



Newsletter

February – March 2015

Issue #2

Play Ball! A History of Baseball in Charlevoix!

“It Happened Every Spring”

That is the title of our second event for 2015, a recounting of the times when Charlevoix went baseball mad every year and local teams not only played each other but traveled to neighboring towns to participate in what often developed into heated rivalries. Even Loeb Farms, now Castle Farms, fielded a team called the Sodbusters, with one of its members going on to play Class-A ball for the Oklahoma Indians. In 1921 the Charlevoix County fairgrounds at East Jordan sported a new diamond that seated over 1000 spectators and was often filled. In 1923 a \$600 county fair prize went to the winner of the Northern Michigan League Championship.

From our first team photo in 1887 to the current high school players and city teams, the state of baseball in Charlevoix will be recounted by Society Board of Directors member and rabid baseball fan Kay Heise. Interspersed with local lore will be stories of her quest to visit all thirty major league ballparks—twenty-five down, five to go.

When: Tuesday, April 7

@ 7:00 p.m.

Where: the Depot

As Bill Veeck, once principal owner of the White Sox, said, “There are only two seasons, winter and baseball.” On April 7 we will celebrate the passing of the one and the arrival of the second.

WINTER MUSEUM HOURS

The museum at the Harsha House will be open Fri.-Sat. 12-4 p.m. through March. April hours will be Thurs.-Sat., also 12-4. The rear double doors or side office door facing the bank parking lot are open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday for those who need to conduct Society business, do research, or purchase a store item on non-regular museum days.

STUDENT HOUSING NEEDED

This spring, the Society is applying for a grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation to bring in four students from the Historic Preservation Program at Eastern Michigan University to conduct an historic building survey of our valley (downtown and westward) area. This information will help the city's Historic District Commission to protect more of our historic buildings.

In preparing the grant proposal, it was necessary to find in-kind matching for the requested funds. To meet this requirement, the Society agreed to house the four young women for the period of their work from June 15 to July 19.

If any of our members have a guest room, apartment, cottage or house and would be willing to host one or more of these students, please call Chuck Cleland (547-6220) or the Harsha House. Your cooperation on this project would be much appreciated.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year is well underway and the Society is busy with a number of things. First, I want to share that Sally Weaver is no longer with the organization. We have begun a search for a Museum Curator—Collections through networks which we are confident will yield qualified candidates.

The planning committee for the world premiere of our much anticipated documentary film on the life and work of Earl Young, "The Wizard of Boulder Park," is very excited about the way this event is coming together. You will be receiving your invitation soon with more details and an opportunity to get your reservation in before it is announced to the public. We are hoping for a sell-out at the Gala Reception and at Charlevoix Cinema III for the screening.

As promised, soon we will be launching an online newsletter and ability to communicate with you to provide updates on our programs and events on a periodic basis. If you already provided us with your email address, you will be receiving these. If not, you can send it in to info@chxhistory.com or sign up from our website, www.chxhistory.com, once it is launched.

In the meantime, enjoy the lovely early spring weather and abundant sunshine if you are in Charlevoix!

Denise

MARK THE DATE: Monday, March 30, 7:30 p.m. CMU-TV PBS "Destination Michigan" program on Earl Young houses featuring Society Board member Marsha Braun and your editor.

NOTICE: The Society's 2014 Annual Report is available for viewing on www.chxhistory.com.

The Society welcomes new member: *Joel van Roekel*

Donations (unrestricted) received from: *Eugene Bridge, James & Lori Dane, Dale & Diane Herder, Donald Nowland, Dave Robinson, James Reamsnyder, Jonathan & Lynn Friendly*

Donation in memory of John N. Northrup received from: *Haggard's Plumbing & Heating*

Donation in memory of Anne Miller received from: *Alberta Beyers*

Donation in memory of Andrew Lonyo received from: *Betsy Reynolds*