

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Volume 1, Issue 6

April, 2007

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LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Society Patrons,

Let me introduce myself. I am Mary Coy, treasurer and volunteer for the Museum.

My husband, Bill, and I moved to Grayling when he was transferred up here in 1979. He worked full time with the National Guard. Since then we have been involved with various organizations in the city and county. We also had a business in Grayling for almost 21 years.

I have always been very interested in the museum and in the history of Crawford County. I have grown to love this community in the years we've been here. I said that, when I retired, I would like to volunteer at the mu-

seum. So, for the past few years, I have been doing just that.

One of the things I want to do is thank all the former volunteers who have kept our museum going for so many years and the volunteers whom I've had the pleasure of working with. To the loyal members who have paid their membership dues regularly and to those who have made donations when they were able, thank you.

As I'm sure you know, we are a non-profit organization with a very minimal amount of income. Right now, there is a great deal of work to be done to fix up and maintain these buildings, so any help is greatly appreciated.

On a much brighter note, there are new displays which relate to our area. Even though the museum is not open during the winter, the work is still going on. Our curator, Priscilla Geyer, is cataloging artifacts to enable volunteers to know the location of pictures and articles when asked for by visitors.

To those of you who have not visited the museum lately, please come by when we open. I'm sure you will be pleasantly surprised by all your museum has to offer and, who knows, maybe you too will want to volunteer.

With your continued support, we can keep our museum going and continue to improve it for future generations.

UPDATES

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the August 11th train trip from Grayling to West Branch has been cancelled. Hopefully, the trip will be possible next year.

Our **Work Bee** is scheduled for **May 19th** from 10 to 3.

That is the day of cleaning and getting the museum complex ready to open, inside and outside. Please stop by and lend us a hand to show off your museum for the season.

Our website, [\[area.com/museum\]\(http://area.com/museum\), has been further updated with the latest information regarding the museum. Also, there are more, very interesting old photos and a new Sponsor page. Watch for new pages in the future.](http://grayling-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

OPENING SEASON



The Crawford County Historical Museum's official opening day is Wednesday, May 23, 2007. The hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays.

However, the Museum will be open for the day of April 28th which is the first day of the Trout Season. Everyone is encouraged to visit, especially the fishermen. You can enjoy learning about the history and present day use of the Au Sable River. Also, in one of our

cases which is part of our River display, we have very old fishing rods and flies as well as photos.

Would you consider volunteering for the new season? It's a great way to meet new and interesting people, enjoy the outdoors, be a part of our exciting events and learn about Crawford County history!

There are many things we need volunteers to help us with such as welcoming visitors, cataloging, garden work, painting,

assisting in the new events for the year as well as the October train trip, and other various jobs.

Also, we welcome suggestions. If you see something that needs to be done or something you would like to do, please do not hesitate to tell me.

We have 2 volunteer shifts, 10 to 1 and 1 to 4. You can volunteer one day a week or more if you like. Please call Priscilla at 348-4423. Thank you.

HATS OFF TO . . . MARIE AKERS!

Marie Pauline Jane LaMotte was born on February 6, 1921. Her mother's and father's parents came from France. Marie and LeRoy Akers were married in 1944 and remained so for 56 years, having had 3 children.

Teaching school for 33 years in Grayling, Marie taught 4th grade at the South Side school

until it closed, then taught at the only grade school in town.

As Treasurer for the Museum from 1986 to 1998, Marie counted the till money and prepared the monthly financial statement. As Secretary, she took the minutes at board meetings and handled correspondence. LeRoy also volun-

teered, working in the yard.

Marie volunteered last season with Patrick Hanafin. Listening to Marie relate stories of times past, injected with Patrick's quick wit, made the laughter non-stop many times.

I found Marie—one of the jewels in the treasure box. Hats off to you Marie!!!

*Marie's students
loved the way she
read stories to them.
They never wanted
to play outside—just
be entertained by her.*

HISTORICAL WALKS

We are continuing to plan for the Cemetery Walk which will take place on a Saturday in September—the 8th to be exact. Hours for the walk will be from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There is no fee, donations only.

As you drive up to the cemetery, you will be directed as to

where to park your vehicle. Direction will enable the parking to run smoothly. Upon arrival, you will be given a map, showing the various gravesites of Civil War soldiers and prominent citizens of the area.

Come join us for a leisurely

stroll through the cemetery grounds and learn about the lives of these people and their contributions.

The Society is also hosting a Historical Homes Walk in July. It will be a tour of four famous homes of prominent Grayling families of the past. More information later.



HISTORY'S NUGGETS

The Snow Train was inaugurated in 1936. It departed from Detroit, making many stops along the way, bringing thousands into Grayling. Every available truck, personal and business, was used to transport visitors from the station to the park. However, not everyone made it to the park—the bars did very well in those days too.

The first Snow Queen was crowned in 1925 and later, the Grayling queen waited at the

station to meet the train. She welcomed the women from other areas who were selected snow queens on the train.

In the afternoon, all Michigan queens were crowned during the Winter Carnival at the park. They sat on the beautiful ice throne that was constructed for the event. John Deckrow built the first one in Michigan in 1928 on Lake Margrethe. In 1937, the ice throne was illuminated through indirect lighting.

In the evening, a Midwest Queen's ball was held where the queen was selected from the entire group of queens. She was crowned the following day. Admission was \$1.00 per couple. It was a spectacular event.

The park's name was changed to Bear Mountain in 1968 in honor of Fred Bear. Because the park is leased by the Hanson estate, it was named Hanson Hills in 1982. Today, it is still the place for winter fun.



LLOYD CRAWFORD

In the March 1, 2007 edition of the Avalanche, Lloyd Crawford wrote a letter to the editor. "Last year we had two elections trying to raise money for the museum of Crawford County, and to my disappointment the elections went down . . . I just got my monthly (news) letter from the Crawford County Historical Society,

and they were saying they would like to put a new roof on the museum, and the building needs a lot of repair, painting and things of that nature . . . Here is my suggestion. I would like to see everybody that did vote for the museum to donate their \$20 to the museum for the next couple of years, and I think we could get

a lot done if everybody would chip in and help out. Maybe we can show the other half how important the history of Crawford County is to all. Volunteers put in their time to the museum for the good of Crawford County and it is important to all of us."

*Lloyd, we thank you
from the bottom of our
hearts for your caring
and insight to our
needs, and for your
great idea!*

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**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

Our e-mail address is:

cchm@voyager.net

The Historical Society would like to sincerely thank Scott McNamara Ford for sponsoring this issue of the newsletter.



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