last time you saw that on a restaurant menu? There's Vegetable Napoleon; Sesame Tuna; Chicken Scallopini; Salmon prepared a variety of ways including ginger crusted, or baked on a cedar plank, miso grilled or blackened. They've got pastas galore like Seafood Fra Diavolo and Capellini Puttansca. We like the Penne Pesto made with three herbs and pine nuts topped with fresh roma tomatoes. D/\$35. 641-472-2766.

GB AUGUSTA, Oxford, IA. Hosts Jeri and Ben Halperin were displaced by Hurricane Katrina, and brought their Cajun and Creole arts to the small eastern Iowa town of Oxford.

Favorite appetizers include crawfish beignets — savory crawfish fritters with spicy remoulade; Jumbo lump Crab cakes; and New Orleans style shrimp in a rosemary-garlic wine sauce. Chef's specialties include Grits and Grillades — braised Iowa pork loin with cheesy grits and brown gravy.

If you have never tasted Southern fried chicken you don't know what you're missing. The secret: they dip it in buttermilk. The cornmeal crusted fried catfish is served with a spicy honey mustard sauce. Sides include stewed greens, sweet potato chips, sugar carrots, and creamed corn. You'd be amazed by how delicious that is. For dessert, order the Cherry Bread Pudding with a creme anglaise on the top. L/\$15; D/\$25. 319-828-2252. ■

GB—Inexpensive; **SH**—Moderately priced; **WS**—Worth a splurge

way around a kitchen.

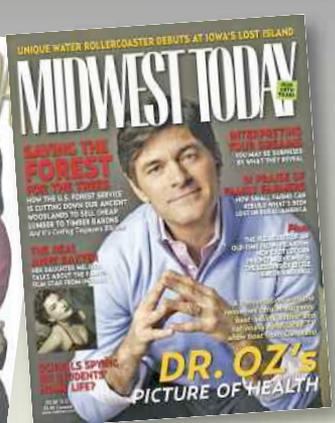
Enjoy appetizers like a Parmesan Artichoke Fritter, served with roasted red pepper dipping sauce; or Vegetable Fillo Rolls along with tarragon lime aioli. There's Baby Lobster Tails with Basil Beurre Blanc, which is a creamy basil garlic sauce. It's served with toasted bread. They also offer Maryland Crab cakes, Spinach Artichoke Dip, Bacon Wrapped Scallops, Ahi Tuna Sashimi and more.

Favorite entrees include lobster and crab stuffed red snapper with a tomato and shallot cream sauce served with herbed rice; a 10-ounce New York Strip with mushroom whiskey sauce and horseradish potatoes on the side.

Turkey meatloaf is served with a burgundy



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The UPDATE & LOW DOWN

By JON MCINTOSH (email: midtod@iowatelecom.net)

EXTREME MAKEOVER: WE'RE HEARD OF POLITICIANS WHO ARE PRO-business, but newly elected Republican **Ron Johnson** of **Wisconsin**, who defeated incumbent Sen. **Russ Feingold**, is fanatical about it. So much so he even testified against toughening laws on pedophiles and employers who shield them, arguing this could hurt profits! A wealthy plastics manufacturer who spent \$8 million on his own campaign, Johnson was financially supported by banking and insurance interests. Though he avoided the press and relied on 51 misleading TV ads and few public appearances, his handlers had to retract or "clarify" statements he made on an array of issues. He took BP's side and denounced Obama's "assault" on the big polluting oil giant. (No surprise. Johnson owns \$300,000 in BP stock). A **Tea Party** favorite, Mr. Johnson is the antithesis of everything the Tea party claims it stands for. As **David Sirota**, author of "The Uprising and Hostile Takeover" points out, Johnson "built a company propped up by government grants and loans — otherwise known in Tea Party terms as 'bailouts.' He lobbied for funds from the same 'big government' stimulus bill the Tea Party despises.



Feingold, Johnson

He touted NAFTA-style trade policies' 'creative destruction' of Wisconsin's manufacturing economy. And rather than promoting the freedom the Tea Party says it values, Johnson has praised China's repressive communist regime for its economic policies." By contrast, **Russ Feingold** made his name championing many of the Tea Party's purported views about the state, the Constitu-

tion and national sovereignty. Feingold has opposed wasteful pork barrel spending, worked to trim the defense budget and voted against financial bailouts. He was the only Senator to vote against the Constitution-defying Patriot Act and has boldly questioned both parties' willingness to let the state trample citizens' civil liberties. Feingold has been one of the few Senators to consistently oppose NAFTA-style trade deals — pacts that usurp domestic control over our economy and lay waste to the very industrial Heartland the Tea Party claims to cherish. He voted 887 times against his own party, including 97 times when he was the lone holdout. While Ron Johnson's ads tarred Feingold as "out of touch with the financial plight of average Americans," Sen. Feingold has been one of only a handful of non-millionaires in the U.S. Senate. So why didn't Tea Partiers support him? Because he's a *Democrat*.

□

RIDING THE RAILS AGAIN: PASSENGER TRAINS ARE A RARITY HERE IN the Heartland, but in the northeast, they are marking the 10th anniversary of the Acela Express, which is a 150-mile-per-hour train that links Washington to Boston. It's reduced travel times and given more than 3.2 million passengers a cost-effective, environmentally friendly alternative to congested highways and airports. Just as European and Asian countries are expanding their high-speed rail networks and developing new systems, the U.S. has a plan to ensure that next-generation high-speed rail plays a role in our major travel corridors. **Amtrak** has a bold vision for trains that will run 220 m.p.h. and serve 18 million passengers. \$8 billion in stimulus dollars were allocated to expand high speed rail to more parts of the country, like the Midwest, but new Governors **Scott Walker** in **Wisconsin** and **John Kasich** in **Ohio** turned down \$1.2 billion in federal funds to help bring high speed trains to their states, despite high unemployment and the economic benefits of more tourism, and more commerce. **Iowa** Governor

Terry Branstad is cool to the idea of high speed rail, despite plans to link **Chicago** with **Iowa City**, and eventually **Des Moines** and **Omaha**. A lot of corporations and business groups are in favor of faster trains so we'll see how that turns out. Incidentally, over in China they are working on a new magnetic passenger train that will go 312 miles per hour. And we can't even get politicians to use the money that's allocated to upgrade our rail service.

□

HEARTACHE BY THE NUMBERS: IN 2007, WHEN THE **WAYNE TOWNSHIP School Board** in **Indianapolis, Indiana** agreed to re-open contract negotiations with then-Superintendent **Terry Thompson**, they signed off on an exorbitant retirement package without reading the fine print. Now that Thompson, 64, has retired after only 15 years, the board is awakening to the fact that in addition paying him \$800,000, they are also obligated to give him \$1,352 a day after his retirement to advise his successor. That amount, over the 150 days laid out in the contract, would pay him more than \$200,000. There's also a one-time \$15,000 stipend for "retirement planning." It all adds up to over \$1 million. This at a time when the Westside school district, which has more than 15,700 students, has had to eliminate some programs, freeze staff pay, reduce some teaching positions, lay people off and force teachers to struggle through cost-cutting. Did we mention Terry Thompson was named the 2010 Indiana Superintendent of the Year?



□

THEY SHOOT HORSES, DON'T THEY?: INDIGNANT **REPUBLICANS** AND **TEA Partiers** in **Missouri**, the "puppy mill capital" of the U.S., are already trying to repeal Proposition B, a new commie bill that requires dog-breeders to give their charges basic care just like that Marxist outrage, health care. Data from Missouri's **Department of Agriculture** shows that up to 100 dead dogs a month are dumped in open sites, proving regulation sure isn't needed. "They're expecting all the breeders to sit there and pay for exorbitant amount of care that is not needed, like adequate food, adequate water, adequate space.... Proposition B is one more step to making us a communist, socialist society," says opponent **Anita Andrews**. (Seriously; she really said that!) Ms. Andrews also went on to list another problem with the law: "Animal rights activists want to prohibit stacking, yet we stack humans...in apartments all the time." Although, as comic **Olivia Munn** notes, "most apartments don't allow your upstairs neighbor to shit on your head." Missouri has 3,000 puppy mills. In **Kentucky** they shoot the dogs at their shelters, because bullets are cheaper than the shots. Many of the dogs that they put in a Bulldozer shovel, are still alive after being shot, laying on top of other dogs already dead. Of course, any society that places so little value on human dignity and the suffering of the poor can't be expected to care about mere animals.

□

HE WAS DETERMINED: FIREFIGHTERS WERE ONCE AGAIN CALLED TO a claw-toy vending machine to extract a small boy who had crawled up the toy-release chute — this time at a **Walmart** in **Sun Prairie, Wisconsin**. As is often the case, the boy appeared to be joyously in his element among the toys and not immediately receptive to coaxing from firefighters or his parents.

□

DEADBEAT DAD: A JUDGE IN **KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN**, FINALLY ORDERED **Howard Veal**, 44, to prison to serve at least two years for failure to pay child support. He is more than \$500,000 behind in payments to 14 mothers for the 23 children he has fathered. Authorities suspect there are even more. ■

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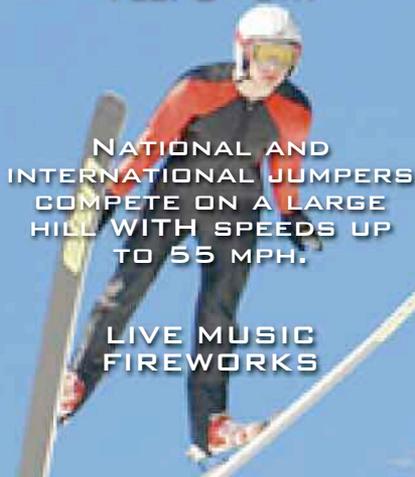
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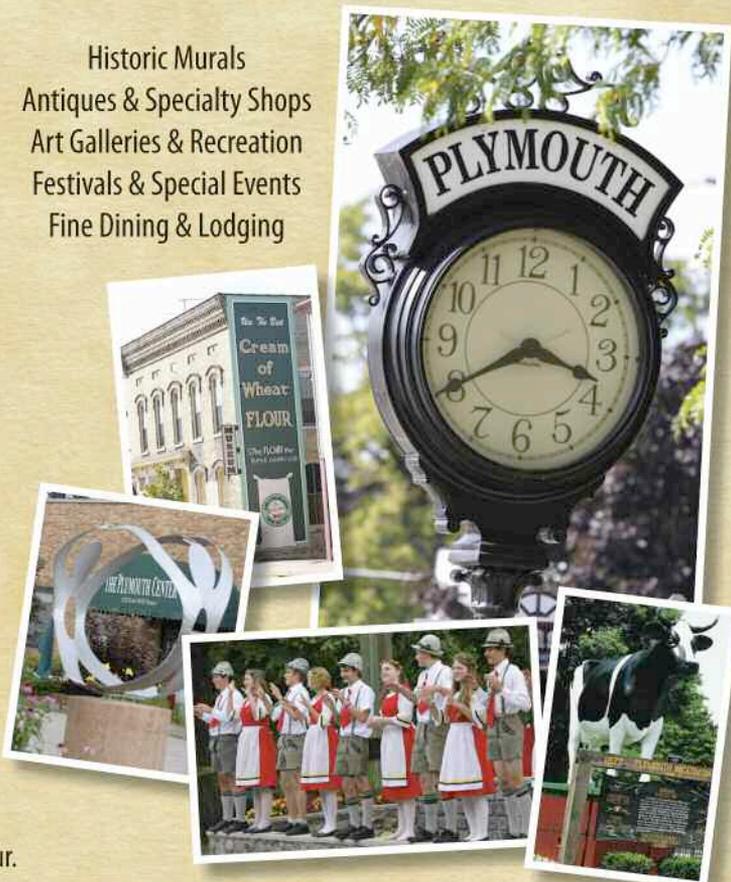


The Walldogs

www.plymouthwalldogs.com

A group of 160+ international artists will be
in Plymouth June 22-26, 2011 to create 20 historic
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featuring a vintage trolley car and Cream of Wheat Flour.



South Texas 24/7



Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg

Find more information at

SouthTexas24-7.com

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