

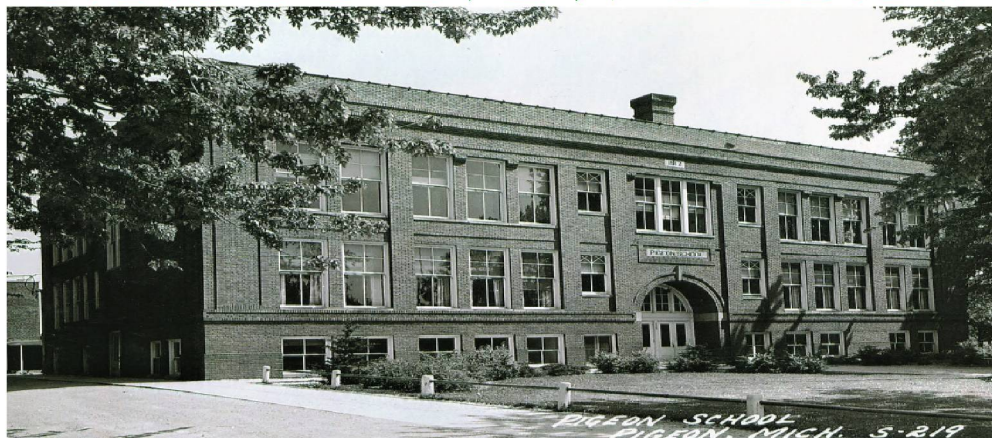
## "If Only These Walls Could Talk . . ."

"Happy New Year" someone shouted to me from across the street. I waved back a friendly acknowledgement and thought to myself, where did the year go? Another year has passed and I still have my "Honey Do List" to finish from last spring . . . or was it from the summer before? (Couldn't be before that, could it) I need to say and I know I am lucky . . . but my wife does not nag me at all about "The List". In time she will give me her new "Honey Do List" (with the old list attached) as a friendly reminder of things I promised to take care of. I tell her I am working on it, no I haven't forgotten, and yes we need to get it done soon!! I not making excuses but the truth is, I wish I would have gotten the "The List" done a long time ago, because it would have been easier. My work days just aren't like they use to be. The one or two hour project now takes half-a-day and the half day projects now take two days, maybe three. I admit, I do not work like I use to. My work hours in a 4 day week (I like long weekends) is much less then what part time help would be. There are days I like to knock-off early, or I might get distracted, or I just don't feel getting started!! Many of my Baby-boomer friends agree with me. We have played hard and worked hard all our lives, it's time to take a little break. But I do have great hope for this spring and early summer (I like the winter off) that nearly all of my "Honey Do List" get completed and then I can get started on my "Bucket List."

To everyone who is reading the "Recorder" I hope you have a great 2023! We the members of the Historical Society say Thank You for your support over the years. Many have donated their time, material items as well as financial support. Our Historical Society may be small in numbers, but strong with dedicated members and a supportive community. Stop in and see what's happening at Berne Junction and the Woelke Center, you may be surprised

Denny Esch, President

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



### A Brief(?) History of Pigeon - 2

*From The Good Life In A Small Town - Pigeon Diamond Jubilee*

#### The River



*In spring, the winter logging operations ended and the log run to the sawmill began. In this picture two men, referred to as River Hogs, worked to keep the logs moving along the Pigeon River to the sawmill in Caseville. The work took skill and was dangerous. River Hogs were paid up to \$3.50 per day.*

The river was always there and will continue to flow even as generations come and go. It had no name when the wilderness prevailed. It was just a rambling stream of water following its course to Lake Huron. Pioneers were just beginning to put down their roots in the area and the nature of man is to give everything a name. Any other name given the river at that time would have seemed inappropriate. The flocks of wild pigeons that came into the county would settle down for food and water near the rivers and swamps. Some

writers say the flocks were so thick they darkened the sky and one could have taken a broom and swept over them they flew over. So it was that the river got its name - Pigeon. And then suddenly, the pigeons left the county and by 1870, were gone and never returned in the same manner of numerous and thickly populated flocks. Science was baffled as to what became of them, whether a disease had claimed them, or a storm had taken them in its fury or perhaps the theory was that they might have migrated to some other part of the country. According to Collier's Encyclopedia, passenger pigeons were last seen in the wild in 1906. The bird, which had once lived in greater number than any other vertebrate land animal, was exterminated by hunters who, at the height of the breeding season, slaughtered thousands for sale on the market.

This river had played an important role in opening the door to the agricultural scene. The wealth that had floated down stream in the form of pine logs, gave ample employment for early pioneers and a much-needed income. As the lumbering era was coming to its end, the agricultural pursuits began to open up in earnest.

**Sponsored by Riverside Nursery**

See *Brief*, page 2



## Recollections of By-Gone Days by George Keim



In the early 1920's when I was going to Country School every February, we had a mid-year examination. The teacher would make us put all our books on a shelf in back of the school so we wouldn't have a chance to cheat. The district furnished the paper so all we needed was our pencils and pens that we

had to dip in ink to write with. This time on the night before it was nice weather. There was a lot of snow on the ground but it wasn't cold, but it started to rain and freeze. The next morning everything was covered with ice. The fences and trees even the weeds had several inches of ice them. The roads were so slippery everybody fell down a couple times before getting school.

We didn't have lights in the school and it was so dark we had to go to the black board to see what the teacher wrote down. I was done with my tests by 2:00 p.m. so I went home and fell down a few times again.

All the telephone wires were down. Not many farmers had electricity but they still had their oil lights and pumped their water by hand. Everybody still had coal or wood stoves. The roads were so slippery that unless your horses were shod, they could hardly walk. When it started to melt you didn't go under the trees because if you did the ice would fall on you.

Dad finally got to town and got some groceries and coal. The telephone wires were down in some places for almost six weeks. One night on the way home from school Jim Spence and Otto Bauer came down the road with some wire and insulators. Otto climbed the poles and Jim handed him the wire or insulator. That night all the women were calling each other up and the lines were pretty busy.

Some people thought because they were out of telephones over six weeks, they wouldn't have to pay for it. The phone company didn't think so. If we'd be out of service that long now, we'd be hard put, but we lived through it and we could live through it again.

*Brief*, cont'd from page 1



*Plat of Pigeon, 1890*

### The Village

With the junction of the Sanilac, Tuscola and Huron and the Pontiac, Oxford and Port Austin railroads in 1886 one mile south of Berne, there was a need for a station agent. When Charles Applegate was appointed to the office, he began to envision a village. Businessmen at Berne were beginning to speculate on the convenience and expansion of trade made possible by the railway intersection.

So, Mr. Applegate persuaded John Nitz, a farmer living south of the railway intersection to plat what became known as the Nitz and Applegate additions. Men of less courage and foresight would have abandoned the thought of platting a future village on marshy and swampy land. But determination won and the first store was built by Mr. Applegate in 1887 at the site where the library now stands. They had called this the 'Tamarac Swamp' and it wasn't considered by some as worthy even of the broken-down gun that was supposedly swapped for some of this land. However, the clearing of the marsh and drainage of the swamp began in earnest and in 1888, there were two main streets with the following business places established: the Arlington hotel, John Diebel's planing mill, a general merchandise store, a harness shop and an undertaking and furniture store. What had



*Diebel's mill, on the site now occupied by Pigeon Co-op offices.*

been referred to as "Berne Junction" now became "Pigeon", taking its name from the nearby river.

In 1890 a Post office was established and Albert Kleinschmidt was the first Postmaster. The first church erected was the Catholic church in 1889 then the English M.E. and Presbyterian churches were built in 1892.

Seventeen buildings were moved from Berne to the new village called Pigeon. The population was increasing quite rapidly and by 1897, had reached 300. Added to the church list now were the Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Lutheran churches. Adding to the number of business establishments were the L.L. Carpenter drug store; Charles Czaplá, painter; Dennis Dierstein, barber; Robert C. Dundas, physician; Farmers Bank, F.W. Merrick cashier; George S. Farrar Proprietor of the Hotel Heasty; Albert Kleinschmidt, band leader; Leipprandt Brothers, general store and elevator; Liken and Bach, stave and heading mill; John Link, Tinsmith; and Paul Woodworth, Lawyer.

As the town continued to expand, it became apparent that incorporation as a village would be helpful in filling the needs of the bustling community. By August and September of 1902, petitions requesting incorporation were being circulated and sent to the Supervisors.

At this same time, petitions were also being circulated to change the name of the town. Some contended that "Pigeon" did not bring to mind a place of dignity and prosperity. One said, "What kind of a name is that, the name of a bird?" One of the popular suggestions was "Winsor City" after the Township title. For some reason, many of the businessmen seemed to think this name would promote better recognition than Pigeon. However, the petition lost out. In October 1902, the petition asking for the incorporation of the village of Pigeon was granted by the Board of Supervisors and the first election was scheduled for December 1 of that same year.



*The Tamarac Swamp*

See *Brief*, page 4



## THOUGHTOGRAPHS

The Pigeon Progress,  
December 3, 1897

Ignorance of the law should excuse a lawyer from practicing it.

Many a man never gets on the popular side until he joins the silent majority.

It is hard for a man to climb up in this world, but it hurts him much worse to climb down again.

PHS \*\*\*\*\* PHS

### Bad Fire

#### The John Diebel Planing Mill Burned Saturday Evening

About 7:30 o'clock last Saturday evening an alarm of fire was given and our citizens found a small blaze in the engine room of John Diebel's planing mill. In only a few moments a large crowds were on the scene and it was thought that with the aid of a few pails of water the fire could be extinguished, but owing to the large amount of shavings, etc., and the unfavorable place to fight it, the fire soon was beyond control. All attention was then turned toward saving the stock which was owned by Charles Prast who has been operating the planing mill department for the past two years, and by great effort a large amount was saved, although many thousand feet piled about the yard was damaged and destroyed. The loss to Mr. Diebel the owner of the property will reach about \$1500 and Mr. Prast's loss will be near \$1000. Neither of the parties carried any insurance.

This is the second mill Mr. Diebel has lost by fire and the loss bears quite heavily. The cause of the fire is unknown.

*From The Pigeon Progress, August 16, 1901*

PHS \*\*\*\*\* PHS

### To Develop North Counties.

"Neither this city nor Saginaw is in this movement for philanthropic purposes. We are in it for what we can get out of it, and we believe there is no better way to get something than by helping to develop the northern counties."

This was the declaration of Mayor Evans at the meeting of representatives of the northeastern counties of Michigan held in Bay City. The gathering was for the purpose of adopting a constitution for the Northeastern Michigan Development association, and some of the men representing the smaller counties of the district were inclined to object to giving the larger counties a greater representation in the affairs of the association.

*From The Pigeon Progress, January 7, 1910*

## Wife Deserts Husband

Pigeon Progress,  
October 30, 1908

#### Mrs. Joseph Smith Runs Away With Husband's Brother Heart Breaking Scene at County Jail Thursday

Wife falls in love with husband's brother. Flees with new lover to northern Michigan. Couple captured by sheriff and brought back to be lodged in county jail and are released by sympathetic husband in real life.

Friday of last week Mrs. Joseph Smith, of McKinley township, told her husband that she was going to Pigeon to visit a show and taking her eighteen-month-old daughter, drove to this village. Instead of attending the show she took the 3:45 Pere Marquette train for Saginaw and was joined by her husband's brother, Charles Smith, at Unionville. Before leaving Pigeon, she mailed a letter to her husband in which she stated that he had "always been a good and patient husband, but that some power was controlling her that attached her to his brother Charles." She also stated in the letter that in one year she would write him stating where she was. The husband immediately put the sheriff on the fleeing couples track, who arrested them at Onaway on Sunday. Monday evening, they were lodged in the county jail at Bad Axe.

Possibly one of the most heartbreaking scenes that has ever been enacted in the county jail occurred yesterday when the husband faced his unfaithful wife and disloyal brother, turned the key that set them at liberty and bid them go their way. Those who were present when the act was performed together with the interested parties, were in tears.

This is an extremely sad affair - a husband with three small children to care for and the recollection of a deserted wife, who admits that he had always been a good companion.

Mr. Smith applied for a divorce yesterday which will not be contested. He will have the possession of the children.

For the husband, children, and parents of the mother, there is nothing but sympathy. For the principles in this affair, nothing but condemnation.

1951 STYLE

## Home Freezers

15-FOOT \$379.95

9-FOOT \$298.95

50 ft. Garden Hose ..... \$6.95  
Plastic Covered - Ten Year's Guarantee

9 x 12 Linoleum Rugs .... \$7.49

Lawn Mowers ... \$16.95 and up

GAMBLES

*From The Pigeon Progress, May 25, 1951*

PHS \*\*\*\*\* PHS

**HALL'S** Vegetable  
Sicilian  
**HAIR RENEWER**

Drives off old age;  
restores lost color  
to the hair; gives it  
the richness and gloss of  
youth; prevents bald-  
ness. No dandruff.

*From The Pigeon Progress, October 22, 1897*

PHS \*\*\*\*\* PHS

### Pigeon Village Buys Tractor

Pigeon village has, in effect taken over its own snow removal work by the purchase of a large industrial tractor, complete with grading and loading equipment.

According to Willis Leipprandt, village Marshall, snow removal work for Pigeon, was formerly performed by the County Road Commission. With the new tractor, such work will be done by the village.

The tractor is equipped with a maintainer grader blade, snow plow, bulldozer blade, snow lift loader, and mower, all of them hydraulically operated from the driver's seat.

*From The Pigeon Progress, January 2, 1948*

**Brief, cont'd from page 2**

The following is taken from Michigan Local Acts, Session of 1903 in the matter of the incorporation of the village of Pigeon, Michigan:

"Whereas application having been made to the Board of Supervisors for the County of Huron, to incorporate the village of Pigeon, Huron County, Michigan and it appearing by the petition of said incorporation that the territory of said village is not included in any incorporated village and contains an area of not less than one square mile and a resident population of not less than 300 residents and it further appearing by the petition that not less than 30 resident voters have prayed said incorporation; and it further appearing that the proper census has been made of said territory and that all notices and prerequisites pertaining in them have been heard.

Now therefore:

Sec. 1 The Board of Supervisors for the county of Huron, State of Michigan hereby order, enact and declare that the following described territory to wit - The South one-half of section two and the North east being in the township of Winsor, Huron County, Michigan being hereby made and constituted the village corporate by the name of the village of Pigeon, by virtue of and under the provisions of an Act entitled "An Act to provide for the incorporation of village within the State of Michigan and defining their powers and duties: Approved February 19th A.D. 1895.

Sec. 2 The first election of officers of said village shall be held on the 1st Monday in December A.D. 1902 at the K.O.T.M. Hall in said village.

Sec. 3 The following four discreet person residents of such territory and qualified voters, electors therein, who shall constitute a Board of registration for said first election to be held in said village and who shall also act as inspectors of election at said first election to wit: Edmund Bundscho, Ernest Paul, Alphonso A. Pruner, George H.A. Shaw. All of which is respectfully submitted.

G.A. Brown  
William Gwinn  
Jacob Gremel  
Committee"

**Sponsored by Lowell & Nancy Kraft**

PHS\*\*\*\*\*PHS

"State of Michigan  
County of Huron

I, George M. Clark, Clerk of the Circuit Court for said county, do hereby certify

that the above and foregoing is true and compared copy of an original resolution in said cause now on record in the office of the Clerk of said county and court, and the whole of s11ch original record.

In testimony, whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court at the village of Bad Axe this 15th day of October A.D. 1902.

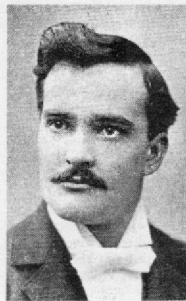
George M. Clark  
County Clerk"

As an incorporated village, these are the businesses that appear in the 1904 Plat book:

Bundscho & Heasty - dealers in heavy and shelf hardware, coal and wood stoves, kitchen utensils, tinware, paints, wire and nails; Diebel & Giese - dealers in general merchandise and full gents' furnishings; John Diebel - Manufacturer and dealer in lumber; Farmers Bank of Pigeon - F.W. Merrick cashier. A general

banking business transacted and loans; Hotel Heasty - George S. Farrar, Prop. First Class hotel, rates \$2.00 per day; Otto Frenzel - Physician, calls promptly answered; H.H. Gould - dealer in buggies, wagons, cream separators, farm implements; Albert Hartley - manager of Pigeon planing mill, dealer in lumber & shingles; A. Hirschberg & Son - dealers in General merchandise, cloaks, shoes, carpets, bazaar goods, building material, groceries and dry goods; A.G. Kaumeyer - Physician and Surgeon. Calls promptly answered; Leipprandt Brothers - dealers in general merchandise, grain and produce buyers and dealers, gent's clothes and groceries; W.W. Loosemore - meat market, dressed poultry, hogs etc.; McElmurray and Elenbaum - Proprietors of Arlington House. Rates \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day. We make a specialty of catering to the traveling trade. Livery in connec-

## Pigeon's First Village Council.



A. G. Kaumeyer



J. W. Leipprandt



Louis Staubus



Joseph Schluchter  
President

Sponsored by  
Village Barber & Styling



Albert Hartley



H. H. Gould



Harry Hirschberg



E. W. E. Bundscho  
Clerk





Pigeon's Main Street - 1867

tion with hotel; John A. McLean - dealer in general hardware. Tin shop. Eaves troughing a specialty. Wind mills and machinery; George C. Powell - dealer in fine wines, liquors and cigars. Fresh beer always on tap; George H.A. Shaw - publisher and editor of the Pigeon Progress. Published every Friday. Job printing neatly executed; Frank Sheufelt - Livery sale and feed stable. First class turn out. Rates reasonable. Special attention to the traveling public; Berne Cornet Band - Charles Czapla leader; Albert Brittsmann - Railroad agent; Charles Czapla-painter; John Diebel - planing mill; Henry Eimers - Constable; Daniel Fisher - blacksmith; Gottlieb Gosser - saloon; Stephen Hiuser - barber; Junction House - Fred Raworth proprietor; Herman Kleinschmidt - Prop. of Arlington House; Herman & Albert Kleinschmidt - General Store; Liken & Bach - Stave and Heading mill; John Link - Tinsmith; George McNeal - general store; Charles Maier - carpenter; Mrs. Conrad Pfaff - dressmaker; John Plaetzer - shoemaker; George B. Winters- meats; Albert Kleinschmidt - postmaster.

At the time of Pigeon's consolidation, Berne still had a population of 100 and the remaining businesses there were: G. V. Black General store; H. L. Domino hotel and grocer; H. L. Schroeder, planing mill and Wm. Schultz, Blacksmith.

The first village election on December 1st, 1902 proved a large voter turnout. There were 107 citizens registered and 102 votes polled. The following were elected: President Joseph Schluchter; Trustees for short term, H. H. Gould, Louis Staubus, Harry Hirshberg; Trustees for long term, Albert Hartley, A. G. Kaumeyer and J. W. Leipprandt; Clerk, E. W. E. Bundscho; Treasurer, Charles Sting and Assessor, Warren Challis.

A declaration was published in the Pigeon Progress in the December 5, 1902 issue to the citizens of said incorporated town: "Now that we are incorporated and the officers of the village elected, let every citizen do everything in his power to help the advancement of our town. Let every citizen stand by our village officers.

The council must have the support of the citizens in order to accomplish the purposes the incorporation was intended for. On the part of the council, they should always bear in mind that they are servants of the people and should always work for the interests of the people."

In the year of consolidation, the Pigeon farm market was as follows: No. 1 red wheat 85 cents a bushel; No. 1 white wheat 85 cents a bushel; oats 20 to 25 cents a bushel; peas 35 to 40 cents a bushel; rye 40 cents a bushel; corn in ear 15 cents a bushel; potatoes 45 to 50 cents per bushel; beans 60 cents a bushel; eggs 16 cents a dozen and hay \$5.50 to \$7.00 per ton.

**Sponsored by Kinde Distributing Company, Bay City, Michigan**

PHS\*\*\*\*\*PHS

## 1929 Dog Fight Recalled In Garage Remodeling

A dog fight in 1929 was recalled this week by the return of plate glass windows and a corner display room in the C. F. Sturm & Son garage. At that time there was a display room on the corner, and Robert Wurm's German Shepherd dog and Dr. Fred Wiley's English bulldog, antagonists for many a moon, viewed each other through the display window. There was a growl, a jump and the crash of broken glass as the two animals smashed the window in trying to get at each other.

From The Progress Advance, May 18, 1948

# LOOTED!

Cool Work Done by a Thief

FIXED HIMSELF WITH CLOTHING.

Walked in a Tramp and Out a Dude.

A. HIRSHBERG & SON  
THE LOOSERS.

One Hundred Dollars in the Till Left Untouched.

One of the boldest pieces of burglary ever perpetrated in our village was committed last night and the instigator relieved A. Hirshberg & Son of a good outfit of clothing from a good suit down to a pair suspenders. The thief gained admittance through the back window which was found open this morning. Goods in different parts of the store were disturbed and he apparently took his time and got just what he wanted. One hundred dollars was in the till at the time and was left untouched. There is some reason to suspect that it was the work of a tramp as old clothes were found back of the store which would be quite appropriate for such a person.

From The Pigeon Progress, August 11, 1898

PHS\*\*\*\*\*PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, One hundred one years ago, January 20, 1922: Orders have been issued for the discontinuance of the night and morning passenger train on the P. O. & N. This order will take effect next Monday. The change will give the road only one train daily which will go north through Pigeon at noon and return south at 3 o'clock. It is expected that there will be a "yell" from the business people along the line and the traveling public.



## Dictates the Price of Wheat

Samuel Greeley, a commission merchant of Chicago, testified before the National Industrial Commission in session in that city, that a combination of five wealthy grain men, of which Philip D. Armour is the directing genius, control the price of farmers' products. It is Armour who has concocted the foremost competition destroying combination in the West. He can dictate his rate of freight on any railroad in or out of Chicago. This Combination between railroads and elevator operators has practically killed competition in the grain market in the West, and has left its promoters with a monopoly of the market. By hoarding immense quantities of grain in the market center it has given rise to the professional bear speculator, whose business it is to hammer down the market, and has brought into existence and made safe the bucket shop. Thus, the railroads, who own many of the elevators indirectly, get in league with a class of operators who ought to be in the penitentiary.

From The Pigeon Progress, January 5, 1900

PHS\*\*\*\*\*PHS



## It will make You Laugh

If you are wise enough to take your linen to a first-class Laundry. If you want beauty of color and an exquisite finish to your shirts, collars, and cuffs and have them sent home in perfect condition, bring them to the City Laundry, as we guarantee satisfaction to our patrons.

**SCHEFFER & SNYDER**  
PIGEON, MICH

From The Pigeon Progress, January 5, 1900

## FISHERMAN LOOK FOR BETTER TIMES

(From Michigan Investor)

The Michigan Commercial Fishermen's Association met at Bay City, with an interesting program of talks. William J. Lambert, secretary laid stress on the needs of getting the fresh fish industry nearer to the consuming public and gaining the best possible marketing conditions for both the public and the fishermen. The speaker stated that during the past year fish netted the producer an average of eight cents a pound while the consumer was paying 35 cents a pound and it was just such things as these that the association wished to rectify. A feeling that the fishing industry will enjoy one of those best years of its history in 1922 was expressed by many of the fishermen.

From The Pigeon Progress, January 6, 1922

## JUST THINKS

Fellow at Bad Axe the other day called the Michigan legislature (**and governor**) "Follies of 1947 (**or 2022**). But wait and see. (**Bold text added, Editor**)

From The Pigeon Progress, April 18, 1947

PHS\*\*\*\*\*PHS

He told his twelve year old son to milk the cows, feed the horses, slop the pigs, catch the colt and put it in the stable, hunt the eggs, feed the calves, cut some wood, split some kindling, stir the cream, pump fresh water in the creamery after supper, and to be sure to study his lessons before going to bed. Then he went to the Farmers' Club to discuss the question "How to keep the boys on the farm." Saranac Advertiser.

From The Pigeon Progress, October 1, 1913

# SATURDAY JAN. 7

In order to start the new year out right we will give you a real treat in giving you some great bargains in our line.

We will give you 20 per cent discount on all Men's Overcoats.

25 per cent Discount on all Men's Rain Coats.

25 per cent Discount on Sewing Machines.

20 per cent off on all Fur Goods.

20 per cent off on all Hosiery for men, women and children, including Silks and Wool Sport Hose.

15 per cent off on all Rubber Goods.

20 per cent off on all Felt Slippers.

20 per cent off on Purses and Hand Bags.

But remember this is for Saturday only. Our stock is very complete.

Thanking you again for the many favors shown us,

*L. Staebus & Son*

From The Pigeon Progress, January 6, 1922



## NOTICE

This is to correct Mr. Kleinschmidt's statement. I will say I don't sell stuff, as Mr. Kleinschmidt calls it. I sell real coal—just as good a coal as is mined in the United States. I gave Mr. Kleinschmidt his choice in the size of the coal, either 2x4, which is the regular furnace size, or Domestic Lump.

I'm sure Mr. Kleinschmidt has a warm heart for the janitor of our public school. This is very nice but Mr. Kleinschmidt's excuse is a very poor one. My old grandfather long ago said a poor excuse is better than none.

I would have the board understand that we have four coal dealers in our small city of Pigeon and we all sell good Domestic Lump coal even if it isn't named Blue Diamond.

After this when our board of Education thinks of ordering fuel for our public schools, if the board so wishes I would like to explain how to order fuel for our public school in a businesslike manner.

Respectfully yours,  
William Kreh, Coal Dealer.

From *The Pigeon Progress*,  
January 6, 1922

PHS \*\*\*\*\* PHS

## Baseball In the Bible

Baseball is really of every ancient origin. The bible tells us that Satan was a hot member on the coaching line. He coached Eve when she stole first and Adam when he stole second. Rebekah went to the well with a pitcher. Sampson struck out a good many times when he beat the Philistines, and Moses made a home run when he saw the Egyptians. Abraham made a sacrifice. The prodigal son made a home run. David was a long-distance thrower. Moses shut out the Egyptians at the Red Sea.

From *The Pigeon Progress*, August 17, 1900

PHS \*\*\*\*\* PHS

From the pages of *The Pigeon Progress*, Seventy-four years ago, January 21, 1949: Walter Kretschmer and son Vernon, a Pigeon farmer-son combination, who first prize for Michigan in the 1948 Malting Barley contest with a prize of \$500.

PHS \*\*\*\*\* PHS

From the pages of *The Pigeon Progress*, ninety-one years ago, January 1, 1932: O.P. Chapin, Pigeon, looks for plenty of snow during March, 1932. Mr. Chapin says lake water levels are now 2 1/2 feet lower than in 1930 and have dropped three inches since last November.

## To Decrease the Automobile Accidents at Railroad Grade Crossings

By C. W. GALLOWAY,  
Vice-Pres't Baltimore & Ohio

It is now necessary for engineers to consider all construction from the standpoint of safe operation. With each recurring year the increase in the number of automobiles and the growing carelessness of the drivers make it very important that we devote some of extraordinary effort to lessen accidents at grade crossings. We are confronted with the fact that there are 10,000,000 motor vehicles now in use in the United States.

When we inaugurated the observation plan, we found that 84 per cent of automobiles failed to take proper precautions when crossing our tracks. In the three months of November, December, 1919, January, 1920, we made 1,933 observations, and there was a total of 484 failures to take safety precautions, or about 25 per cent. During the year of 1920 we extended our observations. In the twelve months of that year there were 49,665 observations with 8,236 failures, or 16 per cent.

In 1921 our observers became even more active, and in the first six months of this year there were 248,988 observations made, and the failures reached only 8,775, or 3½ per cent.

From *The Pigeon Progress*, January 6, 1922

PHS \*\*\*\*\* PHS

## JUST THINKS

Bill collecting is a pursuit rather than an occupation.

From *The Pigeon Progress*, April 18, 1947

PHS \*\*\*\*\* PHS

From the pages of *The Pigeon Progress*, One hundred twenty-four years ago, January 13, 1899: The new saw mill at the Quarries is about completed.

## Service News



Pfc. Kent R. Buchholz, son of Mr. and Mrs. William (Bill) Buchholz of Pigeon, has finished his training at the Military Police School at Ft. Gordon, GA., and is now stationed at Fort Dix, N.J. His new address is Pfc. Kent R. Buchholz, 375-60-9532, 555th M.P. Co., 759th M.P. Bn., Ft. Dix, New Jersey, 08640.

From *The Progress Advance*, January 4, 1973

PHS \*\*\*\*\* PHS

From the pages of *The Pigeon Progress*, Ninety years ago, January 11, 1929: At the annual meeting of Huron Creamery Company, Herman Buchholz, Mose Weidman, Edward Woodward, Edward Sturm, were elected as officers and directors are Chris Schuette, Henry Trost, Jr., Carl J. Sting, Edwin Eichler and John Yackle.

PHS \*\*\*\*\* PHS

From the pages of *The Pigeon Progress*, One hundred fourteen years ago, January 15, 1909: J.J. Campbell of Pigeon has been appointed as a member of the State Board of Pharmacy by Gov. Warner.

## We'd love to see you on our Team!

An individual or business can become a member by contacting 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:** \$20.00 (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!



## Borge Concert Set at Saginaw

Victor Borge, the internationally known one-man musical comedy, will be bringing his entourage to the Saginaw Civic Center Friday, January 19 at 8:30 p.m.

Borge, who had been cited by royalty and feted by presidents, has added gifted pianist Sahan Arzruni from Istanbul, and blonde coloratura-soprano Marylyn Mulvey to his program, which is entitled "Comedy in Music." Both Arzruni and Mulvey act as foils for Borge, whose lunacy, couched in a suave continental manner, is fresh no matter how often you may have seen him.

Tickets may be obtained by calling 755-1521.

*From The Progress Advance, January 4, 1973*

PHS\*\*\*\*\*PHS

*From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, Seventy-four years ago, January 21, 1949:* A new corporation, Thumb Publications, Inc., has been formed by Walt Rummel, editor and published of the Pigeon Progress, to obtain production personnel necessary to handle the increased volume of advertising and job printing. Other stockholders of the new firm are Norman Curtis of Caro and Harry Klinger of Pigeon.

PHS\*\*\*\*\*PHS

## Rural Roads

Of the more than 2,400,00 miles of rural roads, some 1,400,00 miles are unsurfaced dirt road, which is impassable part of the year.

*From The Pigeon Progress, January 2, 1949*

PHS\*\*\*\*\*PHS

## First Stained Glass

Earliest recorded use of stained glass windows is of the bishop of Rheim's rebuilt cathedral of the 10th century.

*From The Pigeon Progress, January 2, 1949*

## THE PIGEON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 253 - Pigeon, Michigan 48755

989-453-3242

Denny Esch, President

Ardra Schaaf, Vice President

Paul Schuette, Secretary & Editor

David Eichler, Treasurer

### Trustees

Jim Leinbach - Steven Schulze

Tim Voss - Joyce Kretzchmer

### Six Membership Meetings:

Second Monday of the month

January - March - May - July

September - October - November

10:00 a.m.

### Board Meetings:

Fourth Monday of every month

All meetings at 10:00 a.m.

### Meeting Location:

Woelke Historical Research Center

# Do Your Hens Lay?

Do you want them to lay?

If so use Fleck's Poultry Powder and follow directions closely. If you do not get satisfactory results, return the empty packages and get your money.

# Orr's Rexall Drug Store

*From The Pigeon Progress, January 6, 1922*



## Best New Year Wishes, 1948

Our earnest hope as we face the coming new year is that we may continue our pleasant relationship with our many patrons and that they, as well as all the folks in our community, enjoy the holiday and the days to follow in peace, contentment and good health.

## A. F. Heckman



*From The Pigeon Progress, January 2, 1948*

## Detroit Edison Electric Load Sets Record

An all-time high in Detroit Edison's load was reached last week and served without difficulty, and there is no need for concern about a power shortage in this area, according to James W. Parker, president.

With the holidays here and a gradual increase in daylight, the year's peak is in all likelihood behind, Mr. Parker believes.

On December 18 the load was higher by 96,000 kilowatts, or 8.1 per cent, than a year ago, the increase coming from a general growth in use from stores, homes and factories. During the year some 30,000 new customers were added to the lines, and by New Years practically all old requests for new electric service will have been filled, said Mr. Parker.

Construction expenditures for extensions to plants and lines in the years 1947 and 1948 will require an investment of about \$55,000,000. This will include buildings in preparation for new turbo-generator units and several substations, and the completion of the company's farm electrification program.

*From The Pigeon Progress, January 2, 1948*