

*"If Only The Walls Could Talk"*

## Pigeon's First Paper Vol 1 #1 Sept 3, 1897

Pigeon, Michigan 48755

All of Pigeon's newspapers were donated to the Pigeon Historical Society by the James and Susan Sting family and children; Deborah Boyer, Emily Buetow, Dan Sting, and Andrew Sting. The Pigeon newspapers were saved from a dumpster after the newspaper office moved from its building next to Eicher's Cleaners. Also saved from the dumpster by the Sting children were copies of The Elkton Advance. These papers were donated to the Elkton Historical Society. All of James and Susan's children have worked for the Pigeon Depot Museum during their early years. We look forward to the future by preserving the past. We hope the public will enjoy reading about their families and learning from past ages.

*James R. Sting*

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

Denny Esch, President  
Ardra Schaaf, Vice President  
Paul Schuette, Secretary  
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Jim Leinbach • Steven Schulze  
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#### Six Regular Meetings:

Second Monday of the month

May - July - Sept. -

Oct. - Nov. - Jan. - Mar. 3:30 p.m.

#### Board Meetings:

Fourth Monday of the month

All meetings at 3:30 p.m.

#### Meeting Location:

Wolke Historical Research Center.

## Ads from Pigeon's First Paper

**G. C. HEINEMAN,**

Heineman Block,  
Pigeon, Mich.,

Has some special values  
to offer you in

**Bed Room  
Suites,  
Parlor Suites,  
And Living-room  
Suites.**

IF YOU ARE THINKING  
of Buying, don't fail to  
Call and get prices. We  
Can save you money.

**Pictures Framed**

... WHILE YOU WAIT

A large new stock of Mouldings

Just Received. All the  
Latest Designs ...

**Robes :  
Blankets,  
and  
Winter  
Horse Goods.**

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED  
a large and complete assort-  
ment of these goods, and can  
offer you some

**Strong Inducements**

To come and trade with me.  
Call and get prices before  
buying. I also have left a few

**Summer Goods,**

Which I will close out AT  
COST, consisting of FLY  
NETS and DUSTERS, Etc.

**Yours for Business,**

**W. J. STEVENS.**

# A History of the Village of Port Crescent

PORT CRESCENT, Huron County: Walter Hume, the first settler, built a trading post and an inn here in 1844, and the place became known as Pinnepog (Chippewa for partridge drum), from the river running by it; later, five miles inland, on a branch of the same river, a new settlement also took the name of Pinnepog; the original town asked the later one to change its name, and it did to Pinnebog; that helped so little that Pinnepog took the name of Port Crescent, from the crescent-shaped contour of its shore line; Jonas B. Learned became its first postmaster on May 8, 1868, the office operating until April 8, 1902; in 1936, its last business moved away and it became a ghost town; in 1962, it began to be developed as Port Crescent State Park [Mich. Hist 253234 1941;46:303 1962; Chapman; PO Archives].

## MILE OF BELTS TO CARRY SAND

### Port Crescent Conveyor To Load Lakeside Silica

Port Austin, Apr. 19 - More than a mile of fabric belting, 30 inches wide at a cost of \$15.00 a foot, will be used in the installation of the \$150,000 electric sand conveyor being erected at Port Crescent for the Port Crescent Sand and Fuel company by the Stevens-Adamson company of Aurora Ill., W. L. Syckes, erecting superintendent stated today.

The conveyor will be made of nine units; one to carry sand from the field to the storage, the storage conveyor, two tunnel conveyors beneath the storage, three units on the recently completed 1,600 foot dock and two units for loading the sand into boats. A 29-ton gasoline shovel, will load sand into the field conveyor.

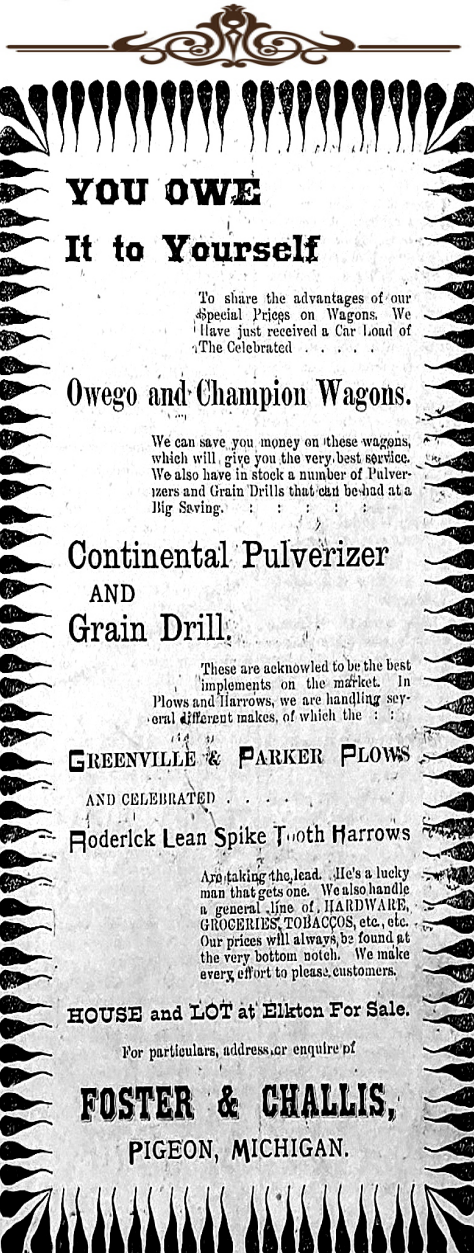
The storage pile will have a capacity of 14,000 tons and boats may be loaded at a rate of 500 tons an hour, Mr. Syckes said, with a possibility of increasing the speed to 600 tons an hour when necessary. The belt is troughed and runs over rollers, causing a steady and uniform flow, with no waste.

Ten electric motors will be used in operating the outfit, Mr. Syckes said. Three motors will develop 50 horsepower,

one of 60, three of 25, two of five and one of ten, making a total of more than 300 horsepower to be used in the loading process. The Central Power company, of Bad Axe, is extending its lines from state trunk line M-19 four miles north of Kinde to the dock, about five miles. The line will carry a current of 23,000 volts.

An unlimited amount of the finest sand known for glass grinding and molding lies within a 50-acre plot adjacent to the dock. One of the unusual qualities is its uniformity which makes screening and grading unnecessary, Mr. Syckes said. This will make the handling and loading much more rapid and less expensive, he said.

*Pigeon Progress*  
April 25, 1924



**YOU OWE  
It to Yourself**

To share the advantages of our Special Prices on Wagons. We have just received a Car Load of The Celebrated

**Owego and Champion Wagons.**

We can save you money on these wagons, which will give you the very best service. We also have in stock a number of Pulverizers and Grain Drills that can be had at a Big Saving.

**Continental Pulverizer  
AND  
Grain Drill.**

These are acknowledged to be the best implements on the market. In Plows and Harrows, we are handling several different makes, of which the

**GREENVILLE & PARKER PLOWS  
AND CELEBRATED  
Foderick Lean Spike Tooth Harrows**

Are taking the lead. He's a lucky man that gets one. We also handle a general line of HARDWARE, GROCERIES, TOBACCO, etc., etc. Our prices will always be found at the very bottom notch. We make every effort to please customers.

**HOUSE and LOT at Elkton For Sale.**  
For particulars, address or enquire of

**FOSTER & CHALLIS,  
PIGEON, MICHIGAN.**

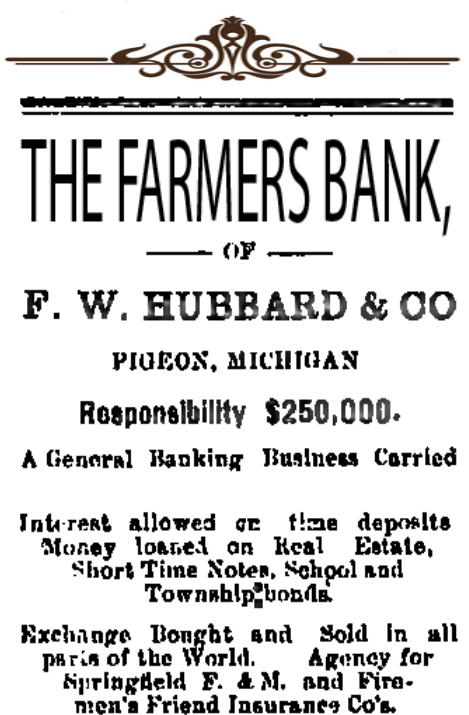
## Once A Flourishing Village

Perhaps the only instance in Michigan where a good sized town has been completely wiped off the map within three decades is furnished by Huron county.

Thirty years ago Port Crescent, at the entrance of Saginaw bay, was a thriving village of 1,100 population and the second largest town in the county. Today there is not a building or even a foundation wall to show where the prosperous little city stood. It formerly had sawmills, a salt block, two good hotels, a steamboat connection with Detroit, several large stores and many comfortable residences. The salt supply gave out, the timber and lumber became exhausted capitalists went elsewhere, labor followed, and within a few years port Crescent vanished. There was little farming land in the immediate vicinity and nothing left to support business enterprises. The buildings were torn down and moved away, many of the better one forming a part of the present village of Kinde, fifteen miles away.

Several early-day lumbering and salt towns of Huron Count have dwindled to small hamlets, but Port Crescent alone has the unique distinction of entire obliteration. - Sebewaing Blade

*Pigeon Progress*  
March 11, 1910



**THE FARMERS BANK,**  
— OF —  
**F. W. HUBBARD & CO**  
**PIGEON, MICHIGAN**  
**Responsibility \$250,000.**  
**A General Banking Business Carried**

Interest allowed on time deposits  
Money loaned on Real Estate,  
Short Time Notes, School and  
Township bonds.

Exchange Bought and Sold in all  
parts of the World. Agency for  
Springfield F. & M. and Fire-  
men's Friend Insurance Co's.



**BELTS THREE MILES LONG  
CARRY PORT CRESCENT SAND  
(From Bad Axe Tribune)**

Port Austin, March 28-Belts totaling more than three miles in length will carry sand from the Port Crescent Sand dunes to the end of the 1,600-foot dock when the Port Crescent Sand and Fuel Co. officially opens its sixth shipping season April 25. Preparations are now being made for the loading of the first boat on that date, Ray Carty, superintendent of the firm stated today.

Steady growth has marked the firm's business since June 1, 1924 when the first boat load of sand was shipped. At that time the company had completed the installation of a quarter of a million-dollar plant. The equipment has been more than doubled since that time. A new flushing or water grading plant was installed last year.

This year the field belt conveyors are being lengthened. A new six-cylinder gasoline shovel has been purchased and improvements have been made in the loading apparatus at the end of the dock. Concrete cribs have been built to protect the dock from storms.

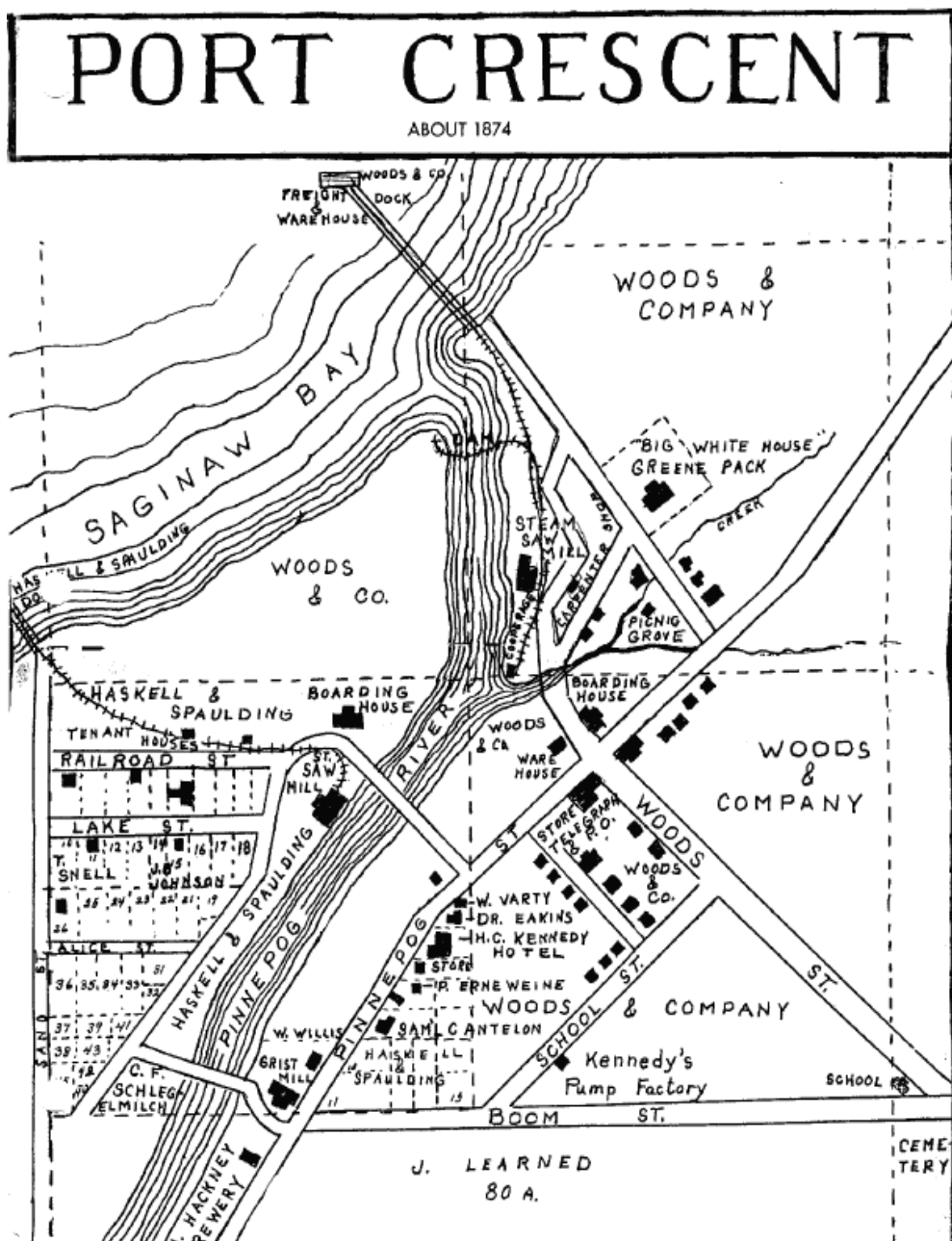
Shipment of nearly 750,000 tons of sand is expected this season, Mr. Carty says. Last year 96 boats were loaded with 500,000 tons of sand. The product is shipped to Cleveland, Detroit and other points where it is used for molding and grinding.

The pit, more than a mile in length extends along the shore of Saginaw Bay west of the mouth of the Pinnebog river. Trees are now being up rooted and surface dirt removed in preparation for the extension of the pit to the east.

The first sand shipments were made from Port Crescent many years ago when wheelbarrows were used to load vessels. Later small cars were used. One of the old loading docks has disappeared and the other is practically gone.

The plant installed by the Port Crescent Sand and Fuel Co., is the first modern and efficient method of loading sand. The belt conveyor, 30 inches wide carries the sand from the pit to the grading flume and later out the dock to the boats. Many units of conveyors are used one dropping the sand on the next conveyor which continues the journey to the boats.

*Pigeon Progress  
April 12, 1929*



**SAW MILL CHIMNEY AT PORT  
CRESCENT TO BE PRESERVED**

Workmen are now doing they necessary things to protect the old Pack, Woods & Company saw-mill chimney at picturesque Port Crescent as a pioneer land mark for future generations. Local citizens are furnishing the funds.

Soon that sole reminder of the lumbering days of 'the 70's will be safe for-ever. It will look down on a paved M-29, the Scenic Highway, carrying interested and wondering tourists from everywhere in our broad lands past its very foot. Once Port Crescent was a thriving village, the social and business center of the north end of The Thumb. There men worked, won and lost, loved and fought. Now it's but a picturesque

sand waste, the home of hoot owls, memories and ghosts of the past.

*Pigeon Progress  
November 4, 1932*

The meanest man up-to-date in Edmore, was married the other day. He made the girl pay for the license, walked around the city hall square for a wedding trip, and bought her five cents worth of candy for a present and suggested that she save it for the children.

*Pigeon Progress  
June 8, 1900*

# The Walls Are Talking . . .

*"The Walls Are Talking" - 12/8/2019 - Dorothy Thuemmel*

You have heard Denny Esch state in his previous "Recorder" articles "If only the walls could talk" many times. Through the Berne Junction front window, I and two wonderful friends have been showing you what they are saying. We are having a great time reliving and displaying many of these articles thanks to some fantastic "attic treasures" from the past being loaned to us for display. Some of these have been a bridesmaid dress, and a very old wedding gown featured during "June Bride", many Co-op items donated by Ted Leipprandt including his work jacket, Veteran's Day uniforms representing Viet Nam, World Wars I and II, and many other events important to our history. Right now we have a Christmas tree featuring old fashioned decorations and many toys from yesteryear that we thought were the world's best.

We are so blessed to have Steve Schulze working arduously scanning thousands of old pictures of the town

and family portraits to be displayed on TV screens and enjoyed by everyone that enters. Come in, have a seat, and relax with a cup of coffee or a cold drink while you watch for that special picture of a family member, a previous store, or that special card you owned in the 40's or 50's. An intense 5 minutes of watching easily turns into an hour or more as they are so mesmerizing to watch.

Inside we also feature many displays including Pigeon High School graduation pictures thanks to Steve and Ken Licht's hard work.

We invite you to see one of us about donating items for display in the window or inside the store, where we also feature Michigan made jams, jellies, soaps, hand-made cards and jewelry, and some of the merchandise that Linda Walsh previously sold it in the store. Also displayed are beautiful cards, pictures, and books by Bill Diller and Duane Wurst.

Please join us Friday's and Saturday's to hear what these old walls are saying. We welcome any suggestions or ideas in sharing our heritage.

**Dan Fisher.**  
PRACTICAL HORSE SHOER.  
Pigeon, - - Mich.

## WEIRD RECIPES--- PULLED BEAR

Bear season in Michigan will soon begin so this recipe is for the bear meat aficionados or anyone who enjoys black meat. First, one must capture a bear and kill it or find one dead somewhere and bring it home. Skin out the bear and cut four pounds of meat from its hams. Par boil this meat in water and soda for two hours. Then put the bear meat in a stock pot and season with celery salt, pepper, garlic, salt pork and a quart of inexpensive white wine. Cover with water and cook for another two hours. Remove meat and place it in a roasting pan covering it with onions and garlic and roast at 350 F. for an hour. Cool the meat and slice it into manageable proportions pulling enough meat away from the roast to cover a large hamburger bun. Top with your favorite condiments and have at it with lots of cold beer for a wash. YUMMM!

## SCHOOL BURNINGS: PLANNED OR COINCIDENCE

During the latter part of 1932 and the early months of 1933 there was concerted effort to consolidate the Kilmanagh, Snell, Ridge and Quarry schools into the Bay Port district.

About 3:30 O'clock Friday morning, Mar. 3, 1933, the Pigeon Fire Department was called to a fire at the Snell school in Winsor Township. Enroute to the school the fireman could see flames from a Winsor Township barn and the Ridge school in Fairhaven Township. Incidentally, this was the same day (as) FDR's first term inauguration took place. About six weeks the Quarry School was discovered to be on fire but the blaze was extinguished by neighbors before much damage was done. The State Fire Marshall was called by Sheriff John Graham to investigate. It was the Marshall's opinion that all of the fires were the work of arsonists.

The consolidation proposal was not widely accepted and many local residents thought that destroying the schools was an attempt to hurry consolidation. Each school district, however, found temporary quarters to finish the school year and in each district voters decided to rebuild rather than consolidate.

No arrests were ever made and the true cause of the fires is still a mystery but the question remains, were the burnings a coincidence or planned?

## HIRSHBERG & SON OPENING

Last Saturday occurred the opening of the new store of A. Hirschberg & Son, and but on very few occasions in the history of Pigeon has as many people visited town. It is estimated that as many as two thousand people from different part of the county came to our village to do buying.

Their opening was a grand success and overwhelmed their expectations. The new building and store, as stated in these columns before, is a credit to our enterprising village, and may the firm of A. Hirshberg and Son, live long and prosper.

PIGEON PROGRESS

April 27, 1900

## FOR HARDENED CRIMINALS

The next legislature will have presented before it a recommendation that Michigan construct a separate prison on a solitary, isolated island to remove its hardened criminals from the rest of society.

A report to the legislature by the state prison commissioner will incorporate the recommendation for a Michigan "Devil's Island" along with other suggestions regarding prison education and reformative measures.

Although no formal action was taken on the proposed penal institution Friday, discussion suggested a lonely site for the prison. High Island of the Beaver group in Lake Michigan, former home of the House of David Colony; Charity Island in Saginaw Bay, and some isolated island in the Lake Superior group were alternately suggested.

*Pigeon Progress*

*December 5, 1930*

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## FIRST AUTO TO SAND POINT

W. A. Schriber has the honor of running the first auto down the base line of Sand Point. He made the drive from Pigeon to the Wallace shanty in a little better than an hour. On account of the sand it was supposed an auto could not get over it. He was accompanied by F. W. Merrick, Ernst Clabuesch and Dr. P. L. Fritz.

*Pigeon Progress*

*September 19, 1913*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **COMING SOON** - High definition imaging of all issues of the Pigeon Progress will be available for viewing
- **Woelke Historical Research Center** - Open year around  
Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - June through the end of August - Thursday, Friday - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Saturday - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- **Pigeon Historical Museum** - June through August - Thursday & Friday - 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Pigeon Farmer's Market open** - Friday, May - October 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **Berne Junction Mercantile** - Fridays 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Saturdays 9:00a.m. - noon.

- **Tuesday, March 9, 3:30 p.m.** - Pigeon Historical Society Membership Meeting
- **Tuesday, March 23, 3:30 p.m.** - Pigeon Historical Society Board Meeting

- **Farmer's Summerfest** - July 16-19, 2020
- **Sunday, May 24, 2020** - Ice Cream Social - Caseville, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. - [www.casevillemuseum.org](http://www.casevillemuseum.org)
- **Wednesday, June 10, 2020** - Ladies Garden Luncheon - Caseville - [www.casevillemuseum.org](http://www.casevillemuseum.org)
- **Friday, August 14, through Sunday, August 23, 2020** - Cheeseburger Museum & "What Is It?" Contest - Caseville - [www.casevillemuseum.org](http://www.casevillemuseum.org)
- **Saturday, September 19, 2020** - Classic Car Show - Caseville - noon-4:30 p.m. - [www.casevillemuseum.org](http://www.casevillemuseum.org)
- **Saturday, September 26, 2020** - Huron County Museum Weekend - Caseville - noon-4:30 p.m. - [www.casevillemuseum.org](http://www.casevillemuseum.org)
- **Sunday, November 8, 2020** - Fall Feast & Auction - Caseville - 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - [www.casevillemuseum.org](http://www.casevillemuseum.org)

## 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:** \$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: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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