



Preparing for a new Season

We anticipate opening the Bernard Museum for 2022 season on June 4th and hope to have enough volunteers to offer Saturday and Wednesday hours. Stay tuned as we make our preparations. You can visit our website at www.bernardmuseum.org or on Facebook.

We have a generous list of projects for the Spring/Summer months that are in need of tackling and volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

Major projects that we hoped to do last year fell through because vendors selected were unable to do the jobs, and so these projects are back on the table for this year as we are meeting with new vendors. The pandemic has hit the skilled trades professions especially hard and has made finding suitable contractors more difficult. Two major projects postponed are installing gas furnaces in the main museum and replacing or repairing windows at the schoolhouse. We are still in need of someone with the skills to reinforce or replace the foundation under the General Store. And there are sidewalk projects, as well.

While visitation was down last year over previous years, due in part to the ongoing pandemic and a shortage of volunteers, interest in the museum remains strong in the community and so we have high hopes for this season.

Janet Dimond retired from the Board after many years of service and she will be certainly be missed. Her term was scheduled to end as of June this year. We have been fortunate to find a replacement for the next few months in Elspeth Inglis, formerly of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. Elspeth brings a depth of experience that we hope will go a long way towards improving our organization. The expectation is that she will formally run for the position in the upcoming election. Board positions are for a term of three years. Other Board positions up for reelection this year are Harriet Olson's and Karen Goebel's. All Society members are encouraged to vote. Ballots will be available online on our website, or at the Delton District Library during the month of May.

For an expanded version of this newsletter please visit our website and download the file. Or visit the Delton District Library where we will have a limited number of hardcopies available.

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BERNARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Our Times

Is it time for you to renew your membership? If so, or if you are just interested in making a donation, take a moment to fill out this form and return it with your payment to: **Bernard Museum, PO Box 307, Delton, MI 49046**

You can also go to our website at: www.bernardmuseum.org and register/pay online.

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Unusual Items Found At The Museum



At nearly 12 inches in diameter, the above is a fine example of a Pudding Stone. A conglomerate rock made up of rounded pebbles imbedded in a finer mix of sand particles it often resembled certain Christmas puddings from years gone by.



Ventriloquism has its origins in the days of the Greeks. The word translates to “speaking through the stomach”. Early ventriloquists were thought to be able to interpret the stomach sounds of the dead and thus were thought to be able to communicate with the dead. In the 18th century it became entertainment with the addition of a dummy. In the 20th century it caught on in large part thanks to the popular ventriloquist Edgar Bergen and his dummy, Charlie McCarthy. This dummy at our museum resembles the lovable jokester, Charlie.



Dr. Prosper Bernard, the museum founder, was an early pioneer in radiology. Much of his equipment is on display at the museum. Although the Xray was known in the late 1800's, it wasn't until the early 1900's that it became practical in medical use.

Dr. Bernard's Xray machine (above left) was state of the art in its day. Pictured below is the Coolidge Tube used to generate the radiation used to see beneath the skin. The tube was named after its inventor, William Coolidge, in 1913.



Article below reprinted from Newsletter #26 dated 1988 and written by Don Weaver, a former teacher at the Brown Schoolhouse, now located at the museum.

BERNARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Delton, Michigan

Telephone Numbers: 623-2500, 623-5451, 623-2957

No. 26 1988



Picnic at Stony Point circa 1908

FIVE GENERATIONS OF ENCHANTMENT WITH CROOKED LAKE. Regardless of age or status in life many people in this country have felt a need periodically to "get away from it all" -- to a summer cottage, a cabin in the woods or an overseas hideaway. Those who spend their summers, or winters as the case may be, away from their year-round home establish a kind of second community of friends at the temporary location and, therefore, claim two communities as "home" -- one where they live during most of the year and the other where they live for short vacation periods. This has been true in my family since the turn of the century.

Because my family, both maternal and paternal grandparents and my own parents, viewed Crooked Lake as their second home, I grew up claiming Crooked Lake as home even though I was born and raised on a farm in Rutland Township. Having lived at Crooked Lake for the past 18 years and having taught at North Pine Lake School (now in the Bernard Historical Museum) has served to heighten my interest in this area. However my enchantment with the Crooked Lake area emanates primarily from the fact that five generations of my family had summer homes on the lake.

FIRST GENERATION. Around 1908 my paternal grandparents Rufus and Elvira Weaver of Rutland Township along with my great aunt Maria Earl of Prairieville purchased lots on Stony Point. The photo above shows the family on one of its early camping expeditions on the point. Although my grandparents built two cottages later, it is my understanding that there were no buildings on the point when this photograph was taken (circa 1910).

This began a saga of five generations of Weavers at Crooked Lake including my grandparents, my parents, myself, our three sons, and our grandchildren.

I recall as a small child boarding the C K and S train in Hastings bound for Delton and a week-end outing at Stony Point (circa 1920). After detraining at Delton, we walked to Stony Point to set up camp. On one such outing, according to family folklore, one very hot summer night when I was a baby, the

milk supply soured and I awoke at 3:00 a.m. demanding to be fed. My father walked to the Erb farm west of Delton, awoke Mr. Erb who milked at 3:00 a.m. to provide fresh milk to a screaming child.

It seems to me that fishing at Crooked Lake was much better in those days. My recollection is of BIG fish -- bluegills, sunfish and bass. However, it may be that they simply looked bigger through the eyes of a small child. Anyway, there was more than enough fish to satisfy the family and guests for the week-end.

I recall spending many summers as a young teen-ager camping at Stony Point with my buddies. We prepared for months ahead for those days when we were on our own to fish, swim or just lie in the sun. The high point of the week was Saturday evenings spent at Baker's Resort dance hall on the east side of the lake.

In 1925 my mother's family, John and Augusta Waters, also seeking a summer retreat, bought a lot in the Nevins plat on Delton Road next to the property which was later Dr. Bernard's Hospital. However, since their interest in Crooked Lake came somewhat later than that of my paternal grandparents who walked to Stony Point, my maternal grandparents drove us to the lake in the comfort of a 1926 Chevrolet touring car -- in summer only, of course, because the car was on blocks for the winter. In 1932 my grandfather who was a Barry County road builder and Road Commissioner bought the Burdick school building located east of Hickory Corners and moved it to the Delton Road site to make a summer cottage.

The Burdick School was located about two miles east of Hickory Corners on property homesteaded in 1837 by Harold Marshall's great grandfather. In the late 1800's the school was known as the Marshall School and later changed to the Burdick School. In 1929 the school was closed and the few remaining students were transferred to Kellogg School. When my grandfather bought the school building in 1932, the building had not been used as a school for three years. The property on which the building was located belonged to the Ford family at that time.

I have always been curious about how the Burdick

School would have been moved from Hickory Corners to Crooked Lake in 1932. I had visions of teams of horses pulling it on skids through the snow. Although they agree that this version is a beautiful eidetic fantasy, Wilbur Solomon and Harold Marshall assure me that this is not the way it was moved. It was mounted on timbers with wheels attached and hauled by a hard rubber-tired, chain driven truck.



The Weaver "cottage" -- formerly the Burdick School -- after it was moved to Crooked Lake site in 1932.

Once located on the Crooked Lake site (picture above), the old school was to serve five generations of Weavers as a summer retreat. Our three sons and their families use the "cottage" today much as it was when their great grandfather moved it there -- including the original blackboards. Needless to say, old school buildings such as the Burdick School were built to last. Few summer cottages today are built with 2 x 12 floor joists and matched hardwood floors, wainscoting and ceilings.

SECOND GENERATION. My parents Forest and Lizzie Weaver who were farmers in Rutland Township spent limited periods at Crooked Lake. It was not easy for farmers of my parents' generation to leave a dairy herd for extended vacations on Crooked Lake. However, after Dr. Prosper Bernard established the clinic on the lake in 1938, they were more frequent visitors because they were both patients of his.



BERNARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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THIRD GENERATION. Helen and I were married in the Prairieville Methodist Church in 1941 and spent our honeymoon on Crooked Lake. This was at the time when the feud between the farmers and lake owners was heating up. Because the lake levels were so low in the late 1930's farmers were raising onions on the area which now comprises Lower Crooked Lake. By 1941, owners of property on Upper Crooked Lake decided to block the drain across Parker Road in order to raise the lake level. This left the farmers without water for their onion crops. We watched as one night the lake residents plugged the Parker Road drain with old mattresses and other debris and the next night the farmers dynamited it out. Finally, in November of 1942, the present lake level was established at the Parker Road outlet. This has provided for a fairly constant level for the upper lake and enough overflow to maintain the lower lake. By this time, area farmers were no longer using the marsh land for onion production and welcomed the development of the second lake.

FOURTH AND FIFTH GENERATIONS. Our three sons, Mike, Sid and Tom, spent summers at Crooked Lake as they were growing up and now our 7 grandchildren are the fifth generation to claim Crooked Lake as their second home. Our attempt to update the old schoolhouse to a modern summer home has met with resistance from our sons who recall nostalgically those trips to the well for water and the patter of their feet on the bare wood floors on the way to the sleeping loft. They remember with equal fervor their visits to James and Emma Nevins at the Nevin's Store where Ernie Wildermuth regaled them with tales of monstrous fish in Crooked Lake while "Aunt" Hazel Wildermuth supplied the tiny audience with goodies from behind the counter. There are also recollections of early morning trips to Ma's Bakery in Delton for homemade cinnamon rolls and rainy day tours of the Kellogg Company which ended with free ice cream and a complimentary variety pack in those days.

We have lived in the Hyde-Away Subdivision for the past 18 years and plan to spend our retirement here. Since my retirement from Western Michigan University, several of our friends who have retired in the southern and western regions of the country have tried unsuccessfully to lure us to those areas. Our reply to them is that five generations of Weavers have been enchanted by Crooked Lake and this generation intends to stay to welcome the sixth!

Researched and written by Don Weaver.

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CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT

As the old Delton Kellogg High School is prepared for demolition, we thought a look back at one of the early graduating classes (1943) that used that building might be interesting. Below is the class list and a reprint of the Valedictory Address by Barbara Leonard.

BACCALAUREATE

May 23, 1943

Delton School

March

School Band

Invocation

Song "The Rosary"

Irene Smith

Address

Rev. Robinson

Benediction

CLASS ROLL

Calvin Floria
Irene Smith
Harold Pennington
Ellen Shelp
Wesley Foss
Paul Wheeler
Charles Monica
Marjorie Palmer
Keith Kroes
Glennis Burpee
Marvin Harrington
Doris Smith
Eloise Foss
Joyce Roush
Francis Springer
Kathleen Modrack
Glenna DeKilder
Gordon MacLeod
Juanita Kiblinger
Marie Collick
Jean Forshey

Delmer Sager
Marjorie Mott
Barton Bourdo
Barbara Leonard
Irene Hammond
Arlene Bourdo
Kenneth Garrison
Iva Belson
Bud Leonard
Norma Quick
William Hayward
Rolland McKibbin
Delora Norwood
Marvin Felder
Margie Morris
Maxine Braley
Thelma Watson
Donaldene McKibbin
Phillip Dunlop
Virginia Beck
Eugene Gordon

1943 Valedictory Address

By

Barbara Leonard

At last comes graduation. The Class of '43 of the Delton-Kellogg High School tonight steps across the threshold of school into a fuller, richer life of service. World - we salute you!

For many years the high school graduate and his essay, with such high-sounding titles as, "Beyond the Alps lies Italy," "Caesar Crossing the Rubicon," "Hitch Your Wagon to a Star," etc., has been the object of good-natured ridicule. The graduate, with his idealistic views of life, has appeared to the public like a young bird, perched on the edge of his nest, ready, with all the optimism in the world, to try his wings. We plead guilty. We want to leave the nest; we are anxious to try our wings; we do have idealistic views of life; and strange as it may seem, we are optimistic. Let no one belittle high ideals or optimism. Both constitute equipment that we must possess if we are to fight world battles successfully. If we, as members of a citizenship that includes the whole world, are to function efficiently and to the utmost of our ability, we must have some knowledge of the problems to be solved. Right at this present time they loom up before us with an urgency that must not be denied, if the world, when it emerges from its present chaos is to be restored to a normal condition.



As the members of this class separate tonight, some going into armed service, some into farming, some to home-making, others to continue on in college, each one is bound to have a vital part in the new world building program. "The world is only as big as our interests. Our interests are as big as the effort we put into them". No matter into what field of enterprise we enter, each should realize the importance of his particular task, whether it is helping to raise food to feed the starving people of the world, or helping to administer this relief - nursing the sick and wounded, or helping in the rehabilitation of the masses.

First, there is the important problem of hunger. The children and young people of France, Holland, Belgium, Greece, Poland and other nations, are not developing, either mentally or physically, because of their starvation diet. When we realize that these children will never make a complete come-back mentally, even though their physical health may be restored, we can anticipate the dearth of leadership in these countries in the years to come. We can not do much to rehabilitate these countries until we have first fed them.

Let us try to devise some means of getting food to these poor people before it is too late. American youth is idealistic; it will not refuse to share and it will gladly continue to share as long as the need exists.

Then there is the problem of hatred - this ugly feeling which is so easily aroused during any war. No permanent peace can be built on a basis of hatred. Let us teach of the follies of certain "isms", and dictatorships, rather than to stimulate hatred for the people of the countries who have so blindly followed their leaders into this world chaos.

Let us develop our thinking in world terms. Though some channels of international good-will are closed to us at present, such as International Youth Congresses, International Boy Scout Jamborees, Exchange Teachers with other countries, yet we are drawing closer to other nations in many ways. Our classmates, brothers, friends are now sojourners in faraway lands that were once just places on the map to us. New friendships will be formed in Africa, Australia, England, China which let us hope may prove to be a big factor in helping to break down the vicious barrier of Race Prejudice. If we are to have a permanent peace that age old menace must be eliminated. It doubtless is one of the maincauses of the present war, as it has caused wars since time began. Back in Bible times the Jews hated the Samaritans as today the Nazis hate the Jews. The Germans and Japanese felt that they were the superior races. Now they are engaged in war with more than half the countries of the world united against them.

But before we can deal successfully with problems abroad, we should have our problems here at home under better control. Our democracy is based on the belief that every man should be given equal opportunity. All men are not equal. There are differences between man and man within races. But equality of opportunity should be given to every man, regardless of race or color.

If we are sending negro boys to fight for democracy abroad, should they be denied the privilege of democracy at home? Yet in some sections in the south they are not allowed to vote. Do we really mean what we say when we pledge allegiance to our flag as we repeat the words, "With liberty and justice for all"? Should not this apply to black as well as white, or indeed to yellow, if he is a loyal American? Should there be discrimination against the negro in his employment in our industrial centers? Is it not a shameful waste of ability and brains to confine the negro to menial tasks? Could anyone have done more for our country than Dr. George Washington Carver, beloved by all - black and white alike? We can not deal justly with race prejudices in Europe, India, Burma and China unless we practice the Golden Rule at home. The best way to keep racialism out of the picture is to practice "Equality of Opportunity".

Another important problem on the home front is that of Labor. Will we continue to let capital or labor organizations jeopardize our country, even in times of war taking advantage of a crisis in order to gain their own selfish ends? Will the various organizations unite as one after the war? Will the workers appoint leaders to discuss their problems peacefully with the factory owners and managers?

After the war there should be no depression because of work shortages. Each of our returning soldiers should be assured of employment. Work on farms, raising food for the starving countries, will be plentiful. Perhaps some of us will be sent over seas to help put Europe back on its feet. Certain it is there will be a great need for nurses and doctors to be sent over to occupied countries where people have been starved and tortured. It seems there should be no question of unemployment after the war for those who are able to work.

We only have touched upon the problems which the world is facing. They are many and varied. And while the tangle seems almost hopeless viewed as a whole, yet for every problem under the sun there is a solution. We are confident there is a way out of the present crisis. The most brilliant minds are at work, and while the answer may not come tomorrow, or in many tomorrows, it will surely come. Let us hope and pray that those who hold the destiny of the world in their hands may be guided not by hatred, not by greed, not by undue nationalism, but by the principles of brotherhood given us 2000 years ago by Jesus of Nazareth.

What is our part in all this - both as individuals or as the "Class of 1943"? We do not know as yet, but let us each and every one be ready to "do the right as God gives us to know the right" and our lives will count in the grand total.



LUCY BOYKIN was a much beloved elementary teacher at Delton Kellogg Schools from 1943 to 1968 and continued as a substitute teacher for many years after. Born in 1901 in El Paso, Texas, she passed away 2003. Her interests were many and varied. She printed a cookbook which included recipes from area residents. Below is one example from her book.

Maxine Mills' Rhubarb Cream Pie

1 ½ cups sugar 3 Tbsp flour 1Tbsp butter
2 eggs well beaten 4 cups rhubarb

Blend sugar, flour, butter and eggs, beat smooth, pour over rhubarb in 9" pastry. Bake without top crust, when cool top with whip cream. Bake in a hot oven 450 for 10 min. then at 375 for 30 min.