



Montrose Museum

144 E. Hickory St.
 PO Box 477
 Montrose, MI 48457
 810-639-6644
 Staff@MontroseMuseum.com
 MontroseMuseum.com
 Open MOST Sundays
 1pm-4pm and Mondays/
 Tuesdays 10am-3pm.

Board Members 2015

President: Joe Follett
 V. President: Charles Persons
 Treasurer: Karen Galindo
 Secretary: Mandy Ramsey
 Board Members: Les
 Christensen, Susan Marston,
 Jerry Walker.

Memory Lane Gazette

The Fall issue #144 is available for \$1.00. The issue focuses on the area's early Pharmacies. You may pick up this or any issue at the Museum. You may also receive the issues by subscription for \$6.00 a year. The next Gazette will be out in December. Issue #145 will be about early photographers in Montrose.

Stevens Family Gathering

Montrose Blueberry Festival 2015



What started out as three cousins getting together in 2013 to enjoy each other's company and partake of the Festival events, has now blossomed into a full fledged "Cousins" reunion at Museum member, Susan Marston's home. Susan and her cousins are all descendants of Lennie & Elsie Stevens. Lennie is of Chippewa lineage and he & Elsie spent many summers performing near Tawas & Houghton Lake. This year Susan had at least 3 camper trailers at her place and well over 20 cousins staying in the area for the weekend. There were countless cousins who came in just for Saturday's festivities. Cousins came from near and far - Port Sanilac, Roscommon, Clio, Montrose, Bridgeport, Florida and Utah. Many in the family loaned object for a display at the Museum of Lennie & Elsie's items and the cousins came into the museum to see their family heirlooms on display. A BIG thank you to the Stevens Family for including the Museum during their Family weekend. We hope to see y'all next year

L-R front - Paige holding Skyler & Natasha, Debra, Rheanna, Sharlene, & Cali.
 L-R back - Natalie, Wayde, Susan, Pamela, Brenda, Richard, Gary, Judy, Les, Debbie & Richard.



Recent Acquisitions

In July Joe & Anne went to Shipshewana, Indiana for a telephone show & convention to learn the ropes for having a table in 2016. While there they purchased a few items for the Museum. One of the items was a nice collection of Telephone Pioneer pins and with these and others purchased in August (photo above) the Museum can still boast having the "World's Largest Telephone Pioneer Pin Collection" displayed!

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Back in October Joe & Anne took a trip to Traverse City to pick up a bronze plaque. A gentleman emailed the Museum website about a unique item he found in a garden after buying his Upper Peninsula home.

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In Memory of...



Phyllis Irene Scott

August 19, 1935 - October 18, 2015

The Museum lost a valuable friend and volunteer in October. We miss her laugh, her smile, her wit and her friendship. For those who do not know, Phyllis was the acquisition department at the Museum. She started out as an employee and later became a volunteer. She knew most everything that was donated to the Museum and where it was housed. We miss her expertise but most of all we miss her. God speed Phyllis.

We need your Spartan store brand UPC codes...

Spartan is changing their Cash for Labels program up a bit in 2016 and we need to turn in all our Spartan labels by December 15, 2015. Under the current program we receive \$20 for every 1000 labels we submit. If you have any labels currently sitting in your kitchen drawer, we would be very grateful if you could drop them off at the Museum or in our box at Riverside Market in 2 weeks. Thank you for all the label saving you have done over the years for the Museum!



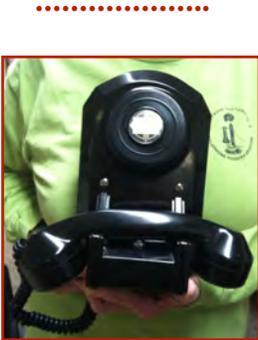
Museum Factoid...

Bonnie Sly, Museum volunteer, has an ongoing pet project. Obituary collecting. She scours the Museum's genealogy records, old books, strange boxes and the internet looking for obituaries of Montrose area residents. There is a 4 inch binder for just about every letter in the alphabet and they are all but full of obits. Recently, Bonnie sat down and counted the entries of each binder and when the tally was finished she determined that the Museum had 5,701 obituaries. Wow!

If you have a family member's obituary that you would like to include in the collection please mail us a copy and we will make sure it is entered into the collection.

Recent Acquisitions...

The Michigan Bell Telephone plaque has sat in the garden for nearly 20 years! The plaque was trucked down state to make it easier for the Museum to pick up. The gentleman wanted it to go somewhere it would be admired and he believes the right place was found.



A few weeks ago the Museum received a phone call from a lady living in Alma, Michigan regarding boxes of phone items in the attic of her garage. Her husband worked for the local phone company for years and after retiring he boxed up outdated items for storage and there they have remained for over 20 years. Joe and Anne made the trip to pick up them up and were delighted to find a good number of phones we do not have in our collection.



A glance back at the Speakers of 2015...



We started out our season early in August with Mr. Howard F. Stitzel. Mr. Stitzel, 98, spoke to us with amazing clarity and humor about his life as a young farm boy, joining the Navy in WWII so as to not follow his brother into the Army and last but not least, how he managed to have an amazing family life while traveling as the radio engineer with the Detroit Tigers. Oh, and we all got to hold the 1968 World Series ring!



September found us outdoors watching a live pigeon release with our local area racing pigeon expert, Michael O'Sullivan. We learned fascinating pigeon facts with humor and grace that set the crowd at ease. We have raced pigeons for well over 3000 years. No one would have known the Olympic winners without the aid of the pigeon. WWI found 32 Pigeons receiving the Dickin Medal for their gallantry and bravery in saving human lives. The O'Sullivans took the night to new heights with door prizes. Fun night!



In October Sharon Shumaker shared with us the tragic story of innocent lives taken at the Bath School Disaster in 1927 when a disgruntled man blew up parts of the school. With a gracious solemnity Sharon read a story about A Girl with a Cat who went off to school. She told us about how little boys should be allowed to give flowers and how the town did not dwell on a tragedy but it also didn't forget to remember.



A few weeks ago Don & Mrs. Simmons entertained us with a slide show of their trip to the Steamship Arabia's Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. The Arabia went down in 1856 due to hitting a walnut tree in the Missouri River. It was loaded with 200 tons of cargo to sell at stops along the river along with passengers. It was amazing to see the magnitude of items that have been lovingly restored for displays. The collections range from stoves to crystal; from boots to china; from buttons to pickles. I'm pretty sure everyone felt they had a new place to add to their bucket list!!

Recent Acquisitions...



Recently, Dr. Jim Stewart helped facilitate the move from the High School to the Museum of 20 plus poster boards with 2 class photos adhered to each board. The Museum had quite a few of the single class photos and we are very happy with the inclusion of so many more years. One of our Fall/Winter displays is "School Days" and the new boards add a nice touch to an already fun display.

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Special Moments...



D.A.R Genealogy Afternoon



October Rummage Sale... complete with SNOW!

Cemetery Reckonings...

There are many 'check boxes' on the application for the Historical Marker and some of them are for the cemetery. One line wants to know the types of markers present. Of the 18 possibilities listed, the Montrose Cemetery Original Section has 10. These include images of a scroll, weeping willows, cross, tablet, hand pointing upwards, and open gates. There are also columns, obelisks and stones with little lambs lying on top. You will also find headstones that look like trees and logs.

Did you know that there is a real "tree" chair in the Montrose Township Cemetery?



By the way, from Joe...

Karen Galindo has taken over doing the newsletter. I don't think she has my weird sense of humor with space fillers that I use. Not sure if anyone got a laugh out of it but me. Les Christensen is heading up the job of getting bids to put up the old school lintel. We have been asked by the family to use Bill Lea's Memorial donations to get the ball rolling. We have had many projects / deadlines the last half of the year which have slowed up the work on the Church on the Hill historical marker application. We are hoping to start the New Year off right by completing the paperwork and mailing it off by the end of January. See you around the Museum.



**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from the Montrose Museum**