



Town Crier

HEAR
YE!

Volume 10, No. 4

HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

January, 1968

FOCUS ON THE CITY

In the last three years there has been a good bit of activity in both elementary and secondary social studies in the Lansing schools. Both the Social Science Teaching Institute of Michigan State University and the Joint Council on Economic Education have been at work assisting Lansing teachers with materials and in-service training in the area of social studies.

The activity which is perhaps of greatest interest to members of the Historical Society is the work being done at the third grade level using an economic approach to the social studies.

Two years ago, Lansing began experimenting with materials developed by Dr. Lawrence Senesh of Purdue University, currently being published by Science Research Associates under the title, OUR WORKING WORLD. Materials for grade three are entitled; CITIES AT WORK. This material deals with such topics as "What is a city?", "Why a city grows," "The city and government," "Why must cities plan?" There are also several units which permit comparisons of cities around the world.

Since the third grade materials are about cities and include sections on specific cities around the world, it was felt that provisions should be made for some specialized materials on the city of Lansing. A new book for third grade readers is currently being prepared by Dr. Daniel Jacobson, Director of the Social Science Teaching Institute, and Mr. Ford Ceasar, Principal at High Street School. Chapters are also being prepared by William Helder, Social Studies Coordinator, and David B. Smith, Consultant in Economic Education for the Lansing School District. The book is planned for publication in the summer of 1968.

In order to provide teachers with some background materials, an in-service training course was planned and is in progress. Two sessions of this workshop are of special interest to our readers. Both were bus tours. On October 24, teachers from the Lansing School District, Lansing Christian, Our Saviour Lutheran, and St. Mary's Cathedral School were taken on an tour of historical sites under the very capable direction of Mr. Ceasar.

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NOTICE OF MEETING

The Society is pleased to present

LABOR MOVEMENT IN LOCAL HISTORY

By Philip P. Mason, Ph.D.

Thursday, January 18, 1968

at 7:30 pm at the Y W C A

217 Townsend Street, Lansing

Philip Mason is well known and respected by members of this Society. He served as instigator for organization and has continued to contribute leadership and programs!

He is author, historian, teacher, archivist and Director of the Labor History Archives of Wayne State University, Detroit.

The Labor History Archives was established in 1959 by the University to collect, preserve, and make available to qualified researchers, the records of the American labor movement. Special emphasis is given to the growth of the industrial unions in the United States.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The carrier boy's annual address was the traditional New Year's greeting of many newspapers during the 19th century. These were often dashed off by an editor or a friend who had been struck by the poetic muse. Today they are collected as reflections of the times and areas in which they were written and read. Most were printed on a single, highly decorated sheet of paper, but some were folded to form a booklet. Still others were printed on satin cloth.

Samples of these "addresses" which brought a bit of joy and good cheer to the readers of the big city daily and the small town weekly survive in the collections of some of our members.

One of these carries "Compliments of the Season," and a view of a pink checked carrier holding the December 16, 1896 issue of the Detroit Daily Tribune. We quote the verse

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FOCUS, continued from pg. 1.

Among the sites visited were Waverly Park, the Mineral Well "Spa" Site, Middletown, Lower-town, the John W. Burchard Cabin Site and the Dodge Estate. On October 31 the same group of teachers took a "growth and problems" tour of the city to view turn-key sites, the industrial park, urban renewal areas, and various housing programs around the city. This tour was guided by Mr. Richard Elbert, Social Planner from the Office of Community Renewal and Mr. Marcel Elliott Lansing's Housing Director.

Continued activities in 1968 begin January 11, with a series of five workshop meetings at C. W. Otto Junior High School, 7-9 pm. This series has been designed to acquaint teachers with materials for celebration of Michigan Week, but is open to the public. Interested readers are urged to direct two dollars for fee to the Adult Education Center, Cedar-Holmes Building, 3426 S. Cedar, Lansing.

SOCIETY COLLECTIONS GIVEN TO LIBRARY

Recently the temporary and cost free storage of approximately twenty cubic feet of photographs, account books, scrapbooks, letters and ephemera was terminated. The local history room of the Lansing Public Library will soon be a reality and this appeared to be the appropriate time to place these materials relating to Lansing's past under the care, preservation and service of the library.

The following resolution was approved by unanimous vote of the members attending the meeting in November. A RESOLUTION, offered by the trustees and officers of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing on behalf of the entire membership of the Society. A resolution on the donation of historical materials to the local history collection of the Lansing Public Library.

WHEREAS, materials relating to local history donated to the Society for safekeeping and use require storage and continuing care; and

WHEREAS, it has been the intent of the Society and the donors that printed materials, manuscripts, cartographic and iconographic items and like records relating to the Greater Lansing area would be given to the Lansing Public Library when facilities were available, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education's library administrators desire the Society's materials for inclusion in the collections of the public library; now therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS comprised

of officers and trustees (the membership concurring), That we urge the donation of historical resources collected to date by the Society and like items received by gift in the future, to the Board of Education of the City of Lansing Public Library for preservation and use; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Board of Education of the City of Lansing Public Library.

Adopted by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, November 16, 1967

Mary McNeely, Secretary
Jack T. Crosby, Sr., President

WALTER C. SCHNEIDER, MEMBER, PASSES.

Walter C. Schneider, son of John C. Schneider pioneer Lansing industrial leader and City alderman, died September 20, 1967, at the age of eighty.

He was a member of this Society and presented a program to us prior to his illness. His interest in the development of Lansing was expressed by donations to the State Historical Museum collection. He was formerly employed by Oldsmobile, Reo and Motor Wheel, and was a past president of the Lansing Engineers' Club.

We miss his cheerful enthusiasm and note with sadness his absence.

NEW ITEMS FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

We are pleased to share your interest in the Wolverine State with news of publication of an exciting new book. The long awaited Pictorial History of Michigan: The Early Years; compiled by George S. May for the John M. Munson Michigan History Fund is available from the Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 255 Jefferson, S.E., Grand Rapids, Mich. 49502, and local book shops. Price: \$15. Ovid, a history of the Clinton County community, written by Mrs. James Whittemore is now available for sale. Ovid-Elsie Jaycees are spearheading the distribution. The Village of Ovid is underwriting the book and any profit will be used to develop a new village park along the Maple River. Orders should be made out to the Village of Ovid. The price is \$4.25 plus 25 cents mailing costs.

Mrs. Lee Woodard of Owosso has authored a very attractive publication, The Grand River Road. This is printed by the Plane Tree Press operated by Gary Granger of Lansing. The first printing was quickly sold out, and second printings are now available at local bookstores for \$6.50.

A new periodical for young readers is described as "conceived to strengthen and promote an awareness of the cultural, social, economic and education heritage of our area. In so doing, it is the hope that the populace of this area will recognize their rich heritage in the world perspective." This is devoted especially to the history of Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford, Mason, Lake, Mecosta and Osceola counties. It is to be published four times during the school year by Impact 7, 113 North Chestnut St., Reed City, Mich., 49677. Subscription is \$1.00 per school year, and includes a teacher supplement.

The Michigan State Board of Education will soon release, Michigan; A Short History and Description of the Wolverine State. This thirty-two page, illustrated publication complete with bibliography will be distributed free from the Michigan Unit of the Michigan State Library, 735 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 48918.

Readers used to chapters devoted to Indians, the French and British Periods, early statehood and the like will be pleased at the inclusion here of such subjects as symbols, government, education, natural resources and industry.

HISTORY OF MSU POWER PLANTS IN PROGRESS

Photographs and other information relating to early power plants of Michigan State University and its predecessors are being sought for the purpose of historical preservation.

Information is especially needed for the "old brick boiler house" which was built about 1884 with a square brick chimney 60 feet high. It was located south of Olds Hall.

If you have photographs available for copying or other information, please contact Mr. Jesse Campbell, Power Plant "65", Tel: 355-3314.

LOCAL BANK CELEBRATES 75th ANNIVERSARY

A pictorial expression of 75 years of banking service to Greater Lansing is now being distributed by the American Bank & Trust Co. The anniversary coincides with the dedication of a modern new building, 101 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

The Lansing State Savings Bank, as it was first known, was founded by 82 local shareholders in 1892.

The Company as we know it today is unique in that it is still locally owned and operated.

Images of the past and present of A.B. & T.

are most effectively presented. The pattern that forms the background of the booklet is composed of the last names of some of the earliest families who settled the area which is now known as Greater Lansing.

ACTIVITIES IN VERMONTVILLE

Members of the Vermontville Historical Society and the Planning Committee are searching local and state archives for information which may lend itself to the committee's efforts to build a colonial village stressing the old Vermont-type village square idea which was the nucleus of Vermontville.

Letters, diaries, and, particularly, photographs showing store-fronts and residences are vital to the reconstruction of the village. If you can help contact Rev. Leonard Maunder, 314 South Main Street, Vermontville.

FAMILY HISTORY TO BE FEATURED - FEBRUARY 22, 1968

On February 22 this Society will join with members of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society and others in a program devoted to family history research.

Miss Lucy Mary Kellogg of Brighton, Mich., former editor of the Magazine for the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research and a Certified Genealogist, will be guest speaker.

The food services of the Lansing YWCA will provide a "Box Supper" of fried chicken, Potato salad, bean relish, fruit, dessert, rolls and coffee. Price: \$2.50. Time 6:30 pm. Watch for reservation form in the February issue of the newsletter.

This program may be of special interest to other society members and the public. All are welcome.

LANSING'S OLDEST NEGRO CONGREGATION CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL AT TRINITY AME CHURCH

The history of the Trinity AME Church dates back to 1866, when the charter group held its first services in a building on North Washington Avenue. Organization took place a short time later when a Rev. Henderson, minister of the British Methodist Church of Canada, took charge. The group became known as the Independent Methodist Church.

The first full-time minister was Rev. J.P. Coats, and in the first decade the name of the congregation was changed to Bethel AME Church.

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for your enjoyment:

I've served you for another year and greet you on your way.

With hearty wishes for your weal on this fair New Year's day.

I've brought you news from everywhere, the freshest and the best,

With notes of warning or of cheer, from North, South, East and West.

I leave Va. paper daily at every patron's door

That he Kan. Conn. at leisure or glance it quickly Ore.

I never Miss. nor fail him, I never Kan. Del. La.

And O. its Ala. story that I loiter on the way.

The people all admire me because I'm prompt and Ga.

Iowa debt of gratitude it Tex. my care to Pa.

A Mass of obligation rests on my grateful heart:

Ind. duty only Kan. I acknowledge N.Y. part.

I'm Minn. a happy humor and fear not any Ill.

And summer heats don't daunt Me. nor fear I N.H. chill.

My Vt. are often blistered, as I toil at duty's Cal.

But I never mind such troubles, and smiling face them all.

I labor late and early, for R.I. try to serve you well.

Mich. chief delight and pleasure is the daily news to tell;

To serve you Wis. a pleasure and 'tis without alloy -

But Ark! I hear your answer, "here's Tenn. cents for the boy."

THE CARRIER

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The first permanent place of worship was erected in 1877 at 109 N. Pine St. In 1965 this building was abandoned and the present church built at 3500 W. Holmes Road. The structure on Pine Street is remembered by many as the Collins Memorial AME. It was named for Rev. George R. Collins who served the church from 1891-1895, and from 1900-1902. The present church is called the Trinity AME Church and is served by Rev. Archibald Mosley.

The pastor and choir of St. Stephens AME Church of Detroit joined with representatives of the local religious community in the belated celebration last November of the 100th anniversary which occurred in 1966.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATION FOR MICHIGAN NEGRO HISTORY ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 1968

The Association approaches 1968 with enthusiasm and determination for the study of Negro history in our State. Highlight of their contributions during the past year was the very successful sponsorship of "Langston Hughes Looks at Dark America," a dramatic presentation featuring the Earl Nelson Singers and noted dramatic stars under the able direction of Powell Lindsay. This took place at the Lansing YWCA on June 25th. An extended version was presented to the delight of Detroit audiences at the Ford Auditorium on October 28th.

One reviewer's comments appeared in the Detroit Free Press: "We have no idea whether Lindsay plans to repeat his production but we hope he does, because it makes an engrossing and rewarding evening and would be a natural for a tour of college auditoriums."

Officers to serve the Association are Powell Lindsay, president; John Kaechele, first vice-president; June McKee, second vice-president and co-ordinator of research; Ralph Bonner, corresponding secretary; Mrs. John Kaechele, recording secretary; Mrs. Bernard Coggan, treasurer; Geneva Kebler, archivist.

Plans for commemorating Negro History Week will be the subject of the January 9, 1968 meeting.

MARQUETTE HONOR ASKED

Legislation has been introduced in Congress by Michigan men which would name the new lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, in honor of Father Jacques Marquette, the Catholic missionary who opened the area to settlers 300 years ago.

The lock is scheduled to be dedicated next June.