



MONTROSE
HISTORICAL & TELEPHONE
PIONEER MUSEUM



Montrose Telephone History

Montrose Museum

144 E. Hickory St.
 PO Box 577
 Montrose, MI 48457
 810-639-6644
 Staff@MontroseMuseum.com
 WWW.MontroseMuseum.com
 Open MOST Sundays
 1pm - 4pm
 Mondays & Tuesdays
 9:30am - 3:30pm.

Board Members 2018

President: Joe Follett
V. President: Chuck Persons
Treasurer: Karen Galindo
Secretary: Carol Walker
Board Members: Jerry Walker,
 Bonnie Sly, Les Christensen,
 John Lewis.

Upcoming Dates -

**Museum Open
 Blueberry in August 18th, 19th,
 20th.**

**Book and rummage sale on
 August 18th & 19th during
 Blueberry**

**Look inside for Speaker's
 programs and Christmas
 Potluck Dinner.**

In 1898 E. E. Osborn owned the Valley Telephone Company located in his Tobacco and Confectionery store in the C. P. Miller block on the northwest corner of State and Genesee Sts. He appointed the Haight Bros. to manage until 7-7-1898 and 7-13-1898 Charles Ebenbeck took over.

John Faner bought the telephone company and renamed it the Montrose Home Telephone Company. It was located in his drug store on the northwest corner of State and Saginaw Sts.

Eldon Upper bought the phone company in 10-7-1927 and it was located at 165 North Saginaw St.

Merritt Ashton Jerome bought the company in 12-5-1929 and it stayed at 165 North Saginaw St.

Art Massey bought the phone company in 1936 and it stayed at 165 North Saginaw St.

On January 17th, 1939 Glen Massey bought the telephone company at a sheriff's auction for \$150.00 from his father because of unpaid taxes.

On April 15th 1939 Wyman Jennings and James Langston bought the phone company and named it, The Public Service Telephone Company. It was moved to 146 East State Street. They paid \$280.00 for all assets, lines, poles, telephones, switchboards etc. About 1-19-1956 a new office building was constructed at 144 East Hickory. The fire siren activation switch was installed October 10th 1939, tested every day at 12 noon.

In 1977 it was squired by Century Telephone Enterprises.

In 1989 it was called Century Telephone.

In 2011 it was called Century Link.

As of October 3, 2022, Brightspeed took over CenturyLink's telephone and internet business in 20 states.

Virginia Sellers Papineau

Would a 16 year-old turn down an opportunity to drive the family car? Virginia was happy to do an errand for her father – to pay the phone bill. It just so happened she was the very first customer to pay her family's phone bill via the drive – thru window at Wyman Jennings Public Service Telephone Company in Montrose at 144 E. Hickory Street. Her picture was taken and is hanging in the Montrose Historical and Telephone Pioneer Museum.



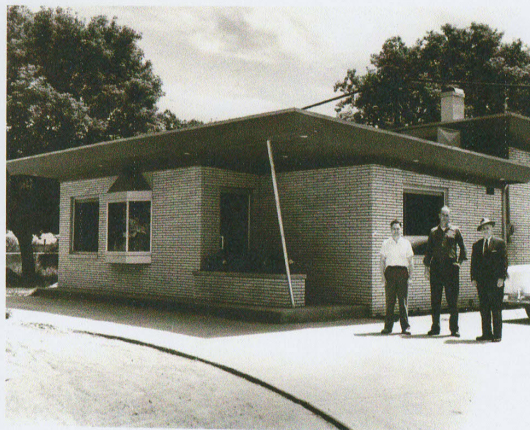
Virginia Sellers was born on Nov. 22, 1939 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Flint. Her family moved to Montrose and Virginia started school here in the sixth grade. She and her future husband, Bruce Papineau, were neighbors on Farrand Road and went to school together. Virginia graduated in 1958 and started at Buick in the financial department doing payroll. She retired in 1992 after 32 years. She became Mrs. Bruce Papineau in 1959.

But Virginia has an even earlier claim to fame. Her family's milk was delivered via a horse-drawn milk wagon in Flint. There were five different milk routes. The Krea Milk Company (which later became McDonald's Dairy) was acquired by Country Fresh in the mid 1980s) held a cutest baby contest. Virginia won when she was one- year old and her picture was put on a calendar and also published in the Flint Journal.

She also mentioned the 1953 tornado that struck the north side of Flint and the suburb of Beecher. There were 116 fatalities. At the time, Virginia and some classmates were tap dancing for a contest in Chesaning to appear in the Showboat. They won, and she made it safely back to her home in Montrose.

Amazingly, this author lives about one block from Virginia in Flushing. We met at her yard sale last September and continue to have most interesting conversations.

Written by Margaret O'Sullivan



Gail Persons, Wyman Jennings, Cash Smith



On the line with Joe



It's almost Blueberry Festival time again. We are still taking books and things for our rummage sale. There is a great selection and a very large number of books. The sale will be the 18th and 19th of August, from 9 to 5. You can drop off donations at the museum Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday, or call us and we will pick up.

Wanted -

2004 Montrose Hill- McCoy High School year book to complete our collection.

Montrose related things, newspapers, postcards, uniforms, shirts. When in doubt bring it to us instead of throwing out.

When you do your genealogy give us a copy for our genealogy

files. People from all over call looking for help on their research. You might just find a unknown relative.

I want to thank Nancy Stewart for her help doing a short history of telephones in Montrose. Paula Carlise did a great job compiling the Blueberry facts page. I have never seen it all together before. Margaret O'Sullivan did the article on Virginia Sellers.

In June the Great Lakes Region Car Collectors Club came with 120 people and 59 vintage cars. It seemed like just about every kind and age of car was there. With the street closed it made a large parking lot.

This fall's speakers program -

October 9th at 7 PM, Rosan Polk a former Montrose business owner and new volunteer to the museum, has a display of Vaseline Glass at the museum. This magnificent yellow green color glows brilliantly under a black light. She will speak on how this collection has taken her on an adventurous "hunt" to many states for such a rewarding outcome.



November 13th at 7 PM, Dennis Cook, former barber of Montrose will talk about gem and rock collecting. He belongs to the Flint club and the club has a workshop at 226 Pine St, Clio. There are all the tools you will need to cut, slice and polish gems and rocks. The *Flint Rock and Gem Club* is a non-profit organization. Its purpose is to promote and encourage the understanding of Earth Sciences, Lapidary Arts, and their related fields. The General Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month February through October.



December 4th at 6 PM, will be the annual Christmas Pot Luck dinner. Great food and a fun game afterwards. We supply the chicken from Riverside and you bring a dish to pass. You can bring a place setting or use ours. What a great variety of good food.

January 15th at 7 PM Robert Arnold will talk about "The School of Hard Rocks"!

Certified diamond experts and jewelry consultants will be on hand to give a brief overview of diamonds and gem stones. Have some jewelry you are not sure if it is real? Did you inherit some jewelry and want to know what it is?



Bring it in and we can help you! **We do Not buy jewelry!**



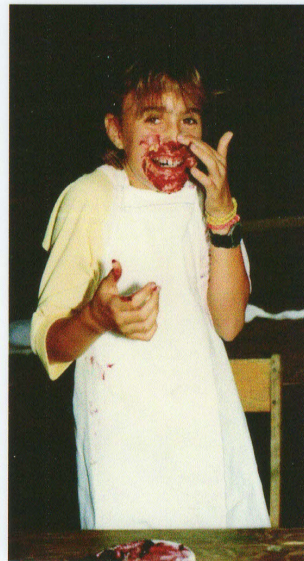
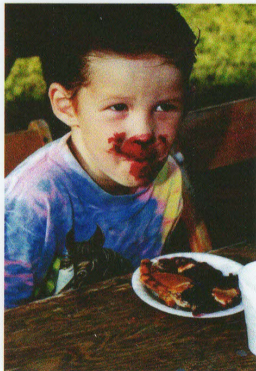
February 12th at 7 PM, Show and Tell. A fun night when we always see something new or odd and even get a little education. You can bring in some of your favorite things that you cherish or even that object that has been in the basement corner forever.



March 11th at 7 PM, Les Christensen will do a talk on 3-in-1 oil. At the turn of the century they started with bottles, then cans for household items. It would be rare to not find this in every household and workshop.



Can you help us with these unknown Blueberry pictures?



Montrose Blueberry Festival Information

Year	Theme	Queen	Grand Marshall
1972	1 st festival, No known theme	Cynthia LEE Kebler	
1973	Summer Fun	Lawraine Stewart	Jim Peyton, WNEM TV
1974	Scenes from American History	Cindy UNSEL Childs	John McMurray, WJRT TV
1975	Cartoon Charactors	Dawn Newton	Jimmy Lounce, WJR Radio
1976	Michigan's Past	Dorcus Cahours	Frank McCloy
1977	Space Odyssey-2001 AD	Debbie Lohmeier	Kenny Reed
1978	The Wild West	Sadie HOUSE Leonard	Howard Kuehn
1979	Magnificent Michigan	Anita Wilson	Beatrice Coke Pollard/Mildred Morton
1980	Olympic Impressions	Lavonne Dewitt	Lloyd & Iris Rush
1981	Remember the 70's	Andrea Vandefifer	George Young
1982	Say YES to Michigan	Tammy Tarrant	Steve Gold Sr.
1983	Big Band	Denita Gibson	Earle & Dorothy Marston
1984	Walt Disney	Charlene Buffa	Lew Lewellyn
1985	America Sings	Lisa Howard	Joe & Beulah Stewart
1986	Michigan Sesquicentennial	Tish Silva	Ted & Aggie Canfield
1987	Michigan Agriculture	Denise Burkett	Warren & Mary Henry
1988	It's a small world	Tracie Spencer	Bob & Dorothy Staley
1989	Say it with music	Crystal Tipton	Al & Vera Huber
1990	The Fabulous Fifties	Aimee Powell	Don & Sandy Hill
1991	Twentieth Birthday Bash	Christine Taylor	Ralph & Nancy Duggan
1992	Salute to America	Wendy Valentino	John & Jeannie Newcomer
1993	Mainstreet USA	Misti Leming	Walt & Dee Hammond
1994	Year of the Child	Amanda Altman	Alf & Jean Thorsby
1995	Year of the Community	Melissa Lewellyn	Henry & Marion Peterson
1996	Memories—Silver Anniversary	Consuelo Garica	Ed Johnson
1997	Preserving a Heritage	Larissa Saldana	Don & Janice Sullivan
1998	Montrose Revisited-Township Sesquicentennial	Sara Powell	Duane & Connie Tripp
1999	Countdown to the Millenium	Shawna McGuire	Norm & Doris Bissell
2000	Eat, Drink, & be Berry	Amber Dunn	Bill & Elizabeth Lea
2001	A Blueberry Odyssey	Nina Meadows	Dan & Laura Cypher
2002	Roll Out the Berries	Felicia Diem	Richard & Mary Phillips
2003	Power of Blue (Red, White, & blueberry)	Megan Gibson	Lynn & Shirley Pollard
2004	Mardi Gras	Amanda Fath	Gene & Arlene Powell
2005	Hawaiian Luau	Alexandra Lamay	Tonay & Mona Emmendorfer
2006	Mexican Fiesta	Amber Bouchard	Smokey & Vivian Landes
2007	Wild Wild West	Chelsie Hurst	Tom & Pat Kasson
2008	Pirates of the Caribbean	Ashley Hebi	Al & Anna Rush
2009	Under the Sea	Shalynne Barron	Tony & Pug Hromek
2010	Disney Fantasy	Bethany Houghteling	Bugs & Connie Spencer
2011	Super hero	Jessica Palinsky	Murray & Eva Vandefifer
2012	Saturday Night Fever	Kaylee Cook	Jim & Nancy Stewart
2013	Under the BigTop	Kayla Pyrc	Ray & Julia Foust
2014	Down on the Farm	Brianna Ducham	Ron & Carol Shook
2015	Gone Fishin	Autumn Rowe	Greg & Helaine Kuzniar
2016	Honoring our heroes	Kara Shelton	Nick Koulchar
2017	Blueberry express	Alison Wilson	Pastor Tim & Amy Hobson
2018	Camp Blueberry	Mattie Reich	Bob & Judy Leming
2019	BooBerry	Alexa Campbell	Ike Fabela/Grover Good
2020	NO Festival due to Covid	No Festival/Covid	No Festival/Covid
2021	50 year Anniversary	Hannah Robinson	Donald O'Guinn
2022	Jungle Safari	Madison Robinson-Wood	Chet Ptasnik
2023	Retro Arcade Games	Alicen Munson	Pat & Brad Thorsby