# **OAKLAND**



# **GAZETTE**

Vol. XXVI No. 2

Published by OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY 405 OAKLAND AVENUE, PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48342

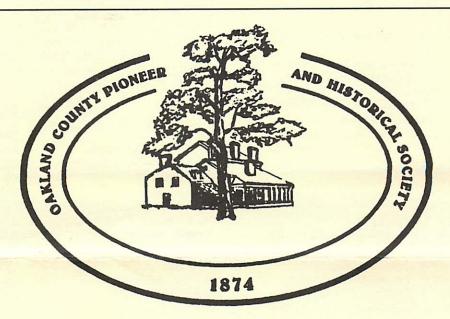
Summer Issue 1993

# WHO IS THAT STRANGE LADY AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE? LOGO EVOLUTION

by Charlie Martinez

like "old soldiers who just fade away," the comely lass who adorns the masthead of this publication has been performing a slow disappearing act over the past few years. It hasn't been her fault, lost plates and a change of printers have been the real culprits. Now, a concerted effort has been made to bring her back into sharper focus and reveal her true identity. Her provocative pose, leaning on a pedestal while surrounded by an odd assortment of tools, has convinced one wag that she's a lost shopper in the mower section of a True Value Hardware Store. A base twentieth-century calumny, friend. That lady is a goddess and those tools - symbols of a past age.

See Logo Evolution, Pg. 3



#### SOCIETY EMBLEM DEBUTS

A new Society emblem has been drawn by Board Member, Gil Haven. Set within an oval frame, Haven has sketched the Society headquarters, the Governor Moses Wisner mansion, sheltered beneath the spreading branches of a tall, majestic tree. This device has been incorporated into membership cards, and will adorn all stationery and promotional materials in the near future.

#### MAY ANNUAL DINNER

We are sorry to report that we canceled the Dinner at this time. When we are able to make more definite plans, notices will be sent out to you.

Rosamond Haeberle President



#### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

See Page 5

AUCTION ACTION: On display at the Ice Cream Social will be two matched side chairs up for "silent auction"

## BOOK REVIEW F.Y.I. (Wisner Library)

Michigan in Four Centuries by F. Clever Bald (520 pages) Donated by Betty Adams

Author and educator, F. Clever Bald was commissioned to write about Michigan's long and colorful history which was to be sound, complete and unbiased as human nature could permit. Bald wrote this book in a style that read much like a historical novel, one which made it "hard to put down".

This book is a comprehensive history of the State from prehistoric times to the 1961 Kennedy administration. It presents not only the isolated picture of Michigan, but rather includes national and international happenings and the effects upon this State.

The reader gets the feeling of being on the "inside" of history rather than just that of an impersonal "outsider". If more textbooks could be so written, what a pleasure studying could be!

- Pauline Harrison -

### WISNER LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

In early June the Society received the following books as an anonymous gift: Portrait and Biographical Album of Oakland County, Mich., by Chapman Bros. (1891); Biographical Album of Oakland County, Michigan by the Biographical Publishing Company (1903); and the History of Oakland County, Michigan, Vols. 1 & 2, Lewis Publishing Company (1912). These standard works are especially appreciated since they will replace their shelf counterparts which have seen much use.

Other Library Acquisitions:

Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan, 1855 - 1868 Atlas of the North Indian, Lantz The Woman's Day Dictionary of Furniture, Von Zweek Biographical Record of Oakland Co. Michigan Portrait & Biographical Album of Oakland Co. Michigan History of Oakland Co. Mich., Seeley Vol. 1 & 2 Pontiac Motor Division, Product Engineering The Complete History of Chrysler Corporation, 1924-1985

### **ACCESSIONS**

With thanks to all of our donors:

Judge Kelbert Rockwell - Rolling pin, brown jug

Mrs. Gerry Moses - WW II Uniforms

Rex Lamoreaux - High School Year Books

Margaret Sauer - Indian Fishing Club silver plate award, "1921" (Daughter of Dr. Roy Bailey)

Dr. Roy Bailey - Silver tablespoon engraved "OSMUN" Patrick Murphy - H.S. diploma of Will R. Harrison (1892)

Margaret Gregory - Picture frames, plastic model "Capital of U.S." Mrs. L.J. Dusenbury - White ceramic bed pan and douche pan;

framed photo "Personnel Base Hospital Annex at Camp Lee Virginia, 1918"; photo, "Camp Custer Bldgs. & Barracks"

Russell Harbough - Glass negative of outdoor activities.

#### DONATIONS

- Ann Liimatta, our Wisner Street neighbor, gave OCPHS gardener, Clarke Kimball, 150 bricks which he used for outlining the herb garden.
- · Judy Huttenlocher not only chaired the Annual meeting in January but graciously donated gourmet refreshments for the enthusiastic group of meeting participants.
- · LaVon DeLisle and Virginia Clohset donated generously for the purchase of a new and sorely needed typewriter for the Society's office.
- The John Gayton memorial monies were given to the Endowment Fund by his mother, Priscilla Gayton, OCPHS Board Member. Priscilla would like to thank all members who so thoughtfully donated to this fund.

Excerpts from letters by 4th grade students of the Carlson School, Warren, MI:



What I really, really liked was the summer kitchen because of the stove and other things. -Melissa Martin

The clothes from the Wisner people were different and they were short people. -Jessica Jenkins

The cellar was dark and cold, and the toilet paper was just -Jessica Jenkins

Everything seemed so real. I liked them because they made me think how hard life was back then. -Davey Kapoor

The thing I hated was the walk-in refrigerator, because it smelled. The house upstairs was pretty freaky. The schoolhouse was pretty fun. -Sam Meslek

I am going to come back in the summer with my mom and dad. -Michelle Stafford

My favorite part of the house was the war room because of the army stuff. -Your friend, Paul Bauer

# GROUP VISITORS AT PINE GROVE **Spring**, 1993

May /th	Seniors (12) Fox Manor, Waterford, MI
May 12th	Haviland School, Waterford, 2nd & 3rd graders (27)
May 17th	Lakewood Elementary, White Lake, 2nd graders (56)
May 18th	Whitman Elementary, Pontiac, 4th graders (28)
May 20th	Macomb Christian, Warren, Students (39)
May 26th	Our Lady of the Lake, Waterford, Students (39)
May 27th	Roberts Elementary, Shelby Twnsp., Students (54)
June 3rd	Oakland Christian School, Auburn Hills, 3rd graders (51)
June 4th	Whitman School, Pontiac, 4th graders (28)

### **NEW MEMBERS**

James Barr	Thomas Nicholas
Michael & Jackie Bogle	John Nolen
Dennis & Donnetta Brandt	Nick Paul
Ken Britton	Joseph Puertas, Jr.
Elaine Cosma	Joseph & Betty Puertas
Sam & Delores Cosma	Chris Puertas
Martha Davis	Richard Puertas
Richard Dobat	Steve Puertas
Marvin Finkelstein	Rev. Nicholas Pathenes
Jan Foster	Gene Ryeson
Howard Gerenraich	Sharon Ryeson
Mike Iliades	Larry Shaw
Joy Ann King	Sam & Estelle Spounias
Dennis & Marilyn Martin	Dora Tedder
Eugene Mazza, Jr.	Mary Johns
Leo Mihalis	Carolee Chrisman
Elia Nicholas	Peter & Marie Stavropoulos

#### Business

Wolverine Carbide Die Co. Troy, MI - Gus Stavnopoulos



Our Star recruiter is new member, Ernie Cosma, who brought along with him 33 members.

#### SOCIETY OFFICERS – 1993

President ...... Rosamond Haeberle First Vice President ..... Clarke Kimball Second Vice President ...... Jack Moore Secretary ......Miriam Foxman Treasurer ...... Kitty Daggy

## **Editorial Staff**

Pauline Harrison, Editor Ross Callaway, Assoc. Editor Staff: Charles Martinez Photography: Jack Moore Bob Reynnells

# LOGO EVOLUTION (Cont'd)

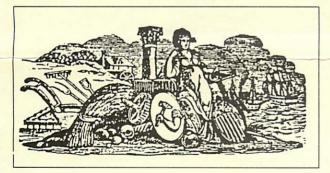
America has always been rich in symbolism. Just last month pop star Prince changed his name to a pair of symbols representing both sexes. One hundred-fifty years ago there was apparently no sexual identity problem and symbols were readily understood. They might be, however, imported or homegrown. The imported ones originated mostly in ancient Greek or Roman mythologies. These were the families of the gods, goddesses, and their helpers all having descended from Mount Olympus to take up residence in our municipal buildings, currency, and on the front pages of our newspapers. The homegrown ones, like Columbia and Liberty, wore ancient tunics but had accent pieces that were distinctly American. Sometimes the symbols were fused or the ancient ones placed in more modern surroundings. More significantly these symbols reflected social and political change, thereby charting the course of national policy. The evolution of the Oakland Press masthead emblem in the 1840's is a good example of such phenomena.



Introduced in February of 1844 the Oakland Gazette carried a masthead device of a seated woman gazing down at a shock of wheat and cornucopia near her side, while her left hand rested on a plow. This figure represented the Roman goddess Ceres (her Greek counterpart was Demeter), the protectress of agriculture. Ceres was an apt model for this paper since the Federal Agricultural Census of 1840 ranked Oakland County first in the production of wheat and corn over its 32 rivals.

Before the year was out this staunch Whig paper had revised its emblem. Now the seated feminine figure held in her left hand a spindle around which was wound flax. Her right hand rested on the edge of a shield whose device was an arm and hammer. To the left was a Corinthian column and gear wheel; to the right a steamship with smoke curling from its funnel. Apparently Ceres had adopted additional responsibilities in the fields of industry and transportation.





By February 1846 the Oakland Press emblem had metamorphosed into its most elaborate form which was adopted by this publication for its masthead in 1968. The lady now stood with her right arm resting on a pedestal with a Corinthian column behind. Her left arm was draped over an anchor top as two ships - steam and sail - plied the waters above. At the left hand side of the scene was a mill seat and below a plow, other agricultural tools, gear wheel, and shaft. A shield with an arm and hammer device rested near her

right knee, while another shield emblazoned with stars and stripes was at her left. Protruding from behind the latter shield was a spear whose tip touched a shoreline. One of the lady's feet rested on an orb. Surrounded as she was with symbols of agriculture, labor, and technology, the mood was more authoritative and nationalistic. Although lowered, the spear and shield were within easy reach. The once bountiful Ceres had now taken on the aspect of lady Columbia or America whose ambitions should be taken seriously. Within months of the debut of this latter device, the United States began war with Mexico and the march across this continent quickened.

Not all newspapers dating to the first half of the last century displayed masthead emblems. But those that did often held up a mirror to the growth and aspirations of our young county, state, and nation in those turbulent times.

# OAKLAND COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

— FOUNDED 1874 —

#### 405 OAKLAND AVENUE • PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48342 Phone 313-338-6732

# Lecture Series

Lecture No. 1 Sunday, August 29th 130 pm

Topic: "Car Coming !"

Presenter: John Conde, author, and one of the country's foremost authorities on

the automobile.

He earned the "Friend of Automotive History" award from the Society

of Automotive Historians.

Enjoy an imaginary fun ride with the rich and famous in the fancy cars

they loved to drive.

Lecture No. 2 Sunday September 26th 130 pm

Topic: "Pine Grove Digs"

Presenter: Michael Dennie, Oakland University archeology student and volunteer

assistant at Pine Grove.

He will reveal the latest details on the artifact and structural evidence

uncovered during the 1992 field season there.

Lecture No. 3 Sunday October 31st, 130 pm

Topic: "Momento Morí" (Cemetery History)

What could be more fitting on the very day of Halloween?

Presenter: Charles Martinez, archeologist and Pine Grove Operations Manager will

take us on a trip through cemeteries via slides and commentary that is

sure to fascinate.

Hot cider and doughnuts will be served in true "All Hallo's" traditions.

Lecture No. 4 Sunday, November 28th, 130 pm

Topic: "You've Come a Long Way Baby!", a historical fashion chronology

showing the influence of wars, depression, the Suffragette movement,

and the women's vote on how mi' lady dresses.

Presenter: Pauline Harrison, OCPHS Board Member and chair of the Vintage Fashion

Committee.

See, hear, and feel the fashions of yesteryear.

Your phoned-in reservations would be helpful.

Parking will be available in the lot next to the Carriage House—
where the lectures will take place.

Refreshments Will Be Served

(Save this page for reminder of Lecture Series)



Jce Cream Social

THE OAKLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY presents for your pleasure . . .

On Sunday, August 8, 1993 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at 405 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan 48342.

To reach by phone call, (313) 338-6732.

Admission for adults, \$3.00; children 12 and under \$2.00.

You are invited to come, bring your friends and enjoy a program of: Band Music, Old World Artisans, Re-enactment Groups, Wishing Well, and Complimentary Tours. Auction: Our matched side chairs will be offered on Silent Auction at the Ice Cream Social.

Available for Browsing & Buying: Potpourri Gift Shoppe, White Elephants, Used Books, and Wisner Garden Herb Plants.

Enclosed are tickets for this occasion. Your donations for this are appreciated. Checks may be made out to our OCPH Society. Descriptive Printed Programs will be handed out at the site on August 8th. Enclosed also are Volunteer Response sheets.

Our Chairperson/Hosts will once again be Don & Kitty Daggy

# POTPOURRI GIFT SHOPPE OFFERINGS:

Santa, Christmas garlands, aprons, tote bags, pillows, doll pillows, blankets with vintage lace, handkerchief dolls, collars, bird feeders, jewelry, handmade baby sweaters. Pick any of these up at the Ice Cream Social. Most items are handcrafted.

#### YOU ARE INVITED TO "CRAFT" WITH US!

Chairpersons LaVon DeLisle and Susan Metzdorf would like to welcome all interested persons to join the "Crafters" the first and second Wednesdays of each month from 9am to 11 am as well as the last Wednesday of each month for more crafting and a Potluck Lunch. Please don't hesitate to call OCPHS office at (313) 338-6732.

- ➤ Report from treasurer, Kitty Daggy tells us that our rental property on Wisner Street is paid up and monies can now go towards repairs.
- ➤ The Mayors of Novi and Pontiac visited Pine Grove on May 18 as "exchange" mayors. The Mayor of Novi was presented with a framed 1872 map of Novi Township. They proved to be both interesting and interested tourists.
- ➤ We have received machine readable copies of maps from the Oakland County Planning Department, so we now have copies of all original Survey Maps of the county dating back to early settlement days.
- ➤ An authentic military display is at the Wisner House in the room adjacent to the dining room and includes uniforms and equipment from the War of 1812 up through WW II. Along with the display is an interesting inventory of the various authentic historical items as prepared by C. Martinez. The visiting schoolboys have been duly impressed. It is truly history come alive for them.
- ➤ Jean Milton and Margaret Greer have been appointed to the new positions as auxiliary cochairs of "Guide Costuming" as part of Connie Scafe's Guide Committee. We appreciate their expertise in this field and we welcome them!
- ➤ "New Library" member, Bruce Annett, is working on a brochure designed to explain and promote the purpose for building the new library. Hopefully this could be the catalyst for soliciting the much needed funds.

## EXCERPTS FROM THE ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

by Connie Scafe, Oral History Chairperson FORTY-THREE YEARS, A TEACHER

When still very young, Mona Rabideau set her sights on becoming a teacher. Her training started while still a junior in high school. At that time, 1917, certification to teach in rural schools required attending County Normal. It took her 15 years of part-time classes at Wayne University to receive her Bachelor's degree, while holding down a full time teaching position. It was during those years that she managed to receive what was known as a "Life Certificate".

At one point in time Mona became discouraged with teaching and went to work in a Detroit shipyard as an assistant Time Keeper. Although she found this interesting, she missed the satisfaction of a classroom and returned to teaching when Oakland County Superintendent, Mr. Lederle, persuaded her to return to teaching. Her salary of \$100 a month was satisfactory in those days. It was while teaching at the Nina D. Scripps School in Waterford that she met the family of one of her pupils whose father was the Overseer of the Scripps farm and was invited to teach at the beautiful school built of stone which was donated by Wm. A. Scripps. The tower bell came from England and was engraved with the name of, "Nina D. Scripps," and, "I call the children to their school. I call the neighbors to their meeting place, for education, recreation, and social betterment.'

Mona was delighted with the luxury of kitchen, indoor plumbing, and basement all-purpose room. With aid of parents she held manual training and sewing classes there. Young teachers from County Normal eagerly came to observe and Mona proudly let them know that this was the best rural school in Michigan and probably elsewhere.

After two years at the Scripps School she went to the Pontiac schools when learning that the Scripps School was soon to close in favor of a larger complex. She spent nine years at Malkin and 25 at McCarroll, which closed her 43 year career. She married Howard Woolley in 1928 and settled in Pontiac. Never having had children, she dedicated herself to her pupils, and her enthusiasm for teaching never ceased. She inspired several of her nieces to follow in her footsteps.

The beautiful school of stone reverted to the Scripps family and later became the St. Mary's-in-the-Hills Episcopal Church in Pontiac.

Taken from the oral history of Mona Rabideau Woolley under the auspices of OCPHS when in her 85th year.

Our thanks to Father Randall Mendelsohn for allowing a search of the picture albums at St. Mary's, and to the staff at the Burton Historical Library for information on the Scripps family.

# **NEWS HOTES** . .

HOME BAKED CAKE HOME BAKED CAKE LEMONADE, ICE LEMONADE, ICE

(Barbecued hot dogs

will be available for purchase also)

- •The Oakland Press has been giving our Society excellent coverage on feature articles in recent issues. The subjects have been largely on archeological activities at Pine Grove.
- House Chairperson, Susan Metzdorf, reports on display changes in the Wisner upstairs bedrooms.
   Gretchen Adler was greatly supportive and creative in this area.
- LaVon DeLisle has been in charge of Membership as of March of this year. We all will be hearing from her.
- Vintage Clothing Com. is in the ongoing process of doing a complete audit on these collections in order to evaluate and organize the various items. Help!...would be welcomed this summer.
- Farm Museum presentations by our Museum Com. was made at the Bloomfield Hills Mens Club meeting of the Mature Minglers on February 3rd.
- Vintage Clothing Com. presented "Wedding Gowns Through the Years" at the Ritz Carlton on April 24th, and at the Central Methodist Church in Waterford on May 15th. Rex Lamoreaux's mother's wedding gown, c 1915, was among them.
- Lisa Sheehan, senior student from Central Mich.
   U. is currently serving her internship at Wisner
   House as part of her program in Interior Design.
   She will assist the Society in indexing the furniture, as well as exploring ways to incorporate temporary display units into the House Museum.
- Archeology sites based on published material in our library have been recently found and sent to the State Archeologist's office in Lansing.
- Bob Reynnells is preparing an exhibit of medical instruments used by Dr. Ryker.
- Gil Haven, "Honey-doer" (Maintenance Com. member) recently accepted Chairpersonships of the Accessions Com. and the Property Records & Locations Com. Many thanks to Gil!



The Nina D. Scripps School Courtesy St. Mary's-in-the-Hills



Wayne State University

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON LOCAL HISTORY
Presenting "Michigan in Perspective"

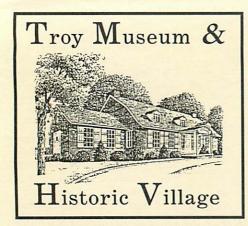
April 16 & 17 at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center was once again the scene for all those folks with historic appetites to see, hear, exchange information, find out what the other fellows are doing with their historical groups.

Hourly concurrent programs presented; Local Historical Societies; Folklore; Michigan Cultural Heritage; Michigan Architecture; Geneology; Oral History; and Archival Projects, were just some of the presentations listed. All this with good fellowship, beautiful surroundings, meals with speakers; and all at reasonable prices. OCPHS attendees included our Manager, Charlie Martinez, and this Gazette editor. We heartily recommend not missing this next April!

—Pauline Harrison

After having had attended Annual Conference on Local History presentations, it occurred to us that it might be a good idea to promote networking among the various local history groups by highlighting one group in each Gazette (as seen below).

-The Editor



# LOCAL HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS Outreach Focus

Highlighting: Troy Museum & Historical Village
Established in 1927 by the City of Troy, the Museum is supported

Established in 1927 by the City of Troy, the Museum is supported by the Troy citizens and the Troy Historical Society. The main building, modeled after a Dutch Colonial Tavern in Troy, New York, houses the Museum offices, exhibit rooms, a reference library, and gift shop. The seven buildings on the complex depict history from 1825 - 1900. Members of the Museum Guild are involved in every aspect of the Museum's operation. Annual special events include: Heritage Day in May; Summer Sights & Sounds in August; Home Festival in October; Hanging of the Greens in December.

Museum hours are Tuesday - Saturday 9 am to 5:30 pm, and Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm. They are based at 60 West Wattles Rd. in Troy and may be called at (313) 524-3570. Their brochures clearly describe in detail, the many facets of interest they have to offer.

#### **FENCE INFO SOUGHT**

"Good fences make good neighbors," Robert Frost once wrote sarcastically. Without sarcasm but with historical curiosity, we at Pine Grove are wondering as to the types of the enclosures used here over time. The few nineteenth-century photos of the property show (rather indistinctly) what appears to be an ordinary farm fence, simply formed of long horizontal boards attached to posts. In the twentieth century Society member, Rex Lamoreaux, recalls a different sort of fence, composed of vertical metal loops affixed to horizontal boards that ran along a portion of the Oakland Avenue side. The Society wishes to get in touch with anyone who can recall the types of fences here before 1945 or possibly have photos of them. Contact Charlie or Bea at the Society office.

# PROFILES ... From our Members

MEMBER PROFILE: Ralph Florio

BIRTHPLACE: Natick (1650), Mass. (1651-1950) PRESENT HOME: Waterford, MI (1950 to present)

CAREER: Semi-retired CPC PH 14

MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE: Keeping track of 18 or more clubs. EMBARRASSING MOMENT: Can't remember over 300 years ago. FAVORITE:

BOOK - Too many MOVIE - Top Gun

TV PROGRAM - This Old House, All Creatures Great and Small, and Grizzly Adams

**HOBBY:** History

SATISFACTORY ASPECT OF

OAKLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY: History

HISTORICAL INTERESTS: 1620's especially on N.E. States (6) MEANINGFUL PHILOSOPHY: My words of wisdom go back to the 1600's.

#### WANTED-

Volunteer gardeners are urgently needed to assist in maintaining flower beds, shrubs, trees, etc. . . at Pine Grove. Experience helpful, but not required

Work to consist of planting, transplanting, trimming, pruning, cleaning beds of grass and weeds, and using one's vision and ingenuity to enhance the beauty of the Wisner Estate. May set own hours. Candidates should call 338-6732 and ask for either Clarke Kimball or Jim Tedesco.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL UPDATE:

The dig conducted in the basement of Pine Grove during February yielded a great number of artifacts. A total of 600 artifacts were recovered from the dig site. Of the 600 artifacts recovered, 135 were nails (square and round), 110 glass fragments (vessel and flat), various metal products relating to the electrical trade, two intact bottles, and many other miscellaneous items. Though the object of the dig was not fully realized, that is to date that section of the house, it did bring up many more interesting questions that will have to be answered in the near future.

Last year, as you remember, a dig was conducted at the back of the oldest portion of the house. This dig produced a great many artifacts of which some were on display at last year's Ice Cream Social. Currently Charlie Martinez and myself are working on counting, identifying, and cataloging the artifacts that were recovered. In the next issue of the Gazette more will be said of what was uncovered in last summer's dig.

This year we have another dig planned on the grounds of Pine Grove. Our objective this year is the old well situated between the oldest section of the house and the Summer Kitchen. This project is due to begin around the middle of July and should be completed in early August. If you have some spare time this summer and always wanted to try your hand at archaeology, please feel free to stop by and give it a try.

-Michael Dennie



Mike Dennie recently discovered a pair of oars in a crawl space below the main house. Their curved blades suggest they may have been used on a racing scull. The identity of the original owner is presently unknown.