

# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 Borealis  
Northern Michigan Mensa

[www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

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### **Mensa:**

Mensa's constitution lists three purposes: to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity; to encourage research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence; and to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.

Mensa accepts individuals who score at or above the 98th percentile on certain standardized IQ tests, such as the Stanford-Binet.

**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 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.

### **Deadline:**

The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before the month of publication. Submissions received after that time may be considered if time and space permit.

### **Advertising:**

At this time Borealis does not accept advertising from either members or non-members.

### **Email:**

[nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com)

### **US mail:**

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

ON THE COVER: A Rural scene in Northern Michigan. Photo by John Porter

# Northern Michigan Mensa

## March 2008 Calendar

### BOOK CLUB – Saturday, 5 April, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

This month the book for discussion is *The King of Torts* by John Grisham, presented by Stan Cain. Please plan to attend for another lively discussion!! We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City.

### BRUNCH - Saturday, 12 April, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City in the Papa's Den which is on the right as you enter the front door.

### TGIF – Friday, 25 April, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

This is our monthly, end-of-the week get together to unwind and chat. We will meet in the Horizon Shine Café located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 Front Street, Traverse City. They have coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps and desserts available.

### Culture Quest XIX, Sunday, 27 April, 2008 at 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Two NMM teams will be competing for national honors in this event. Afterward, about 6:00 p.m., we will meet for dinner at The Cottage Cafe to hash over the questions and relax. All members are invited to attend the dinner.

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## Member News

### Happy April Birthdays

7	John Douglass Whyte	18	Ronald J Coleman
10	John G Swartout	22	Jonathan D Nelson
16	Dorothy Vogel	23	P F Curtiss

### Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of Continuous Membership)

<b>43 Years</b>	Norma Hastings Feeley	<b>6 Years</b>	Marc Batway
<b>24 Years</b>	Cheri Marie Gabriel	<b>4 Years</b>	Carol J Crawford
<b>18 Years</b>	Thomas MacNeill Barnhart	<b>2 Years</b>	Robert R Nelson
<b>9 Years</b>	John D Schultz	<b>2 Years</b>	Kymberli A Wregglesworth
<b>7 Years</b>	M Barton	<b>1 Year</b>	Ronald J Coleman
<b>7 Years</b>	Ralph K Hillquist		

## Welcome to Northern Michigan Mensa

Heather J Gruenberg      C Philport      Erik A Snyder

## Welcome back to Northern Michigan Mensa

B Blasius      Robert Hawley      Sherry L Saites

### February 2008 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	54711	100
New and reinstating membership	950	6
Offers of membership	372	1
New members since April 2007	4186	13
Reinstating members since April 2007	3416	17
Members leaving group		3

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 2/29/08. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, go to [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

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### Interlochen March 4 Pledge Drive Volunteers

From Left to right: Jack Schultz, Jim McDermott, Pete Turkus, Lou Isabell and Joan Jackson. Photo by Michael Jackson.



### March Brunch

Attendees: clockwise from front: Ken Bryson, Pete Turkus, Melissa Rennie, John Flesher (speaker), Stan Cain, Bobbi Walker, Jim McDermott, Heather Gruenberg, Tom Barnhart and Joan Dasef.

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## The LocSec's Login

By Jack Schultz  
NMM LocSec

Running to the wire, that's what the month of February seemed to be like for Northern Michigan Mensa. When we received the list of members from Mensa's national office at the end of the month, we were pleased to see the names of six new and renewing members – Breanna Blasius (Harbor Springs), Heather Gruenberg (Traverse City), Robert Hawley (Arcadia), Chase Philport (Harbor Springs), Sherry Saites (Ludington), and Erik Snyder (Gaylord). Other than the month or two immediately after Mensa's membership year closes at the end of March, when many haven't yet renewed, we usually don't see such a surge in membership numbers. Although we lost three members because they moved away from northern Michigan during February, we still ended the month with 100 members. This puts us on track to end the membership year with a total that may equal or exceed the highest number our group has had since it came into existence in 2002. As this issue of Borealis goes to press, we have already added Bernard Hanchett (Traverse City) and Susan Kraus (Manton) as new members during March. Now, the hard work of retaining all 38 of those whose

membership expires at the end of March is under way...so please send in those renewals.

### Recent and Coming Events

We had a very successful "first" for NMM during March. John Flesher, the Associated Press correspondent for northern Michigan, attended our brunch and spoke to us about environmental matters affecting all of Michigan, but the northern part in particular. Much of his presentation involved water issues. Lively discussion carried on for well past the normal time allocated for our brunches. John told us about how the Associated Press functions and, for most of us, it was eye-opening. I began this paragraph by mentioning the word "first." Well, way back in the very early days of the Traverse City Area Subgroup of Western Michigan Mensa, we regularly had brunches at which speakers shared information with us; however, this is the first time we've had a speaker since NMM was formed. Response to John's message was very positive, so it is likely we will schedule other brunch speakers later on this year. Only two of us attended the Question-and-Answer session at The Writing House at the Interlochen Center for the Arts during March. Short story writer Pam Houston shared her observations about how she approaches writing as well as the nitty gritty of how a writer make his or her way in the world. The interaction between the writer and the large group of students who take courses in creative writing at the Arts Academy was worthwhile observing. Jim McDermott and I both marveled at what an experience this probably was for students in high school. No further events of this sort are scheduled for this school year but we will keep you posted about them when the 2008-2009 school year begins.

Mensa's annual Culture Quest is coming up on Sunday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, and we have two teams signed up. One will be captained by Stan Cain and the other by Dorothy Vogel. Immediately after the competition takes place, all of us – all members of NMM-- are invited to join in for supper and a post-CQ crying session and general obsession over whether or not we'll compete another year. That gathering will take place at The Cottage Café in Traverse City, beginning at 6 p.m. Remember, ALL members of NMM are invited to attend.

I'm still hoping we can find someone (or two) to step forward to volunteer as "starters" for subgroups within Northern Michigan Mensa. About 30 members live north or east of Traverse City and it would seem, surely, that a viable subgroup could be established in the Charlevoix-Petoskey-Harbor Springs area. Gaylord actually is home to five or six members also, so maybe it could be the focal point for the area north of Traverse City.

Until next time, please keep thinking of ways we can make NMM more valuable to you as members.

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# The War Years

By Stan Cain

For many years, the words “old timer” brought to my mind a picture of Gabby Hayes – who, with scraggly white hair and a scruffy white beard, played in westerns when I was growing up in the 40s. I realize now that I am probably older than he was in those movies. Well, I don’t have a scruffy white beard but, with a little effort (or lack of effort), I could. Old timers are good for reminding us of how things used to be.

There are many differences between the society that existed at that time and what we have today. The obvious things were no TV or computers, and no vast suburbs and interstate highways. However there were many other less remembered differences. A lot of the things I remember about the 40s had to do with the war (WW II).

## Rationing

One result of the war was a real shortage of what we think of as necessities; bicycles, butter, canned food, coffee, gasoline, jelly and jam, meat, shoes, sugar and tires. Rationing was implemented in 1942 and the number of rationed items steadily increased. A government run system controlled by several agencies (the War Food administration, the War Production Board and the Petroleum Administration for War) provided ration books, stamps and points (Figs. 1, 2 & 5), which had to be handed in when buying rationed items. There was a black market for hard to get items and people tended to hoard stuff that might become rationed in the future. Since tires were rationed, people tended to have old tires recapped (a new tread applied over the old casing) and tires with bad punctures or thin spots, were fitted with “boots” (a piece of rubber between the tube and the bad spot). With tires like this, it was probably a good thing that all states had lowered speed limits to 35 to conserve fuel and rubber. If you were caught speeding, instead of a ticket, you lost gas ration stamps!

## Segregation

One effect of the war on the Detroit area (where I grew up) was a large increase in the black (“Negro” or “colored”) population. About 300,000 whites and Negroes had migrated to Detroit during the early war years seeking high paying jobs in the war industries and causing a housing shortage. Detroit housing was relatively segregated at that time with Negroes tending to live in certain, usually less affluent, areas. Newspaper advertising recognized this (Fig. 3) but due to increased population pressure, the Negro areas tended to gradually expand into formerly white areas. Friction between the races developed and in June 1943,

one of a number of race riots in the country took place in Detroit. Before it was over, 35 people were killed and over 600 injured. Race riots also occurred in Los Angeles, Beaumont, TX and New York City that summer. Advertising was not only segregated by race but also by sex with jobs advertised for men and others for women (Fig. 4).

## Censorship

Many people today are alarmed by the thought of the government reading their communications. During the war, censorship and reading of any overseas communications was a legalized fact of life and controlled by the Office of Censorship which reported only to the president. Newspapers and radio stations were strongly constrained from disseminating any information such as weather reports that the government thought would give any aid to the enemy. Letters sent to overseas areas could be opened, offending material blacked out and the letters sent on their way. Letters to and from military personnel were handled by the armed services themselves and were also censored.

## Civilian preparedness

My father volunteered to be an air raid warden. From what I remember, he was issued a gas mask and went out on patrols in the neighborhood to check that no lights were showing from windows at night. This meant of course that if you wanted to have your lights on, you needed blackout shades – opaque window shades to be pulled down at night. We had those at my school too and also a bomb shelter (coat room) to go to during air raid drills. War Bonds were also sold to finance the war and in schools, war stamps were sold to kids for 25 cents. Stamps were pasted into books to ultimately be exchanged for a \$25 E-bond.

## Past and Future

With the current wars in progress, I wonder if our government leaders are thinking about resurrecting some of the restrictions of previous wars. I’m thinking that there is an office or two somewhere in Washington, with people working on draft notices and ration cards. Could it be possible?

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Figure 1. Food ration stamps - 1943

**IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Coupons can be used only in connection with the vehicle described on the front cover. Detached coupons are VOID.
2. If you stop using your car, this book and all unused coupons must be surrendered to your Board within 5 days.
3. If you sell your car, this book and all unused coupons must be surrendered to your Board. The purchaser will not be issued a gasoline ration unless he presents the receipt which you receive at the time of such surrender.

★ GPO

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**A BASIC MILEAGE RATION**  
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
 OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

NAME OF REGISTERED OWNER  
*Robert Cain*

ADDRESS—NUMBER AND STREET  
*591 Paper*

CITY AND STATE  
*Detroit 15 Mich*

LICENSE No. AND STATE  
*BZ 1014*

YEAR MODEL AND MAKE  
*1934 Terraplane*

Holder must fill in any blank spaces above before the first purchase of gasoline.

M 0346043

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OPA FORM R-525 C M 0346043  
 MILEAGE **A17**  
 (License No.) (State)

OPA FORM R-525 C M 0346043  
 MILEAGE **A17**  
 (License No.) (State)

OPA FORM R-525 C M 0346043  
 MILEAGE **A17**  
 (License No.) (State)

OPA FORM R-525 C M 0346043  
 MILEAGE **A17**  
 (License No.) (State)

Figure 2. Auto Gasoline Ration coupons

**COMPLETE REAL ESTATE Service.**  
 Seldon & Johnson, Inc. Four Offices.

**NEW HOUSES FOR SALE**

**A COMPLETE SELECTION**  
 Ready to move in, 2 or 3 bedrooms. All in convenient locations; \$500 down buys new 3-bedroom home with rec. room near Gratiot-7 Mile. Call us today.

**TURNER & WILSON**  
 12844 East 8 Mile PR 1696

**BARLOW, 2 BLKS. S. OF 8 MILE**  
 3 bedrooms; large lots; close to schools; good transportation; large recreation space; a roomy house; only \$6,000; \$600 down. OPEN AFTERNOONS. A. HOLSTER, 14503 E. 8 Mile. PL 4409.

**GRATIOT-8 MILE SEC.**  
 New 3-bedroom models; ready to move in. Close to schools, stores, trans. The features, rec. space; \$6,000. FHA terms. A. HOLSTER, 14503 E. 8 Mile. TU 2-7733.

**SALEM—N. of 6 Mile, W of Telegraph Rd. Open. 20 new homes.**  
 NU-BUILT HOMES—HO 1424

**HOUSES FOR SALE—EAST**

A NEAT small home, excellent location; near Harper-8 Mile; immediate possession; only \$2,800. \$750 down. 825 mo. Boyer Real Estate, 20911 Harper. TU 4-8920.

ALCOY, 20552—Brick, 2 bedrooms.

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**10% DOWN**

Brainard, 1924, 10 rms.....\$3,750  
 Cicotte, 4505, 6 rms..... 2,950  
 Detroit, 17221, 6 rms..... 2,500  
 National, 3535, 8 rms..... 3,000  
 Vermont, 1758, 7 rms..... 2,750  
 OWNER, 1338 DIME BLDG. CA 0008

3 RMS., bath; recond.; \$3,000, \$500 dn.; vacant. Horkins, 21145 Fenkell.

**COLORED—Two 4-family, six; hot air heat; 521, 662 Hendrie. Good income; \$2,500 down. Also 6 rooms, steam; 2062 Cody; \$1,000 down. Davidson, TR 1-6439.**

**COLORED—BEGOLE, nr. TIREMAN**  
 6 rooms, newly decorated in and out, inlaid linoleum, ven. blinds, full base't, H. A. ht. Poss'n July 1; \$6,000, \$2,000 dn. CRUTCHER, 4764 McGraw. TY 5-8366, TY 4-0204.

**COLORED bargains! Taft; 9 rms., hot air heat, 2-car gar.; \$1,500 dn. ROOSEVELT - WARREN; 6 rooms, steam heat, \$1,250 down. VACANT. SLOBIN TR 1-0366, TY 7-7115**

**COLORED—Baltimore, 325, 2-fam. brk., \$1,500 dn., terms. Conner, 2-fam., separate furnaces, \$5,500, terms. 990 E. Willis, 7 rms., \$1,000 dn., quick poss. Cannon Bros., 1930 Sherman. FI 0140.**

**COLORED—BARGAIN**  
 Williams—8-room frame; steam heat. Price \$4,000, \$800 down; west side. Broker. ME 9763, TY 5-5061.

Figure 3. Detroit Times 6 June 1944 - Housing ad

**JONES EMPLOYMENT, 4116 Beau-bien.** Colored — Factory workers, hotel, cafe counter girls, maids, office workers; \$25-\$30-\$35. CO 1010.

**FEMALE HELP WANTED**

ABLE high school graduate who knows shorthand to assist office mgr.; permanent future, good pay, short hours. H. J. HESSE, REALTOR, 2410 Eaton Tower, CA 0468.

ACCOUNTING clerk. Detrex Corp., 13005 Hillview, near Fenkell and Meyers.

AIRCRAFT riveting trainees, machine operators, bench hands. De Soto Division, Chrysler Corp., Wyoming at Michigan.

ALTERATION Sewers on Coats, Suits and Dresses; full-time or part-time positions. Apply Employment Dept., 7th floor. Kline's, 1229 Woodward.

ARC welders on navy landing craft; 58-hour week; high rate of pay. Whitehead & Kales Co., Jefferson at Coolidge, River Rouge.

ARTIST—We have an opening for artist experienced in photo tinting. Apply Emp. Office, 14th floor, The J. L. Hudson Co.

ASSEMBLERS, material handlers and bench hand workers; essential war work. Electromaster, Inc., 1803 East Atwater, near Jefferson.

BILLING typist. Detrex Corp., 13005 Hillview, near Fenkell and Meyers.

work; no experience necessary; full or part time; steady work, good wages. Ockford Printing Co., 608 Howard.

GIRL—Experienced, for general office work; best working conditions; highest wages paid. Apply Mr. Rector, Star Carpet Cleaning Co., 2184 Mt. Elliott.

GIRLS (10), colored; fast hand ironers and other work; no experience necessary; pleasant working conditions; 4737 Elmhurst, nr. Broadstreet.

GIRL for general housework; go home nights; no laundry; no cooking; no Sat., no Sun.; references required; \$25. 3799 Buena Vista. HO 2535.

GIRLS—To train for silver plating, production work; east side defense plant; must work midnight shift. Box B-144, Detroit Times, 31.

GIRL for general office work; 44-hour week; should have fair and accurate knowledge of figures. Write Box B-151, Detroit Times 31.

GIRL to learn operation of multith machine; experience not necessary. Detrex Corp., 13005 Hillview, near Fenkell and Meyers.

GIRL for typing and clerical work; fine opportunity; downtown wholesale house. Mr. Gibson, before 3:30 p. m. CA 1726.

GIRLS and women; ages 18 to 34; machine operators and bench hands; essential work; top rates and overtime, 9680 Grinnell.

Figure 4. Detroit Times 6 June 1944 - Employment ad



Figure 5. Red and Blue ration points