



Royal Oak Historical Society

Fall 2014

www.royaloakhistoricalsociety.com

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TERMS EXPIRE
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Celebrate With Us!

75th Royal Oak Historical Society **Annual Dinner** **Thursday, Oct. 16**

We invite you to be part of this very special event—
Our 75th Anniversary!

Red Run Country Club

2036 Rochester Road in Royal Oak (2 blocks north of 12 Mile Road)
Phone: 248-548-7500

Tickets \$35 in advance (before Oct. 9) or \$45 after deadline or at the door
(Includes dinner, tax, gratuities, valet parking, one-year ROHS membership)

Tickets may be purchased from board members, or at:

- ◆ The Royal Oak Historical Museum on Webster and Crooks Road
- ◆ Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd., 248-541-7000
 - ◆ Hermann's Bakery, 317 S. Main St., 248-541-3218
 - ◆ Frenz Hardware, 1010 N. Main St., 248-544-8111
- ◆ Kinsey-Garrett Funeral Home, 420 S. Lafayette Ave., 248-541-4400

Or you can pay via Paypal on the Historical Society website
www.royaloakhistoricalsociety.com

- ◆ 6-7 p.m. Social Hour (Cash Bar) - Meet & Greet - Silent Auction
- ◆ 7 p.m. Buffet Dinner, followed by program (includes election of officers and directors, award presentations, slide presentation—"Royal Oak Through the Decades")

The Royal Oak Historical Society
wants to share this memorable evening with you!
See you there!

GRANNY'S ATTIC SALE

ROYAL OAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM PARKING LOT

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27, 2014 - 10 AM TILL 4 PM

Free parking

Household items, books, toys, etc., will be on sale!
The sale will also include some items from the Museum
that will be of interest to history-minded people in Royal Oak!

If you have items to donate for this fundraiser for the Museum,
please bring to the Museum on Tuesday, Sept. 23, from 10 am to 7 pm,
Thursday, Sept. 25, from 10 am to 4 pm or Friday, Sept. 26, from 5 to 7 pm.
Donors will be provided with a receipt for tax purposes upon request.

PLEASE, NO CLOTHING OR TV'S

Royal Oak History Books for Sale

By David G. Penney, PhD

“My Royal Oak: Images From The 20th Century” (2008), which is heavy on historic images of our town, is a must for anyone who loves Royal Oak. Printed on glossy white paper, it contains 227 photos on 128 pages and is 7x10 inches. The text centers on the “old” town most of us remember in fragments. This is a very personal book, with many of my memories of growing up in Royal Oak. The cost is only \$25.

Everyone should have “Twigs and Acorns, Plus” (2007), the much-loved scrapbook-style presentation about our town since its founding more than 180 years ago. It contains newspaper articles, previously unpublished letters, essays, etc., and photos of early Royal Oak. At \$40, the book is 425 pages, hardbound and fully indexed.

If you are going to explore historic Royal Oak or St. Mary cemeteries, you must have the 12-page edition of “Cemeteries Walking Tour” (2007), containing photos and the locations of thousands of people interred in the two cemeteries, available for \$5.

“To Walk That Old Indian Trail” was originally prepared for the 75th anniversary of our city in 1996. In 2007, the 12-page edition contains far more information on Native American traces in Royal Oak. At \$5, it is a bargain.

All the books are available at Frentz's Hardware, as well as at the Historical Society Museum. As with all of my other books, all proceeds go to the Museum.

Coming soon is a small book on Northwood Subdivision, which will include the No. 2 Fire Station, the old and new Northwood schools, the Clawson family, GTW Railroad, the First Congregational Church and Shrine of the Little Flower Church, etc. Watch for it!

Curator's Corner

By Muriel Versagi

Our latest exhibit entitled “Your Schools” has brought in a wide variety of visitors ...

In May, we had several groups of second-graders from Northwood School as well as Brownies and Cub Scouts. It really is fun when the children find their grandparents, parents and even a teacher they have right now in the high school class composites that are on permanent display.

In early August, a young girl and her mother were visiting. I overheard the girl giving her mom the tour, telling her about the exhibits and using some of the same words I had used when giving the second-graders the tour. I asked the little girl if she had been with one of the classes, and she said yes. Her mom volunteered that it was her birthday, and her daughter had planned the day. The little girl finished the tour showing her mom the Barton School typewriter that is hidden in our amazing 104-year-old desk that was owned by George Dondero when he opened his law practice in 1910. The little girl also played a 1920s record on our 1906 Grinell Bros. Victrola, which was donated to the Museum by the Stortz family. The mom and daughter spent almost two hours at the Museum.

Come visit!

**Royal Oak Historical Society Museum
1411 W. Webster, Royal Oak MI 48073
248-439-1501**

**Regular hours:
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 1-4 p.m.**

Recently, we had a former librarian from Parker and Oakland Elementary schools visit with her husband and son, who is now a history teacher at Royal Oak Middle School. They were delighted with the exhibit, and the young teacher said he is going to try to bring some of his students before the exhibit closes. The teacher took several pictures of the 1920s and 1930s class trips to Gettysburg and Mount Vernon to show his students, as he still takes them to these same places.

Grace Perkins is a constant source of delight as she continues to bring in “stuff” that people gave to her husband, Owen Perkins — one of Royal Oak’s best local historians. Residents gave him so much “stuff” that he willingly accepted, as Owen knew that someday we would have a museum. Among the last items Grace brought in were a pair of stuffed loons, owned by Hessel Tenhave, science and biology teacher at Royal Oak High School and the founder of the Boys Forestry Club in the 1940s and 1950s.

What's Going on at the Orson Starr House? The Orson Starr House is a Michigan farmhouse that was originally constructed about 1845. Located at 3123 N. Main St, Royal Oak, it is one block south of 13 Mile Road. The house is owned by the City of Royal Oak and is open to the public on the 2nd Sunday of each month, from 1 – 4 P.M. or by prior arrangement. Additional parking is available 2 doors to the south at the Salvation Army Citadel.

This house was occupied by the Starr Family for almost 100 years and was home to one of Royal Oak’s pioneering families. Open houses and tours are provided by the members of the Orson Starr House Guild, a volunteer committee that organizes special events at the monthly sessions.

As always, admission is free (though donations are also welcome).



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1411 W. Webster Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073
248-439-1501
www.royaloakhistoricalsociety.com

Royal Oak Historical Society Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Please check:

Individual: \$10.00____ Family: \$18.00____ Donor: \$25.00____

Benefactor: \$50.00____ Seniors: 60+: \$8.00_____

Mail with your check to:

Royal Oak Historical Society, 1411 W. Webster Road, Royal Oak MI 48073

THE DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL IS THE LAST TIME
YOU HAVE RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP. THANK YOU.