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HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

SALUTE TO MARION McCLENCH

Some unfinished business of 1959, is our Society's tribute to Miss Marion McClench, Lansing's 1959 Woman of the year. Miss McClench can be rightfully called "the Woman of Any Year". Our Society has indeed been enriched by her contribution of interest and enthusiasm and her hard work as public relations chairman of the Society for 1958-59 when she edited Town Crier and Heritage.

Born in Massachusetts, she was the daughter of the President of the Massachusetts Life Insurance Company, a scion of the family of John Greenleaf Whittier. She graduated from Smith College at a time when few young women even went through high school.

Miss McClench came to Michigan to work in a Detroit insurance office with the most successful insurance women her father knew. She quickly developed active interest in clubs for business women and help organize a number of them. She was elected President of the Detroit Business Women's Club in 1922, and two years later was named President of the Michigan Federation. During her state presidency she moved to Ann Arbor to start her own insurance business and joined the Business Women's Club there.

In 1928, she was elected recording secretary of the National Federal of Women, fighting for the improvement of the status of all women in the business world. She was named chairman of the tenth annual national convention of the group held in Mackinac Island in 1929 and was elected president of the National Federation at that convention.

In 1935, Marion moved to Lansing as public relations consultant for the Michigan Department of Public Instruction and eventually became director of publications and editor for that department.

She was made honorary national president of the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs in 1946. Central Michigan College, in 1953, bestowed an honorary masters degree of education. The same year she joined (over)

JANUARY 21, 1960, Thursday night, the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, will meet in Parlors A and B of the Civic Center at 8:00 o'clock.

CITY OF SEVEN ISLANDS

"Grand Ledge--City of Seven Islands" is the topic chosen by Senator John W. Fitzgerald for the January 21st meeting of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. Legend tells us that an Indian squaw threw her seven children into the waters surrounding the area which accounts for the seven islands.

Stamped a Republican by inheritance, John W. Fitzgerald was elected State Senator from the Fifteenth District, composed of the counties of Clinton, Eaton and Shiawassee in 1958. He spent his boyhood romping about the executive offices of the State Capitol when his father, Frank D. Fitzgerald, was first elected Governor for the 1935-37 term.

He is well qualified to speak to us on the history of Grand Ledge as his family made that history. His grandfather, John W. Fitzgerald came to Michigan in 1872 and settled there and taught school. Later he established a hardware business and in 1895, was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives.

His father was connected with state service throughout his lifetime, serving in the Highway Department, then as Secretary of State, 1930-34 and finally elected Governor in 1934, serving in that position until 1936. He was reelected in 1938 and served until his death, March 16, 1939.

Senator Fitzgerald was born in Grand Ledge and graduated from Grand Ledge High School in 1942, from Michigan State University in 1947 and from the University of Michigan Law School in 1954. He served in the U. S. Army Infantry during World War II, served as law clerk to the Michigan State Senate from 1955-1958, served as treasurer of the Eaton County Republican Committee, is affiliated with the Grand Ledge Lions Club, Disabled American Veterans and the American Legion. He is a practicing attorney in the Grand Ledge firm of Fitzgerald & Wirbel. He is married and has two sons.

McClench, continued

the staff of the Michigan Tuberculosis Association--within a year of the time she retired from the Department of Public Instruction. She's a past state board member of both the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters. Her current interest is in the problems of the aging and she has been appointed by Governor Williams to represent Michigan Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs on the state citizen's advisory committee for the White House Conference on aging. Our 1960 Salute to you, Marion McClench.

CALL FOR A RIDE TO THE MEETING

John Fuller, membership chairman, will be glad to see that anyone wishing to attend the meeting and needs transportation will get a ride. Call him evenings, IV20990, or drop him a card, 1328 West Michigan.

DUES--WE NEED THEM

Active membership \$2.00
Contributing membership \$5.00
Life membership \$100.00
Organizational membership \$25.00
Joint membership with the Michigan Historical Society is available by adding \$3.00 to the amounts specified. Mail to: P.O. Box 515, Lansing, Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

MEETING DATES FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

January 21, 1960 April 21, 1960
February 18, 1960 May 12, 1960
March 17, 1960 ****

LOCK, STOCK & BARREL EXHIBIT

George Wiskemann's collection of over 60 Michigan-made firearms will be on display through February in the Detroit Historical Museum, Woodward at Kirby in Detroit. The exhibit entitled "Lock, Stock, and Barrel" features his collection set up in a replica of an old time gun shop including the hand tools used at that time.

CIVIL WAR MUSIC

For those who enjoyed the music which accompanied the exhibit of the Civil War material at the Archives November 19, the title is "The Union--The Confederacy", based on music of the North and South during the years 1861-1865. Mr. Richard Bales in charge of music at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C., and conductor of the National Orchestra, was responsible for the music. The lyrics were written by Bruce C. Catton, Clifford Downey and Allen Nevins. Pictures from the Brady collection in the National Archives and the Library of Congress are included. The L.P. record is available under the Columbia label.

1,000 POUNDS OF EXHIBIT TO GO TO THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Clyde B. Anderson of St. Johns will be the February speaker. He plans a very interesting talk and exhibit of Indian artifacts he has collected throughout the state and will tell of the Indian trails and sites he has located in his travels throughout Michigan. The meeting is to be held at Michigan State University Museum, Thursday, February 18.

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