

Checkerboard Times

Mon. & Tues. Closed • Wed. & Thurs. 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. • Sun. 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

www.checkerboardrestaurant.net
515-848-3742

Ron & Karen Fee
Rhonda Zimmerman

KILLER-THIEF STILL AT LARGE COUNTY AND STATE SEEK MURDERER OF PLEASANTVILLE MAN

Owen Shadle Was Struck from Behind, Robbed and Left to Die.

LAST FRIDAY EVENING

Pockets were Ruffled by Unknown Assailant! on His Way to His Home.

Owen Shadle, one of Pleasantville's most respected and influential citizens was robbed and left in a dying condition on the sidewalk a short distance from his home in that town about 9:30 p.m. Friday. He died at the Pleasantville Community Hospital two and one-half hours later without regaining consciousness. He was a merchant and a banker.

Five days after Shadle was found, investigating officers had found little concrete evidence but several tell-tale clues. Marion County Sheriff Paul Applegate said robbery apparently was the motive for the slaying. Since it was established that he left his store with \$250 in currency and between \$6 and \$8 in checks.

His billfold was missing when he was found and there was only 10 cents in his pocket. Sheriff Applegate and State Agent Sam Kelly said they believed Shadle was killed by someone who knew he customarily carried money home from his store every evening.

The blow, the sheriff said apparently were struck with an iron instrument such as a tire iron or jack handle. The weapon has not been found. One blow, apparently the first one, struck from the behind and to the left, was so powerful that it left the imprint on Shadle's brows felt but and ripped the leather inner band, although it didn't tear the felt. Sheriff Applegate and State Agent Kelly found two footprints close together near a large tree at the corner of the school ground about six feet from where Shadle was struck down. The footprints added weight to Applegate's belief that the robber-slayer had waited in ambush for his victim.

Shadle was unconscious when the youths, Clyde King, 20, and Leo Johnson, 20, stumbled over him as they started to walk home from the school building. "It certainly started me," Clyde King said. "My foot bumped against something and when I looked down and discovered it was a man, I was plenty scared." The youths had been at the building since

7:30 p.m. visiting with King's uncle Garrett King, who with Lloyd Willis is employed as a night watchman at the building.

The blood on the concrete sidewalk indicated the extent to which Shadle bled before he was found and taken to the Pleasantville Community hospital. The heavy mat of leaves in the ditch three feet from the walk.

He lived in Pleasantville since he was a small boy. Born on April 4, 1876, at Corning, Iowa, he moved to Pleasantville when his father, F. M. Shadle, bought a general store there.

Shadle graduated from the Pleasantville high school and entered his father's store as a clerk. In May, 1894, he married Miss Cora Glenn, of Des Moines, with his brothers he owned and operated the store since 1903. The brothers are Melvin and Elton. He was an active member of the Christian Church and served two terms on the town council school board and the town council. He was a member of the Pleasantville

Scene of Friday Night Murder in Pleasantville



Amot at the door of his home (shown by arrow) Owen Shadle was struck down and robbed in Pleasantville.

Victim of Murderer



Owen Shadle, murdered Friday night in a recent picture with Mrs. Shadle.

Sheriff Investigates



Clyde King, shows Sheriff Applegate where he found Owen Shadle Friday.

Commercial club. The scene of the slaying with its accompanying large pool of blood on the sidewalk was fenced off with posts and boards Saturday, but groups of curious spectators gathered around it frequently.

Mrs. Shadle confirmed the fact that Mr. Shadle customarily carried home the receipts from the day's business at the store each night.

Sheriff Applegate said business associates of Shadle's told him Mr. Shadle usually left the silver at the store but always took the currency and checks home. They said it was a common sight in Pleasantville to see him through the windows of the store checking up each night.

Mrs. Shadle said she did not start to worry until after 10 p.m. "By midnight however, I was very worried and I paced the floor from one room to another. By 1 a.m. I was nearly frantic. Finally, Owen's brothers, Melvin and Elton, came and told me what happened."

BILLY BARE WAS MURDERED LAST WEEK THE TRAGEDY OCCURRED LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT

For the second time within two years a smoking killer has struck again in Pleasantville. This time the same as before, taking the life of one of our finest citizens. The tragedy was that of Owen Shadle and last Wednesday it was W. H. "Billy" Bare.

All branches of the state and county law enforcing officers are on the case, and every day we see many of them here, but as we go to press late Wednesday night, there has been no arrests. However the officers are doing everything possible to trap the murderer and they may break the case anytime.

County sheriff Applegate and his deputy Thompson aided by their lifts from other counties, and state agents have been working almost twenty-four hours a day on the case and are still working and everyone in Pleasantville and community are praying that they will bring the 'rat' who shot "Billy", to justice.

There could have been no greater tribute paid to a man than on Sunday at the funeral for "Billy". The Methodist church was packed with people standing in every available place. The basement was filled and many stood outside in the winter weather to pay tribute to their friend.

People were there from every walk of life but there was one topic of conversation - no one knew of anyone who didn't like "Billy" and couldn't imagine anyone low enough or crazy enough to kill him. Cars were parked for blocks in every direction from the church and hundreds never got into the church until after the services, when they were admitted for a last look at their friend.

The altar at the church was packed with flowers from his friend

and several cars were required to carry them.

"Billy" was killed last Wednesday evening about 9:30. The Thursday Des Moines Tribune had the following to say:



William H. (Billy) Bare

"William H. (Billy) Bare, 63, jovial little bus line agent and filling station operator here, probably gave his life successfully defending the \$174.85 receipts in his two cash drawers, officers believed Thursday.

"Bare, retired veteran rural mail carrier, was found slain in his filling station at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday - almost immediately after the night telephone operator had heard a groan over the open wire from the station. Bare had been slugged over the head with the base of the telephone and shot through the heart.

"Mrs. Bare, wife of the slain man, had left the filling station about 9:00 p.m. and gone to the Bare home, a cottage 100 yards northwest of the station along Highway 60. "Billy", she said, had been in a jovial mood.

"Shortly before 9:30 p.m. Lala Ramsey, Pleasantville night operator, was the first to fill the station on the signal dropped on her switchboard. Mrs. Ramsey could give no answer on the phone but

could hear a hubbub of noise, and then a groan.

"Mrs. J. H. Kurtz, wife of the grain elevator operator who lives across from the station, heard-shoot at exactly 9:30 p.m. she said. She did not leave her home to investigate.

"Shortly afterward, Pete Clark, of Kumsells, Ia. stopped at the station for gasoline. No one came out of the station to serve him. Clark stepped out and opened the station door. There in a corner of the station lay Bare.

"Clark then drove to the North End Service Station and he said the manager Raymond Oliver returned to the Bare station. They called Doctor Burbank, the sheriff, and the state authorities and in a short time all were present.

"The \$174.85 in cash and a number of gas rationing stamps were in the two unlocked cash drawers - one for gas receipts and another for bus receipts. Bare's cap lay atop his desk, which was stained by a fist-size splash of blood.

"Bloodstains also marked the trail from behind Bare's desk to the door, with some spots on the concrete just outside the door.

"The theory was advanced that the slayer slugged Bare, standing behind his desk and battled his assailant to the door, where a pistol was pressed against the breast. The bullet entered Bare's heart and he fell back inside the station. The slayer is believed to have lost his nerve after the shot and escaped without going back into the station for the cash.

"We repeat - Mr. Bare did not have an enemy in the world and we hope the killer will soon be convicted.

Clark's Grocery and Station in 1949



Mr. and Mrs. Leland Clark opened Clark's Grocery and Station in 1949 after experience ranging from a garage in Pleasantville to another grocery store in Idaho. In late 1937, the Clarks left business and the store was operated by the Dale Myers family. A month ago Leland went back to the same old stand on Highway 60 in the south end of town.

The service station, well-stocked with those good Skelly products, was leased this week to J.R. Cline. J.R. is a young man who will take care of your car efficiently and completely.

The store is open, for your convenience in the evenings until 9, and from 3 to

12 and 5 to 7 on Sundays. Clarks will deliver your purchases from their full line of groceries, vegetable, fruits and home-butchered beef.

The store, Clarks, lifelong residents of the area, are presently building an attractive new house in Pleasantville. We are glad to report that it looks like Mr. and Mrs. Leland Clark and Karen are with us to stay.

Family owned since 1975

From its beginning in a rented building with only 10 tables, the Checkerboard Restaurant has grown into a Pleasantville mainstay.

In July, 1975, the Checkerboard Pizza Shack opened across the street from its current location. Operation with a hand-full of tables and an arcade, the main focus was on pizza.

A year later, an opportunity to buy the old teen center building arose and the restaurant moved to its current location. In October, 1984, Pleasantville grew enough to merit its first stoplight, although it was at the Checkerboard. It hangs at the end of the boardwalk, instructing patrons to either wait to be seated or to go ahead and seat themselves.

With an expanded menu, including homemade pies, lunch specials, dinners and their famous onion rings, the business has tripled in size. Changing to reflect its menu variety, the owners, Karen and Ron Fee, decided to rename it the Checkerboard Restaurant a few years later.

For many years, the back half of the restaurant continued to operate as an arcade, but as business grew, the number of video games began to shrink, until there weren't any remaining. The business has evolved into many things, still keeping the restaurant as its core.

In the 1980s, there was the concession trailer, the bar and dance floor, the limousine service, then the tea room. There has also been an antique shop and gift shop in the basement. It's anyone's guess what might come next.

Karen's love of antiques is evident everywhere you look in the Checkerboard. There are things ranging from the antique, such as the Roy Rogers collectibles, to the unusual, such as the deer that you see coming and going. Each piece in the restaurant has been lovingly selected by Karen from antique shows all across the United States.

Whether it was finding a quiet place to nap on the shelves or ride in a shopping cart, the kids were at home there.

After Karen's dad suffered some health problems, Ronnie filled in as the butcher for the grocery store. He credits his knowledge of quality to this work experience; all of the steaks served at the restaurant are individually selected. It's part of the Checkerboard philosophy that you don't compete with family, so it wasn't until after Shorty's, a local steakhouse, owned by Karen's uncle, closed that steaks appeared on the menu.

Family is very important at the Checkerboard, this is a business that wouldn't have been successful without the help of family. Ron and Karen's parents, siblings, children and grandchildren have all helped by either working at the restaurant or with building upkeep and updating. You see the photos of loved ones who are gone, but not forgotten, hanging on the walls. And, you meet the close-knit group of employees who become more like family as the years go by.

At a young age, Ron and Karen's kids, Rhonda and Mike, started working at the restaurant. Since the restaurant was originally only open in the evenings, the kids kissed tables after the supper rush.

As they grew, so did their responsibilities. A teenager, Rhonda worked as a waitress, bussed tables and prepared food. Once he was old enough, Mike worked in the kitchen, although his favorite thing was sitting down, talking to the customers and sharing their food. Rhonda was always the more serious of the two, and she took to the business aspects of the restaurant. Because of all of her hard work, she is now the manager.

Rhonda met Marty Zimmerman, her husband, when he was a customer at the restaurant. When they decided to get married, Rhonda and Marty had their wedding in the most familiar of places, the Checkerboard. Since Saturday is one of their busiest days, the wedding took place on a Sunday. The fence along the boardwalk was lined with bows and they were married under a big arch in the side room.

Soon there were other additions to the family; when Amanda was little, she spent a great deal of time on the hip of a waitress, dressed up like a cowgirl. As soon as they could reach, Amanda and her little sister,

Alyssa, stood on chairs and bussed tables. If they were fortunate to get a tip, they would be so excited and would always ask grandma if it was for them to keep. The two girls grew up in the Checkerboard, surrounded by family and friends, much in the same way that Ron and Karen's kids had grown up in the grocery store. Alyssa has fond memories of making music with wooden spoons and turned-over pots and pans.

The girls, always aware of grandma's no-kids-in-the-kitchen policy, still managed to sneak back and see grandpa every now and then. Amanda graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelors degree in child and family services.



Front Row: Ryker, Kayden, Ethan, Essence, Adley, & Ella
Back Row: Amanda, Brynley, Tanner, Karen, Ron, Rhonda, Marty, Noah, Alexis, Kelly & Alyssa

She is currently working as a case manager for United Health Care and living in Pleasantville. Alyssa graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a bachelors degree in social work. She is currently working at North High School in Des Moines and lives in Ankeny. In addition to Ron & Karen's four grandkids, they also have seven great-grandkids. You can usually see Amanda helping out on the weekends and Alyssa helps out if needed.

Mike continued to work at the restaurant after high school until he moved on to make his own way, returning to help out when needed. Mike lived life in a big way, head-on. He loved talking with people and was always on to his next great idea. He lived a full and active life, but it was cut short. On January 15, 1995, he was tragically killed in a car accident; he was only 27.

His memory is still very present in the restaurant, with many pictures of him and his favorite things decorating the walls. There is the cowboy outfit he wore when he was little, his racing t-shirts from the Knoxville sprint cars, pictures from his fishing trips to Minnesota and Canada and, most importantly, photos of him with his family who still love and miss him.

In November of 2003, Marty and Rhonda traveled to Kazakhstan with a bachelors degree in child and family services.

year old boy, whom they named Noah Michael Zimmerman. Then in June of 2006, they traveled again to Kazakhstan to adopt another two year old boy, whom they named Ethan Joel Zimmerman. They have both been a huge blessing to the whole family.

The Checkerboard is more than a business to Ron and Karen, it is their life. Over the years, so many events have taken place here, so many people have come and gone, some only visiting once, others becoming lifelong friends.

No matter, whether it is Karen's colorful hello or Ronnie's sense of humor that you remember, your visit to the Checkerboard will not soon be forgotten.

In 2010, Ron and Karen's daughter, Rhonda, became the owner of Checkerboard. She's not ready for them to retire, and they don't want to, so you probably won't notice anything much different.



Michael Ray Fee
2/5/1967 - 1/15/1995

"The Huber" Steel Sraizer. REVOLVING PICKER \$1.00. HUBER MANUFACTURING CO., MAR., U.S.A.

HULL'S PATENT HUSING GLOVES. VEGAN GLOVES. HULL'S PATENT HUSING GLOVES.

GIANT RIDING SAW. EXPANDED. GIANT RIDING SAW.

Booze Squad Here

Sept. 17, 1931

Considerable excitement prevailed in Pleasantville Tuesday morning when the county deputy sheriff, accompanied by state police and the local constable, raided several places in this place in a search for finding the alleged liquor, home brew, white mule or whatever you call it in small and large quantities and all was confiscated.

Some of the alleged violators were taken to Knoxville and placed under bond to await the action of the grand jury in October and one man, we understand is still at large. We will have some more to tell you after the action of the grand jury.

We understand that some successful liquor raids were made in the neighborhood of Swan after the officers finished the entertainment at Pleasantville.

Pleasantville has needed a clean-up for some time and the work Tuesday was only a starter of what may happen.

CRIMINALS ASKED TO STAY OUT OF PLEASANTVILLE

August 11, 12, & 13, 1919 any robbing, casing, or pilfering artists are asked to hold off for three days - during the celebration.

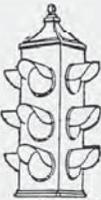
Extra deputies are sworn in, and all prospective crooks are to be on the lookout for the strong arm of the law. Any additional men who wish to be on the side of the law should check in with Barney Hillsabeck.

Attend the Pleasantville Centennial - Thursday, Friday & Saturday



From left: Rhonda, Mike, Karen and Ron at Clark's Grocery Store, May 1974

At a young age, Karen and Ron learned first-hand how to run a business. For many years, Karen's father and mother, Leland and Betty Clark, ran Clark's Grocery store on the southeast edge of Pleasantville. They began with a tiny gas station, selling just the staples, but it grew to become a full-service grocery store. Karen and Ronnie spent so much time there helping out that their kids, Rhonda and Mike, literally grew up in the grocery store.



STOP-LOOK-LISTEN

Pleasantville Gets FIRST STOP LIGHT on Saturday Nite, October 27, 1984

Pleasantville had its first Stop Light Installed on The Boardwalk at the CHECKERBOARD in Pleasantville, Iowa.

The light will be used to indicate whether or not you need to wait to be seated. So far no tickets have been issued for walking thru a red light. Come in and see the addition and enjoy the food.



For the Little Cowpokes

The "chicken fingers" are Ethan's favorite and "mini corn dogs" are Noah's favorite.

Kids Grilled Cheese and Fries	4.95
2 Chicken Fingers and Fries	5.95
6 Mini Corn Dogs and Fries	4.95
Grilled Hot Dog and Fries	4.95

Gratuity for Waiter or Waitress is Very Much Appreciated

Trail Starters

Rhonda recommends Checkerboard's Specialty "Homemade Onion Rings"

Homemade Onion Rings..... Half Order 7.25..... Full Order	9.50
Cajun Buffalo Wings	9.95
Chicken Fingers.....	8.95
Cheese Crisps	6.25
Mushrooms.....	6.25
Mini Corn Dogs	6.25
Breaded Pickle Spears.....	6.25

Side Saddles

Waffle Fries	2.50
Hash Browns	2.50
French Fries	2.50
Steak Fries	2.50
Baked Potato with butter and sour cream	2.50
Hidden Valley Ranch	medium 50¢ large 75¢

Desert Greens and Soups

Alyssa says "Try the taco salad, they're really good!"

Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad	9.25
Salad Bar	6.50
Dinner Salad	3.75
Chef Salad	9.25
Taco Salad in Shell or Bowl	9.25

Choice of Dressings: Italian, Low-Cal Italian, French, Honey Mustard, Thousand Island, Bleu Cheese or Hidden Valley Ranch

Soups

Ask about soup of the day (seasonal).

Homemade Chili (seasonal)	Cup 3.25	Bowl 4.75
Homemade Vegetable Beef Stew (seasonal)	Cup 3.25	Bowl 4.75

Corral Pies

Pizza orders after 4:00 p.m. only
Pizza Toppings Available: onion, green pepper, hamburger, Italian Sausage, pepperoni, green olive, black olive, mushroom, Canadian bacon, pineapple and sauerkraut.

	Small 10"	Large 13"
Cheese.....	8.50	12.75
One Topping.....	9.50	13.75
Two Toppings.....	10.50	14.75
Three Toppings.....	11.50	15.75
Bacon Cheeseburger.....	11.50	15.75
Taco	13.50	17.75
Combination.....	13.50	17.75

Italian sausage, pepperoni, Canadian bacon, mushroom, green pepper and onion.

Additional Toppings are an extra charge.

Rustler's Grub

Amanda's choice is our Patty Melt.

Reuben	6.65
Breaded Pork Fritter	6.65
Grilled Chicken Breast.....	6.50
Patty Melt.....	6.50
Fish Sandwich	4.75
Italian Pita	6.50
Soft Taco	6.50

Ropin' Hoagies

For a bigger appetite, Mike always chose the "Ham & Cheese."

Ham & Cheese	6.99
Hot Sausage.....	7.50
Philly Steak Customers Favorite	7.95
Chicken Finger Sandwich	9.50

Trail Patties

All of Checkerboard hamburgers are fully cooked and made with 100% angus beef.

Add tomato and lettuce for 50¢

Hamburger 1/3 pound	4.55
Cheeseburger 1/3 pound.....	4.95
Bacon Cheeseburger 1/3 pound	6.40
Pizza Burger 1/3 pound	5.25

Ronnie's Wild West Dinners

Checkerboard's Wild West dinners are specially chosen by Ron. The steaks are hand-cut fresh after ordering, and the chicken is broasted for that extra crispy taste. All dinners are served with a trip to our covered wagon, choice of potato: baked, french fries, steak fries, waffle fries or hash browns, dinner roll and butter. Be sure to tell your server how you want your steak prepared.

Now that you've ordered, the waitress will bring you a plate. Then mosey on over to the covered wagon and enjoy one trip to the salad bar! All steaks are handcut Black Angus.

Sirloin Tips (thoroughly cooked)	15.95
Sirloin	17.95
Rib Eye	19.95
Ham Steak Dinner	14.95
Fish Dinner.....	13.95
Grilled Chicken Breast Dinner (Two breast filets)	14.95
Broasted 4-Piece Chicken Dinner.....	15.95
Broasted 2-Piece Chicken Dinner (Two breasts).....	15.95
Chicken Fingers Dinner	14.95
Shrimp	14.95

Desserts

Pies (when available)	3.50
Chocolate Cake	3.50
Ice Cream (one scoop of vanilla).....	1.75
Sundaes (chocolate topping on vanilla ice cream).....	2.25
Chocolate Lava Cake (with vanilla ice cream).....	5.75
Cheesecake (when available)	5.50

Outlaw Chasers

Now Serving Wine - ask your server for the wine list.

Pop	2.29
Kids' Drinks.....	1.50
Wine	4.25
Wine Coolers.....	3.50
Bottle Beer	3.50
Coffee FREE REFILLS, Regular or Decaf	1.50
Milk White and Chocolate, no refills.....	2.09
Ice Tea FREE REFILLS.....	2.09
Hot Tea	1.50
Hot Cocoa	1.50

We Fry with 0 Transfat Oils

Thoroughly cooking foods of animal origin such as beef, eggs, lamb, fish, pork, poultry, or shellfish reduces the risk of food-borne illness. Individuals with certain health conditions may be at higher risk if these foods are consumed raw or undercooked.

To our guests with food sensitivities or allergies: We cannot ensure that menu items do not contain ingredients that might cause an allergic reaction. Please consider this when ordering.