

Washtenaw Historical Society

News

May - 1974

Coming Events

Thursday, May 23 - 8:00 P. M. at Ann Arbor Federal
401 East Liberty, Ann Arbor.
Foster Fletcher will speak: The History of Ypsilanti.

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Thursday, June 6 - 8:00 P. M. at Ann Arbor Federal
401 East Liberty, Ann Arbor

An event of great importance to ALL members of the Washtenaw Historical Society. This is the ANNUAL MEETING at which Officers for the following year will be elected. Reports will be presented of the numerous exciting projects which are underway and which may be proposed. Discussion and suggestions will be invited. The Society is engaged in several projects of great importance to the County. This will be YOUR OPPORTUNITY to learn about them, to ask questions and to participate in their continuance.

Plan to attend this most important meeting.

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Saturday, June 8 beginning at 1:00 P. M. - Bus tour of Historical Manchester and vicinity. Buses will leave from the Parking Lot of Ann Arbor Federal, Corner Division and Washington Streets, Ann Arbor. Persons in the western part of the County may join the tour in their own vehicles, if they wish. See page 2 for details of the tour.

TICKETS will be \$6.00 per person if you ride the bus. This includes visits to historic sites and dinner at the end of the tour.

TICKETS for those who join the tour in their own vehicles will be \$5.00 per person. This will include the visits to the historic sites and the dinner at the end of the tour.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW so that we may be able to know how many to plan for. Make your reservations with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lacy, 1832 Vinewood Boulevard, Ann Arbor. Their telephone number is (313) 663-5098

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Want to have help in tracing your family history or would you like to help trace the histories of early families of Washtenaw County?
Telephone Ralph Muncy - 663-3761 for time and place of meetings.

Want to join a Crafts Group for fun and study?
Next meeting, June 20 at 7:30 P. M. at 1015 Martin Place, Ann Arbor.

More about the Historical Tour - June 8.

Program chairman David Pollock and his committee have arranged for our annual spring tour to be held on June 8. The pleasant little town of Manchester has been chosen as the area to be visited. Situated in the southwestern part of Washtenaw County about twenty miles from Ann Arbor, it has many places of interest.

Ex-Governor John B. Swainson and his wife thought so favorably of this community that they purchased the farm formerly owned by the Martin family, early Washtenaw settlers. Here, at "The Hustings," they have established a ranch-type farm, and have remodeled the interior of the old farmhouse into attractive livable rooms. We are privileged to be able to visit this home.

In Manchester we will note the wide Main Street, and its grist mill still grinding grain daily. Visits are planned to a church, to a lovely house formerly the home of Dr. and Mrs. Lynch, but for some time the home of the Manchester Library, and to another house architecturally notable. Other houses will be viewed in passing as we drive around the town. One of them was patterned after an English castle beloved by the builder, A. J. Waters, as a boy in England. Another, the Kirchhofer house, reflects the owner's love for his boyhood home in Switzerland. Mrs. Kirchhofer was the daughter of the Reverend Frederick Schmid, early Lutheran missionary and pastor of Washtenaw County, several of whose churches were visited on last year's tour. A daughter, Marie, was a long-time principal of the Manchester High School, and another daughter, Julia, was a teacher at Bach School for many years. A son, Hugo, became the Director of Music for the city of Hollywood, California. A plaque at the entrance to the Hollywood Bowl states that Hugo Kirchhofer was responsible for the envisioning of a concert amphitheatre under the stars, as well as for the raising of the money to make it a reality.

Dinner will follow at the Black Sheep Tavern, and we will return to Ann Arbor at about 7:00 P. M.

Watch the papers for further announcements. Call 663-5098 for reservations.

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Two men heard a robin sing its morning roundaly -
Tirra-lup, tirra-lee, tirra-lup, tirralay,
And as it sang its cheery song, this they heard it say.

One man heard its cheery song as he was bent on play -
Tirra-lup, tirra-lee, tirra-lup, tirra-lay,
I'm happy, sir, so happy sir, this is a marv'lous day.

The other cupped a grouchy ear and listened with dismay -
Tirra-lup, tirra-lee, tirra-lup, tirralay,
The World is full of sin and woe and you shall pay and pay.

Two men saw a robin eat a cherry ripe and red.
One thanked it for the cheery things it said and offered many more instead.
The other cursed it for a thief and wished the poor bird dead.

R. M.



"Can you bake a cherry pie?"

(Copies of the following report were available at the April meeting)

"Can you bake a cherry pie, Billy Boy, Billy Boy?
Can you bake a cherry pie, Charmin Billy?"

That's not really what we want to know - but do you have a special craft you can do - or would you like to learn? If so, come meet with us May 16 at 7:30 P.M. at 1015 Martin Place, Ann Arbor. Bring a sample of your craft. If you can or, at least, be ready to tell us about it. We will try to find a simple craft we can do in an evening - something we can have fun doing. If you'd rather sew or knit, that's fine too, so long as you join in talking about how we can develop a good craft program in the Washtenaw Historical Society.

Don't forget - one craft the men may want to work on - spinning tall tales.

(We will report on a meeting which was held May 16 at a later date)

Craft meetings may be held during the summer months. That is still to be decided. More information will be available at the May 23 meeting of the Society and at the June 20 meeting of the Craft Group. Joan Doman - telephone 971-6261, Lois Foyle - 663-8159 or Joan Pollock - 971 - 6847 will be happy to answer your questions or take your suggestions.

The Campbell Piano.

Our Campbell piano has found a gracious welcome at the home of our new members, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred E. Cowhy, of Fisk Road, Bridgewater Township, until such time as suitable facilities can be provided for it, hopefully in a Washtenaw County Historical Museum.

This large square rosewood Chickering piano was purchased before 1898 by William Campbell, grandfather of George and Mary Campbell, formerly of the Packard Road Cobblestone Farm, and it was taken to the farm home. A picture of it was taken in the parlor of the farm house in 1898, showing it covered by a tasseled felt scarf.

Mr. Campbell was assisted in the selection of the piano by Professor Frederick Pease, a member of the Music Faculty of the then Eastern Michigan Normal School. He was familiar with it as it had been in use in Ypsilanti, and recommended it as a fine instrument. When the senior Campbell's moved to Ypsilanti, they took the piano with them for the use of their daughter Sarah, leaving the operation of the farm to their son Clare. After the death of the parents, Miss Sarah kept it as long as she lived, and then it was again returned to its former farm home.

Before the farm was sold to the city of Ann Arbor, George and Mary generously presented the piano to the Washtenaw Historical Society. We are indeed grateful for the gift of this historic instrument. We also appreciate the tender loving care it is receiving in its present home.

There was no explosion nor erosion!

Most of us accept our public utility services as a matter of course. But responsible for our push-button demands are the know-how and foresight of the people who planned and promoted them often against opposition.

Twenty-five years ago in June of 1949 a group of men, incorporated as Ford, Bacon & Davis, proposed to construct a pipeline to bring natural gas from Texas and Louisiana in the south into Michigan to supplement the manufactured gas then in use. The pipeline had already been brought to the state line, but when the fruit growers of the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor area learned of this project, they feared that the pipe might be damaged by their spraying and other heavy equipment, and the gas might escape causing a dangerous condition for both people and fruit. Four hundred therefore banded together and secured an injunction ordering the state not to allow the laying of the pipe for eleven days while investigations were carried on to establish the safety or potential danger of the line.

Harvey Wagner of the Michigan State Public Service Commission appointed Franklin Everett, of the staff of the Engineering College of the University of Michigan in charge of the tests. The eleven-day time limit made immediate speed obligatory, and several competent engineers were pressed into service, working around the clock to complete the job before the deadline. Mr. George Giesendorfer, George Quinsey as engineers, and Mrs. Dorothy Carlson who did the mathematical calculations, set up the procedures.

The pipe itself, 23 inches in diameter, and one-fourth of an inch thick, was larger than had been used previously, and was buried six feet underground. The sections were welded together, and it had to be proved that the pipe would not rupture under great pressure. So 600 to 750 pounds pressure was applied, and the stress was increased by the use of heavy river clamps which encircled the pipe like collars. The tests were made at Grandville in a fenced-in area, and were observed by government and engineering groups including observers from Boulder Dam, The United States Reclamation Department, the American Gas Association, the Michigan Public Services Commission, and many reporters, who lined the fence surrounding the test area.

However, no problems were encountered, and the state was ordered to hold a hearing at which the Fruit Growers Association might present any objections to the continuance of the laying of the pipeline. Since they voiced no objections, the state granted permission for the company to dig the trench, which must pass under roads, railroads, and through rivers, and bring in the natural gas, which was to be stored in unused storage areas in abandoned wells near Reed City.

Now that twenty-five years have passed with no explosion or bursting of the pipes, it can be assumed that the testing by Mr. Everett and his associates, was very competently and thoroughly done. Thank you, Frank!

Woman's Work

(An Address by Hon. L. D. Norris at a celebration at Ypsilanti, July 4, 1874) In Mr. Norris address he paid the following beautiful and deserved tribute to the pioneer woman.

"Nor was it always the dark side of the shield which looked out upon the pioneer for the many, perhaps most, of the early settlers were a rough and godless band of hardy adventurers, yet manhood and womanhood were there in all their strength and beauty; and nowhere in the world of created intelligence did God's 'last, best gift to man' more clearly assume the character of a help-mate than in the log cabins and amid the rough and trying scenes incident to a home in the wilderness. Ever foremost in the work of civilization and progress, she was today physician, tomorrow nurse, and next day teacher yet always busy in that wearisome household work that knows no pause from 'morn to dewy eve', from month to month and year to year, as through many privations and much new hardship and strange experience of that 'necessity which is the mother of invention' hand to hand, shoulder to shoulder worked out the green arches of the forest, the beginning of Washtenaw today."

From Volume 1 "Pioneer Society of Michigan."

Reminders

Meeting, May 23, 8:00 P. M.

at Ann Arbor Federal, Foster Fletcher - Speaker
Subject: History of Ypsilanti

Important business meeting, June 6, 8:00 P. M.

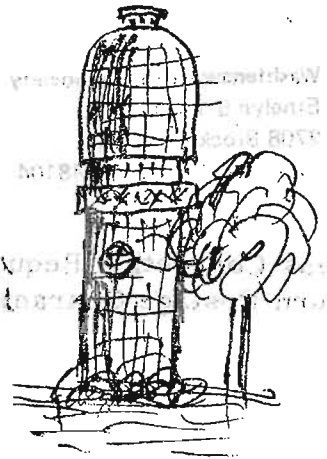
Historical tour, Manchester and Vicinity
Buses leave corner of Division & Washington,
Ann Arbor, at 1:00 P. M., June 8.

Meeting of Crafts Section, June 20, at 7:30 P. M.
at 1015 Martin Place, Ann Arbor.

Meeting of Genealogical Section to be announced.
For information telephone (313) 663-3761.

Dexter and Ann Arbor are 150 years old this year.

For notices of events, watch the newspapers for activities or events.
or - for Dexter, telephone 426-8303
- for Ann Arbor, telephone 662-3339



Washtenaw Historical Society, Ann Arbor, Mich.

by Mrs. L. D. T. ... at a celebration at Ypsilanti
87 - in Mrs. Thomas' address he said the following
to the pioneer

WASHTENAW HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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