

Howell Area Historical Society



A Note from the Society President

Hello everyone! Happy New Year! First thing I would like to do is welcome our two new board members seated in September, Nick Proctor and Shelley Montague Ellis. Nick is our new Vice President and Shelley is our new Recording Secretary. Shelley fills in the secretary slot that has been vacant for quite a while. Thank you again and welcome aboard!

2012-2013 Board of Directors

President
Jon Boegler
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Vice President
Nick Proctor
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Treasurer
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Secretary
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Museum Director
Judy Burns
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Trustees
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Sean Pengelly
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John Jankiewicz

Hard to believe that another year is over with. Sure went by fast! When I was younger my father always told me that as we age time speeds up. I told him he was full of bologna! Well guess what! He was right!

Anyway, even though it went by fast we did have another good year. We had moderate attendance during the Howell events and were pleased with our fund-raising results. Our Clean Up day was not as successful as we had hoped due to low turnout. Remember many hands make work light.

One of our goals for 2012 was to have regular hours during the Summer. While we were not able to accomplish that, beginning in May 2013 we are excited to announce the Museum will have regular summer hours. Please consider signing up for a 4 hour shift as docent.

At our last meeting, a major issue was discussed regarding liability exposure on our grounds. While we welcome visitors, we need to encourage respect and to make the public aware that we are a private non-profit museum on private property. Many believe that the museum is owned and operated by the City of Howell and therefore have deep pockets. With the addition of the Caboose, we have been discussing ways to prevent potential liability issues. Any suggestions from our members would be welcome.

Happy New Year to everyone and hope to see you this year! God Bless this great nation of ours!

Jon

OUR WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK FOR 2013!

The updated site gives us the opportunity to share more history, our current projects, and to preserve memories shared with the society. You can even renew your membership, purchase a "This Place Matters" brick, drop us a email, sign up as a volunteer or make a donation online.

Be sure to visit and let us know what you think.

www.howellareahistoricalociety.org

Follow us on facebook: www.facebook.com/HowellAreaHistoricalSociety

THE HISTORY OF APRONS

The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few. It was also because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons used less material. But along with that, it



served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.. And when the weather was cold Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time



apron' that served so many purposes. REMEMBER: Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw. They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron. I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron - but love.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

We'd like to welcome our two new Board Members: Shelley Montague Ellis & Nick Proctor

Shelley moved to Howell about 18 months ago from Texas. They have family in the Hartland area but fell in love with Howell.

Shelley is a retired elementary teacher and now manages her husband's psychiatric practice. She loves working and living in downtown, being able to take part in all the activities. After many years of traveling the world, Nick moved to Howell in 2000, rekin-

dling family ties to Howell from the early 1940's. He is retired, most recently retired from British American Tobacco in London and previously from the US Department of State.

CABOOSE FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

On Sunday, September 23rd at 2:30pm the drawing for the Caboose fund raffle was held. The grand prize winners were: Kim Caldren - HO Train Set; Zach Palmien - Civil War Chess and Checker Set; and LuAnn Burgett - HO Train Set. Other winners were Asher Barz, Dean Sutton, John Jankiewicz, Karen Hoskins, Trent Stohlin, Ken Wozniak, Tammy Mason and Kim Kennedy. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks everyone who bought tickets. Your donation is going to a very worthwhile project.



It is a very heavy heart that we note the passing of one of our very long time members, Pat Malafouris. She passed away on Sunday, November 18th. If you ever got a call to help out at the Depot, it was probably from Pat! A mainstay at the Depot, we will all miss her friendship.

REMEMBERING PAT

C A B O O S E N E W S

This year went well on the caboose. Because of the nice weather we were able to start in March. We finished replacing the roof wood boards and then sealing it with tar. Next we took off all the handrails and hardware so that we could start replacing all the siding wood boards. We started on the south side (because that was the sunny side during Spring) and worked our way from back to front. Of course once you start pulling off old wood you never know what you find underneath!



We replaced about 12 feet of 3"x 5" along the roof line and a few side trusses. We also found a few artifacts that had apparently fallen down the window wells at some time. Once the south side was done then we started on the north side. There wasn't much damage on this side so it went a lot smoother. When we were working around the windows we had to make sure that they would slide easily down the slot before we nailed the boards up.



Moving day Saturday, Oct 20th. Lanaville Foundations Inc. provided the equipment and operators. Along with some of our volunteers to help we were able to move the caboose off of MDOT's property and put it on ours in about 7 hrs.

I would like to thank Mr. Lanaville for his generous donation of time and man-power to help us.



The caboose now sits proudly next to our beautiful depot. Our volunteers worked hard all summer to get the caboose ready to be moved. Our goal was to get most of the exterior replaced of which we did. We have some projects planned for the winter months. For instance; work on the windows, work on the cupola, run electrical wire, do some sanding, and etc. Still Plenty of work to do to show off our accomplishments at the Howell History Days Celebration in May.



If you would like to help, please give me a call or e-mail.
Jon



SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY

The 1974 Outdoor Fair will be held at the Ann Arbor Railroad Depot, at the north end of Walnut Street in Howell., 10 am to 6 pm on August 24th. The Depot Museum will be open for your pleasure and inspection. You can buy, sell and trade Americana collectibles with more than 46 different exhibitors. Plus there will be a Bake Sale, Green Thumb Plants Sale and Treasures Mart set-up in front of the Depot. For your protection and enjoyment there will be a Civil War campsite on the Depot lawn.

THANK YOU!!!!!!

To all the members and volunteers who helped with the 9th Annual Howell History Days Celebration, Melon Festival, and in countless other ways.

To the entire Caboose Team for seeing the dream and helping to make it a reality.

To the Robert W. and Maxine Parker Foundation for your continued support.

To Duane Brown for his service to the Society as Vice President and Trustee.

To Kathy Alward, for the past several years she has stepped in to bring our Society Newsletter to you.

To our Museum director, Judy Burns for her dedication and knowledge.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 6th & 20th 7pm
Board Meeting All Welcome

April 3rd & 17th 7pm
Board Meeting All Welcome

May 1st & 15th 7pm
Board Meeting All Welcome

May 18th 10am - 4pm
Howell Area Historical Society presents
10th Annual Howell History Days Celebration



CONGRATULATIONS TO HHS CLASS OF 1977, WINNERS OF THE QUILT RAFFLE

On Monday, November 19th, Michael Hall, 2012 Fantasy of Lights Grand Marshal pulled the winning ticket as patrons looked on. The winner was announced on Friday, November 23rd at the Fantasy of Lights Parade.

Spokesman for the Class of 1977, Denise Brown, was ecstatic when she receive the call at her home in Arizona. "Expect the quilt to remain a presence in Howell, we will look for the appropriate place to display it for all to love and enjoy the rich history it captures." said Brown.

This fundraising project was deemed a huge success and raised over \$2,500.00

Held each year on the third Saturday in May, the proceeds will be used toward maintaining the Howell History Days Celebration as a free event to celebrate the past and preserve it for the future. The Howell History Days Celebration Committee has begun planning the 10th annual celebration which will be held on May 18th.

Howell Area Historical Society wishes to thank all those who supported this project with a special thank you to Madeline Lucas, Susan Balk, Jan Hartwick, the Stitchery, Donald Jewelers, Spirit of Livingston, and the Howell Carnegie Library.



With the quilt displayed behind him, 2012 Fantasy of Lights Grand Marshal, Mike Hall draws the winning ticket assisted by Peggy Gerrits from the Library Circulation Dept.

THANK YOU TO THE CLASS OF 1977 FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE HOWELL HISTORY DAYS CELEBRATION



DO YOU REMEMBER

The Watson & O'Leary Bake Shop and Dairy at 113 E Grand River, a progressive business not afraid to experiment, enjoyed constant expansion. Hiram and Emma Watson came to Howell in 1912 starting a cream station on State Street. Later they started making butter and sold milk, customers bringing their own containers. They were the first to pasteurize milk in Howell. In 1924, they took their daughter and son-in-law into the business and purchased the building on Grand River. Mrs. Watson started milk routes (first with horse drawn wagons), wholesale butter and egg routes, and for a number of years, they churned as high as 2000 pounds of butter daily. After the deaths of Mr. Watson and Mr. O'Leary, Mrs. Watson sold all the milk routes and dairy equipment and started a bakery shop, dairy and snack bar in 1952. Many customers still remember the peanut butter machine, which turned fresh roasted peanuts into butter and the homemade ice cream sold in three dipped cones for five cents. Mrs. Watson died in 1961 at the age of 96.

From the Howell Bicentennial History, 1976

www.howellareahistoricalsociety.org

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Howell Area Historical Society

☐ New Membership ☐ Renew

Annual Dues from September through _____



Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Circle: Single-\$15 Family-\$25 Contributing-\$100 Life-\$500 Additional Donation _____

Help is always needed. Please indicate your areas of interest.

Depot

____ Restoration

____ Host/Hostess

____ Maintenance

____ Caboose

Events

____ Festivals in Town

____ Home Tours

____ Fundraising

HAHS Business

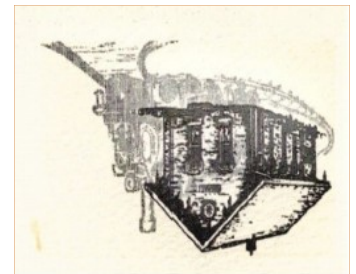
____ Newsletter

____ Publicity

Other ideas you would be willing to help with _____

Mail to: Howell Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 154, Howell, MI 48844-0154 - Thank You!

Join today!



Howell Area Historical Society
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