



Edgar A. Guest, Jr.

Reflections "On the Sunny Side of the Street"

Edgar (Bud) Guest, the "Sunny Side of the Street" philosopher of WJR radio station, will reminisce on events of Oakland County history in his entertaining style as our guest speaker for the Annual Dinner.

Born in Detroit of a famous father and poet, Edgar A. Guest, he graduated from the University of Michigan and now resides in Oakland County. The creative talents of this family have been enjoyed for many years by us all. The historical address for our dinner will add to the festive note of this occasion.

Dinner Reservation

TO:
Mrs. Marion Hodges Benter, 468 S. Fox Hills, Apt. 2, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48013. (Tickets and membership cards will be returned to you by mail).

Enclosed please find \$ _____ for _____ dinner reservations at \$4.25 per person, for the Annual Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society Dinner to be held at SHENANDOAH GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, 5600 Walnut Lake Road, Walled Lake.
Also enclosed please find new membership application _____.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

97th Annual Dinner March 23, 1970

SHENANDOAH GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
5600 WALNUT LAKE ROAD
SOCIAL HOUR 5:30 P.M.
WALLED LAKE, MICHIGAN
DINNER 6:30 P.M.

Your Invitation To Dinner

The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society cordially invites YOU to the 97th Annual Dinner meeting, Monday, March 23rd at the new Shenandoah Golf & Country Club.

The site and scene will be a bit different from the first dinner at the Fair Grounds in Pontiac. It will take you less time to get your horsepower in motion than our pioneers, and the tracks are wider. However, this should not detract from the significance of the occasion.

Please send your reservation for dinner today in envelope provided.

Membership Drive 1000 Our Goal

You are cordially invited to join the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society. Membership is extended to all citizens interested in the history and the preservation of the heritage of Oakland County.

The Membership Activities Committee has set one-thousand members as their goal. It can be achieved this year with your help. The dues support the expanded work of the Society as well as maintaining "PINE GROVE."

A Membership Application has been enclosed for the convenience of new members. It also has been enclosed for the use of *present members* in obtaining at least one new member for the Society this year.

Please join with us and dine with us at Shenandoah, March 23rd.

Oakland County Facts

The first permanent settlers came to Avon Township, March 17, 1817. John Hersey who located on Paint Creek made the first land entry in the fall of 1818. This same fall, November 5, 1818, the Pontiac Company was organized by a group of Detroit and Macomb County men for the purpose of purchasing land and laying out a town. It was largely a business venture although members did settle here.

The organization of the Pontiac Company undoubtedly was the impetus for Governor Lewis Cass to issue a proclamation on January 12, 1819 laying out the boundaries. On March 28, 1820, Governor Cass issued a proclamation declaring the inhabitants of Oakland County entitled to all the privileges to which the inhabitants of other counties were entitled and establishing the seat of justice at Pontiac. On June 28, 1820 by another proclamation the county was divided into two townships, Oakland and Bloomfield.

WATCH FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PLANS FOR THE DEDICATION OF OUR HISTORICAL MARKER AT OAKLAND COUNTY COURT HOUSE ON MARCH 28, 1970

Our Heritage



Thomas J. Drake

Society's History

On Wednesday, February 22, 1860, a meeting of Oakland County's "Old Settlers" was held at the Oakland County Court House on Saginaw Street in Pontiac to hear an address by the Hon. Thomas J. Drake on the early history of the county. Fourteen years later, on January 21, 1874, pioneers of the county again met at the Court House and on this occasion voted to resolve themselves into a society to be known as the Pioneer Society of Oakland County. Thomas J. Drake was chosen as temporary chairman. Henry Waldron was the first president and James A. Weeks, secretary.

The initial members of the Society were required to be residents of the county prior to 1840. The purpose was "to collect and preserve records of the past and things of the present and future, appertaining to the county, which will delight and instruct the present and future inhabitants . . ."

Over the 97 years of its existence, the Society has held an Annual Dinner, has collected newspapers, books, pictures and artifacts relating to Oakland County.

In 1943 a move was begun to purchase "Pine Grove" the Governor Moses Wisner Home, as headquarters of what is now

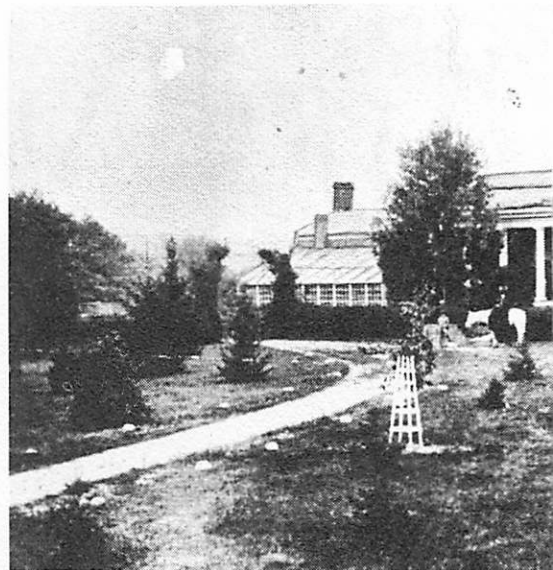
known as the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Two years later the initial payment was made and the home was purchased from the Wisner family and the collections of the Society were moved into their new home, at 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan, which is now maintained as a historic house museum and has been designated as a State of Michigan Historic Building.

1970, the Sesqui-centennial year for Oakland County, finds the Society still actively working on the program outlined in 1874. Membership is extended to all residents of Oakland County interested in her history and the preservation of historical records and artifacts for the enjoyment and education of its residents.

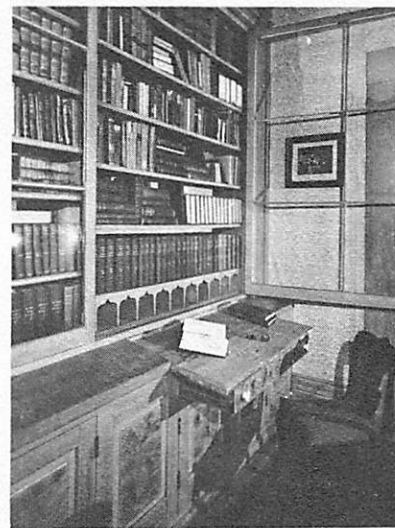
With the help of Mrs. Florence Wallace, Governor Wisner's grand-daughter, the Society has restored the Governor's home. The Drayton Plains One-Room Schoolhouse has been added to the site for the interest of many school students as well as adults who tour the grounds annually. The Root Cellar has been restored to convey what grandma's deep freeze looked like. The Society's collection of documents, newspapers and books is used extensively by those researching the history of Oakland County. Citizens of the area continue to add artifacts and historical records for preservation, to the Society's already outstanding collection. The Educational Activities Committee and the Membership Activities Committee plan the special exhibits and events during the year for the enjoyment of the area residents. The Victorian Christmas Open House and the Ice Cream Social of the summer were two very well attended projects of last year.

Future plans include: the addition of paid staff to help assist our resident caretaker and the volunteers in the operation and maintenance of the site and the collections entrusted to our care; the restoration of the pantry, wash house, kitchen and eventual re-building of a barn; the continuous preservation of the home and one-room schoolhouse; and replanting of the gardens and trees which gave this site its name, "Pine Grove."

The financial help to support this work comes from membership dues, gifts of interested citizens and groups and governmental units within the community. The members volunteer their time and talents to the various projects and events and the Board of Directors holds a monthly meeting to oversee the continued progress of the aims of the Society under the very able guidance of our president, Mrs. Donald E. Adams.



"Pine Grove" - The home of Michigan's 13th headquarter's of the Society, located at 405 O



◀ Lib

We Preserve



Parlor Mantel at Victorian Christmastime



Governor, Moses Wisner and now the
 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan



Restoration of the Root Cellar by Apprentice Bricklayers, Local 29, Bricklayers and Masons
 International Union



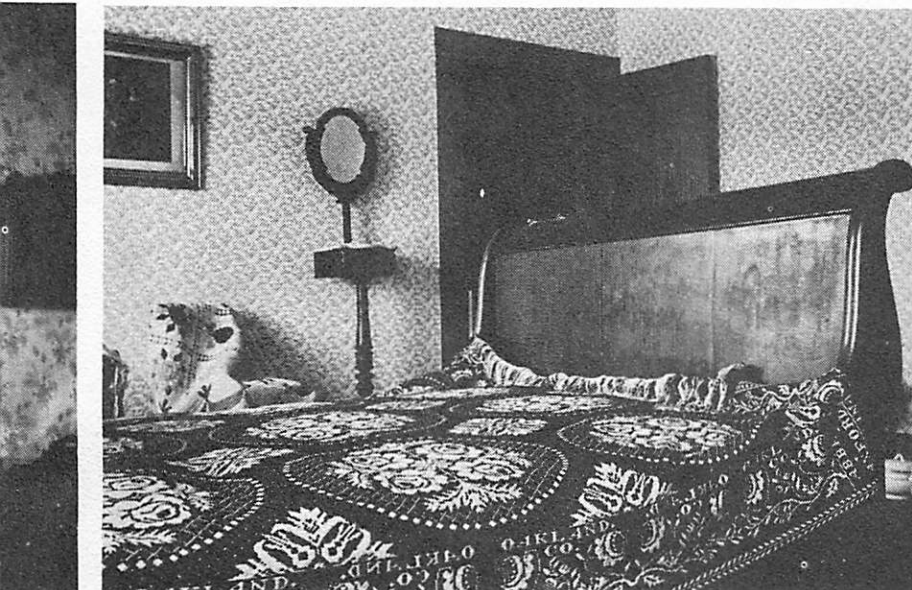
▲ One-Room Schoolhouse and Root Cellar

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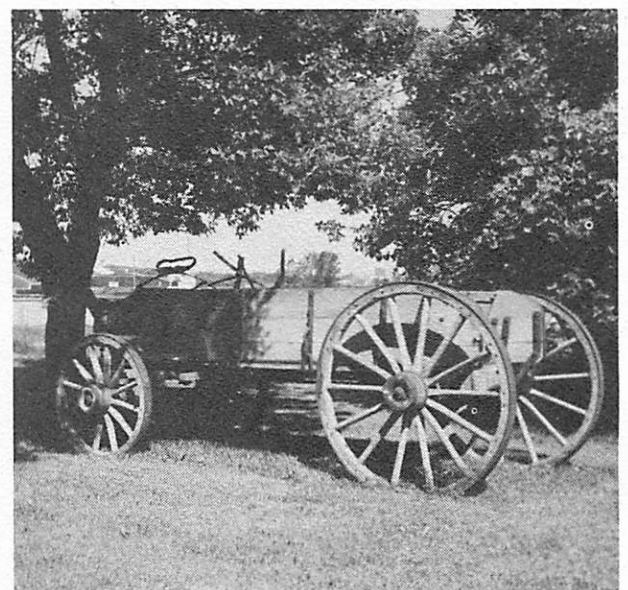
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Moving day for the Drayton Plains One-Room Schoolhouse



Sleigh Bed and artifacts in Front Bedroom



Farm Wagon

Historic Site Survey

At the request of the Michigan Historical Commission our Society plans to cooperate in the state-wide Historic Site Survey. Mr. William Lowery, Curator of Historic Sites for the Commission, and representatives of various historical organizations through the county met on November 20, 1969 at "Pine Grove" to discuss the program. Anyone interested in assisting is asked to call Mrs. Donald E. Adams at 673-2665.

Pioneer Meeting etc.

From the WEEKLY BILL POSTER dated September 16, 1874, the following is noted which explains the group pictured below.

"Thursday last, the first semi-annual gathering of the pioneers of Oakland County took place... At about one o'clock, President Waldron called the meeting to order in the large dining room on the Fair Ground..." then: "The President then called the attention of the audience to the fact that Mr. W. H. Brummitt, who had made such a grand offer at the previous meeting, was on the ground for the purpose of... taking a picture of the pioneers in a group. On motion, the meeting adjourned until next February and an hour later Mr. Brummitt had photographs of two groups."

Our Volunteer Program

There are many areas where volunteer help is needed such as assisting at social functions, working with junior members, helping on the Historic Site Survey, as well as repairing clothing, or artifacts. Also we can use your creative talent to prepare exhibits, restore gardens or serve on committees. We expect to be very active in many ways this year due to the Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary of Oakland County. Please contact Mrs. Edwin Adler (Gretchen) at 2813 Silverhill if you can assist.

A guide's tour seminar is being planned for early April for instruction of our volunteer guides. If you would like to assist in this manner, please contact either Mrs. Edward Ruslander or Mrs. Wendell Green who will conduct the class. You will find this experiment very rewarding as well as educational.

Items Needed

If you have any of the following, we would be pleased to add them to our collection:

Small tables, old Sears Roebuck or Montgomery Ward catalogs; Fashion magazines; antique Christmas decorations; programs, booklets, sketches, diaries or letters relating to Oakland County; dishes, silver, glassware, kitchen utensils, etc., appropriate for use in the Wisner Home; candle holders and/or lamps for use in the One-Room School; cupboard for the pantry.

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Vice Presidents: Mr. W.E.C. Huthwaite
Mr. Maurice F. Cole
Secretary: Mrs. Edwin Adler
Treasurer: Mrs. Richard Balmer
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