



WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

SOUVENIR BELL, LINCOLN TILE, 1909 WEDDING GOWN, SHIRT, GAVEL, 19th CENTURY NEWSPAPERS ACQUIRED

Several items have been given to the Society in recent months — a souvenir bell, Lincoln Hotel tile/paperweight and mold, early 20th century wedding gown and formal dress shirt, a gavel, and some 19th century newspapers.

Bill Darwin, new director, and wife Joanne, presented the bell in its original box and wrapping. It was one of those made from the bell of Ann Arbor High School, which burned December 31, 1904. It is inscribed "1856 AAHS 1904."

A hexagonal blue ceramic tile with white profile bust of Abraham Lincoln, with "Lincoln Hotel, Ann Arbor, Michigan" on the bottom was recently purchased. Barbara K. Schnitzer donated a metal mold which she thought had been used in making the tiles.

A white satin wedding gown plus lingerie and white shoes in a box marked April 29, 1909, were given by the Thrift Shop.

The formal dress shirt was given by Ethelyn S. Morton, who also gave the gavel some time ago. Recently the Society had a small plaque attached to the gavel, saying "Presented to Washtenaw County His-

torical Society by Ethelyn S. Morton, April 10, 1983."

The gavel was originally given to her late husband, Hudson T. Morton, Jr., in 1936 when he was worshipful master of Golden Rule Masonic Lodge.

The Lincoln Hotel was at 210 East Huron from about 1925-1947, President Stevens said.

Walter Schlecht gave 18 old out-of-town newspapers telling of the assassinations of President Lincoln and Garfield and the deaths of President Grant and other notables.

RETURN TRIP

Mrs. Austin was surprised when she took the Morton gavel to Schlanderer's to have the new plaque attached.

She found that Charles Schlanderer knew Mr. Morton, that his father had had a similar gavel, that an Almus Hale used to make a new gavel for each lodge leader and over the years Schlanderer's had attached about 30 of the end pieces naming the lodge leader to whom it was presented. The gavel had been there before.

WCHS VOTES DONATION TO HELP FIX LOG HOUSE

The Society voted at the last meeting, October 14, to donate up to \$2,500 to help restore the Smith-Harris log house at Cobblestone Farm.

The 1836 Augusta township house, first offered to the Society, was erected at Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard Road, a few years ago.

A WCHS committee investigated restoring it as a Society project but decided since it belongs to the City of Ann Arbor to instead offer a donation.

While some speakers felt the Society should focus on finding its own museum, others thought the donation could help add a meaning-

ful teaching facility to the local historical scene. The resolution passed 16-12.

Mrs. Patricia Austin, committee chairman, plans to work with the city and pay only for WCHS-approved study and restoration activity.

TRAVELING EXHIBITS AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS

WCHS has two traveling exhibits of small artifacts set up as a "What Is It?" game with multiple choice answers which are available to schools. For further information please telephone Patricia Austin, Ann Arbor 663-5281.

STAY TUNED: RADIOLAND OF 1920's-30's COMING FEBRUARY 10

Everitt "Abe" Lincoln of Albion, a collector of early radios, will show a mini-museum of early sets at the WCHS meeting at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, February 10, at the Ann Arbor American Legion.

The sets, ranging from the early 1920's to mid-30's, include crystal sets, horn speakers and Arbor-phones and Kadettes made in Ann Arbor.

Lincoln, 66, is a retired farmer and state legislator who has been interested in radios since he was eight years old, he said. He served in the Signal Corps in World War II and the Korean War.

Now he collects, restores and sells old radios and repairs sets. He will talk about the history of radio sets, especially those made in Ann Arbor. He will have some sets playing.

GSWC TOPICS TOLD

Janet Rorabacher, GSWC member of Howell, will speak on "Palatines of New York" at the February 24 Genealogy Society of Washtenaw County meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the U-M Hale Auditorium at Tappan and Hill Streets.

The March 24 topic will be "Searching the Records of the Register of Deeds Office in Washtenaw County" with Peggy Haines, deputy register of deeds.

SUNDAYS? EVENINGS? WHICH SHALL IT BE?

For the next four programs, WCHS will experiment by having them alternately on Sunday afternoons and weekday evenings and compare turnouts.

For years the Society met on the fourth Thursday evening. Recently meetings have been on the second Sunday afternoon. The experiment is the result of a recent board discussion of meeting times.

ANN ARBOR, 1900-1920:

TROLLEY RIDERS OOHED AT SEVEN-STORY 'SKYSCRAPER'

In the Ann Arbor of 1900-1920, long before anyone ever thought of building shopping centers on outlying farmlands, Main Street really was the main street and town center.

Then the old Courthouse stood in the middle of green lawns and state-ly trees on the northeast corner of Main and Huron Streets, with its square tower, looking the way courthouses were supposed to look, to older generations at least.

Wystan Stevens evoked that period of local history in a slide show of postcard scenes of the period at the October WCHS meeting at the Ann Arbor "Y." Stevens, Society president and a postcard collector and dealer, showed a small selection of his extensive local collection.

The Courthouse tower was demolished in 1948, he said, for safety reasons. The present county building was wrapped around the old before the old was demolished about 1956.

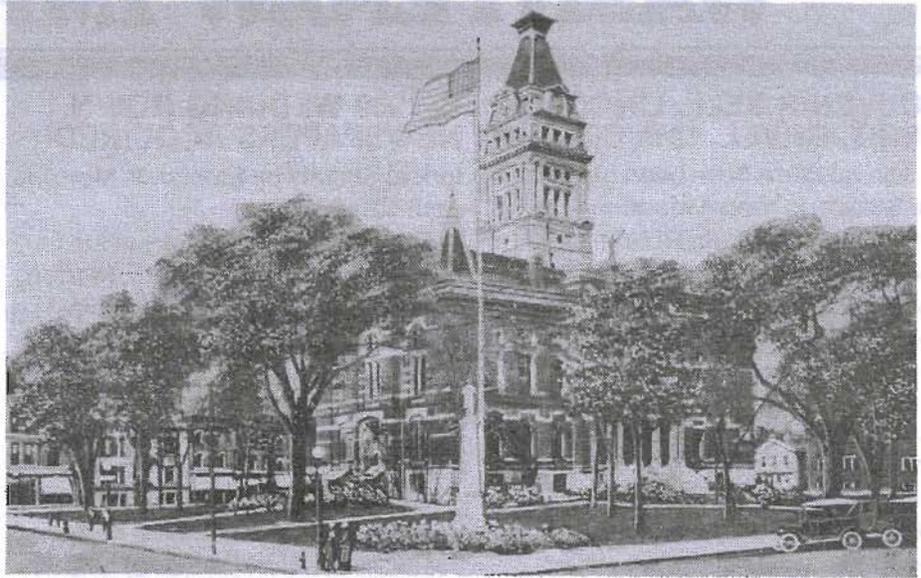
As the old building was being demolished, Judge (James R.) Breakey (long time Circuit Court judge) looked at Luella Smith (long-time county clerk), Stevens said, and both simultaneously entertained the same thought: What about the statues (around the perimeter of the roof)?

"They both ran to the window just in time to see the statue of justice toppled by the crane and falling in pieces to the ground," Stevens said. "There was no such thing as historic preservation in Ann Arbor at that time."

The Civil War Monument on the Courthouse lawn, which wasn't erected there until 1916, was moved to Forest Hill Cemetery.

Various Main Street views of the period showed street cars and interurban cars running on tracks in the middle of the street. Street cars disappeared about 1925, he said. Interurbans lingered about four years longer.

Horses and buggies in early scenes disappeared by the early twenties and autos took over.



WASHTENAW COUNTY COURTHOUSE, CIRCA 1920's

Looking north from the Courthouse to the present Salvation Army Thrift Store, a postcard showed the ornate Beal Block post office.

Just north of that on Main a new post office was built in 1909. Enlarged around 1930, it is today the county administration building.

"That was the only building in town that had a revolving door that I remember as a kid," he said. He showed a rare advertising card of that post office put out by the company that supplied the roof.

In the now vacant northwest corner of Main and Huron stood the old Ann Arbor Savings Bank, later known as the Municipal Court Building, with Moray's Jewelers on the ground floor corner. Upstairs was the old Masonic Hall. It burned in 1969.

North of the old savings bank stood Fred Brown's saloon and the Whitney Theater.

At the turn of the century, where Citizen's Trust now is, at 100 South Main, stood the old *Ann Arbor Argus* newspaper building, an 1850's Greek Revival structure.

By 1906, it was replaced by Ann Arbor's first "skyscraper," the seven floor Glazier Building. It was remodeled about 1971 and the cornice removed. "It really ought to

be replaced. What's there now looks a bit naked and unfinished."

Frank Glazier of Chelsea built it to house a newspaper he started called *The Ann Arbor News*, not an ancestor of the present local paper, Stevens said. The high-ceilinged ground floor was to house the printing presses with newspaper offices in the second floor.

Glazier wanted to rent upper floors for city offices, "but the city fathers decided they didn't want anything to do with Glazier so they started construction of City Hall" a couple blocks east on Huron at Fifth Avenue where the City Center Building is now.

Glazier's newspaper was the first in the county to print colored comic strips on Sunday. That may not have been a particularly useful innovation but it was on the leading edge of the technology of the time, Stevens said.

Across South Main at 101 is First of America Bank, until 1983 Ann Arbor Bank and Trust, where once stood the Farmers & Mechanics Bank.

After the interurban train crashed into it August 5, 1927, "a better looking building was built in 1927-28. It unfortunately was covered with marble about 1972 and the bank got an award for doing it."

CENTURY OF FASHION SHOW: COSTUMES OF NURSE, TEACHER, TYPIST, ROSIE THE RIVETER AS WELL AS HOUSEWIVES SHOW WOMEN'S ROLES OF YESTERYEAR

Early nursing uniforms, a Rosie the Riveter coverall suit and skirts and blouses a teacher or early typist might have worn along with some of the trappings of their trades demonstrated some of women's roles outside the home at the Century of Fashion show.

The show October 27-28 at Cobblestone Farm was jointly sponsored by WCHS.

Another feature of the show was two rooms of wedding dresses ranging from mid-19th to mid-20th century and from black to white.

In other rooms, other dresses illustrated what milady was wearing down through the decades. Civil War era crinolines and hoops gave way to bustles, leg of mutton sleeves, the Gibson girl.

In the waistless 20's skirts and hair were cut short. In the 30's skirts were longer, during World War II, shorter, and in 1947 "the new look" was longer. Hoops even enjoyed something of a Civil War centennial revival in prom, wedding and bridesmaid frocks of the fifties.

The lingerie room, presided over by Elizabeth Dusseau, showed how those varying styles affected the underpinnings. There were crinolines and ruffly petticoats to make skirts stand out, corsets for those tiny waistlines, special bras for backless 30's dresses and strapless 40's and 50's formals.

Miss Dusseau explained that by the turn of the century doctors were advising strongly against hourglass figures achieved by corset stays and strings. One piece union suits were introduced.

The oldest lingerie item was an 1837 corset with wide flat wooden stays instead of later whalebone or metal.

Miss Dusseau noted that all the frilly, ruffly petticoats, camisoles, slips and nightgowns had to be ironed.

Down in the kitchen were some of those old irons that had to be heated on the stove sitting on an old wooden ironing board.

Elsewhere in the kitchen were evidences of baking of bread, pitting

cherries and other domestic activity that occupied most women of earlier days. It was all artistically arranged by Esther Warzynski who also did the display of women's roles outside the home.

A lot of the clothes were new to the show this year. Some belonged to WCHS, some to Cobblestone and some were on temporary loan.

Vicky Rigney is the Cobblestone

BOB LYONS' OLD-FASHIONED GENERAL 'STORE' REAL NOSTALGIA TRIP: SEN SEN, 5¢ CIGARS ANYONE?

It may be an imitation general store but it was a real nostalgia trip for WCHS members to visit Roland "Bob" Lyons country store in November.

Where else could you find Smithereen Bedbug Destroyer, Kendall's Spavin Cure, Gold Dust and Sen Sen or Bull Durham tobacco in cloth bags, stiff collars and celluloid harness rings?

An antique collector extraordinaire, Lyons has assembled a remarkable and colorful collection of mostly forgotten brands as well as a few familiar ones in old-style packaging.

What's more there's not just one of a kind. He buys in multiples so that his "store" is well stocked to overflowing with several of each as a real store would have been. No matter your collar size, he probably has it.

Of course it's not for sale, although he has an old-fashioned dollar cash register sitting on a massive 16-foot counter on which he could ring up the sale and a large coffee grinder to grind you Lady Helen or Joy Cup coffee.

If you've a mind for checkers, find a partner and sit in one of two chairs drawn up to the checker board on the barrel. If you're in the mood for a singalong, perhaps Lyons can be persuaded to pump the player piano in the corner.

Lyons, a businessman who is president of the Ann Arbor Hands On museum in the restored fire hall, enjoys using his private store for parties and committee meetings and showing it to interested groups

volunteer who cleans and "presses" the garments by museum methods.

WCHS helpers besides Mrs. Warzynski and Miss Dusseau were Kathy Sutton, Mary Lou Warner, Dalys Vogel and Mrs. Austin, WCHS chairman.

Flowers were donated by Enchanted Florist. WCHS' half of the proceeds amounted to \$85.25.

if a mutually agreeable date can be found in his busy schedule.

He started collecting antiques about 30 years ago when he got married. "You could buy an ice cream set with bent wire chairs for the same as you would pay for a chrome dinette set. You would know the ice cream set was always going to be of value.

He started with furniture, then autos, mechanical banks, toys, then advertising.

"I couldn't get my antique fix, but if I had a store, I can always go, even to a garage sale, and find something to put in the store."

The store started about six years ago when Dick Beissel, owner of the former Fischer Pharmacy at Washington and Fifth Avenue was going to retire and persuaded Lyons to buy the cabinets at a very attractive price."

Just coincidentally, I went to an auction in Ohio and saw this 16-foot beam counter. "Who needs a 16-foot beam counter? Nobody. A bargain at \$100. It cost me \$250 to get it back here though."

"I had a dollar cash register. I set it on the counter. That started the old store."

Other interesting items are old advertising signs, display racks (one is a small Ferris wheel) and salesmen's samples. These include a Paul Bunyan size coffee pot and a child size 1876 one-horse walking plow made in Albion.

Among the more exotic brands are a few that are still found today — Kellogg's Corn Flakes, Heinz cat-sup and Planter's Peanuts.

MUSIC, MILLS, MEDICAL 'HUMBUG' PROGRAMS SET

Varied programs have been planned for the next three meetings by Esther Warzynski, vice-president and program chairman.

Professor Richard L. Malvin of the U-M department of physiology will speak on "Medical Humbug—the Michigan Connection" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28.

Nicholas A. Marsh, author of the recently published *Remembering Delhi Mills*, will speak at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 14.

The Chelsea Senior Citizens Band will play at the annual potluck supper meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 22. All are planned at the American Legion.

WCHS IMPRESSIONS WILL BE SENT TO SCHOOLS

The WCHS Board recently voted to send a copy of each issue of the *Impressions* to every school in the county, public and private, free of charge, beginning with this issue. Complimentary copies already are being sent to libraries and other historical societies.

MILAN SLATE NAMED

Tom Kin has been re-elected president of Milan Historical Society. Warren Hale is vice-president, Ken Baumann, secretary, and Larry Sanford, treasurer. Board members besides the officers are Bill Smith, Lillian Brown, Marvel Jones and Lorene Burger.

Arleigh Squires is historian; Lois Ellwart, newsletter editor; and Billie Jean Thornton, publicity chairman.

MRS. SMYTH HEADS WEBSTER SOCIETY

Marjorie Smyth is the new president of Webster Historical Society, succeeding James Parker. Linda Oberto is vice-president; Phyllis Lindblade, secretary; and Elizabeth Kleinschmidt, treasurer.

Linda Chapman is chairman of the blacksmith shop project which was to be the main topic of discussion at the February 4 meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Obertos, 7315 Jennings Road.

CHELSEA ELECTS 1985 OFFICERS

Marge Hepburn will head the Chelsea Historical Society this year, with David Pastor as vice-president, Mary Ann Burgess as secretary and Glen Wiseman as treasurer. Harold Jones, Ann Bumpus and Donald Dancer continue as directors.

'LOST' LT. GOVERNOR FOUND IN FOREST HILL

Jerry Roe of the Michigan Historical Commission is doing a book on Michigan governors and wants to visit all their graves.

But he was stumped on where to find Michigan's first Lieutenant-Governor, Edwin Mundy, until WCHS President Wystan Stevens read about his search.

Stevens, an expert on notables in Forest Hill Cemetery, took him right to it. Mundy rests near his brother-in-law, Elisha Walker Rumsey, a co-founder of Ann Arbor.

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HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Chelsea Historical Society: Meetings are now being held in the Crippen recreation building at the Chelsea Methodist Home at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday, except the Founder's Day potluck, which will begin at 6 p.m. February 11. The Society, founded 10 years ago, hopes to have all past presidents there.

Dexter Historical Society: Approximately 60 artists will demonstrate at the 12th annual pioneer craft fair from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at the high school on Baker Road. Admission is adult, \$1.50; grades 1-12, 50 cents. The Heritage Guild will serve luncheon. Also prize drawing and bake sale.

Manchester Historical Society: Meets 8 p.m. third Monday at the Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main. February 18, Gerald Myers, Chelsea land surveyor, will speak on "Surveying Michigan from Early Settlement to Present."

Milan Historical Society: Meets at 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at Hack House, 775 County Street. February 20 speaker will be Ann Arbor's honorary fire chief, Bob Muehlig of Muehlig Funeral Chapel.

Ypsilanti Historical Society: James Genco's collection of World War II uniforms and medals are now on display as well as regular museum exhibits. Museum open 2-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday.

TREASURER RESIGNS

Peter Rocco has resigned as treasurer but will continue on the board as a director-at-large. Nancy Schuon will serve as treasurer pro tem.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

2:30 p.m. Sunday
February 20, 1985

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