



IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • FOUNDED 1857

RICHARD L. GALANT, PhD

President's Letter

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Information

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Museum On Main Street
500 N. Main Street at Beakes Street
Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336

Phone: 734.662.9092
Email: wchs-500@ameritech.net
Web Site:

www.washtenawhistory.org

Annual dues: January-December
individual, \$15; couple/family \$25;
student or senior (60+) \$10; senior
couple \$19; business/association
\$50; patron \$100.

The Washtenaw County Historical Society's February monthly presenter, Anita Toews representing the American Institute of Architects Huron Valley Chapter, gave an interesting and informative presentation on Ann Arbor Buildings and Architecture. Ms. Toews made the buildings of old Ann Arbor Town and Washtenaw County come alive by citing which architects designed different, important buildings in the county. Each stands today and gives us a rich legacy and history.

For instance, Ms. Toews told how the Detroit architectural firm of Smith, Hichman, and Grylls (SmithGroup) designed Earhart Manor, (the Meadows). Harry Boyd Earhart amassed his fortune by selling the White Oil Company in 1911. (White Oil Company eventually became today's Mobile Oil Company.) Earhart Manor, where Concordia University stands today, is an example of an uncommon French Eclectic style of architecture. The Olmstead Brothers firm (Central

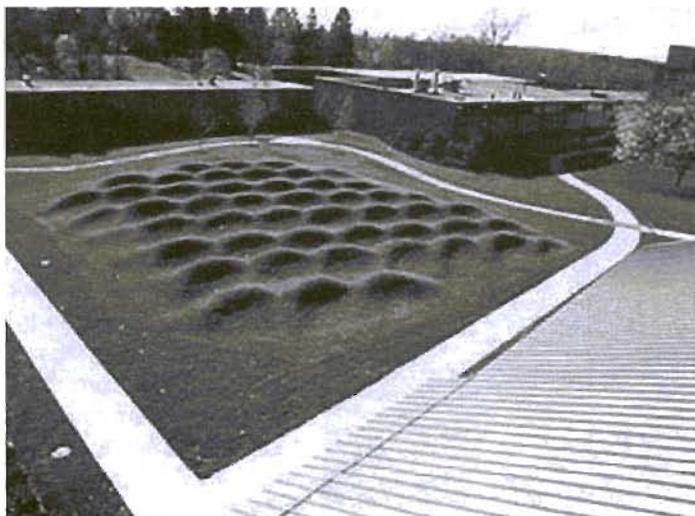
Park in New York City) prepared the Manor's landscape design.

Another example of Ms. Toews was Maya Lin's (Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC) Wave Field in the courtyard of the Aerospace Building on the University of Michigan's North Campus. Natural grass is used to capture the essence of the physical phenomenon of a wave. You can read the rest of Ms. Toews' presentation in this edition of *Impressions*.

Presentations like Ms. Toews' are given each month throughout the school year. You are welcome to come to the Sunday, March 16 presentation by Susan Nenadic on *Working Women's History – Prior to 1918* at the Ann Arbor Downtown District Library (2:00 pm). Also, the *Kitchens – 1830 to 1950* exhibit begins at the Museum on Main Street on March 5 and runs through May 18.

Come to any of these events and be a part of Ann Arbor history!

Wave Field picture:
Do you remember taking off your shoes and feeling the grass between your toes? Do you remember rolling down grassy hills? The Wave Field is a very special place where you can do this. It is landscape architecture, designed by Maya Lin, who designed the Vietnam Memorial.



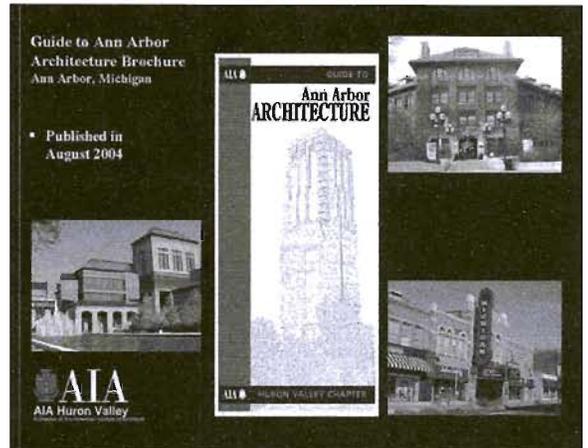
TRANSCRIBED BY PATTI SMITH, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM ANITA TOEWS

Ann Arbor Guide to Architecture

February's program was co-sponsored by the Cobblestone Farm Association and WCHS. Anita Toews, a practicing architect and Vice President of Architects Design Group in Ann Arbor, gave a talk based on the Ann Arbor Guide to Architecture Brochure, which was published by the Huron Valley chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

This guide lists historically and culturally significant buildings in Ann Arbor. The Guide to Architecture illustrates 35 buildings, selected from over 200 buildings. The Guide tells why they are significant and attempts to promote understanding of the rich architecture in our area.

There are now Podcasts for each of the buildings which you can download to your IPOD from the website, www.aiami.com. The virtual tours are narrated by volunteers.



The Guide to Ann Arbor Architecture brochure



Earhart fountain

Earhart Manor is located at 4090 Geddes Road. It was built in 1936 by the Earhart family, in the "French eclectic" style, which features a steeply pitched roof and flared eaves. Flashings, gutters and downspouts are all lead coated copper. The exterior is covered with beautiful limestone with a limestone cornice. You can also see four brick masonry chimneys with limestone caps. There are two porches, each with its own copper roof and wrought iron railings. There are also cherubs on the pillars that hold up the porches.

Inside, the house features a hidden staircase behind a book shelf. This stairway leads to the basement. The house also features many Pewabic tiles, as seen on the fountain in the picture.



Earhart – hole in ceiling

On the third floor of the house was a ballroom that was used for recitals. There was a hole in the floor that had a trap door in it, allowing children to peek downstairs at the foyer. The ballroom also had a projection room to allow the family to show home movies or operate lighting for the stage.

One of the most impor-

tant high tech luxuries included air conditioning. In fact, it was probably the first air-conditioned home outside of New York City.

Harry Boyd Earhart lived in the house until his death in 1954. In 1961, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod bought a large portion of the Meadows for the establishment of a new school, which is now Concordia University. Since then the Manor has served the University as faculty office space and the student union. In 1997, Concordia University decided to renovate the Manor. With the help of the Ann Arbor based firm Architects Four,



Diag

the building has been preserved and returned to its former glory.

The UM Diag is comprised of buildings that were built between 1902-1926. Most of these buildings were designed by Albert Kahn.

The building on the southeast corner is the Engineering Building (West Hall), which was designed by Kahn in 1902. The style is brick Renaissance, featuring an archway that allowed continuous diagonal walk through campus. The arch is framed by two copper towers seen on the campus side. There is a big wide overhang and a red tile roof.

Hill Auditorium was designed by Kahn in 1913 in the classical revival style. "Classical" style refers to Greek or Roman ideas. Hill is loosely based on the Chicago Auditorium.

Burton Tower was designed in 1936 by Albert Kahn. It is 213 feet high and 41 feet square. It has a limestone exterior and a wonderful observation deck.

The Rackham School of Graduate Studies was designed in 1938 by architects Smith, Hinchman & Grylls. It is a five story building with a Classic Renaissance exterior. It has a granite base, Indiana limestone on outside, a copper roof, bronze windows and doors and exterior terraces. An Italian sculptor, Corrado Parducci modeled some relief sculptures above the main windows on the front of the building. There are seven of these sculptures and they represent divisions of graduate studies: Museums, Social Science, Physical Science, Language and Literature, Biology, Health Science and the Fine Arts.

Another building framing the Diag is the Samuel T. Dana Building, which was designed in 1903. It was made in the classical style, featuring brick, a flat roof and a "doughnut" inner courtyard with a skylight. When it was

renovated in 2003, all facets of the renovation were "green." The renovators used certified wood from selective forest, bamboo flooring, recycled materials for tiles and countertops, low VOC paints and reused salvage materials.

The Detroit Observatory was built in the Greek Revival style, featuring solid brick with stucco coating that was scored to look like limestone. There is a brick pier that goes from 15' below grade up to the observatory and houses the telescope. None of the building structure touches the pier. The dome roof is made out of wood and can rotate. Shutters open and the telescope comes out.

The Michigan Theater was designed and built in the Roaring '20s – the vaudeville era, a time of silent movies and live performances. It is a 1700 seat theater that had many celebrities perform on its stage, including Jack Benny, Bing Crosby and Ethel Barrymore.

The theater was built in the Lombard Romanesque Revival style and has round yellow terra cotta arches, slender Moorish columns, dome pier caps and gold leaf lattice patterns on walls and ceilings.

In the 1950s the building was "modernized" by the Butterworth Theater Co to bring more crowds. The façade was covered with steel and glass and the octagonal ticket booth was removed. Interior plaster was covered with aluminum and green polished marble and a false ceiling was put in. Domes were



Hill Auditorium



Rackham Bldg



Dana / previous East Med



Engine arch



Detroit Observatory



Michigan Theater



Gandy Dancer / MI Central RR



St. Thomas the Apostle Church



Hobbs & Black / former First Unitarian Church

removed on the outside. Fortunately, in 1982 the building was purchased by the City of Ann Arbor and restoration began. Restoration included removing aluminum panels, restoring the domes, cleaning the outside, replacing the marquee, restoring the plaster details on the ceilings and repainting the ceiling with the original colors.

The Michigan Central Railroad Depot / Gandy Dancer was built in the Romanesque style, which was "Roman-like," pre-Gothic (from around the 10th century).

The St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church was also built in the Romanesque style. It features rock-faced rustication and beautiful stonework. The parishioners themselves brought the field stones to the site.

The Hobbs & Black office, formerly the First Unitarian Church, was also done in Richardsonian Romanesque and was one of the first such structures built in Ann Arbor.

The Nickels' Arcade was built between 1915 and 1918 and is a one-of-a-kind arcade that links two streets with a pedestrian way. Each façade has a different look. The façade facing the UM quad is detailed in

a Classical design with architectural terra cotta detailing. The Maynard Street façade is built of yellow brick with a different feel to it. Each façade relates to what it faces. The State Street end is much more monumental in scale while the opposite end is more of a human scale.

The UM Law School and Quad-rangle is built in an English Gothic style and is patterned after Kings College in Cambridge. If one looks closely, one can see Atlas figures holding up the arches in the courtyard.

The UM Stadium was built to take advantage of the

natural topography of the site. Three sides of the stadium, as well as the playing surface are completely below street level. The stadium was dedicated during the 1927 Michigan / Ohio State football game and is the largest stadium in the nation.



Nickels' Arcade



Law School & Quadrangle



Michigan Stadium



Power Center:
An example of "modern" style,
featuring lots of concrete and glass.



The Kempf House was built
in the Greek Revival style.

Glossary of Architecture Terms:

Classical

Return to Greek or Roman Principles
Greek deals with "order" / horizontals and verticals

Romanesque

Style that was applied to churches around the 10th C

Renaissance

Means Italian art and architecture from
early 14th C to mid 16th C

- Details of ancient Rome
- Rounded forms, arches, vaults and domes

Gothic - Architecture of the

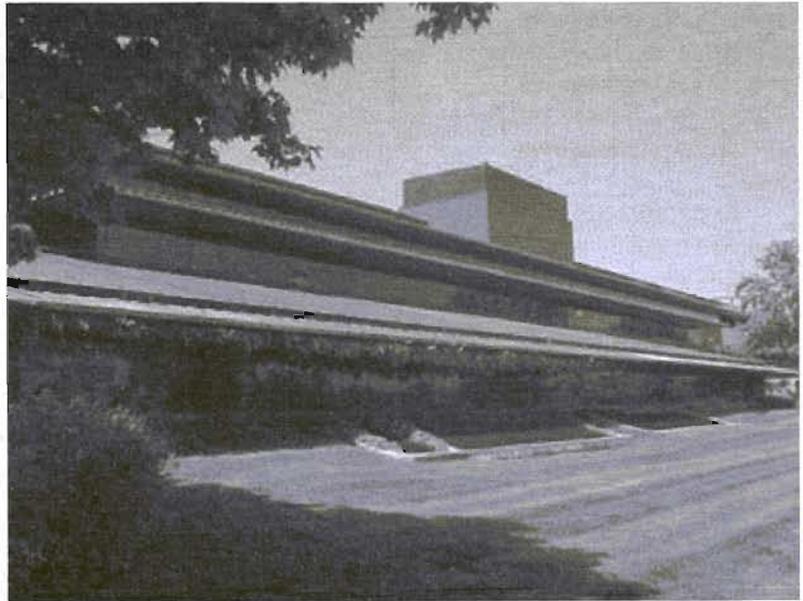
- Pointed arch
- Rib vaults
- Flying buttresses
- Intricate stonework
- Turrets / cupolas

Not just these characteristics, but all of them used together
A skeletal structure with slender, resilient members and a thin
membrane infill

Revival

- Come again
- Do it again

"The conscious choice to use a style that is not the accepted
current style"



Dominoes Farms was designed in a "prairie style."

DALE LESLIE

Lloyd, I Hardly Knew Ye

I have a proud distinction relative to the football career of recently retired U-M head coach, Lloyd Carr.

Ad nauseam, I remind Coach Carr that I'm one of a handful of U-M fans who cheered him playing football.

In the fall of 1966, Lloyd and I were fellow students at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, but our lives were in contrast.

I was an awkward, bespectacled, stout freshman; Lloyd was a handsome, strong-armed senior quarterback for the Wildcats, a transfer student-athlete from the University of Missouri.

Lloyd joined the rest of his senior teammates in leading the Wildcat squad to a near perfect season. QB Carr's star qualities followed him throughout his life. He was a hard-nosed, resilient player with a dedicated work ethic and natural leadership skills. He was also courageous.

In a game vs. the Quantico Marines, the Leathernecks featured an all-Mr.-Everything middle linebacker. In the huddle, Lloyd called a quarterback-keeper play that meant he would be the lone ball carrier.

When QB Carr reached the line of scrimmage, behind center, the football ruffian was puffing and snorting opposite him. Suddenly, the star Marine linebacker yelled to his teammates, "Watch out for the quarterback-keeper play!"

To paraphrase, "Often you don't realize your good fortune, until it's no longer there." I get the feeling that is how the U-M family and friends will regard a great man and U-M head football coach, Lloyd Carr.

Dale Leslie's tongue-in-cheek offer to Ohio State in his recent letter published in the Columbus Dispatch newspaper.



A victorious Lloyd Carr. Photo by Dale Leslie.

The next time we meet here, what will the circumstances be? Basking in the glow of a second championship in five years? Or, like last year, another January when the days always seem bracing cold and bitterly gray? We'll know soon enough.

Editor:
Editor: Former UM football coach Lloyd Carr is now available to instruct Ohio State on the finer points of beating Florida in football. The Wolverines are 2-0 vs. the Gators, and both victories were earned in challenging bowl games. Ohio State's victory column vs. Florida is one big goose egg.
OSU deserves credit for playing their best against Florida, but they must learn that it's the team that scores the most points that wins.
— Dale R. Leslie
Ann Arbor, Mich.

To read more readers' letters, visit Dispatch.com/mailbox.

Date: I hereby predict many trips to emergency rooms this morning to deal with sore mandibles, readers' jaws dropping fast and hard upon seeing smack talk directed at OSU from a Michigan fan. Glass houses, dude.

Ray: I thought Mike Arace's (Wednesday) column ("Michigan hired for victories, not class") was a premature cheap shot, just because some politicians in West Virginia instigated a lawsuit to ensure collection of his buyout clause doesn't mean that the claim has merit. Why not wait until all the facts are known before hurling stones?
Good-natured ribbing of our nemesis from up north is all well and good, but this column was not good-natured and reeks of classlessness.
— Lou Noble, Columbus

Editor: I would hope that *The Dispatch* would fire Michael Arace for his poison-pen tactics. His type of writing should be in the *National*!



RAY STEIN

Kempf House Museum

312 S. Division St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 994-4894
www.kempfhouse.museum.org

Open House Tours Spring 2008

Sundays, 1:00 to 4:00 PM
Admission Free
Donations Welcome

Parking is available in the large public lot just south of the House

Sunday, March 2, 9, 16 and 30
Sunday, April 6, 13, 20, and 27

Tecumseh Area Historical Museum

Winter heating bills adding up? Want to reduce your water and electric bills? Live in an older home and want to renovate it and be environmentally friendly? Then plan to attend the Tecumseh Area Historical Society presentation by Matt Grocoff about "Preserving your Historic Home While Conserving Energy."

Matt will share what he has learned while restoring a 107-year-old Ann Arbor home. Matt and Kelly Grocoff have developed and implemented an affordable plan to reduce their energy bills while maintaining the historic standards of their home. They have learned that it is possible to reduce their energy consumption without sacrificing quality, performance or comfort.

Come and learn how they did it, Saturday, March 8, 2008 at: 3:00 pm at the Tecumseh Area Historical Museum 302 East Chicago Blvd. Refreshments provided.

Kempf House Museum

Noon Lecture Series • Spring 2008

Wednesdays, noon to 1:00 P.M. Admission, \$2.00 (members, \$1.00)

Parking is available in the large public lot just south of the House.

312 S. Division St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • (734) 994-4898 • www.kempfhousemuseum.org

March 5

Peggie Hollingsworth
*The Davis, Markert,
Nickerson Lectures.*

President of the Academic Freedom Lecture Fund, Dr. Hollingsworth will speak about events at the U-M during the McCarthy era that led the Senate Assembly to establish an annual lecture on academic and intellectual freedom.

March 12

Cara Metz
*History from the Ground Up:
Interpreting Historic-Period
Archeological Sites.*

Cara, Kempf House Operations Director, will talk about her special interest, urban archaeology.

March 19

Christian Roux
*Improving the Quality of Life for
the Walking-Aid Dependent.*
Christian is a long time Kempf House volunteer, local musician and inventor, who uses his talents to help the disabled with novel prosthetics.

March 26

Patricia Chargot
*Reading Newspapers — Important
for Today's Children.*
A *Detroit Free Press* reporter tells why writing for Yak's Corner is her best job yet, and why newspapers need to do more, not less, for kids.

April 2

Judith Anders
Octagon Houses.

Judy, an author and historical researcher, looks at Octagon Houses in general, and the Washington Township Loren Andrus House in particular.

April 9

Grace Shackman
A Tale of Four Villages.

Grace, a local historian, will compare the histories of Saline, Manchester, Dexter, and Chelsea, showing how each has its own personality.

April 16

Duffy Liddicoat
*Central Mine, a Location in the
Keweenaw Peninsula.*

Duffy, who summers at Central Mine, Michigan, will speak about

that ghost town now being brought back to life. This 1853-1898 mining town was close to extinction when the few remaining buildings were restored to represent what life might have been before the mine closed.

April 23

Stephanie White
& George Van Sickle
*Adventures with our Four Footed
Athletes.*

Wilderness experts, this couple has led many groups on exciting trips. One of the most recent was the Iditarod dog sled race of 2007 in Alaska.

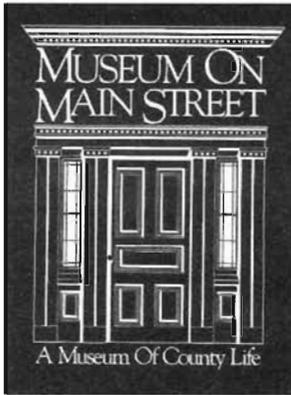
Volunteer Opportunities

Numerous volunteer opportunities are available. If you are interested in getting involved with our historical society, please call 662-9092 and ask for Alice.

Wanted

Early kitchen gadgets, appliances, pictures etc. that you might have around the house for the next exhibit, "The Kitchen 1830-1950." The exhibit will run from March 5 through June 11.

If you would be willing to loan them to us, please contact Alice Cerniglia by phone at 737-662-9092 or by email at wchs-500@ameritech.net.



**WASHTENAW COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

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U.S. Postage

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Ann Arbor, MI
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**SUNDAY • 2 PM
MARCH 16, 2008**

**“WORKING WOMEN’S HISTORY --
PRIOR TO 1918”**

**SPEAKER • SUSAN NENADIC
ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY
343 S. FIFTH AVENUE
ANN ARBOR, MI**

INFORMATION • 734.662.9092

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IMPRESSIONS

MARCH 2008

Program Schedule 2008

**Sunday, March 16 • 2 pm
WORKING WOMEN’S HISTORY—PRIOR TO 1918**

**Speaker • Susan Nenadic
Location • Ann Arbor District Library
343 S. Fifth Avenue, AA**

**Sunday, April 20 • 2 pm
RESTORATION OF ST. HELENA LIGHTHOUSE**

**WITH SCOUT TROOP 4
Speaker • Dick Moehl
Location • Glacier Hills Retirement Community
1200 Earhart Road, AA**

**May 2008
WCHS ANNUAL MEETING
Potluck supper & election of officers.
Date & location to be determined**

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Washtenaw County Historical Society is to foster interest in and to elucidate the history of Washtenaw County from the time of the original inhabitants to the present. Its mission shall be to carry out the mandate as stated through the preservation and presentation of artifacts and information by exhibit, assembly, and publication. And to teach, especially our youth, the facts, value and the uses of Washtenaw County history through exhibits in museums and classrooms, classes, tours to historical places, and other educational activities.