



This issue dedicated to the memory of
Ed Bigelow

For without:

His selfless giving of time, laughter and friendship;

His actions as an advocate, leader, and a visionary;

*His lifetime commitment of loyal service to the
Community of Pentwater;*

*The Pentwater Historical Society Museum
would not have been possible.*

*Ed's unwavering dedication was unsurpassed,
and his impact will be felt for generations.*

We miss you Ed.



Ed Bigelow
1938-2018

MAKE IT HAPPEN; FOLLOW THROUGH.

About Ed Bigelow – by Larry Konopka and Amy Vander Zwart.

Ed Bigelow was many things to the community of Pentwater, to his church and to his friends but according to Larry Konopka, Ed's true love was the Pentwater Historical Society Museum. "Ed Bigelow is the heart and soul of the Pentwater Historical Museum" but first and foremost, he was a team player. Once the board made a decision, Ed followed through.

When the Pentwater Historical Society was founded in 1982, a full-sized museum honoring Pentwater's heritage was a dream so lofty that it was difficult for most to envision. It wasn't difficult for Ed Bigelow and the members of the Historical Society, however. They had a vision and it never crossed anyone's mind that this dream would not become a reality. For nearly 30 years, the society's original museum was located in the exceedingly tight quarters of the lower level of the

Pentwater Community Building. The tiny basement space had no room to display the many artifacts that were donated by local citizen and obtained by the Pentwater Historical Society.

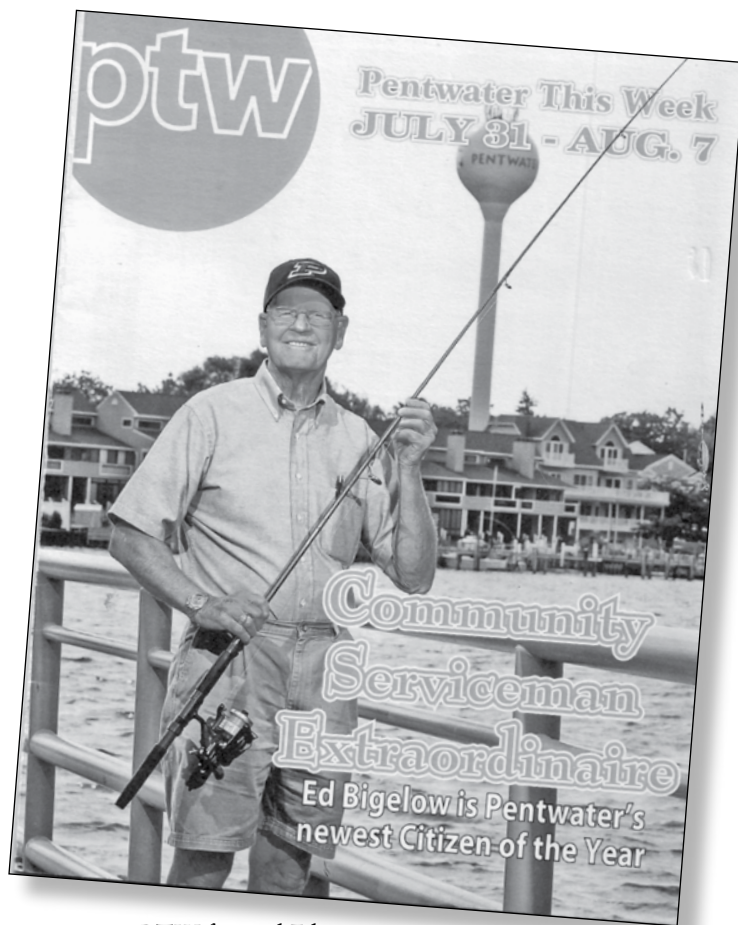
A Relocation Committee of dedicated volunteers was formed in early 2000. They worked for close to 10 years to find a suitable home for the precious artifacts. Finally, in 2011, after considering more than eight properties, they found the perfect location that would serve as a home for both the Society and the Museum—the First Baptist Church. Being on both the church committee and the Board, Ed was instrumental in bringing the two sides together. It appeared to be a match made in heaven as the building was a genuine historic site. Fundraising began with weekly work sessions, sometimes as frequently as twice a week, most often in people's homes; Ed's included. Ed worked alongside

countless volunteers for over a year to raise funds to purchase and convert the church into what it is today.

Even after the museum was relocated and transformed, countless hours had to be put in to maintain the upkeep of the museum. Ed served as the Director of the Museum for many years and while in this position, he continued to give his time and energy caring for the building and the precious artifacts inside. Where he found the time and energy is unknown.

Ed Bigelow put his whole self in everything he set out to do in life. We are so blessed as a community to have had Ed put his time and energy into the Pentwater Historical Society Museum and leave generations to come such a meaningful legacy.

Thank you, Larry Konopka, for spending time chatting with me and sharing your memories of Ed.



PTW featured Ed when he received the Citizen of the Year Award

Every year the Service Club gives an award to the “Citizen of the Year” and in 2012 Ed was the recipient of the award.



Here's Ed helping out with the Village Sesquicentennial along with Pentwater Chamber of Commerce Director Eva Gregwer and Claudia Ressel-Hodan of the Pentwater Downtown Development Association.

By Jim Pikaart

THE PLACE HE LOVED.

Ed, who never seemed to turn down an opportunity to serve the community he'd known and loved his whole life, started being active in civic life after he retired from various management positions at GM in 1994 and moved right back to the place he loved . . . Pentwater.

He first served on the Village Planning Commission, became active in the Pentwater Service Club and then in 1998 became Village President, holding that office for six years and, according to Ed, “learned on the job” the myriad rules and regulations that govern a township versus a village, versus a county or city or state.

A REAL PEOPLE PERSON. Ed was one of those people who had a

naturally inquisitive mind that was open to new experiences and learning new skills. That skill for Ed extended to being a real, genuine people person who could “smooze” with the best and yes, could convince you, for example, to give up a big chunk of your fishing time to join some other hapless volunteers to pitch-in and help out on yet another of Ed's many community projects.

“CORNERED” BY ED. The writer of this article (parts of which I should mention came from the PTW article of 2012) was similarly cornered a number of times by Ed and Jim Ege while at the 10 o'clock coffee klatch at GoodStuffs and received some gentle arm twisting to help out and “slap together a couple of pages

of a simple little newsletter”.

“It's mostly all written” they said so I said “Sure, I'll do it”

I said this while heavily involved in building a house and still doing lots of freelance commercial artwork. Very quickly, after starting out as a couple of pages, the newsletter morphed into the 12 page newsletter you now receive.

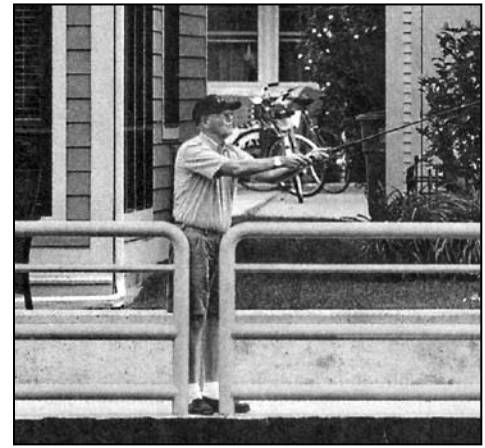
Bill O'Donnall probably could tell a similar tale on how he somehow wound up as the editor of the newsletter.

IMPRESSIVE RESUME. Ed is well known for his outstanding involvement in the Historical Society and the Service Club, but the list on his resume of activities that Ed had



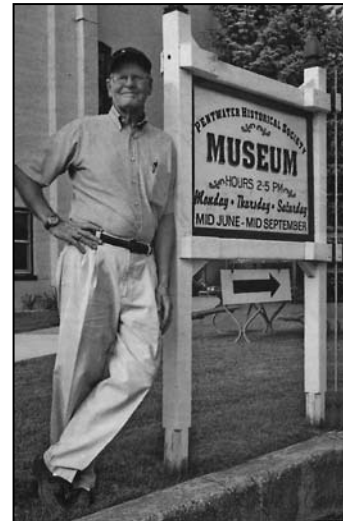
Some of the many volunteers who made the museum a success.

Ed liked fishing!



Ed's hobbies of fine woodworking and antiques were put to good use refurbishing and remodeling at the museum.

Here's Ron Christians and Ed building the information display near the entrance.



Ed posed at the sign of the museum when it was under the Village Hall.

a role in would be quite impressive and probably would take up a whole column in this newsletter.

Ed, the former manager, simply did what many people do upon retirement and found a sense of joy "working" at his former profession.

You could almost say being involved in Village affairs was a serious hobby for him but he obviously enjoyed just being part of a team. The first to lend a hand and get deep into the details.

YOU MAY NOT KNOW . . .

A couple of involvements you may not know about is that Ed worked hard with the village council to get a \$500,000 grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust to create the parks on both sides of the channel and obtained an extra \$50,000 to create the

concourse in front of Charles Mears State Park that we and thousands of visitors love to walk along with our dogs and children and watch the sunsets over the lake.

The sunset gathering, an informal Pentwater tradition for some, would almost always include Ed right there in the middle of the ever changing social group, probably talking about the old days or what's happening nowadays in the Village; and of course, always promoting the Village interests.

It's "Pure Pentwater".

Ed had a simple answer to why he got involved in the village doings . . . "I just enjoyed giving back to the community for all the good things it gave me."

Photos and quotes from the PTW Magazine reprinted with permission from the Oceana Herold.

Memories of Ed

By Mike Flynn

Bill Arnold and I, at the age of about 9 or 10, liked to play baseball in the Arnold's yard and Ed lived right across the street. We thought Ed was very "cool". He was friendly, good looking and had a very nice car!

From time to time, Ed would join us to play catch. He would end the game by throwing the ball into the air as high as he could. He told us this was "pop-up" practice. All had lots of good laughs as we younger boys practically screwed ourselves into the ground trying to catch the ball.

After high school, Ed left Pentwater and joined the army and after his service, now an Army Airborne

(Continued on next page.)

veteran, he would frequently come back to march in the Memorial Day parade. Upon retirement, Ed came back to live in Pentwater and continued to join in the Memorial Day celebrations. He remained proud of the fact that he could still wear his original uniform.

Ed was a great promoter of all things Pentwater. He "drafted" me and many others to join the Pentwater Service Club, the Pentwater Historical Society and most importantly the "10 o'clock" coffee group at GoodStuffs!



Finally, after many years of looking for a home for the museum, Ed's dream came true when he proudly presided over the official opening celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony at the new museum.

*A Celebration
of the life of
Ed Bigelow*
*Come and celebrate
all that Ed was
to the community,
the Pentwater
Historical Society,
and the Museum!*

July 28th 1pm to 3pm

**DESSERT & PUNCH
WILL BE SERVED**

*For more information contact
Deb Deward 231-869-2230*

McVoy Yesteryear Celebration

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

*C*ome 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.

Volunteers are needed to help with the McVoy Yesteryear Celebration!

Sunday July 14. 1 to 4 pm

Help make this exciting PHS event a success!

For tickets, to volunteer or for more information:

Contact Deb Deward at 231-869-2230

or: info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org

MEET YOUR BOARD

Nancy Zielnski Museum Director



Nancy Zielnski

Prior to 1970 I had never heard of Pentwater. Thanks to dear friends and long-time residents of Pentwater, Ted and Joan Cuchna, I now call Pentwater my home.

I was truly a city girl, having grown up in the Chicago area and taking advantage of everything a big city like Chicago offers. Living in a small town was something I had never envisioned for myself. After meeting my husband in the late '60s, we would spend weekends with our friends in this sleepy little hamlet called Pentwater. In the mid '70s my husband and I purchased property and decided to build our summer home on the shores of Lake Michigan. Local builder, Karl Standfuss, built the exterior structure, and my husband and I traveled every weekend from Chicago, staying at The Pines Motel as we worked on the interior.

One particularly funny story we liked to share with family and friends is the time we stayed at The Pines one weekend after a very grueling work day at our new house. My husband and I went out to dinner very late and got back to

the motel around 11 pm. We walked into our room, looked around, and I proclaimed, "Someone came into the room and rearranged the furniture!" We quickly discovered it wasn't even our room. We were so tired that we entered the wrong room. We found out the next day that the innkeeper accidentally gave us the master key to the entire motel. It's lucky we didn't get our heads blown off. Thank goodness the current occupants of the room were still out for the evening. We retired to Pentwater about twelve years ago, and it has become a special place for me. Since my husband's death six years ago, I've gotten involved with the Pentwater Yacht Club, and last year began helping out at the Pentwater Historical Society Museum as an archivist, occasional docent, and official "clipper" of news items relating to Pentwater. I am so excited to begin my work at the Museum as its new Director, following in the footsteps of our beloved Ed Bigelow. It is such a joy to help visitors to the Museum discover little known facts about Pentwater or watch them pore over an old photograph of a loved one. It's like opening a time capsule and pulling out wonderful nuggets of history.

I am so grateful to live in our bit of paradise and can't imagine living anywhere else.

Mark Shotwell Technology Director



Mark Shotwell

My father, Norm Shotwell, and stepmother bought a home in Pentwater in the early 1990s and starting in the mid 1990s, we would sometimes vacation in Pentwater in the summer. My favorite memories of vacationing here tend to be around the fireworks

and parades around July 4th and Homecoming. The town is very lively, and the shops are at their best. The beach has always been consistent and wonderful.

We grew to love the trips to Pentwater. The atmosphere of Pentwater is just peaceful. It is a very quaint and friendly place. The beach at Charles Mears State Park, and the downtown make it a great spot to visit or live. So, during a winter trip in March of 2011, we decided that we may want to live in Pentwater permanently. We had a desire to move from California to somewhere with four seasons, and we had heard great things about the Pentwater School System. Our

son was in 1st grade at the time and it seemed like a good time to move.

My wife and I try to walk every morning and would often see Ed and friends driving in town. Ed was a fixture in town and his warm welcome to everyone will be missed.

Like many, I was recruited by Ed Bigelow to join the Pentwater Historical Society. So when Ed asked, I said I would be interested. The Historical Society does a great job of saving our history, but it also provides a way the public can enjoy it too. I believe it brings people closer to the real Pentwater when they can touch, feel, and relive its history. The museum provides a great destination for locals and tourists to come and look back at how Pentwater has developed over the years. I also think it is important that we have volunteers to field questions on a personel basis about Pentwater history.

My primary goal as a board member is to get all of our wonderful artifacts digitally archived and available to the public via our website or other portal. I think that is how we grow the awareness of the Society.

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



The Memorial Day parade begins the ceremonies at the Marina and the Green.



Sewer, water and road repair continue in Pentwater.



The King Company from Holland, MI begins dredging the channel.



St. Patrick's Day parade.



The Mermaid Rocks are awash.



Early spring at the beach with big mounds of ice and sand at the piers.



Long Bridge Road became impassable and the village docks were inundated.

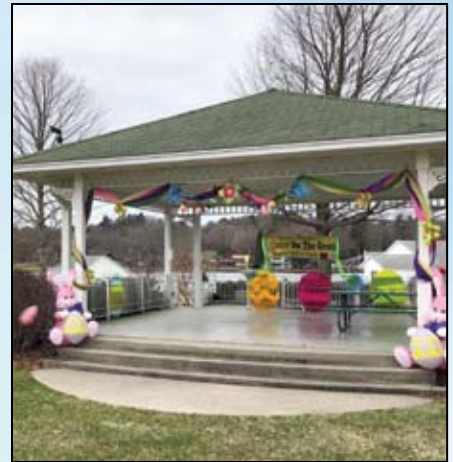




Sunset over Lake Michigan.



Mears State Park Ranger is getting the park ready for visitors.



Easter decorations on the green welcomes the Easter Bunny and children.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE SUMMER DINNER

Wednesday, August 28, 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 A Presentation by
the United States
Coast Guard about
the icebreaker ship
Mackinaw.**

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.

ALL ABOUT THE US COAST GUARD ICEBREAKER MACKINAW



Join us as a member of the Coast Guard shares what it means to be Semper Paratus (Always Ready). Enjoy inside stories of the impressive vessels; including the USCGC Mackinaw, the largest and most powerful icebreaker on the Great Lakes. You will not want to miss this intriguing look at the dedication that goes into making our lakes great.

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.

GET IN THE RIFLE RAFFLE!

NEW AT THE MUSEUM THIS SUMMER

By Nancy Zielinski

A new tech tool has come to town and you can use it at the Pentwater Historical Society Museum. Imagine spending a few hours at the Museum learning about the shipwrecks off the shores of Pentwater, or trying your hand at the old walnut pump pedal organ donated by a Pentwater resident.

Do artifacts from the Native Americans who lived in this area interest you? Or finding a photo of your dad or granddad playing basketball for the Pentwater Falcons in the '40s? You can discover all sorts of keen information, and all you need is your cell phone. It's like having a Pentwater historian whispering in your ear as you walk around the Museum.

The museum has acquired an innovative and engaging method of bringing information and short stories to all of our visitors. They can simply dial a special access number on a cell phone and browse the museum where some 35 artifacts and exhibits are numbered. Enter on your cellphone any of the numbered artifacts that interest you, and you'll learn more about that topic. You can do this at your own pace.

The technology is called Guide by Cell, and the Pentwater Historical Society leadership is very excited to bring it to visitors beginning this season. Visitors using Guide by Cell will come away knowing the answers to questions like these: Why did the Native Americans come to settle in Pentwater? Did Pentwater have more year-round residents in 1871 or today? Was Pentwater Channel always where it is today? A quarter-million of WHAT per day were manufactured in Pentwater in 1872? How did Birdland get its name? How many movie houses have there been in Pentwater? Where was the roller rink? Where was the Pentwater Bedstead Company located? Who from Pentwater fought in Company K during the Civil War?

You may have enjoyed the Museum before but now you will learn about interesting topics overlooked the first time, or items we've added since the last time you visited. There is so much on display that the Guide by Cell tour really makes it easier for visitors to come away with a better understanding of how Pentwater evolved over the past 164 years.

The 35 recorded narratives, each about a minute in length,

include some interesting anecdotes about Pentwater, its people and landmarks including: What is that tower at Channel Lane Park? How did the Pentwater Ferry get across the channel, and how many years did it run? Where was the Pentwater Railroad Depot? What was called Pentwater's greatest civic improvement of the 20th century? Where and what was The White Elephant? How many rooms did the Hotel Valeria have? What two downtown locations were

first considered to become the home of the Pentwater Yacht Club? What stood on the grass parcel next to the Township and Village offices? The original Nicker-son Inn had 14 guest rooms, but how many bathrooms?

Who was the Janet Theater named after? Where was Pentwater's first cemetery located and how was that site next used?



Museum Director Nancy Zielinski tried out the new Guide by Cell technology by using her cell phone at some of the numbered displays at the museum.



If you haven't been to the museum in awhile, come check out some of the new items and try out this new technology.

MUSEUM ANNOUNCES NEW HOURS

JUNE

Open Tuesday through Saturday from 1 to 4 pm.

JULY 2 though AUGUST 10:

Open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm.

AUGUST 13 through OCTOBER 31

Open Thursday through Saturday from 1 to 4 pm.

FREE ADMISSION

The museum changes its displays to feature local and global items of interest so if you think you have seen it all it's time to take another look! We even have things for children to explore.

The museum is located at 85 South Rutledge

For more information, visit our website at: pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org

Or see the Pentwater Historical Society Museum page on Facebook.

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION

Sunday, August 18 1-3pm

Join us at the PHS Museum in a celebration of YOU!

The PHS would like to take a moment to say a special Thank You to all of you who have given your time in order to help make the Pentwater Historical Society a vibrant part of our community! Whether you set up for a dinner, mailed out postcards, priced items for the garage sale, made phone calls, greeted visitors at the museum, or swept the sidewalks, we want to let you know that we wouldn't be where we are without you! You will receive an invitation with additional information. Please join us for fun, fellowship, and food.

Our Village: Past * Present * Promised

Everyone knows about the many features of our village: the beach, Old Baldy, Charles Mears State Park, the charm of the eighteen century Victorian homes, fireworks on the beach, Thursday night concerts on the Village Green, fishing and boating and everything else that keeps visitors returning year after year.

What you cannot see is a subsystem that provides support for real people with real problems. Statistically, about one in five people in this nation will suffer from mental illness this year. Mental health problems come in many forms and they do not go away as people grow older, just the opposite.

The Pentwater Police Department and the Fountain Hill Center are two local organizations working hand in hand with other law enforcement agencies in a three county area along with the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services to keep small problems from becoming large problems. They help individuals to seek treatment rather than incarceration and improve the quality of life. Watch for articles in coming issues to learn about their efforts.

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

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

MEMORIALS

FROM: IN MEMORY OF:

Dolly Geers	Ed Bigelow
Laura Voelker	Ed Bigelow
Oceana Beach Association	Cindy Oehrle
Oceana Beach Association	Larry Pearce
Linda & Douglas Brigham	Doug Brigham
Janet Backer	Doug Brigham
Rise Rasch	Ed Bigelow
Maxine Macleod	Ed Bigelow
Maxine Macleod	Renee Berggren Connoy
Pentwater Village Office	Ed Bigelow
Kenneth Duncan	Ed Bigelow
Vaunceil Smith	Newell Wright

DONATIONS

Amy LaBarge/Ron Beeber	Nancy Zielinski
Richard & Sylvia Warner	Penny Bach
David & Sally Barsley	Jonathan & Christi Daly
James Conger	Margot & Buzz Graettinger
Ryan Vander Swart	Frederic & Jeanette Cisler
Denneth Mathson	Jon & Pamela Vanderploeg
John Tomczak	Clark McKeown
William Bluhm	

NEW MEMBERS

Bill Daggett	Katie Dumont
Nancy Arvai	James Conger

2017-2018 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	TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	MUSEUM DIRECTOR	MARKETING DIRECTOR
Sally Ouwenel	Mark Shotwell	Nancy Zielinski	Jim Lambrix

TRUSTEES: Amy Vander Zwart, Bob Childers and Deb Deward

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Amy Vander Zwart	Jim Pikaart	Vacant
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WARNINGS FROM THE OTHER SIDE

A CONTINUATION OF THE McVOY FAMILY AND THEIR TIES TO PENTWATER .

The story of Celeste McVoy Holden has been recorded in a few different publications. It can be found in Ghostly Warnings by David Cohen and in the book, Haunted Heartland by Beth Scott and Michael Norman. This excerpt was taken from the latter; pages.232 & 234.

The village of Pentwater lies north of Grand Rapids on the rocky shore of Lake Michigan. It comes to life each summer as hundreds of families from Detroit, Chicago, and other large, industrial cities of the Middle West trek northward to the sunny beaches and clear air of the lake-shore. Near Pentwater lived Celeste McVoy Holden, recently separated from her husband, in an isolated residence of many rooms and several wings, typical of the bygone era when summer homes were as grand as permanent residences. Aside from a chauffeur and a maid who lived in Pentwater and came to the house during the day, Mrs. Holden and her four-month-old daughter lived alone in the rambling mansion. The summer after she separated from her husband, Mrs. Holden invited one of her closest friends, a well-known artist, Mrs. Buell Mullen, to spend a few weeks at the Pentwater house. Mrs. Mullen, famous for her etchings and paintings on stainless steel, lived in New York City and exhibited her work in galleries from Brazil to Detroit. President Eisenhower once commissioned her to etch his likeness as a gift to a military regiment. Mrs. Mullen agreed to come and arranged with her husband to meet her later at the house. He had some business to finish before he could get away. Shortly after her arrival, alone in her room, Mrs. Mullen sat down at the desk to write a letter. She wanted to give her husband the rather complicated directions to the

Holden house. Suddenly, her hand was jerked away from the paper, as if it had been grabbed by some unseen intruder. She fought unsuccessfully for control. Then, she watched her hand, as if it belonged to someone else, move across the paper writing without any conscious effort on her part. The handwriting was different from her own and the words: "Beware! Beware! Beware!" made no sense to her. Beware of what? Then her hand scrawled the word, "Jack", across the stationery. Buell Mullen ran to Celeste Holden's room, told her what had happened and showed her the paper. Mrs. Holden blanched. "Jack", she said, her voice trembling, "is my former husband's name". His violent temperament was part of the reason they had separated. Were the women being warned that he might do them harm? Hoping to find the source of the mysterious message, Celeste and Buell searched the house for a Ouija board. When they found none, they went to Pentwater to buy one. Back home, they sat the board across their knees, with their hands resting on the teardrop-shaped marker. When Mrs. Holden asked what was going to happen, the words spelled out in response terrified them: "Murder, you and your child". Then: "Prepare!" But how? She had no weapon. Celeste telephoned her chauffeur and, without revealing the cause of her concern, asked if he could come to the house at a moment's notice in case of trouble. He said he could. As it was getting late, Celeste and Buell locked each door

and window, picked up the sleeping baby and retreated to the most secure wing. Here they piled furniture against the doors, blocked the windows and waited. Unable to sleep, they played cards through the long night, stopping and listening hard each time they heard the slightest sound. Eventually morning came and nothing had happened. The women felt silly to have taken seriously such an absurd notion as spirit communication. Until two days later. A friend named John Malloy phoned to ask Celeste if she had seen Jack. The startled woman said no, she assumed he was in the city. Then Malloy told her that two nights before he had seen Jack in Pentwater. Jack had staggered into a party at nearby Harbor Point, drunk, waving a gun and boasting to the stunned gathering that he was going to kill his wife and baby. Malloy had wrestled the gun away and calmed Jack down. Holden had left the party about three o'clock in the morning. Malloy assured Celeste that was the last they had seen of him. Celeste thanked Malloy and put down the phone. Had Jack left town at three a.m. as Malloy had said? Or had he left the party and come to kill them as he had sworn to do? Perhaps they would never know whether the action they took to barricade themselves into the most inaccessible part of the house had saved their lives. And all because of a most timely warning from, "the other side"

A SHORT HISTORICAL RESUME OF OUR TOWN

As, 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 about the name, "Pentwater". Since I had no new exciting news stories in the works, I decided to write about this. Quill in hand and a full bottle of ink....

The name of our town has two different origins. One theory was the Indians gave the name "Painted Water" on account of the blueness of the lake. The other, and to my mind the more likely, "Pent-up water" as the outlet was a very shallow stream. For the time being you can forget about that trash talk about "Five Waters". Tradition says there was no stream, which I seriously question, as the Pentwater River has to flow somewhere and has been flowing for untold ages. You are respectfully requested to ignore the other trash talk about an underground river that provided the outflow at the northwest end of the Pentwater Lake.

In 1840, Cobb and Rector, seeing the potential of all of the virgin old growth forests, bought the site of the village from the government and built a sawmill. The county of Oceana was organized in 1855, the area was still pretty wild. Wolves were numerous. The wolves would down a deer, the settlers would chase off the wolves and take the deer. Not good for the wolves, not to mention slow moving citizens.

A weekly mail route was established along the beach. A pony express of sorts with rider and pack pony had many narrow escapes in crossing the sometimes flooded or iced over streams and rivers until 1859 when a road was laid from Flower Creek to Bass Lake. (I tried to find where Flower Creek is or was as names of several streams have changed over the years, but was unsuccessful. I surely hope that Pentwater was somewhere between.)

Charles Mears dammed up the circular outlet which meandered among the dunes and emptied into the big lake just north of the present state park. The only vestige of this is what we call the Frog Pond. A lively little pool nestled at the foot of the first dune on the north. A mecca for children in the summer and skaters and hockey players in the winter.

Mears saw the potential of Pentwater Lake and dug a new channel to the big lake, which I might take a great leap of faith to suggest, not without a generous handout from his friends in the new administration in Washington D.C. In time settlers from the east flowed in and many sawmills were built. Pentwater Lake was practically surrounded by them. At the site of the old red River House Barn, built in 1859 right at the crossing of the Pentwater River on Monroe, there was once an old logging camp where the sloping banks were ideal for rolling the logs into the river to flow downstream to the sawmills.

Someone asked me about the ferry across the channel. It was established in 1858 and served until 1927 as a center of activity for the village. The Chicago, Michigan and Lakeshore Railroad stopped at the south side of the channel and all freight, passengers and express had to cross into town via the ferry. The ferry was sold to someone in Ludington then was replaced by an iron swing bridge and now the ferry, railroad and swing bridge are no more.

Pentwater, stretching four miles in each direction, with its wooded dunes, beautiful resort cottages, clean air, and singing sands is a mecca for the weary travelers seeking rest, nature, and hospitality. I might add, it's a pretty good place to settle down and live too.

**Ed Bigelow and I always talked about publishing a book or pamphlet with all of the stories we have written for the newsletter about Pentwater History. I guess it is up to me to follow through with the idea. If anyone has a story or remembrance of Pentwater or Ed, please send me a note, story, or question so I can add it to Bob's Corner.

Thank you.

WANTED: CLASSIC AND ANTIQUE CARS

Be part of Pentwater History by showing off your Classic or Antique Car in the 2019 Annual Homecoming Parade.

Saturday, August 10th.

Get out your wax and make your car shine for our best parade ever!

All Makes, models, and conditions wanted

Contact: info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org

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 _____

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: _____

☐ Yes, Please send the newsletter by e-mail. My e-mail address is: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

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

AUTHORIZED

SIGNATURE _____

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

MEMORIES OF ED

In this day and age, you don't find many Eds. He was a guy who extended his hand in friendship to all who crossed his path. I was one of those fortunate people that he befriended, and I feel honored. Ed will be missed by all who knew him. Pentwater has lost its number one champion; may he rest in peace.

Ken Duncan

One of the NICEST people that Terry and I have ever met. We miss you Ed.

Pam Oumedian Roach

An amazing person to Pentwater. Very few people witnessed the awesome sunsets this man has seen over the years. He truly is an icon to our great community.

Chris Brown

The epitome of a True Gentlemen.

Brenda Blamer

Ed always stopped by to chat and say hello. Miss that guy.

Michael Hofmann

I came to know Ed through the Pentwater Service Club and the Historical Society and learned some of his history of huge contributions to Pentwater. Then we moved and Ed became our neighbor, a constant reminder of Pentwater and Ed's role in it. His absence is visible to us daily.

Norm Shotwell

As a relatively new member of the Pentwater Historical Society and worker bee in the hallowed archival section of the museum last summer, Ed Bigelow welcomed me to the museum with a smile on his face and always an encouraging word. He made me feel like an old friend as we sat and talked about anything and nothing at all.

Nancy Zielinski

I will miss his smiling face popping into the museum every day. He was a wealth of knowledge about Pentwater history. If anyone had a question while he was there he almost always knew the answer!

Joan Gebringer

Ed would pass my house and there was always a handwave, a gentle nod of the head and a smile! We worked on PHS projects together and his wealth of

information was amazing along with his perspective on how to get the job done. His heart was always on "what's best for the PHS and Pentwater." My heart aches when I think of him, he is greatly missed. You'll always be in our hearts Mr. Pentwater!

Debbie Deward

I would see Ed every day between 10 and 11, coming from coffee or going to coffee, with his coffee mug in hand, a big smile on his face and his hat on his head. Whenever I had a museum problem, I could always count on Ed to find the solution, even if it meant building something in his workshop. I miss his eternal optimism, even in the face of his cancer. He was a true leader and the backbone of PHS, I miss him.

Dick Warner



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



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

**McVOY YESTERYEAR
CELEBRATION JULY 14**

**CELEBRATION
OF LIFE JULY 28**

**HOMECOMING
PARADE AUG 10**

**VOLUNTEER
CELEBRATION AUG 18**

**SUMMER DINNER
AUGUST 28**