

THE McVOY FAMILY AND THEIR TIES TO PENTWATER

THE McVOY FAMILY COTTAGE

The name Michigan is derived from the Algonquian word Michigami, meaning, "A great water". Lake Michigan has not only been a great source of economic expansion in the State of Michigan's early history, but also a respite from the turmoil of urban living. From the earliest times until today, vigorous young Chicagoans were attracted to the wild dunes and beaches of Lake Michigan. For many, Pentwater was the



Dune Arden is secluded atop the sand dune.

Marie Celeste Aymond McVoy, journeyed to the shores of Pentwater on a recommendation from friends. They instantly fell in love with the lapping waves on the sandy beaches and the bustling summer town. It was there in 1918 that Celeste worked hand and hand with a local craftsman to design and build a new summer home for her husband

and four children.

**You Can
Tour This
Historical
1918 Lake
Cottage this
Summer!**

SEE PAGE 6

The McVoy Cottage was designed with elegance and functionality in mind. It sits majestically on wooded dunes overlooking Lake Michigan. One can hear the lapping waves from below and feel the soft wind pushing through the tall white pine trees that surround the property on the hill. White tail deer are frequent visitors to the area. They enjoy the lush terrain that was once landscaped to perfection separated by low stone cobbled walls. Two staircases curve down to the shore following the slope and curve of the land. Benches dot the way and short bridges make the walk down to the serene waters an easy journey.

(Continued on next page.)



The McVoys of Dune Arden

Lured away from the noise and high stress of the big city of Chicago by friends Frederick and Wilfreda Deknatel, Eugene J. and Marie Celeste McVoy found the summer escape they were searching for in the quiet



Celeste McVoy Kohler and Walter Kohler on their wedding day.

beach town of Pentwater. The McVoy's friend, Frederick Deknatel, was born in Paris in 1864. He was the president of a small hardware manufacturing firm. When his first wife passed away Frederick decided to come to the United States. He landed in the Hull-House in Chicago. Hull-House was opened as a place for

(Continued on page 3.)

The cottage was built with five wings. The shape of the cottage is consistently and lovingly referred to as a “flying squirrel”. The luxurious summer home has two stories with a full unfinished basement and an attic. The two fireplaces help to heat the home on chilly summer nights. The McVoy Cottage has an open expansive feel covered in original wood with antique leaded windows on three sides. The ten bedrooms are oversized. Some of the bedrooms have closets which were a rarity at the time. The many guests of the house were delighted to find it had six separate bathrooms.

The wing of the cottage where the head of the squirrel would be houses the kitchen and servants’ quarters. On the main floor, the front two wings are for the dining room and the master bedroom. The rear two wings of the house are open to a porch with a magnificent view of the lake. Upstairs, the wings lead to secluded sleeping quarters.



An older aerial view of the sprawling home.

What makes this cottage extremely unique cannot be pinpointed to one specific thing. Its uniqueness is not just its proximity to Lake Michigan. It is not only that it was a summer home built by a wealthy family. It is not just the stories about events inside the cottage that have been published in books. It is not because of how large and spacious the cottage is. It’s flying squirrel shape is not the only thing that makes it extremely unique. It isn’t even the handprints of glue meant to catch flies made by the McVoy children on the ceiling in

one of the rooms. What makes the McVoy cottage so unique to Pentwater and anywhere else in the world are all these factors combined in addition to the fact that when you step into the cottage, you are completely immersing yourself into a living history.

This cottage features original furniture bought by Marie Celeste McVoy herself. When one steps into the cottage one can’t help but feel like one is stepping into the year 1918 with its dining room furniture from Italy, portraits of the McVoy family on the wall, original wicker furniture, original fixtures,



An interior view.

and even the original changing table in the nursery. The house and furniture have survived for 100 years without upgrades or replacements. It is a thing of beauty to be surrounded by such rich touchable history.

You are invited to be a part of this unique tangible 100-year-old history this summer. On July 14th the Pentwater Historical Society will be conducting tours of the McVoy Cottage to celebrate its 100th birthday. Look for details on the Pentwater Historical Society website.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteer to help with the McVoy Yesteryear Celebration on Sunday July 14. 1 to 4 pm

You can help to make this exciting PHS event a success!

Call Debbie Deward today & volunteer! 231-869-2230

GARAGE SALE

SAT. JUNE 8

Participate in Pentwater’s Annual Garage Sale!

Bring those treasures that no longer give you joy and we’ll sell them for you at the PHS Garage Sale to someone who will find joy in them.

Help support a worthy cause and bring joy to others!

Bring your unwanted treasures to the Museum

From: 10 am-12 pm Thursday, June 6th

From: 10 am -2 pm Friday, June 7th

The Big Sale is on Saturday June 8th

Tidy Up!
Like Marie Kondo
On Netflix!

PHS is not only looking for items to sell, but also for extra hands to help with selling.

Please contact Debbie Deward 231-869-2230 with questions and to volunteer.

This year PHS will also be selling hot dogs, chips, and pop.

(McVoy's of Dune Arden Continued.)

immigrants to live until they could get on their feet in a new country. Frederick was the head of the Boys club, an auditor, and a trustee in the Hull-House. It was there that he met his wife, Wilfreda, and served as a secretary for Jane Adams, who was the first American woman to receive a Nobel Peace Prize for her work with immigrants in Hull-House. Frederick and Wilfreda had three children; Fredrick, Janet, and William. William was an architect in Chicago but had a home on Oceana Beach in Pentwater and was buried in Pentwater Cemetery in 1973 alongside his wife, Geraldine. The McVoy's loved the tranquility of the lake and forest and



Walter J. Kohler Jr.

chose a spot not far from the Village to build their summer home. High on a hill, overlooking the expanse of blue sparkling waters of Lake Michigan, the McVoys got to work on building a place of respite in 1918. Marie Celeste worked hand in hand with a local builder to design what was first known as Dune Arden in Pentwater. The word arden comes from the Hebrew word for the garden of Eden, meaning a place of solitude and great beauty. Being that the home was high on a dune surrounded by lush vegetation, it is evident that the home was appropriately named. Marie Celeste designed the unique layout of the home and chose the furnishings from Italy to keep with her vision of an upscale roomy summer place. The home was referred to as a summer cottage by the McVoy family, but even by today's standards, it is closer to a summer retreat with its five wings, 10 bedrooms, and six bathrooms.

Marie Celeste Aymond McVoy was a beautiful woman

from St. Louis Missouri who loved the limelight. She and her husband, Eugene Joseph McVoy, were married June 14, 1899 in a Catholic Church in St. Charles, Missouri. Eugene Joseph McVoy was well educated and a hard worker. He was described as a handsome, generous bon vivant, eager to gamble and flirt with the ladies. The story goes that the couple met in St. Louis. Eugene J. took Maria Celeste out for a Sunday afternoon ride in the park. When he returned her to her home, she ran inside and announced to everyone that Eugene had asked her to marry him, whether he truly had, continues to be up for debate. Eugene J attended St Ignatius College before attending the University of Chicago with his



Eugene Joseph McVoy 1930

wife. Eugene left college to work with his father, John McVoy, in sheet iron manufacturing. In time, Eugene J. took over the business, McVoy Sheet and Tin Plate, in its entirety and it was in this business that he found his fortune.

Marie Celeste was a lover of the arts, lent out artwork to the Art



Marie Celeste McVoy's Bookplate

Institute of Chicago for exhibitions, attended the theatre often, and wrote at least one article found in the March 1918 issue of Theatre Magazine in Chicago entitled "Criticizing the Critics". The intricately engraved bookplate at the West Chicago Public Library with her name is another clue into her opulent lifestyle.

The McVoys were of Irish descent and Roman Catholic. Eugene J and Marie Celeste had four children; Marie Celeste, Corinne, Jean Dorothy, and Eugene. All four children were sent to Catholic schools. But it was their wealth that principally defined the McVoys. The whole family was often in Europe, especially in Paris and Italy. The children learned to speak French and were exposed to the finest cultural exhibits and events. Corinne, a talented artist, attended the Sorbonne, but did not graduate.

It was common at the time to send wealthy young women

(Continued on next page.)

to finishing school rather than college. There they would be prepared for society rather than given the sort of rigorous education their brothers might receive. Celeste attended Miss Spence's School in New York City, graduating in 1920 in a class of 41. Her yearbook declared, "She dresses divinely, and dances quite finely. There's naught she can't do. And she's pretty too!" After graduation, Celeste came home and joined the family at Dune Arden in Pentwater. Society friends poured into Pentwater during the summer. In 1921, Celeste hosted a large house party, having the woods decorated with Japanese lanterns and taking guests aquaplaning in her large motor boat on nearby Pentwater Lake. On one trip out with some Canadian friends, a rope caught in the propeller and sank the boat. The Coast Guard rescued the group, but some of the guests who could not swim lost jewelry they had worn while clinging to life cushions. Locals dived for years in the hope of finding the valuables.

Celeste met and married a Canadian businessman in 1922 in Canada. It was a turbulent marriage to Edward WJ (Jack) Holden from the start. Jack was the son of a wealthy Toronto railroad official. Their daughter, Jacqueline Minerva (Jackie), was born in 1924 in Toronto Canada. Soon after, the marriage failed. Celeste moved back to Chicago and occupied the fourth floor of the McVoy mansion.

To facilitate her divorce under English law in Canadian courts, Celeste McVoy Holden enrolled her daughter in Bertrand Russell's Beacon Hill School from 1928 to 1930 and contributed funds to the school beyond the regular tuition. Bertrand Russell was a British philosopher, logician, mathematician, historian, writer, social critic, political activist, and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature "in recognition of his varied and significant writings in which he champions humanitarian ideals and freedom of thought". It is suggested that Celeste and Bertrand had a warm relationship over the years as he mentions Celeste and her daughter, Jackie, in some of his letters.

In 1929, Eugene Joseph McVoy knew his heart was failing and took a trip to see the pyramids in Egypt with his daughter, Celeste. Unfortunately, he never made it back to Dune Arden as he passed away in Egypt at the age of 56. After Eugene J. passed, Marie Celeste, his widow, visited Europe while recovering from cancer and met a handsome Italian, Fortunato Felice Jerace. They married and lived in Michigan near Pentwater for many years. Fortunato worked as an architect during that time. The couple continued to live a life of leisure and in 1936 the couple took an around the world cruise. It is reported that Fortunato was a very obedient and caring husband to Marie Celeste until her death in 1939.

During Marie Celeste and Fortunato's marriage, Marie Ce-

leste's son, Eugene, met and married Mary Fleming of Chicago in 1938. After Marie Celeste passed away, Fortunato fell madly in love with Mary even though she was 21 years his junior. Eugene and Mary divorced so that Fortunato and Mary could wed. Fortunato Jerace and Mary Fleming Jerace had four children and lived out their lives together. Fortunato died in 1981 at the age of 84 and Mary passed in 1995 at the age of 77. They are buried next to one another in the Pentwater cemetery.

In 1931, in New York, Celeste reconnected with the successful Walter Jodak Kohler Jr., a member of the family dynasty controlling the Wisconsin-based Kohler Company, a manufacturing firm that specialized in plumbing products and furniture. Celeste used to brag that all three of her husbands were present at her coming-out, which would have taken place in Chicago about 1918. One Kohler family story has it that Walter fell deeply in love with Celeste, pursued her diligently, and was greeted at first with a lukewarm response. The divorce from Holden finally came through in August 1932. Arrangements were made for the wedding to take place in November. The wedding took place on November 14 in what the newspapers called, "the Jerace home" on Lakeshore Drive in Chicago. Only immediate members of the family were present. Celeste's brother-in-law, attorney Sidney Gorham, Jr., gave away the bride. Celeste was dressed in a blue velvet gown with a high collar and low neckline. In the wedding photograph of the seated couple that appeared in a Milwaukee newspaper, Walter, in dark blue jacket with carnation and pinstripe trousers, is smiling and gazing lovingly at his bride. Celeste, with only a suggestion of a smile, is looking straight into the camera.

By 1936 Celeste and Walter had had two children; Terry Jodak and Charlotte Nicolette. Jack Holden was still alive, but he had disinherited Jackie when the divorce became final, and most likely made no further contact. Jackie thought of Walter as her father and years later would call herself Jackie Kohler, although that was never her legal name.

Walter and Celeste began plans for a 7,000 square foot, ultra-modern home on 53 wooded acres that they initially called the Windway Farm Residence. The architect was William F. Deknatel of Chicago, a Princeton graduate who had studied under Frank Lloyd Wright and was also a friend of Celeste's family, completed his plans for the sprawling, two-story home in 1937. Windway was added to the list of National Historic Places in 1988.

The McVoy family was growing as the children married and had their own children. They continued to vacation in Pentwater at Dune Arden for summer, holidays, and special

(Continued on page 9.)

MEET YOUR BOARD

Richard Warner PHS President



Richard Warner

I was born in Cadillac, MI and grew up in Jackson, MI. My parents built a summer cottage on Bass Lake in 1954. I spent every summer there until I married in 1964. I worked at various businesses in Pentwater during those summers. My favorite memory is meeting my future wife on the beach at the Bass Lake Outlet.

Sylvia, my wife, and I now live in McCordsville, IN. We continued my family's summer tradition and bought a cottage on South Lakeshore in Ludington in 1977. We have enjoyed every summer there since. My two children, Amy and Jason, both worked in downtown Pentwater during their

teen years, following in my footsteps. We are blessed with five grandchildren.

I enjoyed a 35-year career with Sears, Roebuck and Company. I retired as Vice President of Store Planning, Design and Future Procurement in 2001. In 2012, I was recruited by Bob Cornelsen to help set up the new Pentwater Historical Museum. My hobby is collecting antiques and memorabilia of Sears and I have a passion for history, so it was a perfect fit. I have been actively involved with PHS ever since.

There are three goals I would like to see PHS accomplish: the physical expansion of our museum, membership climbing to 500, and a more active involvement of current members. PHS is merely an extension of what makes Pentwater so special; a bond that ties us to our heritage.

Norm Shotwell PHS Vice President



Norm Shotwell

One of eight children, I grew up in a small (but not as small as Pentwater) town in New Jersey which was in close proximity to larger towns. I knew what small-town life was like - everyone knows everyone and neighbors care, before moving to Pentwater. My wife is from this area and introduced me to Pentwater in 1985. We bought our first home, one of Pentwater's historic homes, in 1991 and used it as a

summer residence while working overseas. When I retired in 2010, Pentwater was the place to call home so we have now settled in to a smaller house here. We have three children, 9 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

My career was in Engineering and Construction of large projects. I was fortunate to have lived, and worked, in Saudi Arabia (twice), Hong Kong, China, Abu Dhabi and England. I also lived, and worked, in Wyoming, California (several times), Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Florida, Washing-

ton State, and travelled to several other states on business. I worked in several areas of the business and enjoyed most being a project manager the last 8 years in the railroad business in England.

While living in England, I became quite interested in early carpentry tools, focusing on antique wood planes. That interest led me to become involved in the Pentwater Historical Society when we moved here.

Maintaining a perspective on a community's history is an important function and I fully support the PHS in taking on this challenge. My objective while on the Board is to set out, and hopefully take to fruition, an expansion of the museum so that the community can better appreciate it and its people's history.

Pentwater lost a great man on December 31, 2018, and he is sorely missed. Ed Bigelow wore many hats within our community. After living in Pentwater during his youth,

2016-2017 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES OF THE PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dick Warner President	Norm Shotwell V-President	Joan Gehringer Secretary	Mike Castor Treasurer
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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR Sally Ouweneel	TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR Mark Shotwell	MUSEUM DIRECTOR Nancy Zielski	MARKETING DIRECTOR Jim Lambrix
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TRUSTEES: Amy Vander Zwart, Bob Childers and Deb Deward

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
Amy Vander Zwart Jim Pikaart Vacant

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



Lake Carriers on the horizon in December.



Huge ice buildup on the piers and channel walk railings.



Old kids and young kids all had happy smiles when seeing Santa on the green !



There were plenty of both naughty and nice children on the Village Green when old Santa Claus came to town.

McVoy Yesteryear Celebration

For the first time in 100 years, the McVoy Cottage, also known as Dune Arden, will be open to the public!

Come be a part of this historical occasion and immerse yourself in living history that has been preserved for 100 years.

- See original furniture from Italy as well as original woodwork, fixtures, leaded windows and more!
- Enjoy the expansive view of Lake Michigan amid the quiet calm of the dunes.

Sunday, July 14 1pm-4pm

OPEN HOUSE WITH DESSERT & DRINKS!

**Tickets: \$15 per person in advance
\$20 per person at the door**



- Participants are asked to meet at the Friendship Center Parking lot (310 N. Rush St.) to be escorted to the celebration.
- Transportation will be continually running to allow visitors to spend as much time at the Celebration as desired.

**For tickets or more information:
Contact Deb Deward at 231-869-2230
or: info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org**



The snow fence at the Mears State Park before snowstorms and the sign after the storms.



The climb up Old Baldy with snow.



Deer in winter.



Church under the full moon.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE SPRING DINNER

Presenting . . .
PURE MICHIGAN

Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

At the VFW Hall

5:30 pm Appetizers

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

**6:15 pm Dinner is
served**

**7:00 pm Presentation by
Dave Lorenz**

**Cost: ONLY \$20.00
per person**

**Dinner Features: TBA
BYOB**

**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
AVAILABLE AT:**

**Decors by Sandra
Pentwater Fair Trade
Mike Castor
Deb Deward**

For questions or information contact
Deb Deward at: 231-869-2230.

It's more than just a slogan on your license plate!

It's the statewide promotional program that spreads the word about fairs, music events, trip ideas, travel guides, good fishing, and even a guide to visiting nice beach towns like Pentwater! Dave Lorenz, who is the VP of tourism promotions for the state, will present a program discussing how Michigan is promoting travel and tourism throughout the state, how it affects our immediate area and even beyond our borders.



Dave Lorenz

GET IN THE RAFFLE!

**WIN THIS COMMEMORATIVE RIFLE
AT THE SUMMER DINNER! AUG. 28**



**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 commemorated the final linking of the east and west portions of the U.S. Trans Continental Railroad on May 10, 1869.

MUSEUM SPRING REPORT

ED BIGELOW REMEMBERED



Ed proudly cuts the ribbon for the official grand opening of the new museum.

Pentwater lost a great man on December 31, 2018, and he is sorely missed. Ed Bigelow wore many hats within our community. After living in Pentwater during his youth, Ed left to



pursue his career and returned to Pentwater upon his retirement. He first became involved as a council member with the Village and later served as Village

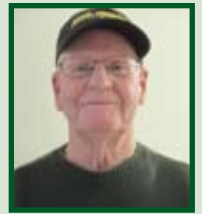
President. Ed became actively involved with the Pentwater Historical Society in the 1980s, served as its president many times and was named Museum Director in 2012.

We are very excited to announce that plans are underway for some time this summer to honor and celebrate Ed's contributions to the Pentwater Historical Society, its Museum, as well as the entire town of Pentwater. Please watch for future announcements as our plans develop.

If you have pictures or stories you would like to share about Ed, please contact PHS at:

info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org

We know you will want to be a part of this.



Ed Bigelow
1938 – 2018

The Pentwater Historical Museum is continually adding new displays and items throughout the year thanks to generous donations, hardworking volunteers, and inspired Board Members. It is safe to say that one can step into the Museum on multiple occasions throughout the year and see something new each visit!

We hope you plan a visit to the Museum in 2019.

This summer, the Museum will have a special exhibit featuring and dedicated to, Ed Bigelow, our beloved past Director of the Museum. It will feature history, photographs, and stories of Ed's life and lasting impact on Pentwater.

If you have stories or pictures of Ed you would like to share please contact PHS at:

info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org

PHS BOARD ENACTS NEW POLICY FOR MEMBERSHIP & DUES

As advised via letter to the PHS members in late 2018, the Board determined it was appropriate to modify the membership and dues policy. This was done to simplify the membership structure and to help support our financial requirements.

Going forward, aside from Life and Patron Members, there will be only one type of member; an Annual Member, with dues of \$50 annually. All current members listed as Student, Sustaining, or Annual Members have been converted to an Annual Member. Annual Members are asked to pay their dues before the start of the new year, thus by Dec 31st.

Our current Life and Patron Members will continue as such. However, in order to maintain our Museum and for the Museum to continue as a key destination in

Pentwater, the PHS Board encourages Life and Patron Members to make an annual minimum contribution of \$50 before the start of the new year.

Those members who have already paid their dues or made a contribution are thanked warmly. Those members who have not yet paid their dues or made a contribution are encouraged to do so.

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

(The McVoys of Dune Arden Continued)

events including the wedding of Jean Dor in 1939 over Labor Day weekend.

Unfortunately, there was also turmoil in the family. While Walter Kohler Jr fought in the war, Celeste fell in love with Robin MacFadden, a painter. Upon Walter's return home, Celeste announced she wanted a divorce. Walter was devastated by the breakup of his family and his home. For the rest of his life he could not quite shake his bitterness, and chose never to discuss Celeste, even privately. Celeste and Walter divorced in 1946. Walter Kohler Jr. married a second time and became Governor of Wisconsin from 1951 to 1957.

After their marriage, the MacFaddens lived in Florida, New York City, and Oakland, New Jersey before moving to the Virgin Islands in 1951. Robin and Celeste remained together about ten years, often taking Celeste's children Terry and Niki with them in their yachting adventures throughout the Caribbean. Then one day, in St. Thomas, Robin MacFadden, accompanied by a young woman, stole a newer, 56-foot yacht Celeste had purchased, and was never seen again. Celeste, for the third time in her life, filed for a divorce.

The four McVoy children inherited *Dune Arden* from their parents upon the death of their mother, Marie Celeste Aymond McVoy in 1939. In 1967, Eugene Timothy (Tim) Gorham, son of Corrine McVoy, purchased *Dune Arden* from his family. Tim was a driving force in keeping the family ties strong. He held no ill will for any of the drama that had occurred among the past or present generations and demonstrated his warm-hearted and inviting nature by welcoming all family whether they continued to have legal marriage ties to the McVoy's or not. It was important to Tim to keep the extended family united and to keep the tradition of *Dune Arden* summers alive within the new generations. His three children; Eugene Timothy Jr, Brooke (Moore), and Whitney, have all grown up with special ties to Pentwater as a result. *Dune Arden* has remained a significant foundation in the McVoy family for 100 years as a place of gathering, respite, and retreat. It is the hope that it will remain in the family for 100 years more.

Information for this article as well as the McVoy Family Cottage article were found in these sources:

Distinguished Service: The Life of Walter J. Kohler Jr.
by Thomas Reeves

and various online sources.

A special thank you to Amy Conger
and Barbara Gorham for the many interviews.

There's more to come from the McVoy family saga in the next issue where Celeste experiences a spooky visit while at Dune Arden from the "Other Side"!

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

MEMORIALS

FROM: IN MEMORY OF:

Dale & Carol Downs	Doug Brigham
John Costello	Doug Brigham
Susan & William Arnold	Doug Brigham
Sally Lambert	Larry Burgess
Edward & Lesley Reser	Ted Reser
Carol & David Messerlie	Lesley & Tave Reser
Ed Bigelow	Renee Berrgren Connoy
Ed Bigelow	Lave Freelan
Ed Bigelow	Bruce Bates
Richard & Sylvia Warner	Renee Berrgren Connoy

MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF ED BIGELOW

FROM:

Christine Miner	David & Cynthia Maquire
Karen Way	Daniel & Teri Filius
Debra & Richard Smith	Daniel & Beverly Kelly
Betty Graham	Kareen & Anthony Monton
Michael & Susan Castor	Mary Lou Paterson
Bruce & Judy Koorndyk	Kimberly Koorndyk
Teresa Lyn Veine	Sally Fortner
Bill & Diane Gardy	Richard & Sylvia Warner
Thomas & Cynthia Ringwald	Barry & Lynda Rought
Roger & Ruth Bailey	R. L. Bailey
Audrey Newton	Nancy Zielinski
Amy LaBarge & Ron Beeber	Larry Konopka

DONATIONS

Penny Bach	Richard Ouweneel
Nancy Zielinski	Robert Shaver
Robert Shaver	Albert Brosky
William Bullard	Michael Castor
Gene Davidson	Barbara Gorham
Douglas Nelson	Richard Warner
Clark McKeown	Ed Bigelow
Ray Kloostera	Bill Fromm/Bates
Herbert Greenfield	Norman Shotwell
George Mikulyuk	Bill Bluhm
Jeff Lambrix	Carolyn Augustine
Peter Rexford	Charles Smith
Dan Filius	Dan Carter

SHIPWRECK

Imagine taking a quick trip to your summer cottage on Lake Michigan to check on things only to look out your window toward the lake to see 120 of the steps that once created a path to the water washed away. More surprisingly, thanks to Mother Nature's fury, the hull of a giant wooden ship is exposed where there once was a dune only weeks ago.

A shipwreck from the 1800s that had been buried under a Lake Michigan sand dune and last seen 44 years ago has been re-identified by members of the Michigan Shipwreck Research Association. Torrential waves in December 2018 took out part of a dune and churned the sand to reveal the shipwreck's skeleton near the White Lake channel in western Michigan's Muskegon County.

"For this brief period of time, we're getting this glimpse at

off the White Lake channel is the 'L.C. Woodruff'.

"We recalled that back in 2005 when a beachcomber came across the remains of a shipwreck in shallow water about a mile north of the White Lake channel," van Heest said. "Wisconsin historian Brendon Baillod reviewed photographs of the wreck and suggested it was more likely the Woodruff than the one at the channel." Historical accounts suggest the Woodruff, which was anchored off the White Lake channel during the November of 1878 storm, might have been swept into sandbars north of the channel, MSRA member Craig Rich said. "We decided it was time to get our shovels, tape measures and slate boards and head up to the White River Light Station in attempts to officially confirm or refute Caesar's identification of the wreck," van Heest said.



Keel, floors and ribs of the 1882 wrecked schooner Comet.

this time capsule of the past," said Valerie van Heest, director of the Michigan Shipwreck Research Association. Over the weekend of December 8, 2018, big pieces of the backbone and the ship's ribs were revealed. Photos posted to social media churned interest among shipwreck followers, garnering 30,000 views. This is not the first time the remains of this shipwreck have been exposed," said van Heest. "It appeared in 1942 and again in 1974."

Pete Caesar, who was the first curator of the decommissioned White River Lighthouse Museum, spotted the same wreckage in the same location 44 years ago. Caesar knew immediately it was the remains of a schooner and began trying to identify it. Initially, he identified it as the L.C. Woodruff, a 170-foot schooner that went down in 1878. It was among more than a dozen schooners that sank during storms in the late 1800s near the White Lake channel. But van Heest and other members of the Michigan Shipwreck Research Association aren't so sure that what is appearing



Researchers believe the wreck will be covered again in early 2019.

On Tuesday, Dec. 11, van Heest, along with MSRA marine archeologist Eric Harmsen made their way to Whitehall. "We learned through historical accounts that six different schooners met their fate near the White Lake channel." "Three of those schooners were reputed to have come ashore near the White Lake channel in the 1850s and 1860s. At that time, the channel was three-quarters of a mile north of its current location, so we can immediately rule those three out." That left the MSRA with three possibilities. "One is a small schooner named the Madison, which was only 67 feet long, the medium-sized schooner named the Contest which was 124 feet long or the 170-foot long the L.C. Woodruff." Armed with all their research and tool kits, van Heest and Harmsen ventured out to the wreck site. While the waves were kicking up around them, the pair began stretching their tape measures to get specific measurements.

"We quickly were able to rule out the Madison because the vessel extended farther into the dune," said van Heest. That

Bob's CORNER (by Bob (Childers), of course)

As my wife, Jean, has been involved in medical research for many years

I have been fascinated with various medical conditions and their cures.

Recently I've run across dozens of cures for ailments like, "CROUP". I will be the first to admit I had no idea what croup was. Out comes my trusty Kindle with its dictionary. Croup is a really a persistent cough affecting children. Okay, with that in mind I am sure the pharmacy on the first floor of the world-famous Pentwater Historical Society has Chamberlin's Cough Syrup to cure what ails you. While I was researching this product, I decided to see what else was available to the public 120 odd years ago.

Ah, this should help me, - A Keen Clear Brain - Your best feelings, your best social position or business depends largely on the perfect action of your stomach and liver. Dr. King's new Life Pills give increased strength, a keen clear brain, higher ambition. A 25-cent box will make you feel like a new being. As I write this, I can see all those people

at morning coffee offering to buy me a life time supply of this stuff.

What is this you're telling me? You say you are nervous and have a load on your chest, are troubled with uncontrolled anxiety and forebodings of evil, and you roll and toss all night. Towards morning you are exhausted. It's your stomach, your liver, and your bowels that are upset. But how do I cure this problem? I was hoping you would ask. Simply by using a harmless vegetable stimulant, Cascaret's Candy Cathartic, available in our pharmacy.

Here are some other products, sold at exorbitant prices, in our pharmacy that you will definitely need: Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup - cures all throat and lung afflictions. Ely's Cream Balm for colds in the head. Coughing will lead to consumption, but lucky for you, Kemp's Balsam will stop the cough at once. Lane's Family Medicine acts gently on liver and kidneys. Pizo's a cure for consumption.

There are probably two dozen or so products for curing the cold in the head or the common cold. At this point I gave up on cures for whatever ails you. At some time in the future I will write something on cures for skin ailments or how to cure bunions on your feet.

left either the Contest or the L.C. Woodruff as the only possibilities. "We know that the centerboard typically was located forward of the ship's centerline," added van Heest. "On the ship, the centerboard box started about 40 feet back from the stem and the slot measures 20 feet. That put the center of the ship at about 60 feet.

If you double that, the vessel was some 120 feet long. "That means there's no chance that this ship is the 170-foot L.C. Woodruff," van Heest said. "Therefore, we conclude that the wreck is that of the Contest."

According to van Heest, the Contest was built in Buffalo, New York in 1855 and sailed on Lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan, operating in grain trade and lumber. "And here it sits all these years later," said van Heest. "I don't think it's moved since 1882 when it grounded here." What Mother Nature gives, she will also take away, eventually. "I would venture to say that probably in early 2019, this wreck will be covered again," said van Heest. "Mother Nature is a wild woman."

The Contest could be buried for another 44 years, or it may never reappear again. Starts to make you think about what you may be walking on or swimming over as you travel around historical Pentwater.

Information and quotes for this story were taken from an article written by Bret Ashcroft.

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The Wishing Well Store in winter when it was a Standard Oil Station.

In 1948, the Wishing Well Store was already operating when Mr. John Carroll started digging the well by hand while also working full-time in the oil-fields.

He used acid-washed stones to construct the walls of the well, 7 feet deep and 5 feet across, and then built the shelter around the well.

Soon, it was found to be leaking, so Meryl Reynolds came and sealed all the stones with cement on the inside.

Mr. Carroll finished the job in a month and took his pay in groceries from the store.

*This interview of John L. Carroll
was taken by Linda Hebblewhite,
Nov. 22, 1981.*



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The finished Wishing Well with John Carroll.

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