
YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

PAST SCENES and OLD TIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATION

March 1990

No. 64



Ypsilanti Historical Museum
- 220 N. Huron Street -

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DUES ARE DUE THE FIRST OF JANUARY
IF YOU HAVE NOT SENT YOURS IN AND
WISH TO CONTINUE AS A MEMBER, PLEASE
DO SO NOW.

THANK YOU

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
220 NORTH HURON STREET
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197

RENEWAL _____

NEW MEMBER _____

I wish to become a member of the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of:

Individual	\$5.00	_____
Family	\$10.00	_____
Sustaining	\$25.00	_____
Business	\$75.00	_____
Patron	\$100.00	_____
Life	\$1000.00	_____

Signature _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

GLEANINGS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

No. 64

March 1990

President's Letter	Jack Miller	Page 1
Special Information-Endowment	Sharon Patterson	Page 2
Lincoln Consolidated Schools	Doris Milliman	Page 3
New Books	Doris Milliman	Page 4
Philo Ferrier History	Doris Milliman	Page 5
Looking Back		Page 7
Children's Room	by Marge Gauntlett	
Acquisitions		Page 11
News from the Archives		Page 12

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Secretary of Ypsilanti Historical
Society

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Arthur J. Howard

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Office of Ypsilanti Historical is at 220 North Huron
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

President's Message

Dear Members:

We have completed the Lewis House sale and the money received has been deposited into the ENDOWMENT FUND which was created in 1989 by your officers and Board of Directors. The Endowment Fund will perpetuate the Ypsilanti Historical Museum and its activities into the far distant future. We must add to this fund and make it grow and that is where you as a supporter of Ypsilanti's history can help by being a donor to the Endowment Fund. Sharon Patterson will be handling the promotion of the Endowment Fund and information on the fund can be obtained by calling the Museum at 482-4990 and leaving your name and phone number so Sharon can contact you.

Work has been progressing on the costume storage room and it will be completed by spring. Painting and decorating will begin shortly on two of the rooms upstairs that are in need of refurbishing.

Two recent acquisitions which played big parts in the history of Ypsilanti are now on display in the Museum. They are the large curved bronze plaque from the corner of the Ypsilanti Saving Bank Building (now the City Hall) which was removed around 1950. It is a gift of Trustcorp Bank (Now Society Bank). The second item is a corn sheller which was made by the Philo Ferrier & Sons Company on River Street. It is in excellent condition and we are extremely happy to have acquired it through the efforts of one of our members. Stop by the Museum for a visit.

Max's Deli on Michigan Avenue just west of the Huron River has completed a redecoration program which now features photos of downtown Ypsilanti from the late 1800's to 1937. The photos were reproduced from photos from the Archives.

Sincerely,

Jack C. Miller
President
Ypsilanti Historical Society

SPECIAL INFORMATION

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY ENDOWMENT FUND

Dear Patron:

If you donate a dollar to the Ypsilanti Historical Society Endowment Fund, we will never spend it!

WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT FUND?

Our Endowment Fund is monies donated and held in trust as a perpetual endowment for the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.

Why do we need an Endowment Fund ?

We believe the best way to insure the future of our museum is to prepare now for the day when city funds are no longer available to us. We are optimistic the museum can become self-sustaining and want to be prepared when we must fund our own operating expenses.

Who oversees and invests these funds?

Current trustee of the YHS Endowment Fund are Benjamin Koerber, Peter Fletcher and the Honorable John Kirkendall. The trustees oversee the safe investment of all funds entrusted to them.

Why should I consider a contribution to the Endowment Fund?

Primarily, this is an opportunity for us to guarantee the museum will continue to teach and preserve the history of Ypsilanti. We will not spend funds on solicitation, on investment fees or administration. Your money will be a perpetual gift.

Tax experts remind us 50¢ of each dollar donated is a credit on your State Income Tax Return, and the Federal Government also allows us tax exemption of charitable contributions. The actual cost to you (if you are in the 28% federal tax bracket) is 22¢ for each dollar of contribution.

Please consider making a gift in your name or as a memorial. Donors will be inscribed in a "Patron Book" to be kept as a permanent record of your generosity at the Museum. Checks should be made payable to the Ypsilanti Historical Society Endowment Fund.

Thank you for listening. We will keep your gift forever.

Sincerely,

Sharon Patterson

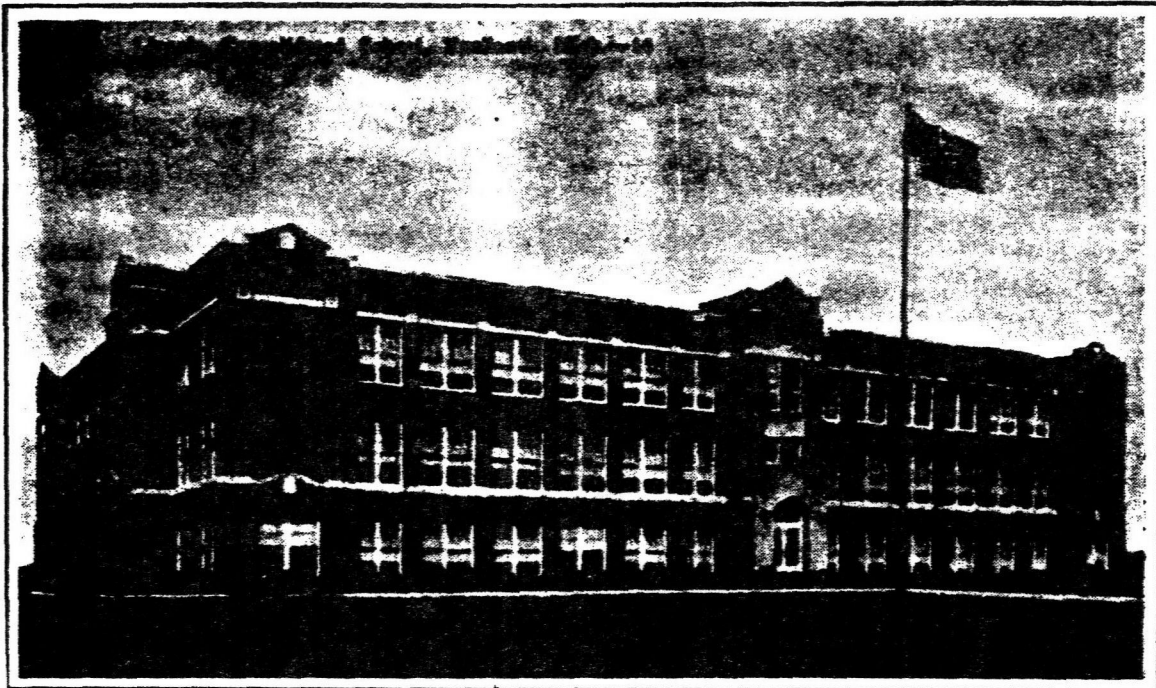
A Scrapbook History Of Lincoln Consolidated
(The Building)
(1924-1961)

Collected and Assembled
by
David S. Flower

The Author has done much research, taken many pictures and has interviewed many people in preparation for this history of Lincoln School.

Lincoln School was first given the name of Rural agricultural School District, Number 1, Fractional. It included the Townships of Ypsilanti and Augusta. The next name associated with the school was the Marvin S. Pittman School, the person who was the founder of the school. However, in 1924 Dr. Pittman asked the school board to reconsider and to give the school another name. (Dr. Pittman was the Head of the Rural Education Department at the Normal College). The Board then chose the name of Lincoln and it was confirmed by the school students.

A part of the book deals with the One Room Schools, some of which have been destroyed, and some have been converted into homes. There are pictures of the schools, maps to locate them, and lists of some of the students who attended the schools. The story of how some of the schools were converted into homes provides interesting reading.



NEW BOOKS

Two books have recently been added to the Archives Department, both of which will be of interest to researchers.

The Wartenbe Genealogy has been donated by the Author, Mary Esther Ford of Shingle Springs, California. It contains the ancestors of William and Catherine (White) Wartenbe of New Jersey, Virginia and Ohio and includes over a hundred family names.

Interurban (Street Car) Buffs will appreciate the book When Eastern Michigan Rode The Rails, Books of the Series Detroit to Jackson and Across The State by Schramm, Henning and Andrews. Especially of interest to us in this area is the Chapter on the building of the Ypsi-Ann, The line between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor which was built in 1890. The cars made the trip every hour and a half and often carried 600 people a day, The fare was Ten cents one way.

The route of the line in Ypsilanti was approved by a Committee and was published in the Ypsilantian. " From the Michigan Central Track on Cross Street to Washington Street and then by a loop line up Washington to Congress (Michigan) and finally out Cross to Ann Arbor Road (Packard) and city limits. The route thus touched the passenger station, the high school and Normal school, the business centers of the city, four churches, and (reach) within one block of two other churches and the Business college (Cleary) and Opera House".

Service was greatly helped by the fact that, while Ann Arbor had 3000 boys, and not many girls, Ypsilanti had 1000 girls at the Normal College. The Street Railway was very busy on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The book is well illustrated and many are Ypsilanti Scenes. Of special interest are those that show three modes of Travel: Street Car, Horse and Buggy and Automobile.



Philo Ferrier

The Ferrier Machine Works, the company that manufactured our recently acquired Corn Sheller, was located near the Railroad, at 308-312 River Street. It is listed in the early City Directories of which the earliest we have is 1873-4:

1873-4 Philo Ferrier and Son(Philo Ferrier, Charles Ferrier) Founders and Machinists, e.s. River, s of R.R. Depot. Philo lived at 16 River.

1878 Ferrier & Son, Manufacturers of Mill Machinery. S.E. Corner River and M.C.R.R. Philo lived at 16 River.

1894 Philo Ferrier res. 301 River. Pres.Ypsilanti Machine Works.

1918 Ypsilanti Machine Works 308-312 River Gertrude Ferrier, V.P. and Charles was Secretary and Treasurer. The President was then George Walterhouse.

Miss Gertrude Ferrier lived in an attractive brick house at 306 N. Adams until her death in 1947. Her brother, Charles and his wife lived at the same address until their deaths.

Dec 17,1820

Nov 15,1912



Philo Ferrier

Philo Ferrier, one of the oldest residents of Ypsilanti and the last surviving member of Ypsilanti's first council died after a short illness Friday. He was born in Bath, Steuben County, N.Y., December 17, 1820. In 1844 he was married to Maria E. Munson of Pontiac and located in Detroit, then a city of about ten thousand inhabitants. He was then engaged in mill building in adjacent towns and also for a time connected with the old Detroit Locomotive Works.

He located in Ypsilanti permanently in 1857, having come to finish the original Presbyterian Church begun by his brother John, who died leaving it unfinished. Later he engaged in the foundry business with M.L. Shutts. He was married in 1859 to Mary L. Brown. He was the last surviving member of the first council of Ypsilanti, 1858, a charter member of Lodge 128 F.& A.M., and was made a member of Ann Arbor Commandary, No. 13, June 23, 1868.

Mr. Ferrier was a man of wide reading and progressive ideas, and to the last days of his life kept his interest in all the affairs of the day. He had voted for 18 presidents and was able to go to the polls last week, where he voted for Woodrow Wilson and equal suffrage. From early manhood he had been a close friend and companion of the late D.L. Quirk, who was two years his senior.

Mr. Ferrier often recalled the old days when he was a member of the first common council of Ypsilanti, and some time ago he made a list of this original governing body of the city and discovered that of the nine members of the council he was the only one living.

The names of the first governing body in Ypsilanti were given by Mr. Ferrier as follows:

Mayor- Chauncey Joslyn	Clerk-John McReady
Register-Charles Tisdale	Supervisor-James Forsythe
Aldermen-Issac Crane	Benjamin Follett
David Edwards	James Chidester
A.F. Welch	Robert Lambie
Philip Eddington	Charles Stuck
Philo Ferrier	

The date of this first council was believed by Mr. Ferrier to have been 1858.

Mr. Ferrier is survived by a widow, a son, Charles P. Ferrier, two daughters, Mrs. Lucy Orcutt and Miss Gertrude Ferrier, and a sister, Mrs. Mary Rowe of Boise, Idaho.

Funeral services will be held at the residence Monday afternoon at three o'clock, conducted by the Rev. William H. Gardam.

The above Notice appeared in the local newspaper.

Looking Back
1890's

1890-Water first pumped from new well into new resevoir tower.
96 pounds pressure at pump required at new Flower Pump.
(First Annual report of Board of Water Commissions) System
was installed by W.R.Coates Co.

Meeting held at home of T.L. Towner (303 N. Huron) to organize
Ypsilanti Building Association. J.N. Wallace, C.M.Hemphill,
and H.H. Goodwin, Committee.

1891-Barton House sold at an Auction to F.W. Cleveland for building
to be cleared by April 18th.(N.W. Corner Washington & Pearl Streets)

1891-Michigan Central began passing out Bouquets to Ladies on Train,
Began on Trains #10 and #22.

In a Diary of the Period, Mrs. S.J.Norton wrote "The Old Methodist
Church is nearly torn down to make room for the new brick one".

1892-The work of removing the bodies from Prospect Street Cemetery has
been completed. Keeley Institute established in Ypsilanti.

The above items were found in a chronological file compiled by
Mr. Lewis White, Ypsilanti's first Historian.





This is the first of a series of articles written for you to read and enjoy and perhaps to learn a little more about your City Museum. This house museum is a wonderful example of the Victorian home. It exudes warmth and charm and gives one the feeling it might still be occupied, particularly at special times when the house is filled with people who care.

In the Gleanings this month I am describing the Children's Room which is upstairs in the northeast corner of the house. Future articles will be written about other interesting areas of this house. Through these articles we hope to renew your interest and motivate you to visit us more often. Life in the Victorian Era was interesting and often exciting.

This particular article will tell you a little about the children's room or day nursery. Here the children of the family played and were allowed to be noisy and move about freely. The rocking horse was popular, playing games was fun and dolls were wonderful! The children could play "house" and imitate family activities with the dolls serving as their "children".

There are many toys in the room. The shelves in one corner hold games and books which were popular. Some games are called Grandma's Riddle, Dominoes, Puzzles, Grandma's Useful Knowledge, Flags and Crandall's Expression Blocks.

Books and games were treasured by children of this era and were treated with care and respect. They were not easily obtained for all children. Much of the content of early books was concerned with moral teaching, religion and etiquette until 1865 when Lewis Carroll introduced his book Alice in Wonderland. In 1876 Mark Twain published Tom Sawyer followed soon by Huckleberry Finn. These books introduced a new concept of children's life and were the precedent for fun and nonsense. A few examples of our books for children are: Round About Tales, Wee Girls and Boys, Teddy Bears, Mother Goose and Children At Home.

At the far end of this pleasant room the "nanny" or children's nurse is sitting in a rocking chair where she can watch over all activities. She is a Martha Chase manikin as is the life size baby doll she holds in her lap. Martha Jenks Chase was the daughter of a physician. She created dolls beginning in 1889 from stockinette and cloth and painted them in oils. Some dolls were fully painted and washable and some were designed for use in hospital training programs. The children's nurse was very important in the Victorian family. She was responsible for much of the children's training especially in large families.

The dolls in the children's room are reminiscent of the late 1800's and early 1900. We are fortunate to have several china head dolls. The heads were made of glazed china with painted hair and faces. The hair style of these dolls often helps to identify the approximate year they were produced. The bodies were of cloth or leather and the limbs of china or leather. The earliest china dolls had brown eyes. Blue eyes were popular later.

Our doll collection also boasts some lovely dolls with heads made of bisque (unglazed china). These dolls have wigs and open-close eyes and leather bodies. Many of these dolls were first made in Germany and imported by the United States. Some began appearing about 1860. At first these dolls were made in Germany in homes with the whole family involved. This was later expanded to a cottage industry where one family painted faces, another made bodies, others stuffed and sewed, while another family costumed the dolls. Eventually factories opened employing the hometown specialists. Patents were obtained and competition grew. In our children's playroom the dolls are having a tea party with tiny cups and saucers of china made especially for their little hands.

We are also fortunate to have Flossie in our doll family. She was made only in the year 1873-1874. She was created of hard rock maple, has mortise and tenon joints and metal hands and feet. She is dressed appropriately according to the late 1800's.

There are several items of doll furniture to help a little girl play house such as a Schoenhut piano introduced about 1872, several doll cradles and a dresser with a mirror.

Boys were interested in outdoor play and you can see examples such as ice skates and sleds. The skates were made of wood and leather. Toy Wagons, blocks, tin soldiers, a drum and some hand made marbles are also exhibited. Toy vehicles such as trucks and fire engines were made of tin and iron. Noah's Ark was a popular toy. We now have two on exhibit one from the late 1800 and another one early 1900.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about the Children's Room in the Museum.

Come and visit us soon. See for yourself the wonderful artifacts we have accumulated within the Museum for you to enjoy.

Marjorie Gauntlett

Acquisitions

1 Wooden Doll

Mrs. Bancroft Brien

Miscellaneous Doll Clothes

Mrs. Ralph Muncy

Doll, Porcelain Bowl, 2 Bars
Fels Naptha Soap, 2 Bars of
Cream Laundry Soap

Mrs. Marlene Barr

Noah's Ark

Mr. & Mrs. H. Berg

Bronze Plaque from Ypsilanti
Savings Bank

Mr. Gayle DesPréz

1 Horseman Doll

Mrs. M. Gauntlett

1 Ideal Doll

E.M. U. Calendar 1903
(Michigan Normal School)
1 Beer Bottle-Hock Brewery

Mr. Earnest Griffin

1-1880 Corn Sheller made
by Philo Ferrier & Sons

Obtained by Earnest Griffin
and Jack Miller

News from the Archives Office:

Greetings to All;

It won't be long before Spring will be here, the ice and snow will be gone and we shall look forward to the aphids and weeds in our gardens. But at least that won't be slippery which brings to your attention "the Gleanings" is not late we just missed an edition as I slipped on the ice and broke my arm." I am doing fine. Mr dependable assemblers (Frank & Renee Burgess) stopped twice to see if work was to be completed. All I could say was as soon as I can get to it. One step ahead and two behind, well the world goes on and we shall continue onward and forward.

You will find a notice on DUES in your Gleanings, please fill it out and send them in as soon as possible. Some have sent them in already and we certainly thank you for that.

We have had several visitors from our of town that is doing research. It has been a busy time which is a little unusual for this time of the year.

Grace Cornish just showed me a beautiful hand made lace fan. She is in working on the fan display today. Do come and see them. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we used fans today like they used to use. Where would one get one and what a price we would have to pay. Our Valentine display is still in place.

Marge has some very nice articles for sale in the Gift Shop. Don't forget Easter is coming and she has some bunnies and Easter gifts.

As I look out my window the squirrels are chasing each other in the snow and chasing the birds away from the feeders. Hang on birds your day will come.

We are sorry to say the Karl Tunnicliffe died on November 20, 1989. Mr. Tunnicliffe was a dedicated member of the Society and Museum for many years. Betty, his daughter died on the 23rd of February, 1990. Betty was also a member of the Society and had been a docent since returning from California several years ago to take care of her father. We have some articles for dolls that she had knit. We will miss them both.

Do drop in to see the displays in the Museum.

Billie Zolkosky
Archivist

MUSEUM ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Grace Cornish

Virginia Davis

Marjorie Gauntlett

Eileen Harrison

Kathryn Howard

Betty Kerr

Ann McCarthy

Billie Wardell

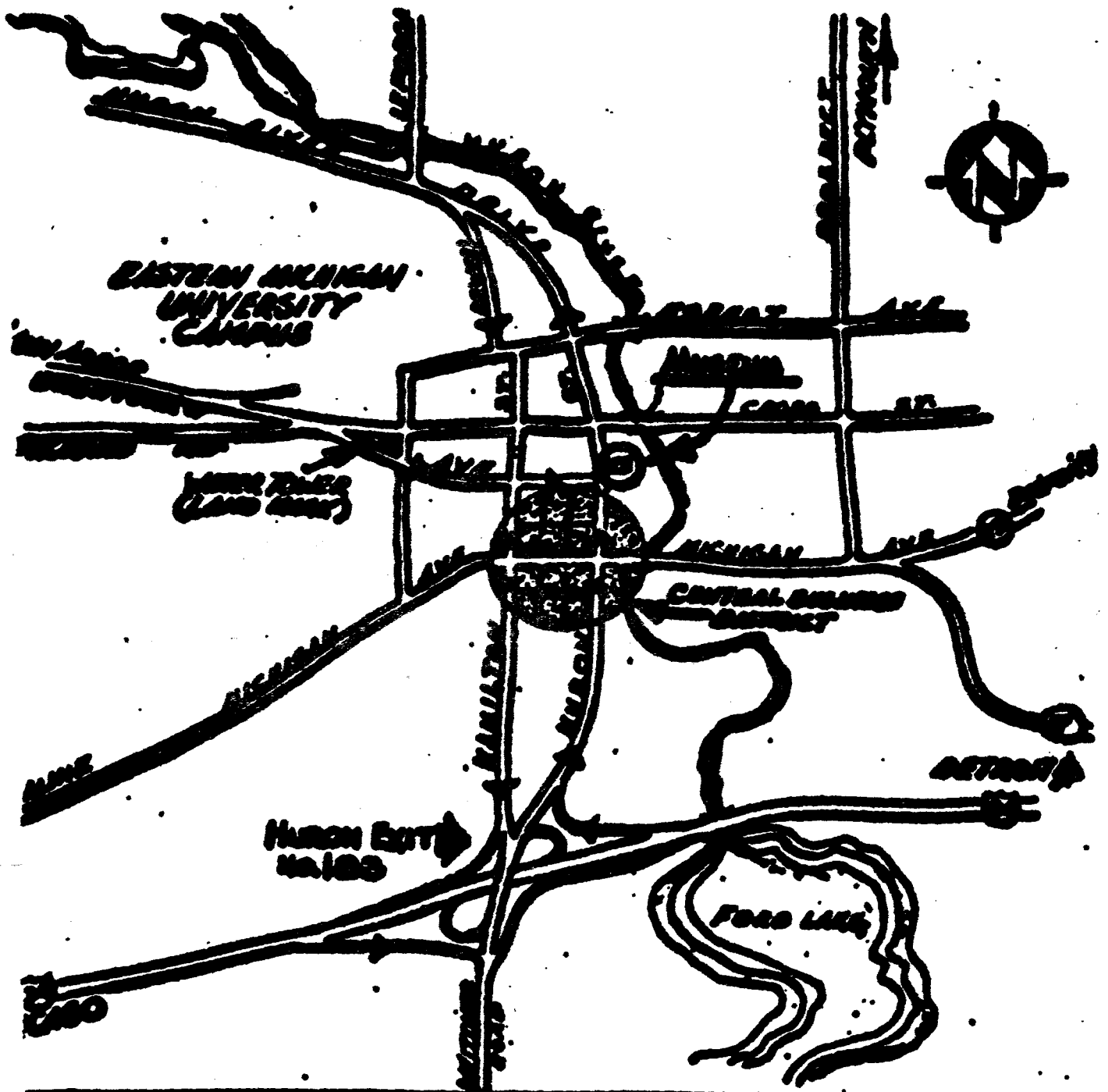
Doris Milliman, Chairman



YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Earnest Griffin 1200 Harris Road	482-8029

Board Meetings are held the
First Thursday of each month
at 7:30 p.m. at the Museum



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

~ Denis Milliman -
 City Historian
 ~ Billie Zolkosky -
 Archivist

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