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THE HURON RIVER: Description, Uses, Problems, and Possible Solutions.
by William B. Stapp

(A talk delivered at the February, 1966, meeting of the Society, illustrated by maps and charts.)

I. THE HURON RIVER: DESCRIPTIONS AND USES

The Huron River drains an area of about 900 square miles in southeastern Michigan. This area is known as the Huron River Watershed, a natural unit which cuts across several political boundaries.

Because of differences in topography and land use, the watershed can be divided into two sections: the upper basin above Ann Arbor, which is largely rural; and the lower basin, from Ann Arbor to Lake Erie. The water in the upper Huron River is used primarily for recreation and agriculture. The major water uses in the lower Huron River are industrial and municipal.

The significance of viewing the Huron River in terms of its total drainage area lies in the simple fact that water flows. Therefore downstream water uses are influenced by land management practices and water uses in the upper reaches of the watershed.

The law regulating water rights in Michigan is based on the riparian doctrine, which gives the riparian the right to use the water as long as the water is passed to lower riparians in a condition that is reasonably undiminished in quantity and reasonably unimpaired in quality.

A. Drainage: A natural function of the Huron River is to drain rainfall from the land. That can be considered one use of the river and one important enough that Michigan Counties have a public official, the Drain Commissioner, who supervises the improvement of natural drainage. As of the present time, floods have not been a serious problem. However, with an increasing amount of land area in the watershed covered with impervious roofs and roads, this may become more of a problem in the near future.

B. Water Supply: Presently, two communities obtain their principal water supply from the Huron River (Ann Arbor and Flat Rock). Other municipal systems draw their principal water supply from ground water sources. However, it is

estimated at the present time that ground water supplies will not be able to meet future demands, and the Huron River will become an important supplemental source. Black and Veatch report that the per capita consumption of water in the lower watershed will be on the average of 180 million gallons per day in 1980. Municipalities will need 42 million gallons of water per day to meet this demand. The estimated ground water resources are 25 million gallons per day. The deficit, 17 million gallons, could have a serious effect on other water uses. In addition to municipal uses of ground and surface water, 26 industrial supply systems in the Huron River watershed use ground water supplies and 3 are using water from the Huron. These 3 plants require a total of 5 million gallons per day.

C. Waste Water Disposal: The Huron River "is used to dilute and assimilate treated sewage." In 1959, 14 sewage treatment plants discharged about 16.5 million gallons a day of treated sewage, 93% occurring at or below Ann Arbor. Primary and secondary treatment is provided at Ann Arbor and operation is within design capacity. Ypsilanti City has primary treatment and its plant is overloaded and some raw sewage by-passes into the river. Ypsilanti Township has 2 plants, both having primary and secondary treatment. Considerable raw sewage by-passes one plant. Belleville has only primary treatment. The Wayne County Romulus plant provides primary and secondary treatment. As of the present time, the current sewage effluents are not causing any gross pollution. In the future it may be necessary to provide retaining reservoirs to augment low flows during the summer months to help dilute municipal and industrial wastes. Consideration is also being given to diverting municipal and industrial wastes to treatment systems outside the Huron River Watershed.

D. Recreation: In the upper watershed, great use is made of the Huron River for fishing, boating, canoeing, waterskiing, and swimming. However, in the lower Huron the river is used largely for its scenic value, and only in certain areas for water contact sports. The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Park in the lower Huron is provided with a swimming pool. As the population increases and the Huron River Watershed people have more leisure time, there will undoubtedly be an increasing demand for recreational facilities. The water quality in Belleville Lake and Ford Lake will have to be checked constantly to make certain that the water quality standards necessary for swimming do not drop below the public health safety standards.

E. Irrigation: An increasing amount of water is being used for irrigation purposes, especially in the upper watershed. The water that is removed from streams, rivers, and lakes for irrigation purposes is generally not returned for down-river use, because it is evaporated off the land, transpired by plants, or becomes a part of the crop. Irrigation water is needed most urgently during drought periods, and this coincides with the time that low flows need to be augmented to dilute municipal and industrial wastes. The greatest potential for agricultural irrigation occurs in the upper reaches of the watershed. Present irrigation uses of water in the lower Huron are largely for golf courses and parks.

II. HURON RIVER WATERSHED INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

In 1956, Mr. Farness, of the Washtenaw County Planning Commission, initiated a movement to organize a committee to make a water-management study of the Huron River Watershed. An advisory committee was established of representatives from "planning groups, the State Health Department and Water Resources Commission,

industrial, political, and university personnel, and interested citizens." In October of 1957, the Water Resource Commission published a report on the water conditions of the Huron River Watershed. In this report a recommendation was made to form an "intermunicipal entity of some sort to define valley water management objectives." The State Health Department also requested that the governmental units of the watershed form an intergovernmental study committee. In April of 1958, the Huron River Watershed Intergovernmental Committee was organized, with 32 government units joining: 4 counties, 8 cities and villages, and 20 townships. Although the greatest current problems occurred in the lower urban portion, the communities of the upper area were also interested and their participation was sought. "Act 200, Public Acts of 1957, State of Michigan, was used as enabling legislation. This act gives the committee authority to sponsor and finance studies of mutual concern to member government units. The committee can receive grants and negotiate with federal, state, and local agencies to undertake its studies. It does not have the authority to construct facilities nor to tax."

This committee soon outlined its immediate objectives, to sponsor studies concerning "water management and development possibilities in the Huron River Watershed" and its ultimate objective "to determine the most desirable and feasible locations in the basin for urban growth, industrial areas, recreation and agricultural developments as determined and limited by present and potential water development and management possibilities and other basic factors."

This committee also stated a three-phased study program: 1) inventory and analysis of existing water and land arrangements and uses in the basin; 2) projections of future developments and water needs; and 3) implementation studies for administering and financing recommended water management projects.

On April 15, 1959, a study was begun by Black and Veatch, Consulting Engineers of Kansas City, Missouri, of the problems of the lower Huron River Watershed. Thirty thousand dollars was raised by subscription from the 8 communities along the lower Huron, in accordance with population, land area, and assessed valuation. Other contributions included the Detroit Edison Company, Wayne County Road Commission, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and Supervisors' Inter-County Committee.

So with the development of the Huron River Watershed Intergovernmental Committee, planning, coordinating, and decision making were beginning to take place on a basin-wide scale, instead of on an uncoordinated, piecemeal basis.

The Huron River Watershed Intergovernmental Committee was established to operate for a 5-year period of time. By 1963, the committee had served its term and there was need for a new organization that had more positive responsibility for water resources planning and development. A reorganization study group recommended that there be formed two distinct but interrelated local agencies, a Watershed Conservancy Council and a River Management District. The Watershed Conservancy Council would be primarily a study and advisory organization, but would have more responsibility than its predecessor organization. If communities wanted to control stream flow, then a River Management District could be formed. This organization would have the authority to build storage reservoirs, operate control structures to regulate stream flow, and raise revenues. Enabling legislation to provide for the formation of these two local agencies was approved by the Governor in May, 1964.

III. RESERVOIR PLAN

A preliminary report by the United States Army Corps of Engineers reveals that water should be added to the Huron River during periods of low flow to improve water quality. Their report also indicates that ground and surface waters of the Huron River Basin will not be adequate to supply the needs for the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area much beyond the year 1985. In recent years the Corps has been studying one alternative to the problem and that is a reservoir site that could be used to release stored water during periods of low flow. Of all known potential reservoir sites in the watershed, only an impoundment in the Mill Creek area would provide significant control of flood waters in the lower Huron (flood waters in 1918 and 1947 did extensive damage in Ypsilanti and Flat Rock). The Engineers are presently studying the feasibility of a Mill Creek Reservoir designed to include flood control, water quality and quantity storage, and recreational benefits, such as swimming, boating, hunting, and fishing.

Citizens from the proposed reservoir area have formed an organization, Mill Creek Research Council, to study and to make known their concern. The Council has stated that they believe such an impoundment would be a short-term solution to a long-term problem. They are also concerned because the proposed impoundment would flood land that supports a very stable farm community, would create unpleasant odors and muddy flats for surrounding property owners, would take land off the tax roll, and that alternative solutions have not been thoroughly investigated. The Mill Creek Organization has also pointed out that the National Sanitation Foundation supports "alternative solutions for water supply and sewage disposal. The foundation's position is that the Huron River must not and cannot continue to serve indefinitely as both a water source and a sewer pipe in view of the huge anticipated population increase. They recommend that the raw water be provided from Lake Huron and that the waste, after proper and carefully controlled treatment, be returned by pipe-line to the Great Lakes."

In closing, it should be kept in mind that Ann Arbor is faced with a serious water problem that must be solved by the year 1985. However, until all alternatives have been thoroughly studied, one should not be taking sides and closing one's mind to opposing views. All of the facts have not been gathered, and a variety of alternative solutions are still being considered.

* * *

[Editor's Note: A lively question and answer period followed this very informative and timely address. Special concern was shown by many of the audience for the plight of farmers in the Mill Creek watershed if they should have to give up their well-tilled fields.]

Quotable Quotes

"The older our country becomes, the larger its population, the greater its diversification of industry, blood, and culture, the more our calm judgment acknowledges the debt this people and nation owe to its early settlers. It was they who laid the foundation and fashioned the shape of the governmental, social, and industrial edifice, to which we of this generation make only additions or subtractions."

- from "Grandmother Brown's Hundred Years, by Harriet Connor Brown. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. 1930.

EMBRYOLOGY OF A MEDICAL CENTER

by John R. G. Gosling, M. D.

(A talk delivered at our March, 1966, meeting, enhanced with slides of old buildings, labs, operating rooms of a more primitive day, early hospitals, and photographs of professors who made the University Medical School famous during its various stages of development.)

When the University of Michigan Medical School opened its doors to the first class on the first Wednesday of October in 1850, medicine was very different from what it is today. Not only were our current antibiotics and hormones 100 years in the future, but old standbys like aspirin and barbiturates were still 50 years away, and even such "fundamentals" as anesthesia, antiseptic surgery, and the germ theory of disease had still not made their appearance. Anyone could be a doctor of medicine simply by hanging out a sign announcing that he was, and only about a quarter of the practitioners in the United States had ever attended any sort of medical school. Now the embryo physician of 1850 could pay a matriculation fee of \$10 and obtain a six-month course of instruction; in itself a revolutionary concept when all standard offerings elsewhere were only four months. This instruction was carried out almost entirely by lecture and the day was so filled with scheduled lectures that it was very difficult to find time for bedside instruction. This was just as well since there were no beds to stand beside in these early days. Just to be absolutely sure that no possible benefit be missed, the student was expected to sit through the same full course of lectures a second time the following year before he could present himself for his degree.

Even this beginning had been a long time in coming. In 1817, the Michigan Territorial Act established the University of Michigan with 13 professorships, one in medical sciences. Absolutely nothing happened until 20 years later, when in January of 1837, Michigan became a state and the legislature established the University of Michigan with 3 departments: literature, science and the arts; law; and medicine. It was not until 1848 that the regents finally established a medical school and made an initial appropriation of \$3,000 for a building. By the time the first class began its work, \$8,981 had been invested in the still uncompleted medical building on the eastern side of the campus.

The original faculty included Dr. Abram Sager, who had a fine reputation as a botanist and zoologist, and became the president of the medical faculty as well as Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children; Dr. Silas H. Douglass, Professor of Chemistry, Pharmacology, and Materia Medica, who taught what appears to be the first laboratory course in Chemistry for medical students to be done in the United States; Dr. Moses Gunn, Secretary, and Professor of Anatomy and Surgery; Dr. Samuel Denton, Professor of Pathology and of Theory and Practice of Medicine; Dr. Jonathan A. Allen, Professor of Physiology and of Therapeutics; and Dr. Zina Pitcher, who was a Professor of Obstetrics and was also serving as a member of the University's Board of Regents. Within the next few years, Dr. Alonzo B. Palmer, Professor of Materia Medica and Diseases of Women and Children, and Dr. Corydon Ford, as Professor of Anatomy, joined this distinguished group.

The undertaking was a successful one. The 91 students of 1850 had grown to 242 by 1860. Still at this date, all were contained in the single medical building and it became apparent that an expansion was in order. The cost seemed a formidable barrier, but the citizens of Ann Arbor raised an initial \$10,000, the University appropriated an equal sum, and the addition to the medical building became a reality in 1864, just in time to accommodate the tremendously expanded enrollment of veterans that followed the Civil War. In 1868, the professor's residence on the north side of the campus was placed in service as a "hospital" of sorts. Patients

came to the hospital early in the morning on Wednesdays and Saturdays and the medical students assisted them, or carried them across the campus to the medical building for the class demonstrations. If an operation was to be demonstrated, it was done in the anatomical lecture room, which in that pre-antiseptic day was considered a perfectly satisfactory arrangement.

In 1876, the University finally built a pavillion-type hospital on the north edge of the campus to serve an expanding patient load and provide better facilities for instruction. This was the first university-owned and operated hospital in the United States, and at one and the same time a landmark and source of controversy. All through the first 50 years of the University of Michigan Medical School, a continuing disagreement existed among the members of the faculty on the wisdom of continuing medical instruction in Ann Arbor when the growing city of Detroit offered so much larger a number and variety of patients for instruction, and, perhaps incidentally, a larger volume of practice for professors, with proportionate economic reward. This first University Hospital was ultimately built with an \$8,000 appropriation from the legislature and a \$4,000 contribution from the city of Ann Arbor. It contained 60 beds and was built with the intention of demolishing it after 5 years, since other similar buildings had been found to be hopelessly contaminated and infected after that time period, much to the detriment of the patients. This noble intention notwithstanding, the building was to serve as the teaching hospital of the medical school for 15 years, then was used by the dental school for a number more years before its ultimate demise.

Michigan continued to lead in a variety of ways during this whole period of time. In 1870 they admitted the first women students. In 1877 the course of instruction was increased to 9 months, then 2 years later, the school adopted a course of 3 years of graded instruction. From the period 1889 to 1891, some major and important changes took place under the leadership of Dr. Victor Vaughan, who saw not only a full 4-year course of study instituted, but also the offering of a number of laboratory courses in basic medical science subjects. It was also at this time that the University Hospital moved from its position on the north edge of the campus to the Medical Center area on Catherine Street.

This all-important decision, which ultimately determined the placement of the entire medical complex, has some interesting questions attached. The whos and whys are beyond my present knowledge, but provide some interesting speculation. All such speculation aside, the decision buried for all time the question of moving the Medical School to Detroit. The five buildings of this complex, when compared to the humble campus pavillion, represent a startling increment in size, and provided considerable impetus to the development of one of the best programs of clinical teaching that has ever existed. These years at the turn of the century were very important ones. Under Dr. Vaughan's leadership, the names of Dock, Lombard, McMurrich, Cushny, Novy, Huber, Warthin, Parker, and Canfield, all contributed to the fame of the institution. It was Dr. Vaughan who provided the leadership and spark for this vital group of men, but they together built a golden age of Michigan Medicine.

The new hospital complex was not always satisfactory, not only because it quickly became crowded but because some of the features of design were something less than perfect. For example, a lecture room underneath the Palmer Ward was notorious as the "frog pond," because in Ann Arbor's recurrent rainy seasons the floor was not infrequently covered with water. It was 1925, after a relatively long and involved struggle, that the present University Hospital first opened its doors. The same year saw the finishing of the East Medical Building just adjacent to the campus to provide a new home for anatomy, bacteriology, and physiology

departments, and with these buildings opened the "modern era" of the Medical Center as we know it today. The embryonic period was now clearly behind us and the problems of growth ahead.

Subsequent development has not been uniform but reflects the relationship of the Center to the world beyond its doors. The year 1926 saw the opening of the Simpson Memorial Institute for the study of hematologic disease, but then came depression years and nothing more happened for some time. It was 1937 when the Neuropsychiatric Institute was completed, and just as some serious consideration was being given to a new obstetric facility, World War II came along to put an end to that discussion. It was in 1950, perhaps appropriately on Valentine's Day, that the Women's Hospital was opened, and in the years that followed additions came rapidly. In 1953 the Outpatient Department Building was completed, and in 1954 the Kresge Medical Research Building was added to the complex. A medical library followed in 1955, as did the Children's Psychiatric Hospital. The year 1960 saw the opening of the Mental Health Research Building, and the Buhl Bldg. for the study of human genetics was completed in 1964. The growth process would seem to be continuing at an accelerating rate with the building of the Mott Children's Hospital underway as this brief essay is being written. One might argue that both the rate and the nature of expansion reflect clearly the tremendous changes in medical knowledge and medical care that characterize the last 20 years.

With the growth of the medical complex in its Catherine Street location, it was inevitable that efforts be made to bring the basic science instructional facilities still at the eastern edge of the campus into the area. First in this development was the erection of a Medical Science Building for Nursing, Pathology, Pharmacology, and Biochemistry in 1957. Now some of the original Catherine St. buildings which set the pattern have been demolished in the name of progress to prepare the way for a second Medical Science Building, which will bring the entire Medical School operation together again for the first time in 75 years. And still the end is nowhere in sight!

It is difficult for me to imagine Ann Arbor without the Medical Center or, indeed, the Medical Center without Ann Arbor. Each seems in a way unique and they share an excitement and vitality with argues well for the future.

PLANNING FOR NATURAL AREAS

by Douglas J. Fulton

(A talk delivered at our April, 1966, meeting by the enthusiastic and dedicated conservation editor of The Ann Arbor News.)

The talk for tonight is called "Planning for Natural Areas," and it is something in which I have had a deep, continuing and abiding interest.

When you begin to talk about natural areas, you first have to define your terms. I get so many questions: "What is a natural area? Is that the same as wilderness?" or "I thought you could only have natural areas out in the mountains somewhere or in great big areas." I rather like the definition a little boy gave, "A piece of land on which the hand of man has never set foot." He was mixing up his metaphors, but he had the right idea. Actually, a natural area is simply a piece of land, large or small, on which the natural processes are allowed to work to their conclusion, without help or hindrance from man.

This is a good theoretical definition, but we're going to have to revise it for practical consideration, for there simply aren't that many of these places left, especially in the areas in which they are needed. As a matter of fact, some natural areas are now being¹⁸ constructed in places where there were none, simply because there is a need for them. But in general we can come down to a working definition of what a natural area is, by saying that it is an area on which we must, as much as possible, let the natural processes of nature work to their conclusion.

A natural area can be a huge wilderness area or it can be a little square of yard. Aldo Leopold, the great naturalist, once said that the best preservers of the natural prairie areas in the midwest were the old cemeteries. Along the edges of the fence, where the mower did not reach, you can still see small remnants of the original prairie habitat. These edges are, in a sense, natural areas, even though they are small in total area. If you are talking about a beech-maple climax forest habitat, however, you must have sufficient area to preserve a remnant of forest and keep its unity.

Another thing we can say about a natural area is that it is not a constant thing - it is ever changing. It works to a climax, or until some natural disaster changes the picture radically. Perhaps I can illustrate this best by a diagram or illustration of one particular kind of succession and climax.

Michigan, as you all know, was once scoured by the glaciers. Many of our lakes were formed by glacial action. These lakes were once simply depressions dug into the earth by the action of the glacier. The depression filled with water, and became a lake.

Now all lakes, from the minute they are born, begin, as people do, to die. Lakes die by filling up, until they are no longer lakes but simply pieces of ground. Mountains, incidentally, die in the same way, but by a reverse process - they are worn down to a flat surface. Lakes begin by collecting on their bottoms a certain amount of sediment - some air-blown and some brought by erosion. Animal life and plant life appear, die, and their remains sink to the bottom. Soon there is a layer of sediment all over the bottom of the lake. Water plants begin to grow in the sediment around the edges of the lakes. These, too, die and their remains decay in the lake. Gradually this process of sedimentation, growth, and decay will spread from the edges inward, and soon, geologically speaking, this small pot-hole lake becomes land. This same process happens to most lakes - it's what is happening to Lake Erie, for instance, but we can see it more easily on the smaller lakes.

When the edges of the lake have collected enough soil from the growth and decay of water plants, the edge becomes ready for the invasion of shrub growth: button-bushes and the like. These shrubs produce even more soil, and gradually trees around the lake will begin to spread into the edges, displacing the shrubs, which, by this time, have moved farther out toward the center of the lake. The first trees are the sun-tolerant species. When they have grown enough to provide good habitat for the shade-loving trees, these begin to grow and displace the original species, simply by shading them out. Thus we have a climax forest of one kind or another, depending upon the climate and various other factors. But even this so-called climax forest is not really a climax -- nothing ever is -- for such natural disasters as fires and floods can change a succession at any point in its development.

This example I have given is only one of hundreds of kinds of natural succession, and these happen over such a long period of time that we cannot see them happening; we can only see the evidence of various stages, and read back the history by postulation.

So we have natural areas, we know what they are, and we know that they are not constant, but ever changing. Now, what good are they? If someone asked you what good is a historical museum, I'm sure you would have an answer. The answer to "what good is a natural area?" would be much the same. We learn from history (or should, at least), and we also learn from the land. Without the land, man is nothing. He depends upon the land for his very survival. He gets nourishment and livelihood from it. And just as we establish art and historical museums to study the past records of man's material achievements, so we have an obligation to provide living museums to show examples of the land from which he drew sustenance.

Again this is a theoretical viewpoint. To a hard-headed realist who still asks "What good are they?" we must answer further.

We are lucky in this stage of our development that we know a lot about the natural processes that we didn't know fifty, a hundred, or two hundred years ago. If people had known some of the facts that are now common knowledge to our scientists, we could have prevented much of the destruction of the country that we now see around us. Some areas now gone might have been saved.

But just as we know more now, we are less acquainted with the land. Most of our population is urban. Our political decisions are being made more and more by this urban population. Unless we can develop in them an awareness and appreciation of the land, many decisions in the future will be made against the ecological knowledge that our scientists have, and thus the land, because it is not known and appreciated, will suffer. All the knowledge in the world will not suffice unless there is appreciation.

If you go back in history you will find descriptions of lands. But if you try to match these descriptions with present conditions, you will not be able to do so. As an example, read the Bible with its descriptions of forests, streams, and green meadows, and then try to correlate these with present conditions in the Middle East. Most of them are gone. Even now, the State of Israel is trying to reclaim some of these lands with gigantic water reclamation projects, to make their country what it once was. Or go back in history and read about the lands of Greece and how they were once heavily forested. Look at Greece today. The people knew not of the land nor how to manage it. They cut the timber, the erosion washed away the thin, fragile soil, and today they have barren lands, unfit to grow crops of any kind. Many other civilizations died because their land died.

So it is doubly important to have this appreciation of the land, know what it is capable of, how to take care of it, and what it means. Let us not kid ourselves that we will be able to grow all of our food in the form of algae from the sea. We will need the land for a long time to come.

We have examples here in our own country of the ravishment of the land - the once-great buffalo prairies of grama grass which were fenced and over-grazed, until the grass disappeared and the only thing left was cheat, mesquite, and low-quality weeds which the cattle would not eat. We have examples here in Michigan, of land which was suitable, because of its thin soil, only for forests, and when these forests were denuded by the lumber barons, the soil eroded or blew away, and today they are sterile and grow nothing.

I think I need to say nothing more of what natural areas are, or why we need them. But we do have to find out where they should be located.

First of all let me say that we who are crying out for natural areas do not say that every piece of parkland in our city should be a natural area. We believe in balance, and we recognize the need for active recreational areas as well. But we do need natural areas, and we need them close at hand, as much as possible, to each neighborhood.

We are fortunate that we have been able to preserve so many here in the city. I might mention Eberwhite Woods, parts of the Arboretum, some of the Edison properties along the river, the High School woods and field, and areas on the new high school property, the Lakewood Woods, Dolph Park, Wildwood Ravine, Park Washtenaw, and Haisley Woods.

But there is always a clamor about natural areas. They need to be "developed" their critics say, and we've had a number of fights over them in the city of Ann Arbor. Fortunately we have won most of these skirmishes. It's a rather interesting battle. When you win, things stay the same; but when you lose, the area disappears for good. You can lose a natural area only once to the developers. If they want a natural area badly enough, they can be defeated and defeated and defeated a thousand times; but once they win, they have won forever. So it is a continuing fight to save the areas that we now have, and to plan for others outside the city limits which we can "grow out to." This is why I made the statement about the balanced park system. Unless we have sufficient active recreation areas there will always be a clamor to develop the natural areas.

I don't mean to sound pessimistic, for I'm not. I think we are in fairly good shape now, and the people of Ann Arbor are beginning to appreciate the value of preservation of natural areas while there is still time to save them. One thing that has helped in this regard is the conservation education program in the public schools, which is probably the best such program in the whole United States. We are gradually teaching a whole new generation of children a better love of the land.

Now, there is more to natural areas than just getting them and preserving them. We must design them properly. Many people have criticised the concept of small natural areas. They claim that most of them are too small to protect, and that if we turn children loose in them they will soon be destroyed. But we know from experience, and the study of many areas throughout the country, that if an area is properly designed, and trails put through it naturally and properly, it will stand heavy use.

I'd like to close by giving you a few of my dreams for Ann Arbor, and by suggesting how your group and mine can cooperate to make these dreams come true.

First of all, I'd like to see at least one, and preferably several, nature centers within our city or close to the edges. These nature centers would be buildings surrounded by natural areas for study. The buildings would include a natural history museum, a place where the historical value of the land could be shown, together with the ecological concepts which we must know in order to preserve the land. This center would be open to all the people of Ann Arbor. The center would have a workshop where those who wished to study more thoroughly the concepts which I have outlined could do so. It would be a place where young people could work on exhibits, projects, and studies.

I'd also like to see us have a very balanced system of natural areas - examples of all kinds of habitat - and have them located throughout the city so that each citizen could get to them without travelling far. The ultimate would be to have one within walking distance of every child.

I think that if these dreams were to come true, and really it is not a far-fetched possibility, we would go a long way toward the preservation of the beauty of our city that all of us so earnestly desire. I hope that the Historical Soc. and the conservation groups in this area can cooperate toward making them come true. We have a mutual interest which perhaps we have not realized.

I happen to think that natural history is tied to the history of man - it is inescapable. These two should be tied together in a museum and in a nature center. We cannot speak of the land without speaking of man's impact on the land throughout history, and we cannot speak of man's historical development without reference to what the land contributed.

I hope that when this vision comes true - the dream of nature centers and a system of natural areas - we will see something much grander than either you or I realize now.

MORE STUDIES OF MANCHESTER

by Jane Palmer and Annetta English

(Seven extracts from "History of Manchester," a manuscript volume presented to the Washtenaw Historical Society by Jane Palmer. It contains 159 pages of typed material on early Manchester, written by Annetta English, Miss Palmer herself, and a number of others, many of whom are now deceased.)

I. Indians, by Annetta English

Few vestiges of the Indians remain. I have seen a portion of an old trail leading around a hillside that has been too steep for the plow, but I presume this has succumbed to cultivation. It was on the farm lying north of Father's, on section 16, described as follows: the southwest quarter of section sixteen.

Miss Elmira Fisk told about the trail which was a main trail and which we speak of as the turnpike. From that branched out another which passed through the grove back of the Fisk house and went toward the Iron Lake at the site of the mill. She said the ground in the trail was so hard that no grass grew on it for years, until it came under the plow.

In contradiction seemingly is the description written by Dr. Finch: The floor of the trail was quite eight inches below the general surface, having been beaten down by the feet of Indians and their ponies. To the foot the floor seemed as hard as rock, but it had a thin covering of the finest, softest, most velvety grass that my hand had ever touched. As it had never been found elsewhere, scientists designated it Moccasin Grass. I have observed this grass growing in the path from the village to Mr. H. C. Gilbert's.

There was an oak near the Iron Creek school that had its trunk bent to a right angle by the Indians for a guide.

I was told by Arthur E. English that he plowed up the Indian trail on his forty. He said that Ansel Witherall knew the chief who came along the trail, and especially the one who visited this section long after his tribe had gone from these parts. Douglas Baldwin told that the blazed trail ran on the west side of

the John Fisk farm, thence to the creek, which was crossed farther west than where the road now crosses the milldam, then northeast to avoid the hill above William Baldwin's, and crossed grandfather Baldwin's farm on the southeast corner.

He had seen Indians camped on the lowland below where the barns on the Burtless farm now stand, west of the village. He told also of an Indian skeleton unearthed a number of years ago on the Mill property. It may have been that the Indian fell on the earth many years ago and the soil accumulated gradually over it, for the skeleton lay only about eight inches below the surface.

Many Indian arrows, hammers, skinning knives, and crude implements used by Indians have been found about the hills in that locality. The writer has a beautiful tool made of banded jasper which was found there.

Their planting ground was on section 29, at the head of what is now Iron Creek Mill pond, on ground now rich in flora of various genera. Thereon is a spring which, in the driest of seasons, has a flow as large as a man's arm. Their burial ground was on the south bank of Iron Creek, on section 27, a lonely spot now. It is known that many of the graves have been opened by desecrators and the contents disturbed. Johnathan R. Holmes and Douglas Baldwin told of seeing a dead papoose in its buckskin covering, suspended from a branch of a tree, on the Bigelow farm on section 30.

II. Manchester's Roads, by Jane Palmer

Mr. Otto Hohmes said his father had seen Indians on the trail and heard them before he saw them. They were sociable, talking and laughing as they traveled. When they stopped to camp, everyone had his work and got right at it. They always seemed to be busy.

Roads that follow section lines are usually made by surveyors, but bends and curves are often old. Sharon Hollow Road is an exception. It seems to be old. These old highways connect lakes, springs, salt springs, clay banks to furnish coloring material, huckleberry and cranberry marshes, deer runs, wintergreen beds, garden spots, camp grounds, caves. Bent trees were used as direction marks. Blazed trails were a white man's device. Nobody would blaze a trail with a stone axe.

III. First Settlement of Iron Creek, by Annetta English

John B. Crane was born March 24, 1800. He came to Michigan with Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Ely and John O'Hara, who came from Seneca County, New York, in 1829. He was an Irishman, and he located on the land on the old Chicago Turnpike known as the James Bostedor farm. When an organization of the township was effected and an election held on April 3, 1837, "Squire" Crane received one vote out of 80 cast for supervisor. He taught at the Iron Creek school at least one term, and pupils of his, now aged, speak of a certain blue cloak that he wore to emphasize his dignity as schoolmaster and as Justice of the Peace.

He owned the farm east of Iron Lake known in after years as the John Raby place. One of the apple orchards in this section was set out by him and he carried the young trees on his back from Clinton. He was eccentric; he came West, he said, "to escape civilization."

IV. The Gilbert Family, by Jane Palmer

David Polk Gilbert and his wife, Ann Maria Spencer, settled in their new home in the early 1840's. The old tintype of David Polk Gilbert shows a sober-faced citizen, and it is told that he was called "Black Dave," being one of the dark

complexioned Gilberts. He must have been a Whig, for he named his son Henry Clay. He was interested in public affairs, but devoted his energies to his farm home.

The story-and-a-half house was built in 1842. It still stands, far back from the street, dominated by the great elm in the back yard. . .The house was low, unpainted for many years, and seemed to settle in, like part of the landscape. Within the memory of people living in 1953, it held a family of four, Henry Clay Gilbert, Ellen Root Gilbert, his wife, his mother, Ann Maria Spencer Gilbert, and his only son David, a fair-haired child who died at the age of twelve.

The grandmother, Ann Maria, lived to the age of ninety-four. She had fastidious tastes. Her house dressers, or wrappers as they were then called, were made for her and she saw for herself that they fitted without a wrinkle. As she was bent and very thin, this was not always easy.

Henry Gilbert treated his mother with great consideration. There is a story that Mrs. Henry Gilbert was taking her mother-in-law for a drive in the carriage, and Henry said, "Let nothing happen to Mother. I can never get another mother, but I can get another wife." Mrs. Ellen Gilbert received this remark with a chuckle and an agreeable "Yes." The head of the table was occupied by grandmother, who always poured the tea. Henry and his wife sat at the sides and Henry took the cups from his mother's feeble hands. In summer they used the back porch for their sitting room. Old pictures show the rain barrel, the milking utensils, and the stone churn. It seems to have been a delightful place in spite of the simplicity of its pattern. The fine, soft grass in the path met the wooden walk into the village. Henry mowed the lawn with a horse-drawn mower or a scythe. The barns stood across the road and a solid fence of perpendicular boards gave protection from the wind to Henry's herd of superb Durham cattle, all brushed and groomed as if readied for exhibition.

V. The Alvord House, by Jane Palmer.

About 1856, when Dick Alvord was five, his father, Obed, built the house on Grossman Road. It is of field stone, faced. The thresholds and window sills are of sandstone brought from Napoleon, Michigan, by stream. The walls are nearly two feet thick and the windows deeply recessed, making comfortable seats. They built a walk of field stone from the door to the bridge that crossed the creek, and this walk is still in place under top soil. The great evergreens in the front yard were brought from New York. A porch was planned around the south and west sides of the house, but before this could be accomplished, Obed Alvord died. . .The house is still staunch and dignified after a hundred years.

VI. Frances Van Winkle Palmer, by Jane Palmer

Frances Van Winkle Palmer was a born student and used to do compound quadratic equations for recreation. She said it rested her. Her hands never got calloused no matter how hard she worked, but she never worked in the field. Her father recognized her natural talent and wished to send her to the university. When Frances married, she and her father quarreled and were not reconciled until the birth of Peter Van Winkle's first grandson.

Frances always read aloud to her family and always visited the country school they all attended. However, she had no love for the country. In fact, most of her life up to her marriage had been spent in the city. She liked to belong to a study club and always had nice friends. Her tastes were different from her husband's, but they were harmonious in their life. One friend of the family commented, "If anyone in your family appreciated your mother, it is your father."

She dealt masterfully with a thick steak, raking the coals out of the wood-burning cookstove into the deep hearth for the gridiron. She sat before the hearth during the broiling and gave it her full attention. The coffee was a ceremony too. It was Java and Mocha. The green berries were roasted separately in the oven and then blended and ground just before the coffee was made, and at the odor people sprang out of bed to meet the day.

Frances' bread smelled like flowers. Pie was fresh baked and eaten for dinner, and the saucer pie was an institution. She had a five-year-old neighbor who had a very long walk to school. He knew that he might break his walk home and get a saucer pie that would be ready for him.

VII. Frances Davis, by Annetta English.

Frances Davis was an aged colored woman who died in one of the old houses on the east side of Railroad Street in Manchester, in December, 1906, aged a hundred years or more. She remembered the battle of New Orleans. She once told that all of her immediate family died during the scourge of yellow fever in New Orleans in 1852 or 1853. She was sold on the auction block three times, but her last master, whom she had nursed in his infancy, gave her her freedom in his will.

When she died, the members of the Methodist Church who had known her faithfulness gave money to place a simple stone at her grave, inscribed with the words, "Auntie Davis."

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Annetta English, by Jane Palmer, her appreciative successor in writing this history of Manchester.

There are some old stories not be found in Annetta English's History of Manchester, now available for reference at the Manchester Township Library, and it seems fitting to have one about Miss English, that she may be more than a name to those who read her book. (She made much of the material in this manuscript possible to relate.)

Annetta was the only one of the children of Benjamin and Mary Baldwin English who appeared to show her Irish background. She was small and slender, with pretty blue eyes and faintly red hair. She was born in a house that stood across the road from the home of Marvin Kirk, section 22. Later, her home was the English place until the marriage of Albert English, when she settled in the house now the residence of Elwin English on M-11. She went to the old Manchester High School, and to Hillsdale College at a time when that was not considered necessary for girls. She was always interested in education for her two nieces.

The house on M-11 in Manchester was very attractive, with white paint to set off the wooden lacework, and a charming garden. The narcissus have naturalized and blossom in a great tangle every spring. The house inside was very pleasant with old-fashioned black walnut and horsehair, and her flowering plants. Annetta loved to garden early in the morning, but was careful to make no noise. Walter Schaible was playing for dances in those days and she said that Walter had to have his rest.

She entertained very pleasantly and callers had their tea from egg-shell cups, frail and lovely, without handles, and accompanied by delicate old silver.

She was imaginative and fanciful and used to tell about fairies and the banshee who knocked at a man's window to warn him of impending death. Her History, however, does not depend on fancy, but deals with names and times of people and places with great accuracy. She kept a journal for years and much of her material

was sifted from that. She says in her journal that she is sorry that she did not ask more of the old people who could have given her first-hand information about the life in those early days. In that, she is like all story tellers!

Annetta was a member of the Iron Creek church, but when she lived in the village, she became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and identified herself with its interests. She was a sound scholar, a member of the Bay View Reading Circle and the Shakespeare Club, and a very pleasant friend.

(Editor's note: Older Ann Arbor readers may be interested in Miss Palmer's added detail that Annette English was a cousin of Mrs. S. W. Clarkson. Miss English died in 1930.)

1965-
Other 1966 Programs of the Washtenaw Historical Society for which no manuscripts were obtained.

November Meeting:

A Literary Map of Michigan, by Carlton F. Wells.

December Meeting:

We Are a Part of History, by Roscoe Bonisteel.

May Meeting:

Basic Legislative Trends and Major State Issues, by State Senator Gilbert E. Bursley.

June Meeting:

Annual Pilgrimage to the new Museum in the Waterloo Area;
Dinner at the Michigan League, and
Business Meeting.

Quotable Quotes

"It is but a trifle more than four score years since the first white settlement was made in Washtenaw County, but the march of events has been so rapid that the county has all the appearance of an old and long settled country. . . Actual pioneer life in Washtenaw was of short duration. So quickly was the county settled and so rapidly did the soil respond to cultivation, and so soon was it brought into quick communication with the older civilization of the east, that it was only a very brief period, indeed, that the hardships of the pioneers were endured.

"The settlers of the county never clashed with the Indians. No record of Indian massacres is to be written. . . At the time of its first settlement in 1823, it was not 'a trackless wilderness.' Its forests were interspersed with openings. It was ready to respond quickly to the touch of the white man's hand, and this probably accounts in some measure for the rapidity of its settlement.

"Washtenaw was the seventh county laid out in Michigan. . . The boundaries of Washtenaw were defined in 1822 at a time when there was not a single white person living within its boundaries."

- from "Past and Present of Washtenaw County, Michigan," by Samuel W. Beakes. S.J. Clarke, Chicago. 1906. 824 pages, an excellent, readable book.

W A S H T E N A W H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y
Organized in 1929

OFFICERS, elected at the June, 1966, Annual Meeting

President: Orlan W. Boston

Vice-Presidents: for Ann Arbor: Dr. Robert M. Warner

Chelsea: Dr. Joseph Fisher

Dexter: Leo G. Hoey

Manchester: James C. Hendley

Saline: William Crim

Whitmore Lake: Clare Rorabacher

Ypsilanti: Mrs. Elson Shaw

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. I. Wm. Groomes

Editor: Lela A. Duff

Custodian: Harry M. Cole

Board of Directors:

Serving until 1967: Judge James R. Breakey, Miss Linda Eberbach,

Mrs. Nathalie Wahr Sallade, Mrs. R. E. Spokes.

1968: Herbert Bartlett, Edmund L. Palmer, R. A. Pittman,
Herbert M. Taggart.

1969: G. Ellwood Bancroft, Mrs. Paul Haller,
Clare Griffin, Mrs. Joseph Hayden.

A NOTE FROM YOUR SECRETARY

In order to have an active and useful historical society, it is necessary to have an interested and lively membership. Our numbers have been steadily growing, as can be seen by a comparison: In a 1945 issue of the Impressions we listed 191 members, in 1950 we quoted 235, and of this date we can count 370 members. Sixty-one of these are now Life Members, two having changed from "Active" to "Life" this year: J. R. Hayden and Priscilla Stockwell. Of the 30 Charter Members who signed the newly-drawn-up Constitution "way back when," in 1929, six are still active in the Society: Oscar A. Eberbach, Pansy E. Jane Johnson, Mrs. G. A. Raiser, Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven, Miss Geneva Smithe, and Mrs. Henry A. Steinbach.

During the past year we have lost seven valued members by death: G. P. Collins, Z. Clark Dickinson, Mrs. Alma M. Holland, Franklin Reck, R.E.Reichert. Mrs. James G. Riggs, and Mildred Sherk. These losses are inevitable. We also lose a few every year who move to other cities, and we have to drop a certain number who have not paid their dues. Our Constitution makes it mandatory to remove from our rolls names whose dues are two years in arrears. Each one is notified before being dropped.

We have an average attendance of about 50 at our monthly meetings. Some of our members are elderly and cannot easily get out at night, some are shut-ins, but all are interested enough to keep up their dues. We have added 12 new members since July, 1966, and we need a steady increase to remain a live and a healthy organization. Please help by mentioning us to friends who might be interested, remembering that anyone is eligible who is interested in the historical background of our own area. Suggestion: Give a year's introductory membership as a Christmas gift. I will send your friend a Christmas card announcing your gift.

Types of membership are as follows: Active Individual - \$2.00 annually.
Active Man-and-wife Team - \$3.00 annually. Life Membership - \$50.00.

If you have any questions, please call me or write me.

Mrs. I. Wm. Groomes, Sec.-Treas. Phone: 668-8534

1209 S. State, Ann Arbor. 48104 ("Always Use Zip Code")

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