



# THE "JUMPER" GOES TO THE FIRE

By Robert Norberg

Member O.C.P.H.S.

In the early days of fire fighting the equipment was pulled to the fire by the firemen. The engines or "enjines" as they were commonly pronounced, all had to be pumped by hand.

The first hose, or "hoose, hoase, hause" as early advertisements spelled it, were made of leather and sewn together like the leg of a boot. Any great pressure applied to this hose would cause it to break open and leak. Only a small amount of this hose could be carried on the engine due to the weight of the pump. Any additional hose brought to the fire came slung over a fireman's shoulder.

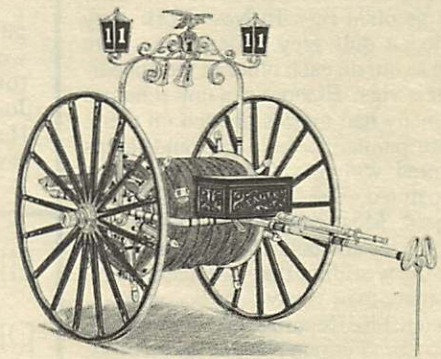
Around 1800, Reuban Haines, a member of Philadelphia's Fellowship Engine Co., came up with the innovative idea of a hose wagon. This would enable more hose to be carried to the fire and could be supplied by the engines or from the hydrants hooked to the city's new water system.

The water system was a series of hollowed-out logs laid end to end and the water ran through the center of the logs. Early hydrants were wooden "plugs" that were driven into the hollowed-out logs. When the firemen needed water they pulled out the "plug" to draw their water. If there was no hydrant near the fire, they would often locate the log, drill a hole in it, and put a "plug" in it later - hence the term "fire plug".

On December 15, 1803, Haines along with twenty other lads, formed America's first hose company, Philadelphia Hose No. 1. The new wagon was seven feet long and twenty-four inches deep. It carried 600 feet of short lengths of hose folded over and a nozzle on the side. They responded to their first fire on March 3, 1804.

The hose wagon idea caught on and soon other hose companies began forming in Philadelphia and many other cities. One strong appeal of becoming a member of a hose company was being up front at the fire, squirting water. The fireman who held the nozzle was very much the star of the show, as

MUTTON HOSE EAGLE HOSE 1 NEW YORK



"Jumper" similar to one donated by Cranbrook to the Society in 1968 which is now under restoration for display.



New display of Antique Fire Fighting Equipment in Farm Museum area courtesy of Robert Norberg.

any young lady watching could see. Being the nozzleman is still a very strong point of rivalry in today's fire departments.

In 1807 two other members of Philadelphia Hose Company No. 1, Sellars and Pennock came up with a method of improving fire hose. Instead of stitching it, they used copper rivets to hold the leather together, twenty-two rivets per foot and thirteen rivets per splice. The hose was made in fifty-foot lengths weighing 84 pounds each. This hose immediately became popular. However, this hose was not the ultimate answer, it still lacked flexibility and required constant care. Charles Goodyear would not introduce rubber hose for another 25 years.

ANNOUNCING!!

MICHIGAN WEEK  
SPRINGFEST  
CELEBRATION

Chaired by Ruth Priestley



Sunday, May 20, 1990 at Pine Grove's Indoor-Outdoor setting, for our members and their guests to relax and enjoy our theme of "Blooms & Bonnets", music, food, programs, and an opportunity to appreciate together, the rewards of our "Honey-Do Gardeners"!

Mark your Social Calendars and look for the flyer that will be sent out to you with the details!



(Continued from page 1)

This new hose made fire fighting much more practical and the scramble was on among the fire ladders to acquire rigs that would give them a jump on other companies responding to the same fire. "Jump Her boys, Jump Her" was the command often given by the company chief to entice the men to move the rig faster. This is where the nickname "jumper" came from. Another improvement of the hose wagon came a short time later. This was a reel mounted on the four wheeled chassis. This would allow pre-coupled hose to be spun out at a faster pace when they reached the fire.

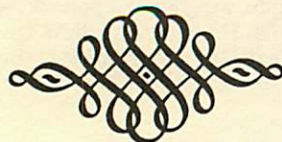
In 1819, David Hubbs, of Eagle Engine Co. No. 13 in New York, came up with a faster cart for moving hose. His "Hubbs Baby", as he nicknamed it, had two wheels and was pulled by two firefighters or could be hooked to the back of an engine. Fire companies were still all volunteer at this time and Hubbs two wheeled cart caught many a fancy. A hose reel craze soon started and with it came the fire service tradition of ornate rigs.

Most hose carts were delivered to their companies as plain rigs. In New York, they were painted a dull grey. Companies were soon trying to out do each other in the appearance of their rigs. Elaborate paint schemes appeared, many had murals painted on them, mottos were painted in gold leaf and lamps were mounted with glass inserts that were etched or painted. The lamps were plated in silver or gold. Most carts had a tool box, a couple of nozzles and bells mounted on them. Of course, the wealthier the volunteers were, the more ornate their rigs would become.

The Pontiac Fire Department dates to 1833, four years before Pontiac became an incorporated village. With the purchase of a new hose cart in 1849, the Pontiac "Star Hose Co." was formed and is believed to be the oldest hose company in Oakland Co.

The O.C.P.H.S. owns a two wheeled hose reel cart of the Hubbs type. We can trace the history of this cart back to the turn of the century. It was built around 1895 and is believed to have first been used in South Lyon, in Livingston County. The cart then went to the Booth farm, which later became Cranbrook. We have had this reel cart since 1968 and we hope to assemble it and put it on display this spring.

*Editor's Note: Lieutenant Robert Norberg comes from a family of Pontiac firefighters, who serve with the Pontiac Fire Department. Along with his other duties, he is the official Collector & Historian for the Department, and is assigned to the Central Station on East Pike where the collection is on display for all who wish to tour there. (He encourages us to do so.) Robert drops in at Wisner House now and then to peruse and appreciate our historical offerings, and we enjoy his comments and his company. We are happy to welcome Robert as one of our new members, and look forward to more of his interesting historical contributions.*



## SPRING TOURS NOW SCHEDULED

All Oakland County schools have been notified that we are ready for tours. Lenna McIntyre has been conducting Guide Training sessions, using up-dated Guide Manuals. More training sessions are scheduled for late March and April. If you would like to participate in this worthwhile activity, call Dick Jones for the schedule. We do need more guides to handle the expected students.

Wisner House is an outstanding "living museum" of the Wisner family and Oakland County history. In the Schoolhouse students are introduced to educational material used during our early history – also the joys of attending school in that era. Farm history is presented in the Carriage House to acquaint the student with farming methods and tools. This activity was lost to the Industrial Revolution. Other outbuildings at Pine Grove further demonstrate important historical facts to the visitors.

If your school, organization or club would like to have a tour, contact Dick Jones at the Wisner House Office for reservations.



Marilyn Rider's students from Jayno Adams School, Waterford, as they arrive for a half-day session in the Schoolhouse followed by a tour of Pine Grove.

## LIBRARY MEMORIAL

### PROJECT IS UNDERWAY

With Gretchen Adler as Chairman, the Library Memorial Committee has a lot of hard work ahead to determine the space needed to accommodate extensive library research material and manuscripts. Location on our property has to be determined as well as the design of the building itself, to include a Dawson Memorial Conference Room.

Serving with her on this project are: Bruce Annett, Jr., Betty Adams, Jane Doerr, W.E.C. Huthwaite, Clarke Kimball, John Madole and Robert Reynnells.

Once this project is completed, the Society can turn its attention to the restoration of the original Wisner House kitchen wing, which presently houses the Library.

## Membership

Our special welcome to the following new members and thank them for their support of the Society's program as we continue to serve the Oakland County community.

Dr. & Mrs. Rockwood Bullard  
Mr. Orland C. Collins  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kofi Egbo  
Ms. Lois A. Ellis  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles M. Hopkins  
Ms. Sarah Igleheart  
Mr. David E. Irwin  
Mr. & Mrs. William Laakko  
Mr. Robert Lamson  
Mr. Robert Norberg  
Mr. Al Olsen  
Mr. Sidney C. Olson

## In Memoriam

Howard Caldwell  
Fred Chamberlain  
Merritt W. Olsen

## THANK YOU NOTE

Our thanks to the GM Truck & Bus Group and UAW Local 594 for their assistance to the Society. Mary Lewis and Teresa Nido, from the Job Opportunity Bank, have been working for several weeks with our volunteers on the Clothing Collection, housekeeping and mailings.

We appreciate being included in this GM program of providing workers to non-profit organizations in the area.

## Editorial Staff

Ross Callaway, Pauline Harrison, Dick Jones, Marion Roush  
**Photography:** Dr. Roger Benter, Harry Harrison and Connie Owens



## Book Review F.Y.I.

### Antiques from the Country Kitchen (165 pages)

By Frances Thompson

(Wisner Library Acquisition)

"Some of the best tasting food is still being prepared in open fireplaces and on woodburning stoves," states author, Frances Thompson.

The ease and simplicity with which fireplace food may be prepared inspired Frances to begin this book. She firmly believes that though modern kitchens are marvelous, they cannot compete with the warmth, tantalizing aromas, and comfort of the old kitchens.

Photographs by the author in the lavishly illustrated text show hundreds of furnishings, baskets, crockery and cookware, even beds and cradles, that were used in the kitchen. Day to day living activities are chronicled in a most interesting and charming manner, showing that from Colonial times to the present, American family life centers around the kitchen which still remains the "hearth of the home".

Collectors of kitchen antiques will appreciate the informative "lore" associated with the items, and find the Value Guide listings most helpful. This book is sure to appeal to homemakers, past, present, and future. What a fitting bridal gift!

— Pauline Harrison

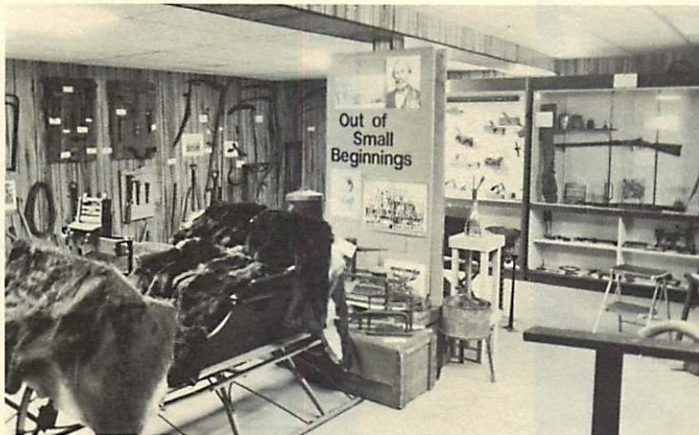


The author, Frances Thompson, would feel right at home in the Summer Kitchen at Wisner House

## NEW DIMENSION, NEW PROGRAM ON TOUR

Jack Moore and Bob Reynells have put together a new travelling exhibit of farm tools from our collections to present an interesting program upon request at the Oakland County schools and various organizations.

Bob Reynells relates the history of the Carriage House Museum at Pine Grove and gives a brief outline of the tools and artifacts we have on display. Jack Moore explains the use of the tools from their exhibit. There is a question and answer period. This new program has been very well received as an extension of the Society's service to the Oakland County community, by our volunteers.



Farm Museum at Pine Grove located in the Carriage House

## ACCESSIONS

Thank you to the following donors to the Wisner collections:

Muriel Crossman

Rex Lamoreaux

Dr. & Mrs. Rockwood Bullard

Silk Shawl Piano Scarf Circa 1920

1860 Walnut Lamp Table with Shelf

20 pc. Dinner Set Circa 1840: heavy French Limoges with green and gold trim including covered tureen, platter and bowls.

## WISNER LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

The Michigan Foundation Directory, 1983

Antiques from the Country Kitchen - Thompson

Recording Your Family History - Fletcher

From Slavery to Freedom - Franklin & Moss

American Manners and Morals - Heritage Series

Marriage Returns for Oakland Co. 1836-1884

American Century - Changing of Life Styles - Andrest

Michigan Manual, 1987-1988

Michigan Manual, 1979-1980

Profile, '86 - Compilation of Economic Data on Oakland Co.

1987 Community Profiles - Addison Township

Michigan Foundation Director - 4th Edition, 1983

Lincoln - Stefan Lorant

There is a River - Vincent Harding (Slavery)

Great American Dream Machines - Jay Herch

W. Division Oxford Township Oakland Co. Cemetery

History of St. Thomas More Church, Troy, MI

Clinton River Watershed Council Conference Workbook 1989 & maps

Our Hudson Family History 2 Vol. 1989

We wish to thank Gretchen Adler, Faye Donelson, Robert Hudson, Rex Lamoreaux, Jean Milton, Maria Teresa Nido, and Mildred Schmidt for their contributions to our Research Library.



# Annual Dinner Meeting- 1990

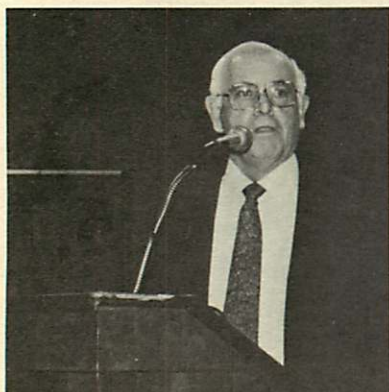
Gathered at the Rochester Elks Club on the not-too-cold night of January 18th more than 100 attended the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society's combined meeting of Election of Officers and Annual Dinner. We were most pleased with the ready response of the membership at this first-time post-holiday winter event. In the past we elected our officers at a small meeting in September, and held the Annual Dinner in May.

Our thanks to member Merritt Romine for presenting a most informative program on the Clinton River Valley Mills. June Carlson provided a more than delightful program of music. Also presented was an historical display put together by Susan Metzdorf, including ten trays showing Wisner collections of jewelry, some belonging to the Wisner women, military and political ribbons, needle holders, combs, pins, and badges, as well as a charming collection of old "calling cards".

Outgoing President Gretchen Adler received a well-earned gift of red roses, presented by past President Don Daggy as a way of expressing our appreciation. Gretchen presided over the meeting and along with nominations chairperson, Ruth Priestley, held the election of officers, then presented the gavel to president-elect Marion Roush. Marion has served our Society well as long-time secretary of the Society's Board, and Membership Committee. More recently Marion has been involved with the Elizabeth Dawson Brown Memorial. As the new president, Marion wishes to encourage all "doers" to join in and "do" for the various Society activities and committees.

HERE'S TO A GOOD YEAR FOR ALL!

- Pauline Harrison



Merritt Romine



"The Buck Stops Here!"

Marion Roush, President and Dick Jones, Executive Secretary



## OFFICERS - 1990

President ..... Marion H. Roush  
 First Vice President ..... Clarke Kimball  
 Second Vice President ..... Rosamond Haeberle  
 Secretary ..... Miriam Foxman  
 Treasurer ..... Kathryn Daggy

## DATES TO REMEMBER - 1990

March 21	Society Board Meeting
April 1	Sunday Tour Pine Grove 1-4 p.m.
April 18	Society Board Meeting
April 20-22	Historical Society of Michigan - Meadow Brook Hall Weekend - Phone (313) 769-1828 for information.
May 6	Sunday Tour Pine Grove 1-4 p.m.
May 14	Michigan Week
May 16	Society Board Meeting
May 20	Blooms and Bonnets at Pine Grove - Reception for members and guests
June 3	Sunday Tour Pine Grove 1-4 p.m.
June 14	Oak Hill Cemetery National - Historic Site Marker Dedication

## OAK HILL CEMETERY BECOMES NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Dedication ceremonies will take place on June 14th to further commemorate the Bicentennial of the Constitution. The City of Pontiac, a Bicentennial City, will provide the historical marker for this event at Oak Hill Cemetery.

All descendants of Colonel Stephen Mack, founder of Pontiac and donor of the cemetery land, will be honored guests. The Michigan Society Sons of The American Revolution will also place several markers at this time.

Pontiac's Bicentennial Committee Chairman, Mel Parish and the Pontiac Area Historical & Genealogical Society are coordinating plans for this day. The Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society members will be present in support of this significant event.