

April-June 2021

**PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

*Come join us for our*

**Caboose Grand Opening!**

**Saturday, July 17, 2021**  
 10 am - 4 pm

Ribbon-cutting Ceremony at 1 pm

- Plymouth Railroads book signing
- Speakers, babes
- Live music brought to you by:

**PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY BAND**

*Generously Sponsored By:*

RELIABLE LANDSCAPING  
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 DIL Builders Inc.  
 Sustainable Design

*Plymouth Historical Museum*  
 135 S. Main St. Plymouth MI 48170  
 For questions please call (734) 455-8940

## Schedule

- **10:30 AM** All Aboard! Train Talk
- **11 AM** Meet the Authors (Ellen Elliott and Liz Kerstens), *Plymouth Railroads*
- **Noon** All Aboard! Train Talk
- **12:30 PM** Plymouth Community Band performance
- **1 PM** Ribbon Cutting
- **1:30 PM** All Aboard! Train Talk
- **2 PM** Meet the Authors (Ellen Elliott and Liz Kerstens), *Plymouth Railroads*
- **3 PM** All Aboard! Train Talk

**94 Years Ago—1927**  
*Plymouth Mail*

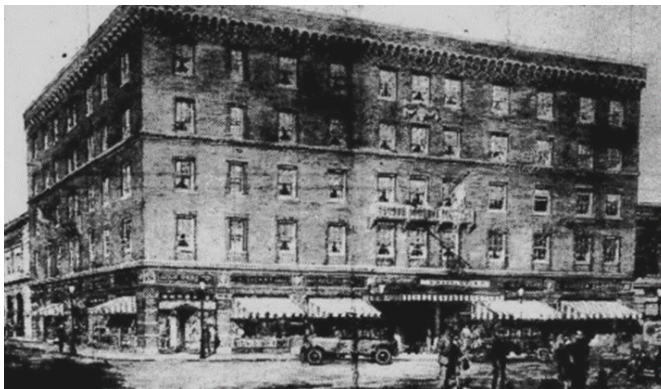
### “1927-PLYMOUTH’S YEAR”

*In 1927, Plymouth area business leaders declared 1927 as Plymouth’s Year.*

*In 1927, Detroit area newspapers reported on the many advantages of living in Plymouth, and featured news stories and photos recognizing community leaders and businesses. Two major construction projects completed in 1927 were the Mayflower Hotel and Starkweather School.*

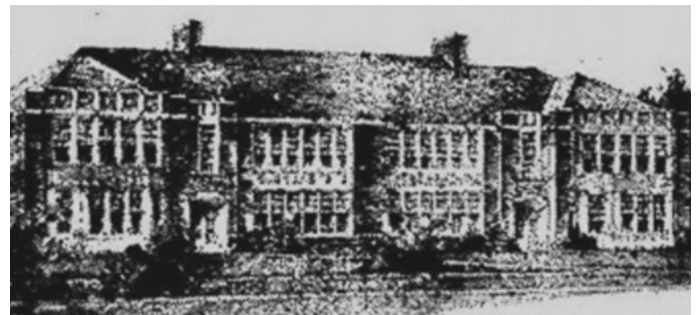
*Vision and Faith have builded all the great cities of the past. Vision and Faith will continue to build the cities of the Future. But Plymouth has more than just that. She has Community Pride—and has it in abundance.*

### The Mayflower, Plymouth’s New Community Hotel



*1927 architectural drawing of the Mayflower Hotel in downtown Plymouth, depicting five stories. The final height of the building was three stories. Plymouth community leaders raised \$209,000 to finance the venture. The hotel building was closed and demolished in 1999.*

### The New Starkweather School



*1927 architectural drawing of Starkweather School in Plymouth’s Old Village. The school was named after George Anson Starkweather (1826-1907), an illustrious community leader. The school was built for \$125,000 and served as a grade school from 1927 to 1977. The building was later converted into an alternative high school and an adult education center. The school closed in 2013.*

**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**

Kathy Sullivan	President
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Jim Burroughs	Treasurer
Stephen Beltran	Director
Christian Huffman	Director
Ernie Hughes	Director
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Pam Yockey	Archivist
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Maryanne Zavagnin	Museum Store Manager

**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**

Tony LaFaro, Lori Hemingway, and Sandy Anderson 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.

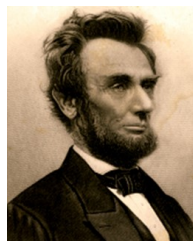
To participant in the program, visit [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com). Click on "Michigan" and click on "Enroll."

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!**

Kevin Burek, Plymouth  
 Katherine Gotshall, Plymouth  
 Kim Holdsworth, Plymouth  
 Paulette Lorenz, Phoenix, AZ  
 Glenda Nelson, Westland  
 Cathy Webster, Canton  
 Joyce Welch, Plymouth

THANK YOU  
 FOR SUPPORTING  
 THE PLYMOUTH  
 HISTORICAL MUSEUM



Become a Member

The Plymouth Historical Museum is 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:

- 1 Roll Postage Stamps **\$55 per**
- 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

The Plymouth Historical Museum's amazing Exhibits crew has once again created an exceptional, fun, and informative new exhibit, "Roaring '20s."

The exhibit opened with a Members-only Preview on Tuesday, June 29. As usual at our members-only events, visitors



were treated to a unique skit put together by Mike Woloszyk and performed by the Plymouth Living History Troupe. In addition, each attendee went home with delectable treats created by our master baker, Ellen Elliott.

During the skit, Fanny Flapper (aka Adrienne Croket) was asked to perform multiple 1920s-era dances, which she pulled off with a delightful flair (left).

"Roaring '20s" highlights a unique era in American history. The decade was sandwiched between the end of World War I and the Spanish Flu on one end and the stock market crash and the Great Depression on the other end. In between, fashions changed dramatically, new music came on the scene, recreational activities took on daring challenges, and new transportation modes came of age.

We've depicted much of this decade in our displays, including a pole-sitter (right), a Plymouth



bank robbery, Houdini's visits to Detroit, the Jazz age, barnstorming, and leisure activities.

Don't miss the 1929 Model A Coupe on display—loaned by private collector Thomas Gaffney. The exhibit runs through Nov. 7.

*Plymouth Historical Museum presents...*



## *Roaring '20s Tea & Fashion Show*

*A look at fashions from the Roaring '20s, with Pam Yockey*

*Sunday,  
August 29  
2-4 P.M.*

\* Enjoy tea delicacies catered by Diann's Catering.

\* Sip the Museum's own special tea, "Mary's Blend"—a tantalizing cherry and almond black tea blend in honor of Mary Todd Lincoln.

\* Wear your favorite 1920s fashion!

*Tickets are \$30 for Plymouth Historical Society members (on sale July 5); \$35 for non-members (on sale July 19)*

*Plymouth Historical Museum  
155 S. Main Street  
734-455-8940 x0  
www.plymouthhistory.org*

## Donations Received March – May 2021 Thank You!

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between March and May 2021:

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

Marlene Donoghue

### The Starkweather (\$500–\$999)

Cass Hough Jr.

### The Penniman (\$250–\$499)

Brian Kidston  
Roy Pilkington

### The Kellogg (\$100–\$249)

Mary Fritz  
Stephen Marulis  
Carrie Phillips

### Under \$100

Eno Miyasato  
Paul Sincock  
Carol Souchock  
Takeda Yoshido

### Sponsorships

#### Plymouth Fair (\$2,000)

Tenneco (Free July Saturdays)

#### Hamilton (\$600)

Comfort Keepers  
First Financial Strategies  
O'Donnell Electric  
Packaging Corporation of America  
Plymouth Physical Therapy Specialists  
Reliable Landscaping

#### Plymouth Ghosts (\$500)

Alphagraphics

#### Mary Todd (\$400)

Schrader-Howell Funeral Home (Tea)

### Family Fun (\$300)

Compari's (Santa in the Caboose)  
E&E Manufacturing Executive Property Maintenance  
Expert Heating & Cooling (Santa in the Caboose)  
Grecko Printing (Santa in the Caboose)  
Harper, Finley & Associates (Santa in the Caboose)  
Inch Memorials (Santa in the Caboose)  
Mayflower Towing (Simply Dickens)  
MI Roots Realty (Enchanted Winter Wonderland)  
Rich Realty  
Rockit Media (Things That Go Bump in the Night)

### Ticket Sale Dates for Upcoming Events

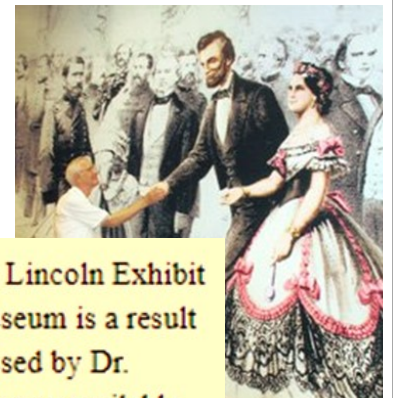
Date	Event	Members	Public
August 1	Frozen Princess Tea		June 21
August 29	Roaring '20s Tea & Fashion Show	Now	July 19
Oct. 23	Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk	August 9	August 23
Oct. 29	Things That Go Bump in the Night	August 9	August 23
Dec. 4	Enchanted Winter Wonderland	October 11	October 25
Dec. 10	Simply Dickens	October 18	Nov. 1

### 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.



## Plymouth Days Gone By

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

### Tigers Keep Winning Despite Big Problems

53 Years Ago -  
1968



Norm Cash 1933–1986

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!

During his playing days, Cash was a favorite with teammates and Tiger fans, and was affectionately known as "Stormin' Norman." An outstanding power hitter, Cash's 377 career home runs were the fourth most by an American League left-handed hitter when he retired; behind Babe Ruth, Ted Williams and Lou Gehrig.

55 Years Ago -  
1966



### MRS. DIXON FORECASTS

See end to gas  
age in cars of 2016



Jean Dixon 1904–1997

Jean Dixon was one of the best-known American self-proclaimed psychics and astrologers of the 20th century. In 1966, she predicted automobiles would eventually have automated guidance systems.

The motorist of 2016 will ride on air, and gasoline will be obsolete as car fuel.

This is the forecast of the nation's Big Four auto heads and noted seeress Jean Dixon, as reported in "Motor News," Automobile Club of Michigan's official publication.

"Motor News" went a "step beyond" in giving Michiganians a preview of what they might be driving in another 50 years.

By 2061 as far as auto designers can foretell by means of present technology and scientific knowledge, cars will travel on new types of fuel, suspended on a cushion of air over roads with automated guidance systems. They will resemble today's vehicles with a Buck Rogers twist.

Mrs. Dixon, who predicted President Kennedy's assassination and who authored the best selling book "A Gift of Prophecy," sees in her crystal ball what auto makers speculate.

"I foresee that the most popular car in 2016 will utilize tubeless wheels that retract... While underway the vehicle seems to move on air and auto-

matically compensate for draft caused by the elements. It can turn on its own axis at reasonable speeds."

MRS. DIXON also says that future lubrication-free autos will resemble today's cars rather than airplanes. They will be computer guided on long trips. Rear engines will be featured along with a radar-like collision preventer.

Auto company heads are less speculative and state that it is impossible to tell exactly what cars of tomorrow will be like. Breakthroughs in metals, plastics, designs, fuels and electronic-guidance systems could radically change concepts on drawing boards.



## HOUSE IN A BOX – MAIL ORDER HOMES



The Aladdin "Plymouth" Home, 1940.  
Mail Order Kit Price, \$2,363.

The Aladdin Company of Bay City was one of America's most long lived manufacturers of mail-order, kit homes. Founded in 1906 by brothers, Otto and William Sovereign, the family owned firm manufactured houses until 1981. Over the firm's history it sold more than 75,000 homes to both individual and corporate customers.

Changing trends in the late 19th and early 20th century opened up America to a new style of building: the prefab, assemble-by-number mail order catalogue home.

Architectural styles after 1895 encouraged a return to hand-wrought skills. The fad was to build your own home.

World War I and II produced a housing shortage. Returning soldiers eager to start their families, found their meager earnings did not stretch far enough to buy homes now in high demand.

The new workers coming home needed fast housing in the post-war growing economy.

Sears and other catalog companies stepped up to provide a mail order kit home, with assembly required. Entire towns were built overnight featuring quick assembled mail order houses.

City Point, Virginia, and Carbondale, Illinois, feature entire subdivisions of company-built homes.

The cozy features of English cottage homes were incorporated into the mail order craftsman and colonial revival style homes.

Several mail order companies arrived on the scene in the early part of the 20th century, producing catalogs from which buyers could order the home of their dreams.

Home building kits were sold by Sears, Montgomery Wards, and Harris of Chicago; Gordon-Van Tine of Davenport, Iowa; Hodgson of Dover, Massachusetts; and four Michigan companies; Mershon and Morley, Lewis, Sterling, and Aladdin.

The longest running company, Aladdin, located in Bay City, was in business from 1906 to 1981.

80 Years Ago 1941  
Plymouth Mail

### City Asks Residents Not to Throw Waste Paper on Sidewalks or Streets

It appears that there is nothing else that can be done but to appeal directly to the people of Plymouth and vicinity in order to keep papers, bills and wrappings from littering the downtown streets of the city. City officials have placed containers at various corners downtown, but seemingly some folks prefer to throw the wrappings and waste papers in the streets rather than use the containers.

City officials have made a special plea to citizens to place their waste paper in containers. It will go a long ways towards helping to keep the streets of the city in a cleaner condition than they have been during the present spring.

80 Years Ago 1941  
Plymouth Mail

### Carl L. Heide, Retired Florist, Dies Saturday



Carl L. Heide  
1868-1941

Carl L. Heide, retired local florist, died at Mt. Carmel hospital, Detroit, last Saturday evening following a few days' illness.

Mr. Heide was born in Germany September 19, 1868. At the age of 14, he started working for George A. Starkweather at the greenhouse then located on Liberty street and Starkweather avenue. About 40 years ago, he started in business for himself at the site now occupied by the Buick garage, later building on the corner of Mill and Liberty streets where he became one of Plymouth's leading florists. Two years ago his poor health forced him to dispose of his business.

In 1912, he was married to Mrs. Ada Hangstefer of Ann Arbor, whose death in 1934 marked the beginning of Mr. Heide's decline in health.

Until a few years ago, Mr. Heide was an active member in both the Knights of Pythias lodge and the Kiwanis club. He served for many years as a member of the local cemetery board.

His genial disposition, his interest in public welfare and his keen sense of humor won him many friends who will greatly miss his companionship.

The survivors are his five sisters, Mrs. Charles Livrance of Livonia township, Mrs. Jacob Streng, Mrs. Albert Gayde, Mrs. William Sutherland and Mrs. Louis Gerst, all of Plymouth, and his step-daughter, Mrs. Roy E. Crowe also of Plymouth.

80 Years Ago 1941  
Plymouth Mail

## Council Re-Elects Mrs. Whipple as Plymouth Mayor

Mayor Voted Second  
Term Unanimously;



Ruth Huston-Whipple  
1894-1953

In 1941, Ruth Huston-Whipple (1894-1953) was re-elected to a second consecutive one-year term as mayor of Plymouth.

Huston-Whipple served as Plymouth's first female elected City Commissioner (1934-49) and first female mayor of Plymouth (1940-42). She was a 1913 graduate of Plymouth High School and later worked as a teacher and debate coach at the school. She was a distinguished leader and tireless volunteer in the Plymouth community, championing the improvement of inhumane conditions at a local juvenile detention center, and addressing environmental and beautification concerns in the city.

As an elected official, Ruth Huston-Whipple organized the first city-wide refuse collection system in Plymouth, and served on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Ruth Huston-Whipple Award for Civic Engagement was established in 2020, and is named in honor of Ruth Huston-Whipple to recognize a community member who, like Huston-Whipple, has positively impacted the quality of life in the City of Plymouth through exceptional civic or philanthropic engagement.

80 Years Ago 1941  
Plymouth Mail

## Charles Bennett Visits Tombstone, Burial Place of Notorious Bandits

In 1895, Charles H. Bennett (1863-1956), was an original member of the Daisy Air Rifle Company's executive team, and served as the company's president from 1912 until his death in 1956. In 1903, Bennett was one of the original 12 investors in the Ford Motor Company. He sold his Ford shares in 1905. In 1941, while vacationing in Arizona, Bennett sent a report to the Plymouth Mail, describing his visit to the historic city of Tombstone, Arizona. Tombstone is best known as the site of the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral.



Charles H. Bennett  
1863-1956

It was an exceedingly busy day in Tombstone, Arizona, the other day when Charles H. Bennett of Plymouth and some friends visited that historic western landmark of early day killings, feuds and struggles, to see the sights thereabouts.

Yes, sir, it was a busy day in Tombstone, writes Mr. Bennett. During the three hours he spent in this hustling, bustling center of western activity, he saw three people on the streets, two automobiles and two dogs.

The postmistress of Tombstone confirmed Mr. Bennett's observation—that it was an exceedingly busy day on the streets, especially if there were three people on the streets of Tombstone, where some 50 years ago there lived some 15,000 miners, prospectors, saloon keepers, painted women and bow-legged cowboys. Its population now is less than 300.

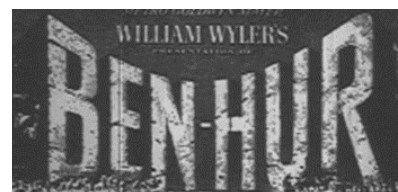
"Tombstone has more stores than Plymouth, but the trouble with them is that most of them are closed down for 'financial repairs' or the walls are tumbling down. This certainly would be a quiet place to die," wrote Mr. Bennett in his description of the former mining center of the southwest that made history because of its crimes, killings and lawlessness.

"Boothill Graveyard" is the name of the burial place at Tombstone of numerous notorious bandits of the early days in the southwest. One gravestone marks the burial place of five men, with a notation on the grave marker that all of the five were "legally hanged" on March 28, 1884. Few of the early residents of Tombstone died a natural death, say old timers.

Mr. Bennett is thoroughly enjoying his stay at Tucson, where he says the weather is warm and there is plenty of sunshine. The arid section of the southwest is fast becoming a popular winter vacation center for residents of northern states.

THE PENN THEATRE

60 Years Ago 1961



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

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## Calendar of Events

Events are at the Museum unless otherwise specified.  
Tickets can be found at <http://plymouthhistory.org/events/upcoming-events/>.

### August

1—Sunday, “**The Frozen Princess Tea**,” noon-2 PM. Tickets are \$30 for one adult and one child. Sponsored by Bank of Ann Arbor.

29—Sunday, “**Roaring ‘20s Tea & Fashion Show**,” 2-4 PM. Tickets are \$30 and are on sale to members now; on sale to the public July 19. Sponsored by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

### October

23—Saturday, “**Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk**,” 4-9 PM. Tickets are \$15 and go on sale to members August 9; on sale to the public August 23. Sponsored by Fox Hills Golf.

29—Friday, “**Things That Go Bump in the Night**,” 6-8 PM. Tickets are \$10 and go on sale to members August 9; on sale to the public August 23. Sponsored by Highway Media.



### The Frozen Princess Tea

Sunday, August 1, 2021, noon-2 PM.

Meet Elsa and Anna!

Enjoy tea delicacies, make and take activities;  
kids can dress up.

Children must be at least 4 years old, no exceptions.  
Limit of 30 children, so don't hesitate to purchase  
your tickets! Tickets are \$30 for one adult and one  
child; tickets are \$15 for additional attendees.

Plymouth Historical Museum

155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170

This tea is sponsored by Bank of Ann Arbor.