

The Milford Historian

July 2004 Issue

Picnic in the Park!



Summer's here and it's time to pull out that picnic basket! This month's meeting will be held on Sunday, July 18th at the log cabin in Southside Park, beginning at 2:00 P.M.

Our own Barbara Young will be the speaker this month. Many of you know Barbara as a person with a vast knowledge of Milford history, who does extensive research for the Society. Perhaps you've joined Barbara on one of her historic walks or have been present for one of her readings of early Milford newspaper stories. As we enjoy our picnic, Barbara will share selected memories of Milford with the group.

As a special Membership Committee activity, your children will be able to play the same games their counterparts played before the advent of electricity. They can test their balancing skills on a pair of stilts or play a game of checkers, marbles, jacks...and more

Southside Park is a truly historic location! It was the original Public Square in the center of South Milford Village as platted by Jabesh Mead in 1837. As was the practice in New England, most of Milford's earliest buildings faced on this square. But, as the Village grew, this plan was abandoned and later houses were

From your President...

Summer brings warm weather, our annual picnic and other good things. It also begins the Society's heavy schedule of events to raise money and increase the community's awareness of our organization. None of this happens without people power. We're sure we can find just the right job to suit your special talents. Let's start with our immediate needs:

Granny's Attic July 8-10: Volunteers are needed for setup on Thursday night and during the day on Friday and Saturday to sell those treasures. Call Dave Chase (684-2338).

Fundraising Raffle at Bakers August 29: 5-6 volunteers are needed to sell 50/50 raffle tickets at the car show on Sunday, 3:30-7:00 P.M. Contact Kelly Irwin (684-2348).

2004 Home Tour September 18 and 19: House captains and docents are needed. Contact Judy Waara (684-0010).

Job Placement Service: This is a job for someone who wants to help, but doesn't want to leave home. You will call our membership to schedule volunteers for various MHS events throughout the year. We'll provide you with the roster, the name and date of the event, and you (and/or your committee) find the right person for the job. To apply, contact Judith Reiter (684-0684).

We're asking each of you to translate your commitment to the Society's success into hours worked at one of our events listed here, on the back page and in the "MHS Volunteers for History" column on page two. The latter is a new column to acknowledge our working

built facing streets. The Public Square today remains as it began (except for the fire station). To mark Milford's 150th anniversary in 1982, the Sesquicentennial Committee built the replica log cabin to help residents picture what life was like in early Milford.

Our meetings are open to all. You don't have to be a member to have a good time with people who enjoy history!

Milford Historical Society Picnic

Sunday, July 18, 2004 2:00 PM
Southside Park, Milford

Located between Huron and Washington Streets. Parking on Washington

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| A-G | H-N | O-Z |
| Salad | Dessert | Main Dish |

Everyone: table service, beverage and lawn chairs.

Bring a guest to the best potluck in town!

members and highlight the many ways our membership works. It is a small way of thanking those on the front line, making history count.

We offer something for everyone, from phoning for volunteers to helping with planning and set up, to serving at the event. Each person counts. Find an event that suits your time and talents and pitch in! It's your involvement that helps us achieve our mission of being a viable, relevant historical society with a strong presence in our community.

Sincere thanks go to Denise Pratt for her service as editor of the MHS newsletter this past year. We were lucky to have her jump in and so ably fill such a demanding job. Let us welcome Jay Qualman (assisted by his wife, Brook) who has agreed to take over as editor. As you read this issue, you can see he has brought much thought and interest to his new job.

Finally, I'd like to welcome as new members Debbie Sanchez and Marlene and Arturo Gomez. I apologize for incorrectly spelling Marlene's family name in the last newsletter. The correct spelling is Grondin.

Judith Reiter

New Milford Historian Format

If the newsletter you're holding looks different, you're right. It is. This issue introduces a more "historic" format to help the Society gain greater recognition in the community by presenting a more consistent identity.

Specifically, the new title font is Old English, consistent with our stationary, Museum sign and the Milford Times. The text font is Times New Roman. It is easy to read, more traditional and is used on the MHS website and by The Milford Times.

Historic Walks Learn about your Hometown!



This season's "Historic Walks of Milford"

We've selectively added the color blue as used for our stationary and by both the Village of Milford and Milford Township.

Via layout changes we've gained several square inches of text space within our existing and economical 4-page format. There's more prominent featuring of our water wheel logo and website address.

The address panel on page four is now right side up and we're using the resulting white space to call attention to time-sensitive items.

Although the Historian's look has changed, I hope to maintain the level of quality provided by Denise Pratt and her predecessor, Tom Joynt.

Jay Qualman - Editor

MHS Volunteers for History New Feature!

The Milford Historical Society owes its success to the talents and time contributed by its members. In this issue we introduce "MHS Volunteers for History," a new feature intended to identify and thank Society members for their recent contributions.

- Website work past several years: John McMartin
- New webmaster/new website design: Norm Werner
- Membership meeting hospitality: Ned & June Watson
- Museum garden maintenance: Judy Waara
- Chautauqua Chairperson: Sue Gumper with Sue Bullard, Judith Reiter, Carolyn Frances

will feature two of Milford's most historic streets: East Commerce and West Huron. Barbara Young, longtime Milford resident and historian for the Milford Historical Society, will lead the walks that last an hour to an hour and a half. Donation: \$5.

The East Commerce Street Walk, July 10th, 11:00 A.M., begins at the Museum. East Commerce is part of the North Milford Village National Historic District and retains most of its original 19th and early 20th century homes and buildings.

The West Huron Street Walk, August 21st, 11:00 A.M., begins at Southside Park. West Huron is the oldest street in Milford. It connected the first two mills, the Ruggles Brothers' sawmill, 1832, and Luman Fuller's gristmill, 1834. Along the street are the 1836 Public Square, Milford's first frame house and Michigan's first store.

2004 Milford Memories Volunteers are needed!

Milford Memories is coming! This year Milford's community-wide summer festival begins Friday, August 13th and concludes Sunday, August 15th. During Milford Memories we have the opportunity to welcome visitors to the Museum and sell them some history in the form of photographic prints and other historic merchandise. To accomplish this the Museum will feature special hours:

- Friday, August 13th: 12:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
- Saturday, August 14th: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Second Milford Art Print Offered

A dramatic 1899 panoramic

- Museum Board ad hoc: Sue Gumper with Mary Lou
Gharrity, Margaret Hoover, Jamie Averill
- Preservation/Restoration Award: Barbara & Will Young,
Judith Reiter, Jay Qualman, Sue Gumper
- 4th of July Parade Chairperson: Katherine Rheume
- Powerhouse Groundbreaking event organizer: Margaret Miller; setup, Will Young
- Granny's Attic principals: Dave Chase, Duane Freitag
- Milford Historic Walking Tours: Barbara Young
- Watering plants in Museum: Barbara Miller
- June cleanup day: Marlene Gomez, supported by
Gale Perry (her dad), Debbie Sanchez, Judith Reiter,
Sue Bullard, Sue Gumper, Brook Qualman, Bill Schimmel, Dave Chase & Katie Zack

The next time you see these members, please thank them for supporting our Society and consider doing so yourself.

We'd really like to print your name here!

Upcoming 2004 Events

- July 9-10: Granny's Attic Sale
- July 10: Historic Walk: E. Commerce
- July 18: Annual Membership Picnic
- July 28: Board of Directors Meeting
- Aug. 13: Milford Memories
Museum open 12 - 4
- Aug. 15: Milford Memories
Museum open 10 - 4
- Aug. 21: Historic Walk: West Huron
- Aug. 25: Board of Directors Meeting
- Aug. 29: 50/50 Raffle at Baker's
- Sept. 9: General Meeting

photographic print of Milford is being offered for sale. It joins the Society's currently available 1873 bird's-eye view color illustration of Milford.

Through the talents of member Dave Chase and digital technology, three individual sequential photos by Elmer Avery have been seamlessly blended into a three-foot wide sepia print with extremely crisp detail.

Both prints are suitable for framing. The numbered 36"x 10" panorama print is priced at \$70 rolled in a tube, or \$80 shrink-wrapped on foamcore. The 16"x 20" bird's-eye view print is \$35 in a tube.

Both are available at the Milford Historical Museum and Wind River Gallery. Support your Society and enhance your home or office by purchasing one or both today.

Milford Photos Sought

To better serve the Society's goals and our community's needs, we wish to expand our photographic reference library. To do so, we need your help! Specifically, we are seeking pre-1980's photos of the Milford area. We will carefully copy and promptly return them to you. Please ask family and friends. This is an important effort! If you can help, please contact Dave Chase (684-2338).

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| Sept. 18-19: 2004 Home Tour Sept. 19: Tractor Show Sept. 22: Board of Directors Meeting | |
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Clothing Cove Wins Preservation/Restoration Award

On June 26th the Milford Historical Society selected The Clothing Cove store in downtown Milford to receive its Building Preservation/Restoration Award for 2004. The purpose of this annual award, first presented in 1986, is to recognize quality preservation or restoration of historic buildings in the Milford area, and to encourage the undertaking of such projects.

The Milford Historical Society committee, made up of Judith Reiter, Sue Gumpfer, Jay Qualman, and Will and Barbara Young, selected six buildings (five houses and one store) as candidates this year. The requirements for nomination were: the building must be 50 or more years old and it must be in the Milford Township, which includes the Village of Milford. Only the exteriors were judged.

The judges making the final selection are always persons experienced and knowledgeable about historic preservation and restoration, and who are independent of the Milford area. This year's judges were Ellen Thackery of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and Diane Tuinstra of the State Historic Preservation Office in Lansing. Their evaluation of the six candidate buildings was based on the Guidelines for Restoration and Preservation of Historic Properties published by the Secretary of the Interior's Office in Washington, D.C.

The Clothing Cove is the double store at 414 North Main. The south half was built in 1872 by the Thornhill Brothers and was rented by a number of businesses through the years. The cornice and window caps were of galvanized iron and were the first of that material to be used in Milford. The

Chautauqua Does Society Proud Sue says it was a team effort!



Chautauqua 2004 was a celebration of history and the arts! On Saturday, June 5th visitors listened to and watched a variety of local musicians, the Huron Valley Community Chorus, Joyful Noise Bell Choir, Milford Dance Academies, local storytellers, and our own Milford Memories musical theater performing on stage.

They strolled past our "river of time" and interacted with reenactors portraying life during the 1770's, Civil War and the Wild West. Candles, cornhusk dolls and wheat weavings were made. The young and young at heart played jacks, walked on stilts and learned a hoop and stick game.

Visitors were able to converse with and observe a broom maker, blacksmith and woodcarvers. They watched painters, potters and weavers demonstrate their skills. Adults and children enjoyed petting alpacas, talking with living historians and visiting the community tent to learn about local organizations.

Youngsters had the opportunity to become a blacksmith's apprentice, receive art instruction, make a toy from bygone days, and create a puppet.

north half was built in 1875 by the Austin Brothers and used for their grocery store. The two stores were combined and used for many years by the D & C Store, and later by the Next Generation Children's Store. The Clothing Cove recently moved their business into the double store after doing extensive restoration to the buildings.



Clothing Cove 414 North Main

The judges commended the restorers for the cornice replacement based on historic photos, for retaining the outstanding window caps and for opening up the storefront to look more like its original incarnation.

HOT Items!!!

- *Granny's Attic Sale 7/9-10**
- *Historic Walks 7/10 & 8/21**
 - *Annual Picnic 7/18**
 - *Milford Memories 8/13-15**
 - *Raffle at Baker's 8/29**

Don't Miss Out!!!

Chautauqua 2004 provided a day full of learning and fun!

Sue Gumper and the Chautauqua Committee would like to thank all of the Milford Historical Society members who volunteered their time or attended the 2004 Chautauqua. Your support made the difference.

Spring-Cleanup Brightens Museum Marlene thanks the volunteers.

Marlene Gomez, Assistant to the Museum Director, extends a big "thank you" to everyone who showed up on Saturday, May 15th to help out with spring-cleaning at the museum. The first ones to arrive were (the rookies) Marlene and Debbie Sanchez, Museum Director. Marlene's dad, Gale Perry, came to work on the faucet in the bathroom and ended up spending most of his time working on the vacuum cleaner!

Bill Schimmel stopped by to reinstall a sign on the back of the building and to meet Debbie and Marlene. Also helping out were Sue Bullard, Sue Gumper, Judith Reiter and student docent Katie Zack. Everyone worked upstairs dusting and cleaning except for Judith who trimmed all of the bushes outside the museum - on a cold day at that! Brook Qualman came with cleaning supplies in hand and joined the others upstairs. Sue Gumper spent a lot of time cleaning some of the old silver items. Dave Chase also stopped by to help out.

Thanks to all of that people power, the Museum looked great at the end of the day...and still does.

Dues are Due!

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| | <p>A few members still have outstanding dues. Our Society depends on dues and donations to maintain the Museum, publish and mail this newsletter and execute events fulfilling our mission statement. If the address label on this newsletter is stamped, your membership dues are late. Dues can be paid at the Museum or mailed to the Milford Historical Society at 124 E. Commerce St., Milford, MI 48381</p> |
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