

# PAST TIMES

The Harbor Springs Area Historical Society Newsletter  
September 2006      Volume 17, No. 3

## Experiencing Shay's Invention in Full Size

Another outstanding "Shay Days" event was organized in July by the volunteers of the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society. One aspect of "Shay Days" that I find particularly fascinating is the photographic and oral history that shows that our beautiful resort waterfront was not so long ago a gritty industrial site of saw mills, factories, machine shops, and ice houses. The story of Ephraim Shay is an important part of our local history, and deserves to be studied and understood relative to the impact his invention had on the economic development of Harbor Springs and the United States. His gear drive locomotive concept provided for the effective logging and mining operations in mountainous areas that were unreachable by conventional rod driven locomotives. His concept also spawned imitators such as the Climax and Heisler gear driven locomotives that were created to avoid his particular patent design features.



Those who are interested in learning more about the magnificent machines that Lima Locomotive Works manufactured based on the Shay patent should be aware that it is still possible to see and ride behind Shay locomotives. Experiencing this today allows you to taste the similar experiences of Harbor Springs' residents from over a century ago as they rode on "excursion" logging trains north out of the city on the Harbor Springs Railway, better known as the Hemlock Central.

The following locations have Shay locomotives that are available for regularly scheduled excursion rides:

1. Cass Scenic Railroad - Cass, West Virginia - [www.cassrailroad.com](http://www.cassrailroad.com)
2. Roaring Camp & Big Trees Narrow Gauge - Felton, California - [www.roaringcamp.com](http://www.roaringcamp.com)  
Yosemite Mountain - Sugar Pine Railroad - Fish Camp, California - [www.ymspr.com](http://www.ymspr.com)

I am a particular fan of the Cass Scenic Railroad for several reasons:

1. They have five operating Shay locomotive on their roster including the last and largest Shay ever built; one engine celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. They also have one operating Heisler and a Climax that is undergoing a long-term restoration.
2. The town of Cass remains today, as it was when it was built as a "company" town at the turn of the century. The West Virginia State Park system owns the town and has made some of the old "company" housing available as tourist accommodations.
3. The Mountain State Railroad & Logging Historical Association ([www.msrlha.org](http://www.msrlha.org)) has recreated a representative logging camp at Whittaker part way up the mountain with camp cars, shanties and a very rare logging skidder. They have also created a visitor orientation exhibit that provides understanding of the town and its economic history that shows how the capabilities of the Shay locomotive made possible the logging in the area.

The trip up the mountain to either Spruce or Bald Knob is a great ride through beautiful scenery. You will see, hear and feel the Shay engine's capabilities as your trip takes you up the mountain grades and through the two switchbacks. The view from Bald Knob is spectacular. If you choose to go to Spruce, you can see the remnants and foundations of an old logging town that has disappeared, not unlike some towns here in Emmet County.

It might seem strange to suggest traveling to another town to better understand your local history. I will only suggest that after you have experienced Ephraim Shay's invention in its natural habitat, you will better understand Harbor Springs, its logging history, and the impact that one of our citizens had on the economic development of the United States.

Ned McClurg ([nedsm@aol.com](mailto:nedsm@aol.com))

I would be happy to help people plan their travels to Cass. It can be done as a slight detour while traveling to or from the south or southeastern part of the US.

**With sincere thanks to our donors who have given from June 1 through August 25, 2006. Capital Campaign contributions will be acknowledged in a future issue.**

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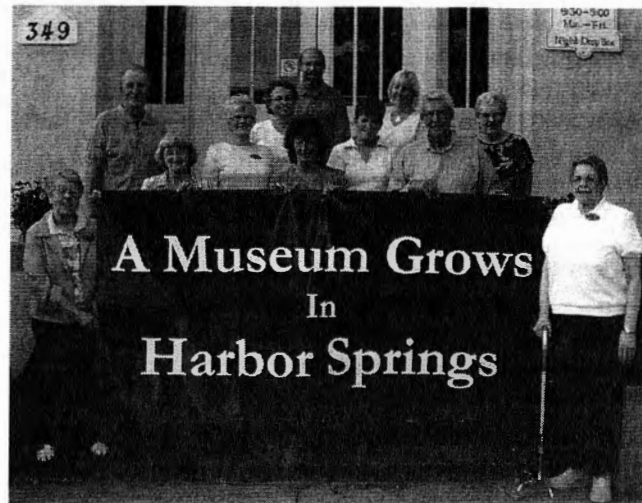
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Mary and Bruce Gathman  
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HSAHS Trustees and volunteers get ready for a busy summer. The Capital Campaign *A Museum Grows In Harbor Springs* was launched June 21st. To date, \$1.1 million has been raised toward this community-wide effort.

## Help Preserve Harbor Springs' History

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(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Please make your check payable to HSAHS and mail to: P.O. Box 812 Harbor Springs, MI 49740  
HSAHS is a 501(C)3 charitable organization. Thank you for your support.

## *A Museum Grows in Harbor Springs:* **YOUR local history museum's in the making!**

NOW is the time to support **YOUR** local history museum! The museum will be a place where children and families can come to learn about the logging, homesteading and marine history of the area, where genealogical research can take place and where historical programs will highlight the fascinating people and treasured stories of this area.

NOW is the time to begin working on construction documents so that the renovation of Old City Hall can begin in the spring of 2007 and the museum can open by summer 2008. In the past year volunteers have raised over half of the funds needed for this worthy project. We need your help to reach our \$1.9 million goal to renovate the old City Hall, fabricate exhibits which will preserve the special character of Harbor Springs and establish an operational endowment.

NOW is the time to take the next crucial steps with your contribution to *A Museum Grows in Harbor Springs*. If you haven't done so already, please consider contributing to the campaign to renovate Old City Hall and open the museum. If you haven't yet received information about the capital campaign you will in the next few weeks. Please consider a generous donation to help us preserve the treasured stories, artifacts and memorabilia in the future Harbor Springs Area History Museum. If you would like more information, please call HSAHS at 526-9771.

NOW is the time to ensure that *A Museum WILL Grow in Harbor Springs!*

Tanya Graham, HSAHS President  
Board of Trustees

Sarah Cohen, HSAHS Vice President  
Capital Campaign Co-Chair



**Harbor Springs Area  
Historical Society  
P.O. Box 812  
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(231) 526-9771**

[www.harborspringsareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.harborspringsareahistoricalociety.org)



## 2006 Fall Events Keep History in the Making

### **Annual Meeting - September 18**

HSAHS Annual Meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
Harbor Springs Methodist Church  
"Every Day with Father was a Kodak Moment"  
Cynthia Haynes will reminisce about life with her father, noted area photographer Virgil Haynes. Following her talk, the audience is invited to cast a vote for one of the featured images to be donated to the future museum.

### **Fall Fling - September 28**

Stafford's Hospitality's annual Fall Fling will benefit HSAHS this year. So join the fun from 4-7 p.m. to help a great cause - us! Please call The Pier, 526-6201, to make a reservation. Ticket price is \$20.00 per person. HSAHS is honored to be designated to receive part of the evening's proceeds.

### **Pie Booth—October 7 Harvest Festival**

### **Harbor History Talk - October 11**

"Harbor Springs' Waterworks"

Talk by Rick Ward

Wednesday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the City Hall on Zoll Street

### **Fall Board meetings:**

Monday, October 16

Monday, November 20

Board meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Harbor Springs Library  
Visitors are welcome!

### **A Memorable Summer**

Thanks to all for making the summer of 2006 a memorable one for the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society. We are indebted to the over one hundred volunteers who helped with Shay Days in July and the August historic home tour of Good Hart log cabins. We also want to thank the many participants who supported our summer events that began with the Hramiec-Hoffman benefit in June, strolled with us on the Friday walking tours, attended the Harbor History talks, purchased a copy of *In All The World, No Place Like This*, stopped by the Jo Ford Park Reading Room, toured City Hall and visited the Shay House for the benefit sale of Virgil Haynes photographs. A heartfelt thank you also goes to all who opened their homes to host informational gatherings about the *A Museum Grows in Harbor Springs* campaign and to our many capital campaign volunteers. With the arrival of September, the pace in Harbor Springs may slow down a bit but the HSAHS continues the important work of preserving Harbor Springs' history and we want to thank you for your help and continuing support.

Linda L. Young  
Executive Director