

November/December 2015

'Farmington Junction: A Trolley History'

**Friends of the Plymouth
Historical Museum
Meeting
Tuesday,
January 12, 2016, 7:30 PM**

**Guest Speaker, Brian Golden
*Farmington Junction:
A Trolley History***

**Open to the public
& admission is free**

Brian Golden will be the featured guest speaker at the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at 7:30 PM.

The title of his presentation is, "Farmington Junction: A Trolley History."

An interurban electric railroad, known as the Detroit United Railroad or the D.U.R., began service in 1901.

The main junction was at Grand

River and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington.

The D.U.R. passengers could transfer to the Orchard Lake route, north to Pontiac, or continue south through Farmington to the Northville train station.

During its thirty years of operation, the D.U.R. was profitable for both its owners and the Farmington region. Each car required a motor man and a brakeman, and the D.U.R. employed several Farmington men to help operate and maintain the rail tracks and passenger cars.

Eventually the D.U.R. fell victim to the Depression, and was replaced by the Detroit Department of Street Railways.

Brian is the author of 5 local history books, and conducts historical tours in Farmington. He is also a member of the Plymouth Living History Troupe.

The talk is open to the public and admission is free.



Featured guest speaker, Brian Golden, is president of the Farmington Historical Society and the Oakland County Historical Society. Brian has facilitated an Oakland County Historical Society Round Table and assists with fund raising for local historical groups. He is an accomplished percussionist and has performed with numerous orchestras in southeast Michigan. Brian and his wife, Joni, live in downtown Farmington.

*Detroit United Railroad Depot,
Farmington, MI*



Save the Date!

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
PRESENTS

A Night for the Museum

DINNER • AUCTION • FUNDRAISER
Saturday, March 12, 2016

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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The Museum Memo is printed six times a year. Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum meetings are open to members, their guests, and the public and are held on the second TUESDAY of each month, September through May, at 7:30 PM, unless otherwise scheduled. Please enter on the Church Street side of the building.

Monthly Drawing

Paula Holmes and Barbara Louie are the winners of the November and December drawings for a \$25 gift certificate.

Plymouth Historical Museum's
Annual Craft Bazaar
 & **Open House**

Saturday, December 5
 10 AM - 4 PM



- Free admission
- Bake Sale
- Visit Santa
- Experience the special exhibit

Plymouth Historical Museum
 155 S. Main Street
 Plymouth
 734-455-8940
www.plymouthhistory.org



Nov. 18—Jan. 17

New Member—Welcome!

Tim Tingstad, Plymouth

Plymouth Historical Museum Wish List

1 Roll Postage Stamps	\$49 per
Adopt a Mannequin	\$150
1/2 month heating bill	\$375
1/2 month electric bill	\$475
1 month employee's salary	\$500

To donate online, please visit the Museum website at
<http://www.plymouthhistory.org/support-us/donate.html>

Tea Party Needs

- Demitasse spoons
- Salad or dessert forks
- 3-inch diameter shallow bowls for fruit or sauce
- Luncheon plates (about 7-inch diameter)
- Tiered serving plates
- Round, colored table clothes

Bits 'N Pieces

By Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, executive director



During the Christmas season, Santa's helpers show up in many shapes, sizes and dispositions anywhere there is a shopping opportunity.

This is the sixth year Mike Gillett has been our Santa Claus. Mike was the administrative assistant at the Plymouth Historical Museum for about 18 months, so some of you may recognize his face. He's popular with children because, as he says, "I offer no physical, intellectual or emotional threat."

Mike loves to tell stories about some of his encounters as Santa. I'll share a couple here.

There was this wee lass at the Museum today. Three. Soft-spoken, shy. Very bright and polite. And wouldn't come anywhere close enough to get her picture taken with Santa. The family was there over an hour and kept coming back and attempting some sort of photograph. I tried all my tricks.



Our Santa Claus

Finally it was time to leave, the Museum was closing, and they asked her, "Honey, can you say goodbye?" She said, "Goodbye Santa. Merry Christmas." "Honey, can you give Santa a hug (I was kneeling to be on her level). Without hesitation, she left her family and came and gave me a big hug. Everyone was surprised so no one had their camera at the ready. Fortunately, when they asked her to give Santa another hug, she came back, obliged and the family got their shot!

✪ ✪

I think the parents and grandparents take more pictures of the little ones interacting with me as Santa than the "seated on Santa's lap" standard photos. I always lean forward to be on their level, yet giving them their comfort space. And always they have my full attention. And the feeling I've got nowhere else to be and plenty of time.

One little girl, speaking for her smaller, shyer brother next to her, told me he wanted "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles." "Ah," I replied, "Teenage Ninja Power Rangers... big seller this year." She giggles and corrects me.

"Oh, yes, the Ninja Turtles. That would be Michelangelo (she nods), Leonardo (she nods)... Don...er, Don... Donder and Blitzen (she giggles). And Dopey and Sneezzy!" "No no no!" she interrupts, giggling. "Those are your reindeer and some of the Seven Dwarfs. You mean Donatello and Raphael."

So I repeat after her, the four turtles. "Are you sure Donder isn't one of them?" "Nope." "Well, Donder will be disappointed. Thanks for being patient. I'm old and I've been working very hard trying to keep all these things straight. Forgive me?" Giggles. "Yes, Santa."

✪ ✪

I overheard the gal at the Museum entrance say something to a young family who had just come in about wanting a "Build-a-Bear" for Christmas. So when the two children, a young girl, maybe 7 with her 10 year old brother, came to me, I said, "Well! Which one of you wants a 'Build-a-Bear'?" The little girl nodded.

"Do you know that the Elves love 'Build-a-Bears'?"

"No. They do!?"

"Yes. Yes, they do. And do you know why they do?"

"No. Why?"

"Because they don't have to make them! You do it for them! So when you make a 'Build-a-Bear,' you are really doing the work of an Elf. And I would like to thank you for that!"

"You're welcome."

Thank you Mike...er... Santa, for bringing joy to our visitors during the holiday season!

Donations Received
October 1 – November, 15, 2015
Thank You!

The Starkweather (\$500–\$999)

Delores Guenther
 Mary Ellen King

The Penniman (\$250–\$499)

Lois Dusbiber

The Kellogg (\$100–\$249)

Jim Burroughs
 Chris & Tom Kolakowski
 Karen Witmer

Up to \$100

Michael Bida
 Sally Fedus
 Dan Packer
 Mike Pappas
 Patricia Soter

Support the Plymouth Historical Museum



Crafty Elves Workshop

Sunday, December 13

Plymouth Historical Museum

Make & Take Gifts & Decorations

Workshop for Children 5–11 Years Old

\$10 per child—Pre-registration required

Workshops are

Noon-1:45 p.m. and 2-3:45 p.m.

Sign up early—limited room available!

Call 734-455-8940 x 0 or go to

www.plymouthhistory.org/events.html

Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street



Old World Christmas

Carols Show

Wednesday, December 9, 7 PM

Plymouth Historical Museum
 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth
 734-455-8940

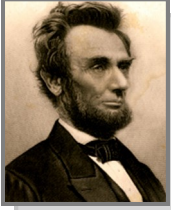
Tickets are \$10 per person in advance;
 \$15 per person at the door or get up to 2
 free tickets with the purchase of a new or
 renewed membership*

Purchase at the Museum or on the Web
www.plymouthhistory.org/events.html

Sorry we are
CLOSED

CHRISTMAS DAY
 DECEMBER 25
 &
 NEW YEAR'S DAY
 JANUARY 1

MUSEUM CLOSED



**Friends of the
Plymouth
Historical Museum
Meeting
Tuesday,
February 9, 2016,
7:30 PM**

**Guest Speaker Dan Packer
"Lincoln's Legacy
into the 21st Century"**

With each passing generation, Abraham Lincoln's legacy has evolved through time unlike any other American president.

Lincoln's personal life and political career have been documented and analyzed by thousands of historians and authors.

Guest speaker, Dan Packer, will use a Power Point presentation to guide us through a journey of Lincoln's life and his diverse legacies, and examine how the 16th President of the United States is viewed today.

Dan is a long-time member of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum and a member of the board.

The talk is open to the public and admission is free.

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
PRESENTS

A Night for the Museum

DINNER • AUCTION • FUNDRAISER
Saturday, March 12, 2016

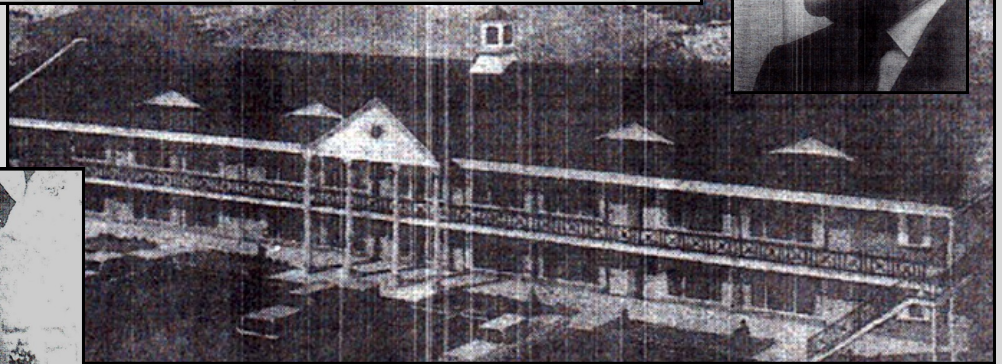


Celebrating
Margaret Dunning
1910-2015

NEW OWNER OF The Mayflower Hotel, Ralph Lorenz, looks over an architect's drawing of proposed motel units, planned for construction behind the Mayflower Meeting House, east of South Main St. Lorenz, operator of the hotel since 1939, purchased the real estate and remaining interest in The Mayflower Friday. The motel would be constructed on downtown land which Lorenz owns.



**50 Years Ago -
December 1965**



EACH CHRISTMAS SEASON the VFW Auxiliary places a wreath in Kellogg Park honoring the Plymouth veterans who have given their life for their country. Shown placing the wreath at the foot of Plymouth Rock last week are Mrs. William Cadaret of Sunset St., left, and Mrs. Louis Dely of Simpson St.,

Plymouth Days Gone By

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

100 Years Ago - November 1915

All Gasoline Cans Must Be Bright Red

State Oil Inspector R. E. Barron of Howell, has issued orders that all gasoline cans must be repainted a bright red, the order to take effect Jan. 1.

The so-called "red can" law went into effect in 1909, and for a time it was observed by dealers and others using gasoline. Inspector Barron says, however, that now some of the cans painted years ago resemble more their original color than red and that as a result many accidents, sometimes resulting in deaths, is the result. He states that apparently many dealers in gasoline in Michigan are unaware of the law that compels them to paint red all receptacles in which gasoline is used.

Can't Do the Work



**DOAN'S
KIDNEY
PILLS**

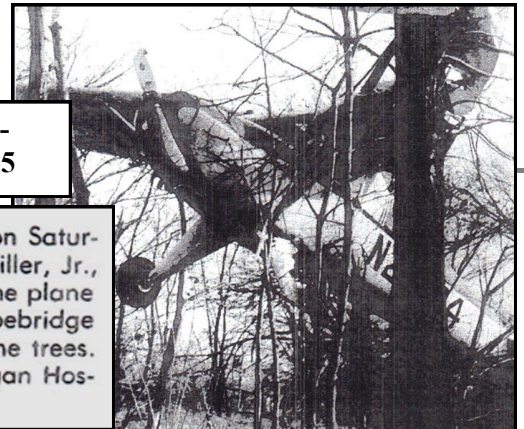
100 Years Ago - December 1915

In And Around Plymouth

A Brighton farmer was brought into court Monday morning for hunting without a license. On pleading guilty, Judge Appleton gave him the minimum fine, \$10 and costs. The new game law is very strict and when Game Warden Otto Rohn is around it will have to be lived up to. You are liable to arrest if you are even walking across the field with a gun—if the field is not your own, and you don't have a hunter's license. Then, if convicted, the judge must fine you \$10 and may fine you \$100 together with the costs. In addition to this he has a right to give a jail sentence. A license costs \$1.00. It will be cheaper to get one if you want to hunt. It is unlawful to hunt on Sunday on any condition.—Brighton Argus.

50 Years Ago - November 1965

TWO DETROIT MEN were involved in the crash of a light plane on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 13 in Salem township west of Chubb Rd. Bernard Hiller, Jr., the pilot, and Thomas H. Burnley, his passenger, were both thrown from the plane despite the use of their seat belts. The plane had just taken off from Shoebridge airport in Salem when a gust of wind lifted the craft and tossed it into the trees. Burnley received minor injuries and was taken to the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor, according to Washtenaw County Sheriff's office.



Youngster gets letter from President

A delighted 10 year old received a keepsake through the mails this week when she received an answer to a get-well card she sent to President Lyndon B. Johnson during his recent confinement.

Connie Diedrick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Diedrick of S. Harvey St., received this note from the President: "Your thoughtful remembrance cheered me during my illness and I want you to know how much Mrs. Johnson and I appreciate it. Sincerely, Lyndon B. Johnson."

50 Years Ago - December 1965

THE **PENN** THEATRE

Dr. GOLDFOOT AND THE BIKINI MACHINE

VINCENT PRICE
FRANKIE AVALON DWAYNE HICKMAN

IT'S **ELVIS** in A ROCKIN' ROLLIN' SWINGIN' SPOOF! MGM presents **HARUM SCARUM**

SANDRA DEE BOBBY DARIN and **DONALD O'CONNOR**
That Funny Feeling

Mother of 17 cooks the quick way

Quick and easy—that's the way Mrs. Joseph LeBlanc, 13443 Banbury, likes to cook. The Lemon Velvet Cake she suggests this week is just that—quick, easy and delicious. She says her whole family enjoys this dessert.

And with a family of 17 children, it's not always easy to please everyone. With such a large family, we were interested in a few statistics concerning the amount of food the LaBlancs eat at each meal.

Slim and trim Mrs. LeBlanc says she uses 9 to 10 pounds of meat at each dinner meal. She cooks 36 pork chops for one sitting and the family consumes 84 quarts of milk each week.

Sixteen of the children are at home in the lovely six bedroom home in the Glenview subdivision which Mr. LeBlanc is developing: Joey, 19, is attending St. Thomas College, St. Paul, Minn.

The other children are Jeannie, 22, and Dorothy, 20, who are working gals. Jim, 18, Don, 17, and Jon, 15, attend St. John's high school, Ypsilanti. Peggy, 14, is a student at Our Lady of Mercy high school, Farmington. Tim, 13, Tom, 12, Sue, 11, Donna, 9, Mary Jo, 8, and Michelle, 7, attend Our Lady of Good Counsel. Pat, 4, is in kindergarten at Bird school and Therese, 3, Dan, 2, and Anne, 15 months, keep their mother company at home.

50 Years Ago -
November 1965

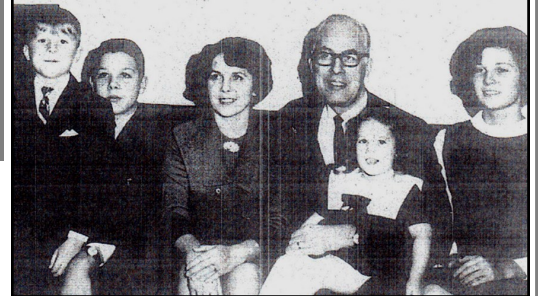


Mrs. Joseph LeBlanc

The arrival of Santa, and the decorating of the downtown area herald the beginning of the Christmas season in Plymouth.

50 Years Ago -
December 1965

Who's new in Plymouth?



"AFTER LIVING IN BIG CITIES, we just love the small town atmosphere in Plymouth," states Mrs. Donald Starr. The Starr family moved into their home at 717 McKinley in July after living near Boston, Mass. for a year. Before that Mr. Starr was the teaching academic dean at Eastern Nazarene College in Canton, Ohio. In Plymouth he is assistant to the chairman of the board of Alexander Hamilton Insurance Co. Shown above from the left, are Phillip, 9, who attends Smith School, sitting on the lap of Don, 13, a student at Junior High East. Mrs. Starr, Mr. Starr with Jennifer, 3, on his lap, and Marion Dee, 15, who attends Plymouth High School.

Plymouth,
Once Upon a Time



A photo of the Burroughs plant, circa 1950s. The plant opened in 1938. Originally known as the Burroughs Adding Machine Co., it was renamed Burroughs Corp., in 1953. During the 1960s, it was the largest Burroughs plant in the U.S., and employed over 5,000 people, producing a variety of electronic machines. In 1986, Burroughs merged with Sperry Corp., to form Unisys. In 2010, Unisys sold off its Payment Systems Division to Marlin Equity Partners, and was incorporated as Burroughs Payment Systems.

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.

November

27—Friday, Santa's Workshop and Open House after Santa's arrival in downtown Plymouth, 6-8 PM.

27—Santa Saturday, 1-4 PM.

December

5—Saturday, Annual Juried Craft Bazaar, 10 AM-4 PM; Free admission. Santa will be here all day.

8—Tuesday, No monthly meeting.

9—Wednesday, Simply Dickens Christmas Show, 7 PM.

12—Santa Saturday, 1-4 PM.

13—Sunday, Crafty Elves Workshop, for children 5-11 years old, \$10 per child, Noon-1:45PM & 2-3:45 PM.

19—Santa Saturday, 1-4 PM.

25—Christmas Day, Museum closed.

January 2016

1—New Year's Day, Museum closed.

12—TUESDAY, Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum, Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, "Farmington Junction: A Trolley History," with Brian Golden, free admission

17—Sunday, Last day for Special Exhibit, "A Red Ryder Christmas Story."

18-28—Museum closed for exhibit changeover.

19—New special exhibit opens, "Downton Abbey—Plymouth Style."

A Fun-filled Exhibit
On display from
November 18, 2015,
until
January 17, 2016

Museum Hours

Open Wednesday,
Friday, Saturday,
Sunday 1-4 PM



The exhibit is based on the beloved Christmas movie, *A Christmas Story*, and includes vignettes of scenes from the movie. The Red Ryder BB guns were originally sold by Daisy Manufacturing Company of Plymouth.

155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, 734-455-8940