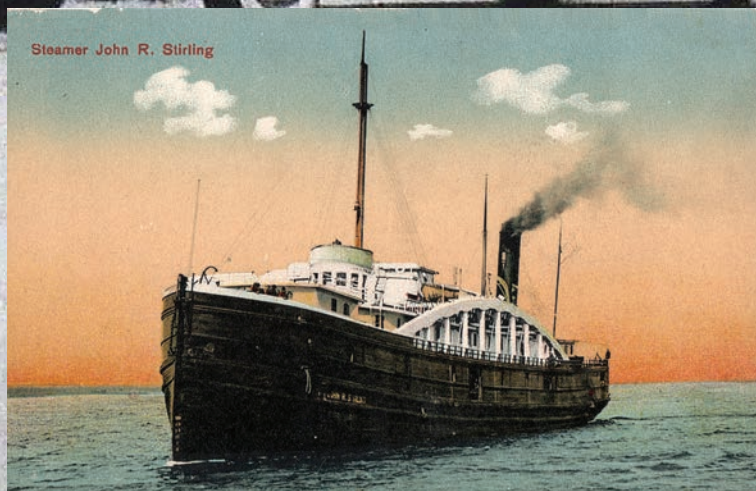


OMENA

Timelines

**HELLO FROM
OMENA!**

The "Kimmerly's Grocery" sign over the store was misspelled by the sign painter when made. It had an "e" between the "l" and "y". It remained there for many years. The sign is now proudly displayed on the cottage porch of 104 year old Bea Kimmerly.



From the Editor

Editor: Keith Disselkoen

Welcome to this 2018 Edition of the OHS Timelines.

We have focused this issue on two components of life here in Omena: the first, the critical role the Post Office has played in knitting our community together keeping in touch with each other and family over more than the last century; and the second, a more detailed profile of the Omena Historic District. Samples from the Museum postcard exhibit are spread throughout the issue.

We have also included articles on the results and process of the Mayoral Race for 2018, the Lecture Series conducted by JoAnne Cook. As always, we note with sadness the extensive list in our Milestones section.

Included throughout the issue are sidebars of continuing local interest.

We hope you enjoy this issue as much as you have past issues.

Contents

Letter from the President	3
Postcards	4
Omena Postmasters Deliver	6
Communication in the "Old Days"	10
Omena Historical District	16
Historical Property Profiles	18
Anishinaabe Life and Culture	22
Milestones	24
History of the Omena Mayor	30



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Timelines Mission Statement

To showcase Omena's past as
we chronicle the present, with an
understanding that today's news is
tomorrow's history.

www.OmenaHistoricalSociety.org

From the President

Dear Friends of The Omena Historical Society,

Thank you for your continued support for the work and vision of our Society. We appreciate the role we can play in the life of our community. I extend a special thank you to members of our society who serve on our Board of Directors. Many hours go into keeping our museum and it's archives up to our community standards.

2017/8 has been a very busy and exciting year. With the new exhibit of postcards from the past dominating the Viskochil Room of the Museum completed by the Exhibits Committee we hereby recognize a vital link to the past communication has played. The exhibits committee has re-created a display of postcards revealing both the stunning visual images on the front of the post cards but also the intriguing messages on the back. It is a wonderful display and we are proud to feature some of it in this 2018 issue of Timelines.

Because of the Post Card exhibit we have also profiled the critical role the Post Office has played in the development and cohesiveness of the Omena community.

We are also featuring details on both the scope and expanse of the Omena Historic District registered on the National Register of Historic Places. A map with the individual properties as

well as a brief description of each is included. We are also very proud of the monument erected in downtown Omena. A special thanks is due to Sally Viskochil for allowing us to mount it on her property.

We completed the Mayoral Race again this year. It was a very robust and hotly contested election. We were able to post profiles of the 18 candidates on our web site and organize voting via Paypal. This greatly increased participation and



involvement of citizens and friends of Omena from around the world.

I hope you enjoy this issue as much as past ones. Thank you to all the editorial and photography staff who dedicated many hours to making both the exhibit and this issue what it is.

And, thank you again for your support and involvement in the sustainability of the Society. Without you and your enthusiasm we could not exist.

Keith Disselkoen, President

Postcards

The Era of Hand-written Notes

by Joey Bensley

The first postcard turned out to be a practical joke when, in 1840, an Englishman, Thomas Hooke, received a hand painted card in the mail. Actually, he had sent the card to himself as it was a caricature of postal workers.

In 1873 the Post Office issued pre-stamped postal cards. The front was blank for messages and the back was reserved for the address. However, only the Post Office was allowed to print postcards.

From 1901 to 1907 (the 'Undivided Back' Era) messages were not permitted on the address side of any postcard. A small space for a message was reserved on the front under the image.

The 'Divided Back' Era began in 1907 and continued until 1915. The entire front was for the image and the left side of the back was reserved for the message and the right side was for the address. During this time postcards served a variety of purposes – mementos of vacations, business ads, greeting cards, etc.

In 1909, 969 million cards were sent in the United States. Since then, millions of color postcards have been traded by collectors. The cards in this exhibit document people and places in Omena.

A meaningful way to present postcards is to hang them by a cord. In this way they can be flipped to view the front and read the messages on the back. The earliest one, 1906, is on the west side of the room and the cards continue in order around the room to the latest, 1952.

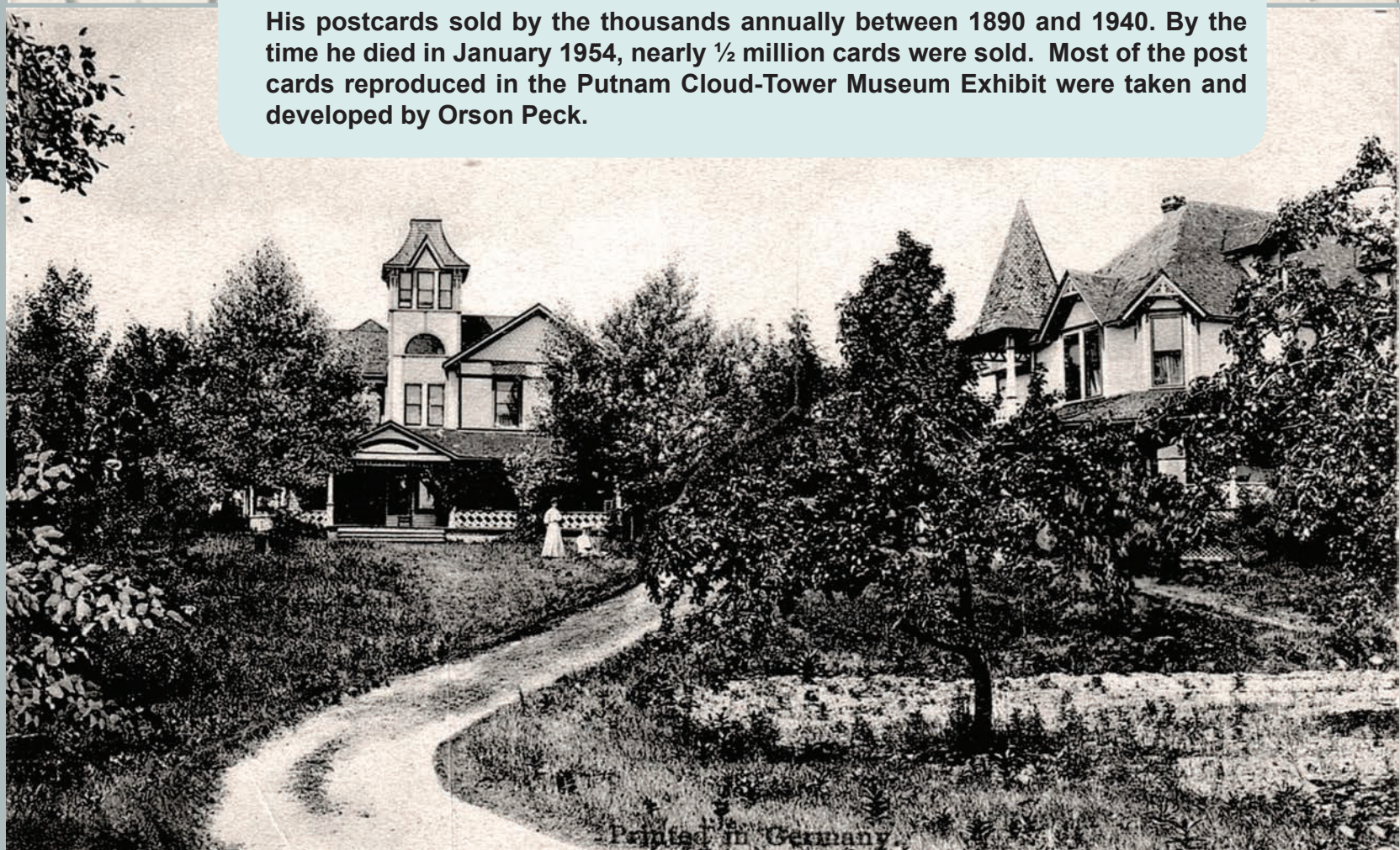


Orson Peck

Orson Peck was born in Saginaw in 1875. He moved with his parents to Traverse City in 1888. His father was a conductor on the Grand Rapids, Indiana railway. Orson taught himself photography and made a business of producing postcards of the Grand Traverse region and Leelanau County. He selected interesting scenic places in Northern Michigan for his shots. After completing the photography, many of his works were composite photos that he then retouched and colorized. He often took photos and dubbed in what he considered interesting additions such as sailboats on the water or a sunrise over the bay.

He began producing post cards in 1890 and until 1914 he sent his color pictures to Germany for reproduction since the technology only existed there. By 1914 American companies acquired that technique so he transferred his printing locally.

His postcards sold by the thousands annually between 1890 and 1940. By the time he died in January 1954, nearly ½ million cards were sold. Most of the post cards reproduced in the Putnam Cloud-Tower Museum Exhibit were taken and developed by Orson Peck.



Printed in Germany

Omena Postmasters Deliver

by Kathy Schaeffer

The Omena Post Office has always been the place to take the pulse of the Omena community. This started in 1859 when Aaron B. Page, Omena's first postmaster, operated the post office out of his rooming and boarding house for lumber workers near Tatch Road. The tradition continues today at the current location in Omena Village, in the building that once housed an ice cream parlor and is now owned by the Omena Village Preservation Association (OVPA).



"It has always been the place where information is shared," said Mark Frank, Omena's last official postmaster, who served from 1990 until he retired in 2009. "It's a community meeting place. It's where you learn the stuff you need to know." "It's one of the most picturesque post offices you'll ever see. And, it's intimate in a way," because people from the small town of Omena gather there to catch up on local doings.

One of the prominent gathering places of the current post office is the bench on the front porch. Daily many citizens gather there to catch up on the news of the day. The bench was created not only as a tribute to those members of our community who have passed away but also to those who are creating memories in Omena every day. The bench was inspired and created in memory of a child who died too young.



The tiles on the back of the bench represent those who have helped build Omena, those who treasure every minute spent in Omena now and those future generations who will continue to love it.

After Frank retired in 2009, the Omena Post Office went to part-time hours and in 2013, the USPS converted it to a remotely managed office, now under direction of the Northport postmaster. Between 1859 and 2013, the Omena Post Office has had 14 postmasters, as well as four acting postmasters and five “officers in charge” who served between appointments of postmasters.

Omena resident Beatrice Kimmerly, who is 104 years old, served as acting postmaster from 1947 to 1949 and as interim officer for a month in 1981, between postmasters. Kimmerly recalled Geneva Smith, who served as acting postmaster (1965 -1967) and postmaster (1967 -1981). “Geneva Smith had a little Ford pickup

that she would drive up, pick up the mail bags and bring them back to the post office every day. And the kids would usually get out and run it up and back with her.”

The Omena Post Office has functioned in its current location since 1959. In its



Omena Village,
Mich.



Mark Frank

first 100 years, it moved multiple times. However, all Omena postmasters from 1859 to present time have taken pride in making sure the mail makes its way to full-time residents and summer visitors alike. Because of Omena's size, postmasters become well-acquainted with everyone in the community, which is different than postmasters in large cities.

Frank called the relationship between the Omena postmaster and local Omena residents "one big family." At his retirement party, guests wore nametags simply with their P.O. box numbers on them. Frank's retirement "yearbook" was a copy of "Omena: A Place in Time," published by the Omena Historical Society (OHS). Scores of residents – some no longer living – signed the book, which Frank plans to donate to the OHS.

People in Omena are tied to their post office and reject rural-route delivery out of Northport. Why? "Omena is a preferred mailing address because Omena's cool," Frank said. "I wouldn't say all roads lead to Omena, but I would say they all start here."



Ron Sutton

The Omena Book Exchange

Local craftsman and artisan Ron Sutton created this replica of the Omena Presbyterian Church to serve as a valuable resource to our community – A book exchange.

Ron invested hundreds of hours over the past winter in conceiving this idea and crafting the masterpiece. Over 1500 cedar pieces were cut to size and glued in place to form the roof.

Ron is an experienced miniature structure builder, having crafted doll houses for his daughters, and together with his wife Lynn built seven nativity scenes for each of their grandchildren.

The Exchange operates on the principle “Leave a Book – Take a Book” and has already taken over the reading preferences of Omena summer cottagers and beach bums.



Communications in the "Old Days"

by Debby Disch

The current exhibit at the OHS Museum takes us back to the days when communication via postcards and letters was the norm. Telephone calls beyond your immediate area were long distance - and expensive by the standards of the day. Needless to say, there was no email, text, Twitter, IM, or whatever.

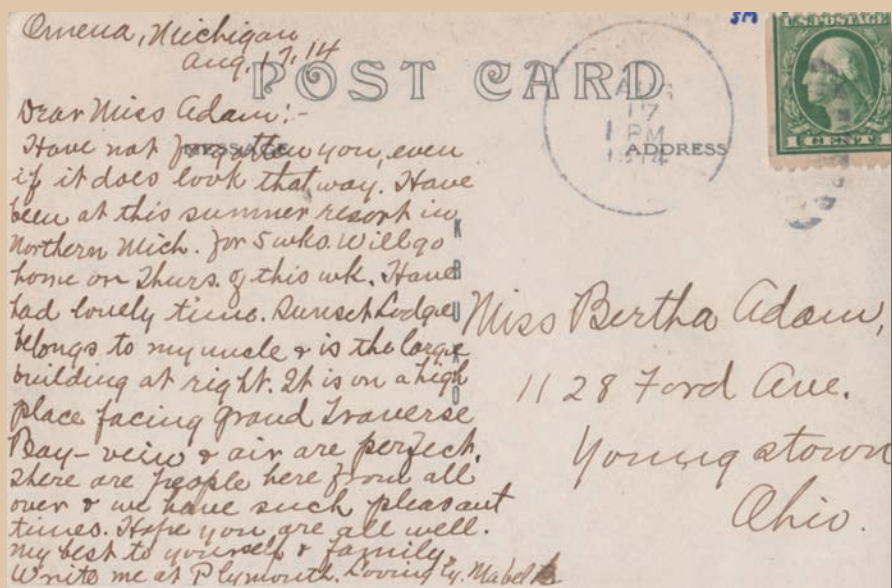


So, when were those days? When we explore “history” we often rely on documentation of times beyond our memory. But communications has changed rapidly in a relatively short period of time. There are many people who remember the “old days” of communications in Omena.

In the 1950’s, Omena and Leland were served by Michigan Bell Telephone, but Suttons Bay was served by an Independent Telephone Company. As a result, it was a long distance call from Omena to Suttons Bay. But Geneva Smith’s home, just south of where the Tamarack Gallery is today, and now the home of Geneva’s granddaughter Sheila Lingaur and her family, was on the Suttons Bay exchange. Mary Hallett Stanton grew up in the house just south of the Villa Marquette. Their house was also Suttons Bay, but the Villa was Omena. Mary’s father, Chester Hallett, was the caretaker for the Villa Marquette, so they had an Omena number installed in their house as well. They never used it during the summer when the Jesuits were there, but it came in handy during the school year so they could call their Northport friends. Back then, the Omena exchange was “Evergreen”, and then Evergreen 6, and after that became 386.

During the summer, when they were wet and sandy from the beach, Geneva “Geeg” would allow them to walk in her house, but only as far as the phone, to call their parents - they always needed to call home to ask to stay at the beach just a little longer.

Gail Southwell Koch, who grew up on the Southwell farm just south of Freeland Road remembers that Kimmerly’s Store had one Suttons Bay line and one Omena line so that customers could make local calls to both communities.



Crows Nest,
Omena, Mich.



Gail was one of many who remembers the telephone booth in front of Kimmerly's. Her now husband, Bob, took a picture of his 1949 customized Ford convertible in front of the store in 1954, with the telephone booth in the picture.

Gail also remembers an incredible story about an electrical storm when a lightning bolt came into their house through the telephone, and then rolled out of the speaker and out the back door.

The family watched it dumbfounded. Amazingly, nothing caught fire.

From the introduction of telephones in Omena until into the 1970's, many phones were eight-party lines. There were four numbers on each side, and they shared the line. Each number had its number of rings - one, two, three or four. Everyone who had a party line remembers those days - being told, as a child, to only answer on your number of rings; wanting to use the phone but it was busy by another party; or being told to limit how long you were on the line (very difficult for teenagers) so that you weren't keeping others from using it; and the favorite story - it seemed that every group had its "eavesdroppers", because you could pick up when someone else was on the line and listen. Mary Stanton remembers that you could usually hear them breathing, so they would say, "We know you're listening", and they would hang up.

Not all of the summer people had telephones. Face to face communication was the only way. Charlotte Read, whose family didn't have telephone service here for many years, remembers Rat Smith (Renz) and Mary Helen Ayars (Ray) biking around Omena Point and stopping at every cottage to find out who was coming to the Omena Traverse Yacht Club potluck dinner that Wednesday and what they were bringing. The "menus" were usually either casserole or meatloaf and salad, and it was important to have a balance between entrees and salads.

Rink Smith remembers that before his family had a phone in the summer, they used an old Army radio between their house and his grandparents', George and Helen Smith, who were year-round residents (with the telephone number 386-4000). People who wanted to talk to

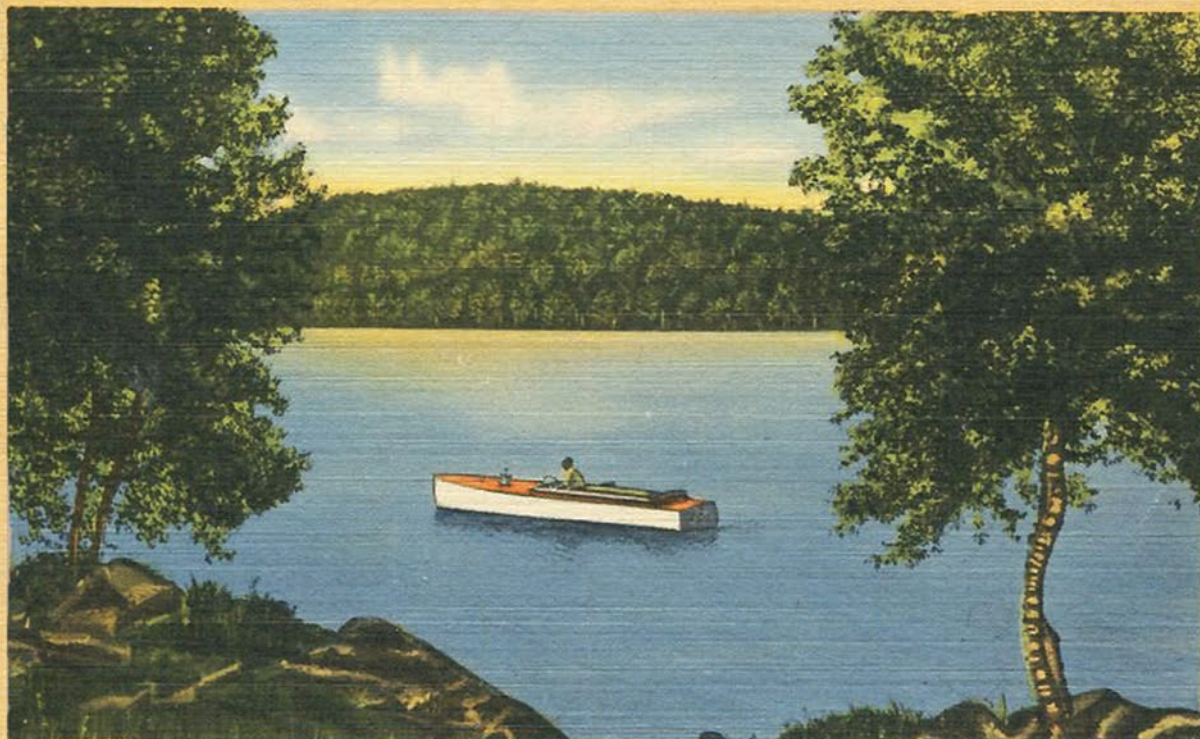
someone in Rink's family would call the George Smiths, who would then radio Rink's family, and then the person the call was for would run the 100 yards to get the call.

Kimmerly's store provided more than just telephone communication. In the mid-1900's the telegram was still an important means of communication. Caroline Gleason Oberndorf remembers going to Kimmerly's to send and receive telegrams. One memorable one, that is framed and hanging in the Oberndorf cottage today, is a beautifully flowered (in color!) telegram congratulating her parents on the purchase of the cottage. They lived in Cleveland, and it was from William A. Milliken, Director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, who always thought Omena was a funny name - and who had a sense of humor. The telegram read "Congratulations on your purchase of property in Amoeba". Caroline's boyfriend at the time would also telegraph to say when he was coming to visit.



One of the common themes as people talked about the “old days” of communications was that there was more face-to-face, be it Euchre games at “Keith’s” (aka the Harbor Bar, now Knot Just a Bar), stopping by for coffee, or just visiting. Also a lot more handwritten letters - and post cards.

Do stop by and see the old post cards at the OHS museum. It’s definitely a step back in time.




Greetings from Omena, Mich.

72489



Omena Bay, Omena, Michigan

74.



"East Shore and
Drive, Omena."

Telephone Etiquette

The south wall of Kimmerly's Grocery was the dividing line between the Suttons Bay and Northport local telephone exchanges. Calls between the two were long distance, and expensive. The store had two phones - one on the south wall and one on the north, so the customers from both exchanges could call them. They also allowed regular customers to use their phones to call the other exchange.

The phone booth by the south side of the store was a Suttons Bay phone. While pictured in red on the cover to stand out, it was a typical, unpainted metal phone booth, according to those who remember it. After Kimmerly's closed in the late 1950's, the phone booth remained. Kori Brown Wheeler remembers that she and her siblings, as young children in the 1960's, would run across the road to answer it if they heard it or call the operator with a silly "your refrigerator is running" and hang up.



Along the Bay Shore, Omena, Mich.

Omena Historical District

by Marsha Buehler

Rev. Peter Dougherty and his party first arrived in 1851 at an unnamed spot with a good harbor. With the support of Chippewa Chief Aghosa and his followers from Old Mission, the New Mission was established and Omena was founded.

The 1880s and 1890s were a pivotal time for Omena. Enough settlement had taken place that the community could support basic businesses, which cultivated the image of Omena as a summer destination. Among the first to come to the burgeoning Omena in the 1880s were two general stores which created lasting anchors for the community. Before the completion of rail service in 1903, regular arrivals and departures from the ships of both the Traverse Bay Line and North American Transportation Company served the area.

Most of the Omena Historic District buildings are still in use as originally intended, some still in the same family ownership since the 1800s. Many have had less than a handful of owners throughout their existence. Omena's changes have been adaptations built upon existing structures.



OMENA HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Plaque Reads:

The "New Mission," founded by Rev. Peter Dougherty and Ottawa Chief Ahgosa in 1852, fostered development of the village of Omena. Residents, visitors, and trade goods arrived and departed through the safe deep harbor of Omena Bay.

Agriculture, commerce, and summer resort growth defined the 1880's. The lands around Omena were lumbered, used for grazing, then field crops and orchards. The Anderson and Barth Stores were built, each with a commercial dock. Visitors to Omena's cottages and hotels came by steamers which wove in and out of the Grand Traverse Bay ports regularly, even after the 1903 arrival of the Traverse City, Leelanau and Manistiquie Railroad.

Homes and outbuildings grew up near the stores. One of the earliest homes, now the Putnam-Cloud Tower House, was moved a half mile north into Omena in 2004. Omena's commerce, resort and agricultural heritage continue into the 21st century.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior, 2017

This marker was placed by the Omena Historical Society – June, 2018



The OHS thanks Sally Viskochil for her generosity in providing a site for the Omena Historic District Marker and for artwork for this brochure.

Historical Property Profiles

1

Sunset Lodge Built in 1898 by Leonard and Rhoda Wheeler as their home for their “sunset years”, the Queen Anne style Wheeler House is the main building of Sunset Lodge. The Shedd and Dixie cottages and other buildings were added 1898 – 1911 to serve the growing resort complex, which use continues today.

2

Putnam/Smith/Lingaur Home

The residence was built c.1893, by Rinaldo Putnam; livestock barn was located behind the house. Rinaldo’s great-granddaughter, Geneva Putnam Smith, passed the home to her granddaughter Sheila Smith Lingaur.

3

Anderson Store/Kimmerly Grocery/Tamarack Gallery

Built c.1885 by John Anderson on land purchased in 1879 from Rinaldo Putnam. In its heyday the property included a barn, ice house, carriage house, livery, and windmill. From 1946 to 1958 the store was operated by Myles and Beatrice Kimmerly. David and Sally Viskochil moved their Tamarack Gallery to the store in 1976.

4

Putnam-Cloud Tower House

Built by Rinaldo Putnam in 1876 and sold in 1893 to Frank and Julia Cloud, the house and acreage passed to son Rev. Charles Cloud, Provincial of the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus in 1936. The property became known as Villa Marquette. In 2004 the Omena Historical Society moved the house ½ mile north from the Villa Marquette.

5

John and Celia Anderson House

Built by John Anderson on land that was part of his 1879 purchase from Rinaldo Putnam. Son Andrew F. Anderson then granddaughter Halcyon Anderson Nelson lived in the home, which is currently a residence owned by the Omena Village Preservation Association, founded in 2002.

6

Anderson’s Ice Cream Parlor/Omena Post Office

Built by John Anderson c. 1880, and used as a residence, ice cream parlor, and pharmacy, the building has been the Omena Post Office since 1959. The property is owned by the Omena Village Preservation Association.

7 P. R. Barth, General Merchandise/ Omena Bay Country Store

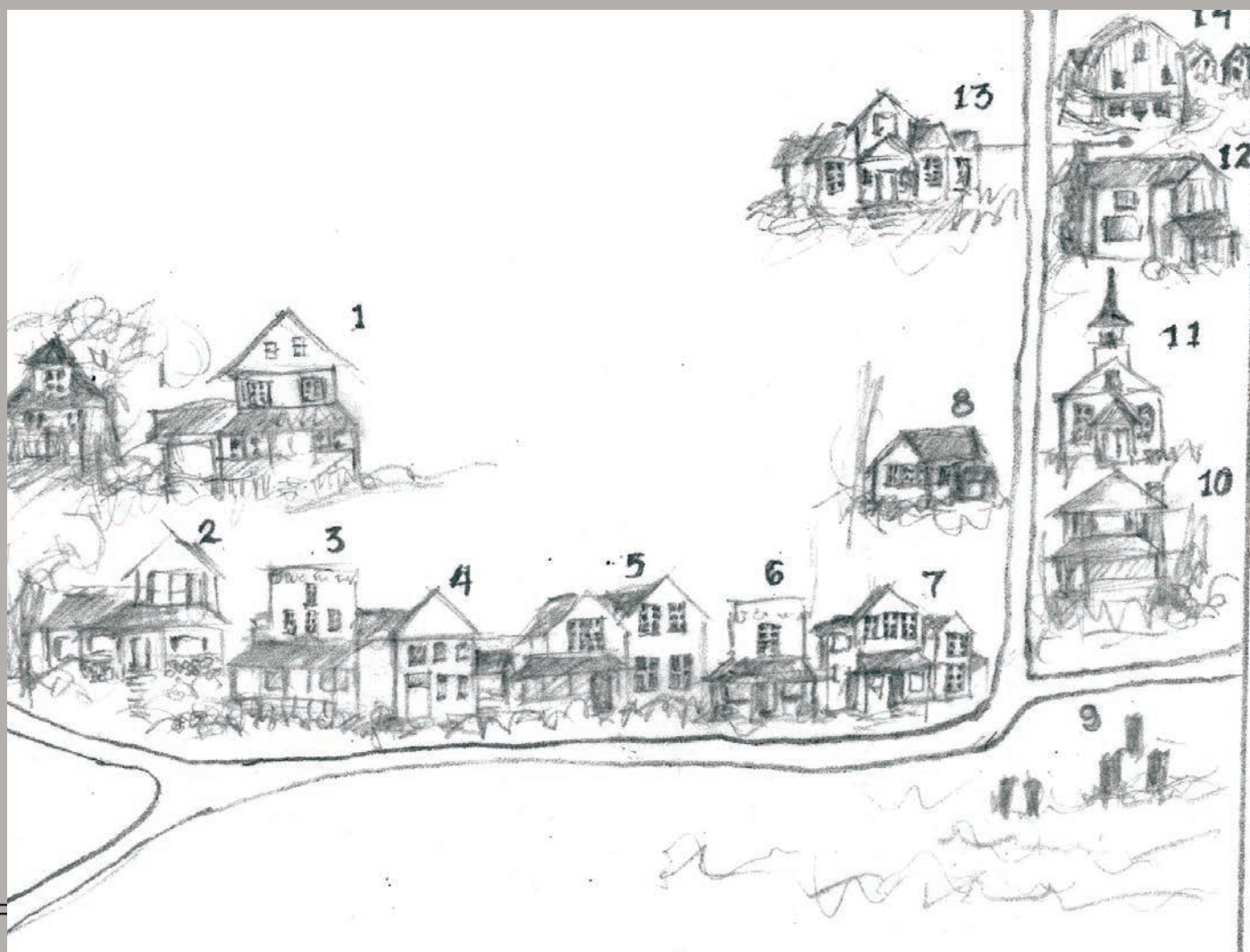
The store was built on land purchased from R. D. Putnam in 1891 by Paul Barth. The store has also been "Barth's Cash Store", "Bert's Country Store", and "Omena Bay Country Store".

8 Barth House and Outbuildings

This bungalow was built c.1930 for Robert and Effie Barth, who farmed and sold their produce at the Barth store. The property includes a milk house, small animal barn, chicken house and root cellar. The house is currently a summer rental.

9 Barth and Anderson Docks and Omena Beach and Park

Only remnant wood pilings, timbers and rubble stone on the lake bottom remain of the two docks. The larger Anderson Dock was built in 1886. It was a safe landing for steamships, which led to Omena becoming a thriving summer resort.



10

Omena Presbyterian Manse The Manse of the Omena Presbyterian Church is a modified Aladdin Homes catalog kit home built in 1917. Summer guest ministers from different denominations are offered the use of the manse.

14

Cherry Basket Farm and Cherry Basket Neighbors The first owners in 1855 were Rev. Peter Dougherty and Native American preacher Peter Greensky. Farm buildings include a c.1895 gable barn with a c.1910 gambrel, hog barn, machine shed, farmhouse, and cherry stand. Owner Herman Hyman planted the orchards, c. 1910. Owners in the late 1920's and 30's were Enid Bailey and Louise Taylor, who installed electricity. They were the first in the area to use bees for improved pollination. In 2003 Cherry Basket Neighbors purchased most of the orchard land to keep it in production. In 2004 Cherry Basket Farms LLC purchased the remaining acreage and buildings. The farmstead is a seasonal event venue, and the fields are cultivated for produce irrigated from the farm pond.

11

Grove Hill New Mission Church/Omena Presbyterian Church and Cemetery The Omena Presbyterian Church was dedicated on December 26, 1858 as the Grove Hill New Mission Church by Rev. Peter Dougherty. Behind the church to the north and east is a cemetery with the graves of hundreds of settlers and Native Americans, including Chief Aghosa. There is also a modern columbarium on the property. The summer congregation offers a full season of Sunday worship services.

12

Anderson/Solle/G. Brown House This property was owned by Maret Anderson in 1892. In 1933 the house was sold to Will and Carrie Solle, who operated Solle's Bookshop there for many years before relocating just south of Omena. Glenn and Susan Brown operated a large canopied fruit stand in the front yard from 1980 to 2002. The house is the residence of Glenn's son Gary and his wife Dotty.

13

Anderson/Brown/Morgan House This house was built in 1898 around the earlier house of Mary Ke way saw no quay. In 1892 the house was owned by Maret Anderson. It was later the home of the Andersons' orchard manager, Chatham Brown, and his wife Anna. The house is the residence of Mark and Jan Morgan.





Omena, Mich.

ADDRESS

POST OFFICE

Love:
0400
0000

Anishinaabe Life and Culture

Lecture Series Highlights



by Kathy Schaeffer

Some residents of Leelanau County who are of European descent know very little about our neighbors, the Anishinaabe people who are indigenous to the county and have lived in the Great Lakes region for as many as 3,500 years. To help educate local residents about Anishinaabe life and culture, the Omena Historical Society (OHS) hosted a three-lecture series titled “Pre and Post-Euro Anishinaabe Talks.”

JoAnne Cook, an educator of Anishinaabe culture, spoke at three 90-minute presentations in July and August 2018 at the historic Omena Presbyterian Church. The three presentations covered these topics:

Pre and Post-Euro Anishinaabe Family and Community: Family culture, family dynamics, generational dynamics (place of elders, men, women and youth), community life, division of labor, daily life, sense of humor, family activities.

Pre and Post-Euro Anishinaabe Spiritual Life: Spiritual philosophy, beliefs, stories, legends, creation narratives, values, way of life.

Pre and Post-Euro Anishinaabe Law and Government: Native relationship with law, Native form of government, tribal law, impact of Federal Government on tribal law.

Cook is an attorney who served as a Tribal Court judge for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and has served on the Tribal Council, an elected position. She is involved in peacemaking, a form of conflict resolution that is an alternative to going to court. Cook has made presentations about Anishinaabe life to audiences as far away as Germany and Austria. She has taught courses about Anishinaabe culture in the extended education program of Northwestern Michigan College. She also has spoken at libraries, museums and historical societies throughout Leelanau Peninsula and in Traverse City.

OHS Board Member Gayle Madison initiated and organized the lecture series after OHS hosted a speaker who offered a European-American perspective on the Anishinaabe people in 2017.

"It's always helpful to learn about history from multiple points of view," she said.

"I hope this will promote greater understanding between residents of European descent and Anishinaabe people. We need to understand the impact our Euro presence has had on the First Nation people on this peninsula," said Madison, who is a retired minister of the United Church of Christ. Madison believes that more efforts to bring people of different cultures together in Leelanau County will result in greater respect and deeper friendships. She believes ongoing education is crucial.

"I hope this will give people a better understanding of who the Anishinaabe people are from our perspective," Cook said. Cook grew up in Peshawbestown and now lives in Northport. She said her presentations, which rely on the spoken word, are consistent with the tradition of oral history in Anishinaabe culture. "We are an oral history people.

That's how we learn, by sharing, talking and listening."



At her lectures, Cook answered questions from non-Anishinaabe members of the audience about the Anishinaabe culture. Cook said she likes to encourage questions from audience members to foster better relationships among people. She often offers recommendations for books and additional information sources for people who want to learn more, based on each person's interest.

The "Pre and Post-Euro Anishinaabe Talks" lecture series is part of a broader effort by OHS to encourage more interaction and connection between the Anishinaabe community and non-Anishinaabe residents of Leelanau County.

The mission of OHS includes a commitment to human rights education about the Anishinaabe people and the non-Anishinaabe population here.



Milestones

by MaryTonneberger

Robert Richards Lewis Jr.

1927 – 2017

Bob Lewis passed away last July at age 90. Bob served in the U.S. Navy at the end of WWII and then went on to earn a PHD. in Physics from the University of Michigan where he was a professor from 1958-1992. The Lewis' (his wife of 67 years Trudy) moved to Omena where they lived after Bob's retirement on Omena Point Road. He was an active member of many community organizations with an emphasis is on history. Bob had a wide variety of interests including guitar playing, sailing, woodworking and bird watching. Bob and Trudy had four children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Alice June Brown Hauske

1933 – 2017

Alice passed away on August 21, 2017 at age 84 after a brief illness. She was a long-term resident of Omena before moving to Traverse City. Studying nursing in Lansing, Alice married Keith Brown and together they raised six children while living and running the Harbor Bar, now renamed Knot Just a Bar. She married Bob Hauske in 1995. She had 12 grandchildren, many step grandchildren and great-grandchildren. For many years, Alice was a member of the Omena Women's Club and she relished social activities, especially playing euchre.

Mary Helen Ayars Ray

1936 – 2017

Mary Helen, known to many as “MH”, came to Omena as an infant when her parents purchased a historic home in 1937. She returned with her family every summer and enjoyed the activities of the Omena Traverse Yacht Club, the Omena Woods Association and the Omena Historical Society. She was central to the development and expansion of all three organizations until her unexpected death on September 23, 2017. Her marriage in 1959 to John Ray was one focused on Omena and a mutual love of family, friends and travel. Between them, they had three children and eight grandchildren.

John R. Kinker

1952 – 2017

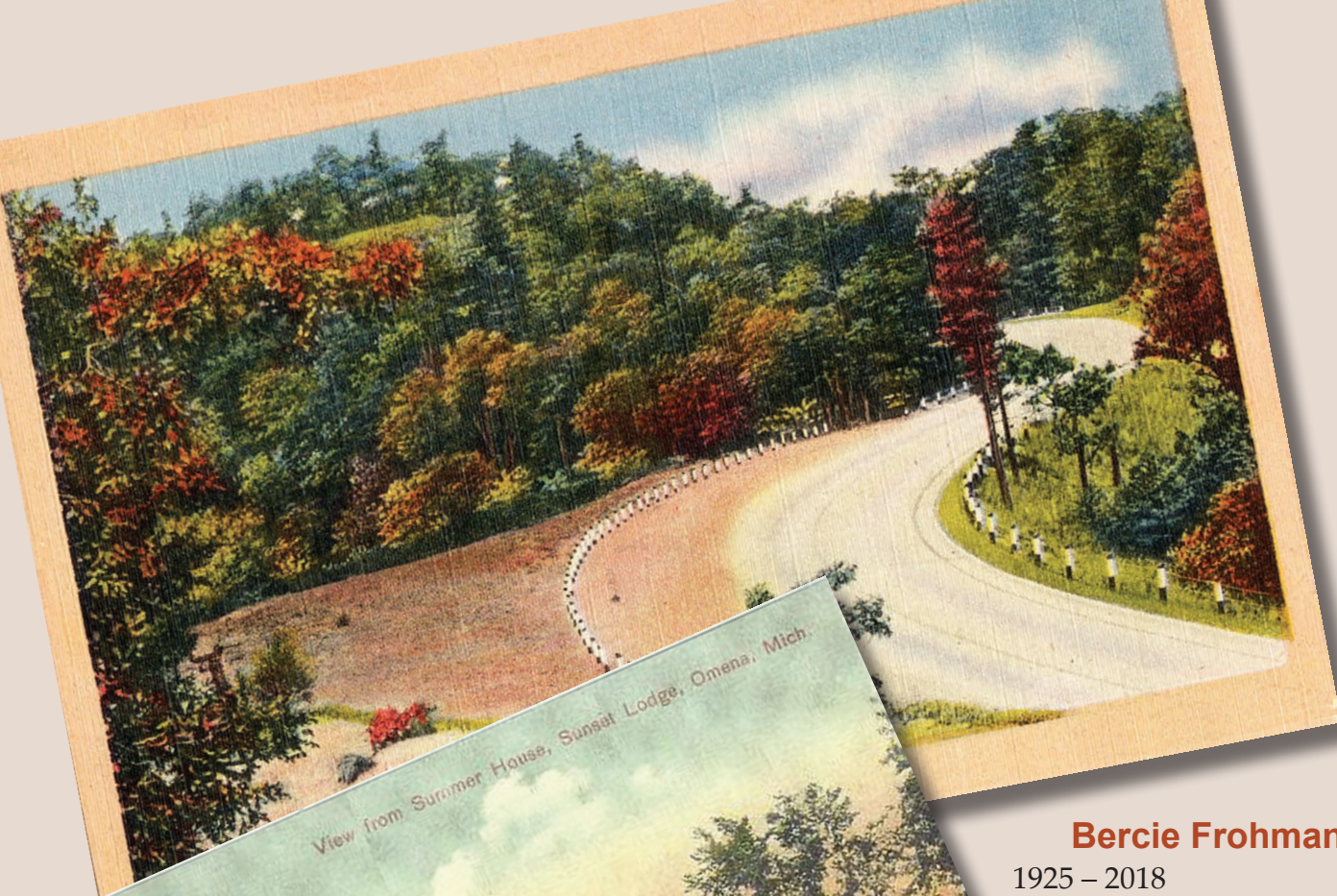
John Kinker of Omena passed away this fall at his home. He was noted as a talented woodworker who worked on boats, furniture and cabinetry. John, born in Birmingham, MI, lived in many different locations before moving to Omena. He and his wife Lynn raised two talented daughters who graduated from Northport Schools. He will be remembered as being a deep thinker and sensitive to the world around him.

Fred J. Hallett, Sr.

1944 – 2018

Fred Hallett who passed away on January 1, 2018 came from a long-term family in Omena. His parents were John Chester and Anna Hallett; he had ten siblings – seven brothers and three sisters. He was a skilled craftsman who spent many years building mobile home resort parks, including Timbershores north of Omena. Serving in the military in the Fife and Drum Corp as a drum major, he participated in many famous ceremonies for this country. Fred is survived by six children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



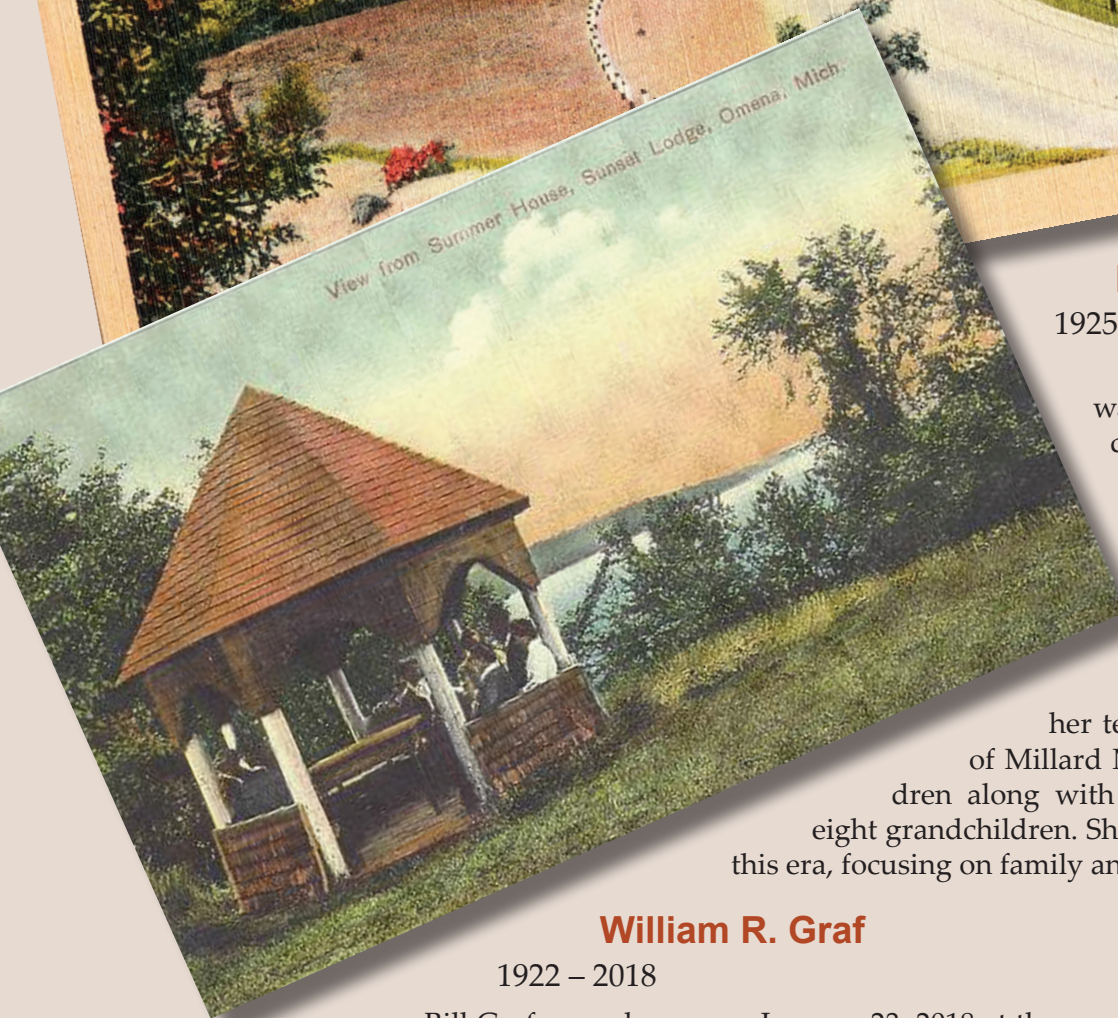


Bercie Frohman

1925 – 2018

Bercie lived to age 92 and was a longtime summer resident of Omena (70 years). She was born in Milwaukee, WI on September 4, 1925 and passed away on January 13, 2018 in Bloomington, IN.

Over the years, she lived in Cincinnati for 70 years where she was very active in her temple. Bercie is the half-sister of Millard Mack and she raised four children along with being a strong presence for eight grandchildren. She is one of the grand dames of this era, focusing on family and community.



William R. Graf

1922 – 2018

Bill Graf passed away on January 23, 2018 at the age of 96. As a long time, summer resident of Omena on Ingalls Bay, he and his wife of nearly 72 years along with their four children, grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, enjoyed many years in this small community. He was raised in Cincinnati, attended the University of Cincinnati and its College of Medicine. He trained in gynecology at Passavant Memorial Hospital in Chicago and practiced at Bethesda Hospital in Cincinnati as did his grandfather, father and brother.

Marilyn Haskell Graf

1922 – 2018

Marilyn passed away on January 26, 2018 at the age of 96. She was preceded in death by her husband William who died three days earlier. As a long time summer resident of Omena, she enjoyed many summers with her family of four children and seven grandchildren along with seven great-grandchildren. Born in Cleveland, her family moved to Cincinnati when she was seven. Among her interests were bridge playing and award-winning needlepoint.

David Kulick

1956 – 2018

David Kulick who passed away at home on March 11 this year spent many summer vacations in Omena when he was growing up at the "Hemlocks" home of his grandmother, Hazel Taylor. He and his brother, Chris Verdery, lived year-round in recent years on Ingalls Bay in a historic cottage built in 1914.

David was a very talented architect, with several high-profile clients. He also designed and built the "Sandcastle", now the seasonal home of his brother, Bill Kulick. David was very artistic, and over the years, he painted watercolors of Omena scenes that he loved. He will be fondly remembered as very smart, thoughtful and funny. He is survived by his son Henry and brothers Chris Verdery and Bill Kulick.

John C "Jack" Kimmerly

1936 – 2018

Jack Kimmerly passed away in Battle Creek on March 25. He was the son of Miles and Bea Kimmerly who moved to Omena in 1947 and ran the original country store (now the Tamarack Gallery). He served in the U.S Army during the Korean War and attended Michigan State University. He served as a volunteer fireman for many years in Omena and was quite an outdoors person.

He married Annie Sweetman who preceded him in death. He is survived by two sons, three grandchildren, his mother Beatrice Kimmerly (age 104) and his sister Karol.

Dorothy Witkop Von Holt

1924 – 2018

A long-term resident of Omena, Dorothy VonHolt was born in Leelanau County. During WWII, she moved downstate and worked as one of the original Rosie Riveters by inspecting parts of the Flying Fortress Bombers. Moving back north, she met her future husband "Bob" Von Holt and they were married in 1949. They settled on the VonHolt family farm which today is being managed by the fifth generation. She was an avid deer hunter and bee keeper along with fishing. She raised two children and enjoyed three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

James Roger Charter

1935 – 2018

Jim Charter passed away on Easter Sunday this spring. He was born in Northport and after high school, he moved to Midland to work for Dow Chemical. He married Kay Charter in 1979 and they shared a passion for travel and birdwatching. They returned from living



Bensley Memorial

One of the major highlights at the Museum opening June 24th was the unveiling of a special plaque at the front entrance honoring Joey and Larry Bensley for their years of service since the founding of the Omena Historical Society in 1994. Below is the dedication on the plaque to this most committed couple who gave their heart and soul to OHS over two decades.

In Recognition of
Larry and Joey Bensley

SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 1994, THE BENSLEYS
HAVE SERVED OUR ORGANIZATION WITH
DISTINCTION AND THEIR LEGACY TO THE OMENA
COMMUNITY REFLECTS THEIR LEADERSHIP AS
BOARD PRESIDENTS, EXTRAORDINARY INVOLVEMENT
IN THE MUSEUM RENOVATION (2004-2006)
MAINTAINING THE ARCHIVES AND A DECADE
OF CARING FOR THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS

WE HONOR THE BENSLEYS ON THIS
24TH DAY OF JUNE 2018
THE OMENA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

in CA and travels of three years to purchase 47 acres of open land on Putnam Road to create the Charter Bird Sanctuary. He worked on and completed the Educational Building at the sanctuary along with many birding trails. In 2001, he co-founded with Kay the organization Saving Birds Through Habitat. He is survived by four children, a stepson, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Patricia Ann Bussey

1936 – 2018

Pat Bussey, wife of Marlin Bussey for 63 years, lived on Omena Point Road for 31 years. She is descended from the Kalchik family; her parents were Frank and Mary(Betty) Kalchik of Omena. Pat and Marlin lived in Midland, MI and Ohio before returning to Omena. Mother of seven children, 22 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren along with one great-great-grandchild, Pat will be remembered for her kindly, gracious manner, her dedication to her church, St. Kateri Parish, and her many activities of gourmet cooking, traveling and bird watching.

Walter Madsen Gaudette, Jr.

1929 – 2018

Walt Gaudette passed away at his home on May 8 this spring. He led a very active life and settled with his wife of 67 years, Beverly, on Omena Point Road in the 1980s. As an engineer without any formal training, Walt worked for General Motors for 30 years. Prior to his engineering career, Walt served in the army in Germany. He and Bev restored the Omena Inn which they purchased. He was a lifelong sailor who enjoyed Omena Bay and entertaining at his bayside home. He is survived by his wife, three daughters and three grandchildren.

Gertrude B. Lewis

1928 – 2018

Trudy Lewis, born in Northport on July 27, 1928, was part of the Baumberger family; she became valedictorian of her high school class and went on to the University of Michigan. While there, she met her future husband Bob who preceded her in death this year. She was an elementary school teacher for 30 years. Among her passions were bird watching and artistic endeavors. She is survived by her sister Sue Hanson, four children and four grandchildren.



History of the Omena Mayor



by Debby Disch and Sally Shapiro

The Omena Mayor Election started with an idea shared in 1998 by an OHS member, Kanda McKee. She and her husband Harold lived near Rabbit Hash, Kentucky, which held the first non-human mayoral election that year as a fundraiser for their historical society. The idea sat on the back burner until 2008 when Nana Kennedy, the OHS president saw the Rabbit Hash elections covered on CBS Sunday Morning News. The board took action with the first successful 2009 Mayor Election raising \$5,000 for OHS. 27 candidates ran including 22 dogs, 2 cats, one horse, one snail and one worm.

Tucker Joyce, a golden retriever owned by Bob and Diane Joyce became first Omena Mayor. The top ten vote-getters created the balanced Dogacractic Village Council – Barkley Balas, Buddy Loveless, Callie McKee, Mika and Schatzi Putnam, Monty Bensley, Riley Miller, Seamus

Gaudette, Willow and Shimmer Disch, Callie from the Catapublican Party, and Monty, a horse belonging to the Mr. Ed Party. The elected politicians served three-terms.

For the 2012 election, the decision for “no term limits” encouraged many elected officials to run for second term. But Mayor Tucker Joyce decided not to run after serving 21 dog-years in office.

The 18 candidates included three cats and two horses. Maya Deibel, an eight year old English setter, became the second mayor of Omena. The new position, Vice Mayor went to former Village Council member, Shimmer Disch, an 11-year old golden retriever.

Interestingly, the Vice Mayor position was created in case the mayor died in office but no one considered the vice mayor being older than the mayor. Fortunately, both Maya and Shimmer enthusiastically filled out their terms.

The new Village Council were incumbents Callie McKee, a calico cat, and Barkley Balas, a Westie, Beau Lingaur, a border collie, Brit Walker, a black lab, Charlie Sulau, a Corgi, Eileen and Elizabeth Mampe, mother and daughter Shire horses, Sweet Tart McKee, a long-haired calico, and Lily Vanilly Koeze-Bell, a Pug-Jack Russell mix. The election was fun and fruitful, raising \$5,000.

2015 brought an election season packed with pawlitical drama. Golden Retriever Polly Loveless, a member of the tri-pawed canine community, was hot under the collar when Omena News stated all Mayoral candidates must be 4-legged. Polly had a bone to pick with the Pawers That Be. She entered pawlitics and with great support became Omena's third mayor.

Previous Mayor Deibel and Vice Mayor Disch determined the demands of the position required two Vice Mayors. This added diversity to Omena's leadership electing Pup-ulist Parker as the First Vice mayor and Sweet Tart McKee, a calico-colored Norwegian Forest cat as the Second Vice Mayor. The Village Council also expanded to include all candidates – 15 dogs, two cats, a Clydesdale horse, Parker Joyce, the son of Omena's first mayor and Riley Miller, a fox terrier and champion dock





jumper who returned after a hiatus from Omena politics. Gypsy Fowler, a Saluki, born in Lebanon became the first international candidate. The election raised over \$6,000.

Sadly, Polly Loveless died in office. Pupulist Parker Joyce became the fourth Omena Mayor and Sweet Tart McKee our sole Vice Mayor.

The 2018 fourth Omena Mayoral race was exciting with experienced politicians running against rookies. The 18 candidates included 13 dogs, two cats, one chicken, one peacock and one goat. Mayor Parker Joyce, as had his father Tucker, decided not to run for re-election, but passed the hat on to his son, Clyde Joyce who along with former Mayor Maya Deibel were elected to Village Council. Experience counted, Omena's Vice Mayor, Sweet Tart McKee, became Omena's first feline mayor. Diablo Shapiro became First Vice Mayor, and rookie and future mayor-in-training, four month old Punkin Anderson-Harder became Second Vice Mayor. Coming in fourth, Penny Labriola, a Lavender Orpington chicken, was named Special Assistant for Fowl Issues. Given today's political fake news, a new position of Press Secretary was created and awarded to Harley Jones, the goat who produced clever videos during the campaign.

This year Sally Shapiro added PayPal ability to the OHS website allowing people to vote online which contributed to the growth in voters, raising a record \$7,000-plus. Thank you to our appreciated OHS supporters and voters. Congratulations to our five new office holders and thirteen Omena Village Council members.

And it didn't stop with the inauguration! For the first time, the local television stations took interest in our race. 7&4 News had a crew cover the parade and inauguration. News outlets and internet sites from across the country picked up the story, finding something fun to report about politics!

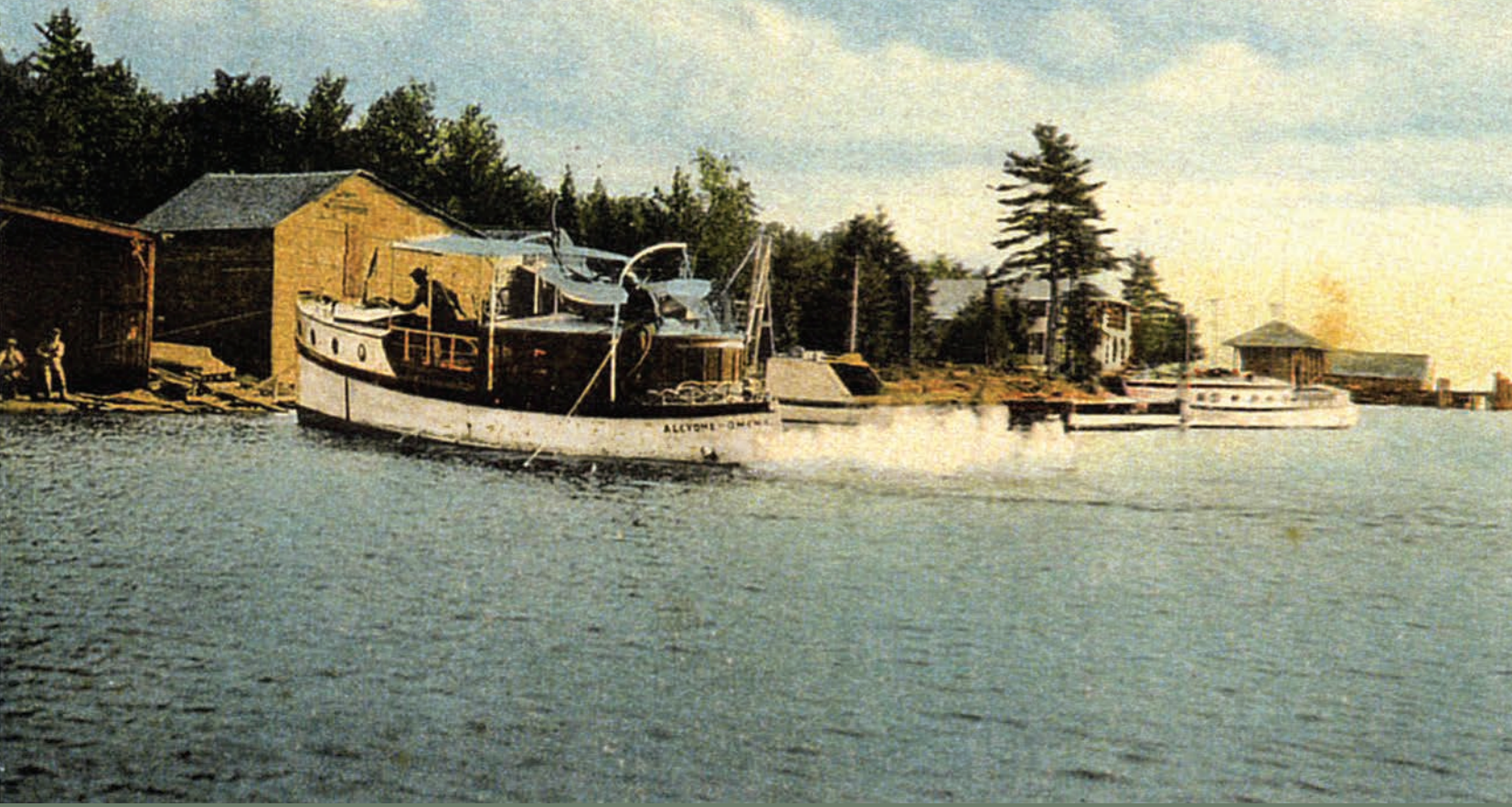
By mid-week the interest had spread internationally; Winnipeg, London, South India and Australia. A SiriusXM interview aired on The Highway and NBC, Fox News and Anderson Cooper were discussing the "midterm election 2018". One week after the parade, the story is still spreading across the country via television, newspapers and the internet.

Mayor Election Goes Viral

- Ron Jolly WTCM
- Leelanau Enterprise
- Traverse City, MI Record Eagle
- Cadillac, MI WWTV 9-10
- Albany, NY WNYT
- Anderson Cooper
- ArcaMax AR
- Asheville, NC 105.9 The Mountain Radio
- Austin, TX KXAN
- Buffalo, NY WYNO
- Baltimore, MD WBFF
- Bloomington, IL The Pantagraph
- London Breitbart.com
- Burlington, VT WCAX3
- Carlisle, PA The Sentinel
- Charleston WV
- Charlotte NC, Charlotte Observer
- Champagne-Urbana IL WIXY radio
- Cincinnati, OH WKRC, Cincinnati Enquirer (Gannett)
- Cole and Marmalade Website
- ColeAndMarmalade.com
- CNN
- Columbus, OH Sunny 95
- Dallas/Ft Worth, TX NBC-DFW
- Davenport, IA KWQC
- Decatur, IL WBUI
- Detroit, MI, Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, Detroit WXYZ, WOMC Radio
- E! Network
- Eau Claire, WI WEAU
- El Paso, TX El Paso News KFOX TV
- Flint, MI WCRZ
- Fox News Channel, Under Mid-term Elections!
- Fredericksburg, VA City Website
- High Point, NC FOX 8
- Rochester, NY iHeart Radio 95.1
- Indianapolis, IN WTHR
- Jezebel.com
- Kansas City, MO Kansas City Star
- Lansing, MI WILX, WITL Radio
- Los Angeles, CA NBC 4
- Las Vegas, NV
- Macon, GA
- Madison, WI
- Miami, FL WSVN
- The McClatchy Co. (30 newspaper syndicate)
- MyrtleBeachOnline.com
- Nashville TN Mix 92.9 Radio
- New Bern, NC WCTI
- New Haven, CT Register
- North Ontario CTV
- Northampton, MA WHMP Radio
- San Diego, CA KGTV ABC10
- San Francisco, CA SF Gate
- San Jose, CA NBC
- St Johnsbury, VT Caledonian Record
- Scottsbluff, NE Star Herald.com
- Seattle, WA Pi
- SE Texas WFDM
- Seymour, IN The Tribune
- St Louis, MO Post Dispatch
- South Bend, IN WNDU
- Tampa, FL WFLA
- AZ Tucson.com
- UPI.com United Kingdom
- Uniontown, PA Herald-Standard Paper
- WACH FIX
- Waco, TX Tribune Herald
- Washington DC NBC4, WTOP
- W Palm, FL WTVX, WPEC
- Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada Radio Station
- Winston Salem, NC WMYV
- Winsor Star, Ontario
- Yakima, WA KIMA tv
- YouTube Videos
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuP7VnYqEss&pbjreload=10>



Shore near Resort Dock, Omena, Mich.



The OHS Endowment Fund

by Ed Oberndorf

The beneficiary of the OHS Mayoral race is the OHS Endowment fund. The fund is an effort to retain the preservation of the past. Efforts began in the mid-1980's to record memories of Omena's most senior residents through audio taping. In 1994 The Omena Historical Society was organized. Authored by Amanda Holmes, the history of Omena was officially launched with the 2004 publication *Omena – A Place In Time*. Between 2004 and '06 the society relocated the house from Villa Marquette, to the village center and completely renovated the old farmhouse into the Putnam-Cloud Tower Museum at a cost of over \$215,000. Subsequent memorial contributions and other support created the possibility of an Endowment Fund to sustain the society long term.

By the fall of 2015, the assets of OHS had grown to \$83,000 at which time Ed Oberndorf convened a committee to explore the possibility of OHS investing most of its assets into an Endowment Fund. Our goal and purpose was to maintain a stable financial reservoir with a safe protected rate of return to allow planning for expected maintenance/improvements to the Putnam-Cloud Tower House Museum. A significant goal of the Fund is to develop and financially support programs and research that allow for community involvement and education about Omena's history.



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