

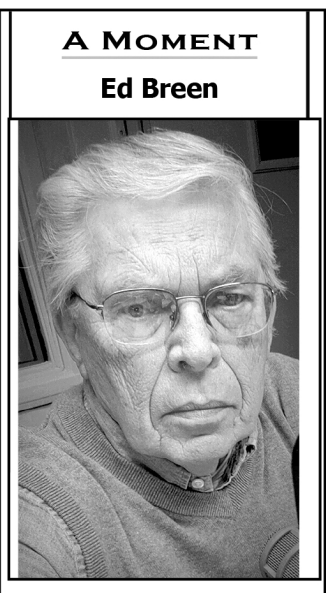
# ‘Home of the Hog’ history dusted off and retold to locals

COVID has taken so much from all of us. Lives and times destroyed or deferred. And especially as summer draws to a close we consider the times that did not happen in 2020. The county fair. James Dean Days. Mississinewa 1812. And one that had planned so much for its special year: Hog Daze, that great gathering of motorcyclists, of bikers, that has formed in Marion to pay homage to the pioneer riders of a century ago.

And that is precisely the point: A century, 100 years this week since the day that those daring young men and their two-wheeled machines brought home the hog.

You may have heard the story, but it is worth retelling today, mainly because those who wanted to play out the little drama that occurred here on Labor Day weekend of 1920 won’t be allowed. COVID, you know.

For better than a decade now, ever since a young lady named Aletha Dunstan came upon the dusty history, we have set aside a couple of days to let the men and women and their machines do their thing for “Hog Daze.” They have



gathered at Ballard Field in east Marion for fun, fellowship, riding, and maybe an adult beverage or two. This year, in an expansion effort, they were to have moved a half-mile east to the Grant County 4-H Fairgrounds. That is not to be. Maybe next year, they hope.

But it won’t be the same. It won’t be a century. Instead it will be 101 years since that running of the International Marion Motorcycle Road Race, 200 miles on a five-mile course laid out, mainly on dirt roads, just southwest of Marion. Forty laps and an estimated 15,000 spectators along the route. It was the second an-

nual running of the Marion race – the “Cornfield Classic” — in a revitalization of a young and dangerous sport that had been put on the shelf for World War I.

Some reports said that Walter Davidson and William Harley had both come to Marion that day. Mr. Davidson and Mr. Harley both here. That sound familiar? Harley and Davidson, as in Harley-Davidson, back then and still today the marquee name in motorcycles.

Race day came and Ray Weishaar, a hotshot cyclist out of Oklahoma and Kansas was riding for team Harley-Davidson. He was 29 years old and had been riding for Harley-Davidson since 1916.

Somewhere along the way that day Weishaar, who was nothing if not a promoter, had acquired a newborn runt piglet from a farm somewhere along the course. He carried it under his arm in a pre-race stroll through the paddocks.

Weishaar put the pig aside, mounted his motorcycle and road a blistering race, an average of 71 miles an hour and a new record for a 200-mile event. He cut 18 minutes off the time

from the race the previous year.

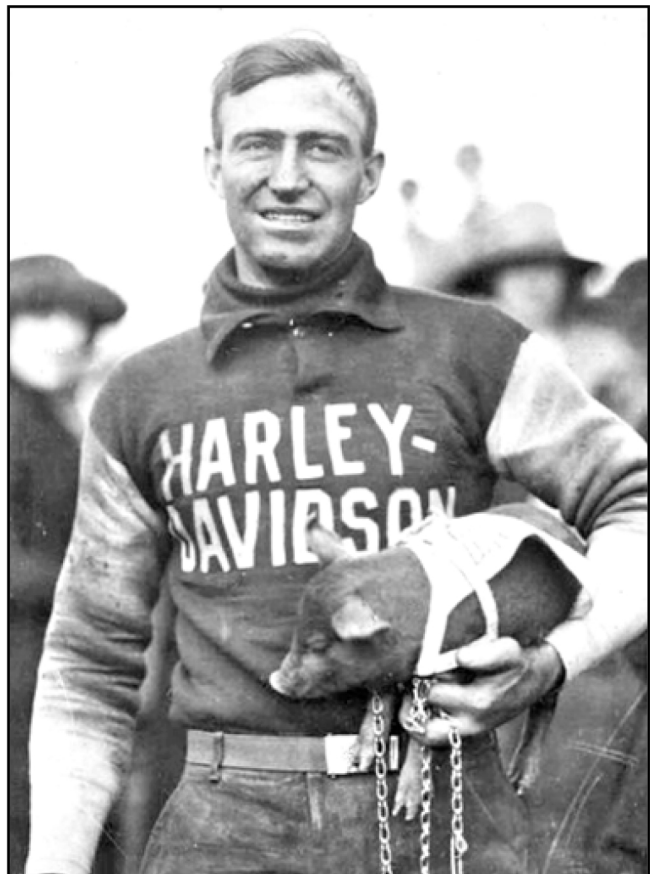
And then the moment came: Weishaar reclaimed the piglet, put it on his lap for post-race photos and thus was born the moniker of the hog for all things Harley-Davidson.

Sports writers and photographers covering the race loved it. Weishaar and his piglet – his hog – which he had named Johnny. It’s unclear whether the pig actually rode the victory lap with Weishaar, but that’s not important. What was important was that the photographers bought into the moment: Pictures of Weishaar holding the animal, feeding the piglet from a baby bottle, straddling the racing machine with “Johnny” in his lap.

Weishaar went on to win other races in the fast growing sport. He was a star.

That all ended in April 1924. Weishaar was running his Harley-Davidson against the Indian brand motorcycle in a race in suburban Los Angeles. His machine went into a high-speed wobble, he lost control, went through a wooden fence and crashed, but didn’t seem to be seriously injured. .

He was taken to LA Gen-



Ray Weishaar and his hog, Johnny.

eral Hospital by his wife, Emma, as a precaution, just to be checked out. The injuries were internal and they were serious. He died that evening. He was 33 years old.

And that brings us back to Marion in 2009. Aletha Dunstan was then the city planner in the Wayne Sey-

bold administration. She was researching a detailed plan for Marion future development and came onto the references to the race course and its few glorious years. And that led her to Ray Weishaar. And that led her to “Johnny.”

All of it right here in the “Home of the Hog”.

## Police Reports

August 24-30

### Monday, August 24

Briana Rose Morgan, 23, was preliminarily charged with theft in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Ryanne Rebecca Cress, 26, was preliminarily charged with possession of methamphetamine in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Robert Mitchell Collins, 39, was preliminarily charged with resisting law enforcement – uses vehicles or draws or uses deadly weapon and driving while suspended during a traffic stop at 13th and Geneva streets, Marion.

Michelle Kay Wyatt, 33, was served a warrant during a traffic stop at 34th and Nebraska streets, Marion.

Shanda Marie Sheppard, was served a warrant in the 1600 block of West Third Street, Marion.

### Tuesday, August 25

Adalya Monique Johnson, 23, was preliminarily charged with neglect of a dependent and domestic battery in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Brayden Channing Cox, 21, was preliminarily charged with domestic battery in the



200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Jerrica Sharae Harshaw, 25, was preliminarily charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of syringe, and possession of paraphernalia in the 500 block of South Adams Street, Marion.

Natasha Lynn Keys, 32, was preliminarily charged with battery in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Jason Michael Faust, 47, was served a warrant in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Teresa M. Cole, 50 was served a warrant in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

### Wednesday, August 26

Randy Douglas Caudill, 39, was preliminarily charged with theft in the 1800 block of West Markland Street, Kokomo.

Issac Nathaniel Trusty, 26,

and Caleb James Carpenter, 21, were preliminarily charged with possession of methamphetamine in the 1800 block of West Markland Street, Kokomo.

Steven L. Pyle, 41 was served a warrant in the 500 block of South Adams Street, Marion.

Delno Junior Dalton, 47, was preliminarily charged with probation violation in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Michael Patrick McKinney, 56, was preliminarily charged with possession of marijuana in the 1700 block of West Euclid Avenue, Marion.

Judy Ann Holt, 59, was served a warrant during a traffic stop at 30th and Galatin streets, Marion.

Isaac D. Horton, 28, was preliminarily charged with possession of marijuana, operator never licensed, and false identity statement in the 200 block of West 38th

Street, Marion.

### Thursday, August 27

Michael R. Surber, 34, was preliminarily charged with possession of marijuana during a traffic stop at Fifth and Butler streets, Marion.

Alivia Maureen Lundy-Vetor, 19, was served a warrant in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

James Lewis-Markues Smith, 30, was served a warrant in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

### Friday, August 28

Natalie Elaine White, 57, was preliminarily charged with battery resulting in injury in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Matthew T. Dalton, 51, was preliminarily charged for probation violation in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Hontz Samuel McCarty, 24, was preliminarily charged with criminal mischief in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Dustin Lee Masters, 36, was preliminarily charged with operating while intoxicated during a traffic stop at State Road 15 and Harreld Street, Marion.

Austin Laurel Cowles, 23, was served a warrant in the 200 block of East Fourth

Street, Marion.

Kylar Stephen Weagver, 21, was preliminarily charged with possession of a Schedule I, II, III, or IV controlled substance in the 300 block of North Butler Avenue, Marion.

William Robert Bryant, 40, was preliminarily charged with reckless driving during a security check at 17th and Washington streets, Marion.

Joseph D. Webb, 32, was preliminarily charged with operator never license during a traffic stop at Spencer and Miller avenues, Marion.

Rosemary Elaine Soule, 53, was preliminarily charged with battery that resulted in bodily injury to another person in the 100 block of East 15th Street, Marion.

### Saturday, August 29

Oscar Mitchell White, 42, was served a warrant in the 8000 block of West 500 South, Swayzee.

Michael W. Julian, 41, was preliminarily charged driving while suspended, possession of methamphetamine, intoxicated driver – operating a vehicle with financial responsibility, improper display of registration plate, intoxicated driver – expired plates, possession of paraphernalia, operating while intoxicated, and battery dur-

ing a traffic stop at State Route 37 and 22, Marion.

Robert Jacob Grubb, 42, was preliminarily charged with theft in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Zachary Tyler Case, 33, was preliminarily charged with possession of methamphetamine and paraphernalia in the 1500 block of South Western Avenue, Marion.

Kevin DeWayne Ball, was served a warrant in the 3700 block of South Prince Hall Drive, Marion.

### Sunday, August 30

Ian Brady Smith, 27, was preliminarily charged with battery by means of deadly weapon, intimidation, domestic battery, unlawful possession of a syringe, and possession of a narcotic drug in the 2200 block of South 300 West, Marion.

Teresa Donae Smith, 21, was served a warrant in the 1700 block of West August Walk, Marion.

Danyon Ramone McClure, 19, was served a warrant in the 200 block of East Fourth Street, Marion.

Jesus L. Lopez, 44, was preliminarily charged with being an intoxicated driver during a traffic stop at State Road 19 and Miller Avenue, Marion.