



Sunday,

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Currents

Skiing in August? Ski clubs make it happen



THE SIDEBAR

Family tip of the week

Nike chin straps recalled

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Nike announced this week that consumers should discontinue use of the Nike Football Helmet Chin Straps, saying the strap can easily break and lead to injuries.

Nike has received 18 reports of the chin strap breaking, including two reports of concussions, two reports of facial lacerations requiring stitches, and a report of a broken nose.

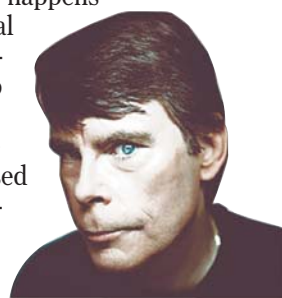
The straps were sold at sporting good stores nationwide from April 2006 through October 2007 for about \$20.

Contact Nike at (888) 583-6453 or visit nikebiz.com for more info.

Verbatim

"The beauty of religious mania is that it has the power to explain everything. Once God (or Satan) is accepted as the first cause of everything which happens in the mortal world, nothing is left to chance ... logic can be happily tossed out the window." —

Stephen King



Born this day

Chloe Sevigny, actress — 1974
Elizabeth Perkins, actress — 1960
Kevin Nealon, actor — 1953
Mickey Mouse, rodent, beloved American icon — 1928



Chloe Sevigny

On this day ...

1820 — U.S. Navy Captain Nathaniel Palmer was the first American to sight the continent of Antarctica.

1928 — The first animated talking picture, "Steamboat Willie," starring Mickey Mouse, was screened in the U.S.

1978 — California Congressman Leo Ryan and four other people were killed in Jonestown, Guyana, by members of the Peoples Temple. They had gone there to investigate the religious sect of Jim Jones, a U.S. pastor. The next night there was mass murder and suicide by 912 cult members.

— Free Press news services

All about the Banjo

Lowell Schreyer was an accomplished banjo performer, scholar and author

By Jean Lundquist
Special to The Free Press

To many friends and acquaintances in southern Minnesota, Lowell Schreyer was a retired journalist who played the banjo.

In the "banjo world" however, Lowell Schreyer was a giant. He traveled the world on the strings of his banjos, and his intellectual research into the role of the instrument in American history is legendary.

Schreyer died last week, but not before completing his second book, "The Banjo Entertainers: Roots to Ragtime." His first book was a biography of the entertainer who introduced him to the banjo in the early 1940s on a radio show. "The Eddie Peabody Story" was published in 2000.

"He was absolutely crazy about the banjo," recalls former Blue Ox Jazz Babies band member Jim Johnson.

"He wasn't a really chatty kind of guy, until you got him talking about the banjo. He found a lot of expression in his banjo."

Schreyer, his wife, Margaret, and their family lived on a cul de sac, Johnson recalls. "He'd say they lived there because it was shaped like a banjo."

Schreyer wrote on his Web site that as soon as he heard Eddie Peabody play the banjo, he ran downtown and bought a second-hand tenor banjo at the music store in New Ulm, where he grew up. After four years of lessons, he still was unable to replicate the sound that Peabody plucked from his banjo.

Then, he found out there is more than one kind of banjo. While he had been playing the tenor banjo, the sound he was looking for came from a plectrum banjo.

According to his Web site, he went home, returned his banjo, and played that until he bought a real plectrum banjo a few years later. Schreyer learned to play other types of banjos by ear.

Schreyer united his background as a writer with his love of the banjo, and in addition to playing, soon became a noted scholar on the banjo.

Banjo player Paul Horrisberger of Mankato — a member of the Dick Kimmel and Company Band — recalls playing a gig in Minneapolis when a man came in with magazines from England called BMG, for Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar. He gave them to Horrisberger, who discovered several articles in them written by Schreyer, who had become a worldwide giant when it came to the banjo.

In addition to the articles he wrote for BMG, he also wrote a column called "Banjo World" for the Fretted Instrument Guild of America publication, and authored chapters for two books about the banjo written as compilations.

His research into the history and background of the banjo came because of his love of playing the instrument. He played on the

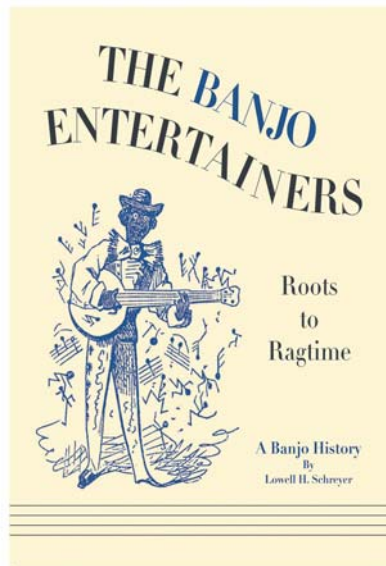
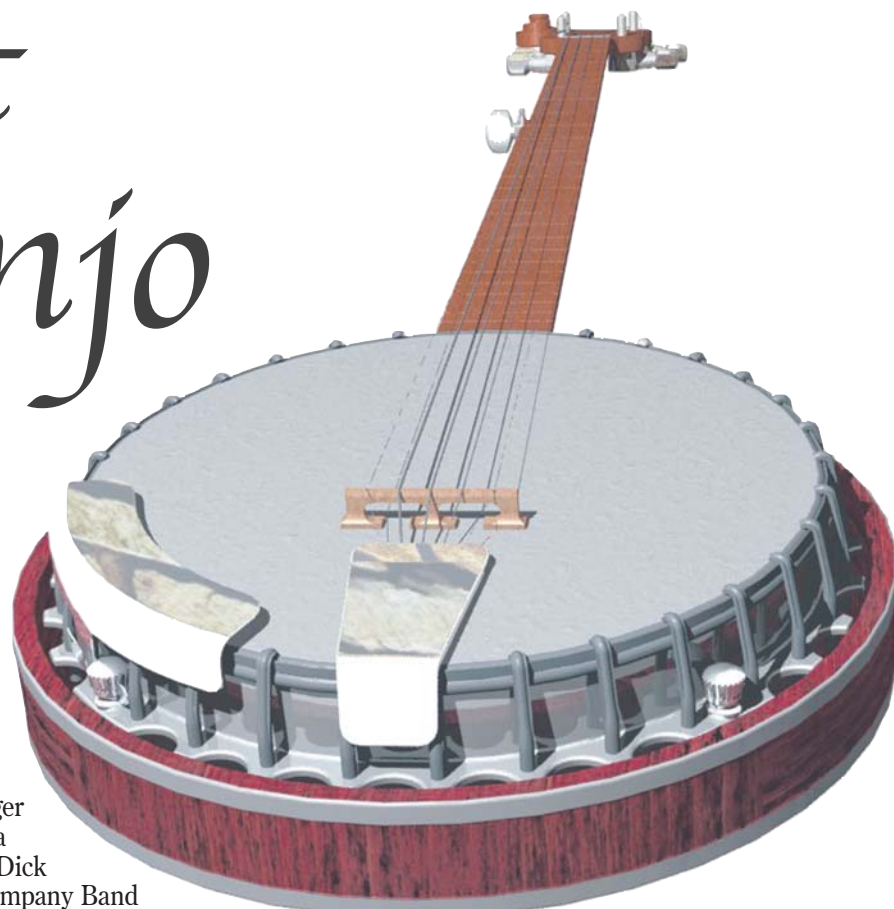
riverboats Mississippi Queen and the Delta Queen in Louisiana.

"Lowell lived to play the banjo," says Johnson. "He'd travel 12 hours out (to a gig) and 12 hours back for \$30. He just loved to play the banjo."

Schreyer was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, located in his hometown of New Ulm, in 1997. In 2002 he was inducted into the National Four-String Banjo Hall of Fame in Guthrie, Okla.

In the obituary Schreyer wrote himself, he said: "As much as he loved banjo playing, he loved his family more. As a result, he turned down offers to become a full-time professional banjoist that would have kept him away from the family overly long."

His daughter Debbie is a banjo player. Son Ted plays tuba. Together, they played as a group called Schreyers Banjos. Recalls Johnson, "The Schreyers all have a world class musical ability. They are phenomenal."



This book was the last of a long list of literary contributions Lowell Schreyer made to the history and documentation of the banjo and its greatest musicians.



Submitted photos

The Blue Ox Jazz Babies were perhaps one of Schreyer's most well-known bands. Shown here are (standing left to right) Jim Hayes, Ted Schreyer and Hal Nelson; (kneeling left to right) Barry Clapper and Lowell Schreyer.



Submitted photo

The band Schreyers Banjos was one of Lowell Schreyer's many musical endeavors, and this one was a family affair. Shown here are Debbie Schreyer Owens, banjo, Tom Owens, bass and vocals, and Lowell Schreyer, banjo.

Plenty of people pray at the track, but this group offers speedway service

By Roy Appleton
Dallas Morning News

FORT WORTH, TEXAS — Prayer said, Scripture read, birthday song happily sung, the Rev. Roger Marsh has a message for his team. Stay on track.

"Be kind, courteous and respectful toward each other," he says. "Keep in mind that we're out here with a task, and that is to share the Lord."

The pastor leads a parting prayer. Then it's off to work, off to the multitudes swarming at Texas Motor Speedway.

Speedway officials estimate a recent weekend's racing triple-header drew 400,000 fans to the Tarrant County, Texas, oval.

And as always, Marsh and his fellow volunteers of Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries were there to lend a hand, offer support and spread the word.

"Father, I pray that you will help us



McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Dr. Roger Marsh of Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries watches Linda and Lee Emerson of Katy kiss after renewing their wedding vows at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas.

to have our eyes, our minds, our hearts open to every opportunity that comes before us," says Marsh, standing with the others under their campground tent.

Baptist associations in Tarrant,

Denton and Wise counties organized the group 11 years ago for the speedway's opening race. And with each event, its volunteers return to the action. "It's like a city grows up out there for a week," says Marsh, the

group's chairman. "We're kind of the church for that city."

On a recent weekend, about 100 ministry workers from across Texas and as far away as Pennsylvania have come for the rush, roar and outreach.

Before their arrival, the group's newsletter offered some commandments:

"Always be on your best behavior while on speedway property."

"If you have not yet overcome habits such as smoking or chewing, please refrain from those activities."

Rickey Glenn was this year's groundbreaker, driving his motor home in from Daingerfield in East Texas a week early to greet the first campers. He's one of the group's originals and relishes the chance to help others.

"I'm a car freak anyway," he says, grinning.

He and the others have transported the elderly, injured or handicapped, staffed information booths,

entertained racing fans' children and provided a 24-hour campground gathering spot featuring a bounce house and horseshoe pits.

"Without the ministry, this would be a dream," says David Jones, after being delivered to Gate 4 on Friday morning in a cart. A serious leg injury has left the Galveston, Texas, resident in a wheelchair for most of the last three years. But he hasn't missed the races thanks to the ministry. "It's amazing how they take care of you," he says. Volunteers are available to help with personal troubles, family concerns, whatever arises.

"You get falls, lost kids, overbeverage people, death notices," said Marsh. "When you've got 40,000 people in a campground, a lot of things can happen."

Like weddings or marriage commitments.

Please see SERVICE, Page E5