

# Jokes, Riddles and Stories - Oh My!



HAVE A  
GREAT DAY!

## THE LOCAL

4-24

### Walk Around Advertising

You may remember the old sandwich boards that folks wore to promote their store, sale or other promotion. Now we have sign spinners and stand alone sandwich boards. Would you believe we even have a national contest for sign spinners?

When we wear apparel or show a relationship with that logo or group we are showing support for that group. Promoting your company, your favorite team even your church doesn't happen automatically. It takes those belonging to that organization to be proactive in their beliefs and thus encourage others to want to be associated with them. Sometimes the person may even join the organization to be closer and to help in its development.

It's easy to wear company tee shirts, sports team hoodies and use car decals showing that you belong or support the group represented. ***But the telling fact is how you react in daily life - For those actions mirror back on the group you support.*** So you see you become that walking billboard representing that group you want to support.

Actions speak louder than words. So when you support a group be sure you are in good behavior as you are constantly being seen as a member of that group and what it represents!



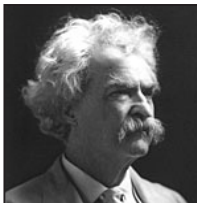
### Limerick of the Month

There once was a salesman named Lou  
He worked out in Kalamzoo  
He spent his day selling  
Then went to his dwelling  
To open himself a cold brew.



Kindness is the language  
which the deaf can hear  
and the blind can see.

Mark Twain - 1835-1910



### Do You Remember?

Last month's article about my youth and playing on coal piles in Cleveland triggered a direct response from Bill B. who also lived in Cleveland and as fate would have it lived only a few minutes from my wife's home in southeast Cleveland near Garfield Heights. We bumped into each other at the Hartland Senior Center and reminisced for a while. We talked about those old days and how I remembered the ice man with the horse drawn wagon who would chip us off a piece of ice on a hot day. That triggered memories of the Knife Sharpener who pushed his mobile grinding wheel down the streets and the rag man who used to call out "Paper Rags" as he trolled down our brick paved street. Bill B. reminded me of the milk chutes where two quarts of cream topped milk bottles would fit and were sealed with card board lids that were inset with a flap you bent up to pull them out. These lids were later converted into a fad in the 1990's called POGS and were a collectors and traders rage at that time.

I remembered how the bakery man used to stop at your house if you had their cardboard logo in your window. Kind of like the star for the serviceman who is in active service. We also had coal chutes where the coal man used to pour down a ton of coal into your cellar. Later the coal was wrapped in gray packages for easier delivery. You learned to bank a fire in the coal furnace at a young age. By banking the fire it would preserve some of the burning coals so it would be easy to start up in the cold of a winter morning. So along with playing on coal piles we had all of these wonderful things to see, do, and listen for. Kind of like the ice cream truck bells today if you're lucky - we had the Good Humor Man peddling around in his tricycle cart.



"We used to play spin the bottle when I was a kid. A girl would spin the bottle, and if the bottle pointed to you when it stopped, the girl could either kiss you or give you a nickel. By the time I was 14, I owned my own house."





## The Laughing Place

**Dad loves to eat** and does so with gusto to the distress of my mother, who worries about his weight. One evening Dad was devouring a snack of cheese spread and crackers. As he scraped the last bit of spread from its container, he asked Mom if she wanted to save the jar.

"No, it's okay," Mom replied. "Go ahead and eat it."

**Two old friends**, Ned and John, lived for baseball. Then one day, John died, leaving Ned inconsolable. A few weeks later, Ned heard someone calling his name. He looked up. Standing on a cloud was his old pal.



"Ned," John called down, "I have good news and bad. The good news is, there's baseball in heaven!"

"Great," said Ned. "What's the bad news?"

"You're pitching Sunday."

**"Hello, Reverend Smith?** This is the Internal Revenue Service. Is Samuel Jones a member of your congregation?"



"He is."

"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?" "He will."

**I was visiting** my son the other night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

"Dad, this is the 21st century," he said. "I don't waste my money on newspapers. But if you like, you can borrow my iPad."

I can tell you this: That spider never knew what hit him.

**At our weekly alumni** meetings, the football coach shows the film of the most recent game and holds a question-and-answer period afterward. One of the alumni, who had played on the football team many years ago and had a son on this year's squad, posed a question concerning the defensive line. "I'd like to know," he said, "why our boys are so slow getting into the opposition's backfield after the ball is snapped."



"Gosh, I'm not sure, Fred," answered the coach. "But it could be hereditary."

## ENTYMOLOGY - THE HISTORY OF WORDS

### April Fool's Day

**Meaning:** The day stands out because it is dedicated to the pranksters and jokesters of the world: April Fools' Day falls on April 1 and gives people an excuse to carry out lighthearted fun.



**Origin:** In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII introduced the Gregorian calendar. The new calendar began the new year on January 1st instead of April 1st. Those who kept celebrating the old new year were made fun of as "April Fools". This led to a new unofficial holiday, suggest historians.

### Riff-Raff

**Meaning:** People with a bad reputation or of a low social class.

**Origin:** The Mississippi River was the main way of traveling from north to south. Riverboats carried passengers and freight but they were expensive so most people used rafts. Everything had the right of way over rafts which were considered cheap. The steering oar on the rafts was called a "riff" and this transposed into riff-raff, meaning low class.

*Submitted by Cliff R.*



### Quarantine

**Meaning:** A condition, period of time, or place in which a person, animal, plant, vehicle, or amount of material suspected of carrying an infectious agent is kept in confinement or isolated in an effort to prevent disease from spreading. Photo shows masks for Covid and Black Plague.



**Origin:** Comes from the Italian "quaranta giorni," which means "40 days." During the European Black Death pandemic in the 14th century, incoming ships were required to wait 40 days before docking.

### Silhouette

**Meaning -** The shape of something when the light is behind it so that you cannot see any details

**Origin -** Named after 18th-century French Finance Minister "Étienne de Silhouette," who imposed severe economic restrictions that prompted people to make fun of him using shadow images on a white wall. Another theory is that Silhouette decorated his chateau with the kind of dark outline drawings that now bear his name.



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## Help I'm Drowning

Somewhere around the beginning of DVDs, Flash drives, Video door bells, Siri and Alexi I got lost. I guess because I didn't work with them in my business and when I retired it didn't matter. But now it seems that the world is not going to let you get by unless you are electronically capable. Well at least we can get some help in understanding our smart phones and computers better. Where ? Many of our libraries offer free personal instruction on your smart phones, tablets, laptops and desk top computers. Your local Senior Center may also offer this type of instruction. Some also offer repairs or upgrades like the Hartland Senior Activity Center. Doug Mc Call and his group offer all kinds of help on Macs as well as android devices. You will find their group "Tech Time" at the HSAC on Mondays from noon till 2:00. They even have some refurbished devices available for a donation to the HSAC. So if you are confused about VPN, Streaming, how to block spam calls and a 100 other questions - give one of these help areas a try. Now if we could just find someone to lead us through the scramble of making a smart decision regarding your TV cost - that would really be nice. Unfortunately, it seems to be a moving target. If you cut your cable to save money, Google, Hulu, Disney and others are just there to help you spend it back. Raising prices, then upcharging for no commercials. How do you like your YouTube with commercials now? But wait you can get it without them for a slight monthly fee!



### LABORATORY NOTES

#### ENGINEERING/SALES

JOERG R. MGR

There was an engineer who had an exceptional gift for fixing all things mechanical. After serving his company loyally for over 30 years, he happily retired.

Several years later, the company contacted him regarding a seemingly impossible problem with one of their multi-million dollar machines. They had tried everything and everyone else to get the machine to work but to no avail. In desperation, they called on the retired engineer who had solved so many of their problems in the past. The engineer reluctantly took the challenge.

He spent a day studying the giant machine. Finally, he marked a small "x" in chalk on a particular device component and said, "This is where your problem is." The part was replaced and the machine worked perfectly again. The company received a bill for \$50,000 from the engineer for his service. They demanded an itemized accounting of his charges. The engineer responded briefly: One chalk mark was \$1; Knowing where to put it was \$49,999.

It was paid in full and the engineer retired again in peace.

***Retirees who come back to work are called consultants!***

## Is There such a Thing as Perfect?

This time of year is thought by some to be just perfect. The months of April and May seem fresh and the area just seems like it is being born again. You've probably heard someone say "It could stay like this all year long and I'd love it". The Spring Peepers are waking up, the birds are finding their mates and getting ready to nest. As the days get longer we slip into a new rhythm allowing for more daylight hours. But there are those who just love the summer months. They can't wait to feel the sun's heat, enjoy the lakes, play outdoor sports and all the other things we do outside. This is the perfect time of year for sun lovers.

We could start an argument with those that just love the fall, Halloween, the smell of burning leaves, evening campfires and the crispness of a fall morning. And then again we compete and debate with those who love the winter time. Those that love the cold and snow and enjoy walking in the snow making snow forts, snowmen, skiing, and all the winter sports. And yet as the days get shorter and our rhythms change again we adopt to this time of year.

I know there is a lot of talk and truth about how we all need 15 minutes of sunlight a day, but I think that the short days of winter help us to slow down and get a grip on life. Much like a good night's sleep readies us for the next day.

Any time of the year may be your perfect time, but I think the fact that we can stay right here and enjoy all of these at home really makes it perfect. I hope you will take time to thoroughly enjoy each day of our year. Even the gray days the rainy days, the wind howling days they all make our life just a little more perfect. And if you're really lucky, you can share them with someone you love.



## We'll email you The LOCAL

For a lot of reasons you may miss a copy of **The LOCAL**. I will guarantee you get yours by just e-mailing me at **wizardpmb@provide.net** and I will send it out to you each month. We appreciate all of the kind comments our readers have made and their contributions to our publication.

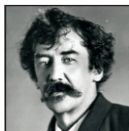
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Ralph LeRoy - Editor



## James McNeill Whistler 1834- 1903



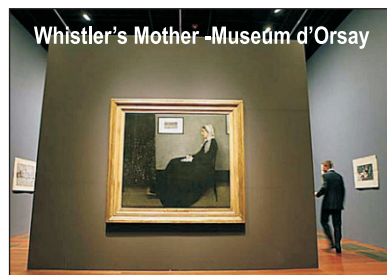
Whistler, an American-British painter, was a proponent of “art for art's sake”, and insisted that it was the artist's obligation to interpret what he saw, not be a slave to reality, and to “bring forth from chaos glorious harmony”.

Born in Massachusetts in 1834, Whistler studied art while living with his family in St Peterburg, Russia. Back in the U.S., lacking any serious plans for his future, Whistler spent three years at West Point, before being dismissed. His major accomplishment at West Point was learning drawing and map making. After West Point, Whistler worked as a draftsman mapping the entire U. S. coast for military and maritime purposes. He found the work boring and he was frequently late or absent. He spent much of his free time playing billiards and idling about; always broke!

Having given ministry, military, and map making a try, he finally decided his future was in art and informed his mother that he was setting out to further his art training in Paris. Whistler never returned to the United States, dividing his time between London and Paris.

Whistler arrived in Paris in 1855, rented a studio in the Latin Quarter, and quickly adopted the life of a bohemian artist. In the Parisian cafés he was introduced to the circle of artists which included Édouard Manet, Degas, and Charles Baudelaire, whose ideas and theories of "modern" art influenced Whistler. In 1859 Whistler moved to London, which he adopted as his home.

He had a distinctive appearance, short and slight, with piercing eyes and a curling mustache, often sporting a monocle and the flashy attire of a dandy. He affected a posture of self-confidence and eccentricity, and was often arrogant and selfish toward friends and patrons. The book he wrote in 1890 entitled “The Gentle Art of Making Enemies” seemed to reflect this attitude. He could be droll and flippant about social and political matters, but was always serious about art.



By 1871, having returned to portraits, Whistler produced his most famous painting, the nearly monochromatic full-length figure entitled *Arrangement in Grey and Black No.1*, but usually referred to as *Whistler's Mother*. From the start, *Whistler's Mother* sparked varying reactions, including parody, ridicule, and reverence, which have continued to today. It was ultimately purchased by the French government, and is now housed in the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.

Whistler died in London on July 17, 1903

In 2010, Swann Galleries set a record price for a Whistler print at auction, when *Nocturne*, an etching on Japan paper, sold for \$282,000.

## Reading The LOCAL

It's been quite a while now, going on three years since the first black and white issue was created. We have certainly grown and we could print more copies but who could deliver them to all of the folks. We have about 35 restaurants, hospitals, libraries, senior centers



that we deliver to twice a month. We have added over 250 folks to our digital email list and that is growing all of the time. Several senior centers and all the local Chambers of Commerce have added our link to their websites or added it to their weekly emails. We still believe in the printed page and believe that our readers enjoy it with a good cup of coffee or while waiting for their meals. Most folks take them home and pass them around and others have been forwarding the link to friends and family members out of town to enjoy. I have some friends who read it and keep it just for the jokes they can use at their association meetings. We appreciate all of the support. **Read a little, laugh a lot, learn something, tickle a memory or two, have some fun - that's what The LOCAL is all about!**

## ? RIDDLE ME THIS ?



1. - A cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed for three nights and rode out on Friday. How is this possible?
2. - Forward, I am heavy; backward, I am not. What am I?
3. - Throw away the outside and cook the inside, then eat the outside and throw away the inside. What is it?
4. - How many months have 28 days?
5. - In a bus, there is a 26-year-old pregnant

lady, a 30-year-old policeman, a 52-year-old random woman, and the driver who is 65 years old. Who is the youngest?

*Answers Below*

- 1. - The horses name was Friday;  
2. - Ton; 3. - Corn on the cob; 4. All of them; 5. - The baby of the pregnant woman.

Riddle Answers

## Financial Planning with Understanding



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