

Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

Official publication of the Ypsilanti Historical Society, featuring articles and reminiscences of the people and places in the Ypsilanti area



SUMMER 2015

MICHIGAN LADDER: *An Ypsilanti Success Story*

BY JAMES MANN



The Michigan Ladder in 1916.

The Michigan Ladder company on East Forest Avenue, is a local success story. In business at the same location for over one hundred years, the building has long been a local landmark. This story begins in September of 1901, when the voters of Ypsilanti approved a \$12,000 bond issue. The city opened negotiations with the Newton & Haggerty Ladder Company of Detroit, in the hope of convincing the company to move their operation to Ypsilanti. The deal fell through, but three men saw opportunity and moved to take advantage of it. On December 4, 1901, Melvin Lewis, A. G. Huston and Edgar S. Geer, formed the Michigan Ladder Company. None of the men had any experience in the ladder business.

The three reached an agreement with the city, under the terms of which, each had to invest \$3,000 of their own money into the business, and employ ten men for three years. In return, the city provided a site for the company. As the workers were digging a basement for the building, a spring was uncovered,

and the mill floor had to be raised a few feet, as they could dig no further. The spring still flows today.

In time a train locomotive boiler was installed in the basement to power the machines by flat belts. Every day at noon a steam whistle would sound. Later the boiler would be replaced by electricity.

"It will be remembered that the city furnished the building for the company on the condition that at least ten men should be employed for three years, the building to become the property of the company at the expiration of this term in case the condition is fulfilled," noted The Ypsilantian of April 30, 1903. "Remember that when operations began," noted the account, "the business was entirely new to the parties and the field untried, the above showing is unusually gratifying, and we are safe in saying that the city never invested a thousand dollars to greater profit."

A few years after the company began,

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Ypsilanti
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

The Ypsilanti Historical Museum is a museum of local history which is presented as an 1860 home. The Museum and Fletcher-White Archives are organized and operated by the Ypsilanti Historical Society. We are all volunteers and our membership is open to everyone, including non-city residents.

www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org

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From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY ALVIN E. RUDISILL

We have installed all the remaining named bricks in the front sidewalk. If you purchased a brick make sure you stop by and check out where it is located in the layout. We really appreciate all the support we received from this fundraising effort. We cleared approximately \$25,000 on this project even after paying to have the limestone slabs removed, trimmed and replaced. The photo shows you how the new sidewalk looks.

Michael Gute is the new intern in the YHS Museum from the graduate program in Historical Preservation from Eastern Michigan University. Michael's duties include working with the Museum Advisory Board on projects and programs. He is also responsible for our membership database, Society mailings and coordinating advertising and sponsorship for the Gleanings.

The "Annual Home Tour" sponsored by the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation was held on Sunday, June 28. The upper apartment of our Carriage House, occupied by Lynda Hummel, was on the tour along with the historic Towner House located just across the street. Also featured from North Huron Street was Tom Manchester's office building at 206 North Huron Street and the John and Patti Harrington home at 209 North Huron Street. There was an excellent turnout for the home tour and many commented about the uniqueness and attractiveness of the upper level apartment occupied by Lynda Hummel.

We have installed a "Colonel Charles S. Kettles" display in the Edmunds/Ypsilanti Room in the Museum. Colonel Kettles served during the Vietnam War and is currently being considered for the Medal of Honor. The program at our 2:00 pm, September 27th, Membership Meeting will feature the service of Colonel Kettles and the display will be dedicated at that time.

I want to thank all of the volunteers who serve on our boards, docent in the Museum, provide services in our Archives, or provide other services to the Ypsilanti Historical Society. Without their efforts it would be impossible to provide the many services available through the Society.



A view of the front of the Museum showing the named bricks placed alongside and across the sidewalk.

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A. G. Huston and Edgar S. Geer sold their shares of the business. Melvin Lewis stayed with Michigan Ladder for the next 45 years. He retired in 1945, at the age of 79. Arthur Nissly then ran the company until his death of a heart attack during a Christmas staff party in 1967.

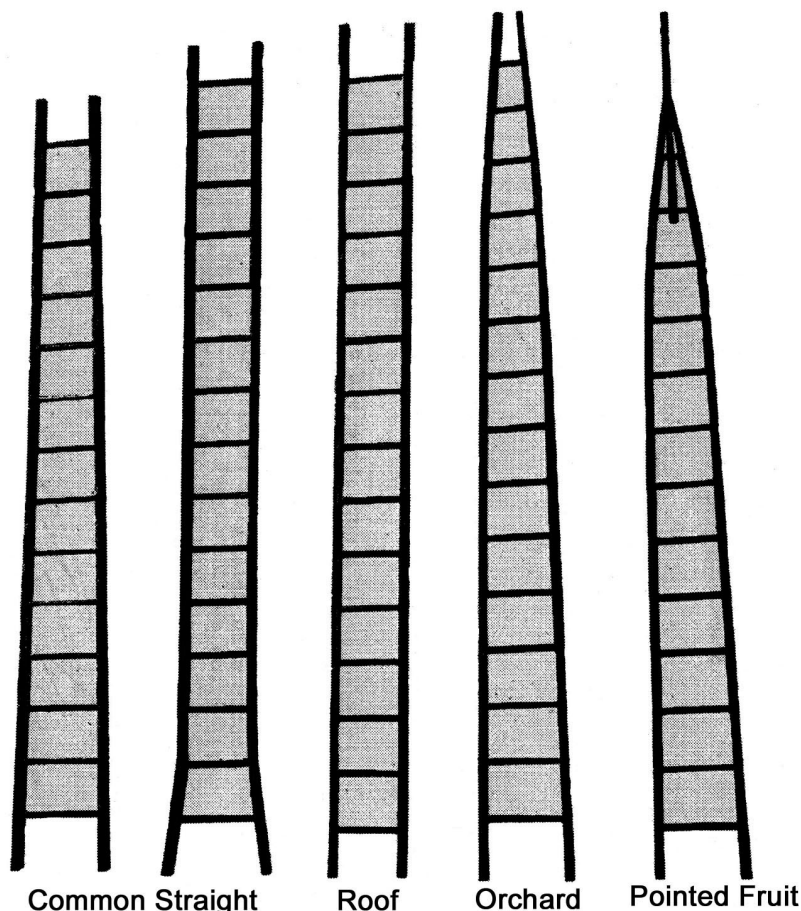
The Michigan Ladder factory is now 25 connected buildings, with a total area of 75,000 square feet. All of this space is protected by a sprinkler system. Wood scrap is burned to heat the manufacturing area, and dry shavings are sold for horse bedding.

When operations began, lumber was delivered from a sawmill east of River Street. Ladders were made by hand and sold from a horse drawn wagon. A railroad siding was laid down from the Michigan Central tracks and into the plant in 1917, so lumber could be received and finished ladders

shipped. The tracks fell into disuse and were removed in the 1980's, as rail service declined. Shipping is now done by trucks.

"Ladders comprise the chief product of the factory as is signified by the name," noted The Daily Ypsilanti Press of July 25, 1913. "Ladders of every description from the smallest ladder for household use to the long extension and sectional ladders, which can be built to any practical height, trestle, taper straight and step ladders all find a big sale from this factory."

"A wide variety of extension ladders is manufactured," the account noted. "A leader is the New Improved Automatic Extension. This ladder is built of the best selected Norway or southern pine side rails with hickory rungs. The special automatic catch is used in perfecting this lad-



Early designs of ladders produced by the Michigan Ladder Company.

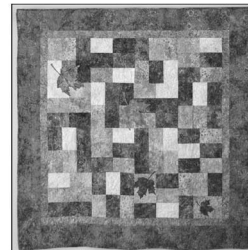
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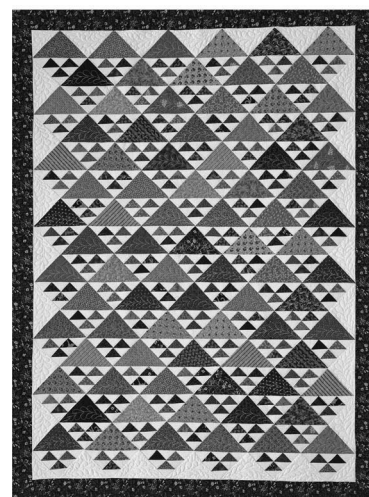
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der and it is recommended as the most perfect and most easily operated ladder of its kind on the market.”

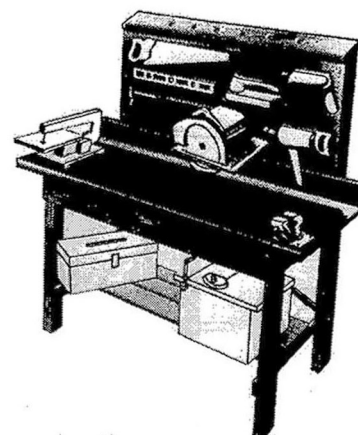
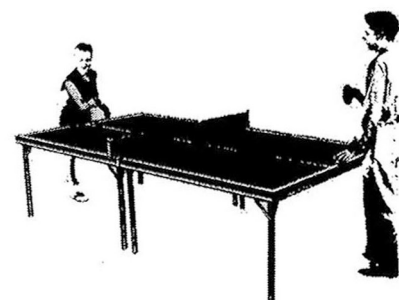
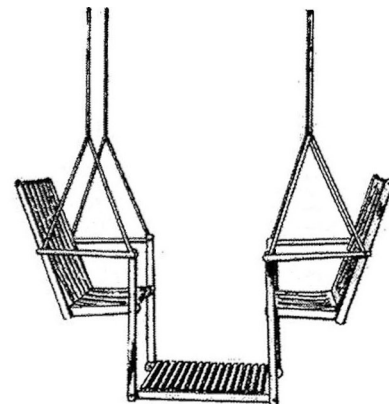
The company also made step ladders, and tapered ladders for use in orchards with pointed ends to be lodged between tree limbs. “Painters are expressing a preference for the supplies in their line which are furnished at the Ypsilanti factory,” noted the account, “the strongest painter’s ladder on the market being the Painters’ Favorite. This model is built of best material and strongly braced throughout at every point. The legs fold outside the sides and steel straps are placed on the front and back of each step.” The well being of the customer has always been a concern of the company.

“The line manufactured comprises extension, straight and step ladders, and painters’ specialties,” noted *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of January 1, 1931. “The extension and straight ladders are made from spruce and Norway pine and fir for side rails

with hickory rungs. Some of the spruce used in long ladders comes from Alaska. The fir is from Oregon and Washington. Norway pine from Minnesota and Canada. The hickory used in the rungs is shipped from Tennessee and Kentucky, and the southern pine from which step ladders are manufactured, is from Arkansas.”

“The ladder business was originally a seasonal market,” wrote Marcia Phillips in the Winter 2006 issue of *The Gleanings*, “with production lasting only ten months a year, so Michigan Ladder (who prided itself in never having to lay off workers, not even during the Great Depression of the 1930s) made other products as well. Soon the lumber from the surrounding area was being fashioned into ironing boards and “Kiddie” toys and boats and even a “portable diving board.”

The company made a ping pong table called “The Detroiter,” which is perhaps the most famous product of the



Other products that were made by Michigan Ladder Company.



Bob Nissly and others in 2001 at the Michigan Ladder Company. (L to R) Bob Hoernschemeyer, Gail Smith, Bob Nissly, Rick Wheeler Jr., and Dave Korzuck.



Tom Harrison, current owner and President of the Michigan Ladder Company.

company other than ladders. These ping pong tables were carried on the ships of the United States Navy during the Second World War, for the use of crewmen during time off watch. *"The Harlem Globetrotters likewise carried them around the nation,"* wrote Phillips, *"in four pieces each to be set up for halftime competitions. It even made the movies, 'The Detroiter' that Tom Hanks' character played on in Forrest Gump was made here on Forest Avenue."*

Government contracts filled all the business of Michigan Ladder during the years of the Second World War. The demand from the war effort was so great, secondary lines of products, including Kiddie Klimb play sets and blocks for children, were dropped from production. *"Following the war,"* wrote Marcia Phillips, in a history of the company, *"distribution was changed to the*

wholesale market using manufacturers sales representatives."

In 2001 the Company celebrated 100 years in business. At the time Bob Nissly was the President of the Company. Bob had joined his father in the business in 1961 after he earned a degree in engineering from the University of Michigan. Bob became President in 1967 following his father's death.

Tom Harrison, current owner and President, was born and raised in Ypsilanti and is the grandson of Ypsilanti's first City Manager, Naseeb G. Damoose. He is the fourth President in the company's history. He and his family came back to the area after living in the Netherlands for three years. During his tenure, Michigan Ladder Company expanded its manufactur-

ing to include fiberglass as well as wood ladders. The majority of everything the company sells is manufactured in Ypsilanti.

The company prides itself and attributes its success to an amazing group of dedicated and diverse employees. It's their dedication that has made the company successful.

Michigan Ladder Company is the oldest ladder manufacturer in the United States. The company continues its expansion and plans to manufacture more products locally. Everyone will probably agree that the city fathers would be proud of the investment they made back in 1901.

(James Mann is a local author and historian, a volunteer in the YHS Archives, and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

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RHYTHM

THE BIG BEAT “Keeps You Rockin”

BY FRED THOMAS

BLUES

In 1949 Jerry Wexler, an editor at *Billboard* magazine, substituted the term “rhythm and blues” for the older “race” records and “Rhythm and Blues” was born.



In 1951 Alan Freed, a late-night disc jockey at station WJW in Cleveland, began playing an amalgamation of genres which would become known as “rock ‘n roll.”

During the early 1950's music fare heard on radios was a mixture of big band, standards, crooners, pop tunes, and novelty songs. This was also a time of great innovation and drastic change in popular music. Forms from a great variety of sources came together to create a new sound. Because of the simplicity and the strong basic beat, this sound had great appeal to the younger generation. Young people certainly took an interest in radio and records. Parents were shocked! They considered this novel sound primitive and obscene, which made it even more appealing to their children. The unique sound assumed three basic forms, similar in beat, but different in sound because of their very diverse origins. *Rockabilly* had its origins from Country and Western. *Rhythm and Blues* was derived from Black Gospel and Southern Blues. *Pop Rock* was more of a popular music sound with a strong up-tempo beat (courtesy of The Old and Gold Show, WDTR, radio, Detroit)

These recordings, not widely played on mainstream radio, were being broadcast in 1951 by Alan Freed, a late-night disc jockey at station WJW in Cleveland. This amalgamation of genres would become known as “rock ‘n roll”, a name Freed would later be credited with advancing. His program was called “Moondog House” and became popular with young kids in Cleveland and beyond. By his choice of music alone the Moondog earned their trust. In fact, Freed would be credited

*These recordings,
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Cleveland.*

as one of the early prime movers of “rock ‘n roll” and the early rock concert business. Soon he was doing live rock shows. The response was remarkable. No one in the local music business had ever seen anything like it before. Two or three thousand kids would buy tickets, all for performers that adults had never even heard of.” (courtesy of Wikipedia)

A fascination with music and records has consumed countless hours of my time. The bug bit me at age thirteen. The pursuit of them was unintentionally initiated by my brother Jerry who was three years older. In late 1954 he began bringing home 78 rpm records with unusual titles and playing them on his small three-speed record player located in our bedroom. There was Sh-Boom by the Chords, Crying in the Chapel by the Orioles, Chop Chop Boom by the Danderliers, and others. All were by vocal groups, and had unfamiliar titles.

One afternoon I asked him to let me go along to the record store, only to meet immediate rejection. However, a plea to mom by this little brother cleared the way. Magee Music was located at 303 West Michigan Avenue opposite the original Cleary College. There I discovered the force that drew him to these strange new sounds. It was the attractive, young miss behind the counter. Discussing the up and coming artists and buying records put him in her presence. I don’t recall how long his infatuation lasted, but the roots of my music and record involvement can be traced directly to his fondness for her.

My growing interest was reinforced by a 200 selection Wurlitzer jukebox at Cecil’s Drive Inn, the restaurant my parents opened in 1955 at 1215 East Michigan. A Dear-



The 78 rpm record player became very popular in the early 1950s.

born vending service maintained it and the cigarette machine. If I were present when their rep finished his duties, he always left me a generous supply of nickels so I could keep the selections spinning. Hearing the songs encouraged paying customers to do the same. This activity broadened my knowledge of songs and artists. In addition, the current tunes entertained me as I busily performed my table cleaning and dish-washing duties.

Fast forward to April 1958. The Michigan Industrial Education Society was holding an exhibition in Lansing where prize-worthy projects made in high school shop classes throughout the state were being shown and judged. As high school seniors, two buddies and I were afforded the opportunity to

take Friday off school and visit the popular display. A unanimous decision to accept the offer was immediate.

Our destination was the Lansing Civic Center. Once there, the search for the exhibit hall took us throughout the multi-storied building. Passing a Coming Attractions announcement board, my attention was drawn to a colorful poster announcing The Alan Freed Big Beat music tour show on stage Sunday, April 27th. My interest was piqued. I had read plenty about Alan Freed and his concerts, but never had the chance to attend one. I couldn’t believe the playbill! When I saw the list of performers, I knew I had to drive back the ninety miles for the show, and I convinced others to accompany me. Next, prior to locating our intended destination, a detour to the box office was made and tickets, priced from \$1.75 - \$3.50, were purchased. The Big Beat Tour monopolized discussion during the drive home.



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Poster for the Alan Freed Big Beat music tour show at the Lansing Civic Center in April of 1958.

Non-local bankers think The Grinnell Brothers are at The Ark next week.

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I was super excited as I looked forward to seeing seventeen acts. Fourteen of them had a song on the national Top Ten chart including:

1. Jerry Lee Lewis - Great Balls of Fire;
2. Buddy Holly - Peggy Sue;
3. The Crickets - Maybe, Baby;
4. Chuck Berry - Sweet Little Sixteen;
5. Frankie Lydon - Why Do Fools;
6. The Diamonds - The Stroll;
7. Danny and the Juniors - At The Hop;
8. Billie and Lillie - La Dee Dah;
9. The Chantels - Maybe;
10. Larry Williams - Boni Maroni;
11. Pastels - Been So Long;
12. Dicky Doo and the Don'ts - Nee Nee;
13. Screamin' Jay Hawkins - I Put a Spell;
14. Jo Ann Campbell - Wait a Minute;
15. Ed Townsend - For Your Love;
16. Billy Ford and the Thunderbirds; and
17. Big Rocking Band.

The return trip to the Civic Center went smoothly. Extra time was allotted in case of unforeseen travel interruptions. None occurred. Once inside the auditorium ushers directed us thru the maze of aisles to our seats. Anticipation electrified the youthful multitude awaiting the rock and roll performers. The sight of the emcee approaching the center stage microphone set off uncontrolled audience pandemonium.

One by one, individual acts appeared on the stage, and were greeted by deafening applause. During some performances multiple spectators, overcome by gyrating rhythms, spontaneously leaped into the aisles and



Chuck Berry was one of the favorites who played at the Lansing Civic Center in 1958.

began dancing. Uninterrupted by such fanfare, the bands kept the auditorium rockin' through their final songs which usually brought loud yells for "more" from admiring spectators.

The enjoyment of this dynamic concert experience had one downside. We needed to be home by eleven p.m. and that required a premature departure. However, Chuck Berry was a favorite, so we

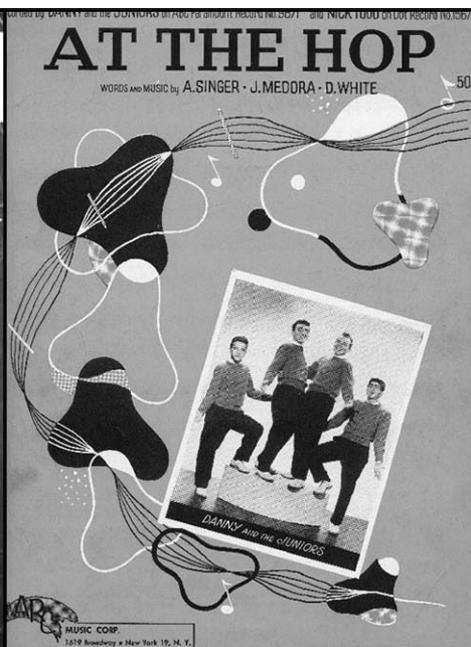
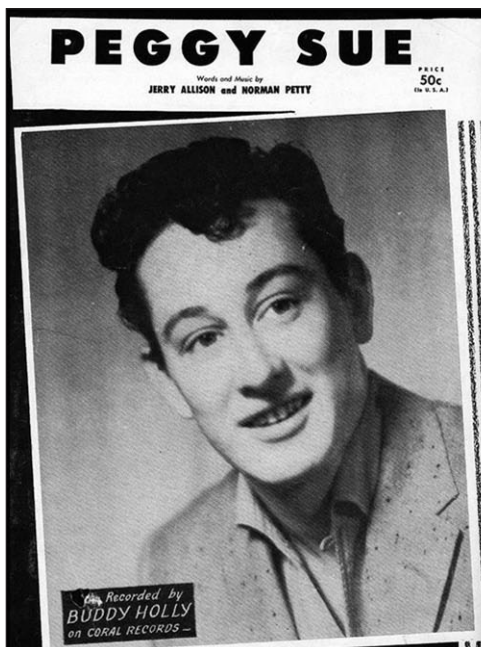
*Anticipation
electrified the youthful
multitude awaiting the
rock and roll performers.*

decided to stretch our luck and not leave until we saw him. After being awed by two of his numbers, we felt the passing of time necessitated leaving immediately. On the way out I stopped for a glance back just as Chuck was doing his infamous duck walk across the stage. I never saw him in person again.

When I recall The Big Beat concert now I am impressed by how many performers like Buddy Holly, The Diamonds, and Danny and the Juniors still prevail today. Most, like bright stars, reached their peak, and then faded into oblivion.

In addition to The Big Beat tour, Alan Freed had a TV program called The Big Beat, and made a movie called The Big Beat. The Del Vikings sang a song titled The Big Beat. It was written by Fats Domino and David Bartholomew, not by Alan!

(Fred Thomas moved to Ypsilanti in 1948, graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1958, and then from Eastern Michigan University in 1965. He currently lives in Phoenix, Arizona. He is a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)



Many performers like Buddy Holly, The Diamonds, and Danny and the Juniors are still popular today.



PEASE AUDITORIUM Turns 100 Magnificent Years

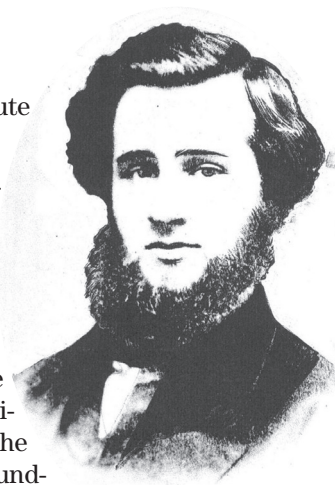
BY JANICE ANSCHUETZ

If buildings could talk, Pease Auditorium in Ypsilanti, on College Place between Cross and Forest, would be boasting about its one hundredth birthday celebration which reached a crescendo on March 22, 2015 with a gala of historic importance.

Under the imaginative and creative leadership of Dr. Diane Winder, head of the Department of Music and Dance at Eastern Michigan University, this historic building was glorified over the course of an entire year with a variety of events ranging from small displays to concerts, dance performances, lectures, the installation of stained glass windows and an honorary plaque. Winder said that she *"wanted to make a year-long celebration that the department, campus and community could enjoy and take part in."* To accomplish this, all appropriate departments at Eastern Michigan University were asked for their input and participation. This included the Convocation Center, the Provost's and President's offices, Marketing, Halle Library, the EMU Foundation, Communications Department, and the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce, among others. It took about 18 months of monthly meetings by a five-person steering committee, with help from various

departments, to plan and execute the birthday celebration.

Pease Auditorium was constructed in 1914 and was dedicated in June, 1915. It was named after Ypsilanti resident Frederic Pease, who not only began the first music department of the then Michigan State Normal College, but was also a vibrant and energetic member of the Ypsilanti Community and co-founder of the Ypsilanti Musical Union. He was one of the first to teach teachers how to instruct their own students about music and for this purpose authored several textbooks on how to teach music. He also conducted choirs, taught both piano and organ, and composed music – including popular sheet music, operettas and hymns. He was a very popular teacher and man, noted for his dry wit, winning smile, and enthusiastic encouragement of staff and students.



Drawing of Frederic Pease.

The auditorium had always been a dream of Frederic Pease, and after he died suddenly in 1909, the dream started to become a reality. It was designed by the architectural firm of Smith, Hinchman and Grylls of Detroit in a Classical-Revival style highlighted by Corinthian columns on the building's façade. Originally it was to have been named for John D. Pierce, the first Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction. However, a petition was soon circulated throughout the town of Ypsilanti and the college campus requesting that this elegant structure be named, instead, for the man who had devoted 45 years of his life to the teacher training program and shaping it with his intelligence, wit, insight, creativity, integrity and love.

Who could have imagined when the building was dedicated in June, 1915 that it would have had so much impact



Frederic Pease as a young man.



Mrs. Frederic Pease (Josephine).

over 100 years for both the town and the college? Dignitaries and performers who have graced its stage include First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Vice President Hubert Humphrey, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, Activist Julian Bond, Nobel scientist Linus Pauling, "Roots" author Alex Haley, actress Cicely Tyson, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, poet e.e. Cummings, Dr. Martin Luther King, anthropologist Margaret Mead, and many others..

Even to this day, the auditorium is the busy hub linking the "gown with the town" with a schedule of impressive performances adding to those who have performed at Pease including The Joffrey Ballet, opera singers Beverly Sills and William Warfield, The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The Arianna String Quartet, Marvin Hamlisch, The Temptations, Pearl Bailey, country singer Merle Haggard, jazz greats Duke Ellington and Wynton Marsalis, and jazz drummer Louis Bellson.

The building was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1984 at a time that it was showing its age. By then this once elegant structure, famous for its acoustics, was plagued by a noisy radiator system, crumbling plaster, outdated and broken sound systems, and a general run down appearance. In 1990 the beautiful and impressive doors of Pease Auditorium were locked when the building was deemed too unsafe and decayed to be used again.

Both the city and the university community were unwilling to allow this historic and once vital building to be demolished. Under the imaginative leadership of the then Head of the Music Department, James B. Hause, the "Friends of Pease" support group was formed and soon rallied under the cry of "Give Pease a Chance" with a campaign goal of raising a daunting 5.7 million dollars. Once again the community and university came together in support of Pease Auditorium. Susan McKenzie, Steven Raglan, Ronald Miller, Barbara Weiss, Val Kabat, Peggy Pursell, Arnold Kumerow, Kristy Meretta, and many others worked hard to "Give Pease a Chance." The money raised exceeded this goal and the auditorium was tastefully updated, the building restored, and Pease opened for the 1995 season with a number of celebratory events.

During this restoration, the legendary Frederick Alexander Memorial Organ, which had been installed in 1960 was carefully packed away in thousands of pieces. With persistence, dedication and the hard work of both Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti Community leaders, money was raised and on April 6, 2001, the vibrant and impressive organ was again resonating throughout Pease Auditorium.

Thus, through dedication, vision, dreams, commitment, and hard work, Pease Auditorium was well-ready to boast of its 100 year history. "The 100th anniversary of Pease



Pease Auditorium 100 year banner.



Dr. Diane Winder, head of the Department of Music and Dance at Eastern Michigan University, provided leadership for the 100 year celebration of Pease Auditorium.

Auditorium represents a significant and proud moment in Eastern Michigan's 165 year history," said Dr. Diane Winder, head of the EMU Music Department. She stated in an article dated May 1, 2014, written by Geoff Larcom, "We are recognizing this celebration in numerous ways around campus, so everyone can get in on the excitement." The auditorium itself was decorated with two large banners gracing the entrance. Eight light-post banners on streets surrounding the building celebrated Pease Auditorium's special place in the history of Eastern Michigan University. This was funded by the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce. There was a small exhibit in McKenny Hall highlighting Pease photographs and memorabilia. Foam core cutouts of Frederic Pease, along with 10 signs on easels and small displays were placed throughout the campus.

The official year-long celebration began with a performance of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Pease Auditorium on June 27, 2014. This event was made even more magical by the EMU Foundation which created a gala dinner/reception attended by several hundred participants who were greeted and served by students in period costumes. A commemorative booklet was distributed with a history of Frederic Pease, the Pease Auditorium, and the Aeolian-Skinner organ. Coincidentally, the DSO was scheduled to perform a concert for the initial opening of the auditorium in 1915, but work on it was not completed by their scheduled date, so it played instead in an alternative building on the campus of the Normal College.

Winder stated that "During the entire Pease Centennial, the Foundation ran a specific Pease donation campaign, asking for \$500 in order to 'buy a seat'." The money raised will be used as part of an endowment for the continuing preservation of the auditorium.



Members of the Pease family on the stage of Pease Auditorium.

In October, 2014, another event, The Ypsilanti Community's Third Chautauqua at the Riverside Arts Center, featured Eastern Michigan University Orchestra conductor Dr. Kevin Miller, providing an informative and interesting illustrated lecture about the history of Pease Auditorium. Five members of the Pease family were guests.

The celebrations continued with EMU faculty member, Dr. Whitney Prince, honoring the work of Frederic Pease and the centennial of the auditorium, with an original composition "College and Cross," which was performed at Pease Auditorium on November 22, 2014 by the Wind Symphony. Prince wrote that "After studying various scores in the University Archives, I decided that Pease's setting of 'The Lord's Prayer' was best suited for use. I chose it for the woodwind quintet because I thought it would

work well for those instruments and it would make the piece more appropriate for use during a secular occasion..." He shared the notes that he wrote about the piece. "If ever an individual deserved to have a building named in their honor, it was Frederic H. Pease, Professor of Music and first director of the Michigan State Normal School (now Eastern Michigan University) Conservatory of Music. Pease was a highly esteemed performer, conductor, composer, educator, and administrator who profoundly impacted musical life in Ypsilanti and Michigan for nearly 50 years. Six years after his death, in 1909, the school's new auditorium located at the intersection of College Place and Cross Street, was named for this beloved and highly respected professor. 'College and Cross' is based on motives from Pease's 1906 setting of the Lord's Prayer, the only



Frederic Pease with children (L to R) Marshall, Frederic Jr., Ruth, Jesse, Frederic Sr. & Max. This picture was taken after the death of Josephine.

work by Pease that was performed at both his memorial service and at the dedication of the auditorium. It is offered in humble tribute to this historic structure and to the man whose name it bears.”

Also in November 14, 2014, Dr. Winder added that *“the Department of Music and Dance created a magical year of Pease programming. For example, Robert Peavler, baritone, presented an interdisciplinary recital ‘Lads in their Hundreds’ featuring songs from WW1 (1914 specifically) complete with dancers, narrations and a slide show.”*

There were other tributes made to the Pease Auditorium and Frederic Pease including a documentary video which can be viewed on YouTube (see link at the end of this article). Perhaps one of the most unusual, poignant, and understated efforts by Dr. Winder was the search for and discovery of a Pease family heirloom – a 17th cen-

tury grandfather clock which was donated to Eastern Michigan University by family members in honor of both Frederic Pease and his first wife, who was once his music student, the beautiful Josephine Van Dolzen. Seemingly forgotten, without any identifying plaque, Dr. Winder discovered the clock on prominent display in the President’s House, but because the clock had been donated nearly 50 years before, and without any sort of plaque on it, its significance had been forgotten.

Her sleuthing did not end there. Tragically, Frederic Pease’s wife Josephine died in childbirth with her 8th child and was buried with the baby at Highland Cemetery. Frederic, heartbroken and dismayed, commissioned a stained glass window to be created and installed at St. Luke’s Church on North Huron Street in Ypsilanti where he was organ master and an honored parishioner. Over time, the window was placed in storage. Dr. Winder, along with graduate student in Historic Preservation, Ceci Riecker, met with church officials and arranged for permanent loan of the window. Riecker then contacted John Donagan, Vice President of the Eastern Michigan University Physical Plant. Dr. Winder wrote *“He was very interested and excited by the prospect of moving them to campus. In fact his office has solidified the relationship with St. Luke’s, transported the windows in pieces to EMU, and had the ‘shop’ first build the frame for the windows, then install them expertly into the spaces in Pease. A third and final piece of the Pease windows probably will be on display in a new*

exhibit area in McKenny Hall.”

She, along with the steering committee, also arranged for a commemorative brass plaque to be made and installed in Pease Auditorium honoring Frederic Pease. The decorative and tasteful plaque bears a picture of this distinguished man with the wording *“Frederic H. Pease (1839-1909) Educator, performer, conductor, author, composer, community leader and friend. Honoring his 45 years as Chair (1864-1909) of the Department of Music and Conservatory at Michigan State Normal School.”*

This brings us to the glorious and historic day of the Centennial Celebration March 22, 2015. While researching and writing my extensive biography of Frederic Pease published earlier in the Gleanings, I was in contact with a number of his descendants and was made an honorary “adoptee” as a Pease family member. I was thrilled when representatives of



The stained glass window that was originally installed in St. Luke’s Church.



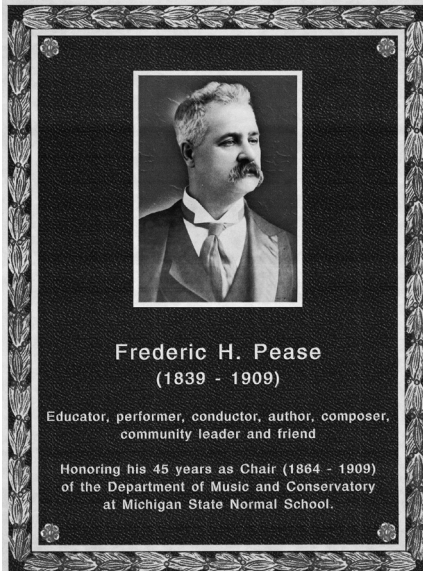
The inscription on the stained glass window.



The second piece of the stained glass window.

four generations, ranging from great grandchildren to g-g-g-g grandchildren, 22 in all, traveled from throughout the nation to come to Ypsilanti to attend this event; many of them are graduates of Eastern Michigan University. They were welcomed at a reception before the performance by college president Dr. Susan Martin and led on a tour of the auditorium by Dr. Winder. Copies of the plaque along with a book on the history of Pease Auditorium and stationary with a drawing of it by music professor and artist, Amos Nelson, were given to each descendant and then a presentation was given to them by Dr. Kevin Miller about the history of Pease Auditorium.

A free concert followed, attended by both town and gown. I saw handkerchiefs come out and tears wiped away by a few of the descendants of Pease during the program. The program included a variety of both dance and musical performances involving



The commemorative plaque honoring Frederic Pease over 150 staff and students. Remarks were made by Dr. Thomas K. Venner, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, President Susan Martin, and Dr. Diane L. Winder. Dr. Martin honored the memory of Frederic Pease by inviting each of the descendants to come up

on stage. The audience gave their appreciation in the form of hearty applause. This celebration of the life of a man and the impressive auditorium named after him was culminated with a reception at Roosevelt Hall.

Afterwards, members of the family reflected on the day's festivities. Great granddaughter Cynthia Luce of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan stated *"The 100 year celebration was an absolutely wonderful tribute to my great grandfather, Frederic H. Pease. It gave me a glimpse of a living man not just a name on a building."*

Another great granddaughter, Roz Peters, related *"It was great to learn about an ancestor I had heard so much about as a child. For the most part, all I knew about Frederic Pease was that there was a building named after him at EMU. Other than that it was just a name of a relative I had never met. But now it was great to find out how admired he was and*

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how much his students loved him, and also great to learn of his sarcastic wit which is a family tradition. I wish I could've met him." Talking about the performances, "On another note, how spectacular the music was at the Pease event. It was so diverse and interesting and beautiful. I loved it. Hats off to the music department."

Great-great granddaughters, Edith King Schmitz, from Waterford, Michigan and her sister, Margery King Webb, from Phoenix, Arizona were very moved to view the newly installed Josephine Pease stained glass windows and stated that their grandmother would have loved to see them in their new home in Pease Auditorium. Webb also described a story that had been handed down in their family about how the memory of their ancestor Frederic Pease had saved her grandmother Margery Hewitt Pease and her sister Josephine Van Dolzen Pease from expulsion from EMU. It seems that the two girls, who were students at the Normal, were caught smoking in the woman's bathroom and would have been expelled if it were not for their grandfather's memory. Webb related "How lucky our family is to have been treated to this Grand Gala Celebration for Grandfather Frederic Henry Pease."

Great-great grandson Peter Hartz, of Keene, New Hampshire, was also impressed with all of the work that the maintenance department had done to not only transport the windows from St. Luke's church on North Huron Street in Ypsilanti, but the skill in providing such a beautiful setting with a back light to illuminate them.

My husband and I felt that the day had been perfect, with only one thing missing - the presence of Frederic and Josephine Pease. One couldn't help but wonder though if they were there in spirit as we celebrated the life of this "man of all seasons" and beautiful Pease Auditorium where so much history has occurred over one

hundred years.

The next time that you attend a concert or event at Pease Auditorium, spend a quiet moment or two gazing at the bronze plaque and the beautiful stained glass windows. Perhaps you will have the same sense that I did that perhaps buildings do talk in their own way and this one speaks of both love and commitment of Ypsilanti and Eastern Michigan University.

ONLINE ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Video about the history of Pease Auditorium - Go to YouTube.com then search for "Eastern Michigan University Pease Auditorium", or go directly to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVD6rt15an>

Biography of *Frederic H. Pease, A Man for All Seasons* by Janice Anschuetz in The Ypsilanti Historical Society Gleanings - Go to <http://ypsiganings.aadl.org/ypsiganings/219318>

Photographs of the 100th anniversary event in Pease Auditorium - Go to <http://photos.emich.edu/p339820591>

Hear *Little Dorrit Polka*, 1871 sheet music written by Frederic Pease, played on piano by Robert Anschuetz - Go to YouTube.com then search for "Little Dorrit Polka Pease", or go directly to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJH_Zi7e3eQ

Hear a reading of Frederic Pease's 1881 letter written to his Ypsilanti friend Frederick Swaine - Go to YouTube.com and search for "Jessie Swaine Interview Ypsilanti Michigan", or go directly to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVD6rt15anc>

Several of Frederic Henry Pease's textbooks on teaching music are on Google Books for free download.

(Janice Anschuetz is a local history buff and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

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Ypsilanti Vigilance Committee – 1838 –

BY GEORGE RIDENOUR

Ypsilanti had its own Vigilance Committee during the early 19th century. However, many Ypsilanti residents are only vaguely familiar with the notion of a Vigilance Committee. Oftentimes these groups seem larger-than-life appearing in film and novels. The truth behind real-life vigilance committees is referenced in part on Dictionary.com, which defines the groups as the following:

An unauthorized committee of citizens organized for the maintenance of order and the summary punishment of crime in the absence of regular or efficient courts.

Historically, (in the South) an organization of citizens using extralegal means to control or intimidate blacks and abolitionists and during the Civil War to suppress Union loyalists.

The specifics of the Ypsilanti Vigilance Committee are slightly harder to determine as the organization met in secret and there is no record of their proceedings. However, a compilation of sources allows researchers to piece together an understanding of the Vigilance Committee.

One source, *The Story of Ypsilanti* written by Harvey C. Colburn in 1923 adds some insight as to the environment at the time of the creation of the committee.

"The year 1838 was strangely marked in the Ypsilanti community by a wave of lawlessness and terror. Robberies and depredations of an aggravated nature occurred in rapid succession, until respectable people generally were on a verge of panic."(Colburn, Page 93)

Modern sources such as the *City of Ypsilanti Webpage* also include mention of the Vigilance Committee. For example the webpage reads,

"Curiously, the Ypsilanti Police Department can be traced to around 1825 when Benjamin Woodruff became Sheriff. Four years later was added a Constable." (City of Ypsilanti web page)

In both *The Story of Ypsilanti* and in an 1881 book, *History and Biography of Washtenaw County*, published by Charles Chapman Company, similar information is presented. On pages, 1119 and 1120 of *The History and Biography of Washtenaw County* the following information is available:

"To remedy such evil, the citizens assembled at the house of Abiel Hawkins, considered well a proposition to organize a committee of defense, and at a second meeting held at the Hawkins House on December 15, 1838 decided to form a society know as "The Ypsilanti Vigilance Committee."



Andrew Ballard opened a store in Ypsilanti in 1828 with Levi Cook. He helped form the Ypsilanti Vigilance Committee in 1838 and served as Mayor of Ypsilanti in 1859.



Walter B. Hewitt co-founded Walled Lake, Michigan in 1825. He opened a shoe shop in Ypsilanti in 1831. He helped form the Ypsilanti Vigilance Committee in 1838 and served as the Town Treasurer in 1939.



Abiel Hawkins was the owner of the Hawkins House Hotel in 1835. He helped form the Ypsilanti Vigilance Committee in 1838 and was named Ypsilanti Postmaster under Polk, but resigned soon thereafter.

Museum Advisory Board Report

BY NANCY WHEELER, BOARD CHAIR

The High Tea held on May 9 was again very successful. Forty-seven reservations were made. A big "Thank You" to the committee for all their work. Save the Saturday before Mother's Day for next year's event.

Be sure to visit the Museum and see Jane Schmiedeke's "Little Rooms" on display in the Library, Kitchen, and Toy Room. She made the nine rooms from scraps of lumber and collected the furnishings from many places. Earnest Griffin has loaned us post cards and souvenirs from Ypsilanti that are on display in the Library. If you have a collection that we might borrow and exhibit please call 734-482-4990.

Coming up soon will be a display of the many types of chairs we have. They will be placed throughout the Museum and will have printed in-

formation about each one.

A small glass panel from the Starkweather home (Ladies Library) was donated by Tom Durant. It has been framed and will be hung soon.

Welcome to new Docent Kathleen Fischhaber! If you have three hours a month to spare, we need guides, especially on the weekends. Call 734-482-4990. The training is painless.

There are new carpet runners in the Edmonds-Ypsilanti Room. These were purchased with previous Quilt Show proceeds.

The Quilt Show this year will be September 13 thru 26. If you have an old or new quilt you would like us to exhibit, see the ad in this issue of the Gleanings or call Sara VanderMeulen at 734-483-6451.

The roll of the organization shows: **Officers:** James Gillis, President; James Edmunds, Secretary; and M. V. Hall, Treasurer. **Executive Committee:** Chauncey Joslin, Mark Norris, Abraham Sage, Marcus Lane, D. C. McKinstry, Arden H. Ballard and Walter B. Hewitt. (The Executive Committee members were described as the real power players.)

The History and Biography of Washtenaw County reveals the following: "This central committee had the direction of the various orders of the society, the meetings were of the most secret character, and the method employed for bringing the guilty to justice at once practical and thorough" Coburn adds: "There is, however, no record that these measures were violent or illegal." & "Before the end of the year

1839, 112 men had been convicted of crime, \$10,000 worth of stolen goods recovered, and numbers of undesirable citizens driven from the community. Considering the small population of the times this record is no less than astounding."

Finally the City of Ypsilanti web page states: "...what is known is that over 50 men participated in battling against the rash of lawlessness that plagued the area at the time."

Even with the success of the Vigilance Committee, the group disbanded in 1839 leaving a faint, but enduring mark on the face of Ypsilanti history.

(George Ridenour is a regular contributor to the Gleanings and serves as a researcher in the YHS Archives. He was assisted with this article by our Graduate Intern, Kelly Beattie.)



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Monument for Mortimer Rosecrants

BY JAMES MANN

There are some 16,000 graves at Highland Cemetery, and many are marked by impressive headstones. One of the most impressive is on the grave of Mortimer Rosecrants. The tall square stone has a stone canon on each side, holding up a stone top. On one side of the headstone are the words: *"This monument is erected to the memory of Capt. Rosecrants by the corporation of Ypsilanti through the generosity of the officers of his regiment in testimony of their high regard for his virtues as a man and his gallantry as a soldier."*

Little is known of the man, Mortimer Rosecrants, but the outline of his life. He was born in New York, and attended the U. S. Military Academy at West Point from July 1, 1837 to July 1, 1841. He graduated from the academy and as a Second Lieutenant, was assigned to the 5th U. S. Infantry Regiment and served in the garrison at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., 1841 and in Detroit, Michigan from 1841 through 1845. Then he was part of the military occupation of Texas from 1845 and 1846. He was with his regiment in the War with Mexico, at the Battle of Palo Alto, May 8, 1846 and the Battle of Resaca-de-la-Palma, May 9, 1846.

Promoted to First Lieutenant on July 10, 1846, he saw action at the Battle of Monterey, September 21-23, 1846, at the siege of Vera Cruz, March 9-29, 1847, at the Capture of San Antonio, August 20, 1847, and finally at the Battle of Churubusco on August 20, 1847. He was promoted to Captain on August 20, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of

Contreras and Churubusco. Captain Rosecrants had fallen ill during the war, and was granted a leave of absence. He may have been traveling through Michigan to visit family, or as part of his convalescence, when he died in Ypsilanti, on October 7, 1848.

He was buried in the Old City Cemetery, which is now Prospect Park. According to a story told by one generation of cemetery grounds keeper to the next, the family of Rosecrants wanted nothing to do with him, and refused to pay for a headstone. It was for this reason the officers of his regiment honored his memory with the impressive headstone on the grave today.

Highland Cemetery was dedicated in July of 1864, but the transfer of graves from the Old City Cemetery did not take place until the early 1890's. This was when a community group oversaw the project to turn the old cemetery into a city



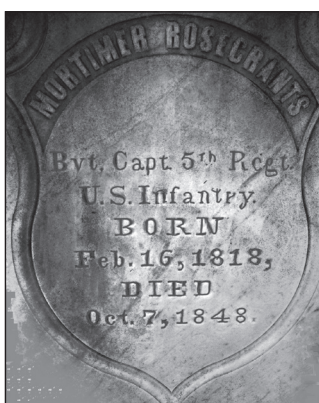
The monument dedicated to Captain Rosecrants in Highland Cemetery.

park. A few graves were transferred before this, when the families of the dead desired the change. The grave of Rosecrants was transferred to Highland in 1866, at the expense of the city.

The Ypsilanti Commercial of June 2, 1866 reports: "The officers of Highland Cemetery offered a lot for the remains of Capt. Rosecrants. It was voted to move the remains, and to beautify the lot."

Today the monument to Captain Rosecrants stands at the top of a small hill, overlooking a valley on the grounds of Highland, and is, perhaps, one of the most impressive monuments in the cemetery.

(James Mann is a local author and historian, a volunteer in the YHS Archives, and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)



The inscription on one side of the tombstone of Mortimer Rosecrants.

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The Ypsilanti Centennial Celebration: Stagecoach Special

BY KELLY BEATTIE & COURTNEY BRANDT

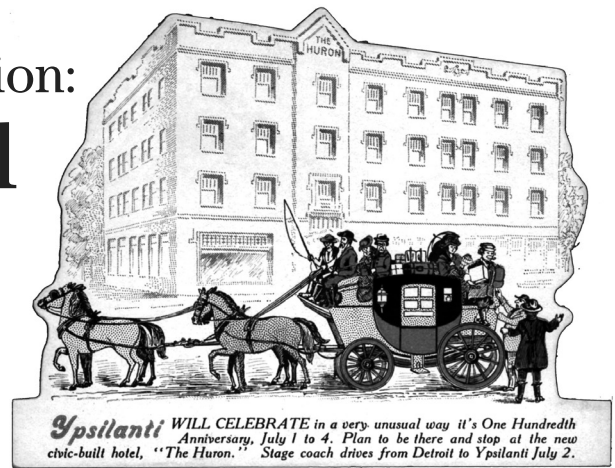
An advertisement from 1923 reads, “Ypsilanti will celebrate in a very unusual way its One Hundredth Anniversary, July 1 to 4.” The “unusual way” included a formal ball, a historic log cabin, reenacting a stagecoach robbery, and a seven-episode pageant on the history of Ypsilanti. However, the story of the stagecoach is the most interesting of these many topics.

Ypsilanti had to rely on other communities to accomplish many components of the Centennial Celebration. The Board of Commerce sent letters to towns and cities in the surrounding area to try to acquire a team of oxen to portray the early settlers of the city and a group of “axmen” to build a replica of a log cabin from Ypsilanti’s early years. With funds from an Ypsilanti Rotary Club contribution, the board also began their search for a stagecoach. Despite offering \$100 for a stagecoach in running order, none were found locally.

Fortunately, one month before the Centennial Celebration Donald J. Howard, Manager of the Altoona, Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce was able to find and purchase a suitable stagecoach in his town on behalf of the Ypsilanti Board of Commerce. Mr. Howard bought the stagecoach from a man named John Conner, and in his letter to the Ypsilanti Board of Commerce, dated May 31, 1923, he informed them of his purchase and wrote extensively about the condition of the stagecoach. The stagecoach was in poor condition but in running order, and the seller had employed a master carpenter to make some repairs before shipping it off. His remarks included the observation that modern fire hose segments served as a structural component, reinforcing the body of the stagecoach. Howard concluded his letter by writing, “I will be frank in saying that when I first saw it my impulse was to wire you not to bother with it, but I feel that with the repairs that can be made that it can be put in fairly decent shape.”



A photo of the re-enactment of the robbery which took place in Dearborn.



A 1923 Advertisement commemorating the Ypsilanti Centennial stagecoach reenactment which promotes the newly built Huron Hotel.

With some delay, the stagecoach arrived June 20, 1923. The following day the Ypsilanti Board of Commerce inspected the new star of their show. They were not pleased. Mr. Olin C. Eckley, Managing Secretary of the Ypsilanti Board of Commerce wrote to Mr. Howard to express his dissatisfaction with the purchase. In this letter dated June 21, 1923 Mr. Eckley wrote, “While I realized from your letter that it was not new, I did not think it was such an impossible proposition as it is. We will have a couple of men on it for a week to make it look like anything at all.” Following this, Eckley asks for a partial refund writing that “... anything over \$25 is robbery.” Mr. Howard responded to this letter, writing that he proposed the idea of a partial refund to Mr. Conner, who refused, and he concluded the matter, saying that Mr. Conner “is not the business-man type whom I could influence to make any adjustments.”

The condition of the coach made its way into a note attached to the draft of The Huron’s advertisement. However, this note is far more interesting as evidence of the popularity of the stagecoach reenactment. This note reads, “Ypsilanti citizens are striving for the honor of riding in the stagecoach from Detroit out to Ypsilanti at the time of the celebration ... Some contend that long-time residence in the city should determine who will occupy the coach. Some of Ypsi’s attractive co-eds indicate that perhaps youthful beauty might attract more attention than having pioneer ancestry.”

The Annual Report of the Ypsilanti Board of Commerce for the year ending June 1, 1924 also reported on the reenactment, stating that, “Highwaymen held up the party at Dearborn and Wayne and the entire populace came out to welcome the ‘Sedan of 1823.’” The welcome took place at Gilbert Park, where members of the Kiwanis Club reconstituted a log cabin from 20 miles outside town for the centennial. These are just a few of the celebratory efforts. With such a celebration in the city’s past, the question remains “... how will the 2023 bicentennial celebration top the extravagance of the 1923 celebration?”

(Kelly Beattie is an Intern in the YHS Archives from the graduate program in Historical Preservation at EMU. Courtney Brandt is a volunteer in the Archives.)

George Payne and the Assault on Officer Rehill

BY JAMES MANN

Ypsilanti Police Officer Rehill was at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Washington Street on the evening of Saturday, June 12, 1915, when he noticed George Payne nearby. Rehill became aware of Payne because Payne was shouting at him, asking why Rehill did not arrest those who were driving without lights. Rehill had arrested Payne a few days before, on the charge of driving without lights. Rehill told Payne he was doing his job. Payne was a former Ypsilanti police officer, and something of a bully. He had been arrested a year before, and charged with resisting an officer. He should have known better, than to yell at Rehill on the street.

Rehill finally had had enough of Payne, and decided to place him under arrest. Payne felt he had not done anything he could be arrested for, and tried to explain this to Rehill by using his fists. *"His intentions seemed perfectly good, but age had deprived Payne's punches of their old time force and he soon found that he was receiving the worst side of the encounter. Rehill's blows left two ugly gashes on Payne's forehead, one over each eye,"* noted *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Monday, June 14, 1915.

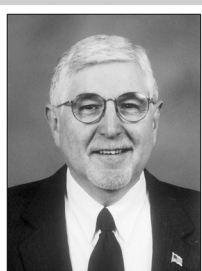
Payne was taken to the office of Dr. Clark, where his wounds were treated. On leaving the office of Dr. Clark,

Payne decided to seek Rehill out for another confrontation. Payne got in his car and drove down Washington Street to the corner of Michigan and Washington, where Rehill was directing traffic. At the corner, Payne drove head on into Rehill. To save himself, Rehill jumped onto the car. Payne knocked Rehill off the car and drove on. Rehill tried to give chase on foot, but soon gave up and returned to the corner.

"The whole affair had created much disturbance in the streets and Micheal O'Neil, who had the appearance of drinking too freely, took occasion to pass a few remarks," noted the account. *"Officer Bissell attempted to dispose of his case peaceably, but Rehill couldn't let it pass that way. He grabbed O'Neil and landed him in jail."* O'Neil was later fined \$20.00 and costs.

A warrant was issued for the arrest of Payne, on complaint of Officer Rehill. The complaint charged that Payne *"did then and there beat, bruise, wound and ill treat...the said Rehill...and with force and arms did make an assault upon the person of Officer Rehill."* The case came up for trial during the October term of the circuit court. The first witness was Officer Rehill. He told the court he had arrested Payne a few days before June 12, 1915, for driving

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without lighting the lights of his car. Rehill told the court the trouble started on June 12, when Payne called out to him, when a car passed with its lights out, 'Why don't you get that fellow?' Payne, said Rehill, had continued to call that question, as a crowd gathered around. A second officer, said Rehill, told Payne to move on and be quiet. Later, Rehill arrested Payne and tried to take him to the lock up. Payne resisted, and Rehill admitted dragging him along. Rehill further admitted striking Payne with his fist until blood flowed. Then Payne was taken to Dr. Clarke's office for treatment. About an hour and a half later, said Rehill, Payne returned, driving his car within the speed limit. Payne struck Rehill with the car, crying out, "I've got you now," with what Rehill called profane and vile language. To save himself, said Rehill, he jumped onto the hood of the car, holding onto the cup. He was then jostled off by the motion of the car, and rolled onto the pavement. This, Rehill alleged, was the assault, which caused him to be laid up for three days with a strained foot and ankle.

Payne admitted on the stand that he had taken Rehill's handcuffs from him and tossed them into the street. Payne explained, he did not want the handcuffs on his wrists. He denied any further resistance, and said he never intended to run Rehill down with his car after his wounds were dressed by Dr. Clark. "His chief point was that he was so

badly beaten by Patrolman Rehill that he was unable to recall all that happened between that time and the time he reached home. He declared that he did not strike Rehill nor resist except to insist on walking instead of running as he claimed Rehill insisted that he should do," reported *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Thursday, October 7, 1915.

"Dr. Clark of Ypsilanti, was also called by the defense, and testified to a lacerated wound across the bridge of Mr. Payne's nose, and a contused wound on the back of his head, the size of a silver dollar. He said Paine was in a semi-conscious condition when brought into the office. He advised him not to go home alone, but to get someone to go with him. For three days afterward he attended Paine who suffered from soreness all over, and kept to his bed. During this time he bled badly from the nose and expectorated blood. He also examined Rehill, and advised him to go off duty about midnight the night of the trouble, because of his strained foot and ankle. He made one or two professional calls upon Rehill at his home," reported the account. The jury returned after one hour and fifteen minutes having reached a verdict of guilty. Sentencing was deferred to the next session of the court.

Payne was granted a new trial on December 13, 1915, on



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Report from the Fletcher White Archives

BY GERRY PETY

Since December of last year we have had Mr. Kelly Beattie as our Graduate Assistant to keep all of the volunteers and myself on the same track here in the Archives. So welcome aboard Kelly!

The following is an addendum to the article I authored for the "Gleanings" two issues back. It was on the 1836 Specie Circular and the depression it fostered nationally and here in the Ypsilanti area when all of the local banks failed and their currencies became worthless sending the local economy into a downward free fall.

Ypsilanti was a major wheat producing area in the 1830's and 40's and was able to capitalize on the value of the flour we produced when the price of eastern flour zoomed from about \$5.40 to over \$12.00 a barrel. Two local business people, motivated by the flour shortage in eastern US and the depression of 1837, shipped Ypsilanti produced flour via the Welland Canal to sell in New York City and bring back much needed money to this area. The local paper money they issued, with the backing of these 500 pound barrels of wheat flour, helped to alleviate the local shortage of good, hard money. This provided the local Ypsi farmers with the money they needed to pay their bills and purchase goods right here in the city of Ypsilanti. This small collection of notes issued by Julius Movius and Charles Hammond are on display here at the archives along with the \$1,000 promissory note to get this venture moving. It is absolutely amazing that these have survived for more than 170 years and shows what local people can do when the local economy goes sour.

The return of a large batch of negatives of mid-century and later local Ypsilanti people has recently been given to the Archives. This is in the process of being cataloged and eventually put on line and is a great asset that was saved from destruction by Billy Zolkowski, assistant YHS archivist some 20 years ago. It is wonderful to be able to put a face with a name after so many years!

• • •

George Payne and the Assault on Officer Rehill *continued from page 21*

motion of his attorney John P. Kirk. During the trial, it seems, the jury was sent out of the courtroom to inspect Payne's car, which was parked in front of the court house. The jury was accompanied by officers, Payne and Rehill. Kirk had depositions from witnesses that Rehill talked to members of the jury during this time. "*Prosecuting Attorney Carl A. Lehman opposed the motion for a new trial, and told the court that the jury evidently had thought Paine guilty or they would not have convicted him,*" reported *The Ann Arbor Daily Times News* of Monday, December 13, 1915.

A new trial was set for the March term of the court. The second trial was never held, as by this time Rehill could not be produced as a witness because he had talked directly to members of the jury. Payne was set

free on the opening day of the term of the circuit court.

By this time Rehill had left the Ypsilanti Police Department, and joined the city Fire Department. At about the same time he married his second wife, after the death of the first. This was not a happy marriage. She accused Rehill of cruelty, and Rehill responded with the charge that she had married him only for his money. After the divorce was granted, Rehill moved to northern Michigan. He would return to Ypsilanti, but not of his own choice. He had failed to pay support to his ex wife and she had him arrested and jailed.

(James Mann is a local historian and author, a volunteer in the YHS Archives, and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

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