

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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MICHIGAN'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN "GREEN BOOK" RECALLED AT SDHC's JULY 7 ZOOM "TUESDAY TALK"

JUNE 26, 2020 -- A look back at Michigan's version of the "Green Book" -- a mid-1900s friendly-haven travel guide for African-American travelers -- kicks off Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's 2020 "Tuesday Talk" series on July 7, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Breaking with Tuesday Talk's Old School House venue traditions due to current Coronavirus protective measures, this Talk will be conducted virtually via Zoom technology.

Participation is free and the public is invited, with hopes of drawing out more information from those in the audience who had personal experience with Green Book. Interested parties will need to register in advance online at tinyurl.com/SDHC-TT, in order to receive details on how to join the program.

As a historian of Michigan tourism, presenter Christine Byron tells of a time when Black travelers were advised to "carry your Green Book with you ... you may need it." Named for Victor Green, who began the guide in 1938, it provided an essential list of places where African-Americans would be welcome customers, so they could "vacation without aggravation." It continued publication through 1967.

Byron, retired from her position as the Local Historical Collections librarian for the Grand Rapids Public Library, remains an avid reader of Michigan history and has collected old Michigan travel and tourist memorabilia for over thirty years.

She and her husband, Tom Wilson, have co-authored five award-winning books in their "Vintage Views" series on the history of Michigan tourism. "Historic Leelanau" is their sixth book. They also create the "Vintage Views" column in *Michigan Blue* magazine, and operate a business creating prints from old Michigan and Great Lakes tourist and travel ephemera.

A summer tradition since 1996, weekly Tuesday Talks present entertaining and informative insights into local community life throughout July and August.

Questions regarding online registration may be e-mailed to info@sdhistoricalsociety.org. For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, or its activities planned for upcoming months, visit www.MySDHistory.org.

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PHOTO ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpeg image "GreenBk1959")

Caption: Image reflects the 1959 edition of the "Green Book", topic of SDHC's July 7 "Tuesday Talk", to be conducted online via Zoom.