

HOWELL AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM UPDATE

Can you believe we are already more than halfway through our April-October Season at the Depot Museum? Have you stopped in to see the fresh paint and all of the hard work done by our small but dedicated team of volunteers? What about the Caboose? Mark your calendar, we plan to

have “grand opening” of the inside of our 1888 Grand Trunk Western Caboose on July 22! Mike and Tammy Mason, Ed Vitez, Stacy Karnes, Howard Ziegel, of the “caboose crew” have put in hundreds, if not THOUSANDS of hours over the last 6 years to bring her to her current 90%+ restored condition. What was once a terrible eyesore and a home to various wildlife, is now nearing completion to its “early 1940”s-era” restoration, and rapidly becoming a favorite visiting spot of local children and adults alike.

I see photographers using the grounds every week for family and event photos. Ninety nine percent of them do not realize we are a 501(c)3 non-profit, and NOT owned or otherwise supported by the city or county. We rely on every single cent in donations we receive from memberships and events such as selling refreshments and popcorn during the Pere Marquette’s “1225” steam locomotive rides during Melon Fest on August, 19th & 20th and managing the car show downtown.

The Steam Railroading Institute in Owosso has graciously agreed to return the steam train back to Howell for another year of enjoyment for residents of Howell and far-off places alike. Its their Train, their rides with all of their profits returning and maintaining the train. We are simply lucky enough to have a beautiful Depot location on the tracks for them to use. The train transfers people from downtown allowing us to sell items to raise funds. Without the draw of the beautiful Pere Marquette 1225, and donations from loyal members and friends of the society, we would most certainly be in trouble. Please consider buying an authentic hand-made “Howell Melons” arrow sign \$30, (see picture on next page) or a memorial Brick for a friend or family member (\$100 donation, 4”x8” , or a 12” x 12” for \$450). All profits go to continued maintenance of our 1886 Ann Arbor R.R. Depot and 1888 Grand Trunk Western Caboose. We hope you will stop in on a Sunday (10AM-2PM) , and check out the latest at the depot museum, or July 22nd from 10 am-2 PM to see the inside of the caboose!

Rudy Rudolph, President



Railroad Torpedo?



Were torpedoes part of standard equipment carried on Railroad Cabooses?

Yes they were!

However, they were not the type carried aboard submarines.



Typical Railway detonator (called torpedo in North America)

Invented in 1841 by English inventor Edward Alfred Cowper.

Description as written in the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen handbook:

"A torpedo is a device which is strapped to the top of a rail. When a train drives over the torpedo, it emits a very loud "bang" which can be heard over the noise of the engine, and signals the engineer to stop immediately".

"Torpedoes are generally placed by the flagman when protecting a train ahead. Torpedoes are about 2" x 2", red in color, about 3/4" high, and have two lead straps attached, which hold it to the rail. The torpedo has discs inside and are filled with detonating powder."

However, standard practice was upon hearing the noise of a torpedo exploding, the engineer would reduce his speed to 20 mph or less, not resuming his original speed until at least two miles beyond where it encountered the device. And they were traditionally used in pairs to ensure that the sound registered with train crews.

Because pressure, rather than impact, triggered them, they were safe to transport without detonating in their storage container. However, they could become unstable over time and had to be replaced regularly.

Today, "Railroad Torpedoes" (railway detonators) are essentially obsolete in the U.S. as the soundproof construction of modern locomotive cabs renders them useless.

For more information about Railroad Torpedoes and other items that made up the standard equipment carried on Railroad Cabooses, visit us in our 1888 GT&W Caboose at the *Howell Area Historical Society Depot (Museum)*!

Ed Vitez

Conductor - HAHS Railway

MEET OUR LOCAL BUSINESS PARTNERS THE SPIRIT OF LIVINGSTON

Dan and Carol Maczik have been involved in the Howell Community for many years. Carol is a 1976 graduate of Hartland High School and Dan graduated from Howell in 1977. Carol worked at Cromaine Library for 15 years as a library aide creating brochures and flyers for the library and assisted Director Sandy Scherba, as she designed and laid out the Community Life newspaper each month. Carol's interest in the printing business began. She credits her love to work with people from her years at the library. Dan worked at a print shop after high school and credits his knowledge of the business today from being a good listener through the years. Many opportunities to advance his skills came through sharing industry tips and techniques, networking with others, and producing a good product.

In 1987, they selected the settlement area of Hartland to open their printing business called Kizcam (Maczik spelled backwards). They began printing t-shirts on their kitchen table after receiving a "How to Make T-Shirts for Fun and Profit" kit for Christmas from Carol's mom. The business started in a small room with just enough space to set up the rotating screen that allowed them to print 6-8 T-shirts at a time.

In 2000, they opened an additional business called The Spirit of Livingston located in Howell. As the printing business changes with technology they are continually adding new items to their businesses. Large format printing and trophies and awards are the latest additions to the many things they do.

They are members of are The Hartland Optimist Club, Hartland Lions Club, Friends of Cromaine Library, Hartland Area Mac Users Group and the Hartland K of C. They are supporters of Livingston County D.A.R.E., and Hartland and Howell Athletics. As members of the Hartland Chambers they have been involved in projects throughout the county including the Brighton Chamber Golf Outing, and the Howell Balloonfest. Kizcam is a Charter member of the Hartland Area Chamber of Commerce.

Dan and Carol have been married for 40 years. They have 36 year-old twin sons, Adam and Joel. Adam is a U of M graduate and Joel graduated from Michigan Technical Academy. The year that their boys entered kindergarten was the year they opened Kizcam. The business grew as quickly as the children grew. Being very involved with the sports teams, band boosters and other groups gave them connections to people who needed customized items. They are very proud of Adam and Joel and credit being self-employed as the reason they could be so involved in the education of their sons. They are still very boastful of the fact that Adam and Joel did not miss a day of school from kindergarten through 12th grade!

If you have students involved in sports, band, or other clubs through their school, chances are you have purchased a T-shirt from Kizcam. Many groups or organizations have come in to see the screen printing process and print their own shirts. Kizcam and the Spirit of Livingston have donated numerous material items and stationery for several clubs and organizations. Carol has given presentations about screen printing and business ownership to many Hartland school classes. Dan and Carol have done the layout and have printed the Hartland Memorial Day Parade Booklet for over 17 years.

When asked what has made them successful, they reply "The support of the community. Howell is a great place to be. We have had several start-up companies come to us with their dreams and we have been able to work with them to help create logos, business cards, shirts and everything they needed to help that dream become a reality. It has been very rewarding to be a part of that."

Much of the Maczik's work is done behind the scenes and goes unnoticed by the community. They are very kind and generous people who deserve special recognition for their contributions to the Howell community.

**1888 Grand Truck
Caboose Grand
Opening**

Sunday, July 22, 2018

From 10 am to 2 PM

Please join us as we
Celebrate the Formal

Grand Opening of
our 1888 Caboose

Updated

To An Exact Replica



What Does a Railroad Conductor Really Do?

Despite the image of the eagle-eyed engineer with his hand on the throttle, the conductor is the boss of a train crew. He reports to the trainmaster, his immediate management superior, and in operating his train he takes instructions from yardmasters and train dispatchers.

The conductor is responsible for the safe, prompt movement of the train, and for the care of its cargo and equipment. He is also responsible for the actions and safety of the crew, and for reporting any condition that interferes with safe train movements.

In practice, this includes knowing what the train is carrying and observing prescribed precautions for hazardous materials, perishables, or any other freight that requires special handling. The conductor is responsible for the accuracy of the consist – that is, that each car is supposed to be there, and its accompanying paperwork is correct.

The conductor must be assured that every car in the train is in good operating condition before starting out, that loads are secure, and that the air brakes are connected and working throughout the train. He supervises the train's over-the-road operation, and is responsible for the train's operating in accordance with all rules, timetable authority, signal indications, and speed restrictions.

Radios have replaced hand signals with flags and lanterns for communicating with the engineer while the train is under way. When each train had a caboose, however, the conductor had another instrument of authority – an air brake valve by which he could stop the train if necessary.

Mike Mason
Vice President, Caboose Chair

August 18th

Classic Car Show

10 am—2 PM

Grand River Avenue

Society Annual Meeting

October 14, 2018

Museum Open During

Melonfest

10 am—6 PM

Pere Marquette 1225

Steam Train Excursions

August 18 & 19

For Tickets, Contact

MichiganSteamTrain.com

989-399-7589



This spring the Howell Area Historical Society received 5 Railroad maintainer tools used to keep tracks in good condition. These were donated on behalf of Chuck Miller who was the son of Charles(Pops) Berkhouser Jr. who worked for the Grand Trunk Western Railroad in mid-Michigan! We thank the family for these additions to our collect.