

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Vol. 2, Issue 7

JULY 2008

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2nd ANNUAL CEMETERY WALK

The Crawford County Historical Society will hold their 2nd Annual Cemetery Walk at Elmwood Cemetery in Grayling on Saturday, September 6, 2008 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tickets are now available at the museum at a cost of \$5.00 each and all proceeds will benefit the museum!

We will be visiting the gravesites of Margarethe Michelson (the wife of Nels Michelson who was a great benefactor for many churches in Grayling)...but Nels isn't buried in Grayling!

We will also visit grave sites of the Louise and Phillip Moshier, Helene and

Matin Christensen, Michael Hartwick and Anna and Nickolis Schotz were all early pioneers and businessmen and contributed to the early success of Grayling.

Costumed interpreters will be at each gravesite to provide some historical perspective of each family. We will also be highlighting several Civil War final resting places with information about the men who served.

Circle the date on your calendar – purchase your ticket during regular museum hours and enjoy learning about our early history!

CABOOSE IMPROVEMENTS ! ! ! !

Recently, our caboose (Detroit & Mackinac #207) has undergone some improvements. The inside has been scraped and repainted, wall and ceiling boards that have been damaged over the years have been replaced, and the floor boards have been repaired and repainted.

Efforts are underway to begin a pro-

gram to raise funds for restoration on the outside of this historic caboose.

These improvements include painting, repairing rust holes on the body, and making repairs on the chassis.

Many thanks to board members Bob Dixon and Travis Roberts who are heading up this project.

More information regarding this project in next months newsletter!

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WHAT IS A CABOOSE?

Grayling Harvest Festival With Trains Show & Swap coming in October. More on upcoming events in future newsletters!

Cabooses were used to house the conductor and rear-end brakeman of the traditional five-man freight train crew.

Here, the conductor, who was in charge of the train, did his paperwork. From the cupola he observed his train for possible safety problems.

Many cabooses were rolling apartments, with kitchens and beds. A particular caboose was assigned to a particular conductor; this gave rise to a great sense of ownership and conductors often customized "their" cabooses to make them a home away from home.

In 1863, T.P. Watson, a conductor, invented the

hole in the roof to better see his train. This hole was refined and eventually became the cupola.

Cabooses have been known by many names over the years: Cabin, Crummy, Hack, Van, and 80 other colorful names.

LOG SLED UPDATE

BOARD MEETING DATES

*Aug 12, 2008
Sept. 2, 2008
Oct. 7, 2008
Nov. 4, 2008*

*Meetings held at
Grayling City Hall at
7pm.*

The log sled restoration project is going well!! Oak logs donated by Joe Duran and Steve Eddy have been debarked, cut and are currently being dried. According to Mr. Duran, the cur-

rent moisture content of the logs are around 38%.

Logs need to be around 19% or below for this type of wood before it is shaped. Once they are dry enough, the sled will start taking

shape. The board owes many thanks to Joe Duran, Steve Eddy and the Grayling Firefighters Association for their efforts in restoring this local piece of history.

JULY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order at 7pm

Roll Call - Nielsen, Akers, Roberts, Doyle, Dixon, Greene, Van Buren, Young, Stone, Cosgray - present, Coy -absent, 1 vacancy.

New Business - 2 applications reviewed for open spot on board. Table until Aug meeting. MMTT asked to hang banner at museum during Milltown.

Board approved.

Old Business - July 4 fundraiser discussed. Model train swap meet to be held at middle school Oct 4. Hanson House Tea on hold. Cemetery Walk discussed. Maintenance items discussed.

Treasure Report- discussion about placing books on computer.

Board Members Report - Roof project discussed. Newsletter discussed. Inventory of store taken. Discussion of adding store items to news letter and on the website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

RAILROAD COMES TO GRAYLING

In 1872, the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad Company made a grade and laid track in Grayling. The company also built a freight house. At that time, the railroad companies named the areas and they named this area Crawford Station. However, in 1874 Rube Babbitt Sr. had the Grayling fish identified as such and the townspeople changed the name to Grayling.

In 1882, the JL&S leased the track and property to

Michigan Central Railroad. That same year, Michigan Central built the depot that now stands and they also built a new freight house. A roundhouse was also built. There were 8 tracks between the depot and the roundhouse. In its heyday, the depot was truly a terminal. There were 7 northbound passenger trains and 5 southbound trains as well as freight trains, all of which went through Grayling daily.

Unfortunately, the roundhouse burned to the ground in July, 1939 at a loss of \$150,000 and was never rebuilt. The cause of the fire was not clear. The roundhouse was made of pine and the fire started in the south end which had not been used for several years. There were two engines in the roundhouse at the time of the fire.

*Watch for more tidbits on local railroad history in future newsletters.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Would you like to spend a leisurely morning or afternoon chatting with interesting people? Would you like to take a stroll through or sit in a garden, soaking up the sunshine and enjoying the pleasant surroundings? Do you enjoy caring for flowers? Is painting your hobby? Is organizing your forte? Then volunteering at the museum is just what


the doctor ordered!!

The museum is also a great place to pursue the history of Crawford County, learning about the kind of life people lived and what they accomplished.

You have the choice of day (Wednesday through Saturday) and the choice of shift (10:00 to 1:00 or 1:00 to 4:00). Please call (989) 348-

4461 and leave your contact information. Your help is greatly appreciated.

We can work around your schedule as needed.



*Support your local
museum by
volunteering.*

Crawford County Historical Society

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

Phone: (989) 348-4461

We're on the web!
Grayling-area.com/museum

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



Volunteers still needed!

Help your museum continue to grow. We need your help today and any donation will be accepted. Memberships are good for one year. 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

Call us at (989)348-4461

Visit our website!
Grayling-area.com/museum

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS...

cchmgrayling@yahoo.com

Please consider helping us defray the cost of the newsletter by receiving it via email. Simply drop us a line at the address to the left. Thank you.

Your questions, comments and ideas are welcome.

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