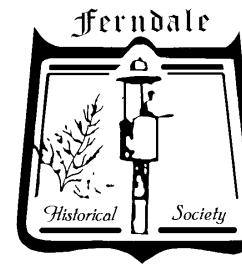


Ferndale Transitions: Rural To Urban

My parents moved out to Ferndale [from Detroit] in 1916. This changed my life. I was 13 years old and thought this country living was wonderful. My father built our home which was a two-story house on Avondale (now St. Louis), south of Marshall. I loved to read and so when I had to go the store, I would walk down Marshall reading my story. This one day I was wandering down the road with my nose stuck in a book when I abruptly bumped into something . . . and it moored. A neighbor's cow had ventured out onto the road.

Marshall was a large sand hill between Woodward and St. Louis. I can vividly remember one evening coming home from work. I climbed the Marshall Street hill and saw the electricity being turned on all over the village for the first time. It was like fairy land to me. **Clarice (Spencer) Leach**, quoted in Ruth Rodgers Elmers, June Waugh Kotlarek, and Gerry Kulick (Editor), *Old Timers Tell It Like It Was* (Ferndale Historical Society, 1987): 49.



The Crow's Nest

"Preserving the heritage of Ferndale for future generations"

Newsletter of the Ferndale Historical Society

Spring, 2004

Vol. 19

FISHING IN FERNDALE: THE HUBBARD MARSH



Oakland County has some 450 lakes, none of them in Ferndale. But area residents well-enjoyed water sports locally in Ferndale's early days. Duck hunting and fishing for pike and suckers in Hubbard's Marsh, located along Ferndale's western boundaries, were annual events. Many farmers even kept boats for use when rains flooded the marshland each year. In very rainy seasons this marsh extended from below Eight Mile Rd. to Eleven Mile Rd. For Ferndale residents, Philburn's Pond, part of Hubbard's Marsh, was the local "swimming hole." As late as 1910 a lesser marsh ran along today's Livernois, south of Nine Mile: Farmers would cut marsh hay there each year, leaving a skating pond for the winter months. Just south of Ten Mile, there was a beaver dam, and at Nine Mile was a causeway. The present Rackham Golf Course, near Ten Mile, was built over the old Hubbard's Marsh. And well into the 1920s a stream flowed in front of the first and 10th tees in rainy seasons, requiring a duck board to cross over it.

Hubbard's Marsh and Philburn's Pond are long gone, having given way to homes, schools, businesses, and progress. But the next time you drive down Livernois or speed north on Woodward, consider that in former days you could have enjoyed many water-related activities right here in Ferndale – even near what is now the frenetic Woodward-696 interchange!

Facts summarized from Maurice Cole's "Going Fishing in Local Marshes", which appeared in his *Ferndale of Yesteryear* [column] in the *Ferndale Gazette-Times*, 1966. Ferndale Historical Society Museum files.

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Coming Up!

The **Ferndale Public Library** formally opened in November 1930, which means that, in 2005, the library celebrates its 75th anniversary. Housed in the old Central School on Nine Mile Rd., just east of Woodward, the new library had some 2,000 volumes, plus 200 loaned by the State Library, that first day. (The building later housed the Ferndale Board of Education and is now privately owned.) Miss Etta Vivian was the librarian; she had one assistant. Some 1,500 library cards were issued the first year of the library's operation. "One of the finest in this section," was how the new library was characterized in *Ferndale: A Century of Progress in 25 Years--1918-1943* (p. 67), a City of Ferndale commemorative booklet published in 1944.

Memorial Day Observances

Parade 10 AM
Memorial Service 11 AM
Monday, May 31st

Please plan to attend the Memorial Day Parade. Be sure to observe the memorial brick walkway now in place in the Veterans Memorial area on Livernois.

Don't Forget...

Ferndale Historical Society membership renewals are due on Memorial Day 2004

Museum Hours

Saturdays
2 - 4 PM

or by appointment
(248) 545-7606



Class Reunion, Lincoln High School, 1954

The classes of January and June 1954, Lincoln High School, will have their 50th class reunion on October 9, 2004 in the Detroit area. For further information, please contact either **Lovinia (Gentry) Schroeder**, 1727 Coco Palm Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573, 1-813-634-9110; or **Madelyn McGeachy**, 1-248-685-2358.

Typesetting for this newsletter was provided by: Graphics One of Ferndale (248) 398-5467



Ferndale Historical Society

1651 Livernois

Ferndale, Michigan 48220

"Preserving the heritage of Ferndale for future generations"

Ferndale Historical Society



SEARCHIN'

Does anyone know the whereabouts of (Neal) **Brian Westveer**? A 1957 graduate of Lincoln High School, he took many pictures of high school events and other activities in 1950s Ferndale that are now an important part of the Museum's photograph collection. His help in identifying sites and people in many of these photographs would be of great help to Museum staff.

Past Items Needed!

The Museum staff is seeking a **Lincoln High School drum major's headdress**, dating from the 1940s or 50s, for its collection of LHS memorabilia. Can you help locate one? The staff is also looking for information on, and photographs of, the **Dipsy Doodle**, the Ferndale drive-in restaurant of the 1950s that, thanks to the Woodward Dream Cruise, has now become an area icon and fond memory for countless Cruisers. Please let the Museum staff know if you can be of assistance.

Museum Updates

An overhead sign and an expanded sales counter have been added to the sales area in the museum. The postcards, T-shirts, afghans, and other "memories of Ferndale" available for purchase are now more accessible to museum visitors.

A relocation of items and new shelving in the area dedicated to the Armed Services have enhanced the visibility of items commemorating the many residents of Ferndale who have served in the Armed Forces.

Identifying and labeling items in the museum's collection remains an ongoing project of the museum staff. Volunteers to help with this endeavor are always welcome!

Famous Ferndalians

- Peter Hansen** Actor, appeared as one of the "doctors" on the TV soap *General Hospital* for years and starred in a number of movies, including *Branded* with Alan Ladd. Was a 1940 graduate of Lincoln High School.
- Dana Elcar** One of the lead actors on the TV series *McIvor*
- The Spinners** Nationally known singing group in the 1960s-present.
- James Blanchard** Governor of Michigan
- George Higgins** State Senator (4 terms), State Representative (3 terms). Ran for governor against George Romney.
- Robert Pisor** Local TV personality. A 1957 graduate of Lincoln High School.
- Gary Schuster** White House news reporter for CBS
- Homer LeClair** Lawyer at the Nuremberg Trials after World War II. A graduate of Lincoln High.
- George Keeler** Architect of the Fisher Building, Detroit
- Walter White** Jazz Musician (trumpet). Has appeared with Maynard Ferguson and many of the major symphonies in U.S. and Europe. Attended Ferndale High School.



For Sale: Historical Designation Plaques For Ferndale's Historic Houses

The Historical Society is finalizing plans to offer historical designation plaques for sale to residents. A number of local communities whose housing stock, like Ferndale's, is approaching historic status, are already using such plaques to mark the historical past of their homes. Made of cast aluminum to withstand Michigan's climate, these plaques, green with gold lettering, will be in the shape of the Ferndale shield and designate the year a house was built, along with the name "Ferndale Historical Society." Offering residents an opportunity to so mark the date of their home's origin is a constructive means of documenting the evolution of the diverse architectural renderings of the houses in our community--while commemorating Ferndale's rich history. Orders will be taken through the Museum staff or at various city functions throughout the upcoming year.

Volunteers Needed

Got some spare time for some interesting volunteer work? The Ferndale Historical Museum staff is always looking for assistance with the various tasks associated with keeping the Museum running and up-to-date. Computer skills are especially welcome. Please contact **Ruth Elmers** (1-248-689-1067).

New Museum Committee

The Board of the Ferndale Historical Society voted at their meeting, held February 28, 2004, to create a "Study Committee for Museum Upgrades." This committee will be charged with investigating ways to house and maintain the ever-growing Museum collection. Committee members include **Frank Flores** (Chair), **Ray White**, **June Kotlarek**, **Carolyn Steger**, and **Roger Schmidt**. More volunteers are sought to serve on this important committee.

Ferndale's Streets Of Many Names

Nine Mile was once Rockwell Avenue, Eight Mile was Sherbourne Avenue, and Pinecrest has had seven successive names: Saginaw Trail, Pontiac Trail, Livernois, Mill Road, Ridge Road, Brock Avenue, and, finally, Pinecrest Drive. The Commission of the Village of Ferndale, on March 10, 1920, altered street names, many of which are retained today. Among them:

Old Name	New Name
Auburndale	Allen
Avondale	St. Louis
Beulah	Albany
Catherine	Drayton East
Central	Paxton
Cherry	Breckenridge East
Davis	Lewiston West
Duffield	Drayton East
Durell	Marshall West
Englewood	Maplehurst East
Field	Mapledale
First	Hilton
Genessee	Pearson
Kenwood	Bonner
Laurel	Oakridge East
Leggett	Troy West
Lorraine	Webster West
McMillan	Leroy
Odense	Cambourne East
Oakridge Blvd.	Oakridge Ave., West
Olive	Vester
Park	Webster East
Park Blvd.	Drayton West
Parker	Kenton
Porter	Saratoga East
Ridge Rd.	Brock Avenue
Rochester	Leroy
Seymour	Maplehurst West