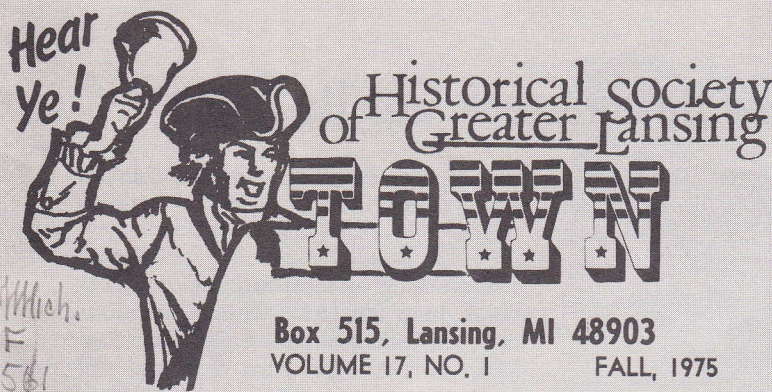


SEP 8 1975



*The
Bicentennial
In
Full Swing*

& BiCentennial Forum

Box 515, Lansing, MI 48903
VOLUME 17, NO. 1 FALL, 1975

Historical Assemblage

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing, in conjunction with the Capital Area Bicentennial Forum, held the second annual Capital Area Historical Assemblage, Sat. June 21 at Wiske-mann Farms. About 400 people attend-
ed.

Shortly after one o'clock, George Wiskemann blew an old threshing-machine steam whistle, signalling the start of the programs.

In what was probably a unique ceremony, the military drill teams marched in to the strains of the *National Emblem March* (Bagley) and *Fox Trail* (Zamecnik), played on Darold

Rice's 50 year old carousel band organ. First came two recreated military groups of the Revolutionary War period, the 13th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment—Continental Line, in American uniforms, and the 1st Foot Guards—Grenadiers, in British dress. They were followed by the historical society's artillerymen. As the color guard of the Capital Area Muzzle Loaders Club marched in, the band organ went into the tune of *The Drum Major* (Ellis), punctuated by boy scouts ringing a number of school bells and farm bells.

Next was a cannon salute and flag raising ceremony, commanded by Maj.

The Historical Society of Michigan has granted its Award of Merit to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing for "the excellence of its overall program and especially its leadership in preparation for the Bicentennial."

The Michigan society will present the award at its annual meeting at Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel, Sept. 15.

Richard Burns of the Primitive Hunt Committee, as the band organ switched to Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever*. The salute was fired with a reproduction artillery piece, hand-made by Clyde Anderson.

Others in the ceremony were Gordon Oliver and Charles Lawrence. Maj. Burns and Mr. Oliver were in frontier dress with traditional-cut rifle frocks. Mr. Lawrence wore a replica of a Union Army uniform of the Civil War period.

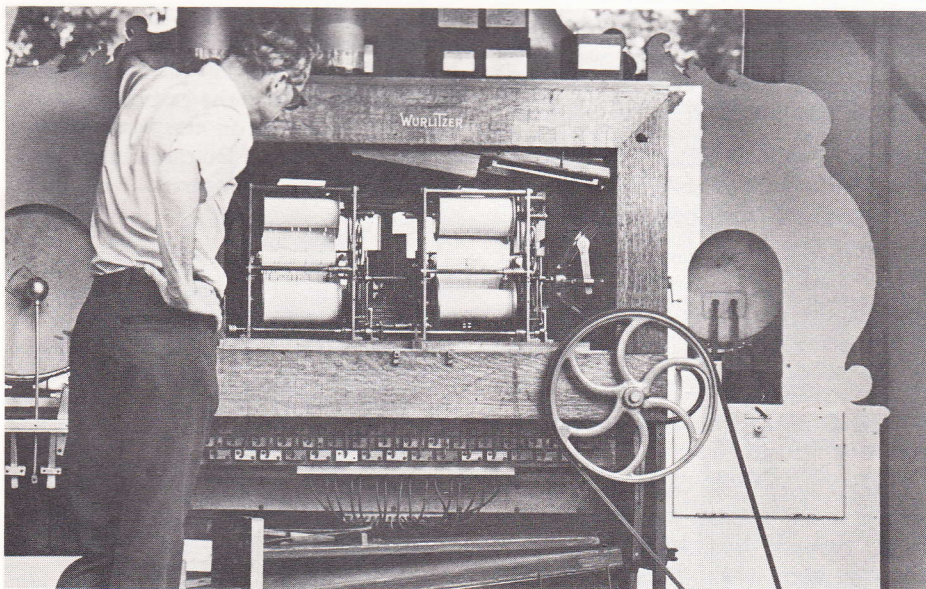
Master of ceremonies Jack Thompson, introduced Geneva Wiskemann, president of the historical society, for her welcoming remarks, after which the two military units gave demonstrations of 18th Century drills and rifle firing.

The drills began with the 1st Foot Guards—Grenadiers, a unit formed in the Detroit area by Norman Wilson. Bill Phenix is the regimental fifer. Commander Wilson took the microphone to tell about the British regiment and describe the uniforms, weapons and drills, as the men gave their demonstration.

The uniforms were designed to the 1768 clothing warrant. (The British dress was to undergo considerable changes following 1768 with further alterations made before the American war.) The regiment marches according to the 1764 drill. The weapons are 1st and 2nd model Brown Bess muskets.

Following them on the field was the

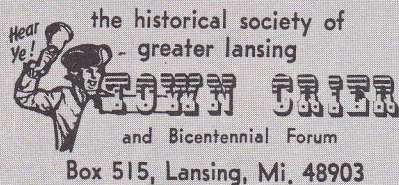
(Continued on Page 3)



—photo by Dorothy Porter Barnett

Darold Rice keeps watch over the business end of his Wurlitzer Model 153 Band Organ as it plays for the 2nd Annual Historical Assemblage. The 50 year old machine, which once entertained merry-go-round riders at San Francisco's Playland Park, is now a ubiquitous feature of many events in the Mid-Michigan area and is an established part of the Historical Assemblage.

The Model 153, one of the most popular band organs Wurlitzer made, was constructed with 164 pipes in several ranges, a 16 note set of orchestra bells, a bass drum, a snare drum and cymbals. According to Wurlitzer it was recommended for "three-abreast carouselles and open-air pavilions."



the historical society of
greater lansing

and Bicentennial Forum

Box 515, Lansing, Mi, 48903

VOLUME 17

NO. 1

FALL 1975

Geneva Kebler Wiskemann,
president
Jack Thompson, vice president
Mary McNeely, secretary-treasurer
Jack Crosby, Sr., recording
secretary

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Scott Radford

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:

Jack Thompson, editor
Bob Bouck, LCC
Geneva Wiskemann, ex officio
Printed by Mason Printing Co.

New Officers

The following were elected officers of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing for 1975-76 at its May meeting:

President: Geneva Kebler Wiskemann

Vice President: Jack Thompson

Secretary-treasurer: Mary McNeely

Recording Secretary: Jack T. Crosby
Director, serving one year: Charles "Chip" Rogers

Directors, serving two years: Bob Bouck, Scott Radford, Bette Downs and Jane Piatt.

Now available from the Michigan Tourist Council, the Michigan State University Museum and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission is a new book, *Fort Michilimacinac, 1715-1781: An Archaeological Perspective on the Revolutionary Frontier*, by Lyle M. Stone, former staff archaeologist for the park commission. The book, the final report on the 1959-1966 excavations at the fort, sells for \$12.50. It is published by the commission and the MSU museum with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

How The Battle Creek Got Its Name

The Kiplingesque title of this piece, O Best Beloved, may give impression of a fable. But some fable runs through all that we call history.

The Battle Creek—the stream, not the city—begins at Narrow Lake near the Calhoun County/Eaton County line. It flows north to Charlotte, then back through Bellevue to the city of Battle Creek where it enters the Kalamazoo River. The federal government had parts of this area surveyed in 1825.

Fifty-nine years later Major Wylls C. Ransom, in a paper read before the Michigan Pioneer Society, spoke of the "precursor of all frontiersmen—the surveyor—who always precedes the steps of civilization into a new country," and gives as an example, John Mullett, "the hero of the noted fight with the Indians at Battle Creek."

Hervey Parke, a member of Mullett's surveying party, had spoken at a meeting of the society in 1874. He gave this version of the "noted fight":

During 1825 John Mullett was directing a surveying party in Calhoun County. Indians sometimes bothered the surveyors, trying to hinder the work (they thought it would interfere with their sugar making) or looking for handouts.

One morning as the party was walking through the woods, a sub-chief suddenly jumped in front of Mullett.

"Had I best hit him," Mullett asked John Monroe, his rear chain man.

"I guess not," Monroe answered.

The party made camp near Clear Lake, north of Pennfield. Edward Baldwin, the packer, and William Taylor (or Tailor), the cook, stayed in camp while the others left for a morning of surveying. Two Indians came into the camp and asked for food. The surveyors refused.

Then, Capt. Parke said, one of the Indians seized a kettle and Taylor (or Tailor) jumped him, being jumped in turn by the other Indian. Baldwin struck at the first Indian with a fire poker, hit a tent stake instead, and finally knocked the Indian down. He then went to the aid of his friend who was lying on the ground holding off the other Indian. During the melee one of the Indians fired through Baldwin's coat.

The rest of the surveying party re-

turned, let one Indian go and left the other to die.

However —

According to the *Detroit Post & Tribune*, June 16, 1875, when the Indians attacked Baldwin and Tailor (or Taylor), in the fight that followed the Indians captured Mullett's rifle and fired a ball through one of the surveyors' coat. The man who was wearing the coat—Baldwin or Tailor (or Taylor)—wrestled the gun away, hitting one Indian over the head and breaking his skull. He also wounded the other.

But —

Mullett's son-in-law, John Forester, in his 1885 memoirs of Mullett, said that both Indians were killed. He didn't mention Baldwin or Taylor (or Tailor).

Still —

Edwin Baldwin, in an 1889 story in the *Birmingham Eccentric* was quoted as saying his brother, Edward, and Tailor (or Taylor) "had a desperate struggle, escaping with their lives only through the courage and power of Edward."

Or —

A.D.P. VanBuren, in "Deacon Isaac Mason's Early Recollections of Michigan" (1884), told of William Taylor (Tailor?) who kept the tavern in Mottville and had been in the Battle Creek encounter, "one of the few who survived."

And for an anticlimax —

John Hinman, in "Recollections of some of the Pioneers of Bellevue" (1885), said that Mullett told him of the incident but said that nobody was killed and only one Indian was knocked down, not much hurt. When the rest of the surveying party came back to camp they joked about it. Taylor (or Tailor) said, "Let's call this stream 'Battle Creek.'" Mullett wrote it down.

(And then there are others who say it had been an old Indian name to begin with.)

If this is a fable is should have a moral. An appropriate one may be — When you trod on something in print, O Best Beloved, stand wary. Someone just might be going to pull your tale...

— Jack Thompson

Assemblage

(Continued from Page 1)

13th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment—Continental Line, the army unit of the First Michigan Committee of Safety. Joseph Rundell, from Clio, is the commander. The Committee of Safety has 50 members, 30 in uniform. Their weapon is also the Brown Bess musket. The uniforms were made by the unit's own seamstress while the women members of the committee made their own Colonial outfits and those of the children.

Commander Rundell said that the original committees of safety were established for the security and liberty of the population. They sponsored and fed armies and supplied them with arms.

During the afternoon members of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Embroiderers Guild of America and the Greater Lansing Weavers Guild held a threadcrafters fair on the lawn.

Hazel Withers of the weavers guild demonstrated macrame and braiding while Vicki Clum of the embroiderers guild demonstrated quilting. Barb Hammond did some spinning, using flax as well as hair collected from the Wiskemann's St. Bernard dog, Tino Von Swartzwaldhoff. Linda Roberts, who has her own toy making business called Kinderkraft, was involved in doll making. Alice Schmidt of the Yarn Studio in East Lansing did needlepoint and pulled-thread embroidery. Maria Thompson, organizer of the fair, also did needlepoint.

A major part of the day's program was a Bicentennial convention. Al Wardowski, chairman of the Ingham County Historical Commission, presided as representatives of various organiza-



—photo by Jack Thompson
Mark Monroe of the MSU Sports Parachute Club folds his Paraplane chute after dropping in for the Second Annual Historical Assemblage at Wiskemann Farms, June 21.



The Clinton County Historical Society held a Bicentennial essay contest, this year, among the county's school children. There were 150 entrants. Bob Barnes of the Clinton society presented awards to the winners as part of the Capital Area Historical Assemblage, June 21. Robbie Moore of St. Joseph School in St. Johns, pictured above with Mr. Barnes and teacher Hilda Huffnagle, received the grand prize. Other awardees were: High school age group — Bonnie Vance (1st prize), Patrick Koenigsknecht (2nd) and Sharon Schafer (3rd), all of Fowler; Middle school age group — Lisa Keck (1st), St. Johns; Laura Bauerle (2nd), Bath, and Karen Cornell (3rd), Dewitt; 5-6 grade — Robbie Moore (1st), Liz Jorae (2nd), St. Johns; and Kenda Winkler (3rd), Ovid.

tions in the Capital Area gave reports on their Bicentennial plans. The speakers and their organizations were: Gladys Wilkinson, Eaton County Bicentennial Commission; Mary Hovey, Eaton Rapids Bicentennial Commission; Roberta Welfare, DAR/DAC; Catherine Rumbaugh, Clinton County Historical Society; Faye Hanson, DeWitt Bicentennial Commission; Ava Kroger, Vermontville Historical Society; Pat Rice, Grand Ledge Bicentennial Commission; Carlene Webster, Friends of Historic Meridian; John Collins, Marshall Historical Society; Edna Anderson, East Lansing Bicentennial Commission; and Thelma Carass, Windsor Township Bicentennial Committee. Mr. Wardowski gave the Ingham County report.

The Ingham County Historical Commission plans to publish the reports into booklet form, as they did last year.

The afternoon ended with a pot-luck supper, supervised by Virginia Burns. Popcorn was available from a steam-driven popcorn machine, operated by scouts under the direction of Mary and Charlie Parker. The machine was also hand-made by Clyde Anderson. Its engine was from Cretors & Co., patented in 1894. Using original basic parts, Mr. Anderson constructed the stainless steel body and corn holder

following as a guide pictures of models in an old catalog published by Cretors.

The supper had just started when four newcomers dropped in—members of the MSU Sports Parachute Club. Duane Kindel, in his 1923rd jump and Jerry Bailey, in his 1001st jump, wore Delta Parawings. With these they were able to perform steep turns, giving the impression at times that their parachutes were below them. They had smoke bombs on their boots to add to the display.

The third member, Mark Monroe, used a paraplane, which looked more like a mattress than a parachute. This was his 260th jump. The junior member of the group was a girl, Maureen Price, in her 38th jump. She used a P.C. Paracommander.

The eating began again. Darold Rice's band organ played roll after roll of tunes for supper music and far into the night as those people still left sat around a bonfire roasting marshmallows.

President Geneva Wiskemann gives thanks to all those who volunteered equipment, services and talent with special thanks to Jon Trimmer of Jon's Catering Service for the use of the tables and chairs, Dale Volk for the public-address system, and the Grand Ledge Ambulance Service for stationing its rescue unit at hand.

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

1974-75 Annual Report

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 25 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 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, 1974 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 15 member Grand Ledge Scout Troop No. 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 22 students.

Major Richard F. Burns prepared a 35 mm slide presentation about the Turner-Dodge House. This film illustrated to 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 cottage.

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.

—Respectively submitted by
Geneva Kabler Wiskemann,
President

The Historical Society of Michigan will hold its 101st annual meeting, Sept. 14 and 15, on Mackinac Island. Russel Nye, distinguished professor of English at Michigan State University, will speak at the first evening's banquet on "The Novel as a Weapon: Female Fiction in the 19th Century." The next evening, Gene Peterson of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission will talk about the island.

Following the HSM meeting on the island will be the 35th annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History, Sept. 16 through 18. Speaker for the opening program will be Leslie Fishel, Jr., president of Heidelberg College; speaker at the annual banquet will be Charlsie Humelsine, president of Colonial Williamsburg.

Participants may tour Fort Michilmackinac the morning of July 19, then travel to Dearborn for a tour of the Henry Ford Museum in the afternoon. On the 20th they may visit Greenfield Village in the morning and Detroit museums in the afternoon.

History News From MSU

We welcome as the new chairman of the department of history at Michigan State University, Donald Lammers. He has been with the university since 1973 as associate director of the department and director of the graduate program. Author of the book (1966), *Explaining Munich: The Search for Motive in British Policy*, Dr. Lammers has been teaching British history at MSU. He was graduated from Cornell with a B.A. and from Stanford with a M.A. and a Ph.D.

Next winter and spring terms the history department plans to have a new course series on archival administration. According to the instructor, Fred Honhart, assistant director of archives and historical collections at MSU, the winter term class will deal with the history and theory of archives. He said that the students will actually work in the archives during the second term, performing some of the functions of an archivist—"getting their hands dirty."

Folk Art Project

Michigan State University and the Michigan Historical Museum are cooperating in a survey of Michigan folk art. Kurt Dewhurst and Marsha MacDowell, staff members from MSU, began the actual research last summer. They visited several public and private collections in the state to assess the feasibility of a more extended study. It soon became evident that Michigan, with its wide array of ethnic, racial and religious groups as well as its lumbering, mining, marine and automotive industrial heritage, offered a diverse range of folk art. Included in the initial survey were such finds as fracturs, coverlets, samplers, pottery, decoys, wood carvings and primitive paintings. Many of these could rival the offerings of any New England state.

Presently the two researchers, with an advisory committee from the Museum and the Kresge Art Gallery at MSU and the State Historical Museum, are coordinating the project and will continue to photograph and research items that were handmade in Michigan prior to 1941. They make an effort to focus on items that display artistic



appeal as well as the craftsman's handiwork.

In August, 1976 they plan an exhibition at the Kresge Art Gallery with at least 200 outstanding examples of Michigan folk art on display. Following this, the show will travel throughout the state as part of Michigan's Bicentennial celebration.

Those involved in the project hope that the survey and exhibition will create an awareness of Michigan's artist-craftsman tradition and that interest in research on a local level will be stimulated.

Shoegalettes, musical instruments made of walnut, used around the turn of the century. These two were made by Quincey Ellis Ford of Benton Harbor and are now owned by The Museum at MSU.

Anyone with knowledge of or owning folk art items—such as quilts, coverlets, pottery, samplers, hooked rugs, primitive paintings, carvings, iron objects, toys, or painted or carved furniture—made in Michigan prior to 1941 may help by sending the information to: Michigan Folk Art Project, The Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

Maria Thompson
classes
demonstrations
custom design
needlepoint
quilting
& other
stitchery
ED7-2277

Sweet Melody

If you enjoyed the personal charm and music of Jay Round at the annual meeting of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and again at the Capital Area Historical Assemblage, then you will want to hear his new record album, *Jay Round with the Williams Family/Columbus Stockade Blues*.

This stereo recording of hammered dulcimer music is a rich compliment to his first album, *Jay Round and Friends*. Both are available from the artist, Jay Round, 6570 8th Ave., Grandville, MI 49418. The price is \$5.50 each, post-paid.

The House of Mr. Moon

Karen Burrell is a woman with a mission. That mission is to save the house of Lansing's leading turn-of-the-century architect, Darius Moon.

Moon designed a number of homes in Lansing for people whose names would appear in any history of the city's *beau monde* — Davis, Dodge, Kositchek, Olds, Sparrow, Stebbins.

Most of these buildings are gone. But the Eastlake Victorian cottage that Darius Moon built for himself still stands—vacant—at 116 S. Logan. And Karen Burrell wants to save it.

But it can't stay where it is—the area is zoned commercial.

Ms. Burrell would like it moved to North Lansing—but that would be expensive.

In May, the city council gave the house a six month reprieve before it is to be demolished. In June, Ms. Burrell and her preservationist group organized a clean-up of the house, filling a dumpster supplied by the Granger Container Service and filling themselves

with food and drink supplied by McDonalds and Coca-Cola. Ms. Burrell called the project a success.

"Among the jobs still to be done is the documentation of the Moon House's historical value," Ms. Burrell said. "This must be done if we wish to apply for a State historical designation and, later, for any attempt to include the Moon house on the National Register of Historic Houses."

She said that people are needed for fund raising and to help plan a portable exhibit to be taken to interest groups, shopping malls and libraries.

Working with Ms. Burrell is Bette Downs, a director of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and chairwoman of the Emergency Historic Preservation Committee of Michigan. Ms. Burrell is a student in ecological psychology and a research assistant at Michigan State University.

Anyone who wants to help on this project may call Ms. Burrell at 351-7315 or Mrs. Downs at 355-5732.

We Have Trouble With Our Name

Although our interests run from Stockbridge to Maple Rapids and from Bellevue to Owosso we are often called the "Lansing" historical society.

Although our membership area covers three full counties and parts of four others, because of our name we are often confused as being exclusively for just the one part of the area.

If you have an interest in the history of this region and of its many communities, why not join us.

We are

**THE Historical Society
of Greater Lansing**

Box 515, Lansing, MI 48913

Heritage Fair

The Bicentennial celebration at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Ottawa and Seymour Streets in Lansing, will take the form of a three day Heritage Fair. It will be packed with activities for every age group and will appeal to a wide variety of interests.

The doors will open at 10 a.m., Oct. 17, 18 and 19 for guided tours of the historic highlights of the church itself, shopping for quality hand-crafted items at the Street of Little Shops or browsing in the Heritage Antique Parlour.

On Friday an old-fashioned box lunch affair will be from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Those who wish may join their friends in the Colonial Tea Room and enjoy the surrounding displays depicting the city, state and Anglican heritage. Children will be attracted to the one-room schoolhouse, the puppet activities and the popcorn venders.

Saturday will be highlighted by a concert of American Jazz in the early

evening, followed by a chicken dinner and a program of heritage dance. Tickets and reservations for the dinner will be available in advance from church members.

Appropriately, Sunday will begin with an old-fashioned harvest Thanksgiving church service, patterned after the Anglican traditional Thanksgiving.

At 4 p.m., choirs and orchestra will combine to perform Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, based on writings of the American poet, Walt Whitman, and Franz Joseph Haydn's *Te Deum*.

Attractive placemats carrying sketches of old Lansing sites are available from the church office for \$1 each, and a new cookbook, comprised of recipes from Lansing area families, is available for \$5.

The public is urged to participate during the three days and enjoy the view of Lansing's and Michigan's heritage through St. Paul's heritage in its Lansing setting.

Coming Attractions

The programs of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing have been announced by Jack Thompson, Programs Committee chairman. They include:

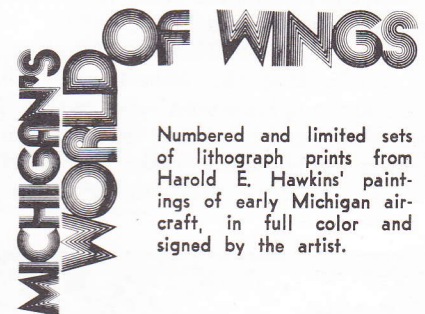
Sept. 24: Historical Preservation: The Bicentennial has produced an enlarged interest in the preservation of buildings and other structures. Different groups have defended — successfully, unsuccessfully, and still unsettled — such a variety as Clinton County's Round School, Meridian's Historic Village, Bellevue's kiln, Lansing's Turner-Dodge house and Moon cottage, and Eaton County's Bailey Road bridge. Often the preservationists have had to do battle with the demolitionists. There have been laws and proposed laws and city halls for and against. We will hear all about it in September.

Oct. 15: Heritage Crafts: Haslett Middle School instructors Jane Taylor, Bob Copland, Ray Koerner and Ruth Cox (recently retired), have involved their students in the study of history by having them do things as they were done — make soap, candles and pewter spoons, spin, weave, quilt, tan, and work with tin and with wood. The symbol figuratively behind the concept and actually behind the school is an old log house, brought there log by log and reconstructed. The October program on Log Cabin Living will

verify the Historical Society of Michigan's good sense in presenting its 1974 award of merit to the Haslett school.

Nov. 18: Voices of the Past: When a motion picture studio wants an authentic radio broadcast from the Twenties for a story about that period, or when a student wants to hear a poem read by the poet to get the proper meaning, they get in touch with Maurice Crane at Michigan State University's Voice Library. Probably the best such facility in the country, it can retrieve any one of several thousand voices in a manner of minutes. Dr. Crane has been at MSU since 1953, teaching communications for 3½ years and humanities ever after. Since last year he has also been curator of the voice library. This fall he will teach a course on oral humanities in which works which were created as oral compositions — Shakespearean drama, Socratic doctrine, the Bible — will be listened to instead of read. This fall Dr. Crane will also present a program to the historical society about his library — the paragon of oral history.

The society plans to begin 1976, the Bicentennial year, with an address on Michigan and the Revolution. Subjects of other programs will include the amusement park, mechanical music, an ethnic group and an area community.



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Complete set of four — \$35

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5580 W. State Rd., Route 4
Lansing, Michigan 48906

Polar Bear Research

Dale Biever of Pennsylvania is doing research on the 339th infantry (Polar Bear) Regiment that served in North Russia, 1918-1919. For the journal of the Company of Military Historians, he needs photos, letters and diaries which describe the uniform, weapons and accoutrements as well as any material on the formation of the regiment and a general history of the unit before it left for Russia.

He is especially interested in the shoulder patch depicting a walking bear — who designed it, when it was issued and if it was authorized to be worn on the helmet.

His address is: Dale Biever, 54 Douglass St., Boyertown, PA 19512.

Flying Machines

Michigan, considered an automobile state, has also had a rich history in aviation. The chronology of aviation records a three day air race meet in Battle Creek as early as August, 1925, held in conjunction with the opening of the Battle Creek Airport, the first municipal field in southern Michigan. Several of the airplanes on the list of the 31 entered were flown by Lansing pilots—E. L. Preston in a Curtiss JN4D; Arthur J. Davis in a Standard JI, a Curtiss JN4D and a Curtiss JN4C; Ross Becker in a Standard JI; and Talbert (Ted) Abrams in a Standard JI. All of these crafts were powered by Curtiss OX5 90 h.p. engines except the ones piloted by Mr. Becker and Mr. Abrams which were powered by OX6 100 h.p. engines.

That same year the National Air Tours were began, the initial four sponsored by the Detroit Board of Commerce and the Detroit Aviation Society. The purpose of the tours, the first of their kind in the U.S., were to demonstrate the feasibility of traveling

great distances by airplane. The six day route was from Detroit to Omaha and back. Edsel Ford furnished the tour committee with a trophy which was to become the property of any contestant who won top place for three consecutive years. The tours ended in 1932.

The 50th anniversary of the first tour will be observed Sept. 13 at Greenfield Village. Program details are available from Geneva Wiskekmann, 5580 W. State Rd., Lansing, MI 48906, or from Robert Pauley, 1930 Golfview, Troy, MI 48084.

A local collection of aviation memorabilia offers evidence that yearly air shows were initiated at Capital City Airport in 1936. Art Davis, pioneer Lansing airman and a member of the OX5 Hall of Fame, was one of the five men honored as 'greats of aviation,' by the Experimental Aircraft Association during their convention at Oshkosh, July, 1975.

The exhibit of "Michigan's World of Wings," watercolors of airplanes which were part of Michigan's aviation history, has been shown in various places around the State as part of the Bicentennial celebration. The Lansing artist, Harold Hawkins, made his paintings available to the Michigan Aerospace

History Committee. A number of the paintings are of Lansing scenes, including a Stinson Detrioter, operated through the city by the Thompson Air Service around 1930, and a Ford Freighter, shown at Capital City Airport on a foggy morning in the 1920s.

The collection will be at the Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan, Sept. 21 through Oct. 12.

The Michigan Aerospace Education Association (MAEA), in cooperation with Lansing Community College and the Capital Region Airport Authority, hosted an open house at Capital City Airport, Aug. 23. The focus of the program was on opportunities in aviation and aerospace. The MAEA exhibit area is in the new LCC Aviation Technology facility, west of the main terminal building. Included in its exhibit were Bearcats and Hellcats from Kalamazoo, a C-46 from Ypsilanti, as well as military and civil aircraft, and home-built, antique and restored airplanes. The highlight of the exhibit was Lansing's own Abrams Explorer, the world's pioneer aerial survey aircraft.

The Haslett Quilts

Haslett Middle School will hold its annual quilt show, Nov. 8. It will be the third year for the show, one of the largest and most successful such displays in this region.

Are You Interested

In Lost

American Foremothers?

... or in flora and geology of the sinkholes of Michigan? Threshing by steam power? Michigan Indian ethnobotany? Cemeteryology; Dutch migration; Hiawatha's wedding; 19th Century photographers of Albion and Marshall?

Or your interests may be less esoteric, such as feminine millinery, railroads, lighthouses, pottery, colonial tincraft, doll collecting, lumbering, oral history, building styles, Michigan points of interest or church preservation.

The Historical Society of Michigan has published a list of more than 100 people available for speaking engagements. The "Speakers' Bureau List" gives the speakers' names and addresses, their topics, equipment they would need (if any), fees (if any), distances they would travel, and where they they have spoken previously.

Write: Historical Society of Michigan, Speakers Bureau, 2117 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Fall, 1975

What's Happening in Morrice?

A Pleasant Centennial Journey. That's the title of a book created by Morrice's class of 1977. It has 82 pages of short articles, interviews with long-time residents, quotations from old newspapers, drawings, photographs, and a special section on Indians. It even has 16 pages of Michigan historical tour information, telling about 108 communities in the State.

The publication, which took the class three years to produce, is dedicated to David Fahrenbach, the social studies teacher and the impetus for the Bicentennial projects of the school.

Mr. Fahrenbach's students also publish a *Centennial BiWeekly Journal* and have issued a *Bicentennial Cafe Cookbook*. They have worked on an archaeological dig (seeing what relics they could literally unearth), held an Old Colonial Olympics, set up an out-

doors class room which they call "Colonial Village" (it has a table, a wishing well, a sundial, a horse watering trough and a marker honoring the early pioneers), and have travelled all over the state visiting historic places.

According to Mr. Fahrenbach, future school projects include, among other things, another book, a tug-of-war championship between different high schools, and a military and patriotic band tournament.

"We are also looking for a travel trailer or semi-trailer to be made into a travelling museum," Mr. Fahrenbach added.

So if anyone has such a thing to be donated to the school kids at Morrice, let Mr. Fahrenbach know, through this magazine. He might even let you join the tug-of-war.



The area's Bicentennial dynamo, Faye Hanson of DeWitt, has become involved in another project—writing a new feature for the *Clinton County News* "Dateline DeWitt." She is the Bicentennial chairman for that village.

* * *

The Grand Rapids Museum Association is reprinting the 1876 atlas of Ottawa and Kent Counties. The 128 page book contains maps of the 15 original Ottawa County townships and the 24 Kent County townships, maps of the cities and villages, histories of the counties and the townships, bibliographical sketches, and 43 pages of engravings. The price is \$14.50. The address is the Grand Rapids Museum Association, 54 Jefferson S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 48502.

* * *

The Owosso Area Bicentennial Committee held a meeting, June 10, in the council chambers at the Owosso city hall. Walt Taylor, parade chairman, reported that scheduled for the May 17, 1976 parade are 16 bands, a Shriners group, clowns, a steam calliope, antique cars, floats and a National Guard unit.

The Owosso Library has scheduled a film for Sept. 9, "Can the Bicentennial be More Than a Birthday Party?" The public is invited.

* * *

According to the June issue of the *Sebewa Recollector*, the bulletin of the Sebewa Center Association (Robert Gierman, ed.), a Revolutionary War soldier is buried a short distance south of this Ionia County community.

The *Recollector* printed an undated clipping from the scrapbook of Ella H. Gunn which told of the marking of the grave of the soldier, Jonathan Ingalls, by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

According to the clipping, Jonathan Ingalls was born in New Hampshire in 1762 and began service in the Continental army under Gen. Benedict Arnold at the age of 13. It said that

he came to Sebewa Township about 1837 and died there Oct. 2, 1843.

* * *

According to Susan Hughes, coordinator for the Bicentennial at Michigan State University, MSU is offering a series of monthly columns to Michigan newspapers describing the people and events that shaped the nation's history two centuries ago. The series is written by Dr. Robert E. Brown, a nationally recognized authority on the Revolutionary War period.

* * *

A DeWitt craft center offers an opportunity for talented local people to turn their hobbies or crafts into a money making business. They may rent a spot, for as little as \$65 a month, at the Sycamore Tree of Historic DeWitt, a high traffic location in the Dewitt downtown area. Shops will be open about 20 hours a week, during peak shopping periods.

Anyone interested may call 669-3386 or see Gary Newcombe at 203 N. Bridge Street.

* * *

The *East Lansing Towne Courier* has been running a series of reminiscences of the city's past, from taped interviews of its old-time citizens and former citizens. The articles are being prepared by the East Lansing Bicentennial Committee.

* * *

The Lansing Mall began its Bicentennial activities, the first part of May, with a national exhibition of places to travel in the U. S. The exhibition, the Discover America Travel Showcase, consisted of 22 displays using color illustrations, motion, photo projection, animation and special lighting effects. There were also historical artifacts from museums and handicraft items from historic and well-known places.

* * *

120 In The Shade, the art gallery at 120 West Ottawa Street in Lansing, opened a new exhibition, June 29, called "Bicentennial Sketchbook." The gallery describes it as an "exhibition of photos, renderings and other visualizations of projects, both public and private, planned or proposed, for the coming Bicentennial year." All businessmen, governmental agencies, community organizations and individuals were invited to be involved in the showing.

The gallery was started by three Michigan State University graduate

students to provide local artists with a meeting place and a place to market their works. It operates as a cooperative enterprise, with the artists actively involved.

* * *

The J. W. Knapp Company is celebrating the Bicentennial with a series of displays and exhibitions in its stores. Included will be such things as antique collections, arts and crafts displays, folk dancing, military displays, old photographs, tin containers and wood carvings, according to Annabelle Shewell, coordinator of the project. She asks that anyone who has ideas along these lines or who has an interesting collection or knowledge of an art or craft to write: Publicity Dept., J. W. Knapp Co., 300 S. Washington, Lansing, MI 48914.

The company, in its newspaper advertising, has been featuring a series on local heritage, including stories and pictures of such things as the old state capitol and the house built as the official residence of the governor.

* * *

As a Bicentennial project, Maria Thompson, Historical Society of Greater Lansing heritage arts chairman, has initiated a class in Early American crewel embroidery. The classes are taught at the Yarn Studio in East Lansing.

* * *

One of the oldest established religious organizations in Mid-Michigan, the First Baptist Church of Portland, celebrated its 135th anniversary June 15. The present church building is less than 100 years old, although the church's original building is still standing and in use as a private home.

The "new" building will have its 100th birthday next year while the nation is celebrating its 200th birthday.

* * *

Impression 5, "a museum to explore, experiment, experience," has received a Bicentennial grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts to construct a tactile gallery entitled "An Introduction to American History Through the sense of Touch."

Harold Zellman, director of the medical design studio at Michigan State University is designing the gallery and Winston Fulton, an entomology student, will construct it.

The exhibit will be ready for use by the public in September.

* * *

The Lansing Jaycees have entered a contract to renovate the interior of the Turner-Dodge house in North Lansing as a Bicentennial project. The Lansing City Council approved the plan in July so work can begin. It is hoped that the first two floors will be ready for use by July 4, 1976.

* * *

The *State Journal* has for sale a 1976 Bicentennial calendar with information of events that happened on many of the days in 1776, according to Jerry Procknow, the newspaper's promotion director. The calendars are available at the newspaper for \$2.95 or by mail for \$3.50.

* * *

The Michigan Bicentennial Commission held its conference in Detroit, June 19-20, with about 500 Bicentennial planners and local committee members attending. Those from this area who participated in the programs were Martha Bigelow, of the State History Division; James Dammon, lieutenant governor; Dick Hathaway, of the State Library; Gilen Higdon, Eaton Rapids Bicentennial Committee; Susan Hughes, MSU; Howard Lancour, State Bicentennial Commission; Sam Milstein, State Bureau of Recreation; Tom Shawver, State Highways and Transportation; and William Milliken, governor.

* * *

The Michigan History Division of the Department of State plans to issue three or four volumes of articles on local history, according to Martha Bigelow, director of the division. She said the volumes will be published only in numbers sufficient to go to libraries and other depositories around the State. Reprints of individual articles may be purchased by local communities through the State printer.

From articles submitted, the History Division will publish those it considers of the highest quality. No substantive changes will be made except those necessary to standardize the format.

* * *

The Anthony Wayne Society of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) has completed one half of its Bicentennial project of planting 200 seedling trees donated by the State Resources Department, according to Barbara Lloyd, senior president of the society. The Lansing area is included in the Wayne Society.

Members planted 50 blue spruces in Okemos' Glendale Cemetery and 50 white spruces at the Woldumar Nature Center. The Woldumar plantings, a

joint project with students from the State School for the Blind, will be transplanted to the Woldumar Perception Center when they have attained sufficient growth. The Okemos trees will be transplanted in nearby parks.

For more information on the CAR, contact its new president, Beth Shank, at 351-5166, or vice president, Chris Mattern, 351-4416.

* * *

A new publication of Bath history called *The Way it was in Bath, Michigan* was written and illustrated by the 5th grade class of the Bath Elementary School. The teacher of the class was Virginia Burns.

The history contains biographies of Bath's early settlers, stories of old Bath Township railroads, churches, and, of course, the tragic 1927 school explosion, as well as essays on many other subjects. There are also several pages of turn-of-the-century photographs.

Copies may be bought at Bath General Store for \$2.50.

* * *

—from *Gaine's Mercury*, Oct. 2, 1775

The following droll affair lately happened at Kinderhook, New York. A young fellow, an enemy to the liberties of America, going to a quilting frolic, where a number of young women were collected, and he the only man in the company, began his aspersions on Congress, as usual, and held forth some time on the subject, till the girls, exasperated at his impudence, laid hold of him stripped him naked to the waist, and instead of tar, covered him with mollasses, and for feathers took the downy tops of flags, which grow in the meadows, and coated him well and then let him go.

The Bicentennial Committee for Eaton County's Roxand Township was recently formed. According to its secretary, Marie Glassnor, the programs are just beginning to be discussed.

Its address is: Roxand Township Bicentennial Committee, Box 158, Mulliken, MI 48861.

* * *

Members of the Vermontville Historical Society were looking forward to its August 21 meeting with Charles Snell, vice president of the Detroit Bank and Trust Co., as guest speaker. The subject of his address was "Yesterday's Impact on Tomorrow."

According to Martha Zemke, pro-

gram chairman, it was a special occasion, for Mr. Snell is not only a past president of the Historical Society of Michigan and a present member of the Michigan Bicentennial Commission, but is also the grandson of the late Dr. Charles Snell who practiced medicine in Vermontville many years.

A potluck dinner at 7 o'clock in the Griswold Room of the Congregational Church preceeded the meeting.

* * *

Members of the Lansing Bicentennial Commission met at the studios of WJIM, April 24, for reports of the various committees and to view a film, "Beyond the Birthday," produced by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Four units of the Armed Forces Bicentennial Caravan, co-sponsored by the Lansing Bicentennial Commission, were on exhibit at the Washington Square Mall in Lansing, July 29 and 30, as part of a 27 city tour of the State. Three of the units had displays, the fourth served as a mini-theater with a show about the history of flight.

On Aug. 8 the U. S. Armed Forces Bicentennial Band gave a performance in downtown Lansing. It was comprised of more than 100 members.

* * *

Dimondale held an old-fashioned 4th of July celebration this year. The event, sponsored by the Windsor Charter Township Bicentennial Commission, was a great success.

It began at 11 a.m. with a children's parade, followed by a pot-luck dinner and a patriot speech by State representative, Ernest Nash. The commission sponsored an auction later in the afternoon to help finance Bicentennial activities.

* * *

The Wacousta group of retirees, WXYZ, holds a pot-luck luncheon each month at the Wascousta Church, according to Wallace Watt, programs committee chairman. The speaker at the May meeting was Frank Wilhelme, executive director of the Historical Society of Michigan. The title of his talk was "Little Known Facts of Early Michigan."

* * *

The second national Olds-Reo Festival was held at Michigan State University, June 27-29. More than 100 owners of vintage Oldsmobiles and Reos had their cars and trucks on display.

Calendars, Cookbooks, Photographs and The Pump House Gang

During the first half of next year, the East Lansing Bicentennial Commission will publish a photographic history of East Lansing with stories of the city and its schools and Michigan State University as well as excerpts from the East Lansing Library's oral history file. The text will be interspersed with photographs and anecdotes for general interest and good reading. Yvonne Pretzer chairs the commission.

According to Edna Anderson, one of the staff people for the commission, they need a great deal of public support in finding old photographs.

"If every person who ever lived in or went through East Lansing and took a picture would dig it (or the negative) up and call our office so we could see it, borrow, copy and return it, unharmed, this endeavor must be a terrific success," she said. "Please look through your collection and ask everyone you know. We're especially interested in anyone or anything that was and is no longer."

People with such material are asked to call her or Cindy McCarty at the commission offices, 332-2468, in 306 and 308 Bailey School.

The calendar committee is preparing a 1976 calendar, similar to the one published by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing this year. The East Lansing calendar will be ready this fall, according to Ted Foster, chairman of the committee. It will contain pictures of East Lansing landmarks and notations of dates of importance for the city, the state and the country.

The cookbook committee, chaired by Lou Cawood, is preparing a small souvenir cookbook with recipes dating back to the mid-1800s. The contributors come from all walks of East Lansing: professors and mayors, churches and restaurants, and the University. The cookbook will also have household hints, biographies and photographs.

Both the calendar and the cookbook will be moderately priced to make suitable gifts. They will be available in bookstores.

A number of East Lansing residents got together on the lawn of the city's old Orchard Street Pump House, July 9, for a community ice cream social. It was sponsored by the East Lansing Bicentennial Commission and the Bailey Community Association to generate in-

terest in preserving the building, unused now since the construction of a new water plant. Entertainment was supplied by Gerald Bartlett conducting the East Lansing Community Band in playing patriotic music.

The pump house, designed by a local architect, Harold Childs, was built in 1934 as a WPA project. What its use may be if it is saved has yet to be determined. Some would like it as a meeting house or a museum.

Bellevue and The Bicentennial

The Bellevue Bicentennial Commission has produced an official logo showing the village's historic limestone kiln. It has been reproduced as decals, patches and pins which the commission is selling. The Village Council has adapted the logo as the Bellevue official seal.

Much physical labor, all volunteer, has gone into work on the kiln itself, according to Marilyn Frankenstein of the Bicentennial Commission. She said that the site is being cleaned by scouts, members of the junior class, and interested citizens and that trees have been donated and planted by members of the Future Farmers of America.

A history of the Village, beginning

with 1833, is now being compiled. About 75 people are doing research in a number of areas—clubs, businesses, churches, the village council, prominent people, etc. It will be published and ready for sale by July, 1976, according to Mrs. Frankenstein.

Martha Luneke, Festivals chairman, is making arrangements for the village's history to be included in the school curriculum. She is also working on a pageant of Bellevue history for 1976. It will incorporate the adult and children's theater.

The Bellevue school board has donated a one-room school for use as a museum, to be moved to the village property site and restored.



Muzzle-loading firearm enthusiasts witnessed Gov. William Milliken as he signed a bill, the first week in July, creating a special 10 day, bucks-only deer season. The bill allows using muzzle-loading shotguns or rifles which fire round balls .44 caliber or greater charged with black powder, from Dec. 5 to 14.

Shown grouped around the governor, left to right, are Rep. Edward Mahalak, sponsor of the bill, Richard "Buck" Burns, Clyde Anderson, Charles Langworthy, Roy Keeler, Judge Alex Strange and George Shinberg. Mr. Burns, chairman of the Primitive Weapons Hunt Committee and a director of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, holds a reproduction tomahawk-peace pipe which was presented to the governor.

Oral History Now

Patricia Pilling,
Wayne State University

Recently, there has been a rush of interest in oral history. People want to put recollections of elderly citizens and relatives on tape. They want to record what written comments may have been omitted; they wish to add accuracy and detail to previous writings. Oral history is a tool, made easier in the last few years by the advent of the compact, easily-carried tape recorder. It may also help to clarify a hazy point or provide further explanation to something of significance.

With the Bicentennial almost upon us, more and more persons are looking backward, hoping for a greater awareness of the past.

Perhaps hearing tapes may also aid in a current problem, that of bridging the so-called "generation gap" as young people listen to stories of lake picnics, church suppers, box socials, buggy rides and the excitement of the Chautauqua coming to town. But listeners to tapes, whether young or old, learn about history, as it really happened, of "how it was" back then. In this way, they hopefully gain insight which may encourage youth, especially, to better understand the "whys" of "how it is."

On a purely personal level people may regard history as the sharing of memories, of adding to a storehouse of family treasure. Words of loved ones can bring hours of joy and remembrance long after the speaker has gone. It is true persons may possess old family photographs, diaries and letters, but tapes of familiar voices can give a description of the happy times and sad moments of long ago, times that can never again be.

On a community level, taping local people can be of rewarding historical value, but it may also be a lot of fun. And there is one big fringe benefit! One gets to meet wonderful people whom one might never have had the opportunity to know otherwise.

While much of our history is based on the written word, much more is never penned to paper because it is in the hearts and minds of people. Whether they are famous people or everyday people, they all, in their own way, have a valuable contribution to make to history. It should be remembered too

that oral tradition itself is very old—especially as it relates to the Bible, being accounts passed from generation to generation before it was ever written down.

Young people who get involved in oral history whether as interviewer or listener and learner from tapes, cannot but appreciate the problems faced by earlier generations and gain some historical perspective. Older interviewers, on the other hand, can bring a sense of sharing and maturity to the recording as well as deriving a greater feeling of self worth from knowing they have participated in something so worthwhile.

Although a myriad of spoken details on a tape might be considered trivia by some persons, to others they are the warp and woof of history. The intonation may convey an innuendo which will tell of the social context, the values and the biases of the speaker. A transcript can rarely fully express all the meaning given on a tape.

Doing a good oral history involves more than a tape recorder, cassette, trained interviewer and willing interviewee. It requires that the interviewer have adequate preparation for the interview, a sensitivity to mood, critical judgment, a healthy curiosity, and the ability to be a good listener. Too, the oral historian must allow some flexibility in questions and learn how to avoid the pitfalls of unconscious bias. The conscientious interviewer has continually to decide priorities, especially concerning whether more or less emphasis should be placed on a specific topic or life story. Yet with all these matters in mind the interviewer must gain rapport and keep the trust of the interviewee. An able oral historian has to be an agile juggler of intellectual variables. But, an with a circus act, practice is a great aid.

In a community oral history program, every effort should be made to obtain a cross-section of events and people. This may include farmers from the rural area who used the community for their economic focus or social life, merchants from town, the way the

During the spring and early summer Patricia Pilling conducted an extension course of Wayne State University on oral history. The classes, held at Lansing Community College, were the results of an increased interest in oral history throughout mid-Michigan. Twenty-two students attended.

The marked success of these classes has prompted requests for another course this fall. Anyone interested in taking a course on the techniques of interviewing with a tape recorder may contact: Joseph Anderson, Humanities Department, Lansing Community College, 419 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48914.

blacksmith use to operate, Halloween pranks and lighting Christmas candles, or the excitement of a presidential whistle-stop. Town and county newspapers may relate much news but the words of people are invaluable in filling in many of the gaps. They often result in providing missing pieces in a gigantic community jigsaw puzzle.

Oral history, therefore, can furnish not only a legacy to an individual but also to a community and to the historian covering a wider field. Tapes can both enchant and instruct. Recording the past can also supply substance to the genealogical record because it is able to secure details of oft-told family anecdotes, so precious to descendants of the future. Ruffled pinafores and goosegrease medical remedies may not be a fact of life today; but then *our* familiar items may be the stuff of history tomorrow. You may be sure our children's children will be just as curious about our time as *we* are about that of our forbears.

Let us perhaps then, tape not only the past but also tape examples of current living. How can we afford to leave unchronicled that which will be history to the next generation?

"Search For Ancestors"

The Michigan Genealogical Council will present as its annual program, "Search for Yesterday," Sept. 19 and 20 in Flint.

For more information, write to Merle Perry, 325 Cloverdale Place, Flint, MI 48503.



—photo by Jack Thompson

Scoutmaster Smith carries the First Federal ("Betsy Ross") Flag as his troop marches to the sound of beating drums.

Ruffles, Flams, Flourishes, And a Paradiddle or Two

For many people the sound of the spirit of independence is the sound of the fife playing *Yankee Doodle* or *The White Cockade*. Grand Ledge has that spirit as the scouts of Troop 55, under the leadership of scoutmaster, Earl Smith, have taken on the look and dash of a fife, drum and bugle corps.

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing was pleased to underwrite the cost of outfitting the members of the troop. Mothers have been at work

fashioning colonial style costumes from 65 yards of batiste and 35 yards of trigger cloth. Black cocked-hats trimmed with white braid obtained from a Williamsburg clothier add authenticity to the group's appearance.

The historical society, the Lansing Chapter of Retired Officers Association, and other area veteran groups have donated flags to the troops.

The 15 member corps includes three of Scoutmaster Smith's grandchildren.

We Will Gather at The River

Rollie Stebbins spoke before the Capitol Area Bicentennial Forum recently on a Bicentennial project of the Grand River Watershed Council. It will sponsor a 10-day canoe trip on the Grand, next summer, from Jackson to the river's mouth at Grand Haven.

The Grand River system is the second largest in the State. Rising near Somerset Center in Hillsdale County, the Grand winds and bends for 300 miles across the state to Lake Michigan. The Grand River canoers will travel 223 miles of it.

Other canoers will join the main group from river tributaries of the Grand—the Portage, Red Cedar, Looking Glass, Maple, Flat and Thornapple Rivers.

John Kennaugh is executive secretary of the council; Helen Tanner and Ted Haskel are chairmen of the canoe trip. The address of the council is 3322 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing.

Maps of the Grand River system are available at that office.

In Barry County

The Barry County Bicentennial Committee met May 28 in Hastings to coordinate the county's part in the U. S. birthday celebration. Among its plans were a Home Town America Festival, held in August, a history of the county, and restoration and ecology education projects for Charleton Park.

Dr. Lynn McConnell is chairman of the committee.

Delta Exhibit

"Old Delta Mills — Grand River City," an exhibit of historical photographs depicting people, places and events in the Delta community of Eaton County, opened to viewers in the Lansing Mall during Michigan Week. The exhibit, a project of the Delta Township Bicentennial Commission Heritage Committee, may now be seen in the Waverly Library, according to Jeff Klenk, committee chairman.

The photos were reproduced from the collection of Kenneth Wilson of Grand Ledge. Technical work was paid for by contributions from the Waverly Lansing Jaycees and Ernst Floeter, Grand Ledge photographer. Members of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing serving the committee are Mr. Floeter, Geneva Wiskemann and Jane Piatt.

St. Johns in September

The Clinton County Historical Society will sponsor a home tour festival, Sat., Sept. 20. Five houses and the St. John's Episcopal Church will be on display from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and two other houses and the Congregational Church will be in the candlelight tour from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

Two of the homes are of the Victorian style, while the others are French Empire, Second French Empire, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Georgian and Colonial. The oldest building is the Victorian style Field House, built in 1868.

Also as part of the festival will be an antique show, art show, quilt exhibit, antique car show, craft show, bake sales, street market, organization sales and ice cream social. Meals will be sponsored by the local churches, music will be provided by bagpipers, barber shop quartets and a bandwagon. The 5th Battery of Michigan Light Artillery will give a demonstration.

Tickets are priced at \$3 for the daytime tour and \$2 for the candlelight tour. They may be obtained from the historical society, Clinton National Bank, St. Johns, MI 48879.

The Clinton County Historical Society has also initiated an "I Was Here in 1876" project. Betty Moore of the historical society explained that buildings dating back to 1876 or earlier will have red, white and blue signs with the project motto.

The Train Doesn't Stop Here

If you were awake early in the morning of July 7 you might have seen the American Freedom Train—and waved as it passed through Shiawassee, Clinton and Ionia Counties. It had been on display at Detroit, 16 days through July 6, and was on the way for its opening show in Ada, July 8.

The train's 10 exhibit cars included, among many, many other things—a reproduction of the Old North Church lantern, Judy Garland's "Wizard of Oz" costume, Ben Franklin's draft of the Articles of Confederation, a 1904 Oldsmobile, Seminole Indian artifacts, a Lunar rover, a gas mask, American paintings and sculpture, and Hank Aaron's Uniform.

To herald its Detroit showing there was a special newspaper supplement, including a full page advertisement comparing the event with the day in 1838 when "the first locomotive train arrived in Detroit." The picture in the ad, however, showed the railroad between Toledo and Adrian, along which the State's first steam locomotive travelled in 1837.

On July 10, the Freedom Train—or at least its locomotive—came back east

through Lansing and as far as Trowbridge, then southwest to Kalamazoo. The track of the direct Penn-Central route couldn't hold so heavy an engine, so it had to take the long way around. In Kalamazoo it met its train, which had been pulled by a lighter engine, and settled down for a July 11-12 exhibition.

Charles "Chip" Rogers, the Lansing

area's number-one railroad enthusiast, found it disturbing that the American Freedom Train was not included in the Bicentennial events of the capitol city of Michigan. He has suggested that, with Lansing eliminated from the train's itinerary, a group of local interested citizens should promote its own freedom train. Anyone who considers himself such an interested citizen and would like to get involved may write Chip Rogers in care of this magazine.

—Jack Thompson

Farm Women on Record

Lembi Kongas is involved in a Bicentennial oral history project collecting life histories of southern Michigan farm women for a book on the life experiences of farm women and the changes in farming since the turn-of-the-century. The recordings will be placed in the State Archives for public use.

"The great value of this work," Ms. Kongas said, "is that these women have the opportunity to tell their stories in their own words."

Since the project is broken down into five historical periods, women of all ages will be included in the interviews. The periods are the turn-of-the-century, World War I, the Depression, World War II, and contemporary times. For the sake of variety, five counties—Ingham, Allegan, Macomb, Cass and Lenawee—will be included in the study. Also, members of representative groups will be included, such as women's groups (birthday clubs, friendship clubs, child study clubs, etc.), church groups, farm organizations (Farmers' Union, Farm Bureau, National Farmers Organization); and groups having roots in the farming community (the Ancient Order of Gleaners, the Patrons of Industry, the Grange).

"I'm especially interested in the strengths which women have developed over the years and the different ways in which women assist each other, such as with quilting bees," Ms. Kongas explained.

The Women's Studies Program at Michigan State University is sponsoring the project, with the YWCA, the Michigan History Division, Grand Valley State College and *The Michigan Farmer* magazine making in-kind contributions.

Ms. Kongas is especially interested in leads to farm women who are in

unusual farming situations, such as single or widowed women in farming and members of old groups such as the Patrons of Industry.

Anyone who is interested in this project may write: Lembi Kongas, in care of Y.W.C.A., P. O. Box 1063, Lansing, MI 48904.

Muster Day

Eaton Rapids held its Muster Day, July 12, on the Island Green. A number of recreated British and American units in full dress uniforms of the Revolutionary War period participated in a muster camp with military drills and displays. The groups also staged muzzle-loading and firing, a tactical march, a mock battle and cannon firing while other participants held a craft show and rifle-smithing display. It was sponsored by the Eaton Rapids Bicentennial Committee.

Special Muster Day postal covers are available from the committee. Designed by Jack Crosby, Sr., secretary-treasurer of the Central Michigan Philatelic Society and recording secretary of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, they carry four different stamps showing the uniforms of the Continental forces—army, navy, marines and militia. For information write Jack Crosby, Jr., 601 E. Knight St., Eaton Rapids, MI 48827.

* * *

Building Survey

The final two volumes of the Historic District Study Committee building survey of Meridian Township are now available. For information write: William Brehm, Jr., supervisor, Charter Township of Meridian, 5100 Marsh Road, Box M, Okemos, MI 48864.

When workmen were repairing some windows in the probate court office in the Ionia County Court House in the city of Ionia, they found two copies of the *Ionia Sentinel* in a partition. Both newspapers were from the year the courthouse was being built, 1884. The following extract is from the Feb. 7, 1884 issue (Vol. XVIII, No. 44):

"Nearly all the inside finishing lumber used in the Iowa state capitol building grew near Vermontville. Scores of carloads have been shipped within the past three years, and the shippers have been invited to attend the dedication."

Russell Gregory, secretary-historian of the Ionia County Bicentennial Commission, has suggested that it might be interesting to write to Iowa to find how "all that maple (?) wood-work is holding up." (The question mark is Mr. Gregory's).

Genealogical Society

The Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society (MMGS) and the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints have joined in an effort to locate and preserve records of genealogical and historical value. Members of MMGS are searching the mid-Michigan area for such records and are seeking permission from the owners to have them microfilmed. Dawn Wood Morgan of East Lansing is chairman of this project.

Documents such as land grants, genealogical and special library collections sufficiently indexed, church records, cemetery records and family Bibles are of special interest. Unpub-

lished manuscripts about pioneer families are also important.

"As a general rule," Mrs. Morgan said, "only those materials originating prior to 1900 will be considered for microfilming."

She said that it would not be necessary for any record to leave the owner's possession. The society will arrange central filming locations in as many townships as possible. Copyright of all material remains with the owner. The microfilming is done at no charge; the owner may purchase a print of the film for only the cost of duplication.

For further information write: M.M.G.S., 1228 W. Saginaw St., East Lansing, MI 48823.



One of the two Vermontville paintings by Sara Benedict Williams. The other is also of the Madonna and Child but in a garden setting. The Smithsonian Institute plans to include these two pictures in its Bicentennial book of American paintings.

The DAR

Virginia Clohset of the State Daughters of the American Revolution Bicentennial Committee said that a plaque to be set in the rotunda of the State capitol will honor all pensioners and Revolutionary soldiers who lived in Michigan, not just those 200 whose graves have been located by the DAR as was originally intended.

"Many men served during the Revolution who for various reasons never filed for a pension or who did not live long enough to qualify under more liberal pension laws," Mrs. Clohset ex-

plained. "For these men, no good proof of their service can be found."

"However, for DAR purposes, if such a man is described in a local history published before 1890, when the DAR was chartered by the Congress, as having been a soldier in the Revolution, and if his residence can be identified during the Revolutionary period, then he is a Revolutionary Soldier and his grave can be so marked."

Mrs. Clohset said that there were probably more than 1600 pensioners living in Michigan, a number that she called "staggering." Documentation of this may be found in the government ledgers of payments.

The names in the ledgers for Michigan were copied by John Carlyle Curry of Lansing and were published in *Michigan Heritage Magazine* beginning with the Spring 1960 issue.

Mayflowers

Among the various patriotic lineage societies in the U. S. is the Society of Mayflower Descendants. In 1901, Michigan became the eleventh state to form a Mayflower society. It presently consists of 600 regular and 350 junior members, 15 from the Lansing area.

The Michigan society holds its annual meeting luncheon in November and a spring meeting luncheon in May or June. A prominent guest speaker addresses the membership at each meeting.

Any descendant of a passenger of the Mayflower on the voyage which terminated at Plymouth in 1620 is eligible for membership. Interested parties are invited to contact: Roberta Wellfare, 1716 Delevan, Lansing, MI 48910 (484-2769).

Vermontville Paintings

The Vermontville Congregational Church has two large oil paintings by a local artist, Sara Benedict Williams. Painted in 1901, they hung for many years in the front of the church on either side of the altar. They are now stored in the museum, but according to Ava Kroger of the Vermontville Historical Society, the society hopes to find a place to display them, as a Bicentennial project.

Sara Williams was the daughter of Rev. William Benedict, the second pastor of the Union Colony, as Vermontville was originally called. Sara was born at Swedan in the eastern part of the state. She studied art in Paris from 1886 until 1900.



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Historical Inventory

July marked the beginning of an inventory of Lower Peninsula historic engineering and industrial sites under the supervision of Charles Hyde of Wayne State University. The inventory is the first stage of a long-term program of documentation of important engineering and industrial sites nationwide. Once identified through the inventory these sites may be studied by a larger team from HEAR, Dr. Hyde said. The survey team of 10 to 12 people will research in more detail and prepare architectural drawings of the sites.

During the summer, the inventory concentrated on the Metropolitan Detroit area and on the larger cities of southern Michigan. Reports on sites in Port Huron, Flint, Grand Rapids, Muskegon and all major urban centers south of their tier of counties will be followed in 1976 with an emphasis on rural Michigan and the remaining urban areas.

Sites which have priority are those which illustrate the development of the science and practice of engineering in Michigan. Included are such things as bridges, dams, tunnels, electrical gener-

ating stations, water and sewage treatment plants, roads and highways, canals, railroads, lighthouses, docks and wharfs, mines and mining equipment, blast furnaces, lime kilns, and cooking ovens. Sites which illustrate the historical development of industry in Michigan will have second priority. The inventory will include virtually all remains of nineteenth century industry.

The project is a cooperative venture, supported in part by the Historic American Engineering Record, (HAER), founded in 1969 as a companion program to the Historic American Buildings Survey which, since the 1930s, has been recording and studying America's architectural heritage. Others involved besides HAER include the State History Division, Wayne State University, local historical organizations, professional groups and engineering societies. A total of approximately \$12 thousand was expected to be expended this summer.

Results of the inventory will be deposited in the office of HAER in Washington, D.C., and in an appropriate Michigan depository. A published volume is expected by December, 1976.

Individuals and institutions are urged to report potential sites and structures, built prior to 1945, to be included in the inventory to: Charles K. Hyde, Division of Science of Society, Mon-teith College, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202.

Craft Center Wins Award

Ledge Craft Lane, a series of craft shops in the renovated old fire barn and city hall in Grand Ledge, took top place in the 1975 Michigan Week with its Community Achievement of the Year Award. Frank Sission, WWJ-TV station manager and chairman of the Michigan Week Citizens Recognition Committee, announced the award.

"Judges unanimously selected the Eaton County entry on the first ballot because of the unique way in which sponsors involved the total community," Mr. Sission said.

Ledge Craft Lane began operations last summer as a center for area craftspeople and artists to show their products. Marilyn Smith, a local teacher, is chairman of the board of directors of the non-profit corporation.

On July 26, Ledge Craft Lane sponsored a craft fair on the island at the foot of River Street in Grand Ledge. More than 50 people had their crafts on display.

Be watching TV channel 10 at 11 a.m., Sun., Sept. 14 when Info-10, hosted by Winifred Olds, will present a program devoted to Buy-centennial.

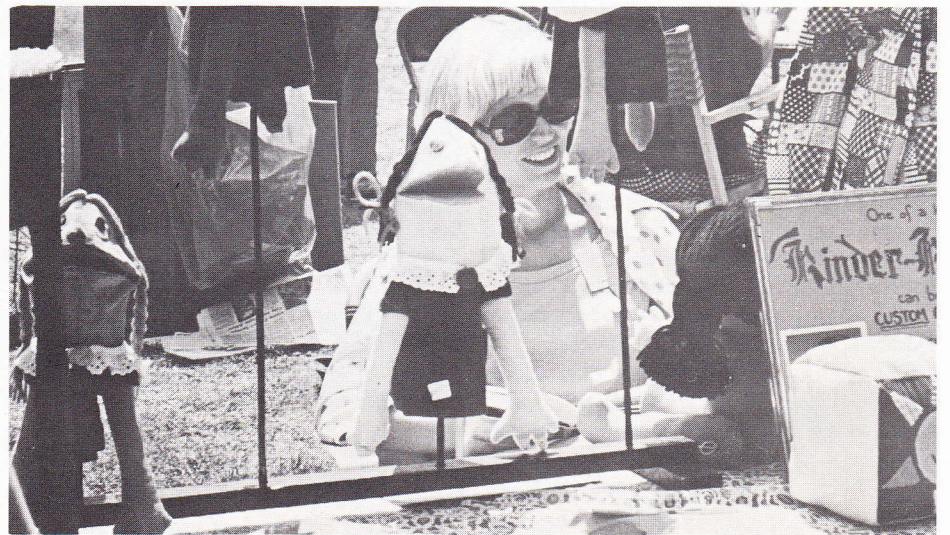
Some see the capitalism under which the United States has prospered turning the Bicentennial into a "selling of a nation." The American Revolution Bicentennial Association in Washington, D.C. has licensed about 20 firms to sell sanctioned products ranging from belt buckles to spoons.

We have all noticed the Bicentennial junk on the market. But there are many quality items representative of local resources and industries worthy of note and collection. The Historical Society of Greater Lansing appreciates the opportunity to take part in the public service program of WILX-TV to report on some of these items.

Minute Women

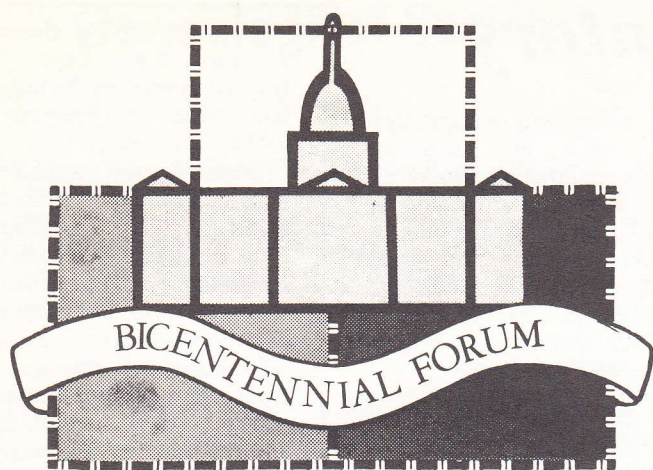
Hildred Peabody, a Vermontville teacher, was a recipient of the Governor's Michigan Minuteman award, a Michigan week project. An active member of the Vermontville Historical Society, she received the award May 20.

Marie Glassnor, from Mulliken, received an Eaton County Minuteman award, May 21. She has been working on a project of interviewing older citizens of the county, some of them with the use of a tape recorder. The *Sunfield Sentinel* has been publishing a series of her interviews.



—photo by Jack Thompson

Linda Robertson brought her family of dolls to the Grand Ledge Island Art Fair, sponsored by Ledge Craft Lanes.



Bicentennial Promotion

One of the major Bicentennial projects of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing has been assisting other Bicentennial related groups within its geographical area — such things as sponsoring oral history classes, the Bicentennial Forum and the annual Bicentennial Convention.

The society has also had a deep involvement with helping the various groups in the promotion of their projects and events. Besides using its magazine, the *Town Crier*, as a bulletin of Bicentennial news, the society has published an information booklet of media sources in the Capital Area and has set up radio, television and newspaper coverage for the other Bicentennial organizations.

On May 28 the society and Lansing Community College arranged a panel discussion on the Bicentennial and the news media. On the panel were Dick Arnold, editor and publisher of *Circadia* magazine; Betty Jones, feature writer for the weekly *Grand Ledge Independent*; Winifred Olds, women's program director for WILX-TV; Jon Schwartz, news director for WJIM-TV; and Jim Wieber, who at that time was Bicentennial staff writer for the *State Journal* and is now with the State of Michigan. Jack Thompson, editor of the *Town Crier*, was moderator. Alan Cook, reporter for radio station WUNN, also spoke.

The overall trend of the discussion was that the Bicentennial has much news value. Although each medium exists in a different situation from the others, there are general statements that could be made about all media.

One of the most important things that the promoter should remember is to make sure the news media receive the facts of the story — who, what,

where, when and why — far enough ahead of time, but not too far ahead. The lead time needed varies with the medium.

An event should be news worthy in itself, not something put together for the benefit of the newspeople. The best stories are of people doing something— TV news especially is concerned with action. Staged shots, such as someone handing an award to someone else, should be avoided.

And finally, the decision as to what goes into a publication or over the air has to rest with the medium itself. What you may consider a great story may not have wide enough appeal in the judgment of the newspeople. Or a story which they consider to be more important may preempt your story.

Cartobibliographical Study

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) approved a grant to Chicago's Newberry Library to prepare a catalog of all maps of the Midwest printed before 1900, the monies to be used for training representatives from the seven Midwestern states involved in the study and for publishing the results of their work.

The participants will spend two years scouring their respective states in search of maps on sheets or in books, periodicals and newspapers — published prior to the turn-of-the-century. They will also take trips to regional depositories and the Library of Congress so that the final product, *Catalog of Maps of the Middle West*, will be as comprehensive as possible.

Michigan's participant in this undertaking is Le Roy Barnett, a geographer and archival assistant with the Michigan History Division. In the months ahead many readers of the *Town Crier* will be contacted by Mr. Barnett for help in locating obscure maps and bird's-eye views of their communities or districts. He said he hopes that those who are asked to provide assistance will do what they can to insure that the Michigan volume of the cartobibliography includes all of the significant maps of the State and its subdivisions.



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