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100th YEAR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023

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FREE

Thanks, Garfield Heights! Collaborative initiative takes big bite out of crime

By Diane Makar Murphy

Halloween will be a big day for D. M. Murphy. That's me. At midnight on Halloween Eve, I'll publish my first novel - at age 67. Can you imagine?



Born and raised in Garfield Heights, on McCracken Blvd., I started my writing career as a playwright. I was seven years old. In those innocent times, the very early 1960s, I'd charge two cents to sit on a picnic bench to watch my plays. The garage door would go up, and my play would go on.

Later, at Garfield Heights Junior High (eventually to become the middle school), under the fierce tutelage of Mrs. Deborah Dombrowski, I learned perseverance, to research, and to write well — things that helped me when I entered Garfield High and far beyond.

In high school I kept writing. Because sports was my thing, I wrote about the Girls Athletic Association. I was well qualified as I played basketball, softball and volleyball on the school's extramural girls' teams. This was back when the girls could only access the gym at 6 a.m., because the boys had it after school. And we drove ourselves to our games because the school would only pay for buses for the boys' teams. A lot has changed since then.

With plans to become a veterinarian, I had no idea my career would involve writing. But a funny thing happened just before graduation. I saw a table in the cafeteria covered in pamphlets and behind it sat an Army recruiter. Nine months later I was on a bus for basic training at Ft. McClellan, Alabama. And then on to Ft. Benjamin Harrison, in Indiana, to be trained as an Army journalist.

While stationed in Ft. Stewart, Georgia, writing about the hard-as-nails Rangers, I got the idea for a novel about a soldier who entered hell to rescue someone. Of course, I didn't sit down and write it back then. I was too busy interviewing infantrymen, Rangers and tank drivers.

After my three-year tour ended, with a few writing awards in my pocket (thanks, Garfield teachers), I went to college for playwriting, then journalism. You might think I started that novel, too, but marriage, two kids, a Master's degree and life got in the way. Excuses?

Finally, while teaching college-level English and writing for a newspaper in Youngstown, I started "the book." It had changed through the years, of course, just like me, but it remained a fantasy, a hero's quest, just like the ones Mrs. Dombrowski taught us about. I call it "Down, Down, Down."

Now, knocking on '70s door, living in the desert in Nevada, I'm at last going to publish it myself. My son has insisted I do it right, have a website, create sales pitches and post on social media (oh no, anything but that!). Every day of working toward that goal I've used the skills I got in Garfield Heights. It's crazy how some things take a lifetime, and other things last a lifetime!

The Cleveland Division of Police has partnered with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center, Ohio Investigative Unit, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Ohio Department of Youth Services and other local and federal authorities on a two-day violence reduction initiative focused on the city's Third and Fifth districts.

Provisional data from the initiative, which was held on August 24 and 25, shows that partnering agencies made 42 felony arrests, seized 28 illegally possessed firearms and recovered 10 stolen vehicles.

OSHP troopers, federal agents and local officers also seized varying amounts of cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, fentanyl and ecstasy in addition to illegally possessed prescription pills.

This week's targeted saturation event was the second of several in Cleveland, which the state will participate in at the direction of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine.

A number of OSHP resources were utilized to assist the Cleveland Division of Police and its Violent Crime Reduction Team, including Cleveland District OSHP troopers, Aviation, Investigative Services, Special Response Team, Vehicle Theft Unit, and the Ohio Investigative Unit.

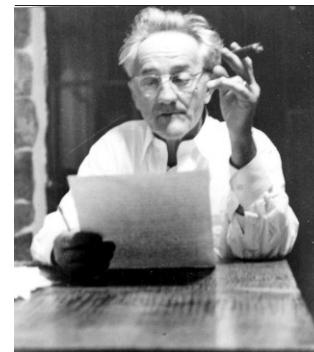
Iron Ward Festival says goodbye to Marcy Shannon and summer this Friday

Slavic Village's 19th annual Iron Ward Music Festival will hold its traditional Goodbye Summer Party this Friday, Sep. 1, at 7 p.m., in Dan Kane Park, at E. 65 St., just south of Broadway Ave. Headline performers will be Ms. Reece Pearl's popular Groove Masters band, performing a blend of jazz, blues and pop favorites.

Organizers will pay special tribute during the show to longtime fan and benefactor, Marcy Shannon, who died two weeks ago. Her belief in, and support of, Iron Ward's community-building mission was critical to sustaining the neighborhood event during much of its nearly two-decade run.

This year Iron Ward experienced more than its share of rainouts and cancellations, but Friday is forecast to be in the sunny 70s.

Besides live music, audience members will be treated to free hot dogs and ice cream; all residents and friends of Slavic Village are invited to join in this free, season-ending fun. Call 216-469-4806 for more info.



As *The Neighborhood News* marks its 100th anniversary, we'd like to introduce our readers to the newspaper's founder....

VACLAV PSENICKA

See Pages 4 and 5

Send us your old photos!

In the next three issues, as *The Neighborhood News* leads up to its big 100th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, Sept. 24, at Klima Gardens in Cuyahoga Heights, we will be running stories and pictures from the paper over the last century of its publication.

We would love to include any old photos from our readers as well. If you have a picture from past glories of the southeast communities you'd like to share, just email it to: nnews1923@aol.com or send it or drop it off to our office: 8613 Garfield Blvd., Garfield Heights, OH 44125. Please describe what's in the picture, its approximate date/year and your name and address so we can give you proper credit!

If you would like the photo returned to you, just let us know and it will be mailed promptly.

**Happy Labor Day
To ALL Of You**



NN CLOSED MONDAY, SEPT. 4th

Advertising and News Deadlines Tuesday at Noon

NN 'Freebies' offered for picnic

The Neighborhood News has two tickets to give away to the St. Therese Church Parish Picnic in Garfield Heights, on Sunday, Sept. 10 - a \$20.00 value! Just stop in to The Neighborhood News office, 8613 Garfield Blvd., Garfield Heights, during regular business hours and enter to win. Deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 6.

Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch, sponsored by Councilman Tom Vaughn, will meet Thursday, Aug. 31, at 7 p.m., at St. Monica's outdoor pavilion off Rockside Rd. Guest speakers will be members of the Garfield Heights Senior Center who will be talking about their programs. All are welcome. For more information call Gail, 216-662-9213.

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Deadline approaches for Vote-by-Mail in Garfield, Maple Heights primaries

Vote-by-Mail ballot applications are available online at www.443vote.us, by calling 216-443-VOTE (8683) and at all public libraries, and must be received by the Board of Elections on or before 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023, for voting in the September 12, 2023 Primary Election.

The September primary is for candidates in the Garfield Heights City Council Ward 2 race and for City Council District 6 in Maple Heights. The winners will advance to the November 7, 2023 General Election.

Facing off in the Ward 2 council contest in Garfield Heights are incumbent Charles F. Donahue, Jr., Michael Dudley, Sr., and Tenisha Mack.

Running in the Maple Heights race for city council District 6 are Ozell Dobbins III, Tina Stafford-Marbury and incumbent Richard Trojanski.

Early In-Person voting is located at the Board of Elections, 2925 Euclid Ave., Cleveland. Voting hours can be found at www.443vote.us.

LIBRARIES PLAN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Bedford (Bedford Heights/Oakwood Village) Branch Library

Here are some of the FREE programs coming up in August at the Bedford Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, located at 70 Columbus Rd., Bedford, Ohio 44146. For more information, or to register for any program, please call 440-439-4997.

Kids Café - 18 & younger, Monday-Friday, 3-4 p.m. Kids ages 18 & under can

get a FREE lunch from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, while supplies last.

"Breaking Through the Lines: The Marion Motley Story," with author David Lee Morgan, Jr., Saturday, Sept. 2, 2 p.m. The author of "LeBron James: The Rise of a Star" will share some of the stories in his new book about one of the first Black players in the NFL. **MUST REGISTER**

Teen Tuesday - Grades 6-12, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 3:30 p.m. Join us after school for fun activities for teens! **MUST REGISTER**

Family Storytime - All ages with caregiver, Tuesdays, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, 6 p.m. A relaxing selection of stories, songs and fingerplays.

Back to Homeschool, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 1:30 p.m. Join the Bedford librarians for fun activities and an overview of library resources that will augment your homeschool year.

Engineering Hour - Grades K-5, Thursday, Sept. 7, 21, 3:30 p.m. Use your imagination and the materials provided to build, play, create and learn.

(Continued on Page 8)

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TRINITY ALUMNI



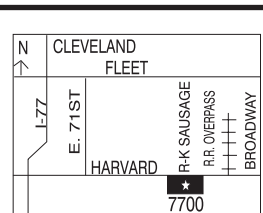
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- BBQ - \$9.00 lb.
- Maple Brown Sugar - \$9.50 lb.
- All Beef - \$9.75 lb.
- Beef-n-Cheddar - \$10.25 lb.

- Wieners - \$6.69 lb. • Kiszka/Hurka - \$5.09 lb.
- Fresh Kielbasa - \$5.09 lb.
- Smoked Kielbasa - \$5.39 lb.
- Horseradish - White or Beet Red - \$2.79 each
- Pierogies - \$7.00/bag
- (Sauerkraut, Sweet Cheese, Potato, Potato & Cheese Apple, Apricot and Prune)

Community police reports

(All information is preliminary and subject to change pending investigation.)

Cleveland

Shooting

On Aug. 25, at 1:21 a.m., a 34-year-old male was shot in the head and abdomen in the 3500 block of E. 76 St. EMS transported him to MetroHealth Medical Center.

Garfield Heights

Theft

On Aug. 22, a complainant in the 13600 block of Silver Rd., reported that two separate packages were stolen from his residence that had been delivered by Amazon. A package containing a cellphone SIM card was stolen on Aug. 17, and a package containing a cellphone on Aug. 22.

Theft from Auto

On Aug. 22, a woman met an officer at the police station and reported that between 9 p.m. on Aug. 20, and 6:06 a.m. on Aug. 21, someone entered her 2013 Ford Escape as it was parked in her driveway at a home in the 12800 block of Maplerow and stole her Dell laptop computer. She said the vehicle was locked and there were no signs of entry or damage to the car. Laptop valued at \$1000.

Obstructing Official Business

On Aug. 22, at 4 p.m., police responded to the Sunoco station at 5326 Turney Rd., for a report that a black male, about 18 years old was jumping on the firewood that was for sale there and refused to leave. Police asked the teen what he was doing and he said it was hot and he had the right to sit on the firewood. He walked away when the officer asked the suspect for his ID. The officer followed him as he walked from Sunoco across Granger Rd., to the Walgreens lot then toward Turney. Two more officers responded to the scene in front of Walgreens and asked the teen for his ID. He repeatedly refused and said he knew the law and he didn't have to present it. Police said he could go to jail and attempted to grab the suspect but he pulled away and attempted to run, and police grabbed him and got him to the ground. The suspect was resisting and swung a punch at the officer, barely missing hitting him in the face. Two officers held him to the ground and said if he did not put his hands behind his back he would be Tased, and that is what the officer did as the suspect continued to resist. He then became compliant and was handcuffed. Bond to be set by the court. Affidavit completed for obstruction/resisting arrest and advised of criminal trespass.

Shots Fired

On Aug. 23, about 11 p.m., dispatch received multiple calls of shots fired in the area of E. 86 St. One caller

reported seeing 3-5 parties engaging in a verbal argument then heard several gunshots and saw individuals get into a dark-colored Nissan with a missing tail light and flee the area. An officer arrived on scene and saw a black Nissan Altima which seemed to be following another Nissan sedan driven by a black female wearing a shower cap. Officers followed the Altima to an address on Rockwood Ave., but as they approached the car found it to be unoccupied and saw several people fleeing into backyards. An officer located a silver Nissan Sentra going north on Warner Rd. and passing Grand Division and initiated a traffic stop. It was being driven by a woman wearing a shower cap with two passengers inside. All gave police conflicting stories on where they were coming from and denied any involvement. The driver was found to be driving under suspension and her car was towed and all three who had been in the car were taken to the station to wait for a ride. Valley View PD arrived on scene to help search for the other suspects who had fled the Altima. They located a male near the 8200 block of Bancroft Ave., who matched the description of one of the fleeing suspects and was found to have an active warrant through the sheriff's office for a probation violation. Police on E. 86 St. located four spent shell casings. Police were told a relative of the owner of the Altima had borrowed the car and she came to the station to make a statement. She admitted to being on E. 86 St. at the time of the incident. She said several females asked her to meet them on E. 86 St. to help them fight. She said she and two male friends met them there. She said after a short verbal argument with the other parties a black male in his mid 40's displayed a handgun and fired multiple shots in the air. The woman said she and her friends got in the Altima and drove off. When she spotted police she parked the car in a random driveway and they all fled on foot. No injuries or damages were reported at the time.

Vandalism

• On Aug. 23, about 11:30 a.m., police were dispatched to the Speedway station, 5122 Turney Rd., regarding vandalism done to gas pumps on the property. An employee there said that at about 8 a.m. she was doing her morning rounds of the property and noticed several pumps had been vandalized with spray paint. Other items such as poles and fire extinguishers also had been spray painted. There was also graffiti on all the areas that had been spray painted in different colors and the majority spelled out "B4O" on the pumps. Video footage of the incident to be emailed to police.

• On Aug. 24, at 9:25 a.m., police responded to a home in the 4600 block of Burleigh Rd., for a vandalism report.

The complainant said she parked her white 2020 Mercedes C-300 in her driveway the evening before, and sometime after 4 a.m., an unknown person came onto her property and stabbed her rear tires making them go flat. The rear windshield of her car was also broken out. She has no idea who the vandal could be.

Burglary

On Aug. 24, about 12:30 p.m., an officer arrived at a home in the 12300 block of Oakpark Blvd., to take a burglary report. The resident told police that she had gone out of her home to bring in her trash can and that of her neighbor from the curb. She went back inside through the side door and noticed her purse on top of the kitchen table, a place she doesn't normally store it. She saw her wallet had been stolen from her purse which contained cash, credit cards and other personal documents. She also noticed the door to her attic was ajar and her front screen door which is always locked was unlocked. She believes someone went in her house through the side door, took her wallet and left through the front door. Neither the complainant or her neighbors saw anything.



CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS

COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

9:00 AM - NOON

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LEGAL NOTICE

Jennings Center for Older Adults, a private nonprofit corporation, intends to submit a proposal for a capital grant under the provision of 49 USC Section 5310 of the Federal Transit Act to provide door-to-door transportation service for older adults and individuals with disabilities within Garfield Heights and surrounding neighborhoods in Cuyahoga County. The grant proposal will request a wheelchair-equipped light transit vehicle. It is projected that more than 150 individuals will use the service five days per week for various activities, including transportation to adult day services, medical appointments, outings and shopping. Jennings invites comments and proposals from all interested public, private and paratransit operators including taxi operators, for the provision of transportation service to the older adults and individuals with disabilities within our service area. Operators who are interested in offering proposals to provide service should contact Emily Taylor, Director of Strategic Initiatives at Jennings, 10204 Granger Rd., Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125 to obtain full details of the type of transportation service that is needed prior to preparing a proposal. Written comments or proposals must be submitted within 30 days to the agency at the above address with a copy to the Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency, 1299 Superior Street E, Cleveland, OH 44114; Attention: Leah Telepak re: Section 5310-Public notice. NN: 8-30-23.

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6060 Turney Road
Garfield Heights 440-497-6897
Email: everlastingcovenantministries@gmail.com
Worship services: Sundays 11 AM
Bible Study: Wednesdays 6 PM

Jones Road Church
8000 Jones Rd., Cleveland, 44105
(216) 883-8572
Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.
Community Lunch at 12 Noon

**The Lutheran Church
of the Covenant**
19000 Libby Rd.,
Maple Heights, Ohio
(216) 662-0370
Sunday Service: 9:00am

St. Monica Church
13623 Rockside Road
Garfield Heights 216-662-8685
Pastor: Rev. John J. Mullee
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 9:00 am and 10:45 am
All Mass times are Live streamed.

Saluting *Neighborhood News* founder Vaclav Psenicka...

By Ellen Psenicka

With the celebration this year of the 100th anniversary of the founding of *The Neighborhood News*, we thought it was time for our readers to get to know the man who started it all - Vaclav Psenicka - a Czech immigrant who knew nothing about running a newspaper when he first set foot on American soil in 1905, but his savvy business sense, keen intellect, innate curiosity and knowledge of the human condition would serve him well in the years to come.

Much of this article will be in Mr. Psenicka's own words, taken from the unpublished autobiography he completed in 1962.

Early years in Czechoslovakia

Vaclav Psenicka was born in 1886 in the small village of Kamenec, midway between Prague and Pilsen in Czechoslovakia, to poor but hard-working parents, the eldest of their five children.

In the early years his father worked in the coal mines as did most of the men in the village, which meant hard work and not much money.

In describing the home where the family lived, Vaclav recalls: "The big front room served as the bedroom for all of my family; the only heat came from the cast iron wood stove when Mom cooked." He says that his parents' deprivation, self-denial and backbreaking work, however, were not enough to always have food on the table.

"I'll never forget the scene I witnessed coming home for my vacation from school. I saw four kids tucking at Mom's apron, anxiety and pleading in their eyes: 'Mom, we are hungry, so hungry! Can't we have a piece of bread, just an it'sy bitsy piece? We are so hungry.'"

Young Vaclav cried when he remembered that heart-breaking scene, and years later he blessed America that gave him the opportunity to send home a few dollars each week. That pittance meant so much to them, there where hunger was the rule, not the exception.



Vaclav's mother

When he had finished his regular schooling at age 11, the family had moved from Kamenec to Radnice, three miles south of Kamenec, and then to Hostomice, a town on the fringe of the Sudetenland. The principal at his school in Hostomice and Vaclav's father informed the young man that, due to his excellent grades, he should pursue his studies and insisted he enter an advanced level school to become a priest or a doctor or get a degree as an engineer, architect or professor. The principal had secured financial aid for young Vaclav so his studies would not be a burden on his family.

Thus, in September, 1898, he entered school in Louny, and spent the next four years engrossed in studies of literature, French and philosophy, physics and mathematics and received excellent grades. However, his last year in advanced studies he failed to pass his final examination (blaming a disagreement with the teacher who administered the test), lost his financial aid and was made to repeat his final year.

That fall he returned to class. "For three months Father struggled to keep me going, then gave up. Higher education was for the rich or the humble and I wasn't either."

He vowed one day to get to America, "that paradise on earth," where his two best friends, Frank and Oscar, had recently traveled by steamship to Baltimore. They wrote Vaclav that some nice people there had told them about a Reverend Vanik, who ran a Czech paper in town and had a habit of aiding stranded immigrants.

The Reverend put Frank and Oscar to work on his

newspaper in Baltimore, one as a typesetter and the other as an assistant editor.

A telegram from the Miller Steamship Company soon arrived in Hostomice informing Vaclav that a prepaid passage to Baltimore, Maryland was waiting for him in their office from Frank and Oscar. His spirits "rose to the heavens."

Coming to America

"On May 12, 1905, the prodigal son left for America. Father went with me to the station, while Mother cried silently at home for her firstborn whom she was never to see again.

When Vaclav arrived in Baltimore he was in for a surprise. Rev. Vanik told him his friends were in Cleveland, where Vanik had gotten them a job on a newspaper called *American*, the only Czech daily between New York and Chicago. So Rev. Vanik bought Vaclav a ticket on the B&O Railroad, stuck a couple bucks in his hand and the next day he reached Oscar's home on South Wilson Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. Soon he was also working for *American*.

His job at the newspaper was to solicit subscriptions in the St. Wenceslaus, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. John Nepomucene parishes, all in the southeast area of Cleveland. He earned \$5.00 a week; one dollar went to his parents in Czechoslovakia, the rest he kept for himself. Six months later he got a 50-cent raise, but he wanted to be able to send more back to his family, so he also washed windows downtown and painted barns in the country until 1907. Then Oscar got him a job at the *Volnost* as a typesetter.

Volnost was another Czech newspaper housed on Pisek St. in Cleveland, and had but four pages which were filled with ads sold on a yearly basis. But Vaclav enjoyed his work there. "It took time and lots of hard pulling to start that press rolling," Vaclav recalled, "but once on, it was all so thrilling."

Pisek St. was the center of a thriving Czech settlement in Cleveland, which began at E. 20 St., and gradually pushed along Woodland, Pittsburgh, Broadway and toward the southeast to Wilson, Union and Fleet. Perun Hall near the paper's headquarters was the Czech settlement's cultural center.



This is the intersection of Broadway and E. 55 St., facing south, the way it looked in the early 1900s when young Vaclav came to Cleveland.

His wage at the *Volnost* was \$2.50 a week. In addition to his salary as a teacher in a Bohemian Sunday School, he made \$4.00 altogether. Vaclav rented a room on Croton St. from a Civil War veteran's widow for \$1.00 a week and saved on carfare since the place was close to his job. "I still could send a dollar home by living on beer and free sandwiches," he wrote.

By 1908 he was also doing writing for the paper, expecting to get the job of editor, and covered various theatrical productions, clubs, singing societies and picnics. He also found time to take classes to learn English and practice his "accent," which gave him a lot of trouble.

In 1914 Vaclav was back at *American*, World War I had begun, touched off by the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo, and Europe was in flames. Facto-

ries, which operated with skeleton crews or were idle before the war now changed over to make ammunition.



Vaclav tried his hand at farming after going on strike at *American* when he was refused a raise.

Vaclav had since married, had greater responsibilities and was desperate to earn a bigger salary and send more of it home to Czechoslovakia, since the death of his father. When his boss refused to give him a raise at *American*, Vaclav went on strike and spent the next three years trying to make money farming, on land and a run-down house he had bought in Maple Heights.



Vaclav farmed the fields at this Maple Heights property he and his wife called home for many years before moving to Streetsboro.

After three long years suffering the trials and tribulations of farming and adding a living room and bedroom to his home in Maple Heights, Vaclav was working for the *Svet*, a Czech daily in Cleveland, but after a few months he resigned and went back to the *American*, as a self-employed, one-man advertising agency. "I bought one or two pages from the *American* for a fair price and resold it to my merchants."

"The *American's* 25th anniversary issue proved I could get ads. Out of 20 pages of solid advertising, I brought in 19 1/2. With the Tin Lizzy (car) I now had, I was able to cover a wider territory and I was elated - a poor country boy who made good in the big city..." Vaclav was about to strike out on his own.

The *Neighborhood News* is born

"September 26th is a day I bless; in 1923 *The Neighborhood News* was born. MY weekly paper.

"I started *The Neighborhood News* in order to become my own boss, to tell the truth, no matter who gets hurt, and by helping others help myself. I considered it a noble way to make money. I came from the ranks of common men. In my editorials, I meant to educate these ranks, to widen their horizons, to appease their hunger for spiritual advancement.

"I was a Czech by birth and proud of Czech history. WE gave the world Jan Hus, who was burned at the stake trying to return the Church to the principles of true Christianity. WE gave the world Jan Chelcicky, the Czech Thomas Jefferson, long before 1776. WE gave the world Jan Zizka, who was unequalled in defensive warfare. And above all, WE gave the world Charles University in Prague in 1405, the first after the Sorbonne in Paris.

"The Czechs have something to be proud of and I was going to let everyone know. Those punks who had thrown

... as his newspaper celebrates its 100th anniversary year

horse dung at me on Petrie St. in Cleveland when I first arrived in 1905, and shouted "Greenhorn" at me, what did they pride themselves with? They had to be told. It seemed funny to me that Americans, who consider all men equal, should belittle others to put themselves on top. 'The News' had to be in English - the only language they would understand.

"The first issue was composed, written and set entirely by myself. By any comparison, it was lousy. Its English was poor with poor makeup, but I printed 20,000 copies and engaged Moulton, the best distributing company in town, to get it on the streets every Thursday. That was what the merchants wanted. As to my English? Ninety percent of my readers talked English a good deal worse than I. Had I used good English, nobody would have understood it."

Subsequent issues, set up and printed by the Press & Plate Co., a union shop downtown, showed improvements and increased advertising for the fledgling newspaper. Vaclav had only \$1000 with which to start his *Neighborhood News*, but the profit from the October, November and December 1923 issues far exceeded his hopes and expectations.

The first employee of the newspaper was a young man hired as editor who had two years of journalism at Ohio State University, Mr. Speers. "He made my publication a paper to be proud of - both morally and financially. I myself liked to read his column called 'For Men Only,' and trust I was not the only one. Speers died of leukemia very prematurely."

Miss Pauline Kves followed Speers. She was 19, and did all the editorial work in addition to keeping the books. She, too, had her own column and called it "Window Shopping." That column made the Broadway merchants change their window displays twice a month and that was progress!



Lieutenant J.J. Masek

When Pauline married a school bus driver somewhere in Indiana, Jimmy Masek became editor. He served as an officer in the U.S. Navy during World War II, then graduated from Ohio State in education and taught at Lincoln High School (later called Lincoln West).

"His short stature and robust girth were targets of my many jibes; a jolly good fellow, he took them all good-naturedly. I thought him

flabby and dared him to fight me. He did. In three seconds I was on the floor at his feet. I still don't know how he did it, but I did not dare him again.

"He loved the job. I paid him \$20 a week, but I'm sure he'd have worked just for the glory of it. He did, for several years, helping Pauline with news from the suburbs. To prove to me that editors are not an expense - as I often said they were - Jim would get legal notices from Cuyahoga Heights, where he lives, and holiday greeting ads from the mayors and shopkeepers in Garfield Heights, Valley View and others.

"I was now well on my way to the upper strata of human society had I kept the money I was making. But I had no use for buried treasure, for idle money or idle men. Like all building and savings men, I considered real estate the best investment. To own a piece of America was the best proof of good citizenship."

Prices in Maple Heights were going sky high in the mid-1920's, and Vaclav wanted to buy land he could afford with a future somewhere else closeby. Looking over the map of counties neighboring Cuyahoga, he noticed that Rt. 14, between Ravenna and Summit counties, wasn't paved, with a stretch of about 10 miles being pure wilderness. "Some day this will be paved and I'll double my money," Vaclav deduced.

So he bought 87 acres on Page Rd., near Streetsboro, for \$25 an acre, \$500 down and the balance in two years. Over time he also bought land in Edinburgh, more land in Maple Heights and in Streetsboro, where he would build his "castle" home on Rt. 14 and Diagonal Rd.

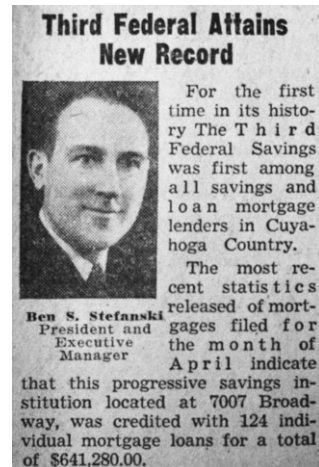
And then in 1929, "Black Friday" hit Wall Street and so began the Great Depression. "Three years passed, but my newspaper went on, limping a bit, but netting enough to meet my payments."

He had by now moved to Streetsboro and became a "publisher-farmer," getting up at 4 a.m., plowing with his tractor until 8 a.m., and then driving 27 miles to Cleveland to work on the "News." He then drove back to his home and plowed until dusk. That's the way he spent the summer of 1930.

"When I was in Cleveland working on my paper things weren't bad. I had lunch at the Bohemian Gardens with my fellow Philosophers Club members - Dr. Kieger, Dr. Zeleznik, Joseph and Mrs. Hodous, the insurance people, F.J. Vlcek, a tool manufacturer, one or two lawyers and real estate men. Then Mrs. Seiler sold the Garden and I lunched at Linkas restaurant for 15 years. They had but one menu for each day of the week - and boiled spare ribs, Hungarian goulash and spaghetti were always there. The food was well cooked and promptly served.

"Mr. Linkas called me Jimmy, I called him Jim. There were only three businessmen I addressed as Mister: Kresge's manager Herb Davis, Newberry's Mr. Robinson and Fisher's Mr. Rosenberg. I had respect for them. They were all nice people and used lots of space in my paper. They were my basic advertisers."

Karlin, the Czech settlement around St. John Nepomucene Church on Fleet Ave., adjoined Polish "Warszawa," around St. Stanislaus Church on E. 65 St. It was a compact unit, stretching from Erie Crossing on Broadway, to Harvard Ave., and from Skinner Ave. (E. 57 St.) and Fleet to E. 78th St. off Union, about 50,000 or 60,000 people. Warsaw and the Pyramid Savings took care of their surplus money. William Schmidt, a building contractor, headed the former, Ben S. Stefanski the latter.



This article appeared on the front page of *The Neighborhood News* on Aug. 15, 1946.

Polish daily run by the Kurdziel family. "All of them had their own printshops and could undersell me. Their costs were lower than mine, but I had a bigger circulation than all of them put together."

Many of "the boys" helping Vaclav solicit ads for *The Neighborhood News* tried starting their own weeklies. Some lasted two, three weeks, some a couple of months, and one two years. In the end they all left their printer and distributing company with unpaid bills and went under.

They explained their failure with a question: "How could one compete with a guy who calls every merchant in his territory by his first name?"

But in the same token, Vaclav said he wasn't a very sociable person. "I didn't use my personal charm like Joe Cook from the *Polish Daily* did. I was selling my paper, not myself. And if I flattered a man, like I flattered Ben S.

Stefanski, in the privacy of his office, it was but acknowledgment of his success, a mere tribute to a financial genius, as Ben really was. In that success my paper had a share and I was proud of it."

The paper prospered and soon *The Neighborhood News* publisher would have another reason to be thankful. Vaclav and Masha's first son, named after his father, but like his father known as the Americanized "Jim," was born in their Streetsboro home on June 16, 1932.

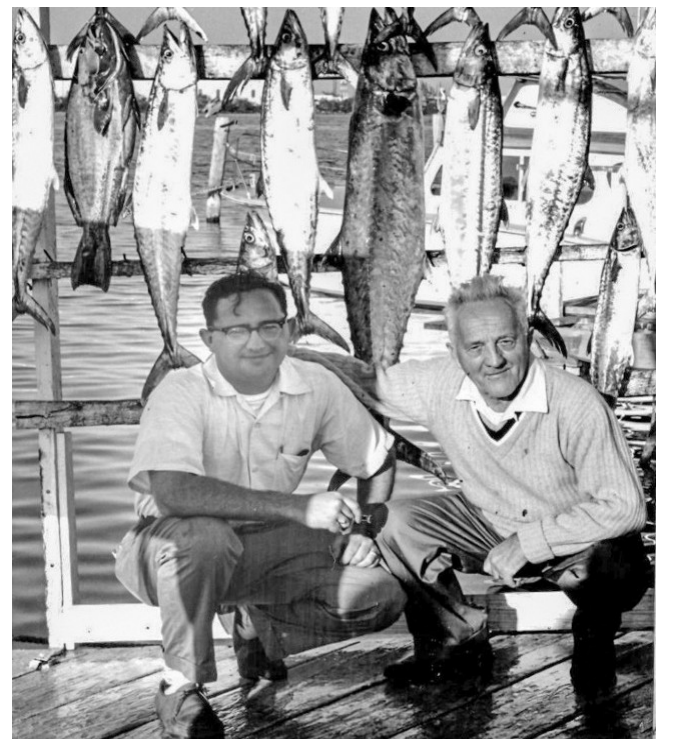
"It was a boy - along, skinny, all bones, hardly an flesh, 7 1/2 lb. baby boy, my baby boy. The nurse attending the birth commented, 'For a minute I thought that he was having the baby,' she said, patting me on the back."

The years passed and Jim began working for his dad at the paper selling advertising, while getting his journalism degree from Kent State in 1955. And in 1957, after a two-year stint as an officer in the U.S. Navy stationed on Guam, he returned home and joined his father at the paper full time.

Jim worked hard and saved his money for the next four years, and approached his dad about buying the newspaper from him.

"I had run the N.N. for 37 years," Vaclav wrote. "Before that I was in the harness for 14 years. I was getting tired and wanted to take it easy. In January, 1961, Jim took over my desk and I became a golden ager."

Vaclav Psenicka passed away in 1964, leaving it to future generations of Psenickas to keep *The Neighborhood News* alive and well as it soon will begin its second 100 years of serving the southeast community.



Jim and his dad shared a love of deep sea fishing and are shown here with their catch in the Florida Keys after Vaclav's retirement from the N.N.

*(Editor's Note: We want to give our readers a snapshot look at some of the stories *The Neighborhood News* published in the early years of its life. So in our next three issues, leading up to the paper's 100th Anniversary, we will do just that! Look for N.N. stories from the 1920s through the 1950s beginning in next Wednesday's edition.)*



Vaclav's wife, Masha, is shown with their first son, also named Vaclav but called "Jim," just like his dad.

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Garage sale - 5245 E. 117 St., Garfield Heights. Aug. 31, Sept. 1 & 2, 9am-4pm. Saturday, 9am-12pm. Misc. household, sports memorabilia, comic books, records, Hot Wheels.

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(Continued from Page 2)

Garfield Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library

Here are a few of the **FREE** programs available in September at the Garfield Heights Branch Library, 5409 Turney Rd. Call 216-475-8178 to register or for more information.

Adult Programs

Mobile Pantry Stop by for our monthly food distribution in collaboration with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Wednesday, September 6, 11-1 p.m.

Innovation Center Orientation Learn about the equipment and policies of the Innovation Centers throughout Cuyahoga County Public Library. Attending this orientation allows users to utilize the Innovation Centers throughout the library system. Upcoming sessions: Saturday, Sept. 9, at 11 a.m.; Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 2 p.m.; and Wednesday, Sept. 20, at 6 p.m. Registration required.

Word Basics Learn the basic functions of Microsoft Word, including how to enter and format text and images, change line spacing, and copy and paste. Participants should be familiar with how to use a computer mouse. Monday, Sept. 11, 5:30 p.m. Registration required.


Paranormal: The Pursuit of the Afterlife Explore the paranormal with Ohio Researchers of Banded Spirits, including the group's history, equipment they use, and how you can get started in your own paranormal exploration. Thursday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m. Registration required.

Excel Basics Learn how to make spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel, including entering data, using autofill and performing calculations. Monday, Sept. 25, 1 p.m. Registration required.

Tuesday Evening Book Discussion Join us for our monthly book discussion. This month's title is the memoir "Inheritance" by Dani Shapiro. Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m.

Children and Families

Acting Club Participate in fun theater games, improvisation activities, character creation, storytelling, and more! Saturday, Sept. 2 and Sept. 16, 11 a.m. Registration required.



RUTH VACCHER
8/28/1928
Happy Birthday!

To my loving Mother/Grammy, how we wish you were here to celebrate your special day. We love you and miss you and dad with all our hearts. Not a day goes by that we don't think of both of you and thank God for all the fond memories. I danced to "Melody of Love" with both Jim and John at their weddings and I know you were dancing with dad in heaven. Happy Birthday! Love you! ♥ Ja cie Kocham ♥ Karen, Frank, Jim & John

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Family Storytime Children of all ages with their caregivers are welcome to join us for stories, songs, and fingerplays! Tuesdays beginning Sept. 5, 6 p.m.

Fall Music and Movement Storytime Children of all ages with their caregivers are welcome to come for music and movement-themed stories, songs, and activities! Wednesdays beginning Sept. 6, 10 a.m.

Kindergarten Countdown Pre-school-aged children can come partake in fun activities to build kindergarten readiness skills. Wednesday, Sept. 6, 6 p.m. Registration required.

Chess Club Join us to learn how to play chess or practice your game! Weekly, beginning Thursday, Sept. 7, 4 p.m.

Culinary Literacy for Children Children in grades 3-5 are welcome to join us for a culinary demonstration on how to make quesadillas and salsa. Monday, Sept. 11, 6 p.m. Registration required.

Chapter Chats Join us for our bi-monthly book discussion group and a fun activity! For children in grades 3-5. Monday, Sept. 25, 4 p.m. Registration required.

Dia De Muertos Come learn about this traditional Mexican and Latin American holiday and make a skull craft with local artist Héctor Castellanos Lara. For school-aged children with a caregiver. Saturday, Sept. 30, 10:30 a.m. Registration required.

Independence Branch Library

Here are some of the **FREE** programs being offered in September at the Independence Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 6361 Selig Dr., Independence. To register for any program, please call 216-447-0160.

ADULT

Reducing Stress and Building Resilience/Registration required. Learn how to reduce stress and build personal resilience with corporate health coach Viktoria Levay. Thursday, Sept. 14 / 7 p.m.

Thursday Afternoon Book Discussion/No registration required. Please join us for a casual and lively book discussion of "Matrix" by Lauren Groff. The books will be available approximately one month before the discussion date. Thursday, Sept. 21 / 2:15 p.m.

Fall Wreath Craft/Registration required. Make a small beaded fall wreath! Saturday, Sept. 30 / 11 a.m.

TEEN

Volunteens / Registration required. The VolunTeens program offers middle school and high school students a chance to get involved in their community while receiving service hours for school. Tuesday, Sept. 5 / 6:30 p.m.



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Slavic Village - Cleveland, OH
East 65th Street, South of Broadway and across Kenyon Avenue from Morganic Community Garden.

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