

Tri-County
Times

Sixty-One

YEARS OF COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunday, October 16, 2016 • Featured Section



1955 - 2016

Tri-County
SUNDAY EDITION
Times

Toughing it

WEEK
message to
Q&A asking me
if coming back you've
paper. Thank



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Due to the success of the Tri-County Times, a second state-of-the-art facility was opened in 2005.

The Tri-County Times

NEW BEGINNINGS

■ Tri-County News becomes the Times in April 1994

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Start the presses!

That was the banner headline that appeared in the first edition of the Tri-

County Times on April 3, 1994. It was the first time in nearly 40 years that tri-county residents witnessed the birth of a new newspaper, following the demise of the former Tri-County News.

The new publication was based on a 40-year tradition of strong newspaper experience.

Publisher Rick Rockman, Sr. promised that the new paper would provide complete, in-depth coverage of all area news and activities. We believe he had not only lived up to that promise, but exceeded the community's expectations by the many additions and improvements not only to the Sunday newspaper, but with the addition of TCTimes online (tctimes.com) in 1997, and the addition of the Wednesday Midweek edition in September 1999.

"This area desperately needs a newspaper with local news," said Rockman in April 1994. "We feel that the hometown paper concept has all but disappeared over the last few years. We'll focus on local news and events that are of interest and concern to the citizens of this area."

With that first issue 22 years ago, came the return of Rockman's popular "Straight from the shoulder" column and the Hot lines.

Over the years, there have been a number of changes at the Tri-County Times, all of which have been changes that benefit our readers, advertisers and communities.

Many new employees have also been added to our staff over the years. In

January 1997, we left our offices at the Fenton Mini-Mall on North Leroy Street, and moved into a new state-of-the-art facility on Fenway Drive in Fenton's industrial park and added a print shop and mailing house called Allied Media (formerly Allied Mailing & Printing) along with Rockman & Sons Publishing.

In November 2003, we added the final phase of our communications network by creating a full service ISP, Tri-County Wireless. The rapid growth of your hometown newspaper then made it necessary for us to build yet another new building, directly next door to our facility on Fenway Drive in 2005.

Serving you, our valuable readers, and advertisers always has and always will be our top priority, and we thank you for your continued support.

The Times has been the dominant area medium for more than half a century. To this day, it is still owned and operated by its founders, the Rockman family. Every employee of the Times organization is dedicated to providing readers with the finest, most professional newspaper in the state.

STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER

By Rick Rockman



The following "Straight from the Shoulder," a weekly column by Tri-County News (and later Times) Publisher Rick Rockman was published on Dec. 20, 1984. Rockman worked tirelessly for his readers until he died in March 2011.

'A NEWSPAPER HAS RESPONSIBILITIES'

I have been publisher of the Tri-County News since its inception in 1958 and during that time have made many friends and many enemies.

It bothers me that at times I've had to criticize friends and foes alike but that is what a newspaper man must do if he's worth his salt.

It would be very easy for me to ignore the self-serving and irresponsible school board members we have on local boards.

It would be even nicer to not have to criticize my friends who serve on governmental bodies in the area.

It would definitely be safer for me to ignore the dope problems we have in Fenton, Holly and Linden.

It would be much easier on me and my family to overlook the few cops who abuse their authority.

It would be beneficial to me to act like crooked and lying politicians don't exist, but they do.

In other words, the typical newspaper publisher in small communities such as ours is a nice guy who attends all the right functions and prints nothing but good news, BUT I don't see it that way.

A real newspaper has an obligation to its readers and that is to report the news — good or bad. A real newspaper is your watchdog over the goings on in your community regardless of what the consequences are.

The Tri-County News has an obligation to its subscribers to "tell it like it is."

If a politician is crooked; if a city manager is incompetent; if a school board is inadequate; if a cop is corrupt; if your neighbor is a child molester or if your governing bodies aren't doing their job, I'm going to tell you about it.

If you don't care and choose not to do anything about it that's your business. If I inform you as best I can, which is the function of this newspaper, then I have fulfilled my obligation to you.

Who knew growing older could be

SO MUCH FUN!

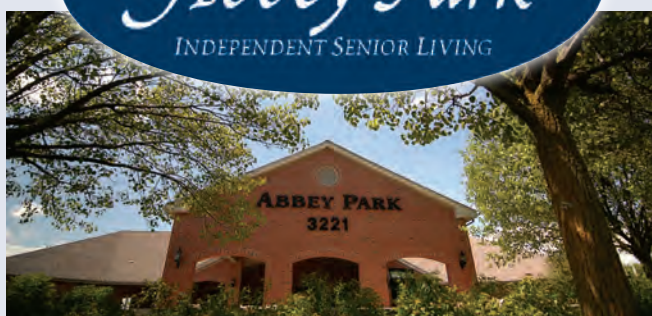
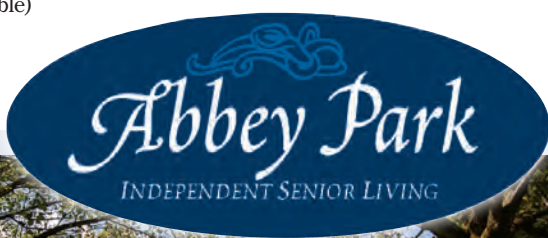


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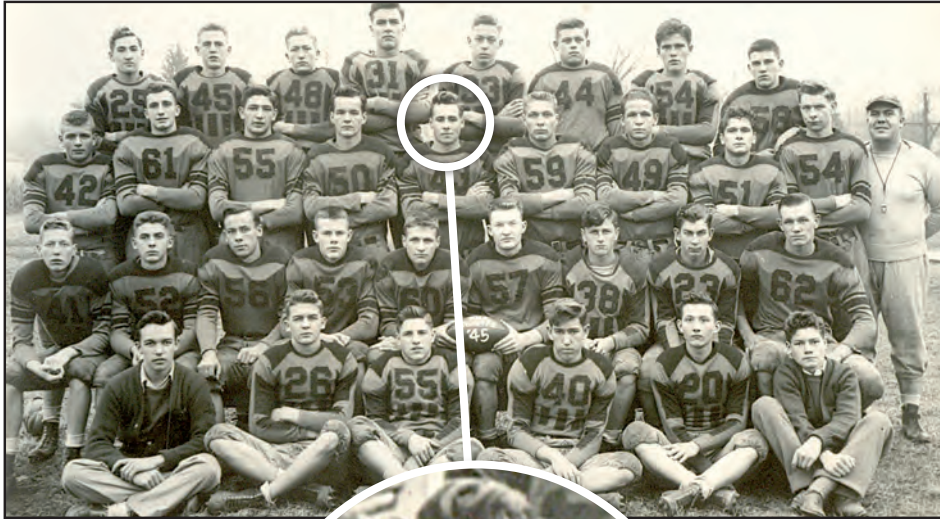


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It began with a 23-year-old who wanted to play football



Richard Rockman, Sr. changed game plan, launched newspaper career instead



Fenton High School Genesee County Football Class "B" Champions 1945 (PF-210-PA-13) Front row: Alan Niskanen, Cline Hagerman, Bill Hill, Norm Spears, Penrod Wright and Art Bush. Second row: John Howe, Jack McKeon, George Granger, Bob Butts, co-captains Ken Wegner and Vince Harrison, Ray Steede, Estelle Gushwa and Bob Torrey. Third row: Bob Fessler, Phil Kelley, Jim Botticelli, Bernard Sinclair, Richard Rockman, George Howe, Bud Cole, Bob Glaspie, Jack Groll and Coach Ivan Williams. Fourth row: Allan Gale, Chuck Franks, Frank Winn, Leo Foley, Phil Scott, Bruce Dorland, Vern Clark and Clare Whitman.

By Vera Hogan
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The Tri-County Times journey began 61 years ago with the hard work and determination of one man.

Richard Rockman, Sr., founder of the Tri-County Times, didn't set out originally to become a newspaper publisher. He actually dreamed of one day becoming a professional football player, having played semi-pro football for Bob Beach, owner of the Fenton Independent and Ray Hunt of Hunt-Smith Insurance Agency.

Beach, whose Fenton Independents were Michigan champions, gave Rockman, a teenaged fullback, a job sweeping the floors at his newspaper office. Soon, Rockman was setting type and two years later, was promoted to foreman. He would, years later, become Beach's competitor.

At the age of 23, Rockman purchased his first newspaper, the Linden Leader. About 950 copies were printed on a hand-fed press.

Rockman later purchased the Grand Blanc News and operated it for two years before selling it to start a shopping guide called the Tri-County Advertiser.

It would later become the Tri-County News Advertiser, and ultimately the Tri-County News.

Once a broadsheet publication, the Tri-County News switched over to the current tabloid-style in 1969.

It was about this time that Rockman developed his no-nonsense, hard-hitting editorials that became his trademark.

His column started out being called "Rotten Apples" or a "Bouquet of Roses," whatever the case (or the target) was at the time. The name was later changed to "Straight from the Shoulder."

Urban Renewal, which destroyed most of downtown Fenton in the 1970s, was one of the challenging issues during the

development of the newspaper.

The Tri-County News' last downtown office site was in the last building to be torn down during Urban Renewal. In fact, Rockman remembered wrecking crews knocking down an adjacent building while he and his staff were trying to put out an issue of the paper.

The office had already been moved twice to stay ahead of the wrecking ball.

Later, the Tri-County News moved to the newly built Fenton Mini-Mall, which Rockman owned with long-time business partner Dean Moore.

Over the years, the Tri-County News enjoyed steady growth, becoming the hometown newspaper readers came to rely upon for all their news and information.

Although physically located in Fenton, Rockman took pride in the fact that the newspaper always covered not only Fenton, but Holly, Linden and the surrounding communities. "We're not just a Fenton paper," he once said.

Due to a variety of circumstances, Rockman decided to go into retirement and sold the Tri-County News to a Detroit media group in 1989.

In April 1994, after a year-long legal battle with the media group owners, Rockman came out of retirement and took back ownership of his newspaper through court action — renaming it the

Tri-County Times.

In 1996, Rockman decided to make another move and built a new facility on Fenway Drive in Fenton's multi-million dollar industrial park. The doors to the new facility opened for business in January of 1997.

Realizing that the newspaper must keep up with rapidly changing technology, Rockman authorized the launch of the newspaper's popular website, Times online, at www.tctimes.com.

In September 1999, the Tri-County Times, which was distributed on Sundays only, added a second weekly edition. The Wednesday Midweek edition is mailed to subscribers.

Rockman's sons have all been an integral part of the business over the years, including active roles in the subsidiary companies — Rockman

See 23-YEAR-OLD on 18



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founder of the Tri-County Times



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTOS

(Left) Downtown Fenton was a bustling place before Urban Renewal in the mid-1970s, when the majority of buildings were destroyed to make room for the more modern Fenton Square. Fenton City leaders have since been working toward preserving the history of the downtown and bringing some of that bustle back with the help of business owners and developers. (Right) The streets of downtown Fenton were packed as area residents and visitors from miles around attended the annual Fenton Fourth of July Parade in 1934.

URBAN RENEWAL, when the walls came tumbling down

■ The face of downtown Fenton was changed forevermore

By Vera Hogan

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The face of downtown Fenton has been a volatile topic since before the early 1960s, even before the words “Urban Renewal” were first spoken.

Prior to 1964, there was talk among

some downtown merchants to get the central business district owners to spruce up their buildings with some paint and general fixing up. Those attempts proved unsuccessful.

Then in April 1964, the Fenton Planning Commission launched a movement to modernize the central business district. Commissioners invited a group of merchants and civic organizations to meet with them to investigate ways to finance such a program.

At the end of March 1966, the Fenton

Planning Commission approved a central business district renewal project, which called for three downtown blocks to be completely leveled and the area turned over to private investors.

Fenton citizens may not have been paying too close attention to what was going on downtown. In 1967, the average citizen was said to be too busy with the new \$5 million high school on the west side of town, and the development of the new Silver Lake municipal park and beach to be too concerned about urban renewal.

By June of 1970, a group of downtown merchants had turned against the urban renewal. One told city leaders that the buildings did not need to be torn down, that all that was needed was more parking and a new sidewalk.

Despite objections, the Fenton City Council approved an ordinance that would commit Fenton to the Urban Renewal project.

Voters rejected the idea twice in a two-year period. In February 1974, however, voters gave their approval to the urban renewal program itself by a slim vote in an advisory election.

Then, in the mid-1970s, the buildings started coming down. The result was a few of the original buildings remaining, and the creation of the Fenton Square, where Dancers Fashions and Ideal Pharmacy cut off South LeRoy from North LeRoy Street. Some businesses remained steadfast, including The State Bank, which reinvested in the downtown with new buildings, even

See **URBAN RENEWAL** on 18



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Some of the biggest news stories since 1978

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Details from the news headlines over the past 61 years are just too many to share, but the following are some of the major occurrences:

• **Great Blizzard of 1978**

During what has been dubbed the “Great Blizzard of 1978,” a winter storm swept through Ohio and Michigan on Jan. 26 and 27, 1978, dumping more than 2 feet of snow on the ground. The storm is remembered as one of the coldest and most damaging in Michigan’s history. About 20 people died as a direct or indirect result of the storm, most due to heart attacks or traffic accidents. At least one person died of exposure to exhaust from a stranded automobile. About 100,000 cars were abandoned on Michigan highways, most of them in the southeast part of the state. The storm was so severe that then Gov. William Milliken declared a state of emergency and employed the Michigan National Guard to aid residents.

• **Urbn sisters murdered (1991)**

In September 1991, Leslie Allen Williams abducted sisters Michelle Urbin, 16, and Melissa Urbin, 14, of Tyrone Township. After suffocating the girls, Williams, who we later learned was a serial killer, hid their bodies in Fenton’s Oakwood Cemetery. Originally thought to be runaways, the sisters’ remains were found in Oakwood in early 1992. Williams is now serving multiple life sentences.

• **Christine O’Brien abducted, strangled (1995)**

Christine, 24, went missing on July 18, 1995. Just over 5 feet tall and 100 pounds, she was an enthusiastic equestrian and told an employee at a spa in Flint that she was in a hurry because she planned to meet someone who was building horse stables. O’Brien never returned home. Her sister, Laura, found her car, a 1987 Chevy Nova, parked at the Tyrone Hills Golf Club, a short walk from the horse auction she often visited. The car was locked and her purse and keys were inside. Her badly decomposed body was found eight months later. Her murderer, Timothy Watkins, strangled her and left her body under a collapsed duck blind south of Bennett Lake near Cohoctah Road. Watkins is in prison with an earliest release date of March 25, 2059. He is currently 70 years old.

• **Jill Ann Weatherwax killed in California (1998)**

Jill Ann Weatherwax of Fenton was killed in Fresno, California in 1998.



Several businesses and residents lost their home when Linden’s Historic Union Block burned to the ground on May 18, 2007.

Police there placed the death of the 27-year-old woman at approximately midnight on March 24. Her body was found about 12 hours later, just before noon on March 25. She died from multiple stab wounds. The small town girl, who had aspirations of becoming a famous singer, was a 1988 graduate of Fenton High School, where she was a cheerleader and a member of the track team. The case remains unsolved.

• **Third worst winter storm in 100 years (2000)**

Though there was plenty of advance warning of the impending measurable snowfall that started on Monday, Dec. 11, 2000, many tri-county area residents were shocked to see how much when they woke up Tuesday morning, Dec. 12. Genesee County was among the Michigan counties declared a “state of emergency” Tuesday. All schools were closed and drivers were asked to stay off the roads, allowing for emergency traffic only. According to the National Weather Service, the tri-county area received 14.3 inches of snow. High winds and drifting made it seem like more. Most area businesses shut down operations in order to let their employees get home safely. Although The Flint Journal closed for the first time in more than 100 years on Dec. 12, 2000, the Tri-County Times stayed open, having picked up employees from their homes in four wheel-drive vehicles.

• **Walmart comes to Fenton (2002)**

After a five-year battle to get the store built, Walmart opened its doors to the public during a Jan. 23, 2002 grand opening. Walmart obtained approval to build a retail store on a 32-acre parcel of land at the corner of Owen Road and



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTOS

Silver Parkway, despite objections from residents and business owners in both the city and neighboring Fenton Township. Noise, traffic problems, environmental issues and the impact a Walmart would have on property values and the local economy topped their concerns. The 136,000-square-foot facility is located at the corner of Silver Parkway and Owen Road and employs hundreds. The end result is a shopping area that provides the protections needed to co-exist peacefully.

• **Janelle Durk killed in ‘drowsy driving’ accident (2006)**

Janelle Durk, 15, of Byron, was killed in a semi accident on July 5, 2006 in Clark County, Illinois. The investigation revealed that Janelle was the victim of a semi driver, identified as Robert Whitney, who had fallen asleep at the

wheel, blocking the entire highway. The family sat in their vehicle for two minutes before they were rear-ended by another semi. Whitney had driven for 39 hours straight with no sleep. Today, he is serving a 10-year sentence for reckless homicide and three years for violating Illinois Motor Carrier Safety Laws. His projected parole date is Aug. 29, 2017. Since the tragedy, Durk’s family has been fighting to change laws regarding truckers and drowsy driving.

• **Linden’s Historic Union Block burns to ground (2007)**

The city of Linden lost a little piece of its history when its most historic building, commonly known as the Historic Union Block on E. Broad Street, burned on Friday, May 18. The building housed the Broad Street Grille, the Serendipity Day Spa, Blade Dental, CPA and attorney offices, and apartments. Surrounding fire departments helped suppress the fire as a large number of bystanders watched in horror. The property has since been purchased by Dr. Nicole Wax, but currently remains undeveloped.

• **Storm rips through Fenton and Holly (2007)**

On Friday, Aug. 24, 2007, a tornado later categorized as an F-2, with winds in excess of 100 miles per hour, ripped through the Fenton and Holly areas, leaving in its path destroyed buildings, thousands of uprooted trees, and stunned residents and visitors. Fenton and Holly were left with significant damage. In

See **BIG NEWS** on 18

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It happened in 1955

Compiled By Vera Hogan

• Polio vaccine deemed safe

In April 1955, it was announced to the world that Jonas Salk's polio vaccine was determined to be safe and highly effective in preventing the disease. In 1962, a new, more effective oral polio vaccination was created by Albert Sabin and quickly replaced Salk's vaccine. The creation of these vaccines nearly eradicated the formerly rampant illness.

• Mickey Mouse Club debuts on TV
In October 1955 the original Mickey

Mouse Club television program made its debut on ABC. The show was billed as a variety show for children and would feature cartoons, educational segments and serials like "The Hardy Boys" and "Spin and Marty." The show also featured child actors as "Mouseketeers," who would perform in musical and dance numbers as well as the other segments. The original run of the Mickey Mouse Club lasted four seasons until it was canceled in 1959 and would feature a rotation of 39 different "Mouseketeers."



imdb.com

• Disneyland opens in Anaheim

The Disneyland resort and theme park, located in Anaheim, California, opened its doors in July 1955. Walt Disney grew his animation company throughout the 1930s and by the early 1950s he had

started to plan the construction of a theme park to be built on 160 acres of land near Los Angeles. Construction on the park began in 1954 and by July of 1955 it was nearly complete. An invite-only opening was held on July 17, but thousands more people than expected showed up to the event with counterfeit tickets. Although Disneyland was not ready for the full opening on that day, the park recovered and was officially opened to the public in the following days.



designingdisney.com

• Vietnam involvement begins

The United States involvement in the Vietnam Conflict or Second Indochina War officially began in November 1955 with the arrival of the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group (M.A.A.G.) in South Vietnam to help train the South Vietnamese military after the French left the conflict. While the date

of the true beginning of the Vietnam War could be debated as earlier or later, Nov. 1, 1955 is the earliest date that the United States government uses to qualify a member of the military as being a veteran of the Vietnam War. The war in Vietnam would last until April 30, 1975 when the last of the U.S. military left the embassy in Saigon, making the total length of the United States' involvement in the war nearly 20 years.



90highbrow.com

• Rosa Parks refuses to give up seat

Rosa Parks (42) refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger on Dec. 1, 1955. Parks is arrested for violation of Alabama segregation laws by refusing to follow orders from the bus driver. Parks becomes a figurehead for the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Civil Rights Movement.



colorlines.com

See 1955 on 17

Cost of living, THEN and NOW

Compiled By Vera Hogan

The cost of living has changed dramatically in the 61 years since 1955. For example, in 1955 the average cost of a new house was \$10,950.

According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), the average cost of a home in the United States today is \$188,900.

The average income in 1955 was \$4,137 per year. The median household income for 2015 was \$53,657.

In 1955, the average price of a new car was \$1,910. According to USA Today, the average price for a new car in 2015 was \$33,560.

A Harvard education in 1955 cost \$800. For the 2016-2017 school year, that same education is going to cost \$59,550, according to Harvard.edu.

The cost of a single movie ticket in 1955 was 75 cents. According to ncg.com, the cost of an adult ticket to see a movie is \$8.50.

In 1955, you could easily fill up your 12-gallon gas tank for less than \$3, at 23 cents per gallon. While the national average was \$2.15 at the start of August, gas prices have fluctuated over the years, having gone over \$4 per gallon in the not too distant past.

Snail mail was worth it back in the day when a first-class postage stamp cost a mere 3 cents. Today mailing a first-class letter will cost 46.5 cents.

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Newspapering

has changed a lot over the years

■ ‘Cut and paste’ used to mean an entirely different thing

By Sally Rummel

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Back in the day, before there were smart phones, digital cameras and 24/7 wireless connectivity, the newsroom, advertising department and composition department were very different places.

The newsroom would be filled with reporters waiting for phone calls returned, because that was the only way you could communicate with your news source, other than in person. Deadlines meant late hours spent writing your stories after evening meetings.

There were no mobile phones to connect you, or the internet to provide you with an instant source of information. Back then, you’d have to go to the library, the “morgue” of newspaper archives or talk directly to someone who knew more than you did about a particular subject.

Photos were another source of extra time, money and work. Back then, pictures were taken, then film had to either be developed in a darkroom, where there was an ever-present danger of spoiling film with the wrong chemicals or someone walking through the door destroying the film with just a sliver of light, etc.

Film could also be developed at Kmart or another local film processor. “We’d spend hundreds of dollars to get film developed, and then just use a few of the finished photos,” said Jennifer Ward, who has been composition manager for 20 years.

You’d also have to be very good at math, figuring out the correct percentage to make a photo bigger or smaller to fit the space, by using a proportion wheel.

In the advertising department, cubicles were usually empty as salespeople spent most of their day meeting with business owners in person, then returning to their desk at the end of the day to design the ad on paper, and sending it to Comp for production.

“We physically had to take copies of

the finished ad (called a proof) to all our customers,” said Gail Grove, who has been advertising director since 1979.

“I used to use so much gas. I’d deliver about 100 ads to my customers every week. We didn’t have fax machines or even copy machines. The electronic world has certainly changed all that.”

Back in the 1970s, ’80s and ’90s, before newspapers went digital, “cut and paste” actually meant “cut and paste.”

Assembling a newspaper wasn’t a click or two on your computer, but a time-consuming, messy job of cutting galleys of long columns of type spit out of a huge typesetting terminal, then waxing them in a wax machine that would place a sticky residue on the back side of each galley.

Ads were also assembled with “clip art” from a national art service, bordered using a tape-like roll with many different styles of borders available. “My jewelry always had wax in it,” said Grove.

Using an exacto knife for cutting and a pica pole for measuring, a composition employee would then cut and paste the stories to fit around the advertisements which anchored pages set up on light tables.

Ward remembers having a night shift to do all this work, often staying as late as midnight to “put the paper to bed” (an old newspaper saying).

“We used to work a lot more than we do now, although I still stay late before finishing the paper on Friday,” said Ward.

She and Grove recall driving the pages to get the paper printed, hoping that the waxed pieces would stay where they belonged and not end up in the wrong place covering a space in another story or on top of an ad.

While the community mission of a newspaper to be a “watchdog” and town crier of events and happenings hasn’t changed, the processes to make it happen certainly have.

Most people who have worked at the Times for 20 years or more remember the old days fondly, but are grateful that today’s newspapering work isn’t as difficult and time consuming as it used to be.

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- July, 1985 Founding Member Fenton Rotary
- April, 1992 Bought building at current location
- September, 2001..... Chairman St. Johns School Building Project

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The 'diva' of local journalism

Former Times Feature Editor Jan Ryneerson still missed by all who knew her

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Words cannot express how much Jan Ryneerson meant to her friends at the Tri-County Times and all those in the community who loved her.

Jan served as the features editor for the Times since it was first published in April 1994, and for the Rockmans' newspaper business before that.

She is often referred to as one of the "divas" of local journalism.

Jan, who left this world on Feb. 8, 2011, would have celebrated her 83rd birthday on Sept. 23 of this year. On marking the occasion, many of her friends said it best on Facebook.

"I miss my good friend, Jan, and the good times we had together," said longtime friend Lillian "Mike" Kateman.

Fenton City Councilwoman Cherie Smith said, "Jan is the only person I've ever known that never said one bad word about anyone. If you were a mass murderer, she would have found an endearing quality in you.

"Kind, caring and spiritual. First to light a candle and pray for you when you were sick," Smith added. "Oh how she loved decorum and manners. If there was a social event, she was there, need to know about history, she loved sharing her Fenton roots. Want to sit and laugh at foolishness, she was game for that, too. God, family and friends were the big three in her life. She talked, it lived

it and shared it.

"Happy birthday in heaven, Jan," said Smith on Sept. 23. "You look great in that jumpsuit and those silver high heels by the way."

Times Editor Sharon Stone said, "She will always be the 'Queen Diva' of Fenton in my eyes. She was such an awesome lady."

Sally Rummel, who is a Times writer, said, "There was never a kinder, more elegant lady than Jan Ryneerson. I'm so glad our paths crossed at the Tri-County Times."

Will Stiverson of Fenton said, "Jan was a gem and will always have a special place in my heart. She was a constant encourager and true asset to anyone who knew her."

Longtime friend Orpha Verhelle said, "She was a very special person. The Alumni Association of Fenton misses her, too. She knew all about everything. If she didn't, she knew someone who would know."

Retired Times Office Manager Mary York recalled Jan fondly as well. "So many things about her make me smile. She was so young at heart and always on the go. She knew everything about Fenton and so loved her town."

No one misses Jan more than her granddaughter, Angel.

"I miss her more than words can explain," she said, "A day doesn't go by that I don't think of her. Something always reminds me of her and brings tears to my eyes. I wish she was here to see Shane (2-year-old great grandson.) She would love him so much."

Jan was born in Gaines. She was a graduate of Fenton High School and earned her

See DIVA on 17

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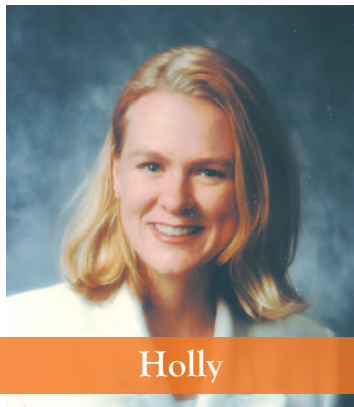


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Liane



Holly



Vera



Cheryl



Sharon

Editors ...

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

When Publisher Rick Rockman, Sr. took his newspaper in April of 1994, the long-time Tri-County News was renamed and became the Tri-County Times.

In June 1994, Holly Whetstone came onboard as the editor. A 1991 graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in journalism, Whetstone worked as a general beat reporter for the now defunct Flint Area Newspapers from 1991 to 1994.

She left there to work for the Times, where she served as the editor from 1994 to 1999.

Motherhood intervened — twice. Whetstone's twin boys were born in October 1999.

"While I had all intentions of returning to work after the birth of the twins, I realized that I was needed at home," she said.

Whetstone returned to work outside of the home in 2005, working as director of marketing and communications for the Michigan Apple Committee (MAC).

Whetstone left MAC in 2011 to work for Michigan State University AgBioResearch — the research and development arm of the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences. She is the communications manager.

"I'm particularly proud to be editor of a magazine called 'Futures,'" she said. "Futures," published twice a year, is written in non-scientific terms for the general public. Each issue profiles the work of several AgBioResearch scientists organized around a specific topic.

"My experience as editor at the Tri-County Times was my first foray into managing a staff and directing newspaper content," Whetstone said. "This was a critical time in my young career. Being surrounded with good, caring people — the Rockman family — made me more confident in my ability. I really felt like Tri-County Times was so much more than a job. It was an extended family. The confidence I gained at such an early stage in my career has served me well.

"I thank the Rockman family for having the belief in me to do the job," Whetstone added.

"When I first started, the newspaper industry was vastly different than it is today. We had no internet access," she

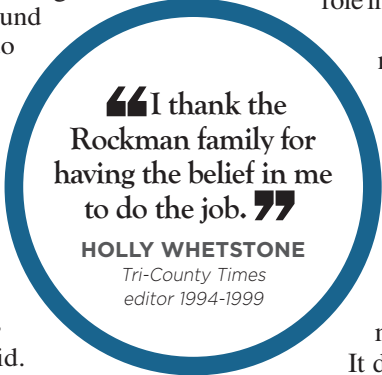
said. "We had to pick up the phone and actually call people. We couldn't email questions. We had to go to the library for background information. We had to thumb through written reports to find answers to our questions. There was no 24/7 news cycle.

"We designed the newspaper by slicing paper with knives and waxing down the columns of text," Whetstone said.

"While the introduction of the

internet has helped ease the job of news-gathering, it also has played a very sad role in the demise of print media.

"The downsizing of newspapers and the devastating impact technology has had on the industry is disheartening to me," Whetstone said. "I still love to hold a newspaper in hand when reading it. That might put me in the minority, but I don't mind. It definitely is a testament to being a journalist at heart."



"I thank the Rockman family for having the belief in me to do the job."

HOLLY WHETSTONE
Tri-County Times
editor 1994-1999

Tri-County News and Times editors

Rick Rockman, Sr. served as both the publisher and editor of the Tri-County News for a number of years. One of the more colorful associate editors he employed, however, was Lucille "Lucy" Brabon, who also served as the Mayor of Fenton. She was known for her weekly column called "Step into my Thoughts."

The following are the editors of the Tri-County Times:

- Liane Kucher (1994-1994)
- Holly Whetstone (1994-1999)
- Vera Hogan (2000-2008)
- Cheryl Dennison (2008-2012)
- Sharon Stone (2012 - present)

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IMPORTANT SPECIAL FINANCING/DEFERRED INTEREST DETAILS (when offered): Interest will be charged to your account from the purchase date if the purchase balance is not paid in full within the promotional period or if you make a late payment. Minimum payments required. With credit approval, for qualifying purchases made on a Sears card (Sears Commercial One® accounts excluded) Sears Home Improvement Account™ valid on installed sales only. Offer is only valid for consumer accounts in good standing; is subject to change without notice; see store for details. May not be combined with any other promotional offer. Sears cards as of 7/6/2016, APR for purchases: VARIABLE 2.49%-27.49% or NON-VARIABLE 14.00%-29.99%. MINIMUM INTEREST CHARGE UP TO \$2. See card agreement for details, including the APRs and fees applicable to you. Sears cards are issued by Citibank, N.A. APPLIANCE OFFER: (1) Advertised savings are valid in-store only and range from 5%-25%. (1,3) Bosch®, Whirlpool®, KitchenAid®, Maytag®, Amana®, LG® and Samsung® appliances limited to 10% off. Offers exclude Hot Buys, Super Hot Buys, Special Purchases, Jenn-Air®, Dacor, GE®, GE Profile™, Dyson®, GE Cafe™, air conditioners, water heaters, water softeners, clearance, closeouts and Everyday Great Price items. See store for additional exclusions. Offers good thru 10/17/16. (3) 5% applies to appliance purchases after discounts and coupons when you use a qualifying Sears card. Cannot be combined with other Sears card discounts. Excludes Sears Commercial One® accounts and Outlet Stores. Sears Home Improvement AccountSM applies on installed merchandise only. (4) Offer applies to appliances over \$499 after discounts and coupons when you use a qualifying Sears card. See above for Important Special Financing/Deferred Interest Details. Excludes Outlet Stores. Offer good thru 10/17/16. FAMILY AND FRIENDS OFFER: (5,6) Offers exclude Hot Buys, Super Hot Buys, consumer electronics, closeout and clearance items. Offers valid 10/17/16 only. EXTRA 10% OFF mattresses, tools and tool protection agreements, lawn and garden and lawn and garden protection agreements, fitness, game room and sporting goods, seasonal, patio furniture and grills. EXTRA 15% OFF home appliances, home appliance protection agreements, water softeners and floor care. 10% and 15% savings off regular and sale prices apply to merchandise only. May not be used to reduce a layaway or credit balance. Not valid on Super Hot Buys, Hot Buys, Special Purchases, Everyday Great Price items, Stearns & Foster, iComfort, iComfort Hybrid, Simmons Beautyrest Elite, Jenn-Air®, Dacor, GE®, GE Profile™, GE Cafe™, Dyson®, air conditioners, water heaters, dehumidifiers, generators and gift cards. Bosch®, Whirlpool®, KitchenAid®, Maytag®, Amana®, LG®, Samsung®, Electrolux® and Electrolux Icon appliance brands limited to 10% off. Not valid on commercial orders or previous purchases. Tax and shipping not included. Available only at Sears Hometown Stores. Family & Friends offers valid for all stores all day Monday 10/17/16 only. We offer product warranty.

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61 Years of State Champions

Times Sports Anniversary Edition

WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The last 61 years have had their share of outstanding moments in the tri-county area. Our biggest challenge was trying to figure out a way to present that history within a format that would be informative and entertaining at the same time.

We figured the best way to do it was through this creative timeline designed by Lorie Gavulic. Listed are all of the tri-county's team and individual state champions over the last 61 years. The teams and athletes are labeled based on their schools.

Enjoy.

F FENTON
H HOLLY
LF LAKE FENTON

- 1955** Frank Sokolowski, 880 yd run, Boys track & field
- 1956** Larry Taylor, 880 yd run, Boys track & field
- 1957** Frank Sokolowski, 880 yd run, Boys track & field
- 1960** Jack Patten, shot put, Boys track & field
- 1967** Larry Reese, 880 yd Boys track & field
- 1968** Ben Lewis, Heavyweight wrestler
- 1969** Marv Pushman, 165 lb wrestler
- 1970** Don Keswich, 880 yd run, Boys track & field
- 1971** Don Keswich, 880 yd run, Boys track & field
- 1972** Mark Wiesen, 172 lb wrestler; Joseph Varney, 185 lb wrestler; Fenton Wrestling Class B State Champs
- 1973** Dave Karns, 880 yd run, Boys track & field; Randall Chene, 126 lb wrestler; Fenton Wrestling Class B State Champs
- 1974** Scott Burdick, 50 freestyle & 100 Freestyle, Boys swimming; Mike Pickhover, 112 lb wrestler
- 1975** Mike Helms, 880 yd run, Boys track & field; Mike Moses, long jump, Boys track & field; Ralph Smith, high jump, Boys track & field; Robin Sweetman, 132 lb wrestler; Keith Little, Heavyweight wrestler
- 1976** Dennis Shumaker, 155 lb wrestler; Neil Masse, shot put, Boys track & field; Randy Rife, 220 yd dash, Boys track & field
- 1977** Vern Chontos, 220 yd dash, Boys track & field; Girls mile relay track & field; Lee Wolverton, shot put, Boys track & field
- 1978** Jeff Merrill, 178 lb wrestler; Randy Walker, 100 backstroke, Boys swimming; Vern Chontos, 220 yd. dash, Boys track & field; Jeff Rowe, long jump, Boys track & field; Jeff Lewis, 880 yd run, Boys track & field; Holly Boys Cross Country Class B State Champs
- 1979** Jim Lamb, shot put boys track & field; Fenton Softball Class B State Champs; Holly Boys Cross Country Class B State Champions
- 1980** Matt Stack, Boys cross country; Fenton Softball Class B State Champions
- 1982** Dean Ammon, 100 backstroke, Boys swimming; Mark Harris, 200 freestyle & 500 freestyle, Boys swimming; Ed Lumm, pole vault, Boys track & field
- 1985** Melanie Nelsen, 100 breaststroke girls swimming; Vance Corcoran, 105 lb wrestler
- 1986** Melanie Nelsen, 100 breaststroke, Girls swimming; 200 medley relay, Boys/Girls swimming; Marty Spees, 200 individual medley, Boys swimming; Steve Yobuck, 155 lb wrestler; Vance Corcoran, 132 lb wrestler
- 1987** Melanie Nelsen, 100 breaststroke, Girls swimming; 200 medley relay, Girls swimming
- 1988** Brian Lambert, diving, Boys swimming & diving
- 1989** Stan Boyd, 189 lb wrestler
- 1990** Dave Caslmon, 125 pound wrestler; Jeff Nichols, 171 lb wrestler; Chad Phillips, Boys golf; Fenton Wrestling State Champions; Holly Girls Cross Country Class A State Champions
- 1991** Chad Phillips, Boys golf
- 1994** Cory Kalo, 112 lb wrestler; Shaun Mann, 171 lb wrestler; Lake Fenton Boys Golf Class C State Champions
- 1995** Shaun Mann, 215 lb wrestler; Jason Leec, Boys golf; Jennifer Allen, high jump, Girls track & field; Lake Fenton Softball Class C State Champions; Lake Fenton Boys Golf Class C State Champions
- 1996** Ryan Ruddy, 145 lb wrestler; Dru Bishop, 800 meter run, Girls track & field; Ryan Ruddy, 145 lb wrestler; Jennifer Allen, high jump, Girls track & field
- 1997** Ryan Ruddy, 145 lb wrestler; Dru Bishop, 800 meter run, Girls track & field
- 1998** Scott Pushman, 112 lb wrestler; Dru Bishop, 800 meter run, Girls track & field; Lake Fenton Volleyball Class C State Champions
- 1999** Scott Pushman, 119 lb wrestler; Liz Korsedal, 100 butterfly, Girls swimming; Justin Torres, 171 lb wrestler
- 2000** Lambros Kottalis, 112 lb wrestler; Liz Korsedal, 100 butterfly, Girls swimming; Amber Shalla, 500 freestyle, Girls swimming
- 2001** Jon Herstein, Heavyweight wrestler
- 2002** Mike Pickhover Jr., 152 lb wrestler
- 2003** 800 meter boys relay track & field
- 2004** Missy Ward, Girls golf; 400 meter, Boys relay track & field; Rob Fiorillo, 110 meter hurdles, Boys track & field
- 2005** Lindon Boys Cross Country Division 2 State Champions
- 2006** Amy Morrison, pole vault, Girls track & field
- 2007** Troy Smith, 160 lb wrestler; Amy Morrison, pole vault, Girls track & field; 3,200 meter relay, Boys track & field
- 2008** Josh Houldsworth, 145 lb wrestler; Jake Hyde, 160 lb wrestler; 3,200 meter relay, Boys track & field; Jonathon Beeler, high jump, Boys track & field; Justin Gaumer, discus, Boys track & field
- 2009** Josh Houldsworth, 145 lb wrestler; Jake Hyde, 160 lb wrestler; 3,200 meter relay, Boys track & field; Jonathon Beeler, high jump, Boys track & field; Justin Gaumer, discus, Boys track & field
- 2010** Anthony Gonzales, 112 lb wrestler; Josh Houldsworth, 145 lb wrestler; Jonathon Beeler, high jump, Boys track & field; Justin Gaumer, discus, Boys track & field
- 2011** Zach Corcoran, 135 lb wrestler; Justin Melick, 145 lb wrestler
- 2012** Anthony Gonzales, 130 lb wrestler; Shawn Scott, 215 lb wrestler
- 2013** Andrew Anderson, Boys bowling
- 2015** Zoe Weinberg, Slalom girls ski; Trent Hillger, 215 lb wrestler
- 2016** Jarrett Trombly, 119 lb wrestler; Trent Hillger, 285 lb wrestler; Jake Lee, 3,200 meter, Boys track & field

2006 Amy Morrison, pole vault, Girls track & field

2009 Jonathon Beeler, high jump, Boys track & field

2010 Justin Gaumer, discus, Boys track & field

2011 Justin Melick, 145 lb wrestler

2012 Shawn Scott, 215 lb wrestler

2013 Andrew Anderson, Boys bowling

2015 Trent Hillger, 215 lb wrestler

2016 Jake Lee, 3,200 meter, Boys track & field

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Representatives from area businesses joined together to march for the "Shop Local" campaign in 2009. Chamber President Shelly Day estimated there were 150 participants, who marched 1.6 miles from the Fenton Gazebo to Uncle Ray's Dairyland.

'Shop Local' campaign launched by Times and Chamber

■ Hometown newspaper teams with local businesses

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

The reasons a hometown newspaper is critical are many.

We are the community watchdogs when it comes to reporting on the activities of local government and schools.

We let you know about crimes in our neighborhoods so you can be aware. We talk about local citizens who share a host of journeys, from exciting travels, important accomplishments, and overcoming illnesses, just to name a few.

We offer a forum for readers to share their opinions through the Hot lines, and give them a place to post their important upcoming events and activities.

One of the things the Times is most proud is when it partnered with the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and the Linden DDA in the "Shop Local" campaign.

The bottom line is that everyone in the

community needs to support one another and keeping our hard-earned dollars local is one big way to do that. We all benefit from that, there is no doubt about it.

The "Shop Local" promotion jointly sponsored by the Tri-County Times and the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce in 2009 has become much more than just a "slogan" or advertising campaign — it launched an educational process that has people seriously thinking about where they want to spend their money.

Making an effort to buy products made here in the United States, supporting Michigan-made products and shopping local in your hometown are all ways to say "Yes!" to our country, our state and our own community.

Every time you spend a dollar in your hometown, you are contributing to the quality of life in your community. Every dollar you spend out of town takes away dollars from local schools, police and fire services and families whose businesses depend upon your support.

That's why the "Shop Local" campaign has made a tremendous impact on local businesses and the people who shop here.

Celebrating 60 YEARS of Skiing!



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www.skimtholly.com



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- Alpine and Snowboard equipment rental
- World-class ski and snowboard instructors
- Full Service Ski Shop

Mt. Holly has it all!

And so they began ...

■ Famous (or infamous) Hot line feature of the Times began on Wednesday, March 12, 1986

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Hot lines. Some people absolutely love them, while others loathe them. It's easy to see why.

For more than 30 years, this newspaper has offered anyone in the community an opportunity to anonymously share their opinion on nearly anything. They could do so without fear of retaliation or punishment.

Opinions of the general public could be read by the entire tri-county area when they first began running. Now, there is no limit as to who reads those opinions thanks to the internet and tctimes.com.

We thought it would be fun to look back at a sampling of the Hot lines over the past 30 years.

The very first Hot line printed

March 12, 1986

I WAS IMPRESSED with the article on Kenny Madden in that he would like the public to put pressure on public officials.

However, who knows which public officials we should write to. It would be very helpful if the Tri-County would follow through on this and help us get the information in the right hands. It seems that this is a very important situation. If he's willing to lay his life on the line, we certainly ought to be willing to do our part.

MR. REAGAN NOW knows who Rick Rockman is. I clipped out Rick's column and sent a copy to Mr. Reagan's attention at the White House. Way to go Rick! We need to speak up and stop this stupid government spending.

February 1990

I'M CALLING IN response to the person who said, 'Why does Fetnon have a football team?' That's like asking 'Why do the 49ers have a football team?' Simple - we play, we dominate, we win.

March 1990

I WOULD LIKE to complain about the idiotic kids who think they're too hot and they go down to the bridge after school and pick fights and they also smoke. This is at the Fenton Middle School.

January 1995

IT'S TOO BAD the Detroit Lions haven't been on strike. Good-bye Wayne.

April 1995

HERE'S TO CHERYL King who had the courage of her conviction to cast a dissenting vote against the Tootsie Roll

drive being held at four crossroads in Fenton. She opted for the safer storefront sales. Thank you.

October 2000

I WOULD LIKE to thank Tyrone Township for bringing the city to the country with a new mobile home park. We don't have to use lights in our house anymore.

WHERE OH WHERE has the famous Fenton rock gone? Who could have taken it? All I have to say is it was real heavy.

November 2000

I PREDICT THAT one year from now the loser of this presidential election will consider himself the luckiest man in the universe.

I WAS JUST curious if anyone was sick of this election and the interruptions on our TV programs?

December 2000

FOUR YEARS FROM now, George Bush is going to get such a whooping it will be unbelievable.

October 2005

OK, THE HOT line equating smoking sections in a restaurant to a peeing section in a pool was very clever. One of the things I love about living in this area is the sense of humor.

November 2005

WHAT'S GOING ON with the old Topps's store? I thought it would be replaced by now.

HOW ABOUT THE Ford family sells the Lions and then we dismantle the whole team and start from scratch. To me that seems like the best solution.

December 2005

HELPING AND ENABLING people are two different things.

October 2011

THE STORY ABOUT legislators cutting their health care benefits is a joke. They have to complete six years to receive retirement health care. Well, guess what? Normal working people have to complete 30 years. Legislate yourself 20 years of service. That way you wouldn't seem like thieves.

January 2012

HERE WE GO again. Why do we need a tagline at all? Again, a bunch of pointy heads sitting around trying to figure out ways to spend other people's money.

March 2012

BILL CLINTON, NOT Romney, shipped our jobs out of the U.S. He signed NAFTA into law. He could have vetoed it. Get your facts straight please.

September 2012

WHAT'S THIS WORLD coming to? Linden beating Fenton? That's like Appalachian State beating Michigan. It's unheard of. Whitey Wegner is rolling over in his grave.

November 2013

SO YOU THINK Obamacare isn't going to affect people's price of insurance? What about the new regulations? The new people covered? Who do you think is going to pay for that - the people receiving free healthcare?

October 2014

MANY THANKS TO the Hasenfratz family. Your service and dedication are appreciated. You make Fenton proud.

October 2015

CEREAL BAGS SHOULD come zip locked. Just sayin.'

September 2016

MY, HOW TIMES have changed. Destroy 18 minutes of tape in 1974 and you get impeached. Destroy 30,000 emails today and you get nominated.

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Things that once were **legal**, but are **illegal** today

Compiled By Vera Hogan

• METH

Like peyote, opium, LSD, mushrooms, heroin and ecstasy, meth used to be perfectly legal in the U.S.

You used to be able to get metamphetamines from your pharmacist to treat a number of ailments, including alcoholism, depression and narcolepsy.

The drug was FDA-approved in 1944 and became known as “Methedrine” in the 1950s.

Meth abuse became so common that the government passed the Controlled Substances Act to limit the sale of methedrine.

• DRINKING AND DRIVING

Driving while drunk has been prohibited for some time, but drinking while consuming alcohol was another matter.

You couldn't be already drunk when you got in the car, but you could drink in the car.

In 1998, the federal government began to enforce Open Container Laws to stop people from openly chugging on a beer while swerving into oncoming traffic.

• LOBOTOMIES

Partial lobotomies used to be considered an appropriate way to deal with mental illness — an encouraged procedure to handle schizophrenia, depression, suicidal tendencies and other unwanted social problems — like homosexuality.

The procedure became common in the early 20th century and could be enforced against the individual's will. The United States was the worldwide leader in lobotomies, performing between 40,000 and 50,000.

The practice was formally banned in 1967.

• DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In the 18th and 19th centuries, most states went by the “Rule of Thumb,” in which a man could legally beat his wife



as long as the instrument of abuse was “no wider than the thumb,” which obviously varies by the size of the hand and the gentleman.

Although many states moved to outlaw domestic violence by the end of the 1800s, others still considered it a “private matter” between a man and his

wife, and even those who did penalize partner abuse would only get involved if there was a witness.

• CHILD LABOR AND ABUSE

Childhood used to be a very different thing in the United States, as child labor and child slavery has been a common practice throughout our nation's history. Children used to be the preferred workforce of many industrial factory owners, as they were less likely to be involved in a union or strike than their adult counterparts.

Child labor wasn't regulated until 1938, but child abuse wouldn't be dealt with until 1974, with the Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act.

• MURDER

At one time, it was still legal to have someone killed in Russia. You couldn't kill someone, but you could have someone do it for you. This shouldn't have been that surprising — because murder was widely legal in the U.S., if you were killing the right person.

If a slavemaster were to execute one of his slaves, it wasn't seen or prosecuted as murder — because this was legally his property, and he could do with it what he liked.

In the case of Native Americans, murder wasn't just ignored; it was encouraged in many cases, with local governments offering rewards for the killing or capture of Native Americans.

• COCAINE

Cocaine was originally used in the late 1800s as a way to treat addiction to morphine, after being introduced onto the market in 1879. However, the drug quickly became a vice of its own, popping up in Victorian literature of the era.

In 1884, Sigmund Freud (a chronic coke user) even penned a love letter to cocaine, called “Uber Coca,” in which he praised the drug for its “exhilaration and lasting euphoria.”

• MAILING CHILDREN

When the parcel post service went into effect on Jan. 1, 1913, Americans were able to send all kinds of things through the mail.

When it was first introduced, the only regulations were that the shipment had to weigh less than 50 pounds. The industrious parents of May Pierstroff, a 4-year-old, decided to use this service to save money.

They mailed the little girl from her home in Grangeville, Idaho to her grandparents in Lewiston. Instead of paying for the more expensive train fare, they shelled out all of 53 cents for transit.

Upon learning about this case (and those of other child mailings), the U.S. Postmaster General quickly banned the mailing of humans.

• OWNING PEOPLE

Slavery was wildly common in antiquity, with up to one-third of the population of entire countries being enslaved. The first country to regulate slavery was Spain.

Denmark-Norway was the first country in Europe to outright ban the slave trade in 1803 — with Sweden swiftly following.

Although the U.S. wouldn't get around to banning slavery for another 60 years, China didn't ban slavery until 1906. The U.N. declared slavery a violation of global human rights in 1948.

Source: Thoughtcatalog.com



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our town

Meet
**FOSTER
CHILDS**
(A.K.A. 'THE KING')

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Once a week, Foster Childs, the Times' sometimes controversial columnist, angers, amuses, educates and entertains readers with his wit and wisdom, or lack thereof. As we celebrate our 61st anniversary, we thought we'd try to get a bit more personal information out of our elusive penman through our weekly *Our Town*.



media. They are no longer impartial journalists, they are propaganda machines for the left.

What issues don't you care about at all? No wi-fi on cruise ships. Too much traffic in Fenton (It's a sign of progress, get over it). The social significance of push-pin art.

Any random words of wisdom? Yes, I would like to share this definition of a father: 'A man who hopes his son grows up to be as good a man as he meant to be.'

Who are you voting for in the election? I'm not voting for anyone. I'm voting against someone.

What is one thing people don't know about you? Well, most people don't know that I have been arrested and thrown in jail on 13 different occasions — all in my younger days. But, on the bright side, I've hardly spent any time in prison.

Uh, okay. Let's move on. What's the biggest problem in the world today? Restaurants that automatically add an 18 percent tip to parties of eight or more, and the lack of quality teaching by our current dysfunctional college education system.

If you could grant one wish for all of humanity, what would it be? Here's three: Never re-elect any politician. Abolish the IRS. Feed every hungry child.

What is the best quote you have ever heard? It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a father.

What is the worst quote you have ever heard? Grow old with me, the best is yet to be. Bleccch!!!

Are you a real king, or self-proclaimed royalty? I'm not really a king. I have no penchant for funny hats or beheadings.

Is Foster Childs your real name? Yes. No. Maybe.

From which kingdom do you hail? California. I left in the '70s because it was obvious that America was tilting to the left, causing pretty much every person with a few loose screws to tumble into Southern California.

Do you have any tattoos? Yes, I have a two inch capital 'M' tattooed on each of my butt cheeks. Someone once told me when I bend over it reads "MoM."

Do you consider yourself a writer? Not really. A good writer is one who initiates change when he whispers. I tend to shout.

Do you have a queen? Oh yes, and she is definitely my better half. Despite being a king, I do what all husbands do — as I am told.

What possessed you to write a weekly column? Most people are simply a reflection of other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, someone else's deductions, someone else's viewpoints. I prefer to be the one shaping opinions, not the one regurgitating them.

What issues matter most to you?
1) The utter destruction of the American family unit due to single mothers,
2) The corruption of all politicians,
3) The dishonesty of the mainstream

"Most people don't know that I have been arrested and thrown in jail on 13 different occasions."

Oh no, it's
Leno and Letterman

■ Times front page was fodder for late-night laughs

The Tri-County Times did not escape Jay Leno's famous segment called "Headlines," where he would share with the audience some of the funniest newspaper, magazine and book headlines, and mail and advertisements, usually submitted by viewers.

On Nov. 29, 2004, Leno displayed a partial of the Tri-County Times Sunday, Oct. 3 front page.

The headline was "Bank robbery suspect caught." The front-page picture, regarding a completely unrelated event, was placed directly below the article about the robbery.

The photos shows Officer Bill Koryciak of the Argentine Police Department demonstrating to Ryan Stuhrber, a student at Argentine Elementary School at the time, how to escape a would-be kidnapper. In the photo, Officer Koryciak is leaning over, grabbing the child's arm.

Leno held the page up and said to the audience, "Yup, they got their man."

Leno became guest host of The Tonight Show in 1987 and — when Johnny Carson retired in 1992 — NBC chose Leno as his replacement. In 2009, after 17 years as host and an Emmy, Leno handed the show to Conan O'Brien.

Letterman got us, too!

Thanks to a couple of Fenton Township employees, Julie Lewis and Valerie



McDonald, an article published in the Tri-County Times on Feb. 10, 2002, wound up on display on the David Letterman Show on June 16, 2008.

The headline for the article was, "Man found dead in cemetery," written by Chad Walsh, a former staff writer. Lewis said when they sent it in, their letter said, "Isn't that where he is supposed to be?"

Lewis sent the clipping in a few years later, after she figured out online where to send it. She heard back from Steve Young, Letterman's employee who organizes the "Small Town" news segment.

As Letterman held up the clipping to his amused audience, he announced it was from the Tri-County Times newspaper in Fenton and said, "There ya go."

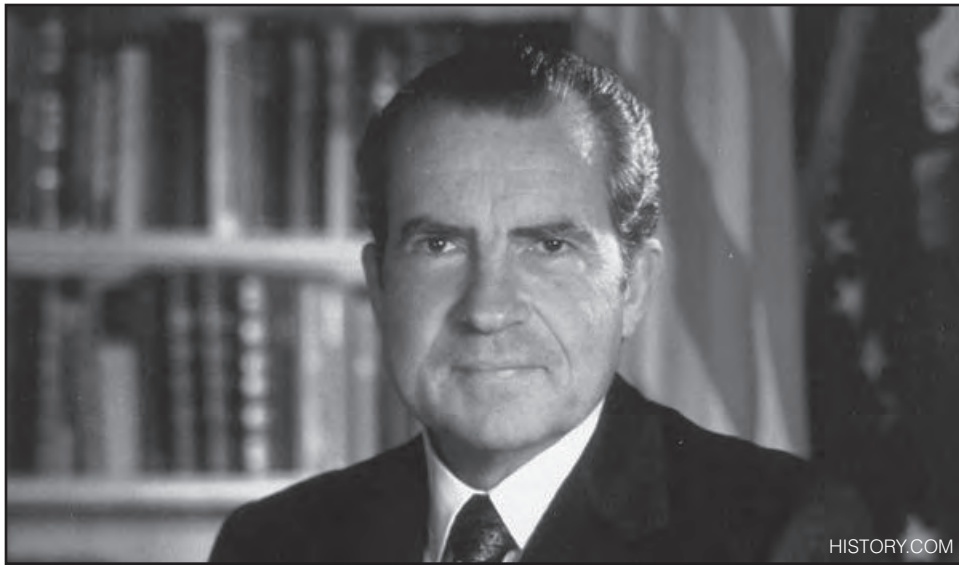
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People and events shape national news for 61 years

■ Lives are changed forever by people and events reported in national news every day

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The world today is a far different place than it was back in the 1950s. Many of the big news events of each decade since then have shaped our lives in ways we could never have imagined, had we not lived through them or learned about them in school.

Here's a flip through newspaper stories from national news events of each decade:

1950s

- Dr. Jonas Salk begins immunizing children against polio.
- The inter-state highway system begins with the signing of the Federal Aid Highway Act.
- Alaska and Hawaii become part of the U.S.
- Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the back of a bus to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama, igniting the civil rights movement in the U.S.

1960s

- President John F. Kennedy was assassinated shortly after noon on Nov. 22, 1963, as he rode in a motorcade in

downtown Dallas, Texas.

- Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins of Apollo 11 landed on the Moon on July 20, 1969, with Armstrong calling it "one giant leap for mankind."
- Martin Luther King delivered his "I have a dream" speech at the March on Washington on Aug. 23, 1963. He was later assassinated on April 4, 1968.
- Woodstock Music Fest brought 400,000 people to Yasur's Farm in New York State, Aug. 15-18, 1969.
- U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War escalated.

1970s

- The Watergate scandal occurred on June 17, 1972, when several burglars were arrested inside the Democratic National Committee offices, connected to President Richard Nixon's re-election campaign.
- President Nixon resigned from the presidency as a result of this scandal in August, 1974.
- The voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 in 1970.
- Technology advanced with the founding of Microsoft in 1975, the first test-tube baby and the creation of "Star Wars."

1980s

- The Cold War ended with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and President Reagan's famous challenging Soviet Union leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, in Berlin, Germany, to "Tear down this wall!"
- Iran-Iraq War began in 1980.
- U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger went up in flames immediately after takeoff on Jan. 28, 1986, killing all seven astronauts on board including teacher Christa McAuliffe.

• The first laptop was invented in 1981 by Adam Osborne and was known as the Osborne 1.

1990s

- The launch of the Hubble space telescope in April 1990 marked the most significant astronomical advance since Galileo's telescope.
- The O.J. Simpson trial in 1995 acquitted the former NFL star in the double murder case of his ex-wife, Nicole Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman.
- The Oklahoma City Bombing on April 15, 1995 caused massive damage to the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and killed 168 people, including 19 children.
- Ted Kaczynski, best known as the "Unabomber," was finally arrested in 1996 after a 20-year campaign of sending letter bombs that resulted in three fatalities.

2000s

- The Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda, forever known as 9/11, killed 2,996 people, injured more than 6,000 others and began the U.S. war on terror.
- U.S. captured Saddam Hussein on Dec. 13, 2003, after the former Iraqi dictator spent nine months on the run. He was executed in 2006.
- Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in Aug. 29, 2005, causing catastrophic damage to the region, shutting down refineries and increasing the price of oil and gasoline.
- The inauguration of the first black president of the U.S., Barack Obama, took place on Nov. 19, 2008.
- The financial crash in September 2008 resulted in a big bank bailout of more than \$700 billion from the U.S. Treasury Department.

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Where do we go from here?

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

The staff and management of the Tri-County Times are proud to have this opportunity to show you, our valued readers, where we've been and how far we've come over the past 61 years.

But where do we go from here?

First and foremost, we pledge to make sure we continue to be your primary source of information.

Our growing and experienced staff will bring you the news you need to know about the activities of local government and schools.

We promise to continue highlighting the achievements of local citizens, including families and children. We will be on top of crime as it occurs in order to provide you with the information you need to know to keep yourself and your families safe. And we will continue to be your source of information of local events and activities.

We also will be the vessel our valued

business owners need to promote their many goods and services. Our pages are their store shelves — please take a look at their advertisements and shop local as often as you can.

As technology changes, so will we adapt to those changes. Our website (www.tctimes.com) is now a daily news and information source, one where the site receives more than 190,000 unique visitors per day.

We also have a Facebook page, where stories often receive 40,000 to 60,000 page views.

In addition to our website and Facebook page, we also provide audio and video accounts of local news and events, and will continue to do so with the latest and greatest equipment available.

We hope to always bring Tri-County Times newspapers to our readers' doorsteps and mailboxes—but we will also roll with the changes and keep in sync with technology as it progresses.



DIVA

Continued from Page 8

journalism degree from Eastern Michigan University. She married Richard Rynearson in 1959 in Fenton. He preceded her in death in 1975.

The couple had four sons, twins Vince and Doug, Steve and Matt. Matt preceded his mother in death in 2006.

Jan worked for many newspapers including the Detroit News, Toledo Blade, the Farm Journal, the Fenton Independent and Tri-County Times. She also served as editor of the Durand Express for three years and was news editor for the then-local radio station WFEN for three years.

Devoted to her church, Jan was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton, where she served as a Eucharistic minister, was active in the St. John Education Commission, Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) and the annual St. John Applefest.

Jan also volunteered her time for many community and civic organizations, including

the Fenton Freedom Festival Parade for 19 years, serving on occasion as co-chairman and was the 2009 grand marshal.

She very rarely became upset about anything—but she would nearly lose her mind when the word marshal in grand marshal was misspelled—with two "I's."

As a features editor, Jan was very passionate about attending and reporting on as many Fenton activities as she could. She was known for her kindness, style, elegance and grace. She may be gone, but she will never be forgotten in what she proudly and often called "Our town."



1955

Continued from Page 6

• McDonald's debuts

In 1954, Ray Kroc visited a restaurant in San Bernardino, California. There he found a small but successful restaurant run by brothers Dick and Mac McDonald, and was stunned by



the effectiveness of their operation. Kroc saw an opportunity there. In 1955, he founded McDonald's System, Inc., a predecessor of the McDonald's Corporation. The first McDonald's was opened in Des Plaines, Illinois. By 1958, McDonald's had sold its 100 millionth hamburger.

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23-YEAR-OLD
Continued from Page 3

& Sons Publishing and Allied Media. Due to the growth and success of Rockman's companies, it was necessary to construct yet another facility on Fenway Drive, adjacent to the original building. The Tri-County Times moved into the new, state-of-the-art offices in December 2006.

"As one of the very few privately owned family newspapers left in the United States, we face challenges every day from multi-billion dollar corporations," Rockman said in 2007. "I may be just a little guy to them, but this is my home and I will stay here as long as the residents and businesses continue to support me. I've had to fight for everything my entire life, I'm sure as hell not going to stop now."

Sadly, Rockman did stop, when he lost his battle with Parkinson's disease on March 2, 2011. His passing was a huge loss to his family, friends, employees and the community. But thanks to his family and a dedicated staff, the newspaper continues publishing successfully as he would have liked.

The Rockman family continues to own and operate the Tri-County Times. "We're very fortunate to have a talented and dedicated staff at the Times who operate the paper as if it were their own. They are the individuals responsible for the Times being awarded 'Michigan Newspaper of the Year' for the past three years. It's basically the same staff that worked with dad for so many years," said Craig Rockman, publisher. "Dad would be as proud and appreciative of them as we are."

BIG NEWS

Continued from Page 5

Fenton, costs to the city government were around \$700,000.

•Eli Florence story gets national attention (2007)

Eli Florence, a young Lake Fenton High School teen fought a courageous four-year fight with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia. In the fall of 2007, members of the male Lake Fenton High School senior homecoming court (David Bittinger, Ethan Merivirta, Lucas Hasenfratz, Matthew Taneyhill and Jake Kirk) showed the world how big their hearts were by giving up their chance to be Homecoming King, giving the crown to Eli. Their generosity landed them some national news coverage, including ESPN. Eli lost his battle with the disease on Oct. 14, 2007.

•Randa Jawhari went missing (2009)

There is still no sign of Randa Jawhari, a Fenton woman who vanished without a trace, sometime during the very late night hours of Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009 and early morning hours of Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2009. Jawhari, 43, was reported missing Feb. 11 after her mother went to her Shiawassee Avenue apartment and found the apartment empty. Jawhari had lived there for about five months. She kept in touch with her large family constantly by using her apartment phone. A search of Randa's apartment did not provide any clues as to her whereabouts.

All neighbors living at the complex at the time of the disappearance, and the landlord were questioned. A video surveillance camera, triggered by a motion-detecting light, did not show Randa in the parking lot during the night or early morning.

•Dominick Calhoun beaten to death (2010)

Another local tragedy resulted in the strengthening of child abuse laws in Michigan. "Dominick's Law" was signed into legislation in June 2012. Dominick Calhoun was only 4 years old when he was beaten to death in 2010, in the presence of his older brother. He was killed for wetting his pants. Dominick's mother, Corrine Baker, 27, was sentenced to 13 to 30 years in prison for not protecting her son from her boyfriend, Brandon Hayes, who is serving a 100- to 150-year prison sentence.

•F2 tornado ravages Fenton Township properties (2013)

An F2 tornado ripped through various areas in Genesee County, including the area along Jennings and Thompson roads, in late May 2013. In addition to uprooted trees, several homes were damaged. The township estimated the damage to homes and property to be between \$650,000 and \$850,000.

•State trooper killed while on patrol (2015)

The funeral of Michigan State Police Trooper Chad Wolf, 38, of Fenton resulted in police from around the

country attending his funeral. Wolf was on patrol with his department-issued motorcycle on Aug. 28, 2015, driving on Dixie Highway near I-75 in Springfield Township at approximately 6:30 a.m. when a passenger vehicle towing a trailer collided with his motorcycle. Wolf was dragged for several miles before the driver stopped at the Davisburg rest stop north of Springfield Township. Wolf died later that day at Genesys Health Park in Grand Blanc Township. The driver has been charged with reckless driving resulting in death and leaving the scene of an accident when at fault — resulting in death. The case is still pending in the court system.

•Man found dead in home year later (2015)

Gary Richard Buys, 69, was found dead in his Tyrone Township home in October of 2015. Based on the level of decomposition, authorities believe he had been dead for more than a year. Multiple news organizations, as far away as Texas and the UK contacted the Times

for permission to reprint the story.

•Linden High School shooting plot (2015)

Three teens, Ryan Stevens, 18, of Linden, Kody Brewer, 15, of Wolverine Lake (formerly of Linden), and Lamarr Dukes, 15, of WestBloomfield were charged with conspiracy to commit first-degree, premeditated murder, a felony punishable by up to life in prison and false report or threat of terrorism,

a felony that could have been punishable by up to 20 years in prison. The incident occurred on Oct. 27, 2015, over a series of Instagram posts, direct messages and text messages, which suggested there might be a shooting at the school perpetrated by the three teens. The court cases are still pending.

•LaJoice embezzlement shocker (2016)

The Fenton area was shocked when it was discovered that Michael LaJoice, 37, owner of now-closed Chassé Ballroom & Latin Dance Studio, embezzled \$20 million from the credit union where he was employed as the chief financial officer. LaJoice turned himself into authorities on Jan. 6 and admitted to the crime. The case is still pending in the court system.

•Quasarano family deaths (2016)

On Feb. 21, 2016, Heather, 39 and Len, 35, Quasarano, along with their four children, Luke, 11, Brenden, 9, Rachel, 7, and Grant, who would have turned 2 on March 4, were discovered in their Stony Brook Pass home in Fenton Township. They had died sometime over the weekend from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning. Their deaths resulted in a surge of carbon monoxide detector sales, and people in the community taking action to raise money for carbon monoxide detectors for those who can't afford them.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

The \$20 million embezzlement case involving Michael LaJoice of Tyrone Township is still working its way through the courts.

URBAN RENEWAL

Continued from Page 4

after the square was destroyed by the removal of the stores and the re-opening of LeRoy Street.

In 1996, while the Fenton Master Plan was updated, one of the key questions was what to do with downtown.

Both Dancers and Ideal Pharmacy were still located there, but would soon close their operations. As part of that master planning effort, a 'design charrette' was conducted on Oct. 19 (1996) with over 50 residents, city officials, business operators, and property owners in attendance.

The overwhelming response was that North LeRoy Street should be re-opened and a traditional downtown created.

This vision for downtown Fenton has remained intact over the years and been further refined and supported in the Master

Plan updates of 2002 and 2008, as well as the Downtown Master Plan and Design Guidelines of 2007.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) needed to build up enough tax capture to pay for new projects needed to stimulate private investment, like the Fenton Fire Hall Restaurant and the new Cornerstone building.

Fenton City officials have not allowed inappropriate development to take place, such as the suburban CVS that wanted to locate where the Cornerstone building now stands.

The city has benefited from private investment in businesses like The Laundry, The Fenton House, CRUST, Fenton Hotel (Tavern & Grille). Today, SkyPoint Ventures and Rhoads & Johnson have invested in the future of the downtown.

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