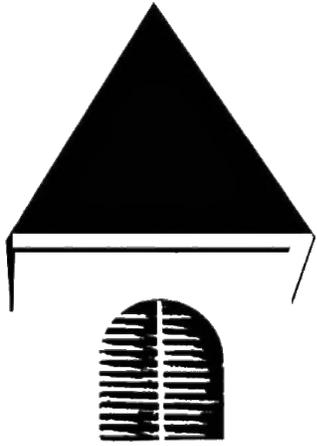


JULY 2022



HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HAVEN

*Preserving Our Past
Enriches Our Future*

In Memoriam



We are sad to report that HASH board member and long time secretary Bill Euwer passed away on July 13 at age 82. A Vietnam veteran, Bill was a retired attorney from St. Louis. He spent his summers since infancy at "The St. Clair" a cottage on South Haven's north side that has been in the family since 1918. Bill had a quick wit, was generous, a great story teller, and loved to entertain. We will miss him.



The building at 313/315 Center Street now belongs to the Historical Association of South Haven, thanks to the support of a very generous patron. The intention is to restore and preserve this historical building. Originally the Forest House Hotel, the first hotel built in South Haven circa 1853, housed 100 lumbermen when the population of South Haven was 200! This building will provide space for HASH to have a downtown presence, exhibition space, and a stepping off point for historical tours. Many details of the restoration are in the planning stages, but what an exciting opportunity to educate and treat visitors to a vital part of the history of South Haven! The photo on the left is the original Forest House Hotel.

Many Hands Make Light Work



The space at 313 Center that will be known as the Forest House Hotel was gutted in the spring by this intrepid team of volunteers. They skillfully removed everything that had been in place, leaving only the tin ceiling, the wood floors, and the brick walls. They are, from left to right, Jim Ollgaard, Roger Horton, John Grib, Larry Brown, Roger Olson, Ed Appleyard and Bill Lundy. It was remarkable how quickly the work was done. Three cheers for them!



Audi and Sal Romero have been busy cleaning and painting the tin ceiling in the Forest House Hotel's street level space. It was remarkably sound with only a few spots needing extensive repair. This will let us walk around safely, and it looks so nice that showing people around will be a pleasure.



These fine days have allowed us to get a lot done at the Forest House Hotel. One especially difficult task was removing the skylight for renovation. These skylights are particularly sought after and impossibly expensive to buy so we are fortunate to have one. This one provides beautiful, diffused light into the stairwells of the hotel. Will Hart will be doing the renovation and will only have to replace one glass. The rest just requires cleaning and painting as well as ensuring that the skylight is well sealed. The next step is reinstallation.



The Historical Association has rented the retail space on the first floor of the Forest House Hotel. The business is named Elizabeth's Vision and the owner's name is Elizabeth Garcia. The store features women's clothing and accessories. Store hours are Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Everyone Loves Ice Cream!



Our annual Sherman Ice Cream Social was on Sunday, June 19. A steady stream of ice cream lovers enjoyed a concert by the Casco Band. Many thanks to Sherman Dairy for the donated ice cream (it's all gone!). Our visitors contributed enough to the collection jar to cover a donation to the band. What a delicious way to spend a Sunday afternoon in South Haven!

Fun Finds



This lovely example of the top-of-the-line Everett Piano Company Orgatron recently joined our wall of pianos in the presentation room. These electronic instruments were produced by Everett Piano Company of South Haven during the 1930's. They were dropped from their line of pianos prior to WWII. This was probably due to wartime requirements, and they were never reinstated. Jennifer and Eric Jarvis of South Haven located it in the Grand Rapids home of Max and Tammy Budzynski who were removing it to do renovations. They hated to discard something that has the historic value that the orgatron has, and through the efforts of Roger Horton and a trucking company supplied by the Budzynskis it now has a new home with the Historical Association.

Spring Open House



Over 200 visitors came to see the 1956 exhibit in the large gallery, enjoying a splendid hors d'oeuvres table. The highlight of the evening was the model of the Pine Knoll Cottage created by Helen O'Rourke. This model, built to a scale of 1"/1', is a replica of the cottage in the Monroe Park Subdivision on the North Beach of South Haven that she has owned since 1968. The house was built in 1900 and is a beautiful example of the cottage architecture of that time. She knew that as soon as it was sold to a new owner it would be demolished, and she wanted there to be a record for future generations. Helen presented an hour long talk that explained the history of Pine Knoll, changes that occurred during her ownership, and the long process of creating a model. The talk was well illustrated with photographs from the cottage's very beginning until today. There will be a second talk on Wednesday, August 17, at 7:30 p.m. at Hartman School. You won't want to miss it!



A recent visitor brought it to our attention that our park bench at the Hartman School building was severely rotted. Our volunteer jack-of-all-trades Tim Newton took things in hand and quickly put in new boards and pegs. The boards will have to dry out until next summer before they and the concrete ends are returned to their historically correct forest green color.

Then And Now



Fourth of July Parade 1893 (top left), 1918 (bottom left), and 2022.

This year's grand marshals were Tom and Carole Renner, two of our cherished HASH volunteers!

Historical Association of South Haven
355 Hubbard Street
South Haven, MI 49090

