

## Pioneer Resident Recalls Days of Many Toll Gates

Interesting highlights in the history of Oakland County were recalled recently by Mrs. Frances J. Bowers, 388 Southfield avenue, in a recent address given at the annual meeting of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society. Mrs. Bowers' address follows:

"The Honorable James Lynch requested me to repeat the speech I made at the dedication of the Clawson Village, the fourteenth of last December. I had no notes or paper. As I was the oldest living former resident of the place I was given that honor and spoke of and recalling events during my long residence there. I received my inspiration from meeting on that platform the ones of men whom I had known from

boyhood. One of them being Frank Blair, president of the Union Trust Company of Detroit. I saw him occupy many positions of trust. In all of them he was faithful to the interests of those who employed him. There were many other business men; Herrn Hendrickson, president of the Clawson Bank, Jimmy Lawson, state representative and the still younger set of business men—the two Lawson families and the two Buell brothers—even though some of them are now grandfathers to me they are still my Sunday School boys.

"In speaking of the pioneer times there was a plank road from Detroit to Rochester. Everyone of those planks would now be worth its weight in our new one dollar 'shin plasters.' There were

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—  
George S. Yapple: "The beauty of the Community House is that today exceeds even my hopes for it when it was being planned."

toll gates galore. One was at the junction of the Rochester, Niles, and Crooks Road at Royal Oak. A stage coach used to carry mail and passengers from Royal Oak to Rochester. It would occasionally bring passengers over to our road, but no mail. As we had no postoffice, we had to get our mail from Royal Oak. Later, Henry Bowers, John Lawson, and Burnett Grove sent in names and Clawson was chosen.

"At that time we had not even heard of telephones or airplanes, with the exception of Darius Green and his Flying Machine," which was sometimes spoken at school exhibitions by Cassius McEwen. We had no bank nearer than the Wayne County Savings Bank, in Detroit. I think there was also one in Pontiac.

### When City Limits Were Downtown

"We used to drive into the city, which ended on the north at Grand Circus Park, putting up at the old Goodman House, now the Griswold House, on Grand River or at the old Railroad Hotel. The latter stood facing Woodward avenue and the Campus, where the Detroit Opera House was afterward built. Or we could drive to Royal Oak and go into the city on the Grand Trunk to the Brush Street Station and take an omnibus, which was a cross between a prairie schooner and our modern motor buses. Harper Hospital some years later consisted of several long buildings standing out toward the railroad crossing on Woodward. The Michigan Central Station was at the foot of Wayne Street on the river. It was one of the finest buildings at that time. The train ferries had to go across and break the ice in order that the trains might connect at Windsor with the Canadian railways. The shipping interests were very great and there were tugs, schooners, sailing vessels and passenger boats. Fort Street was the 'bon ton' residence section. The old Biele House on Jefferson avenue had the largest auditorium. There, 64 years ago, Dec. 16, 1865, we attended the play called, 'The Marble Heart.' Malinda Herron was the star.

"On that same date we became citizens of the neighborhood farming community of Clawson. We lived in the one home about fifty years and were interested in all the upbuilding and activities of Oakland County. It, as you know, was at the close of the Civil War and many hearts were burdened with the thought of lonely graves. I had four brothers who entered

## MAN POWER OF THE FIVE NAVIES

93,323	89,007	81,395	60,634	45,397
MEN	MEN	MEN	MEN	MEN
UNITED STATES	BRITISH EMPIRE	JAPAN	FRANCE	ITALY

## MONEY COST OF THE FIVE NAVIES

\$74,600,000	\$74,470,000	\$54,222,772	\$9,368,000	\$3,621,982
UNITED STATES	BRITISH EMPIRE	JAPAN	FRANCE	ITALY

FROM TABLES OF BUREAU OF NAVAL AFFAIRS, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY, JANUARY, 1929

This is the third of a series of maritime data supplied for villagers interested in the London naval conference and world peace in general, through the courtesy of Mrs. George T. Hendrie, Michigan Chairman of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

the service. Three are sleeping in unknown soldiers' graves, in the sunny south. One was in General Custer's Division and in the regiment with J. Allen Bigelow, who was later our County Treasurer. He was a splendid type of man. One who was very capable and efficient in every respect.

### Christian Influence

"About that time the Rev. Erasmus Herrington of Four Towns began preaching in our little, old, log cabin schoolhouse. I don't know who the architect was but for discomfort in every respect, he could discount every architect in the United States and Great Britain. For 17 long years Rev. Herrington was our faithful pastor, holding revival meetings, preaching, teaching, and living the pure gospel. In the meantime he built up a Christian sentiment. The influence of which after these 65 years is still being lived out in the fourth and fifth generations. Due to that fact, in all those years I do not remember a criminal who was born or brought up in Clawson. Anyone of such tendencies was 'always' imported stock.

"The time came when we felt the need of a new schoolhouse. There were some who considered it not a necessity, but a luxury. They considered it rather extravagant to cast a burden of \$2800 upon the district. Our teacher, George Shutes, purchased the old firemen's hall at Pontiac. The idea of patent seats where only two could sit together, putting in a heating plant, placing blackboards all around the sides, putting down a drive well; painting the building white, and building a nice new fence when the old rail fence was still in good condition. Like the Civil War, the battle ended and we all were proud of our fine new school house, district number 7, cabin school 3. Five or more years ago I once more attended the dedication of the new four room school building number four. It had all the modern conveniences and equipment. Invitations were sent to all former pupils of the district, the Donaldsons, the Herbisons and the Millards. Our minister's boy, Royce Millard, came and confessed that before he became a Methodist he used to go out 'cooning' melodies with Orson Hunt. There were Dr. Roy Bailey of Pontiac, Charlie and Bert Buell of Detroit, and many others I can not now recall. Mrs. Elizabeth Harwood of Warren, a pupil of the old original real log schoolhouse was present. She read a poem entitled 'Sixty Years Ago.' I think Martha Goodale, an old-time pupil, was also present.

### Village Grange Best

"When I begin to recall the events of my 81 years, I think there is some mistake and that I must be nearer one hundred. When the Farmers' Grange was composed of the very best class of progressive farmers, Birmingham was one of the best. With its grange were such families as Guy M. Trowbridge and Roland E. Trowbridge, the Satterlee, the Starrs, and George Jackson, also the Crawford of Southfield. There were many discussions about rural delivery and woman suffrage, which were both obtained by the help and agitation from the Grange and other societies. It was a great benefit to the farmers socially, financially, and politically. About that time they were advocating cooperative buying and selling, and there was a little verse:

"I want to be a Granger,  
And with the Grangers stand,  
An axe upon my shoulder,  
A pitchfork in my hand.  
We'll regulate the prices  
By which we sell and buy,  
And we will run this blasted country  
Oh, how is that for high?"

"Well, it was pretty high. I am glad to see the farmers are not asleep at the switch K. O. K. O. 'Mack' Trowbridge, to get a little more pep into the discussion

stepped on the gas, as women all over the hall were calling in chorus, 'Worthy Master, worthy master.' William Satterlee remarked that there would be lively times around the polls if women ever got the ballot. Brother James Feabody introduced a new member, Mr. Springsteen from Royal Oak as Mr. Holstein, and then wondered what those fool Grangers were laughing about.

### Many Great Changes

"I see by the program the Pioneer Society was organized 56 years ago. It is hardly possible for us to realize the great changes that have taken place by land, sea, and air, not only here but in every town, village or city.

"As I remember Pontiac used to have a cobblestone pavement. The oldest Baptist Church in Michigan stood where Waites store is now. The Detroit Grand Haven and Milwaukee dingle old railroad station stood at Orchard Lake Avenue. There was a gravel road leading out the Ward Orchards, which were the best in the county. The Cooper shops were running full blast making apple barrels. The towns on the line of the railroads were shipping centers for all kinds of farm produce, and live stock, especially cattle, sheep, and hogs.

"The milk shipping business had become quite a source of income. (Unconsciously I wrote tax after income.)

"The buggy making business developed calling for crating materials from all the saw mills in the vicinity. To own a well-made Pontiac Buggy or family Phaeton was like owning a modern make of car at the present time. There was no shortage of jobs. Even father was a hustler. The beautiful farm homes with their fields of golden waving grain were great roadside posters, not marring the landscape with their cigaret advertisements to dwarf the mental, physical and moral development of our growing boys. Over fifty years I dealt with the boys of adolescent age in my Sabbath School work. I rejoiced, with their parents, to see

(Continued on Page 5 this Section.)

## GOLDEN DAYS by Evans

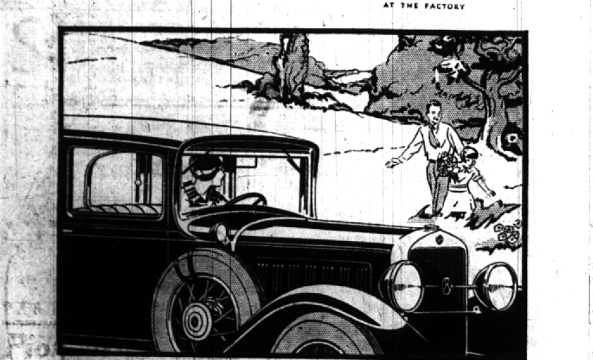


Don't let your furnace starve for need of the right fuel. Call one and two for a load of Pittston coal—a dependable coal that leaves no clinkers to jam the grates of your furnace.

**R. C. Moulthrop Lumber Co.**  
LUMBER COAL AND BUILDERS' SUPPLIES  
PHONES 1 and 2 BIRMINGHAM

Tell Your Merchant You Saw His Advertisement in THE ECCENTRIC

## You can buy a seasoned STUDEBAKER EIGHT as low as \$1195



SEASONED and proved, Studebaker's Dictator Eight offers the thrifty luxury of straight eight power, certified by 100,000 Studebaker Eights. The quality standards which have guided Studebaker for 78 years, and have made Studebaker Eights unchallenged champions of the world, are evident in every detail of the Dictator.

A new full-power muffler, pioneered by Studebaker—hydraulic shock absorbers—safety steering wheel with adjustable seat and steering column—cam-and-lever steering with Timken bearings—Lanchester vibration damper—thrifty performance—these are but a few of the scores of fine-car features which Studebaker, Builder of Champions, provides in The Dictator Eight at low, One-Price prices.

STUDEBAKER EIGHTS COST NO MORE TO BUY OR TO OPERATE  
Dictator Eight Club Sedan • \$1195 Commander Eight 4-Door Sedan \$1515  
Dictator Eight 4-Door Sedan • \$1295 President Eight 4-Door Sedan \$1795  
Studebaker also offers three lines of champion sizes from \$895 to \$1575. Prices at the Factory

**Claude E. Mosher, Inc.**  
160 W. MAPLE AVE., BIRMINGHAM PHONE 1450  
Tune in "Studebaker Champions" Sunday Evening 8:15 to 8:45 Central Standard Time.  
Station WJL and NBC Network  
BUILT BY STUDEBAKER—BUILDER OF CHAMPIONS

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## F. E. STERNAL

S. Woodward Avenue at Daines Street Exide Batteries Recharging and Repairing Phone B'ham 9 for Road Service