



WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

COBBLESTONE FARM SUMMER EVENTS

Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard Road, is open noon-5 p.m. weekends and holidays May through October. Free admission to WCHS members with membership card.

Special events include Cobblestone Farm Association's Spring Festival 1-5 p.m. Sunday, May 20.

Folk music festival, Sunday, June 24.

First person re-enactment of Ann Arbor's first Independence Day celebration of 1824 on July 4 with ice cream social, children's games.

Civil War encampment, July 14-15, with a behind-the-lines hospital scene.

Harvest Fair, August 26, co-sponsored by Project Grow and the City of Ann Arbor, farm owner.

TEDDY BEAR PARTY SET JUNE 2 AT KEMPF HOUSE

Ann Arbor harmonica virtuoso, Peter "Madcat" Ruth, will play at a Teddy bear party 2-4 p.m. Saturday, June 2, at Kempf House, sponsored by the Washtenaw Council for the Arts.

Adults, children and favorite bears invited. Tours, exhibits of Teddy bears, raffle, refreshments. Ruth program at 3 p.m. will include bird whistles, animal sounds and "The Bear Went Over The Mountain." Admission donation.



COLUMNIST WILL SPEAK ON MEDICAL GENEALOGY

Virginia Block, writer of "Heritage Hunt" column in the *Oakland Detroit Free Press* will talk about "Genealogy from a Medical Point of View" at the Genealogy Society of Washtenaw County meeting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 20, in Hale Auditorium of the U-M School of Business Administration. Officers also will be elected.

PARK TO GET MARKER

Ypsilanti's Historic East Side Association has raised \$1,450 for a state historical marker for Prospect Park which they hope to have erected by the end of summer. They're working on the text now.

WCHS 1984 BUS TOUR SATURDAY, JUNE 16, WILL VISIT CRANBROOK ART ACADEMY FOR A DAY WITH THE MUSES

A day with the muses at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills is in store for all attending the WCHS 1984 bus tour Saturday, June 16.

Flora Burt, a WCHS life member and alumna of Cranbrook, has arranged a tour and box lunch on the grounds of the 300-acre educational community founded by the late *Detroit News* publisher, George Gough Booth, and his wife, Ellen Scripps Booth, daughter of the paper's founder.

The Booths invited Finnish Architect Eliel Saarinen to move there, with his family, in 1924 to develop the academy. Saarinen brought the already famous Swedish sculptor and pupil of Rodin, Carl Milles (who did the U-M's Michigan League fountain).

Cranbrook includes the art academy, Cranbrook and Kingswood (High) Schools, Brookside

IVAN PARKER TO DISCUSS 'THE HENRY FORD SCHOOLS AS I KNEW THEM' AT WCHS ANNUAL MEETING MAY 23

Visitors to Greenfield Village seeing the one-room schools Henry Ford attended may not realize that they and others were actually operated by him as private schools.

Ivan Parker, a teacher and principal in the Ford schools for 13 years, will talk about "The Henry Ford Schools As I Knew Them" at the WCHS annual potluck dinner meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, at the Ann Arbor American Legion.

A U-M financial aid officer for 32 years, now retired, Parker was

WYSTAN STEVENS HEADS SLATE OF WCHS NOMINEES

Besides electing officers and directors at the annual meeting May 23, WCHS members will be asked to vote on a bylaws revision to raise the quorum for general meetings to "10 percent of the membership but not less than 20 persons."

The nominating committee has nominated Wystan Stevens for president; Esther Warzynski, vice-president; Alice Ziegler, recording secretary; Karen Murphy, corresponding secretary; and Peter Rocco, treasurer. Patricia Austin will

be immediate past president. David Braun, Elizabeth Dussseau, Cal Foster and Johanna Wiese were nominated to three-year terms on the board and Lucille Fisher and Doris Bailey to one-year terms vacated by Pat Dufek and Mrs. Warzynski.

Concern was expressed that a five-percent quorum as adopted in the newly revised by-laws was too low. The board voted to present the above proposal for a vote.

Elementary, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Christ Church Cranbrook (Episcopal) and Cranbrook House, the former Booth home, all in a setting of lake, hills, trees, gardens, fountains and sculptures. (The Booths had 18 gardeners).

The Booth home, designed by Albert Kahn, and the church are English style. Most of the other buildings are Art Deco by Saarinen. Bus boarding at 8:45 a.m. at Maple Village Shopping Center, Maple Road just north of Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. Return by 5 p.m. The tour package will cost \$25 per person. Prepaid reservations due by Friday, June 8 to Mrs. sther Warzynski, 1520 Martha, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Questions? Call 662-6275 or 663-8826.

The only available bus is smaller than last year. To be sure of a seat, please reserve early.

hired by Ford on a handshake in 1934. He taught in Willow Run and Macon Schools and served as principal at Macon and Greenfield Village until 1947, the year Ford died.

Please bring your own table service and a dish to pass serving 8-10 persons. Beverages will be provided. Election of officers and business meeting also planned. The meeting is free, open to public. Questions? Call 663-5281 or 663-8826.

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FORD COUNTRY:

FROM THE GLASS HOUSE TO THE INNER CITY

David L. Lewis, U-M professor of business history, took the WCHS April audience on a slide tour of "Ford Country" when Professor George S. May had to cancel his talk.

Professor Lewis, author of *The Public Image of Henry Ford*, showed familiar and not-so-familiar Ford sites in the Dearborn-Detroit area and posed his favorite question: "Where is Henry Ford buried?" Most people don't know.

The show started with the big "Ford" sign along I-94 and the Ford World Headquarters Building (the Glass House), visible from the expressway and "almost any part of Dearborn."

It included scenes of Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, the River Rouge and Highland Park plants, of course, and Fairlane mansion but also showed obscure, crumbling former Ford homes in Detroit's inner city.

"A dining room and six bedrooms for top executives are in the penthouse on the top floor of the Glass House. About a mile south is the former Ford Division headquarters, now Ford's North American Automotive operations headquarters.

"Across and down the street from World Headquarters is the Henry Ford Centennial Library, built to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Ford's birth (July 30, 1863) and opened in 1969.

"In front of the library is a life-size statue of Henry Ford, one of only two in the world, the other being in front of Ford of England's plant."

Ford's birthplace, about two miles northeast of the Village at Ford and Greenfield Roads, is designated by a Michigan Historical Commission marker, but the house itself was moved to Greenfield Village in 1944.

The Ford estate, Fairlane, a U.S. historic landmark, the only one in Michigan in the field of commerce and industry, is owned by the University of Michigan-Dearborn which conducts tours through it.

The rear of the mansion faces a muddy Rouge River where the Fords had a dock for an electric boat and a dam for a private powerhouse. The top floor of the powerhouse con-



Henry and Clara Ford's "Honeymoon House" as it looks today, minus 19th century wrap-around porch, matching railings around top and bottom roof line.

tained Mr. Ford's personal laboratory where he liked to repair watches.

The powerhouse generators have been restored. The powerhouse is connected to the mansion by a 300 foot tunnel you can walk through on a Sunday afternoon tour.

Henry Ford died April 7, 1947, at Fairlane. Someone in the audience reminded that the Rouge was flooded and the electricity off so that Ford died as he had come into the world, by candlelight.

At the time of his death, the company couldn't locate a Lincoln hearse, so a Packard (preferable to a GM Cadillac) carried Ford's body to his grave, Lewis noted.

Lewis's students and audiences usually think Henry Ford is buried in Greenfield Village or Fairlane. Actually, he is buried in the old Ford Family Cemetery on Joy Road, just west of Greenfield, in what is now Detroit.

In 1947 it was open farm land. Henry and Clara Ford's graves are covered with iron grillwork. For years, watchmen guarded the grave around the clock, for it was feared grave robbers might act on rumors the auto king had been buried in a solid gold coffin with a Stradivarius violin and other valuables.

Until Greenfield Village's School closed in 1969, the school children with their principal, placed wreaths on or near the anniversary of Ford's death.

Since then, Edison Institute officials and Episcopal clergymen do it. (Edison Institute is the official name of the village-museum complex). St. Martha's Episcopal Church is near the cemetery.

"If the Henry Ford Museum looks like Independence Hall, it figures. Henry tried to buy the real thing. But the government wouldn't

sell. So he built a replica."

The museum has an outstanding transportation exhibit including more than 180 cars. Most notable, perhaps, are Henry Ford's first car, the 1896 quadricycle, and the "999," the world's most famous racing car, in which Henry Ford set a world record of 91 miles an hour in 1904 and Barney Oldfield gained fame as the world's leading racing driver.

There are also personal Ford family cars including Clara's electric and Henry's last car, a 1942 V-8.

The garage where Ford built his first car is in the Village. One of the two doors is wider than the other. When neither was wide enough to get the car out, Henry widened the right one with an axe.

The building was removed from 58 Bagley Avenue in downtown Detroit in the 1920's. That site today is covered with a huge office building and indoor parking structure. There was a plaque, stolen in 1977, affirming it as the birthplace of the first Ford car.

In the Village is Thomas Edison's Menlo Park, New Jersey laboratory in which Edison created the electric light bulb and the phonograph.

In 1929, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the event, Edison re-enacted the invention of the light bulb there. Henry Ford immediately nailed Edison's chair to the floor.

In the Village are actual homes of Orville and Wilbur Wright, removed from Dayton, Ohio, and Noah Webster's from Connecticut. Webster compiled America's first dictionary.

There is a courthouse where Abraham Lincoln practiced law and the chair in which Lincoln was shot in Ford's Theatre in Washington in 1865. It was put up for auction in 1929 and Ford outbid everyone else.

There is a covered bridge and the oldest windmill in the country from Cape Cod. As you enter or leave the Village notice the serpentine wall separating it from the old Ford Airport, now the company's Dearborn test track. It's said to be the longest wall of its kind in the world, Lewis said.

By the early 1920's the Rouge was the world's largest single-company industrial concentration. It

still is, and thanks to automation, produces more now with 30,000 workers than it did with 100,000 workers in 1929 or during World War II.

Across and down the street from the museum is the Dearborn Inn, opened in 1931 across from what was then Detroit's principal airport. Across from the inn is one of Ford's original airplane manufacturing buildings.

In front of the inn is one of eight State of Michigan historical markers dealing with Ford. This one discusses Ford's pioneering in aviation and his Trimotor airplane. Another is in front of the museum.

Across from the museum is the Guest Center where bus tours of the River Rouge plant originated before they were discontinued in 1980.

Behind the museum is the 1923 Dearborn Engineering Laboratory in which the Model A was designed. On May 26, 1927, Henry and Edsel posed with the first and 15 millionth Ford in front of that building.

Next to the lab are railroad tracks along which Henry Ford often walked to the laboratory or village. He also walked these tracks to Detroit with his lady friend, Evangeline Dahlinger.

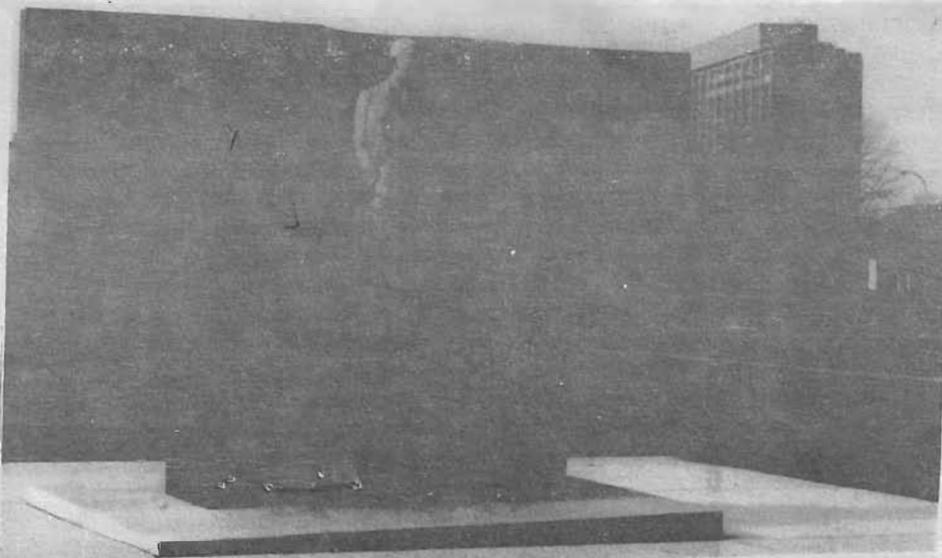
The concrete arches which march for miles along the Detroit, Toledo and Ironton Railroad that Ford owned in the 1920's are still Dearborn area landmarks. They were built to power electric trains but never used. They're so solid that it is prohibitively expensive now to tear them down.

Just down the road from Dearborn Engineering is the George Washington Carver laboratory where Dr. Carver and Ford researchers experimented. It is now a Village storage area.

Two miles east of the Village is Ford's old administration building, now the Ford Parts and Service Division. Henry Ford's former office in a first floor corner has a private entrance.

A mile east of that building is Springwells Park shopping center, built in the late 1930's and said to be America's first shopping center. A stone memorial to Henry and Edsel at the center is inscribed, "The Shadow Passes — Light Remains."

Detroit Edison now occupies the original Lincoln factory built during World War I in Detroit. Ford bought it from the Lelands in 1922.



Photos courtesy of David L. Lewis

Life-size statue of Henry Ford in front of Henry Ford Memorial Library in Dearborn is one of only two in the world. Ford World Headquarters at right.

The Abraham Lincoln statue once in front is now at the Detroit Public Library.

Henry's Place, a Dearborn restaurant, sports a "Food" sign in characteristic Ford script on an oval.

About 10 miles northeast of Dearborn is the Highland Park plant. From 1910 to the early 1920's it was the world's largest auto plant. Visitors were awed by its size and spellbond by the newly-developed mass production methods.

A historic marker is located in front of the plant. William Clay Ford, Henry Ford II's youngest brother, now owner of the Detroit Lions football team, was on crutches when he helped dedicate the marker in 1956.

In 1959, the administration and powerhouse were torn down. Ford has abandoned plans to keep the building for historical reasons and it is crumbling.

The older Piquette and Beaubien factory built in 1904 and operated until 1911 now houses a firm that launders industrial clothing.

Three of Henry and Clara's former homes are still standing not far from Highland Park — their John R Street home of 1891-92, their flat in 1907-08 and the Edison Avenue home from 1908-15.

The first, an abandoned firetrap, likely will be torn down. The second is an apartment building in good repair. Until Lewis took the picture, the owner was not aware that Ford had lived in his building.

The third, from which the Fords moved into Fairlane, is now owned by a religious organization combining the teachings of Christianity and astrology.

A couple of miles north of the Highland Park plant is Edsel Ford's grave in Woodlawn Cemetery. Woodlawn's Automotive Row is a virtual "Who Was Who of the Motor Industry:"

- James Couzens, Ford's business manager and second largest shareholder during the early years, later mayor of Detroit and U.S. Senator.

- The Dodge brothers, John and Horace, major Ford shareholders from 1903-19, have an opulent mausoleum guarded by sphinxes. Edsel's grave compared to Couzen's and the Dodges is modest.

- Edsel's brother-in-law, Ernest Kanzler, fired from Ford in 1925 for having the audacity to tell Henry Ford that the Model T was outmoded and should be replaced.

- George M. Holley, who sold Ford millions of carburetors.

- C. Harold Wills, the brilliant metallurgist who furnished the type for the famous Ford script and had much to do with the building of the Model T.

- John Gray, the Ford Company's first president.

- Wendell Anderson, one of Ford's original 12 shareholders.

- And Alfred Lucking, Ford's lawyer during the Dodge and *Chicago Tribune* suits.

A number of schools bear

Henry Ford's name, the newest in northwest Detroit. A few miles west of the cemetery is Botsford Inn on Grand River Avenue. Built in 1836, it is the oldest operating inn in Michigan.

Henry Ford courted Clara there. A historical marker tells that Henry bought the inn in 1924. It remained in Ford hands until 1951.

A picture of Henry Ford sitting beside the inns' old fireplace reveals that, as in the famous picture of Adlai Stevenson, his shoe needed resoling.

From Botsford one may drive by six of Henry Ford's former hydro-electric plants on the Rouge River. The Northville plant is the last of Henry Ford's village industries still operating under Ford auspices. It's predecessor plant, a 19th century mill, began producing valves for the Model T in 1920.

The present facility, built in 1935, made valves until temporarily closed in 1981. It reopened in 1982 to make fuel tanks and repair steel shipping racks. The water wheel is only decorative.

Driving from Northville down the Rouge River to Dearborn one will pass five more tiny hydro plants — Waterford, Phoenix, Plymouth, Newburgh and Nankin Mills, one of the smallest, which had 11 employees.

A few miles south of Nankin Mills in Garden City is the Square House or "Honeymoon House" which Clara Ford designed and Henry cut the timer for and helped build. They lived in it from 1889-1891.

In 1937 they installed a couple who lived in it until 1979. They sold it to a young couple who plan to move it back to its original site in Dearborn.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS: OF SESQUICENTENNIALS, MODEL T'S, DOLL HOUSES, BOOKS, GRAND OPENING

Chelsea Historical Society: Chelsea will celebrate its sesquicentennial June 30-July 4, beginning with a parade the 30th. The Society will offer wagon rides, exhibit old fashioned clothing at the town hall, make a quilt to raffle and sell things. Will Connelly is compiling a history booklet and the 125th anniversary booklet also is to be republished.

The Society is conducting a membership drive. Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Monday, June 11, at McKune Memorial Library, 221 South Main. Questions? Call 475-8971.

Dexter Historical Society: Grand opening of lower level exhibit hall of museum, 3443 Inverness, after Memorial Day parade Monday morning, May 28. Display of farm tools, old *Dexter Leader* equipment.

New museum hours 1-4 p.m., Fridays, 12-4 p.m. Saturdays from Memorial Day through October 31 or by appointment. Call 426-2519.

Milan Historical Society: Third annual ice cream social 1-6 p.m., Sunday, June 17 (Father's Day) at Hack House, 775 County Street. Pies, cakes, ice cream, banana splits — the works — promised.

The national Model T tour, 250 strong, plans to take a break at Milan on the morning of Thursday, July 26, at Wilson Park. The Society will open Hack House and serve refreshments. The tour will then head to Macon before ending in Livonia.

Northfield Historical Society: Thomas P. Hennings, Eastern Michigan University professor of English, is author of a new history of Northfield township. The Society is now looking for patrons to sponsor pub-

lication. They have gathered between 150 and 200 photos for the 150-page manuscript and hope to have it in print for the Whitmore Lake July 4 celebration.

Professor Hennings is now serving as president, since Marta Larson resigned.

Webster Historical Society: The Webster United Church of Christ sesquicentennial will wind up June 23-24 with a picnic at 5 p.m. Saturday the 23rd at the Community House followed by a 7 p.m. pageant.

Following early services, luncheon is planned about noon Sunday, then a dedication ceremony about 1 p.m. of a life-sized bronze bust of Daniel Webster by a local artist, Dennis Oberto.

Daniel Webster, for whom the surrounding township was named, contributed money, reportedly \$100, to help complete the church building, the oldest in continuous use in the county.

A one-day Fall Festival is planned Saturday, September 15, jointly sponsored by the Society and the Church at Webster Church and Farrell Roads.

Ypsilanti Historical Society: Doll house display through mid-June. Two are about 80 years old, one is a 1950's metal model, another is an electrified three-story Depression model made from orange crates; also miniature doll houses.

The museum is open 2-4 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays. Extended hours during Heritage Festival August 24-26.

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

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May 23, 1984

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