

Hollowell Leaves Historical Museums in Cedarville

Catherine Hollowell resigned as curator of the Les Cheneaux Historical Association at the end of August to pursue personal and professional interests. She has been in charge of coordinating activities and operation for the Les Cheneaux Historical and Les Cheneaux Maritime museums since March 2008.

She was hired by the Les Cheneaux Historical Association board of trustees to operate the two museums, consolidating two positions previously held by two curators. She earned a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in public administration from Lake Superior State University in the spring of 2008, and said graduate school is one possibility she's contemplating for the future.

"I'm really saddened to leave because of all the good people I've met," she said. "I'm really proud of all the accomplishments met this year. I was really able to contribute to the museums' reorganization. I feel like I'm leaving them well positioned to move forward."

During her time at the museums, she started a process to better inventory and catalogue the museums' 25 years worth of historical artifacts.

Longtime museum employee and volunteer Mary Hill of Cedarville has been appointed as acting curator of the two museums while the board finds a permanent replacement.

"I've been here off and on through many things, so I sort of know the running of the museum," Ms. Hill said. She said she will miss Mrs. Hollowell because "she's such a vibrant person with a lot of good ideas. The employees all loved her."

Museum board President Richard Smith said the board will advertise for a permanent replacement during the museums' off season with hopes to have the position filled by the time the museum reopens next spring.

"She sent us a letter informing us of her decision" to resign, he said. "Her decision was regrettably honored."

Retired School Personnel Meet September 24 in Rudyard

The Chippewa-Mackinac Chapter of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel will meet Thursday, September 24, at noon at the Lutheran Church in Rudyard. A program will be presented about swine flu. Lunch will be served.

Reservations are required at 478-6841 or by e-mail at mills@sault.com.

Vandercook Amasses Bottle Collection During Sales Career

By Michael Ayala

Overcoming an early fear of public speaking was the first step Doris Vandercook of Mackinaw City learned to take on her path to a 50-year career in sales. Today, after 40 years as a saleswoman with the same company, Avon cosmetics, Mrs. Vandercook has amassed a collection of 3,000 of the company's signature bottles and a cabinet full of dolls awarded as sales incentives. Far from being a fearful public speaker now, Mrs. Vandercook can often be seen socializing with friends and newcomers to town from the seat of her motorized scooter. She frequently drives around Mackinaw City on her scooter, speaking to whomever she meets.

"I meet a lot of people that way," she said.

More than anything, she said, socializing with potential clients is crucial to her success.

"If you do a job, do it right or don't do it at all. You have to put love in it," Mrs. Vandercook said.

After Mrs. Vandercook became a Girl Scout Leader for her two daughters, Nancy and Judy, in 1958, she learned to overcome some of her fears of speaking before groups, and she took a sales job with the Minnesota Woolen Company. The job enabled her to spend time with her children.

For almost 10 years, Mrs. Vandercook sold clothing for the

company, honing her public speaking and sales abilities. When the job began to extend to sales in distant locations like Detroit, and often required her to carry around a dozen suitcases filled with products, she left the company and went on to join the cosmetics firm in 1969.

She proved herself to be an excellent sales representative. Exclusive dolls were earned by top salespeople who sold more than \$5,000 worth of products each year, and Mrs. Vandercook earned enough to fill a cabinet.

"They said I could sell an ice cube to an Eskimo," she said.

Her hobby of collecting Avon perfume bottles led her to become the president of the Royal Orb Avon Collector's Club. The club often went to conventions together, where she purchased more bottles, and she met many more new friends.

"I'm very, very blessed with friends," she said.

Her collection became so large her husband, Robert, placed a shelf space limit on it when Avon began selling bottles in other countries. Today, her collection has reached more than 3,000 bottles, which she displays in her home.

Mrs. Vandercook enjoys other hobbies, too. She loves cooking, and catered her daughters' weddings that hosted more than 200 guests.



Doris Vandercook of Mackinaw City holds an Avon doll next to her doll collection. The dolls were only available to the company's employees who reached a sales quota each year.

52nd Mackinac Bridge Walk Draws People From Many States

Bridge: From page 1

do it for another 17 years.

"I just like to do it," Mr. Pastor said. "I like the view, I like the people."

Roger Asman, 80, from Livonia, made friends during his walk Monday, swapping stories and enjoying the summer heat. Mr. Asman was walking the bridge for his third year in a row, and said the crowds this weekend paled in comparison with the first walk he took part in on the

Mackinac Bridge's 50th anniversary.

"It was a madhouse," he said. He remembers watching the bridge being built and going across the Straits of Mackinac aboard the car ferries at a young age, he said. The history and the people are what have kept him coming back the past three years.

"I like getting out and mingling with the people," Mr. Asman said.

Three generations of the McGee family walked across the bridge Monday, three days after

Max McGee's 71st birthday. Mr. McGee's daughter, Denise, and granddaughters, Amanda and Addison Fox, joined him on his first walk across the Mackinac Bridge.

"Grandpa has always wanted to do it," Denise said.

"My favorite part of today was when the fog came in and covered the bridge," Mr. McGee said.

Ms. McGee said her daughter read about the runners who led the pack of walkers across Monday, and now wants to run

across the span someday.

Twenty-one men, young and old, walked the bridge as Boy Scout Troop 979, from Grayling, for the 26th year in a row.

The group was led by Loren Goodale, Jr. and his son, Loren Goodale III, who started the tradition for the troop. When the troop was formed in 1984, making the walk together was its first activity. Since then, the group has come to walk across the Straits every year.

"It's the only activity we have done every year since we started," Mr. Goodale said.

St. Ignace Mayor Paul Grondin, his granddaughter, Shyanne, City Manager Eric Dodson, and his sons, Jack and Alex, relaxed near the beach in Mackinaw City after walking the bridge for the first time as a group. Mr. Dodson and Jack have walked the bridge together for the last three years, something both said they enjoyed doing.

"We are trying to do it every year," Mr. Dodson said.

"I do it every year," Mr. Grondin said. "It was neat. I was glad to share it with" Shyanne.

Donald and Marianne Smith from Tecumseh got a chance to stop for a photograph with Governor Jennifer Granholm. Mrs. Smith said this was partly because they were able to catch up to the governor during the walk and partly because her birthday is Tuesday, September 8.

"It was such a nice walk this morning," Mrs. Smith said, "not too crowded."

Last year, the two photographed the very end of the walk, when National Guard troops march off the bridge behind the final walkers.

"That is the first time I saw the end of the walk," Mr. Smith said. "That was neat."

Calling from their experience of 21 walks across the bridge, the couple reminisced about the time the bridge was shut down to walkers because of high winds.

"You had to lean your body into the wind," Mr. Smith said. "Your feet would flip up on your ankle when you lifted them."

The beauty, the people, and the walk itself is what keeps them coming back year after year, the two said.

"This bridge walk is the most invigorating thing I can do in a

"My favorite part of today was when the fog came in and covered the bridge."

Max McGee



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