

Remembering The Winter Of 1947

Pigeon Progress
March 28, 1947

Huron County and most of the state of Michigan was in the path of the most severe blizzard in years, to hit this area, Monday night and Tuesday.

Monday the weather had been real spring like in Huron county with a light drizzle of rain during most of the day. Ab out 10 p.m.

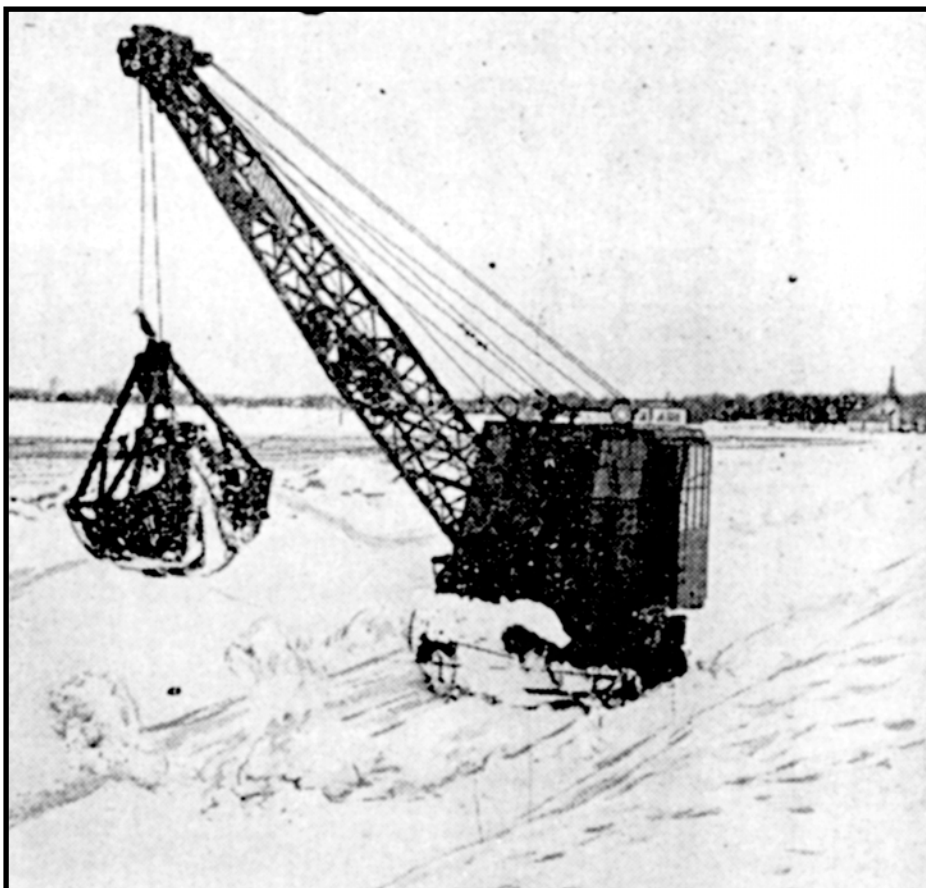
Monday night the wind changed to the northwest and the temperature dropped to freezing. Sleet began forming on telephone and power lines, the wind increased in velocity and reached 40 to 60 miles, by 11:30 p.m. Power lines heavy with ice began to break, putting the electric power service out of order.

Electric power service at Elkton was off for three hours and twenty minutes. An electric distribution line serving the west side of the village broke, causing the automatic switch at the sub-station to cut-out.

Edison Company maintenance men restored the service. Another break in the line north of Elkton put the line out of commission.

Customers served by the line were without electricity all day Tuesday and part of Wednesday. Pigeon was without electric service twelve hours. The service was put out of commission at 11 :30 p.m. Monday and was restored Tuesday at 11 :00 a.m. Orric Kauffman, manager of the Huron County Hatchery reports that no damage was caused by the power being off. Mr. Kauffman said the hatchery had over 7,000 chicks ready for shipment Tuesday, and were required to hold them on account of no train service.

See Page 2 STORM



Drifts along the right-of-way on the Grand Trunk railroad between Pigeon (background) and Caseville were so deeply drifted in by snow that workmen were compelled to use a derrick equipped with a clamshell bucket to clear the tracks. A snow plow pushed by three locomotives opened the railroad tracks

Friday morning. The plow left Imlay City Wednesday noon. The first regular train of the week arrived Saturday night on the Grand Trunk

Photos Courtesy Port Huron Times-Herald
Pigeon Progress
March 14, 1947

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 ~:

Jim Leinbach • Randy Ovcen
Dorothy Thuemmel • Joyce Kretschmer

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

Woeke Historical Research Center.

OPEN MAY 4th!

The Pigeon Historical Society managed the Pigeon Farmers' Market this past season. The market is held every Friday from 9-4, from May through October.

Vendors are welcome to apply. There is a small rental charge during the June, July, and August market. Other months are free of charge.

See you in May, 2018. Call 989-545-5240 or visit our web site: www.pigeonfarmersmarket.com
SEE YOU AT THE MARKET!



Storm

Continued from page 1

Bay Port and Vicinity was without electric service until 10:00 a.m. Wednesday.

Caseville village electric service was restored at 1:50 p.m. Wednesday afternoon. Herb Kreh, owner of the Greenview Hatchery reports that service at the hatchery was off only three hours and that no damage was caused.

Plane Used To Transport Repairmen To Owendale

Charles Kervin, Bad Axe, manager of the Detroit Edison Co., used every means possible to restore electric service to the isolated communities. Wednesday morning he dispatched an airplane from Bad Axe to Owendale with repairmen and material in an effort to restore electric service to Owendale and vicinity.

The electric lines and transformer equipment were so badly damaged by the storm that repairs brought by the plane could not completely restore service.

The plane returned to Bad Axe and was then sent to Marlette for additional supplies. The plane was scheduled to return to Owendale Wednesday afternoon and it was expected service would be restored by 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evening

Owendale Isolated

Owendale was isolated from the rest of the county. All roads leading from Owendale were blocked and the only means of communication was by telephone. Electric service at Owendale was off nearly 48 hours and caused much discomfort in homes heated by oil or stokers. Livestock suffered somewhat for lack of water as many farms are provided water by electric water pressure systems. Some damage was caused by water pipes freezing.

Owendale's water supply also run dangerously low as the village water system is operated by electric power.

Glen C. Schrock, owner of the Sunshine Hatchery will have a loss of about \$1,000 in chicks and eggs.

The storm continued all day Tuesday and Tuesday night, piling the snow in high drifts, making all highways impassable. The worst blockups occurred at places in the highways where snow banks from previous storms were high on each side. Snow plows opened these cuts with difficulty Wednesday morning.

Snow removal crews worked only on emergency calls Tuesday.

The storm brought 10 inches of fresh snow to Huron county to set an all-time record of 80 inches. Previous heaviest snowfall reported was 68 inches.

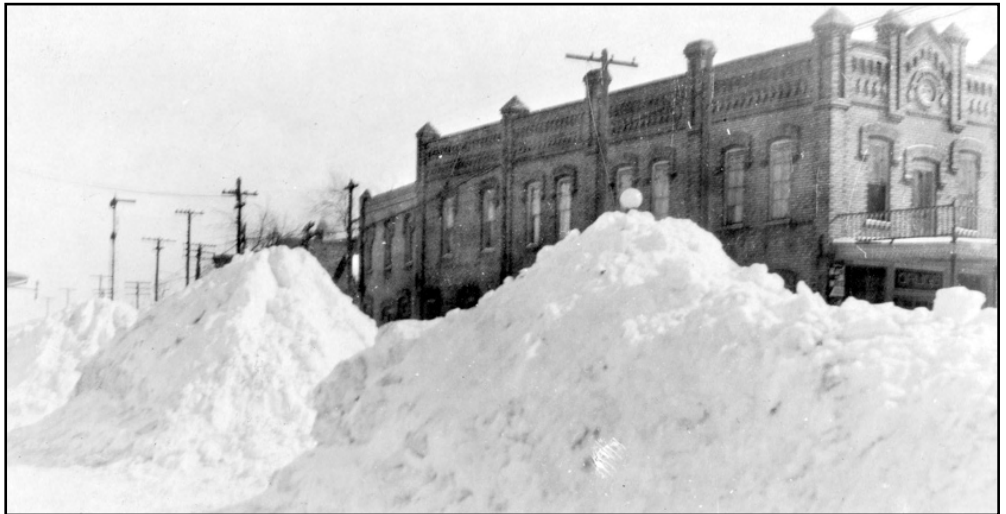
Many persons became stranded Monday night and Tuesday, and were forced to remain at farm homes or walk to nearby villages.

Papers Arrive By Plane

The first daily papers to reach Huron county in two days were delivered by plane. The Bay City Times was delivered to towns in the western part of the county, and the Port Huron Times Herald to towns in the eastern part.

Telegraph service in Huron County was out of commission Tuesday and Wednesday. No train or mail service reached Huron county Tuesday.

From The Museum Archive



From Top Photo Down

Early 1900s Main Street

**E. Paul Family in front
of Paul's Store - S. Main
Street**

**1940s Downtown
Gregory's Furniture
(On the left)**

**January 1924
Bob Spence Top Right**

NOTICE TO BUILDERS!

We have a large stock of
Barn Frames, Lumber, Joising,
Scantling, Billstuff, Shingles, Lath
and Building Material of all kinds for
sale at the lowest possible wholesale
manufacturers prices.

Let us supply your wants

The Dunn and Anderson Co
HAYES, MICH.

Pigeon Progress 01-08-1904

Genealogy Club In Pigeon

Grandmother used to tell us stories of her family when we were young. We listened with intense interest but never wrote anything down. Now, as we grow older, we wish he could remember who Aunt Millie married. What was Uncle Pat's wife's name? If only we could find our history. Where do we start? Do we have to pay for information on the internet?

Whether you are a novice at genealogy or a seasoned professional, we welcome you to join our genealogy club. The club meets in the Woelke Research Building the third Thursday each month, at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining, stop into the Depot Museum. There is no charge. We do have internet, so bring your laptop or tablet.

Pigeon Historical Society

59 S. Main St. / P. O. Box 523, Pigeon, MI 48755

989-453-3242 (Leave Message)

Visit our Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/124844244905031/members/>



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Entire stock of Clothing, Hats, Caps, and Furnishing Goods,
Cloaks, Furs, Millinery, Rugs, Holiday goods all must be

Sold Within 30 Days
Just a few of the Many Bargains.

All Mens Suits \$16.50 and \$15.00 at \$11.00 and \$10.50

All Mens Suits \$12.00 and \$12.50 at \$7.50 and \$8.50

Boys Suits for 75c.

Overcoats formerly \$15.00 now \$10.50. At cost and less.

Overcoats for \$3.75 and \$4.50 formerly sold at

\$5.00 and \$8.50

Rugs formerly \$5.00, 4.50, 3.75 and 2.75 now going at 3.75, 3.25, 2.25 and 1.00

Ladies Jackets formerly 8.50, 10.00 and 12.00. Sale price 3.50 to 8.50

In our Millinery department our hats will be sold at 1-2 off. Hats sold for 5.00 now go at 2.50.

Get You Holiday Goods at Hess

**Remember I am going out of business and everything I have
can only be bought once regardless of cost.**

**1 Driving Horse, 3 Buggies and 2 Lots besides some Household
Furniture, yet to be sold.**

**COME AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS
GREAT SALE.**

E. F. HESS,

PIGEON,

Pigeon Progress 01-08-1904

MICH

“If Only The Walls Could Talk”

2017 Was A Great Year ~ 2018 Will Be Exciting



*By Denny Esch,
Historical Society President*

The end of February marks the end of the fiscal year for the Historical Society. It also was the first year of having a millage support from the voters of Pigeon. With your support we have been able to maintain our buildings, provide an educational experience for our visitors and guests as well as update our technical equipment and software.

Replacing the air conditioning in the Woelke Historical Research Center last spring was one of the first expenses of the year. Some people think heating and cooling is for the comfort of those in the building, but that is only part of it. The Woelke Center has hundreds of pages of the original “Pigeon Progress,” “Newsweekly” and “The View”. The center also has hundreds of pages of Art Woelke’s research of people, businesses, schools and more of Pigeon and the surrounding area. Vintage pictures, books and artifacts as well as technical equipment and software all need a temperature controlled environment. **Thank you for supporting that!!**

Summer employment of high school & college students who are interested in maintaining, preserving and sharing the history of the Pigeon and the surrounding area has been real help with keeping the Depot Museum and Woelke Center open in the summer with extended hours.

Thank you for that support!!

Most of the original artifacts records were recorded on a carbon copy paper and put into a file folder while the artifact was put on display. Sooner or later the donated item was put away in a box and replaced with another item of interest. New boxes, old boxes, papers, files... etc. Over the last 30 plus years, that system has turned into a museum piece itself.

With that said, the Historical Society Board has been looking for a software system that can handle not only our inventory of artifacts, but the hundreds of pictures and documents all with a historical value. With your support we were able to purchase a program called Past-Perfect. It’s a software program designed for large or small museum



A comfortable setting filled with images, artifacts and friendly Historical Members who are eager to help you discover your family and community’s past. Visit today!

with near endless capabilities in preserving our history. Along with the software we were able to get a new computer from the AVCI Tech Team and their support with our needs.

Thank you Millage Voters for your support!!

There are others who also support the Historical Society yearly. With that support we are able to have genealogy research with internet, software and computer use. Thank you for your support!!

Great things are being planned for another year. Like us on Facebook, check our website at www.pigeonhistoricalsociety.com for all our activities, times and place. When a person gets involved with a little history of Pigeon and the surrounding areas, you can’t help but think,

“If Only The Walls Could Talk” . . .

www.pigeonhistoricalsociety.com

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 have a scanner in the Research Center and can scan photographs and negatives.

We are always looking for old photographs, negatives or slides, and old postcards like the one shown here. 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.**

