



TOP SECRET
LICENSE TO SPY



January 28 to
April 29, 2018

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From the Director



Bill McElhone

Investigation, inquiry, and sleuthing are certainly major themes of the new science Innovation Gallery. This dynamic programming space provides technology-rich exploration of four major areas: Body, Land, Mobility, and Music. See related articles on innovation, inventiveness, and inquiry on pages 8, 12, and 14.

The annual Storytelling Festival February 2 – 3, 2018, will feature the theme of “Family,” and brings professional storytellers and performers from across Michigan and beyond. See articles on pages 6, 7, and 9 to learn how stories known as oral histories are used to document local heritage.

There will be three new temporary exhibits this winter and spring. Golden Legacy: Original Art from 75 Years of Golden Books runs January 27 – April 15, 2018. The exhibit features 65 original illustrations from classic children’s stories.

Top Secret: License to Spy, open January 28 – April 29, 2018, will have visitors going undercover as secret agents to enter a world of coded messages and satellite surveillance. The exhibit focuses on the science and technology of spying and espionage. For more information, see pages 4 and 5.

With a collection that exceeds 55,000 items, many of the KVM’s artifacts are rarely displayed. We will be choosing an array of them for viewing with the exhibit Kalamazoo A-Z. Uncover how the alphabet was used in artifact selection for this unusual exhibit that runs April 28 – August 26, 2018.

The Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival returns for its 13th year. The Play-In Contest during the January 5 Art Hop gives performers a chance to win an honorarium, a timeslot to play in the festival, and an opportunity to perform at the Museum during the 2018 – 2019 season. The Festival takes place March 3 – 4, 2018, and will feature performers, vendors, and a host of other programs. For more details, please see <http://fretboard.kvcc.edu/>.

Foodways Symposium, now in its second year, is a collaborative program with the Bronson Healthy Living Campus. It will be held April 6 – 7 at the KVM and KVCC’s new Culinary Arts and Food Innovation Center buildings.

There is still time to visit the exhibits GUITAR: The Instrument That Rocked The World, Hateful Things, and ProCo before they close.

For the full calendar of programs, please check out the Museum’s website at kalamazoomuseum.org. Consider this your open invitation to come and explore your Museum of history, science, and technology. museON, everyone!



winter**2018**
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Golden Legacy: ORIGINAL ART FROM 75 YEARS OF GOLDEN BOOKS

January 27 - April 15, 2018

Golden Legacy: Original Art from 75 Years of Golden Books celebrates Little Golden Books' 75th Anniversary with an exhibit showcasing 65 of the original illustrations by many of the renowned artists who contributed to these classic children's stories.

Little Golden Books originated in 1942, during WWII, and for the first time, children's picture books were produced that were well illustrated, affordable to parents, and of high quality. Of the many great artists who contributed to the Little Golden Books, some were well-known European artists who were in New York because of the war conditions overseas. Other artists who participated were Walt Disney Studios alumni, as well as some well-known American artists. Included in the 75th Anniversary showing are additional pieces by contemporary artists as well. This exhibition displays the artwork of some famous classics such as *The Poky Little Puppy*, *Tootle*, *The Shy Little Kitten*, *Tawny Scrawny Lion*, *I Can Fly*, *The Great Big Fire Engine Book*, and many others.

Artists exhibited in the show include Tibor Gergely, Richard Scarry, Mary Blair, Gustaf Tenggren, Feodor Rojankovsky, Leonard Weisgard, A. Birnbaum, Gertrude Elliot, and David Diaz, among others. This exhibition was organized by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas.

Holly Everson of Brodhead, Wisconsin, says Little Golden Books changed her life in unexpected ways. She began collecting the books in 1986, before the birth of her first grandchild. "I had always read to my children and expected my grandchildren would also be read to," Brodhead recalled. "After a summer of putting books in different piles as I bought them, I noticed the sparkling bindings of the Golden Books. I wondered how many different ones there would be. I noticed that they were numbered and thought that it would be relatively simple to look for one of all the numbers. This was the beginning of my golden collection – a collection which would keep me busy for years, looking, sorting, and cataloging."

Everson's library of Golden Books fills an entire bedroom in her home. She spent much of 1998 cataloguing her collection of 8,200 Little Golden Book items on the computer. "My Golden collecting has made me many friends, some of which I've never seen. We just email or talk on the phone or send information back and forth. I believe the more you share, the more that comes back to you. It is such a small world when you are sharing," she said.



© *Baby Animals*



© *The Lion's Pay*



© *Little Red Riding Hood*



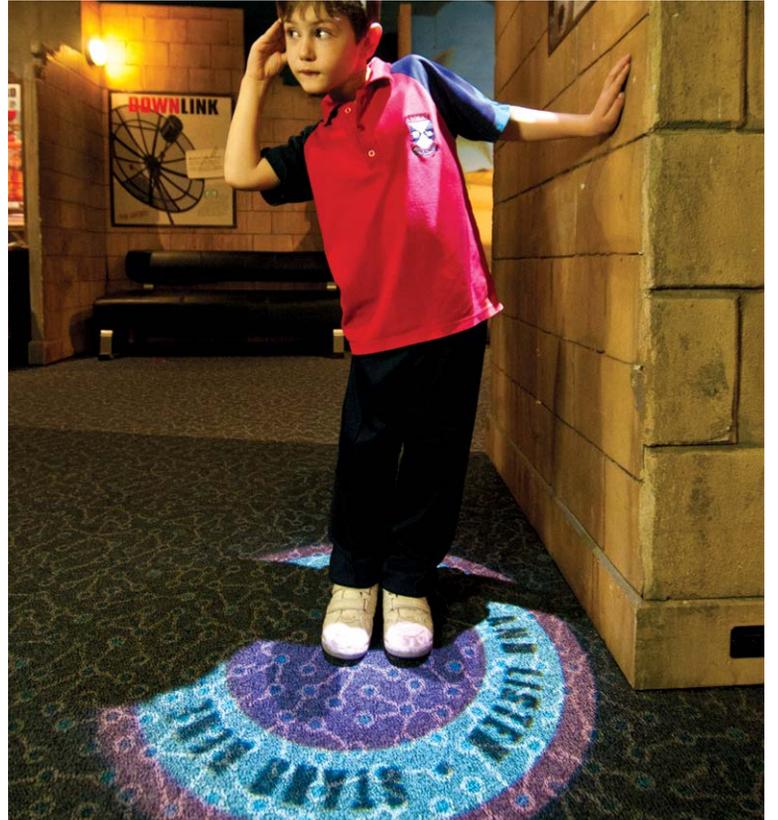
© *The Great Big Fire Engine Book*



© *Two Little Gardeners*



TOP SECRET
LICENSE TO SPY



“Top Secret: License to Spy”

will be exhibited at the Museum from January 28 to April 29, 2018. The interactive display is based around a James Bond-style fantasy of exotic locations, high-tech equipment, and, of course, a mystery to solve. Through the task of breaking codes, using spy satellites, and creating elusive disguises, this exhibit explores the science and technology of the undercover world of spying and espionage.

Equipped with a Spy File, visitors are presented with a scenario and six suspects. They will be challenged with gathering intelligence from selected exhibits to uncover information on the suspects, leading them on a journey of discovery into the lifelike world of what it is like to be a secret agent. Kids and adults alike will be amazed by the behind-the-scenes glimpse into this world in Top Secret: License to Spy. This exhibit is designed and produced by Scitech in Perth, Western Australia, and produced by Imagine Exhibitions, Inc.

Top Secret caters to a wide audience and encourages families and students to collaborate in order to piece together the clues and fulfil the mission. Older children and teenagers will especially enjoy the challenge of working through the entire exhibition. Younger children can also benefit from the experience with stand-alone interactive exhibits such as the Laser Maze and Photo Disguise.

Kalamazoo Valley Museum Director Bill McElhone said he thinks the thrill of spying is innate. “We all start spying with simple games like peekaboo and hide and seek,” he said. “Of course James Bond adds a layer of sophisticated technology that appeals to thrill seekers of all ages. This exhibit highlights many forms of mystery-solving tools. It has something to offer everyone.”

The exhibit’s activities include:

Hidden Camera - Visitors can see a screen displaying four security images which show Q’s Workshop from different angles. Their challenge is to locate the hidden cameras that are the sources of these images.

Find the Bug - Radio bugs have been strategically placed throughout Q’s Workshop. Visitors can locate the bugs by watching the reactions on an oscilloscope while tapping various objects around the room.

Guess the Password - Visitors are presented with picture clues from Iwanda Wye’s desk. Using these clues and remembering what they overheard at the Sound Beam exhibit, they need to enter the correct password on the exhibit screen so they can disable the CROWN.

Safe Breaker - This exhibit challenges visitors to crack open a safe containing important documents. A transparent combination lock shows the internal workings so they can open it section by section. When they successfully align each section, the safe opens to reveal the documents.

Laser Listening - Visitors see two people through a window who appear to be having a secret meeting. Even though they can’t hear the conversation through the glass, they can use the laser beam listening device to detect the vibrations in the glass to listen in.

Spy Satellite - By placing their thumbprint on a scanner, visitors can access satellite technology to hone in on an area of suspicious activity. They can narrow the field of view using the latitude and longitude coordinates to direct the spy satellite and get a closer look.

See in the Dark - A night vision camera allows visitors to search for clues in a room that is otherwise shrouded in darkness and reveal a potential hostage, ID tags, and items used for a disguise.

Phone Tap - Two probes on a telephone cable distribution point allow visitors to tap into phone conversations. By listening in on the correct conversation, they will uncover more information about their mission.



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LESSONS LEARNED:

STINSON'S NORTH BURDICK GROCERY AND MARKET



The “Shop Local” rallying cry is a growing trend among many consumers, especially for grocery and produce items. These shoppers are interested in supporting their local economy by being patrons to their neighborhood grocers. Although this idea may seem novel and, perhaps, innovative, it’s really a return to a model enjoyed before the emergence of large chain stores and groceries. These local grocery stores were much more than food outlets. They were places where neighbors connected with one another, shared news, learned important life lessons, found support, and built a strong sense of community. One such local Kalamazoo grocery store was the North Burdick Grocery & Market, owned by Willie and Lucile Stinson.

The Stinsons married in 1942 and migrated to Kalamazoo from Birmingham, Alabama, after Willie served in WWII and was stationed at Fort Custer. Lucile came to Kalamazoo to find work and housing for her returning soldier.

The Stinsons lived with the family of Mrs. Lavane Hughes until they could establish themselves in the community. Lucile found work as a domestic, working for families near Inkster Avenue in the Westnedge Hill neighborhood, while Willie found work in the paper mills. Together, they began working towards their goal to one day own a business so they could give back to the community.

In 1948, the Stinsons recognized that there was a real need for a grocery store on the Northside of Kalamazoo. This working-class neighborhood was predominately Dutch, with a small but growing percentage of African American families who were migrating from the South. The store opening was met with challenges, one of them being that no bank would make a loan to an African American family. Undeterred, Willie made the acquaintance of Portage Insurance founder Tom Schuring, and the two formed a friendship that lasted until Schuring’s death in 1963. Schuring, like the Stinsons, also saw the potential of having a store on the Northside. On a handshake, Schuring loaned the Stinsons \$2,000.

Work began on the construction of the building. According to the “Focus,” a Northside community newsletter, Willie built the new store himself. On February 3, 1948, the North Burdick Grocery & Market, or “Stinson’s Store,” as it would come to be known, was opened and became a community cornerstone as the first business solely owned by African Americans.

The store was known for its fresh vegetables, which were grown on the property in a garden that Willie and Lucile took great pride in. The meat department was so popular with family members from the South (Mississippi, Georgia, and Alabama) that when they visited, they would always stop by the store and stock up their coolers to transport the meat back to their homes in the South.

The store was also a training ground for many of the young men in the community. Howard McCulloch, a family friend, relates that as a five or six year old, he would often come into the store and simply toss his change on the counter, asking for candy. After a few

times, Willie realized that the youngster didn’t know how to count money and began to spend time teaching young Howard about the value of money. This seemingly small act of kindness was a life lesson that Howard never forgot.

Millworkers in the community benefited from Stinson’s generosity, especially during the lean times between paychecks, as he accepted handwritten “I owe you” slips to allow them to purchase the basics so that their families wouldn’t go hungry. This kindness, “paying it forward,” is testament to the Stinsons’ character and commitment to their community.

On October 7, 1968, Willie suffered a massive heart attack at the store and passed away after he and his best friend, Deacon Monroe “Munn” Smith, listened to the Detroit Tigers’ pivotal game 5 win against St. Louis, marking the beginning of one of the biggest comebacks in World Series History. In the fall of 1971 and after 23 years of service to the community, Lucile closed the store to commit the rest of her life to her family. Lucile passed away on September 30, 2000, at her home with her daughter Lucinda M. Stinson and granddaughter Lucretia Stinson at her side.

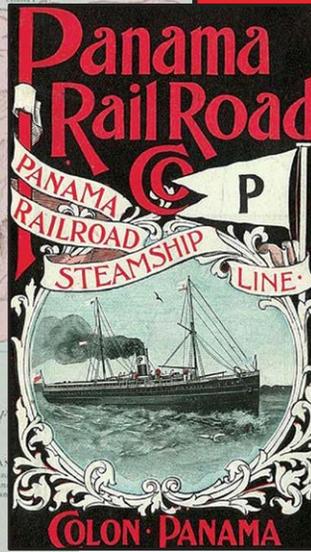
The North Burdick Grocery & Market led the way for other stores being established in the community. After working for the Stinsons, the late Bobby Gardner opened the North Pole Party Store on Kalamazoo’s Northside. At the 2010 groundbreaking of Park Street Market, Mattie Jordon of the Northside Association for Community Development recognized the Stinsons as establishing the foundation for grocery stores on Kalamazoo’s Northside; a plaque bearing their names hangs on the wall of Park Street Market.

Although the store has long since closed, the building still stands as tangible reminder of a dream born over 60 years ago. Many thanks to Lucinda M. Stinson and Lucretia Stinson for sharing this story of perseverance, making history and making a difference.



Willie and Lucile Stinson inside the North Burdick Grocery & Market, c. 1950s-1960s

Rhodes in Panama



Known today as the "Edison of Kalamazoo" because of his numerous and varied inventions, J.B. Rhodes spent almost fifteen years of his career developing equipment that was used in the construction of the Panama Canal. Three years before the United States took over the canal project from the French in 1904, Rhodes had been designing dump carts used for the disposal of rock and soil. The interconnecting

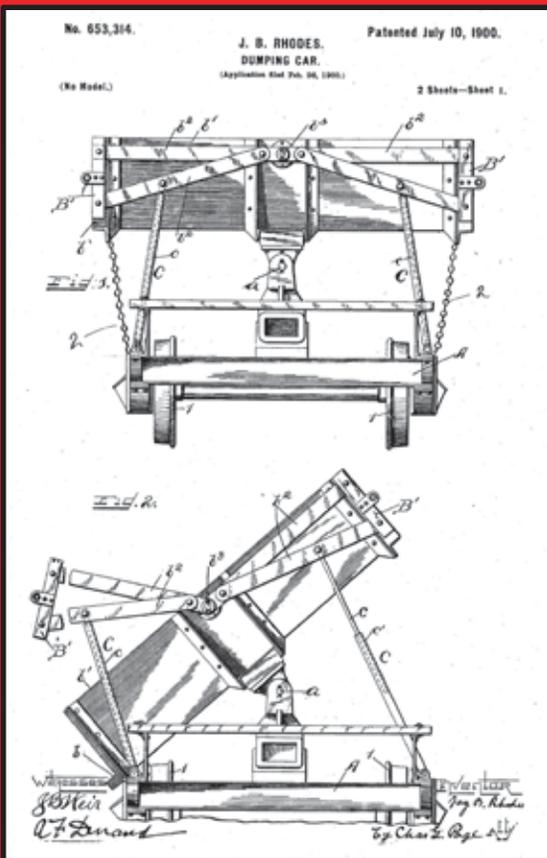
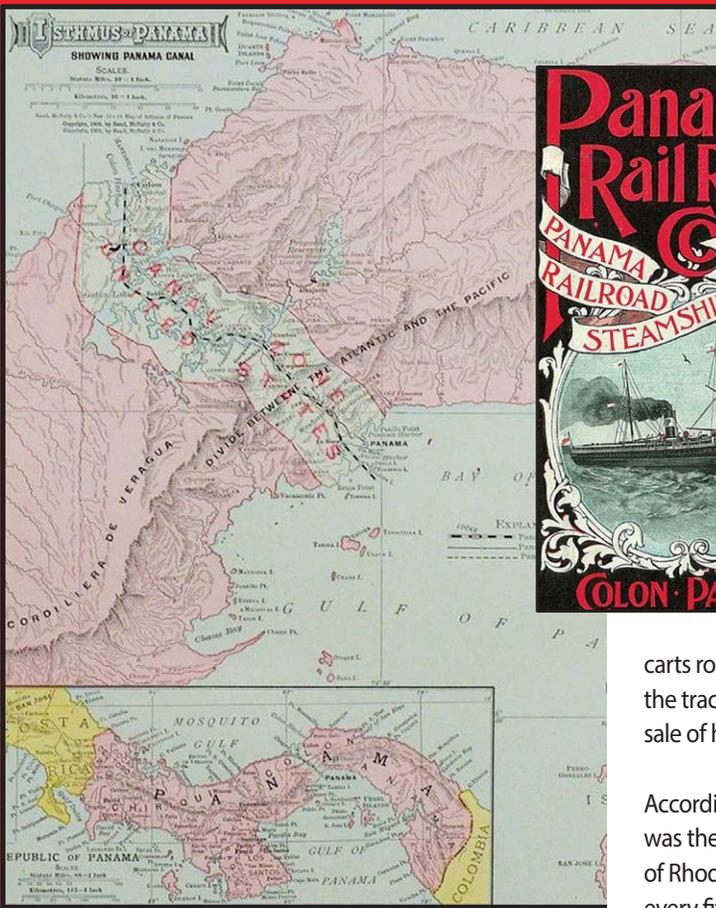
carts rode on a rail system and could be tilted to discharge loads on either side of the track. Rhodes represented the Austin Westin Manufacturing Company in the sale of his excavating machinery, which proved vital to the canal project.

According to Rhodes, the engineering of the Panama Canal was fairly simple - it was the sheer magnitude of the endeavor that was the challenge. With the help of Rhodes dump cars, crews were removing material equal to the Great Pyramid every fifty days. By 1909, over 87 million cubic yards had been removed, marking the halfway point to completion. As the years went by, the operation increased efficiency. For his part, Rhodes continued to perfect his carts through several new innovations, including pneumatic lifts in 1911.

Rhodes is reported to have made at least ten trips to Panama between 1905 and 1910. Interviewed in 1905 about his first venture to the Isthmus, Rhodes commented on the threat of disease, "It will not be so bad when the place has been drained and when the workmen are all located in cottages on the hills. Engineer Stevens is making these arrangements and in a few years this country will be just as good as any"

Rhodes was right. Upon his appointment, Stevens supported the controversial "mosquito theory," inspecting buildings for mosquito larvae, eliminating stagnant water, spreading oil, and improving the sanitation of worker housing. Yellow fever was all but eradicated within one year. This fact did not ease the fears of family and friends, however, when they received a mysterious message from Panama. Written in Spanish, it could not be adequately deciphered, causing the Kalamazoo Gazette to report, "Mysterious Cablegram from Panama Leaves Doubt as to Safety of Jay. B. Rhodes."

Fortunately, it was a miscommunication, and Rhodes was not in any danger. It is likely that his trips to Panama were quite pleasant. He traveled from New York to Colon on steamships from the Panama Railroad Steamship Line. The ships offered fine cuisine and all the best wines. He is known to have conversed with heads of the canal project, including Engineer Wallace and Stevens. Once in the Canal Zone, a man of his status would have had a comfortable place to stay and a network of clubs and churches in which to socialize. Rhodes claimed 90% of the people he met there were Elks. Panama Canal Elks Lodge #1414 survives to this day.



Rhodes 1900 dump car patent

Dependability and Versatility in Sound: **SUNRISE GUITARS**

Had Sunrise made anything other than guitars, its history would likely have been forgotten. The company was never incorporated, never listed in a phonebook, and only around for about four years. But guitars are both sentimental and collectable, and thus their origins are often sought out, especially when they are as well-made and rare as the ones produced by four young talents from Kalamazoo.

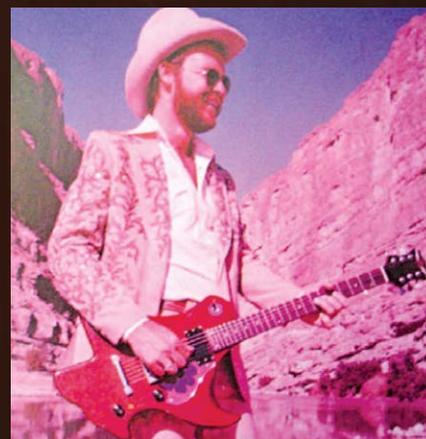
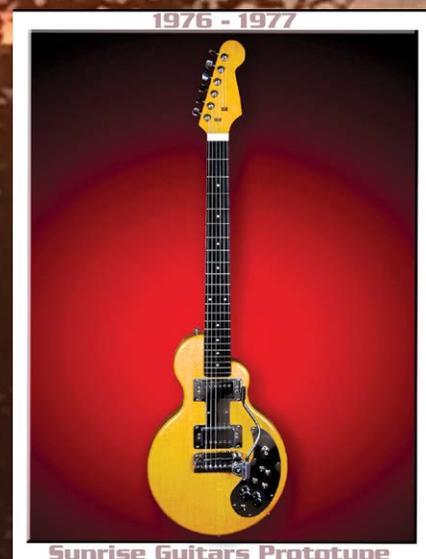
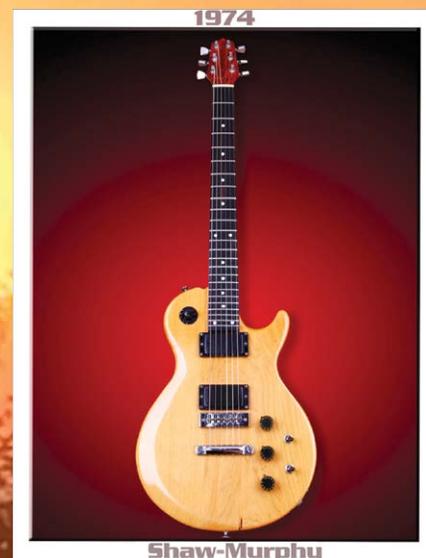
The Sunrise Guitar story starts with Patrick Murphy, who received training as a luthier while stationed in Germany and also worked with classical guitar maker Rainer Krempel. In 1971, he opened the Instrument Repair Shop (IRS) in "the back closet room" of the Sound Factory (later ProCo Sound, Inc.) on East Kalamazoo Avenue. In his words, "Originally, I did no work on electronics, as I wasn't too impressed by them. I was a true-blue acoustic person. Later, I figured out that if I wanted the shop to remain viable, I had to expand to electronics."

To help with this, he hired Tim Shaw, and they were soon approached to build a custom doubleneck solidbody electric guitar. As the piece came together in their studio, other artists were impressed with what they saw, and new custom orders began to come in. The first few dozen custom guitars were stamped under the name Shaw-Murphy.

Chuck Burge and Loring Janes eventually joined the team, and with them came the new brand: Sunrise Guitars. A total of 107 guitars were built, with Burge working on design and initial construction; Murphy on sanding, lacquer, buffing, and frets; Shaw on the now sought-after Sunrise flattop pickups and wiring; and Janes on assembling. All but about 35 guitars went to dealers across the country and sold for about \$1,000 each. The rest were customs for individual players, including the famous Texas-shaped guitar for Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top.

Offering a "unique combination of dependability and versatility in sound," the guitars were almost exclusively made from Michigan maple and had extremely thick polyurethane finishes. The necks were made intentionally large for sound and durability (some artists have found them too heavy for long performances).

The business closed in 1977. Said Shaw, "We weren't very fast or very profitable." He and Burge went on to form Gibson's first research and development department. Shaw was later dubbed the "guitar therapist," gaining notoriety for his work on Gibson, and later Fender, pickups. For a time, Patrick Murphy worked in Nashville making guitar pickups and working with some well-known musicians. He eventually settled into "a self-sufficient lifestyle." At one point, he taught courses in Guitar Physics at a college in Arkansas.



Billy Gibbons with Texas-shaped Murphy Shaw

Images courtesy PulseBeat Guitars



Modern Neon Sign Company of Kalamazoo completed the restoration of this sign in August 2017, not only cleaning it, but replacing electrical wires and installing two new transformers and new hand-bent glass tubing. By testing a piece of the original glass tubing, Modern Neon was able to determine that the neon ran red throughout the sign.

When Dutch immigrant Jurien Hoekstra bought H.H. Boekeloo's grocery store at 87 Portage Street in the late 1860s, he probably could not imagine the impact of that choice. The establishment would continue to carry the family name for almost 150 years and become one of the longest-running retail businesses in Kalamazoo, serving generations of local families.

Jurien operated Hoekstra's Grocery and Bazaar until his death in 1886, when his wife, Lucy, and their children took over the business under the name L. Hoekstra Company, Inc. By 1912, it had become a complete hardware and housewares store. After Lucy's death in 1916, her children Elias, James, and Jennie operated the store. During this period, Lucy and Jurien's son John and his sons Ted and Jerald started Kalamazoo's first tire retreading shop one block north of the hardware store at the corner of Portage and Second Street. The venture was short-lived. With the United States' entrance into World War I and automobiles still being a luxury for many, the Hoekstra family closed up the tire shop and moved on to selling and servicing home appliances under the name Hoekstra Sales Company.

Throughout the late 1940s to 1950s, business boomed for Hoekstra Sales Company. They even sponsored cooking schools at the Masonic Temple on Rose Street, bringing in chefs to demonstrate Hotpoint appliances. By 1946, Hoekstra Sales Company relocated next to Hoekstra Hardware. That same year, Jennie Hoekstra passed away, and with no family members having an interest in the hardware business, it was sold to long-time employee Henry Hoogerheide. John Izenbaard and James Ippel also came on board as owners. The two businesses continued to operate next door to each other, with Ted Hoekstra's son, Jack Hoekstra, and daughter-in-law, Marian, joining Hoekstra

Sales Company in 1951. They continued to operate the business until its closure in 1996.

Although Hoekstra Sales Company and Hoekstra Hardware were separate businesses, the owners and employees of both stores shared a common desire to make customer service a top priority. Marion Hoekstra recalls even turning customers loose in the stock area so they could look for specific parts to fix their appliances. She also remembers that John Izenbaard of the hardware store could find any tool or part needed and could fix anything that was brought in to him, something that is not seen much today with large corporate stores.

Dan Hoogerheide, Tom Izenbaard, and Phil Ippel followed in their fathers' footsteps as they later took ownership of the hardware store, providing the same high level of customer service and satisfaction as the generation before had done.

Hoekstra's Hardware continued to prosper into the 21st century. Dan Hoogerheide retired around 2006, leaving Tom Izenbaard and Phil Ippel as the sole owners of the store. In October 2016, Izenbaard and Ippel announced the closing of the hardware store. Although business was still steady, the two were ready to retire and spend more time with their families. In the spring of 2017, Izenbaard and Ippel contacted the Museum regarding items that remained at the store that could help tell the story of the long-standing business. Some of the items include a neon sign, tools, advertising ledgers, a cash register, and a stovepipe cutter and crimper. The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is thrilled that these items have found a home here at the Museum. Be sure to check out some of these objects in the upcoming exhibit Kalamazoo A-Z, opening April 28, 2018.



*Hoekstra's Grocery and Bazaar, 1898
Courtesy of WMU Archives & Regional History Collections*



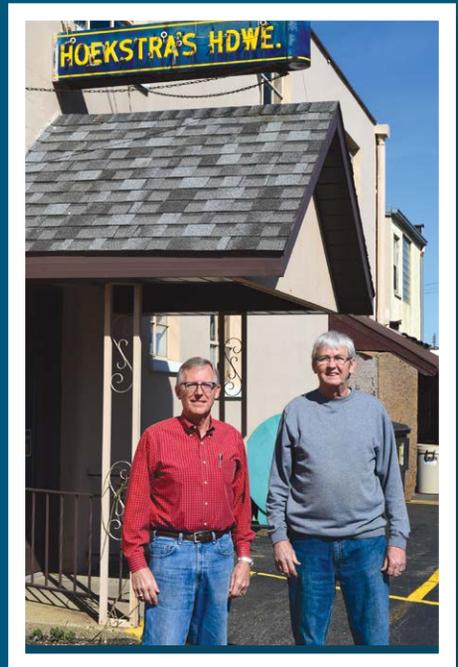
*Hoekstra's Appliances and Hoekstra's Hardware, 1948
Courtesy of WMU Archives & Regional History Collections*



In May 2017, Museum staff, along with Tom Izenbaard, Phil Ippel, and National Storage Company, were able to remove the neon sign that hung above the back door entrance to the hardware store.



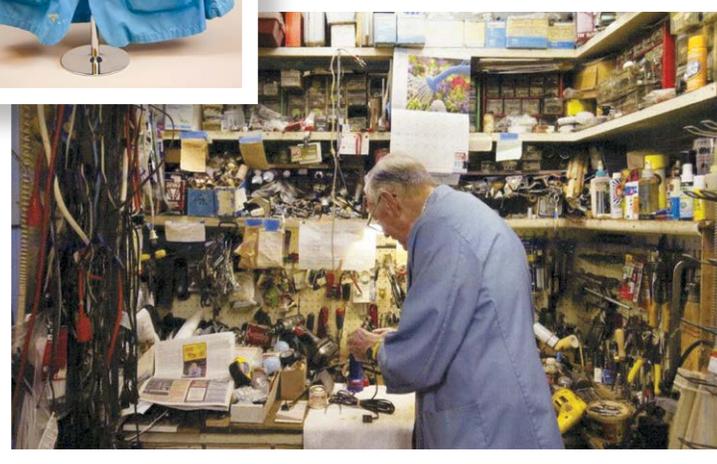
For many years, this lunch pail held money bags for the various departments. These bags were for Hardware and Housewares.



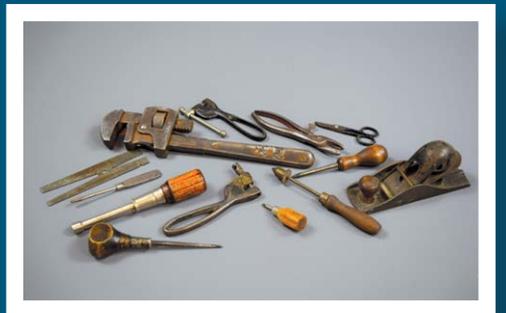
Phil Ippel and Tom Izenbaard outside Hoekstra's Hardware, April 2017



John Izenbaard started working at the Hoekstra True Value Hardware store in 1938 and continued to work there for 75 years until his death in 2013. He was known to be able to fix anything and find just the right part for the job. His True Value jacket is a part of the permanent collection at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.



Courtesy of MLive Media Group



Tools used at Hoekstra's True Value Hardware Store

BOEKELOO & SON: DETECTIVE AGENCY



Henry H. Boekeloo, born December 5, 1838, was the youngest child of Hendriks and Ann (Slager) Boekeloo. The family lived in the Netherlands until the spring of 1854, when they headed to the United States. When the family first arrived in Kalamazoo, Henry was 16 and worked as a painter. On March 19, 1856, Henry married Cornelia Naber, who was also born in the Netherlands, and by 1860, Henry and Cornelia were living in Kalamazoo with their one-year-old son, Otto. Henry still worked as a painter for a time but also transitioned into the grocery business after saving up money.

In the spring of 1870, Henry was elected Constable, marking the beginning of a long career in law enforcement. He held this office for

20 years and simultaneously acted as deputy sheriff. Throughout the 1870s and 1880s, Henry's name shows up often in newspaper articles. Sometimes articles mention arrests made of people in various stages of inebriation (also called "heading for the jim-jams"), other times noting his testimony in court cases.

An 1885 article recounts the robbery of Abe Krananberg's saloon. The paper reports: "The case was entrusted to the detective agency of H. H. Boekeloo & Son..." who successfully found and arrested the man to blame.

Finding the first appearance of the H. H. Boekeloo & Son detective agency is a bit tricky. Both Henry H. and son Peter are mentioned as being involved in cases prior to 1885, though this seems to mark the first year that the agency's name was official. In 1880, at age 18, Peter is in the milk business. Three years later, he is a blacksmith's helper, and father Henry is a constable and detective. Finally, in the 1885 city directory, H. H. Boekeloo & Son is listed and advertised as a "Detective, Collection and Intelligence Agency," located at 130 W. Main Street. It is possible that a motivation for Henry starting this business was based on a drunken brawl with a fellow police officer in 1885, which led to him not being re-elected to the police force.

Henry and Peter handled a variety of cases. They uncovered an adulterous affair (a story dubbed "The Scarlet Letter" in the Kalamazoo Gazette), chased down horse thieves, arrested a forger, and returned stolen dogs to their owners. Peter even chased an ex-policeman out to Nebraska in 1886, traveling 2,400 miles to facilitate the return of a shotgun to its rightful owner. Many people called upon them to help with pension claims or to retrieve stolen personal property, including jewelry, as well as "a valuable package of underwear" swiped from a park bench – there was no case Boekeloo & Son could not solve!

The 1887 ledger book from the Museum's Collection reveals more of the cases Boekeloo & Son worked on, as well as the many different methods of payment. Some people paid in cash, while others paid in tobacco or other goods. In a case searching for oil paintings stolen from a professor's home, the \$55 bill was paid partly in cash (\$5), with the rest paid in the form of a "life size portrait of Peter Boekeloo in oil to be worth fifty-Dollars."

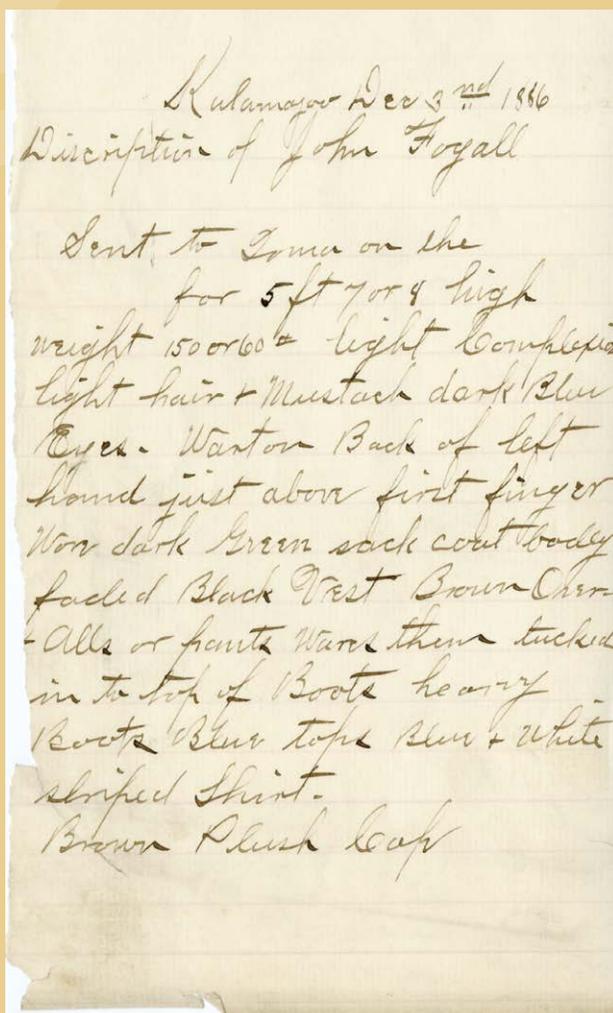
The agency continued working cases, which were actively reported in the newspaper. Peter's run-ins with "highwaymen" and other nefarious characters always made the local news. Peter married Jennie Rickman in 1888, and the marriage record lists Peter as a police officer and Jennie as a milliner (hat maker). Peter, at age 27, died February 13, 1889. In the years following, Henry went back to the grocery business, setting up shop at the corner of Portage and Vine Streets. By 1902, no detective agency is listed in the Kalamazoo city directory. Henry was appointed to the office of Street Commissioner in 1906 but resigned from the post after 2 months, stating that, "a man cannot be honest and make a living out of the position. It pays \$75 a month and the officer is expected to have a telephone in his house and always have a horse and buggy."

Henry died July 27, 1906, at his home at 619 Third Street. Other Boekeloo children were very involved in city affairs, with sons Henry H. Jr. and Jacob working as Street Commissioners and running for various offices, including their father's old position of sheriff.

Curious what else the Museum has on these detectives? Come for a visit and use your detective skills to find some of the tools of the trade from H. H. Boekeloo & Son detective agency!



Carved walnut gavel and brass keys belonging to Henry H. Boekeloo, 1881-1888



Notes written by Henry Boekeloo, dated December 3, 1886. Henry describes the appearance of John Fogall, whom he was investigating.

Innovation or Gimmick?

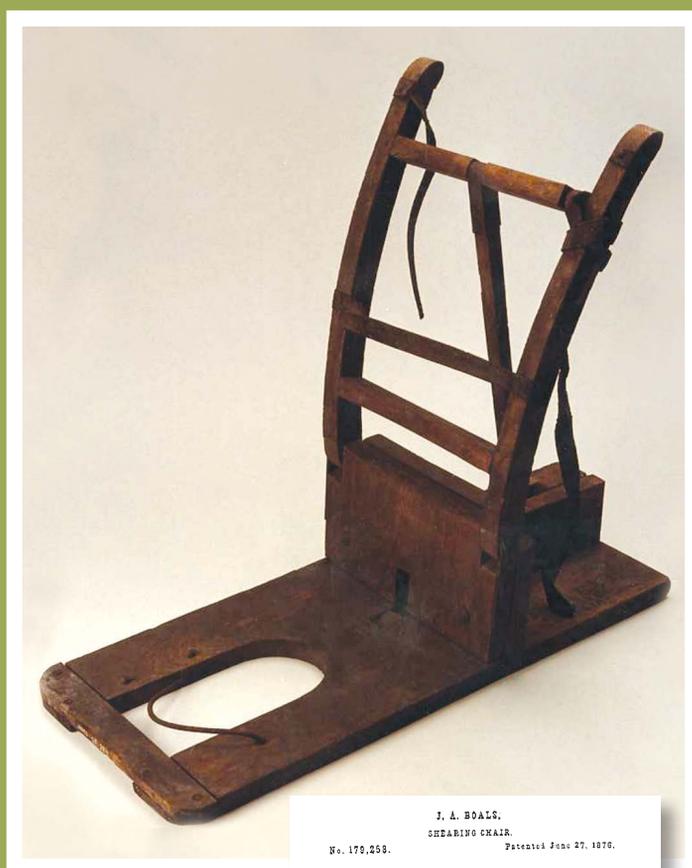
Who among the world's citizens in 1903, when the Wright brothers managed a 12-minute flight, would have predicted that airplanes would soon become one of the greatest innovations of all time? Many people were skeptical. One general said that the invention was interesting but of no military value. How wrong he was! Before airplanes were a thing of newspaper headlines, there was the telephone, patented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876 and panned by Western Union Telegraph Company officials as, again, "of no value."

What does innovation mean? There are many definitions, but most agree that it has something to do with an idea or thing that is new and useful. Most innovations are intended to solve problems, but how do we decide if an attempt at innovation is a practical solution or a gimmick destined for the landfill (or to languish in a museum collection)? In many cases, innovation may be in the eye of the beholder.

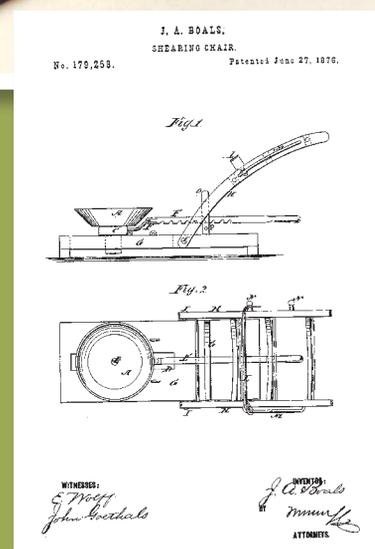
For instance, the KVM has in its collection a sheep shearing stool. Now, here in Southwest Michigan, we have a fairly robust "fiber community;" they are people who enjoy the art and craft of hand-spinning, knitting, and felting with wool. Because of that, Michigan is also a good, local source of sheep. Sheep shearing season is a busy one in which shearers are in high demand. Do they use said shearing stools? So far, no evidence of this has surfaced locally (if you know someone who uses a stool on which to park the sheep or the shearer, please let us know!). Yet here we have in our collection a stool that is marked "Buckeye/ Shearing Chair" and "McCall Bros./Barnsville, O./Patd 1873." Made in the US and patented, someone clearly thought this item would be a valuable commodity.

So far, no photograph from the late 19th or early 20th centuries has surfaced in which a shearing chair is used. Not much about how to shear sheep has changed in the last 100 years other than the innovation of electric shears. Why, then, do museums have these old sheep shearing stools with no real proof of their use? Good question! Maybe they enjoyed localized use; maybe someone thought they'd be a great tool, but most shearers disagreed. In any case, we have one in our collection with not much information about it; not who used it or how it was used!

In the KVM's new Innovation Gallery, you can examine a few kitchen gadgets – old and new – and cast your vote to let us know what you think about them – are they true innovations, or just gimmicks? Send pictures and descriptions of your favorite kitchen gadgets to us at museumstaff@kvmcc.edu – useful or just silly! We all need a little levity in our day-to-day existence – we hope these will provide that for you!



The KVM's unusual sheep-shearing stool, patented in 1873



WHAT IS IT?



1 Like something out of a spy movie, the purpose of this pen is not for writing. What is it?



2 This device has a history that goes back to the Middle Ages in Europe. Today, we use a similar item to prepare breakfast. What is it?

3 This device aided in making conversations a bit easier in the early 1900's. What is it?



1. Pen gun. Invented in 1926, it served as a single-shot pistol that could be carried and concealed as a conventional pen. This model was updated in 1991 to make it safer and easier to handle.

2. 19th-century waffle iron. To make waffles, you would pour batter onto one of the iron plates, close the maker, and then hold it over a fire to cook. Another more fashionable to conceal hearing aids. This sleek design, in comparison to its predecessor, the hearing trumpet, allowed users to easily conceal the horn in their pockets..

3. A hearing horn. This particular hearing horn has a retractable earpiece and is accompanied by a leather case. As time went by, it became more fashionable to conceal hearing aids. This sleek design, in comparison to its predecessor, the hearing trumpet, allowed users to easily conceal the horn in their pockets..

You may have seen a similar cast-iron pie maker while camping. Before becoming a breakfast staple, the waffle was eaten in Europe as a snack food or dessert.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

TOP SECRET: LICENSE TO SPY

JAN 28 – APR 29

Visitors will have fun with a James Bond-style fantasy of exotic locations, high-tech equipment, and, of course, a mystery to solve. Through the task of breaking codes, using spy satellites, and creating elusive disguises, this exhibit explores the science and technology of the undercover world of spying and espionage.

This exhibit is designed and produced by Scitech in Perth, Western Australia, and produced by Imagine Exhibitions, Inc.



GOLDEN LEGACY: ORIGINAL ART FROM 75 YEARS OF GOLDEN BOOKS

JAN 27 – APR 15

America's beloved picture book series, Little Golden Books, celebrates its 75th anniversary with an exhibit of 65 original illustration artworks from these classic children's stories.

This exhibition was organized by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas.



CATS & DOGS

OPENS MAY 16

Immerse yourself in the world of cats and dogs!

KALAMAZOO A – Z

OPENS APR 28

Dive into the KVM's rarely-seen collections as the story of Kalamazoo unfolds one letter at a time.

All exhibits are FREE!

HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

Jan 27: Chili Cook-off 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. FREE

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum joins the Chili Cook-off with the help of the Food Bank of South Central Michigan and chefs from Firekeepers Casino. Come in for a taste!

SPRING BREAK HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS 1 – 4 p.m. daily

Classic Fairy Tales with a Twist
Crafts inspired by unusual storybook characters.

- Apr 2:** Do Pigs Fly?
- Apr 3:** Kindhearted Wolves?
- Apr 4:** Unlikely Friends?
- Apr 5:** Happily Ever After?
- Apr 6:** Animals Play Ball?

Daily Planetarium Shows

- Bear Tales** 11 a.m. \$3/person
- Space Shapes** 12 p.m. FREE!
- Sky Legends of the Three Fires** 1 p.m. \$3/person
- SpacePark 360** 2 p.m. \$3/person

All Hands-On programs are FREE.
Visit our website for details.

FESTIVALS

JAN 5: Fretboard Festival Play-In Contest (Variety of Genres)
5 – 8:30 p.m. FREE

FEB 2-3: Storytelling Festival – Family Stories

Fri: 5:30 – 8 p.m. FREE
Sat: 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. FREE
This all-ages festival will feature professional storytellers, musicians, and authors. See our website for details.

MAR 2-3: Fretboard Festival
Fri: 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE
Sat: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. FREE
Instrument designers, workshops, and performances from area musicians are featured both days! See our website for details.

JUN 1-2: AniMotion Festival
Fri: 5:30 – 8 p.m. FREE
Sat: 12 – 4 p.m. FREE
Cats and dogs animation and illustrations. Student presentations and speakers in the field of graphic design and animation. Plus, a career fair of local vendors and demonstrations.

PLANETARIUM

Show descriptions available online.

Planetarium shows suspended March 3 for the 13th Annual Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival.

FEATURE SHOWS

Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun at 3 p.m.

Violent Universe

Jan 6 – Mar 16

Habitat Earth

****NEW Show!**** Mar 17 – Jun 15

FAMILY SHOWS

Sat at 1 p.m.; Sun at 2 p.m.
Mon-Fri 11 a.m. (through March 16)

Perfect Little Planet

****NEW Show!**** Jan 6 – Mar 16

Secret of the Cardboard Rocket

Mar 17 – Jun 10 (no 11 a.m. showing)

SEASONAL STARGAZING SHOWS

Tue, Thu at 3 p.m.; Sat at 2 p.m.

MI Winter Skies!

Jan 6 – Mar 15

The Artists' Sky

Mar 17 – Jun 14

MUSIC LIGHT SHOWS

Saturdays at 4 p.m.

Led Zeppelin

Jan 6 – Mar 10

Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon

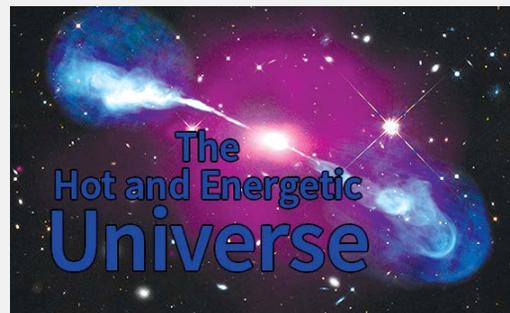
Mar 17 – June 9

NEW! ADVANCED EXPLORATIONS FOR THE CURIOUS MIND

Sundays at 4 p.m.

Hot and Energetic Universe

****NEW Show!**** Jan 7 – Feb 4



Phantom of the Universe: The Search for Dark Matter

****NEW Show!**** Feb 11 – Mar 11

From Earth to the Universe

Mar 18 – Apr 22

IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System

****NEW Show!**** Apr 29 – Jun 10

All shows are \$3 per person

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPLORATIONS

CHILDREN'S LANDSCAPE

Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sundays 1 – 5 p.m.

Children's Landscape is a self-directed hands-on exhibit for families and preschool groups. Designed for children under 5, it is filled with educational materials that support exploration, investigation, literacy, pretend play, social development, creative arts, math, and science.

Jan-Feb:
Once Upon a Time

Mar-Apr:
Colors, Shapes & Numbers

May-Jun:
Alphabet from A to Z

Circle Time Programs

Monday-Friday at 10 a.m. and Saturdays at 11 a.m.

These literacy-based 20-minute programs are free of charge to families and preschool groups.

No Circle Time during Spring Break, April 2-6, but play hours extended until 5 p.m. each day.

EXTRAS

Demonstrations

Join KVM staff for LIVE weekly demonstrations on different science and history topics. Please call the front desk for our weekly offerings.

Museum Tours

Black History Tour
Kalamazoo Industry Tour

Program times may vary; please call the front desk for today's offerings.

NEW! Special programs for families with sensory challenges.

11 a.m. FREE

These programs will include a presentation for parents, activities for children in the new Innovation Lab, and a group tour through the Museum. Presented in collaboration with the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (C.A.R.D.).

Feb 17: Take a Tactile Tour

Discover how sensory experiences are related to autism, and where to find them in the museum.

Mar 17: Practical Hands-On Experiences

Use the Museum as a learning experience through hands-on interactives and exhibits.

Magic Carpet Theatre Storytelling

Wed, Apr 4: 1 and 2 p.m. FREE

Interactive storytelling for children and families.

SUNDAY SERIES

Mary Jane Stryker Theater

Second and Fourth Sundays feature speakers on topics of science, history, and culture. Programs begin at 1:30 p.m. and are FREE. Seating is limited. See detailed information online or pick up fliers at the KVM.

Jan 14: **INSCRIBED LINEAGE**

Dr. Michelle Johnson explores the New England origins of North America's uncomfortable histories that sought, and sometimes succeeded in, circumscribing people of color, women, laborers, and land.

Jan 28: **ELLIE PRESENTS! THE RICH AND ROMANTIC HISTORY OF VALENTINES**

Who was St. Valentine really? How did sending paper Valentines to loved ones catch on in so many places? These and other questions will be answered in this fun and informative presentation by Ellie.

Feb 11: **SUSTAINABLE GARDENING**

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council and Common Ground – Kalamazoo Community Garden Network will be here to discuss community resources for your sustainable gardening projects. Participants will be eligible to enter a drawing for plants and supplies.

Feb 25: **PASSACAGLIA: DISCOVERING PATTERNS IN LIFE AND MUSIC**

Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra Violist Grace Byrd explores the cycle of inspiration between life and music through the musical form called "Passacaglia."

Mar 11: **SOLAR GARDENS/SOLAR ENERGY**

Dr. Brad Bazuin of WMU will discuss using solar cells, panels, and arrays to collect and convert solar energy.

Mar 25: **CLIMATE CHANGE, IMPACTS, AND ADAPTATION IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

Laura Briley, climatologist with the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program, will speak about GLISA's work.

Apr 8: **AMATEUR (HAM) RADIO**

John Tucker of the Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club explains amateur radio, its past, and its evolution in today's world.

Apr 22: **PLANETARY WEATHER**

Shawn Bueshaber of WMU will be our guest speaker to wrap up our celebration of Statewide Astronomy Night.

FRIDAY ART HOPS

Mary Jane Stryker Theater

A variety of live entertainment, visual art, and music light shows are available each month. See detailed information online or pick up fliers at the KVM.

Visual Experiences **open at 5 p.m. – FREE**

Live Music Experiences **begin at 6 p.m. – FREE**

Music Light Shows **begin at 7 p.m. – \$3**

Jan 5:
Fretboard Festival Play-In Contest
 5 - 8:30 p.m. (Variety of Genres)

Feb 2:
Storytelling Festival Kickoff
 Portraits and music by **Dan Smith**

Author Deanna Scelzo of **Winter In My "Hood"**

Louie in concert at 6 and 7 p.m.

Mar 2:
Fretboard Festival Kickoff with The Corn Fed Girls (Americana)

April 6:
Foodways Symposium Guest speaker & artist to be announced!

May 4:
Kalamusic (Americana/ Blues/Folk)

Disfigured Reasons, oil paintings by Gabriele Mckenzie

Music Light Shows in the Planetarium: New show time! 7 p.m. only

No Music Light Shows Jan 5 or Mar 3 due to Play-In Contest and Fretboard Festival.

Feb 2: Led Zeppelin

Apr 6 & June 1:
Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon

APRIL 20: Statewide Astronomy Night

5 – 8 p.m. FREE
 Learn about telescopes and make a planisphere. See the planetarium show IBEX: Search for the Edge of the Solar System, along with Dr. Nicolle Zellner's presentation of ANSMET: Space Exploration Way Down Under.



Recent Acquisition

GUNTON & KNOWLES BUGGY WHIP

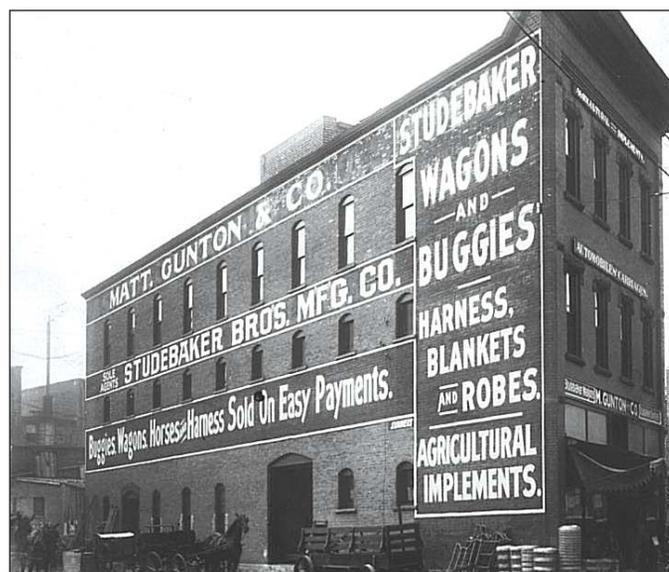
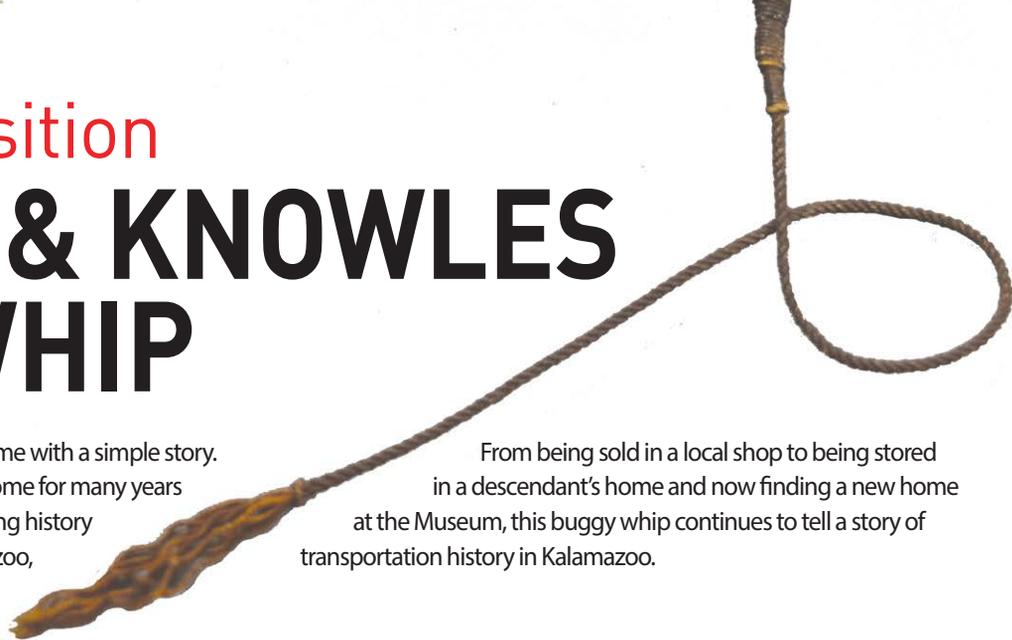
Many times, the most delightful artifacts come with a simple story. This buggy whip sat in the donor's family home for many years before coming to the Museum. There is a long history of buggy and wagon companies in Kalamazoo, including Kalamazoo Buggy Company, Kalamazoo Wagon Company, and many others. Liveries and stables popped up in the city to accommodate the many people using horse and wagon as their main mode of transportation besides walking. This ultimately led to businesses catering to horse and buggy accessories.

This buggy whip was made by Gunton and Knowles, a partnership in Kalamazoo that lasted from 1905 until 1908. Matthew Gunton was buying out companies in town with buggy and wagon stock, and George Knowles was the former manager of the Cooley Harness Company. By March of 1906, the Kalamazoo Gazette reports that the Gilmore Brothers Department Store had a new delivery wagon, a Studebaker, purchased from Gunton & Knowles. The business also manufactured leather specialties, saddlery, harnesses, vehicles, and horse furnishing goods. Their store at 120 East Water Street was four stories tall and measured 36 x 100 feet. The carriages and buggies they sold were lines from Studebaker, Stoughton, Lully, and Michigan companies. They were so successful at this point that they noted the need to open a second location at 403 East Main Street.

Though met with early reported success, the partnership was dissolved January 29, 1908, and Matthew Gunton bought out George Knowles. Gunton went on to form M. Gunton & Company with Clayton A. Read, selling wagons, harnesses, and agricultural implements in the same location on Water Street. He continued to buy land and businesses in Kalamazoo. He died in 1918 and is buried at Riverside Cemetery.

Knowles continued on in the livery and boarding stable business, leasing a building on North Church Street formerly occupied by the West End Livery. In the 1910 Directory, he is with the firm Knowles, Lamberson & Company, advertising as a real estate business with a specialty in the exchange of city and county property, with offices at 117-118 Pratt Block (on Portage Street). By 1915, George is no longer living in Kalamazoo, and a 1916 article in the Kalamazoo Gazette notes that his home in Detroit had been burglarized. He lived in Detroit into 1917, but after that, his whereabouts are unknown.

From being sold in a local shop to being stored in a descendant's home and now finding a new home at the Museum, this buggy whip continues to tell a story of transportation history in Kalamazoo.



Matt Gunton & Clayton Read Co., 120 E. Water Street, c. 1909



Inside of Gunton & Co. Saddlery in Kalamazoo. In photo - Salesman (unknown), Mary Ellen Read (child), Matt Gunton, Clayton Read, c. 1910

STATEWIDE ASTRONOMY NIGHT

APRIL 20 | 5-8 PM

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum will participate in Statewide Astronomy Night (SWAN), offering a number of astronomy-related activities for all ages.

A new full-dome show will premiere in the planetarium.

"ANSMET: Space Exploration Way Down Under"
presentation by Dr. Nicolle Zellner
in the Stryker Theater.

A RAIN GARDEN WILL BE **GROWING**
AND **BLOOMING** NEXT SPRING AT
THE KALAMAZOO VALLEY MUSEUM!



Rain gardens mimic nature by letting rain water soak into the ground instead of running directly into streets and storm systems, helping to filter the water that will eventually find its way to rivers, streams, and lakes. The plants that will be chosen for our garden are well-adapted to both dry and wet conditions and are native to our region.

SAVE THE DATE April 6-7 - FREE 2017 kalamazoo FOODWAYS symposium

The second annual Foodways Symposium will be held at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and KVCC's new Culinary Arts and Food Innovation campus buildings April 6 - 7, 2018. The focus will be food history, food culture, and food systems. The symposium will feature lectures, demonstrations, community discussions, and children's activities; it is open to the public free of charge.

ANIMATION FESTIVAL

June 1-2 - FREE!

Art Hop Friday features original animated shorts, starting at 6 p.m. in the Stryker Theater. On Saturday after the Do-Dah Parade, from 1 until 4 p.m., join us for a cats-and-dogs-themed day of presentations and demonstrations. Visit with vendors who work in various mediums, and attend talks and demonstrations by guest speakers and students in the fields of graphic design and animation.



EXHIBITS COMING THIS SUMMER:

CATS & DOGS May 16 - September 9

This exhibit invites us to immerse ourselves in the world of our beloved pets. Through over 20 exciting interactive elements, we learn to better understand these animals and their relationships to each other and to us.



KALAMAZOO A-Z:

April 28 - August 26

Dive into the KVM's rarely-seen collections as the story of Kalamazoo unfolds one letter at a time.

THE FESTIVALS YOU LOVE ARE HERE AGAIN!

Tired of winter weather yet?

Escape to the Museum for music, stories, and lots of warmth and cheer!



KALAMAZOO VALLEY
 MUSEUM

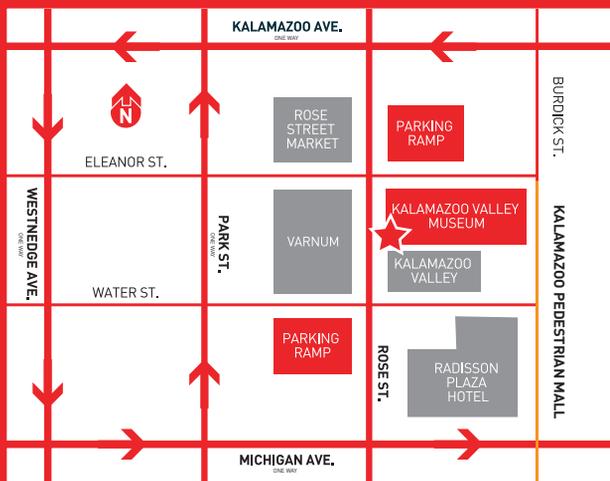
Friday and Saturday, February 2 – 3

FRETBOARD FESTIVAL

is swinging into its 13th season
 Friday and Saturday, March 2 – 3



Details are on our website. Admission and all performances are FREE.



FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

Monday–Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
 Art Hop Fridays 9 a.m.–8 p.m.
 Sunday + Holidays 1 p.m.–5 p.m.
 Closed: Easter, Thanksgiving,
 Christmas Eve, and Christmas

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**[™] **Museum**

230 North Rose Street
 Kalamazoo, MI 49007

269.373.7990 | 800.772.3370

www.kalamazoomuseum.org
 /KalamazooValleyMuseum
 @kalamazoomuseum

Accessible environment. Sign language interpreters may be scheduled with a minimum of two weeks' notice. Assisted listening devices are available in the planetarium and Theater.



The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees

