



School children and teachers on tour at Pine Grove.



The Drayton Plains one-room schoolhouse which was moved to Pine Grove in 1965 is a popular scene for visiting school children on tour through the Wisner Historic Complex.

REMEMBER SCHOOL-DAYS AND THE PEOPLE WHO TAUGHT IN THEM?



The first significant impact women had outside the home was in education. In 1875, 16 of Pontiac's 17 teachers were women. The one man who doubled as the high school principal was paid \$1,200 that year. His three teachers earned from \$400 to \$700 for the year.

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR TEACHERS

Many Years Ago

1. Teachers must have legal qualifications.
2. They must keep the schoolroom neat and clean: Sweep the floor at least once daily; clean the blackboards each day; scrub the floors and toilets at least once a month.
3. Ring the school bell promptly at 9 o'clock.
4. Raise the flag before the opening of school.
5. Start the fire early enough to have the room warm by 9 a.m.
6. Keep the school in session until 4 p.m.
7. Prepare and present a Christmas program for the community.
8. Observe Arbor Day, to beautify the school grounds.
9. Women teachers may not dress in bright colors.
10. Dresses must be of appropriate length.
11. Bobbed hair is forbidden. If hair is cut short, a switch must be worn in the classroom.
12. Married teachers will not be hired.
13. Good conduct must be kept in school, to warrant a renewal of a contract.
14. Teachers who engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
15. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, will give good reason to suspect his worth.
16. The length of the school term is stated in the contract. (8 or 9 months)
17. Palatable water must be available in the building each day.
18. The teacher's instruction must prepare the 8th grade students to pass the county examination which will qualify them for high school entrance.

**Announcing
Annual
Ice Cream
Social!!!**

August 11, 1991
see insert...

WE SALUTE YOU DEDICATED WOMEN EDUCATORS

(Especially those of you in our Society.)

You've come a long way baby!



*School teacher, Gertrude Overton.
(Turn to page 4 for "PROFILE".)*

Dear Members:

I would like to thank the many members, the Board of Directors and the past presidents for making my first term as president a very rewarding experience. 1990 was a very special year of accomplishment for our Society in several areas.

First, of great help, we became part of the GM Job Bank Program last January. They assigned excellent personnel to work with our volunteers, who gave extra time to take advantage of this assistance. Their willing hands made it possible to complete many projects that had been delayed due to the lack of someone to help do them.

Secondly, the Library Committee was very active in that they did observe several libraries in the area. Then, with the assistance of Bruce Annett, Jr., the Lawrence Tech students took on the project of design. They visited Pine Grove with their professor and then the committee observed their final oral exam as they presented their scale models and ideas, for our appraisal. As our needs are immediate and demanding for better research library facilities, this committee will proceed in 1991 to bring this project to some conclusion with Board approval. An architect is to be selected and when we have approved drawings, we can proceed with funding procurement.

Finally, the booklet *Hammering Out The Past* is now ready for publication. Charles Martinez completed his text and again, Bruce Annett, Jr., assisted in obtaining art work for the cover design and typesetting through Lawrence Technological University. We thank them for this fine contribution. This should be a significant publication to the credit of our Society.

With the help of our new Operations Manager, Charles Martinez, we will concentrate on better publicity in the coming year for the programs of the Society. This should assist our Membership Committee in their efforts to obtain new members to support our Society's contribution to this community.

Again, my sincere thanks for the wonderful support you have given me.

Marion H. Roush
President



President Marion H. Roush at the Annual Meeting in January

WISNER LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

White Lake Book in Remembrance

History of the Underground Railway by Corbrum

County Woodcraft by Langster

The World of Steam Locomotive by Roder

Indians of the Western Great Lakes, 1615-1760 Bulbs by Philip & Rex

The American Railway by Boyd

Stained Glass by Ida Burgess

Old Jules Country by Sandez

History of the Republican Party by Beryl Hank (Donated by Virginia Clohset)

Pre-Cranbrook Diary of Wm. DeWing for years 1858-1869 (Donated by Marc Coir)

Cranbrook Homestead Preliminary Land Use by DeFord (a masters paper)

Pleasant Ridge, Then and Now (a city publication)

Pontiac Police Day Book, 1916

American Glass by George & Helen McKearin (Donated by Susan Metzendorf)

Farmington Hills Historic District, 1987

Twenty Geological Survey Quadrangle Maps

Book Review F.Y.I.

(Wisner Library)

Making It Work In Michigan Oakland County

By Trout Pomeroy

Donated to Wisner Library by author.

"What a wonderful place this Michigan is, particularly Oakland County!"

That's what one feels like saying after perusing this colorful and intensely interesting work by Pomeroy. If you wish to be knowledgeable about your environs and entertained as well, this is the book to have and to read.

Part I of the book is a review of the county's beginnings along with pictures that well illustrate what we looked like and what we evolved into. Part II covers Oakland County enterprises, profiles of businesses and organizations, by Allan P. Adler, an editor at the *Oakland Press* in Pontiac.

The positive aspects of our area, including 100 magnificent photos as presented by Pomeroy and Adler are impressive. It serves to inspire one to "Say Yes to Michigan!"... and Oakland County.

-Pauline Harrison

ACCESSIONS

Our donators are appreciated.

Rex Lamoreaux - Six books. C. 1951 to 1988

Betty Hoard - Book, Embroidery C. 1900

Eve DeBoicourt - Litho of Shrine of the Little Flower and Litho of St. Hugo of the Hills

Carole S. DeFord - Cranbrook Homestead Land Use History

Pleasant Ridge Historical Society - Pleasant Ridge, Then & Now

Muriel Crosman - The Mentor booklet C. 1919

Frank Millard - Police Ledger in Chattel Mortgage Book, C. 1916

Gretchen Adler - Pontiac Dairy Milk Bottle, C. 1925 and Beer bottle, Pontiac Brewery, Pontiac, MI

Jack Moore - Borden's Milk bottle, C. 1940's

Membership Report

June 19, 1991

Renewals:

Daniel & Mildred
Carmichael

Dorothy Patterson

Geraldine Haynes

Wilson & Virginia

Garner

Ralph & Carolyn

Coulter

John & Shirley Averill

Seymour & Jeanne

Voorhees

Janet Stephens

Eleanor Porter

Jerry & Margaret

Steward

Doris Haynes

Millicent Hubbard

Muriel Crossman

Carmen Wideman

Isabelle Spring

Jane Doerr - Patron

Gertrude Overton

New Life Member:

Virginia

DeBenham

Rodgers

New Member:

Jean Reichmann

2777 Orenda Dr.

Union Lake, MI

48387

OAKLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HIGHLIGHTS

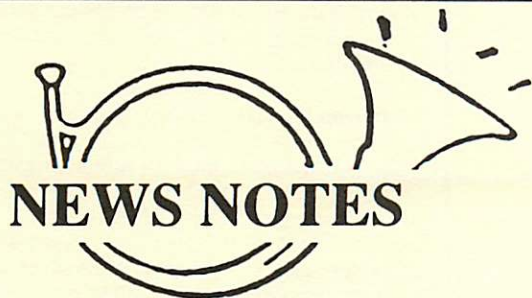
Spring Lecture Series

Society member Ruth Priestley organized an interesting set of Spring Lectures for April, May, and June as was described in our Winter/Spring *Gazette*. "Songs of the Erie Canal" was presented in April and drew a crowd of 55 guests. The May program was presented by Mr. James Jessop, chairperson for the Restoration of the Lapeer County Courthouse. He spoke of the "Restoration Trials of a Courthouse" and showed an interesting on-the-scene video.

His wife, who also attended, is involved with teaching at the historic one-room schoolhouse near the courthouse five days a week which affords the guest students a "live" historic experience. She dresses in vintage garb and the students use slates and old style readers.

The June 23rd and final lecture, "Picture This", as presented by Jack Moore and Connie Scafe was about the art of making good pictures better. Cameras of the past were displayed and explained.

We plan to present another series in the future. Your ideas and preferences on this are most welcome. You or someone you know could be one of the presenters. Give us a call.



An Ice Cream Social First

This year there will be a video taping of scenes from that event. Our cameraman will be Russ Harbough who does some consulting for station WXYZ. He will also video tape all rooms of the Wisner House. We plan to show the video at the Annual Dinner Meeting this January. We welcome you all to become a part of the show.

Our New Research Library

Gretchen Adler reports that our proposed new library project is progressing nicely.

The Library Committee has received drawings and plans from a number of architects and after careful consideration the committee is recommending to the Board of Directors architect Robert Powell of Jickling, Lyman, Powell Associates. The committee felt that with his background in building libraries in the state plus his concepts for our new library he would be the best choice for the job.

SOME MAIL —

Incoming & Outgoing

Dear Jack Moore, Bob Reynnells, and Syd Olson,

We would like to thank you men for presenting your Farm Museum program at our Organizational Meeting of the Highland Historical Society. It was interesting and pleasantly informal which put everyone at ease.

We are looking forward to visiting Wisner House soon. Thanks for your help in getting our Society under way.

Sincerely,

Mary Lahring, *Chairman*

Messrs. Stuart Lopez and Mark Weir
Weir Landscaping
Waterford, Michigan

Gentlemen,

On behalf of our Board of Directors I wish to thank you for the great service rendered by your firm in the removal of over 20 stumps from our property. The speed and efficiency with which the job was completed meant we could immediately and more effectively conduct our lawn maintenance program.

Sincerely,

Charles Martinez

Operations Manager

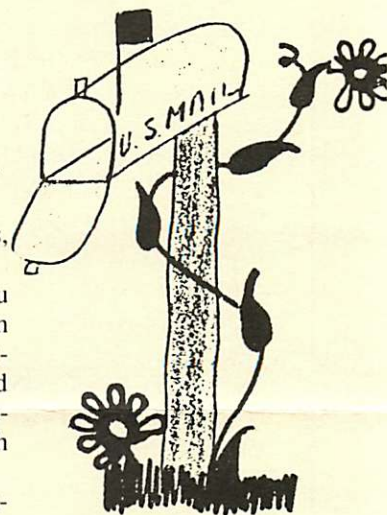
Oakland County Historical Society

Editor's Note: We wish to also thank members Don Daggy, Rex Lamareaux, Marion Roush, and Elliott Plante for contributing to this project.

Dedication Ceremony for Elizabeth (Lisette) Denison Forth

A tri-color beech sapling was dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth (Lisette) Denison Forth in the east section of Oak Hill Cemetery on April 19. This was a replacement tree for an earlier one (1988) that did not survive. The site was once part of some 48 acres deeded in 1825 to Forth by Stephen Mack who, as business manager for the Pontiac Company, helped found the present city.

How a black woman born in slavery could achieve freedom and accumulate property is a fascinating story told by Isabella E. Swan in her book, *Lisette*, (1965). Forth died in 1866 and was buried in Detroit's Elmwood Cemetery. Our operations manager, Charlie Martinez, represented the Society at the ceremony.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU... profile

PROFILE: GERTRUDE H. OVERTON

BIRTHPLACE: Upper Peninsula, January, 1898

PRESENT HOME: Waterford, Michigan

CAREER: High School Teacher, Iron Mountain, MI. Retired from English Dept., Pontiac Central H.S., 1963.

MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES: Honored guest at MSU Conference by Michigan Council of Teachers of English, May, 1990. Attended by 400. Honored guest at Iron Mountain High School's Centennial Celebration, July, 1990. She visited with large numbers of her former students. "Best Teacher Ever" award by Pontiac Central H.S. Class of 1959.

FAVORITE BOOK: *A Place for Us* by Nicholas Gage (has letter and autographed book from author).

HOBBIES: Writing children's stories and rhymes. Gardening small flower beds.

INTEREST IN OCPHS: Preservation of local history and artifacts.

HISTORICAL INTERESTS: Black history, especially history of blacks in the Catholic church.

PHILOSOPHY: "No man is an island." "Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be."

MEMBER PROFILES – Getting to Know You

In response to our new endeavor, collecting Profiles of our members for our files, we wish to thank the following members for sending in their profiles:

Mabel J. Crawford – Elementary school teacher

Heidi Barnes – Student

Betty Hawkins Emmert – Registered nurse

Mrs. Maxwell Doerr

Ralph Florio – CPC

Daniel Foxman – Optometrist

Miriam Foxman – Teacher

Rosamond Haeberle – Teacher

Pauline Harrison – Registered nurse

Vernon Kath – Finance, Pontiac Motor

Joseph Mastrangel – Environmental auditor

Susan Metzendorf – Teacher

Bob Reynnells – Buyer

Marion Roush – GM Business Offices

Marjorie Ruslander – Teacher

Orjsha K. Voss – Homemaker

For those of you who have not, please do send us your profiles. Help us to gather history!

OFFICERS – 1991

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

Editorial Staff

Pauline Harrison, Editor; Ross Callaway,
Assoc. Editor; Staff: Charles Martinez,
Marion Roush

Harry Harrison, Jack Moore, Photography

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

By Diane Ravitch

Why study history? The simplest and truest answer is that the study of history makes people more intelligent. History is an investigation of causes; it is a way of finding out how the world came to be as it is. Without history, we are without memory and without explanations. Those who do not know history – their own history and that of their society and other societies – cannot comment intelligently on the causes of events – cannot understand their own lives nor the changes in their society and in the world. The person who knows no history is like an amnesiac, lacking a sense of what happened before and therefore unable to tell the difference between cause and effect.

Unfortunately, many people get the impression from studying history in school with poorly trained teachers and with boring textbooks that history is nothing more than a recitation of dull facts about battles and kings. Sadly, some states certify people to teach social studies who have never studied a single history course in college; and some districts routinely assign coaches with no history education to teach history. And such teachers tend to use the history textbook as a script that students are supposed to memorize and regurgitate.

History ought to be the most exciting course taught in school or college. It ought to be the course that introduces students to great men and women who risked their lives for principle or who committed foul deeds for the sake of power. It ought to be the course that arouses heated discussion about historical controversies, with students contesting different versions of the past or disputing the meaning of events. Just as students need to think about the present, they need to think about the past and to realize that it was just as complicated as the present and not a cut-and-dried affair as the textbooks so often imply.

Pick up the newspaper on any day, and the stories presuppose a basic knowledge of history. They refer to events in Eastern Europe or the Soviet Union or Africa or China, assuming that the reader has some knowledge of World War I, World War II, the Russian Revolution, Stalinism, colonialism, imperialism, the postwar decolonization movement, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Solidarity movement, the Chinese revolution, Maoism, the Chinese Cultural Revolution, and so on.

The person who has studied history can read the newspapers and magazines with a critical eye; can understand new developments because he or she has a historical context in which to place them; can mentally reject erroneous statements; and is resistant to indoctrination and propaganda.

When we teach history, we teach not only what happened in the past, but how to reason, how to weigh evidence, how to analyze continuity and change, and how to assess contending ideas. We need the substance of history, and we need the historical thinking that informs rational judgment. We must teach history in elementary schools, junior high schools, senior high schools, colleges, and universities. But that is not enough. We must teach it on the television and in the movies, in museums and libraries, and around the dinner table.

Why study history? To gain the habits of mind and the intellectual tools that are required to be a free person.

Excerpted from American History Illustrated March/April 1991