



Ice Cream Social To Be Held Sunday, July 27

It's Ice Cream Social time again at Pine Grove! Sunday, July 27, from 2 to 5 p.m. Pine Grove will overflow with exciting entertainment, friendly folks, and generous goodies, promise event chairmen Fran Anderson, Mary Rachwal, and Gretchen Adler.

Special feature of the 1980 Ice Cream Social will be the dedication at 3:30 p.m. of the Carriage House being reconstructed through the support of the City of Pontiac and Oakland County. Speakers for the dedication will be Mrs. Donald E. Adams, Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy, Pontiac Mayor Wallace E. Holland, and Mrs. Edwin Adler.

Other special features of this year's event include:

- * MUZZLELOADERS from 21st Michigan Volunteer Infantry of Greenfield Village to demonstrate drill and firing techniques and to display authentic Civil War memorabilia.

- * MUSIC throughout the afternoon

- * CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS including chair seat caning, quilting, and barn-wood painting.

- * PHOTO RESTORATION and explanation of the proper way to maintain your cherished photographs.

- * CHRISTMAS in JULY Potpourri Shoppe annex on the lawn with very special ornaments, gifts, and wrappings.

- * TOURS of the Wisner House and grounds conducted by our many-talented and much-appreciated docents.

- * ANTIQUE APPRAISALS available for a small fee.

- * SCHOOLHOUSE program.

- * ICE CREAM, HOMEMADE CAKE, LEMONADE.

Be sure to bring those special old photos and an antique or two for exam-



The original carriage house, built in 1870. Its modern look-alike, nearly completed, will be dedicated during the Ice Cream Social, July 27.

ination and evaluation.

Extra help is always needed for this exciting event, so be sure to indicate your willingness to lend a hand on the form below. And, of course, we must have cakes. Having enough cakes is essential to a successful social. Please donate at least one. Any extra cakes will be sold at the end of the social.

Refreshments are being capably handled by EDNA BURKE, BETTY HOARD, THELMA WRIGHT, and HELEN PICKERING. Tour guides are

Continued on page 3.

PARKING AVAILABLE NEARBY

Parking will again be available across the street through the courtesy of Oakland Avenue United Presbyterian Church. Also, the Wisner school playground next door to Pine Grove may be used. Due to traffic on Wisner House grounds only committee members who will be working all day will use the Wisner House parking area. All others are asked to use the Wisner School lot or the Church parking lot.

TICKETS

Enclosed with this Gazette, please find 5 tickets for you and your friends. Please return any money or unsold tickets to the Wisner House, 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan 48058 before July 25. Make checks payable to Edna Bondurant, Treasurer.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL — Tear off and mail to Wisner House, 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan 48058

I will serve -	Tickets	1:45 to 3:00	3:00 to 4:00	4:00 to 5:15
	Host-Server	1:45 to 3:00	3:00 to 4:00	4:00 to 5:15
	Sales (Pot Pourri Shoppe)	1:45 to 3:00	3:00 to 4:00	4:00 to 5:15

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 _____

Recent Accessions

Mr. Rex Lamoreaux
An engraving

Mr. David L. Parke Sr.
Lineage chart of the Parke Family

Mr. Henry Booth
1940 Citizenship day flag and memorabilia
History of Christ Church Cranbrook

Gretchen Adler
"Pontiac: Its Founding and Early Development"

Oakland University Library
Anti-war posters

Ira Fisk bequest
Doll buggy and stove

Ruth McCulloch
Pine cupboard, baking pans, crumb tray

Bloomfield Township Library
Photos of Pontiac

Mrs. Herman Ihrke
1818 Abstract, school books

Mr. Earl Card
Books, photos

Mrs. Marie I. Duffy
Dress and slip

Mrs. William Hoyes
1910 graduation dress

Faye Donelson
Cookbook, Center Magazine, book

Mrs. Rex Boomer
Clothing

Ms. Peggy L. DeVoe
History or the Burr Family

Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Cron
Thorpe genealogy

Ms. Marian F. Jackson
D.A.R. Magazines, paper dolls

Mr. Robert Barnes, Jr.
History of the Stone Family

Mr. Staley Tredwell
"Ballads of Bunyan"

Dr. Gordon Grosscup
Photos

Christ Church Cranbrook
Inaugural ball gown

Mr. Thomas Metzdorf
Books

Mrs. Helen Travis
Masonic medal

Mr. David Newman
Thomas Turk ledger

Mrs. Dorothy Patterson
Cummings letter and medal

Mrs. Cynthia A. Boyer
Photos

Mrs. Judy Grewell
Clothing

Mr. Larry L. Shoemake
"The Gun Report"

Mr. Bruce Annett, Jr.
Plats, atlas, maps

Ms. Jackie Carline
Books

Mrs. Robert Briggs
Map case and maps

Mrs. Roy Wilton
Bedspread, rug, clothing

Mr. Richard Hendershott
Contents of Cornerstone, Pontiac High School

Wisner Notes ...

Mr. Lorne Hartzell has joined the staff at Pine Grove. Lorne brings many talents to his position as groundskeeper/handyman, many of which he put to use right away by constructing much of the display boards and the "Fun Boxes" for our exhibit at the Great American Exposition. He and Frank Simpson have also been putting up shelves (finally we got some lumber!) in the textile storage area of the carriage house.

Lorne is a welcome addition to our Pine Grove staff. Welcome him during your next visit to Pine Grove.

* * *

Look for a new exhibit coming this month to the showcase in the schoolhouse. It will feature political memorabilia from over 200 years of American elections. Margaret Ann Jackson is designing the exhibit.

* * *

Tuesdays are textile days. Lottie Hudson devotes her Tuesday mornings to sorting, identifying and boxing our cloth-

ing and linen collection. The articles include parasols, baby clothes, buttons, lace bed linens, military uniforms, dresses, hoops, and bonnets. If you can give some of your time to this interesting project, please call Lottie or the office. All help is appreciated.

* * *

Reid Lewis presented such a spectacular program at this year's Annual Dinner that some folks are urging that he be invited back for next year to tell about his second expedition. Your comments are welcome.



Gazette editor . . . Paula Stofer
Pine Grove Office Phone 338-6732

Society to Display at Great American Exposition

Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society has joined the Great American Exposition, an historical extravaganza to be at the Dearborn Civic Center July 18, 19, and 20.

This exposition, called "a portrait of America," will feature displays from the area's foremost educational and historical facilities as well as a number of prominent businesses integral to the history of southeast Michigan. Among the exhibitors are Stroh's Brewery, The Detroit Free Press, Greenfield Village, Detroit Science Center, The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America, Photographic Guild of Detroit, Detroit Historical Museum, and the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.

Also part of the exposition are major collectors of antique advertising and political memorabilia. The variety of items to be displayed and for sale is staggering. This will certainly be a treat for everyone in the family.

Display and exhibits chairman Janice Bell is scheduling volunteers to assist in the OCPHS exhibit. Part of the exhibit will be an information table where volunteers will pass out literature about the society and answer questions. Another part of the booth will be demonstration of crafts — spinning, quilting, basketweaving, leaded glass, what-have-you. If you can give an hour or two to meet the public and spread the word about OCPHS, please contact Jan (623-6825) or the office. She is

arranging schedules so that volunteers may carpool.

A flyer about the exposition is enclosed with this *Gazette*. Keep it as a reminder to visit the exposition, or pass it on to a friend who would like to go too. Hours are July 18 and 19, 1-10 p.m. and July 20, noon to 6. See you there!



Ice Cream Social

Continued

scheduled by JAN McALPINE. Quilting this year's "Dresden Plate" beauty are EDNA BONDURANT and FAYE DONELSON. CECIL DUMBRIQUE has directed the plantings of the grounds. Tickets will be handled by LILLIAN BALMER and MARION ROUSH. Displays have been coordinated and designed by JAN BELL AND PAULA STOFER.



Our Thanks To . . .

Donations to our collections are constantly forthcoming and certainly appreciated. A list of the most recent appears elsewhere in the *Gazette*. A few very special donations, however, merit special recognition. These are not for the collection, but for the betterment of Pine Grove itself.

* CONNIE OWENS, stalwart docent and manager of the Potpourri Shoppe, donated an intercom system for communication between the office and carriage house. 10-4

* BEATTY FURNITURE REFINISHERS donated the stripping and refinishing of the old map case in the school house. It's beautiful.

* BILL SUDBURY donated several 1 x 12's, which promptly became shelves for the clothing collection. (Part of it, at least)

* PONTIAC TOWN HALL sent us a check for \$596. Part of the money has already been ear-marked for the farm equipment display in the carriage house, scheduled for completion by September.

* DR. K.V. SHAW, a friend of MARGARET ANN JACKSON, gave us a vanity for the docents' dressing room and a clock for the carriage house.

* EDGAR STOFER, PAULA STOFER'S father-in-law, sent us 3 sheets of plywood and various other lumber. The Dearborn display was made from this material.

* PONTIAC PAINT continues its assistance to us. The new face on the rootcellar is courtesy of their generosity.

* EDWIN ADLER sent us rose bushes to beautify our grounds.

* MS. JACKIE CARLING donated 2 cottonester bushes for the front of the house.

Pine Grove could not function without the support from nice people such as these. We thank them all.

'Dresden Plate' Quilt Readied for '80

The 1980 quilt, in the Dresden Plate design, is progressing rapidly under the skillful fingers of EDNA BONDURANT and FAYE DONELSON. Each panel features a flower-like "plate" made of many pastel patterned pieces and is bordered by a rich brown. Backing is the same brown material. Intricate designs are worked throughout in thousands of tiny hand stitches.

At both the Dearborn display and the Ice Cream Social the quilt will be on display, giving you an opportunity to

watch its construction and to purchase raffle tickets to win this beautiful example of a labor of love.

Quilt tickets are \$1.00. They will be available in Dearborn at our booth, at the Ice Cream Social on July 27, and at the office anytime.

Drawing for the quilt will be the afternoon of the Victorian Christmas Open House, planned this year for December 7. Other prizes will also be awarded.

FRIENDSHIP, MEMBERSHIP GO TOGETHER

Sometimes a good idea gets lost in the busy pace of our day-to-day lives. With the excitement of the Annual dinner and the anticipation of the Ice Cream Social, with work schedules and vacation plans, perhaps you forgot that the society has undertaken a membership drive.

Of course, you, as a member, already know about the pleasure of belonging to the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. You know about the cool, shady grounds and the gracious Wisner House which you, as a member, may visit and tour any time free of charge.

You know about the warm smiles and friendship that come from the other members and the staff.

You know the feeling of satisfaction when you give a bit of your time, your skills, your resources, to help maintain the Society and further its work.

You know that, besides furthering the aims of the Society, your membership entitles you to a 10% discount in the Potpourri Shoppe and a special price on craft classes. It entitles you to the newsletters of the society and access to our ever-growing library.

But did you remember that you will receive a lovely pewter plate emblazoned "Pine Grove" and featuring a picture of the Wisner House for every ten new members you enroll? And did you remember that if

you upgrade your own membership you will receive a pewter mug in the Governor style, also marked "Pine Grove"?

Belonging to the OCPHS is a good idea. For you. For a friend or relative. When was the last time you invited a friend to join OCPHS? Be a friend. Share the good idea.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Active: Single	\$ 6.00
Couple	10.00
Senior (over 65)	
Single	\$ 3.00
Couple	5.00
Junior (under 18)	\$ 1.50
Sustaining Individual	\$ 25.00 or more
Life	\$100.00 or more
Business	\$ 75.00
Sustaining Business	\$150.00

Memberships, except life, are active for one year.

Date _____

Please enroll me as a member of the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society.

Enclosed please find \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Please make checks payable to the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society, 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan 48058.

Key to Society Early History Found in Attic

Virginia C. Clohset
Manuscript Chairman

Buried deep in a box of manuscript material stored in the loft above the library/office complex, mute evidence in the form of a key has recently been found which would seem to confirm the early Society records relating to its history and developing ties with Oakland County government.

Manuscript notes on the box into which the Probate Court documents had been placed indicate that they had been given to the Society about 1960 and had come from the attic of the 1904 Court House, since demolished. Within an envelope which was dirty, stained, covered with layers of cinders and coal dust and printed with the return address of "Probate Office Pontiac Michigan" was found a small key. The envelope was marked with the notation "Ezra W. Jewell Key."

To understand who Ezra Jewell was and his influence on the Society, it is necessary to review the Society beginnings.

The pre-organizational period of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society began on January 6, 1874 with a published newspaper notice inviting all those pioneers in Oakland County to attend a meeting to be held on January 21, 1874 at the Court House to help in forming a county historical society.

The organizational meeting was held the following January 21st. Thomas J. Drake was nominated chairman; James A. Weeks, Secretary, and C. G. Kimball the latter's substitute. The question rose as to what the definition of an old settler should be; it was moved and seconded that one generation in Oakland County would define eligibility for membership. It was also recommended that the presidents of the auxiliary societies in the various townships should be ex-officio vice presidents of the county society.

The first meeting of the new society known as the "Pioneer Society of Oakland County", was held on February 27, 1874. The early minutes are not extant and the only records available to us are the contemporary accounts published in newspapers. It was at this first meeting that papers and reminiscences were read, including one by Hervey Parke with his "Recollections of My First Tour in Michigan in 1821."

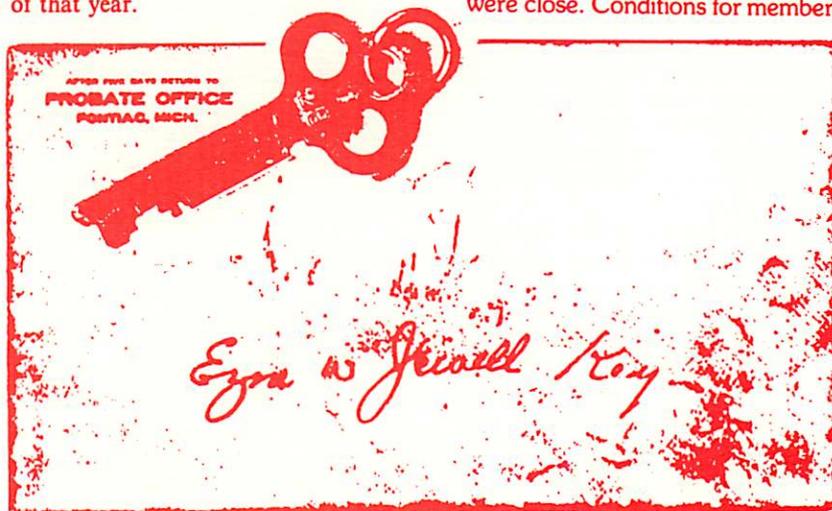
The early published accounts of the Society meetings had been mounted in scrapbooks, the first of which was titled Oakland County Pioneer Clippings 1873-1876, Volume I. Inside its front cover is the notation, "This book was indexed by the secretary in March 1900 by E. W. Jewell Sec."

Ezra Jewell had been born in Ithaca, New York on March 20, 1853. According to Jewell's biographical sketch written in 1924, Thomas J. Drake had extracted the

promise from Augustus C. Baldwin to carry on the work of the Society, Baldwin in turn had interested Jewell.

Ezra Jewell served as Secretary from 1896 until 1902. From 1896 and on he began placing the records in permanent shape, making a collection of histories, papers, and biographical sketches read at meetings. Oakland County has been described as fortunate in securing his services in the collection and tabulation of data identifying the pioneers and recording the printed histories of their achievements, preserving them in scrapbooks properly indexed, and making every effort to restore the records which had been lost.

He became President in 1909, one year after the Society was incorporated as The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, and served in that capacity until his resignation in 1913. He died on March 23rd of that year.



During his administration he personally asked for the appropriation voted the Pioneer Society by the Board of Supervisors to be used in establishing a collection of pioneer relics and obtained permission to keep them at the Court House. In 1910 the Society was given \$100 by the Supervisors to purchase cases for the storage of the Society collections which were kept in the Probate Office. During this period artifacts given or loaned to the Society were occasionally exhibited at the Court House.

In 1920 \$200 was received to help in defraying the cost of preserving the early records, but on February 22, 1926 owing to the crowded conditions in the Court House steel cupboards with the papers and books of the Society were removed from the vault of the Probate Office and placed in the vault of the Commercial Savings Bank; at the same time two more cases were purchased and placed in the balcony of the Public Library. Although it is not so stated, the bank and library probably were

located in Pontiac.

Eventually, the Society records and collections came to the Wisner House, including the small envelope containing Ezra Jewell's key/from the Probate Office. It is a small thing, yet it reminds us of Jewell and his dedication to the Society, especially his efforts to perpetuate the orderly collection and preservation of Oakland County's historical artifacts.

The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society appears to be the oldest historical society in Michigan, pre-dating the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society which had been organized as the "Pioneer Society of the State of Michigan" on April 22, 1874, re-named "Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society" on June 13, 1888, and now called the Historical Society of Michigan.

The ties between the two societies were close. Conditions for membership in

the State society were similar to those of Oakland County's: Any person over forty years of age and who had resided in Michigan 25 years or more was eligible. The main function of the two organizations before World War II would seem to have been the identification of those early migrants to Oakland County and the State of Michigan. There was close cooperation in the continuing effort to collect the data for publication by the State Society in those 40 volumes, with index, with the varying title of *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*, a function of the State Society which ceased in 1915.

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All references for the above statements can be found in the boxed collection, "Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, Noncurrent Records, Office of the Secretary and President"; "Oakland County Pioneer Clippings 1873-1876" Volume I, and *The Book of Birmingham*, by Jervis B. McMechan, all in the Society Library.

Sunday, December 7, 1980

VICTORIAN OPEN HOUSE

1:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Featuring a Tour, Music, Children's Program,
Hot Mulled Cider and Holiday Cookies

— DONATION —

Adults \$2.00

Children \$1.00

Tuesday, December 9, 1980

CANDLELIGHT MUSICALE

7:30 P.M.

Featuring a Concert of 19th Century Music
Champagne and Light Refreshments

DONATION: \$5.00 per person

By Reservation Only — Limited to 40 People

Thursday, December 11, 1980

TWILIGHT TOUR

5:30 P.M.

Featuring a Cheese and Wine Party
in the Carriage House

DONATION: \$10.00 per person

By Reservation Only — Limited to 60 People