



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE 103rd ANNUAL DINNER OF THE OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Will-O-Way Theatre Presents:

THE GAY 90's TO THE ROARING 20's

A Musical Revue-All Singing, Dancing



The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society will feature the Will-O-Way Theatre group in a special bicentennial program at the 103rd Annual Dinner meeting at Pontiac Stadium on May 19. What could be more nostalgic for many of our members than a musical revue entitled "The Gay 90's to the Roaring 20's"? For the younger members it will afford an enjoyable opportunity to learn how their parents and grandparents played.

A cast of 8 talented young women and men will highlight the most popular hit numbers from before the turn of the century through the 1920's. Using authentic costumes and props to give the proper atmosphere, this talented group will entertain with a thirty-five minute show featuring twenty-three song and dance numbers.

Presented by Sidney Knight Enterprises, this same show and cast was seen by over 5000 people when it was presented by American Airlines as a salute to the bicentennial at the 1975 Michigan State Fair.

103rd Annual Dinner

On Wednesday, May 19, the 103rd Annual Dinner of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society will be held at the well-known Pontiac Stadium in the banquet room.

The 5:30 social hour will feature a cash bar; or, for those who prefer it, a fruit punch bowl will be served. Take advantage of this early time—come down and meet the new members and get re-acquainted with the old ones. Following the social hour, a delicious dinner, complete from appetizers to dessert will be served.

Father Thompson Marcero will give the invocation and James Renfrew will serve as master of ceremonies. Capping the evening will be the Will-O-Way Theatre's musical revue.

Please use the Featherstone Road entrance. There will be ample parking. Marion Hodges Roush will be there to take new memberships. In charge of arrangements are Mrs. Robert Anderson and John Boeberitz and handling name tags will be Mrs. Richard Wright and Mrs. James Burke.

DINNER RESERVATION — mail before May 11

Mail in enclosed envelope to:

Mrs. Charles Roush, 468 S. Fox Hills, Apt. 2, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. 48013

Enclosed please find \$ _____ for _____ dinner reservations at \$7.00 per person, for the annual Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society to be held at Pontiac Stadium, Featherstone Road, Pontiac, Michigan.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

School days, School days

by
Margaret Ann Beattie Jackson

Are you one of the many in Oakland County who has a flood of memories when you hear "School Days, School Days, good old golden rule days"? Do you have memories of walking to and from school in weather that numbed your fingers and toes, which had to be thawed out by the only available means in the one-room schoolhouse, — the black heating stove? (We desperately need an authentic one for the school house at Wisner). Do you recall, while wet mittens and coats steamed and sent their unforgettable smell into the air, the teacher called the roll, and led us all in the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag" and a few never to be duplicated songs like "King of the Cannibal Islands" and "Some Folks" sung from *Pat's Pick or Knapsack*?

This took care of "SHOW AND TELL" and MUSIC INSTRUCTION. With no further delay our studies began, punctuated by shuffling feet, the pulling of braids by the boy in back, and the passing of notes between seats. Of course far more interesting was the recitation of the class which was at the moment reading, writing on the blackboard or answering questions presented by the teacher. Somehow we were able to learn the lessons, blush over the attention of the prankish boys, and live through many happy, painful, and unforgettable days of spell-downs, (once I went down on Bible, as I forgot to capitalize it), Christmas programs, cracks from the hickory stick, and the embarrassment of having to clean the dirt out of the cracks of the oiled floor with a pencil and a broom and dustpan, as punishment for having misbehaved during class hours.



Drayton Plains School on Moving Day



In 1893, the total enrollment of the Drayton Plains school lined up for a picture. The teacher was Jessie Stevens.

Does springtime cause you to recall muddy shoes wet from the river where wild flower bouquets were picked on the way to school for proud presentation to the teacher, games of Eenie, Ienie Over, marbles, tag, softball, Blindman's Bluff, and Ruth and Jacob? I could go on and on, but if you were a student in a one-room school, I need not kindle your thought any longer. I only need to present you with the real reason for this memory trip. As you may know, the schoolhouse at Pinegrove once stood in Drayton Plains, Michigan on 1/2 acre of land in Section 10 purchased June 18, 1862 for \$25.00 from Alvin A. Southard and Phebe Southard, his wife, by the officers of School District 8, Waterford Township. Located on Sashabaw Rd. at the present Drayton Plains school site, it was later moved across the street. The school was built in the 1860s by Simon Van Nortwich. It was used as a school until 1925 when the present brick school was constructed. Mrs. Charles Hudson was one of the last teachers in this school. The building was given to the Oakland Co. Pioneer and Historical Society by Leonard Coats, and was moved to its present location Dec. 9, 1965. In ten years members have worked diligently to bring back some of its authenticity; however, there are still many things to do to make it "live again." One of the most obvious is to restore the belfry. I presented a plea to the Waterford-Drayton Rotary Club and they responded with an offer to do anything they could towards construction and reassembling of the belfry. Mr. Lowell Kage, a Waterford Twp. High School instructor gave generously and willingly of his time and knowledge and made a sketch and estimate of materials needed and volunteered to build the belfry. Waterford Lumber Co., a 40 year old business on Airport Rd., owned and operated by Paul Adams and son Bob, are donating the lumber and even delivering it to the construction site. Mr. Earl Crawford has agreed to work as consulting engineer, so it looks like late spring should find us having a belfry raising. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Crossman of Sylvan Village and Dr. and Mrs. Aaron Riker of Orchard Lake, who have also aided in the restoration, the schoolhouse will have its voice back.

This Bicentennial year has all of us who are interested in the schoolhouse thinking of the fun we can afford others in this facility. Aside from the usual tours and displays in the cases, we are hoping to have Senior Citizen Spelling Bees with prizes for the winners and lots of memories and fun for all, programs of recitations and songs. We feel that it would be a rare treat to

Con't on next page



Arbor Day Activities Set At Pine Grove

Pine Grove Open For Spring Tours

April signaled the start of a new tour season here at Pine Grove. The first group to visit the Wisner House this spring was the Women's Literary Club. First organized in 1892, this group has a long, unbroken history of its own.

There was much to be done before that opening day. All of March was busy with house cleaning, window washing, and a general freshening of the property. Mrs. Douglas Hoard and Mrs. James Burke, co-chairpersons of the House Committee, set the dining room with the Wisner china. Both women spend many volunteer hours working at Pine Grove.

The ice storm that hit Michigan in early March made extensive cleanup necessary on the grounds. Cecil Dumbrigue, Grounds Committee chairman, worked between the numerous rain and snow showers to bring order to the scene. He was assisted in a day long work bee on Saturday, April 3 by the Boy Scouts from Troop #19.

While students still comprise the largest percentage of our visitors, a variety of adult groups have also made tour reservations. To mention a few, the Welcome Wagon of Lake Orion-Oxford, the YWCA of Pontiac and the Women's Round Table have been guests here at Wisner this season.

The week of May 10 has been designated as Waterford Camp Fire Girls Week here at Pine Grove. There will be a series of tours for five days and 300 young members of that organization will visit the house and grounds. This tour is a part of a Bicentennial project.

In planning your own summer activities, don't forget there are drop-in tours at Pine Grove in July and August. These will be Tuesdays through Saturdays, from one to 4 P.M.

Once the trees around the Wisner House were planted so thickly that Oakland Avenue could not be seen from the front porch.

Time and storms have bared much of the grounds. Gone are the beautiful maples that once shaded the south side of the house. A gift from the Pontiac Branch - Women's National Farm and Garden Association will help restore this area.

On Arbor Day, April 22, a sugar maple was planted in memory of Mrs. W. F. (Edith) Maybury. She was one of the charter members who helped organize the group in 1930, and also served as its president.

Cecil Dumbrigue, Chairman of the Pine Grove Grounds Committee, assisted with the planting. Under his direction, 25 young white pines will be purchased for the grounds. These are also a gift from this Garden Association to the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society.

Many years ago, Moses Wisner told that he counted 500 tulips in the garden at Pine Grove. There were also beds of iris, lilies, annuals and perennials. It is hoped that these colorful gardens will someday be restored.

Anyone wishing to donate bulbs or plants for this restoration, may contact Cecil Dumbrigue.

COMING EVENTS

*April 30 Guide Training Session
10:00—Bring your lunch [coffee furnished]
New and Experienced guides*

*July and August Drop-In Tours
Tuesday thru Saturday 1 to 4 P.M.*

August 1 - Sunday Ice Cream Social

*More about this later —
but mark your calendar!*

School Days, Con't

hear these pieces spoken and sung by the ones who stood in the old schoolhouses and performed as children. Shadow Socials, Box Socials, Sing Alongs and perhaps a day of outdoor games which were played in that era are all planned and being put together. If you are interested in participating in any of these events, or helping with the organization and carrying out of same, or simply have some ideas to share, please call the Wisner Historic House, 338-6732 and leave your name, phone number and address. We need everyone who can contribute anything to help our school ring, sing and stand proudly as a monument to that romantic and necessary bit of Americana, the one-room school.

NEEDED AND WANTED :
HEATING STOVE

SOME WILLING WORKERS, OR BUSINESS TO REMOVE THE PAINT FROM THE FLOOR AND OIL SAME.

PICTURES OF ANY OF THE CLASSES OF CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED THE DRAYTON SCHOOL (or if other school, please indicate the name and location of school) FOR DISPLAY CASE.

MORE KNAPSACK OR PAT'S PICK SONG BOOKS.



Gunston Hall

Administrative Coordinator

Attends Conference

Mrs. Peter Lektzian, administrative coordinator at Pine Grove, was one of fifteen given a fellowship to attend the 14th Annual Woodlawn Conference on February 7. Sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the conferees were housed in the beautiful Woodlawn plantation at Mt. Vernon, Virginia.

Set up to cover all phases of Historic Site Administration, the conference was an intensive seven day course of lectures, seminars and preservation-oriented tours.

All meetings were under the professional guidance of two of the staff of National Trust. They were Ms. Patricia Williams, Community Education Coordinator, and Philip D. Spiess II, Research Coordinator.

Historic locations such as Mt. Vernon, Woodlawn Plantation and Gunston Hall were viewed from the standpoint of how they are administered and maintained. In Annapolis and Alexandria, historic districts and houses were toured for knowledge of how they were, or in some cases, how they will be, restored.

One evening was devoted to a reception at the Washington home of Mr. and Mrs. James Biddle. Mr. Biddle is the president of the National Trust.

A dinner meeting with the professional staff of Gunston Hall was followed by a candlelight tour of that plantation. An open house at Woodlawn for the conferees and all the seminar lecturers was given at the end of the week. These events gave the conference participants an additional opportunity to discuss with these professionals more of the problems of historic houses and preservation.

Society Representatives

Attend Museum Course

Legal Aspects of Museum Operations, a course of study co-sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and the American Bar Association with the cooperation of the American Association of Museums, attracted Judge and Mrs. Donald E. Adams to Los Angeles March 22-24.

The heavily scheduled three day course covered problems of taxation, postal requirements, fund raising, access by the public, insurance coverage, and volunteers as well as other aspects of museum management. The faculty was made up of attorneys with museum experience, directors of art and historical museums, and staff members from the Smithsonian Institution. The registration list included participants from New England to Hawaii and all states in between.

Mrs. Adams, president of Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, reported that she was interested to find how many of the problems of large institutions were shared by our organization though on a much smaller scale. "Where they think in thousands of dollars - or even millions - we think in tens and hundreds. Yet how properly to handle those funds and the art and history treasures in our care is as important to us and our donors as it is to them."

The course is sponsored annually by the American Law Institute - American Bar Association Committee on Continuing Professional Education. Next year it will be held in New York.

Additional Contributors To Endowment Fund

Mrs. Frank Lambert
Mrs. J. Russell Thompson
Robert L. Warrington

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Mrs. J. Russell Thompson
Mrs. Lloyd Ingamells
Mrs. Anna Baker Lane
Mrs. James Burke
Richard C. Balmer
Mrs. William E. Jackson

MEMORIAL received for Carol S. Cole from:
Maurice F. Cole

MEMORIAL received for Jayno W. & Blanche W. Adams from:
Judge and Mrs. Donald E. Adams

In addition to endowment contributions, life memberships and specified memorials are added to the Endowment Fund.

The above names represent contributors since the last GAZETTE and before April 8, 1976.