

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Vol. 2, Issue 5

May, 2008

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LETTER FROM THE CURATOR

Dear Historical Society Patrons,

Winter is past and the 2008 season for the Museum is upon us. We are looking forward to meeting and chatting with many of you this year.

Our doors open to the public May 28th. Times of operation will be Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We also accommodate group tours on days we are usually closed. Touring the Museum complex is by donation.

We are now in the process of planning fundraisers for the

Museum. Hopefully, we will host a High Tea, complete with a wonderful harpist, just as women like Margrethe Hanson and Marie Olson did during the turn of the nineteenth century. Other events include the Historic Home Tour, the Cemetery Walk and a Model Train Display. All of these projects are in the initial planning stage and our desire is to see them come to fruition in the next several months. If you have any ideas or suggestions for a fundraiser, or would like to help with these, please give us a call at 989-348-4461.

Also, would you consider

becoming a member of the Historical Society? The cost is reasonable and it would be a great help with payments for the upkeep, monthly expenses and operations of the Museum. Membership information is at the bottom of page 4 of this newsletter. Thank you very much.

See you this summer!

Sincerely,

Priscilla Geyer



TIDBITS

"It is estimated that the Manistee mills will cut 205,000,000 feet of lumber before the season closes. Already, 185,000,000 feet have been cut."

Crawford Avalanche
November 26, 1879

"The sawmill of J.C. Goodale is in full blast and he is cutting out lumber at the rate of 30,000 feet per day."

Crawford Avalanche July 9, 1879

"The annual distribution of the brook trout fry is now at hand and some 2,500,000 fry will be distributed between Detroit and Mackinaw on the M.C.R.R. The fry at the Hatchery are the finest that can be had and there are now 1,000,000 feeding in the hatchery and races outside."

Crawford Avalanche
March 29, 1917

"David Shoppennagons has

the frame to his new wigwam up and expects to sit in council in about two moons."

Crawford Avalanche
November 3, 1881

"A Grayling woman has sued a saloonist for \$3,000 because her husband had his nose bit off during a fight over a poker game on a recent Sunday evening."

Crawford Avalanche
January 7, 1897

LOVE LETTERS

August 11, 1925 (In Camp at Roscommon)

"Dearest Girl, I'm sorry to hear that you burned your fingers. If I was there, I sure would kiss them until they were better. Marjorie, today a large horse kicked me an awful wallop on the leg. Then the devil turned around and stepped on me. I got off duty for the rest of the day. Wasn't that grand?"

For the last 3 days we have been getting up at 3:30 a.m. We have got to hike 25 miles tomorrow. That will be a good hike. When our march is over, we will have hiked 72 miles.

Marjorie, there's nobody in the whole wide world but me that knows how much I love you. Lots of love from your N.G. beau, Corp. Carl. P.S. I would send you some kisses but I would much rather be there to give them to you. Oh boy!"

August 12, 1925 (Camp Hanson)

"Dear, I have reached Grayling at last, almost caving in this evening when we pulled into camp. I am a sick boy; everything seems to go around and turn black. I almost fainted twice this afternoon on the march.

I have all your letters. They are like a palace in the desert. I was in command of Gun Section No. 2 the whole afternoon on the march. I will close now as my head pains me bad. I wish you were here to bathe my head, to cool my brow with your hands, dear. I will close with heaps and heaps of love. From your N.G. sweetheart, Corp. Carl."

August 13, 1925 (Camp Hanson)

"Dearest, every moment is filled with thoughts of you. I wish they would let girls camp near Camp Hanson. We sure would have some good times together.

Marjorie, I am all tired out from the trip. When we pulled into camp last night, we had to sit at attention. Just before we hit the reviewing stand, I soaked my forehead in cold water but it did not seem to do any good. My head was almost busting with pain. The Big Boys said that we looked worn out—as if they knew.

We drew 80 rounds of shrapnel today—that means on the range tomorrow. I don't know if I can ride the gun or not but will have to try. There is a bunch of boys singing; they seem to be having a great time.

Tomorrow, I will be stripped to the waist in the hot sun all day. It will be nothing but perfect hell. Excuse me for using that word. Well, taps is blowing so I will have to quit now. With all of my love, I am still yours forever, Carl"

To be continued . . .

HATS OFF TO . . . JOHN SELESKY!

John served in the Army Air Corps for eighteen months. He was discharged in October 1943. During a night time training flight at the Roswell Army base, one of the engines quit working and the plane crashed into the New Mexican desert. Unfortunately, John lost an eye and spent six months in the hospital.

In the mid 1940s, John became the Deputy Sheriff under Sheriff Bill Golnick. John recalls one incident, "One day, Clarence Roberts, a conservation officer with whom I worked

closely, and I were driving by the Hanson Game Refuge. There, on the shoulder of the road was a guy sitting with a deer he had shot, that had a ten or twelve point rack. We confiscated the buck and gave the meat to the poor. I put in a bid and had the head mounted."

In 1947, John became the Post Commander of American Legion Post #106 in Grayling.

John and Virginia and their family moved to Rose City in 1950 when Minnie sold the store.

John then worked for the Department of Natural Resources as a pilot for forest fire detection for thirty years. He operated from the airport in Mio, patrolling eight counties, including Crawford, where he refueled in Grayling.

John has been retired for twenty-five years, continuing to live in Rose City.

I found another jewel hidden in the treasure box. Hats off to you, John!!!

*Thank you John, for
your service to your
country and to its
land.*

HISTORY'S NUGGETS

Mrs. Connell gave her word to Sheriff Owen that she would visit her husband in Lewiston, the Sheriff promising her train fare. However, the next morning Emily changed her mind. In the village of Grayling, she made threats to commit a crime that would compel the authorities to care for her. She also threatened to shoot Sheriff Owen, Superintendent Forbes and the prosecuting attorney.

Mrs. Connell's threats led to her incarceration for her own safety in the women's section of the

jail. The next day, Emily piled wood and paper against the jail door and saturated the pile with kerosene from a lamp. She set it on fire but then sounded the alarm. With help, Deputy Sheriff Carney rescued her.

It was 20 below zero that night as firemen fought the flames of the 3 story building. Because of a new vault, records were saved. The loss was \$30,000; insurance coverage was only \$11,500 and the County had just gotten out of debt from the embezzlement of ex-treasurer Jackson.

However, ground for new county buildings was broken in June 1901 at the same location and the structure, pictured at bottom right, was dedicated in 1902.

Many years later, Grayling State Bank, now Citizens Bank, bought the property and, in 1969, razed the edifice. The 3rd County building was constructed at 200 W. Michigan Avenue earlier that year.

Photos of the buildings can be seen on our website and at the Museum.



VOLUNTEERS

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 peruse 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 Priscilla at 348-4461. Your help is greatly appreciated.

We are also having a Cleaning Bee on Saturday, May 17th starting at 10:00 a.m. It's a day when we get the Museum complex and grounds ready for Opening Day.

If you would like to lend a hand or just stop by for a visit before we officially open, we'd love to see you.

*Support your local
Museum by
volunteering.*

SPONSOR



The Crawford County Historical Society would like to sincerely thank Grayling Restaurant for sponsoring this month's newsletter.

Crawford County Historical Society

97 E. 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. 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 email address is:

cchm@voyager.net



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.

[MUSEUM HOME PAGE](#)