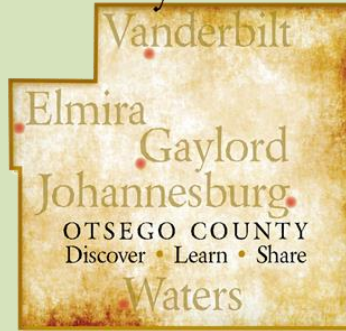


History Matters



Update # 20

May 19, 2018

A time capsule is a collection of current items placed in a container for a period of time intended for people in the future to discover and learn from. Time capsules are sometimes created and buried during celebrations such as a cornerstone laying for a building or at other milestone events.

As we prepare for our county's big event – our sesquicentennial – to celebrate our 150th birthday, we should consider creating a time capsule. What do you think our time capsule in 2025 should include? When should it be opened? Here are a few examples of time capsules here in Otsego County. Do you know of others we could add to our list?

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We **discovered** a list of items that were placed behind the cornerstone of the new court house (City / County Building). The year was 1967. Some of the 17 items in the Time Capsule: Protestant Bible, Catholic Bible, picture of the old courthouse, Otsego County directory, City directory of officials, photo of the Gaylord City Council and the County Board of Supervisors, meeting minutes that established the Joint Building Authority, current copy of the Herald Times, current copy of the Northern Star, a set of new coins, postcards of Main Street scenes, 1967 Alpine Festival schedule of events, and a tape recording of this ceremony.



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1. When the City of Gaylord celebrated its centennial in 1981, a time capsule was created. Organizers contacted celebrities of the day such as Johnny Carson, Bob Hope, and Ronald Reagan asking them to send a photo, written message or article to be included. Local residents were also encouraged to participate. The container was a large propane tank and was buried on July 13, 1982 next to the welcome to Gaylord sign on Old 27 and McCoy Road. When it came time to dig up the time capsule 20 years later, it was difficult to find anyone who remembered where it was buried! Eventually, the time capsule's location was discovered and unearthed. Some of the items were on display at the Museum in 2001 including a golf glove autographed by Arnold Palmer and personal messages from lots of area citizens.

2. In 1975, the new cathedral was built. Items sealed behind the cornerstone included two medals of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, a copy of the Catholic Weekly newspaper dated July 20, 1975, U.S. coins minted in 1975, two Holy Year Medals, and a copy of the ceremony of the blessing of the cornerstone on that date.

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1. When the Gaylord gymnasium (photo to left) was built in 1934, a cornerstone was laid in the northwest corner of the building. Within the cornerstone is a photo of President Franklin Roosevelt and list of names of the school board and staff.

2. There was a time capsule included with the cornerstone when a major addition was made to the Otsego Memorial Hospital in 1973. Hazel Shipp was in charge of collecting the historical items.

3. A more recent and on-going time capsule takes place with the Leadership Otsego County's module on local history. Each year, participants are asked to contribute an item that represents an important aspect of current life in Otsego County and will be of interest to future generations. Items include: a rock from the Pigeon River, cell phone, Sportsplex hockey puck, golf ball, telephone directory, and examples of advertising by the students' employers.

