



We welcome Wonder...

The Muser

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New Visitor Experiences at the LMC

Melissa Horton, Education Curator
and Jacquelyn Huss, Associate Curator of Education

What is a Lakeshore Museum Center Experience? Members of our staff and a member of our Board of Trustees set out this fall to find out what makes a museum visit extraordinary instead of just ordinary. Our journey took us to Conner Prairie, an Interactive Museum Park, in Fishers, Indiana. Conner Prairie is known for its customer service and has been honored with the *National Medal for Museum and Library Service*. They have also been recognized by the American Association of Museums as a national leader in quality learning.

We toured the site, met with Conner Prairie staff, and participated in activities while in Indiana. It was a wonderful learning experience for all involved. Their staff and volunteers put a great deal of emphasis on outstanding customer service and visitor experiences.

After our trip to Conner Prairie, the education staff decided now was as good a time as any to start offering new experiences. We began by hosting a Holiday Open House at the main museum during area schools' holiday break. For three hours on the afternoon of December 21, the museum was filled with families

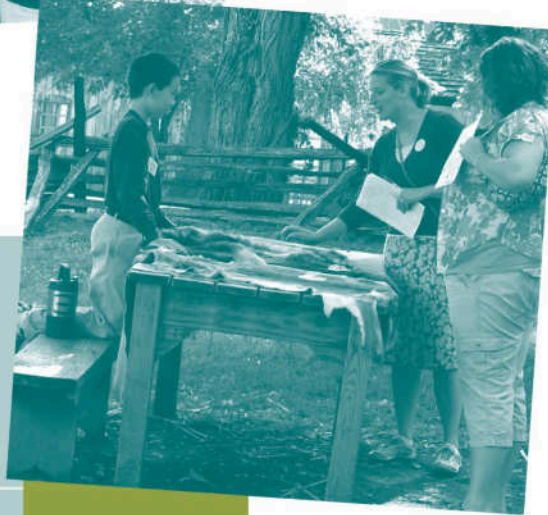
enjoying various historic holiday activities. We had three craft stations where children could paint their own stained glass ornaments; create greeting cards using historic images from our archive and string popcorn and cranberries. We also had holiday movies playing in our Voices of Muskegon Gallery, as well as a reading of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* by our Communications Director, Joni Dorsett.

We plan to continue to offer fun, educational and hands-on visitor experiences throughout the coming months that will entice families to utilize the museum's sites in a way they may not have thought of before. One project that is still in the planning phase is a monthly "Mommy and Me" playgroup for parents of children ages four and under. We would like to offer a short hands-on program or activity and then encourage the families to spend time together in one of our hands-on galleries. If you,

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Our auditorium was full of families having fun during our Holiday Open House.



Our Education curators, Melissa and Jackie, test the knowledge of a young Conner Prairie volunteer in the Lenape Indian Camp.

Lakeshore Museum Center

430 W. Clay Ave.
Muskegon, MI 49440
PH 231.722.0278
FX 231.728.4119
lakeshoremuseum.org

Hackley & Hume

Historic Site
484 W. Webster Ave.

Fire Barn Museum

510 W. Clay Ave.

Scolnik House

of the Depression Era
504 W. Clay Ave.

Mercantile

430 W. Clay Ave.

The Mission of the Lakeshore Museum Center is to preserve and interpret through exhibits, education and programs, the natural and cultural history of Muskegon County.



Science for Female Investigators

by Jacquelyn Huss, Associate Curator of Education

The Lakeshore Museum Center has been conducting our Sci-FI program for nearly 18 years. In its early years, the program was open to all elementary-aged girls interested in learning more about science. As attendance numbers decreased, the staff decided to join forces with the Girl Scouts and offer it as a badge workshop for either Brownies or Juniors. This year we have chosen to do a hybrid of the two programs for girls ages 6 to 9 on February 16 from 4:00–5:30pm.

The theme for this year's Sci-FI will be *My Body*. The program will include activities on how your brain and muscles work and a guided tour of our Body Works Gallery. Girls who are part of a Brownie troop will earn the *My Body* Try-It Patch and the cost will be \$3. Those girls who are not in Girl Scouts may still attend, have fun, and learn something along the way, but will not receive a patch; the cost to them is \$2. The registration fee will include a snack, supplies and, for Brownies, the cost of the Try-It Patch. **Registration and payment is due by February 2; adult supervision is required during the program. Call 231-722-0278 to register your troop, daughter or granddaughter today!**

New Visitor Experiences at the LMC

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or someone you know, would be interested in participating, e-mail me at jackie@lakeshoremuseum.org, and I can send you a brief four question survey that will help us create the best experience possible.

If “Mommy and Me” isn't quite your style, but you are interested in being put on an e-mail list to be notified of other upcoming programs for both families and adults, feel free to contact us as well.

We received numerous suggestions on how to make our sites more appealing to visitors from our colleagues at Conner Prairie. The diversity in their methods of interpretation was insightful and the Lakeshore Museum Center will test some of these methods in 2012. Even if you are a repeat visitor, you can look forward to an entirely new experience this spring. We'll be looking forward to your next visit.



What's With This Rope?

Sharon McCullar, Registrar

The Lakeshore Museum Center cares for about 60,000 artifacts, each with a unique story. This short length of rope is one of them. At first glance, it might not seem significant. But a look at its record reveals that this rope is a priceless link to a turbulent time in Muskegon's history.

It is August 4, 1919. Thousands of Muskegon residents commute each day to jobs in foundries and factories. There are plenty of automobiles on Muskegon streets, but many workers rely on the Muskegon Traction and Lighting Company streetcar system.

One of these workers, we'll call him Joe, checks his pocket. Yes, he has 12 cents, enough for a round trip on the streetcar for his job at Continental Motors near downtown Muskegon. He hopes this will not be a problem. The Muskegon Traction and Lighting Company recently announced that the fare would be raised one cent. Many workers feel this is too much to pay and city leaders have not approved any increase. The fare hike has been on hold for several days.

Joe boards his regular streetcar, pays six cents, and goes to work. When the whistle sounds at the end of a hard day, a tired Joe and about 2000 of his fellow workers board streetcars for the ride home. Joe presents his remaining six cents to the conductor. But, “Sorry Sir, the rates have gone up. You need to pay seven cents to get home tonight.”

Holiday Tours 2011

The Holiday Tours are always a wonderful way to end the year on a festive note. Volunteers who are not able to work during the year for various reasons are always anxious to come back to reconnect with the houses and the other volunteers and staff. Visitors who love to start the holidays with their annual visit to the Sites are now old friends to many of us. It is amazing how often people connect with other visitors as they wait for the carriage ride, wander through the Hackley & Hume houses, or share nostalgic moments at the Scolnik House of the Depression Era.

The Historic Sites were all lovely, as they always are thanks to the wonderful service organizations and the site staff and volunteers who do the research and then deck our halls with period appropriate boughs of holly (imitation, of course).

Thank You!

Hackley House: Carol Norwood and her daughter Kristi; Women's Division, Chamber of Commerce; Minerva Dill Questers; Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Chapter.

Hume House: Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel and Michigan Education Association, Retired; Connie Poulin and Emily Marra; Greater Muskegon Woman's Club, Barb Lloyd, Jane Arndt, and students from Montague Schools; Pat Fritsche and Barb Gripton.

Scolnik House of the Depression Era: Leslie Day, Mary Mitchell, Emily Marra and Donna Lavas.

Fire Barn Museum: Museum staff members.

Holiday Volunteers

Many thanks to the holiday volunteers who help at the Historic Sites, often several weekends in a row, during the busiest time of year for us all. It takes a minimum of 14 volunteers, plus four staff guides, to enable us to have all four historic site buildings fully covered during our walk-through holiday tours.

New volunteers this season were Emily Grover, Maddie Myhre, Pam Bonevilli, Kari Chesnic, Rachel Krauss, Kathy Forteenbacher, Robert McArthur, and Marilyn Lawton. I sincerely hope you all will join us for Interpretive Training in the spring. Sabina Freeman and Gene Fethke from the Lakeshore Museum Center Board of Trustees also jumped in to help out, along with Sabina's grandson Brock.

The houses are beautiful and it is a real holiday treat for visitors to see how they may have been decorated generations ago. But it is the volunteer who gives life to the stories of the houses and their former inhabitants which makes our historic sites so memorable. Thank you one and all!

We thank the following organizations and individuals for putting the historic houses in the holiday spirit.

Lakeshore
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Award Winning Decorations

Each year the houses are judged on curatorial accuracy and use of curatorial procedures and policies. It has become more difficult to pick out clear winners since each year the decorators improve and strive to “get it right.” The 2011 winner for the **Curator’s Choice** in the Hackley House was the Delta Kappa Gamma Alpha Chapter for the master bedroom (Julia’s room). The decorations were festive, yet realistic for what might be expected in a bedroom. By incorporating seashells into the garland on the mantle, they reinforced the story we tell of Julia and daughter Erie going on a Florida vacation with friends.

The winners of the 2011 **Curator’s Choice** award in the Hume House were Jane Arndt, Barbara Lloyd, and their young friends from Montague Schools. They decorated the bedroom used by teacher Frances Ford who boarded with the Hume family in 1919. As retired teachers, Jane and Barb decorated the room with typical store-bought and homemade gifts students might have given to their favorite teacher. To add the finishing touches, their young friends made original Christmas cards which would have been cherished by any teacher.

Although staff guides are not eligible to win awards since we expect curatorial accuracy, policies, and procedures to be second nature, I really feel I must acknowledge the wonderful job done by staff members Patty Fritsche, Connie Poulin, and Leslie Day, along with their volunteer helpers, Barbra Gripton, Emily Marra, Mary Mitchell, and Donna Lavas. The Hume dining room and kitchen both looked like the family was ready for dinner and later a little fun in the snow. And the Scolnik house—wow, I expected to smell the food cooking when I saw the dining room tables on both floors. That fish downstairs looked like it was fresh out of the lake. Yummy!!!

The holidays are hectic for everyone and the Lakeshore Museum Center is so grateful that these folks all take the time to enhance the holiday experience for the hundreds who celebrate the season with a tour of the historic sites.



Sad Goodbyes

The Lakeshore Museum Center lost two dear friends recently who were family at the the Historic Sites.

Dorothy Scolfield passed away in December. Dorothy was an important page in the history of the Hackley and Hume Historic Site. The Hackley Heritage Association was formed to save the houses and restore them. Tours were organized to get the public involved in the restoration and as a member of the Jean Baptiste Recollect Questers, Dorothy became one of the first tour guides.

When the Guild Board of Guides was formed in 1976, Dorothy was the President. She continued to volunteer as a guide for over 28 years and was recognized with the Margaret Hume Award for Outstanding Volunteer in 2004. She will always be remembered as one of the first to realize the importance and beauty of the Hackley and Hume houses who worked to save them.

Ruth Dykman became a Site volunteer 15 years ago. She fell in love with the houses and the wonderful stories of the lumbering families and volunteered weekly during the regular season and holidays. Ruth loved doing school tours and helped decorate for the holidays. She was so particular about what a group did that when her Red Hat group visited, Ruth told them she was going to be the guide and she expected them all to be quiet, listen to her, and NOT TOUCH a thing! In 2001, Ruth won the Margaret Hume Award for Outstanding Volunteer. When her daughter, Jan Handley, mentioned how pretty the vase she was given would look in her house, Ruth looked her right in the eye and said, “Win your own!”

She served on the Guild Board for several years and was the friendly voice on the line who would call to schedule the volunteers. Ruth will always be a part of the Site every time someone says “Hey kiddo, it’s that time again! What days can I sign you up for?”



Test Your Knowledge:

What was Taylor Bullis’ monthly wage in 1899?

Answer can be found in the City Barn

Answer to November 2011 Test Your Knowledge:

What two board games played today became popular during the Depression Era?

Monopoly and Scrabble were two new board games during the Depression Era.

Sealed Power Memories

Beryl Gabel, Archivist

One of the things I like best about being an archivist is looking at all of the wonderful historic Muskegon photographs. I often wonder what life was like working in one of Muskegon's industries, such as Sealed Power. Luckily for me, there are Muskegon residents who are willing to share their stories. I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Richard (Dick) Israel and listening to him recall his experiences working at Sealed Power.

Dick walked through the doors of Sealed Power on December 18, 1961 at the age of 24. Starting at \$2.30 an hour, he began working as a laborer cleaning rattlers and piston rings. After working on that part of the line for several years, Dick moved to the tool room where he took care of charts and supplies.

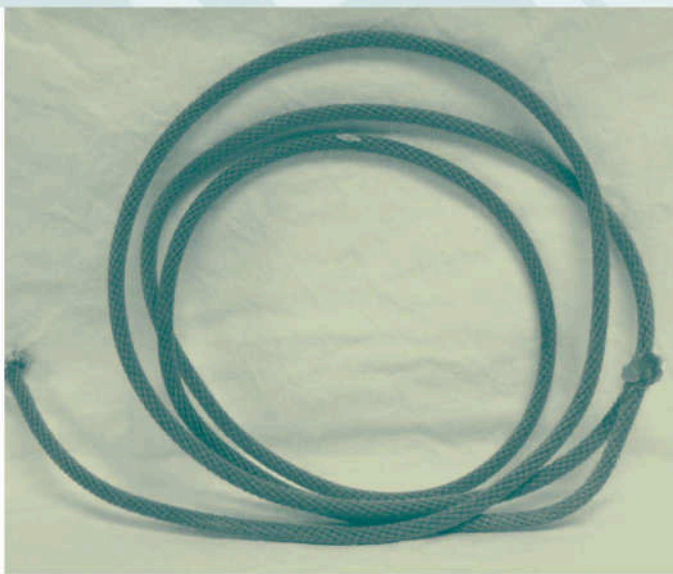
His favorite job at Sealed Power was hand molding. Dick loved the fast pace of molding, as he dropped sand, cleaned out debris, and poured iron on top of the sand. He enjoyed watching the rings come down the line for him to do his part, and then send the rings to the next man down the line. Dick

knew that he had to be careful pouring the iron, considered one of the most difficult jobs, but he loved the thrill of it.

When I asked Dick what he liked best about Sealed Power, he told me that everyone worked together as a team. There was a lot of camaraderie amongst the men and women and most everyone got along. According to Dick, "If you didn't like working at Sealed Power then you didn't like working anywhere." His bosses were always fair and they knew every job that needed to get done.

Working for a company that employed anywhere from 600 to 1200 people, "you had to be prepared for anything and do whatever [the company] needed you to do on a given day. If you didn't like a particular job, you were stuck sweeping."

Dick stayed with the company until 1999 when he retired at the age of 62. He remembers his days at Sealed Power fondly, and as he was telling me about the good old days he had the biggest smile on his face. I am always up for a good story!



A piece of rope from the guidance mechanism

What!? Joe is taken aback. He doesn't carry extra money to work, too much chance of it falling from his pocket during his active work day. How will he get home? He walks home, re-adjusting the family budget to cover the added expense. The family will have to get by on less.

Many of Joe's fellow riders become angry. They refuse to pay the extra cent and threaten to take over the streetcar. Over the next few hours, they become a full-blown mob. Before the night is over, rioters overturn streetcars, crash them at the base of the

Pine Street hill and set the streetcar storage barns at Franklin and Michigan streets on fire. Muskegon is a very scary place until cooler heads prevail.

During the riot, a man leaps to the roof of a car, cutting loose a length of rope from the guidance mechanism. It is a souvenir to show the grandchildren—a relic of a scary night when Muskegon lost its self-control. Years later, this length of rope became part of the Lakeshore Museum Center collection. It and its record are carefully preserved, a tangible reminder of a tense time for Muskegon.

Muskegon Traction and Lighting Company streetcar system





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Lakeshore Museum Center and Mercantile Hours

Weekdays 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Weekends Noon – 4 p.m.

Hackley & Hume Historic Site,
Fire Barn Museum and
Scolnik House
of the Depression Era
Closed for the season.
All three sites will reopen
May 2, 2012

The *Muser* is published six times a year by the Lakeshore Museum Center, formerly the Muskegon County Museum. The Museum is located at 430 W. Clay Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49440. Phone 231-722-0278 or email at info@lakeshoremuseum.org.

New Explorations

Leslie Griswold, LMC Intern

I had the privilege of interning at the Lakeshore Museum Center during the summer. As part of every internship experience, the intern has the opportunity to research and design his or her own temporary exhibit. My project was a little different. I had the opportunity to remodel a permanent exhibit, the Science Center.

The Science Center is the kid friendly, hands-on exploration room on the lower level of the museum. The room contains nine sets of science themed drawers full of information and activities concerning their topic. The time had arrived for the drawers to be updated and refreshed.

During the revamp, all of the room's activity drawers received new activities and remodeled labels. The updated labels contain new graphics designed by Exhibits Curator Mindy Conley, and they have been printed in various colors to keep the Science Center inviting. The drawer's activities are fun for all ages.



For the young ones, the skull drawer contains a match-up-inspired activity where kids can mix and match skull pieces to find the right arrangement. In each theme, there are activities catering to the young and old. There is also a new activity drawer themed on rocks with a rock formation card game for more mature visitors. Like the other drawers, the label gives background and scientific facts.

New activities and drawers provide visitors with new educational experiences. The Science Center update has made an already fun room a brand new place for exploration.

In 1994, Robert and Angeline McKinley made a generous donation to the Museum to establish the Science Center to provide an engaging environment for visitors to learn about science. In addition to their donation to create the Science Center, the McKinley's also set up a fund through the Community Foundation for Muskegon County to provide for annual updates and maintenance of the gallery.

Leslie is a student at Grand Valley State University who had a summer internship at the Museum. She will graduate from GVSU in 2012 with a degree in History.