

EARL YOUNG BOOK HAS ARRIVED!

June 2020

Issue #3

Editors: David L. Miles
& Trevor Dotson

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They're here! The completely illustrated, hardcover Earl Young biography that was in the making for thirteen months has finally arrived. The hardcover book was written and compiled by your editor, then edited by a committee of five Society volunteers (Mary Ann Chew, Kay Heise, Jennifer Harsha Carroll, Marsha Braun, and Jan Grupp) plus Manager of Operations Trevor Dotson. Trevor also served as principal researcher on the project. An initial, and successful, book signing by the author, took place on the Harsha House porch on publication day, May 29. Thirty-one books were sold.

The 171-pp. ***BOULDERS The Life and Creations of Earl A. Young in Charlevoix, Michigan*** is the first ever attempt to capture the entire life and works of our amazing master builder in stone. It includes just under 400 vibrant images from the Society's huge photo and document collection, the Earl Young estate which included several taken in the early years by Earl himself, and many loaned by master photographer Mike Barton, who has done his own full color book on "The Mushroom Houses of Charlevoix," a delightful companion volume. Mike also helped the Society by handling the technical requirements needed to prepare the book for printing.

The research that needed to be done for the book finally revealed the true sequence of the early house construction, beginning at Boulder Park in 1925. Earl had completed only one house prior to that, in 1921, the under-

structure of the current, controversial Thatch House at 304 Park Avenue, his first personal residence. Four more years needed to pass before Earl was finally given the opportunity to embark on a long-desired career, that would take his name around the globe.

The acquisition of this new knowledge allowed a study of Earl's artistic experiments over just a few years until he found his true footing at last in 1928's Boulder Manor on Lakeshore Drive, truly one of the most astonishing buildings in northern Michigan. This development began with unique but restrained touches in Boulder Park that blossomed over almost a decade into a free-flowing artistic confidence which let his imagination later soar into the stunning, supremely confident achievements of his middle period and later works, climaxing in the world-famous Weathervane Inn.

BOULDERS also emphasizes the importance of the contributions of Earl's artistically talented wife Irene toward the creation of many of his works, plus her own artistic creations.

Cost of the book: \$29.95 plus tax, \$6 extra for shipping and handling. To order, call (231) 547-0373 or go online to order via credit card or PayPal. This is the ninth publication by the Charlevoix Historical Society Press.

The gift shop will be open from 1 - 4p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays for the remainder of June.

The Museum at Harsha House will be open Tues. - Sat., Noon - 4p.m. July to Labor Day.

HAPPENINGS AT THE MUSEUM & SUMMER PROGRAMS: Trevor Dotson

After working as best I could from home from March 24 to May 25 during the Governor's *Stay Home Stay Safe* order, it feels good to be back at the museum full time. During that period, designated staff worked out a schedule that allowed us to work independently to perform needed basic operations.

Though museums were allowed to reopen as of June 10, we are choosing to remain closed until June 29 for the continued safety of our guests and vulnerable staff, to allow staff to focus on collections care, and because renovation work (which was delayed because of the pandemic) is being completed in the front parlor. The three period rooms in the front of the Harsha House will remain closed until the renovation is complete. Only the rear entry to the museum off of alleyway will be open for the *150 Years of Photography at the Charlevoix Historical Society* exhibit and gift shop. The gift shop will be open June 19 & 20 and 26 & 27 from 1 - 4 p.m. with the first hour reserved for vulnerable populations. Guests will be asked to wear masks while in the museum, and the Society will have a supply to give to those who do not have one.

The safety and well-being of our guests and staff is top of mind, which has led the board to make the decision to cancel the majority of our events for the season, including sadly, the popular Venetian Potluck. Phase 5 of the Governor's *MI Safe Start Program* allows for gatherings inside of up to 50 people, and outside of up to 200 people, with social distancing practices in place. However, the size of the train depot is not large enough to allow for comfortable, appropriate social distancing. We are considering scheduling an outdoor event or two later in the summer. Watch for further news on these potential events in future communications and on our website and Facebook.

The Train Depot and Heritage Garden are available to Patron members for private events. Please call the museum at 231-547-0373 for more information.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The annual business meeting and election of officers will take place on Tuesday, July 14 at 4:00 p.m. at the Depot Heritage Garden prior to the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors.

Nominations: For a three-year term as Director - Ole Lyngklip III. For a 3rd 3-year term as Finance Chair - Craig Mann. For a 2nd 3-year term as Treasurer - Jamie McLane.

A message from Vice President Tom Darnton: President Denise Fate is completing her 3rd term as of mid-July, which is the limit of terms as outlined in the Society's By-Laws. Denise has provided exemplary service to the organization as its president. She is willing to continue to serve the organization in that capacity. Due to the difficulties the on-going pandemic has placed on organizations' abilities to conduct 'business as usual', in this case as it pertains to recruiting a suitable replacement to oversee the operations of the Society, the nominating committee does not have a replacement candidate for the upcoming election of officers.

Therefore, the Board passed a resolution at its June meeting stating that "Denise Fate should be allowed to continue to serve as president and as a member of the board for three additional years, until July of 2023, unless a suitable candidate can be recruited and elected sooner. The nominating committee shall continue working to identify a suitable replacement for Denise Fate to have a candidate in place for the July, 2023, election." Denise is therefore the nominee for President.

Members are encouraged to attend the meeting, and social distancing measures will be followed. A report on the Society's current financial state and outlook for the year will be presented. It will also be available on request.



EMBRACE. PRESERVE. CHERISH.

Last fall we reached out to our membership and potential donors with a capital campaign initiative to raise at least \$153,000 to support projects planned for 2020-2021:

- 1:1 Challenge Match to raise \$50,000.
- "103 for 103 State Street": 103 donors x \$1,000 = \$103,000.

The challenge match was met by the end of 2019! As of the end of May 2020, an additional \$19,000 has been raised for a total of almost \$69,000. A special thank you to the many donors who have participated thus far (listed at right)!

Update on the projects: Through the challenge of the pandemic, we received bids for some of the projects, and have just about completed design specifications for another.

Museum at Harsha House Plans:

- Foyer restoration: This was prioritized because it enables the other subsequent projects. Restoring the parlor in the front of the house to its original layout by opening a wall to reveal the beautiful staircase provides safer and more direct access to the 2nd floor. It was walled off decades ago when the house was divided into apartments so there would be a separate locking front entrance. We can't wait to show it to you! Project Cost: \$23,000. Timing: underway.
- Renovation of three 2nd floor rooms for curator office & preparation workspace and collections storage: This entails removing original plaster on the walls and ceiling and replacing with drywall, new and refurbished flooring, electrical, and air conditioning. Project Cost: approx. \$88,000. Timing: fall/winter 2020/2021.
- Fire-resistant collections vault - 1st floor: For storage of the Society's extensive photo collection, including glass plate negatives. Cost: TBD. Timing: planned for 2021.

Depot:

- Basement waterproofing: We are unfortunately experiencing the effects of the high water levels at Lake Charlevoix. The problem surfaced last summer, and has worsened this spring. A waterproofing system will be put in place in August. Cost: \$15,000.
- New roof and other repairs: Cost approx. \$40-45,000. Timing: 2021 if funds available.

As is often the case, costs are coming in higher than expected. We are seeking grants to help fund these projects, but are also looking to complete our fundraising goal for the year to ensure that we can get this important work done to preserve the historic Harsha House and depot, as well as our collections.

A special thank you to our campaign initiative donors (Nov. 2019 - May 2020):

Advance Packaging Technologies -
Rob & Annie Cohen
Anonymous
Charles Bingham
Michael & Eileen Chrzanowski
Emily Crook
Richard and Jan Dille
John & Jeri Duerr
Charles & Julia Eisendrath
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Hans & Gail Wiemer
Ingrid Wiemer
Paul & Linda Weston
Herbert & Ann Wickersham
John & Anna Young

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are pleased to be returning to somewhat of a sense of normalcy around the museum, and to get to work on our foyer restoration at the Harsha House. The biggest impacts of the pandemic on us from a revenue standpoint are the lack of bus tours and private events at the Depot. But, we will be ok. While this is going to be a relatively quiet season for us, the different pace of activity will allow the staff and the Society to get some behind the scenes work done in keeping with our mission of preservation. And we're fortunate to have a fabulous new book to sell! Hopefully we will be able to see some of you in an outdoor event at the Depot later in the summer. Be vigilant and stay safe and healthy.

Denise

The Society welcomes new members Wenche Borgnakke, Tammy Legenza, Tracy Ward, Murphy Watts

Donation in memory of Betsy Reynolds received from: *Patricia Hannell*

Donation in memory of Mary Frame received from: *David L. Miles*

Donations in memory of Leona Winchester received from: *Karen Liedtke, Jean McNeill*

Donation received in honor of David L. Miles received from: *Thomas & Maryalice Armstrong*

Donations (unrestricted) received from: *Marlene Fabbro, Sam & Cass Williamson*



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