

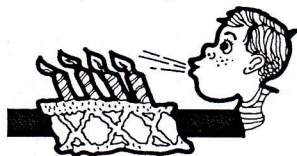
History Explorer

A publication of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

February 2009

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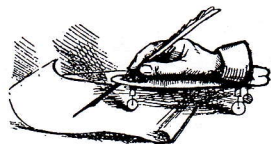
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Historic Explorer is published during the months of September to May by the HSGL. Articles and news of historical interest are always welcome.

Lansing Celebrating 150 Years! 1859 - 2009


"Hats off to Lansing 150" Celebration

February 14-15, 2009

The weekend begins on Saturday with Ice Sculptures on the Square, sponsored by NuUnion Credit Union, from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Located in downtown Lansing on the 100 and 200 blocks of South Washington

Square, the event will feature 20 carved ice sculptures, a warming tent with coffee and hot chocolate and cookies. There will also be children's activities including red slime (*Impression 5 Science Center*), crafts (*YMCA*), and cookie frosting.



The Michigan Historical Museum will be open both Saturday and Sunday. There will be special events and exhibits throughout the museum showcasing Lansing's history and its artistic talents. The Open House, sponsored by Dart Foundation, will be Sunday from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Open to the public, this will include the art exhibit which features local schools and individuals in a juried art contest. \$10,000 in prizes will be awarded to the winners in each of five categories, and a People's Choice Award. So please visit the museum and cast your vote for your favorite piece. 

Join Us...

Thursday, February 19, 2009 - 7:00 PM: *The Founding of Lansing - History, Mystery & Truths.* David Votta, Local History Librarian and Linda Peckham, Local Historian discuss the Myths and Truths of the founding of Lansing - from Biddle City to Michigan to Lansing. Please join us in the Friend's Auditorium of the Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing, Michigan for this memorable presentation. For directions or questions, please call 367-6363.

President's Corner

by Craig A. Whitford

Dear Friends:

What an exciting time to call Lansing your hometown! On February 15, 2009 the City of Lansing will mark the 150th (or *Sesquicentennial*) of its incorporation. The Lansing Rotary Club has committed to be the lead organization in the planning and coordination of Lansing's upcoming Sesquicentennial Celebration. If you would like to participate in the planning or activities, please check out their website at www.lansing150.com.

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is pleased to announce the debut of our website at www.lansinghistory.org. Our website will give you easy access to our upcoming program schedule, historical newspaper accounts of early Lansing and Ingham County, photographs, the 1859 Ingham County map, early Lansing City Directories and the Capital Area District Library Local History resources and much more.

Our January program by Valerie Marvin on Elijah E. Myers was extremely well received. The history of the Michigan State Capitol continues to inspire those with an interest to always learn more - and to uncover previously unknown facts and stories. It was nice to see so many of you in attendance.

The Local History Room of the Capital Area District Library is once again open for research and visitors. The room is open on the first and third Saturdays between the hours of 10 AM and 2 PM. The room is located in the lower level of the main library located at 401 S. Capitol. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer,

Continued on Page 5

BLUE LAWS IN LANSING

*It is unlawful for Citizens to Fish
or Skate on Sunday*

OR PASTURE A GOAT OR COW

*Its is against the Law to fire any Squib or
Cracker within Certain Prescribed Limits*

Special from the Lansing Journal June 23, 1906

“It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in the waters of the Grand or Cedar rivers on the first day of the week called Sunday, within the corporate limits of said city.”

The municipal book of laws, which is suppose to furnish guidance for the citizens of Lansing in their daily life and associations with each other, contains some very amusing codes and rules which are obsolete today, either because there is no necessity for them or because public opinion does not favor their enforcement.

The section quoted at the beginning of this article is from ordinance No. 25, which is an ordinance for the maintenance of quiet and good order and is commonly known as the city’s “Blue Law.”

Its first section provides “that no person shall keep open his or her store, shop, restaurant, ordinary, saloon, brewery, barroom, beer hall, pleasure garden, victualling house, billiard room, ball alley, or other place of business, pleasure or amusement, or give or make , or be present at, or take part in, or permit on any premises occupied by him or her, any public diversions, show , theatrical representations, ball, dance, game or play, on the first day of the week called Sunday.”

Another section makes it unlawful for any person to skate on either of the rivers within the corporate limits on Sunday.

Section 9 of the same ordinance prescribes a certain district bounded on the north by Ionia Street and on the south by Kalamazoo and on the east by Grand River and on the west by Capitol Avenue, within which no squib, cracker, gunpowder or fireworks can be set off or fired. This section should be of interest to the small boys at this particular season, as it provides a maximum pen-

alty of \$100 fine or sixty days imprisonment for violations.

Ordinance No. 26 prohibits female bartenders.

Ordinance No. 63 gives the Cushman Telephone Company a franchise in the city, the said company having now been dead about fifteen years.

Another ordinance requires bootblacks to take out a license.


An ordinance fixing the fire limits provides that no building shall be erected within such limits unless it shall be of brick, stone or iron, with roof covered with slate, tile, metal or gravel or composition. This ordinance is being violated constantly.

Ordinance No. 80 prevents ball playing in any street or alley.

Ordinance No. 20 provides that “no cattle, horses, asses, mules, sheep, gouts, swine, or other animals, turkeys, ducks, geese, liens or other poultry, shall at any time run at large, nor be herded upon or pastured in any street, lane, alley or public ground in the city of Lansing,” and that ‘pasturing within the meaning of the ordinance shall included the tying, tethering, herding or holding of any animal in any of said streets, lanes, alleys or public places for the purpose of pasturing the same.”

Ordinance No. 9 provides for the establishment of a night watch, who must be discreet and suitable person.

Fire wood must be sold only by the cord, according to another municipal law which declares that “no person shall sell or offer for sale any fire wood in any other manner then by the cord, and at a specified price per cord, and upon condition and with the understanding that the party selling will unload the same cord or pile it in a suitable form for correct measurement.”

In fact, if you are a believer in obeying the law, it will be well for you to read the book of ordinances pretty carefully before living in the city any longer, because it is a cinch that you will find yourself a law breaker of some nature and degree. 

*In Memoriam
Charles R. Leap*

1937-2009

Member & Local History Volunteer

Images from the Past



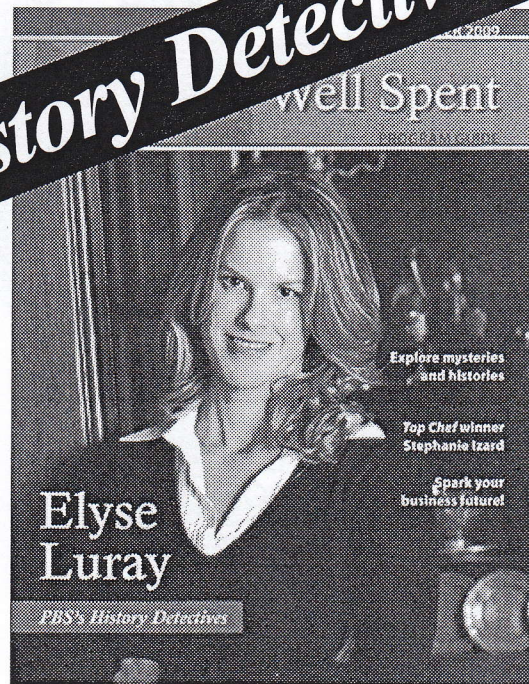
Stand pipe view of Lansing looking West, c.1890s. A popular location for photographers to capture the city was the standpipe located on south Cedar Street. This view was taken prior to the construction of a new wide steel bridge on Michigan Avenue, crossing the Grand River. (FPML/CADL.)



Charlie Zmuda, the "Bat Man", 1938. Clem Sohn, Lansing's first "Bat Man" – so-called because of "bat-wings" that he wore to direct his fall through space, died in 1937 during an air show event in Paris, France. Sohn's parachute failed to open. A memorial plaque is located in Eastern High School. The second "Bat Man" to take to the skies, with the Art Davis Air Show was Charlie Zmuda. Zmuda would leap from a plane at 10,000 feet and soar through the air on his wings, use smoke to mark his flight and then open his parachute for landing, thrilling crowds around the globe. (Caterino/CADL.)

March 7 at 2 P.M.

History Detective



Art historian Elyse Luray is a co-host on PBS's popular series *History Detectives*, a show devoted to exploring history's facts and myths. It combines traditional investigative techniques, modern technologies and plenty of legwork to find new insights into "the hidden history on America's doorstep." Luray believes that anyone who loves history and research can become a successful detective; all it takes is the ability "to reason, dissect, and conclude."

Saturday,

March 7, 2009 - 2 PM

Capitol Area District Library
401 S. Capitol, Lansing, Michigan

Brought to you by
Capitol Area District Library
with support from WKAR-TV & 90.5 WKAR

Check out the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing
on the web at

www.lansinghistory.org

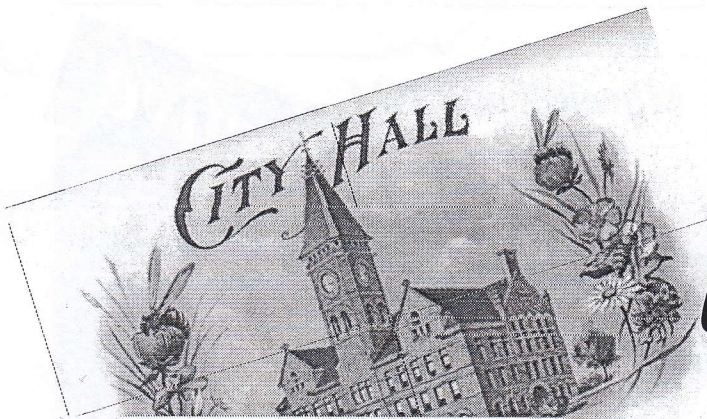
Celebrating 150 Years of Lansing History

The David R. Caterino

Collector's Showcase

May 2, 2009

LANSING area authors, collectors, historical & genealogical societies will be displaying a variety of Lansing, Ingham & Eaton County history from their collections including Photographs, Postal History, Books, Bottles, Antique Firearms, Railroads & Interurbans, Post Cards, Lansing Advertising & Cigar Boxes, Olds & REO Memorabilia, LFD & LPD History, MAC/MSC/MSU items; Manufacturing. . .and Much More!



Join Us. . .
May 2, 2009
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.

*Sponsored by the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing
and the Capital Area District Library*

For more information or if you would like to exhibit please contact:
Craig A. Whitford, 694.0556 or Email: cawhitford@aol.com

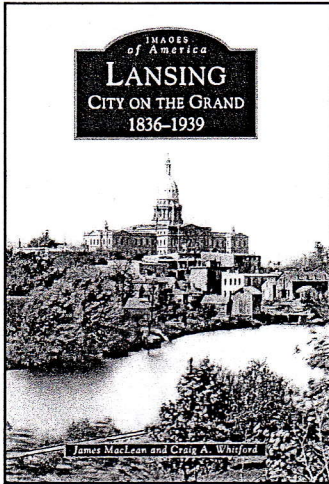
The Gift Depot

The following gifts will be available for purchase during our February program

1 Give the Gift of History with a membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Individual Memberships: \$15/year
Family Memberships: \$25/year

2 Lansing: City On The Grand, 1836-1939

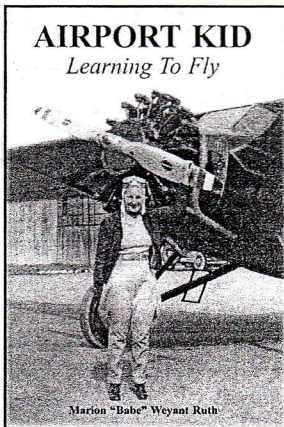


By James MacLean & Craig A. Whitford
Lansing's history as the capital of Michigan began with a legislative mandate in the 1835 State Constitution, which required that the seat of government be moved from Detroit in 1847. The result – the emergence of a new capital city on the banks of the majestic Grand River – allowed Lansing to cultivate a world-class community based in government, education, the automotive industry and entrepreneurial achievements. This book features more than 200 historic photographs that document the dynamic capital city during its pivotal first century, from the pioneer era to the inception of the Olds Motor Vehicle Company and through the eve of World War II.

\$19.99

Published by Arcadia,
An Imprint of Tempus Publishing, Inc.

3 AIRPORT KID - Learning To Fly



By Marion "Babe" Weyant Ruth and Craig A. Whitford

The true account of Lansing's most famous aviatrix - Marion "Babe" Weyant, a teenage girl with a passion for aviation and a desire to take flight. Originally written by Babe in 1936, the story traces her adventure from 1931 until soloing at the age of 18 in 1936. Over 150 photographs and vintage news clippings are featured in 96 pages, capturing the excitement of her journey, the pilots she encountered and her interest in aviation which she continues to share.

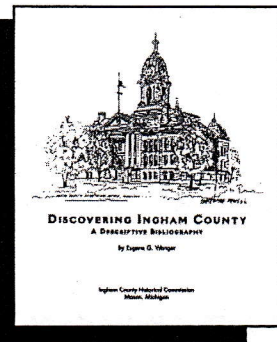
\$20.00

Published by
Michigan Historical Press, Lansing

4 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.

\$15.00

Published by the
Ingham County Historical Commission

Presidents Corner, continued from Page 1...

please contact David Votta, Local History Librarian at 517.334.1521.

In closing, I would like to express our thanks to all of you who renewed your membership for the coming year, and also to those who sent in additional donations to the Society. It is through your support that we are able to bring you this newsletter and our programs. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming program. 

Historical Society of Greater Lansing
Proudly Presents a Workshop on

Researching the History of Your Home or Business

with

"Rock" Hudson & David Votta

Thursday,

March 19, 2009 - 7 PM

Friend's Auditorium - Capitol Area District Library
401 S. Capitol, Lansing, Mich.

Give a Friend a Gift Membership in the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Membership Application

Please accept my New Renewal membership in the *Historical Society of Greater Lansing*. I have enclosed:

\$15 Individual \$25 Family
 \$150 Life or \$ _____ Gift

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

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

The Founding of Lansing

History,

Myths & Truths

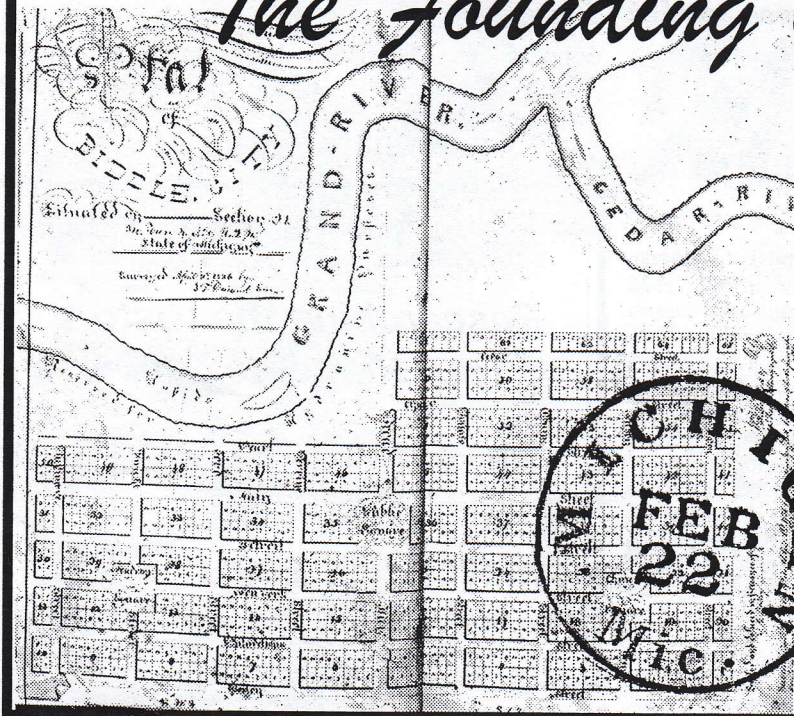
With David Votta & Linda Peckham

Join Us... Thursday,

February 19, 2009

7:00 P.M.

Friend's Auditorium
Capital Area District Library
401 S. Capitol, Lansing, Mich.



Celebrate
Lansing's 150th
with History!
1859-2009

Please RSVP to:

Change Service Requested

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