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Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum Naubinway, MI



28th Annual Show & Ride-February 14 & 15, 2020

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28th Annual Top of the Lake Show & Ride



When we started this little show in the tiny town of Naubinway, MI 28 years ago, we had no idea that it would be still going stronger than ever 28 years later! This year was an outstanding year for our event in many ways.

The decision was made at our Banquet last year to feature the Boa Ski for 2020 and the Boa Skis came out in full force! We had 23 members of the Boa Ski Brotherhood here and between all of them, there were 38 machines in the Featured Sled section by the First National Bank during the Show on Saturday. Sorry, "Johnson" guys, they did beat last year's record. Competition is good, right?

Our show started off Friday morning with a delicious breakfast at the Naubinway Pavilion, cooked by our Top of the Lake Communities Assoc. chefs.

The Ride was scheduled for 11:00. By 10:30 snowmobiles were driving around and trailers parked in every spare spot in Naubinway. The ride began across from Beaudoin's Marathon to travel 13 miles through the woods to the Cranberry Lodge on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club. There was a huge cloud of blue

smoke – 230 snowmobiles went on the ride! That was a record for our Ride!

Volunteers helped Rich Hotz and Donna

set up for the cookout. Rich and Donna are caterers from Warren, MI and bring all of the food with them! They spend the next 3 or so hours out there cooking brats, hotdogs and his famous chicken-on-a-stick. There was a donation bucket and the final food donation



Boa Skis on the Friday Ride



Fun Ride Favorite/
Vintage: Mike &
Kaylee Sosnofsky

total was \$758, which they donated to the Museum! That was a record!

Friday concluded with a Night Ride to the Millecoquins Bridge on the Pipeline and a bonfire. Almost 90 went on this ride and everyone



September 2020 Swap Meet Raffle
See page 4 for information



1976 Arctic Cat Cheetah



Hotz Catering

Feb. Show Awards Winners:

Fun Ride Favorite/Antique – Al Jewell, Callander, Ontario 1953 Eliason

Fun Ride Favorite/Vintage – Mike & Bridgett Sosnofsky, 1970's Ski Doo pulling an enclosed cutter, with 1 sleeping girl and 2 dolls.

Featured Sled, Most Original – Gary Bogenschutz, Egg Harbor, WI, 1971 Coffin Racer Boa Ski

Featured Sled, Most Unique – Francois Tremblay, Quebec, 1970 Mark II 493 Boa Ski Racer clone

Featured Sled, Best Restored – 1974 Boa Ski Bar Racer Triple (Polish Pride)

Tow Strap Award – Uriah McDermott, Randolph, VT (had to be towed in)

Cont. on page 2





had a great time. Most machines had headlights, but as vintage machines are known for, some didn't. No one had to be towed in, though.

Saturday began with the Show registration at the Museum and the line-up of sleds in front of stores (200 sleds) from 10-3. An added event this year was the National Anthem sung by Jomay Bomber.

One of our snowmobiler friends, Ryan Blain from Lake, MI, brought flags, so there was an awesome display of flags and 18 people holding an 18'x30' flag during the National Anthem. With the wind blowing, it turned out

to be a very moving event. Even our Canadian friends offered to hold the large flag. Visitors from Maine, VT, IA, Quebec, Ontario, NY, MN, OH, PA, MA attended this year's Show and Ride.

Saturday night was our Banquet/Drawings/Auction from 4:30-9pm. Cathy Butkovich prepared the dinner for the first time and prepared a delicious meal. Following the meal was a Boa Ski Presentation by John McGuirk (from Sidney, OH) and Don Hamilton (from Guelph, Ontario). John is past-president of the ASCOA and Don is Boa Brother #16. It was an informative and entertaining presentation.

Following John's presentation was the local merchant's drawings and our Raffle drawing (winners are listed below.) To end a perfect, crazy busy, weekend was our fundraiser auction with our very own auctioneer, Ted Postula. Items are donated for the auction and the result, thanks to the generosity of the people who participated, was \$5000+! Our local Northern Quilters made a Boa Ski quilt which won from the card drawing, and was donated back for the auction, so we received even more money for the



Boa Ski Quilt donated by local Northern Neighbors Quilters

quilt! The generosity of our friends is amazing!!

We especially want to thank the Top of the Lake Communities Association for their sponsorship and all of the snowmobiling community friends who support the Museum!



23 Boa Ski Brothers & Sisters



Rear Engine Ride #5 Feb 11-13, 2020

written by Greg Busch

On February 11, eighteen antique, rear-engine, snowmobiles pulled out of the Museum parking lot for day one of the 100-mile challenge. Also in the group was a modern support sled and in the front was our fearless leader on a 4-stroke vintage Arctic



Above: Trailmaker packed & ready to go

Cat. More about our fearless leader later. Less than a mile into the trip the bugs started to appear in the old sleds. Clutches were swapped on the trail and further along smoke was coming out of a clutch cover. More trail surgery took place to replace a bearing on the drive shaft of my 1965 Trailmaker. After sending the lead sled back to the first break down for parts, Tony Rolfes opened up his travel bag to show his trench coat loaded with much needed parts attached and much needed laughs to go with it.

Cruising along at around 10 miles per hour and checking out the beautiful snow-covered country, we continued on to complete our first stage to Newberry. Breaking for



Cont. on page 3

Raffle Winners – Feb 15, 2020

- 1st – 1968 Boa Ski – Curt Gengler, Chesaning, MI
- 2nd – Soo Locks Tour – Keith Rakosz, Standish, MI
- 3rd – Soo Historic Sites – Randy McEwen, Corunna, MI
- 4th – \$100 Gas Card – David LaMay, Bay City, MI
- 5th - Print – Keith Rakosz, Standish, MI
- 6th - \$50 Cash – Dan Lancour, Manistique, MI

Welcome New Members:

- ♦ Winter Rovers Snowmobile Club, Yale, MI
- ♦ Ken Styburski, Mackinac Island, MI (Life Member)
- ♦ Bob & Elaine Winkler, West Salem, OH
- ♦ Midwest Vintage Snowmobile Show, Delano, MN
- ♦ Bill Ross, Guelph, Ontario
- ♦ Cathy Pederson, Princeton, MN



Barrie Graham on a 1953 Eliason

lunch on the trail using Wyatt Anderson's classic Cat Cutter. The brats and dogs warmed everyone up as master chef Bernie Reid cooked them to perfection. Also, the cheese and sausage and bags of cookies, prepped by Karen Jarema, filled everyone up and away we went. Getting into Newberry was a little rough and the group got split up. The shoulders were ice covered hills and there might have been a sled tip over but I'm not giving names. We also got a call from another lost soul asking for directions. I guess when I said we were near the Napa parts store, I didn't realize there was more than one parts store in town.

After gathering the troops and loading the school bus, our famous Yooper bus driver, John Ketcher, got us to the Museum for dinner. We had a lot of laughs and maybe a few adult beverages to ease the aches and pains of 30 miles of old sled riding. I'm sure a lot of us slept well.

Day 2 started off at minus 4 degrees and we added another rider to the group from Quebec, riding a 1953 Eliason with no windshield. Barrie Graham joined Al Jewell who also was driving a 1953 Eliason. This was Al's third year and like last year his machine was impressive. As the day went along, a few more bugs appeared in the old machines. When you notice broken adjustment brackets had turned into sticks from the woods wedged in for belt tension, you realize how hard it is on these old machines. That machine later gave up and its owner John Notchick, from Pennsylvania, was looking for another ride to complete the journey. The offer from Roger Jarema and his tricked out Trailmaker got him to the finish line. We ended up losing two machines. The other was an Arctic Cat 170 that decided the piston didn't need to go up and down anymore.

The final leg of day 2 was a boon-docking adventure that some loved and some hated. Some of the wider machines didn't quite fit through the trees and one passenger got out and talked about the added grey hairs she had worrying about tipping over. We ended the day parking the machines in Charlie and Marilyn's barns for the night. The school bus showed up and the word was out to load up. But one problem was found out later. Randy McEwen was working on his sled in another garage. He came out to see that the bus was gone, and so was everyone else. Some people were in the recovery truck and trailer fetching broken sleds so roll wasn't taken on the bus. He hitched a ride with Larry and Tammy Bicigo who happened to drop off two sleds for the final day.

Day 3 was another below zero start. We lost a couple more sleds that didn't like the cold and refused to start. With a few more bugs and a stuck throttle, we stopped for lunch. Looking at some confusing signs we decided to follow a route that was used in years past. Well, that didn't go so well. Breaking through swamps and turning around at a logging operation we found out that our guess of 10 miles to go turning into 17 with Google maps, Snowmobile maps, and Charlie's sister Patty chasing down dead ends. We finally found a way out. This gets back to our fearless leader, Mr. Dave Shope. We never saw him the rest of the trip. Seems he asked a woman for directions and decided he was so cold that his destination would be the Pine Bar in Engadine. He got picked up later. A few sleds got picked up in the recovery trailer and the rest continued onto the Museum. Hats off to the boys from Iowa, they had a blast and their sleds never missed a beat. Two years in a row, Greg Eno's 1964 Trailmaker had no issues either. Also, a little SnowBug driven by Don Hamilton loved the powder and was ready for more. Special thanks to John McGuirk to putting this together and Charlie Vallier for riding with us and using his truck and trailer to get us all back in one piece.



Some needed repairs on the trail

Most of us refer to this being our favorite trip of the year. When you have people from Canada, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Michigan representing the hobby, you can understand how much this means to us. The friends that are made and the smiles on our faces makes this adventure one of the best....!



Herb Howe autographs the rocker auctioned at the Midwest Ride-In, Jan. 2020

Herb Howe Rocker Donated to the Midwest Ride-In

Herb Howe was the first person to win the Winnipeg to St. Paul International 500 Race in 1966, driving a Polaris Colt. It took him 13 hours, 37 minutes.

Gary Koska, from MN, bought a plain rocker and had a friend, Sandra Shultz, paint it to look like Herb Howe's winning Polaris sled from the first I-500 Winnipeg to St. Paul race. Sandra is one of a handful of women to finish the Midwest Ride-In, which she raced in 1976. The rocker ended up being auctioned off for \$650.





Youth Ride

Museum Youth Ride Takes Off

Northern Retreat (McMillan, MI), Michelle Vallier Labadie, Northern Retreat, The Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum, and Tots n Tracks hosted the first Michigan Youth Ride on January 3, 2020. Fifteen kids participated. Yes, we said kids - any kiddo with a Kitty Cat, 120, 200, 340, 440... etc.

This was a fun day at the Naubinway Snowmobile Museum. Everyone goes on a trail ride for the older kids and trail ride with games and bonfire for the little ones. The kids were split into groups according to age and riding levels. Cost is \$10 per child, which includes lunch and entrance to the Museum. At least one parent needs to attend. Any extra proceeds (after expenses) are donated to the Museum.

Ride #2 was held on February 1 with 18 kids participating. More rides were scheduled dependent on the weather (March 28). This fun event will continue next year. The idea behind this event is to get the kids outside, meet other kids and learn how to ride safely and have fun!

We want to thank Sled Solutions and Polaris for prizes and give-a-ways. If you are interested in donating prizes, give-a-ways, etc.) for the kids, please send to the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum, W11660 US 2, Naubinway, MI 49762.



Den Kam on vacation in the Dominican Republic

Traveling T-Shirts

Greg Dobberke at work sporting his Museum shirt & hat!

Send us a picture of you, or someone you know, wearing Museum apparel!



Museum Coming Events

- June 19, 2020 - Eyes on Design Car Show, Henry Ford Estate (*postponed until 2021*)
- Sept 11, 12, 2020 – St Ignace Tractor/Snowmobile Show, Little Bear East Arena, St Ignace, MI
- Sept 19, 2020 – Snowmobile/ATV Swap Meet 8am till 3pm, Snowmobile Museum parking lot
- Sept 26, 2020 – Honda East Show, Toledo, OH. (Silent Auction proceeds donated to our Museum)
- Nov 7-9, 2020 - A-1 Show & Swap Meet, Chesaning, MI
- Nov 6-8, 2020 – Novi Trade Show, Novi, MI
- Dec 12, 2020 – Snowmobile the Mighty Mac, St. Ignace, MI
- Feb 19-20, 2021 – 29th Annual Top of the Lake Show & Ride, Naubinway.
Featured sled: John Deere

Top of the Lake Museum Swap Meet

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020

- **Location:** Behind the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum, on the North side of US 2, Naubinway, MI
- **Hours:** 8:00am-2:00pm.
- \$5 admission fee per visitor (free with a paid Museum Membership) includes admission to the Museum all day; \$10 – 2 place trailer; \$20 – 4 place trailer
- Bring your truck, trailer, boats, ATVs, etc. you want to sell and join us for a good day of swapping treasures and stories with the other vendors and shoppers. We also have door prize drawings throughout the day.

Swap Meet Raffle Ticket prizes: Sept 19, 2020

- 1st - 1976 Arctic Cat Cheetah (donated by Ketcher family)
- 2nd - 8x10 Storage Shed or \$500 Cash
- 3rd - 1 Night Stay & Dinner, Chamberlin's Inn, Curtis, MI
- 4th - \$100 Gas Card
- 5th - Snowmobile Print
- 6th - \$50 Cash (donated by a Museum Member)

If you wish to advertise your show or business, you can submit a business card in our newspaper, or a banner ad on our website. Contact Marilyn for information.

Snowmobile the Mighty Mac - Dec 14, 2019

Dec 14, 2019 was the fourth year for the Snowmobile the Mighty Mac and for those of us who have been there every year, it continues to be the most fun event we sponsor. I would love to hear the conversations in the vehicles driving by a bunch of old snowmobiles and crazy people in costumes on a cold day in December, crossing the Mackinac Bridge!

Over 100 machines were registered again this year, but only about 90 actually made it across the whole five miles. Kolin Kurtzhals lost a ski, but he was determined to bring his Johnson limping through the toll booth on a track and one ski! Amazing job, Kolin. Scott Sykora has attempted to cross the last two years and finally made it this year! We also had two dogs make the trip this year in a cutter with Mary Ann Jones driving (it was a struggle I guess), and 3 kids!

We also had the founders of the popular Motor City Sledheads group, Carl & Paula Knofsky, join us and give a short talk at the luncheon. They said they had "a blast!". We are excited to get the younger crowd involved in the Vintage craziness. One of our younger riders, Kelly Kurtzhals was riding her great grandfather's Johnson snowmobile! Yes, she did make it all the way across the Bridge.

The highlight this year was our Grand Marshalls, Dallas and Doug Fisher. These brothers were recognized for their adventurous trip across the Mackinac Bridge in 1979 on their way from Goodrich, MI to Yellowstone! They were our guest speakers at the luncheon that was held at the Little Bear East Arena in downtown St. Ignace. There were four of them who experienced several obstacles traveling that far on Yamaha snowmobiles. Their purpose and goal was to make it to Yellowstone and to raise money for Diabetes and they were successful in all of their goals! To learn more about their trip, this is a great video that Greg Busch filmed while interviewing Dallas Fisher in 2018 - <https://youtu.be/YHyJ7aSRps8>.



Santa on the Oldest Snowmobile



Big Bird, Best Costume



Kolin Kurtzhals limps off the Bridge



Grand Marshalls, Dallas & Doug Fisher

1979 Map of the Fisher's trip to Yellowstone



Snowmobile the Mighty Mac Award Winners, 2019

- Grand Marshalls – Dallas and Doug Fisher
- Oldest Snowmobile – Mike Agrusa on a 1965 Ski Doo
- Youngest Driver – a tie between 12 year olds, Ayden Valeski and Joshua Carpenter
- Oldest Driver – Jesse Foster, 84 years old
- Farthest Traveled – Jim Budzinski, from Atlanta, GA
- Most Innovative Wheels – Mary Ann Jones on a Moto Ski and Cutter
- Best Costume – Rich Hotz as Big Bird
- Broken Wheel Award – Kolin Kurtzhals, on a single ski Johnson



Bridge photo courtesy of Beau Vallier

Area Preschool Classes Visit the Museum

Curtis PreSchool 3.4.20

Engadine PreSchool, 2.6.20





CoVid-19 Shutdown:

It's Spring and while the Coronavirus has all of us living a different life right now, we wanted to do the newsletter. I did think about not doing it, but we all need some sense of normalcy in this crazy, scary time. The Museum had to shut down on March 16, but there are still people ordering from our website, or calling us to order a puzzle. Yes, they are puzzles of a snowmobile scene.

Also involved in this shutdown is the weather situation. The snow is going away, except for the most Northern section of the U.P., and snowmobiles are put away at our house. This could be very traumatic for Charlie, but we are still able to go to the Museum and get caught up on things that had been put on hold during the winter when we were so busy. Our plan is to have the Museum looking better than before by the time this is all over. That means we are looking forward to seeing our friends and new visitors back at the

Museum! We will be here for you!

Please feel free to share anything snowmobile related on our Museum Facebook page – share the passion and don't let it fade away. Thank you for the support and appreciation for what we have been trying to do over the last 13 years. We couldn't have done it without all of you!!!



Motor City Sledheads Donation

The Motor City Sledheads group were at the Museum for our February, 2020 show and made a donation to Charlie for \$475! It was raised by the group at their Couples Ride, Feb, 2020. The group voted to donate the money to the Museum.

In December, 2019, Carl and Paula Knofski wanted to do the Mackinac Bridge Crossing so Charlie made some more wheel kits and loaned them two of his machines. They made the Crossing and had a blast! They started this group of snowmobile enthusiasts from all over (online) who get together as much as possible to ride and play in the snow. They do come to the UP a lot. In fact, Carl and Paula moved to Marquette recently and love it there.

"We are honored to announce that with the support of our 3rd Annual Couples Ride we were able to donate \$475 to Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum. This year has been huge for Motor City Sledheads as we have now contributed over \$5000 to local causes. We are beyond blessed and grateful to be able to present the checks on behalf of all Motor City Sledheads. Thank you everyone for your support, loyalty and most importantly believing us our vision to make a difference." (quote from the St. Ignace News, Feb. 2020)



Pictured right: Julie Fulayter, David Fraymuth, Michelle Vallier Labadie, Carl Knofski, Paula Knofski, Charlie Vallier and Amy Fraymuth

The St. Ignace News



Above: Carl and Paula Knofski (right) of the Motor City Sledheads Snowmobile Club presented Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum Chair, Charlie Vallier, with a check for \$475 to support the museum.



Lego Snowmobile Sets



Mugs



Sippin' Mittens



Decals

Museum Gift Shop

Items in our gift shop can be sent to you; call (906-477-6298) or email us! Check out our gift shop online

Website Information: Visit us on the web at: www.snowmobileMuseum.com

Featured are various snowmobiles, gift shop items, and you can become a member online.

You can advertise on the website with a banner ad for \$100 a year. All proceeds go to the Museum. Please contact Marilyn if you interested in any information about the Museum or the website. Also, visit us on Facebook: "Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum."

Reader's Words

written by Karen Jarema

In 2019 Karen and Bernie Reid were getting ready to celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Karen decided to try to get the best present she could think of for Bernie. She knew that Bernie was interested in John McGuirk's 1962 Polar - Model 200 - Serial #003. Bernie had been in contact with John over the previous 3-4 years and told him that if he ever decided to sell the sled to keep him in mind.

Karen contacted John. After several discussions, John felt confident that his sled was going to a good home and he knew that Bernie would take care of his new treasure. Karen and John came to an agreement for to purchase the sled, which is currently in the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum.

When she made the deal, Karen asked John to keep it a secret from Bernie, explaining that she was going to surprise him on their 25th Anniversary.

John and Bernie had talked many times about the sale of the sled. Bernie was excited to see John last July at the ASCOA summer meeting in Hopedale, Illinois. He didn't want to turn it into a big discussion, but just reminded John that he was ready to purchase the sled. John told him that he had decided not to sell the sled. In talking to John about it after the fact, he said that he felt bad when he told Bernie that he had changed his mind and was not going to sell it. Little did Bernie know that his wife had already purchased the sled from John!

The day finally came. Bernie & Karen were scheduled to go up in a hot air balloon where she would tell him about his gift. They woke up to a rainy day. I am sure that was a little disappointing for BOTH of them! The day was saved when Karen gave Bernie a folder full of emails between her and John. I am sure that it was hard for Karen not to spill the beans...but the look on his face must have made it TOTALLY worth it! I am SURE Bernie was thrown for a loop and that, for the first time in his life, he was speechless! The extent that Karen went to and made this happen is incredible!

The next time Roger & I saw Bernie, we told him what a lucky man he was! We were all at the Museum and Bernie was enjoying the newest addition to his collection, his Polar. Rumor has it that Greg Busch has a picture of Bernie in his sleeping bag lying on the floor next to his snowmobile.

Way to GO Karen Reid!!

Welcome to the new addition to the Museum Newsletter! "Reader's Words" will be in each newsletter, but we need contributions from you, the readers. If you have an unusual/interesting story to share, submit it to Marilyn at info@snowmobilemuseum.com for consideration to be entered in one of our newsletters.



Top of the Lake Snowmobile Show

The Top of the Lake Snowmobile Show will be held Sept 11 & 12, 2020 in conjunction with the Owosso Antique Tractor Parade & Show, St. Ignace, MI.

1300+ tractors were at this show last year, so we are asking for the snowmobiles to come to the Little Bear Arena on Thursday between 3:00 and 8:00 to avoid the congestion in town on Friday morning. Snowmobiles will be displayed inside the Arena and the tractors will be outside. Several fun awards will be handed out at 3:00 on Saturday.

This is going to be a fun event and all snowmobiles are welcome. We are encouraging you to bring American flags this year to honor Sept 11.

- Location: Little Bear Arena East, Downtown St. Ignace
- Times: Friday, Sept 11, 10:00 am-5:00pm;
Saturday, Sept 12, 10:00am-3:00pm. Award presentations at 3:00pm
- Cost: Free Admission and Free to display snowmobiles.
- Application forms are available at the Top of the Lake Museum. Please call or email for a form. We would like to receive forms prior to the show.
- Call 906-477-6298 or email info@snowmobilemuseum.com.



Featured Sled: 1963 Moto Ski

This snowmobile is called the **"Tin Cab Moto-Ski."** The Moto-Ski snowmobile was invented and manufactured by Charles Eugene Bouchard (Industrie Bouchard, Inc., La Pocatiere, Quebec.) Mr. Bouchard had a pharmaceutical company and invested in the manufacture of vegetable cutters and later changed to snowmobiles.

The first snowmobile was made for the company by Jean Yves Belanger & Roal Pelletier and named **"Cupidon."**

A contest at the La Pocatiere School later produced the name **"Ski-Motorise"** and was later changed to **"Moto-Ski."**

The 1963 & 64 year sleds were all metal with metal hoods. Thus, the name **"Tin Cab."** The 1965 year introduced the fiberglass hood. The 1963 Moto-Ski weighed 250 lbs. and sold for \$695. It was equipped with a JLO, 2 stroke, 148 cc, 8 hp. engine.



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The Museum is designated on Amazon Smile as a 501c3 Charity to receive .05% of an order if you are registered to have the money sent to the Museum. Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile.

We set this program up three years ago and have received over \$1,104.04. The money is directly deposited into our bank account from Amazon Smile. Thank you to everyone who has contributed! It all helps!! Go to smile.amazon.com for more information.

***If you would like to become a supporting member, or need to renew your membership, call the Museum.
The cost is \$50 per year.***



Building Fundraiser Form—501c3 Not-For-Profit Corporation

The Museum Board is seeking funding to support the new Bombardier addition. A business, snowmobile club, or person who donates will have their name on the Museum donor wall. Donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt. \$1000 donors will also receive either lifetime membership or a free banner ad on the Museum website for five years.

**Return form to: Top of the Lake Museum
W11660 US 2 P.O. Box 2
Naubinway, MI 49762**

The fundraising contribution will be used for support for the new Bombardier addition, and to continue the growth of the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum.

☐ Other ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000

Name/Business _____

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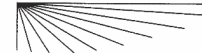
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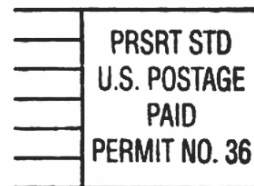
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