



The Official Magazine of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

# Museography



**"Kalamazoo  
Direct to You"**

*New exhibition highlights products that put Kalamazoo on the map*



## CHEMISTRY DAY

**NEW DATE!**

**Saturday, Oct. 15 • 12 to 4 p.m.**

Learn the science behind toys like bubbles, rockets, slime, glow-in-the-dark objects, and the mystery inside every beginning chemistry set. Local members of the Kalamazoo Chapter of the American Chemical Society, plus area instructors and students, will perform demonstrations and hands-on activities to surprise and amaze you! **FREE!**

## SUNDAY History Series

Area historians and lecturers discuss topics relevant to our special exhibit *A Great Lakes Story*, and Curator Tom Dietz continues his series on the early history of Kalamazoo County's townships. All programs are held from 1:30–2:30 p.m. in the Museum's Stryker Theater. For more information, visit our website at [www.kalamazoomuseum.org](http://www.kalamazoomuseum.org).

Sept. 11: *The Townships of Kalamazoo County: Prairie Ronde Township*  
Curator Tom Dietz

Sept. 18: *To Have and to Hold: A Call to Preserve the Lighthouses of Michigan*  
Documentary Film

Oct. 2: *Black Eden: The Idlewild Community*  
Dr. Ben Wilson and Dr. Lewis Walker, WMU

Oct. 16: *Maritime Odysseys in the Largest Lake in the World*  
Great Lakes Artist Fritz Seegers

Oct. 30: *A Look at Kalamazoo Cemeteries: Mountain Home and Riverside*  
Curator Tom Dietz

Nov. 13: *Fish for All*  
Dr. Kristin Szylvian, WMU and  
Great Lakes Center for Maritime Studies

Dec. 4: *The Townships of Kalamazoo County: Schoolcraft Township*  
Curator Tom Dietz

Jan. 8: *The Kalamazoo River and the Settlement of Kalamazoo County*  
Curator Tom Dietz

Jan. 22: *The Townships of Kalamazoo County: Portage Township*  
Curator Tom Dietz





# Museography

is a publication of the  
Kalamazoo Valley Museum and  
Kalamazoo Valley Community College

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*Museography* is published  
three times a year:  
Fall, Winter, and Spring.

Questions about Kalamazoo Valley  
Museum programs described in this  
publication may be directed to the  
Kalamazoo Valley Museum offices.

Phone: 269/373.7990 or 800/772.3370

Website: [www.kalamazoomuseum.org](http://www.kalamazoomuseum.org)

Comments or questions about this  
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*ON THE COVER:* A beautiful label used on La Zoos cigar boxes is an example of the wide array of products that brought people around the world "Kalamazoo Direct to You." A new exhibition about Kalamazoo-made items and their companies opens at the Museum in December and related stories begin on page 3 of this issue.

Look for the \* symbol and the icon at right throughout this magazine—they indicate objects you can view in the special **Museography** display case, located next to the reception desk on the main floor of the Museum, or in other exhibit areas throughout the KVM.





FROM THE DIRECTOR

## HISTORY BY THE OUNCE

### *Our 125th Anniversary*

**H**ad you been reading the weekly *Kalamazoo Gazette* in April 1881, a small item on page 4 might have caught your eye. It reported on a special meeting of the board of education, and as it turned out, announced the birth of a new museum.

The board had come together on Wednesday, April 20, 1881, to respond to an offer by banker and community leader Horace M. Peck: "Gentlemen,"

he had written, "I desire to present to this school district, the collection of shells, corals, minerals, etc. which has been on exhibition by Prof H.T. Woodman, of Dubuque, in the office of Dr. King. It is my wish that it may be kept in the building which is now or may hereafter be occupied by the district library."

The board's response took the form of a unanimous resolution:

***"Resolved,** That the gratitude of the people of this district is due, and the hearty thanks of this board are hereby tendered to Horace M. Peck, Esq. for this large and beautiful collection of sea shells, corals, fossils and marbles, which he has tendered to the school district in the interest of public education.*

***Resolved,** That these specimens shall be and are hereby accepted as the beginning of a museum; they shall be known and preserved as the Peck Collection in the cases already authorized by this board to be built in the present public library rooms; and they shall be arranged according to the labels furnished by Prof. H. T. Woodman, of Dubuque, by whom the collection was made and of whom it was purchased.*

***Resolved,** That contributions to the museum so auspiciously begun, be and are hereby solicited from any and all persons of collection of specimens or single specimens in any or all departments of natural history and archaeology; and that assurance be given that such contributed specimens and collections shall be properly acknowledged and credited to the respective contributors and suitably displayed and carefully preserved by the board of education."*

These board resolutions marked the beginning of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. That the museum was dedicated to public education was the consequence of both local conditions and national pride.

Nineteenth-century Kalamazoo was a pioneer in education. Home to Kalamazoo College since the 1830s, it had established a high school in 1858. In 1872, the school board created the public library, when it voted to replace a library for school children and their families, which had begun 1860, with a community library. In 1874, the board won the famous Kalamazoo School Case, which affirmed the constitutionality of free high schools and of the taxation required to support them. The idea of a community museum came about when the United States celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. In cities around the country, the Centennial presented an opportunity to pause and to reflect on local history as well.

*continued on page 23*



*The Museum shown in two of its previous incarnations—above, in the Peck House in 1955, and below in the newly-built Kalamazoo Public Library and Museum in 1960.*

*A new exhibit highlights the products that brought...*

# **“Kalamazoo Direct to You”**

**G**lenn Miller’s 1942 “I’ve Got a Gal in Kalamazoo” did more than its share of building global awareness about this Southwest Michigan community.

But other personalities, entities and companies have also done their bits to build name recognition.

Baseball legend Babe Ruth was known to cite the name in his quips. Comedian Bob Hope incorporated Kalamazoo in his monologues.

And the Chicago Cubs for many years opened the broadcasts of their games on WGN radio with a ditty that reported “the fans are here to buy a ticket or two, from Walla Walla, Washington, to Kalamazoo.”

All of these fun and games will be at the heart of a good-natured new exhibit ticketed to open at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum on Dec. 10.

Taking its name from the world-famous slogan of the now-defunct Kalamazoo Stove Co., “Kalamazoo Direct to You” will be based in what has been the second-floor Curiosity Center.

“It’s going to be a fun, lively exhibit that highlights what Kalamazoo is known for,” said Paula Metzner, the museum’s assistant director for collections, “including products, services and people. Most of the exhibit will reinforce known and familiar aspects of local fame, with a few surprises and ‘did-you-knows’ along the way.” Actors, athletes and politicians hailed Checker taxis when moving to place to place along “The Great White Way” in New York or traveling to the opening of an anticipated Hollywood production. Famous rock-and-rollers delivered their licks on Kalamazoo-fashioned Gibson guitars.

“Our intent,” she said, “is to make it a light-hearted celebration of what people think of when they think of Kalamazoo.”

It replaces “Water Waves,” the video sequence of 10 synchronized, 36-inch, computer-controlled TV monitors. “That’s been part of the museum for nearly 10 years,” Metzner said, “and it was time for a change. But the nearby Checker cab will be part of the new look. More interactivity will make it even more compelling. And we have some ‘new’ old things that we want to put on display.”

“Kalamazoo Direct to You” is being blueprinted by the Ann Arbor firm of Envisions Design Inc. Its associates, Lynne Friman and Maud Lyon, have designed exhibits for the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn and the Detroit Historical Museum.

“We want to give visitors an idea of what has been so special about this *continued on page 4*



*The Kalamazoo Stove Co. gave the city perhaps its most famous slogan, but Gibson guitars and mandolins (left) also put Kalamazoo on the map.*





community down through the years,” Metzner said, “and why other people across the country and around the world have always seemed to be curious about our town.”

Kalamazoo has not been the butt of Cleveland-like jokes, but it has been incorporated into poetry, songs, comedy routines, movie scripts, and in such casual sayings as “from Kalamazoo to Timbuktu.”

Carl Sandburg wrote about “The Sins of Kalamazoo” and it merited a mention in Dr. Seuss’ “Horton Hatches the Egg.” Another children’s book, “Ride the Purple Pelican,” did likewise. At the dawning of the 1960s, WKZO radio composed its own tune, “Kalamazoo, That’s My Wonderful Town.”

The new exhibition will explore the many legends about the origins of the name and the unique, often humorous ways it has been used over the last two centuries.

While wordsmiths played off of its melodic-sounding pronunciation, local folks through the years gave it monikers to reflect what was happening to the city culturally and economically—The Celery City, The Windmill City, The Paper City, The Debt-Free City, The All-American City, and The Mall City.


Using a variety of forms of images and graphics, the exhibition will tell the story of the many locally manufactured and grown products that put Kalamazoo on the world map – stoves, automobiles, folding boats, fraternal regalia, medical equipment, pills, guitars, celery, taxi cabs, windmills, paper, fishing tackle, carriages, mint oils, sleds, cigars, and hot-water heaters.

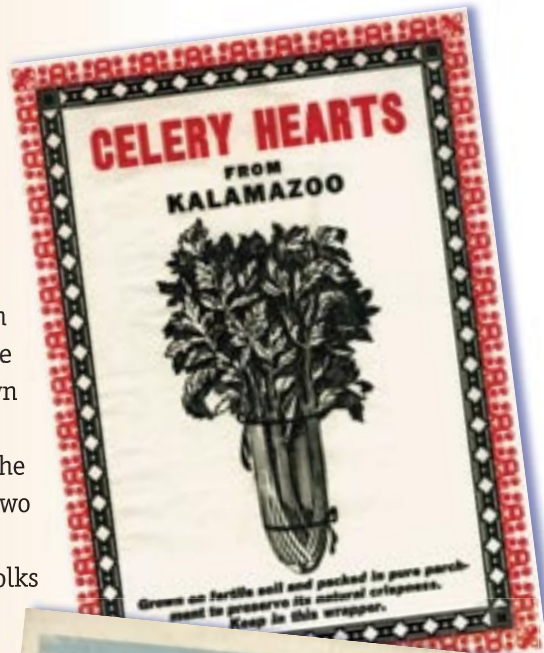
“The stove company’s slogan just about said it all,” Metzner said. “We want to show that Kalamazoo has long had an inventive and entrepreneurial spirit, which is indicated by the diversity of the products.”

“This will not be a cornucopia of all of Kalamazoo’s products,” Metzner said. “I guess you could call it the ‘oh-yeah’ stuff. This will be more of a snapshot look; not an intensive, comprehensive portrayal. We’re just trying to have a little fun. It certainly won’t be a full-fledged documentary.

“I guess the best way to say it is ‘Kalamazoo Direct to You’ will be ‘Kalamazoo in a Nutshell,’ with hopefully, a lot of ‘wow’ factors,” she said.

Nearing its 10th anniversary, the museum has already reconfigured its science gallery on the second floor. While “Kalamazoo Direct to You” will initially stand on its own, the plan will be for it to serve as the introduction to a new regional-history exhibition that is in the planning stage.

Metzner indicated that the reconstituted history gallery, which is about three years away from reality, will be offering those more-detailed looks at the way things were in Kalamazoo and its surrounding communities. 



*Windmills like the Eureka made by Smith & Pomeroy (above) and celery (upper right) were major Kalamazoo businesses that also gave the city some of its many of nicknames.*



# Big Yellow TAXI

**W**hen folk singer Joni Mitchell sang about that “big yellow taxi” back in the late 1960s, she probably was referring to a Checker cab.

For nearly six decades, Checker cabs were synonymous with taxi service in America’s cities, and those cabs were built right here in Kalamazoo.

The story of the Checker Cab begins in Russia, specifically in Smolensk in 1893 where Morris Markin was born. At the age of 19 he came to the United States, arriving at Ellis Island so poor that he had to borrow \$25 from a janitor to post the bond required to enter the country.

Settling in Chicago, he worked for his uncle and saved enough to bring the rest of his family to the United States. Within six years, he and his brother opened a tailor shop.

Two years later, he used his profits to start the Checker Cab Co. He then organized the Markin Body Co. to produce bodies for his cabs. In 1922, Markin merged this enterprise and another automobile manufacturer, the Commonwealth Co., into the Checker Cab Manufacturing Co.

For reasons that remain unclear, Markin decided to move production from Joliet, Ill., to Kalamazoo in 1923, taking over two abandoned auto factories (Dort Body and Handley-Knight).

Markin claimed he moved to Kalamazoo because his chief

engineer, Leonard Goodspeed, wanted to live in this community. Goodspeed was killed in an automobile accident in 1925 and there is no independent record of his role on the decision to move to Southwest Michigan.

What may have played a bigger role, however, was the violent struggle to dominate taxi service in Chicago. As Markin’s Checker Cab grew, it competed with John Hertz’s Yellow Cab for control of the Chicago market. Beatings and shootings of rival cab drivers were common, and there were even five murders.

The taxi war would last throughout the 1920s. In 1922, Markin’s home was bombed—Hertz’s home was burned a few years later—and it was shortly thereafter that Markin moved his manufacturing operations to Kalamazoo.

In 1929, Hertz sold Yellow Cab to Markin, who merged the two companies with the Parmalee

*continued on page 6*



*The Checker A-9 is perhaps the quintessential Checker model, iconized in movies, stories and songs.*





1



2



3



4



5

*Checkers through history—from the top:*

*1. Model C, ca. 1922*

*2. Model F, ca. 1925*

*3. An early '50s Checker cab.*

*4. Finished cabs roll off the assembly line*

*5. Checker Marathon, ca. 1950s.*

Transportation Co. that he had also acquired. Markin's company enjoyed a virtual monopoly on taxi service in Chicago until the 1990s, while Hertz took a different road, establishing the Hertz Rental Car Co.

The Chicago cab wars aside, Checker would develop as the most successful automobile manufacturer in Kalamazoo's history and one of its best-known products. In major cities across the country, in film and in song, Checker cabs became the icon with which taxi service was identified.

Checker's success as a manufacturer led to the construction of a new facility on North Pitcher Street. The factory, designed by the prominent industrial architect Albert Kahn of Detroit, was completed in 1930 and is still used today.

The company introduced many styles over the years with the Model K and the Model M perhaps being best known in the years before World War II. The cabs proved popular with drivers for their size and durability.

When the war began, Checker bid to produce the vehicle that became known as the Jeep but lost the contract to Willys-Overland of Toledo. The company did produce tank-retrieval and tank-recovery vehicles and self-contained housing trailers for the Army.

When it resumed peace-time production, the company introduced the A series, notably the A-8 that was the standard Checker cab from 1958 until it ceased production in 1982.

The popularity of the Checker cab led the company to experiment with vehicles for the consumer market. It introduced two models specifically for the populace, the Superba in 1959 and the Marathon in 1961.

The Marathon, outfitted as a limousine, was popular with some celebrities, financiers, and American diplomats. Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller, wife of New York's governor, and Bishop Fulton J. Sheen were among those who favored the Marathon.


The consumer market eventually accounted for 20 percent of Checker's production. Checker also experimented with other vehicles—a Mediacar ambulance for wheelchair-bound patients and the Aerobus, a limousine that seated as many as 12 passengers.

Checker's decline began in the mid-1970s. Ironically, the very features that contributed to the company's success now worked against it. Sturdy steel chassis and big bodies made for a durable, roomy cab but contributed to a vehicle weight of nearly two tons.

Such weight made Checkers "gas guzzlers" after the oil embargo of 1973 drove up fuel prices and made it difficult for the company to meet federal gas-mileage standards. Consumers and cab drivers turned to lighter, more fuel-efficient cars that were cheaper to operate, and production fell throughout the decade.

In 1982, the last Checker rolled off the assembly line at the Kalamazoo plant.

Morris Markin died in 1970 and his son, David, became the company president. Checker Manufacturing remains in business today at its plant on Pitcher Street as a producer of automotive parts.

While the day of the Checker cab is a bygone era, that big yellow taxi remains emblematic of urban transportation service during much of the 20th century. 



# Union Maids & Men

*On Sept. 7, 1931,* with Michigan Gov. Wilbur M. Brucker in attendance, thousands of workers from across the state, accompanied by floats and bands, paraded through the streets of Kalamazoo to Recreation Park where, under a warm sunny sky, the celebrants enjoyed sports, concerts, speeches, and picnics.

This was not the first time workers had marched on the Labor Day holiday in the city.

On Sept. 2, 1889, the Cigar Makers Local 208 organized the first Labor Day parade in Kalamazoo. The Kalamazoo Gazette reported that a parade, stretching nearly two miles long, wound through the city streets before gathering in Bronson Park.

The Kalamazoo Light Guard, police, fire trucks, and bands accompanied cigar makers, molders, tanners, and other union members to mark the holiday.

While the local cigar makers took the lead in promoting the first Labor Day parade, they were not the first union in Kalamazoo. Local 208 received its charter from the Cigar Makers International Union of America in 1883. The 1871 city directory, however, has a listing for the Typographical Union Local 122, perhaps the earliest labor group in the city.

Still the cigar workers were active in the labor movement. Julius Goldberg, a cigar maker, was the "Master Workman" in the Kalamazoo lodge of the Knights of Labor in 1885, then the most influential union in the country.

As Kalamazoo industrialized in late 1800s and early 1900s, the number of unions increased. The 1908 city directory lists 13 unions including bakers, barbers, bartenders, and musicians. By 1942, following the great organizing drives of the 1930s, the names of 37 unions can be found in the directories.

Although Gov. Brucker addressed the 1931 marchers and the president of the Kalamazoo City Council greeted the workers at the 1889 celebration, labor relations were not always harmonious in Kalamazoo.

Difficult economic times and the struggle of employees to gain some measure of control over their working hours, conditions, and wages, led to strikes and occasional violence here as it did elsewhere in the country.

At the turn of the 20th century, Kalamazoo was an important cigar-making center. Some 38 manufacturers, employing more than 500 people, produced 150,000 cigars a day.

In 1908, the Lilies Cigar Co. increased pressure for greater productivity without raising wages. The cigar workers walked out and a strike ensued. Some violence was reported, including bricks thrown through windows at the Lilies factory on the southeast corner of Church Street and Kalamazoo Avenue.

*continued on page 8*



*This 5 ft. tall silk banner hung during meetings of the Cigar Makers Union in Kalamazoo.*



The greater damage was done, however, when the larger manufacturers, like Lilies, moved their production to other cities, including Detroit, then a stronghold of open-shop, anti-union sentiment. Although a few smaller makers would remain, the strike virtually ended the cigar industry in Kalamazoo.



*This ca. 1890 photo shows the members of the Kalamazoo Horse Shoers Union, possibly gathered for a Labor Day parade.*

strike after contract negotiations broke down. The company, claiming that the union represented only a minority of its employees, terminated its contract and sought to re-open.

Picketing continued for several months and a major disturbance broke out on Dec. 1 when a "Flying Squadron" of steel workers from Detroit drove to Kalamazoo to support the strikers. Cars were overturned, windows broken, and several people were injured.


In the aftermath, 11 strikers and their allies were arrested and put on trial. Several were convicted.



*Members of Kalamazoo's Iron Moulders Union at a rally, ca. 1908.*

Michigan Congressman Claire Hoffman of Allegan, fanning the flames of anti-Communist fears, held congressional hearings into the December events. Ultimately, the strike was ruled illegal and picketing ended in October 1949, a year after the strike ended.

Although Kalamazoo has not shared a reputation as a stronghold of organized labor as have cities in Southeast Michigan, Labor Day celebrations as well as the strikes give evidence of a strong union movement here.

While the labor history of Kalamazoo has not been adequately studied, it is clear that workers here, as elsewhere in American industry, struggled to improve their economic condition—a struggle that is annually remembered on Labor Day. 



*The Boilermakers Local 169 entered this float in the 1931 Labor Day parade.*



# What is it?



Can you guess what these items from the Museum's collection are?

(Answers at the bottom of the page.)

**#1** Today you would find these made of sponge. They were a must for ladies and little girls in the 1800s.\*



**#2** Every fashionable woman required one of these to "pull her weight."\*



**#3** This collapsible contraption (shown closed and open) was a convenience for a traveler at the turn of the 20th century.\*



1: Hair curlers. Each curler is a length of wire wrapped in thin strips of paper, then covered with soft kid leather. Once strands of hair were wrapped around the curler, the ends were turned back to keep the curler from falling out. They were most popular around the 1860s. 2: A skirt lifter. The long, wide Victorian dresses of the 19th century were also very heavy—with common weights of 20 pounds or more. Moving in them was not easy. The woman wrapped the cord around her wrist and clamped a part of the skirt in the padded tongs. It lifted the skirt ever so slightly to help the woman walk a bit easier while keeping the hem clean and off the ground. This one dates from about 1865-1885. 3: A travel hanger. It was lightweight, adjustable and could be hung on any hook. Patented in 1903, it was sold through Marshall Fields in Chicago.

Have a question about a person, object, or artifact that relates to the history of Southwest Michigan?  
Send your question to Tom Dietz, curator of research, (269/373-7984 or [tdietz@kvcc.edu](mailto:tdietz@kvcc.edu)) and you may see your question answered in a future issue of *Museography*.

# Voices from the Great Beyond

**S**orry Snoop Dog, Ice Cube and Eminem—you aren't among the pioneer rappers.

That distinction belongs to the original practitioners of spiritualism who believed that the unexplained movement of objects, mysterious footsteps, and occult-sounding rappings were indications of an ability to communicate with dearly departed souls.

The genesis of what was to become a worldwide religious and scientific movement can be traced to several sources:

- the Fox sisters in 1848 as they communicated via knockings with a peddler who had been murdered in their cottage in Hydesville, N.Y. When the duo later demonstrated their skills as mediums in a nearby city, they were dubbed "The Rochester Rappers."
- a man who claimed to hear "voices" in childhood and became known as the "John the Baptist of Spiritualism."
- the radical Christian sect, who split off from the Quakers and whose exuberant whirling, stomping dances, and speaking in tongues gave them the name of the Shakers.

No matter what the origins, the movement found fertile grounds in Battle Creek in the mid-19th century because of the town's relatively exceptional tolerance of eccentric beliefs.

Spiritualism flourished until it crossed "crosses" with another creed, the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. In a classic "this-town-ain't-big-enough-for-the-two-of-us" face-off, the latter became dominant in the future "Cereal City."

But as Battle Creek waned as a mecca for mediums, Vicksburg filled the void for those, such as highly reputable Kalamazoo businessman George W. Winslow, who believed it possible to step back into history.

From the 1880s and well into the 20th century, the village reigned as the "Capital of Spiritualism" in Michigan, if not in the Midwest. To stand a ghost of a chance of contacting the spirits, folks traveled to Vicksburg by train, horse and buggy, and by foot.

Just like today's Colon attracts magicians and abracadabra artists to an annual sleight-of-hand soiree in St. Joseph County, Vicksburg once was the summer gathering point for those who professed to be able to contact the ethereal remains of the deceased.

Remnants of the community's connection to the supernatural were still around into the 1940s. At séances in pitch-black rooms darkened by quilts hung over the curtains, folks seated in a circle were mesmerized by a medium. Participants went home either satisfied or with the distinct impression that fakery was afoot.

But way before that in Vicksburg, and for the best part of four decades, all paths led to "Fraser's Grove," a thick, 27-acre patch of woods near the south end of the village.

In 1883, in a hall on Prairie Street, a woman from Cassadaga, N. Y., lectured on spiritualism. With the verve of a missionary, she fired their spirits enough that flesh-and-blood residents coalesced into a loosely knit group dedicated to the new-fangled religion.

More speakers were booked, including Mr. and Mrs. Henry Allen, both prominent Spiritualists from Aetna, Wash. On a visit to the farm home of the Quaker-like parents of Jeannette Fraser, they strolled through the family's oak grove. Legend has it that Allen quoted William Cullen Bryant: "The groves were God's first temple."

From that sprang Miss Fraser's brainstorm to locate a national campgrounds for Spiritualists in her out-of-the-way hometown. The first converts among the town's 2,000



*George Winslow (1809-1878) and planchette (below) used by Winslow and his wife to record the words of spirits during seances.*





citizens included Miss Fraser, a merchant, a justice of the peace, a real estate agent, a loan collector, and 14 families.

Fraser's Grove hosted its first camp for spiritualists in the summer of 1884. More than 40 tents were pitched.

Miss Fraser was destined to become something of a national personality among séance circles. Vicksburg evolved into an early version of the summer amusement park craze "because all the great mediums of the time made Vicksburg their summer headquarters," according to a letter written in 1943.

Flocking there were the curious seeking entertainment (such as "flame readings" and "healings") and the devout true-believers seeking voices from the past. All wanted to witness the "mystifying and awe-inspiring" feats of mediums who came from all over the United States and Europe. As many as 2,500 participants and observers would pack the campgrounds on a Sunday afternoon.

Using inherited money, Miss Fraser financed the construction of the housing and the purchase of tents so that followers might stay dry to nurture their beliefs about people surviving in another dimension. Questions from the living could be "answered" by the dead in an outdoor, arena-like atmosphere. Small windowless buildings were scattered about the campgrounds to be used for private séances.

Services were held twice daily for the faithful, but the "show-stoppers" were the outdoor extravaganzas on Sunday afternoons. After opening with a hymn, one of the "non-materializing mediums"—a medium who didn't reincarnate the actual figure of a deceased person—delivered a sermon on either a religious or secular subject.


What followed is what attracted the curious, the non-believers, and the folks out for a lark. They heard about "materializations," such as bringing back Thomas Jefferson to warn that the Constitution was being perverted. Questions were asked about a relative who had long ago met his/her maker. The medium called upon the deceased to answer. The throng would listen with awe as the responses came from a trumpet on stage.

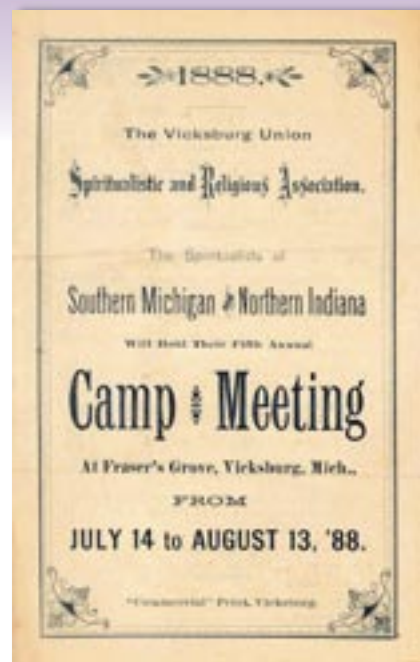
The turn of the 20th century appeared to be the heyday of spiritualism in Vicksburg. Prominent citizens accepted the premise that the living could communicate with the spirits of the dead. Businesses prospered with grocers recording \$200 boosts in sales for a week.

One session in 1909 focused on such topics as reincarnation, dreams, and the imponderable question of "Is the planet on which we live approaching final destruction or is it becoming more permanent?" Yes, the planet was fairly permanent, but the séance set's religious movement wasn't, at least not in its Vicksburg form. By the spring of 1928, many of the activities had been relocated to Indiana. The spiritualistic meetings were just about phased out by 1934 with the death of their originator. Until the end of her 83-year life, Fraser devoted her energy and finances to strengthening the faith in which she devoutly believed.

Parts of Fraser's Grove were platted into housing sites. The lead story in the May 14, 1953, edition of *The Vicksburg Commercial* was headlined: "Historic Fraser (sic) Grove Timber to be Lumbered."

As for Winslow, his obituary in late 1878 reported that he was something of an agnostic when it came to religious beliefs. That changed when he was exposed to spiritualism. The experience reversed his "disbelief in the existence of a Supreme Personal Deity and the immortality of the human soul."

Winslow became such a true believer his will designated that "Winslow Island" in the Kalamazoo River be made available "free and without charge" for "all meetings of Spiritualists, for temperance meetings and pic-nics" without regard (to) denomination..." 



Top: Camp Meeting Program, 1888.  
Above: Participants at encampment at Fraser's Grove, ca. 1890.

# “ALL PASSENGERS ON DECK...”

**M**ore than a century ago, tourism eked its way into Michigan, especially along the lakeshore as the Great Lakes bustled with passenger ships.

Shipping companies claimed that “a water trip best quiets the nerves, rests the body and diverts the mind... on board a steamer [one lives] a new, novel and fresh life, such as is never experienced on land.”

Vacationers couldn’t resist and came from Cleveland, Buffalo, Chicago and Milwaukee—headed toward resort towns along the lakeshore. Mackinac Island, along with harbor cities such as South Haven and Petoskey, became popular destinations.

The Erie Canal opened in 1825, connecting the lower Great Lakes of Erie and Ontario with the upper Great Lakes surrounding Michigan. It opened the American frontier, making westward expansion inevitable.



*The City of Kalamazoo shown in this ca. 1900 photo, plied Lake Michigan waters for 30 years.*



*Postcard, ca. 1910, showing the City of Benton Harbor at its main dock.*

from utilitarian vessels into pleasure ships. People’s desires for pleasure cruising and traveling to lakeshore vacation destinations helped build Michigan’s tourist industry.

The lakeshore community of South Haven saw its share of pleasure-going passenger ships, including the steamship City of Kalamazoo. Built in the early 1890s, it was charged in its first year to take passengers from South Haven to the

New settlers traversed the Great Lakes as they headed for stakes of land in the western wilderness of what became Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

The first voyage of a passenger steamship on Lake Michigan was in 1826. By 1833, three trips a year were made to the upper Great Lakes. A round-trip from Buffalo and Chicago took 25 days.

As the growth of the American railway system improved land travel throughout the 19th century, Great Lakes ships became a secondary means of transporting settlers and cargo into the Midwest.

By 1900, many of these watercraft had evolved



world exposition in Chicago that marked the 400th anniversary of Columbus' "discovery" of "The New World."

That year a South Haven newspaper reported "we consider her one of the finest sea boats we ever saw... She is worthy of extensive patronage and we congratulate the Williams Transportation Company that too much cannot be said in favor of the City of Kalamazoo."

In 1905, the cost to ride the waves of Lake Michigan from South Haven to Chicago was a mere dollar. The City of Kalamazoo also took passengers on shorter excursions to Grand Haven, Macatawa, and St. Joseph for as little as 50 cents.

But fires plagued the Kalamazoo and she was rebuilt as a barge in 1914. By 1922 she had been abandoned at the port of Milwaukee.

The Kalamazoo was one of many fine ships built for Great Lakes pleasure cruising at the turn of the 20th century. Others in this class were the City of Grand Rapids, the City of South Haven, the Puritan, the Theodore Roosevelt, the North American and South American, and the City of Cleveland, one of the grandest of this fleet. It regularly took vacationers to Mackinac Island, a four-day trip in 1889 that cost \$19.

The face of the Great Lakes passenger-ship business began to shift in the 1920s when a number of mergers took place, moving the industry away from its plethora of smaller ship-ping lines to a few larger operatives that had a distinct competitive edge.



*Lake voyages were promoted through advertisements like the one above, as well as more subtly. Note the steamship on the sheet music cover above, which also lists its publisher as the South Haven Chamber of Commerce.*

By 1930 the number of passenger-ship-ping concerns on Lake Michigan was reduced to about half the number it was in 1900.

Many factors led to the demise of the industry. During the Depression, a considerable number of passenger ships stopped running for lack of business. By the mid 1930s, only a few remained in operation.

Fire aboard the cruise ship SS Morro Castle in 1934 off the coast of New Jersey killed 137 passengers and forced the need for increased safety requirements. Many Great Lakes ship owners could not afford the improvements and dismantled their vessels or sold them into other types of service.

Finally, with the coming of interstate highways and air travel, Great Lakes cruising all but died in the 1940s and '50s. The Theodore Roosevelt and the City of Grand Rapids operated until about 1950. In 1967 the last of the large Great Lakes passenger-only steamships, the South American, completed its final season of operation. It would be another 30 years before passenger-only cruise ships would find their way back to the Great Lakes.

Today a handful of luxury cruisers traverse the lakes reminiscent of—but not yet equal to—bygone days. 

*"The Great Lakes Story" special exhibition continues at the Museum through Jan. 16, 2006. Special thanks to the Michigan Maritime Museum, Great Lakes Research Library, for their assistance with this article.*

# A SIMMERING MELTING POT: CARICATURE AS SOCIAL HISTORY



**B**etween the end of the Civil War and the beginning of World War I, nearly 30 million immigrants came to the United States. They made it the most ethnically diverse nation in the world. But the assimilation of culturally different people has been far from harmonious.

The exhibition "Immigration and Caricature: Ethnic Images from the Appel Collection" uses a variety of popular print media—cartoons, postcards, trade cards, and prints—from the period of mass immigration to illustrate the role of caricature and stereotype in the multicultural development of the United States. Thought-provoking and often disturbing to modern Americans, the collection offers great insight into the history of American cultural attitudes.

The question of who should be allowed to come to America and who should be excluded has persisted throughout the history of American immigration. Up to the last decades of the 19th century, American immigration had come primarily from

northern Europe—Great Britain (then including Ireland), Germany, and Scandinavia. As the effects of the Industrial Revolution spread, Italy and the multi-ethnic empires of eastern Europe became the primary sources. The first wave of Chinese immigrants came in response to the discovery of gold in California in 1849 and others followed, but a series of restrictive legislation kept all Asian immigration low throughout the period of mass migration. In the years immediately following World War I, a series of laws established annual quotas for each foreign nation.

During the period of mass immigration, advertising became a common medium for the perpetuation of ethnic stereotypes. Cartoonists of the period created exaggerated images of specific ethnic groups based on shared popular stereotypes. Ethnic stereotypes are fixed, oversimplified ideas about an entire group. A stereotype may contain a "kernel of truth," but this kernel becomes exaggerated and rigidly applied to an entire group. In recent years growing awareness has eliminated much ethnic stereotyping in advertising and the public sector, though it persists in private, such as in ethnic jokes.

As mass immigration continued, attitudes regarding the place of ethnic groups in America began to change. Earlier, the attitude had been predominantly one of Anglo-conformity—rapid and

**CARICATURE:**  
*exaggeration  
by means of  
often ludicrous  
distortion of parts  
or characteristics  
[of a subject].*

—Webster's Seventh  
New Collegiate Dictionary



Top: "The Mortar of Assimilation and the One Element That Won't Mix," Puck, June 26, 1889. Collection of the Michigan State University Museum. Courtesy of the MSU Museum.


Above: "In the Land of the Free, rapid changes we see," postcard, 1901. Collection of the Michigan State University Museum. Courtesy of the MSU Museum.



complete assimilation to the English-speaking core. Toward the end of this period, progressive thinkers responded with the model of the Melting Pot—that each group of immigrants contributed to the creation of a unique American culture.

With the growing dominance of the Melting Pot idea, editorials and ethnic imagery came to focus on the positive contributions made by immigrants. As these groups became more integrated, they moved up the social and economic ladder, and this became a common theme of cartoonists. America as the land of opportunity came to prevail over the earlier view of America as a land of refuge. Some cartoons even presaged the multicultural model of America that would in time replace the concept of the Melting Pot.

Dr. John Appel, professor emeritus of American Thought and Language at Michigan State University and adjunct curator at the Michigan State University Museum, began

his collection of immigrant and ethnic images in popular media in 1965. From his original motivation to illustrate lectures on immigration history, he and his wife Selma began collecting a wide range of print materials produced between the Civil War and World War I, the heaviest period of immigration to the United States. They contributed items to numerous exhibitions on ethnic images and immigration throughout the United States and published writings on the subject. The images on view in the exhibition are a small sample of the collection of more than 4,000 pieces that the Appels donated to the MSU Museum. 

*"Immigration and Caricature: Ethnic Images from the Appel Collection" is a traveling exhibition organized by the MSU Museum. It runs from Nov. 19 through March 12, 2006 in the first-floor gallery.*

# Show + Tell



**In 2006, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum proudly celebrates 125 years of collections, and your personal collectibles can be part of the festivities.**

It is estimated that one out of every three Americans are hobbyists who collect something, and those "somethings" could be on display in the downtown-Kalamazoo museum as part of its 125th anniversary.



Here is the plan:


From April of 2006 through October, the museum will be showcasing some of the unique collections within its inventory of holdings, complementing them with stories about the people who compiled them.

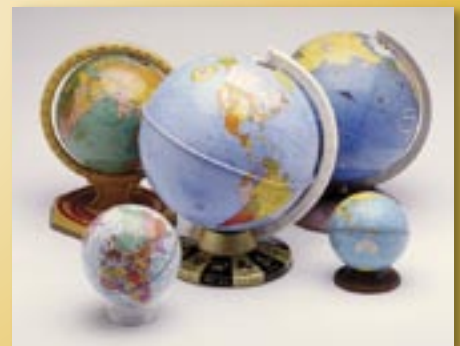
Then it's your turn. From November of 2006 through the following February, the spotlight can be on you and your special collection.

"Whether it's serious or whimsical, valuable or just fun," said Jean Stevens, the Museum's curator of design, "we're interested in it."



With that in mind, the museum is organizing special exhibition for local collectors of all ages. A panel of curators from will select the exhibitors from submitted entries. Criteria for selection will include the kind of collection, why and how the person started it, and whether there are any interesting stories behind the collection.

So start thinking about taking part in the celebration because details about the contest and an entry form will be included in the next edition of *Museography*. 



# The Townships of Kalamazoo County

## Brady Township

**I**n the beginning, all was Brady—or at least all of what is today Kalamazoo County.

In November 1829, the Michigan Territorial Council created Brady Township to provide local government for Kalamazoo County, Barry County and all territory north to the Grand River.

The following summer, when Kalamazoo County was granted self-government, it was divided into two townships—Arcadia, the northern half, and Brady, the southern half.



*Hannah and Jacob Lemon and their farm in Brady Township.*

Another 16 years would pass with further divisions of its now-reduced territory before Brady Township would assume its current boundaries. When Wakarusa Township was organized on March 25, 1846, Brady's political and geographic borders finally coincided.

Brady's territorial boundaries as Town 4 South, Range 10 West were surveyed in 1826. The township was named for Gen. Hugh Brady, commander of the Army's Northwestern Department who led the military expedition that forced the Native Americans out of Southwest Michigan.

From the 1821 Treaty of Chicago until 1833, the township was part of the Nottawaseepee Reservation. In 1833, a new treaty required the native Potawatomi to yield their land. However, many were dissatisfied and refused to leave until the Army evicted them in 1840.

Some hostility between the Potawatomi and the pioneers may be seen in the vague references in the 1880 County History to the murder of a white settler named Wisner, apparently in Brady Township in the late 1830s.

Because the natives remained on their land well into the 1830s, white settlement of Brady Township was delayed. Bradley S. Williams, who claimed land in Sections 5 and 6 in 1835 (although he did not live there until 1839) was one of the earliest colonists. Williams later moved to Kalamazoo and founded the B. S. Williams Co., a major windmill manufacturer.

Other Brady "founders" included Elisha Doane, John Darling, and Conrad Eberstein. The 1880 County History notes there were numerous settlers from Pennsylvania in the township, distinguishing it from the New England and upstate New York backgrounds of many settlers in the northern portions of the county.

No village or town ever developed completely within Brady Township. Vicksburg, lying mostly within Schoolcraft Township, was the commercial focus for much of Brady. The Peninsular and the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroads intersected in Vicksburg, providing access to markets for farm produce.

The Peninsular Railroad (later Grand Trunk) reached Vicksburg in 1871 and would contribute to the success of the Indian



*Passengers wait for the train to Lemon Park and Indian Lake.*



Lake resorts that, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, were a popular attraction in Brady Township.

Indian Lake covers substantial portions of sections 4 and 5 in the northwest corner of the township. In the early 1890s, Frank Lemon, son of settlers Jacob and Hannah Lemon, believed the lake would be an ideal site for a summer resort.

His idea blossomed and Lemon Park became a popular destination for local residents as well as vacationers from Chicago and more-distant locations. Within a few years, Munn's Knoll and Adams Park were also developed on Indian Lake.

Brady Township retains its rural flavor in the new millennium. The population has grown to 4,263, but other than a portion of eastern Vicksburg, there are still no towns or villages. With no freeways or major thoroughfares crossing through, Brady remains a quiet and peaceful place to call home.

## Charleston Township

**T**ownship 2 South, Range 9 West, better known as Charleston Township, lies in northeast Kalamazoo County. The Kalamazoo River flows through from Augusta to Galesburg. In the frontier era, the Territorial Road from Detroit passed through and I-94 provides similar east-west access across Charleston today.

Like Brady Township, there are no towns wholly situated within Charleston but portions of Augusta and Galesburg straddle township lines.

The most prominent features are Fort Custer Recreation Area and a part of Fort Custer Military Reserve.

Charleston Township was surveyed in 1825 and 1826. The first settler was William Harrison (*above*), a son of Bazel Harrison, the pioneer white colonist of Kalamazoo County.

In 1830, the younger Harrison staked a claim to land in Section 36, built a log cabin, and lived there for the next 50 years. Another pioneer was Asa Gunn, who often opened his cabin to travelers looking for land in west Michigan.

Charleston gained self-government in 1838. The 1880 Kalamazoo County History reports that Horace H. Comstock prevailed upon the Michigan Legislature to name the township Charleston (as a favor for a business associate) despite popular sentiment favoring Coldbrook.



*Military recruits arrive at Camp Custer during World War I. Photograph courtesy of the Willard Library, Battle Creek.*

At the first township meeting, Edwin Clapp was elected supervisor and the residents voted to establish a \$5 bounty on wolves, to permit hogs of more than 50 pounds to run at large, and to impose a fine of \$10 on anyone who allowed a stud horse to run free.


Horses, however, would be a major interest for Charleston resident William S. Kirby later in the 19th century. Kirby owned a farm east of Galesburg where he raised standard-bred horses. He also had a half-mile track on his property where races were held until about 1905. Kirby was an accomplished jockey, reportedly riding in as many as 1,200 heats in 1891.

The onset of World War I had a significant impact on Charleston Township. Following the American declaration of war in April 1917, the Army established bases across the country to prepare for the massive expansion needed to fight the war in Europe.

One of those bases, Camp Custer, was in western Calhoun County and extended into Charleston in Kalamazoo County. Almost 12 sections, nearly one-third of the acreage in the township, became part of this military installation. Tens of thousands of American men would receive their initiation into military life at Camp Custer.

The base continues to impact Kalamazoo today. The Douglass Community Center opened in 1919 to address the needs of African-American soldiers from Camp Custer who came to Kalamazoo on their leave time.

Camp Custer became Fort Custer during World War II and, in the years after, a portion of the base was dedicated as a National Cemetery. Another portion, the Fort Custer Recreation Area, has become an attractive regional park.

The population of Charleston Township in the 2000 census was 1,813. While it retains its rural feel, the township recently attracted a major distribution center and, located in the heart of the Kalamazoo-Battle Creek corridor, seems poised for future growth. 





# KALAMAZOO CEMETERIES

**FALL, WITH SUCH SEASONAL OBSERVANCES AS HALLOWEEN, DIA DE LOS MUERTOS (DAY OF THE DEAD), AND ALL SOULS DAY, IS AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF KALAMAZOO CEMETERIES.**

The accounts of the early pioneers reflect not only their awareness of native burial grounds but also the need to provide adequately for their own dead. The 1880 History of Kalamazoo County identifies the cemeteries established for most of the townships and towns in the county. Titus Bronson, in his efforts to secure the designation of his town as the county seat, promised to set aside two acres for use as a public cemetery.

Bronson's promised cemetery, near what today is the intersection of South and Henrietta streets, was never used. Rather, in December 1833, Cyren and Mary Ann Burdick, the brother and sister-in-law of Justus Burdick who owned the town's first hotel, the Kalamazoo House, donated three acres of land at the corner of Park Place and what is now South Westnedge Avenue "to be set apart and reserved as a common burying ground."

The first person buried there was Joseph Wood whose son was Smith Wood for whom Woods Lake is named. Wood's funeral was in December 1833. The final burial in the West Street Cemetery, as it was known, was that of Albert Evans in May 1862.

That same year, the Kalamazoo Board of Health ordered the cemetery closed. Some of those buried there were removed and re-interred at either the Mountain Home or Riverside cemeteries. For the next 20 years, it remained a cemetery but was neglected.

In 1884, the cemetery was converted into a public park. Graves that were not removed elsewhere were left alone but their stones were turned over and covered with a new layer of soil. Today, the spot is known as Pioneer Park.

In 1895, Cyren Burdick's son, R. Carlisle Burdick, sued to recover the land, claiming the city no longer was using the land as specified in the original deed of gift. City attorneys introduced as evidence the "West Street Cemetery Record of Graves" that listed the names and burial sites of more than 100 pioneers still buried there. The court rejected Burdick's claims, ruling that while the area was used as a park, beneath the surface it remained a cemetery.

The board of health was able to close West Cemetery in 1862 because two other local cemeteries had opened: Mountain Home in 1850 and Riverside in 1861.



*Globe Casket Co. founder Oscar Allen is commemorated by this beautiful grave marker at Mountain Home Cemetery.*



## The Mountain

Home Cemetery Association, comprised of 30 men who contributed \$20 apiece, purchased 17 acres on West Main Street in January 1850. The 1880 county history describes its first burial:

*"One day he [Mr. West] saw the last of earth and was ready for his last long sleep. It was a raw chill November day; biting blasts and bitter rains prevailed, the dead leaves lay in wet masses, and turned up their black sides as the funeral train passed to the narrow resting place the old man had chosen for himself, a retired and lonely spot.... The remains were deposited below the surface with no other prayer or benediction than the requiem of the blast and no weepers but the cold and cruel heavens. No stone nor slab of any kind marks the spot where he was laid, and very few know of its whereabouts."*

The headstones in the cemetery offer a look at Kalamazoo's history over the decades, from ordinary citizens to the prominent. There are politicians: Gov. Epaphroditus Ransom; U. S. senators Charles Stuart, Julius C. Burrows, and Francis Stockbridge; and Allen Potter, the first mayor.

Educators Lucinda H. Stone and her husband, James, can be found there as can social reformer Mary Pengelly. Banker and industrialist Jeremiah P. Woodbury, casket manufacturer Oscar Allen, "The Mint King" Albert M. Todd, paper manufacturers George Bardeen and Samuel Gibson, and pharmaceutical pioneer Dr. W. E. Upjohn are among those whose final resting place is Mountain

Home Cemetery.

Originally adjacent to Mountain Home, but now part of it, is the Jewish cemetery. Purchased by the Temple B'Nai Israel, it is the burial site of prominent members of the 19th-century Jewish community, including Mannes Israel and Meyer and Bernhard Desenberg.


A historic marker is located near the tomb of Edward Israel who died on an ill-fated Arctic expedition in 1872.

In 1861, a second cemetery opened in Kalamazoo Township just east of the village. In June, the township's board of health agreed to purchase 26 acres in the southwest quarter of Section 11 from Jeremiah P. Woodbury at a price of \$65.80 per acre. Riverside Cemetery, as it was called, was then surveyed and divided into lots and blocks.

Riverside Cemetery encompasses the land where Rix Robinson operated a fur-trading post in the mid-1820s. Although it opened during the Civil War, the cemetery was not a response to the war.

However, one section has become a burial site for veterans of that war. Their graves are grouped around a monument erected by the Grand Army of the Republic, depicting a Union soldier, looking south as he stands guard against any future rebellion. In a similar plot nearby, veterans of the Spanish American War can be found.

At Riverside, one encounters familiar names from Kalamazoo's history. Col. Joseph Westnedge was buried in Riverside in 1920. Manufacturers William Shakespeare Jr. and Charles A. Hatfield (of the Kalamazoo Corset Co.) are also here.

The story of Kalamazoo's cemeteries provides insight into the community's social history. Walking through Mountain Home and Riverside provides a journey to the past. 



Above, a marker honors a Michigan Sharpshooter in Riverside, and at right, a Union soldier stands guard at the top of a monument erected by the Orcutt Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.



# MUSIC at the Museum

The Mary Jane Stryker Theater in the Kalamazoo Valley Museum—one of Kalamazoo's finest listening rooms—continues to play host to an eclectic live music series on the second Thursday of each month. Shows begin at 7:30 p.m. and the cost is \$5.

## SEPT. 15 — MAGGI, PIERCE, AND EJ

These three fine musicians each play multiple instruments and sing extraordinary harmonies in their quirky, beautifully crafted, eclectic original songbook. The band likes to refer to its unique style as "down home farm city junk music." Reviewers just call it "great." Visit the band's website at [www.mpeband.com](http://www.mpeband.com).

## OCT. 13 — THE KRUIKI TRANSATLANTICA QUINTET

This local ensemble of Western Michigan University music students blends Middle Eastern, jazz and tango music, carrying throughout the strong influence of Piazzola. Their delightful instrumentation—including violin, saxophone, flute, piano, bass, drums, accordion, and bouzouki—and tight performance recently earned them several *Down Beat* student music awards. Read a *Western Herald* review at <http://tinyurl.com/9kxgf>.

## NOV. 10 — JEFF DWARSHUIS

This classically trained guitarist from the Grand Rapids area has a special interest in Spanish Guitar. His refined technique and passionate expression can be felt through each piece. From Spanish classics to modern-day masters, Jeff's playing will take you through centuries of guitar virtuosity and beauty.

## DEC. 8 — KALAMAZOO SONGWRITERS

Numerous Kalamazoo songwriter-performers will present their original songs, with the promise of a few surprises.



Dudley



Hodgson



Gauthier

## Preschool Performance Series

Thanks to a generous donation in memory of Burton Henry Upjohn, another series of FREE performances just for preschoolers is offered the first Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. A maximum of four tickets per household or group may be reserved the day before each performance by calling 269/373-7990 or 800/772-3370. Seats not occupied 10 minutes before show time will be released to other guests.

**Oct. 1: John Dudley presents magic!**

**Nov. 5: Tom Hodgson performs "Great Animal Songs and Stories!"**

**Dec. 3: Benjamin Gauthier sings songs of the season.**

**Jan. 7: Mary Ellen Clark is Mother Goose!**

**Feb. 4: Julie Austin and David Mosher perform and sing.**

**March 4: Carrie Wilson presents music, movement, and stories.**

**April 1: Greg Lester's Puppet Adventure presents "Jack and the Beanstalk."**



Wilson



Austin



Clark





*The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is located at 230 N. Rose St. in downtown Kalamazoo.*

**FREE GENERAL ADMISSION • OPEN DAILY**

**HOURS: Monday–Friday 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. • Saturday 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. • Sunday & Holidays 1 to 5 P.M.**

*Closed: Thanksgiving (Nov. 25), Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (Dec. 24 & 25)*

## SPECIAL EXHIBITION



### Continuing through Jan. 15, 2006

Discover the natural beauty, physical characteristics, geography and geology that make the Great Lakes unique. *The Great Lakes Story* is a hands-on exhibit that celebrates the human and economic importance of the Great Lakes region, inviting visitors of all ages to investigate ways in which this ecosystem of both national and global importance is being restored.

*The Great Lakes Story* features a large walk-around map of the Great Lakes basin, touch-screen video presentations including the *Louie Lamprey Show*, songs and stories of the Great Lakes, environmental Karaoke, a Great Lakes Food Web puzzle, and many other activities guaranteed to provide entertainment and education for everyone.

*A traveling exhibit created by the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland, Ohio, in conjunction with the National Science Foundation*



## FEATURED PROGRAMS & EVENTS

**FREE!**

Join us for these Saturday family programs and other favorites. Visitors can drop in anytime during the hours indicated for hands-on programs. All programs are free. (B) indicates programs of interest to Brownie scouts. Scouts, call or visit our website for a list of programs designed just for you. Movies, documentaries, and the Sunday History series are listed on the inside covers.

### JAM SESSION

**Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4; 2-5 p.m.**  
K'zoo Folklife Organization members and guests perform traditional acoustic music on the first Sunday of the month.

### LET'S MAKE MAGIC!

**Oct. 1; 1-4 p.m.**

Join us as we create top hats, design magic wands, learn card tricks and more! In the Stryker Theater, local magician John Dudley will perform shows at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. (\$3 per person)



### 19TH ANNUAL CHEMISTRY DAY—THE JOY OF TOYS

**NEW DATE!!**

**Oct. 15; 12-4 p.m.**

Celebrate Chemistry Day at the Museum—more information on inside front cover.

### SAFE HALLOWEEN—CREATURES OF THE WATER (B)

**Oct. 29; 11-3 p.m.**

Legends like the Loch Ness monster, Moby Dick, mermaids, and giant squids have risen from the waters. Dress as your favorite monster and create creatures of land and water, visit the *Haunted Game Room*, and see *Nightwalk* in the Planetarium. Brownies may earn their Me and My Shadow Try-it today.

### FESTIVAL OF ARTS

**Nov. 5; 12-4 p.m.**

The Museum will be filled with local artists following the annual Holiday Parade. Meet members of the Embroiderers Guild, local weavers, wood carvers, and more.

### THE ANISHNABE: HISTORY & CULTURE

**Saturday, Nov. 5, 1:30-4 p.m.**

State Sen. Tom George host a program on the three tribes of Native Americans in Michigan. Writer and storyteller Larry Plamondon will discuss historical and contemporary issues; some historical artifacts will be available for examination. There will be a special showing of the planetarium program, *Sky Legends of the Three Fires* at 12:30 p.m.

### THE NATURE OF GIFTS (B)

**Nov. 19; 1-4 p.m.**

Create holiday gifts using nature as an inspiration. Design stationery, decorative boxes and gift wrap. Brownies may earn their Colors and Shapes Try-it.

### A SPLASH OF SCIENCE!

**Holiday Hands-On Happenings**

**December 26–30; 1-4 p.m. each day**

See back cover for more information.

## THEMED BIRTHDAY PARTIES

All birthday parties are \$10 per child. The fee includes a program, hands-on activities, and a goody bag for each child. Reservations and pre-payment must be made at least two weeks

## Programs no longer available

*in advance.*

**Preschool Parties (ages 3-5)**

**Planetarium Birthday (ages 5-10)**

## Programs no longer available

**Birthday Space Adventure (ages 8 & 9)**

**Challenger Birthday Blast-Off! (ages 10 & up)**

For more information on any program, call 269/373-7965 or visit [www.kalamazoomuseum.org](http://www.kalamazoomuseum.org)

## SCOUT PROGRAMS

Call 269/373-7990 for a complete listing of programs for Scouts.

## VOLUNTEER ALERT!

Call the Volunteer Coordinator at (269)373-7986 to learn about the benefits of volunteering at the KVM.

## ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

The Museum is barrier-free. Sign language interpreters may be scheduled for programs with a minimum of two weeks' notice. Assisted-listening devices are also available in the planetarium. Our TDD number is (269)373-7982.



## PLANETARIUM

Journey into space with state-of-the-art technology providing spectacular sights and sounds to guide your imagination and experience our amazing universe. **All programs \$3/person.**

### SKY LEGENDS OF THE THREE FIRES

**Sept. 10 – Jan. 1, 2006**

**Saturdays, 11 a.m.**

**Sundays, 1:30 p.m.**

Gather around the campfire as Two Hawks (Larry Plamondon) presents legends about the night sky from Potawatomi, Odowa and Ojibwa people. These stories describe how Coyote placed the stars in the sky, how the Milky Way resulted from a race across Lake Michigan, and how three hunters followed a bear into the sky. *Funded by MCACA.*

### A.S.I. BASELINE

**Sept. 10 – Dec. 31**

**Saturdays, 2 p.m.**

The Astronomical Scene Investigation unit is called on when a distant star is blown away. The team works through the autumn stars and constellations, using surveying

techniques and standard candles to build a chain of evidence that will identify the victim and its killer.

### THE UNIVERSE OF DR. EINSTEIN

**Sept. 10 – Nov. 23**

**Wednesday, 3 p.m.; Saturdays, 3 p.m.;**

**Sundays, 3 p.m.**

Celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Einstein's *Special Theory of Relativity*. Explore the life and discoveries of a man thought by some to be the greatest scientist of modern times.

### SEASON OF LIGHT

**Nov. 26 – January 1, 2006**

**Wednesday, 3 p.m.; Saturdays, 3 p.m.;**

**Sundays, 3 p.m.**

We exchange gifts, bring trees into our homes, and fill the long dark nights with the glow of lights. Discover the origins of these holiday traditions, and explore events which may account for the Magi's star.



## CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER

### IN MEMORY OF ALVIN H. AND EMILY T. LITTLE

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum's Challenger Learning Center is an innovative educational facility complete with a Space Station and Mission Control and serves thousands of students each year in simulated space missions. Special group missions are described below. For more information call (269) 373-7965 or visit our website: [www.kalamazoomuseum.org](http://www.kalamazoomuseum.org)

### JUNIOR MISSIONS

This is a specially designed 90-minute mission for children ages 8 and up. Pre-flight hands-on activities prepare the junior astronauts for their exciting flight in the Challenger Learning

Center's spacecraft simulator. Successful crews will receive certificates and mission memorabilia. This is an excellent program for scouts and other clubs. *Ages 8 & up; minimum of 8, maximum of 14 participants. Registration is required at least two weeks prior to mission date; \$10/person.*

### CORPORATE TRAINING MISSIONS

The CLC offers a three-hour hands-on team-building experience for corporate groups that consists of one hour of pre and post-mission activities and a full two-hour space flight simulation. Call or visit our website for more info.



# CHILDREN'S LANDSCAPE

*Children's Landscape is designed to introduce preschoolers and their parents to an interactive museum setting. Hands-on activities, exhibits, and programs are designed for children 5 and under. Children older than 5 may participate only if accompanying a preschool buddy, and their play must be appropriate to preschool surroundings. Free*

## HOURS:

**Mon. through Fri. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. 1 to 5 p.m.**  
*Open until 5 p.m. during Holiday Breaks*

## SEPT. Tell Me A Story

Families play, read, sing, eat, work and explore careers together.

## OCT. / NOV. All About Me

Practice moving, listening, seeing, and playing. Discover what makes each of us unique, from what we look like to what makes us happy.

## DEC./JAN. Warm and Fuzzy

Explore all the different ways people stay warm in the winter. Try your hand at sewing, designing a quilt, weaving, and picking out appropriate clothes.

## CIRCLE TIME PROGRAMS (ages 3 to 5)

These programs are offered free of charge to families and preschool groups. Stories, musical activities, games, and art projects will be offered each week. Programs are approximately 20 minutes long and begin at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, and at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

**Monday: Preschool Math**

**Tuesday: Preschool Science**

**Wednesday: Preschool Stories**

**Thursday: Preschool Music**

**Friday: Preschool Art**

**Saturday: Preschool Stories**



## 125th Anniversary, continued from page 2

In Kalamazoo, the town square, the two blocks next to the churches and the courthouse, was formally renamed Bronson Park in memory of town founder Titus Bronson. In the spirit of the Centennial, Dr. H. O. Hitchcock proposed the idea of a community museum to his fellow school board members. "Kalamazoo is now near the semi-centennial of its settlement. Ought there not be connected with this library," he asked, "a museum of archaeological relics and curiosities and cabinets of natural history?"

Peck's gift, thus, provided the opportunity to act. With the school board's formal resolutions of thanks to Horace M. Peck, the new public museum was born. About the same time that his father presented his collection to the community, Horace B. Peck built a family home on Rose Street. In 1893, the Peck House found itself next door to a new public library building. Thirty-five years later, the board of education purchased the stately Queen Anne residence for use as the museum's first separate home.

In 1959 both the Peck House and the library building were demolished to make room for a new air-conditioned Kalamazoo Public Library and Museum. Housed on the second floor and in the basement, the Museum continued as a department of the Kalamazoo Public Library until 1984. Then in 1991, following a brief period of independent operation under separate school board governance, it became


part of Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

In 1996, thanks to the leadership of the college and the generosity of the community it had served for more than a century, the collection was able to move two blocks north on Rose Street into a state-of-the-art facility—the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. So now, as they say, you know the rest of the story.

To celebrate 125 years of service to the community, the Museum is planning a series of special exhibitions and events throughout 2006. Here is a preview:

In time for Christmas, we open *Kalamazoo Direct to You*, the new long-term exhibit area celebrating Kalamazoo in story, song, and memory. In February, we mark the 10th anniversary of the new Kalamazoo Valley Museum with a special exhibition from the Boston Children's Museum. *Making America's Music* celebrates the joy and diversity of American music in a participatory way.

We will celebrate our 125th birthday on Saturday, April 22, with the homegrown showcase *125 Years of Collecting Kalamazoo*, a special exhibition showing the best in our collection and a birthday party complete with horns and hats, hands-on events, ice cream, and cake.

The next issue of *Museography* will detail these happenings and offer more on the history of Kalamazoo's oldest cultural institution. We look forward to a banner year. 

# Tall-Case Clock

**A**s part of the redevelopment of its Kalamazoo offices, Pfizer, Inc. has been donating historical items from The Upjohn Co. era to the Museum.

One of those pieces is a mammoth and elegant “tall-case clock,” better known as a grandfather clock. Standing nine feet tall in a sumptuously carved case with a painted brass face, it has a unique history as well as a masterful presence.

Daniel Frederick Sweet of Hastings, Mich., its maker, was a jeweler and electrician. Between 1875 and 1886, he patented nine inventions for electric clocks.

In February 1880, he applied for a patent for an electro-magnetic clock for which Dr. W.E. Upjohn, then a young physician practicing in Hastings, acquired half an interest.



*Above, detail of the Upjohn thumb ornament at the top of the Sweet tall-case clock (shown right). Below, Sweet's patent drawings for the mechanism.*

Their venture failed but Upjohn kept the clock in his home for many years and eventually moved it to his office. It last stood in the main stairwell of Building 126 in downtown Kalamazoo.

The first successful electric timepiece was developed in 1841 by a Scottish clockmaker, Alexander Bain, who was known as the “Father of Electric Horology.” His work laid the foundation for decades of inventions and improvements to the electric clock.

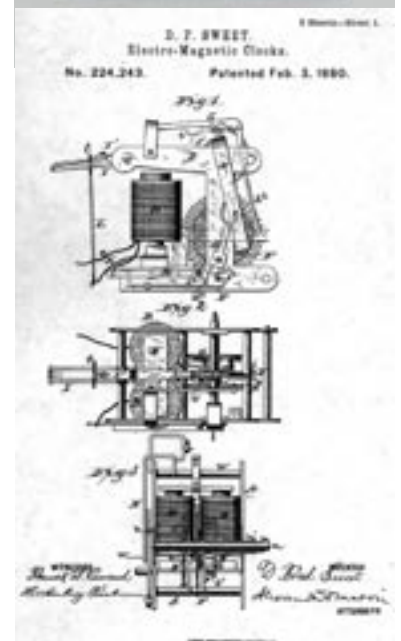
Electricity also made possible synchronized clock systems used by such large institutions as schools, factories, and railroads. In these systems, an electric signal from a “master” clock regulates the hands of secondary or “slave” clocks.

In Sweet's 1880 patent, he invented an electromagnetic master clock to control the time in a series of smaller timepieces.

To demonstrate his invention, he created a one-of-a-kind clock by combining an ornately carved German-style wooden clock case with an ill-fitting brass face. He placed the master clock behind a smaller dial at the top.

This has since been covered with The Upjohn Co.'s famous “Thumb” trademark. Unfortunately, all of Sweet's original mechanisms have been removed and the lower-face (“slave” clock) mechanism has been replaced with a modern electrical motor.

There is no evidence that Sweet was successful at making clocks. Apparently the partnership between Sweet and Upjohn was not fruitful, but it did leave behind an impressive timepiece and evidence of a pre-pharmaceutical business venture for Kalamazoo's pill-making entrepreneur. KVM



## The Museum Collects...

*The Museum collects objects that help tell the stories of people, businesses and events of Southwest Michigan.*

*If you think you have something that belongs in a museum, please contact Tom Dietz at 269/373-7984 or [tdietz@kvcc.edu](mailto:tdietz@kvcc.edu)*

**Wish List:** Labor union memorabilia such as banners, posters, photographs and pins; Gibson guitars, mandolins, banjos, etc.; Kalamazoo Duplex phonograph





# Stryker Theater Fall 2005 Movies & Documentaries

Enjoy a different classic film every weekend. Descriptions for each film can be found at [www.kalamazoomuseum.org](http://www.kalamazoomuseum.org).  
Showings on Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. (except where noted) \$5 Admission/\$3 Students w/ ID.



## CLASSIC FILMS

9/10 & 11: *All the President's Men* (1975)  
9/17 & 18: *Casablanca* (1943)  
9/24 & 25: *Bridge on the River Kwai* (1957)  
10/1 & 2: *The Godfather* (1972)  
10/8 & 9: *Cool Hand Luke* (1967)  
10/15 & 16: *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961)  
10/22 & 23: *Singin' In the Rain* (1953)  
11/5 & 6: *Enter the Dragon* (Japan, 1974)  
11/12 & 13: *Annie Hall* (1977)  
11/19 & 20: *The Third Man* (UK, 1949)  
11/26 & 27: *La Dolce Vita* (Italy, 1960)  
12/3 & 4: *Duck Soup* (1933)  
12/10 & 11: *Apocalypse Now—Redux* (1979)  
12/17 & 18: *It's a Wonderful Life* (1945)

## SPECIAL SCREENINGS

### FILM MOVEMENT SERIES

**Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.**

Award-winning independent films from around the world find a home in the Stryker Theater.

9/22: *Wilby Wonderful* (Canada, 2004)  
10/20: *Witnesses* (Croatia, 2003)  
11/17: *Le Grand Voyage* (Morocco, 2004)  
12/15: *Shorts Collection* (6 short films)



## KALAMAZOO ART HOP EVENT

**10/7: *Unsalted: A Great Lakes Experience*  
6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. FREE**

This documentary film by Grand Haven filmmaker Vince Deur explores surfing on the Great Lakes and supplements our current special exhibit, *The Great Lakes Story*.

## GREAT LAKES FILM SERIES

**Sundays, 1:30 p.m.—FREE**

These documentaries by Wisconsin filmmakers Southport Video supplement our special exhibit *The Great Lakes Story*.

9/25: *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*  
10/9: *Great Stories of the Great Lakes*  
10/23: *Michigan Lighthouses*  
11/6: *Lighthouses of Lake Superior*  
11/20: *Great Lakes Shipwreck Disasters*  
11/27: *Straits of Mackinac Shipwrecks*  
12/11: *Haunted Lighthouses*  
12/18: *Edmund Fitzgerald: Past & Present*

## HALLOWEEN DOUBLE FEATURE

**\$3 Admission/\$5 for both**

Saturday, Oct. 29

7 p.m.: *Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)

8:30 p.m.: *Frankenstein* (1931)  
Sunday, Oct. 30

3 p.m.: *Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)  
4:30 p.m.: *Frankenstein* (1931)



## ANIMATED SHAKESPEARE

**Saturdays, 2:30 p.m.; FREE**

Each ½-hour episode of the award-winning landmark BBC series *Animated Shakespeare* presents audiences of all ages an abbreviated, beautifully animated play.

9/10: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*  
9/17: *The Tempest*  
9/24: *Hamlet*  
10/8: *Julius Caesar*  
10/22: *Romeo and Juliet*  
11/12: *MacBeth*  
11/26: *Twelfth Night*  
12/10: *Othello*  
12/17: *The Winter's Tale*



## SATURDAY DOCUMENTARIES

**Saturdays, 4:30 p.m.—FREE**

Explore America's history! Join us for these free documentary films and film series.

***Watergate at 30***

9/10: *The Shadow of History*

***Perilous Fight: World War II in Color***

9/17: *Part One*

9/24: *Part Two*

***Chicago: City of the Century***

10/1: *Part One: Mudhole to Metropolis*

10/8: *Part Two: The Revolution Has Begun*

10/15: *Part Three: The Battle for Chicago*

***The West: A Film by Stephen Ives*  
(Series produced by Ken Burns)**

10/22: *Episode One: The People*

10/29: *Two: Empire on the Trails*

11/5: *Three: Speck of the Future*

11/12: *Four: Death Runs Riot*

11/19: *Five: Grandest Enterprise Under God*

11/26: *Six: Fight No More Forever*

12/3: *Seven: The Geography of Hope*

12/10: *Eight: One Sky Above Us*

## HOLIDAY MATINEES

**Join us for these fun-filled classic films.**

**Admission \$3**

12/26: 1 p.m. — *Pinocchio*

3 p.m. — *Mary Poppins*

12/27: 1 p.m. — *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*

3 p.m. — *Little Big Man*

12/28: 1 p.m. — *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs*

3 p.m. — *The Wizard of Oz*

12/29: 1 p.m. — *Pinocchio*

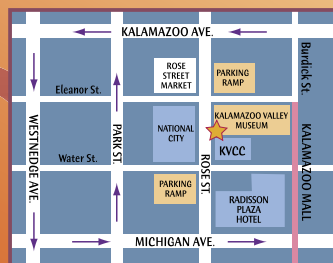
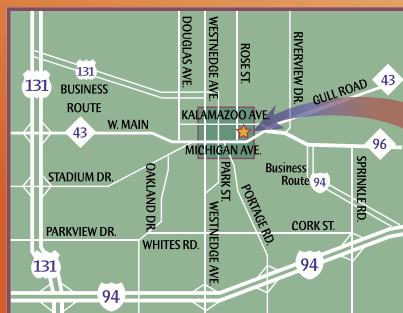
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## Kalamazoo Valley Museum

**230 N. Rose Street • downtown Kalamazoo**

**FREE General Admission Open Daily**

(Closed: MLK, Jr. Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day)

**HOURS Mon.—Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. and Holidays 1 to 5 p.m.**

**269/373-7990 • 800/772-3370 [www.kalamazoomuseum.org](http://www.kalamazoomuseum.org)**

## HOLIDAY HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

# A Splash of Science

Discover the different fields of science in this week of hands-on fun.

1-4 p.m. each day—FREE

### MONDAY, DEC. 26—CHEMISTRY

*Whip up a concoction, mix some play dough, and create art from liquids and solids.*

*Brownies—earn your Science in Action Try-it.*

### TUESDAY, DEC. 27—GEOLOGY

*Rocks, dinosaurs, sand, and more for this geological adventure.*

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28—PHYSICS

*How do magnets work? What makes static electricity? How is paper made? Questions that ask “how” will be answered in today’s program on physics. Brownies—earn your Science Wonders Try-it today.*

### THURSDAY, DEC. 29—BIOLOGY

*Learn about different animal groups, the wide variety of plants, and the human body through art.*

### FRIDAY, DEC. 30—ASTRONOMY

*The sky’s the limit in this hands-on adventure about space.*

### PLUS THESE SPECIAL DAILY PROGRAMS:

#### Holiday Challenger Mini-Missions

December 26–30; 2 p.m. & 3 p.m. \$3/person

#### Holiday Planetarium Shows

##### *Season of Light*

December 26–30; 1 p.m. \$3/person



KALAMAZOO VALLEY MUSEUM  
230 N. Rose Street  
PO Box 4070  
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070

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