Daisy Manufacturing will leave Plymouth and move to new quarters in Arkansas.

In quest of lower operating costs—particularly in labor—the company’s directors decided late Wednesday to abandon the town where the unique business began 70 years ago, and which has had no other home.

Executive Vice-President Cass Hough announced the move, following a meeting of top company officials.

It was a grim decision for 600-plus employees who earn their living at the old plant on Union Street. Practically all of the workers live in Plymouth or communities close-by.

To the City of Plymouth, it means the departure of the largest industry and biggest taxpayer. Daisy is estimated to pay seven percent of the total taxes collected annually within the city.

“It is a difficult and heart-rending choice we have had to make,” said Hough. “But involved is a simple matter of business survival. We have reached a point where we cannot raise the price of our product further and still sell it. Our labor costs continue to climb. We must build new plant capacity.

“There were only two choices: (1) eventually go out of business, or (2) transfer our scene of operations to a place where labor and construction costs were more moderate. We made the second choice.”

Cass Hough’s Statement

“After 70 years of operation in Plymouth, the Daisy Manufacturing Company will move all of its operations to Rogers, Arkansas. The move will be completed by early summer 1968.

“Steadily increasing manufacturing costs, coupled with the uncertainty of Michigan’s tax structure, and the generally poor economic climate in Michigan for a small business, are the basic forces that dictate the move. Retail prices of Daisy products, now at an all-time high, cannot be raised any more, to take care of further cost increases, without seriously affecting sales. The last five years have seen a steadily increasing part of Daisy’s business channeled into highly competitive fields. All of Daisy’s competitors in these fields are located in relatively low-cost areas, making the competitive job for Daisy a back-breaking one. Also, many new items, already designed and engineered, cannot be manufactured and marketed advantageously in the Plymouth operation, because of the high costs to manufacture. In addition, the cost of building a new plant in the Plymouth area would be extremely high compared to some other areas. Thus, future development of the business and its products will be severely handicapped in the present location.

“A new plant of approximately 225,000 sq. ft. will be erected by the Rogers Industrial Development Corporation, and turned over to Daisy on a lease-purchase agreement. The new factory site consists of approximately 21 acres of land, lying between a main highway and the Frisco Railroad, one and a half miles south of the center of Rogers, Arkansas.

“With roots of the company and its people so deep in the community, Daisy is loath to make this move. However, ever since resumption of operations following World War II an intense investigation of manufacturing problems has been going on, coupled, of course, with studies for relocation. Thus what appears to be the answer to the dilemma in which Daisy finds itself is one arrived at after mature and sober thought and study.”

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155 South Main Street
Plymouth, Michigan 48170
http://www.plymouthhistory.org
http://www.facebook.com/plymouthhistory
734-455-8940 Fax: 734-455-7797

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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 four times a year.

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.

We appreciate your support!

New Members—Welcome!

Chelsea Brodfuehrer, Plymouth
Brian Gapske, Livonia
Julie Hathaway, Ann Arbor
Scott LaPointe, Belmont
Kimberly Roth, South Lyon
Richard Schubatis, Plymouth
Pamela Stopper, Plymouth

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 $60 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.

Monthly Drawing

Courtney Muzzin, BJ Haire, and Barbara Rogers are the respective winners of the October, November, and December drawings for a $25 gift certificate.
We’re going to be doing a bit of work at the Plymouth Historical Museum in January. The projects we have scheduled are going to require the Museum to be closed January 9 to February 7.

First up, we’re getting new carpet in the office spaces. The current carpet is about 22 years old and has seen better days. So, we have to move everything out of the offices into the open area by the Victorian rooms so the carpet can get installed. And yes, if you’re wondering, we will need boxes and assistance moving stuff out and back if you’re so inclined to help the week of January 9. If so, contact Janet Burns, volunteer coordinator, at 734-455-8940 x105.

Train Depot Remodel

Some may not realize that most of the Main Street area of the Museum was built in the 1970s. Our goal is to do a major facelift of the Main Street shops over the next few years, as funding allows. Part of the upgrade is enhancing the exhibit spaces with modern technology, as appropriate and in keeping with the look and feel of the current exhibit spaces.

The first major remodel will be the Pere Marquette train depot pictured here. We have exciting plans for this space, including moving the front wall out and opening up the exhibit for visitors to walk inside. Our goal is to make the new exhibit look and feel like a 1920s train depot.

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We’re working closely with several contractors, including Stella Contracting, AFP Sound Systems, and Highway Media, along with our overall project coordinator T.J. Gaffney of Streamline Historic Services. T.J. was our contractor on the caboose project.

I don’t want to give away too many details at this point, but look forward to some very cool video and interactive components.

We’re hoping this remodel is done in time to showcase the new depot during the Members-only Wine and Appetizer Reception on Tuesday, February 8. Be sure to sign up when we send out the invitations!

Breaking News: This project is being funded by a $65,000 grant from the Margaret Dunning Foundation! Margaret was the Museum’s benefactor, donating the money to build the current building and addition!

More Pere Marquette Archives

We have received another truck load of archival documents that pertain to the Pere Marquette Railroad—90 boxes to be exact. These documents are part of the Pere Marquette Historical Society collection that is now housed at the Museum. The archives staff and volunteers will be busy over the coming weeks incorporating the documents into the collection.

Snapshots of Plymouth

When the Museum reopens on February 9, we will be featuring our new special exhibit “Snapshots of Plymouth.” This exhibit will feature some of our favorite vignettes that we’ve created over the years, along with new Plymouth spotlights destined to become new favorites. We’re so proud of Plymouth and want to showcase it whenever we can!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>Members-only Reception</td>
<td>Jan. 2</td>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>Presidential Encounters</td>
<td>Jan. 2</td>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Ghosts of Plymouth Walk</td>
<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Donations Received
September – November 2022  Thank You!

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between September and November 2022:

**The Dunning ($2,500+)**
Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth
Mark & Patty Malcolm

**The Lincoln ($1,000-$2,499)**
Luan Brownlee
Jim Burroughs
Clark Chapin
Cynthia Hartsig
Linda Manchester
Pere Marquette Historical Society

**The Starkweather ($500-$999)**
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Takeda Yoshido

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WSDP

**Plymouth Ghosts ($500)**
ATS Advisors

**Mary Todd ($400)**
Bank of Ann Arbor

**Family Fun ($300)**
Executive Property Maintenance
Luna Tech 3D

**Archives Upgrade**

**The Starkweather ($500-$999)**
Fritz Milhaupt

**The Kellogg ($100-$249)**
Louis Christensen

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80 Years Ago
October 1942
Plymouth Mail

It’s 25 Miles Per Hour, And Not A Bit Faster

Police Chief Has Issued Warning To Auto Drivers

“The speed limit in Plymouth is 25 miles per hour. If anybody has any idea that from now on there is any reason to speed, they will have to tell the judge why. Uncle Sam wants the nation to reduce the speed of automobiles. We are going to cooperate in Plymouth one hundred percent,” declared Chief of Police Charles Thumme yesterday.

Governor Van Wagoner, in compliance with an urgent request from Washington, has issued an emergency order fixing 35 miles an hour as the speed limit on country highways, effective October 1. The state police are going to rigidly enforce this emergency order. Chief Charles Thumme says there will be no fooling in Plymouth. The ordinance long ago fixed the speed limit at 25 miles per hour, and while it has not been rigidly enforced in the past, it will be from this day on, there is not much question about that.

There will be no exceptions. Workers in munition plants will have to get up a bit earlier. People who drive back and forth to work in Detroit offices, will be required to add some 30 minutes to their driving time.

Everybody is going to slow down—or pay the penalty.
Halloween is a favorite time of year for people all around the country. The citizens of Plymouth have developed traditions lasting decades, beginning with simple parties. One of the first festive uses of the new Mayflower Hotel was a Halloween Party on October 31, 1928.

After World War II, community-wide celebrations became popular. The first mention of a Halloween window painting contest was in the Plymouth Mail of October 22, 1948. Creative colorful scenes were painted on more than 240 merchants’ windows throughout the Plymouth community. Other activities that year included parades, a costume contest, a dance, and of course, parties.

Halloween was celebrated this way in Plymouth until 1955, when window painting was discontinued because it disrupted the school day and left a mess on merchants’ windows. This tradition was revived in the early 1970s and continued through the 1990s.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) became involved in Halloween celebrations as early as 1946, when they held a Halloween dance at the Masonic Temple. By 1971, the Jaycees had joined forces with the City of Plymouth to organize Halloween events. The Jaycees also set up a haunted house in an abandoned structure on Ann Arbor Road, west of town.

The group hosted other haunted houses in various downtown Plymouth locations during the 1970s. In 1990 and 1991, the Plymouth-Canton Jaycees sponsored a haunted forest just north of the Ford Sheldon Road plant. For four decades, the local Jaycees held their haunted festivities in the Plymouth area until they lost their charter in 2007.

From 1973 to 1986, Plymouth City Parks and Recreation Department organized Halloween events, including a costume and pumpkin-carving contest. The Plymouth Chamber of Commerce introduced the Great Pumpkin Caper in 1985, which was a very successful trick-or-treating affair. In 1999, the Chamber also debuted Scarecrows in the Park, now in its 23rd year.

In 2011, the Great Pumpkin Caper was revamped as Pumpkin Palooza. Streets were closed, pumpkin bowling was introduced along with more Halloween activities. This event continued through 2019.


As the community adjusted to the pandemic in 2021, Pumpkin Palooza and trick-or-treating returned and Plymouth, once again, enjoyed the enchanting Halloween holiday.

*By Elizabeth Kerstens and Ellen Elliott*

*A Slice of History, courtesy of Plymouth Today magazine, issue Fourth Quarter 2022*
Some of the unsung volunteers at the Museum include the Archive staff. They are the people who document and protect thousands of records for posterity. One of the new, hardworking volunteers is Alex Downie, who has been onboard with the Museum for just a few short weeks.

A resident of Taylor, Alex achieved a Bachelor’s degree in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University and is volunteering at the Museum to obtain some work experience. He is devoting his time to the Museum’s recent loan of thousands of historical records from the Pere Marquette Historical Society.

The area that really captures Alex’s interest is the records for the Pere Marquette train #1225, which was used as the model for the popular Christmas movie Polar Express. It is interesting to note that the producers of the movie decided to use this particular train, found in Michigan, after searching around the country because of the model’s number 1225 and its relation to the date of Christmas. One of the producers of the movie was quoted as saying, “It just brought the story to life.”

Once Alex gets his archival experience under his belt, his plan is to earn a Masters of Library Science in graduate school, hopefully at U of M Dearborn or Wayne State University.

Of personal note, Alex loves to watch western movies and vacation as much as possible. He recently took a cruise to the Bahamas, Grand Turk Islands and the Dominican Republic. One of his most memorable visits was to the Criminal History Museum in the Dominican Republic. Another favorite vacation spot for Alex is Scotland, where his grandparents and father were born. Alex mentioned that if you are in Scotland, be sure to visit the William Wallace Monument and the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow.

Keep in mind that the Archive is open to the public for free to members and for a small fee if you want to research Plymouth history in old documents, maps, photos and news articles. I am sure that Alex will be glad to lend you a hand.

—Written by Mike Woloszyk, Museum marketing director

New volunteers are always welcome at the Plymouth Historical Museum!
Volunteer Spotlight

Marie-Louise Capote

The Plymouth Historical Museum is unique in that several new exhibits are displayed every year. One of those very important but behind-the-scenes volunteers who helps make those elaborate exhibits possible is Marie-Louise Capote.

Marie-Louise came onboard as an exhibits helper one year ago. She has collected antiques for many years and it was very fitting for her to volunteer at the Museum to work with the things she loves. In fact, she continues to donate many items to the Museum, including period objects and clothing.

Born and raised in Dearborn, Marie-Louise grew up as an only child with parents who loved collecting antiques. She has lived in Plymouth for 32 years with her husband Bal. Prior to Plymouth, they lived in Northville for eight years in a “Bruce Turnbull” home on Fairbrook that was more than 100 years old. The Capotes have two children, Heather and Gregory. Heather is a teacher in the Down River area.

Marie-Louise has a teaching background, achieving her Master’s degree at Eastern Michigan University. She taught first grade in Livonia Public Schools and taught preschool and kindergarten at St. Paul Lutheran School in Northville. She also spent years as a substitute teacher.

Her interests include theater acting and music. She is accomplished on the piano and flute and her theater background includes acting in plays at the Schoolcraft Dinner Theater. Marie-Louise mentioned acting runs in the family -- she had an aunt who was well known for her Shakespearean performances. Also, Marie-Louise sings in the Scandia Chorus and has been a board member on the Swedish Club of SW Detroit for 15 years.

Marie-Louise loves volunteering at the Museum because the historical environment fits in well with her love for antiques. The Museum is very lucky to have her many talents.

—Written by Mike Woloszyk, Museum marketing director

The Plymouth Historical Museum owes its success to the efforts of its dedicated volunteers.

Thank You Volunteers!
Volunteers Make a Difference!
65 Years Ago
November 1957
Plymouth Mail

Twins Drive Away New Car
In Supermarket’s Contest

Keys for a new Ford Edsel sedan were
turned over to twin brothers, winners of
a contest sponsored by Stop & Shop
Supermarket in Plymouth. Ernest Miller,
who is shown sitting in the car, and his
brother, Harry Miller, received the keys
from Plymouth Mail publisher, Paul
Chandler. Ernest, who did most of the
calculations to submit the correct num-
ber of 2,382 Jello boxes in a shopping
basket, took possession of the car.

Plymouth entrepreneur and socialite,
Kate Penniman Allen, opened the Pen-
niman-Allen Theatre on Penniman Ave-
nue in 1918. In 1922, a controversy de-
veloped when Allen announced, to the
chagrin of churchgoers, the theater
would show movies on Sundays, in addi-
tion to weekdays. Allen was successful
with her plan to show Sunday movies
after a majority of Plymouth residents
supported her decision. The popular
theater organ was installed in 1926 at a
great cost of $13,000, entirely finance by
Allen. After the end of the silent movie
era, and with the declining use of the
theater’s orchestra pit, the bellowing
musical tones of the organ ultimately
grew silent. The theater organ was re-
moved in 1957, and in 1967, the theater
finally closed because of the high costs
of badly needed renovations. Sadly, to
Plymouth historians and past patrons
who held cherished memories of the the-
ater, a serious fire destroyed the build-
ing in 1968.
A view of the old city hall across from the intersection of Main and Church Streets, circa 1960. The old city hall, built in 1880, was razed in 1964 and replaced with the current colonial-style building. The building to the right is the former Christian Science Church, built in 1903.
Three Plymouth Sailor Lads, Rescued from Great Aircraft Carrier Wasp
Tell of their Escape at War Bond Auction

Three Plymouth lads, Richard and Donald Baron, sons of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hoffman, 1069 Starkweather avenue, and Erland (Sonny) Bridge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Erland Bridge, 942 Hawthorne street, are safe at home on a brief furlough from Uncle Sam's navy after having saved their lives by jumping into the ocean from the top flight deck of the United States aircraft carrier Wasp when it was sunk September 15 by a Japanese submarine near the Solomon Islands.

The stories of these three lads are stories of youthful American heroism stripped of all vain glory, stories that thrill the hearts of patriotic Americans.

Saturday afternoon during Plymouth's great bond auction sale, each one of these Plymouth boys, who fought flames on the great aircraft carrier until they were ordered to abandon ship, and then jumped from a height of nearly 80 feet into the sea to save their lives, will tell of their thrilling experiences, as one of our greatest aircraft carriers went down to the bottom of the sea.

Richard Baron, 20 years old, will describe his escape down the side of the great Wasp on a fire hose that had been thrown from the top deck. He will tell how, when he reached the surface of the ocean, he was caught under a net and of his near escape from drowning as he struggled to free himself from the ropes and other entanglements as the waves pounded the sinking carrier.

His younger brother, Donald, only 18 years old who left high school to join the navy, and who jumped 80 feet without a life jacket into the ocean, will tell how he swam about in the sea for over two hours before he was rescued and taken to a nearby destroyer.

"Sonny" Bridge, who was on the flight deck when the order was given to go overboard, may tell about how he stripped off his own life jacket and put it on a badly injured sailor lad who stood near him, before Sonny made the 80-foot leap into the sea to save his own life.

His injured sailor companion suffered a fractured arm, a broken nose and other injuries. He was near the place on the ship where one of the Jap torpedoes exploded. Without a life jacket, Sonny knew his companion would go to sure death. His act saved an American sailor's life.

Maybe the boys will tell of seeing some of their unfortunate companions who could not swim, jump into the ocean, flounder about and sink to their deaths beneath the waves—all for Americans who remain secure, temporarily at least, in their homes far from the battlefronts.

Both Richard and Donald Baron have recently been promoted to aviation mechanics mates, third class. Sonny was a gunner on the Wasp.

These three Plymouth boys were on the Wasp at the time Hitler was claiming that he had set it on fire and sunk it in the Mediterranean early last summer.

Attend the bond auction sale Saturday. Hear the intensely interesting, heroic stories of these Plymouth lads, who have just faced death for America.

The boys say that when the three torpedoes struck the ship, there were terrible explosions. Everybody knew something serious had happened, but there wasn't the slightest excitement or confusion at any time, not even after it was ordered that the ship be abandoned, they stated.

The explosions immediately set the boat on fire and put out of commission the cables which operated the lifeboats. It was a case of jumping or sinking, so the boys jumped.

Washington reports state that the loss of life out of the crew of some 2,000 or more was a trifle over 200.
FOOTBALL FIELD OPENING
DRAWS 3,400 CITY RESIDENTS

Field Acclaimed as City’s Most Progressive Project in Years

Plymouth 12 - Wayne 6

Community spirit reached an all-time high in Plymouth last Friday night when 3,400 local residents and children attended the first football game on Plymouth's new football field. On a setting under $10,000 worth of flood lights and a bright harvest moon in the sky, Plymouthites thrilled to the brilliant playing of their high school football team and their 80-piece band.

An inspired, injury-riddled, 11 rose to the occasion to defeat Wayne 12 to 8 in their first tilt on their new home grounds. Playing inspired football for the first time this year, the Rocks thrilled the spectators with beautiful runs and passes that brought them their first taste of victory this season.

The high school band resplendent in their new uniforms furnished by the Junior Chamber of Commerce was not only a surprise to most of the 3,000 fans, but their performance between halves won the hearts of all that saw them in their first home appearance.

School officials had hoped for some 1,500 people at the opening game and seating had been provided for 1,800 but when double that amount surged on the field there was no possible way to furnish them seats. Efforts are being made now to secure an additional 2,000 seats for the game tonight between Belleville and Plymouth which will take place at 8 p.m.

Local Rotarians attended the game as guests of the Board of Education. It has been through the efforts of the local Rotary club that funds amounting to more than $15,000 have been raised to make the field possible. Farsighted planning on the part of former superintendent George A. Smith and his Board of Education made the field location possible when they exerted every effort to secure all of the available land near or around the school.

75 Years Ago
October 1947
Plymouth Mail

This Is What They Said
About the New Field

"It was the most beautiful and impressive athletic spectacle I have ever seen in Plymouth. The beauty of the field's location is clearly outstanding. The increased spirit in the hearts of the players I believe was what really won the victory over a much larger and more skillful team," George A. Smith.

I never thought I would live to see so inspiring a sight in Plymouth," Cass S. Hough.

"There has never been anything that will do a better job of building community spirit than the new field. What ever I have done to help has only been half enough," Edwin A. Schrader.

"It certainly was a wonderful sight and a wonderful field," E. V. Jolliffe.

"It was one of the most wonderful sights I have ever seen in Plymouth," Mrs. John Morrow.

"There is no doubt but what it was the finest game a Plymouth team has ever played and the field certainly inspired everyone that night," Claude Eckles.

"A more brilliant spectacle could never be held and wait until the community at large realizes the many purposes that the field can be used for," Dr. Henry Walch.

"To me the field, the game and the band were only a start when it comes to showing a community what Plymouth can do when everyone takes part in any civic undertaking. It’s a grand start let's keep going," Robert O. Wesley.

"Amen," Coach Eddie Bender.

"It only took a football field to show the city what real community spirit is," Ralph Lorenz.

"It’s the finest thing for the city that’s ever been done," Dr. A. C. Williams.

SEE PLYMOUTH'S 78 PIECE BAND
"It's the Talk of the Town"
GAMES START 8 p.m. Admission 75¢
NORTHVILLE DEDICATION GAME ADMISSION 1.10
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW

HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW FOOTBALL FIELD?
PLYMOUTH PLAYs TRENTON OCTOBER 24th
INKSTER RESERVES OCTOBER 25th
NORTHVILLE OCTOBER 31st
JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS AND SEE THESE GAMES
Calendar of Events

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

December 25—Museum closed. Merry Christmas!

January 1—Museum closed. Happy New Year!
January 8—Last day of “A Red Ryder Christmas Story.”
January 9-February 7—Museum closed for maintenance and exhibit changeover.

February 7—Members-only Wine and Appetizer Reception for “Snapshots of Plymouth.”
February 8—New special exhibit opens “Snapshots of Plymouth.”
February 11—“Presidential Encounters,” 6-8 pm. Tickets $15; on sale to members January 2, 2023; on sale to the public January 16, 2023. Meet U.S. presidents and hear some of their secrets. A Plymouth Living History Troupe event.