

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 617, DOUGLAS, MI 49406

Volume Two, No. 5
March, 1989

MARCH MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1989 7:30 P.M.
THE PARK HOUSE
888 HOLLAND STREET, SAUGATUCK.

The Pettys, owners of the Park House, will be our hosts for the evening and will conduct a tour of this historic house. The program, entitled "Family History - What Did They Do With Grandma," will be presented by Joan Phillips. This talk on genealogy, will include an introduction to genealogy and anecdotes from Mrs. Phillips own research. Come join us!

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members - Dr. & Mrs. Martin Rabel, Renna & Ralph Birkholz,
Anne Wiley, Patricia Dewey & Stan Wilson.

BY-LAWS/MEMBERSHIP LIST

If you wish a copy a the Society By-Laws - they may be obtained from Del Langhorst at any meeting. We are pleased to include a membership list in this issue of the Newsletter.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

The Society has joined the Historical Society of Michigan. We receive the Michigan Historical Review, the semi-annual journal of Michigan history as well as the Chronicle an illustrated feature magazine published six times a year. These will be available at the meeting in March.

The Michigan Historical Society is co-sponsoring a forum on Historic Preservation Issues. Our regional forum will be held on March 11, 1989 at the Womens City Club, 254 E. Fulton St., Grand Rapids, MI. The forum will be held from 9 to 4. The registration fee is \$15.00 and includes lunch. Contact Nancy Goodman, 616-451-2787 or Cindi Tatsch, 857-2919 for registration form.

NEWSLETTER CREDIT

For the past 15 months the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society Newsletter has been typed by Joan Phillips. This month she braved learning how to use a new computer program to bring you this special March issue. Our thanks to Joan for her hard work! (This credit was written by your President, Cindi.)

Michigan's new State Historical Museum and Archives opens on March 6th with a week-long celebration. The following article appeared in the Grand Rapids Press.

□ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1989 □ THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

Library of Michigan opens near Capitol

Constance Crump

Grand Rapids Press News Service

LANSING — The Library of Michigan's beautiful new home officially debuts in March. But eager beavers can get a preview. The \$36 million, 312,000 square-foot building is already open, a few blocks west of the Capitol.

Alternating bands of plain and horizontally ridged limestone rise above a granite foundation. The interior is flooded with light from bands of horizontal windows. Its setbacks recall the proportions of Art Deco architecture or stepped Aztec pyramids.

Home to museum, archives, too

Designed by William Kessler & Associates of Detroit, the building is home to the state historical museum and archives as well as the library. Two wings hold offices, galleries and library stacks, surrounding a soaring atrium incorporating a white pine — Michigan's state tree — in the center of a sculpted mosaic pool representing the Great Lakes.

Established in Detroit in 1828 (nine years before Michigan became a state), the library moved to Lansing when the Capitol was built. It was housed in a series of makeshift quarters until 1951, when an arsonist set a fire which gutted the building. The library's contents were scattered among various repositories until being reunited late last year in the new building.

The building's contents are as imposing as

The \$36 million building officially debuts in March.

its container. It's the first building constructed under state legislation requiring that a percentage of the construction budget be set aside for art.

The Commission on Art in Public Places chose the many sculptures and murals with a budget close to \$800,000: \$250,000 from the construction budget plus grants from Dayton Hudson Corp. (\$35,000 for tapestries) and the Kresge Foundation (\$500,000 for the atrium pool).

Detroit artist Richard Kozlow's forest mural highlights the library's stairwell. In the grand atrium entry, niches offer seating beneath Sergio De Giusti's bas reliefs.

In the archives reading room, a striking metal collage sculpted by Ann Arbor artist Al Hinton contrasts rural and industrial Michigan with oxidized curves and interesting textures. And the building holds the official state seal.

The library's stacks soar five stories under an arched glass arcade. Cobalt blue table lights will be installed in the main reading room, just one of the five shades of blue used throughout the building to symbolize the Great Lakes.

"Libraries don't need windows, but their patrons do," said Kessler during a recent tour of the building. "So there are windows

to enjoy the view and daylight in the reading nooks.

"For a state library it's amazing, with 27 miles of shelves, 5 million pieces of information. A computer catalog ties it into all the libraries in the state."

It holds a huge library for the blind, which mails out 500 tapes daily, free on request. A 225-seat auditorium will serve as a public forum.

Kessler's tour led through the still-to-be-completed Bureau of History's history museum, where workers are shooting for a March 6 opening.

Towering artificial pine trees — the largest fabricated trees in the world, Kessler said — a beautiful mural of fall colors and a geological map of the state fill the foyer.

A stake fort sits next to a replica of the first state capitol. Its imposing Doric columns and wavy old glass invite viewers into rooms of exhibits. Other rooms hold paraphernalia of Michigan in the Civil War, a working sawmill and a replica of a lumber baron's elaborately decorated Queen Anne mansion.

Kessler's favorite exhibit, a mock-up of an Upper Peninsula copper mine, will hold a model of the largest copper nugget ever found. The original is in the Smithsonian Institution National Museum. A coppery sheen coats the fiberglass rocks of the mine shafts.

The library and archives are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Weekend hours are planned, pending the addition of staff.

REQUEST FOR SINGAPORE PHOTOGRAPHS

The Society has been approached as a resource to find photographs or information about the buried community of Singapore, Michigan. If you can help by providing information please call Cindi or Terry Tatsch, 857-2919. Thank you.

SAUGATUCK

Happenings

Historical Society meets March 8

The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society will meet March 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Park House, 888 Holland St., in Saugatuck. The family history program - "What Did they Do With Grandma," will be presented by Joan Phillips. This talk on genealogy will include an introduction to genealogy and anecdotes from Phillips' own research. Everyone is welcome.

Women's Club gets set for spring

Spring is just around the corner and the first meeting of the Saugatuck Women's Club is set for May 12. Dues are \$15 and may be sent to Box 909, Saugatuck, Mich., 49453 or given to Alice Menzies or Leona Owens.

Soccer league signup scheduled

Soccer sign-ups are Saturday, March 4, at South Haven High School, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 227-3352.

Gallery Upstairs holds all-member show

The Gallery Upstairs of Grand Haven is presenting an all member show for the month of March. Exhibits include works in oil, pastels, watercolor, pottery, sculpture, jewelry, weaving and glass. The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday. Friday hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The gallery is located at 210 1/2 Washington St., Grand Haven.

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