



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 11 Number 10

July 2013

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.

Advertising:

Borealis accepts only short, "classified"-type advertisements from individual members. Notices should be of a non-commercial nature and include contact information.

Deadline:

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

Email submissions to:

Stan Cain

nmborealis@yahoo.com

Northern Michigan Mensa

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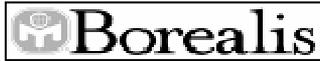
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.nmm.us.mensa.org

ON THE COVER: Passengers board the Mishe-Mokwa to return to Leland after an excursion to North Manitou Island. The island is part of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, but still contains a few private residences. Some historic buildings are being restored by the Park Service. Photo by Stan Cain.



Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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July Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 13 July 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

The July Brunch will be held at The Bay Town Kitchen, 420 Munson Ave., Traverse City. We will meet in the far dining room. We may have a surprise speaker and we will have a discussion about the Annual Picnic in August (when to have it and at what location.)

HIKE Saturday, 20 July 2013 at 9:00 a.m. - Rain or Shine

Come with us on our first hike of the year! We'll check out the trails in the hilly part of the Grand Traverse Commons in Traverse City. Bernie Hanchett will lead the way. Enjoy the hardwood forests, the views from on high, and some fresh air. The starting point will be the parking area on Red Drive, just south of the Greenspire School and across from the TBA Conference Center. We'll start promptly at 9 a.m. and go until we're tired. Questions? Call Bernie at 231-946 5177.

T.G.I.F. - Friday, 26 July 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

We will meet at the Horizon Shine Café located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 E. Front Street, Traverse City. They have coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps and desserts available. Join us!

And, coming up in August...

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 3 August 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

The August book club selection will be: ***Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*** by S. C. Gwynne and presented by Heather Gruenberg-Seger. You can read a description of the book on Page 7.

Member News

Happy July Birthday

17 Timothy Brotherton

20 Susan A. Styles

21 Cherie Marie Gabriel

22 Janet A. Nerone

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of Continuous Membership)

8 Kimberly Lohr

9 Richard J. Warden

May 2013 Statistics

<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>	
Total membership	48,000	71
New and reinstating membership	588	0
Offers of membership	346	0
New members since April 2012	4,088	15
Reinstating members since April 2012	5,030	18

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 5/31/2013. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, use www.us.mensa.org and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, Immediate Past RVC3

As of the submission date for this column, elections were still happening and we won't know who our new RVC3 will be until after that June 1st deadline. Again, I ask you to welcome Julia or John as s/he begins her/his new adventure. Without question, Region 3 will be well represented on the AMC.

Following is a list of Region 3 Regional Gatherings already scheduled. I hope you will attend each of them and support those who are giving of their time and energy to give you a great time. Also, please continue to support your local group by attending events and volunteering. Your presence and help is valuable beyond description.

The next Region 3 RG is "It's the End of the World as We Know It...and We Feel Fine" to be hosted by Columbus Area Mensa, whose blurb on-line in Mensa's calendar of events states: Join us for food, games, speakers and a pint at our pub called Milliways. All RG events in the hotel, 12th floor. Waterpark passes optional. Hotel will charge one night's room & tax (deposit) at time of reservation. \$25 cancellation fee with 72 hours notice, forfeit deposit with less than 72 hours notice. Registration, including meals: until Jul. 1, \$75; after Jul. 1, \$80; Friday only, \$30; Saturday only, \$55; Kids 11-18, half price; 10 & under, free. Fort Rapids Indoor Waterpark Resort, 4560 Hilton Corporate Drive, Columbus, OH 43232, 614-868-1380. Web site: www.fortrapids.com Room rates are \$99 (\$159 w/ up to 4 park passes) and are guaranteed through July 5. Use reservation code Columbus Mensa. To register, make

check out to "Columbus Area Mensa" and mail to: Columbus RG Treasurer, P.O. Box 292557, Columbus OH 43229. For more information, contact Registrar Julia Ashley at psibernaut@yahoo.com or 614-448-6023.

Mensa's next Annual Gathering will be in Fort Worth, Texas, July 3-7. Information can be found at <http://ag2013.us.mensa.org/>. It's going to be a great party! You may register for the 2013 Colloquium, Between Science Fiction and Science, which is being held July 2, immediately preceding the AG. That information can be found on the AG website, also.

Following the AG, Western Pennsylvania Area Mensa will be hosting 33 1/3 - the Long Play weekend! WPAM drops the needle and spins you four days and three nights of non-stop food and fun. That's 33 1/3% more than your average RG! Look forward to interesting speakers, themed meals, a sock hop, silent auctions, book sale and games games games. Come to Pittsburgh to play with us over the long Labor Day weekend. Registration rates are: postmarked Jul. thru Aug. 25, \$110/\$55, Aug. 26 and after, \$120/\$60; Single-day registrations are: Friday - \$35 adult/\$15 child (ages 7-14), Saturday - \$55/\$25, Sunday - \$55/\$25; - Monday - \$25/\$15. Children 6 and under are free, and families of four or more receive an additional \$10 off for each child. Our hotel is the DoubleTree Greentree, 500 Mansfield Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15205, 800-222-8733. Room rates are \$94 and are guaranteed through Aug. 15. Use reservation code Western Pennsylvania Mensa. Please check our Website: 2013-WPAM-RG. To register, contact auntkitti@aol.com or send a check payable to WPAM RG with name, email, phone, address and days attending for each registrant to Marty Flowers, 303 Diamond Dr., Moon Township, PA 15108. For more information, contact Jodi Chase at jodi.liv.strong@gmail.com or 412-867-8576.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark

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Region 3 Website - <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/>

Yahoo group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>

Facebook group - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>

Editor's Note: In a note on June 23, Betsy has said that Julia Ashley is now RVC3 elect, Julia, will take office on July 1, 2013

A Mensa Friend Leaves Us

Ruth Minshull Oct. 9, 1926 - Jun. 14, 2013

One of our local members, Ruth Minshull, has passed away at her home in Northport. Ruth was one of our longest serving members, having been a member of Mensa continuously since 1970.

If the name sounds familiar, it is because you have seen her writings here in Borealis from time to time. Ruth also has provided some of the puzzles we have recently been featuring on our Puzzle Page. She will be missed.

I have included one of Ruth's later stories below. You can find many others on the Web at ruthminshull.com/.

THE AOS BLUES

By Ruth Minshull

Help! I'm suffering from the AOS (*Acronym Overload Syndrome*) Blues.

I thought I was doing OK. I've been able to absorb AOL, CEO, COO, NAACP, PIN, VIN, REM, ROM and countless others.

Strictly speaking, some of the popular abbreviations are not true acronyms. An acronym is actually a word formed from the initial letters of each word in a series. So, unless you pronounce the abbreviation as a word (such as NASA) it isn't a true acronym. Still, whether they are true or just lazy shortcuts, we're stuck with them—and they're increasing faster than an ordinary human can learn them.

How many people remember that *radar* stands for *radio detecting and ranging*? And how about its cousin, *sonar* (*sound navigation and ranging*)?

Probably nobody but a hardcore computer geek knows that a *modem* stands for *modulator + demodulator* and is defined as "A device for transmitting usually digital data over telephone wires by modulating the data into an audio signal to send it and demodulating an audio signal into data to receive it." Whew! My definition serves me better: "That thingy by my computer that gets me online."

Long ago we all adjusted to abbreviated company names such as IBM, RCA, AT&T, and various agencies and groups: FBI, CIO, AFL, AMA, FCC. Then there's NATO, Unesco and Unicef.

Radio and television have required us to absorb *ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, NPR, CNN, HBO, TBS, TNT, BBC* to name just a few. If necessary, most of us could probably recall the words that the letters represent (although there's a good chance that our children and grandchildren won't be able to do so).

I won't get into *A.D.* and *B.C.* or *a.m.* and *p.m.* (which we usually don't even dignify by putting in uppercase). Or the old army term *AWOL*. These have been around so long we don't have to think about them.

But the problem is that more and more abbreviations and acronyms are popping up every day. And we may find ourselves having to translate the odd letters back into meaningful words in order to understand the context.

The letters *std* used to be an abbreviation for the word *standard*. But now, when written in caps, *STD* means *sexually transmitted disease*. Salt used to be just something to sprinkle on your potatoes. Now, in caps, *SALT*, means *Strategic Arms Limitation Talks*.

Just in the *A's*, we absorbed *AA*, and *AAA* along with *A & P* and *AARP*. More confusing, *ABA* can stand for *American Banking Association, American Bar Association* or *American Booksellers Association*.

The now familiar word *AIDS* comes from *Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome* and the virus that causes it is called *HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)*.

By now everyone is familiar with the popular *ATMs*. But we're also expected to know that *ABMs* are *antiballistic missiles*.

Entertainment-wise I thought I was doing all right with today's shortcut language. When *VCR's (videocassette recorders)* came along, I took them in stride. And I managed to make the transition from vinyl records – that is, from *78s* (which means *78 revolutions per minute*, because in those ancient times records actually went round and round) through *45s* through *33 1/3s* – to tapes and on to *CDs* without too much trauma. But my brain started to ossify when my new *VCR* had a disc slot for a movie. We picked up a movie to play on it. But I was confused. It looked like a *CD*. It quacked like a *CD*, but it was *not* a *CD*. It was a *DVD (digital video disk)*.

I no sooner managed to cope with that when my son bought me a new *HD (high definition) TV* and insisted that I get a *TiVo*. I didn't know if those letters stood for anything, but I did learn that *TiVo* is the name of the manufacturing company that makes them. Anyway, the device is a digital video recorder. And, quite mysteriously, it records movies and television shows without going round and round and with no visible disk at all. It will

“suspend time” if I want to take a break in the middle of a live program. Although I still don’t know exactly how it works, it is amazing — and now I couldn’t live without it.

Along with our abbreviated language, I’ve noticed that the younger people are talking faster these days. It’s like putting a recording on double speed. Are people living at a quicker pace? Do they think more rapidly? Now and then I have to tell my grandson, “Slow down! I can’t hear that fast.”

The kids not only speak at lightning velocity, but they write in a new condensed language when they communicate with each other in Twitter, Facebook, instant messages, e-mails, chat rooms and discussion forums.

I found a site that listed 1,300 of these abbreviations. Here are a few: @TEOTD (*at the end of the day*), 2M2H (*too much to handle*), AAK (*asleep at keyboard*), AAS (*alive and smiling*), AFZ (*acronym free zone*), BION (*believe it or not*), BM&Y (*between me and you*), CLAB (*crying like a baby*), CMIIW (*correct me if I’m wrong*), CSG (*chuckle, snicker, grin*), G2G (*got to go*), GB (*good bye*), GBTW (*get back to work*), GFN (*gone for now*), GGOH (*gotta get outa here*), GNE1 (*good night everyone*), HFAC (*holy flipping animal crackers*), HRU (*how are you?*), IDBI (*I don’t believe it*), IDC (*I don’t care*), IOMH (*in over my head*) KPC (*keeping parents clueless*), LHO (*laughing head off*), MEGO (*my eyes glaze over*), MOO (*my own opinion*), and, finally, RL (*real life*).

Well, HFAC, this is 2M2H. I’m IOMH and CLAB. As of now, I’m going back to RL and establishing an AFZ.
GNE1.

* * *

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Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History

Bibliomans' Book for August

By S. C. Gwynne - 371 pages

This book, in the tradition of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, is a stunningly vivid historical account of the forty-year battle between Comanche Indians and white settlers for control of the American West, centering on Quanah, the greatest Comanche chief of them all.

S. C. Gwynne's *Empire of the Summer Moon* spans two astonishing stories. The first traces the rise and fall of the Comanches, the most powerful Indian tribe in American history. The second entails one of the most remarkable narratives ever to come out of the Old West: the epic saga of the pioneer woman Cynthia Ann Parker and her mixed-blood son Quanah, who became the last and greatest chief of the Comanches.

Although readers may be more familiar with the tribal names Apache and Sioux, it was in fact the legendary fighting ability of the Comanches that determined just how and when the American West opened up. Comanche boys became adept bareback riders by age six; full Comanche braves were considered the best horsemen who ever rode. They were so masterful at war and so skillful with their arrows and lances that they stopped the northern drive of colonial Spain from Mexico and halted the French expansion westward from Louisiana. White settlers arriving in Texas from the eastern United States were surprised to find the frontier being rolled *backward* by Comanches incensed by the invasion of their tribal lands. So effective were the Comanches that they forced the creation of the Texas Rangers and account for the advent of the new weapon specifically designed to fight them: the six-gun.

The war with the Comanches lasted four decades, in effect holding up the development of the new American nation. Gwynne's exhilarating account delivers a sweeping narrative that encompasses Spanish colonialism, the Civil War, the destruction of the buffalo herds, and the arrival of the railroads—a historical feast for anyone interested in how the United States came into being.

S. C. Gwynne's account of these events is meticulously researched, intellectually provocative, and, above all, thrillingly told. *Empire of the Summer Moon* announces him as a major new writer of American history.

Puzzle Page

CRYPTOGRAM

Submitted by Ruth Minshull

The cryptogram consists of a simple substitution code. Each letter has been replaced by another. No letter represents itself, and substitutions remain consistent throughout the puzzle. For example:

ORAB AB ZK WLZSXHW GU Z YGIW.
THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A CODE.

LX DPG KQQ ZQW ZCPGSTQK YPBLWR FPHW ZOQ

CPNF, DPG YNW SQ KGCQ ZONZ WLWQ HLTT CGW

LWZP ZOQ FLZYO SQXPCQ ZOQD CQNYO DPG.

~YNTILW YPPTLFRQ

(The answer will appear in next month's issue)

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

A loving person lives in a loving world. A hostile person lives in a hostile world: everyone you meet is your mirror. ~Ken Keyes Jr.

Editor's note: Ruth had prepared a supply of these popular puzzles before her recent death. Borealis will continue to feature them while they last.