

TYRONE GLEANINGS

Volume 25 Issue 107

Apr-May-June 2011



Maynard's Ramblings:

How did you like our lovely Michigan winter? Remember in last fall's Gleanings I predicted a lot of snow, in fact I'm so happy over my prediction that I'm thinking of becoming a meteorologist. Move over George Lessons and Bill Steffens! Now that I'm back down to earth let me thank everyone that renewed their membership and all those that so generously gave extra to help support our society. Without your support we could not keep going, thanks again. Despite the weather in February we had a turnout of 19 – quite impressive.

As I have stated before our Historical Society exchanges papers with several societies. They are all interesting and I wish more of our members would take an interest in reading them. Recently we received the Algoma paper with a nice article about John Carleton Sjogren, Algoma's Medal of Honor Hero. When he returned from the second world war Sept. 6, 1945, Michigan Governor-Frank Kelly proclaimed Sept. 14, 1945 "Sjogren Day. It was a big day of celebration in Rockford. Lt. Governor- Vernon Brown presented John with a new 1946 Ford car from the people of West Michigan and later on Oct. 12, 1945 he was presented the Medal of Honor by President Harry Truman in Washington D.C. What really interested me was that our own State Senator- Harold Saur was the Master of Ceremonies.

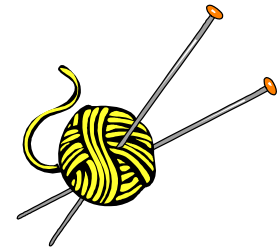
Sometime back Dora Haney of White Cloud called me and asked if we had any information on a restaurant from the past called "Dora's Kitchen". In October I received a letter from Mary Matthews in Florida saying she believed it was owned by Dora Strohmier and located possibly in the building now called "Visions". Mary sent a copy of the Gleanings to Dora's son, Don, in Hempstead Texas, but so far haven't received any information.



**Please mark your 2011 calendar for the next 3 meetings at 1:00pm
April 12, May 10, June 14**

I will leave you with this. In 1976 Michigan came out with its first 3-color license plate celebrating the 200th birthday of the United States (1776 – 1976)). The four stars represented the four flags which have flown over what is now Michigan: The French (1618 – 1760)), British (1760 – 1795), Spanish Expedition held Fort St. Joseph at Niles briefly in 1781. It has been under the U.S. flag since 1796. In the fall of the year when the migrants are here it almost seems that the Spanish flag is still flying over Michigan.

Art Johnson one of our longtime members sometime ago told of his Grandmother Johanna who was a very industrious and hard-working woman, even in old age when she would visit her son John V. Johnson. As she walked the six miles back home she would have a ball of yarn under her arm and would knit as she walked. Her motto was "never make a trip useless".



In 1862 Mrs. Susan Wylie was the first school teacher in Kent City. In her contract she agreed to open and teach school for three months of the year at \$2.50 per week and board around the community. In 1864 she was given a raise of \$3.00 or a total of \$13.00 per month but she had to board herself.



Here is the teacher contract with the Clark School starting Sept. 9, 1939. Prior to this she taught at Johnson School for 3 years. Elsie Harrison and myself attended Johnson and so we had Mrs. Clute for our 5th, 6th & 7th grades. The little article following telling of her taking two grades for a tour in Grand Rapids, she did the same for our class. She furnished her own car (no busses in those days) and paid expenses out of her own pocket. She was a wonderful teacher.

Mrs. Edwin Clute, teacher at Clark school, took her seventh and eighth grades on an Education Tour in Grand Rapids last Tuesday. They visited The Grand Rapids Press, Filtration Plant, Police Station, Grand Rapids National Bank, Museum, Broadcasting Station and lunched at Reed's Lake.

TEACHERS CONTRACT, No. 317. P. A. Crockett, Board Trustee, Mich.

TEACHER'S CONTRACT.

It is hereby Contracted and Agreed, Between W. F. Mansson
G. A. Nyblad and Anton C. Holben, mem-
bers of school board.

of District No. 5 in the Township of Tyrene
 County of Kent and State of Michigan, and
Jella E. Clute a legally qualified Teacher in said Township, that
 the said Jella E. Clute shall teach the Clark School of said
 district for the term of nine months, commencing on the 4th day of
September A. D. 1939, and the said Jella E. Clute
 agrees faithfully to observe and enforce the Rules and Regulations established by the District Board, and
 to comply with all the requirements of law.

The said school board, in behalf of said district, agree
 to keep the school house in good repair and provide the necessary fuel, lights & power and to
 pay said Jella E. Clute for the said services as teacher, to be
 faithfully and truly rendered and performed, the sum of Ninety Dollars
per month ~~the sum~~ being the amount of wages above
 agreed upon to be paid on or before the _____ day of _____ 1939.

PROVIDED, That in case said Jella E. Clute shall be
 dismissed from school, by the District Board, for gross immorality, or violation of this contract, or shall
 have her Certificate annulled by the Board of School Examiners

she shall not be entitled to any compensation from and after such annulment or dismissal.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto subscribed our names this 27th
 day of Jan. or may A. D. 1939

Anton C. Holben Director.
 _____ Teacher.

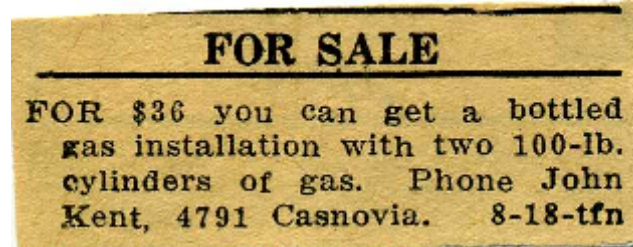
Approved by
W. F. Mansson President.
G. A. Nyblad Assessor.



Mr. and Mrs. Dea Harrison celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary with open-house at their home north of Kent City. They were united in marriage March 10th, 1912 at the home of the bride, the former Miss Gilda Newland.

-Taken from the 1952 Sparta Sentinel Leader

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison were the Father and Mother-in-law of our faithful secretary, Elsie Harrison.



This ad is from the 1953 Sentinel Leader

This is a very interesting article from December 20, 1951 taken from our Historical files. How many of these ladies do you know or remember?

December 20, 1951.

Casnovia OES has Christmas Party.

An old fashioned Christmas party was held Tuesday evening in the Masonic temple after the regular meeting of the Casnovia Chapter #397 OES. About 50 members assembled in the dining room where refreshments were served from tables arranged in hollow square, and decorated with pine boughs, Christmas ornaments with kerosene lamps and candles furnished the lighting.

The old fashioned album was restored in a playlet given by several members who appeared in old fashioned part representing the pictures in the album. The bashful schoolgirl by Margaret Nelson. The barefoot boy with fishpole by Louise Wagner. The bride and groom of 50 years ago were next to appear on the scene with Jean Johnson the bride and Ardie Wylie the groom. Cousin Seager, the city slicker was acted by Inopena Collins. Aunt Bea with her bustle and poke bonnet treated the guests from her bag of souvenirs. Other outstanding characters appearing from the album were Grandma and Grandpa. Grandma looking very much like father time and grandpa with her waisley shawl climaxed the playlet. These parts were taken by Elizabeth Stinson and Jane Bunce.

Musical collections appropriate for each entrance was given by a trio composed of Mrs. Harold Emmons, Mrs. Charles Afton, and Mrs. Russell Norton. Such numbers as School Days, Long Long Ago, Silver Threads among the Gold, and Auld Lang Syne, added much to the evenings entertainment.

Mrs. Helen Emmorey, chairman and her committee were responsible for her delightful party.

I was talking to a member of the Kent City community the other day. We talked about many of the old businesses that have been a part of the Village for many, many years. One that immediately came to our minds was the Kent City Bank. (Now merged with Choice One)

As I paged through some information in our Historical Society's books, I came across an article written by Vicki Saur- daughter of Melvin Saur. Vicki now lives in Oklahoma City. She has probably forgotten that she even wrote it. I found it interesting and hope that you will too.

Kent City Much Improved: Our entire country was built on dreams, the dreams that our founding fathers and their faith through God's will, their dreams would come true. Throughout history you can find thousands of goals that were achieved by America's stubborn determination. A good example of a dream come true in our own town is now called Choice One Bank, then known at Kent City State Bank.

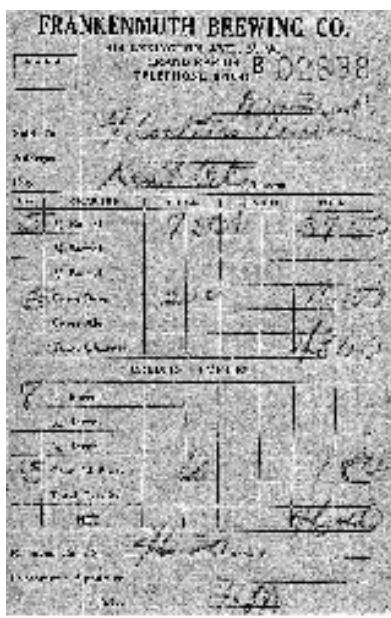
The very first KC Bank was started in the SW corner of AJ Saur's Store. Plans for the bank building had been decided upon but the fire of 1907, which nearly destroyed the entire town, caused doubts in the minds of the people as to whether or not the building should be built. It was decided to continue with the original plan and the building was complete. The institution was then known as the Kent City Banking Co. until 1910 when it was reorganized into KC Bank.

Long before the time of dial telephones, a portion of the upstairs of the bank was used as the operator's station. During the Depression the KC Bank was one of the MI banks that were able to pay all of its depositors all of their money, including interest. From the 1930's through the 1950's the library was in the bank and apartments were located on the second story of the building.

The library was moved to the hotel so improvements could be made on the bank building. KC State Bank increased its capital stock from \$8,000 in 1907 to \$12,000,000 in total assets in 1975. When we look at the remodeled bank bldg. we can tell that this was the result of a beautiful dream.

Thank you Vickie for a most interesting epic of our Bank. More information will be in our next edition about local businesses who are an important part of our community.

***When I visited with Mable Kriger a whole lot of years ago, I remember her telling me that she and Robert lived in the upstairs apartment of the bank, the first year of their marriage. She said that it was so cold that she wore her galoshes all day - all winter to keep her feet warm.



Happy Trails, Lone Stark

Here's an old receipt from Frank Coalter's Tavern from Oct. 3, 1941. When prohibition was repealed Mr. Coalter opened the tavern in the vicinity of where the post office is now located. As I understood the old-timers it was where a Saloon was operating before prohibition. During the time that it was not in operation as a saloon, Frank Green ran an auto repair shop in it.

I remember when Mr. Coalter built and moved into the present building but I can't remember the Year.