



# ROYAL OAK *Historical Society*

JULY 2022 • ROYALOAKHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM



The Baldwin Theatre has been a fixture in downtown Royal Oak for 100 years. Shown here in the 1930s, the theater began as a movie house and a stage for vaudeville and is now home to plays and musicals from the Stagecrafters community theater organization.

## The History of the 100-Year-Old Baldwin Theatre

By John S. Schultz

**IN THE 1920s, MOVIES PROVIDED** the primary source of entertainment for Americans with nearly 75 percent attending a movie theater weekly. To meet the growing demand, ground was broken in early April 1921 at Washington and Fifth to build a new theater.

The Citizens Theater Company, a newly formed corporation, financed the construction entirely by raising local capital of \$125,000. Half, or \$62,500, was purchased by 25 prominent residents to make the company possible. The other 6,250 shares — at \$10 a share — were offered in an advertisement in the *Royal Oak Tribune* that “invited and urged every citizen in Royal Oak to become a part owner of the theater.”

Another novel plan was carried out in the theater's erection — as much as possible, unemployed Royal Oak men would do all of the work.

After more than a year of

construction, the theater opened its doors on July 7, 1922 — 100 years ago. Designed by famed architect Frederick D. Madison, the theater had a seating capacity of 1,400, was equipped with a pipe organ and a large orchestra pit and featured frescoed walls, majestic chandeliers and tinted ceilings. More than 500 electric lights illuminated the sign over the entrance and amplified the excitement.

Royal Oak student Clarence Folland won \$50 in a competition held to name the new theater by suggesting it be named after John H. Baldwin who was president of the First State Bank in Royal Oak, treasurer of the Citizens Theatre Company and

*Continued on Page 4*

**10TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6**  
See Page 8 for details

**Woodward Memories &  
Automotive Concept Art**  
Exhibits open August 5

ROHS president Bob Muller spent time “at the movies” in the 1950s and '60s. Read his memories on Page 2.



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UPCOMING EXHIBITS  
OPENING ON AUGUST 5

**Woodward Memories  
and  
Automotive Concept Art**

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

## Spending Time at the Movies

By Bob Muller, ROHS President

*Editor's Note: This issue's Baldwin Theatre feature article inspired ROHS president Bob Muller to relate his experiences going to downtown Royal Oak's movie theaters.*

I grew up within walking distance of three movie theaters in Royal Oak — the Washington (now the Baldwin), Royal Oak Theatre and Main Theatre.

Starting at about 10 years old (1958), our mothers felt comfortable enough to allow us in a group of neighborhood friends to walk to the theaters.

There were matinees starting at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday. Unlike today, they were double features — two movies with previews and a cartoon in between. They showed continuously, so you could stay and watch it over and over; the theater never emptied — people came and went. Many movies only lasted a week or two in the theaters, so often there were six different movies to attract our interest.

No one had air conditioning in their homes then, so in the heat of the summer, this was also an escape to the cool of the theaters which even had signs outside advertising that it was “ice cold inside.”

While today's movies are digital, back in the day, they were film. Often the film broke during the movie, and we had to wait until the projectionist spliced it back together before the movie could resume.

The cost was 25 cents at the Washington and Main and 35 cents at the Royal Oak. Sounds cheap, but to put this in perspective, candy bars cost a nickel. As today, anything from the concession stand was marked up, so there a nickel candy bar cost six cents and a small box of popcorn was a dime. Being kids, we flattened the empty popcorn boxes and threw them like Frisbees, hoping to sail them high enough to make a shadow on the screen as it cut through the projector's beam.

The Washington was the oldest theater, notable for the fancy plaster work still visible on its walls today. The Washington also had a balcony from which you could drop your candy wrapper — on purpose — on the kids below. These activities usually occurred during the Wednesday matinees as these were often filled only with kids. On weekends, there were adults with their small children, so we were better behaved.

The Royal Oak was fancier than the Washington, and the Main had simple block walls without decoration. The cost of admission was for age 12 and



Photograph by Ellen Kehoe

**The Royal Oak Music Theatre still has its ornate ceilings.**

under, but we would get in for that price for years after. Occasionally the ticket taker realized we were older and asked what year we were born; we knew the trick and always had the correct year for our lie.

In high school, we might go with a friend or two to the Saturday matinees. Of course, we paid the adult price of \$1.25 by then. Movies were the typical place to take a girl on an evening date and maybe out to get a hamburger after.

I remember exactly when double features ended. I graduated from high school in June 1966, and that September double features were no more. The annoying thing was not only were you seeing only one movie, but the price went from \$1.25 to \$2.50.



# 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](mailto:jsschultz11@gmail.com).

## McDowell House

402 North Troy Street

Brick Foursquare House Built in 1914

This Foursquare-style house has been home to four families since it was built in 1914 by Edward and Minnie (Beltz) McDowell. Its exterior has two coverings, paving brick in a soft pink/cream color on the first story and cedar shake siding above the belt surround on the second story.

The full-height third story has three dormers affording good interior space as well as storage areas. The cedar shakes are original and are dark brown, having been soaked in crankcase oil prior to their installation. Thirty-five years ago (in 1975), they were painted over in a matching brown that hasn't required repainting since. Three enclosed porches complete the symmetrical exterior.

The plain façade is relieved by some subtle architectural features usually not seen on a Foursquare. The hip roof flares out on all four corners, reminiscent of the chinoiserie style of the late 19th century. This style reflected the Chinese influence through use of elaborate decoration and intricate patterns. Also, all of the window and door framing on the basement and first level are a six-step recessed style emphasizing the square construction of the house itself.

The front yard and garden were designed by its present owners to soften the somewhat austere appearance by having different levels of fence, grass, boulders and bushes rising from the sidewalk up to the broad front steps of the house. A 30-foot flagpole is located in the side yard.

*Continued on Page 7*



## Baldwin Theatre • Continued from Page 1

was one of the prime movers behind the creation of the theater. At one time, Baldwin owned a farm on Crooks Road north of 14 Mile, but he gave up farming for business and ultimately banking.

The Baldwin wasn't the first movie theater in Royal Oak; that distinction belonged to the Idle Hour at 305 South Main Street, which opened December 6, 1912. But after two years, the Idle Hour closed, and The Royal Theatre opened on the opposite side of the street at 320 South Main on September 14, 1914. Another theater, the Royal Oak Theatre (now the Royal Oak Music Theatre), was opened in 1928 at 318 West Fourth Street by John H. Kunsky who owned a chain of theaters.

In an article in the *Royal Oak Tribune*, some hinted that the Baldwin Theatre would issue its best programs during its opening days and then relapse into the rut so often taken by theaters showing alleged big time attractions.

However, manager Edward W. Beardsley of the Baldwin said he would make good on his promise "to give the people of Royal Oak and vicinity the best attractions possible, as good as those shown in the half-dollar and dollar houses in downtown [Detroit]." He said the program for that upcoming week "would feature some of the best first run films which were also playing at the present time in the better class houses of the big cities in the country."

Beardsley also said that major stars of the day such as Mabel Normand, Priscilla Dean and Irene Castle were on the program, and such shows as *Wild Honey*, *Head Over Heels*, *Turn to the Right* and *French Heels* would be shown. He added that the program would be intermingled with vaudeville.

"When *French Heels* comes here Tuesday and Wednesday with Irene Castle, a big dancing contest open to everyone will be held," Beardsley said. "If enough contestants participate to make it worthwhile, a loving cup, the gift of Miss Castle, will be presented to the winner."

Besides movies, the Baldwin soon became an entertainment center showcasing Royal Oak students' plays and operettas including *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. While Detroit's Marian Berdan also conducted dance classes there, the Baldwin prided itself on its vaudeville. A 1929 advertisement proclaimed the Baldwin the "only theater in Royal Oak playing 'vodvil' every day."

On stage could be found comedians, acrobats, trained dogs, magicians, singers, yodelers, hoop rollers, roller skaters, escape artists and hand-to-hand balancing acts.

Part of the lure of the new Baldwin Theatre was its \$12,000 Barton Concert Organ. Music had become an important part of the film experience, and this magnificent organ joined the Bush and Lane Piano and the Baldwin Theatre Orchestra in presenting a complete entertainment experience. Founded by Professor Dan Barton of Amherst, Wisconsin, the company focused on the Midwest theater market, so much so that the company was generally reluctant to ship its instruments no further than a Pullman train car could travel in one night. Perhaps for that reason, only about 250 Barton theater organs were built between 1918 and 1921. Professor Barton put in a special appearance and played his organ at the Baldwin's 1922 opening.

In March 1928, Baldwin management announced that vaudeville would be discontinued and thereafter "high-class exclusive motion pictures at lower prices would be offered." New prices also went into effect:

1928 prices – Baldwin Theatre	Main Floor	Balcony
Adults	30 cents	25 cents
Children	15 cents	10 cents
Saturday matinee at 2:30 p.m. (Adults and children)	10 cents	10 cents



Interior of the Baldwin Theatre, 1930s

Continued on Page 5

## Baldwin Theatre • Continued from Page 4

In November 1928, brothers John, Jay and Harry Merritt sold the theater to John Baldwin's daughter Mabel W. Baldwin, who had gained controlling interest after her father died in 1926. A prominent businesswoman and an official of Royal Oak Township, Mabel Baldwin also held the distinction of being the first woman elected to the Royal Oak City Commission in 1923.

Surprisingly, less than a year later, Mabel Baldwin sold the Baldwin to brothers William and Louis Kimmel on March 8, 1929 in exchange for their ownership in the Royal Theatre. The deal, involving a total of \$350,000 in property, was one of the biggest in Royal Oak's history.

One of the provisions of the transaction was that the Royal property, consisting of a brick building on Main Street just north of Fourth, wasn't to be used for theater purposes for a 10-year period. The Royal Theatre closed three days later; however, the Kimmel brothers went to great lengths to reassure former Royal customers that "Ladies' Free Chinaware Night" would continue at the Baldwin Theatre. The Kimmels, who were Royal Oak residents and also owned the Ferndale Theatre and another theater in Detroit, retained all the theatrical equipment in the Royal Theatre.

While the early films of the Roaring Twenties featured big names such as Clara Bow, Lon Chaney, Buster Keaton and Rudolph Valentino, the first "talking picture" was heard as well as seen at the Baldwin in May 1929 and heralded a turning point in film technology. For example, the *Royal Oak Tribune* exulted that Mary Pickford's voice "possessed the flawless diction of culture and the finished smoothness of poise and experience" in her film *Coquette*.

*Continued on Page 6*

### Mabel W. Baldwin: Businesswoman, First Woman Commissioner

By John S. Schultz

Prominent businesswoman and an official of Royal Oak Township, Mabel W. Baldwin also held the distinction of being the first woman elected to the Royal Oak City Commission in 1923.



In the race for city commission, she finished third against 13 men, including incumbent Gus Dondero. A.G. Miller was elected mayor, and six other men joined Baldwin on the commission.

Baldwin was born at Lockport, New York and was the daughter of John H. Baldwin and Mary A. Baldwin. Her father was president of the First State Bank of Royal Oak and a leading supporter of the Baldwin Theatre from which the playhouse got its name.

Her parents moved to Royal Oak when she was a small child. She was educated in Royal Oak public schools but graduated from Birmingham High School in 1897 since Royal Oak had no high school at that time.

She received her teacher's certificate from the Michigan State Normal College at Ypsilanti (which later became Eastern Michigan University) and taught in the primary schools and high school for four years.

After concluding her teaching career, Baldwin went on to Business College in Detroit and was private secretary to Willis Hoff. Later, she was bookkeeper for the Lawton Lumber and Coal Company in Royal Oak and associated with the M.A. Dondero Realty and Insurance Office.

Baldwin was deputy treasurer of Royal Oak Township during World War I and conducted the affairs of the office when Treasurer A. G. Miller went off to war as an officer in the U.S. Army. In 1921, she took her first political step when she was elected as the first and only woman township treasurer, serving two years. In November 1923, she was elected to the second Royal Oak City Commission, the first woman to hold a position in that body. She served in that capacity for two two-year terms.

In 1923, Miss Baldwin opened a general insurance office in the Tribune Building and for a time owned the controlling interest in the Citizens Theatre Company, operators of the Baldwin Theatre.

Baldwin was a charter member and the first vice president of the Royal Oak Business and Professional Woman's Club when that organization was founded in 1922. In 1919, she was matron of the Royal Oak Chapter, No. 392, Order of the Eastern Star and was an active member of the Royal Oak Woman's Club.

At age 54 and after a year-long illness which had her confined to her bed for the last four months, Mabel Baldwin died early the morning of April 17, 1931 at her home at 820 East Lincoln Avenue. She was buried at Oakview Cemetery.



**In the above photograph of Royal Oak's second city commission (1923–1925), Mabel Baldwin is shown in the center of the top row. She served two two-year terms.**

## Baldwin Theatre • Continued from Page 5

On October 6, 1936, the Baldwin's now sole owner Louis Kimmel gave the entrance a new look and renamed the theater the "Washington." The redesigned entrance in "Chinese red, silver, and blue" centered the ticket office within it and featured a 57-foot "Washington" sign topped by a neon ball, according to the *Royal Oak Tribune*.



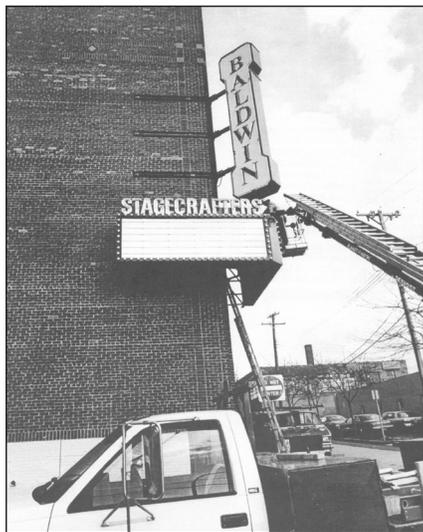
**In 1966, the theater was still sporting the 57-foot vertical sign with a neon ball on top that was originally installed in 1936.**

City of Royal Oak had taken over the building due to non-payment of utilities and taxes. Within days of the closing, a fire described by the fire marshal as "definitely set" severely damaged the stage area and the theater. Damage was estimated at \$20,000 to \$30,000. Owner Jeffery Dunn was described in *The Daily Tribune* as "shocked." He said, "I was up all night over it."

The Downtown Development Authority purchased the site in June 1994 for \$98,000 and explored alternative use of the building, including a restaurant combined with a classic film theater.

About this time, a Clawson community theater troupe called Stagecrafters proposed to the Royal Oak City Commission that it lease the top floor of Royal Oak's municipal parking structure and build a 250-seat theater in it. They envisioned a \$250,000 steel building housing a theater complete with views of downtown Royal Oak.

City Planner Lew McDaniel had a different idea. Collaborating with Stagecrafters' attorney and actor Harold Robinson, they proposed an agreement between the DDA and Stagecrafters for the Washington Theatre to be renovated and run by the nonprofit theater group instead of the city. The deal finalized, Stagecrafters committed to staging a play by the following September.



**The current marquee being installed in 1996.**

A year of hard work mostly done by volunteers and restoration costs of more than \$300,000 culminated in opening night on September 20, 1985 with the production of *The Music Man*. The faint paint odor and problems with electric lights just before curtain time didn't

prevent the production from being well received. Then Stagecrafters president Laura Campo described the rebirth of the Baldwin as "a true labor of love."

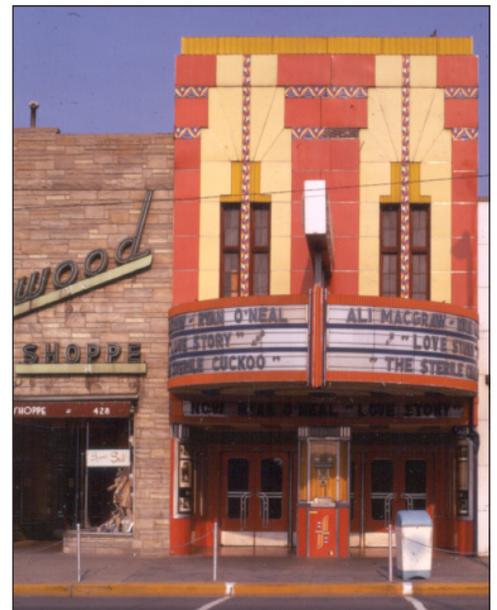
Stagecrafters has since prospered in the location. In September 1994, representatives from the DDA and Stagecrafters met on stage before a full house and burned the mortgage. In 1996, the group installed the current Baldwin Theatre marquee on the corner of the building at Lafayette and Fifth Avenue.

Kimmel also removed interior French doors to further modernize the decor.

The Washington Theatre entertained patrons throughout the Great Depression and provided distraction from the anxiety of World War II. The building also served as a community bomb shelter in the 1950s. Later, restoration teams reported finding barrels of crackers and water stored in the building.

On January 6, 1976, the Washington Theatre closed due to progressive aging and disrepair. Then-owner Harvey Farber spent \$40,000 to redo the front of the building in aluminum, modify the underside of the marquee, paint the interior and repair seats. He permanently closed the balcony. The remodeled theater reopened a week before Christmas with the showing of the movie *The Marathon Man*. Most of the films shown throughout the 1970s were so-called B-movies, and ticket prices were kept low.

Perhaps the prices were too low. By June 1984, the



**A smaller horizontal sign had replaced the vertical one by 1971. The distinctive yellow, orange and gold Art Deco facade advertised the movie *Love Story*, which premiered in December 1970.**

IN MEMORY OF  
OUR SOLDIERS  
BY  
ROYAL OAK  
MEMORIAL SOCIETY

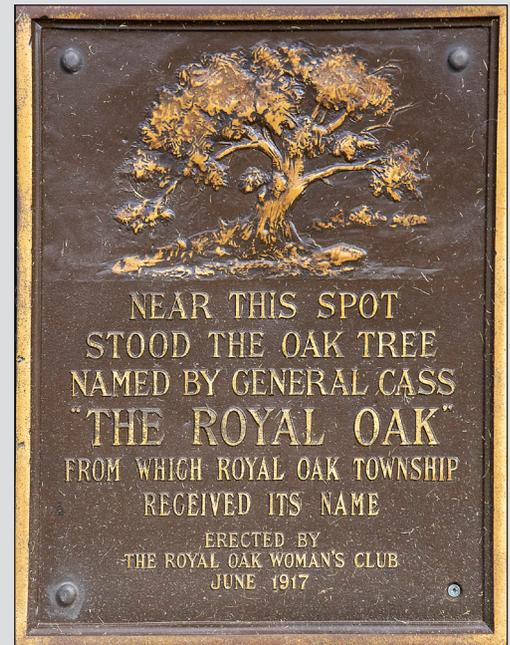
CIVIL WAR  
WESLEY BLACKMON  
CHESTER FARRAND  
JOSEPH JASPER  
BENJAMIN YOUNG  
SAMUEL YOUNG  
CHARLES YOUNG  
JAMES BRIGGS  
GEORGE BRIGGS  
FRANKLIN BICKFORD  
STEPHEN CHAPMAN  
FRANK DRAKE  
GEORGE YORKE  
PETER LEVALLEY  
JOHNATHAN ROBERTS  
JAMES MURRAY  
COREYDON FAY  
NATHANIEL HALL  
WORLD WAR I  
FRANK WENDLAND  
AUGUST BARNOWSKI  
HAROLD CHAILLE  
CHARLES H. HOWEY

PHOTO  
GAME

By Don Drife, Photo Game Editor  
and Contributor

This issue's Photo Game takes us  
to a local site at which there are  
three commemorative plaques.

Can you guess where  
they're located?



Answer on Page 11



McDowell House • Continued from Page 3

The interior traffic pattern accommodates itself to ease of furniture arrangement and has lots of light from the leaded glass windows on all four sides of the first level. Upstairs, the four bedrooms are located off of a central square area versus the usual long hallway. This arrangement allows for more light and air circulation as well as central placement of the six doors into the bedrooms, bathroom and third-floor stairway.

At the end of the north side drive is the original 18 by 30-foot two-story barn. Its mansard roof is now clad in metal. The McDowells had a horse and buggy, so the second story has a hay loft door, and on the first floor, two rolling doors open to either side. On the interior of the south side, there is a standard door where Edward McDowell carved his initials.

With its wide roof overhang and exposed rafter tails, this house presents a picture of welcome and refuge simultaneously.

*Editor's Note:* An owner of this home was Ruth Cleaveland who dedicated many years to Royal Oak historical activities and passed away in February 2022. The home is one of 14 designated Historic Districts in the City of Royal Oak, consistent with the State of Michigan Local Historic Districts Act (§ 82-3). A historic district is "an area, or group of areas not necessarily having contiguous boundaries, that contains one resource or a group of resources that are related by history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture" (§ 82-3). For more information, go to <https://www.romi.gov/587/Historic-District-Study-Committee>.



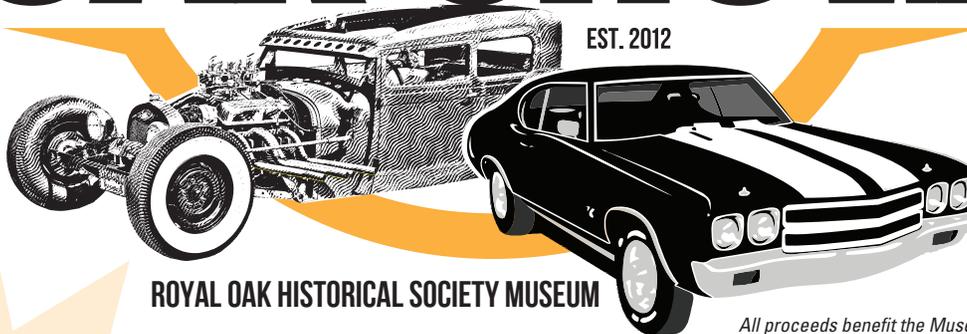
Barn with metal clad roof and original hardware.

**SATURDAY  
AUGUST 6th  
10am - 3pm**



**WOODWARD MEMORIES**

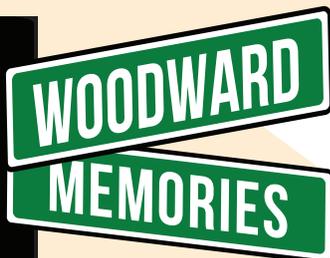
# CAR SHOW



**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.

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For more information: **(248) 439-1501**

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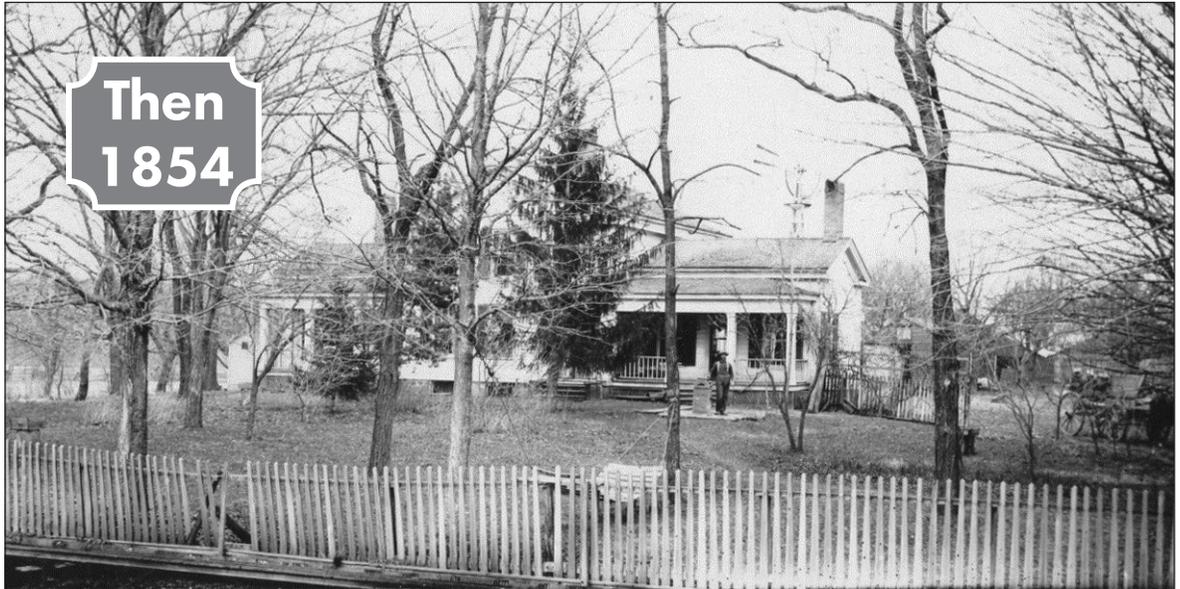
# Royal Oak Then & Now

BY JOHN MAURICE, ROHS FACEBOOK EDITOR

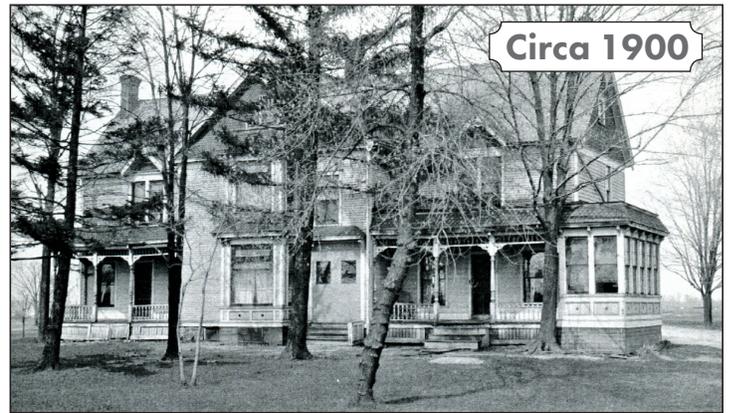
The John Benjamin homestead was one of the first to be established in Royal Oak, dating back to 1854.

Benjamin also established what is believed to be among the first manufacturing operations in the area with his grain cradle business. John Benjamin was born in Mendon, New York, in 1809 and came to Michigan in 1830.

Immediately upon his arrival in Detroit, he made his way north, telling his fellow travelers that he wouldn't stop until he came to high land. He found that high land along the Saginaw Trail (now Woodward Avenue) just north of Twelve Mile



antique shop, the former home eventually became Aunt Fanny's restaurant in 1955. Aunt Fanny's was a popular restaurant that also hosted large gatherings. My mother even had her bridal shower there in the 1950s. But it was to be relatively short lived, as the restaurant eventually closed and was torn down in 1968. It used to stand just north of the popular Susie-Q restaurant, which itself was closed in 1985. The land is now occupied by retail space.



Road. His holdings eventually amounted to 162 acres in this area, most of which were in what is now the city of Berkley. The Benjamin home was built in present-day Royal Oak in 1854 and continued as a homestead for almost 100 years, with the last member of the family passing in 1943. After subsequently spending some of its life as an



Photograph by John Maurice

# Looking Back

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

## What was happening in Royal Oak in July and August...

### 40 YEARS AGO — 1982

**Subscribers to** the Tribune-United cable television system will pay as little as \$2.95 monthly, with no charge for installation, if orders for the service are placed within 90 days after the time cable becomes available in their community.

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**It was cold** in South Oakland early today (Aug. 28), but not THAT cold. The Royal Oak low of 47 at 7 a.m. failed to match the four-decade low of 42 set back in 1941, the year *The Daily Tribune* began recording temperatures.

### 50 YEARS AGO — 1972

**The Royal Oak City Commission** will meet in a special meeting Tuesday (Aug. 29) to hear public reaction on plans by Oakland Community College for a downtown campus development. The City Planning Commission endorsed the plans for development of a campus center on the south side of Seventh from Center to Washington. Tentative plans call for the renovation of the former Salvation Army Citadel and a former supermarket on the site for 11 classrooms and administrative offices. The college can purchase the property and construct new buildings without review by the City Commission.

### 60 YEARS AGO — 1962

**The Royal Oak City Commission** tentatively approved leasing the Memorial Park parking lot for 55 years to a Birmingham office developer to provide parking for a proposed eight-story office building at Woodward and Thirteen Mile.

### 70 YEARS AGO — 1952

**The Royal Oak Planning Commission**, by a 3-2 vote, Thursday night (Aug. 21), recommended that the city annex a two-mile strip of Royal Oak Township.

In making the recommendation, which will be placed before the City Commission Monday night, the planners felt that the strip would be needed to complete the eastern boundary of the city. Proposed annexation of the property bounded on the east by the alley east of Stephenson, west of Campbell, south of Twelve Mile and north of Fourteen Mile. The strip is two miles long and a half-mile wide.

### 75 YEARS AGO — 1947

**Edward A. Buck Jr.**, age 9, of Royal Oak Township, died Wednesday afternoon in Children's Hospital, Detroit of poliomyelitis. It was the first case of polio of the summer, according to the South Oakland County Health Department. The boy was stricken six days ago. Edward was born Feb. 2, 1938 in Royal Oak.

### 80 YEARS AGO — 1942

**The Royal Oak Township Board** is speeding actions to create a township trailer park to accommodate the scores of trailers "squatting" on vacant lots throughout the township. The park probably will be east of John R, about a half mile north of Eleven Mile.

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## 60 years ago — 1962 Scouts Surprise Senior

Carl E. Holmquist, 439 Parkdale, a student of Indian lore, was delighted when he stepped out of his house Wednesday morning — his 75th birthday — and saw a totem pole standing in his driveway.

The colorful pole, which stands about 10 feet high, was placed in the driveway sometime during the night by a group of Boy Scouts as a surprise for Holmquist's birthday.

Holmquist said Indian lore has been a hobby since he was a small child.

The Scouts, all attending Camp Agawan in Lake Orion, were approached about the task of making a totem pole by Holmquist's wife.

"I knew my husband would love it," she said, "so I inquired at different places to see where I could get one. Someone suggested I try the Boy Scouts."

Charles Whipple, who has charge of the camp, said the teenagers worked on the pole during their spare time. They had three weeks to finish it.

During a ceremony in 1942, Holmquist was made an honorary member of the Sioux Tribe by Chief Blue Cloud. He was given the Indian name of Wam-Ba-Lee, which means Golden Eagle. He also received an Indian headdress made by the chief of white eagle feathers.



**Two members of the counseling staff at Boy Scout Camp Agawan, Lake Orion, explain to Mr. Holmquist the meaning of the various symbols on the pole. (Daily Tribune photo)**

Continued on Page 11

**Kroger Supermarkets** advertised food specials of the week, including bread, two loaves for 12 cents; flour, 25 pounds for 77 cents; crackers, 10 cents a pack; and cheese, two pounds for 53 cents. Juice oranges were 24 for 55 cents; peaches, four pounds for 29 cents; grapes, two pounds for 25 cents; and ground steak, 37 cents a pound.

Meanwhile, the prices of most major brand gasoline prices jumped from 6 cents to 8 cents per gallon in the metro area. Shell, Gulf and Standard all increased gas prices from 24.9 cent to 32.9 cents a gallon. Premium was boosted from 28.9 to 36.9 cents a gallon.

### 90 YEARS AGO — 1932

**Formal proposal** for the continued operation of DSR streetcars on the Royal Oak line is expected to be presented to the City of Royal Oak by DSR officials today (July 1). At a meeting in Detroit, members of local DSR committee and officials of the street railways line formally discussed the different principals involved but failed to reach any definite agreement. DSR will submit a proposal on either a flat rental basis for use of the Royal Oak-owned tracks or on a specific payment to the city for each car mile traveled.

### 100 YEARS AGO — 1922

**Fire thought to have** originated from spontaneous combustion destroyed a barn full of hay belonging to Red Run Golf Club on Twelve Mile road near Main street Wednesday evening (July 13) around 5 o'clock with a loss estimated at \$2,000.

Besides the hay, a number of tools used on the golf course were stored in the barn. The loss is covered by insurance. The Royal Oak Volunteer Fire Department answered the alarm but could do nothing except protect adjoining property.

\*\*\*

**Residents of Lincoln Avenue** appeared before the township board and asked that money the board was contemplating spending to spread Tarvia (road-surfacing material) on Lincoln Avenue from Knowles street east for half a mile be spent to gravel the road 16 feet wide instead of 12 feet as formerly planned.

The sum of \$350 was appropriated to gravel the Twelve Mile road from Main to Rochester road. Three hundred yards of gravel are to be placed on the Campbell road for a quarter mile south of the Nine and a half mile road. This gravel was first contracted to be placed on the Nine Mile road.

### 100 years ago — 1922

#### Senior Class Offers Corn, Peas

The Senior Class of Royal Oak High School wishes to announce that it will have on sale at factory prices the following line of canned goods: King Arthur Corn, \$4.70 per case or 21 cents per can; Pride of Yale Peas, \$4.30 per case or 18 cents per can. This is the lowest possible price for a 16-ounce can of this excellent quality. We will maintain a store at the high school throughout the year where goods will be sold at retail. Any order phone to 115 will receive prompt and courteous attention. The profits from these sales will help seniors go to Washington, D.C.



In addition, the seniors canvassed Royal Oak last Monday afternoon to take orders for corn and peas. We discovered a very astounding fact. Most of the people were not at home and some of the rest never eat corn or peas. We heartily thank those kind people who ordered vegetables from us. "Business is picking up," remarked Jess Crowe as he cleaned off the tables at the cafeteria.

### PHOTO GAME ANSWER

The three plaques in this issue's Photo Game are located near the intersection of Main Street and Rochester Road. The best-known one is the Royal Oak plaque commemorating the original "royal" oak located just north of the entrance to Oakview Cemetery. It was dedicated on October 24, 1917.

The other two plaques are not as well known. Located south of the entrance to Oakview Cemetery is the America's Veterans flagpole. A plaque listing men who gave their lives during the Civil War and World War I is in the north end of Royal Oak Cemetery in section J. Royal Oak Cemetery is just adjacent to Oakview Cemetery on the west side of Rochester Road.

### On Our Website

Keep up to date on society and museum happenings on our website — [www.royaloakhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.royaloakhistoricalsociety.com) — and by following our Facebook page at [facebook.com/RoyalOakHistoricalSociety](https://facebook.com/RoyalOakHistoricalSociety). Missed reading a newsletter? You can find past issues on the website!

Founded in 1939, the Royal Oak Historical Society is a private, non-governmental organization of volunteers. We collect, display and preserve information and objects of Royal Oak's past for current and future generations.

Throughout the year we present various special exhibits and provide a venue for other groups and individuals to display their collections.

Donations to the Royal Oak Historical Society are gratefully accepted.



ROYAL OAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1411 West Webster Rd. • Royal Oak, MI 48073

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ROYAL OAK  
*Historical Society*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (home)

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Receive newsletter via email? Y N

PLEASE INDICATE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

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

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

GENERAL DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Royal Oak Historical Society, 1411 W. Webster Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !

Dues also are payable online at [royaloakhistoricalsociety.com](http://royaloakhistoricalsociety.com). Click on the Membership link to pay or set up automatic annual dues payment. For more information about membership levels and benefits, visit the website.

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