

Call of the Wild grows into major attraction

GAYLORD — Call of the Wild, one of the premier tourist attractions in northern Michigan, has been a part of the community since May 28, 1965.

But the dream of a museum of wildlife native to Michigan goes back to the early 1940s in the Frederic area. That is when Carl and Pattie Johnson were collecting mounted animals and game birds, and talked about creating an attraction that would place the mountings in a simulated outdoor setting.

In the spring of 1956, the dream began to take realistic shape when construction started on the Underground Forest, a cave-like museum structure built into the side of a hill along then US 27 between Frederic and Waters.

The private museum opened on July 3, 1957. With the opening of Interstate 75 in the early 1960s, the Johnson family constructed a larger building on South Wisconsin Avenue in Gaylord, a few minutes from the I75-M32 interchange.

The attraction was moved to the new facility, and re-named Call of the Wild. Today, more than 150 realistic mountings are displayed in a rustic grotto.

Displays of wildlife, nearly all indigenous to northern Michigan, are added or updated from time to time.

Bill Johnson, who grew up with the business, is general partner and co-manager with his mother Pattie. Carl died in 1973.

North Central: land clearing

GAYLORD — North Central Excavating and Trucking, based at 613 N. Elm St., Gaylord, specializes in land clearing projects for all purposes.

Established in 1964, the firm is capable of road building, septic tank installation, subdivision work, land preparation, clearing, grading and trucking.

North Central Excavation and Trucking, owned and operated by Richard Townsend, is also involved in site work and service to the oil exploration and recovery industry in Otsego County and is a fully licensed demolition business.

With five to seven employees and over 20 pieces of equipment, the firm has also been instrumental in building Gaylord Little League diamonds at Hutchins Park.

Glasser has rich history

GAYLORD — Glasser Real Estate, 149 W. Main, is located in a building formerly occupied by the Gaylord Post Office.

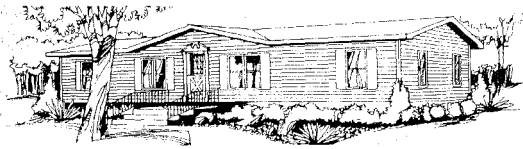
The Post Office moved to a building on North Court Street before its present location on East Main was established.

Doyle Real Estate and Glasser Insurance shared the building before Glasser Real Estate was formed in 1960.

Clare Glasser sold the firm to Bill Cogswell, present broker, in 1980. Glasser retains an associate broker's license with the business, which has eight full-time real estate sales people.

The firm is a member of the National Association of Realtors, the Michigan Association of Realtors, the Water Wonderland Board of Realtors and the Nationwide Relocation Service.

Glasser handles residential, commercial and industrial real estate.



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welcome. And, we're excited about Otsego County ... about being a part of it ... its growth ... its dream come true. So, we're looking forward to another forty years of growth with one of northern Michigan's fastest growing counties.

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