

MEMORIES FROM MAIN STREET

By Raymond Dewyer

For as long as I can remember while growing up in Pentwater, the annual Firemen's Dinner was held at our Bakery on Main (226 S. Hancock) Street. My recollection spans from around 1960 to 1972 when I went off to college. My parents, Duke and Emily Dewyer, probably sponsored these celebratory dinners the entire time they owned the Bakery (1946-1974), but I can only speak to my years of recollection.

I remember how every fall on a Saturday a number of the volunteer firemen would show up early in the afternoon to prepare the food for that night. People like Judd Scovill, Louis Maynard, George & Louis Daggett, Buck Graham, Don Lamb, Bill Duncan, Paul Carlson, and Louis Alvesteffer were among the volunteer chefs. They would get to work bringing in the crates of iced chickens, bags of potatoes, crates of cabbages, bags of prep items, and bags of long neck bottles of something in six packs (LOL). These dinners were a way for the community to recognize the service of the volunteer firemen and everyone was in a celebratory spirit, notwithstanding other spirits. I believe that all the food was donated by the community businesses and I would not be surprised if the keg of beer that always showed up was too.

Everyone seemed to know their job in the kitchen with some notable regulars. Louis Maynard would always make the coleslaw in the 3-foot diameter stainless steel bowls, George Daggett whipped up the mashed po-

tatoes, my Dad baked the dinner rolls, with everyone else pitching in peeling the potatoes, cutting up the chickens, and shredding the cabbage. The chickens were baked in big black pans that would fill our commercial oven and later the kitchen with great smells while cooling on the racks. My Dad



The Bakery in 1950.

always made extra fruit pies that day just for the banquet.

I would watch this orchestra of strange cooks with great curiosity until one of them would say, "give the kid a plate", and magically one would appear with all the fixings on it for me. Those guys knew what they were doing and even though everything tasted different than my Mom's, it was all delicious. My Dad would close the Bakery early that Saturday, around 4:30-5:00pm,

so that the firemen could finish their dinners by 6:30pm. That is when the group would move to the back tables of the restaurant for the card games. Some non-firemen would come and join in at this time. It was also the time when Don Lamb, fireman and Village Constable, would discreetly

vacate the premises. He was a wise man. The card games would go late into the night with the keg of beer supplying the group all along. A good time was had by one and all and I never heard of any unpleasanties arising.

The next day my Dad, with the help of a friend, and later me, would move the partially filled keg down to our base-

ment where our bumper pool table was. My Dad would always smile and say that this was his payment for the banquet. I can't tell you how many times my cousin Steve Brower and I snuck samples from those kegs to make sure that the contents were still good. We considered it a public service, albeit an unappreciated one.

I was able to see the Pentwater Fire Department in action the night that the Kent (Elwin F.) Funeral Home

at 150 S. Hancock Street caught fire (c. 1964). I woke to the sound of the Community Hall siren calling the volunteers, followed by the fire truck siren stopping just north of us on Main



Hancock Street in the late 1940's shows Joe McGuire's Standard Station on the extreme left. The building is presently the Candy Store. The gas pumps stood right on the curb, requiring car owners to park next to the pumps on Hancock street to purchase gas.

Street. It was a short drive for the fire truck since the Fire Department was housed across the street from the Community Hall at 324 S. Hancock Street back then. I went outside and walked the short distance north past Tom & Barb Gregwer's Drift Inn to the front of Lucas's Five and Dime where the perimeter line had been established. I crossed the street to the west side to get a better look and saw the flames leaping from the front of the Kent Funeral Home. The building was closely situated between Joe McGuire's Standard Station to the south and Kriegler's Dry Cleaning to the north. The flames were dangerously close to the

northern gas pump at the Standard Station, yet I saw firemen and Joe McGuire enter this building to ensure that gas to the pumps was cut off. The Kent Funeral Home was an all-wood structure and it burned to the ground that night. The firemen prevented

with petroleum products during a fire has never had an occasion to do so. Those were brave men doing what needed to be done to prevent the fire from spreading beyond the one building. This is just one example of why I believe my Father freely turned over our Bakery on a Saturday every Fall for the Firemen's Dinner.

I also believe that a big part of what



The Kent Funeral Home was located in part of the Lagesen Furniture Store. After the fire the Funeral Home operated out of his home.



The funeral wagon decorated for a parade.

the fire from spreading to the adjacent buildings though. I later heard that the fire was believed to have been caused by a faulty space heater. Anyone who thinks that it is easy to fight a fire or walk into an adjacent building filled

made Pentwater, and still makes it special, are these types of services and their recognitions by the community. These recognitions take place in the background, outside the summer tourist season, but their good feelings carry over to the entire year. They now take place at the VFW Hall, School, Friendship Center, (former Friendship Center) and others. I am happy to have seen and experienced them firsthand growing up.

Share memories and/or comments

with Raymond at:

rdewyer@yahoo.com

DO YOU HAVE FIRE DEPARTMENT MATERIAL?

The PHS Museum is planning a larger, more prominent display showing the history and importance of the Pentwater Fire Department.

THE MUSEUM IS SEARCHING FOR: Any and all material relating to the Pentwater Fire Department. •Stories and newspaper articles
•Photos of volunteer fire crews with names if possible. •Documents
•Equipment & fire fighting gear •Uniforms, badges, insignia, etc.
•Snapshots of fires, fire trucks, and more!

Contact the website at: info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org

1889 fire destroyed many businesses

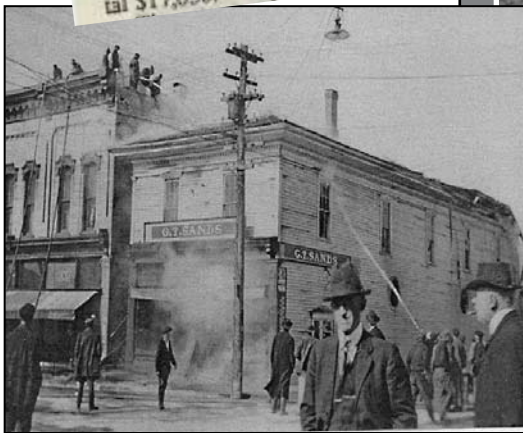
Fires have changed the look of Pentwater many times. One of the worst occurred Sept. 26, 1889 when fire swept down Hancock Street destroying many downtown businesses. The blaze started around 2:45 a.m. in the rear of George Warner's Tobacco and Variety Store on the west side of Hancock, between what are now Second and Third streets. From there flames soon spread to the roof and adjoining buildings. They destroyed an entire block on the west side of Hancock then jumped across the street and burned at least seven stores on the north end of the block. Losses were estimated to total \$17,050.

PENTWATER FIRES

Just about every major city has experienced devastating fires. Think of the Great Chicago Fire of October 8, 1871 that burned for three days, killed around 300 people, destroyed over 17 thousand buildings and spread over 2,000 acres. Pentwater fires have altered the look of the Village more than once but the big one of 1889 wiped out the whole North end of downtown.



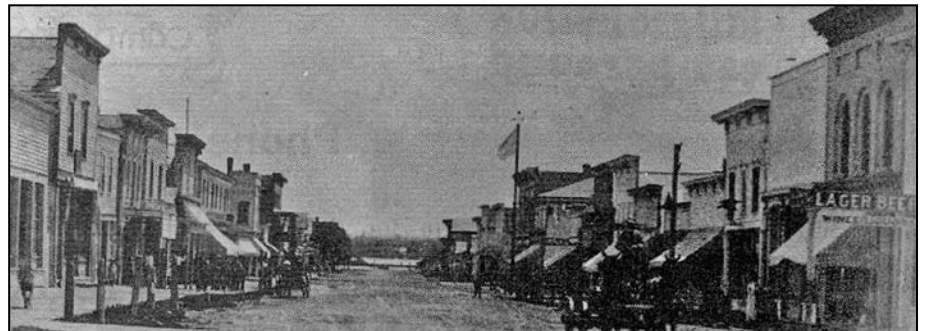
After the fire of 1889.



The G. T. Sands Store, which stood on the SW corner of Hancock and Third Street, caught fire, was a total loss and never rebuilt.

Photo shows fire hoses going up the front of the building to firemen on the roof who are pouring water on Sands store. Where the store stood is now the little park with the veterans memorial bell.

Pentwater's first motorised fire truck was a Model T Ford. The people riding on it in this photo were dressed in a manner that suggests it might have been in a parade.



Looking South on Hancock before the fire. Note the dirt street and wood plank sidewalks.



The last major fires in Pentwater were the Nickerson Inn on May 21, 2007 (photo below) and the Dockside Deli (above) in September 2017. The hilltop where the Nickerson stood remains empty and the Deli on the corner of Hancock and Forth Street was never rebuilt.



The economic loss of the fire of 1886 convinced the Village to invest in the latest fire fighting equipment. This photo shows the proud volunteer fire fighters with their new equipment of a horse drawn, steam powered pumper and hose wagon.



Past, Present, Promise

By Norm Shotwell

Looking back from the year 2021, the Pentwater Historical Society has grown from a small but dedicated group that provided a display of artifacts in the basement of the Community Building. We had few expenses, free utilities, but no computer, no telephone, and no space to call our own. We did, however, have a lot of ambition.

From those modest beginnings we grew to 350 members consisting of more than 650 individuals and secured ownership of a true historic building, the First Baptist Church. Through the work of many volunteers, we transformed the church building into a museum and the headquarters of the Society. In addition to the Museum, we have the historic information booth, now at Snug Harbor. We also have over 12,000 artifacts, an annual budget of \$20,000, a developing research center, Guide by Cell, and many volunteers.

THE VISION

Sustainability depends on both an adequate revenue stream and the ability to provide a compelling reason for members to continue to be involved and new members to join. The museum itself can be the vehicle to serve both of these goals. It will continue to be the central medium to tell the compelling story of Pentwater's history and legacy and it can also be the home for member support by being a venue for events that enrich the Society and the community.

OUR PLANS

To provide for display of our growing inventory of artifacts, and to provide an improved museum experience, the Society wishes to expand our building space. To achieve this project, the PHS board will develop a strong draft design, develop a fundraising plan, and present it to the membership. Once agreed upon, we will marshal resources such as volunteers, current and new, and begin fundraising. The final design will depend on the success of our fundraising.

With this vision well underway, we look forward to sharing our progress with you. If you are interested in being on the ground floor of our fundraising and marketing team or becoming more involved by being a docent at the Museum this summer please contact: info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org

SHARING HISTORY VIRTUALLY.

By Ron Beeber

As similar history organizations around the country are re-examining their community roles, the PHS is taking a hard look at how we can better serve our area and region by encouraging and promoting historical awareness and knowledge of Pentwater. In the past two years, we've introduced the **Guide by Cell** feature for those visiting the museum. We have also signed up volunteers to be docents on the popular Pentwater History Cruise.

Several weeks ago Dan Hoekstra, our Museum Director, dug out some of the hundreds of historic postcards and photos found in the museum and we began to post them on the Museum's Facebook page. You can find similar historic photos on different sites, but what makes our posts unique is that we tell a short story about each photo on our page. These first postings of pictures with a story have prompted some interesting comments by our readers.

One of the more popular old photos is a picture of the third floor of the Gustafson Building. It provides a peek at what the Masonic Lodge, built by Charles Mears in the late 1800's, looked like. Kimberly DeMay said, "Yes! I saw the Masonic Temple doorway and wall and always wondered. Thank you!" Sandra Carlin Spearing wrote, "Yep. My grandmother was an Eastern Star and I went to a ceremony that was held up there!"

A photo of two 1860's homes on Green Street drew this comment from Dave Rosquin, "Cool post and pic. I walk by these houses all the time and now I know some history." Tom Wright wrote, "Wonderful history. Thank you." Mary Helen Blohm reminisced, "I remember Ann Flagg. She was a very petite woman with a big heart. Always nice to us local kids running around the neighborhood. Madonna was just as nice."

There's a photo of the Verbeck Tavern. It stood where you'll today find the new Village Hall, mini golf/Dari Creme, and U.S. Post Office. It drew this funny observation by Jim Lambrix -- "Replaced by the architectural masterpiece, the small town post office."

A curious photo is of a man getting a straight razor shave with six other men looking on. It's believed that the photo was taken in an upstairs room of the Pentwater Railroad Station Master's residence, which still stands today at the end of Chester Street. The present owners share how a previous owner helped win the 1958 parole of a prisoner who was convicted of a grisly murder in Chicago in 1924.

We invite you to learn more about our fabulous, rich history by visiting us on Facebook. Don't be shy about adding a comment or two about the pictures and stories you read! Your personal experiences only add to our ability to keep a strong record of our past to share with the future!

Visit Pentwater Historical Society Museum on Facebook!

FINDING HISTORY IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD, OR YOUR NEIGHBOR'S YARD.

By Dick Folsom

My wife and I purchased a home at 106 Chester Street in late 2018. Being a history buff, I was able to determine that the Chicago and West Michigan Railroad operated in the Shelby, Mears, and Hart area from 1873 until 1980. The railroad to Pentwater operated from 1873 until 1933. I was also aware of the fact that the railroad line actually ended at Pentwater. (Plans to continue the railroad from Pentwater to Ludington were ultimately cancelled due to high construction costs).

Two years ago, I visited the wonderful Pentwater Historical Museum and studied the railroad related photographs and maps on display. I quickly determined the railroad depot and locomotive shed were located right at the end of Chester Street, RIGHT where our house is located!

Over the years, just about all of our wonderful neighbors have located railroad spikes and a lot of coal just under the surface of the ground. One of our neighbors even located long pieces of buried steel rail while installing an in-ground swimming pool! (The rails were VERY expensive to remove). While planting some bushes in the fall of 2019, I unearthed a perfectly preserved glass beer bottle ("Muskegon Brewing Company") Perhaps it was a thirst-quenching beverage of a railroad employee?

As you may know, the Chicago and West Michigan Railroad was extended from Mears to Pentwater in 1873. A passenger station, locomotive shed, water tower, stationmaster's house

and a dock were all built within a year or two on one another. Additional railroad tracks were quickly added as the rail yard became a very busy and important area in Pentwater. The little hand-operated ferry right next to the railroad yard was used to transport people, horses, wagons and freight across the channel to and from the Village of Pentwater. The dock was used by steamboats carrying passengers and freight from Pentwater to Ludington. Over the years at least three passenger trains per day departed and arrived to and from

Pentwater. The railroad operated passenger service from 1873 until 1929. Freight service ended a few years later when the line was abandoned. The tracks were removed in 1936. On a spring day in 2020, while I was walking our dog Athena down to the channel, I noticed



The old Pentwater Depot is long gone but this old railroad tie with the tie plate attached is a reminder that Pentwater used to have the train stop here twice a day.



Dick Folsom in his yard with the old tie.



Stan Waruszeski (right) and Doug Nelson pictured here helped dig up the old railroad tie.

on my right, just inside my neighbor Stan's yard, a half-buried railroad tie. I took a closer look at the tie and noticed the steel (iron?) rail plates were still attached. Brushing off the dirt from the rail plates I noticed something printed on the steel. It said: "BETH 8 76". Being a railroad history buff, I knew immediately what the letters and numbers meant: The steel rail plates were manufactured in Pennsylvania by the Bethlehem Steel Company in 1876.

I notified neighbors Stan Waruszewski and Doug Nelson of my exciting find. I suggested to Stan that the old railroad tie was a significant artifact from Pentwater's railroad days. I stated strongly that it should be removed from the soil and somehow preserved. Both Stan and Doug agreed.

(Continued on page 10.)

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



A quiet winter's day in downtown Pentwater.



Sadie Hoyle and friends enjoyed a chilly day at the beach and sledding down Old Baldy.



Early morning sunrise coming up behind the water tower.

Ice covers everything at the beach in winter.



No tourists on the pier today!

NOTE: Covid 19 has disrupted m
Go to the PHS facebook and webs



Pentwater lake with dramatic reflections.



Jillys, the glass and gift shop, moved to the former Petri Gallery space.



Sledding down the Village Green.



Clearing the rink.

many plans for everyone including PHS events.
site pages for any changes in upcoming events.

Plan to Attend... **THE SPRING DINNER**

**Wednesday
May 26, 2021**

*Please
Notice!*

Location is TBD.

Check out our facebook and website for last minute changes to events. See Facebook and website info on back page.

**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
(BYOB)**

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

Decor by Sandra

Deb Deward

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

UPDATES FROM PHS

By Ron Beeber

A quintet of speakers from the Pentwater Historical Society provided an update to over 30 members of the Pentwater Service Club at its December 17th meeting via Zoom. Because Covid-19 caused the cancellation of the Society's two dinners in 2020, the Service Club provided the PHS with a great opportunity to share relevant news.



Dick Warner

President Dick Warner began by noting that the PHS will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year. Founded in November of 1982 with 137 charter members, the PHS has seen much growth over the years. What began as a small space in the basement offered by the Village and Township governments turned into a free-standing museum in 2011 when the historic First Baptist Church sanctuary became available.

"It was a real estate transaction made in heaven," Dick said. The necessary funds were raised in 2012 through a community-wide effort, attracting donations from individuals ranging from \$10 to \$100,000. Aided by numerous volunteers, the sanctuary's infrastructure was upgraded and the building was converted to a museum. The museum opened in the spring of 2014 with multiple displays which were organized into themes such as Great Lakes shipping, Pentwater School, Native Americans, and Pentwater Veterans.

"But we ran out of space, especially for our larger artifacts and that's our biggest problem today," Dick added. Increasing the number of memberships (at \$50 per year per household) is the PHS's biggest challenge. The PHS had 362 members at the end of 2017, but only has 274 current members. "We really must increase membership so we can continue to function as a viable historical society," Dick said. He explained that one of the goals was to have the PHS site be a meeting venue, but that has not been possible because the museum quickly ran out of room as the number of artifacts in the collections increased, spurred by donations of historical items.

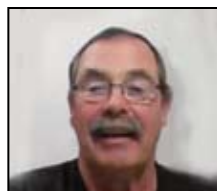


Norm Shotwell

Vice President Norm Shotwell, who heads planning for the hoped-for expansion onto the adjacent PHS-owned parcel of land, summarized where things stand. He said there is community interest to expand and that local architect Norman Dodd has offered to do the initial design work at no cost. Two recently-acquired, large artifacts for which there currently is no room is a 9-foot model

of the Presidential Yacht Sequoia that visited Pentwater in the mid-80's, and the 325-year-old log that was felled by lumbermen around the turn of the 20th century, dislodged by a heavy storm in 2020 from the bottom of Pentwater Lake, and retrieved. Norm said that space was needed to store artifacts that have been tucked away for years in the basement of the soon-to-be-demolished Community Hall and on the second floor. There's also the 30-foot long, 3,000 pound wooden boat named Katahdin, which was donated to the Club in 2014. It resembles, and may have served as, a tour boat that operated on Pentwater Lake 100 years ago.

Norm said fundraising is expected to begin in 2021 with detailed design and construction to begin when the necessary funds are raised. He said the new design would be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Exhibit space would hopefully be doubled, with the new building connected to the existing museum for ease of access and movement of displays. There would be improved space for anyone to do research.



Dan Hoekstra

Museum Director Dan Hoekstra

spoke next. He began by thanking Terry Roach for his considerable efforts to maintain the building's infrastructure. Dan then talked about "The 1943 Project" which is intended to build upon Florence Schrupf's written account of Pentwater history between 1853 and 1942. "There's not much written about Pentwater history from 1943 to the present that's collected in one place. It's scattered everywhere," Dan explained. "We're asking everyone to write a page or more about their family stories, businesses owned, childhood stories, or stories about Pentwater -- vibrant, fun facts." He then cited several examples of stories that could be told, such as why the VFW post is named after Eldon Chadwick, what's the story behind Reed's garage on Lowell Street, and when and why were the numbered street names (e.g., First Street, Second Street etc.) reversed?

To connect with the 1943 effort, email Dan at:

Pentwater.history.1943topresent
@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org

OR you can send snail mail to Dan at:

Dan Hoekstra, PO Box 974, Pentwater MI 49449

"If you have a curious mind, believe in the history of Pentwater and want to conserve it, please help with the "1943 Project" requested Dan. "Tell your neighbors and folks you

know who used to live in Pentwater." Dan hopes that all this information could be gathered by late 2021.

Ron Beeber discussed several ways in which the general public can learn about Pentwater's history. He said that around 280 people enjoyed the Pentwater History Cruise in 2020, and that they generously donated \$1,500 to PHS as they exited the boat. Ron also shared several pages on Facebook that are devoted to Pentwater history. These groups include: Pentwater Historical Society Museum, If You Grew Up in Pentwater, Then You Remember When, and "Where the Hell is Pentwater?" These Facebook pages allow people to post their own comments and pictures.



Bart Zachrich

Treasurer Bart Zachrich briefly covered the PHS's financial picture. Income vs. expenses have been pretty consistent since 2015, with income narrowly exceeding expenses by \$2,000 in 2020. "We've got an 1894 building," he noted, and said annual expenses have averaged about \$20,000 between 2016 and 2020. Bart pointed out that the annual \$50 per household membership brought in \$4,125 in 2019, but only \$3,000 in 2020. Average annual donations have amounted to another \$10,000 per year since 2015, although the passing of Ed Bigelow and Bob Childers in 2019 resulted in a number of memorial donations that year in honor of these two wonderful men who had so much to do with the museum and society.

"When the museum opened in 2014, we had 1,900 visitors as people were curious," said Bart. Annual attendance then predictably softened to around 1,400, but Covid-19 really affected 2020 attendance, as one would imagine. The museum couldn't open until July, and then for only three hours a day, for three days a week. Added Bart, "One thing that happens is that visitors often leave donations, so fewer visitors in 2020 meant fewer donations. That sure helps our bottom line. We hope to open this June and have a better year in 2021. Museum admission is free. We run on donations and memberships." Bart pointed out that membership application forms are posted on the PHS Website, and also in each newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2021 ARE DUE

If you see "19" 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 DONATIONS

Bill and Diane Bullard	Daniel Carter
Mike and Susan Castor	Ted and Joan Cuchna
Caroline Denlar	Brian and Ann Fillion
Harriet Fitzsimmons	Dolly Anne Geers
Joan and Jim Gehringer	Richard Johnson
Nick and Laura Kassonos	Rise Rasch
Mary Sue Rischar	Clark McKeown
Carol and David Messerlie	Sam and Jane Morrison
Julie and Doug Nelson	Judy and Larry Pazol
Richard and Sylvia Warner	Pam and Jon Vander Ploeg
Jean Ziak	Doug & Kathleen McAuley

Gales Insurance Agency, A Newsletter Sponsor
Blackmer Electric, A Newsletter Sponsor.
Duke Energy Foundation
The Herb and Nancy Greenfield Charitable Giving Trust
Shelby State Bank, A Newsletter Sponsor

NEW MEMBERS Doug and Kathleen McAuley

MEMORIALS
From Ray & Sherry Kloostra
In Memory of:
Ed Bigelow, Ted Reser and Newell Wright

2020 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES OF THE PENTWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dick Warner <i>President</i>	Norm Shotwell <i>V-President</i>	Beth Russell <i>Secretary</i>	Bart Zachrich <i>Treasurer</i>
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TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR Mark Shotwell	MUSEUM DIRECTOR Dan Hoekstra	MARKETING DIRECTOR Jim Lambrix
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TRUSTEES: Amy Vander Zwart, Terry Roach and Deb Deward

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
Amy Vander Zwart Jim Pikaart

(Finding History in Your Own Backyard continued.)

We agreed on a date in October 2020 to attempt to remove the railroad tie. I brought a couple of shovels and we commenced digging. When we attempted to remove it from the ground it resisted; it was VERY heavy! Doug quickly determined we would need a crowbar, or two. After about twenty minutes of digging we were able to extricate the tie from the ground. Doug then went into his yard and brought back a small trailer. We lifted the heavy tie onto the trailer, secured it and transported to my garage to protect it during the coming winter months. I suggested to Stan that it was my personal opinion that the railroad tie should be donated to the Pentwater Historical Museum. He agreed. Neighbor Doug immediately contacted the Historical Society. I recently received a call from the Museum Director, Dan Hoekstra. We talked about transporting the railroad tie to the museum in the spring. Neighbor Stan even suggested building a heavy-duty plexiglass case to display the railroad tie at the end of Chester Street. We are looking forward to sharing our find with others to enjoy. Bringing history to life is always exciting and even more exciting when you find it in your or your neighbor's yard.

THE VILLAGE WIDE



JUNE 11 & 12 2021

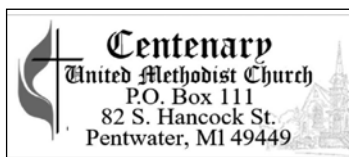
Bring your items to the Museum
Tuesdays and Thursdays starting May 25
from 10am til noon.

For special pick-ups
Call Deb Deward at: 231-869-2230

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BLOEMSMA



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 of:

1938, 1939, 1941-1945, 1947-1950,
1952, 1964, 1968, 1977, 1991, 2008,
2016 and 2017.

PLEASE CONTACT:
info@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org

MUSEUM UPDATE

By Dan Hoekstra, Museum Director

The Museum opening for 2021 is right around the corner!

Right now, with the Covid Vaccine rollout starting, we are hoping for our normal days and hours when we open for 2021. The Board is proceeding with these expectations. We will however make adjustments as necessary with the Covid Guidelines. Please also consider being a docent this year as there will be plenty of opportunities.

We will have two exhibits in the museum for 2021. Michigan State University is allowing us to keep the Postcard Exhibit for this year. It's a very nice and informative exhibit that is a must see for everyone young and old. Plus, we are digging into our archives and setting up a computer program to run pictures and postcards on the projector screen above the stage. We are currently looking for Fire Department pictures to include with this project.

Ron Beeber has been posting old photos and postcards featuring scenes, people and events in and around Pentwater on the Museum facebook page. Some go back to before the Civil War and many show the Village when the streets were unpaved. This has been an engaging attention getter and has generated a lot of conversations online.

The Guide by Cell program, which is available when visiting the Museum and is also accessible from anywhere in the world from your cell phone, is up and running. I was recently asked a historical question about Pentwater and found the answer quickly on the Guide by Cell from the comfort of my home. The Guide by Cell number is (231) 720-0291. The exhibit numbers can be found on the Museum Website. We pay for this service every year and would love to see this system used more. It has been a blessing to gain more information on our Village's rich history.

The 1943 Project, Pentwater History from 1943-present, is starting to take off.

Thank you to the folks that have sent their family's history and other lore to us. We really appreciate any information you can share!

The email to send your history to is:
pentwater.history.1943topresent
@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org

PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW!

The Pentwater Historical Society is going to answer the #1 question about the Pentwater History Book, 1853-1942.

That question is always . . .

"What about the history of Pentwater from 1943-Present?"

Here's your chance to make history!

We are asking families, friends, residents and former residents to please take the time to write at least one page or more telling of their family history, businesses owned, positions held, or anything of personal or general interest about Pentwater from 1943-Present.

We are looking for vibrant fun facts!

- Photos of events in the Village and more!
- Family lore, stories and photos
- Remembering your childhood.
- The war years •Tragedies
- What I did in the old school
- Working •The Village back in the day
- Our cottage •Cars, roads and travel
- AND MORE!

Please email them to:

pentwater.history.1943topresent
@pentwaterhistoricalsociety.org

Or mail them to:

Dan Hoekstra, PO Box 974,
Pentwater, MI 49449.

We will compile all the information and hopefully have the book ready by next year.

Thank You! in advance.

Dan Hoekstra, Sr.
Museum Director,
Pentwater Historical Society

As time goes by in the Village. . .



An old post card view of downtown looking South. Judging from the automobile and dirt street it's in the early 1920's. That's Girard's Dept. Store on the right with the Gustason building just beyond it.



Looking North on Hancock in the 20's. The old car is parked in front of the Sands and Maxwell store that's now the former Village Hall. (The facade has been altered.) Next to it is the Sand's Store that burned down as described on page 3. The round tower down the street is the "famous" White Elephant.



A wider view as the photo above but a bit later in the 20's. Hancock is paved and has curbs.



Looking South on Hancock in the 30's. The old car is parked in front of Girard's Dept. Store which now houses the Toy Box and Everest clothing store. Notice that the White Elephant is gone.



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

USE THIS FORM TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

☐ Yes, Please send the newsletter by e-mail. ☐ This is a new membership
☐ This is a renewal membership

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES \$50 (Includes Spouse)

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>.



Pentwater Historical
Society Museum

Visit us on the web at:

pentwaterhistoricalsociety.com

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

**SPRING DINNER
WED. MAY 26**

**SUMMER DINNER
AUGUST 25**

**GARAGE SALE
JUNE 11 & 12**