



# FRUITPORT Area News

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The purpose of this paper is to be beneficial to the community it serves in every way possible.

## Saturday is free kids day during Old Fashioned Days!

By Mary Weimer

Saturday, May 28 is a special day for kids during Old Fashioned Days.

The kids parade begins at Ram Electronics. Beginning at 11 a.m. judges will choose winners in several categories. Help your kids design a costume, a float, decorate a wagon, or decorate their bikes and watch all the excited faces as they march down Third Avenue to Park Street. The parade steps off at 11:30 a.m. Prizes include four bicycles, trophies and ribbons and its all free!

Following the parade, the Kids' Free Fair begins at the band shell in Pomona Park. Games, face painting and lots of fun activities are planned. And, again, it's all free!•



## Souvenir from WWII

By Mariann Cooper

Carl Stenberg was sent to New Guinea to fight the Japanese during World War II. He saw a lot of action and was injured himself when they finally reached the other side of the mountain. A downed Japanese kamikaze twin engine bomber had washed up on the beach the early part of December in 1942, and he wanted to get a souvenir. He went to take a nut from the landing gear, meanwhile dodging the snipers in the area, and put the nut in his pocket.

He was injured on December 19, 1942 in Buna, New Guinea, and was taken to a clearing station, then shipped to Port Moorsby, then to Townsville, and ended up at 42nd General Hospital in Brisbane, Australia. From there he was moved to Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco, and on to Vaughn General Hospital in Chicago. He was discharged from there on November 22, 1944.

While at Vaughn General Hospital his duffle bag was stripped of his collection of Japanese money and souvenirs he had collected. However, the best part of being at Vaughn was that his wife and mother were able to visit by riding a Greyhound bus from Michigan.

His injuries resulted in the loss of his left kidney, bladder, spleen, and hearing in his left ear, in addition to having malaria. For 12 years following he was plagued with more attacks from the malaria.

During his stay at Vaughn Hospital he took the nut and began carving out the inside with a jack knife. The bolt was made of titanium and aluminum and is very lightweight. He started polishing the outside with sandpaper and ended with "Never Dull" that made it sparkling and shiny. The turquoise stone was formed from the end of the toothbrush that was part of a personal needs kit from the military hospital.

When he came home, he threw the ring into a box. More recently, he took it out to polish it. He wore it on a chain around his neck for awhile, then he put it on his little finger but it doesn't want to stay on very well. This is definitely a one-of-a-kind ring and you won't find another like it.

## Old Fashioned Days Queen selected

By Mary Weimer

With all the recent emphasis on Great Britain's royal wedding, it would be easy to overlook the fact that Fruitport has its own royalty, if only for a day! This year's Old Fashioned Days queen, Betty Kinney, has lived in and served our community for 35 years in a number of capacities.

Betty was born in Detroit, and she and her husband were married for 37 years before Gary passed away in 2000. They have three children, Stacey (Paul) Miller of North Muskegon, Lisa (Andy) Pierce, who live in Kalamazoo, and Scott (Danielle) Kinney of Muskegon. In addition, Betty has five grandchildren and is expecting the arrival of two more this summer.

As the mother of three children, as you can expect, Betty was involved in Fruitport Community Schools as her children were growing up. Beginning with the parent teacher groups, chaperoning band and camping activities, and academic boosters, there was a natural progression to further involvement in the Fruitport Community schools. Her service on various committees led to her appointment to the school board in 1983. From there, she has been elected to serve on the board since 1984, and is currently the board president, a position she has held since 1993. One of her favorite "jobs" as Board of Education president is graduation time. She admits to getting "teary-eyed" as the proud graduates cross the stage.

The Fruitport Education Foundation is another of Betty's pet projects for area youth. The foundation provides yearly scholarships to students and mini-grants to teachers. As the fund continues to grow, area youth will benefit for years to come.

Betty's volunteerism doesn't stop with school activities. She is active in her church, singing in the choir, filling a position on the trustee board, and is a member of the bell choir. For fun, she is in a group called the "Singing Sisters," a take-off group based on the comedy of the *Sister Act* films. She is currently a member of the staff parish committee, worship design committee, and has served on the missions committee. She also takes her turn at the Mission for Area People supper house once or twice a month.

Within our community, she makes every effort to



support the fundraisers and other community events in addition to those connected with the schools. As a member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce, she promotes programs and scholarships for the community. Recently, she was part of the Fashion and Frolic event and "Dancing with the Local Stars," which raised \$50,000 for local food pantries.

Each committee and organization Betty serves on has meetings, and though there is little "free" time, Betty does enjoy playing golf and reading. The "grandchildren time" is the most important, however, even including babysitting!

So this year, when you attend the parade, take a moment to reflect on and be thankful for Queen Betty's commitment and years of volunteering within our community.•

## Tentative Newspaper Delivery Schedule

**July 23, 2011**

OFD Wrap-Up/4-H Youth Fair Issue  
(Deadline July 11, 2011)