

Ypsilanti GLEANINGS

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



FALL 2022

In This Issue...

Roccena Belinda Norris
of Ypsilanti — Professional
Woman Artist 1
By Janice Anschuetz

Ypsilanti's Southside Booming
Business Corridor — circa 1940s
thru 1960s 10
By Judie Jackson

Ypsilanti's Alley Festa —
1917-1919 14
By Robert Anschuetz

Ypsilanti Bicentennial:
2023 Plan 23
By Evan Milan

My Cruise Around the Village ... 24
By Tino Lambros

Others From the Village
Respond 26
By Tino Lambros

June 1942: Blackout Drill — In
Case of Air Raid 28
By James Mann

FDR Visits Willow Run 30
By James Mann

Kraut-Cutter Donation 34
By Austin Martin

Society Briefs

From the President's Desk..... 2

Society Board Members 2

Museum Board Report..... 17

GLEANINGS Sponsors 34

Membership Application 35

Advertising Application 35

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The Ypsilanti Historical Museum is a museum of local history which is presented as an 1860 home. The Museum and Rudisill & 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.

Roccena Belinda Norris of Ypsilanti -- Professional Woman Artist

BY JANICE ANSCHUETZ



Cows on the Huron River – Watercolor - Courtesy the Bentley Library.

Somehow I can never quite leave the Norris family behind me, no matter how hard I try, and somehow I don't mind. I am currently on a quest searching for Cousin Rocky. Let me tell you about this and also ask for your help. During the pandemic I received a very nice letter from a woman in New York named Jane Buckwalter. She had recently inherited several paintings painted by her distant cousin, Roccena Belinda Norris, and asked me if I had any information about her work and her life in Ypsilanti. At that time, the only thing that I knew about her was that she had been named for her aunt, the wife of Mark Norris, one of the pioneer founders of Ypsilanti. I had written an article in the Spring 2015 Gleanings about the artist's amazing father, Justus Norris, and his dedication and work in the abolitionist movement in Washtenaw County. In the article, I mentioned her name and that of her two siblings, Willard and Helen Norris.

The pronunciation of Roccena's name is up for debate. The name may have been pronounced with hard c's

(Rock-enna), soft c's (Ross-enna), or a combination of both (Rox-enna). Some versions of the spelling of her nickname in family letters were given as "Rocky" and others as "Roccie". Common misspellings of her name as "Roxie" at the Bentley Library and Sr. Marie Heyda's PhD thesis may imply that the nickname was "Roccie" but pronounced as "Roxie". In this article, I prefer to use the nickname "Rocky" since that is the name that her uncle Amasa Kinne referred to her in family letters when I first encountered her name. The term "Cousin" is how her contemporary family and current relatives refer to her. So I will call her by the endearing name "Cousin Rocky" at times to distinguish her from her Aunt (Mark Norris' wife) who was also named Roccena Belinda Norris.

I had also viewed two small water color landscapes in the museum archives identified as paintings of Roccena, and found a letter written by Ypsilanti

*Roccena Belinda Norris of Ypsilanti
— Professional Woman Artist*

continued on Page 4

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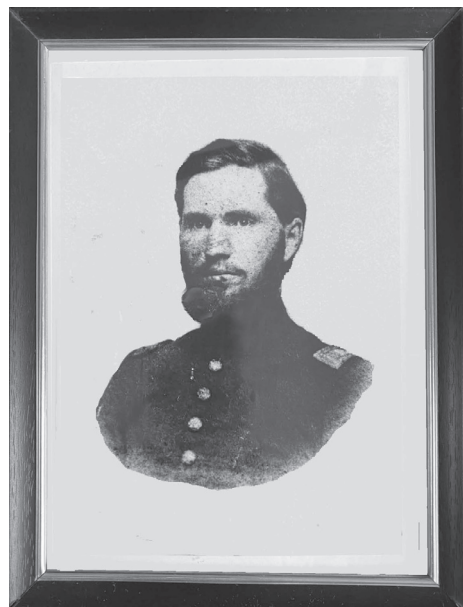
From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY BILL NICKELS

Our fall Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 9th. It will be both our brief Annual Business Meeting and a program presented by Barry Levine. The title of his program is "Willow Run: 80+ Years and Still Going Strong." Barry will tell the history of the Bomber Plant property from the time it was farmed by Henry Ford until the American Center for Mobility took over a portion of the property.

Our YHS volunteer James Mann completed his tenth local history book! It is titled *Murder and Mayhem in Washtenaw County* and will be released on October 3rd this year. It will be available in our book store, Amazon, and our local Walgreens and CVS stores for \$23.99.

The construction of our replacement handicap ramp ran into a couple design problems that stalled the project in July. The problems were worked out and construction resumed in August. We continue to look forward to



Portrait of Captain Gabriel Campbell that is on display in the YHS Museum.

the completion of the project!

Our website's Photo Archives continues to grow. We now have 14,000 Ypsilanti related photos viewable; 11,000



The handicap ramp leading into the back door of the Museum is currently being reconstructed.

of them are searchable. The remaining 3,000 photos not yet searchable is an opportunity for a volunteer. Contact Rebecca Murphy at yhs.archives@gmail.com if you might be interested in helping.

A personal August trip to a Virginia sporting event was an opportunity for me to visit several eastern historical sites including the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, MD. While preparing for my jaunt, I read a book that described the participation of twenty-four-year-old Captain Gabriel Campbell of Ypsilanti! "Commanding the student-heavy Company E, he exemplified the regiment's baptism of fire." Campbell wrote, "I could see the cannonballs coming bounding down the Old Sharpsburg Road, one came within arm's length." Campbell continued, "General Wilcox came "flying up

on his horse, saying to me, 'Is this my Michigan? Form into line.'" Campbell obeyed and led the charge. Our museum's Civil War case displays a picture of Ypsilanti's Captain Gabriel Campbell with his sword.

My reading about Captain Campbell reminded me of the importance of museum docents who lead museum visitors on tours when they visit our

museum. Docents are able to share details about our displays that visitors might miss without a docent.

It is mid-August as I write this report. Planning for Ypsilanti's bicentennial celebration in 2023 continues and Eastern Michigan's football and basketball teams have reasons for optimism. All will contribute to an interesting future. Have a nice fall season!

FALL QUARTERLY MEETING

Sunday, October 9th at 2 p.m.

at the Ladies' Literary Club

Annual Business Meeting and a presentation

"Willow Run: 80+ Years and Still Going Strong."

presented by Barry Levine

GCSI

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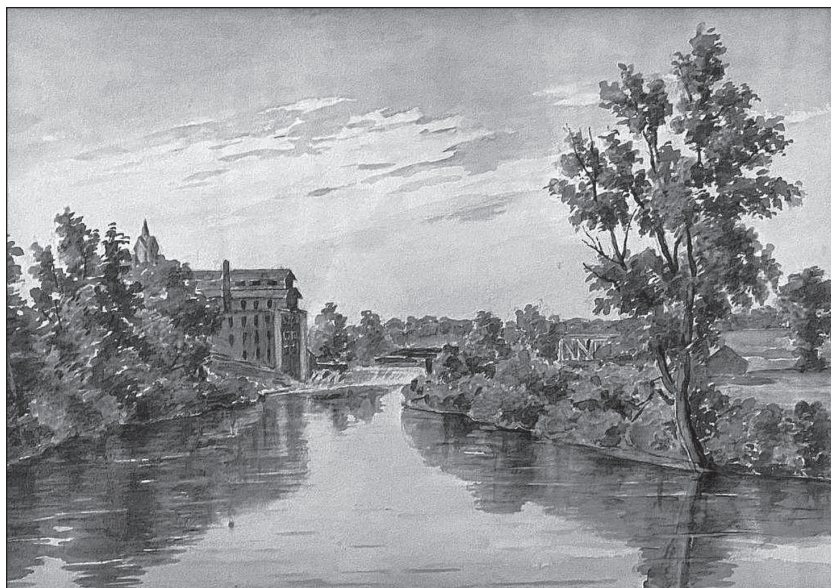
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City Historian, Foster Fletcher, dated May 6, 1982, to a law firm in Grand Rapids. In the letter, he is trying to determine the provenance of a painting that may be attributed to Roccena Belinda Norris. In the letter to the lawyer, he states “In 1966 Sister Marie Heyda’s thesis for her PhD in Philosophy from the University of Michigan on page 29 writes about ‘an oil painting of the Madonna painted by Roccena Belinda Norris’...As

the Madonnais unsigned, we would like to verify this fact if it is accurate.” The Madonna painting was donated to the Ypsilanti Historical Society by a descendent of Mark Norris, along with family portraits of Mark Norris, Roccena Belinda Norris (Mark’s wife – the artists aunt), and Lyman Decatur Norris – all painted by noted American artist J. A. Haskell. The Norris paintings were restored at the Detroit Institute of Arts, with a grant, and are currently hanging in the parlor of the YHS museum. We see another reference in 1982 in the *Gleanings* to the Madonna painting in the donations section which lists “Oil painting, Madonna and Child, unsigned, 32” x 38” with ornate frame.” I have made inquiries about the current location of the three paintings by Roccena Belinda Norris, but no one seems to know where they are located. Perhaps one of you reading this article can help locate them so that they can be added to the record of known Roccena Belinda Norris paintings.

I have found through past research the painful and awful truth that you can’t find what isn’t there. So, this will be the incomplete life of an amazing and talented woman. My hope is that this article will spur your curiosity and potentially add to the body of work of Roccena’s paintings that we have authenticated and gathered thus far. So, dear readers, will you join us in this search by checking the signature on a family portrait or an heirloom pastoral water color that may be gathering dust in an Ypsilanti attic, basement, or perhaps even framed on a wall. There may be the name “R. B. Norris”, “R. Norris”, “R.B.N.”, “R.N.”, or it might be unsigned. It was common for both Victorian women artists and authors to sign their work with the pen name of a man, or initials, because the social norm of the era was that it was not lady like to earn your own living, but rather it was considered something of a brazen and unfeminine action. If you should come across any paintings or information related to Roccena Belinda Norris, please contact me through the Ypsilanti Histor-



Hay & Todd Woolen Mill, Dam, and Frog Island – Watercolor - Courtesy Jane Buckwalter.

ical Society in order to help her legacy live on.

It was difficult to do research during the pandemic because the archives at Eastern Michigan University, the University of Michigan, the local history room of the Ypsilanti District Library, and the Ypsilanti Historical Museum archives were all closed. However, fat envelopes filled with Xeroxed copies of family memories, stories, and nearly 200-year-old letters

arrived in my mail box on a regular basis from Roccena’s extended family members, channeled through Roccena’s distant cousin, Jane Buckwalter and then another distant cousin, Sue Demb. I have used some of them in recent *Gleanings* articles such as the civil war letters of Dr. Amassa Kinne and his wife Jennie, and in the *Gleanings* article where Dr. Kinne describes Ypsilanti in 1857, and then lastly in Jennie Kinne’s Civil War journal. I am sure that more will be used in upcoming *Gleanings* articles, and this collection will soon be available in the Ypsilanti Historical Museum archives as donations from Jane Buckwalter and Sue Demb.

Let me tell you what I found in my somewhat obsessive search for Cousin Rocky. It is not surprising that the female artist, Roccena Belinda Norris, extended her creativity beyond the norms of Victorian society which prescribed that a woman should not earn her own wages, should be married, and be provided for by her husband. Roccena’s own parents’ courtship and her mother’s behavior may give us some clues as to how she became a woman who had progressive ideas. This family story takes place in her mother Mary Ann Kinne’s hometown. Mary Ann Kinne was married in Peachum, Caledonia County, Vermont in October, 1829, so she must have been about 18 years old. The story passed down through the family is that once she was of age to marry, she was courted by two men, one about her age and the other considerably older. Her family preferred the older man because he was more prosperous and was considered the best provider. Mary Ann agreed to marry him and the news was posted in her church. That evening, he walked her home and the rest of the family went upstairs and left the couple to themselves. The gentleman sat next to Mary Ann on the sofa and proceeded to carefully and thoroughly explain to the pretty young girl what he expected in a wife, what she would be allowed to do, how she was to behave, and so forth. However, his lecture had the opposite effect he had hoped for. Mary

Ann became so angry that she raced upstairs, woke her sister up, and asked her to be a witness as she informed him that no, she would not marry him. The next morning, she packed her things and moved across the river to a married sister's home and stayed there until the scandal blew over and, in time, married Justus Norris. Together, the young couple made the difficult journey



Harbor Scene – Watercolor - Courtesy Sue Demb.

to the wilderness of Ypsilanti, Michigan, and joined Justus' brother Mark and Mark's wife Roccena Belinda Norris, as pioneers in the village. You can read about them in other articles I have written for the Gleanings and their positive influence in shaping the economic and moral character of Ypsilanti.

As further information about the possible influence of Roccena's liberal parents, you might want to know that her father Justus did much to promote the abolitionist movement in Washtenaw County. I wrote about him and his cousin in a Gleanings article titled "A Tale of Two River Street Men: Justus and Lyman Decantar Norris" in the Spring, 2015 issue available in the YHS web site. "Justus was a man known for living his religion, and attempting to do what he believed was right. He was so passionate in his beliefs that slavery was wrong that he left the Methodist Church, where he was a leader and board member, to join a Wesleyan group, which was formed in 1841 and was vocal in their opposition to slavery." In that same year, he helped to form an anti-slavery convention in Ann Arbor which adopted a resolution that "Slavery is a political as well as moral evil." The convention decided that the way to promote this ideal was through political action. "Justus' occupation is listed in the family record as merchant, hotel keeper and farmer." Indeed, when his brother Mark Norris built and opened The Western Hotel on River Street in 1839, the young man became the manager... and held the first meeting of the anti-slavery Liberty Party there in 1842." This was not a popular view in Ypsilanti at the time. My article continues: "At this first meeting, it was resolved that a Liberty Party should be organized and meet regularly and Norris and five other men ran a slate of candidates in the next election in Washtenaw County. Justus had his name on the ballot and received 14 votes for sheriff. The poor man died in a horrible farm accident in 1845 leaving Mary Ann and their three children: Helen Cassandra, born in

1831, Roccena Belinda, born in 1835 and Willard Kinne, born in 1841, without a father or means of support." Roccena was only 11 years old at this time.

Through letters we learn that Mary Ann's family was worried about her and her family. They seemed relieved that about a year later she married another young widow with children, Liberty Beach, whose occupa-

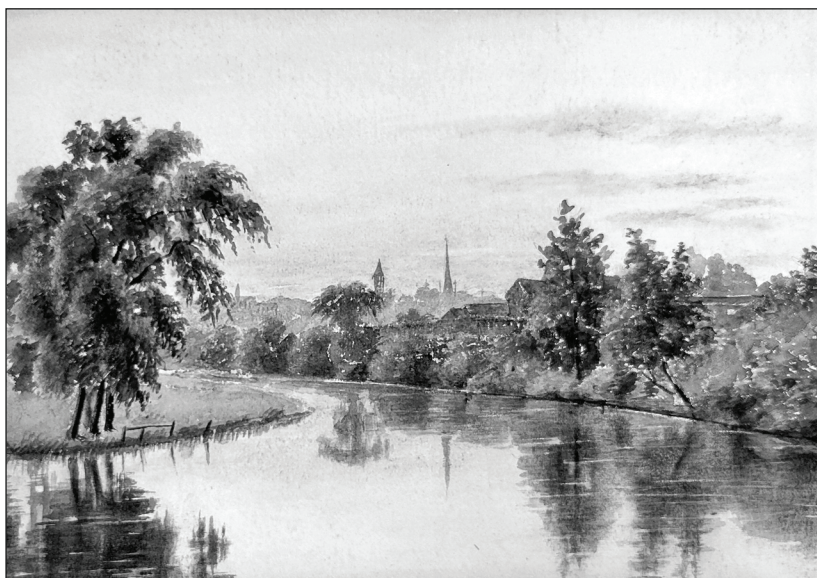
pation is listed in census records as a miller. Actually, he was a plaster miller by profession and most probably worked at the Ypsilanti plaster mill owned and operated by Benjamin Follett, son-in-law of Mark Norris. In later correspondence, the family seemed to approve of him. I have a little joke for myself which I will share with you: Mary Ann had "Liberty and Justus" for all, in her life. This is in reference to her two husbands' names. She was first married to Justus Norris and then Liberty Beach. Soon, the couple had children together: Harriet born in 1847 and Newton Allen in 1849. Census records tell us that the family lived at 512 Ellis Street (now Washtenaw Ave.), which was to become the lifelong home of the artist Roccena and her step-sister Medina, who was Liberty Beach's daughter from a previous marriage. The home is no longer there, replaced by an apartment complex on the north side of Washtenaw Ave. between Perrin St. and Ballard St.

Roccena's childhood was shaped by the involvement of various relatives who were not only active in improving the village of Ypsilanti, but were outspoken feminists of the time supporting issues such as a woman's right to vote and to have full citizenship. Her aunt and namesake, Roccena Belinda Norris, wife of Mark Norris, was an impressive letter-writer with copies of her missives to now famous woman's rights advocates available at the Bentley Library on the University of Michigan campus and with copies at the Ypsilanti Historical Museum archives. Another aunt, Jennie Kinne, was the first woman elected to the Ypsilanti School Board despite the fact that women were not yet allowed to vote. Perhaps they could have been called "free thinkers" which was a Victorian term for families that brought their children up questioning traditional gender roles. Despite a full household of four children, Cousin Rocky's mother kept board for teachers and students from the Normal School, which was across the street from their home.

Likely there was some enlightened political discussion at the dinner table. Like many artists who prefer to express themselves with paint, ink and canvas rather than speech, Roccena was a quiet child and her family encouraged her artistic expression. From the paintings we have gathered, she must have often set her easel up along the Huron River which runs through Ypsilanti and the nearby countryside. Her water colors are bright yet soothing as she paints cows along the river, a view of the Presbyterian Church steeple from the wooden bridge on Forest Avenue, the Hay & Todd woolen mill, and so forth.

Her paintings were entered in the Michigan State Fairs of 1852 and 1859, and were noted for their beauty and quality. Although only 15 years old in 1852, Roccena was recognized in the State of Michigan's publication "Transactions of the State Agricultural Society for 1852", which compiles all of the winners of various categories entered in the state fair. In the state fair of that year, R.B. Norris entered a monochromatic painting titled "Sale of Pet Lamb," another untitled monochromatic painting, and a pencil drawing of "Downing's Cottage Residences." R.B. Norris won "honorable mention" for her three paintings. The judges had this to say about R.B. Norris' entries: "To the young lady who executed the pieces numbered 199, 178 and 177, Miss R.B. Norris, the committee would recommend the issue of a similar premium to that awarded for best specimen of water colors. The genius and skill displayed are enhanced by the fact that the artiste is but 15 years of age, and has had but scanty opportunities of tuition." The judge recommended giving R.B. Norris \$3, the same as the person who took the first place in the water color category who was also from Ypsilanti, Miss Abigail B. Van Fossen. In 1859, Roccena was awarded a \$5 Michigan State Fair top prize for the best oil painting by a Michigan artist, and a \$3 prize for the 2nd best collection of paintings by a resident of Michigan.

Roccena's early talent and skill were recognized in the PhD thesis of Sister Maria Heyda from the University of Michigan, published in 1966. The thesis is a wonderful accounting of the moral development of Ypsilanti, giving much credit to Roccena's Uncle Mark Norris. In viewing the Norris letters in the Bentley Library, Sister Heyda must have come across some



Huron River Looking Toward Ypsilanti – Watercolor - Courtesy the Bentley Library.

of the paintings which they have in the Norris collection. She singles Roccena out by stating "The amateur efforts of students enrolled in the painting classes of Ypsilanti schools have not been preserved. However, the later work of one local artist, whose reputation scarcely penetrated beyond the family circle, has been in part preserved. The sketches of Roxina (sic) Norris, the daughter of Justus Norris, indicate a native talent, one that perhaps received no

training beyond that which the town could supply. To a limited extent she painted in oils, but her noteworthy achievements were sketches in watercolors, for in these she caught some of the atmosphere of the early countryside and village. Among Roxina (sic) Norris watercolor sketches is one of the first home of the pioneer Elnathan Botsford, father of her chum and life-long friend, Anna, who was born in the small frame house erected shortly after 1825. In this painting and in the later one of the stucco house which replaced the original Botsford home, Roxina (sic) has conveyed some of the calm serenity of the Michigan country hillside in the mid-nineteenth century. The air and life of the frontier town are transmitted by this local artist in the sketch of the Huron River mill, (note: perhaps the one her stepfather worked in as a miller) showing waterwheel, frame structured mill, and the river. She succeeds in such transmission in the painting which views the town from a distance, with river lying in the foreground and, visible through the treetops, church spires and towers appear as though dominating the town."

Sister Marie Heyda continues "The watercolor sketches which picture the hillside homesteads, the mill and the river, and the town from a distance, symbolize the midwestern urban frontier, and perhaps by instinct the artist singled them out. Roxina (sic) was born and grew old in this environment, never leaving the town for long except to visit her sister Helen, at Saginaw, or to take a trip to Charlevoix. She represents the artistry in the hearts of the settlers, painting as she did the productive fields they plowed in southeastern Michigan, the river whose power they utilized, and the town where they built factory, home and church." In her notes, Sister Heyda provides more information and writes that the stucco house was painted by Roccena in 1895, and in another note tells us that in addition to the pictures mentioned, there are two of Charlevoix, Michigan and also an early

home on Keedle's hill and also a painting of cows on the banks of the Huron River. She states that these pictures are located in the Michigan Collection in the Bentley Library at the University of Michigan.

In Roccena Belinda Norris' obituary, she is credited with being a major artist who had been commissioned to paint various professors and department heads in oil paint for the Normal College (now EMU). I checked the Eastern Michigan University archives and they have no mention of her or her paintings which once adorned the various departments. Hopefully some of them are still with family members or in the community. Again, if you know anything about the whereabouts of these paintings, please let us know.

Distant cousin, Sue Demb, recently answered the question of whether or not Roccena had received any formal training as an artist. She discovered among family papers, a letter written by Roccena's Uncle, Dr. Amasa Kinne, to his brother in Vermont, dated January 7, 1855. Roccena, would have been about 22 years old at this time. I quote "...Mary Ann's (referring to Amasa and Willard's oldest sister) youngest daughter Roccena is in the city of Philadelphia this last fall and this winter taking lessons in painting and music. She has exhibited as you doubtless know quite a taste for drawing and painting. Perhaps we may say she has a genius for such things. I think she has and I expect she will be a portrait painter. If she turns her talents that way she will make herself a first rate artist. And what you might call a brilliant girl: she is bashful and still. But she has a fund of drollery and among her friends and acquaintances and when she is in the mood she is quite sparkling and witty. How long she will stay in Phila. is uncertain – six months from the time of her first going there at least – perhaps twice that time. Mary Ann pays the bills for the most part. The Norris friends promised to help about it, but they have not done much as yet – say money is scarce – 10 per cent borrowing a good deal to carry on their business and so on. Mary Ann is a good manager of 'money matters' and her children seem likely to do well. As to Roccena's family finances, Liberty Beachworks in a mill for grinding plaster." Dr. Amasa Kinne brags in a letter to Willard that their sister Mary Ann, Roccena's mother, took in boarders and at the time of her death she still owned two local farms.



Lake Michigan Near Charlevoix – Watercolor – Courtesy the Bentley Library.

Roccena has left us some beautiful serene pictures capturing not only the Huron River, but also Lake Michigan in the Charlevoix area. Many of those paintings are still in the possession of family members and a few are in the Michigan Collection at the Bentley Library. Visiting Charlevoix and painting the mighty lake, sand dunes, boats, and fishing piers must have been a pleasant re-

treat from the smoking chimneys of coal burning foundries, steel works, and mills that would have crowded the village of Ypsilanti and polluted the air. Indeed, when her mother died around 1888, Mary Ann's obituary states that she was in Charlevoix at the Charlevoix Resort when she took ill and then died a few weeks later.

There is no question that Roccena made her living as a professional painter, which was an amazing feat for a Victorian woman. We find her name listed in the book "Jacobsen's Biographical Index of American Artist Native to the U.S. or Working in the U.S. from 1606 to 2002" edited by Anita Jacobson. In the city directories of the time, her name and address are listed with the term "professional artist." Her name can also be found in the book "Artists of Early Michigan - A Biographical Dictionary of Artists Native to or Active in Michigan 1701-1900" compiled by Arthur Hopkin Gibson.

Even with extensive, time-consuming research, we know little about her or her personality. However, there are several written descriptions offered by family members and another that I discovered in the YHS archives. Her uncle, Dr. Amasa Kinne, of Ypsilanti, describes her as brilliant, shy, but also having a good sense of humor. His daughter, her little cousin Floy (Florence) writes to her father from summer vacation and adds Cousin Rocky to her affectionate letter "I send my love to Rocky and dear papa."

The most extensive and interesting glimpse of Roccena comes from her cousin Florence's sister Genevieve's daughter, also named Genevieve (Bartlett). In her biography she tells us about Cousin Rocky "whose real name was Roccena – the artist of the family pictures. She is referred to, in my grandfather's (Dr. Amasa Kinne) letters, when she was a little girl as 'That little creature from another world.' She was apparently very imaginative even as a child. I have the impression that she took courses somewhere...She wasn't a primitive in the sense that Grandma Moses was because she

clearly had some kind of training. I didn't know her except that when we went out to my grandmother's funeral in Ypsilanti she was still alive and I saw her very briefly. She never married." Genevieve describes the Beach family situation and mentions that Roccena lives with her stepsister Medina, called Meda. "I remember the two of them when I went out there. They must have been my grandmother's age, i.e. in their late seventies. Roccie by this time

was a bit wandering in her wits, and she would start talking about some scene that she had painted. Meda would immediately bring her back to reality, and shut her up and get her thinking about the people who were present. We set out to Ypsilanti by train from New Haven, (Connecticut) about 1921. Roccie lived in Ypsilanti all her life. They were just two old maids, together. I don't know what means of support they had, but there must have been some resources available to them, for they lived reasonably comfortably. I figure, by looking at the watercolors Roccie painted of my sister and me, that my mother made two trips to Ypsilanti when we were children. The first was when my older sister was about six months old, as the baby pictures are of her. There was another trip I remember dimly, when Marsh (her brother) and I were either two and four, or three and five. (author's note: I've included this because her grandmother, Jennie Kinne's white frame house was on the same block on Cross St. as the magnificent Seminary School which made Ypsilanti famous nationwide for its educational system). This time I remember playing with my mother's childhood tea set, and also digging in the sand next to the fence. There was a school next door. One of the little boys from the school came to the fence, and I made him a mud pie, and passed it to him through the fence...The big oil painting that Jane (Genevieve's daughter



Keedle House near Geddes Road in Ann Arbor – Watercolor – Courtesy the Bentley Library.

ter Jane Buckwalter) has now, of my sister Florence and me, was painted from a photograph. This was done after my sister's death, as a kind of memorial. Roccie was a whole generation older, and this is how it is possible that she painted both Amma (nickname for her mother) and me as a child. She was a first cousin of my mother's but she was actually about my grandmother's age."

The last written description of Cousin Rocky literally

fell on my lap as I searched through Norris letters and documents at the Ypsilanti Historical Society archives. It is written on a scrap of paper by the late Ypsilanti City Historian Foster Fletcher and on the front of the page is pasted a partial undated and unusual newspaper article describing Mark Norris' wife, also named Roccena, and a published letter from one of her frequent travels. It is so unusual that I thought you might want to read it, too, as I digress from my article about the niece, Roccena. "At Gull Prairie I stopped at Mr. Loren Mills. They insisted on my staying for dinner and inquired a lot about you. They have a beautiful garden and appeared to be very happy, have 4 children...The baby is a sweet pretty child, the most quiet you can imagine, is six months old, drinks its milk from a cup like a person, sleeps all night without being fed, and when it frets they put it on its back and it sucks on its fingers and goes to sleep without any attention. They called it Clorinda. Your Uncle James (the letter would have been written to either her son or daughter) wanted me to take it for a year or two but I told him I could not take it to give it back..."



Genevieve and Florence Kinne – Oil – Courtesy Jane Buckwalter.

There are several handwritten notes on the back of this paper with the story of how her aunt Roccena refused to "borrow" a baby. Well, back to a description of Roccena, the artist. Among the notes Fletcher writes is that

Roccena is a niece of both Mark Norris and Dr. Amasa Kinne. He scribbles that she is a portrait painter and was 42 years old when her cousin, Elviria Norris Follett, helped to organize the Ladies' Literary Club. Then there is a typewritten fragment of a speech that was given by Mrs. Cleary in honor of the 60th

There is no question that Roccena made her living as a professional painter, which was an amazing feat for a Victorian woman.

Anniversary of the club on February 23, 1938, just nine years after Cousin Rocky's death. Mrs. Cleary stated about Roccena, "She belonged to one of our oldest and most prominent families, always came into our club meetings alone and I never saw her talking to anyone. She was so serene in her sense of birth and breeding that she wore with serenity and an air hats, dresses and cloaks of a previous decade. She was the painter and donor of the watercolor Peonies in the club house." I hope to one day add a picture of this painting to our digital collection honoring Roccena Belinda Norris.

Roccena lived lifelong at the family home on Ellis Street. Earlier city directories list the address as 30 West Ellis, but the address of 512 is also given perhaps because of a change in numbering the street (now Washtenaw Ave.) with her stepsister Almeda Beech who died after her in 1933 at close to 100 years old. Roccena died on May 9, 1923, at the age of 87 years. Her small obituary states that she was active in woman's clubs and indeed we find her name listed among the 17 women who attended the first Ladies' Literary Club meeting which was held on May 7, 1878 at the home of Mrs. Paine, 206 South Washington Street. Also listed among founding members is her sister, Helen Norris, and her

Aunt Jennie Kinne. She is identified as "a gifted artist" in their anniversary roster booklet. Her obituary also tells us that her first cousin, Lyle D. Norris, and other family members attended her funeral and a eulogy was given by Lyle who by then was a somewhat famous lawyer and politician living in a mansion in Grand

Rapids. It was his descendant, Marie Norris, who donated her paintings to both the Bentley Library and the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

By this time, I am sure that you want to know more about this brave Victorian woman, Roccena Belinda Norris, who supported herself as a professional artist. Perhaps one day more information will be available or more of her paintings discovered. However, it is time to put this research into print to be shared with others so that the efforts of this woman are not lost to time. Cousin Rocky sleeps today at Highland Cemetery on the banks of the beautiful Huron River which inspired so many of her paintings along with her mother Mary Ann, her father Justus Norris, step-father Liberty Beach, as well as other beloved family members.

So, in this year of the woman, when we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the amendment to the Constitution giving women of the United States equal rights to vote, let us celebrate the life, talent and work of Roccena Belinda Norris.

(Janice Anschuetz has lived in the historic east side of Ypsilanti for over 50 years. She is an Ypsilanti historian and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.)



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Ypsilanti's Southside Booming Business Corridor – circa 1940s thru 1960s

BY JUDY JACKSON

Judy Jackson on Harriet Street doing research for this article.

Not many outside of Ypsilanti's African American community know the rich history of Ypsilanti's Southside, with its entrepreneurship, commerce, and self-sufficiency, especially during the era of Jim Crow. It wasn't celebrated. I could not even find any usable photographs of businesses that we could include in this article. I am asking if anyone does have pictures of those historical businesses; please bring them to the Ypsilanti Historical Society so they can be shared as part of our history.

The information in this article came from multiple sources: the recollection of current and former community members such as Mayor Lois Allen-Richardson, former mayor George Goodman, Charles E. Ramsey, Neatreal Alexander, Rev. Theron "Bill" Kersey, and the members of the Palm Leaf Club, all of which I would like to express my appreciation for their time and their memories. My sources include Ann Arbor News articles, the A.P. Marshal interview transcripts, and interviews conducted by the African American Cultural, the Historical Museum of Washtenaw County and the Ann Arbor District Library as part of their Living Oral History Project. I also used the Polk phone directories found at the

Ypsilanti Historical Society Archives: 1941, 1945, 1948, 1954, 1957, 1963, 1965, and 1968.

This article focuses on Ypsilanti's Southside businesses, primarily in the Harriet Street corridor during the 1940s through the 1960s. This is not an exhaustive list. I am sure some people operated businesses from their homes but did not list their companies in the phone directories because the Southside was a tight community, and everybody knew who had what type of skills or products and how to contact them. I did not include some African American entrepreneurs like John Barfield or Attorney Vanzetti Hamilton in the list because their offices were not located on the Southside, or at least not listed that way.

Ypsilanti's Southside: Ypsilanti's Southside is generally described as having the borders of Michigan Avenue to the north, South Huron to the East, I-94 to the South, and Second Avenue to the West. It was the primary area in Ypsilanti where African Americans resided except Ainsworth Circle. Businesses and organizations on the first couple blocks south of Michigan Avenue on South Hamilton, South Adams, South Washington, and South Huron were mostly white es-

The 1940s

370 1st Ave;
Jefferson, Samuel B; Dentist

426 1st Ave;
Thomas, Joseph; Insurance

214 Harriet;
Williams, Henry; Restaurant

310 Harriet;
Northern Lights Tavern; Restaurant

313 Harriet;
Luten, LC; Clothes Cleaners

314 Harriet;
Mahaley, Louise, Mrs.;
Conference Hall

319 Harriet;
Washington Brothers Café;
Restaurant

319 Harriet;
Washington Brothers Grocery;
Grocery

406 Harriet;
Lett, Victor L; Barbers

415 Harriet;
Goodman's Fashion Center;
Women's Clothing Store

416 Harriet;
Cartwright, Benjamin;
Restaurant

416 Harriet;
Taylor, AL; Taxi Service

417 Harriet;
Griffin, Charles; Confr

437 Harriet;
Fuller, James; Grocery

555 Harriet St;
Williams, Eugene; Confr

122 Hawkins;
Francois, Herbert W.;
Real Estate

126 Hawkins;
Clark, Samuel; Physician

601 Jefferson;
Dorsey, Mattie; Grocery

302 Monroe;
Tibbitt's Agriculture Implements;
Warehouse

322 Monroe;
Norris Delmore E;
Real Estate

404 Monroe;
Bennett, Arthur;
Billiards/Pool

605 Monroe;
Shackleford, S A;
Grocery

614 Monroe;
Mays, Charles;
Grocery

411 S. Adams;
Richardson, Lucille M;
Funeral Home

401 S. Hamilton;
Perry, Lawrence C; Dentist

454 S. Huron;
Gordon's Grocery;
Grocery

510 S. Huron; **Hermanson & Wiard**
Grocery and Meats; Grocery.
Butcher

512 S. Huron; **Tibbitts Glen, M;**
Agriculture Implements and
Machinery - Dealers, Gasoline and
Oil Service Stations

601 S Huron;
Brooks, Annabel Mrs.; Notary Public

601 S Huron;
Brooks, Clarence; Gasoline and Oil
Service Stations

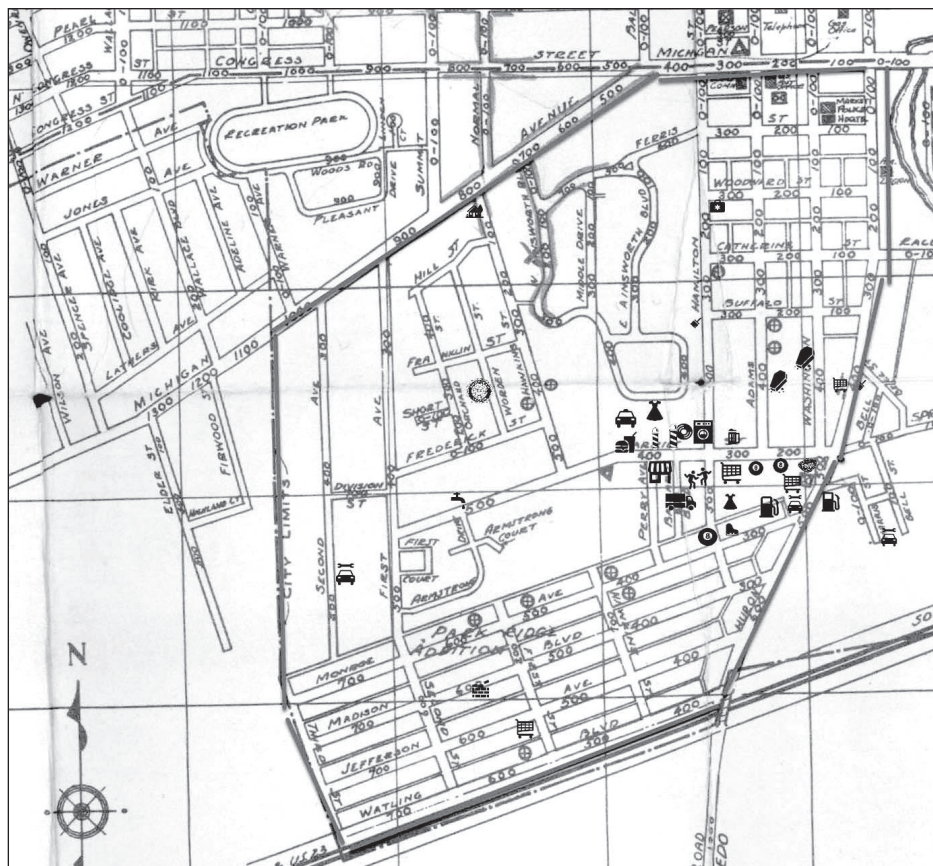
510 S. Huron (rear);
Wiard Cider Mill; Cider Mill

420 S. Washington;
Richardson, Samuel A; Barbers

430 S. Washington;
Travis, Samuel H.; Barbers

512 S Washington;
Ypsilanti Bottling Works; Bottlers

418 S. Washington;
Richardson, Samuel A;
Funeral Home



African American owned business along Harriet Street.

The 1950s

570 2nd Ave; Burton's Garage; Auto Repair	415 Harriet; Goodman's Beauty Shop; Beauty Shop	340 Monroe; Day, Gordon; Piano Tuner
514 Goodman; Knox, Asa; Trucking Service	415 Harriet; Goodman's Fashion Center; Women's Clothing store	404 Monroe Ave; Ramsey's Recreation; Billiards/Pool Hall
210 S. Hamilton; Bass, Thomas; Physician	416 Harriet; Blue Haven; Restaurant	416 Monroe Ave; Bennett's Recreation; Billiards/Pool Hall
406 S. Hamilton; Kersey, Charles; Plaster	416 Harriet; Butler's Restaurant; Restaurant	919 Monroe; Shackleford, SA; Grocery
309 Harriet; Harry's Sports Center; Billiards/Pool Hall	416 Harriet; Reliable Cab Co; Taxi Service	937 Monroe; Mays, Charles; Grocery
310 Harriet; Northern Lights Tavern/310 Bar; Beer Garden	437 Harriet; Richardson James D; Grocery	955 Monroe; Mathew, Nathaniel; Masonry Contractor
313 Harriet; Ypsilanti Variety Shop; General Store	542 Harriet; Moore, William; Plumber	436 2nd Ave; Taylor Radio & Television Radio Sales & Service; Radio & Television Radio Sales & Service
315 Harriet; Cooper's Recreation; Billiards/Pool Hall	122 Hawkins; Francois, Herbert W.; Real Estate	401 S. Hamilton; Perry, Lawrence C; Dentist
319 Harriet; Especially For You; Dressmaker Shop	126 Hawkins; Clark, Samuel; Physician	411 S. Adams; Lucille's Funeral Home; Funeral Home
319 Harriet; Washington Brothers Grocery; Grocery	454 S. Huron; Gordon's Grocery; Grocery	418 S. Washington; Pendleton Mortuary; Funeral Home
401 Harriet; Caldwell, Jennie; Restaurant	510 S. Huron; Hermanson & Wiard Grocery and Meats; Grocery	418 S. Washington; Richardson, Samuel A; Funeral Home
401 Harriet St.; The Booster Club; Banquet/Conference	512 S. Huron; Al's Auto Repair renamed Reliable Service Garage; Auto Repair	420 S. Washington; Richardson, Samuel A; Barbers
404 Harriet; Ramsey's Cleaners; Cleaners	601 S Huron; Brooks, Clarence; Gasoline and Oil Service Stations	430 S. Washington; Travis, Samuel H; Barbers
406 Harriet; Lett, Victor L; Barbers	602 S. Huron; Tibbitt's Farm Supply; Farm Supply	430 S. Washington; Bullock, Pelley; Clothes Cleaners
406 Harriet; The Bop Shop; Record Store	602 S. Huron; Ypsilanti Motor Coach; Limousine/Bus	512 S Washington; Ypsilanti Bottling Works; Bottlers
406 Harriet; Wiley and Warren; Barbers	834 Jefferson; Pelham, Alger; Painter	437 Worden; White, William M; Grocery
414 Harriet; JD Hall's Barbershop; Barbers	909 Jefferson; Progressive Co-Operative Grocery and Meats; Grocery	
414 Harriet; Royal Dressmaking Shoppe; Dressmaker Shop	320 Monroe; Tibbitt's Agriculture Implements Warehouse; Warehouse	

The 1960s -

425 2nd Ave;
William, John A; Painter

614 Goodman;
Knox, Asa; Trucking Service

309 Harriet;
Harry's Sports Center;
Billiards/Pool Hall

310 Harriet;
Northern Lights Tavern/310 Bar;
Beer Garden

315 Harriet;
Cooper's Recreation;
Billiards/Pool Hall

319 Harriet;
Washington Brothers Grocery;
Grocery

319 Harriet;
C & H Real Estate; Real Estate

319 Harriet;
Woods Radio and TV Service;
Radio and TV Repair service

401 Harriet;
Ron's Drive Inn; Restaurant

401 Harriet;
City Urban Renewal Office;
Ypsilanti City

414 Harriet;
Wiley and Warren Barber Shop;
Barbers

420 Harriet;
W & W Bar-B-Q; storage

420 Harriet;
Val's Beauty Land; Beauty Shop

420 Harriet;
Shinemaster's Shine;
Shoeshine Store

428 Harriet;
W & W Bar-B-Q; Restaurant

428 Harriet;
Three Sisters Bar-B-Q; Restaurant

428 Harriet;
Flying Chickens; Restaurant

432 Harriet;
Ramsey's Cleaners; Cleaners

432 Harriet;
The Bop Shop; Record Store

432 Harriet;
Reliable Cab Co; Taxi Service

432 Harriet;
Currie's Barber Shop; Barbers

467 Harriet;
Lee Audrey; Car Wash

486 Harriet St;
Hall's Barber Shop; Barbers

486 Harriet St;
Hall's Beauty Shop; Beauty Shop

505 Harriet;
Goodman's Beauty shop; Beauty Shop

505 Harriet;
Goodman's Fashion Center;
Women's Clothing store

505 Harriet;
**Washtenaw Office of Economic
Opportunity;** Washtenaw County

518 Harriet;
Blue Haven; Restaurant

518 Harriet;
Three Sisters Restaurant;
Restaurant

520 Harriet;
Reliable Cab Co, Taxi Service

824 Harriet;
Moore, William; Plumber

122 Hawkins;
Francois, Herbert W.; Real Estate

422 Hawkins;
Hulbert, Ruby; Dressmaker

440 Jefferson;
Adams, Nancy L;
Beauty Shop

909 Jefferson;
**Progressive Co-Operative Grocery
and Meats;** Grocery

1005 Madison Ave;
Reeves James H;
Construction Contractor

340 Monroe;
Day, Gordon; Piano Tuner

404 Monroe Ave;
Ramsey's Recreation;
Billiards/Pool Hall

411 S. Adams;
Lucille's Funeral Home;
Funeral Home

201 S. Hamilton;
Bass, Thomas; Doctor

401 S. Hamilton;
Holloway, Nathaniel, Jr; Dentist

406 S. Hamilton;
Kersey, Charles; Plaster

418 S. Huron;
Wilkerson Sadie M;
Dressmaker Shop

454 S. Huron;
Gordon's Grocery; Grocery

510 S. Huron;
Allen's Super Market; Grocery

512 S. Huron;
Hall, Tom Service;
Gasoline and Oil Service Stations

512 S. Huron;
Five-Twelve Gas Station;
Gasoline and Oil Service Stations

512 S. Huron;
Dudley and Son Mobile;
Gasoline and Oil Service Stations

515 S. Huron;
Harris Service Station (Sinclair);
Gasoline and Oil Service Stations

561 S. Huron;
Ypsi Automatic Transmission;
Auto Repair

561 S. Huron;
D & E Auto Repair; Auto Repair

602 S. Huron;
Dick's Bodyshop; Auto Repair

610 S. Huron;
Econ-O-Wash; Laundry mat

612 S. Huron;
Mitchell and Sons; Auto Repair

689 S. Huron;
Tony's Beauty Salon; Beauty Shop

418 S. Washington;
Pendleton Mortuary;
Funeral Home

512 S Washington;
Faygo Beverages; Bottlers

* note there was an address shift change on Harriet, Jefferson, Monroe, and Madison.

Highlighted Businesses

Northern Lights/310 Bar/The Beer Garden:

The Northern Lights, later named the 310 Bar, was one of the oldest establishments. The tavern was located on 310 Harriet and owned by Bill and Louise Mahaley. Inside, there was a bar and a lunch counter, where drinks and sandwiches were served. There were also chairs outside where people would sit, talk or watch people go by. The Mahaleys also owned the building at 314 Harriet, which had several apartments and a drug store. Both buildings on the lot were demolished in 1991 and 1992 to make way for the Harriet Commerce Center.

Goodman's Fashion Center: Mrs. Thelma Goodman knew that there were no women's clothing stores in Ypsilanti that allowed African American women to try on clothes before purchasing and how that felt. She had experience working at Crowley's Department Store for several years and knew the business and how to provide excellent customer service. She started by selling hats in the basement of her house at 630 Madison Boulevard (now 986 Madison Blvd) and called her store Goodman's. She did so well that she expanded to clothing and lingerie. She hired additional dressmakers and a corsetiere and opened a beauty shop. She hired Mrs. Virginia Smith, Mrs. Fanny Perry, Mrs. Charles Davis, Mrs. Frankie Nelson, and Mrs. Daisy Sanders to work at Goodman's. Her husband, George, felt that with the business continuously growing, they should build a store. Challenging as it was for African Americans to get a bank loan, especially during those times, they succeeded. Moses Bass Senior built Goodman's Fashion Center at 415 Harriet Street, located on the south side of the street between Ballard Street and Perry Street in 1947.

The building had ample floor space, two large show windows, three side windows, a serving room, a fitting room, a beauty salon, an office, and a four-room apartment. Our mayor Lois

Allen-Richardson worked there as a teenager. Goodman's Fashion Center closed in 1964.

Washington Brothers Grocery:

Washington Brothers Grocery was a mainstay of the community located on 319 Harriet Street, the southeast corner of Harriet Street and South Hamilton. The store sold groceries and had a butcher shop. Before the grocery store, he had a cafe at that location called Washington Brothers Café with his brother Samuel Washington. After they opened the store, they ran both businesses, but Amos decided to close the café. The space was rented to Ramsey's Clothes Cleaners in 1951 and Especially for You, a dressmaker shop, in 1957. The building had two apartments upstairs where Sam and Amos lived for a while. By 1963, Washington Brothers Grocery was closed. The building was then occupied by C & H Real Estate, Woods Radio and TV Sales and Services.

The Businesses of Charles A. Ramsey:

After World War II ended, Charles A. Ramsey found that his parents and siblings had moved from Detroit to Ypsilanti, so he followed them there. His first business in Ypsilanti was Ramsey's Cleaners, located at 319 Harriet; he later moved across the street to the northwest corner of Hamilton and Harriet.

Charles A. Ramsey also had a pool hall at 404 Monroe, on the northwest corner of South Hamilton and Monroe called Ramsey's Recreations. You could buy milk, bread, candy and pop there. His son, Charles E., has fond memories of the establishment. "My grandfather managed it. I would go there after school almost every day when I was six and seven," he recalled. "The first thing I did when I got there was to get a Coke from the Coke machine and play a couple of rounds of pool, I am not sure if I was old enough to be there, but I know that there were boys that worked there," he said. "I only lived a few blocks away on Huron Street," he told me. One of the

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boys who worked there was State Representative Ronnie Peterson, "I cleaned up and picked up around the yard. I think I made a dollar", he said. Rev. Theron "Bill" Kersey III remembers going to Ramsey's Recreation Center when he was young. "The candy was always fresh," he said.

In 1960, playing pool seemed to be a popular activity because there were two other pool halls in the same block as Washington Brothers Grocery, Harry's Sports Center at 309 Harriet and Cooper's Recreation at 315 Harriet.

"The Place" and the Blue Haven: The Cartwright family owned the building at 401 Harriet on the southwest corner of Harriet and South Hamilton across the street from Washington Brothers Grocery. Different establishments operated from that address; in 1954, it was Jennie Caldwell's restaurant. In 1957, the Booster Club was in the building, and in 1960 it housed Ron's Drive Inn. So, it is understandable why people called it "The Place" but couldn't recall the actual name. By 1964, "The Place" housed the Urban Renewal Office. Now the property is part of the Hamilton Crossings Apartments.

The Cartwright family owned the 416 Harriet Street building across the street from Goodman's Fashion Center. Later, the address was changed to 518 Harriet Street sometime between 1954 and 1957. My grandmother, Florence Watson (later Reese), opened her restaurant, the Blue Haven, in that building above the Reliable Cab Company owned by Al Taylor. The Blue Haven was the place to get the best soul food. My grandmother cooked fried chicken, smothered pork chops, black-eyed peas, greens, yams, cornbread, peach cobbler served with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, and much more. As work was being done on the expansion of South Hamilton and Interstate 94, road workers came to her restaurant for just a bowl of her pinto beans. My father, Charlie Jackson, worked there in the mid-1950s while he studied at the University of Michigan's graduate school of social work. The Blue Haven closed in 1968, the same year my father took a job in Illinois and moved our family.

(Judy Jackson is a retired Environmental Protection Agency IT Project Manager and an amateur genealogist. She is a member of the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County and WeROC.)

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Museum Advisory Board Report

BY EVAN MILAN, CHAIR

The last quarter has been marked by numerous developments for the Ypsilanti Historical Museum. Visitors that come to the Asa Dow home this autumn will be greeted by a brand new concrete entrance from the parking area. The wooden ramp and stairs that once led visitors into our Heritage Room entrance were dismantled on Monday, July 11th, and construction of its vastly improved successor commenced.

Displays continue to rotate in the museum, allowing returning visitors the chance to see more of our growing collection. Donations by Mary Claire Anhut have allowed the Ypsilanti Historical Society to build an impressive collection of artifacts from the Estate of Henry Ford. In addition to the rocking chair and silver serving pieces previously donated and displayed, YHS is now able to boast a collection of glassware and dishes. Additionally, there are now two dining chairs from the Ford Estate placed around the first floor of the museum. Visitors will also note a new display of the museum's collection of tea pots in the Heritage Room.

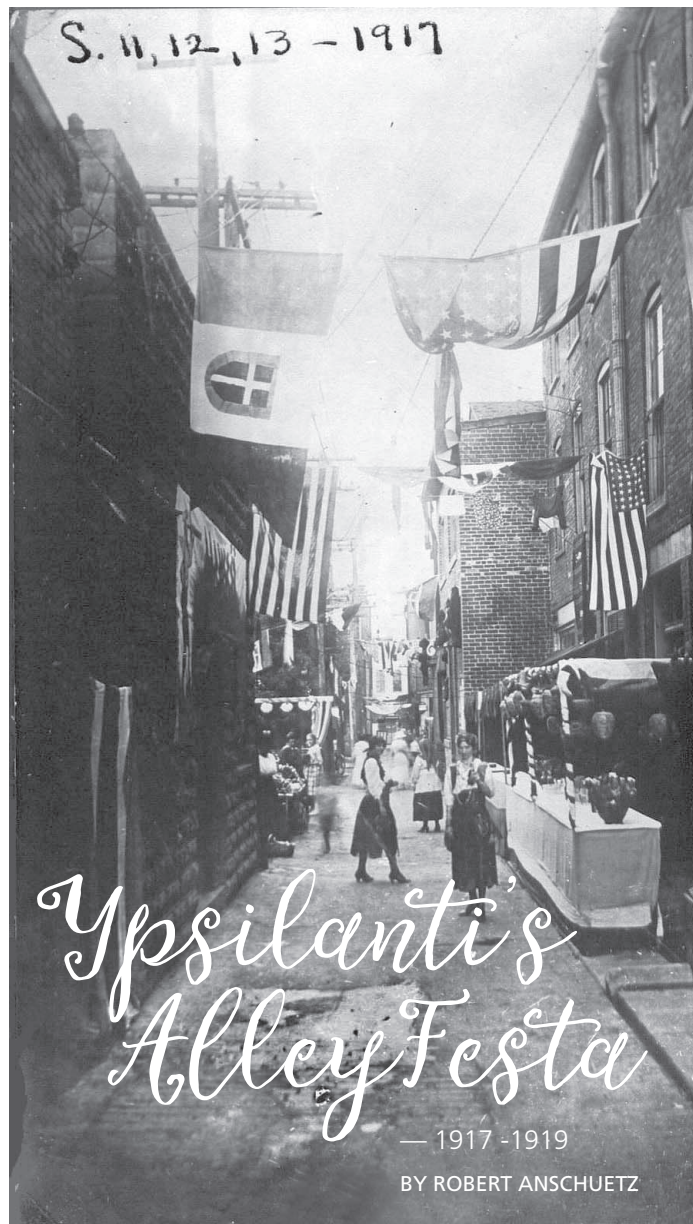
We continue to face a world with constantly changing protocols of health and safety; on Thursday, August 11, the CDC updated recommendations for COVID-19 protocols. According to CDC epidemiologist, Greta Massetti, 95% of the population has some immunity to COVID-19 through vaccination or exposure to the virus. With that said, COVID continues to be a virus with potentially life-threatening effects for those who are immune compromised. Out of an abundance of caution for the health and well-being, not only of our members,

but for the communities and households our members live among, we ask that visitors respect the scheduled docent's preference in masking requirements.

Though signs continue to point to a positive direction, YHS continues to face some of the volunteer shortages that were hastened by the pandemic. The Ypsilanti Historical Society Board of Advisors would like to say thank you and welcome to three new docents who have joined us; Nitasha Deogun, Morgan Schuster, and Kathy Gilden Bidelman. Any interested individual who is able to volunteer three hours a month can reach out to us through email at yhs.museum@gmail.com or through our website at www.ypsihistory.org.



Two dining chairs from the Ford Estate were donated to the Museum by Mary Claire Anhut.



Ypsilanti's Inaugural Alley Festa –
September 11-13, 1917.

The Allied Alley Festa was held nationally for several years during World War I as a patriotic effort by some communities to benefit the Red Cross, Y.M.C.A, Liberty Loan, and other patriotic funds related to war relief. For example, the cities of Boston, Chicago, and New York held Alley Festa bazaars to support the war effort. New York City held it's Alley Festa in the famous MacDougall Alley in June of 1917, and it was so successful it was extended by several days past the original planned end-date. Ypsilanti held an Alley Festa annually from 1917-1919. The Rotary Club's national newsletter, The Rotarian, described the Ypsilanti Alley Festa as follows: "The Alley Festa in Ypsilanti is something like it sounds. It is the nature of a carnival, except that all the attractions are put on by local residents, and it is held in the alleys of the city. This prevents blockades of the city streets and at the same time forces a clean-up in the alleys at least once a year."

In Ypsilanti, the first Alley Festa was organized by Daniel

Quirk, Jr. in 1917. Ypsilanti's Alley Festa was subsequently held for three consecutive years under the direction of the Ypsilanti Patriotic Service League. The mission statement of the Ypsilanti Patriotic Service League stated that "It is composed of every patriotic citizen in and near Ypsilanti and if your name is not already signed to a membership card, you should do so at once, for the membership roll is a complete register of all patriotic citizens in this district, and a copy will be sent to Washington in registration matters. Not to have your name on the membership list might brand you as in opposition to local Government Work." That was quite a high-pressure sales-pitch to join! Patriotic citizens who wanted to join the club signed a membership pledge card and took an oath to patriotism.

The Ypsilanti Alley Festas were held in the alleys in the block bounded by Michigan Avenue, Washington Street, Pearl Street and Huron Street. These same alleys exist today in the parking areas behind Go Ice Cream and ACE Hard-

ware. According to Ypsilanti historian James Mann's book "Ypsilanti in the 20th Century", the 1917 Alley Festa raised a total of \$3,645.20 for the Red Cross and other War-related organizations. The Ypsilanti Alley Festa activities of that inaugural year were held on September 11-13, 1917, and included vendors, amusements, motion pictures, fortune tellers and vaudeville shows. The event was

very successful and it was decided to hold another Alley Festa the following year.

On June 28th, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson declared a National War Savings Day to encourage the purchase of War Savings Stamps that could be collected and converted to larger denomination War Bonds. During World War I, Michigan was the number one state in the nation for War Bond sales per capita. A week after the inaugural National War Savings Day, the 1918 Ypsilanti Alley Festa was held in conjunction with Ypsilanti's 4th of July activities. The souvenir program for the 1918 Alley Festa was priced at 10 cents and documented all the booths and activities over the four days that it was held. The souvenir program introduced the 1918 Alley Festa as follows: "The Alley Festa was first introduced in Ypsilanti by D.L. Quirk, Jr., now in service in France. Patterned after a similar event in the Italian section of New York City, it met with such phenomenal success here last year that it is to become an annual event, with the support of all Ypsilanti, for the further benefit of the various war funds. Great credit is due the churches and lodges and other organizations of the city for the able manner in which they have aided in making the event of so



1918 National Liberty War Bond Drive Poster.

much importance as it is proving to be, the aim being in the present affair have even greater net receipts to add to the local patriotic treasury."

The 1918 Alley Festa consisted of five alleys, each with booths and activities totaling 38 booths. The main entrance was on Washington Street,

with entrance number two on Huron Street, and entrance number three on Pearl Street. The five alleys were 1. Alley LaLiberty which connected Washington Street and Huron Street, 2. Alley Britannia which was located at the back of Washington Street, 3. Alley Franciase, 4. Alley L'Italaine which connected Alley Britannia with Alley Franciase, and 5. Alley Belgique which connected Alley Franciase with the merry-go-round on Alley Britannia. Booth number one was at the main gate on Washington, and booths were numbered consecutively on the south side of Alley LaLiberty.

The booths on Alley LaLiberty consisted of 1. Episcopal Church – ice cream cones, 2. Methodist Church – coffee and rolls, 3. Daughters of Veterans – ice cream cones, 4. Sons of Veterans – soft drinks, 6. Presbyterian Church – coffee, 7. Daughters of the American Revolution – hamburger sandwiches, 8. Signal Corps – rest rooms, 8. Signal Corps Auxiliary – baked beans, brown bread, candy, 9. Ladies' Mutual Benefit Association – fish pond, 10. Home Association – novelty store, 11. Lutheran Church – candy (taffy), and 12. Special Booths – balloons, noise-makers.

The booths on Alley Britannia consisted of 13. Cold Pack Exhibit, 14. Federation of Women's Clubs – chop suey,



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tea, coffee, sandwiches, 15. Flower Booth, 16. Knights of the Maccabees – swat the Kaiser, 17. Farmer's Booth – farm products, 18. Merry-Go-Round, 19. Boy Scouts – rest rooms, 20. Degree of Honor – ice cream cones, 21. Congressional Women and Women's Christian Temperance Union – baked goods, 22. Baptist Church – lemonade, and 23. Eastern Star – ice cream and cake.

The booths on Alley L'Italiane consisted of 24. Pythian Sisters – spaghetti, pies, 25. International Order of Odd Fellows – cigars, etc., 26. Dairy Products Demonstration, 27. Teachers' Club – tea and cake, 28. Movies – new movie every day, 29. Dance Hall – clean and wholesome, 30. Industrial Association – war museum from British War Office, 31. Circus – indoor, don't miss it, 32. Rotary Club – patriotic minstrels, 33. Catholic Church – vaudeville, 34. Board of Commerce – soft drinks, 35. Ferris wheel, 36. Board of Commerce – duck pond, 37. Game of Skill – ball throwing at dolls, and 38. Bandstand.

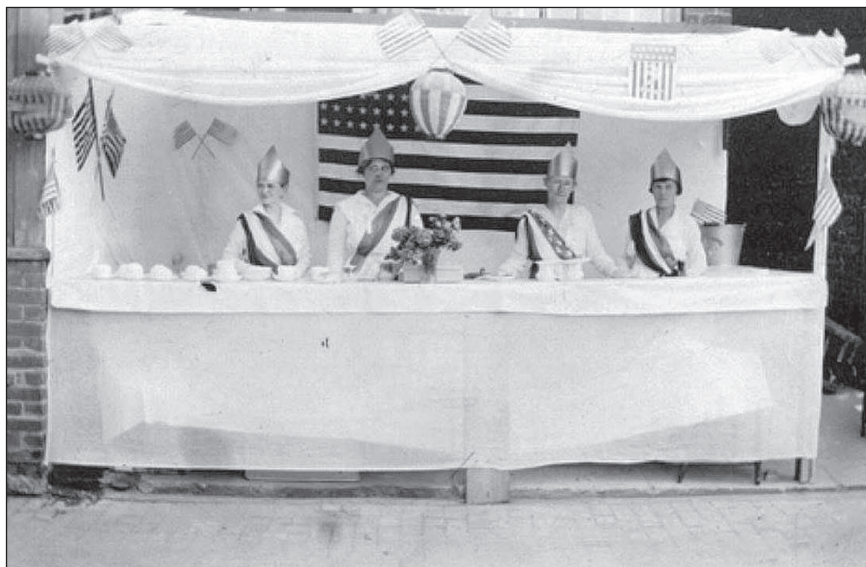
There were other booths that did not register in time and were not listed in the published programs. Booths did not accept cash, so tickets were purchased at the ticket sales booth which could be redeemed for buying goods or entering the shows.

The 1918 Alley Festa was held July 3rd - 6th. A.G. Erickson served as the Chairman of the 1918 Alley Festa Committee. The program began with the grand opening at 6 p.m. on July 3rd. The grand opening consisted of a parade of all the workers and a band. After dinner, there was a flag raising

of the Alley Festa Flag and short addresses by Ypsilanti Mayor Lee Nathan Brown and Michigan State Normal College President Charles McKenny. The evening continued with a continuous stream of fun until 11 p.m. The activities included street fairs, a merry-go-round, bally-hoos, side shows, vaudeville acts, minstrel shows, poormen, beggermen, vendors, and booths of all kinds. The evening

was capped off by fireworks and aerial bombs. On the first night, all of the food vendors sold out of their food.

The second day of 1918 activities began with a 4th of July Parade at 10 a.m. The parade consisted of four bands, soldiers, mounted police, soldiers from Custer and Ann Arbor, Boy Scouts, Campfire Girls, school children, Red Cross and Society floats, Normal College floats, individual floats, industrial floats, church floats, and decorated automobiles. The parade started on Forest Avenue near Pease Auditorium and proceeded east on Forest to Huron, south on Huron to



1918 Alley Festa Organization Booth – July 3-6, 1918.

4 BIG DAYS 4

JULY
2 - 3 - 4 - 5
THE THIRD

Alley Festa
AND
Victory Celebration

AT
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN
FUN AND FROLIC FROM 12 TO 12

Stupendous Independence Day Parade 10 a.m. July 4
OLD FASHIONED ONE-REEL CIRCUS
SIDE SPLITTING VAUDEVILLE
DANCING AND MINSTREL SHOWS
ARCADE GAMES HAZARD OF ORIENTAL BEAUTIES

EVERYTHING HEARD OR UNHEARD OF FOR YOUR
AMUSEMENT AND ENTERTAINMENT
COME EARLY—STAY LATE

We absolutely guarantee the time of your life. Old Washington has never seen its equal and Ypsilanti is going to go the limit to create anything ever produced before in its history.

COME! COME!
—The Lark Song is Out. The Keys to the City are Yours—

Keep Your Eye On The Dates
July 2, 3, 4 and 5
From 12 to 12

1919 Ad for the
Third Ypsilanti Alley
Festa and Victory
Celebration – July
2-5, 1919.

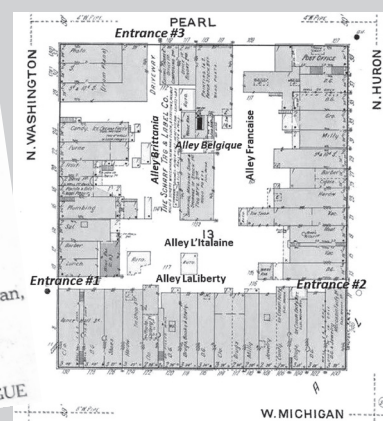
SOUVENIR PROGRAM PRICE 10 CTS

Allied Alley Festa
JULY 3, 4, 5, 6
1918
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN

FOR THE BENEFIT OF
Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., Liberty Loan,
and Other Patriotic Funds

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
YPSILANTI PATRIOTIC SERVICE LEAGUE

1918 Ypsilanti Allied Alley Festa
Souvenir Program Cover.



Approximation of 1918 Entrances and
Alleys Overlaid on the 1916 Sanborn
Fire Map

Cross, east on Cross to River, south on River to Michigan, west on Michigan to Huron, north on Huron to Pearl, and concluded on Pearl at Entrance #3 to the Alley Festa. At noon, there was a band concert by the military band as well as community singing. At 1:30 p.m. there were stunts and acrobatic performances, and lunch was provided by various vendors. At 2 p.m. there was a patriotic address by Congressman Washington Gardiner with the theme "A Vital Message to Patriotic People." At 3 p.m., the Olympian contests began which included a fat man's race, three-legged race, potato sack race, boys' race, girls' race, women's race, peanut rolling, tug of war, cake walk, jig dancing contest, singing contest, men's sack race, and boys' sack race. Prizes were awarded for each race. At 5 p.m. dinner was available for purchase in the vendor booths. The 4th of July evening concluded with a band concert, community singing, and free vaudeville stunts.

The third day of activities didn't start until 5 p.m. with several free shows and a mimic parade. Other activities included a vaudeville show, minstrels, a motion picture at the Martha Washington Theatre, tableaux, and other exhibits. The Martha Washington Theatre had different motion pictures each day of the Alley Festa, including July 3rd: Enid Bennett in "The Keys of the Righteous"; July 4th: The Dollie Sisters in "The Million Dollar Dollies"; July 5th: Elsie Ferguson in "Songs of Songs"; and July 6th: Irene Castle in "The Mysterious Client". Matinee and evening performances were shown at a price of 15 cents plus 2 cents tax.

The fourth and final day of the 1918 Alley Festa was the Grand Carnival Day. The theme of the day was clean, wholesome, and riotous fun, with grotesque costumes and hilarious enthusiasm. The day began at noon, and the famous Marine Band of 40 pieces formed a parade at 1 p.m. At 2 p.m., the honorable Albert E. Sleeper, Governor of the State of Michigan, gave an address titled "My Life for My Coun-



1918 Ypsilanti Alley Festa Grounds Overview.

try." The Marine Band gave their concert at 3 p.m. and at 8 p.m. there was a Carnival Circus Parade. The evening was capped with a costume party where each person was supposed to come dressed in costume to represent some nation or period of history. Prizes were given for the best and worst costumes. There was a band concert all evening with dancing in the pavilion. Confetti was given out along with horns, bugles, balloons, and noisemakers. There were also plenty of clowns on hand. The program provided the warning that "careful watch, however,

will be kept by the police department to see that all the fun will remain within the bounds of propriety. Only clean wholesome fun will be allowed."

After World War I ended on November 11, 1918, the 1919 Allied Alley Festa was advertised as a Victory Celebration. The Detroit Free Press issue of May 20, 1919, had a short article about it. "The third annual alley festa will be held in Ypsilanti July 2, 3, 4 and 5. Chairman D.L. Quirk, Jr., has announced last year several thousand dollars were cleared for Red Cross

Like the Ypsilanti Historical Society loves preserving the past.

We love to help.
How can we help you?
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ann arbor helps
Member FDIC

and other war activities. Among the features this year will be a circus, minstrel show, vaudeville shows, dancing, fortune telling and the great white way." The great white way refers to a Broadway theater district in New York, which implied that there were theatrical sketches performed at the Alley Festa. The minstrel shows included black-face performances in an unenlightened time.

The 1919 Alley Festa included an Independence Day Parade on July 4th at 10 am. Other activities included a one-ring circus, vaudeville and minstrel shows, dancing, a harem of oriental beauties, and aboo dings (perhaps meaning a stir fry food dish). The advertisement for the 1919 Alley Festa stated "We absolutely guarantee the time of your life. Old Washtenaw has never seen it's equal and Ypsilanti is going to go the limit to outdo anything ever produced before in its history." How could anybody miss such a fun time?

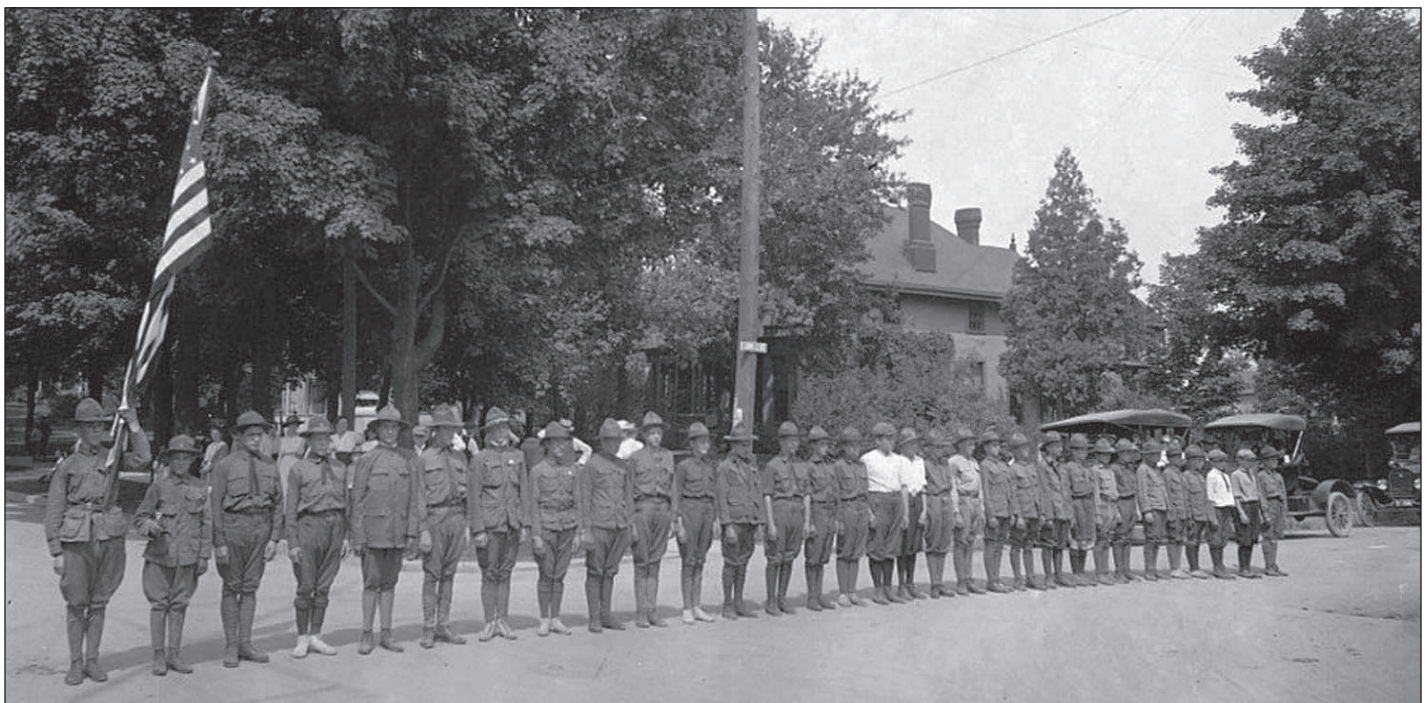
With the conclusion of World War I, the 1919 Alley Festa would be the last of its kind. There were discussions

about continuing the Alley Festa in 1920, and then again in 1921, but the Patriotic Service League was dwindling in numbers with the end of the war and could not sponsor the event. In a June 1921 issue of the Ypsilanti Daily Press, it was stated that "due to the unsettled condition of the Patriotic Service League, plans for an alley festa have been abandoned." However, that does not diminish the fact that for three years the event was a great success. From 1917-1919, as the United States was fighting both a world war and the Spanish Flu pandemic, Ypsilanti churches, organizations, and citizens showed the world that fun times could continue. The community came together to express their patriotism and pulled out all the stops to put on three consecutive multi-day celebrations. Hopefully Ypsilanti's upcoming bicentennial celebration in 2023 can capture a piece of that community pride and celebration!

(Robert Anschuetz grew up in Ypsilanti in the historic Swaine house at the corner of Forest Avenue and River Street. He is a regular



One of the Three Entrances to the 1918 Alley Festa.



Boy Scouts, Troop A, Ready for Parade Duty and War Savings Stamp Drive.



Ypsilanti Bicentennial: 2023 Plan

BY EVAN MILAN

The City of Ypsilanti was founded just north of the Huron River, at the foot of what one day would become Ford Lake in 1823. At the time, the community was called Woodruff's Grove, after the founder of the small trading post, Major Thomas Woodruff. Now quickly approaching the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of that ancestral village, a celebration for the community, that means so much to us all, is in development.

After a number of attempts to form a celebration, hampered by uncertainty caused by a global pandemic, a group of over 20 Ypsiphiles have come together over the last year to give Ypsilanti a well-deserved Bicentennial that celebrates the past, present and future of our unique community. Representatives of the City, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsi Real, The Ypsilanti Historical Society, in addition to many other organizations are contributing their time and talents to create a year full of events that will live among the memories of the Centennial of 1923 and the Sesquicentennial of 1973.

Events planned for our bicentennial will begin in the autumn of 2022, with a fundraiser event at the Ypsilan-

ti Freighthouse on September 23rd; tickets will be \$20. On December 31st, we will ring in the bicentennial year with an additional fundraiser at the Water Tower. Like the celebrations of previous mile stones in Ypsilanti, our celebration will be present on the Fourth of July. On July 4th 1973 a time capsule was buried at the foot of the Water Tower, to be opened 7/4/2023. We will uncover the fifty-year-old time capsule, and prepare a new time capsule to be buried until 2073, when Ypsilanti celebrates 250 years.

With representation in the various celebrations that Ypsi puts on annually, including Juneteenth, Memorial Day, and Summer Fest, we will devote a day solely to celebrating our city on Saturday August 19th in Depot Town. At this celebration, Ypsilanti businesses, admirers, and representatives will be able to come together to mingle and express their community pride. Additionally, Eastern Michigan University, as an indispensable part of our community, will be at the center of a homecoming celebration in the early part of the 2023-2024 school year that will bring together the celebration of 200 years of Ypsilanti and 175 years of EMU.

To celebrate our community, the key piece to the Ypsilanti Bicentennial is

having the stories of Ypsilantians told. Love Letters, a project developed by Caroline Sanders, and executed by the members of Ypsi Writes, is working to have Ypsilanti's stories recorded for generations to look back on. Ypsiphiles have the opportunity to submit postcards, letters, and artwork that tell the story of Ypsilanti. Love Letters has already begun its campaign, and will continue its invaluable work through the celebration year.

Finally, like the work of Harvey C. Colburn, members of our Bicentennial Committee have undertaken the task of recording the history of Ypsilanti that has not yet been sufficiently recorded. In contrast to the work of one man, though, our history, at 200 years, will be told by many writers, those who experienced the momentous events and live in the neighborhoods in which they occurred. This history will be available in print on August 19th 2023.

For more information regarding the Ypsilanti Bicentennial, including volunteer opportunities and event postings, please follow us on Facebook at Ypsilanti Bicentennial: Celebrating 200 years, or reach out to us through email at ypsibicentennial@gmail.com.

(Evan Milan is the Chair of the Ypsilanti Bicentennial Committee)



636 S. Mansfield Ave.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Tel: (734) 483-5811
Fax: (734) 483-9701

My Cruise Around the Village

BY C. TINO LAMBROS

It's been quite a trip around the "Village". There aren't many places left to revisit. I have gone way beyond my original intent in this nostalgic tour. When I began I had ideas for about four articles and this one is number nine. The previous eight have taken us to the places most meaningful and most frequented by my circle of friends. Here we wrap up the tour with those less visited places by my friends and me.

We pretty much stayed away from Depot Town then. Even Riverside Park was a questionable destination, especially after 5:00 pm. One friend, Mike, always joked that we should go to Riverside and roll drunks. We did frequent many places walking toward the Water Tower from the old high school. Across from the old high school was the famous or infamous "In We Go Snack Bar" owned and operated by that great local Ypsilanti character, Joe Katsefaris. This was considered a tough place, and no one messed with Joe. The Snack Bar was busy throughout the school day. For many of us, it was off limits from 6 am until 6 pm – coaches' orders ... and maybe a warning or two from parents.

A half a block west of the snack bar on the corner of West Cross and Adams was the very first Dominos Pizza parlor. We helped establish the Monahan Empire! Farther west up Cross Street from the high school was the campus area. There were a variety of businesses. Abby's Grocery store on the corner of West Cross and Ballard. A couple doors west was Superiors, a grocery store and lunch counter, another favorite, especially if one had time to get-away from school for lunch. Often my lunch was a delicious cherry tart or two.

There was Zwergles, Swing Symphony, and the Schwinn Bicycle Shop on Perrin Street. The owner came across as a mean spirited fellow and we didn't do much business there if we could help it. McClure's Photography – most of us had our senior pictures taken there. My picture never made "the big time" by being displayed in their window. And up the hill was the legendary Ted's College Pharmacy (later Ted's Pills "N" Things). I remember walking home from junior high (we walked to and from school a lot, then) with friend Joe Keene and we stopped in. Near the front window was the magazine stand. We decided to look at some outstanding "photo journalism". I knew Ted – Mr. Tangalakis – from being part of the very active Greek community. As we enjoyed these literary images, a very powerful, full voice came bellowing forth from some unknown corner of the store. I didn't understand the Greek, but I fully understood that I had better put the magazine down and leave quickly. Mr. Tangalakis was such a great supporter of EMU and the campus area. For many years we had Michigan football tickets within a couple rows of each other and kept in touch.

Once two friends, Rudy Anderson and Ron Seamans, and I camped out overnight in sleeping bags on our teacher's

(Mr. Waterman) front yard on Courtland Street, considered borderline rural country then. Now...it would be across the street from YCHS's football field parking lot.

There are reports that a certain group of Ypsi students dumped liquid dish soap in the Michigan League fountain on the U of M campus. When Arborland opened, downtown was less of an attraction. Even Arborland had a fountain. It was known that a few acquaintances would romp through the fountain, especially on very warm, summer nights.

Ann Arbor was always an attraction – the campus, downtown, and the intense rivalry between the two schools – yes, only two then. They had a place on Stadium, as I recall, called McDonald's. Good, inexpensive burgers. Another place was Everett's. The rivalry there could get real intense. On fall Saturdays, one may just be able to sneak into a Michigan football game. If not, a student ticket would cost you only a couple of dollars. The Arb – The Arboretum – was a great place for sledding in the wintertime and a private out of the way picnic spot in the summer. Cedar Bend Drive was a well known "lover's lane".

Ypsilanti had their 4th of July Parade for many decades, one of the longest continuous 4th of July parades in the state. It came right past our home on West Cross. A lemonade/cool ade stand could pull in a few dollars on parade day. Highlights of the parade included the Governor of Michigan, Governor G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams. Of course being married into the prominent Ypsi Quirk family was a draw for the Governor to walk in the Ypsi parade every year. The second great attraction for me was to see the latest model of Ypsi's own Tucker Torpedo car. Preston Tucker lived just off Michigan Avenue on Grove Road. His grandson was a 1962 YHS classmate. Check out the Jack Miller's Ypsi Automobile Museum in Depot Town for the mock-up Tucker used in the Academy Award winning movie, "Tucker – A Man and his Car (Dream)".

Ypsi had an annual Thanksgiving/Christmas Parade as well. Standing on Congress and Summit Streets on cold November evenings wasn't always pleasant, but it was the place to be to support friends and family members marching.

At Christmas the downtown stores were all decorated. Often this was combined with "Silver Dollar Days". Every store window had names with a bright, shiny silver dollar attached – your name if you were a winner of a silver dollar.

The second most important activity that brought the masses downtown – usually on a nice summer evening – was what seemed like to me – the "annual Ypsi Press Fire" on Pearl and Huron Street. It appeared the whole town turned out and you'd see people you hadn't seen in a long time. Looking back, it was quite a social event. The Press was never quite destroyed so we could look forward to another fire the

following year. Eventually the Press moved to Michigan Avenue, before closing. Nowadays, entrepreneurs would sell Ypsi Press Fire t-shirts, other souvenirs, refreshments, and make a tidy sum.

The number one “Village” attraction for us was the Happyland Carnival. For a week around the 4th of July, Waterworks Park was the social gathering place. Coming in from Michigan Avenue we had to maneuver ourselves around that threatening Water Street area, then make our way to the park’s entrance. Before the permanent bridge was built there was the ever-challenging floating bridge. Now that was exciting – especially with a group of “mature” junior high boys.

Once inside the grounds, a must stop was Gibby’s French Fry Stand just to the right as you walked off the bridge. There were lots of salt and the sprinkler bottles full of vinegar to add that extra special flavor. Going left one quickly encountered the obnoxious “fun house” with the laughing clown on top. Next came the “penny arcade”. Lots of games and competitions took place. Most of my money was spent here. Not the electronic marvels kids have today. Continuing along the way were more attractions and rides, usually the kids rides. At the turn to come back to the front were the Scrambler, Tilt-o-whirl, and the Ferris wheel. Next came the most exciting ride of our carnival days, the Bullet (It also had many other names). By today’s standards, this may not be much, but not then. I never rode this machine. Coming back down the midway, were most of the “games of skill”, more food booths and a few more rides.

The Happyland Carnival was the place to be. You could meet

friends there, spend a couple of hours, and then be on your way. On occasion, one could even strike up a new relationship – at least for the evening.

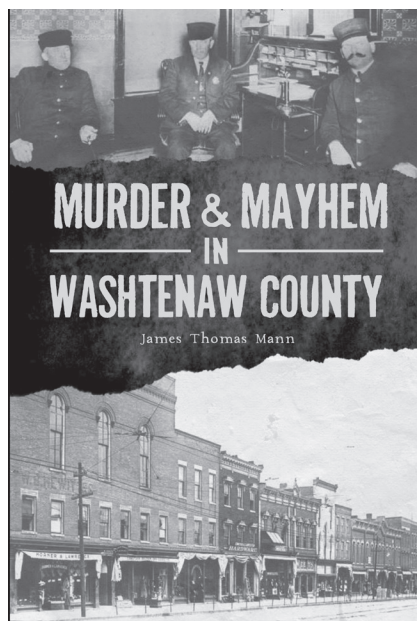
The main challenge of the carnival was having a July thunderstorm. The grounds became a quagmire. Mud, puddles, and a general mess greeted you. Of course, when the groundskeepers threw straw, sawdust, and sand on the mess, it made it all better. Throw in spilled food and drinks, machine smells, animal wastes, “outhouses”, human contributions from sick riders, and hot, steamy July humidity, and your carnival experience was then complete. Who could want for more!

My friends and I walked home or to Recreation Park. For nourishment, a must stop was at Haab’s for a wonderful 27 cent bag of their special shoe-string potatoes. They would last all the way up the Congress Street hill to your destination.

Often our memories aren’t quite as accurate as we would like them to be. If I missed a place or misplaced a place or misspelled a name or got the name wrong, I apologize.

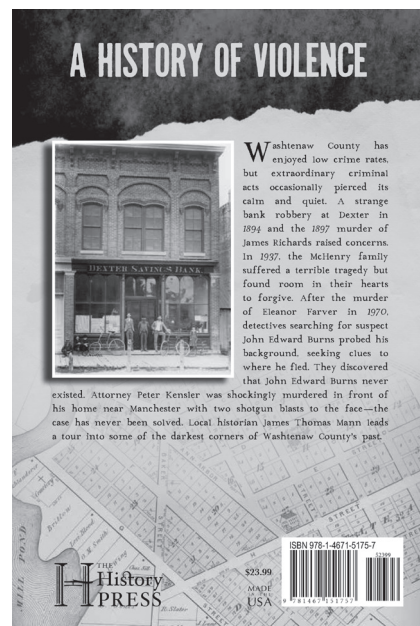
Those of you from different parts of the village or from different villages have your own memories. Many are probably very similar. The names, the places, and the faces may be different, but the times we lived in were very much the same. Whatever your experiences, from wherever you grew up, I hope the essence of the content remains.

(C. Tino Lambros grew up in Ypsilanti. This is one of a series of stories he has written about growing up in the Ypsilanti community.)



Washtenaw County Historian James Mann releases 10th local history book

The book will be available
October 3, 2022
in the YHS Archives,
from Amazon and the
local Walgreens
and CVS stores for \$23.99



Others From The Village Respond

BY C. TINO LAMBROS

Over the months these columns have run, I've had the pleasure of hearing from many of you. It has been so gratifying. Your thoughts, your experiences, and your comments have kept me going. I had no idea the geographic range these columns had. Through emails, mail, and personal contact you have spread the word and the word got back to me. Your minds drew back to those times and your thoughts flowed. I appreciate receiving many kind words and hearing your personal memories. Your memories jogged mine and new columns were born. This column is dedicated to all of you. Your thoughts and memories write this one. Each of you has memories, things you did, places you hung out, the people you hung with, and things you should never tell your parents or children.

A few leftovers of my own – Those all day sandlot baseball and football games. The great arguments on the field – “Safe!” “Out!” “Gotcha!” “No ya didn’t!” “Ya, I did – both hands on your back!” “Geez! Ya missed by a mile!” “You’re it!” “No, way, Jose!” “I got ya easily!” “No! I’m not it. Ya didn’t even come close to tagging me!” “That was pass interference!” And on and on it would go...BUT NO PARENTS INVOLVED!

We survived and learned the art of negotiation and compromise. When all else failed, “Do over!” Coming home after a long sweltering summer day longing for a good, cold, glass of milk, but no one took the milk in from the milk box or milk chute. Inside the milk box the curdling process had pushed the paper stopper out of top of the bottle – a real mess and a distinctive smell.

A special treat may be going to our amusement parks – Edgewater or Boblo Island. The Boblo Boat ride was always great fun. Riding my bike down Emmett Street to Baker’s Shoe Repair Shop. All that equipment in the front room of his house and all those great smells, sounds, and sights. I watched a truly, skilled, craftsman do his work with pride. I knew we would never have a conversation, though.

Over the years these articles have been requested by many. Each time they are requested and sent a few changes, updates and new thoughts are edited in and out. As has happened with the “Gleanings” publishing’s.

I heard from classmates, former students, kids in the neighborhood, people I never knew, relatives of those I wrote about, and others I met at various places around the “Village”. In Michigan, I heard from Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Haslett, Canton, Hillman, Torch Lake, Scio Township, Traverse City, and Waters. Out of state I heard from Apison, Tennessee, Glendale, Arizona, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Plus, many of you emailed or sent the columns to relatives scattered around the globe.

From a nice telephone conversation, I had with Max Obermeyer, Jr. – He recalled Carty’s Music Box, Manikas’s Hat Shop, a little hot dog stand close to Manikas’s that had “the

best dogs and the very best chili sauce”, Greene’s and Gerber’s jewelry stores, Nissley’s, and an art shop.

One of the “young kids” growing up on the Westside who encouraged me, Kirk Profit who included his brother Gary, recalled a lot of great times. His brother worked many years at Mellencamp’s and had wonderful memories working with those great men, Al Walton and Clarence Goodsman. These brothers considered the Handy Store a must stop, especially after ball practices and those long days at Recreation Park.

Ruth Ann Richards-Jamnack spent many evenings at Recreation Park watching her dad play softball. I wonder if she really just sat there and watched him play? I know she must have vivid memories of Saturday Junior Bowling League at Temple Lanes – especially bowling against the team I was on.

A classmate, Mary Jane Hoppert-Furtney, had wonderful memories of ice-skating at Recreation Park, especially at night under the lights. She may very well have met her husband during those skates. She still has those skates!

An east side classmate, Jackie Tooman-Fuller, has great memories of good times at Prospect Park – the fountain, the pond and its gold fish, and the famous “cannon”. They had night ice-skating, as well. Downtown she recalls Rexall Drug Store; the barber shop across from Mack and Mack, Shaffer Hardware’s Christmas toy displays – especially the electric train sets upstairs, the old library on Huron Street, Millers Ice Cream Parlor. She says this was where they celebrated after a school show, sport’s event, and other memorable occasions. She remembers Cal Peterson and his smile. My friend had Westside relatives, so she knew the Handy Store – the long, handled claw- thing that was used to get goods down from the top shelves – usually cereal – the delicious-looking meat counter. And at the old high school – the crunch of bodies converging on the hall outside the lockers when the bell rang – especially at lunchtime. Now that was dangerous!

Another young lady, Susan Hoppert-Genova, had many memories of time spent at Recreation Park. Her memories of the Handy Store were quite vivid – kids rode up on bikes, jumped off and let them land where they may, usually in a big pile. She remembers going behind the counter where all the candy was kept and spending as much time as she could carefully picking her favorites.

Another classmate, Kathy Draper-Coniam, got her thoughts rolling growing up in the Ainsworth area. Softball on the “triangle”, kick-the-can in front of the Mustazza home and all the dandelion sandwiches Mrs. Mustazza made for the kids, jumping rope for hours, neighborhood birthday parties and how everyone knew each other and looked out for each other, McCalla Dairy (How about Bella Vista and Warner Dairies?), milk in glass bottles with those lids that were so hard to get off, the Jewel Tea Man, and covered peony bushes, the

4th of July Parade, and the Dixie Shop.

A former student and another “youngster” from the Rec Park area, Peter Vogelsberg, sent me a wonderful letter. He worked four years at Mellencamp’s for \$1.45 an hour but received an employee discount of 40%. He recalls a truly family atmosphere at Mellencamp’s. Upstairs, Ruth and Hazel did alterations in the tailor shop. C.J. – Clarence Goodsman – was his favorite with Al Walton a close second.

They were truly interested in you and asked those personal questions without coming across as prying. C.J. and Al had their daily jokes – even off-color ones. In those days there was lots of smoking and he wondered how the smoke smell didn’t get into all the clothes. Pete has especially great memories of the Holiday season at Mellencamp’s. The Saturday before Thanksgiving, the young employees would decorate for the Holidays, generally supervising themselves. Pete, Duffy Penive, Jim Spjut, Gary Profit, and others put on the Holiday music, had pizza and pop, and spent the day having great fun decorating. There were also fond memories of skating and playing night hockey at Recreation Park. Trash can fires were how we all kept warm. He recalls John Wick and others keeping the warming fires going. He wonders who figured out that the solid wood outfield fence of the softball field, when rearranged, would make a near-perfect hockey rink? It was a freedom that is lost today, seemed so small then, but very large today.

Classmate Judy Howe-Clark sent many words of encouragement and support. She passed the articles on to her mother and brothers around the state. Their collective memories became very active. She suggested several ideas that may yet appear, although she didn’t add any memories of her own. I thank her for her kindness.

With the “Gleanings” printing came more thoughts and memories of times enjoyed growing up in Ypsi and people passed them along to the Ypsilanti Historical Society. Dianne Newman had memories of Cal Peterson that mirrored mine. His smile still shines brightly in her memories – an “awesome and funny character”. Her brother had a similar “dumpster dive” experience as I had. As a 9th grader Dianne had her own account at the Dixie Shop second floor. She recalls the summer reading contest at the library. (I must have been at the park playing baseball.) Miller’s Ice Cream Shop and the American Legion (4th of July) carnival. Dianne reminds us of a local TV “star” Johnnie Ginger and the classical Ypsilanti Greek Theater in the mid 1960’s. EMU’s baseball facility was transformed into classic Greek Theater with stars Bert Lahr



Mellencamp's storefront on Michigan Avenue in the 1950s.

and Dame Judith Anderson performing in two plays. As her closing words summed up, “Weren’t we lucky to have been there, then.”

Frances Yoakam-DuBois put her memory in full gear with many great thoughts. She and my sister were 1957 YHS classmates. Driver’s Ed with Mr. Lee and stick shifts. Mr. Lee “made” them parallel park, with a stick shift on Michigan Avenue in front of Terry’s Bakery (still there, kind of), and practice turns

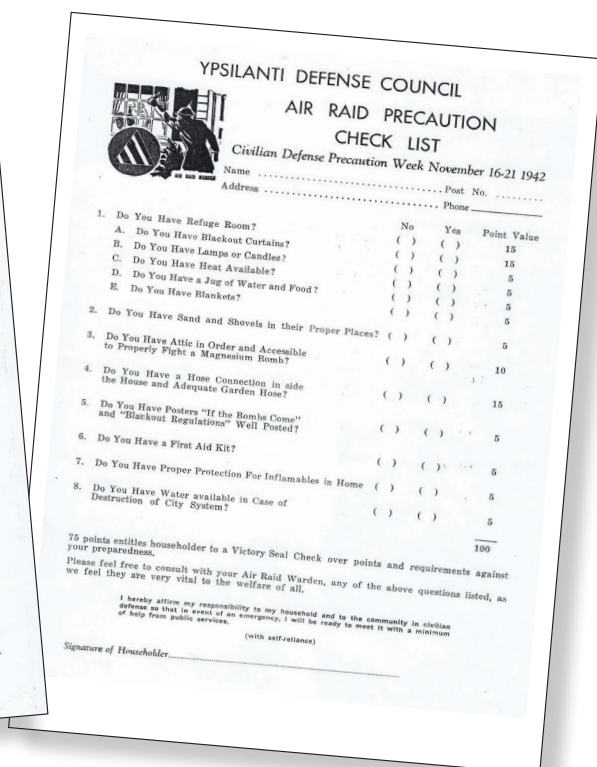
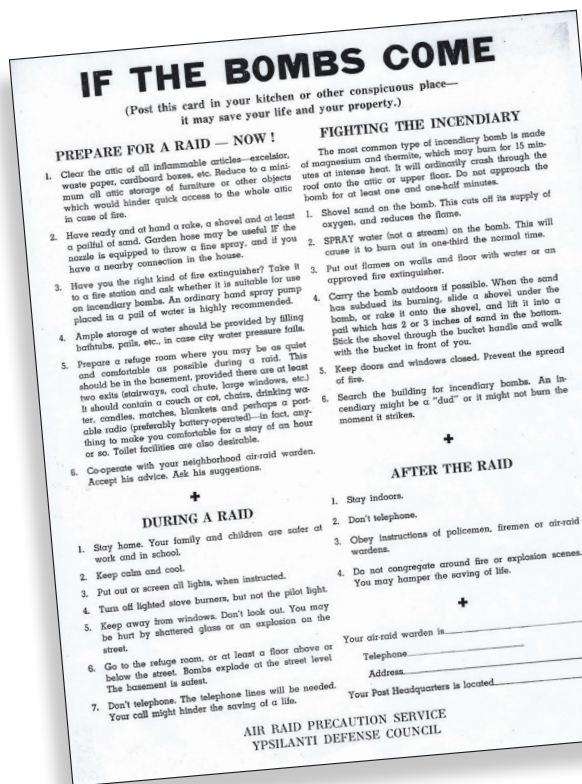
and starting out on the Michigan Ave hill crossing Huron Street. If that wasn’t enough, stick shift left turns on Michigan Avenue turning left onto Prospect. Both still challenging, even with automatics. She worked at Carty’s, the candy counter at Kresge’s, lunch breaks at Cunningham’s or the Food and Drug. Layaway Jantzen swim suit at a women’s shop near Cunningham’s, buying her school sweater at Mellencamp’s and spending her wages at Nissley’s and Marsh Office Supply and recalls a narrow diner on the south side of Michigan Avenue – maybe owned by the Waltner family. Groceries from the A&P and more eating at Kluck’s for dogs and root beer (still going). Recalls no snow days. “We walked up to 1 1/2 miles. No bus service for most students.” I also remember that, as well. Depot Town, she enjoyed Turner’s Restaurant, especially their banana crème or coconut cream pies. And her school years, her memorable teachers – Mr. Kerr (never had him, but he intimidated me), Mr. Haddick (Homeroom), Mr. Binder, Mr. Lee, Doc Sinden, Mrs. Wright (secretary), Mrs. “I” (Isminger). Recalls being in Mr. Waterman’s class her senior year when assistant principal Mr. Canfield was attacked by a 7th grader with a knife or was it a straight razor. I also recall that. At that time the school was 7th thru 12th grades.

As Frances closed her thoughts, she gives us another visual for all of us who attended the old school. “Our class had two reunions at the renovated school. I slid down the banister each time for Old Time’s Sake.”

There is no question that this series of articles has gone beyond anything I ever imagined. It was a slice of my youth growing up in Ypsi. It apparently was a slice of life for many of you. We shared many laughs. We shared a few tears. It has been gratifying to hear from so many of you.

In the next article we’ll let the relatives speak out about their loved ones.

(This is part of a series of articles Tino Lambros has written about growing up in Ypsilanti.)



Blackout: Rules and Regulations. In the Weeks before the Black-out Drill, this handout was provided to every home in the city of Ypsilanti, so everyone would know what was expected of them.

If the Bombs Come. You are to post this card in a conspicuous place, so if an air raid does occur, you will know what to do.

June 1942: Blackout Drill - In Case of Air Raid

BY JAMES MANN

It was June of 1942 and the United States had been at war since the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, and the outlook for the nation was grim. The Nazis occupied Europe and the Empire of Japan had spread its military across the pacific to occupy the Philippines and landed troops in New Guinea and the Aleutian Islands off Alaska. The tide was about to turn, but no one could see that in this early part of the war. In the meantime, the population of the United States had to prepare itself for what had seemed impossible only a few months before. Cities, such as Ypsilanti, had organized Civil Defense Corps, to prepare their citizens for air raids. For this, cities had to practice blackout drills.

The Citizen's Defense Corps of Ypsilanti chose Thursday, June 25, 1942, as the date for the first blackout drill. As part of preparing for the possibility of an air raid, the Citizen's Defense Corps had announced, under the provisions of new blackout ordinance, that for the duration of the war, all sirens on both public and private vehicles will be silenced. From this point on, during the war, sirens would only be used for air raid warnings. The fire department, for example, would no longer use sirens, but would use bells instead.

To prepare for the drill, weeks before the drill copies of the blackout regulations were to be left at each home in the city by air raid wardens and the wardens were to call at each home to inform residents of the upcoming drill and answer any questions anyone should have. "Sirens to be used include the 'cluster' of four directional sirens atop the Huron Hotel,

four hand operated sirens located approximately at Forest Avenue and Prospect Streets, Prospect and Towner Streets, First and Michigan, and Washtenaw Avenue and Fairview Circle, according to Spencer Davis, city air raid warden. Also in use will be the sirens at the fire station (now the Fire House Museum on Cross Street) and the one at Michigan Avenue and Washington Street. It was also planned to have the police patrol cars available in case the sound does not carry because of the wind, reported The Ypsilanti Daily Press of Wednesday, June 24, 1942. "Streetlights," noted the account, "in the city will be turned off and manufacturing plants in the city plan to cooperate. However, blackout officials will have no jurisdiction over plants outside the city."

Air raid wardens were to report to their headquarters, located throughout the city a half hour before the drill, where a roll was to be taken and final instructions given. The wardens were to stay in their own areas where they were to warn people and stop traffic. The wardens would then check on all violators, and later make their reports at their headquarters. Violators could face fines, or imprisonment. "Persons caught in their cars during the blackout may, however, remain in their vehicles. But they must park immediately in a safe place and extinguish all lights," added the account. "Cigarettes, pipes, and cigars must not be lighted and smoked where they could be observed from the air."

The signal for the start of the blackout was set to sound at 10:27 p.m. For this the sirens would raise to a high pitch and

then lower immediately. Then, after about fifteen minutes, the all clear signal would be given. This would be the sound of the sirens rising to a high pitch and hold that pitch for approximately two minutes.

"One minute the city was throbbing with life, there was laughter, lights, and music," reported the Ypsilanti Daily Press of Friday, June 26, 1942. "The next, silence, darkness, and the shuffling of feet". Voices were hushed, people huddled together then there was little sound except the putt-putt of an airplane overhead. Even the moon dipped behind heavy clouds at intervals and to all appearance Ypsilanti was a city of the dead.

"Ghosts moved slowly about and talked in low tones and whispers. Groups gathered on sidewalks in the business district, all shadowy, all serious, all realizing how easily the friendly pilot overhead might someday be replaced by an enemy flier, and the reassuring putt-putt of his motor might be changed to the throbbing hum of a deadly bomber."

Michigan Avenue at 10:27 p.m. presented a picture not unlike a busy Saturday night. Motion picture shows had been crowded early in the evening by residents who wanted to remain to view the blackout. Ice cream parlors had a brisk trade. Parking spaces had been taken by those who desired to watch, and traffic was rolling through at the rate of nearly 45 cars a minute. Late comers milled through the business district seeking vantage points.

An air of expectancy developed. A baby wailed, just a tune-up wail, but ears pricked up. No siren! Gears of a big truck growled. No signal yet! Then it came, a blast from the siren at the Washington Street intersection. Three minutes was allowed for traffic to halt and lights to go out. It took traffic about three seconds. Store lights went out more slowly until the last reluctant light disappeared. Streetlights faded.

"A darkened police car 'whispered' its way along the pavement, making little more noise than wind in leaves. Then the murmur of voices started. Folks peered about to discover lights. Saw only a flare guarding the broken pavement near the bridge. A few walked hesitantly to the curb while the more venturesome crossed the street. Couples began moving about. Then the siren wailed again, and the city revived. Lights blazed. People laughed a bit nervously. Jolly groups moved along the street. The roar of traffic took up where it

RULES and REGULATIONS For BLACKOUT

1. All lights of every nature are to be extinguished, and kept off during the test.

Exceptions:

- a. Lights on emergency cars.
- b. Railroad signals and gate lights.
- c. Railroad train lights.
- d. Highway barricade lights and flares.

e. Lights that are completely screened in your blackout rooms (prepared beforehand).

f. And other exceptions authorized by the Ypsilanti Citizens' Defense Corps.

2. Store owners, factory owners, hotel, rooming house and apartment operators, and the owner of any building where the public is invited are fully responsible for the observance of all blackout rules.

3. Stay off the streets. Your HOME is the safest place. Do not group together with more people than absolutely necessary at any place or time, during any blackout.

4. Do not drive during blackout —If caught in your car, park at

once in a safe place. Lock your ignition, and set your hand brake —leave car but do not lock the car door. Don't double park, or park in the path of the fire department, or in any other dangerous spot. Find place on a side street, if possible. Parking will be permitted in restricted zones during blackout.

5. Do not dispute or argue with any officer in charge. Do as you are told. Your air raid warden or police will keep you posted at all times.

6. Don't go away from home and leave unattended lights turned on —as this will cause trouble and constitutes a violation.

7. Don't use matches, flashlights, or candles where they will be visible from the outside.

8. Telephones must be used only for emergency purposes. Know your neighborhood air-raid warden and where he lives. Report incidents to him.

9. Don't blow sirens, signals, or whistles, of any type.

10. Violations of local ordinance: No. 131. Breaching these rules will be punishable by fine of \$100 and imprisonment of not more than 90 days. Let's all do our best to cooperate fully in this first trial blackout.

BY ORDER OF THE

Ypsilanti Citizens Defense Corps

Precaution Check List. Are you ready for an air raid? The time to prepare is before the sirens sound. Use this list to be ready should the time come.

had left off, and Ypsilanti had come through its first blackout with flying colors."

Wardens and police, both city and state, had been on alert during the drill, and had handled traffic with a minimum of difficulty. They had been polite with the public, and in return, the public had been as courteous. Don Silkworth, the chairperson of the blackout committee, had been in a car with Spencer Davis, the city air raid warden, and had been stopped by block wardens. Once the wardens had determined Silkworth and Davis were officials, they were allowed to proceed.

Drivers were stopped at the city limits by wardens during the drill. The drivers were cooperative and expected traffic tie-ups failed to materialize. There had been only one inconvenient situation when a bus driver wanted to continue through the city and deliver his passengers to the Ford Bomber Plant. He was made to stop as were the other motorists.

From the Water Tower, observers had noted a traffic light at Cross and Summit Streets was still on and had seen a glow to the northwest of the city, but outside the city limits. From the Huron Hotel observers had seen a night light in a gas station, and two lights from battery generators in garages. The flares on Michigan Avenue had been seen by observers at Beyer Hospital.

Above the city in the plane piloted by Commander Eddy McEnnan, with Leil Atchinson, of the Civil Air Patrol, it was estimated that the lights of the city were out in thirty seconds. The plane was flown at an altitude of between 1,000 and 1,200 feet.

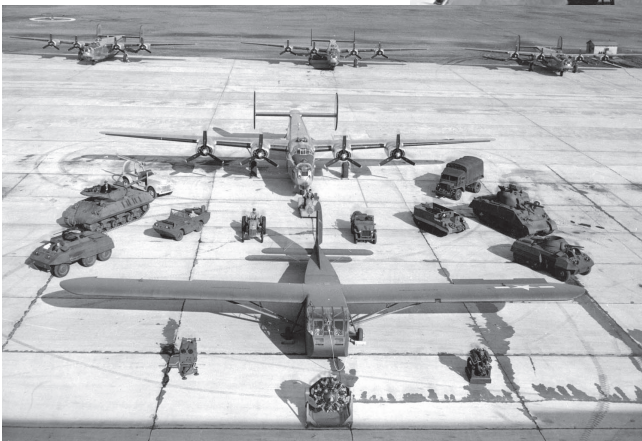
"That Ypsilanti residents may be thankful for their fine trees was also revealed by the flight. Although the moon shone brightly part of the time, trees covered the city so well there was little reflection from house tops," noted the account.

"Very successful and more black than the average countryside," reported McEnnan. Observers judged the drill a success, with only a few issues to be addressed. For one thing, those who were in buildings had a tough time hearing the sirens, and would not have known of the drill, had it not been announced in advance. The city had passed the test and was ready for the real thing. Luckily the city never had to experience a real air raid.

(James Mann is a local historian, a volunteer in the YHS



The Ford Motor Company built the B-24 on an assembly line but getting up to speed for fully production took time.



Edsel Ford had arranged for a display of the products of the Ford Motor Company including a B-24, a glider, tank, a tank destroyer, and more.

FDR Visits Willow Run

BY JAMES MANN

Just before midnight on Thursday, September 17, 1942, the President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, boarded a train at Washington D. C. and quietly left the Capital to begin a cross country tour of war production facilities. Since the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor eight months before, the nation had been making the transition from a peacetime economy to a war economy. American industry was changing from the manufacture of household goods to the production of military hardware such as tanks, trucks, and aircraft. Reports reaching the president told him America was losing the production battle. Everything was behind schedule, and was expected to get worse, before it got better. One of the most needed items was the heavy bombers, such as the B-24 Liberator being built at Willow Run, near Ypsilanti.

The President had decided he needed to go to the country and see the situation for himself. This was to be an off the record tour without the publicity, the parades, the speeches, or anything else that would distract him. Reporters would cover the tour, but nothing would appear in print until after he had returned to the White House. The train left Washington

with a stocked bar, secret service men, three wire service reporters, eight photographers, about a dozen members of the White House staff, and a special car for the President's limousine. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt agreed to accompany him as far as Chicago, however the first stop was Detroit.

The first stop at Detroit was the Chrysler tank plant, the largest plant dedicated only to the production of tanks. The train arrived at the plant just before 1:20 pm. One year before this had been the site of a cornfield. Now it was occupied by a factory five city blocks wide and two blocks long. A railroad track extended the full length of the building. The president toured the plant in his seven-passenger limousine. Seated beside the President was Mrs. Roosevelt. Michigan Governor Murray Van Wagoner was seated to the left of the First Lady. A roar went up, from the workers who saw him, that filled the plant. A mill operator shouted, "By God if it ain't old Frank." The President smiled and waved his hat at the man.

After passing through the plant the limousine was driven out onto a concrete apron, where the President watched 50 new-

ly completed tanks undergoing test drives. "The President watched them for about 10 minutes. Then one tank put on a special exhibition, plowing at top speed through a mud hole. It then approached the President's car and came to a puffing halt about four feet from him," reported The Detroit Free Press, on Friday, October 2, 1942.

The driver of the tank climbed out and pulled off his goggles. He was asked his name by Mrs. Roosevelt. He answered, Emil Zyczynski. To this, Mrs. Roosevelt said, "Isn't that American for you?" The President smiled and exclaimed, "Good drive, good drive." Now it was time to return to the train, and continue to the next stop, the aircraft factory at Willow Run.

Although the President's visit was "off the record" and unreported by the press, it was by no means a secret, as thousands of people had seen him. His movements were considered military information and as such were not reported under a voluntary censorship, to keep the information from enemies.

"Throughout the day of Roosevelt's visit here, telephones in the Free Press city room kept up a steady jangling," noted The Detroit Free Press later, "with Detroiters 'tipping off' or fishing for confirmation of the rumors they had heard. 'Did you know Mr. Big was here?' 'Is it true the President is in Detroit? What's this story about the President visiting Henry Ford?'" "A fellow who works at Chrysler wants to bet me Roosevelt was in town today. What about it?" Each inquiry received the same reply: "We're sorry, but as far as we know officially the President is in Washington."

Workers at the Willow Run plant knew a distinguished visitor was coming to see the place, but no one knew who it was going to be. Strange men had stopped by the plant in preparation for the visit. A Secret Service advance team had met with Charles Sorensen who told the men that when the plant was laid out enough room was left on the floor so a car could travel from the beginning to the end of the line. The Secret Service men were not pleased with the idea of workers coming to within inches of the President, almost close enough to touch him. "Then I took them over the route, and they were so impressed with the show itself that they agreed it was a must and arranged to station about a hundred guards along the way," wrote Sorensen later.

On the day of the visit, Henry Ford, Edsel Ford, Charles Sorensen, and Harry Bennett stood on the siding for some time. No one knew what time the President's train would arrive. Just before the train did arrive, it was noticed that the elderly Henry Ford had wandered off. Harry Bennett sent his personal guard in search of him, and he was found playing with a new machine in the plant. He was back in place as the President's train pulled into the siding.

A special ramp dropped down onto the siding, and his limousine pulled up alongside the ramp. The President emerged from the train car, followed by a guard, and made his way down the ramp. "I had never seen him before," recalled So-

rensen later, "I was astonished to find him so helpless. He seemed to be in pain, and I wondered if he could make it. He moved so slowly to the auto door, where his guard, a big strong man, lifted him into his seat in the right-hand rear corner. He was all smiles in a moment."

Henry Ford was placed in the seat next to the President, and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt took the seat to his left. There Ford sat, wedged between two of the people he hated most in the world.

Sorensen was seated in front of the President so he could explain the workings of the plant to him, and Edsel Ford was seated in front of Eleanor, so he could answer her questions. Then the doors of the plant were opened, and the car was driven into the building. "Throughout the tour, the official car was proceeded by a pilot car filled with secret service men and was followed by several carloads of Army and Navy personal and Ford officials," reported The Ann Arbor News.

"The moment the President's car entered the Willow Run receiving room door a deafening roar rolled through the mammoth plant as word passed from worker to worker that the President was there," reported The Detroit Times on October 2, 1942. The route the car was to follow was marked with flags to guide the driver through the plant. As the car slowly made its way through the plant, workers crowded close to the car, some coming within inches of the President. Workers called out: "We're with you, Frank" and "How do you like it, Mr. President?"

"One group of wing riveters distinguished itself by keeping on with the war work despite the fascination of the President's presence. As Roosevelt's car pulled alongside them, they waved briefly but kept the rivet guns chattering," noted The Detroit Free Press. "Charlie, what is that?" Roosevelt would ask, and the car was stopped as Sorensen explained. First Lady Eleanor would see something that interested her, and call, "Franklin, look over there."

The First Lady was pleased to see hundreds of women working on the line with the men, as riveters, welders, blueprint readers and more. She had foreseen the need for women to leave the home, and replace the men drafted into the armed forces. Now she smiled as she saw her vision taking shape in the plant.

"They were like a couple of kids on holiday," recalled Sorensen, later. "It was a good show, done for the first time in real comfort for the President of the United States, who for the first time was seeing an airplane plant." The President, Sorensen noted, never stopped talking. He smiled and waved at the workers, as did First Lady Eleanor.

All the time a glum Henry Ford sat between the two, and as they were a couple of good-sized people, he was almost completely out of sight. Henry Ford was not pleased at not being the center of attention. "No one could resent others receiving attention as much as Henry Ford could. When he

was around, the spotlight was for him."

"Throughout all this," wrote Sorenson later, "Henry Ford sat silent, but listening. It was evident to me that he was not enjoying the company." The Roosevelts most likely were aware of his hostility toward them, but they responded with indifference. When Sorensen or Edsel turned to look at him, he would glare at them furiously. After this, he became even more difficult for Edsel and Sorenson to work with.

The first stop on the tour was the two towering hydraulic presses stamping out parts for the bombers. The presses had been converted from automobile production to aircraft production. The President and First Lady watched as the presses stamped out parts before moving on. Then there was a brief phase before a display board, on which parts were exhibited, and the methods of turning these out explained. After this the party moved through the section of the plant where small parts were manufactured. The party then moved into the section where rear stabilizers were fitted together, giving the B-24 its distinctive tail.

Roosevelt saw two small men working on one of the 12-foot fins. He was informed that midgets, now more properly called "Little People," were employed to do sealing work in the wings, as they were small enough to climb inside and do the necessary work. The President called the two over and chatted with them for a few minutes. "How are you?" said the President. "I was asking about you fellows." The workers were, Joe Abercromb, 19, and Roger Brown, 29, a former cowboy and rodeo performer.

The tour continued into the plant but instead of continuing in a straight line the plant turned 90%, to keep the plant in Washtenaw County, and not ending in Wayne County. At this, President Roosevelt called out, in a voice loud enough for everyone to hear, "And so this is the city line." At this, Henry Ford squirmed.

Here the President saw the most impressive machine at Willow Run, the center wing mechanism. Sorensen explained



At the end of the tour of the plant there was a visit to the Chapel on the grounds of the plant.

how this \$250,000 apparatus cut days of work into a six-hour operation, creating the Liberator's fifty-foot-long center-wing section. Then the President's car continued passing as the Pratt & Whitney engines were installed into the nacelles. They watched as one of the planes reached the end of the assembly line. Then, parked outside the plant, they watched as finished B-24 Liberators rolled.

Outside the plant, on the apron of the plant, the Army Air Corps had lined up a row of military aircraft showing off the rising might of air power, included in the lineup were the B-24 Liberator, the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, the Martin B-26, the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt fighter, the North American B-25 bomber, the Lockheed P-38 Lightning, and more. Next to this was a second display, arranged by Edsel, showing off products of the Ford Motor Company. Here the President saw the Ford medium tank, the

T-17 armored car, and an amphibious reconnaissance car, among other products.

"We drove through a trailer park, adjoining the plant, that was used by plant workers. Mrs. Roosevelt criticized that form of home life. It was clear that a housing scheme was in her mind to replace it," wrote Sorensen. "There was a stop at the site of the Ford Camp Legion project across the road from the Bomber Plant, now occupied by Army Air Force mechanics in training. The President looked in at the small white Willow Run church used by sons of veterans of the first World War for whom the camp was originated," reported The Detroit Free Press.

The President returned to the train, where he asked to speak with Henry and Edsel Ford. They held a private meeting for about twenty minutes. There is no record of what was said at this meeting. As the three talked in the President's train car, Eleanor stood on the train platform, smiling, and waving at those nearby. As a present, the President was given a model of the B-24 Liberator bomber. The visit concluded and the train pulled away.

Those who had been with the President agreed he looked to be in good health, and well informed on the details of war production. He seemed to be favorably impressed by what

he had seen. The “off the record” continued, and the President went on to visit eight states and cover over eight thousand miles. He found a nation in the process of transformation and moving forward.

Sources for this article include the following: The Arsenal of Democracy by A. J. Baime; Roosevelt The Solider of Freedom - 1940-1945 by James MacGregor Burns; No Ordinary Time by Doris Kearns Goodwin; My Forty Years with Ford by Charles E. Sorensen; FDR Visits Willow Run on Tour of U. S. War Plants - The Ann Arbor News October 1, 1942; F. D. R. Full of Confidence after seeing U. S. at Work - Detroit Free Press; President saw Production Miracles in Detroit - Detroit Times, October 2, 1942; President Chats with Ford on Tour of Bomber Factory - Ypsilanti Daily Press, October 2, 1942.

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

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Kraut-Cutter Donation

BY AUSTIN MARTIN

Recently we acquired a donation of a Kraut-Cutter with the patent, donated by Mike Krautner. This Kraut-Cutter was manufactured by Oliver E. Thompson, in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Oliver was born on September 10th, 1838, and was the son of Benjamin Thompson, who was one of the early settlers of Ypsilanti. Oliver was the owner of the Thompson Block in Depot Town Ypsilanti where he manufactured many objects. Many of these were wagons and agricultural implements. While Oliver was not the original creator of the Kraut-Cutter, he invented many new and useful improvements to Kraut-Cutters.

His main goal was to provide a simple and efficient means for mounting a gang of knives in the bed, allowing them to be adjusted in unison. Before Oliver made his improvements, Kraut-Cutters required the operator to unscrew each individual blade, adjust, secure, and test. This process had to often be repeated in order to achieve equal lengths per blade.



Oliver E. Thompson.

With Oliver's new improvements, each blade was able to move in unison. This was achieved by attaching a connecting bar, allowing the knives to be adjusted by rocking them on a pivot. Oliver also added a thumb-nut in order to act as a lock for the connecting bar. In order for the knives to tilt freely without striking the sides, Oliver set the knives at an angle to allow longitudinal movement.

The patent became official on June 14, 1905, signed by Oliver E. Thompson in the presence of L. S. Greer and John H. Thompson. It was later reissued on January 16th, 1906.

(Austin Martin is the YHS Museum Intern from Eastern Michigan University.)



The Kraut-Cutter donated to the museum by Mike Krautner.

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