

"If Only The Walls Could Talk"

NEW YEARS' RESOLUTIONS - Did You Make Any?

By Paul Schuette
 Pigeon Historical Society
 Newsletter Editor

Are you the type of person who makes New Years' resolutions? Do you keep them? For how long? A week, a month, all year?

A long time ago, I thought about this long and hard; I never have been one to make or keep resolutions. I decided to think of a resolution that is impossible to keep, and then a resolution that's impossible to break;

1. I resolve to never make a New Years' resolution.

2. I resolve to make only one New Years' resolution.

There, I was all set for every New Year. I had an answer for anyone who might ask me about my resolutions.

As we get older, we may think back to all those resolutions we made over the years, how many (if any) we kept and probably a hard time remember those we did not keep.

Following is the front page of The Progress Advance from Thursday, December 27, 1979; a look back 40 years ago.

Though the New Year's Resolution is often the brunt of many jokes, resolutions still exist as people wind down the old year and begin to gear up for 1980.

Last year at The Progress-Advance, we asked several local people to list their 1979 New Year's resolutions. -

Curiosity made us call those people back this year, and to our surprise, many of them had good reports about their year. Which just goes to prove that not ALL New Year's resolutions are ignored. Some really happen, and we think that's good news!

COUNTY COMMISSIONER CAL REIBLING said that he wanted to make his bees work harder in 1979. Well, they did. Cal reports he harvested 300 pounds of honey, from two hives of bees, "I could never expect them to do that good again," Reibling commented as he noted that the hives were near a clover field and he intentionally did not take one of his cuttings of alfalfa because of the hives.

In 1980 Reibling says that he's "going to keep on the way I was this year. If I can be as happy and satisfied as I was this year, that'll be just fine."

CASEVILLE SCHOOL SUPER-INTENDENT JIM STAHL last year resolved not to make resolutions

because "lots of times you've got to eat them anyway." However, for 1980, Stahl was quick to say that "we just hope that our tax bills are corrected by the end of 1980."

PIGEON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SECRETARY SUE BRUEGGMAN

made a resolution for the Chamber. We resolve to "keep up the good feelings that still continue after the Jubilee and involve more of the **BRUEGGMAN** community in our Chamber projects." Mrs. Brueggeman also asked that the community remember the hostages in Iran as everyone gathers together during the New Year's holiday.

PIGEON DISTRICT LIBRARIAN

R O B E R T A RICHMOND made a resolution in 1979 to do everything possible to help people enjoy reading more and to make them more aware of the many services our library offers." Miss Richmond says she feels

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RICHMOND

PIGEON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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All meetings at 3:30 p.m.

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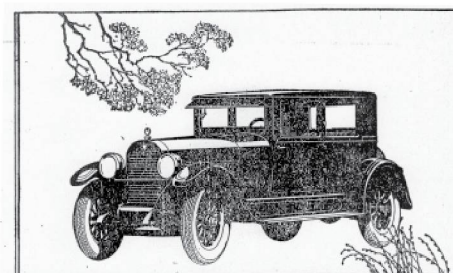
Woelke Historical Research Center.

HISTORICAL HUMOR

-- The Pigeon Ship Building Co., composed of C. Pfaff, Al Pruner, Jack Campbell and Hank Schluchter were busy this week pushing the fishing smack "Sardine" to completion. The work is about all done, with the exception of putting in the pumps, tin pails and dippers. She will be fine craft with a speed of how-fast-you-push and a tonnage of an unlimited amount if the water is not more than six inches deep. The Progress will have a special correspondent to witness her trial trip.

Pigeon Progress

April 21, 1899



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Excerpted from A HISTORY OF MY LIFE - By Florence Gwinn Schluchter

The Lutterells . . .

Grandma Gwinn's mother was a Lutterell. After great-grandma died, grandma lived with her uncle, Sir Isaac Lutterell. They had a large home in Ireland. Her father was a Saunders. His grandfather was Land Steward for Lord Maryborough. He is buried in Kells Churchyard, Mead County. The Lutterell Castle is in Dunster, England. The Lutterells have owned it since 1100 A.D. It is on the side of a wooded mountain.

The Morses . . .

The Morses were ship-builders and also had an estate in Wales. One of them designed a ship that won prizes in races for several years. Grandpa was a seventh cousin of Samuel F.B. Morse, who was an artist and inventor of the Morse Code.

The Fishers . . .

Grandma's father was a Fisher. He belonged to the MacGregor clan. Before there was a Scotland, there were various clans: Anglicans and Celts. The Celts came across from Ireland to Kintyre Peninsula, a distance of about twelve miles. They were Christians, so brought Christianity to Scotland.

Alpin McAlpine, part of the MacGregor clan, made friends with the Celts and they joined together to protect their lands. Alpin McAlpine was crowned King of Scots on a knoll on Kintyre Peninsula and from this clan came the Kings and Queens of Scotland. Sterling Castle was their Castle. Grandma Morse's mother was a Dury. She was named after her aunt, Lady Ann Elizabeth Hay Dury. Her uncle had the Fir Hill Estate. They entertained Ladies, Lords, Earls, etc. - the royalty, at their home, where they had put on a scene from Robin Hood. The horses galloping

over their lawn almost ruined the lawn.

Grandma's uncle married the Earl of Breadalbane's daughter. She, of course, was disowned. **Dury . . .**

A Dury married Esplin. He owned a line of steamships from Glasgow to Australia. When he died, Aunt Esplin was the richest widow in Glasgow. She had a big home as well as a summer home in Dublin, Ireland. She raised Grandma after Grandma's parents died. Another aunt, a Dury, married Mr. Cockran. He rescued seventeen men from off a sinking ship when the coast guards would not go out.

He got a drunk man to go with him in his calico boat. The government gave him his choice of the property in Skerries. He chose a three-story house. It was built by the Romans when they ruled. It could not be picked apart. It had flagstones for the kitchen floor, built-in beds and walls, seven acres of land, and a sewed muslin factory. This is where Grandma spent her girlhood summers. **Halloween Party . . .**

The first event I can recall as a child was a Halloween Party the folks put on for the young people in their Sunday School classes. I was almost two years old.

As I recall the party, I thought maybe others might be interested in knowing what they did at a Halloween Party ninety-three years ago.

Mother took halves of walnut shells and fastened a small candle in each. We pretended this was a boat and each guest was given one. Everyone put his little boat in a wash tub filled with water. The boats actions would then tell your fortune. If one's boat stayed near where launched, he would stay near home. If it went across the tub, he would travel far. If two boats clung together, those two boatmen would marry.

Everyone became so excited watching his boat. All would talk at once about whose boat went where. All the heavy breathing of our excitement kept the boats moving.

Next, we bobbed for apples, followed by a peeling contest where we carefully peeled the apples trying to keep the peel in one piece. These were then tossed over our left shoulder to determine what letter would be formed there, thus learning the letter of the name of the person we would marry.

I recall that at the time we only had our center room which was fourteen by sixteen feet in size. It served as a kitchen, dining- and living room all in one. The floor was painted by using yellow baker --

a yellowish brown powder mixed with oil. When it dried, it made a pretty good paint.

It had rained just before the party, so there was plenty of mud. Father was going to add to our little kitchen that winter, so he had removed the north door step. He had put a plank from the ground to the door so guests could walk up.

I can still see Mother sweeping up the clay: a dust pan full!

The next year the folks had a picture taken of Vera standing while I sat in my red rocking chair and the folk satin chairs on the lawn. I was two years old at this time.

First Christmas . . .

I was just three years old when I spoke a piece at the church Christmas program at the Hayes School House. I got along fine, I can still remember it;

"Once in David's Royal City stood a lowly cattle shed, where a Mother laid her baby, in a manger for a bed.

"Mary was the Mother mild Jesus Christ the little child."

After we finished our pieces, I took part in the next number' which was a song by my class.

We acted as if we were all 'nid-nodding' and dropping off to sleep. We sang with closed eyes and our head resting on our two hands.

At that moment, Santa bounded in through the north door with a loud "Ho! Ho! Ho!" He scared me so I burst into tears. I couldn't see Mother, but did see my friend Lizzy Stewart so ran to her. Mother came and quieted me, so I watched the remnants of the pro- gram: "The Crowning of Santa."

Going To Schluchter's . . .

The next outstanding event was in the spring when Mother and I were going to visit Schluchter's. The snow was mostly melted so we had to walk in the mud, which was difficult, but we managed to get out our long lane to cross the road. We had to go a few steps to the east to cross over the ditch on a log and climb over a sty they had made to get into their pasture field, and from there on to their house. The ditch was full of muddy water and pieces of snow and ice as it rushed toward our big ditch. Mother said, "I had better take your hand." To which I replied, "No, I'se big!" That instant, I stepped on a piece of ice and down I went into that cold water, up to my neck. Mother grabbed me and pulled me out. There I stood with water running from my clothes. My new apron which I had been so proud of was ruined. I looked at myself and said, "I'se a Big Goose!" That's when

I learned "Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Then came the long, cold walk home. Each step I took the water swished in my shoes. The cold wind blew. Was I glad to get into the house!



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PIGEON ADVERTISED IN FLORIDA

The following item was sent to Mrs. J. E. Wurm by a cousin who is wintering at Miami Beach, Florida with the explanation that she saw it in the Miami Sunday paper and thought it would be of interest to her.

A SECRET

A 14-year-old boy, George Black, built himself a wagon out of four wheels, an egg crate and some other material, then went to peddling merchandise for eggs among farm folks around the town of Pigeon, Mich. He became known to every farmer for miles around. A few years later he opened a store. The business outgrew it and he bought a big factory building. Recently he built a three-story addition to that. Black now does a business of \$350,000 a year in this town of 800 population. People for miles around trade with him. Salesmen in his store work on commission; his hardware clerk averages \$250 a month and the woman at his notion counter makes \$30 a week. His business nets about \$1,000 a day. Not long ago a merchant in a larger town

took a day off and went to Pigeon solely to ask George Black if he cared divulge the secret of his success. Black smilingly said he was glad to tell the world his secret; and he told it in words we want every merchant in and around Ludowici to read and commit to memory. He said: "I offer nothing but real bargains -- and I advertise in the newspapers in small towns around Pigeon. There's, no secret to it--advertising has done it for me". Pigeon Progress March 21, 1924

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress

109 years ago, December 8, 1911:

L. Staubus, Pigeon, has genuine fur garments, Russian pony coats \$40, Leak Astrakham \$30, Men's pony, marmot, muskrat coats at \$40 up. Ladies' handsome beaver, Jap mink, Russian mink, Hudson lynx and French coon fur sets from \$12 up.

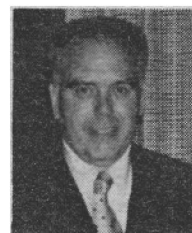
RESOLUTIONS

aware of the many services our library offers." Miss Richmond says she feels that she has accomplished that. "If we continue to grow," says Miss Richmond, "to get support, to do two story hours, then we know we've kept our resolution." Miss Richmond attributes the success of the library to her fine staff and to the tremendous support of the community. "We're not going to rest on our laurels in 1980. I'm going to give as much as I did in 1979 and look forward to an even better year in 1980."

COUNTY COMMISSIONER WILLIS LEIPPRANDT of Pigeon was all business last year as he resolved "to bring about a better equalization department for the county and to help the county get a controller." Leipprandt says that he feels that he met his first resolution. "If you go back to June, you'll see that I voted 'no' on this mess." He says that he and Commissioner Pete Ney are still working on the controller for the county.

Commissioner Leipprandt also vowed to enjoy his granddaughters more in 1979. "That I did!" he says enthusiastically.

There will be no resolutions for 1980 by Leipprandt who says that he "wouldn't make a resolution with the commotion here."



DeGROW

STATE SEN. ALVIN J. DEGROW of Pigeon said that he was going to go fishing more in 1979. Sen. DeGrow figured that he was just like everybody else because he broke his resolution. "I didn't do


it," he said. "As a matter-of-fact, I probably went fishing less than the year before." With that kind of luck, Sen. DeGrow said he'd refrain from making any more New Year's resolutions at this time.

PIGEON VILLAGE PRESIDENT NORRIS DIEBEL resolved that the village wouldn't have to raise taxes in 1979. "I am sure that we did that," he says. For 1980, Diebel says "We're going to try to do the same thing. We want to go ahead with the lagoon

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HISTORICAL HUMOR

ILLEGAL TO PUBLISH - NOTICES OF BOX SOCIAL

The recent ruling of the U. S. Post Office Department that the publication of advertisements of the old-fashioned box social, as given by rural schools, churches, etc., is illegal on the grounds that a box social is a "game of chance," sure makes the average citizen wonder what will be ruled from the newspaper columns next by some foolish nut at the head of the government affairs. Reports of weddings have to go next, because "marriage is only a lottery," and it won't be advisable to give the probable government crop estimate, for the cut-worms might get the corn or a hail storm knock the stuffin' out of the wheat. The only ones that should be allowed to guess on anything should be the stock market speculators, for most of us know their guesses are all hooey anyway. In regard to the box socials, nobody pays any more than they want to donate to a good cause, and if they draw an extra piece of cake together with a cute little flapper, it's nobody's business. On the other hand, if some wise guy bids a neat price on a fancy box and gets a hunk of limburger cheese, some pumpnickel, and a bow-legged girl of advanced age, he ain't going to complain to the postal authorities that he got gypped. Nope, the bird that made that ruling on box socials, along with the bread her mother baked, and he's still sore about it. --Oxford Leader

Women interested in the temperance movement in Norway have been agitating for a law to prevent women or girls being employed in serving liquor in the saloons. A law has been passed to that effect, and now a drink seller cannot employ any woman except his own wife. Pigeon Progress
September 9, 1897

RESOLUTIONS

expansion project and yet keep taxes where they are while preparing for the possibility of attracting a multiple family housing project."

KEN YOUNG, former president of the Elkton Community Club, had resolved in 1979 to make the Community Club 100 percent better. Ken says "I thought we had a good year."



HALEY

ELKTON COMMUNITY CLUBS PRESIDENT RANDY HALEY does have a resolution for his organization in 1980. "The Community Club is going to work hand in hand with the Elkton Village Council to promote a more active business district and to expand parking facilities in downtown Elkton."

PHYLLIS BEDNOREK, former Caseville Chamber president, made a 1979 resolution to "make the second annual Caseville Perch Festival in April bigger and better than ever." Mrs. B's only comment about her resolution was "I did. I did. We had a good Perch Festival."

CASEVILLE CHAMBER PRESIDENT JOHN PARR made a new resolution for Caseville this year.

Parr says, "Resolved: to continue to improve the business climate of Caseville by the addition of a shopping mall and a high-rise tourist motel. If an unforeseen problem arises and our goals are not attained, we will take down the Christmas decorations right after New Year's."

TERI DAMM, who is now 13 years old, resolved to improve her schoolwork



DIEBEL

and read a few more books in 1979. Miss Damm says that she did keep her schoolwork the same and that was good because "it's kinda hard to improve on straight A's." She did read more non-fiction books in 1979 and enjoyed the reading. Her resolution for 1980 is "to make more friends."

Four new "resolves" have been randomly asked to state their resolutions for 1980.



MRS. CLAUS

MRS. SANTA CLAUS says that her first visit in Pigeon with Santa has been truly rewarding. "The joy, the happiness and thrill of childhood anticipation toward Christmas is a reward in itself." For 1980

Mrs. Santa resolves "to enjoy these young ones to the fullest. They hold the future in their young hands. Let's all help them and guide them toward a brighter tomorrow."

SUE GEIGER of Pigeon's Shoe Cobbler resolves to "keep my priorities straight." She says that everyone can have fun figuring out what her priorities are.

LAKER SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT DON DAMROW made a serious resolution to "voice my opinion on legislation that is unnecessary in Washington and here in the state of Michigan."



DAMROW

Damrow claims that more of us ought to be concerned about the question of government regulation and intervention. Exchange student **TOMMI VIMPELI** residing now with the Butch Miller family in Pigeon brings a message from Finland for the new year: "Nauttia Yhdysvalloissa Olostani Niin Paljon Kuin On Mahdollista" (which means "I plan to enjoy my stay here in the U.S. as much as it is possible.")

The New York prohibitionists will try a new method of distributing their campaign literature, by giving it away at public meetings wrapped around cakes of toilet soap. This wide distribution of free soap ought to result in additional cleanliness, even if it doesn't increase the prohibitionist vote. Pigeon Progress
October 1, 1897

We'd love to see you on our Team!

An individual or business can become a member by contracting any active member or by sending your tax deductible cash or check to Pigeon Historical Society, 59 S. Main St. / P. O. Box 523, Pigeon, MI 48755. Dues are renewed at the annual meeting each year.

Individual Membership: \$20.00 (active member with voting privileges)

Life Membership: \$120.00 (active voting member with lifetime privileges)

Supporting Membership: \$15.00 (non-active supporting member)

Business Membership: \$20.00 or more (contributing member non-voting)

Name: _____

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Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. Be our guest and become a member!