

MA - THE ARGUS AND THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY PRESS - Sunday, September 13, 1998

SUNDAY SPECIAL: THE CROSS BURNING 10 YEARS LATER

Flames of '88 fire spread far and wide

Have you ever had a black sheep in your family? An uncle who did time in prison, or a brother who's a head banger, or a sister who's a lesbian? Well, in Livingston County, you've got a black sheep in the woods, but the minute someone finds out you're from Livingston County, you're a black sheep.



Buddy Moorehouse

Well, for years, we tried to blame it all on Bill Miles, the former KKK grand dragon who lived in Cabochat Township and held cross-burning rallies at his farm. In terms of dragging our county's reputation through the mud, Miles is certainly the all-time leader.

Victim says '88 burning's in the past

Shirley Griffin does not watch the calendar in fearful anticipation of Sept. 16 each year. The 68-year-old Genoa Township resident, who woke up the morning after that fateful day 10 years ago to find a cross had been burned on her lawn, said she has not the incident behind her and has since enjoyed a peaceful "post-burn" life.

Men guilty on civil rights charge

Shortly a week after the cross burning incident, the Livingston County Sheriff's Department arrested John Charles Pichler, 23, Robert Lester Solter, 22, and Jonathan James Horneback, 19. All three were tried in Howell.

Darkness turned to light with birth of Livingston 2001



Maria Stuart

From the ashes of one of the most infamous incidents in Livingston County's history came something so good and so full of hope that even almost — almost — was that the cross burned in Genoa Township 10 years ago was a good thing.

I am talking, of course, about Livingston 2001. One of the weeks of ignorance and hate to become an instrument of education and progress. So outraged were they by this burning that some community members banded together. They wanted to figure out how to deal with the fact that so many outsiders viewed Livingston County as a center for or place where cross burnings were regular occurrences. An area where other Latinos took their safety into their own hands.

Exchanges give chance to learn

Chilton Hills Baptist hosts regular events with Detroit church

By Maureen Patzer
Two weeks ago, two churches sat together for a Sunday night on Island Lake. The churches, Chilton Hills Baptist Church in Howell and Detroit Baptist Church in Detroit, had just exchanged members and were talking about ways to help each other.

Howell HS exchanges made news

Students with the New Detroit Program

For administrators and students with the Howell Public Schools district, 1998 was a tumultuous time. A period of history where they struggled to overcome a major problem in their district.

Cross burning spurred community

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