

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

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Borealis is published by Northern Michigan Mensa (3/496) once each month under the auspices of its Executive Committee.

After mandatory items, priority in the newsletter is given to matters appealing to members of the group which relate to their membership in Mensa. The content of the newsletter shall appeal to the general membership of Northern Michigan Mensa.

The newsletter shall not include matters which are indecent, scandalous, libelous, or invade someone's privacy, nor shall copyrighted material be used without the permission of the owner. Ethnic, racist, sexist, or religious slurs shall not be printed. Northern Michigan Mensa recognizes that the newsletter is addressed to both minors and adults; material printed will be appropriate for distribution to minors.

All matters submitted to the editor shall be subject to editing for content, style, and space limitations, except when a person submits material with a restriction that it be published "as is or not at all". In such cases, it will include an editor's note stating it as such.

That a person has written and submitted something to the newsletter is not, in itself, sufficient reason for its publication. It is the editor's discretion whether to publish any submission, with the exception of mandatory items.

All submissions are welcome and encouraged. They may be sent via email or snail mail. They may be sent as attachments or in the body of the email.

Submissions requiring major editing are also welcome. If requested, the author may approve the editing before the article is published.

Photographs are also welcome. Please include a brief description of the photo, and the name of the photographer. You may also include an entire article to accompany the photo.

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ON THE COVER: A group of members and their families relax at the annual picnic held at the home of Jill Daniels. Look for other photos on p.8. Photo by Jack Schultz.

Northern Michigan Mensa

October 2006 Calendar

BIBIOMENSANS – Saturday, 7 October, 2006 at 12:30 p.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den. The book for discussion this month is *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. This group is open to all members, attendance can be each meeting, or only for those meetings that present books in which you have an interest.

Crystal River Canoe/Kayak Trip - Sunday, 8 October 2006 - 2:00pm - Crystal River, Leelanau County, near Glen Arbor

We'll make the two- to three-hour trip down the Crystal River and will begin where the river starts its run near the junction of County Road 675 and the road which leads to the Glen Lake Marina (on the north side of Glen Lake). If you come directly from Traverse City via M-72, turn onto County Road 677 (also called Valley Road) just beyond the Sleepy Bear Campground and go due north to M-22 and then across the "Narrows" at Glen Lake. This will take you into the village of Glen Arbor. Continue on M-22, through the village, and then (about a half mile from the edge of the village) turn right onto CR 675. Follow it for about a mile and watch for the MENSA sign near where we'll begin the trip. Our starting point will be just east of where Westman Road comes in from the north. **Note: the trip will be canceled if it is raining around noon and/or if the forecast is for rain that afternoon.**

If you have your own canoe or kayak, you can go directly to the starting point. Try to be there no later than 2 p.m. If you need to rent a canoe or kayak, you may do so in Glen Arbor at Crystal River Outfitters, which is right on the Crystal River just east of "downtown" Glen Arbor. They provide shuttle service from their place to where we will be starting, but you'll have to work out the details with them beforehand. Phone them ahead of time at 231-642-7997 and be sure to visit their web site: www.crystalriveroutfitters.com. You drop off your canoe or kayak at their business place at the end of the trip. (The rest of us who do not rent equipment will continue on to where CR 675 meets M-22 and end the trip there. One vehicle left at that point will serve to shuttle people back to their cars. You can contact Jack Schultz (phone 231-275-6735 or email at nwoodpc@chartermi.net) for further details

Brunch - Saturday, 14 October 2006 - 11:00am - We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. We will hold our gathering in the Papa's Den which is on the right as you enter the front door.

TGIF - Friday, 27 October 2006 - 6pm. (Note location)

We will meet again at Borders Books, 2612 Crossings Circle (Wal-Mart Plaza next to Toys R Us), Traverse City. We will meet in the cafe area. They have many beverages, pastries and cookies available.

Halloween Potluck Party - Saturday, 28 October 2006 - 5:00 pm - whenever Another.....Howling....good time! We will meet at the home of Patty Paternel, 625 W. Ninth St, Traverse City. Costumes are optional, but highly recommended! BYO Drinks. Please RSVP to 231-633-2799.

Member News

Happy October Birthdays

9	Ruth Minshull
17	Thomas MacNeill Barnhart
18	Patricia Lynne Paternel
27	Karen Kennedy Elissa J Laskey

Mensa Membership Milestones (years of continuous membership)

8 Years	Gary L McWhirter
5 Years	John H Morgan

National Testing Day

American Mensa's ninth annual Mensa Testing Day is coming up on Saturday, Oct. 21. In past years as many as 1,600 people have challenged themselves by taking the Mensa Admission Test on the same day around the country. If you know of someone whom you think might be a good candidate for Mensa, be sure to let our proctor coordinator, Jack Schultz, know about them. His phone is 231-275-6735. More information about national testing day is on the Northern Michigan Mensa web site: www.nmm.us.mensa.org.

Correction

The date information for the cover of the printed version of the last issue was incorrect showing "August" rather than "September".

Cops, Criminals, and a Cass Street Intersection

By Sherry McNamara

Many of you know that I manage the Grand Traverse County Prosecuting Attorney's office. As with many jobs, we sometimes feel like our daily duties are repetitions of the day before and the day before that, etc. I'll admit my job is sometimes like that too.

Most days I see lots of police officers, hear about the latest warrant requests and arrests, talk to the media, answer a question, calm an employee who is mad at a co-worker, fix stuff, answer another question, troubleshoot something, answer another question...now that I think about it, I answer an awful lot of questions. Questions about which schedule a particular drug is assigned to by the DEA, whether we do HIV testing on all cases involving touching, whether someone can leave early because her mother needs some tests, where the file on the Johnson case is located, why an employee's number 5 key fell off their laptop and won't go back on, why someone else's computer is acting "funny," whether I would explain to one of the attorneys that they subpoenaed someone that says she doesn't know anything about the case etc. In fact, these are all real questions and most of those were from a recent Friday!

Seems pretty mundane, but once in awhile, something interesting comes along. This question arose because of a new building for the district, probate, and family courts being built on Washington Street and my office had to respond to an Attorney General question about that project. The question was, "Did Washington Street once end at the Boardman River as the most current plat map on file from 1852 depicts? If so, when and how was it changed to intersect with Cass Street?" The final response to this question was a five page memorandum that included eighteen pages of photographs and diagrams supporting the answer, so I will try to make this short.

My first days of research began at the Heritage Center on Sixth Street to see if I could find any photos of the area that might confirm that Washington and Cass did not intersect at one time. I didn't find any, but did find that views of the Cass Street bridge and the river which were significantly different in the past. The bridge was wood and the expanse of the river was amazingly wide. It was eventually narrowed by upwards of 60 feet!

Then I went to the Traverse Area District Library and searched through the microfilm of old editions of the Evening Record, now known as the Record-Eagle. Most anything of interest that was happening in the city was announced in the paper. I searched the Grand Traverse Register of Deeds, Traverse City

Planning, talked to Tom Donley (87 years old) and Julius Petertyl (102 years old) who are life-long residents of Traverse City, looked at microfiche at the Traverse City Assessor's office and sought historical records of Central United Methodist Church. (Did you know that microfilm is on a reel and that microfiche is on pieces of film the size of 3 x 5 cards? I only learned that during this project.)

Anyway, it was interesting to find out that Washington Street did end at the Boardman River in the mid 1800s. In fact, the river extended into the land that is now the American Legion Park which sits on the south-east side of the Washington-Cass intersection. This park was created here because the American Legion Hall sat across the street and the Traverse City Council wanted to create a nice park for men returning from overseas during and after the World War.

You are probably wondering how they could create this park in the river. Well, two things happened. The first and the one that I can hardly believe was allowed let alone encouraged and requested by city officials, was that people and businesses dump sand, ashes, dirt from excavations, and other debris over the banks of the river at that location. This action was called for at council meetings and advertised in the newspaper. This process subsequently began to fill in the bottomlands and eventually created solid ground where there once was water. The second thing that transpired was that Perry Hannah and Albert Lay deeded a triangular portion of land from several of their lots located in city Block #7 (that area is currently a parking lot on the north-east corner of the intersection). This deed was for the sole purpose of extending Washington to create the intersection. But, I still didn't know when they actually extended it.

From Central United Methodist Church I obtained a photograph taken in August 1912 depicting the laying of the cornerstone of the church. Fortunately, this photo showed a column had already been built and a subsequent walk to the church, with some pushing aside of bushes, allowed me to find this part. Discovering that allowed me to determine the placement of the photographer when he shot the picture. This location did two more things; it showed that what I had hoped was a view of Washington Street in the foreground with cars parked along it was really Cass. But, and more importantly, when looking very closely with the aid of a magnifying glass, it was apparent that there was a car or horse and buggy parked along what is now Washington Street which, but for the bricks for the church which were laying in the street, certainly was connected with Cass by this time.

Finally, I also found evidence of another map drawn in 1908, but never recorded, which showed the intersection as it looks today. Historically, people

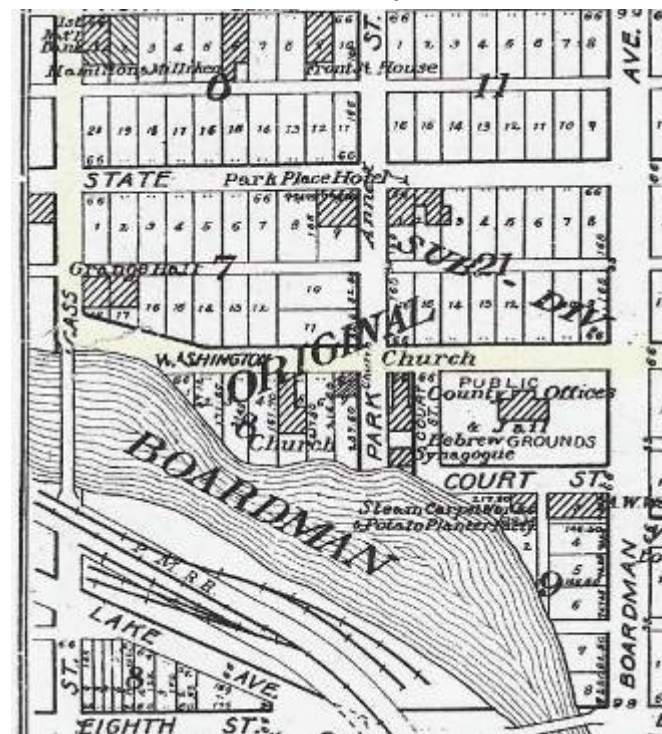
did not record new plat maps when changes of such property improvements as electrical lines, sewer lines, easements, and even re-routing of streets occurred. These were typically done with a handshake in a town where everyone knew each other and cops and criminals were less prevalent than they are today.

My interviews of Donley and Petertyl confirmed that during their lives and memories, Washington Street always intersected Cass. Of course, that is not completely true since it would not have when Mr. Petertyl was very young. But, Donley remembers he dated a girl that lived on Washington and Petertyl was a paperboy for that street, and as far back as they could remember it looked like it does today.

There is no doubt that the intersection had to be constructed between 1883 when the land for it was deeded to the city and 1908 when the map depicts the completed intersection. In 1904 the City Council meeting minutes discuss the plan to extend the walk from the bridge to the present walk on the existing part of the street. Therefore, sometime in the fair weather months of 1903 or early 1904 was the likely date that the street was extended by confirmation of the City Council minutes of 1906 when Washington was paved and is situated as you know it today, intersecting Cass Street with a nice park on the riverbank.

Ed. Note: The following maps are both oriented so that North is at the top. The old map has the lettering inverted.

Traverse City 1908



Traverse City c.1852



Regional Vice Chair

RVC Thoughts By Dave Swanka

Does any one reading this think I need a catchy title? If you do, I'm open to suggestions. Otherwise, it's RVC Thoughts. I really can't even put a month to it. Some editors will print it the month I write it and others the following month - small details. Speaking of small details, with Mensa Testing Day coming up soon, are all of you who wish to participate doing so? If not having an available proctor is holding you back, let me know pronto and I'll see if one can't be secured from a neighboring group. This is the kind of situation which I really can help out with.

The other program coming up soon is the Scholarship Essay Contest. The deadline is past for participating this year, but if lack of finding a chairperson to administer the contest locally held you back, I whole heartedly suggest looking now for next year's. This is not one of the easier positions to find a volunteer for. A lot of members don't fully understand how the contest works, and many like the idea of having scholarships, but don't like the essay contest part of it. It is a method to reach out to the public and positively impact someone's scholastic goals, though. Redouble your efforts to participate in next year's.

Pittsburgh's RG is behind us, East Central Ohio's is just a few weeks away, and Cincinnati's will be here in no time. As I've said before, it takes a lot of work to make these happen. The hospitality room takes especially a lot of work, both planning and actual labor. My thanks to all those hard working members in Pittsburgh who extended such warm hospitality to all in attendance. Special thanks to Virginia and Bob, who both seemed to be forever replenishing the snacks and putting the beverages on ice. If anyone is looking for a really good coleslaw recipe, ask Virginia to share it with you (the dried cranberries made it). This was definitely a new twist to an old dish.

Most groups have their local elections in Fall, so many of you can participate in these. This is probably the single most important event you as a member can participate in. Run for an office, serve on a committee, or at the very least, vote. Many of you who are shy about attending events because you don't know other members, don't realize that becoming involved in the governance of your group is the quickest way to meet folks. It really works. Most boards meet quarterly, some committees only a couple of times a year. This is small price in time to pay for meeting some dynamic people in your local group.

As always, please share your concerns with me. For all of you local officers, let me know any areas where you think there is room for improvement. For the general membership, how can I as RVC and your AMC representative, make your membership in Mensa a more rewarding experience? I don't dismiss suggestions and ideas out of hand. Share yours with me. Enjoy the coming Fall weather wherever you're at (here in Buffalo, the tell tale crisp mornings and cooling of Lake Erie portend that Fall is very near). Hope to hear from you.

Annual Picnic

The annual picnic, held again this year at the home of Jill Daniels, was very well attended. A group of 30 enjoyed the pot-luck dinner and much conversation and for some - a dip in the lake. Photos by Jack Schultz and Stan Cain.

