

October-December 2022

**OUR TIME, OUR HISTORY.**  
PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

65 Years Ago  
November 1957  
*Plymouth Mail*

## Daisy To Close Plymouth Plant, Move to Arkansas!



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 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. Col. Cass Hough is enshrined in the Aviation Hall of Fame. In 1976 Cass authored the book It's a Daisy, detailing the story of the Daisy Manufacturing Company.*



## 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 1958.

"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."

**Plymouth Historical Museum**  
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 Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
<http://www.plymouthhistory.org>  
<http://www.facebook.com/plymouthhistory>  
 734-455-8940 Fax: 734-455-7797

**Hours**

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday  
 1-4 PM all days  
 Open year round (except some holidays)

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The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

**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.

**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](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.

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.

# Bits 'n Pieces

By Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, executive director

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.

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!



## Ticket Sale Dates for Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Members	Public
Feb. 7	Members-only Reception	Jan. 2	
Feb. 11	Presidential Encounters	Jan. 2	Jan. 16
March 12	Tea	Jan. 23	Feb. 6
April 22	Ghosts of Plymouth Walk	Feb. 13	Feb. 27

**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)**

Penny Joy  
 Brian Kidston  
 Geraldine Kilsdonk  
 William Lawton  
 Mayflower Towing

**The Penniman (\$250-\$499)**

Community Financial Credit  
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 Mary Fritz  
 Glassline Inc.  
 Richard Lane  
 Roy Pilkington

**The Kellogg (\$100-\$249)**

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 Veralou Scott  
 Elsie Mae Trinka  
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O'Donnell Electric

**Hamilton (\$600)**

Bank of Ann Arbor  
 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

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 In Plymouth

A rich history of celebration and community pride

By Elizabeth Kerstens and Ellen Elliott

**H**ALLOWEEN 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.

In 2020 the world changed. The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a pivot in Halloween event planning. The Plymouth Chamber of Commerce hosted a virtual Halloween costume contest. Those brave enough to go trick-or-treating encountered creative delivery mechanisms including shoots, tubes, catapults, and other contraptions. The Plymouth Historical Museum introduced COVID-friendly "Things That Go Bump in the Night," with spooky characters within the Museum exhibit spaces.

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.



*A Slice of History, courtesy of Plymouth Today magazine, issue Fourth Quarter 2022*

# Volunteer Spotlight



Alex Downie

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."

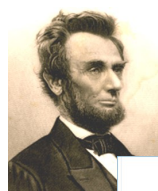
Once Alex gets his archival experience under his belt, his plan is to earn a Masters of Library Science in graduate school, hopefully at U of M Dearborn or Wayne State University.

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!



## 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

80 Years Ago  
November 1942  
Plymouth Mail

## Coffee To Be Rationed Soon

Plymouth Merchants Have Little On Hand

Coffee—it's going to be rationed!

On and after November 28 there will be but one pound per person once in every five weeks.

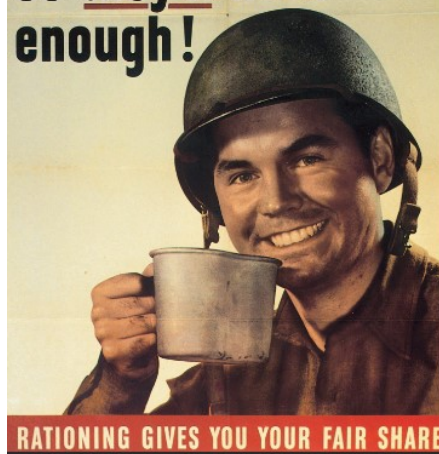
Sinkings of cargo ships operating between North and South America by Hitler's submarines is the cause.

Officials in Washington declare that there is no immediate prospect for the return of normal shipping facilities and in order to see to it that what little coffee supply there is left is evenly distributed among the coffee drinkers of the country, that rationing has become necessary, just as both coffee and tea rationing has been in effect in Canada and England for a year or more.

No need to try and "stock up" because there isn't much to be had in Plymouth stores at the present time. There is only a limited supply expected in Plymouth before rationing—and is that little bit of coffee a headache to the merchants!

"As far as I can see the situation, there will be no more big supply of coffee until we have licked Germany and Japan," said one local merchant yesterday.

Do with less—so they'll have enough!



80 Years Ago  
November 1942  
*Plymouth Mail*



## Uncle Sam Needs Silk, Nylon

Seven Stocking 'Depots'  
Will Be Set Up In  
Plymouth Stores

Ladies!  
Prepare!  
Uncle Sam is after your  
hosiery!

No, not the good one that  
hasn't a run in it.

But he wants every stocking  
you've got that has a run in it!

Maybe that cute little big  
toe that stuck out through the  
end of your pump last summer  
had a toe nail so sharp that it  
cut a hole in the end of your  
stocking.

Yes, Madame, even if the  
stocking has a hole in the toe,  
Uncle Sam doesn't care. He  
wants "holey" stockings, too.

Mrs. Mildred Barnes, chair-  
man of the Plymouth salvage  
committee, and Mrs. Russell  
Powell, chairman of the Plym-  
outh township committee,  
have announced that the big  
drive in this vicinity to collect  
hosiery for Uncle Sam will start  
Monday.

The silk is used for the  
making of powder bags to hold  
the firing charge in guns of  
large calibre, the size that sinks  
German submarines and Jap  
warships. The stockings do not  
have to be pure silk. Even  
stockings with mixed materials  
are good.

# 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!



75 Years Ago  
October 1947  
*Plymouth Mail*

For Speedier Repairs on your  
RADIO — RECORD CHANGERS and  
SOUND EQUIPMENT  
CALL 1198-W  
**ROLLING RADIO SERVICE**  
The Shop that Moves to Your Home

# Plymouth Days Gone By

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

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 number of 2,382 Jello boxes in a shopping basket, took possession of the car.

**Twin brothers, 23 years old, won the Edsel car in Stop and Shop's contest.**

It was a family proposition, really, with their mother buying all the groceries, but the keys to the supermarket's first prize were handed over Tuesday to Ernest and Harry Miller of 13928 Ridgewood Drive, Plymouth.

The magic figure was 2,382, that being the exact number of

Jello boxes in a big basket. For the past month shoppers have been examining the heap of boxes and have submitted their estimates on entry blanks at Stop and Shop. The contest was part of a highly successful "grand opening" promotion.

Only one entry was correct. Five others missed the figure by a single box, above or beneath 2,382.



## Era Of Theatre Organ Ends

65 Years Ago  
October 1957  
Plymouth Mail

**LAST LOOK** at the \$13,000 organ which for 31 years sat in the Penniman-Allen Theatre is given by Ralph Ruben, co-owner of the theatre. The Wurlitzer, installed at the foot of the stage in the orchestra pit, had been silent for many years. It has now been sold to a Harper Woods man who intends to install it in his home.



Penniman-Allen Theatre  
Photo, circa 1920s.

Plymouth entrepreneur and socialite, Kate Penniman Allen, opened the Penniman-Allen Theatre on Penniman Avenue in 1918. In 1922, a controversy developed when Allen announced, to the chagrin of churchgoers, the theater would show movies on Sundays, in addition 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 went silent. The theater organ was removed 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 theater, a serious fire destroyed the building in 1968.

Without publicity, ceremony or emotion, Plymouth's first and only theatre organ was recently removed from the building where it had stood for over 30 years.

A two-manual Wurlitzer organ which was installed in the Penniman and Allen Theatre orchestra pit in 1926, was quietly carried out several weeks ago and sold to a Harper Woods resident. It had not been played for many years.

Only in a few big city theatres today can one hear the grand tones of an organ. In fact, most of the modern generation has never had the chance to experience the thrill of watching a huge spotlighted organ rise from the orchestra pit, with music literally shaking the walls.

The organ at the P & A Theatre didn't rise from the pit, but its effect, as recalled by many, was just as thrilling.

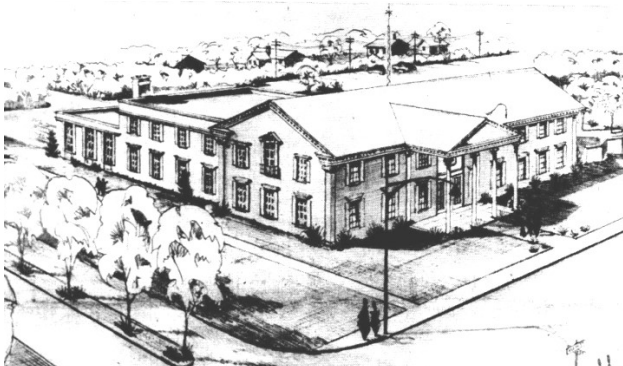
Mrs. Kate Allen built the P & A with its doors opened prematurely on Nov. 11, 1918 to stage an Armistice dance and celebration. On July 1, 1921, Harry Lush, owner of the Penn Theatre, leased the P & A from Mrs. Allen.

It was in 1926 that Mrs. Allen installed the organ at her own expense — and its cost was \$13,000. These were the days of silent movies, so when the organ was moved in, the piano was moved out.



60 Years Ago  
October 1962  
*Plymouth Mail*

## Colonial Theme Set for City Hall



An architectural drawing of the proposed new Plymouth City Hall, located adjacent to the Dunning-Hough Library on Main Street. October 1962.

Plymouth's new City Hall — if it becomes a reality — will carry a colonial architectural theme, according to plans unveiled here last week.

Architectural work on the proposed building is being done by Wheeler-Becker & Associates, with Plymouthites Byron Becker and Harold Pine in charge of the project.

To be located on Main St. between the library and the present site of the Historical Society museum, the new City Hall will be a two-story affair with a porch-like main entrance supported by four columns.

The 24,136-square-foot building will include a full basement, a 26-space parking lot in back, a 98-seat commission chambers and an 80-seat municipal court room. The latter are both on the second floor.

Under the present plans, one-half of Dodge St. would be closed, Church St. would be extended across Main and would circle around behind the new City Hall and exit onto the remaining portion of Dodge.

The L-shaped City Hall will cost approximately \$495,000, including an estimated \$70,000 for land acquisition, according to Mayor Robert Sincock.



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.

THROUGH THE GOOD TIMES & BAD,  
WE SURVIVED!

65 Years Ago  
November 1957  
*Plymouth Mail*

The **MAIL**  
**Attitude**

BY PAUL CHANDLER

Daisy Manufacturing is leaving Plymouth. It's no longer a rumor. It's final . . . done.

**Our community is losing its largest taxpayer and wagepayer. Many of our citizens are losing their jobs. Our merchants are losing trade.**

An institution that has been the substance of the tradition of Plymouth since 1888 is departing. An era has ended.

It is a depressing moment for everyone. Adverse effects will make themselves felt for months to come.

In any small city which depends heavily on a single industry, it normally is the fashion to knock the "company." Daisy has had its share of such knocks.

Not too often, however, do the citizens face the moment when the "company" suddenly moves away completely. That time has come to Plymouth, and it is one for reassessment.

Even now, grief and remorse about the past serve no purpose. It's too late.

But for the future there is a sermon in the shock. The points of the sermon:

(1) Industry is dreadfully important to a community, and intelligent citizens must regard it that way.

(2) Communities over the whole nation are competing to have industry come their way, and that competition must hereafter be met by Plymouth, if it is to have industry of its own.

(3) The problem of obtaining an adequate industrial tax base to support Plymouth is more urgent than ever.

(4) There is no status quo in a moving society. An old town either progresses, or crumbles. What we have today, we can lose tomorrow.

(5) The labor market is competitive and most businessmen will seek out the cheaper source rather than close their business. If he doesn't find it in Arkansas, then there is Puerto Rico, or Japan. But there is a limit on how much business will pay in wages, sooner or later.

(6) Plymouth must look the problems in the eye and go to work.

\* \* \*

Just one post-script. The new Western Electric plant will hire many employes and cushion some of the impact of Daisy's departure.

But anyone who takes console in that is whistling from an empty head. Western Electric decided to come here two years ago. Daisy decided to leave today.

Plymouth has lost an asset of great value.



60 Years Ago  
December 1962



**Three Plymouth Sailor Lads,  
Rescued from Great Aircraft Carrier Wasp  
Tell of their Escape at War Bond Auction**

**80 Years Ago  
October 1942  
Plymouth Mail**

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, 842 Hartsough 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 swim to safety, 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 terrific 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.



*The United States Navy aircraft carrier, the USS Wasp (CV-7), was commissioned in 1940, and tragically sunk on September 15, 1942, when struck by three torpedoes from a Japanese submarine.*



*The USS Wasp (CV-7), a United States Navy aircraft carrier, was initially deployed in the Atlantic campaign. After supporting the occupation of Iceland in 1941, the Wasp joined the British Home Fleet in April 1942. The Wasp was then transferred to the Pacific fleet in June 1942 to replace carrier losses at the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway. On September 15, 1942, while escorting transport ships carrying U.S. Marines to Guadalcanal, the Wasp was hit by three torpedoes from a Japanese submarine. The resulting damage set off several explosions, destroyed her water-mains and knocked out the ship's power, sinking the doomed aircraft carrier.*

*In October 1942, a few weeks after the disaster, three young men from Plymouth, who were Navy sailors aboard the USS Wasp, and survived the ship's sinking, were given permission to return home, with strict orders not to say a word about the loss of the aircraft carrier until the news was released by government officials in Washington, D.C. So secretive were the young men that they didn't even tell their parents about their traumatic experience and why they were home. After the tragic news was officially announced, the three sailors were invited to speak at the Plymouth War Bond Auction, held at the Penn Theatre on October 31, 1942, to describe their harrowing escape from the burning and sinking ship, and their life saving rescue.*

# 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 6 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 1,600 but when double that amount surged on the field here 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 in a body 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 Boards 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**



**OUR TIME, OUR HISTORY.**

PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

75 Years Ago  
November 1947  
*Plymouth Mail*

**Field Dedication**

**Rocks Run Wild  
to Score 50 Points**

*Plymouth 50 - Northville 0*

According to their best estimates, school officials state that over 3,500 people attended the Plymouth-Northville dedication game last Friday night.

Total receipts for the game amounted to slightly over \$1,800 bringing a season four game total to \$5,700.00.

An inspired football squad of 44 players, all of whom played, ran wild to score 50 points to give the fans a proper dedication victory. When the final gun sounded the score board recorded 50 for Plymouth and nothing for the visitors.

Beautiful open field running and long passes featured the four quarters of the game and the third team was equally as effective on scoring touchdowns as was the first.

**HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW  
FOOTBALL FIELD?**

**PLYMOUTH PLAYS  
TRENTON OCTOBER 24th  
INKSTER RESERVES OCTOBER 28th  
NORTHVILLE OCTOBER 31st**

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS  
AND SEE THESE GAMES



"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 like Plymouth what can be done 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. Admisson 75¢**

NORTHVILLE DEDICATION GAME ADMISSION \$1.10

**BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW**

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/>.

**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.

A Fun-filled Exhibit  
On display until  
January 8, 2023

Museum Hours

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



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

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