

JULY 16-23, 2020

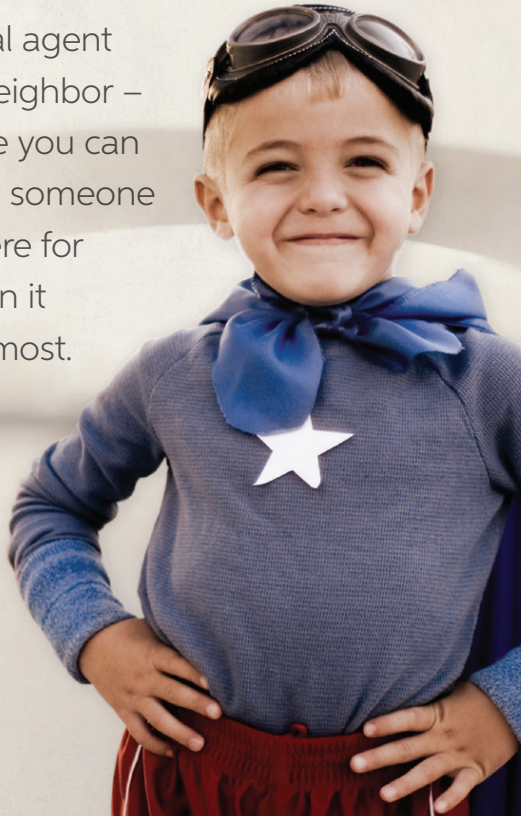
ptw

PENTWATER THIS WEEK

THE DAY THE DOG FELL THROUGH THE FLOOR
PAM BURDICK REMINISCES ABOUT HER BIRDLAND DAYS
AND OTHER MEMORABLE LIFE MOMENTS

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• PTW photo by Jim Johnson

WELCOME TO PENTWATER

When we moved here nine years ago, we had no idea how quickly this place would feel like home. We were immediately welcomed by businesses with offers to help, pointers on events and our neighbors have become extended family.

Every year, families return to the cottages or rentals, and rush in to catch up on the year. We share about families and the changes in the village. We even exchange Christmas cards. Being an artist in Pentwater is truly "Living the Dream".

My gallery has a beautiful view of Pentwater Lake, and the water tower next door is perfect for T.T. to chase her best buddy, Sparty, around. My husband, John, is my best friend, and reminds me to go fishing. He truly is the reason I have a balanced life. He has always supported me by moving displays, lugging driftwood out of the water or just picking me up after a long day. I've always said "When you have a talent and share it with others, it becomes a gift!" Pentwater is a perfect place to be an artist. Pentwater is a gift!

-Jilly and John Barnes, and T.T.

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PENTWATER EVENTS UPDATE

Thursday, July 16

• Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Village Green, come see the offerings of the market, which features the best products our local farmers have to offer. This season's expanded list of vendors includes many long time favorites plus new vendors offering local wines, goat cheese, herbs, lilac starter plants and more. You can find the finest in everything local – from organic produce to baked goods, pasta, beef, pork, lamb, chicken, eggs, honey, soaps, trees and

wool. Stop by and enjoy a cup of coffee and be sure to leave time for lunch and shopping by the waterfront in beautiful downtown Pentwater.

Saturday, July 18

• Pentwater Ensign Sailboat Races, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Pentwater Yacht Club

Sunday, July 19

• Live Blues & Jazz, 6-10 p.m., Gull Landing, 438 S. Hancock St.

Enjoy the lake view on the deck while you tap your feet or dance to the Live Music featuring spectacular Jazz and Blues.

Monday, July 20

• Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Village Green, come see the offerings of the market, which features the best products our local farmers have to offer.

• Monday Night Rides, 7 p.m., every week through Monday, August 31. Those interested in joining should meet on the north side of the Village Green at 7 p.m. and masks are required during gathering, but not during riding. Riders are to meet in groups of ten, separated by a bike length, and when ten riders are present, someone will be asked to form the next group of ten. Ride Night is put on by the Friends of the Pentwater Hart Trail, and welcomes donations.

Tuesday, July 21

• Sunfish Racing, 3-5 p.m., Pentwater Yacht Club.
• Comedy, Village Pub, 9-11 p.m., 347 S. Hancock St., 231-869-4626.

Wednesday, July 22

• Ensign Sailboat Races, 5 p.m., Pentwater Yacht Club.
• Live Blues & Jazz, 6-10

p.m., Gull Landing, 438 S. Hancock St.

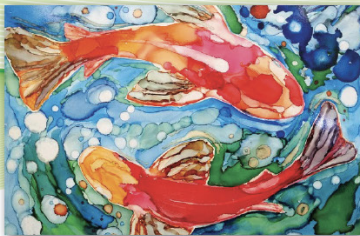
Thursday, July 23

• Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Village Green, come see the offerings of the market, which features the best products our local farmers have to offer.

Saturday, July 25

Pentwater Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, 9 a.m., \$75 per person, 18-holes, Lakeside Links. The format of the tournament is a four-player scramble with closest to the pin, longest drive and longest putt contests. Following the outing enjoy a cookout style meal, 50/50 raffle, raffle and awards presentation. Register now by contacting Lakeside Links (231-843-3660) or by visiting events@pentwater.org.

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- **Paint Night** – *Tuesdays 6-8 Join us for painting, a beverage and a lot of fun! Learn how to paint, mix color and have a memorable experience with step by step painting. Come alone or bring a friend.*

JULY CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

JULY 18	GLASS FUSING	6:00-8:00
JULY 20	WATERCOLOR MARKERS & PENCILS	6:00-8:00
JULY 22	PAINT AND POTATO CHIPS KIDS	6:00-8:00
JULY 24	SILK SCARF DYING	6:00-8:00
JULY 27	PAINT POURING (ADULT)	6:00-8:00
JULY 31	ALCOHOL INKS	6:00-8:00

AUGUST CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

AUG 5	PAINT AND POTATO CHIPS KIDS	6:00-8:00
AUG 7	PAINT POURING (ADULT)	6:00-8:00
AUG 10	GLASS FUSING	6:00-8:00
AUG 12	KIDS PAINT POURING	10:00-12:00
AUG 12	YUPO, WATERCOLOR AND INK	6:00-8:00
AUG 14	SILK SCARF DYING	6:00-8:00
AUG 21	ALCOHOL INKS	6:00-8:00



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THE DAY THE DOG FELL THROUGH THE FLOOR PAM BURDICK REMINISCES ABOUT HER BIRDLAND DAYS AND OTHER MEMORABLE LIFE MOMENTS

BY MARY BETH CRAIN
PTW WRITER

When you visit Pam Burdick, you'd better like poodles. But then again, what's not to like? Especially when it comes to Louis, an adorable little black bundle of energy whose bark you can hear a mile away. He's the greeter at the Burdick house, standing out on the deck and alerting the neighborhood that a visitor has entered the premises.

"Louis! It's OK!" Pam opens the low iron gate leading onto the deck and Louis dances around her feet, excited



to meet the newcomer.

You probably know Louis because he's famous around town. And you probably know Pam, because she's a longtime Pentwater resident who's been involved in the community for years.

Pam looks at her life, and the world, with a wryly ironic eye. She's a study in contrasts—friendly and funny, but at the same time reserved and modest, not viewing her accomplishments as anything special.

For instance, she attended MSU, U of M and the University of Colorado, and received a degree in landscape architecture. "But I never did a thing with it," she laughs.

Oh, really? Later in our conversation, she casually mentions that she was once invited to the White House.

What was the occasion?

"Oh, I oversaw a crew doing a landscape project in Ann Arbor. The landscape architect and I got awards from Rosalynn Carter, for some beautification thing or other." She grins. "At the White House, they gave us the run of the downstairs! That would never be possible today. But we went all over, exploring rooms and even crashing a few meetings. We had a ball."

What was it like, meeting President Carter and the First Lady?

"Oh, it was no big deal," Pam shrugs. "I mean, we just shook hands and got our picture taken."

And then there was her stint with Domino's Pizza. "I worked for a group, 243 Design," she recalls. "We did Domino's corporate stores. We'd find the site, negotiate the lease, oversee the construction...it involved a lot of travel."

So you never did anything with your degree?

"Well..." she laughs, as if it's just occurred to her that maybe she has after all.

Then there was her time with the Peace Corps, another adventure you sort of have to draw out of her.

"I was in the Philippines for two years, working with our government," she says.

Was it exciting?

"Oh, I don't know. There was a building built for a health clinic near the village where I lived, but it was being used to store grain. My job was to nag. To get them to do what they were supposed to in terms of getting the clinic going."

It's like that with a lot of interest-

ing people. They don't think they're worth a story. But everyone else does. In fact, this interview came about because of an e-mail Pam's daughter, Andrea Burdick Fleckenstein, sent to PTW. "If you want a good story, I highly recommend interviewing my mother, who has led an extremely interesting life."

"Andrea has a big mouth!" Pam laughs, with obvious pleasure. "Oh, I love her and she's great. But, well, sometimes kids have a different perspective. Anyway, that's her!"

Actually, Andrea initially e-mailed us to correct an error in our history piece on Birdland Hardware. According to an article in a Pentwater Historical Society newsletter, the owner of Birdland was Alan Decker.

"My mother was part of the purchase of the building," Andrea wrote. "My late father, Alan Decker, was not the sole proprietor." Then she went on, "It is my personal opinion that you have missed the interesting recent history of the building. For instance, did you know that a K-9 fell through the ceiling while a SWAT team was looking for Alan? That's much more interesting than an old gas station!"

Indeed. The mad escapade of Alan Decker is a story that will live in the memory of Pentwaterites for generations. And Pam has no reservations

about telling it. But let's go back a little ways first, to how she ended up in Pentwater.

Pam grew up in Ann Arbor, where her father, Wayne Burdick, was a mathematician working in the cutting edge field of nuclear fusion. Wayne was born and raised in Hart, and the family spent summers in Pentwater.

"I figured when I had kids of my own, I'd want them to grow up in a place like Pentwater," she says. So, when she married and had two children, that vision came to pass.

"Al and I moved here in 1995. And I thought, if you're going to settle in a small town, you probably need to own one of three places: the pharmacy, the grocery or the hardware store. Well, as it turned out, the hardware store, Birdland, was for sale. Al and I bought it from Gerry Emery.

"Now, I remembered Birdland as a kid. And back then, it was a cheery-looking place, painted red. But when we bought it, it was kind of dreary. It was painted gray, and all the windows were boarded up. Gerry had converted them into wall space to hang things. So it was really dark. The first thing we did was to paint it red, like it had been when I was growing up."

For Pam, it wasn't like coming home—it was coming home. "Birdland

was part of my childhood," she remembers. "There were so many interesting things and people. Hardware stores are fascinating places."

Birdland, in particular, was a one-of-a-kind hardware store, a study in delightful eccentricity. You never knew what you were going to find there. Like the magnificent handiwork of famed Michigan glass artist Henry Carter Johnson, whose "glass menagerie" of miniature animals was one of the store's chief attractions.

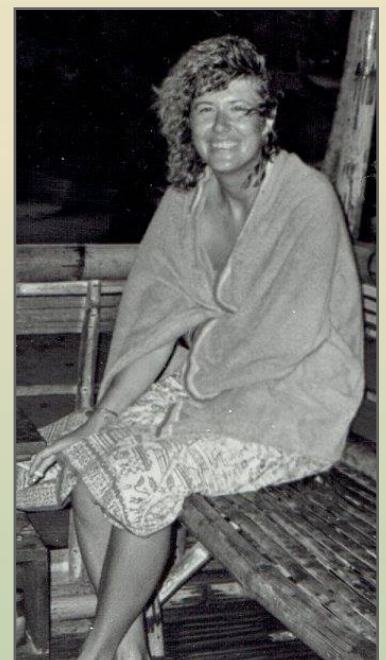
"I remember Henry," Pam smiles. "When I was in high school, I had him make me a pair of glass whiskey bottle earrings. I still have them. He told me he'd never do anything like that again, because they were a real pain in the butt!"

Pam has fond memories of owning Birdland.

"It was fun. The people were always interesting. And it was a hangout. We had the penny candy and the pop, so we had lots of kids. And the men would come in and have coffee in the back."

She chuckles. "When they were kids, Ryan Williams—Doc Williams' son—and my nephew Ryan Burdick worked at Birdland, and on slow days I'd catch them in the back, making potato guns!"

• CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Photos: On the cover, Pam Burdick sits outside her Pentwater home next to one of the relics from her former store, Birdland Hardware. Opposite page, at top, Burdick still does bookkeeping from her home and serves on the board of the Arts Council. Opposite page, at left, Burdick holds her dog, Louis, as he lets out a playful yawn. This page features photos and items from Burdick's memorable past, including a photo of her receiving awards from First Lady Rosalynn Carter at the White House (at left), the whiskey bottle earrings that famed glass artist, Henry Carter Johnson, made for her (above), and a photo of Burdick in the Philippines when she was with the Peace Corps. Burdick said that the photo was taken during a storm, at the end of a long drought, when everyone just wanted to enjoy the rain.

The leisurely-paced good times came to an end, however, with the invasion of the box stores. The Deckers owned Birdland until 1999, when Pam was finally forced to close it due to the changing nature of the business.

“The big box stores were killing local businesses like ours,” she says. “Home Depot, Menards, Lowe’s had come in and we just couldn’t make a go of it. We lost the contractors. You can’t make it without them.”

Pam decided not to sell the store, however. Instead, she rented it out. Meanwhile, she and a friend, Jane Lemme, started a nearby new estab-

lishment, Gardener’s Folly. 1999 proved to be a pivotal year—leaving Birdland, opening Gardener’s Folly and then... her husband’s crack-up.

“Sometime around Halloween, 1999, Al pulled a gun on me,” Pam relates the story calmly, almost as if she’s telling it about someone else. “My daughter called 911 and he ran out and headed to Birdland. The cops called in a SWAT team—I think it came from Lansing, but I’m not 100 percent sure—and Al escaped to the attic. They tried to corner him up there, which was when the dog fell through the floor! He was OK, though.”

Decker got away and ran off. It

wasn’t until the following morning that he was discovered at the Village Green, hiding under the bandstand.

Pam and her children survived the ordeal with courage and their heads held high.

“People would ask me, ‘Isn’t it awful for you? The humiliation?’” Pam recalls. “And I’d say, why should I be humiliated? I don’t have anything to be ashamed of.”

She decided to file for divorce, and Decker fled Pentwater to settle in another state. She never saw Mad Al again, and he passed away in 2019.

Meanwhile, Pam resumed her maiden name and started over. Patty French of Max & Chloe bought Birdland, and in the ensuing years, Pam has worked as a bookkeeper for Daly Orchards and “done various things to support my family.”

“I’ve worked at stores in town,” she says. “I had to raise two children on my own. And I sent them to college. You do what you have to do.”

Today, Pam still does bookkeeping from an office in her home. And she’s been active in the community, serving on the board of the Arts Council and organizing, with local glass artist Sue Hopps, the annual Corks and Canvas wine-tasting at Winter Fest.

And there’s her family. Pam considers herself lucky in that department. Andrea, 27, works for Stryker in Kalamazoo. She and her husband Drew have a little boy, Pierce. Pam’s son, Ian, 31, works for a global company producing pharmaceuticals in Atlanta. He and wife Mary Hodgkin also have a young son, Hanes. “I love my daughter-in-law and son-in-law,” Pam enthuses. “They’re just great. You never know what you’re going to get—you don’t have any control over who your kids marry. So you just pray. And I lucked out! With the grandsons too, although I don’t get to see them that often. But I’m very proud of my kids.”

And that includes Louis, who’s rolling on the deck, showing off his rag toy. He’s the baby of the family, after all. Or the king.

Take your pick.




Pam Burdick stands by a wall in her home adorned with many accolades of her children, Ian and Andrea. Andrea was the one who recommended her mother to be interviewed for PTW, noting that her mother has “led an extremely interesting life.”



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FROM THE PLAYHOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE, WHEREVER YOU CALL HOME

When many beloved summer programs have been canceled, patrons of The Playhouse at White Lake can look forward to a new theatre series in 2020. Offering creative ways to stay connected to the arts outside the venue, the Playhouse is hosting a combination of live and virtual theatre featuring six weekends of high-quality performances in July and August. From home or with friends, audiences will be able to stream four professionally-produced shows for the first time ever from the century-old Playhouse stage to their devices and TVs with "From Our House to Yours Summer Theatre."

This completely new summer line-up, supported by a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, has just been announced. It includes full length and one-act play collections, all from a new streaming service that offers exceptional quality sound and visuals. "We're always eager to share top-tier entertainment with our community, and this year more than ever. We are equally excited to utilize new technology from the Playhouse capital campaign which allows us to produce virtual theatre, while raising much-needed funds for operations," said Managing Director Beth Beaman. The Playhouse has adapted its admissions to make accessibility even more affordable, with a variety of admissions ranging from \$10 for a student up to \$40 for a Watch Party. Ticket prices with show synopses and dates are listed below. Tickets are on sale now at www.theplayhouseatwhitelake.org, or by calling or safely visiting the City of Whitehall.

In addition to the four weekends of virtual shows, there will be two live, outdoor performances of music and youth theatre that will be performed on the north terrace at the Playhouse. Slocum Street will be closed to allow for social distance-seating. These live performances are free and open to the public. Donations are always welcome.

Ticket Prices - Choose Your Own Price and Company: Student \$10, Starving Artist \$15, Night In-Just Me \$20, Couples \$25 or Watch Party \$40.

From Our House to Yours Summer Theatre Lineup at The Playhouse:

• **Back to Back to Back: A Betrothal, Chicks and Happy**

(Three one-act plays each evening)

July 16-18 at 7:30 p.m.

A Betrothal brings you into the cutthroat world of iris breeding, where delicacy meets

domination. Lanford Wilson's classic brings us two competitors, two irises—and one ingenious chance to win. Performed by husband and wife acting duo, Joe and Natalli Carmolli.

Chicks introduces us to a kindergarten teacher, portrayed by Robin Erdman, who is obsessed with telling us, her students, the truth about the world and what our lives will be like as we grow up and why our parents and the school administrators don't want us to know. Although funny, Chicks is a poignant portrait of a teacher trying to give her life meaning.

Happy is Alan Zweibel's short play, where in a baseball fan makes a pilgrimage to the home of a former baseball star who is now a janitor in Delray Beach, Florida and asks him to sign a very special ball. After a fair amount of humor and misunderstanding, the power of baseball to bond fathers, sons and men emerges, as embodied by actors Christopher Beaman and Reuben Crosby. The triple show weekend is underwritten by Libby Keenan.

• **Mind the Gap** (Original play debut by Whitehall, Michigan playwrights)

July 23-25 at 7:30 p.m.

Mind the Gap is the White Lake premier of a play written by well-known local actor Kimberly Harsch and starring her two children alongside her. At the intersection of three social generations, we find the King family. Follow these three as they navigate their own biases with humor, angst and humility. The play emphasizes generational blindness—the idea that "unseen" things we are surrounded by as young adults can dictate how we react in the future.

• **White Lake Youth Theatre presents LOVE**

(An outdoor performance on Slocum Street- bring your own distanced seating)

July 30, 31 and August 1 at 7 p.m.

White Lake Youth Theatre was established in 1973 to offer arts education at the Playhouse. This year, 11 cast members ages 12-18 go on a heartwarming mission to find the things that matter most. Isla Rogers has a very fun mum called Ruthy, and she lives in a very fun town called Mellingong. She sets out to help the people of Mellingong, and to discover the things that they love the most – the things you would save from a storm. This production is free and open to the public thanks to the generous support of Carmichael Heating and Air Conditioning.

• **Back to Back- Two One Act Plays: Violet**

and Clear Glass Marbles

(Two one-act plays performed each evening)

August 6-8: 7:30 p.m.

Violet is starting to forget, but she's got a long life to remember before she does. There are rights to wrong and ends to tie up; a life well lived is never neat. Generations younger, Bertie, played by Katie McCool, is at the beginning with no idea what lies ahead. She's looking or something to point her in the right direction.

Clear Glass Marbles is a short, 10-minute play shared by actor Ann Genson that tells the abbreviated story of the last days in Laurie's mother's life-spent cherishing her family, studying French, and learning to let go.

This special weekend is underwritten by Michael Keenan.

• **2 Across**

August 13-15, 7:30 p.m.

Two strangers, a man and a woman, board a San Francisco BART train at 4:30 a.m. They're alone in the car, each is married, both are doing the New York Times crossword. She's an organized, sensible psychologist. He's a free-spirited, unemployed ad exec. She is a crossword pro, he always quits. Two opposites in an enclosed space, they find themselves attacking each other's values, while also being swayed and intrigued by them. Each has serious life problems that the other helps them to solve in this sweet play. This show is performed by husband-wife duo, Sarah and Justin Sternburgh.

• **Summer Breeze - A Live Community Concert**

Saturday, August 22 and rain date, Sunday, August 23 at 7 p.m.

(An outdoor performance on Slocum Street- bring your own distanced seating)

We will be closing down Slocum Street to allow for social distance seating with Summer Breeze- A Live Community Concert. The evening will include Songs of Summer, music from the Great American Songbook, and a celebration of James Taylor. This end-of-summer concert is presented in partnership with Muskegon Civic Theatre, sponsored by White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, and is free and open to the community. Donations are welcome.

For more information call 231-206-2108, visit <http://theplayhouseatwhitelake.org/> or check out their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/theplayhouseatwhitelake/>

PENTWATER POLITICS

News from the Village:

The Village Boat Ramp dock has been given much needed repairs for the 2020 season thanks to the cooperative efforts of the Pentwater Sportfishing Association (PSA) and the Village of Pentwater (Village). The Village set aside \$1,000 for the materials for the dock, and the PSA provided the labor for the repair and installation. Working together, the PSA Team comprised of Bruce Koorndyk, Darryl Highway, Rob Bannink, Steve Sausser, Janet Swanson, and Dean Jessup donated over 50 hours of labor to remove all the old material, inspect and upgrade boards, install a new 4x4 tie-up post, and install new boat bumper material around the entire dock, all to assure a safer launch dock and add pro-

tection for boats.

Other recent PSA projects include purchase and annual installation of channel marker lights for safe night navigation in cooperation with the Coast Guard; purchase and installation assistance for flashing marker lights on three No-Wake Buoys in Pentwater Lake, in cooperation with Pentwater Police Chief Laude Hartrum, to provide better navigation and outline the No-Wake area in Pentwater Lake; and donation of \$1,200 to the Village to help fund the operation and maintenance of the Village's Marina Fish Cleaning Station. PSA raises funds for these projects and others through a raffle, its membership fees (only \$10 per individual and \$15 per family), and donations to specific projects such as the channel lights and "Teach a Kid" to fish.

The PSA was originally founded in 1983 to provide for the development, protection and promotion of sportfishing in



Pentwater and Lake Michigan, because sportfishing is a major part of the recreational and tourist appeal of the area and has a positive economic impact on the Village, Oceana County and the West Coast of Michigan. Guided by a local Board of Directors, which meets in the summertime to coordinate the PSA's events and fundraising, the PSA provides an essential service to the boating community. The Directors are dedicated fishermen, and donate their time for the work of the PSA.

Dean Jessup bought a home in Pentwater about 16 years ago while residing in northern Indiana, and he is the current President of PSA's Board of Directors. He explains that, unfortunately, Covid-19 has necessitated the cancellation or postponement of some of PSA's annual events. The fishing derby held every Memorial Day weekend was cancelled, though PSA is still hoping to hold a reduced version on August 22 and 23. Also cancelled was the Teach a Kid Fishing Day scheduled for July 11. As Jessup reports, "Usually a local boat owner takes a grandchild or neighbor kid out for the day, with the permission of the child's parents, in hopes

of encouraging interest in the sport and assuring its continuation over the years to come. Cabela's donates a lot of gear, as do local businesses."

Jessup continues, "Each year, PSA also works with the Oceana County Sheriff's Office Marine Division and Deputy Tim Simon to offer boating safety classes. Simon is a certified instructor and teaches a Department of Natural Resources sanctioned course." However, the State has not authorized these classes to proceed under Covid restrictions yet. All children who wish to drive a boat must obtain the required boater safety certification, and this will be delayed this summer.

PSA currently has approximately 80-90 members and is open to anyone interested in supporting the sport, including both local fishermen and some who just bring their boats into Pentwater. As a group of amateur fishermen, the members of the PSA are always game for fun on the water, and are ready and able to provide information to assure that everyone has a great fishing experience in Pentwater.

*By Barbara Gosselar,
PTW Magazine*



• Contributed photos



PETS OF PENTWATER *with Mary Beth Crain*

Featuring: Larry and Anne Konopka's dog, Mabel Konopka

When I mentioned to a friend whose family lives in Pentwater that I was going into Pentwater to do an interview, she asked who my subject was.

"Mabel Konopka," I replied.

"Hmm," said my friend. "Mabel Konopka..."

"Do you know her?"

"The name's familiar," my friend mused. "Mabel Konopka...Mabel Konopka..."

"Well, it would be a little unusual if you did know her," I said. "Because she's a DOG!"

Yes, Mabel is the eight-year-old Welsh Corgi belonging to Larry and Anne Konopka. And actually, lots of people know her, because this is Pentwater, after all, where dogs rule. (Shhh—don't tell the cat people.)

The Konopkas believe that Mabel's entrance into their lives was meant to be.

"We had a beloved Corgi, Riley, for 14 ½ year," says Larry. "He died in 2018, and we were heartbroken. We wanted another Corgi, but both Anne and I are in our late 70's and we didn't want to go through the puppy thing. It's too much work, and at our age, we risked not being able to outlive the dog."

That October, the Konopkas were preparing for their annual winter in Arizona when they got a call from their friend Jeanne Longnecker, a fellow Arizona snowbird.

"Jeanne knew we wanted another dog," says Anne. "She suggested we contact a Corgi breeder she knew in Arizona."

It turned out that the breeder only had puppies. However, she knew of a Corgi rescue in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As Larry and Anne prepared to leave for Arizona, they received a call about a Corgi in Albuquerque in need of re-homing.

"The e-mails went back and forth," Anne recalls. "We got the name and e-mail of a young couple with two Corgies, two cats and a baby on the way. The Corgies—Mabel and her brother, Buster—didn't get along.

"Well, we were on our way through the southwest and it was no trouble to swing through Albuquerque. So we met Mabel, and we hit it off immediately. She was 6 ½ and so gentle and calm that we adopted her."

Indeed, Mabel is the most well-behaved Corgi you'd ever want to meet. In fact, she's a regular hostess, welcoming you at the door, licking your hand and leading the way out the back door to the deck, where we all sit and chat, Mabel at Anne's feet.

"She doesn't want to be by herself," Anne explains. "She wants to be part of the group."

Mabel's predecessor Riley was, as Larry describes him, "a very busy Corgi."

"Riley guarded not only our house but the entire neighborhood! He was a definitely a barker." Mabel, however, is much more demure. "Mabel doesn't bark or jump," Larry notes. "She's very friendly, but not domineering. She's perfect for us. In our late 70s, having a loyal, loving, calm companion is about as good as it gets."

Mabel does know words, and her favorite is "cookie."

"If you ever want her attention, just say 'cookie,'" Larry laughs.

"She gets one after every walk. If we want to get her to come in from the yard, or we want to distract her, cookie is the magic word."



• Contributed photo

Because Mabel has a big black patch on her brown and white coat, the Konopkas couldn't resist the temptation to call her by a certain beer us old-timers will remember.

"We say, 'Mabel! Black Label!' Larry looks down at Mabel, who's stretched out on the deck. "Mabel! Black Label!"

Mabel immediately rises, tail wagging, and pushes against Larry.

He pats Mabel affectionately. "We've been in lockdown since mid-March because of the virus, and this dog has been the best companion. She loves to cuddle. She's very comforting."

"She was meant to be," Anne nods. "The timing was so perfect. We'd just lost Riley. We didn't want to wait a long time for another dog. And here we were, on our way to Arizona, and Albuquerque was on the way, and there was this perfect dog, who needed us as much as we needed her. We're so lucky to have found her."

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PENTWATER HISTORY CRUISE RETURNS

Pentwater residents and visitors can again learn about the area's history going back 400 years as they enjoy a one-hour boat ride. This is because Pentwater's free water taxi service has resumed Wednesdays through Sundays, and the boat is again being used from 4:45-5:45 p.m. on these five days for history cruises.

The tours are led by one of several, local, resident volunteers who believe that knowing something about the area's history makes Pentwater an even better place to "come for a day, a week or a life," which is the village's tagline.

"We begin each history cruise at the dock at the end of Third Street, motor down the channel, briefly into Lake Michigan if weather permits, and then circle about half of Pentwater Lake," said Ron Beeber, one of the volunteer docents. "As we pass vari-

ous sites along the way, we talk about what was once there many years ago." Visitors are encouraged to visit the admission-free Pentwater Historical Museum, where they can see related photos and artifacts.

Topics include what attracted the first settlers of European decent, the "White Elephant," Pentwater's three movie theatres, the ferry and swing bridge across the channel, nearby Dumaw Creek that is so historically significant that it's on the National Register of Historic Places, a local horse race track that operated for 35 years, where someone tried to set up an airplane factory in the village, the railroad depot, and Coast Guard station. "Over the years, Pentwater has proven to be a scrappy community as it's evolved through periods of forestry; the production of lumber, wood shingles, bricks and furniture, shipping, agriculture and tourism," Beeber added.

A history cruise ticket costs \$10, which helps pay to operate the boat some 60 hours a week, and are pur-

chased from Captain Lee Price at the boat. More information is posted on the Pentwater Water Taxi page on Facebook.

History cruise docents happily accept donations to the Pentwater Historical Society because contributions are the PHS's sole means of support and COVID-19 is hurting the society's ability to raise the funds it needs to operate. The museum is open Thursday's through Saturday's from 1-4 p.m., and is at 85 Rutledge St., three blocks east of the post office. More history-related information is found on the www.pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org website, or on the Pentwater Historical Society Museum page on Facebook.



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PENTWATER PAST AND PRESENT

The class of '35

We recently came across an article in one of the Pentwater Historical Society newsletters from 2007 that tickled us. Entitled, "What Pentwater Kids Will Miss Doing in the 21st Century," it was written by PHS grad Bob O'Brien, class of 1935. Bob's graduation picture shows a typical senior of 85 years ago, thick hair slicked back, dark suit and striped tie fashionably stiff, a solemn expression on his young face befitting the seriousness of the milestone.

You have to laugh. I mean, just compare that photo to what passes for graduation pics today. Kids dress in anything, and it's no longer a formal affair, the photographer coming to the school, or you and mom or dad going to his studio, nervous as could be, knowing that this image will be set in stone for the rest of your life. No, in the age of the selfie, graduation photos are an excuse to get creative. Which is pretty cool, I guess. After all, why not just be yourself, no matter who that self happens to be at the moment?

Here are some of Bob's humorous observations, made from the vantage point of 85 years in the future.

"What Pentwater Kids Will Miss Doing in the 21st Century. They will miss out on climbing and painting 'PHS' and the year on the old water tower which stood near Bob Venn's house.

"They won't be able to enjoy sliding down the tubular fire scape at the old school house or hearing the school bell ring to let them know they will be late.

"They won't be swinging out over 'Old Baldy' on a gunnysack tied onto a rope and letting go to see if they can reach the frog pond.

"They won't be taking polliwogs from the frog pond to put in a fruit jar and watch them turn into frogs.

"They won't be hearing the old fire bell ringing to call the volunteers to save someone's home.

"They won't be skiing down 'Sunshine Hill' in the ravine when winter comes and go home very cold but grateful that they can stick their feet in the oven of the old cook stove.

"They will miss being able to ride the old 'PM' locomotive and be permitted to throw a shovel full of coal in the fire box or blow the whistle and ring the bell on the way to the Wye.

"They won't be walking along the railroad track in winter-time picking up pieces of coal for a needy friend or stick their tongue

on the track in zero weather and try to get it loose.

"They won't be playing 'Fox and Geese' or making 'Snow Angels' in the snow outside of Miss Grant's kindergarten room.

"They won't see horses tied up the metal pipes on the main (Hancock) street.

"They won't hear the fish tugs warming up their engines before going out into Lake Michigan at 4:30 in the morning.

"They won't be tying their sleds to the back of a farmer's horse-drawn sleigh in the winter and go riding on Hancock Street.

"These are just a few of the many acts of devilry we performed more than eighty years ago."

Yes, those were dangerous times. Sticking your tongue on the frozen railroad track, sliding down the school fire "scape," swinging out over Old Baldy on a gunnysack—parents had a lot to worry about.

But somehow, I'll bet today's parents would trade worries like that for those of today in a heartbeat...

*By Mary Beth Crain,
with thanks to the Pentwater Historical Society
for PTW Magazine*



Bob O'Brien-1935

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PENTWATER LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWS

Pentwater Lake Association Hosts a Landing Blitz

The Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz is a collaborative campaign to raise awareness about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species through recreational boating and related activities. This year's Landing Blitz was held on July 11, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Village Launch on Lake Street., the 90-degree Launch on Longbridge Road and the North Branch River Launch on Monroe Road.

Members of the Pentwater Lake Association (PLA) talked with visitors at each launch about preventing the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species from the movement of watercraft and equipment between bodies of water. The following messages will be shared with boaters at each of the launch sites by PLA Members:

- "Clean, Drain, Dry" and "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!"
- Clean Boats & Clean Water Program Information.
- Boat washing and equipment decontamination procedures.
- Information and pictures of the invasive weeds in Pentwater Lake.
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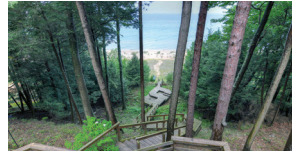
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