

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.*

“A Victorian Christmas”

The evolution of the Victorian Christmas tree and holiday greenery decorations.

As we celebrate this holiday season with our family and friends, we can credit many of our traditions to the Victorian Era. Before the long reign of Britain's Queen Victoria (1837-1901), most families didn't celebrate the holiday as we know it today. The era not only promoted churchgoing, but encouraged gift-giving and charity to the poor as an essential part to the holiday. They transformed folk figures of Father Christmas and Santa Claus into symbols of holiday generosity.



Our speaker for our November meeting is Susan Cooper. Susan is an exhibit designer and graphic artist at the Michigan Museum in Lansing, where she has been employed since 1976. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Western Michigan University with a major in religion and minors in art, interior design and psychology. An avid Santa Claus and holiday decoration collector, she has over 200 books relating to Christmas.

Susan will not only provide us with a slide presentation, but will offer us a hands-on experience. Specifically, after viewing slides and examining books and ornaments from Susan's collection, you will have the opportunity to make historic holiday decorations to take home.

Our meeting will begin at 6:30 pm with a sumptuous Thanksgiving potluck dinner at the Milford Methodist Church, 1200 Atlantic Street. The turkeys will be provided and prepared by your board of directors. Members should bring the fixin's as shown below.

November 2005 General Meeting

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

Thursday, November 17, 2005

6:30 pm

United Methodist Church



A-G

Hot Side Dish

H-N

Salad

O-Z

Dessert

Everyone: Table service & beverage (coffee provided)

From Your President...

Home Tour 2005 Volunteers Made it Happen

Warm thanks to the many whose time and talents made Home Tour 2005 a great success!

Home owners: Anne and Greg Beck, Fiona Hammock and Cindy Comet, Katharine and Kevin Rose, Virgene Wright, Sue Gumper, Sandi and Todd Marva.

Sponsors:

Platinum: The Milford Times (2nd year)

Gold: Italy American Construction (2nd year)

Silver: Milford DDA

Supporters:

Tige Reader, RE/MAX Homes (2nd year)

Steve and Natalene Susser, Sparkies Bar & Grill, Highland
(2nd year)

Dave Armstrong, Monthly Shoppers (2nd year)

Chris Meredith, Your Nesting Place

The Feigley Family

Tom Motley, Arms Brothers, (banner installation)

Milford Dairy Queen (Signage)

Milford Medical Supply

Entertainers: Larry Green, Margaret Babineau, Cindy Sherwood, Lilith Dengate, The Parlor Players, Russ Rheume and Bill Schimmel.

Home Tour Committee: Sue Gumper, Sue Bullard, Judy Waara, Bill Schimmel, Dave Chase, Judith Reiter, Kelly Irwin.

House Captains: Bill Schimmel, Theresa Heurtebise, Susan Smith, Carol Watkins, Judy Waara, Duane Freitag, Katherine Rheume.

And... Carolyn Graves, Kim Purcell, Marlene Gomez, Tami Averill, Brook Qualman, Chris Smith, Bill Crawford, Jeff Spoor, Al Riggs.

And... Special appreciation for the research work of the late Barbara Bank Young who contributed so much to the Historical Society archives and the success of our Home Tours over the past 30+ years.

David Chase

Home Tour 2005: Making a Difference!

Did you know the annual Home Tour provides the funding for the ongoing upkeep of the Milford Historical Museum and other projects sponsored by the Historical Society including student docent scholarships, microfilming of the Milford Times, historical signs on Main Street and the Fourth of July Parade? This is why we greatly appreciate everyone who volunteers their time and expertise to this important event now in its 29th year.



Did you realize the Milford Historical Society Home Tour requires a small army of dedicated volunteers to be successful? This year the residents of six wonderful homes volunteered to open their doors and graciously welcomed about 800 curious visitors. The homeowners were partnered with eight house captains who worked diligently to ensure the tours were informative and ran smoothly. We also had MHS members leading tours and/or activities at the log cabin, powerhouse, museum and tractor show.

Behind the scenes, MHS members took charge of volunteer procurement, publicity, entertainment, hospitality, signage, finance, historic research and sponsorships. This was a small but very dedicated group of people who were committed to this most important venture. This year the Milford Beauties partnered with the home tour committee, adding a touch of creativity and interest with their decorative table settings.

Our home tour docents make up the largest group of volunteers. About 120 community members donate 2½ to 3 hours to welcome our visitors and guide them through the homes. We couldn't do the tour without them.

We are pleased to announce that the Home Tour 2005 was a success! Thank You, Thank You to our Home Tour 2005 Volunteers. The MHS Board greatly appreciates each and every one of you. We know you worked hard and hope you had fun

Sue Gumper

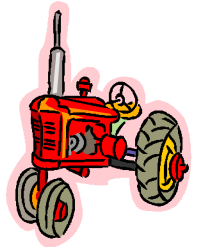
Home Tour 2005: Financial Report

Home Tour weekend was a wonderful success! It's a tribute to the committee chairs and the many docents that the event ran so smoothly. As for the numbers, we sold a total of 695 tickets and offered approximately 120 docents free tickets. The net profit from ticket sales was \$6515. Our Sponsorship Program netted another \$1352 for a grand total of \$7867. These monies will help us support the Milford Historical Museum and fund the Society's many projects. Importantly, our partnership with The Milford Beauties also netted this civic group \$2085 for their railroad embankment beautification project.

Sue Gumper

Tractor Show the Best

Our 7th annual Milford Home Tour Tractor show was the best yet. Perfect weather was also a big plus for the tractor show this year. Many thanks to all of the participants and the public that visited.



It's been said that location is everything, and we've found the perfect location.

Thanks again to Johnson Elementary School, which has been involved in some way every year, and to Sue Gumper who has helped every year.

We added a new feature this year—a vendor. Although he is life resident of Milford, this was his first time selling in Milford and he's enthusiastic to return next year with hopefully more vendors.

Mark your calendar for September 17, 2006 and come to the show either with a tractor or to see the display. There may be a surprise or two such as this year's appearance of a restored 1919 Case cross-engine tractor.

Bill Crawford

Log Cabin Enhanced

Substantial work has been done at the Historical Society's Log Cabin in South Side Park. Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 172 for erecting the fence. Thanks to Tami Averill and Donn Sleek for planting and maintaining the garden, and Jeff Spoor for his work. It all looks terrific.



Welcome New Member!

We are pleased to announce that **Bob Russell** is our newest Society member. Welcome aboard, Bob!

Remembering Hugh Davies

We wish to express our condolences to the family of Hugh Davies. Hugh and his wife, Alice, were active and long-time members of the Milford Historical society. Hugh will be missed by all who knew him.

Powerhouse Phase I Complete!

It's clean, it's bright, it's beautiful once again!

The exterior restoration work on the Powerhouse in Central Park was completed in late October. With the massive windows restored, the extensive brick repair complete and the quarry tile floor in place, the Art Deco structure draws compliments and much interest from the many visitors who have dropped by during recent open house there. Phase I represents the largest portion of the cost of preparing the building for a tenant.

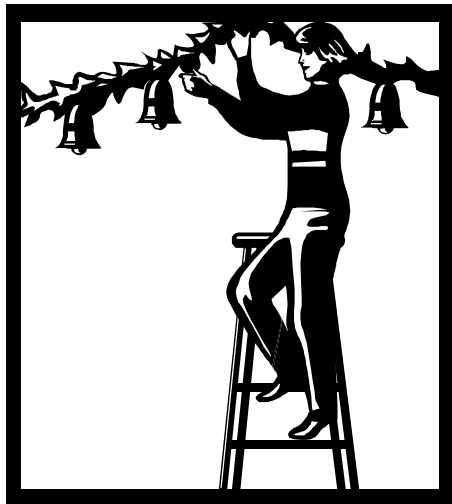
Phase II, the interior work, has begun with a team of volunteer electricians and electrical contractors pulling together donated time and materials. Materials and labor to paint the interior of the building have also been offered. We are still looking for donations for the carpentry work required inside (a handicap-access toilet room) and the heating and cooling system.

We are currently soliciting materials for Phase III, the sewer/water connection, while contractors have been secured to do the work as an in-kind donation.

The powerhouse will be open for visitors as we show off what we have accomplished and continue to ask for help to complete the project. We are taking donations for "Buy-a-Brick" (\$100) and would encourage any other help in bringing this dream to a reality.

If you can help, please contact me at 248-684-0684.

Judith Reiter



Help Us Decorate the Museum

We will be decorating the museum for Christmas on Saturday, November 19th beginning at 10:00 am. Please plan to join us. All are welcome.

Holiday Gift Ideas

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.



- **"Keeping Milford's Memories" Video.** This new video is made possible through the time, talent and generosity of member Howard Armstrong. It captures and communicates Milford's history through the use of outstanding images, narration, original music and oral histories by current members of long-time Milford families. The two-hour documentary is available through the Museum as either a DVD (\$20) or a VHS tape (\$15).
- **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; \$100 at the Museum or by calling 248-684-0684.
- **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.
- **Ten Minutes ahead of the Rest of the World;** This book details Milford's rich history in words and photographs. It is the only book that has been written about Milford; \$30 at the Museum.
- **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 for framing and may be purchased at the Museum or Wind River Gallery for \$70 in a tube or \$80 shrink-wrapped on foam core.
- **MHS Date Plaques.** Enhance your home with a handsome black and silver aluminum plaque indicating its build date. Plaques may be ordered at the Museum for \$50.
- **"Historic Milford Michigan" License Plates;** These blue and white front license plates are available at the Museum for \$10.

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WHAT'S HOT

**Thanksgiving
General Meeting & Potluck:
Nov 17**

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2005 Events

Nov 17General Meeting
(Victorian Christmas)

Nov. 19.....Museum Holiday Decoration

Dec. 7.....Board of Directors Meeting
(moved from Nov. 23)

Board of Directors

David Chase	President
Mary Lou Gharrity	Treasurer
Bill Schimmel	R&C Secretary
Bill Crawford	Director
Sue Bullard	Director
Judith Reiter	Director
Jeff Spoor	Director
Sue Gumpfer	Director
Kathy Rheame	Director
Judy Waara	Director
Bob Crawford	Director
Jay Qualman	Director/Editor

Milford Museum Staff

Marlene Gomez Assistant Director

The Milford Historian

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

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Editor: Jay Qualman

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Submission deadlines:
25th 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