



February, 2021

Reliving the Past

by Jerry Lerman (344)

A bug has bitten me and, fortunately, it's one that doesn't seem likely to harbor Lyme Disease or anything else debilitating. I think it will be safe to share this little critter with you, my fellow Bowfiners, and I hope you might find this as appealing as I do.

A few weeks ago, all I was trying to do was piece together some family information to share with our children and other relatives through Internet searching. I had stumbled upon a website that had old newspaper archives, including actual images of pages of both papers from my old hometown, Rockford, Illinois. I made some queries on my parents' and brothers' names, and I was pleased to learn that the site readily found many of the pages I was recalling from my childhood. I did some 'ego-surfing' there, too, as I knew I'd been in the local papers a few times. Unfortunately, the results were mere snippets of the full pages, and ordering up full pages was quite expensive – upwards of \$4 a page.

I sent one of those snippets - about HER family - to an old Rockford friend with whom I've maintained a Facebook relationship. She wrote me back that she'd been able to see the full page by using her subscription to Genealogybank.Com, a site with which I had no familiarity whatsoever.

I checked out that website and found the fees and interface to my liking. The results are kind of intoxicating, as I've been able to bring up 1930 and 1940 census bureau records for my grandparents, showing who was living in their household, their neighbors' names, occupations, etc.

Besides those Census results, the site provides searching for newspapers, government publications, obituaries, and historical books. I found it quite a valuable diversion to help me get through these difficult times. (See screenshots, p2)

Aaron's Question Column



Scenes of the old Foster City Levee.

Question: Can you explain a bit about the purpose of our new Foster City Levee Project? Is there a timetable for when it will be completed?

-Eve Lerman

Aaron's Answer: The Foster City Levee Project is an undertaking by the city to remodel our levee to fit new safety requirements made by the state. If we don't remodel the levee, Foster City will be considered a flood prone zone. Because of that, almost everyone in Foster City will have to spend a lot of money to purchase flood insurance. Rent in all of our hotels and

Continued on page 3