

# LANSING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter September 2007

## LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK IS NAMED ONE OF SEVEN WONDERS OF THE REGION

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### MEETINGS AND THINGS TO REMEMBER

Meetings are held the fourth Monday  
of the month in  
September, October, November,  
February, March, April & May  
(annual dinner) , plus the annual  
Historical Walk in June.

Watch for news about special meeting  
times and locations.

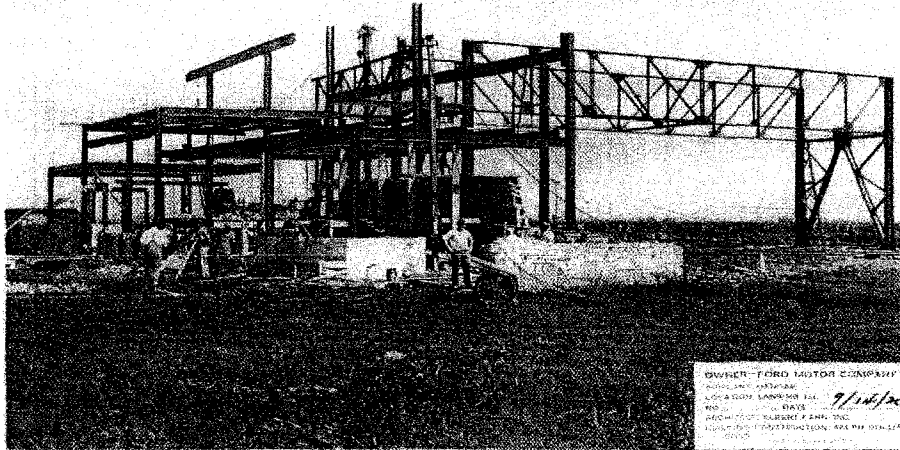
### 2007-2008

#### 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 Leisenfelt, Museum Curator  
Maxine Olsen, Membership  
Elayne Young, Publicity

Newsletter Editor  
Patty Eidam  
budpatty@sbcglobal.net



## THE FORD HANGAR AT LANSING MUNICIPAL AIRPORT ONE OF THE "REGION'S SEVEN WONDERS"

PICTURED HERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 1926

The *Times* newspaper recently held an on-line poll for people to vote on what sites should be the "Seven Wonders of the Region". Thanks to our Society members, and other friends that appreciate the historic value of our great hangar, it received a total of 579 votes!

The *Times* did a feature article about the Ford Hangar on August 13, 2007. Unfortunately the article could not reflect all the information they were provided about our historic landmark. For instance they omitted the fact that the Lansing Historical Society and our own Harold Christian worked six years to have the Hangar recognized and placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The *Times* did include the basic history of the Hangar, and we are proud that our Hangar was included in the "Seven Wonders of the Region"!

## **SEPTEMBER PROGRAM**

### **Tom Highland - Lansing Journal Newspaper Preservation**

**Monday, September 24, 2007 - 6:15 pm**

**Community Room - Lansing Library**

Twenty five years ago, the local newspaper, The Lansing Journal, closed its doors after some fifty years of publication starting in the early 1930's. All the archive collections were donated to the Society for safekeeping. These issues were bound in book form, and after many years of storage at the Chamber of Commerce office,s were moved to their present location in the Society's Museum. Unfortunately these original paper copies have not fared well with age. The paper has been deteriorating and without action, this documentation of Lansing's history would be lost forever. Therefore, sixteen months ago the Society embarked on a special project to permanently preserve the collection. To date, 32,000 pages have been digitally photocopied and thus preserved. These documents will be accesible via the Lansing Historical Society computer, which will be located in the Museum Office.

**Please join us as society member, and former director, Tom Highland, presents the preservation process and demonstrates the results!**

**The special time of 6:15 pm will allow fifteen minutes for a group picture to be taken of our Society members. Be on time if you want to be included in this "historic" photograph!**

### **Message from the President of the Lansing Historical Society**

**Donald Olsen**

I hope everyone had a great summer. Fall is approaching and with it a new season for the Lansing Historical Society. I thank all the members who worked as guides at the museum this summer and also the many volunteers who helped with taking pictures of the Lansing Journals. A special thank you to Tom Highland for his dedication to the project. The helpers work off and on, but Tom is there for every session. I think we are a little over half done with this project.

Our Vice President and Program Chairperson, Patty, is hard at work putting together another season of excellent programs. I urge all of our members to attend our meeting and take advantage of these great programs.

We had another beautiful display of Bridal Gowns at our museum this summer. Thank you Therese for another great job.

Our Tri Motor in Plane View project was a success. It certainly brightened up the streets of Lansing. There still are a few out on the streets that people can admire. We are now considering what projects we can do at the airport to maintain or improve our Ford Hangar.

It takes a certain amount of money to pay for our programs and also maintain our museum. The only real fund raiser we have is our BakeLess Bake Sale. It's quite simple to participate in this without dirtying your kitchen. All you need is a pen and a check book. I thank all of you who so generously contributed to this project.

That's all for now. See you on Sept. 24th at our first meeting of the new season.

President Don

# Meet the new Lansing Historical Society Director

## Mr. Anthony DeLaurentis

by: Toni DeLaurentis



Tony DeLaurentis, the newly elected director of the Lansing Historical Society, has been a life long resident of Lansing. He attended Coolidge and Lester Crawl Elementary schools, Memorial Jr. High, and T. F. South High School. Immediately upon high school graduation he enlisted in the army and spent a year in Virginia, and then spent his second year driving a tank in Viet Nam. He is a McDonald employee alumni and worked there during his high school days when the only items McDonald served were hamburgers, cheeseburgers, fish filet, and fries! After the army he went to work for Nalco Chemical Company and retired after 30 years of service. He was well known for receiving the "perfect attendance" award year after year.

Tony married his high school sweetheart and locker neighbor, Toni, in 1971. She currently teaches fourth grade at Oak Glen Elementary School. They have three daughters and three grandchildren who also live in Lansing. After his children and grandchildren, his pride and joy is his car, a 1966 replica of a Shelby Cobra.

Tony serves his church, St. Ann, as an usher at the weekly masses. After working on numerous village committees, he was elected Lansing trustee in 2001. For the past six years, as a trustee, Tony has dedicated himself to making decisions that will keep Lansing a great place to live. His latest project is helping fellow Historical Society members record the hundreds and hundreds of the Lansing Journal editions on digital film. He says that it has been fun reminiscing about past events while helping to preserve the copies of the newspaper.

His goal as a director of the Lansing Historical Society is to help keep the organization a viable influence in maintaining the rich history of this town. He looks forward to working with all the Historical Society officers and members to keep making that happen.

*Editor's note: Tony & Toni became involved in our Society when we began our public art project "Tri Motors in Plane View". Mrs Toni was chairman of the classroom project and Mr. Tony was our logistics chairman. We are so happy that they remain active members!*



Our Society's only 'Junior' member, Brad Steinweg, was recently honored with a "Kohl's Kids Who Care" award. Brad received a \$50.00 gift certificate for creating "Samples for Soldiers" a project that sends sample sized toiletries and other small items in care packages to our troops overseas. The collection box is located at the Lansing Library. Brad and his family mail packages about every two months. If you do not have samples for Brad to send along, you can help by making a donation for shipping costs. A donation container can also be found at the Library. Brad has gotten lots of thank you notes, e-mails and pictures from different soldiers and units.

**CONGRATULATIONS BRADLEY !**

If anyone has a family member or friend in the military who is deployed overseas, let Brad know so he can send them a care package. Contact - Brad & Carrie Steinweg - 708-418-8161

### Congratulations to our new

#### Life Time Members!

Floyd Fairfield

Therese Liesenfelt

#### New members for 2007

Dawn Myers

Anita Neff

### Condolences

The Society extends condolences to the family of Ron Grendzinski, who passed away in March..

Our sympathy also goes to the family of Lansing Historical Society Lifetime Member Alberta Kontos