

April-June 2018

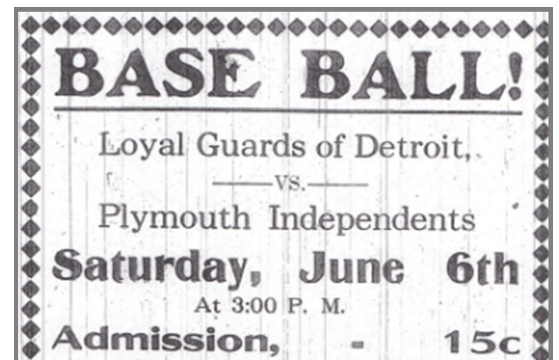


**H**ey, Daddy-O, beat feet to the Plymouth Historical Museum beginning August 1 to experience the fab new special exhibit, “Nifty Fifties.” Visitors will flip back to the days of hula hoops, saddle shoes and neato slang. Cool displays will include family life in the 1950s, the American Bandstand Show, TV shows of the era and, of course, dress and style of the era. Other peachy objects on display include vintage record albums, photographs, electronics, toys, magazines, newspapers, and comic books.

“Nifty Fifties” opens Wednesday, August 1 at 1 p.m. The exhibit will run through December 30. Museum hours are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 6-17; Saturdays through September 1 are free, courtesy of the Museum’s major sponsor Comfort Keepers of Plymouth. Members of the Plymouth Historical Museum always get in free. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, a block north of downtown Plymouth.

## Vintage Plymouth Baseball

**D**uring the early 1900s, a popular summertime event in Plymouth was attending an afternoon baseball game at Plymouth Field. The field was located near Davis St., between Farmer and Blanche, and was described as one of the finest small-town baseball fields in the state. By the late 1910s, as the popularity of the Detroit Tigers and major league baseball increased, the Plymouth home-game season was reduced to a limited schedule. The game announcement on the right is from the *Plymouth Mail*, June 6, 1914.



Plymouth Historical Museum  
 155 South Main Street  
 Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
<http://www.plymouthhistory.org>  
<http://www.facebook.com/plymouthhistory>  
 734-455-8940 Fax: 734-455-7797

**Hours**  
 Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday  
 1-4 PM all days  
 Open year round (except some holidays)

**Board of Directors**

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**Museum Memo Editor**

Gerry Sabatini [sabatini1983@att.net](mailto:sabatini1983@att.net)  
 Proofreader—Elizabeth Kerstens

The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

**Monthly Drawing**

Charlina Hillson, Sheri Janer, and Barbara Louie, are the respective winners of the April, May, and June drawings for a \$25 gift certificate.

**Kroger Plus  
 Card  
 Donations**



Thank you to those who have added the Plymouth Historical Society to their **Kroger Plus Card**. The Museum receives a small percentage from any purchases made by those who have an up-to-date registration on their cards.

To participant in the program, visit [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com). Click on “Michigan” and click on “Enroll.”

You must have a valid online account at Kroger.com to participate. If you need help, give us a call at 734-455-8940 ext. 9. We'll be happy to help you get enrolled.

**New Members—Welcome!**

John Cheneweth, Plymouth  
 Emily Doubler, Plymouth  
 F. Susan Neal Harrison, Northport, MI  
 Patricia Jason, Livonia  
 Theresa Little, Canton  
 Vita L. Minni, Plymouth  
 Joe Rork, Plymouth

**Volunteers Make a Difference**

Attention all newly retired teachers!  
 Come join our volunteer teaching staff  
 for school field trips.  
 Call Leslie Ryder, education coordinator, to  
 discuss this fun opportunity!  
 734-455-8940 x2,

The Plymouth Historical Museum a privately funded 501 (c)3 charitable organization. We receive no government funding. We always have a "wish list" of things that help us as we work to preserve and share the history of Plymouth.

Here are some of our common purchases to provide inspiration.

- Roll of 100 first-class postage stamps **\$50**
- Box of copy paper **\$27**
- IT/Network support **\$250**
- ½ month heating bill **\$375**
- ½ month electric bill **\$475**
- 1 month employee salary **\$500**

To donate, make your check payable to the Plymouth Historical Museum.

# Bits 'n Pieces

By Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, executive director

## Board Elections

Congratulations to the Museum's two new board members: Carol Bimberg and William Moore. They were elected for the 3-year term 2018–2021.

We would like to thank retiring board members Dan Packer and Pam Yockey for their many years of service on the Board of Directors. Both remain as volunteers at the Museum.

## Tickets

Tickets are on sale to members now for the August 12 Wilcox House Tour. If you're interested in this tour, you should purchase your tickets during the member sales period, as this event sells out within minutes when the public gets the chance to purchase tickets.

The events, dates, and when tickets will be available to members first, and then the general public are listed in the box on the right.

Advance sale of tickets for Museum events can be purchased by members only at the Museum using cash, check or credit card. They can also be purchased online through Eventbrite, but only when the event becomes available to the public. Once the tickets are available to the public, you can purchase from the Museum's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/plymouthhistory/>) or the Museum's website (<http://www.plymouthhistory.org>). There is a small fee added to purchases through Eventbrite.

## Caboose

CSX has offered the Plymouth

Historical Museum one of its two remaining cabooses in the Plymouth area. We've been working on finding a way to make this donation happen, but have run up against a road block in city regulations. An article in the *Plymouth Observer*, written by Brad Kadrich, explains the situation. We're at the point of looking for support from Plymouth residents. See the article here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9vdmtyq>

## Kitchen Upgrade

Thanks to the fine work of DJL Builders, the kitchen upgrade project is now complete. We have two new dishwashers and two wall ovens, as well as a plumbed coffeemaker. We're excited to put the new appliances to the test during the next Wine & Appetizer Member Reception on Tuesday, July 31 (invitations will be in the mail soon).

The upgrade was paid for with a grant from the Dunning Foundation, as well as donations from the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, and several individuals.

The pictures show the new appliances, the new sink, and new granite countertops.



Date	Event	Members	Public
August 12	Wilcox House Tour	Now	June 25
August 19	Ice Cream Social (Kids)	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
September 15	Steampunk Murder Mystery	July 16	July 30
September 23	Wilcox House Tour	July 23	Aug. 6
October 6	Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk	July 2	July 16
October 27	Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk	July 30	Aug. 13
November 4	Wilcox House Tour	Sept. 17	Oct. 1
December 2	Christmas Tea	Oct. 1	Oct. 15
	“Crinolines and Classics: Those Fabulous Fifties”		
December 12	Simply Dickens	Oct. 15	Oct. 29

**Donations Received**  
**March – May 2018 Thank You!**

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between March and May 2018:

**\$6,000**

Don Soenen

**The Lincoln (\$1,000+ )**

Patrick O'Neill  
Dennis Sergent

**The Starkweather (\$500-\$999)**

Cynthia Hartsig  
Dan Herriman  
Michael Howell  
Ernie Hughes  
David Latawiec  
William Lawton  
Kimberly Majeske  
William Moore  
Jim O'Donnell

**The Penniman (\$250-\$499)**

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Jean Upton  
Andy Ura



Become a Member

Bi-monthly newsletter, Museum Memo  
10% discount in the Museum Store  
Reduced rates on some Museum events

Free admission to the Museum during the membership year  
Monthly educational programs

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Roy Pilkington

**R**oy has been with the museum as a volunteer in the maintenance department for 16 years. Back in 2002, Roy wanted to donate some items to the museum; once it was learned he was handy in carpentry and electronics, he was recruited immediately.

Roy was born in Highland Park and grew up in Portland, Michigan. He joined the Air Force in 1950 and served our country as an electronic technician and radar instructor in Biloxi, Mississippi. Roy met his wife, Helen, in New Orleans. He finished his education after serving his country and graduated from Michigan State University in 1957 with a degree in engineering. Roy and Helen had four children; he is now the proud grandfather of 12 grandchildren, four great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.


Roy has worked on many museum upgrades over the years. Some of his projects include building the upper level storefronts on Main Street, adding a huge cabinet to the Archive, and refurbishing and installing the Cassidy House front doors in the Sanford Burr Meeting Room.

Roy loves his volunteer job at the museum and looks forward to working with the rest of the maintenance crew and doing things with his hands. He also enjoys his free time by reading his favorite



fiction and detective novels.

Roy is much appreciated for his hard work and dedication and is truly an asset to our museum.



**Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk**

Tours begin at 4 PM  
AND LEAVE PROMPTLY  
EVERY 15 MINUTES

**Riverside Cemetery**

Tickets are \$15 per person

**Saturday, Oct 6**  
(Tickets on sale to members July 2)

**Saturday, Oct 27**  
(Tickets on sale to members July 30)

Purchase tickets at  
**Plymouth Historical Museum**  
155 S. Main Street  
Plymouth  
734-455-8940

## Wilcox House Tour

Join us for a guided tour of the historic Wilcox House (also known as the Markham House). The guide will be Jim Salamay, a historian and Museum volunteer who writes the blog "PlymouthMIDiscoveries" at <https://plymouthmidiscoveries.com/>. Jim will portray William "Phil" Markham, who built the house for his mistress, Blanche Shortman. Blanche will be portrayed by Sarah Krot. There may be a candid appearance by Markham's spurned wife, Carrie Markham.

Thank you to Ernie Hughes and First Financial Strategies for making these tours possible.

**Sunday, August 12, 2018**  
Tours at 1, 2, 3, and 4 pm  
Tickets \$15 per person  
On sale now to members.



Admission to the Plymouth Historical Museum is FREE on Saturdays until September 1, 2018, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Comfort Keepers of Plymouth.



**Congratulations to the Plymouth Historical Museum  
On "A Night for the Museum" - Fundraising Event  
AND  
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*Rotary Donates Foundation*

50 Years Ago - May 1968

# Kellogg Park Plans Approved

Kellogg Park finally is going to get its long anticipated face lifting.

After several years of planning and bickering--the City Commission Monday night approved the beautification plan that will include a \$5,000 lighted fountain donated by the Plymouth Rotary Club.

In accepting this gift and approving the entire proposal the Commission also invited all other service groups and private citizens to share in completing the project.

It was understood that the Kiwanis Club is considering sponsoring at least part of the

15-foot brick promenade on the inside of the present sidewalk.

The Commission also decided that the entire park project be turned over to the Women's Garden Club, which sponsored the installation of the gas lights a year ago, and the Rotary Club, who will work with the Planning Commission.

\* \* \*

THE NEW PLAN calls for the removal of the "Plymouth Rock" to the tip of the peak, and the fountain to be in the center of the main section. There also will be a tree planting program and benches in the shady nooks to give it a restful atmosphere.

Aside from the park itself, the plan also calls for the planting of trees on the western side of Main Street to help give the entire central business district a new look.

Mrs. Edwin Schrader, who has represented the Garden Club and the women's group, announced the gift from the Rotary Club, stating that it was the feeling of the club that inasmuch as it used the park for the annual chicken barbecue that has become a traditional part of the Fall Festival, it was happy to use some of the profits to beautify the park--and urged other clubs to follow suit.

## *Plymouth Story Goes On Air*

The story of the Plymouth Community -- past, present and future -- will be featured on WWJ radio Monday evening at 7 p.m.

It is another in the series of a "Salute to the Suburbs," and will feature the voices of Sam Hudson, Harold Guenther, Carl Pursell, Mayor James Jabara, Township Supervisor John E. McEwen, and W.W. Edgar, editor of The Mail and Observer.

50 Years Ago - May 1968



DECORATED FOR SERVICE: Army Captain Kenneth Gregory (left), son of Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Gregory, 391 Sunset, is shown here being decorated with the bronze star for meritorious service in Vietnam. Col. Harry McNamara, Jr., commander of the School Brigade at the Army School at Ft. Knox is pinning the decoration on the Plymouth soldier who is a graduate of Plymouth High School and Michigan State University.

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Karen Wilhelm

**K**aren is one of our dedicated volunteers in the Archive. She started with us one year ago, finding us online and wishing to spend part of her retirement volunteering her hours working with people.

Karen is originally from Delaware and moved to this area back in 1971. She worked at Gale Research in Farmington Hills for ten years in the Research Department and finished her career of 20 years at the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), working in the Publishing Division. Karen and her husband are proud of their son and daughter-in-law and their four grandchildren. Now living in Plymouth Township, she is a big music fan of her husband, Mike, who in retirement plays guitar and sings for parties and special events. He was one of the entertainers at the Ann Arbor Summer Fest.

Karen finds the Plymouth Historical Museum to be very professional and “first class.” She enjoys working with the people in the Archive and dealing daily with historical items and Plymouth history. Because of her background in library and publishing research, she feels this volunteer job is the right fit. We are glad she feels that way, too.



## ‘A Steampunk Murder Mystery’

Tonight was to be a festive celebration in honor of both of Lady Evangeline Steeles’ 21st birthday and also her engagement to Mr. Bartholemew Payne.

A mysterious and priceless gift is delivered to Lady Evangeline—one that carries a dark and powerful secret. But when Mr. Payne is found dead at the bottom of a cliff, the celebration quickly turns into a murder investigation!

Who pushed him? Where is the legendary Moonstone?

With a cast of characters and lore only found in the Steampunk universe, this mystery is sure to end up hotly debated by suspects and guests alike.

Tickets are \$20 and will go on sale to members on July 16 and to the public on July 30.

**T**he year is 1857 and steam power rules, from the upper echelons of society to the gutters of London’s Old Town.

Here in the countryside sits Harrison House, a humble estate with a staff of just 20 servants. Harrison House is home to widow Lady Steeles, her daughter Evangeline, servants and, from time to time, friends and passers-by.



## Sunday Liquor Passes; Local Reps Opposed, 4-2

The Michigan House of Representatives has passed and sent to Gov. Romney a bill legalizing Sunday sales of liquor by the glass.

The vote was 60-44.

Among those voting yes were Reps. Richard Young, D-Dearborn Heights, and Vincent Pettipren, D-Westland.

Negative votes were cast by Reps. Raymond Baker, R-Farmington; John Bennett, D-Redford; Louis Schmidt, R-Livonia; and James Tierney, D-Garden City.

Gov. Romney, a non-drinker by religious conviction, is not expected to veto the bill, although he may let it become law without his signature.

### *Paid Holidays Are Approved In Township*

The Plymouth Township Board Tuesday amended township working practices on holidays for non-union employes.

It also stated that the township offices will be closed on the designated holidays.

The paid holidays are Jan. 1, New Year's Day; Feb. 22, Washington's Birthday; May 30, Memorial Day; July 4, Independence Day; First Monday in September, Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; and Dec. 25, Christmas.

## State Plans Sheldon Underpass

50 Years Ago -  
April 1968

Partial relief for the rail crossing problem that, allegedly, has helped to strangle business in the downtown area of Plymouth for years, may be on the way in the not-too-distant future.

The new ray of hope was contained in a letter from The Wayne County Road Commission to the City Commission in which it was stated provision is being made by the state highway department for an underpass on Sheldon Road — if required.

According to the letter, written by Rob-

ert Larson, planning and negotiating engineer of the County Road Commission, "the Wayne County Road Commission asked for and received assurance that in the design of the M-14 Freeway crossing over Sheldon Road, provision would be made for the possibility of depressing Sheldon Road beneath the C&O railroad tracks."

The letter further stated that Engineering Report 1 prepared by the Michigan Department of State Highways includes a statement which indicates that provision will

be made for a future Sheldon Road grade separation — if required.

At its regular meeting on Monday evening, the City Commission is expected to make a formal request for the separation in an effort to speed the work.

In the formal study made during the past year following a meeting sponsored by The Plymouth Mail and Observer, it was indicated that two crossings should be eliminated—Main Street and Sheldon Road. This could be the starter.

### *Interest Rate Increased On Savings Bonds*

AUSTIN, Tex. -- President Johnson has announced an increase in interest on all outstanding government series E and H savings bonds from 4.15 to 4.25 per cent and on "freedom shares" from 4.74 to 5 per cent, effective last Saturday.

# Plymouth Days Gone By

Compiled by Gerry Sabatini from the newspaper archives at the  
Plymouth District Library

DETROIT -- Although Labor Mediator Dr. Nathan Feinsinger still expressed optimism above an early settlement of the Metropolitan Detroit newspaper strike, now in its 209th day, a snag developed in Monday's meeting when the ITU (printers' union) made it known that it was seeking an economic package of \$39 over 36 months.

Dr. Feinsinger was quoted as saying the proposal was "unrealistic" but thought matters could be resolved when the parties sat down at the bargaining tables again.

Authoritative sources indicate that the Publishers of the Detroit Free Press and the Detroit News intend to offer a single package to all unions remaining without contracts.

The Teamsters, who started the strike Nov. 15, received a \$30 a week wage increase spread over three years. The hike begins to take effect with the resumption of publication.

Some unions are said to be willing to accept the \$30 increase only if it comes with a 30-month increase. Others reportedly are holding out for \$33.

A source close to the publishers said there was an indication the association would offer the striking and non-striking unions a \$34 package spread over 36 months on the basis of \$12, \$11 and \$11. There was no confirmation of the report.

\* \* \*

## See Hope For Paper Strike Settlement

50 Years Ago -  
June 1968

*Historians have described the year 1968 as the year that changed history. It was also the year the Detroit newspapers were on strike. Detroiters relied on other media sources for their daily news. The strike lasted 267 days. The strike began in November 1967, and was settled in August 1968.*

## Nation-Wide Telephone Strike Idles 895 In Plymouth Plants

Joining in the first nationwide strike against the Bell Telephone Company in 21 years 895 employees walked off jobs at Michigan Bell and Western Electric, its subsidiary, Thursday afternoon.

Included in the group--all members of the Communication Workers of America--were 355

employees of Michigan Bell, 80 installers from Western Electric who were working at the new phone building on Ann Arbor, and 460 employees of the

distributing house at Western Electric who refused to cross the picket line.

*In 1968, 895 Plymouth area telephone workers joined the national strike against the Bell Telephone System. Nationally, 200,000 telephone workers walked out when Bell Telephone refused to agree to wage increases. The strike lasted 18 days. Workers received wage and benefit increases totaling nearly 20 percent over a three-year period.*

## Grass Cuttings Clog Sewers

City Manager Richard Blodgett sent out a plea Friday afternoon asking the residents not to dump their grass cuttings in the street.

"When this is done," he said, "the cuttings find their way to the sewers and block them -- and this causes more trouble."

50 Years Ago -  
June 1968

## Loud Teen Music Can Damage Ear



by two University of Michigan researchers.

Dr. Ralph R. Rupp, head of the audiology division of the U-M Speech Clinic, and Larry J. Koch, senior clinician, report in the current edition of Michigan Hearing that young people who either play or listen to rock-'n'-roll music at high intensity levels may pay an "enormous" price in terms of eventual reduction of hearing.

They note that most teenagers are not able to listen to their special brand of high intensity music for long periods of time at home because "their parents, as the less adaptable members of the family, cannot stand the sound."



50 Years Ago -  
June 1968

Stone deaf from rock-'n'-roll?  
Listening to loud rock-'n'-roll music may impair or permanently damage a teen-ager's hearing, according to a study

## Tigers Keep Winning Despite Big Problems

In June 1968, during the Detroit Tigers' pennant drive, management considered trading first baseman Norm Cash, because of his low batting average—.196—and high salary—\$40,000 per season. In October, Cash powered the Tigers to the 1968 World Series championship, batting .385!

50 Years Ago -  
June 1968



Money eases a lot of pains--like Norm Cash playing for the Detroit Tigers when he knows that they'd prefer he'd be performing elsewhere.

The Tigers have sought for some time to work a deal for the first baseman.

But nobody wants him at the price the Tigers want in return.

"Norm's market value keeps dropping," one source close to the Tigers declared.

"Another factor against trading him away is his salary. He gets around \$40,000 per season."

That's a pretty high figure for a player who, at last count, was hitting under 200.

\* \* \*

CASH HAS been in and out of the Tiger lineup this season almost as frequently as most women pop in and out of stores.

He's shared the job at first with Mickey Stanley, Eddie Matthews and even Bill Freehan.

## New School Gets Old Name

The Plymouth School Board finally named the district's new high school Plymouth High School--which isn't a new name at all.

It also recommended that the other three schools be named Canton, Salem and Superior in recognition of the governmental units served by the district.

Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum  
155 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170

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## Calendar of Events

For a detailed list of events, visit the Museum website at [www.plymouthhistory.org/events.html](http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events.html).

### July

15—"Here Comes the Bride" Special Exhibit closes.

31—Wine & Appetizer Member Reception for "Nifty Fifties," 6-8 PM.

### August

1—"Nifty Fifties" Special Exhibit opens.

12—Wilcox House Tours, 1, 2, 3, and 4 PM. Tickets on sale to members now.

15—FREE Family Night, 6-8 PM, sponsored by C. L. Finlan & Sons.

19—Princess Ice Cream Social, SOLD OUT.

### September

15—"A Steampunk Murder Mystery," 5:30—8 PM. Tickets go on sale to members July 16.

23—Wilcox House Tours, 1, 2, 3, and 4 PM. Tickets on sale to members July 23.



## The Museum's Current Special Exhibit

Featuring wedding outfits and artifacts from the past as well as interesting facts that pertain to wedding traditions long gone. The exhibit is on display until  
**July 15, 2018.**