



MUSEUM UPDATE

It hardly seems possible that the 2018 season is coming to a close. Each year has been better than the last at the Depot.

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered, donated items or much-needed funds, and stalwart members who renewed their memberships for 2019. We would also like to thank the 5th Michigan Regiment Band that performed Civil War-era music at our Caboose Grand Opening in June.

We welcome our new members, and encourage them to get involved in our organization. There are many opportunities for them to benefit the Society. We would be grateful for any help that new folks could provide. Although much has been accomplished, there is still much to do.

We hope to complete restoration of the Caboose, paint the exterior of the Depot in the spring, paint the Ladies' Waiting Room, and raise funds for a new furnace and air conditioning system. Spencer Schubbe, a new member, who is also a telegraphy expert, will install authentic telegraph equipment in the Stationmaster Room of the Depot. He has donated various equipment to the Society in order to provide visitors with the experience of the telegraph era, and its effect on the townspeople of Howell.

The existing furnace and air conditioner are over twenty-five years old. We have been advised by local experts that the system must be replaced as soon as possible in order to protect the integrity of the historical artifacts in storage and on display in the Museum. It is vital that the air temperature is adequate for the preservation of the articles of Howell's history. We hope that local corporations and individuals will consider donating to the Depot furnace fund in 2019.

We are confident that the 2019 season will be an interesting one. It will be the one-hundredth anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States. We hope to present the public with various displays depicting this momentous occasion. We usually have a few different themes each year, so, by spring, we will be ready for our first visitors on May 5, 2019. We hope to see you there.

HOWELL AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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A Ghost Story – Lincoln Death Train

Since Halloween is not far away, here is a 'Ghost Story' as told by a New York Central railroad employee of the 1860s.



"Lincoln's Funeral Train"

I'd been transferred to the *Hudson Division of the New York Central system*, and was working the rails on the main line between New York and Albany. Since I was a bit of a night owl, I was put on the late shift. After six weeks of stomping the tracks and mending the rails, I was feeling right at home in my new job.

Then, just before midnight on a clear spring night in late April, we got a report of some brush on the track near our station. I was sent out immediately to clear it away before the next train came. I had nearly an hour before the next train, and, so I did not hurry as I walked along the rails. It was surprisingly pleasant and rather warm. Overhead, the clouds were obscuring the moon, but the light from my lantern made a cheerful glow in the night.

Suddenly, a chilly wind swept over the rails with a whoosh, like a wind just before a thunderstorm. It was so strong that it nearly knocked me over. I staggered backward, swearing and windmilling my arms to try to keep my balance. I almost dropped the lantern, but managed to get my balance just before the lantern slipped out of my hand.

Shivering in the sudden cold, I squinted down the track and saw a huge blanket of utter darkness rolling toward me. It blanked out the rails, the trees, the sky, everything.

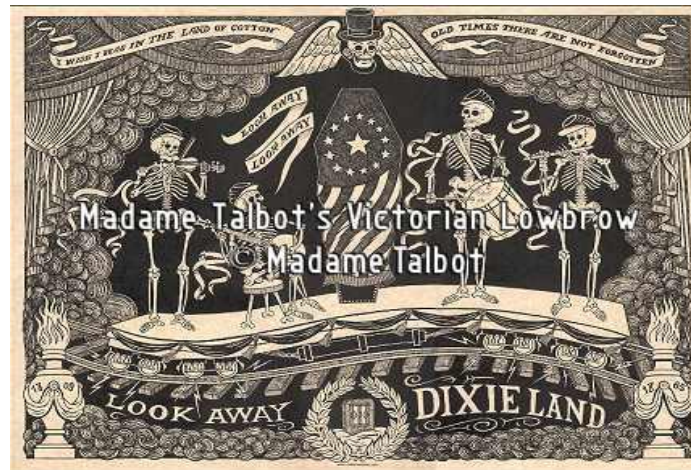
"Good lord, what is that?" I gasped. I leapt away from the track and started to run back toward the station, but the darkness swept up and over me before I had moved a yard. The lantern in my hand was snuffed out instantly.

I stopped, unable to see more than a few paces around me. To my right, the rails began to gleam with a strange blue light. I staggered backward from the tracks, my pulses pounding in fear and dread. What was going on?

Then the headlight of a train pierced the thick darkness. It gleamed blue-white in the strange black fog, and when it appeared, the rails brightened in response. A huge steam-engine draped in black crepe approached, stacks bellowing forth a steady stream of smoke. The brass on the engine gleamed, and it pulled several flat cars along behind it. I stared into the windows of the engine, but couldn't see any crew.

Just at the edge of hearing came the faint sound of music and turned to look at the flat cars behind the engine. I gasped and back up so far that I bumped into the trunk of a tree growing

near the tracks.



There was a glowing orchestra of skeletons seated in a semi-circle. They were playing a nearly-soundless funeral dirge on glowing black instruments. A violinist played passionately; a skeleton lifted a flute to its lipless mouth; a lone drummer sat waiting patiently for his cue from the skeletal conductor. Then the orchestra was gone and another glowing headlight pierced the blackness.

I was trying unsuccessfully to push my way through the bark of the tree by this time. Another black crepe- draped train was approaching. A funeral train, I thought.

Again, there was no one manning the engine, and no one appeared on the flat car behind it. The only thing there was a single black crepe- draped coffin. But, swirling in the air around the train were the ghostly figures of soldiers dressed in the blue uniforms worn by the North during the Civil war. They lined up before my eyes, saluting the solitary coffin as it passed. Some of the ghosts staggered under the weight of their own coffins; some limped on one leg, or sat in a wheeled chair, legless. Their eyes were fixed upon the flat-car and the black-creped coffin. Then they were joined by soldiers from the Southern army, and all these lads saluted too, honoring the one who had fallen.

That's when I knew what I was seeing. This was the funeral train of Abraham Lincoln. I straightened up and saluted, myself, having done my bit for the North many years ago.

The steam train moved slowly away and with it went the darkness and the chill and the clouds that had obscured the moon. In my hand, the lantern sprang back to life. I blinked a few times and brushed away a tear. As the world around me brightened, I saw the reported brush littering the tracks right in front of me. Mechanically, I cleared it away and made sure the track was safe for the next train. Then I went back to the station.

The next morning, all of the clocks on the Hudson Division were six minutes behind, and all of the trains were running six minutes late.

When I asked the stationmaster about it, he shook his head and told me not to worry. *It was caused by the Lincoln Death Train, which had stopped time as it ran by in the night.*

Ed Vitez

HOWELL MELON FESTIVAL

The Howell Area Historical Society would like to thank everyone who stopped by the Howell Museum and Caboose during the Melon Festival. Thank you for all of your support during the weekend.

It truly was an honor to have the Pere Marquette 1225 Steam Engine partner with us during the festival.

During the two-day event, the 1225 brought numerous visitors to not only ride the train, but to visit our Depot and Caboose. To all who visited during the 1225 visit, who could ever forget both the sights and sounds of the train?

Everyone who visited the Museum made positive comments on the changes that had been made since their last visit to the Depot. The revised displays, and freshly-painted walls and floors drew many compliments.

During the spring and summer, immense work was accomplished on the Caboose, which drew many compliments, as well.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us in purchasing popcorn, water, hats, and whistles during MelonFest. Separately, numerous visitors to the Depot and Caboose donated cash. Since the Society is a non-profit organization, donations are vital ingredient to keeping the doors open

Lastly, a special "Thank You" to all of the volunteers who helped us during the festival. We couldn't have done it without you.



The Classic Car Show was hosted on Grand River on Saturday during the festival. Thanks to all of the participants and sponsors, it was a huge success as well.

Many thanks to all, and we look forward to your support next year.

OUR GENEROUS CAR SHOW SPONSORS

AAMCO CAR CARE SPECIALISTS

517-546-0755

517-546-8770

AAMCO Car Care Specialists are located at 2849 E. Grand River in Howell. Their hours are M-F 8 a.m. to 5:30 P.M., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 P.M. AAMCO is owned by Kermit and Sandy. Kermit is in charge of the garage, and Sandy manages the office.

Kermit started out as head mechanic for many years, and, when he had the opportunity to purchase the business, he and Sandy made it their life's work. The couple has been married for over forty years, so they're obviously doing something right. They have two grown kids, and a few grandchildren.

AAMCO is a full –service preventive maintenance and auto repair business. The technicians have over forty years in transmission experience. They handle brakes, shocks, struts, ball joints, tie rods, radiators, water pumps, tune ups, and much more. Kermit is very well known in the area as an honest, competent mechanic. In fact, most folks in Howell know of Kermit's work, and recommend him to their friends and family.

The Howell Area Historical Society is very thankful for Sandy and Kermit's annual donations to the car show. They have always donated graciously, and have helped keep Howell History thriving at the Depot Museum.

2FOG'S PUB

517-518-8056

2 Fog's Pub is located in the basement of the Heart of Howell Building, 118A West Grand River in Howell. Owner Joe Parker opened the bar/restaurant in 2015.

Everything about 2 Fog's is unique. The entrance is at the back alley behind the building. When you enter the stairs to go down, you will see the beautiful outdoor dining walled garden. The wall, itself, is a work of art executed by favorite local artist, Stacy Karnes, and his friend, Kelly.

When you enter at the bottom of the stairs, the ambience will strike you as welcoming and sophisticated at the same time. The ambient lighting reaches every nook and cranny of the original rock wall. On the opposite wall, of course, are the original brick walls of the old building. The bar and furniture, along with the decorative touches fit just right, giving the bar a speakeasy effect.

Since the expansion of the restaurant, which added sixty seats and a kitchen, there is more room for patrons to enjoy the craft beers, cocktails, and wonderful meals. The chef is constantly working on a new dish, it seems. 2 Fogs is a great destination for date night, drinks, or simply a casual supper. The dishes are presented beautifully, and taste as good as they look.

It is open on Monday and Wednesday from 4 - 10P.M., Thursday 4-11 P.M., Friday and Saturday 4P.M.- 12 a.m., and Sunday from 3 P.M. to 9 P.M.

Joe Parker is well known around Howell as a sponsor of multiple charitable causes. He, his wife and daughters have contributed to many organizations, one of which is the Howell Area Historical Society. The Society would like to thank the Parker family for the generous contributions through the years toward the Depot Museum Car Show. The proceeds from the car show enable the Museum to continue its work toward preserving Howell's history, and help to provide educational opportunities to schoolchildren, and the general public.

SCULLY-MONROE INSURANCE AGENCY

517-546-0140

Scully-Monroe Insurance Agency, which is located at 803 E. Grand River in Howell, has been one of the Howell Area Historical Society's most loyal car show sponsors. The agency is one of the oldest businesses in Howell. The Scully and Monroe families started the insurance agency in 1919. In 1963, it was sold to Nancy Dresden's father.

Nancy, the president of the company, definitely has insurance experience. She was a co-op student at the agency while in high school. She left for college, and returned in 1974 to work at Scully-Monroe. Upon her father's death in 1989, Nancy became president.

Scully-Monroe is a family-run establishment to this day. Nancy's husband Roger, and son Matt are also members of the friendly staff. Most folks in Howell would recognize Roger as a driving force behind the Concerts at the Courthouse, as well as the emcee. Roger is a well-known musician, who performs with his band in Michigan, and other states as well.

Scully-Monroe specializes in car, home, and life insurance. Obviously, after one hundred years in business, they certainly know what they're doing. Their many satisfied customers would agree.

The Howell Area Historical Society would like to thank Nancy Dresden for her very generous donations through the years that have benefitted our car shows. She is helping keep Howell history alive at the Depot Museum.

SUNRISE DINER

517-376-3663

The Sunrise Diner, which is located at 2375 E. Grand River, is owned and operated by Val and Dave Koloski. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They are open from 7 a.m. to 9 P.M. every day, except for Sunday when they close at 3 P.M.

Sunrise Diner's breakfasts are well known around Howell. They have been voted best breakfast many times, and it easy to see why. The food is great, inexpensive, and served by some of the best people in the area. The servers know your name after a few visits. More importantly, they know what you like to drink, and deliver it to your table without your having to ask. It's probably one of the friendliest wait staff around. They're friendly, efficient, and ready to trade a quip or two with the regulars.

Lunch and dinner crowds are usually filled with regulars, too. The lunch mainstays are exceptional, and dinner is complete comfort food at reasonable prices. Let's not forget their rice pudding, which is fabulous. Val can often be seen heading into the kitchen, or serving customers with a sweet smile. The Howell Area Historical Society would like to thank Val and Dave for their generous contributions to our car shows. Their donations truly help the Depot Museum continue its mission to preserve the history of Howell.

SPARTAN TIRE AND AUTO CENTER

517-546-5700

Spartan Tire and Auto Center is a family business that was established in 1965. Steve McCoy the owner, can frequently be found behind the counter, as well as in the garage at 716 S. Michigan Ave., Howell.

The business is open Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 P.M., and closed Saturday and Sunday.

Besides donating to the Howell Area Historical Society, Steve also donates to local churches and high school athletics. He is also active in sponsoring foster adoptions.

Spartan provides multiple auto services: Tires for over the road trucks, commercial and industrial tires, farm, and tires for the family vehicle. Besides tires, there are oil changes, brake work, struts, alignments, shocks, transmission flush and repairs, steering and suspension repairs, axle, CV joint, and driveshaft repairs. Steve's technicians are customer oriented, and have over 48 years of experience among them.

The Howell Area Historical Society would like to thank Steve for his generous donation to the annual Car Show. Without sponsors such as Spartan Tire, we would not be able to continue to provide a venue for the popular Museum Depot Car Show year after year. Spartan Tire helps the Depot Museum in its mission to keep Howell history available for the current and future generations.



The Depot Museum would like to thank David and Darla Gretschman, First National Bank, LOC Credit Union, Advance Auto Parts, and Auto Zone for their wonderful support of the car show.

Did you know...

The first railroad car designated “caboose” was a boxcar attached at the end of a passenger-freight train on the old *Auburn & Syracuse Railroad* Line in the 1840’s.

And in this car, conductor *Nat Williams* ran his train. In it he kept flags, lanterns, chains, tools, etc. He wrote his reports while seated on a wooden box, using an up-ended barrel as a desk and table for his meals.

For the next 140 years, many additions to this primitive caboose (most initiated by other railroad conductors) led to the multiple designs and types of the *American Caboose* we recognize today.

One of these additions occurred during the Civil War, around the time of *the Battle of Gettysburg*, when *Chicago & North Western’s* freight conductor T. B. Watson’s *flat topped caboose* was temporarily assigned to a work-train, and Watson was given an old boxcar which had a large hole in the center of the roof to use.

In a moment of inspiration, Watson piled boxes up to the hole and sat with his head and shoulders protruding out above the roof which gave him an excellent view of his train.

Arriving at his destination, he suggested to the *master mechanic* that “*crows’ nests*” be included in the two new “*Waycars*” then being built at the *North Western* shops. Railroad officials agreed, and in 1863, the *C&NW* became the first railroad to use cabooses with *cupolas*.

Ed Vitez



The Howell Area Historical Society would also like to thank Carol and Danny from Spirit of Livingston in Howell for printing this newsletter.

Spirit is the destination for varsity jackets, custom embroidery, trophies, awards, tee shirts, and printing, among many other products.

The store is located at 3280 W. Grand River,

Howell, Michigan 48855

The Howell Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Your donation is a tax-deductible contribution.

Our updated website gives us the opportunity to share more history, our current projects, and to preserve memories.

You can even renew your membership, purchase a "This Place Matters" brick, drop us an email, sign up as a volunteer, or make a donation online at www.howellareahistoricalandsociety.org

MUSEUM VISITING HOURS

Call 517-548-6876 for Private Tours

The Museum will close for the season after October 28, 2018,
And will reopen on May 5, 2018

For wedding info, contact Mary at 517-548-6876

The Society is a 501 {c} 3 non-profit organization

2018 Board of Directors

President: James "Rudy" Rudolph

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Ed Vitez

Join Today!

Howell Area Historical Society

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Volume 2018, Issue 3

Fall Edition

Please consider donating to the Museum by designating the Society as your choice of charity at Kroger and Smile Amazon.



SOME “HAPPENINGS” AT THE DEPOT



Mike Mason putting finish touches on caboose.

Spencer Schubbe – Magnet Demonstration



Support HAHS with your membership or donation. Not a Member? Join today!
support is vital to the preservation of local history.

Your

Membership Year – January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Name _____ Phone _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Memberships: \$15 Single \$25 Family \$500 Lifetime

Donations:
 \$10 \$25 other _____

Howell Area Historical Society
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