

September/October  
2024



# CASTLE COURIER



The Artifact | *Spies & Space* Exhibit | Fall Tours | Member Appreciation



# The Artifact

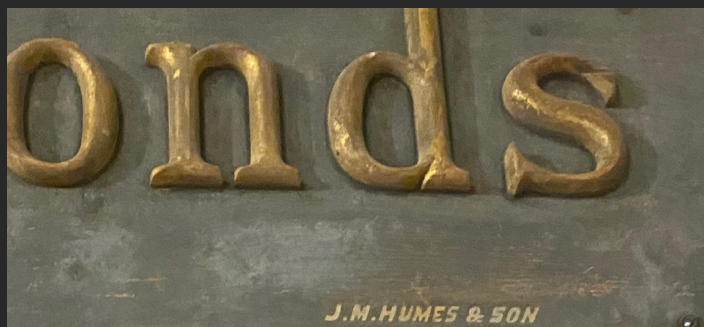
## More Than a Sign

**"J.M. Humes, Gold Lettering, The Gold lettering on the directory slab and on the office doors of the Kirby Building is handsome and well executed. Mr. Humes is an expert in this work and has built up a solid reputation for designing and executing signs of all kinds, for besides making signs upon glass he designs and manufactures all kinds of high-grade sign work."**

*-The Saginaw Evening News, April 8, 1909.*

Early signs from businesses are rare. Outdoor signage is subjected to sunlight, rain, wind, hail, snow--the list could continue. If miraculously they survive the elements, it is unlikely they will withstand the onslaught of changing fashions and outlive the business they once announced. The sign above the entrance to Myer Brothers Jewelers is a rare survivor. Since 1914, it has graced the front entrance announcing—"Myer Brothers - Diamonds - Watches." For an impressive 110 years the sign has held its place of prominence. This includes 65 years at the store's original location at 111 S. Jefferson Avenue, and since 1979, the year the interior of the shop and sign were donated to the Castle Museum by Robert and Marian Shear, in the museum's gallery.

The sign is decidedly low-tech, but elegant. Fabricated from the commonest of materials—a pine board, applied wooden letters, black paint and gold leaf (not including the sizing and ground that were used to adhere the gold leaf)--its beauty lies in impeccable craftsmanship. Often the contributions of the artisans remain anonymous. However, this sign is proudly—and exquisitely—signed in gold-leaf, "J.M. Humes & Son."



When John M. Humes passed away in 1946, his obituary noted he was "one of the dwindling clan of pioneer residents who knew Saginaw as the lumber queen of the Midwest and who sailed the Great Lakes in lumber barges of that era. . ." His obituary details his career on the lakes and then recounts:

**He was born here March 19, 1861, and after his youthful career as a Great Lakes sailor, learned the sign-lettering craft. He opened his own shop in 1888, continuing until his retirement in 1940." (The Saginaw News, January 3, 1946.)**

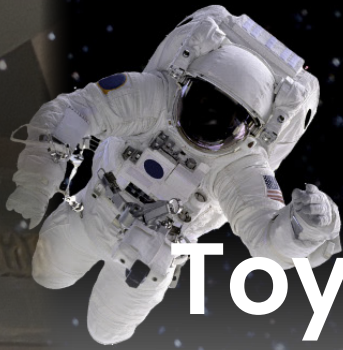
At the time he created the Myer Brothers' store sign, Humes' shop was located at 406 Germania [now Federal] Avenue--about the current location of the Castle Museum's Annex. By 1921 Humes' firm moved to East Genesee and advertised "Gold Signs a Specialty." William Humes, the son in the title, noted that World War II ended his sign painting, "as he couldn't buy paint or supplies."

Photographs taken at the time the interior of Myer Brothers was dismantled and moved to the museum, show the sign still displayed over the transom that ran the width of the store.

If you have ever looked closely at the sign—and we hope you have—you may have noticed and puzzled over marks underneath the word "Bros." These are reminders of an outdoor clock that was installed on the store in April 1915 and gave the business their slogan "The Chime Clock Store." The clock had been removed before the store was acquired by the Shears. Its current location is unknown.







# Spies & Space: Toys of the Cold War Era

James Bond, Star Trek, Legos, and Star Wars all share one thing in common—they are some of the most memorable American icons and toys of the Cold War Era. Starting on September 14, the Castle Museum will be displaying examples of these toys and more in **a new traveling exhibit in Centennial Hall—*Spies and Space: Toys of the Cold War Era***.

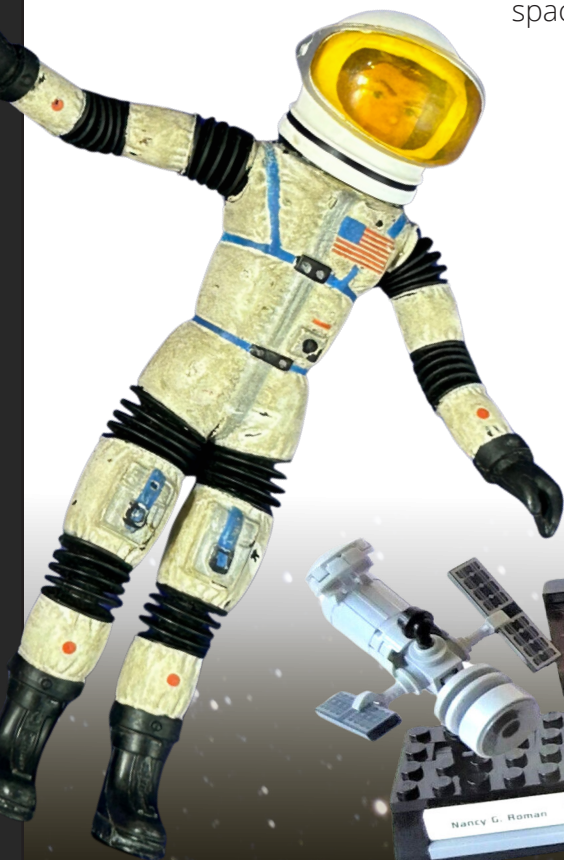
*Spies and Space*, which comes to the museum from SuperMonsterCity!, focuses on celebrating “the joy of toys” and demonstrating how “iconic American fictional characters serve as an historical documentation of our creativity, reflect our changing values, and have impacted our culture across the [d]ecades.” In particular, *Spies and Space*, looks at how international espionage and the space race impacted both US and Soviet popular culture during a period of heightened political tensions around these issues.

**To celebrate the opening of *Spies and Space*, the museum is having both a collector talk and Cold War themed costume party on Saturday, September 14.** The talk will be led by SuperMonsterCity! collector David Barnhill. He will discuss his lifelong passion for collecting toys, games, posters, packaging, film, and more, which all serve as the basis for SuperMonsterCity! traveling exhibits (beginning at 4:30 p.m.) Following Barnhill's discussion, guests are invited to join staff in Centennial Hall for the opening of *Spies and Space*, including drinks and light refreshments—costumes are strongly encouraged (and offer up a chance to show your creativity by showcasing your interest in everything Cold War from politics to toys to space!) **The talk at 4:30 p.m. and costume party from 5:30-7:30 p.m. is open to the public.**



David Barnhill

***Spies and Space:  
Toys of the Cold War Era*  
runs from September 14  
through the end of 2024.**



# EVENTS

## AT THE CASTLE

September & October 2024

### SEPTEMBER 10

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Leo Lefevre, "Saginaw True Crime"

### SEPTEMBER 14

SPIES & SPACE EXHIBIT OPENING

4:30 P.M.-Curator Talk with David Barnhill

5:30-7:30 P.M.-Cold War Era Costume Party  
(Drinks & Light Refreshments Served)

### SEPTEMBER 17

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB\*

12:00 PM

*Michigan One Room Schoolhouses* by Mary Keithan

### SEPTEMBER 19

HISTORY AFTER HOURS

5:30 PM

"History of Voting Rights" with Dr. Jennifer Vannette

### SEPTEMBER 24

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Jeff Cottrell & Sandy Schwan, Snacks & Artifacts:  
Saginaw High and Arthur Hill: Saving Memories  
through Objects

### OCTOBER 8

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Scott Furtaw, "Cold War Era Space Program"

### OCTOBER 10

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

5-7 P.M.

(Drinks & Heavy Hors d'oeuvres)

### OCTOBER 13

EXPLORE FOREST LAWN CEMETERY TOUR

1:30 P.M.

Registration Required

### OCTOBER 15

FLASHLIGHT MUSEUM TOURS

\$10 Members/\$15 Non-Members

Multiple Start Times Available. Registration Required

### OCTOBER 15

PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB\*

12:00 PM

*Mysterious Michigan* by Amberrose Hammond

### OCTOBER 17

HISTORY AFTER HOURS

5:30 PM

"Snapshot: A Pictorial History of the Lumbering  
Industry in the Saginaw Valley" with Sandy Schwan

### OCTOBER 19

HANDS ON HISTORY

11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Ofrenda Marigolds

### OCTOBER 22

LUNCH & LEARN

12:00 PM

Ken Wuepper & Tom Trombley, "First Congregational  
Church's Restoration After the Fire of 1973"  
(Optional Church Tour Following Talk)

### OCTOBER 24

HALLOWEEN STORY TIME

& TRICK-OR-TREAT AT THE CASTLE

10:30 AM-11:30 AM

Trick-or-Treat Around the Castle! Costumes  
Encouraged.



\*In collaboration with Hoyt Library



# PROGRAMS

## FALL TOURS

### EXPLORE FOREST LAWN CEMETERY

Sunday, October 13  
1:30 p.m.

This historic tour will explore the cemetery, its landscape design and most famous residents. Guests will learn about the fascinating lives of some of the people whose monuments are included in Forest Lawn.

Please pre-register with Tom Trombley at 989-752-2861 ext. 304 or email [ttrombley@castlemuseum.org](mailto:ttrombley@castlemuseum.org). The size of the tour is limited. Additional information will be provided at the time of registration.

Please wear comfortable walking shoes. Please be aware that the tour will require walking on uneven terrain. Some areas are not barrier free.



### See the museum in a new light. FLASHLIGHT TOURS

Tues. Oct. 15  
5:30; 6:30; 7:30 start times\*

Must be 10 years or older. Ages 10-14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Enjoy a one-of-a-kind chance to explore the museum's exhibits like you've never seen before.

Keepsake flashlight provided.

\*Tickets must be purchased in advance on our website. Tour times have limited capacity. We reserve the right to cancel a tour if fewer than 5 people are registered.



## MEMBER APPRECIATION

Members are encouraged to join museum staff for a cozy fall evening of collegiality with drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres and music. During this special evening, members can mingle in current exhibits and learn more about upcoming exhibits.

*Not a member yet?*

JOIN TODAY AT [CASTLEMUSEUM.ORG/BECOME-A-MEMBER](http://CASTLEMUSEUM.ORG/BECOME-A-MEMBER)

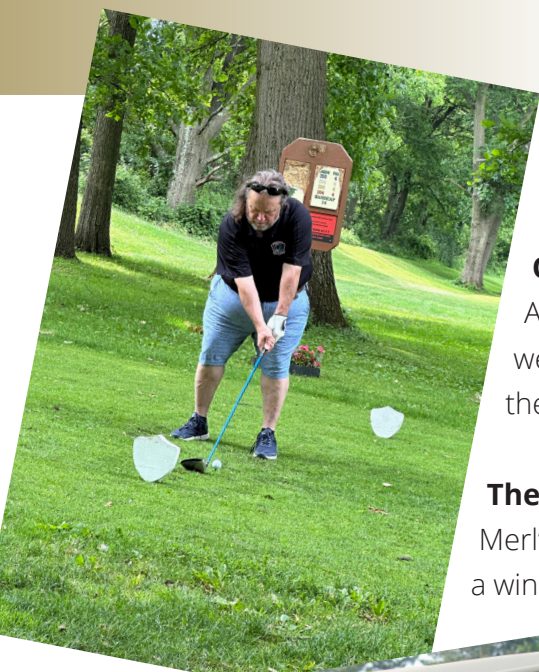
### Join us for our FALL FÊTE

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION EVENT

Thursday, October 10 | 5-7 p.m.



# Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame



**The Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame has been keeping busy this summer!**

**On June 13th, we had a very successful golf outing** at Green Acres in Bridgeport. Everyone had an excellent time and the weather was perfect. While many prizes were won, no one scored the free car with a hole-in-one on the 14th hole.

**The Queen of Hearts lottery continues** every Monday evening at Merl's Tavern on Shattuck Road in Carrollton. On the last July drawing, a winner uncovered the Queen of Hearts and took home his prize, the \$3,405 jackpot. The game starts over with the pot at zero and will continue into 2025. Don't miss your chance to win big at Merl's!



Last, it's hard to believe that **the 2024 banquet** isn't too far away. If you want tickets, the cost is just \$60 per person and they can be purchased from any board member or at the Castle Museum.

**The Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame is always looking for donations of artifacts for our ever expanding collection. If you have some neat pieces, call President/Curator Jeffrey C. Cottrell and chat with him! (989)752-2861 ext. 302.**





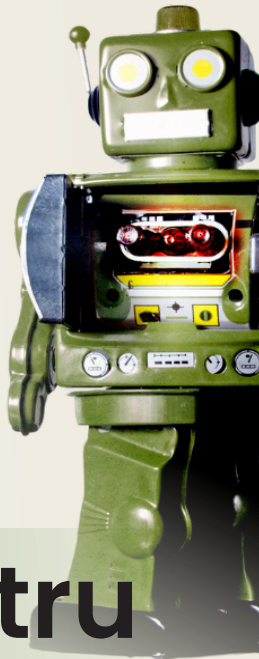


# Yesterday's Toys Lobby Exhibit

In conjunction with the *Spies & Space* exhibit, the Castle staff has created an in-house lobby case exhibit highlighting additional toys from other periods of time. *Yesterday's Toys* will make an appearance during September in the case currently occupied by the Juneteenth exhibit and stay through the holiday season.

A wide variety of toys will be on display in this "storefront window" exhibit, all from the Castle Museum's own extensive collection. These well-loved objects will highlight the unique changes in toys through the decades as well as the type of dolls and toys that were popular specifically with Saginaw County children.

We hope our museum guests feel some personal nostalgia with both our main exhibit in Centennial Hall and this smaller, more intimate lobby exhibit as well.



## Learning Humanitru

Over the past several months the museum has been working with a company called Humanitru to migrate our membership and guest information into a new database system. This new system will better allow us to track members, donors, volunteers, donations, registrations and more!

That being said, if you find that you are not receiving a paper copy of the *Courier* (or the electronic version), for example, when you should be, or that you haven't been getting member information or updates--let us know! We will make sure that your information is up-to-date in our new system.

## Gifts & Memorials

### Memorial in honor of Marlene Hensler

Jane Anderson  
John & Marty Mahar  
Casey & Charlotte Cavell  
Mark & Eugenia Jarema  
Ruth King  
Ed & Mary Ann Wojahn

Lisa Meyers & Dwight Ferrett  
Roger & Mary Reynolds  
Jim & Judy Grezesiak  
Pat Kinsman  
Chris & Juliana Hensler  
Cheryl Matuszewski  
Scott & Mindy Hensler

### Memorial in honor of Dale C. Keinath

John Mahar

### Memorial in honor of Gerry R. Garcia

Rosalie A. McFall







500 Federal Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-752-2861  
CastleMuseum.org  
@TheCastleMuseum



Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 52  
Saginaw, MI



# Exhibit OPENING

> Cold War Era  
Costume Party

Saturday,  
September 14, 2024  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Drinks & Light Refreshments  
in the Gallery



The Castle Museum is supported in part by awards from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council & the National Endowment for the Arts.