



"The Clinton Independent"

1984

In The News

Last winter Shirley Pouch told the Lansing State Journal that having a service without the church bell ringing was like getting a kiss without a hug. She referred to the bell at the St. Johns Episcopal Church in St. Johns which could not be rung because the shrinking congregation lacked funds to repair the bell tower. Brick fell each time the bell was rung, she said.

The State Journal story, and a story in our CCHS Clinton Independent, resulted in the church receiving over \$5,000 in donations, most of it from out-of-town residents who read about the problem.

Repairs will be made yet this summer, she said. Donations can be sent to the church at 400 E. Walker Street., St. Johns, 48879.



St. John's Episcopal Church
St. Johns, Michigan
Since 1864

M I N T F E S T

There's a hint of mint in St. Johns' future. The Chamber of Commerce has announced plans to hold a celebration Aug. 10-11, 1985. At our July meeting it was announced that CCHS was invited to participate and we agreed to help research the

The Federal Communications Commission-approved station is the only high school-operated radio station in Clinton County and the district made history when it initiated the station into the high school's communication arts department about a decade ago.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CCHS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

AUG. 16 Picnic...Turner Dodge House on E. North Street, Lansing at 6:30 p.m. POTLUCK..Bring dish to pass. See story below on this page.

GENEALOGY DIVISION OF CCHS

AUG. 6 Happy 10th picnic at 6 p.m., Snyder Farm, 3416 W. Banner Rd., St. Johns. Bring dish to pass; table service & folding chair. "Baby Judging" contest ...bring baby/child picture of yourself & put two hints at the top, then enclose in transparent baggie.

SEPT.10 Capital Savings & Loan, St. Johns, 7:30 p.m., program to be announced later.

PGS MUSEUM (across from courthouse in St. Johns)
Sundays: 1-5 p.m.
Wednesdays: 2-8 p.m.

ARCHIVES (at DeWitt in the township hall) Open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

1985. At our July meeting it was announced that CCHS was invited to participate and we agreed to help research the history of mint in Clinton County and to help/or sponsor a display of antique mint-growing and distilling equipment. Help is urgently needed on both of these projects. If you want to participate call Ford Caesar at 321-3224 or Betty Jane Minsky at 224-4410. Your ideas are also wanted.

A PANTHER IN CLINTON

That depends on who you talk to. A number of panther "sightings" have been reported this summer in several Mid-Michigan locations including southern Clinton County. Descriptions range from a huge panther to "just a big black cat." Police, including U. S. Fish and Wildlife officers armed with nightscopes, have turned up a number of people who say they have seen the animal but there has been no "official" sighting yet.

MARCHING BAND AT FAIR

Congratulations to the St. Johns High School Redwing Marching Band which performed at the World's Fair in New Orleans, under the direction of Walt Cole, recently.

WOES SUFFERING WOES

Ovid-Elsie High School's radio station, WOES, will continue with the school district's general fund to help pay operating costs. Earlier this year officials feared it might close because new equipment is needed. The station is highly popular with residents in the two towns.

It initiated the station into the high school's communication arts department about a decade ago.

ST. JOHNS PLANTS MAKE NEWS

Two St. Johns industrial firms made history recently. Saylor-Beall, an air compressor manufacturer, which was begun in 1915 by Norman Saylor and Frank Beall in Detroit and moved here in the 1940's after Russell Allman acquired stock in the firm. His son, Russell V. Allman Jr., 62, sold the company to Bob McFee, a southern Michigan businessman who said he will retain the firm in St. Johns and expand its' operation.

Sealed Power Corporation said it plans a \$2 million expansion of its plant on M-21 at the western edge of the city. The firm, one of the city's largest industries, makes pistons.

ST. JOHNS BUYS COMPUTER

The City of St. Johns also made history with the purchase of its own computer. Cost is \$46,000. City employees had put away their pencils and papers years ago when the city contracted for computer services. Owning its own equipment will make record keeping more efficient, officials said.

TURNER DODGE HOUSE TOUR ' PICNIC

Our Aug. 16 meeting will be a potluck (bring dish to pass) picnic at the historic Turner Dodge House on E. North Street in Lansing. The home is in a park-like setting, south side of road, three blocks west of the Motor Wheel-plant. Included will be a tour.

ARCHIVES (at DeWitt in the township hall) Open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Stamp to hail Michigan's 150th year

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service will issue a 1987 commemorative stamp in honor of the 150th anniversary of Michigan's statehood.

THE STATE'S 18 House members and two senators, led by Rep. William Ford, D-Taylor, who chairs the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, had written earlier this month to Bolger requesting that such a stamp be issued to coincide with sesquicentennial events.

"From the time it was carved from the wilderness by intrepid pioneers whose names have become legend, Michigan has played an important role in the history of our nation," the letter from the Michigan delegation said. "... We think it only fitting that the first 150 years of Michigan statehood be honored with a commemorative stamp reflecting the state's character and scenic beauty."

GENEALOGY

TOWNSHIP AND COUNTY ORGANIZATION

<u>GOVERNMENTAL UNIT</u>	<u>DATE ORGANIZED</u>
CLINTON COUNTY	March 12, 1839
DeWitt Township	March 23, 1836
Watertown Township	March 20, 1837
Lebanon Township (1)	March 6, 1838
Bingham Township	March 21, 1839
Westphalia Township	March 21, 1839
Bengal Township	March 19, 1840
Duplain Township (2)	March 19, 1840
Ovid Township	March 19, 1840
Eagle Township	March 15, 1841
Riley Township	March 15, 1841
Olive Township	March 20, 1841
Greenbush Township	February 16, 1842
Bath Township (3)	March 9, 1843
Essex Township	March 9, 1843
Victor Township	March 9, 1843
Dallas Township	March 19, 1845

- (1) Originally called Wandaugon
 (2) Originally called Sena
 (3) Originally called Ossowa and organized March 22, 1839.

POSTMASTERS OF FOWLER, MICHIGAN

The following information was provided by R. J. Halfmann
 present postmaster of Fowler, Mich., Clinton County

Established as Dallas January 18, 1849
 Name changed to Fowler July 17, 1871

<u>Postmasters</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
John Par...	January 18, 1849
Marcellus Vangesen	June 9, 1851

Genealogically Speaking

by Arlene Lounds

The Ovid-Register is now on microfilm at the Archives, thanks to the generosity of the Ovid-Elsie High School who annually loan their films to us each summer. Let's show our appreciation by keeping the Archives open Wednesday evenings and at least four hours every Saturday so the public may get the most good from them. Volunteer now for two or three hours every month at the Archives. Call me at 224-7807 if you can help.

Have you started your family history yet? An easy way would be to buy a three-hole notebook and some plastic cover sheets for paper which fits it. Get a two to three inch deep notebook because you fill it faster than you think. Start by gathering old pictures of family members. Do not glue them down. I take a tiny circle of scotch tape and attach it to the back of the picture and attach the picture to a sheet of 9 1/2 by 11 inch white typing paper on which I have already typed the identity of the people in the picture and a short story about that family or person. On the opposite page I have a typed family group sheet. Where I do not have a picture of the very old ancestors, I try to have a picture of their gravestone or the home they once lived in. I then group these by family, beginning with the oldest (furthest back) ancestor and continuing with his child, grandchild, great-grandchild, etc., unto the present generation. At present I am working on just such a book for the Long reunion at Rosedale. This is my husband's paternal grandmother's side of the family. If any of you would like to see it to know how to get started, I would be happy to show you.

Postmasters

John Paul
 Marcellus Vangesen
 Alanson Parks
 James Leve
 David Richard
 James Lance
 Frederick Schemer
 Jacob Shraft
 William M. Youngs
 John Hicks
 Emma P. Weller
 George McPherson
 William J. Hammond
 Riley Rice
 Jacob F. Shraft
 William H. Sage
 Agnes Sage
 Charles F. Meyer
 Ettie M. Meyer
 George T. Baldwin
 Ettie M. Meyer
 Raymond J. Halfmann
 Ernest Halfmann
 Mildred H. Shaw
 Raymond J. Halfmann

Date of Appointment

January 18, 1849
 June 9, 1851
 November 5, 1851
 February 10, 1859
 September 1859
 May 4, 1864
 March 31, 1869
 January 31, 1870
 December 9, 1874
 May 22, 1877
 November 19, 1884
 September 22, 1886
 September 10, 1888
 April 5, 1890
 July 31, 1894
 June 24, 1899
 January 12, 1901
 October 5, 1903
 February 27, 1915
 March 16, 1917
 November 22, 1921
 February 27, 1934
 February 29, 1939
 February 15, 1964
 August 29, 1964

The records show postmaster' appointment dates, not the actual periods of their service.
 Rural Route established Apr. 16, 1900. Successor to the postmaster was an appointed position after 1929.

Rural Route History next issue....J M Snyder



to see it to know how to get started, I would be happy to show you.

names in the news

Carol Elizabeth Webster, 19, a June 1983 graduate of St. Johns High School is working for CCHS this summer with her wages paid through the Michigan Youth Corp program. She is spending 30 hours weekly on the job, splitting her time between Paine-Gillam Scott Museum and helping with the newsletter.

"These jobs will give me experience in the secretarial field in which I am interested.

Our president, Ford Caesar, recently participated in a historical meeting of the United Methodist Church at Delaware, Ohio. Caesar is a member of the director's association which covers nine states in the Midwest.

Clinton County Historical Society

P. O. Box 171
 Saint Johns, Michigan 48879

St. Johns, Mi.
 PERMIT
 No. 104
 Non-Profit org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID

Arlyn Gantz
 Box 535
 DeWitt, Mi. 48820