

Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

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



WINTER 2013

Ypsilanti Players from 1915-1920

BY ELEANOR MESTON

(This article was originally published in the January 1976 issue of the Gleanings. We recently discovered some glass plate negatives from the early years of the Ypsilanti Players which prompted the new interest in this organization.)

Ypsilanti, April 12, 1915:

"I have for a long time had in mind the organization of a Dramatic Club in Ypsilanti. With this view I have asked a few people to come to the Ladies' Literary Club rooms, Thursday evening, April fifteenth at seven-thirty o'clock. My ideas of the Club will be explained and some modern, short plays read by different persons. Hoping to see you,

*Sincerely,
Daniel L. Quirk, Jr."*

And so began many successful years for the Ypsilanti Players. That first meeting brought together a group of thirty-two theatre loving people. The group included home-makers, members of the various professions, and business men and women. There were, just to mention a few, C.V. Brown, former Mayor of Ypsilanti, (1916-1920); Arthur Erickson, for whom the Erickson school in Ypsilanti is named; Miss Bertha Goodison, artist and for whom a Womens' Dorm on the Eastern Michigan University Campus is named; and C. P. Steimle, the former registrar of the College. All were enthusiastic about the new venture into the field of Theatre Arts.

"...The Ypsilanti Players group was the third community theater in the United States, following Boston and Chicago."



The aim of the Ypsilanti Players, as formulated at that first meeting was, "To study, read, and act new plays which must have artistic merit." Simply worded and to the point. For that meeting three plays had been prepared to be read as part of the program. In the scrapbook of that year those three plays are shown to be:

Program #1 April 15, 1915:

The Man on the Kerb by Alfred Sutro read by Mrs. H.B. Britton (daughter of Professor Florus Barbour, English Dept. the Normal College 1885-1926).

The Noble Lord by Percival Wilde read by Miss Luella Seeger.

The Fifth Commandment by Stanley Houghton read by Mrs. R. Clyde Ford (wife of Richard Clyde Ford, Head of Modern Language Dept, Normal, 1903-1938).

The Program #2 of May 15, 1915, found a group of readers taking the various parts instead of just one reader for a play. At each meeting a committee of three volunteered to arrange the program for the next meeting. Ypsilanti of 1915 was a community of 7,000 population and the Players filled a very definite need

continued on page 3



Daniel L. Quirk Jr. started the "Ypsilanti Players" in 1915 and played many roles during the early years of the theatre.

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Ypsilanti Historical Society

220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Museum: 734.482.4990

Archives: 734.217.8236

www.ypsilantihistoricalociety.org

GLEANINGS Staff

Editor Al Rudisill
Assistant Editors..... Peg Porter
Fofie Pappas
Design & Layout..... Pattie Harrington
Advertising Director ... Lauren Thomson
Finance Director Karen Nickels
Distribution Kaila Barr

If you have suggestions for articles
or if you have questions, contact
Al Rudisill at 734.476.6658 or
al@rudisill.ws.

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From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY ALVIN E. RUDISILL



The *Holiday* Open House will be on Sunday, December 8, from
12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. Entertainment will be provided
at 1:30 pm by the Erickson School Choir under the direction
of Crystal Harding. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. The
Museum will be decorated for the Holiday Season so come and join us for food,
entertainment and to visit with friends and neighbors.

We are making progress on our major project in the Archives, the scanning of
glass plates and negatives, and posting them on the Internet. If you go to the YHS
website at "ypsilantihistoricalociety.org" and click on "Photo Archives" it will
bring up the first 50 pictures that have been posted. You can review the photos
in sets of 50s or you can click on the "Index" at the top of the page to search
for photos by name. We have a number of unidentified photos, so if you have
additional information that can be posted please email me at al@rudisill.ws. We
have approximately 1,000 photos on the site at the present time and are adding
approximately 100 more per week. While you are at the YHS website check out
all the other historical programs linked to the site.

I am just completing a one-year term as President of the Washtenaw County
Historical Consortium. This is a group of approximately 40 individuals who run
the historical sites within Washtenaw County. If you have never visited their
website go to "WCHConsortium.org" and click on "Our Members." Pictures
and information about the members of WCHC will appear. If you click on their
individual websites you can see visitor information including scheduled events.
We are very fortunate to have so many outstanding historical sites within
Washtenaw County.

If you are not currently on our email listserv please call the Museum at 734-
482-4990 and have your name added. We are using the listserv only for program
notifications and your email address will not be shared with others. Also, please
check the Event Schedule on our web site for upcoming special programs and
displays.

We are looking for volunteers to serve as docents for the Museum or research
assistants for the Archives. Both the Museum and Archives are open from 2:00
to 5:00 pm Tuesday through Sunday. If you are available during that time and are
interested in helping us preserve the historical information and artifacts of the
area, or in educating the general public about our history, please give me a call
at 734-476-6658.



Contact Information

Museum: 734-482-4990
yhs.museum@gmail.com

Archives: 734-217-8236
yhs.archives@gmail.com

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.

For information about upcoming Society events, visit us online

www.ypsilantihistoricalociety.org

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in the community and became a very important part of it.

The Players owed their success to the inspired directorship of Daniel Lace Quirk, Jr. It was his untiring effort, his high standards of showmanship and meticulous regard for artistry that gave joy and satisfaction to those working with and for him. He had acquired his taste and love of the theatre in his youth when he helped in shifting scenes and in other odd jobs about the Opera House. (Ypsilanti's Opera House was built in the late 1870's on the north side of Congress (Michigan) east of Adams and Dan Quirk's father was one of the original stockholders).

As evening after evening of play reading passed, the readers grew more and more dramatic; interpretation demanded action. As latent talent developed, an improvised stage in some members living room proved most inadequate and frustrating.

The meeting of January 16, 1916, when the club was just ten months old must have been a very exciting one. The meeting of that date recorded in its minutes the decision:

"To rent from the Ladies' Library Association the barn at the rear of their lot for five years at twenty dollars per year with the privilege of buying at any time during the five years the barn and the land on which it stands for two hundred dollars

..."At the same meeting, "it was further decided that dues be paid to the club of five dollars per year."In the last part of that same sentence came the re-cording of an action that had far reaching results dramatically speaking. It reads: "and that the Club proceed with the remodeling of the barn to make it ready for the Shrove Tuesday Masque on March 7, 1916."

In this casual manner the group with apparently no board of directors or other administrative verbiage brought into being the Ypsilanti Playhouse which came to be known nationally in the field of dramatic art as the smallest theatre in the world.

There followed a hectic seven weeks of preparation for the opening of the Playhouse. One can visualize the activity of those weeks, every player at work wielding hammer and paint brush under the general supervision of D. L Quirk (Jr.). Bertha Goodison and Elinor Strafor, (Associate Professor of Fine Arts at the Normal, 1910-1942), were the artists who worked out color schemes and decorative design.

At last Shrove Tuesday, 1916, arrived. True to their promise the Players were ready with a Masque for the first production in their remodeled barn to an audience of invited guests.

The Masque called, ***Playing the Favorites***, ran the gamut from Shakespeare through Sheridan's ***She***



In 1916 a barn behind the Ladies Library became the home of the "Ypsilanti Players."



The stage in the original "Players Playhouse" took up about half the space but there was still room for an audience of 50 people.

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Stoops to Conquer into the world of opera, 'Carmen' and 'Faust', then to **Vanity Fair** and Barrie's **Little Minister** to an up to the minute movie featuring Mary Pickford. Members of the Players, all thirty-two of them, represented noted actors and actresses.

It was a very auspicious opening for a little theatre. Wide publicity greeted the opening. The Press coverage, which was most generous, included *The Detroit Free Press*, *Detroit Morning News*, *Detroit Evening News*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *The Detroit Journal*. The *Ypsilanti Press* of March 8, 1916, gave a description with great accuracy of detail: "Last evening the Ypsilanti Players opened 'The Players Playhouse', a tiny theatre in which artistic simplicity and exceedingly ingenious arrangement and utilization of existing material have made probably the most complete and charming 'Little Theatre' west of New York. The Players have leased from the Ladies' Library Association the barn on the Starkweather place, and have fitted it up with amazing results considering the limited space and necessary simplicity into a charming little play house, with excellent lighting and simple and artistic furnishings.

The decorative scheme was the design of Miss Bertha Goodison and Miss Elinor Strafer, and the construction work was under the supervision of D. L. Quirk, Jr. The original rafters and wooden supports of the barn are utilized most effectively, being painted a soft olive with the highlights in Pompeian red. The sidewalls have a daring and effective decoration of Pompeian red and black half squares against a putty colored background, a heraldic device, featuring the cock, in dark blues and greens adorning the shield in the center panel. Over the front of the stage is a variant of the cock

device, this time the cock's head in the form of a crest, and beneath on the shield are the initials Y.P., of the organization, the Ypsilanti Players. The audience room is only 18 by 24 feet, of which the stage takes half, yet so skillfully has the space been apportioned that there is quite an effect of spaciousness, and the room will seat fifty people. Of these however, eighteen are cared for in the little balcony at the back, whose railing is concealed by oriental curtains of bright hues. The quaint iron lanterns suspended from the ceiling are the work of Harry Shaefer, (b. Dundee, Mich 1886, d. Ypsilanti 1968).

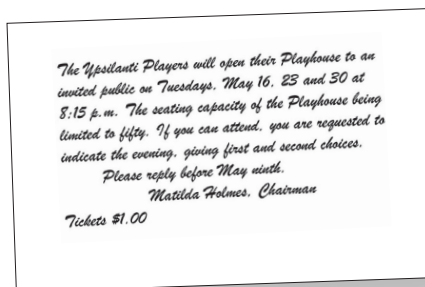
The curtains are draw curtains, of the putty-colored monks' cloth, with wide vertical stripes of dark olive denim and narrower stripes of Pompeian red brocade and add dignity and effective-ness to the room. The scenery is yet in the making, so far only a set of tall screens, in which a wonderful effect is secured by the use of dark blue cheese cloth over light green cheese-cloth. The curtain bell is a set of silvery chimes. It is expected to add simple 'sets' and permanent costumes for certain parts in the future. There are no footlights, but rows of reflecting border lights above the stage are concealed by green draperies, and there are arrangements regulated by a switchboard and dimmers in the wings for lights at the side as well. The outside of the building is to be decorated similarly to the interior

and the name will be painted in artistic lettering. A quaint iron lantern will be over the entrance. The little play house has all the fascination of a doll house and would tempt an anchorite to use it as a plaything. But it is to be the scene of really serious study and portrayal of genuine drama."

The first evidence of conventional organization appears in the minutes of the meeting of the week following the opening of the Playhouse. Then Mr. A. G. Erickson was elected treasurer. A play committee and casting committee for the 1916 season was chosen and dates for five public performances decided upon. The price of the tickets was to be one dollar a performance. Invitations were sent out which reminded the recipient that since "the play house had a seating capacity limited to fifty, an early acceptance was requested." The first commercially printed program bearing the crest of the Players appeared May 16, 1916.

Through the summer of 1916, much expense was incurred. An addition to the Playhouse provided for a stage entrance and storage space, painting had been done, and new dishes purchased. The Players viewed with delight the result of the summer's activity, but found themselves with a total indebtedness of eight hundred dollars.

Undaunted, the group went ahead with plans for their second season in the Playhouse. At the same time, plans to procure Stuart Walker's Portmanteau Theatre for an afternoon and evening performance had materialized. The Ypsilanti Players proudly advertised their coming by announcing that the Stuart Walker group "...were coming directly from the Art Museum of Detroit on their way to the Fine Arts Theatre of Chicago, that the University of Michigan had tried to get them in Ann Arbor but were unsuccessful."



This was the invitation sent out in 1916 for the first play open to the public in the Players Playhouse.



During the 1916-17 season, the Ypsilanti Players put on "Helena's Husband."

Season after season passed with the general public getting only occasional glimpses of the Player's production. Due to public demand, it was finally decided to have a "subscription season" in 1917-1918, tickets three dollars and fifty cents for seven performances, one to be given each month, the night after the regular member's performances. Again announcements were sent out and the Players passed another milestone.

The First World War burst upon the world. The Ypsilanti players played their part. Many who had taken an active part on our small stage went to take part in that great struggle overseas. Our beloved director went to France to serve in the French Red Cross. He had worked tirelessly at home, as had his wife, in all branches of war activity. Red Cross and Liberty Loan Drives knew his directive genius.

And what of the Player's themselves? It took some doing to carry on with their mainstay in France. But the play proved again to be the thing, and they carried out the plans for the season according to schedule. During D.L.'s absence, Dr. R. Clyde Ford, Head of the Modern Language Department at the college, was given the responsibility of leadership. Long a member of the Players and a fine actor in his right, he gave uninterrupted continuity to the program. It must have been with a sense of relief tempered with one

of satisfaction for a task well done that he welcomed Mr. Quirk back. And it was with a widened horizon, a renewed vigor, and enthusiasm, that in 1920, Dan again assumed his place as Director

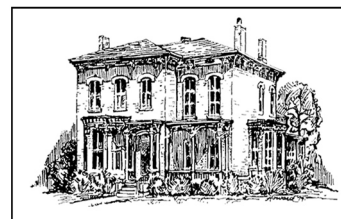
Ypsilanti Players from 1920-1957

The fall of 1920 found the Ypsilanti Players hard at work preparing for the coming season. An attempt was made to keep the reading committee fluid by choosing members of varying tastes and backgrounds. To facilitate the work of those whose responsibility was to choose the plays to be given, Mr. D. L. Quirk, Jr, the director, maintained a drama library. Because of a standing order, Brentano's of New York City, added to that library whenever a dramatic work was published.

The Players were becoming familiar with the big names among playwrights. Many plays were given whose authors had a play currently on Broadway. Often plays in manuscript were given. The spirit of adventure was further shown in programs listing first performances and many players had the satisfaction of seeing their own creative endeavors presented before an audience.

Casting in those years seems not to have been a problem. The Players boast of having a "...five system indexed by build, voice, and other characteristics for just about everyone in town." Mr. Quirk is credited with having said, "When we needed a Priest in a play, we didn't have someone act one; we got a Priest. After all, he knew the part and had the costume." A player would be in-formed there was a part for him in the next play, and he took it. Perhaps the director or a member of the casting committee might see someone at a concert, in a restaurant

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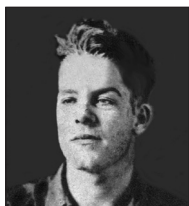
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or even on the street, who would seem to have possibilities.

THE DETROIT NEWS of Sunday, September 4, 1921, carried a story by Sterling Bowen, (son of Wilber P. Bowen, Head of the Department of Physical Education, Normal, 1894–1928), which gave further insight into the casting methods of the Ypsilanti Players. He tells of a young man who hopped from a passing freight train near the Peninsular Paper Mill one day, asked for and got a temporary job there. Director Quirk, at that time President of the Company, upon hearing the young man speak, said, “For some time we have wanted to put on a play, but we have needed a young mountaineer such as yourself. Will you take the part?” Young Kaufman, for such was his name, was either uninterested or else he hesitated to break into a group so completely alien. At any rate, he hopped a freight and was gone as suddenly as he had come. The play was shelved. A year passed, when one day Carl Kaufman re-appeared. A roughly-dressed and stubble-faced young man, he dropped gracefully from the side of a box-car as it rounded the bend of the Michigan Central Railroad beside the paper mill. Again he applied for a job, again he got one, and again Mr. Quirk asked, “Now are you ready to play with us on our stage”, With a grin, he said, “Sure.”

So the play, *On Vengeance Height*, a story of a mountain feud, was off to a good start with young Kaufman, who had spent his boyhood in the mountains of Tennessee, in the stellar role. He is credited with having been of great help to the cast with its interpretation, dialect, and diction. That was his only role in the Ypsilanti Players, for he left



Daniel Quirk convinced Carl Kaufman, a young man who had arrived in Ypsilanti via a boxcar, to take a part in the play “On Vengeance Height.”



During the 1922-23 season, the Ypsilanti Players put on “Buying Culture.”

as quickly as he had come.

In the Ypsilanti Players, once a star didn't mean always star. Perhaps this play's lead might have a very menial role in the next play, or even assume the task of stoking the furnace or of cleaning up the grease paint on the make-up shelf. Perhaps he would be needed for make-up artist, to hold the book, or to shift scenes.

At times an un-announced player assumed a role gratuitously. An incident of that nature is recalled by one old-time player. It had to do with Dr. Britton's German Police dog. Always at the heels of his master or mistress, he was a familiar frequenter of the Playhouse, parked in the foyer or at the stage door. In this particularly realistic play, his master was to experience rough treatment by a thug. When the dog heard his master's cry of terror, he made a very effective entrance - the curtain closed to denote calming of dog and reviving of thug.

The Players were very fortunate to have as a member Mrs. Anne Thompson Hubbell, her husband was a member of Eastern Michigan's History Department, who had done Shakespearean roles for several years with the English Company of the Ben Greet Players, to plan and direct the series of Shakespeare's plays presented. Scenes from five plays were given, interspersed with traditional music provided by Anthony J. Whitmire and his violin,

Miss Matilda Holmes at the piano, and the voices of Carl Lindegren, Miss Lillian Ashby and Mrs. George Wortley.

A member of that cast relates, “I shall never forget that Shakespearean program; I was one of the mob in the *Julius Caesar* episode. We were stationed in the balcony waiting for our cues. We were to rush down the stairs, through the narrow aisle, and up onto the stage. In due time the cue came, we started down the steep little stairway. The first man, with an overabundance of histrionic zeal, tripped and we all followed suit like so many dominoes. Almost wrecked the show, but our audience took it in its stride”.

There were times, when, had it not been for the watchful eye of their director with his business acumen, the players would have been in legal difficulties. Such an incident occurred in the giving of John Drinkwater's *Bird in Hand*. When Director Quirk returned from abroad, the play had been cast and was in rehearsal. D.L.'s first question had to do with business arrangements. “No, no one had made inquiry as to royalty.” Much correspondence brought no response from the agent. Opening night arrived and still no clearance or royalty quotation. A telegram was dispatched and just before curtain time, the following wire was received, “Sorry, *Bird in Hand* not available to amateurs.” What to do posed no question - the play must go on - and on it went. Needless to say royalty was determined and paid at a later date. Much credit for the excellent performance went to Wleamen, a member of the players, under whose direction the play was staged. A few months later, a short item appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and caused the Players great elation. “A resident company in Ypsilanti (Mich.) recently gave the American premiere of John Drinkwater's play called *A Bird in Hand*, said to be a success in London.”

While the Players enjoyed lighter moments, program notes indicate that they took seriously their opportunity and responsibility to educate their audiences as well as themselves. Contributions made by this civic minded group to the community included a program given for the Stoic Society of Michigan State Normal College "...proceeds to go toward establishing a permanent scholarship fund."

The Players gave the first radio play in this area, the publicity, dated 1927, reads: "Prize Radio Play on Air-W.S.S.K., (which was located in Ypsilanti at that time), called *Danger*. It is the first listening play known and was first broadcast by the London Broadcasting station." The players of that production included G. C. Handy, publisher of the *Ypsilanti Daily Press*, and Marion Stowe, professor of speech at Eastern Michigan College.

Coping with the increasing pressures on time and energy became at last beyond the ability of the individual players. This was especially true with regard to D. L. Quirk, Jr., upon whom, as director, an increasing number of details of staging and directing had fallen. All of this led to an announcement made on a printed program which caused, to put it mildly, great consternation. There would be no subscription season the coming year. Only one program was planned. Then came the statement, "Just what will be done after that time is undecided"

Plainly the services of an assistant director were indicated, one who could give his entire time to what had become a public demand. The players' exchequer would not permit such expenditure.

There was immediate reaction on the part of the members of the Community to the Player's announcement. Letters to the editor appeared, telephone calls increased,



During the 1923-24 season, the Ypsilanti Players put on "The Little Man."

and the grape-vine flourished. One particular letter is typical of audience thinking.

Editor of the Ypsilanti Press: "... There must be some way to keep the Ypsilanti Players active. Does anyone know how? We've been sitting back watching our neighbors entertain us. If there is anything we can do at last, I almost think we'll be found on the spot. But just how?"

Another letter writer offered \$100 and contributions came spontaneously from Players and Patrons alike toward the salary of an assistant director. After careful canvassing of the field, Mr. Paul Stevenson was engaged.

He arrived in the fall of 1924.



During the 1924-25 season, the Ypsilanti Players put on "Calib Stone's Death Watch."

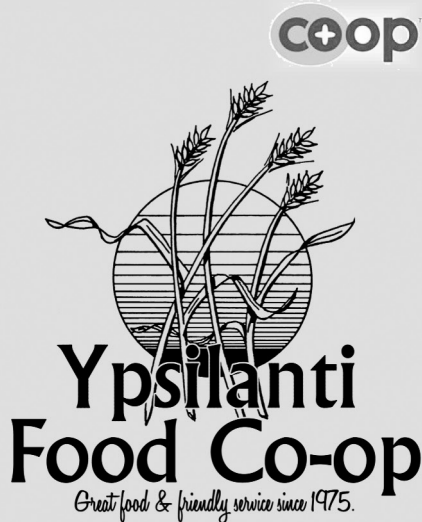
Paul Stevenson had an unusual background for this new position. He had worked and studied with many of the greats of the theatre. He had been a member of Dr. Baker's famous 47 workshop at Harvard; he had played under the direction of Max Reinhardt in Europe. Only the reputation of the Ypsilanti Players for a high standard of experimentation and creativity interested him in coming to Ypsilanti. The tenth season began and the community relaxed - they had saved the day.

The children of the Players gave a pantomime based on Stuart Walker's THE SEVEN GIFTS. "The audience," so says a member of that juvenile cast now an active business man, "was prepared to be amused, but instead it was inspired and amazed by the charming artlessness of the children."

Events followed in comparatively rapid succession. A three-act play was attempted and its success led to more of the same type. A study class was formed, "its object will be to make the acquaintance of the modern successful plays."

Paul Stevenson stayed only until greener fields and wider horizons claimed him and eventually the directing of the plays reverted to the members who had grown most adept at that task.

Again an assistant director was hired. He lent his talent to the staging of one of the Players' most outstanding ventures. Many members of those long ago audiences feel the Players had reached the acme of perfection in their dramatic arrangement of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem of the *Ancient Mariner*. "A fantastic illusion for those who abandon themselves to its spell, to feel its movements, to see its sights." A repeat performance was given in the Wuerth Theatre of Ypsilanti under the auspices of the Committee for



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Student Welfare of the Michigan State Normal College. An invitational program for the Players of Detroit was given at their Playhouse.

In the same season, we find those versatile players giving a performance of *Ten Nights in a Bar Room*,... staged in strict adherence to the period and the mood pervading the original piece in the theatre of another generation."

Again the Players found themselves without an assistant director and again the players assumed that task themselves. But the little playhouse was weary of well doing. It had reached a stage of decrepitude which was beyond repair. No longer could the much patched and leaky roof, nor the crumbling foundation be ignored. It was decided to give all future plays in the auditorium of the St. Luke's Church House and to use the old playhouse for storage.

Play after play was given with apparent success under the direction of what might be termed amateurs whom experience had made them professional. Such plays as *Is Zat So* by James Gleason and Richard Tabor, directed by Leo Whitmire; *Hay Fever* by Noel Coward, also directed by Leo; *Saturday's Children* by Maxwell Anderson, directed by Eleanor Meston and Edith Shaefer.

All of these activities bring us to the sixteenth season, 1930-31, when *The Romantic Young Lady*, a comedy in three acts by G. Martinez Sierra, directed by Leo Whitmire, was given as the "only bill" of that season. Few of the players and none of the audience sensed that they were indeed attending the last performance of the Ypsilanti Players. And so without benefit of requiem the Ypsilanti Players drew the last curtains. The belongings of the organization were disbursed; the building demolished and the ground on which it stood became a part of Riverside Park in Ypsilanti.

However, a group of Ypsilantians met in the living-room of one of those long ago child players and the Ypsilanti Players experienced a rebirth. D. L. Quirk, Jr., was there to share his wisdom which he had garnered through a lifetime of living with the theatre and to give his blessing. In the last pages of his scrap book are to be found programs of the reactivated group. The first program was *I Remember Mama* and was dedicated to the man with vision, Mr. D. L. Quirk, Jr. The insignia of the original group is to be found on the programs of the current group and the unique bill board of old announces the plays of 1957.

(The above articles were written by Eleanor Meston, an early and active member of the Ypsilanti Players. Miss Meston was born in Saginaw, Michigan, and received both her B.A. and M.A. from Teachers' College of Columbia University, New York City, N.Y. She taught kindergarten at Roosevelt School from 1914 to 1956. In 1976 when this article was written she resided at the Gilbert Residence. She died at age 90 in 1978. Her obituary indicated that "... for many years, Miss Meston gathered Gilbert residents in a lounge and read them the daily newspaper.")

(Editors Note: In 1982 the Ypsilanti Players honored eleven Ypsilanti women who played "leading roles" in the Ypsilanti community at a dinner party with musical tributes featuring songs appropriate to each woman and her contributions to the community. The women recognized were Ann Cleary Kettles, Mary Louise Foley, Nathalie Edmunds, Patsy Chandler, Thada Liskow, Jane Bird, Ethel Howard, Camilla Damoose, Libby Fuller, Joan Helkaa, and Beverly Shankwiler. The Ypsilanti Players theater group continued into the late 1990's when their last productions were staged. Some members joined other groups that had already started to produce local plays at the Riverside Arts Center, including PTD Productions, Orpheus, Redbud, and Phoenix; but the Ypsilanti Players name has not re-appeared.

Headlines in the April 30, 1948, issue of the Ypsilanti Daily Press indicated *"Police Discover Who 'Shot' Lovely Model in City Park.* The article went on to say that "Chief LaVerne Howard and his Ypsilanti Police Department, assisted by the FBI, solved the mystery in jig time Thursday, after the "bullet-riddled" form of a young woman was found concealed in bushes at Gilbert Park shortly after 3:00 p.m."



Police Chief LaVerne Howard was unable to find a "pulse" in lifeless "Lilly White," the model found dead in Gilbert Park.

Lovely Model "Shot" in City Park

BY GEORGE RIDENOUR

The name Lilly White was tentatively assigned the lifeless figure after a lady's wallet was found nearby with a sheet of paper with that name scribbled on it. That was the only clue about the identification of the body. The local coroner, Dr. Berry M. Deep, pronounced that death resulted from "lead poisoning." A loaded .38 caliber revolver, which had been fired twice, was found near the victim's head. The police also found two slugs imbedded in a nearby tree. The police determined that a very tall man must have done the dastardly deed *"...because of the trajectory of the bullets from the victim's head to the tree roots indicated a 10 footer or maybe someone floating in space."*



The police thought a very "tall" man had done the dastardly deed from the trajectory of the bullets from Lilly White's head to the tree roots.

The unusual activity in Gilbert Park attracted hosts of curious children and adults but they were kept some distance from the murder scene.

Chief Howard ordered the detention of the individual who discovered the body while traversing the park en route to his job. The man was only identified as J. W. in the paper. The paper reported that *"...Covering under suspicion, J. W. stoutly professed his innocence, but a concealed fully loaded .38 automatic found on his person didn't help*

his cause any, nor did his answers which Chief Howard termed extremely vague."

The final paragraph in the Ypsilanti Daily Press indicated *"...But don't get excited, for this wasn't a real murder. From an instructional point of view, however, it represents the earnestness with which police endeavored to solve a hypothetical murder for experience."* The article went on to indicate the model "Lilly White" was played by a department store manikin used by the FBI, the suspect J. W. was FBI Special Agent Jack Willoughby, and Dr. Berry M. Deep was played by Special Agent Bob Murphy. Both FBI Special Agents were from the Detroit Bureau office. Later at the YPD Special Agent Murphy commended the Ypsilanti Police Department for the spirit in which they controlled the crime scene and for their persistence in finding all available clues.



A curious crowd of children and adults gathered in Gilbert Park but were kept some distance from the actual body of Lilly White.

(Editor's Note: George Ridenour was asked to write this article after we ran across the Press pictures in the YHS storage room and George discovered the related article in the April 30, 1948 issue of the Press in the YHS microfilm collection.)
(George Ridenour is a volunteer in the YHS Archives and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

Walter Owen Briggs

BY JAN ANSCHUETZ

When I was a child growing up in Detroit in the 1940's, "Briggs" was a word that I thought of daily. My father went off to a Briggs manufacturing plant to work and his Briggs paycheck paid for my food and clothing and home. We didn't have many outings as a family because my father worked such long hours at Briggs, but my father did take us to Briggs Stadium at least once each year to cheer on the Detroit Tigers baseball team when Briggs employees were given free tickets. We also went to the Detroit Zoological Park and often rode in the miniature train with the name "Walter O. Briggs" written on it. At least twice a day, when I visited the bathroom at Finney Elementary School in Detroit, I would read the word "Briggs" stamped on the toilets and sinks. In addition to these connections, I even married a man whose father also worked for Briggs.

Now, 70 years later, I have learned many facts about Walter Owen Briggs and was amazed to find out that he was born on the street I live on – North River Street, and then lived in a home a few blocks away on Oak Street. His amazing professional career began working at a factory two blocks away while he was still a child. The life of Walter O. Briggs could serve as the model for the realization of the American Dream. He was a hard working, ambitious, imaginative and generous self-made man whose formal education ended before he was 14 years old, yet somehow he learned the secret of living a good life.

Walter O. Briggs was born February 27, 1877 at his mother's childhood home at 414 North River Street. This is the house just north of the Thompson Block, which was originally built as a home for military officers during the Civil War. Briggs was the son of Rodney and Ada Warner Briggs.



Walter Briggs was born in this house at 414 North River Street in Ypsilanti.

Ada's father, Oliver, worked for the Quirk family. Oliver's obituary states that he managed the Quirk home. Ada's mother was Mary Ann Rook Warner. Rodney's parents were Elizabeth and John Peter Briggs, whose family originated



Detroit Tigers player/manager Mickey Cochrane and team owner Walter Briggs at Fenway Park during the 1934-35 season.

in New York State, where Rodney was born. According to *The Biographical Dictionary of American Sports: A-F* edited by David L. Porter, Walter's father was a locomotive engineer for the Michigan Central Railroad. Walter had a brother named Guy, who became a physician and eventually lived in Flint, Michigan. He also had two sisters, Myrtle who was born in January, 1880 and Lauvin, who was born in 1879.

The family later moved to 6 Oak Street, as we find this address in the obituaries of both of Briggs' grandfathers who died in the house, which was situated on the north end of the present Depot Town parking lot and once stood at the junction of Norris and Oak Streets. Walter's first job, while still a child, was crating baskets, probably at the Ypsilanti Reed Furniture Factory in the Thompson Block on River Street. The family moved to Detroit about 1890.

We know that a young Walter attended the John S. Newberry Public School in Detroit where he was a catcher and first baseman for the school team. He dropped out of school at the age of 14 to become a car checker for the Michigan Central Railroad, where his job was to sort the freight cars in the train yard. He also worked as a cement plant foreman, shipping clerk, and auto body trimmer. His hard work, dedication and ambition were rewarded when he was offered a job by C. H. Lewis at B. F. Everitt's carriage shop. By 1906, Briggs had been promoted to president of this firm, which by this time was manufacturing Studebaker cars and was renamed E-M-F. Everitt sold the company to Briggs in 1909, and Briggs renamed it the Briggs Manufacturing Company.

Briggs Manufacturing Company soon became a major supplier of automotive bodies for Ford Motor Company. Under Briggs' leadership, the company purchased the Sterling Auto Top Company and the Murphy Chair Company. In 1923, he purchased the Michigan Stamping Company,

and by 1925 Briggs was providing 500,000 car bodies to Ford Motor Company alone, and made about \$11 million dollars in profit in one year! Briggs also manufactured an Essex auto body which was a closed coach, yet it sold for about the same price as the "open coaches" which provided little protection from the elements. With these business decisions, the poor boy from Ypsilanti became a multi-millionaire. Soon his company was supplying car bodies to other automobile companies such as Chrysler, Packard, Hudson and Willys-Overland. By 1953, Briggs operated 12 plants and had more than 30,000 employees

Briggs personal life also was rapidly changing. He married Jane Elizabeth Cameron in Detroit, on November 22, 1904, who was the daughter of Angus and Elsa Cameron, and they were blessed with five children. His early struggles in finding housing for his growing family is described in the book *Michigan: A Centennial History of the State and Its People*, edited by George Fuller. "When Mr. and Mrs. Briggs were looking for an apartment in those days when their son Walter O. Jr. was a baby, they found it difficult to obtain adequate quarters because landlords did not want children in their property. Mr. Briggs then vowed that if he ever had the money he would have an apartment building to which no one could come as a resident without children." (According to Briggs' obituary, this is a promise that he kept when he invested in real estate. He even had a clause that tenants in his building must have a child

under the age of five.)

In 1915, Briggs built a palatial home in Detroit for his family, which still stands at 700 West Boston Boulevard in near original condition. The home was built in the prestigious Boston-Edison area. Families such as Sebastian S. Kresge (Kresge & Kmart), Ira Grinnell (Grinnell Brothers music company), Charles and Edward Fisher (Fisher Body), Henry Ford, Joe Louis, Berry Gordy, Paul "Dizzy" Trout and Willie Horton once lived in this

neighborhood. He named his home "Stone Hedge." It was designed by Chittenden and Kotting Architects, and was built in the English Manor style. It is nearly 10,000 square feet and features 11 bedrooms. There are nine fireplaces, elaborate woodwork with faces carved in them, an elevator and a carriage house.

One of Brigg's neighbors was Frank Navin, who owned 50% of the Detroit Tigers. When William Yawkey died, who owned 25% of the team,

Mr. Briggs then vowed that if he ever had the money he would have an apartment building to which no one could come as a resident without children.



In 1915 Briggs built a palatial home in Detroit for his family which he named "Stone Hedge."

Navin suggested that Briggs purchase Yawkey's shares. Then John Kelsey, another part owner, died and Briggs quickly bought an additional 25%. At

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Navin's death in 1935, Briggs eagerly snapped up Navin's shares from the estate and Briggs became sole owner of both Navin Field and the Detroit Tigers.

With so much going on in his professional life, Briggs, a lifelong fan of baseball, was still able to make strides in his desire to advance the "everyman's sport." Briggs vowed that he would improve and enlarge the stadium so that every man who wanted to buy a ticket could enjoy the game of baseball. It was reported that in the year 1909, Briggs was unable to obtain tickets to attend the American League Championship between the Tigers and Pittsburgh at the Detroit baseball field then known as Bennett Park, which had a capacity for only 10,000 fans. With this in mind, Briggs greatly enlarged his newly acquired Navin Field, making it large enough for 52,000 fans and he changed the name to Briggs Stadium. He also poured his own money into improving the team. Briggs declared that he would never take a penny from the team and sport that he loved.

Briggs is remembered for using part of his own fortune to obtain the best players at considerable expense such as Mickey Cochrane, Al Simons, Fred Hutchinson and Dick Wakefield. Briggs was named Baseball Executive of the Year in 1941. He was recognized for his ability to operate a successful team, his sportsmanship and generosity. While under his ownership, the Tigers won American League pennants in 1940 and 1945, and the World Series in 1945.

Baseball was just one of the sports that Briggs was interested in. He owned a 236-foot yacht as well as a racing stable. His interest in physical education along with his friendship with the president of The Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan Univer-



Detroit Tigers player/manager Mickey Cochrane speaking with team owner Walter Briggs at Fenway Park in 1937.

sity) inspired Briggs to donate the funds necessary to build and equip a new field house in 1937. A newspaper article in The Ypsilanti Press describes the gift, which his son "Spike" Walter O. Briggs, Jr., announced at a centennial dinner at the college, as originating from the "old friendship" his father had for his birthplace of Ypsilanti. Today Briggs Hall is still used by the students and faculty at Eastern Michigan University, but not as a field house. It has been remodeled and contains classrooms and office space. Briggs Field House acted as a gateway to Briggs Field, which



In 1937 Briggs donated funds to Michigan State Normal College to build and equip a field house.

had seating for 300 spectators for both football and baseball. Today, Mark Jefferson Hall, Strong Hall, and a parking lot cover the former Briggs Field.

One might wonder how Walter O. Briggs continued to give money away during the height of the Great Depression when the sales of automobiles had fallen to a new low. Using his imagination and skills in engineering he branched out into the field of plumbing fixtures and again was able to fill a void in the market. Prior to his inventiveness, bathtubs were heavy, difficult to store, install, or maneuver and were made of cast iron with legs raising them from the floor. Briggs instead manufactured porcelain coated stamped steel tubs which could be stacked for delivery and were more manageable to work with than cast iron. Bathtubs, sinks and toilets were easier to sell, even during the Depression, than were automobiles. This was largely due to the fact that in the 1930s and 1940's more and more homes were tearing down their outdoor outhouses and building modern bathrooms.

Briggs was involved in other profit making enterprises as well, such as real estate and land development - especially in Florida and Arizona. He owned a stable which bred, raced and sold horses. As if this were not enough to keep him busy, he was also a generous man who spent many hours helping with the founding of the Detroit Zoological Society, buying thousands of dollars worth of zoo animals for the facility with his own money. The Detroit Zoo honored him by naming one of their three miniature trains after him. Briggs was a kind man who remembered his own early struggles to earn money to support his family and was the director of the Detroit Community Fund where he quietly and unostentatiously gave his own money and provided assistance to those

who needed it.

Briggs lost the use of his legs around 1944 and was thereafter confined to a wheel chair, but he continued to be active. He spent the winters with friends and family in his mansion in Florida. On January 17, 1952, he died of kidney failure at the age of 74 at his Florida home. His body was brought back to Detroit for burial at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery. Besides his wife, he was survived by his brother Guy Briggs, a physician, four daughters and a son. His daughter, Grace, married W. Dean Robinson, who was president of the Briggs Manufacturing Company. Another daughter, Elizabeth, married Charles T. Fisher, who at that time was president of the National Bank of Detroit. Another daughter, Susan Ann, was married to E. E. Fisher, who owned an automobile dealership. His most well-known daughter, Jane Cameron Briggs, was married to then attorney Phillip A. Hart, Jr. who later became a much-loved senator from Michigan, for whom Hart Plaza in Detroit is named. In her own right, Jane was an amazing woman who became the first woman "licensed" helicopter pilot in Michigan and was a noted horsewoman, winning many awards for jumping.

Briggs' son "Spike", Walter O. Briggs, Jr. was active in assisting his father with his many endeavors, including the Detroit Tigers. He attempted to

keep the Detroit Tigers in the Briggs family after inheriting the team, but due to some difficulties in the conditions of Briggs' will, he was unable to do so. The Briggs Manufacturing Company was sold to Chrysler Corporation around 1953. My father and father-in-law, and thousands of other Briggs employees, spent the remainder of their careers as employees of Chrysler. My father and father-in-law would talk with nostalgia about working for Briggs and had fond memories of their time under his employ. I have read articles that have stated that Briggs employees were not treated or paid well, but that was not the experience of my family.

So, perhaps the only dream of Walter O. Briggs that did not come true was to keep the Detroit Tigers baseball team in the family for his children and his 22 grandchildren. Even so, knowing what we know about this man's humble beginnings, hard work, diligence and imagination, no one could ever say that he didn't have a life well-lived. He certainly is the most famous man to ever have been born on North River Street in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

(Janice Anschuetz is a long-time member of the Ypsilanti Historical Society and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)

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Ypsilanti Children Share Many Connections with *Walter Briggs*

BY ERIC AND ROBERT ANSCHUETZ

Robert and Eric Anschuetz are twin brothers who grew up in Ypsilanti in the 1960's, 1970's, and 1980's. They are devoted Detroit Tiger baseball fans, graduates of EMU, and were raised down the street from the Briggs family home on River Street. Thus, the connection of Walter Briggs to the Tigers, EMU, and Ypsilanti has a special meaning for them. Both of Eric and Robert's grandfathers also happened to work for Briggs in the automotive industry. In fact, when their mother was a young girl growing up in Detroit, each year she attended a game with her father during the Briggs employee appreciation day, where families could attend a free Tiger ballgame courtesy of Briggs.

Another connection Eric and Robert have with Walter Briggs is that as early teenagers they delivered the Ypsilanti Press to the house where Briggs was born on River Street. Eric and Robert grew up in the Swaine House, which was at the epicenter of their assigned newspaper route which extended in both directions down Forest Avenue and River Street. At the time, the occupant living in the upstairs apartment of the Briggs home on River Street always seemed to be high on drugs and was often dressed in his boxer shorts when the twins came to collect money for the newspaper. One time, he said he didn't have the money to pay his weekly bill, but said that instead he would pay the bill with some tickets to "the Ypsilanti Policeman's Ball." The man then showed Eric and Robert a stack of about five traffic tickets and laughed about it.

Eric and Robert attended their first Tiger game at Tiger Stadium in 1972. They distinctly remember walking into the tunnel of the stadium for the first time and seeing the beautiful green field. It seemed as if they had died and gone to heaven, and heaven had the best-manicured field in the universe. This experience was the first of probably 100 games that Eric and Robert would attend at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull with their dad. Even though

they were attending the baseball games at Tiger Stadium, the essence of Briggs Stadium hadn't changed a bit since the 1950's, right down to the green colored paint scheme and wooden seats.

Eric and Robert's dad took them to about five to ten games a year. They almost always sat in the wooden benches in the bleachers, which cost only \$1.50 per ticket in the 1970's. This was especially a bargain when they attended doubleheaders. Eric and Robert remember one day they went to Tiger Stadium on "autograph day," and the ushers allowed the bleacher attendees to pass through the gate that separated the bleacher crowd from the "upper class" fans who sat in the reserved and box seats. Eric and Robert walked to the right field station and received Al Ka-

line's autograph. That day, instead of going back to the bleachers, their dad took them for a tour around the stadium and they ended up sitting in left field for the first time, because the ushers did not check tickets in the left field grandstands since those seats were general admission and not reserved seating.

For many years, Robert and Eric were members of the Tiger-Pepsi

Fan Club. For some low annual membership cost, kids were given an honorary membership card, a Tiger hat, a hot dog and Pepsi on game day, and tickets to six games that had unpopular opponents that guaranteed that there would otherwise be many empty seats. The Tiger-Pepsi Fan Club seats were in left field, so Eric and Robert felt like they were moving up in the world from the bleachers where they normally sat. In those days, the left field seats normally cost \$4.00.

In 1975, when the Tigers lost over 100 games, Eric and Robert remained loyal and followed every game. That year, their dad took them to see Hank Aaron in his last year of professional baseball when he played for the Milwaukee Brewers. In 1976, Mark "The Bird" Fidrych was called up



The Detroit Tigers baseball team stadium was named Briggs Stadium from 1938 to 1960.

in May, and ended up starting the All Star Game. Fidrych had the strange habit of grooming the mound before every inning and he also talked to the baseball. Eric and Robert's parents took the whole family to watch Fidrych's Monday Night game against the New York Yankees. This was his national "break-out game."

Eric and Robert remember several games at Tiger Stadium that stand out in their memories. One year in the early 1970's while they were visiting one of their Grandparents' house in Detroit, in a last-minute decision they decided to go to Tiger Stadium for Opening Day. They got to the stadium and stood in a long line, but were disappointed that they sold out of bleacher tickets just before they got to the ticket window. There was a free "bat day" they went

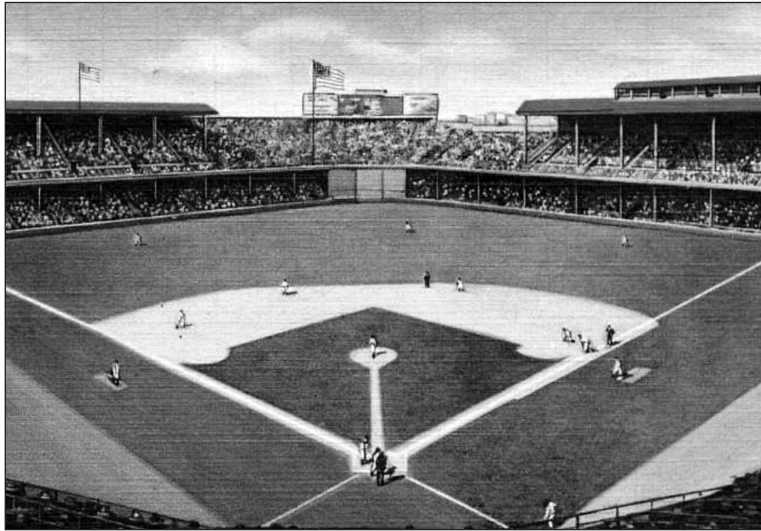
to one year where Eric and Robert each received a brand new bat with Willie Horton's autograph engraved into it. There were lots of great memories generated at the Corner of Michigan and Trumbull, from the perfectly steamed Ball Park Franks, to the excitement of getting the Yearbook and Scorebook, to going to the bathroom in the "pig trough" communal urinals.

On one occasion, Eric and Robert took up their dad's challenge to attempt to walk the 30 miles from Ypsilanti to Tiger Stadium to attend a night game against the Toronto Blue Jays. Eric, Robert, and their dad were joined by the twins' best friend for the journey along Michigan Avenue. The group left early in the morning, and stopped for lunch in Wayne. By this point, all of their legs were tired, and there was still a long walk ahead of them. They made it as far as Dearborn by dinner time, at which point they made the mutual decision to abandon the walk and take a bus the remaining 8 or so miles. The game was fun, but the real adventure was the journey getting there. After the game, Eric and Robert's mom picked the group up near the stadium and drove them back to Ypsilanti.

One year, they went to Tiger Stadium as part of a field trip with the Cub Scout troop from Adams Elementary school. Eric and Robert frequented the Ypsilanti Boys Club as kids, and they distinctly remember watching Willie Mays' appearance in the 1973 World Series between the Mets and A's on the TV in the Boys Club lounge. Like many young boys, Eric and Robert collected baseball cards, mostly

during the years 1973-1978. With every spare quarter they had, Eric and Robert would walk down to Weber's Drug Store in Depot Town to buy baseball cards, and would often purchase an accompanying candy bar or chewing gum. Weber's was owned and operated by Mr. Wallaker, who

lived down the street from the boys at the corner of Forest Ave. and Dwight Street. Eric and Robert excitedly opened up the baseball packs they purchased and more often than not would be disappointed by getting another Dave Lemanczyk or Duke Simms card instead of Hank Aaron or Al Kaline. In 1974, Eric and Robert purchased a complete set of Topps baseball cards at the K-Mart on Washtenaw Avenue in Ypsilanti.



A view of the field and interior seating in Briggs Stadium.

When Eric and Robert grew up and attended EMU, they frequently passed Briggs Hall, not once knowing that there was a connection to Walter Briggs and the Detroit Tigers. The connection of Walter Briggs to their hometown, their alma mater, their beloved Detroit Tigers, their grandfathers' professions, the street they grew up on, and even their newspaper delivery route are fortuitous connections interwoven in and around the wonderful city of Ypsilanti.

From Wikipedia.com, here are some interesting facts about Tiger Stadium: Tiger Stadium (formerly known as Navin Field and Briggs Stadium) was a stadium located in the Corktown neighborhood of Detroit. It hosted the Detroit Tigers Major League Baseball team from 1912–99, as well as the National Football League's Detroit Lions from 1938–74. The stadium was nicknamed "The Corner" for its location on Michigan Avenue and Trumbull Avenue. In 1895, Detroit Tigers owner George Vanderbeck had a new ballpark built at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull Avenues. That stadium was called Bennett Park and featured a wooden grandstand with a wooden peaked roof in the outfield. At the time, some places in the outfield were only marked off with rope. In 1911, new Tigers owner Frank Navin ordered a new steel-and-concrete baseball park on the same site that would seat 23,000 to accommodate the growing numbers of fans. On April 20, 1912, Navin Field was opened, the same day as the Boston Red Sox's Fenway Park. Over the years, expansion continued to accommodate more people. In 1935, following the death of Frank Navin, new owner Walter Briggs oversaw the expansion of

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At the Corner on
July 13, 1934, Babe Ruth hit
his 700th career home run.

As noted in
Bill Jenkinson's

*The Year Babe Ruth Hit
104 Home Runs*, the ball
sailed over the street
behind the then-single deck
bleachers in right field,
and is estimated to have
traveled over
500 feet on the fly.

Navin Field to a capacity of 36,000 by extending the upper deck to the foul poles and across right field. By 1938, the city had agreed to move Cherry Street, allowing left field to be double-decked, and the now-renamed Briggs Stadium had a capacity of 53,000. Supposedly due to then-owner Walter Briggs' dislike of night baseball, lights were not installed at the stadium until 1948. The first night game at the stadium was held on June 15, 1948. In 1961, new owner John Fetzer took control of the stadium and gave it its final name: Tiger Stadium. On September 27, 1999, the final Detroit Tigers game was held at Tiger Stadium; an 8-2 victory over the Kansas City Royals.

Tiger Stadium had a 125 foot tall flagpole in fair play, to the left of dead center field near the 440 foot mark.

The right field upper deck overhung the field by 10 feet. For a time after it was constructed, the right field upper deck had a "315" marker at the foul pole (later painted over), with a "325" marker below it on the lower deck fence (which was retained).

There were over 30 home runs hit onto the right field roof over the years. It was a relatively soft touch compared to left field, with a 325-foot

foul line and with a roof that was in line with the front of the lower deck. In his career, Norm Cash hit four home runs over the Tiger Stadium roof in right field and is the all-time leader.

In left field, it was 340 feet to the foul line, and the roof was set back some distance. Only four of the game's most powerful right-handed sluggers (Harmon Killebrew, Frank Howard, Cecil Fielder and Mark McGwire) reached the left field rooftop.

Tiger Stadium saw exactly 11,111 home runs.

At the Corner on July 13, 1934, Babe Ruth hit his 700th career home run. As noted in Bill Jenkinson's *The Year Babe Ruth Hit 104 Home Runs*, the ball sailed over the street behind the then-single deck bleachers in right field, and is estimated to have traveled over 500 feet on the fly.

Ruth also had a good day in Detroit earlier in his career, on July 18, 1921, when he hit what is believed to be the verifiably longest home run in the history of major league baseball. It went to straightaway center, as many of Ruth's longest homers did, easily clearing the then-single deck bleacher and wall, landing on the far side of the park almost reaching the street intersection. The distance of this blow has been estimated at between 575 and 600 feet on the fly.

On May 2, 1939, an ailing New York Yankees first baseman Lou Gehrig voluntarily benched himself at Briggs Stadium, ending a streak of 2,130 consecutive games. Due to the progression of the disease named after him, it was the final game in his career.

The stadium hosted the 1941, 1951, and 1971 MLB All-Star Games.

(Eric and Robert Anschuetz are members of the Ypsilanti Historical Society and regularly contribute articles for the Gleanings.)

The Ladies Buy a House –



The Ladies Literary Clubhouse at 218 N. Washington Street in Ypsilanti.

A Centennial Celebration

BY PEG PORTER

In 1913, members of the Ladies Literary Club decided to buy property for use as their clubhouse. The Club had been meeting since its founding in 1878 when Sarah

Smith Putnam noted that Ypsilanti needed a literary society similar to one she belonged to in Kalamazoo. Mrs. Put-

nam agreed to be the first president while Mrs. John Watling served as the vice president.

The club functioned as a learning society. For most women education ended with eighth grade or high school. Others may have had a few years of college. Learning opportunities for women remained few. The

Ladies Literary clubwomen developed courses of study on the French

Revolution, the English Tudor system and its aftermath, then on to study the societies of early Greece and Rome.

Sarah Smith Putnam,
founder of the Ladies
Literary Club.

Early meetings were held in members' homes and as the club grew it became clear that a larger meeting space was needed. The Club met in the Library of the Arcade Building and later in the Masonic Temple. Shortly after the turn of the century, more thought was given to having a home of their own.

There were a number of challenges to reaching this goal. First, they needed to find a suitable property whose owner was willing to sell. As it happened, the Grant property on Washington Street was put up for sale. One of the oldest buildings in the city, it was built in 1842 in the Greek revival style. The asking price for the house was \$3,000, a considerable sum particularly since the interested purchasers were a small group of women.

Elijah Grant moved from Connecticut to Ypsilanti about 1834. As early as 1835 he secured considerable acreage along the "Detroit to Toledo strip." He went on to make a great deal of money in real estate. As a result, he had the resources to provide an elegant home for his family. He and his wife Mary had one child, a son they named Edward. After Elijah's death in 1850, Mary and Edward stayed in their home on Washington Street. According to 1870 Census records, Edward and Mary were living in their home on Washington Street. There were three additional residents; one was a servant.

Edward never married. Some said it was because his inheritance was threatened should he marry while his mother was still alive. Mary died in 1883 when Edward was 45. Still single, he spent his fortune unwisely and was forced to sell his belongings one by one to meet his increasing debts. Finally, his house was his remaining asset and with more debts to pay, he put it on the market.

Here, the ladies saw a lovely home, though in disrepair, that had the makings of an elegant clubhouse. In 1913 women's rights were limited. Women could not vote nor were they considered favorably by banks in granting mortgages. Some way had to be found to execute the purchase. Clearly Edward Grant wanted to sell quickly.

In 1896, Anne Bassett had urged Club members to establish a fund for use in purchasing property. She established a legacy of \$200 towards that end. That amount was the seed money used to purchase the house. Mr. Thomas McAndrew loaned \$2,000. On December 10, 1913 the Ladies Literary Club approved the purchase of the house. The vote was not unanimous as four women voted against the purchase. The Club incorporated in early 1914 and they held their first meeting in the new Clubhouse in October, 1914.



Helen Cleary raised funds for the original purchase of the Clubhouse property.

Once the Club took possession they realized that additional funds were needed for repairs. The Club members became active fundraisers, a skill that has persisted through the years. They conducted rummage sales, bake sales, held luncheons and dinners. Some members went directly to individuals who seemed likely contributors. Helen (Mrs. P. J) Cleary used her considerable charm and contacts to solicit funds. She reported that M.S.N.C.

President Lewis Jones delivered a \$50.00 dollar check to her residence on Christmas morning. It took 14 years to pay off the mortgage. In 1928 the Club celebrated its 50th anniversary and used the occasion to burn the mortgage with appropriate ceremony. The timing was perfect as the nation soon plunged into the Depression.

During the 1930s Emil Lorch, then head of the University of Michigan Architecture program took a great interest in the Clubhouse. He called it one of the best examples of Greek Revival Architecture in the entire country.



Emile Lorch Dean, School of Architecture, University of Michigan. He led the 1930s survey of the Clubhouse.



The Ladies Literary Club gathered in observance of the Michigan Centennial which was in 1935.

In 1934 – 1935 Lorch assembled a group of architects who proceeded to survey and catalogue the home's features. As a result, the Clubhouse was recognized by the Advisory Committee of the American Building Survey. It was judged as "worthy of the most careful preservation for future generations." The survey document and commentary were placed in the Library of Congress. During this Centennial Year Steven Stuckey, graduate student in EMU's Historic Preservation Program is conducting an update of the earlier survey which will likely serve as an addendum and added to the document now in the Library of Congress.

In the mid 1930's the original metal ceilings were removed and partitions came down. Now the house was more open, better suited for gatherings, with the many windows providing natural light. The interiors were repainted and new window coverings added. Updating the house is ongoing.

In January of 1955, a new kitchen was added. Fourteen years later the members began a major renovation and addition to the Clubhouse. This building committee was in the capable hands of Mildred Harris. A preservation architect, Richard Frank, was asked to prepare plans for an addition to include a new caretaker's apartment, a larger kitchen, additional restrooms and space for workshop activities and storage. The total price for this remodeling was \$58,000. This time the ladies had no trouble securing mortgages; two local banks loaned a total of \$38,000. The Club had an additional \$20,000 to fund the remodeling. In April, 1972, the first regular meeting was held in the remodeled clubhouse.

The purchase of the Grant property by the Ladies Literary Club benefited the entire community. It ensured that the house would be maintained. In addition the Club made

provisions for rental of the clubhouse by individuals and organizations. The money from the rentals goes directly toward upkeep and repairs of this elegant home. The Clubhouse has been the scene of numerous weddings and wedding receptions, birthday celebrations and memorial services. Eastern Michigan University has used the property for Departmental meetings and receptions. Of course, its primary function is to provide a gathering place for the Club meetings.



Sarah George – A scholarship is named for her.

and gloves are long gone. Fundraising is ongoing first, to support three scholarships to local young women, and second, to maintain this very special clubhouse. As we begin the second century in our “home,” the Board of Trustees will place renewed emphasis on building the reserves, those funds separate from ongoing operating expenses. If major repairs are needed, the reserve funds could reduce the necessity of borrowing or placing a special assessment on the members.

Interestingly, there is a group of members planning a series of “seminars.” This undertaking will provide an opportunity for club members to return to our “roots,” that is, members can gather to learn, discuss and share insights much as Sarah Putman, Sarah George, Rocena Norris and their peers began to do so many years ago.

(Peg Porter is a member of the Ladies Literary Club Board of Trustees and assistant editor of Gleanings.)

The Second Century: Expectations: Many of the activities will continue as always. Each meeting is concluded with a formal tea prepared by the members. The tea provides an opportunity to be “ladies,” although the hats



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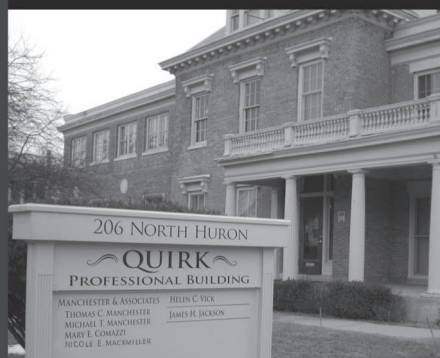


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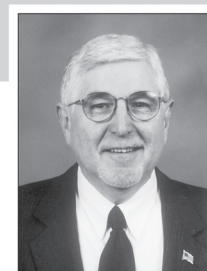


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Nicole E. Mackmiller**

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G.A.R. Hall at 110 Pearl Street.

The G.A.R. Hall

BY JAMES MANN

Standing at 110 Pearl Street is the building known as the G. A. R. Hall. These letters were, for many years, visible

above the entrance. The letters stand for Grand Army of the Republic. This was the association of men, who served in the Union Army during the American Civil War. Here, beginning in 1913, was the headquarters of the local chapter, called Carpenter Post 180. The national Grand Army of the Republic was formed in 1866 to perpetuate friendships, revive memories and provide mutual support and assistance.

The local chapter was formed at a meeting held September 13, 1883, at Light Guard Hall, on the northeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Washington Street. The Hall was on the third floor, which has since been removed. At this meeting the chapter was formed and the name Carpenter Post was chosen. It was the practice of the chapters to name the post after a soldier or sailor who had died while in service during the war. They chose the name Carpenter, after two brothers who had lost their lives in the service of their country.

Two years after the formation of the Post, the members were presented with a Memorial Record Book. This book is now in the care of the Archives of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.

A local chapter of the Woman's Relief Corps, an auxiliary to the G. A. R., was formed on November 11, 1885. "I well remember our first effort at relief work," wrote Mrs. Seth Mereness for The Daily Ypsilanti Press of Tuesday, May 12, 1914. "We rented a booth on the fairgrounds and sold lunches during the week of the Eastern Michigan Fair. To our surprise at the close of the week, we were able to turn over to the Post about sixty dollars."

They held their meetings at Light Guard Hall for years after, paying rent for the use of the space. Still, the G. A. R. and the W. R. C. wanted a home of their own, and so saved money for this purpose. The amount saved did not seem enough to secure a place of their own. Then in 1912, two women, Mrs. Lois Leetch and Mrs. Katherine Sherman, gave a donation of \$1,000 each. This money was used to purchase the Stein building on Pearl, then the site of the Dillon Manufacturing Company. This building was built in the 1880's and appears on the 1890 bird's eye view map of Ypsilanti.

"The first floor will be remodeled to meet the needs of the post and corps. There will be a lodge room and a kitchen

and the quarters when completed will be well adapted to the needs of the orders. The second floor will be rented and thus secure a regular income to the owners of the building. Later it is possible that the good basement under the building will be turned into a dining room and kitchen, but this time of expansion probably will not arrive during the present season," reported The Daily Ypsilanti Press of Thursday, January 2, 1913.

The dedication of the Hall was held on November 25, 1913, the 50th anniversary of the charge up Missionary Ridge, ending the Siege of Chattanooga. The dedication was held in the Masonic Temple on North Huron Street, now the Riverside Arts Center. "A pleasing feature of the dedication is that, owing to the hard work of the G. A. R. Veterans and women of the Relief Corps and the personal solicitation by H. C. Rankin, the hall was practically dedicated out of debt. There still remains a small sum to be raised but Mr. Rankin states that he will have that within a few days," reported The Daily Ypsilanti Press of Wednesday, November 26, 1913.

"Exercises in the temple commenced shortly before eight o'clock and the entire program was exceedingly well carried out," continued the account. There was patriotic music.

"Glenn Hiser, a Cleary College student, recited Lincoln's Gettysburg Address with a feeling that aroused the enthusiasm of the audience and "Sheridan's Ride," pictured by H. C. Rankin, followed after a solo by Mrs. Crawford. The speaker was at his best and the thrilling story was well presented. The speaker of the evening, Commander-in-chief Gardner was introduced by Col. O. A. Janes of Detroit. The address was not only well suited to the occasion but it was masterfully delivered and distinguished by an individuality exceedingly well suited to the occasion. With the advantage of experience, he reviewed the battle scenes and the storming of Missionary Ridge, the fiftieth anniversary of which this dedication was arranged to commemorate."

The last Civil War veteran residing in Ypsilanti was Oscar L. Austin, who died December 15, 1937. The W. R. C. continued to use the building for years after. In 1948 G. Mennen Williams announced his first run for Governor of Michigan in front of the G. A. R. Building.

The building was renovated in 1988 and is still in use today. At this time the 1st Step Referral Services occupy the building.



1st Step Referral Services currently occupies the building at 110 Pearl.

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

News from the Fletcher-White Archives

BY GERRY PETY

First of all, we at the archives wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2014.

Well, between Al and his helpers working on digitizing our glass photo plate collection and my project of getting the obituaries and death cards both orderly and repaired, it has been a very busy summer and fall for my assistant, Eric, and myself. The place is humming with activity and we set new parameters in the organization of our collections.

Melanie, our Graduate assistant, has been riding herd over all of us trying to get everything orderly and correctly classified as we move on into 2014. She can be a very stern taskmaster!

In August we had Mr. Allan Maxwell over for a visit with his wife Dori on his way to a family visit in Ontario, Canada. Mr. Maxwell contributed to the Archives one of the largest photo collections we have ever received totaling over 450, 8 1/2 x 10 inch photos encompassing his father's (Mr. Ellsworth Maxwell) work for Mr. Henry Ford and the Ford News Bureau. He was assigned to shoot all aspects of the Willow Run B-24 Plant and the people who accomplished the feat of producing one B-24 Bomber every 55 minutes! The photos are fantastic and some have never been publicly viewed until now. Remember these were produced before and during the Second World War. The individual photos are in mint condition, so if you are a maven of such topics or 1940's aviation come on over to see this collection.

Finally, Mr. Maxwell said that he was amazed at how nice our Archives were. He expected an archive much smaller and certainly less organized than ours; a tribute to our faithful volunteers and staff that have made this place exemplary!



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Orange F. Berdan
"Cub" Berdan.

(The Ypsilanti Sentinel - Commercial - October 17, 1901) - **"Cub" Berdan Died in Detroit:**

The former well-known Ypsilanti musician "Cub" Berdan, died at Detroit Thursday evening. Mr. Berdan, who was christened Orange F., but who was much better known by his sobriquet "Cub," was one of the most unique characters that ever made Ypsilanti his home. He was in a measure a musical genius, and certainly as regards love for music it would have been hard to find anyone who surpassed him, stories being told of how he would take his violin to bed with him at night and how when he awoke in the morning, or if aroused before it became light, he would immediately begin playing his old favorites. He is familiar to the young people of the city by tradition, and there are but few of the older residents who have not enjoyed many a dance to his spirited playing.

Said last night's News: Orange F. Berdan, 37 Willis avenue east, once known as "Cub" Berdan, once a well known music dealer and musician of Detroit, died at 10 o'clock last night from softening of the brain. Mr. Berdan had suffered for seven years, and it had taken that length of time for the disease to undermine his great constitution.

Mr. Berdan is well remembered in Detroit and throughout the state as a violinist of merit. His dance music, written many years ago, is still popular, and during his life he composed several songs that met with great success.

Directly after the war was over he went to Washington and was playing the cornet in the orchestra the night Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

"Cub" Berdan

BY GEORGE RIDENOUR

Soon afterward he came back to Michigan and settled at Ypsilanti, and from there moved to Adrian. He came to Detroit in 1880 and opened a music store on Woodward Avenue, which he conducted until seven years ago. At that time he was attacked with a sort of paralysis which resulted in softening of the brain.

His life had been devoted to music, and his only complaint during the long years of his sickness was that he was unable to play his violin. He received his musical education in Detroit and Boston.

Mr. Berdan leaves a widow and two children - Grace, 11 years old, and Whitney, 8 years old.

The funeral Services were conducted at the house Sunday afternoon by Rev. S. W. Frisbie, and the burial was at Adrian on Monday."

According to Jim McKinney's blog on the Michigan Fiddlers website:

Cub Berdan was born in Macon Township, Michigan in 1841, the fourth of five children. His ancestors were Dutch immigrants to this country, descended from Huguenots fleeing religious persecution in France. During the Civil War he enlisted in Company C of the Fifth Michigan Cavalry as a bugler. His regiment fought under the leadership of General George Armstrong Custer, but he left the army at the end of the war, thirteen months before the creation of the U.S. Seventh Cavalry that fought at Little Big Horn. After the war, Cub Berdan returned to Michigan where he played for a time in the Ypsilanti Cornet Band. In 1900, he



The Ypsilanti Cornet Band taken circa 1870s in front of 46 E. Cross Street. Band members identified, in no particular order, as Fred Cutler, Al Stuck, O. F. Berdan, Fred Emerick, Oscar Rogers, Gabriel Muir, Robt Young, James Lowden, Wm Lowden, Tom VanRiper, Jim Eaton, Jim Davis. Back of photograph says it is from the Babbitt Collection.

was admitted to the Wayne County Asylum, (also known as Eloise Hospital) with chronic dysentery, dementia and blindness in at least one eye. He died October 10, 1901 at Eloise and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Adrian, Michigan."

Harvey Colburn, in his book *History of Ypsilanti*, mentions Cub Berdan:

"The old time band of Ypsilanti was led by Fred Custer, who was an accomplished musician, a cornetist of no mean ability, and who served as a band leader in the war. M. T. Woodruff vividly recalls him along with "Cub" Berdan, Carl Webb, Al Stuck, John

Wise and others, all seated in a glorious chariot of blue and gold, or marching through the streets at the head of a parade. eventually the old Ypsilanti Band disorganized, and years ago the magnificent chariot was lost to sight."



Gravestone of Orange Fame Berdan in Oakwood Cemetery in Adrian, Michigan.

POST Scripts:

- While he indeed was in Washington during the Lincoln assassination was he a member of the band playing that night at Ford Theater? The band was known as the Federal City Silver Cornet Band. The night of the assassination there were 2,000 in the theater.
- There were many "volunteers" sitting in and playing that night. According to the Ford Theater National Parks Service there is no complete listing of band members or volunteers.
- The Mary Surrat Society checked their records and again there is no Orange F. Berdan nor "Cub" Berdan listed in their archives. (Mary was hanged as one of the conspirators.)
- So while he WAS in D. C. during that night we have been unable to prove he was at the Ford Theater.
- "Cub" Berdan's wife, Mrs. Grace Marion Berdan Pritchett was named a Daughter of the American Revolution. Her distant relative Benjamin Whitney served as a private in the New York Militia.
- Berdan was a noted fiddler and was considered by many to be one of Michigan's finest. His music can still be heard by going to the YouTube website and entering his name Cub Berdan.
- Berdan's sheet music is available for review on line by going to the Library of Congress website.
- Berdan's actual name at birth was: Orange F(ame) Berdan in Macon, Michigan.

(George Ridenour is a regular contributor to the Gleanings and a researcher in the YHS Archives.)



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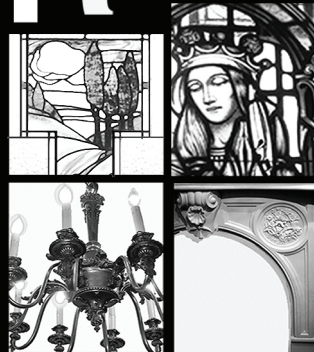
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The Saga of the Men Behind “Ralphie” Parker’s Coveted Red Ryder

BY BRYCE FORD

It did not take Henry William Baker long to decide that he should head back to Michigan; bullet holes emerging from the floor of the room you are sleeping in tend to make people reassess their situation. He had ventured out from the family farm at Cooper’s corners, in Plymouth Township, to visit his younger brother Chauncey, and maybe get in on

some of the action in the post ‘49er boomtown of San Francisco. His brother had rented a room above a tavern, and the men below proved that in the Wild West, drinking and weapons go hand in hand.

Henry William Baker was the eldest of ten children belonging to Samuel Baker, but Henry did not follow in the cooperage business of his father, or in the agricultural ways of the generation that preceded him. The New Englanders who flooded southeastern Michigan after the opening of the Erie Canal had cleared and improved the land, but the civilization builders were now raising villages, and in the 1860’s we find Henry in business with his older cousin Edwin, proprietors of a photo gallery in Ypsilanti. Edwin P. Baker

of that period. Henry moved to the neighboring village of Plymouth in 1866, closer to the majority of his family, and would branch out into other endeavors.

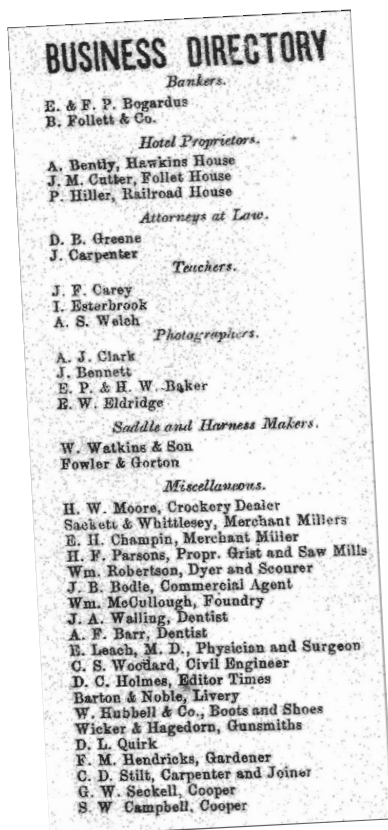
The prime of Edwin’s life coincided with the gilded age of the late 1800’s. Henry operated a dry goods store with Calvin B. Crosby, dabbled as lumberman, was the guardian and stockholder of the Plymouth Savings Bank, became Justice of the Peace in that village, and built a striking brick house that still stands to this day. He married twice, and in 1882 he was a founding partner of the Plymouth Iron Windmill Company.

This Company would erect the second factory in that village, behind the Fanning Mill that had been in operation since about 1850. This stock for this company was launched with a \$30,000 sale and supported the development of the Metal Windmill concept, an idea of inventor Clarence Hamilton. Also joining Henry in this commercial undertaking was his Dry Goods partner C. B. Crosby, brother-in-law Lewis Cass Hough (both would serve in the state legislature), and a who’s who of Plymouth Businessmen of that era.

The company’s product was plagued with issues. The windmill was metal and needed to be oiled, rust became an issue and advertising and transportation were obstacles. Low sales numbers, coupled with unhappy customers threatening lawsuits, led the management of the Windmill Company to consider liquidating after a half dozen meandering years.

But the inventor C. J. Hamilton was not going down without a fight, being one of the largest stockholders of the Company. He designed an all metal air rifle that was spurred on by the successful business product that was being made around the corner from the Windmill plant, the Markham Company’s ‘Chicago’ Air Rifle. The Plymouth Iron Windmill directors bit on Mr. Hamilton’s newest contraption, allowing it to become an add-on with the purchase of a windmill. It did not take long for demand to prove that the ‘Daisy’ Air Rifle was what the purchasing public actually wanted.

The success of this product led to a reorganization for the Plymouth Iron Windmill Company. Director Theodore C. Sherwood, who lived between Mr. Baker and Mr. Hough on Plymouth’s Main Street, and who was tapped by Governor Cyrus Luce in 1889 to be the first Bank Commissioner for the state of Michigan, proposed in early 1895 that the firm drop the Plymouth Iron Windmill Company name



A copy of the 1864 Ypsilanti Business Directory which lists E. P. & H. W. Baker under “Photographers.”

would spend more time in Ypsilanti than Henry, taking on a handful of partners and apprentices, in different locations, and finally selling off his business interest in 1876 to Mr. J. J. Stephenson. Photography would be Edwin’s calling the rest of his life. In addition to being on the forefront of new media, it is noteworthy that the use of “New York” as a name for their Gallery was well ahead of the marketers



The Baker and Benham photograph gallery was called the New York Gallery.

and switch to the Daisy Manufacturing Company. Fellow Directors Henry Baker, Lewis Hough (pronounced Huff), and Clarence Hamilton agreed unanimously. Within 40 years of the change, Daisy would monopolize the industry, producing 90% of the world's air rifles by the mid 1930's.

At the turn of the 19th century, the company was run by relatives. Mr. Baker was President, his brother-in-law L. C. Hough was General Manager, their nephews, Charles H. Bennett served as head of the sales force, his younger brother Frederick was Superintendent, and Lewis' son Edward Cass was Secretary. Mr. Clarence Hamilton had spun off and started a new company, the C. J. Hamilton & Son Rifle Company, around the block from the Daisy Plant.

In 1901, Lewis Hough did the opposite of what financial planners would advise today. Instead of diversification, he began to consolidate his assets and devote his time solely to the Daisy Company, selling to the McLaren Family the grain elevators he ran with his only son. Also, he profited handsomely on the sale of timberland that he and his nephew Fred F. Bennett had purchased eleven years prior in Mississippi. At the end of 1901, the former state Senator from the 1st district, Lewis Cass (named in honor of the Territorial Governor) Hough becomes connected to the Dr. Reed Shoe Company of Detroit. However, at the beginning of 1902 Mr. Hough succumbed to pneumonia. The void of his deft talents would reverberate throughout Plymouth. His absence leads to a financial misunderstanding within the Daisy family that prevented the officers of that Company from securing the horseless carriage deal of the century.

Charlie Bennett was about to have a lahlahpalooser of a day. On a spring morning in 1903, he hopped on the train at the Plymouth station and headed 25 miles east into the heart of Detroit. His intentions were to live large. But no one saw the Leviathan that rolled into his path. He first stopped in to visit his tailor, Mr. Charlie Mulhausen, to get fitted for some new threads. While getting sized, he jokes that this outfit better hold up in the new car he intended to purchase later that day (an Olds). Overhearing this conversation in the adjacent fitting room was an architect who knew Charles, having worked on a house for one of Charles' relatives. Charles is informed by this Architect that he should hold off on purchasing that automobile because his cousin Alex has a better product coming.



Charles H. Bennett served as the President of both the Daisy Manufacturing Company and the Michigan Crown Fender Company.

In the heart of Detroit's financial district stood an impressive office building that the Mechanics' Society of Detroit had built in the year 1874. Two years later it would be acquired by a Mr. Thomas McGraw, a gentleman that was raised between Ypsilanti and Plymouth on a farm at Canton Center near Cherry Hill. Mr. McGraw had made his fortune as a Wool Merchant. The building which sat across from City Hall had many offices; a number of banks, an impressive library for use by Mechanics or tenants of the building, a Business College and was the office base of Alexander Y. Malcolmson, the "Hotter than Sunshine" Coal Dealer, where Charles found himself in an impromptu meeting. Charles Bennett knew the building in which he sat; his only formal education outside of the Plymouth



The building in Detroit which included the offices of Alexander Y. Malcolmson, the 'Hotter than Sunshine' Coal Dealer.

School had been acquired in the Business College that operated for many years within the Mechanics Block, the same school attended by the gentleman who rolled up this fateful day, Henry Ford.

Mr. Ford had previously failed to gain traction with two prior car companies; A. Y. Malcolmson was now his main partner in launching this third attempt. Henry took Charlie for a ride in the prototype with the vertical engine, and they had a chat. At the end of the day, Charlie assured the gentlemen that he would wait for this automobile to get to market before he made a purchase. Heck, he had made it through life without one so far, but when exactly would their product get to market?

The next day in Plymouth, Henry Ford came to town with a much bigger proposition than the sale of an advanced quadricycle; Ford and Mr. Malcolmson had a talk after Charlie left the previous day, and they wanted to know if Daisy would tie-up and take a 49% interest in the proposed Ford Motor Company. Mr. Ford knew that the factory in Plymouth had been churning out products for two decades, and that the Daisy name could open up sources of financing. The idea appealed to Charlie and his partner,

Edward C. Hough, who jointly controlled the majority of stock within Daisy. So the proper inquiries were made. Charlie grabbed two machinists he trusted, Brother Fred, superintendent of Daisy, and the son of Clarence Hamilton, Coello, Head of the Hamilton Co. (Clarence Hamilton had passed away the previous year).

These gentlemen went down to see the brothers Horace and John Dodge, whose shop was producing the engines for Ford and Malcolmson. Satisfied, they moved on to the rest of Daisy shareholders, who would have to agree to this Ford proposal. In short, the sticking point was some old business between Fred and his late uncle, L. C. Hough. This led to a rift between Fred, and his cousin E. C. Hough, head of his father's estate. The Mississippi timberlands that Fred and Lewis had become interested in around 1890 had paid out a handsome profit when sold off in 1901. Fred had done the groundwork, starting and running the mill on the lands in Mississippi while also scouting neighboring property that was also acquired, while "Uncle Cass" had financed the deal through a mortgage on the Hough family's land grant farm, which sat at the intersection of Warren and Haggerty in Canton Township. The abrupt death of Lewis Hough left the timberland business unsettled and was the main reason for his heir, Daisy Manufacturing Treasurer Edward Hough, to shoot down the Malcolmson-Ford idea. Even though Edward Cass was a controlling officer, he would be liable to the minority stockholders (Fred F. Bennett, in particular) if the tie-up went wrong. Mr. Hough was facing one financial battle with Cousin Fred; he could not open himself up to more risk, and possible ruin.

The Bennett brothers would both get what they were itching for; Charlie was corralled by Mr. Malcolmson, and in 1903 became one of the 12 men to form the Industrial Giant of the 20th Century, The Ford Motor Company. E. C. Hough was adamant that business was settled concerning the southern lumber, so Fred took legal action, the case landing in 1905 in the lap of the Michigan Supreme Court, with the Justices siding with Fred to the tune of \$15,000. Joining Edward as defendants in the case would be the widow of the late Lewis C. Hough, Mariette (Baker), and Ed's Sister, Mary Hough-Kimble. E. C. Hough had missed the Ford deal and took a loss against his own relative, but in the midst of all this, his wife gave birth to a son. These contested cousins would coexist within Daisy for 12 more years until it was necessary for Fred to leave the Daisy Plant and try to remedy a situation that had arisen within the Michigan Crown Fender Company of Ypsilanti.

Growing pains were to blame for Charles Henry Bennett's early departure from the business



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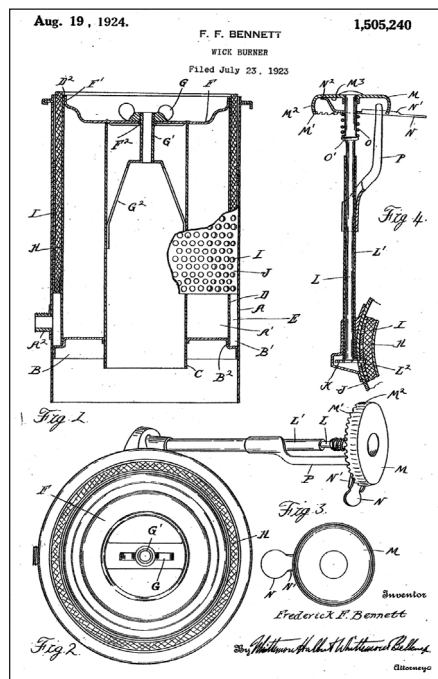
he started with Henry Ford. Charlie did not appreciate the way Alex Y. Malcolmson had been shut out of the formation of the Ford Manufacturing Company and therefore wasn't around to receive the Horace Rackham type money that some of the original stockholders realized. Daisy's export agent Robert Lockwood was brought on with Ford Motor through Charles, and Mr. Lockwood would oversee most of the international business outside of Canada. Charlie Bennett got out of Ford a tad early, but he maintained there were no regrets; and it would not be his last foray into the automotive world.

More than forty years after Henry Baker moved on from Ypsilanti, his brother-in-law, George F. Chadwick came to town in 1908 as a sales agent for the Grinnell Music Company. The Husband of Jennie (Baker) Chadwick found conditions so nice, that his planned 10 day sale turned into a business that would operate in the city for decades. Edward Hough had stood witness to their marriage. And Fred Bennett's daughter Margaret would eventually keep the books for this Grinnell store.

Fred came to town in a different mood than his relatives, the Chadwick's. The Michigan Crown Fender Company that he was financially backing with Brother Charlie

and other gentlemen had come across some disturbing information concerning their Manager John Welch, and his fiscal ethics. Ypsilanti had assisted in financing the factory that sits to this day at the corner of Lowell and Huron in the year 1916, and Charlie heavily recruited Mr. Welch away from his job with the Dodge Brothers. To woo Mr. J. R. Welch into employment, the officers put in his contract 10,000 worth of Michigan Crown Fender Stock that he was entitled to on his first day of work.

A little more than a year into his employment, John Welch took on 500 tons of steel more than what was necessary to fill an order the Fender Company had inked with the Republic Motor Truck Company. He pocketed the difference after selling the excess steel to Cadillac and Ford. The directors of the Firm learned of this, and called a meeting with their employee. Mr. Welch did not like the line of questioning; his temper flared and he flung insults upon the Directors. One wishes for the day that calling people "little men" was a high insult. The funny thing is, Charlie Bennett was a



In 1923 Frederick Bennett filed for a patent on a "Wick Burner."

very little man, and he was not happy with what had unfolded. His Brother had been superintendent of the Daisy plant for 19 years; Fred was now tasked with replacing Mr. Welch.

The F. F. Bennett's would make their home in Ypsilanti within the year, and the Michigan Crown Fender Company would take Mr. Welch to court to recoup the money he had made on his side deal, and to take back the 10,000

worth of stock they had fronted to bring him aboard. By 1920, the lawsuit found its way to the State's highest court, Crown Fender would get the profit (over 5,000) made on the Steel, but the contract Mr. Welch had signed entitled him to the Company stock.

In late November of 1919, Mr. Henry Baker died at his home in Plymouth. He had been ill for many years, and his nephews Charlie and Edward had been the de facto heads of Daisy for a long while. It was not until January of the

following year that Charles H. Bennett became the 2nd president of Daisy. It is unclear as to why there is a delay in Charlie's election. Mr. Baker's estate, the holidays, or maybe indecision as to whether E. C. Hough should take the reins might all have been factors. In actuality, Daisy would always be a co-presidency between C. H. and E. C. These 1st cousins were akin to a binary star, or better, they were like one of their products, the 1939 Model 104 Double Gun-2 triggers, 2 barrels, 2 shots. Charles the entertaining salesman, with all the fixings of that skill, Edward the stern accountant, making sure the dollars made sense, together an indomitable team. With his election, Charles Bennett became the President of two firms, Daisy Manufacturing and Michigan Crown Fender.



The United Stove Company took over the plant from the Michigan Crown Fender Company.

Around this time, Edward's son Cass Sheffield was becoming a man. After finishing his High School Studies at Culver Military Academy, Cass headed west from his parents home on Ann Arbor Trail towards the University of Michigan, where he would study Astronomy, and learn to fly towards all those stars. He graduated in 1925, the year Michigan Crown Fender disposed of its interests to the United Stove Company. The family business was waiting with open arms, but Cass threw his father and "Uncle Charlie" a curve by staying at the University of Michigan to teach. After a year, he comes headfirst into the Daisy fold.

In the waning years of Michigan Crown Fender, Fred Bennett added to his list of patents by dabbling in stoves. The Crown Fender Company did produce some, but it is unclear if the Bennett Brothers got out of this business whole, or if they held any interest in the United Stove Company which took over the plant. Fred had married off his daugh-

ter Margaret to Olin Bowen and the two were living with him by the Normal in 1936 when he was struck down by a massive heart attack. He was gone before help arrived. The previous week, his brother Charles had been elected President of the Plymouth United Savings Bank. Charles had outlived all his younger brothers and he would do the same to the gentleman he started that business with in 1903.

Cass Sheffield Hough was the heir to the Daisy throne, and he had earned it. Inking the deal with Fred Harman and Stephen Slesinger for the rights to tie up with their comic strip hero Red Ryder, was just one example of his many triumphs. The debut in 1940 of this iconic Air Rifle was only slowed by World War II, which instead starred Colonel Cass Hough as the gentleman that first flirted with the sound barrier. Cass had been flying for over two decades when in late 1942 he ascended the English sky in a P-38 Lightning to 42,000 feet; he nosed down the war-plane and performed a vertical dive of 5 miles, leveling off at 18,000 feet. He did the same in February of '43 with the P-47 Thunderbolt. It was reported that Hough had surpassed 760 miles per hour in the descent, but it would not be until 1947 that Chuck Yeager would officially go supersonic, which is a speed of 768 mph.

After the war, the Daisy plant, which was part of the war effort, returned to making Air Rifles and Cass resumed his duties. Charlie was in his Eighties and Edward was nine years his junior. These gents were definitely in the autumn of their years. Cass would have to wait to be President, but he would make the tough decision that rocked Daisy's hometown of Plymouth.

The husband of Ypsilanti's Nancy Quirk, Governor "Soapy" Williams would be the name that represented the politics that caused Cass to take the Daisy Manufacturing Company from the village it had operated in since the 1880's. The company needed a new plant, and union pressures were taking their toll. Charlie and Edward had witnessed a sea of change in their long business life. They remembered a time when you got paid a day's wage for a day's work, and they did not believe this to be true in the business climate of 1950's Michigan. Cass began a search for a new home that would allow Daisy to thrive.

When Cass settled on Rogers, Arkansas, he hired his friend John G. Hoad, whose engineering firm was located on 8 E. Michigan Ave in Ypsilanti, to design the new home for Daisy. Of the 757 people employed within the Daisy family in Plymouth, 24 hailed from Ypsilanti. Employees that

wished to stay with the firm were offered chartered flights to Arkansas to take a look see. The new plant began operation in 1958.

Charles Bennett lived to be 93 years old; he had lived quite a life. He was an industrialist, trustee at his Alma College, a noted layman for the Presbyterian Church, Bank President, was deeply involved with the Red Cross, served on the board of Education in Plymouth, was a member of the DAC, a Rotarian and Mason. By the September of 1956, he had earned the moniker "Mr. Plymouth." His cousin Edward succeeded him as President.

E. C. Hough did not want Daisy to leave Plymouth, he never looked at the blueprints for the new Plant, nor did he visit. Charlie was gone, and his son had whisked away the Company that he had spent almost six decades cultivating. He maintained and frequented his office within the empty plant, and worked on philanthropy, like the gift he gave to the Plymouth Library from the Hough-Kimble Foundation. He died of a broken heart in January of '59.



The Daisy Red Rider BB gun that Nine-year-old Ralph "Ralphie" Parker wanted for Christmas in the 1983 movie "A Christmas Story."

Cass felt the blow. Could he have held the Plymouth Plant together long until his father's time had come? Considering that Ed's mother Mariette had lived to 100, Cass probably thought that his old man would've been around longer. He had no doubts about the business decision to leave Plymouth, but like any son who loses his father, he was shaken.

In response, Mr. C. S. Hough would gift the Hough Memorial Library in Rogers, Arkansas. In Ypsilanti, he also gave the Library for the second Cleary College building, which was built at Hewitt and Washtenaw, in the name of his Father. As a trustee of that Business school, he served as an honorary pall-bearer at the funeral of Owen Cleary. In 1981, he gave his personal Aeronautical Library to Arkansas State, reputed at the time to be the finest personal collection known.

The time C. S. Hough walked away from a crash landing at Willow Run in the Daisy Jet is another story to be told at a later date.

(Bryce Ford is the great, great, great grandson of Samuel Baker and is related to most of the gentlemen mentioned in the article. In studying his family history in Plymouth he noted that a number of family members were associated with the Village of Ypsilanti. Bryce expresses thanks to Heidi Nielsen of the Plymouth Historical Museum and Northville's Mill Race Village, Dave Curtis of the Canton Historical Society, former Daisy President Dick Daniel (5th President) and family, the curators of the McCrary Museum, and the helpful folks within the YHS Archives.)

? QUIZ: What's in a Name?

BY PEG PORTER, ASSISTANT EDITOR

The fall issue of *Gleanings* included a memoir by Jack Shepherd, "Growing Up in Ypsilanti."

He mentioned a number of names of people who lived in Ypsilanti between 1900 and 1950. Identify the given or "Christian" name of these people and what they did or the roles they played.

Hint: you will find them in a number of databases if memory fails:

Quirk; Bisbee; Scovill; Lister; Norton; Walton; Pray; Burrell; and Smith, A.

Note: Answers can be found on page 35.

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Picture of Mark Jefferson made from one of his glass plate slides.

Mark Jefferson — Glass Plate Negatives and other Wonderful Things

BY JAMES MANN

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

On the morning of November 25, 1922, Howard Carter made a tiny breach in the entrance way to the tomb of Tutankhamen, in the Valley of Tombs near Luxor, Egypt. As Carter peered into the chamber, Lord Carnarvon asked if he could see anything. As Carter recalled later, it was all he could do to say, “Yes, *wonderful things*.”

The storage room of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum may lack the splendor of King Tut’s Tomb, but therein are to be found wonderful things. Recently, as boxes of glass plate negatives were being cataloged, a collection of images originally belonging to Mark Jefferson came to light. This is an important find, as Jefferson is a major figure in the history of Eastern Michigan University and the city of Ypsilanti. His influence as a teacher is still being felt today.

Mark Jefferson was born March 1, 1863, in Melrose, Massachusetts, and at the age of seventeen entered Boston University. After three years of study he accepted a position as assistant astronomer at the National Observatory of the Republic of Argentina. Later he was sub-manager to a sugar estate, a position he accepted because of eye fatigue.

In 1901 he was appointed Head of the Department of Geography at the Michigan State Normal College, now East-

ern Michigan University. He held this position until his retirement in 1939. Because of Jefferson, Michigan State Normal College became known as “The Nursery of American Geographers.”

Mark Jefferson accompanied President Wilson to the Paris Peace Conference that followed the First World War as chief cartographer. There he personally supervised the making of over 1,200 maps. The American delegation, it was noted, had the finest, most complete and accurate maps of any at the conference.

Returning to the United States after the conference, Jefferson resumed teaching at Ypsilanti, and over the years personally taught 62 different courses and some 15,000 students. He died in 1949. Jefferson once wrote “Truth is God.”

Over the years Jefferson made many photographs, including places he visited as part of his research, and of the people he knew. Photographs that are part of the collection held by the society include Patrick Roger Cleary, founder of Cleary College; William H. Sherzer, professor of science at the Normal College who designed the building named in his honor; and the Rev William H. Gardam, Rector of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church.



Picture of Patrick Roger Cleary, founder of Cleary College, made from one of Mark Jefferson’s glass plate slides.



Picture of William H. Sherzer, professor of science at the Normal College who designed the building named in his honor, made from one of Mark Jefferson’s glass plate slides.



Picture of Rev. William H. Gardam, Rector of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, made from one of Mark Jefferson’s glass plate slides.



War of the Clothesline

BY JAMES MANN

Before every home had a dryer to finish the washing of clothes, there was the clothesline, where wet shirts, socks and other items of attire were hung to dry. This was seen as a pleasant domestic scene, with women out hanging the clothes to dry in gentle breezes. At least, that is how it should have been.

At 607 West Michigan Avenue, there were in September of 1922, two families and one clothesline. The line was not long enough for the two families to use at the same time. Mrs. Helen Thompson would do the family wash one day and use the line. Then, on another day, Celia Johnson would do her family wash and use the line on another day. Problems arose when both women wanted to use the line at the same time.

Celia Johnson would later claim that Mrs. Helen Thompson had done her family wash on a Thursday, so she, Mrs. Celia Johnson, started to do her family wash on Friday. At about the same time, Mrs. Thompson started on a second round of wash for her family. The two women set out to hang the wash on the line at about the same time.

"Each claimed a right to use it and each did use it. About as fast as Mrs. Johnson got her clothes on the line, Mrs. Thompson took them off and replaced them with her own and then Mrs. Johnson cleared the line and put hers right back," reported *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Saturday, September 9, 1922.

As Mrs. Johnson said: "I washed last Friday and when Mrs. Thompson started to hang up her clothes I told her not to, as I needed the line. She hung her clothes up just the same and whistled while she did so. I went to take the clothes down, when Mrs. Thompson busted me one right on the nose and she kept on knocking me with her fist. I grabbed her and shook her down to the ground, but she would get right up again and kept knocking me with her fist. She finally got a small pail and cut me on the head with it. She then left me with a volley of slander," reported *The Ypsilanti Record* of Thursday, September 14, 1922.

Helen Johnson paid a visit to the office of the justice of the peace, to demand a warrant for the arrest of Mrs. Thompson. As there was blood in evidence, the document was granted and prepared. Then the warrant was turned over to Constable Maddux.

Constable Maddux went to the house to serve the warrant on Mrs. Thompson. There he found her to be a small woman of about one hundred pounds. She was also, he found, to be an active woman. "She was," noted *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of September 9, 1922, "very, very active, according to the constable and in the process of bringing her to the courtroom about all his paraphernalia was pressed into service, but he finally succeeded."

The case came before the justice of the peace on the morning of Thursday, September 14, 1922. Each woman told her account of the matter, and each said the other struck the first blow. Mrs. Johnson admitted striking Mrs. Thompson, but said Mrs. Thompson started the fight by clawing at her face and hair.

Mrs. Thompson denied starting the fight, but did admit throwing a pail at Mrs. Johnson, which cut a gash in her head. "That there really was a gash was certain as Mrs. Johnson on the day of the fight, left her wash just as it was to present her wound before the police and Justice Curtiss, who this morning tried the case," reported *The Daily Ypsilanti Press* of Thursday, September 14, 1922.

The only witness called was a Milton Hightower, who swore Mrs. Thompson started the fight. Hightower said he saw the battle from a safe distance. The court decided that Mrs. Thompson struck the first blow, and fined her \$10 and costs. The fine was remitted on the prompt payment by Mr. Thompson, who had come to court with his wife. The court costs were \$3.45.

By the day the case came to court, the Thompson family had moved from the house, to a place where Mrs. Thompson had a clothesline all her own.

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

Balloon Ascension

BY JAMES MANN

There must have been excitement in the air in Ypsilanti in late July and early August of 1859. Mr. Bannister, the aeronaut, was to make a balloon ascension from Ypsilanti on Thursday, August 4, 1859. In the days before powered flight, balloon ascensions, someone riding in a basket under a bag filled with gas, was the only way anyone could fly in the sky. Balloon ascensions were little more than carnival side shows, a form of entertainment. A great crowd could be expected at such events, as, most likely, few had ever seen such a thing before.



The union seminary building in the background was the site of the balloon ascension in 1859.

"We are informed by Mr. Bannister's agent, that the ascension to take place at Ypsilanti on Thursday will be the only one made in this vicinity this season. Those therefore, desirous of witnessing an aerial flight, had better avail themselves of this opportunity," reported *The Ann Arbor Journal* of August 3, 1859.

"Last Thursday," reported *The Ann Arbor Journal* of Wednesday, August 10, 1859, "in common with a large number of our citizens, we were in attendance at Ypsilanti to witness the ascension of Mr. Bannister in his balloon, 'The Pride of America.' The day was very pleasant, yet excessively warm, with a light breeze from the north-west, and from numerous estimates put the number present at not less than ten thousand people." The inflation of the balloon had begun the day before and by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, was completed with some 20,000 cubic feet of gas. This filled the balloon which was 22 feet in diameter and 55 feet high.

"It was generally understood that Mrs. Cummings, the sister-in-law of Mr. Bannister, would accompany the aeronaut in his voyage to the clouds; but when the lady arrived, she informed Mr. B. that the gas was not sufficiently hydrogenated to admit of two making an ascension," noted the account. Mr. Bannister placed himself in the car of the balloon, and the moorings were cut loose, but the balloon did not rise. At this Mr. Bannister threw out his overcoat, his linen coat and the anchor, and all the ballast and the balloon rose to a height of about twenty feet. Then the balloon floated in the air, and returned to earth near the place where it had been inflated. The problem, it was supposed, was caused by the eddying state of the wind, because of the Union Seminary building, now the site of Cross Street

Village at Cross and Washington Streets, and the considerable number of trees. "Another trial was then held and the 'Pride of America' was fairly afloat, ascending slowly and gracefully to the great joy and pleasure of the congregated thousands, to about 1,000 feet, and passed off nearly half a mile, in a southerly direction, over the city, in a most beautiful and imposing manner, when another, and lower current of wind brought it back a quarter of a mile, and the Balloon settled in one of the principal streets of the city, much to the dissatisfaction

of many and the great gratification of others; man denouncing it as a grand humbug," reported the account.

Mr. Bannister announced that he would make another ascension that evening at 6:00 p.m. This was not possible, as the gas company had exhausted all the gas that could be furnished that day. The gas company offered to provide Mr. Bannister all the gas he needed for an ascension to be made the next Monday.

By Monday the balloon was again inflated with about 19,000 cubic gallons of gas, and all was made ready. Mr. Bannister again seated himself in the car of the balloon and gave the order to cut the balloon loose. When the balloon was cut loose it rose to the height of four feet ten inches and settled to the ground. Then it was announced that a second attempt would be made at 5:00 p.m. At 5:00 p.m. the balloon again failed to rise, because, it was explained, of impurities in the gas. The balloon was packed up and placed in safety.

"The disappointed spectators from the country should reflect, before heaping censure on our citizens that we are, to a man, just as much disappointed and more chagrined than they possibly could be. They will acquit us of any attempt to humbug them, we think on the reflection that this failure, has cost necessarily more money, time and trouble than the most perfect success could have done. Let us all turn it off with a laugh and be jolly over it," noted *The Ypsilanti Sentinel*.

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



The Vietnam War Memorial was dedicated on November 10, 1991.

The Vietnam War Memorial

BY JAMES MANN

The only memorial in Washtenaw County to those who served during the war in Vietnam stands on the grounds of the Ypsilanti Township Civic Center, at 7200 South Huron River Drive. The Washtenaw County Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America at first hoped to construct the memorial in Veterans Park in Ann Arbor. This plan was aborted after the Ann Arbor City Parks Advisory Commission failed to support the project. The Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees approved a resolution to locate the memorial on the Civic Center grounds in October of 1990.

The memorial is similar to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D. C., but on a smaller scale. The memorial is made of black granite and is triangular in shape. The wall of the memorial has five sides to represent the five branches of the armed forces, and is eight feet high and twenty-two feet long. The names of those who died are listed under the name of the community from which they came.

Three flags at the memorial honor the memory of the three soldiers from Washtenaw County listed as missing in action. Benches at the memorial are set twenty-one feet away from the wall, as this was the average age of soldiers in the war. The Memorial was dedicated on November 10, 1991, the day before Veterans Day. "There was a flag rising and a 21-gun salute: there was a helicopter flyover from the Selfridge Air National Guard base; there were teary-eyed family members, who laid flowers at the foot of the memorial in honor of the brothers and sons the war took from them," reported *The Ann Arbor News* of November 11, 1991.

The keynote speaker was retired General William Westmorland, who said: "One can conclude that a soldier's reward is honor proudly won and that is the sentiment behind the memorial we dedicate today."

(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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Museum Board Report

BY KATHERINE HOWARD, CHAIR

Our beautiful trees have lost their leaves and we are settling in for the Holidays and winter.

Our Quilt Exhibit was a wonderful success. There were 85 quilts in all. The beautiful quilt wall hanging, "Mist of Fall," made by Rita Sprague, was won by Margaret Best. I want to thank everyone who participated in the drawing. We will be having the Quilt Exhibit every other year from now on.

Christmas Holidays are upon us and we have some beautiful displays for you. The Christmas tree is up and all the rooms are decorated as well as the exterior.

Our Christmas theme this year is called "Chrystal Noel." All of our display cases are featuring beautiful crystal collections from two of our members and some of the Museum's items. The large case in the Library is the Fostoria 'Baroque' pattern. This display is from Shelton Clifton. Also, in the Library in the table is a collection of Heisey Horses. These are from Daneen Zureich and features gifts at Heisey Conventions in the past. The dining room has two more displays of Daneen's Heisey. The large case in the kitchen is filled with several patterns of colored Heisey pieces. These are all Daneen's.

Upstairs Virginia Davis-Brown has put displays in the cases and in the Children's Room.

Our Holiday Open House will be Sunday, December 8th, noon to 5 p.m. Please note the time of our special entertainment. The Erickson School Children's Choir will be performing at 1:30 p.m. Come hear the choir under the direction of Crystal Harding. Delicious refreshments will be waiting for you with Holiday Hospitality.

We will be planning winter activities and welcome any ideas and help you might give. Have a wonderful Holiday and winter.





Quiz Answers: What's in a Name?

(Quiz questions are on page 29)

Quirk: The challenge here is to keep the Daniels straight. In Shepherd's article there are three. Daniel L. Quirk, Sr. hired Jack's father, John B., to work in the yard and dock at the Peninsular Paper Mill. Daniel L. Quirk Jr. succeeded his father as President of the company. He assigned John B. Shepherd to sales. In a photo on page 11, Daniel T. Quirk is listed as Assistant Sales Manager. Daniel T. later became Mayor of Ypsilanti. His father D.L. Jr. founded community theater in Ypsilanti. His daughter, Nancy, would become Michigan's First Lady when her husband "Soapy" Williams was elected governor.

Bisbee: Genevieve Scovill was married to Herb Bisbee. John B. Shepherd married Ethel Dobney in the Bisbee home in 1910.

Scovill: Henry Scovill owned the lumber company which was located at the corner of Huron Street and Forest Avenue.

Lister: Frances Lister was a teacher. The family home was located on Washtenaw.

Norton: Fortunately the Nortons are still with us. In Shepherd's article he remembers living on Lowell near the Nortons. Frank, father of Stanley, developed the family's floral business.

Walton: Fred Walton and family were neighbors of the Shepherds when they lived on Congress at the corner of Summit. Fred operated the Summit Street Grocery.

Pray: Carl Pray and family were also neighbors. Carl was a popular professor at MSNC and headed the History Department. An active man, he was also the Superintendent of the Sunday school at the Congregational Church as well as a Scoutmaster. His name is on one of Eastern Michigan University's largest classroom buildings.

Burrell: His family made memorials. Ray was the Mayor of Ypsilanti in the late 1930's and early 1940's.

Smith, A.: Austin and son Andrew were electrical contractors. The business included a showroom on Michigan Avenue at the foot of Summit.

If you identified all of these correctly, you deserve to be called an Ypsilanti Historian. If you got eight reasonably correct, you know Ypsilanti history and/or you are a native. If you got five or fewer correct, you need to spend time in the YHS Archives (either below the museum or online)!



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