

# The SOCIETY

# PAGES

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## “Perky Prudence’s Prohibition Phollies” ...was a *BIG HIT* once again ...and raised \$’s for the *LIONS Hall and The Society*:

The Dinner Theater Melodrama was performed to a sell-out crowd once again at the Lions Lounge. This year, vacationers, Perky Prudence (*Ilene Bischer*) and her beloved (*Lovelorn Louie*) visit the cottage of Charley (*Mike Haggerty*) and Cecilia (*Norma Steven*) and their daughter Franny (*Jeannie Rhodes*) for a weekend visit generating a dalliance between Slick Nick (*Bob Bryson*) and Perky Prudence. Slick Nick, the wood-worker with “great hands”, invited Perky for a boat-ride on one of the newest Chris Craft speedboats. (Not once, but two weekends in a row...!)

EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT...!

The Newsboy (*David Glowski*), kept the audience well informed of the chronology of events as they unfolded over the early years from Young Chris Smith as a boy played by Gregory Fannon and on into his boat building business as it progressed over the years and through Prohibition; and, relationships with THE MOB as they smuggled booze into the States to the myriad of speakeasy’s that littered Harsens Island and the Flats.

The ‘Speedboat Sweeties’ Lolly (*Kelli Glowski*) and Sugar (*Donna Glowski*) kept the crowd entertained as did The Clock (*Midgie Fannon*) between scenes.

Slick Nick spotted Perky on the first weekend visit with his keen eye and took advantage of Frannys’ absence as she went off to work at the Tashmoo Park dance pavilion. Nick invited Perky for a ‘boat-ride’. This dalliance produced the scornful eye of Franny upon their return to the cottage. After two weekends in a row of their fluttering off to be alone Lovelorn Louie was really angry, but it was more than Franny could take.

This little love triangle was a reminder that a ‘woman scorned’ Franny can bring unintended consequences. With pent-up anger Franny whacked her beloved Slick Nick over the head with a boat ore, whilst he was reading a Chris Craft Brochure, and dumped him in the canal behind their cottage.

Officer Krupke (*Rod McKnight*), after investigating at the local speakeasy (Joe Bedores Hotel Bar) discovered little information from the mobsters. It is reported that this is the extent of information he noted from that interrogation: The Iceman (*Dan Glowski*): “**I DON’T KNOW NUTTIN**”, Freddy the Fixer a.k.a. Ever Ready Freddy (*Fred Cardinali*): “**I AINT SEEN NUTTIN**”, Johnny “Greasy Fingers” (*John Streit*): “**I AIN’T SAYIN NUTTIN**”, Coniglierie a.k.a The Mouthpiece (*Gary Moltrup*): “**MY CLIENTS DON’T KNOW NUTTIN**” and Bartender Lucky Licata a.k.a. Knucles Nardo (*Bernardo Licata*). The Gun Molls and ladies of the evening, Lola - Whatever She Wants – She Gets (*Cheryl Cardinali*), E.J. The Butterfly (*E.J. McKnight*), and Trixie Do-a-Lot (*Denise Haggerty*) were not very helpful either.



...da BOSS said you gotta buy TWO CASES



Slick Nick and Perky off on their BOAT-RIDE escapade...!

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## The Society Pages

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Clair Flats Historical Society

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## Message from the President

Hi All,

We had a very busy June at the museum. On the 4<sup>th</sup> we had museum host orientation training and had six members attend who had not hosted in the past. What a wonderful turnout. If you are interested in joining the team of hosts who on occasion spend two hours at the museum greeting members and guests, feel free to call Nancy Boulton at 810-748-3802 to set up a time for a 20-minute briefing on how to open the museum, turn on the displays and make sales.

On June 10<sup>th</sup> we had our first Social Hour of the season and had about 12-14 members and friends attend. There is one on the second Friday of each month this summer from 6 to 8 pm at the museum. The next one is scheduled for July 8.

Also on June 10<sup>th</sup> we had a meeting of postcard collectors at the museum. We had ten people come to share their postcards of the local area and talk about all the great old resorts and other buildings shown on the cards. J.J. Hile and his son came all the way from Houston, Texas to attend. We discovered that J.J.'s father, Dick Hile, at one time had over 30,000 postcards. Wow. If you are interested in joining us next time just drop a message to me at [xharpaspah@aol.com](mailto:xharpaspah@aol.com) or call me at 248-388-0465.

Also on the 10<sup>th</sup> Chuck Miller continued work on building his freighter model at the museum. It's coming along great. You should stop in and see it.

On June 13 & 14 the museum was visited by more than 125 students from Algonac. See the separate Article by Marie Eidt in this newsletter.

On June 18<sup>th</sup> Gary Grout gave a great lecture on Jacob's Island (the original name of Harsens Island) at the Schoolhouse Grille. We had about 30 people in attendance. This was the first lecture of many we hope to offer about the island's history.

June 25<sup>th</sup> David Addy, chief engineer on many freighters spoke with members and answered questions about his experiences on the Great Lakes.

It seems there is always something going on at the museum. Stop in and say "HI" to one of our new museum hosts. They always like to have company and see a smiling face.

Cheers,  
Bob Williams, President

...continued from page 1

Officer Krupke's investigation brought him to the cottage after 'audience members' pointed him in that direction. While interrogating Charley, Cecilia, Perky and Lovelorn Louie and especially Franny regarding their whereabouts on the night of June 4, Slick Nick entered the cottage, still alive albeit wet and covered with seaweed, in the final scene returning to his sweet Franny.

All's well that ends well and another production of "**Perky Prudence**", by the Gang of Four and the Cattails as sponsors, generated a tidy sum to be distributed to the Lions (to support the hall) and The Harsens Island Historical Society.

Dinner Theatre at its best on Harsens Island could not have been brought to you without The Narrator (*Sandy Favrow*) and The Sign Lady (*Peggy Osgood*). Top credit goes to: **Nancy Streit – Director and Fearless Leader**. Supporting our '**Indefatigable Fearless Leader**' was: Nancy Licata – Assistant Director and Stage Manager, Fred Cardinali – Assistant to the Assistant Director, Cheryl Cardinali – Music Coordinator, Jeannie Rhodes & Bernardo Licata – Set Design, Karen Peterson – Piano Interlude and a special thanks to Eric Vigelius who brought professional light and sound to this haphazard production. Lest we forget, thank-you also to Islander Stacy Williams, professional photographer, Twin Photography LLC who shot dress rehearsal in the photos you see here; and, donated her work to the cause.

**"Fun was had by all", stated Nancy Streit.** "The seed of an idea blossomed into a beautiful thing", she continued. "The cast from last year, along with new faces this year, really got into helping fill-out the basic theme; and, the 'creativity' of each member of the cast and crew made this a really fun production". **"Thank you all for supporting the Lions and The Society",** she concluded.



Frannie WHACK's Slick Nick



Officer Krupke Interrogates the 'Suspects'



The authentic c.1920's sign: "**JOE BEDORE'S HOTEL BAR**", was loaned to the production by Terry Young and family.

## *“Museum Happenings”*

### *“Historical Society Museum Welcomes Local Students”*

by: Marie Eidt

On Monday June 13<sup>th</sup> the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society hosted 75 Second Graders and then the very next day 50 more came to visit. These kids came from Algonquin Elementary, part of the Algonac Community Schools. Students, teachers and parents enjoyed their visit and went home with some knowledge of our wonderful, unique Island.

Muskrat Sally introduced the importance of the Fur Trade to the early European settlement. Then the group took a look at THE GOLDEN ERA - the time of the large resorts. Old Joe Bedore's safe with its stash of money was unexpected.

The kids had lots to contribute to a discussion of how life was before electricity came to the island, as they took a look at the old stoves, organ and kitchen equipment.

In the Tashmoo Room were photos of the old steamer and park. They liked that people could eat on the boat, not quite the same as their Ferry crossing.

We saw the samples of coal and taconite that are transported by the freighters. Chuck Miller captured small groups as he continued his summer work on a model freighter.

Time was soon up as they gathered for a group photo and were sent off with the wailing siren from our emergency vehicle.

### *“David Addy” ...Experiences as Chief Engineer in his career aboard Lake Freighters:*

Saturday June 26, David Addy filled the Tashmoo Room at the Museum. They came to hear about life aboard a Freighter. This session was scheduled as another learning experience to coincide with the Special Exhibit: ***“Freighters, Steamships and Sails”***



*Chuck Miller, Co-Chairman, Lecture Series introduces David Addy Chief Engineer*

*additional photos...page 5*

***“Museum Happenings”...continued:***



*Chief Engineer Addy*



*Addy speaking to group and answering questions*

***“Other News”***

***“Jacobs Island” ...The History of Harsens Island ...Lecture Series***

Gary Grout presented: ***“Jacobs Island” ...The History of Harsens Island*** Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> to a near full house. Thank you all who attended to learn about the Island and Flats from Gary.



Gary & his companion Annie at the Readers Cove Library



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## Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society 2016 Calendar of Events

*subject to change*

Members are welcome to attend any Board Meeting listed as Board/Membership Meeting  
(Location may change – See our website at: [HarsensIslandHistory.org](http://HarsensIslandHistory.org) for latest information)

### Museum Hours

**January, February, March, April**– CLOSED – Open by Appointment only

**May** – Saturdays – 10 AM – 3 PM and Sunday's – Noon – 4 PM

**June, July, August, September** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday's - 6 PM – 8 PM

Saturday's – 10 AM – 3 PM and Sunday's – Noon – 4 PM

**Winter Hours**– By Appointment: Phone a Board Member

### July

1<sup>st</sup> – Friday – 6:00 PM – Board/Membership Meeting at the Museum

8<sup>th</sup> – Friday – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM - Social hour –at the Museum

10<sup>th</sup> – Sunday – 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM - Chuck Miller building Freighter Model – at the Museum

10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> – Camera's Ready - Be ALERT for TALL SHIPS on the South Channel

23<sup>rd</sup> – Saturday – 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM – Photo Scanning Day - at the Museum

### August

6<sup>th</sup> - Saturday – 10:30 AM – Board/Membership meeting at the Museum

12<sup>th</sup> – Friday – Social hour – 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Museum

13<sup>th</sup>– Saturday – *possible date 1:00 PM - David Addy - Experiences as a Chief Engineer –at Museum.*

14<sup>th</sup>– Sunday – 1:00 to 3:00 - PM Chuck Miller freighter model –at Museum

20<sup>th</sup>– Saturday – 4:30 PM Wine and Appetizers at the museum.

5:00 to 6:00 PM Annual Membership meeting - at Museum.

(Election results announced)