

# Past Times

THE HARBOR SPRINGS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY    DECEMBER 2005    NEWSLETTER VOLUME 16 No. 4

## REMEMBERING WINTER SPORTS

By Eleanor "Muggs" Jardine

My earliest memories of winter sports would be the winter of 1935. I remember going to the Winter Sports Park with my parents on a Sunday afternoon. The

park was located east of Ridge Road. Mr. J.E. Otis gave the land for the park to West Traverse Township with the stipulation that it was for the park use only.

There was a warming house, a ski jump, a toboggan run and a bobsled run. I remember going down the bobsled run with my dad and since I was only nine years old at the time, I got to stay on the sled while Mr. George Cook's team of horses pulled the sled back up to the top of the hill.

Of course, bobsledding was a favorite winter sport in those days. For several winters the

Bull Moose Hill was very popular for bobsledding. The sleds would be loaded at the top of the hill in front of the Harbor Point Golf Course – just up from George and Carol Menzi's driveway. Most sleds held 20 people. There were only a few men who were selected as drivers.

They had some kind of a light system hooked up so when the sled was unloaded, a green light would come on at the top of the hill. Usually a city truck would hook on the bobs and pull it back up to the starting point. One winter, the sled turned over and some people were injured.

That was about the end of the Bull Moose bobsledding.

I've been told that the north side of the East Hill was also iced. The bobs would start at the top of East Hill and end up at Holy Childhood Church! I also heard that they used to bobsled down



A bobsled coming down the "Bull Moose Hill" on the west side of Harbor Springs. This was a popular wintertime activity among the locals. Postcard photo from the Thomas F. Graham Jr. Collection

When the sleds were loaded, they would be shoved off to go down the iced hill. They would go to Church Street and the driver would yell, "Lean!" and everyone would lean to the right. At 3<sup>rd</sup> Street he would yell, "Lean!" and everyone would lean to the left. The sled would stop just before it reached the State Street intersection.

the North (Hoyt Street) Hill. We don't know if the sled stopped before it reached Main Street, or if they "leaned" and went on down the East Hill.

I feel lucky to be able to relate some of these adventures. We all loved playing outdoors in winter and we didn't miss any television shows and not too many radio programs.

# HELP PRESERVE HARBOR SPRINGS HISTORY

The "Harbor History Talks" have provided wonderful evenings to recall and reminisce about earlier life in Harbor Springs. We are doing our best to videotape our guest speakers, as well as record oral history interviews, and have a great need for a camcorder to preserve these special memories. HSAHS is looking for a donation of a camcorder and tripod, gently used would be just fine!

## SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER DONATIONS

**We appreciate your support!**

Elicee Aiman  
Katharine Baker  
Robert & Barbara Bokram  
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**Donations in honor of the Little Harbor Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
Marvin & Christine Gibbs  
Byron West

Thank you for the many kind

donations that were made in memory of Thomas Wiethorn who passed away on September 15, 2005. Our condolences to the family.

## HISTORIC POSTCARD BOOK NEAR SELL-OUT

Sales have been brisk for the acclaimed book, *In All The World, No Place Like This*, featuring early historic postcard views of Harbor Springs. The first edition is nearly a sell-out. The perfect gift can arrive by Christmas if ordered by December 10th.

Don't delay as fewer than 200 copies remain! The beautiful hardbound Collector's Edition contains 240 pages of unique historic images of the Harbor Springs area with 32 pages in full color. The featured post cards, from the Graham collection, date from the late 1800s to the 1930s.



### *In All The World, No Place Like This*

Early Post Card Views Of Harbor Springs

Beautiful 240 page hardbound book of Harbor Springs' unique early history as seen through post card views, includes 32 pages in full color. Order yourself a copy or gifts for those special friends or relatives.

I would like [    ] copies of

*In All The World, No Place Like This* @ \$60.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Michigan 6% Sales Tax @ \$3.60 per book = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Packing and Shipping @ \$5.00 per book = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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**Harbor Springs Area Historical Society (HSAHS)**

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that most of you reading this newsletter were here for the wonderful fall weather we had this year. The "season of change" was really beautiful with warm days and spectacular color. HSAHS had its own season of change this fall. New trustees Leslie Fischer, Loretta Knight, Fred Simons and Nancy Walker joined the Board in September. Our Board now numbers 20 and we've outgrown the Library and changed our meetings to the high school library.

In October, new officers were elected. As the new President, I want to thank Lois Cassidy for the many years that she served as President. I also want to thank Norine McBride for serving as Treasurer during a time when our budget grew from \$5,000 in 2002 to \$118,000 in 2005! The roster of Trustees is listed on this page. Feel free to call one of us if you have a suggestion or idea.

As I write this letter, the first snowfall of the year blankets the area. While things have slowed down in Harbor Springs, rest assured that the historical society isn't going into hibernation. We're planning a new series of Harbor History talks, organizing the Valentine's Day tea and looking ahead to Shay Days July 14-16.

Also behind the scenes is the important work that is going into planning for the capital campaign for the new museum in the old City Hall next summer. Co-chairs Patsy Ketterer and Sarah Cohen and a great campaign committee are hard at work. By the time the seasons change again, we'll have more exciting plans to share.

When I joined the Board three years ago, I could not have envisioned it possible to accomplish all that we have in order to renovate the City Hall. We've been able to do so with wonderful community support. Many thanks!

*Tanya Graham,*

President

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Nancy Walker 526-5595

## HSAHS STAFF

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Linda Young 348-8425

### OFFICE COORDINATOR

Preston McGregor 526-9771

### MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Pat Kaniarz 526-9771

Society Phone/Ans. Mach. 526-9771

Reading Room/Ford Park 526-5973

This issue is made possible by a contribution of **FIRST COMMUNITY BANK** serving the financial needs of our area. Printing of this issue was generously provided by **GRAHAM REAL ESTATE**. We appreciate their continuing support.

## I want to help support the work of the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society.

Enclosed is my 2006 membership contribution for: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to the **Harbor Springs Area Historical Society**, P.O. Box 812, Harbor Springs, Michigan 49740. HSAHS is a 501(C)3 charitable organization. Thank you for your support.



## **CURRENT EVENTS**

### **WINTER CALENDAR**

#### **WINTER BOARD MEETINGS**

HSAHS business meetings are open to the public and are now being held in the High School Library at 6:30 p.m.

December - no meeting  
Monday, January 16  
Monday, February 20  
Monday, March 20

#### **HARBOR HISTORY TALK**

Marge May will present a slide talk at the Harbor Springs Library

on Wednesday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. A founding member of the HSAHS, Marge will share her life-long interest in the area and the Native American families who have lived in the Harbor Springs area.



#### **VALENTINE'S DAY TEA AT THE SHAY HOUSE**

It is now a tradition! Thanks to the grand success of last year's tea, plans are underway for the second annual winter tea at the historic "Shay House".

This year's event will take place on Tuesday, February 14th, with seatings at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00

p.m. The "Hexagon" with its decorative tin walls and ceilings will provide a delightful setting for the Valentine theme and elegant tea, sweets and savories.

Tickets are \$18.00 per person and reservations with pre-payment are necessary. Call 231-526-9771 to make a reservation or email: [hsahs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hsahs@sbcglobal.net). Please indicate time preference. Payment secures your reservation. Seating is limited so do not delay making your reservation by mail or phone.

#### **WELCOME ABOARD!**

Preston McGregor has joined the HSAHS as the part-time Office Manager. Partial funding for Preston's position comes from a generous capacity-building grant from the Offield Family Foundation. She can be reached by calling the office phone, 526-9771.

**HARBOR SPRINGS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
POST OFFICE BOX #812  
HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN 49740**



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NEWSLETTER**