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WYANDOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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This greenhouse was located on North Line and Cora streets opposite the Mt Carmel Cemetery.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Dear Wyandotte Historical Society Members;

Historical preservation provides a link to the roots of our community and our citizens. Overall, historic preservation adds to the quality of life making for a more livable community. As I look all over the country, we see many incredible preserved treasures of libraries and museums. They serve to preserve our heritage. I feel that most of the time we lose these treasures not by fire, flood or destruction, but by simple neglect.

The threat of losing priceless artifacts remains today. Steve Berry – author of *The Columbus Affair* said, “History is not something obscure or unimportant. History plays a vital role in our everyday lives. We learn from our past in order to achieve greater influence over our future. History serves as a model not only of who and what we are to be, we learn what to champion and what to avoid. Everyday decisions-making around the world is constantly based on what came before us.”

Here in Wyandotte we are so lucky to have city leaders who care and believe in preserving our past. Much has been done over the years. We are so grateful. But it cannot stop. There is much work to do. We need our support from our present city council. Following the death of Mayor Joe Peterson, our city council is now in charge of making decisions of our museum campus. Please make sure you tell council members about how pleased and proud you are of our great project so they can keep us in mind, creating a new budget. Our museum is the gem of this city.

Do this, because Wyandotte History Matters!

Christopher T .Stieler - President

WYANDOTTE GREENHOUSES

If we reach back 60 years or more, we find that there were other greenhouses located inside our city, usually in residential areas. Of course there was not really room for them at commercial sections of this compact city. The one that I remember the most was the Smith Greenhouse on 2nd St. and Poplar. Walking to school for 12 years meant each day passing by the flowerhouse, as we called it.

Somewhere, someone has a picture of this building as it appeared in the 1917 publication “Wyandotte - Past Present Future.” It would be a real gem to include it in our collections. Included with the picture is an article about Mr. Smith that I present here as it appeared in the above publication.

“ J. E. Smith”

“J. E. Smith, floral Artist and Grower of Plants, Cor. 2nd and Poplar, Wyandotte About twenty-two years ago, Mr. Smith established a modest little business at his present location, when the town was beginning to grow, and he has progressed with it, till now he is connected with the Flower Growers of Detroit, a wholesale company, carrying a general line of plants and flowers.

Though his own plant seems to the visitor an ample array of greenhouses, Mr. Smith is ambitious and determined to erect a larger floriculture plant on the outskirts of the City which will enable his company to raise many varieties and more of general stock than his present plant is capable of.

If Mr. Smith’s energy and honest ambition are any criterion of his future, then his plans are as good as accomplished now. He will no doubt continue to the pioneer florist of the future great Down River District” *(written in 1917)*



Gartner's Greenhouse

The Gartner home sat on the corner lots of Spruce and Second Streets with the greenhouse stretching behind it on Second St. back to the alley. Across the alley on North Line was a store with living quarters and a small greenhouse behind it. It was part of the Gartner family also.

As we finish, we leave you with a Patient visiting his doctor. DOCTOR: You are very sick. PATIENT: Can I get a second opinion? DOCTOR: Yes, of course! You are very ugly too. (Editor note: Be careful what you ask for.)

See ya next month: Ken Navarre



Moment of Sadness

We are sorry to acknowledge the death of Lucille Dokken, a Society member for many years. She passed away on June 16. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and our condolences to her friends and relatives.

We are also sorry to acknowledge the death of Larry Welsch who passed away on June 13. Larry is survived by his wife Barbara, his children and several step children. Barb and Larry volunteered for several years in and around the museum, cleaning and doing odd jobs as needed in a quiet way. We were not always aware of how much they did. Our sympathy is extended to Barb and the family as we share in their grief.

WYANDOTTE

By ANNE CAMPBELL

Wyandotte is a city of tradition.

*The Wyandot Indians as long ago
As 1701 set vivid campfires all aglow.*

*Their river front village was the first edition
Of the city that was to come.*

*Here in the wilderness the Red Man's home
Was a picturesque wigwam by the waters.*

*The woods resounded to the laughter of the Red Man's
sons and daughters.*

Wyandotte is a city of industry,

*Of far-seeing men whose integrity
Held the world line for Democracy.*

*When the first bar of Bessemer steel was rolled
By Eber Brock Ward in 1853,*

*Wyandotte began a story told and re-told
In the stouthearted annals of industry.*

Wyandotte is a city of names, of illustrious names,

*The Biddles, the Wards, the Fords, and later on
An adopted son, Bill Rutledge, who made Wyandotte such a model town*

*Of law-abiding citizens, that its renown
Has gone forth to a world applauding the flames*

*Of industry that light the river shore.
The pride of the native sons of Wyandotte springs from its lore.*

Wyandotte is a city of hope. It beckons to the lads on the farms,

*It holds out to them the enduring charms
Of a city not too large nor too small;*

*A city of many races which extends
A hand across the river, friends to friends;*

*A city of happy homes, standing on shaded avenues;
A city by the river, with a river's sun-rise views;*

*A self-sufficient city where men live soberly,
With its own Hospital, its own Fire and Health*

*Departments, its own wealth
Of Opportunity!*

A model city, vigorous and free!