

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.*

Annual Picnic

It's July and summer is in full swing. It's a time of the year when we enjoy the Independence Day parade, Thursday night concerts in Central Park, canoeing down the Huron River and picnics with friends. The Historical Society July membership meeting will be our annual picnic and will take place Sunday, July 19, 2009.

The site of this year's picnic will take us down a road traveled by many of our community's earliest pioneers. Before freeway and before paved roads early pioneers would brave trails in the wilderness. Starting in Detroit, they would follow Grand River Trail then branch off to the Northwest on a dusty road that would lead them into Milford. Later that road would be called Old Plank Road, probably because planks would be placed in the trail to help aid the travelers from the old dusty, muddy road. Later a toll booth would be placed on the road and travelers would need to pay a toll to use the road.

Our hosts this year are Nancy and Bill Schimmel. Their home is located at 2992 Old Plank Road, Milford. Our picnic will begin at 2pm and we asked that you bring your favorite summer dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name listed below. Entertainment for this year's picnic will be our President, Russ Rheume and the Milford Historical Society International Symphony performing some old time summer favorites. Also our host, Bill Schimmel will give guided hikes on some trails in the area to those interested, so bring along some hiking shoes

So pack your picnic basket and throw a lawn chair in the car and join us for an enjoyable afternoon at the Schimmel's. Feel free to invite a guest. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. All are welcome. You don't have to be a member to enjoy an afternoon with people who like history.



Annual Picnic
Sunday July 19, 2009
2:00 p.m.
Schimmels
2992 Old Plank Rd



A-F
Dessert

G-Q
Main Dish

R-Z
Salad

Everyone: table service & beverage

From Your President

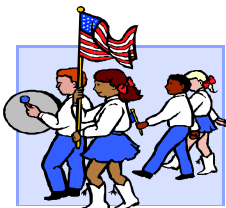
By the time you read this the Milford 4th of July Parade will be over and **Kathy** and I can relax. This has been our seventh year coordinating the parade. It begins in March with ordering the jets to fly over and then jumping through a few hoops. Then right after the Mil-



ford Memorial Day Parade, the applicants start calling and we start sending out forms to all the participants. Next we start lining up volunteers to help. For example; we invite

Dave Armstrong to moderate, and Lafontaine Cadillac to provide some convertibles. We place the politicians behind the horses and send press releases to the local newspapers. My favorite job is ordering coffee and two dozen donuts from Tim Horton's for the parade day volunteers. Since I have the honor of this job, I always order a dozen French crullers. We videotape each parade and then show the tape to local nursing home residences during the year. Whew.

However, the Parade is all free and we need money to keep the Historical Society fires burning. Our Home Tour is our biggest money maker and thanks to **Sue Bullard, Sue Gumper, Judy Waara** and countless others, we have at least five houses to show this year.



Granny's Attic will be held on Friday, July 9th and Saturday, July 10th. This is another good fund raiser. **Duane Freitag** has spent a great deal of time collecting antiques and estate items for our sale. We can all contribute by donating our items and by volunteering to help set up and sell during this event.

When the Museum sign blew over **Brian Mooney** was right there to fix it and set it back up. **Mary Lou Gharrity** and **Marlene Gomez** plus others have cleaned the Museum and changed the displays. You all should drop by some Wednesday or Saturday afternoon to see how nice it looks.

I know there are many volunteers on other projects and I wish I could mention them all. Anything each member can suggest and do for the Society is very much appreciated. See you all at the next General Meeting on **July 19th - a picnic hosted by Bill and Nancy Schimmel.**

Russ Rheume, President

Granny's Attic

Don't miss our annual Granny's Attic sale on July 10th and 11th. **Duane Freitag** has been working hard collecting items from local estates and hopefully, you have all been delivering your "antiques" to the museum. The sale is from 9-4 on Friday and Saturday. Come early and bring your friends, or better yet volunteer to help.



Computer Mail Scam

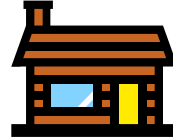
Recently the Milford Historical Society was a victim of an email scam. On Monday, June 8, 2009 many members of the Historical Society received an urgent email from someone imposing as a member of this organization. This email was an attempt to fraudulently scam money from our membership. First and foremost, the Milford Historical Society would never send out such a request. Our email list is never shared with other individuals or organizations and is strictly for the use of informing our members of upcoming events/fundraisers. No matter how careful we try to be, there are individuals that will try to prey on a group of individuals of a trusted organization. Thank you to everyone with their prompt phone calls to alert us of this situation. Since then, the Yahoo email address has been terminated and the incident was reported to the local authorities. A new email address has been open with another carrier; our new email address is milfordhistory@hotmail.com.



MHS Home Tour and Museum

Celebrating 33 Years

Mark September 19th and 20th on your calendar and join us for another terrific Home Tour! The 2009 Home Tour will feature five beautiful area homes, and special visits to the Log Cabin, Powerhouse, and the Milford Historical Society Museum.



Be sure and check our September Newsletter for specific information on the five homes and watch for the "See Me In September" signs during Milford Memories for a sneak preview. To peak your interest; your tour will include visits to a school house, an 1841 Greek revival farm house and a home filled with antiques, collectables and great decorating ideas.

Need more to do? The Log Cabin in South Side Park will be open and feature activities for the young and young at heart. Tour the Power House and view the renovation progress. The museum will be open and features a display of Main Street and Neighboring Businesses Memories. On Sunday step back in history and visit the Tractor Show in its new location. The tractors will be found in the Huron Valley State Bank parking lot at 130 South Milford Road. We also hope to include the always popular "Privy Dig".



We are also looking into the possibility of opening the Mary Jackson house for a special event. The event would be an additional expense. The funds would go toward making necessary repairs to the house. If you have an idea for this special event please contact us at one of the numbers below.

The tour begins at 11:00 am and goes to 5:00 pm both days. Home Tour tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$13.00 for seniors. The tickets will be available before September 20th at Main Street Art (432 N. Main) Saint George's Café' (159 N. Main), Acorn Farm (367 N. Main) and the Milford Historical Museum (124 E. Commerce, open Wednesdays and Saturdays 1 to 4 p.m.).

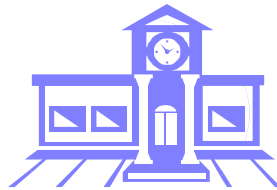


Be sure to mark your calendars and join us! Better yet, call Sue Gumper (685-26910 or the museum (685-7308) and volunteer to help during the tour.

History Repeats Itself?

This first part seems a little familiar in today's economy—the second is just an interesting result—taken from Ten Minutes Ahead of the Rest of the World.

In 1935, the year that Milford Township attained self-government, the United States was enjoying boom times with reckless abandon. ..the boom brought prosperity to Michigan. A new banking law passed by the State Legisla-



ture in 1837 allowed banks to be formed with only \$50,000. in assets and only 30 percent of these assets in actual specie. If the law concerning “paid in “ capital stock had been enforced, the banks might have operated

legitimately, but all kinds of fraud existed and the inevitable result was “wild cat” banking. The wildcats printed their own money or notes, claiming they were backed by specie when indeed, they rarely were. Stories are told of bank examiners who marked gold in one bank and found the same gold backing the notes in at least three other banks. The bank owners had spirited the gold from one bank to another just ahead of the examiner. As long as the boom times existed and people were borrowing money to speculate on land, the banks had nothing to fear, but when the holders of the fraudulent notes began to redeem the notes for specie, only catastrophe could result. (Which it did-sound familiar?)

Before the bust of ‘39, however, the State of Michigan, led by its young governor, Stevens T. Mason, passed the Internal Improvements Act...to improve transportation systems in Michigan. ..Surveyors fanned out through the state to prepare the way for all the new improvements. One such group reached Milford about 1837 and proceeded to survey this township for the ...proposed Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal. This canal was expected to connect Lake St. Clair on the east with Lake Michigan on the west. ..



Great fanfare greeted the start of construction in May, 1839, when ground was broken by Gov. Mason in Mt Clemens. Thirty miles of the canal were actually dug and may be seen today in the Utica Recreation area near Rochester....

Gov. Mason's funds dried up in the depression of the 1840's and all improvements halted including the Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal. ...Today Canal Street is all Milford has to show for the high hopes which surrounded the proposed waterway across Michigan.

Sneak Preview of September Program

Tin Can Tourist

Traveling in the early 1920's and 30's was much different that it is today. Hotels and Motels weren't as plentiful as they are today and the cars of the early 1900's weren't as luxurious as the SUV we have today. Back in the day, travelers would rig their cars with folding tents on the side of their car or they would convert the back of their trucks for their sleeping arrangements. Their next challenge would be to find a decent camp ground. So in 1919, a “new” term was given to a group that gathered in Desoto Park in Tampa Florida . “Tin-Can Tourist” was a group of individuals that organized with their objective to be “to unite fraternally all auto campers.

Members of the Tin-Can Tourist group were recognized by a tin can soldered to the radiator cap of the member's car. These groups of travelers had guidelines that they stuck to. A camp area must be clean; campers must be friendly and have wholesome entertainment. These early travelers would meet through the summer throughout the Midwest with Traverse City , Michigan serving as a primary host city. Winters were spent in Desoto Park in Tampa until 1924 when other communities in Florida began to campaign for their patronage. In the peak of the year, the group ranged from 30,000 to 100,000 individuals, but soon World War II began and the recession of 1939 would affect the group's membership. By the mid 1970's membership had diminished so much that the group no longer existed.



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)

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WHAT'S HOT

**Granny's Attic
July 10th & 11th**

**Annual Picnic
July 19th**

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2009 Events

July 4.....4th of July Parade

July 10th & 11th... Granny's Attic Sale

July 19... Picnic hosted by Bill and Nancy Schimmel

Board of Directors

Russ Rheume	President
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Sue Gumper	Vice-President
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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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Editor: Brook Qualman

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April, June, August,
October & 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