



Jack Frost has arrived, and he did not let the Harsens Island Ice Jam of January 21st stop him.

For those of you who stayed for the winter on our little island, you may have noticed it is a bit nippy outside. The last days of January were bitterly cold, single digits and below zero with the wind chill.

Jack Frost is a personification of frost, ice, snow, sleet, winter, and freezing cold. He is a variant of Old Man Winter who is held responsible for frosty weather, nipping the fingers and toes in such weather, coloring the foliage in autumn, and leaving fern-like patterns on cold windows in winter.



- The top three coldest 3-month winter periods on record in Michigan were in the years; 1903/1904, 1917/1918, and 1919/1920.
- The coldest temperature in Michigan was recorded on February 9, 1934 at -51 degrees Fahrenheit.

Be safe and stay warm.

Message from the President . . .

Hi All,

Though the museum is now closed for the season, if you have a group who would like to visit we can make special arrangements to have it opened. Please call Chuck Miller at 810-643-1150. This is a reminder that while the museum is closed, the Society will only be publishing the newsletter every other month. Your next newsletter will arrive in April.

Membership Renewal

The membership renewal forms went in the mail in early January. Many renewals have already been received. Thank you. If you have not sent yours back yet, please try to do so soon. If you have a life membership you do not need to return anything unless your contact information has changed. If you did not return your renewal and are not sure where you put it feel free to send in your payment with the form found later in this newsletter.

New Endowment Investment Account

I would like to thank the many members who have sent donations in honor of Nancy Boulton. They continue to come in. The Board has opened an endowment savings and investment account with only the income from this account to be used for normal operating expenses. Our hope is that the principle in this endowment account will be retained to support the museum for decades to come. Donations received in the future to honor other Islanders will most likely be added to this account unless earmarked by the donor for a specific project.

Exhibit and storage space building addition update

We have now obtained all approvals needed from the Township to begin construction on the new exhibit and storage space addition to

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Message from the President . . . continued from page 1 . . .

the museum. During the last two months we have sent plans out to local contractors to get bids and have been meeting with some to begin to negotiate contracts. The Board of Directors would like to hire local island contractors wherever possible. Of course, costs and the contractor's ability to perform the work within a reasonable time frame are always a consideration. In some cases, there may be no island contractor who can do the work or supply the materials needed. In those cases, we are extending our bid process off the island.



The existing storage room has been cleared out and is ready to be demolished. In order to accommodate the existing items which were in the museum storage room a group of volunteers moved the exhibit items from the back twenty feet or so of *The Nancy Boulton and Gary Grout Founders Gallery* forward in the room, so the last twenty feet can be used for storage during the construction of the addition. It will be tight in the museum for this coming season, but we will make it work.

Bob Williams, President
(xharpspah@aol.com)

Last 747-100 Retires & Harsens Island Connection

Author: Gerry Victory

A news story popped up online yesterday about the last flying Boeing 747-100 (the original version of the 747) had just retired from flying as a test aircraft for GE Aviation and was being flown to the Pima Aircraft Museum in Arizona. It brought back memories of this iconic aircraft and a peripheral connection to Harsens Island.

With great fanfare, the first 747-100 was first flown in commercial service by Pan Am in January of 1970. Not wanting to be left behind, other airlines began planning their introduction of this aircraft into their fleets, including United Airlines. Introducing this new aircraft would involve retraining of their most senior pilots for flight operations.

One of their most senior pilots was Capt. Richard Husted. Captain Husted was a frequent visitor to Harsens Island, having been introduced to the area by Dr. Don Wicke. Dr. Wicke & Captain Husted had flown together in WW2, flying out of

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Last 747-100 Retires & Harsens Island Connection . . . continued from page 2 . . .

Romulus field & Willow Run airports in the Air Transport Command. He met his wife, Fran, while flying for Penn Central Airlines where she was a Stewardess in 1940. After service in WW2 as a pilot, flying the Hump from Burma to China, they married in 1943 and settled in nearby Belleville. The Wickie's had maintained a cottage in the flats since the late 1950's and later on Green Dr. The Husted's visited often, sometimes flying their float equipped airplane out to the island for visits (see photo below).



In the mid 60's Captain Husted was transferred to New York from Detroit to fly the DC-8 out of Idlewild airport (now known as JFK). They settled in Greenwich, Connecticut, and would still occasionally visit the Wickie's. They longed to return to Michigan someday to be close to Harsens Island.

In early 1970, the Husted's began looking to buy a place at Harsens in earnest as a potential retirement home. After several trips, they found a home for sale on Green Dr., made an offer, & began the purchase process. They came to Harsens to close on the purchase, not knowing that United Airlines had solidified their plans for training pilots for their recent purchase of the new 747-100 and had begun notifying candidates of their selection for the first class of trainees. Due to his seniority in United, captain Husted was eligible to be in this first class of trainees. United began contacting this group in August of 1970 but they could not locate Mr. Husted since he was not at home. Dick and Fran had begun moving to the Harsens house and he was scheduled to be off for several days. This was a very time sensitive process and they urgently needed to determine if he was interested in becoming part of this elite group. Desperate to get in touch with him, they contacted his

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Last 747-100 Retires & Harsens Island Connection . . . continued from page 3 . . .

son, Richard Husted Jr. (Rick) who was a recent new hire pilot with United. He was flying around the US as a 737 co-pilot and they had difficulty figuring out where he was. They located him in Baltimore on a layover and asked him if he could get in touch with his dad (United did not have a contact number for him at Harsens Island) and ask him to call in regarding this opportunity. Rick knew he was at Harsens Island, so he called to inform he needed to contact his supervisor. Mr. Husted called in to his office and immediately accepted the offer as it was a great advancement opportunity. The requirement was for him to immediately report to the United training center in Denver to begin the training class. Much to Fran's dismay, he left Harsens Island immediately (Fran had to finish the unpacking at the new house) and flew to Denver to begin the 6-8-week training program.

Captain Husted went on to complete his career with United Airlines, flying the 747-100 until 1977 from Chicago. They maintained their Harsens Island residence until 2007 due to failing health. Their son Rick continued with his career as a pilot with United, retiring in 2003 as a Captain flying the 747-400. The Harsens Island property purchase at this critical junction of a career opportunity is a family milestone & story that is told to this day. Fortunately, the Island heritage continues. Gerry Victory and his wife Lisa (Husted) Victory have continued the legacy in the Husted home and a visited by Lisa's brother Rick and his wife Lynn every summer as renters on the Island.



Contact our curator, Chuck Miller, to arrange for a visit.

(cmiller5179@gmail.com)

Curator's Corner

By Chuck Miller

The winter has provided the volunteers a much-needed rest and an opportunity to continue our archival work. As most of you know, the museum will be in a bit of disarray this year as we undergo construction of our new addition. WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE OPEN with at least one new exhibit planned.

This issue of our newsletter features a new approach to bringing our Island Heritage and stories to life. I am asking all our members to consider contributing to our newsletter by contributing a story relating to interesting island events that may have occurred in their family. Submit them in word (.doc) format or just write them down and send them to me with pictures. If you want help crafting the story, contact me and we'll work it up together.

Here's just a couple of snippets relating to upcoming articles: Did you know that one of our longtime residents (now deceased) was a Naval Aviator in WWII flying from a carrier in the Pacific Theater and that he trained on converted passenger liners on Lake Michigan? Did you know he was also the INVENTOR of the AUTOMOTIVE AIRBAG SYSTEM?

How about the great grandfather in a current family here on the Island that was a professional cartographer and made maps of our Island and Clay Township. He also created the engineering drawings for the Sault Canal/Locks construction?

There are great stories out there! Help me capture them!

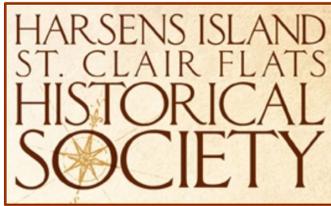
Harsens Island Historical Society Calendar 2019

Date	Day	Time	Event
March 9	Saturday	10:30 AM	Board Meeting (Email or Skype)
May 4	Saturday		Board / Membership Meeting at Museum
May 25 - 27	Saturday Sunday Monday	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Memorial Weekend Museum Open House Steam Whistle Dedication and Building Addition ground breaking ceremony (Exact dates and times to be announced)
June 1	Saturday	9:30 AM	Museum Host Orientation at Museum
June 1	Saturday	10:30 AM	Board / Membership Meeting at Museum
June 1	Saturday	3:00 PM	Museum Host Orientation at Museum
June 14	Friday	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Social Hour
July 6	Saturday	10:30 AM	Board / Membership Meeting at Museum
July 12	Friday	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Social Hour
August 3	Saturday	5:30 PM	Board Meeting/Dinner at Board member's home
August 9	Friday	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Social Hour
August 17	Saturday	4:30 PM	Wine and Appetizers at Museum
September 13	Friday	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Social Hour
October 5	Saturday	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Pie Sale at Museum
October 12	Saturday	10:30 AM	Board / Membership Meeting at Museum
December 7	Saturday	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Cookie Walk at Museum
December 14	Saturday	10:30 AM	Board Meeting at Museum



Museum Hours

Memorial Weekend May 25 – 27
Saturday 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Sunday 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Monday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Summer Schedule (June, July, August)
Thursdays and Fridays 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Second Fridays 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Saturdays 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Sundays 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Winter Schedule (October through April)
Closed but Open by appointment



A publication of the Harsens Island St.
Clair Flats Historical Society

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PO Box 44
Harsens Island MI 48028

Museum Address:

3058 S. Channel Dr.

<https://harsensislandhistory.org/>

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What is a Steam Whistle?

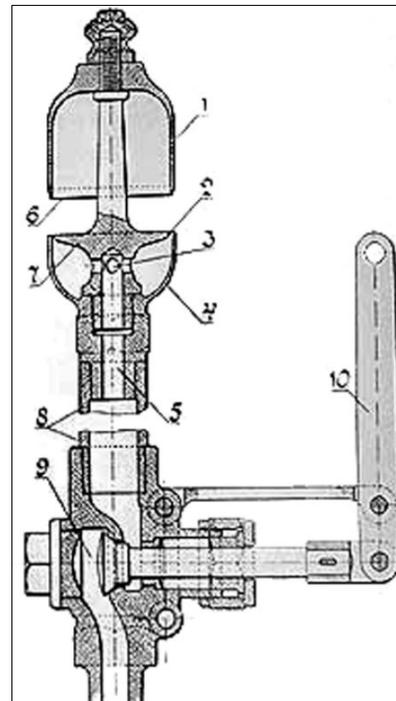
We are all very excited about the steam whistle being installed at the Museum. The installation is almost complete, and we will have a blowout bash (no pun intended) Memorial Weekend to dedicate the whistle. The steam whistle is from the retired freighter, the J.B. Ford and was donated by John and Ann Cameron.

But what is a steam whistle?

A steam whistle is just a whistle that's blown by steam rather than air. The principle behind a whistle is straightforward: the air inside the whistle is driven into intense vibration by the stream of gas blown across a slot-shaped opening. Steam whistles were often used in steam ships for warning and communication purposes.

The whistle consists of the following main parts, as seen on the drawing: the whistle bell (1), the steam orifice or aperture (2), and the valve (9).

When the lever (10) is pulled (usually via a pull cord), the valve opens and lets the steam escape through the orifice. The steam will alternately compress and rarefy in the bell, creating the sound. The pitch, or tone, is dependent on the length of the bell; and how far the operator has opened the valve.



Example of parts of a steam whistle

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steam_whistle

Membership Application 2019

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse Name: _____

Primary Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____ Spouse Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____ Spouse E-Mail: _____

Additional Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Additional Phone: _____

<u>Annual Dues:</u>		<u>Life-time Dues</u>	
{ } Individual (1 Member Only)	\$20.00	_____ Life Individual	\$300.00
{ } Family (1-2 Adults plus children under 18 years)	\$30.00	_____ Life Family	\$500.00
{ } Business	\$50.00		

BUILDING ADDITION DONATION: \$ _____ **OTHER DONATION:** \$ _____

If desired, please specify use: _____

Newsletters are emailed to members. If you require newsletters via postal mail, please write a note on your returned application.

Please complete and send with a check made payable to: **The Society**. Mail to: The Society, PO Box 44, Harsens Island, MI 48028

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date received: _____

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____