

## Springtime 2015

BY BRUCE MENZIES

I've got good news and I've got bad news. Bad news: as I write this column we're still slogging our way through the Siberian Express. Good news: spring begins March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:46 p.m., that's less than a month away. Hello! (I'm still wondering what happened to all that global warming!) Take courage faint heart, spring will arrive on time.

On Menzies Mountain another sign of the slowly changing season is the chatter of squirrels in the oak tops. They are getting ready to build nests for their families and are making an awful fuss about it. Speaking of being outside, I see the many birds that stay around here most of the winter. This is a good time to study them, for being a little short on food they come close to my cottage if I put out something for them to eat. With only a few birds about, I'm learning to recognize them.

In the snowy woods behind my cottage, I recently picked up the trail of a rabbit going in my general direction. At first the tracks went along in a straight line, but suddenly I saw it had made a wild jump to one side and then started running in long leaps, zigzagging as it went. The tracks ended at a spot where the snow had been tossed about for several feet. At one place I made out the dim outlines of large wing tips. It's easy to read that story. An owl, probably a big one, had been hunting. *It's all part of a plan of life.*



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Compiling the story about Stan Musial (page 3) helped me recollect a memory from my childhood of a Cardinal's game when they played the Milwaukee Braves. During batting practice before the game Milwaukee first-baseman, Joe Adcock, cracked his bat, walked right over to me on the front row, and handed it to me. I was in shock. That's the good news. Returning home to Springfield after the game I put wood screws in the bat and wrapped it with electrical tape and went outside to hit rocks with it. Here's the bad news: I haven't seen the bat in sixty years! It was probably eaten by termites.

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My *Senior Moments* book review this issue is a fictional account of one of the world's most famous artists—Paul Cézanne. Author Barbara Corrado Pope has taken liberal literary license in creating a really interesting, easy to read book. At 320 pages it's not a difficult read and will keep you absorbed once it has bitten you. At press time I found used copies on Amazon for 1¢ (one cent) plus shipping!



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Spring is about new life and new life is about hope. Hope is eternally linked to the Resurrection. Jesus said, "*Because I live, ye shall live also*" (John 14:19). You can believe Jesus' words. We are heading to a glorious day and it won't be long. That's the really good news.

Until we meet again on this page in the summer winds, have a wonderful spring. —**Bruce Menzies**