



The Crow's Nest

NEWSLETTER OF THE FERNDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 2011

THE DUQUESNE SPY RING, WORLD WAR II: THE FERNDALE CONNECTION

Jean Spang

Ferndale's support of war efforts during World War II remains legendary: nine civil defense posts, staffed by volunteers, located throughout the city; Lincoln High School students willing recruits in the city's Home Guards program; and the U.S. government's honoring the city as the first in the nation to meet goals in war bond sales. In addition, of Ferndale's 69 manufacturing plants, some 28 converted to wartime production, specializing in products vital for the construction of planes, tanks, and various armaments. The N.A. Woodworth Co. even won the prestigious "E" (for Excellence) Award from the Army and Navy for its production of precision parts for Flying Fortress airplanes. And Ferndale residents bravely adjusted to rationing, air raid drills, collecting scrap items such as tin cans and kitchen grease (for armaments), and worrying about family and friends in military service.

But in June 1941 it was discovered that Edmund C. Heine, who had lived at 1521 Dover in Ferndale, was a member of one of the nation's most notorious espionage networks ever discovered. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover deemed the capture as "the greatest spy roundup in U.S. history." By 1945, a movie based on the case, "The House on 92nd Street," starring Lloyd Nolan and Signe Hasso, had been released and the writer of the screenplay, Charles G. Booth, had won an Oscar for it. Ferndale residents, however, remained stunned that espionage on such a grand scale had taken place so close to home.

The Ring was a group of 33 German sympathizers that Hitler's government had placed in key positions around the U.S. in the late 1930s and early 1940s to gather information vital to the German high command and to carry out sabotage if necessary. All participants reported, through various means, to the network leader, Frederick ("Fritz")



*Edmund C. Heine,
FBI file photo*

Joubert Duquesne, a German spy who had been awarded Germany's highest award, the Iron Cross, for his role in the 1916 sinking of the HMS Hampshire which killed England's famous Lord Kitchener. Duquesne's spies, most of them Germans or naturalized U.S. citizens, were each responsible for specific targets and information that would reveal American defense capabilities and strategies.

Heine's assignment was to gather information about the military, aviation industries, and the production capabilities of auto plants. A native of Germany, he came to the U.S. in 1914 with a business background. His first job was as a mechanic for the Packard Motorcar Company, Detroit. By 1918 he was a foreign sales and service representative at the Ford Motor Co., which meant travel to South America, where he worked in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and other countries; later he was sent to England, Italy, the Balkans, and Spain. Heine became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1920; by 1926, he was in Berlin as assistant manager (and later manager) of the Ford assembly plant there. By 1935 he was employed in the same capacity, by Chrysler Corporation, for which he worked in Spain, Portugal, and North Africa.

In 1938 or 1939 he was recruited through Volkswagen, the German auto corporation, to find American automobile and aviation industry secrets that would be passed to Germany through the Duquesne network. He worked on this assignment through 1940, forwarding his findings by means of contacts in New York City and Lima, Peru. During this time, he had three known addresses in South Oakland County: the Dover address (his children attended Ferndale schools), 21 Poplar Park in Pleasant Ridge, and his last known address before his arrest, 505 W. Hudson in Royal Oak. *(continued next page)*



*Silence is Security:
Uncle Sam's warning*

(continued from Page 1)

Personal contacts, observation, and literature searches were Heine's method of operation. His long executive experience representing U.S. auto companies meant that he knew an array of people in the auto industry and had access to sensitive information about American manufacturing capabilities and strategic locations. As for information about the nation's aeronautical industry, it proved easy for him to find in various manuals, magazine photographs, and public sources. He even placed advertisements asking for specialized information in *Popular Aviation*—which were answered. (At the time, the U.S. had no restrictions on keeping such information private.) His contributions to the Duquesne Spy Ring, therefore, were of considerable importance.

Ultimately, the Ring was broken by two FBI agents—one of whom, William Sebold, was a double agent. Sebold assisted in the establishment of a clandestine FBI radio station in New York City that for some two years transmitted information between the Ring and German intelligence personnel. This station provided the combined evidence necessary to convict all 33 members of the Ring.

Heine was the last one to be arrested, even though he had been under surveillance during the time he lived in Pleasant Ridge. His interest in aerial photographs was his undoing. He ordered a large supply of aerial photos from a New England photographer who became suspicious and notified the FBI. Heine's capture solved the mystery of who "Heinrich" was, the one spy that agents had been unable to identify. He was Edmund C. Heine, the one supplying details of U.S. aircraft production.

The trial took place in Brooklyn NY, the network's center, September 3, 1941. All 33 members of the Ring were found guilty on December 13, 1941 and sentenced to a total of 300 years in prison. Heine served two years, paid a \$5,000 fine, and then disappeared from the public record.

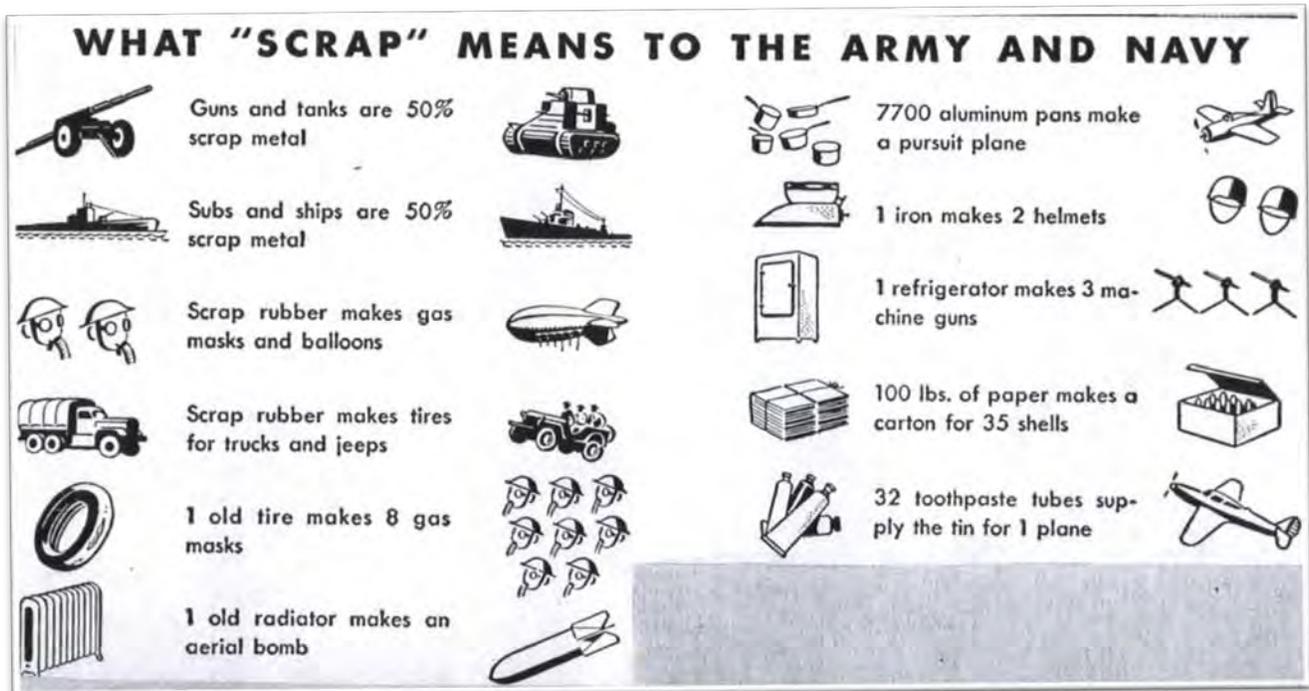
For Ferndale residents, the story of the Duquesne Spy Ring--and the involvement of former resident, Edmund C. Heine--provided an unprecedented and unsettling perspective on the World War II home front and beyond.

Sources consulted: Paul Bluemle, Pleasant Ridge, Then and Now, Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission, 1981: 3. Ladislas Farago, The Game of the Foxes: The Untold Story of German Espionage in the United States and Great Britain During World War II, New York: David McKay Co., Inc., 1971: 347-349. Ferndale, 1918-1943: 25 Years of Progress [commemorative 25th Anniversary book], City of Ferndale (Harvey S. Jacobs, Publisher; C.L. Thompson, Ed.), 1943: passim. Three websites--"Duquesne Spy Ring":

<http://www.fbi.gov/libref/historic/famcases/spyring/spring.htm> (retrieved 2/18/2004);

<http://www.jstor.org/view/0161391x/di952302/95p0200e/3?currentResult=016139x%2bd> (retrieved 1/14/2004);

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duquesne_Spy_Ring (retrieved 5/7/2011).



Ferndale residents were enthusiastic participants in World War II scrap drives. Unattributed flyer in Museum Archives

FERNDALE'S COMMITMENT TO WORLD WAR II SERVICE

FERNDALE BOYS SET UP 'ARMY'*

Out Ferndale way the seeds of manhood are being sown and a crop of virility reaped. If you find a youth in that locale who is unmindful of the war and who is doing nothing toward victory, he is not a student of Ferndale's Lincoln High School. Foreseeing the eventual need of teen-agers as America's front line defenders, the school some months back inaugurated a three-phase program to fit them for that task.

First, under the supervision of Athletic Director Gus Hanson, once a Green Bay Packer football standout, a volunteer military unit was formed—the Ferndale Home Guard. Secondly, a physical fitness program, no less rigorous than that given armed force trainees, was instituted for all boys from the ninth through the twelfth grades.

Dovetailed with all this are courses teaching the youths aeronautics, bayonet combat and so on through a militarist alphabet. In short, Ferndale is developing about everything except a two-ocean navy. By watching the Home Guard—285 yowling anxious, action-craving boys—one gets an animated explanation of why teen age drafting was asked.

To join the outfit, comprised of three companies, youths must be 16 or have their parents' consent if a shade under. Two nights a week they drill, spelled with a capital D. For two hours each session they go through close and extended order drill, manual of arms with regulation, practice rifles, calisthenics, study hand grenade warfare, read and draw maps, deploy for gas combat and signal with telegraph key, wigwag, field telephone, arm and hand and whistle.

They are soon to acquire an airplane which they will be taught to tear down and rebuild until its parts wear out. Soon, too, they are to have an inside and an outside obstacle course to condition them in climbing walls, rail fences and ladders, clearing water jumps and sawdust pits, and advancing through jungle conditions.

*Source: Ed Steeves, "Ferndale Boys Set up 'Army,'" undated clipping, probably from the Royal Oak Tribune, in the Ferndale Historical Museum archives.

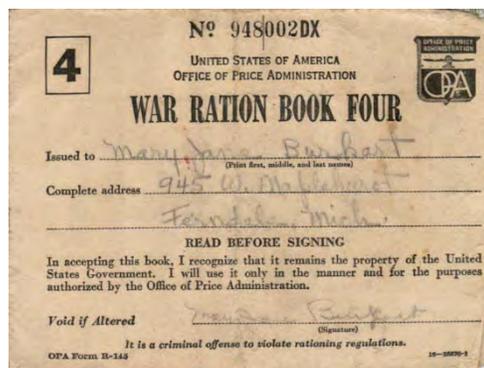
AIR RAID SHELTER NEEDS, SEPTEMBER 4, 1942*

Supplies are urgently needed for the senior Air Raid Wardens of Ferndale District 3, representing nine posts located in the area. The supplies are needed to properly equip the nine post headquarters, including sheets and blankets, lanterns, rope, whistles, and first aid supplies.

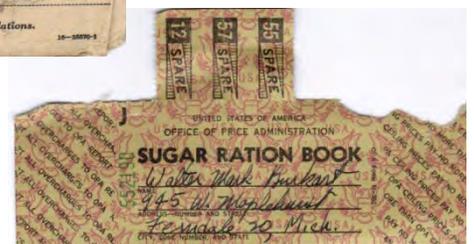
*Source: "Looking Back--At Your Home Town" [feature in the Royal Oak Tribune, 1980s], an unattributed, undated, unpagged clipping in the Ferndale Historical Museum Archives.



Ferndale musicians play at a War Bond rally, WWII
Photo: Museum Archives,



Ration Book and Coupons,
Burkart Family, WWII
Museum Archives Collection,



FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS OF WORLD WAR II EFFORTS IN FERNDALE

From *Old Timers Tell It Like It Was, Comp. by Ruth Rodgers Elmers, June Waugh Kotlarek, Gerry Kulick (ed.), Ferndale Historical Society, 1971*

During World War II we had rationing; sugar, meat, cooking oil, gasoline. We had blackouts when no light could be showing. Just so many men were picked to go out when it was dark to walk the streets and see if there were any robberies or if any lights were showing or if anyone needed help. My husband was one of the “chosen” and he used to put on his rubber raincoat and a big hat and go out on the streets and it was pitch dark and I’d say, “Oh, my gosh, war . . . we’ll all be killed.

Emma Schnell

Everyone listened to President Roosevelt’s fireside chats. Seemed everyone also listened to Father Coughlin and many people sent him \$1 a week from their meager earnings . . .

Then War came! We all joined the War effort. We saved and washed our cans and took them to collection depots.

There was a freeze on prices—shoes, meat, butter, gas, sugar were rationed. People would stand in line at the State Packing House Market when those items could be bought without a coupon. Yes, we had ration coupons, one for each member of the family—in a book.

Since our men were off to the war, the young mothers went to work in defense factories.

Betty Kelingos

THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY: FERNDALE’S ROLE, 1943*

Ferndale had 69 manufacturing plants within its city limits in 1943. Twenty-eight of these plants were focused on production for the war effort:.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| AA Gauge | Ethyl Corp. | Pratt-Wright Machine Prod. | Suprex Gage Co. |
| Approved Mfg. Co. | Excelda Mfg. Co. | Punch Press Repair Co. | Syncro Devices Inc. |
| Bousfield & Co. | Fastcut Tool Co. | Reichhold Chemical Co. | Earl A. Thompson Co. |
| DeRay Tool Co. | Ferndale Gage | Republic Steel Corp. | Triangle Eng. Co. |
| DeVlieg Machine Co. | Forg./Cast. (Alleg. Ludlum) | Rienacker Industries | Turner Gauge Grinding Co. |
| Easley Eng./Mfg. Co. | Kraetke Tool Co. | Siegel & Caldwell | Wesson Co. |
| Eclipse Counterbore | Nu-Engineering | C.M. Smillie | N.A. Woodworth |

* Source: Ferndale, 1918-1943: 25 Years of Progress (commemorative 25th Anniversary book). City of Ferndale (Harvey S. Jacobs, Publisher: C.L. Thompson, ed.), 194: passim.

Badge of Honor



Badge of Honor

It isn't a shining medal for bravery. It carries no citation for "valor beyond the call of duty." It decorates no military uniform. But it is a badge of honor just the same! Its wearer is one — any one — of the thousands of men and women who are making production history at the N. A. Woodworth plant by turning out millions of precision aircraft engine parts for America's war-planes.

N. A. WOODWORTH COMPANY
FERNDALE, MICHIGAN

NOW... MORE THAN EVER...
"A GOOD PLACE TO WORK"



HIGHEST HONORS!

Today the Army-Navy "E" Badge wears above N. A. Woodworth plants—a symbol of high achievement in war production—a promise of even greater achievement to come!

It isn't a shining medal for bravery. It carries no citation for "valor beyond the call of duty." It decorates no military uniform.

But it is a badge of honor just the same! Its wearer is one — any one — of the thousands of men and women who are making production history at the N. A. Woodworth plant by turning out millions of precision

aircraft engine parts for America's war-planes.

All credit to the wearers of this Badge of Honor for the splendid job that has been done so far. And all power to them for the job—the much *bigger* job—that still remains to be done before that day when complete and final victory can be ours!

N.A. Woodworth Company, 1300 East Nine Mile, Honors for wartime production excellence, WWII. Clippings from Museum Archives

N. A. WOODWORTH COMPANY
FERNDALE, MICHIGAN

HIGHEST HONORS!

Today the Army-Navy "E" Badge wears above N. A. Woodworth plants—a symbol of high achievement in war production—a promise of even greater achievement to come!

NOW... MORE THAN EVER...
"A GOOD PLACE TO WORK"

THE POLICE CHIEF SURVIVES, 1926: PROHIBITION AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

The national ban on the sale, manufacture, and transportation of alcohol began with the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, January 1920. The Village of Ferndale was not immune to abuse of the law. An immediate focus of the Ferndale Police Department: discoveries of local speakeasies, and even rumors of the lethal involvement of the infamous Purple Gang, rumrunners extraordinaire, when a body, shot in the head, was found hanging in the woods at Eight Mile and Pinecrest (west side). In 1926 a controversy over enforcement of the law almost led to the dismissal of Ferndale's Chief of the Police and Fire Departments.

George W. Smith was appointed Chief of the combined Police and Fire Departments of the Village of Ferndale in 1920 and is today credited with creating Ferndale's modern police department. But at a meeting of the Village Commission, July 1926, the Northeastern Improvement Association of Ferndale, led by Carl A. Bloomquist, a former Commission candidate, accused Smith of not enforcing liquor laws and allowing blind pigs to operate freely within the Village limits. Claiming that the entire east side Ferndale supported his position Bloomquist demanded Smith's instant dismissal and threatened the whole Commission with "discredit" if action were not immediately taken. Smith was not in attendance at the meeting.

Cited as primary evidence in subsequent hearings on the issue was a police raid on the home of David R. Caldwell, 129 Academy, where "twelve gallons of mash, two quarts of whiskey, and some paraphernalia were seized." One witness, Elmer Truba, of Urbanrest Subdivision, claimed that three weeks before the raid he had paid 20 cents for a home brew drink at the location. Smith's opponents claimed that the chief should have been aware of the speakeasy's existence long before the raid.

The case divided Ferndale, with raucous public demonstrations both for and against Smith and his department's enforcement, or lack thereof, of the law. Even police and firefighters took sides. Ultimately, the case was dismissed when officials determined that the prosecution's key witness, Truba, had never filed a formal complaint and, upon questioning, could not provide a date for the buy, what he bought, or even a description of the person he had bought it from. The Village Commission, therefore, found no cause to dismiss Chief Smith. As a result of the verdict, Smith dismissed five officers for insubordination: Jason Keith, Roy Jenkins, Eugene Douglas, Walter Holmes, and Sergeant Stevens.

In 1927, Fire and Police became two separate departments. Roy Reynolds, a patrolman, became Chief of Police. Smith then became Chief of the Fire Department, a position he held until 1931.

The Eighteenth Amendment was repealed in 1933. But the Smith case in 1926 aptly illustrates Prohibition's effects on Ferndale's government, law enforcement—and public opinion.

Sources consulted: Maurice Cole, Ferndale of Yesteryear (Ferndale Historical Society, 1971): 61. Various clippings, unattributed and undated, from Daily Tribune and Ferndale Gazette issues, 1926, in Museum archives. Account of the Purple Gang rumors: Frank M. Tomsett, in Old Timers Tell It Like It Was (Ruth Rodgers Elmers, June Waugh Kotlarek, Gerry Kulick, ed.) (Ferndale Historical Society, 1987): 99. "Prohibition in the United States," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prohibition_in_the_United_States (retrieved 5/4/2011).



*George W. Smith
First Chief of Fire and Police, Village of Ferndale, 1923
Mike Burkart Collection, Museum Archives*



*Prohibition Haul, Ferndale Police Department, 1928
(Officer Mike Burkart at left)
Mike Burkart Collection, Museum Archives*

FERNDALE MEMORIES

Oral C. Sark

Sark was a police officer in the days when Ferndale was ready to become a Village (1918) that soon became a City (1927). Born in 1892 in Indiana, he had lived in Ferndale for 24 years before his death in 1940. His poem, which had been published in the *Ferndale Gazette* (date unknown), evokes the people and life of both fledgling Village and early City: the real estate agents, the business owners, the subdivisions, the street names before 1920, the legendary Judge T. Frank Hooley (Ferndale's first Justice of the Peace), Woodward traffic, the waiting for the interurban, Officer Mike Burkart patrolling the area on his horse, the only school in town, no electricity, the Nine Mile ditch, and no churches, radios, or theaters.

*Tho' Ferndale is a city grand, so grown-up and complete
With every modern luxury (and modern bills to meet),
Come live again some scenes with me, that will your memory nudge,
When "Bill" Bellaire sold real estate, and Hooley was the judge!*

*Our lamps were only kerosene that didn't have a switch,
And every storm, a raging stream, would make Nine Mile a ditch,
When "Daddy" Hall was still alive, and Eli Inman, too!
And "Cal" Smith lived on Randers, now Breckenrige to you.*

*When L. L. Watson still made tools, and brother "Phil" sold meat,
And "Jack" Graves' cheerful deep bass voice would echo down the street.
When traffic Sunday afternoons on Woodward couldn't budge
Then "Old Bill" dealt in real estate, and "T. Frank" was the judge!*

*We didn't all have autos then, nor own a radio.
There wasn't even any church, or moving picture show.
"Ty" Damon and "Bill" Peterson (who sleeps with honored dead)
Sold papers at the "waiting room" and sometimes from that shed
They'd yank a board and build a fire to keep our "tootsies" warm
While waiting for the "Pontiac" in winter's icy storm.*

*And "Doc" Chase still lived in a tent, and Burkhardt boys drove mules,
And Central then was all there was of Ferndale public schools.
It wasn't even Ferndale then. We just came home of nights
To "Piper's Farms" or "Ashton's", "Greenwood Park" or Woodward Heights."*

*Those days are gone forever now, gone many dear friends, too!
But memory wanders back there still, to scenes that we once knew.
So, in these days of newer things, I'm sure you won't begrudge
These dreams of days when "Bill" sold lots, and Hooley was the judge.*

--That Fellow Sark

From our Director

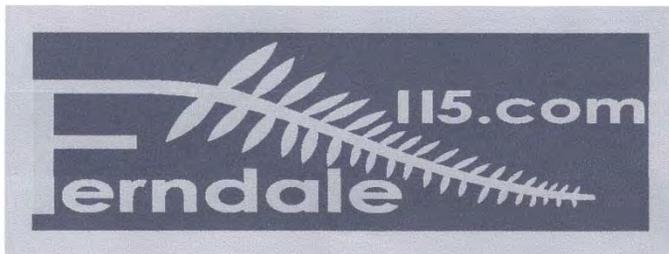
Hello Fellow Members,

As I come into my 4th year of heading the operation of the Ferndale Historical Museum I am proud to announce that our numbers are in for the year 2010. We currently have 7 volunteers: 4 full-time and 3 part-time. Through the efforts of these individuals we logged in well over 5,000 volunteer hours at the Museum. We are now open 4 days a week to the general public. Some 677 people signed our guestbook for 2010. We hosted 4 Lincoln High School class reunions, Cub Scout tours, and 2 senior groups from out of town. We handled 371 internet inquiries and researched 12 major genealogical inquiries of descendants of past Ferndale residents.

We still continue to collect and catalogue items from Ferndale's past and strive to provide a complete line of historical research assistance to the residents of Ferndale past and present.

Please check to make sure your membership is current. Also, donations are always welcome from our members, especially our lifetime members, to help us with our day-to-day operations. Your donation is 100% tax deductible and greatly appreciated. The Board of Directors, the Museum volunteers, and I wish you a very happy, fun, and safe summer.

*Onward,
Garry Andrews*



ONLINE community news.
Go to www.ferndale115.com
to print out your own
copy or read the stories
below. Contact editor
and publisher C. Proxmire
at editor@ferndale115.com



Ferndale Historical Society
Operators of the Ferndale Historical Museum

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual \$ 10.00
Family \$ 25.00
Lifetime \$100.00

Return to: Ferndale Historical Society
1651 Livernois
Ferndale, MI 48220

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Page 8

Please Look Inside!

- Page 1 The Duquesne Spy Ring, World War II: The Ferndale Connection
Page 2 The Duquesne Spy Ring (*continued*)
Page 3 Ferndale's Commitment to World War II Service: Ferndale Boys Set Up Army; Air Raid Shelter Needs, 1942
Page 4 First-hand Accounts of World War II Efforts in Ferndale; The Arsenal of Democracy: Ferndale's Role
Page 5 The Police Chief Survives, 1926: Prohibition and Local Law Enforcement
Page 6 "Ferndale Memories," by Oral C. Sark (former Ferndale Police Officer)
Page 7 From the Director

Calendar of Events:

Thursday, June 23, 2011 6 pm Board Meeting, Historical Society, held at the Museum, public is welc

No Board Meetings in July or August

Thursday, Sept. 22, 2011 6pm Board Meeting, Historical Society, held at the Museum, public is welcome

The Crow's Nest, Summer 2011

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CLASS
MAIL

“Preserving the Heritage of Ferndale for Future Generations”