

# YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

PAST SCENES and OLD TIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLICATION



AUGUST 2000

Ypsilanti Historical Museum  
~ 220 N. Hu

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Ypsilanti, Michigan  
Permit No. 399

## ***THE BEGINNING . . .***

*They came upon a level plain*

*abundant with tall oak trees  
stretching across the horizon.*

*Benjamin Woodruff, one of the  
settlers, liked what he saw.*

*They built crude homes from logs  
and the settlement was called,  
"Woodruff's Grove."*

*It was the spring of 1823.*

*Ypsilanti began to stir.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November 1999

As we go into the year 2000 we are looking forward to a better year. We stop and look at the past. A big link to the past is our City Historian, Doris Milliman. Doris has announced her retirement in November. We are sad as a Society, Board of Directors and as a personal friend. She will now be the Historian Emeritus. We will gain from her knowledge for years to come. The knowledge of the City of Ypsilanti and surrounding communities are very important to her and certainly to us.

Have a great holiday and remember the Christmas Open House and the New Year Eve Celebration and stop by the Gift Shop and see the many gifts that are there, we have many new items. .

Michael Miller

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City Historian's Report 1999

Again, this past year has been an interesting and a challenging experience in the City Archives Department. One big query was finally reportedly completed when it was found that the person who was buried in an old cemetery in this city was not a Revolutionary War Soldier. It was a female descendant of the family who was doing the research.

As is his schedule, James Mann does research in the Archives every Tuesday morning. The results of his work can be read in the Ypsilanti Courier each week. He is also the Co-author with Tom Dodd of the recently published book "Our Heritage Down by the Depot in Ypsilanti". Genealogical research for people who write or come for research occupies most of my time. We have had requests from California and Washington to Massachusetts and Virginia. Frequently we receive copies of the completed genealogy from the person who did the research to add to our collection.

Eastern Michigan University Sesquicentennial celebration has brought many requests for information about the people and about the older buildings that played a part in the History of the University.

There are always requests from reporters at the Ann Arbor News and the Ypsilanti Courier about happenings in the Ypsilanti area during the twentieth Century and that will require research in the Archives.

The Heritage Festival with its many activities brings requests for information about the buildings on the Street Tour and on the House Tour. Our collection contains a quantity of material for those projects.

Interest in the Civil War has been high this year, and there is always interest in Willow Run, the Bomber Plant, Preston Tucker and the Underground Railroad, plus many other topics too numerous to mention.

This Historian is a member of the Michigan, the Washtenaw County and the local Historical Societies; The Genealogy Society of Washtenaw County and the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.

Doris Milliman

# Memories of the "Early Depot Town"

by

Joseph H. Thompson

I have been asked a number of times to give my impression of the Depot section just after 1900.

I was born on Maple Street very close to this area so I think I have a pretty good idea of the business section and some of the merchants and their activities in this part of the city. The east side had many names: The East Side, Depot Town, Cross Street, Down Town as opposed to Up-Town.

I hope that you will pardon me if I begin with the business my parents operated on the corner of River and Cross Streets. It was known as the "Thompson Building". My grandfather, O.E. Thompson, my father, Benjamin Thompson, my uncle, Edward Thompson, and my uncle, John Thompson were very busy in the manufacturing of agricultural implements; root cutters, grass seeders, kraut and slaw cutters, and later, porch swings. They employed about 40 men. They also ran a retail business selling coal, building supplies, carriages and wagons, paint and wall paper - at one time sold over 200 bicycles in one year. They had the agency for the Nichols and Shepherd threshing engines that were made in Battle Creek. I recall that they had a crew of paper hangers and painters that were busy in the city in that line of work.

In the Thompson Building there was also a tailor by the name of Otto Biske that made hand-made clothes for many of the people who could afford it. Right next to Mr. Biske's tailor shop was the city fire department where they operated one horse, and a couple of firemen who slept up-stairs over the fire equipment. During the off hours Tommy Wilkinson operated this horse in picking up the refuse on the Depot streets. (You know they had horses in those days.) And up on the top of the building was a large bell that would ring and the number of strokes on the bell would tell you what location in town the fire was burning or being extinguished.

Across the street was the Michigan Central Depot with all its busy trains coming and going and baggage wagons and hacks calling out for the Hawkins House and Occidental Hotel, a couple of baggage wagons that were handling the baggage and sample trunks that the salesmen used in selling their wares. The Depot at that time was a two-story building and a fire burned off the top of it and they reduced it to one floor. On that Michigan Central they had one train they called the "paper train" that left Detroit at 2 o'clock at night and took the newspapers all the way up the line from the Detroit publishers. Then they had a train they called "the blind baggage" which had one coach on the rear with holes where the guardians could poke their guns out if it was held up. It carried the money from Detroit to Chicago. Then there was a car on that train they called the "silk car" that carried silk in bales that was all made up in fabric. The Depot was so busy that it was really a nice exciting place to go as kids. Madison Parsons called out the trains - "Train going west, Ann Arbor, Jackson, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo" etc. Tommy Thompson in a uniform sold tickets and George Oberst was a baggageman. That was a very big part of the traveling in those days.

Across the tracks was the freight depot where horse-drawn drays hauled all the freight that came in box cars and shipped out all of the manufactured products for Ypsilanti including the Penninsula Paper Company and other factories that were doing pretty well. The train stopped for water there and the gardens next to the depot were something to behold. Mr. John Laidlaw, a Scotch gardener, was known all up and down the line for his display of flowers and he would build huge arrangements out of flowers and plants like the Niagara Falls and the battleship, Maine and the head boys got on the trains and gave the ladies little bouquets when they stopped in Ypsilanti.

Up the tracks a little farther from the greenhouse were the stock-yards where once a week they shipped livestock in cattle cars. The drovers - well, I remember Mr. Farnsby Horner and Dick Spencer would buy this livestock and then

have it brought to the stock yards once a week where they shipped it out.

To come back to East Cross Street - on the corner across the tracks was a hotel called the Neat House, as I remember the first name on it. Then it was changed to the Lewis House. Then a fellow came down from Michigan Center named Dad Yates who opened a tavern and did a thriving business. Oliver Westfall afterwards had the hotel and it had a bar downstairs and sleeping rooms upstairs for maybe 15 or 20 people. Next to this hotel was a drug store that was operated by Robert Kilian and in the drug store was a jewelry repair outfit run by Mr. E.N. Colby, where they cleaned watches and sold small articles of jewelry. Kilian had a wonderful soda fountain and the kids all went in there when they had the money to buy one. Next door was Clark and House's grocery and later the store was operated by Mr. H.A. Palmer as a hardware store. The next store, going west, was a meat market run by Mr. Charlie Fairchilds and his wife, Lilly, and next to that was the Robert's House, another bar with rooms upstairs. Just beyond that was the Ypsilanti Reed Furniture Company that moved out from Detroit where it was known as the Phoenix Reed Furniture Company. They employed probably 35 to 40 men making reed furniture which was very popular in those days and they stayed for a number of years and finally moved to Jackson, Michigan where they got prison labor for 50¢ a day. That was the end of the Ypsilanti Reed Furniture. On the corner west of there was a hardware store operated by Whitford and Simmons; Theodore Whitford and Mr. Cal Simmons. They had a tin shop in the back room and in their spare time they made all sorts of tin utensils and eaves-troughs and down-spouts and all that stuff that was made by hand in those days.

That Follett House had quite a history but I never recall when it was a hotel. It was a factory from the time that I remember.

Across the street west of the hardware was the Deubel Mill where they ground up wheat and made flour. It was run by water power from the Huron River with a race that ran north to the dam near Forest Avenue. Up the race a little

ways was a saw mill that Mr. H.R. Scovill operated with his partner, George Follmer. The farmers brought in their logs and they were dumped into the race and floated down until the mill was ready to saw them up into lumber. Frog Island across from the race was just full of lumber piles of all different kinds and descriptions. Of course, it was all delivered by horses with immense drays. Up the race a little farther was a sash and door mill that was operated by Scovill and across the river was the Hay and Todd Manufacturing Company or the Ypsilanti Underwear Company that was also run by water power. Just think - that dam operated water power for the woolen mill, for the sash and door, for the Scovill log mill, and for the Deubel Flour Mill. Quite a lot of power came from the Huron River.

On Forest Avenue across from the woolen mill, was a tannery that Mr. Holland ran. He would buy hides from the farmers and tan them into leather. This was quite an operation. He also bought junk. Us kids used to sell him all the metal we could find around and he was a very nice old man as I can remember.

On Forest Avenue, up a little farther on River Street was a malt house run by Mr. Fred Swain. They converted barley into malt that was sold to extensive brewery operations around like Forrester's and like the ones in Ann Arbor and Manchester. That seemed to be a part of the brewing that was very essential in making beer.

Let's go back across the river now on the South side of Cross Street. The first building that I remember there was a law office where lawyer Lee M. Brown held forth. He has the attorney for all the Depot people that needed to go to law. Next to that law office, George W. Hayes had a grocery. And East of that grocery was John Engel Cartage and Coal office behind which he had an extensive barn and owned a number of teams of horses and drays that did the hauling around the Depot section. A junk dealer, Mr. Louie Cramer, was quite an operator. He had a little store and bought all the junk that was available at that time.



Next to Mr. Cramer's place of business was a cigar store that was operated by Mr. Chris Duress. They called him "Doc", for he concocted a remedy that he claimed would restore lost manhood. He filled his window one day with this remedy and the sun came through the window pretty bright and the bottles exploded and blew out the front windows so I guess he did away with his remedy after that experience. Tommy Duffy had a shoe repair shop right next door and took care of all the people's wants repairing their shoes.

Now we'll go up Cross Street a little bit farther east. A man by the name of Fremont Paterson had a store which was a bakery and candy store. He was also an inventor. He invented what they called a unicycle. It was a big, tall wheel and he was suspended in the center of it. I saw him come down Cross Street hill and wreck it one day and that was the last we ever heard of the unicycle. Charley Smith had a meat market next door. I guess in those days they called it a butcher shop, and outside of the city they had a slaughter house where the cattle were killed and then brought in and sold at retail. Joel Grieve had a bakery next door and I used to deliver for him on Saturdays. When we came back at night what bread we had left we fed the horse. Davis and Company had a grocery and drygoods store which did an extensive business. Across the alley A.A. Bedell had a shoe store and next was the Justice of the Peace office where they held trials and Squire Beach was, as I remember, the judge and following him was Frank Joslin. Upstairs over these two stores was the Maccabee Hall and it used to be called the Masonic Hall but they moved up town and the Maccabees took it over. Peter Cranson had a barber shop next door and Clyde Roe a restaurant next to him. There was next door what the people called a "horse exchange". It was where a bunch of gamblers came out from Detroit every day on the Michigan Central and it was what they called "off-track betting". Large black-boards lined the halls and the race results came in from around the country by wire and these men would bet the same as they do today at the horse races only there weren't any horses in sight. That

place was run by Warren Lewis and it was very thriving for number of years until George Burke was elected prosecutor and he closed it up. Upstairs over the horse exchange was a house of ill-repute. "Ma" Bush was the landlady and of course that completed the business section in that neighborhood.

Nick Max had a saloon adjacent and Dick Wilbur operated a cigar store on the corner which is now removed. It was hit by a train and it still shows the scars of where the train struck the building. Later, on that corner, there was a food counter and I remember Mr. Bicraft, where you could go to get a sandwich and a cup of coffee. Down River Street, a ways south, was a foundry and machine shop where they made flour mill machinery. Mr. Charles Ferrier and Mr. George Walterhouse operated this. Next to them was a blacksmith shop run by Otto Rohn. Of course, all the horses had to be shod in those days and this was one place they could take them. Now, on the southeast corner of River and Michigan was the Ypsilanti Electric Company that furnished electric lights for the city in their homes and business, only there was no power generated at that time. It only ran at night because there wasn't any use of electricity in the day time. There were two plants in Ypsilanti - one that furnished the city lights and the water works and the other building furnished the lights for the homes. I remember our home at 108 Maple Street was the first one that was wired in Ypsilanti because it was the closest one to the plant. George Essinger came in with his wire. None of the wires were concealed. They just ran up the walls and across the ceilings except that they took the gas fixtures and rewired them for electric which were quite ornamental. Later this electric plant was sold to Edison Company.

I've been told by two interesting people of those days about a couple of sales that were made at the Depot. One was when Denny Doyle sold the Follett House. It seems that business had fallen off quite a lot. Denny wanted to sell the place so he heard about a fellow by the name of Mathias who was looking for a tavern so he invited him to Ypsilanti to take a look at the Follett House.

Denny was a little bit unscrupulous in his business actions but he got a group of fellows to go to Ann Arbor with suit cases and another group to go down to Wayne and when the Michigan Central train came in these fellows flocked into the Follett House to register and stay over night. Mathias was sitting in the lobby and he looked over the crowd and just then the train came in from the other way and these fellows he had sent to Wayne came in. Well, the bar was doing business and the barber shop was doing business and Mathias was mesmerized by the amount of business he anticipated so he bought the place; and didn't they sell him another place up in the Thompson Building for an overflow of his patrons. Well, he paid his money and he owned the hotel and Doyle was gone.

Another incident that happened that had a little humor to it was when they had the fiftieth anniversary and the celebration was held at the Depot. They had an arch over the road that was made of lattice and up on the top of the arch they had a figure of the Goddess of Liberty, which was a manikin bust that they borrowed from some milliner. Well, they had a speaker - I don't know, a congressman or somebody, come here to make the speech for the fiftieth anniversary. They had this bust up on top of the arch with a shroud over it and at a critical time in his speech they were to pull the rope and that would take the shroud off the bust. But, in the night some wag crawled up on there and with his jackknife cut a hole in the mouth of the Goddess of Liberty and inserted about a 7-inch cigar so at the critical moment they pulled off the shroud and there was the Goddess of Liberty, instead of looking fresh and sweet as she should, she had this great big cigar in her mouth and it brought down the house. Well - so much for that.

There was quite an interesting thing that happened at the Depot. Mr. Shelly B. Hutchinson had a shoe store there at one time and in visiting a friend of his over in Jackson he noticed that he had a sales gimmick where he gave each customer a coupon and on Saturday night they would have a drawing and somebody would get a nice piece of jewelry. Well, that started Mr. Hutchinson thinking

about trading stamps and he developed the whole thing in the Depot section of Ypsilanti. And that is the Hutchinson of the S & H Trading Stamps. He built a beautiful home on River Street that still stands, which is kind of a monument of his great success in the trading stamp business. Other things that Mr. Hutchinson got into didn't pan out so well. He started a newspaper in Detroit called the United States Daily that failed and he started a cereal factory something like the Battle Creek cereal over at the Depot and that didn't do too well.

Did you know a horse-drawn street car operated between Depot Town and Up Town? It was driven by Ruben Cole and went west on Cross Street to Washington and then south to Harriett Street. I recall my mother placing me on a seat with a quantity of sewing material and patterns, and Mrs. Frank Showerman removing me, at her home on South Washington Street. They never turned the car around, simply changed the horse to the other end.

Well, I hope I haven't made too many mistakes in this little discourse and I hope some of you people find it interesting about the early days of Depot Town.

8-3-2000

## ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Where has this year gone? Another couple of months and we will be looking for the first frost, all the beautiful fall colors and can you remember the taste of the first apple you pick off the tree in the fall. It is coming very soon.

The Administration Committee is working hard to keep the Museum in good condition. It takes a little more work now, as the city no longer pays for the weekly cleaning of the building. This means that the time that was spent on working on displays, cataloging, and maintaining the artifacts is now spent on cleaning. We are in hope that some of you might be able to give us a hand once in a while. There about 8 people trying to keep everything together. What dedication these gals have. Maybe you could spare 1 day a month or even 1 day a year to give us a hand. It is not hard work and we know some of you can not go up stairs and we would keep this in mind. Anything you can do would certainly be appreciated.

There are several things being put together at this time. Of course the Heritage Festival is the first thing on our minds right now trying to bring all the loose ends together. This is a very large job, as we need over 100 people to fill the spaces for those three days. If you have not been contacted and would like to help us, please call Joan Carpenter and we will have a place for you. The Festival is August 18, 19, 20, we will be open each day 12 P.M. to 6P.M.

Plans are underway for our CRAFT DEMONSTRATION DAY. This is a day where we are able to have crafters volunteer to come in and show what crafts were done back in 1800 and early 1900. Why not step back in time and come in to remember. Some of you will be able to remember when you churned milk and came up with that wonderful butter, and how about candle making so that there was light for the evening after choirs were done.

Maybe there is a craft that you could share with us and all the children who have no idea what it was like to have to do these things when they could not just to run down to the store on the corner. If you have something you would like to share with us please call me at 484-0080. Don't be shy, we don't know what talents you have.

You will find, when you come in, that there are 5 new displays, mannequins have been changed and in the gift shop you will find a lot of new ideas for you. Please come in and browse through the whole house.

We hope to see all of you very soon at your Museum.

Virginia Davis-Brown

## **BOB & OTTO'S AMOCO (STANDARD)**

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1465 Washtenaw Ave.  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
(734) 482-2811, FAX (734) 483-8167

Dear Friends, Customers, and New Comers:

Ypsilanti's oldest full facility, family owned business (retail gasoline and garage) has been sold.

We selected the best applicant available continue to conduct the business you're use to.

There will be some changes naturally, with improvements of course, for better service.

Hopefully the goals set forty years ago have been met. Quality and friendly service to all, help with understanding for your car needs and a place you like to come to also.

We've had the pleasure of servicing three and four generations of the same families, and many one on one.

Dieter (seven years as owner), after twenty one years is now looking forward to a career change and up grading his education

Otto after; two years in the Navy (diesel mechanic), three years as an airplane mechanic, eleven years in a car dealership working as a mechanic, shop foreman and service manager, and forty years at Bob & Otto's - retired seven years ago - now he will retire!

When Bob retired he said, "I'm going to miss the people most." As the Ottos' close out their careers (Dieter and Harlan), we will miss all, our customers and our new friends and co-workers that have been invaluable over the years.

The new owner will offer jobs to our employees - you will see familiar friends.

Again we thank you for the privilege to be of service to all of you!

Sincerely,

Dieter Otto  
Owner

Harlan Otto  
Founder

hhob



## BOB & OTTO'S STANDARD SERVICE

Your car will receive conscientious care and service from the well-trained mechanics at Bob & Otto's Standard Service. Forty-eight years of mechanical experience and 25 years in car dealership have established this firm as an expert in its field. Turn to this station for front-end alignment, wheel balancing and trueing, brake repairing, and other services that will keep your car in top-running condition. The Problem Solvers.

1465 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti

Phone 482-2811 or 483-9072

## **Background on Bob & Otto Standard Gas Station at Washtenaw and Owendale**

Robert M. Robinson was born January 1, 1920, in Saginaw Michigan. In WWII Bob was in tank corp...Europe liberation of Southern Germany.

Came to U of M under GI Bill. Lack of math skills and attended only 2 years.

Went to work in Nash car dealership in Ann Arbor and then for Lee Havalin on West Cross Street in Ypsilanti where High Scope first started. Was sold to M.D. Obermeyer "Obie" who was later Mayor of Ypsilanti who took on Oldsmobile franchise. Olds/Chevy dealerships were dual units at this time. Olds with new Rocket 88 engines wanted to increase sales so they split them up.

Doran Chevrolet then was Chevys only.

Mr. Doran was a personal friend of Louis Chevrolet.

Allen Chapel Mercury dealership in building where Ypsilanti Press on Michigan Avenue was, was then sold to Mr. Sesi, a personal friend of Henry Ford. Sesi Lincoln Mercury reached a status of "10 top dealers in the USA".

This was a car town.

Michigan and Water Streets – Schaeffer Chrysler/Plymouth to Chapel Line. then Joe Sesi bought them. Across the street was Joe Thompson Dodge-Plymouth in building with Paul Chapman Sr. – Cadillac/Pontiac. Then across the street was DeSoto-Plymouth next to them was Chevrolet. Believe it was Vincent Chevrolet Co.

After World War II, Cutler Motor Sales, 334 E. Michigan Avenue – Started Kaiser Frazer Sales. Of course he had Fords too.

E. G. Weidman Ford on Pearl Street where parking lot is behind current Bus Station. The Weidman Brothers each had Ford dealerships in Saline, Ypsilanti, and Plymouth, Michigan. Gene Butman obtained dealership in about 1956. Only 2 Ford dealers, Weidman and Butman, in Ypsilanti.

Alex Longnecker Buick was on Michigan Avenue and Prospect.

Harlan H. Otto, born September 10, 1926, in old westside of Ann Arbor, two blocks west of Main Street (dirt road, tar sidewalk on east side and path on west side of street). House had Michigan basement, pot belly stove, cistern and pump and out-house.



Dad put in electricity, plumbing and steam heat. Hard to believe Ann Arbor of today vs 75 plus years ago.

WW II found me at age 17 in the US Navy and all but one of my male cousins ended up in WW II. I served in the Pacific, Philippines and Okinawa.

Coming home at age 19, I had no job skills and no job.

Got a job with Kaiser-Frazer and worked at Willow Run. Worked at Willow Run Airport. Edgar Kaiser ran the place, started with one airplane to finally 5. I was there 3 years – first big recession in 1949 I got first permanent lay-off.

Mr. Kaiser loaned 3 pilots and myself money to buy Cutler Motors K.F. dealership on 9-1-49. Norris Motors – Ron Norris, Bob Lawry, Sam Lamdin and myself. We sold Kaiser-Frazers, Henry J's and Willy Jeeps until December 1953. Kaiser moved to Toledo and less than 2 years was defunct.

Where Bob and Otto meet. Obermeyer Olds was in a poor location, no parking, no used car lot, etc. and Norris Motors combined locations and dealerships (Olds) at 334 E. Michigan. New dealers, Obie, Ron and Sam and Bob came with dealership. I did salvage my Service Manager job.

I asked Bob later if he ever thought of going into business. He said yes. Next question was would you like to go into business with me? He answered yes and said look around for something and let me know. Five years later, finally he decided on Standard Oil (our 3<sup>rd</sup> choice) paid rent – no chance to buy – versus other two could be bought. 11 years at 334 E. Michigan Avenue.

In 1960 we started Bob and Otto's. Bob was my partner for 21 years and we never had an argument. We thought alike due to our backgrounds.

We understood each other. I was owner until 1993 and my son, Dieter Otto, owned it for seven years until May 2000.

It was a pleasure to serve so many people. Three and four generations of some families and the new customers as well.

We met and cherish so many friends....it was difficult to say good bye.

Bob, Otto and Dieter (21 years)

Otto gave me this story of his living in Ypsilanti. He is greatly missed but is doing well in retirement. He comes to town often.

Billie

This article was a skit that was played at Begole School in the early 30's.

### Opening by Judge

Judge: It has been a great pleasure and as you will see later, a rather sad session for me to be here. I have been requested to put before the people of this community the wonderful advantages which all of you have here, in the Begole School, you have one of the best of Rural Schools in Washtenaw County, as Miss Haas states. "We are noted for our cooperative spirit, and a smooth running school district is a striking example of the broad mindedness with a slice of educated people who are alive to the growing needs of the times.

We have now glowing examples of men and women who as children, has a good foundation which was laid in their early years in the Begole School. Other advantages is our nearness to both the State Normal College, Cleary College, and University of Michigan and the young people can go forth and receive an advanced education and still remain under the parental roof, which in these times is something to be considered, you may give the home training at the most impressionable time of their lives.

I wish also to call to your attention the new improvements which the building has undergone and this without any added expense to the tax payers, as the expense of remodeling came from a surplus of delinquent taxes and other sources, perhaps many of you are wondering why this was not done at a previous time, but by the school law any new building is built from a blue print sent from Lansing and under a committee appointed for that purpose.

The questions before us now is, are we, as modern and up to date as our school buildings! Do we shine not with varnish, but a cooperative feeling and willingness to do our duty in the P.T.A.'s, are we willing to give the teachers the benefit of a doubt, when our angel child comes home with a tale of woe and the school board how about your mistakes? Do you or do you not? .

Judge: (Sounding gavel on table)  
Meeting called to order.

Address: I have been a Judge for many years and have had valuable experience in many trouble's which have been set before me to settle in my time of the bench, and therefore I have been called upon to settle some noise some gossip which has been making the rounds in this community for quite some time, My advice is always to face scandal, therefore it is with pain and tears that I am obliged to call in to this courtroom some of my dearest friends( weeps is handkerchief and drinks water)

(Clerk enters: Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The Court of the Begole School is now in session

“Judge charges to the Jury” “Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury” if at any time you think I am too severe, either in jail sentence, bond or fines, will you please see me at court:

Recess;

Judge:

The fines are to be paid to the clerk as your case is dismissed. We know you will not feel that they are excessive, as the refreshments are free this evening. The amount collected will be turned over to the P.T.A. treasurer.

Judge: Duane Crittenden we understand that you are a Market Gardener, and for several years have been holding the office of treasurers of the Market Gardeners Association of Washtenaw County. Now then as a member of such an organization can you keep your standing when it has been called to our attention that you are guilty of such measures as selling to innocent people, the vegetable known as Endive for their rose gardens, a bushel of onions you sold to an Ann Arbor woman who cried over them for a week. Of course she could have been making pickles. Explain to this court, how you came to have friends among Chinamen, Japs and Greeks. IS it because you are entangled with the European Countries in some way unknown to the U.S.A. Government?

The last and most serious count against you is that your were seen carrying packages into the back door of a spooky looking house in Ann Arbor called the Haunted Tavern. We feel that a case as unusual as yours should be investigated further. We find you 15 cents or 10 days in jail. Fine paid.

Judge: What is your name?

Mrs. Charles Heimeringer

It has been called to our attention that years ago, when you were a small girl,, your Sunday School teacher gave to you the Ten Commandments, since living in this community you have been trying to give them to Mrs. Mort Crittenden, but she refuses to accept them for she knows full well, that if you cannot keep them it would be entirely useless for you to try. Therefore you are fined 15cents. Case dismissed.

Judge: What is your name?

Fred Bailey

You are called before this court charged with smoking while on duty. It is not so much the act of smoking as it is the brand of tobacco you use. We think it must be this weed Marijuana, that makes you do things that your wife says she could never get you to do for her like sweeping and dusting. My only wish is that other men could profit by your example to be so helpful that the wives could spend more time at the 10cents store. The most serious charge against you is that you do not punch the electric clock in the Primary Room, for if it has been exchanged for a new one it would have been punched

with an ax a long time ago. On hearing you are a weak man and a valuable asset to the neighborhood we are loath to fine you, but as a case of duty, it will be .15cents.

Case dismissed.

Judge: Your name please.

Helen Harwood

I am hardly experienced enough to pass on a case like yours, it is very out of the ordinary. You have a garden on Michigan Avenue?

Yes.

It has been charged that even though you have your children with you, you wave at the drivers going by. You are warned to desist and are fined .10cents. Case dismissed

Judge: Your name

Paul Slusser

I am not sure that I am within my legal rights in bringing you in this court, but as your misdemeanor occurred in this district, we will accept the money from a fine imposed on you without protest. You are found guilty of wasting your working hours, by running around in the neighborhood and also by staying out too late at night. With the exception of these two bad habits, you have proved you are a very agreeable addition to our community. Your fine will be 20cents or 10 days in jail. Fine paid. Case dismissed..

Remarks by Judge: We were intending to use our school garage as a jail, but some miscreants have broken out the windows, but we know full well that not any of our children are guilty of this act of destruction.

Your fine will be 20cents or 10 days in jail. Fine paid.

Judge makes loud noise with gavel on table.

Judge: What is your full name?

Margaret C Miller

You are called here to explain, when and how you obtained all of the canned fruit in your basement this year with a scarcity of all kinds of fruit. We have heard from a very reliable source that you have over 200 quarts more than last year and to settle over doubt that your neighbor has as to where you obtained it.

We felt it the duty of this court to keep up the moral of the younger mother of the neighborhood. Several of your neighbors have been finding foot prints in their gardens, and the latest stories is that Mt. & Mrs. Munger or George B. Miller drive a car for you in the early weary light of day when all working people are in bed. My advice as a Judge is that you be sent up, but feeling the disgrace on your parents and family, I shall impose a

fine of .15cents. I am showing you this leniency on behalf of the ladies of the Pittsfield Aid who feel so badly as it is now. Your case is dismissed.

Judge hits gavel on table.

Your name please.

Alden Day

Judge: You are brought before me for traffic violations and obstructing in a serious manner. You sped up and down on Michigan Avenue with a little red wagon filled with bootleg gasoline. You have been escorted to your home by State Police on several occasions

Considering you hold the office of Director on the School Board which is the most distinguished position, you should set an example for the other members and be able to have given them helpful advice when needed. You are fined 25cents or 10 days in jail.

Case dismissed.

Judge Your name please.

:

Mrs. Shepperd

We understand you live on Michigan Avenue. You are charged with being seen in your front yard mowing the lawn dressed in your old wash dress and apron, for this you will be fined 10cents, not for wearing your old clothes but for mowing the lawn , this is a man's job.

Case dismissed.

Judge: Your name please.

Floyd Budd

You are called in this court, charged with smoking cigarettes, also for trying to induce Max Miller, an exemplary young man to do the same for adding to the delinquencies to a young man. We fine you 15cents.

Your case dismissed.

Judge: Your name please:

Fred Parsons

You are brought before this court for misrepresenting apples you have been selling on the Ypsilanti Market. You told a customer "That Green apples were sometimes Red and Red apples were sometimes Green:," where upon the woman got into an argument with you

and you became very disagreeable. Mort Crittenden who has been on the Ypsilanti Market told you that the customer is always right. I advise you to be more careful and less noisy in the future and I am obliged to find you .20cents.

Case dismissed.

Judge: Your name please.

Sarah Parsons

You are called before me not to be charged with Misdemeanor, but as a strong supporter of the Begole School and Sunday School. That you have been very faithful in your position as their leader for the past 5 years of this Sunday School which is held, in this building, you with many other leaders are an untold benefit in the community. The mothers and fathers should be more than anxious to avail themselves of the advantages of the S.S. We have heard many times from the Scriptures. Bring up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

We Thank you.

Judge: Your name please.

Clifford Reynolds.

You are called here because of traffic violations, speeding on Michigan Avenue and turning into your driveway on two wheels. Far be it from me to care how you drive, but as a member of the School Board you are a bad example to the young people, almost equal to the senior member of the Board. Your case is dismissed with a small fine of .25cents. I only wish it were in my power to make it .25dollars..

Case dismissed.

Judge: Sounds gavel: Your name please.

Beatrice Crittenden

Judge: sounds like an Indian Name to us!

It has always been a problem how you happened to be living in this neighborhood- Oh-- You married a young man named Duane Crittenden while attending Normal College. The young man in question, has my heart felt sympathy as you coming from the upper peninsular, where Bear and Deer and other wild animals are so numerous, have completely changed his life. You have set forth to make a Hunter and Fisherman out of him and now---where he would be so very happy sitting by the fireside, smoking his pipe with Kentucky Club Tobacco, looking at seed catalogs. Telling how to raise seedless

water melons as large as washtubs. You drive him forth to hunt in the land of your ancestors. You are fined 15cents.

Case dismissed.

Judge: Your name please.

Mort Crittenden.

As an old friend of mine and here to for a very reliable citizen, a member of this School Board for 38 years, it gives me great pain to have you brought before this court at this time, but no matter how much I suffer I will do my duty by law and order.(Uses handkerchief as tears flow)

You are brought before me to explain why you call on the teachers during school hours and spending long hours in the primary room where Miss Elesta Murray, teaches we would be willing to excuse you for this lack of dignity not becoming a member of the School Board. But your real crime is telling her Witty stories, over which she becomes so boisterous she laughs out loud which has never been known to have happened before. This upsets the pupils of the primary room, that one small girl fainted, another child was taken violently ill with nausea and Keith Miller who was asleep was awakened and yelled out FIRE---when upon Mrs. Graubner the Supervisory teacher dismissed the pupils for the day.

Mort Crittenden have you any remarks?

No.

You are sentenced to 10 days in jail or pay the fine of 25cents Fine paid.

Judge: Your name please.

Charles Heimerdinger.

You are called before this court as an example that other men in our community might do well to follow. Long before you came from your former home in Manchester we were informed that you would be a very valuable asset to this district in more ways than one.

WE KNOW, you to be a willing helper in the Begole Sunday school, WE KNOW you to be a friend to the needy. WE KNOW you never refuse help to any one in trouble. But what WE DO NOT know and wish to know is where are you getting the chickens from that you are having for Sunday dinner?

Hoping you will see the error of your ways, I impose a find of 15cents. Fine paid

Case dismissed

Court is adjourned.

## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

There Are a great many changes going on (and yet there are none) at 220 N. Huron Street. I'm not sure I can keep up with them. However, I'll try.

First of all the Archives will be open Monday Tuesday and Wednesday from 8AM until 12:00 Noon I will be in a bit earlier than that as usual but those are official honest to goodness hours. Thursday and Friday the Archives will be open from 9:A.M. until noon. James Mann will be there on those days to assist anyone in the Archives.

The Gift Shop in the Museum will be open the usual hours Thursday Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 2PM until 4PM. Of course, there is no charge for visiting the Archives or the Museum however, donations are welcome.

If you have not paid your dues for 2000, you can pay them at the Office or send them in by mail we would appreciate your doing so. You may call the office or a board member if you have any questions.

There is not much more to add except Doris is greatly missed! You know what I bet? -- She misses the Archives also!

We have been very busy with so much going on. Now that I have given you the good news I will put in a little of the bad news. As I said a little earlier, the budget from City Hall has been cut, although we will suffer somewhat I think that our services to the people of Ypsilanti, Students at Eastern Michigan University, and the general public of the area will be the ones that will suffer the most. However we shall do the best we can. So remember, we will try to be there for you as much as we can. Just give us a call.

It is about time you knew a little about your Board. Our board elects three new members to the Board of Directors each year. The terms are generally three years unless they are re-elected for another term. This enables everyone a chance to have an opportunity not only to know what is happening but to understand the workings of the Museum and Archives. If you are



approached and asked to be a board member, I hope you will accept. If you are interested in becoming a board member, let someone on the board know and they will present your name to the nominating committee. This year we have 3 new members, Grace Cornish, Jack Minzey and John Salcau. I have not had much contact with Jack or John as of yet but I do have had a lot of contact with Grace. Grace has been a worker at the Museum, taking care of and inventorying clothing, such as dresses, hats, ladies wear, children's wear, gloves and incidentals. Grace works with Doreen Binder and they make a great pair. They both talk with the mannequins, at least that is what it sounds like because they do not get any answers such as no. Grace does the washing and Doreen does the ironing. The displays always look nice. Grace and Doreen always know what must be done and they do it! Thank you very much, ladies! You are a great asset to the Museum.

They have been residents of Ypsilanti for a long time. Grace was on the Board a few years ago and was glad to come back on the Board to see how she could help. It helps when they come in on Tuesdays too!

I do know Jack and John also have been working very hard; trying to get everything up to par, I am sure they will prove to be a great help with their new ideas, perhaps the next issue will be able to tell you something about them.

I think it is a good idea to tell you about the board members, so in the next Gleanings we will pick highlight a couple more. I think that is enough at this time.

I send my best to all of you.

Billie Zolkosky