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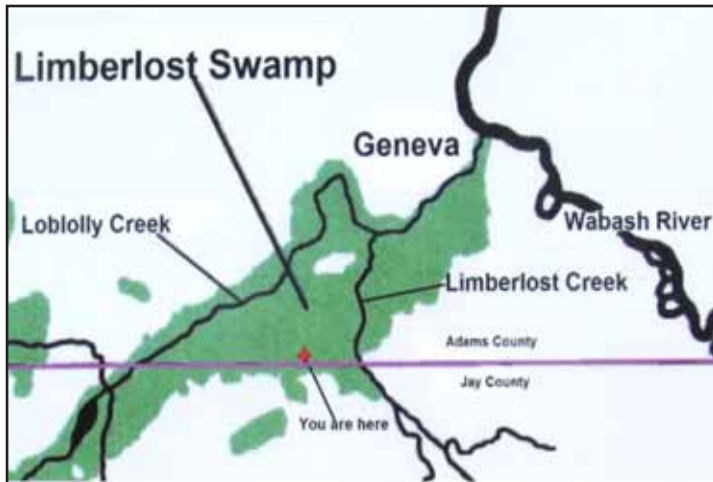
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Senior Living is a quarterly publication of News-Banner Publications, 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714. Have a story idea? Send it via mail to above address or email: seniorliving@adamswells.com.



The Limberlost Swamp before settlers began moving into the area.

Limberlost Preserve expanded, opening new trails to explore.

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Browsing ‘Lew’s Barn’

BY MARK MILLER

He will admit it: He enjoys talking. Whether it’s about his “very interesting career” at CTS in Berne or his retirement “hobby” of woodworking.

“If you get me started,” Lew Seffernick says, “and if someone wants to listen...”

As a product engineer at CTS, he registered 18 patents or trade secrets on electronic products and processes. One gets the impression he might be able to get a patent or two for the woodworking creations he has come up with in “Lew’s Barn” north of Decatur.

“Well, I have these scraps of wood I don’t want to throw away,” he will tell you. “What are you going to do, just leave it lay around to trip on? So I found a way to use them.”

The best example might be his newest product, which is kind of an upgrade from the traditional cutting boards that he has been making primarily for friends and family for years.

“I guess it’s a charcuterie board, or a serving tray,” he explains. “I don’t care what you call it.”

Seffernick cuts a larger piece with a band saw and then puts another small piece in and then glues them back together. The process is repeated with varying cuts until a unique design emerges; and then a variety of handles can be added. The process takes about two weeks for a board to be completed.

“You have to give the glue time to dry, and then sand it down each time,” he says. “They start out a lot thicker than this,” he adds, holding a finished product.

His woodworking hobby started while he was growing up in Delphos, Ohio, where his father had a few tools and “made a few things and some plastic moldings.” After graduating from the United Electronics Institute in Louisville, Ky., he got a job at the growing CTS Electronics plant in Berne in 1963. He retired in 2005 as the plant was closing down and the production was moving to China.

“CTS was the most efficient fixed resistor network plant you could find,” he shares. “We made two million a week and we got the manufacturing cost



Lew Seffernick stands next to his workbench in the barn built for his retirement hobby of woodworking. “I do it for fun, and it keeps me busy,” he says, including the flag boxes he makes and then provides for the veterans who are honored by the American Legion Post 43 Honor Guard, on which he serves.

down to 12 cents a piece. After they took it all to China, they discovered their cost was now 25 cents apiece. Go figure.”

When he started in 1963, the plant was making electronic resistors the size of small transistor radios, many of which, for example, went into hospital beds. At one point, his engineering development team got a resistor down to 0.35-inches long, which proved to be too small for the customer — IBM.

As CTS’ operations were winding down, they allowed Seffernick to take several things home, including the original drafting table he worked at and a number of product samples and displays. “It’s fun to go through this stuff,” he tells his visitor, often taking time to explain how the product was developed and manufactured and then what it was designed to do.

“You have to remember this is all old stuff now,” he adds, “probably about 1975.”

“This one was quite a unique product we developed for IBM,” he continues. It could change its “mode of operation” so the customer would not have to stock different varieties. “This one was part of a security system. I could explain it but you wouldn’t understand it any-



Just three examples of Lew Seffernick’s woodcarving creations. The one he is holding is his all-time favorite. “I’ve only made three of them,” he shared.

way,” he added with a chuckle. The visitor could not disagree.

The barn was constructed in about 2000 as retirement neared. Seffernick had had a small workshop in their basement from the time their home was built.

Continued on page 5

A big-city art museum in a small town

BY TANYA ISCH CAYLOR

When my husband asked if I wanted to go see the Vivian Maier exhibit at the Garrett Museum of Art, I was flabbergasted.

Since when did this blue-collar small town have an art museum? And how had it managed to book a show that's drawn international interest?



Hoosier Fun

I'd vaguely remembered hearing about the Nanny Photographer on NPR a few years ago. Her work — 50 years of intimate portraits from the streets of Chicago — were discovered at a storage unit auction in 2007. Many of the negatives hadn't even been developed. No one seemed to know the mysterious woman whose name was on the processing envelopes, until her obituary appeared two years later. Maier, a reclusive eccentric who never revealed her obsession with photography to those who knew her only as a longtime nanny, is now considered by some to be one of the most important photographers of the 20th Century.

As curious as I was to see Maier's pictures, I was even more interested in seeing the museum. We found it at 100 S. Randolph St., inside a downtown building that formerly housed the Garrett State Bank.

By then I'd gotten the back story, compliments of Google: The museum, the brainchild of a local art teacher who wanted a place to display regional artists, opened in 2008. But about three years ago the museum's third director, Jim Gabbard, along with Gallery Coordinator and Curator Angela Green, started dreaming big: What if they tried to bring in shows people would ordinarily have to drive to a big city to see? They shared their vision with the James Foundation, which funded their initiative along with DeKalb County philanthropist Judy Morrill.

Their first big show took place in January 2022, featuring American artist Edward Curtis. The "Shadow Catcher"



At left: Angela Green is the Garrett Museum of Art's Gallery Coordinator and Curator, while Jim Gabbard is the museum's third director since it opened in 2008. Though Vivian Maier was extremely secretive about her photography, she occasionally shot self-portraits of herself (right photo) as reflected in windows and storefronts around Chicago.

(Courtesy photos)

was a self-taught photographer who got backing from Teddy Roosevelt and J.P. Morgan to document the vanishing Native American tribes of the American west. He shot 40,000 photos of more than 80 tribes.

In a video shot opening night and now posted on the museum's website, you can sense the excitement of not only Gabbard and Green, but the special guests who helped mark the occasion: the artist's great-grandson, flown in from Seattle, and Katrina Mitten, a Huntington resident and descendent of all the major Miami historical figures, whose beadwork was on display that night in Garrett even while other samples of her work were being shown at the Smithsonian Institution.

In the video, Gabbard explains that the museum hopes to do two major shows a year, with regional artists featured in between. The Maier show we saw this spring was one of them.

Gabbard took our \$5 admission fee and welcomed us to the museum, whose exterior still looks like a century-old small town bank but whose interior was open and airy. Maier's black-and-white photos were displayed on both floors. Each served as a riveting portal



into midcentury Chicago street life.

There was a decent crowd, considering we were seeing this show fairly late in its run in Garrett. I was a little disappointed that the bank's vault wasn't used for display space, serving as an office instead. But in general the space was well used, with local art tucked into small spaces here and there, along with a display of books about Maier and a pair of size 12 men's shoes resembling those Maier was reputed to have worn as she trudged on the streets of Chicago.

The museum's current exhibit is "Early Brown County Artists," featuring more than 100 paintings, pottery, lithographs and photographs from the artist's colony that formed in southern Indiana in the early Twentieth Century. They're sourced from private collections, so even if you've seen work by artists such as T.C. Steele in the past, you likely haven't seen these pieces.

We haven't been up to see this show yet, but plan to check it out before the exhibition ends July 1. Summer hours are 5-7 p.m. Fridays and 4-7 p.m. Saturdays.

The writer, a Wells County resident, can be reached at tischcaylor@gmail.com.

Lew's Barn

Continued from page 3

"I decided I wasn't going to spend my retirement years in the basement," he says. "You have to get out and get some air and besides, I needed more room." The barn allowed him to add a large table saw and a new lathe and sander. And room for more wood.

And at some point, it became known to his friends and family as simply "Lew's Barn."

"After I built the barn, I started watching for farm auctions or auctions of other woodworkers," he explains. The wood he found at every auction was both "remarkably cheap" and of excellent quality.

"Much of it is rough-sawn — the farmer had cut a tree down, stored it to dry and then I got it." Much of the wood, he was told, was harvested along the St. Marys River — native walnut, maple, cherry, cedar and some hickory. One woodworker's auction had a healthy stack of mahogany.

During his working career, Seffernick mostly made furniture in his basement workshop for family. "Mostly tables,"

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The birds keep him busy

Lew Seffernick's sister thought he needed something to do.

"She came across these things somewhere and sent me one," he said. It was a hummingbird house — made of wood, of course. "Next thing I know I've got 20 or 30 of them."

Those sold quickly at his friend's arts and crafts booth, something he dismissed doing himself. "I don't want to sit around a show and smile at people all day," he explained, chuckling. "So anyway, I made another batch and then another."

He understands they were popular as a Christmas gift this past year. "The ladies just go crazy over them; they'd buy six at a time."

Curiously, he had always understood that hummingbirds will not nest in a closed environment, usually making their nests in a small tree



or bush. He had assumed they were purely decorative until someone showed him a video of a hummingbird hovering and then darting into and out of "one of these things," he said, holding one of dozens in a storage box. He's still not sure the small "houses" will actually be used by the birds.

"But I have fun with them," turning the wood on his lathe to create different designs. "And you can use any kind of wood, whatever you want."



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Surprise! Mom was adopted

BY BETH STEURY

In my pursuit to share the wonderful world of DNA with folks far and near, I'm always looking for opportunities to present DNA-themed programs. The Heritage Room at the Berne Public Library has hosted several such presentations, and it was on one of these

occasions that I met sisters Judy Neuenchwander and Melissa Fey.

When we chatted at the conclusion of the program, they shared their personal interest in learning about DNA centered around their mother, Izzy, who had passed away in 1997. Their burning question: Could their own DNA test results help the search to discover their mother's birth parents? My answer, a hearty *yes*, was immediate.

A few months later our paths crossed again when the Heritage Room hosted a six-week course on utilizing the wealth of information available on Ancestry.com. Melissa and Judy were eager to dig into the 100-plus-year mystery of their mother's origins. And so was I.

Elmer and Drusilla (Achleman) Raymond, who lived in Fort Wayne at the time, welcomed into their home a baby girl born on September 29, 1918. The couple, who had wed in 1912, named the wee one Ellen Isabelle Raymond.

"Izzy" grew up an only child, a Daddy's girl by all accounts, who enjoyed playing with her cousins who lived in the Berne area. She graduated from Central High School in Fort Wayne and attended Ball State Teacher's College and Indiana Business College. In the late 1940s, after a brief marriage, she and young son Steve moved from Fort Wayne to Linn Grove to care for her grandmother, Mary Achleman.

In 1950, she married Dale Grandlienard and together they raised daughters Judy and Melissa under the watchful eye of big brother Steve on a farm on



The DNA Sleuth

Ind. 116. Melissa now resides in the home where the siblings grew up.

It wasn't until a fun day of shopping with Mom, when Judy and Melissa were in their 20s, that the sisters stumbled upon a surprising fact about Izzy. When one of the girls jokingly posed the question, "Did Grandma and Grandpa have to get married?", Izzy's answer sent shockwaves through the car, to the point that they missed their exit.

"That's when she dropped the bombshell — 'I was adopted,'" recalls Melissa. Questions poured from the stunned sisters, including the inquiry, "Were we adopted?" They were not, their mother assured. When asked why she had never told them this piece of her history, Izzy replied that "it never came up in conversation."

Steve Randolph, who lives in Texas, concurs with his sisters' conclusion that their mother didn't necessarily intend to hide her adoption from them but rather she never found a "good time" to tell them. Steve recalls that as a youngster, his Grandpa Raymond mentioned that Izzy had been adopted. Because it didn't seem to be a big deal to Grandpa, it didn't become a big deal to Steve.

None of them remember a second conversation about Mom being adopted. Their independent, strong-minded mother seemed "comfortable in her skin," shares Judy. She lived a full life as a wife and mother, working a variety of jobs over the years, including a stint in modeling.

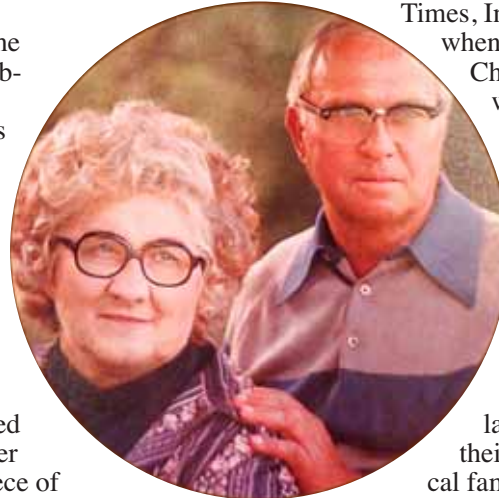
A desire to keep up with current events made her a faithful reader of the Sunday editions of the New York Times, Indianapolis Star, and when she could get it, the Chicago Tribune as well.

She had a talent for playing the piano and enjoyed numerous hobbies from reading, sewing, and crocheting to growing orchids.

It wasn't until years after her passing that the siblings considered launching a search for their mother's biological family. But they faced a dilemma. If Mom didn't feel the need to search, should we? Would she approve? Looking back, they had to wonder if her continual interest in checking the Fort Wayne newspaper for obituaries sprang from a desire to find family. Maybe she had searched and kept it to herself? They will never know.

"Well, inquiring minds want to know," is how Steve sums up their mutual de-

Continued on page 12



Above: Dale and Izzy Grandlienard, parents of Judy Neuenchwander and Melissa Fey

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Replica of Vietnam memorial finds its permanent home in Fort Wayne

BY ROD KING

Fort Wayne has a new attraction that will be of interest to Vietnam War veterans, their relatives and friends and particularly to those who had service men or women who made the ultimate sacrifice during that conflict. The 80-percent replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. was permanently installed at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum (VNMSM) last year.

It's located at 2122 O'Day Road at the northwest edge of the city. This replica is actually the one that traveled across the country for many years. Despite the fact that it's not full size, its 70 anodized aluminum panels stretch 360 feet from north to south and rest on a black colored concrete base that is constructed to withstand 120-mile-per-hour winds.

Names of those servicemen and women who died during the war are listed starting in the middle of the Wall on the tallest panels by the date they died and going down to the smallest panels at the south end. They restart on the small panels at the north end and go toward the middle. Hence, those who died at the end of the war are listed in the panel next to those who died at the beginning of the war.



A veteran searches for the name of friend listed on the Wall. Of the 58,320 service men and women listed, 1,534 are from Indiana and 79 from Allen County. (Photos by Rod King)

Two podiums on the eight-foot-wide walkway in front of the monument contain lists of all 58,320 who lost their lives in the war. The list tells exactly

where to locate any particular veteran on the Wall. Signs along the walkway also advise visitors how to use their cell phones to find a name.

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Among those who died are 1,534 from Indiana and 79 from Allen County where the monument is situated. Documents are available to help visitors locate their veteran and grief counselors are also available.

The atmosphere at the Wall is solemn, respectful and often very emotional. People can be seen on hands and knees tracing a name with paper and pencil while others are searching intently for a name. Urns of flowers have been left all along the walkway.

The Wall is the latest permanent addition to the VNMSM. In addition it has a new museum which replaced a smaller facility just last month. Its collection includes uniforms, weapons and memorabilia from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Also the American Indian Wars the Spanish American War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War, Vietnam War and the conflicts in Gulf and Middle East.

One of the exhibits is a "Forty&Eight" box car that was donated to the State of



Indiana by the French after World War I. The box car, which is very rare, was originally designed to carry 40 men and eight horses.

Also on the grounds is a Pathway Through the History of War which has a plaque for every conflict the United States has ever been involved in. In addition, there is a Gold Star Family area and a Purple Heart Monument. A Korean War memorial is being planned.

Two Civil War monuments will be added soon, along with a replica of the Korean War monument with larger-than-life soldiers on patrol. In addition, a chapel is under construction and is expected to be completed later this year.

Eric Scott, a veteran of World War I, and his wife Cleo founded VNMSM and donated the property to ensure that "no veteran will ever be forgotten".

The shrine and museum maintain a website at honoringforever.org

The writer, a Fort Wayne resident, may be reached at natrod2002@yahoo.com





Two podiums on the eight-foot-wide walkway in front of the Vietnam Memorial Wall hold lists of the 58,320 service men and women who died during the Vietnam War. The Wall is located at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum on the northwest edge of Fort Wayne in Allen County. Visitors can also scan a QR code with their cell phones to locate an individual on the Wall.

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Continuing the family tradition: The U.S. Marines

BY KAYLEEN REUSSER

In April 1969, as the Viet Cong tried to take the air strip at Da Nang, Corporal Dan Lavine doubted if he would make it home.

A few months earlier he had survived the Tet Offensive — a series of attacks by the North Vietnamese army on more than 100 cities and outposts in South Vietnam.

As the battle at Da Nang deepened, Lavine was thankful for the training he had received at boot camp. He was skilled at shooting M-16s, shotguns, 45-caliber pistols, and 50-caliber machine guns.

At some point Lavine was wounded near his left ear from a landmine and shelling. During this and other crises, he held on to his family pride in serving in the military over several decades and generations.

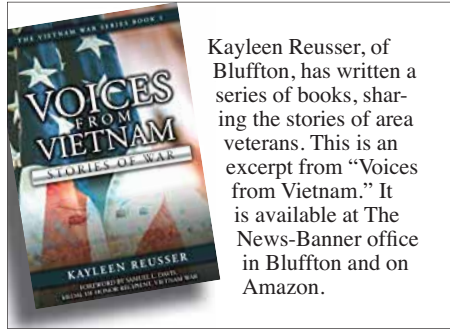


Dan Lavine

He hoped he wouldn't regret it.

Lavine was born in Portland, in 1948. After moving with his family to Wells County, he graduated from Bluffton High School in 1966.

Lavine enlisted in the United States Marine Corps (the branch his family had chosen in which to serve) and was sent to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and later, Individual Training Regiment at Camp Pendleton. At the



Kayleen Reusser, of Bluffton, has written a series of books, sharing the stories of area veterans. This is an excerpt from "Voices from Vietnam." It is available at The News-Banner office in Bluffton and on Amazon.

latter, he and other troops spent three weeks of survival training in mountains and terrain that resembled Vietnam.

In April 1968, Lavine arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to B Company, 7th Engineers, 1st Marine Division. He and other recruits quickly adjusted to living in the hot country.

The Viet Cong fought in surges, due to a lack of supplies. In between battles, the Americans built roads and bridges, blew up tunnels, and did mine sweeps. The sweeps were challenging, as roads were packed dirt. Lavine's company also built bridges from the DMZ to Saigon.

By the time Lavine left Vietnam in May 1969, he had decided to remain in the Marines. In 1973, he joined the Army National Guard in Bluffton.

Lavine attended Officer Candidate School at the Indiana Military Academy at Camp Atterbury and participated in deployments over the next two decades to Germany, England, and Czechoslovakia. By the time he retired in 1999, he had been promoted to full colonel. He also worked at Franklin Electric in Bluffton.

Today, Lavine feels pride upon hearing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"That song causes the hairs on the back of my neck to raise because of what serving in the military meant to me," he said.

"Most Islamic countries envy us Americans because they think we are rich," he added. "But it's only because God has blessed us. We soldiers were fighting to help people have a better way of life."

Do you have a story to tell or know someone who does? kjreusser@gmail.com

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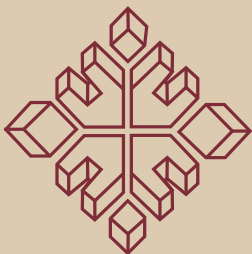


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The DNA Sleuth

Continued from page 6

cision to look for answers some six or seven years ago. They poked around about a scrap of information here, a possible clue in a brief mention there, but uncovered nothing. They pondered the meaning of the term “war baby,” the one bit of information that Izzy’s parents had passed on to her, wondering if she had been placed for adoption when her biological father died in service to his country in World War I.

A couple of years later, Steve and Judy tested their DNA. But deciphering which side of the family their matches derived from proved challenging. In the meantime, Steve’s wife Nanette and daughter Casey delved into filling out the known branches on the extended family tree.

Back to my second meeting with Judy and Melissa at the library. Although Ancestry.com had recently added the feature that separated DNA matches into “Parent 1” and “Parent 2” categories, they hadn’t yet made much progress. I jotted down Izzy’s birthdate, coached them on how to “share” their DNA results with me, and within a few hours, I dug in. Knowing that the sealing of the original birth certificates of Indiana adoptees didn’t begin until 1941, I searched Ancestry.com’s archived records for a female born on Sept. 29, 1918, in northern Indiana or even Ohio. And there it was. A birth certificate announcing a baby girl born in Fort Wayne to an unmarried couple — as noted by the “No” in the box labeled “Legitimate?” — each residing in Garrett, Indiana. Could this infant named Mary Ellen Anderson be the baby the Raymonds named Ellen Isabelle?

When I found no other records attached to Mary Ellen Anderson — census, marriage, death, or school records — my pulse quickened. Because if Mary Ellen had become Ellen Isabelle, there would be no records past that of a birth certificate for her. I tried to reign in the by-now familiar tingle of adrenaline because I knew the real proof would have to be found in the DNA. Would the family tree I assembled based on Melissa’s matches lead to Ray Snyder and Ida Anderson — the

The scoop on adoption records for Hoosiers

Much of my DNA sleuthing — a/k/a “search angel-ing” — involves assisting adoptees searching for the identity of their birth parents. Many were relinquished during the era of “sealed forever” adoption records.

In Indiana, from 1941 to 1993, the original birth certificates (OBC) of adoptees were coffered away and an amended birth certificate, naming the adoptive parents, was created to take its place.

Prior to 1941, the OBCs did not vanish, as in the case of Mary Ellen Anderson, where that original document played a pivotal role in solving this mystery.

In 2016, Governor Mike Pence signed into law Senate Enrolled Act 91, restoring access to the original birth certificates and other records for adoptees whose adoptions were finalized between 1941 and 1993. This long-fought-for change to Indiana adoption laws took effect on July

2, 2018. Thousands of requests, via completed State Forms 47896 and 47897, poured into the Indiana Department of Health.

Adoptees whose adoption was finalized January 1, 1994, or later, may make a request in writing, on their 21st birthday, to receive information on the identity of their birth parents. Sometimes the combination of the unsealed OBC and DNA results are needed to identify an adoptee’s birth parents due to a compilation of factors, including “fudged” information on the OBC, multiple name changes due to marriage, and/or the lack of close-enough DNA matches.

Unfortunately, the wait for information from the State of Indiana has stretched past the 12-month mark. Still, I always encourage adoptees from any state that has granted access to OBCs/adoption records to request this important piece of their history.

— Beth Steury



Izzy as a “tween,” at left and as a young woman.
(Courtesy photos)

parents on Mary Ellen Anderson’s birth certificate?

I tucked into the back recesses of my mind the very-plausible possibility that Izzy had been born Mary Ellen and, the next day, set about connecting Melissa’s DNA matches. The highest maternal matches were in the second to third cousin range, and they hailed from the Noble and DeKalb county portions of Indiana — the right general area.

As I fleshed out the great- and great-

great grandparents of these second- and third-cousin matches, the tree grew, and for a while, I got lost in the plotting of the large families typical of that era. When I ran out of the easiest-to-place matches, I perused the surnames of the 120-plus people. No one carried the last name Anderson, but I spied the surname Snider, occasionally spelled with a “y” on various records. Staring back at me was a Ray Snider, born in 1897. And on a different, floating branch an Ida Andrews, born in 1901.

Could this be the same Ray and the same Ida listed on Mary Ellen’s birth certificate? The same Mary Ellen who appeared more likely than she had two hours ago to be Ellen Isabelle, the mother of Steve, Judy, and Melissa? My gut said yes, but it was 2 a.m., and I was too tired to test the connections with each match to confirm that the relationships lined up.

The next morning found me anxious to pick up where I’d left off. The connection with Melissa’s highest match, a second cousin, aligned perfectly on Ray’s side of the tree. The next match fit snugly in a second-cousin-once-



Above: Ellen Isabelle Raymond, and likely Mary Ellen Anderson, at approximately 3 months.
 Right: Drusilla and Elmer Raymond with daughter Izzy



removed spot on Ida’s portion of the tree. After confirming several more right-fit matches, I delved into learning more about Ray and Ida. She had married in 1919 and Ray in 1920. And while each couple remained wed until death claimed one of them decades later, neither had children. Ray had not died in the war as suspected, but his draft card signed six months before Mary Ellen was born may have been the root of the “war baby” story. Ray passed in 1973 while Ida lived until 1999, outliving Izzy by two years.

In past cases, I’d experienced numerous instances of how, in days gone by, spelling didn’t matter that much. And a fudged birth mother’s name on the birth certificate? Not at all uncommon.

A final review of the evidence definitely stacked in favor of the mystery being solved. We’d gone as far as we could in confirming that Mary Ellen, born to Ray and Ida, became Ellen Isabelle, raised and loved by Elmer and Drusilla Raymond. It was time to share the news with Izzy’s children.

While Steve, Judy, and Melissa would have welcomed the opportunity to meet family genetically connected to their mother, the reality is that the second, third, and fourth cousin matches are too far removed from their mother that making a connection would be unlikely.

Still, the three siblings now know more about their maternal roots. But we’re still hoping to uncover pictures of Ray, Ida, or their parents because, after all, who doesn’t love seeking family resemblances?

*Do you have a mystery or question for The DNA Sleuth?
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Chiefly speaking, he likes Pontiacs

BY BOB CAYLOR

As the 1950s began, American automobiles still looked mostly utilitarian. Automakers had barely started redesigning civilian automobiles after World War II. The auto-buying public was starved for new cars after the war, and getting new iron rolling was the top concern. By the end of the decade, cars

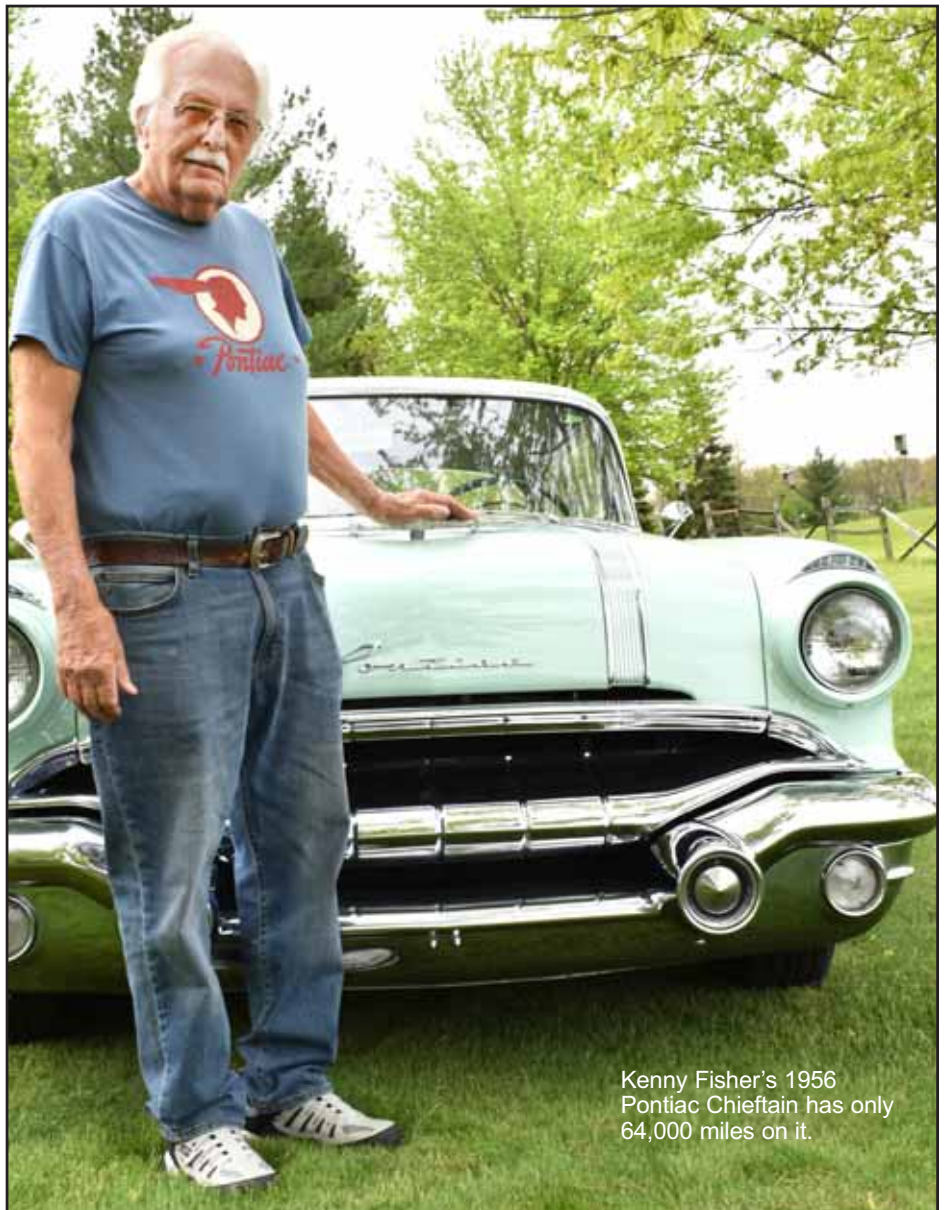
evolved into some of the most extravagantly showy styling ever.

When Kenny Fisher's 1956 Pontiac Chieftain rolled off the assembly line, the plunge to embrace glamor and to pack cars with artistically crafted details was running full speed. It has the extended bumper and wrapped spare tire that made a Continental kit. It has no outside mirrors. It's not overwhelmed with chrome, but still rich in accents and embellishments.

Fisher, 83, who lives near Decatur, was almost born into Pontiacs. His father worked for a Pontiac dealership in Decatur, and Kenny grew up with a succession of new Pontiacs — a '46, '51, '56 and '59 — at home. As an adult, he owned a few Pontiacs of his own, including a '66 Grand Prix, a '54 Star Chief and a '61 station wagon.

A few years ago, he started looking for a particularly special one — a 1956 Pontiac Chieftain. He found one online in Omaha, Nebraska that grabbed him hard. Eventually he made the deal and towed an enclosed trailer behind his diesel truck to Omaha and back to Adams County. That was seven or eight years ago.

"It's a very weird car," he noted. The strangest detail about it probably stems from its originally being sold in the Carolinas — it has no heater or defrost-



Kenny Fisher's 1956 Pontiac Chieftain has only 64,000 miles on it.

er. It has that Continental kit but lacks outside mirrors.

Missing a heater is no hardship. "I don't drive it when it's cold, anyway," he said. And that southern heritage has saved his Pontiac from the injury and insult of road salt. "It's just as clean underneath as it is on top."

He points out the original upholstery, startlingly intact, and says, "It had to stay in the South 90 percent of its life."

In the years since he bought it, he said, "I've not seen anything like it on the Internet."

"I've got \$30,000 in that car," he said. "Whether I would ever get that out of it, I don't know. I'll never sell it, that's for sure."

Do you have a story to tell or know someone who does? caylor.bob@gmail.com



From its founding in 1926 until 1959, Pontiac's logo included the profile of Pontiac, an 18th-century chief of the Ottawa Indian tribe. Pontiac, Michigan, is the city where Pontiac cars were originally built. This depiction of Chief Pontiac is in the center of the steering hub of Kenny Fisher's 1956 Pontiac Chieftain



The Jet Age has arrived! The year after the first B-52 joined the Strategic Air Command fleet, this stylized jet bomber roosted atop the front of the 1956 Pontiac Chieftain's hood. It's a massive hood ornament, with a wingspan of about a foot.



Above: Kenny Fisher built himself a Pontiac sign, as if he's a Pontiac dealer with only one vehicle in stock and a determination never to sell it. Left: Even the floor mats in Kenny Fisher's 1956 Pontiac Chieftain are survivors from a bygone time. (Photos by Bob Caylor)



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New trails to explore

BY MARK MILLER

Looking for a new place to take a stroll through nature?

The Limberlost Swamp Nature Preserve was formally approved in March by Indiana's Natural Resources Commission, opening up nearly 720 acres along the Adams-Jay county line.

The preserve has a small parking area about one mile west of US 27 which allows access to three miles of walking trails.

Through the 1967 Nature Preserves Act, areas dedicated are considered "living museums, natural resources which contain a record of Indiana's original natural character."

In the case of Indiana's newest nature preserve, the dedication marks continued progress toward bringing back the natural character chronicled by naturalist and author Gene Stratton Porter. The above quote is from her book, "Girl of the Limberlost." Her treasured Limberlost Swamp was drained for agricultural purposes around 1900 but has slowly been returned to its natural state.

"It means permanent protection," east central regional ecologist Ryan Smith told the Commercial Review of Portland at the time the preserve was dedicated. Smith works out of the nearby Limberlost State Historic Site in Geneva.

"The dedication as a nature preserve puts down some extra stipulations as to how it can and cannot be used and that it will remain a natural area," he continued.

One of the trails is named after the famous author's husband. According to her writings, the couple was alerted by the land's owner at the time, Otto Bolds, as to "a vulture's nest with a chick within," Stratton Porter wrote.

They would find the nest and rescue

the "Little Chicken," as the author named it. The event would later become part of "Freckles," one of Stratton Porter's novels.

The trail is now known as "Deacon's Trail." She had described her husband in other writings as "commonly called the Deacon, because he resembles a minister in appearance only."

While the property was already owned and managed by the DNR, the designation as a nature preserve will help draw



Two signs in the top photo greet visitors to the newly dedicated nature preserve on the Adams-Jay county line road about a mile west of U.S. 27. More than three miles of trails wind through the 720 acres of wetlands, still in the process of full restoration. Above, the sign tells the story of the wetlands being a "work in progress." (Photos by Mark Miller)

extra attention, since it is now placed on an official map of the 298 nature preserves in the state.

Two hundred years ago, the Limberlost Swamp was a dense area that covered 13,000 acres in Adams and Jay counties. As settlers arrived, the area was drained and cleared for use as farmland.

Starting in the early 1990s, the Commercial Review reported, area resident Ken Brunswick started a restoration effort that led to the formation of conservation groups “Limberlost Swamp Remembered” and the “Friends of the Limberlost.” More than 1,000 acres had been acquired for restoration by 2002, with drainage tiles blocked or removed. And 10 years later, Loblolly Marsh — its 463 acres are accessible from County Road 250 West in northern Jay County — was dedicated as the state’s 250th reserve.

The commission is working on connecting the Limberlost and Loblolly preserves, currently separated by less than a mile and a half.

*The writer is the editor of Senior Living.
seniorliving@adamswells.com*

BRAIN EXERCISE


Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9. Answers on page 24.

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Protect yourself from Medicare scams

Since 1965, Medicare has provided health care coverage to millions of Americans. More than 65 million people in the United States were enrolled in Medicare as of February 2023, with more people becoming eligible and enrolling each year. Anyone on Medicare is at risk of Medicare-related fraud, and the Medicare program continues to warn people to watch out for scammers who steal Medicare Numbers and other personal information to exploit beneficiaries' benefits.

Broadly speaking, Medicare fraud occurs when someone makes false claims for health care services, procedures and equipment to obtain Medicare payments. Medicare fraud costs taxpayers billions of dollars and puts the health and welfare of beneficiaries at risk. The impact of these losses and risks is expanding as Medicare continues to serve a growing number of beneficiaries.

"Anyone on Medicare can be a target of Medicare fraud," said Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. "But there are steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones by using CMS' fraud tips to recognize and report potential scammers. Let's all work together to make sure you're not a victim of Medicare fraud."

How to Spot Medicare Scams

There are many types of Medicare scams, taking the form of unsolicited emails, phone calls, text messages, social media posts and phony websites. Scammers often claim to be from the Medicare office, an insurance company or a government office. They'll ask for your personal and financial information, such as your Medicare or Social Security Number, so that they can submit false claims for payment.

Remember that Medicare will never call, text, email or contact you through social media asking for your Medicare Number.

Some common Medicare scams to watch out for include:

- Offers of "free" genetic testing
- Calls or emails about free medical



equipment, such as a knee brace, walker or cane

- Solicitations for other services, such as offers of "paid" clinical research trials

While this is not a comprehensive list, these examples give you an idea of how to spot potential Medicare fraud. Scammers will do their best to present these services and products as genuine in exchange for your Medicare Number.

How to Protect Yourself

Now that you know how to spot Medicare fraud, you'll need to know how to protect yourself from potential fraudsters. Remember to:

- Guard your Medicare Number just like your Social Security card and credit card
- Share your Medicare Number only with trusted health care providers
- Review your Medicare statements, watch for services billed that look suspicious and ask questions if something looks wrong

How to Report Scammers

Reporting Medicare fraud protects you and millions of other people with Medicare and those with disabilities. If you or someone you know have experienced Medicare fraud or suspect an offer you've received is a scam, report it as soon as possible. You will never be

in trouble for reporting fraud.

(Family Features)

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

To learn more about Medicare fraud, visit [Medicare.gov/fraud](https://www.medicare.gov/fraud). To report potential Medicare fraud, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or report the scam to the Federal Trade Comm. at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov).

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Most people will recognize the antique two-man cross cut saw that hangs in Lew Seffernick's workshop north of Decatur. But what is that hanging above it? "That's a two-man chain saw," he says and then laughs. It is, of course, hand made.

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During his career as a design and product engineer at the CTS plant in Berne, Lew Seffernick and his team were responsible for 18 registered patents or trade secrets for products and industrial processes they'd developed. As the plant closed down, he was allowed to save a number of mementoes from his 43 years there, items he enjoys sharing with visitors to his woodworking barn.

Lew's Barn

Continued from page 5

he recalls, "I made a Queen Anne style one time with drawers. Made a hutch one time and several lamps." In retirement, he did some custom work for a time. "I made a bunch of those TV stands when the flat-screen TVs came out." Most of those were made of walnut.

"But no more," he adds. "Now I just do what strikes my fancy. If they sell it, that's fine. If not, that's OK too."

"They" are two friends — "Birdi" Shrader and Steve Halchek. Shrader includes Seffernick's products in her booth at Decatur's monthly arts and crafts show held on the second Saturday of each month (October through April) at Riverside Center. Halchek, a fellow Honor Guard member at Decatur's American Legion post, "keeps his trunk full of stuff. If someone asks him about it, he'll get it out. He's really quite the

salesman," he adds with a chuckle. Part of those volunteer duties of serving on the Honor Guard involves making the flag boxes to honor the local veterans.

He has also done a fair amount of woodworking for his church — St. Mary's Catholic Church in Decatur and its adjoining elementary school. "I made a bunch of cubbies, probably for four or five classrooms," he shared. "Cubbies" are open compartments, like small lockers but with no doors, for the children to hang their coats and store their books. He has served on the maintenance committee there for about as long as he can remember.

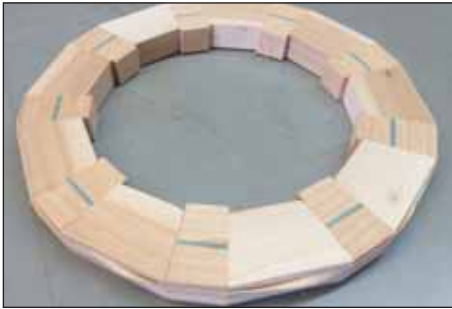
Having recently turned 80, has he thought about slowing down any? "No," he quickly replies, almost scoffing. "Actually I've picked up the pace since Sue passed. It gets me out of the house and keeps me busy."

Seffernick's wife Sue died suddenly

Continued on next page

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A set of classic wooden bowls that Lew Seffernick makes (above) can begin with “just about any kind of wood you’d like,” he says. The process (left, top to bottom) begins with cutting the wood into small blocks with identical angles and placing them within a band. Bands of different diameters are then glued together and dried before getting their turn on the lathe. The bowl at right is made of walnut except for one layer made of maple, which he then hand-carves on his lap while watching television during the evenings. “You just use your imagination,” he says. “But you can tell that I enjoy it.” (Photos by Mark Miller)



just last year. High school sweethearts, they’d been married 57 years. Their three sons had given them seven grandchildren and now there’s one great-grandchild. Sue was also active in their church and also had served as president of the local Red Cross and American Cancer Society for years.

Seffernick’s talents are not limited to just cutting and sanding and turning the wood on his lathe. He is also a gifted woodcarver, with several creations hanging on his shop’s walls. This talent adds a special upgrade to some of his lathe-turned wooden bowls. A middle band often includes a hand-carved design. “I do that in the evenings,” he explained. “I put a board across my lap and just whittle while I’m watching TV.”

Although some of the ideas for his creations were brought to him by family and friends, others have just developed on their own. “You just use your imagination,” he told his visitor while holding a wooden vase and explaining it’s pattern. “The key is access to good wood, and having the right equipment. If you have them, then you have it made.”

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Those stripes in Lew Seffernick's charcuterie boards (above) are not painted. Those are strips of hardwood placed within the finished product by a process the Decatur-area woodworker came up with. The board at left is made of oak, with cherry vertical stripes and walnut "woven" stripes. The darker one is made of walnut, cherry and maple. His traditional cutting boards (at right, top) can be made of any type of wood, "especially the cross-grain boards" (top left photo) that are made of scraps from other projects. The boards (top far right) are made of poplar with maple and walnut spacers. Seffernick makes "what-ever strikes my fancy," he says, including the toy spinning tops and vases in the photos near right.



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Solution to puzzle on page 17

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A Twist on Traditional Burgers

Warm weather and grilling go hand-in-hand, and few dishes say summer like burgers. While traditional beef patties come to mind for many, there are also healthy protein options to satisfy that burger craving without sacrificing flavor.

For example, salmon is a nutritionally well-rounded alternative that offers a variety of health benefits, and an option like gluten-free Trident Seafoods Alaska Salmon Burgers are made with wild, sustainable, ocean-caught whole filets with no fillers and are lightly seasoned with a “just-off-the-grill,” smoky flavor. Topped with melted cheddar then piled on top of fresh arugula, peppered bacon and zesty mayo, these Alaskan Salmon Burgers with Peppered Bacon are a twist on tradition that can help you put a protein-packed, flavorful meal on the table in minutes.


Alaskan Salmon Burgers with Peppered Bacon

Prep time: 13 minutes
 Servings: 4

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
 - 1 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
 - 1/2 teaspoon lemon zest
 - salt
 - pepper
 - 1 box (approx. 11.2 ounces) Salmon Burgers
 - 4 cheddar cheese slices
 - 4 seeded burger buns, split and toasted
 - 4 cups arugula
 - 6 strips peppered bacon, cooked
 - 12 bread-and-butter pickles, drained
- In small bowl, combine mayonnaise, lemon juice and lemon zest. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.
- Grill salmon burgers according to package directions. When almost cooked through, top each with slice of cheese, cover and cook until melted.
- Spread cut sides of buns with mayonnaise and top bottom buns with arugula. Cover with salmon burgers, bacon, pickles and top buns.

Find more healthy seafood recipes at tridentseafoods.com.

(Family Features)



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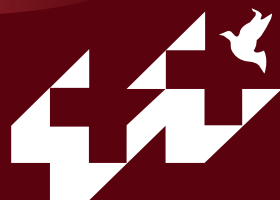


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