



# Newsletter

**April 2015**

**Issue #3**

## **“The Coming of the Resorts” Program**

The Belvedere Club and the Chicago Club summer resorts have been such integral and important components of Charlevoix's urban landscape for so long that we hardly give them a second thought. The two of them have just always been here. But their coming to the settlement of Pine River, officially called Charlevoix a year after the Charlevoix Summer Resort Association, later the Belvedere Club, put down roots in 1878 is a story in itself. (The Chicago Club followed in 1880.)

Founded by church groups from lower Michigan, northern Indiana and Chicago, the influence and reputation of the clubs soon extended to absorb members from across the country. Cottages and clubhouses went up immediately, and the resorts grew into the splendid organizations they remain to this day, major benefactors to the community. Several well known names have been associated with both clubs.

Join us as your editor presents a fully illustrated program, using many vintage photos never seen before from the clubs' private collections, on how they came to choose Charlevoix, how they got started, and how their presence here at all was because of a once fashionable and unique piece of 19th-century women's clothing.

**When: Tuesday, May 5**

**@ 7:00 p.m.**

**Where: the Depot**

(Note to our summertime members: This program will be repeated at the Charlevoix Public Library on Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m.)

Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call (231) 547-0373.

## **SPRING MUSEUM HOURS**

The museum at the Harsha House will be open Thurs.-Sat. 12-4 p.m. through April. May hours will be Wed.-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.

## **NEW PROGRAM POLICY**

We have decided that it is appropriate to institute a new policy for our historical programs in line with other historical associations. In the past, all of our programs have been offered free with a suggested donation at the door or in a passed hat. Beginning in May, Society members may still attend at no charge or make a donation if they please, but non-members will be asked to pay \$5 per person. (This does not pertain to our potlucks or other social gatherings, but donations at these functions are always welcome.)

# **World Premiere Event**

This coming June 8 will see one of the most important events in the history of the Charlevoix Historical Society, the world premiere showing of "The Wizard of Boulder Park," a documentary on the legacy of our renowned builder in stone, Earl Young. Acting as fiscal sponsor, the Society partnered with brother and sister documentarians Anne and Brian Belanger of Bon Ami Filmworks, three-time regional Emmy award winners, to produce this film. It will explore Young's design philosophy rooted in nature, his influence, and the importance of his work to Charlevoix's identity. Your editor is a "talking head" in the film, along with Charlevoix architect Jack Begrow, Weathervane Restaurant assistant manager Jennifer Donker, local North Seas Gallery owners Rex and Ineke McCarthy who own a Young house, and Young's granddaughter Gretchen Olsen, an attorney in Petoskey.

By now, all Society members should have received an invitation to the red carpet premiere, which is structured on two levels. This will be a major fundraising event for the Society, intended to include everyone. The first level includes the gala reception from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in Earl Young's former office area on the lower level of the Weathervane restaurant, special seating at Charlevoix Cinema III on Antrim Street, and a panel discussion in the theater afterwards. This segment will be moderated by Society Board of Directors member and retired Michigan State University professor Chuck Cleland. The cost for the evening events is \$125 per person. Those wishing to be a sponsor may do so at \$300 per person.

The second level is \$15 general admission for the film screening at Charlevoix Cinema III. Tickets are going on sale at the theater on May 1.

Society members are being notified of this before it is announced to the general public. The screenings will take place at the same time, 8:00 p.m. on June 8. Luther and Mary Kurtz, owners of Cinema III, are donating the entire

proceeds from ticket sales to the Society.

After this one-time initial presentation, "The Wizard of Boulder Park" will be broadcast by Central Michigan University Public Television, to be followed by other PBS affiliates in Michigan.

Major funding for the film has come from the Michigan Architectural Foundation, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, (MCACA), the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and the Lynne and Mason Rosenthal/Leo S. Guthman Family Foundation.

While interest in Earl Young has been a Charlevoix attraction ever since he started building in Boulder Park in the 1920s, it is only since the turn of the century that this interest has really taken on a life of its own. Begun by the bus tours that finally arranged for step-on guides about ten years ago, word of mouth spread from tour participants who have said more than once at the conclusion of a viewing of Young's houses, "I never expected we would be seeing anything like this!" Now tour buses are a common sight in Charlevoix from May through October. An Eastern Michigan University professor, an expert on historic preservation, calls the Earl Young component of Charlevoix "a world class attraction."

The Charlevoix Historical Society produced its own 1'45" DVD on Earl Young in 2009, and photographer Mike Barton brought out his all color book "The Mushroom Houses of Charlevoix" not long after. Both productions have enjoyed very good sales. Now the exposure that will result from this new program will bring that many more people to Charlevoix to experience the whimsy, power, and delight that sprang from the imagination of "The Wizard of Boulder Park."

### **"THE HISTORIC VESSELS OF CHARLEVOIX" BOOK ARRIVING SOON**

The Charlevoix Historical Society Press will be publishing its sixth book within the next few weeks, an 88-pp. history of the vessels that have plied our waters since the mid 1800s. It is fully illustrated with 201 images, many of which have never seen before. This book is the product of two years of research and writing by a committee comprised of your editor, museum committee chair Karen Lewis, and former museum directors Betsy Reynolds and Steve Goslee. Tugs, schooners, huge passenger liners, Lake Charlevoix and Lake Michigan passenger steamers, gigantic lake freighters, Coast Guard vessels, racing boats, palatial private yachts, Beaver Island ferries, boats built on our shores, and many others—hundreds of them contributed to making Charlevoix one of the most important ports on Lake Michigan. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, more maritime tonnage passed through its waters than any port on the eastern side of Lake Michigan outside Chicago. Update in the May newsletter.

### **NEW EARL YOUNG STRUCTURES GUIDE AVAILABLE IN MAY**

Another new publication will be appearing in May also, a 28-pp. booklet that will pinpoint each of the twenty-eight Earl Young structures in Charlevoix. Complete with maps, directions, photos and brief descriptions of every building (twenty-five houses, three commercial structures), this pocket-size publication has been designed to help visitors find every one of the original Earl Young

creations with ease. For the past few years we have relied on a free one-sheet trifold brochure, which has been distributed by the thousands, but now we felt that something more substantial, site specific, permanent and easy to read was needed. Local residents might like to have one or more on hand for their house guests to use. It will be retailing for \$5. Again, update in the May newsletter.

### **A THANK YOU TO THE MURDICKS**

For the past several years we have enjoyed the use of a Bridge Street window to display our store merchandise and direct visitors to the museum at the Harsha House, thanks to the generosity of Gary and Jeryl Murdick, owners of Murdick's Famous Fudge. The first window was at their smaller store where the Asian Fusion restaurant is now, and the second in the fudge store itself at the Clinton Street intersection. But they have decided to retire and the building is now pretty well cleaned out and on the market. During the time we did enjoy this exposure, it made a huge difference in museum attendance and store sales. Their offer to provide us the use of both windows made them Patrons of the Society. So a resounding thank you to them both for their generosity to and support of the Society over many fruitful years.

Now we have to rethink our ability to once again enjoy maximum exposure downtown.

### **NEEDED BY THE SOCIETY:**

- 1) The Society would like to obtain an office desk for the use of a new Curator of Collections. If anyone has a spare desk in good condition, please call the museum.
- 2) Docents are needed to work afternoons at the museum this summer, both to show visitors around and do simple work in the museum store. Please call if you can volunteer some hours, even one day a week.

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Our Spring program season got off to a splendid start with Kay Heise's very well attended and excellent presentation on baseball. . . past and present. She wonderfully wove together anecdotes from her own travels to the major league ballparks over fifty years, "Deep Thoughts" with icons of the game, and the colorful traditions of baseball in Charlevoix since 1877. Thank you, Kay!

While we are now very focused on plans for "The Wizard of Boulder Park" premiere, Chuck Cleland is putting together a varied slate of programs for the balance of the year, including one on board the schooner *Inland Seas* in late June. Following this, there will be special guests joining us to speak on topics of local interest. Watch our events calendar and our upcoming electronic newsletter to stay up to date.

I encourage you to secure your gala reservations or tickets for the film premiere as soon as you can before we announce it to the general public in May.

Denise

## **ANOTHER SOCIETY NEED—FOR MUSEUM**

For four years, near the museum store, we have been running our DVD on Charlevoix, "A Pictorial History through 16 Decades," on a continuous loop on a portable DVD player. The machine recently gave out after so much use, so we are wondering if anyone might have a spare they could donate to the Society.