Photo Presentation by Jim Dwyer

Photo collector Jim Dwyer will discuss “Adventures in Old U.P. Photos and Archives” at CCHS’s January 26 meeting. It will take place at 7 p.m. at Bayliss Public Library and is free to the public. Jim is a Newberry native who has amassed a collection of a “few thousand” old postcards and photographs of eastern U.P. communities. He and his wife recently relocated to Sault Ste. Marie and he has expanded his collection to include an increased focus on this area. He has presented the best of his photos at eight annual photo shows in the Newberry High School gym and in various U.P. newspapers. At his talk, Jim will display his 30” by 40” photo enlargements; a sampling of which is currently on display in the lobby of Bayliss Library. Assisting him will be Sterling McGinn, a Newberry High School student. Recently, Jim’s article about the original football rivalry between Sault High and the Upper Peninsula Hospital for the Insane was published in the Sault Evening News. Bayliss Public Library is located at 541 Library Drive in Sault Ste. Marie. Please enter by the library’s front door. Refreshments will be provided. You may call the library at 632-9331 or CCHS at 635-7082 for more information.

Jan Huttenstine’s Talk

Author Jan Huttenstine spoke at CCHS in October to a crowd of 30 people. Her talk focused on “A Historic New Look at Whitefish Point and Sault Ste. Marie” and she mentioned the family and business connections between the two areas. She spoke about how she came to write the book Remotely Yours: A Historic Journey into the Whitefish Point Area, highlights of her 4½ years of research, and her husband Gary’s photographic contributions. Her book is a history of the people who settled the Whitefish area and how that story fits into the rest of the eastern Lake Superior region. It focuses on marine history centered around the lighthouse and the lifesaving stations, and on such businesses as cranberry farming and fishing. Jan generously donated over $100 of the proceeds from the sales that evening to CCHS. Thank you, Jan and Gary, for your continued support of CCHS. For more information on Jan Huttenstine and her book, visit www.eastwestpressllc.com. Thanks also to Leanne Barnes Deuman, Mary June, Bob and Margaret Money, and Tony Stackpoole of Cup of the Day for providing refreshments.

Update on Building Purchase

We purchased our building at 115 Ashmun Street in June 2006 for $74,708. The major piece of this purchase price ($55,305) came from money we received from the sale of the Thomas Moran painting of the Grand Canyon. We added $1,000 from our general account, and borrowed $18,403 from a line of credit at Old Mission Bank. Subsequent to the purchase, we also drew another $17,500 from the line of credit to pay for engineering work and upgrades to the building in 2006. At the
January 2011

Dear Fellow History Enthusiasts,

The start of a new year is the perfect time to look back and thank all of our members for joining and supporting the Chippewa County Historical Society during the past year. Your support is what makes the CCHS a viable organization.

As members of the CCHS, you receive the Society’s newsletter, River Soundings. I hope you enjoy the current and past editions which cover the activities of the Society throughout the year. If you have followed our newsletters, you may have noticed the many volunteers and donors who have offered their help on our behalf. Their involvement and support help keep CCHS active and vibrant.

This past year seems to have sped by as we hosted the Second Annual Sault History Fest; hosted a boat cruise on the St. Marys River; co-hosted with the Soo Theatre the program of 3-D historic photos presented by Jack Deo; worked with the City on the renovation and restoration of the Baraga House and the painting of and repairs to the Schoolcraft House; and presented a variety of programs through the Historic Churches program, our quarterly meetings, and annual summer events. I hope you were able to join us during at least one of our events and had a great time.

Founded in 1919, CCHS has existed in one form or another for over 90 years. The Society remains dedicated to preserving and protecting our local heritage and sharing that historical heritage with the community.

Our Board members, all volunteers, work hard to provide events and activities that allow us to share our history with a wider audience. To help make that possible we need your help. Please join us again as a member of CCHS.

If you aren’t a member, we look forward to welcoming you for the first time. For your convenience, a membership form can be found on the last page of the newsletter – please fill it out and join us in promoting regional and local history for the pleasure and education of area residents and visitors alike.

If you have questions, or ideas you would like to share, please contact me or any of our Board members (see the list on page 7). We would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Mary M. June
President
Update on Building Purchase (continued from front page)

end of 2006, we had a loan balance of $35,903 at Old Mission Bank. This loan was due on June 30, 2009, and had an interest rate of 5%, with interest payable annually. In 2007, we drew another $50,000 to pay for upgrades to the heating, electrical and plumbing systems, plus drywall, carpeting, painting, and other improvements. The loan balance at the end of 2007 was $85,903, as it was in 2008 as well. In 2009, we paid down the loan balance by $26,898, leaving a balance of $59,005 at the end of 2009. The loan was renegotiated in May 2009, and Old Mission Bank agreed to extend the loan to May 2011 at the same interest rate. In 2010, we made additional payments totaling $25,000, leaving us with a balance of $34,005 as of December 31, 2010. This amount will be due in a few months, unless the loan is extended again.

We welcome contributions to our Capital Campaign to help us pay down this loan. You may break it into monthly payments if that is helpful. We accept credit cards as well. Any amount is appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support. Thank you to our treasurer, Bernie Arbic, for managing our funds and for the figures, above.

Open House at River of History Museum

The River of History Museum held an open house in November to honor CCHS for our contributions to the Museum at its new location—531 Ashmun Street. Many items from CCHS’s collection are on loan there and various CCHS members helped in the museum’s move from the old Federal Building. CCHS was presented with a plaque recognizing our assistance with their displays; a copy of which is on display at the River Museum. Attendees were able to tour the exhibits and enjoy refreshments provided by the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The Museum is currently closed for the winter.

Water Street Historic Block Update

As most of you probably know, the historic homes on Water Street were not open during the summer of 2010 due to the road construction. With the buildings closed, the City’s Historic Structures Management Committee took advantage of the opportunity to get extra work done on the Kemp Industrial Museum, the Baraga House, the Schoolcraft House, and evaluate the Johnston House. The Committee hired Sharon MacLaren to act as a project coordinator and much work was accomplished. In the Baraga House, additional walls were framed in, damaged plaster and lath was removed from the upper floors, electrical wiring was installed, foundation work was needed, and the upper floors received additional bracing. The Schoolcraft House was given a new look with an exterior coat of paint, porch repairs, a ramp to the office dependency entrance door, and additional railings installed along the north side of the porch between the dependencies. The Schoolcraft office dependency also received attention. When preparing to paint the interior, a dampness problem was discovered and much work was involved to remedy the problem. The Johnston House was also of concern for the Historic Structures Management Committee but proved difficult to evaluate. As a first step in defining the problems with the structure, a level study was conducted to study how or if the foundation is moving. All of the contractors hired to work on the buildings did an excellent job. More work is still needed on the homes and the committee hopes to continue the work next year.

The City Commission should be recognized for enabling the Historic Structures Management Committee to undertake all the work completed thanks to their approval of the committee’s budget last year. The Parks and Recreation Department, headed by Dan Wyers, is responsible for the historic homes and works with the committee to run and take care of them. The committee and Parks staff met more frequently than usual to keep up with all the decisions that were necessary to move forward and complete the work. The committee has five members. They are Mary June (CCHS), Johann Ingold (River of History Museum), and Richard Brawley (Sault Historic Sites), who represent their various organizations, and Charles Ludwick and Ken LaJoie, who are members-at-large. The committee expects to reopen the homes next year, despite the continued road construction in the vicinity.

Historical Development Commission Update

The Historical Development Commission has been charged by the Sault Ste. Marie Commission to assist the City in completing a Historic District Study Committee Report of the Park Place Center. The Park Place Center, a development of Gerald Haan, encompasses the old Central Savings Bank (also known as the Adams Building) and the Masonic Building located on the corner of Ashmun and East Spruce in the Sault. The purpose of the survey is to establish what is known as a single resource Local Historic District, which will require Haan Development to preserve historic features of the building in exchange for state and federal tax credits. Park Place Center is being renovated with a combination of public and private funds. As part of the survey process, members of the Historical Development Commission were given a tour of the Park Place Center during a portion of their December meeting. The HDC is working on the study with Kristen Claus of the City’s Planning and Development Department.

Gift Shop

Our gift shop and displays were open during the DDA’s Annual Christmas Open House and for reduced hours through December. The gift shop is now closed for the season. The shop and displays may be viewed during our office hours (through the back door) and by appointment. The shop will reopen with regular hours in the spring. If you would like to volunteer for a few hours a week, or occasionally fill in, please contact us.

Meanwhile, some of our books are available at area booksellers, including our new neighbor Island Books & Crafts, as well as at Up North Books, Book World, and various Portage Avenue shops. Prints of Gene Usimaki’s watercolor are now available for $75 shrink-wrapped on foam core or for $70 rolled (see article on page 4).

continued on next page
Genevieve Usimaki Print Fundraiser

CCHS has a new fundraiser underway. Starting this past December, CCHS is now offering for sale limited edition Giclee prints of local artist Genevieve Usimaki's 500 Block of Ashmun Street circa 1953. It is a charming image showing such businesses as the Soo Theatre and the American Café. The following is a description by the artist:

"This painting was completed for my November 1995 exhibit at Alberta House Arts Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. It was begun a year earlier by my collecting negatives from the Walter Materna Collection (my dad). The negatives were placed on a light box and I studied them with a magnifying lens, culling the ones not of the 1953 vintage, and putting aside others I knew would not work within the time period. For instance, the Soo Co-op was located on Ashmun Street at this time, but had been located several other places in the past. When I had the businesses identified, I began to work on sketches, measuring and comparing the sizes of the buildings to fit on the size of paper I planned to use. The paper size was determined by the frame — 4½ feet long and 12 inches wide. I rescued the frame from my dad's old studio, located on the corner of Ashmun and Maple streets, before it was torn down in the 1960s for 'urban renewal.' Once I had determined all the details, I drew in all the buildings on my watercolor paper, referring back to the negatives for architectural details. With the difficult part done, I began painting. The majority of the colors were from my memory — there were no colored negatives to assist me, and other buildings still standing today have only parts of the old fronts showing.”

The print is four-feet long, like the original watercolor in the collection of Marian and Jon MacLeod that is currently on loan to CCHS. Thank you to Peter Gianakura and his sister Helen Reinkensmeyer for first suggesting the idea of prints and to artist Genevieve Usimaki for supporting the fundraiser idea and meeting with Eric Demaray and Susan James to work out the details and do color proofing. Each print has a label on the back that is signed by the artist and contains biographical information and information on the artwork provided by Gene Usimaki and Marian MacLeod. Thank you to Eric and Kathy Demaray at Sault Realism for their expert assistance. The prints are $75 if shrink-wrapped on foam core; $70 if rolled. Due to their size, we are not able to mail the shrink-wrapped prints, but we may be able to mail the rolled ones. More information can be obtained by e-mailing cchs@sault.com or calling 635-7082. We are grateful to all of the above people for their generosity and support of this project. Our hours are limited over the winter, but you may stop by the office at the back of the building, on Mondays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. until noon.

PHOTO DISPLAY

"Then and Now" Photo Display

The “Then and Now” display of photos by Bernie Arbic will be on view at McKinley Manor in January and will travel to other locations around town. Bernie's and Dee Stevens' book Then and Now: The Changing Face of Sault Ste. Marie is available for purchase through CCHS and area businesses.
April Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting and elections will be held on April 6. Dr. Dennis M. Merkel, associate professor of biology at LSSU, will be our speaker. His topic will be “Chippewa County 1926: J.O. Veach and the Land Economic Survey.” The Land Economic Survey was designed to provide information on natural resources (soils, water, geology, and forests) and economic factors (land ownership, land utilization, and land intent) on a county-wide basis. In 1925 Chippewa County was selected as the first county in the U.P. to be surveyed. Jethro Otto Veach supervised the soil survey work in Michigan. Transcriptions from his field book give a unique historical insight into his wide-ranging observations on the soils, geology, agriculture, economics, history, and plant ecology of Chippewa County in 1926. More information will be available in our next newsletter.

Walter Materna took this photo of the City Hall in 1931, looking west from Ashmun Street. The building was located on the northwest corner of Arlington and Ashmun (set back a good way from Ashmun). The Police Department was in the basement of the building. The cannon, seen at right, was donated by the City to a scrap drive during World War II. The building was probably torn down between 1956 and 1958.
EUPHC Spring Meeting
Plans are coming together for the May meeting of the EUP History Consortium. The Bruce Township Historical Society will host the luncheon and presentation. The program will include a brief history of Bruce Township and discussion of research and archiving of materials. CCHS members and others interested in local history are encouraged to attend. Bruce Township Hall is located four miles east of M-129 on 12 Mile Road between Sault Ste. Marie and Pickford. For information and reservations, please call Carolyn Person at 632-4146 or Annegret Goehring at 484-2234 closer to the date.

River Soundings Newsletter
Thank you to Carl Linhart for most recently answering our call. He is a sponsor for 2011. Would you like to be a newsletter sponsor? It costs $50 for bulk mail postage and between $200 and $300 to print our quarterly newsletters. We also appreciate volunteers who can help us on short notice with preparing the newsletter for mailing (thank you to Carolyn Person for her help in October). Please consider helping us in any way you can.

SAVE THESE DATES:

CCHS Events
Jan. 26, 7 p.m. - Jim Dwyer will speak about “Adventures in Old U.P. Photos and Archives” at CCHS’s general meeting. It will take place at Bayliss Public Library, 541 Library Dr., Sault Ste. Marie.

April 6, 7 p.m. - Dr. Dennis Merkel, LSSU professor, will speak about “Chippewa County 1926: J.O. Veatch and the Land Economic Survey” at CCHS’s annual meeting. It will be at CCHS, 115 Ashmun St.

July 29 & 30 - Sault History Fest

Renovations are underway to prepare the “Federal Building” for its new role as Sault Ste. Marie’s City Hall. Completed in about 1910, the building housed the U.S. Post Office until 1958, and several federal offices until the early 1970s. This view from 1962 shows the west and north sides of the building, looking southeast from the corner of Bingham and Water Streets. In the background to the right, a portion of the Northland Wholesale Grocers building is seen. That building was subsequently occupied by Soo Supply and Equipment Company, until it was destroyed by fire in 1988.
SAVE THESE DATES:

Bayliss Public Library Events
Jan. 20, 7 p.m. - Dr. Jason Swedene, LSSU professor, will speak about “Fame,” a theme from his new book, and show images of artwork.

Saturdays through May 7 - Sault Winter Farmers’ Market will be held from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

See www.baylisslibrary.org for other events.

Thank you to the following:
Capital Campaign Donations since October:
Robert R. Arfstrom
Mario & Ann Marinoni
Barbara U. Mullin
Sonja Norris
Norajean Wilcox

Life Members:
Grand Traverse Ophthalmology Clinic
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Henry & Ann Ware

Donations of Services:
Bernie Arbic - scanning & printing photos
Mike Bennett - building work & photo project
William Gerrish - newsletter design
Carolyn Person - building work & photo project

Recent Donations:
Anonymous Gift - family bible & documents of Alice Dobie
Peter DeCourcy - Colonial Theatre ticket book
Jack DeWeese - books for used book sale
William E. Dickison - linen spinning wheel
Mr. & Mrs. David Freeborn - wax doll, misc. photos & papers, Reeta Freeborn’s Sault High diploma
Peter Gianakura - Royce Caron information
Carl Linhart - bulk postage
Jean Mannesto - family photos
Robert Money - history magazines
Carolyn Person - milk bottles & cigar boxes
Mr. & Mrs. James Pim - conference table
Kathy Sutter - copy of abstract

Donation to CCHS Railroad Fund:
Roberts P. and Ella B. Hudson Foundation

Volunteers:
Bernie Arbic, Mike Bennett, Marie Carter, Amber Clement, Ginny Cymbalist, Leanne Barnes Deuman, Jim Dwyer, Tim Ellis, William Gerrish, Caroline Grabowski, Dennis Hank, Susan James, Mary M. June, Marian MacLeod, Dennis Merkel, Robert & Margaret Money, Patty Olsen, Carolyn Person, Janet Russell, Karen Sabatine, Ann Marie Smith, Tony Stackpoole, Dee Stevens, Gene Usimaki, Norajean Wilcox

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- Individual $20
- Family $30
- Student $10
- Senior $10
- Contributing $50
- Business/Corporate/Org. $50
- Lifetime $200+
- New Millennium $1000+
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Please keep me in mind for:  □ Volunteer Work  □ Board Member  □ Capital Campaign

Make checks payable to: Chippewa County Historical Society, P.O. Box 342, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783