



"The Clinton Independent"

1984



Photo: Lansing State Journal

Staff photo by BETTY JANE MINSKY

Historical group organized locally

ROCHESTER COLONY - For the first time in decades graduates here did not hold their open houses in the 108-year old Rochester "Colony" School. Built in 1866, the school was damaged when winds topped the chimney through the roof, damaging the interior.

When The Rochester Colony Community Association, which had rented the building from the Ovid-Elsie School District for community use, decided it no longer wanted the structure, townsfolk formed the Rochester Colony Historical Association. It's purpose is to clean up and repair the structure and to make it available for future community events.

Officers are: Robert Risley, president; John Anderson, vice-president; Jeanne Temple, secretary-treasurer; Dan Garcia and Jack Tyler, members of the board.

Memberships are available at \$5 each with children, age 15 & under, paying \$1. Memberships - or donations for the restorations - should be sent to the Rochester Colony Historical Association, c/o Jeanne Temple, 4193 N. Harmon Road, Elsie, Mi. 48831.

She said charter memberships will be sold until next September.

Obituary

Former businessman, mayor

Harry Bradley, 104, dies

Harry James Bradley, one of Clinton County's oldest residents, died June 24. He was 104. Bradley, who had lived at 800 N. Clinton Avenue in St. Johns, had lived at an Elsie nursing home in recent years.

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Bradley came to St. Johns from Au Gres, Michigan in 1901 and often recalled spending his first night in the Steel Hotel, a St. Johns landmark until it burned down in 1975. He operated a grocery store and bakery in St. Johns, and also a pool hall and real estate-insurance business.

At various times he served as mayor, vice-mayor and treasurer of the city.

Three years ago, on his 101st birthday, he lead our CCHS Home Tour Festival Parade as Grand Marshall. His message to the crowds that lined the streets was simple: "Be Happy."

Bradley's wife, Grace, died in 1933, leaving him with five sons including two sets of twins, and a stepdaughter to raise.

Burial was in Mt. Rest Cemetery.

"People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors." ..Edmund Burke

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125th birthday

Pewamo, on the western edge of Clinton County, celebrated its 125th birthday recently with a parade, Vegas tent and bingo. Highlight of the event was a quilt townsfolk made which was raffled off.

The Indian name "Pewamo" means "One who scattered in many parts a thing he struck."

The town was given birth when the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad passed through Mid-Michigan in 1857 & was named after a popular Indian chief.



Eureka Elementary 3-4th Welcomes
OLYMPIC TORCH
Photo Courtesy of:
Lansing State Journal

WAITING FOR THE TORCH

Thousands of Mid-Michigan residents stood along the route of the Olympic torch recently in Lansing including this group of students from Eureka School in northeastern Clinton County.

The students were awaiting one of the many runners who are carrying the torch cross-country in preparation for the upcoming Olympic Games.



Comments

Dear Mrs. Minsky,
I read with great interest your article on the Round School House (in the Lansing State Journal) at French & Grange Roads.

If it was built in 1858 there was possibly a reason for building it round.

From some history about "round" school houses I learned that those eight sides and those side windows were "watch windows" for Indian attacks as was the cupola.

I didn't know a school house of this nature existed in Michigan & especially this close to our Capitol.

What a shame it couldn't have been preserved.

I have seen one like it in Pa. that has been restored. It had a baffle wainscoat one-half wall on the inside. I understood the half-wall inside was for protection against an Indian attack providing the school was caught by surprise. Of course, it could be burned to the ground.

I find these bits of history so important to our culture - the human interest bits. They say so much about our philosophy of dealing with problems of the past.

Thanks for the story.

Marguerite L. Jackson

(Ed. note: I wanted to share the above letter which came to me personally in response to a news story on the Round School house having burned down. This is an interesting new angle.)

in the news

Because there has been a good response from readers, especially those who live away or do not read all local papers, we will print important current happenings of things in Clinton County. This "history in the making" news will not necessarily be CCHS oriented but will be an overview of what is happening in Clinton today that will be history tomorrow.

We also seek information from our out-of-area members about themselves so we can let others in CCHS know what you are doing. Please share information with us about where you are, what you are doing, etc.

Members who have interesting goings-on in their private lives are invited to send us a note so we can include those tidbits.

We are also interested in things of a historical nature that do not make the news - items we might miss but which readers will find informative.

Send your notes to Betty Jane Minsky, Rt. 3, St. Johns, Mi. 48879

"The strength of each of us depends upon the strength of all of us."

Barth Abraham

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CCHS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

- JULY 19 Picnic - Maple Rapids Park, 6:30 p.m. Bring dish to pass & table-service.
AUG. 19 Annual "Babcock" Old Car Tour at 11 a.m. Details next month.

GENEALOGY DIVISION OF CCHS

- JULY 9 Work session - Archives at DeWitt, 7:30 p.m.
AUG. 6 Happy 10th picnic at 6 p.m., Snyder Farm, 3416 W. Banner Road St. Johns. Bring dish to pass, table service & folding chair. Program: "Baby Judging"..bring baby/child pic of yourself & put 2 hints at the top, then enclose in transparent baggie. Judging contest will be held.

PGS MUSEUM (across from courthouse, St. Johns)
Sundays: 1-5 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS; 2-8 p.m.

ARCHIVES at DeWitt (town hall)
Open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

For "Bury the Dead"

Drama team honored by state Senate



Photo: St. Johns Reminder
and John Fitch

Jim Schultheiss, Cam Wood, Paul Crosby and Eric Hudson are shown in a scene from "Bury The Dead," a St. Johns High School Drama Club production which won the state drama competition. Among awards was a citation by the Michigan Senate which noted St. Johns is the only school in Michigan to have qualified for the state finals 14 times. It was the sixth time the club has won a state championship, making St. Johns the winningest school in the state.

Robert Koger, who came to St. Johns via Minnesota and Hawaii, is the director.

CCHS congratulates the club and its director.

Genealogists are known as nuts;
Their work can get piled and sloppy;
They sit long hours on their butts;
Only to find they must recopy.

Ida Merrithew

Clinton County
Historical Society

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