

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Vol. 1, Issue 14

December, 2007

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LETTER FROM THE CURATOR

Dear Historical Society Patrons,

This has been a busy and exciting season for us at the Museum. We hosted many fun-filled events such as the Historical Home tour, the Cemetery walk, the Timberliner weekend and the Christmas walk. We held luncheons in the courtyard and oversaw school tours. We learned that the famous actor from the 30s, William Powell, lived in Grayling and that his parents are buried in Elmwood Cemetery. We welcomed three new members to the Board of Directors.

I'd like to thank the Board, whom I have come to know as friends, for giving me the opportunity to experience many new ventures and to meet such interesting people.

I am very grateful to those who volunteered, working a shift for the season: Bill Bush, Al Johnston, Ila Cosgray, Patrick Hanafin, Lou Smith, Ray Folkmier, Roberta Wright and Majerle Nielson. They are more than just volunteers; I consider them my friends.

Not only is Fay Bovee a goldmine of historical information for me and many others in the county, she is a goldmine of a

friend. Thank you Fay.

My heartfelt thanks go to Ken Wright for his diligent work in maintaining our website. His knowledge and creativity in this area are invaluable as well as his friendship.

It was a pleasure to meet Lisa Oliver this year. Her expertise and financial support for the flower gardens in the courtyard have been extremely helpful to me for which I am very appreciative.

I would like to thank Kimberly Ruddy for all the Museum related photos she took and Bob Cosgray and Ken Geyer who quietly helped by doing whatever needed to be done at the Museum.

I'd like to express my gratitude to the Grayling Firefighters Assoc. and the Grayling Fire Dept. for the work they did on the Fire Hall and for dismantling the log sled. Also, my gratitude goes to Gene Rauch and Bob Young for the work they did on the Barn.

Mary Coy, Jerrene Bramble, Janelle Cousins, Fay Bovee, Kathryn Garbe and Kimberly Ruddy made delicious

cookies for the Christmas walk and Linda Nickert helped me decorate the Depot. Thanks so much.

My appreciation goes to our sponsors for their generosity and continued support.

I sincerely thank you, our readers, for your understanding of the importance of the county's heritage and for your financial support, enabling the Museum to remain open.

It has been a joy for me to have met some of you and to have spoken to others by phone, sharing your personal experiences and providing me with nuggets of useful history. It is nice to put a face or voice with the name on the mailing list. I feel fortunate to have made many new friends this season.

I look forward to seeing you again and meeting others next season. On behalf of the Board, I wish you a happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Geyer



SKINGLEY ARTICLES



An article about the Skingley farmhouse replica, which is displayed in the Museum, has been published in the December 2007 issue of *Miniature Collector* magazine. Readers on five continents enjoy receiving the magazine monthly.

It all began with Judy Hammond. She is a miniature dollhouse enthusiast who lives in Grayling. After a visit to the Museum, Judy was so impressed with the replica that she contacted Barbara J. Aardema, editor of *Miniature Magazine*. Last summer, Barbara stopped by the Museum to look at the Skingley reproduction and decided that it would make an ideal story for the magazine.



Barbara wrote an excellent two-page article with photographs by Kimberly Ruddy. A brief history of the farmhouse is described with detailed information of the replica and contributions made by Skingley descendants.

Kathryn Garbe, one of the granddaughters, was on hand at the Museum during the Christmas Walk. Kathryn delighted visitors as she told them about the farmhouse and recollected her time there as a young girl.

The November 22, 2007 edition of the *Crawford County Avalanche*, our local newspaper, contains an article about the Skingley reproduction written by Dan Sanderson. A photo of Kathryn stand-

ing beside the replica is shown.

You can learn about the farmhouse and replica by visiting our website: grayling-area.com/museum. There are links to past issues of the newsletters on the main page. *The Skingley House* appears in the June, July and August 2007 issues.

Also on the main page on the sidebar are two photos, one of the original farmhouse and one of the replica. They are enlarged when clicked.

And, of course, the best way to learn about the reproduction is to visit the Museum and discover this small treasure firsthand. We reopen next May for the new season. See you then!

HATS OFF TO . . . PAULINE DAWSON!

Pauline Rosalie Merrill was born on April 25, 1921 near St. Louis, Michigan at her grandparents' farm.

Her father's name is Joseph Merrill and her mother's name is Iva Rosenberger, both of German extraction.

After graduating from high school in 1939, Pauline moved to Grayling where she obtained employment at Dawsons. She met Devere Dawson and they were married October 6, 1942.

The building currently known as Dawson & Stevens Classic Diner on Michigan Avenue in Grayling was originally owned by Hans Petersen who operated a grocery store in it during the 1800s. The

next owner was bachelor Christian Olsen, a pharmacist who turned the building into a drug store. In 1938, Earl and Clara Dawson became the new owners of the premises and Dawsons was born. Clara's father was Hans Petersen.

Pauline remembers, "It was the time of summer encampment at Camp Grayling and I was working at the soda fountain. I spilled soda on one of the officers. Was I embarrassed but he was nice about it.

In the early days, we were open 7 days and nights year round. There was no TV, so the entertainment was the theatre which ran 2 shows nightly. The

young people would come into our store and later, some of them would return for seconds. Those were also the days before dishwashers, so everything was washed by hand. In the summer, it would be 1:00 a.m. before we'd get out of there.

We had summer people who had cabins or cottages in the surrounding areas; they were very good customers. There was a young church group from Higgins Lake who came to see movies. They always visited our place and would return year after year and say, 'Remember us?' It was fun; we felt like we knew them."

To be continued. . .

Pauline says, "Those were fun times, meeting people."

The following items are from the December 19, 1889 edition of the *Crawford Avalanche*.

Some Seasonable Signs

"There's a box in the cellar, a bundle upstairs, And the family cherubs are whispering in pairs. It's all about Christmas, I know it is Christmas, Old Christmas once more.

When I venture to enter where laughter is rife, 'You cannot come in', cries the voice of my wife. 'Tis the sweet sign of Christmas, The coming of Christmas, Old Christmas once more.

When I open a closet to look for my hat, I find—but no matter; it is not the cat. It is something for Christmas, A comfort for Christmas, Old Christmas once more."

Local Items "The ladies of the Presbyterian Church wish us to state that all persons can use the Christmas tree on which to display their presents, and have them presented with the others."

A Front Page Ad "Holiday Goods! I have the most complete line of the latest styles of Holiday Goods ever brought to Grayling, consisting of dressing and traveling cases; photo and autograph albums; manicure sets; jewel cases; smokers sets; work boxes, collar and cuff boxes; odor cases; novelty whisk brooms; fancy ink stands; toy books; games; dolls; etc. Also agent for the celebrated Deposit Manufacturing Co.'s Hand Sleds. L. Fournier, Druggist"

The following items were taken from the December 26, 1889 edition of the *Crawford Avalanche*:

On The Front Page "The Sunday School, Serious Subjects Carefully and Ably Considered, Lesson For December 29—Quarterly Review

Lesson 3: 2 Samuel 7:18-29, Subject: David's Thanksgiving Psalm, Memory Verses: 28, 29, Golden Text: 'In everything give thanks; for this is

the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thess. 5:18"

Local Items "A. Peterson shipped a silver set to Mrs. J.M. Finn, ordered by J.M., costing \$400, last Monday, which would arrive in time for Christmas. Lucky Mrs. F."

"Congressman Wheeler gave 175 barrels of flour, yesterday, to the employees in his shipyard, as a Christmas remembrance. For generosity, he beats his predecessor, S.O."

"Gen. Alger has sent a check for \$150 to the reform school boys, and Christmas was celebrated as usual."

"The Christmas trees at both churches bore largely, and the fruit was plucked by eager hands and fully enjoyed. The usual amount of fun intermingled and all were happy. Private trees were loaded in all parts of the village."



*Remembering the
holiday cheer of
Christmas past.*



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The Crawford County Historical Society would like to express its sincere thanks to The Medicine Shop for sponsoring this month's newsletter.

**Crawford County
Historical Society**

97 E. Michigan Avenue
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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.

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\$5.00 Senior Citizen
\$10.00 Single
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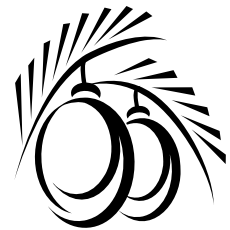
Please make checks payable to:

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Our telephone number is:
(989) 348-4461

Our website is:
grayling-area.com/museum

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MUSEUM HOME PAGE