



Newsletter

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Cultural Corridor! New Book!

Two events will take place simultaneously in early July when the “Charlevoix Cultural Corridor” makes its formal debut. The three organizations that make up the “Corridor”—Charlevoix Circle of Arts (109 Clinton Street), the Charlevoix Historical Society’s Museum (103 State Street), and the Charlevoix Public Library (220 Clinton Street)—will all hold launch parties and open houses on

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5
FROM 5 TO 8:00 P.M.

culminating in Jazz at the Library from 7 to 8 o’clock. Refreshments will be served at all three venues.

The “Corridor” is the brainchild of Circle of Arts director Gail DeMeyere who realized the potential of guiding visitors from Bridge Street to the three most important cultural destinations in Charlevoix, increasing exposure not only regarding what the town has to offer artistically but making people aware of our history also. The Pine River Jazz Band will perform at the Circle from 5 to 6, and an ice cream float social will take place at the Library from 6 to 7.

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE SOON!

The Society has chosen this time to formally introduce the Charlevoix Historical Society Press’ latest publication, *Charlevoix the Beautiful: The City on Three Lakes*, a 142-pp. softbound history completely illustrated with over 200 classic images from our Bob Miles Photo Collection. The majority of the images have never been used before, many of them from the glass plate negative donations we’ve received recently.

This book is the result of discussions regarding a possible third printing of our completely sold out “Bob Miles’ Charlevoix II” which debuted in 2002 and went through two printings totaling 2720 copies. It was decided that the demand for it has pretty much reached maturity, and at 476 pages, today’s reprint expense would not be justified for sales of a few copies per year.

But an interest in Charlevoix’s history is always present, and the new book boils down the larger work’s essence to nine chapters: early Charlevoix, our surrounding waters, boats and the railroad, the hotels, landmarks, Bridge Street,

our businesses and industries, summer resort life, and Earl Young.

"Charlevoix the Beautiful" was written and compiled by your editor and former curator Jacob Thomas. Jacob is no longer with the Society, but your editor will be available for a book signing during the launch party on July 5. Retail price for the book is \$21.95

JUNE-SEPT. 2 MUSEUM HOURS

The Historical Society Museum at Harsha House will be open in June Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Hours from July 3 through Labor Day weekend will be Monday-Saturday, noon to 4. The side office door facing the bank opens at 11 a.m. for those who need to conduct Society business, make a store purchase, or do research before regular hours.

"The Wizard" Wins an Emmy!

On the night of Saturday, June 10 at the Motor City Soundboard Theater in Detroit, the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences awarded its Emmy for Best Historical Documentary of 2016 to Bon Ami Filmworks of Royal Oak and Rogers City for its "The Wizard of Boulder Park," a study of Charlevoix's master builder in stone Earl Young. The Historical Society co-partnered with Bon Ami as fiscal sponsor and historical consultant, helping to guide the work through from planning to completion. Three Charlevoix locals participated as on-screen "talking heads" in the film—your editor, Stafford's Weathervane assistant manager Jennifer Donker, and retired Charlevoix architect Jack Begrow—plus Petoskey attorney Gretchen Olson, Earl Young's granddaughter. The Society is making arrangements to obtain our own Emmy statuette for display at the museum. This is one of the finest recognitions the Charlevoix Historical Society has ever received.

GREY GABLES SPONSORING DEPOT 125 BENEFIT DINNER JUNE 22

The Grey Gables restaurant will donate 10% of its Thursday, June 22 sales to the Society as its contribution to the DEPOT 125 celebration and for preservation of the Depot. A huge thanks to chef owners Darren & Kelly Romano and crew for their generosity, and a shout-out to the membership to enjoy a superb meal at the Gables on the 22nd.

ANNUAL VENETIAN POTLUCK

The annual Venetian Weekend Fireworks Potluck will take place on **Friday, July 21 at the Depot at 7:00 p.m.** The tables will again be set up in the beautiful Heritage Garden area near the pergola and brick walkways with easy proximity to the Depot kitchen if microwaves, the refrigerator, and a little warm-up on the stove are needed. Members and their guests are invited to bring a dish to pass, including serving utensil(s), plus your own tableware, cutlery, viewing chairs if needed (the Depot has folding chairs), and blankets. We supply hot dogs, buns, condiments, and lemonade. BYOB if you prefer something stronger. Volunteers for preparing, setting up, grilling, and taking down are welcome. Call the Harsha House if you can lend a hand.

Be sure to arrive on time to get a parking space since they will be at a premium not much later. Chicago Avenue leading down to the Depot is usually blocked off by the city once the time for the fireworks display nears. This display is always one of the most spectacular events of the entire year.

“RAILROADS OF CHARLEVOIX 1892-1985” MODEL TRAIN SHOW COMING UP AT DEPOT

As another event in the six we have scheduled for the railroad celebration, the Northern Michigan Railroad Club will be taking over the Depot interior for three days, Friday through Sunday, July 28-30. (Opening hours to be determined.) The club members plan on setting up three different layouts—O-gauge, HO-gauge, and N-gauge. Three to four members will be present each day to answer questions and provide information on the Chicago & West Michigan Railway, the company that brought the railroad to Charlevoix, the Pere Marquette Railroad, which absorbed the C. & W. M. in 1899, and the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, which took in the Pere Marquette in 1929. The C. & O. carried its last passengers out of Charlevoix in 1962, and closed down the freight operation in 1982. The club will also have knowledgeable members on site during the show who can answer anything pertaining to model railroading. It will also bring antique model trains and other memorabilia.

So plan on being at the Depot on one or all of the three days to completely surround yourself with the fun of the railroad. Check our website events page for further details.

DEPOT 125 CELEBRATION REMINDERS

Family Gala on Sunday, June 25 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Depot! The Society welcomes the entire community to participate in the big commemoration and celebration of the arrival of the railroad in Charlevoix 125 years ago, which event changed the town forever. Have an old-fashioned picnic on the Depot Beach lawn, and enjoy music, depot tours with historic encounters, childrens games and rides, popcorn and lemonade, big wheeled bicycle demonstrations, and lots more including two food vendors. And there's no admission! Vintage dress optional! Photo ops by the trainload!

Come one, come all for one big memorable day at the Depot!

Music schedule: 12:00 Jazz Band

1:45 and 2:30 Charlevoix Mens Chorus

3:00 Pine Lake Winds

4:00 Charlevoix City Band Sax Quartet

and roving all day—The "Upper Deck" Barbershop Quartet

Proclamation Ceremony on Monday, June 26 at 2:00 p.m. in the Depot's Heritage Garden! Officials from the City and State will be with us to mark the arrival of the first train at 2:30 p.m., June 26, 1892. All members of the Society are welcome to join in the festivities. We are thrilled to have members of the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra and Northern Symphonic Winds there to perform a special piece at the ceremony, arranged by Mr. Ed Bahr and called "Train Ride."

EARL YOUNG HOUSES WALKING TOURS SCHEDULED

The fire that destroyed the Round Lake Gallery downtown in November wiped out the base of operations for our walking tours of the Park Avenue block Earl Young houses. So we decided to try a few during peak tourist weekends from the Harsha House. If you have visitors during that time and need something new, novel, and different for them to do, try one at 2 p.m. on Monday, July 3, Saturday, July 22 (Venetian weekend), Saturday, August 12 (Art Fair), Sunday, September 3 (Labor Day weekend), and Saturday, October 14 (Apple Fest). Groups of six or more, \$12 per person; any group less than that number, flat \$65 fee. At least a 24-hour pre-reservation requested at (231) 547-0373 or info@chxhistory.com. Each tour, with expert commentary and plenty of time for photos, takes approximately 90 minutes and covers about one-third of a mile.

IF WE MAKE IT 'TIL DAYLIGHT—THE STORY OF FRANK MAYS PROGRAM AT LIBRARY

The Society is partnering with the Charlevoix Public Library in the presentation of a do-not-miss program at the library featuring one of the two survivors of the sinking of the lake freighter *Carl D. Bradley* off Beaver Island during a monster November gale in 1958, an event that made worldwide news. Now in his eighties, a remarkably young Frank Mays will recall his harrowing night on freezing waters when 33 of his shipmates died and Charlevoix became the nexus

of the rescue operation. After he and Elmer Fleming, both from Rogers City, were miraculously discovered, found to be alive and plucked from their raft in towering seas, they were transported to Charlevoix and our hospital aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Sundew*. The City Hall Council Chamber, now the main floor business area, became a temporary sealed morgue for the first bodies able to be recovered.

The *Bradley* sinking and its aftermath became the basis for the award-winning documentary *November Requiem* broadcast on PBS, produced by Brian and Anne Belanger, the same team that made the Society's recent *The Wizard of Boulder Park*.

A question and answer session will follow Frank's presentation. He will also have copies of his book, as told to Pat & Jim Stayer and Tim Juhl and titled *If We Make It 'til Daylight*, on hand for signing. **This program will take place in the Library's Community Room on Tuesday, July 11 at 6:30 p.m.**

(Editor's note—Even though I knew the outcome of Frank's incredible story, when I recently read his 224-pp. book I was riveted to the page from beginning to end in one sitting.)__

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our DEPOT 125 plans are all set and volunteers are in place—so all that is left is to put on a great experience for our guests on June 25-26! I am so thrilled with the outpouring of support from our members, the City, our partners, members of the City Band, the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra, and many more. And to our sponsors who have made this possible: Charlevoix State Bank, Ace Hardware, Charlevoix Tent, Knights of Columbus, Grey Gables, Richard & Linda Mueller, and Glenn & Valerie Mueller—thank you so much.

I had the pleasure of attending the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Michigan Chapter Emmy Awards June 10th with Anne and Brian Belanger, producer and director, and Gene Hopkins and Tamara Burns, on-screen experts, for "The Wizard of Boulder Park" win. Being there as they accepted the Emmy was really exciting and humbling. The Society was acknowledged in Anne's acceptance speech!

Please dine at the Grey Gables on Thursday, June 22nd to support the event and Depot preservation if you possibly can. I hope to see you on the 25th—in full regalia—and at our Cultural Corridor Open House on July 5th!

Denise

The Society welcomes new Ralph Hamilton Circle members:

Jocelyn Laurent, Joseph & Nancy Malloure

The Society welcomes new Patrons:

Tom & Maryalice Armstrong, Liza Estlund Olson

The Society deeply regrets the recent passing of Life Member: *Don Nowland*