



Holiday events

November 19, Sunday, 2 p.m.
The Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra performs works by Mendelssohn and Bach. Holy Trinity Chapel. 480-4579.

November 16-19 and 23-25, 8 p.m. PTD Productions presents Noel Coward's "Hay Fever" at the Riverside Arts Center. 483-7345.

December 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9 at 8 p.m.; Dec 3 at 2:30 pm. EMU Theatre presents A Christmas Carol. Quirk Theatre, EMU. 487-1221.

December 3, Sunday, 7 p.m. Lessons and Carols. EMU Choirs and Campus Ministries present seasonal songs and readings in the King's College tradition. Pease Auditorium. 487-2255.

December 5, Tuesday, 8 p.m. EMU Collegium Concert. Music for choral and instrumental ensembles of the 17th and 18th centuries. Holy Trinity Chapel. 487-2255.

December 7, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Ypsilanti Community Choir and Barnhill Band annual Christmas concert. Pease Auditorium. 483-7192.

December 10, Sunday, 1:00-6:00 p.m. Annual Tour of Holiday Homes of Historic Ypsilanti. Proceeds to benefit Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. Advanced tickets available at Quinn's Essentials and Me 'n' My Sisters in Depot Town, Haabs Restaurant in downtown Ypsilanti and Cartys Music on Hewitt Road in Ypsilanti. Day of the event tickets will be available at the Ypsilanti Ladies' Literary Club.

December 7-17, Orpheus Productions presents "Parked" at the Riverside Arts Center. 971-5545.

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The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

c/o Don Randazzo
6101 Hitchingham Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



Heritage NEWS

NOVEMBER 2000

Shackman to speak on history of western Washtenaw county

On Tuesday evening, November 28, at 7:30 at the United Methodist Church of Ypsilanti, Grace Shackman will present a talk and slide show about the historic western Washtenaw County towns of Saline, Chelsea, Dexter, and Manchester to the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.

Shackman is well known in this area as a researcher and writer on local history. Since 1981 she has been a regular contributor to the Ann Arbor Observer, where she is best known to readers for her "Then & Now" articles about Ann Arbor's past. Shackman is also fascinated by the history of western Washtenaw County towns. Her interest was sparked when she worked as a reporter for the Chelsea Standard

and the Dexter Leader for several years in the late 1980s. After that she served as a county commissioner for eight years and her knowledge of those towns increased. A few years ago when she began writing for the Community Observer, a new magazine covering western Washtenaw County that is published by the Ann Arbor Observer Company, she decided she had accumulated enough information to create a slide show about the historic towns of Chelsea, Dexter, Manchester, and Saline.

The public is invited to come and hear Grace's talk. She will answer questions afterwards. As always, refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Holiday Homes Tour set for Sunday, December 10th

If you enjoyed the Christmas Home Tour last year, you're looking forward to going again! If you missed it last year, you have a delightful treat in store on Sunday, December 10, 1:00 to 6:00. Five private homes and a church, all wonderfully decorated for the holidays, as well as a refreshment stop at the Ladies Literary Club - it's all yours to enjoy on this year's tour. Take a friend, take a neighbor, take your family! Advance tickets, \$10, will be available at Quinn's Essentials and Me n' My Sister's Country Store in Depot Town, Haab's Restaurant in downtown Ypsilanti and Carty's Music store on Hewitt Road in Ypsilanti. Tickets will be available the day of the tour, \$12.50, at the



Ladies' Literary Club. Tour proceeds are again destined for Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels.

November Meeting

Tuesday, November 28

at 7:30 at the

United Methodist Church
of Ypsilanti

209 Washtenaw Avenue

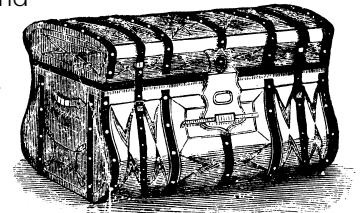
What Will We Find in Grandma's Trunk?

With the Grandma's Trunk project, the Heritage Foundation will take the past into the classroom. Kids will get the opportunity to see and touch items a traveling family from the 1800s might have owned.

The Foundation is recreating traveling trunks, or suitcases, with clothing and personal items such as hairbrushes and combs and

other, more unusual, pieces to illustrate to the children the differences—

and similarities—between families from the past and those in the present.



The trunks will be delivered to area elementary schools, along with full descriptions of the items contained within. Each school will host the trunks for a period of time before they are sent on to the next school, giving teachers and children the chance to discuss the trunks and the family that might have owned them. Topics of discussion can include anything from the technological developments that have made traveling a much less expensive and time-consuming activity to changes in fashion.

The Henry Ford Museum at Greenfield Village has donated two 1800s vintage traveling trunks to the project. Now, we are searching for items to fill our trunks. Specifically, the foundation is looking for clothing items, small toys and games, and personal hygiene products.

If anyone has items they feel are appropriate to the project and are interested in donating or loaning them, please call Megan McCann at 484-6548.

Membership In The Foundation

If you would like to join the Foundation, send your check, payable to the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, to Joe Mattimoe, YHF Treasurer, 301 N. Grove, Ypsilanti MI 48198.

Individuals	\$10
Household	\$15
Contributing	\$25
Sustaining	\$100
Life	\$1000

HELP MAKE HISTORY!

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Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board Members

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New Paint Job Proves Popular!

It may be due to the fact that it stood derelict and forlorn for so many years, becoming almost part of the background along Huron Street, but the new, multi-colored paint job the Towner House now sports has certainly gained a lot of attention. And most of it is overwhelmingly positive. In fact, one admirer has described it as "a little jewel box of a house!"

Completed this past summer, the paint job was part of the first phase of the Towner House Preservation Project. Towner House Foundation board members selected the colors with advice from fellow board member Elizabeth VanderMark, an architect intern with the firm of Elisabeth Knibbe Architects. Liz prepared the color renderings that helped the board decide on the paint scheme and that were submitted to the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission for review and approval.

The HDC hesitated a little before approving a multi-colored paint scheme. They cited the fact that, in their original state, Greek Revival houses were almost always painted white since their owners sought to emulate the white temples of classical Greece. (In an ironic twist, more recent scholarship has revealed that the Greek temples were not always white. Research has revealed tiny fragments of colored pigment on the temples, so the Towner House's paint scheme may not be so inappropriate, after all.) In any event, the HDC did sign off on the paint scheme and the work went forward.

Enthusiasm for the new paint scheme has resulted in some amusing anecdotes. THF board member Betty Randazzo reports that during a Saturday workday at the house, following the paint job, a woman pulled her car into the nearby Presbyterian Church lot, jumped out, and ran towards the house shouting, "That's my color! That's my color!" It turns out the paint color used on the siding was exactly what she was looking for for her own house. So, Betty gave her the information she needed about the paint and sent her on her merry way.

Mayor Cheryl Farmer, a Towner House neighbor, has her own paint story that

occurred recently. Cheryl, who always keeps a watchful eye on the house, happened to see two people crouched down near one of the walls. Curious, she walked towards the house and as she came closer noticed that they were in that position because they were comparing paint samples with the color on the siding!

It seems the once nondescript little Towner House may be setting a new trend in exterior paint schemes. So, for those of you who may be interested, the following paint colors were used on the house: the siding is Georgian Green Stone; the trim areas are Victorian White Wash; the window sashes and doors are Early American Shutter Green; and once they're repaired, the porch floor and skirting will be painted in Victorian Slate. Most of the paint for the Towner House was donated by Lowes, from their own line of paints. The Towner House Foundation would once again like to thank Lowes for this generous donation.

It's been said that "clothes make the man." Apparently, that's true about paint on houses, too!

Peg Du Fresne
 Towner House Foundation Board

Towner House update

If you're in the neighborhood – take a detour and drive down Emmet street. The Towner house now has clapboard siding on the back of the house, where additional structures had previously been removed. The windows for the back of the house will be in place soon. Don Randazzo rebuilt the back windows, from donated windows of the same period, to match the rest of the windows in the house.

The Towner House Foundation held an ice cream social at the Weaver's Antique Fire Museum in October. The committee would like to thank the Weaver's and John Tucker for their assistance in the event, as well as those who attended.

Heritage News is the newsletter of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

Special Care of

Antique Glass & Ceramics



will preserve them
for generations

While The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation has always been focused on historic buildings, many members are interested in antiques as well. I

thought that it might be interesting to some to review some of the do's and don'ts in caring for one's collections or for that matter, the piece of glass or silver inherited from Great Aunt Maude. Looking over a series of "Care And Preservation" articles that are available from the Conservation Department of Henry Ford Museum, I've decided to excerpt a few interesting and useful tidbits for the Newsletter. (The complete documents may be downloaded from the Henry Ford Museum web site [www.hfmgv.org] or for a nominal charge, the museum's Conservation Department can mail them to you.

Glass and ceramic objects can be maintained for years of use and enjoyment provided that some basic care and attention is given to their preservation. The first step in the care of collections is to understand and minimize or eliminate conditions that can cause damage. The second step is to follow some basic guidelines for care, handling and cleaning.

Glass and ceramics are among the most durable antique collectibles. Breakage is by far the most common form of damage that occurs to both. Improper use, display, cleaning or repair can cause additional damage in the form of stains and discoloration. In rare instances, poor manufacture or harsh environmental conditions lead to degradation.

Porous, unglazed or cracked ceramics can develop stains as a result of being soaked in water during cleaning and the absorption of food, soil from potted plants or rust from contact with metal can also stain. The use of inappropriate or poor quality adhesives and paints during repair can also result in irreversible discoloration. Antique ceramic dishes should never be heated beyond room temperature. Elevated temperatures can cause darkening of already existing stains and sudden changes in temperature can promote the development of cracks and breaks. The same advice holds true for glass, particularly cut glass.

In rare instances, a damaging condition called "weeping glass" occurs. "Weeping glass" describe actual droplets of moisture that form on the surface of a glass object. These droplets of moisture can leach out unstable components of the glass producing an alkaline solution. If these alkaline droplets remain on the surface of the glass for a long peri-

od of time, the surface will develop of fine network of cracks. This phenomenon is referred to as "crizzling." Both weeping and crizzling are believed to be the result of improper formulation during glass manufacture.

What can you do to protect your stuff? Well, for starters, the use of spring-type metal plate hangers should be avoided. These hangers place a great deal of stress on objects and can lead to the development of cracks. Better to use plastic or painted wood plate stands that allow the object to rest at a tilted angle. (They're available at places like Michael's Crafts and Per 1.) Always use two hands when lifting or moving objects. Never lift objects by their handles or spouts. This is particularly important if the object has previously been repaired. Even the best repairs can not restore the structural strength to a broken ceramic or glass item.

When cleaning antique ceramics, remember that they often are decorated with fragile paint or gilding which can be easily removed with harsh cleaning solutions. Test in a small area to see if the method you plan on using seems to do damage. Use only diluted solutions and soft cloths during cleaning. Never soak ceramics in any liquid. Soaking and uneven drying can lead to staining. This is particularly a problem in items that are chipped or scratched or have cracked glazes. And a final warning, dishwashers should never be used to clean antique ceramics or glass pieces. Instead use mild detergents in water (a 1% solution.) If you really want to get serious, you can also use ethanol and water (1 to 1) applied with cotton balls or Q-tips. The piece can be rinsed using distilled water applied with a dampened cloth.

Glass can be cleaned in much the same way and you have the additional option of using dilute ammonia as a cleaner.

Repair of ceramics can be complicated. If the item is valuable, leave it to a professional conservator. The wrong adhesive can permanently stain. Glass too can be damaged by the wrong adhesives. Generally, epoxy is used but epoxy discolors in sunlight. The fine repair job that you do today, my come back to haunt you as a yellow line tomorrow. A special formulation, called Hxtal is used at the HFM because it is relatively light stable.

Finally, damage to your glass and ceramics can be minimized by avoiding extremes in temperature and humidity during storage. Keep objects away from heat sources like furnace vents, fire places, direct sunlight and unvented, internally lit display cases. Basements and attics may also cause problems.

Henry J. Prebys
Curator, Domestic Life
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