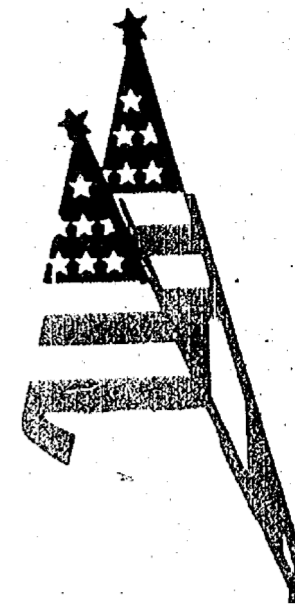


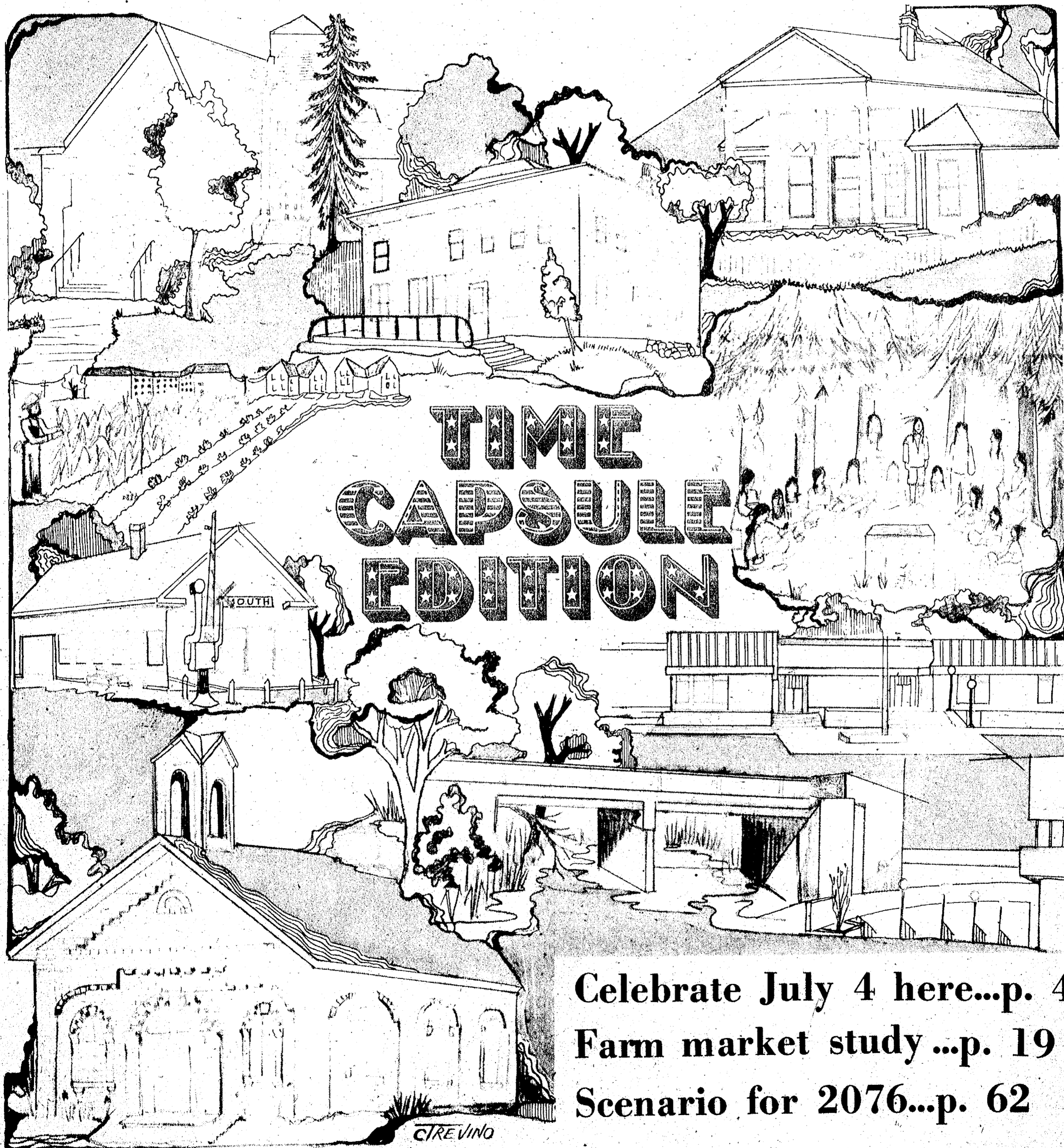


the Community Crier



The Newspaper with Its Heart in the Plymouth - Canton Community

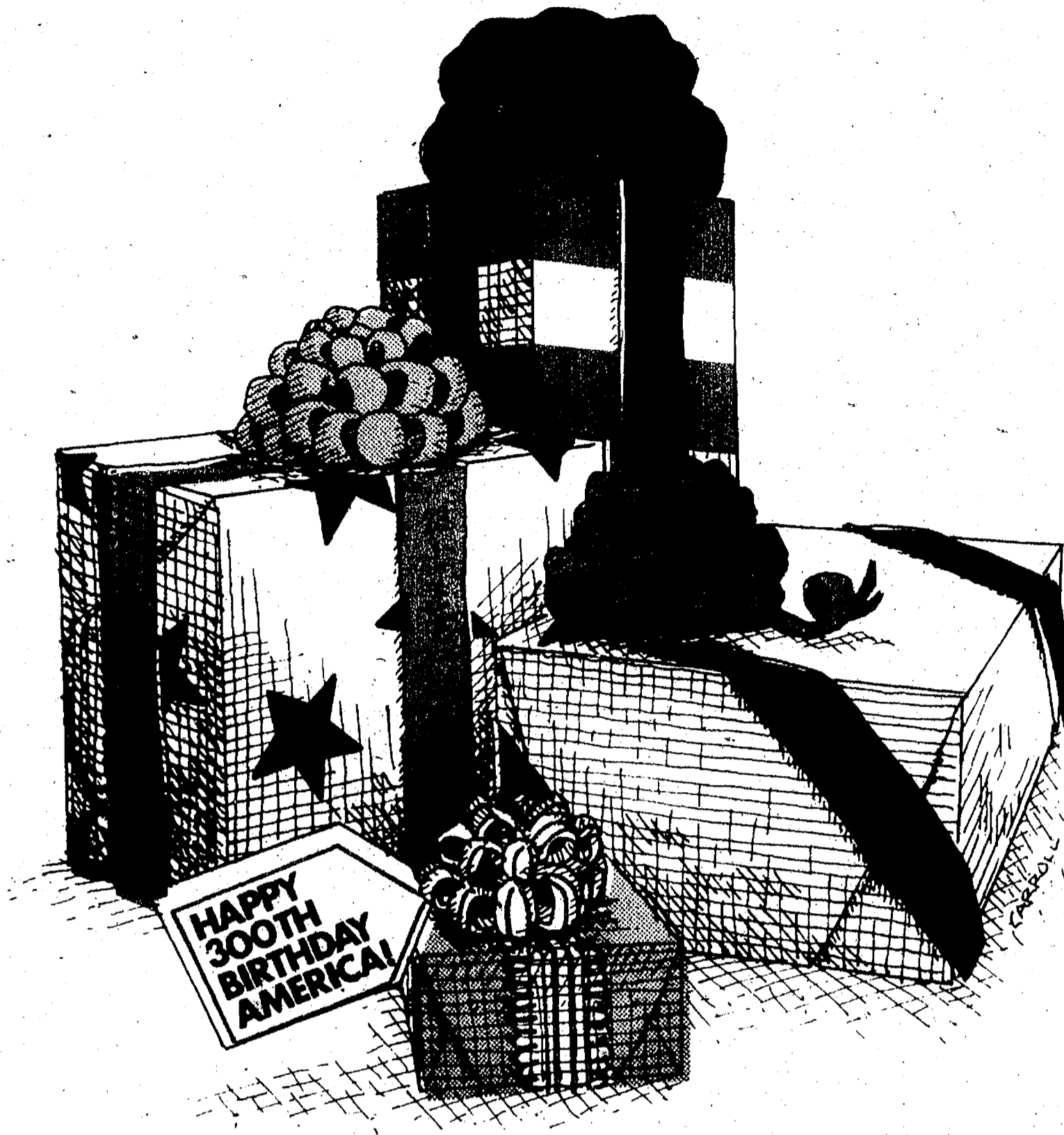
July 4, 1976



TIME CAPSULE EDITION

Celebrate July 4 here...p. 4
Farm market study...p. 19
Scenario for 2076...p. 62

CIREVINO



SOME THINGS WE'D LIKE TO LEAVE TO THE AMERICANS OF 2076:

We'd like our great grandchildren to have the Declaration of Independence to inspire them, and the Constitution to guide them.

The Lincoln Memorial and the Statue of Liberty and Mount Rushmore and our national shrines.

The awesome Grand Canyon, the green forests, the snow-crested mountains, the rolling wheatlands and the oceans dashing up on our rocky shores.

And the democratic election process, the competitive enterprise system and our personal liberties — all of which have been a light to the rest of the world for two centuries.

True, we can't put all these things in a time capsule for our countrymen of 2076.

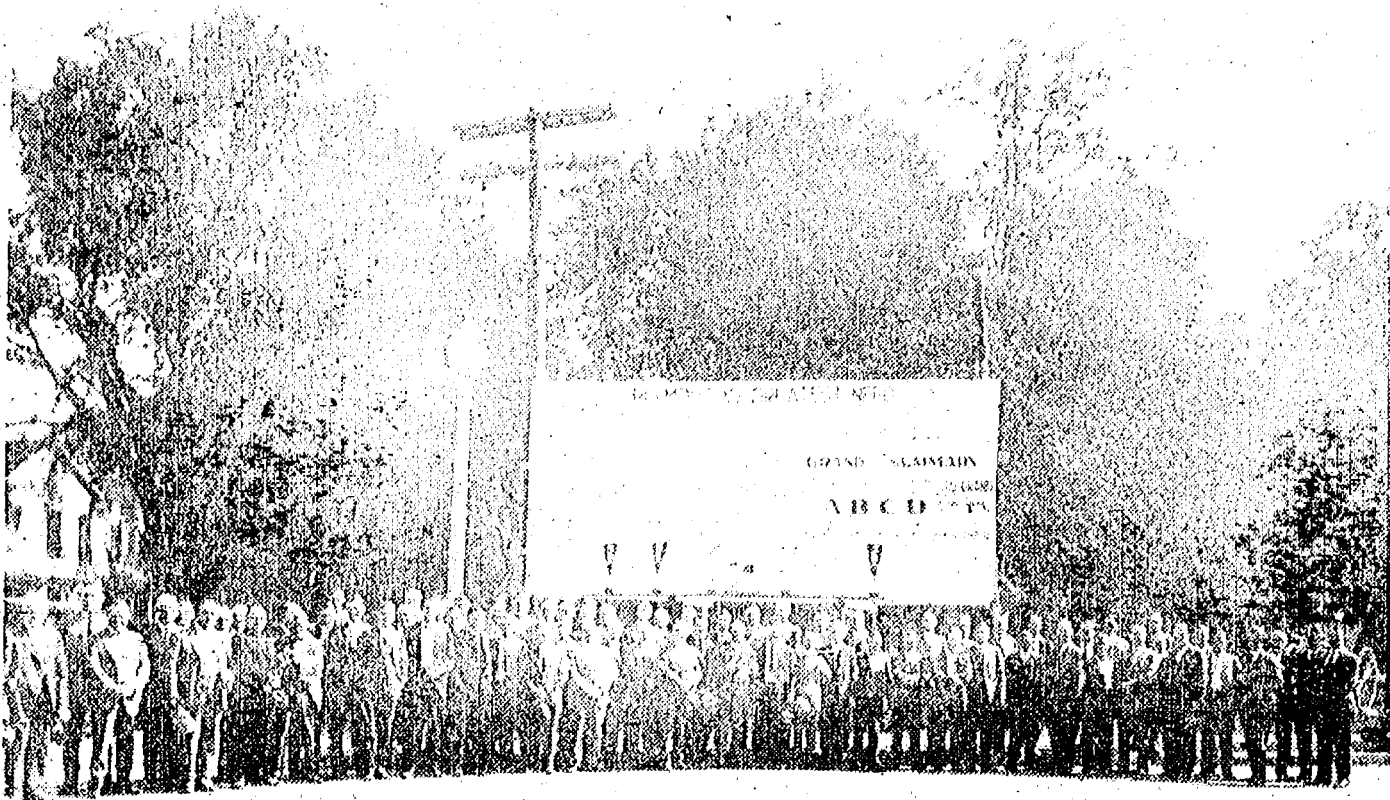
But we can resolve to use them wisely and care for them well. And to teach succeeding generations to pass them on, as they were passed on to us.



**FIRST NATIONAL BANK
OF PLYMOUTH**

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Birth of a Country



As we celebrate our nation's birthday this year, we also mark two other anniversaries important to our community.

It was 150 years ago, in 1826, when the first white child, George Anson Starkweather, was born in Plymouth. His parents William and Keziah Starkweather had fashioned first a bark and sapling leanto and then built a log cabin on their property on the southwest corner of where Ann Arbor Trail and Main Street intersect now. The Mayflower Hotel is currently located on that spot.

A century later, in 1926, leaders of the community assembled a drive to raise funds for "a new and modern hotel" in Plymouth. The successful project led to the hotel's opening in November, 1927. This group of local fundraisers included such local notables as: Paul Wiedman, Carl Shear, Sid Strong, Edward C. Hough, Charles Bennett, E.J. Allison, Rev. F.C. Leferve and John McLaren. They felt that a first class hotel was important to the vitality of a community.

THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL & MOTOR INN

827 W. Ann Arbor Trail 453-1620
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

Featuring:

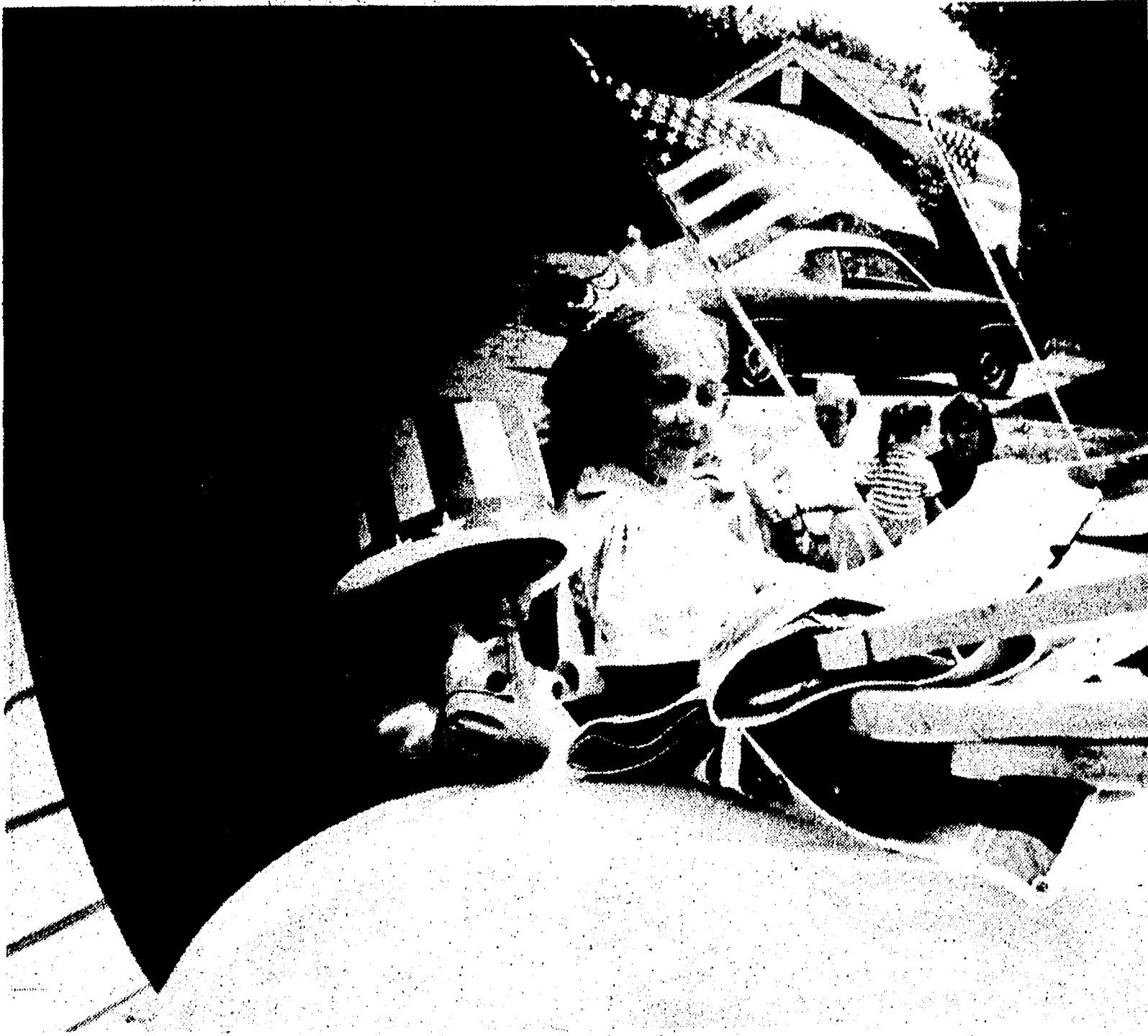
*The Steak House Galley, Crow's Nest Pub
...and The Mayflower Room*

Birth of a Community



See the parade,
11:40 a.m. Sunday,
then fireworks at Burroughs at dusk

The Plymouth Jaycees wish to thank the following community members and friends for their contributions that will make this parade and fireworks possible.



Parade lineup

The Plymouth Jaycees will begin the annual Fourth of July Parade, Sunday at 12:30 at Main Street and Theodore. Leading off the procession will be the Jaycee Banner followed by the VFW color guard.

Next will be parade Marshall, James T. Hyslop, the British Consul in Detroit who will be making his final appearance in a Plymouth parade. Next will come Mayor Joe Bida, Jaycee President Phil Soper and his family, and the Plymouth Fire and Drum Corps.

Justice G. Mennen Williams will follow, along with U.S. Rep. Marv Esch, State Sen. Carl Pursell, State Rep. Roy Smith and State Rep. Thomas Brow.

Coming next will be the Brigadiers, District Judge Dunbar Davis, D. Ed. Pierce, Plymouth Township Supervisor J.D. McLaren, Sheriff William Lucas and Gregory Dean.

Bicentennial Commission members will follow, along with the Danish Band, John Smith's elephants, the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce retail float, the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce board float and the Green Thumb Float.

Charles Dehoe's 1921 "J" Fire Engine will come next followed by antique cars (which will appear throughout the parade) the Clan McRae Pipe Band, Indian Guides, the Canton-Northville and Plymouth YMCA float, Indian Maidens, and the Plymouth Kiwanis float. They will be followed by the Mayflower Hotel's English taxi, Cub Scout Pack No. 854, The Plymouth Business and Professional Wo-

men's Club float, Jerry's Bicycles and the Milford High School Redskin Marching Band. The Garden City Twirlettes will come next, followed by the United Assembly of God float, Parents Without Partners float, Cub Scout Pack No. 1539 float, the Shawn Quilter Derby car, Don VanAtta's 1931 Alfa Romeo Replica and Doreen Wilson's horse and riders.

Gary Jean will follow in a 1929 Lincoln, then the Troubadors of Taylor, Plymouth Grange No. 389 float, VFW Mayflower Auxiliary float with "Miss Poppy", League of Women Voters' float, the DeMolay No. 1999 float, the Order of Rainbow No. 33 and the Eastern Star No. 115.

The Tri-Club Lions Youth Band will come next, followed by the First Baptist Church of Plymouth's float, the Plymouth Towns & Country 4-H float, Everett L. Salow's 1936 and 1942 Deere Antique tractors, the Tonquish Trail Riders 4-H Club -21 horses and riders.

Coming next will be a McDonald's Restaurant float, the Canton Chiefettes, the Plymouth Community Band and the Redford Prancers.

In succession will be the Plymouth Rotary float, Boy Scout Troup No. 743, the Huron Valley Girl Scout Council, the Plymouth Junior Fire and Drum Corps and St. Peter's Lutheran Youth Group float.

The Hood family horses will follow along with Dave's Carpet Cleaning, the City of Plymouth Fire Department and the Plymouth Township Fire Department.

Bringing up the rear of the parade will be bicycles and kiddie floats.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Antique Auto Restoration | McCarthy, James, Atty. |
| Audette Office Supply | McCully Egg Co. |
| Austin Vacuum Cleaner | McKeon-Noling Real Estate Inc. |
| B & F Auto Supply | McDonald's |
| Robert Bake, Realtor | McLaren Silkworth |
| Ball Drug Service | McMurray Ins. Co. |
| Tivador Balogh, Architect | Manley, Bennett & McDonald |
| Bathey Manufacturing Co. | March Goodyear Tire Com. |
| Beautiful People Hair Forum | Marcus Auto Sales |
| Bed 'n Stead | Marquard, Robert O.D. |
| Bee Jay's Pizza | Massey Cadillac |
| Beitner Jewelry Inc. | Master Collision Shop |
| Beyer Rexall Drugs | Mayflower Wine Shop |
| Bill's Market | Mayflower Hotel |
| Bluford Jewelers | Me & Mr. Jones |
| Bowles, Geo. E., Atty. | Merle Norman Cosmetics |
| Box Bar | Mel's Golden Razor |
| Cadillac Drapery | Merriman and Assoc. Inc. |
| Cal's Standard Service | Merritt, Joe, Insurance |
| Chuck's Standard | Meyers, Ron - Architect |
| N & J Clock Restaurant | Mich, Nat'l. Bank of Detroit |
| Cloverdale Farms Dairy | Midas Muffler Shop |
| Colonial Cleaners, Inc. | Muriel's Doll House |
| Colony Car Wash | Myron's Barber Shop |
| Courson Upholstery | National Bank of Detroit |
| Cricket Box | National Concrete Products Co. |
| Cutting Quarters | Nawrot Inc. Pendelton Shop |
| Daly Drive In No. 1 | Norman's Shoes & Apparel |
| Damsel Salon | Old Friends Menagerie |
| Dean Engineering | Olson Heating & Air conditioning |
| Del's Shoes | Palace Fine Foods |
| Detroit Edison | Paneling Unlimited |
| DiVeto Electronics | Parkway Vet Clinic |
| Dick's Pine Crafts | Party Pantry |
| Draugelis, Ashton & Scully | Pease Paint & Wallpaper Co. |
| Dunbar Davis | Penniman's Market |
| Early American Shop Inc. | Pilgrim Party Store |
| Eltec Corp | Pilgrim Printer |
| Emery Air Freight | Plymouth Book World |
| Evenson's Shell | Plymouth Community Credit Union |
| Fiesta Motors Inc. | Plymouth Drapery |
| Final Touch | Plymouth Glass Co. |
| C.L. Finlan & Son, Inc. | Plymouth Metal Detectors |
| First Fed. Savings & Loan | Plymouth Office Supply |
| First Nat'l. Bank of Plymouth | Plymouth Plant Shop |
| Fish Barrel | Plymouth Products Co. |
| Fisher-Wingard-Fortney Agency | Plymouth Radiator |
| Dr. Fred Foust | Plymouth T.V. Service |
| Gateco Corp | Plymouth Travel Consultants |
| Glassline Inc. | Plymouth Vacuum & Sewing |
| Gould's Cleaners | Pick o' the Wick |
| Graham-Culotta Architects | Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel |
| F.H. Green | Rafferty, Frederick CPA |
| The Green Thumb | Saxton's Garden Center, Inc |
| Heide's Flowers & Gifts | Schrader Fuenral Home |
| J.B. Holden Co. | 7-Eleven Store |
| James C. Houk | The Silent Man |
| House of Glamour | John Smith of Plymouth |
| James M. Jabara | Spartan Warehouse |
| Jayman's Fashion Boutique | Sun Plastic Coating |
| Jeannotte Pontiac | Surety Federal Savings |
| Jerry's Bicycles | Stereo Rama Inc. |
| John's Biron | Sutherland and Yoe |
| Joy Book Store | S & W Hardware |
| Kay's of Plymouth | Talts Cleaners |
| Kehoe Antiques | John E. Thomas, Atty |
| Kerr, Wattle & Russell | Thompson McCully |
| Keim Realty | Top Drawer |
| Kobeck Stride Rite Bootery | Town Foods |
| Kresge, S.S. | Travel Centre |
| L & M Bookkeeping | Vico Products |
| Laurel Furniture Co. | Village Body Shop |
| Dean Lenheiser, Accountant | Wayside Gifts |
| Lents Clothing | Walton Barber Shop |
| Little Angels Shoppe | Western Electric Co. |
| Little Professor Book Center | Wiltse Community Pharmacy |
| Lorraine's Dolls | |

Read on... this edition contains our community's past, present, future

When you picked up this edition of The Community Crier, you probably noticed a difference.

It's a lot thicker, a lot more colorful, than The Crier that lands on your doorstep every other week.

Later this year, to mark the opening of the new First National Bank of Plymouth building on Main Street, a time capsule will be placed in the bank's cornerstone. This edition of The Crier will be sealed in the capsule.

In 100 years, the capsule will be opened. What our descendants find then will be the most complete chronicle of our community ever assembled in newspaper form.


In these pages, along with the regular weekly edition of The Crier which begins on page 19, you'll find histories of Plymouth and Canton, pictures of our past, a look into the future of our community and some thoughtful messages from the most prominent businesses and industries of our community.

It's all here in the largest edition we've ever published. It took us more than two months to produce it and we hope you like it.

Additional copies are available at The Community Crier building, 572 S. Harvey St.

Time Capsule Edition edited by Kathy Kuenzer

Cover by Cynthia Trevino



the Community Crier

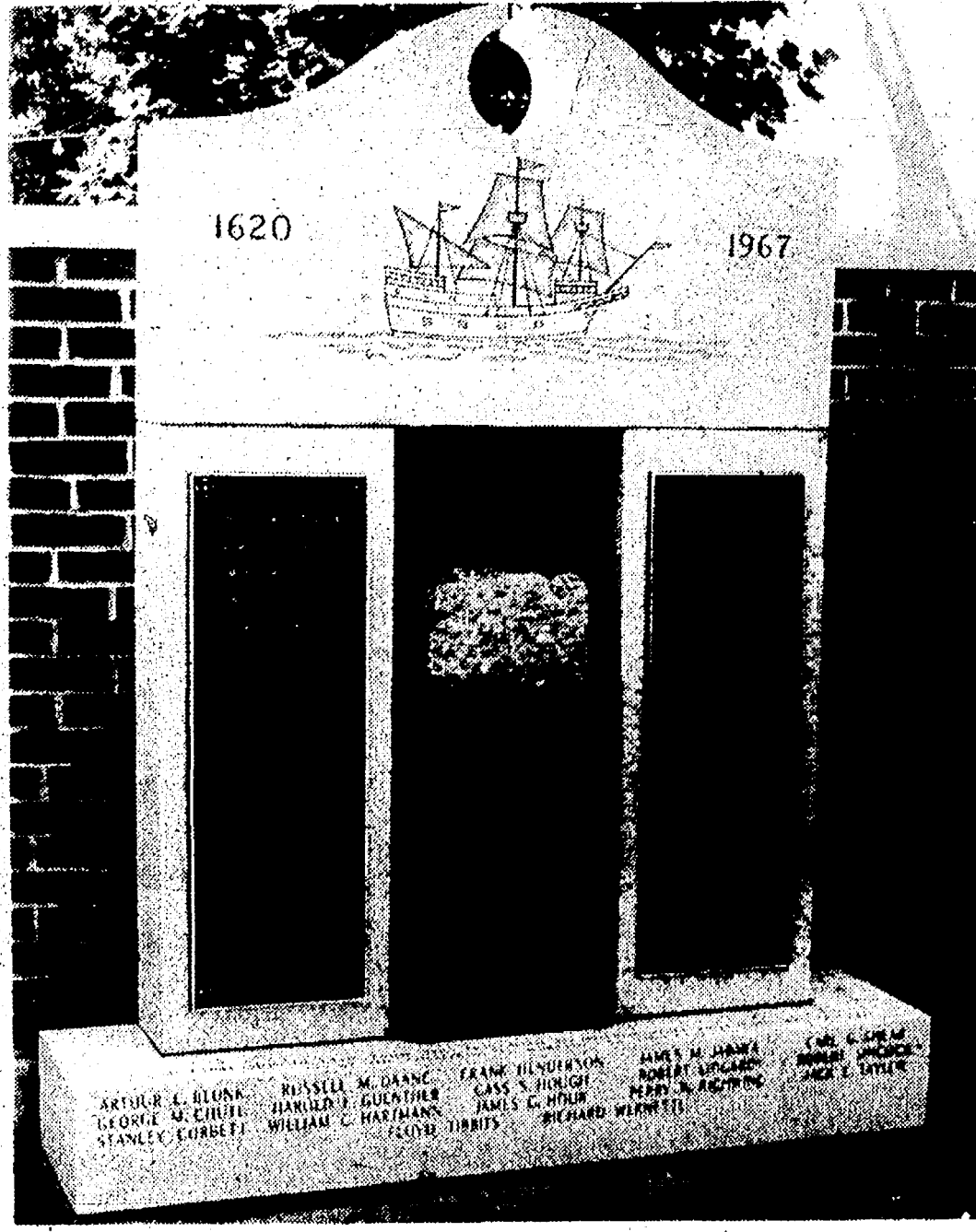
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me and mr jones



Hands across the sea



The story behind 4 Imperial Locust trees and our Plymouth Rock

On the government grounds of Plymouth, England, are four Imperial Locust trees and on the government grounds of Plymouth, Mich. is a Rock appropriately encased in its own monument located between our City Hall and Library.

It all began when the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of Plymouth, England, came here to join with us in the celebration of our City's Centennial in 1967.

The Lord Mayor and his associates brought with them a rock removed from the steps used by the Pilgrims upon their embarkation to America.

The past mayors of Plymouth, Mich. provided the monument in which our Plymouth Rock is encased.

Local citizens responded to this impressive gesture of friendship by sending four Imperial Locust trees to be planted on the municipal grounds of Plymouth, England.

Then, all the physical elements necessary were present for an annual ceremony relating to our Rock and Trees.

In 1968, in conjunction with our July 4th parade, British

Consul General Roy McGregor visited our City for the purpose of joining in our celebration of our separation from England. Mr. McGregor waited at our Rock monument as our parade approached our City Hall. The parade stopped at the Rock and our Mayor Jabara joined Mr. McGregor at the Rock. Mr. McGregor expressed Lord Mayor Lowe's regret at not being able to be present and then read the Lord Mayor's letter stating our four Imperial Locust trees are doing very well in their new home in Plymouth, England.

Mayor Jim Jabara expressed our City's appreciation and friendship and invited Mr. McGregor to join him in leading our 4th of July parade.

This ceremony of friendship and respect for each other had become an annual event and on this Sunday, July 4, 1976, we will have marked the ninth time of continuous observance.

Many of our local citizens have visited and observed our Imperial Locust trees in England and our City has in turn, been visited several times by residents of Plymouth, England.

Sponsored by the Harold Guenther Family

AARP to lead sing-a-long

Our history in song to climax park fetes

The final program of the Bicentennial-in-the-Park Series Thursday July 1 will feature a concert by an all-girl Danish Band, as well as music by the Plymouth Community Band and a sing-along led by the American Association of Retired Persons.

The program, open to all area residents, will begin at 8 p.m. in Kellogg Park. In the event of rain, the concerts and sing-along will be held in the Salem High School auditorium.

Eighty girls from Copenhagen will be giving their first American concert, as they begin a U.S. tour with the Plymouth park performance. Three performing units - stage band, concert band, and fife and drum corps - compose the touring group. The girls, age 12 to 21 will be staying at Plymouth homes from June 28 through July 5. They will also march in the Plymouth Fourth of July Parade.

The Plymouth Community Band, under the direction of James Griffith, will share the spotlight with the Danish girls during the evening concert. This will be the second in the community band's series of 1976 summer concerts. They will continue performing in Kellogg Park every Thursday night through July 29.

When the bands break for intermission, the park audience will be able to participate in a bit of Bicentennial nostalgia. Fred Bradley and members of the Plymouth-Northville American Association of Retired Persons will lead the crowd in an old-fashioned sing-along sheet, "Our Heritage of Song" with 27 patriotic and popular favorite from 1780 to 1950.

The AARP has printed copies of "Our Heritage of Song", which will be distributed to the audience to refer to during the sing-along and to keep as Bicentennial souvenirs.

Members of the AARP will be present to help start the park singing, but the entire audience will be encouraged to join in the Bicentennial spirit and sing. Piano accompanist for the sing along will be Fanny Bear.

The Plymouth, Northville, Canton, Novi League of Women Voters will be set up in the park from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. for a final evening of voter registration. Residents of the City of Plymouth, Canton, and Plymouth Township may register during that time.

The Bicentennial-in-the-Park series is being sponsored by the City of Plymouth. Arrangements have been handled by the Community Bicentennial Commission.

Fight inflation: eat at VFW

The Mayflower VFW Post and Auxiliary No. 6695 will present its annual Fourth of July "Inflation Fighter" Dinner at the VFW Hall, 1426 S. Mill St., from noon to 6 p.m.

Dinner will include a half barbecue chicken, baked potato and sour cream, cole slaw, roll and butter and a beverage, all for \$2.75.



NOT THE ROCKS OR CHIEFS, but the PEARLS was the name of one of the original Plymouth high school baseball teams back in the 1890's. The Team was started by a group of high school boys before the Plymouth schools had an official baseball squad. The Pearls played most of their games on Saturday afternoons, against teams from Farmington, Northville and Wayn. their means of transportation from town to town was horse-drawn lumber wagons. The first official record of a Plymouth Rock High School baseball team was in the early 1920's, according to the yearbooks of that time. Pictured in this shot of the 1895 Pearls are: top row from left John Herdeman, Charles Riggs, Sam Spicer, score keeper Bert Ray, Reg Oliver, and Arthur Todd. Bottom row from left, Arthur Briggs, William Peck, George Smith, and Floyd Allen. (Photo courtesy of the Plymouth Historical Museum)



ONE YEAR AFTER this picture was taken, Plymouth High School burned down. The Methodist Church, seen behind the trees to the left, also burned, but determined parishioners rebuilt a small meeting house within 18 days. (Photo by Davis Hillmer)

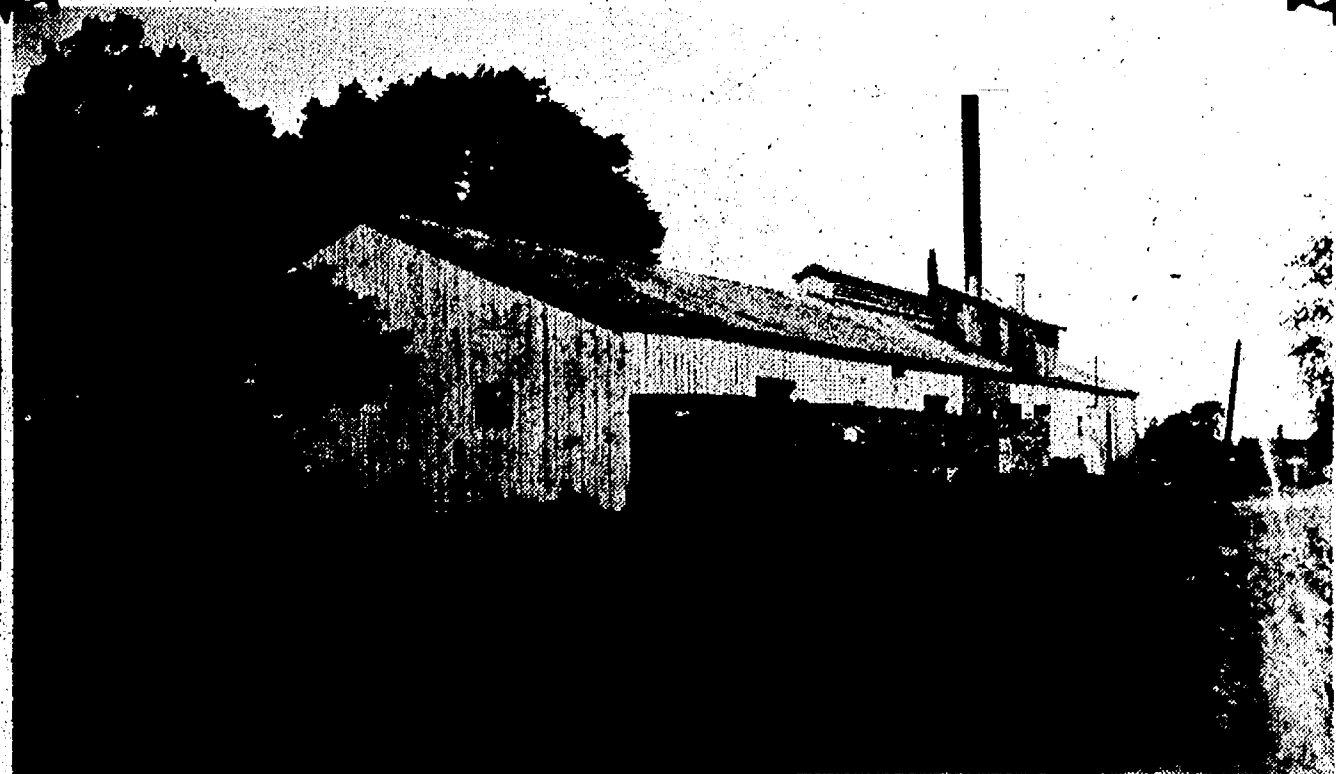
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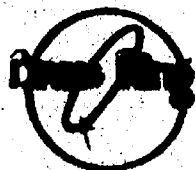
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THE WILLIAMS BROTHERS ran this canning factory near the intersection of Pearl and Holbrook. This photo was taken in 1914. Old timers remember the business being called the "tomato factory." (Photo by Davis Hillmer)

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PLYMOUTH PLATING WORKS



BRASS RING PRODUCTIONS

Plymouth: the long and speckled past

BY HANK MEIJER

With apologies to Sam Hudson, from whose comprehensive history of Plymouth much of this was gleaned and the late Nettie Dibble, who wrote a four-part series on local history for the Plymouth Mail in 1959.

Long before Plymouth existed before William Starkweather built a cabin of saplings and bark in 1825 where Main Street now meets Ann Arbor Trail, before a lone French or English trapper traced a path along a bank of the Rouge River, there was only Bob-o-quah.

At dawn or sunset, several time a year, perhaps since ancient times bands of Indians would assemble solemnly here before Bob-o-quah, a square black stone, as if to worship the Great Spirit. The setting was recalled by an early settler. Beneath a circle of pines on a hillside, he said, the Indians, probably Ottawas or Potawatomis, recited verse or a story. To mark the conclusion of their ceremony, they passed a pipe.

The stone is gone today. No one is sure even which hillside in this gently rolling country was the setting of the mysterious assembly, though historians mention both the slope behind the town's old cemetery on York Street and the rise where Indian bones were found where the Presbyterian Church stands today. The Indians didn't live here, and after the ceremony, they moved on, following well-traveled paths which today include Ann Arbor Trail and North Territorial Road. No one lived here until 1824, when William and Allen Tibbits settled on 800 acres in western Plymouth Township, out near where Beck now intersects North Territorial. A year later, Starkweather built his cabin and brought his wife and infant son here from New York state. Land was cheap and fertile and the Erie Canal with its steamboat traffic meant Michigan was no longer isolated from the bustle of the eastern seaboard.

In the 1820's, Michigan was a land of promise for those easterners, William Starkweather and his family were soon joined by other settlers, who built a cabin near his, and near where Main now intersects Mill Street. Starkweather's settlement was "Podunk" to those who passed through on the line between Detroit and Ann Arbor, while the other was "Joppa."

Some of those early settlers gathered at Tibbits' barn (still standing today) one day in 1827 to organize their fledgling community. They talked about naming it after one of the exotic Chinese cities which Americans were just learning about, or, inexplicably "Leroy." They decided on Leroy, with Plymouth as their second choice if the other were already taken. Apparently, it was, and in 1827 Plymouth Township was organized.

The Rouge offered a source of water power where flour could be ground and lumber milled. Detroit was a burgeoning center of trade as the western terminus of Lake Erie shipping and in Ann Arbor a new university was growing. On the stage route in between was Plymouth. With its mills for local farmers and its midway location, the town grew, its patchwork Main Street offering board and lodging to travelers and tools and staples for farmers.

By 1840, there were seven communities in Michigan with populations of more than 2,000. Flint and Lansing and Grand Rapids were little more than trading posts, but Plymouth, with a population of 2,163, was ranked along with Detroit, Ann Arbor, Jackson, Tecumseh, Adrian and Ypsilanti. Today only Tecumseh is smaller.

By 1850, the square black Bob-o-quah had disappeared. The nation was soon to be caught up in Civil War and Plymouth residents, operating a major northern station of the Underground Railroad, helped ferry runaway slaves from the south up through Detroit and to freedom in western Ontario.

The City of Plymouth took shape for the first time when it was incorporated as a village in 1867, the same year the proposed Detroit and Howell Railroad was granted permission to run its line through the community.

Small factories here made potash and cheese and iron plow points and Plymouth became a center for marketing wool after a carding mill was built on the Rouge.

The trains arrived in 1871, with east-west and north-south tracks crisscrossing in Plymouth. The Main Street of merchants and professional offices which grew up between Mill and Ann Arbor Trail appeared in the eyes of some city fathers destined to take second place to where the rails met. Near the train depot grew Old Village, a block of shops on Liberty Street and cafes and a hotel to serve rail passengers who stopped there on trips between Detroit and Western Michigan and Toledo and Flint.

Although Old Village - then called Lowertown - flourished with the railroad traffic, the railroads didn't shift the center of commercial activity. What they did do, as every resident who has ever waited for a train might surmise, was changed forever the life in Plymouth.

One of the 18 passenger trains that pulled in and out of Plymouth every day was stopped short one summer morning in 1907 in the worst tragedy the Plymouth area has ever seen.

An eastbound Pere Marquette Railroad train carrying passengers from Ionia bound for a picnic on Belle Isle, rounded a sharp, high banked curve four miles west of town and collided with a westbound freight.

The "Salem Wreck," blamed finally on misread train orders, claimed 33 lives and injured 200 others.

In 1887 a young Plymouth man, William F. Markham, took out a patent for a toy air rifle. He'd been making the toy wooden guns for two years, although whether he or Charles Roe, another Plymouther, or someone else first conceived of the idea of using compressed air in a toy rifle has never been determined.

Cont. on p. 53



Fred Schrader's horse drawn hearse, Circa 1904.

The SCHRADER family

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From the Zazula history

Families, farms tell story of Canton's past

The story of Canton is the story of families and farms and hardy settlers who raised their children and educated them in local schools run by local citizens.

Certain family names have existed in Canton for more than a hundred years. Many of them are now found as street names and school names and some drifted into the Plymouth community and became associated with that area.

There are innumerable names that could be mentioned, names like Truesdell, Hannan, Gyde, Dingledey, Morton, Franklin, Gill, Beuhler, Knapp and Palmer. Each was known for the mark it made on Canton through the schools or because of the farms or small businesses that served the community well. It would be impossible to mention them all - but through the assistance of a Canton resident, we have picked a few who might be characteristic of Canton's citizens.

Charles Zazula, Canton's self-appointed historian, resident and member of the Canton Bicentennial Commission, has written a text on Canton's history, particularly its families and how they intermarried - and stayed in the Canton-Plymouth area.

The following are excerpts from Zazula's history:

"President John Quincy Adams signed deeds to land purchases west of the 13 colonies. Many settlers of the old Plymouth area, which included Canton, procured their land in 1825 soon after Adams took office.

Archibald Y. Murray, with a parchment deed signed by Adams dated Oct. 2, 1826, emigrated from Orange County, N.Y. Having procured 75.8 acres of land from Uncle Sam. Archibald built himself a log cabin homestead. By 1837 he started to erect at the northeast corner of Napier and Warren Roads a 17-room mansion with full basement and attic, heated by seven fireplaces. Murray served as supervisor of Canton from 1836 to 1838.

Archibald had an only son, Hiram, whose daughter, Alma, married Samuel Spicer. Their daughter, Louise, married Jesse Tritten - who is a leader today in Plymouth Grange No 389.

B.W. Huston, foremost of the Hustons to leave a legacy in Canton became Attorney General of Michigan. He started as a farmer's handy man operating a seed mill business and roamed the crop fields as a thresher.

John Huston boarded a steamboat from New York to Detroit in 1833. Having eight children, John's intelligence, ambition and patience were tested, as he guided his family through the rugged terrain to Canton Township. By 1876, there were Hustons galore, as Oscar, William, John, Robert and F. Huston owned sizable parcels of land.

John Huston II was supervisor from 1873 to 1878.

John Huston (senior's) daughter married Dan Cobb, and their great grandson, John Wiles, and his family still live on Cherry Hill Road today on the landmark homestead.

James J. Hanford - the first public school teacher of the historic Ridge (Cherry Hill) settlement - abandoned Highland Park to teach in Canton. Accordig to a track book dated Oct. 6, 1826, President Adams deeded to Hanford 160 acres of land at ...the corner of what is today Ridge and Hanford Roads.

In 1890, Henry O. Hanford sold property to the estate of Ebenezer Penniman Jr. for \$4,000. Involved were 290 acres of land except one acre at the northeast corner reserved for a school which later was called the Hanford School.

Since 1825, the Houghs have established a heritage of historical significance in the Plymouth metropolis. Names like Cass, Edward, Lewis and Ira Hough became by-words. Not only was the Hough name noted for the Daisy rifle and Mayflower Hotel, but it left a legacy in the establishment of the Dunning-Hough Library.

The father of Mayor Cass Hough of Plymouth owned a large homestead at Warren and Haggerty. A model log cabin stood at the bend of Haggerty. Both were demolished to make way for the I-275 expressway. Another landmark was the Hough School, which was moved and converted into a nursery school at Haggerty Road.

John Haggerty, after whom Haggerty Road was named, actually lived on Canton Center Road. It was called "Carlton's Place," where a man named Carlton manufactured bricks while John farmed the land. Later John established the renowned Haggerty Brick Yard of Detroit.

The over-century old Haggerty House has been remodeled, but still possesses a portion of the original building. John Haggerty left no descendants, but the landmark still stands at 1850 S. Canton Rd.

Haggerty served as Attorney-General of Michigan in 1920.

The Northwest Territorial Law of Jan. 18, 1802, provided for an electio in each township on the first Monday in April of the following officers: one or more supervisors, a clerk, three trustees or managers, two or more overseers of the poor, three fence viewers, two house appraisers, one tester of taxable property and one or more constables.

The first meeting for officers in Canton Township (in 1834) was held at the home of John Chaffee. James Safford acted as moderator, clerk was Lyman Witter. Elected as officials were James Safford, supervisor, Thomas Hooker, clerk; and Amos Stevens, justice of the peace.

Clarence Stevens (relationship unknown) was born on Nov. 23, 1865, at Ford and Canton Center. His family moved to Ridge Road, from where he rode a horse down Proctor Road to school. Like other Canton students he attended Plymouth High, from which he graduated in 1883.

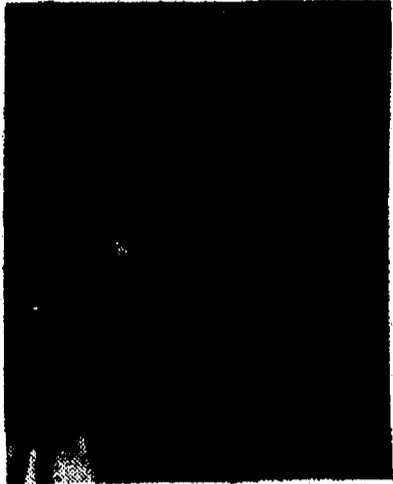
Clarence studied music and his ambition was to become a teacher. In 1908 he became a piano tuner, which profession he pursued for over 50 years. At 92 he finally stopped tuning, not because of his inability but because the law forbid him to drive a car.

He was a choir member at the First United Presbyterian Church of Plymouth until he was 92, and died on January 28, 1969, after surviving a mellow 103 years on earth.

Cont. on p. 57

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Hillmer's lens, memoirs capture early Plymouth

Editor's Note: Davis B. Hillmer, who will be 80 on Oct. 3, is the grandson of George and Amelia Starkweather. His great-grandfather, pioneer William Starkweather, built the first cabin in the Plymouth settlement. Davis's brothers, Karl and Max, both changed their names to Starkweather, but the Starkweather name ended with them in Plymouth.

Davis Hillmer's memories of early Plymouth have been captured both in the following words and in the photographs he took here as a young professional photographer. He left Plymouth in his youth to begin a photography business in Detroit which continued for 50 years. He returned to Plymouth a few years ago.

BY DAVIS HILLMER

When I started Plymouth School back in 1903 or 1904, the kindergarten was in the basement with entrance midway between the girls' and boy's main entrances in the main building.

My aunt Blanche Starkweather and her assistant Maud Milspaugh were the kindergarten teachers. Rosy-cheeked John Meely was superintendent of the village school. My aunt was always very kind to me and my two brothers and two sisters.

The water closet was a frame wooden building about 60 feet in back of the main brick building. There was no running water there. I don't remember where we washed our hands.

There was an old orchard in back of the school. It was the remains of what belonged to Theodatus Lyon the pomologist who moved to western Michigan with his experiments. The only fruit I remember is russet apples.

There was a family connection between the Lyon and the Davis family. I was named for Mary Davis, Grandma Starkweather's foster mother.

I remember the tall man who in about 1907 laid the bricks for the Main Street pavement. He was the handsome sum of \$7 a day. At that time ordinary labor was paid two dollars a day. The pavement was the pride of Plymouth.

Gala Day was a bid day for the boys in Plymouth. In 1912 I covered some of the events with my Pony Premo No. 6 camera, including the water battle and balloon ascension. There were two ball games that day. In the morning Plymouth played the local Daisy team and the winner, Plymouth, played Northville in the afternoon and won again.

The ball park then that supported both grandstand and bleachers was located between Blanche and Farmer, the other side of the railroad in "Lower Town."

There were people who came to Plymouth on these occasions as a commercial venture only. I remember one man who rented a buggy from the Czar Penny Livery Stable and backed it up on Ann Arbor Trail near the corner of Main. He auctioned off watches and other small items at what I presume was a profit. He invited the watch buyers to take his goods to the local jeweler for true evaluation. Some things sold for as low as 25 cents and shone like gold.

There was a merry-go-round near this corner on these occasions, and other interesting local things. The local bands were always on hand.

Please don't refer to me as a pioneer - that was my great-grandfather (William Starkweather).

Another Gala Day attraction some years before 1912 was "Professor Harper", high diver. This was also near the Penny Livery Stable. Harper climbed up a high ladder, prayed and dived into a small tank. He was killed at another town when he hit the tank's edge. On other days there were foot races of local men and boys for small money prizes. The prizes for catching the greased pig was the pig.

These were great days for boys, both small and large.

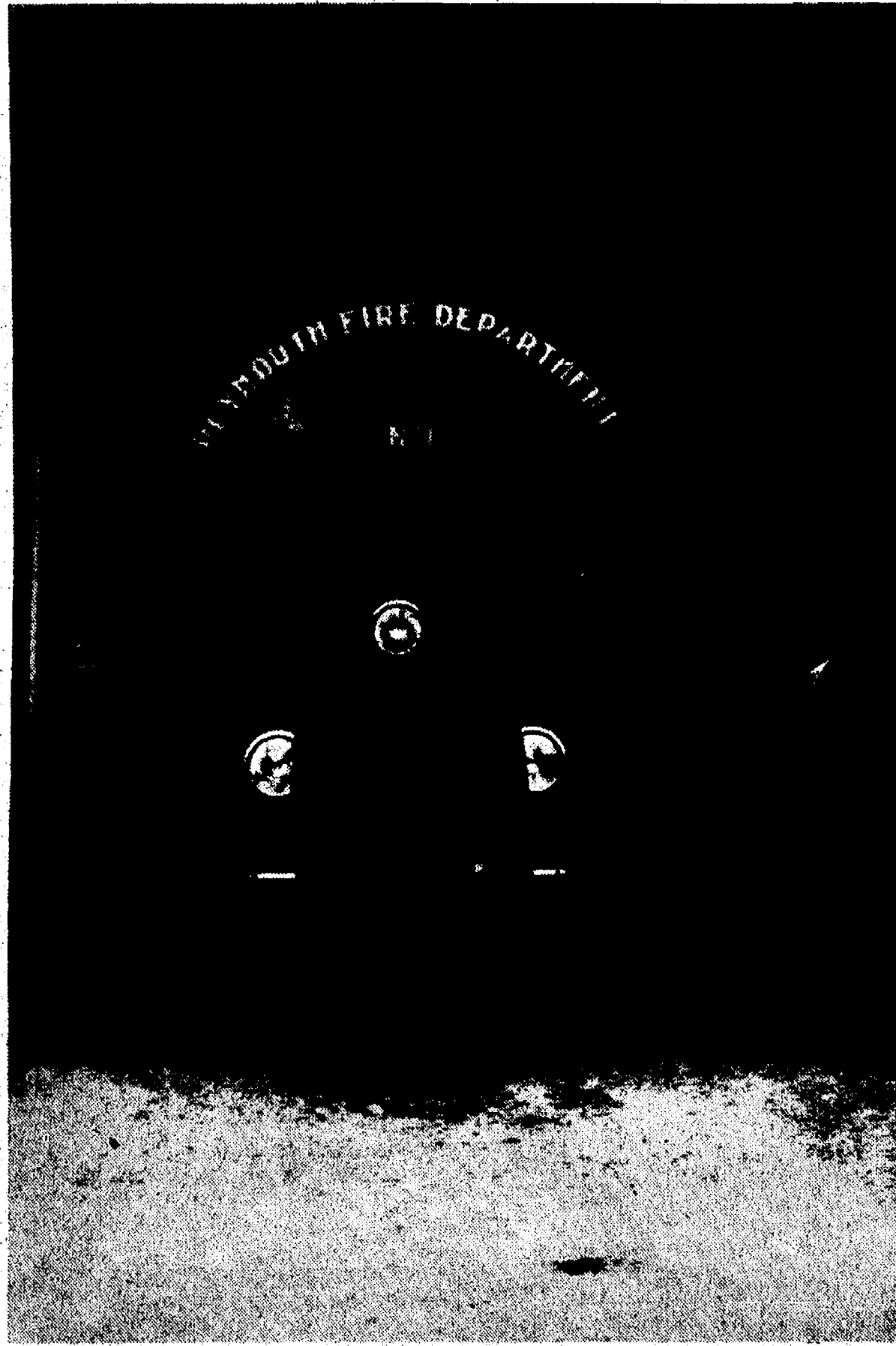
MY FLAG

By James Bancroft
Grade 5
Starkweather School

What the flag means to me
The flag means one society.
We pledge to it everyday
Because it has the laws we obey.
The flag has one big specialty
Because it represents the land I see.
From the Grand Canyon as far as I can see
I know I live in the land of the free.
From land to sea of foam
We all should be glad of the world we roam
The flag is a special quality
That's what the flag means to me

BICENTENNIAL HAIKU
By Paula Merchant and Candy Moore
Fiegel School

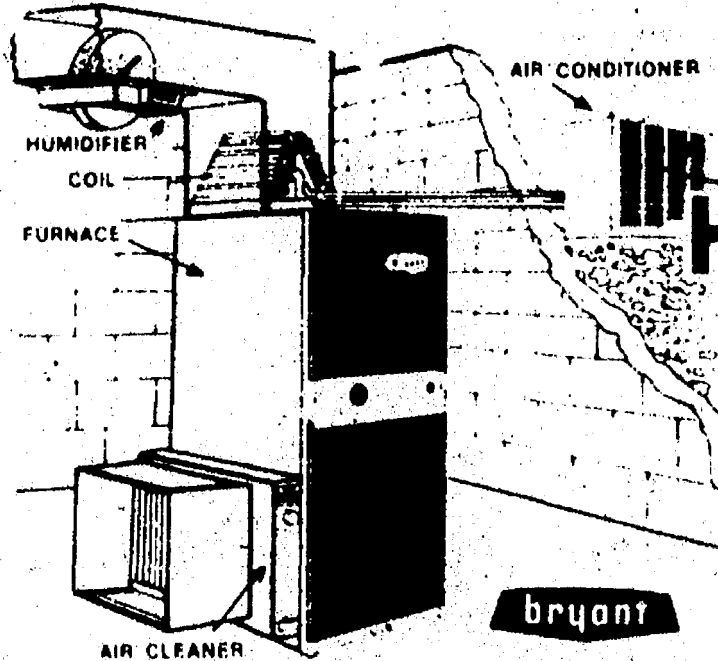
Flag
Stars, Stripes
Waves, flies, flutters
Proud, happy, honored, decent
Banner



Front Row Fred Drews, Fred Wagenschutz, Back Row: Gus Meyers, Ed Bolten, unidentified, Harry Brown, unidentified, Roy Hewell, Frank Dix, Fred Reed, Tite Ruff, Bill Gigler, Sid Strong.

PHOTO COURTESY OF

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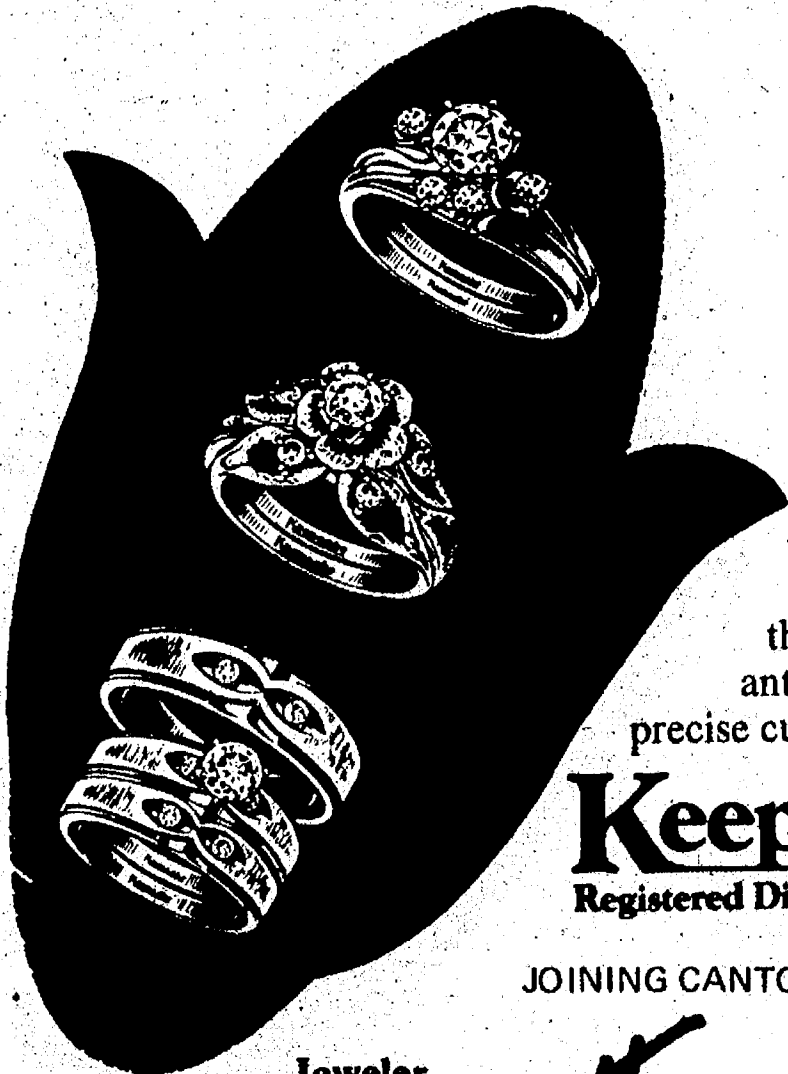
Across from Meijer Thrifty Acres in the TOTAL PLAZA



Hough School class of 1922

RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE students from the Hough School during the 1921-22 semester? First row: Stanley Truskowski, Flora Gerst, Ellen Buehler, Luella Swegles, Pauline Gust, Raphael Mettetal, Sigmond Przybylowski, Esther Merriman, Lester Reddeman; (second row) Arthur Kreger, Eleanor Spisz, Mary Truskowski, Phillip Pocket, Persis Fogarty, Harold Brown, Mildred Pocket, William Kennedy, Theresa Spisz, Leroy Tillotson; (third row) Carl Forgarty, Edward Przybylowski, Felix Truskowski, Phila Gust, Lottie Szymanowski, Crystal Swegles, Genevieve Witt, Janette Merriman, Conrad Kreger; (fourth row) Harold Knapp, Martha Truskowski, John Kramer, Anthony Kreger, Mary Merriman, Lottie Kaiser, Jennie Przybylowski, Wanda Przybylowski; (fifth row) Thelma Swegles, Wilford Bunyea, Tony Truskowski, and teacher, Mrs. Carrie Tillotson. (Photo courtesy of Flora Gerst Thorman)

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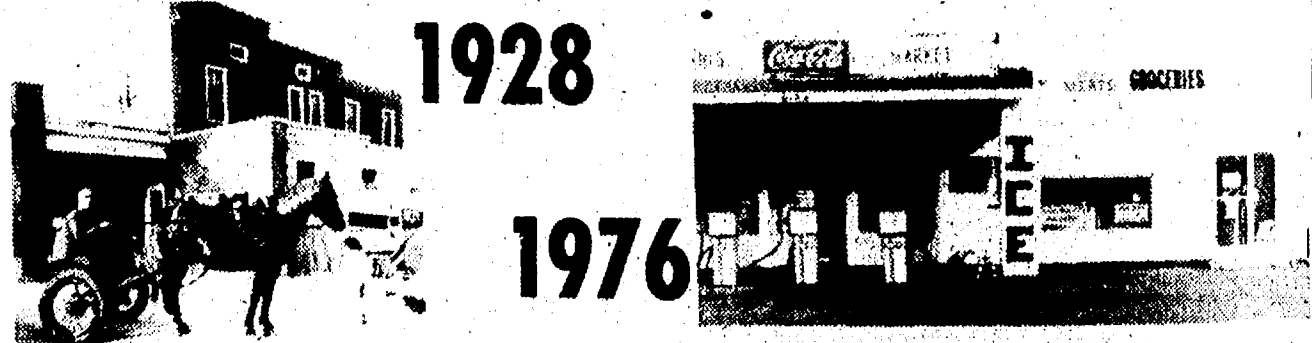
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School days past were simpler times for all

BY KATHY KUENZER

One look at any of the Plymouth School District's new school buildings is all you need to know that education in our community has changed immeasurably since the earliest days of the settlements of Plymouth and Canton. J.I. Tibbits, speaking before the Wayne County Pioneer Society in 1874, recalled those school houses of an earlier day:

"A school house of the pioneers was built, of course, of logs and was generally located at the intersection of two cross-roads...or on the brow of some hill which afforded fine facilities for coasting in the winter season. "Branches taught in those early days were reading, spelling, writing, geography, arithmetic and grammar.

"If he (the student) mastered multiplication the first year, he did well. Possibly he might get as far as vulgar fractions or the rule of three the second year, but usually he would have occasion to repeat quite often the old familiar saw:

Multiplication is a vexation,
Subtraction is bad;
The rule of three, it puzzles me;
And fractions make me mad."

Indeed the concept of the open classroom was not foreign to our early educators. All classrooms were open in one large room where four and five year-olds through eighth graders were always privy to what was happening around them.

Teachers in those days were paid incredibly small sums by today's standards - maybe \$20 a month - but they were provided with room and board by families of their students.

Teachers unions? Not until very recently. Teachers retiring from Plymouth school in 1976 remember the superintendent coming to them in the 1930's with contract in hand.

One Canton woman remembers when her husband was school board president of the Canton Center School. The teacher there that year had to chase him down in a field where he was plowing in order to ask for a raise. Perhaps with that boldness, she got it.

Old records from the Hough School, which still stands at Haggerty and Warren in Canton and is used by the Plymouth Cooperative Nursery, show exactly how money was raised through each school family to run the school.

Charles Zazula, Canton historian, recalls "there was no school millage tax, each family paid according to the number of children in school.

"In 1842 the 'Rate Bill' was enacted, paying the teachers according to the hours spent in the schoolroom. Students attended six days a week from six to eight hours per day."

Today's schools still teach the three basic R's - readin', 'ritin,' and 'rithmetic - but education itself is a study, and the methods of teaching are as various as the teachers themselves. Air-conditioned schools, video-tape equipment, team-teaching, modular scheduling, year-around schooling, school within-a-school and the appearance of parents and classroom aides are but a few of the space-age innovations and tools found in the education of youngsters here today.

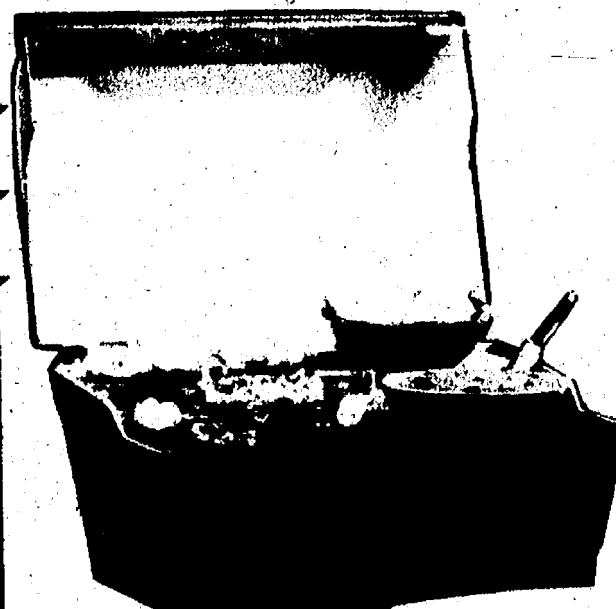
Rate bill containing the name of each person liable for teachers wages in district No. 1 in the Township of Canton for the term ending on the 4th day of September A.D. 1865. and the amount for which each person not exempted from the payment thereof is so liable with the fees of the assessor thereon.

Names of Inhabitants	Whole No. of Days sent	Amount of School bill	Assessors fees thereon	Amount for full	Whole amt. to be raised
R. B. Stewart	47 1/2	\$ 1.07	5	-	1 12
Alva Hill	162 1/2	2.25	11	-	2 36
Henry Jones	159	2.20	11	-	2 31
Ralph Stevens	36	.50	3	-	.53
James Rowley	83	1.15	6	-	1 21
James R. Hough	172 1/2	2.38	12	-	2 50
William Paulyer	134	1.85	9	-	1 94
William Wherry	147	2.13	10	-	2 13
Arnold Vanburgen	69	.93	5	-	.98
Abraham Miller	69	.95	5	-	1 00
George Palmer	104	1.44	7	-	1 51
Orren D. Hough	47 1/2	.65	3	-	.68
Cyrus Parish	29 1/2	.41	2	-	.43
	1288 1/2	\$17.81	89	-	18 70

SCHOOL TAXES WERE CONSIDERABLY LOWER In the early days of Canton and Plymouth. This "rate bill" lists the parents of children who attended school in District No. 1 (Hough School) and total number of school days their children attended class. Parents paid more if they had more children in school - but even then the maximum payment for this particular semester was paid by James R. Hough, a whopping \$2.50 - including 12 cents assessor's fee. (Courtesy of Flora Gerst Thorman)

In 1776 they didn't have One Gas Grill that Cooks like Two

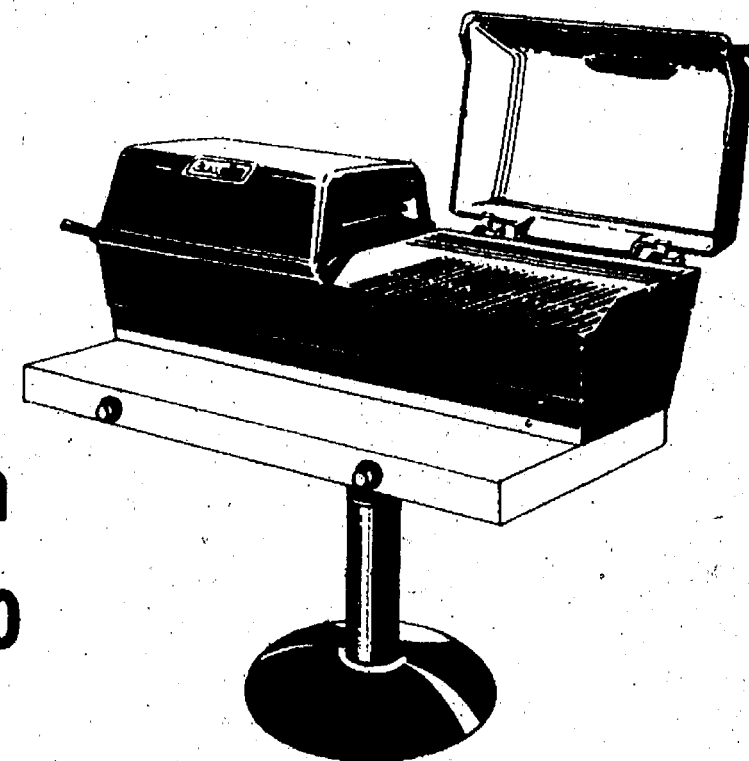
but we do!



SIZZLE A STEAK SIMMER A CASSEROLE

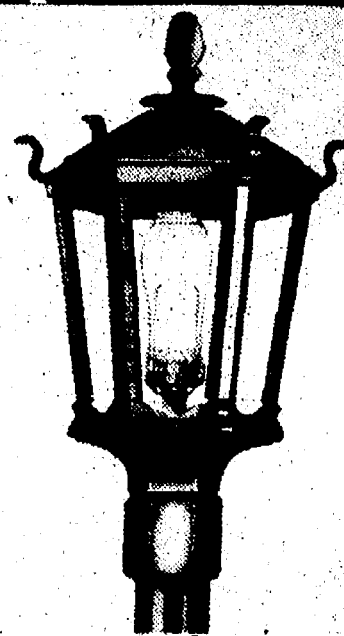
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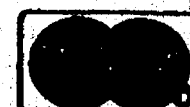
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CANTON



Sport's zest, teams date back to 1890's

The history of sports in Plymouth?

Like most of the sports news in the Plymouth-Canton community today, the biggest organization of athletics was through the prep circuit of the old Plymouth High School Rocks.

Football and track were the mainstays of the Plymouth athletic program. Both sports started back in the 1890's as a representative of the school, but the first records of the Plymouth sports teams were in 1913 with the publication of the first yearbook, the "Plythean."

The football schedules, like the equipment back in those days, were not as sophisticated as they are today. Plymouth's seven-game schedule in 1913 included two games with Royal Oak, a first year team, Wayne, and Chelsea, along with one game against Brighton. This doesn't compare with the nine game schedules of today with nine different teams, including the likes of Bloomfield Hills Andover, Livonia Churchill, etc.

The track team had many of the same running and field events used today including the dashes, jumps and shot put.

Basketball for both girls and boys started in 1919. The six man squad lost every game that season; one by the score of 63-3. The girls were a little more successful, winning their final and only game of the season, 27-10 over Hamtramck.

Baseball started as a club project with the Plymouth Pearls organizing a team in the late 1890's. The regular school sponsored Rocks first occurred in the 1920's.

The early girls sports programs included basketball and track in the late 1910's.

The high school later discontinued girls sports until its revival in the late 1960s and early 1970's.

During this time, the Leaders Club was formed for the girls. This club was of an intramural variety which played among themselves for its competition. The girls in the Leaders Club were also team captains and helpers in the regular gym classes. These girls had an opportunity to earn letters like the boys with sports activities outside the school system.

The Girls Athletic Association (G.A.A.) formed from the Leaders Club and was present with much interscholastic sports competition through the 1960's.

Saltz Road in Canton was once called Salts Road, named after the pioneer Canton brothers Andy and Tom Salts.



ONE OF THE EARLIEST PICTURES of a Plymouth High School football team was in this one taken in 1902. No records of this squad are known, but it is thought that the first football team played in Plymouth in 1896, at the old fairgrounds near Ann Arbor Trail and Mill. Plymouth belonged to the old Tri-county league, and played teams from Northville, Wayne, Saline, South Lyon and Farmington and Chelsea. Members of the 1902 Rocks were (top row from left) Aruna Cady, Arden Chilson, Dank Smith, Roy Lang, and coach Ralph Simpson, center row from left, Montie Wood, Charles Hubbard, Ernie Gentz, Frank Spicer and Evered Jolliffe and (bottom row from left) Perry Shaw and Edgar Jolliffe. (Photo courtesy of the Plymouth Historical Museum).

The home of Don Gill, which was located at 1600 Ridge Road in Canton, on a piece of property settled by his grandfather Peter Gill in 1881, was taxed by Superior Township - except for its kitchen which was in Canton Township and taxed by that government.



THE 1890 PLYMOUTH CORONET BAND
Historical Museum photo appears courtesy of



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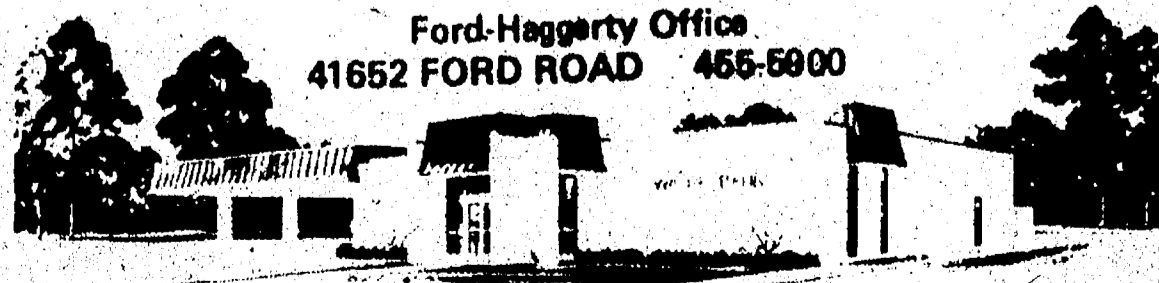
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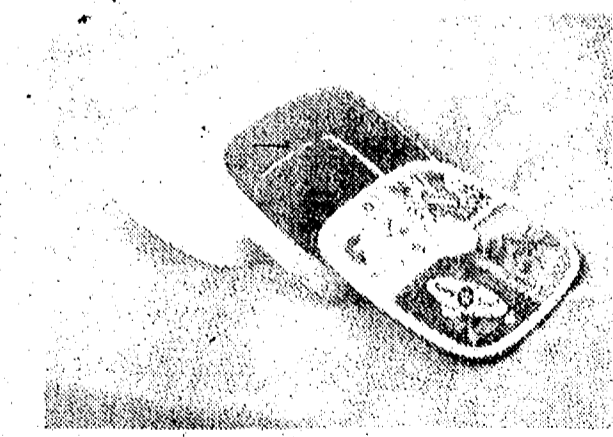
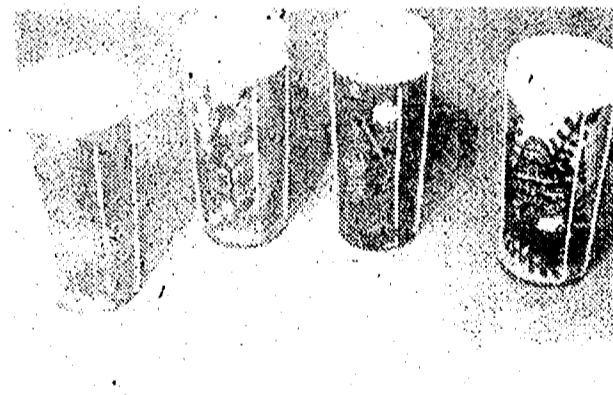
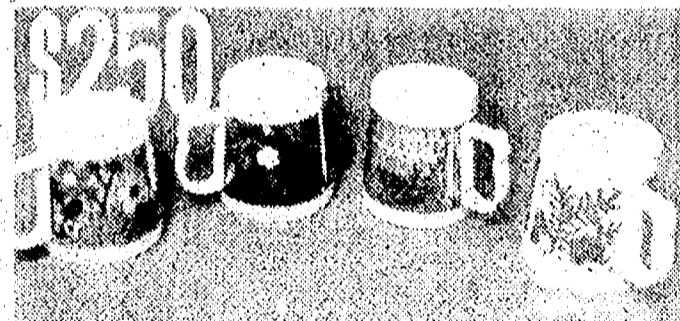
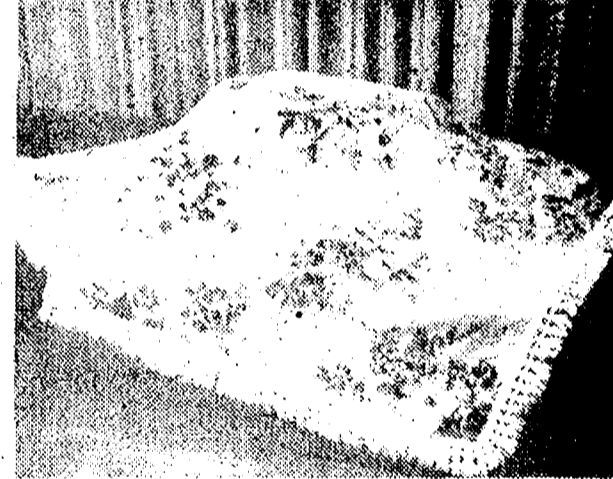


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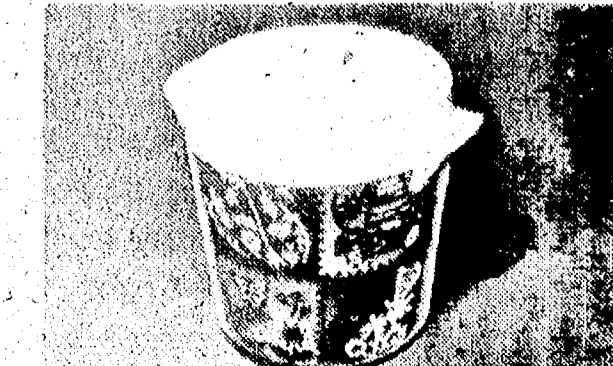
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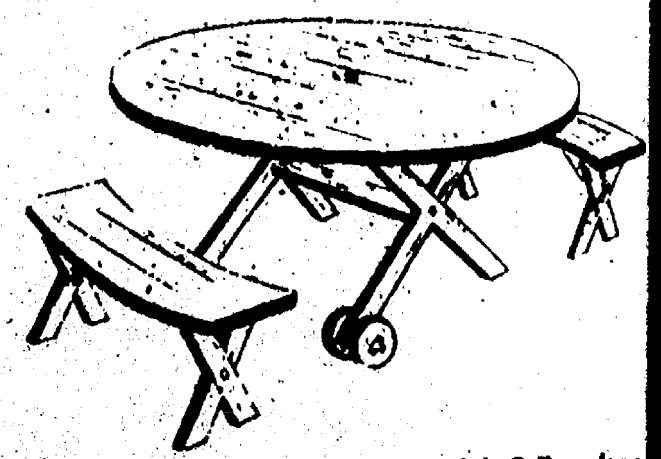
5 Pc. Love Seat Group
1—Love Seat
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1—Ottoman
1—Coffee Table

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2—Club Chairs
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Plymouth
Canton

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BY MIKE MESSANA AND STEVE MARCHI
Grade 3 Miller School

What was it like here in 1776?

Although earliest recollections of the Plymouth-Canton area only extend as far back as the settlers who arrived in 1825, it can be assumed little had happened to change the land and its native inhabitants before that time. It is with that assumption in mind that we might attempt to describe how the area appeared during the year when our nation was laboring to be born - the year of 1776.

In Volume I of the second edition of the "Report of the Pioneer Society of the State of Michigan," H.M. Utley in 1900 described what the general terrain of the lower peninsula of Michigan must have been when he relates the report of a Surveyor General of Ohio after the War of 1812.

After that war a corps of surveyors was sent "to examine the country back of Detroit" for possible appropriation by Congress as military bounty lands to give the soldiers. His report stated "there were not five hundred acres of arable land in the whole peninsula and it would be a mockery of justice to give these lands as rewards..."

Utley's opinion also was that even before that time there was "not a settled ment of English origins within the whole territory and the entire population, other than Indians, was probably not to exceed 5,000."

The Indians of which he spoke were probably Wyandotts, Pottawatomies, Ottawas, and Chippewas, all of which were known to have lived in the Detroit region as early as 1763.

In 1825, when William Starkweather arrived, they "slashed down the forest trees and made a little clearing on which he erected a rude log house," says Utley. "The country was heavily wooded and it was with considerable difficulty that the pioneer settlement was reached."

Utley's research also recalls "thick undergrowth, fallen trees and quagmires" confronting the early settlers in Plymouth.

In 1825 and shortly after, wrote Utley, "there were but few of the Indians left in the neighborhood, and those were of the seedy variety, who never dreamed of taking a scalp and cared for nothing so much as for enough to eat and plenty of fire-water..."

"By far the more dangerous foes to the farmers were the bears and wolves, which at some seasons of the year were unpleasantly abundant."

Other writers have recalled that rattlesnakes were also often to be seen and avoided.

Reports from the surveys of Douglass Houghton, which took place from 1837 until 1845, also tell a little of the wildlife and effects of possible trappers in the area.

"According to Indians," said Houghton, "beavers disappeared from this region (lower Wayne County) 30 years ago," suggesting that trappers may have inhabited the land well before settlers first ventured as far as Plymouth.

It is safe to assume then that in 1776 the Plymouth area was little more than a forest wilderness, probably teeming with wildlife and possibly a few Indians with a French trapper or two about to make an appearance.

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TEAMING UP to produce the biggest edition of The Community Crier ever are (standing from left) Frances Hennings, Dennis 'Doc' O'Connor, Melanie Robinson, Kathy Kuenzer, W. Edward Wendover, and Kathy Bauer and

(seated from left) Hank Meijer, Cynthia Trevino, Donna Lomas and Robert 'Flash' Cameron. Not pictured is Lydie Arthos. (Crier photo by Robert S. Cameron)

The folks who bring you an independent newspaper

To whomever opens the time capsule in 2076 A.D., In 1976 the Plymouth-Canton Community had one independent newspaper. We did not take that fact lightly, but tried to report the news of our community fairly, to offer opinions on issues which affected its future and to present the stories of people who lived here.

That we could remain an independent newspaper - there were far more of those when America celebrated its Centennial than there are in 1976 - reflects the efforts of a staff whose talents and labors deserve boundless praise.

If we have created something of value, it's because the people in this picture believe in what they were doing.

Their efforts, and the support of our readers and advertisers, may help you better understand what life was like in these days. We cannot thank them enough.

The Publishers of The Crier

P.S. We are indebted also to members of our advisory board: Julie & Tex Thoman, Jim Jabara, Norm Ruehr, Harold Guenther, Elaine Kirchgatter, Bob Delaney, Joe Hudson, George Lawton, Mary Perna and Bill Ross.

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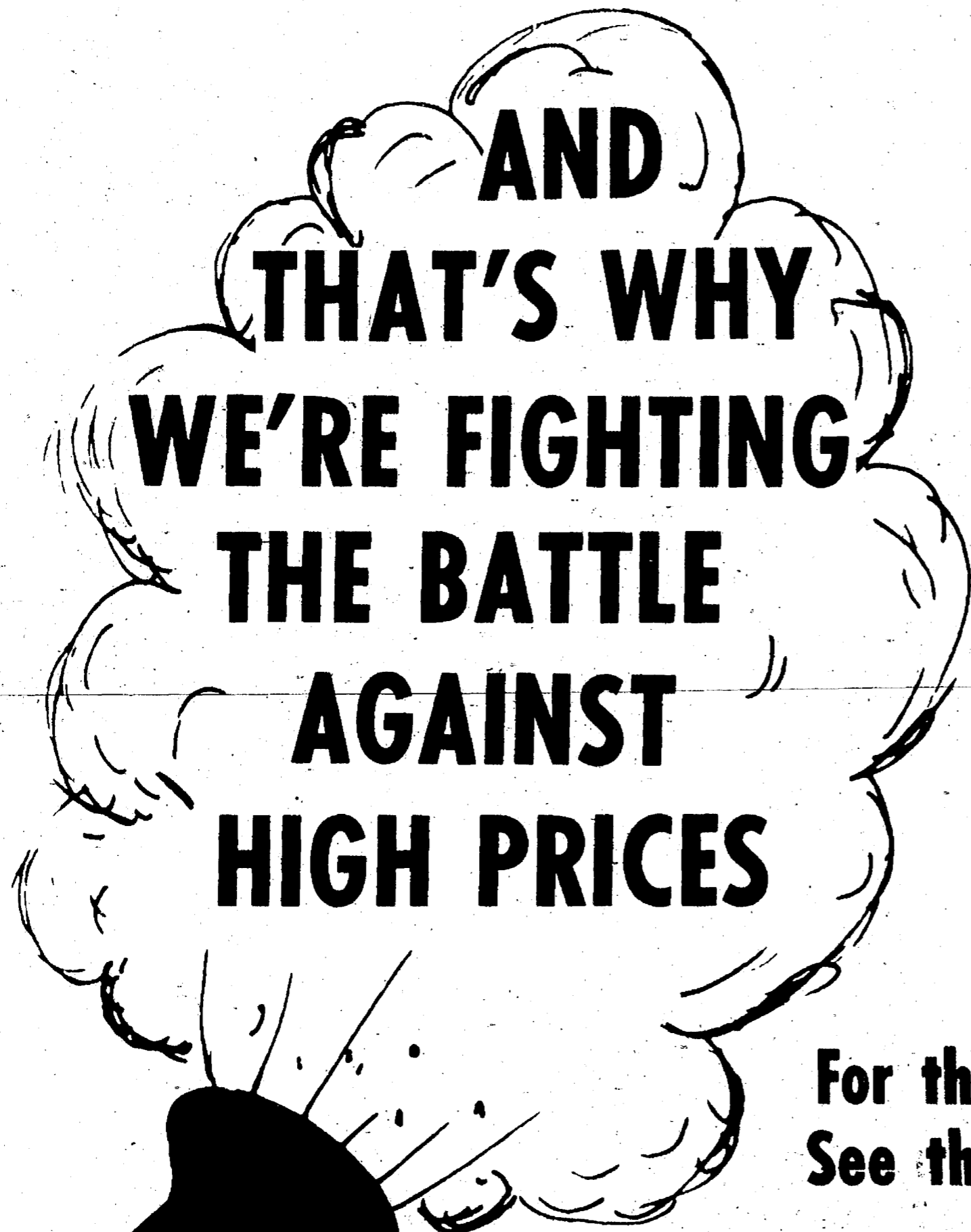
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