

RAMP USED TO HAUL WAGONS TO BARN
Old steps still bear scars of carriage wheels.

Old Blacksmith Shop Stirs Memories of Past

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR

On the east side of Franklin road and only a stone's throw from the post office, a group of venerable buildings stand in the village of Franklin.

Now the property of Miss Mary E. Glass, those buildings about 125 years ago were the village blacksmith's cottage, his blacksmith shop, carriage shop and drying shed.

Michigan was but a wilderness when Dillucene Stoughton and Elijah Bullock came from the East to settle on the newly-opened land in the northwest territory.

According to county records found in the register of deeds office, the first settler of Franklin was Stoughton, who came to the area in 1824 and purchased 80 acres of land from the government. This row comprises the eastern half of the village of Franklin.

A YEAR LATER, Bullock settled on land on the western side of the present village and the settlement became known as the settlement of Stoughton and Bullock.

Both men sold off portions of their land to the ever-increasing numbers of new settlers and the growth of the little village began. The main street of the village became dotted with homes and shops, and nearly all the trades in Southfield township were first represented here as well as the first school and first doctor, Dr. Ebenezer Raynal.

George E. Couleton, a blacksmith, purchased a part of Stoughton's land and with the help of fellow townsmen built his shop and later his home, completing them in 1831. His business prospered so that later a carriage shop and drying shed were added.

WHEN MISS GLASS, an antique dealer and collector, purchased the property in 1926, it was unpainted, run-down and neglected. With her vision and foresight and little love for the past, she supervised its re-conditioning.

Now the neat, tidy white frame cottage, with the exception of present day heating and plumbing facilities, is the same as it was in Couleton's day.

Facing the main road of the village on the second floor are small drop windows, smaller than those half-windows frequently seen in old houses in the East.

"Those windows don't have a fancy name," explained Miss Glass, "but they were called 'below the belly' windows. Maybe you had better call them 'below-the-stomach' windows—it sounds so much better."

UP A NARROW steep stairway off the parlor and leading into rooms on the second floor to see those windows from the inside, one realizes that they were intended for light and ventilation only. Certainly not to see out of, for to do that one must lie on the floor!

Throughout the house the windows are composed of small square panes of glass. Some are the original panes and show the imperfections of the glass made over a hundred years ago.

Out in the blacksmith shop are seen the two original forges, some of the tools and a huge bellows, five feet long, used by the blacksmith in his day. There too, is the wide, wide floor planking when mighty timbers were easily procured.

OTHER ITEMS from long ago are displayed but they are not for sale. Miss Glass keeps her "saleable" antiques in the rear of the

Dog Law Change Clarifies Rabies Immunizations

LATHRUP—The council Tuesday night in special meeting revised the controversial dog ordinance, which now requires rabies vaccines once in every two years. The ordinance also stiffens penalties for delinquent license holders, and prohibits the running loose of stray dogs.

The new law states that a dog owner must have his dog vaccinated in the previous year, but if the owner has his dog immunized on say, Jan. 30, 1956, he may have a license for 1956 and return before Jan. 30, 1957, to purchase a license good for all of 1957.

Federals Beat 8-10 Year Old Americans

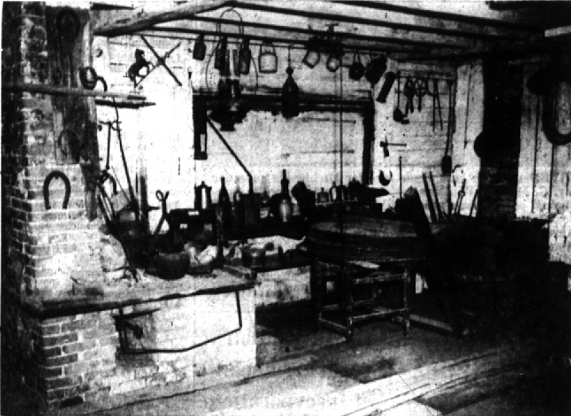
An all-star team, ages 8 to 10 of the Federal League defeated a team made up of players of the same age group of the American league 6-4 last Saturday at Eton field.

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Little sleigh last of products made locally.



LITTLE CHANGE IN 125-YEAR-OLD SHOP
Forge and bellows stand where blacksmith left them. (Eccentric Photos)

Zoning

(Continued from Page 1, Sec. 5)
An off-street parking requirement built into the amendment would increase the depth of commercial zoning along Northwest highway, mainly west of Lah-

ser. New zoning would require, in most cases, a 100-foot set-back. A public hearing will be called 100 to 150 feet for building, and at a later date for residents who about the same amount for parking behind the buildings.

"SOME commercial lots were out back to residential (in the major amendment) because we could see no future need for them as commercial property," said Sween. Households goods of every description are offered for sale in the Classified Columns of The Birmingham Eccentric.



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