



The Crow's Nest

"Preserving the heritage of Ferndale for future generations"

Newsletter of the Ferndale Historical Society

Special Edition 2000

Vol. 1

Greetings, Lincoln High School Alumni

Although relatively unknown to many former Ferndalers, the Historical Society began with just a few members, including one Maurice Cole, Historian, Lawyer, and Principal of Lincoln High School, and sponsor of the Ferndale Historical Museum. In 1983 the city turned the former Canadian Legion Hall over to this small group that was actively promoting the idea of a city museum. The city had received the building from the Canadian veterans who, with declining membership, had decided to join with the Royal Oak Lodge. In poor condition due to several seasons of sitting vacant, the hall was updated into the building it is today by a group of businessmen who donated time and money.

The museum, under the direction of President Mildred Garbutt, originally opened with basically only Lincoln High School class pictures to display. Today, 17 years later, the museum has accumulated several hundred pictures and various items used or owned by Ferndale people. The collection has grown from nothing to such a size that the Historical Society is planning to enlarge the museum and has established a building fund.

Run by volunteers, the museum is solely supported by memberships, sale of books (*Old Timers Tell It Like It Was* and Maurice Cole's, *Ferndale Of Yesteryear*), Calendars, Post Cards, Afghans, and other items pertinent to Ferndale.

Today many of you have refreshed "old memories" at the museum. In the future, perhaps you can walk the paths of yesteryear with tangible mementos of your past – be it a picture, story, artifact from your childhood, home, school or church, we invite you to contribute your memories to the museum to share with future generations.

This "Lincoln 2000" reunion is unique to all who are here in attendance tonight. Our school building and many of our former classmates are no longer with us, but we here are all bonded, one class to another from 1923 to 1958, as having the same Alma Mater. Most of us have wonderful memories of a special time in our lives. Some of you can remember in the early days a country-like setting - walking to school in mud! Saturday hay rides from the farms in the area; early automobiles to depression days and struggles; and on to more affluent high school settings.

The Ferndale Historical Society hopes that by visiting the Museum you can reclaim many of the "down on the 9" feelings from yesteryear – this small town atmosphere we all took for granted - the merchants who knew you or your parents by name, the teachers who knew not just their students but entire families. Who from the earlier days does not remember – and appreciated the lessons learned – from the like of Alice Jorgenson, Elsie Harper, Lefty Brandt, Bonnie Wentland, Charlotte Richard, Olive Maxwell, and oh, so many more. As Joe Mahan, Class of 1944 said in his story printed in the memory book, *Old Timers Tell It Like It Was*, "We were in heaven and didn't even know it."

Memorial Board

The Ferndale Historical Society's Memorial Board was conceived by John Mielke (Lincoln High School class of 1943.) It has grown slowly but steadily, and today it contains over 60 names, eulogized by various people or clubs. A \$25.00 donation allows a specific name of a former Ferndale person to be engraved on a copper plate, which is displayed at the museum. Smaller memorials are listed in a memory book and when the accumulated donations reach the designated \$25.00 total, the name is then added to the memorial board.

Honor a favorite teacher or classmate, your parents or a city pioneer by filling out an application. Visit the museum and observe the memorial board with the names that many of you will recognize.

MEMORIAL BOARD APPLICATION	
Name of person to be honored:	_____
Date of birth (if known):	_____
Date of death (if known):	_____
Your connection to above:	_____
Donation amount (included with application):	_____
Your name:	_____
Address:	_____
City:	_____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Help Preserve Ferndale Memories

Join the Ferndale Historical Society, which maintains the Ferndale Historical Museum. All museum members receive *The Crow's Nest* The Newsletter of the Ferndale Historical Society which keeps members informed about pertinent information and the museum.

Museum Hours

Saturdays

2 - 4 p.m.

Or

By Appointment

(248) 541-2476

Membership Application and Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Memberships are for 1 year: June 1 to May 31

Membership Dues

\$4.00 individual*

\$7.50 Family*

\$30.00 Organization*

\$50.00 Lifetime

*1 year membership

Send To:

Ferndale Historical Museum

1651 Livernois

Ferndale, Michigan 48220

If you would like a Membership card mailed to you, please include a self addressed stamped envelope with your dues.

Museum Items For Sale

M. Cole's "Ferndale of Yesteryear"
\$20.00

"Old Timers Tell It..." Hard cover
\$15.00

"Old Timers Tell It..." Soft cover
\$10.00

Afghans (Red, Blue, or Green)
\$45.00

Calendars (Historic Pictures)
\$7.00

Cardboard "Vintage" Cars
\$1.00

Post Cards (4 to choose from)
.75 each

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