

# Reader's comments

## A letter about peace: contest winner

**Dear President Reagan:** I want to share a personal experience with you because of its impact on my life.

I heard my grandfather speak about the horrors of war, I saw his pictures and read of Iwo Jima, but on February 19, 1985, it all became real to me because I went with him back to that battlefield.

An American transport plane took us from Tokyo to the tiny volcanic island. No one spoke as we were transported to the location where the

Japanese/American "ceremony of peace" took place. Japanese were seated on one side of a large memorial -- Americans on the other. Words were spoken in both languages. Buddhist priests carried incense, American clergymen spoke, and bands played the national anthems. An American general even read a statement that you had written for the occasion. But, President Reagan, I really think you should have been there to see what happened next. Japanese and American

women, wives and daughters of the veterans, started embracing and exchanging mementos -- scarves, jewelry, anything to let each other know how they felt. Mem approached each other, at first shaking hands hesitantly, then embracing and crying. Some brought war souvenirs to return to their one-time enemies.

I didn't realize someone had approached me until I felt a hat being placed on my head. A Japanese veteran smiled and introduced himself. His

military hat was his gift to me. My grandfather approached and they talked and seemed glad that I cared enough to share this experience with them. I don't know what they said because I was so touched by the moment. Thoughts raced through my mind. These two old men were standing on top of Mt. Suribachi hugging each other. Forty years ago they had been mortal enemies. Forty years ago, they had tried to kill each other. Forty years ago the very spot where we stood had been alive with bombs, guns,

flame throwers, and death and hatred. How could so much have changed in only 40 years? How many times have enemies stood together as friends after murderous attacks on each other? I felt as if I knew something no one else knew. It seemed to me that we should allow these men to show the rest of the world how bitter enemies can become friends and allies. They could go together as ambassadors of peace, American and Japanese, to speak to the people of the world. They could stand arm-in-arm, and speak of the horrors of

war and how they had once tried to kill each other. I love my country very much and if you ask me to defend it, I will go. But I might find it hard to kill my enemy knowing that my own grandson may someday embrace him in friendship.

I took a lot of pictures that day and tried to remember faces. I even used a video camera. An article in the Wall Street Journal said, "a young American boy videotaped his grandfather's reactions with a Japanese camera." I guess he found irony in

that -- but the journalist missed the point -- it was really my own reactions I was recording. I was determined to remember the feelings I was having because I was the youngest on the island that day and I was going to be able to remember the longest.

I feel it is my duty to share what I learned on Iwo Jima with as many people as possible. And, President Reagan, I can't think of anyone more important to start with than you.

Very respectfully yours,  
Michael R. Jacoby

## School appreciates YMCA

**Dear Editor:**

On Friday Dec. 19, the students and staff of Waubaushene/Fesserton Public School were treated to a wonderful Christmas gift - a full afternoon at the Midland YMCA with the use of the pool and the gym, with treats and games. Betty Wooley,

Phyllis Hook, John Wadge, Frank Godfrey, Cindy Wood and Christine Rawlinson outdid themselves! It seemed appropriate to begin a new year with good news. We've been going to the YMCA for swimming lessons for many years now and the program of-

ferred there seems to improve every year.

We would also like to begin this new year by thanking you and your staff for not forgetting about us, even though Waubaushene and Fesserton are at the outer limits of your reading area. Your

stories, photos and editorials have been greatly appreciated. We could not, for example, have sold so many of our calendars without your support (and that of Books Unlimited and Rolfoto). And without the calendar sales it would have been very difficult for us financially to afford the cost of bringing our students by bus to the Midland Y for swimming lessons.

"As the kids would say, 'Three Cheers for all of you!'"

Sincerely,  
Paul Delaney

## Canada's help wanted

**Dear Editor:**

I am asking the readers of your newspaper to share with me any amateur weather forecasting methods known or followed by your readers. Rural Canadians, in particular, still retain that blessed affinity with nature which the city people may have lost or forgotten, and I am hoping the rural folks will be most generous in their response.

Should I receive enough replies, I will then, through the assistance of the Explorations Program of the Canada Council, put all information in a book and make it available to Canadians.

To illustrate the sort of things I am looking for: on the Canadian Plains many

people believe that precipitation will follow ninety days after a fog. Others believe that the length of a hog's "weather vane" (part of the pancreas?) at butchering time indicates the severity of the approaching winter. To forecast the moisture prospects for the next year, slice a large onion in two halves and the twelve inner rings will show the moisture content of the year to come.

The tremendous advance in modern, scientific weather study are threatening to overwhelm the homespun methods used by generations of Canadians; methods used long before the development of "high tech" weather forecasting.

In addition, the gradual passing of our senior citizens, the people most familiar with folk weather lore, will contribute to the loss of this important facet of Canadiana. With the help of the people we can prevent any further loss.

Sincerely,  
R.M. Himsl  
248 Grandview St. W.  
Moose Jaw,  
Saskatchewan  
S6H 5K7



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★ **JANUARY SALE**  
**Starts Thurs., Jan. 15, 8 a.m.**

Again this year, our January Sale will commence at 8 a.m. to give all Midland business people a chance to "get in on the ground floor." Drop in on your way to work and check out the savings!

Thurs. 8 - 6,  
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