



ROYAL OAK

Historical Society

MAY 2019 • ROYALOAKHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

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Photograph courtesy of Royal Oak Images

Pasquale's Closes After 65 Years

By John Maurice, ROHS Facebook Editor

Editor's note: To mark the closing of Pasquale's family restaurant on April 7, 2019, we are paying tribute with a special "Then & Now" feature.

Pasquale's Family Restaurant was a Royal Oak landmark and a favorite Italian dining establishment since its opening at its original location in 1954. Pasquale "Paul" DelGiudice opened the original restaurant across the street from its current location in the space now occupied by The Redcoat Tavern.

After operating this 94-seat establishment for 17 years, the new location that we all know and love opened in 1971 and had seating for 236 patrons. The owners always said that if you ate at their restaurant in 1954, you could still come in today and enjoy the same pizza you did back then. Up until its closing, the business was still operated by family members, and their traditional Neapolitan recipes, dating back four generations, were the same ones used when the restaurant first opened.

Two unique features on the site of the current location were the mosaic of two chefs with a fork and spoon who appear to be inviting you in and the 25 foot tall arch monument sign proclaiming Pasquale's Family Restaurant as well as indicating their specialties: Pizza, Spaghetti, Ravioli and Lasagna.

(Go to page 6 for more photos.)

22nd ANNUAL!

Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast

brought to you by the

Royal Oak Historical Society

Monday, May 27th from 7AM until Noon

at the

air-conditioned Royal Oak Farmers Market



***** ALL YOU CAN EAT *****

Adults \$6 Children 10 and Under \$3

Come Join Us Before Or After The Parade

Rain Or Shine!!



**HOLIDAY
MARKET**



Sponsored by

Homes & Buildings In Royal Oak

Edited by John S. Schultz

Each newsletter, the Royal Oak Historical Society will focus 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 of the City of Royal Oak. 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 johnsschultz@sbcglobal.net**.

York Place 130 East Sunnybrook Drive *Georgian Manor House Built in 1914*

Born in 1861 in Ontonagon, Michigan, Francis L. York was the son of a minister. He was educated at The University of Michigan where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1882, a master's in 1883 and a Ph.D. in music in 1922. He went to Paris, France following his second graduation and studied organ under Alexandre Guilmant, considered the finest organist of this time and a personal friend of the composer Charles Camille St. Saens. Dr. York and Guilmant eventually alternated as the organist at the St. Louis Exposition of 1904.

York returned to Michigan and served as the head of the piano department at the state Normal Conservatory in Ypsilanti from 1896 to 1909. He acted as director of and as dean for the Detroit

Conservatory of Music and served as its president from 1902 to 1927. He also worked with the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Institute of Musical Arts, was vice president and secretary of the Music Teacher's National Association and was one of the founders of the National Association of Schools of Music.

York composed both organ and piano pieces as well as choral that were performed by many of the country's orchestras and churches as well as Europe.

Married to Mary Albright in 1883, they had three daughters: Kate Ethel, Satia Frances, and Leila Dorothea.

Built in 1914, York Place faces west toward North Main Street rather than north along Sunnybrook Drive. This early

continued on page 4



Curator's Corner

by Muriel Versagi

The Royal Oak Historical Society Museum is planning a road trip. In conjunction with our Woodward Memories Exhibit and Car Show, we are putting together "The Golden Era of the Automobile" bus tour on from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. August 14.

The tour is offered by the Detroit History Tours group and is limited to 28 attendees at \$58 per person. The bus will pick us up and return us to the Museum.

The Detroit History Tours and The Detroit History Club are amazing groups. Visit detroithistorytours.com for more information on the

golden era of the automobile and check out the many other tours they do.

If the group desires lunch, we may add that at a cost of \$7.50 per person. When you send in your reservation, please make that note.

All reservations must be made via email, curator@royaloakhistorical.org, and PayPal. If you wish to pay by mail, send check made out to the Royal Oak Historical Society Museum ASAP and send to 1411 W. Webster Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48073. Add \$7.50 if you want to include lunch.

York Place *continued from page 3*

Georgian Manor house has exterior walls of heavily rusticated limestone over hollow structured clay tile. This was done onsite prior to the use of the stones in the actual construction of the house. The limestone was believed to be quarried in Illinois. It was transported to the property by the interurban that ran up Main Street.

The main entrance features a Tuscan door case surmounted by a segmental broken arched pediment. It is centered on a carved cartouche. The two-story home has an enclosed sunporch on both the upper and lower levels on the south side of the house. Originally, the rear porch was open but has since been enclosed. It has a hipped roof.

The 10-room, four bedroom house has an interior that is detailed in the Arts and Crafts style. There is quarter-sawn white oak flooring with stained oak bases and door head casings embellished with crown moldings. The music room has built-in cabinets with leaded glass doors and pilasters with delicate relief panels.

York Place ran from North Main Street over to Rochester Road and from about Amelia Street to Edmund Street. According to Douglas Hartle, grandson of Arthur Hartle, groundskeeper for Dr. York, his childhood memories of the property are the gardens filled with flowers of all kinds and colors, the land was heavily wooded and the mosquitoes were prolific. There was wildlife as well, including flock of pheasants. In addition, there was the Sunny Brook from which the street got its name. The waterway ran from in front of York Place over to where it flowed under a stone bridge that still exists. From there, Sunny Brook ran into the Red Run.

When Douglas was a child, there were only three houses on the tract: York Place, Bertand D. York's house (Dr. York's brother), and the Hartle house. All three still stand.

Dr. York's wife died in 1947, and he died in 1955. The estate was broken up in 1959 and 1960 when his daughter sold the property to A.P. Morrison for subdividing.

PHOTO GAME ANSWERS:
 • (R) Gallery U Boutique 310 W 4th Street • (O) Tokyo Sushi 315 S. Center Street
 • (H) Iron Horse 316 W. 4th Street • (S) Sole Sisters 325 S Washington Ave

Royal Oak Historical Society

by Bob Muller, ROHS Board President

This issue's Photo Game
features photos all taken in
downtown Royal Oak.
Can you identify which Royal Oak
buildings are pictured here?

(Answers on page 4)

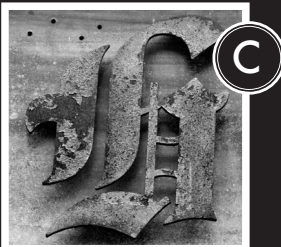
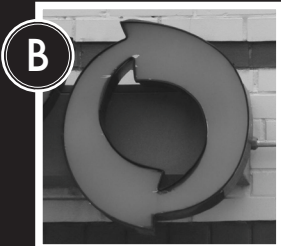


Photo Credits: Bob Muller

President's Message

by Bob Muller

On April 2, the Royal Oak Historical Board held our annual pancake breakfast for nearly 100 city employees. The first to arrive were the city workers that handle all of the out-of-doors maintenance in the city. Then, office workers and police officers were treated to breakfast. We hold this special event to thank those city workers that do all the important work to keep our city running. It's also "good practice" for us before we hold our largest event of the year, the Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast, which is quickly approaching. We were able to grill the pancakes for the city workers breakfast with only two electric griddles. For the city breakfast on Memorial Day, we can get up to 900 attendees, and as many as four of us will be flipping pancakes from 7 a.m. till noon. It is very tiring, but always fun for those of us working it. We will be using our secret recipe for the batter developed by Jay Dunstan, and Mike Frentz will be again manning the kitchen and rushing to keep the batter and sausages coming. If you haven't attended in years past, please come.

Our current museum exhibit "A Woman's Work is Never Done" is still on display, will run through mid-July and explores the typical workweek of the housewife and how it has changed over the years. Come check out the wooden hand operated washing "machine." I think it is one of our more interesting items on display. We also have a new display regarding Hedges Wigwam, an extremely unique restaurant. I remember being taken there by my parents when I was a boy. It stood on the site about where I-696 and Woodward Avenue intersect today. The concrete Indian from the popular restaurant now stands by our museum door, and was one of four from along the front of the restaurant. The city has given us plat books from the early 1900s. Since I have been researching Red Run, the river that ran through Royal Oak for years, I need to take a close look at those as the river is still on many of the maps.

Although August is far away, remember our car show and Woodward display is coming. There is always something new to see at the museum. Come on over and learn about our history.

**Donations to the Royal Oak Historical Society
Are Gratefully Accepted**

Send checks payable to:

**The Royal Oak Historical Society • 1411 West Webster Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48073**

Donations are tax-deductible. Thank you in advance.

Royal Oak Then & Now

by John Maurice, ROHS Facebook Editor

The inset photograph of Pasquale's restaurant is from 1960, when the original restaurant was located across the street from its current site in the building now occupied by the Redcoat Tavern. The larger photograph is the restaurant from 1971 at 31555 Woodward Ave. and was taken just prior to its re-grand opening.



Photographs courtesy of Royal Oak Historical Society Museum

Looking Back

Taken from the pages of The Daily Tribune. Collected by John S. Schultz

What Was Happening In Royal Oak In May:

60 Years Ago – 1959

Right angle parking returned to three blocks of Washington in Royal Oak after an absence of 20 years (see photo). It'll be tried today and Saturday to pre-test the effect of a 90-day trial later on. No major confusion was reported this morning as through traffic was detoured around the parking area. But city officials planned to be on hand to see what happens during later afternoon traffic rush hours and during shopping hours tonight and when stores are open. The trial is designed to dramatize plans to redevelop the central business district with a pedestrian mall on Washington and parking for 3,000 cars in the area.



Photo courtesy of The Daily Tribune

70 Years Ago – 1949

South Oakland YMCA gets the deed to the property at 1016 West Eleven Mile after paying \$26,000 to Mr. and Mrs. Michael G. Kelley.

80 Years Ago – 1939

A saxophone sextet from Royal Oak High School wins first rating in the state music festival at Ann Arbor. Members are Jene Crudge, Robert Dondero, Paul Madison, Virginia Poole, Walter Ekberg and Dick Chaney. Violinist Ralph Bidwell and pianist Gilbert Gervais also get first ratings. Bill Hagemaster and Brakie Orr of Royal Oak

sign contracts to play baseball for the St. Augustine Saints, a Washington Senators farm club.

90 Years Ago – 1929

Royal Oak has gone talkie. The Baldwin Theater presents its first talking picture, "Coquette," which also is Mary Pickford's first talkie. Both local theaters now have sound; the Kunsky Royal Oak introduced it three months ago.

Final action fixing the names of Ten Mile, Eleven Mile, Twelve Mile, Thirteen Mile and Fourteen Mile roads has been taken by the Royal Oak City Commission. City attorney W.C. Hudson prepared a review of the situation, showing how some of these roads received more than one name and go away from the original mile road plan. Subdividers called part of Ten Mile road by the name of New Hampshire avenue. Eleven Mile was originally North Street, but later became known as First street within the village or city limits. Various subdividers called parts of Twelve Mile road by the name of Oakwood avenue; drive or boulevard. Thirteen Mile, although commonly called Starr road over part of its course, never received this name officially. So it was necessary to make a change only over one small section, which had been called Broadway boulevard. Fourteen Mile road was changed from Clawson road on Dec. 12, 1927, so no action was necessary on that.

Jitneys are prohibited in Royal Oak by an ordinance that takes immediate effect. (*Jitneys were small buses that usually cost a nickel to ride.*)

100 Years Ago – 1919

Our Royal Oak schools are becoming badly congested in certain departments. New pupils are being enrolled daily. This week 12 new students were received, six of them being in high school. In September 1917 the total enrollment was 950, in September 1918, it was 1,050 while in February 1919 it has reached 1,130. If Royal Oak experiences a building boom this year, it will be necessary to erect a new building as every available room is now being used and most rooms are filled to capacity.



THE ROYAL OAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1411 West Webster Rd. • Royal Oak, MI 48073
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

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Email Address _____

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.com. 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!

IMAGE PRINTING

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