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### WELCOME

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DAUGHTER OF Doug & Barb Michels. ONTARIO, CA. BORN SEPT. 11, 1995

## Free Gospel Concert

Sept. 17 5-7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church parking lot featuring

The Gray Family Gospel Group Esther McQuigg & Sandy Hooper Free refreshments Bring lawn chairs

## Steak Fry

5:30-8 p.m. Friday Hoopeston American Legion

Steak - \$10

Chicken - \$7



Lourdine Florek editor



Wednesday, Sept. 13, 1995

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

### Train robbery to be theme of Pumpkin Family whodunit

A local Halloween tradition is making a comeback for this year's Pumpkin Family Reunion.

This year's reunion will have residents looking for things all over the countryside during the 1995 ghost rally.

The ghost rally is "a treasure hunt, a poker run and a collection of old stories," said creator Jack Miller.

On Saturday, Oct. 28, people grouped in at least four-man teams will be given a map and individualized clues leading to 1899 Hoopeston train rob-

bery. Participants will scour approximately 80 miles of countryside looking for wooden puzzle pieces solving "whodunit."

Miller, who already knows the course, will lay out puzzle pieces the day of the rally. All pieces will be on public property and will be somewhere between Woodland to the north, Oxford, Ind. to the east. Clarence to the west and Bismarck to the south.

Some clues will be obscure, For example, Miller said, one clue was "if right is wrong, what is left? It's the right way to go." Unusually-shaped trees and other landmarks often hold clues, he added.

The rally will begin at 6 p.m., with cars leaving every five minutes, Miller said. The first team to collect all the puzzle pieces wins the rally. If a team has no problems, Miller estimates a winner

> will be named in two to 2 1/2 hours.

Susan Comstock

ad manager

Of course, sometimes teams have problems. One of Miller's brothers-in-law participated one year and had car trouble along the route. Another participant, driving a tow truck, found him and took him to the nearest town.

Teams will pay an entry fee to participate. Previous fees have been \$20. Miller said. Any profit will go to the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the Pumpkin Family Reunion,



puzzle pieces solving the by Darren Johnson of Kankakee, has been mystery of a fictitious screened on t-shirts for the event.

Miller said.

Miller has created ghost rallies since 1982, when sleuths sought "body parts" for a murder. Corn silk "hair", corn kernel "teeth" and grape "eyes" were all on the list that year.

There was no rally in 1983, but in 1984, "we got a little more sophisticated," Miller said. He drew a ghost, cutting the design into 13 puzzle pieces. In 1985, a ghost pirate ship was the motif, followed by the "Headless Horseman" in 1986.

"The 13 Brides of Dracula" was the 1987 theme. Miller's wife, Sarah, coordinating this year's reunion, was the 13th bride that year. She agreed to be buried in a casket and have a special-

See WHODUNIT on other side

## Scarecrow Ribbon

for your fall door pieces Scarecrows dressed in straw hats, blue bib overalls and red check shirts on a black or white background.

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# 1st Long Drive Contest

Saturday, Sept. 16 Tee It Up driving range 4-man teams with great prizes! Call (217) 283-5825 for details

### Classifieds

#### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Rates: 15 words, \$2.50/day Each additional 5 words, \$1 Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!

### Briefly

#### Benefit planned

A benefit for James "Dobie" Birch will be held from 8-11:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15 at the Hoopeston American Legion.

Entertainment will be "Cooken' Cookie," deejay from Milford. An auction is also scheduled. Donations will be accepted.

#### **Pumpkin Family Reunion**

A Pumpkin Family Reunion meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the back room of

Crunch's.

#### Vote; vote, vote

It's time to select the monthly winner in the People's Choice yard contest. Contestants are: Gary and Cheryl Gillins, Main St., Wellington; Dave and Doris Cannon, 229 W. Maple; Fran Harris, 330 N. Second, Wellington; and Mabel Mathieson, 858 E. Chestnut.

To vote, call Just the Facts at (217)283-9348, between noon and 1 p.m. Wednesday.

## 7

#### **Court dispositions**

Aug. 17: Dawn Russell, Ambia, Ind., disturbing the peace, pleaded not guilty, bench trial Sept. 21.

Karen Relation, Hoopeston, theft, \$75, three months court supervision.

**Stephen Robbins,** Danville, deceptive practice, failed to appear, summons issued.

Joe Thrasher, Hoopeston, owner's duty, pleaded not guilty, bench trial.

### Whodunit continued from other side

ly-created stake driven through her heart.

The rally draws people from surrounding communities, Miller said, adding those from outside Hoopeston tend to do better because they are not as familiar with country roads and tend to pay more attention to the clues. One team, headed by a man from Danville, won a previous rally in 15 more minutes than it took Miller to lay out the course. "For some, it's a dog-eat-dog competition," he said.

Miller said he always tells participants to stay off private property during the rally because no clues are located there. "You're just asking for trouble then," he said.

The number of teams is limited for safety reasons, Miller said. Anyone who would like to participate may sign up at S.A.R.A.H.'S. Fitness Center, 203 E. Main.

**Donald Witty,** Rossville, assault, pleaded not guilty, bench trial Oct. 19.

Aubrey Whitaker, Gary, Ind., deceptive practice, failed to appear, summons issued.

**Jason Fairchild,** Wellington, battery, nolle pros..

Mary Beth Justice, Hoopeston, two counts deceptive practice, \$238.97, 90 days to pay.

#### In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital Sept. 11, 1995

Admitted: Debbie Clingenpeel, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Mary Jane Dixon, Milford; Elsie Reed, Ambia, Ind.; Edna Crozier, Hoopeston.

#### **Police News**

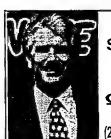


John Williams, 19, of 210 E. Thompson, was arrested Monday on outstanding warrants for failure to appear. He was released on \$200 cash bond.

#### Weather



Partly cloudy today. High in the upper 70s. Tonight, fair. Low in the mid 50s. Tomorrow, partly sunny, warmer. High near 82, low near 58.



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