



TOE TAPPING MUSIC TO HIGHLIGHT ANNUAL DINNER



The Olde Michigan RUFFWATER STRINGBAND

The 109th Annual Dinner of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society will be held on Wednesday evening, May 12th at Roma's of Bloomfield in the Miracle Mile Shopping Center on Telegraph Road. The price of the tickets is \$10.00 per person.

The highlight of the evening will be a performance by "The Olde Michigan RUFFWATER STRINGBAND". This talented group from Rochester, Michigan will present a varied program of traditional Irish tunes, historical tunes, country dance music and old-time songs. They will be giving the history of their old-time instruments and entertaining us with some great music on dulcimers, fiddles, recorders, banjos, mandolins, basses, guitars and a harp. This will indeed be a historical and musical program.

Another featured part of the program will be the presentation of two Centennial Business Certificates from the Historical Society of Michigan to:

Holly Hearld Advertiser

Founded May 1, 1877

Donald J. Campbell, Editor &
Owner

Stub's Barber Shop of Oxford

Founded July 4, 1865

LaVern Robinson, Owner

The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with a punch reception. There will be a cash bar available. A family style chicken and ham dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. promptly.

James Renfrew will be Master of Ceremonies, Anna Baker Lane will give the invocation and Eunice and Richard Hewitt will be on hand to greet you. Name tags will be dispensed by Edna Burke and Thelma Wright.

Marion Roush will handle ticket sales. Please make your check payable to the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society and mail it to her on the enclosed reservation form by May 10th.

Come join us for a wonderful evening

of happy fellowship, delicious food and delightful entertainment.

Oakland County Historical Forum

The Society received an invitation to attend a forum on **Oakland County History Today and Tomorrow** which will be held on April 21, 1982 at the Oakland County Courthouse. Our society has selected delegates to join with other historical society representatives for this important meeting.

Tour Season Opens

Pinegrove opened its 1982 season for guided tours on April 1st. Extensive plans have been made by the Education and Guides Committee and the Exhibits Committee to make the tours more interesting than ever. Persons and organizations interested in arranging tours are invited to contact Mary Ann Treais at the Wisner House (338-6732).

Committee Activities

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

This committee continues to meet regularly to formulate policies and procedures for the operation of the Society's facilities, all of which must ultimately be approved by the Board of Directors.

MASTER PLAN

The committee has completed a comprehensive master plan for the present and future operation, growth and development of the Society which is being distributed to all board members. It will be the subject of discussion at the April meeting.

MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDS

This very important committee is the subject of a comprehensive article elsewhere in this issue.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The committee met on January 19th. Extensive plans were discussed. The Society's courtesy mailing list for the Gazette has been increased and through the efforts of the office staff increasing cooperation in publicity has been received from some media organizations.

EXHIBITS

Janice Bell has had the monumental task of not only changing exhibits in our display cases but also the cleaning, sorting, labeling and arranging of our collection of tools, implements and furniture for the carriage house lower level museum. Fortunately, she has had help from some of our wonderful volunteers and the results are obvious. Be sure to look at the spring theme which she has displayed in the lower level. Also don't miss the exhibit case on the main level that one of our new member/volunteers, Priscilla Hall, has arranged.

With Susan Metzdorf still home-bound with her injured leg, Janice, Priscilla and some other fine volunteers have been doing many of the jobs she normally does. The ladies have put the finishing touches on the Wisner House and summer kitchen in preparation for our tour season and we appreciate their fresh ideas.

ACCESSIONS

The never ending task of accepting, cataloging and storing accessions continues. Recently emphasis has been placed on acquiring a fine collection of Super Bowl XVI memorabilia.

EDUCATION AND GUIDES

As the Education and Guide Chairman, Kitty Daggy has kept very busy.

In February she sent a letter to Oakland County social studies teachers in the high schools, junior high schools, middle schools and to elementary principals. The letter was to remind them about our tours for school children and also about our one-room schoolhouse.

Soon after, Francile Anderson enclosed the same letter with her mailing to P.T.A. presidents throughout the county.

On March 17th, Kitty conducted a guide training meeting and an updating of the Guides' Manuals. With the cooperation of her husband, Don, and the other men volunteers, our guides now have information to assist them when conducting tours in the lower level museum of the carriage house. With the addition of exhibits on the lower and main levels of the carriage house we are predicting that group guided tours may take two hours.

CRAFTS

Jan McAlpine, Chairman of this committee, reports that some of the crafters have met over the last three months, as weather permitted. Edna Bondurant has been an encouraging and patient quilting teacher. As a result, there will be the new quilted hot-pads and pillows for sale in the Potpourri Shoppe. The craft volunteers will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. until May 1st. If you cannot attend the crafts meetings but have handmade items to donate, they would be greatly appreciated. Small items are especially saleable. Also note the Calendar of Coming Events and, in particular, craft workshops.

FINANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

See the separate article elsewhere in this issue for the activities of this committee.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This committee has not begun its actual work for 1982. However, fifteen board members' terms will expire this year. If you have suggestions for new members, contact Faye Donelson (673-1728), the committee chairman.

Madeline to Leave

Madeline O'Connor, our cheery office secretary, is leaving, with regret, at the end of April. She will be moving to Ann Arbor to be near her family. We will miss her but hope to see her often.

President Gretchen ill

President Gretchen Adler is seriously ill. We hope she will be back with us soon.

Maintenance and Landscaping

Faye Donelson has been chairman of this committee for many years and has done a stupendous job. No one is surprised to see her hanging from a ladder, mowing the lawn, pounding nails or painting the outside of one of the buildings. Often she would have Cecil Dumbrique, Francis Lohff or Gordon Paull working hand and hand with her. The four of them are what comprised the Society's maintenance/landscaping/ Jack and Jill of all trades committee, with a few other devoted volunteers from time to time for major projects.

Beginning last summer, one by one, some gentlemen began showing up to help Faye and other committees. Donald Daggy was the first one to volunteer and now he is co-chairman of this committee: His side-kicks are Robert Reynnells, Clarke Kimball and Jack Moore. These gentlemen have completed the many tasks and they continue to make plans to do even more!!!!

The Society is buying a tractor-mower and the men plan to do all of the mowing and trimming of our grounds for the coming season.

Society Raises Membership Dues

Action was taken at the February and March Board of Directors Meetings to raise the Society's membership dues. This step was considered necessary as a partial attempt to compensate for the ever increasing operational costs of the Society.

The new dues schedule is as follows:

Active Single \$10.00

Couple 15.00

Senior Citizen (Over 65)

Single 5.00

Couple 8.00

Junior (Under 18) 1.50

Family (Including all children under 18)

..... 20.00

Sustaining Individual 30.00

Life Membership 150.00

Senior Life Membership

(Over 65) 100.00

Business 100.00

Sustaining Business 150.00

Organizational Membership

(Other than business) ... 50.00

All memberships, other than life, are valid for one year.

Society Opens Membership Drive

Have you invited anyone to join lately?

MAY IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH!!!

The Membership Committee is making a sizeable investment of your money to send 5,000 invitations to potential new members of the Society.

May 1st is our target date for beginning a 1982 Membership Drive.

Please send us your suggestions of names and addresses of friends, organizations and businesses to add to this select 5,000 recipient list. You will find space on your order for Annual Dinner Tickets to list prospective members.

Did you realize that if each one of us personally invited a member and committed ourself to **one new paid membership** we would increase our membership rolls by 600 members overnight.

Please join with your Membership Committee in the month of May to promote the Society to each person you meet.

We also need your assistance to address envelopes and to assemble mailing packets any day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Wisner House.

The success of the Drive does not depend on the work of the **eight** members of the Membership Committee. It depends upon **YOU**.

Thanks a million for your assistance.

Yours for a growing Society,
Fran Anderson,
Chairman

Lecture Series Opens

The Spring Lecture Series opened on Tuesday evening, March 23rd in the Carriage House at the Governor Moses Wisner Historic House, 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac.

Dr. John Cameron, Professor of Architecture at Oakland University, presented a very interesting and descriptive slide lecture on Tudor Architecture in Southeastern Michigan. The history, construction and architectural features of Meadowbrook Hall in Rochester were described in great detail and interesting comparisons were made with other outstanding Tudor mansions in Southeastern Michigan.

This was the opening lecture of a series of three which will be presented this spring.

Historic 1857 Oakland County Map is Permanently Mounted

One of our most prized possession has always been the 1857 map of Oakland County. The map measures five feet by six feet unmounted and depicts many interesting and historic features of Oakland County. For several years it hung on a wall in the schoolhouse and as the years rolled by the map needed to be restored and preserved.

In 1980 we were able to find a conservator by the name of Mary Frederickson who agreed to repair and restore the map at a cost of \$500.00. Without the funds to proceed with this project we called upon our many friends for help. The General Motors Men's Club came to our aid and underwrote the expense.

When the map was restored we found it was in fine condition but we encountered another problem. It needed to be framed according to the conservator's specifications. This time we went directly to the General Motors Corporation to enlist their aid and the Parts Division, Maintenance and Carpentry Departments built a beautiful handmade walnut frame following all specifications including glass. They then hung it on a wall in our library which was no small project.

We invite you all to visit our library and view this fine specimen of our Oakland County history. We feel that

The second lecture will be given at Wisner House on Tuesday evening, April 27th at 7:30 p.m. and will be entitled "Judge Charles H. Wisner and the Red Devils". Charles Hulse of Flint, an auto historian and old car enthusiast, will present a very interesting account of the early building and operation of automobiles in the Flint and Pontiac areas which should be of great interest to everyone and, in particular, to old car "buffs".

The final lecture, "A Dollar House Is No Bargain", will be presented on Tuesday evening, May 25th at 7:30 p.m. at the Wisner House. Charles and Katherine Hagler of Ypsilanti will describe through lecture and slides the many problems which one encounters when purchasing and restoring their old "dream" house.

Join us for the remainder of these lectures and remember admission is free to members and only \$2.00 each for non-members.

the county is very fortunate to have the support of the fantastic men of General Motors who are helping us to preserve history. Thank you gentlemen!! You helped our dream come true.

Calendar of Coming Events

April 21- 9:30 a.m. Board of Directors

April 27 - 7:30 p.m. Lecture - "Judge Charles H. Wisner and the Red Devils"

May 4 - 10:00 a.m. Potpourri Workshop and Herbal Tea . . . how to plant, grow and harvest herbs and put together in a potpourri. Three potpourri will be demonstrated, take two home. Cost—\$7.00

May 12 - Annual Dinner

May 25- 7:30 p.m. Lecture - "A Dollar House Is No Bargain"

June 16 - 9:30 a.m. Board of Directors

July 7- 10:00 a.m. Victorian Vinegars workshop - We will use herbs we have harvested to make the Victorian seasoned vinegars and learn ways to use them in recipes. Cost—\$6.00

July 21- 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors - Jack Moore will present lecture on "Wild Flowers of Michigan"

August 1 Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social - Details will be in the Summer Gazette

September 8 - 10:00 a.m. Workshop on how to make herb wreaths - Cost—\$18.00.

September 14-1:00 p.m. Workshop for beginner genealogy class will be taught by Dorcus Wolf for nine weeks and includes four field trips. Maximum of fourteen students. Cost—\$18.00 for members; \$18.00 plus \$4.00 for materials for non-members.

September 15 Annual Meeting

All craft classes will be taught by Carol Czechowski. Reservations must be received in the office with payment one week prior to commencement of class. Minimum of fifteen and maximum of thirty per class. Applications accepted on a first come basis.

Identifying The Age of Furniture By Other Than Style Through The Use of Tool Marks and Hardware

By Rex Lamoreaux *

When shopping for antiques are you confused by the many genuine and pseudo-genuine articles offered for your purchase? Would you like some helpful facts to make a wise choice in your selection? The following may be helpful. Some furniture styles have been copied or made at much later dates. A good example would be the American Empire, which was greatly influenced by the French Empire of about 1805-15, but in America followed in about 1825-40. It was revived again in the 1880's as a popular style, then again about 1910-20, at which time it was called "Colonial".

All periods of style seem to have transitional pieces, in which typical forms or decorative details are not of one style only. A common example of a transitional piece would be a large chest of drawers with turned feet which are less than 2 inches in diameter and which is quite tall and larger than a Sheraton style chest of drawers, maybe with two small drawers under the top. This would be Early Empire as the size is the important feature even though the corner posts with small turned feet are a Sheraton carryover.

Furniture in the Victorian period, which is the longest period, has about six definite style changes, from the Empire Transitional to the Golden Oak and Art Nouveau of about 1885-90. It is very difficult to place exact dates, as styles which become popular or fashionable in the eastern states, might take ten or more years to become fashionable in the midwest. A classical example of style continuation across periods would be the Chippendale scroll cut mirror, which is still available today in the traditional furniture stores. Probably more of these mirrors were made in the Victorian period (a hundred years or more after its introduction) than in the Chippendale period. With one hundred or more years of aging, only tool marks and hardware will aid you to date these mirrors.

The various woods are also a good help in identifying age and the place of origin of furniture. A good example might be the use of chestnut as a secondary wood. Furniture with chestnut was usually made in Pennsylvania. (Secondary wood would be the non-exposed parts of furniture, such as drawer sides and bottoms and backboards). Birch as a primary secondary wood is usually

found on furniture made in the New England states. Hard woods when used as secondary woods usually means the furniture is English or modern. There are no hard and fast rules, as one can always find the exceptions.

The best dating criteria is tool marks and hardware.

SAW MARKS: Early saw marks were pit saw marks or hand saw marks. These marks would be parallel but with a slight variation off parallel. A chosen target date would be the turn of the 1800's, maybe as late as 1815. Of course, in the hinterland it could be later. Next the power band saw, these marks would be parallel but there would be one wider mark evenly spaced, where the saw had a weld of deeper teeth. Band saws were commonly used until about 1840 when the circle saw came into common use. The curvature of circle saw marks can be observed on a board as narrow as 1/2 inch. Circle saws were invented about 1818, but not commonly used until 1840-45; these dates would also fit for planer marks.

PLANER MARKS: Planer marks sometimes are not very noticeable. They are slight wave type marks that are about 1/4-3/8 inches wide and very parallel. Before rotary planers, wood was smoothed by hand planes, which had flat blades with the edges slightly rounded so as to not gouge the wood, and they left marks 1/2 inch wide. Great care was taken on the outside of case pieces to make them appear smooth and flat, but often you can feel the wavy surface by running your hand across the grain of the wood. Refinishing should never take the wave pattern off of the early furniture that should have it on, like Chippendale, Sheraton and some Empire, in other words, don't use a power sander when working on the real early furniture.

HARDWARE: Screws were hand made and the hand made ones were commonly used until about 1840 (not a fixed date) when machine made screws with points became available. Hand made screws had wide and slightly uneven threads with no leading points. Also, the top slot was filed, often a little off center.

NAILS: Hand made nails show hammer marks on the heads. The ones with more or less round heads were called rose heads. Some times they made nails with L shaped heads. 1800 is a good

target date to use for the change over to cut nails, which look somewhat like our modern cement nails. The old cut nails were not hard and would break easily. Nails are found on the bottoms of drawers and back boards. An example of a Chippendale chest with cut nails would indicate that it was made out of its style period. 1900 is a target date for the change over to wire nails. It is also a good sign to look for in a reproduction which is not a fake or an authentic reproduction which is sometimes made. Occasionally, one finds later hardware like screws and nails were used in repairing, but some old ones or signs should be found to determine authenticity.

A very good and complete reference book is: **Knowing, Collecting and Restoring Early American Furniture** by Henry Hammond Taylor, published in 1930 by Lippincott. I believe this book was republished by another company at a later date, so check for any work by that author.

Nothing can be a better teacher than inspection and handling to lead to good identification.

* The author is a long term collector of art and furniture, former Director of Commercial Art and TV at Wayne University and a descendant of a family which first came to Pontiac in the 1830's.

New Members Welcomed

Our membership rolls have been enlarged by the addition of the following new active members:

Mrs. Timothy Koerner
Ms. Lenora Lighthall
Mrs. Karen Miller
Mr. Robert L. Trask
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fitzpatrick
Mr. and Mrs. Doyle O. Hempton
Mrs. Linda Sparling, Jennifer and Nancy
Oakland County Genealogical Society

Mrs. Mary Jean Beck
Ms. Irene G. Andler
Mrs. John A. Collins
Carol Horowitz
Mr. and Mrs. Rexford Hagood
Marla & Brent
Mary and Tim Williams

In Memoriam

Sadly we report the death of the following members:

Stella Presnal
Lucinda H. Wyckoff