



Town Crier

HEAR
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GREATER LANSING
P. O. Box 515, Lansing, Michigan

September, 1970

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Eugene G. Wanger

I urge every member to work on one or more of our three new standing committees. They were created this summer after much thought with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

There is a great deal of valuable work to be done by each committee, work well within our capacity which will greatly strengthen the Society. The committees and their chairmen are:

1. PROGRAMS & MEMBERSHIP. Chairing this committee is our newly-elected Vice-President and Program Chairman Stowell J. (Jim) Stebbins, who is introduced elsewhere in this issue. (485-7286; 482-7233)

2. PUBLICATIONS & PUBLICITY. This committee is chaired by Trustee George Graff, Natural Resources Manager of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce and author of "People of Michigan," published this spring by the Michigan State Library. (IV2-0657; 351-6649)

3. PROJECTS & FINANCE. Chaired by Trustee Edwin P. Brown, Assistant Planning Director of the City of Lansing. (372-5000, ext. 321; 489-1500)

The committees are working NOW and need YOUR help and suggestions. Please don't wait to be asked. Give their chairmen or me (484-9497; 484-4165) a call right away. Our Society is what YOU make it!

I greatly appreciate the honor you have bestowed upon me in selecting me to serve as your president for the coming year.

NEW MEMBERS:

A warm welcome to new members: Mrs. F. H. Robinson, Miss Candace Thoman, Mr. W. B. Thoman, Mr. George T. Belon, Mr. Harold M. Davis and East Lansing Realty Company.

COME, COME, COME

You are cordially invited to a picnic supper on Wednesday, September 23rd, at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. and Mrs. Harley Franks, 1927 West Rundle, Lansing, will be our hosts. Bring service and a dish to pass.

Members are encouraged to bring a favorite "collectable" for display and discussion.

INTRODUCING VICE PRESIDENT STEBBINS

Stowell J. (Jim) Stebbins serves the Society as vice-president and program chairman, 1970-71. Born in Lansing in 1934, Jim is the son of the late Francis B. Stebbins and Annette Stebbins. He is a grandson of Arthur C. Stebbins, one of Lansing's leading industrialists and father of Stowell C., Courtland B., Francis B., C. Rowland and George Stebbins. A. C. Stebbins was founder of the Lansing Company and first secretary of the Oldsmobile Corporation.

Following education in the Lansing public schools and Michigan State University, Jim became owner of Stratton & Stebbins general insurance agency. He resides with his wife Jacqueline and daughters Catherine, 9, and Karen, 1, at 1700 Briarwood, Lansing.

His interests in Great Lakes vessels and artifacts is reflected in his membership in the Historical Society of Michigan, Detroit Marine Historical Society, and the Great Lakes Historical Society. He maintains and preserves Old Presque Isle Lighthouse north of Alpena established in 1840. An historical marker memorializing the lighthouse was dedicated in June, 1965. It is now identified as Michigan Historical Building #33 and is operated for the enjoyment of the public.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LANSING AREA REFERENCES -
A PROPOSED PROJECT FOR THIS YEAR

The Publicity and Publications Committee has an idea! It has been suggested that Historical Society members contribute annotated references of their "favorite" sources to Lansing area history to this Committee throughout the year. Next spring these references will be assembled into a Reference Booklet and distributed to the entire membership of the society. Extra copies might be sold and the proceeds used to develop new Society programs.

Here is an opportunity for each member to contribute to an original piece of research. Let's discuss this idea at the September 23rd meeting.

WELCOME, MR. BROWAND.

We welcome to Lansing Kenneth S. Browand, new chief librarian of the Lansing Public Library. Our officers and members look forward to continued support to the Local History Room and its expanding collections.

During the past year members contributed items of historical value and professional volunteer help. The need is greater now in 1970-1971, and so is the opportunity for this society to make our welcome felt by action.

LIBRARY HOURS

Beginning September 8, the central library in downtown Lansing will be open according to the following schedule: Mondays-noon to 9 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Local History Room will be open Tuesday and Thursday of each week from 1 to 4 p.m. Efforts are being made to continue the evening hours enjoyed by patrons last year.

WANTED: Photograph and any supporting information relating to Abraham Cottrell, Lansing fire chief, Civil War veteran and gunsmith. Reply to Dept. A, P.O. Box 515, Lansing.

WANTED: Instruction manual or information about New-Way engines manufactured in Lansing. Collector in Greensburg, Pa., asks particularly for information on gear driven magneto for ignition used on a vertical, single cylinder model, 1½ to 3 hp. Reply to Dept. B, P.O. Box 515, Lansing.

AREA MUSEUMS FOR HISTORY BUFFS

Summer days are flying off the calendar leaving for many of us happy memories of visits to historic sites, museums, and recreation areas available throughout our great State. Membership in the Historical Society of Michigan provides free or reduced admission to some of the State's most popular private and public museums. A list appears in the current issue of Chronicle.

The Waterloo Area Farm Museum and Dewey Country School in nearby Jackson County has completed another successful summer program. Visitors to the farm museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Road, saw ten rooms furnished and dressed to show how our ancestors lived, 1855 to 1895. The log bakehouse with its brick oven, a stone milk cellar, and the restored ice house which is used as the office help complete this unique memorial to the Michigan pioneer farmer.

The Barry County Museum at Charlton Park near Hastings has opened an old time blacksmith shop where a smith is busy each weekend. Efforts continue toward the development of a pioneer village at the Park.

"Historical Landmark Day" was celebrated June 7, 1970 in Vermontville, Michigan, when two Official State Historical Markers were placed in recognition of the "Union Colony", the Congregational church and the Academy. The Vermontville Historical Society plans a full program for the winter months.

We are pleased to report that Governor William Milliken has signed a bill to give the Ottawa-Chippewa Arts and Crafts Cooperative, Inc., prepetual lease on 18 acres of state land adjacent to Petoskey State Park. The land, located north of Petoskey on Little Traverse Bay in Emmett County, will be used for an Indian cultural center and museum, according to Victor S. Kishigo, cooperative administrator. The proposed center, dedicated to the preservation of arts, crafts and traditions of the American Indian will include a museum, amphitheater, village and craft workshop.