

## Annual Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 1

1 to 4 p.m.

COME ONE! COME ALL! Be sure you don't miss it. In honor of our nation's Bicentennial, the Ice Cream Social promises to be bigger and better than ever. Along with Richardson's Ice cream, cake, lemonade and Vernor's Ginger Ale, feature attractions will include:

- \*Ground breaking ceremony for the Carriage House at 2:30 P.M., Pontiac's Mayor Wallace Holland will participate.
- \*Antique Cars and a 1927 Fire Engine
- \*First Michigan Volunteer's Civil War Bivouac
- \*A rousing CALLIOPE sponsored by Pontiac's Bicentennial Committee
- \*Parking for the day will be available at the Oakland Ave. Presbyterian Church at 404 Oakland Avenue—across from Pine Grove. Guests may also park in the Wisner school lot.

- \* A special Bicentennial quilt has been designed by the Quilting Guild. Lovely and unusual, it is made of blocks depicting historical sites and events in Oakland County.
- \* Tickets for the quilt drawing may be purchased at the Ice Cream Social. For advance ticket sales on the quilt, contact Mrs. William Rachwal, 2151 N. Lake Angelus Road, Pontiac 48055. Phone 674-2301. Tickets are \$1.00 each.
- \* The Guild will gather on the front lawn at Pine Grove for an old-fashioned quilting bee on August 1. Be sure to look in on this.
- \* Drawing will be at the Victorian Open House on December 5.
- \* Be sure to pay a visit to the Book Booth. Representatives of local societies and communities who have published the history of their area have been invited to display and sell their books at our Ice Cream Social. If you would like a personal Bicentennial project—why not collect a library of local histories?
- \* Got a favorite cake recipe? The Ice Cream Social is the time to bring it out. Every year more and more people have been attending this important festival. All remaining cakes are sold at the close of the Social.
- \* When you leave the Ice Cream Social at Pine Grove, continue a festive day by attending the Pontiac City concert on Wide Track near the Telander Building at 4 P.M.

### TICKETS

Enclosed with this Gazette, please find 5 admission tickets for you and your friends. Please return any money or unsold tickets to Pine Grove, 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan 48058 before July 25. Make checks payable to Lillian Balmer, Treasurer.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL — Tear off and mail to Pine Grove, 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan 48058 in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible.

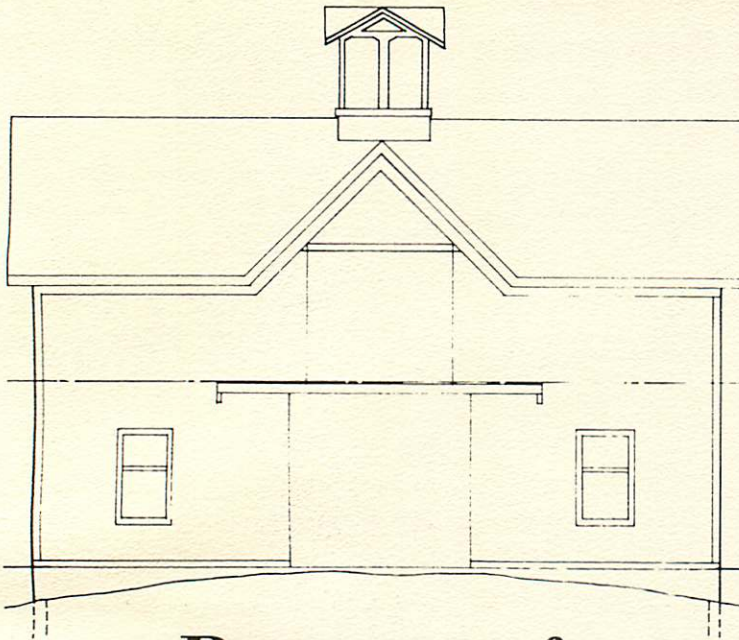
I will serve as—

Host-Guide	12:45 to 2:00	2:00 to 3:00	3:00 to 4:15
Host-Server	12:45 to 2:00	2:00 to 3:00	3:00 to 4:15
Sales (Pot Pourri Shoppe)	12:45 to 2:00	2:00 to 3:00	3:00 to 4:15

I will bring \_\_\_\_\_ cake(s) Sunday forenoon or Saturday between 1 P.M. and 4 P.M.  
Any questions, please call the office: 338-6732

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## Progress of The Carriage House

The Wisner Carriage House is closer to becoming a reality. Michael Pitts from the University of Detroit School of Architecture has completed the working drawings. Students from the Northeast Oakland Vocational Education Center, under the direction of Jim Johnson, have agreed to construct the Carriage House.

Francis Lohff will act as general contractor and supervisor for the Historical Society.

Approximately \$30,000 in funds have been raised, the biggest portion of which is \$15,000 given by the City of Pontiac as their commitment to the Bicentennial project.

The completed Carriage House will provide many additional benefits to the community as well as to Pine Grove itself. Some of these are: museum space for farm artifacts and other rotating displays, exhibit preparation space, restroom facilities, meeting facilities for city and county groups and classroom space for craft activities and seminars.

## Carriage House Dig Successful

Nearly a year after the archeological field program on the Carriage House site at Pine Grove was completed, the task of cleaning, cataloging and analyzing artifact material continues. "The digging last summer was really the tip of the iceberg," said Charles H. Martinez, site director. "The tedious mind boggling task is putting all the evidence uncovered in proper perspective."

"It's like fitting together pieces of a gigantic jigsaw puzzle until a picture emerges that tells us more of the Wisner days at Pine Grove," Mr. Martinez continued.

The excavation phase, completed in August of 1975, uncovered two mortared fieldstone walls of the Carriage House

together with some 6000 artifacts and artifact fragments. The dig was accomplished with a field team composed of volunteers of the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society, and other local service organizations. The field program was financed through a Bicentennial grant from the Pontiac Business and Professional Women, and the Pontiac-Oakland Town Hall.

While analysis of the artifacts will continue for several more months, before a report can be written, Martinez feels the enterprise was highly successful.

"We now know the size and orientation of the Carriage House as well as having obtained a better idea of its construction," Martinez said.

Of additional interest was the discovery of a trash deposit near the southeast corner of the former structure. It was well stratified, showing a deposition of artifacts from the Carriage House, the Wisner Home and the adjacent grounds. This feature, or man made disturbance below ground, was laid down evenly in layers over a period of years, and shows change in taste and perhaps the socio-economic conditions of the owners.

Mr. Martinez has carefully examined, washed and numbered each artifact. When possible, fragments of an object are glued together for restoration. All artifacts are then divided into specific categories and kept in boxes which show their original location in terms of depth and association with certain features. A number of these artifacts will be on view at the Ice Cream Social. In time, select groupings of these objects will be on permanent display at Pine Grove.

Mr. Martinez, who is a Director of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, also serves as a Board member of the Michigan Archeological Society. In addition to his work involved as site director at Pine Grove, he is currently engaged in analyzing artifacts from the Renaissance Center and the Civic Center Plaza area in downtown Detroit.



Muscle power on the Carriage House "dig" is here displayed by [l. to r.] Chris Martinez and Janet O'Dell CM 75-7-24-17

# The Revitalization of Central City Pontiac

A few weeks ago, the City of Pontiac officially launched an ambitious program aimed at reversing the environmental damage wrought by nearly two decades of declining retail trade. Historically, the Street Beautification Program, as it is called, began as a staff study in February of 1975, under the direction of Reginald Owens, A.I.P., P.C.P., the City's Development Executive. At that time, the City contracted with the landscape architecture and urban design firm of Anderson/Lesniak and Associates, Inc., of Royal Oak to provide a sketch and cost estimate of how one might approach a total renovation of Saginaw Street with some emphasis given to upgrading a portion of Huron Street and Oakland Avenue as well.

It was determined that a beautification could be accomplished by altering the environment through the use of architecturally coordinated sidewalks, pedestrian plazas, a "green" image utilizing trees, shrubs, flowers and street furniture, and the renovation of existing storefronts. The program was then divided into two sections—the first calling for the City to expend some \$680,000 (derived from Community Block Grant funds) in the public right-of-way; the second asking that the private sector commit to renovation of building facades, with the City, through Anderson/Lesniak, providing renderings with a suggested approach to renovation, at no cost to the property owner.

With approximately sixty-five percent of the property owners and/or tenants contacted having indicated their willingness to participate in the revitalization of their City, on March 16, 1976, the City Commission formally resolved to release funds to implement the program. The contract for the street improvement portion of the program was awarded to Alva L. Greer & Sons/Selecta Cement, a joint venture project; the landscape portion to Vidosh Brothers, Inc.

Even before Greer & Sons broke ground last week, several restorations had been completed. A fine example is Empire Properties, Ltd., located at 77 North Saginaw Street. A real estate office in the early 1900's, its owners, Frank Todd and Christopher Redding (who is, coincidentally, an architect himself), have carefully preserved the architectural integrity of the buildings. Both the interior and exterior restoration have been completed with an eye for intricacies and details that



*Saginaw St. near Lawrence intersection, looking south prior to the turn of the century.*

would please even the purist. Currently, they are in the process of renovating the old Simms building, which will house a network of various independent shops.

Last year, the City, for a nominal cost, sold back to the Masons the old Masonic Temple on Lafayette Street. The Pontiac City Commission saw this as the best possible re-use of the building. The Masons are dedicating many volunteer hours to restoring what was once one of the most costly and magnificent structures of its kind in the world.

The costs of these renovations will range from a few hundred to many thousands of dollars. Each, however, is an expression of the property owner's commitment to the City and his belief that a revitalization of the core area can occur here, as it has in other cities.

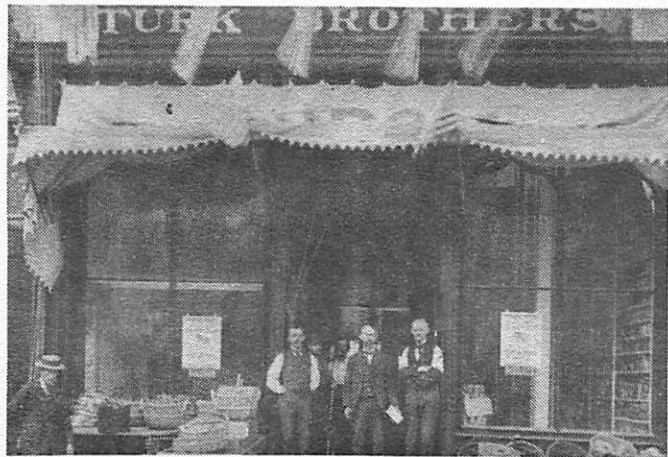
In 1975 and 1976, Pontiac has entered into a new era in terms of governmental and private support for Central City Rehabilitation.

The city is in the process of building the new 50th District Court in the central city along with a 585-space parking deck.

These elements combined with the Street Beautification Program and Facade Renovation will help tremendously in saving what once was the primary retail center for Oakland County.

By: Reginald Owens  
Development Executive

Chris Carlyon  
Research Aide



*Turk Brothers store was 2 doors south of the courthouse that once stood at Huron and Saginaw Sts.*

*The Gazette would be pleased to publish in future issues, similar accounts from other areas throughout the county, showing plans being made or projects underway. Did your historical group save a building, open a museum, or restore a house, and how, where and what? Call Connie Lektzian at 338-6732 for further information.*

# The Bells Are Ringing

The anticipated target date for dedication of the School Belfry on the Drayton Plains one-room school has been set for August 1, 1976. This is being accomplished with the cooperation of the Waterford-Drayton Rotary Club, and other interested and generous citizens of Oakland County.

We are still hopeful of finding some group or business who will undertake the challenge of removal of the paint from the floor and the restoration of the "oiled" finish. Anyone who can contribute in time, information, money or physical effort, please drop a card to Mrs. William E. Jackson, 4658 Dixie Hwy., Drayton Plains, Michigan 48020.

A special thanks to Waterford Lumber owners Paul and Bob Adams, Lowell Kage, Rotarians, Mr. Earl Crawford and all other contributors.

Also to be announced are dates for a Box Social, Shadow Social and Christmas program, including recitations, songs and plays.

WANTED FOR DISPLAY CASES (locked) IN ONE ROOM SCHOOL — pictures of classes from any one room school in Oakland County. Send these or drop off after 12:30 P.M. during week, to Wisner House, 405 Oakland, Pontiac 48058.

## Additional Contributors To The Endowment Fund

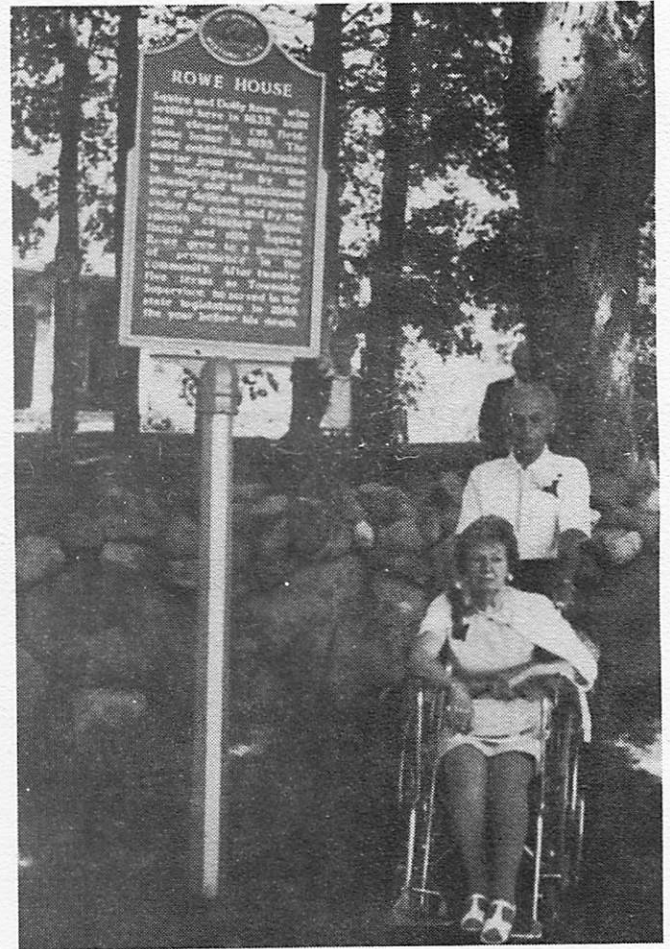
Capt. (Ret.) and Mrs. D. H. Hoard  
Mrs. Clayton M. Timmons, life membership

MEMORIALS FOR:  
Mrs. Gordon Bryant &  
John Boeberitz from —

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hewitt	Mrs. Stella Presnal
Mrs. Donald E. Adams	Cecil Dumbrigue
Mrs. Charles Roush	Mrs. Clarence Clohset
Richard Hendershott	Mrs. Russell Pickering
Mrs. Allen Priestley	Mrs. William Rachwal
Mrs. James Burke	

A delightful Bicentennial concert honoring contributors to the endowment fund was held June 6 at Pine Grove. It was under the direction of James Renfrew, pianist.

Other performers were: Lewis Crew, and Lizanne Cooper, Flutists; Alicia Renfrew and Neil Schell, guitarists and Paul Dufault, baritone.



## NEWS NOTES

An historical marker was dedicated on Saturday, June 5 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Mastick on Lone Tree Road in Highland Township. Rowe House, the ancestral home of Mrs. Mastick's family, has been designated as a Michigan historic site. Mrs. Mastick is a former member of the board of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Mrs. Adams represented the Michigan Historical Commission at the dedication and Tom Mastick accepted the marker on behalf of the family.

Our President, Mrs. Donald E. Adams, was elected President of the Michigan Historical Commission at its monthly meeting held at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum June 18, 1976. Mrs. Adams has served on the Commission since 1941 when she was appointed by one of our members, Governor Murray D. VanWagoner. She has since been reappointed to successive six year terms.

The Commission serves as the advisory board for the Michigan History Division of the Department of State.

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The Historical Society of Michigan is sponsoring "The Oldest Business in Michigan Contest." There are three categories: the oldest continuously operating business in the original building; the oldest continuously operating business on the original site but not in the original building; the oldest continuously operating business re-located from original building and site. Anyone interested may write The Historical Society of Michigan, 2177 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor 48104 for an entry blank. Entries are to be mailed by August 15.