

**NEW-HARMONY, (IND.) July 2023****UPDATE - NEW HARMONY INVESTMENT STRATEGY!***By: Dan Barton*  
**July 2023**

In the last issue of The New Harmony Gazette, the Certificate of Deposit investment strategy by the New Harmony Town Council was described in detail. At least in the detail that The Gazette had evidence of up to March 31, 2023. Now, The Gazette has been sent more information from Town Clerk/Treasurer Karla Atkins about how the Town Council has been investing Town Funds.

Remember, Council President Alvin Blaylock had said during a publicly attended APRIL 18th Town Council meeting that, though 100% of Town "Invested Funds" had already been deposited in one bank, United Fidelity Bank, that he was for, "...investing an additional \$200,000...at United Fidelity Bank." That actually turned into an additional \$400,000 CD investment with United Fidelity and was approved during the Non-Public Council meeting held on May 9th.

Newly appointed Town Councilman Rod Clark, it must be noted, had urged the Council to quickly purchase additional Certificate of Deposits from United Fidelity Bank, he said, "I think it's time to move on...and to move fairly quickly!"

The Council decided at the Special [Secret, No Press, No Public] Meeting on MAY 9th to more fully discuss the investment of Town Depreciation Funds.

At that MAY 9th Special Meeting the five Councilmembers; Alvin Blaylock,

Rod Clark, Virginia Alsop, Roger Wade and Tom Williams, all voted to invest, not just discuss, as of 5-11-23, \$400,000 at 4.38%, for 9 months, of Town Depreciation Account Funds, into the United Fidelity CDs. This, after a Motion by Councilwoman Virginia Alsop to invest in Nine Month United Fidelity Bank CDs, was seconded by Roger Wade and approved by all Five elected Councilmembers.

This happened after United Fidelity Bank, V.P. Jim Alsop assured them that the Town's funds over the FDIC insured \$250,000 limit would be safe in case of a banking failure. Banker Jim Alsop assured them that any funds over the \$250,000 limit would be insured by Indiana Board of Depositors.

Council President Blaylock had stated during the APRIL 18th Publicly Open Town Council meeting that he was all for investing in United Fidelity Bank C.D.s, since the Town, "... already has 10 CDs with United Fidelity." It turns out that these 10 CDs had been invested @ 4.45% for 15 months beginning on 4-14-23, several days before the "Open" April 18th Town Council meeting; the details of which Blaylock did not reveal at that time.

At the time of the last New Harmony Gazette publication, The Gazette did not have the data from Town of New Harmony on the 10 CDs verifying that the Town Council had already invested funds several days before the April "Open" meeting. But now for your review, these details have been made available by Town Clerk/Treasurer Karla Atkins. Here is what had been invested in CDs prior to the APRIL 18, Town Council Meeting.

As of the Issue Date: 4-14-23; All "15 Month" CDs, At a Rate of 4.45%, Maturing on 7-14-24. The following CDs were being held by United Fidelity Bank for The Town of New Harmony -

ST. DEPT. HWY. 69 -\$65,000; PARK BOARD - \$1,000; CEM-OPER - \$25,000; CEM-PERP - \$135,000; ELECTRIC - \$95,000; GAS - \$200,000; WATER - \$100,000; MP ENDOW - \$8,500; MP SH ENDOW - \$1,000; SEWAGE OP - \$150,000;  
FOR A TOTAL 10 CDs in the AMOUNT OF \$780,500.

So, by the APRIL 18th Council meeting, The Town Of New Harmony had already invested almost a million dollars in United Fidelity Bank C.D.s. Who knew?

At the MAY 9th Special Meeting (Private) - another batch of United Fidelity CDs were approved and Invested in as of 5-11-23 to Mature on 2-11-24 at a rate of 4.38% - all are 9 Month CDs- GAS DEPRECIATION - \$100,000; WATER DEPRECIATION - \$200,000 AND SEWAGE DEPRECIATION - \$100,000. FOR A TOTAL OF AN ADDITIONAL \$400,000

The Town of New Harmony now has invested a:  
GRAND TOTAL of \$1,180,500 in 13 United Fidelity Bank C.D.s.

These C.D. investments are above and beyond it's Checking Account balances, that was reported in the June 2023 New Harmony Gazette. THE TOTAL OF ALL TOWN OF NEW HARMONY, UNITED FIDELITY ACCOUNTS, ARE WELL OVER \$4.5 MILLION DOLLARS.

None of the C.D. investment data was released to the public by the Town Council of New Harmony at the April, Open Town Council meeting. And during the May 16, 2023 Town Hall Meeting, none of the details regarding the \$400,000 additional United Fidelity CDs was divulged.

One final note: A New Harmony acquaintance has advised the Gazette that he chose to invest his money in another local Posey County bank CD and received a rate of 5.03% at about the same time as our Town Council went for 4.38%. He said that he believes that it's best to invest at higher rates and borrow at lower rates. Odd fellow, isn't he ?

At this writing that other bank's CDs are selling for 6% and going up. So, what was the rush Councilmembers? Was it something besides doing the best for New Harmony? Or was there some other motivation involved?

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## **OPIUM WARS IN CHINA - 1839 TO 1860 - DRUG WARS AMERICA 1965 TO ????**

*By: Dan Barton*  
**JULY 2023**

Having some time on my hands and needing an article that might be relevant to today's drug crisis in America, I have decided to run this historical piece on the Chinese Opium wars that took place during the mid to latter half of the 19th century and on. Main Stream Media has more than once pointed the finger at modern-day China for its purported involvement in providing the Mexican Drug Cartels with drugs, mostly Meth, and now Fentanyl, to distribute to drug hungry Americans.

Here is China's story of their drug plight against the English in the 18th, 19th and 20th Century:

The First Opium War began in 1839 and was fought over trading rights,

financial reparations, and diplomatic status. In the eighteenth century, China enjoyed a favorable trade balance with Europe, selling porcelains, silk, and tea in exchange for silver. In the late 18th century, the British East India Company expanded cultivation of opium in its Indian Bengal territories, selling it to private traders who transported it to China and passed it on to Chinese smugglers. By 1787, the Company was sending China 4,000 chests of opium per year. As the British increased its exports of opium to China, the trade balance shifted to the advantage of the British.

In earlier times, opium was taken as a harmless medicine, but the new practice of smoking opium recreationally increased demand tremendously and led to addiction. The Chinese Jiaqing Emperor issued edicts making opium illegal in 1729, 1799, 1814, and 1831, but imports grew as smugglers and corrupt officials gorged on the profits. By 1833, the opium traffic soared to 30,000 chests. The British East India Company sent opium to their warehouses in the free-trade region of Canton, and sold it to Chinese smugglers.

In 1834, the British East India Company's monopoly on the China trade ceased, and the illegal opium trade burgeoned. Partly concerned with the moral decay of the people and partly with the outflow of silver, (shifting the balance of trade) the Emperor charged High Commissioner Lin Tse-hsu with ending the trade. In 1839 Lin published in Canton, but did not send, an open letter to Queen Victoria pleading for a halt of the opium contraband. Lin ordered the seizure of all opium in Canton, including that held by foreign governments and trading companies (called factories), and the companies prepared to hand over a token amount to placate him. Charles Elliot, Chief Superintendent of British Trade in China, arrived 3 days after the expiry of Lin's deadline, as Chinese soldiers enforced a shutdown and blockade of

the factories. The standoff ended after Elliot paid for all the opium on credit from the British Government (despite lacking official authority to make the purchase) and handed the 20,000 chests (1,300 metric tons) over to Lin, who had them destroyed at Humen.

Charles Elliot then wrote to London advising the use of military force against the Chinese. A small skirmish occurred between British and Chinese vessels in the Kowloon Estuary on September 4, 1839. After almost a year, the British government decided, in May 1840, to send troops to impose reparations for the financial losses of the British traders in Canton and to guarantee future security for trade. On June 21, 1840 a British naval force arrived off Macao and moved to bombard the port of Dinhai. In the ensuing conflict, the Royal Navy used its superior ships and guns to inflict a series of decisive defeats on the Chinese Empire.

The war was concluded by the Treaty of Nanking in 1842, the first of the Unequal Treaties between China and Western powers. The treaty forced China to cede in perpetuity the Hong Kong Island and surrounding smaller islands of the United Kingdom, and it established five treaty ports at Shanghai, Canton, Ningpo, Foochow, and Amoy. The treaty also imposed a twenty-one million dollar payment to Great Britain, with six million, paid immediately and the rest through specified installments thereafter. Another treaty the following year gave most favored nation status to the British Empire and added provisions for British extraterritoriality. France secured the same concessions in treaties of 1843 and 1844.

In 1853 northern China was convulsed by the Taiping Rebellion, which established its capital in Nanking. In spite of this, a new imperial Commissioner Ye Mingchen was appointed at Canton, determined to stamp out the opium trade, which was still technically illegal. In October 1856

he seized the Arrow, a ship claiming British registration, and threw its crew into chains. Sir John Bowring, Governor of British Hong Kong, called up Admiral Sir Michael Seymour's fleet which on October 23rd bombarded and captured the Pearl River forts on the approach to Canton, and proceeded to bombard Canton itself, but had insufficient forces to take and hold the city. On December 15th, during the riot in Canton, European commercial properties were set on fire and Bowring appealed for military intervention. The murder of a French missionary inspired support from France.

The European allies, including Britain, France, and the Russian Empire, now sought greater concessions from China, including legalization of the opium trade, expansion of the transport of coolies, opening all China to British merchants and opium traffickers, and exempting foreign imports from internal transit duties. The war resulted in the Treaty of Tientsin on June 26, 1858, which forced the Chinese to pay reparations for the expenses of the recent war, open a second group of ten ports to European commerce, legalize the opium trade, grant foreign traders and missionaries rights to travel within China. After a second phase of fighting which included the sack of the Old Summer Palace and the occupation of the Forbidden City palace complex in Beijing, the Treaty was confirmed by the Convention of Peking in 1860.

This defeat to Great Britain and France was a bitter pill for China to swallow. The Chinese government had to stand by as the British increased their opium sales to the people of China. The lessons learned in China about the Opium Wars is that China should never again let itself become weak, backward, and vulnerable to other countries. If you talk to many Chinese about the Opium War, a phrase you will hear is "luo you jiu yao ai da," which literally means that "If you are backward (stupid), you will take a beating."

China's 5,000 year old imperial dynastic system collapsed in consequence to losing the Opium Wars and the sale of opium to its people by the British government. America's system of government, a democratic republic, can also collapse as a result of the sale of addictive drugs to our citizens by the drug cartels that are controlled by outside international interests.

Opium imports in China rose to a peak of 87,000 chests in 1879. After that, imports of opium declined, then ended during the First World War. The British made lofty arguments about the principle of free trade and individual rights, while they were in fact pushing a product, opium, that was illegal in their own country. Meanwhile, a network of opium distribution had formed in China, with the connivance of corrupt officials. Levels of opium addiction grew so high that it began to affect the imperial troops and the official classes.

Though opium trade was almost completely stopped by 1917, because of the decline in British authority due to the first world-war, opium smoking and addiction remained a problem in China for decades to follow, because the weakened central government could not wipe out native cultivation of opium.

Opium smoking was finally eradicated by the Chinese communists, under Mao Tse-Tung, after they came to power in 1949. The eradication of both consumption and production of opium during the 1950's was done by using unrestrained repression and social reform. Ten million addicts were forced into compulsory treatment, dealers were executed, and opium-producing regions were planted with new crops. Those dealing Opium were summarily shot! Opium use dropped to near zero.

But, by 2015 the Chinese Supreme People's Court reported that there were approximately 140,000 drug related crimes in China.

Take a lesson Americans - "luo you jiu yao ai da" - (If you are backward (stupid), you will take a beating." Don't think it's not happening here before your very eyes!

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**I'VE GOT WRENS IN MY GOURD!  
- or - HOW DO THEY ALL FIT?**

*By: Dan Barton*  
July 2023

It wasn't my intention to raise a family of Wrens on my front porch!

The porch, my swing (the Porch-Perch); the peace and quiet of a warm Spring day sitting on that porch swing gliding to my heart's content, was a singular ambition of joy, for me.

My Wren adventure started one day as I was browsing through Paula Aldredge's shop, The Antique Emporium. I happened upon a hollowed-out, hand painted gourd. Clearly, it was made for little birds to nest in - presumably Wrens. But who would'a thought that they'd actually use it? Not, I!

Anyway, I hung it from the eave of the front porch roof of my house during the still, cold, late winter, early Spring season, around April. It was meant to replace the old basket of silk flowers that had faded away and had once swung from the coat-hanger wire on the porch roof for over five years.

Low and behold, come about May, and I noticed from my living-room window that a Wren was trying to get an oversized piece of foliage through the tiny round entrance on the front of the gourd. Not having initial success, I figured that that was the end of that! But the little Wrens did not give up. Feisty little critters that they are! They just kept going for slightly smaller twigs and old leaves until they were satisfied with the interior arrangements of their new apartment in the sky.



They figured it was cheep (Ha, Ha) and comfy; waterproof, windproof and safe from predators like cats, snakes and other birds. So they settled in.

All went well for several weeks. I didn't hear a peep (Ha, Ha) out of 'em for some time. Didn't even see 'em! I went on enjoying my front porch and my Porch-Perch. How blissful it was. I say, "It was!" The past tense! For long about June, I noticed the pair of Wrens, at least one of them, was quite busy flying back and forth out of the tiny circle entrance to their warm abode. In and out, back and forth, in and out, back and forth, the Wren parent would fly. Closer inspection revealed that there appeared to be something in the flying Wren's mouth, as it would return from an outward bound flight. A bug!

It dawned on me about that time that the flying Wren was probably Mr. Wren, and that Mrs. Wren was perhaps sitting on a family of eggs, soon to be the brood. Mr. Wren didn't pay much attention to me sitting on my Porch-Perch at first, then suddenly his attitude changed and he began to chortle a little while sitting on my front yard fence looking at me; while on the way back with a bug in his mouth. Yes, he could chortle even with his mouth full. And, yes, I could understand what he was saying, "Off the Perch whatever or whoever you are, you're disrupting my routine and upsetting the Misses, it's almost fledgling time, they're hatched!"

THE  
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Well, I never! Not that I was frightened of a tiny little ol' bird, you understand, but just to be accommodating I moved my porch activities to the metal chair at the far end of the porch. That worked, for awhile; about a week. Then one morning I took my seat, cup of java in hand, and prepared to enjoy the morning. Nothing doing! Now both Wren parents were on the wing, and giving me pure H\*\*L! Nothing, it appeared, would make them happy until I was in full retreat and hiding in my living room, which was accomplished forthwith.

Now, as of the morning of this writing, I'm content to watch the goings on at the Wren house from the relative safety of my living room, either looking out the front door, (closed), or out the front picture window. Three little heads can be seen poking out of the very small entrance hole, all of them cheeping away, until a parent sticks and nice plump bug into their mouth, which always seems to be open.

My escape each morning from my house has to be planned very carefully now, and with as little fanfare as possible, so as not to raise the ire of these tiny little flying chortlers. Carefully selecting the correct door-key, I quietly make my exit, holding the door in such a position that it does not squeak, closing it without an audible sound (at least to the human ear) and rapidly I bounce down the front steps to run through the gate. It seems to work thus far! And I do the reverse when I come home in the evening. How considerate I am!

Well bird watchers and lovers, I've done my bit. In a very short time I'll be back happily swinging on my own Perch, See you then!

P.S. - June 23rd - The Brood has flown the coop !

By the way! I wonder if these little flyers have more than one brood in a year? Oh well! I can handle it.

**NEW HARMONY GAZETTE**

**July RECIPE**

*By: Denise Rapp*

**Italian Lemon Sorbet**

**Serves 6-8**

We're smack dab in the middle of Summer and nothing is more refreshing, on a hot day, than a cold bowl of ice cream or a glass of fresh lemonade.

So how about we mix the two together and concoct a lemon sorbet?

**Ingredients:**

4 large lemons  
(Save the zest lemons)  
2 can cream of coconut  
8 tbs. maple syrup  
1/2 c lemon juice

**Directions:**

\*Day before  
Zest the lemons, set aside in covered bowl until next day  
Cut off the white rind from lemons, discard  
Cut lemons in 1/2, remove large seeds & freeze the lemons  
Place cream of coconut in ice cube trays & freeze  
\*next day  
Place all ingredients into a blender  
You can serve it immediately or toss it back in the freezer to firm it up a little more.  
Enjoy!

