

"The Clinton Independent"



1985

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



4-H livestock goes to top bidders

ST. JOHNS — Spirited bidding between two supermarkets sent prices to record highs at the 4-H Fair livestock auction.

Rande Hansen, 18, of Bath got \$4.30 per pound from Goff Food Stores for his 1,280-pound grand champion steer. Goff also bought the grand champion hog raised by Tim Kissane, 10, of St. Johns, paying \$4.80 per pound for the 245-pound porker.

Kroger purchased the grand champion lamb raised by Marc Martin, 13, of St. Johns. The store paid \$10.50 per pound for the 135-pound animal.

Kroger also bought the reserve grand champion steer, owned by Bill Ritchie, 19, of Bath. It weighs 1,185 pounds and sold for \$1.30 per pound.

DeWitt ox roast

DeWitt folks held their 39th Ox Roast this summer, celebrating with parades, carnival, food and beer tents, Las Vegas games...and a leap frog contest which has been a hit attraction for the past five years. The one-day event raises funds annually for the DeWitt Memorial Association, a non-profit group which runs the Memorial Building.

News Spotlights

Clinton Bank



120th birthday

1865 - Lincoln was assassinated; the Civil War ended; and in Clinton County the First National Bank of St. Johns, now known as Clinton Bank and Trust, opened. The bank recently celebrated its 120th birthday and visitors munched refreshments and viewed a newly remodeled lobby. When founded, the bank had \$50,000 in capital; it now exceeds \$9 million. Through the years it merged with banks in Elsie, Fowler and Laingsburg and now has 13 branch offices and its main headquarters on N. Clinton Avenue in St. Johns. It is one of Clinton's largest employers, with 120 employees.

memories

Memories (from Wilma Sowle) continued...

Scrapbook #73 continues:

Edd Brown and Fedawau and Wicks & Son also failed Also Snitgins of Westphalia.

Oct. 28/94 small pox in St. Johns four cases. Lusk Pitton at the Steel who died and Donald girl worked at Steel; and the old lady who died, increased to 12 cases. 3 deaths. Cost to county, \$28.

May 31st/95 St. Johns Table Factory burned; estimated loss \$100,000.

Painted house June 96/ Body 12 ga trimming 6 gal. William J. Bryan in St. Johns Oct 17 - 96.

Went to Lansing to hear Bob Ingersol, Nov. 23. Rained Thanksgiving. Went to DeWitt to play at night Nov. 23. Dec. 14 trade horses with Bert Cook,

feathery snow but no sleighing to Jan. 1, 1889, played nine years at Bengal Hall.

July 9, 98 frost that killed corn and many things. Played for 9 dances in Aug, 1898.

Played for 20 dances from Thanksgiving to middle of Apr. 99.

1902 the wettest season for years, to July 3rd, at night the heaviest rain of the season.

Lime Schank died Feb. 9, 08.

Sister M. C. Fox died Jan 12th, 08.

The shrinkage of values in the U. S. A. alone since the Demonatization of Silver in 1873 is estimated by Senator Chandler to be 16 billions of dollars or 5 times the cost of the Civil War.

First tree cut in St Johns in May 1854.



FALL IS HERE

Rumbaugh - PGS memories continue...

Recent gifts: An 1882 dry sink & old pine table from Max & Harriet Field; Velocipede jig-saw by Carl Weiber; picture of employees of Hayes Wheel Co by Bud Sage; medical equipment by Alvin & Joyce Gorge & the Rumbaughs; woven coverlet from Mildreth Robson; shawl by Joan Wiegel; wedding sheet by Mrs. Oliver Darling; 25th anniversary plate of Central School, 1910, by Lillian LaRue; personal collection of 75 yrs of Scouting items of the late Wally Watt by his wife, Olive.

■ A new booklet, "History in Southeast Michigan," is now available from the Travel & Tourist Association of Southeast Michigan. The publication lists 112 museums, buildings and businesses with historic significance in the 11-county southeast Michigan area.

Association President Sidney Baker said, "There will be much emphasis on history in Michigan as we approach the state's 150th birthday in January, 1986. We felt it appropriate to bring out this historic booklet to help people discover our dynamic history and enjoy the Sesquicentennial more fully."

The publication is free at the Travel & Tourist Association office at 64 Park St. in Troy, or available by mail by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with 39 cents postage to: History, P.O. Box 1590, Troy, 48069.

Our forefathers built a rich heritage for us. We benefit from their legacy of love, industry, and high courage. We show our gratefulness to those forefathers by honoring this heritage and by passing it on, strengthened and reinforced, to those who shall come after us.

Americana Notes



Memories

shouldn't be relegated to the attic

WE WANT TO SHARE OURS!

(Editor's Note: We will pass along here notes from the various CCHS departments. Because of space, we regret that editing is necessary but we will try not to leave out anything that is important or change meaning. Thank you for your cooperation.)

A letter to CCHS members and Friends of PGS (from the Rumbaughs)

The museum has never budgeted for purchases of artifacts. We found ourselves in a position, last July, where we felt it important to retain some items in Clinton County and it could be done only by purchasing them. At a pre-public estate sale of Guy Frace we purchased two large oil paintings and a tomahawk.

A few weeks later the Parish family of the Episcopal Church, St. Johns, heirs to the estate, gave a portrait of Joseph Campau, a statuette of Joseph, and many other items relating to the Campau family, the first white settler in Clinton County. It is with extreme gratitude we thank the Parish family for these gifts.

The 44½ x 51½ (frame included) painting is an 1879 portrait of Madame Alexander Campau, wife of Joseph Campau's youngest son, Alexander T. With her is their daughter, Milcah, b. 1877 Detroit, d. 2/26/49 St. Johns, the wife of a local doctor, Dr. Guy Henry Frace; and mother of Guy Henry Frace, whose estate was for sale. The smaller painting, 30½ x 35½ is a portrait of Dr. Frace's father, Henry Frace. He was in the mercantile business in Saranac. Restoration will be needed on both paintings.

The tomahawk is an old one and we'd like to believe it was an item George Campau was trading with the Indians at Campau Trading Post near what was to become Maple Rapids. It has been used and there are several notches on the handle.

The cost is \$410 for the items and, with restoration we estimate it will be \$1,200 - \$1,500. We have created a fund in the museum and hope our museum friends and CCHS members will make donations. Send checks to PGS Museum/ c/o Clinton County Historical Society, Box 174, St. Johns, Mi. 48879.

Continued - 2nd column, next page

Notes from Wilma Sowle, Archives, DeWitt....

New items include:
History of Beal City, Mi.
Many families from Westphalia moved to Beal City in the 1880's.

"Honor Roll and Complete History of Ingham Co. in W.W.I" contains pictures and data on those who served.

New cemetery records include River Side Cemetery, Elsie; & records of Rosedale & Barbeau Cemeteries in Bruce Township, Chippewa Co.

A list of all taxpayers who appeared on the Duplain Township assessment roll in 1875.

Michigan Veterans Index for 1890 is now on microfiche.

NOTE TO RESEARCHERS. Enclose SASE when requesting information.

NOTES FROM SCRAPBOOK #73
collected by Willard C. Smith who signed himself "inventor and sole proprietor of Asbestos Fire Kindler, Coldwater, Mi."

Handwritten memos state: House built in town, 1886; at Haslett, 1890. 1st silver mine opened in America in 1859.

R. S. Van Scoy's wealth \$140,000. Died.

Miner Frink's wealth is about \$200,000.

Wm. Moore, \$100,000. Died.

Feb. 12, 1894, worst blizzard in years hit this state, Jan. & Feb.

Michigan Mortgage Co. failed, limited to \$100,000 liabilities.

Continued on opposite page

Mark your calendar

CCHS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP: Oct. 17, business only, as Oct. 16 program by Martha Weatherby will be in lieu of our regular meeting. Capital Savings & Loan, St. Johns, 7:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENT: Oct. 16, Martha Weatherby, resident basketmaker at Shaker Museum, Canterbury, N.H., will demonstrate Shaker basketmaking. 7 p.m. at Smith Hall, 4-H Fairgrounds, St. Johns. Order tickets now - \$3 with SASE from Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum, Box 174, St. Johns, 48879. For more inf. call (517) 224-2894 or 224-7402. Presented by your CCHS and Clinton County Arts Council. (Tickets at door are \$4).

ARCHIVES: DeWitt Township Hall, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays - Wednesdays.

Oct. 7 Genealogists meet, Capital Savings and Loan, St. Johns. Jack Snyder will give program on the Revolutionary War.. 7:30 p.m.

PAINE GILLAM SCOTT MUSEUM: Open Wednesdays 2 - 8 p.m. & Sundays, 1 - 5 p.m.



PGS Museum memories continued from prev. page

Art Lopes of Lansing won the grandfather clock we gave away via a drawing at the mint festival in August. Former CCHS President Ford Ceasar sold him the winning ticket at a Kiwanis meeting. Becky Irrer, mint queen, drew Lopes' name from the barrel butter churn. We thank all who sold and bought our 2,500 tickets; and volunteers who helped staff conduct museum tours for two days. A special thanks to Charles and Marie Hulse who rode in their "merry Oldsmobile" (1902) in parade, advertising the museum tours.

WANTED: Lockable storage for garage/barn items donated to PGS. Call 224-2894 or 224-7402.

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Clinton County Historical Society

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Saint Johns, Michigan 48879

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