

## CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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## A Thanksgiving lesson

The first Presidential Proclamation of a day of Thanksgiving in the United States was made by George Washington in 1789. The day was set aside for prayers and thanksgiving for the new Constitution. Several states continued the practice, each designating its own day.

Abraham Lincoln was the first President to appoint an official Thanksgiving Day, to be celebrated yearly on the last Thursday of November. He issued the Proclamation on Oct. 3, 1863. Since that time the nation has joined, on one day, in saying its prayers of Thanksgiving, and in remembrance of the small band of religious fugitives who landed at Plymouth Rock.

A fact too often forgotten concerning the Pilgrim Fathers is their trial – and abandonment – of the communal system of joint ownership and community labor in the colony. A primary reason for their early hardships on that North American continent was the effort to form a Socialist society.

At first the young colony seemed to be working, but following the first “Thanksgiving,” the colony went into a tail-spin. Many found that under the system all shared equally so that not a few began to absent themselves from their fields. Naturally, they feigned illness and naturally the number of absentees increased.

The crops failed, and the “starving time” soon followed. Things became so bad in 1623, just three years after they landed, that the best they could provide for new arrivals from the mother country was a freshly-caught fish, a lobster, and a cup of water. It was a disastrous come-down after the bountiful feast of 1621, when they had hosted Chief Massasoit and 90 of his braves

And so it was that in that same year of 1623, Gov. William Bradford, at the urging of the governing Council, established the free enterprise system, and the Plymouth Plantation began to grow and prosper.

The Pilgrims had learned their lesson the hard way. But, from the agony of the “starving time” there has grown the most productive and most wealthy civilization that the world has ever known. In Thanksgiving, it has shared the product of its hard work with virtually every nation in the world.

Back in my high school years I had a story I used to tell far too often about a particular dinner I had at my friend Paul’s house.

Paul lived “up the hill” in the affluent part of town midst wide lawns and Tudors and Colonials of brick and timbers, landscaped yards, and good taste. Paul’s mother was an interior designer and their home was particularly elegant and attractive.

My friendship with Paul was one that stopped at the street curb. We would meet on bicycle or at the movie theater or the tennis court. We never wound up inside each other’s house. That was just how it was.

Most rules wind up with exceptions and it happened one Sunday evening that dinner and I arrived at Paul’s house at about the same time. After some negotiating between Paul and his mother at the kitchen door, I was invited inside.

All these years later, I still remember a certain awkwardness about that invitation. Dinner was in the dining room at an elegant table full of china and sterling. It wasn’t possible to simply pull up a chair and join the family. A table setting was added, napkin and water goblet fetched. I remember it being elegant but I also remember that it was all just a tad complex.

Formal dining involves lots of serving pieces, lots of utensils and lots of passing. That’s what I remember most about that evening. Condiments or sauces or little plates of this or that were being passed around far more than in my everyday experience. What was missing, however, based on my point of reference, was food.

That’s right, my story, the story I told and retold after being a drop-in guest at Paul’s family’s dinner involved my observation that their dinner lacked a main course, something to sink your teeth into.

## Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



## Thanks

Pickles in pickle dishes and olives on tiered cut glass trays and tiny presentations of unfamiliar food groups, that’s what was passed around the table that evening. The meat and potatoes that I was used to just never showed up that night.

And so my story, my relating of that evening meal revolved around what I considered was lacking at that table. I would describe all the formality and fancy presentation with the punch line that there was no real food to eat.

Now this dinner I describe took place some 40 years ago. So why do I carry the memory with me still?

Frankly, to this day, I stand aghast at my own lack of gratitude for the hospitality extended to me by Paul’s family.

On that particular evening, at that particular dining table, I had the opportunity to be grateful for any number of things. I was hosted as a guest. I was included in the conversation. I was fed. I was treated kindly. Yet, despite all the hospitality that was extended to me, I left that table recounting the meal in terms of what I didn’t experience. I turned an unplanned moment of abundance into a story of lack.

Thankfully, I learned from this lesson. And so the dinner I made a joke of so many years ago has become an “a-ha” moment in my life.

I approach this year’s Thanksgiving Day table with the knowledge that my blessings sometimes go unacknowledged and unappreciated. But I also come knowing something else. I know that reflection gives me the opportunity to be grateful for abundance that’s scooted by me without recognition.

Best wishes to all our readers for this wonderful American tradition of giving thanks.

## Letters to the Editor

The Comet welcomes letters to the editor responding to articles and events in the news. They must include the author’s name, address and telephone number. The letter writer’s name and city/town will appear in the paper - no exceptions. Letters must be 400 words or less in length. Please send your letters to: editor@carrollcountycomet.com; Letters to the Editor, Comet, P.O. Box 26, Flora, IN 46929 or P.O. Box 179, Delphi, IN 46923; or fax 574-967-3384 or 765-564-2010. By submitting a letter or opinion article, the author grants the Comet the right to publish, distribute, archive or use the work in print, electronic, on-line or other format.

To the people of Carroll County,

This is a letter of thanks to the residents of Carroll County. Fourteen years ago, we began our association with Carroll County when John was chosen as the superintendent of the Delphi Community School Corporation. At that time, the Board of School Trustees was adamant in their belief that administrators live in the community and be an active participant in school and community affairs. Our family firmly committed to that belief and in spring 1994, we purchased a home across from the high school and our four children enrolled in the Delphi Community School Corporation.

Many times over the years, John was told that his was a thankless job. A superintendent just could not please everyone. While that is true, we want you to know that this is just a fact of life and we accepted this going into the position. We just want to take this opportunity to tell you what an impact you have had on our lives.

As our children became active in school and extra-curricular activities, our home was open to many students. Many young men will tell you that a good meal was always available, but house rules stated by “Doc” were no hats allowed at the table and a person had to wear a shirt to be seated. In addition, everyone participated in grace before meals. We cherish the memories of the laughter and fun we had at that table. We hope that in some small way, we influenced their lives as well.

Our children received excellent educations in the Delphi Community School Corporation. We proudly state that and credit the teachers and administration for their efforts in making opportunities available for all students. All four of our children graduated with an Honors diploma. Attaining that diploma is rigorous and challenging but they were prepared well for their college level courses. In addition, each of them was a student athlete in some sport each season in high school. We are proud to say that in May, 2007, all four of them will have graduated (we hope) from a four-year college and all four of them were student athletes all four years in college.

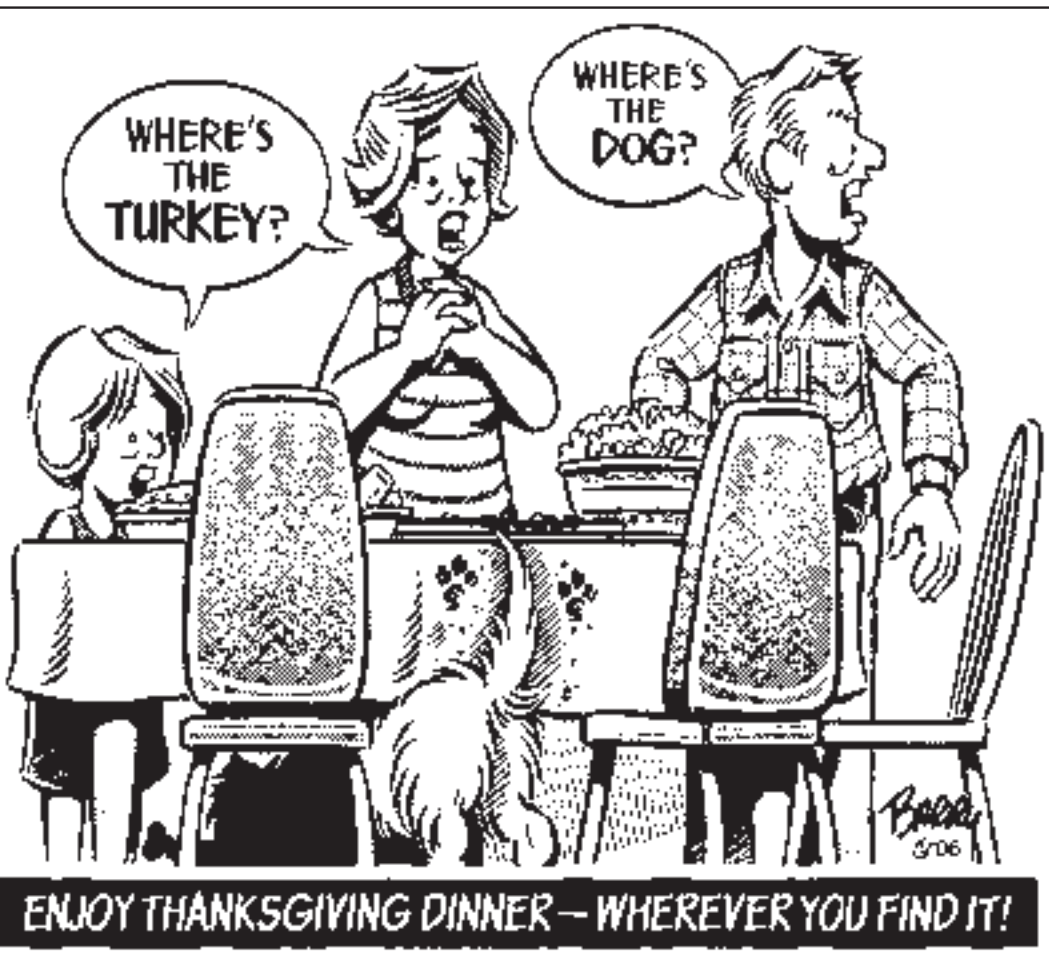
Debbie worked in different capacities while in Delphi. She worked for Ball State University as a supervisor of student teachers. She substitute taught in Delphi and Rossville. She served as a school-to-work consultant at both Delphi and Carroll high schools. In 1999, the president of the school board asked her to be the interim principal at Camden. After serious consideration, she accepted and resigned this position in October. All of us have fond memories of the people she encountered and of the wonderful educational experiences she had at Camden.

All of us became active community members—John in Rotary and a number of committees; Debbie in Psi Otes and other committees; the children in clubs and activities. We helped with Christmas baskets, we cleaned up after the flood, we participated in the fair and we visited the sick and mourned the departed. What wonderful treasures we found through these experiences!

All of the experiences we have had, though, become meaningless without remembering the good people we have encountered along the way. We have established many deep and lasting friendships. For that we say, “Thank you.” Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Delphi Community School Corporation. Our sincere wish is that in some small way we were able to impact your lives in a positive manner.

We wish you continued blessings and the best for the citizens of Carroll County, especially those in the Delphi Community School Corporation. It’s always a great day to be an ORACLE!

John and Debby Williams,  
Sarah Williams King,  
John, Nick and Jeff Williams



## Circuit Court Judge Donald Currie

New filings are from public records available in the Carroll County Clerk’s office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi. Other information regarding judgments and marriage dissolutions is gathered from public records found in the clerk’s office.

Judgements for the plaintiff were entered in the following cases: Midland Credit Management, Inc. vs. Kimberly Gullion in the amount of \$1,546.75.

Default judgements were entered for the plaintiff in the following cases: G.E. Money Bank vs. Todd Shell, \$1,004.32. Elizabeth A. Waymire, 22,

Camden, pled guilty to possession of a controlled substance and theft. She was sentenced to three years, all but 12 days suspended, plus three years supervised probation.

Rene Barradas Zavaleta, 39, Delphi, pled guilty to forgery. She was sentenced to two years, all but four days suspended, and two years supervised probation.

Bryan E. Campbell, 42, was found guilty of forgery. He was sentenced to the Department of Corrections for a period of four years, all but six months suspended, to run concurrent with three other sentences, plus probation.

William R. Diefenderfer, 24, Lynchburg, Va., pled guilty to dealing in a controlled substance. He was sentenced to 10 years in jail, all but two days suspended, plus supervised probation.

The court denied a jury trial on motion of the defendant in the State of Indiana vs. Susan E. Sturdivant.

Lawrence W. Golladay, 44, was found guilty of home improvement fraud. He was sentenced to six months in jail, all suspended, and one year probation.

Benjamin H. Hunley, 22, pled guilty to burglary. He was sentenced to nine years, all but three and a half years suspended, plus six and a half years probation.

A decree of dissolution was entered for Jeffrey A. Ball and Vickie M. Ball.

A complaint to foreclose mortgage was filed in First Financial Bank vs. Theresa Kay Guyer.

## Web poll

Tell us starting Wednesday at our web site, carrollcountycomet.com

What do you think should be the basis for Carroll County’s economic development?

Agriculture  
Tourism

More roads/highways to entice bigger businesses  
Quality of life  
Maintain and enjoy what we already have

## Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith

Superior Court judgments are gathered from public records on file in the Carroll County Clerk’s office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi.

### New Filings

Amy L. Swanke was charged with residential entry and criminal mischief.

Jeremy D. Houser was charged with failure to stop after accident resulting in non-vehicle damage and possession of paraphernalia.

Richard G. Malott was charged with false informing.

Brian M. McFarren, was charged with possession of a controlled substance.

The following have been charged with operating while intoxicated and endangering: Travis W. Adams, Bill Viance, Michelle Lineberry, Patricia A. Chambers

Todd A. Richard was charged with driving while suspended and speeding.

Joshua R. Hinton was charged with operating while intoxicated, endangering, and resisting law enforcement.

Robert J. Knoth was charged with invasion of privacy.

Matthew J. Cline was charged with theft, possession of a controlled substance and operating a vehicle with schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolites in body.

David T. Busch was charged with failure to stop after an accident resulting in serious bodily injury.

Raymond C. Meyer was charged with battery.

Trudy J. McFarren and W. Clay Hart have both been charged with check deception.

Kendall W. Diehe was charged with reckless driving and speeding.

Sheldon K. Kinzie was

charged with reckless driving, speeding and driving left of center.

Bryan E. Stephens was charged with operating while intoxicated, endangering, expired license plate, and no headlights.

Pete O’Brien was charged with public intoxication.

Christopher M. Moyer was charged with resisting law enforcement and speeding.

Ross H. Malott was charged with battery resulting in bodily injury and resisting law enforcement.

Mark A. Cottrill was charged with endangering.

Brock J. Farmer was charged with illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

Patrick T. Ruby was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Andrew J. Burkhart was charged with operating while intoxicated, endangering and possession of marijuana.

Orders of wage garnishments were entered for the following: Carroll County Clerk vs. Telena Birden and Normal Life of Indiana; Lafayette Accounts Services vs. Brenda Miller; Robert and Doris Lathrop vs. Roy Ash, Kim Ash, and Delphi Limestone; Baldwin Auto Supply vs. Sara Stone and Wallmann’s Foods.

An agreed judgment was entered for the plaintiff in F. Edward Fisher and Janice S. Fisher vs. Approval Auto Credit in the amount of \$378.

Matthew Seibert, 20, Delphi, pled guilty to harboring a non-immunized dog and allowing a dog to stray. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation, plus restitution.

For alcohol-related convictions, the following were meted a combination of jail time, with some suspensions, probation with fees, community service, house arrest, participation in a court-approved drug and alcohol program, and suspended and/or probationary driving privileges: Kenneth Paul Davis, 62, Delphi; Tiffani P. James, 35, Delphi;

Janet L. Coghil, 39, Burlington; Joshua B. Bagwell, 21, Burlington.

Manuel Albrado, Jr., 22, Delphi was found guilty of public intoxication. He was sentenced to 90 days, 86 days suspended, and 180 days supervised probation.

Timothy A. Fowler, 45, of Flora pled guilty to public intoxication. He was sentenced to 180 days, all but four days suspended, and 360 days supervised probation.

Sabrina K. Duvall, 21, of Flora pled guilty to possession of marijuana. She was sentenced to one year, all suspended, plus one year supervised probation and participation in drug and alcohol programs.

Adrian Peres, 27, of Logansport pled guilty to false informing. He was sentenced to 180 days, all but nine days suspended, 355 days supervised probation and participation in a drug and alcohol program.

For alcohol-related convictions, the following were meted a combination of jail time, with some suspensions, probation with fees, community service, house arrest, participation in a court-approved drug and alcohol program, and suspended and/or probationary driving privileges: Tamahine Brown and Chad Allen Long.

The following cases were dismissed: State of Indiana vs. Chad M. Alting; State of Indiana vs. Ronald J. Hinojosa Jr.; State of Indiana vs. Robert D. Perry; State of Indiana vs. John R. Everett; State of Indiana vs. John R. Coble; State of Indiana vs. Dustin M. Lane; State of Indiana vs. Alex Martinez; State of Indiana vs. Kristen Rohman; Kyle Loy, M.D. vs. Shawn James and Terra James.

## Because the public has a right to know...

In an effort to help our readers understand what government meetings are happening when and where, the Comet will now print upcoming meetings on a weekly basis.

**Monday, Nov. 27**  
√Carroll County Council: 7 p.m.  
√Delphi School Corp.: 7 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Nov. 28**  
√Area Plan: 7 p.m.

## Web poll results

Each week the Comet polls its readers on a different topic. Vote online at carrollcountycomet.com starting each Thursday, and then click the Comments link to send us an email voicing your opinion. The best responses will be printed the following week.

Last Week’s Results:

Do you curb your eating a couple of days before the big Thanksgiving feast so you can “pig out” without guilt?

31% Yes

69% No

Total responses: 26

Reader comments from Nov. 8 poll question:

Having attended that meeting and hearing Judge Smith’s argument, I would agree with the council.

I believe the Judge bypassed the first rule in that the job should have been advertised to all county taxpayers who are paying this salary. He admitted that it was not advertised.

While the individual hired is well qualified, that does not mean there are others who are not.

I personally want a Judge in this county who respects our county guidelines, rather than insisting on his own will before making offers that are not within conformity.