



## Welcome Back Issue

### While You Were Gone...

#### October

- Fr. Cunningham's mother passed away unexpectedly.
- Memorial service held for Dean McKillips - Reception at VFW
- Michael Mielke in rehab and improving steadily.
- Clothing drive for Bosnia was a huge success.
- Halloween: Saturday nite - huge crowds downtown - weather mild
- Ronnie Beatty taken to hospital with bleeding ulcers. Back in few days.
- Don Williams in and out for heart applications.

#### November

- Wedding: Marge Newcomb's daughter Molly to Bill Minshall
- Sun. Nov. 13th - Turkey dinner at Zion Church put on by young people's group - very enjoyable.
- Craft Night at St. Michael's Hall well attended by around 25 ladies who gathered to make a Thanksgiving centerpiece
- Richard DeBoard passed away. Service held at cemetery with a reception following at The Inn. His wonderful sense of humor will be greatly missed!

#### December

- Dec. 8th - Holiday Get-To-Gether at St. Michael's Hall.
- Community PotLuck Dec. 10th Old Town Hall -wonderful food
- School Play Dec. 16th - great
- VFW Children's Party Dec. 18th. Michael Mielke doing great - visited the Island for some hunting.
- Frankie Pohorence life-flighted to St. Vincent Charity Hospital in Cleveland - underwent triple bypass and is doing great

- New Year's Eve - Celebrations at Water Street Cafe and the VFW - both were very well attended - and a great time was had by all.

#### January

- Jan. 7th - first measurable snow - around 7" - great for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.
- Jan. 28th - ferryboat discontinued because of shoreline ice
- Ron Beatty underwent knee replacement surgery.

#### February

- Fri., Feb. 24th - Prom/Dinner Dance for Seniors
- Sat., Feb. 25th - Village Pump reopened
- Feb. 28th Shrove Tuesday Potluck at St. Michael's hall
- Feb. 28th - opening of Water Street Cafe

### Council Highlights

#### OCTOBER

- \$25,000 collected in fines by Mayor's Court for 1994.
- Excise Tax Committee met twice to try to find other sources of revenue for Village
- Zoning request by Kelleys Island Investment Group pertaining to 52 acres denied

#### NOVEMBER

- No new septic permits for Sweetbriar until ditches are installed and approved by Erie County Health Department

- \$5.00 license fee approved for all cars registered on Kelleys Island

#### DECEMBER

- Ordinance approved to limit garage sales to three per year. \$5.00 fee required for each one.

#### JANUARY

- Proposal from Dr. Wm. Myers to

provide medical services on certain weekends this summer was accepted by Council. Mayor appointed committee to work out details.

- Coyote shot by visiting hunter. Four dens of coyotes on Island have been reported.

#### FEBRUARY

- 86 deer taken this hunting season. ODNR estimates remaining population at 75.

- Design Review Board brochure which applies to the "historic district" is available to assist you in building, remodeling, or enlarging a residence.

*(These council records were compiled by Kellee Sandersun who also submitted the following observation:)*

#### February Experience:

"I took a 5-mile walk around the Island last evening. The sky was clear and no wind. The stars were so bright and the night so quiet I thought I heard the stars twinkling. Then I realized the sounds were ice cracking. Winter's solitude on Kelleys Island is so beautiful!"

#### LAND TRANSFERS

11-20-94..... 206 Johanna Lane, William H. and Sally Vetovitz from Eileen T. Anderson, \$92,000  
1-15-95..... 331 Division St., Michael L. and Joyce E. Bailey from Jonathan Goodson, \$112,000  
2-5-95..... Beach Rd, Scott Smith and Jodie from Todd J. Roth, \$27,000

### Upcoming Events

Sat., Apr. 15th - Early Bird Party  
Village Pump 12:00 noon  
Sat., Apr. 22nd - Welcome Back  
Fish Fry at Old Town Hall  
Sat., May 6th - KICC Derby  
Day at Local Taverns

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# A Prisoner of War

by Jessie Martin

This year of 1995 many of us are remembering the end of World War II and how it affected our lives. In Kelleys Island's Memorial Park there is a monument dedicated to those young men from the Island who fought bravely for their country. There was an Island boy who, although he endured many hardships, lived to tell of his harsh experiences after becoming one of Germany's prisoners of war. This is Anthony "Tony" Perruchon.

Tony enlisted as a volunteer in the Army on Palm Sunday, 1942. After his initial induction, he left the USA on the Susan B. Anthony and by December 6th, 1942, was involved in the Invasion of Africa. He helped in transporting the wounded back and forth between convoys of U.S. soldiers and the British. On January 16th, 1943, he was captured and taken prisoner of war, along with four others. Five of the men with them were killed.

After being captured, he was sleeping when in the middle of the night, a German officer ordered him out of bed, wouldn't let him take his shoes, and marched him barefoot forty miles over mountains. The officer took Tony and the men to a town called Gablese in Africa. During the week that he was there, he found some old shoes that he could wear. Then he was transported to Tripoli where he was put in a dungeon. Around 3:00 in the morning a guard took the prisoners out for fresh air and then back to the dungeon. From Tripoli he was taken by plane back to Gablese and from there to Palermo, Italy. He was at Camp Cuppa which was about eighteen or twenty miles from Naples, Italy. He was there along with Australian and British soldiers for about a month.

Tony developed a kidney infection from wounds he had received in battle. He had to sleep on the ground on wet straw. Then he was told they'd have to move. Three or four thousand men were put in box cars and shipped to Germany. One soldier tried to escape and was severely beaten, but an American lieutenant stopped the abusers. They went to Moosburg, Germany where there was snow up to their knees. They were put in barracks with only one blanket. He was still wearing the old shoes he had acquired in Africa, but the American Red Cross came with some new shoes that fit. He was put to work at Fredrickshoppen where they built the Groff Zeppelin.

The men were made to dig a trench to get water from a lake. They were given black bread and coffee for breakfast and a soup-like broth with turnips and potatoes for lunch. They were shipped to Potlitz, Germany on the Polish border and sent to work in camps of about twenty-five men each on a twenty-two hundred acre farm. There were cows, horses, and pigs on the farm. Vegetables grown were rutabagas, potatoes, grain and a kind of pea. The farm was privately owned but was controlled by the German government. One day while he was threshing wheat,

he saw a soldier beaten with a bayonet.

Tony had an appendectomy performed by a German doctor in a place about twenty miles from camp. There were some physical complications that kept him in bed for ten days. When he went back to camp, he became a cook. As he could understand and speak some German, he had a little better treatment than some of the other men had.

During the winter of 1945, the Russians came. They were about thirty miles away from the German camp. Although it was forty-five degrees below zero, and there were two to three feet of snow, the men left the camp at Politz and walked for twenty-eight days. They rested in barns along the way and got whatever they could scrounge for eating. They could trade any cigarettes or chocolate they had for a loaf of bread. A dentist would trade a gold tooth for chocolate. Tony's feet and hands were frozen, and his toes turned black. They finally reached a camp north of Berlin near the Baltic Sea and were there until May 16th, six days after the war had ended. One day a guard came into camp and said, "Go". The men walked until they ran into British troops. They took a jeep and a pistol from a German officer and headed west. They went to Weismar and found a big house which they took over. The owner was a bank president in a town of about forty thousand people. His daughters gave the men hot water for making coffee. They slept on the floor of this house where they stayed for a day and a half.

In Weismar there was an opera house with a picnic style table full of undelivered mail. The American headquarters were in a town next to Weismar. The Americans took the jeep the men had confiscated and sent the men to an air base from which they flew to France.

Tony came back on the Monticello to the United States where he was discharged from the Army on September 2, 1945. He remembers his experiences vividly and talks about them as if they happened yesterday. I'm sure he has much more to tell than what our limited space allows. I, as well as many others, am deeply grateful for Tony and all the men like him who sacrificed so much that we might live in a free country.

(Jessie interviewed Tony while in Florida this past winter. This editor is grateful to her for sharing this story with us. I had considered not publishing this year, but reconsidered after receiving this article.)

Your news and articles would be gratefully received.

Letters and input to the Editor:  
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