

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

If you have not renewed your membership to the Historical Society for 2012, now is the time. Your support is greatly appreciated.

To renew your membership, please contact Sherri Greene at 752-2861, Ext. 303. You can pay by cash, check, VISA or Mastercard. Memberships are only \$30 per family or \$25 for an individual.

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 70
Saginaw, MI

Holidays at the Castle

Exhibits, Decorations and Events Close Out an Exciting Year

Every day is a great day to visit the Castle Museum. But perhaps no other time is more special than during the holidays. Thanks to several staff members and a dedicated group of volunteers, the building has never looked more beautiful all decked out with holiday cheer.

It is a hectic time, but we hope you will visit the Museum this month as we have two wonderful exhibits on display. Paleo Joe's *Fossils of the Michigan Basin* explores life in Michigan millions of years ago. On a lighter note, you won't want to miss our new exhibit on McDonald's Happy Meal toys.

While you're here, don't forget to stop by and see our model railroad decorated for the holidays. Train volunteer Bill Falkenberg has built a charming Polar Express replica.

Finally, our Museum Store has many unique items that would make wonderful gifts. We have several new books by local authors and our adorable Saginaw teddy bear makes a great stocking stuffer. Lots to see and do at the Castle this month!



The Museum is closed Saturday, December 24, Sunday, December 25, Saturday, December 31 and Sunday, January 1, 2012.

Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones from the Castle Museum!



DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Thursday, Dec. 1:** **MEETING:** Saginaw Valley Chapter of the Michigan Archaeological Society. **7:30 p.m.**
- Tuesday, Dec. 6:** **LUNCH AND LEARN:** Paleo Joe will discuss *Fossils of the Michigan Basin*. Find out what Joe has discovered about life in Michigan millions of years ago. Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **Noon.**
- Tuesday, Dec. 6:** **PALEO JOE AT THE CASTLE MUSEUM! 10:00 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
- Saturday, Dec. 10:** **RONALD McDONALD VISITS THE CASTLE MUSEUM!** Kids, come meet Ronald and hear him read a story. While you're here, check out our newest exhibit, *Happy Meal Memories: A Celebration of Toys*. Free admission for children. **11:00 a.m.**
- Tuesday, Dec. 13:** **LUNCH AND LEARN:** Roselynn Ederer will be here to talk about her newest book, "Indiantown." Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **Noon.**
- Friday, Dec. 16:** **A THOUSAND LETTERS HOME** - Book Launch, Exhibit Opening & Speaker. Teresa Irish will share the story of her father "Bud" Irish and the letters he wrote home during World War II. Signed copies of the book will be available. See Page 2 for more details. **Noon.**
- Saturday, Dec. 17:** **PALEO JOE AT THE CASTLE MUSEUM! 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
- Tuesday, Dec. 20:** **PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB:** The group will discuss "Interlochen: A Home for the Arts" by Dean Boal. This event is co-sponsored by the Public Libraries of Saginaw. Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **Noon.**
- Tuesday, Dec. 27:** **NO LUNCH AND LEARN**

Museum Hours

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

General Admission

Adults \$1.00
 Children .50¢
 Members FREE

The Historical Society of Saginaw County is committed to serving the community by telling the continuing story of the people of the Saginaw region through exploration, preservation and presentation of their historical and cultural heritage.

Daughter Pays Tribute to Her Parents in Book:

Teresa Irish to Speak at Museum on December 16th



On May 26, 2006, one month and one day after her father's death, Teresa Irish raised the lid on the Army trunk that had resided in the family home her entire life. There, nestled in row after row, were her dad's nearly 1,000 handwritten letters from World War II. Carefully tucked away and visited only by him over the course of six decades, the letters were postmarked from November 1942 to December 1945. In the top left corner of each was the signature of the sender, Aarol W. "Bud" Irish. The fragile and yellowed pages were addressed to Bud's parents and to the sweetheart who would later become his wife, Elaine Marie Corbat.

From lonesome, moonlit nights listening to the Hit Parade, to the foxholes and front lines in Germany where Bud would receive the Silver Star and the Purple Heart, to correspondence from the heartbroken mothers whose sons died by his side, "A Thousand Letters Home" is a moving and historic story of life and loss, hope and perseverance, unwavering faith and true love.

Teresa will speak about the book which will be available for sale for the first time on Friday, December 16th at Noon. In addition, the Museum will unveil a small exhibit with some of Bud's letters, family photos and other memorabilia.

The Irish family display will be located in the Post Office exhibit on the first floor of the Museum. Also available for viewers is a brief slideshow from the National World War II Museum in New Orleans called *Infamy*.

Pictured at left: Elaine Corbat and Bud Irish

The Artifact

A Commemorative Medal

Michael Jeffers was a prominent businessman and real estate developer. After his death, his brother, John, donated a commercial block he owned on East Genesee to the city with the understanding that a park would be developed on the site. As plans progressed, John Jeffers was moved to make a further donation – a grand public drinking fountain surmounted by a bust of his brother.

The park and fountain were dedicated with great ceremony on Memorial Day - May 30, 1906. The G.A.R. [Grand Army of the Republic-Civil War Veterans] marched in a parade and a participant in the ceremony climbed a ladder to place a laurel wreath on the bust of Michael Jeffers. The gift and the acceptance ceremony dominated the front page of the Saginaw newspapers.

This commemorative medal with its scene of marching union soldiers connects us with the ceremony of the day and Michael Jeffers' sympathies and involvement during our nation's Civil War – he served on the Bounty Board. Also, it demonstrates the pride in which the city accepted this civic gift.

The pin was donated by Ben Schreiner. The Michael Jeffers Park is currently undergoing a restoration that will be completed in 2012.



Donors Encouraged to Take Advantage of Tax Credits

There are several nonrefundable tax credits that will be eliminated from the state tax code at the end of 2011.

Some of those credits - that have been rewarding donors since 1967 - include the City Income Tax Credit, the Community Foundation Credit, the Homeless/Food Bank Credit to name a few.

Also being eliminated is the Public Contribution Credit which is for contributions to public entities such as state universities, public libraries and museums, like the Castle.

If you are considering making a donation to the Castle Museum, consider doing it before the end of the year to take advantage of the credits before they are gone. Please contact President & CEO Ken Santa at 752-2861, Ext. 301 if you have any questions.

You're Invited to the Annual Meeting January 28, 2012

It's hard to believe, but it's time to pull out your calendar for 2012. The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society of Saginaw County is set for Saturday, January 28, 2012. All members are encouraged to attend. A reservation form will be available in the January *Courier*.

In addition to a great lunch, guests will receive an annual report and find out about all the exciting things that took place in 2011. We had another great year in large part due to the support of our members.

Also on the agenda is re-election of five directors to the Board of Directors. Seeking election are: Robert Stroebel, Gerald Enszer, Fred L. Borchard, Larry Rodarte, and Robert Thaler.

Happy Meal Toys Exhibit a Delight for Entire Family

For more than 30 years, McDonald's has been delighting children of all ages with its Happy Meal toys. This charming display includes a varied collection of toys and Happy Meal boxes, spanning three decades.

In addition, visitors will learn the history of the Happy Meal and find out about one of Michigan's oldest McDonald's located in Saginaw Township. Posters of ads that ran in The Saginaw News when the restaurant opened in 1958 are on display. The exhibit also features several pieces of McDonald's memorabilia that were loaned to the Museum from area franchise owners.

Children have free admission to the Museum on Saturday, December 10 and Ronald McDonald will visit beginning at 11 a.m.



Memorials/Gifts

A Memorial Gift to the Castle Museum has been made by
Dr. George and Jane Gugino
in memory of
Mildred Crandell

HSSC Board of Directors & Staff

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary
Executive Committee

David M. Hall
Michael Emmenecker
Sarah Jury
William Crane
Robert Stroebel
Ken Willman

Directors-At-Large
Fred L. Borchard
Gerald Enszer
Larry Rodarte
Robert Thaler
Jonathan Webb

Margaret E. Clark
Anne Marks-Gaertner
Dr. William Scharffe
Larry Toft

Staff: Ken Santa, Tom Trombley, Sherri Greene, Sandy Schwan, Jeff Cottrell, Geoff Pelkey, Jeff Sommer, Ruth Mancina, Sheila Hempsted, Barb Dewey, Dick Henning, Herman Rindhage and Morgan Robinson