

The DEARBORN HISTORIAN

Volume 9

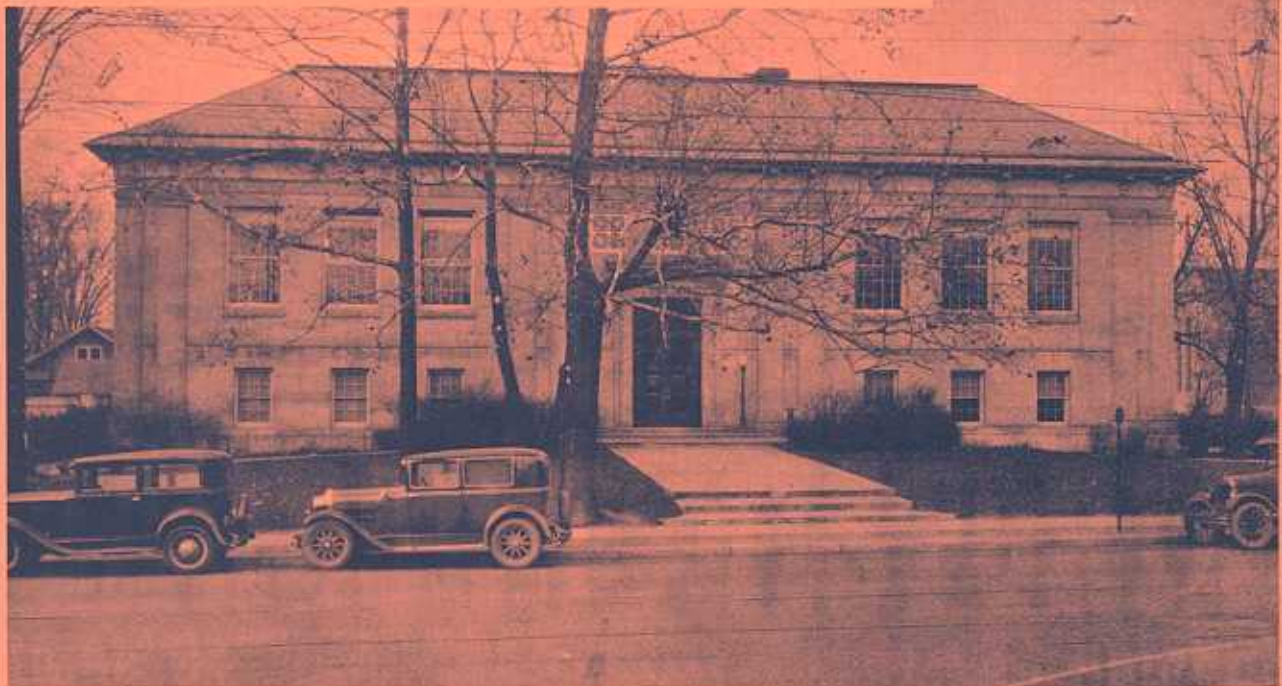
Number 3



Dearborn Public
Library

1921-1924 ...

...from 1924-1969



SUMMER, 1969

Published Quarterly By
THE DEARBORN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

WHAT A MAN DOES FOR HIMSELF DIES WITH HIM - WHAT HE DOES FOR HIS COMMUNITY LIVES FOREVER



ORVILLE L. HUBBARD, LL.B.
MAYOR SINCE JAN. 8, 1942

City of Dearborn, Michigan
HOME TOWN OF HENRY FORD

MEMBER UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Dearborn is richly and abundantly endowed with a history and heritage uniquely its own, dating as far back as 1795.

For the past several decades, the Dearborn Historical Commission has worked diligently, and often against public indifference, to preserve the records and artifacts of Dearborn's growth from earliest pioneer days.

Evidence of the Commission's dedication and perseverance is today reflected in the continued operation of two municipally-subsidized museums.

But, as in any successful public venture, the key to future achievement and civic support lies in establishing effective communication with the People. This quarterly "Historian" represents one attempt on the part of the Commission and Museum Staff to reach an ever larger audience and create a heightened awareness and sense of pride in Dearborn's past.

Orville L. Hubbard

IF I TRIED TO READ, MUCH LESS ANSWER ALL THE CRITICISMS MADE OF ME AND ALL THE ATTACKS LEVELLED AGAINST ME, THIS OFFICE WOULD HAVE TO BE CLOSED FOR ALL OTHER BUSINESS. I DO THE BEST I KNOW HOW, THE VERY BEST I CAN, AND I MEAN TO KEEP ON DOING THIS DOWN TO THE VERY END. — ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

THE DEARBORN HISTORIAN

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Published by

DEARBORN HISTORICAL COMMISSION
915 Brady Street
Dearborn, Michigan 48124

WINFIELD H. ARNESON, EDITOR

ISSUED QUARTERLY

COVER: The new Henry Ford Centennial Library is here. We citizens of Dearborn now have one of the finest public library facilities in Michigan. Our cover this issue reminds us of the earlier days when the Library story had its beginning. The two photographs are from the Historical Commission's files. The top picture shows the first "official" Library in what is now the Commandant's Quarters of the Historical Museum taken circa 1928. The view of "Old Main" was taken about 1928 based on the contemporary cars.

ART WORK: by Mary V. MacDonald, Curator of Exhibits

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ORVILLE L. HUBBARD, LL.B.
MAYOR SINCE JAN. 6, 1942

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FIVE DECADES of the DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Jean H. Hatch

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The local Library has come a long long way in the past 50 years as we now have the new Henry Ford Centennial Library. With the emphasis on education today, the good fortune which has come our way is truly magnificent. May the following paper by Jean H. Hatch, Curator of Education, make us ever-mindful of that which was, which has helped make that which is, a reality. W.H.A.]

"It is possibly not too much to venture that the Library, with its correlated and ramifying forces, may be the only means of securing the tolerant culture necessary for the preservation of our increasingly complicated civilization."

Quote from:

"The Library--Greatest of Blessings"
Address of Henry A. Haigh at the dedication of the Dearborn Public Library, November 25, 1924.

In 1924, when the above address was delivered, Dearborn was still a sleepy little village. A population of 2470 was reported for 1920 in the Michigan Manual, 1921. The citizens required the services of eight firemen, and twenty policemen. Seventy street lamps, five-hundred telephones and seven miles of pavement were late additions to the Village, and while there were no parks or theatres, there were three schools and twelve churches.¹ Mr. Henry Ford had recently built his huge new Rouge Plant a few miles from his old home town. The Village of Springwells near the Plant had incorporated as a city in 1923 and was rapidly growing as people came from every corner of the world to work in Mr. Ford's plant. Changes were in the air.

The ladies of the Garden Club of Dearborn, civic and culture-minded, looked at the balance in their treasury at their regular meeting on May 26, 1919, and decided to use it to start a public library.² They were very conscious of the need for good library facilities in their village, which at this time was poorly served by the same limited school collections which had constituted "library facilities" in the area since pioneer days. Dearborn's first "library" had consisted of one book case shielding fifty worn books, a few of which were novels and the rest of an academic nature. These were kept in the home of Mr. Hubbard Hidden, one of the early teachers at the "Upstairs-Downstairs" School which had been built in 1857.³ Later Mr. Joe Cronogue, who had a barber shop on Michigan Avenue in 1880, occupied a two-story building and kept the school library

1. *A World Within a City*, Pamphlet, Dearborn Historical Museum, 1951.
2. *Minutes*, Garden Club of Dearborn, May 26, 1919.
3. *Manuscript*, Malieta Goebel, date unknown.

books upstairs.⁴ School library collections were small and badly financed. In 1877, School District #6 in the Township of Springwells reported owning 191 volumes, and \$38.00 paid out for library books. Their collection had grown to 319 books by 1888 with the main funds for purchases coming from fines and penalties.⁵

The ladies of the Garden Club could not know the future or how very blessed their efforts on behalf of the town would be. In the nick of time, Dearborn was provided with a library which has served the burgeoning community until the summer of 1969. The plans which were made in the remainder of 1919 and in 1920 slowly made ready a real library for the town. The Village Commission was approached, and it was learned that this body did not have the power to levy a tax for library purposes; however, the Commission was in favor of such a movement, and on October 15, 1919, they voted to decorate a room in the Village Hall to be used for a public library. The next several months were spent in finding ways and means of securing an appropriation to provide for the salary of a librarian and the purchase of books. There were two ways provided by the State Laws of Michigan: (1) Organization as a free public library with an appropriation obtained by levying a tax upon the township, or (2) Organization as a school district library with an appropriation provided in the budget of the school district. The second method was selected in order to prevent further delay, as the first would have required a special election in the township or the delay of another year.⁶

In March, 1920, the Board of Education of School District #7 was approached and in July, 1920, the Garden Club was notified that \$8,000 had been placed in the school budget for the year 1920-21 to provide for the salary of a librarian and the purchase of books; also a Library Board was appointed with Miss Clara L. Snow as Chairman. The first duties of the Board were to furnish the Library Room and to appoint a librarian.⁷ The Library Room was located on the first floor of the Village Hall. (This building was originally the Commandant's Quarters of the U. S. Arsenal built in Dearborn in the 1830's. Today it is one of the buildings of the Dearborn Historical Museum, having been restored in the 1950's.) The Library occupied the southwest room and the upstairs front west room was used for storage space. It shared the building with Village officials, the police and the jail.⁸

The room was supplied with thirty-five magazines and opened as a reading room early in March, 1921. The first of April, 1921, Miss Isabelle L. Chaffin of Worcester, Mass. came to take charge of the new Library. As a graduate librarian Miss Chaffin was desirous of having standard library methods installed at the very beginning. In the next months books were selected and purchased and the first circulation of books took place June 8, 1921.⁹

4. *From a talk with Miss Isabelle Chaffin, Dbn. Public Library History File, undated.*
5. *Annual Report, School District #6, Township of Springwells, 1877.*
6. *Chaffin, Isabelle L., History of the Dearborn Public Library, 1926.*
7. *Ibid.*
8. *From a talk with Miss Isabelle L. Chaffin, Dbn. Public Library History File, undated.*
9. *Chaffin, Isabelle L., History of the Dearborn Public Library, 1926.*



Ground-breaking ceremonies for the Dearborn Public Library, November 20, 1923. Mrs. Henry Ford wields the spade. In the background, Mr. Clyde Ford, Chairman of the Library Board and Mr. Clarence Parker, Dearborn Township Supervisor.



Ground-breaking ceremonies for the Henry Ford Centennial Library, December 14, 1966. Present are City and Ford Motor Company officials. In the background is the Ford Central Office building, a Dearborn landmark.

Since organization under the Board of Education was intended to be only a temporary arrangement, efforts were soon under way to secure legal establishment as a Free Public Library. This was done when it was voted at the annual Township election held in April, 1922, that the Township of Dearborn would establish a Free Public Library in accordance with the Public Acts of 1877. The Board of Education then passed a resolution donating the books accumulated to the Township of Dearborn.¹⁰

In January, 1923, Mrs. Henry Ford, who had promised the Garden Club in March, 1920, to give land for library purposes, renewed her offer to donate the site on the northwest corner of Michigan Avenue and Mason Street when the Township should provide a sum of money to erect a library building. On April 2, 1923, at the regular Township election the voters passed a bond issue of \$150,000 to erect a public library building on the site given by Mrs. Ford. In July, 1923, Mr. Edward L. Tilton of New York City was appointed as architect, and plans were accepted by the Library Board in September, 1923. Ground was broken by Mrs. Ford on November 20, 1923, and work progressed so rapidly that the cornerstone was laid on the 28th of December. 1923 had been a very good year.¹¹

The formal opening of the beautiful new building, the first public building to be built by the whole Township, was held during the afternoon and evening of November 25, 1924. A short ceremony was held with addresses by Mr. Clyde Ford, president of the Library Board, and Mr. Henry A. Haigh. The architect presented the key to the building to Mr. Ford and the people were invited to take possession of their property. During the afternoon music was furnished by an orchestra consisting of members of the High School faculty, and punch and wafers were served by the women and wives of member of the Library Board.¹² And what a beautiful and spacious building this was: 105' long and 55' wide, built of Indiana limestone in a classic design. Inside a high-ceilinged entrance, marble staircases led up to the library proper on the second floor. Here could be found an Adult Reading Room on the east and a Children's Reading Room on the west. A Reference Alcove opened off the Adult Room, and a Story Hour Alcove adjoined the Children's. The librarian's office and a work-room were also located on the main floor. On a mezzanine were quarters for the Library Board, a Staff Room, a Committee Room and a Special Study Room. On the ground floor were other rooms, including a Lecture Room with a capacity for 150, which could be divided into three small meeting rooms, a room to be used temporarily by the Township Board, and the janitor's quarters.¹³

Certainly there were some visitors to the open house who wondered, perhaps audibly, at the size and expense of such a building, and suggested that the little Village was putting on airs. Today "Old Main" has a case of "Middle Age Spread", book stacks crowd every conceivable inch of space, and volumes line the window sills and the benches, once intended for browsers. Times have been good to Dearborn. The book collection, staff and services offered have

10. Ibid.

11. Ibid.

12. Ibid.

13. Ibid.

kept pace with the growth of the City - only the old building has shown its age and inadequacy. On the eve of another eventful and meaningful occasion, the move to the new Henry Ford Centennial Library, let us stop and take a look at Dearborn's Library and how it grew.

Any library's heart, of course, is the collection which is offered to its patrons. In 1923 a small catalog was issued with a listing of approximately 2750 volumes, plus 200 reference books. In 1926 the appropriation for the Library was \$15,000 and the staff consisted of the librarian, a children's librarian and two assistants. Some young women in the Village had been trained to help out in emergencies and with Sunday work.¹⁴ In the next few years the services offered to patrons expanded. Children's reading clubs were formed, lectures and recitals were offered from time to time, special exhibits were held, and a Technology Room and a Fine Arts and Teacher's Room were added.¹⁵ In every way the Library was expanding.

In 1927 a beautiful addition was made, when two murals by Paul Honoré, a Detroit artist, were done on either side of the stairs of the main entrance. On the right was one depicting "Aspiration to Knowledge" and on the left "Application of Knowledge". The colors have faded somewhat with the years, but the concepts implied have never become dated. The murals remain today as a focal point in the old building.

In January, 1929, the former Cities of Dearborn and Fordson became legally a new City of Dearborn. The consolidation of the cities offered a decided challenge to the Public Library. In the first place the population and area to be served was doubled overnight. Second, a large industrial area had sprung from what had been chiefly a rural community. Third, the only library facilities enjoyed by the residents of the former City of Fordson were those of the school library system. Thus it happened that the Public Library was faced with the task of furnishing service to an enormously increased community without acquiring additional staff members, book collection or outlets. Plans were made and entered upon hopefully because the Depression was still in the future. Before the first year had passed, an office room on the second floor of the City Hall had been equipped for library use. Books were transferred from the collection of the Main Library and the staff members worked in turn a day at a time in this small room when it opened in January, 1930.¹⁶ City Hall Branch had come into being.

In 1929-30 the book collection had grown to 14,480 volumes; circulation had grown to 83,006, and registered patrons had reached 5,791. The book budget for that year was \$5,495.83, and salaries for personnel had grown to \$13,937.77.¹⁷ The staff numbered 8.¹⁸ In spite of the problems of consolidation

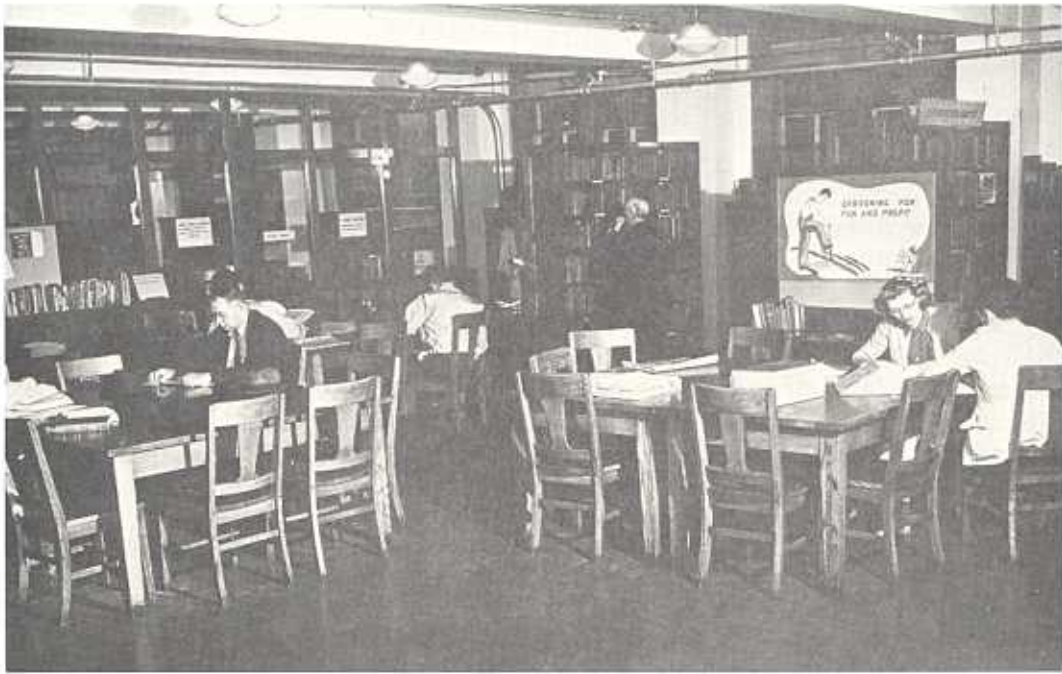
14. *Ibid.*

15. *City of Dearborn Year Book, 1929-30, pp. 24-26.*

16. *A Decade of Consolidation, Dbn. Pub. Library History File, 1939.*

17. *Ibid.*

18. *Interview with Miss Regis Daniel, Miss Eleanor Butterfield, Miss Florence Hardy, and Mrs. Josephine Mitchell, May, 1969.*



Interior of the City Hall Branch, 1946, when it was located in the basement of the City Hall. The present Assessor's offices are now occupying this space.



Interior of the Northeast Branch, 1946, when it was still located in a store building, at 13114 Warren Avenue. Note the old light fixtures and tin-relief ceiling.



Two views of the east wing of the Dearborn Public Library. The top picture shows the adult reading room as it looked when the library opened in 1924. The bottom picture, taken from the balcony in 1959, shows the terribly crowded condition of the then Reference Department on a busy school night.

the future looked rosy. A new service was offered the patrons in which books could be interloaned between their local library, Detroit Public Library and the Wayne County Library.¹⁹ In time this service would grow to include the Michigan State Library and in special instances libraries all over the country, including the Library of Congress.

The Depression years saw many changes. Dearborn and its citizens were particularly crippled, since the auto industry was their main support. This is reflected in many events that happened. By January, 1934, the Library had to shorten its hours, closed at noon on Saturday and eliminated Sunday service. The personnel was reduced along with a reduction in salaries.²⁰ The 1933-34 budget fell drastically with only \$778.13 for books and \$437.68 for periodicals.²¹ In the area of service however, the Library was booming and the circulation zoomed. People with no money and time on their hands found the Library to be a good friend. The Works Project Administration began to send workers who filled in and helped in different areas. Other WPA workers did survey work on libraries and their services. Another group researched local and regional history. The Library staff, as City workers, were fortunate for though their pay checks were smaller they were never paid in scrip. (Scrip was paper stating that a City or State Government owed the bearer so much money and scrip was honored as payment by some businesses. It carries 5% interest upon redemption.) In the depths of the Depression the Library staff contributed their salary for 1/2 day each week to welfare. In 1937, however, the staff members, who had enjoyed the traditional library vacation of 24 working days a year, were sadly added to the new Civil Service lists and lost this benefit, though they gained others.²²

As times slowly improved there was a matching improvement in budget, staff and collection. In 1939 the book budget was up to \$6,563.78 and salaries had grown to \$24,607.55. The collection now numbered 35,523 volumes and the registered readers numbered 16,104.²³ City Hall Branch had quickly outgrown its first quarters and was moved to the basement of that building in 1934.²⁴ The only place where progress had not been made was in the extension of service to outlying areas of the community. This condition was partly rectified with the opening of Southeast Branch Library, at 2121 Salina St., February 28, 1941. A major portion of the cost of Southeast was furnished through a WPA grant, and the Library was roundly welcomed by the citizens of the area.²⁵ By the end of 1941 the staff for the three libraries had grown to 19,²⁶ and as the War years descended, dreams of further expansion necessarily were shelved.

19. *City of Dearborn Year Book, 1929-1930*, pp. 24.

20. *Dearborn Press*, January 11, 1934.

21. *A Decade of Consolidation*, *Obn. Pub. Library History File*, 1929.

22. *Interview with Miss Regis Daniel, Miss Eleanor Butterfield, Miss Florence Hardy, and Mrs. Josephine Mitchell*, May, 1969.

23. *A Decade of Consolidation*, *Obn. Pub. Library History File*, 1939.

24. *Chronology of the Dearborn Public Library*, *Publicity & Publication*, 1969.

25. *Ibid.*

26. *Your Library*, *City Hall Branch Library Ref. File*, November, 1941.

The war years in Dearborn were primarily devoted to production. An influx of workers and the 24-hour day that factories were working left many people with little leisure time. There were no big camps or bases to flood the Library with soldiers, but a group of cargo flyers from nearby used the Library and special long-term loans were made so that a flyer could take his books with him to India or wherever he had to go. Also, men involved in war work used the technological and aeronautical books heavily.²⁷ During this period, 1939-50, the growing store of historical records of the Dearborn Historical Commission was housed on the mezzanine of the Library. Office space was also provided the Commission. The records were moved to the Commandant's Quarters at Michigan and Monroe when it became the first building in the City's Museum in 1950.

On September 5, 1944, the crying need for expanded service was partially met with the opening of a new branch, Northeast, in a store building at 13114 Warren. This Branch opened with 1866 books,²⁸ and a staff of two. Later, as Esper Branch, it was to grow into the most heavily-used Branch of the Library. It served its neighborhood, much of it foreign-born, and has become a place where families gather to take advantage of library programs and services.²⁹

The end of World War II marked the end of an era at the Library. The next few years would produce marked changes. In February, 1946, the new Community Junior College opened³⁰ replacing Fordson Junior College which had closed during the War. Many new library patrons were thus created. Space was becoming more and more of a problem. In 1935 the Children's Division had moved downstairs to the Lecture Room. Part of the work of Circulation was moved downstairs in the late 30's, and in the early 40's nearly all the adult special collections and the periodicals had been moved down, also. During 1949-50, the rest of circulation's functions and the adult fiction were moved down, too, making room on the main floor for a greatly increasing non-fiction collection, and a vastly bigger Reference Division.³¹

On January 1, 1948, Miss Isabelle L. Chaffin resigned after twenty-seven years of service. She left behind a vastly larger and better library than she had started in 1921. On July 1, 1948, Miss Eleanor Ferguson became Chief Librarian.³² Nineteen forty-eight saw the small beginnings of what would become in time one of the most popular departments of the Library, the Audio-Visual Division. With only 27 films, the Division opened on a part time basis. In 1950 recordings were added, and today the Audio-Visual Division ranks as one of the ten largest library operations in the United States. Originally the collection was housed at Main and the records and film - both free and rental - were loaned to citizens for home use or to school groups. In 1962 the collection had expanded so much that AV was assigned new quarters in the City Hall Branch, when it moved into the City Hall Annex at 4500 Maple.³³

27. *Interview with Miss Regis Daniel, Miss Eleanor Butterfield, Miss Florence Hardy, and Mrs. Josephine Mitchell, May, 1969.*

28. *Chronology of the Dearborn Public Library, Publicity & Publications, 1969.*

29. *Interview with Miss Opal Zeimer, Head of Children's Work, D.P.L., June, 1969.*

30. *Dearborn Press, January 3, 1946, p. 1.*

31. *Interview with Miss Florence Hardy, Asst. Librarian, D.P.L., June, 1969.*

32. *Chronology of the Dearborn Public Library, Publicity & Publications, 1969.*

33. *Interview with Mr. James Lumbacher, Hd. of A.V., D.P.L., June, 1969.*

Another welcome addition was the purchase of a bookmobile in 1949. At last all of the City's neighborhoods could be offered service. The arrival of the Bookmobile was an event. Service began with four regular stops. The truck carried approximately 1700 books, and these were changed frequently from the Bookmobile collection, about 4500 books in its first operating year. The two staff members had to take truck driving lessons from other City employees to master the gears, and the Bookmobile, with its ever-increasing circulation ran faithfully until it died of "old age" in May, 1968. At that time its collection numbered 24,577 books, and it regularly made eight stops around the City. These books will constitute the nucleus of the Mason Branch, which will open in the old Library when Henry Ford Centennial Library is occupied.³⁴

Nineteen forty-nine also saw the beginnings of the use of microfilm in the Reference Division. With the microfilming of local papers and the gradual addition of microfilm for all periodicals most in demand by students, a saving in space was achieved and better service was offered to the patrons. Later the Detroit News and the New York Times were added, along with a microfilm reader-printer. The copying equipment in Reference was a wonderful aid to students and librarians. The original venture in microfilming the local papers was a joint venture of the Library and the Dearborn Historical Commission. This continues today as these two City departments share the costs and the benefits for their respective programs. Today this Division has 305⁴ reels of microfilm, and will offer eight microfilm readers in the new Library.³⁵

In 1950 the book budget had grown to \$20,000 and the book collection numbered 74,492 volumes. The staff increased to 36 and circulation had risen to 306,322. Registered borrowers had increased to 25,595.^{36,37} The booming economy and the growth of the City were making more and more demands on the Library. The patronage was expanding as people from surrounding communities came to avail themselves of Dearborn's quality Library. The Community College was growing and high school students were finding that a greater emphasis on academic subjects was creating a need for deeper research into reference books. Knowledge was exploding and fortunately the City of Dearborn could afford to support its Library and keep up with the times.

In 1953 the store-front Northeast Branch moved into new quarters when a building was constructed at 12929 Warren. It was renamed Warren Branch, and its collection numbered 10,000 volumes.³⁸ With the eastern part of the City now served by three branches, rumors were that new branches would open in the west end. This was not to be for a number of years, and this lack contributed to a heavier volume of traffic at Main.

34. *Interview with Mr. Harold Telfer, D.P.L., June, 1969.*

35. *Miss Marian Alexander, General Information, D.P.L., June, 1969.*

36. *Figures are from the Annual Report of the Dearborn Public Library, 1949-50, and the State Reports for the same period.*

37. *Book budget figures do not include purchases of periodicals, AV materials, microfilm, etc..*

38. *Chronology of the Dearborn Public Library, Publicity & Publications, 1969.*

In late 1955 Miss Eleanor Ferguson resigned and in July, 1956, Mr. Edward B. Daniels was appointed Chief Librarian.³⁹ The fall of 1956 saw the creation of another department to serve the public. [In the early days departments as such did not exist, and a librarian, aide or clerk was a maid-of-all-work. Time and circumstances developed more and more specialized services.] At first called the Publications Committee, and later Community Services, it developed into what today is called the Publicity & Publications Division. The new Division was to prepare bibliographies, brochures and flyers for the different departments and started with a part time staff of three. Today this Division prepares press releases, book bibliographies and lists, furnishes books for the Youth Center and Camp Dearborn, buys all paperbacks for the system, selects exhibit books (books which have a historical value, or are particularly beautiful, unique and unusual), supplies selected books to four local book clubs and to Oakwood Hospital and publishes a calendar of community events bi-monthly. The print shop has grown and now has a number of fine machines which enable the Division to do almost any printing job. In 1968 the Division printed 469,699 pages of assorted publications, approximately one-third of this work done for other City departments. Also, 2954 signs were made. This Division also helps many other Library and City departments with special and varied printing projects.^{40,41}

The Children's Division had grown, just as the others had. Though their space had been curtailed, services and collection kept up with demands. Story hours for school and pre-school children continued to be held at the branches. Each summer books were furnished to the City's playgrounds. Teachers were furnished with selected books for long-term use in their classrooms. Special lists of children's books were made up, and care was taken to see that the small patrons were offered the very best in children's literature.⁴² By 1968 the collection of juvenile books in the whole system had grown to 94,417 volumes, approximately 50,000 of these at the Main Library. Children's records were also selected and circulated through this Division.⁴³

January 17, 1960, saw the opening of another badly needed branch, this one in the western part of the City at 23920 Princeton. Princeton Branch offered 15,000 volumes in a beautiful new building. It was a neighborhood branch with many young people using the facilities.⁴⁴ It also housed the Bookmobile offices and collection and became the home of the print shop of the Publicity and Publications Division. Film programs and story hours are held at this Branch and their large meeting room is used for approximately 100 meetings a year by City groups.⁴⁵

39. *Ibid.*

40. *Interview with Miss Lenore Churgay, Head of Publicity and Publications, D.P.L., June, 1969.*

41. *Figures quoted from interviews in most instances come from Annual Reports.*

42. *Interview with Miss Regis Daniel, Miss Eleanor Butterfield, Miss Florence Hardy, and Mrs. Josephine Mitchell, May, 1969.*

43. *Interview with Miss Opal Zeimer, Head of Children's Work, D.P.L., June, 1969.*

44. *Chronology of the Dearborn Public Library, Publicity & Publications, 1969.*

45. *Interview with Mrs. Hope Singer, Snow Branch Librarian, D.P.L., June, 1969.*



Exterior of the Dearborn Public Library, 1969. The new Mason Branch will be located here after the Centennial Library is opened.



Exterior of the Southeast Branch, located at 2121 Salina Street, circa 1942.

Exterior of the Anthony M. Esper Branch, 1969. This branch is located at 12929 Warren





Exterior of the Clara L. Snow Branch, 1965, located at 23920 Princeton.



The Bookmobile of the Dearborn Public Library, July, 1949.

Exterior of the City Hall Branch, 1969, located in the City Hall Annex on Maple Street.



Taking stock at the end of the fiscal year 1959-60, the growth in the expanding 50's was tremendous. Circulation had doubled and now stood at 638,813. Registrations were almost double at 47,933. The book collection stood at 142,503 volumes, while the budget for books had more than tripled to a figure of \$70,000. The staff now numbered 55 and "Old Main" was beginning to split at the seams for space.⁴⁶ On a school night the main floor was so crowded that students sat on the floor at times to study, if they could find a space unoccupied by book stacks. Every inch of space was crammed with books and the limited office space was jammed, desk against desk. Something had to be done to alleviate this situation.

In 1961, the Warren Branch was renamed the Anthony M. Esper Branch, after a member of a pioneer Dearborn family and long-time City councilman.⁴⁷ On July 1, 1962, the Princeton Branch was renamed the Clara L. Snow Branch. Miss Snow had been the original chairman of the Library Board as appointed by the Board of Education in 1920.⁴⁸ She had remained an active member of the Library Commission through all the years and even today is its chairman, though hampered by ill health. In honoring Miss Snow in naming this branch, the many members of the Library Commission through the years were honored, too. They had had to fight through the first years for the establishment of a good library and carried their battles through the Depression. Today the Commission serves as an advisory body and a sounding board for the administration of the Library, in their capacity as appointees of the Mayor and representatives of the citizenry.⁴⁹

Nineteen sixty-two also brought another change in the position of Chief Librarian. Mr. Daniels resigned and was replaced by Mr. Harold D. Martelle. He in turn resigned and was replaced by the current Chief Librarian, Mr. Rollin P. Marquis in 1964.⁵⁰ This year the Library Commission began studies and moves in the direction of a replacement for "Old Main", with a wonderful conclusion. During the Henry Ford Centennial Year of 1963, the Ford Foundation gave the City a \$3,000,000 grant to build and equip a library as a memorial to Henry Ford. Shortly thereafter, Ford Motor Company donated fifteen acres of land on Michigan Avenue as a site for the new Library.⁵¹ With these magnificent gifts the staff could begin to see a future wherein they could serve their community more effectively.

In the next years it sometimes seemed that the new Library would never actually be. Many long hours went into planning the use of every inch of space and the functions of each department. Finally ground was broken on December 14, 1966,⁵² and the datestone was laid by City officials and Miss

46. *Figures are from the Annual Report of the Dearborn Public Library, 1959-60, and State Reports for the same period.*

47. *Chronology of the Dearborn Public Library, Publicity & Publications, 1969.*

48. *See footnote 7.*

49. *Interview with Mr. Rollin P. Marquis, Chief Librarian, D.P.L., June, 1969.*

50. *Chronology of the Dearborn Public Library, Publicity & Publications, 1969.*

51. *Paper, Mr. Rollin Marquis, Chief Librarian, D.P.L., June, 1969.*

52. *Dearborn Guide, Dec. 15, 1966.*

Clara L. Snow on July 30, 1967.⁵³ That month the Ford Foundation made a further gift of \$500,000 for furnishings in the new Library.⁵⁴ Also, the addition of a \$110,000 fountain to be built in front of the building was announced.⁵⁵ A statue of Henry Ford by Marshall Fredericks may be a further addition, depending upon the success of a local drive to raise \$50,000 for this purpose.⁵⁶ The Henry Ford Centennial Library will be dedicated and opened to the public in late summer, 1969, a living memorial to a great man in his own home town.

The public will find this to be a beautiful and spacious building, three stories tall, rectangular in shape, with 88,000 square feet of space. The entire building is covered with white marble sheathing, inset panels of verde antique marble, and bronze glass windows on all four sides reaching from the second floor to the roof. The first floor has front and rear entrances into a central rotunda which contains a reflecting pool and sculpture, a beautiful spiral staircase, and two elevators. This floor houses the administrative offices, other offices and workrooms, the mechanical and janitorial quarters and has space for a future educational FM radio station. Five large meeting rooms, divisible by folding partitions, and a lovely 278 seat auditorium with projection room are also on this floor.⁵⁷

The staircase ascends to the main public service area on the second floor. The circulation desks are at the top of the stairs, and on this floor will be located the collections of the Humanities Division, including fiction, General Information Division and Children's Division. These collections surround a central enclosed work and office core, which also includes the workroom and office of the Circulation Division, the closed periodical and microfilm stacks, a Children's Story Room, an Adult Reading and Smoking Room, an alcove for a telephone-reference service, typing booths for students, and record-listening booths for children. The public service floors will be scanned by a closed-circuit television surveillance system.⁵⁸

The third floor is an "island" mezzanine located over the second floor office core. On the mezzanine will be the collection and offices of the Audio-Visual Division, and the closed book stacks. Decorating the second floor at the stairway is a ceramic-assemblage mural on a concave partition, the work of sculptor Glen Michaels of Birmingham, Michigan. This was a gift of Ford Motor Company from its 1964-65 World's Fair pavilion and is an arresting and beautiful work of art.⁵⁹

The initial book collection at the Centennial Library will number 125,000 volumes, with a capacity for growth to 300,000.⁶⁰ The present staff of the

53. *Ibid.*, July 27, 1967.

54. *Ibid.*, August 3, 1967.

55. *Ibid.*, March 7, 1968.

56. *Ibid.*, April 25, 1968.

57. *Paper*, Mr. Rollin P. Marquis, Chief Librarian, D.P.L., 1968.

58. *Ibid.*

59. *Ibid.*

60. *Ibid.*

entire system consists of 65 full-time employees, 5 part-time employees and 21 pages.⁶¹ (Pages are young, part-time employees who primarily shelve books.) The book budget in 1967-68 was \$81,000 and circulation of all materials was 689,194.⁶² With these assets new and expanded services will be offered to the public by each of the Library's divisions.

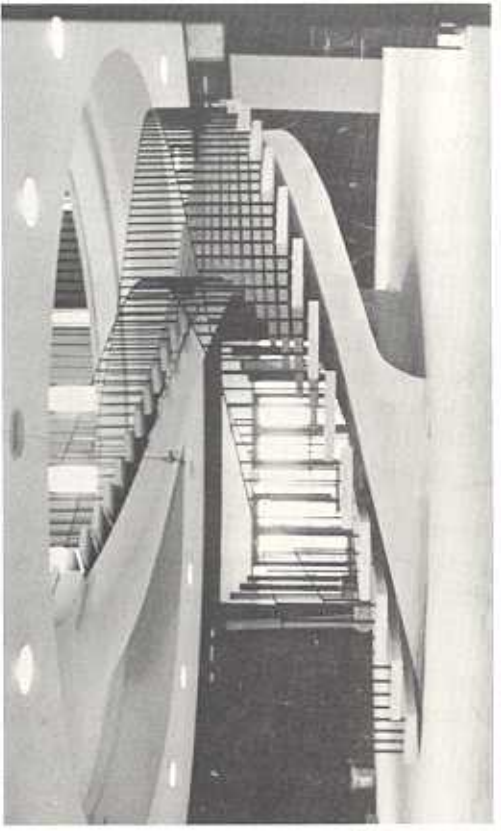
The old Reference Division was divided into two divisions at the end of the year 1967,⁶³ and now constitutes the General Information and Humanities Divisions. General Information will house the reference and non-fiction collection including books on philosophy, religion, language, business, political science and pure and applied science. It also houses the periodical and microfilm collections. Several new and specialized sets of technical books will be added. The Michigan Compiled Laws, Annotated, and a collection of telephone books from major cities of the United States will be welcomed by the public. Standard and Poor's Financial Service will be added to the already extensive collection of business and tax reference books and services. With the splitting of the old Reference Division, more specialized and intensive help can be offered to the Library patrons.⁶⁴ The main catalog for the Library will be situated in General Information, and will be equipped with telephone jacks, enabling the telephone-reference staff to consult the catalog in immediate response to inquiries.⁶⁵

The Humanities Division will house the reference and non-fiction collection including books in the art and music fields, sports, literature, literary criticism, travel, history and biography. An important innovation will be the housing of the adult fiction collection in Humanities so that patrons can have the in-depth help of a librarian in this popular department. A new index of books of literary criticism will be welcomed by students, and other new reference sets, including the Annals of American History, will be available to the public. A collection of large-type books will be available for the visually handicapped. A separate catalog of the holdings of the Humanities Division will be a help to patrons. There will be a special adult reading area, where the current issues of periodicals and newspapers will be presented. The Michigan Collection will also be in this division.⁶⁶

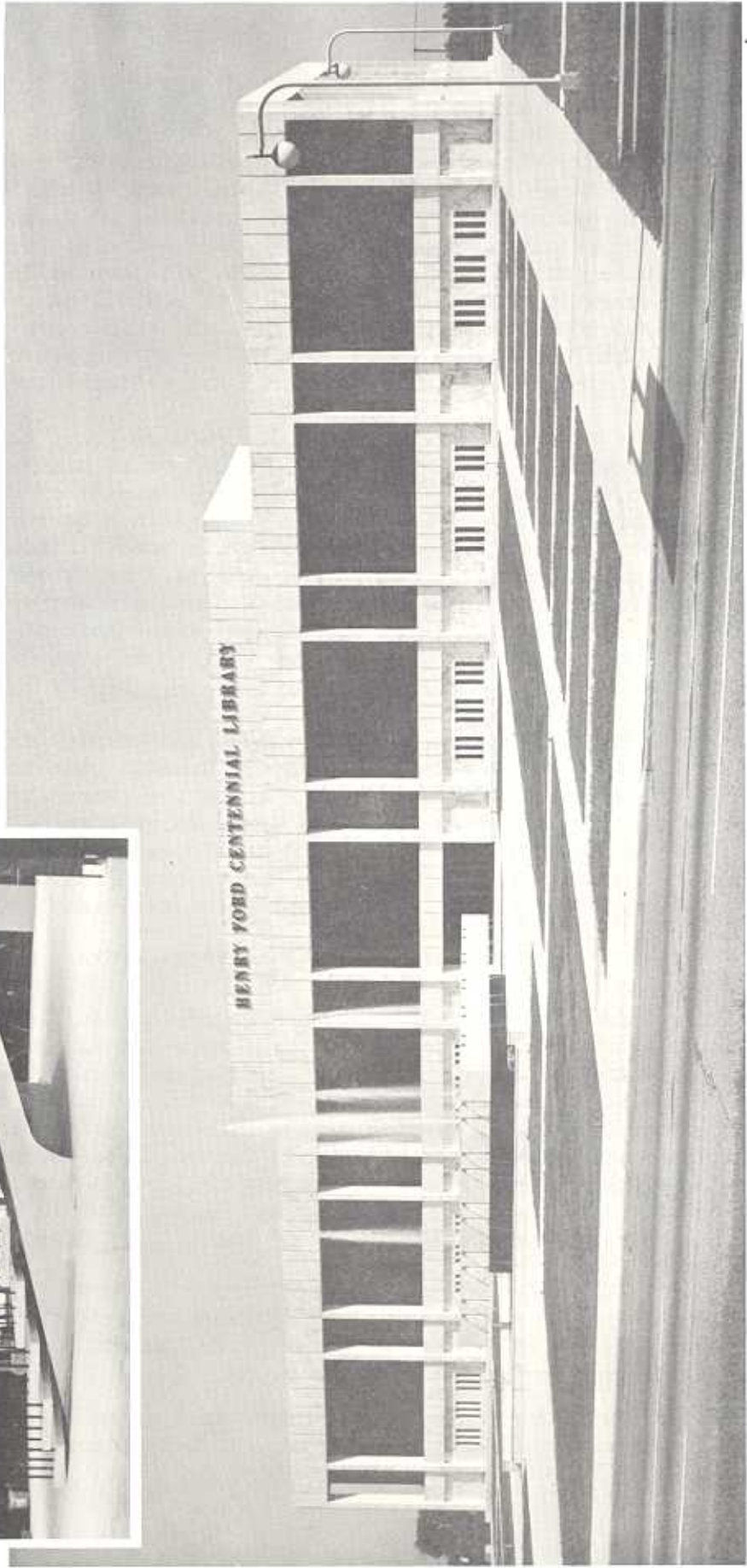
The Children's Division will enlarge its program with films in the auditorium. Two listening rooms where children can hear children's records and stories will be a feature of this division. Approximately 40,000 juvenile books will be available for children at the Centennial Library.⁶⁷

In its spacious mezzanine quarters the Audio-Visual Division will have

61. *Mrs. Mary Hotke, Secretary to the Chief Librarian, D.P.L., 1969.*
62. *Annual Report of the D.P.L. & State Reports, 1967-68.*
63. *Interview with Mrs. Mary R. Brackett, Head of Humanities, D.P.L., 1969.*
64. *Interview with Miss Peggy Jaros, Head of Gen. Inf., D.P.L., 1969.*
65. *Paper, Mr. Rollin P. Marquis, Chief Librarian, D.P.L., 1968.*
66. *Interview with Mrs. Mary R. Brackett, Head of Humanities, D.P.L., 1969.*
67. *Interview with Miss Opal Zeimer, Head of Children's Work, D.P.L., 1969.*



Interior view of the staircase in the Henry Ford Centennial Library, 1969.



The Henry Ford Centennial Library, gift of the Ford Foundation to the City of Dearborn. It is built on land donated by the Ford Motor Company, and is located on Michigan Avenue across from the Ford Central Office Building.

facilities for 20 patrons to listen to recordings with wireless headsets, the antenna being under the carpeting in the listening area. Also, reference books and catalogs of interest to users will be available for the first time, plus film evaluation cards. Adult and children's movies will be offered in the auditorium on a regular basis, plus public previews of films three mornings a week. Cassettes for use in automobile and other cassette players will be another feature. An enlarged collection of 8mm films will be available. The Audio-Visual Division currently contains a collection of 2,350 16mm sound films, 500 8mm silent films, 400 filmstrips, 3,600 adult and children's free phonograph records, and 4,500 high fidelity and 5,000 stereo rental records. It will serve as a headquarters clearing-house for cultural activities in the area.⁶⁸

And what of the future? With ample room to grow, the Henry Ford Centennial Library will be serving increasing numbers of students and patrons. On July 1, 1966, the Dearborn Public Library became part of the Wayne County Federated Library System. This effected savings in book buying and processing and made the Dearborn system eligible for increased library aid money, used for book and periodical purchases and general library services. A new computerized charging system has been initiated and a number of other programs of the Centennial Library will be coordinated with those of the Wayne County System. In effect the Centennial Library will be an area library serving much of the Western Wayne County and downriver community.⁶⁹

The tremendous explosion of knowledge and printed materials in the second half of the 20th century has made fearful demands upon and created problems for all libraries. Dearborn has been among the communities fortunate enough to be able to keep up with the times. Mr. Haigh's words at the dedication of "Old Main" ring of the present and challenge the future--"...the Library ...may be the only means of securing the tolerant culture necessary for the preservation of our increasingly complicated civilization."

My special thanks to all the members of the staff of the Dearborn Public Library who have been so helpful in researching this article. In particular I wish to thank Mr. Rollin P. Marquis, Chief Librarian, Miss Lenore Churgay, Head of Publicity and Publications and the following ladies who between them have given 141 years of service at the Dearborn Public Library: Miss Florence Hardy, Assistant Librarian; Miss Regis Daniel, retired Head of Circulation; Mrs. Josephine Mitchell, retired Head of Children's Work; and Miss Eleanor Butterfield, retired Head of Cataloging. Also, I would like to thank the Research and Information Department of the City of Dearborn for its kind cooperation.

PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS. Dearborn Public Library: top p. 79, all p. 82, all p. 83, top & middle p. 89, top p. 93; City of Dearborn's Research and Information Department: bottom p. 79, top & bottom p. 88, bottom p. 89, bottom p. 93; Dearborn Historical Commission: middle p. 88.

68. Interview with Mr. James Limbacher, Head of Audio-Visual, D.P.L., 1969.

69. Interview with Mr. Rollin P. Marquis, Chief Librarian, D.P.L., 1969.

EARLY INDEPENDENCE DAYS in DEARBORN

Winfield H. Arneson

What do we think today when the 4th of July comes and goes each year? Perhaps to many of us it means: a three-day weekend, or a chance to catch up on the spring cleaning in the garage we didn't catch up with during the spring, perhaps a trip to the lake cottage or a chance to be one of those people clogging the busy interstate expressways. To some of us this date may serve as an opportunity to reflect on the background of the birth of our nation. Well, it may mean all or none of these to most Dearbornites. In any event, times are not the same as in days of old.

After studying some of the early photographs and written matter or programs about the way Dearborn celebrated or acknowledged the anniversary of our American Independence Day of July 4, 1776, it seemed logical to conclude that our readers would like to share in this experience. Obviously times have changed and Dearborn of today is not the hamlet of a couple hundred or of several thousand people of years past. As part of suburbia we are not rural anymore and the populace is very mobile to say the least. Both rapid transportation and communication systems and the shorter work week of the present are so different from the past that it is almost inevitable holidays will be a departure from granddaddy's day. This is not, however, to say that the past or present is best, but a certain amount of historical continuity should prevail. The old days had much going for them. You be the judge!

Back in 1870 Dearborn was very small - just over 500 people, and, as we have said in past writings in THE HISTORIAN, had that old fashioned rural flavor. In the Historical Commission files is a poem almost 100 years old. It is about "The Glorious Fourth" at Dearborn. At a dinner meeting a few years ago the writer had the opportunity to read this poem to the Dearborn Kiwanis Club and members of that body found it of considerable interest. It is reproduced here as it appears in the records on page 103.

Parades, costumes, bands and gaming or sporting contests seemed to be a very important part of the 4th of July tradition in Dearborn during the late 1800's and into the 1920's. Therefore, we are using a few of the photographs from the files which reflect the true mid-summer holiday some of our senior citizens still recall today. In the collection of records are various programs of different years about 4th of July celebrations. Two such years were 1905 and 1915 which we shall elaborate on here.

Independence Day 64 years ago when the community's population numbered over 800 souls had the traditional fireworks and the speeches, including an emotion-packed oration by the speaker of the day, the Honorable Charles S.

Hampton of Detroit. What is of unusual interest today is that horse racing was a prominent part of the 1905 doings. On that 4th of July the racing commenced at 2:30 P.M. and the course was on Morley Avenue from Military to Mason Street. The races included a free-for-all trot or pace for one-quarter mile; running race for one-quarter mile; and a farmers race for one-half mile. In all races first prize was \$5.00 and second prize was \$3.00.

The route of the "Grand Calithumpian Parade" is noteworthy to mention here in view of the changes which have come about in the community. It began at 8 A.M. and the line of march was led by the Delray Band. The starting point was at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Center Street (now Monroe Boulevard). It continued south on Center to Monroe Avenue. At the bend in the road where Beech and Monroe meet today, the road names changed 60 years ago. It was then on to Mason Street where the parade moved north and back to Michigan Avenue. Here the procession went west to St. Joseph's Retreat* (now the location of numerous business establishments from Westborn Chrysler-Plymouth to the Holiday Inn on the north side of Michigan Avenue). The parade then returned on Michigan to Howe Street, to Garrison Avenue, to Military Avenue, to Morley Avenue, to Mason Street, to Michigan Avenue and terminated at Center Street. At this point prizes were awarded for the best parade entries.

In the year 1915 the patriotic day was on a Sunday and since reverence for a Sunday has been an American tradition, and more so then than now, the celebration was held on Monday, July 5th.

Here is an outline of the events which were held 54 years ago. Keep in mind the population of Dearborn was somewhat over 1,000 in contrast to a present population between 115,000 and 120,000.

The officers of the day included Henry Ford as president, Dr. E. F. Fisher as general chairman, Grover C. Auten as secretary, and E. R. Bryant as treasurer. The vice-presidents included: S. B. Long, G. W. Thompkins, A. T. Sloss, R. D. Kay, W. A. Jackson, C. A. Kandt, and C. L. Parker. So, we can see that the day was in the capable hands of well-known leaders of the community.

The *PROGRAM OF THE DAY* was outlined in this manner with all events to start promptly on schedule, Eastern Time prevailing:

6:00 A.M. - Salute of Machine Gun Company of 31st
Michigan, Captain Cleary, Commanding.

9:00 A.M. - Grand Parade led by Ford Motor Company
Band - to form at Waterworks Park (actually,
the old Filtration Plant just east of Brady
Street on the south side of Michigan Avenue)
at 8:30 A.M.

10:30 A.M. - Ball Game - Dearborn vs. Wayne High School

**St. Joseph's Retreat* - See "*History of Saint Joseph's Retreat*", in *THE DEARBORN HISTORIAN*, Volume 4, Numbers 2-3, 1964, pp. 21-31.

11:00 A.M. - Band Selections from Ford Motor Company Band
Chorus by the Dearborn Choral Society
Oration by the Hon. James McNamara, Detroit,
Michigan, Orator of the Day
Stories by the Hon. Edgar A. Guest, Detroit,
Michigan
Lunch - Patronize the lunch stands

1:00 P.M. - Grand Athletic Carnival - \$100.00 in Prizes
Athletic events included:

50 yard dash for boys under 12
50 yard dash for girls under 12
50 yard dash for ladies
50 yard dash for fat men
50 yard dash for fat ladies
50 yard dash for men over 50
100 yard dash for boys under 16
100 yard dash for men
100 yard three-legged race

Tugs of War:

Ladies on south side of Michigan vs.

Ladies on north side of Michigan

Men on south side of Michigan vs.

Men on north side of Michigan

100 yard obstacle race

50 yard shoe race for girls

50 yard shoe race for boys

Finn sack race

Ball Games -

Y.M.C.A. vs. Dearborn Business Men

United Fuel and Supply Co. of Detroit,

Michigan vs. S. D. Lapham & Co., Inc.,
of Dearborn, Michigan

8:00 P.M. - Concert by Ford Motor Company Band

9:00 P.M. - Moving Pictures by Ford Motor Company

10:00 P.M. - Gorgeous Display of Fireworks

After reading such a long program it is an obvious conclusion that the 4th of July was a full and rewarding day for both young and old. Can't we just imagine a sea of straw hats, the fragrance of a horse and buggy and the chug and the squeaks of a Model "T", the laughter from a close sack race or the roar after a crack of a bat, and the clamor of mixed sounds as a family picnic basket is opened near all of the exciting activities and the sometimes somewhat boring speeches of the times? But this was Dearborn and we of the present can, at least, recapture those days through the printed word and through photographs.

It may interest the reader to note that the score of the ball game between Dearborn and Wayne High Schools was 7 to 6 in favor of the wrong team. In addition, the Y.M.C.A. team won its game, 7 to 1, and the Lapham nine lost theirs, 6 to 2.

In the Friday, July 9, 1915, issue of *The Dearborn Independent*, the "Glorious Fourth" is reported as a success. This was so in spite of a cold, raw-wind and clouded skies. In fact the paper stated that "There was never a doubt of its success, from the time the first interurban car reached the waiting room." Thousands came and enjoyed themselves all day long. Or to quote the *Independent*, "...the crowd came and kept coming. In rigs, in automobiles, by the trolley cars, they came singly, in couples and in groups. Before the parade Michigan Avenue was lined several deep from Porter to Howard Street, and after that was over, the pleasant grove on the old Snow farm, where the exercises took place, was filled"

"Residences and business places were tastefully decorated, and every line of trade except food and (temperance) drink was closed tight. Dearborn gave herself up thoroughly to the enjoyment of the occasion," as the *Independent* stated it in 1915.

Even a bit of history was made this day as Edmund Fukalek demonstrated to the crowd the latest Ford invention, the farm tractor, which was still in its experimental stage. In 1917 it was first mass-produced under the name Fordson.* What it did to revolutionize farming is now legendary. It was put through a series of tests - driven up steep inclines, stopped partway up and started again, traversing ditches and furrows, skirting the edges of plowed fields, and it was even put through a tug of war with another tractor - neither of which won because they got bogged down hub deep in a rut.

The late Edgar A. Guest, who had composed a poem in honor of Henry Ford had published it in the *Detroit Free Press*. The *Dearborn Independent* published it in its July 9th edition. It is reproduced here on page 102.

This was Dearborn during the late 1800's and the early years of the 1900's on the 4th of July. A quiet community made a little noise, had fun which the whole family could enjoy, and just about everyone always looked forward to the next year when Independence Day would be bigger and perhaps better. Yes, the old days did have much going for them.



*Fordson Tractor - See "Farming With The Fordson", in *THE DEARBORN HISTORIAN*, Volume 7, Number 4, 1967, pp 61-70.



The grounds of the old Detroit Arsenal located here in Dearborn provided an area for many a July 4th celebration. This view taken in the late 1800's shows a large gathering about midway on Center Street (now Monroe) between Michigan and Garrison. The building in the background was the Armory which burned in a 1910 fire. Double yellow lines on the parking lot adjacent to the Masonic Temple mark where it was located.



Dearborn in 1906 looked like this scene. The view is of the parade on the west side of Center Street (now Monroe) between Michigan and Garrison. George Humbert's house is at the left. The building in the right rear was the old Dearborn Public School - now the location of the Ray H. Adams Junior High School and the Salisbury School. Note the tent in the center and the boys wearing knickers.

Costumes were important for 4th of July activities. Here Albert Sollinger represents "Uncle Sam" in 1904 on Dr. Henry L. Burdeno's pony, "Sport". Sollinger won first prize for his efforts.



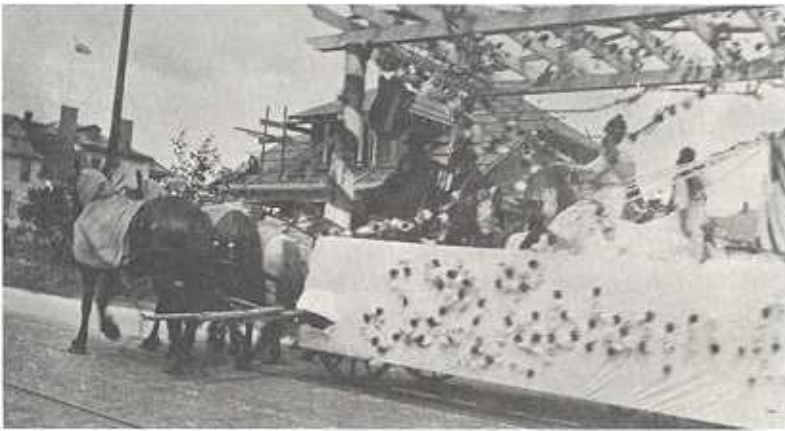
William Fox and William Knodt (in bear regalia) marched in the 1905 parade.



The owner of this car represented the "Spirit of '76" as he drove in the 1921 parade along Michigan Avenue.

Joseph Parr was ready for the parade in 1927 as he rode along Garrison Street west of Mason Street on his "ordinary". Incidentally, this bike is now part of the collection of the Dearborn Historical Museum.





An elaborate float heading west on Michigan Avenue near Oakwood Boulevard in the mid-1920's. Note that the building in the left background with the two large chimneys and the flag pole was then Precinct #2 Police Station and since 1950 the Commandant's Quarters of the City's Historical Museum.



Unless you have seen it it is difficult for latter-day Dearbornites to visualize dirt roads here. This picture about 1890, shows John Burns (Marshall of the Day) riding a horse and followed by a band. The location: Mason Street between Michigan and Mechanic (now Newman Street).



The heart of early Dearborn was in the block between Mason Street and Monroe Boulevard. Here we are looking north on the main street which is dirt covered Michigan with a single street car track. Left to right behind the 1906 parade entries are Schultz's Market, Blankertz Harness Shop, and a frame building used as a meat market, dentist office, confectionery store and residence.

DEARBORN'S DAY

Edgar A. Guest

Dearborn won't forget it for awhile,
And I know that I'll remember till I die
The sunlight an' the splendor of each smile
An' the stiffness of each manufactured tie;
An' the women in their go-to-meeting' gowns,
An' the children in their Sunday outfits prim,
An' the glory an' the joy
Of the old man an' the boy
An' the mother when they'd shaken hands with him.

He was playin' like he often used to play
When the world had never heard of Henry Ford
An' I wondered as I watched him through the day
With what memories his busy mind was stored!
He was back again in Boyville in the place
That knew him as a sunny-hearted kid,
I can hear it all an' see!
"Bet yer don't remember me!"
An' the smile that lit their faces when he did.

They were there, the good, the bad, the young an' old.
The solid an' the no-account-at-all:
The simple-minded feller an' the bold,
The bashful an' the sheeky with his gall.
Some came sidling up as timid lovers do,
Some came forward, just like soldiers, straight and trim,
An' a simpered speech some uttered,
An' some ittered an' some stuttered.
But they all got in a little chat with him.

"I knew him when--" that good old homely phrase
Was workin' every minute of the time,
The women recollected early days,
The men recalled the trees he used to climb.
The spinsters an' the grandmas, old an' gray.
Reviewed the scenes along life's winding track,
An' the proudest Dearborn lad
Was a little chap who had
The glory of a ride upon his back.

Dearborn won't forget it for awhile,
In the years to come they'll talk about it still
They will tell their children's children with a smile
How he called them Jane an' Martha, Joe an' Bill.
It was greetin' friends an' comrades with a vim;
But their topmost rung of pleasure,
An' the joy they'll longest treasure
Is the memory of shakin' hands with him.

(Published in The Dearborn Independent, July 9, 1915, and originally published in The Detroit Free Press)



To those who celebrated
THE GLORIOUS FOURTH
AT DEARBORN

These lines are dedicated.

If you want to have enjoyment,
 Go to Dearborn on the Fourth of July;
 It surely will bring remembrance
 To the days that have gone by.

They had speaking, dancing and singing,
 Running, jumping and base ball,
 And by paying fifty cents admission
 You are entitled to enjoy it all.

Two athletic sports came from Detroit—
 They thought they could not be beat—
 Jimmy, the car-checker, from Junction yards,
 And Sammy Ross, the "Sheep."

Sammy brought his overalls
 To wear them in the games,
 But when he saw what the others wore
 To wear them he felt ashamed.

Sammy entered in the hurdle race,
 For the fences he thought he could jump,
 But when he came to the second fence
 He fell over it all in a lump.

The next sport came the three-legged race;
 Sollenger Brothers were first to the score;
 "Dainty" with his high-water pants,
 You'd think that he had just come ashore.

The referee counted "One, Two, Three,"
 And then he shouted "Go!"
 You ought to see the Sollengers slide—
 It was equal to Forepaugh's show.

The running race was called on then,
 And was won by Brakeman Russell,
 But Jimmy the car checker, from Junction yards,
 I tell you he made him hustle.

J. T. Coyne thought he could run,
 But he found out he wasn't in it,
 For he ran behind and took the dust,
 Which made him look like Barnum's "What is it?"

Jimmy Gurnan, the operato dude,
 Take heed to what I say;
 His storm o'er takes you with those tights on,
 You will surely be blown away.

Sam Reed was there enjoying himself,
 Walking around so bold and brave,
 And when his friends would speak to him
 He would say "By Gee, I forgot to slave."

A. W. Brock was out on the road,
 But came home on the evening train;
 He was trying to save up seventy-four cents,
 To go down to Toledo again.

Andy Ryan was there from Ypsilanti;
 He seemed to cut quite a dash;
 I should think it would make his fingers sore
 To keep those curls on his black moustache.

Abe Moodey must not be forgotten;
 For playing ball he was the star in the game,
 With his little red cap, like a woodpecker in a trap,
 But he got there just the same.

These poems were not written to slander,
 So therefore no one is to blame;
 Just think of some foreign country,
 Then you will know the writer's name.

*(This is a copy of the July 4, 1870, poem in the
 Historical Records of the Historical Commission.)*



The 1924 Independence Day parade heads west along Michigan Avenue. The team of horses in foreground was nearing Michigan and Mason. Note the familiar turret of the Wagner building center background.



Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ford ride a "Victoria" in the 1924 Dearborn parade. Mr. Ford is generally considered to be the man who put America in automobiles, and so it seems somewhat strange to some of us today to see him riding in a horse-drawn carriage. However, the Fords participated in numerous local events, such as this one, through the years.

News From The Museum

NEW TYPE FOR THIS ISSUE. One of the obvious changes we know our readers will notice in this issue of the HISTORIAN is the new type face used throughout. The Commission has just purchased a new IBM Selectric typewriter with the interchangeable fonts. Now many type-combinations may be selected for various printing needs by merely placing a new font (a ball-shaped type face) into the machine. The museum secretary does not have to go from one typewriter to another, as in the past, to achieve different type styles. The new type face is very easy to read like the letter press type found in magazines.

* * * * *

HISTORICAL RECORDS TO HAVE NEW HOME. The Historical Records of the Commission are finding a new home where there will be more space and better and quieter facilities for this growing collection first started in 1928. The new quarters are being prepared on the second floor of the McFadden-Ross House. Plans are under way to have an informal reception on Sunday, October 26, 1969, in order to familiarize the public with this service the Commission has strived to make available and in useable condition for research purposes. The collection includes: HISTORY FILES such as: 1833-1875 Arsenal, buildings, business and industry, churches, City departments, elections, education-schools, events, families, transportation, utilities, related Dearborn materials; MANUSCRIPTS such as: public records and documents (township, village and city), personal (records, documents, letters, papers, diaries, articles and scrapbooks), cemetery records, church records and documents, organizations records; MICROFILMS such as newspapers (local from 1905), and Arsenal and church manuscripts; BOOKS; PAMPHLETS; JOURNALS; NEWSPAPERS (from 1890's); PHOTOGRAPHS; SLIDES; PHOTOSTATS; TAPES; and MAPS. Announcements will appear in the newspapers about the informal reception later. However, you are most welcome to make use of the facilities now, Mondays-Fridays, 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

* * * * *

DEARBORN COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL. The Museum has become a charter member of the new Dearborn Community Arts Council. The organization, which held its first planning meeting in January, is a step forward in the further cultural development of the community. The goals of the Council are to sponsor and encourage cultural and educational activities in Dearborn and its environs. It may sponsor cooperative planning, research, fund-raising and public education programs, administer property, and undertake such other services and programs deemed appropriate to encourage participation in and appreciation of the arts by all citizens in the area. Plans are underway for an active program commencing with the opening of the new Henry Ford Centennial Library and fall events. Member organizations include: Dearborn Recreation Department, Cinema Society of Dearborn, Dearborn Arts and Crafts, Museum Guild of Dearborn, Dearborn Civic Theatre, Dearborn Orchestra-Women's Association, University of Michigan - Dearborn Campus, Dearborn Historical Museum, Dearborn Historical Society, Dearborn Public Library, Sing Out Dearborn, Junior Musicale, Players Guild of Dearborn, Dearborn Women's Opera, Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn Orchestral Society, Dearborn Public Schools-Art, and Dearborn Public Schools-Music.

CITY OF WAYNE 100 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR. Congratulations are in order for our sister City of Wayne as it celebrates its centennial this summer. One of the highlights of the calendar of events was a State of Michigan official historical marker dedicated at the National Bank of Detroit at 35118 Michigan Avenue West on July 23, 1969. It marked the spot of the first settlement in 1824, and the incorporation of the Village in 1869. Be sure to visit it as well as the Wayne Historical Museum, 3747 South Wayne Road (two blocks south of Michigan Avenue). The hours are Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 5 P.M.

* * * * *

EXTRA HELP IN THE RESEARCH DIVISION. Miss Barbara Stephenson, a June graduate of Edsel Ford High School, is working in the Historical Records of the Research Division this summer as a part time typist. Barbara will be enrolling at Michigan State University this autumn. She is taking Mrs. Marguerite Alverson's place while the latter is on a leave of absence.

* * * * *

CORRECTION ABOUT THE DEARBORN INN. Mr. Richard McLean, manager of the Dearborn Inn for the past 14 years, informs us we have an error in Volume 9, Number 2 of THE HISTORIAN. On page 42 of the article, "Take a Historic Tour of Dearborn", we stated the Inn was opened as an airport hotel in 1929. Mr. McLean reports the official opening was on July 1, 1931. We are glad to publish this information and correct the data in our files. Mr. McLean further reports that the Inn has kept an official guest register from that date. Many famous personalities from around the world have stayed at this historic landmark.

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MICHIGAN WEEK CONTEST WINNERS. It is with great pleasure that the Museum announces the winners in its 1969 MICHIGAN WEEK CONTEST. This was a contest for projects in local history for local school children in grades three through six. Four Michigan State flags were awarded to the first prize-winning classes, and four U.S. \$25 bonds were awarded to the first prize-winning individuals. Certificates were awarded to second and third prize winners. All prizes were provided by the Dearborn Founders. The winning entries were on exhibit at the Museum May 16th through June 1st.

The winners were: FIRST Miss Doris Matthews' 3rd Grade, Howard; Miss Irma T. Lewis' 4th Grade, Henry Ford; Miss Eileen Killeen's 5th Grade, Haigh; Mr. Donald McKenzie's 6th Grade, Henry Ford; Paula Jean Cicero, 3rd Grade, Nowlin; Thomas Martin, 4th Grade, Haigh; Gary Tyson, 5th Grade, Whitmore-Bolles; and Katy Garrett, 6th Grade, Haigh. SECOND Sr. M. Florentine's 3rd Grade, Sacred Heart; Mrs. Wilma Harrell's 4th Grade, Haigh; Mrs. Sara Lehman's 5th Grade, Howard; Miss Lucille Webster's 6th Grade, Greenfield Village; Kimberly Campbell, 3rd Grade, Howard; Colleen Reilly, 4th Grade, Sacred Heart; Paula Petkoff, 5th Grade, Haigh; and Gregory Morgel, 6th Grade, Lowrey. THIRD Mrs. Mary Ann Kerr's 3rd Grade, Greenfield Village; Mr. Thomas Cataldo's 5th Grade, Henry Ford; Lauren Benyi, 3rd Grade, DuVall; Jeffrey Morgel, 4th Grade, Lowrey; Kieleley Sauginas, 5th Grade, Sacred Heart; and Keith Parker, 6th Grade, Nowlin. Some of the winners appear in the photograph (courtesy of Dearborn's Research and Information Department) at the right.

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ACCESSIONS: April - June, 1969

Dearborn's first Constable's Badge (father of the donor, A. J. Sollinger's), 1927	MRS. DONALD A. BOCK
"Exploring Greater Detroit" by Edith C. Forster	MRS. EDWARD L. CUSHMAN
Miller High's publication "The Tractor", 1927; Fordson High's 1938 & 1943 yearbooks and 1928 Dedication program	MRS. NORMA HALL
Sacred Heart School 50th anniversary (1918-1968) invitation and newspaper clipping	MRS. JOHN B. MOORE
A collection of Dearborn photos & post cards, family photo album, tintypes, and diploma	MRS. PERRY WALLACE
Early eye glasses & case, & 1860 College Report	MRS. KINGSLEY R. MacGUFFEY
1952 Old Timers Luncheon photos, 1944 picture of donor horseback riding, 1914 baseball bat, and copy of 1888 Cosbey-Sims wedding invitation	MISS MILDRED CRONOQUE
1964 & 1965 Detroit College of Business yearbooks	DEARBORN PUBLIC LIBRARY
Material relating to Major Thompson Maxwell and Historical Marker Ceremony at Wallaceville Cemetery	MRS. ANNA HENDRICKSON
Detroit College of Business yearbooks (1966-67-68)	DETROIT COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Clara Bryant's elementary school certificate. A collection of materials & photos relating to the Ford Family Cemetery & St. Martha's Episcopal Church	MR. H. REX WADDELL
Newspaper clippings & commemorative supplements	MR. ALFRED W. SCHLUCHTER
Church & Club directories & programs and Dearborn Public School Progress Report	MRS. DOROTHY BUTLER
\$64 Question Eversharp pen & pencil set	MR. WILLIAM O. PFEIFFER
Ostrich plumes, umbrella & corset cover	MRS. ARTHUR MAINS
Dearborn High School 1928 Commencement Program	GEORGE KONOPKA, JR.
1968 & 1969 "Shamrock", Sacred Heart High School yearbooks	SISTER JOSEPHINE SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL
16 mm. color film, "Pioneering With Power"	MR. RICHARD L. ROUTH FORD MOTOR COMPANY

An extensive collection of materials including books, pamphlets, programs, rosters, manuscripts, documents, personal papers & correspondence, china, photos, albums, slides, souvenirs, badges & pins, sewing materials, costumes & accessories, dolls, picture cards, crocheted spreads & household items, egg basket & house jack; Mary Haight's manuscripts, documents, school related materials, personal papers & effects; Amanda Dietrich's scrapbooks, Indian designs & art needle work; Sarah & Amanda Dietrich's recipes; & numerous exhibit items	MR. FLOYD L. HAIGHT
Toy blimp & dump truck and 1956 Ford model car	MRS. MARCIA J. MILLIGAN
Four car cast-iron toy train set. ca. 1900	MR. RICHARD L. McNELLY
Combination hammer, axe & nail puller, ca. 1900	DEARBORN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Two china head dolls, ca. 1870 & 1880	MRS. JOHN SNOW
1920's Kodak & mirror wall lamp fixture	MRS. ETHEL M. BERNTH
Concrete & metal hitching weight	MIKE CELESKI
Haggerty Brick Company pencils	MRS. MATTIE HESLEY
1850's map of canal plans	MRS. ESSIE M. HAYNOR
Nine flags of foreign countries	LENA ZICK
Collection of old "National Geographic Magazines"	MRS. LILLIAN WILSON
Sewing materials and 1898 view of Detroit	MRS. DONALD GRIFFIN
Early slaw cutter	MRS. AGNES RICHARDSON
Wood barrel churn, 1919 cultivator & 1958 TV	MUSEUM GUILD OF DEARBORN
Photostat copies of Reckinger pictures & items	MR. WILLIAM C. RECKINGER
Detrola clock radio & Underwood typewriter	DEARBORN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Lace maker, cover & accessories; dress, apron, candle mold and silk scarf	MR. JOHN E. BEEKER
Covered glass cheese preserver & Millers Falls grinding stone	MR. & MRS. HAROLD A. JESPERSON
Photos of Law house & Buferd's Station, glass pen, inkwells & compote, & flag flown at Buferd's store	MRS. CARRIE BUFERD

Material relating to the "Red Arrow" World War I 32nd Division & Veteran Association

LT. COL. JOHN D. McDANIELS

A collection of costume items & accessories (1860-1940) and exhibit materials

MRS. ROGER DENTON

Edison Disk Records

MRS. JACK B. SLUITER

Lady's 1950's hat

MRS. DONALD HATCH

Dearborn area photos taken between 1918 & 1929

MR. A. L. SPOONER

A collection of material relating to Fordson schools including memos, letters, proposals, reports, publications, & specifications

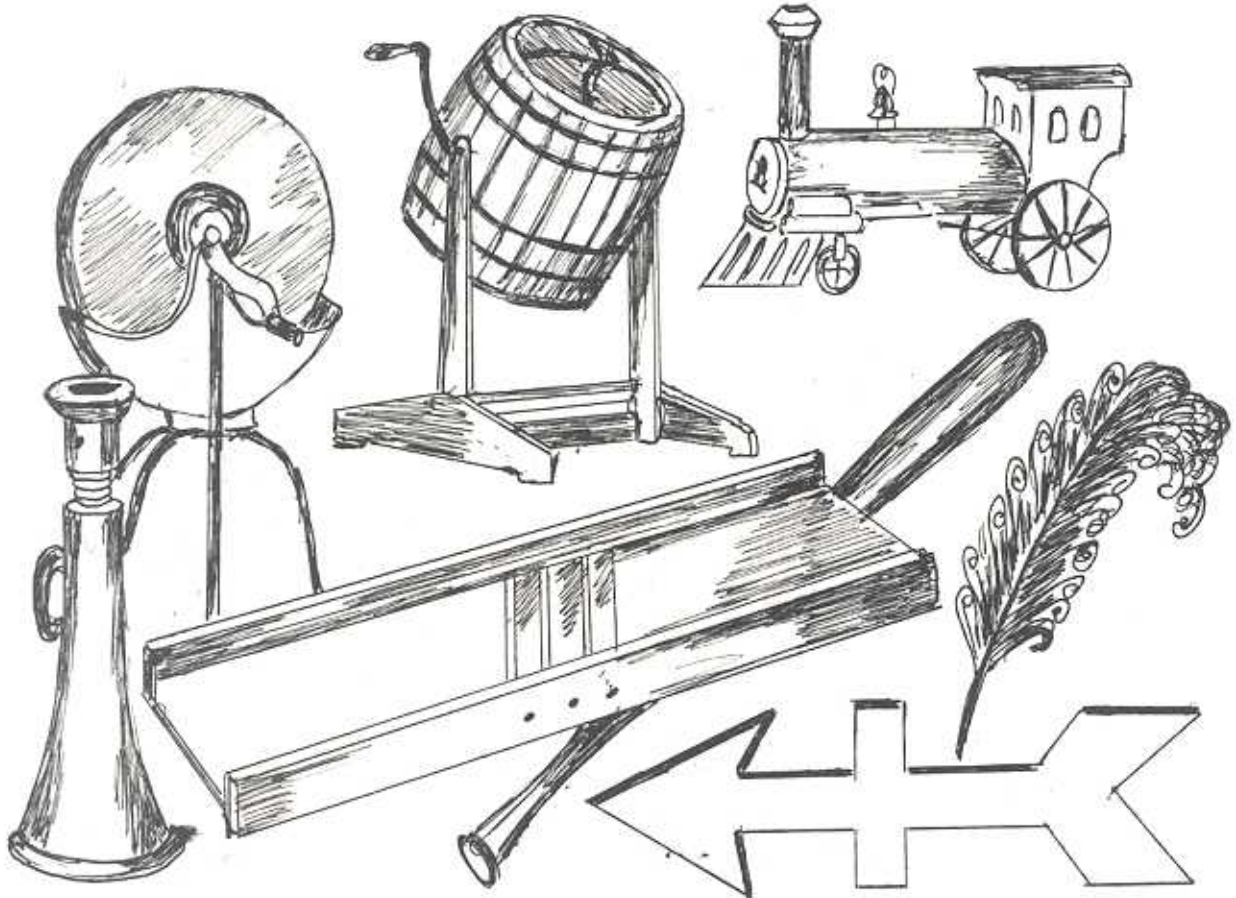
MISS ALICE E. BENN, ARCHIVIST
FORD MOTOR CO. ARCHIVES

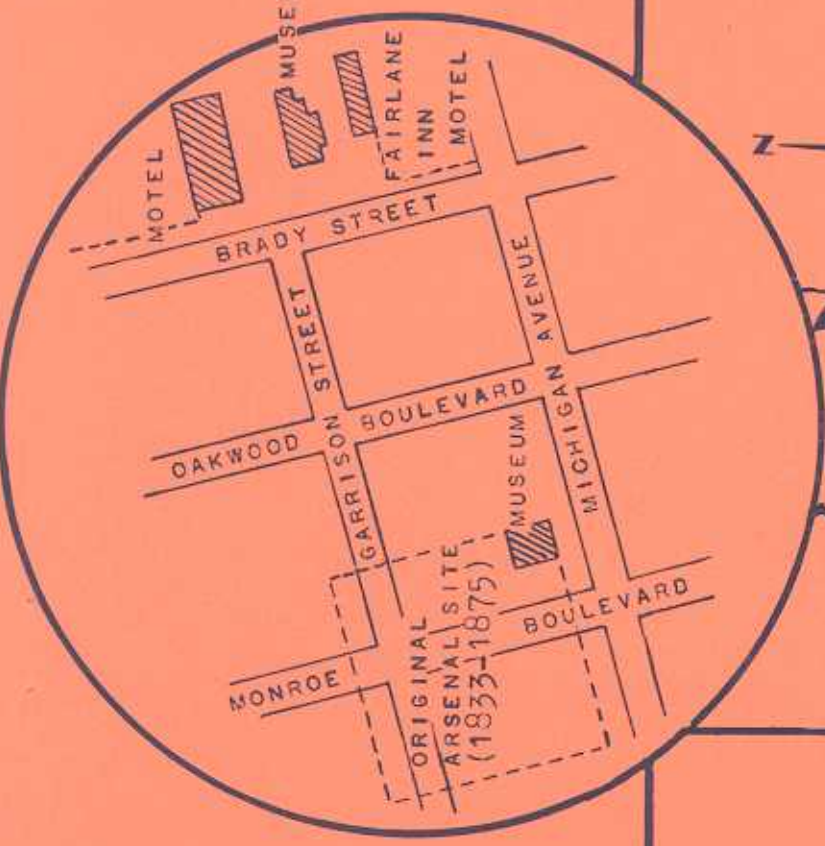
Henry A. Haigh's Memoranda Book (1911-1913)

MR. CHARLES A. AUSTIN

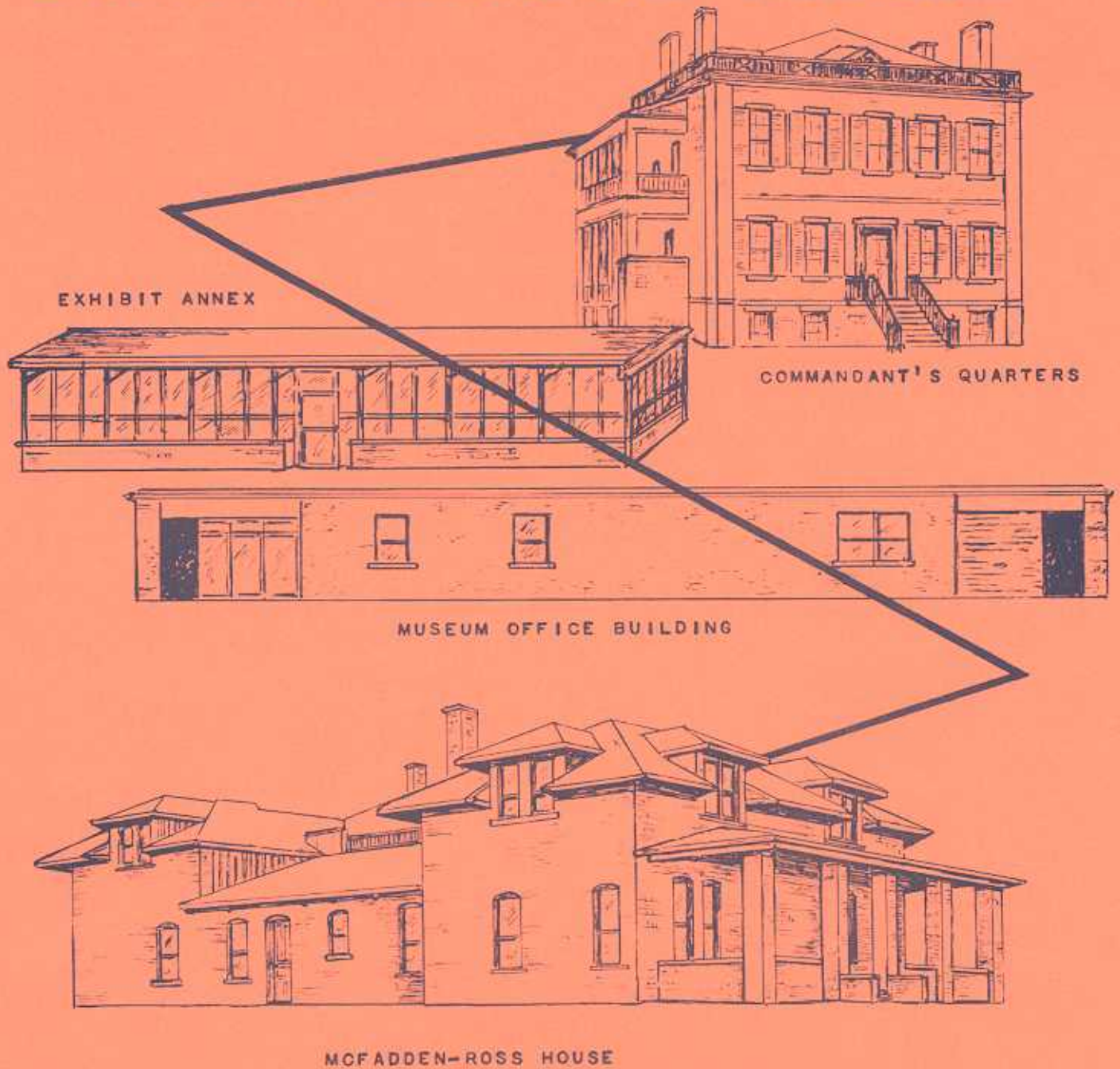
Model of a castle

MRS. MARIE R. FLANNERY





Dearborn Historical Museum



COMMANDANT'S QUARTERS
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TELEPHONE: 561-9438

OPEN 10:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M., TUESDAYS - FRIDAYS;
9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M., SATURDAYS;
2:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M., SUNDAYS.
CLOSED MONDAYS EXCEPT FOR TOUR AND LECTURE APPOINTMENTS.

BUSINESS TELEPHONE: 274-3170
FREE ADMISSION