

YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

PAST SCENES and OLD TIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY~ PUBLICATION~



December 1998

Ypsilanti Historical Museum
~ 220 N. Huron Street ~

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December 1998

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**ARCHIVES IS OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 9:00 A.M. UNTIL
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A Word from the President.....	William P. Edmunds.....	Page 3
From the <i>Ypsilanti Commercial</i>	Doris Milliman.....	Page 4
Administration Committee Report	Virginia Davis.....	Page 5
Recent and Current Exhibits	Joan Carpenter.....	Page 6
Musings from the Archives.....	Billie Zolkosky.....	Page 8
The Story of the Handy Store.....	Eddward Dykman.....	Page 9
The Purloined Presidential Blankets...Peter B. Fletcher.....		Page 12

December 1998

A Word from the President

Greetings,

On behalf of your Board of Directors of the Ypsilanti Historical Society I wish to thank all the members for their many many contributions and efforts that have made 1998 another successful year for our Museum. Without your support and assistance our Museum could not function.

In the year to come we expect to open the Basement for handicap accessible meeting space and that we will enter the next Millennium with a growing-expanding Museum.

May you all have a happy holiday and fulfilling New year.

William P. Edmunds

President, Ypsilanti Historical Society



December 1998

From the *Ypsilanti Commercial* of 1898

- February:** The Electric Road Company has bought the Lang Blacksmithing property and the old Creamery Land on E. Congress street and will erect a Power House , Car Barn, Etc.
(This property was on the North side of Michigan Avenue, just East of the Bridge, A car dealership occupies the space now.)
- April:** Company G., 31st Michigan left for Island Lake for Service in the Spanish American War.
- May:** Electric Line tracks laid through the city, except over the Congress Street Bridge.
- June:** Sunday, June 12, First Electric Car ran through to Detroit from Ypsilanti. Flag raising at the Cass Plot at the Depot donated by Mrs. Bassett's school children. Dr. C. T. Allen invoked Divine Blessing, Mayor Davis spoke, and Mr. B. M. Damon represented the Michigan Central Railroad. The first trip by electric car, Wayne to Ypsilanti, was made by the small "Ypsi Ann" car. The trip was made about every two hours. The car was olive green and very roomy.
- July:** Corner Stone of the First Presbyterian Church was laid by Bishop Nimde, Friday at 2:00 P.M., assisted by Rev. W.A. Shier and C.T. Allen.
- September:** Conerstone of New Congregational Church unveiled.
On the 28th, the North side of the Peninsular Paper Company was destroyed by fire, loss about \$60,000.00.
- October:** Ypsilanti Sanitorium opened in the Occidental Hotel with elaborate ceremonies.
- November:** Boiler of portable Saw Mill exploded at Farms of James Moore, Lewis, his son, was thrown 30 feet against a fence and broke his arm.

Doris Milliman

December 1998

It is hard to believe that the beautiful fall is almost over. The weather has been very nice except the day of our Craft Demonstration Day, which turned out to be cold and very nasty, so we were obligated to have all the crafters inside which worked very well. We had 15 crafters who did a wonderful job of sharing their knowledge with others and especially the children that came through. All who visited were very interested and spent a lot of time in the museum.

Cases in the Ypsilanti room have been changed. We have a beautiful display of Oriental China loaned by Mrs. Bert Spear. Mrs. Newcomb took the pictures for an exhibit of buildings as they appeared in the 1800's and the way they look today. In the dining room we have a guessing case- See if you can find the items.

We will be starting our holiday decorating. It doesn't seem possible that it is time for Christmas already.

The Museum will be decorated by Thanksgiving. We hope, if you have company over the holidays, you will bring them in to share the beauty of the season. This is your building as well as ours.

The hours we will be open will be a little different from Thanksgiving to New Years Eve. We will be open:

FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY EACH WEEK FROM 2:00 UNTIL 4:00 P.M. The Gift Shop will also be open at these times so stop and see the wonderful gifts they have.

OPEN HOUSE is December 6th from 2:00 until 5:00 P.M. There will be refreshments and Christmas Music.

Plan now to spend part of your New Years Eve with us at the Museum. We are part of the Jubilee that Ypsilanti has each year. There will be refreshments and there is no charge for you to visit.

HOURS FOR NEW YEAR EVE ARE 6:00 P.M. TO 10:30 P.M.

WHY NOT MAKE US PART OF YOUR HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE:

Doris Milliman	Grace Cornish	Joan Carpenter	Ann McCarthy
Cathy Kemling	Karen Nickels	Dorene Binder	Kathryn Howard

Betty Kerr

Kathy Campbell

Virginia Davis

December 1998

The Ypsilanti Display Room does just what its name says, it displays items of interest that pertain to Ypsilanti, past and present.

Among the displays you will find the “Little Train That Could”, better known as the Ypsi-Ann. This busy little train carried the handsome young men from the University of Michigan to Ypsilanti to meet the lovely young women who were attending the Normal School, and many a romance bloomed because of this competent little train. Come and see the leather buckets used by the early firefighters of Ypsilanti along with instruments used by the doctors of years past. The ill-fated Tucker that fell under the power of the “Big Three,” and a picture of the naughty lady exhibiting the finest long-johns ever made, are all part of the permanent display in this room.

However, other cabinets in this room contain displays of the beautiful, whimsical, unusual and/or artistic collections of members of the community.

Herb Cornish’s fantastic collection of clocks and Mary and Jim Baker’s most unusual collection of ink-wells occupied these cabinets during the past months. Both of these displays enchanted those who viewed them.

Currently we have a beautiful display of Oriental China in one of the cases. These old pieces are the property of Bert Spear. The unusual designs and unique shapes are certain to please the eye of all viewers.

The photographic artistry of Catherine Metcalf is displayed in the Ypsilanti Room, also.

Mrs. Metcalf has photographed many of the historical buildings in Ypsilanti with a skill that enhances and brings out the beauty of the architecture of the 1800s. Displayed with many of her photographs are pictures of the same buildings as they looked when they were new.

If you, or someone you know has a collection of items that you think would make a good exhibit, please let us know. We are currently looking for a Christmas collection to fill-out the season. Please feel free to call us and talk about what you have stored away in that old cupboard in the attic.

**Joan Carpenter
971-0536**



Visit the Museum's Beautifully Decorated Rooms
for the Holiday Season and stop by the Gift Shop
for last minute shopping!



*Some items available in the Gift Shop: Books on Helen Walker
McAndrew * Real McCoy * Children's fairytale and
Christmas books * Baldwin Brass * Westerwald Pottery *
Miniature Clocks * Breadboards-Michigan shaped *
Sweatshirts & Tote bags * Signed Glass collection of Cardinal
& Blue Birds * Dynasty Glass Paperweight Collection * Toys
and Many Christmas Items!*

LOCATION: 220 NORTH HURON STREET, YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN

December 1998

Musings from the Archives

To say this has been a frustrating month is putting it middle.. The new Computer knows more than I do. We are very grateful to the LaRue family, Suzanne LaRue Wood and Barry LaRue for this very intelligent (monster) computer.

They had requested Memorials sent to the Museum when their father Robert LaRue died. they then donated and purchased a 98 Hewlett Packard Computer for the office. We are very grateful for their generosity . So many of our things are donated or purchased when no one else wants them. But this was brand new, they took it out of the box right here in the office. Barry generously donated his Computer desk that he did not use any longer. It scared me that we were getting all this up-to-date equipment. We will be eternally thankful that we have members such as the LaRue's and Wood.

Now back to the normal work a day activites. There has been a lot of requests coming in to the Office. Obituaries, people and places. Doris has had a lot of visitor keeping her busy. One would be surprised how many people want information on their ancestors.

Do come in and visit during the holidays, see the lovely displays Joan Carpenter has put into the Display Cases in the Ypsilanti Room. It keeps her busy changing them every few months, as she checks files and boxes to get something different in the cases.

Have you thought about giving a Membership to your Son,daughter, grandchildren or even your neighbor for Christmas? This would be great for the ones that you don't know what to give them. Just call the office and I'll isee that you will be taken care of immediately. A membership card is a great stocking stuffer.

The Office (Archives) will be closed December 23, 1998 until January 4, 1999. I will be around but not for research or regular hours. However if something comes up and there is a need to use the Archives just give me a call. 482-8443.

Well, I think it is about time for me to get back to learning about Esmerelda(the Computer) I could call it something else but only when I am alone with it.

If you have not received your 1999 Calendar yet, please let me know. A mailing was done the first part of December, but I may have missed someone. When I don't get something done, just now I am blaming it on the Computer. (I know that isn't right but I certainly don't need any more blame on me.) Remember when you move, please let us know.

Another reminder, Dues are due the month of January, so help us save postage, and time so we do not have to send you a notice. Have a great holiday and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Billie Zolkosky

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION RENEWAL

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE:

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO :

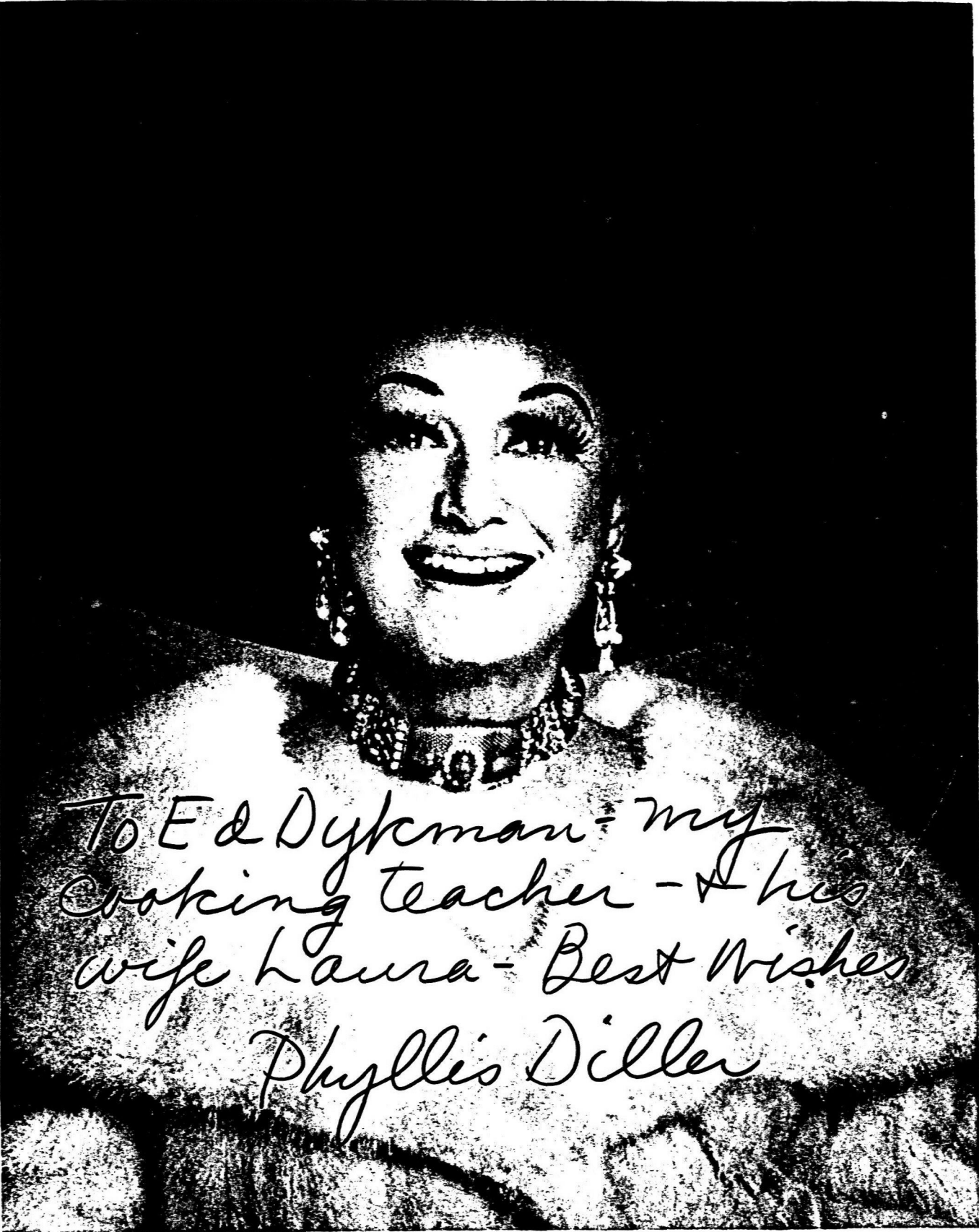
**YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
220 NORTH HURON STREET
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197**

WOULD YOU ENJOY WORKING AT THE MUSEUM?

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

IF YOU HAVE NOT SENT IN YOUR DUES, THEY ARE DUE JANUARY 1,1999, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SENDING THEM SOON. WE ARE TRYING TO KEEP FROM RAISING THE DUES AND WITH POSTAGE GOING UP THIS MAKES IT A LITTLE DIFFICULT. IT COSTS APPROXIMATELY \$55.00 TO SEND OUR GLEANING OUT AND WE TRY TO DO THIS QUARTERLY, PLUS ANY OTHER MAILING WE DO DURING THE YEAR. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL US.

THANK YOU



To E & Dykman - my
Cooking Teacher - & his
wife Laura - Best Wishes
Phyllis Diller

Phyllis Diller

January 2, 1998

Dear Edd and Laura

It is remarkable that you've reached these advanced ages with such aplomb.

I am 80 now and there are times when I feel ninety.

Thanks to Edd's early tutelage, when I knew nothing about food, I am a great cook.

I still love to cook and it is a pleasure now rather than a mystery.

Have a wonderful New Year and stay well.

Love

Phyllis

December 1998

**HANDY STORE
FINE FOODS FOR FINE FOLKS**

Edd Dykman worked at Mclellans Store for some time and brags that he found a Million Dollar Baby in a 5 & 10 cents store, as that is where as an Assistant Manager he met and married her, his wife, Laura. He quit there and went to work for Herbert Renton at the famous "Handy Store " on Sheridan Street in Ypsilanti. He enjoyed the store and the customers, so he bought it.

Mrs. Walters worked for Edd, Laura was supposed to, but she became pregnant so Mrs. Walters being a person like the Dykman's worked for them for several years. Ed Bauer joined the store and he worked there until Edd sold it. Laura tells of Edd being asked to go to a Christmas party and to bring his wife. He did and tongues were wagging as where was his wife? Finally after the folks got to the person's house someone asked him Where she was. He explained that Laura was his wife. Everyone thought Mrs. Walters was, this caused many a chuckle.

Edd was a favorite with the children. One day a little fellow came in (must have been after inflation) with a nickel and looked at all the candy bars, finally he came to Edd and laid the nickel on the counter and said it wouldn't buy anything. (Edd didn't say but I would not be surprised if he gave him the candy bar for a nickel). Another incident a little fellow came in to buy something his Mother requested, the store being very busy at the time he piped up and said " take this off my mind before I forget it". Many neighbors that came in, Hopps, Milton Barnes, Doris Milliman, McCrystals, Kerbysons, LaRues, Moffitts and of course Zolkoskys have very fond memories of the Handy Store.

One of his famous customers that went on to greater things(I guess there are greater things outside of Ypsilanti) Phyliss Diller. She says "thanks to Edd's early tutelage when she knew nothing about cooking. She is now a great cook, it is a pleasure rather than a mystery."

Phyliss stated on an interview to a newspaper " When she moved to Ypsilanti, Half a block away her salvation was a little old fashioned one man grocery owned by this wonderful man, Edd Dykman. Every morning I sent the ogre off to work and took my cookbook to the store. I didn't know a piece of meat from a glove. In fact, the night I served Braised Glove, Fang liked it better than the Peach Melba she made, dissolving in laughter". They have many memories such as that.

Who had a baby, Who lost their job, Who had company , Who's Son went into the Service, Who was happy or sad.

There was an incident one afternoon, Pat McCrystal came into the store for something and told Edd his Mother had hurt her back and had to go to the Doctor, but she couldn't go because she had no one to take care of the twins, about a year old. There was a lady in

December 1998

the store so she said to Pat, Lets go Pat, I'll go and take care of them while she goes to the Doctors. So you see what a friendly store the Dykman's had.

We have taken a copy of the Dykman's Christmas card that Phyliss sent to them in January of 1998. Her picture also a gift to the Dykman's.

Laura had left for home one afternoon, taking the money out of the drawer, she put in a bag and put it on the counter. Well she forgot to pick it up. She had to drive to their home out on Packard, having to go home on Washtenaw and then drive through the muck and mire from Washtenaw to Packard, No pavement. It was a terrible day, Then a robber came into the store to rob Edd, but did not get the money. He shot Edd and Edd was in the hospital for 2 weeks.

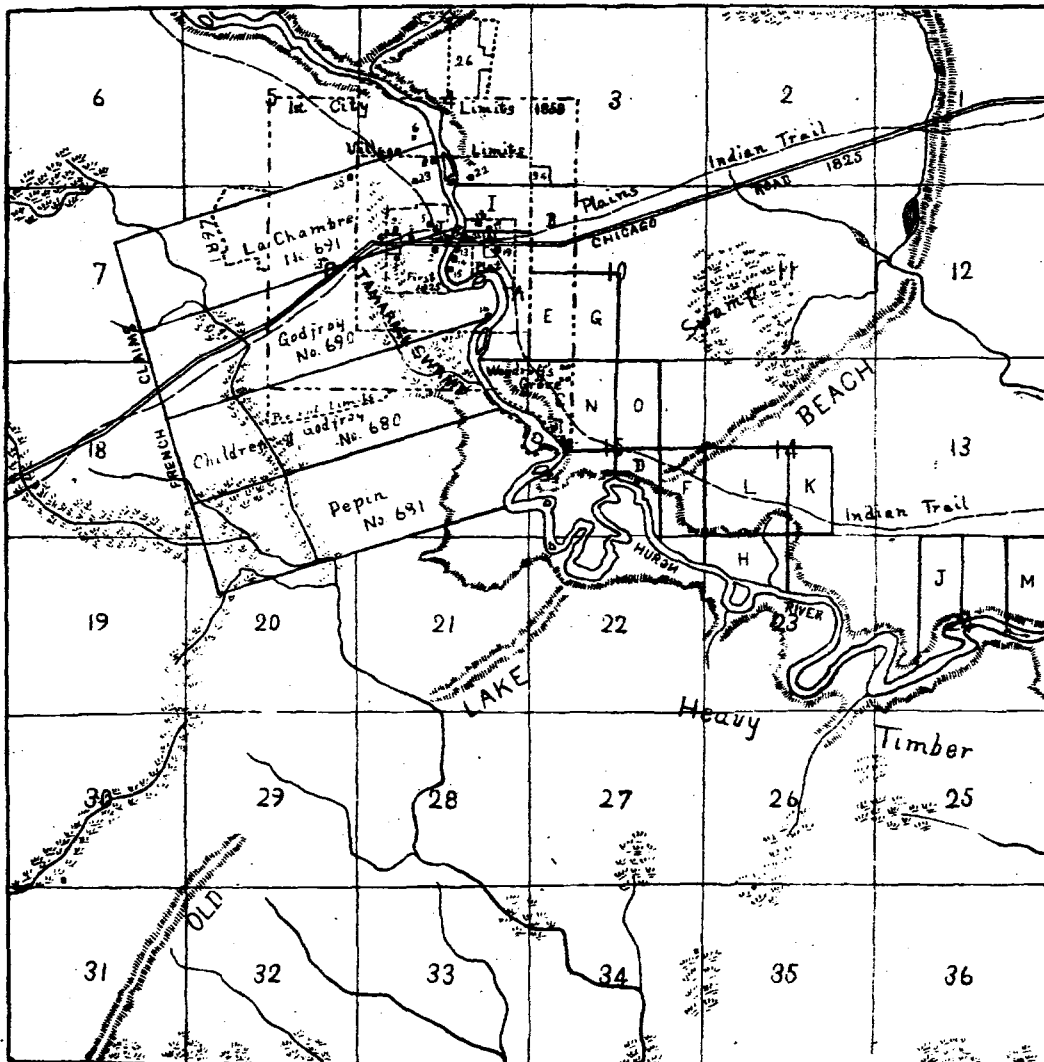
Not long after that Edd sold the store, needless to say it did not last too long, it has been closed for several years. It is now a house.

To know The Dykmans is to love them. They have many stories to tell, interesting ones and Edd chuckles as he remembers some of his experiences. I know the children were favorites of his.

They have three children, Arthur, Cora May, (Corkey) Beth Marie (Buzz.). They can be very proud of their folks as they were an asset to our community. We can be very proud to know that we knew Edd and Laura Dykman.

December 1998

YPSILANTI.



December 1998

The Purloined Presidential Blankets

Late Friday afternoon on November 22, 1963 Jack A. Keller, Jr. of Ypsilanti received a call to go immediately to Willow Run Airport. As the manager of the Ford Motor Company Executive Auto Fleet, he was to meet a special flight from Dallas, Texas. The Secret Service was returning the leased presidential limousine in which President John F. Kennedy had been riding when he was assassinated a few hours earlier.

In the early evening the plane arrived with the ill fated vehicle and it was unloaded in a specially designated hanger area at the airport. The car still had the blood and gore from the late President's fatal wounds. The Secret Service wanted the car cleaned up and extensively modified to improve the security. Because the vehicle still had the presidential flags and seals it became an immediate object of souvenir hunters gathered in the hanger.

Mr. Keller noticed this and immediately ordered extra security. Early the following morning the car was driven to Dearborn on I-94 where no one recognized it as the historic car it was rapidly becoming. At this point, in checking the inventory of the automobile, they noticed the two medium blue custom made presidential blankets were missing. The blankets were embossed with the presidential seal and had been part of the original special furnishings for this custom made presidential vehicle.

Further review narrowed the time for the mysterious disappearance to have taken place shortly after the car was unloaded at Willow Run.

The blankets have never been recovered. It appears logical to assume that they are now somewhere in the Ypsilanti/Southeastern Michigan area with the person in possession afraid to step forward for fear of prosecution.

We tell this story now in the hope that someone knowing where these blankets may be can arrange to have at least one given to our local Automotive Heritage Museum for display. The vehicle itself is the one currently featured at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

Complete anonymity is offered and we will report future developments.

Peter B. Fletcher

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION RENEWAL

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO :

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
220 NORTH HURON STREET
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197

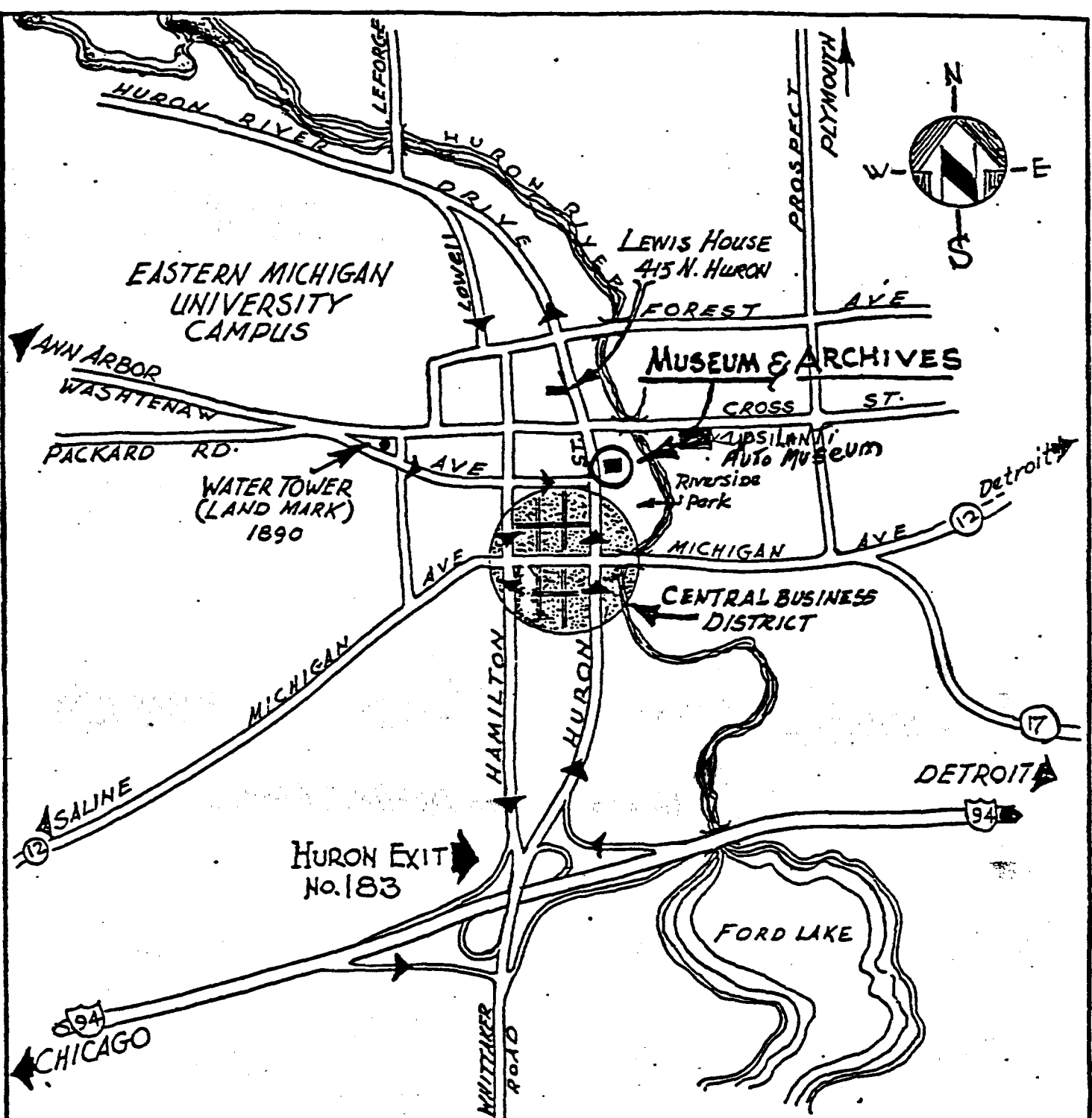
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APPROXIMATELY \$55.00 TO SEND OUR GLEANING OUT AND WE TRY TO DO THIS
QUARTERLY, PLUS ANY OTHER MAILING WE DO DURING THE YEAR. IF YOU
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL US.

THANK YOU



Upsilon Iota Psi Historical Museum

220 N. Huron St.

Upsilon Iota Psi Michigan - 48197 - Phone 313 - 482-4990

Doris Milliman-City Historian

Billie Zolkosky-Archivist

Museum Hours: Thurs, Sat and Sunday 2-4 P.M.

Tours by Appointment-483-2929

Archives: Open Monday thru Friday 9-12 Noon

J. Howard Del.