



# AHOY MATEY!

## HERE'S TODAY'S HISTORY LESSON

By Ron Beeber

*Were you one of the 300 people who took the Pentwater History Boat Tour this summer? It sure was popular; here's how the idea unfolded, and its impact.*

**T**he History Boat Tour happened because Nancy Zielinski, our museum director, saw the potential of how the voicemail-like audio technology called "Guide by Cell" (GbC) could enhance our visitor's self-guided tour experience. Amy and I had used GbC during a self-guided tour of an Alabama museum a few years ago. I told Nancy about it in February, she liked the idea, and got the PHS board's okay to try it for two years. The three of us chipped in so the PHS could acquire the rights to use the technology for the next two years. This was Nancy's, Amy's, and my tribute to Ed Bigelow.

Well, May was a busy month. I wrote and recorded 30 short narratives that are based on widely available historical information found on the Internet and in past PHS newsletters. Our 30 GbC cuts were ready to go when the museum

opened its doors on June 1. (We're now up to 53 numbered segments, each having short, recorded narratives.)

On May 22, I had hoped to preview a few narratives at the PHS Spring Dinner. But little did I know that the VFW's wireless microphone in my left hand scrambled the signal from my cellphone that I also was holding in that hand. GbC had worked flawlessly until then -- and since. But not that evening. Boy, was I embarrassed!

Meanwhile, on May 1, the high water forced the Oceana County Road Commission to close Longbridge Rd. Pentwater Village and Township decided a 16-passenger water taxi was needed to connect our divided community. They offered free trips to take people back and forth across the lake. Unfortunately, operating the boat cost about \$175 per day. To offset this the daily expense, a daily sunset cruise was offered at \$20 per ticket.

I mentioned to Pentwater Village Manager, Chris Brown, that I had written (thanks to Nancy) some 30 historical accounts for the museum's GbC project and what if I fashioned some of them into talking points about Pentwater's history, which a docent on the boat could refer to as it moved around Pentwater Lake? Chris quickly responded "Let's do it".

The history tour by boat was offered at 4:45 p.m. each day the water taxi operated, which was almost daily until Labor Day, with

a reduced schedule afterwards. My friends; Nancy, Russ Cross and Rande Listerman agreed to divide up the duties each week. I recently met Debby Roisen at the summer gathering of PHS volunteers at the Friendship Center, and she's been added to our team.

It's truly been great fun for each of us to do this. Visitors really found it both informative and entertaining. Most

(Continued on page 2.)



Another History Boat Tour begins with Lee Price at the helm.

---

guests told us they learned something new -- even those with a many-year connections to Pentwater. We docents have certainly learned a lot. Many guests who hadn't visited our historical museum before told us they would. And many who had visited prior to this year said they planned to return, to try out GbC.



*Nancy points out another historical feature during the harbor tour.*

We four docents often refer to the Historical Society and the museum during each one-hour tour. For example, when we tell them about the old Janet Theater on Hancock Street, which began showing silent films in 1917, we'll also say "And when you visit the museum, you'll find some framed artifacts from the Janet on the stage area".

Without question, the Pentwater History Boat Tour really complements the first goal in the PHS's stated purposes. "*To encourage and promote historical awareness and knowledge of Pentwater*". That's what it's all about.

When this article is published, Pentwater's water taxi will likely be in dry dock (check the [pentwatervillage.org](http://pentwatervillage.org) Web-site for the latest information on its status). Let's hope a way is found to continue offering these Pentwater History Boat Tours in 2020.

---

## Pentwater's Hidden Gem

By Mike and Kendra Flynn

**I**t's quiet here now except for an occasional noise from the local government offices below. The spectacular view of Pentwater Lake and the channel has not changed. The noon whistle still blows.

But let us take you back in time to the 1950's. It is not quiet. People are clomping up the grand staircase to an event. Maybe they hear the PHS band playing, students running in gym class, crowds cheering for the basketball team, a rehearsal for the school operetta or play, conversations from a community dinner, or Bingo being called.

As you may or may not have guessed, we are talking about the second story of the building known by those who grew up in Pentwater as the Community Hall. True to its name the building was every bit a gathering place for the whole community.

As early as 1921 Carl Sarles wrote in the PHS yearbook, "We need a building that can be used as a gym and also as a general auditorium for play and other purposes to be indulged in by the students and people of the town." It wasn't until nine years later that Carl's wish came true. After the Sands and Maxwell's store burned, Mrs. Sand offered to sell her land to the town if a Community House would be built on the site. Mrs. J. Congdon organized the women of the village and due to their efforts, the Community House was dedicated in August of 1930.

The first floor of the Community Hall housed the township and village offices, the fire department, the township library, a large vault and a locker room. The second floor housed the gym, complete with a kitchen and restroom.

The basement held a temporary jail cell.

Many who read this may have vivid memories of events and experiences related to the Community Hall. Roger Bailey remembers playing donkey basketball in the gym. The tricky part was leading the donkeys up the stairway to the gym. They were fitted with rubber boots to prevent damaging the hardwood floors. Mike Flynn tells about the time he and Brent Cluchey conjured up a costume to wear to the annual community Halloween party. They climbed inside a pair of huge bibbed overalls and went as the "two-headed man." The quarter they won in the costume contest was worth walking five blocks and then up the stairs with Mike standing on Brent's feet in the same pair of pants! The band played and treats were handed out to all who participated.

Now let's fast forward to 2019. The Community Hall still stands. The ground floor houses the village and township offices with a meeting room between. The grand staircase is no longer there, the fire department and the library are in their own separate buildings. The nearest jail cell is in Hart. However, the 2nd story still has the original hardwood floor complete with the letter "P" painted in the center jump circle.

For those who remember that community space upstairs, the big changes forecasted for the Village Hall gets one thinking . . . what are the future possibilities? Will the community Hall continue to be a hidden gem or are big changes inevitable?

---

# The Truth About Counseling

By Amy Van Gunst

**T**he Fountain Hill Center for Counseling and Consultation know a thing or two about history. Some of the first questions we ask new clients have to do with their history: "What was your upbringing like? What's bringing you to counseling?"

Sometimes new clients come to us feeling guilty or upset about something that happened in their history. Or they're carrying trauma from events that occurred years ago. Or they feel ashamed they can't handle their struggles on their own.

At Fountain Hill, we don't think a well-lived life is one that's free of stress and struggle. Our experiences have taught us that struggle is an inherent part of everyone's life. We will ALL occasionally encounter life circumstances that aren't ideal: a job loss, the death of a loved one, a failed relationship, a diagnosis, problems with our kids, too much stress, and on and on.

For us, part of a well-lived life is feeling we can ask for help when these things happen and accepting the help we need. After working with clients for many years, we believe that getting support for mental, emotional, or relational issues is normal and natural. It's something anyone could benefit from. Needing counseling isn't abnormal or weird and it isn't an indication someone has failed at life. On the contrary, getting counseling can be an important component of a well-lived life. Seeking the kind of help people often look down on or are too scared to admit they need is courageous. It's an indication someone values themselves and the quality of their life and relationships. It's the exact opposite of failing. And it can be the first step to tremendous growth and healing.

One of the ways we help people who are struggling is by encouraging them to take a second look at their history and see their struggles in a new, less limiting way. When we encourage clients to question their guilt, anger, fear, and shame to ask, "Why am I feeling this way?" we often find it's because of distorted ideas they received from their families or communities. The idea that counseling is self-indulgent is one such idea. So is only weak people ask for help.

One idea that maybe doesn't get talked about enough is that counseling can help us become strong and healthy enough to help others. Far from being self-indulgent, getting counseling can be one of the most selfless things we do. The healing we achieve ripples outwards. And the mental and emotional strength we cultivate not only makes us better equipped to tackle our own challenges, it makes us

better equipped to help our family, friends, neighbors, and community.

At the Fountain Hill Center, we want counseling to be accessible, helpful, and normal across West Michigan and right here in Oceana County. And we're committed to providing counseling services that help everyone to experience a well-lived life. If you have questions, we would love to talk with you. Please feel free to contact us at (616) 456-1178 or contact@fountainhillcenter.com.

## Small Town Policing and the Mental Health Crisis.

by Chief Laude Hartrum

**V**isitors to the Village of Pentwater enjoy Pentwater Lake, Charles Mears State Park, and the small quaint shops downtown. Many come and spend two, sometimes three weeks out of the year relaxing from the pressures of home and creating lifelong memories.

There is another side of Pentwater. A side that few ever see. It's not unusual, by any means, but it is often tragic and challenging: substance abuse and mental illness.

Often our Department encounters people suffering from a combination of mental illness and substance abuse. All too often these incidents end with the subject lodged in jail on relatively minor charges. In 2016 we began to ask ourselves what we were accomplishing by doing this.

In 2017 our Department partnered with West Michigan Community Mental Health Systems to author a grant from the Department of Justice Assistance. The purpose of the grant was to develop a strategic plan to divert the mentally ill from jail. We were successful and received an initial grant of \$75,000 to assist in developing the plan. The grant award began a long journey, one that is still going on today.

The strategic plan now encompasses Oceana, Mason, and Lake County. A Jail Diversion Collaborative was developed to implement the plan. Currently, the Collaborative is waiting to hear about another grant which we've sought to implement our strategic plan.

A more relevant question is how has this affected Pentwater? First, officers at the Department all receive advanced training in "Mental Health First Aid".

Mental Health First Aid training helps officers understand the different types of mental illness and their symptoms. It provides officers with techniques to help de-escalate the situation before they turn violent.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## MEET YOUR BOARD

### **Sally Ouweneel and Mike Castor Retire from the PHS Board.**

*The Pentwater Historical Society would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to retiring board members Mike Castor and Sally Ouweneel*

Mike served as treasurer for eight years and has been a member of the Pentwater Historical Society since 1998. Mike worked tirelessly on the finances but he was also instrumental in setting up the current museum and when the First Baptist Church was converted into the museum, Mike put his electrical engineering background to good use in planning and working on upgrading all the electrical work and bringing it into compliance with modern building codes. We wish Mike the best in his future retirement!

Sally has been an active member of the Pentwater Historical Society for many years. She has served on the board as the Director of Membership Services for the past eight years. The handwritten notes and cards as well as the membership brochures were all thanks to the hard work and dedication of Sally. Her quick smile and friendly demeanor will be missed in the PHS!

**Sally and Mike, your board, as well as the members of the Pentwater Historical Society THANK YOU!**

### **Bart Zachrich**

Treasurer



*Bart Zachrich*

**I** was born in Toledo, Ohio, but I grew up in Michigan, graduating from high school in Davison, near Flint. I attended Albion College for my undergraduate degree and earned graduate degrees from Eastern Michigan University. I was a teacher and counselor in Flint for 15 years until I became an elementary principal. I also worked

as a middle school and a high school principal.

I retired in 2018 and moved to Pentwater. My house is in the woods overlooking Pentwater Lake. Two weeks after moving to Pentwater, my home was hit by 70 MPH winds that felled trees. Fortunately, they missed my house and car. I now have plenty of firewood! I enjoy a daily walk to Lake Michigan, which changes every day.

I have two married daughters with three amazing grandchildren. I enjoy reading, travel, hiking, walking, and I love golf. My volunteering includes the museum, the Pentwater Service Club, and the Chamber of Commerce. I enjoy the changing seasons and experiencing the Village with its busy summers and very quiet winters.

I have enjoyed being a Host at the Museum. The Historical Society is an amazing group of dedicated people who show pride in their community. I am looking forward to being on the Board with a dedicated team who promote and preserve our local history.

### **Terry Roach**

Trustee



*Terry Roach*

**M**y father, a well-known attorney, and my mother raised their six children in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Grand Rapids felt like a small town then and now, Pentwater feels very small in a different, cozier way.

My wife, Pam, and I have two grown children and three granddaughters. We have lived half-time in Pentwater and half-time in Grand Rapids for the last 12 years. We started motorhome camping (sounds rustic but being in a 3 slide-out motorhome with all the amenities isn't that tough) and Pentwater was the nicest, most friendly park we stayed in. It is a great layout, easy access to town, Lake Michigan, and everyone said hi! on the street. We just sold our house in Apache Hills and built a new home that we moved into in the Lites Cottages off of Clymer.

I worked in banking/finance all of my adult life, Pam was a

teacher, and we spent many years volunteering for the American Cancer Society in Grand Rapids. We managed a team of 20 volunteers who met with cancer patients to help them use all the free services provided by the American Cancer Society. Pam led a large "Prayer Shawl" group from area churches, supplying thousands of prayer shawls to cancer patients. She now heads up the "Pentwater Rocks" group which has over 775 members in and around Pentwater.

I like to keep busy and enjoy carpentry work, being a Senior Warden at St. James Church, working with the Pentwater Service Club, being a member of the Artisan Center, being a Life Member of the Jaycees, fishing, and relaxing on the beach. I came to the PHS board when I oversaw some of the Museum upkeep and now want to learn a lot more about PHS as I am a raw recruit. The Pentwater Historical Society is one of those rare things Pentwater has that makes this a special place to live. People often ask me "where do you live?" and they always respond "Wow, I wish I could live there!"

We need to remember that we are the lucky ones!



## The Premier of the Pentwater Documentary.

May 27, 2020

**S**mall town America; friends, family, strangers, greed, threats, law, money, bargains, magic, risk, love, and loss.

It may not be filled with all of that drama, but the film collaborated on by Pentwater Historical Society and Pentwater Schools is one not to be missed!

Edited, directed, and produced by Lucas Quinteros, a high school junior, and Bart Zachrich, a trustee on the PHS board, this film is a collection of interviews of local longtime residents of Pentwater Michigan.

The film highlights the rich and local history of Pentwater and its residents as told through the experiences and memories of ten citizens.

The premiere of this never before seen footage will be May 27, 2020 at the PHS Spring Dinner. Following the



Lucas Quinteros and Bart Zachrich

premiere, the footage can be viewed at the Pentwater Historical Museum. It will not be made available via social media or to the general public, so be sure to attend the dinner to be one of the first to view this professionally produced film!

Cast: Bill Bluhm, Karen Way, Jim Lambrix, Ted and Joan Cuchna, Larry Konopka, Steve Brower, Mike Flynn, Roger Bailey, Dean Gustafson, and Doris Daggett Brown.

# DINNER & MOVIE

**PENTWATER  
DOCUMENTARY**  
*Starring...* Citizens  
of Pentwater



**DON'T  
MISS THE PREMIER  
SHOWING!**

**Wednesday  
May 27, 2020  
At the VFW Hall**

**5:30 pm  
Appetizers**

**6:00 pm  
Greeting from  
Dick Warner,  
President, PHS**

**6:15 pm  
Dinner is Served**

**7:00pm The Movie!**

**ONLY \$20.00 per person**

**Dinner Features: TBA BYOB**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:**

**Decors by Sandra  
Mike Castor**

**Pentwater Fair Trade  
Deb Deward**

**Questions or information contact Deb Deward at: 231-869-2230**



*What's Up?* **in the Village.** See something in the Village that you believe should be documented? Grab your camera, take a photo and send it with a brief description to the Pentwater Historical Society at: [info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org)



*The homecoming crowd at the combined Pentwater and Scottville Clown Band Concert.*



*At Ed Bigelow's dedication.*



*The big PHS Garage Sale.*



*The PHS Members gather at the Summer Dinner.*



*The Wooden Boat Show features some colorful iceboats.*



*PHS shows off its historic, (Actually it's prehistoric!!) transportation in the homecoming parade.*

*And was an outstanding entrant at the car show!*







*Old Baldy climb is all lit-up.*



*Memorial Day Parade.*



*Nancy and son Keith take a look at their old blackboard that came from the old Pentwater School.*

Nancy Norling and son, Keith, of the Detroit area, visited the Museum on Sept. 29. They are shown here checking out a slate blackboard from Pentwater School that Nancy donated to the PHS in late 2014.

In 1966 when the old school was being torn down after the opening of the new school building on Park Street, Nancy and her family were visiting family here and Nancy's aunt asked, "Would you like a slate blackboard from the old school that's being torn down?"

"Sure," Nancy said. Her son was about 10-years-old at the time and she thought her son would enjoy it. So, Nancy and her husband strapped the heavy piece of slate to their pop-up camping trailer, hauled it across the state to the Detroit area, and hung it on a basement wall. It remained there until Nancy learned of the opening of the new historical museum in 2014. Nancy contacted Ed Bigelow and offered to donate it.

Two museum volunteers hauled it back to Pentwater, and the blackboard has been hanging in the museum ever since. It's a fun place for young and old to jot down messages and drawings and it brings back fun memories for Nancy and Keith.



*A native American woven shield and antique whiskey bottle were given to the museum.*



---

# MUSEUM FALL REPORT

by Nancy Zielinski, PHS Museum Director

**I**t's been an exciting year at the Museum. The Museum expanded its hours and welcomed 50 visitors in May for a special event. There were 286 visitors in June, a whopping 551 in July, 440 in August, and 98 in September --- for a grand total of 1,425.

In addition to Michigan, visitors came from the following states: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vir-

ginia, Washington State, and Wisconsin. The Museum also welcomed a number of visitors from various parts of Canada.

It was a pleasure to have Lucy Macher and her third-grade class of students visit the Museum in early June. It was so much fun watching them participate in the scavenger hunt. They did their best to outdo one another, but everyone was a winner. A new exhibit honored and celebrated the life and times and wonderful contribution Ed Bigelow made not only to the PHS Museum, but to the Pentwater community as well. If you haven't already seen it, make sure you stop in for a visit.



*The third-grade class came for a visit.*

that corresponds with a number on a Museum's exhibit. Currently, there are over 50 numbered artifacts at the Museum with accompanying narrations. The beauty of Guide by Cell is that it allows visitors to tour the Museum at their own pace.

Visitors have learned about the three Pentwater movie theaters or how Birdland Hardware Store got its name. They learned about what and where the White Elephant was, and all about Company K, a group of Native American soldiers from Pentwater who fought in the Civil War. As you listen to the various narrations, you may guess that

the narrator is Pentwater's very own Ron Beeber. He provided much of the research as well as a homey, folksy tone. Thanks so much, Ron, for your expert contribution.

I'm happy to say there's been an increase in visitors this year with the advent of Guide by Cell, and I would hope to think that visitors come away with a new understanding of our Village and its uniqueness. So, the next time you're in town, stop in for a visit, and don't forget your cell phone.



*Roof repair.*



*Some of the volunteers at the Volunteer Celebration at the Welcome Center.*

## Dialing up history at the Museum

Blending a little technology and a lot of history resulted in a great partnership at the Pentwater Historical Society Museum when Guide by Cell, a new and innovative technological tool, was introduced.

The Museum utilizes Guide by Cell, a California-based tech company, that enhances the visitor experience by allowing them to call a number on their cell phones

## Pentwater Architectural Walking Tour

The Pentwater Historical Society was pleased to have the opportunity to partner with famed architectural researcher, Pamela VanderPloeg, in providing guided walking tours this past summer of some of Pentwater's lovely homes and buildings.

The tours attracted visitors and long-time residents of Pentwater, as well as descendants of early residents of Pentwater, such as the family of Florence R. Schrumf,



author of Pentwater 1853-1942 and descendants of the original Nichols family who started the Sears & Nichols Canning Company located on the waterfront.

Owners of some of the homes on the walking tour were kind enough to come out and chat about their homes with the walkers providing them with interesting new facts.

Participation in this year's walking tours were overwhelming, and plans are being made to continue them next season ... so stay tuned.



*Participants (and dogs) on the home tour experienced a beautiful day in the neighborhood when strolling down shaded streets on the tour of Pentwater's historical homes.*



## Local History Immersion in Pentwater

By Amy Vander Zwart

On Sunday, July 14th, approximately two hundred people from as far away as California, immersed themselves into the one-hundred-year-old story of love, loss, and hauntings of the McVoy family by attending an event hosted by the Pentwater Historical Society.

The McVoy Cottage or Dune Arden, as it was originally named, celebrated its 100th birthday by opening its doors to visitors. The Gorham family, direct descendants of the McVoy family and owners of the 100-year-old cottage, graciously opened their doors to celebrate their family legacy and summer home that has stood strong for the last 100 years.

Buses driven by Mary Jo and John from the Oceana Council on Aging escorted the wide eyed, expectant visitors up the narrow winding road where they were greeted by volunteers from the Historical Society. Knowledgeable volunteers were strategically placed throughout the cottage so that visitors could wander at their leisure, ask questions, and hear the stories and secrets the cottage harbors. Visitors were also invited to

share in the celebration with an array of foods in charcuterie trays including summer sausage donated by Sanders Meats, fresh fruits and a decadent birthday cake donated by Hansen Foods while exploring the premises.

Many visitors as well as volunteers were observed standing in the middle of rooms looking around, no doubt picturing events and people as they would have appeared 100 years prior. It was not hard to imagine the extravagant parties held in the summer with Japanese lanterns adorning the trees, music wafting through the house, and guests twirling in the expansive Great Room with a partner of their choosing. Having the opportunity to meet McVoy descendants and listen to their stories of the past made it feel even more real.



Debbie Deward, a trustee on the board of the Pentwater Historical Society, was quick to add that the event could not have been the success it was without all of the volunteers that made the event go flawlessly! Addition-

*The McVoy cottage portrayed a rare glimpse of authentic home and social life on the lakeshore 100 years ago.*



ally, the donations made by local businesses such as Hansen Foods and Sander's Meats as well as donations made by individuals like Brad Youngstrom, who donated the beautiful corsages worn by the family, added to the events success.

The afternoon was dazzling and full of discoveries for visitors. Not one visitor left the McVoy Cottage without a yearning to see and learn more about the time warp they had just spent the afternoon immersed inside.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2019 ARE DUE

If you see "18" 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

(Continued from page 3)

Law Enforcement Agencies countywide have worked with the Oceana County Prosecutor to develop a standard way of communicating suspected mental illness. In this way, the Prosecutors can make a better decision about charging a person or diverting them out of the criminal justice system into treatment.

West Michigan Community Mental Health System launched the Mobile Crisis Stability Service or CSS. This team of skilled clinical staff is available 24/7 to help officers and clients work through mental health crises. Whether its a voice over the phone, transporting a person to a treatment center, or a visit from a trained provider, the CSS team helps people.

There are still challenges facing us as a community as we struggle to deal with mental illness and substance abuse issues. From keeping staff trained in the latest techniques to finding appropriate treatment programs, our work is never done.

There is a shortage of in-placement beds for the seriously mentally ill. This need has to be recognized and a commitment made by the community to pay for a solution. Studies show that in the future, there will be more out-patient mental health treatment needed. Communities must work to end the stigma of mental illness and get people the help they need before violence results.

The final question that most people ask us when we begin to discuss this issue is, why is this a police issue? Why are you getting involved in this when it seems like a social worker or psychologist should be doing this?

The answer, mental health is a community issue. The police department is part of that community and often tasked with dealing with people suffering from mental illness and substance abuse. We are in a unique position to make positive change. All too often, the police officer is on that jagged edge between treatment and incarceration. We can intervene and in doing so, get people the help they need and deserve.

#### 2017-2019 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES OF THE PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

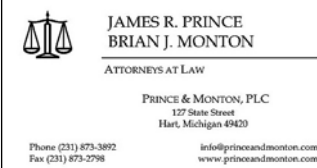
Dick Warner President	Norm Shotwell V-President	Joan Gehringer Secretary	Bart Zachrich Treasurer
--------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR Nancy Zielnski	MUSEUM DIRECTOR Jim Lambrix	MARKETING DIRECTOR Mark Shotwell
------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------------

TRUSTEES: Amy Vander Zwart, Terry Roach and Deb Deward

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE  
Amy Vander Zwart Jim Pikaart

## THE PHS NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES.



## CALLING ALL FALCONS!



## WE NEED YOUR YEAR BOOKS!

If you have any of the following years and are willing to donate your yearbook/s we would greatly appreciate it!

**Need of years:** 1938, 1939, 1941-1945, 1947-1950, 1952, 1964, 1968, 1977, 1991, 2008, 2016 and 2017.

Please contact: [info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org)

## MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

### MEMORIALS

FROM: IN MEMORY OF:

Karen Way	Bob Childers
Daniel & Beverly Kelley	Bob Childers
Jean Russell	Bob Childers
Richard & Sylvia Warner	Bob Childers
Michael & Susan Castor	Bob Childers
Oceana Beach Association	Memorial

### DONATIONS

Daniel Carter	Larry & Karilyn Brown
Dolly Geers	The Morrison Wedding
Linda & Nick Fekken	The Estate of Bruce Bates
Thomas & Rosemary Bloemsma	George & Cyndy Mikulyuk

### NEW MEMBERS

Jerry Scane	Jack Provencal
Beth Russell	Sheila Folsom
Lynn Holyfield	



## Saying So Long to Pentwater's Old Time Reporter.

**B**ob Childers, the writer of Bob's Corner, died unexpectedly while vacationing this summer in Wisconsin.

Bob wrote Bob's Corner for this newsletter for over 10 years and for all those years every article was a product of his imaginative mind.

The Bob of Bob's Corner was an imaginary fellow who was the important chief reporter for the equally imaginary

Pentwater newspaper. The reporter, a glass of fine spirits at hand, would often begin the column with a bit of copy that alerted the reader to the fact that this is not your normal newsletter historical article. . . . "Alas, here I sit in the palatial Pentwater Historical Society penthouse office complex high above the streets of our fair village thinking about nothing except the fine glass of 1820 Pentwater burgundy I have in my hand. Of course, my feet are upon my desk. The fireplace keeps everything nice and warm. An age-old question was asked of me . . ." At which point the article would take-off on yet another imaginary narrative of life in the "old days" of Pentwater.

Bob certainly had a "style" but most readers of the newsletter would probably have to think of more than a couple of words to pin down exactly what it was.

"Fun" would be a good word as would "eclectic". Lots of people would choose "loose" or maybe even "unique" but the articles were always interesting, light hearted and fun. Most of all, Bob's Corner was very different from anything else in the newsletter. They consisted of little historical tales, old Pentwater yarns and fanciful mash-ups of truth, fiction and observation.

Ideas for the articles sometimes began with a compilation of facts gleaned from old moldy newspapers. All was fodder for Bob's articles that fabricated "reports" from former times that often reminded readers how different and also how alike our modern Pentwater is.

Bob liked people and enjoyed socializing. Most mornings he could be found at the unofficial coffee klatsch at Meg's Goodstuffs Restaurant and often reveled in being the curmudgeonly character who, deliberately, would gently antagonize people to see their reaction.

What prompted Bob to write might have been his early job in the printing trades working for publishing companies but basically he was one of those creative people who was always engaged in creating something. Jean, Bob's wife, describes him as "an artist at heart". He painted, carried a sketch book, did pen & ink illustrations but is best known as a wood carver of everything from big sculptural objects to tiny carvings of cowboys and motorcycles.

Bob liked all things old. Old cars, old motorcycles old buildings and photos so, becoming a member of the Historical Society was a natural for his curious mind.

He was a big supporter of the Historical Society and long-time member of the board and a trustee. Bob and Jean were enthusiastic supporters of many causes and cultural events in Pentwater and throughout the county including the Hart Music Series, the school, The Oceana Foundation, and many others.

A big guy with a big mind and big presence in Pentwater and Oceana County, he will be missed.

A couple of articles are still to print but sadly, we'll soon have to say

**So Long Bob,  
it's been good to know you!**

### *In Memoriam*



*Bob Childers*  
1942 - 2019

Bob was born in St. Louis and spent all his early childhood and working years there. An Honorary Alumnus of Cornell College he worked in the printing and publishing trades. Upon early retirement Jean, his wife of 44 years, and Bob moved to Pentwater after visiting here on a vacation bicycle tour and owned the Wishing Well where Bob made the good cinnamon rolls.

The Pentwater Historical Society mourns the loss of their friend, officer and loyal supporter and extends their sympathy to Jean and Bob's families.



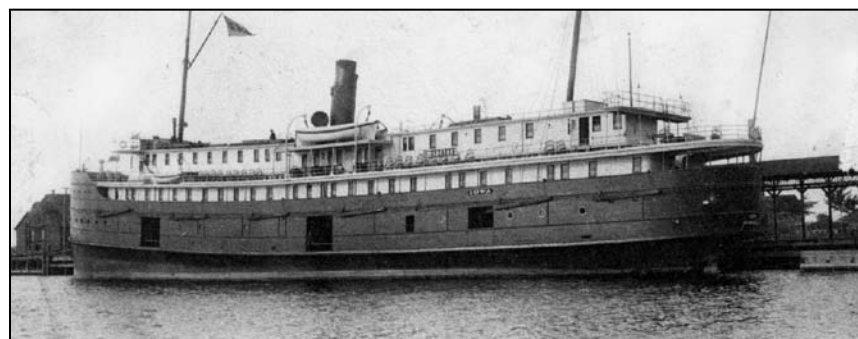
PENTWATER  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
P. O. BOX 54,  
PENTWATER,  
MICHIGAN 49449

Pentwater was a busy port in the early 1900's and steamships carried passengers and tourists, brought goods from distant markets, and loaded local products for shipping.

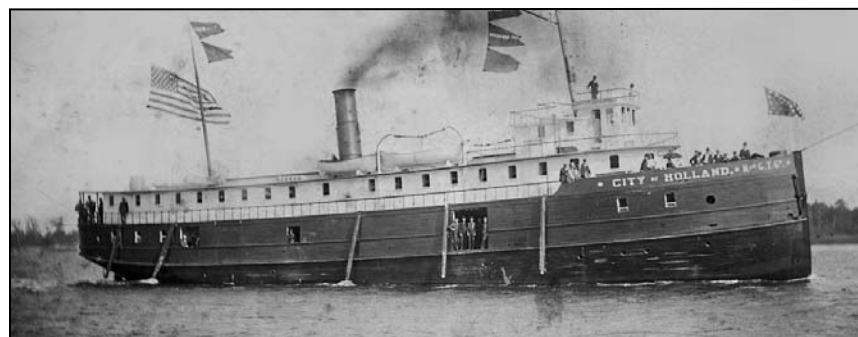
This old penny post card is labeled "Loading fruit on the Maywood at Pentwater, Mich".



An unlabeled photo of a wooden steamer moored at the foot of Bridge St. That's the old Bedstead Factory on the right.



The SS Iowa carried passengers and freight on Lake Michigan.



Steamship City of Holland.

These historical photos and old post cards plus many more can all be found at the Pentwater Historical Museum.

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS The address for important mail when it absolutely has to get there! \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, Please send the newsletter by e-mail.

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES \$50 (Includes Spouse) ☐ This is a new membership

☐ This is a renewal membership

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

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

The Pentwater Historical Society  
P.O. Box 54, Pentwater, MI 49449

AUTHORISED  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

OR SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP AT OUR WEBSITE AT: <https://pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org/ways to help>.



SPRING DINNER MAY 27

Visit us on the web at:  
[pentwaterhistoricalsociety.com](http://pentwaterhistoricalsociety.com)