



WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

POETIC DEDICATION OF PLAQUES TO ALLEN, RUMSEY HELD NOVEMBER 3 AT FOREST HILL CEMETERY

Handsome bronze plaques mounted on field boulders now mark the cemetery lots of Ann Arbor's founding families in Forest Hill Cemetery in time for the 160th anniversary of the founding, February 12, 1824.

They were dedicated in ceremonies Sunday, November 13, at the cemetery. WCHS President Patricia Austin presented the markers to the city and Joyce Chesbrough, major pro tem, accepted them on behalf of Mayor Louis Belcher and the City Council.

Just prior to that, Esther Warzynski, project chairman, welcomed the audience and asked Historian Wylan Stevens for a brief sketch of the history of the Allens and Rumseys.

"John Allen and Elisha Walker Rumsey came here on a day very much like this one — cold with snow — in February, 1824," Stevens said. They found a wilderness but they thought there was promise in it. As a result we're all here.

"A few days ago I had the good fortune to look in the window of the State Street Bookshop and saw there a copy of this book, *Ann Arbor, A Poem* by William Edwin Wauhope, published in 1901. I'd never heard of it before.

"It's a grand epic poem of 58 verses about the founding and settlement of Ann Arbor and famous people who lived here in the 19th century.

"I'll read some stanzas that refer to the difficulties of coming to this unsettled area from the western part of Virginia — Staunton — where John and Ann Allen, his second wife, originated."

John is buried in an unmarked grave somewhere in San Francisco. He was originally buried on the site of the San Francisco City Hall. He had gone to the gold rush in an effort to retrieve a fortune.

"He found he made more money raising vegetables to sell to the miners than by panning gold himself. He was taken ill in 1851 and

died there. He and Ann had separated earlier, she returning to Staunton where she died November 25, 1875.

"She is buried in the Old Stone Church yard just outside Staunton in Augusta County near Charlottesville, home of President Thomas Jefferson. Staunton is also famous as the birthplace of Woodrow Wilson.

"The people of Staunton know about Ann Allen and mention her in their history books."

After a lengthy introduction about the pre-pioneer period and mention of La Salle floating down the Huron River in a canoe of elm bark with companions in 1680, the poem in stanza 20 gets to Allen and Rumsey:

*But men of other parts and other tongue,
Descendants of those hardy pioneers
Who cleaved their way,
and built their homes among
New England's forest;
and their staunch compeers
Who tilled Virginian fields;
here were to found
Amidst fair clumps of stately oak, in time
A city, which, would to their name redound
In storied page, or flowing song and
rhyme.*

*And times aged chronicle doth hold
the names
Of Allen and of Rumsey,
and their worthy dames.*

Stevens read several stanzas concluding with:

*But here upon these hills
crowning the Huron
A city founded they, whose light should be
Unto the world ever a guiding ray
Brightening the path to peace,
and her imperial sway.*

Mary Campbell explained that the Allens buried in Ann Arbor are James C. son of John by his first wife, and three wives of James C., Martha, Mary J. and Frances, plus Martha, a daughter of James C. and Mary J. who died at 15.

The first wife died in 1852 and this cemetery was not open until 1859, she noted. The latter two wives were sisters. Mary was in poor health quite a while, Miss Campbell said, and her sister took care of her.

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JAN LONGONE TO SPEAK ABOUT EARLY COOKBOOKS AT FEBRUARY MEETING

Jan Longone, Ann Arbor's first lady of gastronomy, will speak on "The History of American Cookbooks" at the WCHS meeting at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, February 12, at the Ann Arbor American Legion, 1035 South Main Street.

A lecturer and writer on food history, Mrs. Longone founded the Ann Arbor Wine and Food Library eleven years ago. It is one of only three such in the world.

Part of her collection of rare, early books is on display through February at the U-M's Clements Library. The exhibit of 250 books and 300 pieces of culinary ephemera at Clements is open free of charge from 10:30 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. daily Monday through Friday. She will also show early books and ephemera at the WCHS meeting.

Mrs. Longone founded Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor and is a member of the board of the American Institute of Wine and Food in Santa Barbara, California.

Refreshments will be served. Free parking available.

PHOTO PROGRAM PLANNED

Sam Breck of the Historical Society of Michigan staff will present a program on preservation of old photographs at the Sunday, March 13, WCHS meeting.

READERS, COME JOIN US!

The membership letters were delayed but you don't have to wait to join WCHS.

Anyone may join by sending his/her name, address and appropriate dues to Membership Chairman Kathy Sherzer (Mrs. John), 2305 Woodside, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Dues are \$8 individual, \$16 a couple. Seniors are \$6 individual, \$12 couple, and students, \$2. Annual sustaining membership is \$50.

SHOW BROUGHT BACK ROMANTIC BUSTLE, HOBBLE SKIRT

For a few hours on a late October afternoon last fall, one could re-enter the romantic by-gone world of bustles and bows, watered silks, laces, day caps, mantelettes and hobble skirts.

WCHS provided the clothing and Ann Arbor's 1844 Cobblestone Farm house the setting for "A Century of Fashion" exhibit October 30, co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor Parks Department and WCHS.

The show was set up so that each room of the house displayed clothing of one or two decades.

A guide in the front parlor greeted visitors in a day cap, explaining that once a woman was married she was supposed to keep her hair covered because her hair was her crowning glory. She was no longer supposed to attract men with her beautiful hair, therefore she kept it covered. The guide also wore a lovely black lace shawl.

A brown plaid 1840's dress with tan and red stripe had machine-made copper hooks and eyes. It was shown with a fringed mantelette or short cape over the shoulders. It would have been worn with many petticoats.

An 1845-50 green silk brocade with fringe trim had horizontal folds or pleats on a center bodice. A slit in the dress gave access to a pocket in the petticoat.

An 1850-55 dotted black-on-black silk was buttoned in back, had velvet banded bell sleeves and jeweled neckline. The dress was meant to be worn over a stiff crinoline petticoat to make the skirt very full.

Crinolines were thought to be a wonderful invention, relieving women of wearing so many petticoats, but they proved dangerous. There were cases of women becoming trapped in burning buildings because of these stiff full skirts.

By the 1870's women stopped wearing hoops and wore fullness in the back instead. Bustles ranged from full "shelf" bustles to draped folds of cloth before they gave way to the Gibson Girl with her hour-glass figure in the 1890's.

There was a light gray brocade silk with rows of fine pleating and dark red trim.

A satin-stripe bustle gown



All by Sam Breck

SHELLEY BARNETT in WCHS's 1880's Hiscock wedding dress.

modeled by Trudi Barnett was spatter dotted red with one of the first man-made dyes. She carried a parasol.

Shelley Barnett modeled the 1880's Mary Hiscock Read wedding dress. Her father Daniel Hiscock and grandfather Eber White were Ann Arbor pioneers. The two-piece ivory satin and lace dress had a



BUSTLE BELLES Shelley Barnett (left) in modified shelf bustle, pours for Sister Trudi from WCHS's Britannia ware coffee pot.

draped and padded bustle.

A brown satin party dress with velvet trim, also Mary Hiscock's, had a small shelf bustle and concealed, detachable inner lace "duster" at the bottom.

A watered silk gown with crocheted buttons had a full-scale shelf bustle.

Upstairs the turn-of-the-century room featured a hat and coat or duster for riding in a car. The garments were mostly machine-made but featured smocking and fagoting. There were pointed-toe high laced shoes and long hat pins which could be vicious weapons.

The circa 1910 room had a fine white cotton wedding dress with eyelet lace and high neckline and a blue 1912 hobble skirt dress with silver metallic trim around a square neckline. Women wore hobble garters around their legs to prevent them from taking big steps. That style didn't last long.

In a corner were seen various ways of keeping warm — a muff, a footwarmer of raccoon lined with lambs wool, a sandstone bed-warmer which was heated on the stove and taken up to bed at night and another type of bedwarmer using hot water that had an indentation where one could heat milk to aid sleep. There were also hand knit stockings and an unusual pair of men's slippers, connected to each other.

A 1910 wedding dress had a weighted train and beadwork. There was an afternoon tea dress, and a hand crochet trimmed camisole. The guide was wearing a 1910 work dress from Chelsea of black and white window-pane or tattersall check with matching bonnet.

The oldest piece was an 1837 child's blouse of yellow print with brown and blue figures worn by a Mary Jane Doud at age 11. She married Edward Mott Goodrich, great uncle of May and Francis Goodrich.

A little boy's homespun woolen two-piece suit was fully lined with cotton plaid because of the coarseness of the wool. It had a stand up collar. There was also a lacy white christening outfit of Anna Lutz Bishop.

Besides the children's clothes in the hall there were Civil War and



LAURA SCHNEIDER
in day cap and shelf bustle gown.

World War I uniforms, silk and 1840 beaver top hats, a hard straw hat and the late Mayor Brown's dinner jacket, and a 1920's man's bathing suit.

The 1920's room featured a straight light green openwork dress made of ribbon, a long waisted gray chiffon, a vampish black net dress, cloche hats and a nifty cigarette holder with two ivory monkeys on it.

Downstairs in the dining room 1930's and '40's styles were displayed. The 1930's styles were long party dresses — a ruffled green organdy with ruffles around low neck and six rows of ruffles around the bottom, a soft red brocade silk with train and a metallic blue-green dress.

The short-skirted, tailored 1940's dresses reflected wartime regulations limiting length and fullness of skirts to save fabric. There was a short-sleeve navy wool dress with jacket and a gray shirtwaist dress of dacron with permanent pleats. The 1940's dresses were loaned by Elizabeth Dusseau, WCHS treasurer.



The guide recalled how people wore nylon stockings if they could get them. They often had to stand in line to get them. There also was

pancake makeup to put on legs to look like hose.

Doughnuts and cider were served in the kitchen.

Dedication (continued from page 1)

She thinks James and his first wife lived in Tecumseh for a while.

In presenting the markers to the city, Mrs. Austin said, "We gather today to honor and remember those early pioneer families who came to this wilderness and settled an area that was to become the city of Ann Arbor and county seat of Washtenaw County. On behalf of the Washtenaw County Historical Society, we dedicate this plaque to the memory of the family of John Allen."

Mrs. Chesbrough said, in part, "It is my very great pleasure to express the appreciation of our entire community to WCHS for creating and implementing the idea of putting a marker for John Allen.

"The city is most grateful as always for the many wonderful hours of the volunteers who make these kinds of things possible."

The audience walked down the hill to the Rumsey lot where there were similar ceremonies.

"We have Rumsey here because he didn't live long enough to escape Ann Arbor as the other founders did," Stevens said. "He died as you can see in 1827, only three years after founding Ann Arbor. The italic print on his stone reads, 'First settler in Ann Arbor, 1824.'"

At the base of the stone, we note it was signed by a stone cutter in Detroit. Ann Arbor was too young in 1827 to have its own stone cutter yet. We had to import that sort of thing.

"It's a bit unusual to find a pioneer as aged as Rumsey was when he came at 39. We think of the pioneers in the guise of the old grave yards, but when they came they were people in their 20's, usually with little equity built up back east.

"We don't know much about Rumsey's career. There's very little research on Rumsey compared to the marvelous work that Russell Bidlack has done on John Allen.

"We know that his widow, Mary Ann Rumsey, one of the two 'Anns' of Ann Arbor, remarried a man named Van Fossen, moved to Indiana and died in 1849.

"We do have other relatives of Elisha Walker Rumsey here. There's a stone for the Honorable Henry Rumsey and several members of his family. Henry Rumsey owned the land that became the main campus of the University of Michigan.

"We also have graves for in-laws, the Mundys. We lack one very significant stone which is to be repaired and returned for Edward Mundy who was the first lieutenant governor of Michigan. He lived in a little Greek revival house that stood for many years back of the Armory. It was torn down in the '70's."



After Mrs. Austin's presentation, Mrs. Chesbrough said, "I'm very happy to accept the matched set. I hope that we will have some suitable way of making people of Ann Arbor and visitors aware so that when they come here they will visit both graves and do this beautiful loop around the entire cemetery. Thank you."

The plaques read: Family of John Allen (Elisha Rumsey), Co-Founder, Ann Arbor, 1824, Washtenaw County Historical Society, 1983."

Mrs. Austin thanked the committee for their research and effort. Assisting Mrs. Warzynski, chairman, were Stevens and Harold Jones of the Board and Roscoe Flack of the cemetery staff.



"SO BE IT

"In the year twenty
hundred and ten,
What car will predom-
inate then?
The Ford, without doubt,
Will be going about
Without any fuel. AMEN!"

From "Ford Smiles: All the Best Current Jokes About A Rattling Good Car" by Carleton B. Case, Shrewsbury Publishing Company, Chicago, 1917.

WYSTAN DIGS UP ODDITIES IN LOCAL CEMETERIES

After dedication of markers honoring Ann Arbor founding families November 13 in Forest Hill Cemetery, the Society adjourned to the American Legion for a slide show, "No Stone Unturned — Art and Oddities in Local Cemeteries" by Wystan Stevens.

Forest Hill is an example of a new concept in cemeteries that first arose in this country in the 1830's — the cemetery as a park. The paths were deliberately laid out in irregular patterns. Trees were planted. Hilly terrain was prized for them.

The 1874 high gothic style entrance buildings were designed by Gordon W. Lloyd, the architect who also designed St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1867, the Congregational Church, 1876, and Harris Hall in a different style, 1886.

The cemetery was laid out in 1857 by the Forest Hills Cemetery Company which still has charge of it. It is not city owned. Records are kept of every interment since 1859.

This kind of cemetery is disappearing and being replaced by those like Washtenong with plaques flat on the ground. It's expensive to mow around all those stones and gather up leaves. And it won't be long until its filled. You can't collect maintenance fees from dead or distant families.

"Monuments in Forest Hill are required to be original. None can exactly duplicate another."

Fairview has been maintained by the city parks department since the 1890's. At the back are four rows of very old slab stones, all from the original city burying ground which became Felch Park in 1892. In 1891 all the bodies that could be identified were removed.

Those claimed by relatives tended to get moved to Forest Hill. The unclaimed, whose families had died out or left town, were put in Fairview.

A lot of pioneers are here — Dr. David E. Lord, the first physician in Ann Arbor, Zenas Nash, a lawyer and member of the territorial and first state legislature. Nash's two wives, Margaret and Louisa, are nearby in another row. The three Nash stones are decorated with weeping willows.

He noted that the Society is

having the Elisha Walker Rumsey stone in Forest Hill raised and set on a cement base. He showed pictures of how slab stones laying flat deteriorate.

Stones with photographs of the deceased, unusual around here, are not new, he said. Someone told him of a cemetery in Maine with daguerreotypes. They started about 1860.

Forest Hill has one with a photo — a 28-year-old medical student, Samuel Feinberg, who died in the World War I flu epidemic. His father had been a general in the Bulgarian army.



Forest Hill had two or three sculptures. One of a woman pouring water was stolen from the back in the last ten years. Another, found toppled on the grass with the nose broken, was put back up. It is based on the Greek legend of "Niobe in tears," symbol of a grieving parent.

There's an angel statue over the grave of Johnny Burg, who in 1887 at 13, had gotten up early one summer morning to go see the circus train come to town. He was walking close to the train and tripped.

His leg was "mashed to a jelly" by the train, the newspaper reported. As he was carried to a doctor, he begged those helping him not to tell his mother. He did not survive the shock of amputation of his leg.

At his funeral Ann Arbor school children strewed flowers from the Forest Hill entrance to his grave.

Edith Kempf, WCHS past president, said that he had been forbidden to go see the train. His mother who survived 41 more years, was always seen in mourning when seen at all.

Stevens pointed out the "gentle half-closed eyes" of the Burg statue and thinks the same artist did statues in Fairview and St. John's in Ypsilanti.

Chelsea Oakgrove has an angel

reading a scroll. The old Zion Lutheran Church cemetery at Waters and Fletcher Roads has several angels, fine examples of folk art, no two exactly alike.

Some memorials use architectural details. The Gould monument in Highland, Ypsilanti, has Ionic columns and the Mack monument in Forest Hill, Doric columns.

Christian Mack once owned the largest department store in the county and was a longtime school board member for whom Mack School is named.

Mack, a son-in-law of Pastor Friedrich Schmid who founded Bethlemlen and Zion Lutheran Churches among others, has an inscription in German.

Even though the Brokaw's in Forest Hill died in 1865 and '68, their metal monument was probably erected in the 1880's or '90's when they were popular. He showed a homemade cement monument with the name worked in bits of wire.

There are a number of "tree stump" monuments locally made of cement. A cement cross made to look like logs for Baby Oscar A. Gerstler who lived about two weeks in 1895 has a little depression at the top with three robin's eggs in it.

Nearby is a "tree stump" for Archie Gilchrist, timber estimator. Filibert Roth, first U-M professor of forestry, has a stone decorated with an oak branch and acorns.

Elizabeth Russell Dean, who died in 1964 and left more than two million dollars to the City of Ann Arbor for care and planting of trees has no tree on her grave.

George Corselius who died in 1849 and was buried at sea has a stone at Forest Hill. He edited the county's first newspaper, *The Western Emigrant* for John Allen and Samuel Dexter, founder of Dexter.

"It was designed to be sent back east to promote immigration to Michigan to buy land from — who else? — Allen and Dexter."

Corselius started the first lending library in Ann Arbor and once had a brawl in Detroit with "Boy Governor" Stevens T. Mason from which Corselius emerged second best.

He was the first Ann Arborite to

leave for the gold rush. He set out by the long but supposedly easy way via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans, by boat to Panama and across the neck of land on donkey back. He waited in vain several weeks for a boat. Realizing his health was too poor to continue, he took a boat back to New York but died en route."

Common symbols from old gravestones include doves of peace, lambs or rosebuds for children, hands and handshakes and probably most common — the weeping willow.

He showed a 20th century drawing of a bird on a child's grave and of dogs at Forest Hill and on the Deubel lot in Ypsilanti.

Sometimes hands point up to heaven. One he didn't yet have in the show in Judd Road Cemetery south of Saline points sideways — to Saline.



He showed a sheaf of wheat on a clergyman's grave, "bringing in the sheaves," a caduceus on the grave of Dr. Henry Shaw in Saline, a bricklayer's trowel at Roger's Corners (Fletcher and Waters Roads).

The most unusual of all is for Johann Georg Muller, 38, part-owner of a sawmill near Hill and Packard about where Mary Street cuts through.

One day in 1858 he was attempting to load a heavy log onto wheels to be drawn by horses to the saw to be made into boards. Either the weight of the log on his chest did him in or the horses, in fright, dragged him with the burden on his chest.

The stone depicts the scene. "I showed a photo of it once to Ted Heusel and he said, quickly, there's another one out in Bethlehem Cemetery."

"Sure enough. A farm laborer, Johan Martin Hahn, 1860, is believed to have had a runaway, a common problem with horses in the 19th century. The stone depicts Hahn writhing under the front wheels of a farm wagon and the horses in frenzy. The stone is fallen over."

Nothing so distinguished Dorothea Schneider in Bethel Church cemetery as the day of her leaving earth. She died, if you can believe

the legend on her stone, on the 31st day of February, 1881.

A Mexican war veteran's monument had stone cannons. Junius Beal, Ann Arbor publisher, was buried under a "book" that was recently moved to the lawn of Clements Library. Eleazar Darrow, professor of Latin and Greek at what is now Eastern Michigan University, was also buried under a book.

Family mausoleums require a lot of wealth to build. There is one in Highland in Ypsilanti and the Kempf mausoleum in Forest Hill for Reuben Kempf, the banker, whose grand house still stands on North Ingalls Street across from the old St. Joseph Hospital.

He was the uncle of Reuben Kempt, the musician who lived and taught in Ann Arbor's Kempf House.

Banker Reuben's wife was Susannah Dancer Kempf from a pioneer Chelsea family for whom Dancer Road and the Dancer stores are named. She was one of the first women in Ann Arbor to drive an automobile, Stevens said.

At Stevens' request, Mrs. Kempf explained that (banker) Reuben Kempf and his brother, Charles, moved to Chelsea when young and worked "terribly hard" at the tinner's trades. They later founded the Kempf Commercial Savings Bank in Chelsea. Charles remained there but Reuben came to Ann Arbor and helped found the Farmer's and Mechanic's Bank.

"(Banker) Reuben was always handing out advice to young men in the Kempf family. This was the advice: When you marry you must marry for love, but try to love a girl whose father has a lot of money!"

Banker Reuben's father-in-law was a pioneer of Chelsea. His brother married Mary Freer. "The Freer's were very rich.

"But my father-in-law, that wonderful person who taught music in Ann Arbor for 66 years privately and was church organist and had a great sense of humor wouldn't tell that story because he didn't marry a rich girl," Mrs. Kempf said.

Mrs. Kempf told a story about Aunt Sue, the banker's wife, driving her electric car up Liberty between Fifth and Division when she encountered her nephew, (musician) Reuben who lived at Kempf House.

"She stopped, opened the door, and called to my father-in-law, 'Reubahn (as she always called him),

would you like a ride?.' "

"He said, 'No thanks, Aunt Sue, I'm in a hurry.' " She always drove about two miles an hour, the same speed as she was accustomed to driving her horse."

Stevens hasn't found any of the saucy inscriptions here like those he's read about in New England and England.

Someone in the audience quoted a famous inscription:

*As I now am, you shall someday be,
Prepare for death and follow me.*

But someone had added:

*To follow you, I'm not content,
Till I find out which way you went.*

Mrs. Kempf said there is a monument in an old abandoned German Catholic Cemetery on Bethel Church Road west of Bethel Church that says, "Where I am now, you too shall be."

There was a church there until about 1928 when the Bishop ruled the people would have to go to Manchester to church, she added.

Stevens showed slides of the marker dedication last June at the site of the first Jewish cemetery in Michigan in what is now the east lawn of the Rackham Building.

Later the group met at the grave of Solomon Weil, the first Jewish immigrant in Ann Arbor, in Forest Hill where he and others were moved in 1900.



On the south side of Huron near First and the Rubaiyat Restaurant is a marker placed at the site of the Rumsey cabin, the first structure in Ann Arbor, during the city centennial in 1924. Stevens thinks it should be retired to a museum and replaced with a more accurate one.

"While it is a beautiful piece of bas relief, it continues that mythological story of the origin of the name of Ann Arbor. It shows the two Anns sitting in this wonderful arbor with grape vines overhead.

"The problem is that Ann Allen didn't arrive until October 1824. The

Rumseys and John Allen had arrived in February, 1824. The name was already chosen and registered at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office May 25, 1824, five months before Mrs. Allen arrived.

While the present location of John Allen's grave in San Francisco is unknown, Ann Allen is buried near Staunton, Virginia, where she returned after separating from Allen.

Russell Bidlack who has done a

lot of research on the Allens and some on the Rumseys likes to say the Allens were married and not happy, the Rumseys were unmarried and quite happy, Stevens related.

Stevens visited Mrs. Allen's grave last January in the yard of the Augusta Stone Church, the oldest Presbyterian Church in Virginia. The grave is inconspicuous and marked by a very small stone. There is no inscription about her connection to

Ann Arbor.

He thinks it would be nice if a delegation could go there with a "proper plaque to mark the grave of our founding mother."

He showed pictures of the home John Allen left and the McCue house where Mrs. Allen spent her last years with relatives from her first marriage. The latter is still occupied by McCues — three great-granddaughters of Ann.

LOCAL SOUVENIERS HELP SPREAD GOODWILL ON TRIP TO CHINA, RUSSIA; THEY ALL RECOGNIZED U-M'S MOST FAMOUS FOOTBALL PLAYER IN SHANGHAI

Somewhere in Shanghai and Peiping, China, people are admiring pictures of the Michigan Wolverines and their most famous player, writing Chinese characters with Ann Arbor Trust pens and looking at postcard views of Ann Arbor's Parke Davis plant.

Probably most of the 800 Ann Arbor Bank balloons have long since burst, but not before giving pleasure to as many children.

Ann Arborite Hugh Gaston, a retired Eastern Michigan University professor of counseling, solicited these gifts to spread goodwill on a People-To-People trip to China and Russia last spring. The U-M football picture had a picture of President Gerald Ford in the corner. They all recognized him, Gaston said.

Professor Gaston showed slides of his trip at the WCHS fall potluck supper last October 26.

The People-To-People program was started by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to promote better understanding through visits by ordinary people to other countries.

Dean Harold R. Johnson of the U-M School of Social Work led the group of 28, all of whom were involved in one way or another with care of older people in this country.

They flew from San Francisco non-stop 14 hours to Shanghai, arriving May 3 and left Peiping for Russia May 12, a 10 hour flight. They were asked not to take pictures from the plane on that flight.

In Russia they visited Moscow, Kiev and Leningrad, left May 23 and after one day in Helsinki, Finland, returned to New York City.

They met professional people like themselves in each city and visited housing and activity centers for older people in both countries.

None of the group could speak Russian or Chinese, "but they always had two guides with us who

were very proficient."

In China, living space is tremendously crowded and pretty primitive. In Shanghai, the average person has about 30 square feet of living space, not including the community kitchen and bathroom. The bath does not have hot water.

In both countries the tour group stayed in hotels for foreign visitors. "They were excellent, the food fine."

Early the second day in Shanghai, he and his roommate went down to the harbor to watch people exercise to music outdoors. "There must have been a number of thousands."

"We went through some jade factories. The work is intense and the workers stop periodically to exercise their hands and eyes."

Professor Gaston saw a building being taken down across the street from the hotel. "They were using a lot of manual labor, not much modern equipment."

"There was quite a lot of building going on everywhere we went in China. They use a lot of bamboo for support."

"In Russia, in contrast, they used a lot of mechanical equipment. During a one hour ride to a meeting in Russia, we counted 30 large buildings going up including apartments 9-12 stories high."

"There are no private cars in China or Russia. They are owned by the state and allocated out."

"China is permitting some people to develop little businesses of their own." On the street near their hotel they saw shoemakers with old sewing machines making a little extra money of their own.

"Farmers are given a quota. If they raise additional, they can sell it and keep the money. Some are becoming comparatively wealthy."

China has over a billion people and not as much arable land as the

U.S. Russia has a lot of arable land, woodland and open space.

He showed slides of everything from the Great Wall to Chinese toilet fixtures and including a panda bear and a woman whose feet had been bound and were only four to four-and-a-half inches long.

The toilet fixtures had no seat and no paper provided. "Being an old infantry man, I carried some."

They visited an after-school center to which children 5-15 were bused for art classes, games and music. They were dressed in different colors, not in uniforms, and they looked healthy.

Professor Gaston who had had five years with the Army engineers as chief inspector of river and harbor maintenance and "been around some construction" was even more impressed than he expected by the Great Wall. "It's a fantastic construction."

"Eight people or four horses could walk abreast on top. The top was about 20 feet from the ground. It is my understanding that it is the only man-made thing on earth the astronauts can see from space."

The wall is "about two hours from Peiping." His pictures showed it crowded with tourists — both Chinese and foreign.

They visited a burial place of Ming emperors with about 75 large sculptures of elephants along the road.

They also visited a curious recent excavation of previously unknown life size terra cotta horse and human figures — hundreds of them protecting a 700-800 year old grave of an emperor.

In Moscow, they visited a home for older people built in 1966 with room for 665 persons. There are 32 old age homes in Moscow and seven more were being built. They were also building homes for

younger mentally deficient persons, he said.

One place he saw people of limited capacity folding together paper boxes used in stores.

"They showed us all the facilities. We went to the rooms. There were generally four to a room. There were activities going on. They had a quite extensive library. Of course, we saw things they wanted us to see.

"One lady had a room to herself. After she moved there she became quite an artist, like Grandma Moses. Her walls were covered with very fine art work. She had a lot of art equipment."

They saw similar homes in Kiev. There they met for about three hours with professionals, mostly physicians.

"All the places had a first aid emergency office with pharmaceutical materials. If a person needed more specialized care they were sent to a hospital.

"They had about four different categories of medical service units. The top, very specialized ones we did not get in.

"Leningrad had 25 districts for older people and 25 call-in clinics for them."

In Moscow they stayed at a tourist hotel about five blocks from Red Square. He found the Moscow subway was a cheap, efficient way to travel around the city and it had beautiful pictures along the walls.

"While watching the changing of the guard at Lenin's tomb, I felt a tap on my shoulder and almost threw up my hands. It was Ann Arborite Scott Westerman.

"In both countries they were very cordial to us. We were free to go wherever we wanted to when not tied up in meetings.

"In Moscow, one morning, three of us wanted to see a little town about 60 miles from Moscow. We told the taxi driver we wanted to go. We were gone four or five hours. On the way back we stopped a couple of places.

"In Russia they picked up our passports on a couple of occasions without any warning but they did give them back."

"We did not see one single traffic violation in Russia. In China it was quite the other way. Buses would go down the street honking horns. Bicyclists would throw their bikes over their heads to get out of the way.

"People were good to us. If we stopped, especially in China, 40-50 people would gather around us. Almost inevitably one or several would try out their English on us."

THEY BUSTLED AROUND MADE FASHION SHOW GO

Emilie Polens, supervisor of Cobblestone Farm, was general chairman of the Century of Fashion Show October 30, assisted by WCHS President Patricia Austin.

It was co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor City Parks Department and WCHS. Thanks are due all the helpers.

Vicki Rigney cleaned and pressed the clothing, mostly from the WCHS collection, according to accepted museum methods. Linda Harvey researched the costumes.



Models Trudi and Shelley Barnett, Lisa Murphy, Jenine Gray, Laura and Ann Schneider and Craig Kukuk. Docents — Esther Warzynski, Marguerite Harms, Judy Gray, Sally Johnston, and Ricky Balkam.

Refreshments — Dalys Vogel, Clare Palmer, Elsie Dyke and Kathleen Sherzer. Men of St. Francis Church fried the doughnuts. Frances Couch decorated the table.

Serving — Carol Freeman, Doris Bailey, Nancy Schuon, Elizabeth Dusseau, Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Couch, Mrs. Dyke and Mrs. Vogel.

Kathleen Sutton was ticket chairman and Karen Murphy and Lucille Fisher took tickets. Jane Southwell designed posters and tickets and Alice Ziegler helped with publicity.

WCHDC OFFICERS NAMED

Marshall McLennan of EMU was re-elected president of the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission. Richard Oltmanns is vice-president, Diana V. Pratt, secretary, and Nancy Snyder, treasurer. They meet 7:30 p.m. the second Wednesday each month at the Courthouse.

COBBLESTONE PLANS BALL, TALKS, LESSONS

Cobblestone Farm Association will sponsor a semi-formal tenth anniversary ball 8:30 p.m.-midnight Saturday, February 25, at the U-M Museum of Art, 525 South State Street.

It is one of several events sponsored by CFA, the volunteer group restoring the Ann Arbor city-owned Ticknor-Campbell house.

The Strauss Salon of Ann Arbor Chamber Orchestra will play for waltzing and modern ballroom dancing. Typical 1840's refreshments. Tax deductible tickets, \$12.50 a person. Questions? Call Julie Spangler, 665-9064.

To learn waltz, poika and quadrille call Gretchen Preston, 662-9765 evenings about classes 7-9 p.m. February 13 and 16 taught by Robin Warner of Cobblestone Farm Country Dancers at the Congregational Church. Fee, \$8 adult, \$5 students and seniors.

Gary Keuhnle will talk about antiques and 1840's decor at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 22 at the farm, 2781 Packard Rd. Limited to 35. Call 994-2928.

Ann Eaton, MA, will talk on "The Romantic Revival in American Architecture of the 1840's" at 8 p.m. February 29 in Clements Library, 909 South University. Free.



YPSI NAMES OFFICERS

David Gauntlett was re-elected president of the Ypsilanti Historical Society. Michael Miller is vice-president. New to the board are Mrs. Raymond (Marian) Vorce and Donald Racine.

Carl Worley was previously appointed treasurer. Staff secretary Ruth Wright serves as board secretary.

TOUR PLANNED TO ROMEO, OCTAGON HOUSE ON 11th

A "lovingly restored" Octagon house in Washington, Michigan, and the historic city of Romeo will be the destination of a bus tour Sunday, February 11, sponsored by the Saline Senior Center and open to all.

Spaghetti dinner and a hay or sleigh ride at Apple Barrel Farm plus a tour of Romeo museum also planned. Bus leaves from 7605 Maple Road, Saline, at 10:15 a.m., returns 5 p.m. Tickets \$23.50 each. Call Alberta Rogers at 429-9274 (center) or 429-7046 (home).

YPSI'S PROSPECT PARK ONCE VILLAGE CEMETERY

Ypsilanti's first park, Prospect Park, was originally a cemetery, the *Historical East Side News* say.

The land was bought for the community's second cemetery in 1842 for \$200. Records show that 225 bodies were buried there but after Highland Cemetery opened in 1864, Prospect declined.

A successful move was started in 1892 to turn the neglected cemetery into a park. Some graves were moved although probably only a fraction, *HESN* says.

TEN CERTIFICATES GIVEN FOR ANNIVERSARIES

WCHS presented ten anniversary certificates to local organizations last fall.

Recipients since last report were Van's Stores of Milan and Brooklyn, 50th anniversary of founding in Milan; St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Ypsilanti township, 25th; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, 75th; and Ypsilanti's Historic East Side Association, 10th.

Bill Van Orman and his mother, Jenny, who with her husband, G.C., founded the stores in 1933, accepted the framed certificate at the November 13 WCHS meeting. The HESA one was mailed per request and, President Patricia Austin and Secretary Alice Ziegler, presented the other two at church programs.

"FLIVVER SAUSAGE NOW

"Mr. Cleaver, how do you account for my finding a bit of rubber tire in the bologna I bought of you last week?"

"Madam, that only goes to show that the Ford is replacing the horse everywhere."

From "Ford Smiles: All the Best Current Jokes About A Rattling Good Car," by Carleton B. Case, Shrewsbury Publishing Company, Chicago, 1917.

BRAD TAYLOR RESIGNS

Bradley Taylor, WCHS director and former treasurer whose term expires in June, has resigned because of the press of other duties.

WEBSTER CHURCH WILL FETE SESQUICENTENNIAL

Webster United Church of Christ, organized in 1834, launched its sesquicentennial celebration to continue through June at its annual meeting January 29.

A play, "The Devil and Daniel Webster," and dedication of a life-size bust of Daniel Webster are planned as well as guest speakers, potlucks, picnics and a pageant re-enacting the founding.

New England statesman Daniel Webster is said to have given \$100 to help build the frontier church which is still in use.



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**FEBRUARY 1984
WASHTENAW COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEETING**

**2:30 P.M. SUNDAY
February 12, 1984**

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