

MUSEUM MEMO

September/October 2016

Share Your Plymouth Memories: Plymouth Profiles in History

You have a unique opportunity to honor a favorite Plymouth person from the past in our upcoming exhibit. As part of the City of Plymouth's 150th anniversary celebration, the Plymouth Historical Museum will dedicate all of 2017 to an evolving exhibit celebrating Plymouth's rich history. The exhibit will change throughout the course of the year with new themes being added on a regular basis (look for something extra special in October 2017!).

To bring some attention to the real people who lived in Plymouth and their stories, we will feature "Plymouth Profiles in History" as part of the exhibit. A limited number of folks will get to submit a photo and short write-up to honor a Plymouth resident of the past—a chance for ordinary people to have their stories told, whether they are relatives, neighbors or friends. One caveat: the person needs to be deceased.

The "Plymouth Profiles in History" photos and stories will be displayed as part of Plymouth's 150th anniversary exhibit in 2017 and will include a photo and short write-up that you submit as well as a permanent, engraved 4" x 8" brick paver in front of the Mu-

seum. The cost to be featured is \$300 and the number of spaces is limited. If you are interested in reserving one of these "Plymouth Profiles in History," please go to www.plymouthhistory.org/donate.html and select "Plymouth Profiles in History," or visit the Museum during open hours.

Early-bird deadline for the first round of stories is December 15, 2016. Once we have received your commitment donation, we will contact you about how to submit the story and photo.



Holiday
Craft
Show

Plymouth Historical Museum's
Annual Craft Bazaar,
Open House & Bake Sale

Saturday, December 3
10 AM-4 PM

Donations of baked goods are needed for the bake sale.
Please drop off your baked goods in the Museum kitchen on
Friday, December 2, between 1 and 4 pm.

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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Museum Memo Editor

Gerry Sabatini sabatini1983@att.net
 Proofreader—Elizabeth Kerstens

The Museum Memo is printed six times a year.

Monthly Drawing

G. Mounika and Angelle Blaies are the winners of the September and October drawings for a \$25 gift certificate.

Museum Wish List

- Stamps



Roll of 100 first-class postage stamps \$47

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

We are always in need of stamps. If you would like to donate first class "forever" stamps, any style or amount is appreciated. Just deliver or mail them to the museum.

Here are some of our common purchases to provide inspiration.

- Box of copy paper \$27
- 1 mannequin for exhibits (9 needed) \$200
- 5 cubic yards of mulch for landscaping \$185
- IT/Network support \$250
- ½ month heating bill \$375
- ½ month electric bill \$475
- 1 month employee salary \$500

These are provided as inspiration only. Every donation of any amount helps and is appreciated more than you know.

To donate, make your check payable to:
 Plymouth Historical Society
 155 S. Main Street
 Plymouth, MI 48170

Bi-monthly newsletter, Museum Memo **Become a Member**
 10% discount in the Museum Store
 Reduced rates on some Museum events
 Free admission to the Museum during the membership year
 Monthly educational programs

New Members—Welcome!

Linda Anderson, Livonia
 Arina Done, Northville
 Sandy Prichard, Livonia
 Mary Singer, Plymouth

Bits 'N Pieces

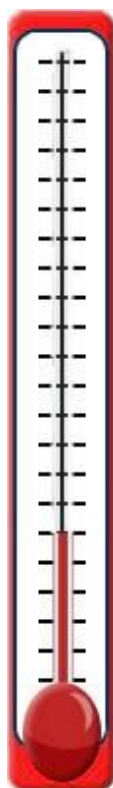
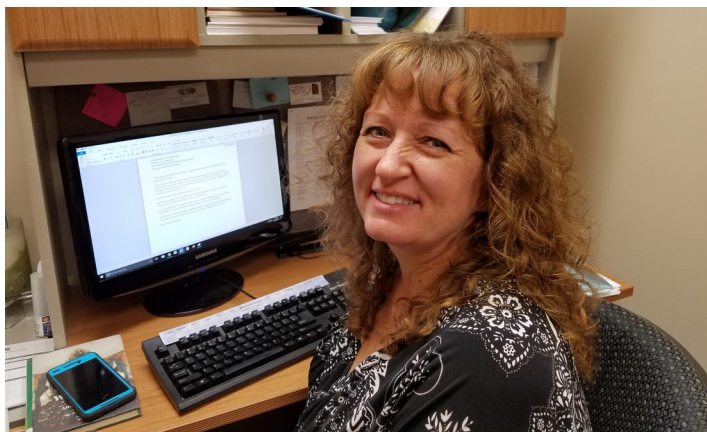
By Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, executive director

We've been pretty busy at the Plymouth Historical Museum lately. We have had an incredibly successful year of events, including several sold out teas, two upcoming cemetery walks that sold out several months ahead of time, sold-out tours of the Wilcox House, as well as some wildly popular open houses and members-only previews.

A lot of this recent success can be attributed to the incredible enthusiasm of our new Marketing Director Sherrie Brindley (*right*). Sherrie has added a spark to our already energized staff with her grant-writing abilities, wonderful ideas, and her love of statistics and data!

Sherrie has written several grant requests already. We received a sizable grant from the Margaret Dunning Foundation for a two-year campaign to increase admissions, volunteers, and donations. That grant is funding Sherrie's salary and the salary of a new volunteer coordinator for the next two years. She also wrote a grant to replace our plywood shelving in the storage area with movable storage, which you can read more about on page 5.

You may have noticed some mail from the Museum recently asking for donations for our annual appeal. We are making great progress toward our \$25,000 goal after only a couple weeks (*see chart*).



Please consider sending in your donation as soon as you can. If you want to donate for something specific, there are suggestions listed on page 2 of this newsletter. We truly appreciate all of your support and couldn't keep our doors open and provide exceptional programming without your help!

The current exhibit, "First Ladies—Fashion Setters," is in its final days and will close on November 6. If you haven't been here to see the incredible first ladies dresses researched and produced by our costume historian, Pam Yockey, you need to hurry! We have dresses of 17 first ladies and one vice president's wife on display. Our newest addition (added in October)

is First Lady Laura Bush, whose dress was sponsored by Board member Aaron Frank. We're happy to discuss other sponsorship opportunities for first ladies dresses or mannequins for this exhibit in 2020. The dresses take time to create, so it's never too early to think about this.

We would also like to welcome our Board Fellow for the 2016-17 school year, Matthew Law. Matt is a first-year business graduate student at the University of Michigan and will be working on bylaws revisions.

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

Please join our pool!
Contact Leslie at the Museum at
734-455-8940 x 2

**Donations Received
August-September 2016
Thank You!**

The following generous donations were received between August and September 2016:

The Dunning (\$2,500 +)
Anonymous

The Penniman (\$250-\$499)
Walt Scott

The Kellogg (\$100-\$249)
Sandra Daniels
Plymouth Community Chamber
of Commerce

Up to \$100
Roy Pilkington
Karl Williams

Preserving our History.
Sharing our History.
We couldn't do it without you.

Please join President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge for the first National Tree Lighting ceremony and a wine & appetizer reception

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16
6-8:30 PM**

**Get a first look at our new exhibit
"Yuletide at the White House"!**

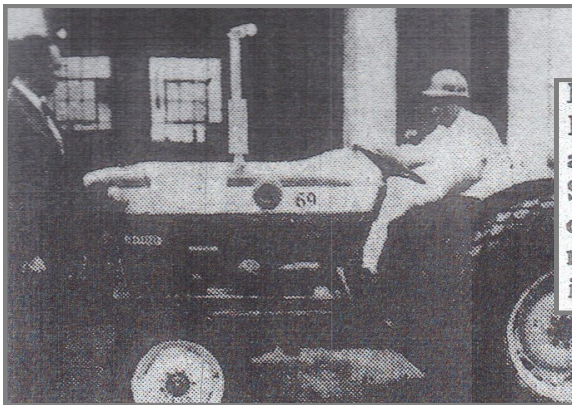
**Museum Members receive
2 complimentary tickets;
Additional tickets are \$25 per person**

**Please reserve your tickets by Nov. 11
at
www.plymouthhistory.org
or call 734-455-8940 x0**

YULETIDE
at the
White House



**Plymouth
Historical
Museum**
155 S. Main
Street
Plymouth



50 Years Ago - September 1966

NEW TRACTOR, which was purchased by the City of Plymouth for the Department of Public Works, has the attention of City Manager Richard Blodgett and DPW Supt. Kenneth Vorgas. The all-purpose vehicle received considerable attention from members of the City Commission recently before it was finally determined that it fulfilled all specifications.

BREAKING GROUND for the new sanctuary and offices of the Plymouth Church of the Nazarene are (from left) Norm Rhoades, of Case Construction Co.; Township Trustee Louis Norman, Rev. Ronald Moss, Russ Park, Dean Hamlin, Harold Anderson and Gil Wasalaski. The target date for completion of the \$189,000 addition is seven months.



Plymouth Historical Museum Must Find \$34,000 to Replace Formaldehyde-laden Shelving



Big plans are underway at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

In addition to a packed fall event schedule—the wildly popular Cemetery Walk, the Holiday Craft Bazaar, the new Yuletide at the White House exhibit and Simply Dickens—there’s something even bigger keeping the part-time staff busy: Finding \$34,000 to replace formaldehyde-laden plywood shelves.

“This is an important time for us,” said Elizabeth Kerstens, executive director. “We are planning a major exhibit in 2017 in celebration of the City of Plymouth’s 150th anniversary. We also have a major capital improvement project in the works.”

The Plymouth Historical Museum has a large storage area in the lower level where furniture and larger, bulkier items are stored. The current storage system is made of two-level plywood shelves. Plywood is known to contain formaldehyde, which is dangerous to museum collections.

“We regularly assess our storage needs and work to ensure that our collections are being housed in a safe manner,” Kerstens said. “When we learned that the formaldehyde in the plywood shelves would damage our collections we began to look for safer alternatives.”

This Spacesaver project would upgrade the storage system in the museum’s main storage area to a professional, museum-quality, movable space-saver system.

The upgrade is necessary in order to protect the museum collections from damage, and will increase storage capacity.

The cost to purchase and install this system is approximately \$45,000.

The museum was selected to receive a grant from the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs for just over \$11,000, which will cover approximately 25 percent of the cost of the installation. The museum is working to raise the other \$34,000

through donations and other grants.

“It’s a big amount, but our supporters have always been generous and we feel confident that they will help us reach this goal,” Kerstens said. “Most people don’t realize that our whole operation is funded through donations and grants. We do not typically receive any government funding.”



Shelving upgrade is necessary to protect the museum collections.

Plymouth Days Gone By

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

THE DETROIT SUNDAY NEWS CONTAINED SOME SPLENDID PICTURES AND WRITE-UP OF PLYMOUTH.

100 Years Ago:
September 1916

Plymouth Road Barn Burns

The Detroit Sunday News rotogravure and feature sections, last Sunday, contained some splendid views of Plymouth, Northville and Redford. Pictures shown of Plymouth were the High school building, Main street, E. C. Hough's residence and the plant of the Daisy Mfg. Co. The pictures were splendid and they together with the write-up in the feature section will do much to advertise the many advantages Plymouth has to offer as an industrial and residence town.

A barn on the farm of H. H. Thompson, occupied by his son John, about two and one half miles east of town on the Plymouth road, was struck by lightning and totally destroyed by fire during the severe electrical storm last Thursday evening. About twenty tons of hay, a quantity of corn, rye, buckwheat and other grains were burned. The loss is only partially covered by insurance.

PRETTY REBELS IN FASHION'S REALM.

The Penn Theater will offer the oldtime, silent movies Sunday afternoon in keeping with another of the traditions surrounding the annual Fall Festival.

Owner-Manager Margaret Wilson indicated the doors will open at noon and the silent movies will be offered for the remainder of the afternoon through 6 p.m. at the price of 10 cents.



City To Vote Again On Liquor By Glass

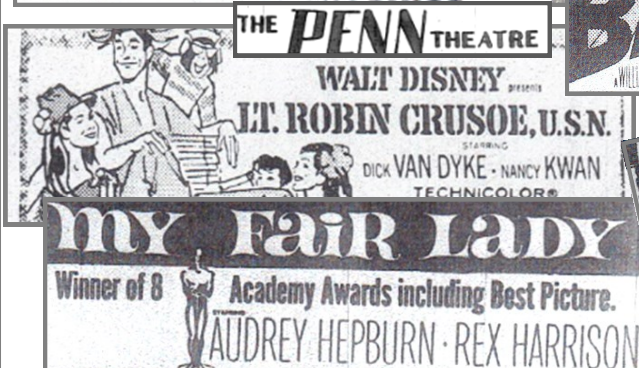
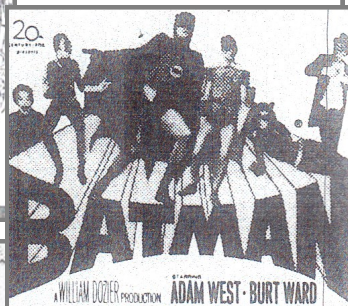
City of Plymouth voters will vote on the question of liquor by the glass in the November election. This was assured for the sixth time since prohibition when petitions were filed by Roy Rew, a resident of the City.

The petitions were filed in behalf of Ralph Lorenz, owner of the Mayflower Hotel, and Herman Halperin, owner of the Box Bar.

Plymouth has been dry since prohibition. The act was repealed in 1932 and most communities in Michigan went wet by a two to one margin.

But the city never did approve the change. The repeal act allowed local municipalities to remain dry if they failed to act within 90 days.

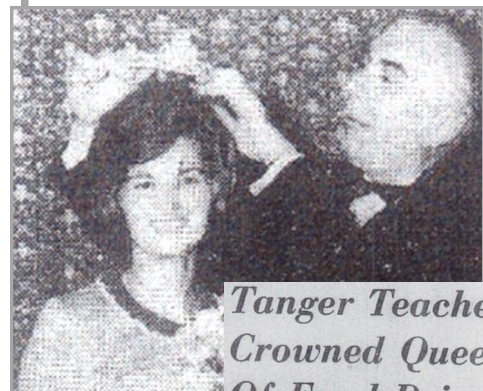
50 Years Ago:
September 1966





STRIKING OIL without drilling is Wendell Smith, 14302 Shadywood Drive, Plymouth, who is state president of the Michigan Jaycees. Wendell received a credit card worth 3,500 gallons of premium gasoline from a well-known oil company which also made a contribution to the Michigan Jaycee Foundation. Wendell will use the gasoline when making official visits to the 237 chapters throughout the state.

50 Years Ago:
October 1966



*Tanger Teacher
Crowned Queen
Of Fund Drive*

Petite, blonde, personable Carol Ann Stephenson, a first grade teacher at the new Tanger elementary school, is the first Miss Sweet Charity of the annual Plymouth Community Fund campaign.

Carol Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Stephenson, 11737 Amherst Court, was

the choice of the judges over a field of three finalists. She will rule over all activities of the annual fund raising campaign and will attend meetings of civic, service and school organizations with General Chairman Edward Schening, of Burroughs Corp.

They will be joined by Sandra Saeger, selected a week ago as "Miss Sparkle."

Seniors Ask Housing on City Land

A petition with over 200 signatures urging that the City build the senior citizen housing development behind the Christian Science Church has been filed at City Hall.

According to Mrs. Charles Neal, 676 Burroughs, a group of citizens is anxious to get the project underway.

The City owns the land, which is a park area between Penniman Ave. and West Ann Arbor Trail.

The senior home project, with a Federal grant of nearly \$900,000 already obtained, has hit several impasses.

The first occurred when the Public Housing Authority did not approve preliminary drawings.

The second came when the owner of the proposed site at Penniman and Union St., Jack Wilcox, vowed he would never sell his land.

Allison Sells Chevrolet

Plymouth's oldtime auto dealers are gradually but most certainly fading out of the picture.

First it was Carl Shear, better known as "Mr. Plymouth" because of his interest in community activities, who retired from the Buick agency several years ago.

Then the late Paul Wiedman relinquished his Ford agency more than two years ago to Leo Calhoun.

Now the announcement has been made of the retirement of Ernest J. Allison from his Chevrolet agency on S. Main Street after more than 40 years. Ernie has been on the ailing list for some time and the agency has been handled by son, Frank, who also had an ailing spell earlier in the year.



9:30 a.m., OCT. 8 DETROIT LIONS - FORD MOTOR CO.

Calling all youngsters from 8 to 13. Enter Ford Motor Company's exciting, Punt, Pass, Kick contest now! Local winners compete at Tiger Stadium. Grand Prize winners win a trip to NFL championship game. Pick up your entry blanks at Wonderland or at Bill Brown Sales & Service, 32222 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Hurry! Register at Bill Brown Sales in Livonia.

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.

Special Museum Exhibit, "First Ladies—Fashion Setters",
Exhibit on display until November 6, 2016.

October

29—Saturday, Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk at Riverside Cemetery. SOLD OUT

November

13—Sunday, Wilcox House Tour, SOLD OUT

16—Wednesday, Wine and Appetizer Reception, 6-8:30 PM

18—New Special Exhibit, "Yuletide at the White House," on display until December 31, 2016.

25—Friday, Santa's Workshop, 6-8 PM.

26 & 27—Visit Santa at the Museum, 1-4 PM.

December

3—Saturday, Annual Juried Craft Bazaar, 10 AM-4 PM; Free admission; visit Santa.

4—Visit Santa at the Museum, 1-4 PM.

6—Tuesday, Simply Dickens Christmas Show, 7 PM. Tickets \$10 per person for members, \$15 for non-members, \$20 at the door.

11 & 12—Visit Santa at the Museum, 1-4 PM.

18 & 19—Visit Santa at the Museum, 1-4 PM.

24—Visit Santa at the Museum, 1-4 PM.

25—Christmas Day, Museum closed.

Coming in 2017, an evolving exhibit of Plymouth's 150-year history—one of our best exhibits yet!

YULETIDE

at the

White House

Nov. 18–Dec. 31



Simply Dickens Christmas Show

Simply Dickens is a period-dressed quartet of trained vocalists and musicians that specializes in the music of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Tuesday,
December 6,
7 PM
Plymouth
Historical
Museum

Tickets are \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members in advance; \$20 at the door

