

# The Dearborn Historian

Quarterly of the Dearborn Historical Museum  
Spring 2019 Volume 56, Number 3



## Finding a Permanent Home for the Arts

Read more about the history of the Dearborn Arts Community on page 3.

Also in this issue: Celebrating Clara Ford, Part 2 of an interview with Ray Adams, and a joy ride on a tractor





## Announcing the Winners of the 2019 State History Awards

**Communications: Printed Periodicals—“The Dearborn Historian” published by the Dearborn Historical Commission**

We are very pleased to share with our readers that The Dearborn Historian has won a prestigious history award from the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM). Below are some excerpts included in the press release put out by the HSM.

The award was presented during its annual Michigan History Conference in Ludington, Michigan, Sept. 27-29, 2019. The Society presents the State History Awards every year to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the appreciation, collection, preservation and/or promotion of state and local history. The awards are the highest recognition presented by the Historical Society of Michigan, the state's official historical society and oldest cultural organization.

The Dearborn Historian won in the category of Communications: Printed Periodicals. According to its press release, the following description was put forth as to why the Dearborn Historian won: In 2011, “The Dearborn Historian” decided to highlight challenging topics of local history, offering readers a compelling series of articles on subjects traditionally left untouched, such as Dearborn’s rapidly growing Arab community and longtime mayor Orville Hubbard’s advocacy of racial segregation. Worldwide attention fixed on Dearborn this year when the current mayor prohibited distribution of an edition of the publication highlighting Henry Ford’s anti-Semitism.

The publication was nominated for this award by Jonathon Stanton, Chairman of the Dearborn Historical Commission. As Jonathon rightly points out, it has been an extraordinary journey for the quarterly and for the museum over the last eight years. And despite controversies of the past or those that might arise in the future, the goal is still, as Jonathon points out, “to take up the challenge of researching and writing about real history.” This award serves to honor what has been accomplished as well as to serve as an impetus to continue producing quality historical material for the purpose of both educating and producing an appreciation of what has come before us. That goal will continue to be pursued.



The Historical Society of Michigan is the state's oldest cultural organization, founded in 1828 by territorial governor Lewis Cass and explorer Henry Schoolcraft. A nongovernmental nonprofit, the Society focuses on publications, conferences, education, awards and recognition programming, and support for local history organizations to preserve and promote Michigan's rich history.

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Dearborn Community Arts Council  
Celebrates 50 Years  
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A Dearborn in Dearborn  
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The Dearborn Historical Museum

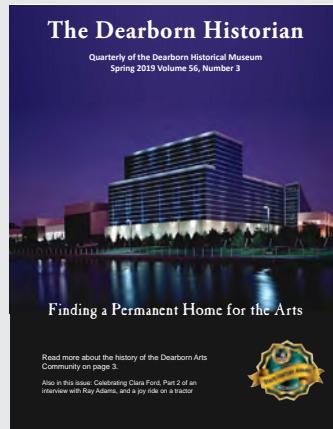
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# Greetings from the Editor

**Craig Hutchison**

I truly hope you enjoy the eclectic range of topics presented in this edition. The goals of those who create the content for this publication will always be in part to inform and enrich but there is also an element of inspiration which it is hoped leads to further exploration beyond these pages. Come by the Museum and take a tour. Check out the latest exhibits. Consider an upcoming event. There are even opportunities to become more intimately involved with Dearborn history with the many volunteer positions available. Whatever you may have an interest in, Museum staff will find a way to involve your talents.

This issue continues with part two of an interview with Ray Adams, who served in various capacities throughout his career in Dearborn including Superintendent of Dearborn schools. The interview, taken in 1970, provides a window into the early 20th Century and the changes that the school system went through during that time. Author and researcher Jessica Carreras returns with the second part of her series on the history of the Dearborn Community Arts Council and the arts community in Dearborn. I continue to delve into historical signage that commemorates historical events and people through the series "Discovering Dearborn's Hidden History." One of the major reasons Dearborn draws visitors from all over the world is the presence of The Henry Ford. Two articles within have a Greenfield Village focus and I hope to provide more in the future as the importance of having this institution in our backyard cannot be overstated.

I feel it is important to incorporate various facets of the Museum into this publication in order to provide you, the reader, with insights into what is housed here and to show what is being accomplished in

terms of history related work. With that in mind, two new series will be included in future issues. From the Collections will cover topics related to items in the collection and everything from accessioning to restoration to exhibits. From the Archives will provide a vehicle to highlight items found in the archives and archival materials the public can access. The information presented in these topics will be submitted by staff members who work in the related arena. My hope is that both of these series will provide insight and a behind the scenes look into topics the public would not ordinarily know anything about.

I would be remiss if I did not inform our readers of some very exciting news. The Historical Society of Michigan recently announced its 2019 State History Awards. These awards are given every year to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the appreciation, collection, preservation and/or promotion of state and local history. The awards are the highest recognition presented by the Historical Society of Michigan, the state's official historical society and oldest cultural organization. The Dearborn Historian was announced as the winner in the Communications: Printed Periodicals category. Find out more about the presenting of this award on the inside front cover.

I encourage you to visit our newest exhibit about Henry Ford's newspaper, The Dearborn Independent. Visit [thedhm.com](http://thedhm.com) for more information on upcoming events and Museum happenings. As always, if you have any questions or ideas about topics that you would like to see covered, please feel free to email me at [craigehutchison@gmail.com](mailto:craigehutchison@gmail.com)

## MUSEUM GUILD OF DEARBORN ENDOWMENT FUND INFORMATION

All donations are tax-deductible.

Gifts can be made in cash, checks, stocks, bonds and other assets, as well as by a will. Checks should be payable to the Museum Guild of Dearborn, noting the Endowment on the memo line.

Checks and pledges can be mailed to:

Museum Guild of Dearborn  
2612 Burns Street  
Dearborn, MI 48124

For more information, contact the Museum Guild of Dearborn at (313) 363-3560.

If you would like to help us ensure the future of the Dearborn Historical Museum and its programs through a donation to the Museum Guild of Dearborn Endowment, please complete this form and return it to the Museum Guild:

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I would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Museum Guild Endowment.

# A Home for the Arts in Dearborn

By Jessica Carreras

*Editor's Note: Jessica Carreras is a proud third-generation Dearborn resident. She lives in a lovingly restored 1890s farmhouse with her husband and son, plus a dog and two cats. Jessica was well-known to Dearborn residents as the editor of the online publication Dearborn Patch, and also served as a City of Dearborn employee. Currently, she works as the Communications Manager for United Way for Southeastern Michigan. Jessica has served on the board of the Dearborn Community Arts Council since 2013. This is part two of a series on the history of the Dearborn Community Arts Council and community focusing on the creation of a permanent home for the arts.*

Mayor Michael Guido had a vision for Dearborn. A place where residents gathered and out-of-towners flocked to experience arts, culture, recreation and community. He dreamt of a state-of-the-art theater where world-class artists and local groups alike could perform. “He envisioned an Italian piazza, with all sorts of people visiting and things happening,” says EmmaJean Woodyard, executive director of the Dearborn Community Fund and former board president and then executive director of the Dearborn Community Arts Council.

It wasn’t a straight road from conception to reality, and it took nearly four decades — or maybe more, depending on who you ask — to make it happen. The Dearborn Community Arts Council, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019, was involved for nearly the entirety of the organization’s existence.

## ***A gift from Ford, with lots of potential***

But the story begins in 1957, 12 years before the DCAC was formed and nearly three decades before Mayor Guido would take office.

That year, Ford Motor Company gifted the city a 50-acre property at the corner of Michigan and Greenfield. According to an article in the Dearborn Independent, Mayor Orville

Hubbard “said that the first to be built would be a fire station, police building, youth center and parking. Future plans call for construction of a new city hall, auditorium, sports arena, library and health center.”

Of course, as we now know, not all of those plans came to fruition. That swath of land became the site, among many other things, for the Dearborn Civic Center. But the inclusion of the visual and performing arts came much later.

In the 1970s, Ford Motor Land Development planned to gift more land to the city for construction of a “Dearborn Performing Arts Center,” according to an article in the Dearborn Press &

Guide. The project was projected to cost \$10 million and “serve as a center for the performing arts.” According to the article, a second, larger auditorium was suggested to be built just west of the then-new Henry Ford Centennial Library. At the helm of the project was the city’s Arts Commission, appointed by city council with help from the DCAC.

The Dearborn Symphony Orchestra primarily led the push for the performing arts center. The group planned to use the arts center site near the Hyatt as their home for performance and practice.

But the project wasn’t meant to be. Economic changes and changing dynamics of the organizations involved, says Woodyard, led to the project fizzling out.

In the mid-1980s, with Woodyard working for the DCAC and Michael Guido newly elected as mayor, conversations about a high-quality performing arts center were revived.

“The city was interested in renovations for the recreation piece of the Civic Center, and the Dearborn Symphony was pushing for adding a theater,” she recalls. “The DCAC did a survey to find out what the community would use the facility for, how often would they use it.”

It was determined from the survey that an 800-seat auditorium



*City Gallery, Dearborn City Hall, 1990*



*Mayor Guido during Lobby/Gallery Construction*  
January 2001



*Joanna Padzieski Cortright (right)  
at Padzieski Gallery Grand Opening, 2001*



*First Visitors, September 2001*

would fill the need of community groups. But Mayor Guido had bigger plans in mind for the theater. What they ended up with was a much-larger 1,200-seat theater that could handle both local groups and large-scale performances — from musical acts to professional theater and dance.

The entire construction project was projected to cost more than \$40 million, and eventually was funded by both a voter-approved millage, as well as a capital campaign run by the Dearborn Community Fund, which was formed in 2000.

### ***The Padzieski Gallery***

At first, adding a gallery wasn't on the table—at least not on Mayor Guido's table. The gallery "was not even on the agenda," says Woodyard.

But the DCAC always had a professional, public gallery as part of their plans. In the late 1980s, Mayor Guido gave the DCAC use of the fourth floor of what was then City Hall, at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Schaefer. The organization was tasked with prepping the space to be used as a gallery and office space, but "once [the city] saw how hard we were working on it, they said they would help with it," Woodyard says, "and we cobbled this thing together and that became the first city public gallery." The gallery held its grand opening in October 1989.

But it wasn't long before the DCAC went to Mayor Guido with a proposal: The gallery should be part of the plans to renovate and add onto the Civic Center. The organization's asks were specific:

It had to be a real, state-of-the-art gallery, and it had to have a locking door so the gallery could host higher-profile shows. Frank and Mary Padzieski — longtime supporters of the arts in Dearborn — helped fund the gallery, and it was named in their honor.

### ***A home for the arts***

The Ford Community and Performing Arts Center opened to the public in 2001. There was a ribbon cutting, and there were high-profile speakers and performances, and the first-ever show in the Padzieski Gallery.

With the opening of the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center Mayor Guido's vision — and the vision of dozens of arts and cultural organizations and supporters — became reality. Dearborn's arts and culture community finally had a permanent home.

One Monday night years later, EmmaJean remembers, she was in The Center. Kids were running to Dearborn Youth Symphony practice, while other kids walked by in tutus. Nearby, residents in workout clothes headed to the gym. There were families and young adults; senior citizens and teenagers; kids looking to play basketball and arts patrons seeing the latest works in the gallery. One happy thought came to mind for EmmaJean: "Mayor Guido's dream came true."



# CELEBRATING “CLARA” BRYANT FORD’S CONTRIBUTIONS

By Shirley R. Damps

On October 21, 2019, The Henry Ford, (The Edison Institute), celebrated its 90th Anniversary. Co-founders, Clara and Henry Ford, continue to be discussed in many circles in terms of their legacy. While Henry is understandably in the limelight most of the time, Clara’s pursuits throughout her life deserve to be considered in the light of how those pursuits affected those around her. Several of those pursuits were recently celebrated as several honors were bestowed upon Clara Bryant Ford in Greenfield Village. Discussing these honors allows us to share three aspects of Clara’s life and consider them with a fresh perspective.

As a Master Presenter in Greenfield Village and a member of The Clara Bryant Ford Society it is humbling to share three honors of permanency in the landscape of our sacred earth that will serve as talking points for years to come. With the approval of The Henry Ford and many who share the same passion for Clara Bryant Ford and all she contributed to society; each honor speaks to something greater than an individual.

First, the Sun-Dial, placed in the Cotswold Garden, was restored and commemorated in Clara Bryant Ford’s name by the National Farm and Garden Bureau which she served as President of for eight consecutive years. Close to 1000 guests were present when Mrs. Benson Ford hosted the original dedication in 1952. The Garden Sun-dial was the most appropriate memorial to the type of garden that Clara had organized here. The following article describes just what Clara had designed and built in those early days:

The delegates salute Mrs. Ford . . . as she supervised and watched from day-to-day all the Garden in Greenfield Village. Her special delight were the plantings in Cotswold Cottage . . . For this garden, Gustav Munchow, her maintenance manager, recalled that Mrs. Ford selected an old-fashioned English-type garden including petunias, snapdragons, carnations, bachelor buttons, English daisies, violas, delphinium, lupine phlox, bleeding hearts, zinnia, old English lavender and at the base of the stone buildings are planted brilliant flowers. From the minute the Cottage was erected, Mrs. Ford was on hand to supervise plantings.

A vegetable garden was in the back of the house and on summer evenings, after the Village was closed, Mrs. Ford

would be accompanied to the plot by Henry, basket in arm, to pick vegetables for their own use . . . Tomatoes, kale, radishes, spinach, lettuce beets, cabbage, carrots, kohlrabi, onions, peas, green and yellow beans; all planted by Mrs. Ford’s direction. There were gooseberry bushes on the grounds, but Mrs. Ford’s favorite were old-English black currants. On the weekends, when the kitchen staff at Fairlane had their days off, Mrs. Ford fixed all her husband’s meals herself with vegetables she had picked from Cotswold Cottage. Mr. Ford in turn, helped with the dishes.”

(The Detroit News, May 16, 1954)

Over the decades, the sun-dial and pedestal had deteriorated to the point where they were ready for a complete restoration. It took several months of repair by the restoration team, before returning the sun-dial to the garden; its rightful place of honor.

Gardening was always near and dear to Clara’s heart and it was always her goal to share that love with others. When the Garden Club of Dearborn was formed, Clara was named the first President. The early goals of the club, which Clara helped to establish, were to advance horticulture and gardening and to improve the community. They achieved their goals by installing plantings at the schools in the Dearborn community. She also served on the boards of more than 30 other local, state, and national garden-related groups. The magnificent grounds of the Ford’s 1,300-acre estate, Fair Lane, featured extensive gardens,



The Costwold Cottage

including a five-acre rose garden that boasted 10,000 plants of 350 varieties. Clara worked closely with Jens Jensen, the famous prairie style landscape architect, and other notable horticulturalists, to lay out the grounds. But perhaps her favorite of all was cottage style gardens and hence the Cotswold Cottage served as a haven for her and now as a testimony to her accomplishments.

For the second honor, a site several yards away from the cottage was chosen, in a grassy, open area; a spacious place of honor. This was the perfect setting to place the 40 foot, Red Obelisk, Columnar European Beech Tree which turns a deep maroon in the fall. Edsel and Eleanor Ford searched for a Beech Tree with the help of Jens Jenson to honor Clara and Henry Ford’s 50th Wedding Anniversary. The one they found stands in front of the Fairlane



**The interior of the Cotswold Cottage**

Estate; a simple connection with Clara's English background. Certainly, that is one of the reasons that the Cotswold Cottage travelled to Dearborn from England. While traveling in England, Clara fell in love with the architecture of these stone cottages and the gardens incorporated near them. She vowed to recreate the charm of it all in Dearborn.

Third, the Michigan Women's Study Association in Celebration of Michigan Women awarded Clara Bryant Ford's induction into the Hall of Fame on October 18, 2017, in Lansing, Michigan. Researching Clara Bryant Ford's distinctive accomplishments over an 18-month period was an incredible endeavor which included the study of her contributions of an enduring nature to the social, cultural, economic and political well-being of the Dearborn community and also the Detroit area and beyond. The Hall of Fame relates the following:

Through her philanthropic endeavors and own self-determination, Clara Bryant Ford made it her life's mission to improve the life and welfare of women and those in poverty-stricken areas across the country. Clara Ford and her husband, Henry, created and funded numerous programs that focused on women's rights and self-sufficiency, education, healthcare, and environmentalism. Vista Maria, originally a home for orphaned girls, the School of Nursing and Hygiene at Henry Ford Hospital, Planned Parenthood (1945-her death). They also supported

several small liberal arts colleges such as Berry College, Vassar, and Radcliff.

Born into a farming family, Mrs. Ford was an avid gardener and promoted the idea of urban gardens during the Great Depression amongst the Ford Motor Company employees. She donated food grown on her family's farms to more than a dozen institutions on a weekly basis. From 1924-1932, Mrs. Ford served as president of



**A plaque in Clara's honor was presented and installed on a bench across from the Cotswold Cottage.**

the Women's National Farm & Gardens Association during which time she created a "Roadside Market" campaign that encouraged rural women to sell their home-grown produce at roadside stands, enabling them to earn their own income.

Clara Ford was also active in the suffrage movement. By 1918 she was an outspoken advocate and organizer for women's suffrage campaign, serving as Vice Chair of the Dearborn branch of the Equal Suffrage League of Wayne County with meetings being held frequently at her Fair Lane home. In 1921, she served on the Board of Directors of the Michigan League of Women Voters.

A plaque in Clara's honor was presented and installed on a bench across from the Cotswold Cottage.

Here are a few thoughts to ponder . . . Poetry written by Sarah Satterthwaite Leslie, and read aloud, by a close friend of Clara's, Mrs. Orla Taylor, in the late 1920s, to a small group of friends. These words could have been spoken by Clara and certainly the sentiments are hers.

"Would you in my garden loiter, friend of mine  
I could place within your power  
Secret spell of every flower;  
Resting here for half an hour,  
In my shady arbor, framed with swaying vine.

'Tis a spot of sweet enchantment, - this I own;  
For some magic in the air  
Sundering all bonds of care  
Mingles in a medley rare  
Deepest joys and dearest dreams my heart has known.

Here from busy world apart I love to stray,  
While from flower-faces dear  
Messages of hope and cheer  
Flutter to my listening ear,

And my fancy flood with thoughts from far away.

And oh, for a day, a perfect day blending many in one,  
Blessed with freedom of feet astray, with the joy of sky and  
sun,  
With never a care for the when or where,  
Till its long glad course were run!"

("An Appreciation", Orla Taylor Interview)

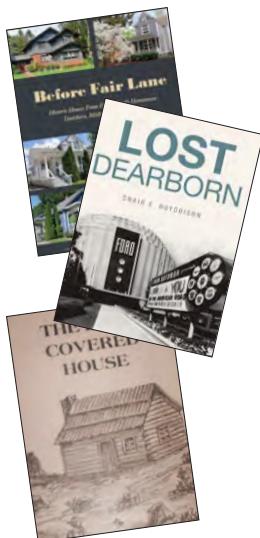
Take a stroll. Walk by the Cotswold Cottage. It isn't very far. Read a poem. Check out the tributes to a woman who did much with what she had to give. Smell the flowers. And then go and carve out a path inspired by what you have learned and experienced.



**The Garden Sun Dial**



# Dearborn Historical Museum Gift Shop



Own one of our best sellers below by visiting our website at [thedhm.com](http://thedhm.com)

## **Before Fair Lane**

This publication was conceptualized as a project to educate the public about historic homes in Dearborn as well as to increase awareness of the Dearborn Historical Museum. The book includes photos of 149 still standing homes and 42 homes that have been torn down.

## **Lost Dearborn**

Throughout its existence, Dearborn has been a pioneer settlement, a multicultural hub, a college town, a major tourism center and a world-renowned industrial city. Author Craig E. Hutchison endeavors to immortalize the important foundational building blocks of an evolving city.

## **The Bark Covered House**

A graphic and thrilling description of real pioneer life in the wilderness of Michigan. by William Nowlin

# INDIAN HILL: MOUND REPLACED BY TELEGRAPH ROAD AND SHOPPING CENTERS

by Mason Christensen

*About two and a half miles southwest of our house there was a large sand hill. Huckleberries grew there in abundance. I went there and picked some myself. On the top of that hill we found Indian graves, where some had been recently buried. There were pens built of old logs and poles around them, and we called it the "Indian hill." It is known by that name to this day. The old telegraph road runs right round under the brow of this hill.*

*-William Nowlin in his childhood memoir The Bark Covered House*

Native American mounds once existed in numerous locations around the Dearborn and Metro Detroit area but unfortunately most were eliminated with little fanfare. Thanks to archaeologists and writings by surveyor Bella Hubbard and others, some documentation exists of mounds existing in the area of Detroit's Fort Wayne. In the Dearborn area, mounds survived into the 20th century in areas acquired by Ford Motor Company along the River Rouge. However, precise information about their history in more modern times is lacking. In the northern portion of Taylor, a mound referred to as "Indian Hill" by William Nowlin and later sources is easier to discuss because its location along Telegraph Road allowed it to be better documented by area maps.

Wet prairie and timberland dominated the landscape of northern Taylor during the early nineteenth century according

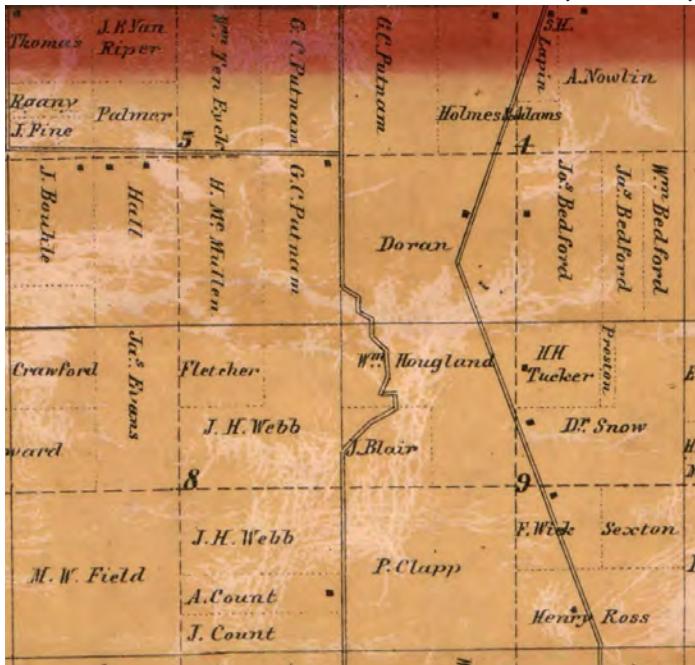


Ojibwa Burial Ground at Chicagon Lake photographed by the Detroit News in 1928. The pens in the image likely looked similar to those found on the top of "Indian Hill" in Taylor by William Nowlin. Image is courtesy of the Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University.

to information collected by surveyors of the US General Land Office and mapped by Bella Hubbard. Other areas were described as “clayey with sand knolls.” One such spot was “Indian Hill” along Telegraph Road in the area between Hayes and Carleton streets. It likely began as a sand hill which served as a high point between tributaries of Ecorse Creek. With the burial of Native Americans in the hill, it might have been expanded to an extent but likely not a large amount.

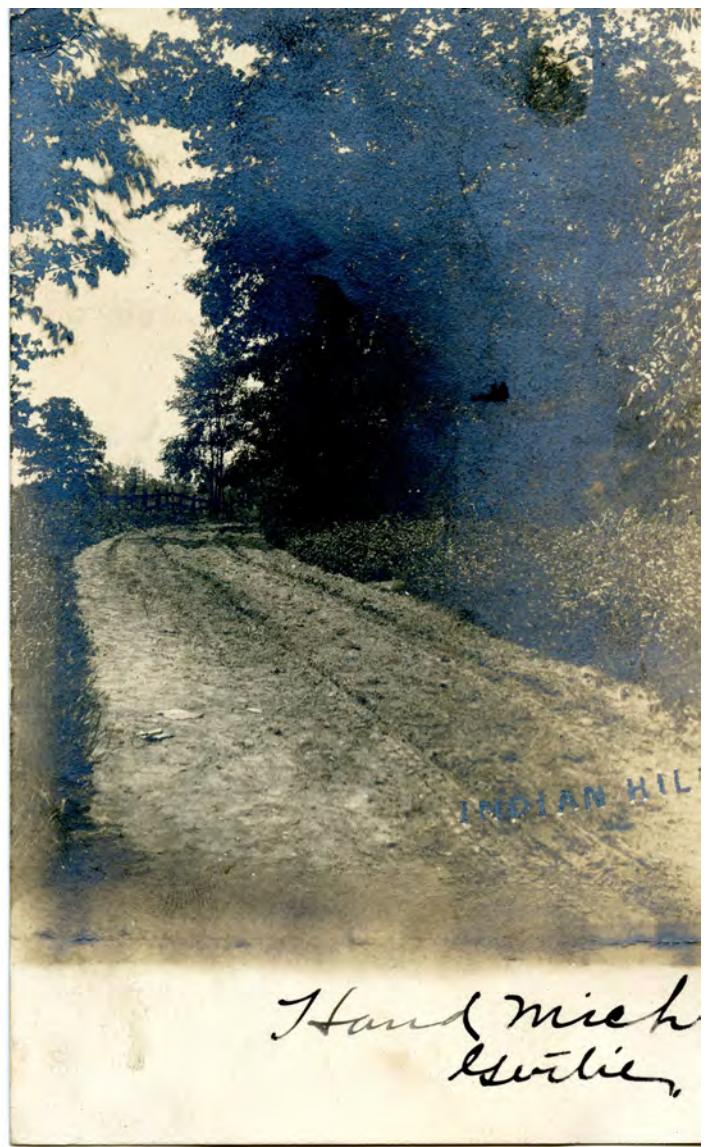
Given the scale of “Indian Hill,” it was likely constructed no earlier than when the surviving mound at Fort Wayne was built which would place its construction somewhere between around 800-1400 AD. It was located in an area where numerous low sand ridges crisscrossed the landscape which likely served as transportation corridors for Native Americans. Unfortunately, which groups built Native American mounds in Metro Detroit is not entirely known. Ancestors of tribes such as the Wyandot, Sauk, Fox, and Kickapoo would have been present in the area while groups such as the Potawatomi and Ojibwa didn’t arrive in the area in large numbers until the 1700s. Graves found on “Indian Hill” by William Nowlin in the mid-1800s may have been members of the Wyandot tribe who had a significant presence along the Huron River. The graves may also have been associated with the Potawatomi who lived along the Rouge River in Oakland County.

Evidence of “Indian Hill” first appeared in maps in 1860 as a significant detour of Telegraph Road which stretched for over a half mile. Some who have studied Taylor history have argued that the map shows “Indian Hill” was once truly massive. Later maps suggest the detour of Telegraph Road was about more than the mound. An atlas of Wayne County



The vicinity of Indian Hill in Taylor Township as shown in the 1860 Geil, Harley, & Siverd Map of Wayne County Michigan. Telegraph and Pardee Streets are the main roads visible on the map.

produced in 1876 shows a mound specifically labeled “Indian Hill. Furthermore, it includes drainage ditches that were constructed north and south of “Indian Hill” to handle excess water from naturally swampy lands in Taylor. No portion of “Indian Hill” was likely removed to build these ditches as



Postcard of Telegraph Road looking north at Indian Hill with a 1908 postmark

construction crews usually sought low lying land to construct them. As swampy land was plentiful in Taylor, it would have been needlessly burdensome to demolish part of a mound. On later maps, Long Ditch, which crossed Telegraph at the site of Walmart and Snow Ditch named after Dearborn's Doctor Edward Snow help define the limits of where “Indian Hill” was located.

“Indian Hill” remained a highly visible elevation feature on late 19th and early 20th century maps of what is now the city of Taylor. By 1915, “Indian Hill” still showed up as a high point on a Wayne County map but by this point it was featured less significantly than earlier maps. Fill from

turn to page 12

# THE COHEN MILLINERY BUILDING AT GREENFIELD VILLAGE

By Joseph Oldenburg

**A**s a boy my parents took me to Greenfield Village to see a clock which had been sold to Fred Oldenburg, my grandfather, by a teen-aged Henry Ford in 1880 at the Magill Jewelry Store in Detroit. The building is now at Greenfield Village and is known as the Cohen Millinery Shop. The building was originally located at 444 Baker Street in Detroit's Corktown neighborhood. When it was acquired for Greenfield Village in 1936, it was thought to be the Magill Jewelry Store, where a teenaged Henry Ford had moonlighted as a watch repairman after working his day job at a Detroit machine shop. However, research conducted in 1981 revealed that 444 Baker was not the Magill Jewelry Store! The Magill store had actually been located at 459 Baker, across the street and down at the next intersection from 444 Baker. (Perhaps, after a half century, Ford did not remember the building correctly. Or his agents may have found that 459 Baker no longer existed and purchased 444 Baker because it was available).



**Mrs. Cohen with her daughter when building was at 444 Baker Street, Detroit, MI**

Research also revealed that, from 1894 to 1902, a woman named Elizabeth Cohen had run a millinery store at 444 Baker Street. It was decided to use the building to interpret the intriguing story of this widowed entrepreneur, working in a traditionally female occupation.

But, did Mrs. Cohen own or rent the building? Some research had been done in the past on the ownership issue, but there was no firm answer to the question.

The store at 444 Street in Detroit was built by Deodatus

Whitwood in 1878, a vice president of the Wayne County Savings Bank, probably as an investment to rent out. It was two story, made of brick with living quarters on the second floor and space for a shop downstairs, a standard practice of the day. There was a fancy goods store there in 1880, grocery in 1881, dry goods in 1882. From 1885- 1893 Daniel Cohen is listed at the address running a dry goods store.

On March 4, 1894 Daniel Cohen died of pneumonia after having shoveled snow outside a store he was part owner of across from St. Anne's Church and also outside of 444 Baker Street. This left his widow Elizabeth to go on alone with her four young children. Elizabeth was not without resources. She and Daniel had thought ahead. In August 1893 they had purchased the store at 444 Baker Street for \$3000 from the three daughters of Mr. Whitwood, the original builder who had died in 1884. Elizabeth moved her successful millinery shop from 442 Baker into her



**Structure can be seen today in Greenfield Village, Dearborn, MI.**

husband's dry goods shop at 444 Baker and even invested further in real estate. In April 1894, Elizabeth Cohen purchased 442 Baker--the store next to her millinery shop at 444 Baker--from the Whitwood daughters for \$1100. She then rented it to various people who operated confectionary stores in the building from 1894 to 1900.

Elizabeth Cohen married Patrick Nolan on September 19, 1898. Mr. Nolan had boarded with Mrs. Cohen in the late 1890s. In January of 1900, she sold the buildings at 444 Baker and 442 Baker to Andrew C. Wood and his wife Agnes for \$1700. Though she had sold the building, Elizabeth Cohen Nolan apparently continued to run her millinery store at 444 Baker until about 1902. In 1900 she still lived above the store as she was reported in the 1900 census at the 444 Baker street address. Elizabeth and Patrick Nolan moved out of 444 Baker Street in 1902 and lived at other Detroit addresses until her death, of cancer, November 8, 1918.

There was a major depression in the United States from 1893-1897 so this may account for why the price for the buildings dropped dramatically -1893-1894 \$4100 1900- \$1700.

What happened to 444 Baker after Mrs. Cohen closed her millinery store and left the building? Over the following decades, it was occupied by businesses that included a saloon, dry cleaning store, confectioner, a Kroger Grocery & Baking Company, and a restaurant. Henry Ford acquired it for Greenfield Village in October 1935 and it was moved to Greenfield Village opening as

Magill Jewelry Store Spring 1936- 1981. Since 1981 it has been known as Cohen Millinery.

Originally published in, In the Know, The Henry Ford, December 2018.

#### Sources

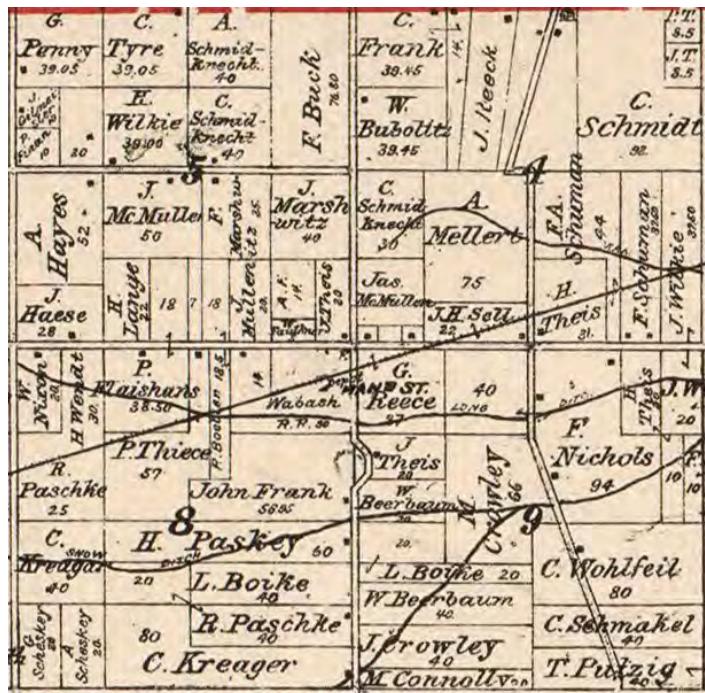
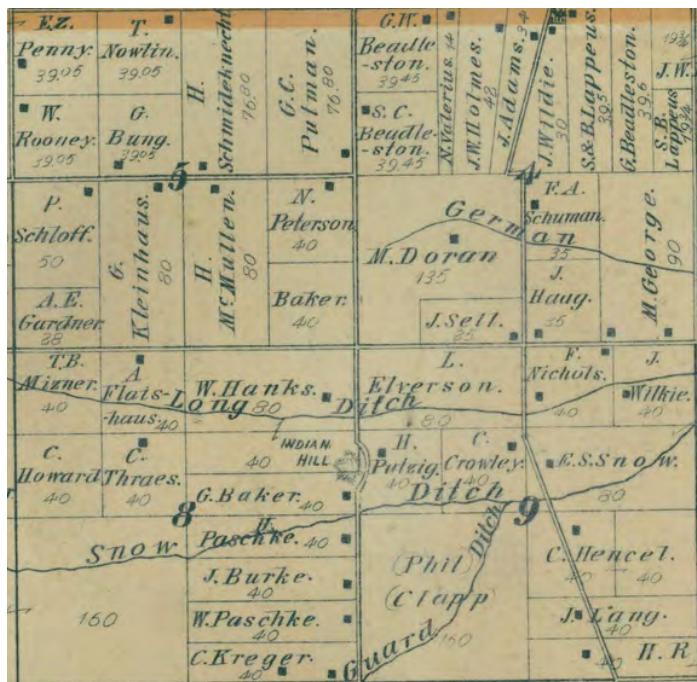
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#### Indian Hill continued from page 10

the mound was likely taken for farm uses and construction projects such as the nearby Wabash Railroad over time. Unfortunately, the improvement of Telegraph Road starting in 1919 likely destroyed much of what was left of the mound.

Any remaining element was likely wiped out with the creation of the Ecorte and Telegraph Road interchange in 1936.



Left: 1876 Illustrated historical atlas of the county of Wayne, Michigan published by Sauer Brothers. Right: 1915 map of Wayne County Michigan

# FROM THE COLLECTIONS

## TURNING THE TABLES: Restoring Two Long-Forgotten Museum Artifacts

By Matthew Graff, Collections Manager  
Dearborn Historical Museum

*With the help of three dedicated volunteers and funds from an Americana grant, two long-forgotten Museum artifacts have recently been repaired and restored. Lead collections volunteers Tom Saroglia and Harold Rahrig, along with conservationist Mark Gervasi, have poured hundreds of hours of work into this ambitious project.*

*Part 1: The Wagner Bar Table*

Constructed in 1896, the Wagner Hotel is a Dearborn landmark, recognizable for its iconic spire and rooftop. This bar table was owned by Charles Schoetle when he had a bar in the old Wagner Hotel building. Schupper glasses for beer



were kept on the ledges under the top of the table. This table was quite literally in pieces for decades, long-forgotten until its discovery by Museum collections staff and volunteers.

Knowing the significance of the table itself, a new project was initiated to repair the extensive damage that had been done to the table over the years. Collections volunteers Tom Saroglia and Harold Rahrig spearheaded a campaign to restore the table to its original glory.





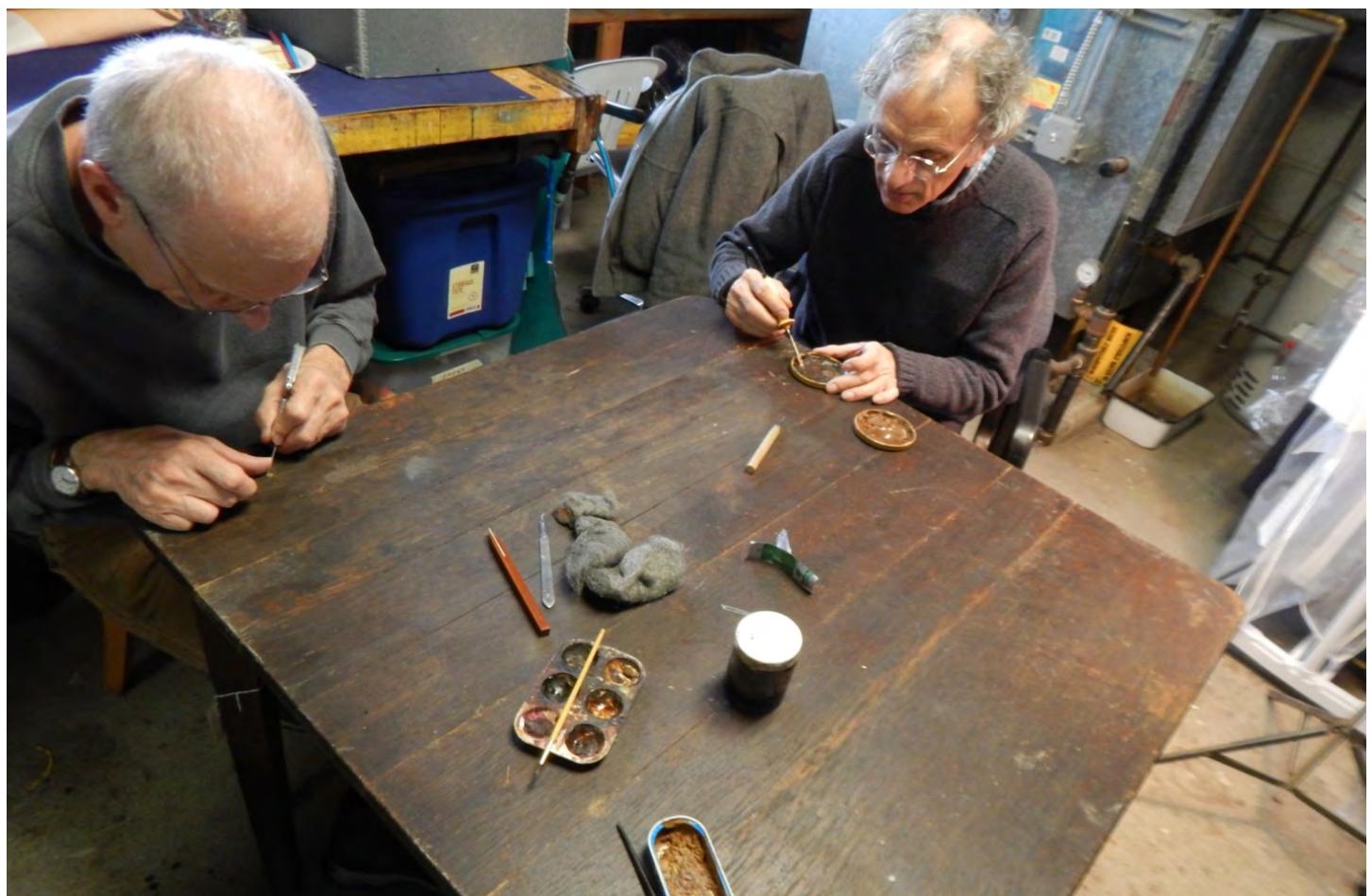
This involved months of planning, work, and patience to put the pieces back together, fabricate missing parts, and repair the damage done to its surface. With some help from Mark Gervasi using a special blend of pigments to match the original coloring, Tom put the finishing touches on the table in the spring of 2019.

The Wagner Bar table is one of two tables in the Dearborn Historical Museum's collections that have undergone restoration this year. The other table belonged to the Snow family and is currently on exhibit on the lower level of the Commandant's Quarters.

#### ***Part 2: The Snow Family Table***

Granddaughter of Dearborn's first surgeon Dr. Edward Snow, Clara Snow was the founder of Dearborn's public library system. For decades, she served as chairperson of the Dearborn Library Commission, and a branch library was named in her honor. She was also an avid gardener and played a significant role in the Dearborn Garden Club. She was instrumental in helping to form the Dearborn Historical Society. In a Dearborn Guide obituary, it was remarked that Clara "will go down in history as one of the greatest Dearborn women who ever lived."

This oak wood kitchen table, c. 1890, from the Dearborn Historical Museum's collections, belonged to Clara Snow and

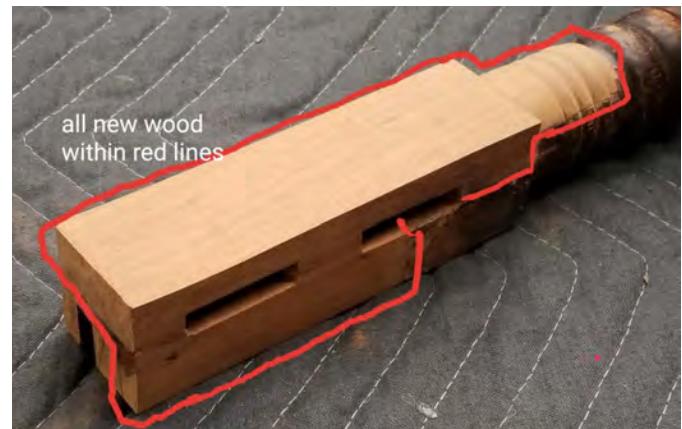


**Tom Saroglia and Mark Gervasi at work on the Wagner Bar table.**

Top: A new section of wood was fabricated and adhered with hide glue.

Center: New walnut plugs were made and the tabletop was screwed back into position.

Bottom: The table, now fully restored, is on exhibit at the Commandant's Quarters.



was donated to the Museum by Katherine Cushman after Clara's passing. The Snow family table was always meant to be on display here at the Commandant's Quarters, but due to its poor condition, it was kept in storage. The table had suffered a large loss at the top of the leg adjacent to the left drawer and a significant shrinkage crack on the top at the lamination point. The finish was also covered with accretions and paint splatters. The right drawer and both drawer pulls were missing, and a great deal of damage had been done to the surface of the table.

In the spring of 2019, the table was restored by Mark Gervasi, with great care being taken to seamlessly create and integrate the missing pieces into the table itself. A new section of wood at the missing top of the leg was fabricated and adhered with hide glue. The top was removed in order to access the damaged leg and repair the shrinkage crack. Once

the repairs were made, the two sections of the top were re-fitted, closing up the gap. New walnut plugs were made and the tabletop was screwed back into position.

Mark then fabricated a drawer front and used old wood pulls to replace the missing ones. The existing finish was in such poor condition, that it needed to be stripped, then re-stained and rubbed out with paste wax and a 3M pad. Numerous areas of loss were filled with a hard toned wax with dry pigments to compensate for the losses. After the extensive restoration, this table of a prominent early Dearborn family now proudly stands on exhibit at the Commandant's Quarters. Come by and check it out when you have a chance.



**Decades of neglect are evident.**



# Victorian Christmas Open House Saturday December 7, 2019 **1 PM to 6 PM**

Sponsored by the Museum Guild of Dearborn  
And the Dearborn Historical Society

\* Christmas Music   \* Holiday Decorations \*  
\* Visit with Santa from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. \*  
\* Games   \* Crafts  
\* Tea & Other Refreshments \*

At the Dearborn Historical Museum's  
Commandant's Quarters  
21950 Michigan Ave. Dearborn, MI 48124

# Dearborn School History: An Interview of Ray Adams Part II

*Editor's Note: Ray Adams served as the superintendent of Dearborn School District #7 from 1917 until 1944. When the Dearborn and Fordson school districts merged, he served as assistant superintendent and acting superintendent until 1949. This interview which was conducted by Dearborn Historical Museum staff member Don Baut in 1970 has been abridged for this publication. The full interview can be read at the Dearborn Historical Museum archives. This interview provides a window into the times and the changes that the school system went through in the early 20th Century. Those familiar with area history will recognize numerous names who were prominent in the growth of the area. The interview has been divided into two parts. Look for part one of the interview in the Spring 2019 edition. In part two, Mr. Adams picks up with a discussion of the amalgamation of the Fordson and Dearborn school systems.*



Ray Adams in 1930

**MR. BAUT:** Of course, about two years after this and in '44 you had an amalgamation.

**MR. ADAMS:** Fordson and Dearborn.

**MR. BAUT:** Fordson and Dearborn. Was there much discussion about at all prior to?

**MR. ADAMS:** There had been for quite some time and people were disturbed. Well, that's when the cities went together in 1929. The group met in the auditorium and they said what is going to be the name of the city? And Den Greene, a lawyer there (I can see him yet), he was on the platform and he danced across the platform. He said, "What did it matter what we name it? Call it Podunk!"

**MR. BAUT:** Were you in on that first charter that first city charter in the amalgamation or...

**MR. ADAMS:** In 1942 I was in it.

**MR. BAUT:** Yes, you were in that one. The City was amalgamated quite a long time before the boards of education, Fordson and Dearborn, got together. Approximately how long was their discussion of the two groups getting together?

**MR. ADAMS:** You mean the school system?

**MR. BAUT:** Yes.

**MR. ADAMS:** There was a lot of discussion. It lasted for a few years I would say. You see, Fordson then was a third class school district. They could have promoted that and taking West Dearborn in. And then we became a third class district and that's when we were able to move in on it.

**MR. BAUT:** In other words third class, I assume, that there would be somewhat on the top rung.

**MR. ADAMS:** That's right.

**MR. BAUT:** When did you become a third class school district?

**MR. ADAMS:** I think it was in 1943.

**MR. BAUT:** I see. Well, what determines whether you're second class or third class?

**MR. ADAMS:** The size of the school system, equipment, etc.

**MR. BAUT:** Did this government grant help out in this way at all?

**MR. ADAMS:** Not in that. The government grant was just prior to the ....

**MR. BAUT:** Yes, that was about two years before the amalgamation. Were there any problems due to the amalgamation aside from size of the school system et cetera?

**MR. ADAMS:** Well, not particularly. I was treated royally by the Board of Education.

**MR. BAUT:** Well, I was thinking as far as administration and things of this nature. Between the two school systems were there any problems that were solved by the move?

**MR. ADAMS:** Well, not any problems that couldn't be solved. The matter of equalizing the salaries of the teachers-- that job was thrown into my lap. So, I had to interview the teachers in Fordson as well as in Dearborn. Of course, it was all Dearborn then.

**MR. BAUT:** Was there a salary differential between the two systems then?

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DEARBORN'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER

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VOL. XXVIII - NO. 3

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1944

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER CITY OF DEARBORN

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# BOARDS UNITE SCHOOLS

## Ten Divisions Will March In Memorial Day Parade Tuesday

Army and Navy Defenders Will Be Escort. New Company H. Michigan State Troops Will Be Seen For First Time—Mayor Orville L. Hubbard Grand Marshall—Start at 10 o'clock

Parade March will start at 10 a.m. on Tuesday morning when Dearborn's annual Memorial Day parade will step off from the corner of Wayne and Michigan, heading east on Michigan.

In the escort will be detachments of the United States Army and United States Navy, followed by the newly organized Company H. Michigan State Troops.

Mayor Orville L. Hubbard will be the grand marshal and Congressman John Leedle will be the main speaker at the reviewing stand in front of city hall.

There will be ten different marching divisions commanded by men who have been

selected for the Grand Marshal, as follows: First Division, John D. McLeish; Second Division, Alfred E. Davis; Third Division, Robert E. Hyatt; Fourth Division, Kenneth

### Annual Scout Camp-O-Ree On June 10 And 11

Will Be Held In Leveagood Park; All Scout Troops Will Participate

Dearborn Boy Scouts will participate before Judge Belding on a charge of assault and battery, committed on his daughter Rosalie, five-years-old, was sentenced to the County Jail for 30 days and placed on probation for two years.

George Lewis, 28, of Leveagood

Street, Dearborn, was

arrested yesterday by

George Lewis, Camp-O-Ree Director.

"Officially all sections of Dearborn

proper and Dearborn Township are

planning to attend," he added.

In the meantime plans are

### Father Given 30 Days In Jail For Hitting Child

Judge Belding Warns Parent Against Angry Attacks on Family

A father found guilty of assault and battery on his five year old daughter was sentenced to 30 days in the County Jail and a \$100 fine. The court also imposed a \$100 fine, and the expenses were fixed a total of \$250 in Judge George A. Belding's court rooms this week.

Chris Gatz, 28, of Bruno, pleaded guilty before Judge Belding on a charge of assault and battery, committed on his daughter Rosalie, five-years-old, was sentenced to the County Jail for 30 days and placed on probation for two years.

Gatz was sentenced yesterday by Judge Belding who said: "If you put the weight of your hand against any of your children while on probation either to correct them in a natural and reasonable manner you will be sentenced to 90 days in jail for each offense."

The court said Gatz, in a fit of temper had struck Rosalie with a stick and then struck her in the face.

It was announced yesterday by George Lewis, Camp-O-Ree Director, "Officially all sections of Dearborn

proper and Dearborn Township are

planning to attend," he added.

In the meantime plans are

### Keep Fido On A Leash!

State Agriculture Commissioner Charles Fly has imposed a family-dog quarantine on Wayne and seventeen other counties because of a rise in the number of rabies cases.

Fly reports that 183 cases of rabies have been reported in 29 of them since the quarantine was imposed Jan. 1 and April 15. Dr. Martin E. Buell, Dearborn's health officer, has issued warnings on several occasions in the last four months and rabies cases in Wayne cases have been found in Dearborn.

Fly says: "We are quarantining all dogs over one year old to keep their dogs on a leash at all times when they are out of the house or confined behind a fence in the yard."

### Capt. Ted Bullis Killed In Action

Official word has been received

according to Mrs. P. J. Bullis, of the death of her son Capt. Clay O. (Ted) Bullis on March 24 when his B-17 bomber was shot down over Germany. Capt. Bullis had been operating from Italian air fields, and the official word was transmitted

## Concurrent Resolutions Bring About Consolidation — Action Leaves Fordson Board In Power

### New Action Will Also Take In District No. 4 Section Within City

### District No. 7 Adopts Resolution Under Sect. 7405 To Unite

Resolutions Filed With County Clerk; Teachers Will Be Blanketed In Under Tenure Act, Is Ruling By Attorney; Aid To Outlying Districts Considered

At a regular meeting of the Dearborn Board of Education last evening, resolutions were adopted to take in that section of School District No. 7 (Brainerd District) lying within the city limits. The resolution prepared by the attorney will be transmitted to the District 4 board which is to meet tonight and concur in the action.

This will bring together all sections of the city except a small

Solution To Problem Completed After 15 Years—Harmonious Action Of Two Boards Is Major Factor Effecting Union — Complete After 30-Day Period

School consolidation became an eventuality Monday evening at a special meeting of District No. 7 boards when they concurred in a resolution adopted by the Fordson Board on Friday evening. The new step was taken under Act 7405 which provided for the annexation of the school districts by the mutual consent and resolution of the two boards.

The consolidation of the Dearborn and Fordson school districts was a major news story in 1944.

MR. ADAMS: There was some.

MR. BAUT: Was yours higher or lower?

MR. ADAMS: Well, I think it must have been a little over. In the Fordson district there was a variation and that Mr. Lowrey had a way of the Board to allow him to make a \$200 differential between the teachers of the same qualifications and experience. I had to straighten that thing out.

MR. BAUT: You didn't have this differentiation at all?

MR. ADAMS: No, we were based on training and experience.

MR. BAUT: The Board of District 4, how did they feel about the amalgamation?

MR. ADAMS: I never heard anything from them. District 5 was the Henry Ford School District too and, let's see, there was District 4 too wasn't there?

MR. BAUT: Yes, but your district and district....

MR. ADAMS: District 7.

MR. BAUT: Oh, yours was 7, excuse me. Your District

7 and 5 and what other district was involved? Were those the only two do you recall?

MR. ADAMS: No, there was more than that. I just don't remember what the others were. Of course, the Henry Ford School District was one of them.

MR. BAUT: Did the voters have a chance to vote on this amalgamation at all?

MR. ADAMS: No, I think that was in the hands of the Board of Education entirely.

MR. BAUT: Was there any opposition to the amalgamation at all?

MR. ADAMS: Well, there had been right along.

MR. BAUT: What was their bone of contention?

MR. ADAMS: I think Fordson wasn't for it, and I guess West Dearborn wasn't too much for it either.

MR. BAUT: After the amalgamation, did you still have to attend Board meetings?

MR. ADAMS: Yes.

MR. BAUT: Who was on that first Board after

**amalgamation? Do you recall?**

MR. ADAMS: There was Fred Beard and Homer Beadle, oh golly, I can't remember the others. One was a member of the Dearborn Historical and he was from the Ford Motor Company. I should remember their names.

**MR. BAUT: And were your duties changed at all?**

MR. ADAMS: No. See, Mr. Lowrey had two years to go. I was deputy superintendent. In fact, for those two years he wasn't around very much. He was District Governor of Rotary the first year and the second year his daughter died. He had his teeth out. He cut himself on the leg and he was laid up.

**MR. BAUT: So you practically had to run the whole show then.**

MR. ADAMS: I had to run the whole thing. And then, later, they got rid of Mitchell and I had the business part of it too, to develop the budget for the whole business.

**MR. BAUT: Are there any points here you would like to bring out, Mr. Adams, that I haven't brought up?**

MR. ADAMS: Oh, not particularly.

**MR. BAUT: Of course, I realize that you probably hired so many teachers that you've lost count long time ago.**

MR. ADAMS: I hired all the teachers, some years as many as three hundred.

**MR. BAUT: In a year?**

MR. ADAMS: Yes.

**MR. BAUT: Was this due to a terrific changeover or what?**

MR. ADAMS: The building program. See, there was a lot of building out in West Dearborn after consolidation. Of course, I didn't agree with the kind of buildings they were building. Herb Mitchell was responsible for that. They were building primary units and no janitor for each building. He had several buildings; no principal there. One of the teachers had to be a principal. Herb Mitchell came into my office one day and he asked me what I thought about their building program. I said I had not use for it. "You're going to find that someday it is going to have to be changed and added to." It was changed and added to. We went to a meeting – a superintendents' meeting. I've just forgotten where it was. I sat next to the superintendent of schools at Wyandotte, Fred Frostdick and they were telling about the Dearborn experiment. Fred said, "You get up and tell them what you think." So, like a fool, I got up and told them what I thought about it.

**MR. BAUT: I don't think too many people appreciated it probably.**

MR. ADAMS: Well, it came out just exactly as I said it would. They had their full-grown school now and Herb's idea was that they'd have little libraries out of them.

**MR. BAUT: Is that when they got some of these smaller schools – first through third grade and such as I believe Clark School I think it is?**

MR. ADAMS: Yes, that's right.

**MR. BAUT: And Sam Long. I think Sam Long.**

MR. ADAMS: Snow.

**MR. BAUT: Well, Snow I think is a full-fledged school now, and of course as I said as far as your teachers are concerned, are there any that stand out in your mind – the teachers that you hired? Well, first there was Amy Betts who I think was around from the year one.**

MR. ADAMS: Amy Betts and Mrs. Pletcher. They were good standbys.

**MR. BAUT: There was Malita Thiel Goebel. She came over.**

MR. ADAMS: She was a local girl.

**MR. BAUT: And Miss Bennett, Helen Bennett was later was Mrs. Gasner.**

MR. ADAMS: Helen Bennett. She was a good kindergarten teacher. She came from Blissfield.

**MR. BAUT: And what about Frank McIntyre?**

MR. ADAMS: Frank McIntyre was a peach. By golly, he was little but he was one of our best football players and, of course, he did a little trick. I had jag him up for once. He instigated a hazing of the younger grades. They had a big rope and took them down to the Rouge River and dragged them through the water. It got them all wet.

**MR. BAUT: And when was he hired? When did you hire him?**

MR. ADAMS: Well, he graduated from Ypsilanti. When he graduated, I hired him for coaching.

**MR. BAUT: How long was he with the system?**

MR. ADAMS: A good many years. He had a good head on him that's why. Even though the things he did I hired him nevertheless because he was a good teacher.

**MR. BAUT: And, of course, there were quite a few others. I suppose you had a good many principals – Mr. Millard, I believe, was principal of the....**

MR. ADAMS: Mr. Millard introduced music – that is,

band. First band in 1921. He came from Northville.

**MR. BAUT: The kindergarten was established in the fall of 1917 wasn't it?**

MR. ADAMS: That's right. They had seats in the room and that's one of the first things I had done is to have those seats taken out. Helen Kane was the first kindergarten teacher.

**MR. BAUT: And, of course, you introduced domestic science.**

MR. ADAMS: Domestic science and when they had the opening of the new high school I got collared. This man came to me and he'd been up and he'd seen the domestic science layout up there – sewing, cooking, and one thing and another. He said, "There's no sense in having that." He said, "That's a job for the mother of the home."

**MR. BAUT: You also established a print department too.**

MR. ADAMS: The printing department. Kronberg was the first printer. He was the only printer we had.

**MR. BAUT: Is that Bessie Black's father? Or is that any relation to her?**

MR. ADAMS: Kronberg? It seems so. They are related.

**MR. BAUT: Her maiden name was Kronberg, that's why I ask. There was a commercial department.**

MR. ADAMS: Yes, but that has been established the year before I came to Dearborn.

**MR. BAUT: It was established in 1916. Of course, you were instrumental in eventually, I suppose, in bringing Miss Mary Dietrich to this system.**

MR. ADAMS: That's right. That happened.

**MR. BAUT: And Floyd L. Haight too.**

MR. ADAMS: Floyd Haight called me and he had to go to the hospital -- University of Michigan. He had appendix I guess that bothered him. So I took my car and went over and got him and when I got up to the hospital I found Mary Dietrich was there. And that's where I met her. She was a good teacher.

**MR. BAUT: And of course, eventually, the two of them got together and they were married I think in 1937. Did you establish also the science department? Of course you were pretty strong in science yourself, having taught it.**

MR. ADAMS: I didn't establish it. They had it before I went there.

**MR. BAUT: In the music department, Mr. Millard I**

**suppose established the band. How about Art? Art was another department I think.**

MR. ADAMS: Art – I established that. They had Music there and shared it with Wayne. We had four days a week for Music and Wayne had three days a week for Music. A person by the name of Lorch, Mrs. Lorch, was the one who went to Wayne and Dearborn. That was going on before I went there.

**MR. BAUT: And penmanship was another thing that I think....**

MR. ADAMS: Yes, we had the penmanship supervisor. I can't think of her name now.

**MR. BAUT: Well, physical training was established in 1921 and I see that you also had a basketball team at that time too.**

MR. ADAMS: Yes, that was when they had that building finished out in the one that's incorporated in the Adams School.

**MR. BAUT: That was built while you were there – the gymnasium and the auditorium I believe.**

MR. ADAMS: They were finished in April, 1921.

**MR. BAUT: And then you started the PTA in 1922.**

MR. ADAMS: PTA was established in Oxford School for the first time.

**MR. BAUT: Had this PTA movement been going on very long before that at all?**

MR. ADAMS: No, I don't think at all. Not in Dearborn.

**MR. BAUT: Well, I know not in Dearborn but I mean in other areas.**

MR. ADAMS: Other places, I don't know just when it was established anywhere.

**MR. BAUT: And well, getting to more or less a lighter vein I suppose in a way of course, we walk into your home here and no matter what we see we see glass. We see antiques. We're in your basement here and in front of the gas flamed fireplace here and I see quite a few toys and I also see quite a few glassware. How long have you been collecting antiques anyway?**

MR. ADAMS: 1925, my grandmother died and my uncle (my mother's brother) was a bachelor. He took me into the pantry and they had put the antiques way up on the top shelf of the pantry. He said if there was anything there that I wanted I was welcomed to it. I told him I'd take it all. So I got it all.

**MR. BAUT: So you got the whole works.**

MR. ADAMS: Then my grandfather was a Civil War veteran and I got a lot of Civil War things from his collection.

**MR. BAUT: Where did you get most of your antiques?**  
MR. ADAMS: Well, they came from various places and the best antiques of course, so many years ago. I picked things up that you can't even find any more. They're obsolete. I've been to Cincinnati and Indiana, Richmond, quite a few places. They're strictly antique auctions. They've been picked up. They send to Europe to get a lot of things.

**MR. BAUT: Do you still keep a hand in it very much?**  
MR. ADAMS: We have, yes. Last spring we went to one in Cincinnati and got quite a lot of tin ware.

**MR. BAUT: What are some of your favorite pieces that you've collected over the years? Of course, this goes back forty-five years. I suppose you do have your favorites.**  
MR. ADAMS: Of course, things on this are mostly from families. There's watches and a clock upstairs. Henry Ford was interested in watches and clocks. I told him one day about my grandfather's clock that's upstairs and my grandfather's key wind watch. He says, "Bring them down. I'll get them to fix them for you." So I have them down. I used to be with Ford quite a little.

**MR. BAUT: I was going to ask you since you got into that I didn't realize that you'd get involved with him.**  
MR. ADAMS: Oh yes. I helped him organize the IR school system in Greenfield Village through Mr. Lovett. He came up to me and we had a good many talks. Then they used to call me down to the Village quite often. I was in the school down there quite a little.

**MR. BAUT: What gave Mr. Ford the idea of having the Greenfield Village School?**

MR. ADAMS: I don't know.

**MR. BAUT: Well, when were you first contacted about the school?**

MR. ADAMS: I was trying to think about that date this morning. It was while he was building up his collection. Of course, they had a lot of things out in the open that before the replica of the Independence Hall was built.

**MR. BAUT: Before what we call Greenfield Village or the Ford Museum.**

MR. ADAMS: Yes. He used to give me passes and get me passes.

**MR. BAUT: You got pass No. 427 here, September the 7th, 1929 and it's your name typed in here that it's a pass to the antique village and signed by Henry Ford. You got**

**it nicely framed in a glass frame here. Did Mr. Lovett**

**approach you first about the school?**

MR. ADAMS: Yes. Yes he did.

**MR. BAUT: And approximately when was this? Would it be about this time?**

MR. ADAMS: Before that.

**MR. BAUT: And do you recall the discussion that you had with Mr. Lovett at that time at all?**

MR. ADAMS: Well, he came up and got some names, locations of where people lived. You see they went out and bussed them into the Village. I provided some of the services for them at the beginning.

**MR. BAUT: Such as?**

MR. ADAMS: Well, little art and music and some of that description.

**MR. BAUT: Well, was this your first contact with Mr. Ford?**

MR. ADAMS: No, my first contact with Mr. Ford (and I was introduced to him formally) was at the laying of the cornerstone of the library on Garrison Street.

**MR. BAUT: That would have been about 1925 or thereabouts or '24, yes? Did you meet him quite a few times after that?**

MR. ADAMS: Oh yes. He used to call up and talk with me. He came to the office and rap at my office door and open up and there's Henry Ford standing there. He came in with a yellow pencil that had been chewed up. He showed me that. He picked it up on the sidewalk as he came in. Then he said, "The Henry Ford Hospital is opened to you any time with no cost at all." He was nice about that. Then, when the Sunday Evening Hours at the Masonic Temple he had a box seat. He called up and wanted to know if I wanted his box seat for the night. He did that several times. When I went down there he'd send the driver and the car up and pick us up and pick us up when we got through out there and bring us home.

**MR. BAUT: Mr. Ford taught many of the subjects that were taught to him when he was a boy, I think, didn't he? Was it his instigation, for example, as far as the old time dances were concerned? Was that your idea?**

MR. ADAMS: That was his.

**MR. BAUT: That was his idea to introduce them into the schools?**

MR. ADAMS: Yes. They asked for permission. Of course, he put on parties every two weeks, that is dancing, and we were guests always guests of that. We'd get invitations and then, after the dancing, he'd put on a little feed and then

the big times over at Botsford. He owned that over there. When we went over there, we had to have formal dress – tails, white bow ties and white gloves. They put on a big feed there. They had a spring board floor where they danced. One night, when I was sitting next to Mr. Ford, he pulled out his watch, he said, "It's a minute to twelve. Now when it gets to be twelve that music will all stop. Now you watch." And, sure enough, when it got twelve everything was quiet. He said, "I don't believe in dancing on Sunday."

**MR. BAUT: Getting back to the Greenfield Village Schools, how did you aid Mr. Lovett, and of course Mr. Ford too, in the instituting the Greenfield Village School? In what capacity?**

MR. ADAMS: Well, I didn't deal with Mr. Ford so much. You had to be careful what you said to Mr. Ford. He'd take it seriously. So I made one suggestion, I forgotten what it was, and he was right for it right away. I was afraid it would be embarrassing to Mr. Lovett because Mr. Lovett was the man who was in charge of it and, of course, Mr. Lovett was a fine chap. He tried to give me private dancing lessons. They tried to teach me the first step schottische, I never could get it. I got to dancing with Mrs. Ford one night. He saw what trouble I was having and he came and took her off my hands. That was the five step schottische or something I couldn't work.

**MR. BAUT: Were you ever called upon in any capacity at all after the schools were instituted by Mr. Lovett or any of his successors in so far as the school was concerned?**

MR. ADAMS: Well, other than to offer me a position there at all.

**MR. BAUT: Did this come from Mr. Lovett or from Mr. Ford himself?**

MR. ADAMS: That came after Mr. Ford had passed away and Mrs. Lovett I think. Their private secretary came down and talked to me about it but the trouble there is they had no retirement system. I would have been knocked out from that.

**MR. BAUT: Well, Mr. Adams, of course you've been in a good number of societies and organizations and many honors had been bestowed upon you. Are there any that stand out in your mind at all? As you said, you've been past president of Rotary; you were one of the original Dearborn Rotarians. Were you in on the ground floor founding of the Dearborn Rotary? How did that come about?**

MR. ADAMS: Well that I think there was somebody came over the Highland Park, I'm not sure, and talked to us about it. And, of course, Clyde Ford was president of the Village -- the Mayor I should say. He was the first president of the Rotary Club and we met in the place where Bill Kronberg

used to have the printing. That was the first meeting place. That was the old Oddfellow meeting place. And then we went from there up to the Episcopal Church on Michigan Avenue and had our meetings there. And there was another place.

**MR. BAUT: Did you meet right in the church itself or did you meet in the rectory?**

MR. ADAMS: We met in the rectory. The women of the church put on the food.

**MR. BAUT: And how many Rotarians were in that original group?**

MR. ADAMS: Somewhere around twenty-three or twenty five. Of course, I was president of the Rotary Club in 1925-26, Bill Cameron was a member and William Ford, brother of Henry Ford.

**MR. BAUT: And who else were members, of course William Ford. Was Clyde Ford a member of it too?**

MR. ADAMS: Yes, Clyde Ford was a member of it and a lawyer. What's his name, I should know him. He had two boys at school. I have lists of all of them. I have a book that's come with it. I kept it.

**MR. BAUT: You were also a Boy Scout master at one time. When were you a member of the Boy Scouts?**

MR. ADAMS: That was in 1918.

**MR. BAUT: Oh, I see. Were you just a member that one year?**

MR. ADAMS: A man by the name of Haigh, I was his assistant.

**MR. BAUT: Yes, which was that – Paul Haigh or one of the Haigh family?**

MR. ADAMS: It wasn't Paul. I've forgotten his first name.

**MR. BAUT: And did you have to go on these campouts and everything else with boys?**

MR. ADAMS: No.

**MR. BAUT: You didn't have that any time, I see. You've been also director of the Detroit and Dearborn Community Chest. When was that?**

MR. ADAMS: That I don't have the date of either. That was in the early days.

**MR. BAUT: You were chairman also of the Dearborn Crippled Children's Committee.**

MR. ADAMS: That's right. For quite a few years.

**MR. BAUT: The handicap department of Lowrey School, was that established before you, before the amalgamation?**

MR. ADAMS: That was before.

**MR. BAUT:** Yes, that was much before.

MR. ADAMS: Miss Grant was in charge of that.

**MR. BAUT:** Now that you've been retired; you've been retired now for about twelve years, Mr. Adams, and, of course, you've done a great deal of traveling since you've retired, I suppose. Where are some of the places that you and Mrs. Adams have been?

MR. ADAMS: East and West and South.

**MR. BAUT:** You name it and you've been there I suppose. I imagine it was quite an honor to have the old Dearborn High renamed in your honor.

MR. ADAMS: That was quite a surprise too. I wasn't at the Board meeting that night for some reason. I always attend Board meetings but I didn't that night. I don't know what else I had on and I went to the office the next morning and everybody was saying "Congratulations. Congratulations." I said, "Well, what for?" They told me that I had a school named after me.

**MR. BAUT:** When was the formal dedication of that?

MR. ADAMS: In 1926.

**MR. BAUT:** I mean the formal dedication of the renaming of Dearborn High to Adams. It would have been tack in the early '62s I suppose, after Dearborn High was built and staffed and everything.

MR. ADAMS: Some of the old Board members that I had had in the past were there.

**MR. BAUT:** And I suppose, talking about Board members, I imagine you've had a great deal of experiences like, for example, with Dr. Fisher. He was on for a good many years.

MR. ADAMS: He was on the first year. He was in Montana visiting I think at the time I applied. He was the only Board member I didn't see. Fred Foster was one of the Board members. Of course, he's gone and...

**MR. BAUT:** ...And there was Herman Blankertz I believe he was....

MR. ADAMS: Herman Blankertz, he was the harness maker.

**MR. BAUT:** But he was also on the Board, wasn't he?

MR. ADAMS: He was on the Board and he was in the Fire Department. The Fire Department consisted of a cart and some milk cans and he had a whistle in his house. You'd hear that blow at twelve o'clock and when there was a fire on, you'd hear it blow. Herman would take off with those cans and the cart and go put the fire out.

**MR. BAUT:** How about Sam Lapham? Of course he was

around too at that time?

MR. ADAMS: Sam Lapham was on the Board too.

**MR. BAUT:** : Of course, so was Sam Long and Arthur Sloss, I believe was one.

MR. ADAMS: Arthur Sloss was on. He got me a raise the second semester I was there.

**MR. BAUT:** Oh did he? And, of course, Dr. Fisher was president of the Board for many years there and, of course, eventually Louis Howe came on the Board. Was there much influence directed on the Board at all from the Ford Motor or from the Ford family or anybody like that at all?

MR. ADAMS: No, I had on the Board I had Mrs. Ford's brother.

**MR. BAUT:** William Ford was on.

MR. ADAMS: Mr. Ford' brother and Mrs. Ford's brother at the same time. That was in '21.

**MR. BAUT:** Louis Howe was on for some time. You've had Ralph Ernest. He was on and Roy Renton. They were on for a good many years. O.L. Smith. You got to know O.L. Smith pretty well?

MR. ADAMS: Yes, they used to take him around for his campaigning for governor. I was at his home the night that they canvassed the votes.

**MR. BAUT:** And, of course, he found out that he came in second best I guess that night, didn't he? George Bird was on quite a while and, of course, Ethridge Powers. So, Mr. Adams, it certainly has been a privileges talking to you in your home here up in Flushing. You come down to the Museum. We're always happy to see you.

MR. ADAMS: Well, thanks.

**MR. BAUT:** I want to thank you for allowing me to come in your home. I know you haven't been too well lately.

MR. ADAMS: Well, I appreciate your coming too.



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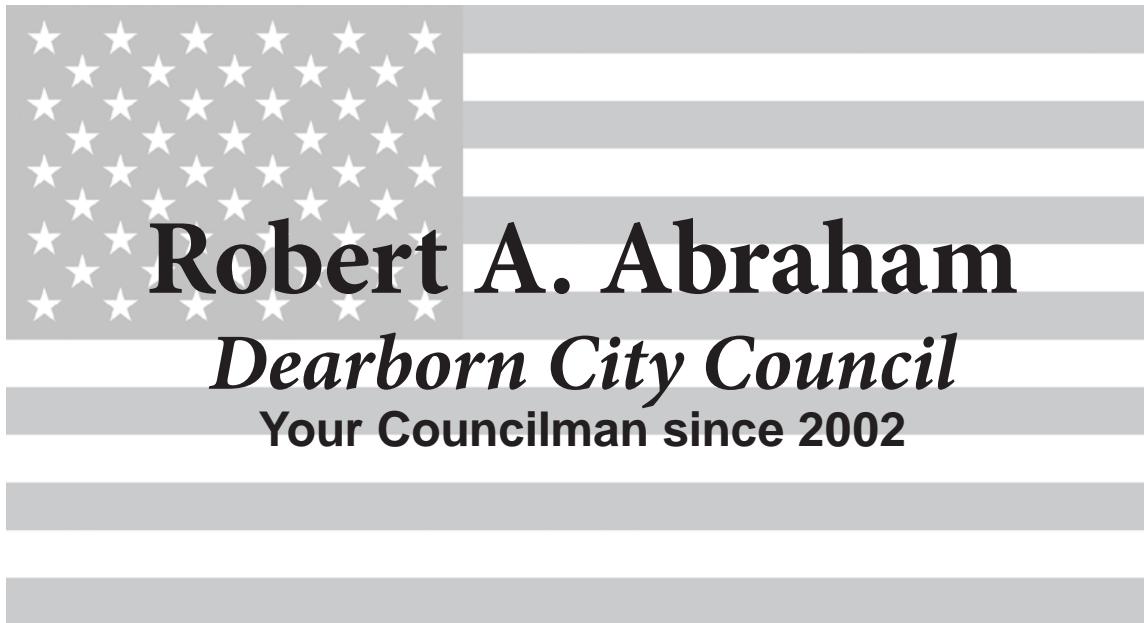
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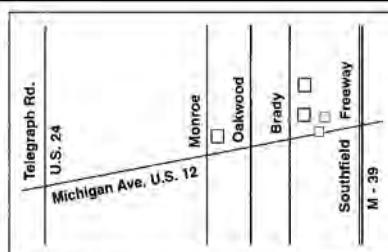
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