



# Town Crier

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Volume 10, No. 3

HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING  
P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

November, 1967

## LIBRARY TO HAVE LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

The Local History Room of the Lansing Public library is about to become a reality at last. The room, as planned originally, was to have been a rather elaborate re-creation of a Victorian parlor and library -- such as might have been found in many of the Lansing "mansions" which have recently been razed. The job of finishing the room in 1963-64 was bid at a higher figure than funds allowed at that time, and it was decided to wait and bid the room separately at a later date. In the meantime, the bequest of \$25,000 from the estate of Forest Parke, which was earmarked for the completion of the room in reality came to only \$21,200. Construction costs continued to mount during the waiting period. Consequently, the architect has had to revise his plans drastically to bring estimates within the amount available. The room will lack some appointments. We are sure that it will be a lovely room, but to give some idea of the changes which have been necessitated, the carpet will be plain and serviceable rather than one with design woven in it to fit the special contours of the room; the alcove, balcony and stairway have been eliminated; plain mouldings will be substituted for ornate Victorian ones; a commercial mural wallpaper will be substituted for a commissioned mural which would have had local significance; reproduction furniture will be replaced by furnishings less representative of the period; and so on. Although the room will not have the character it would have had as originally envisioned, we feel that we cannot wait longer to finish the room. The local history collection needs a home desperately. The Board of Education and the school administration which governs the library, believe that school tax dollars should not be spent on such a showplace, and that such a room is more properly financed from private philanthropy, which would be tax-deductible.

If anyone is interested in completion of this project as originally intended, the time to act--with cash donations--is NOW! For further information contact W. J. Kimbrough, Chief Librarian, Lansing Public Library, Telephone 485-2257.

CORRECTION IN NOVEMBER MEETING DATE:  
THURSDAY, November 16, is the correct day and date.

## NOVEMBER MEETING

The Society is pleased to present:

"THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FORT MICHILIMACKINAC," an illustrated lecture by David A. Armour.

Thursday, November 16, 1967  
7:30 PM at the Lansing YWCA,  
217 Townsend Street, Lansing.

David A. Armour is currently the assistant director of the Mackinac Island State Park. During the summers of 1965-1966, he worked at Fort Michilimackinac in the role of research historian, and supervisor of the guide program.

## MORE ABOUT THE SPEAKER . . .

Armour was born in Pennsylvania July 12, 1937, studied at the University College in London, England 1957-58; received his bachelor of arts degree at Calvin College in Grand Rapids in 1959; his master of arts degree in 1960 and his doctorate in 1965 from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

He served as teaching assistant at Northwestern from 1960-62, was instructor at University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, 1963-65, assistant instructor there in 1965. The summer of 1965, he became research historian at Fort Michilimackinac, Mackinaw City, Michigan.

His teaching field covers American History 1607 to the present; colonial American history in the 17th and 18th centuries and the age of the American Revolution 1763-1789.

He held grants from Northwestern University, 1959-60, University Fellowship, and in 1962-63 the Hearst Research Fellowship in American History. In 1963, he held the Research Fellowship from Colonial Dames of America.

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ARMOUR cont'd from page one

He is a member of the American Historical Association, Phi Alpha Theta, Historic Site Archaeology Conference, American Association for State and Local History. His research arears are the Merchants of Albany, New York, 1686-1760 and the history of Fort Michilimackinac 1715-1781. He has published several items on Mackinac history.

His family includes his wife, son and daughter. The family resides on the Island in the summer and at 2330 North West Avenue, Lansing during the winter.

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#### FOR YOUR MICHIGAN BOOKSHELF

Michigan historical sights, first settlers, men and women are the subjects of four new items from the Franklin Publishers, 4429 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53208. Soft cover, \$.95; Hard cover, \$2.50.

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MARKERS edited by Willis F. Dunbar, originally published in "Western Michigan University Faculty Contributions," 1966, has been revised and published by the John M. Munson Michigan History Fund. This 218 page illustrated publication lists location, date of dedication, donor, registered State or local historic site number and text of the marker. Soft cover copies are available from the Michigan Historical Commission, Lansing, 48918, \$2.00.

Copies of an attractive illustrated book, HISTORICAL MICHIGAN COURT HOUSES, published by the Society of Colonial Dames of America in 1966 are available from Mrs. G. Bretnell Williams, 1466 Glengarry, Birmingham, 48010, \$2.50.

Users of the invaluable MICHIGAN IN BOOKS welcome Volume 9, Number 3 devoted to "Salute to the Great Lakes."

The new quarterly publication of the Michigan unit of the State Library, FAMILY TRAILS contains articles of interest by noted genealogists and historians. It will include records primarily taken from material in the State Library. Copies will be mailed to all public, college and university libraries in Michigan. If you want free copy send post card to: State Department of Education, State Library Division, 735 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 48913.

IN MICHIGAN, a news magazine of mid-Michigan, edited by Mary Sinclair began publication by the McKay Press, Inc., in Midland in 1967. It is now being re-organized as a State of Michigan Magazine by the Department of Commerce. Write James Hurst, Department

of Commerce, Lansing for new subscription information.

Another first is noted from the Michigan Historical Collections of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The first issue of MICHIGAN GAZETTE is dedicated to F. Clever Bald, retiring Director of the Collections. Forthcoming issues will be sent to all donors to keep them informed of new accessions, research activities, and the rapid growth of this important research center. J. Fraser Cocks, III will assume general editorial direction.

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#### MICHIGAN WEEK PLANS

Observance of Michigan Week, May 19 to 25, in greater depth and breadth is the state committee's objective. Win Schuler, widely known Marshall restaurateur is the 1968 state chairman. Regional meetings are now being held throughout the state to arouse enthusiasm for the annual celebration.

A community Michigan Week handbook and other promotional materials are distributed by the Greater Michigan Foundation, 809 Center Street, P.O.Box 5351, Lansing, 48905. A special guide to the celebration of Heritage Day is forthcoming.

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#### THANK YOU.

Members of the Society appreciate the tasty refreshments which add to the enjoyment of our meetings. A special thanks to Mrs. Richard Sleater for cookies in October.

A grateful acknowledgement to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parker for their donations toward "some working part" of the society's program.

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#### THE MAILBAG

The producers of this humble news-sheet request your comments and criticisms--and brief articles of interest to our readers are welcome!

This month's mail included Volume 1, number 4 of the Newsletter from the Shiawassee County Historical Society. A contest to name the newsletter will bring a year's free membership in that society to the contributor of the winning title.

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WANTED. Photograph of George Morgan, early Lansing gunsmith. Needed for illustration of historical sketch Contact George Wiskemann, R#4, Box 317B, Lansing, 48906.

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GREEN'S MARKET. 35th Annual Green's Market Monday, December 4, 10 am - 3 pm in Small Auditorium of Lansing Civic Center.



## MICHIGAN'S STATE PARK HISTORY

The idea of the park came with the early settler to this country and took the form of the "square" or "common" in the eastern cities. The national park system was inaugurated in 1872 with establishment of Yellowstone National Park. Michigan's Legislature recognized the importance of saving these historic spots when it established Mackinac Island State Park in 1895, to take over the military reservations, lands and buildings of the national park on the Island. In 1909, Michilimackinac State Park was established in Cheboygan County, incorporating a former military post there.

The Public Domain Commission was authorized by the Legislature in 1915, to accept gifts, grants, and devises of real property in the name of the State to be supervised and preserved for public park purposes and in 1917, the Legislature authorized purchase of 200 acres of land near Interlochen to preserve the virgin pine stand there and placed it under Public Domain Commission jurisdiction.

The Legislature, in 1919, created the Michigan State Parks Commission by public act and defined its scope, authority and duties. Under the Act, Governor Albert E. Sleeper appointed the first State Park Commission of 10 members on January 9, 1920. Their first meeting was held in Lansing January 29, 1920 and D. H. Day of Glen Haven was elected chairman. An annual appropriation of \$75,000.00 for the biennium 1919-1920 was provided and numerous sites were offered to the state as gifts. The first unit established was D. H. Day State Park in Leelanau County. Some 22 sites were accepted as gifts and one--Interlochen State Park purchased in 1917, was transferred from the Public Domain Commission.

Act 17, P.A. 1921, created the Michigan Conservation Commission. The Michigan State Park Commission and the Public Domain Commission were abolished and their powers and duties transferred to the new Department. The Mackinac Island State Park Commission did not come under the Conservation Commission jurisdiction at that time, but has, since the reorganization of state government under Act 380, P.A. 1965.

Following is a list of our historically significant state parks and recreation areas:

D. H. DAY STATE PARK, Est. 1920  
Leelanau County--Gift of D. H. Day  
Historic marker commemorating State's oldest park. World renowned for unusual juniper growths and largest shifting sand hills--Sleeping Bear--potential department history.

BURT LAKE STATE PARK, Est. 1920  
Cheboygan County--Gift from County  
Indian history (inland waterway).

CHEBOYGAN STATE PARK, Est. 1920  
(formerly Poe Reef) Cheboygan County--  
Gift from City of Cheboygan--history of  
tannery and shipping.

ALHOA STATE PARK, Est. 1923  
Cheboygan County--Gift from County--  
potential townsite restoration.

BARAGA STATE PARK, Est. 1922  
Baraga County--Gift from County--potential  
Indian and missionary history.

DODGE #4 STATE PARK, Est. 1922  
Oakland County--Gift of Dodge Bros. Motor  
Corp.--potential historic site as encampment  
of Lewis Cass.

FORT WILKINS STATE PARK, Est. 1923  
Keweenaw County--Gift from Houghton and  
Keweenaw Counties--restoration of military  
complex 1844-1870.

MUSKEGON STATE PARK, Est. 1923  
Muskegon County--Gift from Muskegon, North  
Muskegon, Muskegon Heights and Muskegon  
County--potential restoration of mill site  
and lumbering era.

STRAITS STATE PARK, Est. 1924  
Mackinac County--Gift from City of St.  
Ignace--potential Indian and missionary  
history.

HARTWICK PINES STATE PARK, Est. 1927  
Crawford County--Gift from Mrs. Karen  
Hartwick. Virgin pine forest preserved as  
a forest museum, campgrounds, picnic grounds,  
memorial building, logging museum and memor-  
ial chapel.

LUDINGTON STATE PARK, Est. 1927  
Mason County--Gift from U. S. Government--  
potential ghost town.

WILDERNESS STATE PARK, Est. 1927  
Emmet County--Potential Indian history

PALMS BOOK STATE PARK, Est. 1929  
Schoolcraft County--Gift of Palms Book Land  
Company. Potential Indian and missionary  
history.

INDIAN LAKE STATE PARK, Est. 1932  
Schoolcraft County--Potential Indian and  
missionary history.

STERLING STATE PARK, Est. 1935  
Monroe County--Gift from City of Monroe and  
Monroe Piers Land Company--Potential  
historic residence.



In 1939 ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK was ceded to the United States by the State of Michigan by Act 8, P.A. 1939. This is the only National Park in the State to date.

WATERLOO RECREATION AREA, Est. 1943  
Jackson and Washtenaw Counties--Gift of U.S. Government. Restoration of old Realy Home undertaken by Waterloo Historical Society (not a state undertaking). Potential restoration of Trist Mill on Trist Creek.

YANKEE SPRINGS RECREATION AREA, Est. 1943  
Barry County--Gift of U.S. Government--  
Potential restoration as stagecoach stop.

HIGHLAND RECREATION AREA, Est. 1944  
Oakland County--contains Haven Hill Lodge formerly the Ford Estate. Used for group meetings on nature study, conservation education and allied topics.

PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS STATE PARK, Est. 1944  
Ontonagon and Gogebic Counties--Gift from Gogebic County. Potential mining history.

ROCHESTER-UTICA RECREATION AREA, Est. 1944  
Macomb and Oakland Counties. Potential restoration Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal.

TAHQUAMENON FALLS STATE PARK, Est. 1947  
Chippewa and Luce counties. Potential Indian and missionary history and the Longfellow Hiawatha legend.

PORT CRESCENT STATE PARK, Est. October 1955  
Huron County--potential historic townsite.

MUSKALLONGE STATE PARK (formerly Deer Park)  
Est. October 1956  
Luce County--potential lumber town restoration.

VAN RIPER STATE PARK, Est. 1956  
Marquette County--potential sawmill location.

FAYETTE STATE PARK, Est. 1959  
Delta County on Big Bay de Noc. Restored as ghost town and iron production 1867-92 --includes house and machine shop used as museums, opera house and hotel, lime and charcoal kilns and blast furnace. Beyond Fayette is Burnt Bluff showing Indian paintings.

Act No. 149, P.A. 1960, authorized the sale of \$10,000,000.00 worth of bonds. Money to be used only for land acquisition and capital improvements as approved by the Legislature. Bonds to be redeemed through revenue from motor vehicle permits, to be used for much needed development, new parks and campgrounds and other things. Thus,

for the first time in the history of state parks there has been a charge made for their use.

The Executive Organization Act, Act 380, P.A. 1965, came into effect at this time, increasing the Divisions of the Conservation Department to 20. Parks established since then are:

IONIA RECREATION AREA, Est. May 1965  
Ionia County--potential schoolhouse and farm restoration.

SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK, Est. May 1965  
Clinton County--potential schoolhouse restoration.

CAMBRIDGE STATE PARK, Est. 1966  
Jackson County, at Cambridge Junction. Restoration of historic stagecoach stop--the Walker Inn, established September 5, 1843 was purchased by the Conservation Department and is being restored as an historic site.

#### OLD RECIPE PLEASES CONTEMPORARY TASTE

The sight of early October snow melting off piles of orange pumpkins near markets and in fields prompted one member to turn to an old "booke on cookerie."

The AMERICAN FRUGAL HOUSEWIFE, dedicated to those who are not ashamed of economy, by Mrs. Child of Boston in 1834 offers the following advice for pumpkin and squash pie: "For common family pumpkin pies, three eggs do very well to a quart of milk. Stew your pumpkin, and strain it through a sieve, or colander. Take out the seeds, and pare the pumpkin, or squash, before you stew it; but do not scrape the inside; the part nearest the seed is the sweetest part of the squash. Stir in the stewed pumpkin, till it is as thick as you can stir it round rapidly and easily. If you want to make your pie richer, make it thinner, and add another egg. One egg to a quart of milk makes very decent pies. Sweeten it to your taste, with molasses or sugar; some pumpkins require more sweetening than others. Two teas-spoonfuls of salt; two great spoonfuls of sifted cinnamon; one great spoonful of ginger. Ginger will answer very well alone for spice, if you use enough of it. The outside of a lemon grated in is nice. The more eggs, the better the pie; some put an egg to a gill of milk. They should bake from forty to fifty minutes, and even ten minutes longer, if very deep."