

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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March, 2007

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LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear Society Patrons,

Let me introduce myself to you. My name is Barbara Clark Greene and I serve as Secretary for the board of the Crawford County Historical Society. I take minutes of all meetings, help update displays and am also in charge of the museum gift shop.

I have been part of Crawford County since 1944 when my Dad brought me here for the first time to help build our "cabin" in the woods where we could spend memorable family time. The Grayling area soon became a second home to me. We enjoyed visiting Hartwick Pines, the old museum and Camp Grayling, learning the history that is such a part of this area. My Dad had such

a sense of belonging to the community that he purchased his license plate in Grayling in order to have a "Grayling number"!

When my first husband and I had an opportunity to purchase property here in 1976, we jumped at the chance to provide our boys with their own vacation experience "up north". We made a real effort to make them understand the history of this other community in their lives. To this day, my family feels really connected to Grayling and appreciates its history.

I moved to Grayling full time in 1989 and married a Grayling native, Bill Greene. Bill's mother was born in Denmark and came here in 1899 when she was just 5

years old. She loved to reminisce and delighted to tell me stories of her early years—it made me even more connected to this wonderful community!

For us to preserve our history for future generations, we need to all work together to get a new roof on the depot, get it repainted and continue our efforts to keep our heritage alive. If you haven't been to the museum in a while, visit us when we open or better yet, volunteer! We'd love to have you on our team.

Our future depends on us preserving the past and appreciating the hard work that our forefathers did to make Crawford County a place of which we can all be proud.

CEMETERY WALK

An interesting way to connect a town's history with its citizenry is by a historical cemetery walk. Such a walk through Elmwood Cemetery in Grayling is now in the planning stage for September. You can stroll through the cemetery at your leisure

which will be open from 4 to 8 p.m. Volunteers will be present to answer any questions you may have.

Visit the gravesites of our veterans, dating back to the Civil War. We would like to have volunteers dressed in military uniform standing at

the various gravesites who will tell the stories of the veterans.

Stories of the county's historical figures will also be told. More about the walk in upcoming newsletters.

TIMBERLINER



The October train event (6th and 7th) is going to be bigger and better than ever! The #1225 Steam Engine will pull approximately 21 train cars from Kawkawlin to Grayling. One of the cars will be the Algonquin, a restored 1954 private luxury railcar.

The Color Tour will take place October 6th which is a two-hour round trip train ride from Grayling north where one can enjoy the brilliant colors of

the fall foliage and days gone by.

The Grayling High School Band will play to meet the train and there will be an information booth. There will also be free shuttle buses to take people from the train to various businesses in Grayling. The Wellington tractor shuttle will take people downtown for a historical narrative of the area. Visitors can also get on and off the shuttle to eat or shop.

Tickets for the Color Tour can be purchased at the Museum, Au Sable Gifts and the Grayling Chamber of Commerce. Those wishing to pay by credit card can purchase their tickets at the Chamber. We will let you know when they become available. If, for some reason, you cannot take the trip, we will offer to resell your tickets. However, there will be no refunds.

By the way, Irv McIsaac was a brakeman on the Timberliner all the years it ran.

HATS OFF TO. . . IRV McISAAC!

Irving Daniel McIsaac was born on May 4, 1920 in Mackinaw City. He is of Scotch and Irish descent. In 1940, Irv was a yard clerk in Kalamazoo for the railroad for two years.

When Irv was discharged from the Army in 1946, he made his residence in Bay City and worked as a brakeman.

In 1950, Irv moved to Grayling and was a conductor on the freight trains. He ran the north run—Grayling to Mackinaw, working 7 days a week. He lived in the Depot from 1950 to 1952, paying 50 cents per night, until he married Eleanor Ranville. The couple were married for 52 years. Irv retired from the railroad in 1980.

Irv and Jim Bendick formed the Booster's Club in 1971. Irv is still involved and, to date, the Club has raised over \$2 million for the youngsters of Crawford County.

Irv is another jewel I have found in the treasure box.

So, hats off to you Irv!!!

For Irv's service to the community, a Little League baseball field, which is located at the fairgrounds, has been named for him.

VIEW THE NEWSLETTER WITH ONE CLICK OF THE MOUSE



If you desire to receive the newsletter electronically each month rather than through the mail, you can e-mail me at cchm@voyager.net.

Once the current issue has been posted on our website, I will send you an e-mail notification which will include a clickable hyperlink. With one

simple click, the newsletter will immediately be opened up from the website for you to view and print. Receiving the newsletter in this way would greatly defray publishing costs.

Past issues of the newsletter are also on the website which is www.grayling-area.com/museum. Take a few moments

after reading the newsletter and browse through our website. Ken Wright has recently placed many historic photos on the main page and we are continually updating our site.

Hope to hear from you soon!

HISTORY'S NUGGETS

Because space was limited at Collen's Landing, a portion of land at Camp Grayling was set aside for the winter sports park. The park was moved to its present site in 1931.

Three ice slides, a conveyor and a shelter house, called a dog house, were constructed by the Conservation Department. An ice skating rink was also built. Toboggans were stored in the Gun Club building (Esbern Hanson was a director). Un-

fortunately, the ice slides were washed away by a thaw.

In 1933, three slides were built; a charge of 5 cents per ride was introduced. 1934 brought about the 66 foot ski jump. A hockey rink was also set up.

1936 saw the construction of a large community house and the enlargement of the skating rink, winding in and out among islands of pine trees.

In 1937, three more ice slides

were built, making a total of six. Colored lights on arches over the slides enhanced the thrills.

The Fred Bear Museum opened at the park in 1967. It held displays of his archery equipment and trophies. Films of Bear's shoots were shown. International archery competitions were held at the park. Today, the Historical Museum at the train depot has a great display of Fred Bear memorabilia.



TRAIN EXCURSION

An August 11th (Saturday) train trip to West Branch for the Victorian Arts Festival is being planned. The excursion will originate in Grayling. The train, pulled by a diesel locomotive, will depart from Grayling at 9:00 a.m. and arrive in West Branch at 10:40 a.m.

There will also be a side trip

from West Branch to Standish. Those desiring to take this trip will board the train in West Branch at 11:15 a.m. and arrive in Standish at 12:15 p.m. Passengers can attend a classic car show and browse around town.

The train will depart from Standish at 2:45 p.m. and arrive in West Branch at 3:45

p.m. However, the train will not leave West Branch until 4:30. It will arrive back in Grayling at 6:15 p.m.

Tickets will be purchased at the Historical Museum and the Grayling Chamber of Commerce. This promises to be a fun-filled trip for all.

*Enjoy a lovely
summer day on a
train, stopping to
peruse Victorian art.*

SPONSOR

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Open

Monday–Saturday

10 to 5 daily



**Crawford County
Historical Society**

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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

Our e-mail address is:

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The Historical Society offers its sincerest thanks to The Ice-house Quilt Shop for sponsoring this issue of the newsletter.

