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HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S AUG. 26 "TUESDAY TALK"
RECALLS PROHIBITION-ERA GANGSTER TOURISM

AUGUST 15, 2014 -- Tales of Prohibition-era gangster "vacations" in our area will highlight this summer's final Saugatuck/Douglas Historical Society "Tuesday Talk" on August 26 in the Old School House History Center, 130 Center Street, Douglas. The one-hour program begins when the school bell rings at 11 a.m.; admission is free and public attendance is invited.

"Escaping the City Heat?", presented by S/DHS Museum chair and curator Jim Schmiechen along with local historian/author Kit Lane, examines both known and rumored accounts of what happened in Saugatuck and Douglas in the 1920s and early '30s. Then reasonably "remote" beyond Illinois' Calumet Region, our shoreline became popular among Chicago gang members as both hideouts and channels for illegal liquor traffic from Detroit.

Audience participation is welcomed to enrich the discussion. Those with stories or photos to share are urged to contact the presenters in advance via e-mail to james.schmiechen@gmail.com or kitlane@wmol.com. Materials may also be mailed to S/DHS, PO Box 617, Douglas, MI 49406.

A summer tradition since 1996, Tuesday Talks present entertaining and informative insights into our community life weekly throughout July and August. This Tuesday Talk is sponsored by S/DHS member Valerie Atkin and Holland's Osman Flowers & Firs.

For more information about the Saugatuck/Douglas Historical Society, its Museum and Old School House History Center, or its activities planned for 2014, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.

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Photo from the S/DHS archives, ca. 1989, shows a cottage at VanDalson and Park Streets in Saugatuck, then called "Gaiety Inn". It was the reputed hideout of Chicago gang killers of a Chicago policeman in 1924.