

# The Milford Historian

*Mission Statement: We are organized exclusively for educational purposes. We bring together those people who are interested in history, especially the history of the Village of Milford and Milford Township.*

## Outhouse Archaeology



"We did our duties promptly, there one purpose swayed the mind, We tarried not, nor lingered long on what we left behind"

by James Whitcomb Riley

The outhouse was often called "the necessary," "backhouse" or "privy." The warmth and comfort we take for granted today seems luxurious compared to the drafty confines of this small outbuilding with a circular hole in a bench seat positioned over a pit. The outhouse was located within walking distance of the house and always down wind.

## From your President...

Holiday Greetings!

With our frenzied fund-raising months behind us, it's time to sit down with our family and friends and celebrate in a most meaningful way, with a good meal! Three MHS members have volunteered to bring a turkey for this month's Thanksgiving potluck dinner, and it seems we have a little competition going...which will benefit all of us. There is talk of a deep-fried turkey and a beer-marinated turkey and the third one is as yet undisclosed. Your contribution to the potluck is a little different this month, so check the list, bring a favorite holiday dish and be prepared to enjoy a pre-Thanksgiving Thanksgiving, good company and a very interesting program.

As we look forward to our November gathering, I would like to make special mention of some of our friends we've been missing at recent meetings.

Dee Leja has been living with cancer and almost weekly treatments since early this year. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Barbara Young was recently diagnosed with leukemia and has been undergoing aggressive chemotherapy. Please keep Barbara, Will and their family in your hearts and minds. Jeff and Denise Pratt suddenly lost a son. Please send out thoughts of support and comfort to Jeff and Denise. Clara Calkins has been adding birthdays (the next one

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| <p>Pits were dug as deep as six feet. When the hole became full, a new pit would be dug and the dirt used to fill the old pit. The wooden structure would then be moved to the new location.</p> <p>The outhouse also served a secondary purpose. It was a convenient place to deposit trash. Things that couldn't be burned or reused would be deposited in the outhouse pit. Items such as bottles, crocks, broken china and other household goods were often discarded in the hole. But other things found their way into the privy hole. Jewelry, coins and toys were sometimes dropped down the outhouse hole by accident. Long since covered and forgotten holes, no longer septic, contain layers of buried "treasure."</p> <p>When people investigate their family history, an area that is often overlooked - and usually contains a large amount of family material - is the "family facility." The speaker at our November 18th General Membership Meeting will be David Bridgens, Historian from the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing, who will explain how you can find family history right under your feet (nose?).</p> <p>Our evening will celebrate Thanksgiving early with a turkey potluck dinner. The turkeys will be provided. Members should bring the fixin's as indicated below.</p> | <p>will be 92) and the aches and pains that come with them. She is as positive as ever, but realistic about her limitations now that she must use a walker and has been diagnosed with congestive heart failure. But she still enjoys a friendly chat on the phone!</p> <p>Volunteering, Home Tours, Granny's Attic and all that other stuff are great, but ultimately it's the friends we've made through our mutual interest in history that keep us coming back and going forward.</p> <p><b>Judith Reiter</b></p> <p><b>New Members, New Student Docents!</b></p> <p>We are pleased to announce our six newest members: Timothy and Holly Brandt, Leon and Sheila Shuler, Rena Valentine and Joni Dewan. We hope they can attend the November meeting so we can give them a big Historical Society welcome.</p> <p>Our student docents provide valuable service supporting the Milford Historical Society, and in return, receive financial support for their college education. Joining Amelia Campbell, who continues from last year, are Kaiti Feeney, Kari Szakal, Jesse Wiza and Laura Bonhard. Welcome and thank you for your service!</p> |
| <p><b>A Houseful of Thanks</b></p> <p>A big round of applause to those who made our 2004 Home Tour on September 19th a huge financial success. Almost \$8,000 was raised! Special thanks to the homeowners</p>  | <p><b>Holiday Gift Ideas</b></p> <p>As the holiday season nears, might we suggest giving the gift of Milford history? The items below make great gifts and help support the Society's work in the community.</p>   |

who graciously opened their beautiful homes; to Committee Members Judith Reiter, Chris Smith, Laurie Demko, Sue Gumper, Sue Bullard, Tami Averill, Bill Schimmel, Bill Crawford, Candy Freiberg and Brook Qualman for their hard work; to house captains Jeanine Roberto, Mark Caswell, Theresa Heurbetise, Dawn Chlebo, Bill Schimmel and Carol Watkins for their generous donation of time; to the wonderful docents for running everything smoothly; to entertainers Cindy Sherwood, Dave Armstrong, Larry Haver, Margaret Babineau, OWL Woodcarvers, Larry Green, Lileth Dengate, Bill Schimmel and Russ Rheume, you were terrific; and, very importantly, to the many area businesses, recognized below, that donated generously in terms of merchandise, services, promotion and advertising or were official Home Tour sponsors. - Judy Waara, Chair

### Support Our Supporters

The Historical Society receives generous financial and in-kind support from our business community. In appreciation, we call upon each of you, our two hundred plus members, to return the favor by patronizing the following local merchants:

- Read Between the Lines bookstore sells our history of Milford, Ten Minutes Ahead of the Rest of the World, and currently our Milford Beauties Calendar. (See next column.)
- Wind River Gallery supports the Society by selling our photographic art prints. (See next

### Milford Beauties Calendar (1/05-6/06).



This visually interesting calendar features a "mature" group of civic-minded women and their less than fully clothed visits to area restaurants. This unique and collector-worthy calendar (with excellent black-mail potential) is available for \$10 at the Read Between the Lines bookstore (341 N. Main) and the Museum.

- Milford Powerhouse T-Shirt. This light gray T-shirt is printed front and back with messages and visuals about the Powerhouse restoration project; \$10 at the Museum
- Milford Powerhouse Brick.



Immortalize yourself or a family member and leave a lasting impression in Milford. These 4" x 8" bricks with up to three lines of copy will be installed at the Powerhouse in Central Park. Offered at \$100 through the Museum or by calling 248-684-0684.

- Ten Minutes Ahead of the Rest of the World a history of Milford (\$30) at Read Between the Lines and the Museum.

column.)

2004 Home tour received outstanding support from:

- The Village Florist
- Beatty's
- Bogie Lake Greenhouse
- Colasanti's
- La Strada D' Eleganza
- Milford Farmer Jack
- South Lyon Caribou Coffee
- Starbuck's Coffee
- Main Street Merchants

Milford Kroger  
2004 Home Tour "Sponsors" (\$500+) were:

- The Milford Times
- Italy American Construction
- U. of M. Kellogg Eye Center

2004 Home Tour "Supporters" (\$120) were

- Heritage/GMAC Real Estate
- Tige Reader, RE/MAX

Homes

- Steve Suser, Sparkies American Grill
- Dave Armstrong, Monthly Shopper

## Shanty Creek Timeshare Available

The Milford Historical Society received the gift of a two-week timeshare at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan, from Scott Lovejoy III and Terry Shannon, whose family has a 150-year history in Milford Township. The board accepted this gift with the idea that we would sell or rent the timeshare to provide income for the Historical Society.

The one-bedroom condominium sleeps four, has a full kitchen, one bathroom, wood-burning fireplace and a view of Lake Bellaire.

## Bird's-eye View Print.



This is a 16" x 20" photo reproduction of a color illustration done of Milford in 1873. Suitable for framing, it is available at the Museum or Wind River Gallery (400 N. Main) for \$35 rolled in a tube.

- Panorama Print.



This dramatic 36" x 10" panoramic photo print features three sequential photos by Elmer Avery seamlessly blended into a 3-foot wide sepia reproduction with extremely crisp detail. This numbered print is suitable from framing and may be purchased at the Museum and Wind River Gallery for \$70 in a tube or \$80 shrink-wrapped on foamcore.

## Baker's Fund-raising Raffle Successful

Despite light attendance due to an all day threat of rain, our 50/50 raffle at the Baker's restaurant car show on August 29th netted \$150 for restoration of the powerhouse. This figure included \$30 from the sale of Milford Beauties

Available weeks are March 11 and 18 and September 23 and 30. Please contact board member Bill Schimmel at 248-685-1406 for purchase or rental information.

## Resignations Create Opportunities

Since our last newsletter, Tami Averill and Laurie Demko have resigned from the MHS Board of directors due to time demands beyond the Society. We thank both Tami and Laurie for their service and contributions. This creates opportunities for two of our members to serve the Historical Society in an expanded capacity. If you are interested, please contact Judith Reiter at 248-684-0684.

## WANTED! Handyman/Handywoman



Your Society has an open museum position for a handy person (man or woman). The job entails general building maintenance such as cleaning gutters and oiling the furnace. The hours are flexible; your choice! The compensation is considerable: the undying appreciation and gratitude of Milford Historical Society members and the Milford community! To apply please contact Sue Gumpper at 248-685-

Calendars. Our appreciation goes to Kelly Irwin who organized and led the effort supported by George Irwin, Judy Waara, Brook Qualman and Jay Qualman.

## Let the (Powerhouse) Work Begin!



When bids for the Powerhouse exterior restoration were opened on August 9, Cusack Masonry Restoration, Inc. had submitted the lowest of the six bids from pre-qualified construction companies. All bids came in within the estimated project costs with the Cusack bid 40% below that figure. This triggered the green light for Council approval to award the contract and begin work.

After 4 ½ years of fundraising, planning and scheming, the Powerhouse Committee is ready for the Village Council to officially set the work in motion by awarding the contract to Cusack. Also, the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office has requested a commitment to maintain and allow public access to the Powerhouse for the next 50 years. The MHS and the Village will work together to ensure these requirements are met. Look for the work to begin soon, perhaps before the snow flies!

This is an important project for the Village with its high profile as an historic town. The efforts of many

## 2004 Tractor Show



The Historical Society's annual tractor, show held in concert with the 2004 Home Tour, on September 19th, was enjoyed by many in our community. Thanks to Bill Crawford for again leading this event on our behalf.

## Volunteers for History

We cannot possibly list all of the volunteers who recently made history by contributing in so many ways and, especially, by kicking it up a notch for the 2004 Home Tour. What we can tell you, though, is that it was a very happy and proud group of people, who became a great team, and achieved a great result. Thanks to you all. And next year, when you get that call, remember what great fun it was, and say yes!

## Share Your Milford Photos



Do you have pre-1980's photos of the Milford area? If so, we'd like to borrow them so that they can be computer scanned and become part of the society's reference library. The photos will be promptly returned. If you help us with this important project, please contact Dave Chase (248-684-2338).

people brought us to this point and they should be very proud of their work. You have not heard the last of them, however. The interior restoration, sprucing up the site and interpreting this very important piece of Milford's history are yet to come.

Stayed tuned. There will be more opportunities to get involved next summer after the scaffolding is removed and cranes have left the Powerhouse site.

[Newsletter Archives – Click here to see past issues of the Milford Historian](#)