

CCHS MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

97 Michigan Ave.
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June, 2021

Dear Current and Future Members of the Historical Society,

The Board of Directors of the Crawford County Historical Society want to acknowledge the loss of our late President Jim Smith who passed away on September 18, 2020. He guided the Board and the Museum during a transitional time. His leadership enabled many of the accomplishments listed below for which we are grateful.

After the long Covid-19 hibernation the Museum will open July 1, 2021. We took advantage of this time, stayed safe and transformed the Museum. What is new? Nothing! Everything is old, that's why we are a museum. What is new are the exhibits we were fortunate to obtain this past year and have on display. In addition, we also discovered items in storage, dusted them off and now have them displayed.

The Museum layout has been reorganized. When you enter the former Grayling train depot, you will see various railroad memorabilia. On display will be items not previously shown. In particular you will see Roland Bunting's models he built of our depot, as well as other depots in our area. The miniature scale he used for the building replicas is amazing. Can you imagine 32,000 shingles on one building? The detail is impressive. His creative effort is a work in progress and will grow over time to depict the layout of the Grayling rail yard with our depot, the roundhouse, water tower, coal tower and tracks.

New to the Museum is the Hanson exhibit. We received items which were previously in Saling Hanson's 1903 office.

Also new is the Grayling Avalanche offset printing press which printed the 1882 page displayed on the wall next to the press.

You will also see updated exhibits in the Native American room, School room, AuSable River room, the Fred Bear room, The Sheriff/ first responders area, a room depicting 18th and 19th century Local Businesses, an early 19th century School room, an 1800's store, the Winter Sports room, a Ladies room, a Doctor's office, a room of Local families and farmers, a Saloon and a Hartwick pines and CCC Camps display. As you stroll through the upstairs hallway viewing these exhibits you will notice a pictorial history of the Grayling schools on the hallway walls.

On the grounds you will also view the totally revamped Military building and the Trappers Cabin. You will find the Firehouse building under construction this year with an addition allowing us to house the agricultural display. The Model T fire truck is also being renovated by the local firefighters in hopes of being displayed in parades. This addition to the firehouse was a dream of Jim Smith's. When completed we look forward to dedicating the addition and agricultural display in Jim's honor. While outside, you definitely must take the opportunity to climb into the red Caboose. To complete your Museum visit, be sure to ring the locomotive bell which delivered the last load of logs from Elba to the Carrie and Hanson mill.

There is much to see at the Museum, but for us to remain open for you and others to enjoy, Museum volunteers are needed. There is no admission charge to visit the Museum but donations are cheerfully received to help cover expenses. Also, please consider becoming a member of the Historical Society. Membership levels are: \$5 - Senior; \$10 - Regular; \$25 - Family; \$50 - Supporting Member; \$75 - Room Sponsor; and \$1,000 - Lifetime Member. Remit your tax deductible membership and donations to:

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