



## HOW I CAME TO PENTWATER

By John Shields

It all began after a few weeks on the job with Lambrix Roofing. The summer of 1966 was just getting into gear in Pentwater and I was excited by the prospect of the first Yacht Club dance of the season. As I walked across Lambrix' lot on the corner of Third and Carroll (you know the one with the huge old keelboat tucked in by the barn) after work, I looked up to see three girls that I did not know right in front of Rose-Lan (Granny Sayers' \$1 per day rooming house and my crash pad for the summer). One was hanging from a tree limb. That's the one who is now living the dream with me at 505 W. Lowell (across from the entrance to Mears State Park).



*My Cousin Nancy Koelpin on the old channel wall.*

I said hello and went on in to clean up. My buddy Dave from Bass Lake was there looking for me. There were two guys and three girls so I was the third guy. Life is good. The dance went well and I spent the rest of the summer zooming out to Bass Lake in my grandpa's '58 Ford. I didn't know it then but that summer was my introduction to the Pentwater/Bass Lake split personality syndrome (aka pblsps).

That third girl, the one hanging from the tree, had been coming to Bass Lake from Evanston, IL since before she was born. Her Dad, Howie Decker, started coming up here in the mid 1920's as a young boy. His good friend, Dick Jacobs, brought him up with his folks, Ernest and Marie and Dick's brother, Stan. They had two cottages on the southwest shore of Bass Lake, Kishwaukee and Red Oaks. Howie loved Bass Lake and kept coming up here as much as possible in the summers. By the time Susie and I met,

he had acquired the big brown cottage between the second and third ninety-degree turns on Lake Shore Drive. You can still find Susie's Mom, Inky, there in the summer.

What was I doing in Pentwater when my home was in Knightstown, Indiana? My Dad's sister, Shirley Ann Messerlie (Reser), from Greenfield, Indiana, started coming to Ludington in the early 50's. After a few years, she and my Uncle Gordon "discovered" Pentwater and started coming here for a week or two in the summer. They tried a few



*That's my dad Jack Shields (standing) and Dave Herkless.*

rental spots with their sons, Doug and Dave, and in the early 60's, Shirley Ann convinced my Dad, Jack Shields, to split the month of July with them in a rental called Driftwood, a great old cottage at the Lake Michigan end of the channel overlooking the state park beach (now located at 523 W. Lowell). I had other things going on those first two summers but finally made the Pentwater scene in the summer of 1965. I met a guy named Danny Ried who lived down on Channel Lane year round. Danny and I hit it off playing guitars and sand surfing, etc. Danny told me if I came to Pentwater as soon as school let out the next

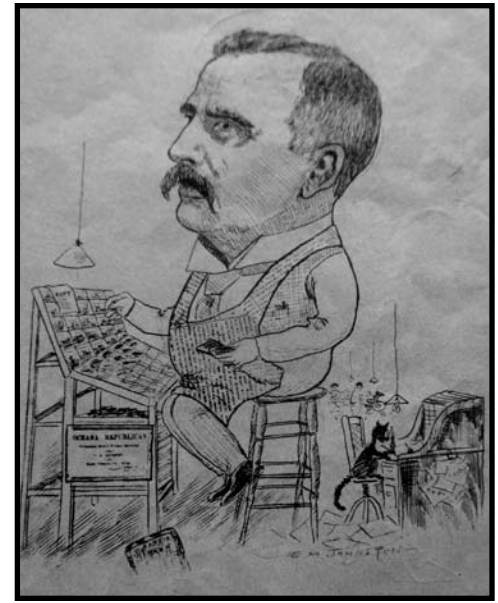
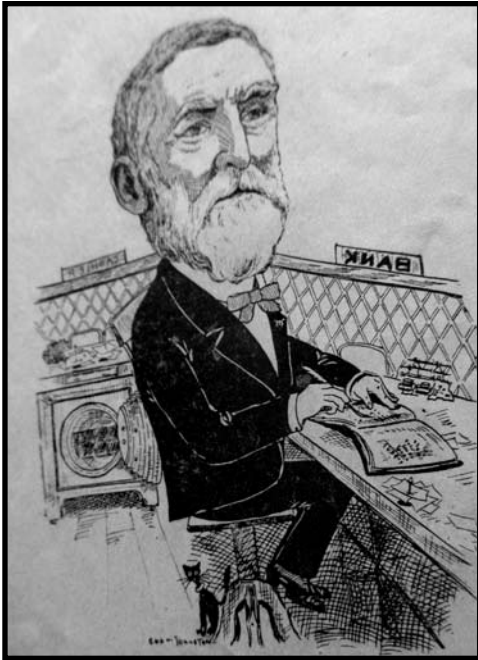
*(Continued on page 6.)*

# THE OCEANIAN'S Cartoons & Caricatures Part II

By: Ed Bigelow, PHS Museum Director

*The previous edition of the Newsletter featured Edd M. Johnson's pen sketches taken from the "THE OCEANIAN'S As We See 'Em". Here are a couple more cartoons from this volume that also features businessmen from our early local history.*

at Pentwater until January 1, 1877, and went into the insurance business. Since his residence in Hart, Mr. Richmond has been steadily elected county clerk and register, in which office he gives unbounded satisfaction, being thoroughly competent, and having a minute knowledge of the affairs of



LEFT: E. D. Richmond portrayed as a banker  
ABOVE: Henry W. Reid was a local lumber dealer  
RIGHT: Charles A. Gurney was a lawyer and township clerk

## E. D. Richmond - Pentwater

Edgar D. Richmond, county clerk and register, was born in Euclid, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, May 5, 1837, and was brought up on his paternal farm until 1849, when he went to Shaw Academy, in East Cleveland, for two years. He then clerked in a dry goods store until the spring of 1857, when he came to Pentwater, to work for Charles Mears. He took propeller from Chicago to Lincoln, and there met Dr. D. G. Weare, who had arrived the fall previous. Mr. Richmond took charge of Mear's store until 1862, when he went into business for himself, taking in Woodruff Chapin as a partner. After two and one half years, they took in John Bean, Jr., and together they bought out Hart, Maxwell & Co. In 1862-'63 Chapin, Richmond & Bean had built a shingle mill, the first that sawed shingles on this shore. They sold out to Phillips & Browne, (afterwards Pentwater Lumber Co.) From 1860 to 1866, Mr. Richmond has been elected and served three terms as county clerk and register, and had been postmaster of Pentwater from 1861 to 1865, which office he resumed from 1873 to 1877, after which he removed to Hart. Previous to leaving Pentwater, he started a store and had a sawmill in Golden, but in August 1875, the mill was burned, proving a heavy loss. He continued the post office

the county. He also does a large business in insurance, real estate and money loaning. He married, August 3, 1859, at Ionia, Josephine M. Rounds, by whom he has one son, Eddie, born January 1, 1863. Mrs. Richmond died July 6, 1866. In November 1869, he married Lydia L. Dunwell, of Allegan County, Michigan, by whom he has two children: Ollie B., and Jerome D. (known as Cook.)

## Henry W. Reid - Shelby

Dealer in Lumber, Shelby village, was born April 27, 1882, on Mount Desert Island, ME, and at nine years of age came to Oceana county, and has lived here ever since, residing in the house next to the depot. He married, in 1856, Elsie Martin, of St. Joseph, Michigan, and has a family of eight children; all grown up.

## Charles A. Gurney - Hart

Charles Gurney was born in Grange County, Ohio, June 6, 1853. His father moved to Tuscola County, Michigan, the same year. Mr. Gurney received the degree of B. S. at the Tuscola High School, and subsequently studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1881. For several years, Mr. Gurney has been engaged in teaching school a portion of the year. Settled in Hart in 1879, and is the present township clerk.

---

# UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

---

## LOST AND FOUND SHIPWRECKS OF WESTERN LAKE MICHIGAN

See this Special Exhibit at the Museum Through September 15, 2015

*NOTE: The following story was written by Valerie van Heest of the MSRA, and was featured in the Grand Rapids Free Press newspaper dated July 23, 2015. Valerie was our featured Spring Dinner Program Speaker, delighting us with "75th Anniversary of Armistice Day".*

### **NEWS FLASH! Steamer Ship John V. Morgan Lost Off Muskegon!**

February 12, 1899. On June 5, 2015, The Michigan Research Association (MSRA) discovered the remarkable intact Steamer Ship John V. Moran 15 miles off the Muskegon Shoreline at a water depth of 365 feet. The 214 foot Morgan was built in 1889 in Bay City, Michigan by The Union Transit Company and was owned by the Crosby Transportation Company when it sank. The ship sailed for only 11 years. The ship left Milwaukee on February 9th with a cargo of Flour, Animal Feed, Peas, Oil Cake and Misc. freight. The ship was pierced by Lake Ice and flooded beyond the capacity of the pumping system. Twenty-Four crewmembers were safely rescued by a sister Steamer Ship named the Naomi.



*The Steamer Ship John V. Morgan*

### THREE CHEERS FOR OUR MUSEUM HOSTS

The Museum is off to another great season. We are pleased that so many people enjoy Pentwater's history. Without the dedication of the many fine people who are "Hosting" at the museum, no one would have the privilege or benefit of gaining insights about Pentwater of years past.

A huge THANK YOU and HATS OFF to our museum hosts for making the 2015 Season such a great success. Our Hosts give freely of their time and their knowledge of Pentwater. They add the little touches that make visitors feel like they are guest in the home of an old friend. Their warmth and knowledge provide just the right touch to make tourist and residents alike feel that they want to linger and return often.

*Please take the opportunity to join the officers and board members when we say:*

*Thanks Hosts!  
For Making Our Museum A Big Success!*

### WHAT'S COMING IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS?

In the coming issues, Peter Rexford, author, journalist and syndicated columnist, will put together some fun memories about the south beach area. His roots go back to the late 1800s with his grandparents coming to Oceana and staying in one of the first cottages in the Oceana Beach Association. They also stayed in Garrison Park and he now has a cottage there. You can share the rich memories of the whole south beach area.

# What's Happ'n in the Village.

See something going on in the Village?

Grab your camera, take a photo and send it with a brief description to the Pentwater Historical Society's web site at: [pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org](http://pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org)

TOP: Young baseball players at school ball dimond.

TOP RIGHT: Another beautiful beach sunset.

MIDDLE: Foundation of a new home at the corner of Hanover and Morris Street

MIDDLE RIGHT: People gather on the green every Thursday evening for the Pentwater band concert.



## Museum Recieves Donated Items

TOP ROW: Diane Larson donated an original Edison Phonograph from about 1913 complete with 74 playing cylinders. Yes, it still works!

Stereoscopic viewer was the first effort at 3D vision.

Regulator Wall Clock Circa 1922 donated by Roger & Ruth Bailey.

The Leprechaun Shop Sign was part of Al & Alice Ringquist's Dumas Grocery Store formerly located in the present day Goodstuffs Restaurant.

LOWER ROW:

United Methodist 150th Commenrative plate and the 125th Pentwater Anniversary Plate from Carol Young.

Flex-a-tone musical instrument was donated by Mary Lou Mitteer.

Big anvil from the 1800's was once owned and used by blacksmith Frank Burr in Mears. Donated by Dave Hitchcock.

Lambrix Roofing Sign from the "50's was donated by Don Lambrix.

Two crosscut saws used in Pentwater Lumbering from the 1920's and 30's were donated by Al & Alice Ringquist.



## Visitors Find Ties with the Past.

The Millard family were recent visitors at the museum and found a family photo in the 1951 Mears State Park History book. The photo is also mounted on the wall next to the front desk. It shows a "covered wagon" camper their dad made out of a hay wagon and a "model A" chassis. They camped at Mears State Park throughout their childhood and as adults. Some of the family stayed at Mears State Park and all gathered together to enjoy reminiscing at the Museum.



# MUSEUM REPORT SUMMER 2015

By: Ed Bigelow, PHS Museum Director

**M**uch has been accomplished on our building since the spring newsletter.



## 32 Bell Tower

**Louvers** All have been painted and installed and really enhances the appearance of the building.

## New Carpeting

Gail Zink coordinated with Jared Griffis of West Michigan

Carpet Center in Hart to select a perfect color for the carpeting which has been layed on the lower level main room.

**Laminate Floor System** Thank you PHS members Doug and Ginny Bacon for the donation of a laminate floor system which is now installed in the lower level west board and meeting room.

## Information Management and

**Technology Center** The management committee approved the purchase of shelving, counter tops and cabinetry to complete the center's upgrade.

## Main Floor Stained Glass Windows

Tom Blackburn, owner of Pristine Glass Company completed the restoration of the stain glass windows on the main floor. Tom plans to continue restoration of the remaining windows.



**Balcony Electrical** Mike Castor will soon have improved lighting and additional electrical outlets installed to accommodate our computers, micro-film machine and other equipment.



## Balcony Window Trim

Tony Sisson has again worked his carpentry skills and has built and installed oak

trim for the main stained glass windows on the east side. The windows had remained unfinished for years and now are perfectly displayed.

## Bicycle Rack

Funding for the new bicycle rack was donated by Ryan and Amy Vander Zwart and their children; Jackson, Lola and Tyce. It has arrived and is now available for our visitors.



**Artist Rooms behind Stage** Member Tony Sisson has changed the door swing on two small rooms behind the stage. This change now allows for proper use of these rooms and connecting walkway.

**Main Entry Doors** Member Tony Sisson is in the process of improving the front entry doors for both appearance and for proper sealing and fit.

**Shelving Units** Recently, volunteers moved and installed shelving units from the old museum to the lower level of the PHS building. Artifacts from the balcony and former museum will be relocated here for proper storage and possible display.



## New Museum WELCOMES Hundreds of New Vistors

As of the date of this newsletter, we have completed two months of our second season. The comments have been positive and attendance levels remain high. We have had a total of 577 visitors, in the 38 days that we have been open. Our visitors have shared in a memorable experience of Pentwater's rich history. Volunteer host, Mary Beth Moore, noted "As a Pentwater Historical Society Museum volunteer I have enjoyed hosting visitors to the museum, young and old.

## Museum Fun for Kids

### Scavenger Hunt for Kids

Young guests get to have fun by running around in the museum on a scavenger hunt. Once the 10 items on the list is complete they win a prize!



*Niall, Averie and Anders Blaine who were visiting with Pam Griffis did the scavenger hunt and then played on the old organ.*



*Cara Bogunia shows off her completed scavenger hunt check list and is ready to receive her prize!*

**BOB'S  
CORNER**  
(by Bob (Childers), of course)

**G**reatNews!  
I am proud  
to say, it's

official! Your Pentwater  
Historical Society has of-  
ficially opened a new venture.

To make mind boggling Profits for  
this organization we have decided to go  
into the medical supply a business. Oh, all  
right. I should have said an upscale pharmacy.

On the first floor of our spacious office tower, we  
will be selling a number of items for the improve-  
ment and maintenance of your health and wellbeing.  
Not just the over-priced snake oil items we usually  
sell but more good, better, best stuff I know you will  
want to be the first in line to purchase these fine  
products

Our first product is the world famous "Dr. Cool's  
Wine of Tar." It is rich in the medical qualities of tar.  
It is unequalled for diseases of the throat and lungs.  
It effectually cures all colds and caught, asthma,  
bronchitis, pains of the chest, sides or back, kidney  
diseases, urinary organs problems, jaundice and liver  
complications. It is unequalled!

Do you want The Golden Secret of Long Life? Of  
course you do! For this, we recommend Bacon's  
Celery King for the nerves is a natural vegetable  
preparation that acts as a natural laxative, and the  
greatest remedy ever discovered for the cure of  
Dyspepsia, Liver Complaints, and all Blood, Liver  
and Kidney Diseases.

We still haven't covered what ails you. I just know this will be the  
answer. "Radway's Ready Relief". This is the only pain remedy  
that will instantly stop the most excruciating pains, allergy inflam-  
mation, and cures congestion. Internally, a teaspoonful in water  
will, in a few minutes' cure cramps, spasms, sour stomach, heart-  
burn, sick headaches, diarrhea summer complaints, dysentery,  
colic, flatulence and all internal pains.

There is not a remedial agent in the world that will cure fever and  
ague and all other malarious, billious and other fevers. When a  
man has suffered eight years from an apparently incurable disease,  
having tried innumerable kidney remedies without relief, he is  
naturally skeptical as to the ability of any medication to help him.  
This was the condition reported to me before I recommended he  
take Dr. Hobbs Asparagus Kidney Pills three months ago. The  
pain in his back made life for miserable for him both night and  
day. He could not lift anything heavy, so he was obliged to hire a  
man to carry the coal for his building. Now, after taking these pills  
for three months the pain in his back is entirely gone. Remember  
Hobbs Asparagus Kidney Pills.

You know, after reading all these wonderful medications and their  
equally beneficial cures, why do we need all the doctors at the  
Pentwater Family Medical Center. We know you're feeling a might  
poorly. Come into our new snake oil store...oops...sorry I said that.  
I should have said our very upscale pharmacy for these and any of  
the other wonderful products we sell. Please do it quickly before  
the FDA, DNR and our local constabulary finds we are selling  
these wonderful products. While you're at it, pick up a bottle or a  
fruit jar of our best moonshine. If you can't make it in at our normal  
business hours, see me out back behind the feed store on Hancock  
between one and four A.M. Bring CASH only!

---

## HOW I CAME TO PENTWATER CONTINUED

year, he would help me find a job. That's how I came  
to be working for Don Lambrix that summer  
of 1966.

By then, the Pentwater fever had also struck my  
Mom's two brothers, Bud and Dave Herkless (Sarah  
(Dick) Johnson's father). They would rent the next  
two cottages down the channel from Driftwood,  
Breezewood and Gray Nook. What times we had in  
those days. The parties were legend and we all knew  
what the noon siren signaled. We were proud to be  
known as the Channel Rats.

In the early 70's, Aunt Shirley Ann and Uncle Gor-  
don saw the "for sale" sign go up at Sneed Everly's  
cottage on the corner of Mears and Channel Lane.  
My grandmother Rachel was able to buy the cot-

tage. My Mom had asked Danny to let her know if any place down  
in his neighborhood on Channel Lane came up for sale. In the late  
70's, Danny did so and that's how my folks came to buy the place at  
505 Lowell from the son of Ruby Morris shortly after she passed  
away. Another call came from Danny in the 80's and Dad was able  
to buy the Glen Dee cottage at 441 W. Lowell where my sister Nina  
now spends the summer.

As the years rolled by, cousins on both sides of my family were able  
to purchase places in Pentwater. It's all about family here. Every year  
I meet other folks with similar stories that end with many family  
members coming to this wonderful lakeside community. We are not  
the only ones with ties to both Pentwater and Bass Lake. With fam-  
ily in both places, every summer is a chain of countless trips on that  
4-mile route from 505 Lowell to 7166 Lake Shore Drive. We love  
both spots.

## NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Jean McGroarty & David Samuelson

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Barbara Siok

## CONVERSION OF EXISTING TO LIFE MEMBERS

Betty & Robert Graham

## DEATHS

Roy Griffis                      Denzil Hepworth  
Milton Pugsley                Corallee Samuelson

## DONATIONS

Michigan Dunes Chapter D.A.R.  
Clark McKeown                Daniel Carter

## MEMORIALS

FROM:    IN MEMORY OF:

Charles E. Bigelow    Milton Pugsley  
Helen Henry's Neighbors    Helen Henry  
Charles E. Bigelow    Joyce E. Gardy  
William & Susan Bainton    James Alfredson

## THE WISH LIST

Rhea Ardrey Murry, a member from Petoskey MI requested that we list the missing Pentwater High School yearbooks. The first graduating class was in 1880 . We are missing Year Books from 1880 to 1908, and any years not shown below through 2015.

1909, 1916, 1921, 1923, 1937, 1940, 1946, 1951, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2013

If you have any yearbook(s) that will round out our collection and would like to donate it (them), please contact Ed Bigelow at 231-869-8631.

Please note the Pentwater Township Library and the Pentwater Public Schools also have collections.

## MEMORIALS CONTINUED

### In Memory of Elizabeth Peterhans:

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anna & Ronald Rea        | Anne Honhart               |
| Arthur & Jane Sackrison  | Carol & Kurt Heerwagen     |
| Christine Lacey          | Donald & Theresa Peterhans |
| Jeanne Graham            | Kathy Wilson               |
| Kifer Family             | Nancy Jackson              |
| Pamela Reed              | Peter & Jenann Klain       |
| Richard & Lenore Mueller | Robert Aikens              |
| Ronald & Marilyn Steiner | Scott & Kate Conway        |
| Susan & Alec Dutcher     | Susan Neumann Gorzynski    |
| The Buick Family         | Theodore & Joan Cuchna     |

### In Memory of Gail Bluhm:

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Thomas & Lynne Hicks | Betty Johnson           |
| David Peterhans      | William & Susan Bainton |

### In Memory of Marjorie DiPangrazio:

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Alan Trottman                              | Anne & Larry Konopka    |
| Carol & David Messerlie                    | Edward & Linds Everhart |
| Linda & Kenneth Ayers                      | Marsha & Michael LaHaye |
| Mary Ann Combs                             | Maxine & Roger Macleod  |
| Michael & Suzanne Irwin                    | Mr & Mrs Jack Hoffman   |
| Paul Lindquist                             | Paul Theibert           |
| Quayle Family                              | Ted & Joan Cuchna       |
| Thomas & Lynne Hicks                       | William & Diane Bullard |
| St. Andrew's Middle School faculty & staff |                         |

## 2014-2015 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES OF THE PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

|                                 |   |                               |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dick Warner<br><i>President</i> | William O'Donnell<br><i>V-President</i> | Dan Kelly<br><i>Secretary</i> | Mike Castor<br><i>Treasurer</i> |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|

|                                       |   |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| MEMBERSHIP<br>CHAIRWOMAN<br>Karen Way | DIRECTOR OF<br>INFORMATION<br>MANAGEMENT<br>Jim Ege | MUSEUM<br>DIRECTOR<br>Ed Bigelow |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|

TRUSTEES: Amy LaBarge, Bob Childers and Deb Deward

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE  
Jim Pikaart      Bill O'Donnell      Bruce Bates

USE THIS FORM TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS (The Address where you have your important mail sent when it absolutely positively has to get there!)  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:** • Patron \$500\* • Life \$250\* • Sustaining \$50\*  
• Annual \$20\* • Student \$3 (\* Includes Spouse)

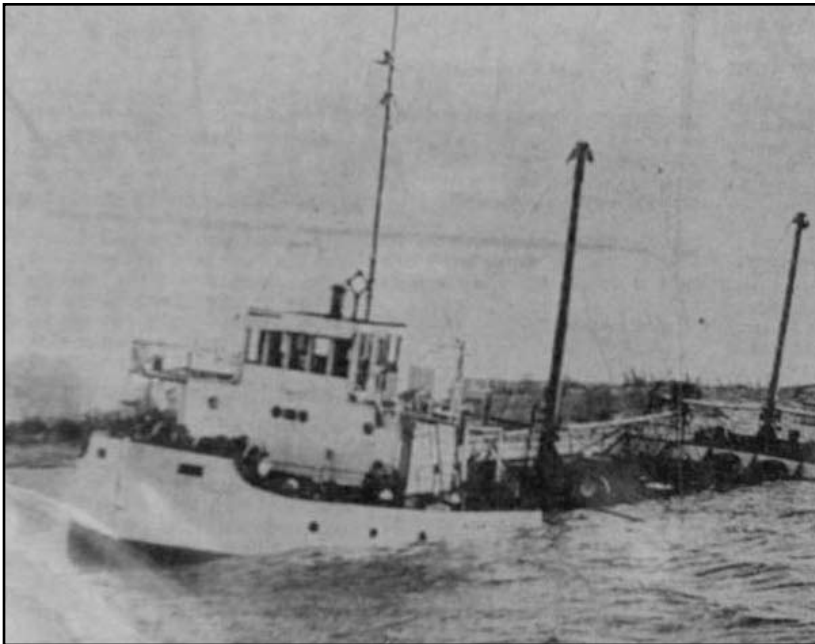
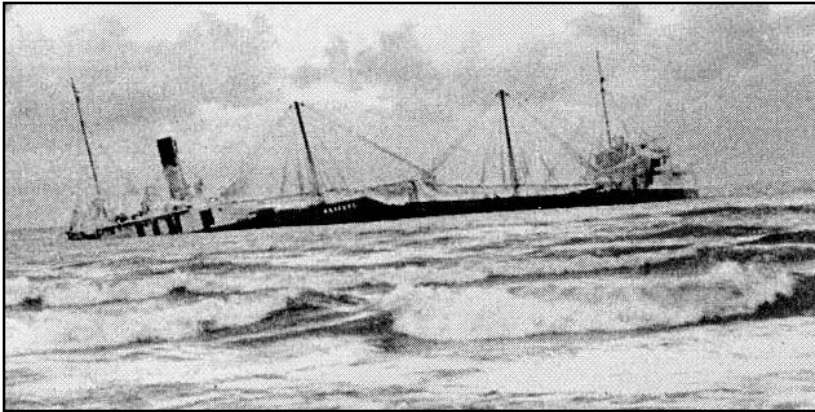
STATUS:  New  
 Renewal

Would you like to be contacted to participate in society activities? If so, your area of interest is: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, Please send the newsletter by e-mail. My e-mail address is: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:  
The Pentwater Historical Society, P.O. Box 54, Pentwater, MI 49449

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_



Shipwrecks on Lake Michigan include the sinking of the Canadian ship "Novadoc" which was driven ashore on Juniper Beach south of Pentwater at the height of the Armistice Day Storm of November 11, 1940. Two crew were lost and the rest were rescued by the fish tug "Three Brothers" from Pentwater.

## Lost & Found Shipwrecks of West Michigan

A SPECIAL EXHIBIT  
AT THE MUSEUM

July 21 – Sept 15, 2015

*Explore wrecks that span the history  
of shipping on Lake Michigan*



PENTWATER  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
P. O. BOX 54,  
PENTWATER,  
MICHIGAN 49449