

The Milford Historian

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

“Remembering the First Step on the Moon”

By: Bill Schimmel

In May 1961, President John F. Kennedy challenged the NASA program to put a man on the moon before the end of the decade, and return him safely to earth. The space program was very young when that challenge was issued.



On July 16, 1969, the Apollo 11 mission landed the first lunar module on the moon. At 10:56 pm, Americans watched as Commander Neil Armstrong stepped onto the surface of the moon and spoke the now famous phrase “One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

Believe it or not, that historic moment happened 40 years ago. At our January meeting, Milford Historical Society member, Bill Schimmel will not only commemorate the 40th anniversary of the first men on the moon, he will also talk about the 50th anniversary of the NASA space program. Bill, who served 6 years as a Senior Research Engineer for Rocketdyne, worked to develop fabrication processes for rocket engines for the Apollo moon landing mission and Space Shuttle.



Our January General Membership meeting will begin with a scrumptious potluck dinner at 6:30pm at the Milford Methodist Church. A brief business meeting will begin at 7:30 pm followed immediately by our program. Please invite a guest; everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. You don’t have to be a member to enjoy this Thursday evening with people who like history. Bring your table service and a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name as shown below.

From your President...

Greetings and Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family were able to enjoy the holiday season with those you love. As we usher in the New Year and prepare to make New Year’s resolutions, I would like to acknowledge a few things that happened since our last newsletter.

In November, the Historical Society lost two members that made a mark on our society. Clara Calkins passed away on November 6, 2008. Clara was a Charter member of the Historical Society and a long time board member holding almost every position on the board. On November 12, 2008, John Sawruk lost a long battle with cancer. John and his wife Marge have been active members of the Milford Historical Society, as well as other Historical Societies, and the owners of the Hibbard Tavern. John was always willing to lend a helping hand and gave me some great advice on many projects. Clara and John were dedicated members of this organization and will be missed by many. Our heartfelt condolences go out to each family for their loss.

As we prepare for our January meeting, we are only days away from an historic event; the inauguration of the forty-fourth President of the United States. This January also marks a new fiscal year for the Historical Society. And in accordance with our by-laws, the president shall serve a two-year term at which time a new president shall be chosen. So as I step aside from this position I look back at the last two years and wonder where all the time has gone. I look back with a sense of pride on all our accomplishments. It takes a lot of work and a commitment from many caring people to make our organization a success. I thank each and every one of you who has made that commitment to the historical society.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their dedication to the society. Their commitment to our organization is excellent. They dug in and did their jobs with enthusiasm and gusto. Recently we had a change in some of the positions held on the board. Mary Lou Gharrity had been our treasurer for the past three years and, again, following our by-laws, a new treasurer must be selected. Judy Waara, who held the position of Corresponding Secretary, volunteered to become the Treasurer. And Mary Lou has kindly accepted the position of the Corresponding Secretary. (Letter continues on page 2)

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Potluck Dinner

Thursday, January 15, 2009

6:30 p.m.

United Methodist Church

1200 Atlantic, Milford



A-G
Dessert

H-R
Hot Side Dish

S-Z
Salad

Everyone: table service & beverage

(continued from page 1)

At our January General Membership meeting we will hold our annual election of directors whose terms have expired. The following members have agreed to continue their service on the Board. Judith Reiter, Jim Gabel and Mary Lou Gharrity. Departing from the Board is Jeff Spoor, whose working hours have made it difficult for him to attend Board meetings. This leaves a position open. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please let me know. Following the General Membership Meeting the Board of Directors will meet and I will pass the torch to a new President who will be elected at the January MHS Board meeting on January 28, 2009.

It's been a privilege representing this organization for the past two years. I've been fortunate to meet outstanding people who have contributed significantly to our society. I've enjoyed seeing the energy and the excitement of our membership during our meetings and fund raisers. And, of course, a special thanks to all the members of this Historical Society. We couldn't have been successful without your continued support. I plan on remaining on the board and contributing where I can. And, as I close my last letter, I would like to include a phrase that I found out in cyberspace.



The blessing of Hope. A time of new opportunities awaits. Celebrate the accomplishments of the past and dedicate yourself to welcoming the New Year with open arms.

President, Sue Bullard

Museum News

We would like to thank everyone who showed up to decorate the museum for Christmas. Joan Haver was the first one to come – she even brought a coffee pot which was so nice! Also helping out this year were Al Raddi and Julie Booth (Joan's sister and brother-in-law) who recently moved here from California and have become members already! Also helping were Sue Bullard, Sue Gumpfer, Mary Lou Gharrity and one student docent, Catherine Heykoop. We put up an extra tree this year and also put a family in the parlor which looked really nice. It was a lot of fun and hard work, as usual.

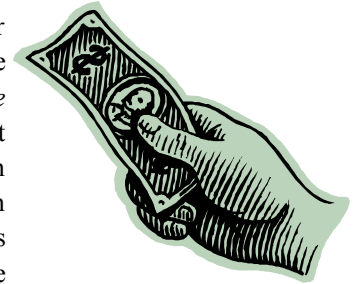


The museum closed on Sat. Dec. 20th for the winter and will reopen May 2nd of 2009.

Submitted by Marlene Gomez.

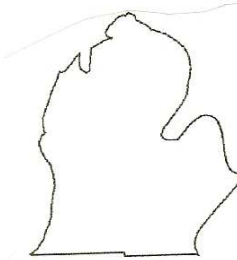
Please Pay Your 2009 Dues

Your dues renewal notice for 2009 should be arriving about the time you receive this issue of *The Milford Historian*. Please give it your prompt attention and you can check off one of the first things on your New Year's to-do list. This will be a very full year for the Society which depends on your dues to maintain the Museum, publish this newsletter and execute several events, such as the Fourth of July Parade and the Home Tour, benefiting the Milford community. Your dues can be mailed to the Museum at 124 E. Commerce, Milford, MI 48381. Better still, bring them to our January 15th meeting... and save 42 cents. Thank you.



Michigan Statehood Day

Saturday, January 24, 2009 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Michigan Statehood Day 2009 honors the 172nd birthday of the Great Lakes State. On January 26th, 1837 Michigan joined the Union as the nation's 26th state.

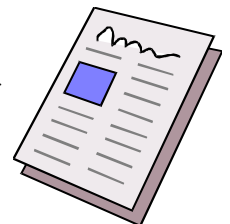
This year's theme is "Making Do Though-out Michigan's History." Over the years, our state has gone through good times and bad. We've brought together costumed interpreters to tell you how they made the best of it. They include a French voyageur, a British soldier

and 20th century Michiganders who canned and recycled. Enjoy live demonstrations and crafts. Free birthday cake to the first 100 visitors.

New *Milford Historian* Editor: Brook Qualman

Since 2004 I have enjoyed serving as editor of your newsletter. It's been a rewarding five years.

From the outset my wife, Brook, assisted with word processing and mailing and, over the past several months, has increasingly helped with content and composition. Appropriately, effective with this issue, Brook will assume responsibility for editing and publishing *The Milford Historian* for the next year. (Microsoft Publisher software is available for the member who volunteers to succeed her as editor.)



Jay Qualman

Thanks to our Home Tour Sponsors

The Milford Historical Society is especially appreciative this year for the donations of our Home Tour sponsors. We are pleased to welcome the Detroit Medical Center's Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital as a Platinum sponsor in addition to the Milford Times. With the support of these businesses, as well as your important individual contributions, we are able to continue working to preserve Milford's long and rich history.

Platinum Sponsors

- **DMC– Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (1st year)**
- **Milford Times (5th year)**



Milford Times

Gold Sponsor

- **Milford Downtown Development Authority (4th year)**

Supporters

- **Bakers of Milford**, Chris Baker (4th year)
- **The Burger Joint**, Steve & Natalene Suser (4th year)
- **Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce** (5th Year)
- **Huron Valley State Bank** (3rd Year)
- **Inter-Office Construction, Inc.** (1st year)
- **Kensington Dairy Queen** (3rd year)
- **Monthly Shoppers** (5th year)
- **Re/Max Platinum**, Tige Reader Team (2nd year)
- **Your Nesting Place**, Chris Meredith (4th year).

In addition to our sponsors, we would like to take this opportunity to also thank the following businesses for providing the beautiful flowers at the home sites: **Village Florist**, **Beatty's Florist and Greenhouse**, **Colasanti's** and **Your Nesting Place**.



Welcome New Members



We are pleased to announce that the newest members of the Milford Historical Society are **Bonnie Walworth** (Bonnie has been inputting on Past Perfect), **Albert Raddi** and **Julie Booth**. Welcome Bonnie, Albert and Julie!

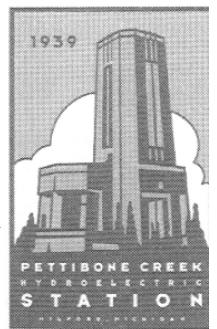
Powerhouse News

Milford Historical Society's preservation work on Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Station was recognized by Preservation Wayne, Detroit's oldest and largest architectural preservation organization, at their 2008 honor award dinner at Detroit's Gem Theatre.

Honored with a "Regional Neighbors" award, the Historical Society joined a distinguished list of honorees representing important preservation work. These included The Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Film Theater, Detroit Athletic Club, New Center Council, Indian Village Homeowners Association, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation and Detroit's Book Cadillac. For a full listing of the honorees and more information on Preservation Wayne, go to www.preservationwayne.org.

The Milford Historical Society's work with a History Channel grant and Huron Valley Schools, garnered an MEA Excellence Award for teacher Wendy Schmitt in recognition of her students' exceptional final product, two published books on Milford's Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Station and its importance in Milford's history.

Additional information is provided below.



Huron Valley Lakeland High School Teacher Receives MEA Excellence Award

Lakeland High School's teacher **Wendy Schmitt** was awarded *The Excellence Award* at the Michigan Education Association (MEA) Instruction and Professional Development Conference in Dearborn on December 5th.

The Michigan Education Association honored Schmitt with the MEA Excellence Award for her dedication to providing exceptional educational opportunities for her students. Schmitt was one of two teachers in Michigan receiving this outstanding award.

Wendy Schmitt uses real world adventures to bring marketing and history alive for her business education students at Lakeland High School in White Lake. She led her students on an ambitious project that produced two published books on the Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Station, more commonly known as the Milford Powerhouse. Schmitt took the two classes involved in the project on field trips, provided opportunities for them to interview local historians, and guided them through the writing and marketing process for publication. Perhaps the most telling results of Schmitt's efforts come from one of her students, who reflected afterward that, "After all the research and work that our class poured into this project, it seemed like it sparked interest in us. When a person cares about something, they pour their soul into doing it—we did that for this project."

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Phone: 248-685-7308
E-mail: milfordhistory@yahoo.com
Website: www.milfordhistory.org

WHAT'S HOT

**General Meeting
January 15th**

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2009 Events

- Jan. 15...**General Meeting and Program:
Remembering the First Step
- Jan 24....**Michigan Statehood Day
- Mar. 19...**General Meeting and Program.
Moving Historic Homes
- May 2...** .Museum Opens
- May 21...**General Meeting and Program:
The Bissell Family
- July 10th & 11th...** Granny's Attic Sale

Board of Directors

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Sue Bullard | President |
| Sue Gumper | Vice-President |
| Judy Waara | Treasurer |
| Mary Lou Gharrity | Corresponding Secretary |
| Kathy Rheume | Recording Secretary |
| Bill Schimmel | Director |
| Bill Crawford | Director |
| Judith Reiter | Director |
| Bob Crawford | Director |
| Norm Werner | Director |
| Jim Gabel | Director |
| Brian Mooney | Director |
| Carol Watkins | Director |

Milford Museum Staff

Marlene Gomez Assistant Director

685-7308

The Milford Historian

Newsletter of the Milford
Historical Society
published bimonthly
(six times per year)

Editor: Brook Qualman

Submission deadlines:
Last day of February,
April, June, August, Oc-
tober & December

Annual Member Dues

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Student..... | \$5 |
| Senior..... | \$10 |
| Individual..... | \$15 |
| Family..... | \$25 |
| Lifetime..... | \$250 |
| Small Business... | \$50 |
| Corporation..... | \$250+ |

Please enroll me/us as a member(s) of the Milford Historical Society:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City-State-Zip _____
Phone No. _____ E-mail _____

Mail to: Milford Historical Society, 124 E. Commerce, Milford, MI 48381