

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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A true public servant

Ralph Rohrabough died unexpectedly on Sunday at the age of 81. A Carroll County leader and public servant, he will be missed for years to come.

A typical senior he was not. When many others his age are turning over responsibilities to younger people, Ralph still held many leadership positions, including president of the Camden Town Council.

Ralph personified the friendly face of Camden and was the unofficial mayor of the town.

He was a progressive thinker and planner and always worked hard to make sure that Camden never got left behind. He loved for groups and committees to meet in his town and often would give them a personal welcome.

He was dedicated to everything he did. He served on the Camden Town Council for more than 33 years, was a 57-year member of the American Legion, and was a member of the Carroll County E-911 Advisory Committee since its inception in the mid-1990s. He was currently serving and had served on numerous Camden and Carroll County boards and committees.

Already a proven leader, he was making plans to take part in Leadership Carroll County, Class of 2007.

In 2000, Ralph was recognized for all his civic contributions by being named a Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest award the governor can bestow.

Ralph's death creates a void that will be hard to fill. It would be a tribute to him if people would step forward and work toward the things he believed in - in Camden and in Carroll County.

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.

Brandon J. Lane was charged with burglary.

The following were found to be in arrears of child support: Dale Babcock, \$15,326; Mark McLeland, \$8,505; David Rowland, \$17,927.20; Stacy Heath, \$7,540.95; Jon Morrow, \$19,852.36; Michael S. Fultz, \$22,398.38; Stacy Hardin, \$11,249.46.

Ponciano N. Longoria, 33, of Monticello, pled guilty to identity deception. He was sentenced to one and a half years imprisonment, one year suspended, to be served via in-home suspension.

The following cases were dismissed: First Financial Bank vs. Timothy F. Hutson; State of Indiana vs. Ronald E. Hart; State of Indiana vs. Wade S. Myers.

Judgments for the plaintiff were entered in the following cases: Capital One Bank vs. Claudia Brown.

Default judgments were entered for the plaintiff in the following cases: Capital One Bank vs. Brad Kellogg.

A decree of dissolution was granted between the following:

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.

Wednesday, Dec. 20

√Delphi Board of Works: 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 22

√Swearing in of newly elected officials: 12 noon - Carroll County Courthouse

Wednesday, Dec. 27

√Delphi City Council special meeting: 7 p.m.

√Town of Camden year-end meeting: 2 p.m.

√Town of Flora year-end meeting: 6 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 28

√Carroll County Council: 8 a.m.

√Economic revitalization area hearing: 9 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 29

√Carroll County Commissioners, special meeting: 9 a.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Sheriff Sale-Landis	6B	4813
TL School-Bidders	6B	4912
Sheriff Sale-Stark	7B	4913
Sheriff Sale-Rhoades	7B	4913
Notice of Suit-Tyra	7B	5013
Notice of Sale-Thatcher	7B	5013
Sheriff Sale-Veach	7B	5013
Ascercio Estate	7B	5012
Sheriff Sale-Huddleston	7B	5013
Sheriff Sale-Scott	7B	5013
County Council-Add'l Appro	6B	5011
Landes Estate	7B	5011d

Questions concerning Indiana's Open Door and Public Access Laws may be directed to the state's public access office, at 1-800-228-6013.

I like watching the ladies in giftwrap as they ply their trade.

I appreciate the talent it takes to combine giftwrap and tape, ribbon and bow, and turn it all into something lovely.

I like the confidence a good gift wrapper shows when she or he approaches their task. There's that measured eye sizing up how much giftwrap is needed. There's that steady wielding of the scissors, the authoritative command of the tape dispenser, the sharp folds, the precision corners.

I'm sincere in my appreciation. I've never mastered package wrapping, so I appreciate it when it's well done.

Have you ever received a gift where more thought and effort went into the wrap than the gift inside. They're all trumpet and fanfare but no parade.

The holidays come wrapped in some lovely things, tradition and giving. There's the music and the food and the festivity. But some holiday wrappings could just as well be dispensed with. The excess, the credit card debt, the commercialization of a religious observance.

Wrappings can be a lovely bonus, then again, they can also obscure the real deal.

Last week I was at business meeting of a small church group. The members sought my advice on a couple items and we sat down and had a good meeting.

At the end of the meeting one

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz

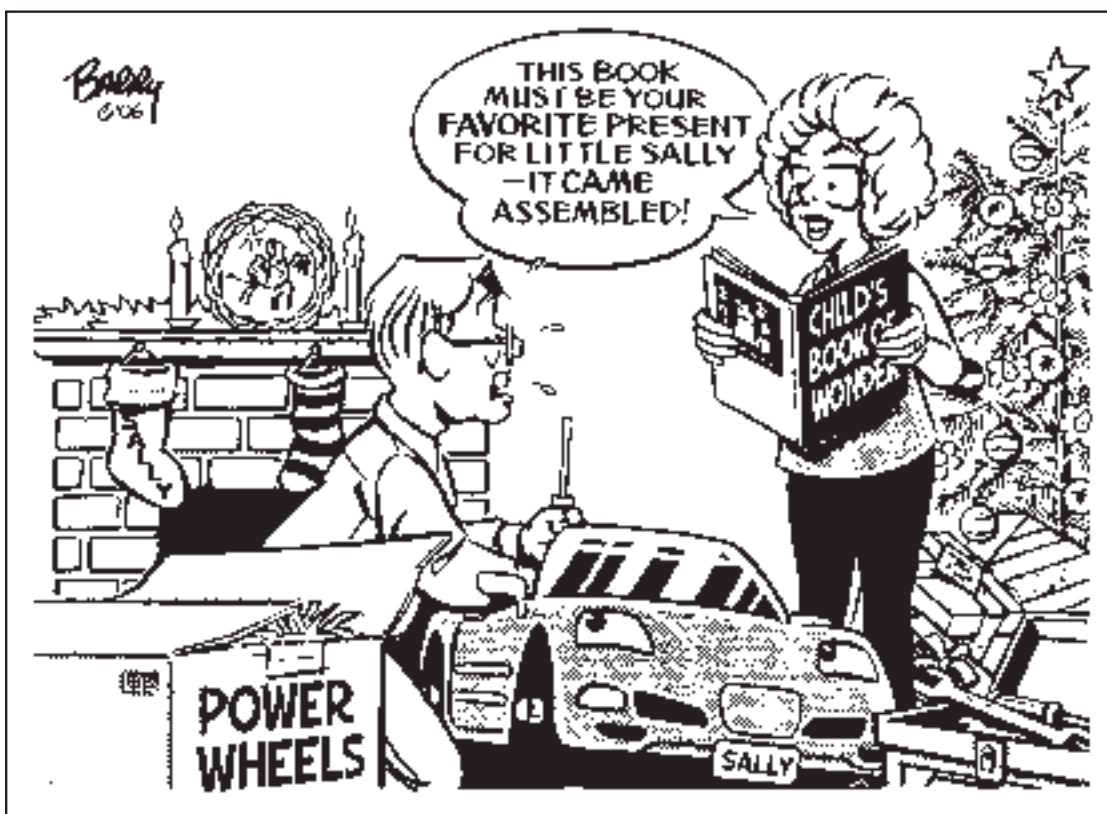
**Wrappings**

task was left incomplete. We needed the signatures of two board members of the church. "No problem," I told the group. When I had arrived that morning I parked the car on a side street near the church. At that time I noticed a branch of the bank where I have my checking account.

It was a warm day, sunny and bright and four of us marched on over to the branch bank to get the necessary signatures notarized.

I bank at an institution that is used to high end banking business. They like the wealthy folks but wound up with me years ago as a customer in a package deal with one of my clients "O h my," one of the church ladies remarked as we entered the lobby of the bank.

The woodwork, the colors, the furniture and art work, it all was chosen to make a particular impact and the bank makes a statement with its look. A receptionist seated us in an elegant waiting area. Classical music played in the background. Forbes and Wall Street lay on the coffee table for us to pass the time.

**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

Janus L. Griffith was charged with operating while intoxicated - endangering, failure to stop after an accident resulting in non-vehicle damage.

Chester L. Whitmore and Raymond C. Elsea were charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated - endangering.

Roberto Garcia was charged with operating a vehicle with ACE of .08 or more.

Glen F. Guntle and Lela Labeau have been charged with check deception.

Corey W. Ginn was charged with driving while suspended and speeding.

Laura S. Wagner and Hermilio E. Hernandez have been charged with operating a motor vehicle without having ever received a license.

Cory M. Dunbar, William C. Stauffer, and Kyle Garrison have been charged with illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

Sean D. Johnson and Randy Vanpelt have been charged with casting rays of an artificial light from a motor vehicle while in

possession of firearms.

Ross H. Malott was charged with auto theft.

Causes brought by the State of Indiana against the following were dismissed: Candy L. Conklin; Marcia Maxwell; Clinton Maxwell; Amanda Duvall; Merranda A. Hillary; Dustin L. Prater; Kyle E. Garrison; Toby M. Garth.

For convictions related to alcohol or illegal substances, 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:

Jesse W. Veach, 25, of Delphi; Justin L. Sieber, 26, of Cutler; Janice E. Lane, 45, of Delphi; Steven S. Spurgeon, 49, of Kokomo; Athena L. Dulin, 25, of Delphi; Jason D. Miller, 34, of Delphi; Kenneth R. Morgan, 46, of Burlington; David E. Storey, 50, of Delphi; Tabitha R. Fultz, 20, of Delphi; Michea J. Knoth, 22, of Delphi; Albert J. Hack III, 22; Clint W. Huffer, 21, of Monticello; Shandel A. Dalton, 21, of Plymouth; Mitzi L. Deel, 30, of Delphi; Kyle A. Johnston, 20, of Camden; Gail

L. Reynolds, 48, of Logansport; Ernesto G. Hernandez, 33, of Flora; Shara L. Perry, 35;

Richard E. Hampton, 38, of Flora; and Jonathon R. Hollingsworth, 22, of Kokomo.

Shannon L. McKinley, 24, of Lafayette, pled guilty to theft. She was sentenced to one year in jail, all but 162 days suspended, and 203 days supervised probation.

Joseph B. O'Brien, 23, pled guilty to visiting a common nuisance. He was sentenced to 130 days in jail.

Valera Y. Bautista, 18, of Delphi, pled guilty to operating a motor vehicle without ever having received a license. She was sentenced to 30 days in jail, all suspended, and one year probation.

Brian R. Keeling, 46, of Veedersburg, pled guilty to operating a motor vehicle as an habitual traffic violator. He was sentenced to one and a half years in jail, all suspended, one and a half years supervised probation and suspension of driving privileges for life.

Dennis L. Blackman, 53, of Monticello, pled guilty to driving while suspended. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Kenneth G. Couch, 53, of Delphi, pled guilty to reckless driving. He was sentenced to 90 days in jail, all suspended, and one year supervised probation.

Sheldon K. Kinzie, 17, of Delphi, pled guilty to reckless driving. He was sentenced to 90

After a long wait we were ushered into a private office. All that wrapping, the finery, the corporate plumage of finery surrounded us, hung heavy in the air, as we were informed that the bank would not notarize the signatures of non-deposit holders.

Like a parade that lost its way, we four were quickly ushered out the door. But we regrouped and laughed at the haughty pretense we had endured.

Off to the currency exchange we marched.

Beckoning in neon, and in three different languages, we found the currency exchange wrapped in litter and advertising, a radio blaring, a foreign beat filled the air. The lady behind the bullet-proof glass was friendly and efficient and for a buck apiece, we were in business.

The real deal wasn't wrapped in a fancy bow, but was plain and clumsy and delightfully ordinary.

Out the door we kicked up our heels and laughed and when we parted there was a round of spontaneous hugs, a kind of celebration of the discovery of a fundamental truth.

So for this holiday, I intend to appreciate the wrappings but stay alert for the real - the real message, the real spirit. The dazzle of the glitter does not lead toward the manager, does not even light the way.

Merry Christmas to our readers and joyful wishes one and all.

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.

Appreciates efforts for Canal Christmas

We want to commend the Wabash and Erie Canal Association for their fine open house and market held Dec. 9 and 10. The setting and the atmosphere were lovely, including interesting booths, good food, and beautiful music.

As co-authors of our recently published novel, The Last Reunion (ISBN: 0-595-39614-3), we decided to bring along a few copies and some bookmarks when we went there on Saturday afternoon. The staff graciously offered us a place to set up a display where we sold a few books and met dozens of terrific people.

Thanks to all the staff and the citizens of Delphi for the great weekend.

Daniel and Mary Ann Nusbaum
Logansport

Something for your Christmas stocking...tax hike approval

The Indiana Department of Finance has approved the tax rate increase requested by your elected Carroll County Council. Just a little something for your Christmas stocking, folks. You might want to thank them come election time.

If you received an increased property valuation from the recent trending law, you are running out of time to appeal that increase. You need to pick up a form from the courthouse. If you are not sure if your property value has increased for this year, the assessor's office has that information for you.

For those of you not attending the meeting at the Canal regarding the presentation for the jail, you missed an opportunity to see just how much we DO NOT NEED a new jail. There were many good facts given on how our county can be more productive and deter crime; however, when it came time to show figures for building, rejuvenating and/or adding to our current structure, the presentation failed to give any reasonable reason to spend the required dollars.

As a matter of fact, I must thank Commissioner Bill Brown for his statement that it would be cheaper to send prisoners out of the county at \$35-\$45 a day than pay for a NEW jail. I am wondering if the council members present heard the same.

Shirley Inman
Delphi

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Marriage Licenses

John Robert Garrison, 42, and Samantha Ann Johns, 28, both of Delphi.

Kenton Kiger, 52, of Brookston, and Teresa Anne Wagoner, 37, of Flora.

Brian W. Short, 36, and Melissa Ann Rodenbarger, 32, both of Delphi.

Stephen Elmer Gettel, 36, of Sterling, Colo., and Linda Arleen Dukes, 39, of Flora.

Jason Lloyd Johnson, 23, and Amanda Lynn Peters, 21, both of Delphi.

Mark Edward Fultz, 44, and Janice Kay Fultz, 48,

both of Delphi.

Mark Anthony Royer, 20, and Sarah Jane Brumbaugh, 18, both of Camden.

Timothy Alan Richardson, 50, and Galina Dmitrievna Ovchinnikova, 42, both of Bringham.

Charles Robert Gross, 62, and Carol Ann Durbin, 50, both of Delphi.

Shane Michael Spencer, 21, of Camden, and Denise Lynn McManus, 20, of Delphi.