

# HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Volume 1, Issue 7

May, 2007

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## LETTER FROM A BOARD MEMBER

Dear Historical Society Patrons,

I am Majerle Nielson; I am in the seventh grade at Grayling Middle School. I play lots of sports and participate in extracurricular activities. I am involved in a lot of volunteer work also.

I do very well in school. I have made the honor roll every semester; I have also excelled in many classes.

You are probably wondering why I joined the Historical Society. I joined because I enjoyed going to the Museum every Wednesday with my Uncle Lawrence (Billy). I also joined because I thought I could influence other kids

my age to be more involved with the history of our city.

Well, the day my Uncle Lawrence asked me if I would ever join the board, I said yes. I feel that I would give the board the perspective of a younger person. I am really thankful that I joined.

It is so much fun to learn about the history and heritage of the town that I was born and raised in.

I love going to the meetings and hearing all the points of view on issues and ideas. It influences me to speak up and throw in some of my ideas.

So as you can see, I love vol-

unteering at the Historical Museum and being a part of the board because I love learning about the history of Grayling.

Sincerely,

Majerle Nielson



## A REMINDER

Just a reminder that opening day for the Museum is May 23rd. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. Stop by for a friendly chat, take a tour of the exhibits and stroll through the Mu-

seum Complex. We'd love to see you.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call 348-4461. There are many things we can use help with, including yard work, painting, greeting visitors, cata-

logging, and various other projects.

Also, if anyone has a riding lawn mower and would like to help mow the courtyard, it would be greatly appreciated.

## THE DEPOT



The Michigan Central Railroad Depot is now 125 years old! Truly a historic site.

The Depot was built in 1882 when the MCRR leased the rail stop from the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad Company. Originally, the board and batten structure was 30 feet by 131 feet. However, the northern 60 feet of the Depot was razed in 1939. That part of the building held a restaurant on the

main floor and hotel rooms upstairs.

During the latter years of the 19th century, the only telegraph office in the area was in the Depot. Not only did the public get their messages sent in this manner but the operator received the train orders from Bay City for the railroad crew in Grayling—where the crew was to stop next on their trek northward to Mackinaw.

The operator would not allow the train to leave until he placed the orders into the hands of the conductor, who then gave them to the engineer.

This is just a sampling of the Depot's history but, as you can see, is the reason the Historical Society feels the import of repairing and restoring the building for preservation.

## HATS OFF TO. . .BOB BOVEE!

*The Historical Society is very thankful for Bob's time and service at the museum in years past.*

Robert Frederick Bovee was born on July 12, 1926 in Novi, Michigan. His heritage is French from his mother and Bob's paternal ancestors date back to 1600s England.

Bob enlisted in the Navy and served from 1944 to 1946. In 1945 he asked for Fay's hand in marriage. She said yes and they produced two daughters.

Bob moved to Grayling in 1949 and began teaching math in the high school; he later taught driver's ed, was a counselor and directed school plays. Bob retired from teaching in 1978 when he then became a juvenile officer for Crawford County until 1989.

Bob was elected a Board of Trustee member of Kirtland Community College when it was formed

in 1966. He is retiring this July after 39 years of service. He has been a Kiwanis Club member since 1951 and served as Secretary for 25 years. Bob was also a Grayling City Council member in 1969.

I looked in the treasure box and found a jewel—Bob. Hats off to you Bob!!!

## A CHALLENGE



Gloria Stephan, wife of the late Pete Stephan, has put forth a challenge of \$100 for the museum.

As Gloria states, "I was reading the newsletter and saw that Lloyd Crawford suggested send-

ing the \$20 to the museum that people would have had to pay had the millage passed. I thought, why not make it \$100? So I am challenging all to give."

Gloria also says, "The money

should be used for whatever helps out the museum, for whatever needs to be done."

Thank you Gloria!

## HISTORY'S NUGGETS

Alarmed at the rapidly depleting number of trout in the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers, a group of men from Detroit, Saginaw and Grayling formed the Grayling Fish Hatchery Club, privately owned, on September 17, 1914.

At this time, the Michigan grayling was almost depleted (they were extinct in Michigan streams by 1935) and brook trout were being introduced on a small scale. The Club paid for the first shipment of two million brook trout eggs.

The Club continued until 1926 when the Hatchery was sold to the State of Michigan for

\$10,000. The Hatchery building was torn down in 1936 and a larger one was built, double the capacity. The pond system was also increased by two thirds. Brown and rainbow trout were introduced.

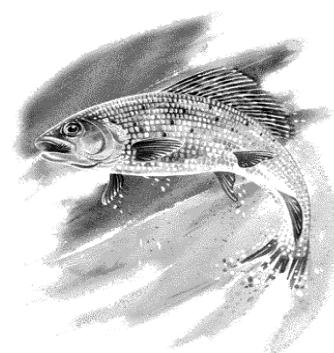
In 1964, the State took the Grayling Hatchery out of production. The Hatchery reopened in 1983 as a tourist attraction to view adult population of trout. In 1995, the State of Michigan sold the property to Crawford County and the Hatchery is managed by the Grayling Recreation Authority.

Today, there are 11 ponds with

45,000 trout (brook, brown and rainbow), ranging from fingerlings to trophy size. The Hatchery opens each May when visitors can feed the fish or catch them for a fee. Approximately 35,000 people visit the Hatchery yearly.

Currently, the Hatchery is undergoing a restoration project to fulfill the promise that the founders had envisioned.

The original weathervane of the Hatchery is on loan to the Historical Museum. Photos of the original building are also on display.



## THE FIRE HALL

The Historical Society would like to express its appreciation Fire Chief Russ Strohpaal, Travis Roberts, Todd Hatfield, Kevin Fleming, Steve Eddy and the Grayling Fire Department for their work on the Fire Hall in the Museum Complex.

They cleaned and also painted the outside of the building. It looks great! The Department paid for the materials from their personal funds. The men plan to apply another coat of paint this fall and reshingle the roof within two years.

Two impressive fire trucks are housed in the Hall, a 1922 Ford Model T complete with axe and lanterns and a 1937 Chevy Champion. What history they hold! Fire gear and other artifacts are displayed as well.

*The expertise and care of the Grayling Fire Department is realized in the community.*

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### Open

Monday 8 to 8  
Tues-Fri 8 to 5:30  
Saturday 9 to 2



**Crawford County  
Historical Society**

97 Michigan Avenue  
P.O. Box 218  
Grayling, MI 49738

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Help your museum continue to grow. We need your help today and any donation will be accepted. Memberships are good for one year, May through April. Any dues paid now will be good for the museum year of 2007. We look forward to adding new members.

**DUES:**

\$5.00 Senior Citizen  
\$10.00 Single  
\$25.00 Family  
\$50.00 Supporting Member  
\$100.00 Memorial Plaque (one

or two names inscribed)

Please make checks payable to:

CC Historical Society  
P.O. Box 218  
Grayling, MI 49738

Our telephone number is:

(989) 348-4461

Our website is:

[grayling-area.com/museum](http://grayling-area.com/museum)

Our e-mail address is:

[cchm@voyager.net](mailto:cchm@voyager.net)

The Historical Society deeply

appreciates Scheer Motors for sponsoring this issue of the newsletter.

Please consider helping us de-



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