



The HAL Hotline

Department of History, Arts and Libraries • Summer 2002 • Volume I • Issue III

New Michigan eLibrary Unveiled PC Magazine's Dvorak Calls MeL 'Astonishing'

On June 28, Governor Engler and State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau introduced the state to the new Michigan eLibrary (MeL), a revamped version of www.MeL.org that pulls the Library's electronic resources and Internet subject collections into one user-friendly site. Michigan residents have 24-hour access wherever there is an Internet connection.

"The Michigan eLibrary is a tremendous resource for the people of Michigan, and one more example of our state's commitment to technology and innovation," said Governor Engler.

MeL contains "Best of the Internet" resources screened by professional librarians and more than \$3.6 million worth of online encyclopedias, directories, almanacs, electronic books and newspaper and magazine articles – exactly the resources you expect to find in the world's great research libraries.

According to John C. Dvorak of *PC Magazine*, "MeL is an astonishing site. It puts Michigan at the top of the heap for providing its citizens with a powerful information portal that is far superior to most commercial sites."

Ms. Brandau said Michigan residents are getting amazing value from MeL, with little additional cost incurred to create the log-on authentication that allows for 24-hour access. "The resources have been there; they're already paid for," she said. "We want every person in Michigan to know about these quality, librarian-selected sites and the access to informational databases that you simply cannot get to by doing broad searches on the Internet.

"MeL is completely non-commercial, accepts no sponsorship, and the selecting librarians make a great effort



State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau and Governor Engler introduce the new MeL

to choose sites that have minimal, if any, advertising," she said. "Any Web sites included in MeL are there solely for their content and suitability."

Accessing MeL is easy. The "Best of the Internet" subject collections are available to everyone and require no log-on. The database subscriptions, however, have been purchased on behalf of Michigan residents only; any Michigan resident with a driver's license or state identification may simply visit www.MeL.org, click on the MeL icon, and follow the on-screen instructions.

Ms. Brandau said this is just phase one for the Michigan eLibrary. The collection is expected to grow, while the components within MeL will be enhanced with things like digitized artifacts and a statewide library catalog.

Visit www.michigan.gov/hal, see the Quick Link "Hal Shortcuts"

Thunder Bay Puts Michigan on World Map for Marine History Explorer Ballard Heads Up Survey in September

World-renowned ocean explorer Dr. Robert D. Ballard is expected to visit the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve in early September.

Dr. Ballard is founder and head of the Institute For Exploration at Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Conn., and is perhaps most famous for his work in the location of the *Titanic* remains.

Home to more than 100 shipwrecks, Thunder Bay is the first Great Lakes national marine sanctuary. It marks more than a decade of collaboration between the State of Michigan and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

According to NOAA's Ellen Brody, Thunder Bay is unique because it's only the second sanctuary dedicated to preserving historic artifacts (the other being the *USS Monitor* near Cape Hatteras). The other 11 marine sanctuaries exist mainly to protect natural environments.

Thunder Bay is the first marine sanctuary established in fresh water; the first entirely on state-owned land; and the first to be jointly managed by a state and NOAA.

The tourism impact of Thunder Bay is expected to be large. It will be an obvious draw for serious divers, but also offers the first real opportunity for Michigan to share this extraordinary historic resource with the non-diving public.

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary has a "trial run" of five years; after that time, the governor of Michigan can approve continuation or terminate the agreement. Governor Engler has committed \$1 million for the project, to be dispersed throughout the five years.

S u m m e r S i z

Summer Here, Summer There—Arts Events Everywhere in Michigan

No matter where you are going in Michigan this summer, there is something to see, hear or do that has been funded, in part, by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA). Here's just a taste of the great feast of summer arts events around the state.

Above the Bridge

- 4166 The historic **Calumet Theater** - A wonderful restoration offering concerts and movies.
- **Copper Country Community Arts Council** - Exhibitions of fine art and information on events in the copper country.
- **Upper Peninsula Children's Museum in Marquette** - Dozens of interactive experiences including a giant digestive system.
- **Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum at Whitefish Point** - Great Lakes Shipwreck lore
- **The Bonifas Fine Arts Center in Escanaba.**
- **Michigan's Great Outdoors Culture Tour** - A partnership with the Michigan Humanities Council that provides musicians, storytellers, bards, dance troupes and historical-cultural interpreters in nearly 50 venues around the state, including National and State Parks. Visit the Michigan Humanities Council at www.michigan.gov/hal, see the Quick Link "Related Web sites" for details.

Up North

- **Crooked Tree Arts Center in Petoskey** - Exhibits of fine art, concerts and plays.
- The **Dennos Museum in Traverse City** - A world-class collection of Inuit art and "Land of the Dragon...6000 years of Chinese Art" plus special events.
- 26th annual **Traverse City Art Fair**, sponsored in part by Traverse City Arts Council, on August 17.
- **Interlochen** - Summer concerts and exhibits, with lodging available on the campus — everything from student performances to Gregory Hines, Dave Brubeck, Vince Gill, Tony Bennett or the Kodo drummers.

- **The Michigan Legacy Art Park** in Thompsonville, near Crystal Mountain - the unique vision of sculptor David Barr in an extraordinary setting.

Go West

- **Muskegon Museum of Art** - "Modernism and Abstraction: Treasures from the Smithsonian."
- **Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp** in Twin Lake - concerts.
- **Grand Rapids exhibits, concerts and festivals** - Public Museum of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park.
- **Grand Rapids Community Circle Theater**
- **Krasl Art Center in Benton Harbor/St Joseph**
- **Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** - "Salvador Dali's Surrealist World."
- **Binder Park Zoo in Battle Creek.**

The East Side

- **Ann Arbor** - summer concerts sponsored by The ARK and plays featured in the Tree Town Performance Festival of the Performance Network.
- **Detroit** - The Detroit Zoo, Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Detroit Historical Center, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Music Hall's International Jazz Festival, the Detroit Science Center, Cranbrook.
- **Port Huron Museum of Art and History** - the Blue Water Indian Celebration and Powwow and the Festival of International Cultures.

And don't forget the rest of the state—East Lansing, Midland, Flint, Bay City, Saginaw, Tawas City, Oscoda, Alpena, Cheboygan—all have summer events to enjoy, supported by funding from MCACA.

MCACA also funds many other types of organizations and projects, from capital improvements to educational programs, including artists working in schools. Visit the MCACA web site, found at www.michigan.gov/hal, see the Quick Link "Hal Shortcuts" for nearly 120 links to arts and cultural organizations in Michigan to help find the event that fits your summer plans.

Summer is Hopping in the Straits of Mackinac

The four living history parks and museums collectively known as Mackinac State Historic Parks (MSHP) are open daily through mid-October, with a combined attendance of 1.2 million people each year.

Mackinac Island State Park, Michigan's crown jewel, features 1,800 wooded acres with a scenic shoreline, miles of inland trails, natural geological formations and spectacular views. Fort Mackinac, constructed by British soldiers during the American Revolution, allows visitors to trace the footsteps of British and American troops as they explore the historic buildings, enjoy the exhibits, and watch lively demonstrations.

Colonial Michilimackinac, an 18th century French fur trade community and British military outpost in Mackinaw City, features re-enactments from British 1770s occupation and the American Revolution era. Historic Mill Creek, in Mackinaw City, is a 625-acre nature park where visitors can enjoy an exciting blend of living history demonstrations and nature interpretation as well as scenic trails.

Coming MSHP events include:

Blacksmith Convention

Aug. 10 & 11, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

At Benjamin Blacksmith Shop on Mackinac Island's Market Street. More than a dozen regional blacksmiths will use traditional blacksmith tools and techniques to complete a Mackinac State Historic Parks' project.

16th Michigan Infantry Civil War Re-enactors

Sept. 14 & 15, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mackinac Island's Civil War connections come to life when uniformed 1860s re-enactors and hoop-skirted women visit Fort Mackinac. Planned activities include a Stanton's Guard re-enactment; a presentation of MSHP's outstanding Living History Program with lectures about the life of a soldier stationed at Fort Mackinac, the life of the black soldier in Michigan, and the life of civilians during 1862; drills; skits; one-on-one conversations and a Ladies' Fashion Show.

For more information about Mackinac State Historic Parks, visit www.michigan.gov/hal, see the Quick Link "Hal Shortcuts".

Travel Through Time at Michigan's Historic Sites, Museums

Before summer is over, explore Michigan's fascinating past at the Michigan Historical Museum's historic sites and museums.

At the heart of the state, near Grayling, the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum offers first-hand accounts of one of the Great Depression's most significant work programs, while Hartwick Pines Logging Museum tells the story of river rats and shanty boys during Michigan's lumber boom in the late 19th century.

In the picturesque village of Concord, the Mann House opens the door to herb gardening and other Victorian pastimes. In Michigan's Irish Hills, Walker Tavern recreates the state's early-19th-century settlement. And in Michigan's Thumb, the Sanilac Petroglyphs are a link to the Native Americans who carved pictures into rock perhaps as long as 1,000 years ago.

At the tip of the Upper Peninsula, the Copper Harbor Lighthouse and Fort Wilkins offer a look at life on the Michigan frontier during the mid-19th century. At Fayette Historic Townsite, visitors walk among the buildings of a late-19th-century iron-smelting town. The Father Marquette National Memorial honors the French missionary who founded St. Ignace with a brand new exhibit. And the Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee celebrates the people, communities and companies that helped Michigan lead the nation in iron-ore production during the 19th century.

In Lansing, be sure to see *Schooner in the Sand: Unlocking the Secrets of a Great Lakes Shipwreck* and *Apron Strings: Ties to the Past* before August 18. The American Association for

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Four-year-old Elezabeth traces her route to St. Ignace on a floor map recently installed as part of an exhibit upgrade at the Fr. Marquette National Memorial. The map presents Marquette's journey through the Upper Great Lakes on his way to the Mississippi River. The Memorial is one of 10 sites within the Michigan Historical Museum system, operated by the Michigan Historical Center.

State and Local History has awarded the Michigan Historical Museum a Certificate of Commendation, one of only 70 being presented nationally this year, for *Schooner in the Sand*.

Coming Events

- **Iron Ore and the Civil War** - August 10-11, Iron Industry Museum
- **Romancing the Stone**, August 11, Sanilac Petroglyphs
- **Make a Wooden Toy**, August 22, Walker Tavern
- **Black Iron Days** - August 24-25, Hartwick Pines
- **Croquet and Rounders**, August 29, Walker Tavern
- **Houdini: A Magician Among the Spirits**, Opens September 21, Michigan Historical Museum

To learn more about each museum and its full slate of activities, visit www.michigan.gov/hal, see the Quick Link "Hal Shortcuts" for details or call: (517) 373-3559.

Film Advisory Commission Will Help Put Michigan in the Movies

Governor Engler recently signed House Bill 6066, creating the Michigan Film Advisory Commission within the Department of History, Arts and Libraries. The Commission will assist the Michigan Film Office in attracting film and television production companies to the state and marketing Michigan's locations, crews and facilities to the entertainment industry.

The Commission's purpose is to help devise strategies for promoting and developing the state's film, television and related industries, providing assistance to Michigan-based entertainment enterprises and workers, and sponsoring official functions to recognize work in the industry.

"Michigan has all the assets needed to attract production business – spectacular locations, great crews and facilities, lower overall costs than either coast," said Janet Lockwood, director of the Michigan Film Office. "The Commission will help us market these benefits and bring production companies here to film their projects, hire our crews, stay in our hotels, buy our food, rent our equipment and promote Michigan for us via visual images."

Michigan ranks 21st among the states in the film business and in the top 10 for production of commercials. The state hosted seven film shoots in 2001, resulting in an estimated economic impact of approximately \$20 million.

Did You Know...

Michigan Historical Museum Collections Historian Scott Peters and Capitol Archivist Kerry Chartkoff recently presented a tribute to Vietnam veteran Ted Barber for his donation of a Michigan flag carried and displayed during the Vietnam War. The flag joins the state's collection of more than 230 battle flags carried by Michigan soldiers during the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and World War I.



L-R, Kerry Chartkoff, Ted Barber, Scott Peters



Legislative and state employees have enjoyed the "Sculpture in the Streets" exhibit in downtown Lansing this summer. This unique public art exhibit, sponsored in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, features 15 bronze, life-size sculptures by renowned artist Seward Johnson, Jr.



To visit the Michigan Film Office, see www.michigan.gov/hal, click on the Quick Link "Hal Shortcuts"

Michigan Freedom Trail Preserves Michigan's Ties to Underground Railroad

The Michigan Historical Center recently hosted the first meeting of the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission. Appointed by Governor Engler, the Commission's mission is to preserve, protect and promote the legacy of the Underground Railroad in Michigan. Speakers at the meeting included House Democratic Leader Samuel Buzz Thomas, whose great-great-grand-uncle's house was a stop on the Underground Railroad, and Rep. Paul DeWeese.

"With the appointment of Michigan's Freedom Trail Commission, our state will increase its efforts to minimize the mystery and myth of the Underground Railroad and further discover the courageous actions of runaway slaves who came to and through Michigan on their route to freedom and those who came to their aid," said HAL Director William Anderson.

The commission is charged with creating and implementing a plan to promote and preserve the history of the Underground Railroad in Michigan. It will work in conjunction with state and federal authorities to sponsor commemorations, linkages, seminars, and public forums on the freedom trail in Michigan and neighboring states. It hopes to boost applications for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places for significant historic sites related to the Underground Railroad in Michigan.

Dr. Michelle Johnson, the Freedom Trail Coordinator, is the Michigan Historical Center's liaison to the Commission.

For more information on the Freedom Trail Commission's efforts, contact Dr. Johnson at (734) 662-2628. For a list of Michigan Freedom Trail projects, visit www.michigan.gov/hal, see the Quick Link "Hal Shortcuts" for details.



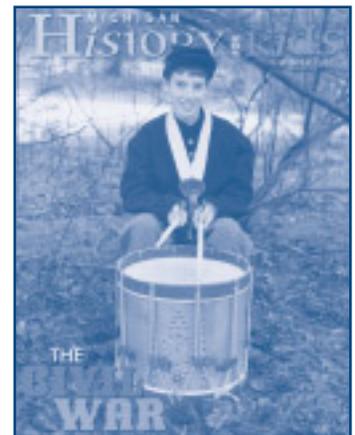
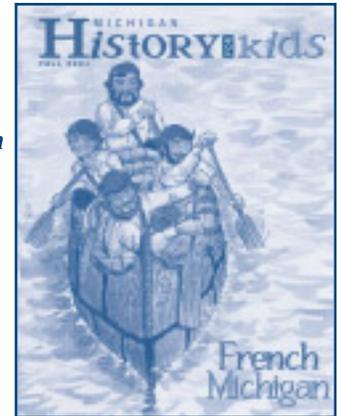
Attending the Commission's first meeting were (standing, l-r) HAL Director William Anderson, Kathleen Blake of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Dr. Weldon E. Petz, Richard J. Strowger, DeWitt S. Dykes Jr. and Michael D. Evans, (seated, l-r) Nancy Robertson, Mary A. Edmond and Carol E. Mull. Not pictured are Freedom Trail commissioners Christy Coleman, Dr. Harry A. Reed and Margaret McCall Thomas Ward.

Michigan History Magazine's Children's Publications Honored Award-Winning Publications on Sale Now

In May 2001, with the generous support of the legislature and Governor Engler, *Michigan History* magazine launched a children's publications project designed to teach fourth-graders about the state's heritage in a colorful, fun way. *Michigan History for Kids*, a 26-page magazine, and *The Mitten*, a four-page reader, were greeted with overwhelming positive response. According to one teacher, "*Michigan History* has created a truly useful and informative classroom tool."

In July 2002, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) announced that it was honoring *Michigan History* with an Award of Merit, its most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of local, state and regional history.

Michigan History began selling *Michigan History for Kids* this summer. Last year's issues and the coordinating posters will be available while supplies last. New issues will continue to be sent free to all Michigan fourth-grade classrooms this school year. Teachers and schools save 45% on all *Michigan History* products. For more information, call (800) 366-3703 or visit www.michigan.gov/hal, see the Quick Link "Hal Shortcuts" for details.



Commission on Asia in the Schools Holds First Meeting

The Michigan Commission on Asia in Schools, established within of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, recently held its first meeting. Appointed by Governor John Engler, the Commission is to explore strategies that expand teaching and learning about Asia and other world regions in Michigan schools.

“The Commission is looking at how educators can prepare our young people to succeed in an increasingly global environment,” said Commission Director Madhu Anderson. “Promoting knowledge and understanding of Asia and other world regions is a critical task for Michigan schools.”

The Commission will release a report this fall identifying existing best practices and next steps to stimulate international studies, with an initial focus on Asian history, languages and cultures, and political and economic systems.

“We are off to a good start toward meeting our objectives and developing a practical plan for enhancing international education in our schools, with an emphasis on Asia, the area with the highest projected economic growth in the next decade,” said Tina S. Van Dam, chair of the Commission.

The Asia Society and the National Commission on Asia in the Schools, on which Governor Engler served, last year released a landmark report calling for states to further assess teaching and learning about Asia and other regions to ensure that young people are equipped to live and work in an interconnected world. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/hal, see the Quick Links “Related Web sites”.



Governor Engler Honored for Michigan's Arts Achievements

At the June 2002 annual meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors, Governor John Engler became the first Michigan governor to receive the highly coveted Government Leadership in the Arts Award.

“I am honored to accept this wonderful arts award recognizing Michigan’s leadership in the arts,” Engler said. “Michigan is a national leader in its support of the arts and culture, having consistently been ranked in the top five states. At the same time, arts and cultural organizations have also stepped up their efforts to achieve independence by reducing their reliance on state support. We’ve been so successful because Michigan has established effective partnerships and collaborations at the state, regional, national and international levels to promote and support Michigan’s outstanding arts resources.”

Chief among the many Michigan arts achievements cited was the creation of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, which elevates arts and culture to cabinet-level status and creates a more synergistic and enhanced atmosphere of partnership within the arts and cultural field.

“I called for the creation of this new department because I believe we must do a better job of learning Michigan history and preserving our heritage,” said Engler. “The Department of History, Arts and Libraries protects Michigan’s legacy for future generations. It harnesses the resources of various state government agencies and commissions to create a needed focus and well-deserved stature.”

Michigan's Arts accomplishments since 1991 include:

- Creation of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) in 1991. For the first time a state agency was inclusive of cultural organizations in distributing funding.
- Increasing the available funding to arts and cultural organizations from just over \$5 million in 1992 to nearly \$26 million in 2001.
- Approving supplemental funding for capital improvements to arts and cultural organizations of more than \$33 million over three years.
- Innovative programming by MCACA to better serve arts and cultural organizations and the citizens of Michigan.

A New and Improved Michigan Week

The first HAL-sponsored Michigan Week, which took place May 18-27, was a hit. HAL took on the program in late 2001 and enhanced the decades-old celebration with new features, such as a brown-bag-lunch series and a state government information exhibit and career fair. Michigan Week got off to a great start, with a kickoff featuring Celebrity Chair Ernie Harwell and the presentation of the prestigious John B. Swainson Awards. The festivities continued with an awards luncheon sponsored by the Marshall Rotary Club, a tribute to the volunteerism and community spirit of individuals and groups around the state. The career fair sponsored by the Department of Civil Service drew 1,803 attendees over three days. The brown-bag-lunch series, which included music, lectures and storytelling, focusing on Michigan's maritime heritage, was also well attended.

Building on the success of its inaugural effort, HAL looks forward to an even better Michigan Week 2003! Later this year, check out our Web site at www.michigan.gov/hal for Michigan Week 2003 information.



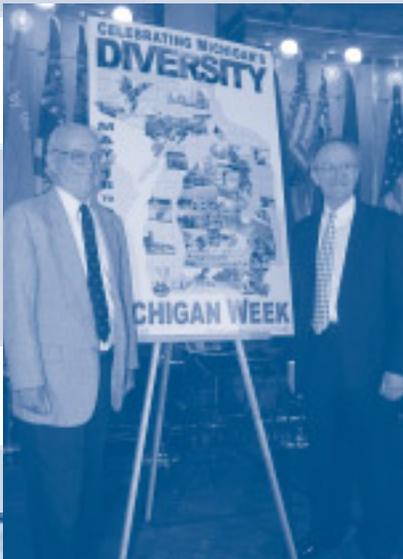
Song of the Lakes



Rep. Rich Brown and Swainson Award recipient Ralph Raffaelli (right)



Kitty Donohoe



Ernie Harwell (left) and HAL Director William Anderson

The Long Elementary School (Dearborn) choir poses with Ernie Harwell (below)



Sen. Martha Scott and Swainson Award recipient Frank Rembisz



Storyteller Jenifer Strauss

Our Mission

The Mission of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries is to enrich the quality of life for Michigan residents by providing access to information, preserving and promoting Michigan's heritage, and fostering cultural creativity. The department includes the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Michigan Film Office, the Michigan Historical Center and the Library of Michigan.

Handy HAL contacts

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Michigan Historical Center

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Michigan Historical Center Foundation

General Information: (517) 373-2565

Michigan Historical Museum

Museum Hotline: (517) 373-3559
Group tour reservations: (517) 373-2353

Office of the State Archaeologist

General Information: (517) 373-6358

State Archives of Michigan

General Information: (517) 373-1408
Reference Desk: (517) 373-1414

Michigan History Magazine:

General Information: (517) 373-3703
Subscription Information
& Orders: (800) 366-3703

State Historic Preservation Office

General Information: (517) 373-1630
Michigan Historic Markers: (517) 335-2725
National Register of
Historic Places: (517) 335-2719

Michigan Council For Arts and Cultural Affairs

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Public Services Circulation: (517) 373-1360
Public Services Information: (517) 373-1361

Library of Michigan Reference:

Public Services Reference: (517) 373-1300
Email: Librarian@michigan.gov
SBPH Lobby: (517) 373-5614
Michigan only (800) 726-7323
TDD Numbers:

- Services for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (517) 373-1592
- Public Services, Reference (517) 373-8937

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