

RECORDER



"If Only The Walls Could Talk"

Woelke Historical Research Center Celebrates 10 Years!

See page 8.

PHS ***** PHS

"The business of business, is business."

Ever heard that one before? It might be paraphrased, but it sounds accurate.

This issue of the Recorder is about business, particularly local business. We recently heard of the closing of a long-standing business in town, Orr's Drug-store.

Orr's started in 1919 and has been in the same family for 104 years. Fred has been owner and manager since 1976.

We do not know what the future holds for the store front, but Fred will be enjoying a well-deserved retirement.

Many businesses have changed hands since Pigeon was founded. Reading a history of the changes is almost like sorting a plate of spaghetti. Owners swapped businesses, buildings moved from one location to another, and some businesses will continue as a younger generation takes over and keeps the same name.

At times there is no one that wants to take over or start a new business and an empty store front sits empty, a lonesome, fond memory of 'the good ole' days' with a hope of a useful future.

Life goes on and so does the business of business.

Paul Schuette, Editor.

THE PIGEON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 253 – Pigeon, Michigan 48755
989-453-3242

Denny Esch, President
Ardra Schaaf, Vice President
Paul Schuette, Secretary & Editor
David Eichler, Treasurer

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Six Membership Meetings:
Second Monday of the month
January – March - May - July
September – November
10:00 a.m.

Board Meetings:

Fourth Monday of every month
All meetings at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Location:

Woelke Historical Research Center

The Business Of Business



PIGEON 1897

Open For Business

This week W. A. Schriber opened up his new furniture store ready for business. Mr. Schriber has a fine new brick building which is a credit to himself as well as our thriving village. *(Original wood-framed building shown left side of photo.)*

His store is one of the largest furniture rooms in the Thumb and as far as beauty is concerned it need take no back seat for any. The stock which he has to show is also one of the largest in the Thumb and as fine assortment as you can find anywhere. He invites all to make him a call and at least look over his line.

From The Pigeon Progress, October 5, 1900

PHS ***** PHS

Pigeon to Enjoy Building Boom During Coming Summer.

Indications point to one of the most prosperous years in the history of Pigeon for 1910, in the building line, and if plans now under way are carried out there will be a great change in the business section of the village. The vacant property - just across from the Hotel Arlington, known as the commons, will be the site of one of the handsomest business blocks in town. John Ackerman and W. A. Schriber have purchased three lots of this site from the Pigeon State Bank and as soon as the weather will permit will commence the erection of a two-story rick building 75x100 feet in size. Twenty-five feet of the front will be used and owned by Mr. Schriber and the other 50x100 feet will be

property of Mr. Ackerman, the lower floor of which he will rent for store purposes and the upper floor will be fitted out for a hall and opera house. At the present time Pigeon has not a hall large enough for its needs and this will be a great addition to the town.

J. A. McLean, who recently sold his store building to J. J. Murdoch, will erect a two-story brick on the south side of the Hotel Heasty, the size of which will be 25x132 feet. The lower floor will be used for his Hardware business and the upper floor will contain seven rooms to be used by the Hotel Heasty. The quarters to be vacated by Mr. McLean will be occupied by William Heasty for his implement business.

John J. Campbell is figuring on build-
See **BOOM** Page 2.

Mail Code Numbers Assigned

Five-digit ZIP codes for post offices in this area have been announced, and should be used on all correspondence to speed mail deliveries and reduce the chance of missent mail.

ZIP Code, the Post Office Departments revolutionary new system of improved mail dispatch and delivery, goes into effect nationally on July 1. Code numbers this area are: Pigeon, 48755; Elkton, 48731; Owendale, 48754; Bay Port, 48720, and Caseville, 48725.

Local postmasters stressed the importance of everyone learning their own post office's ZIP code and using it in their return address on all correspondence. In answering mail, the ZIP code taken from return addresses on incoming mail should be used.

The ZIP code is literally the last word in mail addressing and should follow the city and state in address, for example;

John Doe
1234 Fifth Street

Anytown, Michigan (code).

The new ZIP Code plan, for the first time will permit the post office department to short-cut repeated address reading.

The address on mail must often be read as many as eight or ten times by postal employees, to get it in the proper destination. Each handling slows the process of mail dispatch and add to the opportunity for human error.

With ZIP code, a clerk need only to glance at the code to know immediately to what national area, state, and post office the letter is destined, and to speed it on its way, cutting up to 24 hours off the time between deposit and delivery.

When ZIP code is in full swing, the United States will have the most modern system of mail distribution and delivery in existence.

From The Progress Advance, June 27, 1963

PHS*****PHS

SLINGSHOT

In the case of the average healthy small boy, cleanliness is not near to godliness. It is next to impossible.

From The Pigeon Progress, June 6, 1930

PHS*****PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, One hundred nine years ago, July 3, 1914: About \$500 was raised by Pigeon businessmen to assist in paying the cost of a boulevard system of lighting for the business section of the village.

BOOM from page 1.

ing a business block on the south side of his drug store, which will be 25x70 feet, two stories and we are informed that if he decides to build, he has tenants for both floors.

Besides the building above mentioned there will be several fine homes erected and it is safe to say that things will be very lovely about the town the coming summer.

From The Pigeon Progress, January 28, 1910

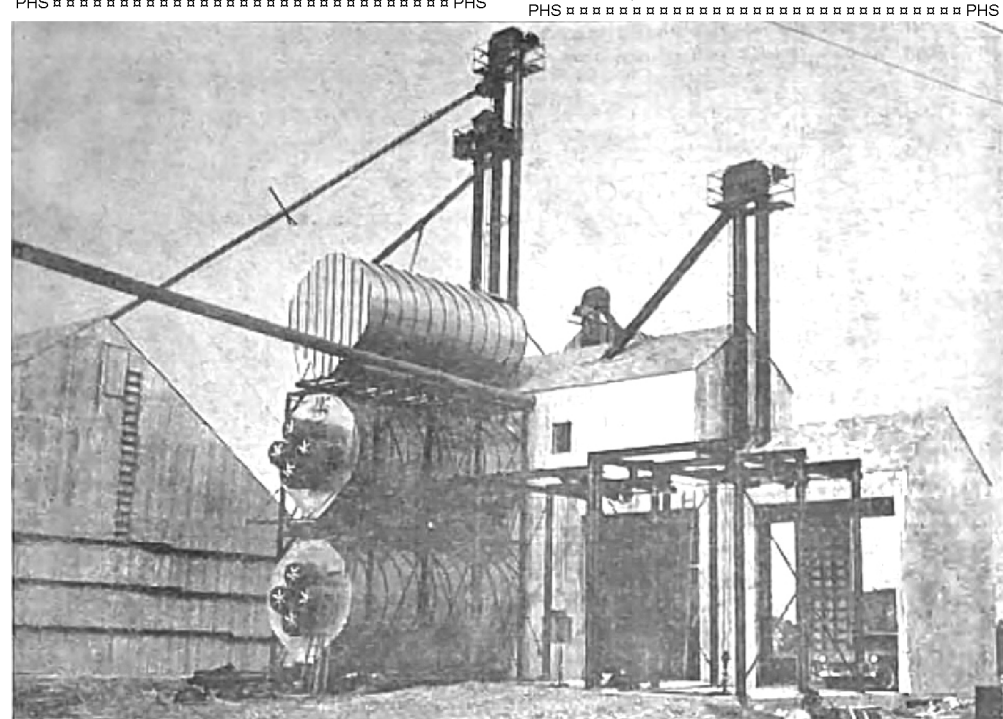
PHS*****PHS

Pigeon FFA Boy Is Fifth In State Tractor Contest

Sidney Smith, from Pigeon F. F. A. who represented Huron County in the state tractor driving contest for F. F. A. members, held Wednesday, August 31 at Michigan State University, placed fifth in the contest. There were 29 contestants from all over the state. This is a very fine showing since this was the first year that a Huron County chapter member entered the contest.

From The Progress Advance, September 8, 1955

PHS*****PHS



New Business Under Way at Pigeon

The newest business enterprise of the Pigeon area is this 333,000 bushel capacity corn drying and storage plant recently built by Joe Maust and operating under the names of Active Feed Company and Maust Grain Co. In the foreground can be seen the unloading facilities and three of six large dryers that have a combined capacity of 2,000 bushels per hour. The

end of the 60x300 foot storage building is in the left background of the picture. Several thousand bushels of last year's corn have already been placed in storage here, Mr. Maust states. The plant is being managed by James Pedlar and will employ 3 to 5 men when new corn begins to come in that will need drying.

From The Progress Advance, June 20, 1963

PHS*****PHS

LOCAL NEWS.

According to the muskrat we are to have a long cold winter, so says J. J. Campbell. As this is John's first appearance as a weather prophet we had better put in a good supply of coal.

The Progress has a much larger circulation in the townships of Winsor, Fair Haven, McKinley, Chandler and Brookfield than all other county papers combined. This is a point for the local advertisers to consider.

Pigeon's fine new depot was opened to the public Wednesday. It's a nice building and a credit to our village. Now, if a good lighting system was placed in the building and the cement walk extended so that it would connect with the walk at the drug store corner we would stop kicking.

From The Pigeon Progress, June 18, 1926

PHS*****PHS

From the pages of The Progress-Advance, Thirty-nine years ago, November 7, 1944: Four Pigeon stores celebrate grand openings: Diener's Home of Fine Furnishings, Kent McKenzie Jewelers, J&B Plumbing & Heating in their new location are also celebrating 20 years in business, and Elftman's Gamble Store.

PHS*****PHS

BUSINESS CHANGES IN PIGEON

NIEDIECK & JONES BUY A SITE FOR NEW GARAGE

The firm of Niedieck & Jones who now occupy the Fisher building, this week purchased the lot just south of the Anderson store on West Michigan Ave. from John J. Murdoch and John J. Campbell.

It is the intention of the purchasers to build a garage on the lot during the coming summer. The building will be of brick and tile construction, one story.

PIGEON BUSINESS CHANGES HANDS

The Hamilton & Co. grocery and lunch room was sold this week to George Dunn who took possession yesterday morning. The business will be conducted as in the past with the exception that the lunch and meal facilities will be enlarged. The Hamilton company has been in business in the stand for about four years.

TIBBITS MAY AGAIN OPEN STORE IN PIGEON

It is reported that Mrs. M. E. Tibbits of Bad Axe is negotiating for the rental of the building formerly occupied by the C. B. Cady Co. Mrs. Tibbits is well known in Pigeon, having been in business here for a number of years.

WM. FAHRNER TO BUILD NEW BUILDING

It is understood that William Fahrner, has about closed the deal for the purchase of the McDonald lot on Main Street on which he will erect a new building. Mr. Fahrner conducted a grocery store on this location previous to the time the building was destroyed by fire a short time ago.

PIGEON TO HAVE MODERN RESTAURANT

"Dick" McBride yesterday opened up a restaurant in the new Cramer building. Mr. McBride has installed fine new fixtures and the interior of the building is nicely decorated making it one of the best equipped and most sanitary eating places in the Thumb.

He has also installed a handsome new ice cream fountain.

It is the intention of Mr. McBride to serve regular meals as well as short orders and lunches.

The venture is very commendable and this new addition to the business of Pigeon is a credit to the village.

"The White House Restaurant" is the name that the place will go by.

Mr. McBride is moving his bakery to the rear of the same building and he will continue in the bakery business.

From The Pigeon Progress, March 2, 1928

PHS ***** PHS
WEIRD RECIPES---

PULLED BEAR

Bear season in Michigan will soon begin so this recipe is for the bear meat aficionados or anyone who enjoys black meat. First, one must capture a bear and kill it or find one dead somewhere and bring it home. Skin out the bear and cut four pounds of meat from its hams. Par boil this meat in water and soda for two hours. Then put the bear meat in a stock pot and season with celery salt, pepper, garlic, salt pork and a quart of inexpensive white wine. Cover with water and cook for another two hours. Remove meat and place it in a roasting pan covering it with onions and garlic and roast at 350° F. for an hour. Cool the meat and slice it into manageable proportions pulling enough meat away from the roast to cover a large ham-burger bun. Top with your favorite condiments and have at it with lots of cold beer for a wash.

YUMMMM!

Special - Friday

Fish Dinner

All You Can Eat **\$1.00**

Children Under 12 - 1/2 Price
Bring the Whole Family

Chicken or Turkey Sunday Dinners

Open 7 A. M. to Midnight Every Day
Complete Meals - Lunches - Sandwiches

Bush's Restaurant

Pigeon, Michigan

From The Progress Advance, June 20, 1963

PHS ***** PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, Seventy years ago, July 22, 1949: Caseville's newest business place, the Bay Theatre, opened its doors to the public July 14 when the first movie was shown.

PHS ***** PHS

MACARONI GIVES BOY AWAY.

**TWELVE YEAR OLD LAD STEALS RIGS.
WAS FINALLY CAPTURED.**

For the past four or five weeks nearly every Saturday night a horse and rig was taken from the streets of Pigeon and in nearly every case the stolen rig was found the same night or the following day on the road between Pigeon and Bay Port. Marshal Kreb was on the watch but still there continued to be somebody's horse missing every Saturday night.

Last Saturday evening a horse and buggy belonging to William Meyer was taken from the street and when found several hours afterwards the horse was standing on the highway. The party who had taken the rig left a package of macaroni in the buggy and also a purchase slip issued by J. E. Cramer. With this clue the cause of the missing horse and buggy was laid to William Nichol, a twelve year old son of William Nichol, a sugar beet weeder. At first the boy denied having taken the horse, but afterwards admitted of taking that horse as well as the horses on the preceeding Saturday evenings.

Sheriff McAulay took the lad to Bad Axe Monday and it is thought he will be sent to the Industrial School for Boys at Lansing.

From The Pigeon Progress, August 25, 1911

PHS ***** PHS

AN HONEST ADVERTISER

On account of not being able to plough on account of my mule kicking me I want to sell the mule cheap.

-- Adv. in the Hillville (Ky.) Journal

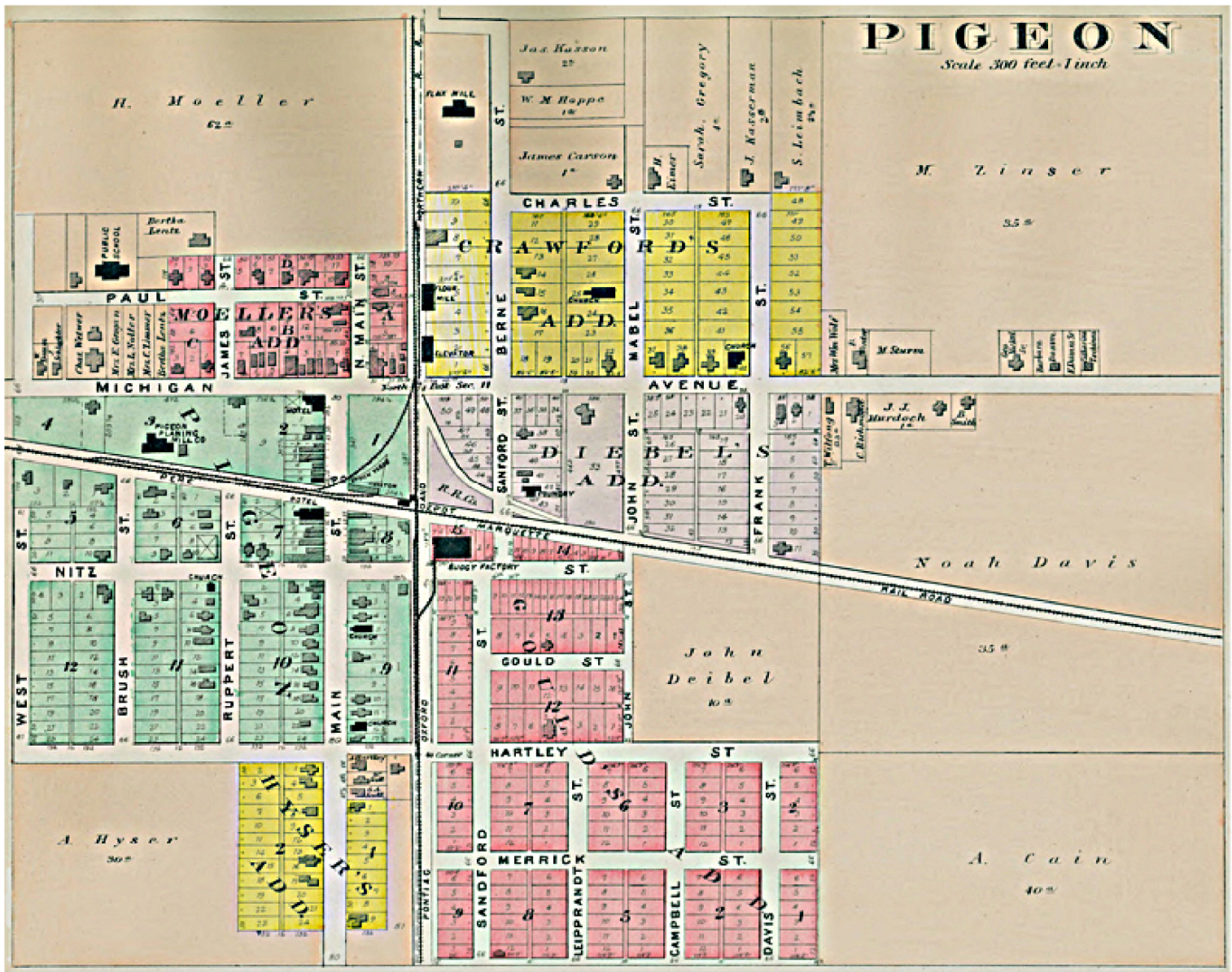
From The Pigeon Progress, June 18, 1926

PHS ***** PHS

Twenty of the most desirable residence lots in Pigeon for sale. Prices from \$20 to \$50. For further particulars enquire of George H. A. Shaw or Jos. Schluchter.

From The Pigeon Progress, October 5, 1900

PHS ***** PHS



1904 PLAT BOOK Businesses Listed

From the October 15, 1906 edition of the Newsweekly

As an incorporated village, here are the businesses that were listed in the 1904 Plat Book. How many of them do you remember?

- Bundscho & Heasty - Dealers in heavy and shelf hardware, coal, and wood stoves, kitchen utensils, tinware, paints, wire, and nails
- Diebel & Giese - Dealers in general merchandise and full gets furnishings
- John Diebel - Manufacturer and dealer in lumber
- Farmers' Bank of Pigeon/ F. W. Merrick cashier - A general banking business transacted and loans
- Hotel Heasty/George S. Farrar, Proprietor - A first class hotel, rates \$2.00 per day
- Otto Frenzel - Physician
- H. H. Gould - Dealer in buggies, wag-

- ons, cream separators, farm implements
- Albert Hartley/Manager of Pigeon planing mill - Dealer in lumber & shingles
- Hirshberg and Son - Dealers in building material, groceries, and dry goods
- A.G. Kaumeyer - Physician & surgeon
- Leipprandt Brothers - Dealers in general merchandise, grain and produce buyers and dealers, gent's clothes, and groceries
- W.W. McElmurray & Elenbaum/Proprietors of Arlington House - rates \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day, livery with hotel
- John A. McLean - Dealer in general hardware, tin shop
- Eaves Powell - Dealer in fine wines, liquors and cigars, fresh beer always on tap
- George H.A. Shaw - Publisher/editor of the Pigeon Progress
- Frank Sheufelt - Livery sale and feed stable, first-class turnout

- Berne Cornet Band - Charles Czapla leader
- Albert Brittsmann - Railroad agent
- Charles Czapla - Painter
- John Diebel - Planing mill
- Henry Eimers - Constable
- Daniel Fisher - Blacksmith
- Gottlieb Gosser - Saloon
- Stephen Hiuser - Barber
- Junction Housel - Fred Raworth Proprietor
- Herman Kleinschmidt - Proprietor of Arlington House
- Herman & Albert Kleinschmidt - General Store
- Liken & Bach - Stave and heading Mill
- John Link - tinsmith
- George McNeal - General store
- Charles Maier- Carpenter
- Mrs. Conrad Pffaf - dressmaker
- John Plaetzer - Shoemaker
- George B. Winters - Meats
- Albert Kleinschmidt - Postmaster

**HURON COUNTY HAS
FIRST SIT-DOWN STRIKE**

Harbor Beach, Feb. 13,—Huron county's first sit-down strike occurred when 16 girl employes of the Pinnebog bean elevator sat down at their work Friday noon and demanded higher wages.

The strikers, 16 years of age and older, ordered food and bedding from relatives and prepared for a stay, but Mrs. Joseph Stinson, book-keeper and wife of the mill owner, effected a temporary settlement. Negotiations will be continued Monday.

Pinnebog, Feb. 15,—Bean pickers who started a sit-down strike in the Pinnebog elevator Friday, were at work today while Joseph Stinson, operator of the elevator, and Joseph Block, Ubyly elevator operator, who has consented to act as mediator, were in Detroit seeking further information looking toward a settlement of the dispute.

The pickers, who have been getting five cents a pound, asked an increase to six cents. Sixteen employes are involved.

Later—The dispute was settled Tuesday by an agreement which calls for the continuation of the old rate of five cents a pound until the stock on hand has been taken care of and a rate of six cents a pound for any beans purchased from this date.

From The Pigeon Progress, June 18, 1926

PHS ***** PHS
Bad Fire

The John Diebel Planing Mill Burned Saturday Evening

About 7:30 o'clock last Saturday evening an alarm of fire was given and our citizens found a small blaze in the engine room of John Diebel's planing mill. In only a few moments a large grows were on the scene and it was thought that with the aid of a few pails of water the fire could be extinguished, but owing to the large amount of shavens, etc., and the unfavorable place to fight it, the fire soon was beyond control. All attention was then turned toward saving the stock which was owned by Charles Prast who has been operating the planing mill department for the past two years, and by great effort a large amount was saved, although many thousand feet piled about the yard was damaged and destroyed. The loss to Mr. Diebel the owner of the property will reach about \$1500 and Mr. Prast's loss will be near \$1000. Neither of the parties carried any insurance.

This is the second mill Mr. Diebel has lost by fire and the loss bears quite heavily. The cause of the fire is unknown.

From The Pigeon Progress, August 16, 1901

"LABOR FACTS"



DID YOU KNOW...

BETWEEN 1890 AND 1913, WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WAS ESTABLISHED WITH ITS BUREAUS OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION, MORE THAN 12,500,000 IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED ON OUR SHORES! THE SIZE OF THE LABOR FORCE DOUBLED!

ALMOST ALL OF THE IMMIGRANTS WERE LABORERS, FARM HANDS OR OTHER UNSKILLED WORKERS, AND THEY WERE HELPFUL IN STAFFING THE GROWING FACTORY SYSTEM OF AMERICA.

TODAY...

MOST OF THE IMMIGRANTS TO AMERICA ARE HIGHLY SKILLED. SINCE 1952 ALONE, OVER 100,000 ENGINEERS, NURSES, DOCTORS, PHYSICISTS, SCIENTISTS, TOOL AND DIE MAKERS AND OTHER SKILLED WORKERS HAVE IMMIGRATED TO AMERICA!

From The Progress Advance, June 27, 1963

PHS ***** PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, One hundred fourteen years ago, July 16, 1909: Our creameries, Pigeon Butter Co. and Huron Creamery Co., are doing a rushing business. They report the amount of cream to be double last year's.

PHS ***** PHS

HEAVENLY

He called his wife an angel so often that she became suspicious and asked why he used that particular term of endearment.

"Well," he said, "you seem never to have any clothes, you are always up in the air, and you keep on harping!"

From The Pigeon Progress, June 11, 1926



JUST THINKS

Some people worry about their debts when, it is the creditors who ought to do the worrying.

From The Pigeon Progress, April 18, 1947

PHS ***** PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, One hundred fourteen years ago, November 5, 1909: A novel business for a village the size of Pigeon is the work of W.H. Kling, who is painting drop curtains for a number of theaters in the Thumb.

PHS ***** PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, Ninety years ago, November 15, 1929: Leipprandt Bros. Hardware Store is holding a going-out-of-business sale as they have sold their building to Huron County Creamery.

PHS ***** PHS

**HURON COUNTY GETS
\$39,670 UNDER McNITT ACT**

Lansing, Oct. 3 — Highway Commissioner Charles M. Ziegler has sent the Auditor General's office vouchers for payment of \$2,000,000 due the counties of the state for the second half of 1945 under the McNitt Act (130) of 1931. Annually, \$4,000,000 of gas tax money is paid to the counties for use in maintaining former township roads taken over by the counties under the McNitt Act. Distribution is based on mileage.

Huron county receives \$39,670.55; Sanilac \$44,255.88 and Tuscola \$40,646.40.

From The Pigeon Progress, June 18, 1926

PHS ***** PHS
DETROIT AND LOCAL MARKETS

Detroit June 17th
Cattle—Best heavy steers \$8.50
\$9.50; mixed steers and heifers \$7.50
\$8.25; handy light butchers \$6.00
\$7.50; cows \$6.50-\$6.75; canners \$4.00
\$4.50.

Hogs—Mixed hogs \$14.75-\$14.85
Calves—Best \$13.00-\$13.50. Others
\$12.00-\$12.50.

Wheat—\$1.57.
Rye—93c
Oats—No. 1 46c; No. 2 45c
Beans choice hand picked prompt
shipment \$4.30.

Pigeon Markets
Wheat—\$1.45.
Oats—36c
Rye—66c
Barley—\$1.25.
Beans—\$3.80
Butterfat—40c
Butter—40c
Eggs—25c

From The Pigeon Progress, June 18, 1926

PHS ***** PHS
Pigeon Honored

This week Edwin C. Leipprandt, one of Pigeons most prosperous and popular business men was chosen by the Democrats of the Twentieth Senatorial District as their nominee for state senator. Mr. Leipprandt is capable, if elected, to hold that position, and is a man that, no doubt will add considerable strength to the ticket. His many friends in this vicinity will be pleased to hear of his nomination.

From The Pigeon Progress, October 3, 1900

PHS ***** PHS

**Pigeon Historical Society -
Beginnings**

The Pigeon Chapter of the Huron County Historical Society was organized on September 7, 1976 in the community rooms of the Pigeon District Library.

There were forty-four charter members.

Mrs. Jim (Ethel) Corrion was elected the first president. H. Dryden Haist was chosen as vice-president, Roberta Richmond, secretary and George Dunn treasurer, as interim officers.

In December of that year a committee was formed to write by-laws. The by-laws were adopted at the February 1977 meeting.

Meetings were scheduled for the first Monday of each month. In January an election for permanent officers was conducted. H. Dryden Haist was elected president, Eleanora Eicher (Trost), vice president; Roberta Richmond, secretary; George Dunn treasurer and Joann Haist, assistant treasurer.

The first fund-raising project was held in 1977. This was a consignment auction and was held at the Cooperative Elevator bean storage warehouse. The proceeds from this project provided an operating fund for the Society. Other fund-raisers were held from time to time.

At a special meeting called by the president, the Village of Pigeon presented Village Ordinance No. 64 which officially created the Pigeon Historical Society. It is one of the nine divisions of the village government.

President Haist appointed six directors during his first year of office. They were Carl Dast, Clifton Bailey, Naomi Wichert, Marie Leipprandt, Roberta Richmond and Arthur Woelke.

The Society has maintained a membership of about 45 members throughout the years. Its primary purpose is to maintain the museum and to publicize and promote the rich historical heritage of the area.

PHS ***** PHS

JUST THINKS

Then there's the idea a smart politician might get elected by promising to have all words of over three syllables cut out of the dictionary. Which wouldn't be more foolish than a lot of other promises, made by politicians.

From The Pigeon Progress, April 3, 1942

PHS ***** PHS

Pigeon Depot Museum

In November of 1976, only two months after the Pigeon Historical Society was organized, the former parsonage of the First United Methodist Church was leased for \$1.00 per year to be used as an historical museum.

Collecting artifacts for later display was soon underway and the items were stored in the museum, until it could be prepared for opening.

The June meeting of the Society was held at the museum with members sharing their talents in painting of the downstairs rooms, erecting shelves, placing display cabinets, etc. Members of the Pigeon Worth While Club assisted in the painting project.

The museum was opened to the public on June 21st 1987 with week-end hours during the summer.

After a few years the Board of Trustees of the church found the maintenance of the parsonage-/museum to be a burden and plans were made to tear it down.

The Historical Society had to remove the artifacts and store them until a new museum could be found.

A coveted site was the vacant train depot in downtown Pigeon. Through numerous meetings with village officials who had secured the depot from the railroad companies a 100 year lease was finally negotiated.

The building was badly in need of a new roof, a new floor and other repairs. With the cooperation of local businesses, Village officials, members of the Pigeon Historical Society and area civic clubs the building was finally ready for public opening and dedication of the Pigeon Depot Museum took place on July 23, 1987.

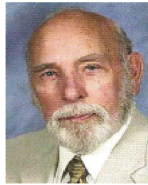
The museum has a large collection of local artifacts including early farm tools, railroad memorabilia, school photos and records, antique furniture and much more. Efforts are made to feature changing displays each season to maintain the interest of visitors. In 1992 over 3,000 visitors toured the museum, coming from many states and several foreign countries.

PHS ***** PHS

From the pages of The Progress-Advance, Thirty-nine years ago, November 7, 1984: Four Pigeon stores celebrate grand openings: Diener's Home of Fine Furnishings, Kent McKenzie Jewelers, J&B Plumbing & Heating in their new location are also celebrating 20 years in business, and Elftman's Gamble Store.

PHS ***** PHS

**Arthur J. Woelke Historical Research Center
Celebrating 10 Years!**



History: In the summer of 2011 Scheurer Healthcare Network was building a new clinic in Elkton east of their current clinic. Clayton Esch, a Pigeon Historical Society member started inquiring about the old clinic and what any future plans may be for it. Dwight Gascho, President, & CEO of Scheurer Hospital informed him that after they moved into the new clinic the old clinic will be demolished and cleared for a new parking lot. Clayton seeing a use for most anything got the ball rolling on having the building moved to Pigeon for the Historical Society to use. After the Historical Society expressed interest in moving the building, several others expressed interest also and it became a bid process. The new clinic project had a few delays but it was to the Historical Society's advantage, as we needed to get some approvals from the Pigeon Village Council, their Finance Committee, and Huron County Building and Zoning. After all project costs were gathered and the financial costs were backed, the approval from the Village Council was given at the March 21, 2012 meeting. The bid for the building was awarded to the Society on April 29 and ground-breaking took place on July 27, 2012, north of the Farmers Market. On September 10 Talaski Movers made the trip to Pigeon from Elkton to where the building is now located. The project continued for a few months changing it from a health clinic to the new home of the Woelke Research Center. A special thanks go to Clayton Esch for his vision and plan and Ken Licht for his special skills and work with the remodeling project. The Dedication Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting took place on September 28, 2013, with the opening of the Arthur J. Woelke Historical Research Center.

Acknowledgments: We thank the Pigeon Village Council for their cooperation and support of this project. Vendors helping were Talaski Building Movers, Poorman Construction (Tim Bloom), Maurer Electric, DTE Energy, Consumers Power, Last Stop Drywall, Heck Builders, Rich Heintz Painting, Esch Landscaping, and those who gave endless hours of their time and talent to see this project through. We also acknowledge the financial support from "Friends of the Historical Society" who gave over \$15,500 and Kathy Dickens for her grant writing skills and a grant of \$12,500 from the MCACA (Michigan Council for Art and Cultural Affairs) Grant. At the time of the Dedication Ceremony in September, the Historical Society had no debt on this project.

Welcome to Woelke Center: The Woelke Center is open year-round. It is a place to discover, collect, and preserve the history and heritage of Pigeon. We have hundreds of documents in which Art Woelke collected over the years. Dozens of three-ring binders full of priceless information of the businesses, the people, churches, and the schools. Thousands of pictures of the old buildings and early settlers are at the Woelke Center for everyone to enjoy. This Historical Library is the home of The Pigeon Progress and The Progress-Advance dating back to 1897. It was only fitting to name this building the Arthur J. Woelke Historical Research Center.

See **Woelke** page 8

PHS*****PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, One hundred twenty years ago, November 24, 1899: W.B. Freeland has moved his photograph gallery to Pigeon and will be ready for business next week.

PHS*****PHS

SERVICE NEWS

Pvt. Frederick Edler has returned to his camp at Fort Riley, Kansas, after spending a 15 day leave with his mother, Mrs. Stella Edler.

From The Progress Advance, October 17, 1957

Pigeon Youth Bitten By Trapped Squirrel

Marvin House, 17, of near Pigeon, was bitten Friday afternoon on the left thumb by a squirrel when he attempted to catch it in a barn. The animal was killed and its body was taken to Lansing for tests to determine if it was rabid.

From The Progress Advance, October 10, 1957

Gem Theatre

SATURDAY
Richard Talmadge
in "THE WALL STREET WHIZ"
Also Century Comedy.
10c — 20c

SUNDAY — MONDAY
Richard Dix in
"LET'S GET MARRIED"
Also News and Comedy.
10c — 25c

WEDNESDAY
All Star Cast in
"THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS"
Also Pathe Comedy.
10c — 20c

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
Lon Chaney in
"THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA"
Also News and Chapter Two of
"Fighting Hearts."
10c — 25c
COMING—Sally O'Neil in 'MIKE'

From The Pigeon Progress, June 18, 1926

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—FARMS—

BETWEEN CARO AND CASS CITY — 110 acres sand loam. Good 5-room house with basement. 36x40 barn, 3 poultry houses, granary, etc. Full price, \$11,000. ½ down.

10 MILES SOUTHEAST OF SEBEWAING—80 A. sugar beet land. Good house, good barn, deep well, pressure pump. 71 acres under cultivation, 9 acres timber. Crop value/\$5,000. Full price \$13,000.

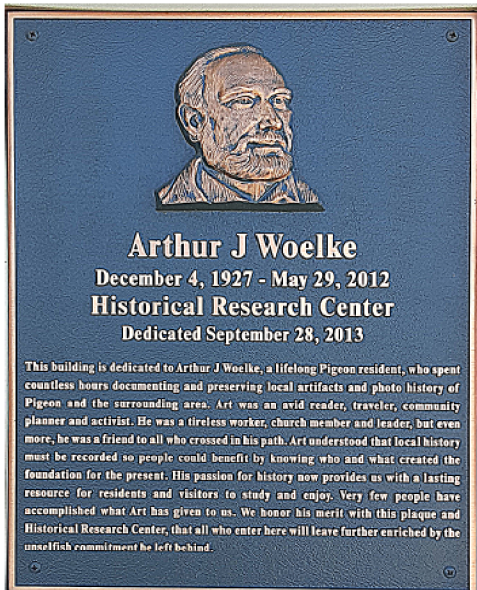
HOUSE IN GAGETOWN—Modern four rooms, full basement, oil furnace. This is a good buy with only \$2,000 down. Balance, 5 per cent.

**Manford Watt
REAL ESTATE
SEBEWAING**

From The Pigeon Progress, October 5, 1950

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Arthur J. Woelke
December 4, 1927 – May 29, 2012
Historical Research Center
Dedicated September 28, 2013

This building is dedicated to Arthur J. Woelke, a lifelong Pigeon resident, who spent countless hours documenting and preserving local artifacts and photo history of Pigeon and the surrounding area. Art was an avid reader, traveler, community planner, and activist. He was a tireless worker, church member, and leader, but even more, he was a friend to all who crossed his path. Art understood that the local history must be recorded so people could benefit by knowing who and what created the foundation for the present. His passion for history now provides us with a lasting resource for residents and visitors to study and enjoy. Very few people have accomplished what Art has given to us. We honor his merit with this plaque and Historical Research Center, that all who enter here will be further enriched by the unselfish commitment they left behind.

PHS.....PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, Eighty-nine years ago, July 20, 1934: Do You Remember?: When Pigeon was a swamp? When the Progress received wood on subscription? When our time was regulated by the grist mill whistle? When a poker game was on every evening of the week? When you filled up on free roast pork lunches at the bars? When the business streets of Pigeon were lined with hitching posts? When the tax rate in Pigeon was thirty-three cents on the hundred valuation and we thought we were all going broke when the rate was raised to fifty cents? When the women wore dresses that were sweeping the walks and hats that represented a flower garden? If you do you are getting old.

PHS.....PHS

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, Ninety years ago, April 10, 1931: Work has been started on the new business block which is being erected Pigeon by Mrs.. Fannie Gascho.

From the pages of The Pigeon Progress, One hundred nine years ago, September 11, 1914: The firm of Diebel & Brown purchased the T. L. Thiel stock of general merchandise at Pigeon and will continue the business.

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DRUG STORE

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Ferrari Olive Oil - Makes the salads taste better. Economical for general household use. Approved by authorities.

R. H. ORR

The Rexall Store

From The Pigeon Progress, June 11, 1926

PHS.....PHS

We'd love to see you on our Team!

An individual or business can become a member by contacting any active member or by sending your tax-deductible cash of check to:
 Pigeon Historical Society, 59 S. Main St. / P. O. Box 523, Pigeon, MI 48755.
 Dues are renewed at the annual meeting each year.

- Individual Membership:** \$20.00 (active member with voting privileges)
- Life Membership:** \$120.00 (active Voting member with lifetime privileges)
- Supporting Membership:** \$15.00 (non-active supporting member)
- Business Membership:** \$20.00 or more (contributing member non-voting)

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. Be our guest and become a member!