

# The Villages Michigan Club Newsletter

October 2011

## Meetings and Events:

The entertainment at the last meeting (September) was the "Not-So-Newlywed Game Night". Four couples competed in trying to answer questions about themselves correctly. Jim and Betty Jo Donner won the event with the runners up being Norm and Mary George, Don and Jewel Sutton and Bill and Barb Sabeck. Welcome to the twenty-two new members who were brought into the club and thanks to all the volunteers that helped with the kitchen duties and in organizing the event.

This month's meeting (October) is very important in that nominations for officers will be discussed and the rest of the year, including the Christmas Party, will be talked about. The entertainment for the night will be provided by Ken Madison, a musical humorist who claims he was a "brain surgeon until his seeing eye dog died". Bring desert dishes to share with about 8 people and BYOB. Don't forget to get into the 50/50 drawing.

For tentative planning,

- The November meeting will be a "brats" night. No..... don't bring your grandchildren. We're talking about sausages. The club will provide brats, baked beans, cole slaw and cake. BYOB as usual. Officer elections will be conducted and a fire safety demo will be presented.
- The Christmas Party this year will be on the regular meeting day in December (third Tuesday, December 20th). The current thinking is that the club will provide some Hors d'Oeuvres and the attendees should bring some additional items to share with their table which will be 8-person, round tables. A dance band will be provided. Cost will be only \$5 per person. Non-members would be welcome at \$8 per person. Additional details will follow as the planning becomes more defined.

Appropriate holiday festive dress is recommended. No shorts or sandals.

Note: these are for planning purposes only and additional information will be provided as time passes and plans become more firm.



The bowling group will begin the first Sunday in January. No bowling on Super Bowl Sunday. There will be an organizational meeting in December.



As mentioned above, at this coming meeting we will begin to gather names for potential officer positions on the board. We will also be asking for volunteers to offer their help in certain committees and or event planning. These last may not be full time positions but, rather, to provide help at certain times. On the last page of this newsletter you will find a volunteer interest sheet for your review. These sheets will also be available at the meeting for you to express your willingness to get involved in making our club stronger and better.

## Michigan Briefs

### Get Out of the Car



*(This is supposedly a true account recorded in the Police log of Sarasota Florida.)*

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bag and drew her handgun) proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car

The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad.

The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then she realized why. It was for the same reason she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat.

A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down.

She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The sergeant to whom she told the story smiled, laughed and pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a car hijacking by a mad elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair and carrying a large handgun.

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### Wally Cox – Famous Michigander



Wallace Maynard Cox  
Born December 6, 1924:  
Detroit, Michigan  
Died February 15, 1973

Years active 1948 - 1973

Spouse Marilyn Gennaro (7 June 1954 - ?) Milagros Tirado (7 Sept 1963 - May 1966; divorced);  
Patricia Tiernan (1969 - 15 Feb 1973; his death)

Wallace Maynard Cox (December 6, 1924 – February 15, 1973) was an American comedian and actor, particularly associated with the early years of television in the United States. He appeared in the U.S. TV series Mr. Peepers (1952–55), plus several other popular shows, and as a character actor in over 20 films. Wally Cox was the voice of the popular animated cartoon character Underdog. Although often cast as a meek milquetoast, he was actually strong and athletic. He married three times and was a close friend of Marlon Brando.

Cox was born in Detroit, Michigan. When he was 10, he moved with his divorced mother, mystery author Eleanor Atkinson, and a younger sister to Evanston, Illinois, where he became close friends with a neighborhood child, Marlon Brando. Cox's family moved frequently, eventually to Chicago, Illinois, then New York City, then back to Detroit, where he graduated from Denby High School. **(Go Tars!)**

During World War II Cox and his family returned to New York City, where he attended City College of New York. He next spent four months in the Army, and on his discharge attended New York University. He supported his invalid mother and sister by making and selling jewelry in a small shop and at parties, where he started doing comedy monologues. These would lead to regular performances at nightclubs such as the Village Vanguard, beginning in December 1948. He became the roommate of his childhood friend, Marlon Brando, who encouraged him to study acting with Stella Adler. Cox and Brando remained close friends for the rest of Cox's life, and Brando appeared unannounced at Cox's wake.

In 1949, Cox appeared on the CBS network-radio show Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts. The first half of his act was a monologue in a slangy, almost-mumbled punk-kid characterization, telling listeners about his friend Dufo: "What a crazy guy." The gullible oaf Dufo would take any dares and fall for his gang's pranks time after time, and Cox would recount the awful consequences: "Sixteen stitches. What a crazy guy." Cox's decidedly different standup routine was infectious in its ridiculousness, and just as the studio audience had reached a peak of laughter, Cox suddenly switched gears, changed characters, and sang a high-pitched version of "The Drunkard Song" ("There Is a Tavern in the Town") punctuated by eccentric yodels! "Wallace Cox" earned a big hand that night, but lost by a narrow margin to The Chordettes. But he made enough of a hit to record his radio routine for an RCA Victor single. He appeared in Broadway musical reviews, night clubs, and early TV comedy-variety programs between 1949 and 1951, creating a huge impact with a starring role as a well-meaning but ineffective policeman on Philco Television Playhouse in 1951. Producer Fred Coe approached Cox about a starring role in a proposed live TV sitcom, Mr. Peepers, which he accepted. The show ran on NBC for three years. During this time, he guest starred on NBC's The Martha Raye Show.

Other roles included a regular occupant of the upper left square on the television game show Hollywood Squares, and as the voice of the animated cartoon character Underdog. He also was a guest on the game show What's My Line and on the pilot episodes of Mission: Impossible and It Takes a Thief. Cox made several appearances on Here's Lucy, as well as The Beverly Hillbillies and evening talk shows.

Cox published a number of books including Mr. Peepers, a novel created by adapting several scripts from the TV series; My Life as a Small Boy, an idealized depiction of his childhood; a parody and update of Horatio Alger in

Ralph Makes Good, which was probably originally a screen treatment for an unmade film intended to star Cox; and a children's book, The Tenth Life of Osiris Oakes.

During the 1960s and into the '70s, Cox became frustrated by his being typecast as a prim, polite bookworm (or birdwatcher, or accountant), and protested in vain to reporters and interviewers that he was nothing like Peepers. He was physically quite strong, hiked and drove a motorcycle, and was a master electrician. In a 1950s article on Cox's "Mr. Peepers" TV show, Popular Science Magazine reported that Cox kept a small workshop in his dressing room. (Cox's Hollywood Squares colleague, former Hollywood Squares "square-master" Peter Marshall, recalled in his memoir, Backstage With The Original Hollywood Square, that Cox installed and maintained all the wiring in his own home.)TV viewers did get to see a glimpse of Cox's physicality on an episode of I've Got a Secret transmitted on May 11, 1960, in which he and host Garry Moore ran around on stage assembling furniture while the panel was blindfolded. A rare glimpse of Cox's athletic build can be seen in the Mission: Impossible pilot, when he works as a safecracker in a tight, sleeveless t-shirt.

Cox married three times, to Marilyn Gennaro, Milagros Tirado, and Patricia Tiernan, and was survived by his third wife and two children.

On February 15, 1973, Cox died of a heart attack in his home.

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### Pop Quiz

Q.. If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A' somewhere in the word? Answer at end of letter.

Don't peek

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### Box labeled `grandma's urn' left at Mich. Goodwill

The folks at Goodwill are used to receiving all kinds of donations, but a recent drop off left some of its employees a little spooked. An old cardboard box marked "grandma's urn" was left at the Goodwill store in Fenton, Michigan. The box contained a cream-colored urn is about 10 inches tall weighing about 10 pounds. It doesn't have any identifying marks or label. Police opened the urn and verified that the remains belong to someone from the Fenton area, but they're not releasing the person's name at this time.



After making the unusual discovery, Goodwill decided to hang on to the urn for a little while, hoping the rightful owner would come back to reclaim it.

After two months, it was turned over to Michigan State Police.

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### Man Wearing Obama Mask Robs Michigan Bank

Posted: September 12th, 2011 1:15 PM Wood TV 8 reported: *The Southern Michigan Bank and Trust in Tekonsha was robbed on Thursday morning.*



According to the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office, bank personnel said that a male suspect entered the Southern Michigan Bank and Trust, 202 N. Main St., in Tekonsha at about 11:30 a.m. and pointed a gun at employees. The suspect escaped through the front door with cash from the bank and to a parked car nearby.

The suspect is being described as a male, between 6'2" and 6'3", and about 160 lbs. He was wearing a blue hooded jacket with a white stripe on the back, dark pants, gloves, tennis shoes, and a Halloween President Obama mask. The news article further stated that the real Barack Obama calls it, "wealth redistribution". I refuse to get into that. I report, you decide.

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### A tale of two (or three) cities: Mackinac Bridge Labor Day walk has nothing on Frankenmuth and Midland

There is probably nobody who does not know about the Mackinac Bridge Walk on Labor Day each year. But a lot fewer probably know about the 2 bridges in Frankenmuth and Midland that also have Labor Day crossings. Here is some information on the crossings.

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**The Mackinac Bridge Labor Day Run** is a non-competitive run of about five miles over the Mackinac Bridge. It is organized by the Governor's office, the Michigan Fitness Foundation, and the Mackinac Bridge Authority. This is not a timed event and the course is not certified for distance. The walk begins in St. Ignace, at the north end of the Mackinac Bridge in the UPPER PENINSULA, and ends in Mackinaw City at the south end in the LOWER PENINSULA. The Mackinac Bridge Labor Day Run is limited to 400 participants who are selected from a lottery drawing.

Eligibility for Lottery: Must be a Michigan resident 18 years of age and must have participated in a previous running event endorsed by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness.

**Frankenmuth has a Labor Day walk over their covered bridge and Midland has one over their Tridge Bridge to mark the end of summer.**



The Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth stages an annual walk across the 239-foot wooden covered bridge, also known as the Holzbrücke, over the Cass River. Walkers gather on the east side of the bridge for the start. Accordionist Linda Lee led the 2011 walk to the other end and to the nearby Fischer Platz for refreshments.

In Midland, the crowd gathers at the location of the Farmer's Market next to the Tridge River for the walk across two of the three sides. The three-legged bridge, marking its 30th walk this year, crosses the confluence of the Chippewa and Tittabawassee rivers. Mayor Maureen Donker led the pack. Walkers stopped their jaunt at the Chippewassee Park where they received a certificate of completion.



### Aug. 31, 1920: News Radio Makes News



THE DETROIT NEWS was the first newspaper in the world to install a radio broadcasting station and to furnish such a service to the public. When broadcasting was inaugurated in the summer of 1920, wireless telephony, as radio was called, was still looked upon by many as possibly a source of enjoyment to their grandchildren but of no particular present importance. This sentiment was virtually changed overnight when, in August, 1920, The Detroit News installed its first transmitting station and commenced its regular broadcasting. The original apparatus had a range under the best of conditions of not more than 100 miles; and at the time there were, approximately, only 300 operators receiving in the territory covered. The transmission set was in place ready for operation on Aug. 20, 1920, but no announcement was made to the public until a series of experimental concerts had been conducted over a period of 10 days. These concerts were enjoyed by no one save such amateurs as happened to be listening in. Everything was found to be satisfactory, and on Aug. 31, which was primary election day, it was announced that the returns, local, state and congressional, would be sent to the public that night by means of the radio.

On the following day, Wednesday, Sept. 1, 1920, The News carried the following announcement: "The sending of the election returns by The Detroit News' radiophone Tuesday night was fraught with romance and must go down in the history of man's conquest of the elements as a gigantic step in his progress. In the four hours that the apparatus, set up in an out-of-the-way corner of The News Building, was hissing and whirring its message into space, few realized that a dream and a prediction had come true. The news of the world was being given forth through this invisible trumpet to the waiting crowds in the unseen market place."

Thus it came about that A Detroit station aired what is believed to be the first radio news broadcast almost precisely 91 years ago. The literal headlines of that day are of no historical significance, but with this local newscast a budding young technological medium conveyed a message so compelling that it would soon capture the world's imagination as only television and the internet would, many, many years later.

Radio's commercial prospects were not yet fully appreciated, in part because wireless was considered a sandbox for the geeks of the day communicating over great distances over freely available spectrum. Radio had been around for decades, mostly for the enjoyment of hobbyists. Despite the general lack of public awareness radio was an obsession among an astonishingly large number of giant thinkers such as : Faraday, Maxwell, Hertz, Marconi, Tesla, Edison.

Radio communication was also standard aboard ships by the summer of 1920. Indeed, it was the unthinkable disaster that befell the unsinkable *Titanic* in 1912 which spurred widespread adoption of wireless at sea. But on the cusp of the Roaring '20s the notion that radio would be a mass medium and huge business was still a ways off..

Programming, such as it was, didn't even have advertisers in the modern sense. Radio shows — all live, of course, and heavy on the music — were created and operated by radio-set manufacturers as a means of drumming up business for radio sets, much in the way that computer manufacturers today create operating software as a means of driving sales of the “hardware” necessary to use it.

Also on the leading edge of radio were newspapers, afraid that the immediacy of the radio content might someday render their “next-day” coverage of anything irrelevant. (Why this history lesson was not recalled later when the internet was about to kill the newspaper business is a mystery.)

In the case of what is now Detroit station WWJ, the strategy was all defense: The Scripps newspaper family sanctioned *The Detroit News* to start their radio station up so the company could control what it thought in other hands might kill their dominance in the market.

Scripps was motivated to invent news radio, but didn't exactly know how. And the company even wanted to hedge this bet, just in case radio turned out to be a passing fad with which they didn't want their good name associated. So they hired a teenager, Michael DeLisle Lyons, to build and explain it to them. Scripps even instructed the underage radio pioneer, Lyons, to obtain government permission for the station in his own name (there were no formal licensing rules yet), even though it was conceived of, owned and operated by *The Detroit News* and assembled in the newspaper building itself. Lyons got permission to broadcast on Aug. 20, 1920, and for the next 10 days the station played music to work out the kinks. “These concerts were enjoyed by no one save such amateurs as happened to be listening in,” *The Detroit News* reported about itself.

After 10 days of concerts, almost nobody had heard the station then called 8MK that was poised to make history. Everything was found to be satisfactory, and on Aug. 31, which was primary election day, it was announced that the returns — local, state and congressional — would be sent to the public that night by means of the radio.

WWJ can be heard in every part of the state of Michigan during the nighttime hours, and much of southern Lower Michigan during the day. WWJ's signal can even be heard in the Upper Peninsula and Mackinac area at night, although just 40 minutes west of Detroit in the Ann Arbor area it is often unlistenable due to interference from co-channel WNTD in Chicago. WWJ's nighttime signal to the east is also impeded by WPEN in Philadelphia. But, of course, you can listen to it live, on the internet, 24/7.

In recent years, WWJ has started occasional broadcasts of sporting events. However, they remain a news radio network as a whole. Along with sister station WXYT-FM, WWJ is the flagship station of the Detroit Pistons. WWJ is also the flagship station of Michigan Wolverines football.



The radio staff of *The Detroit News*. Upper row: Edwin G. Boyes, Walter R. Hoffman and Keith Bernard, engineer-operators; Genevieve Champagne, secretary; E. Lloyd Tyson, assistant program director; Elton M. Plant, reporter. Lower row: Charles D. Kelley, department editor and supervisor; Howard E. Campbell, chief radio engineer; William F. Holliday, program director; G. Marshall Wittchell, reporter. *Photo courtesy earlyradiohistory.us*

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### Pop Quiz Answer

A. One thousand

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### Sunshine:



If you know of a club member who is ill, had a recent operation or has experienced a death in the family please contact Nancy Pasko, 259-8696

### Michigan Club Officers and Key Members:

President: Jim Godfrey (Jane)

408-2256

[jim2jane@msn.com](mailto:jim2jane@msn.com)

Vice President: Rosie Sanborn (Bill)

430-0035

[1bs4rs@embarqmail.com](mailto:1bs4rs@embarqmail.com)

Secretary: Pat Shaw (Frank)	750-4881	<a href="mailto:patshaw21@gmail.com">patshaw21@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer: Jim Leonard (Lou)	638-2616	<a href="mailto:jrleonardfl@comcast.net">jrleonardfl@comcast.net</a>
Consultants:		
Jim Donner (Betty Jo)	7513012	<a href="mailto:jamesdonner@comcast.net">jamesdonner@comcast.net</a>
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Shirts: Sharon Roboson	259-9561	<a href="mailto:verfl@embarqmail.com">verfl@embarqmail.com</a>
Sunshine: Nancy Pasko	259-8696	
Newsletter: Mike Morreale (Sandy)	561-4193	<a href="mailto:mrmorreale3@comcast.net">mrmorreale3@comcast.net</a>

*You might be a Michigander if Fudge and Bicycles remind you of your honeymoon...*





## Volunteer Interest Sheet

NAME: _____  Phone #: _____	<b>PLEASE CIRCLE</b> any Activities you might volunteer for: (feel free to choose a few !)	
<b><u>BOARD POSITIONS</u></b> <i>As you know, the club breaks for the summer, so it would not be a whole year if you should choose to show interest in a board member position.</i>	<b><u>Committees</u></b> You won't be doing all the work, just helping on a committee!	<b><u>Miscellaneous Volunteer items</u></b>
Vice President	Christmas Party	<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b> (check people in for meetings). Only 1 is necessary for each meeting but with a few volunteers we can switch off and share the job over future meetings
Secretary	Membership Committee	
Treasurer	Casino Night	<i>Occasional Items Below</i>
President	Name Tag Sales	Entertainment Help
Consultant	Shirt Sales	Ice Cream Social
	September "Welcome Back" Dinner	Bingo Night
	Field Trips (e.g. Tampa Downs, Nature park outings, etc.)	

<http://www.thevillagesmichiganclub.org>