



We
welcome
Wonder...

The Muser

May 2011

Volume 11 / Issue 3

lakeshoremuseum.org

The firemen's sleeping quarters included six single beds, a stove, a table and chairs and a bathtub for cleaning up after working a fire.

C.H. Hackley Hose Company Sleeping Quarters Completed

by Jacquelyn Huss, Associate Curator of Education



It has been a long process, but the men of C.H. Hackley Hose Co. No. 2 finally have six beds to sleep in! Through many months of research I found that by the mid-1880s, each hose company employed 12 men, six men to a shift. Some of the men were full-pay and lived at the fire barn most of the time, while part-pay men worked at other jobs and slept at the fire barn only a couple nights per week. If you have visited the Fire Barn Museum prior to this year, you may have noticed a few things missing in the sleeping quarters on the second floor, but now the firemen have a complete replica of the sleeping quarters according to the 1886 and 1888 Muskegon Fire Department inventories.

In addition to the beds, which were donated by the City of Muskegon and came from the old Central Station, we now have the bathtub and boiler hooked up, period wallpaper

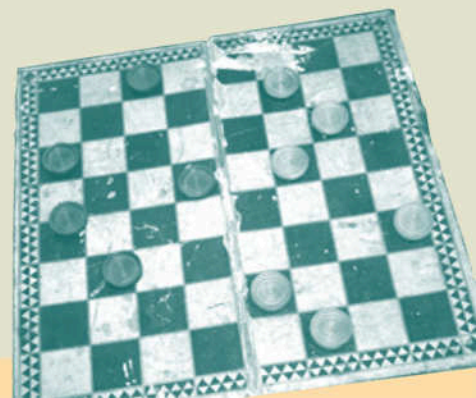
and window hangings in place, replica gas lights hung and many more period artifacts on display. Using the 1886 and 1888 inventories, as well as the 1887 *Manual of the Fire Department of the City of Muskegon*, I created a Historic Furnishing Plan, which the Exhibits and Collections Departments helped me bring to life.

When visiting the Fire Barn this year you will be transported back in time to the 1880s and will learn what it was like to live in a fire barn. Not only will you see the recreated sleeping quarters, but you will have many other unique experiences. You can listen to a recording of what life might have been like for a fireman coming back from a fire in 1880s Muskegon. You can view a replica 1880s fireman's uniform and then flip through a copy of the 1887 *Manual of the Fire Department of the City of Muskegon*. There will even be a looping slideshow of historic Muskegon firefighting photos not previously on display.

The completion of the firemen's living quarters marks the end of the two phase restoration of the Fire Barn. Last season, the first floor was given a complete facelift from the front doors to the exhibits. The Fire Barn, was built in 1976 as a replica of the C.H. Hackley Hose Co. No. 2, which opened on December 9, 1875.

I hope you will take the time this summer to visit one of the historic treasures Muskegon has to offer. Admission is free and the Fire Barn Museum is open now through October, Wednesday–Sunday, Noon to 4pm.

The firemen found ways to amuse themselves when they weren't called out to fight fires and checkers was likely a common pastime.



Lakeshore Museum Center

430 W. Clay Ave.
Muskegon, MI 49440
PH 231.722.0278
FX 231.728.4119
lakeshoremuseum.org

Hackley & Hume

Historic Site
484 W. Webster Ave.

Fire Barn Museum

510 W. Clay Ave.

Scolnik House

of the Depression Era
504 W. Clay Ave.

Mercantile

430 W. Clay Ave.

The Mission of the Lakeshore Museum Center is to preserve and interpret through exhibits, education and programs, the natural and cultural history of Muskegon County.



Dice Collection of Jean Oudsema

by Krista Menacher, Associate Curator of Exhibits

Jean Oudsema started collecting dice when she was 13 years old and they've been rolling in ever since. Through early July, you can see part of her collection on display in our Collector's Corner—a shadow box filled with casino dice from Las Vegas and beyond and another case that features game dice in a range of sizes, colors and styles.

Just a sampling of her collection of fuzzy dice hang in the exhibit in every color of the rainbow. Other dice-themed items, including: a lamp, glasses, clocks, office supplies and giant decorative dice round out the display.

In an essay about collecting, Bruce J. Oreck, the US Ambassador to Finland, wrote: "Collecting tells us something about how we see the world, what we find beautiful or wondrous, precious or humorous, what we find shocking and what we feel is sublime. There are probably as many reasons why people collect as there are ranges of emotion. As a consequence, the opportunity to see what others have collected has a special resonance—it is a window into our souls, our common human experience."

Do you have a collection you would like to share in Collector's Corner? Muskegon County residents can contact the museum at (231) 722-0278 and let us know about your collection



Michael Deren

Interactive Storyteller to F

by Jacquelyn Huss, Associate Curator of E

The Lakeshore Museum Center will on Saturday, June 4 at 1 pm on the conjunction with our newest exhibit

Deren will be performing as an 18 is an interactive combination of stor sails the Great Lakes delivering passe program and learn about the beaver,

The cost of the program is \$5 for to tour the Hackley and Hume Hist be purchased in advance at our store weekdays from 9:30 am–4:30 pm ar Historic Site's Store is open Wednes

This program is funded in part by the MICHIGAN HUMANITIES COUNCIL



Fun at the Trent Grange

by Beryl Gabel, Archivist

As an archivist, I am always trying to learn as much about Muskegon County as possible. Just when I finally thought I knew where all of the cities, townships, and villages were located, I received a donation of materials from the Trent Grange. I searched a map of Muskegon County trying to figure out exactly where the village of Trent was located. Once I finally found Trent, I was left with two questions: what is the history of the Trent Grange and what exactly did people do there?

In 1874, several citizens from the small village of Trent met to organize what became the Trent Grange No. 372, Patrons of Husbandry. Five years later, the Trent Grange Hall was built on White Road near Slocum and Bailey, in Casnovia Township. Membership was limited to farmers and wives of farmers who were "not engaged in any pursuit in opposition to the farmer."

In the late 1800s, the Trent Grange opened a store for members, selling staple groceries, kerosene, farm seeds

looking back...



on 75 years of celebrating Muskegon County
Relive history at our newest exhibit
"Serving You For 75 Years."

Welcome Home

This winter seemed a lot longer than most, so I am ready for the new season to begin. Judging from the calls I've received from volunteers, you are all ready to get started too!

What is it about the Hackley and Hume houses? I know I find them peaceful. I love to walk through them and imagine all of the lives that have been part of these homes. And I find it reassuring that no matter what has happened, what changes have gone on around them, these two beautiful homes have remained—quiet and serene. I know many of the volunteers have similar feelings about the houses. There is something about them that continues to draw us back every season. And even though we were all ready for a break last December, by mid-April, we are all anxious to take our first stroll through the houses. Many volunteers come by and ask if I mind if they just walk through on their own before they have to share with visitors. I, of course, say sure, as I know exactly how they feel. It is like coming home again.

And wait until you see Helen's new wallpaper. The 1920s Art Deco design is a rich tan with green and gold accents and complements the hallway wallpaper beautifully. The green 1990 carpet is gone and the wooden floor with the wallpaper makes everything else in the room just pop. Volunteers who have been by recently have commented that the room seems so warm and just invites you to come in.

Dani and Sharon from the Collections Department did a wonderful job hanging the paper. I played my role as critic and the one who picks up and hands back the various implements falling from the top of the ladders. It was a lot of hard work, but it was worth it.

As much as I love the wallpaper, my favorite "improvement" is the floor which Dani cleaned and oiled. It has worn spots and looks like a lifetime of feet have walked across it. How many more will wander through the rooms and across these floor boards? If the museum and the volunteers have any say, there will be many more lifetimes ahead where we can say "Welcome Home!"



Photo courtesy of
Robert Underhill, MRSA

The exhibit will be on display through the 2011 season. Guides, please remember to tell people on your tours that if they didn't have an opportunity to view the exhibit before their tour, they should take time afterwards to learn about the *Thomas Hume*.

Hume Shipwreck

Talk about coming home again! The City Barn is hosting a new exhibit this season, *Unsolved Mysteries: The Shipwreck Thomas Hume*. It has been 120 years since the lumber schooner disappeared without a trace en route from Chicago to Muskegon.

The Lakeshore Museum Center partnered with Michigan Shipwreck Research Associates to produce this exhibit about the wreck of the *Thomas Hume*. MSRA historians and Museum curators have conducted extensive research on the history of the schooner and shipping in the late 1800s.

Visitors will learn about some of the treasures found by divers and have an opportunity to view excerpts of a documentary film produced about the project which received funding from the Michigan Humanities Council.

Looking Ahead

It looks as though 2011 will be busy at the Sites in spite of the sluggish economy and high gas prices. We had six school tours in April and 26 school tours in May, along with several small group tours scheduled to visit. We will be opening our doors for members attending the Community Concert Band Conference in Muskegon in May, as well as being available in June for the Questers' District Luncheon and the Hot Rod Power Tour.

We will have our usual extended hours at all of the Sites during the Art in the Park weekend in July and we have a couple of tentative bus tours scheduled in June and August. Who says there is nothing going on in Muskegon?



We've Got Meeting Space

Looking for a place to hold a meeting during normal business hours? Or a family event on a weekend? We are happy to make our auditorium at our main site available to local service groups, businesses and families as our schedule allows.

The auditorium can be set up with tables and chairs or with auditorium style seating to meet your needs. The room can accommodate approximately 50 seated at tables or 80 auditorium style. It is located on the main floor of the Museum and the doors can be closed for privacy. Before or after your meeting, participants are invited to tour the Museum and visit the Muskegon Mercantile. The room is available from 8 am until 4:30 pm.

On weekends, the auditorium may be used for birthday parties or family gatherings between noon and 4 pm. A wedding was recently held in the room. We ask that children attending events in the auditorium be accompanied by adults while touring the museum.

To inquire about using the auditorium, please call us at 722-0278.

New Staff Guide

Amanda Grycki joins us as our newest Staff Guide this season. Amanda will be working on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. She has a lot of shoes to fill as she is replacing Phyllis Spengler, Andrea Meyers and Barbara Brow. Andrea will be our substitute guide and both Phyllis and Barbara have decided to go back to working for us as volunteers.

Amanda started working during the holidays as a student for school credit about four years ago, and has continued to volunteer when school permitted. Even if her name is not familiar to you, her face will be.

Donna Murphy, who is definitely a familiar face to us all, is back as a Staff Guide on weekends.

Patty Fritsche, Harold McDermed, Leslie Day, Connie Poulin and Patrick Horn will all be returning as Staff Guides.

With such a crack team of staff, plus the fantastic volunteers, this year is bound to be one of the best ever.



Test Your Knowledge:

What programs are playing on the radio in the upstairs living room of the Scolnik House of the Depression Era?

Answers can be found in the volunteer manual

Answer to last Test Your Knowledge:

Why on earth are there seashells in Julia Hackley's room?

While we do not know if Julia Hackley had a seashell collection, we do have an old newspaper article that mentions Julia Hackley and Kitty Lee were on vacation in Florida with their daughters Erie and Kate. Now who hasn't collected seashells when on vacation in Florida? Isn't it a requirement when visiting Florida? Especially with children! Since we have a large seashell collection donated many years ago, it just seemed like a natural place to exhibit a few of the shells.

A promotional graphic for the Muskegon Museum of Art's 83rd Regional Exhibition. The text is arranged in a dynamic, overlapping layout. At the top, it says 'MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF ART'. Below that, 'REGIONAL Exhibition' is written in large, bold, block letters. The number '83rd' is the largest element, written in a stylized, light-colored font. To the right, it lists sponsors: 'DTE Energy Foundation presenting sponsor' and 'shape co-sponsor'. Below these are 'Media Sponsors blue lake PUBLIC RADIO' and 'Muskegon Chronicle'. At the bottom left, it says 'Opening Reception THURSDAY, MAY 26, 5:30-8PM awards at 7PM'. At the bottom right, it provides the website 'muskegonartmuseum.org' and phone number 'tel. 231.720.2570'. The background features a stylized sunburst or fan-like graphic.

Perform at the Hackley and Hume Historic Site

Education

Will be welcoming back *The Past in Person* storyteller, Michael Deren, to the Hackley and Hume Historic Site lawn. This program will be in the form of a play titled: *Unsolved Mysteries: The Shipwreck of the Thomas Hume*. The play tells the story of the 1875 Great Lakes Schooner Captain, Bill Thomas. His performance includes storytelling and songs. The audience will be asked to come along as he tells the story of the passengers and cargo from Buffalo to Chicago. Join us for this exciting performance that tells the story of the lumber, iron, copper and fishing industries of Michigan's past. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under, and includes admission to the Hackley and Hume Historic Site during the month of June. Tickets are limited and can be purchased at the Mercantile, in the Lakeshore Museum Center, is open Monday through Friday from 12:00–4:00 pm. The Hackley and Hume Historic Site is open Monday through Sunday from 12:00–4:00 pm.

MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS and the MICHIGAN



Registration Enviroworks May 27

by Jacquelyn Huss, Associate Curator of Education

The sessions for this year's day camp will run July 18–22 and July 25–29 from 9:15–11:45 am. Registration is open to children ages 6–11 who are Muskegon County residents. This year's topics will include the Shipwreck of the *Thomas Hume*, ArtiFACTS and many more science and history activities. Call 231-722-0278 on Friday, May 27 beginning at 8 am to register your child(ren).

Enviroworks Volunteers Needed!

Do you know someone aged 16–22 who is in need of volunteer hours, is interested in working in the education field or is just curious about the museum? We have an opportunity for them! The Lakeshore Museum Center needs responsible young adults to act as counselors for our Enviroworks Day Camp. Volunteers can participate for one or both weeks of the camp, which runs July 18–22 and July 25–29. Counselors must be available from 8:45 am–12:15 pm each day of their chosen week(s) and must also attend a mandatory volunteer training session on July 6 from 9–11 am. If interested, please call Jackie Huss, Associate Curator of Education, at 231-722-0278 to register.



Memorial Day at the Grange

and other essentials. Members, as well as anyone from the community, could enjoy dances and oyster suppers and hold local meetings and school events. Discussions were held at the Grange on topics such as, "Future of Michigan Agriculture," "The Sugar Beet Industry," and "Is There More Profit in Raising Sheep Than Hogs?" The Trent Grange was where the fun was!

In 1961, the Trent Grange celebrated its 87th Anniversary. As members gathered together, they shared warm memories of dances sponsored by the Grange to benefit the March of Dimes, the dinners served for Muskegon Milk Producers Association and Muskegon Soil Conservation District and the fun get-togethers held over the years.

Although the Trent Grange is now silent and all but forgotten in an ever-changing world, the memories are safely kept in the Archive.



Trent Grange Kitchen, 1961



Lakeshore Museum Center

430 W. Clay Ave.
Muskegon, MI 49440

PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MUSKEGON, MI
PERMIT NO. 758

Board of Trustees

Eric Gielow, *President*
Gene Fethke, *Vice-President*
Sherry White, *Secretary*
Tom Maloy, *Treasurer*

Norm Campbell
Sabina Freeman
Rob Johnson
Tom Johnson
Tom Kingshott
Bill Loxterman
Carolyn Marcus
Mark Meyers
Merilee Otto
Velma Phillips
Doug Pollock

Kristina Precious
Paul Prinzing
Greg Scott
Annoesjka Steinman
Heidi Sytsema
Bill Utricht
Lori Versalle
Jerry Wiersma, Jr.
Marti Youngdahl
Bob Scolnik, *County
Commission Liaison*

Lakeshore Museum Center and Mercantile Hours

Weekdays 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Weekends Noon – 4 p.m.

Hackley & Hume Historic Site,
Fire Barn Museum and
Scolnik House
of the Depression Era
Now open through October
Wednesday—Sunday
Noon to 4:00 p.m.

The *Muser* is published six times a year by the Lakeshore Museum Center, formerly the Muskegon County Museum. The Museum is located at 430 W. Clay Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49440. Phone 231-722-0278 or email at info@lakeshoremuseum.org.

Volunteers Recognized for Their Service

by Joni Dorsett, Communications Director

Like most nonprofit organizations, the Lakeshore Museum Center counts on its volunteers to help keep things running smoothly. Our volunteers guide tours, greet visitors, share our education programs with students, assist us with research and cataloging efforts, work on the Lumber Barons' Ball and serve on our Board of Trustees. The many hours they spend with us are appreciated and really have an impact.



Merilee Otto, *Dorothy Hammer Distinguished Service Award* recipient; Melissa Horton, Education Curator; and John McGarry, Executive Director.



Nancy Decker, *Margaret Hume Award for Outstanding Service* recipient.

In April, two of our volunteers were honored for their commitment to the Museum. Merilee Otto was presented with the Dorothy Hammer Distinguished Service Award. Merilee, a member of the Muskegon County Medical Society Alliance, has taught school children about the importance of a healthy lifestyle in the Body Works Gallery for over 20 years. Merilee also serves on our Board of Trustees.

Nancy Decker kept her eyes on the Hackley and Hume Historic Site when she worked in an office across the street. A friend of Nancy's convinced her to join us as a tour guide over 10 years ago and now she makes it a point to guide on the first day each season and at least once a week. The Margaret Hume Award for Outstanding Service was presented to Nancy.

Six individuals were also recognized with 35 year pins for their volunteer efforts on our behalf. We thank all of our volunteers. Not a volunteer, but want to learn more about becoming one? Call Dawn at 722-0278.