

# YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

PAST SCENES and OLD TIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATION

December 1989

No. 63



Ypsilanti Historical Museum  
- 220 N. Huron Street

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Ypsilanti, Michigan  
Permit No. 399

MUSEUM CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

220 North Huron Street

December 10, 1989

2 to 5 P.M.

PUBLIC INVITED

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

DO COME FOR A PLEASANT SOCIAL TIME AMID

CHRISTMAS

DECORATIONS

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It's Christmas Time

The Museum will be decorated with a Victorian Theme by Kathryn Howard and her Committee. One feature of the decorations will be a Creche that was carved in the Holy Land and is loaned for display by Ron Miller.

The Christmas Tree will follow the Theme of the Museum decorations and will be done by members of the Administration Committee.

Open House will be held Sunday, December 10th from 2-5 p.m. The Museum will also be open December 14th & 15th from 7 - 9 p.m., for visiting those evenings. It will be festive as one enters the building through a walk of Luminaria. Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Osborn will place the sand filled bags with the lighted candles inside as a beacon of light for all visitors both evenings and on Sunday, December 10th.

Doris Milliman  
Historian

Dear Members;

In case you did not make it to our Annual dinner on November 12th, all of us who attended had a great time. Our program speaker, Dr. William Shelton, the new President of Eastern Michigan University presented us with an excellent program. He was accompanied by his lovely wife, Sharon.

We honored Ann McCarthy and Arthur Howard for their many years of dedicated work to the Ypsilanti Historical Society and Museum. It is a privilege to work with such fine people. Plans are underway for the holiday season at the Museum in conjunction with the Festival of Lights in Riverside Park and Victorian Christmas in Depot Town. Our Museum will be open for two evenings. The parlor of the Museum will be even more beautiful than ever as we have purchased a very large Christmas Tree to use in the Museum during the holiday seasons in the future.

Please watch the local papers and the "Gleanings" for dates and time of events during the holiday season.

Jack Miller  
President, Ypsilanti Historical Society

## YPSILANTI HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

Continued from the Gleanings August 1989

Foster L. Fletcher, a lifetime resident, brought with him for the task, his wife Mary S. Fletcher, A graduate of the University of Wisconsin as a History Major. The Fletchers set up Street Guides for the oldest City directories and took pictures of sites and structures of historical significance. Mrs. Fletcher died in 1968 before the project was completed, but those that were done are invaluable in the collection.

John Burton was Ypsilanti's first black Mayor and at that time he was one of only two black Mayors in the United States. While Mr. Burton was Mayor in 1967-1968, he offered the Barnes-Ross House which the City owned at 220 N. Huron Street to the City to use as a Museum and house the Archives.

An architect did a study of the House and wrote a description of what it would cost to repair and remodel the building. He estimated \$14,000.00 to which the City Manager, John Cartwright agreed and asked that the money be spent over two fiscal years. The Historical Commission, with Arthur J. Howard as Chairman, agreed and the change from the eight apartments to a Museum was done with most of the house being used as a Museum and the Archives still cramped for space.

When the Ypsilanti Sesquicentennial Celebration began to be planned in 1972, the Archives were the main place for research and more people became aware of the need for more space in that area.

After all accounts of the Sesquicentennial were settled, Bradley Harris, as Chairman of the Historical Commission and the Historian were successful in having \$2,300.00 given for use in the Archives. William P. Edmunds, President of the Historical Society with the help of his wife, Councilwoman, Natalie Edmunds, obtained funds for the alteration of the last apartment in the Barnes-Ross House to house the Archives. Architect Ward Swartz drew the plans for the rooms making more space available for files and for working space. Thus Forty years Louis S. White began his collecting, the Archives are housed in pleasant rooms with an outside entrance.

The Archives represents one of the few places in the County where documents and historical material can be deposited and preserved.

The above article was originally written by Mrs. Dorothy Disbrow when she was the Archivist. It has been rewritten by Doris Milliman in an abbreviated form with her permission.

Further material to be found in the Archives:

- Biographical Card File started by Louis S. White
- Records of several clubs in the City
- Many Diaries, Scrapbooks, etc.      Family Genealogies
- Indexes to Family Bibles              Back Copies of Gleanings
- Black History File by A.P. Marshall

## THE REST OF THE STORY

The Silver Megaphone in the Ypsilanti Room at the Museum has often puzzled viewers. Now you will know the story.

The Megaphone was awarded to the East Side Fire Department sometime around 1865-Long before the Fire Station on Cross Street was built. The Department competed in a contest to see which Unit could shoot water the farthest with a hand pump. The Ypsilanti Station was declared the State Champion in the meet which was held in Jackson. Mr. D.E. Thompson was Fire Chief at the Time.

### Hair Wreaths or Hair Pictures

We have recently received a Hair Picture from Dr. Marcia Potter which will be seen on the wall in the Museum's White Room.

Some research on the subject revealed the following information.

Hair Wreaths or Hair Pictures were a popular form of the Arts during the early Eighteenth Century and until 1890. Flowers, Fruits and Portraits were woven from Human Hair which was mounted in a frame and often hung on a wall.

A Mourning Picture was sometimes made from the hair of a dear departed, but not always, because the supply might have been too limited.

Love Tokens and Baby Hair in Locketts were also popular.

Mrs. Betty Kerr has repaired both the Picture and the Large Gilt Frame.

Doris Milliman

ACTIVITY and ENJOYMENT

Would you like to serve the Historial Society?

It is a gratifying experience and help is always needed.

Would you like to be

A Docent?

A Board Member?

A member of the Administration Committee?

A helper for the Historian?

Anything else that interests you?

Just call Doris Milliman at 482-4990 and let us know.

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CRAFT SHOW

The Administration Committee sponsored a successful Craft Show October 21st, when about 15 people demonstrated the Craft of their interest.

Among the demonstrators were:

Virginia Davis	Rug Hooking
Billie Wardell	Quilting
Kathryn Howard	Needlepoint
Kathy Campbell	Lace Making
Carrie Huston	Tatting
Eileen Harrison	Clothes Pin Dolls
LeAnn Racine	Weaving

Nearly 100 people viewed the demonstrations. The Committee furnished lunch.

It was a very satisfactory day!

Doris Milliman

Ypsilanti Historical Society  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 7, 1989

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:35 p.m., by the Vice President, Sharon Patterson.

President Jack Miller was excused. 8 members were present.

Minutes of August 3rd meeting were read and accepted.

Treasurer's report was presented and placed on file.

Sharon reported Land Contract on Nanry Estate had been paid off and we should be getting the Nanry money soon!  
She also reported the roof on the Lewis House needs to be replaced and Mr. Greene is requesting an amount be deducted from purchase price. Mr. Barr will meet with Mr. Green's attorney.  
Endowment fund is still in progress.

Doris reported we had about 300-400 Visitors at Festival Time, this was down considerably from the past years.  
Craft Show will be held October 21st.

Bill Edmunds made a motion a letter be sent to the Heritage Festival Committee re: The Museum was left off the Map. Consequently our attendance was down, also our hours were cut down. Doris seconded and motion was carried.

A request for a book "White Triangle" was made.

Sharon talked about seating for Annual meeting, seats will be set up in the parlors.  
Reports should also be ready. A request again for the future costume room be made ready so we can use it.

Carroll Osburn made a motion to raise the dues.

He suggested:

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

Bill Edmunds amended motion to read Jr. member \$1.00. It was seconded and motion carried. It will be presented to the Annual Board meeting and then voted on at the Annual Dinner.

Doris suggested a recognition to outgoing Board members.  
Suggestion from Bill Edmunds to have a Building committee for the Museum.

Page 2 September Board Meeting.

Bill Ealy suggested the lawn should be taken care of regularly.  
This will be left to the new Board to take care of.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Zolkosky, Secretary  
of Ypsilanti Historical Society



Annual Meeting of Ypsilanti Historical Society  
September 18, 1988

The Annual meeting of the Ypsilanti Historical Society was called to order by Dr. William Edmunds, September 18, 1988 at the First Presbyterian Church at 2:05 p.m.

He announced LaVerne Howard passed away this morning. The was a shock to everyone.

Minutes of the meeting of 1987 were read and accepted.

Treasurer's report was read and placed on file.

Dr. Edmunds gave a Eulogy in memory of David GAuntlett who had passed away recently and had given freely of many hours and years of service to the Museum.

A Prayer was offered.

Dr. Edmunds read LaVerne's report of the progress of the past year. A ramp is to be installed to the basement so it will be wheel chair accessible and it could then be used as a meeting room.

Bill reported with considerable regret the Lewis House Board recommended the sale of Lewis House. It was stated to sell to an appropriate owner who would maintain property in its own integrity. Requesting permission to sell to best bidder who would preserve building in its present structure. John Barr has graciously consented to serve as the Attorney for the sale of the house. Ron Miller made motion to sell, Mike Miller seconded, Motion carried. Jack Miller stated house in facing many repairs. Art Howard had taken care of it for many year. The Insurance and repairs are getting out of hand.

Sharon Patterson suggested establishing an Endowment Trust Fund of Ypsilanti Historical Society, a non-investment fund. Proceeds can be used to support Museum and Society. John Kirkendall, Peter Fletcher and Ben Koerber would be named as Trustees. Copies of Trust Agreements are available today and copies can be obtained at the Museum Office.

Election of Officers was held: Marge Gauntlett, Mary Miller, Rex Richie were elected and Carroll Osburn has been re-elected.

Bill Edmunds turned the meeting over to Jack Miller.

After a few words, the meeting was adjourned and every one had some delicious refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Zolkosky, Secretary

Ypsilanti Historical Society  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 5, 1989

The meeting of the Ypsilanti Historical Society Board of Directors was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President Jack Miller.

Minutes of September meeting were read and accepted.

Treasurers report was read and placed on file.

Jack Miller was re-elected to be President for another year. Herb Cornish graciously accepted the nomination of Vice President, with his first duties "The Annual Dinner" November 12, 1989.

Bill Ealy brought up the issue of raising dues, question about Patron's classification and would it be \$100.00 per year? It will be voted on at the Annual Dinner.

Old Business: There is nothing new on the Nanry money, question was asked if the interest would also be turned over to the Museum, Jack stated it would.

The Appraiser has been attempting to have entrance to Lewis House for Mr. Greene. Jack has been unable to contact Suzanne Allen. New Contract is being drawn up-Sale will be for \$96,000.00. It was voted to give Mr. & Mrs. John Barr 2 complimentary tickets for the Annual Dinner in appreciation for his efforts with the Lewis House.

Doris reported the Craft show is October 21st, she will need assistance on October 20th. The sign is to be placed on the porch.

Marge Gauntlett is going to have a Workshop November 3, 1 at 9:30 in the morning and another at 7:00 in the evening. Anyone desiring to attend is welcome.

Carroll Osburn suggested the Society should look into a professional director in the future. Perhaps we could sign up with another Museum and share the time. A Professional would be able to assist in obtaining new members and could be an asset to the Museum. This is in the future so we would have sufficient time to check it out.

Open House is December 10th, Sunday from 2-5 p.m.  
Board members should attend.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Zolkosky, Secretary for the Ypsilanti Historical Society

Gift Shop Tid Bits:

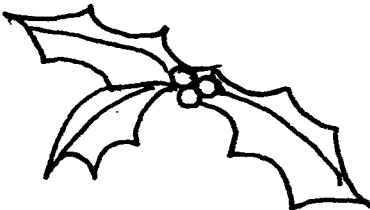
BE SURE TO PLAN AHEAD AND ADD TO YOUR HOLIDAY EXPERIENCES BY ATTENDING THE MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE Sunday, December 10th from 2 - 5 p.m.

Come and see the Victorian Decorations and Christmas Tree provided by our volunteers of the Historical Society. If you wish you may even ride a horse drawn wagon from Depot Town to the Museum as Depot Town will also be celebrating a Victorian Holiday.

Our Museum will be open two special evenings during the Holiday season: Thursday December 14th and Friday December 15th from 7 - 9 p.m. Come and view our Victorian Mansion alight with Candles and Decorated for Christmas.

and.....Don't forget to shop at the Little Museum Gift Shop during these special hours as Christmas items have been added to our inventory. We are also open the usual hours Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 2 - 4 p.m.

Marge Gauntlett



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL.

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# Acquisitions

2 Purses  
1 Metal Cracker Box

Lewis Estate

1 Sword

John Renton

Daguerrrtype Picture  
Location unknown

Mrs. Rhena Gallenstein

Small bottle  
"Spalsbury Central Drug Store"

Ernest Griffin

Wedding Dress of  
Mrs. Alex Nulan

Mrs. U.A. Cadarette

Numerous Glass Negatives  
from the past

Mrs. Clayton Hopp

**News from the Archives Office**

The birds have returned to the feeder outside my window as well as the squirrels now that winter is descending upon us. It is still a pleasant view.

What an enjoyable evening was had by all who attended the Annual Dinner. It was nice to see so many of our members and friends.

Our speaker Dr. William E. Shelton was introduced by our own eloquent locutionist Peter B. Fletcher. To those who have not heard Dr. Shelton you missed an excellent program.

The Board of Directors has presented Ann McCarthy with a lovely Ypsilanti Commemorative Pitcher with a floral arrangement for the many years of service to the Museum.

Jack Miller gave a special tribute to Arthur J. Howard for the many hours of service and the years of tender loving care for the Lewis House.

Dates to remember: First of January dues are due and payable.

Individual	\$5.00
Family	\$10.00
Sustaining	\$25.00
Business	\$75.00
Jr. Member	\$1.00

Christmas is almost here. Remember the Museum and Archives will be CLOSED from December 22nd until January 2nd, 1990.

Everyone have a Happy Christmas and a Bountiful New Year.

See you in January of 1990. Wow, the years sure slip by in a hurry!!

**Billie Zolkoosky**

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Board of Directors

Jack C. Miller 710 Helen	President 487-3954
Herbert Cornish 830 W. Clark Road	Vice President 482-2108
Billie Zolkosky 1565 S. Congress #28	Secretary 482-8443
William Ealy 1587 S. Congress #37	Treasurer 483-2977
Doris Milliman 1116 Grant Street	Historian 483-3236
Marjorie Gauntlett 204 N. Wallace Blvd.	483-1876
Peter Fletcher 25 S. Huron Street	483-1896
Rex Richie 1065 Maplewood	484-1510
Special Appointees to the Board of Directors.	
Dr. William P. Edmunds 1303 Westmoorland	482-5218
Ron Miller 530 Cliffs	482-4365
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

MUSEUM ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Grace Cornish

Virginia Davis

Marjorie Gauntlett

Eileen Harrison

Kathryn Howard

Betty Kerr

Ann McCarthy

Billie Wardell

Doris Milliman, Chairman

**IT ISN'T EASY...**

To apologize.

To begin again.

To admit error.

To be unselfish.

To face a sneer.

To be considerate.

To endure success.

To keep on trying.

To profit by mistakes.

To forgive and forget.

To think and then act.

To keep out of the rut.

To make the best of little.

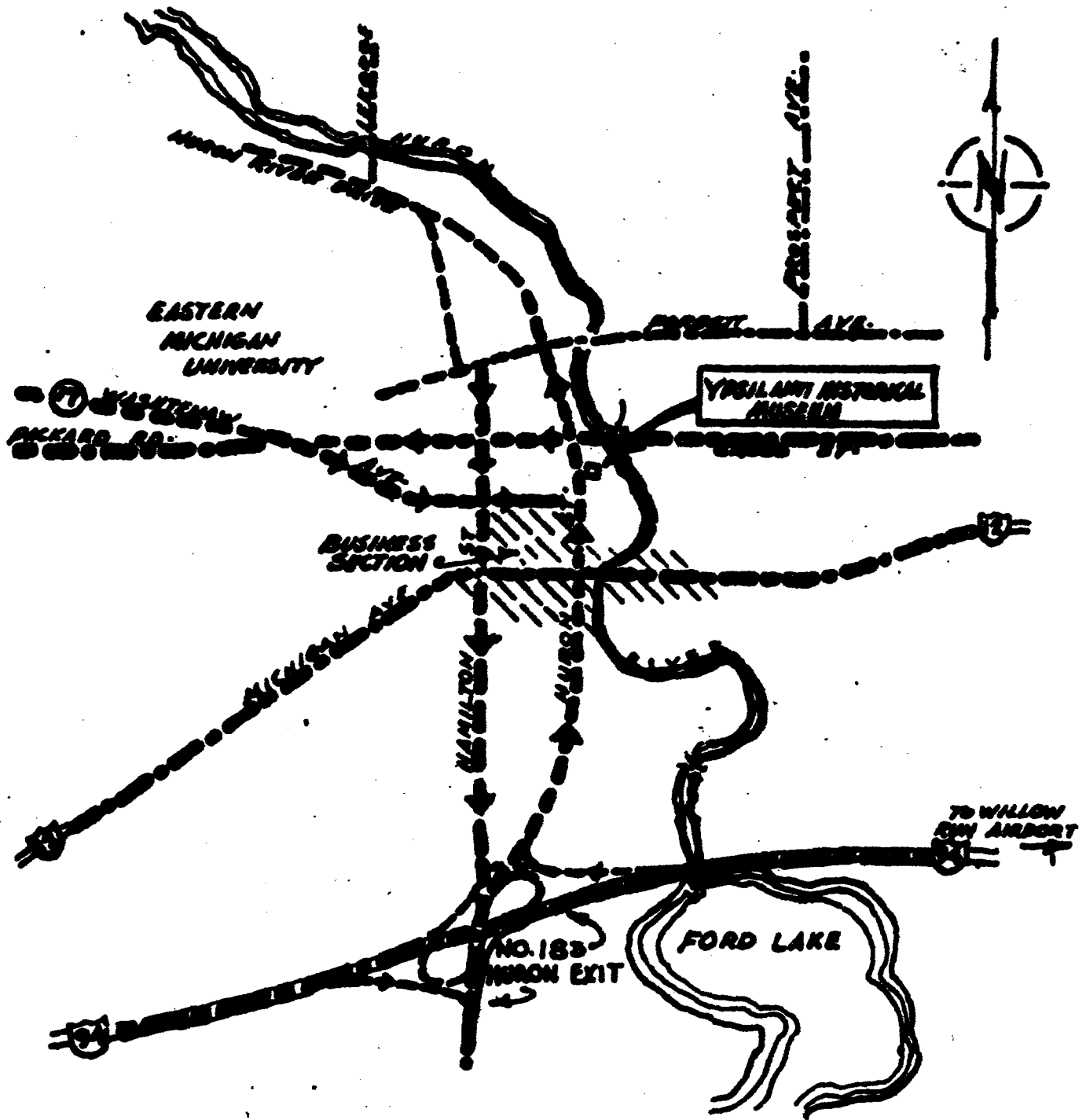
To shoulder deserved blame.

To subdue an ugly temper.

**BUT IT'S WORTH IT!!!**







## CITY OF YPSILANTI MICHIGAN

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL MUSEUM-220 N. HURON STREET

PHONE: (313)482-4990

DORIS MILLIMAN  
CITY HISTORIAN

BILLIE ZOLKOSKY  
ARCHIVIST

MUSEUM HOURS  
THURSDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
2 to 4 P. M.

ARCHIVES  
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY  
9 to 12 NOON

*Handwritten signature*