

- EST. 1958 -

WYANDOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

VOLUME 6

This 1954 ad shows one of the many popular summer desserts

From the Prez-

Last month Elizabeth Reilly gave a fascinating presentation on Chef Myeerah (walk-in-the-water). I definitely learned a lot! There will be no Friday night program in June due to the membership picnic.

On May 21 we partnered with the museum and held our annual pie and ice cream social. A special thank you to Stroh's ice cream, Elliot's bakery, and all of our volunteers. Without the volunteers these events wouldn't be possible. I hope you had as much fun as I did and I look forward to seeing you all at next years ice cream social! Don't forget to mark your calendars for the membership picnic on June 11th and the 65th anniversary celebration on September 9th. ~Mary-Johna



Calling all Wyandotte Historical Society and Wyandotte Museum

Volunteers — PICNIC TIME! Sunday, June 11 from 1-3 p.m.

The Wyandotte Historical Society would like thank each of you for all the many ways and many hours you have volunteered to help make our community a better place. We invite you and your families to join us for a picnic of hot dogs, salads and desserts and a fun white elephant sale. We will be honoring three members with lifetime memberships for their exceptional efforts and time for the benefit of the museum: **Angie Cislo, Eula Grooms. & Bruce Sininger.** Congratulations! No charge for volunteers – free will offering for all others.

~ Beth Labadie & Ken Navarre



REST IN PEACE

We regret to inform you of the passing of JoAnne Jackson Jager. Born in Detroit, she grew up in Wyandotte, where she graduated from St. Patrick High School in 1960. She married Philip Jager, son of Ray and Pearl Jager, well-known names in Wyandotte. Although their married life was spent in Lansing, before retiring to New Mexico, and again returning to Lansing, they maintained a longstanding membership in the W.H.S.

JoAnne is survived by her husband Philip, sons, Paul & Kevin, and three grandchildren. With sadness, we extend our condolences to Phil and family at this time of sorrow. Please remember the Jackson and Jager families in your thoughts and prayers. ~Ken Navarre

Meet Wyandotte Museums' New Assistant!

As of May 8th, 2023, Julia Moore is the Museum Assistant at Wyandotte Museums and is excited to hit the ground running in this role. Julia has completed her credits for her Master of Arts in History and is finishing up her thesis at Eastern Michigan University, where she was the Opperman Fellow for the 2021-2023 cohort. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Arts and Humanities and History from Michigan State University in 2021. As a part of her undergraduate experience, she interned at the museum for the summers of 2019 and 2020, so she is elated to be able to return to work in Wyandotte and with its history once again.

Julia is a historian who is interested in research, teaching, and museum work focused on community engagement and outreach. Her areas of interest are 20th-century European history and gender studies, and her research focuses on Polish women during and post-World War II. She plans on perusing a Ph.D. program in history after graduation in December of 2023 to be able to continue her research, and she's hoping her time at the museum will give her a new perspective on her passion for history. ~Jesse



Benjamin Haight (1829-1862) was born in Chautauqua County, New York, in 1829. Before his enlistment, Benjamin worked as a laborer in Ecorse Township. At 32, he enlisted in Company F of the 4th Michigan Infantry at Adrian on June 20, 1861. Then, in August 1861, Benjamin woke up to an unforgettable site at Fort Woodbury. Men were rising into the sky from inside a lighter-than-air device operated by Professor Thaddeus Lowe. Professor Lowe was appointed to help organize the Union Army Balloon Corps. The objective of the Balloon Corps was to use the balloon as an aerial platform to keep an eye on the enemy. A comrade in the 4th Michigan described the Balloon as "A splendid affair, some forty feet in diameter, on one side is painted a large eagle and on the other side with the likeness of General McClellan." Another regiment soldier reported, "one hundred thousand men within nine miles of our camp. Confederate artillery would try to shoot it down, without success, but it did give one member of 4th a souvenir to send home in the form of a 6-pound solid cannonball." During the war, Benjamin suffered from ulcers on the right leg caused by an injury he got while in service. Unfortunately, Benjamin didn't last long in the military; on May 15, 1862, Benjamin died at the United States hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The following day his remains were buried at Woodlands Cemetery in Philadelphia. In 1935 Benjamin's remains were moved and relocated to the Philadelphia National Cemetery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. ~Marty Bertera & Mary-Johna Wein

THE MOST INTERESTING PERSON THAT I NEVER MET

Have you ever heard stories about someone and wondered what they would have been like to meet in person? My name is Madison Wade. I am the great granddaughter of the late Yvonne M Latta. When I decided to write this article I had no idea what history I would uncover. My intention was to share some of my favorite stories relating to the MacNichol home and what it was like living in it. We will have to save those for another addition.

For weeks, I have been listening to stories, reading her journals and searching through her records. The documents she left behind are seemingly endless. What I have found is a woman who is like no one else that I have ever met. I honestly don't think there is anything she didn't or couldn't do.

Many may not know that my Great Grandmother, Yvonne M Latta, is the reason the reason the Museum exists today. The house was slated to be torn down and made into a parking lot for the Nixon funeral home. Per her journal entry, Yvonne happened by one day and made an appointment. She knew that if the ceilings were 10ft that she would be able to heat the home and save it. If they were 12ft it would be turned into a parking lot. Lucky for us all they were 10ft!

She negotiated for 3 months and finally on April 20, 1967 took possession of the home. She moved in with two of her sons, her daughter and her eccentric sister Tilly. They worked for years restoring and preserving as much of the home as possible. Despite the huge undertaking of restoring the home, she somehow found the time to document projects, costs and her entire life.

Yvonne was one the first women to be accepted into Michigan State College of Veterinary Science. While studying she became interested in Nutrition and entered Wayne State University. She graduated with her BS at the age of 40.

In addition to being a steward of preserving decades of Wyandotte history, Yvonne found time in her short 82 years to raise 4 children, take in and care for strangers and elderly parents, travel the US, Canada, England, China and Japan, garden, volunteer for the Red Cross and so many other organizations, substitute teach, obtain numerous certifications in nutrition and public health, complete a dietetic internship, be a public health nutritionist, be a home nurse, map the Oakwood Cemetery, teach at the Michigan Automotive Academy (in her late 70's), manage a hotel, explore geneology, and work the family feed and grain business. Most interesting of all, she was a taxidermist. Yes, you read that correctly. Yvonne was a taxidermist. She saved her books, records and tools. Thankfully, none of her subjects.

She once wrote a poem for her father, the late Elmer Leblanc. It tells about a hard working and selfless man who loved to work. The final stanza reads like this...

He was steady as an April rain

And welcome as the flowers.

To be like him is our great aim,

With leadership and power.

In my lifetime, my wish is to accomplish a fraction of what my great grandmother did. Like her, I hope one day to attend Vet school and become a Veterinarian. I am blessed to have such a wonderful role model to look up to. And while I will never have the pleasure of meeting Yvonne in person, she is an inspiration and the most interesting person that I never met. **Yvonne Latta (1921-2003).**

Thank you so much to Madison Wade for the wonderful story on Yvonne Latta. A few additional fun facts she provided make us all want to hear more!

***Yvonne was born in 1921 to Elmer and Emma LeBlanc in their home at 610 Goddard Rd in Ford City (Wyandotte). They owned and operated the Ford City Dairy at the same location.

***The bar Yvonne's father owned, Elmers on Goddard used to sell liquor during prohibition that was made at the family feed business next door. One night the purple gang came and shot up the front of the bar. They weren't happy that Elmer was making his own apparently.

***When Yvonne's daughter Sue was growing up, they lived next to a boy named Davey Crockett. So Yvonne made them both coon skin caps to wear

~Josh Halasy

*****Below are some of Yvonne's taxidermy receipts and instructions, circa 1950s*****

IMPORTANT! ALL INFORMATION MUST BE FILLED IN SQUARES

STYLE **NICK STONER WITH FRINGE** LINING **JULIES T. GARFALL - Johnstown, N.Y.** ZIPPER BUTTONS

CHEST-A	WAIST-B	HIPS-C	LENGTH-D-E	SLEEVES-F-G	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	SUIT SIZE
36	28	38	24	27	5'9"	145	36

NO. SKINS **1** GRAIN **TANNED** SUEDE RAW

COLOR **SADDLE BR. EASH. FINISH**

NOTICE

- MEASURE COMPLETELY AROUND FOR CHEST, WAIST AND HIPS. ARMS DOWN AT SIDE.
- COLLAR SEAM F AT BASE OF NECK TO G AT WRIST FOR SLEEVES.
- BACK SEAM D TO E FOR DESIRED LENGTH.

SPECIAL REMARKS

TRIM ACROSS FRONT OF SHOULDER WITH UNBORN CAFE - IF POSSIBLE

MAN'S

To Destination Office **Johnstown New York**

Consignee **Jules T Garfall** Enter Date Shipped **Dec 29 195**

Street Address of Non-Agency Destination **212 W Main** Receipt Number **9727**

Name of Forwarding Office **Johnstown** Declared Value **18.00** Value Charges **06**

(742-M) Detroit, Mich. (E) **986977** Weight **32** Express Charges **282**

Articles **2 Bds (Hides)** **986101** Tax **09**

Shipper **Yvonne Latta** **986999** Class Paid Beyond **XX/XXX** Total **7.97**

Shipper's Street Address **915 Smithers** PREPAID (Original) Scale or Rate Priced by **C. O. D.**

SHIPPER'S PREPAID RECEIPT

NOTE—The Company will not pay over \$50, in case of loss, or 50 cents per pound, actual weight, for any shipment in excess of 100 pounds, unless a greater value is declared and charges for such greater value paid.

RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY

Received shipment described hereon, subject to the Classifications and Tariffs in effect on the date hereof, value herein declared by Shipper to be that entered in space hereon reading "Declared Value," which the Company agrees to carry upon the terms and conditions printed hereon, to which the Shipper agrees and as evidence thereof accepts this receipt.

Number Pieces **2** Date **12/29/50** Hour **10**

1 **Garfall** 105 **M**

IMPORTANT! ALL INFORMATION MUST BE FILLED IN SQUARES

STYLE **SENECA FRINGED** LINING **CABARDINE** ZIPPER BUTTONS

CHEST-A	WAIST-B	HIPS-C	LENGTH-D-E	SLEEVES-F-G	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	SUIT SIZE
49	46	54	22	25	5'2 1/2"	215	46

NO. SKINS **5** GRAIN **TANNED** SUEDE RAW

COLOR **MATCH** TYPE **FASHION FIN.**

NOTICE

- MEASURE COMPLETELY AROUND FOR CHEST, WAIST AND HIPS. ARMS DOWN AT SIDE.
- COLLAR SEAM F AT BASE OF NECK TO G AT WRIST FOR SLEEVES.
- BACK SEAM D TO E FOR DESIRED LENGTH.

SPECIAL REMARKS

NO BELT FULL ZIPPER TRY TO MATCH COLOR OF HIDES ALREADY TANNED

WOMAN'S

To Destination Office **Three Rivers Mich**

Consignee **Three Rivers** Enter Date Shipped **Dec 29 195**

Street Address of Non-Agency Destination **Tru Co** Receipt Number **9728**

Name of Forwarding Office **Johnstown** Declared Value **35.00** Value Charges **06**

(742-M) Detroit, Mich. (E) **981103** Weight **2** Express Charges **1.50**

Articles **1 Bdl Hides** **986850** Tax **05**

Shipper **Yvonne Latta** Class Paid Beyond **XX/XXX** Total **16.1**

Shipper's Street Address **915 Smithers** PREPAID (Original) Scale or Rate Priced by **C. O. D.**

SHIPPER'S PREPAID RECEIPT

NOTE—The Company will not pay over \$50, in case of loss, or 50 cents per pound, actual weight, for any shipment in excess of 100 pounds, unless a greater value is declared and charges for such greater value paid.

RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY

Received shipment described hereon, subject to the Classifications and Tariffs in effect on the date hereof, value herein declared by Shipper to be that entered in space hereon reading "Declared Value," which the Company agrees to carry upon the terms and conditions printed hereon, to which the Shipper agrees and as evidence thereof accepts this receipt.

Number Pieces **1** Date **12/29/50** Hour **10**

1 **Garfall** 105 **M**

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Wyandotte Historical Society

Burns Home

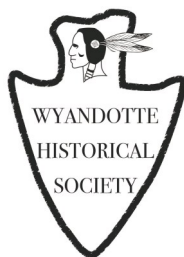
2624 Biddle Ave.

Wyandotte, MI 48192-5208

Phone: (734) 324-7299

Email: wyandottehistory@gmail.com

Website: wyandottehistory.org



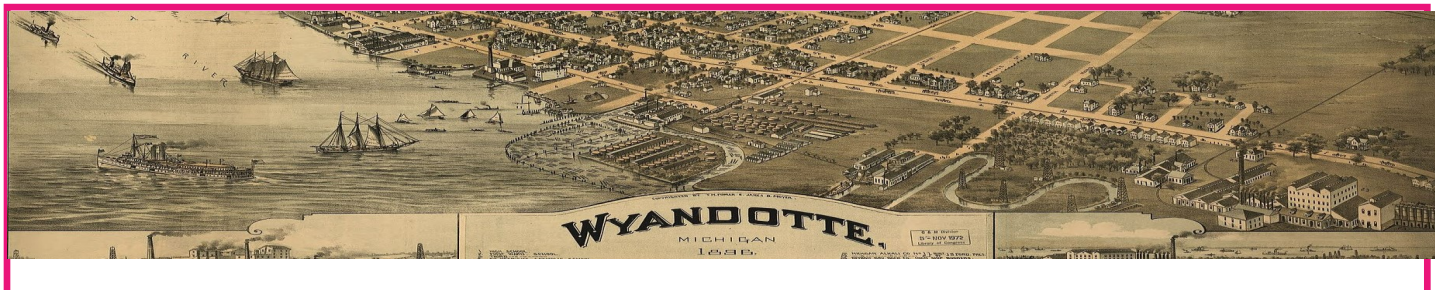
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