

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

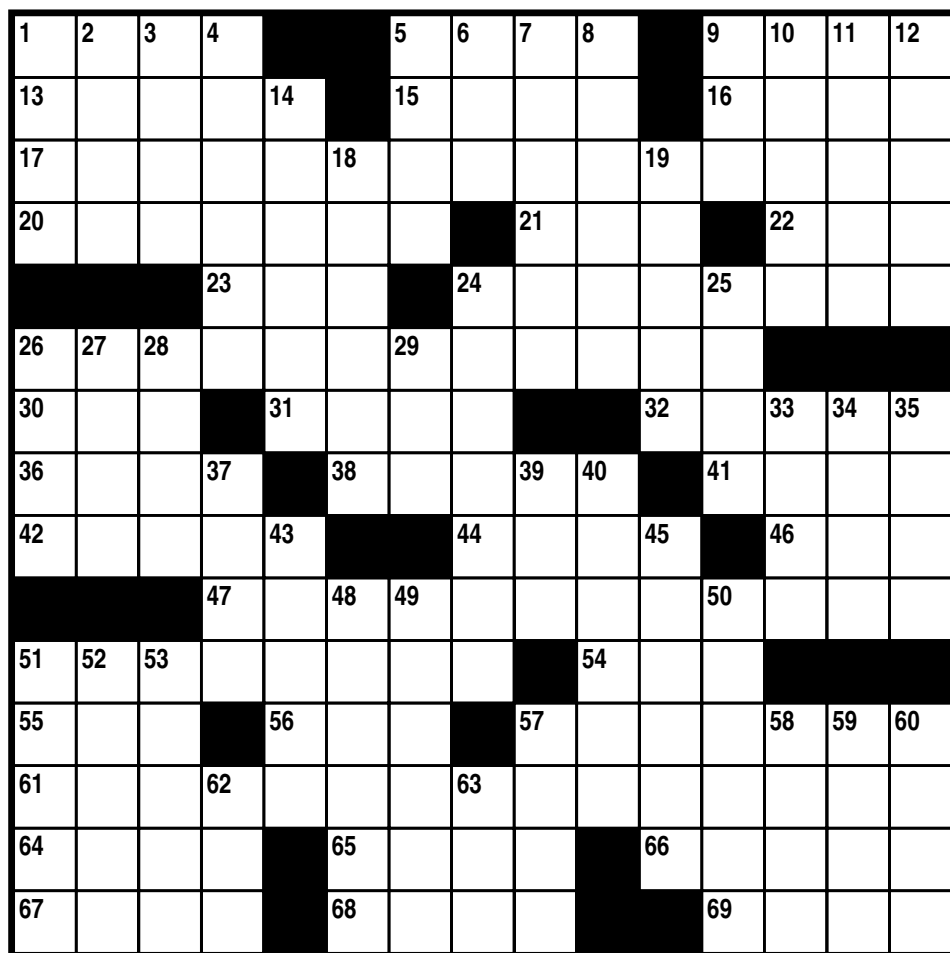
ACROSS

- 1 Subj. at NHS
5 Drops in the ocean
9 Italian car
13 Missing person?
15 Suffix for the well-to-do
16 Mount associated with ephaestus
17 It has acquired over 2,455 acres (with "Nantucket")
20 Deny
21 Word form of "animal"
22 Caustic compound
23 Put on the dog?
24 Traveler's collection?
26 A pirate may do this, or make another do this
30 Idaho county
31 Sheriff Wyatt
32 Sedate
36 Bait box item
38 "And never ___ whole" (Arnold)
41 Pub. shuttle service
42 Part of the NHA
44 "Even ___ speak ..."
46 Centuries
47 It happened in 1820 and inspired "Moby Dick"
51 Pensive piano piece
54 Nantucket ___

- 55 A word with you?
56 "Freaks" director Browning
57 Town Meetings have them
61 Got ready for a lengthy road trip
64 Painted metalware
65 Suffix for switch
66 Needing cleaning
67 Most quoted author
68 Jack Sparrow's portrayer
69 Fraternity letters

DOWN

- 1 Branch division
2 Mahatma's emotion
3 "If I feel ___ will double my labor" (Mandino)
4 City on the Baltic Sea
5 A snap
6 Puppeteer Baird
7 World Cup winners of 2002
8 Puerto Rican lady
9 Winter mo.
10 "Let ___ hang out"
11 Food maven Camara
12 They're numbered while filming
14 At the scene
18 Russian country homes
19 Faintly praises?
24 Make concessions
25 Hermitage treasure
26 Rocker's pedal
27 Tempests in a teapot
28 "___ and the Real Girl" (2007)
29 Long or now preceder
33 With "La" it's the pits
34 Wellington's alma mater
35 Admiral, to Isaac Coffin
37 Early feminist Lucretia
39 Start of a hissy fit?
40 Like many an anchor
43 Water slide
45 Outstrip
48 Washed out
49 Weather
50 Incarcerated, slangily
51 US/Canada/Mexico pact
52 His belt twinkles
53 Stringed instrument
57 On the peak
58 Tiny amount
59 Opponent
60 "The ___ the limit!"
62 Spy novelist Deighton
63 Weasel word?



PUZZLE BY SAM BELLOTTO JR.

Answers on page 30

Sudoku, Kakuro puzzles on page 28

MR. ROGERS

Continued from page 17

memorative event.

"He is an icon and one of the founding fathers of one of the first public radio stations in America," said Margy Whitmer, project director for Family Communications, Inc., who noted that Rogers' program is still on many public television stations and ranks as the longest running children's show in the nation. "We wanted to celebrate his legacy of being a good neighbor. We would love to have it continue. He is the inspiration; Pittsburgh is a city of neighborhoods, but I would love to have it happen all over the country."

Fred Rogers, who died in February 2003, drew fans of all ages when he was on screen and in his personal life. His son John, sibling to the Rogers' other son James, said his father and mother started coming to Nantucket in 1957 and at Christmas 1958 the deed to their "Crooked House" in Madaket filled their stocking. The sons have kept the house in family ownership, and John is exceptionally pleased that his father is being honored during the upcoming week.

"The word continues and dad's legacy continues. He had such a good message," he said.

Fred Rogers began his career as a floor manager for NBC in New York City, then returned to Pittsburgh and with the late Senator John Heinz, helped start WQED, the first station that aired Rogers' original show, "The Children's Corner." The family spent a couple of years in Canada where a station showed a 15-minute program called "Mr. Rogers," before the family returned to Pittsburgh. In 1965 "Mr.

Rogers' Neighborhood" was aired on WQED and has continued to reach families ever since. John Rogers, who said Nantucket was his father's favorite place, spoke about his dad and what he believes he meant to others.

"In his gentle way he was good at having people talk about their feelings. He always talked about acceptance and would say 'I like you just the way you are.' I thought it was fabulous that five years after his death people still have him in their hearts and that the legacy continues," said John. "I think it's fabulous that someone can live on in that manner."

Mr. Rogers certainly lives on in the memories of many, particularly some who were his real neighbors in Madaket. Susie Locke was not a neighbor, but recalls a funny story that illustrates how Fred Rogers influenced people of all ages. Locke said several years ago she was at the airport on a summer night awaiting the arrival of her daughter Diana and her daughter's sister-in-law Margot Brunelle, both sophisticated young women in their late 20s. Locke spotted Mr. Rogers at the airport, but he disappeared from sight. The women came in the terminal and Locke told them of her sighting, and when they saw him moments later they ran after him just to say hello to a childhood idol.

"They were just like a couple of little kids — they were like five-year-olds. It was as though 20 years just went away," said Locke. "They caught up with him and he was gracious. It was just dear."

Madaket resident Ruth Grieder said her father, Everett Chapel, who died in 1969, took Fred Rogers fishing during his beginning years as a summer islander. She took her grandsons James

and Scott to visit him when he was sitting in his yard, and Mr. Rogers took photos of the children as he enjoyed doing with just about everyone he met.

"He was a good neighbor," Grieder recalled. "He always had time to stop and talk to you no matter where he was."

Professional photographer and Madaket neighbor Beverly Hall met Mr. Rogers shortly after his family started spending summer seasons on the island. Not only did she treasure their friendship and the fact that they shared being ministers, she produced an extensive collection of photos of him she lent to summer visitor Benjamin Wagner, who works for MTV News and met Mr. Rogers six years ago. Wagner felt so much admiration for him he is producing a documentary called "Mr. Rogers and Me."

Hall considers Fred Rogers as one of her very good friends in life, and said he was so highly regarded at St. Paul's Church, where he worshipped in the summers, that an iconic statue of him was commissioned that bears the words, "Kind, gentle and true," and stands near the pew where he always sat.

"He meant a lot. He was one of my most cherished people on the path," said Hall, who with St. Paul's former minister Joel Ives, performed the eucharist for Mr. Rogers on his Crooked House deck. "He made people feel he truly cared about them. He was an authentic person and very spiritual. He lived his gospel 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Forty years [knowing him] was not enough."

Wagner, now 36, met Fred Rogers on his 30th birthday and the following day was given a tour of his home dur-

ing which time Rogers played "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" on his piano. Wagner's mother Mary Bolster rented a cottage next to the Crooked House and became friends with the Rogers' in part because she was studying for her master's degree in theology, a deep interest of his.

"He took an interest in everything and everyone he met. I have yet to meet an adult who is more thoroughly invested in the moment or the person before him than Mr. Rogers," said Wagner, whose documentary is not authorized by Family Communications or the Rogers' family, but represents his personal memories and impressions.

"In short, Mr. Rogers changed my life," said Wagner, recalling a conversation they had about Wagner's job and Rogers observation he never forgot. "Standing on his back porch he said 'I feel so strongly that deep and simple are far more essential than shallow and complex.' In his show he took time to explain things well and clearly in a way kids and adults could understand, and he didn't shy away from hard questions like what happens when my goldfish dies or why are my parents divorcing. I think that takes a special kind of courage, especially in the culture we live in."

Wagner's documentary is in the editing stage and he anticipates it will be released as an independent film next year.

"It is my remembrance of him and goes into details of our conversations about crucial cultural values," said Wagner. "I grew up watching Mr. Rogers, but he moved me as an adult. There are very few people in the world who have that curiosity of others. He was a really special, unique man." ■