

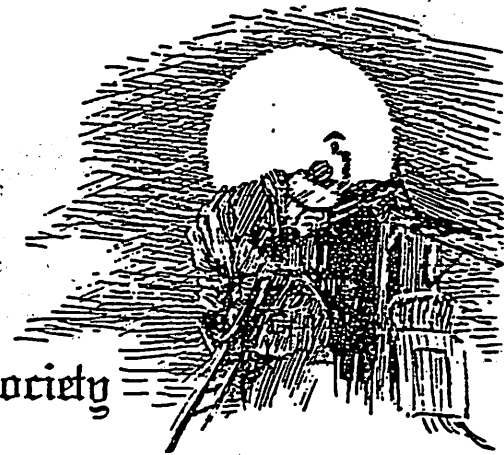


An Invitation

to

The Annual Victorian Open House of

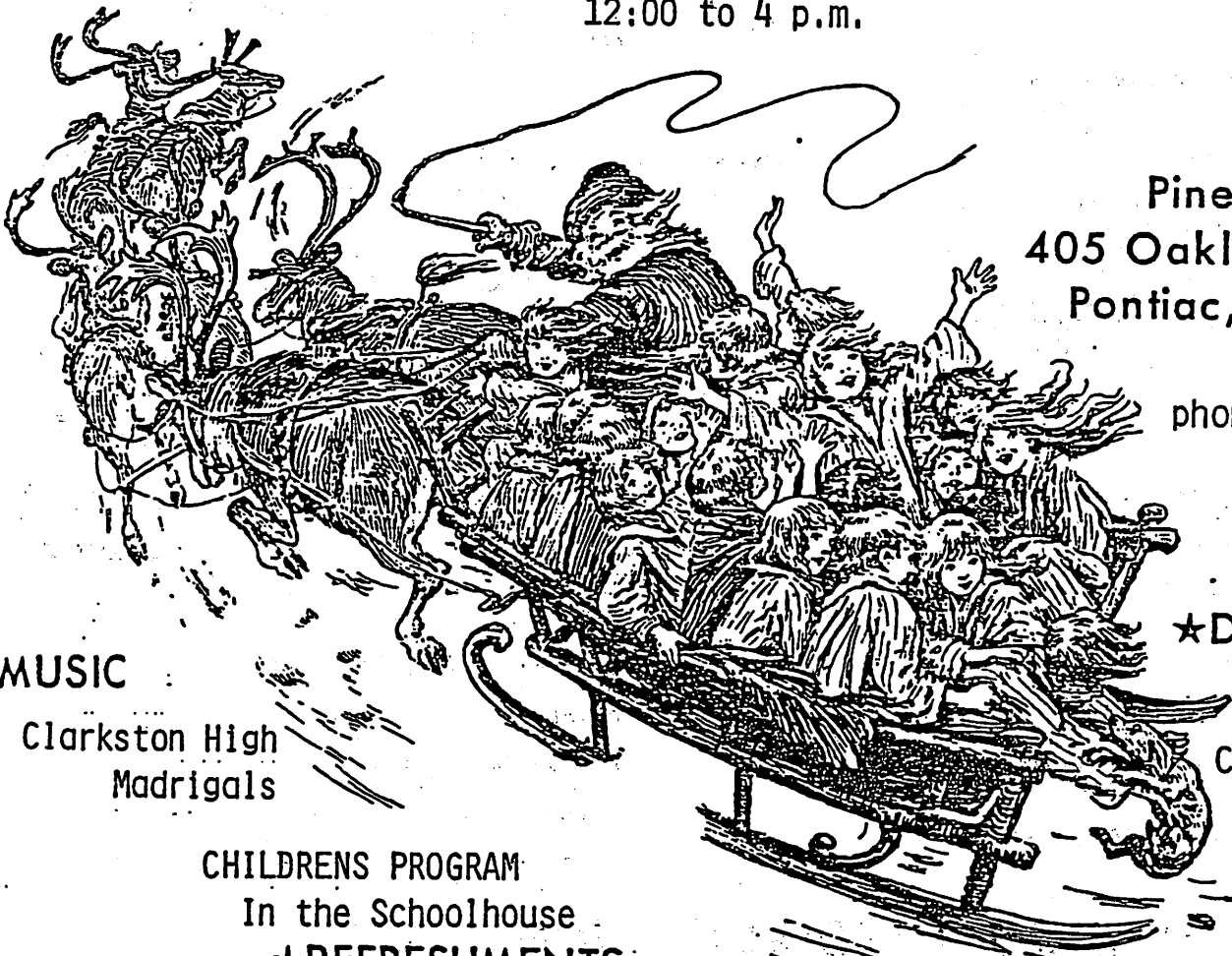
The Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society



SUNDAY

December 6, 1987

12:00 to 4 p.m.



Pine Grove
405 Oakland Avenue
Pontiac, Michigan
48058

phone: 338-6732

★DONATION

Adults \$3.00

Children \$1.50

(12 and under)

★MUSIC

Clarkston High
Madrigals

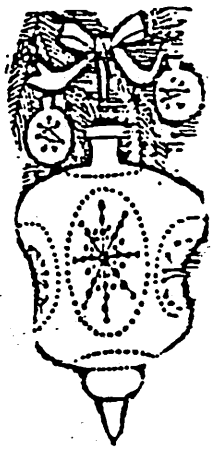
CHILDRENS PROGRAM

In the Schoolhouse

★REFRESHMENTS

Mulled Cider

Christmas Cookies



HOLIDAY GROUP TOURS

(By Appointment)

December 3rd thru 15th

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



TRIMMING A VICTORIAN TREE

Christmas came to be the quintessential holiday, celebrating the home and hearth, close family ties, a time of intense socializing and the opportunity to show through gift giving and household decoration one's place in the social ladder.

THE TREE

By mid-century, trees were beginning to be sold commercially for use in churches, social clubs and homes--mainly where there were concentrations of immigrants from northern Europe. Sunday Schools adopted trees long before they became popular in homes, and in fact were pivotal in popularizing the custom.

The search for a tree that would minimize fire hazards by not drying out too fast drove tree sellers to experiment with everything from cedars and hemlocks to firs, spruces and pines.

Balsam firs were immensely popular by the 1890's, partly because of their intoxicating fragrance. Norway spruce became commercially available about 1907. Scotch pines, whose long needles hold almost indefinitely, are a newcomer introduced during the Depression (and the least "Victorian" in appearance). Douglas (or Montana) fir is widely available, holds well and being short needled, presents a more traditional appearance.

From period photos, one is inclined to conclude that for the average home, "perfect" shape was not an issue. You can see lopsided, "holes", multiple tops and some pretty spindly looking specimens. As with today, the available choices probably matched the ability to pay--or the proximity to a good woodlot.

Only where very large trees were used--in Sunday Schools and homes of the wealthy does it appear that fullness and perfect shape were overriding considerations.

(c) 1985 Victorian Accents



HANGING OF THE GREENS

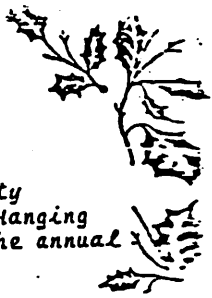
Set for December 2nd.

Members of the Society will gather at Pine Grove for the Hanging of the Greens in anticipation of the annual VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE.

Any member who wishes to help may drop in between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Coffee and doughnuts will be served, and if so desired, a "bring-along" sandwich is suggested.

Dehanging of the Greens will take place December 16th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All help will be appreciated.



POTPOURRI SHOPPE



Be sure to visit our Shoppe in its new location in the Carriage House. Our Crafters have been busily fashioning Christmas decorations for your home, as well as a variety of gift items, and all considerately priced. Dolls, animals, wreaths, herbs, potpourri, marbles, jacks, games, books, napkin holders, refrigerator magnets, and many, many more items for your viewing and shopping pleasure.

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Best Wishes



For A Happy Holiday Season
and a Prosperous New Year

—The Officers Board and Staff—

OFFICERS: 1987/88

Gretchen Adler, President

Clarke Kimball, Vice President

Marion Roush, Secretary

Kathryn Daggy, Treasurer

Donald Daggy, Immediate Past President

COOKIES! COOKIES! COOKIES!

This year, again, we will need cookies to go with our mulled cider and coffee or tea. If you plan to bring cookies, please mail the enclosed Response Sheet as soon as possible.