

GT

In the last issue of The Legacy we mentioned the desire to purchase a model of the Grand Trunk Western car ferry “City of Milwaukee” that ran out of Muskegon for many years. We received \$1200 in generous donations from the following families to fund this new exhibit: The White Lake Lothman Family Fund, Frank & Sue Bednerick, John Bloomstrom and Bill & Jennie Reeves. Thanks so much to all of you!

The amount donated was more than we originally estimated we would need. It allowed us to do more to expand the exhibit. The model train cars and GT engine in N-Scale were added to make a more realistic diorama. The large reproduction brass builder’s plaque was also a perfect addition that we were very lucky to find. The Car Ferry Museum in Manistee where we purchased the plaque, is not planning on casting any more of these.

This exhibit is nearly complete and in a glass case in the main room at the



museum, (see the photo above). The diorama depicts the docking facility in Muskegon off McCracken Street where the Milwaukee Clipper is currently tied up.

There is space to add a few other items to complete the exhibit. If you

have any Grand Trunk items you feel would enhance this exhibit please call us. Be sure to plan on coming in to the museum next spring and see this new exhibit explaining the history of the Grand Trunk Western Car Ferries.

Building improvements for 2017

The volunteers this fall have been hard at work updating the facility and moving exhibits to allow space for new exhibits in 2017. We would like to thank the following group who have worked each Thursday this fall they are; Bob Harvey, Dave Rice, Dick Didrickson, Roger Wiitanen, Don Niskanen, Jim Runyan, Jim Hagerty and Allan Dake.

These volunteers have replaced all of the outside window sills in the building with new pressure treated painted sills. All of the trim on the inside around the windows was removed, stained, varnished and reinstalled. The volunteers have trimmed out the atrium perimeter boards between the 2nd and 3rd floors and it really looks great. We will be leaving these boards unfinished for several years to age and then they will get varnished for a natural color. It is wonderful to see the work that these men are able to accomplish each week. *Thank you so much to all our volunteers!*

The volunteer staff walked into the building in late September and found over 1 inch of water in the basement. This was after the big storm that dumped over 5 inches of rain on Muskegon in less than 24 hours. Our roof drains and sump pumps in

the basement could not get water out through the pipe going into storm drains on Western Ave., due to a blockage by tree roots. This resulted in the water coming back in the building over the sill plate making a cool waterfall. The museum hired Lasko Plumbing to come and clean the drain pipe. They removed the tree roots and found a large hole in the old clay pipe going out to the storm drain. The hole in the pipe was a problem which we assumed would mean digging up the front sidewalk to replace the pipe. Thankfully Lasko was able to insert a epoxy/fiberglass permanent patch in the pipe and it made a clean repair. We are glad to have this completed but it was rather expensive.

All of the storm windows are back in place in the building, including the big triple door in the back. These storms have made a significant difference to the warmth of the building during the winter.

We now have improved heating ducts installed from all three furnaces and this makes for more efficient heating during the winter. Thanks to USA Sprial in Grand Rapids for donating the round duct for the 3rd floor and Carmichael Heating for installing those pipes.

Membership dues increase

The MHA Board voted to raise the membership dues in 2017. The starting membership has been \$15.00 for many years. With the increased costs of mailing, electricity and other museum expenses, the board of directors felt this was a good time to make the basic membership \$20.00.

This includes free admission to the museum for the member, spouse, children and grand children; a subscription to the Legacy newsletter and invitations to exhibit openings and events. The board also voted to

increase the cost for entry into the museum. The entrance fee will now be \$5.00 for adults, \$2.00 for students and \$4.00 per person for groups of 10 or more. This accomplishes two things, it is easier for our volunteers and it brings us closer to what other museums charge in the area. On cruise ship days we had to have over \$100.00 in one dollar bills just to make change, not a bad thing on one hand, but it will be easier next season. Our volunteers will appreciate not having to make change with all the one dollar bills.



New Exhibits coming in 2017

When you visit the museum next spring you will see some changes! The *Sealed Power* exhibit received a very special addition recently, which necessitated rearranging the entire exhibit and moving it to a new room. Of course this meant moving other exhibits, like Norge, Alaska Refrigerator and Michigan Washing Machine. Members will have a chance to preview all the changes in the spring at a pre-season open house.

We have added to the Ginman exhibit with a new replica boat model. The Blakely outboard which has been in the front window for two years has been moved to the second floor as an exhibit about the company including patent documents and magazine ads.

The 3rd floor will have a room devoted to businesses such as Sanitary Dairy, Wasserman Flowers and feature many items made by smaller companies in Muskegon. Come in next season to find out more.



A Sauce to Remember – Occidental Hot Fudge

A Volunteer Appreciation Ice Cream Social was held in October to say thank you to the many wonderful people who run the museum during the season. Wes Anderson made Occidental Hot Fudge, a whole crockpot full!! It was delicious! Some of our volunteers joked about skipping the ice cream and just having a bowl of the hot fudge. Several asked for the recipe and Wes was happy to provide it for us. Some say this is the exact recipe while others claim that the recipe was never shared, but this is very close and so tasty, it doesn't matter.

Thank you Wes for the treat.

Occidental Candy Shop Hot Fudge

Recipe

2 cups of sugar

2/3 cup of cocoa

6 tablespoons of flour (or a little less)

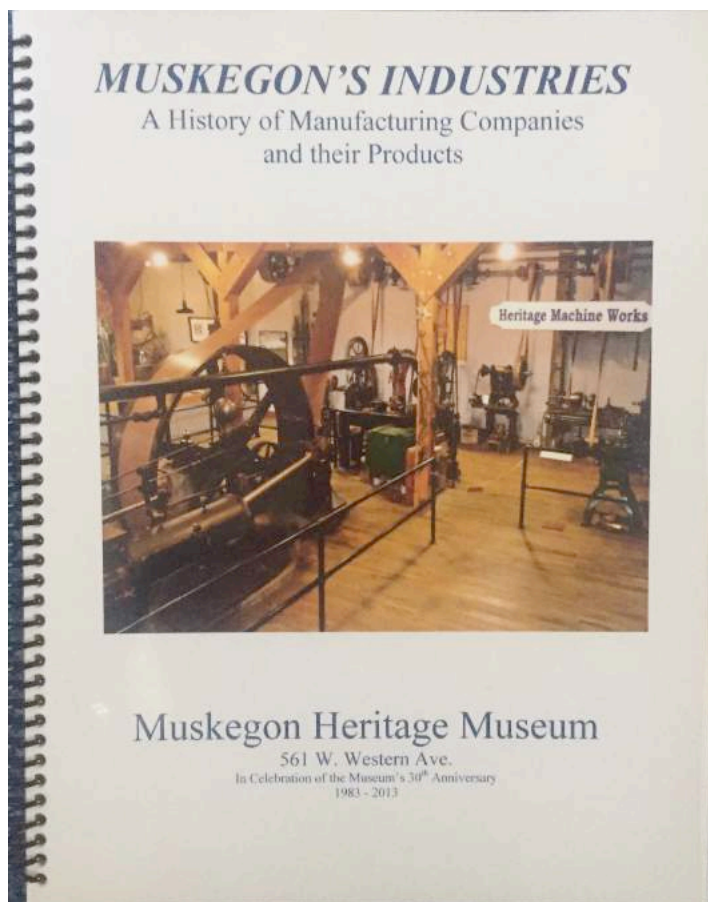
1 teaspoon of salt

Mix dry ingredients very well in a saucepan. Add milk slowly. Cool over low heat until thickened, stirring constantly. Stir in butter and vanilla. Enjoy!

2 cups of milk

2 tablespoons of butter

2 teaspoons of vanilla



Looking for a gift for family members or friends? We have the perfect solution for you!

The book "Industries of Muskegon" published by the Museum in 2013, has just been updated for 2017. It has over 200 pages chronicling the industrial history of the Muskegon area. There are 100s of photos and copies of original ads from these companies. Over 95 different companies are in the book and they tell part of the story of Muskegon's history. The price for Christmas is just \$25.00. If you wish to have it mailed to you add \$6.00 for mailing. Contact the Museum via email at info@muskegonheritage.org with questions or mail your check to Muskegon Heritage Museum 561 W.

Western Ave. Muskegon, Michigan 49440. Be sure to have your check to the museum before December 12th to insure delivery by Christmas.

**Muskegon Heritage Association and Museum
ANNUAL MEETING**

Thursday, December 8, 2016

7:00 pm

Heritage Museum Meeting Room 2nd floor

The annual meeting is a time to review the year with membership and treasurer's reports, plus a report from the President and Museum Director. There will also be a vote to renew the terms for 4 directors. There is no old business to come before the group. Comments and suggestions will be welcome during the "For the Good of the Organization" portion of the agenda.

Muskegon Heritage Museum Fund

Several years ago a fund for the museum was created at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. It has grown nicely to more than \$220,000! Thank you to all of you who have made that growth possible through generous gifts to the fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide a permanent financial base for the museum as it grows in the future. While the amount in the fund is a great accomplishment, it is not where we want to be, so we ask you to consider making a year-end gift to the MHM Fund this year.

Many organizations are sending out letters of requests for "year-end-giving" this time of year. There are too many for most of us to support them all, so we have to make choices. We sincerely hope that the Heritage Museum will be one of your choices as you make your considerations. All of the museum volunteers are working hard to preserve and share the stories of Muskegon's businesses and industries. With your generous

support the museum will have a great future!

Checks may be written to Muskegon Heritage Museum Fund and mailed to Community Foundation for Muskegon County 425 W. Western Ave., Muskegon 49440. Thank you very much!

Just the Facts

- * Museum now occupies 3 floors
- * Over 9000 sq ft of exhibit space now in use.
- * Almost 3000 visitors came to the museum this year.
- * 570 passengers from the cruise ship visited the museum.
- * 620 Students, teachers and parents visited free on school tours
- * 60 + volunteers helped at the museum during the year

The museum in the past



The third floor photo from 2011, we still had junk stored here and no electricity, insulation and obviously no dry wall. The old railings were still in place. We had help from DeRose Builders to complete a new stairway to the third floor, making it much easier for our volunteers and visitors to get to the 3rd floor. The old stairway was very narrow and very steep.

The machine shop before line shafts were finished and belts were added. We also had not painted the walls or updated the machinery with paint when this photo was taken in 2010.



The meeting / classroom on the second floor in early 2011, was a pretty bare room waiting to be finished by our volunteers. In this photo we were adding studs to the outside wall for better insulation. All ceilings throughout the second floor also were insulated to help with heat retention.

The skylight area of the atrium before our volunteers installed new thermopane windows and 12” of insulation to help with heat loss in the winter and to keep the building cooler in the summer. We also installed light finished car siding over this area to finish it off.



Here is an early version of the logging exhibit that has been upgraded several times since 2009. What you will see this spring is again another update suggested by volunteer Dick Didrickson.

We always welcome ideas from our visitors and volunteers alike. This makes the Heritage Museum what it is today

Our pinsetter equipment being installed by three men from the Brunswick Corp. It took them 3 days to install the pinsetter with the ball return and the lane. Brunswick continues to support the pinsetter when we have minor issues with the mechanism.



Muskegon Heritage Association & Museum
561 W. Western Ave.
Muskegon, MI. 49440

Share this issue of The Legacy with a friend.
Regular museum hours T-F-S 11-4 opening again in mid May 2017

Memberships support exhibits.
Encourage your friends to visit the museum and become members.
Basic Family memberships begin at \$20.
Patron memberships begin at \$30.

Membership applications can be found on the museum web site and are available at the museum. Your support is appreciated.

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**The mission of the
Muskegon Heritage Museum is
to preserve and share
Muskegon's industrial and social
history so that our
irreplaceable heritage is
available today and for the
future.**