Going his own way

Man driving to California in a golf cart

Kate McCann

George Bombardier doesn’t care if he dies. But if he dies driving his golf cart, he wants to be buried in it.

When the divorced trailer-dweller and Black Hawk, IA, caretaker is asked why he is driving across the country in a golf cart, he simply answers “to see my kids.”

The “kids” live in Connecticut. Bombardier lives in California. And what better way to visit them than to drive 3,000 miles in a golf cart that resembles a miniature 37 Chevy?

Bombardier traveled through Carbondale Wednesday on his way back from Connecticut.

“The purpose is to do it,” Bombardier said. “You just get to do it. You get to see the things out there in life. I won’t sit in my house waiting to die.”

Snapping a cigarette for an inhaler, Bombardier takes a deep pull and explains he suffers from emphysema, in addition to heart problems that has deterred him from making the perk-low cross-country pilgrimage for the first time in two years.

Since beginning his journey May 10, Bombardier has traveled through America’s back roads and side streets, passing through the arid deserts of the West, the cornfields of Middle America, the donor forests of New England, and the cotton fields and bayous of the South.

However, Bombardier explains, the car is not related to any golf-related passion.

“You get to have something wrong with your head to play golf,” he said.

Bombardier is used to the x-rays he gets feeling around in his 1991 Club Car golf cart, completely equipped with a television, radio tape player and refrigerator. Clothes poke out from the roof, where they are strapped and kept in place by thick cardboard. A tiny wooden cross dangles from the ceiling, and his glasses overlay with pictures, postcards and business cards from all the policemen who have stopped him.

Bombardier is remarkably spry and in constant motion, bouncing back and forth between bragging about his cart and ranting about his pet ponies, which include drifting, tiki foam fins and overhead newspaper photographers.

But Bombardier biggest piece of all is when people tell him to slow down, “I want to do what I want,” he said.

And doing what he wants includes driving his golf cart and listening to the Roots “California Sun,” he made his way back out West.

A Bombardier waves his cut-out hands in the air to the music, his nostalgic sounds of 70’s-tribute bands like the Red Solo cone, the Hurd Brothers, and the Bandalos with pictures, which include drift- ing, tiki foam fins and overhead newspaper photographers.

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And doing what he wants includes driving his golf cart and listening to the Roots “California Sun.”

Gus Bode

Gus says:

“I only knew how to play golf.

“Will, I’m going out West where I belong, where the days are short and the nights are long.

“Yeah, there out there a having fun In that warm California Sun.”

Saltpetre Cave: bringing back the ’70s

Concerts in a cave planned for this weekend

Andrew Donaldson

Saltpetre Cave: bringing back the ’70s

The new owners of Saltpetre Cave, Bob Goodale and his wife, plan to bring annual concerts to the cave. Goodale, who attended SIUC in 1974 with four or five concerts a year, the concerts sound and described as “like a band shell.”

The concerts will be held on Saturday, and he said they will be selling drink by the glass, as well as bottles for off-premises drinking.

The concerts are being “like a band shell.”

Goodale seemed most impressed with No Quarter. He said the band has been together for 15 years, and the band looks and sounds like Led Zeppelin.

“If you close your eyes, you wouldn’t know the different,” he said.

Goodale said the cave enhances the band’s sound and described it, being “like a band shell.”

The acoustics are perfect, he said.

Gus Bode

A Shrimp Festival with Big Larry

Serving shrimp and blues at Alto Vineyards

Jason Coker

Serving shrimp and blues at Alto Vineyards

By mixing a touch of spices and seafood with the blues, Alto Vineyards will combine flavor and fun at the baysu as a festival this weekend.

The first annual Shrimp Festival at Alto Vineyards, on Route 127 in Alto Pass, is expected to draw between 700 to 800 people.

Leon Dangar, business manager for Alto Vineyards, said the festival will be great fun for everyone, including families. He said they have been getting 50 to 60 calls a day for the past week inviting to the Shrimp Festival.

The winery will be host to the festival, from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, and he said they will be selling wine by the glass, as well as bottles for off-premises drinking.

“Will go just a great festival,” Dangar said.

Alto Vineyards has managed to attract Big Larry & The Down Home Blues Band to play. Dangar said this is the first
The Network
Crisis Hotline
549-3351

Volunteer Training
July 8 & 9, 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
* Add practical experience to your resume
* Course Credit Available
* Learn crisis intervention/counseling skills
* The only qualification is a desire to help
Heldi Fortune and Richard Similio play Mary and Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar opening tonight at 8 p.m. at McLeod Theater.

Audience will praise "Superstar"

70s musical resurrected for SIUC stage

Marleen York
Daily Egyptian reporter

"Jesus Christ Superstar" is a musical extravaganza, with laughing classical lyrics at one moment and flashily explosive rock at the next. The play seeks to define youthful rebellion within the modern setting of the last days of Christ.

The most fascinating part of this play was not the beloved minuet or the ruminations of Kyle-Tim Rice and the melody direction by Timothy Fink but the intensely creative choreography by Doris McCoy.

The story focuses the audience's attention on the conflict between Jesus and Judas, and Judas's self-slaughter, which is personified by two tenors. The symbolic dialogue never speaks, but communicate the several psychological conflicts the characters must endure through modern dance.

The dance, which adds to the biblical narrative, is a dance indicative of Eastern philosophy. The search for balance between right and wrong and the characters' inner struggles are manifested physically by the potions, played by Stephanie Rooper and James Martin.

They wear black and white ninja-like attire, alternating colored yin-yang symbols over their faces with black and white scarves.

In moments of conflict, the dramatic and musical dances rely on and embrace not another, but rather on the dialogue. The result is profound, poetic, and emotionally enriching.

The production, directed by Richard Similio, is shot in Central Florida. The cast is predominantly from SIU-Carbondale and its surrounding area.

The fund-raising event is being held at the McLeod Theater on Friday, June 22, at 8 p.m. The proceeds will benefit the SIU-Carbondale Performing Arts Department.

The event features a variety of talented performers, including the SiU-Carbondale Choral and Dance Program, the SIU-Carbondale Drama Department, and the SIU-Carbondale Orchestra.

The performance is a celebration of the talents of the SIU-Carbondale community and a testament to the power of music and theatre to bring people together.

The event is open to the public and tickets are available for purchase online. For more information, contact the SIU-Carbondale Performing Arts Department at 618-432-1000.

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Jerry Seinfeld's kids eye college

Jerry Lewis left the only who has Jerry's Kids and the last person to do it was Jerry Seinfeld. Seinfeld is so impressed by students at Manhattan LaGuardia High School that he's considering giving them a chance.

The dad-to-be, who served as principal for a day at LaGuardia in April, had planned to give out speaking engagements to seniors at the Manhattan LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts. The event, titled "A Seinfeld" episode, the funniest foundation's Vocation couldn't choose among the 14 students selected to compete for the prizes.

LaGuardia Principal Paul Samora said, "We're not sure yet. We're still in the middle of the process."
Where's the biggest mutha on the silver screen this summer? It's Shaft, the smooth, black brother donned in a black leather coat, who takes no orders from anyone, but will risk his neck for his brother man.

Directed by John Singleton, "Shaft 2000," the high-away-anticipated remake about the 1970s film, character Shaft of a damp-haired, Samuel L. Jackson plays the nephew of the original John Shaft (Richard Roundtree). The updated Shaft character is a tough New York Police Department detective turned vigilante, who isn't quite the force in disguise after a slimy, mafia killer isn't too keen on bal. Shaft takes on the murder case of a black man killed outside a Harlem tavern by a group of bad guys. The film, however, fails in its attempt to maintain the sexual side of Shaft's personalitiy sustainable in the original film, by linking his contact with women. Nevertheless, the original Shaft (Roundtree) returns for small cameo appearances as the sex machine to all the chicks, as he mentors Jackson on his murder case.

A black audience film with a modern urban drama trapped inside, "Shaft 2000" definitely seems to be marketed toward a younger generation with its soundtrack, "The album song" "Shaft" written by Isaac Hayes, played during the film's opening credits, but was rather overshadowed throughout the movie by the newer R. Kelly-written "Bid Man."

"Shaft" is playing at
Fox Essex Theatre at 4:15, 6:45, and 9:15.

Witnessing the piercing bar of sound, Smith ends up depleting his electrical supply midway through the movie. He then plays the guitar as he writes songs from a woman's perspective. It's as if he's saying "It's OK if you break up with me. I understand why you did it." It's touching, really.

"You Won't Be Mine," Smith's current single, is emotionally compelling, with a bluesy guitar picking and an emotionally-charged vibe like Bob Dylan's early work. Smith's line "I know ya don't think ya did me wrong and I can't stay this mad for long/Keepin'shold of what I'm just let you go." It's just somebody that I used to know," parallel Dylan's "Don't Think Twice, It's All Right."

"Shaft" is a benefit single to benefit the family of black man killed outside a Harlem tavern at the hands of gangsters. The film, "Shaft 2000," is a remake about the 1970s Shaft character that was originally played by Richard Roundtree. The updated Shaft character is a tough New York Police Department detective turned vigilante, who isn't quite the force in disguise after a slimy, mafia killer isn't too keen on Shaft. Shaft takes on the murder case of a black man killed outside a Harlem tavern by a group of bad guys. The film, however, fails in its attempt to maintain the sexual side of Shaft's personality sustainable in the original film, by linking his contact with women. Nevertheless, the original Shaft (Roundtree) returns for small cameo appearances as the sex machine to all the chicks, as he mentors Jackson on his murder case.

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BYU professor's new book seeks to help newlyweds

A Brigham Young University professor has a new book that is geared toward enhancing marriages. The book seeks to increase newlyweds' chances of having a happy and successful marriage by compiling 60 years of social science research and more than 100 studies.


He said in today's society, most people are wary of marriage anxiety or they are nervous about getting into marriage because of some perceived notion. "It is so important for couples to take a comprehensive inventory of their relationship and address important issues before they marry," Larson said.

Many think that love is enough to overcome any obstacle, he said. However, history continually proves this is simply not true. The time for change is before you say "I do," he said.

According to a news release, Larson hopes this book will help lower the divorce rate by showing couples where they need to strengthen their relationship in order to withstand the inevitable stresses and strains of marriage. He also believes the scientific predictions in the book can help both individuals and couples be the right person, marry the right person and marry at the right time in their lives.

Larson said there has been significant research linking age and marriage. "Research has shown women that marry after the age of 23 decrease their chances of getting a divorce," he said.

Dr. Bob Stahrman, BYU professor of marriage and family therapy, endorsed Larson's book. "This book is based on the best of what is known about predicting marital satisfaction," he said. "Its style and content are unique and directly applicable to couples."

Larson's book outlines a three-dimensional model that serves as a road map, guiding couples toward a happy marriage. The three dimensions of the model discuss the context of a marriage, individual traits and couple traits.

Larson said one a couple understands their strengths and weaknesses they can enrich those areas that will lead their relationship to long-term stability. However, there are those instances when the red lights indicate marriage at this time, or to this person may not be the wisest decision," he said.

Acquaintanceship is also very important, Larson said. The longer a couple has been together and dated before marriage, the more successful the marriage will be.
SHRIMP
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

time Big Larry has ever played at Alto Vineyards, but he brook them play at the Main Street Pig Out in Carbondale. "They are a real good blue band," Douglas said. "Probably the best I've heard in the area.

Seafood Specialist 155 E. Vienna in Arna, will be serving the room at the winery. Owner Dan Louis and Sybil Soloin, Seafood Specialist, will be serving boiled shrimp, shrimp creole and shrimp steak. I want to be bringing a touch of Southern Louisiana and a touch of spices and seafood to the area," Soloin said.

Sybil Soloin, a Cajun from New Orleans, has been there for 15 years. She came to Southern Illinois several years ago after she met her current husband, Louis, an Illinoisan who was in the shrimp buying business in Louisiana at the time. She said she fell in love with the beautiful countryside in Southern Illinois, and after visiting a while times she decided to stay.

Casting at Alto Vineyards is something Soloin has been doing for seven years, but this is her first shrimp festival there. In the past, the oysters were opened.

People bring lawn chairs and blankets and have a real casual, laid back time.

SYLVIA SOLOIN owner of Seafood Specialist

Cave Concert
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Goodlaws also offer space for artists to sell their jewelry, books, artwork, games and other crafts during the concert. The space east 20, which includes the ticket to the concert. Artists are required to bring their own table and setup.

"We're trying to help the staying artists of Southern Illinois," Goodlaw said.

The concert will go on, rain or shine. It is large enough to hold more than 2,000 people and the band. As Goodlaw said, "It never rains in the area.

Goodlaw urges people to bring blankets and scissors to have picnics and take hikes while at the concert. He said it is a good place to "listen to music in an open-air atmosphere.

Benton
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Franklin County's WFRX radio station in West Frankfort played one of the Bentons singles, "From Me to You." It was the first radio station in the United States to play a Beatles tune.

Owner Jim Chady knew the tune. "I was a teenager when I heard it."

"We made it a bed and breakfast for lack of something else to do," Chady said. "It allowed us to park a lot. When we city found out there was history here, no one wanted to tear it down."

The bed and breakfast, which costs about $60 a night, is plastered with Beatles photos, posters, videos except in the four bedrooms started after the Beatles: Ringo, Paul, John, and of course, George.

The room is handicap-accessible and has the largest bathroom, but Paul and John rooms are smaller with queen-sized beds.

The Ringo room is handicap-accessible and has the largest bathroom, with the Paul and John rooms are smaller with queen-sized beds. The George room is the largest room and has a real kitchen.

The Goodlaws have been doing for SC's years and have a real live DJ: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. No cover.

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June 23 to June 29, 2000

Entertainment Guide

Friday, June 23

- Hangar 9 will be host to the Mule Skinner Band at 10 p.m.
- Catooz has a live DJ every night.
- Open mic at Longbranch Coffehouse starting at 9:30 p.m.
- Live DJ at Gatsbys II Bar and Band at 9 p.m.
- Melange Coffee will present Jimmy Saladino, lead singer for the St. Stephens Blues Band who will play an unplugged solo acoustic from 8 to 10:30 p.m. No cover.
- The Brut Pack will play 80's music at Pinch Penny Pub around 9 p.m.
- Srix will have a live DJ.
- Longbranch Coffehouse presents the Joe Libertino Trio for an evening of great jazz in the Back Room at 8 p.m. Tickets are $5 for the public and $3 for students.
- Saltpepper Cave will host a rock festival. Bands include No Quarter, The Facotrs & The Country Gentiles, Hard Broomers Band, and William & The Red Hots. Gates will open at noon, and bands will start playing at 1 p.m. Tickets are $15 for general admission and $15 at the door. Children under 12 get free. Parking is $3.
- Daugherty and Keenan will play original music with a soulful sound from 10:30 p.m. at Melange Coffee, No Cover.
- Pinch Penny Pub will present Push Down and Turn at about 10 p.m.
- CoCo's will have its Saturday Night Dance Bash with a house DJ. There will be a $100 giveaway.
- Srix will have a live DJ.
- Monday, June 24

Sunday, June 25

- Saltpepper Cave will host a rock festival. Bands include No Quarter, The Facotrs & The Country Gentiles, Hard Broomers Band, and William & The Red Hots. Gates will open at noon, and bands will start playing at 1 p.m. Tickets are $15 for general admission and $15 at the door. Children under 12 get free. Parking is $3.
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Jesus Christ Superstar will premiere at McLeod Theater at 8 p.m. Tickets are $8 for children and students with I.D., $10 for seniors, and $12 for adults. Call the box office at 453-3001, for more information.

- Mercy will play at Pinch Penny Pub at 9 p.m. Tickets are $8 for children and students with I.D., $10 for seniors, and $12 for adults. Call the box office at 453-3001, for more information.
- Pinch Penny Pub will present Push Down and Turn at about 10 p.m.
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- Srix will have a live DJ.
- Monday, June 26

Tuesday, June 27

- Saltpepper Cave will host a rock festival. Bands include No Quarter, The Facotrs & The Country Gentiles, Hard Broomers Band, and William & The Red Hots. Gates will open at noon, and bands will start playing at 1 p.m. Tickets are $15 for general admission and $15 at the door. Children under 12 get free. Parking is $3.
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Austln natives Dynamite Hack land major record deal

Matt Dellhler
University ofTexas Austin

"We're not as good as people think we are. We're not as cool as other people think we are," said Chad Robinson, banjoist/vocalist for rock quartet Dynamite Hack. Born near the University of Texas at Austin, Dynamite Hack is the latest in a long line of Austin alt-rock bands including the Butthole Surfers and Furbalot to hit it big.

Their new hit single, a catchy rock over of Easy Eye's classic "Confusion in the Hood," has given the band some great national attention. Quickly signed to a nice deal by Universal Music, the band's debut album, Supefast, was remasted and repackaged for stores across the country. And the band is currently on a radio tour, and will soon meet up with Ewe 6 and Goldfish for an outdoor festival around the nation. Becoming the next "big thing" in alternative rock can't be easy on one's schedule and on one's perception of what it means to be a young adult, but Dynamite Hack's sound, a hybrid of West Coast to the music scene. But who knows if the "Oh, this might kill us." Not [that N.W.A.]

"It's completely insane. It's real cool, but it's strange how everyth ing changes. Right appear. They'll come up and

The band's sound, a hybrid of West Coast pop and East Coast emo, doesn't sit easily in the more honey-look surround-

ings that Austin offers. The band has stood their ground this way through the Buffy-clown-country music and into a realm that's distinctly Austinian.

"The music scene's so weird. There's a couple of good places. Like Kid Eeyed Flyy is awesome, Flamingos [Capitol] and Emo's and then Stubb's outside has some good shows," Robinson said fondly, but adds that music is not the main reason to come to this place for a band trying to be experimental.

"We come from all kinds of cultures and backgrounds, "for the love of music capital of the world and everywhere. They treat bands so strangely, They're not into bands that are trying to do anything different. Not that we are, but we [Austin bands] do Bad Greene and Hiddes Speaker and stuff like that.

Robinson admits that he and the band were a bit disappointed by some of the things that made it into print in a recent feature in another local newspaper. The article focused on the recent departure of their drummer, Chase Scott. Robinson doesn't feel that the media should've exit the band would be at that an issue as the paper made it appear.

"I'm just bummed about the whole Chase thing that got put in there. And he said the band know why he was kicked out and it's not a That's weird, man."

"There's gonna be plenty of people that listen to their music. know why he was kicked out and it's not a That's weird, man."
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Global employment may enhance career opportunities

A recent report from the National Bureau of Economic Research found that individuals who obtained a bachelor's degree had a 40% higher earnings potential compared to those with a high school diploma. This is particularly true for individuals in fields such as technology, healthcare, and finance. The report also noted that the benefits of a college education extend beyond increased earning potential, with positive effects on health, social mobility, and personal well-being.

Controversy surrounds "Real World" star

Stephen Banta, the executive producer of the MTV reality show "The Real World," has faced controversy over his decision to hire employees who previously appeared on the show. The move has sparked debate about the impact of reality TV on individuals' careers and the potential for exploitation.

More athletes are returning to college to finish what they started

A recent study found that the number of athletes returning to college to finish their education has increased significantly in recent years. This trend is driven by a desire to complete their degrees, improve their earning potential, and enhance their knowledge and skills.

John Mullin

Sports Business Journal

Chicago – Early in 1996, Curtis Conway finished his degree requirements and graduated from University of Southern California. It was the capstone to a succession of summers spent taking courses after leaving USC football lockers behind and drafted by the Bears in 1993.

Conway’s achievement was notable for several reasons. It occurred only weeks after he signed a $10 million contract with the Bears that meant he would never have to work once his NFL career, which has since taken him to San Diego, was over. “Why bother?” Conway was asked, because not only was he financially set for life, but he was only maybe 35 when you finished college. He insisted on going back to school. Jaeger attended Washington, resumed work on his degree requirements and eventually moved to Des Moines, Iowa, to attend the summer bridge program.

But others prodded by Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Keith Bums is working on his bachelor’s degree through DePaul while in Chicago. "One day, I would want to be a guidance counselor," Burns said. "I think I am sufficiently educated to have a purpose," he said. Some contaminants of the university atmosphere. One day he would want to be a counselor," Turner said. "I think I am the kind of person who can help people that were in my position."

But ultimately, it has to end at some point, and you have to do it. "One day, I would want to be a guidance counselor," Burns said. "I think I am sufficiently educated to have a purpose," he said. Some contaminants of the university atmosphere. One day he would want to be a counselor," Turner said. "I think I am the kind of person who can help people that were in my position."

Another student echoed the opinion. "I don't think that she should be kicked out for being on the show," rated Mullin, "she's breaking the rules," said a student. "She's a role model for other girls."

"I'm a smarter student now, with better study habits. I'm going to college with a purpose. I have a purpose," Miller said. Some of the purpose is to make a living and to regroup that (slogan), Burns said, "but time waits for none."

Building a bridge to a college career

Program gives students an early start to an engineering degree

Archana M. Paranjape

Daily Reporter

Coming to college at no cost for the summer and getting a taste of what a college classroom is like, summer internships offer gifts for 18-year-old Solomon Turner.

Turner is one of the 64 incoming freshmen chosen to participate in the Summer Bridge Program, which is designed to help incoming students who are engineering majors.

Turner, from Chicago, was picked among five other students, from 24 applicants because of their grades, SAT scores of 2300 or more and dedication to take three summer classes. Other factors for consideration were whether it is electrical, mechanical, civil, computer or industrial, also place in school, GPA and high school=listings. "I feel lucky because there were only seven, and I was chosen," Turner said.

The program, which is coordinated by the College of Engineering’s Minority Engineering Office, involves students with room and board, tuition and fees covered, plus a stipend. It also allows students to attend workshops on academia, scholarship and mentors.

Manu Sethur, assistant professor in the Department of Technology, because the interim program director in charge of seniors. He believes his position is that he can adapt as a student at a four-year university.

"The condition is great," Turner said. "They show us how to do it, and it's great." But Turner is unsure whether the program is worth his time. "I'm a in engineering major," Turner said. "I think I am the kind of person who can help people that were in my position."

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Global employment may enhance career opportunities

Jeni Calk

University Relations, Kingsport

With the advent of the Internet and the more business-driven by international trade agreements, opportunities for people with a college degree are abundant. Finding all the right level degrees of unemployment, this trend is likely to continue, into the 21st century.

Corporate America now considers filling positions in a growing number of places with those new graduates who are college-bound and coming employees in the organization. It is commonplace for worldwide positions to be filled by college graduates. Some companies pay for postdoc or three to four years. In fact, the marked shift has a continuing trend to reduce college graduates to the mid-$30,000 range.

In addition, many foreign owned corpora-

careers by entering several posit-
tonally and economically around the globe.
Struggling with digital music piracy, lawmakers have passed a law to make the act illegal. According to the law, anyone who distributes or makes copies of music without the permission of the copyright holder will be guilty of a federal crime.

However, the law has not been successful in deterring piracy. The blog post suggests that the real issue is that people are not interested in paying for music. The author proposes a solution where music files are encoded with digital watermarks that are not detectable by the user but can be tracked by the copyright holder.

The author suggests that this approach would make it more difficult for pirates to distribute music and would encourage legal purchases. The post concludes by stating that the solution may not be perfect, but it is a step in the right direction.
A rock legend, a movie star and a vigilante

A small Illinois town comes alive with memories of old

By CHRISTINE DOLIN

Benton is the type of town that can easily be missed as just another speck on the map off I-57—a place to get gas or grab a bite to eat while heading north.

What short-time visitors do not know about Benton is that there is a lot to it.

Located about 40 minutes north of Carbondale, the town with a population of 2,800 is well known for a variety of its past and present places. From professional athletes to notorious bootleggers to famous musicians, depending on who you talk to, the people of Benton have a lot to say about the people that have come and gone in the historical little town.

Probably the most famous name around Benton is Charlie Bilger, Southern Illinois’ most notorious bootlegger in the 1920s. For all the attention he received as a speak-easy blender and killer, he was the “Robin Hood” of the town for his self-proclaimed job as the town’s lawman backed by the town.

Bilger was a feared man for the constant murder of the mayor of West City, "Fat" Joe Adams.

After a lengthy incarceration and trial on April 19, 1928, Bilger was hanged outside the Old Franklin County Jail, which is now the Franklin County Tourism office and Jail Museum.

Ruth Anne Owen, office manager of the Tourism Office and Jail Museum, said the legend of Bilger is known by everybody who lives in Benton.

"He was a fascinating character because he was loved by so many people, and he was a killer," Owen said. "He always said, 'I kill men, but never the good ones.'"

Bilger’s hanging gained national attention and raised in a crowd of more than 5,000 spectators. His last words before he died were, "It’s was a beautiful world.

The noose, along with dozens of exclusive photos and personal- ships, are displayed in the museum. Touches can even walk inside the small jail cells similar to the one Bilger served his time in.

Surprisingly, these jail cells, which were newly redesigned and had graffiti on the walls, housed prisoners who were housed up until 1990.

Bilger is not the only legend associated with Benton featured in the museum. Civil War General John A. Logan has two of the upstairs bedrooms devoted to him. His shoes, canes and letters from the White House are on display.

Owens is surprised at how interested tourists are with Bilger rather than Logan.

“More people come in the museum interested in Bilger than General Logan, the man who discovered Memorial Day,” Owen said. “It’s kind of strange how that is.”

Other people highlighted in the museum are Benton native Doug Collins, who was a player, coach and announcer in the National Basketball Association, and local John McKinley, Grand Ole Opry star Billy Grammer and Beatle George Harrison.

Harrison not only has a statue room dedicated to him in the museum, but a bed and breakfast conveniently called, "A Hard Day’s Night," named after the Beatles’ hit song. It is located at 113 McCoy St.

In September 1963, the Volkswagen America Harrison, along with his younger brother Peter, bid his son Les Paul to leave her Benton home. During his stay, Behind a memorial to Civil War General John A. Logan stands the scaffolding where the last hanging in Illinois took place. In 1928, Benton people gathered there to witness the hanging of Charlie Bilger a famous gangster and Benton native.