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THE ROCKPORT Observer

FAIRVIEW & ROCKY RIVER COMMUNITIES | VOL 01, ISSUE 2 | AUGUST 2013

“When the Music’s Over, Turn Out the Lights”

By Greg Williams

On a Saturday night in July, Stamper’s Grill Pub in Fairview Park hosted the Reunion/Evolution of the local rock band, **The Tree Stumps**. If you were fortunate enough to get in the door, you were part of a “standing room only” crowd, soaking in the humidity and good vibes.

Everyone rocked to three sets of vintage songs performed by combinations of many of the band’s former members, including Mike Hay, Ron and Russ Jankowski, Woody Leffel, Alan Howarth, Michael Stanley, Kendall Stauffer and Gary Harrington. Supporting musicians were friends and family: Norm Strelka, Dan Jankowski, Adam Christian, Bob Wick and Chuck Inglefield. Truly a reunion, many members, friends and fans had not seen each other in 40 years. Over \$2,000 was collected for the local charity of St. Jude Church.

Back in the late 1960s, this Westshore band became one of the kings of the Cleveland rock music scene. The band cut its teeth playing at high school sock hops, the Fairview American Legion Hall, and



Rocking at the reunion with (left to right) Norm Strelka, Kendall Stauffer, Alan Howarth (behind Woody), Woody Leffel, Gary Harrington (seated), Bob Wicks (seated), Michael Stanley, Mike Hay, Dan Jankowski, Ron Jankowski, Russ Jankowski, and Adam Christian. *Photo by: Cindy Barber*

an emerging teen club circuit. The Tree Stumps was also the house band at The Note in Vermilion where many breaking national acts toured. Quickly gaining fame winning local battles of the bands, it landed the top slot at the 1966 Public Hall “Teen Fair,” opening for Paul Revere and the Raiders. The band later went on to be

booked by Belkin Productions, opening for national acts like The Who. An album was recorded in 1970 before the band finally broke up.

The Short History of a Great Band

The origins of this popular band can be traced to founding members, guitarists

Mike Hay and Ron Jankowski in 1964 under the name The Echos. Rounding out that act were brother Russ Jankowski on keyboards, drummer George Strezza, and Gary Harrington on bass. Early on, Courtney Johns substituted on drums for a gig, and it was quickly realized that this talented showman should be a permanent member of the band. And so it was. Courtney would remain as the only original member to carry on to the very end. Hay and Johns collaborated on a new name, The Tree Stumps, an idea that Courtney brought from his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky.

Many personnel changes occurred over the next several years for a myriad of reasons, with band alumni reading like a virtual Who’s Who of local talent. Former members would go on to start other hugely successful area bands.

Harrington left to start the Kicks, Inc., thus making way for bassist Alan Howarth, who collaborated with Ron Jankowski in penning the local hit 45, “Jennie Lee”. Mike Hay departed for a stint in the Navy, and vocalist extraordinaire, Woody Leffel joined as lead singer for a short time in 1966-67. Woody and Alan subsequently left to start the Renaissance Faire, which became a successful regional act mixing popular psychedelic and folk rock. Woody eventually recorded an album with his band, Granicus, in New York, and Alan departed for Los Angeles, where he made his mark in the movie soundtrack business.

See Music’s Over page 2

Westshore Young Leaders + Y2Y Conference = Summer Fun!

By Noreen M. Kyle

In late June, more than 400 teens swarmed the campus of Capital University in Bexley. They came from all over Ohio and around the country, including Washington, D.C. and Georgia. Viktoria Paulic, a freshman at Rocky River High School, and Liz McIlwee, a senior at Lakewood High School - both members of the Westshore Young Leaders Network - attended the Youth to Youth International Conference. Y2Y’s motto is “believing in the power of youth and the drug-free choice.”

This year’s conference theme, “LIMITLESS”, was aimed at making the teens and adults who work with them aware of the limitless potential for making positive change occur. The goal was to equip attendees with the tools necessary to make change - in themselves, in their

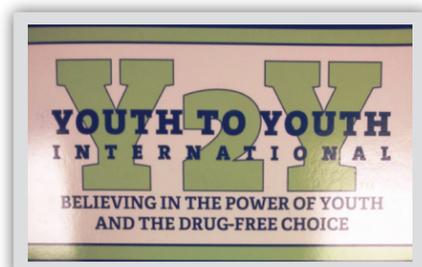
schools and their communities. Attendees took part in small group family sessions, team-building challenges and many workshops over four days. “Social Media: How to Send a Message that Sticks!”, “The Truth about Marijuana”, “Teen Dating Abuse” and “Let’s Lead” were just a few of the extreme skill workshops. Attendees were also engaged in youth-led workshops such as “Loving Every Part of You”; “Be Beyond Bullying” and “Chill Without a Pill”. “Extreme Funniness” was on the agenda every evening with teens and adults taking part in the “Splash Bash”, “Now Do the Harlem Shake” and “Arcade Unlimited” - all fun events!

Positive notes called Warm Fuzzies were taped to a massive wall space to show appreciation to one another at the conference. It was breathtaking to see all the names on the notes displayed! At the end of the conference, everyone made a circle, joined hands and closed with a humongous group hug! I think new and everlasting friendships were made at the conference. Most importantly, teens were prepared to go back to their communities and make positive changes for an alcohol- and drug-free lifestyle.



Above: Viktoria Paulic (Rocky River High School), WEB School Prevention Specialist and Liz McIlwee (Lakewood High School) take a break during an evening of fun!

Right: Showing off their matching airbrush tattoos.



Noreen Kyle is an employee of the Westshore Enforcement Bureau, drug task force. She is the school prevention specialist for the Westshore Young Leaders Program. The WYLN program expands student potential

through training, education and alcohol/drug free events & activities. Services extend to the six Westshore school districts (Westlake, Bay Village, Rocky River, Fairview Park, Lakewood and North Olmsted).

ROCKPORT FILES

Music's Over

from page 1

This opened the door for Chris Johns, Courtney's brother, to join on bass and his schoolmate Terry Kellerman, on lead vocals. Terry developed into a talented front man. Soon after, the Jankowski brothers left to start their own band, the Kismet Maze, later reuniting with veteran Mike Hay in Spring Wheel. Replacing them was accomplished guitarist Ken Stauffer of the Muther's Oats and Randy Sabo on keyboards. This version of the band lasted into 1968 when Ken left. Chris moved to lead guitar. A mutual school buddy and occasional band substitute player, Michael Stanley Gee joined on bass/vocals. Still at five pieces, the band was opening some big shows and really hitting its stride.

Terry Kellerman left the group, bringing it to a four-piece band once again, with Michael and Randy splitting lead vocal duties. During this time, Michael became the front man. A recording contract was made and under pressure from ABC Records, the band changed its name to Silk. Producer Bill Szymczyk, who eventually produced Michael Stanley and The Eagles among others, produced the bands only album - *Smooth As Raw Silk* - in 1969. Unfortunately, when the album was not well promoted, the group decided to call it quits and the rest is history.

Thanks for the Memories

Although Courtney and Chris Johns were unable to attend the reunion, no discussion of the band's history is complete without remembering the Johns family. Having moved from Kentucky to Rocky River in the early 1960s, the family resided at 20013 Lake Road on the south side, between Linda Street and Bearden's restaurant. Now replaced by condominiums, this big three-story, white house was the epicenter of the band's activities. Sharing their digs with the band was an exciting proposition for the other four Johns siblings. Most band members



remember that rehearsing in the living room of the house meant Mrs. Florence Johns would be serving up snacks with good humor, southern hospitality, and always with a smile. Simply known as Flo, she welcomed everyone and was loved by all. Mr. Vance Johns eventually became the band manager. A former WWII pilot and sales manager for US Gypsum, Vance was a no-nonsense, old school kind of guy. He set strict business standards for the band and ran a tight ship, which contributed to the band's success through the years. Notwithstanding this, there were many laughs and much affection in that old white house.

For more details of the reunion, check out The Tree Stumps on Facebook. More pictures, background and history of these former members and their other bands can be found on www.buckeyebeat.com. This is the first in a series of stories and anecdotes about the exploits of the various band members.

For those of you who are still wondering, the title of my article is the name of a song written and performed by The Doors. The song was released on the group's second album, Strange Days, in October 1967. The label was Elektra; producer, Paul Rothchild.

A Note from the Publisher

The continued support we are receiving from the community has enabled us to print our second issue and the momentum is building for our third. Thank you to our champions!

We have partnered with two ladies in an effort to encourage your participation. Mrs. Colleen Harding, address your questions regarding proper etiquette and business protocol and Catherine Grace, building relationships in a hectic world. We look forward to hearing your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. As always, thank you for contributing to the success of this project. Stories may be submitted through becoming a member of TheRockportObserver.com Click, on "submit your story" and choose the category for Mrs. Harding or Dear Catherine.

We'd like to thank our newest contributors, what we like to call the Rockport Ensemble, for sharing their talents and voices: Scott Dantio, Jenny Dieringer, Lynn Donaldson, Catherine Grace, Colleen Harding, Liz Harmath, Carolyn Hildebrandt, Anne Hribar, Noreen M. Kyle, Mitchell Sotka, F. Thomas Vickers, Betsy Voinovich, and Greg Williams.

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Finally, most important, thank you for picking this up, taking a look, and giving it a go. We hope you find something you enjoy and pass it along to a friend.

— LuAnn Leonard
Publisher



I would like to extend a grand welcome to Carolyn Hildebrandt, Editor, and a special thank you to her and Angela Hammersmith, Designer, for their patience in fine tuning our process!

THE ROCKPORT Observer

Volume 1 | Issue 2

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Check out our Web site at TheRockportObserver.com

With a current circulation of 5,000 copies distributed to 125 locations in the Fairview Park, Kamm's Corners, and Rocky River community and via our Web site, The Rockport Observer is a community media initiative whose mission is to involve, engage, inform and converse with neighbors in what was once known as Ohio's Rockport community. The views and opinions expressed in the publication do not necessarily reflect that of The Rockport Observer, its publisher or staff. Copyright 2013-The Rockport Observer, All right reserved. Any reproduction or use of the content within without expressed written consent is forbidden.

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PUBLISHER
LuAnn Leonard
LLeonard@rockportobserver.com

EDITOR
Carolyn Hildebrandt

ADVISORY BOARD
Peggy Cleary | Shelly Essi-Norehad
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DESIGNER
Angela Hammersmith

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Brian Bendlock – www.yearroundphotography.com



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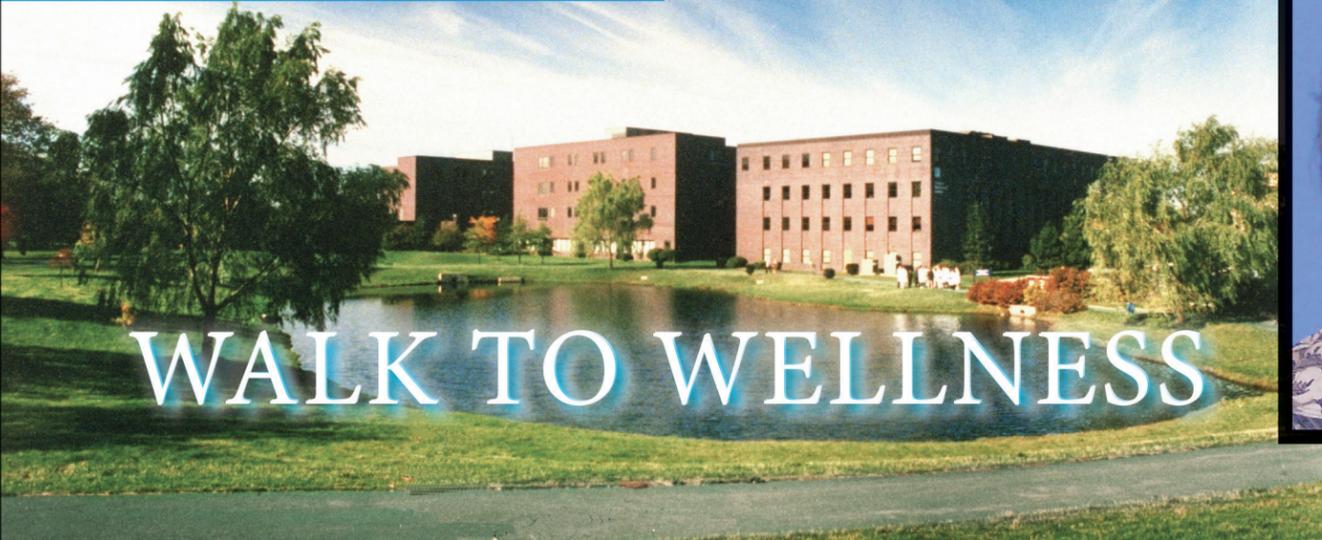
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ART

Winners All

The 22nd Annual Rocky River Art Exhibit

By Carolyn Hildebrandt

Thanks to the staff and volunteers, the Rocky River Senior Center was transformed into an art gallery for two weeks in July. The walls of the center vibrated with color from more than 180 pictures submitted by 74 artists. Serene scenes of summer and winter, portraits and drawings drew appreciative looks from viewers, while a few pictures of animals - ferocious or not - elicited smiles from young and old. The judges must have had a hard time picking the winners!

Best of Show was awarded to Terry McGovern for his oil painting, *Diversions at Sea*. The theme of painting was captured by several musical instruments used by sailors in the 18th-19th century to wile away the long days at sea. Terry, a Rocky River native, took to art early on, acquired some training in high school and college, and planned for an art career in advertising.



Best of Show was awarded to Terry McGovern for his oil painting, *Diversions at Sea*.

Time spent in Vietnam and the responsibilities of raising a family made starting out as an apprentice artist not economically feasible. But Terry stayed close to art, with a career that saw him rise from account manager to president and CEO of one of Cleveland's largest advertising and public relations firms. Once retired, Terry began painting again, producing about one oil a month "unless someone puts a fire under me". Ever the business executive, Terry's "goal" is to "bring a little joy to those who like my stuff". Indeed you have, Mr. McGovern.

Similar to Terry, Laurel Cantleberry has always had her heart in art. Laurel gained neighborhood popularity in her teen years by fulfilling constant requests from her peers for sketches of horses. Focusing on art in high school, Laurel was set for an art scholarship to Ohio State when love, marriage and family came along.

Recently returning to art, Laurel credits her art instructor at the senior center, Gail Felix, for reviving, restoring and sharpening the skills and techniques she had forgotten. When life prevented her from attending classes, Laurel worked with Gail by phone. Laurel's pastel painting of a young boy in winter won First Place in the show.

Onions by Barbara Hall was the Second Place winner. Barbara's watercolor painting was done on yupo paper, a synthetic water-resistant paper that dries only by evaporation. Thus, the painting has unique texture and colors.

Craig Schermer's sensitive portrait of the young Tsarevitch Alexis (1904-1918) took Third Place



Left: First Place was awarded to Laurel Cantleberry, *Untitled I*.

Below, left to right: Second and Third Place winners.



in the show. The mixed-media painting has a three-dimensional glow obtained by layering pastels over oil. The portrait attests not only to Craig's skills as an artist but also to his love of history. Left without a guidance counselor his freshman year at John Carroll University, Craig filled his schedule with only history courses until "they caught up with me and reminded me I needed math, the sciences, etc." Craig went on to earn a master's degree in Russian history.

The pursuit of knowledge never ended for Craig, as he became an avid researcher of various historical periods and the famous - or infamous - figures of those periods. He recently donated 50 research notebooks on Caroline Scott Harrison, our 23rd First Lady and one of Craig's favorite subjects, to the National First Ladies' Library.

Craig - historian, actor, artist - brings all his extraordinary talents to his lecturers, not to mention his witty but keen observations on the human condition. In the fall, Craig will be presenting a lecture series on the Romanovs, the last imperial rulers of Russia, at the senior center.

Congratulations to all the show's artists! And, for those of you who are even a little

curious about how those pictures were created, watercolor instructor Bob Moyer says, "Pick up a brush. Take a course."

The Rocky River Senior Center offers a variety of classes, lectures and events. Stop by the center, located at 21014 Hilliard Blvd., for a list of upcoming activities.

Carolyn Hildebrandt is an editor and writer. She resides in Rocky River.

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AROUND TOWN

Rowing in Cleveland

By Anne Hribar

Cleveland Scholastic Rowing Association (CSRA), Cleveland's oldest existing rowing club for high school students, is preparing for the upcoming fall rowing season. CSRA strives to offer the premier competitive rowing program for juniors. The mission of CSRA is to provide a competitive rowing experience that positively impacts the mind, body, and spirit of young athletes in Greater Cleveland.

Our rowers are girls and boys from numerous high schools and communities. Rowers train for three to four regattas per season in Ohio and surrounding states. Crews of four to eight people are a combination of novices and varsity members. If you have an interest in being on the Cuyahoga River, please contact us to visit the boathouse and learn more about the unique sport of rowing and its scholarship opportunities. We even encourage you to try out the sport to get a feel for it before committing through registration. Not yet in high school? CSRA offers Learn-to-Row programs designed for students in the seventh and eighth grades.

Our website, www.csrarowing.org, will be up soon and offer details of our programs. Questions may be directed to Lauren Raycher at LRaycher@newark.com.

Anne Hribar is a parent and a coordinator for CSRA. She will be contributing news about CSRA's youth rowing opportunities throughout the year.



Spotlight on the Danish Lutheran Church

By Jenny Dieringer

As early as 1874, the Norwegian missionary pastors were serving the spiritual needs of new immigrants to the Great Lakes area. A concentration of Danes in Rocky River had prompted Pastor Olaf Brandt to serve these families in a temporary meeting place. A congregation with the name Danish Lutheran Church was formally organized in Rocky River on Easter, 1893. A lot for a church on Eastlook Avenue in Rocky River was purchased on January 12, 1896 and a church was completed in the fall of 1897. This was also to be the future Immanuel Lutheran Church. The original frame church was built on the ground. Later, the building was raised and a basement was added. Reverend A.J. Targaard was to be the first minister in the completed building.

Before the turn of the century the Lutheran Church enforced strict codes of behavior. In 1887 a young girl was attending confirmation classes and was denied confirmation because she attended a dance the previous week.

The Danish and Norwegian languages were still very much an important part of these ethnic congregations. Records indicate that Immanuel Lutheran Church continued to confirm children in the Danish language until 1911. The table below suggests it was not unusual to have monthly services in English and Danish.

	<u>English</u>	<u>Danish</u>
1912		2
1918	15	10
1925	12	12

The church membership seems to have been generally concentrated in the vicinity of Rocky River and the west end of Lakewood.

	<u>Members</u>
1918	200
1925	200
1946	130
1951	165

Rocky River was growing up around the formal rural church. Changes from ethnic and rural to more integrated and suburban were apparent.

A merger in 1951 between the original Our Savior's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church located on Franklin and West 58th and Immanuel Lutheran Church was formulated. With a similar ancestral language and heritage, the relationship that had historically existed between the two churches made their eventual consolidation a rather smooth one. This culmination resulted in the present day Our Savior's Lutheran Church located on Hilliard Blvd.

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MUSIC SCHOOL

Rocky River's School that Rocks

By F. Thomas Vickers

Mike Shields, a local songwriter and musician, recently told me that “everyone should be in a rock band”. Mike didn’t need to explain - I already knew that being in a band has unique benefits. Working in a team environment, band members collaborate to create a musical product and to present that product to the public. This process of self expression and camaraderie has the potential to alleviate perceived or real fears and inadequacies, especially for children and teens. In my opinion, “rocking out” can be a confidence-builder for anyone.

Enter the School of Rock. Using an immersive teaching method, the school’s program takes students from the classroom to the stage. The nationwide school has three Cleveland locations, including one in Rocky River. Shelly Norehad, owner and operator of the local franchise, believes the School of Rock is the nation’s premier performance-based rock music program.

Professional equipment and a staff of seasoned musicians help students at all skill levels deliver a live performance on an actual rock stage. Students can take weekly private lessons in guitar, bass, vocals, keyboards, or drums. These lessons can be combined with group band rehearsals to prepare students for the spotlight. Instructors are Cleveland-



Students participate in the “All Things Bonham” drum clinic earlier this year.

based musicians, who share their first-hand knowledge of the finer points of an individual instrument as well as the elements of putting on a live show.

Programs for the Young...

Students in the introductory Rock 101 program receive private 45-minute lessons on the instrument of choice and participate in 90-minute rehearsals on a weekly basis. Every concert needs an opening act, hence the openers for the school’s major event. After a degree of proficiency is reached, students from 101 are ready for the performance program.

The performance program offers weekly private lessons and three-hour rehearsals. All efforts are geared toward the concert. Shows are themed around a specific band, era or genre of music. Past shows paid tribute to Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Woodstock, Classic Metal and Punk, among others. I have enjoyed many concerts by the school’s new and old students.

Shelly finds that the combination of private lessons and group band practice with peers is the best way to motivate students to practice hard and conquer stage fright. Along the way, one might even become an acclaimed musician.

...and the Young at Heart

Adults can sign up for Rock “Grad School”, which consists of nine weekly private lessons and 10 group rehearsals. The lessons help the student get up and running on an instrument, or sharpen rusty skills. By the time rehearsals begin, students are playing with new and improved skills. Dick Hardy and Don Nigro, two friends of mine, enrolled in the program. Dick plays the rhythm guitar and Don, the drums. They noted that rehearsals were very interactive with much guidance and participation by the instructors. At the end of the program, both Dick and Don played in a rock show at the Brothers Lounge, which was a great time for all.

Summer Rock Camp

Summer rock day camp is a one-week music “boot camp”. Students jam in a band, rehearse, learn about music and perform on a stage. And what do they take away from the camp after a week? Besides some fun memories, Shelly believes that the concepts students learn - music theory, harmony, and rhythm - will stay with them throughout their musical journey.

School of Rock is located at 20148 Detroit Road in Rocky River. For more information on programs, call 440-333-ROCK.

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COMMUNITY

Beautification Committee Celebrates Bike Rack and Bright Spots

By Liz Harmath

After running two community involvement events that doubled as successful fundraisers, Rocky River Beautification Committee members had a pleasant challenge: What could they do as a pure “give back” project to their community?

Answer: **A bike rack.**

After talking to city officials and staff about a myriad of options, the ultimate decision was inspired by a letter written last summer by Eric Ulchaker. As part of a middle school project, Eric had written a letter to Mayor Pamela Bobst suggesting that the city should have more bike racks. The concept of an item that could be used by people ages five to 95 years old (or more!) was too good to pass up.

What resulted surprised everyone, including the subcommittee leader, Gail Liggett. Instead of choosing a cookie-cutter bike rack from a catalog, the group opted to research and design a custom rack. “We wanted something that would visually improve the Civic Center’s entrance and the catalog choices just weren’t enough fun.” The location influenced the choice of a sporty theme, but they were looking for something distinctive, beyond typical sports like basketball, tennis, swimming, etc. The group started talking about Rocky River’s history and imagined croquet games played near the lake by ladies in long white dresses. A pretty picture, if a little hot.

Once the theme - croquet - was chosen, the group started researching bike rack specifications, for both material and use. A few avid bikers in the group provided hands-on experience, but input was also gleaned from local professionals. Marty Cader, City Planning Commission in Cleveland; Bryan Mauk, Director of Social Enterprise at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries; Alex Pesta, City Architecture; and Richard Wong, Director of Planning and Development in Cleveland Heights were among local sources that provided knowledge about bikers’ needs and technical expertise.

Functionality was a prime consideration during development, so that many people would find the finished product easy to use. Gail noted, “We didn’t want something ‘pretty’ that was difficult to use



Eric Ulchaker takes the mike as the Beautification Committee celebrates at the new bike rack ribbon-cutting ceremony.

or wouldn’t hold the necessary number of bikes.” The new rack accommodates 16 bicycles, which was deemed appropriate for the location by Rocky River officials. There was also considerable discussion about placement at the site. We wanted to make sure that walkways would not be obstructed even if people brought their youngest children in bike trailers.

A Request for Proposals was published in January and eventually Dero, Inc. in Minneapolis was chosen to fabricate the rack. Its national reputation and previous experience with similar racks were key to the decision. For example, the company recommended against double-powder coating to get the rack’s stripes. “We were novices and thought it would be simple, but Dero knew that it could lead to cracking and long-term problems. It would have been easy for them to follow our request and say ‘Just following orders’ when problems arose, but they didn’t. Dero was a true partner.”

The next step was coordinating installation and figuring out the distinctive striping. For these, local expertise was crucial. F. Buddie Contracting installed the rack and Bob Barker, a Rocky River sign painter with considerable commercial experience, added the colorful striping by hand.

Everything was done just in time for River Days. Mayor Bobst, Eric Ulchaker and members of the subcommittee were on hand to cut the ribbon. “This shows the power of ideas and the influence an individual 13 year old can have. We were thrilled that Eric could join us and

show the kids in the audience that they don’t have to be ‘old’ to join the public conversation. And hopefully some of them will be motivated to join a volunteer group in the future!” said Gail.

Following the ribbon cutting, Rocky River Early Childhood PTA raffled off three children’s bicycles donated by the Beautification Committee and the Rocky River Police Department. Winners Rocco Coale, Henry Seasley and Addy McGee were delighted with their new rides.

The bikes donated by the Beautification Committee and the entire bike rack project were financed from the Perennial Plant Sale and luminaria sales for Light Up River. Gail notes that the group was delighted to provide the city with a piece of functional art, without impacting the city’s budget or using taxpayer funds.

Bright Spots Revealed

The Committee also revealed this year’s Bright Spots at River Days, recognizing homeowners for taking the extra time and effort to enhance their property with quality maintenance and landscaping. “The program’s focus is on curb appeal. There are many spectacular sideyards and backyards, but we do not venture onto private property when we are choosing recipients,” said Nancy Sharbaugh, Co-Chair of the Bright Spot program.

Broad geographic distribution is very important to the program. “We want people to discover well-groomed and lovely properties in neighborhoods throughout Rocky River,” said Cindy Bacon, Nancy’s co-chair for the program. “We hope people will use the list to tour and discover the diversity of our city.”

Beautification Committee members

have heard on many occasions that a Bright Spot has encouraged others in the neighborhood to put a little extra effort into their own yards. That is particularly gratifying, because after the primary objective of recognizing the Bright Spot recipient, the secondary goal is motivating the rest of the community. It could be as simple as tending a few annuals for the summer or taking the time to edge the lawn after mowing. Each effort reaps community rewards.

If you spy a residence that you think could be a Bright Spot, it may have been one already. The program started in 2011 and the Beautification Committee has recognized over 100 residences and public spots, including 33 this year. Previous Bright Spot recipients are eligible for recognition again in five years. A call goes out each spring and everyone is encouraged to submit nominations for the eligible category. The Ward Teams review the nominations and identify recipients.

Other than Rose Point, the sole public Bright Spot this year, the program was limited to single family homes due to finite volunteer resources. The group is actively looking for new members, which will allow it to take on larger projects and expand the Bright Spot program.

The Committee will hold a potluck dinner at Rocky River Park on August 7 to celebrate its recent success. Residents are invited to bring a dish to share and learn more about the Committee’s activities.

The Rocky River Beautification Committee’s mission is focused on projects and recreational activities that foster community involvement to improve the appearance of the city. The Committee strives to enhance the quality of life in Rocky River. Find more information about the group’s activities at rrcity.com/beautification_committee.html.

Liz Harmath is the Chair of the Rocky River Beautification Committee.



A Bright Spot, 22140 Hilliard Blvd. Photo by Kris Purdy

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SHOP TALK

GPS Gift Gallery Provides Something for Everyone

By Scott Dantio

Scott Dantio, owner of GPS Gift Gallery in Rocky River, has had many local sports personalities - past, present and future - sign in his store since its opening in 2002. Most recently, Jason Kipnis, All Star Second Baseman, Omar Vizquel, beloved Indian's shortstop, and Dorssys Paulino, top Indian's prospect, thrilled hundreds of fans who had a chance to meet and greet their favorite players. "We are still working on more signings but the time is running out and the players' schedules tighten up considerably over the next few months," Dantio said.

Keep an eye on the website www.gpsgiftgallery.com and stop by the store for updates.

GPS is located across from Pearl Vision on Center Ridge near Wooster Ave. Upon entering the store, visitors are in awe over the selection and the uniqueness of the

product. "We have to carry items that no one else does. That's what makes specialty retailing "special". What we can't find, we make." GPS features many exclusive items that you can't find anywhere else. The most successful line of exclusive items is the Brownie Elf. The old-time Cleveland Browns logo is nostalgic to Brown's fans everywhere and GPS carries a variety of products, including decals, clothing, banners, flags, bobble heads, and even banks. GPS carries a huge assortment of autographed memorabilia. "This summer we have added quite a few new autographs to our MLB and NFL, as well as other professional sports, collections. We keep our website up to date so that our customers know the minute that something new arrives."

One of the more popular services is providing customers with auction items for their fundraising needs. GPS has worked with many groups and organizations, such as the Cleveland Clinic, Playhouse Square, local schools, colleges and universities. "Our autographed memorabilia is very popular in auction settings," says Dantio.

Whether it is a special autograph, cornhole boards and supplies, local high school apparel, or MLB, NCAA, NFL or other sports items, finding the perfect gift for a sports fan is easy at GPS Gift Gallery. Whether you are celebrating a birthday, anniversary, holiday or just finishing up the decorating of the basement, office or "man cave," GPS has just the item for you.



Omar Vizquel signing autographs at GPS. Photo by Brian Bendlock



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Activities at Rocky River Public Library

By Kitty Sommers

“Reflections on Our Library’s 85-Year History” will be presented on August 1 at 7:00 p.m. Learn the history behind our special library from long-time library patron and resident Jack Nickels, Co-President of the Rocky River Historical Society. He will share many personal memories and little-known facts in this informative talk complete with vintage photographs.

Rocky River Public Library, the Cowan Pottery Museum Associates, and Rocky River Historical Society are cosponsoring a “Cowan Pottery Centennial Open House and Celebration” on Sunday, August 4 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at 19621 Lake Road. This is the site where Cowan Pottery was made from 1920 to 1931. This free open house, at the site of the original Cowan Pottery Studio, is a community celebration designed to raise awareness of Cowan Pottery and its place in Greater Cleveland’s rich cultural history.

“End of Adult Summer Reading Program Celebration!” takes place on August 7, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Come celebrate all your hard work by sharing your favorite books, hearing about titles we’ve enjoyed, and snacking on some sweet treats!

Join us on August 12 at 6:30 p.m. for “La Sirga” as we continue our Indie

International Film Fest, featuring selections from the world’s top film festivals. This 2012 Colombia suspense drama tells the story of a Colombian refugee who tries to rebuild her life at a guest house on the shores of a great lake in the Andes. These films have not been rated and should be assumed to have mature content.

Learn about “Staying Safe on the Internet” on August 14, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Malware, spam, and phishing will be covered. Tak and Mely Sato from TechDiety return to share information on staying safe on the Internet. Discover the different ways that others try to get information about you and your computer and how to protect yourself.

Be a part of the “Guild of the Brick” for ages 5 and older on Saturday, August 17, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We provide the Legos, you bring the imagination. No registration required.

“Get in the Game!” for students in grades 3 through 6, takes place on August 28, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Stop in and enjoy playing video and board games while munching on free yummy snacks with all your friends! Drop in any time during the program.

Drop in for “Lunch and a Movie” on August 30 at 12:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Bring your lunch and enjoy the recent release of “The Great Gatsby.” Hot popcorn and refreshments provided.

Benefit Horse Festival at Rocky River Reservation

By Betsy Voinovich

Attention horse lovers of all ages. Valley Riding invites you to the Rocky River Stables in Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Reservation on Sunday, August 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a full, fun, family day of horse activities.

Come early so you will not miss the festival parade at 11:30 a.m. led by Cleveland Metroparks Mounted Rangers. At 11:45 a.m., the Northern Ohio Outlaws will make their first appearance and demonstrate mounted cowboy shooting, one of the nation’s fastest-growing and most exciting equestrian sport. Throughout the afternoon, there will be a variety of activities: riding demonstrations, drill team performances, pony rides, stick-horse races, games, raffle prizes and barnyard bingo. Food and refreshments will be available.

The festival gives Valley Riding’s therapeutic students an opportunity to show off their riding skills. It is also an opportunity for Valley Riding to introduce its horses and ponies and riding programs to the local communities.

Valley Riding is a non-profit affiliate of Cleveland Metroparks, providing quality English horseback riding instruction and equine-assisted activities to children and adults while enhancing awareness and appreciation of horses in a metropolitan setting. All proceeds of the event support Valley Riding’s Therapeutic Riding Program for special needs children and adults.

Rocky River Stables is located at 19901 Puritas Avenue in Rocky River Reservation, at the bottom of Puritas Road hill in Cleveland, across from Mastick Woods Golf Course. Parking is available for \$5 on the front lawn of the stables, starting at 11 a.m.

For more information visit: www.valleyriding.org or e-mail: valleyriding@sbcglobal.net

The Library will be open on Sundays, beginning August 25 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For additional information, call the Rocky River Public Library at 440-333-7610 or visit www.rrpl.org.

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Rotary Club Sponsors Rachel's Challenge in Rocky River Schools

By Lynn Donaldson

"I have this theory that if one person will go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same." Rachel Joy Scott wrote this in a class essay a month before she was killed on April 20, 1999 at age 17 in the tragic shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado.

Rachel's father and stepmother, Darrell and Sandy Scott, established Rachel's Challenge "to inspire, equip and empower every person to create a permanent positive culture change...by starting a chain reaction of kindness and compassion." The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River sponsored Rachel's Challenge on behalf of the Rocky River City schools. A \$2,500 district simplified grant provided half the funding, with the club contributing the balance.

Two presentations were made on September 26, 2012, one for middle school and one for high school students. In the follow up training sessions, student leaders from both schools and Rotarians gathered to consider how to start a chain reaction in their schools and the community. Frank Simmons, a Rachel's Challenge program presenter, shared Rachel's life story with the students. His presentations included surveillance video from within the school and news footage of the unforgettable events the day that Rachel, 11 of her classmates and one teacher were killed by two troubled students. Recorded commentary focused on the ways Rachel touched others, including total strangers and her siblings. Students were given an actionable set of goals intended to reduce bullying and promote tolerance and understanding in their schools and community. Many students and educators were moved to tears. Afterwards, the students were invited to sign banners to indicate their willingness to accept the challenge.

Parents and community members learned about the program at a separate

presentation in the evening of the 26th. District Governor Julie West attended the meeting and stated, "I am so glad I was able to attend. This is an outstanding project. It truly reflects this year's Rotary theme, Peace Through Service." Jean Rounds, a member of the Rotary club and of the Rocky River School Board, said, "There is such a wonderful connection between Rotary's mission and the message of Rachel's Challenge. It's a wonderful way to have interaction between Rotarians and the Rocky River youth."

Student groups were formed to determine how to change the culture through positive encouragement of their peers – "Be the Change" at the middle school and "FOR" (Friends of River) at the high school. The groups and their adult advisors met on an ongoing basis throughout the school year. Rotarians regularly attended these meetings.

The Rotary club is committed to the project long-term, and members are attending the school club meetings, assisting in the students' planning and offering support. Mary Fancher is the advisor for the middle school group, and Kristen Kalinowski is the advisor for the high school.

A Highlight of the Year

The Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance program named Rocky River Middle School as one of 63 "Mix It Up Model Schools" nationwide for its exemplary efforts to foster respect and understanding among students and throughout the school. As a Mix It Up model school, the middle school met five criteria: 1. Hosting a Mix it Up on Lunch Day; 2. Including different members of the school's community – cafeteria staff, aides, administrators, teachers or students - in organizing the event; 3. Following up with at least two additional Mix It Up-related programs or events on campus; 4. Publicizing Mix It Up at Lunch Day by celebrating inclusiveness with posters,

announcements and other media; and 5. Having the event seen as a success by students and school officials.

For more than a decade, Mix It Up Day has provided students across the country with an opportunity to move out of their comfort zones and connect with someone new over lunch. It's a simple act with profound implications as studies have shown that interactions across group lines can help reduce prejudice. Many schools plan activities for the entire day, and some use the event to kick off a year-long exploration of social divisions. Last year more than 3,000 schools took part.

The Chain of Kindness

Within the first month after the September 26 assemblies, morning announcements were provided for the entire student body via the all-school broadcasting capabilities, and bulletin boards were created to highlight the program.

On October 5, the high school created an all-school "lip dub", a type of music video that combines lip synching and audio dubbing. The video included all the students at the high school and all student groups. Lasting nearly seven minutes, it was done in one take. (The lip dub can be seen on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rxrxtPGmTw>.) In the middle school, Mix It Up Days and new student days to encourage kindness toward others were implemented.

During the first weeks of Rachel's Challenge in the middle and high schools, students began creating links for a huge paper chain. On each link, students wrote about an act of kindness they performed or received. The chain will be "tested" in the 2013-14 school year. Hopefully, it will connect all four buildings.

High school students went to the primary and elementary schools to start student involvement in creating the chain. The Rachel's Challenge banner, signed by students from both middle and high

schools, was taken to the primary and elementary schools for students to sign.

Presentations and Awards

On February 4, both middle and high school groups sent representatives to present a Rachel's Challenge program to our Rotary club. The students and their advisors informed club members about their groups' ongoing activities and thanked Rotary for the grant that brought Rachel's Challenge to the Rocky River schools. Students representing the high school were Bobby Perez, Lauren Rhinehalt, Chase Grendow, and Maddie Fitzsimmons. Mary Beth Curtis and Imani Washington represented the middle school. In addition, Maddie Fitzsimmons and Lauren Rhinehalt and Mrs. Kalinowski have made a presentation to the Sunrise Rotary club.

A brochure about Rachel's Challenge in the Rocky River schools was produced for the 6630 District Conference on April 12-14. The brochure was distributed at a breakout focusing on bullying. Clubs that had bullying or related projects were invited to share their efforts with other interested clubs and to explore other approaches.

FOR prepared a video clip that ran continuously at the district art show on April 23-May 3. In addition to the video – viewed by students, families and community members – chain links were also displayed.

At the Rocky River High School recognition assembly on May 23, the first Rachel's Challenge Honorarium Scholarship was awarded. The scholarship, offered by the Rocky River PTA Council "in honor of those students who embody kindness and compassion recognized through Rachel's Challenge," was awarded to Kyle Kopechek. Also during the assembly, the Principal's Leadership Award was presented to seniors Madeline Fitzsimmons and Lauren Rhinehalt.

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Thank You Notes

Dear Mrs. Harding: How do I get my children to write thank you notes?

Great question. This generation has been identified as the Entitled Generation. It has been accused of lacking appreciation and a feeling of entitlement - one is owed things because everything is supposed to be fair. Numerous articles and interviews have been done about this trait in the current generation. It is an issue of concern.

Thank you notes are one way to address this issue. Thank you notes give a person an opportunity to stand out and look good by demonstrating appreciation. If someone purchases a gift for you or makes something for you, they have taken time out of their schedule for you. The least you can do is recognize that effort. A thank you note should take about five minutes at the most to write, seal and address.

The best way to encourage your children to write thank yous is to tell them they are not allowed to enjoy a gift or gesture until the note is written. The minute a gift is opened, your first words might be, "Wow, what a nice thing to receive and you can play with it just as soon as you get that note written". Expect some initial resistance, but after several times, they will get it. Your children will begin to automatically think about where to find the note paper - and quickly - so they may indulge in the gift. Thank you notes will become a habit, one carried into adult life.

Gifts and gestures are wonderful to receive and need to be properly recognized.

Please submit your questions to Mrs. Harding through our website, click on Submit a new story and choose the category "Mrs. Harding".

Colleen Harding, the founder of the Cleveland School of Etiquette and Corporate Protocol, started her company five years ago to address a niche and a need for protocol training. She has certifications from the American School of Protocol in traditional etiquette and in corporate training. Mrs. Harding works with individuals, schools, companies and organizations that recognize the importance of social polish in daily life and the corporate world.

Colleen spent 22 years in the corporate arena as an outside sales representative with 15 years in Broadcast Sales. She recognizes the competitive advantage a person has when they respect etiquette and have received protocol training.

Mrs. Harding is a resident of Bay Village. She is an active volunteer for the Westside Catholic Center, St. Raphael Women's Guild and a Board Member of the Village Foundation.



Dear Catherine

Relationship Building in a Hectic World

By Catherine Grace

Our world is bombarded with time schedules. Everyone in the family is running hither and yon. We each need to stop for a "moment" and take the time to connect with one another. It's not always about planning a lunch or dinner date with our children, for that may get postponed by a late night at work or homework. Just a five minute chat with your children before the craziness of the day begins or before bed-time can strengthen your connection.

Jeff, a single dad, wrote the following letter to me.

Dear Catherine: I run three different companies and have my son every other weekend. I also coach his basketball team. He is 11 years old and the light of my life. I worry that I don't spend enough time talking to him about important things. What can I do to make sure I'm giving him my best?

Dear Jeff: I am so glad that you wrote me and asked this question. I can tell you are a wonderful and caring dad that wants to do the right thing for his son. I suggest that you focus on those "moments" when you hang out together and laugh at silly yet simple things. It could be as easy as driving your son to practice and chatting about who invented the lines on the road, or spending a couple hours in the garage with him polishing his bicycle and cracking jokes! These are the "real" dad-and-son moments that will remain in his heart and yours forever. During these times, your son will get to know you and you will get to know him without time schedules, cell phones, or interruptions from the outside world. Just enjoy! That's all you need to do.

Please submit your questions to Catherine through our website, click on Submit a new story and choose the category "Dear Catherine".

Catherine Grace is a WCI-certified life, professional, relationship and bereavement coach. Her passion is getting you to a greater place one thought at a time.

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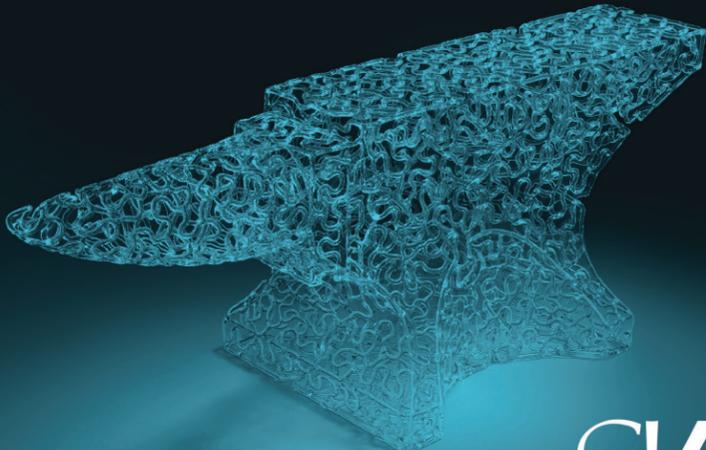
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On a Treasure Hunt for Silver

Tips from the Eponymous Antique Shop Owner

By Mitchell Sotka

Are you looking for summer fun? Venture into shops when you are on vacation, head off to a summer estate sale or visit the antique dealer in your own backyard. These are all wonderful places to find treasures. And silver is one such treasure to look for. As a shopkeeper, I hear people comment that silver is out of style and not appreciated. I feel differently. However, with the general public losing its affection for silver and silver prices falling, there could be more bargains for the rest of us. So get out there and start looking for silver! You will get hooked trying to identify: maker, origin, pattern and the type of piece you find. In this article, I hope to inspire you and arm you with the tools needed to go on the hunt.

I will start with a story, for those that like my stories. (For others, i.e. David, skip this paragraph.) Silver, like anything, has a select audience, but it still sells and is still loved. More than 10 years ago, I went to a sale and wound up number 32 to get in the door. I had to wait my turn. Seasoned buyers and a silver dealer or two were ahead of me. Each time the door swung open, I could see a wonderful silvered wine cooler with gorgeous form. I fell in love. Like a carrot dangling in front of a horse, it was just out of reach. Finally, my turn to go in came. The wine cooler was still there along with another one - I grabbed both! My pile of treasures for that day included a set of nesting tables, two silver-plated wine coolers and a lamp. But that one wine cooler - what a beauty!

Remember the fun is not only in the hunt, it is also in the research. So, I ran back to the shop with my wine cooler and started my research. The overlooked treasure turned out to be a late-18th/early-19th century Sheffield silver-plated wine cooler with an English family crest, one of my top finds at that time. What helped in identifying the piece? Some of the signs of its age and origin were in the construction and style, while examples of similar pieces could be found in books.

There are many research tools. Time spent at museums and quality shops is essential as the more you see and feel, the better educated you become. The internet is a fast and affordable tool. Books are also



Left: American sterling silver napkin ring. Notice the three hallmarks, reminiscent of English marks but different. These marks are not framed, while English hallmarks are framed in a square or other shape. Notice the word "STERLING". Also, inventory or pattern is probably represented by the numbers on the piece.

Below: The mark on the verso of this long sterling spoon is the maker mark, "RBB". With a little research, this one is easy to identify, try it out by using our research tools.



This is a great example of English hallmarks. Reading left to right, "HA" identifies this piece as made by the Atkin's family; the city mark is for Sheffield; the lion is the sterling mark; and the date letter "n" is for 1912. As a quick note, each mark is framed and the marks as well as the frames change over time.

great for researching marks and patterns. (See list of Research Materials at the end of this article).

As an aside, let me boast: The United States produced some of the best designs in sterling silver at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century. How can you identify American silver? Just like our language, there are many rules and permutations. If you find the word "STERLING" stamped into a piece, it has a 50/50 chance of being American. If the piece is stamped "925" or "925/1000", it is probably American. Hallmarks that are used in Europe are different from those used in America.

If you see a company name and not a singular or group of hallmarks, that too can give you some confidence the silver piece is American.

If you find "800" stamped into a piece of silver, you can be sure it is European, possibly from Germany or an Eastern European country. The English did not use this system. The English have a series of hallmarks that identify the "standard", the fact that the piece is sterling; the area where it was tested (assay mark); a date; and sometimes the maker. Other European countries use hallmarks but may put only one or two on a piece of silver.

Dating silver can be tricky. Unlike the

English who so kindly place a date mark on pieces, American makers of silver require we study more closely to determine age. Some companies like Gorham had a series of date letters and marks early on to identify the year a piece was made. However, to date most other American silver, other clues are needed. For example, pattern names were placed on pieces in the 1960s. (This is not a steadfast rule but off the cuff it can help.) The word "sterling" or the number "925" was used in America after the 1870s. Prior to that, most silver was made from coinage - coin silver - and the purity is different than that of sterling. Some pieces are marked "coin", others may have the maker's name stamped on them, and yet other pieces may be unmarked. After you see and touch enough coin silver, you should be able to identify the unmarked pieces.

A piece can also be dated by attribution to a maker. Silversmiths are people too, and their careers have a life span. With that in mind, the age of the piece can be determined. Some silversmiths have longevity beyond their mortal life, such as Georg Jensen. Over time, his firm has changed the maker's mark. Books and sites reference Jensen marks and others for easy identification.

Can you believe we haven't even scratched the surface of the topic of silver? There is still more to know about identification, styles, construction, and the use of those "funny-shaped" pieces. I will address these and other topics in upcoming monthly articles. Until then, happy hunting! Remember you never know where and when you will find a treasure.

Research Materials: The books and sites listed here should give you some help in identifying a silver piece. Books: *Encyclopedia of American Silver Manufacturers* by Schiffer; *Silver in America, A Century of Splendor*; *Warman's Sterling Silver Flatware: Value and Identification Guide*; *Encyclopedia of American Manufactures* by Rainwater & Fuller; and *English Silver Hallmarks* (Dealer guides) by W Foulsham & Co Ltd. Websites: <http://www.925-1000.com> (American and World Markets); <http://www.silvercollection.it> (American); and <http://www.silvermakersmarks.co.uk> (English and Irish).



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