

## Caning Chairs on a Benzie Back Road

Mr. Joy's 31 years of making things better

*By Beau Vallance*  
**Current Contributor**

He can't be reached by phone. To find him, you drive out Commercial Avenue/Case Road from the center of downtown Beulah and look for a garage up to the right at the corner of Richards Road, which looks like nothing more than a dirt driveway. Back in the day, you could check on whether he was available by calling Mr. Ed's Hardware, located across the road: someone would look out the window and report back yes or no. But Mr. Ed's closed years ago, though the sign is still on the building.

However, Mr. Doug Joy—tall, erect, twinkly, articulate—has never stopped working.

He makes broken things better every day, and he loves his work.

He canes chairs, benches, and canoe seats; repairs furniture; builds and repairs screens. News to me: he also makes elaborate large puzzles out of metal and wood.

I found him from an ad in the classifieds years ago, when he made six screens for our



**Doug Joy is so much more than a 94-year-old chair repairman in Beulah. Photo courtesy of Beau Vallance.**

rudimentary cabin, a huge improvement over the slidey-screen inserts—he changed our lives!

Joy learned to weave cane and install pre-woven cane webbing from Hugh Moss, of Crystal Crafts, in the early 1980s. Joy had retired from the frozen foods division of Pet Milk.

"I got tired of working at 62", he

says, so he decided to "grow a garden and do something."

Moss took him on as a kind of apprentice, and, by 1984, he had caned enough chairs to know the trade. He's been caning ever since. He just turned 94.

Before his career in frozen foods, Joy served 37 months as an Army medic during World War II in the Pacific—he has a map showing his unit's route from San Francisco to Guadalcanal, Palau, New Caledonia, and Japan.

In that first youthful job, he repaired wounded soldiers and helped make them whole again. Now, he repairs broken chairs

*Please see Mr. Joy on page 3*

## Up One Side and Down the Other

A day on US-31 in Benzie County (Part II)

*By Susan Koenig and Aubrey Ann Parker*  
**Current Contributors**

In our Labor Day issue, we traveled northeast on U.S. Highway 31, one of the original 1926 routes that was adopted for uniform marking in the United States System of Highways. Though it traverses a total of 1,280 miles between southern Alabama and northwestern Michigan, we have 18 miles of US-31 here in Benzie County where you can find numerous great businesses to meet your needs. There are also plenty of activities, eateries, and scenic vistas along the way. We wanted to highlight and celebrate those businesses, and this is Part II of our series on US-31. (See our website for Part I, beginning in south Benzonia at the intersection with M-115 and ending at the Benzie/Grand Traverse County line, if you missed it!)

Heading south from the county line, you will see **East Bay Auto Sales** on your right. It's an essential stop, not necessarily for the 3,000-square-foot showroom, nor for the 22 acres of used cars, trucks, parts, and other paraphernalia, but most interestingly for the collection of objets d'art—creative furniture made from old tires, mannequins with a theme, and much more.

Stan and Sandi Gravis opened the business in 1990, converting it from a small gas station to the modern enterprise it now is. Their first artistic discoveries were the oeuvre

of a Canadian woman who was exhibiting at the Ann Arbor Art Fair, but as the couple traveled—especially in Arizona and New



**Moo-cow at the Cherry Bowl Drive-In along US-31. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.**

Mexico along iconic Route 66—their collection expanded. Don't miss the surprises here. Everyone is friendly, and will be happy to show you around. (231-275-7888)

**The Eagles of Interlochen** is right next-door, and they have regular flea markets and an occasional auction, so stop into the parking lot to see what treasures you can find.

Just under two miles down the road, make sure to gas up at **Cherryland Grocery**, the only unbranded, non-chain, privately owned gas station in Benzie County. (Editor's Note: Stapleton's of Benzonia is privately owned as well, but they are branded by Mobil.) Cherryland's owners John and Arnie Truax, in business for 24 years, will offer you a free cup of coffee or fountain pop if you show them a copy of this article. This is a busy place that

*Please see US-31 on page 8*

## Renaissance Man Discovers Elberta's Past

From syntax to sand dunes, Iowa to Elberta

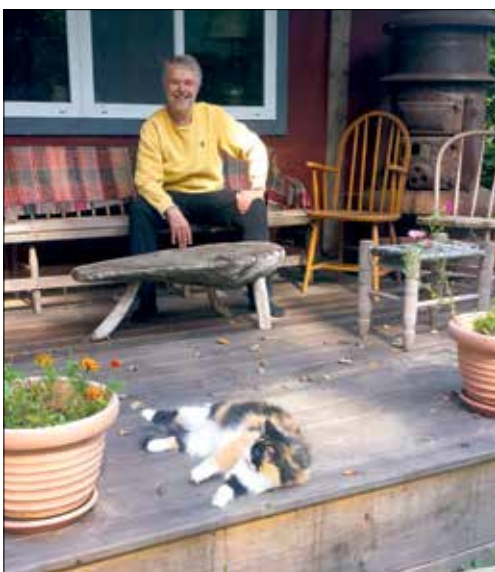
*By Susan Koenig*  
**Current Contributor**

Benzie County is such a unique part of the world, and you never know whom you might meet, just hanging around. For example, there's Stan Otto, Renaissance Man par excellence. Such a man is described in dictionaries as: "an outstandingly versatile and highly cultivated person, who performs brilliantly in many different fields, notably the arts and sciences."

In Otto's case, add linguist, economist, world traveler, epicurean, singer, and explorer. He has visited about 80 countries and has lived all over Africa, Asia, and Europe. At age 66, he speaks English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Arabic (Moroccan and Egyptian Arabic dialects), Farsi, Chinese, and Japanese. Most recently, though, Otto has been

playing around with the language and lore of map-making and cartography in Elberta.

Stanley Arnold Otto grew up in an isolated farm community near Waterloo, Iowa, as the fifth of six children in a very conservative German family. His grandparents had come from Silesia, Germany (now in the southwest of Poland). Otto says that all the neighbors far and wide were Lutheran German immigrants, as were nearly all of his



**Stan Otto, Renaissance Man, on his porch in Elberta with his cat. Photo by Susan Koenig.**

classmates at the local school where he attended.

"Farm communities—like museums—preserve things," Otto says, explaining that is how they kept their traditions, by keeping to themselves. "I hardly knew anyone who was not Lutheran and German-speaking until I went to college."

In addition to working the family farm, Otto says

that he "read all the time," and was a successful student, sports enthusiast, and choir member—since he belonged to the "singing church" (Lutheran), song became a vital force in Otto's life and has continued to be.

Somehow Otto managed to choose Harvard University, or perhaps it was Harvard that chose him when the Ivy League school offered a scholarship. Continuing on with his love of singing, Otto joined the Harvard Glee Club, and he also excelled in fencing.

Somewhere along the line, Otto changed his major from math and physics to romance languages. Next stop, for junior year, was Paris, France. He joined a choral group there also and participated in the festival "Europa Cantat," where he made contacts that allowed him to tour Eastern and Central Europe, includ-

*Please see RenMan Stan on page 8*



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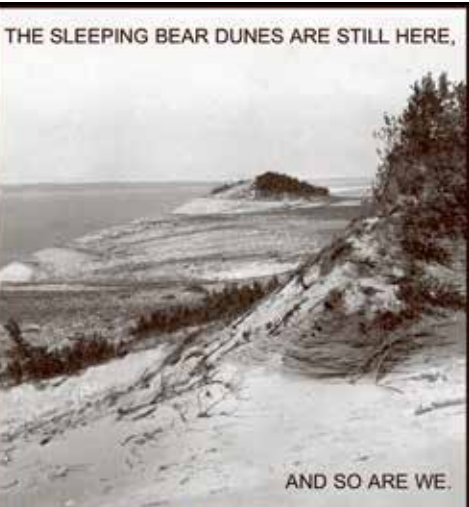


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# Christine Byron & Tom Wilson: Vintage M-22

Questions & Answers with community faces

Christine Byron and Tom Wilson—who published the acclaimed *Vintage Views of Leelanau County* in 2002, followed by *Vintage Views of the Charlevoix-Petoskey Region* in 2005, *Vintage Views of the Mackinac Straits Region* in 2007, and *Vintage Views Along the West Michigan Pike: From Sand Trails to US-31* in 2011—have published a new book that is sure to make an impact on the visual narration of this region’s history. The book, the couple’s fifth, is titled *Vintage Views Along Scenic M-22* and came out earlier this summer.

Continuing with our interview series on impactful local characters, *The Betsie Current* caught up with Byron and Wilson at their cottage on Big Glen Lake, and we asked them about the new book and what they learned while producing it.

**THE BETSIE CURRENT:** What inspired you to publish *Vintage Views Along Scenic M-22*? How long did the book project take you?

**CHRISTINE BYRON & TOM WILSON:** Our inspiration for the book came from spending summer vacations in Leelanau over the last 30 years, like so many visitors to the area. We love touring M-22, taking long drives, and discovering new scenic gems along the way. The book took about two years to complete. We love doing the research and working with the local historical societies and museums.

**CURRENT:** What surprises did you learn along the way? Or what twists and turns did the project take?

**BYRON & WILSON:** The thing that we were most surprised about was that there were four grassroots associations formed over the years, starting in 1929, for the purpose of promoting M-22. Promotional efforts included naming the road: the “Chippewa Trail” in 1929; the “Manitou Trail” in 1953; and the “Michigamme Trail” in the early 1960s. The earlier M-22 associations advocated paving the road. Later groups published brochures and placed advertisements to encourage travel on M-22.

**CURRENT:** Did you focus most on the historic, the natural, the commercial, the beautiful, or all of the above?

**BYRON & WILSON:** Our book focuses on the history of M-22 and the attractions along the way. We feature views of some of the old hotels, dining spots, shops, and summer camps. The quaint towns and villages along the route are shown in old postcards and historical photos. Attractions—such as Lund’s Scenic Garden, Glen Magic, and Fishtown—are highlighted. While showing vintage images of Sleeping Bear Dunes, we tell the story of how the National Lakeshore was formed.

**CURRENT:** M-22 has become far more than a state highway, of course. It’s a brand of clothing, allegedly a “way of life,” and the inspiration for an annual triathlon. Did all of this impact your story in any way?

**BYRON & WILSON:** Although the M-22 t-shirts and stickers are seen around the state, the popularity of M-22 is not a new thing. M-22 has been favored with tourists and travelers since it was first established as a scenic loop of the West Michigan Pike in 1913, thanks to the efforts of D.H. Day. The same things that inspire the popularity of the road today inspired earlier generations of motorists to take the scenic drive and return year after year. From our first visit to Leelanau County, we realized that the combination of dunes, lakes, and shoreline goes beyond just scenic to inspirational.

**CURRENT:** Was this project different from your previous books, particularly *Vintage Views of Leelanau County*.

**BYRON & WILSON:** *Vintage Views of Leelanau County* was our first book and has now been out-of-print for several years. Since people are still asking for the book, we considered reprinting it. But the original publisher changed hands three times and the digital files were lost, so we would have had to recreate the book. Instead, we thought we’d take a different tact and focus on M-22, since so much of the road is in Leelanau County. This also gave us the opportunity to show highlights of the road in Manistee and Benzie counties, too. For the most part, our new book focuses on the age of automobile tourism, while the first book covered a wider expanse of time, including the eras of early settlers, the lumbering industry, and steamship travel. In the new book, we tried not to duplicate much from the first book, but there are some images that were just too important to be left out.

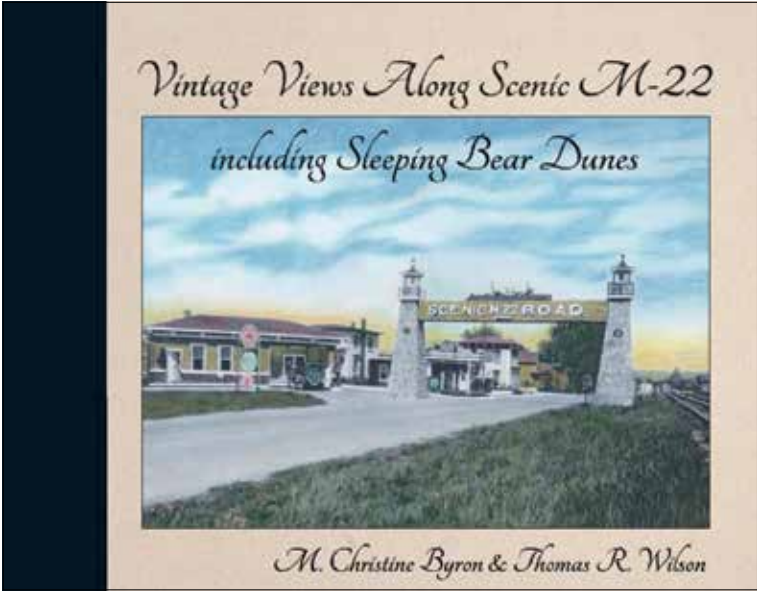
**CURRENT:** What do these two books add to the narrative lexicon of this beautiful area?

**BYRON & WILSON:** We hope that our books give readers a sense of the rich history of the people, places, and things that have made this area such an iconic vacation spot in a state that abounds in natural beauty.

**CURRENT:** This region has changed a lot since many of these vintage photos were taken. What do you like most about the changes along M-22? On the other hand, what do you pine for the most?

**BYRON & WILSON:** The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is the one thing that has both changed the area yet preserved it. The National Lakeshore’s preservation of beaches, dunes, and forests became the bedrock of a directional shift toward conservation and

recreational use that continues to this day. The Leelanau Conservancy continues the work of preserving the “natural beauty, ecological integrity, and working farms” of the Leelanau Peninsula. Although much development has taken place in the county, it’s this background



Cover of Christine Byron and Tom Wilson’s new book, out earlier this past summer. Photo courtesy of Vintage Views Press.

of conservation that continues to give Leelanau County its ability to retain its natural beauty and rural charm. Although we know the dunesmobile rides may have not been beneficial for the ecology of the dunes, we sure wish we could have had a ride in one of the 1956 Oldsmobile convertibles gliding over the dunes!

**CURRENT:** Tell us about your small cottage on Big Glen Lake. What does it mean to you? And how do you spend your time while here?

**BYRON & WILSON:** Our small cottage on Big Glen is 352 square feet and was built by Bill Peppler in 1950 on the site of the former Glenview Country Club. Our cottage was one of eight in Peppler’s Glenview Resort. Although we removed the orange shag carpeting, the cottage still has the original pine paneling and cozy feeling that gained it the nickname, the “Honeymoon Cottage.” We spend our cottage time reading, loafing, hiking with Pete the pup, boating, going for coffee in Glen Arbor, and watching sunsets over Big Glen.

*Interested in purchasing ‘Vintage Views Along Scenic M-22’ or others of the couple’s books? Learn more and place your order at [VintageViewsPress.com](http://VintageViewsPress.com); hardcovers are \$40 plus shipping for 248 full-color pages of regional history. Find the book locally at the Benzie Historical Museum in Benzonia, the Point Betsie Lighthouse Gift Shop just outside of Frankfort, or The Bookstore of Frankfort; check the website for other retail locations in Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Manistee counties.*

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# Mr. Joy

Continued from page 1

and makes them beautiful.

Joy will cane ladderback chair seats; carved antique chairs with caned panels in the seat, back, and sides; wicker chairs; whole sets of dining chairs; canoe seats—“whatever comes along that needs cane, I cane.” He keeps a photo album with samples of some of his most interesting projects, and he estimates that he has caned more than 200 chairs by now. He has never advertised his caning business, besides occasionally in the classifieds section—it’s all by word of mouth among members of a growing “cultivated clientele.”

Joy’s hand-woven cane follows various patterns of ups and overs. There’s the simple lattice pattern, such as you would see on a cherry pie, but less open. A variation is the herringbone pattern, producing overall diagonals. I’ve seen him hand weave a hexagonal openweave. All of these use flat cane and are strong enough for the seats of wide benches. Another technique uses narrow, round cane that is woven from four sides to meet in the center in four thick triangles.

These and other woven styles are options when the frame includes holes along the sides for anchoring the cane. However, when it doesn’t, Joy uses sheets of pre-woven pressed cane webbing, held in place with narrow splines that are pressed into grooves around the edges. In these cases—especially tricky when the rectangular sheets must conform to a curved opening—the sheet is installed oversized and then trimmed when finished.

Joy prefers weaving to using pre-woven webbing. He says that installing pre-woven pressed cane is like repairing a window screen, producing good and predictable results without offering a special challenge. But every job is an accomplishment, ultimately, with a satisfying end product.

So, his biggest challenge? Joy has a photo of one wide chair whose back and seat are one continuous caned surface—60 inches from top to front edge—done with a single strand of common cane. This job had to be employed perfectly, from beginning to end, as splicing wasn’t possible; just one error, and he would have had to start over. That project took a week, and he says, “I was so glad to get that done!”

Another large project—completely re-weaving an antique wicker chair—took even longer. By one measure, the biggest project was to re-cane an entire set of dining chairs.

Special opportunities show up, also. He worked on a highboy that had broken apart after falling off a truck, and he has repaired a spinning wheel, too.

Any mistakes? Once, when trying to flatten a warped sheet of pressed cane, he branded the shape of the flat iron onto the area that became the front of the seat. He says that he stained the whole seat, so the customer never knew.

The sad fact is that sometimes the customer has no idea of how unique a piece is—for instance, the beautiful, all-one-piece caning job was on “just an old chair” that someone brought in from the now-gone Smokestack re-sale barn of Frankfort. Additionally, he still has a carved antique oak side chair that was owned by “a woman in Texas” (he doesn’t have her name) and “delivered by the Habitat guy”—it’s finished and fabulous, but she hasn’t come to claim it.

It’s common for him to charge “by the front



Two variations of chair repair on Richards Road, just off Case Road outside of Beulah. Photos courtesy of Beau Vallance.

inch” of a caning area (he currently charges about \$4 per front inch) or on a per-hole basis (\$1 per hole, sometimes more), when applicable. He’ll do an estimate if asked, and usually he comes in pretty close to it.

Joy says “my fingers are getting sore,” and so now he is assisted by his son, Jimmy—a graduate of the Benzie Central High School just after it was built—who has worked with his dad for years and by now “has done it all.”

If you go by the garage, you’ll see them working or sitting and chatting together; I visit the chair repairman of Beulah every summer. One day, we all just sat in the shade watching the thermometer on the tree climb into the 90s.

When I ask Mr. Joy if he has advice for anyone who is considering this trade, he immediately replies, “Cultivate your patience!”

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 INTERLOCHEN  
SHORT Before the film


THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

- 12:30pm **MOMMY** DRAMA | 139m | R
- 3:00pm **PHOENIX** DRAMA | 98m | PG-13
- 5:00pm **FOOD PATRIOTS** DOC | 74m | GA  
\*\*\*Filmmaker On Site\*\*\*
- 8:00pm **THE HUNDRED YEAR OLD MAN**  
ADVENTURE/COMEDY | 114m | R 


FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

- 12:30pm **LEVIATHAN** DRAMA | 140m | R
- 3:00pm **BLACK COAL, THIN ICE**  
CRIME/DRAMA | 110M | R
- 5:00pm **SLOW WEST** THRILLER/WESTERN | 84m | R
- 8:00pm **WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS**  
COMEDY/HORROR | 86m | R 

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

- 11:00am **HAPPY VALLEY** DOC | 98m | NR
- 1:00pm **THE LOOK OF SILENCE**  
DOC | 103m | PG-13
- 3:00pm **'71** ACTION/DRAMA | 99m | R
- 5:00pm **FRAME BY FRAME** DOC | 85m | NR  
\*\*\*Filmmaker On Site\*\*\*
- 8:00pm **MEET THE PATELS** COM/DOC | 88m | PG 

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

- 12:45pm **TIMBUKTU** DRAMA | 97m | PG-13
- 2:45pm **RED ARMY** DOC | 84m | PG
- 4:30pm **GETT: THE TRIAL OF VIVIANE AMSALEM**  
DRAMA | 115m | NR
- 7:45pm **SUNSHINE ON LEITH**  
COMEDY/DRAMA/MUSICAL | 100M | PG 

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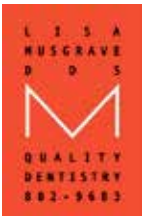
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**MOMMY** THURSDAY 12:30pm

DRAMA | 139m | R | French w/ Subs  
A widowed single mother, raising her violent son alone, finds new hope when a mysterious neighbor inserts herself into their household.

DIRECTOR | Xavier Dolan  
CAST | Anne Dorval, Antoine-Olivier Pilon, Suzanne Clément  
AWARDS | Jury Prize Cannes Film Festival | Best Actress Palm Springs Film Festival | Audience Award Stockholm Film Festival

**PHOENIX** THURSDAY 3:00pm

DRAMA | 98m | PG-13 | German w/ Subs  
A disfigured concentration-camp survivor, unrecognizable after facial reconstruction surgery, searches ravaged postwar Berlin for the husband who might have betrayed her to the Nazis.

DIRECTOR | Christian Petzold  
CAST | Nina Hoss, Ronald Zehrfeld, Nina Kunzendorf  
AWARDS | Best Supporting Actress German Film Awards | Best Actress Seattle International Film Festival

**FOOD PATRIOTS** THURSDAY 5:00pm\*\*\*

DOCUMENTARY | 74m | GA  
A documentary film and public campaign with the goal of getting everyone to improve their buying and eating habits by 10%. As consumers learn to demand better food we will pressure both policy and supply changes in our food system.

DIRECTORS | Jeff Spitz & Jennifer Amdur Spitz \*\*\**Filmmaker On Site*\*\*\*

**THE HUNDRED YEAR OLD MAN** THURSDAY 8:00pm

INTERLOCHEN SHORT Before the film

ADVENTURE/COMEDY | 114m | R  
After living a long and colorful life, Allan Karlsson finds himself stuck in a nursing home. On his 100th birthday, he leaps out a window and begins an unexpected journey.

DIRECTOR | Felix Herngren  
CAST | Robert Gustafsson, Iwar Wiklander, David Wiberg  
AWARDS | Audience Choice Award Chicago International Film Festival | Audience Award Durban International Film Festival | Best International Feature Florida Film Festival

**LEVIATHAN** FRIDAY 12:30pm

DRAMA | 140m | R | Russ. w/ Subs  
In a Russian town, Kolya is forced to fight the corrupt mayor when he is told that his house will be demolished. He recruits a lawyer friend to help, but the man's arrival brings further misfortune for Kolya and his family.

DIRECTOR | Andrey Zvyagintsev  
CAST | Aleksey Serebryakov, Elena Lyadova, Roman Madyanov  
AWARDS | Best Foreign Language Film Golden Globes | Best Screenplay Cannes Film Festival | Best Film London Film Festival

**BLACK COAL, THIN ICE** FRIDAY 3:00pm

CRIME | 110M | R | Mand. w/ Subs  
An ex cop and his ex partner decide to follow up on investigation of a series of murders that ended their careers and shamed them, when identical murders begin again.

DIRECTOR | Yi'nan Diao  
CAST | Fan Liao, Lun Mei Gwei, Xuebing Wang  
AWARDS | Best Actor Asian Film Awards | Golden Bear Berlin International Film Festival | Best Feature Film Golden Horse Film Festival

**SLOW WEST** FRIDAY 5:00pm

THRILLER/WESTERN | 84m | R  
A Scottish man travels across America in pursuit of the woman he loves, attracting the attention of an outlaw who is willing to serve as a guide.

DIRECTOR | John Maclean  
CAST | Fan Liao, Lun Mei Gwei, Xuebing Wang  
AWARDS | Grand Jury Prize World Cinema Dramatic Sundance Film Festival | Best Film Transatlantyk International Film Festival

**WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS** FRIDAY 8:00pm

INTERLOCHEN SHORT Before the film

COMEDY/HORROR | 86m | R  
Vampire housemates try to cope with the complexities of modern life and show a newly turned hipster some of the perks of being undead.

DIRECTOR | Jemaine Clement, Taika Waititi  
CAST | Jemaine Clement, Taika Waititi, Cori Gonzalez-Macuer  
AWARDS | Best Narrative Feature Hawaii International Film Festival | People's Choice Award Midnight Madness Toronto International Film Festival

**HAPPY VALLEY** SATURDAY 11:00am

DOCUMENTARY | 98m | NR  
A documentary that observes the year after Pennsylvania State University assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky's arrest on child sex abuse charges.

DIRECTOR | Amir Bar-Lev  
AWARDS | Best Documentary Feature Sarasota Film Festival

**THE LOOK OF SILENCE** SATURDAY 1:00pm

DOC | 103m | PG-13 | Indonesian w/ Subs  
An optician confronts the men who killed the brother that he never knew during the 1960s Indonesian genocide.

DIRECTOR | Joshua Oppenheimer  
CAST | Robert Gustafsson, Iwar Wiklander, David Wiberg  
AWARDS | Peace Film Award Berlin Film Festival | Best Documentary Bodil Awards | Audience Award SXSW Film Festival

**'71** SATURDAY 3:00pm

ACTION/DRAMA | 99m | R  
A young and disoriented British soldier is accidentally abandoned by his unit following a riot on the deadly streets of Belfast in 1971.

DIRECTOR | Yann Demange  
CAST | Jack O'Connell, Sam Reid, Sean Harris  
AWARDS | Best Director British Independent Film Festival | Best New Director Munich Film Festival | Best Picture Athens International Film Festival

**FRAME BY FRAME** SATURDAY 5:00pm\*\*\*

DOCUMENTARY | 85m | NR  
In Taliban ruled Afghanistan, taking a photo was a crime. Set in a modern Afghanistan, FRAME BY FRAME follows four Afghan photojournalists as they navigate an emerging and dangerous media landscape reframing Afghanistan for the world, and for themselves.

DIRECTOR | Alexandria Bombach, Mo Scarpelli  
CAST | Massoud Hossaini, Wakil Kohsar, Najibullah Musaffer \*\*\**Filmmaker On Site*\*\*\*  
AWARDS | Audience Award Documentary Feature Brooklyn Film Festival | Grand Jury Prize Documentary Nashville Film Festival

**MEET THE PATELS** SATURDAY 8:00pm

INTERLOCHEN SHORT Before the film

COMEDY/DOC. | 88m | PG  
A laugh-out-loud real life romantic comedy about Ravi Patel, an almost-30-year-old Indian-American who enters a love triangle between the woman of his dreams - and his parents.

DIRECTOR | Geeta Patel, Ravi Patel  
CAST | Champa V. Patel, Geeta Patel, Ravi Patel  
AWARDS | Best Documentary Feature Los Angeles Film Festival | Audience Award Best Documentary Film Traverse City Film Festival

**TIMBUKTU** SUNDAY 12:45pm

DRAMA | 97m | PG-13 | French w/ Subs  
A cattle herder and his family find their quiet lives – which are typically free of the Jihadists determined to control their faith – abruptly disturbed.

DIRECTOR | Abderrahmane Sissako  
CAST | Ibrahim Ahmed, Abel Jafri, Toulou Kili  
AWARDS | Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award Nomination | Prize of the Ecumenical Jury Cannes Film Festival | Best Director Chicago International Film Festival

**RED ARMY** SUNDAY 2:45pm

DOCUMENTARY | 84m | PG  
Hockey captain Slava Fetisov and four other players form a nearly unbeatable unit known as the “Russian Five,” but their coach's brutal regimen leads Fetisov and others to defect from the Soviet Union.

DIRECTOR | Gabe Polsky  
CAST | Viacheslav Fetisov, Scotty Bowman, Mark Deakins  
AWARDS | Audience Choice Award Chicago International Film Festival | Audience Award World Cinema AFI Fest

**GETT: THE TRIAL OF VIVIANE AMSALEM** SUNDAY 4:30pm

DRAMA | 115m | NR  
An Israeli woman fights for three years to obtain a divorce from her devout husband, who refuses to grant his permission to dissolve the marriage.

DIRECTOR | Ronit Elkabetz, Shlomi Elkabetz  
CAST | Ronit Elkabetz, Simon Abkarian, Gabi Amrani  
AWARDS | Best Screenplay Chicago International Film Festival | Audience Award Jerusalem Film Festival

**SUNSHINE ON LEITH** SUNDAY 7:45pm

INTERLOCHEN SHORT Before the film

COM./DRAMA/MUSIC. | 100m | PG  
Two soldiers return home to Edinburgh to resume their romantic and family lives.

DIRECTOR | Dexter Fletcher  
CAST | Paul Brannigan, George MacKay, Kevin Guthrie  
AWARDS | British Breakthrough Award George MacKay Richard Attenborough Film Awards | Nominated Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Directing, Best Film BAFTA Scotland Award

**INTERLOCHEN MOTION PICTURE ARTS**

INTERLOCHEN SHORTS Featured Before the Final Film of the Day

Four Interlochen MPA short films will be shown preceding feature films during the Frankfort Film Festival.

The Motion Picture Arts program provides students with a progressive interdisciplinary education through writing, critical studies, and hands-on curriculum. Students in the program benefit from challenging college-preparatory academics and a comprehensive experience in cinema.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## CONSTANTLY FLOWING

### Mondays

Pilates with Anna at the Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

Circle Time for infants and toddlers at the Benzie Shores District Library at 630 Main Street in Frankfort. Infants and toddlers (+ parents/caregivers) will have fun rhyming and moving with Miss Char, as well as a focus on repetition. 10-11am.

Grow Benzie Farmers’ Market at 5885 Frankfort Highway (M-115) in Benzonia. 3-7pm.

### Tuesdays

Sunrise Flow Yoga with Lara at Oliver Art Center. 7:45-8:45am.

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

Honor Farmers’ Market in Maley Park. 9am-3pm.

Benzie Shores District Library offers assistance with technology. Learn how to download ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines to your personal devices. 10am-12pm.

Tangle Time: Tangling is a simple way of creating designs from repetitive patterns. It is easy to learn, portable, fun, relaxing, and can be enjoyed by all ages 12 and up. Bring your own materials—cardstock, paper, fabric, jewelry, clay, wood, rocks—or use those provided. Benzonia Public Library at 891 Michigan Avenue in Benzonia. 2:30-4:30pm.

Minecraft Club at Darcy Library. 5-7pm.

Zumba classes at The Gathering Place in Honor are open to the general public and taught by Suzanne Waring. 6-7pm.

### Wednesdays

Open art studio at the Oliver Art Center. Participants are strongly encouraged to become members and to contribute a donation of \$2 per visit. 10am-4pm.

Tai Chi for beginners. Space is limited, so please contact Aimé Merizon at 231-645-3711 or artis4anyone@gmail.com to register. Suggested donation is \$10 per session. Darcy Library. 11am-12pm.

Knit 2gether at Darcy Library. Crocheters also welcome. 1-3pm.

### Thursdays

Fitness Fusion with Beth at the Oliver Art Center. 10:15am.



**INTERLOCHEN**  
**Farmers Market**  
*Sundays 9 - 2*  
Through the End of October  
In the big parking lot behind Ric's

Guided hiking tours at Michigan Legacy Art Park at Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville are a great way to learn about Michigan history. 9-10am.

Computers with Carol at the Darcy Library. Ask computer-related questions. 1-5pm.

Quilting at Darcy Library. 2:30-5:30pm.

Writers Club for kids and teens at Darcy Library. Share what you’re working on—novel, comic book, or anything else—and if you’d like, get feedback from your peers. 3-5pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend Open Clay Studio at the Oliver Art Center, including families! Per 4-visit block (12 hours total, used how you like), \$60 fees cover one adult or one adult-and-child pair. All skill levels should consider taking part. 3-6pm.

Storytime with Kris at Darcy Library. 4:30pm.

Teen yoga and meditation with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center. 4-5pm.

Power Vinyasa with Jenn at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. 5:30-6:30pm.

Steven Fernand sings the best songs from the last century at the Cold Creek Inn in Beulah. No cover. 6-9pm.

Open Mic Night at The Cabbage Shed in Elberta. 231-352-9843. 8pm.

### Fridays

Sunrise Flow Yoga with Lara at Oliver Art Center. 7:45-8:45am.

Pilates sculpt with Anna at Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

Crystal Mountain Farmers’ Market. 3-6pm.

### Saturdays

Birding with Keith Wesphal: Hike the Michigan Legacy Art Park with Keith, an active birder for 48 years, to identify birds by their song. Bring your binoculars to spot birds that make the 30-acre preserve their home each spring. Meet at the Art Park trailhead. Suggested \$5 donation. 8:30-10am.

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

Frankfort Farmers’ Market at Open Space Park on Main Street, between 7th & 9th streets, along the beautiful waterfront. 9am-1pm.

Farmers’ Market and Flea Market at the Interlochen Eagles #3503 at 20724 Honor Highway/US-131, three miles west of Interlochen. Consisting of Michigan-grown fruits and veggies, flea marketers, cottage food vendors, artisans, arts & craft vendors, and independent reps. 12-4pm.



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Lego Saturdays at Benzonia Public Library. For boys and girls ages 6 to 106. Dates will vary, so call 231-882-4111 to see if there will be Legos on Saturday!

Steven Fernand sings the best songs from the last century at the Cold Creek Inn. No cover. 6-9pm.

### Sundays

Guided hiking tours at Michigan Legacy Art Park are a great way to learn about Michigan history. The environment and the sculptures are a fun for adults and families. 9-10am.

Interlochen Farmers’ Market in the big parking lot behind Ric’s. 9am-2pm.

Integrative Yoga at the Oliver Art Center. Young or old, novice or seasoned practitioner, yoga is for everyone! Explore yoga on your own terms and discover all that it can do for you. Adult drop-in fee is \$15, student/senior drop-in fee is \$10. 10:30am-12pm.

## COMING SOON

### Saturday, October 3

Fallfest in Beulah / Benzonia. Children’s activities, gourd carvings, sidewalk-chalk contest, bounce house, classic vehicles, climbing wall, horse-drawn wagon rides, face painting, and much more. Events co-sponsored by The Crystal Lake Community Business Association.

### Saturday, October 3

Fall Stories: The leaves are starting to turn color, so come celebrate the changing of the seasons with Darcy Library by bringing a blanket and joining Ashley for stories and rhymes during Beulah’s Fall Fest. Storytime is designed for children ages 2-5, but all are welcome. We’ll also be handing out free books, courtesy of the library, and Rosie the Reading Dog will be there. Beulah Village Park. 231-882-4037 for more info. 1:30pm.

### Monday - Saturday, October 5-10

Now in its second year, Frankfort Beer Week is a week-long series of beer and food-themed events happening in the Lake Michigan coastal city of Frankfort and the neighboring village of Elberta. FrankfortBeerWeek.com

### Thursday, October 8

The story behind the new book *The Round Cat Trilogy* at the Betsie Valley District Library in Thompsonville. Come meet the author, Susan H. Eldred, and the illustrator, Susana H. Green, to learn how these two local people came together to publish this entertaining story about the life of a kitten. 231-378-2716. 7pm.

### Thursday, October 8

The Benzonia Academy Lecture Series continues its fall season with Professor Brian McCall’s “The Armenian Genocide of 1915.” In the spring of 1915, what has been referred to as the first genocide of the 20th century occurred in the closing years of the Ottoman

Empire. Beginning in April 1915 and lasting until after WWI, up to 1.8 million Armenians were killed as a matter of governmental policy. Still controversial today, Prof. McCall examines the facts surrounding this dark time in modern history. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Benzie Area Historical Museum. [www.BenzieMuseum.org](http://www.BenzieMuseum.org). 4pm

### October 10

Fallfest in Frankfort. The Giant Pumpkin Parade, featuring the Mutt March (dogs in costume) and The Scottville Clown Band, who will continue to perform afterward. Children’s games, pumpkin decorating, free movies at The Garden Theater, pumpkin drop, and pumpkin catapults into the Betsie Bay! Kids’ fishing contest, pumpkin-pie-eating contest, silent auction, and pumpkin baking contest. New this year: beer tent to celebrate Beer Week in Frankfort!

### Saturday, October 10

The Dry Hill Trails at Arcadia Dunes in the C.S. Mott Nature Preserve present a fantastic opportunity for mountain bike riders of all skill levels to get out and ride on gorgeous mixed terrain. Join GTRLC preserve stewards Jon Throop and Chris Garrock for a guided ride on these beautiful trails. Jon and Chris will split into groups, depending on skill level. Bikes will not be provided by GTRLC, so please bring your own. Please bring water and dress for the weather. Visit [www.gtrlc.org](http://www.gtrlc.org) or call 231-929-7911 to RSVP. Directions: <https://goo.gl/52hJ1S> 1-3 pm.

### Thursday, October 15

Local cemetery historian Al Bryant presents “The Symbolism of Tombstones,” exposing the “secret language” of tombstones of the famous and infamous. Thompsonville. 231-378-2716. 7pm

### Saturday, October 17

A Comet Party, presented by the Grand Traverse Astronomical Society, who will be teaching us all about comets and icy planets. Watch the GTAS members make a dry ice comet at the Betsie Valley District Library! 231-378-2716. 12pm.

### Saturday, October 17

Endoman Promotions and Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville are pleased to present the 10th Annual Peak2Peak Mountain Bike Classic. This epic event is held in and around the beautiful and gently rolling terrain that surrounds Crystal Mountain and will start and finish right at the resort! Registration information and fees can be found on the Crystal Mountain Event Page.

### Thursday-Sunday, October 22-25

7th Annual Frankfort Film Festival at The Garden Theater. (See our center insert for complete details.)

### Saturday, October 24

Harlem Ambassadors at Frankfort High School. 231-352-7251. 7pm.



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# Zen of The Round Cat

Local author teaches important lessons

By Nicole L. Bates  
Current Contributor

A dog trainer, quilter, water-skier, photographer—and now writer—Susan Eldred is fun and full of life, despite having a remarkable ability to convey stories about tough issues like adversity and death.

Brimming with tales of pets, both past and present, Eldred is an animal lover and a natural storyteller. Yet it wasn't until just recently that works by Eldred—works she had written nearly two decades ago—were able to come to the surface.

In 1997, Eldred lost her cat, Houdini. Shortly thereafter her faithful dog, Othello, passed away. In response to her grief, she penned a three-part story over the course of two months in 1998. The process proved cathartic, but the idea of publishing at that time was daunting.

So the story sat—untouched and unread—for many years.

Following a series of national tragedies, Eldred decided that her story needed to be published. She believed that her work could help others through their own grief and, hopefully, teach the lesson that death is as much a part of life as birth is.

Remarkably, the stars began to align. One of Eldred's clients from her dog-training and -tracking business connected her with a friend who knew a publisher. Eldred then enlisted Susana Green, a local artist and a fellow animal lover, to work with her on the cover art and illustrations.

"Susana didn't just illustrate," Eldred explains. "It's what she did with the drawings [to convey the story.]"

Green also had a huge part in promoting the book. With each other's support, and with the help of Westbow Press, *The Round Cat Trilogy* emerged earlier this summer. When speaking with both the author and the illustrator, it's easy to hear their praise for each other's work; they epitomize the spirit of collaboration.

Narrative and Audience

Eldred describes *The Round Cat Trilogy* as a children's book that adults will enjoy, too. She feels that it's written at a fourth grade reading level but is intended to be read aloud and discussed. In a safe environment, read-

ers can explore the deeper messages that the playful kitten brings to light.

The first story, *Growing Up at Home*, is a fictional narrative that introduces The Round Cat. The Round Cat is a precocious kitten who is always getting into trouble and loves curling up in cozy circular spaces. The author wants people to come away from the first story with a sense of their own unique skills, as well as their individual purpose.

"All of us feel—as a teenager or youngster—that we are different, and we see that as a bad thing instead of a good thing," explains Eldred, who wishes more people would realize that their 'differences' are not hin-

drances but actually individual talents that can, in fact, be assets when given the right opportunities.

The second story, *Round Cat Adventures*, is all about experiencing life from different perspectives. Eldred and Green hope that children especially will be pushed to use their imagination, to think about what life might be like as different animals, just as The Round Cat does.

The third and final installment, *Round Cat Finds a Home*, is the story of Houdini, the exceptional young kitten who inspired the story.

Eldred describes this third story as more philosophical; her wish is that readers will come away uplifted and with a new appreciation for life, death, and our purpose here—things that The Round Cat taught her.

"I want people to realize that, when you remember someone, you are giving them immortality," Eldred says.

Eldred hopes to publish more stories based on her many adventures over the years of owning and training dogs. And true to her word, Eldred is giving immortality to her furry family members by sharing with us the gift of their stories.

Signed copies of 'The Round Cat Trilogy' can be found at The Bookstore in Frankfort or purchased directly from Eldred via her website *Fascinating-Scent.com* or at 'The Round Cat Trilogy' Facebook page. Un-

signed copies can be purchased online in hardcover, paperback, or e-format. A book promotion event is scheduled to take place at the Betsie Valley District Library in Thompsonville on October 8 at 7 p.m.



The Round Cat is a new book that came out earlier this summer and was created by a local author-illustrator team. Image courtesy of illustrator Susana Green.

About the Creators

These days, author Susan Eldred lives out her love of animals by caring for her fluctuating pack of family dogs and cats, as well as teaching dog-training and -tracking camps. She and her husband, Orrin, also provide individual lessons and obedience training at their Lab Land location in Thompsonville. Together they've written two tracking books, *Fascinating Scent: A Tracking Manual* and *The Fascinating Scent Tracking Workbook*.

Illustrator Susana Green is a landscape artist who volunteers for the Benzie Animal Welfare League, cares for her own cats at home, and has written and illustrated a picture book titled *Tiger*, inspired by one of her cats, Punky. Though her picture book is not yet published, Green is currently considering the possibility.

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# US 31

Continued from page 1

also sells live bait and various grocery items.

Not far down the road at address number 18080, you'll see **Lily's Home Furnishings**, owned by Carol Greenwood (aka Lily). This is a classy but practical upholstery store that includes a separate building with resale furniture. There is no junk here, I promise you. In the main building's front room, you will find an impressive display of blinds, draperies, choose-your-own area rugs, and other home furnishing needs, including hundreds of fabric samples. In the back is a huge workroom, manned by Bobbie, Lily's only employee who does most of the sewing. But it's Carol, says Bobbie, who has the creative eye for color combinations. (231-ask-Lily or 231-275-5459)

Continuing southwest, don't neglect the **Platte River State Fish Hatchery**. Located four miles northeast of Honor, just across from **Jodi's Tangled Antler** at Maple City Road/669, the fish hatchery is a facility that raises Coho and Chinook salmon and is the main egg-taking station for Coho in the Upper Great Lakes. Renovated in 2005 after its establishment in 1928 as a satellite rearing station, the hatchery is a fine place to learn about fish biology and conservation. The grounds are open to the public at no charge from dawn to dusk, and the hatchery itself is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays. Self-guided tour maps and interpretive signs are provided for you to use along the "bluefish" pathway as you explore. This is one of the most significant tourist attractions in Benzie County, and it's free! You can see indoor rearing tanks and learn about the process of egg collection, hatching, growing, and releasing salmon. This activity is great for kids of all ages. (231-325-4611.)

Next to the **Benzie Bus** garage, you'll find **Labadie's Summer Place Casuals** where "quality doesn't cost, it pays," according to owner Norm Labadie. Labadie's specializes in outdoor furniture, but much of it could be used indoors, as well. Plan to take some time, since the store boasts 65,000 square feet of inventory! Almost all of the stock is made in the U.S.A. Norm's grandson, David, will be happy to show you around, and you'll be amazed at the variety of styles, colors, and choices with many new products manufactured out of recycled materials and lasting for a long time.

Next door to Labadie's is **Habitat for Humanity Restore**, where you can find just about anything from bath tiles to wooden flooring to chandeliers to dinnerware to furniture to... well yeah, again, you can find just about anything! The low prices are great, but the best part is that the profits go to a good cause. Moreover, there are sales all the time, and you'll enjoy the friendly and helpful staff and volunteers.

Don't miss **C&M's Rock Shop**, farther down the road, with its fabulous collection of "everything from diamonds to dinosaur doo-doo,"

according to co-owner Shirley Mueller. Shirley's husband, Bruce, a geologist by trade, began collecting rocks when he was nine years old, and the couple has been in business for 50 years. Open from spring until fall, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed on Sundays. (231-325-2309)

Keep going, there's more! Find **Canvas and Boat Upholstery** near the top of the hill going into Honor, as well as **Moore Mechanical**, for all your heating and cooling needs.

After driving through Honor, it's time to buy something for someone. Stop at **Bookwear**, a factory/outlet store with a unique twist. Put a message in a book with a shirt inside, and customize it with photos and text. Then you can mail it like a postcard! In this tiny shopping center, you can also get your hair styled at **Shirley's Countryside Salon**.

Leave Bookwear and pass the **Cherry Bowl Drive-In**. Stop at the **Lone Pine Party Store** to pick up a cold six-pack for dinner, then stop at **Birdland Indian Art** and the **American Indian Veterans Memorial** at 9418 Honor Highway. "FREE coffee for Indians. FREE coffee for Veterans. 2 CUPS for Indian Veterans." Sounds like a great deal!

Founded by Bob Lucas—Korean War veteran and former commercial real estate salesman—Birdland Indian Art is a "treasure trove of fine art and crafts from some of the top artists and craftsmen from our great state of Michigan and across the country." Bob bought this property eight years ago, and completely renovated it into four buildings, one in which he lives, the others for display and craftsmen/women to use. All of the artwork displayed and for sale is Native American, representing more than 23 different tribes. Bob has been interested in Indian Art all his life, beginning during his childhood in Gratiot County, where his best friend was Native American. He taught American History in Pentwater for one year, from the "Indian" standpoint, which he felt was overlooked in our school systems. Birdland is open daily in the summer except for Tuesday, and from October through April by appointment only. (231-510-0607)

**Crystal Lake Marina** has an outpost on the hill between Honor and Beulah, and **Eden Hill Nursery & Greenhouse** is a tucked-away spot near the top of the hill where you can find mums in the fall and poinsettias in the winter. (231-882-7226)

**Salon 31**, housed in the **A. Papano's Pizza** building, is operated by Sharon Lindsey, who has been in the salon business for 30 years. Sharon is a master stylist, performing most hair services and using all coloring chemicals. Most of her clients are local—often whole families—but "walk-ins" are of course welcome. Grab a slice of pizza while you're there.

Continuing on through Beulah and Benzonia proper, you'll see multitudes of other great businesses which we are not profiling here just because we think each village deserves its own article.

**Vacation Trailer Park** is at the crossing with the Betsie River, just past the **McDonald's** and the **Shop & Save Center**. A little further on is **Jerry's Resale**, a great place to pick up almost anything.

Whew! Finally home and back where we started.

# RenMan Stan

Continued from page 1

ing Switzerland where he learned to love skiing. (This all took place in the '70s, when lift tickets were cheap!)

After graduation, Otto applied and was accepted to the Peace Corps. He was assigned to Morocco and had two months to learn Arabic and a Moroccan dialect, which sounds like quite a challenge but came fairly easy to Otto. He began to see that he could put sounds and words together well, that he had an instant fluency capability. The science of linguistics thus became a central theme throughout his life.

After the mandatory month or so of training, Otto asked to be sent to a remote part of the country, understanding that it would be better for learning the language. He then spent two years in a tiny, dusty, quiet farm town—kind of like Iowa. He was the only English-speaking person in his village, but he was never lonely and never questioned his decision to go there.

"When you live in a different country, you become, in a way, a different person" Otto remarks. "That's why I keep a journal—so I can look back, reflect, and say, 'Who was that person writing this?'"

When Otto left the dusty village, he went to Algeria and Tunisia, attended a program in classical Arabic, re-upped in the Peace Corps, and was sent to Cameroon, where he learned elements of several tribal languages. Finishing that stint, he hitchhiked across the Sahara, catching rides on trucks that carried freight and unique sand ladders, designed for preventing permanent bogging down in the terrain. They rode in daylight, brought their own food and water, sat under the desert sun on top of the merchandise, and slept by the side of the road during the cold nights.

Otto traveled to Iran in 1979, and he was actually in Tehran when the Shah was deposed. Those were "interesting times," notes Otto. When he managed to escape, he says that it was very much like the tense airport scene in the Ben Affleck film, *Argo*. He flew from Tehran to Prague—remember, this was in 1979, which would put him behind the "Iron Curtain"—and was the first American to return to the States after the Iranian Revolution. (A while later, he learned that one of his Iowan cousins had been part of the group held hostage and featured in the movie.)

That same year, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Taiwan to teach English, linguistics, and drama. There he learned to speak and write Chinese. By the age of 30, he had already been around the world a few times over, so Otto decided that it might be time to get a "real job" in which he could travel, but also earn a salary, thus he applied to the U.S. Foreign Service.

After what seemed like a very long wait for the completion of a security check—could it have been because of his visits to Iran, Afghanistan, Eastern Europe, or Russia?—he was accepted and volunteered to go to Lagos, Nigeria, where he learned Yoruba and Howsa and also met his future wife, Liz, daughter of diplomats, who was

a kindred spirit and veteran globetrotter. The couple did a lot of exploring together, but their climb of Mount Kilimanjaro "sealed the deal" on their relationship, and they married in 1987. They have lived longest in Japan, where their son was born in 1992.

Otto's last posting—at the U.S. Consulate in Berlin—ended in 2011 with his retirement. At that time, he bought the property next to his in-laws, Jan and Bill Buck, owners of the La Rue House in Elberta.

So what does someone who has put a pin on 80 countries around the globe do with his time in our sleepy lakeside town? Well, he's kept up his love of singing, for one—these days, he participates in four local choral groups: the Benzie Chorus, the Cherry Capital Mens' Chorus and the Shoreliner Quartet. During summers, he is part of the Interlochen Festival Chorus, young and old singers from around the world.

He's also scouted every nook and cranny of our dunes, too. Over the winter of 1905, a geology team from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers came to Elberta and created an official topographical map. Otto has embellished the original map, notably delineating six old trails in the bluffs with dotted lines, naming them and adding points of interest and approximate times required to hike each trail.

He found, among other things: lumber roads that are easy to recognize, even though they've grown over with vegetation; "Elephant Valley," named for a particular grass; and remnants of old wheels, nailed to wreckage that was part of Elberta Mountain, the first resort and ski jump in this part of the world, built about 65 years ago and then home to the only skiing competition in the area.

On these trails, you'll traverse forest, sandy scrub, deep washouts down to the beach, and stunning views of Lake Michigan and the surrounding area. Otto considers the dunes to be a "huge unused resource," as most of us would agree, and he hopes that his "updated" maps will help people to use the trails more.

When asked if he ever worries that he won't find enough to do in Elberta, Otto is emphatic.

"Well, everyone asks me that, and of course, I had some concern [at first]," Otto replies. "But, as in the Foreign Service, you find what you can, and you take advantage of opportunities that come your way. Here, in our area, there is infinitely more than you'd imagine—sports, culture, people, physical beauty."

At least for the time being, he's content to hike the dunes, ride his bike, write and sing, but he's unlikely to miss an opportunity for adventure.

Clearly, Otto is a person to whom every experience is an adventure. He loves Elberta, and he loves going back to the farm in Iowa. He loves Paris, Tokyo, Casablanca, Lagos, and pre-strife Iran, as well. Chatting with him is almost as good as going on an exotic voyage—but his enthusiasm for Elberta and her dunes is enough to make you content to be right here at home.

*Trail maps of the Elberta dunes area are available for \$2 at the Frankfort/Elberta Chamber of Commerce and The Bookstore in Frankfort.*

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