

Menominee County Historical Society



NEWSLETTER

Janet Callow

EDITOR

VOL. 1 No. 45

October, 2009

CALENDAR

Sunday Nov 8, 2009

Annual Membership Meeting
Pullman House

5:00 Social Hour—6:00 dinner
Election of Officers
Program

“The Great Fire of 1871”
Jim Borski

(See back page for reservations)

Thursday

Nov. 25, 2009



Sunday Dec. 6, 2009

West Shore Fishing Museum
Annual Dinner Meeting
Little Nuggett Golf Course
5pm Social Hour— Dinner 6pm
Dr. Marla Buckmaster
“Pre-historic Garden Beds
in Menominee County”

\$15:00

Reservations by Dec 1 to
Eileen 863-9716

Winter Quarterly Meeting
Watch media for details

31 May 2010—Monday Memorial Day

OPENING DAY

HERITAGE MUSEUM

10:00 a.m. 'til 4:00 p.m.

Daily excepting Sunday
Until Labor Day

2 June 2010—M.J. ANUTA RESEARCH CENTER

OPENING DAY

1 -5 pm. on Wednesdays

8am-noon on Saturdays

Until Labor Day

SANTA CAME TO THE HERTIAGE MUSEUM

July 27 to August 8, 2009



Richard & Virginia Bero with
Curator Barb Pesola

Richard Bero and his wife Virginia have been Menominee's Santa and Mrs. Santa for over 30 years.

They also have been collecting Santa's and other Christmas items for many years from many sources

This summer they donated their very large collection to the Menominee County Historical Society.

The collection includes many famous artists renditions of Santa from Lenox, Kincade, Pipka and many more to Coca-cola and Hallmark advertising Santas, to some that just caught the eye of our Christmas couple or were gifts.



A portion of the collection was displayed among our artifacts in the Heritage Museum. It was enthusiastically received. Being viewed by over 600 visitors. Many had stories to share about how their families had a “Santa” or a collection.

The largest piece in the Bero's collection was the full size Santa who was there to greet the visitors as the entered the Santa exhibit—the smallest had to be the last tree in the Russian Style Christmas Tree Barrel.



Santa (Bero)
& young
friend

Bero plied his Santa skills on anyone who would sit on his lap in “good ole Santa” fashion. He was explaining to this young visitor why he was in Menominee in the summer and promising to return on Christmas. It was fun for all.

Some of the collection is being moved to the Victorian Room at the rear of the Heritage Museum to be on Permanent display in 2010.



DONATIONS 2009 9/1/09

Supporter Carol Hoida
 Judith Malek
 Charles & Bernadette Burg
 Darwin Adams
 Mark & Kersten Anderson
 Steve Barstow
 John & Mary Clark
 Betty Degenaar
 Barbara Johnson
 Bob Landre
 Pat Mallgren
 James Meyer
 Mike Mottl
 Robert Chernetski
 Douglas & Mary Lueskow
 Bill & Julie Simmons
 Kip Sturdevan
 Barb & Lloyd Pesola
 Jean Stegeman & Family

Contributor

Larry Ebsch
 Marlene Monson
 Chris Olson
 Margo Stark
 Norma Armstrong
 Bart & Laurie Stupak
 Wells Fargo Bank
 Gwendolyn Bagley
 Bob & Karen Brisson

Harry Ellery
 Julie Derusha
 Lew & Vollie Good
 Statewide Realty of MI-WI, Inc.

Patron Richard Bayerl
 John Helfert
 Carol Herman
 Katherine Murwin
 Nell Reidinger
 Joe & Carla Wagner
 Jane Z. Prescott
 Valinda Vincent

Benefactor Janet Callow



A MOMENT OF PRAYER
 for those Members who
 have
 passed from our sight but
 remain in our memories.

Robert J. Adams
 May 12, 2009
 Mildred Grabowsky
 June 15, 2009
 Jeanette Kehoe
 June 26, 2009

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Ottar Olson
 Chris Olson
 Louis & Nita Derocher
 Lorraine Sharkey
 Jane Lowery
 Ruth Coleman
 Coleman Family

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Bob Brisson for Chappee
 Learning Center
 General Federation of
 Woman's Clubs of
 Menominee

WELCOME
 To our
NEWEST MEMBERS

Terri & Jerry Derusha,
 Menominee
 United Construction & Re-
 alty, Inc.
 Appleton
 Earl Jerzyk Sr
 Wallace

HERITAGE DONATIONS

United Construction & Realty, Inc

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to Glenn Tribbey

Although now living in a nursing home ,
 he has continued to collect and organize
 the newspaper obituaries for the Anuta
 Research Center files.

**CHANGING YOUR
 ADDRESS ?**

Please inform us by
 e-mail
 jcallow1@new.rr.com
 or by snail mail to
 Menominee County
 Historical Society
 P.O. Box 151
 Menominee MI 49858

Financial Secretary Note

A "Thank You" to all the members
 who have renewed their membership
 this year.

To those members who have not as
 yet sent in their membership dues we
 hope you will do so soon.

All members are needed to
 support the Historical society.
 It is more important than ever!

Any questions call Mary at 863-1191

MENOMINEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2009 OFFICERS

President	Pat Kraha
1st Vice-President	Arnold Organ
Secretary	Katherine Murwin
Financial Secretary	Mary Lueskow
Treasurer	Marlene Monson

PAST-PRESIDENTS

Marie Swanson
 Dr. Dorothy Granskog
 Katie Jones
 Germaine Vincent
 Pat Mallgren

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janet Callow	Beverly Johnson
Norma Armstrong	Bruce Johnson
Randy Smith	John Helfert
Clayton Parcels	Mike Kaufman
Lou Ann Borski	James Borski
Barbara Kell	Barbara Pesola
Eileen Behrend	Amber Allard
Rose Barker	Bonnie Paulsen

MEETINGS

The Board of Directors is composed of those named above, plus all Officers and Past Presidents as listed above.. The Board of Directors meet on the 1st Monday of each month at 12 noon, in the Board Room of the Wells Fargo Bank, 962 1st St., Menominee . All Meetings are OPEN Meetings.

The 2009 Summer Season Comes to a Close

This season at the Heritage Museum has been a very interesting one. Guests came to visit from at least 30 States of the U.S., Canada, Mexico, England, Australia and Japan.



Barb Pesola, Curator

I extend my warmest thank you to all the guides who served this year and my special thanks go to Norma Armstrong, Bonnie Paulsen, Cliff Dorseth, Diane Larsen, Marlene Monson, Nancy Polasky, Pat Krah, Jim & Lou Ann Borski and their Grandson Nathan. These special helpers made the 2009 Museum fundraiser "Believe" a complete success. They helped to organize, decorate, carry boxes, clean, dust, and gave even more of their volunteer time to greet museum guests.

Once again, I say Thank you to all for the extra effort you put forth!



The fundraiser "Believe" even had special guests. For one Saturday and Sunday during the month of August, Richard and Virginia Bebo appeared in full Santa Claus costume splendor to greet children and their parents at the Museum.

Santa told us how his reindeer are able to ride on the winds of the world so he may visit all children in only one night.

Santa believes that the spirit of Christmas applies to anyone willing to believe in the feelings of love and joy.

Santa will be back to visit during "Christmas in July" 2010 at the Heritage Museum.

Mark your calendars.

You will see more of our spectacular Santa collection.

Speaking of Christmas, the Museum Gift Shop needs your donated (small) Holiday decorations. The gift shop experienced a wonderful season and is already preparing for next year's Christmas in July. The shop also needs old (Year) Class Books from Menominee, Stephenson, Marinette, and Peshtigo. Plus, old City Directories, Newspapers through the 1950's, old post-cards and copies of "The Honor Roll", 1917- 1919. It is your kind generosity that keeps us in business.

Remember also to join the Historical Society , if you are not currently a member. You can reach us on our web site www.menomineehistoricalsociety.org - if you have questions or call-906-863-9000.

The Museum closes for the year at 4pm on Labor Day.

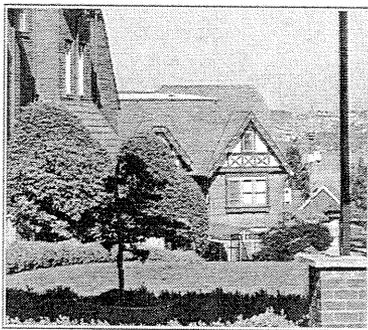
I am looking forward to seeing you again next year!

Sincerely

Barb Pesola

Curator

FROM THE M.J. ANUTA RESEARCH CENTER



Franke Tobey Jones

This past spring, I received a request for information on Franke Tobey Jones from a writer in Tacoma, Washington. She was researching the founder of the home for the elderly pictured in the photo. On July 3, 1923 Mrs. Jones, wife of Charles H. Jones donated a building site with a view of the Commencement Bay and Mt.



Amber Allard

Rainier and \$150,000 for the erection of a permanent home for the elderly in Tacoma, Washington. At that

time, there were only two such homes in the state of Washington. Established as a non-profit retirement community and public charity, it is a thriving community today.

You can find more information and photos at www.franketobeyjones.com.

Charles H. Jones came to Menominee in about 1868 to manage a lumber manufacturing firm. He later established the Ramsay & Jones Company and was a very prominent figure in the lumbering business in Menominee. He married Franke Tobey on June 26, 1872 and the two made their home in Menominee until 1889 when they moved to the Tacoma area where he had been a partner in establishing the St. Paul & Tacoma Lumber Company. Despite their move to Tacoma, they spent time in the Menominee area after the move and continued to correspond with friends they had made here. Many of Mrs. Jones' letters were published in the Menominee newspapers, especially those describing her travel adventures. She described trips to Boston, the Chicago World's Fair, Washington, DC, San Francisco and Cairo, Egypt. On one of their trips from Tacoma to Menominee, in June of 1890 she describes the experience their train being stopped by highwaymen in North Dakota. In 1899 she returned to Menominee to speak to the Menominee Study Club about her trip to the Orient. Also in 1899, the Menominee newspaper published a wonderful description of her participation in the Naval Procession on the Hudson River led by Admiral Dewey in the ship Olympia.

THANK YOU TO OUR GREETERS!

The Menominee County Historical Society thanks our regular and substitute volunteer greeters/guides who made it possible to keep our Heritage Museum open.

It was an exciting season with many changes and additions and especially our fantastic Christmas exhibit.

We have many greeters who were reliable regulars and we wish to thank each one:

Ruth Henschel, Peggy Madden, Kylie Toepel, Bonnie Hendricksen, Judie Malek, Carol Beyer, Nita Derocher, Tim Callow, Pat Krahn, Marvin Mayer, Bonnie Paulsen, Julie Svoboda, Sara Purvayn, Bob Brisson, Cliff Dotseth, Diane Larsen, Bill LeMay, Norma Rotter, Rose Barker, Lou Ann & Jim Borski, Clayton Parcels, Mary Lueskow, Carol Ewald, Pat Braun, Connie Lemire, Rachael Moreno, Nathan & Melissa Hahn.

Many thanks to the substitutes who helped when someone became ill, injured, had visitors or had a change of plans: Esther Ries, Mary DePas, Mike Mottl, Ken Olsen, Pat Mallgren, Bob Brisson, Jane Stripling, Marlene Monson, Nancy Polasky, Julie Havelka, Bonnie Paulsen, Rachael Moreno, Bob Chemetski, Pat Fifarek, Ruth Metivier, Judy Reid, Mary Clark, Nancy Bourgeois, Jennifer Nowack, Laretta Mayer, Jean Chaltry, Kris Axtell, Lea Ann Kolb & Diane Larsen and Doris Zimmermann.

Several others greeted for many years and were unable to help this year, but we want to thank them and wish them all the best: Grace Houle, Virginia Salesky, Dorothy Brock, Cathy Paris and Mary Maske.

Please invite your neighbors and friends to join us next year as greeters

See you next May 2010!

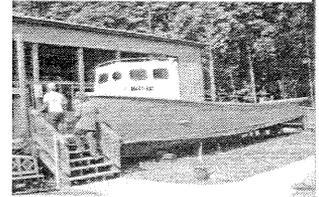
THANK YOU FOR A GREAT SEASON!

Norma Armstrong

Guide Manager 863-3251

West Shore Fishing Museum

This summer's work at the West Shore Fishing Museum focused on improvements to the commercial fishing boats on display. The upper wooden structure and pilot house of the *Kate A*, a traditional Great Lakes gill net boat originally owned by Robert Angwall, is being rebuilt.



The interior mechanisms are restored and visible. A new pavilion now shelters three smaller boats used on the bay. Displays of the equipment used for each type of boat and each particular commercial fishing net are being developed

The exhibits reflect the history of the rich commercial fishing culture along the entire Green Bay and Lake Michigan shorelines, both in the Upper Peninsula and in Wisconsin.

The BPPA invites members and friends of the MCHS to their Annual Dinner Meeting on Sunday Dec. 6, 2009 at the Little Nugget, east of Hy.41 on County Road 338. The speaker will be Dr. Marla Buckmaster a retired professor of Anthropology and Archaeology who taught at Northern Michigan University and Marquette. Her topic will be « Prehistoric Garden Beds in Menominee County ». In the 1990's she and her students mapped several acres on state land along the Menominee River in Lake Township containing Native American garden beds and burial mounds. Reservations are to be sent to Eileen Behrend by Dec.1st. Cost \$15.00

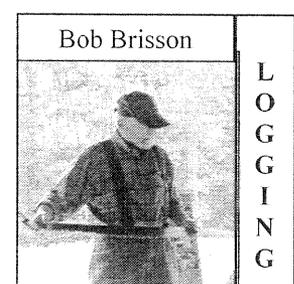
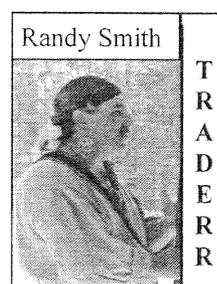
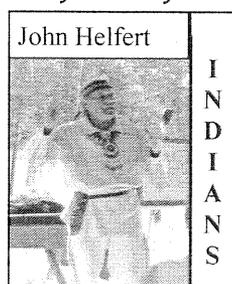
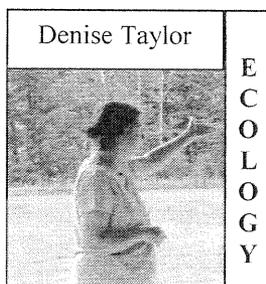


Third Quarterly Meeting

Sept. 13, a beautiful Autumn day, welcomed over 50 people to the Chappee-Weber Learning Center for a box lunch and program in the newly built pavilion with the new tables. It was the first time that the Menominee County Historical Society had

held a quarterly meeting at the facility on the River Road. The property, which was the site of Cappee's Trading Post, was deeded to the Society by Peter Weber and is maintained by the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society. Mr. Weber's daughter was in attendance.

The purpose of the Center is to preserve it as a natural area where lessons can be given about our Heritage- the native ecology, the Indians, the fur traders and the loggers. Our presenters were those experts who teach the public and private school children of Menominee County each year.

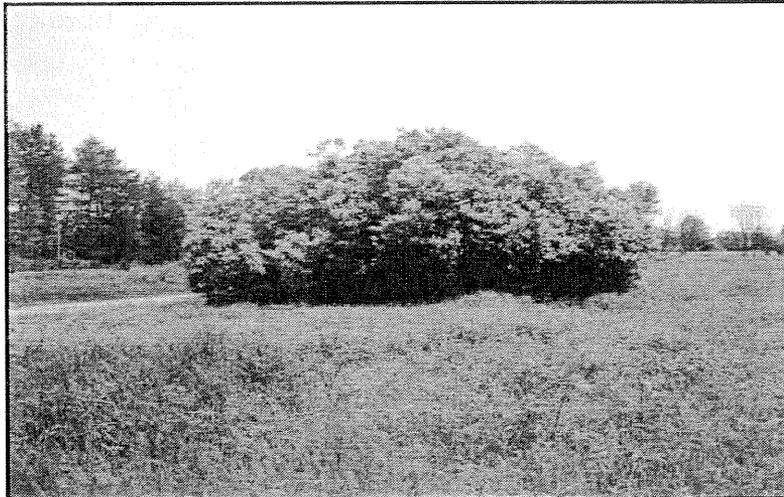


The 2010 Annual Upper Peninsula History Conference will be held June 25-27, 2010 here in Menominee.

The 61th Annual U P Conference of the Michigan Historical Society will feature workshops and tours, an outdoor BBQ with entertainment, the annual Upper Peninsula History Awards Banquet and much more. If you are interested in being on the planning committee or participating in any way call Pat 863-5411

**THE
BIRCH CREEK
LILACS**

**The
Mystery
Memorial**



When I was in Menominee , I stopped by the spot on Old 41 where it is said 14 fire victims were buried and 14 lilacs were planted as a memorial. It is interesting that we grew up on a farm just a couple miles away from the site and none of my brothers or sisters know anything about it. I would imagine that our Grandparents and parents would have known about it back around 1900, but I don't recall ever hearing about it from them. My Grandfather, Joseph Bayerl, and his parents and two brothers came to the area around 1882. The photo shows a large lilac planting which I believe is the site of the graves. More pictures and information at www.firebooks.htm Dick Bayerl

Have you every driven up Bay de Noc Rd. to where it crosses US41, close to the Pullman Inn -Whistle Stop? Have you wondered about the Lilac Bushes that are along the Road? We always said, when we saw a lilac in the middle of a field "there must have been a house there at one time". And indeed there were houses and farms where the lilacs are—that were all destroyed in the Great Fire of 1871, that we refer to as the Peshtigo Fire. And the lilacs were planted by friends and neighbors after several farms and their occupants were burned in that fire.

The gruesome story is told in this file from the Anuta Research Center.

On Oct. 9, burial crews started up the Bay de Noc Road in a downpour. Rain had finally come stopping the fire just south of Cedar River. The peat bogs in this area burned throughout the winter, however. The men found, in many places, that the top soil and trees had been swept away, leaving huge stones, previously unseen.

Arriving at the James Hill farm, they heard cries for help coming from the family well. Here they found the bodies of Mr. Hill, his two son's and daughter. At the bottom was Mrs. Hill, fearfully burned but alive. After burying the victims along the road ,the crew then set out for the Biglow farm. At this place the whole family had perished. A mass grave was dug and Mr. and Mrs. Biglow, their four boys and one girl were buried. Two other bodies were discovered here, and later it was determined that two traveling salesmen had stopped to take refuge. Moving on to the next farm, the crew found another ghastly sight. Here they found the remains of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bockling and five children. Having finished their work here, the men followed the road to the Eames place. Mrs. Eames. her baby girl and little boy were buried together with the two Blauvett children along the road. Altogether, Birch Creek lost 22 people. Mr. Karl Koeniger, a lone farmer, was never found.

Today, one can drive along the Bay de Noc Road and pick out the graves of the victims. They are marked with living memorials, the lilacs.

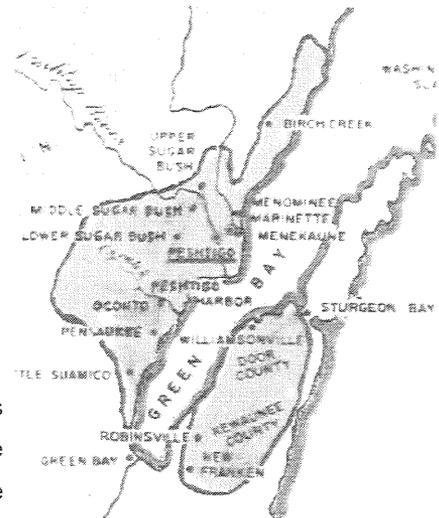
THE GREAT FIRE OF 1871

The same day as the famous Chicago Fire, this larger fire flared in the northern woods reaching as far as Birch Creek MI and destroying the town of Peshtigo. The map shows the extent of the fire. Lower Michigan also suffered from the fire holocaust.

On Nov.8th Jim Borski will present a program about the fires (see details on the last page) We invite you to come and learn more about this catastrophic happening in our area.

I list some interesting tidbits about the fire.

- The summer of 1871 was hot and dry. There were frequent forest fires in various parts of the northern states and for weeks before the big fire of October 7th. The smoke had hung so heavy that the sun looked like a ball of red fire most of the time. Just when and where the fires started no one can say, but the woods and swamps between Oconto and Peshtigo had burned at intervals, controlled only by occasional rains. These fires were supposed to have caught from the camp fires of the laborers who were building the Chicago and Northwestern railroad track through to Escanaba that year. The culmination began the evening of October 7th.. from A PERSONAL REMINISCENCE OF THE BIG FIRE OF 1871
By Josephine Stillmanette Ingalls Sawyer
- While Peshtigo burned and hundreds were dying, the terrible tornado of fire continued on its way north, but before it struck the city of Marinette, it split into two separate fire storms. Some said it was caused by a line of sand hills that encircled the city on the west and the south-west. But for whatever reason, the village part of Marinette escaped with very little damage. One portion of the fire skirted around the north end of the city, leaped the Menominee River and burned on some sixteen miles into Michigan, sweeping over everything. The other part went around the south side of Marinette and enveloped Menekaune and the mouth of the Menominee River.
- The fire, still being pushed on by the tornado winds, burned out what is now north Menominee. Judge E.S. Ingalls had a farm in this area which is now the property of A.Walander. At this place the barns, fences and woods were destroyed and by some change of the wind, the house escaped the fury. From here, the fire burned to the bay shore, consuming what is now Henes Park. "Centennial History " E.S. Ingalls
- Settlements were scarce on the Upper Michigan peninsula north of Menominee, but the easterly wing of the fire managed to find one at Birch Creek, which consisted of 20 homestead farms and perhaps 100 residents, mostly recent immigrants from Germany. It was around midnigt when the families there awoke to find the forest blaze around them. 22 persons out of the population of 100 died. Twenty of the dead were residents of the settlement. Two were traveling salesmen who had the bad luck to choose this remote spot to spend the night.
- One of the big lake steamers had come in about midnight .Among other things it brought the furniture for Mr. E.L. Parmenter's beautiful new house on State Street . About two a.m. I was standing on guard at our gate, it was so light from the glare in the sky that I could read a newspaper easily. I saw Charley Fairchild coming up the street with a load of furniture and called out, "Why take it to the house? The hills are all on fire back of Kirby Creek . He answered, "Well, they'll get the insurance if it's in the house, but not if it is on the boat." He told me the boat was being held at the dock for women and children if needed; Had worst come to worst, the boat would have burned at her moorings, for the water in the bay lowered two feet or more under the fierce wind, and heat, and the boat was fast aground when they tried to move next day. J.S. Ingalls
- The great Chicago fire, caused about 250 deaths, and the two-armed holocaust that burned its way up the two sides of Green Bay and took five times as many lives.



Menominee County Historical Society

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday , Nov. 8, 2009

Pullman House

Social Hour at 5:00 PM — Buffet Dinner at 6:00 PM

Program

“The Fire of 1871 and Lilac Memorials”

Jim Borski

\$15.00 per person

Make Reservation by with

Germaine Vincent Norma Armstrong

863-3890

863-3251

Non-canceled Reservations must be paid

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND



9 49858 0002582584 0003

Menominee County Historical Society Inc.

P.O. Box 151

Menominee Michigan 49858 –0151

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