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Historical Society of Greater Lansing

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Volume 13, No. 3

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

January, 1971

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

JANUARY

Let the soot and cinders fly: The green-board is showing for all railroad buffs, history enthusiasts and those of us who miss the wail of a steam whistle. The Society is pleased to offer an evening devoted to railroading presented by "Chip" Rogers of Lansing.

Our speaker is Charles Anthony Rogers, Jr., Inventory Manager for the House of Representatives, but to hundreds of railroad fans he is "Chip." He took his first trip on a steam locomotive at the age of 18 months and has been enthusiastic about them ever since. His father shared his keen interest in the subject and his grandfather engineered a Shay in British Columbia, Canada! He considers himself fortunate to have ridden in cabs of the New York Central, Pennsylvania, Grand Trunk and C&O lines.

Join us Thursday, January 14, 1971 in the Gallery of the Lansing Public Library, 7:30 P.M.



FEBRUARY

The Members of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society will join us on Wednesday, February 17, 1971 at the Deacon's Bench in Grand Ledge. Dinner is set for 7:30 P.M. preceded by a 30 minute social period. A form for prepaid reservations (\$5.00 each) is enclosed. Reply by February 13th, to Historical Society of Greater Lansing, P.O. Box 515, Lansing, 48903.

Guest speaker at the dinner meeting on February 17th will be Richard D. Mudd, M.D. of Saginaw. Dr. Mudd served as medical director in various divisions of General Motors, 1928 to retirement in January, 1966, and for



Richard D. Mudd, M.D.

Chevrolet-Saginaw Foundries, 1936 to 1966. His military career spans 1926 to 1961 when he retired as Colonel.

Dr. Mudd's interests are reflected in his association with many organizations relating to public health, history and genealogy.

Our speaker has spent a life time studying the Lincoln Assassination and by his efforts persuaded Congress to erect a monument to his grandfather, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, one of the eight persons tried for the conspiracy.

MARCH

Wednesday, March 10, 1971 at 7:30 P.M. the Society will meet at the Lansing Public Library. Ford Ceasar, Trustee and knowledgeable student of Lansing history will present a photographic program on North Lansing and comment on possible future in light of the proposed historic district study.

Theodore Pattengill Foster

1913-1970

LIBRARY RECEIVES GIFT

Happy smiles greeted George Wiskemann and Jack T. Crosby, Sr. as they delivered the Christmas tree to the Lansing Public Library. Once placed on the second floor all twelve feet of lush evergreen were soon holding the hand crafted candles made by Corwin Rife of Kalamazoo and blown glass baubles by Jerry DeGroot of Mason.

Members arrived the following Sunday, December 20th, to add paper chains, garland, popcorn and cranberries, fans and cookies. Quantities of punch and cookies sustained the workers until the tree was complete.

President Wanger then presented to the Board of Education, twelve volumes of Local Acts enacted by the Michigan Legislature for the years 1877, 1883, 1885, 1889, 1891, 1895, 1897, 1899, 1903, 1905, 1907, 1927 and an index. These volumes were donated by members, and rebound by the Society for use in the Library's historical collections. Mr. Kenneth S. Browand, Director, accepted the gift.

Inasmuch as these volumes contain many Acts creating and amending Lansing's early city charters, they are indispensable primary material for the serious student of Lansing area and Michigan local history.

VERMONTVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ELECTS OFFICERS

The Vermontville Historical Society, numbering more than eighty members, has elected new officers for 1971. President: Mrs. Joan Hansen; Vice President: Mrs. Joyce Rathburn; 2nd Vice President; Mrs. Ruth Anderson; Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Ava Croger. Trustees are Rev. Leonard Maunder, Mrs. Barbara Wright, Robert Childs, Ray Anderson, Mrs. Iva Amspacher, Margaretta Zemke, Esther Shephard. Mrs. Dorothy Carpenter is program chairman.

BOARD URGES CREATION OF STUDY COMMITTEE

The Board of Trustees met at the call of the president on December 3, 1970.

Carl Thor Stenson

1902-1970

Edwin P. Brown read and presented for discussion Michigan Public Act 169 of 1970 regarding establishment of historic districts for cities, counties and other local districts for preservation of existing structures. Section 3 relates to appointment of a study committee.

The principal purpose of the Committee as stated by the Act, would be to "conduct studies and research and make a report on the historical significance of the buildings, structures, features, sites, objects and surroundings" in the city; and to make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council concerning the creation of one or more historic districts, which the Act authorizes them to establish.

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing has for many years been vitally and actively concerned with the preservation of our historic Lansing heritage. But with the passage of time and the re-building of our city, the visible signs and landmarks of that heritage are fast being destroyed. In a letter addressed to the Honorable Mayor Graves and Members of the Lansing City Council, President Wanger stated, "We believe that an Historic District Study Committee under this new Act can provide valuable practical assistance to you in determining how the best of Lansing's visible historic heritage can be usefully preserved."

The following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas, the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is and for many years has been vitally concerned with the preservation of our historic heritage; and

Whereas, Michigan Public Act Number 169 of 1970 provides an opportunity for such preservation through the creation of historic districts, and other means:

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing urges the City Council of Lansing to create an historic district study committee pursuant to said Act".