



Phelps-Durand House, 213 Church St., Romeo

“Historic Romeo”

“Historic Romeo,” our neighbor in Macomb County, will be discussed by Richard Daugherty at the 98th annual dinner of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society on May 12, 1971 at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Daugherty is an Associate Professor of American History at Macomb County Community College. A native of Detroit, he received his B.A. degree from Alma College and M.A. from the University of Michigan, where he majored in American Architectural History.

Mr. Daugherty prepared a brochure entitled, “A Tour of Historic Romeo,” which resulted from a continuing interest in the significant architecture of the town in which he and his wife now live. They have purchased and are restoring a nineteenth century Italianate residence. Among the homes listed in the brochure is the Phelps-Durand house which is pictured in this issue of the Gazette.

Old time dulcimer and fiddler music will be provided by our popular Society member Merritt Olsen, his son, Bill, and Harold Rood and Fenton Watkins, all of Birmingham. The Society has been entertained in the past at the annual meeting and the Victorian Christmas by this delightful group.

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 \$5.00 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, May 12, 1971. Also enclosed please find new membership application-----.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

98th annual dinner May 12

Members and friends invited

The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society will hold its 98th annual dinner meeting at Shenandoah Golf and Country Club on Wednesday, May 12, 1971 at 6:30 P.M.

The occasion presents an opportunity for members to invite interested friends to enjoy good fellowship and a glimpse into the past history of our area.

Please send your reservations for dinner today in the envelope provided. Tickets will be returned to you by mail.

Spring tours start

Groups who would like a conducted tour of Pine Grove may call Mrs. Edward Ruslander, 626-2498, for reservations two weeks in advance. There is a small fee. Take home a remembrance from our souvenir shop.



Mrs. Edward Ruslander shows children Moses Wisner's root cellar.

Former officers to receive Certificates of Appreciation

MARGARET POOLE MONROE
MARGARET ROWE MASTICK
HAZEL HILTON DUNLAP
RICHARD C. POOLE

At its 1971 annual dinner meeting the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society will honor four former officers and board members with certificates of appreciation. Two of them, Margaret Poole Monroe and Richard C. Poole are former presidents of the Society. Two others, Margaret Rowe Mastick and Hazel Hilton Dunlap, have served on the Board of Directors of the Society and were active in early restoration activities at the Wisner Home.

The certificates of appreciation are given in "recognition for contributions to the cause of local history and especially for friendship and assistance to this Society and its members." Each in his own way has made that contribution.

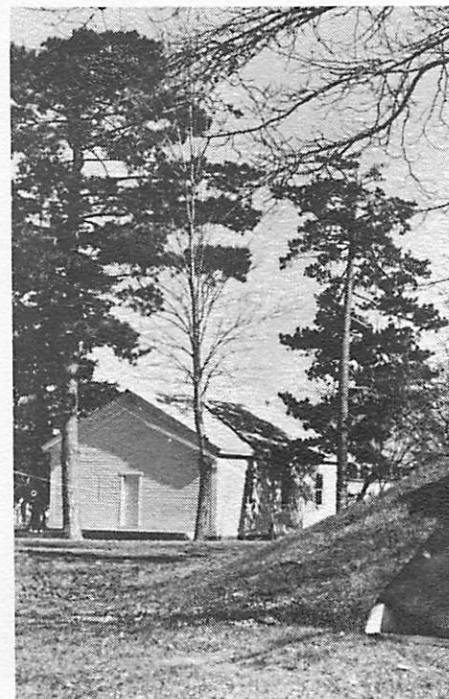
Mrs. Monroe is a fourth generation Pontiacker, her parents being Fred J. and Mary Voorheis Poole. She has served her community and state through active participation as an officer of the Pontiac Y.W.C.A. as well as of this Society, and has been a member of the Alma College Board of Trustees and the board of The Presbyterian Village.

Richard C. Poole has similar antecedents, being the grandson of Fred J. and Mary Voorheis Poole. He served as

chairman of the restoration and maintenance committee of the Society for several years preceding his presidency in 1968-9, and during that time the Drayton Plains one room schoolhouse was moved to Pine Grove and restored, the root cellar and privy were rebuilt, and substantial repairs made to the porches.

Margaret Rowe Mastick contributed in a variety of ways, for it was she whose special talent in interior restoration made possible the attractive restored rooms in the Wisner house. As chairman of the house committee, her influence was felt during her entire membership on the board of directors. She has done some writing in local history, one of her most recent articles being a history of "The Milford Times" which appeared in the centennial issue of the "Times" on February 17, 1971.

Hazel Hilton Dunlap, long active as an officer and board member, has likewise contributed to the restoration of the Wisner home as chairman of the accessions committee. Furnishings for the home were obtained through the activities of that committee as the restoration progressed. She also served as Secretary at the time Pine Grove was purchased.



The restored Drayton Plains One Room School was set among three original pines.

Recognize members

BESSIE MOODY GRISWOLD

ARTHUR S. GRISWOLD

Two members of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, Arthur S. Griswold and Bessie Moody Griswold, of Pon Valley Road in Bloomfield Hills, will receive certificates of appreciation at the annual dinner meeting in recognition of a unique contribution to the restoration of Pine Grove. Since the purchase of the Wisner home in 1945 theirs has been a continuing support.

Mr. and Mrs. Griswold several years ago contributed to a special "Griswold Tree Fund" for the purpose of assisting in replanting appropriate trees on the grounds. Last year, having noted the need for proper trimming of the original pines on the property, the Griswolds arranged not only for proper care of the three pines surrounding the one room school, but also for care of other trees on the premises.

It is the hope of the grounds committee that replanting of pines will once again make the name "Pine Grove" appropriate, but the preservation of the original trees is a primary consideration. For their assistance the Society salutes Arthur S. Griswold and Bessie Moody Griswold.



Front bedroom restored under restoration and house committee



Perry Glass

Born in 1901 near Goodrich, Michigan, Perry Glass moved to Pontiac with his family when he was a very small boy. In those turn-of-the-century days, most families, even city dwellers, had a small garden plot at the back of their house. It was here Perry picked up his first arrowhead.

In times gone by, the Clinton River had served as a highway for the Indians. They built many of their camps and villages on or near its banks. Centuries later, the Glass back yard occupied one of these spots.

When Perry grew a little older, it became his job to help his father spade up the garden each spring. Along with the soil, he turned up a number of spearheads and tools, discarded by these early Indians.

It was after Perry Glass died in 1969, that the box containing his Indian collection was discovered, dust covered and hidden from view on a shelf. The box and its contents were given to the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.

Today this collection of artifacts, begun by a young boy's curiosity over a half century ago, is on display at the Moses Wisner Home.

Indian Artifact collection displayed at Wisner Home

A new exhibit has been added at Pine Grove, headquarters for the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.

This is the Perry Glass Indian collection recently donated to the Society. It consists of 91 separate spear points, arrowheads and tools.

The artifacts date from the time of the Paleo-Indian and Archaic culture. Some of these are drills once used in the making of their leather clothing, and scraping tools that prepared the hides for working. Here are displayed stone points that were bound to thrusting or throwing spears when the early Indians hunted the mastodons and other animals that once roamed this area.

It was decided in late 1970, by the legatee of the Perry Glass property, that the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society was the proper owner for this Indian collection; and it became a permanent part of the realia owned by the Society.

Under the direction of Cranbrook's Dr. Robert Bowen of the Institute of Science, the artifact collection was properly numbered and classified. A great part of this work was done by Mr. Richard Zurel, an Oakland University student working at Cranbrook, and Mr. Charles Martinez, president of the Michigan Archaeological Society and a member of our own Pioneer and Historical group.

As a measure of the infinite patience expended, Rick Zurel discovered that of the original 93 artifacts, 2 sets of small chips appeared to fit together. He carefully matched and mended these.





Children glimpse the past

Here in the Perry Glass collection at the Wisner Home, are bits of Indian history.

It is not the history of far away tribes, but of Indians who lived and walked in Oakland County centuries ago.

In what is now a residential section, near a busy road that

cuts across much of the County, the Indians made camp on the banks of a winding stream they called the crooked river.

Indians hunted only for food and clothing, very rarely for sport. The deer and bear hides were scraped smooth with sharp sided stone tools they made themselves. Their dug out canoes were hollowed by fire and an adze-like instrument of heavy stone.

Spear carrying braves tracked the mastadon to the edge of the swampy lakes. Here they waited, quiet and patient, until the giant animals became hopelessly ensnared in the bog. Then they would dare rush out with their thrusting spears to make the kill.

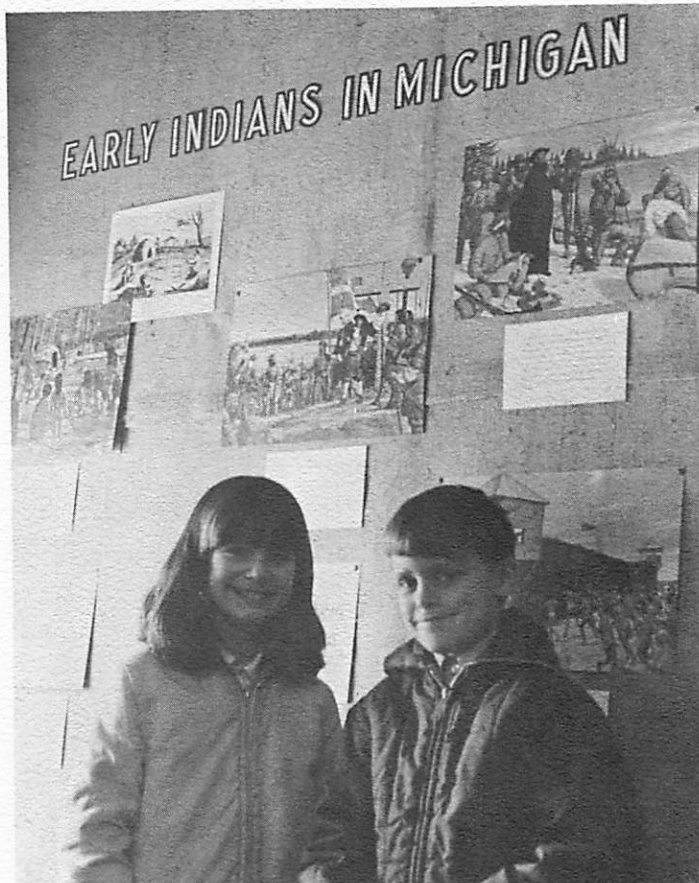
The Indians fashioned their hunting and war weapons with great skill and care — their lives depended on it.

Then the white man came with his guns and showed how the wild animals could be brought down from a greater distance. Indians set about trying to trade for or buy these more modern weapons. Spear points and arrowheads became less important to their way of living. Over the years they lost much of their craft in the making of these stone implements.

Fortunately, today the Indians have become aware of their wonderful heritage. Their young people are regaining knowledge of the ways and skills of their early ancestors.



INDIAN TRAIL TREE — To mark a trail for hunting or trading, Indians sometimes bent young trees over and tied their tips to the ground. Frequently, these trees took root a second time.



Oakland County children view Indian display.

Chief Kish Kor Co

"In the fall of 1820, the Indian chief and tryant of all the Saginaw bands — the dreaded Kish Kor Co, encamped on our farm, and accompanied by his old men counselors, and a body guard of armed braves, came to the house and demanded to be furnished with two barrels of flour and one of pork, which we did not have. But after a smoke from a pipe of peace . . . my father freely offering them what the Great Spirit had given us from the earth, consisting of corn, potatoes and pumpkins then in the field; Kish Kor Co ordered about 20 men and squaws to go with . . . my oldest brother and gather what was necessary to feed them, and then proceeded to name my father, calling him Che Pontiock and adopted him as a brother, saying our family should belong to his people, which was solemnly confirmed by a shaking of hands by all the old men, with every one of the family, and kissing each on the left cheek. After another smoke all around, including father, each taking a few whiffs from the two long stemmed pipes, one of which was Kish Kor Co's, both passed around by his pipe bearer, each of the old men was presented with a plug of tobacco by Pontiock, and the chief with a double-portion, and some more for distribution among his braves. Then this solemn council broke up, and from that day no member of our family ever lost anything by theft or was treated with any indignity by Indians from the Saginaws . . ."*

In 1876, B. O. Williams, son of Oliver Williams, wrote an account of early days in Oakland County for the Michigan State Pioneer Society. The story of Kish Kor Co is a part of this history. The farm referred to was on the shore of Silver Lake and was settled by Oliver Williams in 1818.

**Michigan Pioneer Collections, Vol. 2 - 1877-8*