

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



In 1928 Paul and Thelma Krause owned Earl's Cafe downtown on State Street and the little house to the left. The house was torn down and a new building replaced it, which became the Just Rite Bakery operated by the Nelson family. (Photographs courtesy of Burt Krause)



The Nelson family operated the bakery in the building they rented from the Krause family, shown in this 1948 photograph. Carl Neelis would eventually become an employee of Emma and Betty Nelson, and eventually Mr. Neelis bought the bakery. The downtown building is currently the Secretary of State office.

## Remembering St. Ignace Bakery

To the Editor:

I read with interest the letter Mike McNamara wrote about the Just Rite Bakery. My mother and father, Paul and Thelma Krause, rented the building (which is now the Secretary of State Office) to Mr. Nelson, his wife, Emma, and daughter, Betty. They started the bakery around 1940 or earlier. Mr. Nelson died in the early '40s and Emma and Betty continued to operate the bakery for many years. Betty was an excellent cake decorator and decorated many birthday and wedding cakes.

Joe Labike was the night baker. "Aunt Sue" Conley and Olga Dennis also worked for the Nelsons. Carl Neelis started working at the bakery and bought it from the Nelsons.

Emma and Betty moved to Minneapolis, where they lived out the rest of their lives.

Burt Krause  
St. Ignace

## Museum of Ojibwa Culture Worth Visiting

To the Editor:

The Museum of Ojibwa Culture is quite the place to visit, if you ask me and my granddaughter! So many things happened there. From blessing and Indians to the wonderful and exciting experience of old pirate tales and myths. Tony [Grondin], the Indian elder, smudged a healing pocket spirit for my daughter. She had a brain tumor a while back that the doctors removed... and she still has seizures, and is struggling quite a bit. We're very worried. But with Shirley [Sorrels]' help we found out about the pocket spirits, which were smudged by Tony in a ceremony. Robin Kissinger was so helpful to us. He had the most uplifting spirit. When you step into that museum, it feels as though nothing could go wrong. After the ceremony, the group went on a journey to the past. Orion Couling, the wonderful and hilarious tour guide, told many pirate stories, all of which actually happened on the Great Lakes.

This whole experience changed our lives. We really enjoyed this whole experience. And we'll definitely be back. We encourage everyone to go. Take your kids, too. It's fun and educational for all ages.

Sharon Pemberton and Mandy Hunnaman  
Colton

## Surprised by the Richness and Diversity of St. Ignace

To the Editor:

Doreen Lawrence and I recently had the pleasure of visiting the city of St. Ignace July 20 through July 22. We were so thrilled to be warmly greeted at the Chamber of Commerce and given a wealth of material by Judy Gross. She had utterly convinced us about the beauty and historical significance of your gorgeous town. We were only going to pass through on the way to more well known areas in the Upper Peninsula, but because of Judy's insights, we ended up staying two whole days exploring all the nooks and crannies of the area and skipping the rest of our tentative itinerary.

We've lived in Michigan our whole lives, but never realized the richness and diversity of St. Ignace. We had fun chatting at the wine and cheese tasting, climbing Castle Rock, checking out your historical walk, learning about Chief Wawatam, and taking in all the lore at Fort de Buade. We laughed at the Mystery Spot and the Weird Michigan Wax Museum, and poked around St. Anthony's Rock, then honored Pere Marquette at his gravesite, listened to the wonderful storyteller on the evening walk, picnicked at Bridge View Park, looked through cemetery documents at the library, explored St. Ignatius Loyola Church, totally stuffed ourselves with local delicacies at Freshwater Foods, The Galley, Manley's, and the Driftwood, and enjoyed great accommodations at both the Best Western and the Moran Bay Motel.

We will be sure to spread the word about St. Ignace down here in the flatlands, but this little journey we made highlights the importance of tourist bureaus like your Chamber of Commerce and, in particular, someone as valuable as Judy Gross, whose eyes just sparkle when talking about the history and culture of her corner of Michigan.

Suzie Martin and  
Doreen Lawrence  
Sterling Heights

## Witnessed Random Act of Kindness

To the Editor:

On Monday, July 27, while returning from Lower Michigan, I was privileged to witness a small act of kindness that made me realize there are many good people in our area.

The car about four ahead of me on the Mackinac Bridge was in the commuter lane, obviously by mistake. When they got to the card reader, they were in a predicament as they could not proceed without a card and they could not back up because of the cars behind them.

We all sat there waiting for something to happen. The bridge personnel were very busy with traffic in other lanes, so they were unable to help.

After a few minutes, the gentleman in the car behind them jumped out of his car, ran up to the card reader, and opened the gate with his card.

I don't know if he got his money back, but kudos for a \$1.60 well spent. It's certainly nice to live in Upper Michigan.

Ron Mitchell  
Hessel

## MICHIGAN POLITICS

By George Weeks



### Stupak: From Beat Cop to Food Cop

In the 1970s, Bart Stupak was an Escanaba police officer and then a State Police trooper. Now, he's emerging as Capitol Hill's top food cop.

Title of the nine-term congressman from Menominee is a mouthful: Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Stupak's investigations and 10 hearings over the past two years on what he calls the nation's "broken" food safety system led to 283-142 House passage last week, with good bipartisan support, of the landmark Food Safety Enhancement Act to fix the system. Senate action is pending.

Media coverage of the action was understandably eclipsed by focus on "Cash for Clunkers," President Barack Obama's distracting, over-hyped Beer Summit after he unwisely said a white cop "acted stupidly" in arresting a black homeowner. and, far more importantly, focus on the health care debate.

But Stupak deserves kudos for being first long ago blowing the whistle on laxity of the Food and Drug Administration, and then examining breakdowns in the system highlighted by E. coli in peanut butter, meat, and fresh greens as well as last summer's high-profile outbreak of salmonella linked first to tomatoes and later traced to jalapeno peppers.

Stupak said the bill he helped write "addresses gaping holes in the protection of our nation's food supply and strengthens the accountability of both the FDA and the food industry. By keeping contaminated food off Americans' dinner tables and acting quickly and decisively when outbreaks occur, we can help ensure the safety of families throughout Northern Michigan and across the nation."

He says the bill would establish a national food tracing system, making it easier for the FDA to respond to outbreaks of food borne illness. It also would increase inspections of foreign food facilities, a critically important provision given the increasing amount of food coming from overseas. The bill would give the FDA subpoena power, mandatory recall authority, and require country of origin labeling on food.

In these welcome days of "Buy American," and this summer's focus on buying Michigan farm products, the bill's focus on country of origin takes on added allure. When feasible, farm market beats foreign.

Stupak correctly calls for prompt Senate passage because "Without reform, it's not a matter of if, but when, the next outbreak will occur."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 76 million cases of food borne illness occur each year in the United States, resulting in 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths.

Food safety is more important to more of us than clunker cars.

#### Hoekstra's Hype

Nine-term U.S. Representative Pete Hoekstra (R-Holland), the former chairman and now ranking Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, is deservedly prominent in the national media for his call-'em-as-he-sees-'em stance on national security issues, even when it might be awkward for his

party. Does that help in seeking the 2010 GOP nomination to replace term-limited Governor Jennifer Granholm? Not much, especially as voters focus on economic distress.

But Hoekstra also has a deft touch on local campaigning back home, as evident when, then a business executive, he biked about west Michigan district in a campaign that resulted in a stunning upset of 1966-92 Representative Guy VanderJagt (R-Luther) in the GOP primary.

He's not seeking reelection to his safe seat, but Peddling Pete is at it again in the gubernatorial primary (he was to bike about 25 miles over the weekend from Holland to Grand Haven) and has another populist gig, spending a couple of hours with people in 100 jobs periodically in the campaign.

The caper worked well for him last week in Detroit, where both daily newspapers covered him with pictures and three-column headlines as he donned a hardhat and safety vest for laying of sewer pipe. It was campaign gold for a relatively unknown west Michigan politician whose chief primary opponents are from the metro southeast.

Among future jobs: making Mackinac Island fudge, and maybe shaking or packing cherries.

#### Help Mate for Her Running Mate

Has any Michigan governor done more to trumpet a running mate who is running to be successor than Jennifer Granholm has for John Cherry? I don't recall any.

Granholm frequently issues joint press releases with Cherry, as she did Friday in saying the two "thanked President Obama for his efforts in working with Congress to extend the Car Allowance Rebate System," popularly known as the Cash for Clunkers program "that offers rebates of up to \$4,500 for the purchase of new fuel-efficient vehicles."

Meanwhile, Cherry, longtime ally of organized labor, is amassing endorsements from legions of local party leaders.

George Weeks retired in 2006 after 22 years as political columnist for The Detroit News. His weekly Michigan Politics column is syndicated by Superior Features.

## The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

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All responsible letters will be considered for publication and may be edited. They must be signed and a telephone number must be included for verification. Personal thank-you notes, personal attacks against other people, form letters, and letters promoting political candidates are not accepted, although letters for or against ballot proposals are welcome.

#### Obituaries:

The St. Ignace News maintains a policy of not charging for obituaries and we do often add information or rewrite them for clarity and reader interest. Obituaries that the family wants published exactly as submitted can be placed in the newspaper for \$75. Photographs are welcome at no charge.

#### Weddings:

Weddings with photographs are published without charge within 45 days of the ceremony. After 45 days, a photograph can be included for \$35.00.

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