

"If Only The Walls Could Talk"

Businesses come, and businesses go. Memories last forever, as long as there are those who want them to last.

This issue commemorates some of those businesses, and their owners who made decisions that may have caused them grief, or at least great concern about their decisions.

Fred Orr and I are long-time friends going back to ancient times when we were in the Boy Scouts. Great memories; the troop visiting the Fred Bear Museum in Grayling, roughing it at a deer camp in Mancelona, sitting a Bear Fred, Deer Acres, and other sites.

I remember the A&P store at the corner of M-142 and Cassville Rd., Dryden Haists' hardware store and his Christmas store across the street, the Detroit Edison store on west Michigan Ave. where burnt-out light bulbs could be exchanged for new, Schumacher's butcher shop on Main St. and getting a free hot dog when we were kids.

It's fun to drive through town and try to remember where the old stores were located. One of my back-burner projects is to have web page layouts of all the buildings at ten year intervals, and clicking on a building brings up a page of the business at that time and its history.

Reminiscing and talking about history is great fun, but remembering and recording takes effort. That's way we are here.

Paul Schuette

Grocery Chain's Last Pioneer Dies At 92

George Ludlum Hartford, 92, last survivor of a trio of Hartford's who became "Family Grocers" to more people than anyone in history, died between 9:30 and 10:00 p.m. Monday, September 23, in Montclair, N. J., where he resided with his son-in-law, Sheldon M. Stewart. He would have been 93 years of age next November 7.

Mr. Hartford was chairman of the board of the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, better known to millions in this country just as "The A & P." The company grew from one small tea store opened back in 1859 on Vesey Street, in lower Manhattan, to one with more than 4,000 stores in 37 states, bringing its daily supplies from virtually every agricultural growing region in this country and many foreign lands.

Mr. Hartford was born in Brooklyn, NY, November 7, 1864. He was the eldest of five children born to George Huntington Hartford, founder of A & P, and Josephine Ludlum Hartford.

Mr. Hartford died quietly in his sleep at the Montclair residence from which funeral services were held on Thursday of last week. He has been actively associated with A & P for more than 80 years.

From The Progress Advance, October 10, 1957

"The Business of Business is Business"

LONGTIME PIGEON BUSINESS, ORR'S DRUG STORE, CLOSES ITS DOORS

Had been in community over 100 years

By Seth Stapleton

County View Editor,

sstapleton@mihomepaper.com



PIGEON - For over a century, the name Orr's has been synonymous with the Pigeon business community. The friendly drug store had been serving customers since 1919, but that all changed last week.

At the end of the workday August 9, 2024 owner Fred Orr said he locked the store door, turned off the lights, took a brief moment to soak it in,

then simply smiled and walked out.

"I've got just a terrific number of good friends for customers that I've known for years, and years, and years, so it was hard," said Orr.

Orr said he understands the decision came as a surprise to a lot of people, but it was something he had to keep to himself during the process, which involved selling the store's pharmaceutical inventory and transferring customer records to Walgreens in Bad Axe.

"It was a long time in the making to come up with the deal and I really had to keep it to myself - keep it quiet," he said.

Late last week, Walgreen's officials were in the store collecting inventory. Orr said after things were unloaded and he was staring at empty shelves, that is when it really hit him - that this was the end.

"I'm sad, but I'm happy," he explained.

Orr, 71, said he put a lot of thought into the decision and it really came down to just being time. He has been working in the store since 1975, gradually taking over ownership from his father, who did the same thing with his father.

Orr's grandfather, Robert Orr, traveled to Pigeon to run the business after the original owner was drafted into the military for World War I. After the war ended a few years later, the owner decided to sell the store to Robert.

"My grandfather was really happy to buy the business at that point," Orr said. "And we've been here ever since."

Orr's father, John, went into the Air Force out of high school for World War II. When he got out, he decided to come back to Pigeon, eventually taking over for his father after completing pharmacy school.

He began working in the store around 1948 and gradually

See Orr's pg. 2

George S. Farrer to be the New Proprietor of the Heasty Hotel

George S. Farrer, who managed the Hotel Heasty about four years ago, made arrangements this week by which he is again to become its proprietor under a lease, and expects to take charge sometime the middle of next month.

George C. Powell, the present proprietor, will retire from the hotel business and put in a first-class bar in the building recently vacated by E. E. Hess, which he has purchased. Mr. Powell has done a very successful business in the The Heasty and has made a host of friends during his management of same.

Mr. Farrer is well known among the traveling class; having been engaged in the hotel business in this county for a number of years. His many friends here will be glad to see him return.

From The Pigeon Progress, October 4, 1901

PHS*****PHS

A FINE ONE.

Hess Now Settled in His fine New Store.

For the past week E. F. Hess, the clothier, has been busy moving his stock in the building he recently purchased from W. A. Schriber and now as his immense stock of goods is all arranged, no finer store can be found in the county, which reflects great credit on its hustling proprietor. Such enterprising merchants as Ed. are a benefit to a town,

From The Pigeon Progress, October 4, 1901

PHS*****PHS

**PIGEON PROPERTIES
CHANGE HANDS**

George Pfaff has sold his residence property on West Michigan Ave. to George Swartzendruber.

Last week Edward Daus purchased the house on South Main Street that was erected by Dr. Nitz.

A deal is being closed for the purchase of the Norman Schaaf building by Robert H. Orr. The building was formerly occupied by Snider's Drug Store.

From The Pigeon Progress, November 20, 1938

PHS*****PHS

Druggist Sells Half-Interest To Son



Progress Photo

AFTER MORE THAN 32 YEARS of drug service to Pigeon, Robert H. Orr, right, announced that he has sold half-interest in his store to his son, John, who graduated from Wayne University in June, 1949. The senior partner, a native of Cass City, arrived in Pigeon in the fall of 1917, when he became manager of the William Sutton Drug Store. In February, 1919, Mr. Orr purchased the store, and has operated it in the intervening 31 years. Mr. and Mrs. John Orr are residing in Pigeon, and they have an infant daughter, Frances.

took over ownership.

"The only logical thing for him to do in Pigeon was to be a pharmacist," Orr said.

But being a third-generation owner of the store wasn't always the plan for Orr.

"The one thing I knew when I graduated from high school was, I did not want to be a pharmacist," he said. "You spend your whole life with people asking, 'Are you going to be a pharmacist like your dad and grandfather?' So, I learned to say no."

Orr said he went off to college at Michigan State University, but after a few years at the school, he had not declared a major, so he sat down with a counselor to look at what classes he was taking and figure out what he might be interested in.

Fred said this showed him he was subconsciously headed in the direction of being a pharmacist. So, he changed his mind, transferred to Ferris State University, and completed his degree.

He said in the move, all but one credit from MSU transferred over.

"I had selected pharmacy without even knowing it," Orr said.

Over the years, Orr said he accumulated many fond memories while working



at the store. He said what he would miss most are the people - adding he had several families he knew five generations of, because they were all customers.

"I'm going to miss them and I know they're going to miss me," he said. "But when I made the decision, I knew I made the right decision."

Orr said he will also miss working alongside his son Bob, who did a little



bit of everything at the store, and wife Donna, who helped a lot behind the scenes.

"She's been a terrific support," he said.

In retirement, Orr said he does not have any grand plans at this time. He said he will visit family, garden, and simply appreciate his newfound freedom.

"For the first time in my life, I can decide to do something tomorrow and go and do it," he said.

After the dust settles on the store closure, Orr said he does not have any grand plans at this time. He said he will visit family, garden, and simply appreciate his newfound freedom.

PHS ***** PHS

Back To The Farm

For the first time in ten years, the farm population of the United States has increased, according to Department of Agriculture figures just released. The number who left farms for towns and cities in 1930 was 1,548,000, compared with 1,876,000 in 1929 and a peak movement of 2,155,000 in 1926. Last year 1,392,000 persons moved from cities to farms - the largest number since 1924, when a peak of 1,306,044 was reached. The total farm population as of January 1 was estimated at 27,430,000 as compared with 27,222,000 a year ago. It is too early as yet, of course to say that the city-ward movement has been stopped, and yet there are new elements entering the situation aside from the depression. Good roads have made the farm much nearer the city and the new methods of transportation have made it much easier for the city man to live in the country if he so desires. The next few years should disclose whether the back-to-the-farm movement is really a back-to-the-soil movement.

From The Pigeon Progress, April 3, 1931

PHS ***** PHS

Win a 22 piece set Mirro Aluminum Ware Free. Misspelled Word Contest at Orr's Rexall Drug Store.

New and larger stock of Greeting Cards for all occasions. Orr's Rexall Drug Store.

Ads from The Pigeon Progress, February 2, 1940

PHS ***** PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, Ninety three years ago, February 6, 1931: William Bechler has taken over the A.C. Smith Dairy business.

"LABOR FACTS"



DID YOU KNOW...

THERE IS A DICTIONARY OF JOBS? THE **DICTIONARY OF OCCUPATIONAL TITLES**, PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LISTS **25,000 DIFFERENT JOB TITLES** IN THE U. S.

A REVISED DICTIONARY DUE FOR PUBLICATION IN 1964 MAY LIST **40,000 JOB TITLES**.

THE PRESENT DICTIONARY CONTAINS SUCH VARIED OCCUPATIONS AS **DEVIL TENDER** (OPERATES A FUR-MIXING MACHINE



IN THE HAT AND CAP INDUSTRY), **FROG SHOVELER** (SHOVELS DIRT AND BARK IN LOGGING), **GLASS BREAKER** (BREAKS GLASS INTO PANE SIZES), **HEAD CHISELER** (SLAUGHTERING AND MEAT PACKING), AND **BONE CRUSHER** (CRUSHES BONE TO MAKE GLUE)!

THE **NEW DICTIONARY** WILL LIST MANY MORE.

From The Progress Advance, June 27, 1963

PHS ***** PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, one hundred four years ago, October 29, 1920: George Anklam purchased the Arlington Hotel block in Pigeon from R.W. McElmurray and Lee Elenbaum. He will use the building for his automobile business.

PHS ***** PHS

From the pages of The Progress-Advance, Sixty four years ago, October 6, 1960: Newest business enterprise of the Pigeon Area is the 333,000 bushel capacity corn drying and storage plant recently built by Joe Maust and operating under the name of Active Feed and Maust Grain Company.

PHS ***** PHS

THE PIGEON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 253 - Pigeon, Michigan 48755
989-453-3242

Denny Esch, President
Ardr Schaaf, Vice President
Paul Schuette, Secretary & Editor
David Eichler, Treasurer
Trustees

Jim Leinbach - Steven Schulze
Logan Richmond - Joyce Kretzschmer

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

Announcement

We feel very fortunate in announcing to our patrons and customers in this community, the appointment of the exclusive agency of

M. & B. Select Ice Cream

which you will find is the finest Ice Cream obtainable and made in one of the most modern ice cream factories in the state. Any of our patrons who wish to visit this outstanding ice cream factory are welcome when they are in Saginaw, to see under what sanitary conditions this ice cream is made. To serve you this ice cream as you would wish to have it we have installed a new

Knight Mechanical Refrigerated Soda Fountain

which will maintain our ice cream and drinks at the proper temperature at all times.

This new fountain service at our store will start Saturday, April 4th, and we invite you one and all to pay us a visit.

Special At Our Fountain For Easter Sunday

Fresh Strawberry Fruit Ice Cream In Brick and Bulk

There will be an announcement of our formal opening at a later date. Do not fail to try our new service, as we aim to please.

There will be an announcement of the opening of our new soda fountain, Friday night, April 3 on the M & B. Select Ice Cream Old Time Fiddlers Program between 9:00 and 10:00 p. m. over W. B. C. M., Bay City.

Orr's Rexall Drug Store

From The Pigeon Progress, April 3, 1931

PHS

FISHERMEN HAVE MOVED TO PICKEREL GROUNDS

(Bay Port Correspondent)

Each day now Bay Port fishermen are leaving with their fish shanties for the pickerel grounds. About thirty or forty shanties have already reached this spot across the bar, about eighteen miles from shore. This shallow bar extends from Charity Island to Bay City, and each year at this time sees the fishing village moved out beyond this spot. Myrl Keller, using a clever, efficient snowmobile, buys fish from the fishermen, and, in turn, supplies them with fuel wood and groceries.

From The Pigeon Progress, February 2, 1940

PHS

8 Large Herring for 25c

Cleaned and Boned

ALSO OTHER VARIETIES

R. L. Gillingham Fishing Co.

Bay Port, Mich.

Wholesale

Phone 75

Retail

From The Pigeon Progress, February 2, 1940

PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, Ninety-nine years ago, July 24, 1925: Pigeon Elevator Co. has leased the Kreh coal yard from Frederick Brueck and plan to enlarge their coal business.

No one should revile the weather man for failure to bring off his snowstorms according to schedule. He has as good a right to guess as anybody else.

From The Pigeon Progress, January 7, 1910

PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, one hundred nine years ago, October 1, 1915: Don Vincent has purchased the Donald McAulay drug store in Pigeon and taken possession.

SIDE KICKS

Then there was the girl who was so ignorant that she thought the way to tell the horsepower of an automobile was to lift the hood and count the spark plugs.

From The Pigeon Progress, April 3, 1931

Contest Set in Baton Twirling

Talented drum majors and majorettes from every section of Michigan will compete in another contest at the Michigan State Fair to be held in Detroit August 29 through September 7.

Medals will be presented to the first, second, and third place daily winners, and 27 beautiful trophies will be awarded in the final competition in various classifications. The contest is under the direction of Graham T. Overgard, director of musical events and special activities.

Entries in the contest must be made on official blanks which may be obtained by writing to the Michigan State Fair, Detroit 3, Michigan. All entries must be returned by Monday, August 18.

Contestants will be required to twirl through one 10-inch record of their own selection and they must appear in uniform. There will also be an individual novelty contest consisting of flag twirling, two-baton twirling, dancing and twirling, acrobatic and twirling, and fire twirling.

Every effort will be made to see that competing drum majors and majorettes enjoy themselves. They will participate in the dolly fair grounds parade and also be given free tickets to all activities sponsored by the State Fair management, according to James M. Hare, general manager.

From The Pigeon Progress, August 1, 1952

PHS

NOTICE TO FARMERS—Starting Monday, January 19, I will truck stock to Detroit markets, leaving home yards at 9:00 o'clock every Monday. Following rates: Calves and hogs, 60c per hundred; sheep 65c per hundred; cattle 40c per hundred. Bring in your stock. R. W. Kretschmer, Owendale, Phone 5F8. 19tfc

From The Pigeon Progress, April 3,

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!

Sugar Beet Raising In Michigan

Prof. Clinton D. Smith, director of the Michigan experiment station, is out with a statement that is of much interest to the thousands of sugar beet growers of Michigan, his desire being to correct a misapprehension existing in the minds of a great many farmers who reside in the vicinity of beet sugar factories. Mr. Smith calls attention to the fact that the experiment station has undertaken a great many experiments in the growing of sugar beets. During the past 10 years it has scattered beet seed over the state, and to ascertain the quality of the beets produced it has tested the beets sent in by the growers. These results warrant the statement that good beets can be grown in most parts of the state.

In many instances the growers have become dissatisfied with the test results given them by the factories, and have sent their beets to the college. The results of the college analyses have been used as a basis for an attack on the good faith of the factory, the grower evidently forgetting that the beets sent to the college are invariable selected, and do not come anywhere near representing the crop as it runs; and also losing sight of the fact that the beets sent to the college are almost invariably dried out and somewhat withered, and that, therefore, the statement of the chemist regard them, while absolutely true, is grossly misleading to the person who does not take these facts into consideration.

From The Pigeon Progress, February 16, 1900

PHS*****PHS

Wise and Otherwise

MARRIAGE is an education for a man, says a psychologist. Because of the lectures he gets?

I wonder why a low dress is called a full dress, and a plucked chicken a dressed chicken.

We know a man who whistles at danger. Yes, he drives a train.

Married men are nearly always great inventors—of excuses.

When a person commits bigamy, two rites make a wrong.

The man who does notice the handwriting on the wall is the landlord.

From The Pigeon Progress, February 2, 1940

Family Photographs & Artifacts of Interest

The Pigeon Historical Society has a large collection of historical postcards, photographs, artifacts, and historical resources. Many of these items are on display and available in the Depot Museum and the Arthur J. Woelke Historical Research Center. We have a vast amount of historical references available including *The Progress Advance* and *The Pigeon Progress* from September 3, 1897 thru December 18, 1978 online at Newspapers.com for you to view at no charge.

We are always on the look-out for other pictures, artifacts, and resources 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.

One special image was brought in by Dorothy Schuette-Thummel. It is the picture shown here of The Maplerose Dairy, a business owned and operated by Charles Heck, Dorothy's grandfather. The Dairy was located outside of Pigeon on what is now M-142. It is estimated that the picture was taken sometime around 1923.

If you have family photographs, artifacts, and historical resources which show anything of interest about the Pigeon community, please contact a board member.

L-R Back Row: Christine Smith Tetreau, Harold McDougall

Front Row: Gladys Smith Inscho, Alvin Heck, Helen Heck Krueger, Bernice McDougall Malpass, Rollie Smith, Viola Heck Schuette.



Pigeon Soprano in Music Scholarship Regional Audition

Donna Newman, lyric soprano from Pigeon, is among seven who will compete in regional auditions at the Scottish Rite Cathedral of the Masonic Temple in Detroit February 11 for the Grinnell Foundation of Music's \$2,500 music scholarship. The winner advances to

PHS*****PHS

SIDE KICKS

A woman spent six months in jail in Ohio and gained 15 pounds. If that doesn't discourage female crime nothing will.

From The Pigeon Progress, April 3, 1931

further regional competition in Buffalo, N.Y., February 14.

Others competing are Mrs. Judith Haudman of Toledo; Mrs. Margaret McLeod Elbert of St. Clair Shores; Aurelio Ugolini of Grosse Pointe; Barbara Ferrari of Grand Rapids; Melvin Hardiman of Pontiac, and Marlo Wright of Detroit.

From The Progress Advance, February 4, 1965

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, Seventy-nine years ago, October 19, 1945: William Bechler has sold his building, Pigeon Dairy and dairy bar equipment to Floyd Hamilton and Leo Sturm. Mr. Bechler states that he will continue in the poultry buying business.

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

A NEW INDUSTRY

FOR PIGEON

Pigeon is to have a modern cement tile and block manufacturing plant. Norman Schaaf, our well known cement work contractor, who is putting in the plant already has the main building of the plant completed and most of the machinery has arrived. The process he will use for the making of tile and blocks is of the latest and most improved known as the wet mix process. Mr. Schaaf says his product will be guaranteed.

Mr. Schaaf informs The Progress that he already has orders for nearly three hundred thousand tile.

Early in the spring a large dry kiln will be erected on the north side of the present building.

This plant will be one of the largest of its kind in the Thumb territory.

The plant is located just north of the Grand Trunk stock yards where sufficient room was procured to enable the business to expand.

Pigeon welcomes this new industry.

From The Pigeon Progress, February 20, 1925

PHS ***** PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, one hundred twenty years ago, October 13, 1899: Several of our businessmen held a discussion in one of our business places as the advisability of changing the town's name.

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, one hundred twenty five years ago, October 6, 1899: Daniel Fisher has erected a street lamp in front of his place of business. If all our businessmen follow his example, our town's appearance after dark would be much better.

STATE LAND AUCTION SALE OPENS FEBRUARY 13

Auditor General Vernon J. Brown today expressed gratification at the interest being shown in the coming auction sale of state-owned properties which one-time owners lost because of tax delinquencies.

"Judging by reports," said Mr. Brown, "former owners are crowding the offices of their county treasurers to learn the procedure of the sale so that they may plan to repurchase their properties. It is gratifying that these people are accepting the generous provisions of the State Land Office Board Act which offers them this final opportunity to regain their properties."

"It is not the desire of the Board or the State of Michigan to dispossess any owner. For that reason, we have adopted very liberal terms which should meet every reasonable request."

"Owners may bid at the auction sale and if other bidders appear, they need not enter into competitive bidding, but may within 30 days meet the bid of any other bidder. Purchasers who had no previous interest in the property must pay cash, but the Board is extending a liberal contract to former owners so that they may pay the amount of their bid over a period

of time in monthly installments.

"One word of warning should be issued, however: the owner should be certain that at least the minimum bid of 25% is made at the sale. While it is true that the owner has the right to meet any bid during the 30 days following such bid, it is entirely possible that some properties may be offered upon which no bids will be made. In such cases the owner would not have the privilege of meeting a bid because no bid has been offered. The owner should, therefore, protect himself by seeing that at least the minimum bid of 25% of the 1938 assessed valuation is submitted."

"No written bids or prior bids can be accepted."

List of properties to be offered for sale and detailed information are available at the offices of the county treasurers of the counties under the jurisdiction of the State Land Office Board. Mr. Brown suggested that all those who are not entirely familiar with the procedure concerning the sale should immediately contact their county treasurer for details.

From The Pigeon Progress, February 2, 1940

PHS ***** PHS

JUDGE DISJOINS 78-ACRE PARCEL OF LAND FROM PIGEON

Bad Axe, Feb. 1—A parcel of property 78 acres in extent was disjoined from the village of Pigeon by a circuit court judgement rendered here Monday by Judge X. A. Boomhower. The tract was the third parcel of land disconnected from Pigeon since November 1939.

The 78-acre parcel is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Pfaff and is located at the northeast corner of the village. It was disjoined under an act passed by the 1939 legislature which provides that land within village limits may be disconnected to escape village taxes if it is used for farming and does not segregate other portions of the municipality.

Mr. and Mrs. Pfaff use the land for farming and do not receive the benefit of village improvements for which they are being taxed. They must, however, pay all taxes and bonded indebtedness against the property which was levied before the disjoinment.

From The Pigeon Progress, February 2, 1940

PHS ***** PHS

What SCHUMACHER has to offer ..

BEEF ROAST	17c
pound	
LEAN PORK ROAST	15c
pound	
CLOVER BLOOM CHEESE	45c
2 pound box	
FRESH SPARE RIBS	25c
2 pounds	
SMOKED PICNICS	15c
pound	
PURE LARD	25c
3 pounds	
HOME MADE SUMMER	27c
SAUSAGE, pound	

Special Prices on Beef and Pork, by Chunk or Quarter

SCHUMACHER'S MARKET

From The Pigeon Progress, February 2, 1940

PHS ***** PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, one hundred nineteen years ago, January 27, 1905: The snow and nice sleighing have had a tendency to enliven business in Pigeon.