

## POINTS OF VIEW

# The family tree is a cherry

## Ancestors live on in old photos and a recipe for pie

**M**y father died last December. So in addition to sorting out legal and financial details, I've been looking through a lot of old family photographs.

Two strike me in particular, probably because we are now entering into the cherry season, one of the great glories of summer in Michigan.

One is a picture of my great-grandmother, Celestia Power, sitting on the porch of the old family farm in Elk Rapids, a tiny town near Traverse City. I suppose the picture was taken around the turn of the century, as she is wearing the full-busted long cotton dress fashionable at the time. She's sitting in a rocking chair on an old-fashioned porch with Old Joe, the family English setter, sleeping on the grass below.

The other is a picture of great-grandfather Eugene Power, in a white shirt and tie, dark suit and Panama hat, standing in the middle of his cherry orchard. He's surveying the newly planted cherry trees, with a farm hand holding a pruning knife standing behind him.

Family legend has it that great-grandfather Power was one of the first farmers to plant Montmorency cherries

(called "sour" to distinguish them from the dark red eating cherries, "sweets") in northern Michigan. For a time, they became the dominant crop in the region, thriving on the sandy, well-drained soil and the moderating influence of the lake. Even today, most land that hasn't been raped by the developers is in cherry orchards.

My father remembered his first job was out on the family farm, picking cherries for 10 cents a lug. He thinks his father, Glenn, who started out as a surveyor, helped great-grandfather Eugene lay out the cherry trees in long, straight lines.

I suspect it wasn't easy to be a pioneering farmer way back then. You couldn't be sure the trees, once planted, would thrive or bear well. And there was always the risk of a late frost nipping the fruit. And your capital, once lost, was so hard to regain.

But originality (often in practice hard to distinguish from mere eccentricity) always ran deep in the Power family.

My great-great-grandfather, Nathan Power, came to Michigan from Farmington, N.Y., in 1824. I suspect his neighbors thought him a bit queer



PHILIP POWER

when he went way out west to found what became Farmington, Michigan. And his son, Gideon Power, was no doubt regarded as a bit odd when he moved from Farmington way up north to Elk Rapids.

But that was their way — and the way of countless pioneer families like them. They made our state and our nation what it is, and it gives me a feeling of family continuity to think of them in the aftermath of my father's death.

And, just in time for the sour cherry season, here's our family recipe for Montmorency cherry pie:

### MONTMORENCY CHERRY PIE

For the crust:

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus additional for rolling
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup lard
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons vegetable shortening
- 2 tablespoons ice water
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- 2 eggs

For the filling:

- 4 cups pitted red sour cherries
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/4 teaspoon mace
- 3 tablespoons butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 tablespoon kirsch (optional)

For the crust: Combine the flour, baking powder and salt in a mixing bowl. Add the lard, butter and shortening and mix with



The orchard: Great-grandfather Eugene Power, right, and a farm hand look over the newly planted cherry trees. Family legend has it that he was one of the first farmers to plant Montmorency cherries in northern Michigan.

**■ For a time, Montmorency cherries became the dominant crop in the region, thriving on the sandy, well-drained soil and the moderating influence of the lake. Even today, most land that hasn't been raped by the developers is in cherry orchards. My father remembered his first job was out on the family farm, picking cherries for 10 cents a lug. He thinks his father, Glenn, who started out as a surveyor, helped great-grandfather Eugene lay out the cherry trees in long, straight lines.**

your fingers or a pastry cutter until mixture forms coarse crumbs. Whisk together the ice water, vinegar and one of the eggs. Add to the flour mixture and mix with a fork just until combined; do not overwork the dough. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

For the filling: In a large bowl combine the cherries, sugars, tapioca, almond extract, mace and optional kirsch, if desired. Allow to stand for 15 minutes. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.

Roll out 1/2 of the dough on a lightly floured surface. Line a 9-inch pie plate with the dough and trim the edges. Place the filling in the pie shell and dot with the butter. Roll the remaining dough and make into a lattice top. Whisk the remaining egg with 2

teaspoons of water and brush the egg wash onto the top.

Bake for 10 minutes, then lower the temperature to 350 degrees and continue baking for 30 or 40 minutes longer, or until the juices are bubbling up in the center of the pie. Cool briefly and eat warm.

My father preferred vanilla ice cream with his pie. I'm more of a purist. Either way, it's a delicious way to celebrate Michigan cherries and the family that grew them.

Phil Power is chairman of the company that owns this newspaper. You can reach him by Touch-Tone phone at (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1890.



Farm life: Great-grandmother Celestia Power sits on the porch of the old family farm in Elk Rapids. Old Joe, the English setter, rests on the grass below.

### LETTERS

#### Vagnozzi responds

I must respond to the Stuart Sells and Albert Rosen letters that appeared on June 23 last their view that Farmington Hills City Council does not listen to residents be accepted as reality.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Mr. Sells came forth with the argument that since a small group of people came before council in a planned and orchestrated attempt to sway the decision on letting the people decide how the city of Farmington Hills selects a mayor, we should have rolled over and accepted their views without further consideration of the views of others.

Mr. Sells even complained that we extended the time during which we considered the issue and then said that the extension of debate was "to find people to speak in their favor."

He even insinuated that giving more time to the issue "makes it seem that public support is at best, contrived."

Again, nothing could be further from the truth. I know that some members of the planning commission adjourned their regular meeting and reconvened in the hall to plan their attempt to sidetrack the proposal to let the voters decide the issue of an elected mayor.

Many members of the Parks and Recreation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals were similarly contacted to show up in opposition to the proposed charter amendment.

The chair of Parks and Recreation wrote a letter to the state attorney general challenging the legality of the proposed charter amendment even before council acted on the issue.

Do these activities amount to a "contrived" attempt to influence council? You be the judge. I also find some of the convoluted Mr. Sells' argument that any time a group comes before council with a position on an issue the council should automatically vote that way.

If that is the case why have a council? Just have one person who polls the audience on each agenda item and record the vote as the council's decision.

It is ironic that the planning commission members who used the argument that their viewpoints should prevail on the mayor issue had just voted to approve the Jonna project at 1/2 Mile and Middlebelt even though it was consistently opposed by large numbers of residents during months of consideration.

During the spring, summer and fall of 1993 I stopped at 5,500 Farmington Hills homes, seeking voter opinion on a number of issues.

During the period in which the proposed charter amendment was up for discussion I talked to many more residents, seeking their opinion on the issue.

I found that a majority does support an elected mayor and that many of those opposed have no problem putting the issue on the ballot.

After hearing our city attorney, in response to questions from myself and council member Nancy Bates, indicate that nothing would change in respect to the power of the mayor except for the method of election, I feel comfortable with having voted to put the issue on the ballot.

As to Mr. Rosen's letter, let the record show that we gave him plenty of opportunity to suggest changes and reductions in the budget. He had none.

His rap on the city manager was unfair. Early on in the budget process we asked him to present a tight budget that reflected the cost of living. It was the council which added the only new city employee — a patrol officer in the police department.

I urge Mr. Rosen to come forth at any time with any suggestions he has to cut expenses. He will find sympathetic ears.

Aldo Vagnozzi, Farmington Hills City Council

#### Who is this guy?

**W**ho is this Mike Brashgold, candidate for U.S. Congress, 11th District? Senseless ranting is no way to gain credibility in hope of being elected.

I, and others I am sure, were perplexed to note that this is exactly the technique employed by Brashgold in his June 23 letter to the editor regarding Rep. Joe Knollenberg's taxpayer-paid newsletter.

I and other taxpayers appreciate lawmakers' efforts to inform us of both what is happening in Congress and what their views on important issues are.

If a lawmaker's views are not representative of my views, I probably will not vote to re-elect that man or woman.

Of course, the converse is true.

It seems Brashgold does not want voters in the 11th U.S. Congressional District to know about Rep. Knollenberg's views on important issues.

Douglas Watkins, Farmington

# Heslop's

## FOUR DAY SALE

**TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 20% OFF**

**HESLOP'S EVERYDAY LOW PRICES**

**ON MOST DINNERWARE, FLATWARE, STEMWARE, AND GIFTWARE.**

Heslop's brings you the largest selection of in-stock merchandise in Michigan: Choose from famous names like Atlantis, Block, Dansk, Fitz & Floyd, Gorham, Lenox, Mikasa, Noritake, Oneida, Reed & Barton, Royal Doulton, Royal Worcester, Spode, Towle, and Wedgwood.\*

\*Sale is not in addition to any other sale or previously marked-down merchandise. Normal exclusions apply. Please ask a salesperson for details.

**THURSDAY, JULY 7 - SUNDAY, JULY 10**

**INTRODUCE THE BRIDE-TO-BE TO HESLOP'S BRIDAL REGISTRY**

**THE BRIDAL REGISTRY OF CHOICE**

**Metro Detroit**

The Heights, Dearborn Heights • (313) 274-8200

Eastlake Commons, Sterling Heights • (810) 247-3111

(On corner of Hall Road and Hayes Road)

Merri-Five Plaza, Livonia • (313) 522-1850

Macomb Mall, Roseville • (810) 293-9401

Meadowbrook Village Mall, Rochester • (810) 375-0823

Novi Town Center, Novi • (810) 349-8090

Oakland Mall, Troy • (810) 589-1433

**Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield • (810) 737-8080**

(Orchard Lake & 15 Mile)

**Outstate:**

Colonnade, Ann Arbor • (313) 761-1002

(On Eisenhower Freeway, west of Starwood Mall)

Crossroads Mall, Kalamazoo • (616) 327-7513

Lansing Mall, Lansing • (517) 321-6261

Meridian Mall, Okemos • (517) 349-4008

Woodland Mall, Grand Rapids • (616) 957-2145