



*Only
24
days
left
to
shop
at the
museum.*

The L. Clarke and Jean Oldenburg home at 29780 Rush Street near Brandt was moved to Garden City from Ford Road near Southfield Road to make room for the Southfield Expressway. Their home, weighing 256,000 pounds, was moved down Ford Road, over the bridge that then existed over the Rouge River in Dearborn -- and was damaged! -- to Inkster Road. It traveled one mile north to Warren Avenue, turned left, came past Middlebelt Road, and because there were then no homes on Warren in that area, was brought across the field to its site which bordered Ed Wolfe's farm -- complete with grazing cows.

In Mr. Oldenburg's own words: "After the house was moved, Father Egbert Heinlein, CMM and I made it ready for occupancy. We painted the walls and sanded and varnished the floors. The house was well built. It is supported by 2 x 12's on 12 inch centers and many of the joists are 4 x 4's rather than 2 x 4's. The house has copper plumbing, oak flooring, and the walls are insulated with 12 inches of Rockwool. Father Egbert's brother, Walter Heinlein, a cabinet maker, converted the downstairs bedroom into a library. Jean and I were thrilled at the spaciousness of our new home."

Mr. & Mrs. Oldenburg were visited in the early 1990's by a woman and her husband who said she had been born in their house many years before and so had her grandfather, in 1863. They were invited in and shared many memories, one which told of her grandfather being a boyhood friend of Henry Ford -- who also lived in the same area. Her maiden name was "Theisen", and her married name was "Dressel". (A genealogy search of marriage certificates gave us the information that her mother's maiden name was "Horger".) Mr. Dressel told of a Mrs. Horger baking cookies for Henry Ford when he was a youngster.

Mr. & Mrs. Oldenburg raised six children in this beautiful home and have twenty grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grand-children! And they still found time to travel the world, too!



*The
future
belongs
to those
who
believe
in the
beauty of their
dreams.*

*Buy a
Brick*

*T*his beautiful home, the Glen Falls Model c.1920's presented in the Sears Catalog, was owned by bootleggers during Prohibition -- 1920-1933. A tunnel ran from the garage to the house for greater ease in unloading the contraband. The house and property were confiscated by the United States Government and later bought by Dr. Hymen A. Vogel of Garden City. He lived there with his wife, Eva, and five children: Margaret, Sally, Patricia, Jeanette and Samuel until his death in 1958. The daughters, all born at Providence Hospital in Detroit, were named by the nuns at the hospital, but Samuel, Dr. and Mrs. Vogel's only son, was named after Dr. Vogel's father. There were twenty-two rooms in the house, and the girls each had a level of the house to clean. This was no easy task since their mother was a meticulous, compulsive housekeeper and exacted the same level of perfection from them. They would do all in their power to avoid being assigned to clean the French doors! The house was purchased in 1983-84 by Mr. Bob Evans. Although the children searched continually for the entrances to the tunnel, they were never successful. In later years, they tried to get that information from Mr. Evans but were too late --- he had already sealed the entrances and would not divulge the information.



*The
best
way to
predict
the future
is to
create it.*

*Join
the
Friends*

*T*he Henry Ford "Honeymoon House" -- also called the "Square House" is located at 29835 Beechwood in Garden City. It was built in 1888 by a young Henry Ford with the "Feminine Touch" added by his wife, Clara Bryant. Ford built the home himself, cutting and sawing the wood and built the house as best he could to Clara's specifications. It was originally located on the southwest corner of Ford and Southfield Roads in Dearborn. The Fords lived in it for about two years until 1891, when they moved to Detroit. After that, the "honeymoon house" became their summer cottage. Its relocation was forced by the expansion of Southfield Road into the M-39 Expressway. The Fords kept the house until 1937 when they gave it to Bob Smith, a company chemist and a favorite employee of Henry's. It was moved to its present location on July 30, 1952, and that is where Don and Marion Sullivan found it for sale in 1979 and began restoring it to its original state -- also purchasing Henry and Clara's original four-piece bedroom suite and chaise lounge. The Henry Ford I Square House Historical Marker was dedicated on July 30, 1982, Mr. Ford's 119th birthday.



*To
have a
friend
you
must
be a
friend.*

*Join
the
Friends*

The home at 6012 Merriman Road is built on property originally owned by Job Sherman, who was given a Land Patent for 80 acres by President Andrew Jackson in 1832. The property was sold to either Charles or Matthias Straight for \$215.00 after Job Sherman died in 1838. The house was built between 1842 and 1852. In later years, apparently Matthias died and Daniel moved into this house after selling his own at 6221 Merriman to his son, Oscar Straight. Daniel died in 1875.

The oldest tax records of the township go back to 1882, and they show that Charles, Oscar and Matthias Straight were the largest property owners, holding title to 552 acres along Ford Road and having a valuation of \$14,800.00, on which they paid \$130 in real estate taxes to the county, township and schools.

Charles Straight owned property at Ford Road and Shotka and built a house on top of a large sand hill. During World War II it became known as "The Bombcellar". It had, in times gone by, been a speakeasy. Room rentals were also available to newcomers to Garden City.

The last homeowner of 6012 Merriman known to us was Edna I. Theuer as of January 31, 1948. The house since then has been home to various community service agencies and is presently a placement center for group homes, managed by Phillip Pappalardo.



*In
life,
what
sometimes
appears
to be
the end
is
really
a
beginning.*

The Log Cabin in Garden City Park, our present home of the Garden City Museum was originally a gas station in Dearborn, Michigan, at Ford Road and Outer Drive. The owner, Joe Carter, celebrated his Grand Opening in 1939, naming it the "Joe Carter Standard Oil Service". His father lived upstairs and operated a Root Beer stand next door to the station. Mr. Carter also operated the bicycle rental stands at Rouge Park and on Warren Avenue at the end of the streetcar line between Telegraph and Southfield Roads.

The Log Cabin was purchased in 1956 or 1957 by the Garden City Recreation Department and moved at that time to City Park at Cherry Hill and Merriman Roads. We have a photograph of the ongoing remodeling, dated 1957, in our Museum. The building was to be used as the Recreation Department offices and Community Building and for meetings of recreation groups. It was also to be an all-purpose building at the Park, housing a game room and a concession stand. It was expected to be completed in the second week of October.

The Recreation Department offices were eventually located upstairs, and the downstairs was indeed used for recreational purposes. In 1970, an 1,800 square foot wing was added to the Log Cabin which cost \$176,000 which was allocated by the state committee on Natural Resources. State Representative James Tierney, a former mayor of Garden City, helped speed the clearance of this allocation. Since 1970, the Log Cabin has been utilized not just for the Historical Museum, but also as a rental hall and polling place.

In October of 1983, the Historical Museum was moved from Maplewood Center to the Log Cabin. The members of the Historical Commission had been forced to store artifacts, donated items, etc., in several places around town since they had no room to display them at Maplewood Center. The Log Cabin gave them a 50% increase in space. The Historical Commission held an Open House in October of 1984 to celebrate their move into the new home for the Museum -- which means that this year we celebrated our twentieth year in the Log Cabin!



*It
takes
a long
time
to grow
an
old
friend.*

*Join the
Friends*

Dr. Francis M. Schmitt and wife, the late Eileen Schmitt have owned and lived in their home at 31211 Brown Street since 1957. They, and their twelve children, have had plenty of room both inside and outside of their home to enjoy life for many years since that time. Their property extends from Brown Street to Marquette -- giving the children their own "forest" to play in along with their friends next door -- Judge Richard, Sr., and Patricia Hammer's children -- and others in the neighborhood.

In 1835, the property was part of a Land Patent of 160 acres to Nelson Horton by President Andrew Jackson. In 1847, 80 acres were sold to Lyman Felton, and 80 acres were sold to Daniel Straight! Interestingly, in 1850, \$90.00 was subject to a mortgage given to N. D. Horton and payable to Wm. Osband for \$56.15. (Wm. Osband was also a Nankin Township pioneer of the 1830's!) In 1851, Daniel Straight and his wife sold their 80 acres to Mathias Straight, who sold his 80 acres in 1897 to Dewitt Cooper. (There was no more mention of Straight ownership in the Abstract Dr. Schmitt generously let this writer study.) Dewitt Cooper sold his property to Albert Knorfske (another pioneer in our area!) in 1902, and he sold 40 acres to Michael Knorfske. In 1917, the family moved to their farm property at Ford and Merriman Roads and ran a dairy and truck farm. The property passed through many hands until the first mention of "Folker's Garden City Acres #6" in 1924.

The Dr. Schmitt home was built in 1928 by Arnold and Annabelle Folker for their family home. Arnold was one of the first Real Estate Developers in Garden City and also the first Mayor of Garden City. Many of the subdivisions in Garden City bear his name, such as "Folker's Garden City Acres #6", for example.

As happened all too frequently due to the Depression in the 1930's, the home was lost by the Folkers. Later, around 1947, the home and property were purchased by the John and Helen Timler family, who operated a Meat Market on Inkster Road, south of Cherry Hill. Since 1957, the Dr. Francis M. and Eileen Schmitt family have been the owners and occupants.



*If
nothing
changes*

*Nothing
changes.*

The home of the late Judge Richard Hammer, Sr. and his wife, Patricia, at 31239 Brown Street is built on the same 80 acres of a 160 acre Land Patent granted to Nelson Horton by President Andrew Jackson in 1835 that we read about in the month of May in this calendar -- the Dr. Francis and Eileen Schmitt home next door.

Mrs. Hammer remembers the names of Mr. Plaster, Mr. Keller, and Mr. Hanchett preceding their family in ownership, and it is thought that Mr. Hanchett built the home in 1929. Indeed, this writer discovered the name of "Levi Pangborn Hanchett" born in 1838 and marrying Helen Isabelle Straight in 1866 during her research of the home's history. Helen was the daughter of Matthias Straight, who at one time owned the Dr. Schmitt/Judge Hammer property. It is quite possible that one of Levi Hanchett's descendants built the home in 1929.

Some time after 1929, the house was the home of Robert and Ruth Holland. Bob Holland was one of the early Mayors of Garden City. He operated a hardware store on Ford Road. The home was later owned by the Matthews family. Judge Richard Hammer, Sr. and his wife, Patricia, purchased the home in 1958. They and their eight children enjoyed the home and wooded property immensely -- their children naming the woods "Sweet Pea Valley" because of all the flowers which bloomed there. Mrs. Hammer recalls that there was nothing behind them on Marquette, the streets were not paved, and they had all manner of wild life, including quail, in the front yard. The late Dr. Haefele lived down the street.

The two-car garage had an apartment built above it which was used for many years but no longer. Mrs. Hammer mentioned never having seen two cars in the garage at one time, since Judge Hammer was a collector of "stuff" -- which might come in handy some day. She is happiest when surrounded by her eight children, thirty-one grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



*The
best
minute
you
spend
is the
one you
invest
in.*

*Buy a
Brick*

*T*homas Boyle's farmhouse at 7033 Middlebelt Road near Warren Avenue is more than 100 years old, and was originally located on the North side of Michigan Avenue across from the present day Dearborn Public Library. It was moved in 1951 to make way for the construction of the Ford World Headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan. Ralph and Cora Shackleton bought it and had it moved to Garden City to the corner of Middlebelt Road and James, next to the red brick house belonging to John and Margaret Roddenberg at 7045 Middlebelt. Like the Oscar Straight Farmhouse on Merriman Road, it had a "Michigan cellar" which the Shackleton's had expanded to a full basement. Unfortunately for its present 6'4" owner, the basement is only 6'2" high -- causing many bumps and other injuries to his head! The exterior color scheme is a gentle version of San Francisco's "Painted Ladies". Mr. Boyle has made extensive restoration and modernization improvements and his home is a fine addition to the Garden City landscape.



*Don't
be
afraid
to go
out on
a limb,
that's
where
the
fruit
is.*

*I*n 1849, the Richard Hine Land Grant, which is now 33706 Cherry Hill Road, was sold to Samuel Cody. His house was built between 1854 and 1870. In 1885, it was bought by the Shotka family, and Herman Shotka was born here in 1886. He lived his entire life here. The farm grew to 100 acres. Electricity was installed c. 1930.



*Today's
mighty
oak is
just
yesterday's
nut
that
held
its
ground.*

Once known as the Walter Felton Farm, it is believed that the core of this house located at 2222 Rahn is the oldest remaining house in Garden City. Its location is near the intersection of Ford and Venoy Roads. The original Land Grant from the United States Government for this farm to Benjamin Coleman was dated May 21, 1834. It is believed that the house was built in 1844 and an addition added 75 years later. While the farm was in operation, pioneers came from miles around to draw fresh water from the artesian well located on this property. It is said that there are secret doors and passageways in the core house!



*Things
are
not
always
what
they
seem!*

The Oscar Straight Farmhouse, soon to be the home of the Garden City Historical Museum, is located at 6221 Merriman Road. The Farmhouse was built on a part of an original Land Patent of 80 acres from President Andrew Jackson to Luman Fowler in 1832. In 1835, Luman Fowler sold his property to Daniel and Enos Straight who worked the land in partnership. In 1846, they partnered with their brother, Zachariah, and W. H. Osband to build and operate a steam sawmill at Inkster. Unfortunately, in 1854 Enos died of cholera. Sometime around 1866, Daniel built the home at 6221 Merriman Road and sold it in 1869 to his son, Oscar, and Oscar's wife, Mary. It now was a property of 105 acres "more or less, according to the original survey" and was purchased for the "consideration of \$3,000.00". Oscar and Mary lived there with their sons, Marshall and Ralph, until sadly, Ralph died at the age of 14 in 1887. His father, Oscar, had died just the year before on October 9, 1886.

The Straight family name appears in the "Abstract of Title" (in the possession of the Garden City Historical Museum) as owners of the property until the early 1900's. In the 1920's, "Folker's Garden City Acres No. 18", a subdivision of 10 acres or more appears in the Abstract. In 1938, the property was lost due to bankruptcy after the Depression and picked up at a Public Tax Sale by Otto and Alice Schatz of Garden City in 1940-1941. The last private owner of the property was Lenora A. Brand, who died in 1963 or 1964. The property was purchased by the Northwestern Child Guidance Center for \$13, 900.00 in 1964, and later was renamed "Starfish Family Services", from whom the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum purchased the Straight Farmhouse in July 2004.



The first business community of any importance to lie within the present limits of the city was the Stringer center on Inkster Road, just north of Marquette -- where the Santeiu Funeral Home is now located. The original Land Grant for this section of East Nankin Township was issued to William Stringer in 1835. This land was cleared and farmed, and later included a smithy, a general store, and a building where four shoemakers were kept busy making high boots -- a necessity for farmers. The East Nankin Post Office was located in the store and obtained its mail from Inkster twice a week. There was also a steam saw mill.

The General Storekeeper, Francis Stringer, was the first Postmaster here when the Post Office, located in the General Store, opened on October 1, 1857. Mail was received from Inkster twice a week. The Post Office closed on January 9, 1858.

It is remembered by some folks that the original building was larger when it was a part of a lumber camp than it is now, and was later separated into three parts -- one of which was moved across Inkster Road closer to Ford Road. A smaller section was moved to the back of the property, and the main section remained where it is now.

During wintertime, logs were brought in to the steam saw mill on sleighs. In summer, logs were carried under the axle of a cart which had two, eight-foot high wheels, and was pulled by oxen. The saw at Stringer's center was run by Robert Jones, a former ship's carpenter. It was really a crosscut saw mounted vertically, a method used by hand sawyers for centuries before, but now operated by steam from an old ship's boiler. This saw is on display in the Garden City Historical Museum in the Log Cabin in Garden City Park.

The Stringer property was purchased in 1963 by John N. Santeiu & Son, Inc. John, Jr. was his own contractor, and in 1964 opened the doors of the funeral home. It has been added on to almost continuously since it first opened, and is still a family owned firm with family members, students, apprentices, and other employees working at various necessary jobs within the business.

Two other homes on the property were originally built to house workers for the Stringer Farm and are now rental houses. They were modernized long ago. The Santeiu family lived in the closer one while building the business in the sixties.

*Over the river and through the woods to the
Garden City Museum we go.*

Gone But Not Forgotten -



The Montgomery House

Andrew Montgomery, who had married Jane Lathers, the sister of John Lathers, left Ireland and came to the United States in 1834. Their home, the Montgomery House, was built about 1850 from clay dug and baked on the premises on Ford Road near Harrison -- 28519 Ford Road, to be exact.



The Charles Straight House

Charles Straight, the brother of Oscar Straight, built his home in the mid-1800's on a sand dune which once bordered a Glacial Lake which vanished more than 10,000 years ago. His home, on Ford Road at Shofka, was built on the shore line, known as the Wayne Beach and ran north and south through this section of Nankin Township.



The Stewart House

After John and William Lathers and Andrew Montgomery finished building a log cabin at the southwest corner of Ford Road and Harrison, Andrew went back to Ireland and returned in the spring with other members of his family, including the Stringers and the Stewarts. Robert Stewart built his home about 1850 on Inkster Road and Elmwood.



Garden City School #1

Mushrooming growth, after the opening of the subdivisions in the Village of Garden City, necessitated the building of more schools, and School #1 was built in late 1927 on Pardo near Middlebelt Road at a cost of \$80,000 for this 6 classroom building. It was the most modern edifice one could expect at the time with its handsome, Spanish-Moroccan exterior -- probably the result of the Florida boom which shortly before had swept the country. It was almost the last word in luxury.

- Gone But Not Forgotten -



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Straight Farm House 1866C