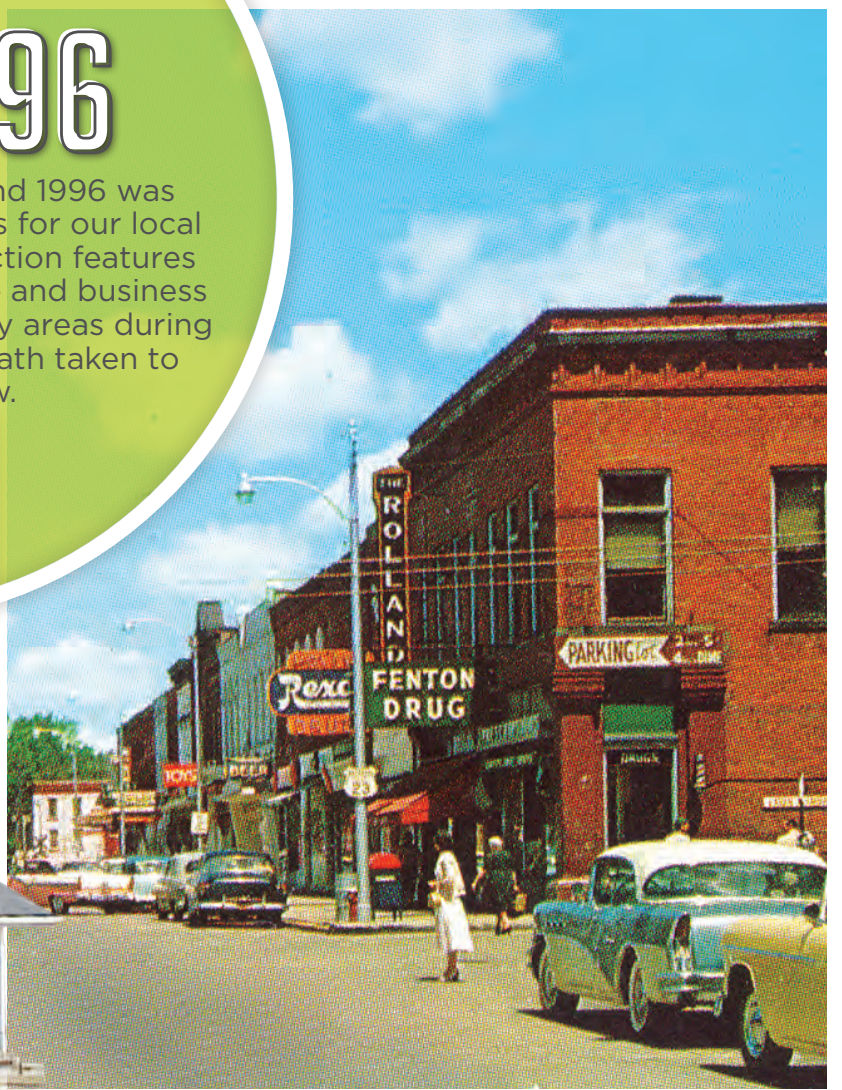
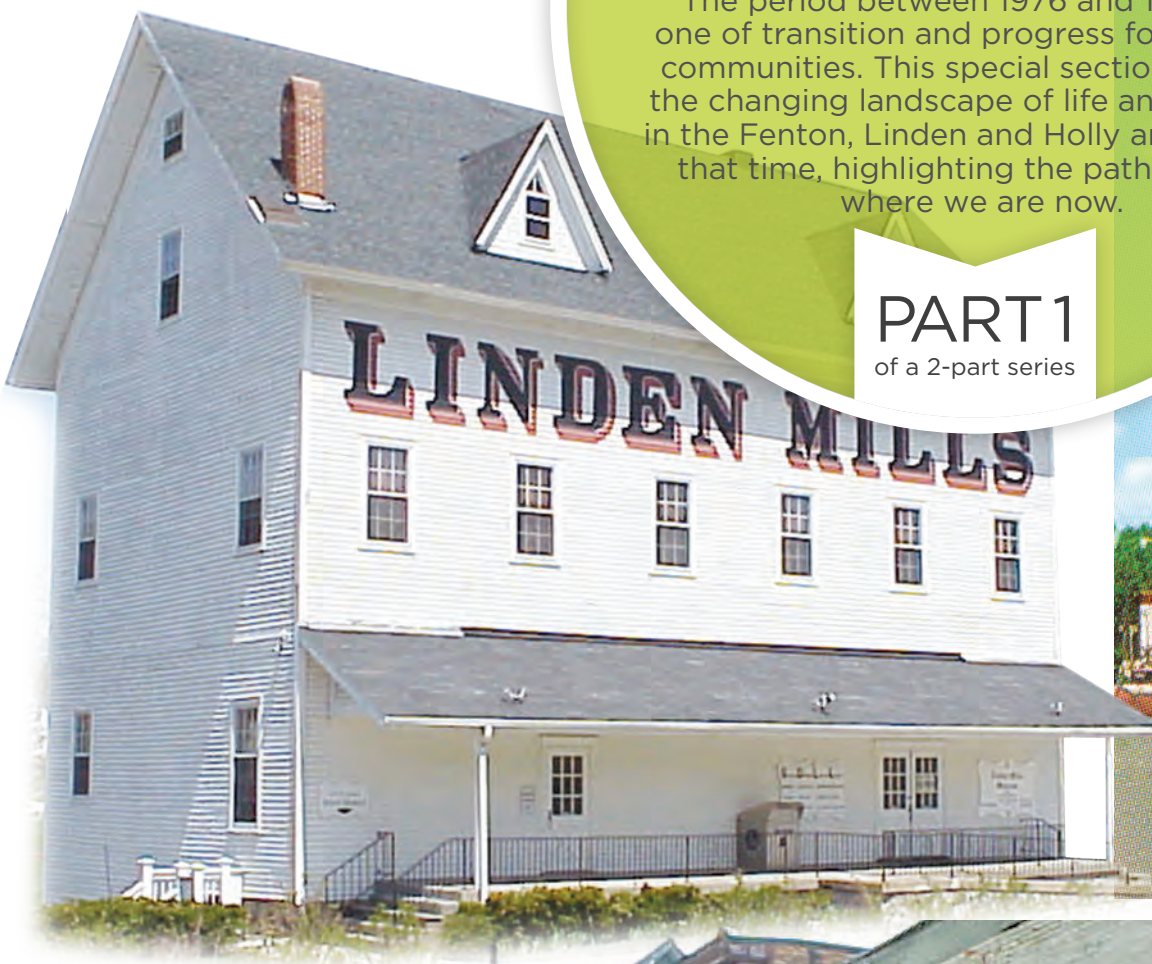


COMMUNITY

1976-1996

The period between 1976 and 1996 was one of transition and progress for our local communities. This special section features the changing landscape of life and business in the Fenton, Linden and Holly areas during that time, highlighting the path taken to where we are now.

PART 1
of a 2-part series





TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTOS

Local communities in the tri-county area boast their share of history, unique features, festivals and more. Here (from left) are some of the shops on Battle Alley in Holly, part of downtown Fenton before Urban Renewal, and a Linden fire truck in the Fourth of July parade.

1976-1996

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Showers delayed the start of the Linden Centennial Parade in 1971.

1976-1996

Tri-county area recounts U.S. history and local historical dates

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The tri-county area enjoyed celebrating special historical events that impacted our country or our own communities.

In Linden, the Centennial that marked Linden's 100th year as a village in 1871 was celebrated with a weeklong festival, beginning Aug. 31, 1971.

"It was the largest parade ever in Linden," exclaimed newspaper headlines that showcased this event. Pageants for Centennial Queen and Little Miss Centennial were popular, as well as special days like Pioneer Day, Brotherhood Day, Young America Day, etc.

Just five years later in 1976, Linden celebrated the nation's Bicentennial along with its Summer Happening annual event. Nearby communities of Fenton and Holly also marked the Bicentennial with celebrations of their own.

The Fenton event was run by Jack Winegarden and Jean Anderson, and featured a pageant at the high school and a

community-wide parade. Susan Elliott of the Fenton High School Class of 1976 was crowned Bicentennial Queen, according to local historian Donna Seger.

A year later, Fenton dedicated its City Hall on Aug. 20, 1977 welcoming many dignitaries from local municipalities, as well as prominent U.S. and Michigan legislators.

In Holly, the Bicentennial was especially memorable because President George Bush, Sr. visited Holly by train during his presidential campaign, and the Bush group all had lunch at the Holly Hotel, recalled Joe Mishler, a retired Holly teacher and local veteran. "Also, Art Train traveled through Holly during that time. It was a big deal."

Fenton celebrated another historical milestone in 1983, its Sesquicentennial - 125 years. "We had an ice cream social, a pageant and big Fourth of July celebration," said Seger. "Our daughter, Stacey, was crowned queen".



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

(Left) Stacey Seger was crowned Sesquicentennial queen in 1983. (Right) Linden Museum curator Barbara Kincaid looks over a collection of Linden Centennial souvenirs from 1971. The "largest parade ever held in Linden," plus pageants, Pioneers Day and more were part of the festivities from Aug. 31-Sept. 3.

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OLD LINDEN BUSINESSES RICH WITH HISTORY

■ Here's a small look at what businesses operated in Linden from 1976-1996

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

There are certain businesses in Linden that local residents will always remember. However, the city of Linden, which was formerly a village, has changed a lot since 1976.

For this featured section, this article includes only a handful of all the businesses that have operated in Linden from 1976 to 1996.

In the late 1970s, instead of buying pizza at Calabria Village, patrons bought pizza at DG's Pizza, which used to be located at 123 E. Broad St.

People could buy gifts, stuffed animals, and homemade candy at Linden's Landing, which was on North Bridge Street.

The State Savings Bank was a popular banking option for residents in the '70s.

Local residents could get car insurance from Selden Agency at 103 N. Bridge St.

McIntyre Softwater Service offered their services out of downtown Linden during this timeframe.

Murphy's Department Store sold clothes, shoes, jackets, shirts and skirts for a while in downtown Linden.

Linden Floral was a staple flower shop, selling flowers for any occasion or no occasion, sometimes charging 25 cents a flower.

Bowles and Sons Funeral Home, which was located at 209 E. Broad St., used to handle local funerals for residents

Linden also used to have multiple supermarkets.

Felches of Linden sold food and baked goods on West Broad Street, as did the Southside Market, and the Village Market.

You could also buy food at Evan's Food Company, which used to be located on 121 Mill St, or go to dinner at The Captain's Pub at 207 W. Broad St.

The Linden Restaurant, which used to host people for family dinners and breakfast anytime of the day, changed its name to the Linden Tree Inn in 1977.

Dog owners could keep their dogs cool in the summer by getting them groomed at Jud-Jer Dog Grooming on South Linden Road.

People could walk to Robertson Pharmacy at 602 W. Broad St. to get any medicines they may need and get their prescriptions refilled.

There were even two dance schools

during this time. One was called Lena Pelio House School of Dance, which was located on North Bridge St. The other was Jill Asselin Klump's Linden School of Dance, which taught jazz, pointe, and had women's fitness classes.

You could get your car serviced at Auto 1, which opened in July of 1977.

There also used to be more options to get your hair cut and styled. You could go to Larry's Barber Shop on the corner of Bridge and Broad Streets, or Diane's Hair Fashions on 490 W. Broad St., or Ray's Barber Shop at 125 E. Broad St.

Irma's Beauty Salon also offered beauty products of all kinds.

Many men regularly got their haircut while enjoying lively conversation at Snippers barbershop, owned by Rich Marshbanks.

In the '70s, Linden Hardware sold anything you would need to fix your

home, and Linden TV Service would fix black and white and color TVs at 111 N. Bridge St. Although, you could buy a new TV at Sperm's TV Sales and Service, which also fixed broken TVs.

Linden Sash & Door sold doors in different woods, hinges, and you could pay to have them install it.

You could buy different varieties of fabrics from Marian's Fabrics at 528 E. Broad St.

The Linden Leader, which operated out of 716 N. Bridge St., brought people the town news with ads in their own paper stating "We make house calls." They produced 52 a year.

Tommie's Custom Draperies offered custom drapes, woven fabrics, and free installation.

Residents relied on Luxury Carpet Service for good carpet, and Linden Storage LTD provided a good spot for storage.

In the late 1970s, instead of buying pizza at Calabria Village, patrons bought pizza at DG's Pizza, which used to be located at 123 E. Broad St.

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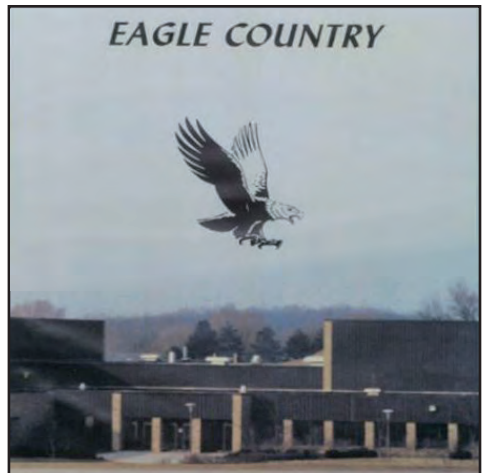
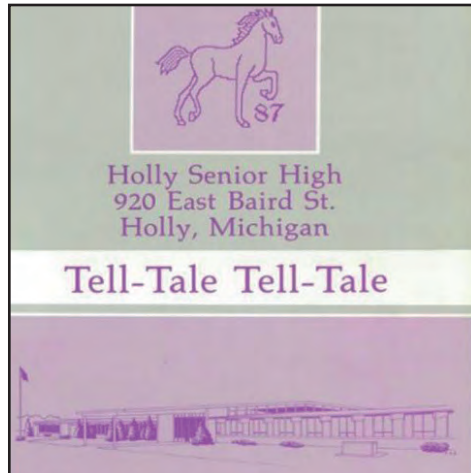
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COMMUNITY — and — EDUCATION

Schools and communities have always been a partnership

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Education has always been the center of community life in the tri-county area, drawing families together with the common goals of raising kids, attending school functions, cheering on athletic teams, etc.

The school “landscape” has changed drastically since the days of the one-room schoolhouse, which were once prominent throughout the tri-county area. Most of these schools were consolidated into larger districts in the 1950s, when better roads and transportation made travel to a central location easier. These little buildings then became homes, township

halls or storage buildings for larger school districts.

Since that time, including the years 1976 to 1996, local school districts have merged, schools have closed, school buildings have been expanded, etc.

Here’s a look at the building history of our four local school districts:

FENTON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The current Fenton High School was built in 1969, replacing the original structure that housed K-12 in its earliest years after it was built in the 1870s, at the corner of Adelaide and Ellen streets.

The new high school at 3200 West Shiawassee Ave. included a state-of-the-art swimming pool and other updates, and the former high school became Fenton Middle School in the late 1970s.

The three elementary schools, Tomek-Eastern (1961) and North Road (1957) and

State Road (1957) housed kindergarten through fifth grade, while Fenton Middle School housed sixth- through eighth-grade students.

In July 1990, the three-story former high school behind the middle school was demolished. The original gym was renovated and is still in use, as is the 1939 annex, according to the Fenton High School Alumni Directory. Today, the structure houses the Ellen Street World of Wonder early childhood campus.

On an interesting note about the demolition of Fenton High School, teacher Gary Horning salvaged some of the doors from the art room and used them in his own home in Tyrone Township — a former Fenton one-room schoolhouse at the corner of Bennett Lake Road and Old U.S. 23, where he lives with his wife, Mary and raised three children.

“It was built in 1854 and used as a school until 1954,” said Horning, now retired. “We’ve lived here 33 years.”

LAKE FENTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Lake Fenton Community Schools were actually created out of the consolidation of six one-room schools back in 1922. The Long Lake School was part of the consolidation and was located at the site of the current Lake Fenton Middle School at 11425 Torrey Rd.

Schools in the 1950s and 1960s were the focal point of the Lake Fenton school district, according to Hewitt Judson, who graduated from Lake Fenton High School in 1954 and spent his entire teaching career at his alma mater.

All 12 grades of Lake Fenton schools were in one building, the former high school, located at Torrey and North

Long Lake roads, until 1965. Today, this location houses Lake Fenton Middle School and central administration offices.

In 1956, the Lake Fenton Community School (essentially West Shore Elementary and Torrey Hill Middle School) was built to replace the one-room schools. In 1959, the first Lake Fenton High School was built, as an addition to the Community School. In time, West Shore and Torrey Hill moved to a new building on Lahring Road

and the high school occupied the 1956 school building at North Long Lake and Torrey roads.

The symbol of Lake Fenton Schools is the anchor, which sits in front of Lake Fenton Middle School to remind residents of the area’s lake history.

This anchor was first used on a steamboat called the “Evening Star” owned by W.H. Bennett in 1874. This boat was left to rot on the dock and eventually sank to the bottom of the lake.

In the 1920s, a gentleman named R.G. Moffett dragged it out of the lake. It ended up in front of the school and has been a symbol of the school district for decades since.

LINDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Linden Community Schools have a long proud history, with original school buildings dating as far back as 1916 with the construction of Argentine Elementary School.

In coming decades, Argentine Elementary was added onto in 1921, 1946, 1956 and 1970. In the late 1970s and into the ’80s, Argentine Elementary served the district’s youngest elementary

See **EDUCATION on 8**

SUMMARY

Schools have always been the focal point of activities while educating students in the tri-county area.

UPCOMING EVENTS at Gerych's Flowers & Events

Pop-Art Class

Thursday, October 6th • 6-8pm. Class fee is \$40. Class size is limited to 20.



Gourmet Caramel Apple Class

Thursday, December 1st • 6:30pm. Class fee is \$25. Class size is limited to 15.



Paint and Pour: See the Sea

Thursday, October 13th • 6:30-9:00pm. Class fee is \$40. Class size is limited to 20.

Harvest Festival FREE EVENT!

Saturday, October 22nd • 11-2pm. Fun for the whole family! Join us for Halloween face painting, kids craft, light refreshments and FREE Photographs with the “Scary” Witch of Gerychs.

Paper Flowers with Shelley

Thursday, November 10th • 6-8pm. Class fee is \$50. Class size is limited to 12.

Ladies Night FREE EVENT!

Thursday, November 17th • 6-9pm. An evening of shopping and pampering. Valet, photo booth, wine & more. Join us for our annual ladies night! There will be 20+ vendors offering a assortment of jewelry, food massages, hand waxing wine, vintage and new clothing, photo booth and much more! Offering a 15% discount on all Gerych's gift ware (excludes consignment fresh flowers, event rentals and design).



Holiday Open House & Photos With Santa

Friday & Saturday, November 25th & 26th • 11-4pm. Kick off the holiday season by shopping for gifts and decorations at Gerych's as well as photos with Santa. Vendors will also be showcasing their products. Don't forget to join us for our annual tradition of photos with the Real Mr. and Mrs. Claus! Photo packages starting at \$16.50.

Patio Planter

Friday, December 2nd • 6:30-8:30pm. All instructions and material provided. Please bring garden clippers. Light refreshments served. Class fee is \$62.

Boxwood Tree Class

Wednesday, December 7th • 6:30-8:00pm. Cost includes a decorative container and all decorating materials. Class fee is \$50. Class size is limited to 12.

Kids Holiday Centerpiece

Saturday, December 10th • 5:00pm. Class will receive a bright red pail, flowers, greens, berries, palms and more. Class fee is \$36. Class size is limited to 18. *Kids 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Amaryllis & Evergreens

Saturday, December 10th • 1:00pm. Includes everything you need. Class Fee \$48. Class Size 10.

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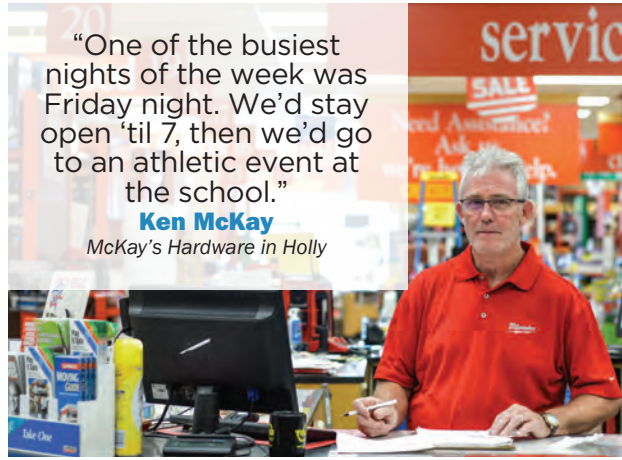
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"The Beanery was a center point of town. A group of us became partners in the '80s and turned it into little shops and eateries, like the Grainery Pub, Food & Spirits."

Jon Gerych

Owner of Gerych's Special Events and Floral Design



"One of the busiest nights of the week was Friday night. We'd stay open 'til 7, then we'd go to an athletic event at the school."

Ken McKay

McKay's Hardware in Holly



"I can't think of one bad experience I have ever had with any business in this community."

Roger Sharp

Sharp Funeral Homes

'THE GOOD OL' DAYS'

Local business people recall community and professional lives from decades past

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Many people remember when downtowns across the United States were full-service retail destinations, and business deals were sealed with a handshake, a trusted word or in some cases, on a napkin.

Such was the case in 1974 when Dean Moore and Rick Rockman, Sr. sealed their deal on a napkin, resulting in the construction of today's Lake Winds Plaza at the north end of Fenton, where Moore Insurance Agency has conducted business for 53 years.

SUMMARY

Many local businesses and business people from the past are remembered by today's business owners.

Many businesses have come and gone since those years, some as the result of Urban Renewal in downtown Fenton in the 1970s, and others the result of changing consumer habits, such as the shift of many businesses in the 1980s in downtown Holly to the north business district on Saginaw Street. A tragic fire like the one that brought the Union Block down in Linden on May 18, 2007 can change a business landscape forever.

What hasn't changed, however, are the faces behind many of today's successful businesses, who recall many of their golden years in business during those three decades.

Jon Gerych

Jon Gerych, 64, owner of Gerych's Special Events and Floral Design in Fenton, has been in business since his dad, John, Sr., bought a small greenhouse/flower shop from the Nitz family in 1967.

Gerych was in high school at the time, graduating from Fenton High School in 1969. He recalled hanging out with his friends at Fenton Drugs, which became Ideal Pharmacy, where they'd sip on cokes, cherry cokes and phosphates. "Mrs. Burdick would keep track of all of us," he said. They'd also stop at Al's Tiger House, next to Comer & Fox, grocery store, near the high school at the time, and grab a burger.

"I remember Sawyer Jewelers, McGuire Hardware, the Fenton Hotel, all of these places," said Gerych. "The Beanery was a center point of town. A group of us became partners in the '80s and turned it into little shops and eateries, like the Grainery Pub Food & Spirits."

He remembers when the railroad depot was once a little gift shop, and then in the '90s it housed the Fenton chamber office.

"Fenton Hotel was really the spot," he said. "And the Rowena Theater. I loved Lutz TV & Records, which was on the same block as Stevens Furniture, where The State Bank is now. Hoskin's Restaurant was downtown, then Andy Brown and his dad bought it and moved it west of town, operating it as Andrico's into the 2000s."

Gerych also remembers Western Auto, Pellet's Department Store and D&C Dime Store. "We used to get candy there after school," he said. "That building has been re-located to Crossroads Village."

Gerych said that a lot of people probably didn't appreciate downtown Fenton at the time, until it was gone.

Just as many other businesses have had to do to stay relevant through many decades, Gerych's has re-invented itself many times. "As time evolved, we became a gift shop, event planner and wedding planner," said Gerych. "We've always done flowers for weddings and funerals, but we've had to change the way we do business."

Ken McKay

Ken McKay, owner of McKay's Hardware in Holly, bought the store in 1968, which has been in business since 1965.

"Back then, Holly had a downtown business district that was one to two blocks long," said McKay. "We had what nowadays would be considered a mall, with a grocery store, jewelry store, auto dealership, doctor's office, two shoe repairs, heating store, restaurants, dry cleaners, two hardware stores, a bank, two barber shops, a bakery, meat market, furniture store, diner, three clothing stores and more. When you came to town, you came to town. Now everything has changed. First, it was outdoor strip malls, then indoor malls. Now the trend is going back toward a main street downtown concept."

He remembers when the downtown was a destination. "One of the busiest nights of the week was Friday night," said McKay, 60. "We'd stay open 'til 7, then

we'd go to an athletic event at the school."

In the 1980s, businesses began to shift away from downtown to a new business district anchored by Freeman's Grocery. McKay's Hardware, located where Main Street Antiques is today, felt they had to move because they ran out of space... and parking. "That's why a lot of businesses made the move," said McKay. "There was more room to grow."

But McKay admits he still misses the old days of doing business in Holly's downtown.

Roger Sharp

Roger Sharp, owner of Sharp Funeral Homes in Fenton, Linden, Grand Blanc/Flint and Swartz Creek, has worked with more local families and known more business people during his career than just about anyone else.

A graduate of Linden High School in 1962, the first business people he

See **GOOD OL' DAYS** on 18

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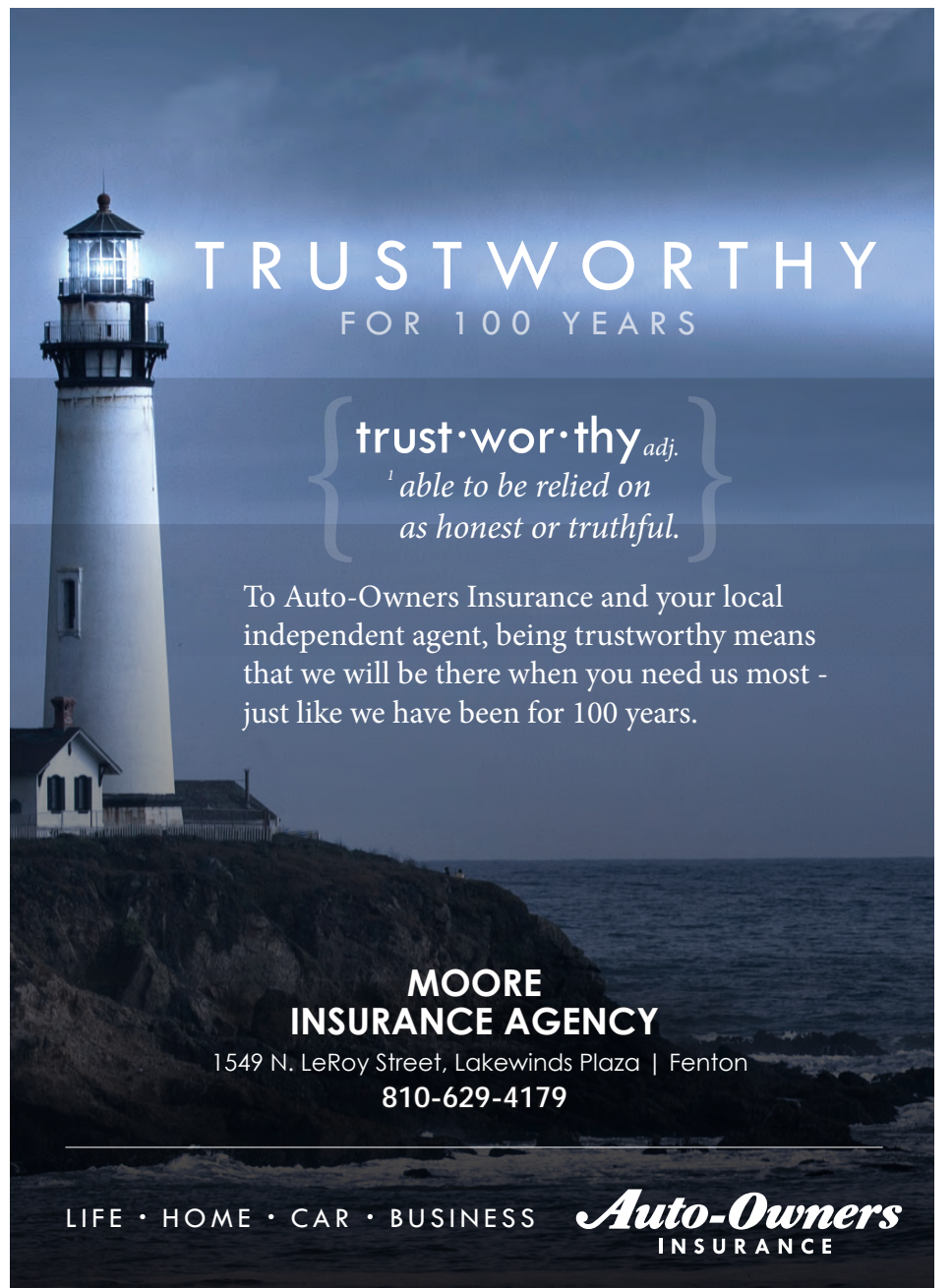
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Holly has always featured **'GOOD EATS'**

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Like the saying goes, “If you leave here hungry, it’s your own darned fault.”

The village of Holly always has and continues to offer a variety of great food. While some restaurants have come and gone, the staples are still there ready to serve its long-time and new customers.

The Villagers, which opened in 1987, continues to offer family friendly dining to its loyal customers.

The Holly Donut Shop has served sweet confections at its original location on Saginaw Street halfway between the downtown and Grange Hall Road for decades.

Residents and visitors could always count on one of the greatest pizzas in

town at the Red Devil Restaurant, which has in the past couple of years added an outdoor seating area to its original site.

The Holly Hotel downtown offers an elegant night on the town, with its upscale dining. The comedy club downstairs is an added bonus. It’s there that comedians like the late Soupy Sales and Tim Allen shared their laughs and antics during the ‘80s and ‘90s.

McDonalds was and continues to be the oldest fast food restaurant in town, still located in the north end plaza by Holly Foods.

Those are the “old-timers.” Several new eateries of all description dot the village landscape from one end of town to the other. They are all a welcome addition.

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EDUCATION

Continued from Page 6

students, with different configurations of grades as population shifts demanded. Argentine Elementary has always been dedicated as an early childhood center, according to Interim Superintendent Russ Ciesielski.

As the area population grew, Linden Elementary School was built in 1956, with building additions in 1975 and 2004.

Hyatt Elementary School, built in 1963, originally housed Linden High School, and also served as the middle school when the high school was built in 1976. An addition was built on Hyatt in 1977. Linden High School was expanded in 2004.

Central Elementary School was built in 1968, with a building addition in 2004.

The old Linden Community Schools administration building, located on the current site of Caretel Inns of Linden, was demolished during the school year of 2001-2002.

HOLLY AREA SCHOOLS

Today, the Karl Richter Community Center serves as a focal point for the

community but it was originally a high school serving students from Holly, Davisburg, and the townships of Springfield, Rose and White Lake when it was built in 1959.

In the 1970s, a wing of classrooms, an auditorium and library were added, essentially creating the structure you see today, according to Joe Mishler, retired teacher. For a time, this building served as a middle school.

Davisburg Elementary is the oldest of Holly Area Schools’ buildings, built in 1949. Holly High School is the newest, built in 1999. Rose Pioneer Elementary was built near the time the new high school was built, and Sherman Middle School followed in the mid-1970s.

“The middle school was built with the open classroom concept, no walls,” said Mishler. “It only lasted that way a few years, when someone realized you couldn’t teach math next to band.”

Today, Holly Area Schools maintain seven buildings, and the Karl Richter Community Center now serves as a gathering space for community events, as well as municipal offices, school administration and special school services.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

RICHARD CANEVER

looks back at auto industry changes

Decades of the 1970s, '80s and '90s brought sweeping changes in the way people bought vehicles

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Decades ago, Dad would decide the family needed a new car and would go from dealership to dealership looking for the best vehicle and value. He might bring along his wife and kids for a family outing, but he would do most of the talking and all the negotiating.

Richard Canever, whose father Vic Canever opened the dealership in 1969 and moved it to its current location on Owen Road back in 1972, remembers those days. He has witnessed a huge transformation in the way cars and trucks are bought and sold, since that time.

SUMMARY

From the oil embargo of the 1970s to the introduction of the "world wide web" in 1989, world events and societal changes have changed the way people buy their cars and trucks.

"Now, we don't even talk about gender; we just work with the



This is the letter Vic Canever wrote to the community in a newspaper ad published June 12, 1969, after purchasing the Wismer-Wright dealership in Fenton.

customer to sell them the right vehicle," said Canever, 62. "Everyone does all their legwork and research online and when they walk into our dealership, they already know what they want to buy. Our sales staff is well trained, not 'pushy.' It's a mutual relationship. Everyone who walks through our doors is a serious buyer."

A customer's expectations were much lower back then than they are now, according to Canever. "The internet and technology have raised the bar for quality throughout our dealership, especially in our sales staff's training and the knowledge and expertise of our service department."



Second generation owner Richard Canever (left) and his son, Jeff Canever, show the continuation of the legacy of Richard's father, Vic Canever.

"The one consistent theme from the 70s to now is much cars have improved, not only with paint finishes and styling, but also with technology," said Canever. "The American auto industry deserves credit for all this. We've come 'light years' since then."

IN THE 1970s

Local car dealerships converged on the busy new business district of Owen Road, which has become an automotive shopping destination since Ferguson Ford first moved to where Lasco Ford is located today.

Vic Canever Chevrolet moved its dealership from across from the Fenton Hotel to its current location in 1972, then Glen Wilson Buick Olds GMC (formerly Martin Buick, now today's Randy Wise), made its move to Owen Road.

The average car in the 1970s was kept for about five years, according to Canever. Today, the average car owner keeps a vehicle for 12 years.

"Cars are made better and they last longer, with more mileage," said Canever. "It puts more emphasis on the service end of our business. Car maintenance and

See CANEVER on 18

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1970s

TOP MUSIC ARTISTS: The Eagles, Stevie Wonder, David Bowie, Fleetwood Mac, Led Zeppelin, Queen



photosnack.com

TOPTOYS: Barbie, Simon, Atari, Hot Wheels



retrothing.com, kval.com, pinterest.com

WHAT'S NEW: Post-it notes, the first Apple II computer, floppy disks, bar codes, home VCRs, the first cell phone and email were all invented in this decade.



oneweekinaugust.com

BY THE NUMBERS: Average income in 1970 was \$9,350, rising to \$17,550 by 1979. Average home price was \$23,400 in 1970, rising to \$58,500 by 1979. Average cost of gallon of gas was 36 cents in 1970 and 86 cents in 1979.



fanpop.com

MOVIES: Jaws, The Godfather, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Rocky, Monty Python & the Holy Grail, Apocalypse Now, to name a few

TOP 10 TV SHOWS IN 1975: All in the Family; Rich Man, Poor Man; Laverne & Shirley; Maude; The Bionic Woman; Phyllis; Sanford & Son, Rhoda, The Six Million Dollar Man, ABC Monday Night Movie



fanpop.com

FASHION: chest hair, sideburns, tight-fitting pants, platform shoes, original Earth Shoes, hi-cut boots, polyester, sandals, bell-bottoms, then in the late '70s — pant suits, leisure suits and track suits



fiziladiesclothing.com

POP CULTURE TRIVIA

BY SALLY RUMMEL | NEWS@TCTIMES.COM; 810-629-8282

Each decade has its own news, cultural icons, music and fashion. Here's a look back at the not-too-long-ago decades of the '70s, '80s and '90s.

Whether you're a Baby Boomer who came of age in the '70s or a Generation Xer who graduated from high school in the '80s, you'll have fun taking a look back at some of the crazy memories of decades past. Here are a few of the highlights:

1980s

WHAT'S NEW: Microsoft Windows and the start of the computer age, mobile phones, disposable contact lenses, Nintendo Game Boy, MTV



retrothing.com



iketotally90s.com

TOP NEWS EVENTS: Ex-Beatle John Lennon is shot and killed, Lady Diana Spencer and Prince Charles are married, space shuttle Challenger disaster, AIDS discovered in U.S., Cold War ends with Berlin Wall down, famine in Ethiopia



history.co.uk



rediscovethe80s.com

FASHION: Floppy shirts, big hair, back-combed hair, padded shoulders, acid-washed jeans, leg warmers, sweat bands, white stilettoes

TOP MUSIC ARTISTS: Michael Jackson, Prince, Madonna, Bon Jovi, Journey, Whitney Houston



genius.com



popdose.com

TOP TOYS: Videogames and arcades, talking dolls, Star Wars figures, Pound Puppies, My Little Pony, Mr. and Mrs. Potato Heads

BY THE NUMBERS: Average income in 1980 was \$19,170, rising to \$27,210 by 1989. Average home price was \$68,714 in 1980, rising to \$120,000 by 1989. Average cost of gallon of gas was \$1.19 in 1980 and 97 cents by 1989.



fanpop.com

MOVIES: Ferris Buehler's Day Off, E.T., the Extra-Terrestrial, The Breakfast Club, Fatal Attraction, Ghostbusters, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Aliens, Fast Times at Ridgemont High, to name a few



tvguide.com

TOP 10 TV SHOWS IN 1985: The Cosby Show, Family Ties, Murder, She Wrote, 60 Minutes, Cheers, Dallas, Dynasty, The Golden Girls, Miami Vice, Who's the Boss?



fanpop.com

FASHION: Grungy flannel, Air Jordans, tapered baggy pants, baseball caps worn backwards, hip-hop style



impawards.com

TOP 10 TV SHOWS IN 1995: ER, Seinfeld, Friends, Caroline in the City, Monday Night Football, The Single Guy, Home Improvement, Boston Common, 60 Minutes, NYPD Blue



popwrapped.com

TOP MUSIC ARTISTS: Mariah Carey, Janet Jackson, Celine, Shania, Toni Braxton, R&B artists and rappers like Jay Z, Brandy, Monica, LL Cool J



billboard.com

TOP TOYS: Furbys, Cabbage Patch dolls, Care Bears, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Nerf guns, Pogs, Game Boy



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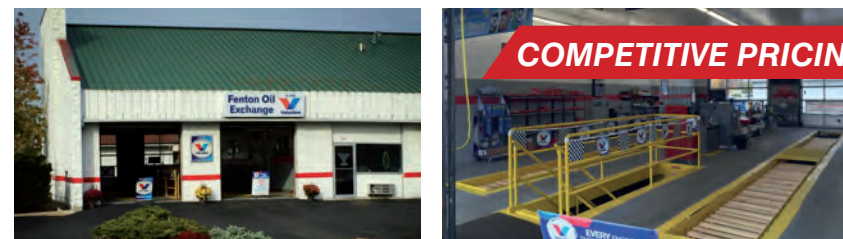
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North LeRoy Street was the place to go in the '70s, '80s AND '90s

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Prior to 1996, when development on the west side of town near the highway started taking shape, North LeRoy Street was the corridor to visit for just about every need.

Though it was rough going for a while, and some businesses were tempted to relocate to the other side of town, many businesses remained and continue to thrive today.

Because of the number of options available, during the years 1976 to 1996, North LeRoy Street, north of the North Road intersection, was bustling with shoppers and diners.

At the southwest corner of North LeRoy and North Road remains Moi Kong Restaurant, which was once the only option for Asian fare. Next to it (now The Green Olive Tree) was the old A&W Root Beer place. This was a great place to get hotdogs and hamburgers, and of course, a frosty glass of root beer. You didn't even have to leave your car because there were car hops back then.

Across the way, where Rite-Aid is now located, was Bazley's, a popular food market for many years. Heading farther north on North LeRoy Street were two restaurants that saw a lot of action throughout the week.

The Flame (now the Cancun Mexican

Restaurant) was one of two great places to visit for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The other, further down the road called The Heritage Restaurant (most recently Luigi's), offered the same. One difference is that The Heritage had a back room where many of Fenton's clubs and organizations would hold their weekly meetings.

Across from The Heritage was the shopping plaza that still features a Lovegrove family tradition. Once called "Lovey's," it was an arts and crafts supply store much like Michael's is today. In later years, it became Lovegrove's, a furniture store.

Taylor Hardware and Locke's Party store continue to do business in the same plaza they've always been located next to Lovegrove's.

It was in that location, too, that Kessels Food Store (formerly Hamady's) was located. The food stores are long gone, but have been replaced with stores like Dollar General, a Subway and a variety of other businesses new since 1996.

Fenton Home Furnishings was and continues to do a great business on North LeRoy Street.

The North LeRoy Street VG's Grocery was once the location of the original Fenton Kmart, before the new Kmart was built in Silver Lake Village.

If there was ever only a few reasons to head north on North LeRoy Street, one was to enjoy a wonderful meal at John's Pizzeria Restaurant — still referred to by long-time Fenton residents as "Johnny's."

Another big reason to go that way has always been for the ice cream. Uncle Ray's Dairyland has been serving yummy treats to residents in Fenton and the surrounding communities since 1978.

The Fenton Mini-Mall was completely

different in the 70s, 80s and 90s. The Tri-County Times was once located in the mall, across from a pet supply store. Every day, Times employees would walk in the building past a gigantic (probably 16-foot) boa constrictor that lived in the glassed-in jungle in the window. They survived the ordeal.

The Secretary of State's office also was located in the Fenton Mini-Mall until recent years. The loss of a local SOS facility was tough on area residents.

Many more long-time Fenton businesses, including Auto Value, Guns Galore, Kan Rock Tire, Lil' House of Carpet, Walden's Lounge, Douglas Water Conditioning and many others have remained in their North LeRoy Street locations.

DID YOU KNOW...

- **Sagebrush Cantina** was once another fine-dining restaurant called Richard's. After Richard's, it was remodeled and re-opened to another popular restaurant called Jimmy G's, owned by Jim and the late Joan Garfield (former Fenton Township treasurer).
- **CFI Medical Solutions** on Fenton Road was once the Ames Department Store, a place where local shoppers took advantage of a number of great deals.
- **The Sears Hometown Store** was once occupied by the Tractor Supply Company (TSC), which is now located by Target off Owen Road.
- **Halo Burger** was once located behind Uncle Ray's Dairyland, but closed. Good news, there is a new Halo Burger in the former North LeRoy Street Burger King building.

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The younger Sharps have blessed Roger Sr. with seven grandchildren: Preston, Remy, Bennett, Samuel, Paige, Mason and Parker.

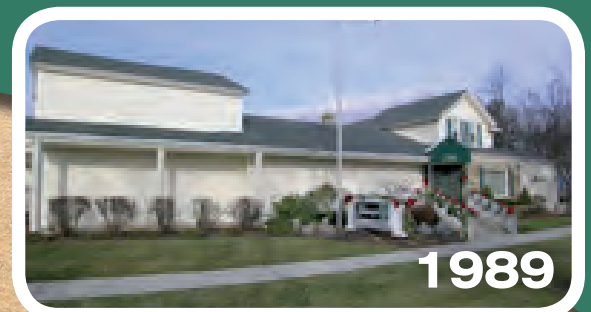


sharpfuneralhomes.com



1970

MILLER ROAD CHAPEL in Swartz Creek
The Bendle Funeral Home at 8138 Miller Rd. was purchased in 1970 by Roger Sharp.



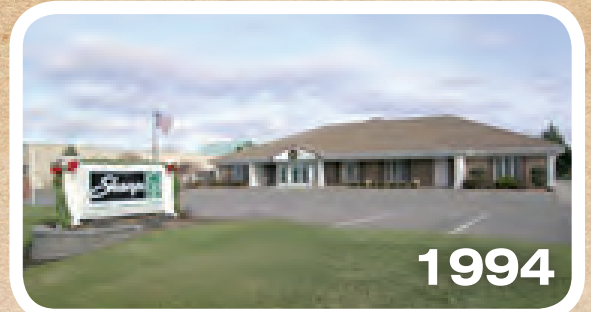
1989

LINDEN CHAPEL at 209 E. Broad St.
Roger Sharp acquired Bowles Funeral Home in Linden in 1989.



1991

FENTON CHAPEL at 1000 Silver Lake Rd.
The Fenton Chapel was also acquired in 1989 from Bowles Funeral Home and the current location was built in 1991.



1994

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6063 Fenton Rd. in Flint/Grand Blanc Township



School life has **CERTAINLY CHANGED** through the years

By **Sally Rummel**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

While the goal of education has always been to prepare kids for the adult world of college, careers and responsibilities, decades of societal changes, technology and even pop culture have changed the way kids go to school.

1970s

Classroom learning was done the old-fashioned way, with textbooks, chalkboards and a teacher who still had the authority to discipline and punish.

The tumultuous years of the '60s spilled over into the '70s, with youth-oriented new educational concepts like open classrooms with no walls, and team teaching becoming popular.

Computers were in their infancy, with the world's first personal computer, Apple II, debuting in 1977, followed soon after by its offspring, the Apple Ie.

Styles like elephant-leg hip-hugger pants, halters and platform shoes were everywhere. Just about every teenage boy had a poster of Farah Fawcett on his bedroom wall, and even girls loved the fashion and style of all three "Charlie's Angels" on TV.

1980s

Educational reform swept the nation

after the "laid-back 1970s" and national testing became more prominent.

Teachers were still authority figures, and there were no labels or medications for kids who today would be labeled with Attention Hyperactivity Deficit Disorder (ADHD) or Oppositional Disorder Syndrome. Computers were only used if you were taking a computer course.

Kids in cliques were known as preppies, jocks, stoners and a handful of goths, nerds and punks.

Styles were big, from hair to shoulder pads, MC Hammer pants to stirrup pants, leg warmers and more.

1990s

The 1990s was the last generation before the Internet and technology changed the way students learned and processed information.



Black chalkboards became a relic of the past, when it was noted how much damage chalk dust did to computers. White boards became the norm.

Students went to the library/media center to get on the "web" and try chat rooms for the first time.

JanSport backpacks, flannel shirts, overalls, jelly shoes and shell necklaces were just a few of the fashion trends you'd see daily in the hallways.

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Sean Hogan (left) takes a ride on a rainy cool day at the Linden Summer Happening in June of 1994 with his twin cousins, Taylor and Nicole Butzbach.

DRIVE-IN MOVIES, FOOTBALL GAMES, FESTIVALS

■ These were all part of community life back in the 1970s, '80s and '90s

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Drive-in movies, matinees, skating rinks, parades, school athletic events, church potlucks — this was the fabric of community life in the tri-county area back in the decades of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

These were also the days of station wagons, no seatbelts, crank windows, pantyhose, party lines, Kool-Aid, Tab (a soft drink) and all the other things you might miss when reminiscing about “days gone by”?

Yes, past decades may have been a simpler time, but our tri-county area residents were still plenty busy enjoying their lives in their own communities.

Fenton Regional Chamber President Shelly Day recalled growing up in this era as a graduate of Lake Fenton High School in 1983. “In the late '70s and early '80s, when the drive-in theater was here on Silver Lake Road, we'd go as a family 'til I was old enough to drive; then I went there with friends.”

She also remembers Applefest in Fenton, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church's biggest fundraiser. “I grew up Methodist, but everybody went to Applefest,” she said.

FESTIVALS

Applefest is the oldest festival in the tri-county area still celebrated today, followed by the Dickens Festival in Holly.

Now in its 44th year, Applefest used to be St. John's Fall Festival when it started back in the early 1970s, according to Fr. David Harvey, who put his own mark on the festival when he came to the parish in 1979. “We changed the name to Applefest because of the time of year.”

“Back then, it was an ethnic food festival, that's why I made chili,” he added. Harvey is retired now from St. John's, but plans to come back this year to make his famous chili. “I started out making just a few roasters full and this year, 165 gallons is our goal.”

Holly's Dickens Festival, now in its 43rd year, is held three weekends between Thanksgiving and mid-December and is billed as the nation's longest-running Dickens festival.

Holly was also home to one of Michigan's most unique events — the Carry Nation Festival — that ran from September 1973 into the 2000s, when it ran out of funding.

This event celebrated Carrie Nation, the Pro-Temperance movement advocate who came to Martha Street, now Battle Alley in 1908, breaking glasses of spirits and beers and clubbing patrons of the Holly Hotel with her umbrella.

The Carry Nation Festival was celebrated for nearly 40 years, co-founded by the late Ardath Regan in 1973. She personally played the role of Nation until 1990.

Before the debut of the Carry Nation Festival, Holly hosted Railroad Days.

Also enjoying a long winning streak is the Fenton Freedom Festival, which just marked its 26th annual event on July Fourth this year. It has become a huge celebration that continues to bring families back to their hometown for parades, barbecues and fireworks.

Day also recalls a “Fun Festival” back in 1983 with a watermelon eating contest, steak roasts sponsored by the Fenton chamber back in 1986 and the long traditions of Fenton Lions Club chicken barbecues.

Fenton's Jinglefest, which began in 2004, used to be called “Heart Lights” and was a huge community celebration in the holiday season with luminaries placed around downtown streets.

In Linden, Summer Happening and Holiday Happening became annual events back in the 1970s, and while Summer Happening is no longer taking place today, Holiday Happening continues to

See **FESTIVALS** on 18

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'LET'S ALL GO TO THE LOBBY' — NOT!

■ Two Fenton venues close leaving movie-goers without local silver screens

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Whether it was for a hot date with their sweetie or a family outing with the kids in their pajamas, Friday and Saturday night at the drive-in movies was the place to be in Fenton ... that is until the Silver Drive-in was demolished in 1988 to make way for residential and commercial development.

Owner A.K. Sears built the drive-in in 1955. It was located at the corner of Silver Lake Road and Jennings. The

back of the big screen faced Silver Lake Road, while the front faced south, with cars parked on what is now Silver Arbor Apartments, along Jennings Road. The first movies were shown on Aug. 11, 1955. Featured were "Tonight's the Night" and "A Bullet is Waiting." The ticket price back at the time was 70 cents per person.

Thirty-two years later, on Sept. 27, 1987, the last movies, "Can't Buy Me Love" and "Adventures in Babysitting" were shown. By then, the ticket price was \$3.50 per person.

The drive-in was demolished to make way for a new apartment complex called Silver Arbor Apartments and the commercial district now known as Silver

Lake Village.

In May of 1988, a developer, Thomas Krause confirmed that he signed a purchase agreement to buy the old Silver drive-in property on Silver Lake Road. Krause did not reveal what his plans were for the property.

It was rumored for some time that the drive-in owners were attempting to sell their land, which was valuable because of its close proximity to the U.S. 23 expressway exit. That stretch was originally targeted as the "gateway" to Fenton, but rapid development was beginning to take place off the U.S. 23 exit at Owen Road.

While Krause's development company ultimately went bankrupt, another firm

built the planned unit development project we now know as Silver Lake Village, and the long-gone drive-in became part of Fenton's movie history.

Fenton Cinema gone, too

Fenton movie-goers were disappointed once again when Fenton Cinema closed in 2008.

The Fenton Cinema opened in 1985 as a twin screen cinema. It was located in an industrial park, off Owen Road. Operated as an independent, it eventually added more screens.

The Fenton Cinema closed on Dec. 7, 2008, a victim of the economic downturn. It was demolished in the fall of 2013.

Today, no movie theater exists in Fenton.

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Second generation owner Richard Canever (left) and his son, Jeff Canever, show the continuation of the legacy of Richard's father, Vic Canever, into the third generation in this photo taken before Vic's passing in 1997.

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Holly's changing BUSINESS LANDSCAPE

■ Some have come and gone; others have stayed and relocated

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Perhaps because it remains a small, quaint community, the village of Holly's business landscape has not changed all that much over the years.

The Holly Hotel, Red Devil Restaurant, Winglemire Furniture and Dryer Funeral Home continue to operate in their original buildings as they have for decades.

The shops on Saginaw Street and Battle Alley in the downtown saw their share of "come and go" businesses over the years. Creative Fashions on Battle Alley is the longest surviving shop on Battle Alley.

According to owner Jean Montooth, the shop opened in its current location in 1979, having been located in the arcade next door for two years, since 1977.

McKay's Hardware Do-It-Center, once located in the downtown store now known as Main Street Antiques, relocated to its more spacious, modern location on the north end of town 21 years ago.

"For us, it was just because of space, including the parking, which was always an issue," said Ken McKay during a Times interview two years ago.

McKay's Hardware has been in business since April 1, 1967 after Ken McKay's father Ralph purchased it from Eby Paint & Wallpaper in Fenton in 1965. Eby bought the downtown Holly hardware store owned by P.A. Wright & Son when its Fenton location came down.

Kerton Lumber has been a landmark business in Holly since 1950, when Lee Kerton started trucking lumber himself. Now a fourth generation of Kertons runs the business, still providing customers with a personal, old-fashioned hardware store shopping experience.

Freeman's Grocery Store, now Holly Foods, was once located in the area where Creative Smiles is in downtown Holly. Freeman's was relocated to the north end of town to the new plaza in the early 1990s.

In 2004, Mark Freeman sold the store his father started in 1959, and it was renamed Holly Foods. In addition to the need for costly remodeling, the biggest reason for selling was the changes taking place in the grocery industry.

"The grocery industry has changed rapidly and dramatically," Freeman said in early 2004. "It is increasingly more difficult to remain competitive and profitable."

He also said the grocery industry is just not a level playing field anymore.

"It's very difficult for independents to compete with the 'sprawl marts' of the world," Freeman said.

Still active in the community, Freeman has served as the long-time treasurer for Holly Township. He recently won another term, running unopposed in the primary elections earlier this month.

The IGA grocery store was located on Saginaw Street, about halfway between the downtown and Grange Hall Road. It was eventually purchased by Peros

See **HOLLY'S CHANGING** on 18



HOLLY VILLAGE LEADERS 1976 - 1996

Compiled by Vera Hogan

VILLAGE PRESIDENTS

- Jeff Miller (1995-2004)
- L. Joe Hutchins (1993-1995)
- Ardath Reagan (1980-1993)
- James L. Herrington (1977-1980)
- Bruce L. Dryer (1976-1977)
- James D. Greig (1975-1976)

VILLAGE MANAGERS

- Greg Hansmeier (interim) (1996-1997)
- James P. Murphy (1992-1996)
- Jane Bais-DiSessa (1990-1992)
- Stan J. Greil (1985-1990)
- Thomas E.O. Bercher (1979-1985)
- Robert Lewis (1974-1979)

VILLAGE DPW DIRECTORS

- Don Thompson (1975-1976)
- Ken Poff (1976-2003)

VILLAGE POLICE CHIEFS

- Daniel Jones (1994-1996)
- William Sudberry (1988-1994)
- Walter Sprenger (1978-1987)
- Donald Callsen (1975-1977)

VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Prior to 2004, the village of Holly Fire Department was part of the North Oakland County Fire Authority (Association) (NOCA).[†]

In 2004, the village began providing its own Fire and EMS services. **Jack Hollands** was hired as fire chief at that time. He retired in 2006.[†]

Assistant Chief **Paul Schimmeyer** took command when Hollands left but also decided he was ready to retire in 2008.[†]

In September 2008, the village and Groveland Township formed a partnership after an Oakland County study showed how both communities would benefit from the collaboration.

Steve McGee assumed command as chief in September of 2008 and remains the chief today.

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FESTIVALS

Continued from Page 14

run the first weekend of December.

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Fenton Community Expo was a small business expo when it debuted in 1984, and today has grown into an event recognized as Michigan's longest-running business expo — 32 years later. Sidewalk sales used to be a popular

summertime event that would draw families into town for big savings and community fun. Today, frequent retail sales take place at individual stores.

Athletic events at all local high schools were also gathering spots for families, sports boosters and the community as a whole. "Our activities all centered around school events and football games in the late '70s and early '80s," said Seger. "Our daughters graduated in 1976, 1979 and 1983."

CANEVER

Continued from Page 9

repair is much more sophisticated and technical."

Technology has drastically changed the lives of today's drivers and passengers. Now, cars are simply high-tech devices on wheels with Bluetooth, WiFi, smartphone remote start, backup cameras and phone projection, plus many more.

The type of vehicles sold is also very different today than it was back then. Conversion vans like an Astro were all the rage. "We sold more than 50 a month back in the '70s and '80s," said Canever. "The Astro was kind of a pre-cursor to yesterday's mini-vans and today's crossovers. They were great for travel, and spacious inside with bucket seats."

The oil embargo in 1973 forced small cars on the public, and they weren't as good in quality or fuel efficiency as today's larger cars.

IN THE 1980s

Size went the other way in the 1980s, when pickup trucks became the mainstay of auto sales at Vic Canever Chevrolet. They still are a huge segment of the consumer market.

Richard Canever officially became owner of the dealership bearing his father's name back in 1986.

IN THE 1990s

By the 1990s, conversion vans were on the way out. Today, it's the Traverse, Equinox and the Tahoe or Suburban.

Back in the "older days," cars were ordered with specific features, so that GM employees could get their discount. Now with incentives, most vehicles are sold off the showroom floor.

Leasing also became popular in the '90s, providing customers with a much lower monthly car payment. That was an important new service because interest rates were astronomical in the 1980s. Even by the late '90s, a good rate would be 7 1/2 to 8 percent, compared to today's 4.18 percent.

"Everyone does all their legwork and research online, and when they walk into our dealership, they already know what they want to buy."

Richard Canever
Owner of Vic Canever
Chevrolet in Fenton

GOOD OL' DAYS

Continued from Page 7

encountered in Linden were Woody Hogan and Doug Donovan, who owned Donovan's Meat and W.F. Close, who owned Close Chevrolet, where Sharp worked during high school.

His first professional encounter was with Rod Bowles, partner in Bowles and Sons Funeral Home. Sharp started helping him in the funeral home, and the rest is history.

After buying the majority of the Bowles Funeral Home's Fenton and Linden locations, he sold the Fenton location on Shiawassee Avenue and built a new funeral home on Silver Lake Road, next to Stevens Furniture.

"With the encouragement of Steve Suszek, I bought the property from Tom Kunderinger and Nick Popa," said Sharp. "Along with them, John Gerych, Sr., Jon Gerych, Jr., Ray Hunt, Jim Smith, Bob Cole, Jim Peabody and many others are unforgettable characters. The Rockman family has been a pillar and staunch supporters of not only me, but also the Fenton community. Bob Cole pretty much put me in business when he was president of The State Bank. John Gerych, Sr. bought my breakfast every day until his death. I can't think of one bad experience I have ever had with any business in this community."

Businesses and personalities that he misses are the A&W Drive-in, Virginia Bar, Rowena Theater, Giles Restaurant, Nancy Stockham, Otis Firman, Chet Hellis, to name a few.

HOLLY'S CHANGING

Continued from Page 17

Market, the name it bore for many years. The store is where Dollar General is now located.

For years, people in Holly and the surrounding communities bought their clothing at Schenk's Department Store. Schenk's had everything for all seasons — shoes, boots, active and casual wear, business attire, jackets and coats, accessories and more.

Schenk's, which was started in 1952, was originally Groves 5 & 10 on Saginaw Street in downtown Holly.

The store's "glory years" were back in the 1970s and 1980s, when Schenk's Department Store was a destination for everyday clothing and special occasion wear. That was back in the days before national chains.

The store was relocated to the Holly Plaza in 1979. Then in 2003, it was relocated again to the Stevens Furniture Plaza on Silver Lake Road in Fenton in 2003. They were only there for three years, when Schenk decided it was time to close for good.

"Our first year in Fenton was very good," said Schenk, whose Holly store always had a lot of Fenton customers. "But then the economy took a big hit and that changed everything."

"We used to be the clothing destination for the entire family," said Schenk in 2006 when the store was closed. "People came from all over Fenton and Holly when they needed apparel, especially during the holidays. When national chains started coming in, especially Wal-Mart and other discounters, our 'piece of the pie' kept getting smaller."

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THE STATE BANK

enjoys nearly 120 years in local communities

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Many banks have come and gone in our local communities, but The State Bank has been serving customers in Fenton, Linden and Holly, and beyond for nearly 120 years.

The bank began as the Fenton State Savings Bank at the corner of Caroline and Leroy streets in Fenton, where The Loan Store now stands.

Throughout its many years of operation, the company has grown significantly. It has more than 1,000 Fentura Financial shareholders, many of whom still live and work in The State Bank's core communities in the local area.

Fentura Financial shares are traded over the counter under the FETM trading symbol.

The State Bank's history and heritage are what make it a community bank.

H.B. Latourette, a long-time area banker, and four other prominent local residents opened the Commercial Savings Bank of Fenton in 1898. The five men divided 250 shares among themselves.

As the bank grew, its name changed to reflect the expanding economy. By 1940, the State Savings Bank of Fenton

had assets worth \$1.3 million. The bank continued to grow and had \$4.3 million by 1945.

A second office was opened in Linden less than 10 years later, with bank assets totaling \$8 million. This was the first step in expanding banking services to customers outside of Fenton.

The third office to open was on North LeRoy Street, in 1965, when the bank had record assets of more than \$17 million. It had the first drive-up window, where customers could do their banking from their vehicles.

The bank's prosperity continued. In 1971, with assets of more than \$48 million, a fourth location opened on Owen Road. The State Savings Bank's first Automated Teller Machine (ATM) was installed in 1977 at the new headquarters at One Fenton Square.

Fentura, the holding company for The State Bank, was formed on July 1, 1988. At that time, the bank's name was changed to The State Bank.

As The State Bank approached its 100th anniversary in 1998, assets exceeded \$250 million. The bank celebrated its anniversary with a huge party held in front of its Fenton headquarters.



CITY OF FENTON LEADERS 1976-1996

Compiled by Vera Hogan

FENTON MAYORS

- Patricia Lockwood (1989-1998)
- Carl Hammond (1985-1989)
- Lucille Brabon (1977-1985)
- Leo Weigant (1975-1977)

- Orville Lawson (1980-1982)
- Byron Wirick (1976-1980)
- Charles Conklin (1965-1976)

FENTON CITY MANAGERS

- Michael Cain (1995-2000)
- James Creech (1994-1995)
- Michael Schepers (1991-1994)
- Michael Cain (acting) (1991)
- Edward Koryzno (1981-1991)
- James Wilson (1979-1981)
- Victor Smith (1976-1979)

FENTON FIRE CHIEFS

- Jerry Palmer (1990-1997)
- Jerry Peterson (1989)
- Bruce Dorland (1976-1988)

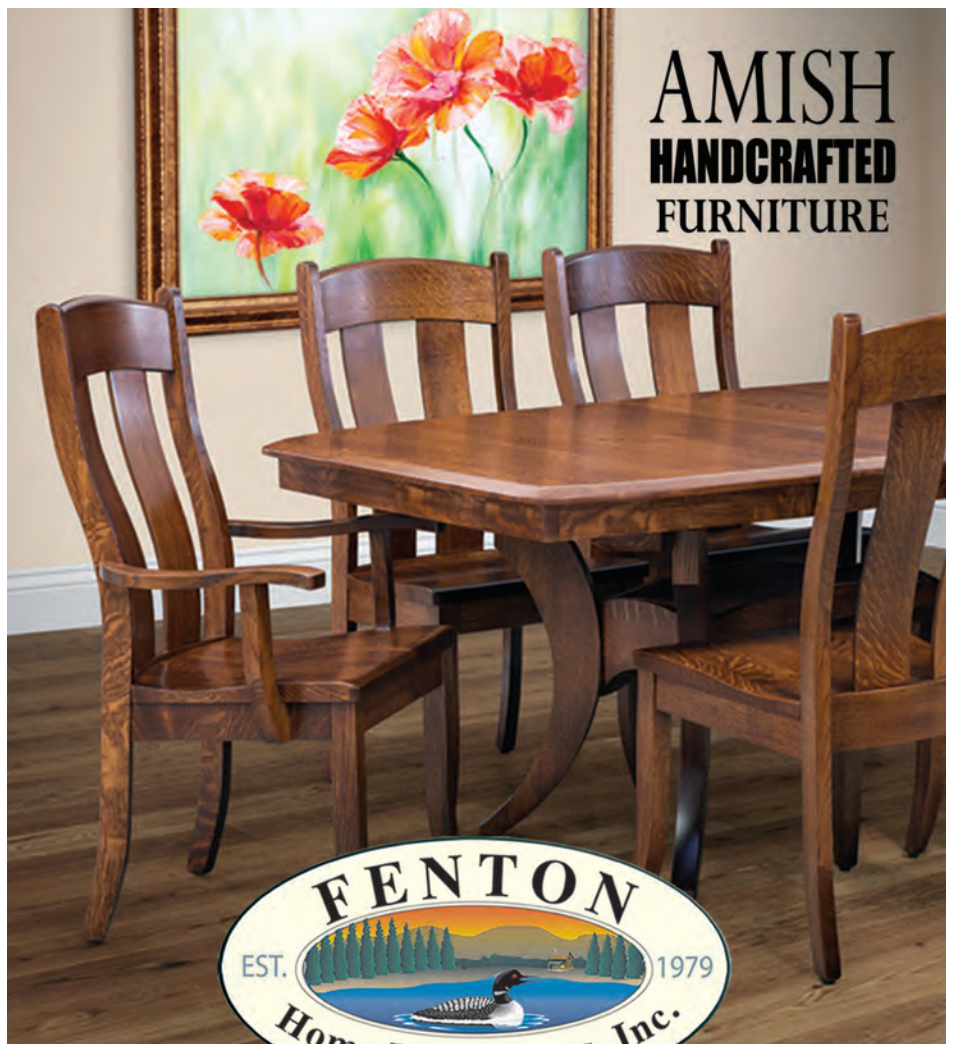
DPW DIRECTORS

- Dan Czarnecki (2011-present)
- Les Bland (1979 to 2011)

Les Bland worked for the city of Fenton for 35 years. He began working as a skilled laborer and in 1971 was promoted to DPW foreman. He was then appointed as director of the DPW in 1979.

FENTON POLICE CHIEFS

- Gerald Cattaneo (1987-2003)
- Ted Glynn (1982-1986)



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