

October-December 2023



On November 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, was assassinated while riding in a presidential motorcade through Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas. The Plymouth Mail published three personalized commentaries, exemplifying how the tragic event affected each individual. Commentaries by Plymouth Rev. Hugh C. White, First Methodist Church, and Plymouth Mail Columnist Paul Chandler are shown here on page 1. A commentary by Plymouth Mail Writer Cynthia Eaton is shown on page 8.



60 Years Ago—November 1963
Plymouth Mail

**FACTS and
 OPINIONS**
 by Paul Chandler

In the lifetime of most of us, the gunning-down of John F. Kennedy created a sense of loss, of void, of confusion unequalled heretofore.

It is our theory that this was felt so keenly because so many feel so weak, so confused, so guilty and so misdirected . . . with a sense of despair and fear within, we have placed uncommon trust in the President, the "father" of our country.

For this reason, Facts and Opinions regards the President's death with exceeding alarm. At this dangerous hour, with our national morals so cancerous and our purpose so confused, we needed Kennedy like never before. As a nation, we are operating in extremely close quarters.

To have his life taken by a sneering young man, still in his 20's and without a career; and to have in turn a sadistic Chicago hoodlum, good buddy and confidante of the police and the journalists, get his gun into the act thereafter; is all too typical of American society as it exists today. And to have the murder televised "live" into most living rooms is incredulity.

If God is seeking to warn Americans as to where they are headed, and doing it in a way that mortals here could understand, he could have chosen no more effective communication means. It is almost as if His hands were upon the millions of television dials.

In the emergency of the hour, the words of President Lincoln serve well, when he urges to proceed . . .

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Thanksgiving November 1963

By **REV. HUGH C. WHITE**
 First Methodist Church

No one could have guessed at the event which would transpire between the time when I was asked to write a Thanksgiving article for The Plymouth Mail and the time when I would deliver it.

To live by conviction is to live dangerously. The Pilgrim Fathers faced dangers of a physical sort. They faced danger from the elements, danger from unfriendly natives and many other kinds of danger in their struggle for conscience.

At this time we should be thankful for men of conscience and bravery. These would, of course, include men like John F. Kennedy who faced danger occasioned by conviction and duty, and paid the full price for his courage on Friday, November 22, 1963.

As we participate in the Thanksgiving celebration we should use this time to fortify ourselves for the future. The Thanksgiving season ushers in the Christmas Season. When we think of peace and good will we must be aware of the deep well of hatred which exists in the hearts of many men. We must use all means of spiritual contact with our fellow men as we give thanks. There are hard days ahead but the events of the past few days have convinced Americans that anyone who is a leader in the United States is a leader in the world. We should be thankful for our democratic traditions which enable us to make the necessary transitions without disruption of function. We need to pause and ask God for the spiritual resources to pay for the necessity of Democracy. Democracy is a necessity if men are to be men and not slaves.

We must see to it that we continue to express both loyal support and loyal and constructive opposition. This is crucial to this situation. The events of the past week must never even begin to be accepted as part of the danger which a president must face. The gun is not the answer. Let us examine our own hearts. Let us not be careless in our conversation. Above all let us have a positive concern for our neighbors that they may be convinced of our concern for them so that unresolved animosities may not break forth tragically as they did last Friday.

Since 1948, the Plymouth Historical Society has operated through the generosity of donors who value the rich fabric of Plymouth's important history. The Plymouth Historical Museum is proud to be a prized treasure in the community.



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

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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.

Monthly Drawing

Ben Hodge, Suzanne Curtiss, and Mike Janz are the respective winners of the October, November, and December drawings for a \$25 gift certificate.

65 Years Ago
October 1958
Plymouth Mail

Plymouth
Historical Society
75th Anniversary
 1948-2023



Historical Society Is Seeking New Members

Miss LaVerne Sly, program chairman, states that many interesting programs have been prepared for the ensuing club year.
 The society, now entering its 11th year, will conduct a membership drive during the coming months, under the direction of the membership committee, Mrs. Arthur Mills, Mrs. Hugh Means and Mrs. David Taylor.
 Anyone interested in the history of Plymouth and vicinity is eligible for membership. For further information, call Mrs. Mills at GL. 3-2585.

New Members—Welcome!

Monica Barnes, Plymouth
 E & M Properties, Plymouth
 Mandy Getschman, Plymouth
 Glassline Inc., Plymouth
 Elizabeth Hempel, Plymouth
 Lowe & Lewandowski PC, Plymouth
 Mayflower Enterprises, Plymouth
 Mettetal Airport, Canton
 John Penrice, Livonia
 Sandra Salloum, Northville
 Sydney Stoddart, Plymouth
 Meike Strengert, Novi
 Jeffrey Tertzakian, Livonia

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 **\$66 per**
- IT/Network support **\$500**
- 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.

Plymouth Historical Museum Quotes

News that the Historical Museum was to become a reality was met with great appreciation by all city and township officials and businesses. They see it as another jewel in the city's crown.
 —W. W. Edgar, *Plymouth Mail & Observer*, 1971

It should bring happiness to a lot of people.
 —Margaret Dunning, 1971

One of the finest museums for its size in the country.
 —Solon Weekes, curator of the Detroit Historical Museum, 1973

Bits 'n Pieces

By Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, executive director



Charles Draper moved to Plymouth in about 1893 from South Lyon. Draper was a jeweler, an optometrist, and an amateur photographer. His home (above) at 1046 Church Street was built in 1898. The home is described as a modest example of Queen Anne architecture because of its dominant front-facing gable with a Jerkin Head or clipped appearance; patterned shingles on the second floor used as devices to avoid a smooth walled appearance; wrap-around eaves; and a large porch.

The house is still standing and is a wonderful example of Plymouth's Victorian architecture. Originally it contained four bedrooms and a bath upstairs and a parlor, dining room, pantry, and kitchen downstairs.

Draper was a prolific photographer, using glass plate—and later

A Victorian Home in Plymouth

film—negatives, to record turn-of-the-century Plymouth as well as many facets of his home and family. The Plymouth Historical Museum archive is fortunate to have the Draper photographic collection.

The images of the interior of Draper's home will be used extensively to recreate the first floor of the home within the Museum. Our idea is to have visitors approach the façade of the "home" from the back yard and enter through the back door. Visitors will be able to walk through the hallways and view the carriage house, kitchen, parlor, and dining room before exiting out the back patio.

This approach allows us to add "windows" to the kitchen and

parlor that will appear as if you're looking out the front windows onto Church Street. You'll be able to see the park across the street with the gazebo where bands performed and children played. You'll see the new automobiles drive by and encounter the horse and carriage that was on the way out as a mode of transportation.

We've chosen to represent 1915 for this exhibit as that is a great time to experience the change of transportation modes from horse-driven conveyances to cars.

We are also building a second story to this exhibit space to add much-needed storage.

We are taking donations for this very needed exhibit makeover. The Victorian spaces were part of the original Museum that opened in 1976 and haven't changed much since then. Please consider contributing. You can click on the QR code here or visit www.plymouthhistory.org



and select the Victorian Rooms Upgrade. You can call 734-455-8940 x0 or mail a check to the Museum. Thank You!



Woo Woooo! All Aboard! the CSX Railroad Caboose, permanently on display at the Plymouth Historical Museum.



Happy
New Year!

Ticket Sale Dates for Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Members	Public
Feb 11	"Remember the Ladies" Tea	Dec 18	Jan 2
Apr 27	Ghosts of Plymouth Walk	Feb 12	Feb 26
May 5	Frozen Princess Tea	Feb 19	Mar 4
May 18	Junior Comic Creators Workshop	Mar 4	Mar 18
June 2	Wilcox House Tour	Apr 8	Apr 22
June 29	Murder Mystery	Apr 29	May 13

Members: To take advantage of ticket sales to members only during the two weeks before they go public, call 734-455-8940 x0.

Donations Received
September – November 2023 Thank You!

65 Years Ago
 November 1958
Plymouth Mail

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between September and November 2023:

The Dunning (\$2,500 +)
 George Thompson

The Lincoln (\$1,000-\$2,499)
 Bank of Ann Arbor
 Clark Chapin
 Chris Huffman

The Starkweather (\$500-\$999)
 Cass Hough Jr.

The Penniman (\$250-\$499)
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 Community Financial Credit Union

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 Beth Gordon

The Penniman (\$250-\$499)
 Mayflower Enterprises
 Cindy Reinhart
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The Kellogg (\$100-\$249)
 Ann Arbor Financial
 Fabian Beltran
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 Mary Fritz
 Toni Hartke
 David Rucinski
 Leslie Ryder
 Carol Sawyer
 Helena Scappaticci
 Carolyn Zaborsky

Under \$100
 Virginia Priebe
 Cathy Webster

**Plymouth Man
 Is Loser At
 Lions Game**

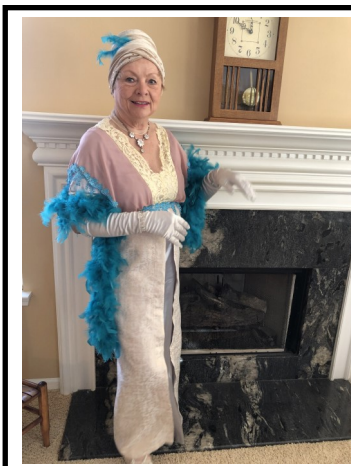


It's people like Robert Davis, 263 West Ann Arbor Trail, who make police detective work a little easier. He committed a crime that has been the downfall of many predecessors and he is now in Oakland County jail awaiting examination November 7.

Davis, 37, stole 16 Detroit Lions season ticket books and some \$600 in cash from the American Screw Products Co. on Nine Mile Road in Farmington four weeks ago. The tickets and money were taken from a safe.

According to Plymouth police, Davis gave the tickets to a woman friend to sell and she got rid of four of the books here. At the Lions' football game three Sundays ago, Farmington police checked the occupants of the seats at Briggs Stadium and found four of them occupied.

Questioning of the occupants led police to the seller and to Davis whose home was searched by police after his arrest last week by Plymouth police. Four books of tickets were found in a basement room, and six books beneath the floor mat in the trunk of his car. The money was not located, but State police say they have found Davis' fingerprints on the safe.



Remember the Ladies Tea
 Rita Nalodka as Dolley Madison

Sunday, February 11, 2024,
 2-4 PM

Tickets \$30 members/\$35 non-members
 Tickets on sale to members Dec. 18; on
 sale to the public Jan. 2, 2024
 Plymouth Historical Museum
 155 S. Main, Plymouth, 734-455-8940

A SLICE OF History

A Tale of Two Ebenezers

TWO men named Ebenezer figure prominently in Christmas stories. One (Ebenezer Scrooge) was notorious and the other (Ebenezer Penniman) was benevolent.

Charles H. Bennett grew up in Plymouth and became the president of Daisy Manufacturing. Penniman figures prominently in Bennett's memoirs, "As I Remember Plymouth". Here's a snippet from the 1870s:

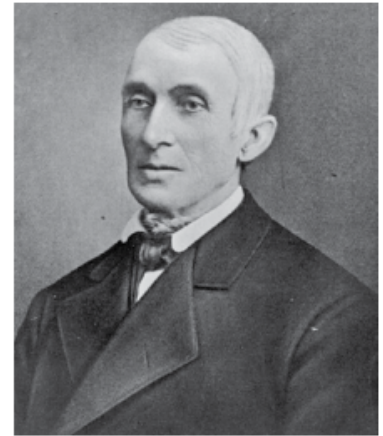
Plymouth boys back in those days used to wait for Christmas with just as much, if not more concern than they do now. It was the custom of Ebenezer J. Penniman, the president of our first bank, to give a quarter to every boy and girl in Plymouth who would come to his bank which was in the rear of a store located in about the middle of the block on Main Street and wish him a Merry Christmas. Silver coins were rather scarce in those days of paper "shin plasters" and it had to be a very sick child who failed to show up at Cal Crosby's store on Christmas mornings and I was one who was never ill for 25 cents went a long way in those days, and most Plymouth youngsters would go a long way for 25 cents.

A Dickens of a Christmas

The newly established Rotary Club of Plymouth continued this tradition of giving in a different way in 1924. Following the custom established by Rotary clubs in other places, the Plymouth club sponsored a community Christmas tree and gifts program. The tree was placed near the information booth in front of Kellogg Park on Main Street. Singing of carols and distribution of sacks filled with candy and fruit were given to children younger than 14 in the program on December 24.

This celebration morphed into a Christmas party with a toy auction that raised funds to ensure underprivileged children had a happy holiday. Auctioneer and Rotarian Harry Robinson died in 1948, which closed the door on that event.

Today Plymouth celebrates the arrival of Santa Claus the day after



Ebenezer Penniman

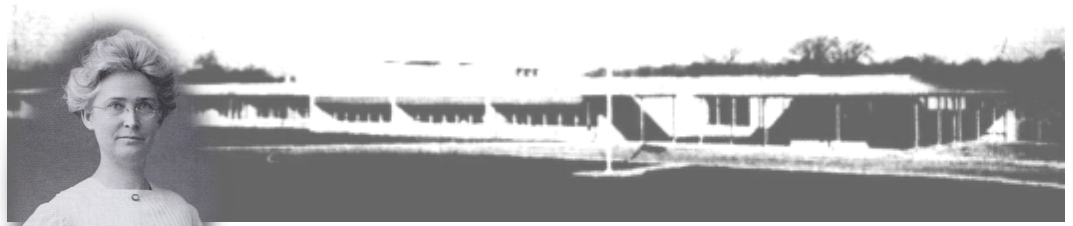
Thanksgiving with a ceremonial tree lighting in Kellogg Park.

Ebenezer Scrooge was the main character in Charles Dickens's novella "A Christmas Carol". He was a financier who devoted his life to the accumulation of wealth. He held anything other than money in contempt, including friendship, love and the Christmas season. Scrooge was an old and bitter miser who underwent a profound experience of redemption over the course of one night. On that Christmas day, Scrooge showed generosity and kindness that was later emulated by Penniman.



Plymouth in 1857

65 Years Ago
December 1958
Plymouth Mail



The dedication of the Helen Farrand Elementary School, located in the Lake Pointe Village subdivision in Plymouth, was held on Sunday, December 7, 1958. The school was named in honor of Helen Farrand, who was a school teacher for 41 years. She retired in 1958 after teaching 31 years with the Plymouth school system.



Helen L. Farrand
 1892-1977

Helen Farrand, born in 1892, was raised on a farm in Plymouth. She graduated from Plymouth High School in 1911. To prepare for her career as a teacher, she took a six-week teaching course at Ypsilanti Normal (renamed Eastern Michigan University). She later obtained additional teaching credits from the University of Michigan and the Detroit Teachers College. Farrand started teaching in 1912 in Dearborn Township and later at Newburg School, from 1914 to 1918. When young men were called into service during World War I, Farrand accepted the nation's call to "Do a man's job," and worked at the Detroit Post Office until 1923. She returned to teaching in 1923 at Patchen School in the Nankin Township school district. In 1927 she transferred to the Plymouth school system, where she taught for 31 years, retiring in 1958. During her years with the Plymouth schools, she taught at Central Grade School, Starkweather School, and finally at Edna Allen School. Farrand's name was one of several recommended to the school board by a School Community Planning Committee that sought a name for the new school.

Overflow Crowd Attends Farrand School Dedication

Five hundred people attended the dedication program at the Helen Farrand Elementary School last Sunday and later toured the bright new half million dollar building.

But undoubtedly the proudest visitor of the day was a former teacher whose name appears on the outside of the building — Miss Helen Farrand.

Retiring last June after teaching in Plymouth's Central, Starkweather and Allen Schools for 30 years, Miss Farrand recalled some of her early teaching experiences in a short address during Sunday's dedication.

She had started her teaching career in Dearborn Township in 1912 after a six weeks training course at Ypsilanti Normal. She recalled going to a bakery in Plymouth to get a calendar for her classroom. They told her that they didn't give calendars to children.

Miss Farrand also recalled the old pail and dipper, common wash basins, heating stove in the center of the

room, the teacher's high desk and backless benches for recitation.

She then compared this with progress and changes throughout the years and noted that "we wouldn't want our children to have what we had." She advised parents to cooperate with the school board in working out problems toward better education.

Reverend William Perkins, husband of one of the Farrand School teachers, gave the invocation and benediction. In a brief ceremony, American flags for classrooms were presented to Principal Gerald Elston by the Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; the outside flag by the American Legion and the colors for the auditorium by the Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter of Daughters of American Revolution.

The National Anthem was sung by the Junior Chorus and audience, followed by a welcome by Principal Elston, and presentation of platform guests by Russell Isbister, superintendent.

Byron Becker of Plymouth, of the firm of Wheeler and Becker Architects, then gave the architectural view of the building. He pointed out that the building meets three major requirements: 1. a design to fit the educational program 2. designed on an economical basis; and 3. for economy of maintenance.

Farrand School is quite similar to James Gallimore School, erected a year earlier. Farrand contains 1,000 more square feet, however, but cost only \$1,500 more. Becker said that this is due to a change in

material for more durability and reducing maintainance. He said that Farrand School cost 50 cents a square foot less than Gallimore.

The actual dedication ceremony was a responsive reading led by Board President Austin Stecker. He also paid tribute to those who planned the building, including citizens, past board members, the staff contractors and architects.

75 Years Ago—October 1948
Plymouth Mail

Observe 61st Anniversary



Anna (1867-1953) and William Farrand (1867-1950) were married on September 25, 1887. They were the parents of Plymouth school teacher Helen Farrand (1892-1977). Farrand Elementary School was named in honor of Helen Farrand.

Two long-time residents of Plymouth observed their 61st year of marriage last Saturday.

They are Mr. and Mrs. William Farrand of Ann Arbor trail who repeated their nuptials during a Plymouth ceremony on September 25, in the year 1887.

Countless friends presented the couple with wedding cake, replicas and their family gathered at the Farrand home for a quiet observance of the occasion.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Farrand are 81 years old, and both have spent nearly all their lives in this immediate vicinity. Mrs. Farrand, the former Anna Rocker, lived here prior to their wedding, and Mr. Farrand was from Inkster. He had always worked around Plymouth, however, and following their marriage, made their

home here.

For years Mr. Farrand had a milk route here, and he says that it was in the days when the customers used to meet the milk wagon with their own quart containers for him to fill. Following this venture, Mr. Farrand went into the Greenhouse business on East Ann Arbor trail. Until three years ago, when he retired because of his health, he was employed at Sullivan's greenhouse.

Mr. and Mrs. Farrand are the parents of three daughters who with their families, joined them last Saturday for the celebration of their 61st anniversary. They are: Mrs. Bertrum Coverdill; Miss Helen Farrand, a teacher at Starkweather school; and Mrs. Bertha Tiffin, who lives at the home of her parents.

Volunteer Spotlight

Ben Hodge



We would like to welcome one of our newer volunteer guides, Ben Hodge. Ben has been onboard at the Museum since April and has shown himself to be a very knowledgeable and reliable guide. Ben took to his position very quickly since he came to us with a background of loving history and visiting many museums throughout the states. He especially likes to visit presidential museums, having visited both Bush's and LBJ's museums in Texas with his father, who is also a history buff. He also took a tour of the Herbert Hoover Museum in Iowa. Ben even remembers his first visit to the Plymouth Historical Museum. It was a trip he took in the third grade to during one of the Museum's "Night at the Museum" parties.

Ben is a graduate of Salem High School and is now attending Eastern Michigan University (EMU) on the path to becoming a nurse. He has always had a great interest in the medical field and even toyed with the idea of studying to become a doctor. His plan is to graduate at the end of 2025 and he stated "I will see at that time where things lead me." Ben also has a full-time job with Trinity Health as a medical assistant. Much of his job is working at the many Trinity facilities filling in where he is needed.

Ben's life isn't all work, school, and volunteering. His other love is music; he enjoys playing the piano and organ. He also mastered the bassoon, which he played in the school band at Salem. At the time of this interview, Ben was preparing to participate in a recital at EMU playing the pipe organ and piano.

Ben thoroughly enjoys his guide position at the Museum. As he tells it, it is a time to meet Museum guests and guides alike who are bonded with a common interest of history. He also likes the fact that most visitors are very knowledgeable in history and enjoys having conversations with them. He stated "there is always something new to learn."

The Museum is very fortunate to have the services of Ben and we hope he can continue to contribute for a long time.

—Written by Mike Woloszyk, Museum marketing director

TO ALL SANTA CLAUSES



SHE'LL LOVE YOU FOR THIS!

ALL NEW
RCA VICTOR
COLOR TV

\$495⁰⁰



65 Years Ago
December 1958

Penn Theatre
Plymouth, Michigan



Plymouth Days Gone By

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

75 Years Ago
September 1948
Plymouth Mail

Jacob Stremich
Dies - Final Rites
This Forenoon

60 Years Ago
November 1963
Plymouth Mail



On November 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, was assassinated while riding in a presidential motorcade through Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas. The Plymouth Mail published three personalized commentaries, exemplifying how the tragic event affected each individual. A commentary by Plymouth Mail Writer Cynthia Eaton is below.

Unbelievably — A Great City Folded. I Know, I Was There

By Cynthia Eaton

A cold, unfriendly, but alive and vibrant city suddenly became solemn, dark, and friendly.

The change came over New York City almost immediately after word was received that President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated.

I was having lunch in the famous Sardi's, meeting place for New York entertainers, when I learned of the assassination. There was no loud announcement, as one might expect. Instead waiters went from table to table, speaking in hushed voices, telling customers of the shocking news. Reactions were almost identical . . . first complete disbelief . . . then revulsion at a "bad joke" and then shock.

Moments later as I entered the street people were standing in groups talking in hushed voices, tapping passersby on the shoulder to tell them of the news.

The crowded stores of earlier hours were almost empty . . . clerks talking among themselves, ignoring would-be customers, who at this point were only superficially shopping.

And then the stores, at least many of them, closed early . . . all of Broadway was black that evening . . . night clubs and hotels cancelled scheduled entertainment . . . fashionable Fifth Avenue store windows were darkened, lighted Christmas decorations were turned off.

By Saturday morning most store windows displayed a picture of the late President Kennedy, many draped in black or purple.

Newspapers were late being delivered to the newsstands Friday evening, but when they were delivered bold black headlines told the news . . . "Our President Assassinated" shouted the Journal American; "President Killed," said the Daily News; "JFK Shot To Death," blared the New York Post, and perhaps most impressive of all, to me, was the conservative New York Times' three-line eight-column wide headline reading, "Kennedy is Killed By Sniper As He Rides in Car in Dallas; Johnson Sworn in on Plane."

I had arrived in New York Thursday afternoon for a three-day weekend, arranged through the local Travel Centre, including plane tickets, hotel reservations and theatre tickets.

What began as a gay, fun relaxing trip, turned out to be an historical weekend in an international city which mirrored the reaction of the world.



Known as Hillside Inn from 1934 to 1989



Known as Ernesto's from 1989 to 2010

E·R·N·E·S·T·O·S
An • Italian • Country • Inn



Known as Courthouse Grille from 2010 to 2018



In 1934, Jacob Stremich (1899-1948) converted his family home on Plymouth Road into the Hillside Inn. After Stremich's death, the popular restaurant retained the iconic Hillside Inn name for several decades until subsequent owners changed the name. The restaurant closed in 2018 and the building was demolished in 2023. A four-story, 120-unit housing development is proposed for the site.

With the death of Jacob Joseph Stremich Tuesday afternoon after an illness of many months, the city of Plymouth suffered the loss of one of its younger and most energetic business men, who through untiring efforts had established and operated most successfully the Hillside Inn on Plymouth road just east of the city.

Mr. Stremich became ill last spring and in spite of the best of hospital and medical care, his condition continued to grow more critical until his passing early this week, at the age of 49 years.

He was born in Dolena, Austria, March 16, 1899. When 13 years of age he became an orphan. With his brothers and sisters, they came to America to live with relatives who had located in North Dakota. His parents were the late Jacob and Katherine Stremich. It was some 26 years ago when he left the northwest to come to Plymouth to make his home with relatives in this city.

His first employment in Plymouth was with the Lee Foundry. Later he became associated with the local theatres where he was steadily employed until he decided to go into business for himself, opening Hillside on December 15, 1934.

By strict attention to business and tireless work, his business grew by leaps and bounds until now the Hillside is regarded as one of the most popular eating places in western Wayne county.

The host of customers will be pleased to know that it is the intention of Mrs. Stremich to continue to operate Hillside with the aid of Robert Stremich, Britton Crowther, who has been chef during the past eight years, and all of the other present employees of Hillside.

A Politician And Peace

65 Years Ago
December 25, 1958
Plymouth Mail

"Peace on earth and goodwill toward men"

By PAUL CHANDLER

WARM SPRINGS, GA.—According to the reporters of that day, when the Babe was born in Bethlehem two centuries ago, angels sang of a new possibility of "peace on earth and goodwill toward men."

Franklin D. Roosevelt died of fatigue here at Warm Springs in the "Little White House" on April 12, 1945.

He wrote a speech, I just discovered, on April 11—but it never was delivered. Today the typewritten pages lie spread out in a cabinet, penciled corrections imposed on the lines in the author's handwriting.

That speech talks, too, of peace on earth and goodwill toward mankind.

Until the visit here, I never gave any thought to what might have been on the mind of the President at the moment he slumped in his leather chair, victim of a "massive cerebral hemorrhage."

It appears that victory in world war II was in sight. The last paper ever read by FDR is on view here and it's headlines cry:

"9th 57 MILES FROM BERLIN!"

With the war's end in sight, then, President Roosevelt was going over the lines of a short speech in which he sought to convince his listeners that peace was possible, that war was an outrage, that all should be cast out who doubted the ability of men to find their peace on earth.

And then he died.

To a visitor, perhaps the most lasting impression of the "Little White House" is its stark simplicity.

It was a comfortable, but plain, vacation home, built by FDR in 1932. It isn't big, its furnishings are inexpensive maple, the walls are dark-pine panel.

President Roosevelt chose this site to build because of beauty and serenity of the natural setting.

In such a place was this last, undelivered speech composed by a tired, worn man whose hand shook when he signed his name and who had deep lines in his face such as most of the world never saw there.

On December 25, 1958, the Christmas commentary by Plymouth Mail Columnist Paul Chandler highlighted the final speech written by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, dated April 11, 1945; the day before his death on April 12, 1945. The speech was never delivered. With victory in World War II inevitable, the message of the speech was peace on earth and goodwill toward men.

"Even as I speak these words," wrote the President, "I can hear an old, old chorus. You have heard it, too. You will hear more of it as we go forward with the work at hand."

His "work at hand" was constructing the peace. "It is the chorus coming from the defeatists, the cynics, the perfectionists—and the world's sad aggregation of timid souls who tell us, for one reason or another, IT CAN'T BE DONE."

He said, cheerfully, that he believed the "cult of the faint-hearted was dying out, for the first time becoming a minority belief."

"Today as we move against the terrible scourge of war, and as we go forward toward the greatest contribution any generation of human beings can make in this world—the contribution of lasting peace—I ask you to keep up your faith ..."

It's a long time in distance and time from Warm Springs, Georgia on April 11, 1945 to Bethlehem on the first Christmas, but there is identity between the typewritten words on the sheets of paper here and the melodies heard in the skies of Judea.

Christ came to give men hope of peace, to urge them to acquire a true set of ideals, to establish what was important in life and what was vain.

FDR, only 24 hours from his death, decried the "awe and adoration" paid by men to the horror of war and scorched those who said that self-destruction was the "ultimate fate of mankind on earth."

Christ represents the family of God; FDR represents the world of practical politics. They struck their conclusions from totally different positions and with different degrees of authority.

Today we are a nervous, apprehensive world.

The message of Christmas says such thinking is wrong.

It can be read in the pages of Luke—or, for a traveler, on some sheets of paper in a display case in Warm Springs, Ga., among the pines and rocks and hills which turn blood-red in the sunset and which soothed a former President.

Mrs. E. C. Hough Dies Suddenly In Ann Arbor

80 Years Ago
February 1943
Plymouth Mail

Residents of Plymouth were both surprised and grieved late Tuesday afternoon to learn of the death of Mrs. Edward C. Hough who passed away suddenly of a heart attack in St. Joseph's Mercy hospital in Ann Arbor. Mrs. Hough had gone to the hospital on Monday for a routine check-up.

Born Louise Sheffield in Mobile, Alabama on September 23, 1872 she spent the early part of her life there until her marriage to Mr. Hough on October 14, 1896 after which she moved to Plymouth where she has made her home ever since.

She was the daughter of Major and Mrs. William H. Sheffield of Mobile, a prominent and well known family of that famed southern city. Mrs. Hough, during her entire life time, retained her youthful friendships in the city of her birth.



Louise Hough (1872-1943) was the mother of Cass Hough (1904-1990) (left) and wife of Edward C. Hough (1872-1959) (center). Charles Bennett (1863-1956) is shown at right. Photo is from 1956 at the Daisy office in Plymouth.

60 Years Ago
November 1963
Plymouth Mail

CHAMPIONS of SUBURBAN SIX Rocks Edge Vikings, 12-7

Plymouth High School football Coach John "Mike" Hoben (1923-1997) gave a rousing cheer as his team defeated previously unbeaten Walled Lake Central 12-7, to claim the Suburban Six League Championship, and finished the 1963 season undefeated with a 7-0-1 record. The league honored Hoben with the Coach of the Year award. From 1972 to 1994, Dr. Hoben served as superintendent for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.



A locker room victory yell after Plymouth defeated previously unbeaten Walled Lake 12-7 and claimed the 1963 Suburban Six League Championship.

WE'RE MIGHTY PROUD OF OUR PLYMOUTH ROCKS

1963	OPPONENT	RESULT
Sep 13	Northville	W 26-12
Sep 20	Farmington	W 37-12
Sep 27	Trenton	W 6-0
Oct 04	Union	W 26-7
Oct 11	Allen Park	W 33-0
Oct 18	Belleville	T 33-33
Oct 25	Bentley	W 14-6
Nov 01	Walled Lake Central	W 12-7

60 Years Ago
December 1963
Plymouth Mail

Egloff Grid Story Began 22 Years Ago

A football story, that had its beginning in the late '20s and early '30s when Russ Egloff was a star end for Plymouth High, continued in the period between 1936 to 1938 when his younger brother, Doug, was a great halfback at PHS. may become the greatest ever written in this section of Michigan as the second generation writes and rewrites the record books.

It was back in 1959 that Quarterback Randy Egloff, a 6'1", 190-pounder, became the first all-state in Plymouth High history. He was the choice of the Detroit Free Press and the since defunct Detroit Times, rising to the greatest heights ever achieved by a PHS graduate.

Plymouth Successful As League Grid Power

From 1951 to 1963, the Plymouth High School football team achieved a record of 76 wins, 21 losses, and 5 ties, including four undefeated seasons: 1952, 1954, 1957, and 1963. Coach John "Mike" Hoben, who became head coach in 1955, led the Rocks to a record of 52-15-3 between 1955 and 1963.

Plymouth High School senior Dick Egloff, captain and offensive end of the 1963 undefeated championship football team, was awarded All-State honors by the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press. Egloff's father, Doug, was a star halfback for Plymouth from 1936 to 1938. In 1959, Egloff's brother, Randy, a star quarterback for Plymouth, was the first All-Stater in Plymouth High School history.

But an even greater step was achieved Sunday when Dick, a 6'1", 190-pound end, was named as a first team end on the Detroit News All-State selections and on the second team of the Detroit Free Press.

Dick and Randy are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Egloff, 336 Adams. They have two younger brothers at home—Dave and Ron—who will try to carry on the Egloff tradition at Plymouth High in future years. They are quite a few away from varsity football. Dave is 10 and Ron only eight.

All-Stater Dick Egloff, senior captain of the Plymouth High School 1963 championship football team.



Follows Brother's Footsteps

Dick Egloff Named All-State Gridder

Dick Egloff, 17-year-old team captain and end on the Rocks' league champion grid squad, was named to the first string of The Detroit News' all-state team over the weekend.

The Detroit Free Press named Egloff to its second string all-state squad at the same time.

The 6-foot-1, 195-pound senior had been widely acclaimed previously for his football talents. He was a major contributing factor in the Rocks surge

Egloff follows almost identically in the footsteps of his older brother, Randy, who quarterbacked the Plymouth gridgers to high honors in 1959. Randy, now a senior at Yale, made the 1959 Free Press' all-state team and the "Dream Team" selected that year by the now defunct Detroit Times.

75 Years Ago
December 1948
Plymouth Mail

**Harry Robinson,
Pioneer Business
Man, is Dead**

*Harry C. Robinson
1863-1948*



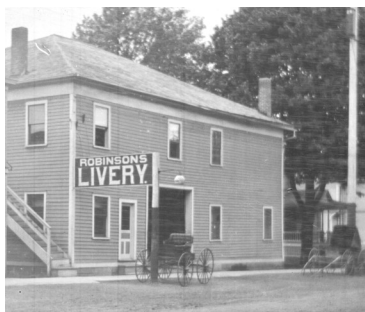
Harry C. Robinson, aged 85 years, a life long resident of western Wayne county and Plymouth and one of the best known citizens in this part of Michigan, died in St. Joseph hospital in Ann Arbor just before midnight Sunday after an illness of only a few weeks. Although he had not been in the best of health for some time, he kept busy in his used furniture establishment until just two or three days before it was necessary to remove him to a hospital.

His passing marks the end of a career of one of the best known auctioneers in Michigan. For much more than half a century he conducted hundreds of farm auctions throughout southeastern Michigan and only gave up this work within the past few months.

The city of Plymouth also suffers the loss of one of its most energetic citizens and a former village president who did much to spur the community on to its present progressive importance.

It was just a few months ago when Mr. and Mrs. Robinson celebrated their 61st anniversary.

He was born in Lansing April 5, 1863, where his father was serving as superintendent of the Boy's Reformatory. Soon after his birth the family moved to Wayne, then Plymouth. It was on August 16, 1886 when he was married to Mrs. Robinson, who survives.



OUR TIME, OUR HISTORY.
PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

Mr. Robinson was not yet 21 years of age when he started a livery stable in Plymouth and helped to provide this community with the only transportation it had at that time, except the railroads. He operated the "depot" bus which became as famous in this part of the state as are some of the Pere Marquette trains of today. His livery stable, located on Penniman avenue, was long regarded as one of the most up-to-date of any in Michigan.

A lover of sports, he organized the famous Plymouth Business Men's Baseball team, which season after season captured the championship honors in southern Michigan. Its trips for games in nearby communities became almost a holiday event in the towns where the players went.

Always holding that the Bible and the American flag are priceless, Mr. Robinson during all of the hundreds and hundreds of auction sales he conducted, never sold a Bible or a flag. If there was a Bible or flag to be disposed of at a sale, he would present them as a gift to some one bidding on some other article, but he would never permit bidding on a Bible or a flag, no matter of what value they might have possessed.

It was but natural for him as a lover of horses to become interested in trotting races. For more than a quarter of a century he started all of the races of the Northville-Wayne county fair. So well did horsemen like his methods of starting races, that he was engaged by numerous other fair associations to conduct their race meets.

Becoming interested in village politics, he ran for village president in April, 1916 and on the 16th of that month he took over the presidency of the village.



The Robinson Livery stable on Sutton Street in Plymouth provided passenger carriage service from the village downtown to the railroad station. The livery was regarded as one of the most up-to-date stables in the state. Sutton Street was renamed Penniman Avenue in 1912. Photo circa 1900.

*What I Think and
have a Right to Say*

ELTON R. EATON

HARRY ROBINSON—WAS AN ENERGETIC CITIZEN

Death has ended the career of Harry Robinson, one of the best known, most energetic and best liked citizens in this part of Wayne county.

His career began in boyhood days, back in the period when it was necessary for youngsters to help support themselves as well as the family. And necessarily one who lived such a long and active life as Harry Robinson becomes known to vast numbers of people—and in his associations he made friendships that proved enduring over the years.

Active in any and everything which had for its benefit the community in which he lived, it was but natural for him to become a village president, a director of the Northville-Wayne County Fair Association and one of the most tireless workers in Rotary club charitable activities until just a few weeks before illness brought an end to his activities.

He was one of the pioneer auctioneers of the state and because of his friendliness and his quick wit he endeared himself to rural residents as no other person could do.

He will be missed—sadly missed—by hundreds who had known him well for more than half a century. His life was not only a busy one, but a long and most useful one, a life that brought much sunshine and good humor into a world that badly needs much more of the kind of cheerfulness that he reflected in all of his activities.

Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum
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Calendar of Events

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

December

16, 17, 23—Santa in the Caboose
16—Simply Dickens, 7 PM (Sold out)
31—Last day of “A Dickens of a Christmas”

January

1-30—Museum closed for exhibit changeover
31—“Plymouth Rotary Club: A Century of Service” opens

February

11—“Remember the Ladies” Tea, 2-4 PM

April

27—Ghosts of Plymouth Walk, 4-7 PM

*Plymouth
Historical Society
75th Anniversary
1948-2023*



Rent a Room for Your Next Function

The Plymouth Historical Museum is the ideal setting for weddings, showers, receptions, corporate functions, club meetings, funeral luncheons, and many other events. Our Sanford Burr Meeting Room can comfortably seat up to 100 people and has wireless Internet access. Prices are reasonable, and for an additional fee, rental includes use of the kitchen and/or a private tour of the Museum. For more information, visit the Museum or phone 734-455-8940.

Support the Museum

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