

100 Year Old Wizard Of Oz Lives On *by Dee Dunheim*

Celebrate! The "Wizard of Oz" was penned by L. Frank Baum one hundred years ago this year.

How did the name Oz come to be? Baum's filing cabinet was divided into two sections: The first went from A to N, the other from O through Z. He simply took O and Z and made it OZ.

The book was written in Chicago, and the author came up with the Yellow Brick Road, because of the winding cobblestone roads in Holland, Michigan where he spent vacations with his family. This bit of Oz trivia, and much more, comes straight from

Roger S. Baum, the eldest living great-grandson of the author of the most widely read and beloved children's book of all time.

L. Frank Baum's wife, Maud, prodded her husband to write what he



had for years been dreaming up and reciting to his children and neighborhood kids. He reluctantly consented. He took pen in hand and shared his imagination with the entire world. The love of Oz

continues to grow - even after one hundred years. Children of the world lost a dear friend when he passed on at the age of 62. His wife Maud survived him by 30 years and lived to be 92.

Now, just as L. Frank Baum's wife prompted her husband 100 years ago, Roger S. Baum's wife, Charlene, has also gently motivated her husband to continue down the Yellow Brick Road to write his own series of Oz books. Roger Baum will be on hand at the Wizard of Oz Festival to chat, sell and autograph his books.

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Senior Lifestyle Expo

September 6 & 7

Wizard Of Oz

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Jean Nelson, owner of the Yellow Brick Road & and OZ Fantasy Museum, originated and founded the Wizard of Oz Festival 19 years ago in Chesterton Indiana. This year it takes place from September 15-17. Over that weekend, OZ fans and memorabilia collectors from across the country and around the world, will participate in what has come to be the largest and oldest Wizard of Oz Festival. For schedules, information, activities and maps, call the Duneland Chamber of Commerce at (219) 926-5513 or log onto <http://wpl.lib.in.us/chamber/Oz/oz.htm>.