



Ice Cream Social Day - "A Day To Remember"



Oakland County "Old Timers Day" will be the emphasis of our Annual Ice Cream Social which will be held on the Pine Grove grounds on Sunday, August 7th, from one to five in the afternoon. All of our members and friends are encouraged to come and reminisce about the "good-old-days" in Oakland County.

Musical entertainment, light and airy summer tunes, will be provided by the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony Orchestra, thanks to funds provided through a Pontiac City Arts Grant.

Our crafters will have numerous exhibits such as candle and soap making, herb preparation, weaving, spinning, basket making and woodcarving. Gloria Belair will even exhibit two sheep from Belair Farms.

There will be old familiar games for everyone. A three-legged race, sack race, hop-scotch, jump rope contest and many others at the schoolhouse for the "kids." Grown-ups can show their skills at horseshoes and checkers.

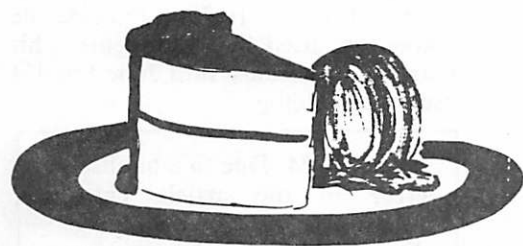
The dedication of the old Central School bell is scheduled and there will be other exciting events.

Best of all, will be our traditional ice cream, home-made cakes, lemonade and iced tea—all included in the price of your ticket. Hot dogs will be on sale to satisfy the hunger of the hearty eaters.

The tickets will cost \$2 for adults and \$1 for children (under 12).

Parking will be available in the Wisner School Lot adjacent to Pinegrove and in the Oakland Avenue Evangelical Presbyterian Church Lot on the east side of Oakland Ave. Handicapped parking **only** will be allowed on the Pine Grove grounds adjacent to the one-room schoolhouse.

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy an old-fashioned outing with your old friends and neighbors. Janice Bell, our chairman for the day, promises there will be lots of fun for everyone.



The Old Inns and Hotels of Oakland County

Prologue

Upon the ending of the War of 1812, the withdrawal of British troops and completion of the Erie Canal to Buffalo, thus making available much cheaper transportation from the East, immigration to the West grew to immense proportions. So flattering were the reports of the early settlers of new lands in Michigan Territory, that "Michigan fever" gripped the East, particularly the residents of New York and the New England states. Most immigrants came to Detroit and while many stayed in Detroit, most were in search of lands to develop and farm. They moved on to the outer areas and in so doing sought and required accommodations and services.

The opening of the territory and the establishment of the county by Governor Lewis Cass by proclamation in January, 1819 (formally organized in 1820) gave impetus to the settling of Oakland County.

Access to the virgin areas of the county was mainly by traveling the old Indian trails. The Saginaw Trail ran from Detroit to Saginaw Bay and traversed the county in a northerly and southerly direction. The Shiawassee Trail running from Detroit to the westerly part of the Peninsula crossed the southwesterly portion of the county. It was along these trails that the first inns and hostleries were established in the county. As other communities were established in other areas of the county, more inns and accommodations arose.

First and foremost, the inn was a shelter for the night. Probably the most anxious moments experienced by the early immigrants as they made their way into the interior of territorial Michigan were caused by their concern as to where they might put up for the night. Almost impassable roads; inns and taverns very few and very far between; weird and unusual sounds from the dense forests; wild beasts lurking in

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Society Undertakes Restoration of Pine Grove Roof

At the June meeting of the Board of Directors approval was given to proceed with the project to repair the roof of "Pine Grove", the Governor Moses Wisner Historic House.

Under the supervision of Gretchen Adler, extensive research and inspection work has been conducted to determine the original character of the roof and the best ways to restore it to its authentic state. Irene Rogala, an AIA architect of Farmington Hills, is working with the Society to complete the project.

The key element of the project will be the approval of a Jobs Bill Federal Grant for \$20,000 to defer part of the cost of the project. This will be a matching funds grant and the Society will match the grant by making available \$20,000 of City of Pontiac block grant money. Hopefully, in total, \$40,000 will be available to complete the roof restoration.

As a prerequisite to approval of the grant, the Society must execute a historic preservation easement whereby it is agreed that "Pine Grove" will be open to the public at least twelve days per year. The Board has approved such an undertaking and appropriate legal instruments will be executed.

Because of the time involved in processing, it is not anticipated that the project will be completed before next spring.

We Are Planning...

A PINE GROVE HARVEST GALA

For Late September

**DETAILS
WILL FOLLOW**

Potpourri Herb Garden Becomes Reality

A Potpourri Herb Garden has recently been completed on the Pine Grove grounds.

In a work bee on Saturday, May 21st, Clarke Kimball, Jack Moore and Tom Wayne prepared the area for a new potpourri herb garden along the northerly fence of Pine Grove. Sod was removed from a strip approximately seventy-five feet in length and the ground was cultivated in preparation for planting.

Thanks to a gift of \$50 from the Southeastern Michigan Unit of the Herbal Society of America and another of \$25 from the Pontiac Branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association, funds were provided to purchase the necessary plants. Carol Czechowski, our resident herbalist, has purchased the plants and planted the new garden.

It is our purpose to produce in this garden sufficient herbs to provide an ample stock for sale in our Potpourri Shoppe.

Our thanks are extended to everyone who has furnished their time, talents and funds to launch this new project.

Gifts Benefit Society

The Society has been the recent recipient of many gifts from its many generous friends and members. The following are a few of the most notable.

Twenty Jackson & Perkins Hybrid Rose Bushes were donated in memory of Maude Lamoreaux by her son, Rex, for a new rose garden.

Students from Our Lady of the Lakes School and Edna Burke gave us a donation of money to purchase two dozen slates and pencils for the one-room schoolhouse.

The "Junquers" of Birmingham gave the Society a \$300 donation for the renovation of the ladies sitting room in the Wisner House.

Ed and Gretchen Adler donated white pine seedlings for each of the guests at the Annual Dinner and also a new sprinkler for the Pine Grove grounds.

Lillian and Gordon Paull contributed money for the re-binding of the 1872 Oakland County Atlas and a flat of flowers for the gardens.

White Chapel Memorial Cemetery gave our Society over 200 tulip bulbs for our beautification project.

Jack Moore gave talent and time with a camera for updating our photographs and Edna Burke funds for processing photographic slides.

The Clark Kimballs have donated bulbs and seeds and Clarke has planted all the flowers and shrubs.

New Members Welcomed

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

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Leo Daggy
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Azzoli
Miss Jeanette Coad
Miss Jennifer Coad
Mrs. Edwin DeMilner
Ms. Jennifer L. Radcliff
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Travnika
Mr. James W. Briney, Jr.
Mrs. James B. Fitzpatrick
Mrs. J.A. Hubbard
Mrs. Louise Mauti
Mr. George Omelianoff
Mrs. Delores I. Oliver
Mrs. Carol Czechowski

LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. Jean Coad
Mrs. Mark Elliott
Miss Charlotte Ann Maybee

BONUS MEMBERSHIP GIFTS

Did you know that if you update your membership to a life membership you are entitled to a free Pine Grove Pewter Mug- Also, don't forget, you are eligible to receive a free Pine Grove Pewter Plate when you have enlisted 10 new members credited to your name. Be sure to stop by the Society office to pick up your bonus pewter gifts.

NEW MEMBERS !!!

**We would like to meet you at
the Ice Cream Social.**

Schoolhouse Progress Report

Our project to promote the use of the one-room schoolhouse as a demonstration school is moving forward.

Mary Ann Treais, Administrative Coordinator, reports a large increase in the use of the school as a result of the in-service programs conducted by Kitty Daggy and other promotional activities. From February thru June 15, 1982 the school was used by 80 students. This year from February thru June 8th 454 used the building.

ERRATUM: Due to a publishing error in the article entitled "Preservation of Old Buildings - An Essential Ingredient" appearing in the April, 1983 Edition (Vol. XVI, No. 2) it was erroneously stated that five of Pontiac's six movie theaters remain. In fact, only two theaters remain.

Antique Toys Exhibit

Through special arrangements, the Detroit Antique Toy Museum has loaned 106 toys from their extensive collection of 19th and 20th century toys to our Society for a special exhibit from June 1st thru September 1st. The toys are on display in the Pine Grove carriage house and schoolhouse. The oldest toys on loan are: doublesided puzzle "Red Riding Hood", c. 1870; a wooden rocking horse, c. 1875 and a cast iron locomotive and passenger car floor train, c. 1885. There are also many turn of the century toys such as candy containers in the shape of animals and vehicles, iron and tin toys; penny toys of tin; lithographs and, of course, mechanical and pull toys. There is something for everyone who loves toys to view and we hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to view this unique exhibit. You may also view this exhibit during the Ice Cream Social.

The Detroit Antique Toy Museum was founded by Lawrence Scripps Wilkinson and is an affiliate of the Detroit Historical Museum.



Antique toy fire engine (c. 1930) on exhibit in schoolhouse.

DON'T MISS

THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL---

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!

Recent Interesting Accessions

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

- Mr. Thomas Mackie
35" x 30" Diorama of Pine Grove as it was in the 1850's
- Marion Golembeske
7½" x 9½" ophthalmic chest of drawers once owned by Dr. Aaron Riker of Pontiac.
- Mrs. Dolores Volger
47 tax receipts from Pontiac Township, 1879-1922
- Oakland County Law Library
McAlpine's Official Map of Southeastern Oakland County
Photographs of Circuit Court Rooms at old Oakland County Court House, c. 1904
- Miss Faye Donelson
Manuscript: **The Donelson-Shattuck Letters 1827-1865**, transcribed from the original letters by Miss Donelson, great-g granddaughter of Ira Donelson
- Mr. Jerry Roe
Book: **Addresses and Special Messages of Governor William G. Milliken, 1969-1982**
- Mr. Gaylor Forman
Listing of Veteran Burial Sites at Franklin Cemetery (War of 1812 thru Vietnam War)

Copy Machine Fund

As reported in our last issue, the Society has received \$1000 from the General Motors Men's Club toward replacement of our copy machine whose condition had been diagnosed as "terminal". Well, our once faithful machine finally sputtered out its last few copies forcing us to purchase a new Xerox copier.

However, the generous Men's Club donation does not cover the entire cost of the new machine and the Society welcomes all contributions to our "Copy Machine Fund".

Pine Grove Tours

Summer time is a perfect time to visit Pine Grove and take a leisurely tour. Tuesday thru Friday our guides will be awaiting your "drop-in" visits. The first tour begins at 1:00 p.m. and the last tour starts at 2:30 p.m. Reservations for large groups are welcomed. Call the office two weeks in advance to make arrangements.

"Meet Your Legislators" Tour

On October 5-6, 1983, Travel Trends Inc. of Union Lake is sponsoring a Special Interest Tour to Lansing for Oakland County residents, entitled "Meet Your Legislators".

While the emphasis of this tour is on the opportunity for you to meet and talk with your Oakland County legislators, visits will also be made to outstanding historic sites commemorating Michigan's past, present and future. The Jackson Space Center, tour of Historic Marshall with lunch at Win Schuler's, dinner seminar with several Oakland County legislators at the Lansing Hilton, tour of the State Capitol, the Michigan Historical Museum and antiquing and lunch at Cornwall's in Turkeyville are all included.

We feel that this should be a very interesting and informative tour. It has our endorsement as well as that of the Historical Society of Michigan. It is an excellent way for each of us to say "Yes" to Michigan.

For further information contact Robert G. Payne, Travel Trends Inc., 7922 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake, MI 48085 (363-8393).

Work Continues on Oil Painting Restoration

The restoration work continues on the oil paintings from our collection in Pine Grove.

"The Girl and the Arab" has been at the Detroit Institute of Arts for restoration for some time and it is hoped work on it will be completed and it will be back on exhibit at our headquarters by Ice Cream Social Time. Two of our paintings, "Mill Crossing" and "Woman With a Turban" were delivered to the Institute for restoration on May 17th.

In the meantime, we have written an application for another City Arts Grant for the restoration of our five remaining oil paintings.

In Memoriam

We regret to report the death of the following members:

Miss Marian Lehner
Mrs. William Archambeau
Mr. Richard Fell
Mrs. W.R. Kemp
Mrs. Harold Dudley

Additional Silent Auction Donors

We wish to acknowledge and express our thanks to the following additional donors who contributed merchandise to the Annual Dinner Silent Auction:

DONOR	ITEM
Felice Quality Market 1116 West Huron St Pontiac	3 Cutlery Sets
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Crossman 2461 Renfrew St. Sylvan Lake	1 doz. Golf Balls & Rival Electric Can Opener
Wing Lauk Restaurant 5665 Dixie Hwy. Waterford	\$15 Dinner Certificate
Susan Metzdorf 676 Ashburnham Ave. Auburn Heights	Encyclopedia of Antiques
Janice Bell 4190 Halkirk St, Waterford	Chicken Door Stop
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reynnells 111 N. Johnson St. Pontiac	Collectible Jigsaw Puzzle of Old Cars
Dixie Floral 5233 Dixie Hwy. Drayton Plains	Hanging Flower Basket
Oakland Press 48 W. Huron St. Pontiac	New One-year Subscription
Dunstan's Flowers 3484 W. Huron St. Pontiac	Planter

Annual Dinner Huge Success

The Deer Lake Racquet Club, near Clarkston, was the site of the Society's Annual Dinner on May 18th.

Highlights included banjo music, a silent auction, fashion show featuring period costumes and an interesting talk on "Collectible" appraisals.

A record crowd of 163 attended and a good time was had by all. Thanks to the cash returns from the silent auction, a profit was realized on the dinner.

Some of the pictorial highlights are shown below.



Who's Who

1. Betty Adams greets guests. 2. President Ruth Priestley opens the program. 3. Part of the crowd. 4. Toastmistress Fran Anderson. 5. Virginia Rodgers, narrator of fashion show. 6. Joyce Kesselring models post-Civil War era gown. 7. Kris Metzendorf - the bloomer girl. 8. Gretchen Adler, one of our flapper girls. 9. Don and Kitty Daggy in nighttime attire. 10. Angie Johnson in early 20th century finery. 11. J. Jordan Humberstone, speaker.



Central School Bell to be Dedicated

During the Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 7th, the Central School Bell will be dedicated after installation in a new permanent mounting on the Pine Grove grounds.

The bell which originally hung in the belfry of the old Central School at the corner of Pike Street and Wide Track Drive in Pontiac has rested on a temporary stand in our Drayton Plains one-room schoolhouse for several years. According to the recollection of Dorothy Hollister, who was a kindergarten teacher and taught at Central School for more than twenty-five years, the bell was removed from the school unbeknownst to the school principal in the summer of 1966 and stored beneath the stands at Wisner Stadium. After much protest as to its unceremonious removal, the bell made its way to Pine Grove where it remains to the present time.

Dorothy has many recollections of ringing the bell at Central School when the old custodian either forgot or was unable to do so.

Thanks to a donation of \$300 by the Michigan Society, Children of the American Revolution, a project is underway to permanently mount the bell on the Pine Grove grounds. An appropriate metal plaque is currently being cast.

Jack Moore and his associated maintenance men are arranging for the removal of the bell from the one-room schoolhouse and its mounting on a permanent base. Faye Donelson has been designated to plan the dedication ceremony.

All of this activity will come to a conclusion at the Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 7th.

Calendar of Coming Events

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

August 7 - 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Ice Cream Social

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

September 21 - 7:30 pm, Annual Membership Meeting

Old Inns and Hotels cont. from pg. one.

the woods along the trails; these were just some of the hazards confronting the immigrant as he went looking for his new home.

It was the inn, besides furnishing food and shelter for the night, that serv-

ed as the center of community activities; that often was used as the political headquarters of the area; that was frequently taken over as the seat of local government; and, in most cases, was the only building where meetings of any size could be held.

Except for the church and the school, probably no institution in America filled a greater need or exerted a greater influence upon the early life of the pioneer than did the public inn.

Accommodations for the Guests

While the landlord or innkeeper was required by law to furnish "food and shelter" for his guests, the accommodations actually supplied by him differed from period to period and from community to community.

The inns were often crowded and the late arrivals were required to sleep on blankets spread upon the floor of any available room in the house. If there were insufficient beds, a room might be partitioned off so as to accommodate guests of different sexes.

In a very interesting diary by Lansing B. Swan while on a trip through Michigan from Rochester, New York, in 1841, he tells of an amusing experience in a hotel in the southern part of the state. He had joined his sister and her husband at Kalamazoo and they were traveling along the Chicago Road, running from Detroit to Chicago through the southern tier of Michigan counties. At Summerville they repaired to the hotel for the night, and the diary tells us that:

"Norris and Harriet having the only bed below stairs, I was obliged to sleep upstairs with the 'School Marm', she going to bed first and I having got up first. The interference was not felt as there was a short partition across the end where the bed was. Harriet says, however, that she will tell my wife about it, and, particularly, that I did sleep with the 'School Marm'."

Food for the Guests

Although in the very earliest days "shelter for the night" was probably the greatest commodity offered by the innkeeper, running a close second would be food and drink. While actual menus of the early inns were quite scarce today, there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the food, though plain, was plentiful, and certain hostleries gained a wide reputation for their table.

As to food, frequently the landlord would raise his own poultry and meat. Sometimes he would hunt game with which to furnish his guests venison and other game food.

The Bar

The bar of the early inn and tavern was the busiest place in the establishment. It was also the most troublesome and much difficulty encountered by the landlord, as well as by the public generally, could be traced to the bar-room.

Under the early law and continuing to the present time, there were restrictions as to the sale of spirituous liquors at hotels. Liquor was extremely cheap in the early days and was sold by the quart or gallon, usually at the grocery store. At the bar, liquor sold for as little as from three to five cents a glass.

While the laws restricted the sale of liquor to minors and others of a specific class and also stipulated days when it could not be sold at all, violations in the early days were frequent and almost unrestrained.

An account in a Rochester weekly paper aptly describes the situation in the 1870's:

"There was a circus at the hotel (no name mentioned) last Saturday night, in which a number of our local sports were interested—it being one of the frequent meetings of the Bummers Brigade—the members of which were full of fighting whisky. The Marshall was 'on hand', but had his 'baton' taken from him, and was rather roughly handled. It was a thrilling and exciting event, altho no bones were broken. How long, Oh, how long shall such things be tolerated in Rochester?"

The Inn as the Town Hall

Because the local inn in the early days was usually the only building in the community, except the church, and later, the schoolhouse, which could accommodate a group of any size, it was often in the village inn that the local residents would gather to discuss, both officially and informally, local governmental problems. It was the forum of the day.

Very few of the townships had town halls of their own in those days, and it was only natural that the officials would look to the local inn as a suitable place for their meetings. In several of the townships this practice continued until near the beginning of the present century.

The Inn as the Social and Cultural Center

Just as the local inn and hotel served the community as the village hall in the early days, so it was the social and cultural center of the community. At first, this was out of necessity, as there was no other place where such activities could be carried on.

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It was also to the advantage of the landlord of the various hostelries that the public generally enter his establishment, whether as a guest of the house or merely as a patron of an event being held there. Often it was the landlord himself who promoted these social gatherings.

The range of activities held at the local hotel was extremely wide and varied and extended from artistic musical concerts to an exhibition of pugilistic powers". By far the greater number of social activities were the dances. Social dances were the custom in **every** community of the county and they were frequently held.

Stage Coach Lines and the Local Inn

There was a definite connection between the stage coach lines that operated through or within the county and the local inn or hotel. They were mutually helpful and necessary to each other.

The value of the stage coach lines to the hotel and innkeepers of the county can hardly be estimated. Without this service of bringing travelers into the community together with those transported by the railroads, the landlords would have had very little business. Often the stage coach "stop" was the inn itself, and in the earlier days, at least, the driver of the coach would announce his approaching of the stop by blowing on a long horn, so prospective passengers might get to the station on time, much as railroad and steamboat whistles announced the arrival and departure of trains and boats.

The Early Inn—"White's Place"

"The cabin on the ridge"—such would have been a fitting and accurate description of one of the first, if not the very first, taverns to be opened in Oakland County. The log cabin had a name, "White's Place", and the "White" referred to was Jabez White, a shoemaker who had arrived in the area at least as early as the spring of 1821.

No record of "White's Place" can be found in the early land records. It would appear that Jabez White never made a legal entry to the land upon which he had built his cabin, nor that he ever received a patent to the land from the government. In other words, Jabez White, innkeeper, was undoubtedly a "squatter" who saw the land, liked it, and built his cabin upon it. It was located in what is now Fernalde, on what was the Saginaw Trail (now Woodward Avenue) about ten miles from Detroit.

We find a reference to "White's Place" in the stories of Capt. Hervey Parke in connection with his second trip



The Bostford Inn, Farmington Hills.

into Michigan, in 1822, in which he tells us that "arriving at White's tavern, their beds were occupied, but Mrs. White spread a few blankets on the floor where we slept as soundly as the swarming mosquitos would permit".

The Elegant City Hotel—"The Hodges House"

"The Astor House of Michigan". Such was the flattering designation given this new hotel in Pontiac as it was nearing completion in 1838. Soon after it was built it was referred to as "the finest hotel west of Buffalo".

The Hodges House was built by Schuyler Hodges. Hodges and his wife, Mary, operated the hotel themselves for several years, but with many clerks and managers over the period. Thereafter, for the next half-century and longer it was operated by a series of landlords and managers.

The editor of **The Jacksonian** waxed eloquent over the new hotel which was just being completed in his city of Pontiac. In an editorial in this paper of October 2, 1838 he writes as follows:

"We must give more than a passing notice of the new Brick Block situated at the corner of Saginaw

and Pike Streets. This noble structure is eighty feet front on Saginaw, and one hundred twenty feet on Pike street; Three stories high, exclusive of the basement; presenting a beautiful stone front. The wing of the building together with the whole of the upper stories, we believe is calculated for a public house; entrance in the center of the block, on Saginaw street; the remainder of the building is intended for stores. West of Buffalo, we know of no building, public or private, and but one there, the American, which can compare with this, either in point of location, beauty of its external appearance, or the excellency and apparent durability displayed in its construction. D.V. Bissel, master builder. For this building, which will long be the pride of the village, we are indebted to the public spirit, enterprise and go-ahead disposition of our ... friend, Schuyler Hodges, Esq."

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Old Inns and Hotels cont. from page seven

From the very beginning, the Hodges House was the leading hostelry not only of the city but of the county and adjoining counties. Most of the major social, political and cultural gatherings for fifty years after it was built was held here. It was the acceptable place for holding business meetings.

Distinguished visitors and public officials, when visiting Pontiac, were usually entertained at the Hodges House. For the observance of the 4th of July in 1843 Governor John S. Barry, with some of his official family, attended the Pontiac program, arriving "on the Railroad". They were given a private dinner at the Hodges House, after which they returned to Detroit, then the state capitol, in the afternoon.

It would probably be more pleasant to close the story of the famous Hodges House with the complimentary comments just reported. But this famous hostelry, once the "Astor House" of Michigan, fell upon evil days, and gradually became a third rate hotel and rooming house.

It later became known as the Chapman House, and was a sorry spectacle after its former elegance. It was finally torn down as part of the federally-sponsored urban redevelopment program, and one looking for the Old Hodges House today would find nothing but bare ground.

Still Serving

Very little evidence can be found today of the dozens of early inns, hotels and taverns which served early Oakland County. The following are brief descriptions of two of the early hostelries which still continue to serve the public in our county.

Botsford Inn

This historic inn, the oldest in Michigan still providing food and lodging, was built as a home in 1836 by Orrin Weston. In 1841 it was converted into a tavern by Stephen Jennings. Known as the Sixteen Mile House, it was a stage coach stop in Clarenceville on the Grand River Plank Road, which followed the Indian trail that went on to Lake Michigan. Milton C. Botsford in 1860 acquired the inn. It became a popular meeting place for drovers, farmers and travelers to and from Detroit. Henry Ford, who had first seen the inn while courting his future wife, Clara, in a horse and buggy, purchased the inn from the Botsfords in 1924 and restored it. The Fords operated it until 1951 when it was purchased by John Anhut.

The present owner, John Anhut, has turned Botsford Inn into a stylish, modern hotel without losing the 19th century atmosphere that endeared the old hostelry to Henry Ford. Through the restoration efforts of Ford and the extensive modernization and enlargement work of Anhut, the inn is now operated as a complete hotel facility offering fine dining, lodging and facilities for business meetings and social affairs in an early American setting.

Holly Hotel

If one word could be chosen to describe the life of the Holly Hotel, perhaps it would be "indomitable". Originally opened in 1891 as "the Hirst", the venerable hotel has suffered through two devastating fires (1912 and 1978) and finally was restored to its original state in 1978 by its present owners, Dr. Leslie Sher, and his wife, Sydelle, Jim Hilty and George Kutlenios. It is located in Holly at the intersection of Broad Street and Martha Street, the infamous Battle Alley, and originally gained its prominence as a "railroad" hotel serving lumber and rail workers and the many travelers who patronized the two railroads which crossed in this junction town.

Today, the Holly Hotel operates exclusively as a restaurant and no longer offers lodging. It has gained a widespread reputation for its excellent cuisine served in its pure red-plush Victorian setting.

Epilogue

And so we bring to an end the story of the early inns and hotels of Oakland County. It was the end of an era, as well. Who, except imaginative Jules Verne, would have predicted that

within less than a century after the first settlement in Oakland County that the life of the inhabitants would be so changed that the comfortable wayside inn or tavern would be practically extinct, that the horse and carriage would become a rarity or that brilliant lighting would replace the home-made candle? Or that within 100 years one would see the passenger train and the electric interurban mode of travel both come and substantially go, to be replaced by the luxurious automobile and the incredibly fast airplane?

The great interest shown by the public generally in visiting the restored villages, such as Sturbridge, Williamsburg and Greenfield Village, and the restored homes and public buildings all over the land that are still extant, gives strong evidence that they regard them as part of their great heritage as American citizens.

(The above account is a condensation of a manuscript prepared by Maurice F. Cole, an Oakland County historian, businessman, attorney and philanthropist, who died in 1977 and bequeathed the unpublished work to the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Your editor has endeavored to preserve the color and tone of the author found in his work. Persons interested in reading in detail Mr. Cole's excellent work are invited to read the manuscript on file in the Society's library. Credit is also due to **The Detroit News** for information found in feature articles published in that publication concerning the Botsford Inn and the Holly Hotel.)

Allen E. Priestley, Editor



Holly Hotel, Holly.