

# The **HISTORICAL SOCIETY** of **GREATER LANSING**

May 2001

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## **Grand River History, Annual Dinner and Elections, Aboard the Michigan Princess May 16 • Wednesday • 6:30 p.m.**

This year the Historical Society has been celebrating the importance of the Grand River in the development of Lansing. Our capstone program will be held on May 16, aboard the Michigan Princess Riverboat. We will cruise for two hours on the southwest leg of the big bend of the Grand River.

This leg of the river played an important part in Lansing's growing interest in recreation from the 1880s through the 1910s. Waverly Park (Leadley Park) was developed as a large amusement park, complete with picnic pavilions, a bandstand, swimming, and young people strolling to be seen.

A streetcar line was laid out to the park, making it easy for people to get there. Steam-powered excursion boats also ferried people out to the park. In the mid-1880s, one of the pilots was a young man named R.E. Olds, and one of the passengers was a young woman named Metta Woodward, who later became his wife.

By the late 1890s, a popular mode of transportation to the park was the bicycle, even though many felt that riding was damaging to young ladies - or at least to their reputations.

It was common for teenage boys from Lansing to set up a tent on a raft, and pole down the river for a few days. A photo exists of the Judson brothers on the raft with all their gear.

Charles H. Mead decided that he and his boys should make such a trip, too. They outfitted two rafts, got arrested in Portland on some rather questionable charges, but finally made it to Grand Rapids. Charles wrote about the trip in a wonderful series of illustrated newspaper articles.

After the turn of the century, the land across the river from Waverly Park was developed by J.H. Moores. He was a lumberman who twice made his money in logging pine forests. Both Moores and Frances Parks were his gifts to the city. A "summer house" that he built for his wife still stands along the river.

After dinner, Bill Atkinson, Jerry Lawler, and Linda Peckham will present short talks along the river.

**Join us on Wednesday, May 16**  
**Grand River History**  
**Annual Dinner and Elections**  
**Aboard the Michigan Princess**

See inside for details on reservations and location of boat dock. Boarding will start at 6:00 p.m. Cruise will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

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**Sesquicentennial Commemorative Candle**

The HSGL has received an inquiry from the Unitarian Universalist Church regarding the Sesquicentennial Commemorative Candle. Trustee Bill Atkinson spoke with one of their members and provided her with a packet of material they compiled during their celebration services. The Universalist Church was the fifth denomination to create a congregation in Lansing. That was in 1852.

**Book Fair**

The HSGL presence at the Genealogy & History Book Fair was well received and generated almost \$100.00 in revenue from our publications.

**Election of officers**

The HSGL has an opening for the position of President and two seats on the board as Trustee. We are also seeking someone to maintain our membership records. Anyone interested in these positions please contact President Cantwell at (517) 886-5230.

**The Turner-Dodge House** will be holding a Mother's Day Luncheon Sunday, May 13, 2001. Festivities begin at 1:00 p.m. Phone for reservations (517) 483-4220.

**Art in the Park** will be on Sunday, June 24, 2001. The HSGL will participate in the activities and displays offered from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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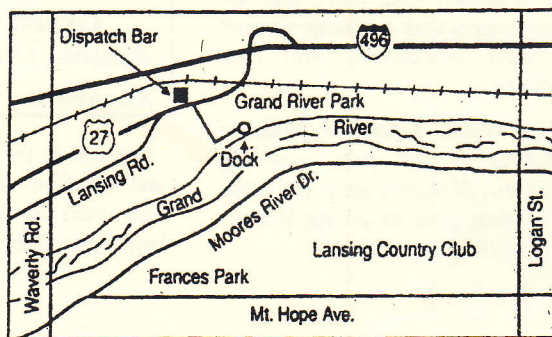
**Remember! I496 is closed from Pine Street east to US 127!**

**FROM THE EAST**

Take I-496 West to Lansing Road, exit No. 4. (1st exit West of Logan/King) Go 1/2 mile South on US 27, pass under the railroad, look for a bar named the "DISPATCH" on the Right (200 feet past the railroad). Grand River Park entrance is directly across the street from the Dispatch Bar.

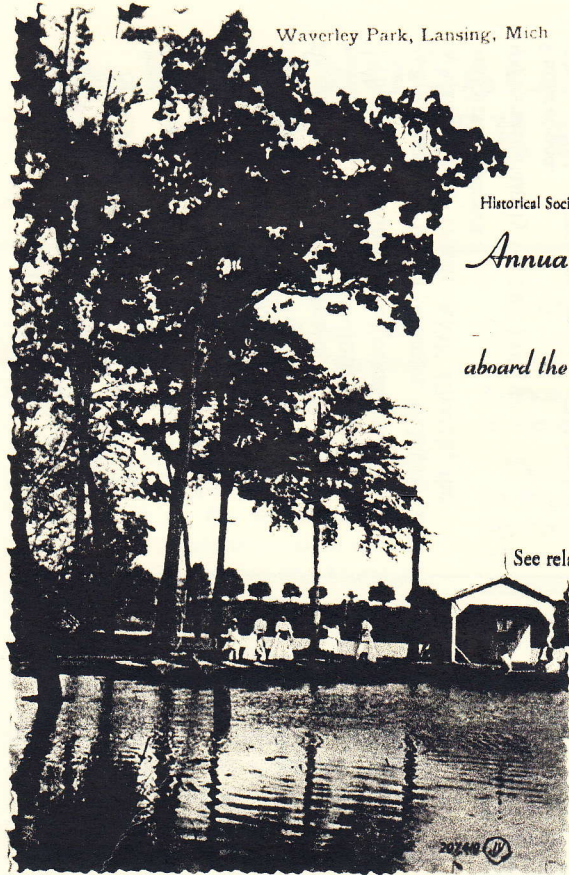
**FROM THE WEST**

Take I-496 East to Waverly Rd. exit. Turn Right (South) on Waverly Rd. Go across Business US 27 to Lansing Rd. Turn Left on Lansing Rd. Follow Lansing Rd. until it merges with Business 27/69. Turn Right on Business 27/69. It is 500 feet to Grand River Park on the Right side of the road.





Waverley Park, Lansing, Mich



Historical Society of Greater Lansing cordially invites you to its

*Annual Dinner and Election  
Dinner Cruise  
aboard the Michigan Princess Riverboat*

May 17, 2000  
6:00 - 8:30 PM

Boarding at 6:00 at the  
**Grand River Park**

See related article for directions and map.

*Program*

**Announcements**

**Board Elections**

**River Tales:**

stories of Lansing's rivers:  
their history and their  
recreational uses.

**Annual Dinner Reservation**

Please send reservations to: **Historical Society of Greater Lansing**  
P. O. Box 12095  
Lansing, MI 48901



Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for dinner. Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$35 per person for  
buffet dinner and cruise.)

Please make checks payable to: Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

The  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
of **GREATER LANSING**

*Michigan's Capital City Since 1847*

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The Historical Society of Greater Lansing sponsors a variety of programs, projects, and publications of local historic interest:

**Sample Programs and Projects:**

- Walking tours in Downtown Lansing, in North Lansing, in the cemetery . . .
- Speakers on Pioneer Women, R.E. and Metta Olds, Trinity AME Church, the Polish pioneers . . .
- Pioneer Family History Project

**Publications:**

- Note Cards, 1870s Drawings by CH Mead
  - Historic Architectural Scavenger Hunt
  - Brochures on Pioneers
  - *Significant People Buried in Mt. Hope*
  - Rare Maps
  - *Lansing Through the Years*, Photo Book
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**Board Members 2000-2001**

Pres. Rick Cantwell	Sec. David Rumohr
V-Pres. Harry Emmons	Treas. Ron Turner
Bill Atkinson	Linda Peckham
Jerry Lawler	Seymour VanDerske
Joe Maguire	Stephanie Whitbeck
Gertrude Mitchell	Penny Zago

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**Become a Member for \$15**

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