



# The SOCIETY

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



# PAGES

---

## From the President

The March General Meeting was very well attended considering that the only way to get on our beautiful Island was by air boat. It was a very important meeting as the proposed by-law revisions were to be voted on. These recommended changes will allow the Society to move forward and provide for better operating structure. I am pleased to say that they were approved and we are now operating under the newly revised by-laws. This means that at our Annual General Membership meeting in August, our Society will elect two new Directors as specified under Article VI Section 4: Election of Directors. I, as Past President will serve as Chairman of the Board. Your current Board has served since December of 2009 and will leave the new Board with a strong fund balance, a growing membership and a mission to complete the goal of purchasing the Historic Fire Hall. Between now and that meeting I would hope that you would consider allowing your name to be placed on the ballot.

On that note, we are into the second month of our lease agreement with Blue Water Land Development. Month one, March 2011, was not as fruitful as we had hoped. We had the utilities turned on in our name and began to plan the clean-up and fix-up of the hall. Nancy Boulton, Lisa White and I found the Fire Hall to cold to work in on the weekend of March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. I meet with the SEMCO energy installer at the hall and he installed the gas meter, turned on the gas, but the furnace would not run. The installer found that while the building was not used for several years the birds had found the furnace pipes an ideal place to build their nests.

continued on page 5

---

## A Trip To Tashmoo Park

It was most advantageous for the White Star Line to entice as many groups as possible to enjoy the park and all its amenities. More people meant more revenue and more popularity. Tashmoo Park was known all over the country and was considered THE place to go on a trip. Many companies routinely shuttered their businesses and took their employees out for the day. Parke Davis from Detroit could easily send as many as 2,000 employees on an all-day excursion. The Detroit News had regular Friday night runs to enjoy the music and dancing on a moonlight cruise. Church groups, fraternal organizations and benefit societies consistently booked trips for their members.

Let's follow the members from the International Photo Engravers Union out of Chicago at their 12 Annual Lake Cities Outing and Convention in 1911 as reported in *The American Photo-Engraver*.

### DETROIT - The Convention City 1911 (June)

We're waiting to hear from you boys! Get going and get in your subscription for the, 1911 Lake Cities' outing. The number is advancing at a great rate and we want your name on the attendance list. New York, Buffalo and Columbus are sending in their money at regular intervals and we are only sorry that we have not the same returns from our nearer neighbors. Wake up! Cleveland. Toledo. Grand Rapids. Cincinnati we

continued on page 2

## the Society Pages

Volume 2 / Number 4 / April 2011

a publication of the Harsens Island/

St. Clair Flats Historical Society

PO Box 44

Harsens Island MI 48028

www.HISCFHS.org

Email@hiscfhs.org

Editor: **Michele Komar**

### HISCFHS Board

#### Officers and Directors

President

**Gary Grout** - 810-748-3320

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Nancy Boulton** - 810-748-3802

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

**John Chamberlain** - 810-748-3519

Treasurer

**Chris Wludyka** - 810-748-8815

Secretary

**Nancy Licata** - 810-748-1825

Directors

**Bernard Licata** - 810-748-1825

**John Eidt** - 810-748-3181

**Lucy Burby-Mastro** - 810-748-8977

## Upcoming Events

### Clean Up Workdays

call Bernard for schedule  
586-530-7100

### HISCFHS General Membership Meeting

April 23, 1011  
2:00pm at the Lion's Hall

## A Trip To Tashmoo Park

continued

are only sorry that we have not the same returns from our nearer neighbors. Follow the lead of New York. They have already sent in 150 names and expect a bunch more to get in line with them from other eastern cities. Geo. Donahue of Philadelphia and Jim Crosby of Boston are expected to increase the New York list as the honeymooners and St. Louis local has promised to come in a body by special train. Keep up the spirit, boys, and don't let the heat take your mind off the big show, Joe Rose of Washington is another we are looking for on the eastern list, and we trust that the friends of Nick Carter in Des Moines will get in line and give the newly-wed a surprise by coming in a body. We hope to have Chicago going full blast by next issue as we have a number of members boosting for us as well as the local secretary of No. 5. The cut of the river front of Detroit, which will appear next month, will give you a fair idea of the importance of Detroit on the lakes and when we say that we have more tourists here than any city in the United States you will readily see that the pleasure steamer proposition is the hardest that the outing committee has had to deal with. So don't delay about sending in your attendance list as the size of the crowd will make a big hit for the curtain raiser of the convention.

On another page we are showing the Steamer Tashmoo, which will handle our outing to Tashmoo Park on the 3rd of September. She is the largest excursion steamer on fresh water and has a license to carry 8,000 passengers. Can we get the attendance to that figure? Don't wait any longer; get in line. Be a booster.

### You Don't Have To Be A Delegate To Come To Detroit (July)

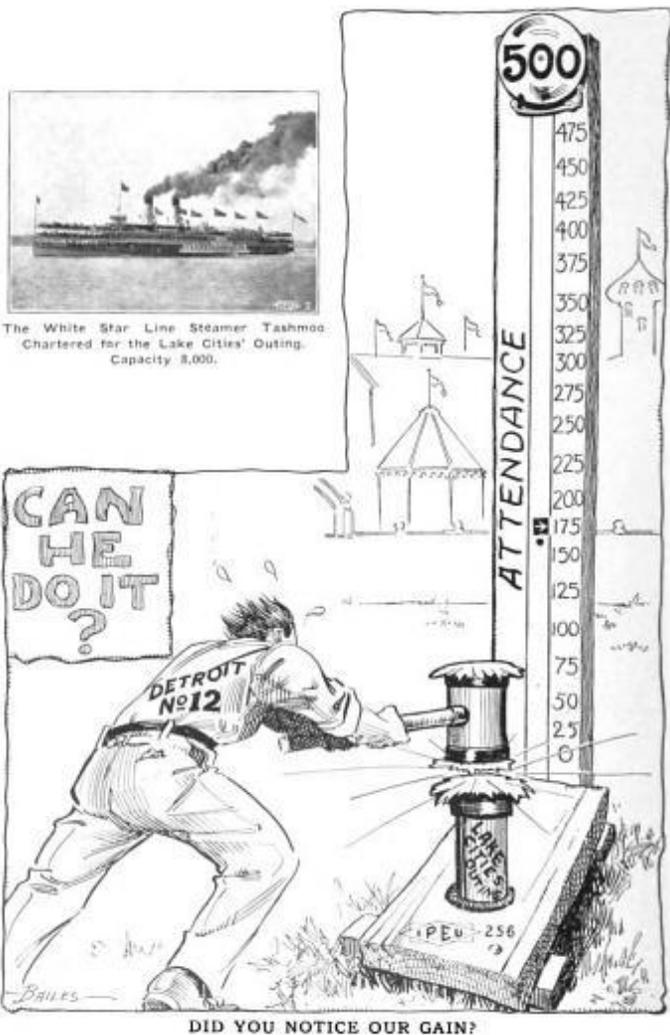
Are you coming to Detroit in September? This is the question we are asking you. The annual convention of the Photo-Engravers' Union is a very important event we look forward to each year. The annual outing is the pleasure event we are so anxious to participate in, for it is here we meet many old friends and make many new ones, but think what this year has in store for you, the convention and outing all in one week. The outing takes place September 3 and 4, and the convention occupying the remainder of the week, making it an entire week of business and pleasure.

For the benefit of those who have not fully made up their mind to be with us on this occasion we will take you over the entire plan of the outing to show you what there is in store for you. If you still think you would rather stay at home after you read these "doings" you can do so, but remember this opportunity to meet your fellow craftsmen by the hundreds comes to you only once in many years, so why miss this grand opportunity?

continued on page 3

# A Trip To Tashmoo Park

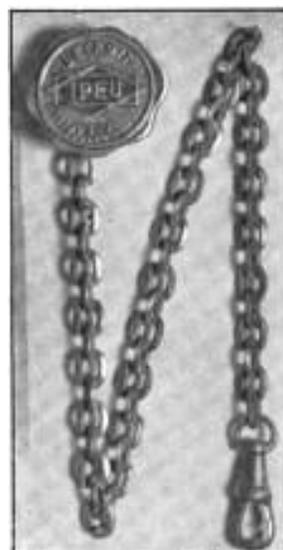
continued



On arrival in Detroit on Sunday morning, the third of September, you will be met at the depot or wharf, whichever you happen to arrive at, and will be escorted by the Detroit committee to the finest steamer on fresh water, the steamer "Tashmoo." When all are safely on board we start up the beautiful Detroit River. After passing the many wharfs where the many excursion steamers are about to depart for the numerous river and lake resorts which Detroit is noted for, the first point of interest we pass is on our left, the beautiful Belle Isle Park, the finest of its kind in the world, next to the Yellowstone National. The length of the park is about three miles, so we enjoy its beautiful shores for this distance. We will not go into further description of this beauty spot at this time, for we will make our visit to this place on the following day.

Leaving Belle Isle behind us, we pass the government lighthouse and enter Lake St. Clair, the smallest of the Great Lakes. For the next hour and a half we pass through this body of water. On our trip across the lake we pass many freighters, laden with their cargoes, which they carry to the numerous ports of the Great Lakes.

Now the real interest of the trip will soon greet our vision. It is the opening of the government ship canal, the beginning of the St. Clair Flats, so often named the Venice of America, owing to its formation on many islands. The steamer now commences to make regular stops to let off passengers to the many resorts and private clubs. Many of these stops are made at islands only large enough to hold the one building the boat is stopping at. Here the friends meet their visitors and escort them to their homes on other small islands by the means of launches and other small crafts. After several of these stops we arrive at our destination of the day, Tashmoo Park. On our arrival dinner will be served us. We will then see New York go down to defeat before our ball team, thereby winning the cup donated for this event. Then come the games, such as races for those who are swift on their feet and those who think they are, and other feats of skill and humor. This will be followed by speeches by our International officers and others who have things to tell us. The hour is getting late; all preparations being made for supper we lose no time to eat, when lo, we hear the whistle of the Tashmoo on her return trip; we hurry aboard and soon are on our way back to Detroit.



This is a reproduction of the chain and button to be used at the Outing. You can secure yours by addressing Henry Winter, care Sprunk Eng. Co., Detroit. The price is 25 cents each. We have pins for the ladies at the same price.

continued on page 4

## A Trip To Tashmoo Park

continued

### The Outing (October)

The members attending the Outing and Convention started to arrive on Saturday. In all, 359 people attended the Outing, of these, 86 came all the way from New York, bringing with them 35 from Philadelphia, making a party of 121 from these two cities alone. Cleveland, Rochester, Buffalo, Grand Rapids, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Toledo, Syracuse, Boston, Chicago and Pittsburgh were all represented by large attendance.

After checking all baggage and hurrying aboard the Steamer Tashmoo, we proceeded up the river to Tashmoo Park, where dinner at Lemke's Summer Hotel was the first number on our program. Then came the athletic events, such as a 100-yard dash for men. The first prize in this event was won by A. Parte. One of the mirth provokers of the day was the wheel barrow race won by R. Harrison and M. Hines. The fat women's race developed some real speed, this was won by Miss M. McDonald with Mrs. Mitch a close second. The ball throwing contest for ladies made Ty Cobb look like a man with a cracked arm. His superior in this event was Miss Kock. The two-faced race for men was the cause for much laughter; this was won by Hines. From here the crowd started for the ball field, where Detroit gave New York a good beating to the tune of 14 to 9. The winner was presented with a fine loving cup donated for the occasion by the Wolverine Engraving Co. of this city. After the visitors had their lunch, we started for Detroit on the good old Tashmoo, spending a most enjoyable evening on the waters of Lake St. Clair.

Tashmoo Park was, however, as dry as a prohibition county in Texas, although word was passed around that the favorite beverage be procured in an innocent looking photograph gallery on the outskirts of the ball field. The magic high sign was the word "developer," and it was whispered around that all that was required was to go over to the gallery and ask for developer, and those suffering with large thirsts would be administered to. One of the visitors from Buffalo swallowed this bait, hook and all, and not only did he go over to the gallery and ask for developer, but presented to the proprietor one of the refreshment checks that were used on the steamer Tashmoo. He wasn't the only one that got stung, however, for all afternoon bunches of two and three were seen steering for the photograph gallery only to come out again with that longing look on their faces still further intensified by bitter disappointment. We have our old friend, Ben Freese, under suspicion of starting the excitement. ■

## Membership Committee

2011 Memberships were due on March 1, 2011. The Membership Committee is happy to report an almost 100% renewal rate for those that joined us in the first year of operation. We thank those that continue to support us and for the few that didn't, we know the check is in the mail!

## Tashmoo Book Update

Harsens Island resident, Art Woodford, has chosen to make his next book project about Tashmoo Park and the steamer, Tashmoo. He has asked our help to locate stories and photos of people, events at and of Tashmoo Park. Part of the proceeds from this venture will be donated to the Society.

Arcadia Publishing has accepted his proposal. He has a deadline of the end of August 2011 to submit a manuscript and photos to the publisher. With this timetable they are projecting a publication date of spring 2012.

If you can help with this project, please contact Art directly at 810-748-3571.

## From the President continued

When I got home that day and began a plan to turn the heat on, a poem written by Robert Burns in 1786 came to mind. The poem was called *To a Mouse* and tells how he when ploughing a field upturned a mouse's nest.

*But, Mousie, thou art no thy lane [you aren't alone]  
In proving foresight may be vain:  
The best laid schemes o' mice an' men  
Gang aft a-gley, [often go awry]  
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,  
For promised joy.*

In our case, the nests were not from mice but our dear Island birds. A phone call to Board Member John Eidt and member Bruce Hass to meet me at the Hall got the project back on track. The birds have lost their home, parts have been ordered for the furnace, they will be installed and our Fire Hall will have heat and our work parties will get on with the job of making the historic Fire Hall our new home.

April is month two of our plans to have the hall ready for the May 28 Grand Opening. The necessary work cannot be completed on time without the help of our many members. Lisa White has volunteered to ask members of the Island fire department to help us prepare the inside of the building for painting. Weekends would seem the best time to accomplish the heavy lifting, although work will be done during the week also. Board Member Bernard Licata has a schedule for clean-up and painting. If you will be on the Island and can help with this project, please give him a call at 586-530-7100. There is an old saying, MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT THE WORK, we need MANY HANDS. Our first efforts will be to handle the inside of the building. The outside needs some tender loving care also, but that can be done later. We need the inside completed during April so furniture and displays can be moved in. Island Carpet Cleaning has volunteered to clean the carpet once the walls have been cleaned and painted. Artifacts are beginning to be donated and will be on display for the grand opening. A computer has been donated by Kevin Decker, so Nancy Boulton and her committee can catalog all donations. If you have artifacts to donate contact Nancy at 810-748-3802. We have had several desks and a filing cabinet donated as well as two display cases. Now all we need for the opening on May 28 is **MANY HANDS** please volunteer **yours**.

*- Gary Grout*

## THANK YOU!

### Building Fund Donors

Lanie Anderson &  
William Hampton  
Janie & Art Armstrong  
Patricia & Harold Bain  
Nancy Boulton  
Susan & Bob Bryson  
John Dion  
Arlene Earl  
Clayton Evans  
Donna & Ron Krispin  
Iris Olmin  
Mary & Walter Skula  
Karen & Bill Smith  
Mary Ann Smith  
Ginger Terrian  
Paul Wargo

### New Members

*through March 2011*  
Deborah DeBaker  
Mary & Bruce Hass  
Cynthia & John Kopchak  
James MacDonald  
Lorna MacDonald  
Stewart R. MacDonald  
Mary Ann Smith  
Art Snar  
Greg & Melanie Stiltner  
Wendie Trudell  
Bernie Wise

### Donations Committee

We will receive a rescue car that was in the original fire hall, also a wagon that was pulled by horses. We are looking for items from the island and the surrounding area. Please call Nancy Boulton at 810-748-3802.

## 2011 Activities & Events Calendar

<b>April</b>	<b>15</b>	Complete Clean-up / Fix-up - Ready for MOVE-IN
	<b>23</b>	<i>2:00 PM General Membership Meeting</i>
	<b>30</b>	Complete MOVE-IN process
<b>May</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>OPEN DOORS</b> to Public
	<b>28</b>	<i>9:30 AM General Membership Meeting</i>
	<b>28</b>	<b>GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION</b> -- 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM
<b>June</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>BUY THE FIRE HALL</b> -- EVENT -- Fund Raiser --- Details TBD
	<b>25</b>	<i>9:30 AM General Membership Meeting</i>
<b>July</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>HOT DOG &amp; ICE CREAM SOCIAL:</b> 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM -- Fundraiser
	<b>23</b>	<i>9:30 AM General Membership Meeting</i>
<b>August</b>	<b>6</b>	Society Booth at <b>FIELD DAY</b> -- Invite folks to stop in for Free Peanuts & Popcorn Day @ Fire Hall
	<b>13</b>	Society Booth at <b>BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL</b> -- Invite folks to stop in for Free Peanuts & Popcorn Day @ Fire Hall
	<b>21</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEETING &amp; GALA EVENT:</b> Dinner Dance & Entertainment -- Fundraiser @ Old Club -- Details TBD
	<b>21</b>	<i>4:00 PM General Membership ANNUAL Meeting @ OLD CLUB</i>
<b>Sept</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>PARADE DAY</b> -- Hot Dogs & Potato Chips - Peanuts & Popcorn Day
	<b>24</b>	<i>2:00 PM General Membership Meeting</i>
<b>Oct</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>HOT SOUP &amp; MUSIC</b> -- Details TBD
	<b>22</b>	<i>2:00 PM General Membership Meeting</i>
<b>Nov</b>	<b>6</b>	<i>2:00 PM General Membership Meeting</i>
<b>Dec</b>		No General Membership Meeting