PSILANTI GLEANINGS PAST SCENES and OLDTIMES

(PSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY- PUBLICATION-

AUGUST 1990

No. 66



Ypsilant i Historical Museum
- 220 N-Huron Street-

NON-PROFIT ORG

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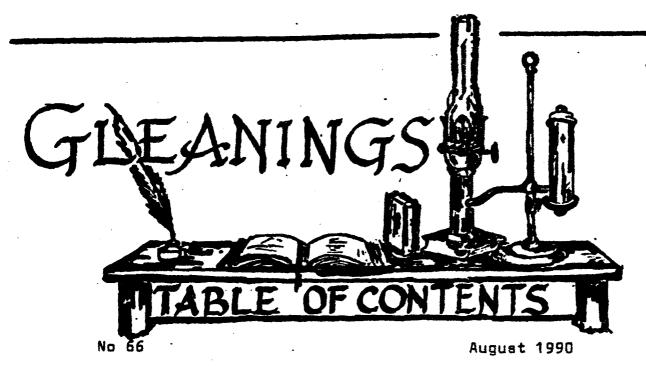


AT

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL MUSEUM
220 North Huron



Welcome Visitors!!



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Contributors: Doris Milliman, City Historian Billie Zolkosky, Archivist and

Secretary of Vpsilanti Historical

Society

Cover design and Table of Contents designed by:

Arthur J. Howard

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Office of Ypsilanti Historical Society is at 220 North Huron Street

Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Notes from your President:

DEar Members:

The 1990 Ypsilanti Heritage Festival is now behind us. The Museum had some very interesting demonstrations for visitors to see plus we displayed a 1961 Corvair which was made at the Willow Run Assembly plant. The car was loaned to us by Bette White who is the DEan of Women at Eastern Michigan University and a Ypsilanti Township resident.

Herb and Grace Cornish have finished the costume room upstairs and it should be in use soon. Some of the materials used were donated to the Museum.

We have two important meetings coming up in the near future on SEptember 16th and November 18th. Election of officers and directors is also coming up at the SEptember meeting and if you are asked to serve, please consider it an homor. The Ypsilanti Historical Society and Museum play a very important part in the overall functions of this city and everyone who serves enjoys being an ambassador to the many visitors to Ypsilanti. Please invite your firends and relatives to become a member of the Ypsilanti Historical Society. Bring them to our next meeting and let them enjoy our Museum.

Jack C. Miller President Ypsilanti Historical Society

CHIT CHAT FROM YOUR BOARD

YOU EACH HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT JOB TO DO NOW!!!!!!!!

Help our Society succeed in the years ahead. We need to have every member recruit one new member for the Ypsilamti Historical Society. This will provide us with two very significant advantages:

First, added revenue which we require to maintain our work at the Museum, and secondly, a new source of volunteers to help with all of the assorted projects both inside and outside our fine old Victorian home... Check with other members of your family, your neighbors, friends at work or elsewhere—anyone can and should be interested in the work of preserving and interpreting the remarkable history of this part of Michigea. Every dollar in dues revenue is put to very good work in providing this community with a premier example of a local point of history. Hardly a day goes by but what someone makes use of the archives or wants to see a article from days gone by. We are the only agency in the entire area devoted solely to fulfilling this vital community responsibility. Do your part—and get new members NOW.

ANYONE HAVE A SPARE SUN DIAL?

The grounds and gardens of the Museum are getting more and more attention as we attempt to furnish an authentic environment for the 19th century home we have. One item suggested to add to this sense is a sun disl. If any of our members have one or know of one which might be appropriate for use in a garden area around the building here please call the office-and if you find a digital sun disl it is the wrong kind!

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

TO BENEFIT THE Historical Society is now funded and functioning. All that is necessard now is for good, loyal friends of the Museum to make gifts to this fund, encourage others to do so, remember to include this fund in your estate place and consider gifts of appreciated property or atocks. The fund will someday give us independent, dependable, consistent funding for maintenance and operation of the museum and archives. There is no finer legacy we can give to our children and grandchildren than a compilation of our vesterveers as contained in this building and its records and collections. By guaranteeing its financial solvency you befall any extensive enterprise in an unknown and clouded future. The three Trustees of this fund are Mr. Peter B. Fletcher, The Honorable John N. Kirkendall and Benjamin P. Koerber. Any of these gentlemen would be honored to discuss your gift and bequest plans further with you and review memorial possibilites for those who desire a designation of some type.

THE LIGHT GUARD

The Ypsilanti Light Guard Company was formed by a group of citizens and was one of the first companies in the state to offer itself for service in the Civil War. The organization became Company "H" of the First Michigan Infantry and was present at the BAttles in Alexandria and at Bull Run.

The Light Guard members later served in the Spanish American War as Comapny "G" Michigan State Troops. Previous to that the Guard had been in danger of being disbanded and might have been, had it not been for the efforts of Mr. Frank Kirk, and his brother, John P. KIrk. The latter had gone to Lansing to have the matter resolved.

The Light Guard drilled in what was called the Light Guard Hall, an 80 foot square room on the third floor of the building at the Northeast corner of Michigan and Washington. That third floor has since been removed.

Among the articles about the Light Guard, on file in the ARchives is a paper containing a report of the uniform committee. This report reads as follows:

"The committee on uniforms recommends as a suitable uniform for the company-A blue coat, single brested, with a standing collar and military buttons, Light blue pants with white stripes on the seams." The report was accepted.

The Light Guard Hall was a center for social activites in the 1870's and 1880's when many dances were held there. Admission was usually a dollar or two, and spectators paid fifty cents. The dancers often danced to the music of "Cub" Bergan's full orchestra to the tunes for the Waltz, the Galop, the Quadrille, and the Scottische.

YOURSELF AND LADIES

are most cardially invited by

1891.

Tpsilanti Light Chard,



Tremart Scorioar

April 1st.

to attend the Fourth Annual Ball, at their Armory.

THE MASQUERADE

Given under the auspices of the Light Guard, Christmas night, was pronounced on all sides a grand success. The hall was filled to it utmost capacity, the doorway being filled by those unabled to obtain seats. The masquers entered a little after nine for the Grand March, led by Prof. Fowie. The various costumes representing the different characters was a sight well worth the admission fee. After the March, dencing was the order of the evening. T.J. Haywood Bogerdus and S.H. Smith, were appointed as committee to act As judges and eward prizes for the best original costumes present. John H. Martin received the first prize for the best original fancy costume for gentlemen, which consisted of a gold lined solid silver cup. He represented Don Caesar. Miss Ada Fieldman, representing the morning star, received the prize for the best fancy costume for a lady, s glass top silver boquet holder. Mr. Jos Case bore off the prize for the best comic costume for a gentleman, it being a silver goblet foil lined. Mr. C presented a queer spectacle, His body covered with faces of all descriptions, underneath which were allrologicate, ottoes telling the future history of either party should they be so happy as to gain the balance of power. He represa ented the moral political party of '75 and '76. Mr. CAse appearing as a granger raceived the prize at the Light Guard Masquerade last year. The prize for the best comic costume for a lady, a silver card case-was awarded to Miss Mary M. case, a daughter of Mr. Case, she represented an Irish washerwoman to perfection. AT twelve all repaired to the rooms below the hall, where a magnificent supper, prepared by Clark Stelle, was apread out before them. Stelle is becoming famous for his rich suppers. The table was loaded down with everything that could be provided to please the palate, and it gave universal satisfaction. The Light Guards are in universal favor of all Ypsilantians, and everyone wenthome better pleased than ever with their efforts to entertain the public. A calico hop will be given in their hall on the 21st of January and on the 22nd of February a full dressed ball.



FOURTH OF JULY THE DAY AT YPSILANTI

For the first time in many years, the people on the east side of the river observed in an appropriate manner, at the depot, "the day we celebrate". When it is understood that all the arrangements were made in two days, we are sure everybody will admit that the affair was a complete success.

A benner upon which was inacribed the word "Welcome" was suspended across the street, together with the national flag. The band and speakers stand was erected in front of the Gilbert block, and upon either side of the street were long lines of evergreens. At about noon

The Procession

formed near John Gilbert's, and headed by the City band, marched down to Congress Street, up Congress to Huron, up Huron to Cross, down Cross to the Depot. The mounted masqueraders created great sport and amusement as they paraded the streets.

The Oration

By Chas. R. Whitman, begun at about 2 p.m., it was well delivered, appropriate to the occasion, and enthusiastically listened to.

The Athletic Games

Occupied considerable time immediately afther the oration. About \$30 in cash prizes was awarded to the successful competitors

The Launching of the Steam Boat

Did not go off according to program, although it was no fault of the owner and Captain, Mr. Wm. Bell. The engine only arrived the day before, but the boys worked all Thursday night, and as hard as they could on the Fourth, to get everything in good working order. After hours of tribulation and hard work, steam was finally turned on at about 5 o'clock, p.m., and to the joy of all, on board and on shore, the boat moved up stream, making the trip to Phillips' bridge safely and in good time. Here they were compelled to cast anchor and let steam go down, in order to fill the boiler with water, the pump having refused to work. They arrived safely at the dock near the railroad bridge, at about 9 o'clock in the evening. Mr. Bell proposes to have the engine throughly overhauled and rendered perfectly safe, and to have the boat in readiness for pleasure parties very soon.

The Fireworks

In the evening were witnessed by a large crowd. No accident whatever occurred. It was the verdict of the multitude that our citizens were never treated to a finer display of pyrotechnics than on this occasion. Great credit is due to the committee having this part of the program in charge. With the exception of a few drunken rows, no disturbance occurred in the city during the day.

SCRAPS

Mrs. Esther Henninger's Scrap Book c. 1875

Next Wednesday the Ladies Library Association will present, at Light Guard Hall, Goldsmith's play, "She Stoops to Conquer", with a cast of characters from the Amateur Talent of this city, In addition the musical sketch, "Cups and Saucers" will be given. In the play Messers, C.R. Whitman, O.E. King, Charles Bogardus, Frank Joslin, Henry Samson, Frank Boyden, and Misses M. Van Cleve, Ella Joslin, Fannie Bogardus, Hattie Hawkins and Allie Putnem appear while Mrs. Charles Moore and F.J. Swaine give the musical farce. The lines are already learned, and having the General Owen Faucett to superintend them the Ladies and Gentlemen taking parts will have no reason to do otherwise than well.

The Light Guard give a dance next FRiday evening for the benefit of their band. Owing to the short time between the proposal for the party, and its occurance, it has been impossible to give an extended invitation. Let all who have been in the habit of attending the hops of this popular company, give the band a start, and by their presence help make the evening an enjoyable one.

Besides the dance, the Guard holds its regular monthly inspection which will be interesting to all.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Mrs. John W. Van Cleve, of this city, passed away Sunday night. For a long time she has been iil, and some two weeks since her children were summoned to Ypsilanti in the expectation of her immediate dissolution. Her excellent constitution, however, delayed the approach of the dread messenger, and her sons returned to their avovation in other cities only to be again sent for, but this time too late to receive the dying blessing of their Mother. Mrs. Van Cleve came to Ypsilanti in the early settlement, originally living in the East. During the long period of her residence here, she has been known to be respected and revered. Among the families in our community, hers has been one of the first, and the wide circle of friends and acquaintances here and elsewhere deeply sympathize with the bereaved ones. Mrs. Van Cleve was 67 years of age and a member of St. Luke's(Episcopal) Church.

DIL LAMPS

Man has always desired better ways to create artificial light. In the 16th century the German search for a "Besser" light resulted in what we know as a "Betty Lamp". These lamps burn any grease or oil held in a pear shaped flat bottomed pan usually made of tim. A metal tube or half tupe was fastened at the narrow end to hold the wick end above the oil. Combinations of oils and waxes as well as the containers were always being improved in the search for better lighting.

Glass "Hurricane" chimneys came to this country from England and were used to keep the drafts from candles. Large examples with reverse curve profile rested on the table enclosing both candle and candlestick. Smaller ones were supported on the candle socket and called hurricane shades.

In 1792 a Swiss chemist developed the Argand Lamp named after him. He used a tubular wick and glass chimney. The lamp burned more brilliantly as air was directed to reach the wick from the inside of the tubular wick as well as the outside. These were used to burn whale oil.

In 1854 Kerosene was distilled from bitumen coal. This "Coal Oil" so n replaced wha e oil as it was cheaper and cleaned to use. In 1864 Robert Hitchcock invented a nickle plated table lamp with a flat wick and a blower in the base of the lamp to provide a draught. The clockworks for the blower lasted 8 hours per winding.

Many varieties of kerosene burning lamps can be found. Glass fonts were made to cover the metal fonts as well as directly hold the oil. The patterned glass used, can often be identified as to the maker and pattern name. Standards became popular to hold the font and burner, often quite ornate. Student lamps held the font on one side and the burner on the other and could be raised or lowered on the standard. Reflectors and magnifiers were added in some cases and the size and shape were determined by intended use.

IN 1909 the Aladdin kerosene lamp was invented. Here a mantle made of thorium or cerium was hung above the the burner and heated to incandesence. This gives off a white light, smokeless and odorless. The modern campers Coleman lanterns use this principle.

The lamp collection, loaned by Betty Kerr, in the Vpsilanti Room display case includes many varieties of lamps. There is a Betty Lamp on the top shelf. The glass fonts here reflect the varieties of patterns. The Bulls Eye Lantern was used to focus the light. The small lambern was made for use by a child. The small "Vapo Cresolene" lamp has a vaporizer pan above the wick, and was small enough for a night light in an invalids room.

There are kerosene lamps in most of the museum rooms. The Parlor has three. The "Gone with the Wind" style on the marble top table was made by Moses Swann and McLewee Company. The glass brass fond cover in largely purple with roses; the glass shade has tiny flowers. They are not a pair but have the globe shape popularized by the movie. These globe shaped Argand lamps were not made until the 1880's.

The other two lamps in the parlor and the one in the Lewis Room are electrified. The glass or brass fonts are held on ornate standards set on marble. All have prisms to enhance the light.

The student lamp on the fron hall table has also been electrified. The brass font is on one side and the Argand burner with the cream colored glass shade on the opposite side. It can be raised or lowered.

The downstairs kitchen lamp has a small glass font with a handle for carrying. It is made with a triple mold. Upstairs the kitchen lamp has a glass font shaped to be held in a wall bracket.

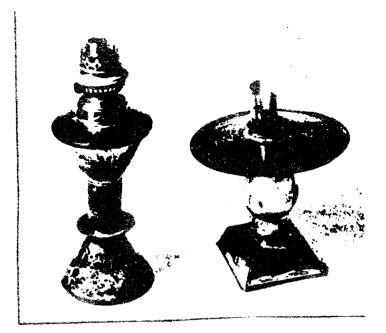
Railroad style lanterns are often seen in the markets today. The lantern on the top of the case in the Ypsilanti room has clear glass while the one in the tool room upstairs has red glass. The red glass was used for railroad signaling.

The two lamps in the bedroom are nightlights. The small green glass font base has the rope style wick which is self extinguishing. The other one has a side handle.

Kerosene lamps are easily found today, largely because women were reluctant to give them up when their homes were electrified. They did not trust electricity. When the lights go out today many enjoy the soft glow of kerosene lamps. Properly used they are bright enough for reading.

This article has been contributed by Grace Cornish, one of our most dedicated members.



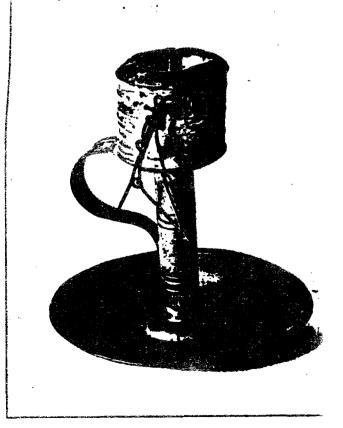


Kerosene lamps, dn:

Aladdin lamp, nickel-plated copper,



Pressed-glass kerceene lamps;



Fat or whale-oil lamp on stand,

THE SPICE BOX

The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum is situated amid a 960 acre park, formally a private estate, about six miles from Wilmington, Delaware in the beautiful Brandy Wine Valley.

In this most elegant setting, Winterthur houses Mr. du Pont's renowned collection of decorative arts, more than 89,00 examples of furniture, ceramics, textiles, metals, paintings and prints made or used in America between 1640 and 1840.

There, on a table, in one of the more than one hundred domestic interiors, sat a three pronged vessel that was similar to the one that we have on the corner table in the Louis White Room back in Ypsilanti.

I will never know what drew my eyes to that particular piece out of all the thousands of beautiful pieces in that wonderful museum.

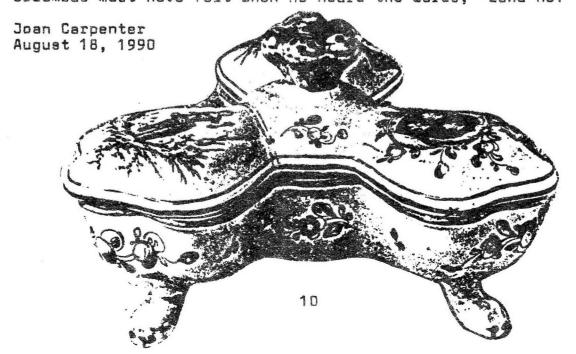
Noting my interest and surprised expression, the docent offered to run a copy of the file sheet for me. That she did, and our mystery piece was identified as a covered spice box.

The spice bbx, as described by the detailed object report as,...a symmetrically radial tripartite vessel on three feet, having a small pentagonal center with three equidistant vestigially cusped sections. The basic material is earthenware, and is ornamented with polychroma enamel over an opaque white tin-enamel glaze.

Pieces, such as this were made in Marseilles, FRance by Veuve Perrin between the years 1770-1790.

Ours came to the masem as a part of the Evangeline Lewis estate. Unfortunately there is no way of tracing its history nor discovering how it came into the Lewis family.

While this discovery was but a small one, it did give me quite a thrill. I think I experienced just a touch of the wonder that Columbus must have felt when he heard the words, 'Land Ho!'



Sheldon Crittenden Continued from June Issue:

The Army of the Potomac set out of the offensive again in the spring of 1863 on the Chancellorsville Campaign with General Hooker as Commander. Hooker had about 120,000 men to Lee's 60,000. Despite these odds General Hooker was forced to retreat back North after General Lee outmaneuvered and successfully attacked him. The 24th Michigan was not directly involved in the battle but did have some casualties during the marches. Hooker was relieved of command, and the command was passed to General Meade.

The Vistory at Chancellorsville gave General Lee a chance to invade the North, In June the Confederate Army started for Pennsylvannia and on July 1st collided accidently with part of the Union ARmy. The armies met on the crossroads by the town of Gettysburg and started the greatest battle ever fought in the Western Hemisphere, the Battle of GEttysburg. The battle lasted three days. The first day's fighting involved the First and Eleventh Corps of the ARmy of the Potomac, which included the "Iron Brigade" and 24th Michigan, with 18,000 men to 25,000 of the enemy.

The Confederate forces started the attack and Confederate General Pettigrew's brigade attacked the "Iron Brigade". The 24th Michigan was in the center of the "Iron Brigade". with the 19th Indianca next to it. The 19th Indiana was driven back by overpowering forces and exposed the 24th Michigan to a terrible crossfire which resulted in many casualties for the 24th. During the day the 24th Michigan was driven back six times with at least ten color-guards(flag carriers) being shot down.

But by sunset when the fighting stopped, the "Iron Brigade" and the 24th Michigan were still on the field. The First and Eleventh Corps had held their ground which included some very strategic spots contributing to the Victory two days later. In the first day's fighting the "Iron Brigade" lost 1,153 out of 18883 men, and the 24th Michigan which entered the battle with 496 men, ended the day with 99 men and three officers. The rest were either killed, wounded, or missing in action. The regiment which fought directly against the 24th was the 26th North caroline. It started the day with 800 men and ended up with 92 men. Of all the brigades, Union and Confederate, that participated in the Battle of Gettysburg the "Iron Brigade" sustained the second greatest losses, and the 24th Michigan sustained the greastest number of losses only after the 26th North Carolina. Sheldon was taken prisoner on the first day by the enemy but was paroled soon afterwards and rejoined his regiment.

The 24th Michigan spent the winter of 1863-1864 near Culpepper, Vifginia. Early in 1864 Lincoln passed command of all the Union Armies to General Grant. Grant started out in May by going after Lee, and some of the battles that took place were the Battle of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor. Starting in June the siege of Petersburg began. After the siege began, a 32 men raiding team from the "Iron Brigade" was sent out to destroy some bridges: Sheldon was one of the men in this company.

Shaldon Crittenden:

On June 23 after a couple of days riding, the Company was captured by the enemy. The men were taked to Charleston and put in jail for about four weeks and then taken to Andersonville.

Andersonville was the largest of several Confederate prisons. It was built early in 1864 and lasted until the end of the War. During th 14 months of its existance, more than 45,000 prisoprisioners were confined there and more than 12,000 died from disease, malnutrition, overcrowding and exposure. During August and September of 1864 about 300 men died every 24 hours.

Sheldon spant about eight months at Andersonville and was paroled in December 1864. After his parole Sheldon became sick and spant a couple of months in the hospital before he could rejoin his regiment which was not in Springfield, Illinois. The "Iron Brigade" was at Springfiled when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated and acted as an escort at his funeral in 1865. Soon afterwards the regiment marched back to Detroit and on June 30, 1865, mustered out. Of the 1.030 original members of the 24th Michigan, less than 200 men now remained.

After the Civil War, Sheldon Crittenden settled down, was married and became a farmer. He spent all of his life near Ypsilanti with the exception of 12 years in Kansas. Sheldonnwas married on September 14, 1867 to Elizabeth Eaton. Elizabeth Easton, the daughter of Ebenzer Eaton and Sally Chase, was born in 1846. Sheldon and Elizabeth and four children. Elizabeth died on Christmas Day, 1921, and Sheldor died, after a two week illness on November 9, 1928, at the age of 91. Both are buried at Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti.

We thank Duane Crittenden for sharing this article with us. It was written by Eric Miller 1981 his Great Great Grandson.

We appreciate articles of your families early days in Ypsilanti, feel free to send them to us we may not be able to use them immediately but we will share them with our members as soon as welcan.

THE NEW BLOCK

Not a day goes by without bringing some new plan to add to the beauty of the usefulness of the new block. The architect, Mr. Mersh, of Detroit (who is also the architect of the new Grand Rapids City Hall), brought with him on his Wednesday's visit, a front elevation of the block. The stores are to be three stores in height (apoint which had not been decided in regard to all the buildings when last we wrote), with plate glass fronts and stone paneled pillars. The brick arches above the upper windows will be finished with cut stone Key-stones, and will be supported by brick pilasters. The basement, eight feet in height, will extend four feet under the flagstone sidewalk, and will be lighted by small corrugated flass bulls-eyes set in iron work in the walk. No unsightly sheds that masquerade under the name of awnings, will be allowed in front of the stores. In the centre of the block there will be an elevation containing the name (not yet decided on) of the block and the year of its erection; the numbers will probably run with the block, as for instance, "No. 2, Union Block". The seventh store will be added by Mr. C.M. Harris (who also builds the second and third stores) and the upper floors will be used for hotel purposes. It is said that the offices in this block, with their 12 foot ceilings, will be the finest in town. An 11 foot hall will run north and south through the building and will be crossed by an 8 foot hall, to which an out-side entrance on Washington street will give access. In the third floor of C. Harris' stores two halls, each 21 X 60 ° fest, will be furnished for society purposes. The land for the Opera House has been bought by substantially the same persons that build the stores; it will have a frontage of 50 feet and a depth of 100 feet, and will seat not less than 1000 people. There will be no stores in the front portion. It is now thought that the hotel will be made still more attractive by a veranda on three sides of the square made by the fact that the hotel will extend, on both sides of Mr. Hawkins' residence, to the street. This verends will be carried up three stores in true Southern Style. The Hawkins House will be moved the first of the week.

The above was from Mrs. Esther Henninger's Scrap Book c.1875

News from the Archives Office:

The Festival is over and things are going to be back to normal. (I live in hopes).

We are very grateful to Herb and Grace Cornish for finishing the costume room, tiling the floor, putting up poles for hanging the many dresses we have, assemblying the 2 metal racks and replacing the door on the room. Thanks also to Bill Zolkoksy for doing the electrical work and installing the new lights. They have worked long tedious hours to get things completed as well as Rex Richie, Jack Miller for getting things started. I believe Ron Miller gets special credit for hauling rubbish down and out.

Many visitors have visited the Archives looking up records etc. Several residents have been looking for pictures of houses they have bought so then can restore homes to or as close to original as possible.

Thanks to Bill Ealy for helphag with the Petunias and Roger Katon for all the time he spent on his knees weeding them. They look very good with all the T L C are given to them.

If you were in the Museum sround the middle of July, you perhaps noticed a strangs smell(It got worse). A possum had come to visit the museum and he was so overcome by our wonderful things, he died right under my office, several days later the exterminator was called to find it, after he was found the Catastrophic Services came in and fogged out the basement. You never find one, so I borrowed a trap from the Ypsilanti Police Department, and lo and behold I trapped another. The Humane Society came and took him/her away to some other city or township. That was our excitement for the month to the tane of about \$220.00.

Our gift shop has a few Ypsilanti Museum T shirts left, they sure look good. Marge has some specials, you really should get down and see what bargains you can get, Christmas is coming real soon.

If your name does not appear on the Membership Paid list and it should be, give me a call or drop me a note. It was probably my fault.

See you at the Annual Meeting in September.

Billis Zolkosky Archivist

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

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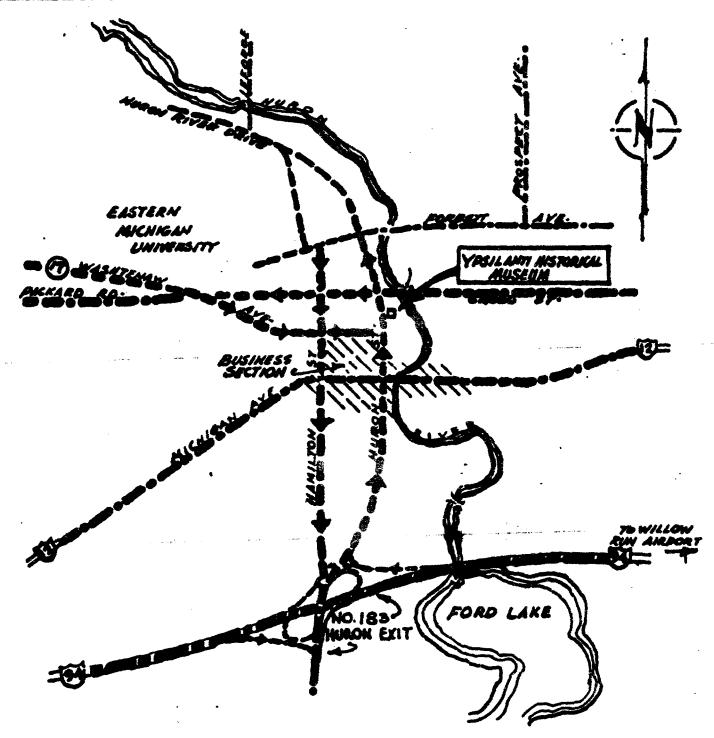
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