



## Annual Meeting Set For September 30

"OAKLAND COUNTY, 1820 - 1970" FEATURED

Wednesday, September 30, 1970 at 7:30 P.M. is the date for the annual meeting of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. The movie: "Oakland County, 1820 - 1970" will be shown in the one room school at Pinegrove, 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac.

This will be an informative and interesting evening and members are urged to attend.

### Introducing-

MRS. PETER LEKTZIAN (Connie) has been on the staff at the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society since April, 1970. Primarily her job is to catalog, label, and shelve the diaries, journals, scrapbooks and other volumes donated to the Society since its inception. She will be at Pine Grove Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. through December.

Connie is a part time student at Oakland Community College - Orchard Ridge Campus taking Library-Technician training. She lives in Clarkston with her husband and young son, Mark (one of our junior members).

### HARRISON MILLER

This fall finds Harrison Miller, our Oakland University student, back with us. This past summer he worked as guide, clerk and general jack-of-all-trades. Harry is a German major at the University and hopes to go into teaching.

He lives with his mother, Mrs. Harrison Miller, Sr., and two young brothers at 2061 Joy Rd., Pontiac, Michigan.

## Victorian Christmas will be December 6

The third annual Victorian Christmas open house is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, December 6, 1970. As in previous years, Pine Grove will be decorated as it might have been in days gone by. The Christmas tree will again be a center of attraction. Old fashioned trimmings are being sought as well as pictures showing actual Christmas

Members may bring guests and prospective members to help reach the goal for this Sesquicentennial year - a membership of One Thousand.

A social period will follow the meeting and program, and an opportunity will be afforded the members to see both the Drayton Plains one room school and the Wisner home.

## What is a volunteer?

Many things. A volunteer might recruit new members, interest his or her friends in Oakland County history and bring them as guests to our annual dinner, for a tour of Pine Grove, or to our Victorian Christmas open house.

A volunteer could be the lass with the light touch who likes to help dust our antiques or polish our silver; or a lad who loves old guns and just plain tinkering.

A volunteer could become a guide, telling the history of the early pioneers so vividly that a child sees them as real people. Or serve as a model or as host or hostess dressed in an authentic costume.

A volunteer could bake old fashioned cookies, prepare and serve hot spiced cider or raspberry shrub, or help decorate for our Victorian Christmas.

Are you a volunteer? If so, we need you and urge you to call and tell us your particular interest.

decorations and descriptive information.

Members who would like to help by providing appropriate trimmings, by assisting with the hanging of the greens and the trimming of the tree, or by serving on the social committee are asked to volunteer by calling the Wisner home, 338-6732, on Monday, Wednesday or Friday.



Jessie Wisner

Moses Wisner's

Daughter Jessie

Pinegrove Owner

Jessie Wisner was the only daughter of Angeolina and Moses Wisner. Her birthplace was Pine Grove, now the headquarters for the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Here she lived not only as a child but also after her marriage to Alpheus W. Clark, a Detroit banker.

Alpheus W. Clark was one of the early businessmen who commuted on the railway to Detroit. Although there were several years when the Clarks lived in Detroit, they always retained the home on Oakland Avenue in accordance with a promise made to Jessie's mother.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 1970-1971

The past year has been a memorable one for the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.

## Oakland County Sesquicentennial

The 150th birthday of Oakland County was celebrated with an assist from our Society in several areas. As a Society we helped inaugurate the sesquicentennial celebration by inviting other historical societies and the general public to participate with us at our annual dinner meeting on March 23, 1970. On the county's actual birthday, March 28, 1970, we presented to the county a special official state historical marker authorized by the Michigan Historical Commission. This marker was erected near the auditorium entrance at the county service center and has a brief history of the County on one side and of the courthouse on the other. As individuals, a number of our members aided in a variety of ways and several contributed to the writing of the OAKLAND COUNTY BOOK OF HISTORY. A presentation copy, numbered 2, was presented to the Society in recognition of its help.

## Our Volunteers and Staff

In many less spectacular ways this year has likewise been outstanding. Dozens of volunteers have served as guides, showing both children and adults through Pine Grove. Pontiac school children sang at the one room school daily during Michigan Week. In addition to our many volunteers, once again through Oakland University we were able to obtain student help under the federal College Work-Study Program. Two able students were assigned to us: Cynthia Grogan from Clarkston and Harrison Miller from Pontiac. Cynthia cataloged the books from Moses and Angeolina Wisner's own library and began a catalog of our costume collection. Harry served in so many ways it is difficult to describe his activities: guide, assistant gardener and maintenance man, collector of contributions, runner of errands, secretary and mail clerk. He was always at hand when needed and always willing.

Then, too, we have been able to have the part time help of Constance Lektzian. Mrs. Lektzian has written numerous articles on local history for publication in newspapers within the county. She has been organizing our scrapbooks, manuscripts, pamphlets and books on the history of the county. We found we did not have proper cabinets for these items. A member of our Society, Janice Antona,

had earlier indicated that a group of friends of Mary Pierson Todd would like to do something in her memory. They were approached and were delighted to contribute two bookcases in which to house our scrapbook and manuscript volumes. Some money remained and, appropriately, a flag will be obtained also in Mrs. Todd's memory. This flag will be flown on our outdoor flag pole. On July 4, 1970, Senator Philip A. Hart gave us for use at our one room school a flag which was flown over the national Capitol before its presentation to us.

## Our Collection Grows

Too numerous to mention in detail are the contributions to our collection on the history and people of Oakland County, but a few will be cited by way of illustration. Among them was an authentic Tiffany lamp from a Pontiac township home; a wedding outfit complete with shoes, a coverlet hand woven in 1851, kitchen utensils made on order by a local hardware merchant, a custom built dictionary case for the one room school, and a variety of pictures, books and manuscripts. In addition several groups made financial contributions to aid in our work.

## LISTING in the National Register

Perhaps the most significant long range event was the registration of Pine Grove in the National Register of Historic Places. Although by our efforts to restore and maintain it we have long recognized the Governor Moses Wisner home as an important historic site, it is gratifying to have it officially registered. It is possible

that this will provide the necessary impetus to proceed with restoration of the pantry, washhouse and kitchen.

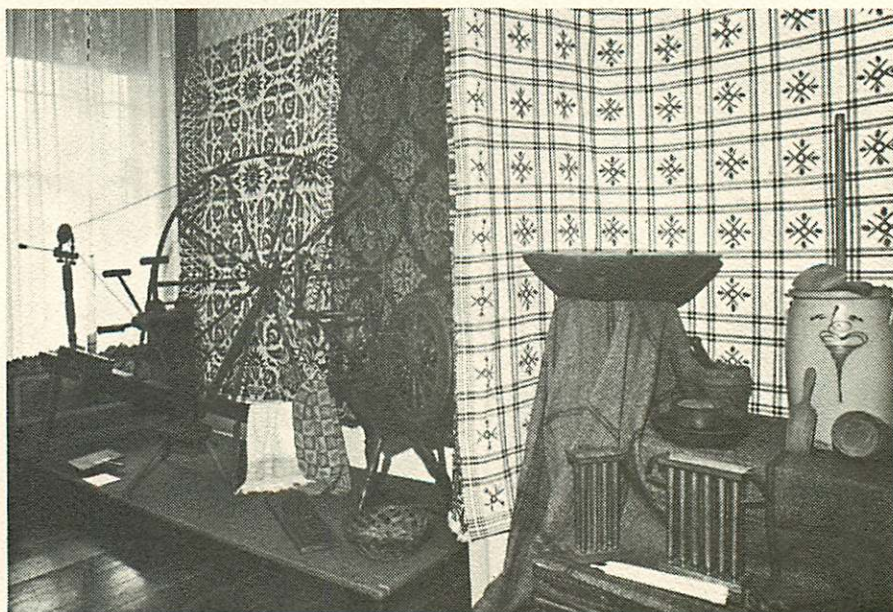
## Our Visitors

The proof of the pudding is still in the eating. Once again hundreds of school children and interested adults toured Pine Grove. Our volunteer guides, sometimes in costume, under the able direction of Mrs. Edward Ruslander, gave hours of time and much enthusiasm. An added feature, provided through the work of Mrs. Wendell Green, our educational activities chairman, was the establishment of a small sales counter. Here we offered for sale some attractive notepaper showing the Wisner home, slides of Pine Grove, souvenir pencils and rulers, pamphlets, picture kits and reproductions of the Robert Thom paintings made available through the Michigan Historical Commission.

## Our Members

Our successful year is, of course, due to our members. Although we were saddened by the loss of several of our most faithful, we were gladdened by the addition of a large number to our roles. Our membership chairman, Mrs. Robert Anderson, and our membership secretary, Mrs. Marion H. Benter, have kept persistently at their job and the last official count was 631 members. Our list grows as one member tells a prospective member about us, so all, in a sense, are on our membership committee.

Your officers have felt privileged to serve during this sesquicentennial year, just as you have no doubt been proud to be affiliated with a group which traces its origin to 1874, yet tries to keep faith with the present as well as its own past by making history more real to the present residents of the county.



*Part of collection of Oakland Co. Pioneer and Historical Society*