

Historical Society of Greater Lansing Historical Society of Greater Lansing Historical Society of Greater Lansing Historical Society of Greater Lansing

NEWS

March 2003

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- A Saturday afternoon in
 Collegeville** 1
- Welcome** 2
- Mead's Trip** 2
- Discovering**
- Ingham County** 3
- March-April 2003 Events** 4
- Collector's Showcase** 4

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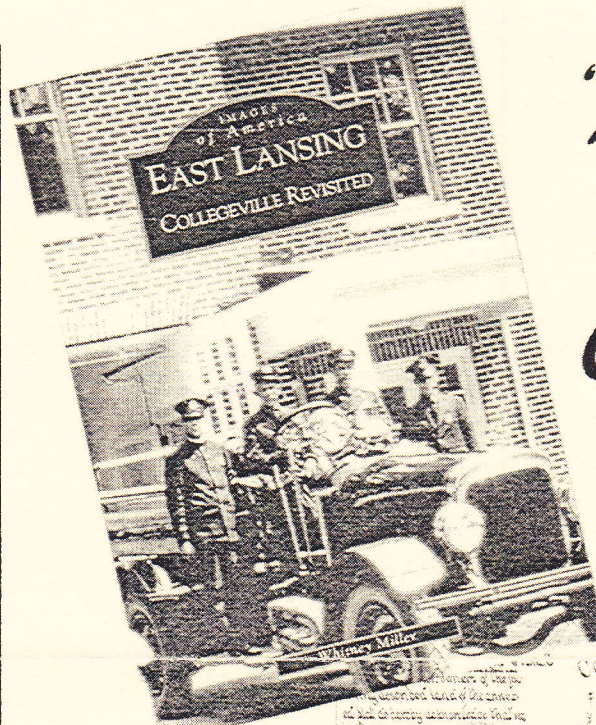
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How to contact us...

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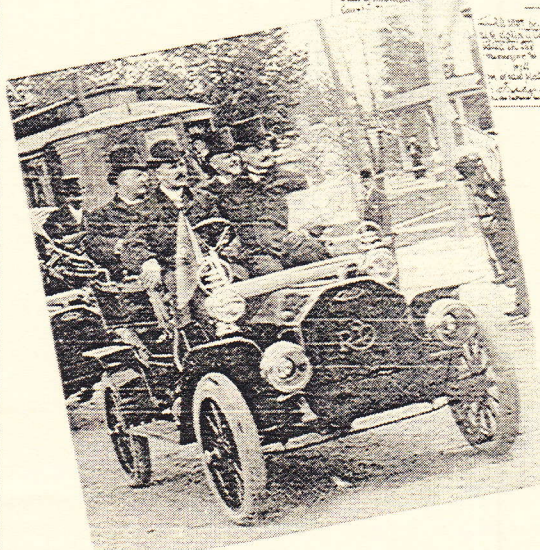
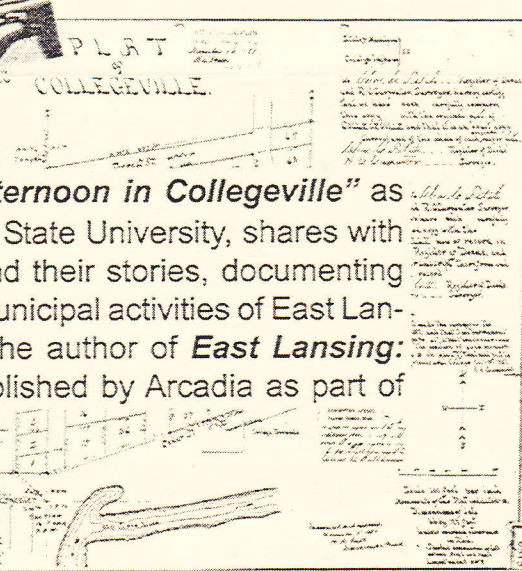
*This newsletter is published during
 the months of September to May. Ar-
 ticles and news of historical interest
 are always welcome.*



"A Saturday afternoon in Collegeville"

with author
 Whitney Miller

Come & spend a "Saturday afternoon in Collegeville" as Whitney Miller, Archivist at Michigan State University, shares with us a collection of historic images and their stories, documenting the social, business, religious, and municipal activities of East Lansing and her people. Ms. Miller is the author of **East Lansing: Collegeville Revisited** recently published by Arcadia as part of their *Images of America* series.



Join Us. . .
 Saturday,
 March 22, 2003
 2:00 P.M.

Friends Auditorium
 Capital Area District Library
 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

President's Message

Craig A. Whitford

Our March 22nd program offers a special treat for local historians and residents. Whitney Miller, local archivist and author of *East Lansing: Collegeville Revisited*, will take us on a Saturday afternoon photographic tour of Collegeville and share with us the stories of the images. If you haven't had a chance to peruse or acquire your copy of her book, you don't know what you're missing. Copies may be purchased at a number of book shops in the area and I'm sure Whitney would be happy to sign it for you following our program. *Whitney will also be signing books at Schuler Books, located in the Eastwood Towne Center, on Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 P.M.*

Table Space is still available at the Collector's Showcase

As this issue goes to press, The David R. Caterino Collector's Showcase, to be held April 5, is also just around the corner. We have plenty of table space available if you are interested in sharing your collection, local art work, published works or hobby with the public. Please contact me for further details at 517.394.4443 or by email at cawhitford@aol.com.

On the evening of May 14, 2003 we invite you to join us at the Evergreen Grill for our Annual Society Dinner & Elections. Our next newsletter will provide you with all of the details for making reservations.

**May 14, 2003
 Annual HSGL
 Dinner & Elections
 Evergreen Grill**

And speaking of the election... nominations are currently being sought for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer as well as for four Trustees. If you have an interest in serving on the Board, please give Robert Hudson at call at 267.8368. The work we do is important and there are many exciting times ahead.

Michigan Week - May 17-26, 2003

In conjunction with Michigan History Week in May, the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is co-sponsoring, with the

**Michigan History
 Storytelling
 with
 Larry B. Massie
 May 17 @ 11 AM**

Capital Area District Library, *Michigan History Storytelling* with Larry B. Massie on May 17 at 11:00 AM. Mr. Massie has authored 15 books about Michigan's past and will lead the audience on a journey back to forgotten times, where they'll meet Chippewa chiefs, lumberjacks, and Great Lakes sailors. Following this program, Priscilla Massie will present *Historic Michigan Cookery* at 1:30 PM and explore Michigan's culinary heritage with the co-author of the award-winning *Walnut Pickles & Watermelon Cake*. Her presentation will include character portrayals, cooking demonstrations and sampling of old-fashioned treats.

In addition, the Michigan Historical Center and the State Capitol will also be holding special events throughout the week long celebration. So, come & join us...these are programs you won't want to miss.

Email the Historical Society of Greater Lansing at:
LansingHistory@aol.com

Nearly three years ago, a scrap book was donated to the Society. Its contents are rich in the work of artist, photographer and Lansing merchant Charles H. Mead dating from the late 1870's to the turn of the century. Below is the beginning of an adventure involving Mead during 1889 recorded in his own words and drawings as published in the Lansing Republican.

...OUR STORY CONCLUDES...

The Pirates Cruise.

A THRILLING STORY OF PERILS ON THE GRAND

*The Devil's Elbow-Sorrowful Parting-
 The Picnic Ground-Soldier's Home
 Camp, and Sale of the Sara-Queer
 Customs of Grand Rapids-Finale.*

THE DEVIL'S ELBOW, where we camped that Wednesday afternoon, was a point of land covered with a grove of fine forest trees, and a clean, grassy sward, free from underbrush and the usual litter of woodland.

We pitched our tent right on the brow of the bank, where it fell perpendicularly down twelve or fifteen feet to the water. The river swept around this point with a deep, strong current, and but for the blue clay foundation on which rested the sand bank above, the entire point would long since have been swept away.

A famous place for a bath and for fishing. The pirates could stand at the door of their tent and



dive off into 14 feet of water, and before the tent was pitched the Isaac Walton of the party was out trolling in the deep waters close in along the bank. There was revelry by night - moonlight and camp-fire light, bacchanalian songs, toasts - whole slices, fried in fish-gravy - before the two beautiful trout and elegant black-bass were left with nothing but vertebrae to prove they once were fish.

Across the river the hills arose into amateur mountains with a whole farm mapped out on the slopes toward us, while away up near the

crest the roofs and chimneys of a farm-house showed above the foliage of an apple orchard.

At a council held with closed doors, around a smoldering camp-fire, the Devil's Elbow, on account of its beautiful location and surroundings and of its excellent fishing grounds, and bathing facilities, was voted worthy of a longer stay than we could give it.

The next morning a sumptuous fish breakfast for five hungry pirates, furnished by two self sacrificing black bass of generous dimensions, made it almost impossible to tear our Ike Walton from the place; and when the fleet finally swung out into the current he heaved a large octagon sigh that fell with a dull thud over against the bank in whose shadow he had fished so successfully. The River Rough joined the Grand just below the village of Austerlitz - a town like St. Louis, at the end of a bridge; and notwithstanding a strong head wind we reached Grand Island, an embryo resort for Grand Rapids, from where a steamboat came up occasionally. A sheriff's notice nailed to a tree on the island notified us not to go in swimming in the river at any point between Grand Island and Grand Rapids without some clothes on under penalty of being seized. The gang resolved to comply with the sheriff's polite notice. A show detained us, and we took refuge under the roof of the bowling alley. The island affords the usual attractions for picnics, including a large thoroughly organized band of mosquitoes of the usual picnic variety, a rusty stove, and a fine growth of forest, from beneath whose shade the under-brush had been too recently taken - to make very pleasant walking.

The shower over, we started in on the last stage of our trip. We expected to pitch our tent on the

The Pirates Cruise, continued.

grounds of the Soldiers' Home early in the afternoon; but a strong wind from the south, blowing straight up the river, made is slower work than usual. Just before evidences of the town became apparent, one of the kids of the party caught a large, elegant pickerel, and that fish, cook as only our \$5,000 cook can cook a fish, furnished a sumptuous supper for five hungry people, - together with two loaves of bread. There wasn't any five baskets of fragments left, either.

We reached the grounds of the Soldiers' Home, somewhat tired with the hardest work we had had on the trip, and went into camp over against the woods, along the south line. We received numerous calls from the old soldiers, who regarded out tent and camp equipments with evident interest. A portion of our gang visited the building and were courteously received by the commandant. The building presents a very beautiful and artistic appearance from the river, and so did our camp from the building. To one of the old soldiers we sold the Sara Bernhardt, and presented him with the camp range.

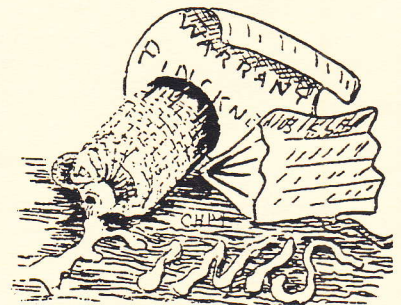
The Irex and the Sunshine were loaded with the camp baggage the next day, and sailed for the city, four miles below. Down through long lines of piles and boom anchorages, into the channel, with acres of boomed pine logs on either side, we reached our landing. A dray conveyed the ships across the town to the depot, and the five desperadoes were turned loose in the streets of Grand Rapids, awaiting the evening train for

L—. One of the party wandered into the reading rooms of the Y.M.C.A. While resting and reading the news, the young gent assistant secretary tip-toed up to him, and in a for-your-ear-alone tone of voice, requested that the criminal remove his hat, pull down his vest, wipe off his chin, and otherwise divest himself of the visible evidences of an itinerant. And he did even so.

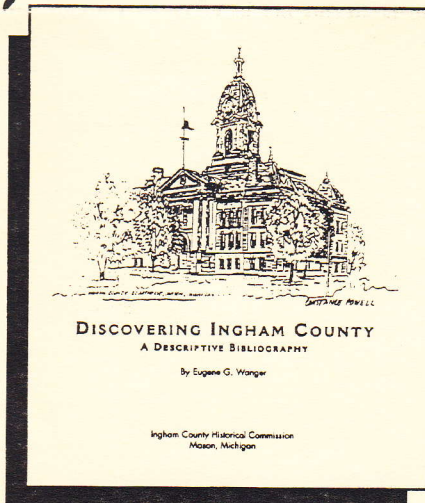
At noon the gang gathered around the fountain in the arcade, and after due consultation repaired to one of those institutions where hospitality and victuals are dealt out for fifteen cents a head. We missed the crisp, white, savory fish - the bugs; the fresh air; the ants; the sunshine; the caterpillars; the playing of invisible winds among the trees; the gnats in the butter; the "goats" with whiskers on'em; the benevolent coffee pot; the hearty laugh; the fussy mosquitoes, and the after-dinner lounge and nap upon the grass - but we didn't miss the double-compound 80-horse-power appetite, the accumulated gift that ten days of open-air barbarism had provided for each of us. Oh no; we had that.

Pie!! If pie is sinful, as some eminent theorists maintain, then one of our crowd is indeed a criminal. By so manipulating his side dishes as to appear always ready for dessert, that calculating fiend dined on pie, which four successive waiters always found him just ready for. On the theory that a fish diet is a brain food, he must have eaten a whale to have thus got ahead of a Grand Rapids restaurant.

No cannon were let off; no brass band greeted us with wild bursts of music; no enthusiastic crowd was at the depot to greet our return. The orators were all absent. So were the bouquets, and floral decorations. All were lacking when we stepped on the platform at the depot at 9 p.m., Friday night - except our reputation. That was there, and greeted us with, "Hello thieves!" "See the pirates?" "What you done with your ship?" "Were 'syer manacles?" "Who went bail for you?" "What you going to steal next?" A hack driver could hardly be persuaded to contaminate his vehicle with so much depravity. Old-time friends cut us entirely, or shook their heads dubiously. That this state of things hasn't continued is owing to a rumor that Justice Pinckney declares his court can take no action in the matter, as only the supreme court of the United States has jurisdiction in maritime cases.



Just Released...



Discovering Ingham County
 A Descriptive Bibliography
 By Eugene G. Wanger

This 100+ page edition is a sequel to Mr. Wanger's *INGHAM COUNTY HISTORIES: An Annotated Bibliography for Students, Buffs and Collectors...* "an interesting and useful guide for discovering the history and historical resources of Ingham County, The Capital County of Michigan..." Published by the Ingham County Historical Commission.

Available from the Society at \$15 each plus \$4 postage; or send \$15 in advance and you can pick up your copy during our program.

Send payment to: HSGL, Attn: Craig Whitford, Box 22026, Lansing, MI 48909

Michigan History Storytelling

with Larry B. Massie

This author of 15 books about Michigan's past will lead the audience on a journey back to forgotten times, where they'll meet Chippewa chiefs, lumberjacks, and Great Lakes sailors.

Saturday, May 17, 2003
 11 am - 12 noon

Capital Area District Library
 Main Library
 401 S. Capitol Ave, Lansing

Co-sponsored by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Enjoy the benefits of membership in the
 Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Membership Application 2003

Please accept my New Renewal membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. I have enclosed:
 \$15 Individual \$25 Family \$150 Life \$___ Gift

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Historical Society
 of Greater Lansing

P.O. Box 12095
 Lansing, MI 48901

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation.
 Thank you for your support of our programs and activities.

Historical Society of Greater Lansing
Proudly announces the 2nd Annual

**David R. Caterino
Collector's Showcase**

**Saturday, April 5, 2003
10:00 AM to 4:00 P.M.**

**Capital Area District Library
401 S. Capitol, Lansing**

If you collect history of the greater Lansing area and would like to share it with the public we invite you to join us as an exhibitor.

If you are a local author or artist of the greater Lansing area we also invite you to participate.

Please contact us today!

For an application or more information contact:

Craig A. Whitford 517.394.4443	Harry Emmons 517.485.5998
email: LansingHistory@aol.com	

March-April 2003 Calendar

Reserve these historic dates now!

March 22, 2003 - 2:00 P.M.

**"A Saturday afternoon in Collegeville"
with author Whitney Miller**

Arcadia Publishing recently released East Lansing - Collegeville Revisited by Whitney Miller. The work is part of their Images of America series. Whitney will share with us vintage photographs of East Lansing.

**Friends Auditorium, Lower Level
Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing**

April 5, 2003 - 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

**The David R. Caterino Collector's Showcase
*See the ad to the left.***

**The Galleries, Lower Level
Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing**

May 14, 2003 - 6:00 P.M.

**Annual Society Dinner & Elections
Evergreen Grill, East Lansing**

Watch for details in the next issue.

May 17-26, 2003

**Michigan History Week
State Capitol & Michigan Historical Museum**

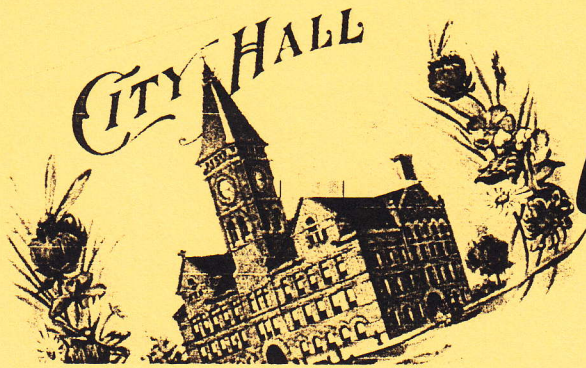
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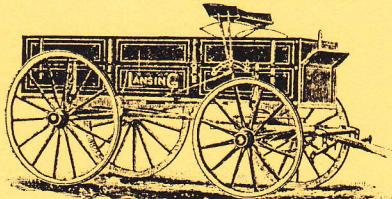
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*Historical Society
of Greater Lansing*





The Lansing Farm Wagon - With Thimble Skoins.



The lightest running wagon in the market. Constructed of the very best select timber thoroughly and successfully seasoned, well finished and every part fully warranted.

LANSING WAGON WORKS,

Manufacturers of Light and Heavy

Farm and Freight Wagons

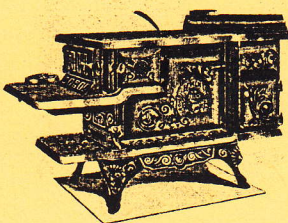
Lansing Duplex and Other Light Spring Pleasure and Market Wagons

BROWN'S PATENT LOOSE-JOINTED BOSS.

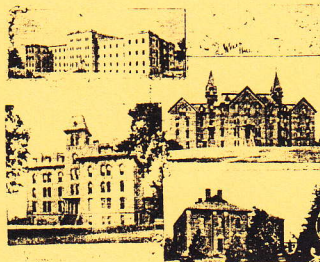


Michigan Agricultural College

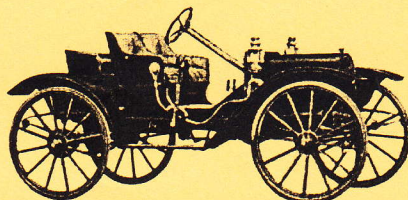
Bement Palace Cook



The most durable, the best working, the finest appearing Cook Stove on the Market.



NEW CLARK MOTOR CAR



Manufactured by CLARK & CO., Lansing, Mich. DELIVERIES WILL BEGIN TO BE MADE IN AUGUST

The David R. Caterino Collector's Showcase

April 5, 2003

LANSING area collectors will be displaying a variety of Lansing and area history from their private collections including exhibits of Lansing Area Photographs, Postal History, Lansing Milk, Beer and Medicine Bottles, Antique Firearms, Railroads & Interurbans, Post Cards, Lansing Advertising & Cigar Boxes, Olds & REO Memorabilia, LFD & LPD History, MAC/ MSC/MSU items; Local Authors...

and Much More!

Join Us. . .

April 5, 2003

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Lower Galleries

Capital Area District Library
401 S. Capitol, Lansing

You are invited to bring items to share or ask questions about.

For more information or if you would like to exhibit, contact:

Craig A. Whitford, President
Historical Society of Greater Lansing
Tel: 517.394.4443