



## OAKLAND COUNTY CONNECTIONS

### Book Review *F.Y.I.*

(Wisner Library Acquisition)

### When Eastern Michigan Rode the Rails

By Schramm, Henning, and Andrews

Railroad fever spread through Michigan in the 1830's and the first horsecar line was chartered in Detroit as the DETROIT AND PONTIAC RAILROAD. This was built parallel to Woodward Avenue. Construction began in 1836, it reached Royal Oak two years later, Pontiac in 1839, and Birmingham in 1844. By 1892 electrification began and in 1895 the famous three-cent-fare was offered to the rail-riding public.

The book's authors cover much more than the interurbans in the Detroit-Pontiac-Flint-Bay City corridor, they also present the Detroit United Railway (DUR) bus affiliates railway operations in the Detroit River Tunnel (railway), and a particularly interesting chapter on the history of the Grand Trunk Western steam commuter line. The book is well supported by numerous photographs and maps.

Historical background for railway development, in part, was described as:

Prior to the War of 1812, southeastern Michigan inhabitants depended on early Indian trails and waterways to travel and move goods. During this war a temporary road was built from Toledo to Detroit for troops and supplies.

The first road surveyed from Detroit was up Woodward to Pontiac and Saginaw, and it was authorized by Congress in 1818 as a military post road. The western route from Detroit, named the "Chicago Road" (later Michigan Ave.) was constructed in 1830 by way of Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, reaching Chicago in 1833.

This book is particularly interesting for "us folks" because of the familiarity of names and places to which we can relate. Also, as observed by this reviewer, is the sameness of controversies amongst the citizenry that confronts us today as to what, when, where, and why for the development of a much needed better rapid transit system. Co-author, Wm. H. Henning will be providing an interurban model train display at the **Victorian Christmas** in our schoolhouse on December third of this year.

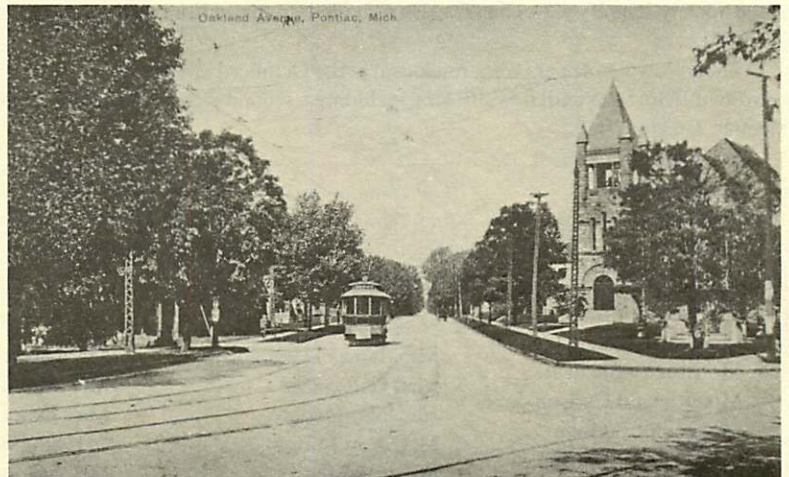
Pauline Harrison



Car 7101 is turning onto Pontiac's Saginaw Street. Note the fashionably long dresses worn by the women.



The car is heading south on North Saginaw between Lawrence and Pike Streets in downtown Pontiac. Note the Vernor's Ginger Ale sign, one of the area's favorite soft drinks for many years. (Photos courtesy of Jack E. Schramm)



Small single-truck car on Oakland Avenue in Pontiac.



### SPECIAL OCPHS COMING EVENTS!

- **Victorian Christmas, 1989** is scheduled for Sunday, December third. Specially featured will be the Clarkston H.S. Madrigal Singers Choir directed by Grayce Warren. In line with our plans for *revolving* Pine Grove displays will be newer historical displays for you to enjoy. Watch for the invitation flyer.
- **Annual Meeting, January, 1990.** Details to follow in meeting notice



## ACCESSIONS

We appreciate and thank the following persons for their contributions to our Collections and Research Library files.

Mrs. Jean Giddings	Iron & Wood Lawn Bench
Mrs. Virginia Clohset	Cement Bird Bath
Mrs. Virginia LeFever	Chenille table cover with fringe
Mrs. John F. Ward	Sterling napkin ring initialed A.M.W.
Mrs. Barbara Brandel	Kitchenware
Mrs. Virginia Carhart	Kitchen ware including 1855 J.E. Parker coffee grinder, andirons
Mr. Donald Schultz	Lard Can Kirby Packing Co. Pontiac, Clothes brush stamped "Pontiac Clothing Co."
Mrs. Priscilla Gaytan	1911 "Ancor Blocks"
Mrs. Glenn Griffin	Dr. Hobson's Anti Skeeter bottles
Mrs. Harold Haskins	Garden tools 1860-1920
Mrs. Don Stackable	Bag type powder flask - 1860
Lottie Hudson Estate	Oakland County map on roller

Elizabeth Dawson Brown estate via Marion Roush - 100 items	
Florence Purvis	Dresses (2), Circa 1875; Hats, Circa unknown
Mary Green	Army Jacket WWII, Master Sgt. Donald Post
Muriel Crossman	Crocheted cape, Circa 1930's; Velvet evening coat, Circa 1930's; Wedding gown, Circa 1944 (Muriel's)

### HISTORICAL FAMILY RECORDS, PICTURES, POSTCARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

Ross Callaway, Ray Russell, Rex Lamoreaux, Robert Norberg, Mary M. Green, Gretchen Adler, Robert Parker, Mrs. John F. Ward, Mrs. Glenn Griffin, and Lottie Hudson estate.

## WISNER LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

<u>Old Burying Grounds, Oxford Township</u>	<u>Sketches of America's Past - Sloan</u>
<u>A History of Michigan Banking - Gatton</u>	<u>Profile of Black Museums</u>
<u>Two Centuries of Costume in America 1620-1820 - Earle</u>	<u>Paris Fashions of the 1890's</u>
<u>Cemetery Records of Oakland Co. Vol. 1</u>	<u>Cemetery Records of Southfield Twp.</u>
<u>Oakland Co. Cemetery (Infirmary/Hospital)</u>	<u>When Eastern Michigan Rode of Rails - Books 1, 2 &amp; 3 Jack E. Schramm, William H. Henning, Richard R. Andrews</u>
<u>The People of Three Fires</u>	<u>Women's Yellow Pages 1989</u>
<u>The Chaplains' Lady (Fort Mackinac)</u>	

## By-Law Changes Are Approved

Society members attending the 115th September 20, 1989 Annual Meeting elected the following to the Board of Directors and approved certain By-Law changes. These changes included holding the Annual Meeting of the Society in the month of January to coincide with the fiscal year of the Society. The By-Law changes also provided for the addition of a second vice president to the list of officers.

The following officers were re-elected at the October 18, 1989 Board of Directors meeting to serve an interim term until new officers, including a second vice president are elected at the Annual Meeting January 1990.

President .....	Gretchen Adler
Vice President .....	Clarke Kimball
Secretary .....	Marion Roush
Treasurer .....	Kathryn Daggy

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS CLASS 1989-1992 (3-year term)

Mr. Edwin Adler	Mrs. James Huttenlocher	Mr. Robert Reynnells
Mr. Bruce Annett, Jr.	Mrs. Gale Scafe	Mrs. Maxwell Shadley
Mrs. Richard Carlson	Mr. John Madole	Miss Dorcas D. Wolf
Mr. Gaylor Forman	Mrs. Jean Milton	1989-1991 (2-year term)
Mrs. Priscilla Gaytan	Mr. Jack Moore	Mrs. Margaret Greer
Mrs. Harry Harrison		

## Membership

We extend a special welcome to our new members and thank them for their support of our Society's future plans as we continue to serve the Oakland County community in preserving our heritage.

- Mr. Anthony Bowers
- Miss Paula E. Brady
- Mr. & Mrs. Wil Bryant Family
- Ms. Gertrude J. Callaway
- Ms. Geraldine Carman
- Mr. Lyman J. Craig, Jr.
- Mr. Larry P. Crake
- Mr. & Mrs. Alex Crawford
- Mrs. Walter DeNio
- Mr. David Dieter
- Mrs. Robert Einheuser
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Eriksen
- Mr. & Mrs. Graham A. Fishwild
- Mr. Frank X. Gallardo
- Dr. & Mrs. Richard Galpin Family
- Mr. Emerson N. Gravlin
- Mr. Roger K. Harter Family
- Ms. Judith A. Hudalla
- Ms. Rilla King
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Lake
- Mr. Eddie F. McDonald, Jr.
- Mr. Patrick J. McKay
- Mr. Bruce R. Meixsell
- Ms. Joann Mulso
- Mrs. Charlotte R. Opie
- Mr. & Mrs. Frederick J. Poole
- Ms. Deborah J. Remer
- Mr. & Mrs. Philip Rowston
- Mr. Scott Scherbing
- Mr. Paul D. Stein
- Mr. Richard P. Thomas
- Mrs. Edward D. Thomson Family
- Mr. Frederick Travis
- Hon. Judge William Waterman
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael E. Willis Family
- Mr. Kenneth Wolak
- Mrs. Donald R. Wood

#### LIFE MEMBER:

Mr. Dan Murphy

#### UP-GRADE LIFE MEMBER:

Mrs. James Huttenlocher

#### ORGANIZATION:

Zonta Club of Pontiac Area

## In Memoriam

Mr. G. Russell Howell  
Mrs. Dorothy Liedtke

### Editorial Staff

Ross Callaway, Pauline Harrison, Dick Jones,  
Marion Roush

**Photography:** Bob Reynnells, Marion Roush



**FEATURING:  
OUR  
CELEBRITY,  
BETTY ADAMS**



Betty Adams on the steps at Wisner House

Photograph courtesy of the Oakland Press Doug Bauman

Betty Adams, former OCPHS President, and present board member, was 29 when she was first appointed to the Michigan Historical Commission. That was 48 years ago, which makes her the longest serving appointee known. She worked on Van Wagner's gubernatorial campaign in 1940 and had asked him if he would appoint her to the Commission if there was an opening. At that time, the Michigan Historical Commission was composed mostly of older men and it took them a while to get used to the young woman. They hesitated before allowing Adams her turn as president a few years later.

In addition to the Historical Commission, Adams also was the first female president of the Historical Society of Michigan, and has been active in the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.

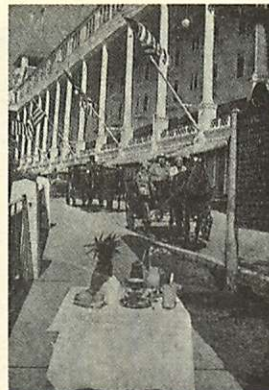
We here at OCPHS Board of Directors continue to enjoy having Betty still very actively engaged with us as our constant objective "consultant" who can be depended upon as a "stickler for historical accuracy", (as so noted by former Governor Swainson).

So from us to you - "Carry on Betty!"  
Pauline Harrison

**SIX ARCHITECTURAL SITES  
NAMED NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS**



Alden B. Dow House



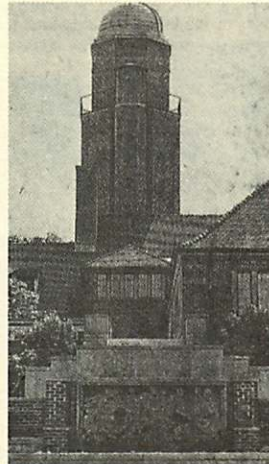
Grand Hotel



Guardian Building



Fox Theatre



Cranbrook



Fisher Building

*We call to your attention the recent recognition by the U.S. Department of Interior of several historic landmarks in our area. With this honor of being placed on the register of National Historic Landmarks, the highest designation a historic property can receive in the United States, comes the assurance they will be maintained for future generations to enjoy.*

These are the designated buildings:

■ **The Fisher Building** on West Grand Boulevard in Detroit's New Center area, designed by architect Albert Kahn and built in 1927 at a cost of \$9 million.

■ **The Fox Theatre**, on Woodward Avenue in downtown Detroit just north of Grand Circus Park, built in 1928, and recently renovated by Red Wings owner and Little Caesars Pizza magnate Mike Ilitch.

■ **The Guardian Building**, on Griswold in downtown Detroit, built in 1928 and cited as one of the best examples of tile-over-steel craftwork.

■ **The Grand Hotel**, on Mackinac Island. Built in 1886, it is one of the last remaining large wooden hotels, according to architectural historian Carolyn Pitts.

■ **Cranbrook**, in Bloomfield Hills, designed by famed Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen. Included on the register are the 14 buildings designed by Saarinen and built from 1908 through 1943.

■ **Alden B. Dow House** and Studio, built from 1936 through 1940 in Midland, feature perhaps the most famous designs by architect Alden B. Dow, who was influenced by his associate, Frank Lloyd Wright.

To sustain the designations, which were made June 29, the building owners must agree to maintain the structures without making changes that would greatly alter original designs, Pitts said. Interior Department officials agreed to give technical advice and assistance.

The six sites join 17 other historic register designations in Michigan.  
*Reprinted by special permission of the Detroit Free Press.*



# DAWSON DEDICATION PRECEDES SUCCESSFUL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Society's 21st Annual Ice Cream Social just keeps getting bigger and better each year! On Sunday, August 6th, a record turnout came to enjoy ice cream, cakes, hot dogs, refreshments, music, entertainment, and dry, breezy weather. Prior to the Social, the Mary Elizabeth Dawson Brown Memorial Room was dedicated with an overflow crowd in the House. Doctor Conrad Lam's Franklin Village Band provided music, and the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission presented a puppet show, "Cinderella," for the children. Chair caning was demonstrated by Elliott Plante and the art of bee keeping by Eric Rathburg. A First Strike Silver Congressional Coin was presented to Faye Donelson in behalf of the Society by Congressman William S. Broomfield commemorating the Bicentennial of the U.S. Congress.

Hot dogs were donated by member, Joe Carello, paper products were a gift of Gus Doerfler, and 33 gallons of ice cream were provided by Farm Maid Dairy. With their help a profit of more than \$3,200 was realized this year. Our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the Social chairpersons, Judy Dorchock and Jane Kamlay!



Gretchen Adler, president, accepts Dawson Memorial Conference Room plaque during Dedication ceremonies.



Fran Anderson, Chris Bommarito and Gail Merkowitz model gowns from the Mary Elizabeth Dawson Brown collection. Don Adams, Virginia Golding and Floyd Roush in background (left to right).



Gretchen Adler, Faye Donelson with Congressman William S. Broomfield as he explains significance of Commemorative coin.



In Dawson Memorial Conference Room are John Riley, Rosamond Haerberle, Elsie Patterson, Faye Donelson and Kay Ekelund.



Helen Pickering with Louisa Dawson's doll she dressed.



Jean Giddings at new membership table in Family Room.



White Elephant Sale



Schoolhouse display of Mary Elizabeth Dawson Brown's memorabilia



Carriage House Farm Museum



A mannequin models Dawson collection gown



Eric Rathburg - Bee Keeper



Carriage House Book sale and display of Dawson hats and Betty Brown's wedding dress.



Carriage House display of Dawson collection