



Royal Oak Historical Society

Summer 2017

www.royaloakhistoricalsociety.org

Royal Oak Historical Society Board of Directors

President: Deb Anderson
Vice President: Jay Dunstan
2nd Vice President: Bob Muller
Secretary: Kelly Muller
Treasurer: Mike Frentz
Past President: Karrie Mahrle

Directors

Aaron Dorn; Marcy Dwyer;
Gloria Moran Harper;
Steve Jones; Phil Lewan;
Pete Mancour; Trish Oliver;
Dan Saad; John S. Schultz;
Bill Sullivan; Sherry Toggweiler;
Tom Toggweiler

Museum Curator

Muriel Versagi

Newsletter Editor: Trish Oliver

Production: Dan and Doris Saad

Mailing: Muriel Versagi

Editorial Board Consultant:

John S. Schultz

Facebook Editor: John Maurice

Webmaster: Mike Frentz

Features:

Photo Game: Bob Muller

Royal Oak Then & Now:

John Maurice



Rocko Carnutti Speaks!

By Randy Burean, ROHS Car Show Chairman & Museum Volunteer

Yo car fans:

Randy called me and said people wanted to know if I would be at the museum August 4 and 5.

I'll be cruisin' in for the cool car show again this year. I'm bringing my gal Patty Ann.

Hope everybody is ready to "cruise" Woodward Avenue again!

I hear there's some cool new artwork and muscle car stuff. Sounds awesome! Also heard about three cool pedal cars being shown there for the first time.

This all sounds really cool!

Can't wait to be there.

See page 2 and 7 for details.



Top: **Rocko Carnutti and his best girl Patty Ann (aka Randy and Pat Burean)**

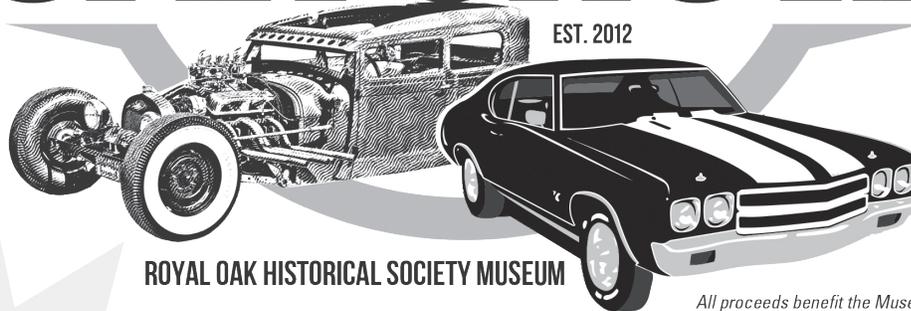
Bottom: **Mike Frentz, Randy Burean and Robert Edwards.**

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 5TH
10 AM - 3 PM**



WOODWARD MEMORIES

CAR SHOW



EST. 2012

ROYAL OAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

All proceeds benefit the Museum.

Inside the Museum...



"Cruise" the past...

See how Royal Oak's Woodward Avenue appeared over the years; from the 1900s to the present day.

- Car Show registration fee: \$15.00
- Includes Chance to WIN \$100 prize
- Dash plaques to the first 100 entrants
- Goody bag to the first 75 entrants
- Music by Jaime Burean

Fun for Everyone!

Pre-register online: royaloakhistoricalsociety.com
or at the Royal Oak Historical Society Museum

1411 Webster, Royal Oak, MI 48073 For more information: (248) 439-1501

THE ROYAL OAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

1411 W. Webster, Royal Oak, MI 48073 (248) 439-1501 royaloakhistoricalsociety.org
MUSEUM HOURS: Tue, Thurs, Sat - 1 to 4pm

Remembrances of Royal Oak

Minnie Starr's Message to the Children at Starr School

Contributed by John S. Schultz, ROHS Board Member & Editorial Board Consultant

The following is an excerpt from an article written in 1950 for the Children of Starr School from Minnie Starr, a daughter of Edwin Almon Starr, whose grandfather was Orson Starr. The complete transcript can be found in the library of the Royal Oak Historical Museum along with many other stories written by other longtime residents of Royal Oak.

More than 150 years ago, nearly all the people in the United States lived in the East, along the Atlantic Coast, and inland in the country extending only 200 to 300 miles from the ocean.

Until 1796, Michigan was still held by England. In that year, it was given up to America, and at once became a part of the Northwest Territory. It was set aside as a separate territory in 1803. This was only a few years after George Washington was president. At that time, the men in the government decided that it would be well to open this country to settlers, people who would improve the land and who would make good citizens; so a provision was made to give farms or sections of land to those immigrants from the eastern states who applied for them.

This was a forest region with no inhabitants. About 150 years ago, a young man who lived in New York

State said to his wife, "Mary, let us make our new home in the west. I am told that the land is rich in Michigan, and that a man may take for his own as large a farm as he wants without paying a cent for it."

"But," said Mary, "what about the Indians? I hear they will kill those who settle on what they think is their property."

"But I know," replied the husband, "that the land was taken from them many years ago and that there are no Indians within miles of where we would go."

The man, Calvin Perrin was right. Forty years before this time, in 1763, the great Indian Chief Pontiac assembled five tribes who for two years fought a savage war upon the English settlements and forts in what is now Lower Michigan. They were driven back and out by the soldiers who had been stationed at Fort Detroit.

Their land was nearly all deep forest with only a few open spaces. The man cut down trees and made a log house in one of the clearings. Other young pioneers came from New York State and Pennsylvania to take up land from the government

on which to lay out their farms to build their homes.

When the children who were born to the families were old enough to understand, they were told that the woods had bears in them. They were warned what to do when they saw them. Sometimes the children heard wild animals howling in the distance. Often the deer came quite close to the houses from the woods; for they were not yet afraid

When the children who were born to the families were old enough to understand, they were told that the woods had bears in them.

of hunters. One day, Mary Ann, the oldest child of the Perrin family, started out to spend the day with a friend who lived a half mile away on a road now called Normandy. Her path lay through the woods. Suddenly she saw a bear coming right at her. Father had said, "Don't run when you see a bear. If he comes very close, look him in the eye, and he won't hurt you."

Mary Ann was a brave girl; she walked on slowly past the bear, paying no more attention to him than if he were a big dog. The bear sniffed then shuffled away.

PHOTO GAME: Photo A: Metals in Time, Photo B: Hermann's Bakery, Photo C: Starbucks

ROYAL OAK THEN & NOW

By John Maurice, ROHS Facebook Editor



For this edition of Royal Oak Then & Now, we look back at the southwest corner of Sixth Street and Washington. The *“Then”* photo is from 1945 when this structure was known as the Campbell Building. Back then the storefronts show (from the left) Enner’s Bakery, Grill & Dining Room, A-D Camera Shop, Arthur L Snow Real Estate, and C.F. Smith Groceries on the corner. Apartments were upstairs. Looming over the top of the building at the left side of the photo is the

First United Methodist Church. The church has quite a bit of history itself as the oldest continuous church organization in South Oakland County. The present building was constructed in 1917, and the Methodist Episcopal congregation was the first church organized in Royal Oak, established in 1838, but that’s a story for another time. These days, this corner is perhaps best known as the home of Pronto! for many years.



A



B



C

PLAY THE PHOTO GAME

By ROHS Board Member Bob Muller

Can you identify which Royal Oak buildings have these unique architectural details?

(Answers on page 3)

Curator's Corner

By Muriel Versagi

This item was found in our school archives on a small folded piece of beige card stock measuring 6 by 2 ½ inches.

Royal Oak High School Class of 1929 trip to Washington D.C., June 13, 1929.

ITINERARY:

Thursday June 13

Lv. Detroit via D. & C. foot of 3rd street.....5:00 p.m.
Dinner on boat.

Friday, June 14

Ar. Buffalo, Breakfast on boat..... 8:00 a.m.
Lv. Buffalo, Lehigh Valley R.R. 8:45 a.m.
Dinner and luncheon on train.
Ar. Washington B & O R. 9:30 p.m.

Continental Hotel Headquarters

Saturday June 15

Morning....tour of capitol building...at your convenience.

Lv. Continental Hotel for Interurban station
1201 Pennsylvania Ave 12:15 p.m.
Lv. By Interurban for Alexandria
and Mt. Vernon 12:45 p.m.
Lv. By boat for Washington..... 5:00 p.m.
Lv. By bus for Glen Echo 7:00 p.m.

Sunday June 16

Lv. Hotel, sight-seeing trip of Washington and
Arlington, including Lincoln Memorial..... 2:00 p.m.
Lv. Hotel for visit to
Congressional Library 7:30 p.m.

Monday, June 17

Lv. Hotel for tour of government
buildings 8:30 a.m.
Bureau of Printing, Pan American Building,
White House, Lincoln Museum, Lunch your
choice Smithsonian Museum, National Museum,
Washington Monument, Art Galleries, Aircraft
Museum. Evening free for Theatre, etc.

McAlpin Hotel Headquarters

Wednesday June 19

Lv. Hotel by Subway for 7:30 a.m. trip to Harbor,
boat trip and tour of trans-Atlantic liner followed
by sight-seeing trip of New York. Stopping for
lunch en route.

Lv. New York Penn Station 8:25 p.m.
Thursday June 20

Ar. Buffalo Lehigh Valley R.R 7:30 a.m.
Breakfast at Hotel Buffalo.

Lv. Buffalo 9:00 a.m.
Ar. Niagara Falls 10:00 a.m.
Lv. Niagara Falls on Gorge route..... 10:10 a.m.
Luncheon at Temperance House..... 12:30 p.m.
Lv. Niagara Falls..... 4:00 p.m.
Lv. Buffalo by D.C 6:00 p.m.
Dinner on boat.

Friday, June 21

Ar. Detroit by D. & C. 9:00 a.m.
TOTAL COST FOR THE TRIP \$56.55

This does not include 13 meals, hotel bill in
Washington (approx. \$6.90) or trip to Mt. Vernon
(\$1.41)

President's Message

By Deb Anderson

Gratitude is something I feel every time I go to the Royal Oak Historical Museum. There is so much that goes on there – new and interesting exhibits on an ongoing basis, visiting groups from the community and beyond, plus just the fact that a 1927 building requires ongoing oversight and maintenance – that it's a constant whirlwind of activity. It's hard to believe that all of this is accomplished with an all-volunteer staff, including our curator, Muriel Versagi, who puts her heart and soul into making sure the museum continues to thrive and grow.

Once a year, we switch our focus from feeding people's desire to know more about Royal Oak history to literally feeding people – hundreds of people, at that! On Memorial Day, we head over to the Farmers Market and cook up the best pancakes in the world for 700, 800 or even more hungry people. The Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast has become a traditional community gathering place each year for all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage, along with coffee, juice and milk.

Our most recent pancake breakfast was a huge success, all thanks to fantastic volunteers, many of whom help us out every year. We are very grateful for the tremendous amount of assistance we receive from community members – from the Boy Scouts of Troop 1627, who helped set up the night before and were also on hand during the breakfast itself, to Phil and Marge Smith, who again worked to recruit volunteers. Mike Frentz, Jay Dunstan, and Bob Muller cheerfully headed up kitchen and pancake-flipping duties – and that is a hot job! We are also very appreciative of Holiday Market's help with the food, including donating all of the delicious sausages.

There were so many others who helped out that it would be impossible to list everyone. For those who helped us that day, please know that we are extra grateful for all of you! Royal Oak really is a special city, and that is due to people like you.



Come Visit the Orson Starr House

The Orson Starr House is a Michigan farmhouse that was originally constructed about 1845. Located at 3123 N. Main St., one block south of 13 Mile Road. The house is owned by the City of Royal Oak and is open to the public on the second Sunday of each month, from 1- 4 p.m. or by prior arrangement. Additional parking is available two doors to the south at the Salvation Army Citadel.

This house was occupied by the Starr Family for nearly 100 years, one of Royal Oak's pioneering families. Open houses and tours are provided by the members of the Orson Starr House Guild, a volunteer committee that organizes special events at the monthly sessions.

Admission is free, although donations are always welcome.

THE ROYAL OAK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM *Presents*

CHROME, FINS & STYLE



Charles Belzagh, ca. 1953, Lincoln XL500

*Designed
to Cruise
the Future*

EXHIBITION DATES: AUGUST 4TH - SEPTEMBER 16TH

An exhibition of original concept drawings from Detroit's Golden Age of Automotive Design, with a special focus on the contributions of women and minority designers.

"Cruise" the past...

**WOODWARD
MEMORIES**

See Royal Oak's historic Woodward Avenue; from the 1900s to the present day.

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, AUGUST 4TH 7 - 9 PM

MEET THE DESIGNERS...

Retired automotive designers of Detroit's most iconic cars will be in attendance at the opening reception.

Opening Reception:

\$10 per person at the door Refreshments & dessert



Don Hood, 1968, Plymouth CUDA

SPECIAL EXHIBITION: DETROIT MUSCLE CARS

Vintage advertising artwork from the Muscle Car Era - on loan from **The Secreto Collection.**

AMAZING!

SPECTACULAR SPECIAL ATTRACTION!

Rare Ford concept pedal cars and a 1964 Ford Mustang pedal car from **The Rastall Collection.**

Chrome, Fins & Style Exhibition presented by Royal Oak resident Robert Edwards, Co-Producer of the documentary film, "American Dreaming: Detroit's Golden Age of Automotive Design 1946 - 1973." americandreamingfilm.com

THE ROYAL OAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

1411 W. Webster, Royal Oak, MI 48073 (248) 439-1501 royaloakhistoricalsociety.org

MUSEUM HOURS: Tue, Thurs, Sat - 1 to 4pm



Royal Oak Historical Society
1411 W. Webster Road,
Royal Oak MI 48073
248-439-1501
royaloakhistoricalsociety.com

Royal Oak Historical Society – Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Individual: \$20____ Family: \$30____ Supporter: \$50 ____

Century: \$100 ____ Club: \$200 ____ Premium: \$300 ____ Benefactor: \$500 ____

Mail your check to: Royal Oak Historical Society
1411 W. Webster Road, Royal Oak MI 48073

Dues also are payable online at royaloakhistoricalsociety.org. Click on the Membership link and you may pay your dues online or subscribe and have your dues paid automatically annually. For more information about membership levels and benefits, visit the website. Thank you in advance!