

THE FUTURE OF HISTORY

DECEMBER • VOL. 22 • ISSUE 4 • 2022

Our mission is to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment.



**LAKESHORE
MUSEUM CENTER**





MUSEUMS MAKE YOU REFLECT.

03 **DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

08 **LOOKING
BACK**

04 **COLLECTIONS
& ARCHIVES**

09 **VOLUNTEERS
FOR THE WIN**

05 **WHAT'S
ON VIEW?**

10 **MEMBERSHIP
& GIFT STORES**

06 **HELPING
PRESERVE
HISTORY**

11 **PLAN
YOUR VISIT**

07 **WAY BACK
HISTORY**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Looking Back

It is always rewarding to stop and take a minute to reflect on what has been accomplished over time. In this issue, the staff will do just that. My personal reflection as Executive Director is on how much we have changed over the last **85 years**. We have gone from one museum that didn't have a permanent home in the 1930s to seven museums and two storage facilities. Staff have come and gone, exhibits have changed, but our commitment to preserving the history of Muskegon has remained the same.

Whoops! In our September issue, we omitted two of our major donors to the Save the Glass campaign, **Allen & Sandy Beck**. Without their generous contribution, we would not have been able to reach our goal. We send them a heartfelt thank you for their support!

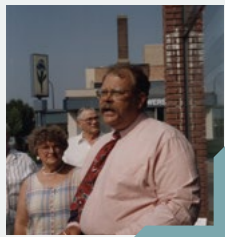


Melissa Horton
Executive Director

Here are some fun photos of the museum throughout time. They are part of a collection about our organization.



Pat Horn, presenting to students in 2021.



Opening of Muskegon Mercantile, 471 W. Western Ave; John McGarry, Director of the Museum, making speech.



John McGarry and Steve Stordahl inspecting statues in Hackley Park, circa 2007



The first Enviroworks Day Camp held in August 1993. This camp still continues today.



Children enjoying the Depths of Time exhibit, circa 2019



Work on the Hackley House in the 1990s.



Museum Director Waneta Lynn with school kids, circa 1950s.



Frank Walsh, Director of Muskegon County Museum, standing in the new Muskegon County Museum building, circa 1982. The building is the former Y.W.C.A. building.



Oscar Frueh, Eugene Atkinson, Albert Ahearn, William Hartman, and H.D. Groesbeck of the Muskegon County Museum removing a dugout canoe from a lake in 1939.



Oscar Frueh, left, and Eugene Atkinson working on a diorama at the Museum County Muskegon, Third Street, circa 1939.



Early museum exhibit on Native Americans, 1938.



Melissa Horton and Pat Horn cleaning and defleshing skulls in the collection, circa 2007.

COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

A Whirlwind of Activity

04

Oh What A Time

This past year has been a whirlwind of activity in Archives and Collections. Looking back, it is amazing to see all of the projects and activities this department of two has accomplished with help from volunteers.



At the Collections Center, a major inventory project was completed. A team of four volunteers assisted Brenda Nemetz, Collections Manager & Registrar, in inventorying over 1,900 objects. During this project, over 70% of the objects were photographed with the images uploaded to our collections database, Argus. This project brought the total objects photographed in 2022 to 2,600.



Another large project that is ongoing is an inventory of the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry. This past year, staff and volunteers have inventoryed, updated records, and photographed over 2,800 objects.

In the Archives, Jeff Bessinger, Exhibits & Collections Director/Archivist, has two large ongoing projects that have been a major focus. The first is creating an index for the Muskegon Chronicle Collection. With the help of a volunteer, this project is going strong with over 46,000 topics indexed so far.



The second project is the digitization of the collection. This year, over 1,300 objects have been digitized. This digitization project also allows us to share our collection online. To date, over 250 objects have been added to the online collection in 2022.

With all that has been accomplished this year, we are excited to see what we are able to do next year.

Jeff Bessinger, Exhibits & Collections Director/Archivist



Recent Acquisitions

- Archival collection related to Sand Products and the West Michigan Dock and Market Corporation
- Quret ointment jar
- Commencement program for Muskegon Christian High School, 1933
- Archival collection related to the Muskegon Heights Neighborhood Association Council
- Letterman patch from Muskegon Heights High School band, 1939
- Archival collection related to the Muskegon Garden Club
- Photographs of Misco Howmet
- Photographs of Muskegon High School Big Reds football taken by Bill Hansen, 1967
- Commencement invitation for Hackley School of Nursing, 1951
- Weston Electric Meter from Continental Motors and used at Reeths-Puffer Schools
- Archival collection related to the Sons of Norway
- Photographs of Arntz Sporting Goods



WHAT'S ON VIEW?

A Look Back at Exhibits, 2022

05

Exhibits on High

2022 has been a fun year for exhibits. After kicking the year off at the Museum of History and Science with the last few months of "L'Dor V'Dor: Muskegon's Jewish Community", we opened "Dangerous Things" in the Temporary Gallery. This exhibit

has been a big hit with visitors of all ages. Several of our adult visitors recall using some of the items on display in their childhood or seeing them at a family member's home. Younger visitors are surprised to discover the purpose and danger of some objects. Many visitors have enjoyed learning about safety alongside Safety Gwen and have taken photos wearing safety gear. If you haven't seen "Dangerous Things" yet, be sure to catch it before it closes at the end of the year!



Smaller temporary exhibits at the Museum of History and Science have included Recent Acquisitions: "The Muskegon Chronicle," "From the Ledger,"

"Biomes of the World," and "Street Names of Muskegon County." Currently on display are "Honey, I Shrunk the Artifact", an exhibit of miniature objects from the museum's collection; "The Drive", a journey through Muskegon's annual log drive process during the lumbering era; and "Hackley Union National Bank", a study of the history of the Hackley Union National Bank building and its transformation and adaptive reuse over the years.



If you visited the Heritage Museum of Business and Industry this summer and felt like you were being followed, chances are that you were!



The exhibits team enlisted the help of our Junior Museum Professionals to conduct visitor observations. Visitor observations are an important and ongoing part of exhibit planning and development. This information helps us to see how people move through and interact with exhibit



spaces, so we can determine what the most successful elements are and identify where there is room for improvement.



The Historic Sites received a new mural at the City Barn, featuring a Hackley and Hume sawmill and an updated Family Tree exhibit that shows a genealogy for both the Hackley and Hume families.



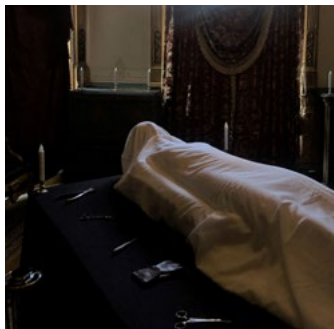
Chani Collins, Exhibit Designer

Attendance Check!

After two years of limited activity due to the pandemic, 2022 was more back-to-normal at the Historic Sites. After opening on May 2nd, our Sites were visited by guests from a wide range of locations, with some visiting from down the street while others came from around the globe. In addition to our regular tours, we hosted various new and returning programs.



Our partnership with the Muskegon Museum of Art for their "Dressing the Abbey" exhibit included the "Beyond the Swinging Door: Servant's Tour",



Super Saturday, and "Coachman to Countess" programs, while our staff launched a new "Game of Life" program. Visitor favorites like our Tea, All Access Tours, Live Clue, Scandal, and Obituary Tours also returned with

enthusiastic attendance. Ten visits from the Pearl Mist cruise ships were also a welcome return.

Although our attendance is still climbing back to our pre-pandemic levels, 2022 saw significant progress. In 2019, our year of highest attendance on record, our number of visitors before Holiday Tours was 16,523. This year, our attendance before Holiday Tours is 12,474, meaning our level of attendance is already back to 75.5% of what it was in 2019. We look forward to being at 100% or better in 2023!

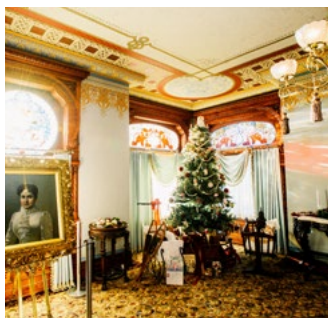
Aaron Mace, Historic Sites Manager



Room Decorating Contest!

Each December, we share with our newsletter readers about the Holiday Tours and the partnership with community groups that decorate a room or two in the Hackley and Hume Historic Site.

This tradition in Muskegon started in 1972, and this year we have put a spin on the festivities with a room decorating contest!



When you purchase your tickets this holiday season, you will receive two tickets to vote for your favorite decorated room(s) in either house. If you would like more than two votes, you can purchase more voting tickets in the gift shop for \$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5.

Bring the entire family to enjoy the Site decorated for the holidays and vote for your favorite room decorated by Linda Potter & Cathy Norkus, the Women's Division Chamber of Commerce, Barb Lloyd & Jane Arndt, the Minerva Dill Questers, the Shoreline Victorian Ladies Society, The Porch Co., Merilee & Friends, Every Women's Place, or the LMC's Junior Museum Professionals.

Erin Schmitz, Historic Sites Director

**Join us for our Holiday Tours
from 3-7 pm on December 3, 7,
10, 17, 27, & 28.**

It's All in the Past

This past school year, we had a special program for Head Start and Great Start preschoolers. To fit it with their museum unit at school, we created a dinosaur program! Not only did students get to see and touch dinosaur fossils, they got story time, a craft, and songs.



The students also had time to explore the museum with their teachers and guardians. By the end of the school year, we had students from every school district in the county participate in this program – hundreds of preschoolers visited the museum. It was a successful and fun school program, and we're all looking forward to this upcoming spring when we'll do it all again!

Jennifer Reeths, Assistant Program Manager

Smashing! Pumpkins.

One of my favorite programs of the year is our annual Friday Family Fun Night: Smashing Pumpkins that we recently had at the museum. This program features our pumpkin trebuchet that flings pumpkins toward the museum (if all goes right), smashing them to pieces for the squirrels to enjoy later, or on occasion landing them on the museum's roof. Every year when we do this event, I'm reminded of one of my favorite memories.



Creating and designing this medieval siege machine was no easy feat. Thankfully, we have a very talented maintenance staff who were able to construct it. But, of course, it needed to be tested to make sure it worked as intended, to see how far it could actually fling something, and what the ideal size of projectile and counterweight were. So, off we went to the nearest open space, Heritage Landing, to do some test firing. To say we got some looks as we offloaded our creation is an understatement.

We began the testing with a tennis ball, softball, and some small pumpkins as ammunition. The trebuchet worked beautifully, except the one time it backfired and nearly smashed the museum van with a pumpkin.

Then, things got interesting. The Muskegon police department showed up and unsurprisingly had some questions for us with equal parts concern and curiosity. They asked us what we were doing and why, and how the trebuchet worked. After we did a few demonstrations, they left us to continue, and we all breathed a sigh of relief that we did not have to call our coworkers to bail us out. We fired a bit more, trying to catch the flying tennis ball and softball before packing up after a successful outing. As they say, the rest is history.

Patrick Horn, Program Manager

Hit the High Note

The theme for this edition of the newsletter is “Looking Back”. As I sit to write this, the 2022 Drop-in Tour season has come to an end. We went out on a high note! Our inaugural Tiny Tots Trick or Treat program was a success; 264 guests of all ages came to visit on Saturday, October 29.

A whopping 96% of those were making their first trip to the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business and Industry. Overall, we had a total of 3,133 visitors from May through October this year. As usual, our dedicated volunteers continue to knock it out of the park. They have given a total of 2,531 hours so far this year.



Looking back a little further, to 1923, two long-time Muskegon employers got their start. American Coil Spring and GMI Composites will celebrate their centennials in 2023. Drop by to check out their exhibits here at the museum to learn more. Call 231-722-1363 to schedule your winter appointment or come for a visit when we reopen for the 2023 season on May 3.



American Coil Spring was incorporated in March of 1923. Five years later, the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce arranged financing to help the company build a new factory at 1041 Keating Avenue. They remained there for 80 years. In 1997, West Michigan based Hines Corporation purchased ACS. In 2008, Hines purchased a second Muskegon spring maker, Michigan Spring & Stamping, and merged the two operations. Production continues at 2700 Wickham Drive.

George Morrell Corporation got its start as a button manufacturer back in 1923. Sometime around 1928, they moved into the Glenside neighborhood and began to expand their product line to include all manner of items made of Casein Plastic. This innovative material used a milk protein (Casein) and formaldehyde to form a hard, durable substitute for bone, ivory and mother-of-pearl. Over the years, George Morrell Corporation became George Morrell Industries and then GMI Composites. In 2014, GMI was purchased by EJ, an East Jordan, MI, based foundry group. It continues to produce sewer and water products at their 1355 West Sherman location.



Kirk Bunke, Site Manager, Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WIN!

Volunteer Spotlight

09

How Many Volunteers Does It Take?

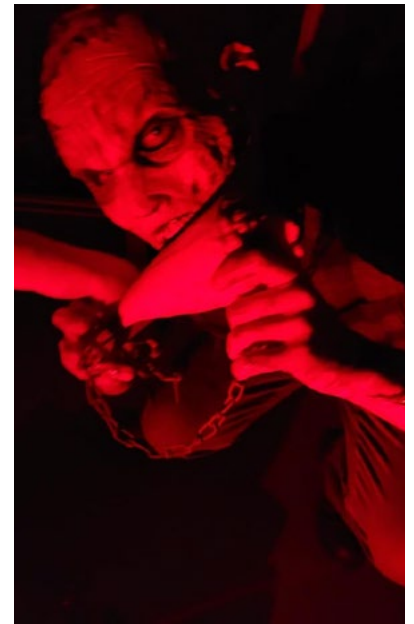
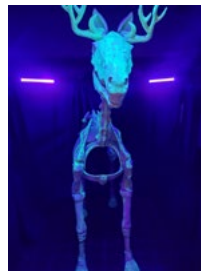
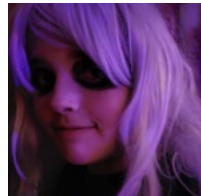
In October, the History & Science Museum hosted the second Fright Night at the Museum. This is a program that leans heavily on volunteers. They do everything from jump scares to acting. This year we had 56 volunteers to help make the museum a scream! They included:

02

Museum
Spouses

07

Kids Of
Museum Staff



05

Girl
Scouts

13

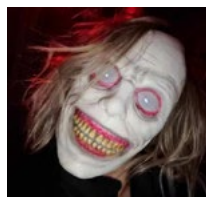
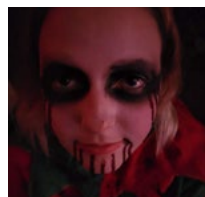
Adult/Teen
Volunteers

17

Staff
Members

01

Board
Member



07

Junior Museum
Professionals

04

Civic Theater
Volunteers

Melissa Horton, Executive Director

MEMBERSHIP & GIFT STORES

10

Benefits of Being a Member

Membership & You!

I hope you have all enjoyed your membership benefits during this season. We had some wonderful partnerships with not only Muskegon organizations, but some neighboring counties as well:

Grand Rapids Public Museum

**Sable Point Lighthouse
Keepers Association**

Grand Rapids Museum of Art

John Ball Zoo

Holland Museum

**Grand Rapids Children's
Museum**

Midwest Miniatures Museum

Muskegon Museum of Art

I am looking forward to new opportunities for the 2023 season. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments about your membership, or to request a new membership card, please email me at graciela@lakeshoremuseum.org.



Gifts & More

I always have so much fun turning the store spaces around at the beginning of the touring year, to support new exhibits, and for the holidays. I like to think that our guests enjoy their shopping experience when they visit our gift stores too. With that in mind, I want to share with you some of the fun merchandise we offered this year.

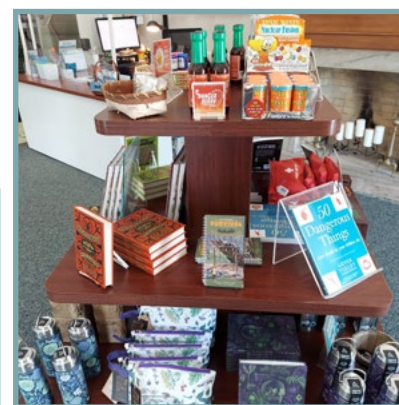
(Business & Industry Museum retail space & City Barn merchandise to support the Obituary Tours)



Graciela Alberino-Stidham, Guest Relations Manager



The 2022 Lakeshore Museum Center holiday ornament features the Milwaukee Clipper. We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of its return to Muskegon and donating part of the proceeds from the sale of this ornament to the Caring for the Clipper fundraising campaign.



(City Barn ready for the Spring & Dangerous Things merchandise at the History & Science Museum)

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Calendar/Upcoming Events

11

Winter Events

KEY: Muskegon Museum of History & Science Hackley & Hume Historic Site
Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry

Dec 8

Play & Learn:
Winter Session - FREE
10:00am - 11:00am

Dec 10

Holiday Tours
3:00pm - 7:00pm

Dec 16

All Sites - Closed

Dec 17

Holiday Tours
3:00pm - 7:00pm

Dec 23-27

All Sites - Closed

Dec 27

Holiday Tours
3:00pm - 7:00pm

Dec 28

Holiday Tours
3:00pm - 7:00pm

Dec 30-Jan 2

All Sites - Closed

Jan 3

Holiday Open House
11:00AM - 2:00PM
FREE

Jan 12

Play & Learn:
Winter Session - FREE
10:00am - 11:00am

Jan 16

All Sites - Closed

Jan 17

Homeschool Day:
Furry Friends
10:00am - FREE

Jan 26

Play & Learn:
Winter Session - FREE
10:00am - 11:00am

Jan 27

Opening Exhibit
Attack of the Bloodsuckers

Feb 9

Play & Learn:
Winter Session - FREE
10:00am - 11:00am

Feb 17

Friday Family Fun
Night - FREE
5:30pm - 7:30pm

Feb 20

All Sites - Closed

Feb 21

Homeschool Day:
Bloodsuckers
10:00am - FREE

Feb 23

Play & Learn:
Winter Session - FREE
10:00am - 11:00am

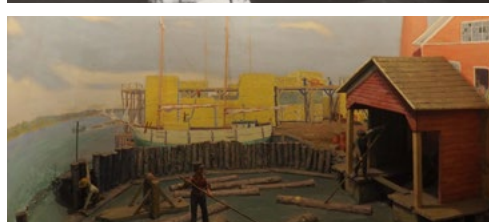
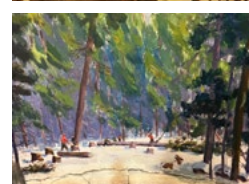
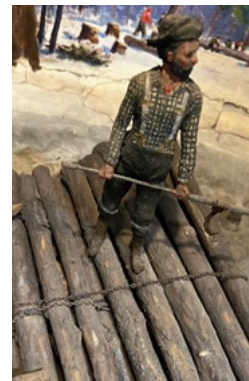
We're in a jam.

Lend a hand?

Help us preserve for the future

85 YEARS **26** DIORAMAS **01** EXHIBIT

For more information, please visit:
lakeshoremuseum.org/donate



Muskegon Museum of History & Science

430 W. Clay Ave. Muskegon
231.722.0278

Hackley & Hume Historic Site

484 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon
231.722.7578

Fire Barn Museum

484 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon
231.722.7578

Scolnik House of the Depression Era

484 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon
231.722.7578

Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry

561 W. Western Ave. Muskegon
231.722.7578

www.lakeshoremuseum.org



LAKE SHORE MUSEUM CENTER



THROUGH OUR LENS:
HANDS
DECEMBER 15 - MARCH 12

DTE Foundation Rehmann PNC BANK

**MUSKEGON
MUSEUM OF ART**

HANDS OF KIM WOODS
NORTH MUSKEGON, MI
PHOTOGRAPHY: JENNIFER GREEN PHOTOGRAPHY

WEST MICHIGAN SYMPHONY

Home for the Holidays
December 16 • 7:30 PM • Frauenthal Center

Joyful. Heartwarming. Pure family fun.
Features seasonal favorites, a pianist, soprano soloist,
two youth choirs, and the songfest sing-a-long.

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MUSKEGON CIVIC THEATRE presents

Janet Langhart Cohen's **ANNE & EMMETT**
January 13-21, 2023
Black Box Setting on the Frauenthal Theater Stage

Corporate PARTNER: POWERS Media Sponsor: [Logo]

muskegoncivictheatre.org

MUSKEGON CIVIC THEATRE presents

Miss Holmes
Christopher M. Walsh
February 10-25, 2023
Beardsley Theater

Corporate PARTNERS: Trinity Health Friends of Muskegon Civic Theatre John & Jeanette Jack Richard & Nancy Peters Robert N. & Maria N. Scolnik Admitted Fund

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