

Chesaning Area Historical Society & Museum

602 W Broad St - Chesaning MI

October 2018 Newsletter

*Monthly Meeting - Monday
October 8 at the Museum*

GUEST:

Len Thomas: Speaking on the Civil War

SMILES

A husband was trying to prove to his wife that women talk more than men. He showed her a study which indicated that men use about 10,000 words per day, whereas women use 20,000 words per day.

His wife thought about this for a while. She then told her husband that women use twice as many words as men because they have to repeat everything they say. The husband looked stunned. He said "What?"

MORE SMILES

-Have you ever wondered what a cured ham had?

-Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

-Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all"?

-If you ate both pasta & antipasto, would you still be hungry?

-Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?

Submitted by Kathy Crissey



deeply into their show's attendance and profits, they became enraged.

Several of the showmen met and devised a plan to both destroy the bowery and embarrass the amateur, temporary police officers — two of their men would deliberately provoke a fight at the bowery then, when attacked, would signal those in the circus tent for help and in the ensuing excitement, would tear down the flimsy bowery. On the night of June 6, 1881, several hundred men, women and children watched the circus evening performance while others drank, danced and partied a few hundred yards away at the bowery. At 10p.m., just before the final act of the show, two tough, dirty circus employees left the tent, entered the crowded bowery and pretending they were drunk, insulted several women and bumped, cursed and pushed the men. A fight broke out between the partners and the circus men. As Gus Emery, a volunteer deputy, tried to break up the scuffle, the other troublemaker ran back to the circus tent burst through the flaps and yelled "HEY RUBE" At this prearranged signal, the performance abruptly stopped and 15 performers and helpers grabbed tent stakes and raced for the opening, screaming "Let's clean out this whole stinking town," they charged the bowery.

But instead of destroying the property as planned, the mob fiercely and indiscriminately beat the surprised partiers and deputies. The

first showmen rushed through the bowery entrance and clubbed Gus Emery on the head. As the special deputy staggered, a stocky, powerfully built, black lion trainer ran up to him and, with a covered lead ball on the end of his whip handle, shattered several of Emery's teeth, then killed him with a sickening crack to the temple. Wildly swinging their clubs, the rest of the attackers quickly moved through the crowd. Women screamed and pistol shots cracked through the night air as the 75 frightened drinkers, dancers and deputies scrambled out of the bowery.

The circus mob clubbed and beat fifteen to twenty citizens as they chased the crowd from the bowery 2 blocks to the already packed hotel and bar. Off and on for the rest of the night, the mob threw rocks through the hotel windows where, inside, frightened men, women and children huddled. At daylight, the frightened residents meekly emerged from the hotel to find that the circus had quietly packed up and left town.

Thirteen of the attackers were arrested at the circus' next stop, Owosso, and brought to trial in Chesaning. The lion tamer was convicted of the killing of Gus Emery, and eight others were sentenced to prison for their part in the riot and assault.

Submitted by Connie Murdoch

What's Happening in "OUR TOWN"



Kerry- 3rd Grade Kerry 2018

Kerry (Deitering) Bishop

Kerry entered a contest for a makeover through Oprah's 'O' magazine & won out of thousands of entrants. She is mom to four great children, who along with husband are very happy for her, as are her parents, Joe & Linda Deitering.

Congratulations Kerry

August 2018
Board Meeting Minutes

OLD BUSINESS

- Bob has Historical Michigan map in frame Jeff made.
- Thanks Jeff - Girls Scout display

NEW BUSINESS

- Sponsor a bag for Kringle's Crossing for Candlelight Walk with individual contributions



HEY, RUBE:

Chesaning-June 6, 1881

Chesaning's children buzzed with excitement when, in May, 1881 a man tacked up large posters that announced the rare coming in June, of the "great Hilliard and DeMott Circus and manager of wild animals." The circus would be a pleasurable change from the village's normal summer entertainment — brawling and drunk lumberjacks who came to town from Saginaw Valley camps at the close of the lumbering season and staged informal races and feats of strength.

Chesaning's adults, too, prepared for the arrival of the circus and the crowds it would attract. To handle the expected overflow of people who would flood into the village from the surrounding countryside and other small towns in the area, the owners of Chesaning's largest bar and hotel built a "bowery," an outdoor drinking and dancing pavilion, very near to where the circus tent would be erected. The village council, anticipating trouble from the rumored "rowdy" circus employees, swore in ten extra untrained police officers.

Word of the council's mistrust reached the traveling circus while en route to Chesaning and they arrived irritable, sullen and resentful. When the circus owners spotted the bowery, which they felt would cut deeply into their show's attendance and profits, they became enraged.

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