

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 Big Band Era”

November 16, 2006 Meeting and Program:

Take a sentimental journey back to the golden era of radio at our November meeting. Travel back to a time when a radio was the home media center and families gathered around on Saturday evenings listening to live broadcasts. During the Depression programs such as *The Shadow* and *The Lone Ranger* were replaced by the music of the “big bands.” This new sound became popular and soon band leaders like Benny Goodman and Duke Ellington could be heard every Saturday performing live on the radio. Our November program takes us on a nostalgic trip down memory lane with an old friend as we relive the sounds of the Big Band Era. Dr. Weldon Petz, retired professor and accomplished musician, will share his fond memories of performing with some of these great band leaders including Jimmy Dorsey.



So jump on the *A Train* and join us for this entertaining meeting that will be held back at the **Milford Methodist Church**, located at 1200 Atlantic Street. Our evening begins at 6:30 pm with our annual Thanksgiving potluck. You Board of Directors will provide the turkeys. You supply the fixings (as shown below). Following our feast, we will have a brief business meeting at 7:30. Our program will immediately follow. Our general membership meetings are open to the public and all are invited.

November 2006 General Meeting Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

Thursday, November 16, 2006

6:30 p.m.



Milford **United Methodist** Church

1200 Atlantic, Milford

A-G

Hot Side Dish

H-R

Salad

S-Z

Dessert

Everyone: Table service & beverage (coffee provided)

From Your Vice President...

As the year draws to a close we'll soon be busy preparing for the holiday season. This is a special time when family and friends gather and give thanks for their blessings. The Historical Society also has a lot to be thankful for! This year marked the 30th anniversary of both the Museum and the Home Tour. We've come a long way since 1976 and, with your help, we'll continue to enrich the great Milford community.

Our Home Tour has evolved to become a spectacular weekend event. Beyond touring a select group of homes, visitors can now participate in a variety of historical activities designed for the entire family. Even in a difficult economy the Home Tour prospers as new visitors join the faithful followers that continue to support us. Under Sue Gumper's leadership, this year's committee did an outstanding job planning and executing Home Tour 2006. Net proceeds were \$8200, a record! And every penny will be carefully spent to maintain the 1853 home we call our Museum and to support other Society projects in Milford.

Two years ago the Board created a Museum Council to manage Museum operations. The council consists of six members who meet regularly to discuss pertinent Museum issues. Important actions included the purchase of special computer software allowing us to professionally inventory our historic artifacts. This spring, the committee introduced evening hours for visitors unable to visit during the day. The Museum was open the second Wednesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. We had no idea if anyone would even show up. I'm happy to report we had visitors each evening the museum was open.

As a historical society, we are challenged to preserve and restore the older buildings in our community. One such MHS project had been the major effort to restore the Pettibone Creek Powerhouse. Following its complete exterior renovation, we were disappointed to learn that its interior restoration was put on hold. But with input from some new members, the project has been re-energized. We are looking forward to some exciting updates in 2007 on how this building, which was once headed for demolition, could again use water power to generate electricity!

These are just a few of our successes during 2006. But with these accomplishments come high expectations for the new year. Not only will we strive to further improve our Museum and Society during 2007, but we are looking forward to our newest acquisition. As you learned in the last newsletter, the home of Mary Jackson was generously donated to the Society. This acquisition should be completed by the end of November and we will begin the challenge of honoring Mary's wishes to preserve her home and use it in a way that would honor her commitment to Milford.

Our outlook is bright as we enter the new year and the 175th anniversary of the Township of Milford. We look forward to the celebration and hope that you will join us.

Sue Bullard

2006 Home Tour A Huge Success!

Sue Gumper reports that our 30th Home Tour weekend was highly successful. We sold 570 tickets and free tickets were provided to approximately 250 docents/entertainers. Revenue sources included: Home Tour ticket sales, \$6827.00; Home Tour Sponsorship Program, \$2,039; Make Over Magic \$210; and Dine Around ticket sales, \$240. Subtracting expenses, our total net profit for Home Tour 2006 was \$8,199. This is the major source of funding for maintaining and operating the Milford Historical Museum. These funds also support other Society projects including student docent scholarships, microfilming of the *Milford Times*, and the Fourth of July parade.



Celebrating 30 Years!

2006 Home Tour Supporters, Thank You!

The Milford Historical Society Home Tour requires an army of contributors and volunteers to be successful. This year the residents of five wonderful homes and three special sites graciously welcomed about 750 curious visitors. The homeowners were partnered with ten site captains who worked diligently to ensure the tours were informative and moved smoothly. We also had MHS members leading tours and/or activities at the 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 important venture. This year the Oak Grove Cemetery Fund of Milford partnered with the home tour committee adding an interesting view of history with their cemetery walk.

Our home tour docents and entertainers made up the largest group of volunteers. About 275 community members donated their time and/or talent. They welcomed our visitors, guided them through our sites or entertained them with music, stories and drama. We wouldn't even have a home tour without you.

The MHS Board greatly appreciates each and every volunteer. We know they worked hard and hope they had fun.

Sue Gumper

Home Tour Volunteers Made It Happen

Warm thanks to the many whose time, talent and financial support helped make our 30th Home Tour a success!

Home owners: Dave Armstrong, Alan and Mary Lee Fergin, Conrad and Joyce Skalski, Caleb and Rena Valentine, Bryon and Judy Waara, Jim and Hannah Welton and Steve, and Judy Yauch

Home Tour Committee: Sue Bullard, Dave Chase, Sue Gumper, Brook Qualman, Judith Reiter, Katherine Rheame, Bill Schimmel, Judy Waara, Carol Watkins and Norm Werner

House Captains: David Armstrong, Judy Banish, Ann Bjork, Jill DeMan, Joan DeMan, Katherine Rheame, Susan Smith, Norm Werner, Virgene Wright

Event Specialists: Tami Averill, Bill Crawford, Linda Dagenhardt, Marlene Gomez, Carolyn Graves, Tony Panepucci, Chris Smith and Jeff Spoor

Home Tour Sponsors: Tige Reader and the RE/MAX Team (Platinum, third year), *Milford Times* (Platinum, third year), Milford DDA (Silver, second year)

Dine Around Sponsors: Klancey's, Main Street Grill and Tavern, Five Lakes Grill, O'Callahan's, American Café & Grill, Baker's, Leo's Coney Island and Saint George's Cafe

And . . . the 200+ docents and entertainers that joined in the home tour fun.

We continue to appreciate the fine research work done by **Barbara Bank Young** which has contributed so much to the Historical Society archives and the quality of our home tours.

well done!

Remembering Frank Ricketts and Ed Miller

Francis (Frank) Ricketts and **Edward (Ed) Miller** passed away this summer. Both were longtime members of the Milford Historical Society and will be missed by all who knew them.

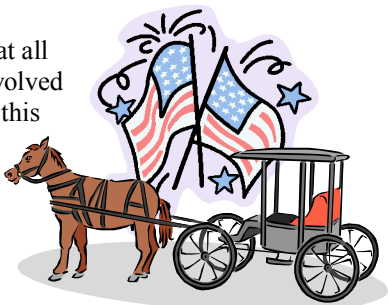
Welcome New Member!

We are pleased to announce that **Gay Schofer** is the newest member of the Milford Historical Society. Welcome Gay!

175th Anniversary Celebration

Our Fourth of July Parade in 2007 will celebrate the 175th anniversary of Milford Township. We are calling this celebration "**Right Place, Right Time,**" inspired by the title of the second chapter in the book *Ten Minutes Ahead of the Rest of the World: A History of Milford*.

Chairman Bob Crawford asks that all members consider becoming involved in the planning and execution of this significant event. He also advises that a horse-drawn carriage is needed for the parade. Bob can be reached at 248-685-2228.



Help Us Decorate the Museum



We will be decorating the Museum for Christmas on **Saturday, November 18, 2006** beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please plan to join us and call Sue Bullard with any questions (248-685-8321). All are welcome.

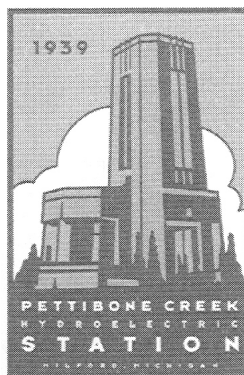
Power up the Powerhouse?

The 2006 Restoration Award presented to the three partners of the Powerhouse project at our last membership meeting is a true feather in the cap of the Historical Society. We can be proud of our group's initiative and support of the Village's first true restoration project

Even with the exterior restoration complete and the interior restoration placed "on hold," the Powerhouse committee

is being "energized" by input from new members. Melissa Morris and David Canfield, both Milford Township residents, and Bill Stockhausen of Northville, owner of an historic mill that he and his family refurbished to produce electricity, have joined the Powerhouse committee. With their interest and expertise, the group is exploring the possibility of once again generating electricity with the waterpower using as much of the original equipment as possible. Ms. Morris' proposal includes restoring "the power generation functions to provide a cost reduction on Village electricity bill."

The committee is looking into fitting out the Powerhouse with energy efficient heating and cooling systems. We envision partially or completely powering them by water currently flowing through the infrastructure, and possibly capturing the electrical output for village use. This is an exciting possibility that could provide an opportunity for education about the importance of renewable energy and a lesson taken from history as almost 70 years later, we follow Henry Ford's lead in the use of renewable energy source.



Judith Reiter

Needed: Leader for Historic Walks

The Historical Society would like to reinstate the "Historic Walks of Milford" series originated by Barbara Bank Young. These 90-minute walks feature historic homes and buildings on the principal streets in the village, which participants find entertaining and highly informative. Descriptive notes have already been developed for several streets. The key to offering these walks is a volunteer to lead them. If this might be you, please call Sue Bullard at 248-685-8321.



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 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.

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WHAT'S HOT

General Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 16, 2006

United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic Street

DON'T MISS OUT!

Upcoming 2006 and 2007 Events

- Nov. 16**General Meeting and Program:
"Remembering the Big Band
Era" with Weldon Petz
- Nov. 18**.....Museum Holiday Decoration
- Nov. 22**.....Board of Directors Meeting
- Jan. 18**.....General Meeting and Program

Board of Directors

David Chase	President
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685-7308

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–
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Historical Society
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Editor: Jay 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