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The Kalamazoo Valley Museum
is OPEN DAILY (except Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day)
with FREE GENERAL ADMISSION.
Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Wednesday from 9 A.M. to 8 P.M.
Sundays & Holidays from 1 to 5 P.M.

ON THE COVER: Artie Fact, the KVM’s taxicab mascot, flies through space on his way to the Space Toys exhibition; illustration by Paul Sizer. Look for the symbol throughout this magazine—you can see featured artifacts on display in the special Museography case located next to the reception desk on the main floor of the museum, or in other exhibit areas throughout the museum.

www.kalamazoomuseum.org
God made the country; man built the City.” This saying dates to 700 B.C. and to the Roman poet Hesiod. The words for city and civilization are descended from the same Latin root. Their core idea is that city and all the things in it are products of human invention. A city is an artifact, like a spoon or a pencil; cities are natural materials reordered and arranged toward some human purpose.

Humans create collections to satisfy a range of needs: first, to understand the world, both natural and man-made; second, to create an economic hoard; third, to gain social prestige; fourth, to obtain magical or miraculous effects; fifth, to express group loyalties; and sixth, to stimulate emotional experience. All of these motives have supplied energy to the creation of collections and to their evolution into museums.

Certain classes of objects have had economic value as commodities: gold, jewels, and works of art. Kept in the treasury and placed in the tomb, they are accepted as a medium of exchange both in this life and the next. The rarity of some materials not only possessed economic value, but also enhanced their owner’s social prestige. Thorstein Veblen called this “conspicuous consumption.”

Other objects serve as symbols of group identity. We display the U.S. Constitution at Independence Hall and the flag that flew over Fort McHenry at the National Museum of American History.

Patriotism is only one of several emotions that objects may evoke. There is an emotional fulfillment in the love of certain groups of things; we call this connoisseurship, and it connotes the desire to know a type of object so thoroughly as to be able to discriminate among the best of a class.

Art objects are also capable of evoking a range of emotions—not only the sense of beauty but also the horrors of war, the agony of age, the indifference of bystanders, the joy of a dance, or the love of man and a woman.

The collecting instinct led to the invention of museums, as we know them. Although we could trace elements of the museum’s first logbook shows how artifacts were hand-catalogued.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

History By the Ounce
“God Made the Country…”
These toys and your imagination can take you where no one has gone before.

As Jules Verne painted word pictures of submarines and men exploring the seas way before the technology arrived, so have space toys and science fiction provided visions of what’s “out there,” beyond Peter Pan’s “Second Star on the Right.”

Conceptions about space travel and extra-terrestrials by visionaries from the past, the current technology that has taken humanity beyond Mother Earth to the moon, and the far-out fantasies made seemingly plausible by the “Star Trek” and “Star Wars” series all come into play at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum’s latest nationally touring exhibit, “Space Toys.”

Complete with a film festival featuring some of the classic space sagas in science fiction, “Space Toys,” with its more than 1,200 collectibles, models, gadgets and playthings along with 11 interactive learning stations that cater to people of all ages, will be based at the downtown-Kalamazoo museum through May 18.

Among the vintage and current attractions that were packaged for “Space Toy’s” five-year national tour by the Museum of Discovery in Little Rock, Ark., are all kinds of memorabilia representative of America’s space-age culture that can be traced to the 1920s.

Flash Gordon, Buck Rogers, the popular space-oriented television shows of the 1950s, the “Star Trek” phenomenon, “Lost in Space” that made a robot part of the family, the technically correct “Battlestar Galactica,” and
the computer-animated wizardry of the “Star Wars” series and “Independence Day” are all part of the “Space Toys” menagerie. One can almost hear Captain Kirk order Mister Sulu to take the Enterprise to “warp seven.”

“Space Toys” captures humanity’s age-old quest to explore the universe, recounting the days when youngsters tore off the flap of a cereal box to order a “secret decoder ring,” when they went to the Bijou on Saturdays to watch the latest episode in the Flash Gordon serial to defeat Ming the Magnificent, when they enrolled in Captain Video’s space club, and watched “Tom Corbett Space Cadet” on a 12-inch black-and-white screen.

As movie-making technology became more refined, films and TV shows about space travel, aliens and the universe became more realistic and even more believable. Much of this is also covered in the “Space Toys” exhibition that was completed in the summer of 2001. “Space Toys” borrows its tag line from the commander of the Enterprise: “Your imagination and these toys can take you where no one has gone before.”

Artifacts are displayed in 47 thematic cases with colorful space-art backgrounds. Depicted are collectibles from some fan-intense attractions such as “The Black Hole,” “A Space Odyssey: 2001,” “Lost in Space,” “Battlestar Galactica,” and “Star Trek.” Three are dedicated to “Star Wars.”

Visions of the past are used to illuminate the future, presenting examples of contemporary engineering dreams such as space elevators and orbiting hotels. Displays also focus on such themes as “To the Moon,” “Robots,” “Extra-terrestrials,” “Star Travel,” and “Space Medicine.”

Throughout the four-month stay of “Space Toys” at the museum, a film festival will feature several science-fiction classics that were produced from the late 1930s through the decade of the 1950s. Scheduled for showings will be “Rocketship X-M” (the first space-exploration film of the Atomic Age), “Invaders from Mars,” “Project Moonbase,” and “Flight to Mars” (the first to be shot in color), among others. (See schedule on page 21 of this issue.)

The exhibition’s hands-on interactive stations allow visitors to explore concepts of space science, robotics and stellar constellations. Activities guide a user in designing a robot to perform a specific task, identifying star constellations, and conducting a search for a comet.

The new exhibition chronicles how scientists, engineers, artists and film-makers have used their imaginations to propose hypotheses and machines that frequently seem more closely related to science fiction than science fact, yet many of these visions of tomorrow, a la Jules Verne, were the first step to creating the reality of the future.

Can “Beam me up, Scotty” and Dr. “Bones” McCoy’s electronic diagnostic machine be very far away? Visitors might find out by checking out “Space Toys,” the Kalamazoo Valley Museum’s “Space Odyssey: 2003.”

“Space Toys” is a traveling exhibit organized by the Arkansas Museum of Discovery.
When we ask ourselves how people in the past viewed the future, we’re opening a wide door through which scientists, theologians, science fiction writers—even politicians—have passed.

Some have made predictions for the future of humanity and what society might or should look like; some predicted certain technological capabilities; most seemed to look to the start of the new millennium as the date that would catapult the human race far beyond the boundaries of earth and imperfect societies.

Some science fiction writers and other literary figures have come surprisingly close to accurate portrayals of outer space and the technology we use to explore it.

In the book *Gulliver’s Travels*, written in 1726, Jonathan Swift gave the following description of the moons orbiting Mars: The scientists of Laputia “…have discovered two lesser stars, or satellites, which revolve about Mars; whereof the innermost is distant from the center of the primary planet by exactly three of its diameters, the outermost five; the former revolves in the space of ten hours, and the latter in twenty-one and a half; so that the squares of their periodical times are very near the same proportion with the cubes of their distances from the center of Mars; which evidently shows them to be governed by the same law of gravitation that influences the other heavenly bodies.”

*Gulliver’s Travels* was written more than 150 years before the two moons of Mars were actually discovered by Asaph Hall, an astronomer at the Naval Observatory in Washington. It is an amazing coincidence that these two tiny moons were found at nearly the distances described in Swift’s novel, but it’s not so amazing that the periods of the moons worked out as closely as they did. “…the squares of their periodical times are very near the same proportion with the cubes of their distances…” is a summary of Kepler’s Third Law of planetary motions, derived more than 100 years before Swift’s book was written. The “law of gravitation” refers to Newton’s law of gravity, which showed the physical laws we experience on Earth work in space as well.

In 1865 Jules Verne speculated about what it would be like to travel to the moon. The method of propulsion was not a rocket. It was a large cannon and the spacecraft was a hollow shell, fired at the end of a second-by-second countdown, just as the Saturn V countdown to the launch of Apollo 8.

He wrote about the tremendous forces exerted on the travelers as they left Earth’s surface, the vacuum of space between the Earth and moon, and he predicted a period of weightlessness.

Verne’s spacecraft had an oxygen generation system and a carbon dioxide removal system. Apollo’s fuel cells generated oxygen, and lithium hydroxide canisters were used to remove carbon dioxide from the cabin.

His crew used rockets to slow the shell so the moon’s gravity would capture the shell and send it on a path back to the Earth.

The Apollo 8 crew fired the service module engine to slow its spacecraft so the moon’s gravi-
ty would put it on a return path to Earth. Many of the events in Verne's voyage could be predicted based on an understanding of the laws of motion, and an understanding of human physiology.

Verne stumbled into some lucky coincidences as well. The spacecraft was named the Columbiad. The Apollo 8 astronauts chose Columbia as the name of their command module. Each craft carried three astronauts. Both flights began in Florida and returned to Earth by “splashing down” in the Pacific Ocean.

Edward Bellamy, a deeply religious man who trained as a lawyer but rejected that profession as morally distasteful, began writing novels in the 1870s. In 1888, he was widely acclaimed for his first utopian novel, *Looking Backward, 2000–1887*. A young Boston man in 1887 falls into a hypnotic sleep and awakes in the year 2000. He finds a society in which no one suffers from poverty and the world knows no war. It is a society of rigorous order and equality (at least, by 19th century standards). The focus is on the structure of society and the behavior of people, rather than on fantastic technologies, though there is some of that, too.

“No one would have believed in the last years of the 19th century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man’s and yet as mortal as his own; that as men busied themselves about their various concerns they were scrutinized and studied, perhaps almost as narrowly as a man with a microscope might scrutinize the transient creatures that swarm and multiply in a drop of water.”

This is the famous opening line of H.G. Wells’ novel, *The War of the Worlds*, published in 1898. Although he wrote many other tales of science fiction, this one became most famous when on Oct. 30, 1938, Orson Welles and his Mercury Theater of the Air performed an adaptation of the novel as a radio play. The play’s particular success, and now notoriety, hinged on the fact Welles decided to make the performance sound like a live news broadcast, with “interruptions” to “regular programming.” What ensued was sheer panic among listeners tuning in after the radio station’s explanations that this was a drama, not real life. Unwitting listeners filled the streets in panic, hid in basements, and loaded their guns, preparing to do battle with Martians.

Wells reproaches his readers’ loathing of aliens, even before we meet them in his novel: “And before we judge [Martians] too harshly we must remember what ruthless and utter destruction our own species has wrought, not only upon animals, such as the vanished bison and the dodo, but upon its inferior races. The Tasmanians, in spite of their human likeness, were entirely swept out of existence in a war of extermination waged by European immigrants, in the space of 50 years. Are we such apostles of mercy as to complain if the Martians warred in the same spirit?”

More social commentary couched in a science fiction genre comes from the creator of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He turned to science fiction writing when he penned “The Lost World,” published in 1912. Professor Challenger travels to South America and discovers a hidden world filled with prehistoric creatures. Challenger appears in subsequent novels, all dealing with science and future society.

In *The Poison Belt*, (1913), Doyle predicts the end of the world caused by atmospheric changes arising from astronomical phenomena. The air becomes poisoned, and only the protagonist, his family [who, knowing the fate of the earth, have cloistered themselves in a specially sealed room with oxygen], and a sick, elderly lady breathing through an oxygen tank, survive the destruction of the earth’s life forms—but asks, “why?” and “to what end?”

Shortly before the end of World War II, Arthur C. Clarke wrote a short piece for the magazine *Wireless World*. He described a system of satellites placed in an orbit 22,000 miles above Earth. Clarke wrote: “An ’artificial satellite’ at the correct distance from the earth would make one revolution every 24 hours, i.e., it would remain stationary above the same spot and would be within optical range of nearly half the earth’s surface. Three repeater stations, 120 degrees apart in the correct orbit, could give...”

*continued on page 23*
Make some guesses about these objects from the KVM collection. How old do you think they are? What were they used for? (Answers at the bottom of the page.)

#1 This little tool*, patented in 1877, protected business owners from fraud.

#2 This object* trapped pests that weren’t welcome in the kitchen.

#3 Some people still need to use a modern version of this* on a daily basis.

#4 This elegant creation held something that ladies always carried with them.*

Ask the KVM!

Have a question about a person, object, or artifact that relates to the history of the southwest Michigan area? Send your question to Tom Dietz, KVM Curator of Research (269/373-7984 or tdietz@kvcc.edu) and you may see it answered in a future issue of Museography.

This one dates to the 1880s.

This one dates to the 1880s.

This one dates to the 1970s.

This one dates to the 1970s.

1. A counterfeit coin detector. The slots in the detector fit coins from 10 cents to a half dollar and helped business owners check their customers’ coins for authenticity. 2. A flytrap. Tempting bait was placed in the trap that attracted the flies. 3. A hearing aid. It was sold as a Sears Roebuck catalog in the 1920s around $15. 4. A handkerchief holder. It was used when ladies’ clothing didn’t have pockets and if their purses were very small. See the full description. www.kalamazoomuseum.org
Do you have something that belongs in a museum?

Whether it’s your favorite childhood toy—that old Shakespeare minnow pail collecting dust in the garage—or a program from a 1950s Kalamazoo Lassies baseball game, everything has a story that’s worth telling. The KVM collects objects that help tell the stories of people, businesses and events of Southwest Michigan. If you think you have something that belongs in a museum, please contact a member of our collection staff: Tom Dietz, curator of research, (269/373-7984 or tdietz@kvcc.edu) or Paula Metzner, collections manager, (269/373-7958 or pmetzner@kvcc.edu)

Our thanks to our KVM Collection Donors for 2002!

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<th>Donor Name</th>
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<td>Bill Bouma</td>
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<td>Mark Bonsignore</td>
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Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live and work in space? Actually, it’s not that different from living and working on Earth. Astronauts in space still need to eat and drink, get a good night’s sleep, work, exercise, relax, practice hygiene (bathing, brushing teeth, etc.), and have fun, just as they do on Earth.

There is one huge difference, however. In space, the effects of gravity are less apparent. Gravity is a force that pulls objects toward one another. The amount of pull depends on the total mass and distance between the objects. On Earth’s surface (which has lots of mass), the force of gravity pulls down on an object and holds it in place. This force gives objects and people their weight. In space far above the Earth’s surface, the effects of gravity appear to go away, but gravity still holds on.

Earth’s surface pushes back against the pull of gravity, and you feel your weight. An astronaut in space is falling through space with nothing pushing back, so the sensation of weight is lost. This condition is called free fall. People in space appear to be weightless because they are in a state of free fall along with their spacecraft. Gravity is still at work though, holding the spacecraft and astronaut in orbit around Earth.

Imagine riding on a roller coaster. You slowly ascend a steep hill and then quickly plummet down the other side. Gravity is still present, but your momentum lifts you off the seat and with nothing pushing against you, you briefly experience the floating sensation of free falling. This floating sensation is what astronauts feel when they are in orbit.

To compensate for this feeling of floating, astronauts use special tools and equipment in space. Food and water are packaged in special containers. The space shuttle is equipped with hand and foot holds so the astronauts can stay in one place. And astronauts train in a large swimming pool called a neutral buoyancy tank to help them prepare for living and working in space.

—Kathy Godin, flight director, Challenger Learning Center

Want to know more? Try these websites for more information:

http://lsda.jsc.nasa.gov/kids/L&W/livework.htm
http://kids.msfc.nasa.gov/Puzzles/Weight.asp

And this summer, children 8–11 years old can enroll in the Kalamazoo Valley Museum’s Space Explorers Camp (see pages 12 and 13 in this issue for more information).
A treasure re-discovered

Paula Metzner, KVM collections manager: When I was a student at Michigan State University in the 1970s, I loved to visit its museum. Tucked back in the corner of the ground floor exhibits was an empty wall with a tiny window. A peak through that window revealed a mummy’s coffin. Little did I know that 20 years later I would actually be taking care of that coffin and learning about the person who was buried in it.

I was thrilled when I was hired by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum in 1986. The museum had an Egyptian collection and I was going to be working with it! I was reviewing our records and discovered we had a mummy coffin on loan to the MSU Museum. I called and learned it was the one tucked back in its exhibit gallery. Then, in 1994, I was given the task of curating a new mummy exhibit, along with Valerie Eisenberg, our director of visitor services. We both loved Egyptology so it was a great project for us. Of course, our first thought was of the coffin at MSU and how it would be a wonderful asset to the new Mystery of the Mummy exhibit. The coffin’s return to KVM began a journey of discovery that revealed how old it was, who was buried in the coffin, and who owned it before we did.

A shiny new face

Our first responsibility when the coffin was returned was to clean and stabilize it. The boards of the coffin had been kept in place with wire; it was covered in layers of old shellac and varnish; and it had accumulated years of dirt and grime. Its fragile condition and delicate decorations required the expertise of professional conservators to clean and repair it. So, we crated it up and sent it to conservators in Ohio and Massachusetts. When it came back, the coffin was breathtaking! There, hidden for years, were the rich and vibrant colors of a beautifully painted face and hieroglyphics.
Her name uncovered

Valerie Eisenberg, director of visitor services: We contacted Egyptologist Dr. Jonathan Elias and asked the all-important questions: “How old was it and who was buried in the coffin?” Dr. Elias carefully studied the construction and painted decoration, and read the hieroglyphics. He determined that the coffin was from the 22nd Dynasty (sometime between 900 and 800 B.C.), giving the coffin an approximate age of 2,800 years. He told us coffin practices from that period of time included the single, central column of inscription and the exposure of the natural wood below a highly decorative collar design, which is exactly what you see when you look at the outer coffin.

The inscription on the coffin lid reads: “A grant which the king gives, and Osiris—the foremost of the west, lord of Abydos, may they give offerings and necessities, cattle and fowl, invocation offerings, incense, cloth, and refreshing drink to the Osiris (an honor conferred on the deceased person) Tjenet-nefer, daughter of Paka...” (the remaining symbols for the family name are missing).

How she came here

The coffin and its mummy were first in the collection of John Barker, British Consul-General in Egypt between 1825 and 1833. It was then acquired by John Lee, a British lawyer and collector. Mr. Lee and his friend Dr. Thomas Pettigrew were known to have examined a number of mummies. On the 24th of June, 1833 in the presence of a group of British gentlemen, the mummy was unwrapped and dissected. Pieces were probably distributed to members of the audience, a rather grisly thought.

Two years after the death of John Lee in 1866, Lord Amherst of Hackney purchased the coffin. In June of 1921 Amherst’s family put the coffin on the auction block at Sotheby’s in London. Attending the sale was A. M. Todd from Kalamazoo, Michigan who purchased this and many other antiquities. In 1932 Todd’s family donated the coffin to the museum.

Today, the coffin is no longer hidden but it’s still a treasure. Look for it in the Mystery of the Mummy display on the museum’s third floor.
The Kalamazoo Valley Museum offers fun and educational summer-camp programs for children ages 6 to 14. History, science, and technology are featured topics that are wrapped around hands-on activities and games.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

**Where will the camps take place?** The museum houses a state-of-the-art planetarium and the only Challenger Learning Center in Michigan. Space camps will make use of these facilities and of the science exhibits throughout the museum. Some activities will take place in KVCC’s Arcadia Commons Campus building next door. Freedom Camp participants will take field trips to historic sites within an hour’s drive of the museum.

**What is appropriate attire for campers?** Casual clothing comfortable for play and art projects is important. For children attending Freedom Camp, rain gear may be required on field-trip days.

**What is the staff-to-camper ratio?** For the younger children, we will have a ratio of six children to one adult. The older camps will have a ratio of 10 children to one adult.

**What if I want to register my child for more than one camp?** Please send a separate registration form for each camp. T-shirts (an optional purchase in addition to camp fees) will be the same for all the camps.

**What if I need to cancel my registration?** Registration fees will be refunded up to a month in advance of the camp’s starting date, minus a $25 cancellation fee.

**Location and hours:** The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is located in downtown Kalamazoo, at 230 N. Rose St., one block north of the Radisson Hotel. Hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday and Holidays, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Easter Sunday.

**E-MISSION CAMP (for ages 11–14) • JUNE 16–20 • 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.**

The volcano on the island of Montserrat threatens to erupt! Lava begins to devastate the countryside, a hurricane is approaching, and a satellite gathering vital life-saving data malfunctions. Campers are the specialists who form the Emergency Response Team and will use their science and math skills to save the lives of the islanders. The mission will take place via Internet connection to a mission control in West Virginia. Campers learn some volcanology, meteorology, and computer skills. Fee is $85 and includes all materials and snacks; campers must bring a lunch. Minimum number of campers is 15; maximum is 20. Registration deadline: June 2.

**SPACE EXPLORERS CAMP (for ages 9–11) • JUNE 23–27 • 8:30 a.m.– Noon**

This camp is a hands-on experience emphasizing teamwork and communications, utilizing skills in math, science, and technology. The theme is living and working in space with activities and planetarium shows geared toward preparing the junior astronauts for the Voyage To Mars mini-mission. Campers will be assigned to teams devoted to special projects focused on gathering specific information about space travel. Each participant will keep a daily logbook in which s/he will enter research notes and problems and accomplishments of the day. Fee is $65 and includes snacks and materials. Minimum number of campers is 15; maximum is 30. Registration deadline: June 9.

**FREEDOM CAMP (for ages 9–12) • JULY 7–11 • 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.**

The history and legacy of the Underground Railroad in Southwest Michigan will be the focus of this camp. Campers will go on field trips to visit some of the region’s historic sites, participate in a simulated archaeological dig, write praise poems, and view the planetarium show, Secrets in the Sky. Fee is $85 and includes snacks, transportation, and materials; campers bring their own lunches. Minimum number of campers is 15; maximum is 30. Registration deadline: June 23.

**MUSEUM DETECTIVES CAMP (for ages 6–8) • JULY 21–25 • 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Detectives are needed to solve some mysteries at the museum. Campers will be presented with five mysteries, from “Who Ate Sallie Haner’s Pie?” to “Mystery of the Mummy.” Explore a different area of the museum each day, including the planetarium and the Challenger Learning Center. Fee is $65 and includes all materials and snacks. Minimum number of campers is 25; maximum is 50. Registration deadline: July 7.

Comments from last year’s camps...

“[My child] came home every day and talked about what he did. He loved the camp.”

“[My child] loved coming to space camp and the activities the museum had afterward.”

“What a wonderful exposure to space and science.”
**KALAMAZOO VALLEY MUSEUM—2003 CAMP REGISTRATION**

Camper's Name ______________________________________________________________ Male □  Female □

Camp attending ______________________________________________________________ Camp Dates: __________________________

Grade in Fall 2003 ________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ School District __________________________

Parent(s)/guardian(s) name(s) __________________________________________________________________________________________

Address__________________________________________ City ______________________ State ______________ Zip ______________

Home phone # ____________________________________ Work phone # ______________ Cell phone #____________________________

Emergency contact ________________________________ Phone ____________________________________________________________

Please list any medical condition(s) of which we should be aware: ____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

**RELEASE INFORMATION**

Adult(s) to whom your son/daughter may be released:

1. Name ________________________________________ Relationship ______________ Contact # ______________________________

2. Name ________________________________________ Relationship ______________ Contact # ______________________________

**FEES**

CAMP __________________________________________FEES = $ __________________

T-SHIRT (OPTIONAL)

(check size) Youth: □ S  □ M  □ L  Adult: □ S  □ M  □ L  □ XL  = (each) $ 10

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE**

(camp fees and t-shirt): $ ______________________________________________________

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

Check # ___________ Mastercard # ____________________________________________ Visa# ____________________________________________

Name on Card ______________________________________________________________ Expiration Date __________________________

Signature____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

**WAIVER OF LIABILITY**

I authorize the Kalamazoo Valley Museum to seek medical treatment for this child while s/he is attending camp, if the need arises. I agree to hold harmless the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, its elected and appointed officials, employees, students, volunteers, and others working on behalf of KVCC, from any claim, demand, suit, or loss, cost of expense or any damage that may be asserted, claimed or recovered against or from Kalamazoo Valley Community College by reason of any damage to property, personal injury, or death arising out of or is in any way connected with camp activities.

Insurance Company __________________________________________________________ Group Number __________________________

Signature of parent or guardian ________________________________________________ Date __________________________________

**RULES OF BEHAVIOR**

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum has established basic rules of behavior for each camper. All campers are expected to show respect to other campers, museum visitors, and staff while at the KVM or in other public places, such as field-trip sites. They must comply when asked to refrain from running, swearing, yelling or other activity deemed inappropriate by museum staff. Any child who repeatedly disrupts other campers’ work and play, or displays rude and inappropriate behavior in public will be asked to refrain from such behavior and may be temporarily removed from the camp activities. If the child continues his/her disruptions, his/her parent or guardian will be called and asked to remove the child from the premises. No refunds will be given upon the child’s removal from the camp.

**PHOTOGRAPHY PERMISSION**

I authorize Kalamazoo Valley Museum to take and use photographs and video tapes of this child for purposes of its public relations and advertising activities.

Parent’s Signature ______________________________________________________________

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Registration and payment are required at least one month in advance of the camp dates. Space is limited in each camp, and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Fill out form below completely and mail it to the museum at 230 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070 (attn: Elizabeth Barker). The form is also available as a PDF on our website at www.kalamazoomuseum.org. Forms may also be brought to the museum during regular business hours. Payment and a copy of each camper’s birth certificate or other proof of age must be included. You will receive confirmation of your child’s enrollment within approximately two weeks of receipt of your registration materials.
Seven years after its opening, Derl Oberlin says he still gets excited and his heart races each time he walks into the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. But that shouldn't be too surprising for a fellow who admits to having tears in his eyes on that February evening in 1996 when it arrived on the downtown-Kalamazoo scene.

“I guess it is because I was involved so early,” said the member of the museum’s Community Advisory Committee who played an active role in the $20-million capital campaign that added it to the region’s educational arsenal.

“We all had a big dream,” said Oberlin, a nearly 16-year Pharmacia Corp. employee, “and it came true. Big hopes became brick-and-mortar reality.”

Raised in Logan, Ohio, a 7,000-ish community halfway between Columbus and Athens in the southeast sector of the state, Oberlin spent his share of childhood days in the Columbus Center of Science and Industry. “I’ve always been fascinated by museums,” he said. “They make education fun. When the opportunity came to improve and expand the Kalamazoo museum, I jumped at the chance.”

Oberlin, 45, did not have to look beyond his own corporate headquarters to find a campaign contact because Pharmacia’s own Dr. Mark Novitch was heading up the fund-raising effort. Oberlin and his wife, Heidi, who is the health officer for the Calhoun County Department of Public Health, made supporting the new museum a family affair.

The two Oberlin sons, now 20 and 22, accompanied dad and mom on “road trips” to Plainwell and other surrounding communities to build regional support for what became the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. The Portage Northern High School graduates are both attending Michigan State University.

Oberlin, whose first name is a family tradition that spans three generations, did not attend the Ohio college that shares his last name. Instead, the 1975 Logan High School alumnus went to Ohio State University where he majored in finance while complementing his education with all kinds of science courses because “I really liked biology.” That helps at a place like Pharmacia.

Today, Oberlin serves as the supervisor of production in Pharmacia’s multi-million-dollar Center for Advanced Sterile Technology, which he began doing about 10 months ago and calls as “fascinating” as a trip to a museum for him because it connects him to “brand new technology.”

Oberlin says he was asked by Patrick Norris, the museum’s director, to join the advisory committee right after the new facility opened to the public. “We are kept up to date with what’s happening and with future activities at the museum. I’m really excited about all of this. The new signage for the museum, for example, is terrific and so are the plans for the Interactive Learning Hall. That’s going to be a great new space.

“The Kalamazoo Valley Museum,” he said, “is a wonderful educational resource. Learning is a hands-on activity, and that’s what I’ve always liked about museums. Yet, our museum also offers a chance to step back into our region’s history and a chance to step into the future aboard the Challenger and at planetarium shows.

“You just can’t beat it,” he said. 

“We all had a big dream and it came true.”
Kalamazoo’s German heritage dates back to the first days of American settlement. In his *History of Kalamazoo County*, Samuel Durant writes that Titus Bronson purchased supplies and received assistance in building his cabin in 1829 from a trader named Leiphart. Although identified as a French fur trader, Leiphart’s name is German. From that small beginning, Germans made a lasting mark on local history.

One of the most intriguing of the early Germans was Dr. Henry Schettler, an Ann Arbor physician and the leader of the Alphadelphia community near Galesburg in 1844. Dr. Schettler was a follower of Charles Fourier, a French reformer who advocated an idealistic form of socialism based on economic communes known as phalanxes. The experiment was short-lived although the local membership peaked at nearly 1,000 individuals before disappearing in 1848. The Alphadelphia site is now River Oaks Park.

Nineteenth-century Germans were active members of the Kalamazoo community. A February 1854 newspaper account describes the “hard work of the old German Fire Company” in fighting a fire on West Main Street. Several years later, in 1861, the Germania Fire Company, located on North Burdick Street near Water Street, was organized and the village provided it with a fire engine. In earlier years, Kalamazoo did not have a city fire department but provided equipment to private volunteer fire companies.

Germans contributed to the economic development of Kalamazoo, as well. The late 19th-early 20th century buildings along East Michigan Avenue attest to their contributions. Samuel Rosenbaum founded the Kalamazoo Pant Company in 1867. He expanded to a bigger factory, the Rosenbaum Building, in 1903. Two brothers, Meyer and Bernhard Desenberg, built the structure that housed their wholesale grocery business in 1886. Sam Folz’s Big Store, a clothing store, was located in the Peninsula Building. And Adam Ehrmann’s Columbia Hotel was among the city’s most fashionable in the early 20th century. All of these buildings are still standing.

German social organizations prospered in the 19th century. As early as 1866, the German Workingmen’s Benevolent Association organized to provide aid and assistance to members and their families in the event of sickness or death. The original Arbeiter’s Hall (Workers’ Hall) was replaced by the elaborate Arbeiter Unterstützungs Verein Auditorium on Portage at South Street in 1898. The A.U.V. Auditorium was destroyed by the May 1980 tornado. Germans also organized the Kalamazoo Turn Verein at 226 N. Burdick. This organization was both a gymnastics club and a cultural center.

In religion, Germans contributed to Kalamazoo’s diversity. Mannus M. Israel, a German and the first Jewish resident of Kalamazoo, opened a prosperous dry goods business in 1843. Together with the Desenberg and Rosenbaum families, he helped organize the Congregation B’nai Israel in 1867. The congregation built a temple on East South Street in 1875. German families were prominent members of St. Augustine Catholic Church. Sermons were delivered in English as well as German and priests with German surnames served the parish throughout the 19th century. German immigrants established the first Lutheran church in Kalamazoo in 1868. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church still serves the community.

Kalamazoo and the entire Southwest Michigan region today reflect a rich cultural heritage to which German settlers made significant contributions.

—Tom Dietz, curator of research
England-born Jean Parikh has evolved into something of a chronicler of Kalamazoo history in her role as a Kalamazoo Valley Museum volunteer. For 15 years she has been transcribing the museum's collection of 5,000 letters and 1,000 diaries, getting so up close and personal with those writers and recipients from bygone days that she feels like a member of the family.

That was her sense as she transcribed the nine letters Union Army Sgt. William B. Calkins wrote to his wife in Kalamazoo, who was trying to mind their general store as her husband took up arms in the Civil War. Doing so in the sequence they were written and read, the last in the series came from Sgt. Calkins' commanding officer in Tennessee.

“When I read that Sgt. Calkins had died from cholera,” Parikh said, “I was devastated and started to cry. It took me a good three months to get over his death.”

The letters, which were written from Nov. 23, 1861, to the last one penned by the officer on Oct. 22, 1862, with a Nashville postmark, recount the hardships of a soldier’s life—a lack of regular pay to support a wife reduced to bartering to keep the general store operating, minimal medical care, and a lack of food that often saw the blue-coats scrounging for a meal in a farmer's field.

“Sgt. Calkins called his wife 'Goody,’” she said. “The officer said the sergeant frequently talked about her. Each of the letters contains something special, so much so that you can easily get attached to these long-gone people. All he was able to leave his wife was his gun, belt and cap.”

Obviously, Parikh is something of a history buff and also enjoys reading about the Stone Age, the Iron Age, the Romans, the medieval period, and the Celts.

That’s still good stuff, but so is reading about: a Kalamazoo soldier who had a conversation somewhere along the Ohio River with an Indian named Sitting Bull; an ahead-of-her-times “radical” coed at Kalamazoo College who made the administration miserable with her feelings about voting rights for women and equality; and the fellow credited with establishing Cooper Township who left his wife with only his autobiography, “complete with descriptions of how the land looked in those days and with accounts of how a trader cheated the Indians and plied them with whiskey.”

Parikh, who was raised in Middlesex, and her husband, Jekishan, who hails from Bombay, India, met when he came to Great Britain for training. When he was offered a job as a chemist by The Upjohn Co. in the early 1960s, the couple moved to Kalamazoo where they raised three daughters. Two live in North Carolina while Jane is a business reporter for the Kalamazoo Gazette.

“I love every minute of transcribing these documents,” she said. “Not only do you learn so much, but they are like figuring out a puzzle. For many of the writers, spelling was not a premium skill. They spelled phonetically so it is sometimes a trick to figure out what they meant.” And punctuation is as rare as laughter at Gettysburg.

“Penmanship is also sometimes a problem,” Parikh said, “plus the passage of time has faded the ink or pencil line. I'm always using a magnifying glass.”

Parikh started transcribing the documents longhand because her typing skills kind of matched the spelling in the 19th century. However, she has beefed up her keyboarding skills and has introduced herself to the computer. Averaging 20 hours or more a week, she now takes home some of her quests into the past.

Other stumbling blocks in bringing these private moments and thoughts back from the depths of time are the words that have fallen out of favor or have evolved from archaic uses. Parikh frequently has to consult with a dictionary from those eras to translate what was meant by the writer.

That makes her a walking encyclopedia of archaic terminology and definitions, many of which stump even the most ardent doers of crossword puzzles. And something of a local treasure herself.
Reprinted on this page are excerpts from the letters that Sgt. William B. Calkins wrote to his wife in Kalamazoo as he served with Union troops in Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama in 1861 and 1862. Part of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum’s collection, they relate the day-to-day existence of a common soldier. Recorded are their fears as the next battle loomed, and the loneliness that plagued them as much as the deadly diseases that snuffed out as many lives as the enemy “Johnny Rebs.”

As explained in the facing article about museum volunteer Jean Parikh who transcribed the Calkins letters, spelling, grammar and punctuation were not among the writer’s strong suits. They have been left as they were written, and give a flavor to our picture of Sgt. Calkins.

Nov the 23/61: “Dear Wife... I think of you every day and want to see you... it takes a good while to git youse to this life camping out it would seem good to come hoam and sleep in the bed once with you...”

January the 12/62: “Dear Wife... I feel quite loanly I have just bin to the river and had a good wash and when I got through I red old goodys [Calkin’s wife] letters once and it cheerd [me] up [then] I took out your miniture and had a good look at it seemed as though I was looking at the original it self... I have got it in a case and carry it in my shurt pockit the nearist to my heart... a purson never knows how to prise a hoam untill he coems to leave his friends and go in the army...”

February the 26/62: “dear wife... I herd today that the paymaster would be their within 8 or 10 days and then we shall know whether we will be mustard out or not... the news come yisterday that in Tenisee that they had hoisted the flag of truce all over the state and if that is so this war wont last more than two monts longer... tell my little goody that his pa thinks of him every day and when I come hoam I will give him a good long play spell...”

March the 11/62: “Dear wife... it is a warm and pleasant day here and it would be agoodeal pleasanter for me if you was here or I was where I could see you... when I enlistid I expectid that we was agoing to have meetings all the time and see some big revivels and have something to cheer the soul and mind but instedd of that we can hear all the cursing and swearing that is nes-sisarie to hear... but still it does not change my mind and the love that I have for our saveior I know that he has remembered me in sparing my life this far...”

March TH 24/1862: “Dear wife... you have no idea how fast a purson will grow poor when they have those army fevers...I have bin sick some...the pay master has got back here again and probely will be here to offer us our pay again this weack and if they don’t give good satisfaction the boys will bolt...”

1862: “… you may look for me at hoam about the fourth of july to take dinner with you if the Lord spares my life the offi-
ers say that this rebellion will be crushed before the furst of april I hope it will I have bin in the army as long as I want to be...”

July the 6 1862: “Dear Wife... “I have seen and heard so much wickedness since I have bin in the army I doant wonder that they is wars and plagues and petilanceis sent upon us here... they are buarying the poor souldier boys here every day from three to four aday... I know not how soon it may be my turn to go the way of all the rest...”

July the 20/1862 Huntsville Alabama: “My Dear old Goody... the drums are just coming back from the buaring ground and it seems so doleful to hear them play the death march... we have some one hundard and thurty sick here...”

August the 20: “Dear wife... it is hard for me to write because I am so nurvis our [company] came to day to Huntsville... I shall bee kept in the hospital... my dear old goody if you had oanley kn ew what I have sufferd for four weaks past it is gust as much as I can doo to hold my pen I can’t write but a few lines this time...”

October the 22nd 1862 Nashville Tennessee: “Dear Friend and Sister It is with feelings of sadness that I undertake this duty of making you acquainted with the sad news of the death of your husband. Mr. Calkins died on the 21st October at 1 oclock P.M. Disease Chronic diorrhoea... He used to look at your picture very often and talk to me about the good home he had left and also his beloved Son... I must close by saying be of good cheer he is gone it is true but he has laid down his life in a good cause one that is glorious to every true Americans heart... Uriah W. Carson”
When it’s the fourth floor of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and a new storage system is being installed.

The 3,800-square-foot floor—home to the museum’s 55,000-item collection of artifacts—is not growing in any sense of the word, but its space will be more efficiently used, thanks to the “Aisle-Saver System” being installed by the Borroughs Corp. that is owned by Tyler Supply Co. of Kalamazoo.

So what does this all mean to the community?

“Because of high-density, mobile storage,” said Paula Metzner, the museum’s collections manager, “we will now have 40 percent more space for storage in the same amount of floor area.

“We’d reached a point at the museum where we could not accept donations of large collections of items because of the storage issue. Now we should be in good shape for the next 15 to 20 years.”

The process started in September of 2001 when funding was approved for the project. Metzner began to plan for the “mammoth move” almost immediately, but the physical work didn’t begin in earnest until the following April because it took that long to organize the effort, get the needed packing supplies, and arrange for a cadre of volunteers. The collection moved to an offsite warehouse in June and the space became available for installation crews by the first of July.
Museums across the country all operate under the challenge that space for storing artifacts is at a premium. The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is a junior version of the Smithsonian Institution, which at any one time might have only 5 to 10 percent of its collection on public display.

The other 90 to 95 percent must be stored for future use. The artifacts might be out-of-sight, out-of-mind for the viewing public, but not so for museum folks. Storage is an important function, albeit a not-so-glamorous one, because the core of a great museum is a well-preserved permanent collection.

“With the new system,” Metzner said, “we will be in good shape. It will allow our collection to grow and to be in one place, not spread all over in other buildings. We will be better able to protect the artifacts in a single environment we can control.”

Metzner said the “Aisle-Saver System” has been utilized in other museums across the country, but this is the first time that the Tyler-Borroughs tandem, which recently purchased the product line, has done a museum installation. Some of the design work, engineering and fabrication had to be customized for the Kalamazoo project.

“Mobile means that the storage system is on tracks, like a railroad,” she said. “All the electrically powered shelving units move uniformly along these tracks and preclude the need to have aisles. Our first system had six storage units and required five aisles. The aisles were wasted space in a sense.”

The collection is thus pushed together, reachable by pushing a button. The fourth floor becomes nearly 100-percent storage, not 40-percent walkway.

The “mammoth move” of the collection back to the museum took place in December of 2002. Metzner said the unpacking started in mid-January and will take about a year.

“Now we should be in good shape for the next 15 to 20 years.”

“Very nice! I particularly enjoyed the insights into Kalamazoo history.”
– Colorado Springs, Colorado

“Excellent displays and demos. Thank you!”
– Johnstown, Pennsylvania

“We loved playing and exploring here. We hope to bring others with us in the future!”

Above right, as more units go into place, the massive scale of the installation becomes evident. And after the installation, everything has to be moved back home! Above, shelves begin to be filled with some of the 55,000 items in the museum’s collection.
SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

SPACE TOYS
Jan. 25 through May 18
Explore 130 years of space travel imagination! Toys, models, collectibles, graphics and video clips in 11 interactive exhibits. Sample space science fiction and inquire into science topics. Explore rockets, robotics, gravity, distances in space, astronomy, and more!

“Space Toys” is a traveling exhibit organized by the Arkansas Museum of Discovery.

COMING SOON...

FOOTBALL: THE EXHIBIT
SUMMER & FALL 2003
Understand the science behind football in this action-packed exhibit & learn about the game’s history in Southwest Michigan. Part of the “Summer of Sports” with exhibitions scheduled at other Michigan historical museums.

FEATUERED PROGRAMS
AND EVENTS

Join us for a series of Saturday family programs, the Sunday collection series, and annual favorites. Visitors can drop in anytime during the hours indicated for hands-on programs. All programs are free. A star (*) indicates programs of special interest to adults. Programs for Brownie scouts are indicated with the symbol. Scouts, call for a complete list of our programs designed just for you.

JAM SESSION*
Feb. 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, and June 1; 2 - 5 p.m.
Listen to K’zoo Folklife Organization music on the first Sunday of every month.

FAR OUT!
Saturday, Feb. 8; 1 – 4 p.m.
Monsters and aliens are just a few of the far-out creatures featured in activities today.

PICK A HOBBY
Saturday, Feb. 22; 1 – 4 p.m.
Learn about crafts that make great hobbies—marbles, postcards, dolls and more! Brownies—earn your Hobby Try-it.

IDLEWILD: THE BLACK EDEN
Sunday, Feb. 16; 2 p.m.
Dr. Lewis Walker and Dr. Benjamin Wilson of Western Michigan University will offer a videotape presentation on the popular African-American resort, Idlewild, located near Baldwin, Michigan.

WINGS AND THINGS
Saturday, March 1; 1 – 4 p.m.
Discover the fun of flight while making birds, planes, and spaceships. Brownies—earn your Movers Try-it.

FESTIVAL OF HEALTH
Saturday, March 15; Noon – 4 p.m.
Area fitness and health-care organizations teach us how to take care of ourselves—from our brains, to our teeth, to our toes! Designed for all ages, this program includes information on traditional and alternative methods of health care.

THE DUTCH IN MICHIGAN
Sunday, March 30; 2 p.m.
Dr. Larry ten Harsma of Western Michigan University discusses his recent book on Dutch heritage in Michigan.

THE BEST—BY REQUEST!

SPRING-BREAK ACTIVITIES
March 31 – April 4; 1 – 4 p.m.
Your all-time favorite programs are here! Activities for ages 4 – 12.

Monday: Junk It
Create art from recycled materials.

Tuesday: Dinosaurs
Make dinosaurs and be an archaeologist.

Wednesday: Dressing Up
Design hats, costumes, jewelry and more.

Thursday: Kite Action
Make and fly all kinds of kites.

Friday: Spring Magic
Learn how to do magic tricks and be a magician.

And...

CHALLENGER MINI-MISSIONS
Mission to Mars—3 p.m. $3/person

PLANETARIUM SHOW
In My Backyard — 2 p.m. $3/person

SCI-FI FILM FESTIVAL
1:00, 2:30, & 3:30 — FREE!

Call 269/373-7990 for more information.
IDENTIFYING FAMILY TREASURES
Sunday, April 6; 1 – 3 p.m.
Bring your family heirlooms and a panel of local antique dealers and collectors will identify your treasures. No formal appraisals or valuations offered.

WSTAR PRESENTS SENSATIONAL SCIENCE
Saturday, April 26; 1 – 4 p.m.
Students from Woodward Elementary School for Science, Technology and Research will conduct science demonstrations and crafts, and display science fair projects.

UNIVERSE THEATRE & PLANETARIUM
Experience a journey into space with state-of-the-art technology providing spectacular sights and sounds to guide your imagination to locations and events throughout our amazing universe. All programs $3/person.

IN MY BACKYARD—new program!
Saturdays & Sundays; Jan. 25 – April 27; 1:30 p.m.
Fred Penner explores and sings about what we can see in our own backyard. Examine things that live and grow through the changing seasons; see constellations, shooting stars, and the moon.

PLANET QUEST
Wednesdays, Saturdays & Sundays; Jan. 8 – April 30; 4 p.m.
Join us for a journey through the solar system. Using the planetarium’s interactive controls, you will be able to help decide the course of the trip, launch probes and landers, and explore close-up planet, moon, comet, asteroid, and solar features.

CARMEN SANDIEGO II
Saturdays & Sundays; May 3 – June 29; 1:30 p.m.
Carmen’s gang is trying to steal the black hole at the center of the Milky Way, and it’s the job of our junior gumshoes to catch Carmen before the dastardly deed is done. Along the way they examine the birth and death of stars.

MARSQUEST
Wednesdays, Saturdays & Sundays; May 3 – June 29; 4 p.m.
The red planet has symbolized a god of war and been the launching point for fictitious alien invasions of Earth. What is this world really like, and will Earth someday launch its own invasion of Mars?

Sci-Fi Film Festival
Take a side trip to the Universe Theater Drive-in for a fun festival of 1950s flicks that will have you bouncing from Pluto to Mercury to the Moon.

Rocketship X-M Sat. Feb. 1; 2:30 p.m.
Sat. April 5; 2:30 p.m.

Missile to the Moon Wed., Feb. 5; 6:30 p.m.
Wed., Apr. 2; 6:30 p.m.

Invaders from Mars Sat., Feb. 8; 2:30 p.m.
Sat., Mar. 29; 2:30 p.m.

Kronos Wed., Feb. 12; 6:30 p.m.
Wed., Mar. 8; 6:30 p.m.

Project Moonbase Sat., Feb. 15; 2:30 p.m.
Sat., Apr. 12; 2:30 p.m.

First Spaceship on Venus Sat., Feb. 22; 2:30 p.m.
Sat., Apr. 26; 2:30 p.m.

Flight to Mars Sat., Mar. 1; 2:30 p.m.
Sat., Apr. 19; 2:30 p.m.

Destination Moon Sat., Mar. 15; 2:30 p.m.
Sat., May 3; 2:30 p.m.

Things to Come Sat., Mar. 22; 2:30 p.m.
Sat., May 10; 2:30 p.m.

Spaceways Wed., Apr. 9; 2:30 p.m.
Wed., May 14; 2:30 p.m.

Tickets may be picked up at the front desk. All showings are FREE.
The Challenger Learning Center is an innovative educational facility complete with a Space Station and Mission Control. Mini-missions are hands-on, fun learning experiences. Age restrictions are imposed for safety reasons, as well as for the enjoyment of the program by all participants.

VOYAGE TO MARS: MINI-MISSION
Saturdays & Sundays at 3 p.m.
Live out your space-age fantasies with this exciting space adventure. You will be on the first Mars-Earth Transport Vehicle preparing to land on Mars. Your mission, should you accept it, is to help create a control base at Chryse Station, located at the site of the first Viking landing. No advanced reservations allowed. Tickets may be purchased on the day of the mini-mission. Ages 6 & up, $3/person. Each child ages 6 to 11 must be accompanied by a partner 12 years or older.

JUNIOR MISSIONS
This is a specially designed 90-minute mission for children and adults. Pre-flight hands-on activities prepare the junior astronauts for their exciting flight in the Challenger Learning Center’s spacecraft simulator. Successful crews will receive certificates and mission memorabilia. Ages 8 & up; 8 –14 participants. Registration is required at least two weeks prior to mission date; $10/person.

CORPORATE TRAINING MISSIONS
Could your organization benefit from a hands-on experience that will graphically show the productiveness of teamwork and communication? If so, this three-hour experience consisting of one hour of pre and post-mission activities and a full two-hour simulation is the opportunity for you. Challenger Learning Center staff will instruct your group in the use of computers, robots, and other equipment in activities that build teamwork and leadership skills. The program is flexible and can be adapted to your company’s needs. Registration is required at least two weeks in advance. For 15 to 30 participants; $25/person.

CHILDREN’S LANDSCAPE

HOURS
Monday through Friday • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  Sunday • 1 to 5 p.m.
Open until 5 p.m. during Spring Break
March 31–April 4

Children’s Landscape is designed to introduce preschoolers and their parents to an interactive museum setting. Hands-on activities, exhibits, and programs are designed for children five and under. Children older than five may participate only if accompanying a preschool buddy, with the expectation that their play be appropriate to preschool surroundings. Free

CIRCLE TIME PROGRAMS
are offered free of charge to families and preschool groups. Different stories, musical activities, games, and art projects will be offered each week. All programs are 20 minutes long and begin at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday:

MONDAY: Toddler Time (2 year olds)
TUESDAY: Preschool Science (ages 3–5)
WEDNESDAY: Preschool Stories (ages 3–5)
THURSDAY: Preschool Music (ages 3–5)
FRIDAY: Preschool Art (ages 3–5)

JANUARY
WINTER FUN:
Find out why Michigan is considered a winter playland.

FEBRUARY/MARCH
WHAT MAKES ME WARM:
Activities and stories about quilts and blankets will help little ones learn about shapes, colors, and sewing.

APRIL/MAY
TELL ME A STORY:
Storybook characters and legends will be part of this fantasy theme.
modern museum back to Ancient Greece, Rome, and China, we find in Renaissance Florence the modern museum’s nearest relative. The Latin word *museum* was revived in the 15th century to describe private collections in the Medici Palace in Florence. In special rooms, Cosimo di Medici and his descendants housed collections of art, natural history specimens, and unusual objects.

Cosimo employed Donatello the artist as a curator-conservator, to seek out new works for the Medici collection and to restore those already in the collection.

In its revival, “museum” also connoted a comprehensive, representative collection rather than a building. It was used as a title for encyclopedic books rather than buildings. The rooms themselves began to be called cabinets when they housed objects or galleries when they displayed paintings and statuary.

The Renaissance collection was a princely and, by modern standards, quaint collection. One of the Medicis’ prized possessions, for instance, was a unicorn horn, which was purported to have the power to detect poison. Another royal collection had samples of manna, the heavenly food that fed the Israelites in the desert.

These collections spread throughout Europe. In Germany they came to be called *wunderkammer* or wonder cabinets. These museums were designed to be a microcosm of the world as then perceived, a world wherein there were unicorns and manna, miracles and magic, as well as art and the wonders of nature.

Over the years the modern museum evolved out of these private, princely collections into an incredible variety of institutions that express humankind’s collecting instinct—arboretum and art centers, botanical gardens and children’s museums, herbariums and history museums, maritime and natural history museums, planetaria, science centers, and zoos.

In future issues of *Museography*, we will explore how this happened and what each of these museum types is about.

—Patrick Norris, director

### Past Glimpses of Future Present, continued from page 6

His prediction was based on Kepler’s and Newton’s laws of motion. Though Robert Goddard had predicted the possibility of orbiting an artificial satellite, German V2 rockets were flying only suborbital flights. The first satellite, *Sputnik*, would not orbit our planet until 1957.

Today the telecommunications industry relies on a network of satellites in precisely the orbits described by Clarke. Because the satellites remain in the same location, fixed dish antennas can stay in contact from the surface of our spinning Earth.

But perhaps the last word, at least for now, should come from the Boston Globe’s 1988 obituary for the Nobel laureate in physics, Richard Feynman. In his famous lectures on physics in the 1960s, Feynman “...responded to the charge that scientific understanding detracts from an esthetic appreciation of nature: The vastness of the heavens stretches my imagination—stuck on this carousel my little eye can catch one-million-year-old light... It does not do harm to the mystery to know a little about it. Far more marvelous is the truth than any artists of the past imagined!”

—Elspeth Inglis, assistant director

Eric Schreur, planetarium director

“Great! Love it! We’ll be back!” — Battle Creek, Mich.

“The kids had a blast!! Thanks.” — Rockford, Mich.

“I loved doing so much hands-on stuff! Thanks” — Ada, Mich.

“It was awesome! I can’t wait to come again!” — Bay City, Mich.

“It is so fun I wish I lived here.” — Plainwell, Mich.

“FABULOUS, clean and fun and FREE on top it all!” — Clare, Mich.

“This was my first time here! This is the best historical museum ever!” — Tucson, Arizona

“This museum is really, really, really, really, really awesome!” — Ann Arbor, Mich

“Great history exhibit” — Escondido, California

www.kalamazoomuseum.org
To most people, one 1960s bicycle may seem pretty much the same as any other. Yet to a museum collection, each is different. Sometimes a bicycle may be rare or unusual. More frequently, the uniqueness lies in the story any other artifact can tell. Such is the case with this bicycle.

In 1967, WKZO personality Lori Moore made her First Communion. To celebrate the occasion, her parents gave her a new bicycle. For the next decade, growing up on Avon Street in Portage, Lori rode her bike through the then-empty fields around Milham Road and Constitution Boulevard with her brothers and friends.

In the late 1970s, she enrolled at Hope College. To get around the campus and the city of Holland, she took her bicycle. One morning, it disappeared. No longer in the bicycle rack where she had parked it, her faithful means of transportation had been taken. The school year passed and Lori made do without her trusty bike. And then, just as students were preparing for summer vacation, the bicycle returned, replaced in the very spot from which it had been taken. The “thief” had either suffered from a guilty conscience or decided it was no longer needed with the semester at an end. Whatever the reason, the First Communion bike was back.

As Moore pursued a career in radio broadcasting, her parents left Portage and moved around the country while working for the federal government. As they traveled, they kept their daughter’s bike. They returned to Portage in retirement.

In early 2002, they saw an issue of Museography in which KVM staff sought donations of civil defense artifacts. They contacted the museum about items they had. As an afterthought, they mentioned Lori’s bike—a typical example of a 1960s girl’s model single-speed bicycle. Would the museum be interested?

With a story like this to tell, you bet! The permanent collection had several examples of late 1800s two-wheelers but none from the mid-20th century. Now it does. Lori Moore has gone on to a career as a popular radio broadcaster. Her bicycle, though, is now a museum piece with a story to tell future generations of museum visitors.