



ROYAL OAK *Historical Society*

MAY 2022 • ROYALOAKHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

City Honors Black Pioneer Family *Neighborhood Park Renamed*

By Bob Muller, ROHS President

IN 1857, HENRY AND ELIZABETH HAMER escaped slavery from Covington, Kentucky, with the help of the Underground Railroad and found their way to safety in Windsor, Ontario, where their first child was born. They wanted to return to the United States and considered relocating across the river to Detroit but felt it was risky because slave catchers were common on the city streets of Detroit.

So Henry searched north of Detroit and found the small community known as Chase's Corners at 13 Mile and Crooks and decided it was a good place to settle. He rented property, built a cabin and brought his family to what is now Royal Oak.

The 1860 census listed Henry as a farmer, and the 1870 one listed him as a tile maker — employed by Almon Starr at his brick and tile works. Henry prospered, and by 1862, he purchased five acres from the Chases and began paying taxes on it. His next five children were born in Royal Oak. As the descendants were always born to daughters, the family name changed several times and included the names Finch and Wilkins.

Since then, the Hamers and their descendants have lived in Royal Oak continuously on at least a portion of

the property that Henry Hamer first purchased in 1862. In our research of the pioneer families that settled here during the first 50 years, we have found no other family like the Hamers who still live on a portion of their original homestead.

From the early 20th century until the Civil Rights Act of 1964, many homes in Royal Oak had deeds restricting the sale of homes to Blacks. Enforcement of these restrictions was legal. For at least the first 100 years that the Hamer family lived in Royal Oak, if they had sold their property, they couldn't have repurchased it. A 1939 booklet entitled *Royal Oak — A City of Homes*, which



Elizabeth Hamer and her husband Henry came to what is now Royal Oak in 1857.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST IS BACK!

See Page 4 for info about our Annual
Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast

NEW EXHIBIT

*Founding Families Homes and
How Our Town Grew*

April 30 – July 16

Continued on Page 2

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Historical Museum

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Royal Oak, MI 48073

royaloakhistoricalsociety.com

(248) 439-1501

Hours: Tues., Thurs., Sat., 1–4 p.m.

CURRENT EXHIBIT

Founding Families Homes

and How Our Town Grew

April 30 – July 16

All photographs courtesy of the Royal Oak Historical Society unless otherwise noted.



Photograph courtesy of Google Earth

Triangle-shaped Beechwood Park at Crooks Road and Beechwood Drive, near the original Hamer family homestead, is now Hamer Finch Wilkins Park.

promoted moving to Royal Oak and was available at the city manager's office, stated Royal Oak was 99% white.

Henry and Elizabeth are buried at the Royal Oak Cemetery, near the Almon Starr family.

Grandchildren Edna Finch and Samuel Finch lived on the property until their deaths in 1979 and 1983, respectively. Edna in her 90s had numerous articles in *The Daily Tribune* about her birthday celebrations with an impressive list of prominent Royal Oakers at the time attending. Samuel played football at Royal Oak High in 1915 and 1916.

In March, the city of Royal Oak honored the Hamer family for its 160 years in the community by renaming Beechwood Park, located at Crooks Road and Beechwood Drive — close to the original Hamer homestead — to Hamer Finch Wilkins Park.



The 1915 Royal Oak High School football team is shown in front of the first dedicated high school building, located at Main and University and which later became Clara Barton Junior High. Samuel Finch is in the middle row, second from left.

Homes & Buildings in Royal Oak

EDITED BY JOHN S. SCHULTZ

In each issue, this feature focuses on historic homes and buildings in our city. The selections come from the book *Royal Oak Images, Yesterday's Charm Today's Treasures*, published by the Roundtable of Royal Oak Historical Organizations, a standing committee of the Royal Oak Historical Commission. The book was published in 2006, and a second edition is in the works.

We encourage other Royal Oak residents to share the history of their home for possible publication. For more information, contact John S. Schultz at jsschultz11@gmail.com.

Kidder–Huebner House

1028 Longfellow Avenue

Clapboard-Sided Bungalow Built in 1925

Shortly after their marriage in 1924, Lee S. and Frances E. (Willard) Kidder came to Royal Oak from New York state where both had grown up at their respective family homesteads. Lee had arrived on the scene in 1920 to work in the lumber business with his uncle, Albert D. Kidder.

Albert ("A.D."), with his wife, Clara Erb, and brother-in-law, Lewis Erb, had established the Erb-Kidder Lumber Company in 1914 on the Amos Decker property at the southeast corner of South Main and East Eighth streets. Albert's nephew, Lee, eventually became the manager of the Royal Oak lumberyard.

Lee drew up the plans and acted as the contractor for the new house on Longfellow Avenue.

Continued on Page 5



Photo Game

By Don Drife, Photo Game Editor
and Contributor

This issue's Photo Game features photos
from an iconic Royal Oak building.
Can you guess which one?



Answer on Page 8

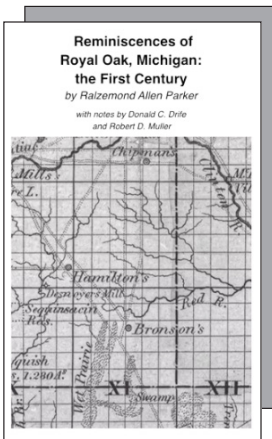
Reprinted Speech Describes the Settling of Royal Oak

New in the Royal Oak Historical Society's publications series is *Reminiscences of Royal Oak, Michigan: the First Century*. The book is a reprint of Ralzemond Allen Parker's 1921 speech to the Oakland County Pioneer Society. The speech is considered to be the most accurate history of Royal Oak from the arrival of the first settlers to its incorporation as a city in 1921. Additional notes are provided by historical society author and contributor Donald C. Drife and historical society president Robert D. Muller.

The book is \$10 and available at the museum as well as at Frenz Hardware.



Ralzemond Parker (left) and Henry Ford at Parker's home at 13 Mile and Woodward.



The Pancake Breakfast is Back!

Memorial Day, Monday, May 30

7 a.m. – noon at the Farmers Market

"Pancake Man" is ready to be flippin' the flapjacks again at this important event that generates revenue to operate the Historical Museum. Check our website at royaloakhistoricalsociety.com for more details.



Kidder–Huebner House • Continued from Page 3



Lee S. Kidder appears at the side door of his house under construction in 1925.

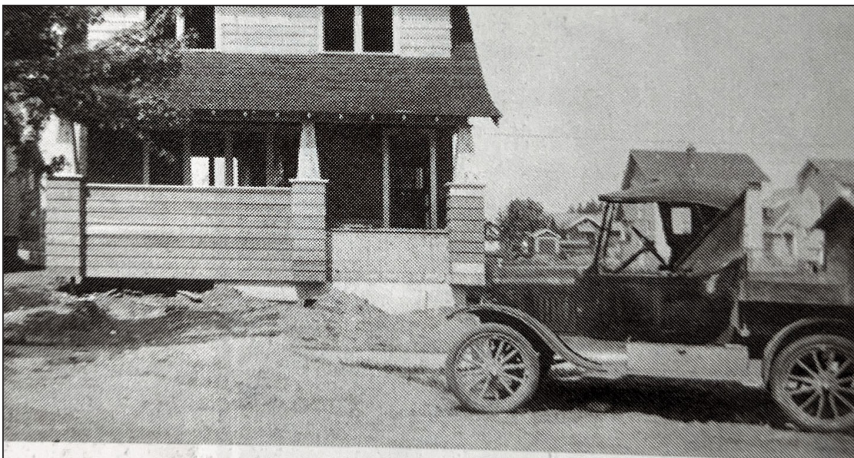
The exterior of the house was constructed with clapboard siding, as were most of the bungalows built in Royal Oak. American ingenuity made something new of clapboard. In England, clapboard was used for barrels; the English colonists who emigrated to America soon learned to overlap clapboards and make them specifically for houses. With one edge thinner than the others, these long narrow boards overlapped horizontally to cover the outer walls of frame structures. The interior walls and ceilings were of wet plaster with hardwood oak floors. The front porch was screen-enclosed in the summer. The original storm windows on the porch still provide protection in the cold weather.

The current owners (as of 2006) were Denise C. and Joseph C. Huebner. "We purchased the house on June 18, 1990, from Charles W. Deeg, who bought it in 1972," Joseph said. "I contacted his daughter, Jeanette Bateman. Mildred and Charles moved into the house from Detroit's east side to live closer to Jeanette. It was very similar to their house in Detroit, and they enjoyed living near the railroad tracks because Charles' father (Charles Sr.) was a locomotive engineer on the railroad. The Deegs made no changes to the house. The previous owners had added the family room and made improvements to the electrical and to the basement. In the late 1950s, the original wood siding was covered with aluminum siding."

"We have refurbished the upstairs coved ceilings, refinished the oak hardwood floors throughout, and added central air, a new furnace, water heater, and spacious rear outside deck, rear privacy fence, some windows, new roof and more," Joseph said.

Denise had a degree in interior design from Michigan State University and loved to work on the house. Together, Denise and Joseph have taken exceptional care of the home. It is painted white, with MSU green for the trim, and of course, a MSU green and white banner is displayed in front.

In the two images shown at left, the top photo is looking west at the front, as the house nears completion at 1028 Longfellow Avenue. The bottom photo is the house as it appears in 1940. Grace Louise Kidder was born in the house on September 11, 1930.



Royal Oak Then & Now

BY JOHN MAURICE, ROHS FACEBOOK EDITOR

**Then
1990**



**Now
2022**



Photograph by John Maurice

Typically in *Then and Now*, we travel back in time anywhere from 50 to 100 years or more to see how our city has changed. However, for this edition, we look back just 32 years — to 1990 — a time when Main Street was a little quieter and downtown Royal Oak was, as it still is, a nice mix of the old and new.

Today we look at the east side of Main Street and north from Fourth Street. At the corner in 1990 was the store Incognito, a fixture from 1982 to 2013 and one of the shops that helped rejuvenate our downtown in the '80s. Another clothing store was adjacent, along with Hanson Vacuum Cleaners.

While some things change, some things do stay the same, as was proven for many years by Hermann's Bakery. Although the bakery is now closed and the awning shown in the 1990 photo is gone, the building still bears the business name established in our city's early days. Although the '80s and '90s brought a lot of "hip" clothing stores downtown, you could still find camo and green at Joe's Army Navy Surplus, which occupied the old Wooton Building south of Third Street. Today's Main Street holds more restaurants than clothing stores, but the buildings that they occupy remind us of those days of yore. The new Henry Ford Medical Center now rises behind these buildings, showing us that along with the new, we'll always have the old and comfortably familiar in our city.

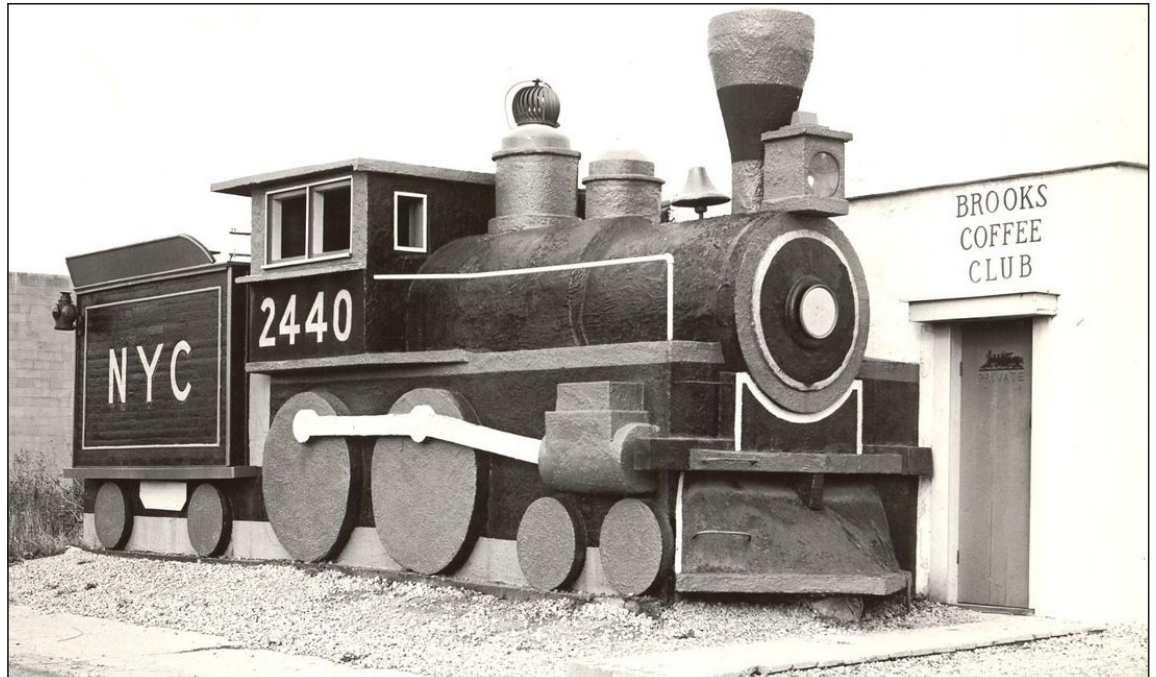
Note: The Royal Oak Historical Museum has both the Incognito and Hermann's Bakery signs on display. The Hermann's sign has been refurbished to its original red neon brightness.

Remembering the Brooks Coffee Club on Woodward

By Leslie L. Haight

Sometime back in the 1950s, my Aunt Sophie picked me up and took me out to lunch. She knew I had a model train set in the basement of my parents' home. Imagine my surprise when we pulled up to the restaurant, which had a front façade shaped like a train engine and coal tender car.

Bill Brooks ran the Brooks Coffee Club, located on the east side of Woodward between 12 Mile Road and Webster. If you were a member or had connections, you could gain entrance. My aunt's boss, Gar Sweezey, manager of the Michigan Bell Telephone office in Royal Oak, had arranged our lunch.



The Brooks Coffee Club was a private restaurant on Woodward and only members or invited guests were allowed to eat there.

The front door had the word "Private" on it in brass letters. Upon entering, you found yourself in a closet-sized room with a one-way mirror and an intercom. At the push of a button, a voice asked who you were and if you had a reservation. If you answered correctly, you were buzzed in. All manner of railroad memorabilia adorned the main room: model trains of all sizes, signs, lanterns, photographs, lamps and so on. You sat on a stool at a semicircular counter with each end disappearing into the wall. The counter had a train track and a little road bed.



Up on the wall was a chalkboard with the limited menu offerings of the day. A model train came out of the kitchen and stopped in front of your seats. A flat car held a pencil and an order pad. You jotted down what you wanted and placed it back on the train car. The train sped away with your order and exited through a portal in the wall. In a few minutes, another train emerged from the kitchen with your meal. It pulled up and stopped in front of you, so you could unload your food and beverage. Then it headed back to the kitchen.

When you were finished with your meal, yet another train delivered the bill. You placed your money in the train car and it took off for the kitchen. Then a dump truck appeared, stopped in front of you and dumped your change on the roadbed. All this took place without any appearance by the owner or any employees. I think it was a one-man operation. I don't remember there being any other customers at the counter or in the building when we were there.

The building was a landmark on Woodward from 1938 until it was torn down in 1964. I have talked to many people who remember seeing it, but only two others who actually ate there. The story is always the same, and we are still talking about it more than 60 years later. It is one of my fond memories of growing up in Royal Oak.

Note: The Brooks Coffee Club was replaced by Jim Enners Coffee/Donut Shop and then became Siam Spicy Thai restaurant, which is now also closed.

Leslie L. Haight grew up in Royal Oak in two houses his parents built — one at 515 South Connecticut and one at 2445 North Vermont. He attended Grant Elementary, Lockman Elementary, Mary Lyon Junior High and graduated from Kimball High School in 1964. Les worked in automotive technician training and had positions at Chrysler, Creative Universal, MascoTech and Volkswagen of America. He retired in 2008 and now lives in the historic district of Clarkston. He is the nephew of Sophie Virginia Bowman who in 1957 was the first woman elected president of the Royal Oak Historical Society. Every year, the Society honors a female volunteer in her name.



Thanks again...

to all who generously contributed to the Tuff-Shed project. The new, secure storage building is now installed on the museum grounds. It will provide a much-needed place to store items and equipment that do not require the climate-controlled environment of the museum.

Photograph by Bob Muller

Photo Game answer:

The photos are from the Bell Telephone Building on the northeast corner of Fifth and Williams streets. The cornerstone was laid November 30, 1926. Moving the "switchboards and allied equipment" into the new building took until September 1927. When completed, *The Daily Tribune* reported that "Royal Oak will be in the possession of one of the most modern telephone exchanges in the state and will have a switchboard capacity of ultimately 60,000 people" (May 23, 1927).



Will Lay Cornerstone New Telephone Building

The corner stone of the \$225,000 Michigan Bell Telephone company building at the northeast corner of Fifth and Williams streets will be laid tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Because of the uncertainty of the weather, no ceremonies are being planned. It was announced today by C. W. Hungerford, publicity director for the company.

The Daily Tribune,
November 29, 1926

PHONE COMPANY BUSINESS OFFICE IN NEW BUILDING

Moves Tomorrow To Home At Williams And Fifth Streets

Tomorrow will be moving day for the Royal Oak business office of the Michigan Bell Telephone company. The office will be transferred from 107 West First street to the company's new home, recently completed at Fifth and Williams streets, according to announcement made by J. F. Healy, supervisory manager. L. J. Reilly, local manager, is in charge. Hereafter bills will be payable and other company business will be handled at the new location, Mr. Reilly states.

Installation men are busy placing switchboards and allied equipment in the new building, preparatory to moving all central office operations into the new building about September 1. At present the central office is located on the second floor of the Mellen-Wright Lumber company building.

When the new central office is occupied, Mr. Reilly says, Royal Oak will be in possession of one of the most modern telephone exchanges in the state and will have a switchboard capacity capable of ultimately caring for the telephone needs of 60,000 people.

Early the coming fall, following the transfer of all departments to the new building, a day will be observed as "Open House day," when the people of Southern Oakland county will be welcomed to inspect the telephone company's splendid new home here.

The Daily Tribune,
May 23, 1927

On the Website

royaloakhistoricalsociety.com

Take some time to explore the variety of interesting information available on the Royal Oak Historical Society website.

A new item on the site is the "History of Royal Oak," which was a series of weekly installments published in the *Royal Oak Tribune* in 1908. Society newsletter contributor Don Drife has transcribed the scanned articles from the *Tribune* archives, although he encountered some poor quality scans and unreadable/missing sections. The author of the articles is currently unknown, but he or she may be discovered if the missing first and last articles can be located.

Clicking on the "More" tab on the website reveals the "Yesteryear" article by our curator, Muriel Versagi. In it, Muriel relates some of the interesting ordinances enacted by the village and the city, such as the 1928 ordinance that



seemingly foretold present-day recycling regulations when it mandated that "in no case shall any tin cans, glass, paper or ashes be mixed with each other" in trash receptacles.

Looking Back

COLLECTED AND EDITED BY JOHN S. SCHULTZ FROM THE PAGES OF THE DAILY TRIBUNE

What was happening in Royal Oak in May...

50 years ago — 1972

APPROXIMATELY 500 YOUTHS — many anti-war demonstrators — collected at Woodward and Ten Mile Friday night in Pleasant Ridge, causing periodic traffic tie-ups. Pleasant Ridge's nine-man police department, with only three on duty at the time, called in additional officers from Royal Oak, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods and Berkley. Two persons were charged with disorderly conduct for refusing police orders to leave. The two, Charles R. Beckhoff, 19, of Royal Oak and Michael J. Vannoy, 18, of Hazel Park were released Friday night on personal bond. No injuries or damage were reported.

The youths — mostly spectators, police said — began massing at 8:15 p.m. at all four corners of the intersection. A crowd reached its peak about 9:30 p.m. A cadre of 30-40 demonstrators, many carrying anti-war signs, paraded near the Trading Post restaurant at the southeast corner.

A 2-DOOR HARDTOP, all standard factory-equipped Mustang cost \$2,530 at Turner Ford in Troy.

60 years ago — 1962

ROYAL OAK RESIDENTS are spared for now official notice of a substantial increase in property taxes. The proposed 1962-63 city budget, submitted Monday night by City Manager Bruce W. Love, calls for no increase in the current city tax rate of \$12.84 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The Twelve-Town Drain, which will require an additional tax of about \$4.25 per \$1,000 from Royal Oak residents in December, is not included in the city budget.

70 years ago — 1952

GRANT SCHOOL FATHERS will turn woodsmen Saturday. Their axes are sharpened, and ready to clear an acre of additional woods for a playground. The Royal Oak school board Wednesday night gave the fathers permission to clear a T-shaped area across Fifth Street from the school as a "park" playground area. Strategically placed trees to survive the axe blows have been marked by Royal Oak superintendent of parks and grounds, Larry Westfall. The school board will share with the parents in the cost of bulldozing. Besides the T-shaped area, the fathers will also clear a tot lot at the corner of Fifth and Kayser for kindergartners.

GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR arrived at the Capital City Airport in Lansing this morning (May 15) to begin a two-day Michigan visit, which he will conclude on Friday with a tour through South Oakland cities, making brief speeches in Ferndale and Royal Oak.

Continued on Page 10

1952

One of City's Proudest Oaks Doomed



Cries of "Builder, spare that tree" from Royal Oak and Huntington Woods residents apparently have failed because this mighty oak on the west side of Woodward will be felled either today or Friday (May 1). Harry B. Jacobs, secretary-treasurer of the Rose-Hill building company, said: "Although a lot of sentiment is attached to the tree, it is beyond our means to save it. It must come down to permit the erection of an apartment building." The company is clearing the land to construct an eight-unit apartment project between Harrison and Lincoln, Royal Oak. The tree has been pictured on many publications by the city. It is one of the few remaining large oaks in Royal Oak.

1942



On May 2, South Oakland County's civilian defense corps are ready for a test blackout Sunday night that will darken every light in the Detroit metropolitan area except street and traffic lights and lights in factories in war production.

An estimated army of more than 2,000 including regular policemen and firemen, their auxiliaries, air raid wardens, home guardsmen and other auxiliaries will be at their stations to enforce blackout regulations from 10 until 10:15 p.m.

The principal major task of the defense corps will be to enforce blackouts of every home, store, building and sign board. The other major task will be bringing all vehicular traffic to a complete stop as soon as the first air raid warnings by sirens and factory whistles sound.

Householders, owners of business places, stores and billboards will be responsible for either turning out lights

or obscuring windows with blackout curtains. All motorists and truckers and motorbus drivers must bring their vehicles to a stop at the nearest curb. Motorists and truckers must turn out their lights and leave their vehicles for the nearest shelter. Bus passengers will be discharged and given emergency transfers. Pedestrians must leave the streets for the nearest shelter.

Police and defense officials urge all residents who take trips to a lake or elsewhere to be home and off the streets before 10 p.m., to lessen the enormous task of stopping traffic. Pedestrians and others on the streets are warned against using flashlights, matches or cigarettes.

The trial blackout not only is to determine the efficiency of the trained defense corps but also to test possible reaction to the safety rules that have been prepared against the contingency of Axis bombing of the "arsenal of democracy."

Despite overcast skies and cool temperatures, the General's party was greeted by 2,500 spectators, Governor G. Mennen Williams and State Rep. William S. Broomfield.

THE PRICE OF A HAIRCUT in South Oakland County will stay at \$1.50 — the same price as it has been since last September.

S.V. Devereaux, 1225 Mohawk, Royal Oak, secretary-treasurer of South Oakland local 55 State Barbers Association, made the announcement to clarify the situation after Detroit barbers raised their prices from \$1.25 to \$1.50 this week. Devereaux also said there would be no change in prices before holidays and on Saturdays, although the Detroit barbers will charge \$1.75 on those days.

75 years ago — 1947

A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL will be constructed across Thirteen Mile Road from Oak Ridge school within 18 months as promised by Dr. Cyril W. Woolcock, assistant superintendent of schools, during a meeting at the Oak Ridge PTA.

80 years ago — 1942

RATIONING OF CONSUMER ITEMS took place across South Oakland. Twenty-one residents received permits to purchase 1942 automobiles for the county rationing board. Registration of sugar users and residents was held for the issuance of ration cards. South Oakland city managers were informed municipal street projects costing more than \$5,000 must have the approval of War Production Board.

BUILDING PERMITS in the City of Royal Oak took a sharp drop in April, the monthly report of City Inspector Owen C. Perkins revealed today (May 3). In April, permits were issued for 50 single residences valued at \$216,400 as compared to 119 permits valued at \$543,000 in March. The department also issued permits in April for a \$65,000 factory and 27 garages and minor buildings valued at \$8,670.

90 years ago — 1932

CELEBRATING THE 200TH birthday anniversary of George Washington, the Ezra Parker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will plant a maple tree at Royal Oak High School.

JOHN T. MILLEN, director of the Detroit Zoological Park is anxious to secure an old gray mare, a hen with a flock of chickens, geese, ducks, old farm machinery, for an American farmyard exhibit at the park.

MEN'S YEAR-ROUND SUITS, tailored by "Manchester" that come in "gabardine, worsted or sharkskin" are on sale for \$26.95 from the regular price of \$40 at Worthy Apparel, 120 West Fourth Street.

Continued on Page 11

95 years ago — 1927

A SITE FOR A NEW FIRE STATION on Webster just west of Crooks has been offered to the City of Royal Oak by H. Lloyd Clawson, former city commissioner. The site itself is 50 by 100 feet but is part of a very large lot, which has been proposed as a city park. The offer was made by Clawson with several reservations, designed to ensure that a fire station in this location would be about two miles from the northwest corner of the city. *Note: The fire station was built and served the city for many decades before it became the current home of the Royal Oak Historical Museum.*

100 years ago — 1922

ROYAL OAK WILL CELEBRATE the one-hundredth anniversary of its settlement on Tuesday, June 6, with a pageant presented by the Royal Oak Woman's Club, assisted by Mrs. Thresa (sic) Way Merrill of Detroit.

The pageant will show the first progress made in Royal Oak during the century starting from the time the first surveyors came into the woods which is now Royal Oak and continuing through the periods of Indian warfare, pioneer life and Civil War time to the present.

One impressive feature of the program will be that of depicting the entry of General Cass into Royal Oak over the road laid out by the surveyors. General Cass camped with his party under the "Royal Oak" at the intersection of what is now Rochester Road, Main Street and Catalpa Drive.

A BOND ISSUE OF \$210,000 to erect and furnish two school buildings, one at Farnum Avenue and Potter Street, the other on Fifth Street between Kayser and Alberta streets, will be voted on by electors of school district 6 at a special election to be held in the High School on Tuesday, May 16, from 4 to 8:30 o'clock. *Note: The schools were approved and were named Whittier on Farnum and Grant on Kayser. Both schools served the district for many years and were then demolished in 2007 and 1980, respectively.*

Frank Hendry, superintendent of schools says, "If the issue is approved, a 12-room building will be constructed on the Farnum Avenue site to care for the children below the seventh grade who live east of Main Street and North of First Street (now Eleven Mile). This building will cost \$125,000 according to estimates furnished by Frederick D. Madison, architect. Building of this school will open four additional rooms in the High School for high school students.

"The building on the Knowles site on Fifth Street will eventually be a 12-room structure. This school will care for the children living south of First Street, east of Main Street to the Grand Trunk R.R. and from that point east of the railroad to Ten Mile Road. It will relieve congestion in the Union School temporarily.

When completed it will house 480 children and there are now 430 in the community.

Monorail 'L' Plan Should Be Voted Down, Says Mayor

"The Michigan Elevated company is asking for a franchise to erect and operate an elevated [rail] system in Royal Oak, and desires only the votes of the people to be enabled to sell stock. They admitted as much to the Royal Oak city commission when they stated they had no finances now but could sell an enormous amount of stock immediately following the granting of a franchise in Royal Oak, and I for one will never use my vote to promote a scheme of this kind," declared Mayor George A. Dondero at the joint noonday meeting of the Royal Oak Eagles board and Exchange Club on Wednesday, May 12.

1922

Dondero read extracts from letters he had received from the mayors of New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, where elevated rail systems are now in operation but where extensions of the system are not contemplated.

The mayor of New York City said that subways and motor-buses were the most practical methods of transportation in his opinion.

"This is not the only loss the taxpayer will suffer as the city will be called upon to pave Center Street and Main streets where the structure will be built in order to provide a thoroughfare for vehicular traffic."

"Building this system would not solve the transportation problem," Dondero said. "The line begins nowhere and ends nowhere. The solution of the problem lies in securing adequate service to Detroit at reasonable fares," Dondero said.

"The elevated will never be extended from Detroit to Pontiac as the supporters of the plan declare. It is impractical, because of the cost to run an elevated through rural country as it is between here and Pontiac. The line can't be forced into Detroit as no community of 7,000 can force a community of 1,000,000 to do anything," he added. "Detroit won't entertain the idea for a moment after voting to purchase the DUR (Detroit United Railway) lines."

When the chairman of the meeting asked for opinions, no person disagreed with the mayor's statements.



ROYAL OAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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ROYAL OAK
Historical Society

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