

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.*

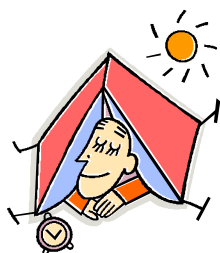
Tin Can Tourist

Traveling in the early 1920's and 30's was much different than it is today. Hotels and Motels weren't as plentiful and the cars of the early 1900's weren't as luxurious as the SUV's we have today. Back in the day, travelers would pack folding tents on the side of their car or they would convert the back of their trucks into sleeping areas. 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 "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 during 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. 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.

In 1998, Forrest and Jeri Bone from Milford renewed the club as an all make and model vintage trailer and motor coach club. Their first gathering was held at Camp Dearborn in May. Twenty-one rigs attended and by the end of the year their membership grew to fifty campers. Over the years, the group has grown steadily and currently holds annual gatherings in Michigan, Florida and regional rallies at various locations in the US. At our September general membership meeting we will meet Forrest and Jeri Bone and hear all about being a Tin-Can Tourist.

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 will begin at 7:30 pm followed immediately by our program. Please 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 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 in box..



President's Letter

Fall is upon us. Can you believe that! So far this year, we have been successful with a Parade, a Tea Party, Granny's Attic, the parking lots during Milford Memories, Mary Jackson House special occasion rentals and guest lecturing. We have had terrific speakers and pot luck dinners at our General Meetings. We certainly are on a roll.



Now on to the Home Tour This is our biggest fundraiser and everyone; especially **Judy Waara, Bill Schimmel, Sue Bul-lard** and **Sue Gumper** are lining up docents, house captains, etc. Please spread the news about the **September 19th & 20th - 33rd Annual 2009 Home Tour**. Brochures are available at the Museum and we have been placing signs at businesses all over town.



The Milford Historical Society International Symphony has been appearing all over town promoting the Historical Society and will be next performing at the Milford Senior Citizens Center on Friday September 4th at 11 AM. The Society should be proud of such a 'class act'. I think?

Russ Rheaume, President

General Meeting

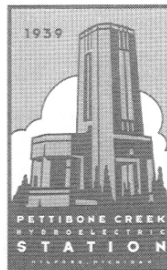
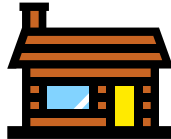
Thursday, September 10, 2009
6:30 p.m.

Milford Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic Street

<u>A-F</u>	<u>G-Q</u>	<u>R-Z</u>
Salad	Dessert	Main Dish
Everyone: table service & beverage (chairs)		

MHS Home Tour Update

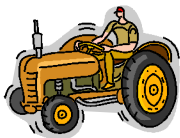
September 19th and 20th are approaching rapidly! If you would like to help out and have not been contacted, please call **Susan Gumper** at **248-685-2691** or the museum at 248-685-7308. We are fortunate to have six terrific homes this year. Three of the homes are located in the Village limits and three can be found on North Garner Road between G.M. and Commerce Roads. If you want to take an early peek, look for the homes at 524 Hickory, 104 Second, 618 S. Main and 775, 835, and 1065 North Garner.



The 2009 Home Tour will feature six beautiful area homes, special visits to the Log Cabin, Pow-erhouse, and MHS Museum. We are pleased to have Tony Panepucci and his crew join us again to provide a “Privy Dig”. Check the newspaper for the day and location of the dig. On Sunday step back in history and visit the Tractor Show at it’s new location, the Huron Valley Bank parking lot.

The tour begins at 11:00 am and goes until 5:00 pm both days. Home Tour tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$13.00 for seniors. Tickets will be available before September 20th at Main Street Art (432 N. Main) Saint George’s Café (159 N. Main), Acorn Farm (367 S. 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 (685-2691) or the museum (685-7308) and volunteer to help during the tour. With six beautiful homes on the tour we need all the docent help we can get.



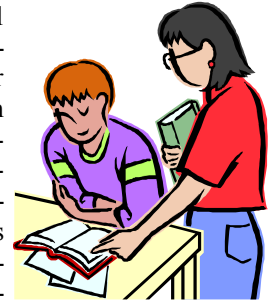
Museum Yard Cleanup

Saturday, Sept. 12 will be Museum Clean Up the yard day. The time is 1-3 pm. All volunteers are welcome! Bring rakes, brooms, weeders, clippers, whatever’s your favorite gardening tool. It’s more fun to work with others. The more the merrier.



Student Docent Scholarships

Do you have a high school age daughter, son, grand-daughter, grandson, neighbor or friend who is interested in history, enjoys sharing information and demonstrates responsible behavior? The Milford Historical Society offers a limited number of scholarships to students who are willing to commit to work as museum docents, helping with Historical Society projects and assisting with museum maintenance. Students must participate in docent training and volunteer a minimum of 30 hours to qualify for the minimum scholarship of \$300.00. If you know a high school student, please let them know about our Docent Scholarship program and encourage them to call Sue Gumper (248-685-2691) for more information or to learn how to apply. This year we are very pleased to be awarding a total of \$3,000.00 in scholarships. We wish Kari Boyd, Jessica Powers and Michelle Hier success and happiness as they each begin their college experience.



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)



Gold Sponsor

- Milford Downtown Development Authority (4th year)

Museum News

We've had a good summer at the museum with many visitors. Country Oaks Elementary 2nd graders came in on two Wednesdays in June. Kurtz Elementary (year-round) 2nd grade students visited in July along with Kristen Rowell and her Brownie Troop. Back in the spring, Cynthia Hergenroether from Caretel Inns said they were opening a facility in Brighton and were creating a "Hall of History." She came into the museum and bought copies of old photographs and postcards for their display. She said the people living in their facilities really enjoy their "Hall of History" of the surrounding communities. We also received a request from the University of Michigan Exhibit Museum of Natural History wanting any brochures from the historical society that they could display and we did accommodate them too. In late August we had children and parents from the Lake Sherwood Daycare center on Commerce Rd. and also a group of young men from the Salvation Army in Detroit came in to visit. Everyone seemed to enjoy the museum. We are especially proud of the "Milford Display" that Sue Gumper has worked so hard on. Thanks Sue! And this is not counting the every day summer vacationers that come in to visit.



On another note, we are saying good-bye to three of our student docents who are off to college this fall. Michelle Hier will be going to Lawrence Institute of Technology, Kari Boyd will be going to Michigan State University and Jessica Powers is heading to Oakland University. All three girls earned their full scholarships with us and we want to thank them for all of their help. Each student we've had always has a special talent they bring to the museum and our "young" visitors especially like tours conducted by them. Good luck to them all! Watch for our next newsletter for information on the students we currently have working with us: Stephanie Thorpe, Hannah Gasvoda and Catherine Heykoop.

Submitted by Marlene Gomez

Newsletter Editor



I am pleased to announce that **Diane Nussal** will be the new editor of *The Historian* beginning with the January/February Newsletter. Thank you Diane.

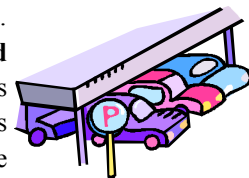
Welcome New Members -

Jim and Sherrie Klepser as life time members and Mark Sullivan. Welcome.



Parking Lots

The parking lots which we manned for Milford Memories were a huge success in spite of Saturdays rain. Thanks to **Joyce Clark** and **Sue Bullard** for organizing this and to all the volunteers who sold spaces. And a very special thanks to **Mr. & Mrs. Subhash Kapur** and the **Masonic Lodge** for donating their parking lots and making this possible.



Made in Milford

Taken from Ten Minutes ahead of the Rest of the World to compliment the current Museum display.

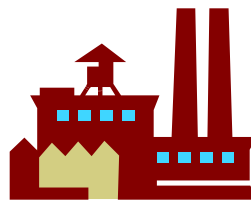


It was the water power which made the difference. The little village which grew up near the intersection of Pettibone Creek and the Huron River might have been just another farming community had it not been for the water power which attracted men with industrial talents. By 1840 Milford had a saw mill, grist mill, distillery and woodworking shop. Soon a woolen mill (known for its "Kentucky jeans"), flour mill and foundry (box stoves, "Cayuga Chief" mowers, Curtis and Dodge plows) had been added. The woodworking shop evolved into a furniture and coffin manufacturer and later a door knob factory.

In 1892 the Well Cultivator Company used the Peters Mill to supply their electricity. As business were sold or changed hands, manufacturing of the "Ladies Friend" washing machine, a riding and a walking cultivator, carriages and bicycles began.



Edwards Bissell and Thornhill manufactured the "Little Giant" corn and potato scoop. John Sherwood established a brick yard. The site of the Ford carburetor plant was the location for making, tin bathtubs, toilet seats, tub rims and flush tanks, and bookcases. Thompson Sebring invented a corn cutting machine (success unknown) and Frank Orvis invented the first horseless carriage in Milford. It had six wheels and was designed to turn any carriage whose tongue had been removed into an automobile. Unfortunately, it was not a success.



"Milford's golden age of manufacturing and industry lasted about fifty years. During this period the village seemed always on the brink of becoming an important industrial center. The city fathers never slackened in their attempts to lure manufacturers to Milford and it seemed that each new enterprise might be the "big" one-the one that would put Milford on the map."

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WHAT'S HOT

**General Meeting
September 10th**

**Home Tour
September 19th & 20th**

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2009 Events

Sept 10.....General Meeting

Sept 12..... Museum Yard Cleanup

Sept 19/20Home Tour

Sept 23.....Board of Directors Meeting

Nov 19Trains by Jay Qualman

Board of Directors

Russ Rheaume	President
Sue Bullard	Vice-President
Sue Gumper	Vice-President
Judy Waara	Treasurer
MaryLou Gharrity	Corresponding Secretary
Kathy Rheaume	Recording Secretary
Bill Schimmel	Director
Judith Reiter.....	Director.....
Bill 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)

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Editor: Brook Qualman

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Submission deadlines:
Last day of February,
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