



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

# TOWN CRIBER

Box 515, Lansing, MI 48903  
VOLUME 16, NO. 4 SPRING, 1975

and Bicentennial Forum

Let The  
**Bicentennial**  
Begin

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APR 10 1975



The Bicentennial Committee of the City of Lansing is considering an heritage trail for the Bicentennial. The plan calls for a town trail, with a north south fulcrum, through the city center. The main focus will be along either side of the Grand River. The historic Northern Central Michigan Railroad, which runs beside the river, was incorporated into the plans but according to the City's Urban Development Board, the tracks are to be removed. The town trail plan has been presented before various groups where it has met with positive responses.

\* \* \*

The 4th edition (Jan., 1974) of the *Official Master Register of Bicentennial Activities* is now available at Michigan ARBC, 1000 Long Blvd., Lansing, MI 48913 or from the Historical Society of Greater Lansing president.

\* \* \*

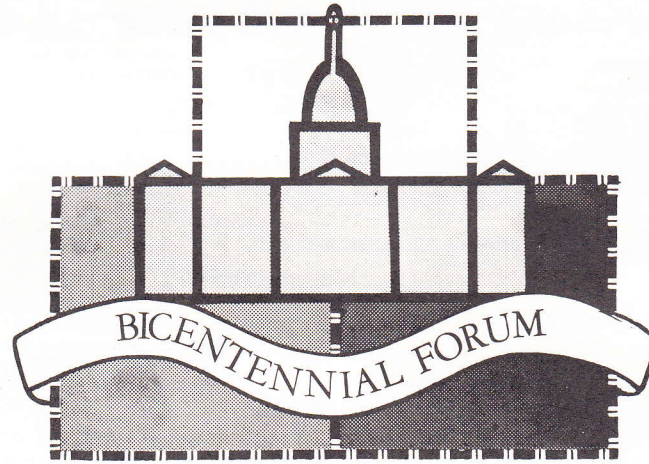
The Shiawassee Council for the Arts and the Shiawassee River Association are sponsoring a parkway between Owosso and Corunna, along the north side of the Shiawassee River. A foot-bridge in Owosso will connect the parkway with Castle Park, the site of Curwood Castle, the former studio of the noted American author, James Oliver Curwood. Comstock Cabin, the first log house in Owosso, has been moved to the site and will be used as a pioneer home museum. For more information contact: Gerald H. LeFevre, 100 E. Main St., Owosso, MI 48867.

\* \* \*

The restoration of the 109 year old grist mill in Nashville seems to have fallen through. A restoration committee raised over \$300 at an art show, last year, but not nearly enough to save the old mill. The site is being considered for rezoning for the construction of an apartment building.

\* \* \*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Lansing will hold an heritage fair, Oct. 17, 18, and 19, as its contribution to Lansing's Bicentennial celebration. Each Thursday has been set aside as Heritage Fair Day, at which time members have been busy collecting information on the heritage of the St. Paul's, Lansing, and Michigan.



The Capital Area Bicentennial Forum met at Lansing Community College, Feb. 12. Representatives from many of the area's Bicentennial committees and related organizations gave updated information on their programs of events and projects.

Howard Lancour, executive director, Michigan ARBC, presented Rae Moore of the regional office of the National ARBA in Chicago. Ms. Moore gave a short review of several items of interest, mainly in the area of funding.

Bob Bouck showed a print-out of the Forum's mailing list which now contains over 1000 names and addresses. He also reported on the development of the Bicentennial calendar which will be an extensive listing of all area Bicentennial events.

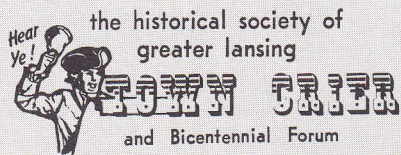
The forum discussed the need for local historical markers to be standardized throughout the capitol area. Gil Wanger spoke on the research Ingham County was doing in establishing a standard marker.

Jack Thompson distributed a list of various news media and key contact people and spoke on uses of promotion and publicity.

Geneva Wiskemann said that plans were progressing for a non-credit six week course in oral history techniques offered by Wayne State University Extension Service in cooperation with LCC. An experienced oral historian and anthropologist will teach the course, she said. Topics will include interviewing, transcription and indexing, access policies, recording equipment, uses of oral history, and oral history and the law. Examples of interviews as well as personal attention and critiques will be available.

Mrs. Wiskemann said that funding is now being sought to keep the cost within the reach of all interested persons. Notices will be mailed, she said. For further information on the oral history program, call 484-0607.





the historical society of  
greater lansing

and Bicentennial Forum

Box 515, Lansing, Mi. 48903

VOLUME 16

NO. 4

SPRING 1975

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## Designing People

The next time you are near the Turner-Dodge house on North Street in Lansing, take a good look. If you stand at a distance you can see there is a new roof and the brick work has been sand-blasted and repainted with missing or broken bricks replaced. The exterior is being repaired now to prevent continued deterioration. The columns and antique style trim still need work done on them, but thanks to a contract with the Community Design Center (CDC) to renovate the exterior, these repairs will also be accomplished.

The usage for the interior of the house still has to be determined. When that is done, the inside will be repaired also.

A few blocks away on Grand River Avenue is a strange little red brick building. The front porch faces directly along the old Lake Shore Railroad tracks. It was the North Lansing Comfort Station. It soon will be the North Lansing Community Office of the CDC.

You have probably heard about all of those Federal job programs. Have you ever wondered what they were about? One thing they are about is the improve-

# New Bylaws For HSGL

At its meeting, Feb. 19, the Historical Society of Greater Lansing amended its constitution and bylaws by substitution of the following bylaws:

I. THE PURPOSE OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING is to promote an interest in the history of the Greater Lansing region and to conduct projects of an historical nature.

II. THE MEMBERSHIP includes anyone who pays the dues of the Society.

General Membership dues are established by the Board of Officers and voted on by the membership at any general or special meeting.

Other membership categories and their dues are:

Junior Membership: one half that of General Membership

Family Membership: one and one half that of General Membership

Patron Membership: twice that of General Membership

Organization and Business Membership: any amount the member chooses from five times to twenty times that of General Membership.

All such dues are payable by June 1 and must be paid by Sept. 1 of each year.

Life Membership dues: twenty times that of General Membership and are paid once during the member's lifetime.

Any member may also be a member of the Historical Society of Michigan by paying joint membership dues to that society at a time and amount it prescribes.

III. THE OFFICERS are president, vice president, recording secretary, secretary-treasurer, immediate past president, and eight directors, constituting the Board of Officers.

The president chairs the meetings of the Society and of the Board of Officers, appoints all committees and is an *ex officio* member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

The recording secretary keeps records of all proceedings.

The secretary-treasurer conducts the correspondence, keeps accounts of receipts and expenditures, and makes payments of accounts as authorized by the Board of Officers.

The president, vice president, recording secretary and secretary-treasurer serve one year terms; the directors serve two year terms, four elected in each alternate year.

Officers are nominated at the April meeting and elected at the annual general meeting, with new officers beginning office at the end of the annual general meeting.

A vacancy in office, with the exception of immediate past president, will be filled for the balance of the term by a member chosen by a majority vote of the Board of Officers.

IV. MEETINGS include general meetings held in September, October, November, January, February, March, and April, an annual general meeting held in May, and a general assembly meeting held in June. Special meetings may be called, after seven days notice, by a majority vote of the Board of Officers or by any twelve members.

Board of Officers meetings are held at least every three months, as called by the president.

A quorum at any general or special meeting consists of those members present.

A quorum at any Board of Officers meeting consists of six officers.

V. COMMITTEES include standing committees of Programs, Ways and Means, Information, and Membership, and special committees as designated by the Board of Officers.

VI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY is the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order, which governs in all applicable cases where it is not incongruous with these Bylaws or with special rules of order of the Society.

VII. AMENDMENTS TO THESE BYLAWS may be made by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting at any general or special meeting, with one week prior notice being given of the general purpose of the amendment.

VIII: UPON THE DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY, the Board of Officers shall, after paying or making provisions for, payment of all the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all the assets of the Society, exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations, organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under section 501 (C3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

ment of the urban environment in Lansing. To accomplish this the CDC has received two Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) grants through the Tri-County Manpower Consortium. One grant funds the school of drafting and design where CDC members teach disadvantaged youths the skills necessary to get and to keep jobs in the design field. The other allows the CDC to operate home repair teams in neighborhoods where the residents need work done on their houses.

In both of these programs the student learns by doing — by working on

actual projects in the community. This benefits directly the recipient of the service as well as the student. And when the students have completed their studies they are helped to find jobs in their fields. Because the students are well qualified, the CDC, with the assistance of friends of the organization, has been able to achieve a 78 per cent placement rate. Other students have gone on to further their education.

Duncan Black, treasure of the CDC Board, had the honor of receiving the Lansing Jaycee's 1975 Distinguished Service Award.

— Pat Smith, director, CDC



## Listen My Children...

... and you shall hear,  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,  
On the eighteenth of April, in  
Seventy-five  
Hardly a man is now alive  
Who remembers that famous day  
and year.

— Longfellow: from  
Tales of a Wayside Inn

On April 18, the 200th anniversary of Paul Revere's famous ride, a member of the Ionia County sheriff's posse will bring to the chairman of the Board of Commissioners at the courthouse, the certificate of the county's acceptance as a Bicentennial community. This will announce to the people of the county that the celebration is officially opened.

The Ionia County Bicentennial Commission continues to hold general evening meetings each month and also schedules workshop luncheon meetings for the Executive Committee. At first the meetings were held at the courthouse; but beginning in March, the general meetings were taken to various locations throughout the county.

Also, the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approved a Bicentennial secretary/historian through CETA funding. The funding will be for one year, to February, 1976.

A contest will be held to select an official seal for Ionia County from those submitted by school children. Rules were released the first of March and the awards will be presented at Youth Day of the Ionia Free Fair this summer.

Since the fair is the big outdoor event for the county, the Bicentennial Commission has had some communication with the Fair Board on its participation in the '76 celebration.

Rubbings from stones marking the graves of the two Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Ionia County will be in a travelling exhibit. The rubbings were made by Bob Gierman, a Portland historian. He will also supply the narrative for the exhibit.

The cities of Portland and Belding now have their own Bicentennial committees and are planning their activities. Several other groups in the county are sponsoring special programs. The Bicentennial Commission will compile these into a calendar of events. Hopefully this calendar will be sound by the end of this year. The Commission is also planning a mimeographed newsletter of activities.

SPRING, 1975



5th Michigan Regiment Band Historical Color Guard during a hometown performance in Howell.

## 5th Regiment Band Coming to DeWitt

On Mothers' Day, May 11, DeWitt will be host to Michigan's 5th Regiment Band, a Michigan Bicentennial project. It was formed in Howell in 1973 as a recreation of the Civil War band of the 5th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The 160 member unit includes an 80 piece regimental band, a regimental color party, an historical flags color party, dancers, a saxophone quartet, a woodwind quintet, a brass choir, a bugle band, a fife and drum section, and a banjo and singers section.

The DeWitt program will be at 3 p.m. in the high school stadium or, in case of rain, in the high school gym.

Admission will be \$1.50 adults, \$1.00 students.

The films, "Cooper's Craft," and "Williamsburg, the Story of a Patriot," will be shown at the DeWitt High School auditorium twice, Sat. Sept. 13, and once, Sun. Sept. 14. There will be no charge.

On Founders Day, Oct. 4, there will be an open homes tour in DeWitt, with several homes, both old and new, open to the public. That same day will find many other project going on in DeWitt.

DeWitt was officially recognized as a U.S. Bicentennial community, Feb. 3.

## DNR and The Bicentennial

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission is planning the restoration of the officers stone quarters at Fort Mackinac, the only Revolutionary War period building in Michigan, and reconstruction of the sailing sloop, *Welcome*, used by the British to move the fort to Mackinac Island in 1780.

Also reflecting the heritage theme is the work of the Parks Division, in conjunction with the Department of State, in continuing the restoration and interpretation of history at State parks.

The Department of Natural Resources's environmental protection responsibilities and natural resources management all relate closely to the horizons themes. Significant resources projects are proposed to be dedicated

during the Bicentennial and appropriately marked with signs explaining how they exemplify the spirit of the celebration.

The festival theme offers potential for publications, graphic displays, films, slide shows and open houses. One idea under consideration is preparation, perhaps in conjunction with other State agencies, of booklets locating and explaining points of interest along Michigan highways so that motorists could take self-guided Bicentennial tours.

DNR coordinator for the Bicentennial is James Bryant in the Office of Planning Services, Mason Building, Lansing.

— from "DNR Topics"



The Historical Society of Greater Lansing recognizes a new life member, Leon Clark, of Eagle. He is a descendent of Clinton County pioneers and a long-term contributor to the Lansing area.

A generous business membership contribution was noted for Wolverine Development Corp., Bruce MaGuire, Jr., vice president.

## CEMPEX '75

According to Jack Crosby, secretary/treasurer of the Central Michigan Philatelic Society, its show for this year, Cempex '75, will be held May 17 at the Lansing Civic Center.

He said this year's cachet cover will commemorate the 120th anniversary of Michigan State University. It will have a reproduction of the May 31, 1907 photograph of R. E. Olds driving Pres. Theodore Roosevelt to the semicentennial commencement of the university.

"We are planning to use the land grant college 3 cent stamp of 1955 if possible," Mr. Crosby added. "Along with the dial and cancelling bars will be a sketch of Beaumont Tower."

The price for the covers will be 50 cents each or three for \$1.

There will also be a U.S. postal sub-station (Cempex Station) and a Canadian post office.

"Everyone is welcome," Mr. Crosby said. "Admission is free."

please reserve

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 7 P.M.**

for the

**ANNUAL MEETING**

of the

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF GREATER LANSING**

at the

**EAGLE TOWN HALL**

Dinner will be served by the ladies of the Niles Cemetery Society.

For reservations, call

**PAULINE STENSON**

**Program chairman**

**485-6656**

**prior to May 17**

(p.s. Bob Bouch talks on "Packaging the Product — Past and Present," April 23 at the Lansing Library)

# LADA

In 1965, ten Lansing area antique dealers banded together to form a dealer's association to improve standards, promote the interchange of information between dealers and to encourage the activities of collectors, dealers and the public. They believed that there had to be definite rules to raise the level of the profession and the buying knowledge of the public. This group, the Lansing Area Antique Dealers Association (LADA), now numbers more than 25.

Dealers in LADA include those who maintain open shops with set days and hours and closed shops which are open by appointment, and those who only do antique shows. Members attempt to have a large percentage of actual antiques and recognized collectibles with no reproductions unless they are clearly marked as such.

Some of the various specializations of members include primitives, post cards, pressed glass, Victorian silver, dolls, tin ware, historic Staffordshire, paper items and furniture. Several shops are outstanding in their quality of merchandise and display techniques:

Ada's Treasure Vault, Ada Bridge, proprietor, 2500 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing, 372-6023, specializes in fine porcelains, art glass, Orientals and silver for the beginning and advanced collector.

Barbara McMullen's Gypsy Wagon, 220 Albert, East Lansing, 351-6654, features antique jewelry, art nouveau and art deco items and period clothing.

Besides having a general shop, Sue Neller of My Wife's Antiques, 3944 Meridian, Okemos, 349-1516, arranges period fashion shows with authentic costumes and accessories.

Two members specialize in clocks. Virginia Alles runs the Antique Clock Shop, 13548 N. Hertel, Grand Ledge, 627-9449, and Karl Barathy, 704 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing, 372-7999, does expert clock repair, restorations and re-

## What Is An Antique?

The legal definition of an antique, according to import or custom laws, is something at least 100 years old.

The cut-off date of 1830 was originally set in 1930 because it was the approximate beginning of the industrial revolution and mass production, as opposed to cottage, or small craft, industries. Within the last decade this has changed and the floating date of 100 years has been accepted.

The category of collectibles is less specific. It refers to objects less than 100 years old which are no longer produced (e.g., Depression glass, tin toys, certain Coca-Cola items, etc.)

verse glass paintings for clocks and mirrors.

Dr. and Mrs. I. J. Breckenfeld maintain the historic 1849 House, 4662 Okemos Rd., Okemos, 349-2313, as an appropriate setting for their antiques.

Primitives and country items are the main focus at Joanie Pline's Salt Box Antiques, Union St., Portland, 647-6048, and with Charlotte Stallcup, who operates the Patches-to-You Botique, 1928 Hillcrest, Lansing (Appointment only), 882-1653, and Barbara Dedoes, 1927 Holly Way, Lansing, 393-9930.

Quilts, coverlets and wooden items are especially sought after, as are other examples of crafts produced during the last 150 years. Bicentennial plans are bringing such American arts and crafts to the attention of collectors and dealers. Old houses, 19th Century commercial buildings, and the various farm and home items used by the pioneers are all a part of our heritage, bits and pieces of which we find in local antique shops and at shows.

A complete directory of LADA members and their types of merchandise may be obtained at any member shop or at the once a year LADA sponsored show.



## Fashion Collection by Sue Neller

**Programs of Fashion  
Styles 1840-1940**

**PLEASE CALL 517-349-1516  
OR WRITE 3944 MERIDIAN RD.  
OKEMOS, MI 48864**



# Marker To Honor National Black Leader

The Committee for Malcolm X Historical Marker has started a fund drive for an official Michigan historical marker. The Michigan History Division has advised that the site most appropriate for the marker would be at 4705 S. Logan St. in Lansing, where the black leader's father built a home and where property was in the family's possession for more than 25 years.

Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebr. His family moved to Lansing when he was a young child. He attended Pleasant Grove and West Junior High schools.

In his autobiography, Malcolm X recounted the many threats of violence to his family when he was young. He also described the ill will generated when his father, a Baptist minister, preached the "back to Africa" philosophy of Marcus Garvey. After the father's untimely death in Lansing, the family experienced very difficult times.

Later Malcolm X attended school in Mason where he was close to the top of his class and elected its president. He recalled conversations in his presence when whites did not give him credit for sensitivity, intellect, and understanding. A history teacher telling Negro jokes and an English teacher discouraging his aspiration to become a lawyer marked the beginning of his withdrawal from whites.

In 1958 he married Sister Betty X in Lansing. She was a native of Detroit and taught classes, in New York, in the religion of the Nation of Islam (Muslim). Malcolm X had become a member of this religion, at which time he dropped the family name of Little, using the letter X as a last name.

According to the historian, Samuel McGuire, after a falling out of the Muslim hierarchy, Malcolm X made a pilgrimage to Mecca to gain understanding of the Islam religion. This experi-

ence changed some of his views of white people. For the first time he saw white men genuinely brotherly toward him. In the Holy Land, this black man was in the presence of heads of states and of kings. And at every opportunity he made known the plight of American blacks.

At home he chastised the Christian church for its failure to combat racism, Mr. McGuire said. Malcolm X felt racism was plaguing America like an

## DAR Active

The State Bicentennial project of the Daughters of the American Revolution will be placing a plaque in the rotunda of the State Capitol honoring the Continental soldiers of the Revolution buried in Michigan. According to Bernice Francis, State DAR Bicentennial chairman, there are about 200 such grave sites.

The DAR also plans to compile the records of these soldiers and print a brochure with the information. It will distribute copies to the libraries of the State.

Harriet Renie, co-chairman of the Lansing area committee, said that one of the local projects of the DAR will be marking the grave of the Revolutionary War soldiers, Martin DuBois, in Fitchburg Cemetery near Stockbridge. The grave of the soldier, Joshua Simmons, in North Eagle Cemetery has already been marked.

The DAR has also agreed to contribute more than \$3,000 to type and print the 1850 census index, now complete on cards at the State Library. Volunteers are at work preparing copy to go to the printer early next winter.

Dick Hathaway, head of the Michigan unit of the library, said the staff will search the index for any inquiry assuming that such a request is within a reasonable number of names.

incurable cancer. He told whites to work in their own communities where racism really existed.

Donations for the marker in honor of Malcolm X may be sent to the treasurers of the committee, Donna Durbin and Frank P. Molloy, at 1608 Comfort St. Lansing MI 48915.

## Volunteers Needed

Regardless of your favorite tool — pen, camera, typewriter, brush, shovel, saw, parbuckle (parbuckle?) — or an eye for research — your energy and expertise is needed.

Call the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, 484-0607, to register and to find out how you may serve and learn.

(I wonder what a parbuckle is?)

## Two Eaton Groups at Work

The Eaton County Historical Society met Jan. 16 in the courthouse in Charlotte for an informative lecture on Indian artifacts by Dr. Douglas Schmuck, a Lake Odessa teacher.

Officers elected for 1975 include: Richard Larson, president; Gladys Wilkinson, vice president; Esther Fassett, secretary, and Bray Webster, treasurer. Directors to serve three years are E. Jean Frazier and Keith King. Robert Gierman and Nyle Dean will serve two years; Kate Bosworth and Ion McLoughlin, one year.

The society hired representatives of the Community Design Center in Lansing to survey the historic courthouse for possible future use as an heritage center when space is released. Their formal report is pending.

During the winter the society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, at the courthouse. Meetings will continue in the Froebel School/Museum in April.

The Eaton County Bicentennial Commission has some new committee chairmen. They are Betty Jones (Delta), communications; Camilla Jacquette (Olivet), Heritage; Geneva Wiskemann (Grand Ledge), Horizons; and Helen Lowes (Eaton Rapids), coordinating. Bicentennial Commission meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m., in the commissioners room in Charlotte. Anyone interested in the Bicentennial is urged to attend and become involved.

Sunday, June 1  
9-5  
Lansing Mall

**CENTRAL MICHIGAN'S  
FIFTH ANNUAL**



**MILITARY HOBBIES SHOW**

3' x 8' Tables for  
exhibitors and dealers  
\$4 each  
All State and Federal  
firearms regulations  
observed

Write:  
MAJOR M. W. BUERGE  
2332 S. Pennsylvania  
Lansing, MI 48910



# MICHIGAN WORLD OF WINGS

Numbered and limited sets of lithograph prints from Harold E. Hawkins' paintings of early Michigan aircraft, in full color and signed by the artist.

1. FORD STOUT PULLMAN A forerunner of air mass transportation, this was one of the first planes used on scheduled airlines.
2. FORD TRI-MOTOR The 'Tin Goose' was one of the most reliable and versatile planes ever. Although manufacturing ended in 1933 some are still in use.
3. STINSON DETROITER In 1927 Thompson Aeronautical began its network of regularly scheduled air service throughout Michigan.
4. OX-5 TRAVEL AIR Built by Walter Beech and powered by the same engines as its predecessor, the Jenny, it evolved into today's Beechcraft.

Individual 13" x 20" Lithos \$10 — Complete set of four \$35

Make checks payable to Michigan Aerospace History Committee

Order from: MICHIGAN AEROSPACE HISTORY COMMITTEE  
5580 W. State Road, Route 4  
Lansing, Michigan 48906

Proceeds will be used by the committee to further the acquiring of an aircraft museum for Michigan.



## Aerospace Exhibit

The Michigan Aerospace History Committee exhibition of paintings of Michigan aircraft by the Lansing artist, Harold Hawkins, will be on display at the Michigan State University Museum, March 3-31. The series, which previewed in Lansing at the Main Library last fall, has since been to Dearborn, Flint and Bay City.

## Rolling Wheels

Harland Kline of Lansing has had an interest in the circus since he was a young boy.

"If you wake up some morning and find a lot of elephants on your front lawn, it makes you interested," he explained.

He said that the elephants were getting water at a hydrant near his boyhood home in Owosso. He followed the elephants down to the circus lot. When he went home he gathered together some cardboard and began to make some circus wagon models.

Later he began using wood for his models. His layout now includes 65 wagons, 16 tents and over 100 horses, as well as other animals, people and circus paraphernalia. He had some of his models, mostly at a scale of 3/4 inch to the foot, at his presentation before the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, Jan. 15.

Besides exhibiting his models, he presented a slide show, "Rolling Wheels," with views of the annual Milwaukee parade of antique circus wagons and the circus museum at Baraboo, Wisc.

In the audience at the presentation was Burr Parker of Grand Ledge, a wood carver. Mr. Parker had done some of the carvings on one of the reconditioned circus wagons shown in Mr. Kline's slide show.

## The Explorer is Back

Ted Abrams' bird has come home to roost. On Feb. 20, Mr. Abrams and a crowd of onlookers were at Capital City Airport to see the Explorer, the pioneer airplane he invented in 1937 for use in aerial photography, come in for a landing.

It had been given to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D. C., in 1942, and had been stored out of doors. It is rusted and its windows are broken and is in no condition to fly on its own. It had to be brought in by air freight.

It was the first plane to have twin tail booms, a design later adopted into the P-38 Lightning and others, and the first to have a completely windowed nose, the design also used later, in World War II bombers.

The Explorer had been brought back to Lansing by the Michigan Aerospace Education Association, to be rebuilt as a Bicentennial museum exhibition. The work will be done by students at Lansing Community College.

## Sunfield's Grand GAR Hall

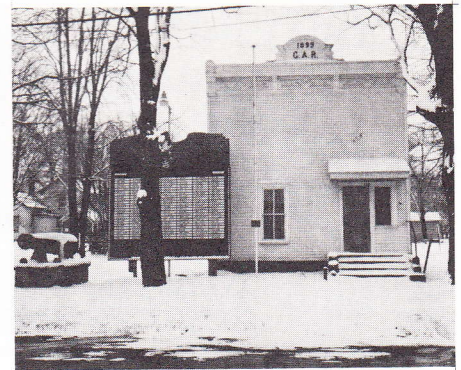
The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Hall in Sunfield has the distinction of being the only such remaining hall in Michigan built by veterans of the Civil War, according to Edith Berg of the Sunfield Historical Society. It is owned and still used by the Helen M. Edwins Tent No. 30 of the Daughters of Union Veterans (DUV).

The Samuel W. Grinnell Post No. 283 of the GAR constructed it in 1899 of lumber cut on the site. With its false facade and carved pediment, the building is an example of late 19th Century architecture. The entrance is guarded

by two cannons mounted on cut-stone platforms, each stone bearing the name of the members of the post. One cannon, built in 1834, weighs 7,200 lbs.; the other, built in 1842, weighs 8,465 lbs. Three maple trees were planted to honor Generals Grant, Sherman and Sheridan. At the foot of each tree is a marker bearing the general's name.

The building contains the original furnishings, including the floor covering. An ornately carved cabinet holds flags and weapons. The walls are lined with old tintype photographs framed discharge papers, lithograph prints, cita-

tions, medals, and other mementoes. In one large frame is a flag captured from the Confederate ship, Merrimac, by a young Sunfield sailor, Thomas Van-





# Centennial Chestnut To Live On

Winds of up to 70 miles an hour moved into Michigan, Jan. 12. On the east capitol lawn an eminent chestnut tree resisted the winds that raked down Capitol Avenue until it no longer could stand. Passersby enroute to church the next day were sad to find that the capitol square had lost still another tree.

With the tree down and broken, earlier struggles to preserve it were evident by chunks of cement and twisted reinforcement rods. The hollow trunk swarmed with bees; honey was ladled into pails as the grounds crew began to section the tree for removal.

Gil Wanger, a member of the Historical of Greater Lansing, saw a way the undamaged portion of the limbs could be used. He called Geneva Wiskemann, president of the society, and within a few hours Jerry Roe and State Representative Ernest Nash had acquired salvage rights for the Society. On Monday morning the Wiskemanns transported the usable portions to a curving area. George Wiskemann, in counting the rings, found that there were 100 of them — it was a true centennial chestnut.

Requests for the wood are now being taken from carvers, whittlers, cabinet-makers, and many others interested in wood from the centennial chestnut. Proceeds will go toward Bicentennial projects of the Society. If you want some of the centennial chestnut wood, call 484-0607.

Buren, who was assigned to the Monitor in the historic battle between the two ironclads, March 6, 1862.

But most noteworthy are the chairs. Each veteran supplied his own straight-backed chair on which he painted his name, rank and outfit. After he died, his surviving comrades added the date of his death.

Anyone wanting to see this interesting building is welcome to visit the Sunfield Historical Society which meets the third Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. It is also open to the public on Tuesday of Michigan Week when the society sponsors an exhibit of relics of Sunfield and the surrounding areas.



George Wiskemann and Ernest Nash check the fallen chestnut tree on the Capitol lawn.

## 50 Year Old Union

The Union Building at Michigan State University is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The idea for a Union Building had been tossed around for a number of years but there seemed to have been trouble in getting one started. Money was pledged by the class of 1915 to reconstruct College Hall, the campus' original class building, as a Union Building. College Hall had other ideas, however, and in 1917 it collapsed.

The, after World War 1, a Union Building was proposed. The inevitable fund drive was started. A large mock-up of a thermometer charted the progress being made.

Ground was broken in November, 1923, during what was called Excavation Week. Students, faculty, and even members of the Board of Agriculture, literally pitched in with the digging.

And College Hall, although fallen, was not forgotten. Parts of its timbers were used in one of the ceilings of the new building.

If anyone has old pictures or other memorabilia of the Union Building, they are asked to contact Mike Dmochowski, Union Building, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824.

## MSU Bicentennial Programs

Two projects, sponsored by the State Bicentennial Commission, have been initiated at Michigan State University.

According to Susan Hughes, coordinator for the MSU Bicentennial Committee, several faculty members are preparing a proposal for the commission's second theme, governmental review. This calls for development of a TV program on Michigan government, to be shown on a statewide basis. Individuals in several communities will organize into local "town meetings" to view the program and discuss local problems and possibilities. Organizations such as the League of Women Voters and Jaycees will help in developing this project, Ms. Hughes said.

Also at MSU, William Taylor, chairman of the Department of Civil and Sanitary Engineering, is coordinating a project for the State commission. His committee will develop five films and accompanying study materials on transportation, for use in high school civics classes.

Ms. Hughes said also that faculty members, authorities in food, education, government, culture, etc., are preparing a series of articles on what life will be like 100 years from now, at the time of the Tricentennial. The MSU faculty and staff newspapers, the *News-Bulletin*, will publish the articles monthly. The university will also make them available to the public news media. When the series is completed in 1976, she said, the university may publish them as a special Bicentennial book.

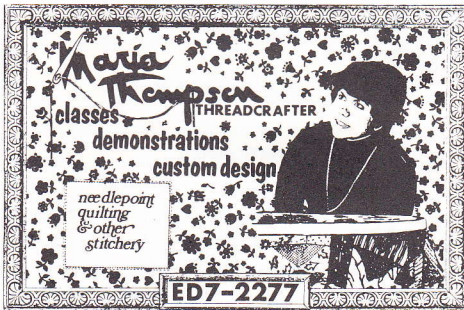


# Patchwork

On Feb. 19, Maria Thompson of East Lansing, a local authority on quilting, gave an illustrated talk, "The Patchwork Girl—the History of Quilting in America," before the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

She told how the craft had come to America with the English colonists and how it was modified on this continent. She said that the original patchwork was just that—the colonists patched their worn quilts with what ever scraps of cloth was available. Also new coverings were made from fabric scraps.

"As times became easier," she said "women took more pride in making scrap quilts."



She told how patterns migrated with the pioneers. Some of these patterns are in use today.

The next era she spoke of was the Victorian period, when women arranged their quilts much as they arranged their what-not shelves.

"You name it, they put it in," she said. "Souvenir ribbons, all types of embroidery, small paintings on fabrics, advertisements."

## Bath Bicentennial Hits Snag

The Bath Bicentennial Committee suggested that the town establish a new community center and a mini-park. It planned to tear down what was the community center building and use the land for the park. No decision has been made because of a legal question of who owns the old building—a local resident claims ownership because she had paid its back taxes and had gardened on the property for 35 years.

Victor Hogg, a State Council of the Arts development planner called in by the Bath Township Board, advised that the old building be saved. Mr. Hogg is also the mayor of Williamston.

At the beginning of the 20th Century quilts took on a different look. With the availability of kits and patterns in newspapers there was less differentiation of patterns from one section of the country to another.

She ended her talk with a look at modern uses of quilting, not necessarily as bed coverings, but for everything from handbags to wall hangings.

The committee is also considering what should be done with the historic Bath Consolidated School. It was partially destroyed in 1927 when Andrew Kehoe, the treasurer of the school district, exploded dynamite he had secretly hidden in the building. Thirty-seven children and three adults were killed. A second explosion in Kehoe's truck killed Kehoe and four others. There were also 58 people injured. U. S. Sen. James Couzens donated funds for rebuilding and the school was given his name. The structure has not been used since 1972.

## Farmhouse Restoration

Many travelers in Clinton County turn onto Schavey Road just to observe the progress on the restoration of the Schavey farm house. It was recently purchased by Walt Cullen, Jr., an officer of Michigan National Bank. His efforts to reclaim the beauty and charm of living which once filled this two-story brick veneer home are applauded by resi-

dents of the DeWitt area and are appreciated by many others.

In 1872, Theodore W. Schoewe, of Sandusky, Ohio, purchased from George and Alice Ward the first 80 acres of the farm in section 18, DeWitt Township. He paid \$5 thousand for it. It was here that he built his home. The county tax rolls carried his name for the first time in 1873 when he was assessed \$44.34.



Walt Cullen watches restoration of a Clinton County landmark. Light and shadow of the winter sun casts unexpected patterns on brick—a cardinal flies from his chimney perch—quiet returns as the carpenters pack up their tools—and the house waits)

— photo from Faye Hanson

The valuation of \$1300 in 1874 continued to increase through the years as the family devoted its energy to production and improvements. The sandy loam of the farm was ideal for alfalfa, sweet clover and corn. The Looking Glass River flowed along the north and west boundaries.

On the morning of Nov. 20, 1928, neighbors and businessmen gathered for a public auction to close the estate of the late Mr. Schoewe. His heirs, by this time, had Americanized the spelling of the family name to Schavey. The notice of sale described a farm of 166 2/3 acres, 30 cows, horses, stock, tools, personal property, an up-to-date dairy barn, milk house, 30 x 50 ft. basement barn which could hold between 50 and 60 tons of hay, a cooker house for preparing food for hogs, a horse barn and a chick house. The dairy business was producing about 600 quarts of milk daily.

Today, only the residence and a few outbuildings survive. The 14 rooms of the house, once finished in walnut, cherry, oak and ash, may be restored to their former attractiveness in the forthcoming months. The roof has been renewed, the window glass replaced. Major repair of masonry and exterior woodwork continue.



# Let's Keep The 'Grand' In Grand Ledge

The Grand Ledge Area American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has held organization meetings and has leaped ahead on plans for the commemoration. Mayor Alvin Kempf signed an official declaration of establishment and support of the commission in mid February. Although no funds are available from the city during this budget year, councilmen will assist with a limited amount of postage.

This commission is among the first in the area to acquire a headquarters. Larry Mapes has generously made the main portion of the Opera House available for Bicentennial Hall. Many residents remember attending musicals, minstrel shows and dramatic recitals in the Opera House. Prior to the construction of the school gym it also served as the basketball court for the school. One surviving memento of the high school class of '99 invites the citizens to commencement exercises in the Opera House.

Young artists prepared posters announcing the general town meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Michigan National Bank building, March 20. All interested persons are invited to play a role in the various projects.

Chairman of the commission is Ernst Floeter, a member of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. Unique among area chairmen, he first came to America as a prisoner of war during World War II. After the war he lived in Germany, then in 1957 returned to Michigan with his wife and their 3 month old child to become a citizen and respected participant in civic affairs. His work as a photographer in Grand Ledge offers him a broad acquaintance. His wife, Dorothy, is active in crafts and demonstrates spinning on the upright wheel, one of the few family items brought to this country.

Charles Rice, formerly of Charlotte and currently manager of the meat department of Felpausch Food Center in Grand Ledge, is vice chairman. His wife, Pat, shares his interest in local, State and family history.



— photo by Jack Thompson

The crane operator for Brown Brothers was involved in a little railroad history, February 26. The first thing in the morning he lifted old C&O caboose 90728 onto a truck, to be transported across Lansing. It now rests in the backyard of the residence of Doug Williams who had acquired it from the railroad. The wooden caboose dates back to about 1926. In the afternoon, the crane was busy knocking down the Penn-Central roundhouse in North Lansing, one of the last of these structures in this region.

## North Lansing Against The World

Residents and friends of North Lansing have formed a non-profit corporation, known as the North Lansing Community Association, to develop a comprehensive improvement program. Revitalization of the business community ranks high in a list of priorities which include improved housing and living conditions, ecological protection, land use and public service.

Respect for late date survivals of Lansing's beginnings in an area once called "Lower Town" is an apparent force at work. Standing committees include one, chaired by Jake Smeltzer, devoted to a study of the historic district. Mr. Smeltzer and his wife, Veronica, reside in North Lansing and have converted an 1873 mill into a workshop for their graphic design business at 1131 Race Street. The street follows the route of the old mill race.

Historical Society of Greater Lansing members working with Mr. Smeltzer on the historic district committee are Betty Downs, Altha LaPoint and Geneva Wiskemann. Officers of the corporation included James Winckler, chairman; John Valahkis, vice chairman; Altha LaPoint, recording secretary; Ernesto Rodriguez, corresponding secretary; and Donald Wilson, treasurer.

The carriage house on the Turner-Dodge grounds has been demolished in spite of intense persuasion to save the historic structure. John Valahkis, a North Lansing businessman, spoke before the City Council in January to ask that the building be spared to be used as a meeting place for various organizations. According to Marian Horn, a daughter of Frank Dodge, the carriage house contemporizes the main house and was an integral part of the estate. It was built as a stable. Not a small structure by any means, it was later converted into three six-room apartments. Evidences of its earlier architectural design could be found in the lines of its exterior.

Some of the bricks of the demolished building were integrated into the outside walls of the mansion where other bricks had broken or were missing.

Another historic building still in use in North Lansing is the North United Presbyterian Church, often called the "Anchor of North Lansing." It was constructed in 1916. An earlier Presbyterian Church had been at this same site, the corner of Washington and Grand River Avenues, from 1865 until it was torn down to make way for the new structure.





Harvey Rice making sugar, March 23, 1908 — print from a glass plate negative found in a Grand Ledge house.

## Vermontville Activity

The March meeting of the Vermontville Historical Society is for an old fashioned sugaring off party. Included are demonstrations of the Indian and the modern ways of gathering, and processing. The Village Council, Township Board, Maple Syrup Association officers, queen's court and others are invited in the hopes of further involvement in Bicentennial plans.

The Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival will be held Sat., April 26 and Sun., April 27. Its theme, "Vermontville—a Bicentennial Community," will be carried out in many of the activities, particularly the Saturday parade.

The official presentation of the Bicentennial flag and certificate will be a part of the Saturday program. Other events will include musical programs and the crowning of the festival queen. The

## Michigan Week

Michigan Week, the eight days in May in which the State has its annual observance, will be held May 17-24 this year, according to Herbert Davermann, president of the Greater Michigan Foundation. This foundation, a non-profit, educational organization, is the guiding force behind Michigan Week.

Mr. Daverman said that the theme for Michigan's 22nd annual observance will be "Michigan—Pioneer in Progress."

Sunday program will feature outdoor union church services with special music.

Many old time skills will be displayed at the arts and crafts exhibits at the Maplewood School. The Opera House will be the scene of old fashioned skits and musical selections. At Maple Manor visitors may view the processing of maple syrup.

## Restoration Work At Gunnisonville

According to Lois Baumer, secretary of the Gunnisonville Restoration Committee, a fund drive seems to be progressing smoothly, with about 60 percent of the \$28 thousand needed for restoration of the Gunnisonville School. Included in this is \$6,750 federal grant funds. Memberships in the Gunnisonville Alumni and Friends Association start at \$5.

"We have some projects in process now to help us in raising the remainder," Mrs. Baumer said. "For example, a hootenany show and a booth at the Home Builders Show at the Meridian Mall."

Gunnisonville is a crossroads community (Wood and Clark Roads) just north of Lansing. At one time there was a store, post office, church and school here.

For more information, contact Nancy Cheney, 482-6145.

## Friends of Meridian

The fall bridge benefit and the farmers market of the Friends of Historic Meridian netted over \$300 for its Bicentennial projects.

The Haslett-Okemos Jaycees shingled the roof of the Gretenberger Farm House and Proctor Toll House on the Historical Village Green. The toll house also has a new front door and exterior paint. A pot-bellied stove for the building was given by Bob and Linda Weisflog of Okemos. The Friends are also looking for a large pot-bellied stove and wood-burning kitchen range for the farm house. Anyone who can help in this area should call Jane Taylor, 655-1912, or Thelma Lamb, 349-3587.

Grading and seeding around the two buildings have been completed, according to Dick Wheeler, Restoration Committee chairman. Funds are being sought for building a section of plank road to go with the toll house. Any organization wanting to make this their project are asked to call Gary Zenz at the Municipal Building, 349-1200.

Ken Sissell of the MSU School of Interior Design spoke before the Friends, Jan. 29, on recommendations for furnishing the two structures. This was a project of one of his classes.

Historical societies in Ingham County as well as those in counties south and east of Ingham are invited to the second annual Southeast Region Historical Conference, sponsored by the Historical Society of Michigan. Societies are limited to five delegates. The conference will be held in Okemos, with the Friends of Historic Meridian as hosts.

The historical community of the Tri-County area congratulates the Haslett Public School system for its 1974 Award of Merit, given by the Historical Society of Michigan at its annual meeting in October. The award was for the school's Log Cabin Living Program, which, according to the Awards Committee, has a "highly creative approach to learning about our nation's heritage."

Knowing that it is not institutions but the people in them who are creative, we wish to offer special congratulations to our fellow historians, the staff of the Log Cabin Living Program—Jane Taylor, Ruth Cox, Ray Koerner and Bob Copland.



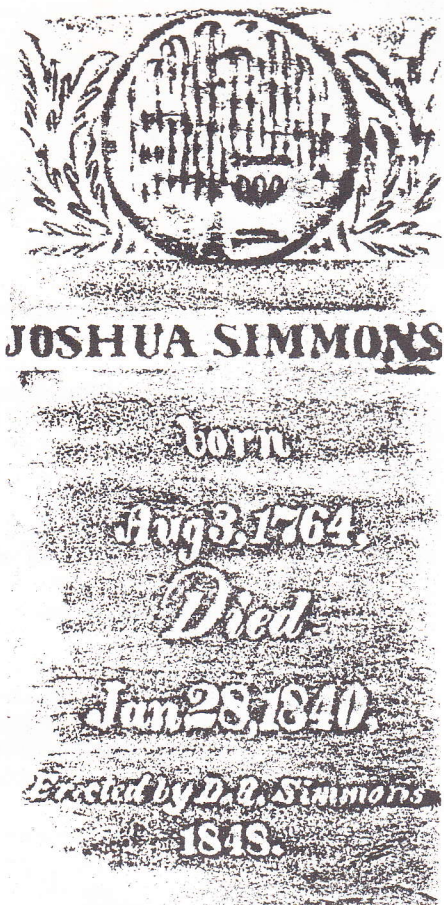
# Clinton News

The Clinton County Bicentennial Commission met the first of February, with much enthusiasm and some new faces. Maurice Gove, chairman, introduced the new members, Charles Gutski, Harold Martin, and Elaine Brockmyre.

Hilda Bross, Bement librarian, announced that the Clinton County Historical Society had sold more than 300 copies of the reprinted Shiawassee-Clinton history. She was appointed chairman of a committee to coordinate Bicentennial activity dates within the county and with the Bicentennial Forum.

## There's The Rub

Gravestone rubbings are one way of preserving a heritage in stone. Robert Gierman of rural Portland made this rubbing from the sandstone marker erected by David Andrus Simmons, in North Eagle Cemetery, Clinton County, to honor his father, Joshua Simmons II. This rubbing was produced in a deep magenta color by the use of sumac.



Gail Foerch told of his progress with the Octagon School project in Lebanon Township. The committee voted this as an official Clinton County Bicentennial project.

Representatives from several religious groups gave their views of how the churches could use the Bicentennial theme.

The next meeting of the committee has been set for April 3 at 2 p.m. in the courthouse in St. Johns.

## Two Semi-Centennials

Fifty years ago Jan. 7, the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home was established in Ingham County, just across the Eaton County line. Its purpose was, and still is, to care for the families of deceased or disabled veterans who had served in overseas wars. The VFW Home is selling commemorative stationery and coins as well as a book giving the history of the home.

Next year, Lansing's Hotel Olds will be celebrating its first half century in business. If anyone has pictures or articles pertaining to the hotel, they are asked to contact Historical Society of Greater Lansing director, Jack Crosby, 1135 N. Genesee Drive, Lansing.

## POW Issue Asked To Be Part of Bicentennial

Voices in Vital America, the Los Angeles based organization concerned with the fate of prisoners of war and service men missing in action has asked organizations to endorse the issue as one of their projects. According to *The Voice*, its newsletter, one of the elements of the Bicentennial, Heritage '76, is to use history as a guide to the future.

"It is worthwhile for Americans to look at how America's first POWs were treated and to what extent Americans then recognized their responsibilities toward the men," it said.

In Michigan, hundreds of Americans, taken prisoner by Indian allies of the British, were brought to Detroit. The British commander, Lt. Gov. Henry Hamilton, tried to ransom one famous prisoner, Daniel Boone, but the Indians refused. Boone managed to escape, anyway. The citizens of Detroit did ransom some of the prisoners from the Indians.



Two hundred years ago, in 1775, a group of men meeting in Virginia were contemplating the direction their colony should take—to war against England or not. At the rostrum of Richmond's St. Johns Episcopal Church was the 39 year old Patrick Henry. His statement was one of those ringing phrases of the Revolutionary War period which has been learned by every school child since—"I know now what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Some time later the rostrum from which he had spoken was brought to Michigan and used as the speaker's desk in the first state capitol.

After that it was displayed in the State Pioneer Room and Historical Museum in the capitol.

And later still it was—who knows?

If you know what happened to the Patrick Henry Rostrum, contact Jack Crosby, 1136 N. Genesee Drive, Lansing.

## Womens Club Book

Copies of *Lansing Womens Club, 1874-1974, Centennial Celebration* are available for \$1.25 from Jean Frazier, 617 Winifred, Lansing MI 48917. The publication offers the story of the club's organization and tradition, the centennial celebration program, and a roster of all members up to 1974. The cover is a facsimile from a club publication of 100 years ago.



# Bellevue — A Bicentennial Community

A meeting of the Bellevue Area Bicentennial Committee was held in the village hall, Jan. 28. The State has recognized Bellevue as a Bicentennial community.



Mon.-Sat. 10-4 p.m.



## Plans in Charlotte

The Charlotte Bicentennial Commission was organized Jan. 28. Chuck Rabey was appointed temporary chairman by Mayor George Dean. Others helping in the organization were John Hutcheson, a member of the State Bicentennial Commission, and Richard Larson, from the Eaton County Historical Society.

In the area of Heritage, the discussion was centered around the rewriting of local history, photographing local sites of interest, and oral history. Another possible area of involvement was the naming of park trails with historical names.

For the Festival area, plans were made for incorporating the VFW Loyalty Day parade, Frontiers Days and a Fourth of July celebration for 1976.

The Horizons area discussion included the cleaning of Bennet Park by the community, organized by the Jaycees; the dedication and landscaping of the new Municipal Building; and extending the planting of maple trees by the city. The Charlotte Jaycees are also planning the erection of playground equipment made by amateurs.

The Bicentennial Committee meets 7:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at Weymouth Elementary School.

Lee Beam, Heritage chairman, presented a detailed layout on writing and publishing the history of Bellevue, 1833 to 1975. Plans are now underway to have the history published by Michigan Week, 1976.

Ray Greenawalt, Horizons chairman, announced that he had contacted several sources for volunteer help and supplies to begin work this spring on restoration of the Dyer Kiln Site. The Eaton County Parks and Recreation Commission has approved restoring the kiln as a Bicentennial project.

Martha Luenke explained that plans were under way for Festivals 1976 and that in the near future announcements would be made to the affirmative of the plans. The dates for major events

will be Michigan Week and the week of the Fourth of July, 1976.

Charles and Dorothy Larson, heading a committee to organize the vault where the township and village records are kept, reported that this was done, that all of the records from 1833 to 1974 were catalogued in excellent condition. A discussion was held concerning microfilming of the records.

Carolyn May and Jean Matthewson presented price estimates for saleable items which could be used expressively for the village of Bellevue during the Bicentennial decade. At this time, nothing definite has been decided.

The committee discussed obtaining a one-room school located on the high school grounds as a museum and a letter requesting this was sent to the Board of Education. Several committee members will attend the next board meeting for a discussion of this project.

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## Eaton Rapids Bicentennial On The Move

The Eaton Rapids public library has available for reference several items concerning Bicentennial activities, according to Mary Hovey, secretary to the city's Bicentennial Committee. The material includes copies of the committee minutes, newsletters from area Bicentennial organizations and historical commissions, Bicentennial research material and commemorative product catalogs.

"Everyone is encouraged to utilize this material," she said. "We are in the process of developing historical interpretive kits meant for use in the elementary school system. These consist of three-dimensional objects, pictures, tapes, books, and other related information that the teacher could use in discussing the country's heritage. It is intended that these kits would be contained in a small attache case or suitcase for easy transportation to the classroom. These kits will be developed by locally inter-

ested service clubs, businesses, organizations and individuals."

She said that plans have been made for, in the near future, a museum to house the history of Eaton Rapids.

She said also that the E. R. Little Theater is planning a production on the history of theater to be presented several times during 1976. Also the U. S. Armed Forces exhibit vans will be in the community, July 31.

"We had our city letterhead changed to include our State Bicentennial insignia," she added.

The Eaton Rapids Bicentennial Committee consists of 15 members, representing businesses, service clubs, organizations, churches, schools, and the VFW National Home.

"Our youth member is very enthusiastically working on fund raising projects for our committee," Ms. Hovey added.