

## The Flagship Open sails into Erie

by Michael Frawley  
managing editor

In a town that doesn't have much in the way of things to do, bowling has become a community pastime. With 23 different bowling alleys in the area, with various public houses and private clubs, and 6400 registered league bowlers in 300 leagues in Erie, bowling is the most played recreation sport in Erie. With all of these dedicated bowlers around, it is no surprise that when the Professional Bowlers Tour came to Erie to participate in the Flagship Open, people came out by the hundreds to see some of the best bowlers in the world show their stuff.

The Flagship Open, which is now in its tenth year, has become one of the most popular tour stops among the pros, and opened on Sunday, October 22. The bowling on Sunday consisted of a qualifying round of 2 nine game blocks. Monday, the top 24 bowlers from the qualifying round entered into match play with each

bowler participating in 3 rounds of 8 games each. The final round of match play took place Tuesday morning. The top eight finishers then moved on to the TV finals, which were held Tuesday night at 8 pm, and were broadcast live on ESPN. Entering the TV finals Robert Smith held 1<sup>st</sup> place, followed by Danny Wisemen, Jason Couch, Chris Barnes, Walter Ray Williams Jr., Steve Hoskins, Ryan Shafer, and Doug Kent.

Unfortunately for the hometown Erie fans, Bob Learn, who hails from Erie and is one of the best bowlers on the tour now, placed 10<sup>th</sup> and did not make it into the TV finals. Learn is a past Flagship Open winner from 1996, when he won in dramatic fashion, bowling a perfect 300 game during the TV finals, winning the tournament and pocketing an extra \$10,000 for his 300 game.

A stepladder final was held to crown the champion of the Flagship. In a stepladder final, three

bowlers square off against each other, see Williams, who is considered to



with the winner moving on to the next match. After three such matches, the winner then faces the top seed in a one on one match. The first match took place between Ryan Shafer, Doug Kent and Steve Hoskins. Hoskins moved on after beating Kent in a bowl-off when the match ended in a tie. The second match took place between Hoskins, Chris Barnes, and fan favorite Walter Ray Williams Jr. Many in attendance were excited to

be the best bowler on the tour, bowl. Among chants for Williams, he handily defeated Barnes and Hoskins. The next match pitted Williams against Danny Wisemen and Jason Couch. Williams again won the match, bringing fans to their feet in anticipation of the final match between Williams and tournament leader Robert Smith. Williams was not able to keep his winning streak going, falling to Smith 239-233.

Smith pocketed \$19,000 for his first place finish.

Disappointing to many in attendance was Williams' loss. He had won the previous two tournaments and winning a third would have tied Williams for the most tournament, wins in a row, along with bowling greats Pete Weber and Johnny Petraglia.

For those of you who have never attended an event like this, you don't know what you are missing. While watching something like this on TV may be boring, being up in the stands cheering the bowlers on and knocking back Heinekens make for an exciting night. And of course, constantly seeing yourself on TV can be quite a thrill. And for those people who were lucky enough to get to the tournament early, there were seats available on the sides of the alleys which gave spectators a view of the ball coming right toward you, which is something that you usually don't get to see.

While many people may think that

bowling is easy, bowling under the conditions that the pros do can be nearly impossible for regular bowlers. On a regular bowling alley that you would bowl on for open bowling, they place 3 units of oil; on an alley set up for a pro tournament, they place 50-60 units of oil. This greatly slows down your ball, and makes it much harder to control. Also the pins that are used by the pros are much heavier than standard pins. So if you have trouble knocking pins down to begin with, imagine if they were even heavier.

Bowling has been growing in popularity in the past five years, with bowling centers trying to find ways to draw in younger bowlers. Many alleys now offer glow bowling on Friday and Saturday nights. During glow bowling, alleys use lights, fog, and live music to make your bowling experience more enjoyable. Many different alleys in town do glow bowling, with Eastland Lanes on McClelland Avenue holding one of the best in town 5 minutes from campus.

## The eerie tales of Erie and beyond

by Sarah Orr  
staff writer

As we near the Halloween holiday, eerie stories begin to crop up about things that go bump in the night. With a history dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Erie provides countless opportunities for ghoulish happenings. Here are only a few of the prime legends that haunt Northwest Pennsylvania.

One of the most well known tales to Erie residents involves an axe, a lover, and a jealous husband. The tale of Axe Murder Hollow is as unsettling as its name. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a farming family lived in the remote wooded area near present day Sterrettania Road in Millcreek. The lonely wife's attention wandered from her family, and she consequently took on a lover. Predictably, the husband became aware of the adulterous affair. The secret relationship as well as the family became the target of the enraged husband's jealousy. Wielding an axe, he murdered his wife and children. Legend has it that the farmer's spirit still stalks the area to this day. Residents and hikers have reported mysterious happenings in the surrounding woods. Local lore tells of disembodied laughter and spontaneous bursts of light throughout the hollow. Witnesses swear that the envious farmer, axe in hand, still roams the woods in search of the lover. The crumbling remains of the farmer's house are a haunting reminder of the atrocities that occurred there more than 100 years ago.

The home of the next legend is Girard. Just west of Erie, Girard houses a covered bridge that many

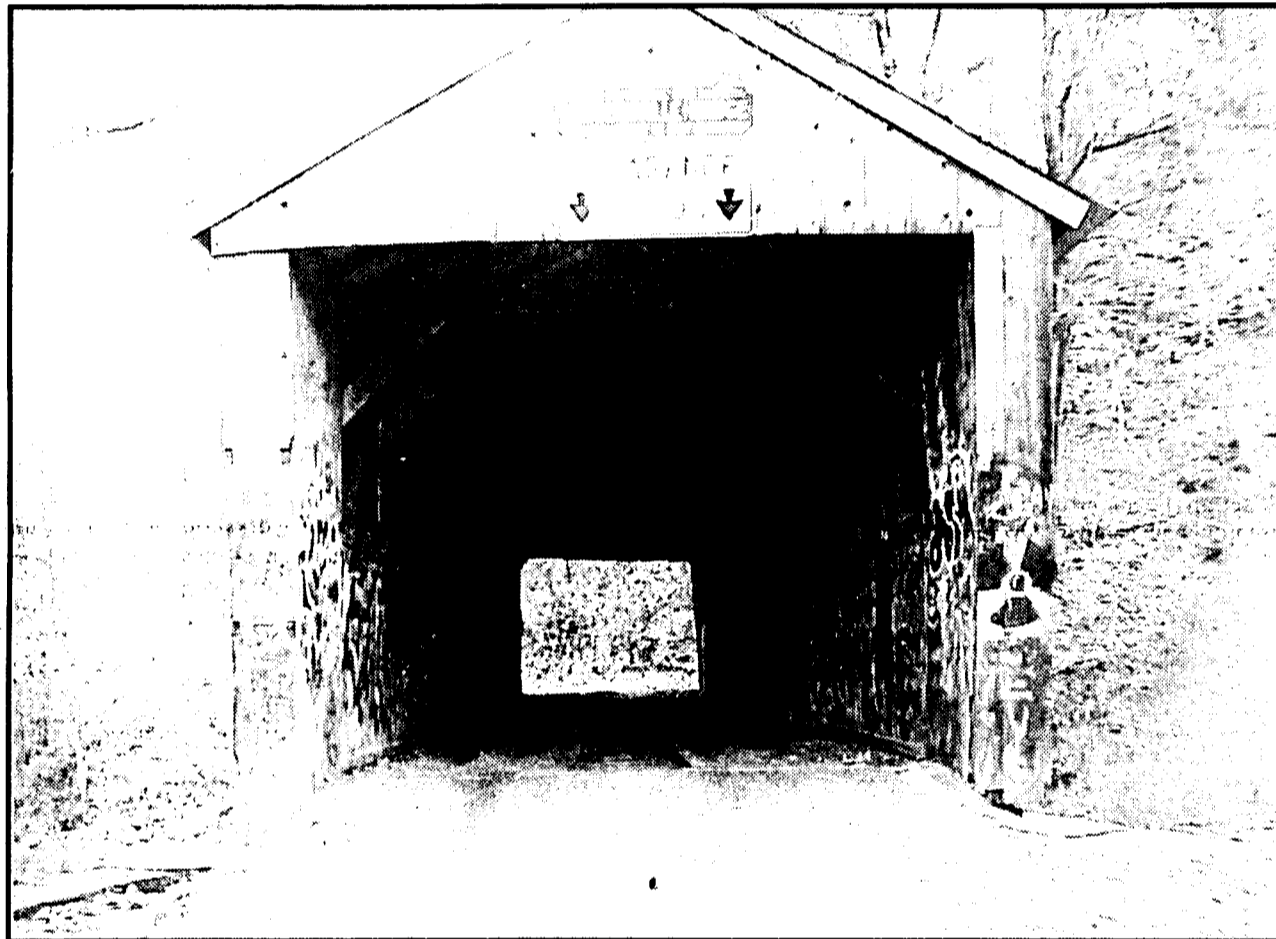


PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

Covered bridge in Girard with eerie tale.

allege to be haunting grounds of a ghostly mule named Gudgeon. In the late 1800's a man attempted to lead his mule across the covered bridge spanning Elk Creek. Coming to the entrance of the bridge, the mule refused the attempts of the man to compel it to go any farther. Upon his master's insistence to cross, the mule began to bray. The owner beat the mule, trying in vain to coerce the animal to continue, but to no avail. The beating continued until the mule was bludgeoned to death and was buried at the base of the bridge.

As the tale is told, those crossing the bridge today sometimes hear the distant echoes of a mule braying in agony. Locals in the area claim to have seen a head-

less horseman, black cape waving in the wind, galloping wildly across the covered bridge at night.

The final story dates back to the American Revolution. General Anthony Wayne, or Mad Anthony as he was known, took on a case of gout and died before he could receive medical attention. The war hero was promptly buried on Presque Isle, but years later, his family wished to have his remains transported to their mausoleum across the state. Upon exhumation of the body twelve years later, it was discovered Anthony was fairly well preserved. A local surgeon boiled the body and removed the remaining flesh from the bones. The flesh and uniform were reburied in their original location, while the bones were packaged to

be transferred. Anthony's brother, who held a vendetta against his sibling, was put in charge of the transportation. Along the bumpy wagon journey, several bones slipped from the open bag and scattered along the earth below. At midnight on New Year's Eve, Mad Anthony calls for his horse, and rides along the trail, lantern in hand, desperately seeking his missing bones.

Though none of these stories have sound scientific backing, their witnesses would swear on their lives that what they have seen and heard was real. Are these occurrences a mere coincidence, or is the supernatural a part of our daily lives?

## Choir, Concert Band fill Commons with music

by Karl Benacci  
features co-editor

On Tuesday, October 24, at 8:00 p.m., the Penn State Behrend College Choir, along with the Penn State Behrend Concert Band performed for a large crowd in the Reed Commons. The College Choir began the concert, under the guidance of conductor Dr. Daniel Barnard. The choir flawlessly sang a number of songs including "Magnificent," by T. Terius Noble and "Alleluia," by Linda Spiveacek.

Barnard was happy with the performance. "I was very pleased with our performance, particularly since the four selections we performed were quite difficult works and required a great deal of rehearsal time to perfect."

Following the College Choir's performance, the Behrend Concert Band mesmerized the crowd with a number of selections, including "Americans We," by Henry Fillmore and Frederick Fennell and "In my Native Country," by Edvard Grieg and arranged by Brant Karrick.

The most entertaining piece of music was a selection entitled "The Hymn of St. Francis," by Daniel Bukvich. The musical selection was based upon a nature theme, with musicians using their instruments to emulate the sounds of various

animals. During the piece, there were periodic pauses, where poetry was read by Mr. George Looney, assistant professor of English, who composed the poetry himself.

Dr. Gary Viebranz, conductor of the Behrend Concert Band, was pleased with the Band's performance. "As an ensemble, we set high musical expectations that, frankly, are never met. It's one of the reasons we display consistent improvement and development. In a performance though, my only expectation is that everyone gives their best effort, for their best performance at any given moment." This group never fails to reach that expectation in concert.

The crowd in attendance gave a warm applause to the Concert Choir and the Concert Band at the conclusion of their performance.

The College Choir is comprised of 52 students from every academic major imaginable, except music. They meet three times per week to rehearse and represent Behrend in performances both on and off campus. Any student may enroll in the Concert Choir at the beginning of each semester.

The Behrend Concert Band rehearses twice weekly, and any student with instrumental experience may enroll.



PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

The Behrend Concert Band performs in the Reed Commons

### TEN LITTLE INDIANS FINAL SHOW DATES THIS WEEK

The cast of *Ten Little Indians* at the Studio Theatre of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, is shown here. The performance schedule for this Agatha Christie mystery-comedy is as follows: October 27 at 8:00 pm, and October 28 at 2:30 pm.



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