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HISTORICAL COLLECTION

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING

P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

October, 1967

## MEET YOUR VICE-PRESIDENT, CARL THOR STENSON

Thor was born in Covington, Michigan, February 23, 1902. Graduated from L'Anse High School in 1919; attended Normal School at Marquette two terms, receiving a teachers' certificate and taught two years in a one-room school at Covington.

He attended Western Michigan University receiving his A.B. degree in 1928, taught at Pierson, Michigan, became principal of School for the Blind in Lansing, taught at River Rouge High School.

In 1931, he married (Margaret) Pauline Robinson in Lansing. In 1933, he took a Civil Service examination receiving an appointment from the Office of Indian Affairs to teach north of Bering Straits at Shishmaref, Alaska. He was there from 1933-37. He then took a year's educational leave from 1937-38 and attended the University of Michigan receiving his M.A. degree. His wife received her B.A. degree at that time.

They returned to Nome, Alaska and taught at Katzebue, Wainwright, and Klowack for over a period of ten years. In 1949 they took another year's leave visiting friends and relatives then spent 5½ months in the Scandanavian countries. They returned and taught at Greasewood, Arizona--in a 5-day boarding school on the Navaho reservation.

In 1952 they returned to the territorial schools teaching white children in Alaska at Dillingham and Glenallen, also Junior High at Sitka.

Ill health forced Thor to quit teaching and he spent some time in the hospital in Seattle. Pauline continued to teach. Both attended the University of Washington for one year--Pauline received her Master's degree in Education and was appointed instructor of elementary education at the Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. She taught there for three years.

When they thought of retirement--they returned to Michigan to be near their family--

continued on page 3

## OCTOBER PROGRAM

Mr. Talbert (Ted) Abrams, Chairman of the Abrams Aerial Survey Corporation and pioneer in Michigan aviation and survey by air, will be our speaker. By profession he is an aviator, photogrammetrist, explorer, inventor and international pilot, with his license signed by Orville Wright!

He served in the Marine Corps from 1917 to 1919; served the U. S. Mail Service in 1920, and was with the U.S. Army Air Corp (R) from 1923-34. He has earned honorary degrees from Michigan College of Mining and Technology and Michigan State University.

Don't miss this rewarding program. Come Thursday, October 19, 1967 at the YWCA, 217 Townsend Street, Lansing, at 7:30 pm.

## A BIG BOUQUET OF THANKS... TO THE VERMONTVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The basement of the historic Vermontville Congregational Church was filled September 21 when that society hosted a most enjoyable evening for members and friends of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and the Eaton County Historical Society.

Reverend Leonard Maunder presented highlights of the village's unique past and members listened to the reading of an 1839 letter written by Mrs. Edward (Annà) Smith describing physical condition, religion, education and work in the young community.

Following the delicious supper members toured the academy building where they were introduced to beginnings of the proposed museum.

STATE MEETING REPORTED AS BEST IN YEARS.

The 93rd annual meeting of the Historical Society of Michigan which convened in Petoskey, September 21-23, is now history but members are still talking about the program presented by distinguished and enthusiastic conference participants.

Mrs. James F. Walz, native of Harbor Springs and Fennville teacher, spoke on "Andrew Jackson Blackbird of L'Arbre Croche." Another Emmet resident, Mrs. Ralph Shaw of Mackinaw City, co-author of LAND OF THE GREAT LAKES and a collaborator in a newspaper series on shipwrecks spoke on Great Lakes shipwrecks and under-water research.

The annual banquet featured the Burton Lecturer Thomas D. Clark, University of Kentucky professor, author and historian. His presentation: "Local History in the Face of National Change" will be published. Robert Spiro, Detroit Board of Education, talked on the united community services of metropolitan Detroit and David Katzman, University of Michigan, spoke on the Negro in Michigan before the Civil War. Other sessions reported on "Recent Research in Michigan History."

Major business involved an increase of trustees from 15 to 18 and announcement of officers elected by mail ballot. They are: Alvin Bently, John Fitzgerald, Foster Fletcher, Philip P. Mason and Kenneth C. Teysen, Trustees. Richard C. Frank, Lansing architect who has served as vice president became president. Other business was directed to the Board of Trustees in accordance with by-laws of the Society.

Awards of merit were given to Mrs. Minnie Dubbs Millbrook, Norman McRae, and the Sloan Panorama of Transportation in Flint.

A bus tour of Petoskey, Bay View and Harbor Springs concluded the meeting. Several Society members attended and enjoyed the tour with congenial guide Dean and the "lady from Niles."

The Society looks ahead to increased membership and funds so necessary to effective programs and a strong independent voice in Michigan history.

Congratulations to Philip P. Mason, program chairman, the Little Traverse Regional Historical Society, Inc., and all the workers for an excellent meeting.

GROOVEY--REAL COOL--NEAT--SLICK--I DIG THIS

Remarks found in the guest register at Fort Michilimackinac this summer. History IS getting through!

MICHIGAN NEGLECTING ITS HISTORICAL HERITAGE

The Lansing State Journal, September 14, 1967, ran a story regarding the request of James Hare, Secretary of State, to the Legislature, to put all of the state's historical activities under his supervision. Quoting from the article, "Although the fragmentation of historic effort, or any effort, is undesirable," Hare said, "it is even less desirable that the responsibility for preserving our cultural heritage be left to an agency philosophically committed to recreation and outdoor sport."

TRICENTENNIAL AT SAULT STE. MARIE--1668-1968

Three centuries ago, in the summer of 1668, Fathers Jacques Marquette and Louis Nicolas established the first mission at Sault Ste. Marie, thus beginning the city's 300 years as a continuously established settlement. The oldest city in Michigan and third oldest in the United States, the Sault is steeped in historical tradition and background.

Exciting programs are being planned for the summer of 1968--historical, religious, sporting and recreational events, industrial exhibits, a major pageant, conventions and conferences, publications, special tours, and drama and art presentations.

The dedication of the New Poe Lock, a \$40 million project on June 11, will be one of the highlights.

The Shrine of the Missionaries, 326 E. Portage Avenue, will be dedicated sometime in July. This \$600,000, 210 foot tower, will be completed before July 1, 1968. Three bells are to be placed in the tower to "invite Christian worship, remind man of his purpose, sing the praises of God, take possession of space for God, and uplift hearts of the sailors on the Great Lakes ships."

MAKE A DATE FOR '68: VISIT THE SOO!

GROUP TO FUNCTION UNDER NEW TITLE

The Michigan Archival Association was approved, September 21, as the formal name of a group of librarians, archivists and individuals employed in the care and preservation of manuscripts, archives, photographs and the like.

The purpose of the committee which has functioned informally for several years is to "promote the conservation, preservation and use of Michigan's historical collections, to increase and disseminate knowledge of the research materials available and to foster new historical knowledge."

this was in 1963. Pauline is still teaching at Willow Street School in kindergarten and remedial reading.

Both are interested in travel and have visited 49 out of the 50 states and Pauline is planning on visiting the 50th in the near future. They have visited five foreign countries. Hobbies are: reading, stamp collecting, skiing, photography, wood carving, mountain climbing, collecting mushrooms, gardening and hunting.

A VISIT WITH JOHN CUMMING AT THE CLARKE HISTORICAL COLLECTION AT CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY--Helen Wallin

Summer vacations for historians mean a time to get to their favorite haunts. The Clarke Collection has been a goal of this writer for some time.

A new library building with one whole floor for the collection is in John's future. Micro-filming of Michigan newspapers is a high priority job. Among the items in the collection are Schoolcraft papers, Strang material, John Greenleaf Whittier papers presented by our own Marion McClench, the best collection of Mark Twain's books in the country, Baraga and John Tanner materials, Dougherty's books and diary, Father Richard's papers, American Fur Company papers on microfilm, early Michigan and Midwest account books, Black, Custer, and Campau papers, and a collection of the Amos Gould papers from Owosso.

FALL IS COLORFUL SEASON FOR TRAVEL  
TO YOUR FAVORITE MUSEUM.

PLACES TO VISIT

The Waterloo Area Farm Museum was organized in 1962 when no group existed to save the 1855 Jacob Realy farm home scheduled for demolition in the Waterloo Recreation Area.

In these few years the farmhouse was saved, restored and a living museum established as a memorial to the farmer and his family.

The society was named as Jackson County community achievement winner last spring and has recently been picked for the regional winner from an area encompassing Jackson, Hillsdale, Branch and Calhoun counties.

The annual Harvest Day including craft and art demonstrations, homemade foods and things with an "oldtime" flavor will be held October 8.

If you visited an especially interest-historic spot this summer, please let us know. Bob and Lou Clark visited the museum in Ontonagon and we will report on this in the next issue.

Oct. 7. Eaton County Historical Society. "History of the Charlotte Public Library" by Marguerite Hepmansperger. Courthouse. 8 PM

Oct. 8. Annual Harvest Day, Waterloo Farm Museum.

Oct. 14. Writers Conference, co-sponsored by Detroit Women Writers & Division of Continuing Education, Oakland University, Rochester.

Oct. 15-20. 8th Annual seminar on Glass, Corning Glass Center, New York.

Oct. 18-20. Annual meeting, Society of American Archivists, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Oct. 19-22. Annual meeting. The National Trust for Historic Preservation. Saint Louis, Missouri.

HISTORICAL PRINTS AVAILABLE

Six sets of color prints, each 11x16 inches with full historical text on the back are available from the Michigan Historical Commission.

Artist Robert Thom was commissioned by the Michigan Bell Telephone Company to produce the original paintings. Distribution is handled by Commission through the John M. Munson Michigan History Fund. Each set sells for \$1. Proceeds go to the Fund which is used to make printed materials available to schools, libraries and individuals.

The six sets are (1) Before History, Michigan Indians, Sieur de LaSalle and the "Griffin," and Massacre at Michilimackinac; (2) Madame Cadillac arrives in Detroit, The Americans Take Over Fort Mackinac, Perry Transfers to the "Niagara," and Lewis Cass Expedition, (3) Douglass Houghton Finds Copper, Charles Harvey Builds the Locks, Capital Moves to Lansing and Putting the World on Wheels; (4) Fur Trappers Traders, The Detroit Fire, The Boy Governor, and When Pine Was King; (5) Detroit-World Port, Jolliet and Marquette, Pageant at the Sault, and The One-room School; and (6) Michigan in the Civil War, Riches Underground, The Iron Horse, Michigan Fever, and Arsenal of Democracy.

Send \$1.00 for each set to: Historical Prints, Michigan Historical Commission, Lansing, Michigan, 48918. All checks or money orders should be payable to the State of Michigan

MORE ON PETOSKEY MEET

Petoskey area shops dealing in antiques, books and rocks were likely places to find many history buffs during the State Society's meeting.

Business was brisk at Kilborn's House of Books where a rare fossilized crustacean was exhibited. The recent find by Miss Edith M. McKee, a certified professional geologist of Winnetka, Illinois and Bay View, is tentatively identified as belonging to the Eurypterida order of the class Crustacea. The area in which the fossil was found is an ancient coral reef which is a source of many fossils including the "Petoskey Stone" variety of coral.

HISTORIC HOMES FEATURED

A photographic exhibit of "Victorian Architecture in Mid-Michigan" by Philip Siebert is attracting old and young viewers in the Lansing Public Library lobby.

Mr. Siebert, a native of Lansing, has completed a thesis on the towered and bracketed type Victorian homes found in Eaton, Clinton, Ionia, Shiawassee and Livingston counties, (MSU). He is now studying historical architecture at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Still another exhibit entitled, "Historic Homes in Lansing" created by Ford Ceasar consists of color prints showing several structures of note within the city.

Mr. Ceasar, local teacher and past-president of the Society, combined his interest in history with photography to preserve on film the fast disappearing survivors of the city's earlier buildings. Similar photographs are used extensively in the current Board of Education's Adult Education Program class in Lansing history which he teaches.

Both exhibits will be open during regular library hours through October 23.

IMPORTANT MILESTONE FOR NEW ASSOCIATION

The annual dinner meeting of the Research Association for Michigan Negro History in Lansing, September 8, 1967, served to acquaint a growing number of area people with the work of this new association.

Powell Lindsay, President, reported an impressive list of activities including stimulation and creative contribution to the adult education program in American Negro history. Franklin Ferguson of Ann Arbor introduced guest commentators and presented a film story of the Association's investigation of the possible role of octagon structures in the Underground Railroad.

This society extends best wishes for continued success and accomplishment.

NOTED RESTORATION SPECIALIST DIES

William James Barrow, who founded the W. J. Barrow Restoration Shop, Richmond, Va., is mourned by historians, archivists and collectors throughout the world.

The operation of the restoration shop will continue in the same manner by the Barrow family and employees who served him in the business prior to his death.

In the late 1950s Mr. Barrow visited Lansing for conference with upper echelon state executives on possibilities of a document restoration center for Michigan. His personal charm and knowledge, and the expert services of the shop secured him international respect and recognition in the science of preservation.

BAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Bay County Historical Society has invited Helen Wallin to speak at their annual meeting June 9, 1968. Mrs. Wallin's subject will be "Michigan Lighthouses."

BE A MEMBER OF

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING, P.O. Box 515, Lansing

Membership	NEW	Renewal
Regular		\$ 3.00
Associated Membership with Historical Society of Michigan		
Organizational		25.00
Contributing		6.00
Life		100.00

(Make check payable to The Historical Society of Greater Lansing)

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