

Voyageurs Celebrate Major Milestone

The Saginaw Voyageurs began in 1986 with a trip from Saginaw to Mackinac. In those 25 years, the group has paddled more than 4,000 miles along the historic "voyageur highway" of the Great Lakes.

This year, the Voyageurs will travel around the Leelanau Peninsula, starting at Frankfort and ending at Traverse City. "The Leelanau Brigade" will depart Saturday, July 30th and will end their trip on Sunday, August 7th.

A complete itinerary of the trip and information about the group can be found on the Museum's website, castlemuseum.org

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CASTLE COURIER

Newsletter of the Historical Society of Saginaw County

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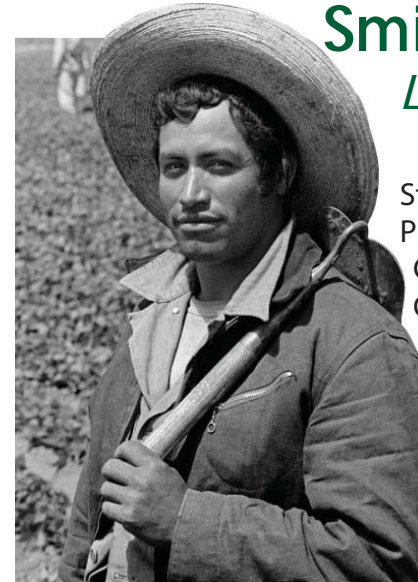
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www.castlemuseum.org



JULY 2011

Smithsonian Curator to Speak This Month Lecture to Focus on Importance of Bracero Program



Stephen Velasquez, co-curator of *Bittersweet Harvest*, will speak about the Bracero Program on **Tuesday, July 19th at Noon** as part of the Museum's Cultural Celebrations. *Bittersweet Harvest* is a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit on display at the Castle Museum through July 31.

What makes this program so special is that the Museum did not have to pay for Mr. Velasquez to fly to Saginaw. He is giving his talk in Washington D.C. and we will connect to him through our videoconferencing equipment.

Mr. Velasquez, who is an Associate Curator for the Division of Home and Community Life at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, traveled around the United States to collect oral histories of braceros, Mexican nationals brought to the U.S. to work in agricultural fields and railroads.

He will speak about his experiences working on the exhibit and why the Bracero Program is an important piece of American history. Please call Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315 for more information.

Masks, Memories and More On Tap for Cultural Celebrations

July will be an exciting month at the Castle Museum as we continue to celebrate cultures from around the world. We kick things off with a tribute to our country on **July 5th** as we welcome Brad Jarvis, an Assistant Professor of History at Saginaw Valley State University. He will give a talk called: *Treaties and Tribulations: The American Revolution and its Impact on Saginaw*. Apple pie will be served. Unplug the tv and grab the kids for a trip down memory lane during our Ice Cream Social and Old-Fashioned Games celebration on **July 7th**.

Polish culture and history are highlighted the second week in July. We welcome Tassie Pochopien on **July 12th** as she shares the history of St. Casimir Church and the Polish community in Saginaw. On **July 14th**, museum staff will discuss the art of Polish paper cutting, called Wycinanki, and participants will have the opportunity to make some of their own.

Last but not least, creating masks in the spirit of one of Puerto Rico's most festive celebrations, the Ponce Carnival, is set for **July 28th**.

All of the Culture Celebrations begin at Noon and are free with paid admission to the Museum. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED to ensure we have enough dessert and/or supplies. Please call Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315 or email her at rmancina@castlemuseum.org



An example of the type of masks worn during Puerto Rico's Ponce Carnival.

JULY CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 5: **THE CASTLE CELEBRATES CULTURE:** *Trials and Tribulations: The American Revolution and its Impact on Saginaw*. Brad Jarvis, Assistant Professor of History at SVSU is the featured speaker. Free with Museum admission. Reservations are required. Please call Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315. Apple pie will be served. **Noon.**

Thursday, July 7: **THE CASTLE CELEBRATES CULTURE:** *Ice Cream Social & Old-Fashioned Games*. Put down the remote, unplug the video games. Bring the kids and grandkids to the Castle Museum and play games children played years ago. Free with Museum admission. Reservations are required. Please call Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315. **Noon.**

Tuesday, July 12: **THE CASTLE CELEBRATES CULTURE:** *From Mansion to Church: St. Casimir and the History of Saginaw's Polish Community*. Tassie Pochopien is the featured speaker. Dessert & beverage will be provided. Free with Museum admission. Reservations are required by calling Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315. **Noon.**

Wed., July 13: **Create a Scrapbook Memory Page of Your Family's Experience with the Bracero Program.** Pre-registration is required by calling Tom Trombley at 752-2861, Ext. 304. **1:30 p.m.**

Thursday, July 14: **THE CASTLE CELEBRATES CULTURE:** *Learn How to Make Wycinanki*. Museum staff will demonstrate the art of Polish paper cutting. Free with Museum admission. Dessert & beverage will be provided. Reservations are required by calling Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315. **Noon.**

Tuesday, July 19: **THE CASTLE CELEBRATES CULTURE:** *Live from Washington D.C.! "Important But Not Forgotten: The Mexican Bracero Program"*. The Exhibit's co-curator and a curator with Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Stephen Velasquez, is the featured speaker. The talk will be broadcast through a videoconference. Free with Museum admission. Dessert & beverage will be provided. Reservations are required by calling Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315. **Noon.**

Pages of History Book Club. The group will discuss "The Underground Railroad in Michigan" by Carol E. Mull. This event is co-sponsored by the Public Libraries of Saginaw. Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **11:00 a.m.**

Wed., July 20: **Create a Scrapbook Memory Page of Your Family's Experience with the Bracero Program.** Pre-registration is required by calling Tom Trombley at 752-2861, Ext. 304. **6:30 p.m.**

Thursday, July 28: **THE CASTLE CELEBRATES CULTURE:** *Making Puerto Rican Masks*. Learn how to make a mask commonly used during the Ponce Carnival, one of Puerto Rico's biggest celebrations. Free with Museum admission. Dessert & beverage will be provided. Reservations are required by calling Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315. **Noon.**

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.



Castle Museum to Commemorate 100th Anniversary of Historic Photo

100 years ago, on the morning of July 27th, cars and passengers assembled at Jeffers Park for the Wholesalers and Manufacturers Association's second auto trip. The vehicles were decorated with banners and flags and it was clear that the purpose of this trip - to towns like Frankenmuth and Flint - was to promote the products of Saginaw. The Goodridge Brothers snapped a photograph using a Cirkuit Camera, which allowed them to create the panoramic image, which is on display at the Museum in our automotive manufacturing exhibit. **At 8:00 a.m. on July 27th, 2011, the Castle Museum and the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce will pay tribute to that historic event by taking a new photograph and recreating many of the same elements - business leaders, cars and the spirit of promoting Saginaw.**

Tributes

For more than 25 years, Joan and John Bintz have supported the Historical Society of Saginaw County and the Castle Museum. We are fortunate to have friends like Joan and John, and we are not the only ones who feel the same way about them. In the month of June, the couple celebrated their 80th birthdays and the Museum received the following donations in their honor. A big "thank you" to:

*Hiel & Mary Rockwell
Paul and Bonnie Vasold
Marilyn Dust*



Memorials

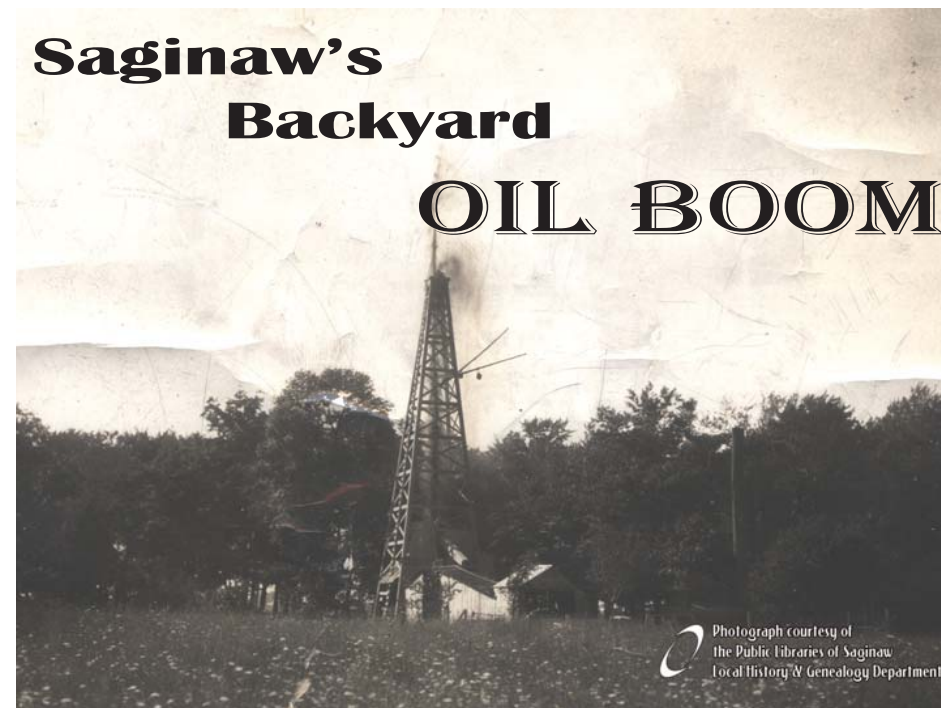
On May 11th, a great friend of the Castle Museum passed away. Henry Marsh was Saginaw's first black mayor and devoted his life to his community. Our condolences to his family. He will be greatly missed.

*A Memorial Gift has been made by
William and Marilyn Crane
in memory of
Henry Marsh*



Photo Courtesy of The Saginaw News

Saginaw's Backyard OIL BOOM



Saginaw was the site of Michigan's first oil boom, stoked by visions of endless pools of oil. While wells were drilled that are still producing more than 75 years later, the promise of great wealth never materialized. However, this boom positioned Saginaw to become a leader in Michigan's oil exploration.

On July 5th, the Castle Museum will open a new exhibit called *Saginaw's Backyard Oil Boom* exploring this fascinating chapter in our city's history.

The exhibit is built around a unique 1920s sample board collected by a young man from the oil well being drilled in his backyard.

SVSU student intern Ashley Johnson is responsible for the research and development of this exhibit with help from Deputy Director Tom Trombley.

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The Castle Museum is open Saturday, July 2 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, July 3 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Museum is closed on the Fourth of July.