

Welcome to Idlewild: *The Black Eden of Michigan*

Experience Impactful History at the Museum!

You will not want to miss the special exhibit at the Historical Museum that features Idlewild: "The Black Eden of Michigan". The exhibit is on display this summer and presents the history plus many photos of the famous-and not so famous-entertainers and resorters during the hey day of the resort from 1912 thru 2003. The exhibit is on loan from the Michigan State University Museum's Traveling Exhibition Service. Idlewild's story is one of



Lela Wilson, a driving force in the Garden Club, named the streets in the Paradise Garden area.



Mr. and Mrs. Hermon O. Wilson, relatives and friends during a 1957 Wilson Day Celebration in the Fiesta Room in the Paradise Club.

the projects created by MSU's Traditional Arts Program. Experience the special history and culture of this unique Michigan locale. The exhibit provides an excellent opportunity to understanding the link between today's popular summer music programs in Baldwin, Michigan and the musical tradition of Idlewild.

Check out the 2018 Baldwin Summer Concert schedule at: baldwinsummerconcerts.org

Expand on your experience at the museum by taking your family to one of the concerts this summer and top off the adventure with a visit to the famous Jones' Ice Cream in Baldwin! You will be glad you did!

Sometimes History is Made in the Most Unlikely of Places.



Julian Swain on stage at the Paradise Club.

The town of Idlewild is located about 40 miles east-northeast of Pentwater. Today it is a rather obscure community tucked away in the woods of the Huron-Manistee National Forests, just adjacent to Baldwin Michigan. However, it was once a go-to spot for summer vacations. It was a resort unlike any other in the United



The Paradise Hotel about 1948.

States. It was, in essence, the town that segregation built. In 1912, white investors, who thought a resort for black vacationers during the Jim Crow era could be a draw, started Idlewild. They bought 2,700 acres around a few small lakes in Lake County and promoted it as a black vacation resort. They took out ads in big-city newspapers offering lots for \$1 down and \$1 per month, bragging of the hunting, fishing, boating, and horseback riding to be enjoyed in Idlewild.

(Continued next page)

Word soon spread among black professionals in New York, Chicago, and Detroit of this outdoor getaway, one of the few places in the country where black people could vacation and buy land. People came in droves. By the mid '20's, more than 6,000 people had bought more than 17,000 lots in Idlewild. W.E.B Dubois, founder of the NAACP, owned property as well as baseball's great Dizzy Gillespie, author Charles Waddell Chesnutt, Fisk University President Lemuel Foster, Madam C.J. Walker, the first black female millionaire in America, as well as dozens of doctors, lawyers, and teachers. The little resort attracted big names like B.B. King, Della Reese, Louis Armstrong and Aretha Franklin. It was, for all intents and purposes, a boomtown. Idlewild grew into the biggest, most successful



Promotional flyer of the Arthur Braggs' 1963 Idlewild Revue at the Vagabond Room in Cleveland, Ohio.



The original Zoe (Ziggy) Johnson Dancers. When performing at Idlewild, they were part of the Arthur Braggs' Revue.

Arthur Braggs from Saginaw and Tommy Roy, a popular radio personality in Ludington, co-produced the Revue that drew crowds from Idlewild and surrounding area.

THE NICKERSON INN

Strolling down Lowell Street toward Lake Michigan, one can't help but notice a sign in front of a sloping, vacant hill. This sign is all that remains of the once iconic Nickerson Inn.

Nickerson Inn was built in 1914 by Charles Nickerson. Charles Nickerson was born in Cape Cod, Massachusetts in 1850

and came to this area when he was a small boy. His parents owned a farm between Pentwater and Ludington.

As an adult, while living in Pentwater, Charles sold real estate and later owned the Clendee Hotel, which was located in the southeast corner of Hancock and First Streets across from the United Methodist Church.

Being a shrewd business man, Charles took a chance, sold the Clendee Hotel and bought 22 lots in the Village of Pentwater. These lots were on both sides of Plymouth Street, the north side of Lowell Street between Plymouth and Mears, the east side of Mears Street, and the south side of Concord Street. The first house built was on the east side of Plymouth street. Charles named this house "Look Everywhere" because he could sit on his porch and see in all directions. His view was clear of large trees at that time.



An old postcard showing the Nickerson Inn in 1923.

The next house to be built was at the foot of the hill below where the Inn was eventually built. Charles and his family lived in this home while the Nickerson Inn was being built.

Nickerson Inn opened for business on July 1, 1914 only partially complete. With Lake Michigan only three blocks away and

Pentwater Lake across the street, it became a popular vacation spot instantly. The Inn was also known for its Victorian charm and elegance. It was constructed of handmade sand blocks. The sand came from the parking lots on the premises. The two-story Inn had 14 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a veranda, a dining room, and a social room. There was also an area for summer staff to be housed upstairs.

Unfortunately, only 2 years after building the Inn, Charles Nickerson passed away at the age of 66. The Inn was then operated by his wife, Medora, until 1934 when she died at the age of 74. Charles and Medora Nickerson's daughter Fanny and her husband Robert Webb managed Nickerson Inn until 1945 when it was sold to Roy and Dru Baker who ran it for 26 years. During the ownership of the Baker's, in the summer of 1970, Pentwater resident Mary Helen

resort in the Midwest, black or white. It was the largest historic resort for black Americans in the continental United States. At its peak in the 1950's and '60's, it drew up to 25,000 vacationers in the summer and was home to more than 300 black-owned businesses, hundreds of cottages and thousands of residents. Ironically, in the end, integration killed Idlewild. Black people no longer had to remain invisible, and today, the community has a meager population of only around 400. However, the town still has a story to tell and one can see a portion of that story at the Pentwater Historical Museum this summer.



A meeting of the Lot Owners Association (LOA) in the early 60's at the Robert Riffle Youth Center in Idlewild.



Horseback riders from the Sarge Johnson Stables.

Come and spend some time at the Museum learning about this impactful part of history that happened just down the road from Pentwater!

The museum is located at 85 South Rutledge, Pentwater, MI

Summer Hours are: Tues. through Sat., from 1-4 p.m.

Admission is free

Daggett Blohm worked at the Inn.

"There were two of us that cleaned rooms," she said. "There were no bathrooms in the rooms, just two that everyone shared. We got \$2.50 an hour and that seemed pretty good, 'cause the waitresses only got 10 cents an hour and all the tips went into one jar and that amount was split between all the waitresses at the end of the week. Most of the girls lived in a dorm over the kitchen area, so they got room and board also. A local woman did all the sheets and towels and pressed everything. Visitors usually stayed for two weeks at a time so that was long enough to get to know them. We usually got a generous tip when they left. If a room had children staying, there was an incredible amount of sand everywhere. It was a fun job mostly."

Ray became ill and his wife and daughters continued to operate the Inn until 1972 when it was sold to Hal and Myrna Carlin. The Carlin's continued to expand the business, adding a screened porch and obtaining a liquor license. Both Carlins grew up in Pentwater. Myrna's father encouraged them to buy the Inn. She spoke of the creative financing it took for them to make the purchase. "We were both teachers and borrowed on our life insurance policies and bought the Inn.



The Nickerson Inn in 1923.

The first couple of years were really a trial. Our daughters came home from college and brought friends with them and they cleaned rooms and waited tables. Our son Michael was 10 and he helped in the kitchen. "We had a man who would play piano during dinner and he stayed free for the month he performed. We have a lot of fun memories up there. Some of our guests eventually went on to buy homes in Pentwater because they grew to love the area."

The Carlins sold the Inn in 1990 to Dave and Terry Rose who owned it for two years. They began the renovation of the rooms. The upstairs was converted to 10 bedrooms with all rooms having private baths. They did the work without altering the original structure.

In 1992, the Inn was sold to its final owners Harry and Gretchen Shiparski. They added three suites with private baths, fireplaces, whirlpool tubs and balconies overlooking Lake Michigan. The screened porch offered diners a chance

to enjoy the Inn's view. The Shiparskis' children waited tables and worked as chefs, continuing the family business theme.

Ashley Wegner worked as a waitress at the Inn for five years and enjoyed her job. "We have a lot of repeat customers. We get to know

(Continued on page 9)



THE PENTWATER INN

The Pentwater Inn has had a few owners since being built in the early 1860's, but not as many as one would think given its age. A past owner, Sue Hand, once said, "It was a very hard house to leave." People live in these old homes, but the homes

also live in the people. This Queen Anne style home was built by William Emerson Ambler at 180 E. Lowell. Ambler was a very well-known and prominent citizen in Pentwater from 1870 – 1890. He was born in Ohio and at-

tended college with President William McKinley before moving to Pentwater. While living in Pentwater he was an attorney for Charles Mears when Mears started up the lumbering business in Oceana County. Ambler was also a probate judge for three years in Oceana County and a state senator for two terms in 1878 and again in 1880. In addition, he served as the president pro tem in the senate. William Ambler was also an avid collector of signed articles and manuscripts. One can do a search online and find pieces of his collection for sale. Ambler married Flora Emeline Lewis in Pentwater.

William and Flora sold their home in 1894 to Flora's brother, Charles Freemont Lewis and his wife Ethel. He was a

7th generation member of the Howland family who came to America on the Mayflower. Lewis owned and operated a general store in Pentwater from 1870-1942. Influenced by his brother in law, Ferris also served as a state senator in Lansing in the 1920's.

During World War II and for some years afterwards, the home fell into disrepair. It changed hands several times after 1950. One of the owners, Dr. Feren and his family restored

the home with pine panel in several rooms and began to use it as a summer home.

In the 1970's the home was bought by Janet Gunn, a retired army nurse. She turned the home into a Bed & Breakfast and called it The Pentwater Inn.



The Pentwater Inn today.

In the early 90's the Inn was bought by Sue and Dick Hand who did more renovations on the kitchen, floors, and insulation. They ran the Inn until 1994 when Quintus and Donna Renshaw bought the Inn after living in England for six years. A large family room was added to the west end of the home and bathrooms in two bedrooms making the home a 6-bedroom house with 6 en-suite bathrooms. The Renshaw's purchased Michigan West-Shore Realty in 2004 and eventually closed the Inn and continue to use it as their personal residence.

Thank you to Norm Shotwell for providing the historical information for this article and to Quintus and Donna Renshaw for sharing the history and pictures!



An old photo of the original home.



Quintus and Donna Renshaw on the steps of their B&B.



Hexagons appear frequently in man-made designs. Tile flooring, fabric design, and even windows have been fashioned in the shape of a hexagon. However, homes in the shape of hexagons are not very prevalent. Only a handful of structures have been built in the shape of a hexagon. Some examples are the hexagon shaped barn built in the 1850's in Maine, the "Hexagon House" built in 1874, in Winchester, Virginia, and a hexagon shaped home built by Ephraim Shay in Harbor Springs, MI in 1892. Frank Lloyd Wright also explored building a hexagon structure called "The Hana-Honeycomb" located on Stanford University campus in California.

These buildings were partially influenced by Orson S. Fowler's *A Home for All*, or the *Gravel Wall Mode of Building* (1853), a handbook that popularized the polygonal house as the most practical, economical, and healthful in plan for Americans.

Being that homes in the shape of a hexagon are so scarce, it is exciting to know that Pentwater has such a unique gem. Located at 760 Sixth Street, The Hexagon House Bed and Breakfast was built in 1896 by S.E. Russell, an agent of Charles Mears

Did you know that the strongest and most efficient shape that appears frequently in nature is the hexagon? Hexagons can be found in the shape of snowflakes, patterns on the skins of fruit, and even on the north pole of Saturn where there is an enduring cloud formation in the shape of a hexagon. The most popular use of a hexagon in nature is the honeycombs of bees. The hexagon is strong, flexible, and creates a dynamic design with larger open spaces. Scientist speculate that this is why the bee only forms the perfect hexagon when making a honeycomb – it is the perfect shape for the most efficient work.

– the Western Michigan lumber baron of that time, and the same man responsible for digging the channel and turning Pentwater into a harbor town. The home was originally used as a boarding house for the many lumbermen visiting the area from Chicago and from around the Great Lakes.

S.E. Russell was also known for creating the smoothest road in Pentwater. He used broken brick and gravel with the aid of large lumber trucks to pack it all down. It was quoted that Russell was not in need of a memorial upon his death because the road would be more than enough to be remembered by! Russell's does in fact have a gravestone. It can be found in the Pentwater Township Cemetery.

It is not known why S.E. Russell chose to build his home in the shape of a hexagon. Russell, like others at the time, may have also been influenced by Fowler's book and found the shape to be the most practical structure. It is rumored, however, that he built the house in the shape of a hexagon with no 90 degree angles so that the devil couldn't catch him in a corner.

When S.E. Russell died in 1929, his two

(Continued on page 10)

What's Up? in the Village.

See something going on in the Village that you believe should be documented?

Grab your camera, take a photo and send it with a brief description of what's going on to the Pentwater Historical Society at:

info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org



The iconic Hexagon House on Sixth Street is having the upper porch and balcony restored.



Site preparation on Madison Road for new home.



The Village roads and streets are undergoing major drainage, sewer and surface construction.

Charles Mears State Park is ready for visitors with snow fencing removed and benches installed.



Home on Park and Hancock is refurbished with new windows and siding.



Sport fishing charter fleet is ready for the spring season.



Spring comes to Pentwater with trees and Daffodils in bloom.



House on Channel Lane has an addition and a complete interior upgrade.



New home construction on the corner of Second and Victoria Boulevard.



**AUGUST 22, 2018
AT THE VFW**

8440 N. US Highway 31, Pentwater

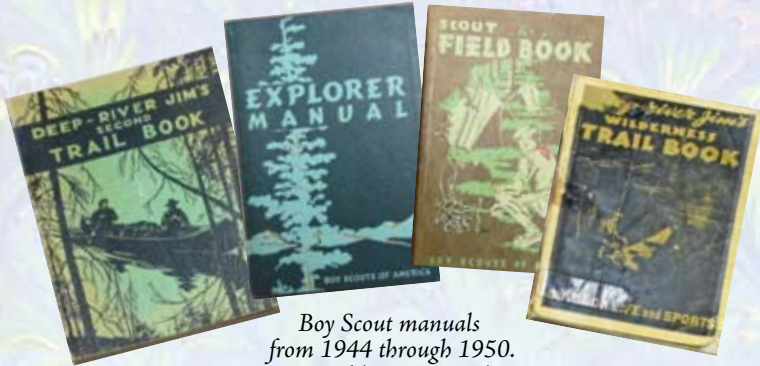
APPITIZERS & DRINKS AT 5:30

FOLLOWED BY SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

AND CONCLUDE WITH DINNER

Join Us! FOR THIS FUN, INFORMATIVE EVENT!

Museum Receives Donated Items



Boy Scout manuals from 1944 through 1950. Donated by Roger Bailey.

Old style hand made wood canoe paddle. Donated by Dan Filius.



Original Charles Mears Mahogany Desk from the Mears Home. Made by Imperial Furniture in Grand Rapids. The desk has been returned to Pentwater from Marina Del Rey, California. On indefinite loan from Judith Settingington.



4th Street improvement uncovered this old horseshoe.



Replica 1932 Thomas Cassette Radio on loan from Karen Way.



Dr. Gary Hickman donated this 1990's hat from Bob Maynard's Gun & Coho Shop.



Roger Bailey donated "The Noncom's Guide" Eighth Edition, January 1953.

WIN THIS COMMEMORATIVE RIFLE!



At a future PHS Event, we will be raffling a Winchester Model 30-30 Lever Action "Golden Spike Commemorative Rifle".

This rifle has never been fired and is in mint condition. Winchester produced this rifle model from 1869 to 1969. Today's value on this rifle is \$900. The rifle can be used for a gun collection or for hunting. Donated by PHS Member Bill Bigelow.

(The "Golden Spike" refers to the golden railroad spike that comemorated the final linking of the east and west portions of the U.S. Trans Continental Railroad on May 10, 1869.

MUSEUM SUMMER REPORT

By Ed Bigelow, PHS Museum Director

The Pentwater Historical Society Board of Directors is looking forward to another outstanding year welcoming local Pentwater people and visitors from afar to our Museum in 2018. While Pentwater is a small quaint village located on the shores of Lake Michigan, our natural Harbor of Pentwater Lake, surrounding beautiful Sand Hills and Dunes, Hiking Trails, Streams, Rivers, and the Charles Mears State Park, make this village a prime summer tourist location. In the past four years our PHS Museum had over 5,700 visitors, learning about the Great History of Pentwater. Plan to make a Museum visit an event for you this year!

On May 11, PHS Volunteers helped to ready the building and grounds for the coming season of visitors. The volunteers started at 9:00 a.m. and finished by 1:30 a.m.

Many Thanks to our volunteers!

In the Museum time was well spent in floor and upper wood surface vacuuming, clean and dust wood surfaces, clean display case glass; bathroom spiffed up and all debris residue disposed.

President and Curator, Dick Warner has donated and placed five new display cases in the museum. Dick has set up many new and exciting artifacts to be displayed through out the

museum. One of the featured new displays is the excellent collection of Oil and Water Color Paintings by former local artist, now deceased and PHS Member, Ted Resser.

Outside the Museum gutters were added to the West end of the PHS building by Affordable Gutter Inc. The building is now free from any water seepage, into the lower level. An accumulation of Leaves, Twigs, Branches, Walnuts, were



Norm Shotwell



Joan Gehringer



Dick Warner



Karen Way



Dan Filius



Tom Blackburn & Jim Gehringer

raked up and hauled away in Jim Gehringer's trailer.

A wind and rain storm caused a branch from a Chestnut Tree to fall into our North Lot and, thanks to PHS Member Mike Russell and Tree Work Plus, was removed without any damage to our property and adjacent fence.

5th Anniversary Celebration



Members and guests celebrate under the big top with hot dogs, snacks drawings and plenty of fun!

VFW Post 6017 Honor Guard and the High School Jazz Band at the 5th Anniversary Ceremonies.



Museum Wins Best Float Award!



Eva Gregwar from the C of C presents Dick Warner the 1st Prize for the best float in the Homecoming Parade.

George and Cyndy Mikulyuk (left & right) designed and built the float.

The winning float was modeled after the historical chain ferry which transported goods and people across the channel from the train station



MEET THE BOARD

SALLY OUWENEEL

Director of Membership Services.

Sally was drawn to Pentwater upon retirement after living and raising her family in Indianapolis, Indiana.

When Sally's 3 children were younger, they spent time vacationing in Silver Lake. She has fond memories of the time they all spent



together by the lake. While raising her family, Sally also did a lot of volunteer work. To help put her children through college, Sally worked 12 years at the Indy 500 as office manager for the Safety Department.

Currently, Sally calls Pentwater home and enjoys the small town feel and the friendly people in the community. She spends her time reading, playing on the Ipad, volunteering, spending time with her 6 grandchildren, 3 children and their spouses, and of course keeping track of the 300+ members of the Historical Society.

JOAN GEHRINGER

Secretary

We knew when we retired that we wanted to move somewhere near Lake Michigan. My husband, Jim, and I have always loved this side of the state. We would often go camping in the beautiful state parks when our children were growing up. We both are from the mid-Michigan area east of Lansing. Jim spent a lot of time on the computer looking at different properties for sale between Ludington and Saugatuck when we were getting close to retirement. We lined up a realtor that took us to see quite a few different properties and we finally narrowed it down to where we are now. We built a house on Madison Rd. not far from Pentwater. We just had a good feeling about the village and, being from an agricultural background, we love the mix of the beach and the surrounding farmland and orchards.



We now spend our time doing volunteer work, reading, gardening and traveling. We have two children and three grandchildren that live out of the state so we go visit them as often as we can.

Bill O'Donnell approached me to be the PHS board secretary several years ago. It was something I had done in the past working in county government before retiring. It's been great working with my fellow board members. Everyone has been so willing to help and get involved in making the museum something to be proud of in our community.

(Nickerson Inn Continued)

their favorite foods. Some stay at the Inn and some just come to eat," she said. "We have had some diners who are famous: George Wendt (Norm from "Cheers"), Bob Woodward, former Gov. James Blanchard."

The Nickerson has been reviewed by many magazines, and a visit to the Inn has been a prize on both Jeopardy! and Wheel of Fortune. In 1997 the Inn was listed as one of the top 20 best restaurants along the Great Lakes shoreline by the Midwest magazine "Lakeland Boating."

Tragedy struck early on Monday, May 21, 2007, during a heavy rain storm. Pentwater was forced to say goodbye to one of its beloved historical fixtures. A fire ravaged the Inn at a time when the village water tower was empty because of repainting, forcing firefighters to rely on a backup system and draw water from Pentwater Lake. 155,000 gallons of water were used in an effort to save the building. Witnesses heard an explosion and saw flames coming from the kitchen area of the Inn. People stood helplessly frozen in place as they watched the 93-year-old Nickerson Inn being reduced to ashes. Thankfully, no one was staying at the inn when the fire was reported at about 6:30 a.m. The cause of the fire was not reported.

On July 1, 2007 people gathered to say a final farewell to the Inn. Dianne Baker sang and played a song on her guitar

about the Nickerson that she had written for the Inn's 80th anniversary in 1994. But this time, a new verse about the fire was added to the end:

*"May 21st sirens screamed, '07 was the year,
Flames filled the morning sky and destroyed
what we held dear,
Yes, Nickerson Inn our special friend ... was gone
... it was unreal,
Through tears we talk of memories
and sadness we all feel."*

The Nickerson Inn was not rebuilt, although artifacts from the Inn can be found in the Pentwater Historical Museum. In 2014, the land where the Inn stood was sold to people in Minnesota. However, at the time of this article, the lot remains empty without even a whisper of what the new owners may have planned for it.

Information for this article was taken from articles by Dorothy Webb Davis, Cindy Shafer, and various online sources.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2018 ARE DUE

If you see "17" following your name on the mailing label it is time to renew your membership. The dues amounts are shown on the Membership Application Form on the last page of the newsletter.

Please send your check to: Pentwater Historical Society
PO Box 54, Pentwater, MI 49449

(Hexagon House Continued)

daughters inherited the property and turned it into a summer tourist camp, and home base from which they ran a homemade pie business and a boat rental business. In the 1950's the home was sold to Dr. Tate, a prominent dentist from Chicago. Dr. Tate spent his summers in Pentwater. A past neighbor was recorded as saying that he remembered the Tates hoisting a grand piano to the upper floor with a crane.

In 1968, Richard and Susan Bonnie bought the home. Richard was a college professor in Halifax, Nova Scotia where he and his family resided. The family spent many summers at the Hexagon House and began its first phase of renovations.

In May of 1994, Curt and Jan Warners bought the Hexagon House and completely renovated it from September of 1994 to September of 1995. In addition to digging a new well, they installed a second new furnace, central air conditioning, and a new roof. They completely replaced all wiring and plumbing and fully insulated the home for year-round enjoyment. The Warners also moved the spiral staircase outdoors to connect the two new levels of the wrap-around covered porches. The upstairs renovation included four separate guest rooms, all with private baths. A cupola at the peak of the hexagon contains a widow's walk, a remaining hallmark of the bygone era. Common on old coastal homes, the name for a widow's walk is thought to come from the wives of early mariners, who would pace on a raised platform or walkway while waiting to see if their men had returned from sea

In October of 2002, the Warners' sold the house to two veterinarians from Grand Rapids, Drs. Ed Farnham and David Durham. Ed and Dave owned the home until July 2011, during which they utilized Innkeepers to operate their B&B, the most well-known being Amy and Tom Hamel who were Innkeepers at the home for nine years.

"The beauty of the house, the landscaping, the antiques, all drew me in. Both Dave and I had some investments we weren't happy with and together pooled our money to buy it. Personally, I think it was fate that we found and bought this property. There were several other offers for this house that fell through for one reason or another. When we met with the Warners, one of the things that 'clicked' between us was that Dave and I appreciated all the love and effort they took to bring this house back to its wonderful condition and that if we bought it, we wouldn't be making many changes." -Ed Farnham
In 2011, Matt and Sandy Werner purchased the property, embarking on second careers as innkeepers. They continued the bed and breakfast tradition with outstanding results.

"What they (visitors) are all looking for is beauty, comfort, and just elegance. We did not make it beautiful, but it is our privilege to keep it beautiful." -Sandy Warner

In June of 2017, the Hexagon House Bed and Breakfast was purchased by Connie Loisch and Richard Webber who lived in Kokomo, Indiana. Connie and Richard had been looking for a bed and breakfast for about a year when they met Sandy Werner at an Inn Keeper's Conference. Richard and Connie went to visit the Hexagon House and immediately fell in love with it.

In speaking with Connie, it is evident that everything she has done throughout her life led her to this new adventure. After raising seven children (which included a set of quintuplets!) Connie went back to school and became a Registered Nurse. She has found that her patience, love of being with people, ability to juggle multiple responsibilities, and her love of hospitality has prepared her to run a successful B&B.

While Richard continues to work in the mental health profession, Connie will focus her energy on the Hexagon House. Connie will use her skills to create a peaceful environment that is more than "being pretty and having good food". Her vision is to create an atmosphere where visitors can recharge and find reprieve from the grind of their daily lives. One way she plans on making this happen is to create more gardens on the grounds. She has plans of flowered paths filled with fragrance and natural beauty. She hopes to create an environment not only for relaxation, but also for weddings. It is very likely that somewhere in these new gardens the unique shape of the house will be reflected through nature itself.

Special thanks to Connie Loisch for information about the Hexagon House.

Other information for this article was gathered from: Pure Michigan, Ludington Daily News, Good Roads publication, Michigan's Town and Country Inns and UTR Michigan.

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Mark VanNortwick
Mara & Martin Drechen

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Raymond James

DONATIONS

Dan Carter
Richard & Sylvia Warner
Jean Russell & Bob Childers

Bob's CORNER

(by Bob (Childers), of course)

**DATE LINE
JUNE 1912**

Here I sit in the spacious penthouse office suite of the Pentwater Historical Society, high above the streets of our fair village.

Time for the news.

"Good Morning fellow citizens of Pentwater!

This is your radio station, PHS of the Pentwater Historical Society presented by your host, the magnificent "Bob".

And now for Bob's Corner, 1912. I know all of you have been waiting all this time for this news and I do have some wonderful news to present.

Recently, I had the opportunity to observe the parade of the reunion of the veterans of the Civil War troops smartly marching down Hancock Street in their Civil War uniforms with flags flying high. The marchers were the 28th reunion of Pentwater's 8th Michigan Volunteers and the Hart 26th Michigan Volunteers. What a grand and glorious sight to behold. Private Ed Bigelow, Private Roger Bailey and seaman Bill Bluhm lead the parade. Speeches were given by everyone honoring the men of our village for their heroic actions. It did this reporter proud to see the veterans of the North and the South marching and standing together sipping a beverage. The parade ended on the village green with a concert from one of the Pentwater bands. I must say, you missed a grand and glorious occasion if you were not there. Hopefully they will have this parade again next year in 1913.

Other news from our village common council: All persons are prohibited from throwing cans or rubbish in the streets. The rubbish must be buried or carted to the water works dump. Persons are prohibited from emptying kitchen rubbish in the streets."

A new Manufacturing Plant - The Buss Company with a paid in capital of \$25,000 was organized by the Pentwater State Bank. The new company, which makes a specialty of building heavy woodworking machinery, will occupy the Brillhart building at Second and Carroll St. (now 5th and Carroll which is now Pentwater Wire Company). They will repair the building for their purposes and will occupy the premises at once. More exciting news of our village next issue."



PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MISSION, VISION & GOALS

MISSION STATEMENT

Pentwater Historical Society seeks to connect people to the history of Pentwater by collecting, preserving, and sharing information and artifacts.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Pentwater Historical Society is to enrich lives through access to local history, engaging members, residents and visitors alike.

GOAL

Our goal for the Museum is to establish and maintain a place and institution that:

- Is a welcoming place where people are drawn together to share their passion and interest in our history and sense of community.
- Creates and maintains educational programs and exhibits that are professionally presented and inspiring.
- Has collections that provide a continuing source of inspiration and learning.

2016-2017 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES OF THE PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dick Warner <i>President</i>	Norm Shotwell <i>V-President</i>	Joan Gehringer <i>Secretary</i>	Mike Castor <i>Treasurer</i>
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR Sally Ouweneel	TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR Mark Shotwell	MUSEUM DIRECTOR Ed Bigelow	MARKETING DIRECTOR Jim Lambrix

TRUSTEES: Amy Vander Zwart, Bob Childers and Deb Deward

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Amy Vander Zwart Jim Pikaart 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)

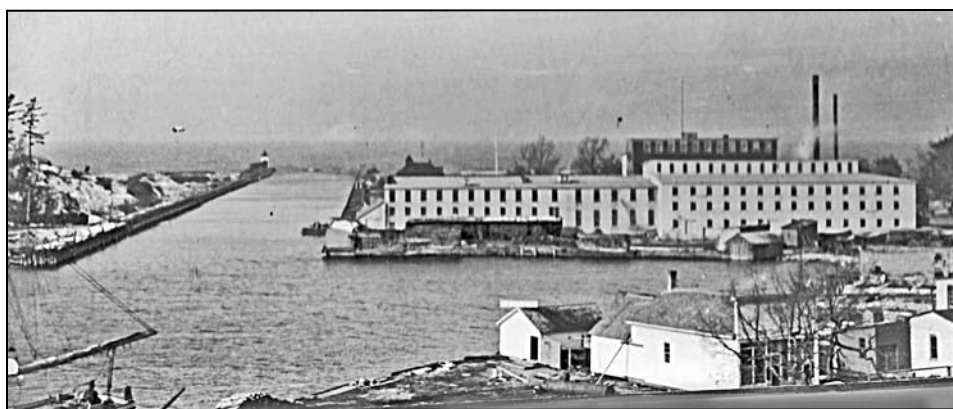
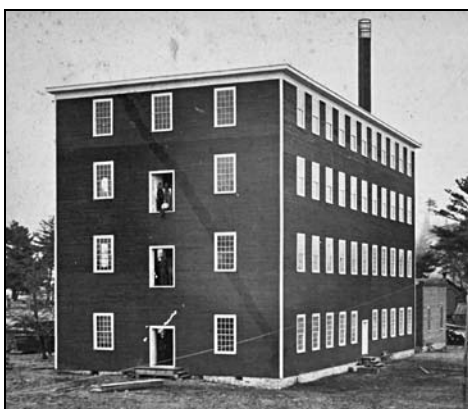
STATUS: ☐ New
☐ Renewal

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

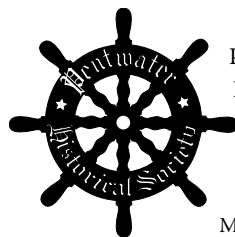
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The Bedstead Factory expanded from this humble frame building in 1885 to a large building along the channel.



Steam powered machinery was first used to cut and shape wood and later electricity but all assembly was done by craftsmen like these in the 1890's



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The craftsmen at the Bedstead Factory got together for their group photo in the 1890's.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

**HOMEcoming
PARADE
August 11**

**SUMMER
DINNER
August 22**

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