

May
2008



ARENAC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

A message from your President . . .

The Arenac County Historical Society is ready for another summer season of activities. We have some new programs for the last Thursday of every month from May through September. As an added attraction, Ye Olde Courthouse will have additional programs throughout the year. Be sure to watch for our advertisements. The museum will be open weekends throughout the summer from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend. Please see the cover letter for the date of the Courthouse opening. Take some time this summer to view the many artifacts on display. Our website has a lot of old photos and information available, also.

We are looking for volunteers again. We need people to serve on several new committees to help our organization run smoothly. If everyone does a little bit, a lot can be accomplished. If you are interested, please contact the museum or one of our board members. We will contact you to see what you can do to help.

This summer we will be conducting a raffle to raise money to support our organization. Prizes will be a kayak, a digital camera and printer, and a GPS unit. Tickets will be on sale all summer, and the drawing will take place September 25th at the museum during our last program. Any member wishing to sell or purchase tickets can contact the museum.

Below, you will see a picture of someone very special. This person helped establish the Historical Society and continues to support it today. Do you know who it is? You may be pleasantly surprised!

Please get out this summer and enjoy the many activities at the ACHS as well as the many activities throughout Arenac County. We look forward to seeing you.

Sandy Proulx
President



This young lady was one of the first female flying enthusiasts in our part of Michigan. She was flying when she was eighteen years old.



Who is it?
Answer appears on the last page.

The ACHS Newsletter is printed
Compliments of Proulx Financial Service
Au Gres

ACHS Officers & Trustees

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President	Sandy Proulx
Vice President	Ann Ennis
Recording Sec.	Mary McLaughlin
Treasurer	Walter Fales

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Joann Gulau	-	Nancy Selle
Brenda Matt	-	Doug Juras
George Tolgo	-	Linda Proulx

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George Tolgo

Bylaws Review:
Walter Fales

Collections/Accessions/Exhib
Annabell Goodman

Hospitality:
Joann Zibble

Newsletter Editor:
Norah Wolthuis

Publicity:
Marilyn Van Sickle

Charity Island Preservation Committee:

ACHS Representative to the Arenac Heritage Route Authority:
Walter Fales - Brenda Matt

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Accession Committee
Annabell Goodman
Sandy Proulx
Ann Ennis
Joann Gulau

ACHS PHOTO CORNER



In honor of the approaching end of the school year and our upcoming graduates, be they Kindergarten, 5th Grade, or Seniors in area high schools, the PHOTO CORNER visits some school scenes of yester-year in Arenac County.

ARENAC HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY
STANDISH DEPOT

The Arenac Heritage Route Authority would like to take this opportunity to thank our citizens for their support of the Fifth Annual Diamonds, Denim & Camo Depot Dinner. Due to the generosity of our donors and guests, we made a profit of almost \$10,000.00. We hope everyone enjoyed our Chef, Dixie Dave Minar, and the wild game dinner.

The Authority is creating a brochure which will feature the Depot as a welcome and information center. The brochure also gives us the opportunity to showcase ten attractions in Arenac County. The Arenac County Historical Society Museum in Au Gres and the Omer Courthouse/Masonic Hall will also be included. The Authority is also in the process of creating a web site which will be almost limitless and will direct visitors throughout Arenac County. The web site will include parks, golf courses, campgrounds, libraries, the hospital, marinas, motels, restaurants, cemeteries, canoe liveries, churches, etc. We will need information from the Authority representatives from your township, city or village.

The Depot is open seven days a week. The hours on Monday thru Friday are 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. We plan to be open more hours as the busy summer season approaches. More volunteers are needed. You may work as few or as many hours as you prefer. Please visit the Depot and check the schedule or call or email our Director, Sue, for times available. (depotahra@charter.net or 718-3021)

Construction will resume soon on the bandstand. Memorial bricks for the walk are still available. Forms are at the Depot and may also be obtained by calling Brenda at 989-846-0501 or Curt at Arenac Abstract at 989-846-6560. The Authority is planning to hold small concerts in the bandstand some evenings this summer. Watch for times and our concert line-up in the Arenac Independent.

The Authority meets at the Depot on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend. We are accepting railroad artifacts, memorabilia, pictures and stories of people from this area who worked for the railroad or the Depot and travelers to and from the Depot.



TOWNHALL SCHOOL



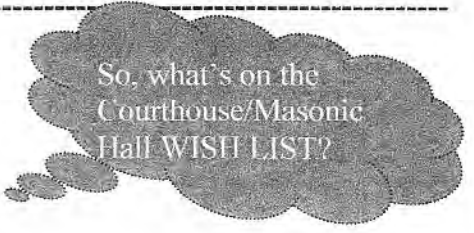
RIVERSIDE SCHOOL 1927-28



OLD ARENAC SCHOOL

NOTICE
NEW ACHS WEBSITE ADDRESS

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miachs/index.htm>



MUSEUM BOOK STORE

All of our book selections are for sale at the MUSEUM, The Depot, and the Northeast Art Center in Standish.

- HISTORY OF STERLING** *Price: \$8*
A reprint of Virginia Adams book.
- HISTORY OF STERLING (2nd Generation)** *Price \$8*
- AUGRES CENTENNIAL 1865-1965** *Price \$6*
- ARENAC COUNTY FAIR PREMIUM BOOK.** Printed in 1885, it describes the first Arenac County Fair that was held in Omer when it was the County Seat. *Price \$5*
- THE STORY OF STANDISH AND ITS PEOPLE: 1876-1976**
This is a reprint of Allan McCready's book; an index of names has been added. *Price \$10*
- ARENAC COUNTY PLAT BOOK, circa 1920** *Price \$6*
- THIS IS THE WAY WE WENT TO SCHOOL** *Price \$6*
- 1/2" x 11" ARENAC COUNTY MAP (Shows location of each of the 43 early Arenac County Schools)** *Price \$1.25*
- WAH SASH KAH MOQUA, by Mary Sagatoo** *Price \$10*
This is a reprint done by the Book Nook in East Tawas
- THE HISTORY OF ARENAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN***
This best-seller is in its 4th reprint! *Price \$20*
- THE HISTORY OF ARENAC COUNTY ROADS** *Price \$6*
- 24th ANNUAL ARENAC COUNTY FAIR BOOK** *Price \$3*
- ONE ROOM ARENAC COUNTY SCHOOLS, Vol. 1,2,3,4** *Price \$7each*
- 1947 ARENAC COUNTY DIRECTORY** *Price \$6*
- FIRST FAMILIES OF STANDISH TOWNSHIP** *Price \$10*
- ARENAC COUNTY PIONEER SOCIETY, AUGRES 18-26-1911** *Price \$6*

A RECENT HISTORICAL FIND



Bill Grose found a large timber floating near his house and

pulled it onto the shore. It appeared to be a ship mast. We heard about it through his neighbor, Mary Tack. It was removed to the museum. Walter took the picture to Al Fales in Standish and he identified it as a "yard" from a Great Lakes sail boat. There were two pictures of the type in his book, HIAWATHA'S HIGHWAYS. The last Great Lakes sail boats of this type sailed in 1920. It is very likely that this yard is at least 80 - 90 years old - probably older. The yard is 32ft. 2 inches long and appears to be carved from a pine log. Both ends are tapered. There are four spots on the yard that have through holes and a partial hole. It appears that an iron hook went through the through hole and the curved end of the hook went into the blind hole. These hooks could have held the shackles or tie downs for the lower edge of the sails. A picture of the yard is above.



**Ye Olde Courthouse/
Masonic Hall
Omer**

PENNIES! PENNIES! PENNIES! Our 2008 Penny Drive is under way. We have approximately 80,000 pennies counted. Our goal is one million pennies or \$10,000.00 dollars. We are accepting loose pennies, rolled pennies, jars of pennies, piggy banks of pennies, jars of silver change and, of course, good old paper money to add to our penny drive. You may bring your contribution to Omer when we are open or call any of our members and we will be happy to pick them up. Greg's Market and Ma's Girls in Omer both have donation jars, as do several businesses in Au Gres and Standish. We will keep you updated throughout 2008 as we progress to our goal. Anyone who brings in pennies or makes a donation will have their names on a paper penny and be displayed at the building.

Our Angel Wing Sale (Chruscki) was a great success. Our profits were \$950.00. This is a very labor intensive project and lots of hard work. We are thinking about what we could do to ease the load. Our loyal customers now look forward to Chruscki at Easter time and we would like to continue to provide them with these delicious pastries. No one works harder than Dick and Phyllis Klender, who spearhead this sale. Thanks Dick and Phyllis for your dedication.

Our first open weekend for this season was April 5th and 6th. Alice Sproule and our Omer bakers did an outstanding job with the bake sale. We made an unbelievable profit of \$800.00! We served chili and hot dogs, gave tours of our building, and Jim Steward conducted his annual sucker raffle. Five lucky people took home \$100.00 each and the Courthouse received \$500.00. Thanks, Jim for all your hard work conducting this raffle.

Our next open weekend will be during the Memorial Day holiday. We will be open for tours and will be holding a bake sale. Please remember our annual Junque Sale, which will be held during the 4th of July weekend. If you have any good junque to donate, let us know and we can meet you at the Courthouse, or we will be happy to pick up items.

Arenac County held the 125th Celebration, Arenac County Quasiquicentennial Kickoff at Ye Old Courthouse on April 11th, 2008. This event was very well attended and was an opportunity for us to show off our building and displays. Alice Sproule, Mayor of Omer, welcomed guests including several local dignitaries and Representative Moore and Congressman Bart Stupak. A delicious lunch was served by Ma's Girls following the ceremonies. The Arenac County Board of Commissioners expressed their special thanks to the Arenac County Historical Society for the use of our building allowing them to celebrate on the site of the beginnings of Arenac County.

We would like to be open more weekends this summer. If you would like to volunteer to staff the building please contact Jim Steward.

Check for announcements in this newsletter for programs which will be held here this year. Contact us if you would like more information on a pledge, join us as a volunteer, donate you pennies, junque, or if you have pictures and information to add to our scrapbooks concerning Omer and Arenac Township that you would be willing to share with us.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Brenda Matt | Committee Chair | 989-846-0501 |
| Phyllis Klender | Reporting Chair | 989-653-2762 |
| Joann Gulau | Financial Chair | 989-976-6468 |

Society Finances Healthy

The Financial Report for the first eight months of year 2007-2008 through April 2008 is summarized below. The Society's book publication and sales have produced \$7,014 in support for the Museum since the beginning three years ago and the Museum store has earned the museum \$6,594 over the past six years. Depot income came from the sale of bricks for the Depot. The Courthouse income came from gifts and fund raising and the expenses were utilities, fund raising and land contract payments including an extra principal payment of \$5,000.

	Income	Expenses	Net Income	Fund Balances
General Fund	6,425	7,365	-941	11,799
Building Fund	30	0	0	251
Memorial Fund	112	0	81	9,920
Charity Is. Preservation Fund	9	1,219	-1,210	3,320
Standish Depot Preservation Fund	7,435	34,345	-27,110	0
Ye Olde Courthouse Fund	15,085	13,737	1,349	8,027
Total	29,095	56,865	-27,770	33,316

Bank Accounts	
Checking	237
Money Fund	2,335
CDs	19,397
Charity Is.	3,320
Depot	0
Courthouse	8,027
Total of All Accounts	33,316

Walter Fales

Phone 989.876.6612 Fax 989.876.2861
Email wfales@centurytel.net

**SCHEDULE OF ARENAC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS
ALL HELD ON THE LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, MAY - SEPT AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE MUSEUM IN AU GRES. ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE.**

- MAY 29 Jim Quirin. Bringing Up the Bell From the Edmund Fitzgerald.
- JUNE 26 Jim Vane. The History of Gypsum at Alabaster.
- JULY 31 The Mennonites' Life and Influence in Arenac County.
- AUGUST 28 Casey Wise. Commercial Fishing Along the Shores of Saginaw Bay. Casey will talk about his father's and his grandfather's commercial fishing business.
- SEPTEMBER 25 George Tolgo. How Important are Bees?

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS OF ARENAC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OLDE COURTHOUSE IN OMER.

- MAY 23 - 24 Open with bake sale and tours.
- JUNE 5th THURSDAY AT 7:00 P.M. Ric Mixter returns with Bombs Away. He chronicles the Air Force's presence in Michigan, including a rare film of dogfight training over Van Ettan Lake in Oscoda.
- JUNE 27-28-29 Our annual Junque Sale.
- AUGUST 29 - 30 Open with bake sale and tours.
- SEPTEMBER 11th THURSDAY at 7:00. Ric Mixter presents Valley Girls. He chronicles of some of the hundreds of ships built in the Saginaw Valley from birth to final resting place, such as Daniel J. Morrell, Newell Eddy, Pretoria and more.
- NOVEMBER 6th THURSDAY at 7:00. Ric Mixter presents The Edmund Fitzgerald from Beginning to End. He follows the Fitz from her construction to sinking, and his visit to the shipwreck in a tiny submarine.

THE ABOVE RIC MIXTER PROGRAMS ARE CO-SPONSORED BY THE OMER LIBRARY AND THE NORTHEAST MICHIGAN ARTS COUNCIL.

NOTE OF INTEREST

The Mary Johnston Memorial Library and the Northeast Michigan Arts Council in Standish have teamed up and are presenting a program on July 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Arts Council building on U.S. 23 and Grove Road, titled The Orphan Train in Michigan. Free to the public.

The young pilot and pillar of the
ACHS is . . .

Annabell Ennes Goodman



Arenac County Historical Society Coming Events

Bake Sale and Tours

Friday and Saturday, May 23-24

Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer

Jim Quirin: Bringing up the Bell from the Edmund Fitzgerald

Thursday, May 29, 2008

7:30 PM at the Museum

Ric Mixer: Bombs Away, Air Force Presence in Oscoda

Thursday, June 5, 2008

7:00 PM at Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer

Jim Vane: The History of Gypsum at Alabaster

Thursday, June 26, 2008

7:30 PM at the Museum

Annual Junque Sale

Friday, Saturday and Sunday; June 27-29, 2008

Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer

The Mennonites Life and Influence in Arenac County

Thursday, July 31, 2008

7:30 PM at the Museum

**Casey Wise: His Father and Grandfather's Commercial Fishing in
Saginaw Bay**

Thursday, August 28, 2008

7:30 PM at the Museum

Arenac County Historical Society

P.O. BOX 272

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