Caboose CO 904151 is now in place at the Plymouth Historical Museum! CSX Railroad gifted the bay-window caboose to the Museum as part of its efforts to downsize its rolling stock.

In a bay window caboose, the crew monitoring the train sat in the middle of the car in a section that slightly protruded from the side of the caboose. This type of caboose provided a better view of the side of the train when compared to a cupola-style caboose.

During the first half of the 1900s, the most common caboose style was the cupola caboose. The cupola was a small square dome with a window, attached to the caboose roof, allowing crew members to inspect the length of the train from a stationary elevated position.

In the 1940s, the bay window caboose gained favor with many railroads because it eliminated the need for additional clearance through tunnels and under bridges. The bay-window style also provided safety to caboose crew members, who regarded the cupola as a hazard, especially when extending their body outside of the open cupola window to view the side of the train.

In 1982, because of the advancement with railroad technology, the U.S. government approved the railroad industry’s request to eliminate the longstanding requirement that all freight trains must have a caboose car and a caboose crew.

The caboose as it looked originally. Photo by Dwight Jones.
Plymouth Historical Museum
155 South Main Street
Plymouth, Michigan 48170
http://www.plymouthhistory.org
http://www.facebook.com/plymouthhistory
734-455-8940 Fax: 734-455-7797

Hours
Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
1-4 PM all days
Open year round (except some holidays)

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Stephanie Hoff Director
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Proofreader—Elizabeth Kerstens

The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

Monthly Drawing
Sandy Bonavero, Ellen Smith, and Gabrielle Wobrock are the respective winners of the April, May, and June drawings for a $25 gift certificate.

Kroger Plus Card
Donations

Thank you to those who have added the Plymouth Historical Society to their Kroger Plus Card. The Museum receives a small percentage from any purchases made by those who have an up-to-date registration on their cards.

To participate in the program, visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com.

Click on “Michigan” and click on “Enroll.”

You must have a valid online account at Kroger.com to participate. If you need help, give us a call at 734-455-8940 ext. 9. We’ll be happy to help you get enrolled.

New Members—Welcome!

Jeremy Andrews - Plymouth
Richard Ashburn - Allen Park
John Bohn - Plymouth
Lisa Brown - Plymouth
Frank Cozza - Plymouth
George Crooker - Plymouth
Karina Farina - Northville
Shaun Grenan - Plymouth
Stephanie Hoff - Plymouth
Dennis Howell - Brighton
Toni Lattimer - Livonia
Jim McLaughlin - Plymouth
John Moolakkattu - Plymouth
Katie Small - Plymouth
Bill Toth - Plymouth
Yvette Williams - Warren

The Plymouth Historical Museum is a privately funded 501(c)3 charitable organization. We receive no government funding. We always have a “wish list” of things that help us as we work to preserve and share the history of Plymouth.

Here are some of our common purchases to provide inspiration:

• 1 Roll Postage Stamps $55 per
• IT/Network support $250
• ½ month heating bill $375
• ½ month electric bill $475
• 1 month employee salary $500

To donate, make your check payable to the Plymouth Historical Museum.
The last couple months have been a whirlwind at the Plymouth Historical Museum. As you can see by the story on page 1, we finally have a caboose in place! Delivery was scheduled several times before it actually appeared, which is why this newsletter is late. I am now in the process of getting quotes on the next steps that have to be completed on the caboose, including:

- Installing cameras to prevent vandalism
- Installing electrical connections to the caboose
- Moving the RR crossbuck from next to the Church Street door over to the caboose
- Installing a HVAC system
- Assessing the restoration requirements
- Finishing the landscaping, including installing the brick paver sidewalk
- Building a platform for easier access to the caboose

As you can imagine, we’re going to need more money to be able to accomplish all of this. Our fundraisers have been successful so far, but there’s still a long way to go. See page 6 for how you can help Save Our Caboose for posterity.

New Board

At the annual meeting of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum in May, members voted in two new Board members. We would like to welcome Stephanie Hoff and Christian Huffman to the Museum’s Board of Directors!

At the first Board meeting for FY 2019-20, the Board nominated the following officers:

- Kathy Sullivan, president
- Carol Bimberg, vice president
- Carol Souchock, secretary
- Jim Burroughs, treasurer
- Margaret Harris, past president

Our thanks to exiting Board members Jeff Ashton and Dave Latawiec, and good luck in the future!

Museum Events

The Plymouth Historical Museum continues to hold very enticing and successful events. Please see the last page of this newsletter for upcoming events and ticket information.

Please note that the very popular Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walks in October will be on sale to members soon. The October 5 walk goes on sale Monday, July 8 and the October 26 walk goes on sale Monday, July 29. Every year we hear people say they can’t get tickets to these events. The secret is to take advantage of your membership and purchase tickets during the two weeks that they are on sale to members only. But in order to do this, you need to either call the Museum (734-455-8940 x0) or come in when we’re open, because we can’t sell the tickets online in the members-only sales period.

Plymouth Railroads Book

Ellen Elliott, executive director of the Penn Theatre, and I are co-authors of an Arcadia book on Plymouth railroads that will be out next April. Please let either of us know if you have any photos relating to Plymouth railroads, no later than the beginning of August.
Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between March and May 2019:

**Champagne Gala Sponsor ($600)**
First Financial Strategies
Packaging Corp. of America

**Boogie Woogie Gala Sponsor ($400)**
Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce

**Jitterbug Gala Sponsor ($300)**
MI Educational Credit Union
Team DeJohn

**The Lincoln ($1,000+ )**
Melissa Lynch
Dean Scoble

**The Starkweather ($500–$999)**
Stephanie Hoff
William Lawton
Kathy Sullivan

**The Penniman ($250–$499)**
Carol Bimberg
Mia Donoghue
Glassline, Inc.
Margaret Harris
Chris Huffman
Linda Joss
Elizabeth Kerstens

**The Kellogg ($100–$249)**
Amy Donoghue

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**Under $100**
Jeff Ashton
Maureen Fry
Fred Hill
Anthony Hoover

**Save the Caboose Fundraiser**

**The Lincoln ($1,000+ )**
First Nation Group, LLC
Don Soenen

**The Starkweather ($500–$999)**
Chris Huffman
Geraldine Kilsdonk
Brett Phillips
Bill Sanders
Jeff Schultz

**The Penniman ($250–$499)**
Carol Bimberg
Jim Burroughs
Elizabeth Kerstens
Kathleen Pagan
Fred Reinhart
Kathy Sullivan
David Wright

**The Kellogg ($100–$249)**
Cindy Ash
Richard Ashburn
Clark Chapin
Bee Friedlander
Dr. Robert Gordon
Stephanie Hoff
David Latawiec
Kimberly Majeske
Matt Martin
Carol Souchock

**Under $100**
Amy Donoghue
Maureen Fry
Wes Graff
Andy Ura

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Support the Plymouth Historical Museum

The Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum (a.k.a. Plymouth Historical Society) is privately funded and receives no government support for its mission of providing historical education and maintaining the Plymouth Historical Museum. Donations are sent directly to the Plymouth Historical Society, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and all donations are tax deductible. If your donation is more than $100, you will be acknowledged on our donor wall in the stairwell leading to the lower level.

We appreciate your support!
The Plymouth Historical Museum’s new exhibit, “Revolutionary ’60s,” opened July 3 and will be available until November 6, 2019. Relive the era of the British music invasion, the Apollo moon landing, Viet Nam, college campus unrest, and the hippie movement.

The Museum is open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 1-4 PM. Saturdays are free admission until August 31, thanks to the sponsorship of Comfort Keepers. We are also a Blue Star Museum, so active duty military get in free through Labor Day. This exhibit is sponsored through the generosity of:

Many items on display in this exhibit were loaned by a variety of collectors. Be sure to come visit!

If you know of anyone who would be willing to volunteer three hours of service at the Museum each month, please let us know.

Please phone the Museum at 734-455-8940 and leave a message. We will return your phone call as soon as we are available.

Thank you for your support, and thank you to our dedicated team of volunteers!
Save Our Caboose! Buy a Paver!

Now that our Caboose (CO 904151) is in place, it’s time to get serious about more fundraising to restore the caboose to its original look. Once the caboose is restored and the landscaping is finished, we’ll be able to allow visitors to tour the caboose. We also hope to be able to offer the caboose for limited events and rentals, eventually. Here’s how you can contribute:

- A $250 contribution buys a brick paver on the sidewalk between the caboose and the Museum. Your message (up to 5 lines @ 14 characters per line) will be engraved on the 8” x 8” brick. Visit our website at www.plymouthhistory.org/get-involved/support-the-plymouth-historical-museum/. Order your brick now to be in on the first wave of brick orders!
- Donations of any size are welcome. Visit our website at www.plymouthhistory.org/get-involved/support-the-plymouth-historical-museum/. Or come on in when we’re open!

Our thanks to:
- CSX for the donation of the caboose
- Reliable Landscaping for doing the landscaping
- Bill Sanders for donating the railroad ballast
- Marc and Danny Kalis for moving the caboose
- DTE for moving guidewires out of the way

Admission to the Plymouth Historical Museum is FREE on Saturdays until August 31, 2019, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Comfort Keepers of Plymouth.
Volunteer Spotlight

Sharon Belobraidich

Her schoolchildren affectionately knew her as “Mrs. Belo,” but our Museum folks know her as Sharon.

She has been a very versatile volunteer since 2002. Her many roles for the Museum include reenacting for the Wilcox House Tours (she portrays Carrie Markham), cemetery and ghost walks, and history presenter for the hundreds of school children who visit the Museum every year.

Sharon always aspired to be a school teacher. She was born and grew up in the Troy area near 16 Mile and Rochester Roads, back when it was mostly farmland.

She graduated from Michigan State University and immediately started her teaching career that spanned 40 years, primarily teaching at Bird Elementary and Hoben Elementary schools. Her classes were first and second graders; reading and social studies were her favorite classes to teach.

Sharon has led a very busy life, during and after her teaching career. She was the director for American Association of University Women since 2001, an organization that helps fight for the rights for women.

She also participates in fundraisers for the group by directing plays with children. Speaking of directing, Sharon also spent 13 years with the Plymouth Arts Council in the drama department and once owned her own company, Belo Drama, here in Plymouth. Last but not least, she also teaches piano and currently has 16 students.

Sharon has lived in Plymouth since 1964 and has two grown daughters, Caryn and Ellyn, along with six grandchildren. When she finds time to take a breather, she tends to her gardening and is an avid reader. She is currently working on writing a biography.

It is a wonder that Sharon finds time to volunteer at the Plymouth Historical Museum. We are lucky to have her.

Volunteers Make a Difference!

OFF TO ALASKA last April 3 was Erick Eklund, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sven Eklund, 433 Adams St. He was originally going to leave with the second group of ’59ers in June but decided to go ahead and see how he liked it. If he does, he believes he may fulfill his military obligation in Alaska by joining the Air National Guard there. Erick carried 250 pounds of food in the 1952 Ford pickup truck. He expects to take three or four weeks on the trip. He is shown with his father just before leaving.

60 Years Ago - Spring 1959
Daisy Company Reported Sold

Rumors were prevalent in Plymouth this week that the Daisy Manufacturing Company is about to be sold to another, larger company.

Daisy has been located in Rogers, Ark. for the past year, but was founded in Plymouth and was a big part of the local economy for almost three generations.

A Daisy spokesman refused to confirm, deny or comment in any way upon the latest report.

Rumors that such a sale would be necessary eventually because of estate requirements started as long ago as 1956 with the death of Charles Bennett. They received fresh impetus this year when Edward C. Hough passed away. Both had heavy stock interests in Daisy.

Cass Hough, now president, moved the main manufacturing facility into a new building in Rogers in 1956, having disclosed the intention first in December, 1955. There Daisy was offered a building erected by Arkansas financing, the cost to be repaid over a long period of time.

The old facilities in Plymouth are vacant, but still among Daisy’s assets. Potential purchasers, most of them interested in warehousing operations, have inspected the premises here from time to time.

The sale reportedly would affect the status of some members of the executive staff who moved from Plymouth to Rogers with Daisy Manufacturing last year.

Davis & Lent Has Birthday

Observing their 15th year in Plymouth this week is Davis & Lent, now the city’s oldest men's store.

It was in 1944 that Harry Davis and Wendell Lent purchased the former Wild Co. Two years later Lent bought out Davis’ share and operated it eight more years until Charles Beegle was taken in as a junior partner. During the first 10 years the store was on Penniman Ave.

60 Years Ago - Spring 1959

With the threat of new shopping centers locating in the area, Plymouth’s merchants will launch an all-out effort next Tuesday to keep Plymouth a shopping center.

A luncheon meeting has been called for 12:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Hotel Mayflower at which the Steering Committee of the Retail Merchants Committee of the Chamber of Commerce will outline its plan for organization.

At least five committees will be formed to “battle the new threat,” according to Chamber Manager Don Milliken.

The committees will be in such fields as sales training, promotions and parking.

Teachers’ Salary Up

$200 Across Board

Plymouth's School Board approved, at a special meeting Monday night, a motion made by James Mitchell to increase the pay scale of teacher salaries in the district $200 across the board, with $250 regular increment up to 10 years.

The increment is based on seniority and is an automatic $150 increase the first year, $350 the second, and then levels off to $250 thereafter.

Starting salaries will be $4600 for Bachelor’s Degree; $4900 for Master’s Degree; with partial increases for 30 plus hours toward the Masters or PhD. There are no teachers, at the present time, holding the Doctor's Degree.
MUSEUM MEMO

From The TEACHER’S DESK

Are You a Good Driver?

I am a good driver, if you don’t believe me, look at my record!

This seems to be the biggest problem in driving today according to Mr. Richard Griffiths of the Driver Training department at Plymouth High School, and many drivers actually believe they can take care of any situation that may arise, no matter what it is. Mr. Griffiths and the other driver training instructors, Mr. James Doyle and Mr. James Green are faced with the problem of trying to counteract these thoughts toward driving. Our main objectives in the program are to instill in the students the proper outlook in driving, says the three instructors.

They feel that the proper outlook for driving consists of several things, some of these are:
1. Courtesy and respect for the other fellow.
2. Never assume anything about the other driver (drive as though he were drunk or crazy).
3. A healthy respect for the car and the possible damage it can do to an object or person.
4. An understanding of our traffic laws and the problems of the enforcing agencies.
5. Our own physical limitations while in control of a vehicle.
6. The actual driving of the vehicle.

60 Years Ago - Spring 1959

To Avoid Ticket Feed the Meter

Some sort of record has been established by the Plymouth police department for the number of tickets issued during a month, and city commissioners aren’t quite sure if it is good or bad.

During the monthly report session at Monday night’s city commission meeting, a report from Assistant Police Chief Loren Johnson indicated that there were 729 tickets issued during April, of which 633 were for overtime parking.

Last year during April, there were only 215 tickets issued, of which 150 were for overtime parking.

"Why so many tickets?" Commissioners Carl Shear and Marvin Terry asked.

City Manager Albert Glassford explained that during the past six or eight months the police department has been short of manpower so that ticketing was on the decline. Two new replacements have been made, bringing the force up to full strength.

"All you can tell these people who ask about getting tickets is that it’s the added during the discussion, "but they’ve got 739 more people irked at them."

When Commissioner Terry reported on an Ann Arbor woman who declared she would never return to Plymouth to shop because she got an overtime parking ticket, Commissioner Richard Wernette replied that such reports don’t upset him.

"When I go to Ann Arbor I expect to get a ticket if I park overtime, and I have had one." Wernette pointed out.

Want Free Parking Lot

Plymouth’s city commission said Monday night it was agreeable to leasing the central parking lot to merchants, if an airtight legal proposition is presented.

Merchants want to pay the city $5,000 a year and discontinue metered parking. Chamber of Commerce manager Donald Millikan said.

Commissioners warned that a "free lot" could miss its purpose if it is filled with cars owned by store employees, but they approved the idea in principle as an incentive to shoppers to come to Plymouth. The matter was tabled until a specific contract could be presented by the merchants.

A rash of overtime parking tickets recently has freshened interest in the meter subject.

Plymouth, Holland Exchange Mayors

Plymouth drew a plum in its Exchange of Mayors Day this year — part of the Michigan Week celebration that opens Sunday.

Drawn as Plymouth’s partner in the Exchange of Mayors activity was Holland, Mich. Their invitation sounds so inviting that probably the entire city commission will accompany Mayor Harold Guenther to the Lake Michigan city.

60 Years Ago - Spring 1959
The Plymouth Historical Museum is very proud of its intern team, and is especially pleased when an intern decides to continue at the Museum as a volunteer.

That is the case for Marissa, who last year started her internship in the Museum Archive from U of M Dearborn and has stayed on since January as a full-fledged volunteer. When Marissa graduated from U of M Dearborn in December, she brought with her a major in history and psychology.

Marissa’s love of history shows in her many visits to museums around the country. Her favorite museum visit was her three-day stay in Gettysburg, in which she was thrilled to explore our country’s involvement in the Civil War. Her plan is to someday work full time at a museum, preferably in an Archive.

Marissa was born and raised in Livonia, attending Franklin High School. She is an avid reader, especially in the area of thriller and fantasy fiction.

When she is not volunteering at the Museum, she spreads her time between being a board member with the Livonia Goodfellows and as co-chairman for the Goodfellows toy department. She is also the webmaster for the Goodfellows website and Facebook page for the past nine years.

In another volunteer job, she fosters dogs for the Homeward Bound Rescue League, housing dogs at her residence until they are adopted.

Marissa lives at home in Livonia with her mom Margaret and her sister Lindsey. She especially likes her work at the Museum updating records for the Museum’s online system. In her own words, “I enjoy my work because what I do is something important so people can witness history today and tomorrow.”

Our Museum certainly appreciates all the good work she does.
Great Men Still Needed

An article in the current issue of Harper's magazine is concerned about the passing of an age. “The End of The Old Army” by William S. White, the magazine’s Washington correspondent, delivers an artillery burst of nostalgia for the old “human” contact war where, in hand to hand combat, men could “find” themselves by slipping eight inches of steel into an enemy.

White’s thesis is that today’s army of missiles by necessity fights with brainpower, a method which leaves no room for emotional considerations. He implies that today’s button-pushing scientist-soldier has no time for concerns of the heart.

There’s a beguiling temptation to agree with this kind of thinking. It’s easy to confuse fondness for the mule pack soldier into a veneration of him as a unique human being.

But, it’s a new kind of world. A world of missiles, automation and nuclear fission calls for a kind of greatness in heartpower and brainpower that yesterday’s dogma was only required to theorize about.

In the battle to control scientific advances and put them to work in democracy’s behalf, it is clear that there is an appalling need for men of great moral stature. Even pushing a button requires character.

We gratefully respect the accomplishments of the “old” Army. We cannot dwell on that respect or give it a false idolatry, however.

Men of heart and brains will be the key to the success of the new army. The weapons change, but the weapons of greatness do not.

A New Supermarket

The addition of a new business to a community increases the economical value not only of the immediate blocks in which it is situated, but the city and surrounding area.

With the completion of the new Food Fair Market in Plymouth, many aspects of the community’s business are advantageously affected.

First, the store gives employment to 63 persons, most of whom live right here in Plymouth.

The tearing down of old buildings on the site at 705 S. Main Street in Plymouth and the construction of new, modern store facilities has also been done with the help of many local contractors, among whom were Allied Concrete, Inc., Clinansmith Brothers, Hubbs & Gilles, Louis Norman and Herman Perlongo.

The 18,000 square foot building plus the 175-car hard-surfaced parking lot will go on the city’s tax rolls for more than the old structures.

Further investment by Food Fair

Another Good Citizen

Markets, Inc. was brought into the city with approximately a quarter of a million dollars spent to equip and stock the shelves of the store.

Significant in this picture also is the fact that this is just one of five stores to be located in the area. Already operating are Food Fair Markets opened this spring and winter at Six Mile Road and Inkster and Plymouth and Yale, both in Livonia, and at Cherry Hill and Venoy in Garden City. Scheduled for opening by early summer is another market in the Wonderland Shopping Center at Plymouth and Middlebelt.

In 1959, the new Food Fair Market at 705 S. Main Street in Plymouth, was one of over 30 Food Fair grocery stores located in the metro Detroit area, operated by the Borman Food Stores Company. In 1967, the Food Fair stores were rebranded as Farmer Jack supermarkets. In the late 1990s, the Plymouth property was sold to a developer, and the former grocery store building was demolished. Today, the property is home to a two-story multi-tenant office building.
Calendar of Events

July
3—Wednesday, Museum opens with new exhibit, “Revolutionary ’60s.”

August
11—Sunday, Little Mermaid Ice Cream Social, 2–4 PM. Tickets are $15 per person; children must be at least 4. Tickets on sale to members now; to the public on July 8.
18—Sunday, Wilcox House Tour, 1–5 PM. Tickets are $15 per person and are on sale now to members and to the public on July 15. This sells out quickly so don’t hesitate!

September
14—Mysterious Affair at Stirling Hall Murder Mystery, 5:30–8 PM. Tickets are $25 per person and go on sale to members July 29 (a maximum of 8 tickets can be sold to each person). Tickets go on sale to the public August 12. This will sell out quickly, so get your tickets when you can!
22—Sunday, Wilcox House Tour, 1–5 PM. Tickets are $15 per person and are on sale to members August 5 and to the public on August 19. This sells out quickly so don’t hesitate!

October
5—Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk, 4–9 PM. Tickets are $15 per person and are on sale to members July 8 and to the public July 22. This sells out quickly so don’t hesitate!
26—Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk, 4–9 PM. Tickets are $15 per person and are on sale to members July 29 and to the public August 12. This sells out quickly so don’t hesitate!

Revolutionary ’60s
New Exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum
On display from July 3 thru November 6, 2019
Museum hours, 1-4 PM
Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday