

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.*

“Show and Tell”

January 17, 2008 Meeting and Program

For our January General Membership Meeting we’re bringing back an old favorite, Show and Tell! It’s been a couple of years since we last had this program and it’s always been a favorite. If you’re not familiar with it, it’s very simple. Remember back to your school days when you brought something in to share with the class. Well, Show and Tell at the Historical Society is based on that concept.

In the past members have brought in a canvas bathtub, train light and chamber pot. We have also seen old pictures with great stories to go with them. Or, maybe you acquired an item and you're not sure what it is. If so, bring it in and we will try to figure it out. There are no rules, the sky’s the limit.

Our evening will begin with a scrumptious potluck dinner at 6:30 pm at the Milford Methodist Church located at 1200 Atlantic Street. A brief business meeting begins at 7:30 pm immediately followed by our program

Please feel free to 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 own table service and a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name as shown below.



From Your President...

Happy New Year!

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is behind us and I hope you enjoyed spending some time with your family and friends. As we welcome in the new year, many of us will be making those new year resolutions. Some of us will try to tame the bulge while some of us will try to be more organized.

While all of those are commendable goals, most of those resolutions will be forgotten by February. New year goals involve making a vow to do better in the coming year. I have always tried to choose something that is more realistic and obtainable for myself. So many Januaries ago while visiting the Milford Historical Museum and receiving a tour from one of our old neighbors, I decided to join the Historical Society and become a docent. I was single and had a lot of time on my hands and the commitment was only 3 hours a month. Becoming a docent would give me a chance to meet new people and learn more about my hometown. I'll be honest, I was a little nervous. I'd lived here and had heard many stories from my Grandfather on what Milford was like when he was growing up. I wondered if I would be able to remember everything? I received my orientation from Mary Lou and was given the “script” about the museum.

I was very excited on my first day as a docent...that is until my first visitor came through the door. It was Myrtle Rowe. For those not familiar with the Rowe name, the Rowe family ran the Milford Times for many years. Each year Myrtle's son would bring her to the museum for a visit and each year she insisted on taking a tour of the entire museum. Now, I was beyond nervous. This woman not only knew every piece in the museum, she knew the family that donated it. Fortunately, she was kind and patient. And, before long, she became the docent and I became the guest touring the museum! After the tour ended, Myrtle and her son would sit down at the table on the first floor and reminisce about Milford. I was lucky to have Myrtle as my docent for two more summers before she passed away. I'll never forget my first day as a docent and that special visitor. How I miss those visits!

It’s been said that when you give something, it comes back ten-fold. I truly believe that. Even today while I'm at the museum, I get to meet great people that end up teaching me things. So when you are making your resolutions for 2008, I hope you remember the Historical Society.

As your president, I am extremely proud of our docents and the time they donate. Over the years our docents have shared our town’s historic stories with hundreds of individuals from all over the world. Volunteers are a crucial part of any organization and without you we won't be able to open our doors. This May the Milford Historical Museum will open for its 32nd year. The training is still going on and the scripts have been prepared. So, if you can spare three hours a month, let us know.

Sue Bullard

Happy New Year

**January General Meeting
& Potluck Dinner**

Thursday, January 17, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Milford United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic, Milford

<u>A-G</u>	<u>H-R</u>	<u>S-Z</u>
Main Dish	Salad	Dessert

Everyone: Table service & beverage (coffee provided)

Museum News

A big thank you to everyone who helped decorate the museum for Christmas on November 17th. Sue Bullard is always our decorator leader and she really cracks the whip. This year Brook Qualman, Catherine Heykoop, Jessica Powers and Kari Boyd and Marlene all helped out. It's always fun to see the different touches people like to add - the dining room with the red ribbons cascading down from the chandelier looked so nice. And Brook did a great job on a small tree in the kitchen - thank you! We also did a patriotic Christmas tree downstairs in red, white and blue - that was Sue's idea. Happy New Year to everyone!

Marlene Gomez

Please Pay Your 2008 Dues

Your dues renewal notice for 2008 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 Years' 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 2008 dues can be mailed to the Museum at 124 E. Commerce, Milford, MI 48381. Better still, bring them to our January 17th membership meeting... and save 41 cents. Thank you.



Help Earn Money for the Society

Suppose the Milford Historical Society earned a penny every time you searched the internet? Or, how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can! GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!



GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Milford Historical Society as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

MHS Officers and Board Members

This year's election of officers will be held at our January 17, 2008, General Membership meeting. Those members volunteering to continue to service on the Board of Directors are: Sue Bullard, Norm Werner, Bill Schimmel and Katherine Rheaume. We would like to thank Dave Chase and Bob Crawford who have decided to step down from the board. We are grateful for their service and many contributions to the Board and to the Historical Society

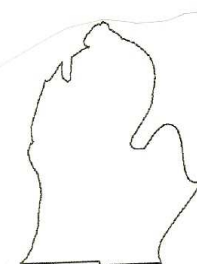
Congratulations to Fiona Hammock who was elected at our November 15, 2007 General Meeting to fill an open seat on the Board.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please contact Sue Bullard (248-685-8321)

Michigan Statehood Day

Saturday January 26, 2008 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Michigan Statehood Day 2008 honors the 171st birthday of the Great Lakes State. On January 26, 1837, Michigan joined the Union as the nation's 26th state. This year's celebration is titled "Proud of the Past, Positive about the Future." Tour the museum galleries to learn more about Michigan, its citizens and their accomplishments. You will enjoy presenters, costumed interpreters, musical performances and hands-on activities highlighting Michigan milestones.



The Michigan Historical Museum is located inside the Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing. The museum and visitor parking are on the north side of Kalamazoo Street, two blocks east of M. L. King Jr. Boulevard. Admission and weekend parking are free.

Support our Home Tour Sponsors

In appreciation for their generous and ongoing contributions, all Society members should remember to support our Home Tour Sponsors:

- **The Milford Times:** Platinum Sponsor (3rd year sponsor)
- **Milford Downtown Development Authority (DDA):** Gold Sponsor (3rd year)

Welcome new members!



We are pleased to announce that the newest member of the Milford Historical Society is **Ann Johnson** from Manistique.. Welcome Ann!

Milford's Carburetor Plant : The Labor Union Story

by Jay Qualman

In the beginning

On July 23, 1941— only a few short months before Pearl Harbor — a group of employees at the small Ford Motor Company plant in Milford, Michigan, received its official charter from the United Auto Workers of America (UAW). The charter they received was number 898, and thus became UAW Local 898. There were 300 members and only one product, the old Chandler Grove Carburetor. It remained the only product made by that Ford plant and its union members until September of 1957, when the plant and the union moved to Rawsonville, Michigan.

Contract benefits

Under wages and hours, the original contract called for the company to pay rates in several classifications "at least as high as those paid by the major competitor" in auto, cement, glass, steel and tire industry. Employees working on first and third shifts received five cents an hour in addition to regular pay, and time and one-half was paid for work on Sunday and holidays. The contract also resulted in improvements in basic working conditions, sick leave, representation, grievance procedures, seniority, transfers, promotions, layoffs, reinstatements and strikes and lockouts.

Ford Motor Company is organized by the UAW

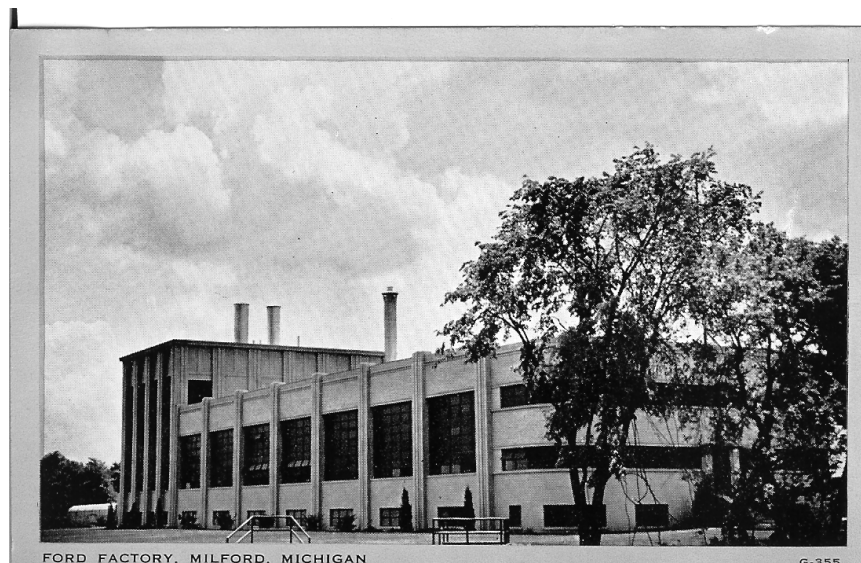
But before there was a UAW 898, the UAW had to organize Ford. The year 1941 is remembered for labor/management violence. It began with the most violent, bitter strike in the history of the auto industry. Henry Ford had sworn his company would never unionize; he would close the doors first. Under the leadership of the young Reuther Brothers the strikers stood their ground. Their success in March of 1941 brought the last of the "Big Three" into the UAW.

There was no company wide agreement at that time. Each location had to be approached and won individually, but the Rouge settlement sent a clear signal to workers at all the other Ford locations. The first Ford agreement was signed June 20th, 1941 and UAW Local 898 was chartered July 23rd of the same year. The Milford Plant was built in 1938 for the purpose of producing the Chandler Grove Carburetor. *During the mid-1950's Ford Motor Company wanted to bulldoze a hill behind the plant to expand the operation. The village fathers denied their application.* The plant closed and Rawsonville became the new home of the Ford Motor Company Carburetor Plant in September of 1957.

Products and workers from Waterford, Manchester, Ypsilanti, and the Rouge would join the original Milford group, which worked at the Ypsilanti Plant until Rawsonville was ready. When they moved to Rawsonville the floors were still dirt and some of the walls were not finished!

There were some problems

The fifties saw the uncertainty of the whole process of closing out the old "village industry" plants and bringing their operations together into larger, more modern facilities. The pain and resistance of workers forced to relocate or drive many miles to do jobs they had been doing for years near home spilled over into their efforts to establish relationships with new co-workers. Each of the new groups brought its own methods and attitudes to the work place. Nevertheless, this trend in manufacturing consolidation continued.



FORD FACTORY, MILFORD, MICHIGAN

G-355

Based on Ken Turner's "Local Chartered July 23, 1941 at Small Ford Plant in Milford" and John Blair's "Local 898"

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WHAT'S HOT

General Meeting
Thursday, January 17,
2008

United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic Street

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2008 Events

Jan. 17....General Meeting and Program:
"Show and Tell"
Mar. 20...General Meeting and Program
"Pettibone Powerhouse"
May 15....General Meeting and Program:
TBD
July 11....Granny's Attic Sale (Museum
& 12 Lawn)
July 20....MHS Annual Picnic:
Tea J's Tea Room, 314 S Main
Sept 11....General Meeting and Program
"Barn Preservation"

Board of Directors

Sue Bullard	President
Sue Gumper	Vice-President
Mary Lou Gharrity	Treasurer
Kathy Rheaume	Recording Secretary
Judy Waara	Corresponding Secretary
Bill Schimmel	Director
Bill Crawford	Director
Judith Reiter	Director
Jeff Spoor	Director
Norm Werner	Director
Fiona Hammock	Director

Milford Museum Staff

Marlene Gomez Assistant Director

685-7308

The Milford Historian

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

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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