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Town Crier - Lansing

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

TOWN CRIER

*Wasn't it a
Glorious Day?*

Box 515, Lansing, MI 48903

VOLUME 16, NO. 2

SUMMER, 1974



TRI-COUNTY HISTORICAL CONVENTION, JUNE 22, 1974

MONTAGE BY JACK THOMPSON



the historical society of
greater lansing

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Box 515, Lansing, Mi. 48903
VOLUME 16 NO. 2
SUMMER 1974

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CURRICULUM VITAE



Geneva Kebler Wiskemann

Memorial For Joshua Simmons Almost Ready

The first project in the Society's Heritage 76 program of marking historic sites in nearing completion. The initial marker is for Joshua Simmons, a Continental soldier who served Massachusetts in the War for American Independence. Mr. Simmons spent his later years in the Clinton-Ionia area and was buried in Eagle Township.

On June 2, the Society directed a report to the Michigan History Division that necessary funds were available, with the suggested text and supporting evidence of authority. The response of the History Division, dated June 27, acknowledged the application and insured full attention "when prior requests have been handled."

The Society hopes to schedule the dedication of the marker early in October.

Look Out!

**For The Historical Society of Greater
Lansing Booth at The Ingham County Fair**

If there is anyone who does not need introducing to this Society it is Geneva Wiskemann. Because if there is anyone who has been an integral part of the Society—one of its founders, served on probably every committee and every non-committee, a past president, wife of a past president, and president again—it is Geneva.

When I first met her I was at the State Archives, looking for information on an old school. This little red headed lady in a white lab coat charged up one of the aisles, pulled down some bound volumes larger than herself, and charged back with them. I guess that is why she was called archivist in charge.

Another, more recent title for her, in connection with the Tri-County Historical Conference, might have been motivator in charge. Which is appropriate; she has lived in two of the counties and worked in the third. And she and her husband, George, now live at the Wiskemann Farm, a couple of sections from where the counties come together.

You somehow get the impression that Geneva was born in charge—at least in charge of herself. Or, as Betty Jones wrote in the *Grand Ledge Independent* last year, "Knowing her own mind has always been one of Geneva Kebler's outstanding traits."

The only quarrel with that is that she has been Geneva Wiskeman for a few years now. She and George met through a mutual interest in aviation, spent time together because of a mutual interest in history, and were married because of a mutual interest in each other, other people and life in general.

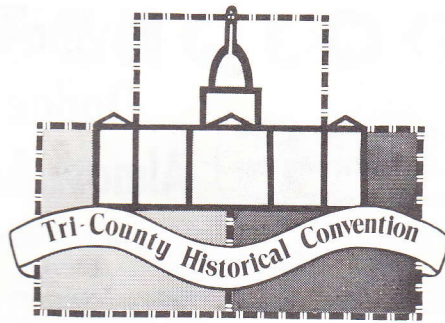
Geneva retired last year after 27 years with the State; in the State Library to start with and most of the years with the Archives. Before that, she went to Western Michigan College and Michigan State College.

She was raised at the Kebler home-
stead on the corner of Wright Road and Grand River Ave., north of Grand Ledge, and went to the one-room Kebler School across the road.

And don't be surprised if, some time in the next century, there will be an Historical Marker at that corner which will say: "Here was the birthplace of Geneva Kebler Wiskemann—Historian in Charge."

—Jack Thompson

TOWN CRIER



Ecstatic Crowd of 1800 Tramples Rhododendrens at Wiskemann Farm *Errant Hot Air Balloon Last Sighted Over Hudson Bay*

All attendance records for the Greater Lansing Historical Society were shattered as a howling, jubilant mob cheered the balloon lift at the Wiskemann Farm, Saturday, June 22. To the echo of a 17 gun cannon salute, a seven-story hot air balloon lifted off the air strip on this normally quiet farm. Historians, archivists, genealogists and other zealots cheered wildly as the balloon was launched. An estimated crowd of 1800 persons drew lots to participate as passengers for this lift. An all-time fund raising record was reached in an auction, for funds to be used for Society markers and other "high type" ventures.

Bulletin: Canadian Air Force reports sighting balloon drifting over Hudsons Bay. Jack Crosby, Sr., an American passenger, is busy cancelling first day covers for the local stamp club.

Well it wasn't exactly the way that Buck Burns depicted it in his fanciful news release. There were only 300 people, not 1800. The balloon never got off the ground—the winds were too strong. And the Wiskemanns don't grow any rhododendrons—only corn.

But the crowd was jubilant, and attendance and fund-raising records were broken—and the day was glorious.

The first Tri-County Historical Con-

vention, held at George and Geneva Wiskemann's Clinton County farm, is now a historical success and plans to continue this exchange of ideas and information are being made. The meeting, to begin coordinating plans for the 1976 Bicentennial, was sponsored by the Ingham County Board of Commissioners Special Committee on County History and the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

The program began with a cannon salute fired by Clyde Anderson and Charles Lawrence, dressed in Civil War style uniforms. The four-fifths scale cannon was made by Mr. Anderson.

A color guard, Richard "Buck" Burns and Gordon Oliver, in French-American costumes, marched in to the sound of the ringing of a brass bell and flourishes from a pair of drums.

The meeting was called to order by Gil Wanger, vice-chairman of the Ingham Board of Commissioners and a past president of the Society.

Howard Lancour, executive director of the Michigan Bicentennial Commission, presented a U. S. Bicentennial flag to Al Wardowski, chairman of the Ingham Board of Commissioners. In his remarks, Mr. Lancour said that the Bicentennial has become a people's program, that local projects have become more important in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of our Country.

And, in true ecumenical spirit, the flag for Ingham County was raised up the pole on the Wiskemann farm, to fly for half a day over Clinton County.

Reports were given by representatives of local history-related groups. These included: Doug Carpenter, Clinton Historical Society; Janet Rohrabacher,

Livingston County Historical Society; Ava Kroger, Vermontville Historical Society; Justin Kestenbaum, East Lansing Bicentennial Commission; Florence Hill, Friends of Historical Meridian; Faye Hanson, Dewitt Bicentennial Committee; Ralph Strobel, Saginaw Historical District; Mary McGuire, Alfa Kappa Alfa; Maria Thompson, Weavers Guild of Greater Lansing; Roberta Wellfare, DAR and DAC; and Hal Bergen, the Save Our Parks association.

The reports were followed by an auction, conducted by Mr. Wanger and Ford Ceasar, that brought in over \$800 for the Historical Society.

Next was a pot-luck supper on the lawn. The meal was supplemented by popcorn from an antique, steam-driven popcorn machine which had been rebuilt by Clyde Anderson and was operated by Charles and Mary Parker. Dinner music was supplied by a 50 year old band-organ, Darold Rice, conductor. It had originally been part of a large carousel in San Francisco's Playland Park.

The evening was supposed to have ended with a grand balloon ascension by David Claggett of Ypsilanti. But, because of the wind, Capt. Claggett was unable to try the ascension. He did light the burners of the balloon and allowed the guests to pull the cord which sent blasts of hot air toward the uninflated bag.

Some of the guests remained until after dark, roasting marshmallows.

Mr. Wardowski has requested those who have reports to send them to: Historical Committee, Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, Box 220, Mason MI 48854, attention Mary Teitelbaum.

Mr. Wardowski has also directed out a letter requesting representatives from area organizations attending to form a committee for planning. An illustrated text of the proceedings will be published by the Ingham Board.

In the meantime, the Wiskemanns are thinking of improvements for next year—in registration of guests, food service and special events.

Maybe the reenactment of the Siege of Boston, a Moon-shot, and fireworks forming a replica of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, while Darold Rice plays his calliope.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Program, Pauline Stenson
Membership, Jack T. Crosby, Sr.
Publications & Publicity, Jack Thompson
Ways and Means, Richard F. Burns
Incorporation, Jane I. Piatt

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of Greater Lansing**

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PROGRAMS SET

The Program Committee, chaired by Vice President Pauline Stenson, announced that the first presentation, Sept. 18, will be by member Charles "Chip" Rogers. His talk will be "Discovering the North Lansing Station," about a landmark many of us had seen many times but might not have known what it was. Mr. Rogers is records manager for the Michigan House of Representatives and a junior at MSU, majoring in communications. A third generation railroad enthusiast, he belongs to the National Railway Historical Society and the MSU Railroad Club.

On Oct. 16, Mike Hodges, assistant professor of Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture at MSU, will be the featured speaker. Mr. Hodges, a native of Hampshire, England, has degrees from the Universities of Nairobi, Edinburgh and Michigan. He is a program coordinator with the National Council of Institutions in Landscape Architecture.

Daniel Jacobsen will talk on the Greater-Lansing Jewish community, Nov. 20. Dr. Jacobson, a professor of geography, is director of the Social Science Teaching Institute at MSU. He has authored the books, *The Story of Man*, *Getting Acquainted with Civilization*, and *New Jersey: Past and present*. He has been president of Gamma Theta Upsilon (the honorary geography society) and the National Council of Geographic Education.

The 1975 programs will include a history of the circus on Jan. 15; a talk on threadcrafts by Maria Thompson, Feb. 19; the story of Alexis St. Martin and Dr. Beaumont at Mackinac Island, by Virginia Burns, March 19; and "Packaging the Product: Past and Present" by Robert Bouck, April 16.

The annual meeting will be May 21 and the annual picnic/auction at Wiske-mann Farm, June 21. Extra features planned include a tour of the Turner-Dodge property, a mid-winter Tri-County Historical Convention and an update of Bicentennial programs.

This schedule may change to accommodate the speakers. Meetings will be in the Gallery Rooms of the Lansing Public Library at 7:30 p.m. unless prior notice is given otherwise.

Several members have requested that the Society hold as many meetings as possible in the Greater Lansing area. Efforts are being made to carry the meetings to Haslett, Okemos, Grand Ledge and other locations when space is available and within budget restrictions.

Thank You

Prior issues of the *Town Crier* noted the establishment of a memorial fund in the memory of Lucy Mary Kellogg, avid worker for genealogy and a member of many history related organizations, including this Society. In July the historian general for the Society of Mayflower Descendants reported receipt of about \$10,000, 90 percent of which have come from non-member Michigan friends of Lucy Mary.

Eaton Rapids Bicentennial Plans

Island Park, a picnic and playground tract near downtown Eaton Rapids, whose concrete walls were slowly crumbling into the Grand River a few years ago, has now been named a State Historic Site. The marker was there in time for the 4th of July. In the 1870s, the island was McAuliffe's Park and had a dancing pavilion, museum and zoo. The city bought it in 1897.

The island may also have a paddle-wheel boat landing if plans by the Bicentennial Committee come through. The Committee is considering purchasing a 28-foot riverboat, similar to the old Sterling Steamboat that used to ply the river. The new boat, however, will be powered by a 105 h.p. motor. The paddle wheel is just for effect.

Eaton Rapids received its U. S. Bicentennial flag, July 6. The ceremonies were supposed to have been on July 4 but a tornado warning took precedence.

Buying of Turner-Dodge Mansion Almost Accomplished

The long awaited purchase, by the City of Lansing, of the Turner-Dodge residence appears to be imminent after the mid-July rejection by the Ingham County Circuit Court of a law-suit challenging the transaction.

The Lansing Council, on May 20, acted to purchase the seven-acre complex for \$186,500 plus closing costs and taxes. Purchasing money is to come from a Federal grant and Model Cities funds. The seven to one vote by the Council was accompanied by the Comment by Lucile Belen, who chaired the session in the absence of Mayor Jerold Graves, that the voting was on open-space land.

"The Dodge Mansion just comes along with it as an asset," she said.

Councilman Roger May met with the Society's Executive Board, May 22, to hear affirmation of its concern and support for the acquisition of this river-front property for recreational and historical purposes.

In communications to the Council members, the Society has pledged its energy and expertise to the project which, hopefully, will preserve the residence.

The structure is recorded on the National Register of historically important buildings.

Gunnisonville Restoring School

The community of Gunnisonville is restoring its old school as a living history project so that tomorrow's urban children will be able to see how yesterday's rural children received their education. The school has been designated a Bicentennial site.

The project committee has purchased desks and has obtained promise of items from the MSU Museum. It has also published 1500 *Gunnisonville Restoration Cookbooks*.

The biggest need, now, is volunteers to work on the school and to obtain tape recordings of older citizens, and, of course, more funds.

The phone number is 482-3228.

NECROLOGY

Dirk Gringhuis
1918 - 1974

Mr. Gringhuis died March 31. He was curator of exhibits at the MSU Museum and associate professor of elementary and special education. A well known artist and author of children's books, mostly about Michigan history, Mr. Gringhuis had spoken before the Historical Society a number of times.

Helen Wallin
1906 - 1974

president, historical society of
greater lansing, 1963-1964

A legacy of great love for people, of rich humor which, remembered, brings smiles, and thousands of pages of expertly researched writing are ours—a gift from Helen McCarthy Wallin.

Her career began with the Owosso *Argus-Press* in 1925. She worked for the Lansing *Capital News* from 1926 to 1927 and the the Lansing *State Journal*, which absorbed it, until 1929.

In 1929 she began work with the Michigan Department of Health laboratory in Grand Rapids where she stayed until 1943. Service in State government continued with the Michigan State Planning Commission (1943-47) and the Public Service Commission (1947-53). She joined the Department of Conservation in 1953.

Helen served this Society as president for the 1963-64 term and contributed to many committee accomplishments during her long membership. When John Gray and Philip Mason passed for-

ward the editorship of *Heritage*, the Society's first newsletter, Helen gathered news, typed, scissored and taped the "Village Weeper" together for our members.

Her presidential address on pre-1840 women of Michigan was later expanded into a series published in *Michigan in Books*.

She retired as publicist with the Department of Natural Resources (the successor of the Department of Conservation) in 1971, returning to Owosso. There she continued the high quality of research that had earned her the title of unofficial historian for the department and "Lighthouse Historian."

At the time of her sudden death,



April 13, 1974, she was involved in editing and creating an index to the newsletter published by the Shiawassee County Historical Society.

"We are honored by Charles C. Wallin's request that a memorial tribute be directed to this Society," President Geneva Wiskemann said. "A special account has been established to receive funds to be used to promote historical projects."

Mrs. Wiskeman said that similar contributions in Shiawassee County have produced the Index to the *Shiawassee Gazette*, Vol. I, No. 1 (Aug. 5, 1967) to Vol. V, No. 4 (Feb. 10, 1971).

EAST LANSING ORAL HISTORY

An East Lansing historical group was formed in 1972 through the City's Friends of the Library. According to Hallie Smith, president of the Friends, the group has been working in a number of different areas.

A project already well underway is the interviewing of various local people and recording their stories on tape, including Prof. Jim Hayes, whose humor-

our monologue about building a cow is a local legend; Charlie Washburn, who for many years ran the Smoke Shop in East Lansing; Ada (Hunt) Whitehouse, who with her sister operated the Hunt Food Shop; Grace (Hagadorn) Cooley, matriach of two of the oldest families in this area; and Del Bennett, the local "hermit."



The Eaton County Board of Commissioners has joined an increasing number of county boards in appointing a Bicentennial Committee. An allocation of \$800 will be used for Bicentennial projects, according to the Board. Serving on this committee are Harold Phillips, Grand Ledge; Marilyn Frankenstein, Bellevue; Hildred Peabody, Vermontville; Clara Squires, Eaton Rapids; and Edward Morey, Charlotte.

In Ingham County, progress continues on the new history of the County, currently in preparation for the Bicentennial Committee. Additional activities publications are under consideration.

The Clinton County Committee, reported in the April issue of the *Town Crier*, is developing a program to encourage the study of local history in schools. Each school district within the County has been asked to appoint a representative to a special planning meeting in September.

Dues Increase

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing, in annual meeting, May 15, voted unanimously to increase regular dues to \$5 per year and to establish a family category for \$7.

Other categories of membership remain unchanged: patron, \$10; organization or business, \$25-\$100; and life, \$100.

Dues for the Historical Society of Michigan have also increased. The Board of Trustees approved a revised dues schedule increasing the joint-annual membership from \$6 to \$9 and the annual membership from \$8 to \$12.

Log Cabin Living

What would you do if someone gave you an old log house? If you were the faculty of Haslett Middle School you would get the eighth grade class to take it apart, log by log, to be rebuilt in the schools' backyard, some seven miles down the road.

The story probably begins when Jane Taylor, outdoor education consultant for the Haslett Schools, would drive by and admire this old log house on Haslett Road, between Williamston and Shaftsbury Roads, and think it would be nice if it could be at the school.

The 18 ft. x 25 ft., story-and-a-half house sat on a piece of land owned by

MSU Museum lent his expertise; and a unit of the National Guard, loading the logs on a truck, transported them to Haslett.

By this time there was another eighth grade class. They sorted the logs; then they poured a foundation and rebuilt the house on it. Some of the markings had disappeared so they had to renotch a few of the logs and set them somewhere other than in their original positions. One log was rotted and had to be replaced. The logs, by the way, ran 600 to 700 pounds each. The only casualty was a smashed finger belonging to Ray Koerner, social studies teacher.



Alice and Jim Perkins in their log house, some time in the early 1900s

a retired MSU professor, Ervin VanDerJagt. When Mrs. Taylor heard a rumor that the house was going to be destroyed she tried to contact Prof. VanDerJagt to see if he would sell it. But he had moved out of the state. She noticed a realtor's sign in front of his East Lansing home and called the realtor. The professor just happened to be there.

The outcome was that in June, 1970, Dr. VanDerJagt donated the log house to the Haslett Schools in memory of his wife.

Now they had the building. But it was there—and the school was here—and seven miles lay between them.

So Bob Copland, outdoor education teacher, took the eighth grade class to the site where they dismantled the house, marking each log. Val Berryman, historical artifacts curator at the

Now begins part two of the story. In 1971 the school superintendent, Jack Anderson, felt there was not enough innovative teaching and initiated a mini-grant program for the development of new teaching methods. To Jane Taylor, Bob Copland, Ray Koerner and Ruth Cox (the art teacher), the old log house on the hill back of the school gave impetus for a new curriculum. They called it "Log Cabin Living." Its mini-grant was approved.

The new course involved the study of history by actually doing things as they were done in past years—soap and candle making, spinning and weaving, rug hooking, quilting, tin craft, wood craft, tanning.

Once a month the class sees a movie from the Colonial Williamsburg library. They have also been taping conversations with older residents. Field trips

have taken them to the Waterloo Farm Museum, the MSU Museum, Walker's Gristmill at Parshallville, Greenfield Village and the Ford Museum and the State Library.

Another third grade class came along. Their job was to shingle the log house with hand-cut cedar shakes. Everyone in the class had to place at least one shingle. And the building had to be chinked. After that, the next projects were to be putting in windows and building a stone fireplace.

The students had developed an involvement with the old house. It was their log cabin.

"Vandalism had been nil," Mrs. Taylor said.

Then, on June 26, someone set the log house on fire. The Meridian Fire Department had it out within minutes, but the roof, loft, and top five rows of logs were lost.

"Plans are in the hopper to replace the roof and loft in the fall," Mr. Koerner said. "It will be a one story cabin."

The plans call for a "roof raising" by the people of the community, followed by an evening of square dancing—Bob Copland is a caller.

The school had renewed the mini-grant for another year. More crafts were added to the course of study; the latest is working with pewter.

Other schools have become interested in outdoor education and Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Copland have been busy showing teachers how it is done. They have also produced training manuals to this effect.

One of the most satisfying results has been enthusiasm from the students as has seldom been seen with conventional teaching. The enthusiasm has carried into the adult community. As one woman says when her grandson comes home from school: "What did you learn today that I used to do?"

DAC to Place Marker

The Daughters of American Colonists plan to place a marker in honor of their State regents on the Clinton Courthouse lawn in St. Johns. Maralyse Brooks, past regent, and Bernice Lohman, regent, together with Goldie Brooks, Edna Pouch and Shirley Pouch, local DAC members, are working towards placement of the marker in 1976. Shirley Pouch, treasurer, reported that contributions are welcome. For more information contact: Roberta Wellfare, 1716 Delevan Drive, Lansing MI 48910.

Art & Craft Shop Open

Ledge Craft Lane, Ltd., a non-profit corporation formed by a group of Grand Ledge citizens to promote arts and crafts, is now open for business with ten booths, a large work shop and a consignment room, according to Marilyn Smith, president of the corporation. She said that the purpose of the shop is threefold: to provide a place for artisans to display and sell their works, to offer lessons in various arts and crafts, and to promote the city of Grand Ledge.

The corporation leased the old city hall at the corner of Bridge and River Streets. The building, constructed in 1885, was originally the fire hall. Volunteer help spent four months renovating the building. Local people donated most of the materials, such as barnwood.

The hours are Wed. - Sat., 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Fri. until 9 p.m.

Congratulations To Byron

Residents of the Shiawassee County community of Byron are celebrating the 150th birthday of the town this year. Byron is the oldest town in the County and one of the 10 oldest in the State. A Sesquicentennial book is available for \$5 from James Duncanson, Centennial chairman.

DeWitt in Print

DeWitt area residents are reading their newspaper, the *Advertiser*, with new interest, passing the ads to read first "DeWitt—Yesterday and Today," by Faye Hanson.

Faye is a librarian who believes in getting information to the public, even if she has to write it.

Her vignettes of history, relating to people, places and events and their current counterparts, create enjoyable reading. The series is illustrated with photographs from the library collection and from private collections throughout the County.

Faye serves the community in many other ways, including participation on the City Bicentennial Committee and as recording secretary of the Clinton County Historical Society.

Meridian Begins Historic Village

Two buildings of historical significance have been placed in the Meridian Township Historic Village, on Marsh Road northwest of the Municipal Building, through the efforts of the Friends of Historic Meridian.

The Grettenberger Farm House was moved from where it sat for over 100 years near the corner of Marsh Road

and Grand River Ave. It had been marked for destruction.

The Proctor Toll House has had a number of moves. It was originally a station on the Lansing-Howell Plank Road. Sometime later it was moved to North Hagadorn in East Lansing. When it had to give way for an apartment house, it too was saved from destruction, and moved to Wonch Park in Okemos. It has been moved again to what may be its final home, the Historic Village.

According to Gary Zenz, Township landscape architect, in charge of putting together the village, the Township has received a \$7000 Bicentennial grant from the Federal government.

The Tent Show Is Coming!

In August, 1969, Harold Rosier packed up his tent and silently stole away into history—he thought.

The Rosier show was one of the last tent shows in America. These traveling drama companies were ubiquitous summer attractions from before the Civil War until well into the 20th Century. Two of the more familiar names in this area were the Slout Show and the Henderson Stock Company.

It was with the Henderson players that Harold Rosier got his start, in 1934. He took over the company four years later.

The folk theaters included everything from Shakespeare to vaudeville but were almost synonymous with Toby plays, named for the freckle-faced bumpkin of many of the melodramas.

This year the Rosier show acquired a grant from the Michigan Council of the Arts and assistance from the theatre department of Michigan State University. It is traveling through small town Mid-Michigan this summer. The schedule began in Leslie, July 9, and ends in Jackson, the Rosier's home town, Aug. 31.

Heritage Center

Lansing Community College has under development a Capital Area Heritage Center to study the many aspects of our history and future in such areas as cultural and economic development, career education, government, arts and sciences, and others.

Anyone with suggestions may contact Robert J. Bouck, assistant to the dean of business, LCC, 419 N. Capital Ave., Lansing MI 48914 or telephone 373-7050.

Eaton County To Preserve Structures

The Eaton County Historical Society is currently spearheading a program to preserve—and use—the County courthouse. Offices now housed in the familiar Charlotte structure will be transferred to a multi-million dollar building scheduled for construction.

The old courthouse, whose cornerstone was laid in 1883, is listed in the "Historic American Building Survey" of the U. S. Dept. of the Interior. The Eaton Society has been having meetings with the County Parks and Recreation Committee while specialists continue to examine the old building and make recommendations.

The Society is also concerned with the historical interpretation of the area surrounding the old cement factory and the Dyer limestone kiln near Bellevue. The Eaton County Board of Commissioners voted in June to buy the old brick kiln, a last relic of the County's first industry.

Meetings of the Eaton Society continued through this summer, including a picnic on the museum lawn in Charlotte, July 18. The museum is in the old Froebel School building which was used for classes from 1876 until 1966.

Michigan's World of Wings To Preview in Lansing

The Michigan Aerospace History Committee, in commemoration of the Bicentennial, will present an exhibit of 20 original paintings of Michigan aircraft, by Harold E. Hawkins, Lansing artist. The exhibit will be open to viewers Sept. 14-22, 1 - 4 p.m. daily in the Galleries of the Lansing Public Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. A tea and visit with the artist is scheduled Sun., Sept. 15.

The MAHC is a non-profit corporation affiliated with the History Division of the Michigan Dept. of State devoted to the preservation of aircraft, memorabilia, photographs, letters, trophies,

reminiscences and like historical resources related to Michigan's participation in the development of aviation.

The Committee is chaired by Ward Mayrand, deputy director of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. Starring committee members from this region are Mr. Mayrand and Mr. Hawkins as well as John Hutchens, "Babe" Weyant Ruth, Edward B. Crouse, Calhoun Collier, David Olson and Geneva K. Wiske-mann.

Curwood Castle And Comstock Cabin

Curwood Castle, on John Street in downtown Owosso, is open every day from 1 to 5 p.m. Docents are on hand to tell about the structure and its famous former owner, James Oliver Curwood, who built the yellow stucco castle in 1922-1923 as a studio in which to write his adventure stories. He was born in Owosso and died there, in 1927, at the age of 49.

The building, now owned by the City, has been approved as a subject for a Bicentennial project for restoration as a museum and art center.

The 1836 Comstock Cabin, the first log house in Owosso, is open Sundays during June, July and August. The house is included as part of the Owosso Bicentennial program and will be used as a pioneer home museum. It is located near the Curwood Castle on John Street.

The City Council has recently approved the renaming of one block of River and John Streets as Curwood Castle Drive.

—information from Ivan Conger, editor
Shiawassee Gazette

Dimondale Has Historical Marker

The dedication and unveiling ceremonies of a State historical marker for the Underhill Store in Dimondale took place May 11.

The building is now owned by Ken Burt and houses the office of his plumbing shop. The oldest store in Dimondale, it was built in 1856, the year the village was platted. It had been vacant since the 1920s.

Mr. Burt purchased the building in 1972 and has restored it to the way it was during the last century.

Master of ceremonies for the dedication was Sen. William Ballenger. Gerold Willcutt, president of the Village Council, gave the welcome. Speakers included Keith King, president of the Eaton County Historical Society, and Jane Piatt, president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. Other remarks were by Lt. Gov. James Brickley, a resident of the area, and Richard Allen, director of the Michigan Tourist Council.

Representative Dale Warner presented the resolution. The dedication and unveiling were by Jerry Roe, member of the Michigan Historical Commission.

"Which Way To The Chapel"

"Where is the Academy?"

"Is there a museum here?"

In Vermontville when these questions are asked, there is one answer—the white frame building on the northwest corner of the town square. Built in 1843 to serve the community's educational and religious needs, today it is a registered historic landmark site and a museum.

During July and August the museum, operated by the Vermontville Historical Society will be open Saturdays, 1-4 p.m.

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