

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Volume 1, Issue 4

February, 2007

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LETTER FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Dear Historical Museum patrons,

Welcome to the latest issue of the Historical Society newsletter. My name is Larry Akers and I am the current Vice-Chairperson of the Society. I've been involved with the museum for about ten years and have previously served as its Secretary. I guess you could say that I'm keeping up the family tradition. My parents, Marie and LeRoy, were volunteers at the museum; in fact, my mother still volunteers on Thursday afternoons during the summer.

I was born and raised in Grayling, so the history of the area is important to me

as it should be to everyone who is from the area. History is not just dates and facts; it is a learning experience. You learn about your area and heritage. For example, do you know how the road you live on came to be named?

Do you know why settlers came to the area of Crawford County known as Wellington? Do you know where Wellington was or the other towns that are no longer here? Where were they and why did they cease to exist?

If you haven't been to the museum lately, this summer would be the ideal time to stop in. We've undertaken a vigorous program to update

and change many of the displays. Many of the local organizations that sponsor rooms upstairs have also updated their displays. You should notice some changes since even last year.

Think about giving some of your time to the museum. History is not just the past—it is our future—and without involvement from you our history will die.

Editors Note: Larry Akers is also the fine Mayor of the city of Grayling.



PRINTS

The Crawford County Historical Society has donated two 8 x 10 prints to United Way's CARE night.

One print, created by Abby Chase, is of the 1225 Pere Marquette, the historic steam engine and the other print is

of the Santa Fe by Elaine Lucksted. The Santa Fe is a 1928 vintage businessman's train car. The women are accomplished local artists. Both prints are limited editions and are of exceptional quality.

CARE night is a fundraiser auction for United Way which will be held March 10th at the Holiday Inn in Grayling. A live and a silent auction will be held. As well as being a fundraiser, it will be a fun-filled social event for all.

TIMBERLINER



The Timberliner will roll into Grayling October 6th and 7th! The train will be pulled by the 1225 Steam Locomotive. We will also have the popular run of the Color Tour.

In 1947, the New York Central Railroad began a weekend-only train called the Michigan Timberliner. It operated only during the summer and carried coaches plus a lunch counter car. The train departed from

Detroit on Fridays in the early evening, stopped at a number of towns along the way including Grayling, and arrived at Mackinaw City at night. The train then returned to Detroit on Sundays.

By 1953, the name had been shortened to Timberliner and the lunch counter car had been replaced by a tavern lounge car. The schedule and onboard amenities were attractive to those with vacation cottages,

allowing visits for businessmen while the rest of the family enjoyed a recreational stay.

However, with the loss of passenger traffic due to the building of highways, NYC discontinued the service. On September 3, 1962, the Timberliner made its last run ever—a Labor Day return to Detroit.

The train event is being called the Timberliner after this train. More about the event will appear in the next newsletter.

Fay has been and continues to be an invaluable asset to the community.

HATS OFF TO...FAY BOVEE!

Fay Christenson Bovee was born on September 15, 1924 in her parents' home on Chestnut Street in Grayling. Her mother's parents came to Michigan from Germany in the 1870s. Fay's paternal grandfather came from Denmark and her paternal grandmother's family who were Stephans, came from France in 1879.

Fay grew up on Chestnut Street, went to CMU for four years and married Bob Bovee in 1945. She was a 5th grade teacher for thirty years in Grayling and retired in June 1986.

That same year, Fay began volunteering at the museum and did so for 15 years. In October 1991, she wrote the first newsletter for the museum and con-

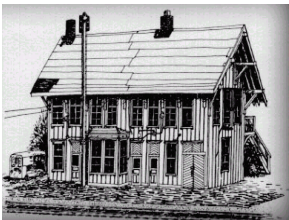
tinued to do so until she retired from volunteering in 2000.

Fay and Bob have 2 married daughters and 3 grandchildren. They reside in the home they built in 1954.

Fay is one of the jewels I have discovered in the treasure box.

So, hats off to you, Fay!!!

DONATIONS



The Historical Society is accepting donations to repair the train depot. The roof must be replaced this year. New shingles are needed, as well as starter shingles, vent-a-ridge, plywood, chimney flashing, and felt.

The outside of the building is in dire need of painting.

Much of the paint has peeled off and the bare wood is showing. Boards need to be replaced. We need power washers to remove old paint, sealer-primer and paint as well as wood.

The windows need to be reglazed to keep out the harmful effects of light to the artifacts.

Not only are we accepting financial donations, but supplies and labor as well. Experienced carpenters are preferred, but all laborers are welcome.

Would you help us bring this building that has seen 125 years of history back into peak condition? Thank you for your care.

HISTORY'S NUGGETS

In 1923, Clarence Johnson shoveled out the first ice slide at Collens Landing at Lake Margrethe. Ten people, including Mr. Johnson, bought a ten foot toboggan from Sorenson & Son for \$11.50. They took their new toboggan and went for a ride down the slide. What a ride it was! Over bumps and in and out of trees they went. The group finally made a header into a tree with aches and bruises for the riders and splinters out of the toboggan.

There was another thrill for enthusiasts when going down Collens hill onto the lake. When lakes are frozen, they rise and fall. Many times the toboggan would have a twelve foot drop to the lake.

In 1925, two slides were built at Division Hill where Camp Grayling sits. This site became the spot to toboggan. The slides had a six foot takeoff which gave a run of 1,100 feet. Water pails were used to dip water from the lake and carry it up to the slides.

In 1928, the place to toboggan was back at Collens Landing. 1929 found a crew of three men constructing slides at night in 40 degree below zero weather. It was so cold that the water would freeze in the hose going downhill. 1929 was also the first year there was a fee to take a ride down the slide - a whopping 25 cents!

To be continued.....



SCHOOL PLAY

Early this month, the third grade class of the Grayling Elementary School performed a play about the history of Crawford County.

The children told the story of the lumber barons such as Rasmus Hanson, Nels Michelson, Ernest Salling and David Ward.

They also related how Edward Hartwick attended West Point Academy and later fought with Teddy Roosevelt at San Juan Hill. The students spoke of Hartwick's wife, Karen, who donated 8,320 acres called Hartwick Pines.

The play included stories about the beginnings of Mercy Hos-

pital and the Au Sable River Canoe Marathon which has become an international event.

It was wonderful to see the students and teachers take such an interest in the County's history.

A videotaped copy of the play has been donated to the museum.

*Making history
come alive for
young and old alike
through the arts!*

SPONSOR

2470 S. I-75

Bus. Loop Grayling

Open 6:00 a.m. to

Midnight Everyday

GLEN'S
Markets

The Historical Society offers its deep appreciation to Glen's Markets of Grayling for sponsoring this issue of the newsletter.



**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:

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