

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

January 1997

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, January 28, 1997--7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: The Coffee Shop at the Freighthouse
100 Rice Street
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan

PROGRAM: *Let's Get on a Street Car! The History of the Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor Interurban*

SPEAKER: Dr. H. Mark Hildebrandt, Founder
The Ann Arbor Train and Trolley Watchers

If you (like this writer) are tired of celebrating 100 Years of the Automobile and hearing about the upcoming 1997 North American International Auto Show, then join us for our January meeting, where we'll learn about another method of transportation that flourished in this country *before* the advent of the auto. The story of the trolley and interurbans of Washtenaw County is the subject of our January 28th program, and we are very pleased to have as our speaker **Mark Hildebrandt**, Founder and "past Grand Trainmaster" of the Ann Arbor Train and Trolley Watchers.

Electric traction with an overhead trolley wire was developed between 1880 and 1890, and this technology rapidly supplanted the earlier cable lines and horse cars. By 1891, Michigan had its first electric interurban line, the Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor run, and service on this line continued until 1929. It ran from downtown Ypsilanti at Washington and Michigan Avenue (then Congress), out Cross Street and Packard to the edge of Ann Arbor, where passengers transferred to a city streetcar. Mark will tell us all about the colorful history of the Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor interurban, with slides and memorabilia from the era.

A native of Ann Arbor, Mark was born "the year that the Ann Arbor streetcars were replaced with buses," but the interurban continued to run until he was almost three years old. In grade school he developed an interest in trolleys and railroads and he has been taking pictures of them ever since. In 1955, after finishing his medical education, Mark returned to Ann Arbor to establish a practice in pediatrics and to raise a family. In the mid-sixties, he and a group of friends with an interest in railroads and electric lines organized loosely as the Ann Arbor Train and Trolley Watchers. They met each month at the Michigan Central Depot in Ann Arbor until it was sold and converted to the Gandy Dancer restaurant. The group still meets monthly at St. Andrew's Church in Ann Arbor.

(continued)

In addition to his active pediatrics practice and his involvement in the AAT&TW, Mark is on the Individual Historic Properties Historic District Study Committee of the City of Ann Arbor. He also regularly presents slide talks on the history of the local transportation scene. And if all that were not enough to keep him busy, he is also restoring the Craftsman home in which he grew up and is furnishing it with pieces from the Craftsman period.

So if you want to learn how people got from here to there before the age of the auto, don't miss our January program. As always, membership is not required, and refreshments will be served.

CLASSIC COMEDY THEATRE AT THE RIVERSIDE

PTD Productions kicks off its 1997 season at the Riverside Arts Center with a presentation of **"You Can't Take it With You,"** a classic comedy by the incomparable team of Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. Directed by Dennis Platte and assistant director Janet Rich, this vintage play deals with the antics of the members of the wacky Sycamore family, such as matriarch Penny, who spends much of her time writing bad plays on a typewriter she received by mistake. The cast, unfortunately too large to list here, includes our own Rick Katon, YHF member, playing Boris Kolenkhov, Russian émigré and ballet impresario.

This Pulitzer Prize-winning play was first produced on Broadway in 1936 at the Booth Theatre. Hollywood created its own version in 1938 with Frank Capra directing and James Stewart and Jean Arthur starring. (Columbia Pictures paid \$200,000 for the rights to this popular play, nearly a record-setting sum in those days.)

While the 1936 Broadway production ran for 837 performances, we have only seven chances to see this one. Performances will be staged at the Riverside Arts Center on Feb. 13, 14, 15, 16 and Feb. 20, 21, 22 with curtain time 8 p.m. for all shows. Tickets, available at the door, are \$12 for adults and \$9 for students and seniors.

According to director Platte, "You Can't Take It With You" is the All-American version of the drawing room comedy. If you haven't yet seen a PTD production at the Riverside, don't miss this chance!

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOME TOUR

Just a quick reminder that 1997 marks the 20th anniversary of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's **Historic Home Tour**. Committee members are already meeting and planning to showcase some of Ypsilanti's finest homes for this event. Mark your calendars now for this outstanding Home Tour on Sunday, August 17.

MORE THEATRE NEWS

The King and I will be performed by the students of Ypsilanti High School the weekend of March 20-23. For ticket prices, reservations, and other information, call the school at 482-8880 and ask for Bill Boggs. Ypsilanti High School musical productions are the best this editor and theatre aficionado has ever seen, and that's saying something. What's more, sets have been designed and will be built by our own Barry LaRue, YHF Board Member and U-M theatre technician.

"LOCAL BITS" FROM THE 1800s

As faithful Heritage News subscribers know, YHF member James Mann has supplied us with many stories of historic interest which we've happily printed for your edification and entertainment. Often these stories have been lifted directly from the pages of late 19th-century editions of the Ypsilanti Commercial. Also found on these pages are little tidbits of news, some fascinating but others mundane. Following are a few of the more interesting items that made the paper (often under the heading of "Local Bits") on April 18, 1885; November 14, 1889; April 14, 1892; and April 27, 1894. Thanks, James.

Mayor Yost says he would much rather be elected by four majority with the vote that backed him than by two hundred majority on the other side.

Mr. E. Washburn is up to the times. Ice cream this afternoon and evening.

It only needs the announcement that a first class minstrel show is coming to fill the opera house. Look at the advertisement for next Thursday evening. Street parade by a uniformed band of twenty-five pieces.

The Observer reports that lemons cost a cent apiece in Saline.

The latest election was the closest ever held in this city. It shows that the temperance and whiskey forces of the city are pretty evenly matched.

The Sappho Club will meet next Wednesday evening, November 20, with Miss Ruth Putnam of Forest avenue. Subject, Bellini.

R. G. Rutter of Warsaw, Ind., and Lillian McSherry of Ann Arbor, were "married in haste" last Friday, having first met in Saginaw three days before.

The clumsy and outlandish method of mending a sidewalk by nailing a board patch over a hole ought not to be tolerated in Rawsonville, and probably would not be; nor should it be allowed by the street Commissioner or Council in Ypsilanti. There are several places where pedestrians have to stumble over such obstructions.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the M. E. church will give one of their monthly teas Wednesday afternoon, May 2. Supper served from 5 until 7 o'clock. Price 15 cents.

Mrs. N. E. Crittenden, who has been sick for some time, is no better.

Next Monday evening, April 30, the State Board of Charities and Corrections will hold a public meeting to which all are cordially invited, at Normal Hall. Addresses will be made by the gentlemen of the Board upon the following subjects: Reformatories; Jails and Prisons; The Insane; and Misdemeanants. The evening is sure to be full of interest and instruction.

Charles M. Fairchild, whose smiling face greets every visitor to the market of Fairchild Brothers, will now look a little more pleasant than usual, the reason being his marriage to Miss Lillie M. Shipman of this city....After a short wedding trip to the north of the state, Mr. and Mrs. Fairchild will take up residence at No. 14 Cross Street.

The person who left a whiskey flask on the steps of The Commercial office last Monday night will be welcome to come and get it. The bottle was empty.

BRIEF NEWS NOTES

In mid-March the **Riverside Arts Center** will host a fundraising concert, **Women In The Blues**. This musical event, sponsored by the **Ann Arbor News**, is tentatively slated to showcase, among others, a gospel-bluesy group from **Community High**. Members of the **Riverside Arts Center** hope to raise \$10,000 for capital improvements as part of the first phase of renovations for the building. They're currently looking at areas such as stage equipment and handicapped accessibility. Main organizers of the event are **Carolyn McKeever** and **Linda Yohn**, members of the **RAC Operations Board**. Details are sketchy at publication date, so look for more information in the **Ann Arbor News**.

Other News: Volunteers at the **RAC** are awaiting notification from the state regarding their application for funds to rehabilitate the building's facade, such as cleaning brick and limestone and painting and caulking of windows. Look for a follow-up report in the **March newsletter**, especially if it's good news!

On a related note, **Louis Rome**, new owner of the **Citizens Center Building** at the corner of **Michigan** and **Washington**, has applied for funds to rehab that building's facade, removing the granite panels and cheese grater, similar to the work done at **City Hall**. Fortunately, the original shape and roofline of this building have not been modified, and the majority of the surface under the cheese grater is reported to be essentially in good shape. Ten years ago the **Downtown Development Authority** hired **David Evans**, of **Quinn-Evans Architects**, to do a feasibility study and rendering of what the building rehab would look like. We're glad that study is finally being acted upon!

We'd also like to reprint here **Louis Rome's** words as quoted in an *Ypsilanti Courier* report on his purchase of the building: "The activity of the **Heritage Foundation** (and) the **Historic District Commission** really speaks well of a small town." Thanks, **Mr. Rome**.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
102 N. Wallace Blvd.

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Lisa Mills Walters, Editor-in-Chief (485-3683)

Peg Du Fresne, Contributing Editor (482-8666)

Barry La Rue, Roving Reporter



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March 1997

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, March 25, 1997--7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Ladies Literary Club
218 N. Washington
Ypsilanti, Michigan

PROGRAM: *Three Hundred Years of Quilts in America*

SPEAKER: Barbara Kilbourn
Quilt Artist and Member, U-M Faculty Women's Quilters

Whether they were created as functional bed coverings or artistic compositions, quilts provide a unique insight into the times in which they were made. And since early Colonial times, quiltmaking has served as both an avenue of personal expression and a reflection of cultural change in America. In her slide lecture, our March meeting speaker, **Barbara Kilbourn**, presents a historical perspective on a variety of quilt styles popular at different times during the past three hundred years.

We'll learn from Barbara how changes in technology, economy, fashion, and society resulted in the development of new styles and techniques. We'll see how technological developments, which brought about the transition from hand production to computerized production, affected fabric availability, cost, and design possibilities. Over time, influences from other cultures, such as Indian palampores and chintz, French toiles, and Japanese crazed glass were eagerly adapted to quiltmaking, as were popular motifs from architecture and furniture production. And Barbara will discuss how quilts were even used to give voice to political sentiments, fund campaigns for social reforms, and increase public awareness of critical social and health issues.

Since 1981, when she began quilting, Barbara has completed more than sixty quilts, from bed-sized to miniatures, and her quilts include both original designs and original adaptations of traditional patterns. Her work has been exhibited in numerous local shows, as well as in Lancaster, PA, Indianapolis, Houston, and Paducah, KY. Photographs of her quilts have been featured in *Quilter's Newsletter Magazine*. She is especially interested in quilt history and has curated two local exhibits with quilt history as the theme. A teacher of quiltmaking since 1988, Barbara is an engaging speaker who brings the history of her art form to life.

So, whether you make quilts, wear them, sleep under them, or just enjoy looking at them, plan to join us March 25th at the Ladies Literary Club. Refreshments will be served.

TOWN HALL SCHOOL BOOK AVAILABLE

Revisit the days of yesteryear in the new book just published, *Down the Myrtle Path: The History and Memories of Town Hall School* by Hannah Geddes Wright. In this book, compiled and written by a former student of Town Hall School, the history of this one-room country school, originally located near Ann Arbor, is traced from its founding in 1852 until the present day, when it graces the campus of Eastern Michigan University.

A former student, Mary (Wallo) Hughes, writes: "To say that I was delighted with my Town Hall School book would be putting it mildly! It was like a trip down memory lane, the wonderful simple days when we didn't have material things, but cherished all the memories we gathered."

For more information or to order (\$12.00 + \$2.00 shipping and handling) write to:

Hannah Geddes Wright
4209 N. Dearing Rd.
Parma, MI 49269

Be sure to include your name and address. Make checks payable to Hannah Geddes Wright.

Ed. Note: The Town Hall School is scheduled to be the subject of our September general meeting. Look for more information in future issues of the Heritage News.



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CIVIL WAR MUSTER AT RIVERSIDE PARK

It's time to break out of winter quarters and "Rendezvous at the Barracks" at the Ypsilanti Civil War Muster and Soldiers' School for infantry on April 19, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Riverside Park. Activities include Company and Battalion drill, volley competition, a concert by the nationally acclaimed **Dodworth Saxhorn Band** (featured in the PBS Baseball series, innings 1-3), and photo ops at the original CW barracks in **Depot Town**. The \$5 registration fee for military impressions covers food, powder, and beer/pop ration; \$2 registration fee for civilian impressions covers beer/pop ration. One dollar of each registrant collected goes toward the Michigan **Save the Flags** project. All 19th century civilian impressions welcome. Theatre Tableau "Tribute to the Boys in Blue" will be performed by your host, Co. E, 17th Michigan Infantry (a member of the Black Hat Battalion and the Western Brigade). For more information, contact the Ypsilanti Area Visitors and Convention Bureau, 301 W. Michigan Ave., 483-4444.

Thanks to John Delcamp for the providing the above information.

MORE ON THE TRAIN AND TROLLEY WATCHERS

Judging from the size of our audience at January's general meeting, there's a lot of interest among our readership in the subject of trains and trolleys. So we thought we'd pass on to you some information we received from our January meeting speaker, Mark Hildebrandt, on the **Ann Arbor Train & Trolley Watchers** meetings and the remainder of their 1996/1997 program calendar.

The AATTW meet the third Friday of the month, September through November and January through May, at 8:00 p.m., in the social hall of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division, in Ann Arbor. St. Andrew's is just up the hill from the Amtrak station. The public is welcome to attend AATTW meetings.

Upcoming Meetings:

March 21--Mark Cowles' interests in photography and both water and rail transportation combine in "Boats and Trains of the Great Lakes Region." Then Evan Garrett reviews the UP tide sweeping the contemporary rail scene in "An Armour Yellow World."

April 18--Jerry Grossman completes the story of the Montana Rail Link that he started last year - nice way to spend a summer vacation, chasing trains in that beautiful mountain air!

May 16--T.B.A.

September 19--"Highlights of Your Summer...or Whenever." Keep us in mind as you enjoy the summer and plan to show the fruits of your efforts at the season opener.

For more information on the AATTW, contact **Evan Garrett at (313) 996-8345** or **Mercer Patriarche at (313) 971-8329**.

RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER NEWS

On the first Saturday in March, a number of community members descended upon the **Riverside Arts Center** for a morning of cleaning, fixing, and general sprucing up. Our thanks to Linda Yohn for providing volunteers with a delicious home-made lunch. If you were unaware of the work day or unable to attend, worry not: you'll have another chance, as the RAC plans to seek your assistance again. See future issues of this newsletter for more information, or become a member of the Riverside Arts Center and receive their newsletter, written by the YHF's own Tom Dodd and chock full of interesting information.

Good news!! The Riverside Arts Center received the **facade restoration grant** that we reported on in our last newsletter. Dick Mitchell of Mitchell-Mouatt, the Ann Arbor architectural firm that did the development study, has been consulted and is preparing bid documents for the facade work. Bill Short, President of Huron Sign Co., has removed and is restoring the sign. (This work is being paid for by the YHF's donation of \$500.) Barry La Rue, facilities chair of the RAC Operations Board, is looking for appropriate globes and fittings for the sign, which will be reinstalled after facade work is completed. Special note: If anyone has any close-up photos of the entrance to the Masonic Temple from 50-plus years ago, especially the teens and twenties, the architect needs them to assist in the restoration of the entrance. Call Barry at 482-2327.

1997 MARKER BANQUET SCHEDULED

The YHF Board has set the date for the annual Marker Awards Banquet. We'll be honoring deserving homeowners at the Ladies' Literary Club on Wednesday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. Details will follow in the May newsletter.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOME TOUR

Remember, 1997 marks the 20th anniversary of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's **Historic Home Tour**. Properties currently lined up for this event include the Hutchinson Mansion on River Street. High Scope plans to restore a recently discovered ceiling mural in the front foyer, and the work in progress will be on view during the Tour. Mark your calendars now for this outstanding Home Tour on Sunday, August 17.

For Sale By Owner: Immaculate two-story brick home in the heart of historic Ypsilanti. Walking distance to EMU and Depot Town. Three bedroom, 1 1/2 baths, fireplace, walk-up attic. Completely renovated. Oak cabinets in kitchen and bath. French doors open to large deck and privacy fence. \$117,000. Call 483-8446 for more information.



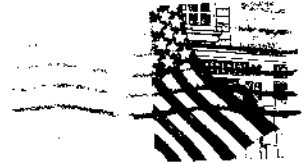
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May 1997

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Wednesday, May 21, 1997--7:30 p.m.

**LOCATION: Ladies Literary Club
218 N. Washington
Ypsilanti, Michigan**

**PROGRAM: 20TH ANNUAL HISTORIC MARKER
BANQUET AND AWARDS**

When May rolls around, it's always a time of celebration for the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation because it's when we recognize and honor deserving property owners for the work they've done on their historic buildings. This year, we have special cause for celebration because 1997 is the 20th anniversary of the Historic Marker Banquet and Awards ceremony. During those 20 years, the Marker Program has recognized more than 115 homes, businesses, and churches in Ypsilanti for their significant historic architecture and continuing, sensitive maintenance.

The following owners of buildings will be awarded Historic Structure Markers this year and will be our special guests of honor on Wednesday, May 21st, at the Ladies Literary Club:

Mark and Julie Fisher for their home at **402 E. Cross**
Style: Italianate, built c. 1894

Paul Heaton for his home at **214 N. River**
Style: Queen Anne, built c. 1910
(Originally located at 212 N. Adams; moved to present location in 1979.)

Nancy Carol Gross for her home at **913 Congress**
Style: Arts and Crafts Bungalow, built c. 1918

Scott Klaassen, Alex and Marybelle Sucek, Gary and Carolyn McKeever, and Jerry Meadows for **The Follett House, 17-25 E. Cross**
Style: Commercial Italianate, built 1858-1859

The Marker Banquet is always a very popular and well attended event each spring, and we anticipate an especially large attendance this year as it is the 20th anniversary. So if you are planning to attend, please call one of the Banquet Chairs--Karen Nickels at 483-8896, Hank Prebys at 487-0595, or Penny Schreiber at 483-5688--as soon as possible to discuss what dish you might like to bring to supplement our table. (The Marker Recipients are not expected to bring a dish, since they are our special guests.)

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The evening begins with punch and hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 pm, with dinner following at 7:15 pm. The Marker program and presentations to recipients will follow. We hope to see you there! REMEMBER: space is limited, so call now!

NEWS FROM THE PAST

Following is a reprint of an article from the September 21, 1894, edition of the Ypsilanti Commercial. Thanks to YHF member James Mann for this contribution.

"It Is Ready"

"About a year ago, when Chas. E. Samson was beginning his new house on Cross St., The Commercial announced something of his plan for a new and novel music emporium. Those plans have now been carried out and the Emporium is an accomplished fact. He calls it Samson's Piano and Organ Parlors, and the establishment is unique, and as charming as it is novel, though it has not yet by a good deal reached its perfected stage.

"He has moved into the new house as his residence, and fitted up and occupied the old house (which was not old but quite a handsome house), corner of Cross and Perrin Sts., for the display and sale of his musical goods. A visitor will be surprised to see how much pleasanter and more suitable and attractive the instruments look in those parlors than in a big storeroom as we usually see them, and will realize that Mr. Samson has struck the right idea. There are five rooms on the first floor, all handsomely carpeted and adorned with pictures and furniture, in which are placed an assortment of pianos and organs, appearing as they would appear in the parlor of a customer. Smaller instruments hang upon the walls or rest upon mantels and in cases, and in one room is his big office desk, where visitors may sit and discuss pianos, transact business, or talk about the weather.

"Up stairs are a half dozen nice rooms, used for small instruments, music, furnishings and musical goods of all sorts. A large chamber at the front is fitted up for the Normal Orchestra, supplied with a piano and furniture, and will be the headquarters of that organization, of which Mr. Oscar Gareissen is director. Other rooms on the upper floor are fitting up for music teachers and will be supplied with instruments. Mr. Samson's idea is to make his establishments a headquarters for musical people and musical instruments, as an accessory of his instrument business, and it is well adapted both in its location and its character, for that.

"There is no question that this new departure in the music trade here will be popular, and that Samson's Parlors will be voted an ornament and a credit to the town."

Following this story in the *Commercial* was an ad which read: "IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA of getting anything in the way of Musical Merchandise, SAMSON'S PIANO, ORGAN and MUSIC PARLORS, 517 Cross St., one block east from the Normal, is the place to get the *right thing* at *Hard-Time Prices*."

Ed. Note: If anyone knows the fate of this house or of Samson's Parlors, call Lisa Walters at 485-3683. She's consumed with curiosity and will print in a later edition any information she uncovers, either through readers or the Historical Museum archives.

CALLING ALL GUIDES!

As you've probably read in these pages previously, 1997 is the 20th anniversary of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's Historic Home Tour. We're very excited about this year's tour, which includes an elegant multi-level apartment in one of the historic downtown commercial buildings; the Cleary House (c.1848), Ypsilanti's only double verandah home; and the magnificent Hutchinson Mansion (1904), with its newly revealed ceiling mural in the foyer. Three other properties, and a special stop with a slide program commemorating the 20th anniversary, complete the tour.

The Home Tour Committee will need plenty of help to execute this ambitious undertaking. The Hutchinson Mansion alone will need as many as 40 guides. So if you've never been a guide for Home Tour before, or if it's been some time since you've been a guide, please consider volunteering for this year's tour. As a guide for Home Tour, you'll help present one of our community's most important resources, our historic architecture, and help welcome visitors from across the state to Ypsilanti. In exchange for your help, you'll receive a complimentary ticket to tour all the homes and you'll be invited to the Post-Tour Party, one of the best parties of the summer and a wonderful way to wrap up Heritage Festival weekend.

To volunteer to be a guide or to learn more about Home Tour, contact Peg Du Fresne at 482-8666.

YCB'S "CONCERTS IN THE PARK" SERIES COMMEMORATES MUSICAL ANNIVERSARY

Not only is this year the 20th anniversary of the YHF's Marker Awards and Historic Home Tour, it's also the 100th anniversary of John Philip Sousa's most famous march, The Stars and Stripes Forever. And you can be sure the Ypsilanti Community Band will be commemorating this event with performances of this popular march, and other Sousa favorites, at one or more of their upcoming outdoor concerts in our neighborhood parks. YCB's concerts are great occasions to gather the family and/or friends, pack a picnic basket, and enjoy a warm summer evening at one of our historic parks. The concerts are free, but donations to the Band are, of course, gratefully accepted.

Park Concerts

Thursday, June 5th	Prospect Park - 7:30 pm
Thursday, June 26th	Recreation Park - 7:30 pm
Thursday, July 17th	Candy Cane Park - 7:30 pm

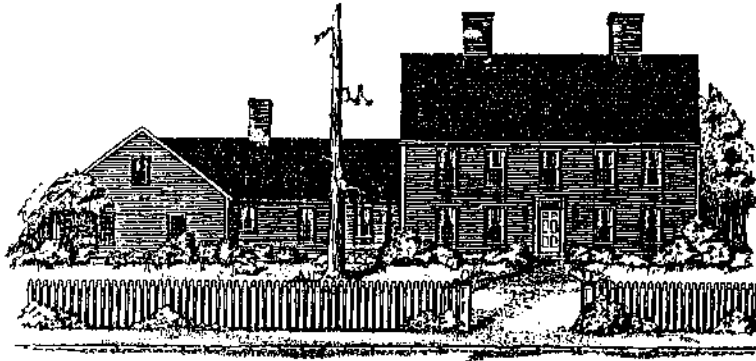
In addition, the Band will give these special performances:

Monday, May 26th	Yankee Air Force (Willow Run Airport) - time TBD
Sunday, June 29th	Belleville (Victory Park) - 3:00 pm
Saturday, August 16th	Ypsilanti Heritage Festival (Riverside Park) - time TBD

WE NEED YOUR GOOD NEWS!!

The most important newsletter we produce all year is the Good News edition, which comes out during the Heritage Festival. While we normally produce 200 copies of other editions, we distribute twice as many of the Good News edition. Many people unfamiliar with our association, both locals and visitors, learn about the Foundation and the important work we do through this newsletter. For this reason, we want to do a good job of highlighting the positive events and developments of the previous year.

To this end, we ask that all of you take some time to think about your street, your neighborhood, downtown, and all areas of the city, and consider what improvements we want to share with our readers. This is the time to--as Johnny Mercer wrote--accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative. Jot down your ideas or call Lisa Walters at 485-3683 and help make this newsletter a true Good News edition for 1997.



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
102 N. Wallace Blvd.
Heritage News
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AUGUST 1997 ** GOOD NEWS EDITION!! ** Ypsilanti, MI

THE YPSILANTI HERITAGE FESTIVAL

August 15, 16, 17

SPECIAL EVENT: YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORIC HOME TOUR

DATE: Sunday, August 17, 1997, Noon to 5:00 p.m.

TICKETS: Adults \$8.00 - Seniors \$7.00 - Children Under 12 \$5.00

Tickets available during Festival at YHF booths:

1. on the right at the entryway to Riverside Park
2. in front of the Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron

FEATURING:

922 Pleasant Drive

Paul and Penny Schreiber
Colonial Revival--1937

Designed by architect H. E. Schlesinger, this home features spacious rooms and striking Art Deco touches in the interior, including curved walls, a one-of-a-kind metal balustrade up the stairway, and a simple, unadorned wood fireplace. Extensively redecorated by the current owners, this warm, comfortable house makes a perfect setting for their collection of informal antiques and art.

911 Pearl

Jim and Mary Baker
Tudor Revival--1929

This charming home evokes the love affair with the romantic Tudor Revival style popular early in this century. Its exterior features include a multi-gabled facade, arched doorway, decorative brickwork, and half-timbering. Interior features include a tiled entryway, limestone fireplace, and decorative plaster trim.

24 S. Normal

Sharon Guyton

Colonial Revival--1924-25

Originally the residence of Michigan State Normal College faculty member Marvin Summers Pittman, this handsome home is one in a group of revival style houses built between 1920 and 1930. Situated on a double lot, the home's abundant windows command a beautiful view of the yard and flood the rooms with sunlight and warmth.

7 N. Normal

Howard and Luanne Booth

Southern Greek Revival--c. 1848

With its spectacular double verandah, upper porch railing, and wrought iron fence, this stately home is an Ypsilanti landmark. In 1914 it became the home of P. Roger Cleary, founder and president of Cleary College, and Cleary family members resided here through World War II. The current owners have lovingly restored it, aided by blueprints found in the basement which show the original 22-room floor plan.

210 W. Michigan Ave.

Roy Johnston and Laura Henderson

Commercial Italianate--1870

Located in the heart of historic downtown Ypsilanti, this building housed the Grinnell Brothers music store from 1908 until the early 1970's. Containing retail space, an artist's studio in the basement, and elegant two-story living quarters, its unique features include a three-story atrium and a deck complete with a hot tub and flower-filled planters.

600 N. River

The Hutchinson House

High/Scope Educational Research Foundation

Mix of Queen Anne, Tudor Revival, and Arts and Crafts Styles--1902-04

This Ypsilanti Landmark was built for Shelley Byron Hutchinson, founder of the S & H Green Stamp business. The 33-room mansion contains an indoor pool (now capped), a two-story ballroom with orchestra loft, one of the country's earliest elevators, and a dining room that is a replica of one in Kaiser Wilhelm's castle in Germany. Also on tour is a recently discovered decorative painting on the domed ceiling of the foyer. Carefully uncovered by Eastern Michigan University art restoration students, the mural, a Graeco-Roman motif of cherubs and vines, is scheduled for a complete restoration.

20th Anniversary Slide Presentation

Demonstration Pre-School Building, High/Scope Grounds

Produced by Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation member Barry La Rue, this slide program of before-and-after images of buildings is a testament to the remarkable renaissance historic preservation has brought about in Ypsilanti during the past twenty years.

Note--The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation has pledged a portion of the proceeds from the 20th Anniversary Home Tour to the Hutchinson House Ceiling Mural Restoration Project.



IT HAPPENED IN YPSILANTI IN 1996-97

The Heritage Foundation presents its ANNUAL GOOD NEWS ISSUE, reporting on some of the improvements that have occurred in Ypsilanti over the past year, for our own delight and that of our Festival visitors. It also allows us an opportunity to say Thank You to all of those who have helped make this a better place to live. This News issue is the Foundation's gift to everyone who cares for and about Ypsilanti.

YPSILANTI NAMED FINALIST IN "PRETTIEST PAINTED PLACES" COMPETITION

On June 23, the Ypsilanti Area Visitors and Convention Bureau hosted a press conference to announce that the City of Ypsilanti has been selected as a regional finalist in the "Prettiest Painted Places in America" competition, sponsored by the Paint Quality Institute. The event was held on the front lawn of the gothic revival home of Hank Prebys and Joe Mattimoe, incidentally the home of the first licensed woman driver in Washtenaw County. The Paint Quality Institute, an educational arm of the Rohm and Haas Company, launched the first-ever competition in conjunction with the *Better Homes and Gardens* and *Architecture* magazines early this year. Ypsilanti was chosen from a field of more than 300 entries. Each region has five finalists with populations up to 5,000 permanent residents, and five with more than 5,000 permanent residents. The finalists in the Northwest region include Bristol, Connecticut; Vevay, Indiana; Annapolis, Maryland; Cape May, New Jersey; Wellsville, New York; Wyoming, Ohio; Brookville, Pennsylvania; Marietta, Pennsylvania; and Providence, Rhode Island.

Judges selected Ypsilanti on the basis of slides submitted by photographer Lynda Hummel. When they visited on June 23rd, they seemed quite impressed by the stock of nicely painted houses. What is more, the Visitors and Convention Bureau did a spectacular job of organizing the press conference/breakfast and ensuring the attendance of a large number of department managers from the City as well as other dignitaries. In September, two communities in each region will receive the "Prettiest Painted Places in America" designation. Winners will receive a commemorative plaque as well as special road signs announcing their distinction. They will also be the focus of an extensive media campaign later this year. Whatever happens, Ypsilanti already has received a great deal of very positive publicity. The *Detroit Free Press* ran an article, as has the *Ann Arbor News* and the *Ypsilanti Press: an edition of the Ann Arbor News*. The *Ypsilanti Press* edition even ran a color picture of the Prebys-Mattimoe home that was one of the 40 houses whose photographs were submitted as documents of the wonderful paint jobs in our town.

Joe and Hank report that the number of cars driving by to look at their house has increased significantly. One of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation board members overheard an attendee at the press conference say, "I've lived in Ypsilanti all my life, and I didn't know these great houses were here." It is all another way in which we are increasing the appreciation of historic Ypsilanti.

Ed. Note: Thanks to YHF board member Hank Prebys for the above information. And congratulations to all whose homes were featured!

DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT

Watchers of downtown improvement should take note of the beautiful renovation work going on at the "Hawkins Heritage House Apartments" in the middle of the 200 block of West Michigan Avenue.

The site of the former Hawkins House, a hotel of good reputation around the turn of the century, is the lucky recipient of some fine craftsmanship by local builder Rex Richie. A highly detailed cornice has been replicated at the top of the building. Quality replacement windows, painting, and tuck pointing are also part of the job.

Owners Mitch Jerden and Dave Conrad are to be congratulated for their efforts at improving this fine example of commercial Italianate architecture. Hey Mitch and Dave... How about duplicating that two-story verandah?

We want to make sure to point out that the Hawkins House received incentive funding from the City of Ypsilanti's Commercial Loan Program. We may as well let everyone know that the loan fund is brimming and that we are looking for appropriate jobs located within the target districts of Downtown, Depot Town, Campus Town, and Harriet Street. Call Jennifer Goulet at 483-9646 or speak with Commercial Loan Board member Barry LaRue at 482-2327 or email "blarue@umich.edu"

OTHER GOOD NEWS

SIDEWALK CAFES ARE EVERYWHERE!! New ones cropped up this summer at the Tap Room, Louis', and TC's Speakeasy on Michigan Avenue and at the Mudd House coffee shop on West Cross at Hamilton.

DEPOT TOWN CLOCK--A very successful sale of personalized bricks resulted in the erection of a Victorian clock in the center of East Cross Street in Depot Town--it's wonderful, especially when it's lighted at night. Congratulations, Bill French!!

BANNERS ON MICHIGAN AVENUE--the great colors really liven up our downtown and tie together all the improvements made in the past year or so.

BIG IMPROVEMENTS TO PROSPECT PARK:

The north (playground) end of the park looks wonderful since last year's work was completed. Improvements will soon be underway at the south end of this East Side park.

AND OVER ON THE WEST SIDE:

Recreation Park will be the site of new playground equipment in the very near future, with major changes continuing through the years. The parking lot at Rutherford Pool has been paved--a great help in both appearance and convenience.

THE 10.8 ACRES:

Work is underway on the construction of the Exemplar Manufacturing Company's new headquarters on the city's south side. Expect this entrance to the city to become an attractive and welcoming sight.

RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER:

Notice the new entry, paving, planters, trees, signs, and most important, lots of activity!

REHABS:

- Don't miss the **reconstructed cornice** on the old Greystone Hotel building on the north side of West Michigan Avenue in the 200 block--it's **spectacular!**
- The artificial siding is off the house at **416 North Huron**, paint preparation is underway, and it will soon be garnering compliments!
- **57 East Forest** has also been stripped of artificial siding and handsomely painted, treated to a new fence and flowers, and is a wonderful improvement in its neighborhood!

FLOWERS, FLOWERS, FLOWERS:

- **North River Street** is blossoming all down the boulevard, thanks to Riverside Lawn & Garden's donation of flowers and the planting efforts of the neighbors.
- The **Normal Park Neighborhood** is blossoming on the boulevards of Wallace and Westmoorland and in many corners in the neighborhood--looks wonderful!
- Thanks for the flowers at the **Post Office** and at **315 North Park**--you brighten your neighborhoods!
- **South Huron Street** is bright with flowers on the curbs--a beautiful welcome to all who enter Ypsilanti from the south. Some wonderful plantings along the curbs on **North Huron**, too!
- **Flowers** are thriving in more places than ever. half barrels, window boxes, street corners, curbsides--thanks to everyone who plants and tends these beauties! Special thanks to all the apartment renters who plant flowers!
- Thanks to the **Ypsilanti Press: an Edition of the Ann Arbor News** for all the great stories on Ypsilanti's gardens and gardeners.

SPECIAL THANKS to all those folks who quietly and faithfully maintain their properties. Your efforts keep Ypsilanti looking good! If we missed you, know that your work is still much appreciated.

Always, thanks to those **business organizations** who work so hard to keep Downtown and Depot Town looking good and thriving, including the **DDA, CBC, DTA, DTDDA, and the Mainstreet Project.**

AGAIN, a bushel of THANKS to **Ezell Agnew**, who continues to keep downtown streets free of litter and the multitude of downtown plantings looking so wonderful!



**PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS:
THE 1997/98 YHF GENERAL MEETING PROGRAMS**

Tuesday, September 30, 7:30 p.m., The Town Hall Schoolhouse, EMU Campus
The Story of the Town Hall School

Rochelle Balkam, Chair, Friends of Town Hall School

It's September and time to go back to school. So we continue a pattern we started last year, with our September '96 program on the Lincoln School murals, and present another education-themed program to kick off our 1997/98 calendar. We are indeed pleased to have as our September speaker **Rochelle (Ricky) Balkam**, Social Studies Resource Teacher for the Ypsilanti Public Schools and Chair, Friends of Town Hall School, who will discuss the history of the school, its move to Eastern's campus in 1987, and the plans to make it a working museum and center for educational history. And what better place to hold this program than in the schoolhouse building itself! So, for the opportunity to learn about the history of this schoolhouse, built in 1895, and to experience what it was like to live and learn in a one-room school, don't miss this program.

Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 p.m., The Ladies Literary Club
Clues Hidden in Walls and Between Rafters: The Firestone Farmhouse Restoration
Nancy Villa Bryk, Curator, Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village

The Firestone Family Farmhouse, which now stands in Greenfield Village and is one of the Village's most popular exhibits, was built in the early 19th century in Columbiana, Ohio. When Greenfield Village acquired the house in 1983, it seemed devoid of all clues that would help the restoration team determine how generations long gone would have decorated the building. But as the team, led by Blake Hayes, Greenfield Village curator and YHF member, began to dismantle the house, the keys to unlocking its "look" began to appear. **Nancy Bryk**, our November speaker, was part of the restoration team, and it was her particular challenge to interpret these clues in order to recreate the interior of the farmhouse as it would have looked c. 1880. In her fascinating slide presentation, Nancy will lead us through the process museum professionals use to interpret and relate furnishings and decor when reinstalling historic buildings.

Wednesday, January 28, 7:30 p.m., Location TBA
Decorating a Historic Interior: Balancing Accuracy and Livability
Ginna Jordan, ASID, Owner and Designer, Jordan Interiors

Old house owners often wish they could furnish and decorate their interiors as authentically as those they see when visiting historic house museums. But in reality, few of us have the resources to do so. And with today's modern lifestyles, a totally authentic decorating scheme may not be the best solution. Our January speaker, **Ginna Jordan**, will show us how to strike that balance between authenticity, affordability, and livability when decorating a historic home. We'll learn about the differences between documented fabrics and wall coverings, interpretations, and adaptations, and the corresponding differences in cost. In addition to her slides, Ginna will bring plenty of samples of fabrics, wall coverings, and trims, so attendees can see and feel the different materials that are available. With degrees in both Interior Design and Historic Preservation, Ginna lectures regularly on historic interiors, and this will be an informative, practical program of interest to old house owners and others.

Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m., Location TBA
If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Nafplion: Or How I Spent my Summer
Vacation Re-tracing the Steps of Demetrius Ypsilanti
Cheryl Farmer, Mayor, City of Ypsilanti

In June of this year, Mayor Cheryl Farmer was part of the delegation that went to Greece to re-establish ties with our sister city of Nafplion. While there, she learned about the role Nafplion played in the history of General Demetrius Ypsilanti, the hero of the Greek War of Independence, after whom our city was named. In her March presentation, Mayor Farmer will talk about Nafplion's importance as the General's burial place and as the first city liberated from the Turks in the War. If you've wanted to learn more about the life and times of Demetrius Ypsilanti, don't miss this program. (Besides, in March, what could be better than viewing slides of beautiful, sun-drenched Greece?)

Mark your calendars with these dates! As always, general meetings of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation are open to the public, and refreshments are provided.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON EDUCATION

We thought we'd pass on to our readers this information that came our way from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO):

The SHPO's 7th Annual Fall Workshop is scheduled for Friday, September 26, and Saturday, September 27, at the Michigan Library and Historical Center in Lansing. The workshop (actually two separate workshops) is presented in cooperation with the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. This year the workshops focus on innovative educational tools and methods to teach youth about historic resources and preservation. It will be of special interest to educators, historians, and preservationists.

Friday's full-day session, "Lessons of Place Teaching and Historic Preservation," will feature, among others, speakers Rebecca Liberty-Winter, of the Center for Understanding the Built Environment (CUBE), and Carol Shull, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. At Saturday's morning session, "Walk Around the Block with Polaroid," participants will receive a Polaroid camera for use in the workshop and future use in the classroom and community, and will learn how to create exciting materials with instant images to enhance heritage education programs.

Participants are required to pre-register for the SHPO Fall workshop, and the deadline for registration is Friday, September 12. The registration fee for Friday is \$12.00 and includes lunch. The fee for Saturday is \$10.00, which includes the camera, but registrants must supply film. The fee for both days is \$22.00. For more information, call the SHPO at (517) 373-1630.



Heritage Foundation Board Members:

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THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MAKES YPSILANTI A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE: OUR POLICE FORCE, FIRE FIGHTERS, BUILDING INSPECTORS, CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE PROUD TO BE FROM YPSILANTI.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOUNDATION

REMEMBER: dues are due in October. If you are a dues paying member now, you should be receiving your billing soon. If you would like to join the Foundation, send your check, payable to the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, to Lisa Mills Walters, YHF Treasurer, 102 N. Wallace Blvd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Individuals: \$10; Family: \$15; Contributing: \$25; Sustaining: \$100; Life: \$1000. **HELP MAKE HISTORY!**

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
Heritage News

102 N. Wallace Blvd.

Editor: Lisa Mills Walters (485-3683)

Contributing Editors: Peg Du Fresne, Jane Schmiedeke, and Barry La Rue



Ypsilanti Historic Museum
220 N. Huron St.
Ypsilanti MI 48197

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

September 1997

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, September 30, 1997--7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: The Town Hall Schoolhouse, EMU Campus
(across from Bowen Fieldhouse--see directions back page)

PROGRAM: *Back to Our Roots: A Look at Life in the One-room School*

SPEAKER: Rochelle Balkam, President, Friends of Town Hall School

Saying she wants to "take the audience back to the one-room school, to a time when the world seemed simpler," our September meeting speaker, **Rochelle (Ricky) Balkam**, will document for us the history of the Town Hall School, its seven mile journey in 1987 from Pittsfield Township to Eastern Michigan University's campus, and what it was like to live and learn in the 19th and early 20th centuries in Michigan's one-room schools. And what better place to view Ricky's slide presentation than in the Town Hall Schoolhouse itself!

The first Town Hall School was constructed in 1852 on the Geddes Farm, when William Geddes leased land at the corner of Morgan and Thomas Roads to the Pitt (now Pittsfield) School District for a term of 99 years. The District paid six cents per year for the lease. The existing wooden schoolhouse, built in 1895 at a cost of \$677.50, served as the educational and social center for the community until its doors were closed in 1957. Several generations of students were educated at the Town Hall School, and at least 97 teachers taught there during the 105 years that the school was in operation.

As EMU's official Michigan Sesquicentennial project, and through the efforts of the Friends of Town Hall School, the schoolhouse was moved to the campus and officially dedicated on October 22, 1988. As Ricky describes it, the dedication was a "day which made a dream come true for the Friends of the Town Hall School. After years of hoping, planning, fund-raising, and hard work, the school was dedicated to the faculty and students of EMU. Mrs. Lois Porter played an instrumental role in accomplishing this goal."

Plans are now underway to make the school a working museum and center for educational history. As part of her presentation, Ricky, Social Studies Resource Teacher for the Ypsilanti Public Schools, President of Friends of Town Hall School, and Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation member, will present a lesson, as well as show educational artifacts from the past. She encourages our readers to come and share their own stories and memories of Michigan's educational heritage.

So do we. So please join us as we kick off our 1997-98 calendar of YHF general meetings. As always, membership is not required, so bring a friend. Refreshments will be served.

1997 HOME TOUR A SUCCESS DESPITE WEATHER

More than 700 people turned out for the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's 20th Anniversary Historic Home Tour on Sunday, August 17, despite weather that was less than picture-perfect. As a result, we met our fundraising goal for 1997, which enables us to continue our support of the Foundation's ongoing programs and to donate a portion of the tour proceeds to the Hutchinson House Ceiling Mural Restoration Project.

The great turnout was due, in large part, to the wonderful group of properties we had to offer for this year's event. On behalf of the Home Tour Committee, I would like to thank the owners of this year's locations for graciously making their properties available: Paul and Penny Schreiber, 922 Pleasant Drive; Jim and Mary Baker, 911 Pearl; Sharon Guyton, 24 S. Normal; Howard and Luanne Booth, 7 N. Normal; Roy Johnston and Laura Henderson, 210 W. Michigan Avenue; and the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation for the Hutchinson House, 600 N. River.

Our success was also due to the efforts of our volunteer guides and ticket sellers. This year, with the Hutchinson House on tour, we needed an especially large number of guides. But, as usual, YHF members and other community volunteers came through for us with their cooperation, hard work, and support. We thank you all!

Special thanks go out once again to Lisa and Eric Walters, our very hard-working Ticket Chairs. Lisa and Eric have indicated that this will be their last year, and we miss them already! To Lisa and to Kim Clarke we say "thank you" for additional writing, editing, and proofreading for this year's brochure. A special thank you to Rick Katon for his brochure and commemorative photographs, and to Judi Monaghan for the management of our mailing list. We also wish to acknowledge and thank Sprentall's Picture Framing, for the matting and framing of the commemorative photos, Norton Durant Florists for the lovely floral arrangements which grace the homes on tour, and McNaughton & Gunn, Inc. for their very generous donation of printing services for the brochure.

Thanks, also, to the team of Rick and Carol Leyshock, Barbara and Alan Saxton, Bill and Karen Nickels, and Al Heezen for another wonderful post-tour party. Every year, this group seems to top themselves! Finally, we want to thank Barry La Rue, not only for his enlightening 20th Anniversary slide presentation (we hope you all got to see it) but also for his continual help, over the years, in researching Home Tour properties.

My personal thanks go out to the members of the Home Tour Committee: Amy Beckett, Sharon Beckett, Jonnie Bryant, Kyle Bunton, Julie Fisher, Jennifer Goulet, Scotty James, Nancie Loppnow, Mary Ann McDonald, Barbara Saxton, Penny Schreiber, Grace Sweeney, and Jane Van Bolt. These are the individuals responsible for locating and selecting the homes on tour (and when necessary, coaxing the homeowners!). They also serve as chief guides, help with soliciting underwriters, sponsors, and patrons, and organize and train the volunteer guides. **CONGRATULATIONS, GROUP, AND THANKS TO YOU ALL!**

Peg Du Fresne
Chair, 20th Anniversary Historic Home Tour



IT'S THE FALL HOME TOUR SEASON!

Just in case you haven't had your fill of historic home tours yet this year, we pass on the following information:

7th Annual Woodbridge Historic District Home & Garden Tour Detroit, Michigan Saturday, September 20

This emerging historic district, in the vicinity of Wayne State University, is holding its tour on Saturday, September 20. The tour starts at the Detroit Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, located at 1776 W. Warren (between Trumbull and Rosa Parks Blvd./12th St.). Guided tours leave every 15 minutes, with the first tour beginning at 10:00 a.m., and the last tour beginning at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00 at the door. For more information, call 313-832-1877.

Heritage Hill Home Tour and Taste of Grand Rapids Grand Rapids, Michigan Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 3, 4, and 5

The Heritage Hill Association will present 11 historic structures, including nine private homes, on its annual home tour on Saturday, October 4, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, October 5, from noon to 6:00 p.m. The weekend kicks off with the taste of Grand Rapids on Friday, October 3, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at Grand Rapids Community College's Ford Fieldhouse. The Taste of Grand Rapids features palate-pleasing samples from more than 30 of the best restaurants in the Grand Rapids area.

Tickets for the tour are \$10.00 if purchased prior to September 30, and \$12.00 the days of the tour. Day of event ticket prices for the Taste of Grand Rapids are \$2.00, and samples at the Taste are priced at \$2.50 or less. There's also a \$10.00 advance admission price for the combined events. For more information, call 616-459-8950.

Second Annual Home Tour, Vistula Historic District Toledo, Ohio Sunday, October 12

The Vistula Historic District, the oldest neighborhood in Toledo, holds its second annual home tour on Sunday, October 12, from noon to 5:00 p.m. The tour features six properties dating from 1843 to 1912. Advance discount tickets, sold through Friday, October 10, are \$7.00 for adults, \$6.00 for seniors, and \$5.00 for children under 12, and are available in Ypsilanti at Materials Unlimited. Tickets can also be ordered by mail through October 3 by writing to Home Tour, P. O. Box 442, Toledo, OH 43697-0442. On the day of the tour, tickets can be purchased at the Cummings House B & B at 1022 North Superior Street from noon to 4:30 p.m. at \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for seniors, and \$7.00 for children. For more information, call 419-244-3219.



TAX RELIEF FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION NOW!

Ed. Note: The following article was reprinted in its entirety from the Fall 1997 edition of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network News.

Here's the history of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network's financial incentives legislation:

Financial incentives for historic preservation have been a top priority legislative goal of the Network membership since 1988. That was the year the Network and the State Historic Preservation Office organized a series of forums around the state to determine preservation needs and responses to those needs. Legislative action topped that list of needs and included improved district enabling legislation and financial support as the most critical.

In 1992, when the Network was working with the legislature to amend Michigan's enabling legislation (PA 169 of 1970), several lawmakers asked us about incentives to encourage historic preservation--the flip side of the protections which were being included in the amendments. We considered this an invitation to push for incentives, and early in 1993 we drafted bill language for review by Senator John Schwarz (R-Battle Creek), who had offered to assist us.


Since then, the Network has been helped by professional bill drafters and key office staff people to create a piece of legislation which will serve the state's preservation interests and all citizens of Michigan. This bill was introduced by Senator Schwarz as SB 105 and 106 in the fall of 1995. It was heard by the Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Senator Joanne Emmons (R-Big Rapids), in May 1996, but the Chair declined to ask for a vote to move the bill to the floor for action by the entire body of Senators.

Earlier this year, Representative Kirk Profit (D-Ypsilanti) introduced the same legislation into the House of Representatives as HB 4670 and 4669. HB 4669, the single business tax credit, was tie-barred to SB 106, the income tax credit; this means that HB 4669 and SB 106 must both be approved in order for the legislation to be enacted. The House Tax Policy Committee heard HB 4669 on May 21, approved it 14-1, and moved it out of committee.

Now, this is the future of tax relief for historic preservation:

HB 4669 has been held in the House because of the political impasse involving the state budget legislation and the road improvement tax package. Agreement on these issues was recently reached, and both houses went into recess; they will return to Lansing on September 23.

What can you do? For information on how to express your support of these bills, contact the Michigan Historic Preservation Network office at 248-625-8181.



**THE BELLE OF AMHERST
KICKS OFF KEMPF PIANO RESTORATION PROJECT**

(We thought we'd pass along this information that came to us from the Kempf House Center for Local History in Ann Arbor.)

One hundred and seven years ago, Reuben Kempf bought a Steinway Style 2 Grand Piano for his music studio at 312 South Division Street (now the Kempf House Center). Over the next 50 years, the Kempf Piano was used to bring music to the children of Ann Arbor. Victor Herbert and Paderewski have played it. Madame Schumann-Heinck sang accompanied by the piano. Now, age has silenced the first grand piano in Ann Arbor.

Experts in piano restoration estimate that it will cost \$30,000 to bring the piano back to proper playing condition. The volunteers of Kempf House Society are kicking off a major campaign to raise the funds to refurbish the piano with a special event, *The Belle of Amherst*, a one-woman play about the life of Emily Dickinson, featuring Nancy Heusel. Nancy has performed in the University Professional Theater Program, Michigan Radio Theater, and was last seen in the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's production of *Blithe Spirit*.

Two performances of *The Belle of Amherst* are scheduled: Saturday, October 4, at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 5, at 3:00 p.m. Performances will be held at the Kempf House and are limited to 20 seats. Tickets are \$40 each and are 100% tax deductible. Complimentary refreshments will be served.

For more information on *The Belle of Amherst*, call 313-994-4898.

(Editor's note: At press time, the performance on October 5 was nearly sold out. So if you're interested in attending, contact the Kempf House soon!)



Kempf House Center for Local History

Ann Arbor, Michigan

RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER THEATRE NEWS

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, by Edward Albee, will be presented by Orpheus Productions on September 25-28 and October 2-4 at 8:00 p.m., with matinee performances on September 27 and October 4 at 2:00 p.m., at the Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron Street. Tickets are \$10.00 for general admission and \$9.00 for senior citizens and students and are available at Ned's Student Bookstore, 707 W. Cross, or by calling Orpheus Productions at 971-5545.

The Riverside Arts Center will also be the site of PTD Productions' presentation of *Talley and Son*, by Lanford Wilson. The third play in the Talley family cycle, *Talley and Son* is a powerful examination of American values at the end of World War II. The show runs October 16-19 and October 23-25, with all performances at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults, \$9.00 for students and seniors, and can be purchased at the door or reserved by calling 483-7345.

Directions to the Town Hall School: Whether coming from east or west, take Washtenaw to Oakwood, at the southwest corner of EMU's campus. (If coming from points north, take Huron River Drive to Oakwood and head south.) Take Oakwood to West Circle Drive and turn east (the only way you *can* turn); Town Hall School is on the south side of the drive. If you wish to park in the structure, its entrance, Structure Drive, is one block north of West Circle. If you need further directions, call Lisa Walters at 485-3683.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

202 N. Wallace Blvd.

The News

Lisa Mills Walters, Editor-in-Chief (485-3683)

Peg DeFresne, Head Writer (482-8666)

Ypsilanti Historic Museum

220 N. Huron St.

Ypsilanti MI 48197

Heritage News

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November 1997

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Wednesday, November 19, 1997—7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: The Ladies Literary Club
218 N. Washington
Ypsilanti, Michigan

PROGRAM: *Clues Hidden in Walls and Between Rafters:
The Firestone Farmhouse Restoration*

SPEAKER: Nancy Villa Bryk, Curator, Henry Ford Museum
and Greenfield Village

We continue our 1997-98 calendar of meeting programs with a fascinating look at the process museum professionals use to interpret and relate furnishings and decor when reinstalling historic buildings. The particular building we'll look at is the Firestone Family Farmhouse, which was built in the early 19th century in Columbiana, Ohio. The house now stands in Greenfield Village, where it is the centerpiece of one of the Village's most popular exhibits.

When Greenfield Village acquired the house in 1983, it seemed devoid of all clues that would help the restoration team determine how generations long gone would have decorated the building. But as the team, led by Blake Hayes, Greenfield Village curator and YHF member, began to dismantle the house, the keys to unlocking its "look" began to appear. Our November speaker, Nancy Villa Bryk, was part of the restoration team, and it was her particular challenge to interpret these clues in order to recreate the interior of the farmhouse as it would have looked c. 1880.

Nancy, who received both her B. A. in History and Art History and her M. A. in American Culture at the University of Michigan, has been a curator at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village since 1981. At the Museum, she curates the collections of clothing and textiles, including quilts and samplers, and she coordinates the work of the Domestic Life Team, which is responsible for the collections of household items found in American homes over the past 300 years. Nancy has also been furnishings curator of many of the buildings in Greenfield Village, including the Noah Webster home (c. 1835) and the slave houses from Hermitage Plantation, as well as the Firestone Farmhouse.

In addition to her work at the Museum and Village, Nancy teaches historic preservation at Eastern Michigan University and consults with museums and historic house restoration teams on collecting strategies and interior furnishings and decor.

You won't want to miss this meeting. As always, membership is not required,
so bring a friend!

Refreshments Will Be Served.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

With Christmas just around the corner, Ypsilantians can find a number of events designed to entertain, enlighten, and amuse. The following is a listing of just a few of them. Call the numbers provided for more information.

November 16, 4:00 pm: Dodworth Saxhorn Band at the Riverside Arts Center. The nineteenth century band music of Claudio S. Grafulla. Call 480-2787.

November 21, 22, 23 and December 4, 5, 6: *Guys and Dolls*, the Tony Award-winning musical, at Quirk Theatre, Eastern Michigan University. Call 487-1221.

November 23, 1:00-5:00 pm: Economy Bazaar, Ypsilanti Farmers' Market. All items \$10 or less. Call 483-1480.

November 23, 4:00 pm: The Arianna String Quartet at Pease Auditorium, EMU. Free. Call 487-2255.

Weekends in December: the Festival of Lights in Riverside Park. Call the Visitors and Conventions Bureau, 483-4444 for exact dates and times.

December 6 and 7, 3:00 pm: Ypsilanti Area Dancers' production of *La Boutique Fantasque* at Ypsilanti High School. Special appearance by YHF member Rick Katon. Call the Randazzo Dance Studio at 482-6131.

December 6 and 7: Victorian Christmas Weekend in Depot Town.

December 7, 12:00-5:00: Tour of Holiday Homes of Historic Ypsilanti, featuring nine residences decorated in holiday themes. To benefit Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels and the Humane Society of Huron Valley. Call Remington's By Design at 485-2164.

December 7, 2:00 and 5:00 pm: EMU Lessons and Carols, a musical salute to the season presented by EMU Choirs and Campus Ministries, First United Methodist Church, 209 Washtenaw. Free. Call 487-2255.

December 11, 7:30 pm: The Ypsilanti Community Band and Choir Annual Holiday Concert, Ypsilanti High School. (Choir members include your very own editor and other YHF members!) Free. Call 483-7192.

December 13, 8:00 pm: EMU Women's Chorus Concert at the University Lutheran Chapel, 812 Ann Street. Free. Call 487-2255.

December 13: Santa Claus and a Silent Auction at the Farmers' Market. Call 483-1480.



NEWS FROM THE PAST

Once again we bring you items of interest which appeared in local newspapers approximately one hundred years ago. Thanks, as always, to YHF member James Mann for doing the research and supplying us with his interesting findings. The following, all of which were found in the *Washtenaw Evening Times*, are "bad news" items to historic preservationists!

From January 16, 1895:

An Old Landmark to Go

"The oldest landmark in the shape of a building in Ypsilanti will in the near future be torn down. It is the old King frame building on S. Huron st., that for many years was occupied by the Kings as a store. The structure was erected some time before 1840 and it is probably 60 years old. It was formerly located on the corner of Huron and Congress sts., but when the present brick block was constructed it was moved back and has since been used as a storehouse. The title to the place has remained in the family for three generations, which, however, is not quite as long as the title of king has been used. The oak frame of the building remains in nearly as good condition as when first erected."

From July 26, 1899:

An Old Landmark

"The removal to the outskirts of the city of the Showers' house on Washington st. marks the obliteration of one of the city's old landmarks. The main part of this structure was built about the year 1830 by James Saunders, then a sheriff of Washtenaw county, and was occupied by him and his family for many years. Although several additions have been made as time has gone on, the original building has been left without change and still stands as a monument to the simplicity and thorough workmanship of the early part of the century. The house is a light frame structure, but each part gives evidence of having been fitted to its neighbor with special care and by an excellent workman. One peculiarity is that between the clapboards and the inner part of the wall there was a lining of brick, a material which has been supplanted for such purposes by heavy paper. The sight of the old building making its slow and difficult journey through the streets aroused both sad and pleasant memories in the minds of those who can look back to the days of its construction."

From June 22, 1898:

Landmark Gone

"Another of Ypsilanti's landmarks is being torn away to make room for the march of improvements. Few of those noticing the house partly hidden in the oak and hickory grove on Ellis st., near Perrin st., forming part of Trim & McGregor's College Place addition, would remember when it was erected in 1832.

"The first person who lived in it was Rev. Ira M. Weed, of the Presbyterian church, which residence he enjoyed for six years. John Champion was the next inhabitant, and he engaged Controller Forsyth, father of James Forsyth, of the East side, to make extensive additions to the edifice.

"This old building, with walnut beams, is now being torn down, and in place of it is being built a fine modern residence, whose first occupant will also be a divine, Rev. E. W. Ryan. What was once the finest residence of the city is to be replaced with one of the nice modern houses of today."

Ed. Note: See what happens without an HDC?

RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER NEWS

After many delays due to high bid amounts, the contracts have been let to restore the facade of the Riverside Arts Center. The building, which many of you know started out as the Masonic Temple in 1909, will receive tuck pointing, painting, new entry doors, and other details to give the building a more appropriate look.

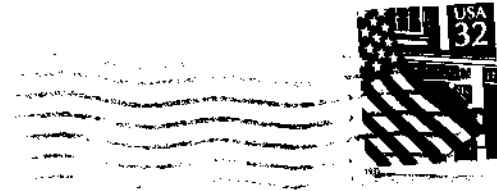
A grant from the state Bureau of History and the Downtown Development Authority is funding this project. Dick Mitchell of the Ann Arbor architectural firm of Mitchell/Mouat created the specs for the work. Bill Kinley, Terry Harper, and Jennifer Goulet have all put in many hours to this most worthy project.

For those of you who haven't been in to the RAC lately, you will be pleasantly surprised at the new tiered seating risers in the main auditorium. Sight lines are much improved!

In addition to the risers, new house lights and emergency lights have been installed, making the facility safer and more attractive. Come down and support the Riverside and see what Ypsilanti has to offer!



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
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Heritage News
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