

# The Detroit News

## Rubin: With Ripley's, you can believe it

### *8 Michiganians make Ripley book; shrunken heads, anyone?*

Margaret Dunning of Plymouth learned to drive on the family farm when she was 8 years old.

Now she's closing on 104½ — and she just rolled into Ripley's Believe It or Not.

That gave me an excuse to dial her up, which is always a treat. It also put me back in touch with the world's leading expert on shrunken heads, two-headed calves and portraits of presidents painted on Spanish black beans — a different sort of delight, but a treat all its own.



Eight other Michigan-based vignettes are among the thousand or so entries in the latest annual coffee-table book from the Ripley empire, subtly titled "Reality Shock!" (Ripley Publishing, \$28.95).

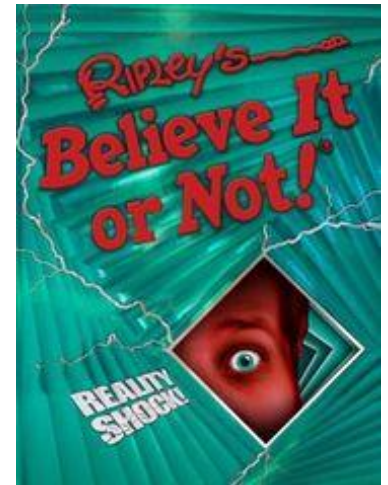
Mike Bowen of Flushing gets a shout-out for running 58,282 miles from 1982 to 2013, one for each American who never returned from the Vietnam War.

Detroit's Herbert Jenkins rates a mention because he was the only member of his union, the Assistant Supervisors of Street Maintenance and Construction Association.

Charles Zigler of Jackson would be the most surprised of all of them to learn he was included, because all he did was die. Eighteen months later, notes Ripley's, he was still sitting in his favorite chair watching television, because "his housemate, Linda Chase, kept his mummified body, washing it and dressing it every day, and talked to it while watching NASCAR races."

Dunning, blessedly, is far more lively.

She caught the attention of Ripley's editors after The Detroit News, saluting her many contributions to Plymouth, named her a 2013 Michiganiaan of the Year. Ripley's waved a checkered flag at her for nearly a century of driving, much of it in her beloved 1930 Packard 740 Custom Eight.



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"Literally every single employee," Meyer says — meaning roughly 1,000 of them — "has it as at least a footnote in their job description: 'Thou shalt look for interesting stories.'"

In Plymouth, Dunning is tickled to have been found, and to still be in the driver's seat.

"Who ever expected me to be this old?" she asks.

But she is, believe it or not.