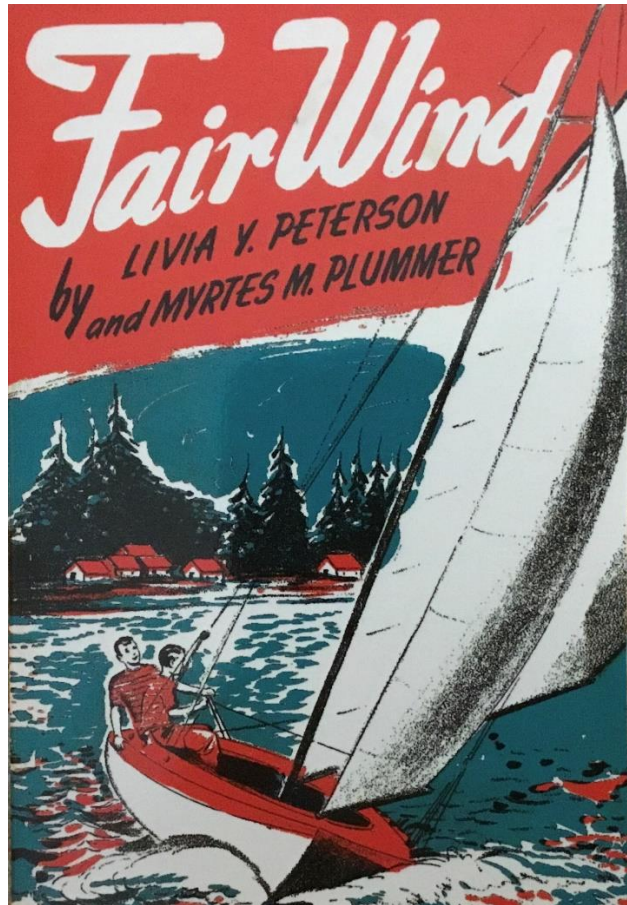


Fair Wind

By Barbara Bedau Brow
(Assisted by Cheryl Lohman)
White Lake Area Historical Society



Fair Wind, a novel for young people, especially 9-12 years old, was first published in 1947 by Wilcox and Follett Company of Chicago. Set in Cedarville, MI, a small town on the shore of Mirror Lake, the village is reminiscent of Whitehall in the early 1900s. Readers are introduced to 15-year-old Phillip Grant, his widowed mother, and his sister and friends, as well as his employers. Local jobs at that time primarily consisted of labor and craftsmanship. The Tannery, the paper mill in Loskegon and "The Villa" are easily identified as Whitehall's counterparts. As the story unfolds, the making of weathervanes and boat-building exemplify craftsmanship of that era, and all are found in Fair Wind.

Phillip faces adventures and challenges as he pursues his dream of owning a sailboat. His adventures lead him into dangerous situations which involve both crime and mystery, and serve to develop honesty, hard work, faithfulness, and loyalty. Along the way readers will meet Mr. Erickson, an old Swedish cabinetmaker who introduces Phillip to Swedish customs such as Jul-Otta, and Swedish sayings in his

Swedish dialect: “no job is too small or unimportant to do well”; “Honesty in little tings iss not a little ting”; “De man vat iss afraid of doing too much does too little”; and “De best iss none too good”.

Fair Wind was dedicated to Alvin Youngquist, author Livia Youngquist Peterson’s brother who was recognized in the world of sailing for his design of the Y-Flyer sailing scow which is still sailed extensively in many regions of the country.

Fair Wind was reissued in 1998 and may be purchased Saturday, November 19, 2022, at the White Lake Area Historical Society’s table at the Nuveen Center for the Arts for \$5.00. It is also available at the White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and The General Store on Colby in Whitehall, or by contacting members of the WLAHS board. This book would make a delightful gift for readers of any age as it showcases life as it was in small-town Whitehall (or Montague) in the early 1900s.