

Area museums offer a number of sites

By LAURIE MIHOLER
Special to the Record-Eagle

Springtime is the season to come out of hibernation and explore the surroundings. Local museums and historic sites provide residents and tourists alike with an opportunity to discover the area's historical past; what it was then that has helped to make the present what it is now. The five-county region presents a rich picture of how life was lived around these parts in the distant, and not so distant past.

It's not a long way from the present to the past with the help of the dozens of area museums preserving our northern Michigan heritage.

During this year of Michigan's 150th birthday, the following list will get you started on your way to becoming more historically knowledgeable about where you live and visit.

Grand Traverse County City Opera House

Said to be one of the finest examples of Victorian opera houses in the midwest, the Opera House is currently undergoing phase II of its extensive restoration. Built in 1891 by three local businessmen, its heyday years were from 1892-1897 when numerous operettas, plays, grand balls, concerts, lectures, and graduation exercises took place there.

It is currently being enjoyed by community organizations for concerts, dances, wedding receptions, and other public and private meetings and gatherings.

Wednesdays through Saturdays from June 17 through Labor Day Tempest Pro-

ductions of Traverse City has scheduled shows with 8 p.m. curtain times.

"A...My Name is Alice" opens June 17, "Evita" opens July 29, and "Jerry's Girls" opens Aug. 28, all three are musicals. "Greater Tuna" a comedy, opens July 8. Tickets at \$9 Wednesday and Thursday and \$10 Friday and Saturday are available after May 1 at the opera house. There is no reserved seating.

Tours of the opera house are available. The City Opera house is located at 106-110 East Front St.

The Music House

Features automated musical instruments, village scene with general store, saloon, music store and theatre. Displays depict the history of the phonograph and radio, and show a 1913 Bruder Fair organ, a 97-key Mortier dance organ built for Victoria Palace in Ypres, Belgium, and a spectacular reproducing piano.

U.S. 31 N., Acme, Opens in May.

Traverse Bay Christmas Village

Large animated Christmas scene, antique cars, large collection of antique games, blacksmith shop, Victorian house and settings, old carriages, old church setting with chimes and organ.

U.S. 31 N., Traverse City. Open in summer, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.

Great Lakes Area Paleontological Museum Exhibits of extinct fish from 380 million years ago. Chirodipterus, one of three found in the world. Exhibits of fossils not found elsewhere.

391 S. Long Lake Rd. By appointment, 943-8850.

Marlene's Doll Museum

Dolls from 1860 to present; china, bisque, composition, and celluloid. The American Schoolboy (made in Germany), three AM's. Gift shop with homemade dolls and doll accessories, doll houses.

2433 M-72 West. Opens in May.

Con Foster Museum

History museum with exhibits on five-county region, maritime heritage exhibits, and pre-historic Indian exhibit.

New this spring will be the Folk Art Exhibit. Opening May 19th, it features Con Foster's collection of folk art, some of which is famous, including a collection of Drayn carvings.

Con Foster's annual Folkways festival will be held May 29 through 31, with demonstrations by local artists and craftspeople, including basket weaving, pottery, leather working, toll painting, quilting, weaving and more.

Local poets and storytellers, folk music, singers, and folk dancing also will be featured.

The museum is located within the zoo grounds at Clinch Park. Hours are Tuesday 10 to 5. Beginning May 25th, hours will be 10 to 5 daily and an admission charge will be charged for the zoo and museum.

Benzie County

Benzie Historical Museum

Damaged by fire in June of 1985, the museum will re-open it's top floor Memorial Day weekend, with hours Tuesday-Saturday 1:30 to 5 p.m.

Displays of historical maps of Benzie

County, lumbering display, small scale sawmill, buggy, trunks, mail sled, turn-of-the-century living quarters furnished with antiques and replicas, and works of historian and writer Bruce Catton will be housed in the newly restored building, located on River Road, Benzonina.

Maritime Museum

Maritime artifacts and historical displays. The museum is located on Main St., Frankfort.

Antrim County

Bellaire Historical Museum

History of the Bellaire area is illustrated through displays of farm tools, wooden wares, butter tins, a log cabin, antiques, and a replica of an old country store. The museum is on Bridge St., Bellaire.

Elk Rapids Historical Museum

Features photos and relics from lumbering and shipping era, a replica of the old iron works, and a spinet piano.

The museum is located in the lower level of the township hall, and is open Tues.-Sat., 1-4 p.m.

Central Lake Carriage Cabin


A 100-year-old log cabin located in downtown Central Lake, filled with historic pictures and artifacts.

Alba Historical Society Museum

Featuring photographs and relics of the logging era and quilts made nearly 100 years ago, the museum is located in a yellow brick schoolhouse built in 1879.

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LAKE CHARLEVOIX



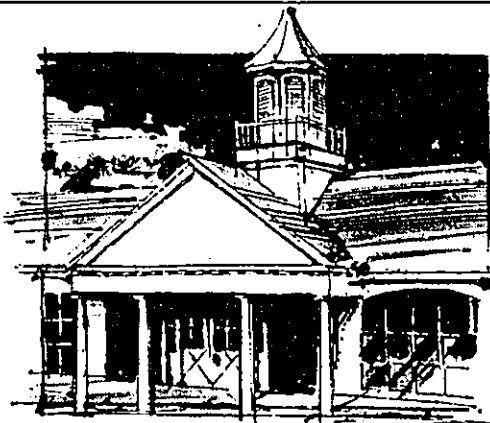
One of the few large estates on Lake Charlevoix. 34 acres with 681 feet of prime lake frontage. Home is stately built of cut stone with large ceramic tile kitchen, formal dining room, large living room with a large cut stone fireplace. Three bedrooms down with bath and sunroom. Full basement with large recreation room with cut stone fireplace. Walk in cooler, utility room, bathroom with shower. L.P. gas hot water heat. Flowing well, 24'x24' cut stone garage at highway. Many, many extras. Ideal for executive retreat or for condo and townhouse development.



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