

ACHS

NEWSLETTER

Arenac County Historical Society

February

MIKE AND MARY MELVIN

It is with great sadness, but also a lot of pride to be able to write a tribute to Mike and Mary Melvin. I am not sure how many of you knew Mike and Mary, but they were a very special couple who did a lot of volunteer work for our organization. Mike especially did a lot behind the scenes work for us. He was phenomenal with a computer. He organized our index system, edited and recopied many books and was the co-author of the Arenac County Normal Book. That was just the tip of the iceberg. He spent a lot of his retirement time on our website, that most of us wouldn't have had a clue how to maneuver. Mary, from time to time volunteered to make bake good for the bake sale, helped out in the gift shop and enjoyed life. Mike and Mary were married 49 years and enjoyed life to the fullest. They had fun fishing, boating, swimming and just walking the beach. Two things I know, Mike and Mary loved history and traveling. Mike enjoyed digging through our genealogical scrapbooks where he uncovered pictures and interesting history of our area. There was a time when we discussed history. He said, "It was sure funny to look back and see what many considered serious history." We laughed at what we considered trivial history and how it was very important over a century ago. I have no doubt a hundred years from now people will have a good chuckle at what we considered important. Mike worked 38 years for GM Saginaw Steering Division. Sometimes his position required him to travel overseas. Mary told me of their escapades on their trip to England. They had a wonderful time in London sightseeing and laughing about cultural differences. Traveling to a foreign country really puts a different light on people's habits. I know they traveled throughout Michigan and the United States discovering many historical sites. When Jim and I traveled to Gettysburg, Mary told us of a lot of places to visit that were off the beaten path. I would never have guessed that as a teen, Mike enjoyed drag racing. The Pontiac GTO was his car of choice. He loved all things mechanical and knew just how to get his engine running to win the next race. His love of racing is probably what inspired him to choose his life's work. He became a mechanical engineer and used that degree to work at GM. He received many awards and was promoted several times for his great work. Mary enjoyed supporting Mike in all he accomplished. Before moving to Au Gres, Mary worked in a jewelry store and once was a co-owner of a small business. While living in Au Gres, Mary worked as a secretary for the AuGres Methodist Church. If you knew Mary, she was very fashion conscious. She always looked well dressed and everything matched from her shoes to her purse and jewelry. Mike and Mary were quiet people who never required a public display of thanks. I felt this is the time to give thanks where thanks are due. You will be missed, but we know that you are together in God's care. Life dished out some tough times for them, but God's plan worked everything out in his time. May God grant peace to you and your family. This tribute is written with love and respect from the ACHS board and members. Thank you, Mike and Mary, for being our friends.

Sandy Proulx

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Joann Gulau
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Marilyn Van Sickle

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Brenda Matt

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Phyllis Klender	Secretary
Joann Gulau	Financial Chair

ACHS WEBSITE WEBMASTER

Greg Knopp

WEBSITE COORDINATORS

Joann Gulau

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

THE ACHS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED COMPLIMENTS OF PROULX FINANCIAL SERVICES OF AU GRES

Some pictures and clippings
are from The Arenac
Independent

ARENAC HERITAGE ROUTE AUTHORITY
STANDISH HISTORICAL DEPOT
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Our passenger cars are covered, the Christmas decorations are packed, our 125th Birthday which we celebrated on October 12th is over, 2014 Depot days is now history but people are still talking about the great time they had including the Making Memories Petting Zoo and Cinderella Carriage rides by Three P's Express. The AHRA Board is now planning our exciting activities for 2015.

We are pleased to announce JeRaffe Catering by our own local caterer, Jennifer Maser for our annual Depot Dinner which will be held at the new Deep River Township Hall on April 18th. Our menu will include prime rib medallions, roasted pork loin with fresh fruit salsa, and cranberry chicken. The menu will also include several delicious choices including black walnut torte cake and red velvet cake for dessert. Taste tempting appetizers will be served. The evening will include a gun raffle, 50-50's and several more special raffles. Save April 18th on your calendar and enjoy a fun filled evening. Tickets will be available soon at the depot and from committee members.

Our next event that we are very excited about is a tea to be held on May 2th at the Depot. This tea will be based on the movie "Frozen". Tea and treats will be served to our Mom's and Daughters. (Also includes Grandmas, Aunts, Cousins and Friends). We will have special party favors to send with our guests, games to play, picture opportunities and horse drawn carriage rides. We will be serving tea and treats at 10 a.m., 12 o'clock noon and 2 p.m. A limited number of tickets will be available so you will want to get your ticket early. Tickets will be on sale in the very near future at the Depot. Prices are \$ 25.00 for a Mom (Guest) and one child. Each additional child is \$ 5.00.

Our Committee is planning our Summer Concert Series. Your input would be great, let Sue know at the Depot if you have a group you are interested in and you think would be a good fit for our concerts.

Please be sure and visit our newest display in the spring, The Pestrue Ice Cream Parlor, which was on Cedar Street in Standish in the 1930's and 1940's is in one of the compartments of the front English Passenger Car. This display includes several items

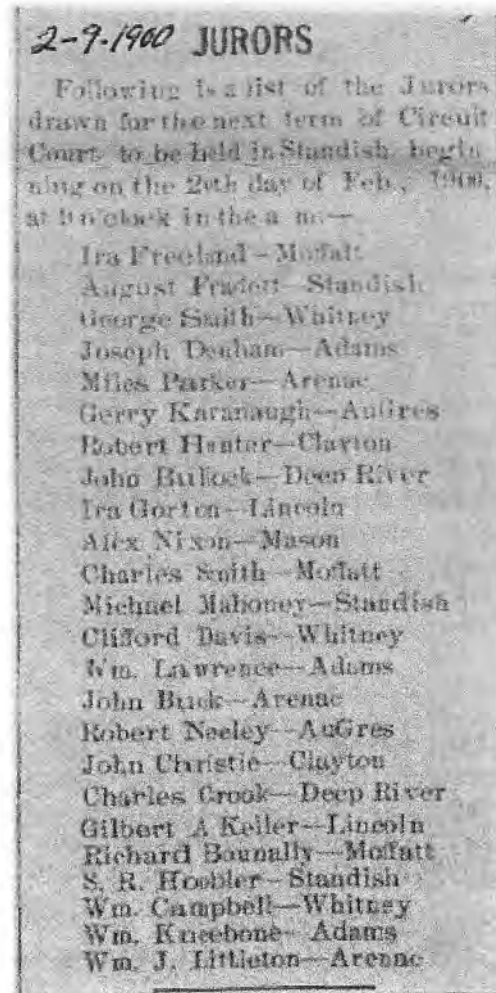
from the store including pictures from the Pestrue Family. Thanks Darell, for this great display portraying the early history of Standish.

The Vietnam Veterans benches which were dedicated in September have made a beautiful and meaningful addition to the depot grounds. These benches honor and remember two of our local soldiers, Alan Ott and Lenus Mead who gave their lives in Vietnam.

We could use some more volunteers to staff the depot. Please call the depot at 989-218-3021 and leave a message if you are interested in helping.

The AHRA meets on the first Monday at 7:00p.m. at the depot. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.

Brenda Matt, AHRA Representative



Thanks to all of our wonderful friends, another successful year at Ye Olde Courthouse in Omer has come to a close. The support that we receive from the community is very much appreciated by the Arenac County Historical Society and our great group of committee members that work tirelessly on this Arenac County Landmark which is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

We held another Community Dinner in January and our next dinner is planned for February 16th at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to this dinner. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy fellowship with your friends and neighbors. (March dinner is on the 9th).

A book sale is planned for March 13 and 14th. We will have over 90 banana boxes of books available for you to choose from. This is a great opportunity to stock up on reading material. Our selection includes all types of books including fiction, reference, history and cooking.

Our first bake sale for this year will be held on March 28th which is also the Omer Sucker Derby for Kids. We will also be open on the 29th. A mini-sale which will include Easter decorations will be held during this week end.

Thanks to the Arenac Community Foundation for the \$500.00 grant and to Chemical Bank for the \$775.00 grant for our window replacement project. Our friend and benefactor, George Viele donated \$ 1,000.00 which we placed in the window fund.

We planned to begin replacing windows in the spring but it has come to our attention that we need some structural repair to the supports and floor joists in our crawl space. Committee member, Dan Ellison has been busy getting bids for this necessary project. Dan has spent a lot of time under the building with several contractors, accessing the repairs. We will make the decision on this as soon as all the bids are in and then we will start replacing windows.

Don't forget to save your "Junque" for us. Our Junque sales are a very large part of our income. We are happy to pick up your donations. Call one of our committee members and we will make the arrangements.

Our committee meets at the courthouse on the fourth Friday of the month at 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are always

welcome for this great project. Contact one of our members if you are interested. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming events and enjoy some time with us.

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Brenda Matt, Committee Chair 989-846-0501
Phyllis Klender, Recording Chair 989-653-2762
Joann Gulau, Financial Chair 989-876-6468.

Local News from Sterling

7-6-1927

NEW ICE MAN

Howard Firth has taken over the ice business formerly conducted by Peter Bossbarh, now deceased, and will do his utmost to temper the discomfort of hot weather. Be sure and place your ice card in the window.

The Community Club met with Mrs. John Adams Tuesday evening. Mrs. Mace of Louisiana gave an interesting talk on the Mississippi flood conditions. Mrs. James Adams gave the report from the Northeastern District Convention.

New Roof on Freight Depot.

The M. C. freight house was re-roofed last week, the job being done by Jas. Mann, a local contractor.

The Last Day of School was celebrated with a series of class and grade parties spent at various beautiful woodland spots in the vicinity. The out of town teachers have all departed. Though the old school bell will now be silent for a time the pupils, glad to escape the discipline of the school room, will engage in various activities.

Now that school is closed and the faculty scattered, Martin Goodroe is trying hard to catch up on his farm work, and as there was also a heavy sleep shortage he is taking care of that also.

Mrs. Charles Ramsey of Bay City was a guest of Mrs. L. Barnum over the week end.

R. M. Gordon is making extensive alterations on his cottage at Bush Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Kitchen and family spent Sunday with Whittemore friends.

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2014

Dec 31, 14

All of our book selections are for sale at the Museum, the Depot and Ye Olde Courthouse and the Au Gres City Hall.

A HISTORY OF STERLING A REPRINT OF Virginia Adam's Book	PRICE	\$8
A HISTORY OF STERLING (2 ND Generation)	PRICE	\$8
AU GRES CENTENNIAL 1865-1965	PRICE	\$6
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
8 1/2 "X 11" ARENAC COUNTY MAP – Shows location of each of The 43 early Arenac County Schools	PRICE	\$1.25
AH SASH KAH MOQUA by Mary Sagatoo This is a reprint done by the Book Nook in East Tawas	PRICE	\$12
THE HISTORY OF ARENAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN The best-seller is in its 4 th reprint	PRICE	\$25
THE HISTORY OF ARENAC COUNTRY ROADS	PRICE	\$6
ONE ROOM ARENAC COUNTRY SCHOOLS Vol. 1,2,3,4	PRICE	\$7 each
1947 ARENAC COUNTY DIRECTORY	PRICE	\$6
FIRST FAMILIES OF STANDISH TOWNSHIP	PRICE	\$10
A HISTORY OF MAPLE RIDGE, ARENAC COUNTY, MI Marion Poole Maday	PRICE	\$28
RECORD OF ARENAC COUNTRY SOLDIERS AND SAILORS IN SERVICE IN THE GREAT WAR Joann Gulau and Mike Melvin	PRICE	\$28
HISTORY OF ARENAC COUNTY NORMAL SCHOOL 1904-1957 Joann Gulau and Mike Melvin	PRICE	\$28
PLAT BOOK OF ARENAC COUNTY 1906	PRICE	\$12
PLAT BOOK OF ARENAC COUNTY 1920'S	PRICE	\$10
A POINT TO REMEMBER	PRICE	\$30

ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Certificate of Deposit		
CD #1		1,191.22
CD #2		10,318.94
CD #3		6,376.49
Total Certificate of Deposit		17,886.65
Courthouse Checking		32,663.19
General Checking Account		875.46
Money Market (Savings)		11,074.75
Petty cash		100.00
Total Checking/Savings		62,600.05
Total Current Assets		62,600.05
Other Assets		
BACF Endowment Fund		
Courthouse Agency Fund		2,000.00
Total BACF Endowment Fund		2,000.00
Total Other Assets		2,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS		64,600.05
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Building Fund		4,281.23
Courthouse Fund		34,713.19
General Fund		10,607.85
Memorial Fund		14,997.78
Total Equity		64,600.05
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		64,600.05

Financial Notes

	CURRENT	YTD
Net Income	\$3,262.66	\$6,216.47

A special Thanks to

Lewis and Connie Ostrander

For all their help at the

Olde Courthouse and Museum

in the past year

We really appreciate the time you give.

— 2-22-1928
Ice Harvest on at Omer.
C. H. Rossman has a crew of men and teams putting up ice for the townspeople. Although the ice is not of the quality and thickness of past years, it is much better than was expected, owing to the mild weather and many rains. Sam Davis of Twining is busy hauling ice to Twining. He has a trailer attached to his truck which enables him to draw 80 cakes to a load.

It is a shame that some people have not decency enough about them to prevent them from smoking and spitting tobacco juice around on the floor and walls of the waiting room of our beautiful little depot, yet there are some that have no more regard for that room than for a stable or pig-pen. It is almost discouraging to see the filth that is left there sometimes, in spite of all the care and watchfulness of those who have the care of the building and do all they can to prevent this desecration. Gentlemen use the spittoons and all others should stay outside. 1-8-1897

ARENAC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 272
 Au Gres, Michigan 48703-0272

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Arenac County Historical Society (ACHS) was incorporated in 1970, and operates the County Museum in Au Gres, Michigan and Ye Olde Courthouse and Masonic Lodge in Omer, Michigan. Membership is open to anyone. Dues are payable IN ADVANCE of each fiscal year, September 1st to August 31st. Dues of a NEW member joining after March 1st will be credited through the following fiscal year. Renewals are accepted at any time.

I would like to: Join Renew

Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone (with Area Code) _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for Membership circled below:

Category	Dues	Category	Dues
STUDENT (under 18 years)	\$3	PATRON	\$250
SENIOR (over 55 years)	\$10	BUSINESS	\$50
SENIOR COUPLE (over 55 years)	\$15	LIFE - OVER 55 (individual)	\$150
INDIVIDUAL	\$15	LIFE - OVER 55 (couple)	\$225
COUPLE/FAMILY	\$20	LIFE - 55 AND UNDER (individual)	\$300
CONTRIBUTING	\$50	LIFE - 55 AND UNDER (couple)	\$400
BENEFACTOR	\$100		

MAIL TO: TREASURER, ACHS
 P.O. BOX 272
 AU GRES, MI 48703-0272

Arenac County Historical Society
PO Box 272
Au Gres, MI 48703

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ACHS Newsletter for:

or Current Resident

COMING EVENTS

Courthouse Events

February 16th. Community dinner beginning at 5:30. Bring a dish to pass.
Followed with cards and games.

March 13th 14th. 9 – 4 Book Sale. 90 banana boxes of books will be available for your shopping pleasure! Fiction, Non Fiction, and more.

March 28th. Omer Sucker Derby for Kids. 10-3

March 28th 29th. Courthouse open. Bake Sale. Mini Easter Junque Sale.