



Newsletter

September 2015

Issue #7

Lake Charlevoix Color Cruise!

The *Keweenaw Star* has invited the Society to participate in a second historical fall color cruise down the South Arm of Lake Charlevoix. Last year's cruise was completely sold out, which necessitated the addition of a morning cruise to accommodate the overflow demand. The *Star* will travel down to Holy Island south of Ironton, turn around to head for Oyster and Raspberry Bays on either side of Pine Point, along the Depot Beach area, then back into Round Lake.

The cruise will emphasize the history of Ironton when it was a booming iron smelter town, one of the largest settlements in Charlevoix County before the smelter's owner got himself in financial hot water and had to close down, thus devastating the once successful town, the unique Ironton Ferry and the worldwide publicity it has enjoyed, and the importance of Holy Island to the early history of Beaver Island and Charlevoix. Then the *Star* will visit the ship's graveyard at Oyster Bay and the huge multi-million dollar developments going up on Pine Point's shorelines.

**When: Saturday, October 10
(Apple Fest Saturday)
from 2-4 p.m.
Boarding at 1:45 p.m.**

**Where: The *Keweenaw Star*
dock on Round Lake
beside the Beaver Island Boat Co.**

Tickets are \$25 per person with a portion of the proceeds coming to the Historical Society for its contribution, including narration by your editor. To reserve tickets, call the *Star* at (231) 237-9365. This cruise will be heavily promoted, so don't delay as space aboard the boat is limited. A cash bar and snacks are available on board. Dress very warmly should the day warrant it because the *Star's* lower enclosed area provides limited seating space.

FALL MUSEUM HOURS

The museum at the Harsha House will be open Tues. - Sat. from 12-4 p.m. through January 2 (excluding Thanksgiving and Christmas). The rear double doors or the side office door facing the bank parking lot are open 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. for those who need to conduct Society business, do research, or purchase a store item.

B-52 CRUISE A NEAR SELLOUT

Our September 1 narrated sunset cruise aboard the *Star* that highlighted the January, 1971 B-52 explosion tragedy over Little Traverse Bay far exceeded expectations. 108 passengers turned out, even from out of town, for the event. It took place on a perfect summer night with warm temperatures, a calm lake, and a sunset somewhat obscured by the haze from the wildfires out west.

“ THE WIZARD OF BOULDER PARK” FINAL THEATER SHOWING

The Society recently partnered with Bon Ami Filmworks three-time Emmy-award-winning producers Brian and Anne Belanger on the creation of their new documentary “The Wizard of Boulder Park,” an exploration of the life and influence of Earl Young, our internationally known master builder in stone. The feedback from the sold-out world premiere experience on June 8 and the four subsequent showings in August has been resoundingly positive as to the film’s quality.

We are pleased to be able to offer one final theater showing at Cinema III on Antrim Street thanks to the generosity and encouragement of theater owners Luther and Mary Kurtz: **Monday, September 21 at 4:00 p.m.** precisely on the 100th anniversary of the marriage of Earl and Irene Harsha, his across-the-street neighbor and high school sweetheart. Irene, an accomplished artist and art teacher in her own right, was the unacknowledged silent partner and underlying influence behind many of Earl’s creations. She served as the liaison between Earl’s spoken and sketched ideas, which she translated into more concrete lines on paper, and the construction crews so they could better understand what he’d be talking about once he arrived on site. The true worth of Irene’s contributions is a major theme of “The Wizard of Boulder Park.”

This will be the last time a local audience will be able to experience the film on the big screen in surround sound. Your editor will present a brief program on the Youngs in the auditorium after the showing, followed by a Q & A session.

All ticket prices again are \$15 per person, available at the theater box office the day of the performance, or reserve by email to marykurtz@live.com. Proceeds from the ticket sales go to support of the Society. One hundred complimentary cupcakes from Cre8tive Cupcakes on Bridge Street will be waiting for the first one hundred attendees. Please join us for this celebration of Earl and Irene’s lives and creative gift to Charlevoix, and how your Society has benefited so much from their efforts.

"The Wizard of Boulder Park" is tentatively scheduled to be broadcast on Central Michigan University Public Television in November, followed by Detroit Public Television in January. We will keep the membership posted both in the print newsletter and through our e-newsletter as dates and times are finalized.

"THE WIZARD OF BOULDER PARK" DVDS AVAILABLE NOW

The DVD of "The Wizard of Boulder Park" arrived on September 5 and is available now at the museum store at the Harsha House. The documentary run time is forty-eight minutes, in full color, with original music composed by producer Brian Belanger, and contains unique home movie footage taken by Earl and Irene that has never been seen before plus footage shot expressly for this film including interior views. The DVD would make a perfect gift for any occasion for anyone fascinated by Earl Young and Charlevoix. Price: \$20 plus tax. Call the Society at (231) 547-0373 for mail order information, or go to our website www.chxhistory.com and order online through the museum store webpage.

A THANK YOU TO THE CHARLEVOIX AREA GARDEN CLUB

The Society would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Charlevoix Area Garden Club for their countless hours of effort keeping the grounds of the Harsha House looking so beautiful over the summer. Under the supervision and guidance of leader Chris Unbehaun, Mary Lynn Heid, Kathy Libert, Carrie Minch and Bev Rudolph maintained a standard of excellence from the front of the house around to the rear entries and the strip along the alley that elicited many words of praise from our summer visitors to the museum. Our appreciation and gratitude is extended to all of them. Likewise to the group responsible for the maintenance of the Heritage Gardens at the Depot who year after year, after hundreds of hours of planning and work, create one of the most beautiful places in Charlevoix under the leadership of Ruth Augustine, Rhea Dow, and Joan Nowak.

HARSHA HOUSE PORCH STEPS REPLACED

What looked like a simple replacement of a few loose tread boards turned into a complete teardown and reconstruction of the Harsha House front porch steps recently. Once the treads came up, the accumulation of years of moisture underneath revealed that the step structure would not last much longer. Society member and volunteer Dave Robinson and new curator Jacob Thomas set to work and should have the new stairs, with moisture directed away from them, completed in short time. Our thanks to them both. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused visitors to the museum.

EARL YOUNG BUILDINGS TOUR BOOKLETS A RUNAWAY SUCCESS

Our new 28-pp. \$5 guide to the Earl Young buildings in town, twenty-five houses and three commercial structures, arrived the first week in June. The original order of 500 was distributed/sold within five weeks. The second order of 500 is now down to under 100 left. Thanks to several downtown outlets besides the Harsha House museum store, it is the fastest selling item we have ever created. Some purchasers have returned immediately to acquire more to send to family and friends.

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS ON THE HORIZON

The Society will be experimenting, over the next four Saturdays, with a downtown walking tour that will focus on the Earl Young Park Avenue houses and the Weathervane Inn, past the bridge, the waterfront and East Park, and over to the library. An experienced tour guide will go out at 10 a.m. on the 19th, 26th, October 3rd, and October 10th from and back to the Round Lake Gallery of Art at 325 Bridge Street. Tickets can be purchased at the gallery prior to touring. Price: \$12 per person, children 5 and under free. If these walking tours prove to be successful, the Society will make every effort to continue them next summer.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

It's that time to mark your calendars for our final traditional events before we close down for a couple of months after the new year arrives. The annual fundraising all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner at the Villager Pub will take place on Wednesday, November 4 from 5-9 p.m. The annual Society Christmas dinner in the beautifully redecorated and refurbished banquet room of the Grey Gables Inn on Belvedere Avenue is scheduled for December 1. Menu and price will appear in the November newsletter.

A Message from the President

Dear Members:

We are coming down to the home stretch for the events surrounding the documentary film "The Wizard of Boulder Park" with our final showing at Cinema III. I hope you will join us—even to see it a second time—to help celebrate this remarkable film and Earl and Irene.

Building on this, the Fall is bringing opportunities and progress on other fronts. We are very pleased to be partnering with the Charlevoix Historic District Commission in supporting their efforts to seek approval for a Historic Designation of the Earl Young buildings. Board member Chuck Cleland has invited an expert from the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office to participate in the September 25th Commission meeting and we are sponsoring a luncheon afterward with the affected Earl Young homeowners in the city. The aim is to produce a forum through which all participants will be able to come away with a good understanding of how the district would work, from getting it passed and establishing the requirements, to how it would function, as well as how it can benefit the community and the homeowners.

Regarding the project to repaint the South Pier Lighthouse mentioned last month, work is commencing to test paint samples on the structure over the winter for pigment retention as well as adhesion. Much research has gone into the types of paint best suited for our application to ensure that when it is painted next summer, it will look good for many years to come. Denise

The Society welcomes new members: *Gil & Susanna Harrell, John & Judy Lucas, Patricia Misrach*

Donations (unrestricted) received recently from: *Anonymous, Reed & Janet Freidinger, Midwest One Connections Club, George Haggard in honor of Tom & Sue Erber's 50th wedding anniversary, Ingrid Weimer, Tom Armstrong, Michigan Chapter of the Victorian Society of America*

Donation received in memory of Virginia Million from: *Charles & Susan Kinnaird*
Donation in memory of Col. Thomas Hamlin received from:
the Col. Gerald Gibbons family and C. Marilyn Neff Gibbons