

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Vol. 2, Issue 1

January, 2008

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LETTER FROM A BOARD MEMBER

Dear Historical Museum patrons,

I just wanted to write and say "Thanks" to the Crawford County Historical Society Board for giving me the opportunity to serve with them.

Since 1966, I've enjoyed the beauty and people of this northern Michigan county and I look forward to working with the Board to preserve the history of the area.

I was born and raised on the family farm in Saginaw County. I was taught to appreciate and preserve the older equipment and buildings, and to take note of how things were done in the past. Consequently, I have a real interest in what the early in-

ventors created and crafted by hand. My interest in "times gone by" has grown with each year and today, I thoroughly enjoy learning and talking about how things were done by our ancestors.

As a matter of fact, I have managed to accumulate a sizable collection of antiques of my own. I have everything from small ice picks and pitch forks to old Case tractors and wooden wagon wheels.

For years, I farmed the family farm and built houses. In 1966, I built a cottage on Lake Margrethe. We made the cottage our weekend getaway until 1996, when I retired from the Great Lakes Sugar Beet Growers Association. We then made Grayling

our permanent residence. We enjoy living in this county and I am always happy to serve and "give back" to this community.

I can assure you that I will do my best to help maintain the historical records of this area and will be available to share the important information with our younger generations so that our history is never lost.

Sincerely,
Robert D. Young



TIDBITS

"If postmasters should enforce the law, all girls under 18 and boys under 21 years of age could not get a letter from the post office without an order from the parents or guardians."

"The lumbermen are all anxiously looking for snow. The most have all their cutting and

skidding done, and are ready to commence hauling as soon as we get snow and frost."

"Grayling House, Phelps and Davis, Proprietors, Grayling, Mich. "The Grayling House is conveniently situated, being near the Depot and business house, is newly built,

furnished in first-class style, and heated by steam throughout. Every attention will be paid to the comfort of guests. Fine sample rooms for commercial travelers."

Crawford Avalanche
December 26, 1889

NEW WEB PAGE

The Crawford County Historical Museum now has a new web page on its site called "Museum Tour".

By viewing a sample of various artifacts and areas of the Depot, the public will be encouraged to visit the Museum and see it first-hand. The Tour page also makes it possible for those physically unable to enter the Depot or go upstairs to see it.

The page offers fifteen videos

of the interior of the Depot including the rooms upstairs.

Clicking on the arrow in the corner of a video will take you to an enlarged picture. There, you can read the text and start the video to take a tour of the room or area.

The page also includes thirty-five photographs of the Depot (with text), the first showing the Lake State Railroad diesel en-

gine pulling the train into the station. The enlarged photos are useful since they reveal clear and up-close detail of items.

We will add videos of the buildings in the courtyard this summer as time permits. Our thanks to Ken Wright for creating the page and his work with the cameras.

Our website address is:

grayling-area.com/museum.



HATS OFF TO . . . PAULINE DAWSON

Pauline continues, "Through the years, people returned because, as time went on, ice cream sodas were kind of a rarity. Children came in with their parents and the mother would order a 'soda'. To the children, a soda was a can of pop. The parents were back to those good sodas and milkshakes. We were famous for our milkshakes."

Besides the soda fountain, Dawsons served sandwiches and hamburgers. They were also famous for their egg salad sandwiches. There was a nut machine and sesame sticks next to the cash register. They were great sellers.

The store held a large magazine rack, cigar and cigarette cases and sundries. Dawsons also sold seasonal items and a small line of toys for children as well as small appliances. They revamped stock to make room for Christmas merchandise.

Dawsons carried the first Hallmark greeting cards in Grayling. There was a large selection along one wall of the store. It was quite a job keeping the cards stocked because they were so popular. The present Hallmark store has the Dawsons' card sign.

There was a stamp machine which sat on the front counter.

Many stamps were sold in the evenings when the post office was closed.

Pauline had just finished taking a complete inventory of the store (which was quite a job) on January 25, 1957. About 2:00 a.m., the original wood structure burned to the ground because of a shortage in the neon sign. A new building was constructed and the enterprise continued. Devere and Pauline bought the business from her in-laws in the 1960s.

To be continued. . .

*Pauline, those
milkshakes are still
delicious!*

NEW ACQUISITION

The New Year has brought new people and new things to the Museum. Luke and Pauline Petrosky from Comfort Center in Grayling have kindly donated a

hardback copy of "The Tradition Endures", the new book about the Au Sable River Canoe Marathon. This book covers the years where the first one left off, from

1998 to 2007, completing the 60 years of the race.

The book is well-documented with plenty of photos. Very enjoyable reading.



HISTORY'S NUGGETS

In 1905, Claude Hatcher founded Union Bottling Works in Columbus, Georgia. Five years later, the first line of fruit-flavored beverages was named Royal Crown. In 1912, the company began to sell syrups and flavor concentrates to franchised bottlers. Only the best quality of concentrates were used and all formulas had to be observed.

In 1924, Hatcher overheard a salesman describing a competitor's bottle as knee-high. The words captured Hatcher's imagination and, in 1925, NeHi became the brand name.

In July 1932, a NeHi Bottling

Works franchise began operations on M-72 west at the former site of the M. & N.E. depot, just outside the Grayling city limits.

A.M. Henderson was the manager who, with his men, had spent several months prior to July preparing the building for the new business. The brick building made an ideal site for the establishment of the plant.

A well supplied the highest quality of pure, soft, sparkling water needed for the beverages. The water withstood the severest tests for purity and healthful properties.

Mr. Henderson said, "We are

NEHI BOTTLING WORKS

anticipating a good patronage at the Grayling plant." Soon, the trucks were shipping the product to the populace of Northern Michigan.

There were eight franchises in Michigan by 1932. NeHi came in many flavors. Among the most popular were orange, grape, rootbeer, chocolate, gingerbeer, cream soda and coca cola.

In 1958, the company changed its name to Royal Crown Cola; it commemorated its 100th anniversary in 2005. Today, NeHi is marketed under the name Royal Crown and RCQ Flavors.



NEW MEMBERS

The Board of Directors has two new members, Bob Young and Bob Dixon.

Bob Young is a former State of Michigan Representative and Senator. He became a Congressman in 1971 and later joined the Senate. He was also

a volunteer firefighter.

Bob and his wife, Shirley, have been married for 47 years. The couple has three children and eight grandchildren.

Bob Dixon was born in Lansing and has spent the last twenty years in Grayling. He is the

Building Official for Grayling Township. His wife, Tina, works as secretary for Joe Duran, the Building Official for Crawford County.

Bob was a licensed builder before his present position. He is an avid hunter and fisherman.

A warm welcome is extended to our newest members.

SPONSOR

Come Visit Us at The Ramada Inn of Grayling!

"The Great Northern Country of Michigan!" Home of the

Crawford Station Restaurant

&

The Speak Easy Saloon

Convenience and Comfort:

150 Guest Rooms

Poolside, non-poolside rooms

Executive Suite, Indoor Pool

Groomed trails in Grayling

Plenty of trailer parking

2650 S. I-75 Business Loop

Grayling, Michigan 49738

989-348-7611 or **800-2929055**



The Crawford County Historical Society would like to express its gratitude to Ramada Inn of Grayling for sponsoring this month's newsletter.

**Crawford County
Historical Society**

97 E. Michigan Avenue
P.O. Box 218
Grayling, MI 49738

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Help your museum continue to grow. We need your help today and any donation will be accepted. Memberships are good for one year. We look forward to adding new members.

DUES:

\$5.00 Senior Citizen
\$10.00 Single
\$25.00 Family
\$50.00 Supporting Member
\$100.00 Memorial Plaque (one or two names inscribed)

Please make checks payable to:

CC Historical Society
P.O. Box 218
Grayling, MI 49738

Our telephone number is:

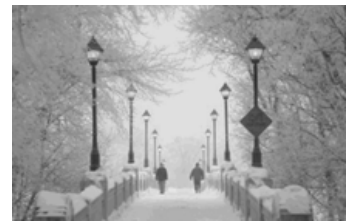
(989) 348-4461

Our website is:

grayling-area.com/museum

Our email address is:

cchm@voyager.net



Please consider helping us defray the cost of the newsletter by receiving it via email. Simply drop me a line at the address to the left. Thank you.

We welcome your questions, comments, and ideas.

MUSEUM HOME PAGE