

July 1987

YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

PAST SCENES and OLD TIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY- PUBLICATION-

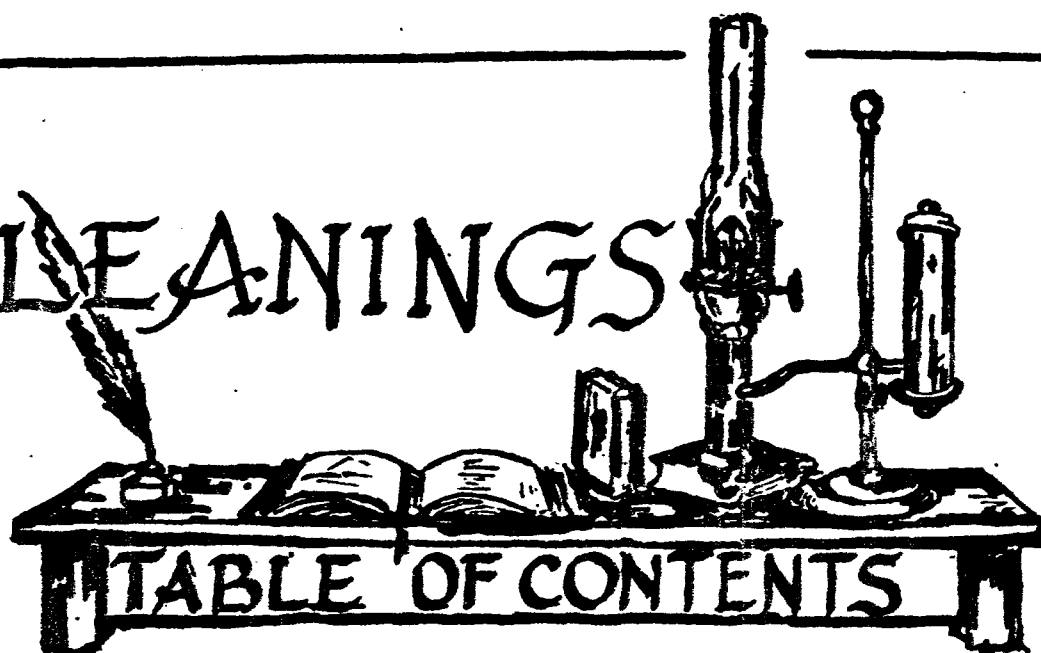


Ypsilanti Historical Museum
- 220 N. Huron Street -

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GLEANINGS



No. 53

July 1987

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Office of Vpsilanti Historical Society is at
220 N. Huron Street, Vpsilanti, Michigan 48197

A Message from the President

Time rolls quite fast when there is so much to do and too few to do it. As you know, time and money have to be considered when working on a budget deadline for the museum.

Since my last oral report at the April 12th meeting, our electrical work has been completed in the basement thanks to Bill Zolkosky and his generosity. Work on the back stairways of the museum are progressing nicely and appear at this time to be what was needed. The outside of the building will have the trim painted which is necessary to preserve the wood from the weather and what money that is left will be used to redecorate the inside rooms downstairs.

Because of a bad financial situation for the city this year, our budget was reduced considerably.

The Board bought two evergreen shrubs and these were planted by the back porch. A marked improvement. The Board purchased flowers to be planted around the front of the house and for a strip of the margin to coincide with the houses on each side of us. Owners of the other houses Gerry Woodside and Chuck Soule. Gerry planted all inside the walk, water and keep the weeds out. Assisting Chuck on the margin was, Ron Miller, Ann McCarthy, Val Franklin and Carolyn McKeever. A truly beautiful sight.

We have had many wonderful acquisitions this past several months with the largest being an 1868 Steinway Grand Piano for our parlor. Given by Mr. Elliot Goldberg of Troy, Michigan. Mr. Goldberg is President of Associates Creative of Troy, It is valued at \$22,000.00.

We have hosted the Mayors Day reception this year with a reception at the Literary Club and then a tour of the museum. A large crowd attended. We also hosted the retirement reception for Joan Helkaa with another large attendance.

Many group tours have been conducted through the museum, not only adults but also children's tours from local schools.

Coming up is the Heritage Festival August 21, 22 and 23, '87. This is a time for fun and hard work for the whole membership. The museum is in the center of all the activity and things come alive in this area.

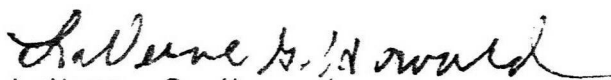
This year we expect to have a Tucker Automobile on exhibit for three days in the yard. Possibly we may have three other Classic cars also for Saturday only. The Tucker will be used in the parade to represent the museum cars by courtesy of Domino's Pizza.

There is something that a lot of us may have forgotten.-
The Lewis House. A little hint. This house belongs to each and
every member of our Historical Society. Get involved, its
yours and mine.

The Lewis House will be open for free tours during the
Festival. Saturday and Sunday 1-5 P.M.

Annual Meeting set for Sept. 20, 1987.

Annual dinner will be November 1, 1987.
Place to be announced.


LaVerne G. Howard
President
Ypsilanti Historical Society

MUSEUM RENOVATION

A contractor is currently re-working the backstairs and basement stairs as part of the on-going renovation/restoration work being done at the Museum. Sometime ago it was determined that the two stairways were out of location as far as the original installation was concerned. The stairway to the second floor has been straightened out and work is nearly complete. The basement stairway is properly torn apart and being worked upon.

When the contractor, Mr. Glen Reynolds, finally disassembled the basement stairway, it was discovered that the entrance from the first floor has, over the years, been in two different locations! However, we are continuing with our first consideration as the original location.. this will be from the hallway at the door of This will be from the hallway at the door of the Archives. This, of course, means re-locating the door to the Archives-office area, which is being done.

Once the work is completed, access to the second floor and to the basement will be very much improved. We are certain everyone will be pleased with the restoration.

GLEANINGS

The Gleanings come out on time in order to bring you the latest information relative to the Museum and the Society. And this comes about in great part due to the efforts put forth by a few people back of the scenes: Billie Zolkosky makes certain that articles are written for each edition, and then types it and has it reproduced. Putting it all together in its final form is the work of several volunteers, but special thanks go to Frank and Rene'e Burgess who show up each edition. Many, many thanks go to all those that contribute to the Gleanings, of which we publish and send out approximately 400.

David R. Gauntlett

FROM THE HISTORIAN'S OFFICE

The collection of reference books in the Historian's Office has recently added the book Great pages of Michigan History from the Detroit Free Press, published by Wayne State University, 1987.

As the preface states: "It is not a textbook history. It is meant to be a scrapbook that pulls together reports of important events, such as Elections and Wars and more subtle events such as Furniture Sales and Movie Openings". It is really glimpses into the past that show what life was like for our Ancestors. The first page is dated September 27, 1832 and the last page bears the date April 15, 1986.

It is a fascinating collection of News stories and you are welcome to come and read it.

Another newly acquired piece is a copy of the notes of the Survey of the Territorial Road, commencing at Timothy Sheldons in Wayne County at the 22½ Mile Road Post of the Chicago Road.

Territorial Road traverses the State from Sheldon on the East to the mouth of the St. Joseph River in Berrian County of the West.

We are always interested in Family Histories to add to our collection and welcome records from family Bibles.

Speaking of Bibles, does anyone know the whereabouts of a Clark Family Bible? The Clark Family lived in Superior Township. Please let us know if you have any information about it.

May 19th was Mayors exchange day. The Mayor and several council members from Bay City toured the Museum.

June 11th we hosted a retirement reception for Joan Helkaa, assistant to the City Manager. She retired after 23 years with the City.

We want to congratulate Hazel Stitt for the honor of being chosen Grand Marshall of the 4th of July parade.

Hazel has maintained many long-time memberships in area clubs including a 67 year charter membership in the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 282, a long time membership in the Pythian Sisters, and 57 year membership in the Business and Professional Women's Club.

She is also a member of the Ypsilanti Historical Society and a loyal guide, the Ann Arbor Edison retirees, where she worked for 39 years, a life long membership in the Congregational Church of Ypsilanti.

Congratulations Hazel on being the first lady Grand Marshall.

Ann McCarthy
Director

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED?

There is a Marker at the northwest corner of Ballard and Emmet Streets which is perhaps one of the least conspicuous and least noticed in the city. It marks the site where once stood the home of the Reverend John D. Pierce, Founder of the Public School System of Michigan. He lived at this address from 1867-1880. The Marker was installed by the Rotary Club of Ypsilanti in 1923.

The Reverend John D. Pierce who was affectionately called Father Pierce, was born February 18, 1797 at Chesterfield, New York and died April 5, 1882 at Marshall, Michigan. He not only devised the first school system for Michigan in January 1837 and held the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction for five years.

In 1850 he was elected a member of the Michigan Constitutional Convention.

In 1852 he delivered the opening of the "Normal School" here in Ypsilanti. A man of many attainments, he has always been considered a guiding light for Eastern Michigan University, and the man for whom Pierce Hall is named.

Doris Milliman
City Historian



MONTH OF MAY-SCHOOL TOURS

Our Museum was very busy during the month of May. This is the month each year when groups of children from local schools are learning about early Michigan and early Ypsilanti history. During this unit of study they plan to visit the Museum to see displays of early artifacts. Most of these groups also enjoyed walking tours of Ypsilanti historical areas and visited the Towner House Children's Museum.

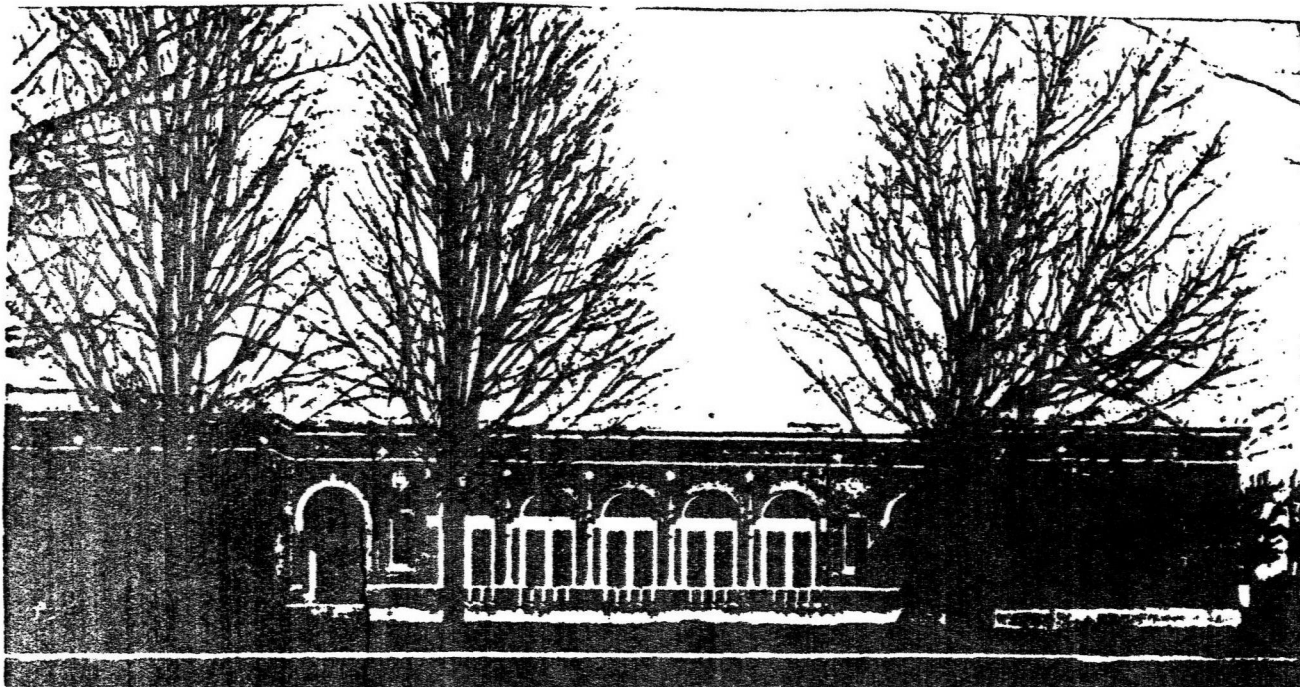
The class levels of the children ranged from second grade through Middle School. Participating schools were: Adams Elementary, Ardis Elementary, Chapelle Elementary, Estabrook Elementary, George Elementary and Edmonson Middle School. Altogether 430 children toured the Museum during the month.

So many school tours required many Museum Guides. These special guides gave freely of their time, patience, and understanding to work with the children and answer their many interesting questions. The following guides were available to help this year:

Betty Tunnicliffe, Marge and David Gauntlett,
Marion Vorce, Mary Bloomquist, Eleanor Lee,
Sue Binder, Dora Reeves, Normajean Anderson,
Billie Wardell, Eva Kelly, Grace Cornish, Kathryn
Howard, Ann Thomas, Charles Morrison, Dottie
Disbrow, Ann McCarthy and Janet Ford.

The Administration Committee wants to thank each of the Guides for their invaluable help. The Museum would not be available to the Community and School children without the Guides.

Marge Gauntlett



MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

The Museum Gift Shop is preparing for Heritage Festival Days in August. We have souvenirs of Ypsilanti and we will have a special selection of Rockdale Stoneware pieces personalized with YPSILANTI. The shop continues to carry the popular Kay Dee linen towels---among them, one of a Michigan design which is very appropriate for Michigan's Sesquicentennial year. We already carry Sesquicentennial buttons, flags and pins.

Remember--Support your Historical Museum by shopping at our Gift Shop. We are open week-ends from 2-4 p.m.

Marge Gauntlett
Gift Shop Chairman



Acquisitions

Mrs. Ann Thorne	3 Directories-Michigan State Normal School 1928, 1930 & 1931
Mrs. John Rosso	3 Pieces of sheet Music
Miss Doris Milliman	Wash stand c.1860- was owned by her Grandfather. Small dish given by City Fuel Company-Ypsilanti.
Paul Chapman Family	2 Pictures of cleanup in Riversi Park approximately early 50's. 1 2-man Cross cut saw
Richard Oltmanns	Hand made gadget for sending coo 1 old flashlight Student Handbook-Ypsilanti High School-1952-53. 1 Certificate-Selling War Stamps 1 Copy of National Currency- National Bank of Ypsilanti.
Mrs. J. Elwell	Scrap Book-Ypsilanti Crime Commission 1973-1975 1 pair Child's Stocking stretche 1 pair Child's Kid gloves 1 Peerless Atlas c. 1901 1 School Cooking Apron- 1923
Miss W.Elliott	4 Napkin Rings and 2 hand made doilies.
Maj. H. M. Senff	Picture of 3rd Grade-Prospect School 1920
Rev. F. Tomsett	Pincking shears
Elizabeth Tschirdt	Gas Mask - W.W.I
Miss Doris Milliman	3 books- Secrets of the House Grandparents, Inc. B.Kissane Grant Street Verse-Paul Hubbell
Lt. Col. Allen D. Butler	9 Pictures found in attic of old house he bought.

Acquisitions

Mrs. Mary Stewart

1 pair grey kid gloves
1 pair grown suede gloves
2 pairs white kid gloves
1 pair silk bloomers
1 lace bra
1 lace short slip
1 cotton purse
2 beaded purses
1 lace runner
4 fans
1 bar soap

Family of Phoebe Miller

Numerous Children's Books
Games
Old style spice boxes and
Tins
Old Pencil Box
Many Hats

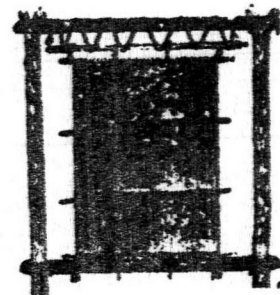
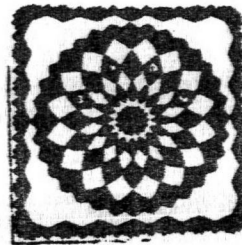
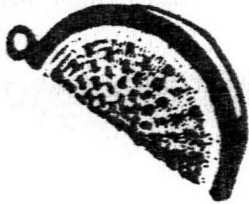
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

CRAFT SHOW

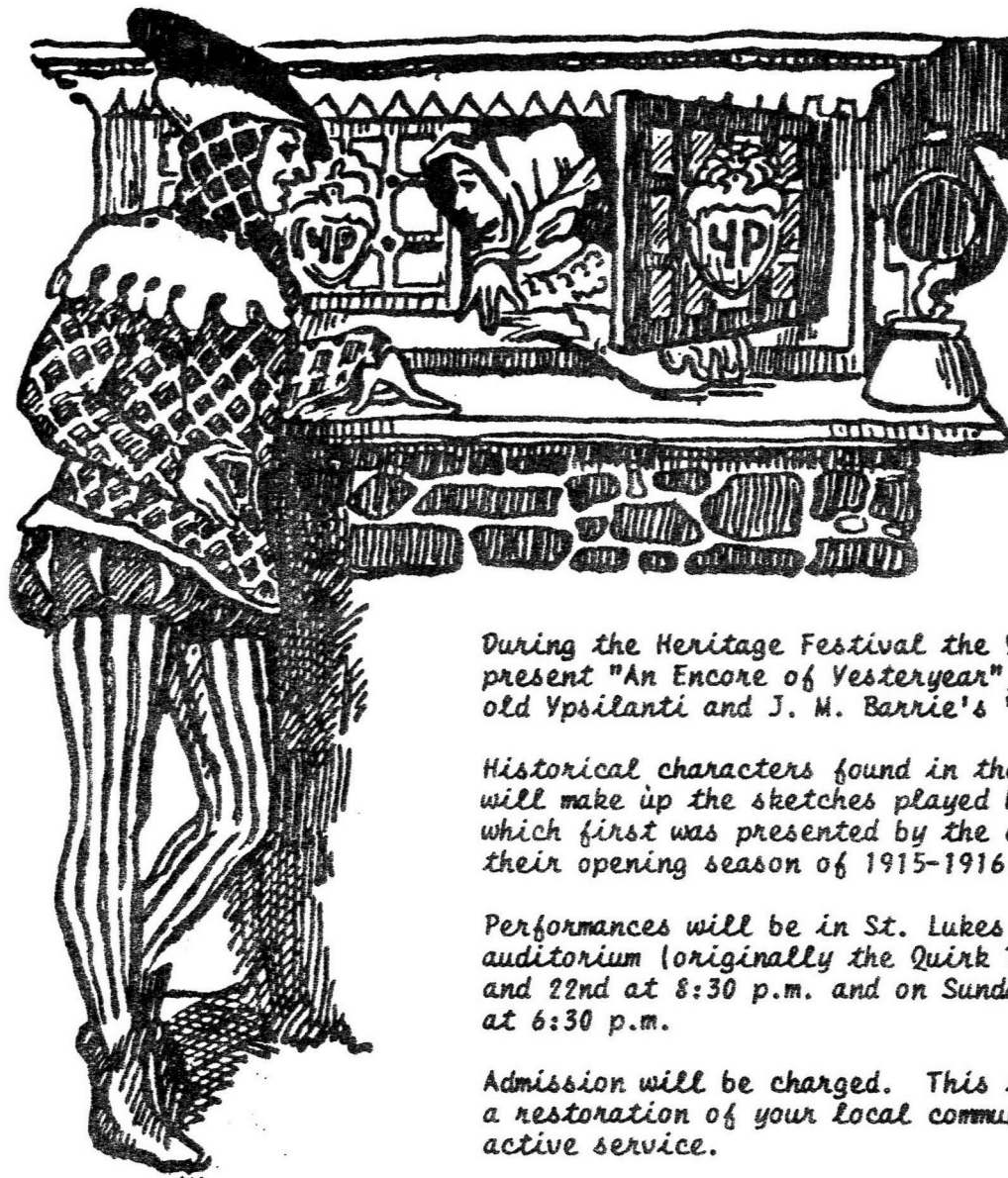
YPSILANTI HISTORICAL MUSEUM

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 1987

10:00 A.M.-----4:00 P.M.



THE YPSILANTI PLAYERS



THE
YPSILANTI
PLAYERS
SESQUICENTENIAL
SHOW

During the Heritage Festival the Ypsilanti Players will present "An Encore of Vesteryear", Dessert and Drama of old Ypsilanti and J. M. Barrie's "The Twelve Pound Look".

Historical characters found in the Ypsilanti Archives will make up the sketches played before the One Act Play which first was presented by the original Players in their opening season of 1915-1916.

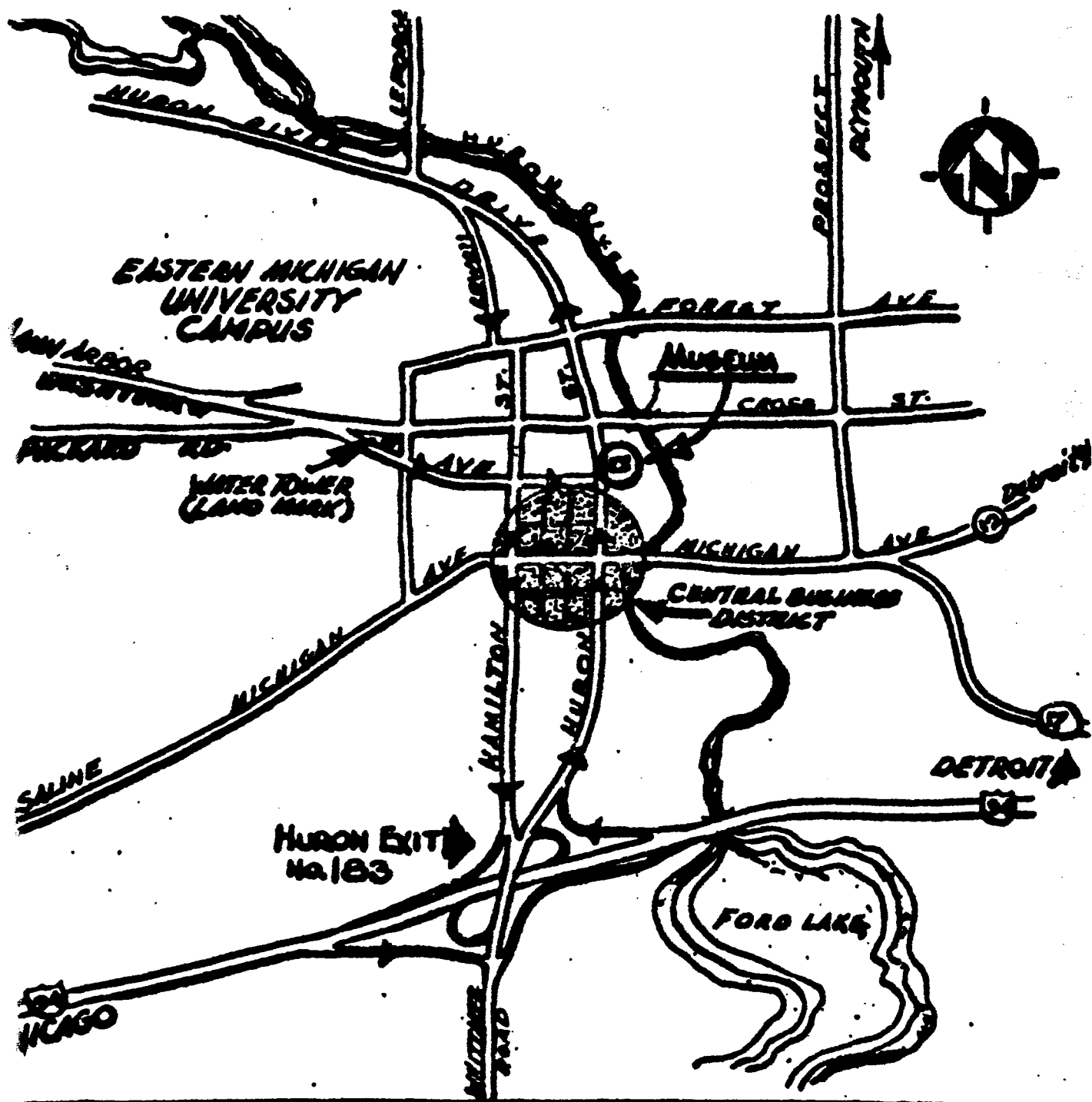
Performances will be in St. Lukes Episcopal Church auditorium (originally the Quirk Theatre) on August 21st and 22nd at 8:30 p.m. and on Sunday, August 23rd, 1987 at 6:30 p.m.

Admission will be charged. This is the beginning of a restoration of your local community theatre to regular active service.

This production is supported by the Michigan Council for the Arts.

We need total community support to again become the group that was so well known in the past.

*Thada Liskow, Secretary
Ypsilanti Players
434-3289*



~ Ypsilanti Historical Museum ~
 220 N. Huron St, Ypsilanti Mi. 48197 ~
 Phone (313) 482-4990

~ Doris Milliman ~
 City Historian
 ~ Billie Zolkosky ~
 Archivist

~ Museum Hours ~
 Fri-Sat. & Sun. 2. to 4. PM.
 ~ Archives ~
 By Appointment