



Newsletter

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Issue #3

Coming of the Railroad Program

On May 2, curator Trevor Dotson laid the groundwork for our 2017 celebration of the 125th anniversary of the arrival of our railroad with an overview of the historic rail presence in Michigan. From the general to the specific, now it's time to look at the immediate and enormous impact that the railroad had on Charlevoix with the next in our series of Depot 125 events.

In 1889-1890, it was no sure thing that we would be getting a railroad at all. The nervous town suffered through periods of cliffhanger suspense wondering which way, out of four options, the Chicago & West Michigan Railway would ultimately decide to go up to Mackinac. The chance existed that we might be bypassed. But once the decision was made in our favor and the work was finished, from June 26, 1892 onward Charlevoix began to be radically transformed as connection to the outside world was made twelve months a year for the first time, and our reputation began to spread across the nation faster and farther than it had ever done before. Charlevoix would never be the same.

Join us as your editor presents the fully illustrated story of the glory years, the gradual decline, the finish, and now how we so much enjoy the one remaining treasure—our irreplaceable, nationally recognized train depot.

When: Wednesday, June 7
@ 7:00 p.m.

Where: The Depot

MAY-JUNE MUSEUM HOURS

The Historical Society Museum at Harsha House will be open Wednesday-Saturday through May, noon to 4 p.m. Museum hours for June will be Tuesday-Saturday, noon to 4. Full summer hours of six days a week will begin on Monday, July 3 and continue through Labor Day weekend.

“WIZARD OF BOULDER PARK” RECEIVES EMMY NOMINATION!

The Society co-produced a film documentary on the life and works of Earl Young, Charlevoix's master builder in stone, called "The Wizard of Boulder Park" which received its world premiere at Charlevoix Cinema III on June 8, 2015 to sold out houses. It was shown on Detroit and Central Michigan University Public Television in 2016, which attracted many people to town to see Young's works for themselves. DVDs of the work are available at the museum.

The Society has just received word that the "Wizard" has been nominated for a Best Historical Documentary regional Emmy. The awards ceremony will take place in Detroit on June 10.

Depot 125 Celebrations! Everyone Invited!

FAMILY GALA!

Charlevoix Sentinel, July 6, 1892: "We celebrated! We celebrated big! We covered ourselves all over with glory! To say that the Charlevoix celebration was a success is putting it too mildly; it was a stupendous, colossal, gigantic blow-out! A grand occasion was grandly met!"

Join us on **Sunday, June 25 from 12 to 5 p.m. at the Depot for the Family Gala** as your Society tries to replicate the excitement of that heady, thrilling July 4 when Charlevoix pulled out all the stops, kicked up its heels, and officially welcomed the railroad that had finally arrived eight days prior on June 26, 125 years ago. Northern Michigan simply emptied out and converged on Charlevoix to welcome us into the railroad community, the last of the major northern Michigan towns to join the modern era. It was estimated that 10,000 people swarmed into Charlevoix that day. According to the *Sentinel*, Norwood was "depopulated" and 3000 came from Petoskey alone to enjoy a circus, a traveling museum, enough food and drink to feed an army, firemen's hose handling and apparatus contests, cornet band competitions (East Jordan scored over Eastport by one point "in harmony and expression"), horse, bicycle and boat races, baseball games, a Bridge Street parade, and so much more.

For our cause, we will have performances by several groups from the Charlevoix City Band, the Charlevoix Men's Chorus, and a roving state championship barbershop quartet, guided tours of the Depot with 'historic encounters' depicting travelers and happenings of the period provided by members of the Charlevoix Circle of Arts Armchair Theater, many kids' activities, vintage games, large-wheeled bicyclists, refreshments, food trucks, horse-drawn wagon rides, and the Castle Farms riding train! Fun for the whole family! And it's all free (except for the food trucks and lemonade stand, which is a fundraiser for the Norwood Historical Society)!

Guests are invited to bring picnics and spread out on the Depot Beach lawn or eat in the pavilion. Vintage apparel optional! Ladies—dig out your most

outlandish period hats! Gentlemen—how about arm garters, suspenders, and straw hats or homburgs! Photo ops galore!

Commemorative Depot 125 merchandise will be for sale at the event, and all summer at our Museum store.

PROCLAMATION CEREMONY

On **Monday, June 26 at 2:00 p.m.** there will be a **Proclamation Ceremony in the Depot's Heritage Garden** with officials on hand from the City and State to mark the exact time that the first train arrived at 2:30 p.m. in 1892. We are thrilled to have members of the Great Lakes Orchestra and Northern Symphonic Winds performing a special piece at the ceremony, arranged by Mr. Ed Bahr and called "Train Ride."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

To put on this grand happening, **volunteers are needed!** Response to our Depot 125 signup.com site has been good, but we are still looking for a couple dozen individuals who can assist with set-up, get kids safely on and off the model train, meet and greet guests, and assist with kids' activities, plus other venues. Shifts cover two hours. To sign up, check your Charlevoix Historical eNewsletter with the signup.com link or visit www.chxhistory.com and connect to the site. Thank you!

We hope to see you all at these very special events!
The Depot 125 Planning Team

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting and election of officers will take place on Tuesday, July 11 at 4:00 p.m. at the Depot prior to the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors. The slate of nominated officers and directors for three-year terms is as follows:

President: Denise Fate (3rd term)
Finance Chair: Craig Mann (2nd term)
Treasurer: Jamie McLane

Board of Directors term ending 2020:
Ginnie Cash (2nd term)
Tom Darnton

Society members are encouraged to attend to vote and ask any questions about the state of the Society, its operation, goals, and financial condition. Anyone who would like to serve on the Board or in an advisory capacity in the future is likewise encouraged to attend.

ANOTHER TREASURE ARRIVES AT THE MUSEUM

Another priceless artifact has been donated to the Society, a fancy 28-inch hanging, hexagonal bronze and cut glass electrical fixture from the Lewis Grand Opera House that once stood beside the lower channel bridge across from the site of the Weathervane restaurant. The light is not original with the time of the opera house construction in 1883 since Charlevoix did not receive electricity until 1895. There is no way to know exactly where it was installed in the building, perhaps in the perimeter of the auditorium itself or possibly a stairwell or corridor. The artifact came from the estate of our builder in stone Earl Young, who claimed the opera house was its provenance, and he would have been familiar with the building inside and out after he arrived in Charlevoix at age eleven in 1900. Earl possibly rescued it in 1947 when the structure, then the Alhambra Hotel, was razed to make way for the present Memorial Bridge.

CHARLEVOIX COURIER "LOOKING BACK" FEATURE REACHES 300TH MILESTONE

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the weekly historic photo and text feature that we have been providing to the *Charlevoix Courier* for the past six years, "Looking Back," reached its 300th entry on May 12. The feature started in June of 2011 after then-new *Courier* editor Steve Zucker completed a tour of the Harsha House, had a look at our digitized photo archives, and soon notified us he had an idea. Thus "Looking Back" was born. We've received many supportive comments over the years, which only encourages us to continue. We are now asking Society members who read the feature to notify us if there is a particular topic they would like to see covered. "Looking Back" thus keeps looking forward through the foreseeable future, in print and on social media.

MUSEUM AT HARSHA HOUSE

Exterior renovations are underway! At last, the Museum is getting a new roof, as part of a project approved last year, which also includes carpentry work to repair trusses and gable fascia. The \$30,000 project is being funded with grants awarded by Michigan Council for Art and Cultural Affairs (MCACA), the Frey Foundation and the Richard E. and Sandra J. Dauch Family Foundation, reserves put aside for this purpose and other private donations. We are currently applying for additional grants to support the next phase of exterior renovations, which include replacing the shakes and painting. Required matching funds will be sought through fundraising efforts over the course of the year.

The Society welcomes new member: *Audrey Etienne*

The Society welcomes new Ralph Hamilton Circle members: *John List,*
Susan Tukul

The Society deeply regrets the recent passing of members:
Eric and Alice Ernst, Tim Claggett, Martha Strawbridge