



The Oakland Township Historical Society (OTHS) Newsletter
www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org Oakland County, Michigan

President's Thoughts

Fall is arriving, summer is leaving and Covid 19 and its variants are hopefully lessening their hold on our individual and collective activities. You will see in this newsletter that OTHS and the HDC are planning to host a renewal of activities at Cranberry Lake Farm this fall and winter.



We begin the renewal with a Potluck supper, annual OTHS meeting and conversation in the CLF barn at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, September 1, 2021. Please come and bring your favorite dish. We will have a short annual meeting to elect officers for the term June 2021 to May 2023.

On Friday evening September 17 at 6PM the HDC will host a concert with Glen Morningstar and the Ruffwater String Band, bring a picnic supper and enjoy the music. On that evening you may, for a \$5 dollar donation take advantage of the pre-sale at the famous Flumerfelt Flea market which takes place at the CLF barn on Saturday and Sunday September 18 & 19. And to keep you busy that weekend you can attend Goodison Good Tyme at Bear Creek Nature Park on Saturday beginning at 11:00 AM.

October kicks off with Down on The Farm at 11 AM on Saturday, October 2 at CLF. This celebration of our agrarian origins is designed by the HDC to provide fun and learning for the youngsters in our community. In November you can come learn about antiques at four workshops with local authority LaVere Webster.

The Society hopes you will take advantage of all of these events. Details are found elsewhere in this newsletter. These events and others are provided by the volunteers that serve on our Board and in our membership. We need more members, more helpers and more people interested in preserving our heritage. Please invite your friends and neighbors to take advantage of these events and to join our Society.

Bill Kroger, OTHS President

Flumerfelt Flea Market Returns!

Proceeds benefit the preservation of Oakland Township History by OTHS.

Donate antiques, collectables, vintage, rustic farm and household items to the sale. We offer pick up or drop off. Contact Colleen Barkham with any questions or to donate: 248-652-0712

or thsbarkham@hotmail.com



Find your next treasure at these Sale Dates:

September 17th, 2021, 5-8pm
(\$5 pre-sale donation)

September 18th, 10:00 to 5:00

September 19th Noon to 5:00

On the evening of Friday, September 17, 2021 Glen Morningstar and The Ruffwater Stringband will perform at the Flumerfelt Barn from 6:00 to 8:00PM.

Pre-sale for early shopping will be open from 5:00 to 8:00 PM during the performance with a \$5 donation to the OTHS for early shopping.

Ice Cream will be available for purchase. Music has been sponsored by the Oakland Township Historic District Commission. The music will be cancelled if raining or high winds since this is an outdoor performance. The concert is free and open to the public.

STORIES FROM THE 30's



From a Nov. 20 1999 interview with Marion Czechowski (MC), 809 Stoney Creek Rd. and Louis Spezia (LS), 1220 Stoney Creek Rd.

Ed. Note: Mr. Czechowski lived on 80 acres on the north side of Stoney Creek Rd. about 1/4 mile west of Rochester Rd. In 1999 he lived in a home on the south side of Stoney Creek Rd about 1/2 mile west of Rochester Rd. Mr. Spezia and his wife Thornetta lived on the north side of Stoney Creek Rd west of Beaver Creek Golf Course. Stoney Creek runs between their two farms. It is fed by 7 lakes including Mud, Tamarack, Green, Clam and Graham. Stoney Creek was called Frost Drain in this area .

(MC) We had a League of Nations here and everybody got along. They say that they couldn't get along in Europe, but we had Germans, Poles, Irish, Italians and I don't care what. That was one of the best neighborhoods. Whenever anybody needed help it was there. And there was never money exchanged.

(LS) We didn't have any money.

(MC) What about that house you were born in.

(LS) My Uncle Harry came over and went to town to get Doc Strain. Then they kept a woman in bed for 10 days.

(MC) For school, we went down to the corner, walked ¼ mile. I couldn't understand English. I could only say "yes" or "no". She said "I think you better go home and learn English." And the folks didn't want me to learn English. The European folks were like this. They came to America because it was free – more freedom. They thought when they made more money they'd go back to their natural country. But when they got a taste of American life, then they didn't want to go. So they didn't want the kids to learn 'cause they thought they would talk about the parents.

(LS) Ma and Pa went back twice to Italy when they made enough money. Ma never wanted to go but Pa was bound and determined. So Lyle was born in Italy. John, Joe, Bob, Phil, Theresa, Anne and Mary were born here.



Marion Czechowski and Great Grandson Connor



Thornetta and Louis Spezia

(MC) I learned English from my sister who was born in Detroit. She was 3 years older and could speak English because she went to school and my mother finally gave in. I was 7 years old when I went back to school, I made 2 classes in one year. I was good in math. I got a dictionary from the school.

(LS) The one I won was a lot smaller. The Detroit News put 'em out - prizes for a spell-down. You had to go against the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades. The teachers were getting 60 bucks a month. She had to pay a guy 50 cents every morning to start a fire. Harold Chamberlin was the one. She had 8 grades plus a kindergarten. She was more dedicated than any teacher in the state. She'd get a slat out of the swivel chair and she wasn't afraid to use it. Kids never got out of line.



(Continued on [page 5](#))



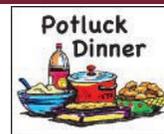
2021 – 2022 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

6:30 pm CLF Barn

Autumn Pot-Luck Dinner and Return To Normal Celebration

We've been unable to hold meetings for over a year and a half, so we are in the mood for celebrating! Join us for our annual Autumn Pot-Luck Dinner. We thought we'd spend the evening socializing and telling each other stories rather than bring in a presenter. I'm sure we all have a lot of stories to share with each other!



Wednesday, October 27, 2021

7:00 pm CLF Barn/Main House (depending on the weather)

Movie and Popcorn Night – The Majestic with Jim Carrey

Join us for movie night – popcorn and beverages will be provided. The Majestic is a movie about a man suffering from amnesia who finds himself welcomed by a small town who believes him to be a long-lost WWII veteran. He settles into his “new” life and starts to restore The Majestic, an old, abandoned movie theater.



Wednesday, November 3, 2021

7:00 pm PCUMC

Parking available next to the church in the Dentist's office.

"Rochester Mural Restoration" by LaVere Webster.

The Rochester Mural, located in the Rochester Community Schools Administration Building, has been called the most important Historic Art of Oakland County, portraying images of the Park Davis Farm where the polio vaccine was produced, the Ferry Seed Experimental Farm, and Rochester Area Schools. A Federal Art Project and dated 1938, the Mural was covered up for many years and nearly destroyed in a remodeling project a few years ago. Three pieces of it were lost, and only one was found. Fortunately, the cleaning process uncovered the name of the artist, and the Smithsonian had an 8 x 10 photo. An HD disk of the photo from the Smithsonian was used to do a printing of the two missing parts. The restoration project lasted 4 years before it was presented to the community in 2011.



LaVere Webster is a professional Conservator of Art, and luckily he retired locally and was available to work a miracle on the Mural. The mural was nearly lost forever. LaVere's Conservation/Restoration Work can be found in many Museums and Private collections.

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Pot-lucks are in the Cranberry Lake Farm (CLF) Flumerfelt Barn at 384 W. Predmore Rd in Oakland Township. November, December and March programs are at the Paint Creek United Methodist Church (PCUMC), 4420 Collins Rd. A bad snow storm will mean that we would cancel our program and reschedule it. Join our Society to stay on our mailing list and receive more information about program location, time and details.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. The public is welcome to our programs. There is no charge for our programs. For program information or to submit program ideas and speaker suggestions, e-mail Mary Tischler, Program Chairperson, marytischler@comcast.net. For membership or other information contact Sue Fox, Membership Chairperson, (248) 693-9646.

Visit our Facebook Page @othsmi or our website: www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org

PDF versions of the Oakland Township Historical Society's newsletters are available online at www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org under NEWS.

The **OTHS store** has many great gift items for sale - A few popular items: Ed Noble prints, Lyn Seiffert large color prints, Lyn Seiffert note cards, *It's the Berries* Cranberry Recipe Book, Carolyn Dulin ceramic art, Mill sack dish towels and aprons, and many other items! Contact Sue Fox.



OTHS BOARD



- Bill Kroger, President*
- Anthony Kowalchik, Vice President*
- Sue Fox, Treasurer and Membership Chair*
- Mary Tischler, Recording Secretary and Program Chair*
- Tom Asmus, Director*
- Barbara Barber, Director*
- Colleen Barkham, Director*
- Diana Borrusch, Director*
- David Phillips, Director*
- Jeanne Phillips, Director*

YOU SHOP OTHS WINS!

Don't forget that your Kroger and Amazon purchases can help support OTHS. Sign up for Kroger 'Community Rewards' and Amazon Smile, choosing Oakland Township Historical Society as your charitable organization.



OTHS Membership

It's membership renewal time, and if you don't know your status, just contact Sue Fox by email at othsmember@comcast.net or call 248-693-9646 to find out. When sending in your membership dues, let us know if you have a change in address, phone or email address. We will be putting dues status information with all future mail, so you will be able to see your expiration date anytime. Thank you for being an Oakland Township Historical Society member.

OTHS Membership

Help us continue to be a Society to be proud of. We welcome new members! Share the form below with a friend or neighbor.

 <p>Membership Application Form</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____ e-mail: _____</p>	<p>Membership Category:</p> <p>Individual \$18 _____</p> <p>Family \$25 _____</p> <p>Patron \$50 _____</p> <p>Business \$100 _____</p>	<p>Additional Donation:</p> <p>\$ _____</p> <p>Total Enclosed \$ _____</p> <p>New _____ Renewal _____</p>
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Make checks payable and mail with this form to :
 Treasurer, Oakland Township Historical Society
 384 Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363 (do not send cash)
 For more information contact Sue Fox at 248.693.9646 or e-mail othsmember@comcast.net

We need your help! Consider donating your memories, time, money, or skills to help us preserve our heritage. Do you have a story to share? Do you want to submit a written memoir to our archives or have us tape an interview with you? Do you have a barn more than 50 years old? Have you found any old arrowheads or other ancient artifacts? Do you want to help with the plant sale at Heritage Days, Flumerfelt Flea, Down on the Farm, restoration of Cranberry Lake Farm, or other fun things? Please indicate below. We will contact you!

YES! I have artifacts or historical photos, stories or other information YES! I would like to Volunteer with an event, committee, program, etc.

The OTHS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All contributions and membership fees are tax deductible as provided by law.

OTHS Program Schedule

(Continued from page 3)



Wednesday, December 1, 2021

6:30 pm PCUMC

Parking available next to the church in the Dentist's office.

Bring a dish to pass for the potluck – Christmas goodies and appetizers welcome!



"The Good Roads Movement in Michigan" by Jim Craft, Annual December Potluck and Program Followed by Christmas carol sing-along

In 1890 the United States had, perhaps, the worst road system of any developed country in the world. Impassable three or four months a year due to muddy conditions, the balance of the year roads in America were dusty, rutted and disjointed serving only very local functions. By the mid 1920's the United States had developed a well-funded system that integrated local, state and Federal governments to create the massive road network we take for granted today. While the story is national in scope, the presentation will focus on Michigan to answer three key questions: Why were roads in America so bad in 1890? What caused the change? What were the principle steps that were taken to create an effective road system in America and Michigan?

Along the way, we will discuss the importance of the bicycle, the Model T and the Liberty truck. Among other things we will explain why Van Dyke is named the Earle Memorial Highway, the origins of the Dixie Highway and the central, though often negative, role American farmers played in the Good Roads Movement.

Jim Craft is on the board of the Oakland County Historical Commission and retired history teacher.

After the program we will have our traditional Christmas carol sing-along.

STORIES FROM THE 30's (Continued from page 2)



(LS) I went to high school and someone bought an old Martin line bus. I don't know how much it cost us a week to ride on that bus.

(MC) I couldn't go anywhere. I was about 7-8 years ahead of you. So that was in '32- that was depression. It cost tuition \$63 or \$83, and we didn't have 83 cents in the house, so my dad said I don't know what you're going to do. The school was 6½ miles away. There was an extra team of horses in the barn. The barn was right next door. So I harnessed the horses and went out in the field. Maybe they could have raised money, but then I would have to walk everyday because we couldn't afford transportation. This was District 4, and there was no high school in District 4, so you had to go across to another district in town.

I was born here. My parents moved here in 1917. They bought 80 acres minus an easement for the post office and paid \$7700. Our loan was at 7½% we paid it off in 1944, so it took 27 years. It wasn't really a post office. The horse came from Lake Orion. The mail carrier delivered on horseback and left the horse in the stable, to pick up a fresh one and finish the route. He left the horse overnight. There was a lane across from the post office station we used to take to go to Goodison to grind feed. But when the bridge (on the lane) went out in '32-'33, we had to go around on Rochester Rd. Nobody had a car. We used horses. Even if we had one we'd let it sit in the yard - we couldn't afford the gas.

In 1933 it got so awful dry - everything dried up. Ford had come out with a scoop for the back of a tractor. They used it to dig a pond (at 250 Stoney Creek Rd. about 1000 feet west of Rochester Rd)

(LS) We used to skate on it a lot.

(MC) We used to have marshmallow roasts at night - a full moon night. Sometimes 30 kids were there: Tysons, us, Chalfonts.

To be continued in a future newsletter.



LEARN FROM AN EXPERT

Do you have items you have inherited and wonder if they are worth anything? Would you like to learn more about antiques collectables? **We have the workshops for you!**

LaVere Webster, conservator and restorer of art and antiques, will lead us in a series of workshops to learn about various antiques and collectables. LaVere has a long background in historic preservation and has received Michigan's highest preservation award for the conservation of the Rochester Community School's mural.

Join us this October at Cranberry Lake Farm as we listen to the knowledgeable Mr. Webster and share our own stories of family legacies. The workshops will cover antique glass (before 1932), antique chairs and the periods of furniture styles, the conservation and restoration of oil paintings and antique/collectable clocks.

Dates: October 6, 13, 20, and 27 **Time: 10 AM to Noon** **Cost: \$10**

Where: Cranberry Lake Farm, 384 W. Predmore Rd, Oakland, MI 48363



Workshops in main house. Parking in lot behind barn. Handicap parking along driveway.

Registration: You may send a check to our OTHS Treasurer, Sue Fox: 384 W. Predmore Rd., Oakland, MI 48363, or contact Colleen Barkham via email to secure your spot: thsarkham@hotmail.com

JOIN US AT THESE SPECIAL EVENTS!

**Flumerfelt Flea
Preview and Music at
Cranberry Lake Farm**

Glen Morningstar and
the Ruffwater String
Band

Fri Sept 17, 2021
6 – 8 pm

Flumerfelt Flea

Sept. 17th, 5-8pm,
Presale, \$5 donation
Sat Sept 18, 2021
10 am – 5 pm
Sept. 19th, Noon-5

Goodison Good Tyme

Sat Sept 18, 2021
11 am – 2 pm

Down on the Farm

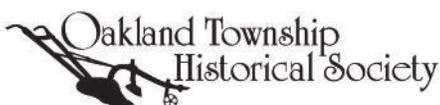
Sat Oct 2, 2021
11 am – 2 pm

**Appraisal
Workshops**

Oct 6, 13, 20, 27, 2021
–
10-12 Noon
\$10
Cranberry Lake Farm



Mission Statement: OTHS is dedicated to gathering,
interpreting and preserving the history of Oakland Township.
It's your memory, it's our history, it's worth preserving!



384 West Predmore Road
Oakland, Michigan 48363



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