The Library has had the good fortune to add two original drawings created by Garth Williams for the book, *Little House on the Prairie*, to the Francis and Mary Lois Molson Collection of Original Art Drawn to Illustrate Children’s Books. These wonderful pieces will augment the more than eighty works of art now found in the collection.

Williams’s drawings also tell an interesting story about the power of an illustrator’s work. When the eight original books in the series were first published between 1932 and 1943, they were illustrated by Helen Sewell. Although the books were very popular, Sewell’s illustrations neither excited readers nor proved to be particularly memorable.

In 1947, when Harper and Brothers decided to reissue the books in a revised format, children’s book editor Ursula Nordstrom sought out Williams to create new illustrations. Williams, who had previously illustrated *Stuart Little* for Harper (published in 1945), was clearly a rising star.

Williams, however, was worried. He lived in New York and was quite comfortable illustrating the New York setting of *Stuart Little*, but he had never traveled west of the Hudson River and felt he did not have the visual experience needed to illustrate Wilder’s prairie classics. Quite simply, Williams did not know what prairies looked like in a way that made him believe he could draw one for such an important commission. He finally accepted the job with the understanding he would meet with Wilder to talk about her experiences and also travel extensively in Wilder’s Midwest.

Williams’s original commission was to create eight oil paintings for each of the eight books, or sixty-four pictures in all, but cost considerations eventually led Harper to settle for illustrations created in pencil, charcoal, and ink.

Wilder was delighted with the results of Williams’s work. When the Harper re-issue appeared in bookstores in the early 1950s, Williams’s simple yet powerful illustrations became icons of the American pioneer experience. His drawings were of the Wilder family, but in a broader sense they delineated what many pioneer families looked like for children everywhere.

This acquisition was made possible through funds provided by the Francis and Mary Lois Molson Endowment, with additional funding supplied through the Friends of the Libraries.
The Library’s newest exhibit, “A Delightful Destination: Little Traverse Bay at the Turn of the Century,” opened to the public at the end of February. This exhibit was curated by CMU History Department member Michael Federspiel. Mr. Federspiel discussed the remarkable transformation that occurred in Little Traverse Bay between 1875 and 1925 at the exhibit opening on February 29.

In the 1870s Little Traverse Bay, like much of northern Michigan, was cutover timberland. The Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad (GR&I), in exchange for hundreds of thousands of acres of land, was rapidly laying track between Grand Rapids and Petoskey. The railroad’s plan was to make money selling the land to settlers who would engage in farming and need the railroad to both bring in supplies and take out harvested crops. However the GR&I quickly realized this business model was a problem—the land was barren. The sandy, rocky, cutover timberland was of limited agricultural value. The railroad’s original plan was not going to work.

However the GR&I, as well as thousands of individual entrepreneurs, invented an idea that would take hold and replace farming—“Up North.” The land might not be suitable for agriculture, but it was a tourist’s paradise. The air was clean and crisp. The beaches were lovely. And soon the railroad, as well as steamships, began to bring large numbers of summer visitors to the area. It did not take long for vacationers to realize that because of “modern” transportation they could reach this paradise from Chicago, Detroit, or even St. Louis in a day or less.

And tourists came by the thousands. The first train reached Petoskey in 1873. In 1906, between June 25 and September 30, 13,000 trains made stops in Petoskey—an average of 134 trains per day, twelve per hour, or one every five minutes.

All sorts of enterprises were launched to accommodate the tourists pouring out of the trains and from the ships that arrived as well. By 1897 Petoskey offered visitors more than 1,300 guest rooms, mainly in seasonal hotels. Both natural and artificial “attractions” were marketed to tourists. Among the area’s natural wonders was the Inland Water Route, a 35-mile chain of lakes and rivers beginning in Oden and ending at the mouth of the Cheboygan River. By 1900 this waterway had more than thirty boats taking tourists on daily sight-seeing excursions.

In contrast to the natural wonders of the Inland Water Route, the GR&I invented “Wa-Ya-Ma-Mug.” A tourist destination constructed in an unpopulated area along the line’s tracks, Wa-Ya-Ma-Mug offered the usual range of activities, dining, games, swimming, and so forth, but with a Native American theme. Tourists could sleep in a teepee, watch Native American artisans create handicrafts, and of course purchase these items in the inevitable gift shop.
We’d like to share our gratitude to Eunice Sutherland Burgess, class of 1949, for her recent gift to establish the David M. and Eunice Sutherland Burgess Library Endowment, which will significantly advance the Library’s lecture series.

During the academic year the Library presents four or five lectures each semester. The lecture series showcases presenters and authors who are authorities on areas in which the Library collects material. Subjects include:

- The history of and informative presentations about Michigan
- Authors and illustrators of children’s books or individuals knowledgeable in these fields
- Michigan fiction authors or authors who have written works of fiction set in Michigan

On occasion, and with additional private support, the Library has also sponsored presentations by nationally prominent authors who have written on historical subjects, such as David McCullough and Richard Norton Smith.

The Burgess Endowment’s particular emphasis will be to support authors, scholars, and storytellers who focus on the enduring art of story. The Burgess Endowment is the second endowment to underwrite the Library’s speaker series. It joins the John and Audrey Cumming Endowment, which supports presentations on topics regarding Michigan history and children’s literature.

However visitors were most likely to come to Wa-Ya-Ma-Mug to see the site’s top attraction, the daily “Hiawatha” play, which featured a Native American cast re-enacting a version of Longfellow’s epic poem.

All this tourist activity required the construction and maintenance of an amazing infrastructure. For example, in 1900 Detroit had the largest local-transportation infrastructure in the state; however, second place was held by Petoskey and the other communities near Little Traverse Bay, where local trains visited stations all day and well into the evening at 20- to 30-minute intervals and small ferries plied the bay on regular schedules.

“Up North,” and the tourism industry associated with it, was invented in Michigan. Michael Federspiel, and the exhibit he created, relates how this transformation occurred. “A Delightful Destination” will run in the Clarke Library until the end of May, when, like so many others before it, the exhibit will go “Up North” to be shown at the Harbor Springs History Museum during the summer.

This exhibit was made possible in part by support from the Cindi J. and Kathryn R. Graham Endowment.

Library Lecture Series Endowed

We’d like to share our gratitude to Eunice Sutherland Burgess, class of 1949, for her recent gift to establish the David M. and Eunice Sutherland Burgess Library Endowment, which will significantly advance the Library’s lecture series.

During the academic year the Library presents four or five lectures each semester. The lecture series showcases presenters and authors who are authorities on areas in which the Library collects material. Subjects include:

- The history of and informative presentations about Michigan
- Authors and illustrators of children’s books or individuals knowledgeable in these fields
- Michigan fiction authors or authors who have written works of fiction set in Michigan

On occasion, and with additional private support, the Library has also sponsored presentations by nationally prominent authors who have written on historical subjects, such as David McCullough and Richard Norton Smith.

The Burgess Endowment’s particular emphasis will be to support authors, scholars, and storytellers who focus on the enduring art of story. The Burgess Endowment is the second endowment to underwrite the Library’s speaker series. It joins the John and Audrey Cumming Endowment, which supports presentations on topics regarding Michigan history and children’s literature.
New Staff Member at Reference Desk

It was with great sadness that regular users of the Library, as well as the staff, bid farewell to Susan Powers, who had served as reference assistant from 2008 to 2011. Ms. Powers successfully applied for a position in the University Library, and she is now the coordinator of its Documents on Demand Office. We wish her well, knowing that she will bring the same professionalism and attention to detail to her new position that she exhibited in dealing with our patrons while she was employed in the Clarke.

Bryan Whitledge is our new reference assistant. Bryan is a recent graduate of the University of Illinois School of Library and Information Science. While he was a student at Illinois, he worked extensively within the university’s special collections and archives unit. We are delighted to welcome Bryan to the Clarke Library staff.

Friends of the Libraries

As a member of the CMU Friends of the Libraries, through your gifts of support, you will receive:

- invitations to Library-sponsored general events and to special Friends events, such as the annual speaker-luncheon, receptions, and presentations
- informative communications regarding current Library projects and future goals
- behind-the-scenes Library tours
- the satisfaction of supporting the services and collections of the Park Library

The Libraries provide technologically advanced resources to support the University's goals and ambitions for ongoing success and prominence.

Private support enables us to strengthen collections and services for all and fosters the Libraries' chief priority, which is to preserve the past while at the same time embracing and implementing new learning and research technologies for the future.

Please consider making a gift and allow us to call you a “Friend” of the CMU Libraries.

A form is located on the back page of this newsletter for your convenience.

Keeping Up with the Library via Our Blog

To learn more about the Library and its many activities, we hope you will subscribe to the Library’s blog. Updated at least weekly, the blog is a source of information about events sponsored by the Library, new material we have received, and stories too good not to share. We hope you will subscribe. Postings can be delivered to you via RSS feeds or through email subscription. Please take a second to look at the subscription options on the right side of the News and Notes site (www.clarkehistoricallibrary.org). If you already subscribe to the Clarke Historical Library blog, please resubscribe using our new options.
Financial Supporters

Kay Marie Allen, Dewitt
American Chemical Society, Midland
Catherine L. Angell, Austin, TX
J. John Archer, Dublin, CA
Geoffrey and Hatha Bartlett, Mt. Pleasant
Martha Bigelow, Mt. Pleasant
Valerie and Frank Boles, Mt. Pleasant
James and Janet Bruss, Harper Woods
William T. Bulger, Mt. Pleasant
Eunice A. Burgess, Mt. Pleasant
Karen Chapman, Puyallup, WA
Virginia S. Chase, Alma
Christa Clare, Mt. Pleasant
Susan L. and Robert W. Clarkc, Harbor Springs
Ann L. Craig, Cass City
Sandra Bell Croll, Harbor Springs
John and Audrey Cumming, Mt. Pleasant
Peter Cummings, Las Vegas, NV
Sally J. Cutler, Imlay City
Jennifer and Dan Digmann, Mt. Pleasant
Janice and David Dressel, East Lansing
Marydeana Duckworth, Alma
Tom and Penny Endres, Mt. Pleasant
Claudia A. Eschelbach, Groveport, OH
Michael and Mary Federspiel, Midland
Tanya M. Fox, Coleman
JS Fry Consulting, Plymouth
James S. Fry, Plymouth
William J. Gates, Longwood, FL
Sidney and Mary Graham, Mt. Pleasant
John and Carol Grossa, Mt. Pleasant
Kimberly Hagerty, St. Louis
Mr. & Mrs. Lon Hazelwood, Zephyr Hills, FL
Ed and Ruth Helwig, Mt. Pleasant
Laurine Haggert Hook, Golden, CO
Eileen Jennings, Mt. Pleasant
James Jones, Mt. Pleasant
Christa Kamenetsky, Mt. Pleasant
J. Hudson and Ann Keenan, Mt. Pleasant
Roy and Joan Klopicic, Mt. Pleasant
Ulana Klymshyn, Mt. Pleasant
Charles W. Knapp, Traverse City
Dr. Robert C. Knapp, Oakland, CA
Catherine A. Larson, Kalamazoo
Bernice Lirones, Flint
John H. Logie, Grand Rapids
Elizabeth Louise Loll, Bay City
David and Loretta Lopez, Mt. Pleasant
Dr. Edward T. Marquardt, Mt. Pleasant
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Meister, Royal Oak
Michigan Business Education Association
Samantha Minnis, Mt. Pleasant
Clara Lee Moodie, Mt. Pleasant
Thomas J. and Gail A. Moore, Mt. Pleasant
Betsy Susan Morgan, Burr Oak
Mary Ann Mott, Big Rapids
Mt. Pleasant Area Historical Society
Catherine and Alexander Murray, Mt. Pleasant
Randall and Myra Norton, Freeland
Patricia and Jeffrey Pickler, Mt. Pleasant
Susan Powers, Mt. Pleasant
Alan and Arlene Quick, Mt. Pleasant
Joyce and John Riddick, Mt. Pleasant
Gretchen E. Robert, Holland
Jeffrey Ruterbusch, Middleburg, FL
Susan Irene Sadewater, Freeland
Salem-South Lyon District Library
David and Joyce Salisbury, Blanchard
Edward and Barbara Schultz, Clare
Dr. Richard D. and Patricia L. Seiter, Ponte Vedra, FL
Shepherd Area Historical Society
Martha L. Smith, Mt. Pleasant
Betty Lee Snow, Cheboygan
Ronald Jon Springsteen’83, Sheridan
Gilbert and Kay Starks, Mt. Pleasant
Betty Stephenson, Mt. Pleasant

Continued on Page 6
Financial Supporters
Continued from Page 5

Kathy Swem, Fishers, IN
Dennis J. Thavenet, Mt. Pleasant
Don and Ruth Volz, Mt. Pleasant
Gretchen and John Weatherford, Mt. Pleasant
Denise Webster, Mt. Pleasant
Jack and Mary Lou Westbrook, Mt. Pleasant
Virginia Wilbur, Petoskey
Linda L. Wilcox, Fennville
Eugene Woodward, Midland

Material Donors in 2011

Anne Alton, Mt. Pleasant
S. John Archer, Dublin, CA
David Balfour, Northville
Bob Banta, Mt. Pleasant
LeRoy Barnett, Grand Ledge
Valerie Boles, Mt. Pleasant
Jim Bouck, Melbourne, FL
Herb and Jan Brinkman, Roscommon
Anna Bristol, Norwalk, OH
Edwin Brown, Staunton, VA
Roy Burlington, Mt. Pleasant
Richard Burns, Rolling Hills Estates, CA
Kevin Brunecel, Bangor, ME
Christine Byron, Grand Rapids
Kevin and Elizabeth Campbell, Midland
Bill Castanier, Lansing
James Challancin, Ishpeming
Virginia Chase, Alma
Christa Clare, Mt. Pleasant
CM Life, Mt. Pleasant
Sandra B. Croll, Harbor Springs
Karen Coller-Currell, Mayville
Mary Jo Davis, Mt. Pleasant
Marcia Dilling, Midland
Wendell Dilling, Midland
Pamela Dosenberry, Mt. Pleasant
Marydeana Duckworth, Alma
Jeff and Cam Ellis, Mt. Pleasant
Tom Endres, Mt. Pleasant
Dennis Fay, Levering
Ruth Felter, Mt. Pleasant
Michael Federspiel, Midland
Patricia J. Fox, Mt. Pleasant
Ethel Gallagher, Mt. Pleasant
Kim Garber, Mt. Pleasant
Kyle Garver, Clare
Anne Goochenour, Mt. Pleasant
Gordon Graham, Dillon, MT
Patrick Graham, Mt. Pleasant
Dale Greve, St. Charles
Amanda Griswold, Holland
Pamela Grudzien, Mt. Pleasant
James Hansen, Weeki Wachee, FL
Dave Harrell, Ann Arbor
Craig Hart, Mt. Pleasant
Ruth Helwig, Mt. Pleasant
Nicholas and Mary Hevron, Rochester Hills
Polly Hoyt, Mt. Pleasant
Charles Hyde, Royal Oak
Tom Idema, Mt. Pleasant
Holly Irwin, Indianapolis, IN
Alice Jenicke, Mt. Pleasant
Richard Juday, Mt. Pleasant
Mark Keller, Caro
Mr. and Mrs. William Kelly, Mt. Pleasant
Ulana Klymshyn, Mt. Pleasant
Jerome Kole, Cape Coral, FL
Robert Kohrman, Mt. Pleasant
Mary Kral, Dousman, WI
Donna Lauritzen, Jurupa Valley, CA
Evelyn Leasher, Blanchard
Jill Ley, Mt. Pleasant
Alice Littlefield, Omena
John H. Logie, Grand Rapids
Richard Maltby, Midland
John Marsh, Marshall
Marian Matyn, Clare
Kris McKee, Traverse City
Jackie Michels, Harrison
Gerald Micketti, Traverse City
Dick Moehl, Mackinaw City
Philip Moore, Grand Ledge
Tom Moore, Mt. Pleasant
Jacob Myenhuis, Holland
Donald Nagler, Mt. Pleasant
Gerald Neight, Oscoda
A Final Word

What Would Be the Consequences for the University If Your Unit Were Eliminated?

I had the “opportunity” to answer this question as part of a recently concluded Provost’s review of academic units, as did every other departmental administrator on campus. Despite the ominous tone, the question was truly an opportunity to explain the importance of a special collection library on the CMU campus.

The vision statement adopted by CMU’s trustees states that the institution “will be a nationally prominent university known for integrity, academic excellence, research and creative activity, and public service.” A special collections library is integral to this vision.

Research, creative activity, public service, and excellence are enabled by a special collection library. The collections found in the Clarke Library are fundamental in supporting deep and thoughtful research on state and regional history, children’s literature, and the history of CMU itself. Supporting research is a core objective in the Clarke Library and in virtually every special collection library nationwide.

Special collection libraries not only foster research but at their best they advance the creative process in many ways. At the Clarke an active exhibits program, a regular series of speakers, and support for the scholarly journal, The Michigan Historical Review, all create opportunities through which creativity is stimulated and advanced.

Public service is also part of our mission. The same programs that stimulate creativity, exhibits, speakers, and the journal, also serve a broader public good. Each component is a way through which the public directly benefits from the existence of the Clarke Library.

Finally there is the matter of excellence, and how the Clarke Library is linked to the University’s goal of achieving national prominence.

Excellence is obviously something demonstrated, not proclaimed, but I believe the Clarke’s endeavors have repeatedly been excellent. And that excellence aids CMU in achieving national prominence. One of the surest indicators of a university’s prominence is the strength of its library resources – the intellectual center that holds together the core curriculum and enables the research and creative activity of both faculty and students. The Library’s excellence is what makes the Clarke important for CMU.

The consequences for CMU if the Clarke were eliminated? CMU would be a very different school and the vision statement of the trustees would be at least diminished and perhaps become simply empty rhetoric. It’s really that simple.

Frank Boles
The CMU Friends of the Libraries is a membership organization that supports, through financial and other gifts, the programs of the Charles V. Park Library, home to the University Library, the Clarke Historical Library, and Off-Campus Library Services.

Clarke Library Board of Governors
John H. Logie, chairman (2010-2014)
Frank Boles (library director, ex officio)
Norman E. Clarke, III (family representative)
Susan Clarke (2007-2011)
Sandra B. Croll (2008-2012)
Michael R. Federspiel (2009-2013)
Mitchell Hall (chair, dept. of history, ex officio)
Thomas Moore (dean of libraries, ex officio)
George Ross (president, CMU, ex officio)
Ormond S. Danford, emeritus member

Clarke Library Staff
Frank Boles, director
Christa Clare, administrative & acquisitions specialist
John Fierst, reference librarian
Tanya Fox, catalog database specialist
Kim Hagerty, microform services specialist
Marian Matyn, archivist
Pat Thelen, scanning specialist
Bryan Whitledge, reference assistant

Newsletter Staff
Frank Boles, editor
Mary Ward Graham, copyeditor
Amy L. Motz, layout & design

Published by the Clarke Library
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48859
phone (989) 774-3352; fax (989) 774-2160
e-mail: clarke@cmich.edu; Internet: www.clarke.cmich.edu
Central Michigan University, an AA/EO institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity within its community (see www.cmich.edu/aaeo.html).

Effective March 1, 2011, the minimum annual donation to become a member of the Friends of the Libraries will be a single gift of $75.00.

______$75-149 Fellow
______$150-249 Benefactor
______$250-499 Heritage Friend
   Donor recognition on a chair
______$500-999 Legacy Friend
   Donor recognition on a table
______$1,000 Visionary Circle
   Donor recognition on a study carrel, computer carrel, open book stack, or room

Apply my contribution to: (check one only)
______Clarke Historical Library
______University Library
   (Off-Campus Library Services is supported through the University Library)
______Use my gift where most needed in either the University Library or the Clarke Historical Library
______This is a joint gift. Please also credit:

_________________________
Name
________________________
Address
________________________
City
State & Zip

Printed by CMU Printing Services