



*Santa Claus (Fred Crossman) and Susan Metzdorf*

## Holiday Happening Creates Family Feeling

The charm of an old-fashioned family gathering was felt by participants and visitors alike during the Annual Victorian Open House at Pine Grove, December 6, 1987.

The main attraction was the historic Wisner House, the 19th century Pontiac home of Michigan's governor in the late 1850's, Moses Wisner. The Greek Revival mansion was festooned with green and other beautiful decorations of the season in the Victorian period.

A lively ingredient was the brilliant young voices of the Clarkston High School Madrigals and Girls Select Ensemble. They sang traditional and spirited music, under the direction of Grace Warren. Peals of pump organ music were provided by June Carlson, president of the Pontiac Tuesday Musicale.

In all there was an atmosphere of warmth and intimacy not found in larger museums of the area. This provided a special feeling for those who entered Wisner House on December 6.

Other features at the historic five-acre complex at Pine Grove included the Summer Kitchen, where Janice Bell and Jan McAlpine demonstrated cooking and spinning.

Refreshments were served at the Carriage House, while lace makers Judy McBroom and Helen McLennon performed their craft. The newly refurbished building contains the Potpourri Shoppe, where holiday gifts of hand-crafted items, miniatures and reproductions could be purchased.

At the One-Room Schoolhouse, originally from Drayton Plains, area schools participated in Christmas activities. Third grade students from Waterford's Sandburg Elementary School, with teacher Kathy Gifford, decorated the classroom with a beautiful tree. Children from Pontiac's Longfellow Elementary School performed special Christmas programs, under the direction of teachers Nancy Herrick, Norma Kaminskas, Kathy McDonald and Mary Scott.

The Annual Victorian Open House is presented by the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society from their headquarters at Pine Grove. Co-chairing the event in December was Susan Metzdorf and Kathryn Daggy. Lenna McIntyre coordinated the costumed guides. Pauline Harrison and Connie Owens organized the crafts people.

The Society and its many volunteers look forward enthusiastically to the Victorian Open House in December, 1988.

It's a delightful and fulfilling experience for the visitor.

## Valentine's Day ♥ Wedding to be at ♥ Wisner House ♥

On Valentine's Day, 1988, the first wedding ceremony will take place at Wisner House since the Society purchased it from the family in 1945.

Members of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society are excited about this event, and wish the couple well. The bride, Kathryn Pittaway is an Oakland University graduate and her groom, James Arminski also attended Oakland University. Both are from Pontiac.

The bride's gown will be of vintage origin in keeping with the elegant historical setting of the Parlor for their invited guests.



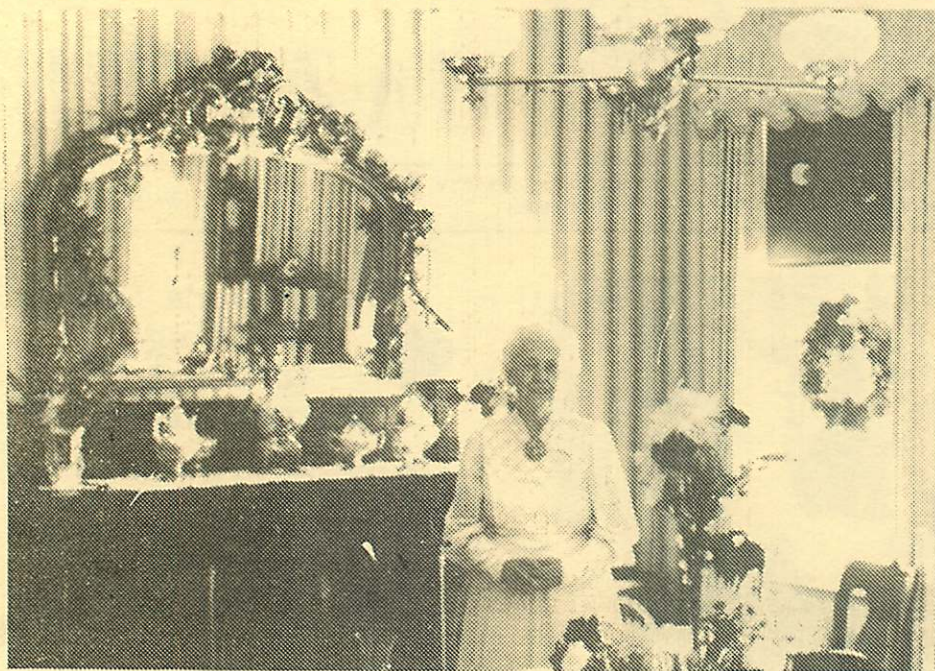
*Jan Bell in Summer Kitchen*



*Carole Andrea Sheppard  
First Floor Bedroom*



# To Make A House A Home



Lillian Paull

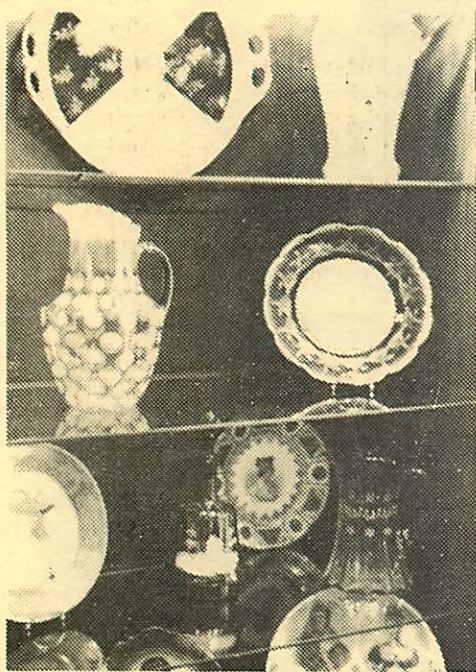
Most of us cherish the family pieces we have accumulated through the years that add beauty to our homes. Over time, a good many of us have parted with family heirlooms like furniture, kitchen utensils, linens, clothing and farm implements. We tend to keep small decorative items that mean so much to us. The silver is tucked away, as is the jewelry worn only on special occasions, but displayed American decorative art glass continues to grace our homes. Later, for many reasons, some of these family artifacts eventually find their way to Wisner House for future generations to enjoy. The society is very appreciative of these donations as they continue to expand our collections and add to the pleasure of our guests at Pine Grove.

The dining room and adjoining "pantry" are perhaps among the most beautiful rooms in Wisner House. The American hostess has always prided herself on setting a beautiful table. Ours can now be set with the Wisner family "Wedding Band" pattern as Oakland County families have added a piece at a time. Or possibly you will see the Theodore Haviland "Autumn Leaf" pattern from France donated by research librarian, Lillian Paull. The water glasses, goblets and accessory pieces may be cut crystal, cranberry or pressed glass from the collection. Most certainly you will always find a beautiful centerpiece of significance on the fine linen cloth.

We note that following the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, the American glass factories started to produce a large array of decorative art glass to meet the demand for beautiful objects as well as to provide a profit for their companies. Glass was not that expensive to own at the time but being so very fragile, the pieces that have survived are special and now priceless.

Lillian and the late Gordon Paull recognized that popular early American glass such as Sandwich, Steuben, Tiffany and Baccarat would soon become a rarity. They started adding to their collection years ago as they appreciated its value, beauty and enjoyed it in their home. Recently, she has donated a major portion of this collection to the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society which is now displayed in our dining room and pantry. Her thoughtfulness and care has added a new dimension in the beauty of these two rooms for our members and guests to enjoy.

Thank you, Lillian Paull, our house is now a home.



## 1987 IN REVIEW

This was a banner year for the Society --- more tours (over 1500 students and adults between September of '86 and June of 1987) - higher attendance at our annual events, and a significant increase in membership (70). The Reference Library materials were in great demand and a large amount of new publications added. A special bulletin was published to all Oakland County Schools regarding our expanded program in the Schoolhouse. Our volunteers were generous with their time honoring request for talks to schools and service organizations as well as oral history tape recordings. Our Michigan Sesquicentennial projects added a great deal of interest to the Pine Grove Complex.

January 18 - Sesquicentennial Open House honoring past and present Governors of Michigan. Pioneer Certificates were presented to descendants of Governor Wisner who were present. The interior and exterior restoration of the House showcased. This restoration funded by First of America Bank and City of Pontiac block grant monies.

We were honored to have present Jerry Roe, a member of the Michigan Historical Commission and Chairman of the History Observance Committee of the State Sesquicentennial Commission. Daniel Murphy, Oakland County Executive, and representatives of First of America Bank also attended.

May 20 - One hundred and thirteen persons in attendance for our 113th Annual Dinner at Main Event. Our past Society presidents were awarded Certificates of Appreciation.

July - Carriage House Sesquicentennial project completed. This work funded by members, Memorial funds and a generous donation from the Lulu C. Wilson Trust.

August 2 - The most successful Ice Cream Social ever with over 600 persons attending on a warm, but breezy day.

September 16 - Annual Meeting at Carriage House and reports.

October 21 - Board Meeting and election of new officers.

October 22 - Oak Hill Cemetery Michigan Historical Marker dedication was well attended by our members. Former Gov. Moses Wisner was honored in the ceremony.

December 6 - Victorian Open House was a fitting conclusion to 1987 with over 575 persons attending.



## Do You Know That . . .

### Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn

★ **The Automobile in American Life** - A brand new, 6-million dollar re-do of a world-famous car exhibit. No longer just a collection of fine old autos, the display of these beauties has been redesigned to dramatically tell the story of how America was put on wheels - how the car became the country's greatest "people mover." A refurbished old diner, a complete early Holiday Inn room, a Texaco gas station and a drive-in theater marquee are just some of the exciting additions to this evolution of American travel.

★ **The Howard Brothers Circus** - This authentically detailed miniature circus exhibit includes a Big Top main tent, a menagerie tent, a midway and side shows. The "back lot" has a dressing tent and a dining tent, with 6,000 individual knives, forks and spoons. There are 1400 performers and roustabouts, plus attending crowds. The parade of animals has everything from performing puppies to elegant elephants. All "come alive" in three-quarters of an inch to one foot detail - elaborately displayed over some 50-feet of museum space. The only thing missing are the circus smells - the sights and sounds are there.

### The Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit

★ **The Art That Is Life** - The Arts & Crafts Movement in America, 1875-1920 - A collection of turn-of-the-century objects for the American home. The designs of Tiffany, Frank Lloyd Wright and others included in the examples of furniture, silver, ceramics, glass, textiles, wallpaper, books, jewelry. Exhibit runs thru February 28, 1988 at 5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit.

### Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society Headquarters, Pontiac

★ **Tours** - Dick Jones will be glad to make your reservations for the following:  
Schoolhouse Class Time • Carriage House Meetings • "History Lady" visitation to schools • Oral History tape recording appointments • Research Library information, manuscript information & tours.

Office hours: Monday thru Friday, 9am to 4pm. 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, MI 48058. "Pine Grove" phone (313) 338-6732.



We welcome our new members and appreciate their support of the Society and its programs.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Terrance Adderly  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Forget  
Ms. Christie Gustafsson  
Mr. Nelson Haynes  
Mrs. George Hoffman  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce C. Jacobsen  
Mr. Terry M. McCormick  
Mrs. Margaret O'Neil  
Mrs. Marilyn A. Tuchow

#### BUSINESS

Food Town, Inc.-Edwin Adler

#### ORGANIZATION

Pontiac Better Homes & Garden Club

## State Register Of Historic Places

*By Michigan Historical Commission*

**St. Vincent dePaul Roman Catholic Church**, 150 E. Wide Track Drive, Pontiac, MI Oakland County.

**Pontiac Post Office**, 35 E. Huron St., Pontiac, MI Oakland County.

**Avon School District #5 Schoolhouse**, 1440 John R, Rochester, MI Oakland County.

**Daniel Broughton House**, 32325 Franklin Road, Franklin, MI Oakland County.

## In Memoriam

It is with regret we report the death of the following members:

Mrs. Russell C. Auten  
Mr. Ralph S. Forman  
Mr. William S. Hilderley  
Mrs. Madeline O'Connor  
Mrs. John Riley  
Mr. Maynard H. Slater

## ACCESSIONS

Our thank you to the following persons who have donated their historic artifacts to the Society for future generations to enjoy.

Lillian Paull	Collection of American Art Glass. Austrian and French china.
E. Hawkins	Tanned Cow Hides
M. Taylor	Model Ice Boat
Marie Poole	Henredon Lighted Breakfront
R. Reynnells	Chain Saw
R. Lamoreaux	Stoneware Canning Jars
G. Wagner	DAR Magazines
K.K. Chandler	1904 Program Dedication, Oakland County Court House
Irene Hanley	Family papers
R. Nienstedt	Wilson Foundry Photos
G. Forman	Photo Lasher Presbyterian Church
Purchased	Linen Pulled Work Tablecloth

## Spring Educational Presentation



To Help People Trace Their Ancestry  
March 29 - May 24, 1988

#### Instructor:

Dorcas Wolf (OCPHS Member)  
2263 Hartford  
Pontiac, Michigan  
Phone: 666-4455 or OCPHS: 338-6732

#### Course Description:

A beginning Genealogy course that will meet at Pine Grove in the Schoolhouse, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Four of the sessions will be spent on scheduled field trips as follows:

- 1) Oakland County Courthouse
- 2) Library of Michigan-Lansing
- 3) Burton Historical-Detroit Public Library
- 4) Mormon Library-Woodward Ave., Bloomfield

#### Fee:

\$25.00, includes materials.

Course limited to 9 participants





Former Governor Hon. John B. Swainson, Member of Michigan Historical Commission gives the address.



William Foster, Superintendent of Pontiac Municipal Cemeteries and Mrs. Elizabeth Adams of Michigan Historical Commission unveil the historical marker at Oak Hill Cemetery

## Marker Dedicated At Oak Hill Cemetery

The dedication of the Michigan Historical Marker at Oak Hill Cemetery in Pontiac on October 22, 1987, honoring former Governor Moses Wisner, among others, was a memorable event in our history.

Following months of extensive research by many including Cora Bradshaw, local historian; William Foster and Carol Davenport of Pontiac Municipal Cemeteries; Jerry Roe and Elizabeth Adams of the Michigan History Historical Commission and Robin Peebles of Michigan History Division, the marker text was approved. With the support of Hon. Mayor Walter Moore and his staff, representing the City of Pontiac, the marker was cast. The dedication, program and reception following was special for all in attendance.

The Chief Pontiac Post No. 377 of American Legion gave the Military Salute and Presentation of Colors. Hon. John B. Swainson, former Governor of Michigan gave an interesting history of each honoree in his address. In the absence of Jerry Roe, Mrs. Elizabeth Adams made the official dedication for the Michigan Historical Commission. Hon. Mayor Walter Moore accepted for the City of Pontiac.

### Marker Inscription

On June 1, 1822, the Pontiac Company gave the citizens of Pontiac the first land for a village cemetery. It was "to be occupied and used forever as a burying ground." In 1839, when Captain Hervey Parke was employed by the village to survey Outlot 9 of the original plat of the village, Oak Hill Cemetery was laid out. Many of the early pioneers who had been buried near the intersection of Saginaw and Huron Streets and on private property were reinterred here after 1839. The cemetery contains the Buckland Memorial Chapel, built of Berea sandstone in 1889 by Don Carlos Buckland in memory of members of his family. Among the monuments of note are those of Major General Israel B. Richardson, Governor Moses Wisner, and David Ward. Acreage across Mt. Clemens (renamed University) and Paddock streets was added to the original site as the need for increased space arose. Occupying the highest point of land in Pontiac, Oak Hill Cemetery has served the city throughout its history. Colonel Stephen Mack, who managed the Pontiac Company and was in 1818 one of the village's first settlers, was reinterred here, as was his daughter, Lovina, who was the first white settler to die in Pontiac. Mack's grave is one of six belonging to veterans of the American Revolution. Twenty-seven Civil War soldiers also lie here, including Governor Moses Wisner, Major General Israel B. Richardson and Brigadier General Joseph T. Copeland. Other historic figures interred here include the Reverend Isaac Ruggles, a pioneer missionary in Michigan, and lumberman David Ward. In more recent times, World War I "Congressional" Medal of Honor veteran Dr. Harold A. Furlong was buried here.

### Book Review - F.Y.I.

*Wallpapers for Historic Buildings*

By Richard Nylander

The Preservation Press, Washington, D.C. 1987.

For those of you interested in historically accurate wall coverings for your home or for historic buildings, this book could be of real value. It provides a unique catalogue of more than 350 authentically reproduced designs that are available today. It is filled with historic reproductions along with a history of reproduction wallpapers.

Historical researchers will find this book a meaningful resource in gathering sociological perspectives of times past, as well as, a useful data base for restoration plans and projects. This soft cover book was acquired by our Wisner Library in the latter part of 1987. Feel welcome to come and look it over.

Please Note: It is our intention to present a short book review in each Gazette edition from one of the books from our Wisner Library to help acquaint you with what our shelves have to offer.

-Pauline Harrison

### RECENT LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

*Lakeland's Paradise*, by Paul E. Ripley. The Story of Waterford Twp. For Children.

*Auburn Hills & The Aaron Webster Cemetery*. Compiled by Dorothy Scott.

*Mt. Hope Cemetery*. Compiled by Beverly Lancaster and Russel Reed.

*Mt. Avon Cemetery*. Compiled by Beverly Lancaster, Russel Reed and Dorothy Scott.

*Stewards of The State*. (The Governors of the State). By George Weeks.

*Encyclopedia of Gardening*. Edited by T.H. Everett.

*Wall Papers for Historic Buildings*. By Richard C. Nylander.

*Oral History and the Law*. By John N. Neuenschwander PhD, J.D.

### OFFICERS 1987-1988

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