

# *Chesaning Area Historical Society & Museum*

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602 W Broad St - Chesaning MI

August 2017 Newsletter

## *Lets All Go On*

### **OUR ANNUAL PICNIC**

**Monday August 14, 2017 at 6p.m.**

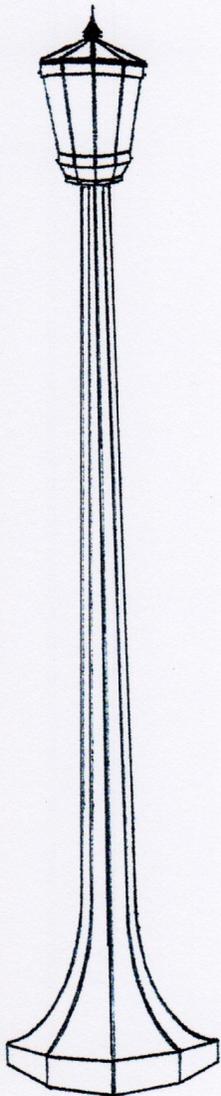
**We will meet at the Pavilion in Showboat Park where  
we met last year**

**Bring a passing dish & your table service**



**Chicken  
& beverages  
provided**

**August 9th Quilt Tour tickets \$5 each may be  
purchased the day of the tour at the Silver Thimble  
in St Charles or the Riverfront Grille in Chesaning.**



## "OUR TOWN"

### Home-Coming Day

#### Two Successful Balloon Ascensions

A continuation of the 1908 article posted in our June 2017 newsletter

At 2:30 the president, O.D. Chapman, called the assemblage to order from the platform erected for the occasion, and in a few apt sentences introduced the speaker of the day, Hon. W. W. Weidemeyer, an attorney of Ann Arbor, formerly U.S. Consul to British Guiana.

On the platform were also the Home-coming officers: O.C. Sperry, Frank Walser, F.A. Greenfelder, A.C. Cantwell, John Haley and Willis Miller, who have labored so long and faithfully to perfect arrangements for this day. Mr. Chapman also read a letter of regrets from U.S. Senator, Julius Caesar Burrows of Kalamazoo, whom they had hoped to have for speaker of the day, but who was detained in Washington.

However, Mr. Weidemeyer very admirably filled his place, making one of the finest addresses ever given on Homecoming Days in Chesaning, and one of the best ever given here on any similar occasion. Mr. Weidemeyer is a gifted speaker

with a voice admirably adapted to out of door speaking, and recalled many events and scenes of his varied life and travels in foreign lands, from which he drew his lessons; and called attention to the grand custom of "Homecoming" days, and the greater Homecoming to this great country of ours, the United States, to which he paid a glorious tribute. He said one benefit in visiting foreign countries was to make one appreciate more the value of his own country and its protection under the stars and stripes.

After the speech Mr. Harrison L. Davies, the famous handcuff king and magician, gave his very mystifying performance, including some wonderful colored handkerchief and ring tricks. After these Under-Sheriff Riwley, of Saginaw, ex-sheriff W.W. Burgess and John Bennett were called to the platform and proceeded to place on his wrists three pairs of handcuffs they had brought with them, and locked them securely. Mr. Davies then told them to put one pair of his own on together with one for the neck, and another for the ankle, attached to the wrist making it apparently impossible for him to extricate himself. He then entered his

cabinet and in less than ten minutes emerged with every shackle off and unlocked.

He then submitted himself to be placed in a device, said to be an exact copy of a Chinese Jim Janu, the employment of torture for criminals. This was a box shaped affair, containing what looked like shelves, containing places for the throat, waist, and feet, making it impossible to even move after being locked in. The door was then closed and padlocked, and the box with prisoner placed inside the cabinet; and in about six minutes Mr. Davies emerged — a free man.

To satisfy the audience still further he allowed the sheriff to handcuff his hands behind his back, and then just stepping to the cabinet and facing the audience, he again freed himself, and held the handcuffs up for inspection. The audience was evidently satisfied that he mystified them all right, and this closed the entertainment of the afternoon, after which the audience dispersed, spending the remainder of the day renewing old acquaintances, eating supper on the grounds, etc.

Many expressed themselves as highly pleased with the exercises

than that of the year before. and voted it even a greater success

Submitted by Dianne Stanuszek

For Your Funny Bone:

Two blondes are walking down the street. One sees a compact on the sidewalk & leans down to pick it up.

She opens it, looks in the mirror & says, "Hmm, this familiar."

The Second blond says, "Here let me see!" So the first blonde hands her the compact.

The second one looks in the mirror and says, "You Dummy, it's me!"

.....Submitted by Kathy Crissey

July 26 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

Old Business

- Computer and virus protection to be purchased - Motion-Bob Pearson, 2nd - Connie Murdoch —PASSED
- Generator permit approved

New Business

- Nancy designed & looking into cost of new sign for Museum
- LOOK for "list of Jobs" Sept news

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*In Memory of*

Beth Rehmann

from:

Elaine Amman