



Library of Michigan

# Town Crier

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Volume 13, No. 4

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

April, 1971

## MICHIGAN, MICHIGAN

The post office of Michigan was established April 27, 1847 with George M. Peck as its first post master. Early in the Legislative session of 1848 bills were introduced to change the name of the village. The plat of the town of Michigan was recorded in the courthouse at Mason, June 3, 1847. Governor Epaphroditus Ransom approved the act changing the name to Lansing on April 3, 1848. The post office was changed to Lansing the following April 20th.

The date of its establishment and short duration of existence, just before the first postage stamp of our government, assures that relatively few items of stampless mail bearing the Michigan, Michigan mark were issued.

We offer one of two different marks located among the philatelic items collected by our members.



## NOMINATIONS REPORTED

The committee on nominations for officers to serve the Society, 1971-1972, reports the following: president, Roland V. Remington; vice-president, Jack T. Crosby, Sr.; secretary-treasurer, Mary Mc Neely. Trustees to serve two years: Mrs. V. Manning Curry; Mrs. Pauline Stenson; Rajee Tobia; George Wiskemann.

The enclosed ballot must be returned to the Society, P.O. Box 515, Lansing, 48913, by May 8. Exercise your right to vote.

## ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 12, 1971  
at Eagle Township Hall  
Eagle, Michigan  
7:30 P.M.

Members of the Niles Cemetery Society will prepare and serve a family style ham supper. The enclosed prepaid reservation form should be returned to the Society, P.O. Box 515, Lansing, 48913, by May 8. Price: \$3.50.

Highlight of the evening will be an address by Eugene G. Wanger, President, 1970-1971.

## ABOUT THE NILES CEMETERY SOCIETY

The history of Eagle Township is filled with the names of Niles family members. It was Ezekiel Niles who set aside the original 17 by 17 rod area for burial purposes in the early 1830s.

Philo Beers and David Clark, Sr., are credited with laying out the cemetery in 1839-40. Elvira Cryderman, daughter of Anthony Niles, was the first person buried there.

Care in the early days was erratic. Grasses and brush often presented a view of neglect until Mrs. David Clark, Sr. called the ladies of the neighborhood together to form a society devoted to care. The charge is no less serious today, generations later. In 1970 the Society celebrated a 75th anniversary of service.

## HISTORICAL SURVEY BEGUN

The Mayor's special committee to study the historical features of the City of Lansing met in April, 1971 to define purposes and outline procedure.

Members are urged to report features of the city which you think have historical significance to Eugene G. Wanger, 2318 Hampshire Circle, Lansing, 48933. This report should include a brief statement of the subject, address and location, together with your name, address and telephone number.

THE MAIL BAG

We have enjoyed several questions about railroads since the recent Society meeting featuring Charles "Chip" Rogers talking about Ephriam Shay.

The Turkey Trail was a term applied to the line which coiled north from Grand Ledge through Ionia to Howard City, where it turned east to Edmore and then north again. It was part of the Detroit, Lansing & Northern cobweb which connected many small communities. The rail line meandered sufficiently to merit the title.

Michigan Week is May 15-22. Promotional materials can now be ordered from Michigan Week State Committee, 809 Center St., P.O. Box 5096, Lansing, 48905.

Michigamee, an illustrated paperback book of resource information on Michigan, is again available. Direct \$2.00 to Robert J. Graham, Bureau of School Services, University of Michigan, 401 Fourth St., Ann Arbor, 48103.

The Michigan Department of Education, Bureau of Library Services, is proud to offer a new publication. Michigan Songs, edited by Harry Welliver, director of music for WUOM of Ann Arbor, offers music and lyrics for 11 songs. This attractive 34 page paperback publication is designed for use in schools. It is made possible by contributions to a memorial to the late Don Weeks through the Greater Michigan Foundation.

The SOUTH AMERICAN's final sailing from Detroit brought a 150 year history of Great Lakes passenger navigation to a close. For lovers of the Lakes, camera fans and those of us who long for the feel of wind on our faces--the Norgoma will retrace the Owen Sound-Soo route that she left ten years ago, June 20-24, 1971. Contact Charles D. Bieser, 11720 Edgewater Drive, Cleveland, Ohio 44107, for information.



EAGLE PIONEER - FLETCHER JENISON

The post office of Waverly, Clinton County, was established February 15, 1841. Fletcher Jenison was appointed first post master in the township. Waverly was changed to Eagle, February 4, 1842.

A mail-route from Ann Arbor to Ionia is recorded to have served this area. Local histories say "a man named Ingersoll" carried the mail on horseback.

The print of Mr. Jenison is from an ambrotype in the State Archives.

INDEX TO CENSUS IN PROGRESS

Work has begun on the index for the U.S. Census for Michigan, 1850. All the genealogical societies in the state have been asked to participate. The Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society will do counties of Cass, Clinton, and Jackson. Mrs. Lillian Norton is project coordinator. If you can work on this project, please notify her, TU-28139.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

Please check type of membership requested. Make check or money order payable to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. Direct to: P.O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan 48913.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Regular	\$ 3.00
Associate	9.00
Patron	10.00
Oran. & Bus.	
	25.-- 100.00
Life	100.00

\*Dues received after March 15 apply through the next calendar year. Note change in cost of membership in association with Historical Society of Michigan.



Auction stock is rolling  
in for benefit of the  
historical society

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

A U C T I O N & P I C N I C

Saturday, June 26, 1971

Wiskemann Farm, 5580 W. State Rd.  
Lansing

Tele: 484-0607

Auction starts 2 pm

Picnic starts 5 pm

(Beverages furnished)