

July/August 2017

## Haunted Main Street in October

Please join us for a  
**Victorian Wake**

AND MEMBER PREVIEW RECEPTION FOR THE  
HAUNTED MAIN STREET EXHIBIT

**Friday, September 29, 6-8 p.m.**

Plymouth Historical Museum  
155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI

Appetizers, beer and wine will be served.

Mourning attire optional.

Museum Members receive 2 complimentary tickets;  
Additional tickets are \$25 per person

Please reserve your tickets by September 22 at  
[www.plymouthhistory.org](http://www.plymouthhistory.org) or call 734-455-8940 ext. 2

**S**omber. Spooky. Creepy. How will you describe the Plymouth Historical Museum's Haunted Main Street exhibit in October?

The Museum will close for a week, September 25-30, in order to decorate the "Celebrating Plymouth—150 Years" exhibit for Halloween. When the Museum reopens on Sunday, October 1, our Main Street will take on a darker, more sinister appearance. You never know who will be lurking in the stores and Victorian rooms.

Speaking of Victorian rooms, there will be a Victorian wake in the parlor, in keeping with the traditions of the times. The rooms will be appropriately draped in funeral black. Please come pay your respects to the recently departed.

The Haunted Main Street exhibit will kick off with the Member Preview Reception on Friday, September 29, 6-8 PM. We will have a reenactment of a Victorian Wake during the evening. Members receive two complimentary tickets. If you would like to invite additional friends and family, you can purchase tickets for \$25 at [www.plymouthhistory.org](http://www.plymouthhistory.org). We ask that you reserve your tickets by September 22 because this is a food event and we need to be able to plan how many we will feed.

Join us for a spooky good time!

## Weddings Through the Years Exhibit, January 2018

**T**he Exhibits Crew of the Plymouth Historical Museum is asking members to consider loaning items to the Museum for use in our upcoming Wedding exhibit in January 2018. Here's what they're looking for:

- Photos of weddings and wedding venues
- Preserved wedding bouquets
- Dresses from the 1920s or earlier
- Wedding suits from the 1920s or earlier
- Undergarments from the 1920s or earlier

- Cake toppers
- Wedding quilts
- Wedding invitations
- Matches
- Wedding photo albums
- Wedding memories of Plymouth residents

Please contact Mary Thackston, exhibits coordinator, if you have items for loan for the exhibit. Call 734-455-8940 x 7 or email [exhibits@plymouthhistory.org](mailto:exhibits@plymouthhistory.org).

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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Mary Thackston	Exhibits Coordinator

**Museum Memo Editor**

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

The Museum Memo is printed six times a year.

**Monthly Drawing**

Mike Woloszyk and Daniela Mayer are the winners of the July and August 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 participate 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!**

Steve Crooker - Plymouth, MI  
 Maureen Skelley - Plymouth, MI  
 Amy Toenes - Canton, MI  
 Mary Wolfe - Plymouth, MI



Attention all newly retired teachers! Are you sorry to see school start without you? Come join our volunteer teaching staff (as your schedule permits) 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 **\$49**
- 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:

Plymouth Historical Museum  
 155 S. Main Street  
 Plymouth, MI 48170

# Volunteer Spotlight

By Yvette Babish, volunteer coordinator

## Bill Cottrell

**B**ill Cottrell is a very valued volunteer who has led a life of service. He was born in Detroit, raised in Redford, and attended Redford Union High School. As a high school student he played the trombone in the school orchestra. As a young man, Bill volunteered in the Army and served with honor as a Specialist-4 from February 1964 to September 1967; stationed in Germany 1965–66.

In June 1970, Bill graduated from Wayne State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Geology. While in college, he continued to play his trombone in the David Mattern Memorial Orchestra.

Bill educated children as an earth science teacher at Redford Union High School, 1970–75. For many years, he was a pharmaceutical representative, eventually retiring from Astra Zeneca.

Bill has been a volunteer at the Plymouth Historical Museum for eight years. He is one of our experts on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. As a volunteer, Bill has produced two monographs, *Lincoln & The Politics of Slavery* and *Lincoln and the Declaration of Independence*. These two monographs can be purchased in the Museum Store, with all proceeds donated to the Museum.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is very thankful to Bill Cottrell for his service and dedication to our Museum.



Bill Cottrell in the Lincoln Room.

If you'd like to volunteer at the Plymouth Historical Museum, please call Yvette Babish at 734-455-8940 x4, or email [volunteer@plymouthhistory.org](mailto:volunteer@plymouthhistory.org).

### Weldon Petz Abraham Lincoln Exhibit

#### Plymouth Historical Museum

- Artifacts from Lincoln's youth
- Rare book belonging to Lincoln as a boy
- Rare family genealogy and photographs
- Handwritten legal documents and law books
- Life mask of Lincoln made in 1860
- Civil War art
- Lock of Lincoln's hair
- Artifacts from the Lincoln assassination

### Fun & Educational Field Trips

Opened in 2002, the Abraham Lincoln Exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum is a result of the lifetime collection amassed by Dr. Weldon Petz. Classes and tours are available by trained Museum guides and teachers.





**Donations Received  
June – July 2017  
Thank You!**

The following generous donations were received between June and July 2017:

**The Dunning  
(\$2,500 +)**

Plymouth Lions Club

**The Lincoln  
(\$1,000–\$2,499)**

Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center

**The Penniman  
(\$250–\$499)**

Colonial Veterinary Clinic  
Madden & Schrieber Families

**The Kellogg (\$100–\$249)**

Stephanie Goecke  
John Kronenberger & Rand Parker  
Susan Seelye

**Under \$100**

Clark Chapin  
Karen Gizzi  
Dave McDonald  
Harold McLendon  
Laura Prescott

In loving memory of Dan Schrieber, a donation of \$250 was made by Thomas & Karen Schrieber and Jeffrey & Janet Madden.

50 Years Ago - July 1967

*Will Flag Be Forgotten?*

Dear Editor:

Shortly after Memorial Day, one of your contributors complained that business houses in the downtown district had failed to mark the occasion with a display of flags.

The point was well made, but it didn't sink in as anyone who took the time to walk down Main Street on June 14 discovered. Remember what June 14 is supposed to be?

Flag Day, of course, but Plymouth merchants didn't seem to pay any attention.

Now I wonder how they will treat Independence Day.

A. Patriot



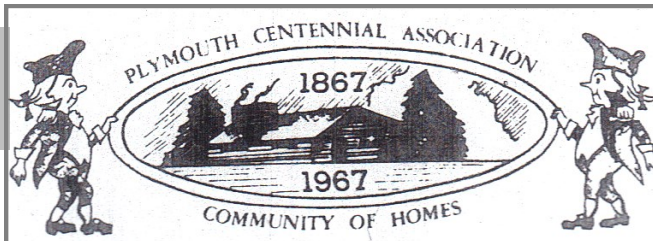
Mark your calendar and dust off your flapper dresses!

Next Year's "A Night For the Museum" gala will be Saturday, March 3, 2018 at the Italian American Banquet Center.

To become a sponsor contact Liz Kerstens at 734.455.8940 ext. 9



50 Years Ago -  
July 1967



## Lord Mayor's Words

## Our Quest For Peace

July 1967. Former Plymouth Mayor James Houk, and Frank Chapman, Lord Mayor of Plymouth, England.

The long awaited Centennial Week has now passed into history. Our English visitors who helped make it such a grand success have returned to their homes across the seas.

But in their parting they have left behind a message that could well be the beacon to help guide the world to a peaceful existence.

The forceful message came in the rich brogue of His Worship, Frank Chapman, Lord Mayor of Plymouth, England, in answer to a remark that was spoken in jest.

Standing on the porch of the penthouse, high atop the Veterans Memorial Building in the Detroit Civic Center, less than an hour after he had arrived, someone remarked, within his hearing, that it was rather ironical that the four English gentlemen should be over here to help us celebrate our independence from their Motherland.

No sooner had these words been spoken than the Lord Mayor replied:

"If the two largest English speaking countries in the world can't be friendly, it is time to close up shop."

His remark, spoken with all of the dignity of his office, went straight to the trouble in the world today and it explained, more than anything else, why he and his government companions, had made the trip to our Plymouth Centennial.

"There isn't enough friendly dialogue among the nations of the world today," he remarked somberly.

"If we could just take the time to sit and visit with each other occasionally much of the world turmoil would be eased.

"I strongly believe in friendly meetings. That's why we grasped the opportunity to visit your centennial. It gave us a chance to build some good will, not only here, but all along the way.

"And, as I said, we English speaking nations must show the way. And when the day comes that we can't be friends it will be time to shut up shop."

What ringing words they were!

To be sure, our English visitors left behind many fond memories. They also left behind many tangible gifts, such as the block of granite taken from the steps at the dock from which the Mayflower sailed in 1620 for the land that was to become America.

But most important was the message that hope for peace in the world always would be built on that friendship of the two large English speaking nations.

There was no rancor in his voice as the Lord Mayor stated his views. The very thought of the Revolutionary War, in which we gained our independence from England, never even entered his mind.



# Plymouth Days Gone By

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

## Meeting Is Called To Save Theater

50 Years Ago - July 1967

Plans for a meeting to save the P & A Theater on Penniman Avenue were announced today by Plymouth Mail & Observer Editor W.W. Edgar.

To be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1, the gathering will explore ways to save the building from the ravages of the bulldozer.

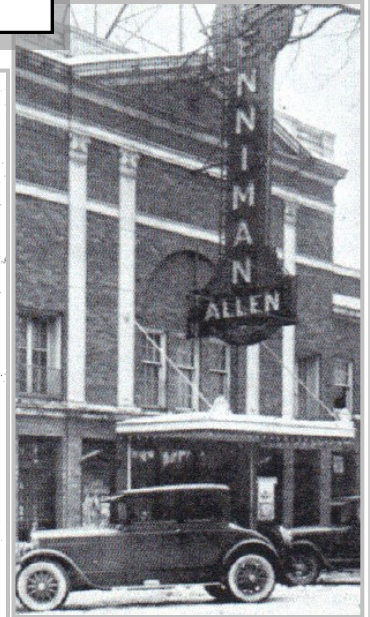
"This meeting is another in a series of steps that the Mail & Observer is undertaking in line with its policy of taking an active role in the community to promote progress and to

bring concerned people together," Edgar said.

The theater, built years ago by William Penniman, recently was given to the city as a gift "with no strings attached."

In accepting the gift the City Commission let it be known that the building would be razed unless the citizens showed some interest in retaining it.

Since then it has been hinted that the theater should be retained, refurbished and used as a medium of aiding the development of the cultural life of the city.



*Penniman-Allen Theater opened in 1918.*

## Township Water System Due For 9-Mile Extension

A 9.3-mile, \$1 million extension of Plymouth Township's water distribution system is expected to be started in October following approval this week by a key committee of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors.

Completion of the project by late winter will mean City of Detroit water being supplied to township users along 57.25 miles of major mains, with the newest program opening vast acreage for industrial and residential service.

## Main St. Landowners Take City To Court Over Road Widening

Claiming that the widening and paving of South Main Street benefits the entire city and has no special benefit for them, abutting property owners have notified the City of intent to contest and enjoin the special assessment in court.

Notice of the impending suite—filed when the City was without an official city attorney—was received at City Hall Friday afternoon. City Manager Richard Blodgett, however, pointed out that work on the project would start later this week and that the suit would only delay receipt of the money.

HOPE ENTERPRISES presents

**BOB HOPE** **PHYLLIS DILLER**

THE **PENN** THEATRE

Also starring  
**JONATHAN SHIRLEY** **JILL ST. JOHN**  
**WINTERS** **EATON**

"**8 on the Lam**" **The Most WANTED**



50 Years Ago - July 1967

## Throng Of 15,000 Cheers Independence Day Parade

Plymouth will long remember its Fourth of July celebration of '67.

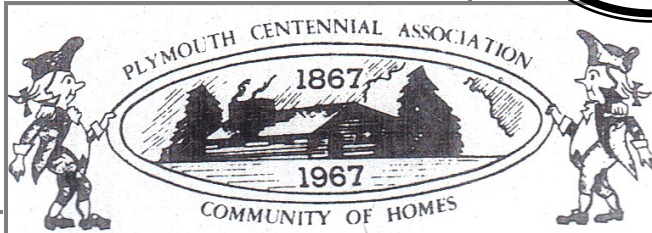
An estimated 15,000 persons ranging from toddlers to gray-beards turned out at noon on a cool, overcast day to view the most spectacular Independence Day parade ever staged here, but that was only the beginning.

The gala, holiday mood was evident as the afternoon progressed with sports car races at Mettetal Airport, where some 5,000 congregated, while at the same time thousands more toured the Home Products Show at Plymouth High School.

Capping the salute both to Plymouth's own 100 years as a city and the nation's 191st birthday was a giant fireworks display which opened at the airport as darkness fell over the area, and which produced a corker of a traffic jam.

Upwards of 5,000 automobiles converged upon the airport in the evening and their occupants were treated to a dazzling display of bombs and rockets bursting in mid-air with the brilliance of lightning.

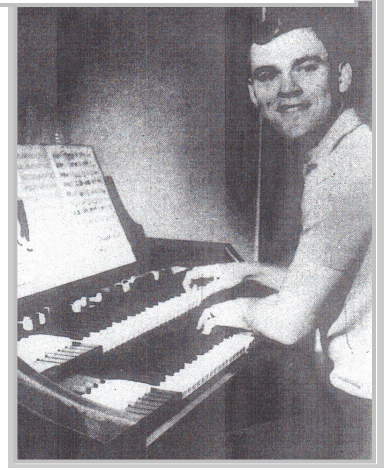
It was a grand and glorious Fourth.



**EXTRA TALENT** — Besides starring as a pitcher for the Detroit Tigers, Denny McLain also is a talented organ player. McLain, who makes his home in Livonia, gives musical lessons and also entertains at the organ during the off season.

## Parade, Dinner, Home Products Show Top Week

Never before, in the long history that dates back to the first settler in the area in 1825, has such a group of celebrities from a foreign country visited our area and their presence, alone, will make the centennial something long to be remembered.



A bright new chapter will be written indelibly into the history of Plymouth this week when the centennial celebration reaches its peak.

During the next six days the city will be host to His Worship, Frank Chapman, Lord Mayor of Plymouth, England, and his entourage that will include the Town Clerk of Plymouth and two members of his government.

## Dutch Elm Disease

Claims

105 Trees



More than 100 trees in the City of Plymouth have fallen victim of Dutch Elm disease-- and the end is not yet in sight.

"This is the worst year we have had in some time", Ken Vogras, head of the Department of Public Works, explained, "and we are doing all we can to stop the spread of the killer."

According to the latest report from the battlefield 30 of the diseased trees are on city property and will be removed immediately. The loss on private property is still greater with 75 trees being tagged as the next to go.

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).

Special Museum Exhibit, "Celebrating Plymouth — 150 Years!"

### September

- 13—Wednesday, Family Night, 6-8 PM, Plymouth Historical Museum, Sponsor: C.L. Finlan Insurance.
- 23—Saturday, Smithsonian Museum Day Live! Tickets available at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/museum-day-live-2017/>
- 25—Exhibit closed for updates for Haunted Main Street.
- 29—Members Only Reception: Victorian Wake, 6-8 PM.

### October

- 1—Haunted Main Street exhibit opens.
- 30—Exhibit closed for updates for Christmas in Plymouth.

### November

- 7—Members Only Reception, 6-8 PM.



Visit the Museum's Special Exhibit

