

- EST. 1958 -

WYANDOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022

VOLUME 6



WYANDOTTE
ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

Centennial
1923-2023

MURAL RESTORATION PROJECT

(continued on page 2)

MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Did you know you have 1,024 eighth great grandparents? It is crazy to think that 512 different love stories are the reason you are here! My grandma Martha was from Canada and my honey, John was from Pennsylvania. The short version of the story is my grandfather was in the Navy and he was stationed in Canada where he met my grandma. They hit it off and eventually got married. After a few moves he ended up being stationed on Grosse Ile so they moved here to 22nd Street in Wyandotte.

I was very fortunate to grow up around the corner from my grandparents and to grow up in such a great neighborhood. We ended up adopting half of the neighbors as honorary family members.

Today's recipe I am going to share with you comes from an honorary member of my family, Auntie Helen Bialoblocki.

Auntie Helen's Robbin Jello

- * 1 small box of jello for each flavor of lime, orange, lemon and red
- * 1 pt. sour cream
- * 2 cups of milk
- * 2 tsp. Vanilla
- * 2 envelopes of Knox gelatin
- * 1 cup of sugar

Bring milk to a boil; add sugar and dissolve. Take Knox gelatin and dissolve in 1/2 cup of hot water. Add this to hot milk and stir in the vanilla. Wait until the milk mixture is cool, then beat the sour cream into the mixture and whip well. Dissolve small box of jello with 1 cup of boiling water and 1/2 cup of cold water. Put one layer of jello in a deep long pan (13 x 9.5 inches). Wait until set then then spoon on a layer of the sour cream mixture. Wait until that layer is set and continue the jello and sour cream in alternate layers. It takes about 2-2.5 hours to complete.

As a reminder the Historical Society is still collecting recipes. Feel free to share them via:

- Email to: wyandottehistory@gmail.com
- Post to our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/groups/wyn.historicalsociety
- Mail to:
Wyandotte Historical Society
2624 Biddle Avenue
Wyandotte, MI 48192

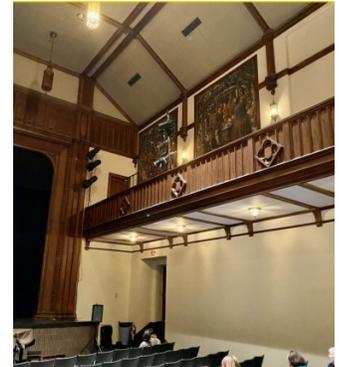
Mary-Johna Wein, President

MURAL RESTORATION PROJECT

(continued from the front cover)

The 2021-2022 school year is ending and the 2022-2023 Centennial Celebration of Roosevelt High School is highlighting the need for the restoration of national treasures in the high school.

In 1941 Wyandotte Public Schools authorities commissioned the Federal Government Works Progress Administration to create a series of paintings depicting early life in Wyandotte. Five large canvas murals were installed in the balcony of Roosevelt High School Auditorium in 1942. One of the murals of our early settlers is depicted on the front cover of this newsletter.



Over the past 80 years the condition of the artwork has deteriorated. This restoration project will ensure that these murals will be professionally assessed and conserved for generations of today and of the future to appreciate.

All donations are appreciated and tax deductible. Donors of \$100+ will be recognized on a plaque at the completion of the project.

Please contribute your way by:

Sending a check to:

Mural Restoration Project
PO Box 412
Wyandotte, MI 48192

Or by making a payment via PayPal, credit or debit card at:

https://paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=5MQVZFCMQ8334

Or by using the QR code to the right:



Welcome to Our New Members!

- Deanna Frazier
- Rachel Frazier
- Josh Halasy
- Sue Halasy
- Debra Lipinski

School's Out! Commencements of the Past

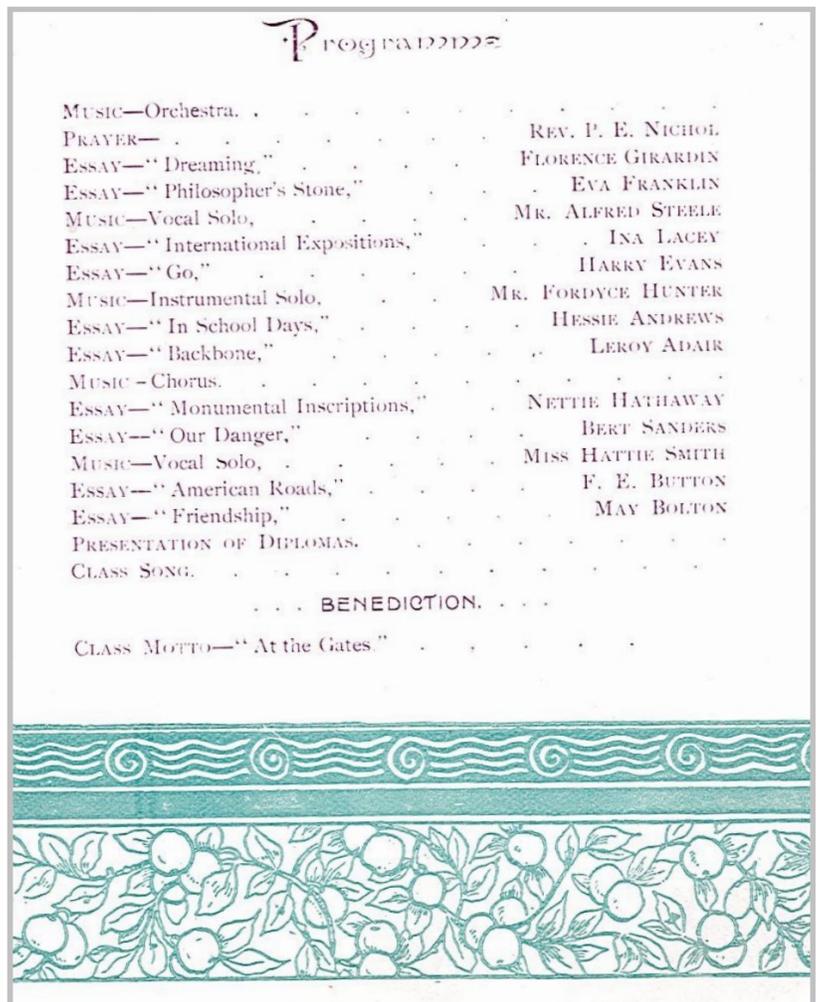
As the Theodore Roosevelt High School Class of 2022 readies themselves for their final bow before venturing out into the world, graduates of years past are, no doubt, remembering their final days of high school. College applications, class rings, prom, cramming for final exams – all leading up to the big ceremony and the coveted diploma. But, is this ceremony a new thing?

The commencement ceremony has been a graduation staple for over 700 years. Though the word today elicits the beginning of something, the term alluded more to the ending of a chapter, namely one's primary education. These days, commencement can be thought of as the ending of one important chapter and the beginning of the next great portion of life. Although the ritual dates back several centuries, Wyandotte's first graduation did not occur until 1876, and the commencement ceremony has taken place since that initial event.

Commencement has altered very little over the last hundred years. Once a mainstay in the practice, the event today veers away from its roots in organized religion (save for institutions such as private and religious schools), offers less student showmanship, but is much larger in scale than in the past. What once was a class song, written and performed by the students, has been replaced with a popular music piece, at times played during commencement, but mainly known by graduates as "their class song."

Let's take a look at Wyandotte's Class of 1892 (congratulations on your 130-year anniversary!). The student body consisted of just ten graduates. Consider the fact many classes can top 250 and that number could have been higher than 400 during the 1970s. This means, commencement practices, on the whole, will be much greater in length. During the ceremony, which took place June 23, 1892, each student had a role to play. They either read an essay, offered a speech or sang or played music. In many instances, it was proper for high school instructors to join in and sing or provide commentary. While the band may still play in contemporary commencements, it is rarer for choral displays to occur. And, the practice of each student reading aloud or providing a speech certainly changed as classes grew in size. More often in current years, members of the "Top Ten" may speak in front of the body – likely the valedictorian and salutatorian.

In 1892, the benediction, or offer of blessing, and opening prayer was completed by Reverend P.E. McNichol. Such actions are virtually nonexistent in the public school system today with the principal, school board president, class sponsor or advisor leading commencement ceremonies instead. The class motto in 1892 was "At the Gates." The essay by graduate, Nettie Hathaway, was titled, "Monumental Inscriptions." Over time, less religious practices



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School's Out!
Commencements of the Past

(continued from page 3)

changed the landscape of the commencement and such mottos became more secular in nature.

Commencement is a tradition that has occurred for hundreds of years and will likely continue on for many centuries to come. While certain aspects have evolved over time, the ritual itself will remain an important one for all graduates, who will continue to be recognized for their efforts and receive their diplomas. Congratulations to the RHS class of 2022! We will end this piece with the class song, written and originally performed by Wyandotte High School's Class of 1892:

FAREWELL CLASSMATES

I.

*Farewell, classmates, we are going
 Far from scenes we love so well,
 As we now, in mournful measure,
 Breathe this last, the sad farewell.
 In this place where oft we've gathered,
 Many happy days we've passed,
 Days whose memory long shall linger,
 Days, alas! that fled too fast.*

CHORUS – Farewell, classmates, we are going

*Farewell, classmates, we are going
 Far from scenes we love so well,
 As we now, in mournful measure,
 Breathe this last, the sad farewell.*

II.

*Oh! the throbbing heart grows weary,
 Tears of sorrow dim the eye,
 As to some beloved and dear one,
 Trembling lips pronounce, "Good-Bye."
 Ours is now the sad emotion,
 Ours the parting pang to feel;
 And the weeping eye confesses
 What the heart would fain conceal.*

-Jesse Rose, Museum Director



Did You Know
Correction from the Editor

The May 2022 Newsletter incorrectly referenced that the women's Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS) were the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corp. Thank you Bob Rudowski for letting me know that SPARS was part of the United States Coast Guard (USCG). We are always appreciative of feedback and input from our readers with their different backgrounds and thankful for you, as a member of the USCG.

Checking more creditable sites, I learned that SPARS was created on November. 23, 1942. The women filled many Coast Guard jobs such as telephone and radio operators so men could be released from shore stations to sea duty.

On Feb. 24, 1943 the first five SPARS arrived in the Pacific Northwest and reported to the 13th Naval District office in Seattle. The women were originally WAVES who were given the opportunity to transfer into the Coast Guard as SPARS. Later, recruiting women began in earnest.



Jane (Gies) Rasmussen

**Bob-Jo's 75th Anniversary
Call for Photographs!**

Can you believe Bob-Jo's Frozen Custard is celebrating 75 years in business? They began in 1947 and the same family has had a hand in the business since first opening. The current owners contacted both the Wyandotte Museums and Bacon Library to locate past photographs of the building, its premises and people enjoying their desserts. Posts were also made via local Facebook groups such as All Things Wyandotte with the same request. Unfortunately, no photographs could be found!

If you or anyone you know is in possession of a photograph depicting the Bob-Jo's of yesteryear (including when it was further down Fort St., on the other side of Eureka), please contact Wyandotte Museums staff so we can place a copy in the hands of the guys at Bob-Jo's.

Email us at:

museum@wyandottemi.gov

Or mail your photos or duplicates to:

Wyandotte Museum Archives
Burns Home
2624 Biddle Ave.
Wyandotte, MI 48192

In the meantime, support Bob-Jo's by helping them celebrate this milestone and go have a cone! They are located at 4071 Fort St. in Wyandotte.



Jesse Rose, Museum Director

**WANDERING OAKWOOD CEMETERY
Oliver Hibbard**

Oliver Hibbard was born on October 12, 1808 in Brookfield Vermont. He was the son of Abigail Hovey and Oliver Hibbard. Prior to the Civil war Oliver married his first wife Maria Curtis in 1837. Unfortunately Maria died on February 23, 1839. Shortly after her passing Oliver would remarry a widow, Catherine Barr Rolls.

In 1841 Oliver worked as the pastor of the first Congregational Church in Kiantone New York. On December 10, 1861 he enlisted in the 64th New York Infantry. He enlisted at Schuyler County, to serve for three years. The same day he mustered in as chaplain. During the war men became more spiritual and prayer was a very important part of life. Clergy worked to help boost morale and bring the soldiers spirits up during a time of distress.

On October 7, 1864 Oliver mustered out near Petersburg, Virginia. Shortly after he returned home he and Catherine moved to Wyandotte. He worked various jobs including pastor of the Presbyterian church and justice of the peace. On July 3, 1871 Oliver was appointed as postmaster for the city of Wyandotte. His salary for 1871 was \$760.00. Below is a copy from the Post Office department showing the various salaries throughout the state if Michigan.

730 POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT. [SEPT.]			
Post-offices in Michigan—Minnesota.			
Post-office.	County.	Postmaster.	Salary.
Wood Lake	Montcalm	Henry M. Carpenter	\$27 00
Woodland	Barry	John G. Myers	130 00
Wood's Corners	Ionia	Jos. Depeu	66 00
Worth	Tuscola	Jeremiah Hopkins	160 00
Wright's Bridge	Midland	Lot Holmes	12 00
Wyandotte	Wayne	Oliver D. Hibbard	760 00
Yankee Spring	Barry	Stephen Potter	16 00
Yew	Wayne	Henry Pierson	16 00
York	Washtenaw	J. R. Bowers	70 00
Yorkville	Kalamazoo	Daniel L. Johnson	35 00
Ypsilanti	Washtenaw	Clinton Spencer	2,800 00
Yuba	Grand Traverse	Mrs. Lydia King	27 00
Zeland	Ottawa	Peter Benjamine	79 00
Zilwaukee	Saginaw	James Maloney	110 00

Oliver worked as the postmaster of Wyandotte between 1871-1880. On March 3, 1890 Oliver went to New York to live with relatives and died there. His remains were brought back to Wyandotte and he is buried Oakwood Cemetery.

Mary Johna Wein, President of WOCA

Return Service Requested

Wyandotte Historical Society

Burns Home

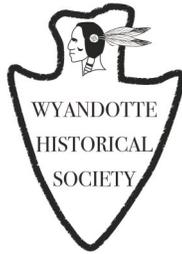
2624 Biddle Ave.

Wyandotte, MI 48192-5208

Phone: (734) 324-7299

Email: wyandottehistory@gmail.com

Website: wyandottehistory.org



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Address Label



- **Pie and Ice Cream Social**—Sunday June 26, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Ford MacNichol Home Museum, 2610 Biddle Avenue
- **Wyandotte Stars Annual Home Classic**—Saturday August 27
- **Fall City-Wide Garage Sale**—September 9, 10, 11

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