

July-September 2022

OUR TIME, OUR HISTORY.
 PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

Plymouth's early industries were mills

Written by
 Plymouth Historian Sam Hudson
 48 Years Ago,
 September 1974
 Plymouth Observer

Nettie Dibble, who wrote a history of Plymouth in the 1930s, noted that saw and grist mills were the only industries in the community during the early years. "At one time," she wrote, "there were seven grist mills and six saw mills in the Township of Plymouth, all doing a thriving business."

At the outset, the nearest mills

were in Detroit or Pontiac. The area's first saw mill was built by Luther Lincoln in the fall of 1825 on section 26, on the Middle Rouge River, east of what was to become the village of Plymouth. Soon, after, Timothy Lyon built a saw mill on section 23, and Morris Smith on section 25.

Plymouth's first hand-powered mill for grinding corn was built by the resourceful A.B. Markham in 1826. In his memoirs, Markham declares, "Mr. Lincoln and I produced the first board and the first meal ever made in this town. He sawed every board for over a year and my mill ground every

bit of corn for the same time. We had all the business we could attend to."



*Plymouth Mill, built 1845
 Renamed Wilcox Mill in 1879
 Photo circa 1870s*

In 1827, Lincoln added a grist mill to his business. From 1841 to 1843, Henry Fralick owned a lumber mill and a flour mill in Plymouth, before going back to the dry goods business.

In 1859, May and Hendrick had a saw mill and rake factory on Main Street. On February 16 of that year, the factory's boiler blew up, killing the engineers, Abram Moreland, and Henry C. Chilson, and severely injuring Peter Micol.

In the late 1800s, a mill was operated at Phoenix Lake on the site

where Ford, in 1922, opened one of its "Village Plants" whose workers, mostly women, produced small parts for automotive electrical systems. The Phoenix Bridge Mill was considered one of the best mills in the area, but about 1905 it was destroyed by fire.



*Plymouth Historian
 Sam Hudson
 1911-1988*

Nettie Dibble said Henry Holbrook built what was later known as the Plymouth or Wilcox mill in 1845. Notes written by Mrs. George Wilcox, daughter-in-law of David Wilcox indicate, however, that the mill was built by a Mr. Rogers in 1850, and that he later sold it to Holbrook.

Located on what is now Wilcox Road at Hines Drive, the mill was erected by 32 men at a building bee. Some put up the frame work; others dug the tail race. The mill was 35 feet wide, 75 feet long and 4 stories high. Beams were hand-hewn oak and white wood timbers. Those on the first floor were 16 inches square, set 10 feet apart. The second story beams were 12 inches square.

The 1898 booklet on Plymouth reports that the Wilcox Mill at that time had a capacity of 125 barrels per day. It operated on both water and steam power, and made "Magnolia straight grade flour. Henry Reichelt, the head miller, has been there 19 years."

David Wilcox died in 1902. In 1921, the Wilcox brothers sold the mill to Henry Ford who razed it. On the site, Ford built another one of his village plants. This one manufactured taps for use in the auto manufacturer's Rouge plant. For many years now the building has been a facility of the Wayne County Road Commission.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2022 6-8 PM \$10 AGES 11 + UP; \$5 AGES 6-10
 AGES 5 AND UNDER FREE

TAKE HOME HALLOWEEN CRAFT + CANDY

SURPRISE CHARACTERS THROUGHOUT

HALLOWEEN COSTUME IS OPTIONAL
 (BUT ENCOURAGED!)



Sponsored By



ROKIT DIGITAL
 MARKETING

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

Tim Tingstad	President
Stephanie Hoff	Vice President
Margaret Harris	Secretary
Jim Burroughs	Treasurer
Jeff Ashton	Director
Stephen Beltran	Director
Christian Huffman	Director
Ernie Hughes	Director
Ivy Orca Lung	Director
William Moore	Director
Mark Salloum	Director

Staff

Janet Burns	Office Manager
Lena Hathaway	Assistant Archivist
Mike Hoggard	Facility Manager
Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens	Executive Director
Leslie Ryder	Education Coordinator
Mary Thackston	Exhibits Coordinator
Marissa Warren	Administrative Assistant
Mike Woloszyk	Marketing Director
Pam Yockey	Archivist
Carolyn Zaborsky	Cashier/Scheduler
Maryanne Zavagnin	Museum Store Manager

Museum Memo Editor

Gerry Sabatini sabatini1983@att.net
 Proofreader—Elizabeth Kerstens

The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

Monthly Drawing

Barbara Louie, Jean LaPointe, and Florence Chance 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 participate in the program, visit 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!

Lynn Beattie, Canton
 Ram Cerda, Westland
 Ron Eisbrenner, Plymouth
 Family Legacy Wealth / Raymond Jones, Plymouth
 B.J. Haire, Plymouth
 Kurt Heise, Plymouth
 International Minute Press, Plymouth
 Jackie Jacobs, Allen Park
 Colleen Janness, Plymouth
 Edward Jones, Plymouth
 Scott Kappler, Detroit
 Elizabeth Lind, Novi
 David Murray, Plymouth
 Diane Murray, Plymouth
 Riegel Ventures, Canton
 Gaurav Sharma, Plymouth
 Carl Schultz, Plymouth
 SME, Plymouth
 Susan Stoney, Plymouth
 Suburban Cadillac of Plymouth, Plymouth
 Susan Tassi, Northville

We appreciate your support!

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 **\$58 per**
- IT/Network support **\$300**
- ½ month heating bill **\$375**
- ½ month electric bill **\$475**
- 1 month employee salary **\$600**

To donate, make your check payable to the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Museum Personnel Spotlight



**Elizabeth Kerstens,
Museum
Executive Director**

We're spotlighting our executive director this issue because she will become president of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth at the end of the month.

Liz has held the position of executive director for 15½ years. It is astounding the Museum was able to entice Liz to apply for the position because at the time she was running three different businesses and still had the time to volunteer as archivist at the Museum. But after some serious discussions with her husband, Marty, she accepted the position and never looked back. In her own words, she said "I love my job" and continually finds it inspiring and rewarding.

In addition to her challenging job as executive director, she is also an active member of the local Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth. To understand Liz's involvement in this organization, she will be undertaking the position of president at the end of September, after working through the "chairs" for the past two years. For those not familiar with the mission of Kiwanis, it is to "serve the children of the world." This very worthwhile organization, which Liz has been involved in for nine years, raises money to help put food on the table for children around the world.

The money you pay for popcorn from the popcorn wagon in Kellogg Park or the golf outing at Fox Hills are just a few ways money is raised for this noteworthy non-profit. The club recently donated money for a protection dog to work at the Plymouth-Canton High School campus.

It should also be noted that Kiwanis has been very generous to the Plymouth Historical Museum over the years. Just recently the museum received a substantial check from the Kiwanis Club to help fund one of the Museum's future projects.

Liz was born and raised in Glenview, Illinois. After a couple years of college, Liz's brother Scott convinced her to enlist in the Marine Corps. Unknown to Liz at the time, this was a life-changing event.

With a solid background in education, the Marine Corps quickly recognized the potential in Liz and catapulted her through officer's school and allowed her to finish her undergraduate degree at the University of Texas. When Liz retired from the Marines in 1999 after 20 years, she had two Masters degrees under her belt and retired as a major with a Public Affairs specialty.

Liz lives in Plymouth with her husband and her two beloved dachshunds, Zuzu and Coco. Even though her life is the Museum, she still finds time to make Victorian reproduction jewelry that she sells online and at occasional shows.

She is also the author of four books, collaborating with the executive director at the Penn Theatre, Ellen Elliott, on one of them titled *Plymouth Railroads*. You can

also catch their quarterly columns in the local *Plymouth Today* magazine.

Since Liz has been the executive director at the Museum, it's not hard to see all the improvements and enhancements she has introduced. But her work and ideas never end. The Museum is currently raising funds to do a complete update of "Main Street" by bringing the exhibits into the 21st century with video and audio enhancements.

The people of Plymouth are lucky to have such a dedicated and enthusiastic director to run the Museum. Thank you, Liz!

—Written by Mike Woloszyk



I saw Santa at the Plymouth Historical Museum caboose!

Santa Claus is rumored to be headed for the caboose of the Plymouth Historical Museum on the following dates. Admission is free:

Date	Sponsor
Nov. 26	MI Roots Realty
Nov. 27	Executive Property Management
Dec. 4	Compari's
Dec. 10	Inch Memorials
Dec. 11	International Minute Press
Dec. 17	WSDP
Dec. 18	WSDP
Dec. 24	Chris Huffman

Ticket Sale Dates for Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Members	Public
Oct 14	Things That Go Bump in the Night	Now	Now
Oct 22	Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk	Now	Now
Nov 15	Members-only Preview	Sept 30	
Dec 3	Enchanted Winter Wonderland	October 10	October 24
Dec 9	Simply Dickens	October 10	October 24

Donations Received
June – August 2022 Thank You!

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between June and August 2022:

The Lincoln (\$1,000+)

Plymouth Lions Club
Gerry Sabatini

The Starkweather (\$500–\$999)

Clark Chapin
Jack Grant

The Penniman (\$250–\$499)

Luke Contos
Mary Fritz

The Kellogg (\$100–\$249)

Andrew Bemish
Marie Brace
Vic Comerinsky
Dr. Robert Gordon
Don Haislet
Elizabeth Kerstens
Kevin Kramer

Under \$100

Pier Bernardi
Nancy Braden
Marie-Louise Capote
Joan Connor
Jeanne Knopf Deroche
Lynn Grieger
Barbara Reed
Kay Schloff
Paul Sincock
Pam Yockey
Takeda Yoshido

**Sponsorships
Hamilton (\$600)**

Kone Americas

Family Fun (\$300)

Chris Huffman
International Minute Press

**Jim Jabara Fundraiser
Major Sponsor (\$2,500)**

Kiwanis Club of Colonial
Plymouth

**Plymouth Benefactor
Sponsor (\$1,000)**

ATS Advisors
Jim Burroughs
Canton Community Foundation
Chris Huffman
DJL Builders
Jewels Victoriana
Tim & Penny Joy
Plymouth Physical Therapy
Specialists
Schultz & Villar Family
Don Soenen
Suburban Cadillac of Plymouth

**Plymouth Mayor Sponsor
(\$500)**

Alphagraphics
Caviston Insurance Agency
C. L. Finlan & Son
D. J. Maltese Construction
E & E Manufacturing
Gem Asset Management
Michael Jabara
Don Leclair
Sean O’Callaghan’s
Patrick O’Neill, Raymond James
Weast Financial Planning

**Plymouth Kiwanis Sponsor
(\$250)**

Berkshire Realty
John Birchler, Edward Jones
Forest Place Optical
Kurt Heise
Scott Kappler
Ron Lowe
Mark Riegal
Carl Schultz
SME
Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral
Home
Woods Tax Consulting Services

50 Years Ago
September 1972
Plymouth Observer

Getting Into A Fine ‘Ms.’

The phenomenon of prospective brides rapturously writing their future names on restaurant napkins may never die, but an increasing number of women are choosing to change their marital status without changing their names.

Although a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision upheld the right of individual states to require a married woman to legally assume her husband's name, many states have no such requirement. In some states, a woman's name is legally changed by the marriage contract, but may be changed back through court action at a minimum cost of \$50.

AS THE PRACTICE of married partners with different names spreads, people are less likely to exclaim "But I've never heard of such a thing!" But still the foremost reaction is a stunned "Why?"

The answer may be simply personal preference: the groom's surname is Schicklgruber and the bride's is Churchill, for example. And everyone knows at least one story of a bride whose first name is incompatible with the groom's last. (Sally Forth? Sandy Beech?)

AS MORE AND MORE women seek and achieve roles in the social sphere independent of their roles as wives, they also seek the privilege that has been granted to a select few. Indeed, say the feminists, retaining an independent identity after marriage should not be a privilege but a right.

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA

How two cities forged a relationship based on identical monikers

By Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens and Ellen Elliott

NEARLY 600 years ago, Plymouth, England, became the first town in England incorporated by an Act of Parliament, dated November 12, 1439. The 500th anniversary of the charter of incorporation was celebrated in 1939. The celebration included letters from municipalities named Plymouth from around the U.S. This sparked a relationship between Plymouth, England, and Plymouth, Michigan, which lasted several decades.



In 1967, the city of Plymouth celebrated its 100th year of incorporation as a village. The anniversary committee invited mayors of other Plymouths to join the celebration on July 4. Only the Lord Mayor of

Plymouth, England, showed up. During that visit, Lord Mayor Frank Chapman gave the city a chunk of rock from the steps of the Plymouth landing from which the Pilgrims departed. The rock is still situated near a historical marker between



Plymouth City Hall and the Plymouth District



Library on Main Street.

As a token of our friendship, during the visit Plymouth Mayor Jim Jabara presented the Lord Mayor with four Imperial Locust trees. Several months later, in November 1967, the trees were ceremonially planted in Plymouth, England's Civic Square. The following year, planning began for a delegation from here to visit Plymouth, England, in 1970 to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower*.



On July 13, 1970, 53 people from Plymouth, Michigan, traveled to our sister city.

Individuals paid \$395 inclusive for the entire trip. For five days, the group was feted royally, culminating in a "Michigan Day" banquet. During their tour, "the American flag was flying alone from all the government buildings ... [and] business places, too."¹ The group visited the four locust trees planted three years earlier and planted a maple tree at St. Andrew's Church yard at the Door of Unity.



More than 50 years later, some of the trees still stand in Plymouth, England, as a testament to the "Hands Across the Sea" bond between the two cities, as commemorated by two markers on the ground near the trees.

To learn more about Plymouth in the 1970s, please visit the Plymouth Historical Museum's special exhibit "Let Freedom Ring", which runs July 13-November 6. The Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street in Plymouth and is open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 1-4 P.M. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 6-17.

¹ *Plymouth Observer*, July 10/11, 1971, p. 5A.

Volunteer Spotlight



Judy Sameck

If you never visit the Museum store, you are missing out on a real treat. Besides seeing all the wonderful items that are for sale, many of which are donated, you are also missing out on the opportunity to meet one of our store volunteers, Judy Sameck.

Judy began volunteering for the Museum six years ago, starting out as a guide. Her talent for working with people was quickly noticed and was a perfect fit to handle Museum store customers.

Judy was born and raised in Dearborn. She attended St. Alphonsus High School, completing twelve years of Catholic education. Judy worked for 24 years for American Express Travel in administration for the district director, including working a stint of eight years from home. Prior to American Express, she was employed with American Airlines at Detroit Metro Airport as a ticket and gate agent. Judy may have been the one with the nice smile who accepted your flight ticket at the gate.

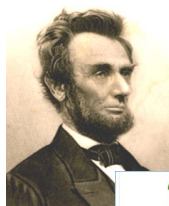
There's an interesting story about how Judy met her husband, Dick. A group of fellow employees at American Airlines decided to take a trip to Russia. Dick, who also worked for American Airlines in New York as a service manager, decided to join them. It must have been a real "From Russia with Love" episode since Dick and Judy celebrated 47 years of marriage.

Judy has a wide range of hobbies, including biking, gardening and horseback riding. Every couple of weeks, she and her friends go horseback riding at Rushlow's Farms in Romulus. Her favorite horse to ride is named "Dice," one of the many Arabian horses at the farm. Judy mentioned she rides "English Style," which in laymen terms is riding on a small saddle with no horn to hold on to. The way you keep astride is using the muscles in your legs.

Judy still has items on her bucket list, including learning to fly an airplane. She recently was able to cross off one notable item on the list—parachuting. Judy's love for flying goes back to childhood and learning to fly a plane is a dream I bet she will attain.

So next time you are in our Museum store, be sure to say hi to Judy.

—Written by Mike Woloszyk, Museum marketing director



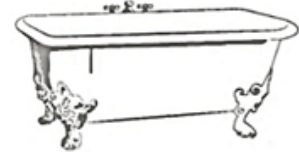
Weldon Petz Abraham Lincoln Exhibit

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.

Fun & Educational Field Trips

65 Years Ago
August 1957
Plymouth Mail

Bath in Barbershop Still Available



There's a sign on the door of Grant Stimpson's barber-shop at 157 Liberty street written with yellow paint in a flowing style that reminds you of a bygone era. It says simply "BATH".

It's been a long time since any dusty traveler took advantage of Grant's hospitality. But then, the sign has been there a good share of Grant's 37 year reign at the barber-shop and there used to be a lot of activity around the old-fashioned six-foot bath tub in the little room at the back of his shop.

Not that people don't take baths anymore—they have their own tubs now.

Most of the bath customers in that era of high button shoes, model T's and 10 cent shaves were either transients or roomers in the neighborhood. They found it easier to visit Grant than to wait their turn in the bathroom at the rooming house.

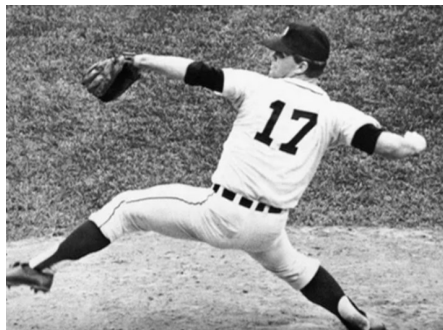
Of course they might have to wait in line to take advantage of the barber-shop's facilities, too. But as Grant remembers, nobody seemed to mind very much. "There was always plenty to talk about while they waited," he recalls. "Conversation used to center around politics, prices and the Tigers, just as it does now."

Grant used to get 25 cents for the bath. That included all the hot water customers needed plus soap and towels.

But the price has gone up in this new fashioned age of atom bombs, jet travel and the four minute mile. Grant feels he's justified in charging 50 cents now for the same facilities.

54 Years Ago
September 1968

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 A's 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 thunderous roar of the crowd shook the old ballpark when Norm Cash launched 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.

65 Years Ago
August 1957
Plymouth Mail

This is the **EDSEL**

"Today a remarkable new automobile joins the Ford family of fine cars"



West Brothers

534 Forest Ave. — Plymouth

Volunteer Spotlight

Thomas "T.J." Gaffney

If you recently noticed a familiar face around the Museum in a railroad engineer hat, that would be T.J., a very interesting person who you shall see has a very eclectic background.



T.J. has been more or less a fixture at the Museum ever since the Museum received the CSX caboose. T.J. was the contractor in charge of the renovation of our caboose and continues to embellish the display.

T.J. came to the Museum with the perfect credentials to help with the renovation. He has an undergraduate degree from Dennison University in Ohio and the University of Galway in Galway, Ireland, and a master's degree in American transportation from Clemson University. He has also been president of the Pere Marquette Historical Society for the last four years. His employment history includes six years at the Thomas Edison Depot Museum in Port Huron, teaching American History at Baker College, and working as a "car knocker" (someone who tests railroad car's air brakes) for Conrail.

Today T.J. keeps busy with his own business, "Streamline Historic Services," which does contract work for museums, producing corporate histories, historic research, property background research, historic project management, and museum collections rationalization.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is again using T.J.'s services. We have a contract with Pere Marquette Historical Society to house its extensive historical collection of photos, documents and employee histories dating back to the early 1900s. T.J. is one of the volunteers sorting this extensive collection so people can easily research and study the items. In addition, T.J. is the contractor for a project in the works to upgrade and enhance the Museum's train depot exhibit on our "Main Street."

T.J. lives with his wife, Heather, in Port Huron. His son Thomas graduated recently from the University of Michigan and is currently doing an internship at our Museum. T.J.'s daughter, Phoebe, attends an interior design college in Cincinnati.

It's amazing T.J. finds time to relax with his hobbies, which include sailboat racing, collecting antique boats and restoring classic cars. One of his most recent projects was restoring a Ford Model A with his son, Thomas.

If you ever have a question about the railroad history of Plymouth, I am sure T.J. will have the right answer.

—Written by Mike Woloszyk, Museum marketing director

Volunteers Make a Difference!



Plymouth Days Gone By

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

65 Years Ago September 1957
Plymouth Mail

Commuter Train is Local Asset



The C&O commuter train, the Sportsman, derived its name from the connection to Michigan resorts served by the Pere Marquette Railroad. In 1971, C&O discontinued train passenger service in Plymouth.

Railroad depots in most small towns are usually sleepy places at 7:15 a.m. But that's not true on week-day mornings at the Plymouth depot just off Starkweather Avenue. At that time a blue and gold Chesapeake & Ohio commuter train, the Sportsman, passes in a daily journey from Washington, D. C. to Detroit. And 200 or so Plymouthites who make their living in Detroit are grateful.

There are always a few passengers who haven't arrived at the depot as the Sportsman swings swiftly north over the crossing at Main street with spasmodic toots and continues, slowly now, around the curve and stops generally between Starkweather Avenue and Mill street.

A few who lingered over a second cup of coffee, or arise too late for any coffee, barely make the 7:15.

An obliging train crew has been known to wait a precious second for a scurrying customer in the distance. (Of course, once in a while, those same customers wait for the C and O.)

Major Cass S. Hough Describes Experience in Baptism of Fire

Dramatic in the extreme is the description written by Major Cass S. Hough to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Hough of this city, of his first aerial combat experienced somewhere in Europe during one of the recent raids by American aviators over the European continent.

"Soon you find yourself in a cold fury * * * and that's the transition * * * you've knocked an enemy ship down," writes the popular former official of the Daisy Manufacturing company who enlisted some two years ago for services with Uncle Sam's flying forces, in telling of his first fight with enemy forces.

His letter is so intensely interesting that it is published in full as follows:

"By this time we've all gotten over our fright of first combat. It's a hell of a feeling the first time—you start out in an icy sweat, and do an awful job of fumbling.

"Your flying isn't all it ought to be—every bird looks like an enemy fighter, but when you see it's a bird you're glad on one hand, and sorry on the other—sorry, because the hour of combat is again postponed. Then all of a sudden there they are—enemy fighters in real strength, and coming up to meet you. At high speeds it doesn't take long to join battle and then all hell lets loose.

"It's all over in about 5-10 minutes, because your ammunition is gone and your gas running low. But the incidental happenings seem like a dream—bullets splattering on various parts of the ship—airplanes disintegrating in mid-air before your eyes—friendly and enemy both—airplanes chasing each other around in circles like playful pups after their tails.

80 Years Ago
September 1942
Plymouth Mail



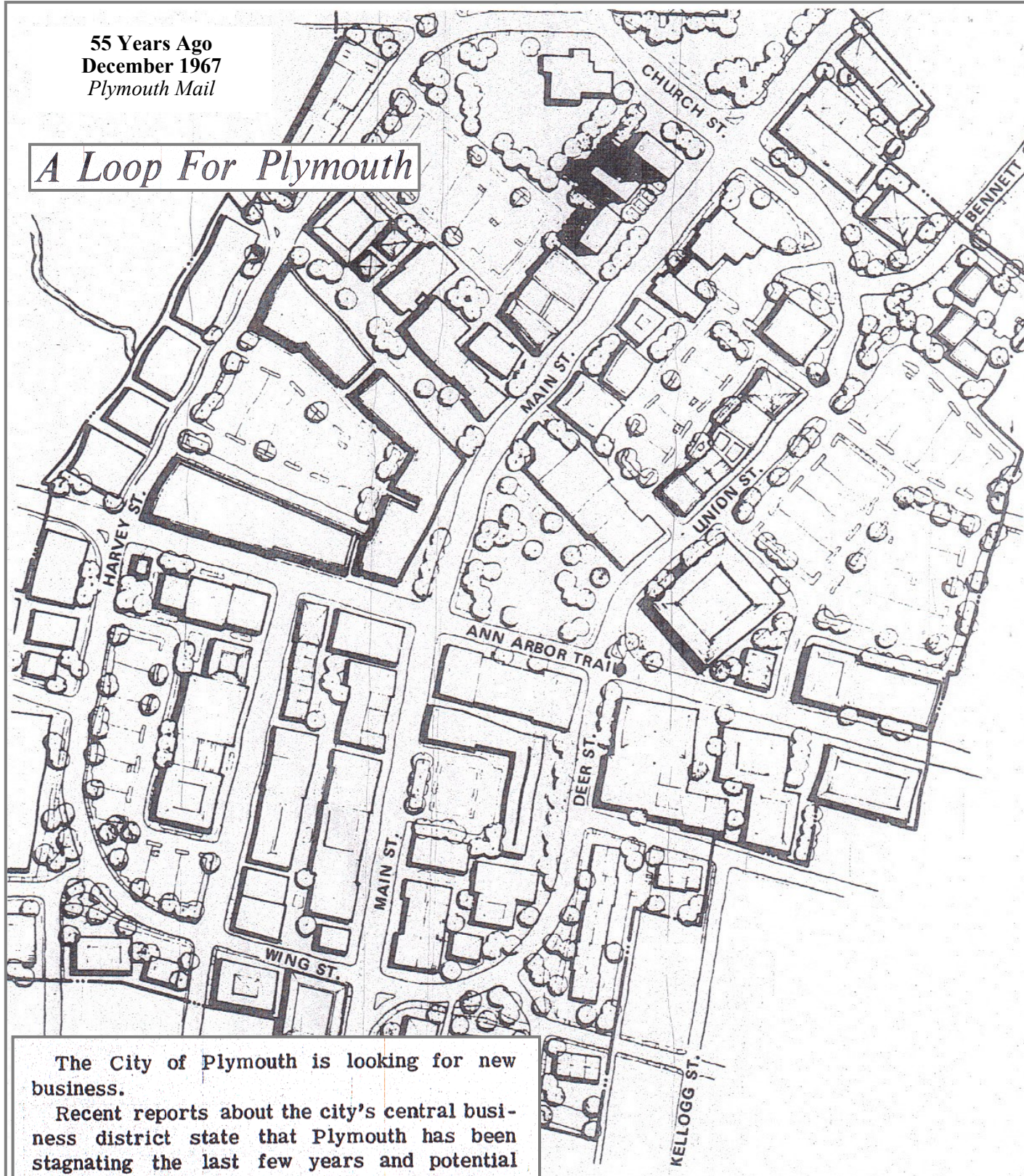
Major Cass S. Hough
1942



Cass S. Hough (1904-1990), son of Edward C. Hough, succeeded his father in 1959 as president of the Daisy Air Rifle Company. Cass was with Daisy for 50 years, joining his father in 1926. Cass served in World War II as a fighter pilot. In 1940, he set a world record for flight, traveling faster than the speed of sound during a test dive maneuver. The test flight provided invaluable technical information for the Allies. After WWII, Cass served as chairman of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. Col. Cass Hough is enshrined in the Aviation Hall of Fame. In 1976, Cass authored the book *It's a Daisy*, telling the detailed story of the Daisy Manufacturing Company.

55 Years Ago
December 1967
Plymouth Mail

A Loop For Plymouth



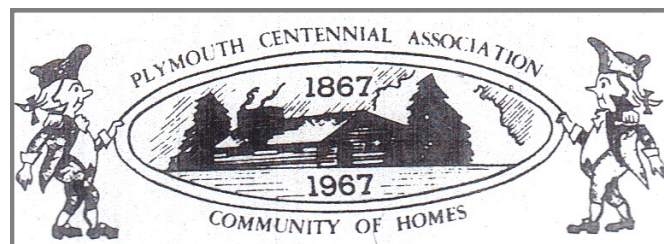
The City of Plymouth is looking for new business.

Recent reports about the city's central business district state that Plymouth has been stagnating the last few years and potential customer money has been lost to neighboring communities.

The most exciting remedy for the city's commercial headache is a proposed traffic loop that will surround the downtown area.

Construction of the loop will cost in the neighborhood of \$500,000.

* * *



75 Years Ago
September 1947
Plymouth Mail

**New Candy and Refreshment Stand
Now Open Next to Penn Theatre**

Penn Theatre
Plymouth, Michigan



September 1947

A new candy and refreshment stand was opened last weekend next door to the Penn theatre on Penniman avenue. The new addition for theatre patrons and other local residents is a 14 by 18 modernistic cedar and glass block building.

The store will open at 11 a.m. and remain open until 11 p.m. evenings selling, soft drinks, ice cream, candy, popcorn, and cigarettes. It will be managed by Vincent Simonetti who recently com-

pleted a years service in the Army. Previous to entering the service he was president of the senior class at Plymouth High School in 1945 and is well known in the city.

The store has a brightly colored awning on the front and is further decorated by an unusual, modern, solid lighting effect. An umbrella table and chairs are also available for the comfort of its patrons.

75 Years Ago September 1947



★
MOTHER

**Knows How To
Handle Money
Plymouth United Savings**

She's a smart buyer, takes plenty of time to shop around. And when it comes to saving money, give her a chance. Dad, and she won't let you down.

Today, more women than ever before use a checking account to stay within their budget and keep a savings account for that rainy day.

We're proud of the women who use our bank. Proud to help you too, Mom, in any way we can.

Receive 'No Policy - No Play' Edict

Athletes Ordered To Get Insurance

60 Years Ago
September 1962
Plymouth Mail

Students participating in interscholastic athletics at Plymouth High School must carry some form of health and accident insurance, beginning with the 1962 football season, or not play.

Orders to that effect were issued Friday by School Supt. Russell Isbister, head of the Plymouth Community School district.

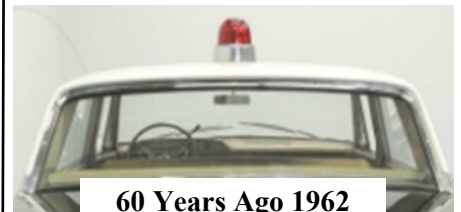
"We have been studying this situation for some time," he said in announcing the order. "And in view of the numerous mishaps thus far this fall at the college and high school level, we decided that such an order should be issued effective at once."

Latest reports from the nation's college and high school gridirons indicate that seven have died from over-exertion in heat and other injuries.

"It wasn't the wave of fatalities that brought the decisions," said Isbister. "I have been studying this matter for some time and after due consideration of the Board of Education and Athletic Director and Coach Mike Hoben of Plymouth High, I decided to issue the order."

Hoben indicated that health and accident insurance and participation in the Michigan High School Athletic Association benefit plan have been optional up to now with more than 95 percent of the athletes covered.

**Police Cruisers Lose
Red 'Gumball' Look**



60 Years Ago 1962

It isn't crazy drivers that are turning the flashing red lights on police vehicles blue—but a new state law.

Often referred to as the "gumball" because of its similarity to a gumball machine, the rotating or oscillating lights atop police vehicles in Michigan must be blue after Jan. 1, 1964, according to Public Act 188 enacted this year.

The color blue for these lights is restricted to police vehicles only.

The police departments in Livonia and Plymouth aren't waiting until the deadline to make the change—both departments have switched from the "gumball" flashing red to the new blue already.

So, motorists, take a warning now. When you see that flashing blue light, you had better get ready to pull over because that's the law trailing you.

Federal Agency Eyes Plymouth for 'Model'

Guided throughout Plymouth by City Manager Albert Glassford, Area Redevelopment Administration, field coordinator, Don Kohler, was quick to point out the various areas where his agency could and would provide funds for specific improvements in the business community.

"We are an agency created to redevelop areas to provide more parking, we can provide matching funds for new buildings such as a city hall and we can, through our agency or others in the same field, provide funds for merchants who wish to remodel, expand or build entirely new business properties," he said.

In discussing the possibility of a new city hall he promptly gave his stamp of approval to a building erected on piers in the center of the Central Parking Lot which would bring all city departments in the center of the town to create more foot traffic for the business section.

A hard look at future developments for the City of Plymouth, such as a new city hall, increased parking facilities and possible attractive new merchandising centers was the purpose of a Tuesday visit here by a representative of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"As far as I personally am concerned I would like to see Plymouth lead the way under our new program and become a model city in United States, improved and financed by our department, and I am here to offer my own personal services in bringing this about," he told several of the various groups he met with Tuesday.

He explored the possibility of using the city property back of the Christian Science Church for parking, or a possible city hall site. The city already has a 12 foot entrance off from the west side of Harvey street and by gaining some access through Church vacant property in the rear of the Church a whole new area could be brought into downtown usage.

He further pointed out that his agency could immediately make available 50 per cent of the total costs within 90 days if the city would prepare plans for such a building.

Development in the area of new parking facilities could be financed by a 25 per cent special assessment against property owners, a 37 per cent federal grant and a 37½ per cent participation by the city which would probably be raised by revenue bonds though it could be borrowed on a loan basis from the government at 3½ per cent over a 40 year period.

60 Years Ago
September 1962
Plymouth Mail

The Plymouth Historical Museum Proudly Presents:

The popular annual
**PLYMOUTH GHOSTS
CEMETERY WALK**
at Riverside Cemetery

SPONSORED by
Schrader-Howell
Funeral Home

Saturday, October 22

Tours Begin at 4 PM

Last Tour at 8 PM

Tickets are \$15 in advance - \$20 on October 22

We have already sold 1/3 of
the tickets!

Don't Miss Out!

Walks can
last up to 90
minutes.
Wear walking shoes.
This event is
rain or shine.

Tickets for
Group Reservations
of 8 or more are
\$12 each.
To reserve, please call
the Museum at
734-455-8940 x0



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

Non-Profit Org
U. S. Postage
PAID
Plymouth, MI.
Permit No. 111

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

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

October

14—Things That Go Bump in the Night, 6-8 pm.
Tickets on sale now at plymouthhistory.org/events.
Sponsored by Rokit Digital Marketing.

22—Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk, 4-9 pm.
Tickets on sale now at plymouthhistory.org/events.
Sponsored by Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

November

6—Last day of special exhibit, "Let Freedom Ring."

15—"A Red Ryder Christmas Story" **Members-only Preview**. Tickets available beginning Sep. 30.

16—"A Red Ryder Christmas Story" special exhibit opens. Sponsored by O'Donnell Electric.

26 & 27—**Santa in the Caboose**. Free. Sponsored by MI Roots Realty and Executive Property Management.



The 1970s was a decade filled with drama and intrigue. Explore Plymouth in the 1970s in depth by visiting our exhibit, "Let Freedom Ring." The special exhibit is on display at the Museum until November 6, 2022.

The exhibit is sponsored by
Community Financial Credit Union