



Volume Four, No. 12
November, 1991

NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, November 13, 1991
7:30 P.M.

Saugatuck City Hall
Saugatuck, Michigan

THE INFLUENCE OF RAILROADS ON WESTERN MICHIGAN

Robert C. Meyers, Curator of the 1839 Courthouse Museum in Berrien Springs, MI., will show slides and talk about the history of both steam and electric rail lines. Covering the period from the mid-1800s to the present, he will show how they affected migration, growth and development in Western Michigan.

Mr. Meyers has been the curator of the Courthouse since 1981. He holds a B.A. in History from Alma College and is currently pursuing a M. A. in history from Western Michigan University. The author of two booklets, he is doing research on the Twelfth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, which was a Civil War regiment from southwest Michigan.

Kay Krause and Jane Van Dis will be our hostesses for the evening.

PROGRAMS

Our October program was a treat for all who attended. Standing Bear was informative and interesting in his knowledge of Indian lore. Accompanied by his sister and four drummers, he showed us dances of the Potawatomis and explained much of the symbolism of his Indian clothes.

December - Christmas Party for members at the home of Bill & Judy Oberholtzer.

January - Architectural Presentation by Del Langhorst

February - Fishtown by Chuck Lorenz

March - To be announced

April - The Four Seasons of Saugatuck by Robert Krause

May - Repairing Old Photos by Natalie Leinkuhler

NOTE CARDS AND TAPES

Our note cards will be available for sale at the meeting. Only \$5.00 for 10 cards and envelopes; they make wonderful stocking stuffers.

The tapes made by Michael Sweeney will also be available at the meeting. The cost is \$10.00 per tape.

WELCOME

New Members: Joan & James Stube, William and Joyce Petter, Genevieve and Stanley Drigot and Lillian Dalmen.

Renewals: Cindi and Terry Tatsch

PHOTO ARCHIVE

Looking for an old picture or personality from this area? Check our catalog at any meeting. Photos can be reproduced in two sizes - 3½ x 5 for \$2.00 and 8 x 10 for \$10.00. Allow 30 days for delivery.

MEET YOUR BOARD

Robert Johnson, President of the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society

At 62 years old, I am unwavering in my philosophy of life which of course, is an outgrowth of my younger days of growing up in Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, a medium sized railroad center with moderate manufacturing. I started life on June 9, 1929 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as mother felt greater confidence with the hospitals in the larger city. My father, as a civil engineer was employed in the construction business. Mother was a social worker and a housewife. The time was not good in our country as we were in the height of the depression of '29. I was the youngest of three with two older sisters, Dorothy Hess, and Mary Ann Curtis. The family left Fond Du Lac in 1939 when dad, who had joined the Naval Reserve, was given the opportunity for active duty as a Lt. Commander in the Civil Engineering Corps of the Navy. Dad chose an assignment to the Army Air Base at St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands where we moved in the Fall of 1939. I was in the 6th grade at the time. Early in 1941, all of the service families were shipped home and mother, Mary Ann and I arrived by boat in New York early in the Spring, where we were met by our aunts with warm winter clothes.

We, mother, Mary Ann and I moved to Madison, Wisconsin where I attended Wisconsin High. We remained associated with Madison until 1947 when I graduated from high school. Dad left the Navy after World War II and took up residence in Milwaukee, again involved in the construction industry. I lived at home and attended Marquette University in Milwaukee where I graduated as a civil engineer in 1953.



(Johnson cont.)

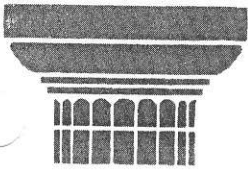
My career started with the Boeing Airplane Company in 1953 in Seattle, Washington. Ellen Williams and I were married in 1953. Our daughter, Lynne was born in Seattle in 1955, John in Seattle in 1958 and Sharon in Minot, North Dakota in 1963. As a transient engineer, we continued moving around the U. S. until 1985 when we moved to the family home, the Porches, which we converted to a Bed & Breakfast that we operate today. The Porches was built in 1897 by my grandfather strictly as a summer home. We have winterized part of the place for our permanent abode.

My interest in history and genealogy sparked my appetite in the recent few years as I ponder the records of the local area, Pier Cove, and consider the growth, changes and development in just this little area. I feel a strong need to examine, know and preserve this little insignificant piece of our earth.

In January our Featured Board Member will be Pat Dewey Wilson, Vice-President.

THIS AND THAT

- November 9-10 Honoring Veterans Day, there will be entertainment and displays in the rotunda at the Michigan Library and Historical Center in Lansing. (517) 373-3559.
- November 17-19 The Michigan Alliance for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage is holding a conference on preservation of Michigan's cultural heritage at the Henry Ford Museum/Greenfield Village in Dearborn. (313) 833-7920.
- November 22 The Michigan Library Historical Center in Lansing hosts "Silver Bells in the City." (517) 373-3559.
- November 22-23 The Michigan Capitol Committee, the Bureau of History and the Michigan Historical Commission sponsor "Capitol Gains: Learning From the Restoration of the Michigan State Capitol." (517) 373-5527.
- November 2 - February 1992. Visit the Impression Five Science Museum in Lansing for their exhibit on Leonardo Da Vinci. (517) 485-8115.



Berrien County Historical Association, Inc.
1839 Courthouse Museum

Sept. 10, 1991

Pat Dewey Wilson
P.O. Box 939
Saugatuck, MI 49453

Dear Ms. Wilson,

I am looking forward to presenting a program on railroads for the Saugatuck Historical Society on Wednesday, November 13. Although the program is almost entirely about Berrien County railroads, I'll try to put in some material about railroads in the Saugatuck area. Enclosed are some fliers about other programs available from our museum; if you should find something you prefer to the railroad program, just let me know.

You had asked for a little personal information for a news release, so here goes:

I have been the curator of the 1839 Courthouse Museum since 1981. I hold a B.A. in history from Alma College at Alma, Michigan, and am currently pursuing a M.A. in history from Western Michigan University. I am the author of two booklets, *Historical Sketches of Berrien County*, volumes 1 and 2, and numerous articles in *Michigan History* magazine. Currently, I am doing research for an article about the Twelfth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, which was a Civil War regiment from southwest Michigan.

I am also an active member of Twin City Players (a community theater company in St. Joseph, Michigan) and the Fort St. Joseph Militia (a Revolutionary War re-enactment group in Niles, Michigan), and serve on the board of directors of the Four Flags Area Council on Tourism.

I hope this information will be of assistance for your publicity. I am enclosing a photograph of a Pere Marquette Railroad locomotive in downtown Coloma, ca. 1910. If you could arrange to have this one returned when I'm there for the program, I'd appreciate it. If you have any questions, please call me at 471-1202.

Best regards,


Robert C. Myers
Curator