



The Crow's Nest

NEWSLETTER OF THE FERNDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 2013

THE DESEGREGATION OF FERNDALE SCHOOLS

Chris Hammer

Like many cities in the region and the country, Ferndale has not been immune to racial tensions and controversies over the years. In fact, Ferndale was the first northern school district ever to be found in violation of civil rights laws by the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The federal government claimed in the late 1960s that the Ferndale School District's Grant Elementary School, built in Royal Oak Township in 1926, was built as an exclusively African-American school. Over the next decade, litigation ensued, culminating in a federal court's order in 1980 to integrate Grant with two other schools in the district.

From its earliest days, the Ferndale School District included the predominantly African-American portion of Royal Oak Township near Eight Mile and Wyoming. Several factors reinforced the racial divide between the growing communities of Ferndale and Royal Oak Township during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. The Federal Housing Administration policies limited mortgage funds available to racially integrated neighborhoods. In addition, most of the residential properties in Ferndale contained restrictive covenants forbidding their owners from selling their property to African-American citizens. Oakland County courts routinely enforced those covenants until the United States Supreme Court ruled, in the 1948 decision of *Shelley v. Kraemer*, that their enforcement was unconstitutional. Homes in Royal Oak Township were not similarly restricted but, as a result, many white families looked elsewhere when deciding where to live.



Grant Elementary School. Photo: Russ Pfeiffer, Ferndale Historical Society Collection.

As the village, and later city, of Ferndale grew during the 1920s, the School District built seven new elementary schools: Harding (1920), Roosevelt (1920), Washington (1923), Wilson (1923), Coolidge (1925), Jefferson (1925), and Grant (1926). In 1925, the Ferndale School District approved a neighborhood schools plan for all the children in the District. Each child would attend an elementary school within one half mile from home.

As part of the neighborhood schools plan, Jefferson opened in 1925 as an integrated school that served both Royal Oak Township and the southwest portion of Ferndale. Jefferson's attendance for the 1925-26 school year was 297, including 101 African-American children (34%). However, citing turmoil at Jefferson, the School Board authorized Grant as an annex to Jefferson. Grant would not have its own principal. Instead, Jefferson's principal would continue to oversee Grant.

The Board selected boundaries for Grant that included only African-American neighborhoods (including the Forest Grove and Detroyal subdivisions). Shortly after it opened, Superintendent Edgar Down publicly stated that Grant was the District's "colored" school and that it was unique in that regard. In fact, it was the only school in the District to employ African-American teachers until 1949, and it did not employ any white teachers or full-time staff until 1952. Additionally, Grant was overcrowded for many years, even while other elementary schools (including Jefferson) had excess capacity. While the District often transferred students from overcrowded schools to balance the size of its classes, the District did not move Grant students to nearby schools for fear of the "turmoil" that would result, according to Superintendent Down.

Of course, the "separate but equal" doctrine then in force allowed school districts to maintain separate facilities for white students and for African-American students. Nevertheless, even after *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) ruled that separate schools were inherently unequal, the District maintained neighborhood boundary lines that resulted in the continued segregation of Grant.

Ferndale officials and residents defended the neighborhood elementary school plan and opposed federal intervention, noting that the junior and senior high schools were fully integrated. The School Board stated that Grant Elementary School “was—like other schools built at that time—a logically placed neighborhood school with attendance boundaries drawn solely to create a convenient and compact neighborhood unit.” William Morgan, an African-American member of the School Board, pointed to Grant with pride that “several prominent businessmen and professional people [had] come out of that school” and that it “has become a cultural site in our community.” Morgan’s neighbor, Ernest Wilson, as chairman of the Equal Opportunity in Education committee, sought to improve Grant without necessarily abandoning the neighborhood school plan: “The reason there are objections [to redrawing school boundaries] isn’t racially oriented. It’s because Grant school is known as a school that has below-par educational opportunities.” But, Wilson noted, redrawing school boundaries would also have a palliative effect on race relations, because “having black and white children in grade school together [would] perhaps begin curbing the animosity that seems to grow with age.”

As a result, Wilson asked the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to investigate the Ferndale School District for violations of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Under the leadership of 31-year-old civil rights director Leon Panetta (the future Secretary of Defense), the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare sought to terminate the Ferndale Schools’ federal funds for the district’s violation of the Civil Rights Act. The District thus became the first northern school district to be cited for segregation in violation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Superintendent John Houghton denied “any . . . deliberate attempt to segregate students racially at any school.” Rather, the School Board’s position was that no school in Ferndale was formally segregated by law or policy, only “that Grant School is segregated ‘de facto’ – by neighborhood.”

Even while the litigation ensued, between 1968 and 1974, no white children attended Grant, and very few black children attended an elementary school other than Grant. (For example, during the 1974-75 school year, only 15 of the District’s 277 black elementary school students attended a school other than Grant.) Before the 1975-76 school years, however, the School Board allowed the children residing in the Grant neighborhood to attend any elementary school in the District.



Grant students in the open classroom program, 1975. Photo: Ferndale Gazette.

The Board also created an open classroom program, allowing students from other elementary schools to attend this special program at Grant that offered more individualized treatment of students in a more flexible learning environment. While 31 black students joined 169 white students for the first year of the open classroom, the remaining 230 black students at Grant remained apart from the white students at the school.



Opponent of mandatory busing, early 1970s. Photo: Ferndale Historical Society Collection.

Nevertheless, by the time the District implemented these measures in 1975, the United States Justice Department was already seeking a court order to integrate the Ferndale School District, and the Justice Department’s position was that these measures at Grant were not sufficient to integrate the district. In 1980, Judge George Edwards of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals (the former police commissioner of the City of Detroit) wrote the final opinion on appeal in the case. His opinion stated that the Ferndale School District retained “vestiges of state-imposed segregation” and that Grant had been intentionally operated as a segregated school even after *Brown v. Board of Education* held that segregated schools were unconstitutional. In enforcing this decision, the federal district court in Detroit ordered Grant to be integrated with two other elementary schools in the District. It was only in 1995 that the federal court formally lifted federal monitoring of the school district.

Ferndale was not the only community to be embroiled in litigation over public school segregation. While litigation over Grant ensued, the NAACP filed a lawsuit against the State of Michigan to desegregate Detroit-area public schools. In 1972, federal judge Stephen Roth ruled that 53 school districts in the metropolitan Detroit area would be grouped into 15 clusters, within which students would be bused to achieve a racial balance. L. Brooks Patterson, an attorney and spokesman for opponents of mandated busing, called Judge Roth’s decision “a forced experiment in social engineering” and noted that it was “as incendiary as you can get.” Ultimately, the United States Supreme Court rejected Judge Roth’s solution and ruled that individual school districts could not be ordered to bus students across district lines unless they deliberately engaged in segregation.

The idea that children should attend schools close to home is not itself controversial. But when that concept was combined with decades of housing inequalities to result in neighborhoods that are themselves segregated by race (and school boundaries that were not redrawn to incorporate

diverse neighborhoods), the federal government intervened to ensure equal opportunities for all residents in the District. The Ferndale of today is a welcoming, diverse, inclusive community, but to maintain it as such, it is important to remember the times in our community's history when we have fallen short of this ideal.

Sources: United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Initial Administrative Decision in the Matter of the Ferndale School District, September 28, 1970, passim. Milliken v. Bradley, 418 U.S. 717 (1974). United States of America v. Ferndale School District, 577 F.2d 1339 (Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, 1978). United States of America v. Ferndale School District, 616 F.2d 895 (Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, 1980). Leon Panetta & Peter Gall, Bring Us Together (Philadelphia, PA: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1971): 144-145. David M.P. Freund, Colored Property (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2007): passim. Eleanor P. Wolf, Trial and Error: The Detroit School Segregation Case (Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press, 1981): passim. Melvin Newman, "Ferndale schools' '26 president riled by bias charges," Detroit News, May 24, 1972: p. 10-B. James Tittsworth, "Ex-U.S. Civil Rights Director Says Black, White Separated," Daily Tribune, April 25, 1970. "Board Decides to Fight," Ferndale Gazette, Feb. 20, 1969: p. 1. "HEW Presses Charges," Ferndale Gazette, April 10, 1969: p. 1. "Charges are Unjust As Well as Unique," Ferndale Gazette, April 17, 1969: p. 1. "Residents Rally Behind Neighborhood School Plan," Ferndale Gazette, May 15, 1969: pp. 1, 12. "Issue HEW Statement," Ferndale Gazette, July 10, 1969: p. 1. Gary Schuster, "Ferndale issue splits blacks," Detroit News, Oct. 5, 1970. Raymond J. Serafin, "It's 'all systems go' as Ferndale launches desegregation plan," Royal Oak Tribune, January 3, 1981: p. 3. Yvonne C. Claes, "Judge lifts court order against school district," Royal Oak Tribune, December 4, 1995. Gordon Trowbridge, "Busing battles spurred flight," Detroit News, January 21, 2002.

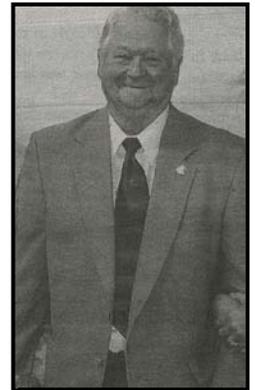
JOE MAHAN: THE VOICE OF FERNDALE ATHLETICS

The PA announcer for Ferndale schools' athletic events since 1947, Joe Mahan, once said that "one of the saddest things is when a kid doesn't get turned on about anything in school."

His life was dedicated to ensuring that kids in Ferndale—and in Detroit Public Schools where he served as a principal, teacher, and counselor for 38 years—at least would have sports as one reason to get excited about school. Joe passed away March 20, 2013, leaving an honored place in Ferndale sports history.

A 1944 graduate of Ferndale's Lincoln High School, where he played basketball, he went on to a life centered on furthering sports as an important part of public education. A charter member of the Ferndale Sports Boosters, he was instrumental in promoting summer athletic programs in the city and actively supported high school athletic programs in addition to serving as announcer. But he is best known as the "Voice of the Eagles," Ferndale High's public address announcer for football and basketball games. One of his fondest memories: the State Basketball Championships won by Ferndale High in 1963 and 1966.

His dedication to youth sports earned him many awards, including one from the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administration. He and his wife Barbara are also well-known locally for their creation and maintenance of the "Heroes Garden," a quiet memorial honoring local police, fire, and veterans, as well as those lost in the 9/11 attacks, which is located at the western end of Geary Park in Ferndale.



Joe Mahan.
Photo: Ferndale High School.

Though "The Voice" is now silenced, Joe Mahan's legacy of community involvement endures.

Source: Mahan quote, from Jim Evans, "Joe Mahan Keeps Score, Continues Making Points," Daily Tribune, clipping 1983/4, in Ferndale Historical Museum archives. Joe Mahan obituary, Daily Tribune, March 21, 2013.

PARKING EXPERIMENTS, Monday June 16, 1956, Daily Tribune:

Ferndale Police Chief Reginald H. Lemkie didn't hesitate. "I'm afraid that one of my ideas that blew up," he said. "It's just a question of cooperation and we can't get it."

Lemkie's forthright admission followed complaint by 63 LaPrairie residents to the "alternate" parking test started on the street June 1. Residents said that "increased traffic, speeding, noise and confusion" created a hazard. They had voiced similar complaints a week ago.

The plan for parking on odd and even sides of the street according to odd and even days of the month was initiated to reduce the hazard of parked cars to children.

FERNDALE'S GRANT SCHOOL: KEN COCKREL SR. AND FAMILY



**Cynthia Jones
Cockrel.** Photo:
Ferndale Historical
Society Collection.

One of the Detroit area's most well-known political figures of recent generations, Ken Cockrel Sr., got his educational start at Ferndale's Grant School. Born in 1938 in Royal Oak Township, Ken attended Grant until 1952, when he was sent to live with an aunt and uncle in Detroit after both of his parents died within a month of each other. But for the rest of his life, he fondly remembered his days at Grant and often mentioned his family and growing up on Parkside Street in the Township.

His mother Cynthia (Jones) was the first black graduate of Lincoln High School, Ferndale (1926); she later taught adult education classes at Grant. Like her husband Sye, she was born in Mississippi. Cynthia remained a "housewife," while Sye, who had a 6th grade education, held a variety of jobs in the Detroit area, first working for the WPA in the 1930s and ultimately at Ford's Highland Park plant. Ken was the second of their five children (three sons and two daughters).

After attending high school at both Northwestern and Central in Detroit, Ken quit school and joined the Air Force, becoming a nuclear weapons specialist. After completing military service, he returned to Detroit, enrolled in Wayne State University's special program for non-high school graduates, earning a degree in political science from Wayne (1964), and then, in 1967, a WSU law degree. An avowed Marxist, he nevertheless worked within the legal system in his subsequent law career in Detroit, which included some of the most controversial cases of the era—among them the Hayward Brown cop-killer case. By 1973 he led the legal fight against STRESS (Stop The Robberies, Enjoy Safe Streets), the Detroit Police Department's ambitious law enforcement crackdown aimed at fighting the city's high crime rate but which, instead, became a source of acute fear in the black community. It was the anti-STRESS cause that elected Coleman Young to office as Detroit's mayor and helped to solidify Cockrel's social justice stance as a member of the Detroit City Council (1978-1981). In 1989, Ken, a potential candidate to succeed Young as mayor, died of a sudden heart attack at age 50.



Ken Cockrel, Sr.
Photo: Courtesy
Detroit News.

Remembered for his "fast-talking" and abiding commitment to his profession and the betterment of Detroit, he is also recalled today for his attendance at Ferndale's Grant School and Wayne State University—and for his membership in a very successful Royal Oak Township family. Sye and Cynthia's entire family went on to successful careers: one daughter became a communications official, Michigan Bell; another daughter, a Los Angeles physician; one son became a U.S. government computer design engineer; one son, a lawyer; and another son, an industrial design manager.

Ken always remembered his days at Grant, actively supporting the school's alumni association and Royal Oak Township as a proud community. The Cockrel family remains an important reminder of Twentieth Century local history.

Sources consulted: Kenneth W. Cockrel, "Unsung Heroes," Detroit News, February 24, 1986: 10A. Betty DeRamus, "Cockrel's Death Leaves Big Void in Mayoral Race," Detroit News, May 4, 1989. Bill McGraw, "Abuse of Power Is an Old Problem: Police Acted Like Occupation Force in '70s," Detroit Free Press, November 7, 1992: 10A. John Michalak, "Remembering Ken Cockrel," Daily Tribune (no month listed) 1989, clipping in Ferndale Historical Museum Archives.

"HIT GAS AT NEW THEATER" (RADIO CITY): HEADLINE, *FERNDALE GAZETTE*, DECEMBER 3, 1936

Gas has been struck in Ferndale! And in paying quantities, too. Workmen drilling for water at the site of the new theater (Radio City), Woodward at Withington, hit gas twice this week.

The first time was at about 90 feet. With a hiss that could be heard throughout the block, the gas blew off into the air. A daring mechanic ignited it, and a flame two feet long shot forth. However the drillers went straight through the gas sand in their quest for water.

A day later drillers at another spot came upon gas at about 125 feet. This "gasser" came in with about the same volume and spouted about the same length of flame. Once again the drillers cut through into the water sands.

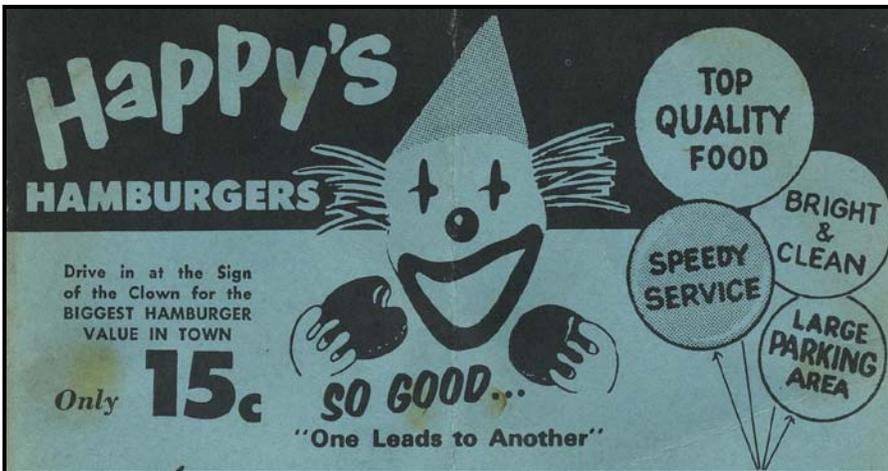
But the fact remains there is gas here or hereabout. And as a result several persons are seriously contemplating sinking wells for gas in their backyards. They vision a well large enough to heat their homes.

In parts of Royal Oak numerous wells are giving forth sufficient gas for home usage. In many places these wells are in adjoining yards.

Geologists state gas—if any—in Ferndale probably is surface or marsh gas and it is doubtful if it exists in more than a very few spots. However, the fact remains that gas has been struck. Many years ago wells were sunk in numerous parts of what is now the extreme northern part of Ferndale but so far as state records are concerned no well of any large proportions lasted.

If you are curious enough, you can satisfy your curiosity for about \$250 for every 100 feet.

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE FUNNY IN FERNDALE HISTORY



Happy's Hamburgers on W. Nine Mile/Pinecrest advertised 15-cent hamburgers.
Photo: Ferndale Historical Society Collection.

The Fire Department has had only one “official” dog, Queenie, a stray of indeterminate ancestry, who showed up at the station one day in 1937—and stayed there for the rest of her life. She “carried herself well,” loved to eat, and slept under the phone table. Even the Chief liked her.

Nine Mile has had six names in its history: Sycamore, Nine Mile Road, Little Farms Boulevard, Elsinoire, Ferndale Avenue, and Rockwell Avenue.

Four streets in Ferndale are named after football All-Americans, pre-1920: Mahan, Brickley, Coy, and Shevlin. Edward W. Mahan and Charles E. Brickley were All-Americans from Harvard (Mahan, 1918; Brickley, 1912 and

1913). Edward H. (Ted) Coy and Tom Shevlin were All-Americans from Yale (Coy, 1909; Shevlin, 1908). Brickley was the only one to turn pro.

General Douglas MacArthur visited Ferndale, May 16, 1952. His motorcade passed Federal’s Department Store, at the Woodward and Nine Mile intersection.

On April 29, 2009, a live World War II hand grenade was found on display at the Ferndale Historical Museum. It was quickly defused by the Bomb Squad and the Ferndale Fire Department.

A two-seater SNJ Advance Trainer Navy plane crashed in Roosevelt Park (now Geary Park) on March 17, 1946. Two pilots, Ensign Judson Berger, and Ensign O. Fredrick Hall, were killed instantly. Ensign Berger was a 1942 graduate of Lincoln High School, Ferndale. His father, who lived on W. Oakridge, had seen the plane fly overhead, but did not know his son was aboard.

Ferndale had four telephones in 1918. The phone exchange was HEMlock.

In celebration of the dedication of the Ferndale Post Office in 1937, an enterprising aerialist with a hot air balloon took up donations to put on a demonstration of his skills. As he floated in the basket of his balloon, high over the post office, he lowered himself from the basket onto a trapeze and did a few aerial tricks. Suddenly a gust of wind blew the balloon and its performing tenant away from the post office site and toward Eight Mile. He was later found in a tree on Ferndale’s east side, safe but well off course.

During World War II, Ferndale was the first city in the U.S. to have reached the goal of having all of its plants and institutions that employed 25 or more people participated in a payroll deduction plan in making War Bond purchases.



Safety Boy awards, 1952. Back row, center: Officer “Doc” Major. Back row, right: Mayor Bruce Garbutt. Photo: Jack Richards, Ferndale Historical Society Collection.

(Continued on next page)

Ferndale was once a favorite swimming, fishing, and skating area because of the Hubbard Marsh that stretched from below Eight Mile to Eleven Mile in the rainy season. Philburn's Pond, part of Hubbard's Marsh, was the local "swimmin' hole." Fishing for pike and suckers along Ferndale's western border was an annual event. Farmers would place cut marsh hay in the swamp area so skating would be possible in winter.

The Detroit Zoo, Woodward at Ten Mile, opened in 1928, much to the delight of Ferndale kids who had watched the construction of the animal enclosures and welcomed the Zoo's first animals, two wolverines named Itty and Bitty.

To accommodate the widening of Woodward in the 1920s, whole buildings at Nine/Woodward were moved by tethered horses who walked in circles to move the mechanism that hauled structures to their new location.

William Fulton, whose farm straddled Woodward/Eight Mile and extended into present Ferndale, contended with wolves and bears on his property by building "deadfalls" of trees to trap wolves and constructing scaffolds from which to shoot bears at night.

The Purple Gang, famous for being chased up and down Woodward by Ferndale Police in the 1930s, was rumored to have a hide-out on the southeast corner of Marshall at Pinecrest.

Pinecrest has had seven names: Saginaw Trail, Pontiac Trail, Livernois, Mill Road, Ridge Road, Brock Avenue, and, finally, Pinecrest.

L.O. Berry, President of the Third Commission, Village of Ferndale (1921), was a retired wrestler.

Sources: Maurice Cole, *Ferndale of Yesteryear* (Ferndale Historical Society, 1971): *passim*. Ruth Rodgers Elmers, *June Waugh Kotlarek*, and Gerry Kulick (ed.), *Old Timers Tell It Like It Was* (Ferndale Historical Society, 1987): *passim*. Roger Schmidt, *Tough as Nails* (Ferndale Historical Society, 2004): *passim*. Various from the Ferndale Gazette and the Daily Tribune in Ferndale Historical Museum Archives. Assorted memories recalled by Museum volunteers from maintaining Museum archives.



Radio City Theater marquee advertising the Beatles' film "Yellow Submarine." Photo: Ferndale Historical Society Archives.

THE FAMOUS OF FERNDALE*

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Allin, Rod (1929-2002) | Cinematographer (TV's "Wild Kingdom") and internationally known ski instructor and racer. |
| Blanchard, James | Governor of Michigan; graduate of Ferndale High School, 1960. |
| Bonds, Bill | Newscaster; lived for a short time in Ferndale. |
| Brown, Otto (1905-1966) | Member, Fred Waring Chorale (TV); long-time music director, Lincoln High School and Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church. |
| Carter, Ron (b. 1937) | Internationally known jazz bassist and classical and jazz cellist; Member, Miles Davis' Band, Herbie Hancock and others. |
| Christopher, Scott (b.1967) | Author ("The Levity") and actor ("The Best Two Years," My Girlfriend's Boyfriend"). |
| Connor, Whitfield | Actor in movies, stage, TV, radio: "Lone Ranger," member Maurice Evans Shakespeare Company; Movies: "Tap Root" w/ Susan Hayward; "Prince of Pirates" w/John Derek; TV: "Dragnet," "Another World," "Guiding Light." |
| Covey, Craig | First openly gay mayor in Michigan (2007-2010). |
| Dappers, The (1950s/60s) | Doo-Wop Singing Group; appeared on "American Bandstand." LHS grads. |
| Doble, William J. (1904-1972) | Local railroad traffic controller; became Chairman of the National Brotherhood of Railroad Signalman (1931-1962). |
| Elcar, Dana (1927-2005) | Actor, on NY stage ("Inherit the Wind" and others); some 40 movies (including "The Sting"); TV series: "Rockford Files," "Hill Street Blues," "Baretta," and "McGuyver." |
| Haines, Hulda Moses Campbell | Sister of Annie Oakley (marksman in "Buffalo Bill" shows); Annie's husband, Frank Butler, died at Hulda's home in Ferndale, 1926. |

(Continued on p. 7)

Hanson, Peter	Actor, TV's "General Hospital" for years; starred in a number of movies ("Branded" w/Alan Ladd). Graduate of Lincoln High School, 1940.
Higgins, George (1898-1977)	Owner, Higgins Pontiac, Ferndale; State Senator (4 terms); State Rep. (3 terms); ran against George Romney for Governor of Michigan.
Jack, Jill	Singer/songwriter (pop, rock, country); winner of some 35 Detroit music awards.
Jaeger, Charles F.	Inventor, builder of the Jaeger Automobile (4 made, 1930s); local resident.
Keeler, George	One of the architects on the construction of the Fisher Building.
Kosins, Kathy	Nationally recognized jazz singer, ASCAP winner song writer, record producer, and celebrated abstract painter.
LeClair, Homer (d. 1967)	Lawyer, Nuremburg Trials. 1936 Lincoln High School graduate.
McCormick, Orma	Recognized poet, science fiction writer, publisher, 1950s; first Michigan poet ever elected to the American Poets Fellowship Society (1954), included in "Who's Who in American Poetry."
Peterson, Billy (1905-1931)	Light middleweight champ of Michigan (1925), later Ferndale firefighter. 1924 Lincoln High School graduate.
Pisor, Bob	Well-known TV newscaster and personality, retired to ownership of Stone House Bakery in Leland, MI. 1957 Lincoln High School graduate.
Price, Kevin (b. 1918)	Syndicated columnist, publisher, author, based in TX, writes on business and economics.
Schmidt, Bill	NY Times correspondent, won Pulitzer Prize for Challenger disaster coverage. 1963 Ferndale High School graduate.
Schuster, Gary	News reporter, <i>Daily Tribune</i> , <i>Detroit News</i> , and then CBS-TV White House correspondent.
Spinners, The	Doo Wop/R&B singing group. Grammy nominees 6 times, 12 gold records, met at Ferndale High School, late 1950s.
Ungerman, Ed	Ferndale Schools' bus driver awarded a citation (1956) by President Eisenhower for driving 7,000,000 miles in 32 years with no accidents.
Voris, Michael (b. 1961)	TV news reporter, anchor and reporter for CBS, 4 Emmys. Now media specialist for conservative Catholic faith network.
White, Walter (b. 1963)	Trumpet player, appears with top names in jazz, including Maynard Ferguson; did soundtracks for "Taxi" and "The Cosby Show," appears with various symphonies.

**This is an ongoing list compiled from various sources in the Ferndale Historical Museum archives, including clipping files from various local newspapers, TV reports, and Society member memories. Corrections and additions welcome.*

From our President/Director

I wish all of our membership a healthy and carefree summer. An important note to our in-town members: we will remain open during our regular business hours during the construction project on West Nine Mile and Livernois. Research at the Museum is a project our volunteer staff is always doing. Depending on the inquiry, research can take hours, days, or sometimes months. The process can be time-consuming and tedious, but it is always intriguing. We are occasionally blessed with the gift of outside research help in our investigations. I extend a heartfelt thank-you to professional researcher **Fred Acerri** who has spent a great deal of his free time researching topics for us. Through his efforts we have been able to move along with many of our more mysterious queries. Please be sure that your Historical Society membership is up to date so you do not miss the next issue of the *Crow's Nest*. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Museum in your summer travels around town. I must thank **Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter and the Members of the City Council** for taking over the payment of the Museum's water bill. This generous act will help the Museum in a large way to address its monthly overhead. Thank you to all our membership and Ferndale residents as well as City leaders for their ongoing and generous support of the Ferndale Historical Society and Museum.

Regards, Garry Andrews

Can you help us? In the 1930s Ferndale was home to Nick's Bar on Woodward, north of Nine Mile. Do you know the exact location? Thank you for any information you might be able to supply on this mystery.

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Calendar of Events:

- Thursday, June 20, 2013 6 pm Board Meeting, Historical Society, held at the Museum, public is welcome
No Ferndale Historical Society Board Meetings in July and August 2013
- Thursday, September 26, 2013 6 pm Board Meeting, Historical Society, held at the Museum, public is welcome

The Crow's Nest, Summer 2013									
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“Preserving the Heritage of Ferndale for Future Generations”