

PLANET HOMETOWN

"We grow too soon old, and too late schmart"

~ Old Amish saying



As you may know by now, I will be performing a reading of *Don Quixote* with the LA Guitar Quartet at Sauder Hall at Goshen College on March 7-- the first time I've ever appeared on stage in my own home town. I still have a copy of an interview I did for the *Goshen News* back in the silly '60s. I'm pictured with a moustache, long hair and sideburns and was photographed with my grandmother,

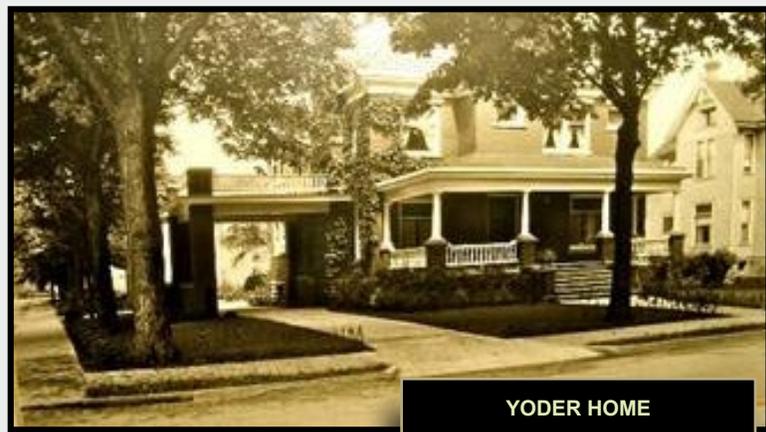
Hazel Yoder, in the drawing room of the old brick house on Fifth Street.

The house (next page) is

still there, and so am I. ■ **CONTINUED**

LAND O'GOSHEN

YOU CAN GO HOME! The man from Indiana shares the man of La Mancha with the people of Goshen.

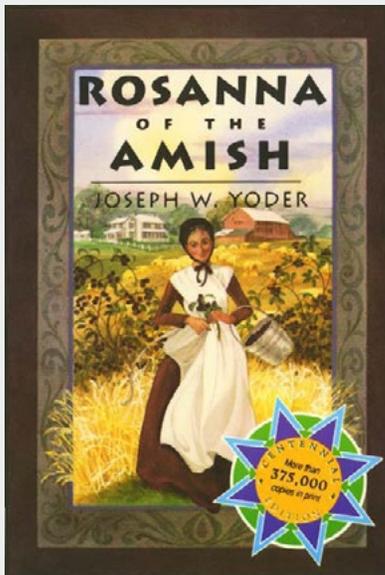


YODER HOME
The old brick house on Fifth

LAND O'GOSHEN
CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

My only surviving relative in Goshen today is **Betsy (Muir) Kastro**; but my childhood friend, **Robert Riddle**, is still around and will be my guest at the concert. It's also possible that Betsy's brother, **Joey Muir**, will be coming from Portland, Maine, where his mom **Bonnie** now resides, along with fellow *BBC Murders* performers **Richard Fish** and **Tony Brewer** from Bloomington and **Tom Healy**, editor of *Branches*, from

Indianapolis. Should be a fun get-together after the concert!



My dad, **Thomas G. Proctor**, from Elkhart, is the son of State Senator **Robert E. Proctor**, who helped to bust the Ku Klux Klan; and although I was schooled back east, I spent most of my summers up to my teenage years with my grandparents in Goshen and often visited the Proctors in Elkhart. My great-grandfather, **John Yoder**, started the Goshen Milk Condensing Plant – and it's still there, too.

We lived on bikes in those daze, and I know every alley in town like the back of my hand, which is now covered in liver spots, like the potholes I remember avoiding – unless they were filled with water – as well as the route to the fairgrounds which featured a WW2 tank and plane in which we played.

If you want to research the origins of my family's Amish/Irish roots, Google *Rosanna of the Amish* by my great-uncle **Joseph W. Yoder**, about whom much has also been written. And here's **AN ARTICLE** from the *Elkhart Truth*.

"Time is what prevents everything from happening at once."
~ **John Archibald Wheeler**

THE SEQUESTER

*Half a pound of tupenny rice, half a pound of treacle,
That's the way the money goes – pop goes the weasel.
Up and down the city road, in and out of the Eagle,
That's the way the money goes – pop goes the weasel.
Every night when I go out, the monkey's on the table,
Take a stick and knock it off – pop goes the weasel.
A penny for a ball of thread, another for a needle,
That's the way the money goes – pop goes the weasel!*

The above are the lyrics to the famous nursery rhyme "Pop Goes the Weasel," and the amazing **Eddie "Greasy" Deezen** tells us what it means: The weasel in the rhyme is a winter coat, which has to be pawned – or "popped" – in exchange for various things. The first verse describes the cheapest food available but as the narrator has no money, "pop" goes the weasel. The second verse describes a night out at a music hall called the Eagle tavern, but drinks cost money, so "pop" goes the weasel.

The third verse is a bit more obscure, but a monkey is slang for a tankard and knocking off a stick meant drinking. So if the guy wants to go out and get a snoot full, "pop" goes the weasel. The last verse probably refers to the narrator's job as a tailor. "This pleasant little tune," Eddie concludes, "is actually about making ends meet; letting off steam and trying to have some fun..."

It's still a very POP-ular song, unfortunately.

*"One must still have chaos in oneself
to be able to give birth to a dancing star."
~ Friedrich Nietzsche*

FROM RUSSIA, WITH LOVE

"You have drawn my attention to a site of acquaintances. I hope, as I shall like you. How I to you in a photo? The truth -- pretty? :) But in a life I more nice!!! And as I cheerful, kind, sociable and fluffy! I like to go in for sports, read books, to listen to music. I love winter and summer. I do not love spring and slush. If I have interested you, with pleasure I shall tell about myself more in the following letter. I wait for the answer..."

*"And God promised men that good and obedient wives
would be found in all corners of the earth. Then he
made the earth round...and he laughed and laughed and
laughed!" ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts*

THROUGHOUT THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING
BOLD, DARK RED TYPE
OPENS A RELATED INTERNET LINK.

THE FLYING MAN

A crowded airline flight had been canceled and a single agent was re-booking a long line of inconvenienced travelers. Suddenly, an angry passenger pushed his way to the desk. He slapped his ticket on the counter and said, "I HAVE to be on this flight and it has to be FIRST CLASS." The agent replied, "I'm sorry, sir. I'll be happy to try to help you, but I have to help these folks first; and then I'm sure we'll be able to work something out."



PLANES . . . Martin makes counter offer to Edie McClurg

The passenger was unimpressed. He asked loudly, so that the passengers behind him could hear, "DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO I AM?" Without hesitating, the agent smiled and grabbed her public address microphone. "May I have your attention, please?" she began, her voice heard

clearly throughout the terminal.

"We have a passenger here at Gate 14 WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHO HE IS. If anyone can help him with his identity, please come to Gate 14." With the folks behind him in line laughing hysterically, the man glared at the agent, gritted his teeth, and said "F**K You!"

Without flinching, she smiled and said, "I'm sorry sir, you'll have to get in line for that, too."

"A man said, 'Those are beautiful shoes you're wearing' to another man, and the second man answered back, 'Yes, but I'm the only one who knows how much they hurt.'" ~ Jerry Lewis on why he broke up with Dean Martin

LUST JUST IN

It was announced today that **Viagra** will now be available in liquid form for use as a mixer, so it will soon be possible for a man to literally pour himself a stiff one. Obviously the product can't be labeled a soft drink, but it'll bring new meaning to cocktails and highballs, so the new concoction will be marketed as – **Mount'n'Do**.



REICH SCHMEIK
Adolf Lu Hitler-Marak (second from left), an Indian candidate for local assembly elections.

And a new report states that there is now more capital being spent on breast implants and male enhancers than on Alzheimer's research, meaning that we'll soon see a growing elderly population with perky boobs and erections and absolutely no idea what to do with them...

*"Dress classy, dance cheesy."
~ Korean Gangnam directive*

INDIAN GIVERS

Wasbir Hussain reports that **Adolf Hitler** is running for state assembly in the small northeast Indian state of **Meghalaya** as well as **Frankenstein Momin**, **Billykid Sangma**, **Field Marshal Mawphniang**, **Romeo Rani**, with 300 more including **Kenedy Marak**, **Kennedy Cornelius Khyriem** and **Jhim Carter Sangma**. But Adolph, a 54-year-old father of three, has already been elected three times with little kerfluffle over his name.

"I am aware at one point of time Adolf Hitler was the most hated person on Earth for the genocide of the Jews," he explains -- but his father who'd once been employed by the British Army, added "Lu" in between, naming him Adolf Lu Hitler, "and that's why I am different," he concludes.

*A lawyer, an Illegal alien, a pathological liar, a Muslim, and a Communist walk into a bar, and the bartender asks, "What'll it be, Mr. President?"
~ Rightwing joke*



LET'S PARTY

A union shop foreman walks into a bar next door to the factory and is about to order a drink to celebrate Obama's victory when he sees a guy at a table wearing a "Romney for President" button. So he shouts over to the bartender loud enough for all to hear, "Drinks for everyone here, bartender, but NOT for the Republican." Soon after the drinks have been handed out, the Republican gives him a big smile, waves at him and says, "Thank you!" in an equally loud voice.

This infuriates the union guy, so he once again loudly orders drinks for everyone EXCEPT the Republican; and as before, this doesn't seem to rattle the chap who smiles even broader, and yells, "Thank you!" again. This goes on for a while, and finally the union man asks the bartender, "What the hell is the matter with that Republican? I've ordered three rounds of drinks for everyone but that fool, and all he does is smile and thank me. Is he nuts?"

"Nope, he's not nuts," replies the bartender. "He owns the place."

"Time growing old, teaches all things." ~ **Aeschylus**

MURPHY'S INLAWS

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak. A fine is a tax for doing wrong and tax is a fine for doing well. He who laughs last, thinks slowest. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong. It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end-to-end, someone from Boston would be stupid enough to try to pass them. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer. Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries. God gave you toes as

a device for finding furniture in the dark. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people, who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool. The things that come to those who wait may be the things left by those who got there first.

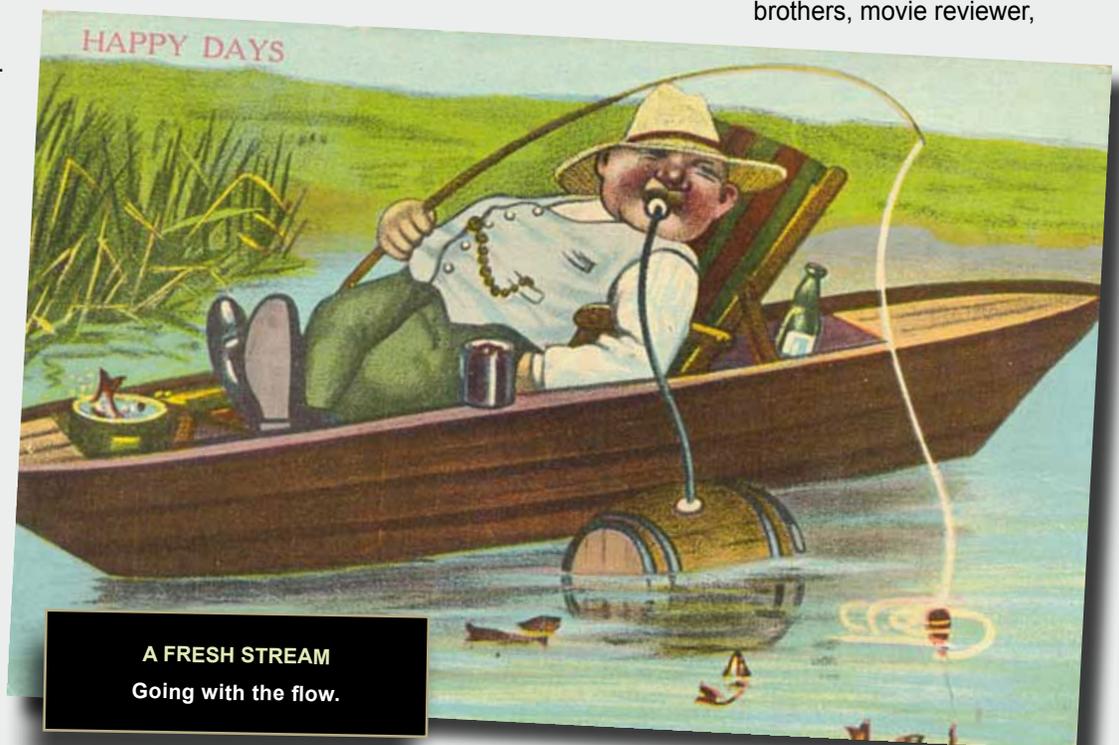
"People who arrive late are always jollier than the people who have to wait for them."

~ **Phil's Phunny Phacts**

LYONS' LAST ROAR

My dear longtime friend and Riverdale Country School classmate **Warren Lyons**, son of **Leonard**, famous for *The Lyons Den* newspaper column, died of Parkinson's, says his brother, **Doug**. He was diagnosed about 10 years ago here in LA, where he lived in an apartment across from **Norman Corwin's** for a time.

He used a brain pacemaker, which may have slowed down the progression of the disease and also is helping **Michael J. Fox**. For about the last five years of his life, he resided at the wonderful **Lillian Booth Actor's Home** in NJ where his brothers, movie reviewer,



Jeffrey and **Doug** could visit regularly.

Warren was a brilliant singer and piano player and cofounder of "The Joy Of Singing" seminars. He also co-



MRS. WARREN'S PROOFREADER
 Antaeus workshop of Shaw play
 earns script a season slot.

produced *Red Cross*, *Muzeeka* and *The House Of Blue Leaves* for the NY stage.

"Though it was increasingly hard for Warren to speak (or sing), he continued to crack jokes and make reference to shows or movies we had seen 50 years ago. One time about one year ago, he enjoyed playing the music of **Jonathan** and **Darlene Edwards** for my son and me," concludes Doug.

enjoy knowing that *Die, Snow White! Die, Damn You!*- by the late, great **Yuri Rasovsky** - "has been nominated in two categories: Audio Drama and Original Work. Yuri would be so tickled and would want you to thank you again for your contributions to his last production and for sending him out doing the work he so loved."

"It is hope, not despair,
 which makes successful revolutions."
 ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

PLANETCLICK

MERCY
DEVIL GOATS
CH-CHANGES
LAUREL Y HARDY
RUGRATS REDUX
BARKING MAD
DEBTOR'S PRISM
DEBTLY DEBATE
GIVE ME SOME HEAD
THE BLUE BEETLE
URBEE
BANGBANG
ORSON

There will never be another like **EI Fiendo**, and we all miss him greatly.

"Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious."
 ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

PARTING SHOUTS

I recently accepted the role of **Giles Corey** in *The Crucible*, the next Antaeus production co-directed by **Armin Shimerman** and **Geoffrey Wade**, which starts rehearsals on March 18. And in the meantime, go see *Mrs. Warren's Profession* by *G.B. Shaw*, beginning March 7. I was in the Classicsfest reading, but couldn't stay with it, due to previous commitments.

And as the nominations for this year's AUDIE Awards have been announced, *Lorna Raver writes*, "I thought you might

MERCI

Brian Howe, Magic Mike Berger, Phil & Oona Austin, Noah Kaufman, Rich DeMaio, Bruce Laks, Alan Meyerson, Joan Allemand, Dr. Carol Tilley, Bill Coombs, Henry Jaglom -- and congratulations to fellow classmate **Sam Waterston**, who was recently inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame on Broadway.

"Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account."
 ~ Oscar Wilde

"God made the cat that man might have the pleasure of caressing the tiger." ~ Ferdinand Mery