

## LANSING HISTORICAL SOCIETY GARAGE SALE

We're having a garage sale!

Saturday July 19, 2008

Is it time to clean out your basement,  
closets, garage ???

NOW IS A GOOD TIME !!

Help your society with this fundraiser!

Please save anything you would like  
to donate to the Society for this sale.

(no clothes will be accepted)

More information, including location, to be  
announced in the April Newsletter

Please consider volunteering to help with this fundraiser!

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT DONALD OLSEN

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. The New Year is here, and it will be a busy one for the Lansing Historical Society.

We have undertaken the task of taking inventory of the Museum. This is a huge task, but we feel that it is necessary not only to up-date our records, but also for insurance purposes. The museum will be closed until we finish the job which started on January 14th after the Christmas trees were taken down.

In addition to the inventory, we will resume copying the Lansing Journals the first week of February.

Volunteers are always welcome. You can contact me at 708-474-4785 to let me know when you are available.

I'm looking forward to our programs for 2008. We begin on February 25th with a first person portrayal of Abigail Adams, the wife of our country's second president. It is a terrific progra, and I hope to see you all there.

You will find a membership renewal form on page seven of this newsletter, and we would appreciate a quick response. Also it would be great if you could find a friend to sign up as a member.

I'm looking forward to a great year and good attendance at all our meetings.

**Don**

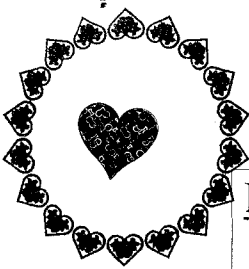
### MYSTERY MEMBER

Can you guess who this precious child is? She recently celebrated her 80th birthday. She has been a Society member since 1999. See page four for more clues:



February  
2008

Lansing Historical Society



# Lansing House Histories

**By: Ken and Kari Morlock**

## 18639 Sherman

Five homes on our block (and about fifteen others in Lansing to the best of my knowledge) were "installed" in 1955. In response to the building boom of ranch houses in those years to provide affordable post-war housing, the H.L. Cooper Corporation located at 2801 W. 9th Avenue in Gary, Indiana, offered these homes. What is unique about them is the manner of construction. They built the home structure, entirely finished, in a huge building in Gary that was formerly used to construct and repair railroad engines. This "round house" had a huge turntable.

The houses were built on the engine platforms or spokes of the huge machine that resembled a giant "lazy susan". On each rotation, another part of the house was completed. This was to be an assembly line of efficiency and cost saving with all the trades and materials centralized in one location and out of the weather. The exteriors were lapped masonite, and the windows were the 'awning' type.

The original models in Lansing were shown at Burnham Ave. and 178th St. We believe 4 or 5 models were offered. About seven of these homes are still there today. We picked out model 1056-Special. The homes cost between \$14,500 and \$16,900 with three bedrooms and one bath, and included the basement.

After we paid our down payment and picked out our lot at 18639 Sherman, the basement was dug and built with concrete blocks. On completion of that, a Model 1056-Special, 24' by 44', was transported from the Gary roundhouse on a huge tractor-trailer and lowered onto the existing foundation. Pretty amazing stuff! Instant house! The Cooper Corp. connected the utilities, installed the furnace, put in sidewalks and graded the 57' by 124' lot, and the rest is history! ( We remember when we entered the house for the first time, and found a displaced field mouse in the bathtub.)

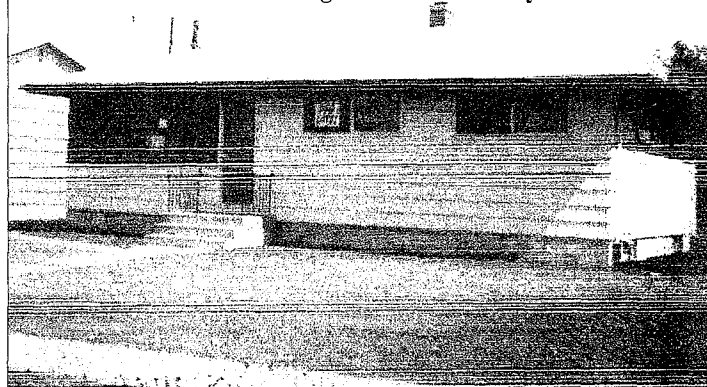
Fifty-three years later with many upgrades and additions, plus a garage, we still remain in our beautiful home and neighborhood. We raised two wonderful children here and participate fully in our community. We are retired now and the house is the perfect size again, as it was in 1955. We're not aware of how long the Cooper Corp. built these

homes. The 186th block of Sherman and Henry Streets have seven of the homes. Another group are at Burnham and 178th, and others are scattered around town. Most have been modernized but are still basic ranch houses.

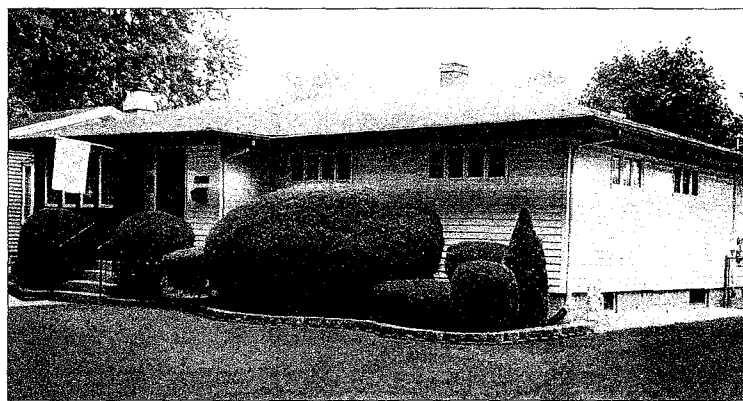
We remember that the only two choices we had were the linoleum colors in the kitchen and bathroom. Everything else was standard. Upgrades were non-existent in those days. These homes were very well built for the money, and we have enjoyed remaining here as the rest of the world moved on and changed around us.

The Lord has blessed us, and we realize we are an endangered species of sorts, being able to remain in the same home these wonderful fifty-three years.

Morlock home 1955 - the sign in the window says "Too Late" !



Below: The Morlock home as it is today with many improvements !



### NEW FEATURE!

Make the history of your home a permanent record at the Lansing Historical Society Museum. Just complete and return the form on the next page! Make extra copies for your neighbors and friends. Blank copies of the form also available at the museum.

Our thanks to Society members, Ken & Kari Morlock for being the first to start our Lansing House Histories files!

How many more will we get this month?

**Please fill out this form to have your home included in the "Lansing House Histories"**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Year purchased by current owner \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year built \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Current owner \_\_\_\_\_

Previous owner \_\_\_\_\_

Please include photos and describe your home and what you know about it. (use additional pages if necessary)



*From the desk of Patty Eidam (V.P.)*

*Happy New Year to everyone!*

*It is with pleasure that we bring you some changes to our newsletter. A slightly new format and more interesting layout are the result of Santa bringing me a new computer. Although the computer and I are still getting to know each other, I hope you will see improvement!*

*Society member Carrie Steinweg helped us start our new feature "Lansing House Histories". The success and continuation of this feature will depend on you, our members. Take some time and dig out the pictures and information on your home! The forms and information that you send in will be placed in files to become permanent records in the museum.*

*Decades from now maybe a grandchild, or new owner will be curious, and want to find information on your house! We'll feature as many homes as possible in the newsletter. Our thanks to Ken and Kari Morlock for writing our first home history story!*

*Lastly, I'll take this opportunity to thank the Historical Society for choosing me to represent our membership at the Lansing 'Evening of Thanks' in November. It was a very special evening and I was truly honored to be awarded the pin as the volunteer chosen from our Society.*

*Happy Valentines Day!*

*Patty*

April Program

Chicago on Screen

Sarah Marcus

Monday, April 28, 2008 - 6:30 p.m.

Location to be announced.

*We're proud to announce that we have applied for, and recieved another grant from the Illinois Humanities Council for a speaker from their Roads Scholar Program!*

*Dr. Sarah Marcus, Historian at the Chicago History Museum will show us the history of Chicago through television and film.*

*Using a variety of clips - from Scarface (1932) to the Untouchables (1987) to Stud's Place (1950) and Good Times (1974) - this presentation follows the camera's focus and reflects on lasting impressions created by flashing images on the screen.*

*See the April newsletter for final details.*

Society member Bob Malkas' horse, "Bodage" won her first race at Balmoral on December 23, 2007. Congratulations Bob, ( and Darlene & George! )

Our treasurer, Marilyn Kooy, and her husband, Butch, became grandparents for the 8th time with the birth of Holden Anthony on January 17th.

Society vice president, Patty Eidam, was awarded the "Athena " award at the 'Lansing Evening of Thanks' this past November.

Society member JoAnn Kijewski was honored at the "Lansing Evening of Thanks" for her volunteer work with the Lansing Junior Women's Club.

Member Jackie Protsma was the Lansing Business Womens representative at the 'Lansing Evening of Thanks."

Our president, Donald Olsen, and his wife, Maxine, are pleased with the birth of another great-grandchild.

Society member Delores Shone also welcomed a great-grandchild in January.



**Mystery Member**

*Another picture of our mystery member. She has been a lifetime member since 2007....*

*See page six for the answer!*

### OLD LANSING PICTURE

Public works employees, Ken Nevills, left and Jim Kuipers, right with Police Lt. Robert Turbin are shown installing new parking meters on Ridge Road on Dec 20, 1962.

What year were the parking meters removed from Ridge Road? hmmm??



### REALLY OLD NEWS

from.....February 14, 1946

Donald Genovese, small son of Mr. and Mrs Mike Genovese, is scheduled to appear on radio station WJOB Saturday to play the piano.

A party is to be held today at the Paul Schultz home on Roy Street to honor the first birthday of Janet Schultz and the 4th wedding anniversary of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albion Schultz.

St. John Lutheran Church (Pastor Harthun) weekly Sunday schedule states that German service is at 9:00 a.m. and English service is at 11:00 a.m.

A small ad for the Wm. H. Winterhoff Agency states: Insurance - Auto Licenses - Real Estate - Notary Public. 3344 Ridge road - phone #4 . (YES 4)

Lila Mae Winteroff arrived home Sunday for a two week vacation from her studies. She will return to the University of Illinois for the next semester.

### Lansing Historical Society Museum Inventory

The Lansing Historical Society is in the process of taking inventory of all collections, possessions, and property in the museum. This monumental task began just after the Festival of Lights display came to a close.

All Society members were invited to participate in this endeavor. It is not too late to volunteer !! Call Donald at 474-4785!

So far the volunteers have logged a total of 157 man hours (as of Jan 31, 2008) on this project to help our museum! Pictured left to right are:

Tony DeLaurentis, Donald Olsen, Therese Liesenfelt, Floyd Fairfield, Marilyn Kooy, George Dommer, Patty Eidam, Jackie Ore, Bud Eidam, Geri Besse. Not pictured: Maxine Olsen, Carole Sebastian & Anne Sowinski.

**WE HAVE INVENTORIED 1156 ITEMS  
AT THE MUSEUM - COME HELP !**



## Happy Valentines Day

to everyone from the

Board of Directors of the Lansing Historical Society

2007 - 2008

### Officers and Directors

Donald Olsen, President  
Patty Eidam, Vice President  
Marilyn Kooy, Treasurer  
Jackie Ore, Secretary  
Gerri Besse, Director  
George Dommer, Director  
Tony DeLaurentis, Director

Therese Liesenfelt, Museum curator

Maxine Olsen, Membership

Elayne Young, Publicity

Newsletter Publisher & Editor, Patty Eidam

Editors:

Donald Olsen

Toni DeLaurentis

Marilyn Kooy



### March Program - Antique Expert

REX NEWELL

Monday, March 24, 2008

Community Room - Lansing Library

Rex will join us to discuss collectible trends and appraise some items that our members and visitors bring along to share at this very popular annual event. Dig out that old family heirloom and come see if it is really worth something!

MEMBERS NO CHARGE

**NON MEMBERS - \$5.00 at the door**

### **From the Curator's Desk**

Our "Festival of Lights" exhibit was a great success this year because of all the wonderful people who helped. We had about 800 people come to view the trees.

The nature tree was decorated by Maureen Kuger from the University of Illinois Master Gardeners program and it was really beautiful.

We are grateful to the Golden K's for putting up and taking down the trees.

Special thanks go to Don and Maxine Olsen, George and Lea Dommer, Bud & Patty Eidam, Tony DeLaurentis, Jackie Ore, Marilyn Kooy, Carole Sebastian, Lucille Sebear, Charlene Wright, John & June Cole, Floyd Fairfield, Carol Schultz, Delores Shone, Maryann Orlick and Cherry Jackson. Last but not least, Kari Morlock, who has decorated the Norway exhibit for the last 27 years. Thank you all so very much!

*Therese*

### February Program

Monday, Feb 25, 2008 - 6:30 p.m.

Community Room of the Lansing Library  
Abigail Adams: Inside the Early Republic



*Leslie Goddard will present this program fully in first-person, including historically authentic costuming, props and photographs.*

*More than just a wife of second president John Adams and mother of sixth president John Quincy Adams, Abigail Adams was a true partner to her husband and a committed patriot. Feisty and outspoken, she immersed herself in politics even while she ran the family's farm. In this first-person program, Adams recounts her life, including her famous call to John to "remember the ladies" in the founding of the new nation. She shares her gossipy opinions of the founding fathers, displays her lively wit, and offers a glimpse at one of the great love stories of all time.*

*This program is made possible in part by an award from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly.*

*This event is open to the public and there is no charge to attend  
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.*

*Refreshments will be served at the end of the evening.*

*Donations are always accepted by the Historical Society.*

### **Condolences & Thoughts**

The membership extends heartfelt sympathy to the family of John Fielder III who passed away on November 20, 2007

Our thoughts and prayers are with Society member

Betty Schumann.

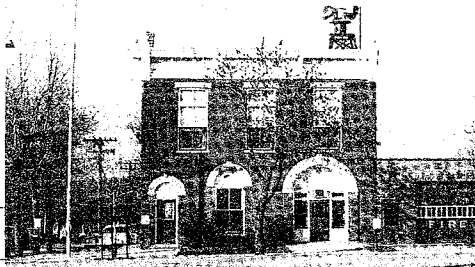
**THEN - N - NOW****Old Buildings in  
Lansing**

Left: Village Hall 1894



**Lansing  
Old Village Hall  
By: Marilyn Kooy**

Right: Village Hall 1945



The Lansing Village Hall was built in 1894 on the corner of Lake and Henry Streets. All of the village departments had offices there. In 1945 the Village Hall gained an addition for the Fire Department.

In 1976 the Village Hall was remodeled and the Police Department took over the entire downstairs, when the Clerks Office moved to Ridge Road and Chicago Avenue. Court proceedings were held in the upstairs room of the Village Hall.

A new police station and courtroom were built in 1991. At the present time the Building Department, Fire Station # 1, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Fire Prevention Bureau are all located in this 114 year old Lansing building.

There have been many different groups that have used the upstairs for their meeting place.

Left:  
Old Village Hall  
as it stands today



If you would like to write about an old Lansing building for the next newsletter please contact Patty Eidam at e.mail - [budpatty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:budpatty@sbcglobal.net)

The Lansing Historical Society always welcomes  
donations to the museum

that have Lansing historical value such as:

Significant objects, photographs, documents (or copies of same) from homes, churches, families, schools, businesses, organizations, Village departments, youth groups, or clubs. Contact any Historical society officer or call the museum at 708-474-6160 for more information.

Our Mystery Member is Therese Liesenfelt. Therese celebrated her 80th birthday on January 5, 2008. She was the guest of honor at a surprise birthday party given by her family at Scrementi's Restaurant in Steger, Il. on Dec 29, 2007.

In 2003 Therese became the assistant to Museum Curator, Loretta Johnson. After the passing of Loretta in October of that year, Therese agreed to take over as Curator and to coordinate the Festival of Lights. Therese and Floyd have been taking care of our museum since that time.

Therese was born to Ignatius and Josephine Korem in Whiting, Indiana. The youngest of 5 children (3 brothers, 2 girls). Therese was the adored little sister and full of life. She loved and still loves music. Given the slightest melody and she's likely to start dancing or humming along!

She spent most of her life in Whiting until she married Leslie Liesenfelt and then moved to Calumet City and then onto their first home where she still resides in Lansing. Therese worked a few years for Edward C. Minas Company in Hammond when her girls were older and then she and Leslie were partners in Al's Tap & Liquors in Chicago Heights until they both retired.

Leslie and Therese raised 3 daughters (Carol, Linda and Eileen) and various pets in that home in Lansing. If those walls could talk... Therese has always been very creative. She and Leslie saved several wood pieces that they made and she painted that are precious reminders and her daughters hold dear.

Leslie passed away November 1, 1997. His sister, Lorraine Fairfield, died shortly after in December. While they had been 'in-laws' most of their lives, Therese and Floyd Fairfield soon learned that they enjoyed each others company and had very much in common including the love of their families. And the rest, as they say, is history.

At 80 years young, Therese is still very much full of life and enjoys her family, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and her little cocker spaniel, Truffles. She thoroughly enjoys her participation in the Lansing Historical Society.

Floyd Fairfield &amp; Therese Leisenfelt



Editor's note: our thanks to Therese's daughter Eileen for her help with this story.



Dear Friend,

January 31, 2008

Below you will find your 2008 membership form for the Lansing Historical Society. Our annual membership is from January 1st to December 31st. We hope you took advantage and enjoyed the various programs this past year. The programs for the balance of the season are:

- February 25th - Abigail Adams: Inside the Early Republic
- March 24th - Antique Expert - Rex Newell
- April 28th - Chicago on Screen - Sarah Marcus
- May 19th - Annual Historical Society Dinner
- June 23th - Annual Historical Society Walk

We sincerely thank you for your support, and ask that you take time to renew your membership, and encourage a friend to join! Meetings are held in the Community Room of the Lansing Library at 6:30 pm on the 4th Monday of the month.

Sincerely,

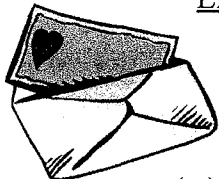
*Maxine*

Maxine Olsen, Membership Chariman

Please complete the following renewal form. Your membership card will be available at the February meeting. Think it over. For \$100 you can be a Life Member and have a gold plate engraved with your name and placed on the Life Membership Plaque in our Museum and never have to pay yearly dues again!

**Please fill out the following form even if you are a paid life member - we need to update our records !**

LANSING HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM



MARK THE APPROPRIATE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY.

CURRENT MEMBER       LIFETIME MEMBER       NEW MEMBER

Annual dues \$10.00       Patron dues \$15.00

Business dues \$ 25.00       Student dues \$5.00       Lifetime dues: \$100.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday(s) - (month & day) \_\_\_\_\_

e.mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please detach and return with your check made payable to:**

**LANSING HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. BOX 1776 LANSING, ILLINOIS 60438**