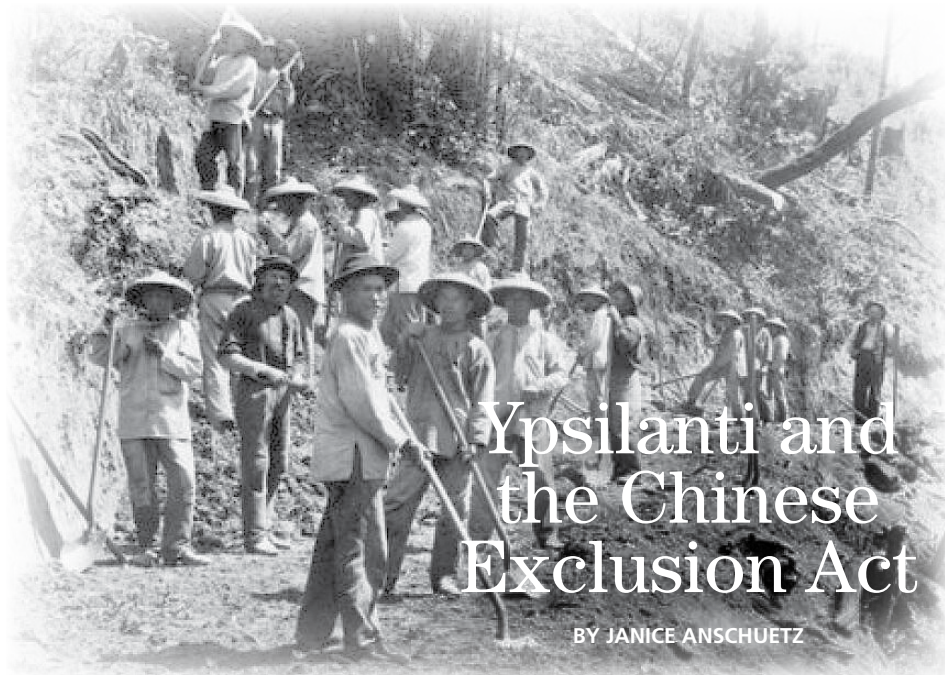




What was Old is New Again:



Chinese railroad workers, showing conditions similar to the workers employed to lay tracks through Ypsilanti.

I am sometimes asked where I get the inspiration for the nearly 100 articles that I have written for the Ypsilanti Historical Society's quarterly Gleanings publication. The idea for this article actually started over 30 years ago when I was involved in the planning of Washtenaw County's Border-to-Border Trail through the campus of Trinity Health Center on Clark Road in Ypsilanti. I remember looking at a map and I was curious about an area identified as the "Shanghai Prairie." I was told that this name originated when laborers were laying railroad tracks in Ypsilanti early in the 19th century. The German and Irish immigrant workers did not want men from China pitching their tents next to them and forced them to live in a segregated area which became known as Shanghai Prairie.

A lot has happened to Shanghai Prairie since that time. It became a gravel pit, was filled in and is now con-

sidered a high-quality nature area on the Huron River with over 215 native prairie species and at least two rare or endangered plants. It is protected by Trinity Health's Hospital Without Walls initiative to encourage people to improve their physical and mental health through recreation in nature. Shanghai Prairie even has its own support group "Stewards of Shanghai Prairie" which was founded in 2008.

In this article I want to tell you what I have learned about prejudice against the Chinese at that time and the Federal Government's Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 that supported the lawful discrimination of a targeted race of people. My grandmother would have said "what is old is new again," as daily we read of new restrictions on immigrants

What was Old is New Again: Ypsilanti and the Chinese Exclusion Act
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FALL 2026

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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.



www.ypsihistory.org

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From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY BILL NICKELS

Barry LaRue happened to be at the Museum in early summer when I received a phone call from the Michigan Municipal League asking about the America250MI grant we received. We explained how Ypsilanti's history mirrors Michigan's history and United States' history. Events that happened nationally had a local version. We also told them that the grant will give us a good start at cataloging our museum collection, updating our electronics, and partnering with EMU's Preservation Studies Program to assemble a display of our significant artifacts. The display will be opened later this fall.

The Michigan Municipal League was sufficiently impressed with our local history and how we were to use the grant that they asked to visit us and photograph our Board of Trustee members for the cover page of their July publication. It is nice to know that others

think we are doing something right!

Cheryl Farmer led a committee for a full year with the mission to make this year's 4th of July Parade something special. Mission accomplished, it was a very special parade. Our entry featured a determined Minute Man, a smiling Suffragist, the Statue of Liberty, and a waving George Washington.

Member Dave Farquharson noticed our U.S. flag that is displayed by our entrance indicating we are open looking a bit shabby and suggested we replace it. It is easy to not notice something slowly changing. Appropriate for America's Semi Quincennial Celebration, we replaced it with a Bennington U.S. flag featuring "76" in the field of stars. The new brightly colored flag makes the museum look more inviting! THANKS Dave for your suggestion.

Member Penny Blodgett donated Roosevelt High School and Presbyterian Church information to our Ar-



The Board of Trustees appear on the cover of the Michigan Municipal League magazine.



The Ypsilanti Historical Society marching in the 4th of July parade.

chives. THANKS Penny. Donations such as Penny's are exactly how our collection has grown to be the best source for Ypsilanti area history in Washtenaw County. Do think of us when it is time to part with long-kept Ypsi items.

We recently lost Judy Morey, a life-long Ypsilanti resident, long-time member, and supporter of YHS. She always had a supply of The History of Ypsilanti books to give to new neighbors. For those who donated to YHS in memory of Judy, we will use the money to buy something appropriate to acknowledge her.

Amy Singer has been our treasurer since the beginning of 2023. She recently retired from her full-time job and determined it was time to give up our treasurer's position to have time to travel. THANKS Amy for your years of service.



Morgan Schuster is the YHS's new treasurer.

Member Morgan Schuster replied to a post announcing our treasurer's position and now is our new treasurer. Right away, she joined our 4th of July Parade entry and is bringing new ways to handle our money. Appropriately, she is a full-time employee of Key Bank.

YHS Board of Trustee member Marcia McCrary is also an officer of the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw. At our last board meeting, she told us that her Society will offer to have a member visit our archives on days when we are open. They will be present to help the public do genealogical research. Look for a schedule to be released soon.

Much has been written about Ypsilanti's history. History that is remembered is sometimes not thought of in the same way as earlier histories. YHS Board of Trustee member Kirk Profit grew up and was a young adult during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. He and others thought this recent Ypsilanti history is important for the young who never experienced it and future generations who will only know it as "a long time ago." The book is titled Echoes. It is a collection of approximately 70 vignettes that the vignette writers metaphorically see when they look back in time. It will be released this fall, look for an announcement from YHS.

Except for our two Eastern Michigan University graduate interns from the Preservation Studies Program, the Ypsilanti History Center – Museum & Archives operates entirely with volunteers. Even with our approximately thirty volunteers, opportunities continue to exist in the archives and museum. We have many ways you can volunteer to be part of our team. Contact me at kbnickels@gmail.com and I will share details.

Lastly, two years ago, Kirk Profit suggested we ask our state legislators for an Earmark Appropriation for our capital maintenance needs. A written request for several needs was written in 2024 for the 2025 budget year. It was not approved. Senator Irwin told me replacement of roofing for buildings are convincing projects for legislators. In 2025, a long-lasting attractive reroofing proposal was approved for the 2026 budget year. After four false starts, work started on September 15th. The main part of the museum will have a standing seam metal roof, the flat-roofed addition will have an EPDM rubber roof, and the porches will have copper roofing. THANKS to Senator Jeff Irwin and State Representative Jimmy Wilson for making this project possible.

Fall is a nice time to get out and visit places. Make our museum one of those places!

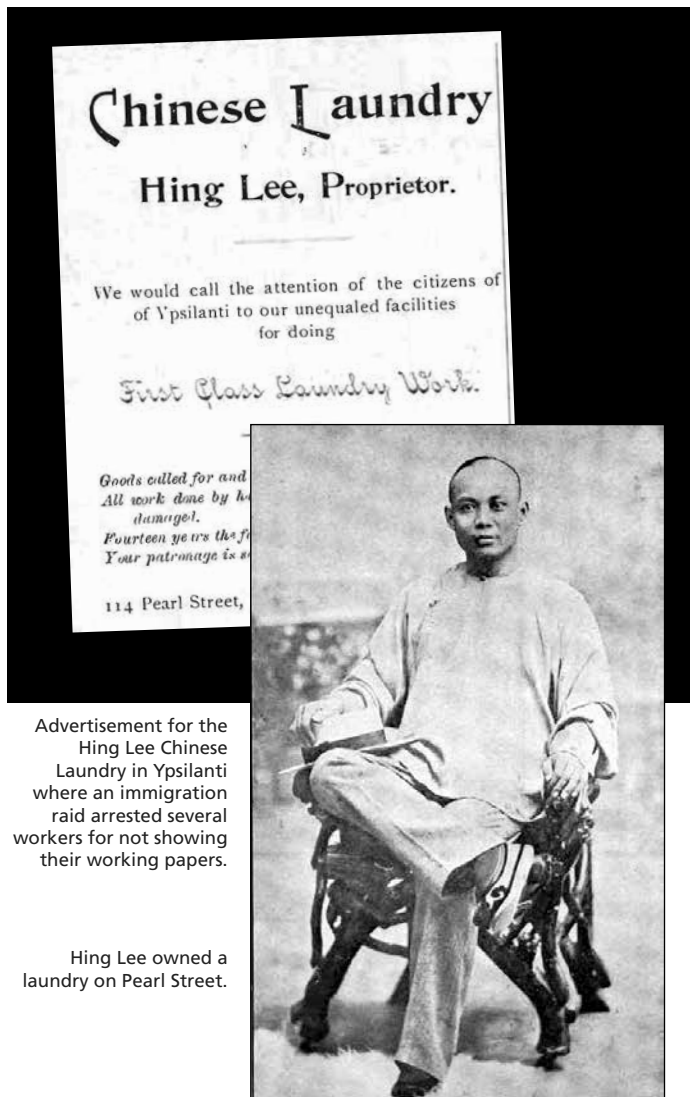


Work begins on replacing the museum roof, a much-needed renovation.



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114 Pearl Street,

Advertisement for the Hing Lee Chinese Laundry in Ypsilanti where an immigration raid arrested several workers for not showing their working papers.

Hing Lee owned a laundry on Pearl Street.

seeking a better life for themselves and their families in the United States, along with recent attempts to challenge the Constitution's "birthright citizenship" clause.

Wikipedia provides a very thorough history of the Chinese Exclusion Act. It is difficult to summarize in this short article, but, as you can imagine, the act was developed from long-standing prejudice against Chinese immigrants. Against all odds, these immigrants made the long and difficult journey from Asia to work in the California gold rush and then were hired for many low-wage jobs, including the grueling job of building the first transcontinental railroad. These men did what they had to do and often sent their earnings back to China to keep their families from starving. Although there were laws in the western part of the nation restricting the cheap labor of the Chinese, the North Adams, Massachusetts, shoe factory strike of 1870 was broken when the company fired striking workers and replaced them with Chinese laborers who worked for even lower wages. This seemed to be the spark that turned the working class and labor unions across the country against the Chinese. Soon

the Page Act of 1875 was passed to exclude Chinese women from immigrating to this country with the fear that babies born here would be "birthright" United States citizens. With so much resentment of these hard-working, low wage workers, public opinion was further swayed by politicians pandering to voters by promising to limit immigration and save American jobs for Americans. Many political cartoons and speeches expressed this sentiment and stirred up resentment. Many people participated in protest demonstrations, especially in California, which saw attendance as high as 20,000 people.

Politicians could not ignore this growing rage against the Chinese immigrants. On April 3, 1876, the senate in California authorized a study on the effects of Chinese immigration on the state's culture and economy and demanded that the findings be sent to the leading newspapers in the United States and also five copies to each member of Congress. The result was the holding of United States Senate hearings as anti-Chinese sentiment increasingly grew across the nation. 1876 was an election year and politicians throughout the country fed their voters the notion that the Chinese would take over American jobs. Political cartoons were rampant and speeches and meetings spread the anti-Chinese sentiment.

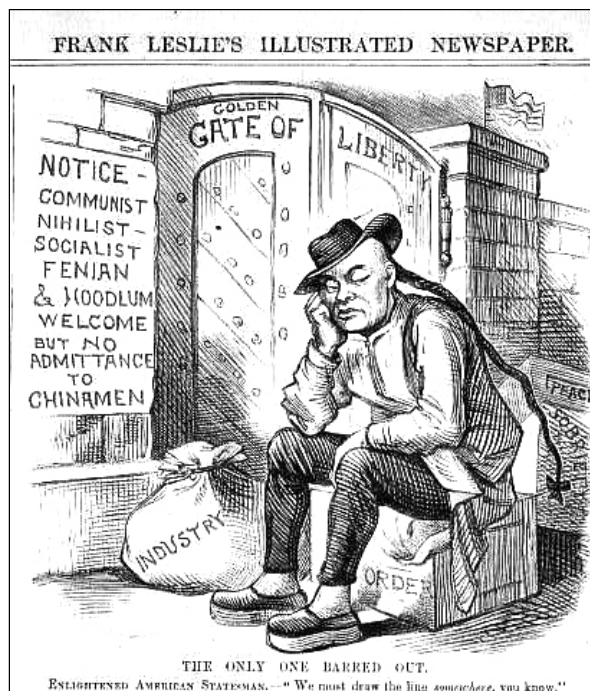
California led the nation in discrimination against the Chinese in 1879 when written into their new state constitution were provisions which authorized the state government to determine which individuals were allowed to live in the state. California made it against the law for state, county and municipal governments, and some industries, to hire-Chinese. This is a brief summary of the political climate before the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was passed into national law and signed by President Chester A. Arthur. This act was initially deemed to be in effect for only 20 years but continued to be extended until World War II when the government needed the support from the country of China to fight their enemy - the Japanese. This act is the first immigration law which prevented a certain nationality from making America their home. Senator George Frisbie Hoar, a Republican from Massachusetts, expressed his opinion that this act was "*nothing less than the legalization of racial discrimination.*"

The act proved successful in limiting immigration and the result was that the Chinese population in the United States decreased from 105,000 in 1880 to only 61,000 in 1920. There were some exemptions to this act and beginning in 1915 certain restaurant owners and merchants could apply for "merchant visas" and this led to the rise of Chinese restaurants and laundries throughout the nation, including Ypsilanti. Chinese were required by law to carry proof of their legal immigrant status with them at all times which had to be presented on demand and examined by law enforcement and representatives from the customs service, the Department of the Treasury and Superintendent of Immigration,

among others. "Immigration raids" were common including in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

We read of one such raid in an Ypsilanti newspaper; the headlines read *"Five Chinamen Arrested from Local Laundry."* The article goes on to state: *"Failure to produce papers proving their right to live in the United States five Chinamen were taken this afternoon from the Hing Lee laundry on Pearl Street to the Immigration office in Detroit for examination. Officer McGraw from the Immigration Department came here for them and stated that he had secured a tip from Detroit that several Chinamen were here with no way to prove their rights. They will be examined and perhaps deported."*

This was not the only raid in Ypsilanti. Another article gives us this information: *"The chop suey house on Washington Street was first visited. The proprietor however satisfied the officers that he was entitled to residence here. When they started to leave he also started but by way of the back door and as the officers neared the laundry they corralled him. He evidently knew there was something wrong in the laundry. Several Chinamen were taken in the lower rooms and the last one was found lying between the floor of the second story and the ceiling carefully concealed. He was clad in only a shirt and a thin pair of pants*



Chinese Exclusion Act cartoon.

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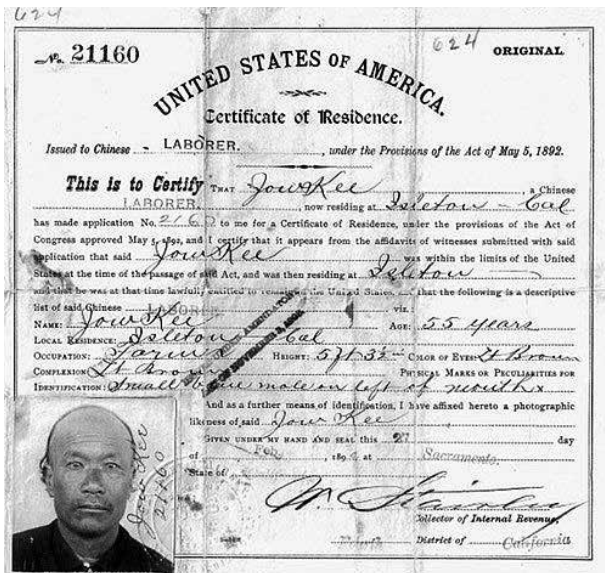
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We wish them each a bright future!

To learn more go to: <https://ladiesliteraryclub.org/scholarship-foundation/>



Certificate of Residence required for Chinese laborers in California in the late 1800s.

and declared that he had no other clothing.”

I wondered, as you might, why the Chinese were noted for working in the restaurant and laundry businesses. The answer is a simple one. Both required very little start-up capital, since Chinese were denied bank loans at that time. Laundries and restaurants could be operated with little money required with only a fundamental knowledge of the English language and could succeed with merely hard and honest workers.

In the excellent and informative book *“The Story of Ypsilanti”* written by Harvey Colburn and available for sale in the Ypsilanti Historical Museum & Archives we read about one such hard-working and honest Chinese immigrant. In 1893 he operated a Chinese laundry on North Huron Street, where Riverside Arts Center is now located. A destructive and terrible cyclone blew through Ypsilanti and destroyed the laundry as well as much of the downtown area. Colburn tells us that *“the front and interior was swept bare. The patient Chinese followed the trail of the washing the next day and gathered up most of it, finding shirts as far east as Canton Township.”*

Sadly, racism at the time was rampant and even glorified. Another Ypsilanti newspaper article proclaimed: *“United States Chinese Inspector looks over Ypsilanti Chink Laundry”*. Please excuse the racist language in this account. I am sharing it here as it was written so that we can better understand the climate that existed at the turn of the century in Ypsilanti and elsewhere. The article goes on to read *“The United States Chinese Inspector was in town Monday in search of fugitive Mongolians, but left empty handed. He was accompanied by a desperate looking negro, who was a little the worse of liquor and swore lustily. He hailed from Windsor and according to*

his story had assisted in rowing three Chinks across the Detroit River about a month ago, and was sure one of them was sheltered in a laundry here. They went through the two local laundries and the negro picked out Lee Ten, sometimes known as One Lung, as the man they were looking for, and when the Chinaman objected he used some very abusive language. Now it happens the Lee Ten has lived in Ypsilanti some three years....” The article concluded by stating that the “informant” from Windsor went back without being given the reward of turning in an illegal immigrant of \$100 and then the concluding statement: *“Lee Ten was lucky to escape so easily, as it is often a hard matter to prove even a five years residence in this country.”* As my grandmother would say, *“What is old is new again”* as we read daily of immigrant enforcement raids in Ypsilanti and the United States.

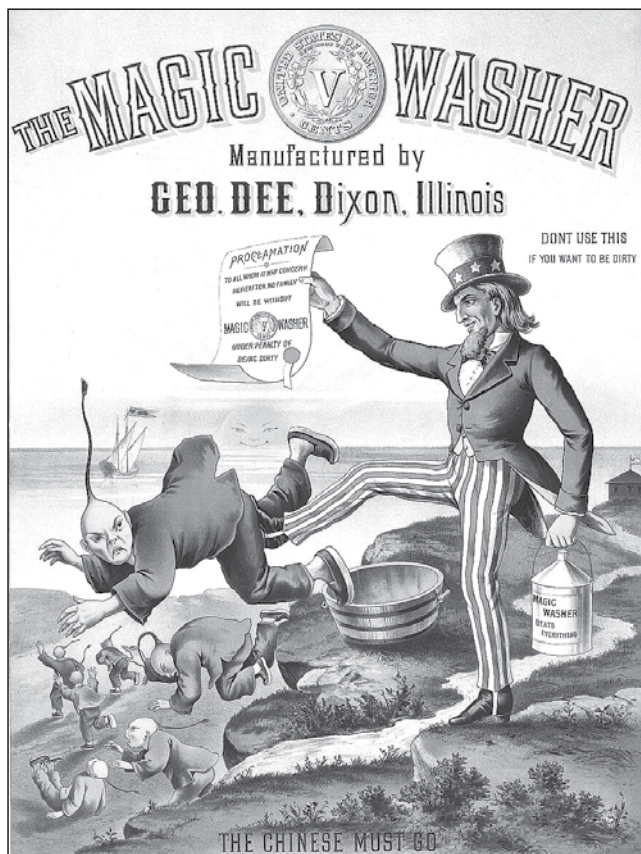
I could quote even more newspaper accounts of attempts to remove and deport Chinese residents of Ypsilanti while the Chinese Exclusion Act was in place, most using racist language, as we have seen above, which was commonplace at the time. This made me consider my own formative years in Detroit. When I was a child in the 1940s, while the Chinese Exclusion Act was still in effect, I remember the neon blinking sign of a chop suey restaurant across the street from my grandmother’s apartment on Jefferson Avenue in Detroit. It fascinated me as I fell asleep. 50 years later when most of the businesses near downtown were boarded up or burned down on the busy street she had lived on, I noticed with pleasure, that



Birth certificate guaranteeing constitutional birthright citizenship.

that Chinese restaurant continued to be in business and the sign still flashed. Similarly, my late husband and I lived near Cass Avenue in Detroit which had its own Chinatown which boasted delicious food and stellar laundries, neat flower and vegetable gardens, clean sidewalks – an oasis among the litter and decay that had become the “Cass Corridor” in the inner city. Now, that area of Detroit is being revised to honor the

Chinese who had settled there. Strangely, I lived through the enforcement and then repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act and never knew anything about it until the *“Shanghai Prairie”* caught my eye on a map of the Huron River in Ypsilanti. I have learned a lot about the discrimination of the Chinese people and even learned more about the “birthright citizen-



Political cartoon supporting Uncle Sam deporting Chinese laborers.

ship” clause in the Constitution of the United States, which was recently upheld by the Supreme Court.

I hope that the information that I have shared with you in this brief article helps you have insight into the legalized racial prejudice that was once the law of the nation. The perception of Chinese immigrants today has changed and now the average person appreciates their contribution to society as doctors, scientists, physicists, professors and so forth. My own niece, who lived in San Francisco was delighted to teach in an elementary school near Chinatown and found that the parents and their children were very interested in education and her students studied hard to learn as much as possible, without any discipline problems. Each day in the classroom was a pleasure for her.

In summary, my curiosity over 30 years ago at a meeting to design part of the Border-to-Border Trail of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission sparked my curiosity about Ypsilanti’s “Shanghai Prairie” and was the inspiration for doing more research and writing this article.

Janice Anschuetz has a degree in history and sociology from Eastern Michigan University and a Master’s Degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan. She has researched and written articles for the Gleanings for over 40 years and continues to learn about Ypsilanti history and enjoys sharing what she has learned.

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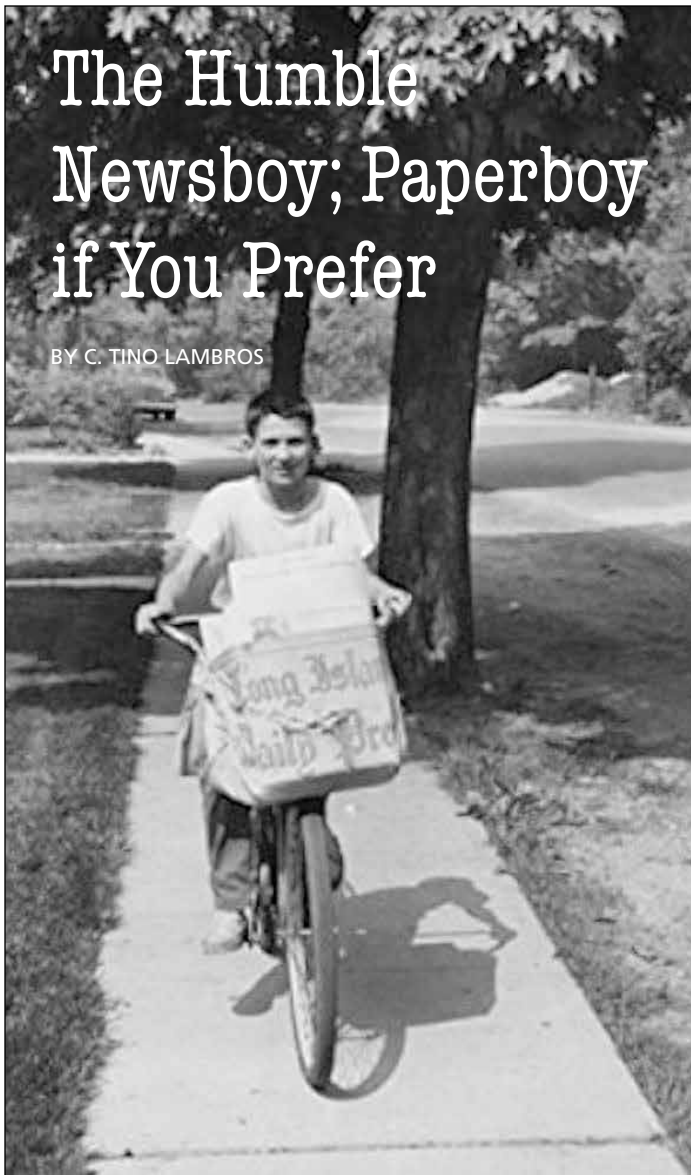
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The Humble Newsboy; Paperboy if You Prefer

BY C. TINO LAMBROS



Typical newspaper boy delivering newspapers on his bike.

It was a quiet, winter Sunday morning. I eased out of bed. Oliver, our faithful golden retriever, was sound asleep at the end of the bed and my beautiful wife was doing likewise beside me. It was a good time to slip away, make my morning coffee, and read my Sunday *Ann Arbor News*.

Yes, my eight-decade old self, still enjoys spreading my Sunday paper across the kitchen table with my souvenir coffee cup of the day and partner it with whatever cookie is available. I headed out the front door noticing for the first time we had a bit of snow. I slog out in my slippers finding more snow than I thought. In my driveway, after a thorough search I see a small pale-yellow piece of plastic behind my snow-covered car. I pick it up out of the snow and see that this piece of soft, yellow plastic is filled with my Sunday paper.

In this issue there was at least a half-page spread suggesting that we subscribers not forget to tip our newspaper deliverers this holiday. There was a picture of a smiling, happy

deliverer, being highlighted for faithful and reliable service to his customers.

Several months later my Spring *Gleanings* arrived. The front page story by Robert Anschuetz was a wonderful article on his paperboy career and a history of Ypsi's newspapers. My paperboy's memories were awakened.

As often happens, my eight-decade memory went into full speed recalling those long gone bygone years. Certainly, the newspaper business has changed severely since my youth. My friends and I were always looking for "legal" ways to earn a few coins. After all, the neighborhood Handy Store and downtown Ypsi businesses were eager to separate us from our meager, but proud earnings.

Growing up in the 1950's, a preteen/young teen had to be a bit resourceful, creative, and legal to earn a few dollars. Often it was very physical for youngsters – shoveling snow in the winter while in the summer it was mowing lawns with mowers that did not have motors on them. Maybe you could weed a neighbor's garden. It was a brave act to knock on neighbors' doors volunteering to do odd jobs. Of course, working for your parents earning an "allowance" never seemed quite as lucrative as working for a neighbor, but it was a "regular" income "to us".

Our young ladies by comparison to we guys, seemed to be quite wealthy. They stayed very busy babysitting the neighborhood youngsters. As we boys approached teen-hood neighborhood paper routes became our best option.

Locally there was *The Ypsilanti Press*. It seemed like a good complete local paper with good Ypsi coverage, especially for the new official Little League beginning in the summer of 1954. Local school sports were well covered. *The Ypsilanti Press* was a six-day-a-week paper with no Sunday issue. Paperboys could pick up their product directly from the press on the corner of Pearl and Huron Streets. Paperboys were given the number of papers they requested for their route right off the press.

Next was the *The Ann Arbor News*. It was a bit larger. My brother had an *Ann Arbor News* route and as I recall he picked up his bundle right in front of our house. Various street corners around town were used as Ann Arbor News drop off points.

Then we had three Detroit newspapers; *The Times*, *The Detroit News*, and *The Detroit Free Press*. They had 7-day-a-week delivery with giant, very heavy, Sunday papers stuffed with what felt like hundreds of advertisements. You can use your imagination as to what this was like for the holidays and special occasion issues. There was another option if you preferred, the "Friendly" morning edition of *The Detroit Free Press*. Your morning "Friendly" was delivered in the early morning, and one could grab a breakfast snack and go directly to school after your deliveries.

Picking up your allotment of papers for the day could easily turn into a social gathering. Each carrier with his employer's newspaper bag was busily getting his quota prepared for delivery while chatting away with fellow carriers. Get those papers into your bag, organize them and get on your route.

Paperboys had their favorite way to organize their papers. There were a few ways to fold them. *The Ypsi Press* was the smallest so a traditional tri-fold would work just fine. Another is the square fold. This was more fun and challenging to deliver but could be dangerous. It could sail on you and maybe take out a window, especially in a storm door. *The Ann Arbor News* was larger, and a trifold or no-fold could be used. The Detroit papers usually were too large to fold and basically had to be hand delivered to the door. We didn't have plastic bags to stuff our papers into way back then.

Oh, let us not forget, you could toss your folded paper onto your customer's porch, but on the way, your "perfectly" folded projectile could fly open. If lucky and no wind, it could be easily picked up, put back together, and placed safely on the porch with all the pages...hopefully in the correct order.

Get that heavy, not always easy to control, packed bag on your bike and be off. The straps of a full bag could be wrapped around your handlebars. Often the balance point with that extra weight and pre-teen strength, was tenuous at best. You hoped for a clean departure from your comrades, but difficult to accept their "comments" if you lost your balance and your bike and papers flew in all directions. But...after the comments, your comrades would provide much needed assistance. Let's just say for me, a pre-teen, about 4'8" and 75 pounds, getting that full bag, the bike, and myself all balanced could be humorous and disastrous.

I inherited my brother Chris' *Ann Arbor News* route. His newspaper allot-

ment was delivered to our front lawn on West Cross Street. He was the ultimate, serious business "man" paperboy; honest, responsible, conscientious, and more. From my ten year old perspective, I recall his route covered from Summit Street to Mansfield and from West Cross to Congress Street. Chris faithfully delivered the news to nearly one hundred customers daily. We didn't have a car available, so he delivered by bike, regardless of the weather. To speed up the process on very bad weather occasions, he "recruited" his younger brother to help. We dealt with the elements as best we could.

My brother passed on his paper route to me when he reached the age to look for more lucrative work to accumulate his wealth. My bike and I were ready to roll. My perspective was not the same as his. Oh, I had his sense of responsibility and honesty and to do the best I could. My focus and thoughts may have spread away from the business portion. One hundred customers took a long time to deliver, to collect from, and to prepare for. I inherited my brother's coin changer that made collections seem more professional and quicker. It hooked on your belt and had chambers for quarters dimes, nickels, and pennies that could be dispensed five at a time. More importantly, my friends were playing sandlot baseball and football and other fun things. I was making enough to pay my bill and have spending money. But the route took too long to deliver and longer to collect. And... I was missing out on plenty of game time with friends.

I didn't get fired, but the bosses decided to divide my route into two. Similar area covered, but only about 50 deliveries. This was an acceptable adjustment.

Recently, as I trudged in my slippers to retrieve my newspaper from my snowy driveway, my mailbox caught my eye. Attached to it were two receptacles, one labeled ANN ARBOR

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NEWS and the other DETROIT FREE PRESS. We stopped *The Detroit Free Press* quite some time ago. As I thought about the boxes, I could not remember the last time either of them held a newspaper. As I returned to the house with my snow-covered newspaper in a plastic wrapper, I did recall how many papers I recovered from my driveway and lawn after the spring thaw, like spring dandelions popping up through the grass.

In my brief year and a half paperboy career, tossing the paper in the general direction of the porch was not an acceptable delivery. Often customers had specific locations where they wanted their papers. Fortunately, most were delivered to the front porch, but residents did not want you riding your two-wheeled delivery vehicle across their lawn. Other specific delivery locations were inside the storm door, in the mail slot on the front door, and the ever popular, milk chute or milk box.

As illustrated here, many of these deliveries required one to dismount, put your kickstand down, make sure your bike and paper bag were balanced and walk to the required destination for delivery. If all went well, you continued your route without incident or further delay. If by chance your bike and papers hit the ground, you hoped there were no witnesses.

I was always looking for more challenging ways to deliver my product. The quicker and more efficiently I could make it, the quicker I could locate on which of our many neighborhood athletic fields games were being played.

Except for the few customers who desired a specific place for their paper, the front porch was the target. By perfecting your toss from your bike as it moved along the sidewalk, it could be done quickly. Every missed porch meant a stop and dismount, run to correct your errant toss, and get back on your bike. My daily goal was to complete my route with no missed porches.

Being left-handed, I approach from the left side. Which hand was not as crucial as was your aerodynamic skill. Fortunately, sidewalks leading to the front porches were similar distances. And if you delivered to a neighborhood that had large, open front porches, you really had it made. With paper in hand, adjust your bike speed, grab your paper in the left hand, and get ready to throw.

There were two methods I tried to develop. One was the backhand. Bring the paper across your chest and whip it in front of you across your chest, timing your toss with your



Newspaper delivery by bicycle.

bike speed. My most successful was an underhand flip/toss. Again, time your bike speed with your toss speed to land the missile on the porch. Many porches were small, surrounded by shrubs, flowers and maybe a skinny pine tree. Accuracy was very important. As a left-hander I tried to avoid right side deliveries. Again, timing was very important, but the left hand flip was not used. Delivering to your right, your left arm came across hard in front of your chest. You could really let one fly, usually much harder and less accurate than from the left. Those square folded papers could really fly.

Let us not forget, many roofs slanted toward the front. This limited your arc on your toss. Often, we paper boys compared roof shots. This also required one or two further steps. One, contacting the home owner to let them know they had a paper on their roof. Or, if you received the exact number of papers you requested, you now need to buy one for the roofed projectile. Profit lost. Keep in mind... all that was just described does not pertain to inclement weather days. Everything is done to keep all deliveries safe and dry. The same goes for the paper boy.

Young folks are missing out on skills learned from being a paperboy. All my colleagues were serious about their jobs. There were many responsibilities. You kept track of collections, deliveries, and paying your bill to the publisher. You learned people skills by being conversant with your customers and listening to your bosses. I learned how to handle money and also business skills. It was a means for pre-teens to earn an income and so much more that may be lost to current youngsters.

The holidays were a rewarding times for paperboys. Many customers remembered you. I received cards and cash and holiday treats and "thank you's." My most memorable holiday surprise was a navy-blue hooded sweatshirt from a customer on Grant Street. The shirt was very warm, appreciated, and worn out to the limits. One of my customers was Ypsi Mayor Hutchinson. Delivering to the mayor was quite exciting to a youngster.

Technology has changed the newspaper industry so much. As a child I read the paper spread out on the floor in our front room by the fireplace. As those memorable movies of the 1940's show, young boys don't hawk papers from a stand on the crowded street corners of New York City anymore. Now the paperboy is a smiling young man sitting in the driver's seat of his car. Certainly, the newspaper business has changed tremendously. There aren't enough subscribers in the neighborhood for paper routes for youngsters to deliver door to door, even if it is only two days a week. But...does that explain why I never find my newspaper in *The Ann Arbor News* receptacle on my mailbox stand?

C. Tino Lambros grew up in Ypsilanti and has written several articles about his boyhood memories.

Museum Advisory Board Report

BY NANCY BALOGH

The fall season is bringing exciting changes to the Ypsilanti Historical Museum. McKinley Striggow, intern from the E.M.U. Historic Preservation Program, has graduated! She will be missed! Besides overseeing the day-to-day operations of the museum McKinley went beyond her duties. She created a new exhibit that explores the artifacts donated by the family of former Ypsilanti Chief of Police, Dan E.L. Patch. Dan Patch served in Ypsilanti from the early to mid-1940s. The new display can be found in the Ypsilanti Room.

McKinley also is credited with suggesting that the Heritage Room (the backroom) be converted to the Intern's Office. The Museum Advisory Board approved the change, and the new space is now complete. The room is a more spacious environment than the former office (a closet, actually) and is welcoming to visitors. The last item to polish off the room is a nice wooden desk. If you happen to have such a piece that you wish to donate, please contact the museum. We wish McKinley well and are pleased that she will remain



Caden Barrett, the new intern from E.M.U. Historic Preservation Program.

in the museum through her participation as a member of the Advisory Board.

With McKinley's departure the YHS welcomes a new intern, graduate student Caden Barrett. Caden comes highly qualified for the position. His past work experience includes performing daily operational duties across three historical sites in the Port Mueseums. Caden was the site of the Fort Gratiot Light. We look forward to taking e of his experience and during the next two years.

Some Recent Acquisitions Include:

Donor: Kathleen Campbell

Items: Teddy bear, hands-free magnifying loupe, magnifying lenses, and lace-maker doll.

Donor: Cheryl Farmer

Item: Handmade canopy doll bed, crafted by Cheryl's father in the mid-1950s.

Donor: Eastern Michigan University

Items: Framed photograph of Major Charles S. Kettles and his Medal of Honor Challenge Coin.

Donor: Kathy Gilden Bidelman

Item: Roosevelt High School 1969 50th Reunion tri-fold poster.

Donor: Neil S. Baston

Items: Two soap and ration books from WWII, 8mm film of Vietnam.



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St. John's Elementary School (Needham Hall), built in 1925, remained in use until 1971 and was demolished in 1979.

Stained Glass

BY BARBARA PETEE

I'll turn sixty-four years old this year and even now, in full retirement with clearly fewer days in front of me than behind, I love birthdays. Like so many at my age, I'm working to live in the moment and appreciate each day, looking forward to what's ahead. But on my birthday, I get reflective and think back on all the other November 19ths of my life and remember bits and pieces of how they were celebrated. And I think, too, about how, for me, my birthday marked the beginning of the holiday season which, as a child, was the absolute best time of year.

I suppose that's what started me thinking recently about my earliest memories, and how, as a young girl, mid-November marked the start of rehearsals for the school Christmas pag-

eant. And then, as only memory can, I was there ~ in St. John's Elementary School in my small hometown of Ypsilanti, Michigan.

In 1968 I was in the second grade and in those days, the first through third grade classes were in the original building of the school that dated back to 1925. A second building – connected to the original by a long corridor – was added three decades later to accommodate the growing classes of baby boomers who tumbled in during the 1950s and 60s. But the newer building may as well have been a mile away from that narrow, original brick school. To me, those rooms felt like a safe cocoon tucked away on their own. Always warm and cozy, there were six rooms in to-

tal on the two floors with the boiler for both the old and new buildings directly below in the basement. The old radiators would hiss throughout the late fall and winter months, and we knew better than to touch them. On snowy days, wet mittens and boots would be lined up on top of and under that radiator. Wet wool. Warm bologna. Elmer's glue. Old wood. All these smells I remember.

The windows in the rooms were six feet tall, and on sunny days the brilliant blue skies and warmth streamed through. In cloudy and rainy weather, the lights, large white frosted globes that hung from long cords on the ceiling, hugged the room in a soft, gentle glow. The nuns wore white, also and each had long rosaries hanging from their waist. Such kind and good women.

In springtime we were often outside. On warm days, for reading hour, we would sit under the canopy of a tree making its way back to green. There were field trips and outdoor contests. I placed third my first-grade year in the hula-hoop competition held on the playground that was nothing but the Church parking lot – but the asphalt landscape was no hindrance to our imaginations.

In summer, the school rested. In fall and winter, the building came to life.

The old, carved banister between the floors steadied our tiny hands as we went up and down, quietly, and in single file, to our classrooms. Always single file. To gym, in the church basement. To Mass. At dismissal. There was no cafeteria; we ate lunch in the classroom. Every student brought their own in metal lunchboxes or brown paper bags; save for the few times throughout the year when a group of moms would prepare a hotdog lunch that included a small bag of potato chips. And of course, there was always milk; half-pints lined up daily at eleven a.m. on the ledge of the blackboard. That ledge also served as an easel for our artwork. In fall, drawings of pumpkins, leaves, Pilgrims. Poems of thanks. In December, construction paper scenes of the Nativity. And, that year, Sister placed all colors of

bright tissue paper that we had cut out in varying shapes on every inch of those tall windows. Reflecting the impossibly blue and bright yellow light when the sun was shining, those windows seemed as brilliant as the stained glass throughout the church next door.

We were rarely in school in the evenings, but on the night of the Christmas pageant we waited our turn in the classroom to be led – single file – down the stairway to the first floor, and yet another, to the Church basement where our families waited on folding chairs to see each grade perform a Christmas song or hymn or reenact the birth of Christ. On that night in 1968, mercifully naïve to the world spinning fiercely all around us, we giggled with friends and marveled at how different the room and building seemed in the evening. We felt so grown-up being out so late.

That night, looking up at the stained-glass windows we had created, I was disappointed how they really didn't shine at such an hour with the dark sky behind them. But then I thought about the people who lived in the older houses just across the street or those who might be passing by on the sidewalk below – looking up into the warm, colorful glow of the windows. Tissue paper stained-glass lit by those frosted globes on a cold, December night – reflecting all our creativity. Illuminating our hopes and our faith.

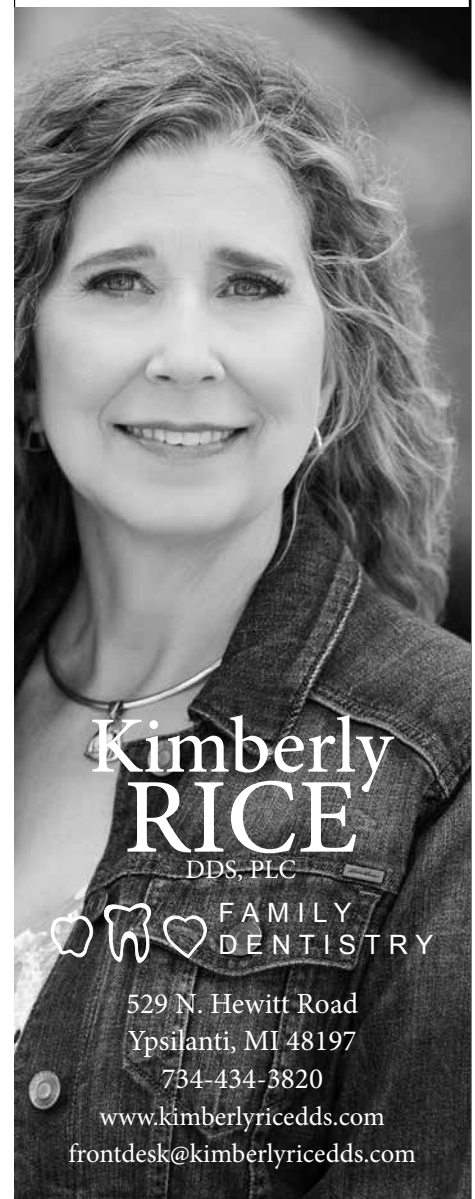
So much has changed – but how safe and loved I felt at that moment. And I wonder if the people outside, looking in, had ever felt such belonging as I felt that night, so long ago.

(Barbara Petee was born in Ypsilanti in 1962. With a passion for writing, she is taking time to recall and capture moments and people from her life that influenced her most, as well as continuing to write short stories and fiction.)

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A photograph of the First National Bank of Ypsilanti building from 1909. This is how the building originally appeared, and how restoration work has returned it to its former glory.

First National Bank of Ypsilanti Building

BY JAMES MANN

Standing on the southeast corner of Michigan and Washington streets, with its exterior of pressed red brick, sandstone and terra-cotta trimmings the National Bank of Ypsilanti building at 133 West Michigan stands out as one of the most handsome buildings in the city.

The First National Bank of Ypsilanti was incorporated on November 25, 1863, with an original capitalization of \$50,000. At first, the bank operated out of a storefront in the center of the block. The bank held its original federal license number 155 without interruption for many years. It had the distinction of being the oldest national bank in the state of Michigan.

The first president of the bank was Asa Dow, who held the office from the incorporation of the bank until January 8, 1867. Then Isaac N. Conklin was elected to succeed him. Conklin remained in office until his death in 1884. The next president of the bank was Daniel L. Quirk who held the office until his death in December of 1911. At the time of his death Quirk was 94 years of age, and the oldest working banker in the state of Michigan.

Construction on the new bank building began in 1904 while Quirk was president of the bank. This included the installation of the vaults, which weighed 30,000 pounds. The plates to the vaults were made of one layer of burglar proof steel and two layers of soft steel plates riveted to it on the inside.

"This drill proof steel is so hard that all the openings for bolts and rivets must be made before the steel is tempered, and when this has been done if the required holes are not in the proper place a new piece must be made, as it is impossible to change it after it has once been steeled. The five vaults each have one door opening outward and inside this a vestibule, at the end of which are two smaller steel vestibules and closing into the center. Each vestibule, with its three doors, are set up and shaped at the factory and are brought here ready to put into position. In all, for the five vaults there are fifteen doors. Two of the vaults are burglar and fireproof, and one being used for the cash vault for the bank, and the other the safety deposit vault."

The three remaining vaults are fireproof and were used for the storage of bank records and other important papers that would be of no interest to burglars.

The doors to the new bank building were opened to the public for the first time on the morning of Monday, April 23, 1905. *The Ypsilanti Daily Press* noted that the "interior combines the latest and most artistic scheme of decorations."

"As one enters the door from the vestibule," continued the account, "the room at the right occupying the corner of the building, is reserved for the president, while just back of it is the cashier's office, following which within the cage are

desks for collections, the bookkeeper and the paying and receiving tellers."

The tellers had direct access to two of the three vaults on this floor.

"Occupying a similar place on the left of the entrance door to the president's office, is a rest room for the convenience of the patrons, and this is fitted with tables, easy chairs and stationery and is always at the disposal of the citizens of Ypsilanti."

"At the rear of the building at the end of a long corridor, which the desks face, is a commodious apartment fitted luxuriously for the use of the board of directors."

"The decorations of the interior of the building are striking and elaborate. The walls are of porphyry green, while the columns which separate it into panels are of dull gold, the capitals being polished. The ceiling shades to cream and is bordered with a Roman key pattern. The wainscoting is Italian marble, and the cages are verd copper."

The electric light fixtures, as well as the inkwells and desk furnishings, were especially made for the building. The second floor of the building was set aside for office space.

"In the basement are the remaining vaults for storage, and access is given

to these by an outside door at the rear of the building, so that all supplies, such as stationery, books, etc., may be taken into the building without disturbing the bank proper. The coal and wood are in bins in a cellar extension under the sidewalk, so that no dust or dirt is allowed to enter."

"All in all," concluded *The Ypsilanti Daily Press*, "the building stands completed a beautiful monument to the city's progress and one that speaks well for the enterprise of the institution which it houses."

Bank President Daniel L. Quirk was said to have many hearty congratulations on the new building. He was, it was noted, greatly pleased with the new quarters.

The Ypsilanti telephone exchange and switchboard was moved from the Savings Bank Building, now City Hall, in 1906, and installed on the second floor of the National Bank building. The exchange remained here until the telephone company constructed its own building at 209 Pearl Street in 1926.

After the passing of Daniel L. Quirk, he was succeeded by his son, Daniel L. Quirk, Jr. Under Quirk, Jr., the building was closed beginning in 1919 for nine months for remodeling. During this time the bank was temporally located at Huron and Pearl Streets.



The local telephone exchange was located on the second floor of the National Bank building from 1906 until 1926, when it was moved to its own building at 209 Pearl Street.

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The architects for the remodeling were the Hoggson Brothers of New York.

"It stands in its finished perfection a model of high efficiency," reported The Daily Ypsilanti Press of Tuesday, April 6, 1920, "expressed with beauty and interest at every turn. The requirements of modern banking have been expertly met by the architects the Hoggson Brothers, New York, so that every appliance and arrangement is the last word in efficiency, but the whole

building speaks eloquently of the intelligence and unerring tastes of the president, D. L. Quirk, Jr., who has a peculiar gift for investing every project he inspires with grace and a differentiating touch."

"One's first impression on the lobby is spaciousness," continued The Daily Ypsilanti Press, "and satisfying color Botticino marble lines the walls with soft tones, which are repeated in the tiling of the floor, the grillwork, the high desk in the center of the lobby, and the silver-gray-quarter-sawn oak of the woodwork and the furniture. The light is mellowed by sifting through window hangings of gold-bronze silk which gleam metallicly."

New to the lobby was the mural on the south wall, painted by Alexander Mastro-Valerio. The mural was symbolic of three ideas, thrift, agriculture, manufacturing and industry. At the center of the mural are two girls offering production to thrift. To the left is agriculture, with green fields, and to the right are symbols of manufacturing.

"At the right of the front entrance the three desks in the officer's quarters are occupied by the President, D.L. Quirk, Jr., the Cashier, E.F. Goodwin, and Assistant Cashier, Miss Emma J. Gardner. Two consultation rooms open at the north. The rooms for women clients are most inviting in rich blue with gray wicker furniture with chintz. The desk holds an attractive bronze set and is lighted with a silver candle, while a lavatory and various toilet ministrants are typical of the thorough manner in which accessories of all kinds are provided in all instances. A stairway leads to the basement, where the directors' room furnished in mahogany is located. Green silk curtains and a green velvet carpet complete a rich color scheme. On the massive table



The building was given that "modern look" in about 1965 when the sides were covered with an aluminum "cheese grater." For this, the building was awarded the dubious honor of "Remuddling of the Month" from the *Old House Journal* in December 1982.

stands a hand-wrought iron lamp. Across the hall is a room designed for public meetings. It is large and furnished with a table and chairs. A group of persons having business to transact or a project to discuss may retire to this room and do either undisturbed. This, as well as all the basement rooms, may be approached by a flight of stairs at the rear as well.

"The private apartments for employees are placed on the west. The first in the series is a dining room, for the custom will be ob-

served of having lunch at the bank. This home-like room has yellow walls and gray furniture. From the gray buffet gleams a lustrous array of teapots, coffee-pots, etc., in copper on silver. The kitchen is equipped with a gas stove, refrigerator, etc. South of these is the women's locker room. Then come two fireproof storage vaults, while across the hall is a commodious room for stationery supplies. At the extreme south are the men's lockers and shower baths. The remainder of the basement space is consumed by the furnace rooms."

The Board of Directors of the bank decided in about 1965 to give the exterior of the building that modern look by covering the sides with an aluminum 'cheese grater' screening and marble panels. For this, the building received, in December 1982, the dubious honor of "Remuddling of the Month," from the *Old House Journal*. The aluminum screening had the unintended effect of providing some 200 pigeons with the perfect place to build nests. The droppings fell onto a metal ledge, which became overloaded and started to collapse. The smell was a problem as well.

The board of directors began considering another remodeling. The proposed designs were said to look like a cross between the Parthenon and a McDonald's. The screening was removed in 1998, returning the building to its former glory.

The First National Bank of Ypsilanti was acquired by Bank One in 1986. Then later became Citizens Bank. In the end, the bank moved out of the building, and the space is now available for commercial use.

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

YPSILANTI MUSEUMS



Michigan Firehouse Museum

110 W. Cross St. – Ypsilanti 48197

734 547-0663

www.michiganfirehousemuseum.org

Hours: 12 to 4 Thursday thru Sunday

Admission (online pricing):

Adults - \$10 • Kids - \$5 • Kids (under 5) Free



Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum

100 E. Cross St. – Ypsilanti, MI 48198

734 482-5200

www.ypsiautoheritage.org

Hours: 1 to 4 Thursday thru Sunday

Admission: Adults - \$10 • Kids (under 12) Free



Ypsilanti History Center House Museum & Archives

220 N. Huron St. – Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Museum 734 482-4990

Archives – 734 217-8236

www.ypsihistory.org

Hours: 2 to 5 Tuesday thru Saturday

Admission: Adults – Free Kids – Free



Michigan Flight Museum

47884 D St. - Belleville, MI 48111

734 483-4030

www.miflightmuseum.org

Hours: 10 to 4 Tuesday thru Saturday

11 to 4 Sunday

Admission: Museum Members – Free

Adults - \$13 • Seniors (60+) & Vets - \$10

Kids (3 to 17) - \$10 • Kids (Under 3) – Free

Famous Musicians from Ypsilanti

BY ROBERT ANSCHUETZ

Ypsilanti has been home to a vibrant music scene for quite some time. Bars and venues have always been filled with patrons wanting to hear the latest music from our local singers and bands. Ypsilanti is a melting pot of cultures, so it isn't surprising that Ypsilanti's musicians cover everything from classical, rock, pop, R&B, jazz, blues, and rap. This article will introduce you to some of Ypsilanti's most prominent musicians, roughly in chronological order.

Frederic Pease

Frederic Pease was born in 1839 in Ohio and moved to Ypsilanti in 1859 where he began teaching piano. In 1863, Pease was appointed Professor of Music at Michigan State Normal School. Pease travelled to Germany and Italy to learn from the masters and stay current with the

then-cutting edge teaching methods. Pease also taught song and voice at the Detroit Conservatory of Music and the Bay View Assembly. While growing the music program at the Normal School, Pease also composed several musical scores. The list of his 19 compositions, which includes such compositions as "Song of the River," "The Mockingbird," and "Old Clock on the Stairs," can be found at <https://composers-classical-music.com/p/PeaseFrederickH.htm>. To commemorate Frederic Pease



Frederic Pease was a noted composer who was the head of the Music Department at the Michigan State Normal School.

today, we can visit Pease Auditorium at Eastern Michigan University. Pease's good friend, Frederick Swaine, was also influential in the music scene of Ypsilanti and was known as the "Father of Classical Music in Michigan" due to his classical music training in England and his donation of classical sheet music that was performed at the Normal School.

Lou Hooper

Louis Stanley Hooper was born on May 18, 1894, in North Buxton, Ontario. He was raised in Ypsilanti and attended the Detroit Conservatory of Music. In Detroit, he played in dance orchestras in the 1910s. Around 1920, he moved to New York City and performed with many jazz musicians in Harlem. In 1932, Hooper returned to Canada where he played in a jazz dance band called the Canadian Ambassadors. His career was under the radar until it was brought back into prominence in 1962 by the Montreal Vintage Music Society. In 1973, Hooper released an album of ragtime piano tunes called *Lou Hooper, Piano*. Hooper died on September 17, 1977.

John Challis

John Challis was born in 1907. His father was a jeweler and watchmaker who moved his family from South Lyon to Ypsilanti in 1919. At an early age, Challis' mother introduced him to music. Challis attended Michigan State Normal College, where he developed an interest in constructing keyboard instruments under the watchful eye of Professor Frederick Alexander. Challis then spent four years apprenticing in England, and when he returned to Ypsilanti, he established a harpsichord business on Michigan Avenue. At the time, he was the only harpsichord maker in the United States. Challis introduced new techniques in harpsichord creation, and his instruments were noted for their clear and bright sound and stayed in tune throughout temperature and humidity changes. You can read more about John Challis in an article written by Janice Anschuetz in the Spring 2014 issue of the *Gleanings*.

Emanuel Levenson

Emanuel Levenson was born on August 2, 1916. He was a classical musician most active from the 1950s to the 1980s. Levenson was an opera director who also taught piano and voice. He performed as a concert pianist and released just one recording called *Survey of the Art Song* that was released around 1950 on EMS Recordings. In the mid-1980s, Levenson and his third wife, painter Fay Kleinman, moved to Ypsilanti where he lived until his death on June 9, 1998. Fay continued to live in Ypsilanti until her death on February 21, 2012.

Nikolas Ashford

Nikolas Ashford was born on May 4, 1941, in Fairfield, South Carolina. As a child, Ashford's family moved to Ypsilanti, where he grew up in the Willow Run area. His family attended the Temple Baptist Church in Ypsilanti, and Ashford sang at the church with a group known as the Hammond Singers. In an interview, Ashford once said: "I had a very inspirational feeling in the Baptist Church when I was just banging on the piano. I just had wings when I was singing and playing." Ashford graduated from Willow Run High School and he then spent a brief time at Eastern Michigan University before pursuing a professional music career. He took a bus to New York with \$57 dollars in his pocket in order to pur-

sue his dreams. The pursuit of a music career was not easy and his money quickly ran out. He could no longer afford rent after the first month, and Ashford found himself homeless, sleeping on a bench in Bryant Park.

One weekend, Ashford went to the White Rock Baptist Church in Manhattan to get a free Sunday meal. It was there that he met his future wife, Valerie Simpson. She was a singer and piano player at the church, and he was a lyricist. They soon formed a musical duet known as Ashford & Simpson and started a music career that has gone down as one of the greatest duos in music history. In 1966, Ashford & Simpson joined the Motown label and they made significant contributions by writing hit songs for other groups. Among the smash hits that they wrote were "You're All I Need to Get



Nikolas Ashford lived in Ypsilanti and graduated from Willow Run High School. He penned several Motown hits with his wife Valerie Simpson as the duo Ashford & Simpson, including the iconic "Ain't No Mountain High Enough."

By," "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing," "Reach Out and Touch (Somebody's Hand)," and "I'm Every Woman". In 1967, Motown released Ashford & Simpson's "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell. The song has also been covered by Aretha Franklin, Michael Bolton, Michael McDonald, and most famously by Motown's Diana Ross. "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" has earned over a billion streams worldwide, has been certified multiplatinum, and was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

Ashford and Simpson worked professionally for quite some time before their romance blossomed. They dated for a while and then got married in 1974 and had two children. After their marriage, they continued their songwriting careers and also recorded their own songs. As performers, Ashford & Simpson's best-known songs were "Found a Cure" in 1979 and "Solid (As a Rock)" from 1984. Ashford & Simpson were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2002, and were awarded a Grammy Trustee Award. Rolling Stone magazine ranked "Ashford & Simpson" Number 19 in its list of the top 20 Greatest Duos of All Time. Nikolas Ashford died on August 22, 2011. Today there is a sitting bench in Bryant Park in Manhattan which has a brass plate engraved with the words "Nick Ashford Slept Here," which just goes to prove that "Ain't No Mountain High Enough."



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Iggy Pop

Iggy Pop is the stage name of James Newell Osterberg, Jr. Iggy Pop is one of the most famous musicians who ever lived in Ypsilanti. He was born on April 21, 1947, in Muskegon, Michigan, but grew up in a trailer park on the Ypsilanti side of Carpenter Road between Packard and Ellsworth. Though he lived in Ypsilanti, he attended school in the Ann Arbor school district. Iggy Pop was the lead singer for the group the Stooges and was very influential in the punk rock movement of the 1970s. In fact, he is regarded as the “Godfather of Punk.” Iggy Pop is known for performing without a shirt, and he is still active and relevant to this day. Though very influential in the music scene, Iggy Pop has had limited commercial success over his career. He has had only one Top 40 hit in the United States, the single “Candy” from 1990, which was a duet with the B-52s’ singer Kate Pierson. Iggy Pop also wrote the song “China Girl,” which achieved much success with David Bowie in 1983. Iggy Pop had a long friendship with David Bowie, as they shared interests and music style. Iggy Pop was named one of the 50 Great Voices by NPR and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with the Stooges in 2010. In 2020, he received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.



Iggy Pop and the Stooges influenced the punk rock movement and is in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Barbara Morrison

Barbara Morrison was an American jazz singer who was born on September 10, 1949, in Ypsilanti but raised in Romulus. At the tender age of 10, she gave her first on-air performance at a radio station in Detroit. In 1973, she moved to Los Angeles and sang in Eddie Vinson’s band and she recorded several albums with Johnny Otis. She recorded several solo songs and also recorded with larger jazz groups. Over the years, she worked with Dizzy Gillespie, Ray Charles, Etta James, and Tony Bennett. She performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival and was also an adjunct associate professor of global jazz studies at UCLA. Morrison died on March 16, 2022. On her birthday that year, the intersection of 43rd Street and Degnan Boulevard in Los Angeles was dedicated as the “Barbara Morrison Square.”

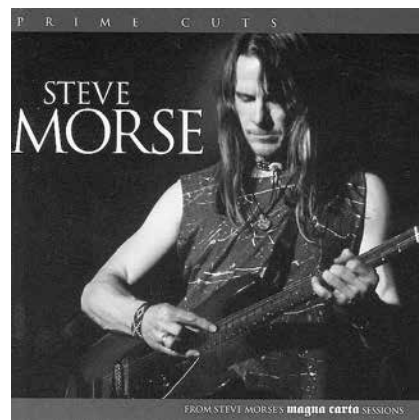
Michael Katon

Michael Katon was born in Ann Arbor in 1953, but grew up in Ypsilanti. He was born into a musical family and picked

up the guitar at an early age. In 1984, Katon recorded his debut blues-rock album called *Boogie All Over Your Head*. Katon has recorded over 10 albums, and in June 2014 he was voted into the Michigan Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Steve Morse

Steve Morse was born on July 28, 1954, in Hamilton, Ohio. His family settled in Ypsilanti when he was a child, and Morse spent his childhood in Ypsilanti. In Ypsilanti, he learned to play the piano and clarinet before moving onto the guitar. Morse played in a band called the Plague with his older brother Dave before his family moved from Ypsilanti to Georgia. In high school, Morse formed a band called the Dixie Dregs but the group was put on hiatus when Morse was kicked out of high school for refusing to cut his hair. Morse graduated from the University of Miami in Florida, and the Dixie Dregs got back together. The band was signed to a record deal in 1976 through Capricorn Records. Morse wrote most of the songs and the group had some success and released several albums. The group broke up in 1983 and Steve Morse formed his own group called the Steve Morse Band before joining the rock group Kansas in 1986. Morse received co-writing credit on the band’s last big hit called “All I Wanted,” which reached the Billboard Top 20. In 1994, Morse joined the British hard rock group Deep Purple. Morse remained with Deep Purple until 2022 when he had to step away because his wife was battling cancer. Morse was in Deep Purple for a total of 28 years, which makes him their longest-ever guitarist. He played on eight Deep Purple albums from 1996 to 2021. Morse has been nominated for seven Grammys.



Steve Morse lived in Ypsilanti as a child and was a guitarist in the famous pop and rock bands Kansas and Deep Purple.

Anita Johnson

Anita Johnson was born in 1965 in Ann Arbor and grew up in Ypsilanti. She graduated as a valedictorian from Ypsilanti High School in 1983, where she sang in the choir. She earned a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Southern California, and a Master of Music from the University of Michigan. Johnson is a distinguished soprano in opera, and has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, the New York City Opera, and with several other opera companies across the United States and in Europe. She has

collaborated with Luciano Pavarotti and Renee Fleming. Johnson has also performed alongside Stevie Wonder in Los Angeles and at the White House in the audience of President Obama during a ceremony honoring Wonder with the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize. Johnson created several solo performances such as *Black Roots of Song* and *ABC's: American Black Composers' Contributions to Our Musical Heritage*. Johnson sang the lead role in the 2011 recording of Scott Joplin's opera called *Treemonisha*, which was recorded with the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra on New World Records. Johnson is also a teacher and has taught music in New Jersey and at the Harlem School of the Arts. She also provides master classes and recitals at universities and colleges.

Bob Schneider

Robert Schneider was born on October 12, 1965, in Ypsilanti. His father was an opera singer and musician, and his mother was a teacher. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to El Paso, Texas, and later Munich, Germany, to advance his father's vocal career. Schneider learned guitar and piano at an early age. Schneider joined the rock band called the Ugly Americans which released 4 albums. Since then, Schneider has released several albums with other bands and as solo efforts. In total, Schneider has recorded and released over 20 albums. His first major record was called *Lonelyland* which was released in 2001 through Universal Records.

Shara Nova

Shara Nova was born on April 22, 1974, in El Dorado, Arkansas. Her father was an accordion player and choir director, and her mother was an organist for their Pentecostal church. Her uncle was a classical and jazz pianist and taught her to play the piano as a child. Her family moved to many different states when she was

a child, and they lived in Ypsilanti for a significant portion of her childhood. Shara Nova married in 1997 and took the name Shara Worden, which is the name she used throughout most of her music career. In 2006, she joined the indie rock group My Brightest Diamond as the lead singer and songwriter. The group released many songs and albums until 2018. In 2016, she divorced and changed her name back to Shara Nova.

Fred Thomas

Fred Thomas was born on August 6, 1976, in Ypsilanti. Thomas is an experimental rock musician who is one of the most influential indie rock artists in Michigan. Thomas founded the band Chore in 1994, and joined the group His Name is Alive in 1996. He founded the band Saturday Looks Good to Me in 1999 and the band released four studio albums. Thomas also released music as a solo artist.

Lee Osler

Lee Osler moved to Ypsilanti when he was two years old. He started singing in fifth grade and sang at many local Ypsilanti venues. Lee Osler is most famous for his 1983 pop song "Back to Ypsilanti" which was released on

Osler's music label, Mustache Records. The song was created as part of a fund-raising effort for the restoration of the Rutherford

Pool in Recreation Park. In August of 1983, the song was named Ypsilanti's official song. Lee Osler had a music career in Ypsilanti and Detroit that went well beyond his most famous song. The Ypsilanti Library's podcast series called *Ypsi Stories* covers Lee



Lee Osler is from Ypsilanti and wrote and performed Ypsilanti's official song called "Back to Ypsilanti" in 1983.



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Osler's music career in a two-part episode 17 which can be listened to here: <https://tinyurl.com/245c49cr>. The Ypsilanti Youth Choir performed the song "Back to Ypsilanti" which can be viewed and heard on YouTube at this shortened web address: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8h3wtb>.

Matt Giraud

Matt Giraud was born on May 11, 1985, in Dearborn, Michigan, but was raised in Ypsilanti and graduated from Lincoln High School in 2003. His music career started as a drummer and he played drums and sang in a church in Ypsilanti. His music career really took off in Kalamazoo while attending Western Michigan University. He played at various Kalamazoo clubs and was part of the vocal jazz program at the university. In 2003, Giraud released his first album called *Perspective*, and he released another in 2006 called *Mind Body and Soul*. In 2009, Giraud finished in fifth place in the eighth season of the television singing competition American Idol. After his success on American Idol, Giraud toured for several months on the American Idol Live Tour. In 2010, Giraud began his solo tour, starting in Grand Rapids.

Kid Jay

Jason O'Banner is better known by his stage name Kid Jay. He was born on September 27, 1999 in Ypsilanti. Kid Jay began rapping when he was a student at Ypsilanti Community High School, where he graduated in 2017. Kid Jay attended college to study audio engineering, but dropped out to pursue his musical dreams. Kid Jay uses clean lyrics and therefore makes his music accessible to a wider audience including children. Kid Jay competed in the TV show America's Got Talent in 2021. After he was noticed by the industry, he released his first single titled "Golden Child." He released his album titled *Off the Record* in 2025.

Neisha Neshae

Neisha Neshae was born with the name Daneisha Turnbull on June 8, 1997 in Ypsilanti. To introduce her musical talents to the world, she posted her song "On a Cloud" onto her SoundCloud music account and it gained a large following. Her style combines both R&B singing and rap. She was signed to a record deal with Virgin EMI in 2017. That same year, she toured with Detroit rapper Big Sean, and has also performed alongside famous rappers Lil Wayne and 2 Chainz. Her debut album from 2025 was called *Redirection* and contains 12 songs of healing and self-discovery.

BabyTron

BabyTron is the stage name of rapper and songwriter James Edward Johnson IV. He was born on June 6, 2000 in Ypsilanti. He attended Lincoln High School and graduated in 2018.

In 2021, BabyTron released his first album *BIN Reaper 2*. In 2024, BabyTron was featured on the Eminem single "Tobey" along with famous Detroit rapper Big Sean.

Queen Naija Bulls

Queen Naija Bulls was born on October 17, 1995 in Ypsilanti. Queen Naija is her actual birth name. She was raised in Ypsilanti and began her career as a YouTube vlogger. She appeared on the 13th season of American Idol. Her 2017 single "Medicine" peaked in the Billboard Top 50. In 2018, she signed with Capitol Records, and her singles "Karma" and "Butterflies" were certified double platinum. Her debut album in 2020, *Missunderstood*, peaked at number nine on the charts. Queen Naija Bulls has been nominated for several music awards, including Billboard's Top R&B Female Artist, and the American Music Awards Favorite R&B Album. She also received Best New Artist nominations from BET, iHeartRadio and Soul Train.

The Hentchmen

The Hentchmen is a garage punk band from Detroit that formed in October 1992. The founding members were John Szymanski, Tim Purrier, and Chris Handyside. Mike Latulippe replaced Chris Handyside on the band's third album. Jack White from the White Stripes played bass on the band's fifth album. The Hentchmen often played in Ypsilanti and referred to Ypsilanti as their hometown. One concert poster proclaims the band as "Ypsilanti's newest hit makers. Reminiscing recently, the members of the The Hentchmen were proud to say that they "got tipsy in Ypsi" and consider Ypsilanti as part of their roots.

Bloodlined Calligraphy

Bloodlined Calligraphy is an American metalcore band from Ypsilanti which started as the group Friction in 1996. In 1999, the band changed its name to Bloodlined Calligraphy and the lineup consisted of Ally French, Matt "Birdman" Fleming, Ryan Hampton, Eric Cargile, Josh Covin, and Matt Carter. The band signed a record contract with Selah Records and released their first album *Say Hi to the Bad Guy* in 2002. The band's fourth album was titled *Ypsilanti* and was released in 2006 by Facedown Records.

Black Jake & the Carnies

Black Jake & the Carnies is a punk/bluegrass band based out of Ypsilanti. The members include Jake Zettelmaier, JJ Przewozniak, Ozzie Andrews, Kyle Kipp, and Jade Asheker. The band writes and plays music which includes banjos, fiddles, guitars, and accordions. The band released its debut album *Where the Heather Don't Grow* in 2008.

Additional Ypsilanti Musical Connections

There have been several prominent musicians associated with Ypsilanti who haven't actually resided in the city. The remaining paragraphs are the abbreviated stories of some of these artists and their connections to Ypsilanti.

Ypsilanti Comic Song

The "Ypsilanti (Comic Song)" was published by Jerome H. Remick & Co. in 1915, with music attributed to Egbert Van Alstyne and lyrics written by Alfred Bryan. Van Alstyne was born in 1878 in Illinois, but moved to New York City where he performed in Tin Pan Alley. He composed the song "Ypsilanti" with lyrics added by Alfred Bryan. Bryan was born in 1871 in Brantford, Ontario. He wrote lyrics for many Broadway shows, then moved to Hollywood to write lyrics for movie musicals. Although the title of the song is spelled properly as "Ypsilanti," the lyrics within the song misspelled our city as Yipsilanti. The chorus for the song goes like this: "Yipsilanti, Michigan, Yipsilanti, wish again; I've got an auntie who lives in a shanty in Yipsilanti, swish again. If you want a rhyme for any old time, just sing them all over again. Auntie, shanty, Yipsilanti, then make a wish again." The Ypsilanti Community Choir performed an outstanding version of this catchy tune that can be viewed and heard on YouTube at this shortened web address: <https://tinyurl.com/38t7tkjh>. Other songs about Ypsilanti are "I'm a Goin to Go to Ypsilanti," with music by Julius Wuerthner and lyrics by C. Arthur Blass, and "Ypsilanti Galop" by Carl Zerrahn.



"Ypsilanti Comic Song" was a catchy ragtime tune written about Ypsilanti.



Nat King Cole was married to his first wife, Madine Robinson, in this home at 370 1st Ave. in Ypsilanti.

Nat King Cole

As improbable as it seems, Nat King Cole actually married his first wife Madine Robinson in the city of Ypsilanti. Madine Robinson was a singer and performer, and travelled along with Cole in the Black stage revue called "Shuffle Along," which played at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor on January 29, 1937. After that particular show, the couple were married at the home of Thomas Harris at 370 1st Ave. in Ypsilanti. Harris worked as a janitor at the Ypsilanti Savings Bank, and it is unclear how his home was chosen as the wedding site. The couple divorced in 1948 and Nat King Cole went on to become one of the most iconic singers the country has ever known.

TO WED IN YPSILANTI

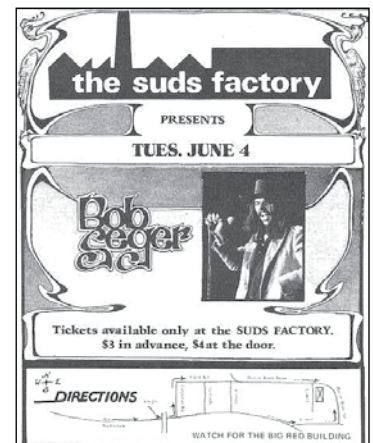


NAT COLE
Well known young band leader will be married at midnight Friday, Jan. 29, to Miss Madine Robinson, lovely young favorite of the theatre. The ceremony will take place in Ypsilanti, at the home of Thomas Harris. The youthful couple first met at the Pantages cafe in Chicago last March, and became involved in a romance. Both Nat and Madine are with "Shuffle Along."

Newspaper announcement of Nat King Cole's wedding in Ypsilanti.

Bob Seger

Bob Seger was born on May 6, 1945, at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. At age 5, he moved with his family to Ann Arbor. Seger attended Tappan Junior High School and graduated from Ann Arbor High School (now Ann Arbor Pioneer) in 1963. In high school, Seger played in a band that started getting some coverage in the Detroit-area music scene. His big break came when Seger signed with Capitol Records in 1968 and formed the band called The Bob Seger System. This band played at Ypsilanti's Suds Factory on Huron Street and Bimbo's on the Hill on Michigan Avenue on many occasions in the late 1960s and into the 1970s before the band became a national sensation and outgrew Ypsilanti's local venues.



Bob Seger played at The Suds Factory in Ypsilanti on many occasions, including a performance on June 4, 1974.

Shakey Jake

Shakey Jake was born Jake Woods in Little Rock, Arkansas, on August 24, 1925. His family moved to Saginaw, Michigan when he was a child. In 1973, he performed at the Ann Arbor Blues Festival and decided to stay. Shakey Jake was a staple in Ann Arbor, but was also a frequent performer in Depot Town in Ypsilanti. He would strum his guitar and sing songs on the street. He became a legend in both Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. Shakey Jake died in 2007.

The Belleville Three

The Belleville Three consists of three techno music pioneers who went to Belleville High School in the 1980s – Derrick May, Juan Atkins, and Kevin Saunderson. The three were interested in combining electronic synthesizer music popularized in Europe with funk-style beats. Juan Atkins took up keyboards as a teenager in Belleville, and experimented with mixing. He enrolled at Washtenaw Community College in Ypsilanti and learned the basics of electronic sound production from fellow student Rick Davis, who was quite a bit older than Atkins and owned several electronic music sequencers. The two teamed up and formed a group called Cybotron and released the single called “Alleys of Your Mind”

in 1981, which did well in the Detroit music scene. Atkins teamed up with May and Saunderson and formed an enterprise known as Deep Space Soundworks to produce mixes for the emerging Detroit electronic techno music scene. Atkins began recording under the name Model 500, and released a breakthrough song called “No UFO’s” in 1985. The Belleville Three, and Juan Atkins’ connection to Washtenaw Community College in Ypsilanti, were pioneers in electronic dance music and techno music that is still incredibly popular to this day.

CONCLUSION

Nobody can dismiss the contributions and influences that Ypsilanti artists have contributed to the world’s music library. Whether they were born in Ypsilanti, raised in Ypsilanti, lived in Ypsilanti, or performed in Ypsilanti, the blended cultures that define Ypsilanti helped contribute to the vast styles of music that came out of our city. We should all be proud of these musicians and we await the next big star from Ypsilanti.

Much of the information for this article was found on Wikipedia.org. Robert Anschuetz grew up in Ypsilanti in the historic Swaine house at the corner of Forest Ave. and River St. Robert is a regular contributor to the Gleanings.



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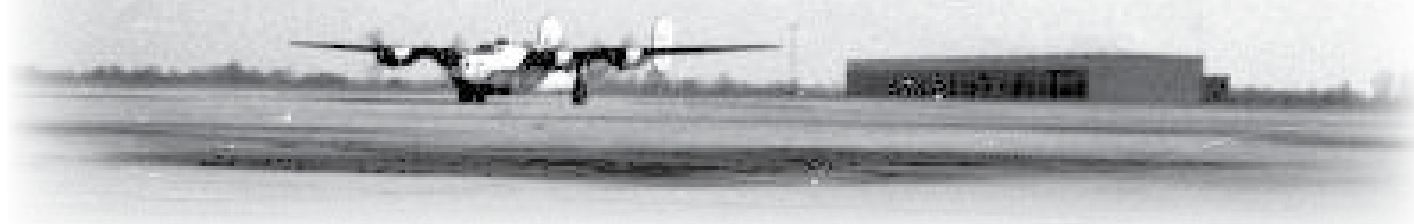


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Memorial for the B-24's

BY JAMES MANN



The B-24 lands at Willow Run Airport.

During the years of the Second World War, the Ford Motor Company constructed over 8,865 B-24 Liberator bombers at the plant at Willow Run. This was half the total number of B-24 Bombers built and was a major part of the Arsenal of Democracy. Once the war was over, the idea for a memorial for the planes, their crews, and the workers was suggested. This idea was suggested at the Edsel B. Ford American Legion Post in late 1945. The post was named in memory of the son of Henry Ford, who, as president of the Ford Motor Company oversaw the construction and operation of the plant, until his death in 1943.

The American Legion Post at Willow Run was founded in September of 1943, with 25 charter members. These were employees at the plant. They held their meetings in the library of the South Cafeteria Building at Willow Lodge. In time the number of members increased, and the meetings were moved to the A Building. A cabin on East Michigan Avenue was purchased by the post in January of 1944.

The members decided to ask the War Department for a dummy, or practice bomb, for the memorial. This may have been considered appropriate, as when a B-24 went on a test flight, it would drop dummy, or practice bombs over a section of Lake Erie. The request was made but was denied.

After this a member, possibly as a joke, suggested they re-

quest a B-24 bomber instead. The request was submitted, and soon after the post was informed, they would receive a B-24 for display. Now all they had to do was figure out what they were going to do with it. After all, the B-24 Bomber had a wingspan of 110 feet and a length of 67 feet 2 inches, and a height of 17 feet 7.5 inches, and a weight when empty of 36,500 lbs. (about twice the weight of a school bus). They would need to find a place to put it.

The weather was perfect on Saturday, February 16, 1946, when the bomber landed at Willow Run Airport, the place where it had been assembled on August 14, 1944. *"Since its completion it has been used in the United States as a training plane for combat pilots and crew for overseas duty,"* reported the *Ypsilanti Daily Press* of Monday, February 18, 1946.

"The bomber, carrying the group number 139 on each side of the fuselage, came to the American Legion post minus only the guns," noted the account. An informal ceremony was held on the field immediately following the landing. After the ceremony, the plane was taxied to an apron on the field, where it remained until it could be moved to its permanent home. The group then retired to the Edsel Ford Post building on East Michigan Avenue, where an open house in celebration of the arrival of the plane was in progress. The moving of the plane began on the afternoon of Mon-



After landing, the plane and crew were greeted with a small program.



The plane remained parked on the field until arrangements were completed before moving it to the site where it would be displayed.

day, May 16, 1946, when a caterpillar tractor hitched to the nose wheel, with several other smaller tractors hitched to each side wheel began towing the plane. *"Much maneuvering is required to 'squeeze' the giant ship between light and telephone poles. The first impediment to its progress was encountered at the edge of the airport when railroad tracks, newly installed for use by the Kaiser Frazer Corp., had to be crossed. A temporary ramp was constructed over which to move the plane,"* noted the Ypsilanti Daily Press of Tuesday, May 17, 1946. As the plane was towed across the railroad tracks, the plane began to tip over to one side. The operators of one of the tractors jumped out of the way, but then the plane righted itself. Then the moving of the plane resumed.

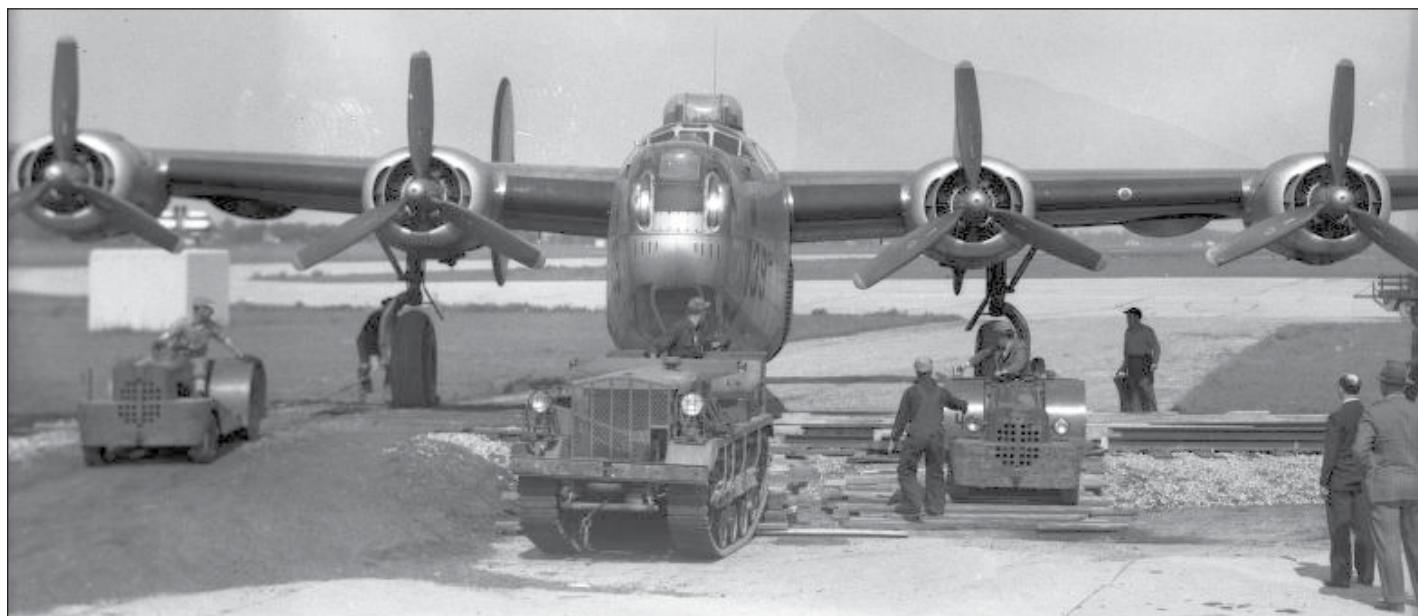
The next impediment was a fence which then surrounded the former site of the bomber plant. A sizable portion of the fence had to be removed before the plane could get through. *"Once the fence problem was conquered, the crew of nearly a dozen who were moving the airplane had to maneuver it to the proper position to allow highway progression,"*

noted the account.

From the main gate of the Willow Run plant, the plane was to be towed west on Ecorse Road then to Ford Blvd. and then north on Ford Blvd. From there to Holmes Road, then east to Spencer Road, then south to Michigan Ave., and finally to its permanent site. The move was aided by the Michigan State Police, who directed traffic during the towing. The highway department helped by removing highway obstructions from the way.

"But the most serious threat to its safe passage occurred shortly after schools let out Tuesday afternoon. Children suddenly swarmed the giant ship, and before control was restored, enough of them had climbed into the bomber to make its tail heavy, lifting the guiding nose wheel clear of the pavement."

The towing of the plane was stopped at 11:00 pm when the plane was at the corner of East Forest and Allen Street, just north of Michigan Ave. *"A guard was thrown around the bomber during the night: lights were set up and highway*



Tractors towed the plane off the grounds of Willow Run and onto the road to begin the journey to the site chosen for the plane.



The plane is parked by the roadside overnight before completing the journey to its new home.

blocked, until work could be resumed."

The towing of the plane resumed the next morning and by end of day the bomber was parked in an apple orchard near Spencer Road and East Michigan Ave. There it was parked on the cement base on which it was to be displayed. The dedication of the memorial was scheduled for Saturday, May 26, 1946, the third anniversary of the death of Edsel Ford, who had overseen the construction and operation of the Bomber Plant at Willow Run until his passing.

The ceremonies to dedicate the memorial began Sunday, May 26, 1946, at 10:00 a.m. in Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit, with the placing of a wreath at the tomb of Edsel B. Ford.

Then that afternoon at 3:00 p.m. the ceremony continued with the program at the plane, on Michigan Ave. The chairman of the program was Judge James R. Breakey, Jr. who was introduced by Charles M. Kronson, commander of the Post. The dedicatory placard on the bomber was unveiled by Mrs. Walter Buhl Ford, the daughter of Edsel Ford.

The ceremony was attended by Henry Ford and his wife Clara, the parents of Edsel Ford. "The presence of Mr. And Mrs. Henry Ford at the dedication was a surprise to post officials, who had expected the industrialist would be unable to attend," noted the *Ypsilanti Daily Press* of Monday, May



Parked in its new home, the plane stands as a memorial to all those who worked on the B-24's built at Willow Run and all those who flew these plans during the war.

27, 1946.

Later, a protective fence was placed around the bomber, but it was unable to keep out boys who played in the shell of the plane, and souvenir hunters who carried off parts of the plane bit by bit. Finally, in 1950, the plane was dismantled and carried away as scrap metal. A sad end for the once-proud bomber.

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



The plane was left in the field exposed to weather, vandals and decay, until it was finally sold for scrap. The sad end to a proud plane.



Now here is something you do not see every day, a B-24 coming down the road.



Preston Tucker's family home at 110 N. Park St.

R. Donn Newhouse grew up a half block from the Tucker family who lived and worked at 110 N. Park St. Preston Tucker designed, built, and sold Tucker '48 automobiles after World War II when the demand for cars was insatiable. Newhouse was friends with the Tucker family and wrote about his experiences. Newhouse graduated from Ypsilanti High in 1948 and worked at General Motors, Willow Run. He loved collecting Ypsilanti artifacts. His memories of growing up in Ypsilanti were found in a "Preston Tucker" file at the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum.

Lunchtime at the Tucker House BY R. DONN NEWHOUSE

Since Johnny, Frank, and I were such close buddies and attended good old Woodruff School together, it only seemed natural that since the Tucker house was just across the street from the school, that we would each lunch together there (note: Johnny was Preston Tucker's youngest son and Frank was Preston's nephew). It didn't make any difference that I only lived another half block away.

Mr. Tucker and his wife Vera (the first time I have ever used her first name) had a part-time lady by the name of Elizabeth to help cook and clean for the family. Now, Elizabeth was a "no foolishness" type person who had a strong hand when it came to lunchtime: meaning that what was put on the table was to be consumed, without question, and it was to be appreciated. Now I don't know if Mrs. Tucker or any other family member had any input in the planning for these lunches, but I do know that they did not vary from one day to another; it was always tomato soup and tuna salad sandwiches, tomato soup and tuna salad sandwiches, day after day.

Elizabeth would brew her tomato soup the week ahead in a great big pot with a lid that looked like a band cymbal. We would all get together (unless you had other plans) at lunch time and sit at the dining room table. It was made out of Cherrywood and could be extended to seat sixteen people.

Each person at that table got a plate with a tuna sandwich and a large bowl of tomato soup with crackers on the side. You also got an admonishment that you ate it – or sat there until you did! I made it my definite habit to miss Saturday lunches even if I was working in the yard with Jimmy and the rest of the guys.

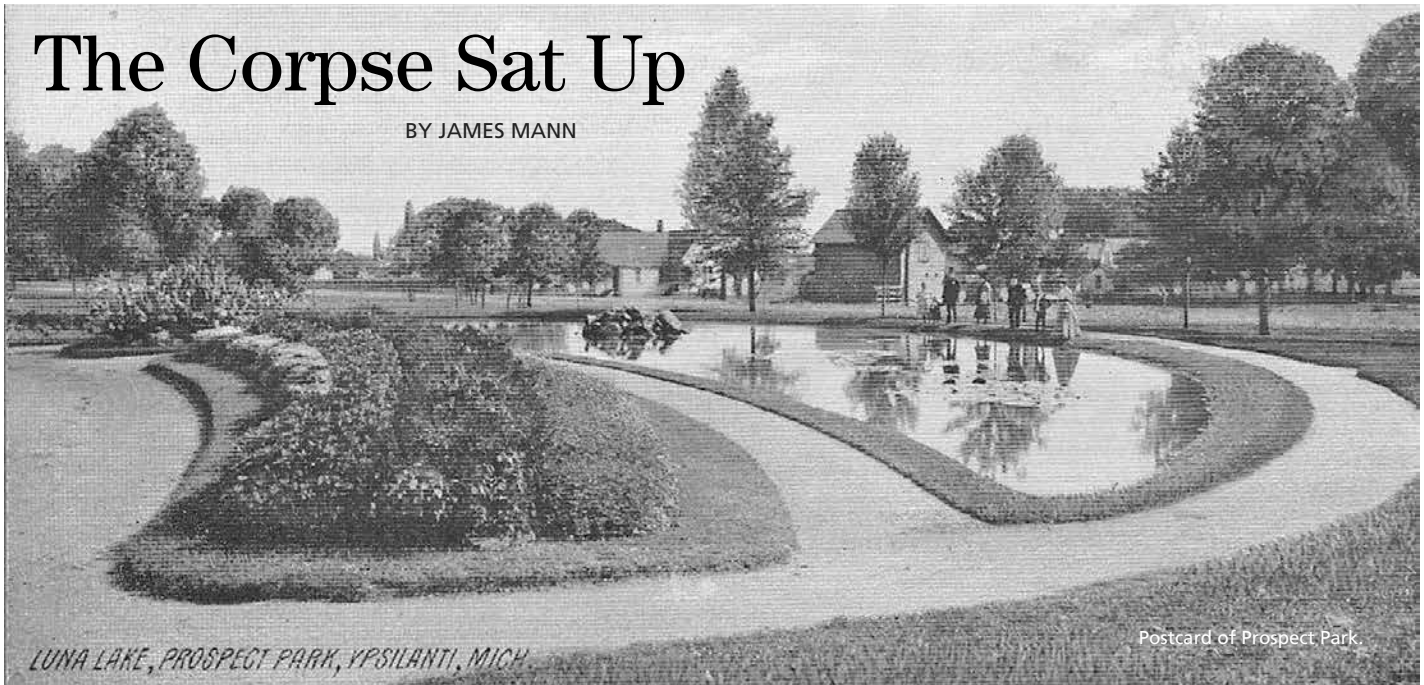
A few years ago, Elizabeth passed away, but I want everyone to know that lady made a lasting impression on me: to this day I hate tomato soup!!!!



Side view of the Tucker house showing the workshop.

The Corpse Sat Up

BY JAMES MANN



"The weather during the year 1936 was characterized by marked extremes in temperature and precipitation. Unparalleled prolonged periods of subzero temperatures obtained in many Western states in the early months of the year followed by unprecedented drought conditions during the summer months," noted the U.S. Weather Bureau in January of 1937. That year the winter had been bitterly cold in Ypsilanti; but it would be the heat wave during July that would be the killer. Across the nation, some 5,000 would die because of the heat. In some places, temperatures would hit record highs that remain today.

On the afternoon of July 8, 1936, the temperature in Southeast Michigan rose to just under 105 degrees, and for the next seven consecutive days rose to above 100 degrees. *"The oppressive heat was compounded by humidity levels generally ranging in the 30s and 40s during the afternoon hours. While those levels are relatively low any other time, when combined with temperatures 100+, the heat index, or how hot it really felt, ranged roughly from 110 degrees to 130 degrees. Little if any relief was found during the evening hours into midnight with temperatures ranging from the mid and upper 90s at the start (6 to 7 p.m.) to hovering still in the mid-80s at midnight. For a few hours before dawn, overnight low temperatures 'cooled' into the mid-70s. Desert-like conditions were exaggerated by the non-existence of rain. 'The thirst of the parched land was left unquenched as not one drop of rain was officially recorded at the Detroit downtown office through the period,"* noted a Weather Service history.

"Since this was 1936," the history continued, *"the residents of Southeast Michigan did not have the luxury of air-conditioned homes, businesses or shopping malls to take refuge from the heat. Most people had to make do with the old standbys such as fans, blocks of ice from the ice man (the ice man cometh) or maybe by just taking a swim. While*

other heat waves in Southeast Lower Michigan have lasted longer, none had been longer accompanied by the fierce heat of this one." In the city of Detroit, some 122 people died as a result of the heat.

During the day, heat was built up in houses and other buildings, as there was no air conditioning at this time. To escape the heat at night some chose to spend the night in a somewhat cooler place like a city park. Some would pick up some blankets, go to the park, and find a spot under the trees.

On the night of July 12, 1936, William Mathewson, who was staying at the Washtenaw Hotel, decided to seek a cool place to sleep in Prospect Park. He was not alone in that decision, to sleep under the trees. There were a number of others camping out in the park. The next morning, he awoke to find beside him something wrapped in paper with only an elbow showing.

At this, Mathewson made a remark about the weather to the object. Not receiving a reply, he continued to encourage the start of a conversation but still had no answer. Now alarmed, Mathewson rushed to tell the police there was a corpse in the park.

Arriving soon after, on the scene were Ypsilanti Police officers Herman Olterdorf and Officer Donald Ruddick. As Olterdorf tried to take a pulse off the corpse, the corpse sat up.

"Blinking aggrievedly at having his slumber disturbed, the corpse told his annoyers that he was Wesley Richards living at the corner of Adams Street, and Michigan Avenue, and that he went to the park to get cooled, too and that he was quite alive," reported *The Ypsilanti Daily Press* of Monday, July 13, 1936.

(James Mann is a local historian, and a regular contributor to the Gleanings.

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