



# Historical Society of Greater Lansing

BOX 518 LANSING, MICHIGAN

## ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

The Society initiated the membership year of 1974-1975 with the acquisition and dedication of an official State marker honoring Joshua Simmons, Revolutionary War veteran buried in Eagle, Clinton County. The dedication ceremonies brought 300 people to the rural cemetery site for a good time! We hosted 200 for lunch at the Town Hall following the service.

Incorporation was completed and new bylaws were approved by the membership on February 19, 1975.

The addition of twenty-five new members since January 1, 1975 brings the total membership to 136.

Three issues of the TOWN CRIER have been published since June, 1974. This expanded quarterly newsletter serves as an informational bulletin for Bicentennial related groups in the Capital area. The number of copies of each issue printed is now over 1200. Some cost of publication is covered by advertisements. The advertiser pays for his amount of space in the magazine and for an equal amount of news space.

Notices and news stories concerning the program of the Society were sent before each meeting to the newspaper and broadcast media. Representatives of the Society and program speakers aired on WJIM-TV before meetings. Information on the general work of the Society was broadcast on WILX-TV. Posters about programs were widely distributed.

A pictorial calendar was produced in 1975. It sold for \$2. We broke even on this project in April and calendars sold since then have produced money for printing the newsletter.

The Society led in the formation of the Capital Area Bicentennial Forum headquartered at Lansing Community College and comprised of the leadership of five counties involved in special projects. A mailing list of 1200 individuals representing ten area historical societies, American Revolution Bicentennial organizations, and the leadership of any group who has expressed interest in local history and the Bicentennial has been computerized for production of labels. These are free to cooperating groups.

Ingham County Fair goers viewed our exhibit with interest. We have been invited to join with the Ingham County Historical Commission in a similar exhibit in 1975. An exhibit of publications was shown at the Local History Participation Conference at Wayne State University in April, 1975.

The Tri-County History Convention held on June 22, 1975 brought together over 300 people devoted to the American Bicentennial. Following the convention members and friends enjoyed the band organ, a steam popcorn machine, an attempted balloon lift, an auction and supper.

The fifteen member Grand Ledge Scout Troop#55 is currently being outfitted for a drum and bugle corps. They are performing on requests throughout the Capital area.

The Society initiated and co-sponsored a six-week course in oral history at Lansing Community College. It was offered by Wayne State University Extension Service. These institutions were successful in reducing the cost to a minimum and made a rewarding course available to twenty-two students.

Major Richard F. Burns prepared a 35 mm slide presentation about the Turner-Dodge House. This film illustrated the community the need for continued work on this historic structure. We wait for the opportunity to support more dramatically the preservation of the Turner-Dodge House and the Darius Moon cottages.

Expenses of \$3,056.66 have been met. The balance of money on hand today is \$532.21.

Programs held at the Gallery Room of the Lansing Public Library were: "Discovery of North Lansing Station" by Charles A. Rogers, Jr.; "Town Trails: including Urban Interpretative Centers" by Michael Hodges; "Jewish Community of Greater Lansing-The Beginnings" by Daniel Jacobson; "Rolling Wheels" by Harland Kline; "History of Quilting in America" by Maria Thompson; "History for the Young Reader" by Virginia Burns; "Packaging the Product-Past and Present" by Robert Bouck and "Iconography for the Collector" by Geneva K. Wiskemann. The Second Tri-County History Convention is scheduled on June 21, 1975 at the Wiskemann farm.

The following individuals have been nominated to serve during 1975-1976: Geneva K. Wiskemann, president; Walter J. Thompson, vice president; Mary McNeely, secretary-treasurer; Jack T. Crosby, recording secretary. Directors to serve three years are Robert Bouck, Scott Radford, Betty Downs and Jane I. Piatt. Chip Rogers was nominated to fill the unexpired term vacated by Walter J. Thompson.

Respectfully submitted by  
Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, president 1974-1975

May 21, 1975