

July-September 2018

## Relive the Nifty Fifties at the Museum!



*On exhibit at  
the  
Plymouth  
Historical  
Museum  
August 1 thru  
December 30,  
2018*

The Plymouth Historical Museum's newest exhibit, the "Nifty Fifties" is sure to bring nostalgia back to our more experienced visitors, while allowing the younger generations to see life in the 1950s before computers and cell phones. Check out the American Bandstand display, a typical living room of the era, discover the popular soft drinks (pop), music and emerging television favorites, and, of course, fashions of the decade.

Many unique and rare collectible items have been loaned to the Museum for this special exhibit, including '50s banks, thermometers, dolls, clothing, and paint-by-number paintings. Our exhibits crew reveled in reliving their childhoods when they put together this great exhibit!



### "Crinolines and Classics: Those Fabulous Fifties" Tea



Enjoy tea delicacies catered by Diann's Catering. Ticket holders who arrive at the Plymouth Historical Museum before the tea are welcome to visit the Museum's "Nifty Fifties" special exhibit. Doors for "Crinolines and Classics" will open at 1:50 p.m. Tickets go on sale to members (\$30) on October 1 and to the public (\$35) on October 15, 2018.

Sunday, December 2, 2018,  
2-4 pm

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



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)

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Pam Yockey	Archivist

**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**

William Cottrell, Mike Janz, and Alicia D'Orazio, are the respective winners of the July, August, and September 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!**

- Tony Berci, Plymouth
- Tami Broniak, Canton
- Peggy Carlin, Plymouth
- Jennifer Cheetam, Plymouth
- Joan Connor, Plymouth
- Lisa Dempsey, Northville
- Melissa Doss, Haslett
- Joleen Firek, Plymouth
- Cynthia Flora, Plymouth
- Margaret Gannon, Plymouth
- Chris Huffman, Plymouth
- Kiran Lenz, Canton
- Debra Levientrosser, Whitmore Lake
- Ann O'Shaughnessy, Plymouth
- Allyn Phillips, Canton
- Kathryn Timson, Canton
- Joseph Wasson, Garden City
- Susan Wess, Ypsilanti
- Kelly Weston, Plymouth
- Karen Wilhelm, Plymouth

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.

- 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

It's the time of year when the Museum staff works on honing the collections so we can more effectively tell Plymouth's story.

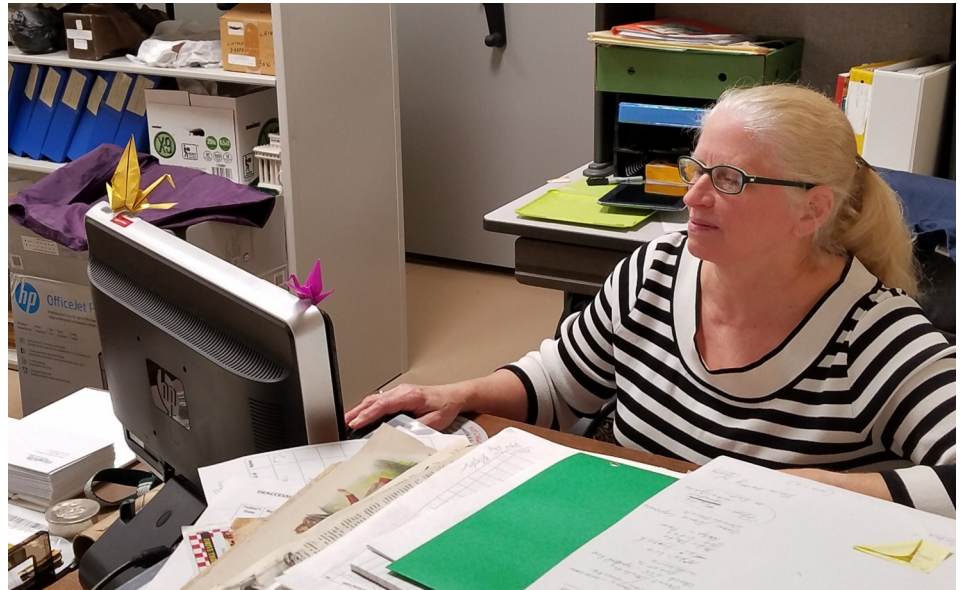
We're calling the upcoming sale the "Museum Overstock Sale" because we have many items that are duplicates, triplicates or more, and we need to cull. The sale will be in the Museum's Sanford Burr Meeting Room Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13, 10 AM-4 PM.

Items for sale include vintage and antique books, pictures, clothing, quilts, glass and china, kitchen items, toys and dolls, furniture, equipment, as well as a variety of other items.

Please note, we are **not** accepting donations for this sale, as we are trying to eliminate rather than gather at this time.

## New Archivist

Many of you are familiar with Pam Yockey and all of the hats she has worn in the Plymouth Historical Museum over the past 40



or so years. Pam is now the staff archivist at the Museum and has dug in with both feet since taking over at the beginning of August.

Pam comes to us from the Exhibits Committee, where she will still devote some time during our exhibit changeovers. She is a textile historian and made the beautiful dress that Mary Todd Lincoln wears in our Lincoln

Collection as well as the dresses displayed in our First Ladies Fashion Setters exhibit. Pam also served on the Board of Directors for six years; three of those years she was president of the Board.

Heidi Nielsen, our long-time archivist, has moved to Florida and will be sorely missed.

## Special Events are Selling Out Rapidly!

Tickets for the Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk on October 27 sold out in 12 hours, once the public was allowed to purchase tickets. Your membership allows you to purchase tickets to events 2 weeks before tickets go on sale to the public. Considering that ALL of our events are now selling out rapidly, this is one of your biggest membership benefits that we can offer!

So, if you are interested in an event, please make note of the sale dates in the chart at right so

you don't miss out on your opportunity to be the first one to sign up for our events!

Remember, members need to call or come in to purchase during the members' purchase times.

Date	Event	Members	Public
October 6	Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
October 27	Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
November 4	Wilcox House Tour	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	
December 2	Christmas Tea	<i>Oct. 1</i>	Oct. 15
	"Crinolines and Classics: Those Fabulous Fifties"		
December 12	Simply Dickens	<i>Oct. 15</i>	Oct. 29
February 10	Suffrage Tea	<i>Dec. 3</i>	Dec. 17
March 9	Museum Gala	<i>Jan. 2</i>	Jan. 2
March 30	A Flapper Murder at the 1920s Speakeasy	<i>Jan. 28</i>	Feb. 11

**Donations Received**  
**June – August 2018 Thank You!**

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between June and August 2018:

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

Sanford Burr Estate  
Over the Grill Gang  
Chef's Club  
Plymouth Lions Club/  
Foundation

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

Schoolcraft College

**The Kellogg  
(\$100-\$249)**

Margaret Diponio  
Ellen Elliott  
Paula Holmes  
David Hradsky  
Debbie Lochner  
Laura Prescott  
Frances Stine  
Jeffrey Vaillant  
Mary Zamba

**Up to \$100**

Mark Baan  
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Jeanne Bloom  
Clark Chapin  
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Darlene Ursel  
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America, Michigan  
Chapter

Karen Wilhelm  
Russ Worthington



## Support the Plymouth Historical Museum

The Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum (a.k.a. Plymouth Historical Society) is privately funded and receives no government support for its mission of providing historical education and maintaining the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Donations are sent directly to the Plymouth Historical Society, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and all donations are tax deductible. If your donation is more than \$100, you will be acknowledged on our donor wall in the stairwell leading to the lower level.

We appreciate your support!

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Barbara Rogers

Barbara was born in Michigan but spent most of her childhood in New York and California. She moved to Canton in 1971 and loves the Plymouth-Canton community. She has a son and daughter and six grandchildren. One of her real joys in life is babysitting for her grandkids.

Barbara was a bit of a late bloomer and didn't finish her college degree until her early 40s. She taught in Livonia in special education classrooms, especially enjoying the center program and the resource room.

She always wanted to volunteer at the Museum and finally found time a couple of years ago to be a guide. She is also active with the Museum's education program and enjoys working with the education staff and teaching history to the school children.

Barbara mentioned that she has learned so much here at the Museum and feels fortunate to have met many nice people. She hopes to continue as a volunteer at the Museum for many years, and we do, too!



**Gala**  
*A Affair  
to Remember*

**Save the Date!**  
**Saturday, March 9,**  
**2019, 6-9 PM**  
**Italian-American**  
**Banquet & Conference**  
**Center, Livonia**

# Volunteer Spotlight



## Bob Quattro

**B**ob came to the Museum 1½ years ago as a Museum guide. Born and raised in northwest Detroit, Bob spent 48 years at the University of Michigan as a director of laboratories in the Department of Natural Sciences. Bob’s first passion is history and finds his position at the Museum a perfect fit. Bob spends extra time exploring and taking notes of all facets of the Museum to add to his repertoire when he speaks to the visitors.

He has a unique hobby of collecting children’s cookbooks, amassing more than 100 different copies. The interest started when he helped work with his ten-year-old granddaughter in the kitchen. Bob felt cooking from recipes is a wonderful way for children to learn measurements, math, directions, and other life lessons while being rewarded with a special treat to eat for all your work.

Besides his granddaughter, she also has a twin brother and an older brother. The Museum appreciates all of Bob’s contributions.

## Chalina Hillson

**C**halina has been a volunteer guide at the Museum for one year. Her hobby is “antiquing,” which is visiting antique stores and malls just to view items. One day last year she was driving by the Museum and felt volunteering here would be the perfect for filling her time.

Before retiring, Chalina worked 44 years at the University of Michigan in Dearborn as a dean in the office of finance. She is also president of the board for Plymouth/Canton Community Literacy Council, whose main goal is teaching English to people who use English as a second language. Recently, Chalina acquired a sizeable grant from Dollar General to help her cause.

Chalina has two children and two grandchildren, ages 8 and 18. She loves her position at the Museum and finds that talking to the visitors can bring many interesting stories. Thanks, Chalina, for your service.





## Revisiting a Painting

In 1974, Mrs. Jesse Hudson of Salem High School approached a shy, young student named Laura Mysona who possessed some artistic talents. She asked Laura if she would be willing to paint a large picture of an outdoor scene that would be used at the Plymouth Historic Museum. The Museum was building its Main Street display that would showcase buildings of the nineteenth century. The painting would be placed in a window frame in the schoolhouse and would show an outdoor scene of the era. Laura readily agreed and produced a beautiful scene of children playing in the schoolyard.

This past August, one of our visitors at the Museum's family night, Laura Oberzanek, was completely taken by surprise when she saw that her painting was still highlighting the window frame in the schoolhouse. She was happy to tell us the story of Mrs. Hudson's request 44 years ago and was proud that the Museum is still using her piece of art.



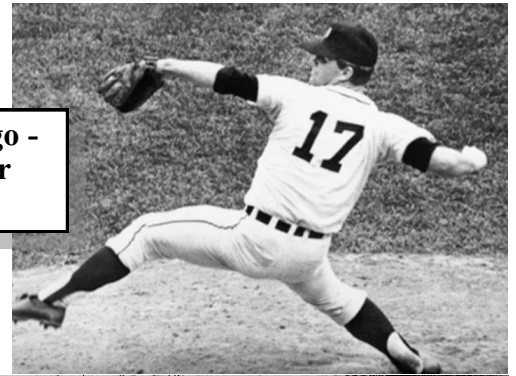
# Plymouth Days Gone By

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

## Denny's Biggest Moment

On September 14, 1968, at Tiger Stadium, Detroit Tiger Denny McLain became the first major league pitcher in 34 years to win 30 games in a season. Trailing the Oakland As 4-3 in the bottom of the ninth, Detroit scored two runs for a 5-4 victory. Willie Horton hit a line drive single, scoring Mickey Stanley with the winning run, and securing McLain's place in baseball history. In the bottom of the fourth inning, the old ballpark shook when Norm Cash hit a three-run homer. McLain completed the '68 season with a 31-6 record. Since McLain's 31-win season, only two pitchers have approached the 30-game milestone. Steve Carlton won 27 games in 1972, and Bob Welch won 27 games in 1990.

50 Years Ago -  
September  
1968



MAN OF THE HOUR: That's Denny McLain, star righthander of the Tigers who demonstrates the pitching form that enabled him to become the first major league hurler in 34 years to win 30 games. Denny turned the trick Saturday against Oakland.

## Wider Ann Arbor Road

Hopeful of easing the ever increasing traffic on Ann Arbor Road, the Plymouth City Commission has appealed to the State Highway Department to increase a section of the thoroughfare between Sheldon and Lilley to five lanes.

According to the survey made by City Manager Richard Blodgett the traffic has increased to a point where it ranges from

9,200 to 14,100 vehicles in a 24-hour period on the west bound lane and from 5,700 to 11,500 on the east bound lane.

"This traffic is now being carried on one east bound and one west-bound lane," Blodgett pointed out, "and this volume creates a congestion even without the large number of left turn possibilities."

He also pointed out that the

traffic accidents between Lilley and Sheldon Roads are a serious problem. Thus far in 1968 nine persons have been injured in accidents on this stretch and this is almost double the number of four years ago.

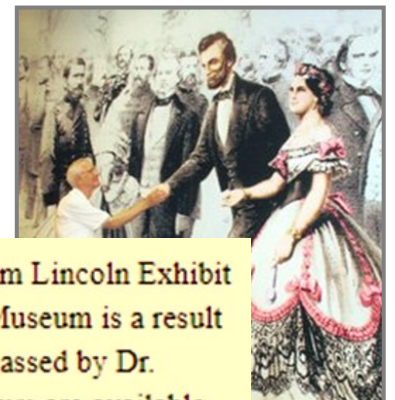
50 Years Ago -  
August 1968

## Weldon Petz Abraham Lincoln Exhibit

- 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

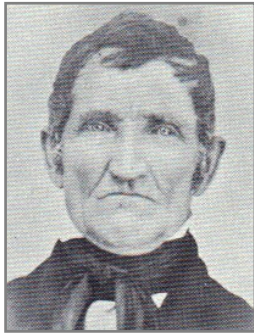
## Fun & Educational Field Trips

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.





## OUR GEM



*John Kellogg; circa 1865*

Prior to 1858, Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth was fenced-in, and used for traveling circuses and hot air balloon ascensions. The park is named in honor of John Kellogg, who was born in 1786, and arrived in Plymouth from Palmyra, NY, in 1834. In 1835, after building a home on today's Ann Arbor Trail, Kellogg purchased several parcels of land in the village and donated some of his properties to be used as public parks; including his property in the village center. Kellogg Park was called Village Green until 1909.



*The fountain shown in this photo of Kellogg Park was installed in 1969.*

## *Festival Again Establishes*

### *Value Of Kellogg Park*



**50 Years Ago -  
September 1968**

Along about dusk this Sunday afternoon the last of the visitors will have eaten their barbecued chicken and the annual Fall Festival will come to a close.

It will mark another chapter in one of the most unusual events sponsored in any city in the state and chances are that the thousands who have enjoyed the events of the past four days will give a single thought to what made it all possible—Kellogg Park.

Were it not for this shady triange right in the heart of the central business district there would be no such things as the Fall Festival or the Summer band concerts and the myriad things that have the park as their setting.

For years the park has been taken for granted not only by the citizens, but the government officials and businessmen as well.

Little is ever said of the park until some famed developer or planning engineer sees the setting. Then they all chorus, "That park is worth a million dollars to the city."

\* \* \*

IF YOU'VE NEVER taken the time before, it may be well to spend a few moments in the area and take a close look at the park. It is one of the few in America that is right in the heart of the downtown business area. Only the city of Boston with its famed Commons can match it. Yet, few realize the real value it is to the city—not only today, but in all future planning.

Now and then in traveling about the country you come across small parks in the out-state communities. Marshall, Michigan, is a fine example. But these parks are usually at one end of the downtown area and have little use except for beautification purposes.

Not so in Plymouth. Here Kellogg Park is the center of activity and is certain to play a leading role in any planning for the future of the downtown area.

\* \* \*



City of  
*Northville*  
Michigan

Historically Distinctive

# 'Unified' Northville Is Rated 'Feasible'

**50 Years Ago -  
September 1968**

Unification of the city and township of Northville into one municipality has been deemed "feasible" in a study conducted by a governmental management consultant, but if accomplished would have totally opposite taxation results for property owners of the two areas.

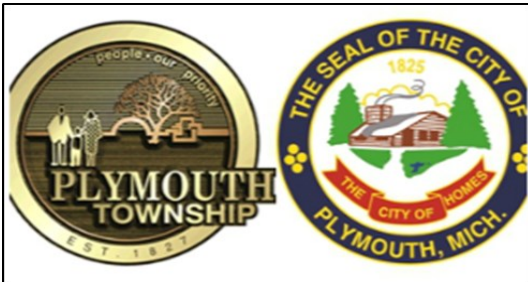
A unified Northville, offering increased efficiency of operations through elimination of duplicate functions, could be operated with a seven-mill tax levy (\$7 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation), says the report.

However, while this would be six mills lower than Northville's current municipal tax rate of 13 mills it also would be six mills higher than the current one-mill property tax being paid by township landholders.

A similar unification study relating to the two Plymouth entities has been in progress since last fall, this one under the direction of the Michigan Citizens Research Council.

The City Commission and Township Board of Trustees are to be given finished copies of the study during the week of Sept. 10, and a public review of the report is scheduled to be presented Sept. 28 at the second annual Schoolcraft Leadership Conference.

In fact, it was from the 1967 Schoolcraft confab that the separate Northville and Plymouth studies resulted. Originally, an areawide Plymouth-Northville-Canton unification analysis was proposed, but individual governments later decided to approach the problem separately.



*In September 1968, the communities of Northville and Plymouth were presented with the results of a contracted study that examined the merging of their respective city and township. The final proposals to merge as one unified government for each community were never adopted.*

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

**Volunteers Make a Difference!**



Jump into the Pool!  
We are looking for people to join our pool of educational presenters.

## Horse Shoe Champion Tops 45-Year Career

In September 1968, Plymouth resident, Ivan Lute, age 53, topped a field of six finalists to win the Michigan Horse Shoe State Championship. During Ivan's 45 years of competition, he won over 100 trophies, and competed in every major horse shoe tournament in the Midwest.

After 45 years of competition Ivan Lute, who lives with his brother-in-law at 174 Hamilton, still is a champion at pitching horse shoes.

He proved his ability again on Sunday afternoon at Chandler Park in Detroit when he topped a field of six finalists to win the Michigan State championship.

Originally, the event was set for the closing day of the Michigan State Fair a week ago. But it was postponed because of rain, and run off at Chandler Park.

TO WIN the title, Ivan lost only one match in the round robin and was far ahead on points at the finish.



As he proudly held up his trophy, he remarked, "This keeps my record straight ... I have a championship in every state in which I have competed."

Born and raised in Barnesboro, Pa. in 1915, he came to Plymouth four years ago and now is employed at the Bathey Manufacturing Co.

In the hill country just 80 miles east of Pittsburgh, he took to pitching horse shoes when he was a lad of eight years. He's been at it ever since.

"I made the round of all farm shows and county fairs," he said, "and usually worked out of Harrisburg. There are quite a number of fairs around

### Legion Post Honors Six As 'Citizens Of Year'

Six Plymouth area residents were paid special tribute Saturday by members of the Passage-Gayde Post of the American Legion and auxiliary as their "citizens of the year."

The occasion was the post's second annual "Law and Order Recognition Night" and those saluted included:

Rodney A. Cannon, of the city police department, as "Policeman of the Year," and both Gwynne Fulton, of the city, and C. L. Maas, of the township, as "Firemen of the Year."

William Saxton was honored as the community's "Businessman of the Year," while W. C. Scott and W. P. Scott were named jointly for the "Industrialist of the Year" award.

### 50 Years Ago - September 1968

Guest speaker at the occasion was David McDougall, past state vice-commander. Program moderator was Ernest Koi of the Passage-Gayde post.

Special guests included City Manager Richard Blodgett, Mayor Protem James McKeon, Township Trustee Russell Ash, Township Public Service Director Paul Albright, and Chamber of Commerce President Carl Pursell.

Post Commander Fred Johnson declared, "In this, the golden anniversary year of the American Legion, we hope that we have expressed our appreciation to the citizens of the community who have been honored."

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

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Return Service Requested

## 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).

### October

12 & 13—Museum Overstock Sale, 10 AM-4 PM. **Donations NOT accepted for this sale.**

19—FREE Family Night, 6-8 PM, sponsored by Schoolcraft College.

### November

14—Members-only Christmas Preview, 6-8 PM, invitations to follow.

23—Santa's Workshop, 6-8 PM, sponsored by American Home Lending, FREE

### December

2—"Crinolines and Classics: Those Fabulous Fifties" Tea, 2-4 PM, sponsored by Ellen Elliott. See ticket sales schedule on page 3. \$30 for members; \$35 for non-members.

12—Simply Dickens, sponsored by Mayflower Enterprises. See ticket sales schedule on page 3. \$15.



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

"Nifty Fifties" exhibit on display through December 30, 2018. Flip back to the days of hula hoops, saddle shoes and neato slang. Cool displays include family life in the 1950s, the American Bandstand Show, Classic TV shows, and dress and style of the era.

