



## Lecture, Entertainment & Good Food at Society's Annual Dinner

J. Jordan Humberstone, manager of Antique Shows, will be the featured speaker at the Society's Annual Dinner which will be held on Wednesday evening, May 18th, at the Deer Lake Racquet Club.

The club is located on White Lake Road, just east of the Dixie Highway, in the Clarkston area.

The festivities will begin with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. During the social hour musical entertainment for your enjoyment will be furnished by the "Young-Old Timers Banjo Band." Refreshments will be available from a cash bar with waitress service.

The evening will be enhanced by a new activity—a Silent Auction. Valuable items of merchandise, services and antiques are being donated by area merchants and members and you may bid on these items during the social

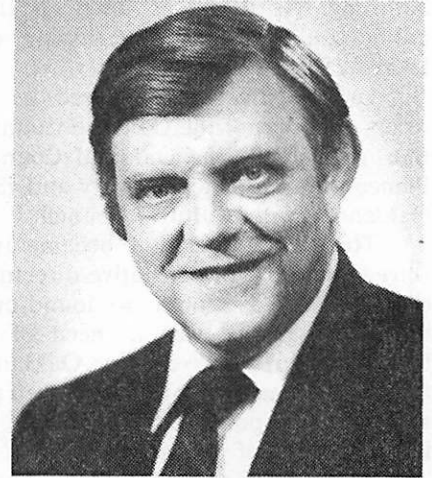
hour. The successful bidders will be announced at the conclusion of the dinner.

Dinner will be served at 7:15 p.m. with a choice of entrees (Boston Scrod or Chicken Over Wild Rice). Once again, each guest will find a souvenir pine seedling at his or her place as a remembrance of the occasion. During the serving of dessert, a fashion show narrated by Virginia Rodgers will be presented with a musical accompaniment.

Fran Anderson, who is always the "life of the party" will be our mistress of ceremonies.

Mr. Humberstone, who is lead instructor-decorator of the arts for the Henry Ford Museum, will speak on the topic, "Good, bad and indifferent appraisal, plus show and tell appraisals." He has invited those guests who are interested to bring one "collectible" item each for appraisal. Each item will be assigned a number and he will draw as many numbers as time permits, commenting on and appraising each item as drawn.

Altogether, this promises to be a most entertaining evening with a full



*J. Jordan Humberstone -  
Annual Dinner Lecturer*

and varied program. Be sure to join us and enjoy yourselves.

The tickets for the dinner are \$15 each. This price includes the complete dinner, all tips and valet parking. You may reserve your tickets by completing the enclosed reservation form and returning it with your check to Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, MI 48058.

## Preservation of Old Buildings

### - An Essential Ingredient

By Gretchen Adler \*

The preservation of our architectural history is one of the greatest legacies that we can leave future generations.

The State of New York began the preservation movement in 1850 by saving the Hasbrouck House, George Washington's headquarters in Newburgh, N.Y. In 1859, a group of ladies formed the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association to save and preserve George Washington's home. Since that time important historical buildings have been preserved. These monuments from our past have become tourist attractions and museums.

But what has happened to the buildings all across the country that are not historically important but are the

structures of our local history and architectural development and therefore more closely related to us? They seem to disappear or be abandoned with regularity and with each fluctuation of the economy.

Our architectural heritage seems to be ever decreasing and we might possibly be known to future generations for what we have torn down rather than what we have preserved. True, we cannot save everything, nor should we, and we cannot turn every old building into a museum, we cannot afford it. Many of our older urban communities, however, are made up of wonderfully unique and interesting buildings that are examples of styles and craftsmanship that will not and cannot be duplicated today. Their style and usage have evolved through time as communities grow and develop. They form a continuity between our architectural past and future.

No community should remain static and retain every old building simply because it is old. But neither should a community allow the destruc-

tion of buildings simply because they are old. Often, well constructed older buildings just need a clean-up and minor repairs while others through neglect and bad attempts at modernization need thoughtful restoration. Many buildings can be and are still used for their original purpose, while others can be revitalized for an alternative use.

When a community respects and protects its architectural heritage and adapts it for the present and future there is continuity of development and growth. Culturally, this continuity allows us to visually experience our architectural past. We can actually see the decorative features and styles of old buildings and better appreciate the craftsmanship and individuality that are a part of them.

Socially, continuity in architecture is less disruptive. We are more comfortable when the things around us are familiar, when there are not glaring disruptions. It is easier to accept gradual changes if there is continuity

*Preservation - Continued on Page 5*

## Justice Returns to Courthouse

Lady Justice, the statue which once graced the top of the old courthouse, will be restored to a place of honor in front of the Oakland County Courthouse. The unveiling ceremony on Saturday, April 30, is open to the public and marks the beginning of LAW WEEK 1983.

Lady Justice was restored as a result of efforts of the Oakland County Bar Association, the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society and the Oakland County Cultural Council.

The Bar Association became involved. Jane Smith, executive director, explained. "...as soon as we found out that Lady Justice was in need of a benefactor. As lawyers in Oakland County, our membership was pleased to accept the responsibility to provide a lasting symbol of justice."

Chairperson of the Law Day Committee, Rockwood W. Bullard III, agreed, "The unveiling of Lady Justice is the centerpiece of Law Week activities this year. The theme for 1983 is 'Sharing in Justice' and the purpose of LAW WEEK is to call peoples' attention to the American tradition of justice. This statue will provide a visible reminder of justice to the residents of Oakland County."

When talking about the restoration of the statue, Gretchen Adler of the Historical Commission and immediate Past President of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society said, "From our viewpoint, we are lucky to have her."

The Oakland County Cultural Council shares Adler's viewpoint. Director of Cultural Affairs, Virginia Rodgers, stated, "This is a project we've tried to get completed since 1976. We tried everything, grants and fundraising campaigns, and we are most grateful to the Bar Association for providing the means to restore Lady Justice. The dedication ceremony on April 30 will really be the culmination of everyone's efforts to return Lady Justice to the courthouse."

The unveiling ceremony will take place at 4:00 p.m. on April 30 in front of the main entrance of the Oakland County Courthouse located at 1200 North Telegraph in Pontiac. The main entrance is on the south side of the building. A brief reception will be held after the dedication. All members of the public, the Bar Association and the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical



*Lady Justice prepares to move from restorer's shop to courthouse.*

Society are invited to attend the ceremony and reception.

To commemorate the occasion, an artist has been commissioned and a limited edition of two different numbered and signed lithographs will be available to purchase. One is of Lady Justice, the other is a print of the 1904 Courthouse with the lady placed on the dome. These lithographs will enhance any law office, den, library or home and are truly collector items. If you wish to order one of the prints or the set, please fill out the form enclosed and send it to the Bar Association office with your check made out to Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. This is a tax deductible item. Your participation in purchasing the print will help offset the cost of restoration and the placement of this meaningful piece of history on the courthouse grounds.

The original copies of the lithographs will be presented to our Society for permanent safekeeping at the unveiling ceremony.

### Tax-Deductible Gifts

The opportunity to make tax-deductible gifts to the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society in the form of cash memorials or gifts of artifacts is open to you.

The Society welcomes gifts of cash to our Endowment Fund in your own name or as a memorial to a loved one. Likewise, we also welcome gifts of artifacts which are of historic significance to Oakland County.

You may claim a tax-deductible contribution for tax purposes for such gifts.

## Recent Interesting Accessions

Listed below are a few of the interesting and unusual gifts which have been received by the Society:

- Miss Alice Serrell  
Assorted period memorabilia such as combs, razors, button hooks, etc.
- Isabel Thorpe Cron  
Marriage certificate of Joseph Thorpe and Matilda Shaffer, 1872
- Miss Gertrude Overton  
Round cutting board. C 1800's
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Daggy  
Hand made milking stool  
Book: **The History of Huntington Woods**
- Mrs. Douglas Hoard  
Textbooks for children
- Mr. John Lochrie, Sr.  
Cobbler tool collection. C 1800's
- Mrs. Jean M. Fox  
Book: **If Walls Could Talk, Heritage Homes of Farmington**
- Mrs. William Jackson  
Book: **Musings Of A Letter Carrier-Poet** by Ward T. Hart and assorted memorabilia
- Miss Faye Donelson  
1,665 Oakland County obituaries and 1965-66 Greater Pontiac Street Map
- Mrs. Richard Balmer  
Aerial Photograph of downtown Pontiac before 1923
- Mr. Herman Westfahl  
Photograph of Lena Grace Bogie Westfahl, our music organ donor
- Mr. Leroy O. Voorheis  
Manuscript written by early pioneer about Pontiac area and its people. C 1874?
- Mrs. James Owens  
2 school desks
- Mr. Robert Reynnells  
Book: **The Language of Flowers**
- Mr. & Mrs. Eldred Mathes  
Book: **Goodykoontz's Manual**

### New Phone Service

Something new has been added!!! The office phone now has Call Waiting Service and we hope this will cut down on some of our past problems. This service was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. J. Fred Gibson.

## SILENT AUCTION DONORS

The Society acknowledges and deeply appreciates the following donors who have contributed items for the Annual Dinner Silent Auction:

Further donations of new merchandise, services or collectibles will be welcomed.

DONOR	ITEM
Beattie Interiors 5806 Dixie Highway Waterford	J. & J. Beal Quartz Clock in Walnut Case
Blue Cleaners 1120 Voorheis Road Pontiac	\$10 Gift Certificate
Calabrese Pizzeria #2 4668 Dixie Highway Drayton Plains	One Large Pizza Special
Debeuham & Hastings Antiques 26980 Wellington Franklin	Miniature Ivory Elephant On Teakwood Base
Eldon's Hardware 3040 Sashabaw Road Drayton Plains	Presto Popcorn/Caramel Corn Maker
Food Town Super Markets Clarkston	Two \$25 CERTIFICATES (Good In Any Food Town Super Market) Auto Service
Greased Lightning, Inc. 4602 Dixie Highway Drayton Plains	Drafting One Last Will & Testament, including office consultation and execution of same. Signature Electric Hair Dryer
William Jackson, Attorney 4658 Dixie Highway Drayton Plains	Flowers
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Jackson 4658 Dixie Highway Drayton Plains	Mirro's Watta-Pizzeria
Jacobsen's Flowers 2600 Elizabeth Lake Rd. Pontiac	Thermos Compact-Size Double Sixpack Cooler
Mr. & Mrs. Clarke Kimball 7030 Ogemaw Road Pontiac	Brunch for Two
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Priestley 2973 Edgefield Drive Pontiac	
Win Schuler's Restaurant 2601 S. Rochester Rd. Avon Township	

### Rebirth of

### Pine Grove Gardens

During the past year our volunteer gardeners, led by Clarke Kimball, have labored long and hard to clean up and beautify the Pine Grove grounds.

The 4½ acres of lawn, bushes and flower gardens have been thoroughly cleared of litter and underbrush, cultivated and fertilized. Over 1000 tulip bulbs were planted last fall, the peonies were replanted, six dogwood trees planted and the lilacs were trimmed and cleared. Excess underbrush and litter has been removed from all spots on the grounds. Literally, no spot has

gone untouched. The recent purchase of a garden cart has aided the gardeners immensely.

Plans are underway to enlarge the herb garden so that we may grow sufficient herbs to be stocked and sold in the Potpourri Shoppe.

Our gardeners are justly proud of their work and invite you to stop in and view the grounds. The spring flowers will be beautiful. You are also invited to contribute perennials, roses, bushes, mums or iris from your gardens to add to the beauty of Pine Grove.

Pine Grove is on its way to becoming "the" garden spot of North Oakland County.

## New Members Welcomed

We welcome the following new members. Their interest in the Society and its activities is deeply appreciated.

### ACTIVE MEMBERS

Mr. Richard Blackhall  
Ms. Diane Brown  
Mrs. Germaine Hildebrandt  
Mrs. Robert T. Lyons  
Mr. John Stangis  
Mr. James W. Sullivan  
Mrs. Norma Clement  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Daggy  
Mrs. Nicholas Gregory  
Mrs. Barbara A. Powell  
Mr. Mike Spak  
Mrs. Donna Sullivan  
Mr. & Mrs. Grover N. Culler  
Mrs. Margaret A. Greer  
Mr. & Mrs. C.R. Haskill  
Mr. & Mrs. James Holden  
Mr. I.O. Wideman  
Ms. Sharon Naftaly  
Miss Beth Naftaly  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Miller

### LIFE MEMBERS:

Mr. & Mrs. W. Mathers Robertson  
Mrs. Leland Forman  
Mrs. Charles L. Wilson, Jr.

### In Memoriam

We regret to report the death of the following members:

Mr. F.W. Cron  
Mrs. Elma S. Reid  
Mrs. T.R. Cleveland  
Mrs. E.K. Wellman  
Mrs. Harry B. Austin

### Diorama Displayed

Tom Mackey's diorama of Pine Grove is on display in the lower level of the carriage house. Stop and see this interesting display.

**Don't Forget  
to order your  
Annual Dinner  
Tickets**

---

# RESERVATION FORMS

---

.....

## ANNUAL DINNER RESERVATION

Mail to: Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society  
405 Oakland Avenue  
Pontiac, Michigan 48058

Enclosed please find \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ dinner reservations for the  
Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society Annual Dinner.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Menu choice: Scrod \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

.....

## LIMITED EDITION SIGNED LITHOGRAPHS ORDER FORM

### LAW DAY 1983

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Lady Justice (\$35) - Size 10 x 14

\_\_\_\_\_ 1904 Courthouse (\$50) - Size 12 x 16

\_\_\_\_\_ Both (\$75)

Make check payable to: **Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society**

Return to: **Oakland County Bar Association**, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac, MI 48053

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. (This is a tax deductible item)

.....

### Tour Time

Spring Tours are underway. We will be happy to book a tour for you and your group. The times are Tuesday thru Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Don't forget our Summer-Walk-In Tours .... same days as above but the time is different .... start at 1:00 p.m. and the last tour begins at 2:30 p.m. Special arrangements can occasionally be made for early evening tours by calling the office (338-6732).

### School Bell to be Mounted

The Michigan Society of Children of the American Revolution has given our Society a donation of \$300. The donation is to be used to permanently mount the old Central School Bell complete with bronze plaque. The bell has been temporarily stored in our Drayton Plains one-room schoolhouse. Plans are underway to finish this project this summer and we will let everyone know when we have the dedication ceremonies.

### Copy Machine News

The copy machine in the Society headquarters has been gasping, jamming and occasionally coughing up dirty copies for our use. The machine has turned historical minded people "Historical". Fortunately, the General Motors Men's Club has given us a \$1000 donation toward the purchase of a new machine. We will need additional funds before we can buy a machine but we are most grateful for this wonderful donation which begins our "Copy Machine Fund".

## **One-Room School Becomes Demonstration School**

Enthusiasm is high for a new project proposing a more active use of our one-room schoolhouse. Recently, a group of energetic members led by Clarke Kimball, Kitty Daggy and Mary Ann Treais proposed that an effort be made to promote the use of our schoolhouse as a teaching tool to demonstrate to present day school children the life in a one-room school of the late 19th or early 20th century vintage. The aim is to develop a program whereby a present day class of school children and their teacher may visit our schoolhouse for an entire day and re-live life as it was in the old one-room schoolhouse.

Contacts made with representatives of the Pontiac school system have been enthusiastically received and plans are being made to host school groups from Pontiac and other Oakland county communities.

Recently, a third-grade class from Pontiac's Webster Elementary School spent the day in our one-room Drayton Plains schoolhouse. Led by their teacher, Ruth Laudenslager, and dressed as 19th century school children, the students re-created life in a country school before the turn of the century.

It is hoped that this is only the beginning of many visits that will be made in the future by area school children to experience life in a one-room schoolhouse.

To further the carrying out of this new project, our Drayton Plains schoolhouse now boasts a new supply of the McGuffey Eclectic Readers. The new books are reprints in hard cover of the original eclectic readers so often used in the 1800's.

Up to this time, children using our schoolhouse have been unable to work out of a vintage textbook as our supply was limited to so few copies and the fragility of each text was also a deterrent to widespread use by boys and girls.

At our November board meeting, the need for textbooks was expressed and Mrs. Donald Adams (Betty) graciously offered \$100 in memory of Blanche W. (Earl) Adams, mother of Donald and Clark Adams and a former school teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Daggy, both retired educators, contributed \$95.95 to complete the purchase of a set of books adequate in number for classroom use.

There are five books at each grade level beginning with pre-primer through grade six plus 15 books at third and 15 at fourth grade levels, as

Michigan history is usually introduced at these grade levels and these are youngsters whose class is most likely to come and spend the day in our school. However, since one-room schools usually had a number of children at each grade level, children can role play a different age and enjoy the change of pace.

We are looking forward to the visits of further classes and their use of our schoolhouse complete with hands-on reproductions of vintage texts.

## **Calendar of Coming Events**

April 30 - 4:00 pm, Unveiling of "Lady Justice" - Oakland County Courthouse Grounds

May 18 - 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Annual Dinner - Deer Lake Racquet Club

May 30 - Memorial Day - Closed for holiday

June 15 - 9:30 am, Board of Directors Meeting

July 4 - Independence Day - Closed for holiday

July 5 - Summer Tours Begin & Continue to August 31

July 20 - 7:30 pm, Board of Directors Meeting

August 7 - Ice Cream Social

August 17 - 9:30 am, Board of Directors Meeting

## **Storage Shelves Added**

The utility of the second-floor storage area of our carriage house has been greatly increased by the addition of open-shelving for the storage of artifacts.

Our volunteer maintenance crew recently constructed open-shelving along the entire west wall of the storage area. As a result, we are now able to display numerous artifacts which previously had been stored in assorted boxes and packing crates. Racks have also been built for storage of paintings and large framed photos.

## **Field Stone still needed**

Our recent request for gifts of field stone (6" - 12" in diameter) went unheeded. We would like to receive an ample supply so that the project to complete the outer walls of the carriage house basement could move toward completion.

## **Antique Toys to be Shown**

The Detroit Antique Toy Museum of the Detroit Historical Museum is loaning our Society some of their collection. The exhibit will go on display in our carriage house on May 1st and continue until September 1st. We know that you will want to see this unique exhibit. Plan to visit us soon. We are most grateful to the museum for this generous loan.

## **New Staff Member**

Christine Fraser, a member and volunteer, is now working in the office three days a week. She is a most welcome addition to our office staff.

### *Preservation - Continued from Page 1*

between the old and the new. Recent studies done by sociologists show "that people feel more settled, more at home, in stable communities that respect the past and use old familiar buildings." Glass-skinned towers and blocks of concrete are hostile environments, not people-oriented ones. They jar our senses: These studies also reveal that there is a direct relationship between vandalism, crime and mental disorders and with the hostile environment of acres of towering skyscrapers and sterile cityscapes.

Preservation for cultural and social reasons continues to be of vital importance, but economically it is becoming more and more essential. We can no longer afford to consider old buildings obsolete and unusable. The increased costs of new construction and materials, plus the high cost of land, have made preservation and restoration good business. For too many years the old buildings have been neglected and misused and the fault rests with all of us; with the tax laws that made depreciation and demolition more advantageous than renovation and restoration, with the owners who milked the buildings and put nothing back into them, with the tenants who didn't care because it wasn't theirs, with the merchants and city officials who couldn't work together and with the people who wouldn't go downtown.

Today, all across the country, real estate developers, public officials and urban planners are realizing the necessity and financial advantages inherent in the reuse of old buildings. In a

- Continued on Page 6

recent publication by the National Trust for Historic Preservation entitled "Built to Last" there is an excellent list and discussion on the advantages of preservation and adaptive reuse.

1. Maintaining or adapting an existing building saves the increasingly high cost of purchasing undeveloped land.

2. Reusing an old building saves demolition costs.

3. Rehabilitation of old buildings is labor-intensive and thus is not as influenced by the ever-increasing costs of new construction.

4. Renovation of an existing building can often take less time than building a new one, and can be done in stages.

5. People are often willing to pay competitive rental rates in a renovated older building because of its uniqueness.

6. Older buildings are less expensive because they are usually in need of renovation.

7. Renovation can provide tax advantages.

8. Reuse of old buildings conserves energy.

The federal government has also become aware of the economic, social and cultural necessity for preservation.

The Tax Reform Act of 1976 and its various revisions in 1978 provided tax incentives for registered historic properties being renovated for income producing purposes. In 1981, the Economic Recovery Tax Act was passed which contained significant revisions and even greater tax advantages. It allows for a 25% investment tax credit for restoration and renovation of National Register properties. In addition, the new law provides for a 15% investment tax credit for renovation of commercial buildings which are at least 30 years old and 20% for commercial buildings at least 40 years or older. The law, however, requires that funds spent on renovation must be as much, or more, than the purchase price of the property.

These tax advantages add further incentive toward the preservation and restoration of the many fine old buildings in our communities, and there are many of them. Cities and towns throughout Oakland County all have architectural resources that are being wasted. Fine, old buildings which can become, once again, productive assets in each community. Pontiac is the city I am most familiar with, and I am delighted with the efforts of those who are seriously and thoughtfully renovating and restoring its many lovely old buildings. City officials are offering aid and encouragement, artists are

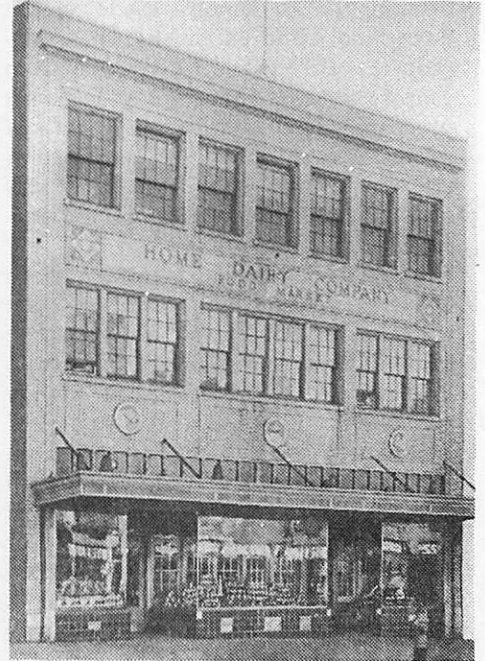
renovating for studios and galleries, banks and government loans are helping to provide the funds for renovation and private developers are in the process of restoring the old Telephone Exchange Building, the Riker Building and the Eagle Theater Building. Pontiac is moving again, and it is adapting the old buildings to blend with the new.

Pontiac is fortunate to have so many architecturally interesting and unique buildings. They begin with the Italianate commercial buildings of the 1860's and continue through to the District Court and the Phoenix Center today. In between is the Victorian influence of the 1870's with its heavy decorative detailing, the charming little Second Empire commercial building next to the Eagle Theater (the only one in the city) and the equally charming little neo-Gothic building at 77 N. Saginaw Street. The turn of the century saw the construction of the Commercial Style with its clean facades and large squared windows. In Pontiac, this style lasted until the 1930's, but each one of these buildings has some unique feature or detail.

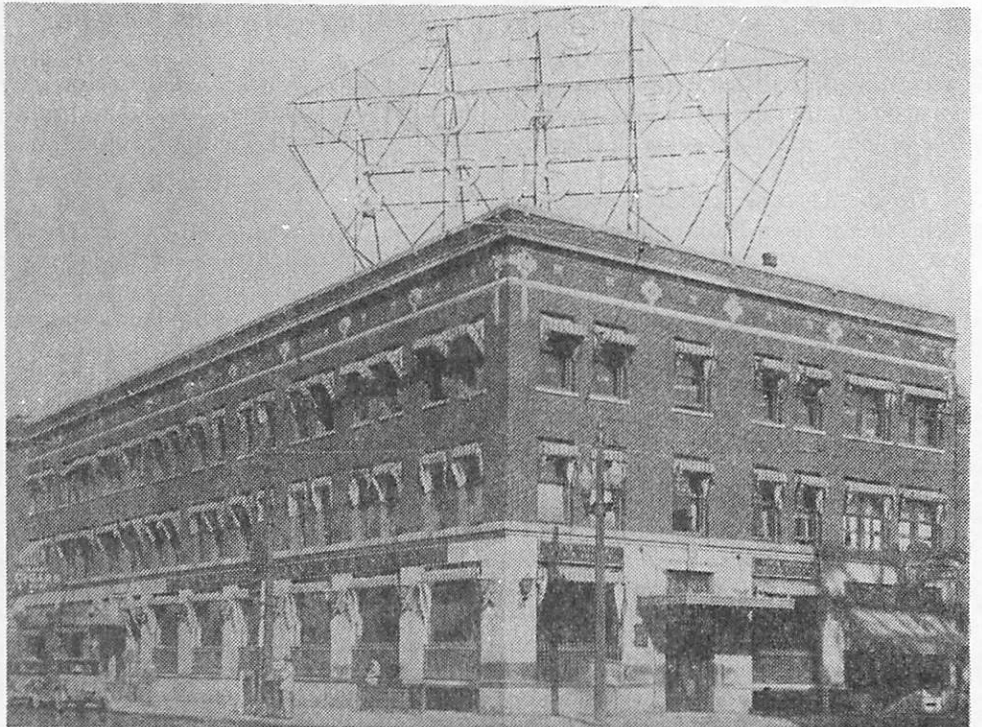
The building business was particularly busy in Pontiac during the 1920's, as it was elsewhere. The two bank buildings, the Riker Building, the Masonic Temple and five of Pontiac's six movie theaters remain. The old Cunningham's Drug Store Building is a first rate example of the Modernistic Style of the 1930's, and provides an excellent link to the so-called modern architecture of today.

Pontiac is indeed fortunate to have this architectural continuity through time, and it is even more fortunate to have so many interested and dedicated people who care about its old buildings.

**\* Gretchen Adler is a graduate of Oakland University, immediate past president of the Society and presently a member of our Board of Directors.**



**HOME DAIRY COMPANY BUILDING**  
*Built c. 1925 - three story cream brick building with decorative ceramic tile insets.*



**FIRST NATIONAL BANK & TRUST COMPANY BUILDING**  
*(Now First Federal Savings Bank) Built c. 1925 - now covered with metal screening.*