

Pigeon Depot Museum Celebrates 30 Years!

Historical Society To Celebrate 40th Anniversary, Sunday, July 24

It all started forty years ago. The Pigeon Chapter of the Huron County Historical Society was organized on September 7, 1976 in the community rooms of the Pigeon District Library. Mr. Harold Richards, Harbor Beach, president of the County Chapter conducted the organizational meeting. The following officers were elected to serve until January 1, 1977: chairperson, Mrs. James (Ethel) Corrión; vice-chairperson, Dryden I-Haist; secretary 1 Miss Roberta Richmond and treasurer, George Dunn.

Mrs. Carrion presided over the business meeting and appointed the following committees: membership, Clifton Bailey, Carl Dast, Mrs. Reinhardt Bauer and Mrs. Eleanor Eicher; project, Arthur Woelke, Mrs. Ted Leipprandt, Mrs. W.R. McIntyre and Reinhardt Bauer; site, Dryden Haist, Mrs. Gilbert Wichert, Mrs. Clare Dast and George Dunn.

In November of 1976, the former First United Methodist Church parsonage was leased for \$1.00 as a museum by the Historical Society from the church board of trustees. In the December meeting, a committee was appointed to write the By-Laws for the Pigeon Historical

Society. Serving on the committee were Mrs. Eleanor Eicher, Mrs. Paul Leipprandt and Mrs. Dryden Haist. The By-Laws for the chapter were adopted in February of 1977. In January of 1977, a new slate of officers was nominated. Dryden Haist was the new chairperson elected, Eleanor Eicher as vice-chairperson and Roberta Richmond was re-elected as secretary. George Dunn was again elected treasurer with Joann Haist named as assistant treasurer.

At a special meeting called by Mr. Haist, Ordinance No. 64 for the Village of Pigeon was presented to the Society. This ordinance created an organization known as the Historical Society for the Village of Pigeon. It's 'primary responsibility is administration of the village museum. Mayor Norris Diebel appointed the Society's chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary and the six directors of the Society as members of a Historical Commission for the village.

In 1978 the Society had 44 charter members: Viola Leslie, Jane Tennant, Vera Gutleeh, Art Woelke, Mildred McIntyre, Eleanor Eicher, Bailey Insurance, James Corrión, Inc." Ethel Corrión,

Willis Leipprandt, Ted Leipprandt, Peggie Leipprandt, Marie Leipprandt, Roberta Richmond, Joann Haist, Dryden Haist, Maxine Anderson, Naomi Wichert, Thomas Buege, Marianne Dast, Judy DeGrow, Al DeGrow Reinhardt Bauer Elda Bauer, Ed Bergman, Florence Bergman, Lucile Clabuesch, Nor-

man Schulze, Carl Dust, Art Ebert, Florence Vollmer, Lillian Leipprandt, Marie Stirrett, Audrey Collins, Laura H. Haist, Geor-e Dunn, Florence Schluchter, Daisy Lavictoire, Susan ECI\cl, Thumb Publications, Inc., Asel Collins, Harrett Collins, Carl Parsell, Mrs. Milton Young.



Top" Pigeon Depot as it was in 1921, and below as it looks today. In 1986 the Pigeon Historical Society opened the Depot as a museum to serve Pigeon and the surrounding area. This summer the Pigeon Historical Society will have an open house during the Pigeon SummerFest with a special old fashioned Ice Cream Social on Sunday, from 11am to 3pm. Activities and tours will take place at the Depot and the Farmers Market Building

PIGEON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 523 • Pigeon, Michigan 48755
989-453-3242

Denny Esch, President
Ardra Schaaf, Vice President
Duane Wurst, Secretary
David Eichler, Treasurer

~: Trustees ~:

Randy Ovceñ • Ardra Schaaf
Jean Sturm • Clarence Swartzendruber

Regular Meetings:

Second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Board Meetings

Fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location

Woelke Historical Research Center.

Macaroni Gives Boy Away

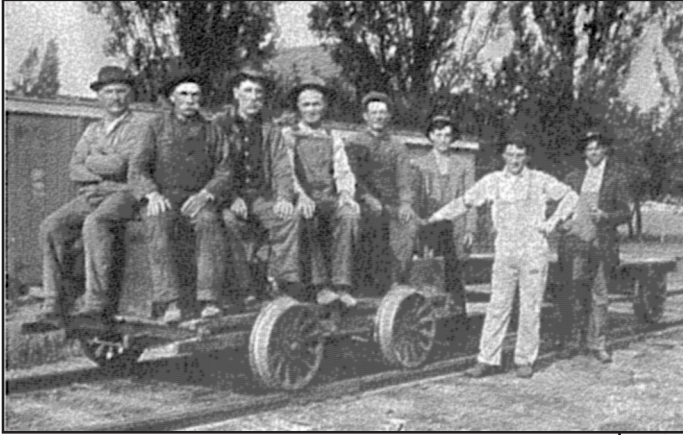
For the past four or five weeks nearly every Saturday night a horse and rig was taken from the streets of Pigeon and in nearly every case the stolen rig was found the same night or the following day on the road between Pigeon and Bay Port.

Marshall Kreb was on the watch, but still there continued to be somebody's horse missing every Saturday. Last Saturday evening a horse and buggy belonging to William Meyer was taken from the street and when found several hours afterwards the horse was standing on the highway.

The party who had taken the rig left a package of macaroni in the buggy and also a purchase slip issued by J. E. Cramer. With this clue the cause of the missing horse and buggy was laid to William Nichol, a twelve year old son of William Nichol, a sugar beet weeder. At first the boy denied having taken the horse, but afterwards admitted of taking that horse as well as the horses on the preceding Saturday. Sheriff McAuly took the lad to Bad Axe on Monday, and it is thought he will be sent to the Industrial School For Boys at Lansing. *Pigeon Progress, August 25, 1911*

The People Of Pigeon At Work!

*Information From
The Pigeon Diamond
Jubilee Book*



“Workin’ on the Railroad” was more than a song for many early Pigeon settlers. Pictured from left to right are Henry LaFond, Peter Anderson, Ed Danks, Wes Schafer, George Klinger, John Danks, George Walsh and Tom Lockhart.



Hiring out as a clerk in one of the Village’s many hustling new businesses was yet another way to put bacon on the table. Pictured are some of the employees at Hirshberg’s.



Clabuesch’s Harness Shop was a very busy place until the automobile caught on. Trunks and buggy whips are pictured in the window of what was later Polewach’s store, and is now Thumb Cellular’s building. From left to right are Waldemar Rupp, Samuel Witwer, Frederick Clabuesch and his sons Raymond and Walter. The time is estimated at the early 1920’s.



Art Smith, manager of Warner’s Creamery, is pictured. He and his bride, Louise Diebel, lived upstairs over the creamery, which was located on North Main Street. Butter and even cheese were made from whatever cream could be purchased from the farmers.

Family Photos Part Of Community’s Heritage

The Pigeon Historical Society has a large collection of historical postcards and photographs. Many of these images have been enlarged, and are on display in the Depot Museum and the Arthur J. Woelke Historical Research Center. We are always on the look-out for other pictures that are not in our collection. It is true that a picture is worth a thousand words, and we are in search of those images.

If you have family photographs which show something that you would consider of interest to the community, please contact a board member. We will be holding scanning events again this summer.

We are always looking for old photographs, negatives or slides. If you have any old boxes or albums of pictures, don’t throw them away until we are given the opportunity to view them for potential inclusion into our collection.

**Call the museum at: 989-453-3242, Duane Wurst at 989-545-5240,
or any board member for more information.**



List of Draft Names In This Part Of County

Pigeon Progress
Pigeon, Mich., July 27, 1917

We are publishing below the list of those in this part of the county whose numbers were drawn at Washington last Friday. This list is not official and obtained as it was through press dispatches many contain errors County Clerk Schwalm up to yesterday morning had not received the official list.

Huron county's quota is 322 men and the first call for examination will be for 64.-4. If after all exemptions are made from this number our quota is not filled others will be called to fill the quota. The county board to act on dependency examinations is Dr. Herrington, Sheriff Uptegrove and Clerk Schwalm.

Pigeon

Walter M. Sturm, Albert Fritz, Herman Trost, Her-

bert H. Kreh, Geo. H. Neibel, Jacob Wirth, Hugo H. Fisher, Otto W. Trost, Daniel Roth, Emanuel Schwartzentruber, Norman Zimmer, Emery N. Winter, Fred Roestel, James Nielson, Evin Geiger, William Koehn, Russell Turner, Oscar Pfaif, Edward Miller, John H. Curran, Clarence Dubs, Frank L. Schember, William Schwalm, W. L. Sutton, John Fritz, Samuel R. Wurtz, Don Vincent, Wm. Armbruster, Ezra Gasho., Stanley Broderick, Herbert Damm, Frank E. Brinkman, Chas. Loeffler, Henry Elbing, Farnham W. Schultz, Jos. Ropp, Arthur W. Anderson, Geo Schafier, Richard Wideman, Paul L. Kolenda, Wilson A. Beck, Ernest Tschummi, Leonard Wing, Fred G. Miller, Henry Schard, Emanuel Albrecht, Albert G. Henne, William Faust, Jos. Reiss, Carl Lange, William Zinser, John Hatherill, Earl Stirrett., Wm. N. McPherson, Edward Bannick



Red Cross News From World War I



On the 30th of every month, report must be made to Bad Axe from all branches of the Red Cross in Huron county, that the county may make report to Washington by the 5th of the month following. Pigeon has been working ten days.

Total membership 92 Money received \$103.00 Supplies forwarded: 1 dozen T bandages, 2 dozen 4 inch rolled bandages, 5 dozen 3 inch rolled bandages, 5 dozen head bandages, 10 dozen en slings.

The English Methodist Ladies Aid will meet at the Red Cross Rooms on June 13 and spend the afternoon making bandages.

Red Cross Members To Date are: Ernest Clabuesch, A. E. W. Yale, Mrs. A. E. W. Yale, B. D. Eddy, Mrs. B. D. Eddy, Mrs. E. Paul, Mrs. F. W. Merrick, Willie Merrick, 'Miss Heine, Mrs. Wesley Thiel, Mrs. Lee Elenbaum, Walter McLean, Mrs. H. Harder, Mrs. P. L. Fritz, Mrs. E. Clabuesch, E. Paul, Rev. G. A. Bowles, Mrs. G. A. Bowles, Mrs. J. Murdoch, Dr. Morrison, Mrs. Morrison, Dr. Wurm, Mrs. Wurm, Mrs. W. Horlacher, Vera Tibbets, W. A. Tibbets, Mrs. V. A. Tibbets, Mrs. Nelson Broderick, Mrs. Albert Hartman, D. C. McDonald, Laura Turner, W. Horlacher, Helen McAulay, Alean

Geiger, Fannie McAlpine, Mrs. G. V. Black, A. H. Sauer, Dr. Frenzel, J. N. Spence, Mrs. O. D. Foster, Mose Kahn, Wm. Sutton, E. Cogswell, Wm. Maxwell, Mr. Scramlin, Lee Elenbaum, Mrs. H. Hirshberg, Miss Jean Duncanson, Mrs. Geo. Pfaff, Miss Irene Brownell, Miss Eva Campbell, Miss B. Schluchter, Geo. Ankam, E. J. Gerby, Grace Vincent, Cora Gardiner, Wm. Stein, Amos Geiger, Jake Otto, Louis Staubus, Miss Alice Decker, Mrs. E. C. Leipprandt, Mrs. J. E. Cramer, Mrs. J. J. Campbell, Mrs. W. R. Beach, Don Vincent, George H. A. Shaw, Mrs. James Turner, Ward Turner, Mrs. Geo. Muentener, Miss Frieda Muentener, Miss Lena Zimowski, Miss Emma Zimowski, Wm. Sherwood, Henry McAulay, Miss Lila Fritz, Mrs. Bertha Henne, Mrs. Henry Henne, Mrs. Edd Danks, Mrs. Emma Richmond, O.P. Chapin, Mrs. O.P. Chapin, Henry Schultz, E. C. Leipprandt, E. F. Hess, Mr. McInnis F. Schultz J. J. Campbell, Mrs. George Ankam, Mrs. Jas. Bright, Mrs. W. A. Schriber, Mrs. Donald McAulay.

As the members are added they will be published in the Progress. Bay Port will organize next Tuesday evening.

From The Pigeon Progress (date unknown)

A Kid Growing Up On Saginaw Bay

Rescue In The Rush Lake Quicksand

Part 9 in a series by Jim Leinbach

Lake Township was organized in 1857 and some of its residents still bear the name of the early settlers in that area. The Gotts, McCormick's, McIhargie's Smalley's, Henry's, Lewis's, Champagne's, Harrison's, Guyeau's, Muselman's, and Chapman families were a few of the several hardy souls who first lumbered and farmed the frontier of northern Huron County.

In the middle of this township was an area first known as the "Great Marsh," and later named Rush Lake. Originally, Rush Lake was much larger than what it is now, measuring almost three miles in length east to west and over a mile wide. It was reported that in some spots the lake was over thirty feet deep and contained an island complete with tall Poplar trees, White ash, Spruce, and loads of huckleberry bushes, a favorite spot for picnics and berry

picking. The lake is about a mile from Lake Huron and is separated from the big lake by glacial outcroppings and subterranean limestone and sandstone. As the land was cleared and prepared for farming a series of drains and ditches were constructed which lowered the lakes water level to what it is today.

Several rumors and legends existed regarding the lake and many folks thought it a dangerous place. One confirmed report documented persons who lowered weights into the lake attached to bailing wire and ran over a hundred feet of wire down never finding a solid bottom. True, mosquitos and rattlesnakes were abundant and much of the lake's bottom and the surrounding marsh remain soft and mucky due to the marl and peat underground. However, there is some gravel and firm sand there if one knows where to find it.

See Quicksand page 4

Pigeon Locals - "The Original Social Media"

About fifty relatives gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Voss of Caro, for a belated celebration in honor of their tenth wedding anniversary. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Gust Bergman, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bergman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bergman, Ed, Will and Elizabeth Moenter and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Volz of Sebewaing.

Miss Ruth Hershberger of Kalona, Iowa, is taking care of Miss Emma Maust who is ill..

Raymond Bassolt of Flint, called on Mrs. Louise Petzold Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Limberger and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Schember of Caseville, spent Sunday With Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Campbell of Pontiac.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart McGregor of McBain, were weekend guests of Mr.

and Mrs. Clifton Richmond.

Mrs. Gordon Motz and daughter Kaye of Centerline, spent Thursday until Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Roberts. Mr. Motz and son, Jerry, came Saturday and all returned to their home Sunday.

Joe Maust was in Toledo, Ohio, on business Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Basil Schwalm, Mrs. Ralph Limberger and Mrs. Floyd Langley attended the P. T. A. meeting at Harbor Beach on Tuesday evening. Barbara Richmond was the guest speaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Damm and family were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Neilan Hoffman. of Elkton. Chris Haist of Zurich, Ont., and Mrs. Susie Stoddart of Seafort, Ont., were Tuesday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mose Haist. Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Belding of Lansing, called on Mr. and Mrs.

Harry Kretzschmer Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Renald Kraft and son were Sunday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Creighton Jathcart of Cass City. Their daughter Sandra returned home with them after spending the weekend at the Cathcart home.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Buchholz attended the Bean producer's meeting at Saginaw Friday and from there went to Detroit and spent the Weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom McKee.

Barbara Richmond and Shirley Upthegrove of Lansing, spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Langley.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Damm and baby were Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hayes and family of Saginaw.

**March 14, 1953
Pigeon Progress**

Quicksand from page 3

Then as now, most fishermen and duck hunters stay confined to their boats not knowing exactly where the gravel ends and the quicksand begins.

A hundred years or so ago one could reach the lake by traveling east on Conkey Road or taking McCormick Road in from the south. There was also the "Sand Road" entrance to the lake. The Sand Road is probably the most ancient of trails that still exists today. At one time the road began somewhere in the region of Quanicasee and wound its way around the entire thumb. Parts of the Sand Road in our area have been improved while other parts contain holes and wash-outs most suitable for modern four-wheeled drive vehicles.

In 1959 our young fisherman/outdoorsman/explorer owned a 1941 Ford four door automobile. Gas at George Neinstedt's Sunoco station in Caseville was twenty-six cents a gallon where the kid worked part time earning eighty cents an hour pumping gas and selling oil and cigarettes to local patrons and resorters. His buddies worked at Andy's Market, farmed at home, or did odd jobs. Kids worked then and money was tight but old cars gave these young teens mobility and each was a backyard mechanic in his own right. The transmission of the kid's car often jammed up in first gear and sometimes required the driver to get out and under it with a hammer to "fix" the linkage. Never deterred by this faulty stick shift the boy praised this feature for it enabled him to slowly grind through two-tracks and fields where none but the brave would travel. This day found the youth and his friends bouncing east on the Sand Road occasionally roaring out of the many holes and ruts on treadles tires. On reaching the quarry turn-off to the lake the route became especially troublesome and in some spots the kid had to "take to the woods" to escape holes that probably would have sunk the Ford to its doors.

But all this was part of the adventure and lure of the wilds and the kid and his Caseville buddies thought nothing of such inconvenience. Great fishing awaited them at the end of the road. No candy striped bass boats or wave runners existed for this crew. They had hidden in

the woods an old, wooden, flat-bottomed boat, perfectly designed for the waters of Rush Lake. True, they had no motor for the boat nor did they even have oars. It was propelled by pine boards "sort-of" whittled into paddles and long poles perfect for pushing the craft through mud and mire and whacking one another in the head when in use. Coffee cans filled with night crawlers had been gathered and the self-designed cane poles with black line were safely tucked under the hidden boat. Confiscated clothesline served as fish stringers for the anticipated catch of bullheads and smallmouth (greenies) bass.

This summer Sunday found the gang parking the car along the trail among several other vehicles. Rush Lake was a common meeting place for those able to make the journey and fishermen and families were busy enjoying the holiday. Some picnickers were set up in clearings and the smoke from outdoor cooking wafted through the hardwoods. Soon the boys had their boat righted, their gear stowed and were paddling west toward the better fishing. In the distance a campfire or two smoked on the island and the shouting and laughing of kids swimming on the gravel bar added to the closeness of God's human family. This was going to be a great day....

Next: The south side of the lake offers up treasure and danger

GEM THEATRE

PIGEON

**FRIDAY and SATURDAY
MARCH 14 - 15**

"The Unknown Man"

Walter Pidgeon, Ann Harding

— also —

"Bandit Queen"

Willard Parker, Barbara Britten

**SUNDAY and MONDAY
MARCH 16 - 17**

MGM's stirring adventure

**WESTWARD
THE WOMEN**

STARRING

ROBERT TAYLOR DENISE DARCEL

Cartoon News

Sunday Matinee 3:00

Evening Shows 6:45 - 9:00

**TUES. - WED. - THURS.
MARCH 18 - 19 - 20**

WARNER BROS. PRESENT
DISTANT DRUMS STARRING **GARY COOPER**
TECHNICOLOR with MARI ALDON

SCREEN PLAY BY NIVEN BUSCH AND MARTIN RACKIN
DIRECTED BY RAUL WALSH MUSIC BY HALL STROMER
A UNITED STATES PICTURES PRODUCTION
PRESENTED BY WARNER BROS.

Cartoon News

— COMING —

**"I'll See You In
My Dreams"**

We'd love to see you on our Team!

An individual or business can become a member by contracting any active member or by sending your tax deductible cash or check to Pigeon Historical Society, 59 S. Main St. / P. O. Box 523, Pigeon, MI 48755. Dues are renewed at the annual meeting each year.

Individual Membership: \$10.00 (active member with voting privileges)

Life Membership: \$120.00 (active voting member with lifetime privileges)

Supporting Membership: \$15.00 (non-active supporting member)

Business Membership: \$20.00 or more (contributing member non-voting)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. Be our guest and become a member!