

HSGL Newsletter

Official Publication of the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

March-1993

1893 LANSING HEALTH CARE 1993

Contagion In The City

by Linda Peckham

The city of Lansing recorded its first epidemic in 1861, unnamed but apparent in the Oak Park Cemetery records. In August and September of that year, 38 people died. In those months in 1860, only 7 died.

Contagion often caused multiple deaths in cities. As populations grew, two Lansing men helped establish the State Board of Health in 1873, Dr. Henry B. Baker and Dr. Robert C. Kedzie.

Dr. Baker (1837-1920), a Lansing physician, was Secretary of the Board for its first 30 years. Also head of Vital Statistics for the State Medical Society after 1870, his plan for recording and tabulating diseases was adopted nationwide. Dr. Kedzie (1823-1902), first professor of chemistry at M.A.C., became an early president of the Board. He also got arsenic

Continued on Page 2



Collectors' Showcase

Sunday, April 25, 1993 – Turner-Dodge House

This exciting Society event will showcase 15 local collectors and their collections. Exhibits will include: Local Authors, Lansing Photographs, Architecture, LFD History, Olds Memorabilia, LPD History and much more! For more information please contact Dave Caterino (726-1157) or Craig Whitford (394-4443).

See the Enclosed Flyer!

The *HSGL Newsletter* is published bimonthly from September through May. Articles and news of historical interest may be sent to the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, P.O. Box 12095, Lansing, MI 48901. Linda Peckham, President. Tel: 517/372-3385.

Contagion In The City, continued

banned from wallpaper and campaigned for better ventilation and soil analysis.

The epidemics continued. Typhoid: common until treated water and refrigeration; even the ice taken for cooling from the Grand River was polluted. Diphtheria: high school closed and fumigated in 1900 to keep disease from spreading. Smallpox: June, 1901, tent city set up in North Lansing to isolate those affected; the residents, in anger and fear, burned down the tents. Scarlet fever: a punishable crime to disobey the red quarantine signs. From 1909, the Lansing Police Department patrol wagon, the Black Maria, doubled as an ambulance.

Several short-lived hospitals were started: the Sisters of Mercy in the Case house, early 1890s; Dr. Foster's Hospital on Allegan, 1906-12; Lansing Sanitarium (Neller Hospital, formerly Dr. Lange's Hospital), on Willow, 1930-1940.

But some lasted. In 1896, the Woman's Hospital Association, all volunteers, established what in 1912 became Sparrow Hospital. Ingham Medical started as the county tuberculosis sanitorium in 1913. St. Lawrence opened in 1920. The newest hospital, McLaughlin, D.O., now Lansing General, opened during WWII.

With good hospital care and the advent of penicillin and sulfa drugs in the '40s, and polio and measles vaccines in the '50s and '60s, the old epidemics no longer sweep through Lansing. HSG/L

Lansing Community College

is offering a seminar in

Public Sculpture

A seminar for cataloging and photographing the sculpture in the tri-county area for the Smithsonian

Spring Term 1993

HUM 060—Public Sculpture

Tuesdays: 3-6 P.M.

3 Credits Pass/Fail

For More Information Call:

Linda Peckham: 483-1040

Now Available . . .

The Pilgrim Story

1893-1993

*History of the
Pilgrim Congregational United
Church of Christ*

Written by
Lou Wonch

\$10.00

For More Information Contact:

Lou Wonch: 482-9730

Church Office: 484-7434

BLASTS From The Past

The following 'news' items have all been taken out of issues of the **Lansing Republican Weekly**, written in the style of the time.

No matter how thoughtless and unpoetical the average man may be, he realizes that there is no love in all this wide, wide world so pure, so holy, so lifted above all the baser things of this earth, as that of the true and noble wife when she meets him at the door, and tenderly winding her soft, clinging arms about his neck, strikes him for a new bonnet for the coming Easter. *LRW 2-27-1884*

Among the visitors to the capitol who came on last Friday's excursion were an old man who wanted to know about everything, and a young man who, notwithstanding this was his first visit, did the necessary explaining. On reaching representative hall, the old man inquired what it was, and the young man replied, "This is the governor's room." "What are all those chairs for?" inquired the old man. "They are for the governor's staff," answered the young man. Thoroughly disgusted, the old man said, "Now that accounts for our taxes being so awful high, and I'm glad that I voted ag'in raisin' the governor's wages." *LRW 9-1-1880*

A fat lady, weight a little less than 300 pounds, walked across the glass floor in the rotunda of the new capitol, last week, very much after the manner of a small boy trying the ice after the first freeze up in the fall; and when she once got her feet on solid marble, declared that there was not wealth enough in Michigan to induce her to again risk her life in such a transparent way. *LRW 10-29-1879*

Events in Lansing

March 1993

R.E. Olds

Transportation Museum

THE BICYCLE:

As seen through the eyes of a child

An exhibit of more than 30 children's early velocipedes tracing the history of the bicycle from the 1860's to modern times.

New Museum

in the making

Michigan Aviation Heritage

14645 Airport Road

Lansing, MI 48906

517/321-2278

Meetings are held at 11:00 A.M. the 4th Saturday of each month in the Amelia Earhart Room of the Capital City Airport Terminal

For more information and a membership application write to the address above.

Membership Application

*Historical Society
of Greater Lansing*

P.O. Box 12095
Lansing, MI 48901

Annual membership in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is due by October 1, 1992 for the 1992-1993 program year. Please clip and return this coupon with payment.

_____ New _____ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed: _____ \$10.00 Individual _____ \$15.00 Family _____ \$150 Life _____ Gift

The *Historical Society of Greater Lansing* is a non-profit corporation, and we appreciate your support.

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Presents

The History of Lansing Hospitals

*From ladies' clubs to Lansing's four hospitals:
One hundred years of health care*

1893
LANSING
HEALTH
CARE
1993

A Panel Discussion By:

John Weis: Lansing General Hospital

Jean Frazier: Sparrow Hospital

Lucile Belen: Ingham Medical Center

Jean Chamberlain: St. Lawrence Hospital

7:30 P.M.
Wednesday,
March 24, 1993

Friends Auditorium – Lansing Public Library

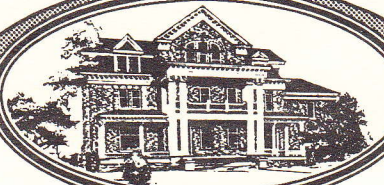
The Public Is Invited

David Caterino
9879 Bismark Hwy.
Vermontville, MI

49096

*Historical Society
of Greater Lansing*
P.O. Box 12095
Lansing, MI 48901

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lansing, Mich.
Permit No. 636



Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Presents

Collectors' Showcase

15 Lansing collectors displaying Lansing history in a historic setting. Brief presentations will be given throughout the day on a variety of topics relating to Lansing history.

Exhibits will include Lansing Photographs, Architecture, Postal History, Railroads & Interurbans, Lansing Advertising & Cigar Boxes, Olds & REO Memorabilia, LPD History, Local Authors and Much More!

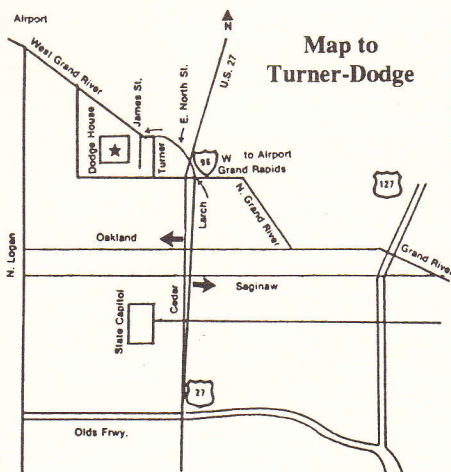
You may bring items to share or ask questions about.

Sunday, April 25, 1993

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Turner-Dodge Mansion

100 E. North, Lansing, Michigan



Admission: \$2.00* per person
\$5.00* Family

**Money raised from this Spring Event will be used to further the projects of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.*

Sponsored by:

Parks & Recreation Dept., City of Lansing
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

For More Information:

Dave Caterino (726-1157) or Craig Whitford (394-4443)
Or Write: HSGL, P.O. Box 12095, Lansing, MI 48901