

HAVE YOU SEEN...

- ▶ A Lincoln High School drum majorette's uniform, 1940s?
- ▶ A metal doll house, with plastic figures, 1950s?
- ▶ A *Collection of Hymns for the Use of People Called Methodists*, ca. 1860?
- ▶ A chair from Hedge's Wigwam (restaurant near 10 Mile & Woodward), 1930s?
- ▶ 1 of 14 original copies of the famous photo of the Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima, WWII?
- ▶ 5 tins of C-rations from the Wayne State University bomb shelter, 1950s?
- ▶ A lady's pink pill box hat (with veil), 1960s?
- ▶ A vase made from melted shells, Battle of the Argonne, World War I?
- ▶ A model of Rodger's Dutch Mill (restaurant near present First Methodist Church), 1930s?
- ▶ A photo of General Douglas MacArthur traveling down Woodward, ca. 1952?
- ▶ A folder containing info on actors, musicians, poets, artists, and soap opera stars from Ferndale?
- ▶ A manuscript that tells of two families living nearby who were arrested as spies, World War II?
- ▶ A postal receipt signed by Charles Lindbergh?

**All These Items And Much More Are Part Of Ferndale
Historical Museum Collections - Visit Soon!**

Typesetting for this newsletter was provided by: Graphics One of Ferndale (248) 398-5467



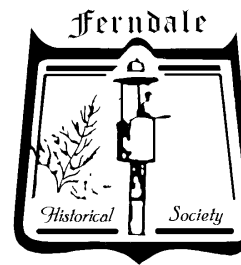
Ferndale Historical Society
1651 Libernois
Ferndale, Michigan 48220

Just A Reminder...

If your name is
Highlighted, your
2003 membership
renewal is due

"Preserving the heritage of Ferndale for future generations"

Ferndale Historical Society



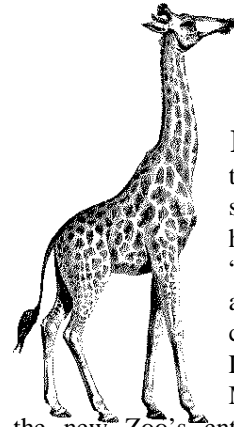
The Crow's Nest

"Preserving the heritage of Ferndale for future generations"

Newsletter of the Ferndale Historical Society

Winter, 2004

Vol. 18



The Detroit Zoo At 75 The View From Ferndale

Ferndale residents during the 1920s were eager witnesses of the Detroit Zoo's construction.* Watching the unusual structures take shape and guessing which animals would be housed in them were favorite pastimes, recalls **Joe Lash**. "Mike" and "Betty," two Wolverines, were the first pair of animals, says **Mary Liskow**, who also remembers that lions, camels, and an elephant all arrived in big packing boxes. Large evergreens were removed from a vacant lot on Marshall, west of Beaufield in Ferndale, and replanted near the new Zoo's entrance, relates **Eileen Wagner**, who for years afterward monitored their growth.

Recent donations to the FHS Museum by Zoo docent **Vicki Helm** provide further perspectives on Ferndale's Zoo connection. A respected researcher, Ms. Helms contributed a copy of her pioneering study of the elephant house's petroglyphs (or rock art), as well as copies of other information sources on additional Zoo art work. Such decorative art, she emphasizes, was done as part of Civil Works Administration programs during the Depression, employing some 1,200 CWA artisans from our region. Their work remains an integral part of the Zoo to this day. Her donations also include copies of informal lectures on "life at the Zoo" given to Zoo docents by the Zoo's long-time Assistant Director, **Jonathan Truxton**, who lived on Jewell St. in Ferndale. Corraling the camel that grabbed its keeper by the ankle and flipped him upside down, and preparing the Zoo for its 1955 appearance on Marlin Perkins's TV show, "Zoo Parade," are only two of the many intriguing stories that Truxton relates.

Wonders Among Us: Celebrating 75 Years of the Detroit Zoo, a retrospective of the Zoo's history compiled and published by the Detroit Zoological Society (2003), has just been added to the FHS Museum's collection. Amply illustrated with photos of sights familiar to all Ferndale residents, but containing many stories unfamiliar as well, this new book ably showcases the Zoo as Ferndale's most intriguing near neighbor.

Source of residents' recollections: Ruth Rodgers Elmers, June Waugh Kotlarek, Gerry Kulick (Editor), *Old Timers Tell It Like It Was* (Ferndale Historical Society, 1987), pp. 12, 71, 225.

"Tough As Nails": Ferndale Firefighters

Captain Roger Schmidt, a 30 year veteran of the Ferndale Fire Department, is nearing completion of a comprehensive history of the Department.

Continued on pg. 3

Officers

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Recent Additions To The Ferndale Historical Museum

- ★Photos, booklets, and memorabilia from Taft School - Donor: Judy Donlin
- ★Books from Lincoln High School - Donor: Georgette Yezbick
- ★Copy of 1928 "Lincolnian" - Donor: Donna Carlisle
- ★Request from Superintendent Downs to William Howard Taft for permission to use his name for school, and letter from Taft granting request - Donor: Donna Bialach (Representative, Taft School Community)
- ★World War II helmet from Parachute Air Force - Donor: Russ Wasniak
- ★Police Hat and badge from the 1930s, Ferndale Police Department - Donor: Tim Collins

What's Your Thought???

The Historical Society is considering a spring tour of Ferndale Churches. Would you be interested?

Call June Kotlarek (248) 542-8729

A Heartfelt Thanks To Frank Flores

for raking the leaves, hanging holiday decorations, shoveling the snow, repairing the eaves, and for just generally helping to make the Ferndale Historical Museum presentable. ☺

Museum Items For Sale

Museum T-Shirt (9 Mile Intersection)	\$20.00*	Seabee's D-Day Calendar	\$10.00
Museum T-Shirt (Crows Nest Logo)	\$15.00*	Cardboard "Classic" cars	\$1.00
Cole's "Ferndale of Yesteryear"	\$20.00	Post Cards (5 Designs)	.75 ea
"Old Timers Tell It..." Hard cover	\$15.00	Museum Note-Card Pack	\$4.00
Afghans (Red, Blue, or Green)	\$35.00	Wells' "Father, Ford, \$5 a day"	\$15.00
Historical Calendar (2004)	\$8.00	* Larger Shirt Sizes slightly more	



Membership Application and Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

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.

Membership Dues

\$5.00 individual*

\$10.00 Family*

\$30.00 Organization*

\$50.00 Lifetime

*1 year membership



Henry Ford In Sight!

In 1914 Henry Ford's offer of \$5 a day to workers on the Ford assembly line in Highland Park drew workers from all over the U.S. and was to shape the growth of the small village of Ferndale for years to come. Fascination with the man himself, pro and con, continues to this day. **Ellen Hill, long-time FHS Museum volunteer** grew up in Dearborn, graduating from Dearborn High School in 1946, and has vivid memories of often seeing Ford in person. "He looked thin, gray-haired, and just like his pictures," she says, and "was a fixture in Dearborn, waving at kids every time he was driven down Michigan Avenue - always in a black car." (As he said: "The public can have any color of car they want as long as it's black.")

In the eighth grade (ca. 1941) she and her classmates were taken to Dearborn's Ford Field and, from a nearby hill, watched the ceremony marking the addition of the Sikorsky helicopter to the aviation collection of Greenfield Village. Inspired by a design conceived by Leonardo DaVinci, and first patented in 1931, the Sikorsky was the world's first successful rotorcraft. Standing side-by-side on the platform that day were Igor Sikorsky, the plane's Russian-born inventor; an "exceedingly handsome" Charles Lindbergh, icon of aviation; and Henry Ford, icon of the auto industry - and a hero of early Ferndale. Who could forget?

"Tough As Nails" from pg. 1

A labor of love, his exhaustive research among news articles, photographs, and other historical records dating back to 1917 means that his book, *Tough as Nails: A History of the Ferndale Fire Department*, forthcoming sometime this spring, is anxiously awaited by Ferndale residents, fire department buffs, and Ferndale Historical Society members alike.

Museum Hours

Saturdays

2 - 4 PM

or by appointment

(248) 545-7606



From Our Archives



General Douglas MacArthur visits Ferndale.

May 16, 1952

The Seabee Calendar: An Instant Hit



Former FHS President Ray White, one of the original Seabees who helped enable the successful invasion of Normandy, World War II, has put together a 2004 calendar that commemorates the heroic actions of the Seabees during this historic battle. Sales locally have been brisk, and a listing on *E-Bay:D-Day calendar* has brought requests from all over the world for this unique calendar. There is still time to purchase a copy at the Museum!