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calendar drawings are:

**March 7: Barbara & Brad Huffman, Lawrenceville, GA.**  
**March 8: Patti Root, Hoopeston**  
**March 9: Hoopeston Lions Club**  
**March 10: Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce**  
**March 11: Martha Barker, Hoopeston**

Louraine Osborne  
editor

**just the facts**

Susan Comstock  
ad manager

**Monday, March 7, 1994**  
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!  
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL 60942

## Teamsters, Pillsbury ratify contract, end walk-out

A fourth week of a strike by Teamsters Local 26 against the Hoopeston Pillsbury plant was averted Friday night when union members ratified a new contract.

In a 28-23 vote, workers chose to accept the company's latest proposal and are expected to return to work this week.

According to union members, the contract will offer a three-tiered insurance program and will leave retirement requirements at the current 55 years old with 10 years of service.

Insurance and retirement were the two sticking points during negotiations, union members had said during the strike. The strike began Feb. 13.

## Starting today no ifs, ands or butts at local McDonalds

If you're thinking about having a cigarette with that cup of coffee at McDonald's this morning - think again.

Today marks the first day of the restaurant's new no smoking policy for customers and employees, said Sara Fourez, store manager.

Remodelling is the reason cited for the change.

A planned breakfast buffet in the front lobby and a children's play area in the back means no room for a smoking area. "We don't have a ventilation system that can pull the smoke out," Fourez said.

The change is part of the family-oriented, "great place for kids" image the restaurant is seeking, she added.

Sales are not expected to be adversely affected by the change, Fourez said.

## Police News

**Kevin W. Jacob**, 35, 725 W. Main, was ticketed at 4:13 a.m. Friday for leaving a motor vehicle unattended. Jacob's car, left running in the Jerry's IGA parking lot, apparently slipped out of gear and hit a car owned by William and Alice Wagoner, 428 S. Sixth Ave., Hoopeston.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 2 p.m. Friday. Cars driven by Kevin Vogel, Tilton, and Jayne Drollinger, 502 W. Elm, Hoopeston, collided at the intersection of routes 1 and 9.

**John W. Williams**, 17, 210 E. Thompson, and a 16-year-old male were ticketed Saturday for skateboarding downtown. Both were released on notices to appear.

## Obituaries

**DALTON**, Ernest "Red", 65, of Hoopeston, died at 1:20 p.m. Thursday, March 3, 1994 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. today at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be two hours before services at the funeral home.


**RUSH**, Victor L., 81, of rural Wellington, died Friday, Mar. 4, 1994 at Wells Community Hospital, Bluffton, Ind. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. today at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation was yesterday at the funeral home.

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## Local woman remembers a special, departed friend

**Editor's note:** A great many people in Hoopeston get recognition for their achievements, and deservedly so. Too often, however, the people who make up the fabric of our community get no recognition at all. This is especially true of those we consider "characters." The following submitted piece looks at one of those characters who left us recently.

Of the many unique and interesting individuals who I have met in Hoopeston, none has enlightened me the way Billy Dalton has.

Often referred to as "the old man who cusses and rides the red bike," there are few members in the community who wouldn't recognize this man.

Underneath the old, worn out cowboy hat, dirty sunglasses and speech which was sometimes difficult to understand was a very special man.

Taken ill as a child, Billy's mind never matured much past a 15-year-old boy. Billy was a teenager stuck in the 1940s. He loved Dale Evans, Roy Rogers, cowboy movies and country music. Only a few friends would see him without his cowboy hat, boots and shirt.

He thought like a 15-year-old - full of adventure. Billy's horse was his bicycle and although he never had a driver's license, he took that bike/horse to as far south as Kentucky and east to Indianapolis.

His trips always inspired him with stories of his adventures. Some stories were happy, filled with memories of meeting country singers. (I'll never forget the joy he expressed when the Comptons took him to see the Grand Ol' Opry in Nashville several years ago.)

Other stories were filled with sadness and sorrow about how someone had beat him up and stolen his money. But even the bad times never really got him down.



Billy was often confused with the complex world of today. He appeared angry to many. But he was only angry because he didn't understand things. He would cuss people because he was confused, not mean. Confused about the ways in which people teased and taunted him about his looks or the way he talked.

Since I've known Billy, his life has been centered around coffee shop talk and the local town gossip. It wasn't uncommon to see him at 5 a.m. at one of the local restaurants where he was always happy to "crook a cup of coffee" off someone. His next stop might be one of the stores, like Western Auto, where he found friends willing to put up with a little inconvenience in order to help a fellow human being.

Later in the day, he'd stop by a friend's house to report the local gossip. In the evenings, he'd retire early to get up and repeat the previous day's events.

Billy was no saint. He often cussed his best friend when things happened to him that he didn't understand, like government bureaucracy.

But if you knew Billy, you knew his anger was only temporary. Underneath the tough cowboy was a scared little boy lashing out.

On his deathbed, he said, "Hoopeston will be a mess without me." Hoopeston may not be a mess without you, my friend, but you will surely be missed.

Your best friend,  
Sharie Carter-Bane

## Weather

Cloudy and cooler today with a 40 percent chance of rain. High in the upper 40s. Tonight, rain diminishing. Low in the upper 20s. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High near 35, low near 24.

## Announcing

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