

# Charlevoix County Herald.

Vol. 100 Number 1

East Jordan, Michigan Tuesday, July 4, 1978

One quarter of a dollar

## Horror!! Explosion At Mill Seven Killed

**EAST JORDAN (1892)**  
Seven men were killed and eight others seriously injured in an explosion at the Red Mill B of the East Jordan Lumber Company Monday, March 21 at 7:30 a.m.

The village and surrounding section of the country were shaken by the explosion of the battery of boilers at the mill where 35 men were working.

Men who arrived at the mill Monday morning said the night watchman had let the steam get down and also the water in the boiler.

"There was only one and a half gauges of water at 7 o'clock mill time," the engineer for the mill says. "I put on the inspirator and sent for fuel to get up the necessary steam before I left. I just can't believe this has happened."

Employees said the mill had started and was sawing a small log, but had to stop because of a lack of steam. After more fuel arrived, a number of men went down into the boiler house to get warm and help the fireman throw in the dry wood.

When the gauge showed steam enough to begin running again the whistle sounded and the men started to return to their positions. The saw had made approximately half a dozen revolutions when there was a crash followed by the deafening explosion of the boilers.

Immediately after the explosion, friends and families of workers were searching for those who were injured. The Lumber Company, owned by W.P. Porter, is doing everything in its power to alleviate the distress of those injured and will take care of burials.

"This awful noise came," said Nettie Townsend, nine years old who lives on Division Street. "Ma said, 'what is that?' Then we all went out in the road and Ma said, 'Oh, my God, the smoke stack on the mill is gone! The mill has exploded!'"

She said her father and mother then ran down the street, and brought back one of the men who had been injured in the explosion. Nettie said his arm was burned to the bone.

His wife, who is expecting their fourth child at any time, came to the Townsend's to be with her husband.

"I didn't know what to do," Nettie said. "My sister and I were sent to a neighbor's, the Mc-

Donegal's, to eat breakfast."

Dead are: Amzi Christy, head sawyer, 36; Albert Cook, 28, trimmer; John Brown, 23, helper; Willie Beach, 16, teamster; Simon Carney, 26, cartman; Emanuel Hunt, 40, and Peter Sheldon, 27, bystanders. Hunt and Sheldon were at the mill to apply for jobs, according to Hunt's widow, Josephine.

Injured were: John Ringle, fireman, scalded and bruised; Sanderson ("Sandy") Reinhart, driver, leg broken three places and scalded on head and body; Charles Crowell, log handler, scalded and bruised on the head and hip; Jonathan Kittson, setter, scalded and bruised; Charles Bowen, severe wound in leg; James Smith, log roller, bruised by flying piece of boiler shell; Charles Provost, laborer and Todd Wilkes, laborer.

A few others were slightly injured and many had very narrow escapes. Andrew Parrish was driving one of the carts when the smoke stack fell on and instantly killed the horse. Parrish escaped with only a few scratches.

There were four boilers in the battery, each 17½ feet long, three 44 inch and one 42 inches in diameter. The boilers were tested to 150 pounds per square inch two years ago and were considered to be safe.

The boilers had been rebuilt at that time except for the shells and drums. The explosion tore these shells apart and the fragments are scattered all around the mill site.

The cause of the explosion is being thoroughly investigated by a coroner and jury, who have assured the Lumber Company that they will find the cause of the catastrophe.

The company sustained a heavy loss in the destruction, but are planning to rebuild in the future. "It sounded like a thousand panes of glass all breaking at once," said one eyewitness. "Then there was a roar and then the boiler exploded."

"What happened after that, I'm not sure. I just remembered wondering for a second whether I was about to die."

The explosion was so intense that one of the injured, Sandy Reinhart, was found several hundred yards from the mill. Most of his clothes were blown off, his leg was broken in two places below the knee and his head and shoulder were burned.



May God save their souls and protect their families! This is what remained of the mill after the terrible explosion.

## Mills Boom Population Now Exceeds 2,000!

**EAST JORDAN (1906)** - After a rather inauspicious beginning the lumbering industry is now a booming business in the East Jordan area.

Mills go full steam all day getting the lumber ready for markets all over the United States. Logging has brought many settlers to the area, raising the population from five families in the 1860's to the present population of over 2,000. Lumbermen in the area agree the industry will continue to grow along with the population.

The East Jordan Lumber Company, for one, is looking for settlers to come into the area both to buy farm land that has been cleared and to work in the lumber camps and mills.

"We're always looking for men to work in the logging camps and the mills," said W.P. Porter, owner of the lumber company.

Porter points out that there are many benefits for those who work for the company. "We establish new settlers to the county on fine farming land, owned by the company," he says. "We have some of the finest fruit growing farms in the State of Michigan."

These farms have been developed through the aid of this corporation and there are hundreds of acres of land suitable for agricultural purposes, which they con't. on pg. 12, col. 6



Stout fellows all, local lumberjacks here demonstrate their prowess.

## Mr. Price Crazy? Bridge To Cost Only \$3,235?

**EAST JORDAN (1901)** - Local contractor Harry Steele Price has been awarded a contract to build a swing bridge at the east end of the bridge which connects South Arm and East Jordan.

Price's bid for the entire job is \$3,235. The job is to be done in two phases: building 800 feet of bridge supported by wooden piles

and the dismantling of the steel span bridge located in Charlevoix. The span bridge will then be hauled in tugs down Pine Lake, approximately 15 miles, and then be fit into the new structure.

Many other contractors feel that Price will go broke because of his low bid, but he is confident the job can be done within the budget and will be finished within the next six months.

Price says he will be in partnership with Burton E. Waterman, a well-established builder, on the job.

The swing bridge will replace the present cantilever bridge built by John Munroe in 1882. The cantilever bridge was the first structure to connect South Arm and East Jordan. Prior to 1882, people crossed Pine Lake by raft or traveled to Munroe's Landing bridge, a distance of four miles from South Arm to East Jordan.

The cantilever bridge was deemed a great benefit at the time it was built because it not only afforded easier and shorter travel between the towns, but still allowed schooners access to mills on the Jordan River.

The swing bridge will be simpler to operate because it opens with the flow of the water. The cantilever is manually operated.

"This bridge will revolutionize travel in our dear community," Price exclaimed. "Some folks may think I'm crazy to build it at so low a price, but I know I can do it."

"My men are able and my plan is clear. When we are done, East Jordan and South Arm may never need another bridge!"

## Fame Ahead Splendid Spot Eyed For Resort

**EAST JORDAN (1906)** - East Jordan could become one of the best known places in the entire state and could become a thriving summer resort, according to promoter F.E. Bushman.

Bushman, formerly of Detroit, owns a stretch of land consisting of 65 acres two miles out of East Jordan, which he feels would be ideal for resort purposes.

"The splendid climate, beautiful scenery and many other natural advantages of this part of the country will eventually make it one of the best known areas of the state," Bushman says.

He has improved 15 acres of the tract of land known as Terrace Beach Resort, and is constantly working to better other parts of the property.

Bushman has divided the acreage into 110 lots, with the best one being reserved for the erection of a large hotel.

Many cottages have been constructed and more are planned to go up in the near future.

"There is a fine forest on the property, which greatly enhances its values for resort purposes," Bushman says. "Also Monroe Creek which runs through the property is well stocked with trout and is one of the most valuable adjuncts of the property."

The Terrace Beach Resort has Pine Lake frontage which also adds to its beauty.

"It's a fine piece of property," he says. "I will continue to improve the land until there is no finer place of its kind in the state. Michigan will grow rapidly within the next few years. By the time I get this resort completed as I want it, it will be fully occupied as summer homes."

## The Herald, Voice For Republicans

**EAST JORDAN (1906)** - The Herald is the leading Republican newspaper of this locality and its espousal of Republican principles dates from its establishment. G. A. Lisk has been in charge as owner and editor during the past three years and has the hearty support of the citizens of this locality.

The plant is located on the second floor of the Kimball Block and among the recent improvements made is the addition of a quarter-medium C. & P. Gordon, with direct motor attachment, stock cupboards and imposing stoves. The circulation has steadily increased during the past few years until now it is one of the best mediums for advertising in this neck of the woods.

## Glorious Day! Railroad Opens For Passengers

**EAST JORDAN (1901)** - John A. Boosinger President of the Village of East Jordan, cut the ribbon in a ceremony which marked the beginning of passenger service on the East Jordan and Southern railroad this con't. on pg. 12, col. 4

## Fight Over Town Loses County Seat Illegal Voting?

**EAST JORDAN (1886)** - Last night the Charlevoix County Supervisors ended a long, bitter battle by voting to move the county seat from East Jordan to Boyne City. The deciding vote was cast by Charlevoix supervisor Oscar Upright, ending a deadlock to make the move to Boyne.

Eight of the supervisors met in Bay Spring and the other eight met in Boyne City in an attempt to satisfy both towns.

East Jordan won the county seat from Charlevoix in 1885. Later that same year, Boyne secured the necessary two-thirds vote to move it from East Jordan to Boyne City. A large number of voters turned out in both towns for this year's election, but there have been charges of illegal voting. East Jordan has claimed that Boyne held back its vote until the last minute so it would look as they had lost, then placed 150 votes in the ballot box.

There is no actual proof, but the accusations are causing bitter feelings throughout the county.

It is a great loss for East Jordan and not one that will be forgotten soon.

## Tragedy Of A Horse; Capt. Jepson's Affliction

The following items were taken from old issues of the Charlevoix Courier, The Charlevoix County Herald, The Enterprise, and Mabel Secord's Looking Backward column, which used to run in the Charlevoix County Herald. They appear here as they were originally written.

August 6, 1902

A horse belonging to the East Jordan Lumber Company committed suicide Monday afternoon by rolling off the dock into the lake. The team was standing on the dock near the Jepson warehouse while the wagon was being loaded with brick, when one of the horses laid down and rolled into the lake pulling its mate in with it. The latter horse was with considerable difficulty cut loose and swam to a place where it could be got ashore, but the one that had caused all the trouble drowned.

October 1905

Capt. Jepson is critically ill of stomach hemorrhages. As a consequence the Hum is still making her regular trips between here and Charlevoix.

1906

The Herald item relative to the hotel change last week was right as far as it went, but it was not known at the time that R.F. Steffes was a joint purchase with Mrs. Newson. The hotel will no longer be known as the "Lakeside" but as the "Russell House." Mrs. Newson is an experienced hotel keeper and we predict for the new firm unbounded success.

Owing to the lack of cream and poor quality, the East Jordan Creamery closes down today. Pasturage is poor this year and farmers are allowing their cattle to run at large. The result has been a much inferior grade of cream than that heretofore brought in.

July

J. A. Lancaster, who received back injuries a couple of weeks ago while shoeing a horse, is still unable to resume work. He hopes to secure a competent assistant soon.

The Boyne City High School brought their steam roller over to East Jordan last Friday and exemplified the third degree of football to our local grid team. For "safety first" reasons we won't record the score. And the sad, sad part of it is, we will have to content ourselves with trimming up

Charlevoix and some of the other teams, and let Boyne handle the "Aggies" and U. of M.

The annual Thanksgiving Masquerade at Loveday's was the largest attend of any in the past. The judges, Frank Crowell, Andrew Kime, and Dan Goodman, awarded prizes as follows: Best Lady's costume, Mrs. William Lanway, fancy work basket; Best gentleman's costume, Mr. Levinson, pearl-handled pocket knife.

M. M. Burnham has added a manure spreader to his farming outfit, the first one in this section of the county. Wilson Township feels quite modern with its telephones and mail delivery but an East Jordan merchant went out there Sunday, got lost, and wandered around for several hours before striking a trail.

1907

Mrs. Mack Quin will open a millinery store in the Richards building next to the grocery in a few days. This will give East Jordan five millinery parlors.

Mrs. Camp turned over the care of the Poor Farm to Job Jackson, March 1 and on Tuesday left with her family for Petokey where she has some property.

About 15 friends of Miss Edith Ramsey gathered at her home

Con't on pg. 12, col. 1

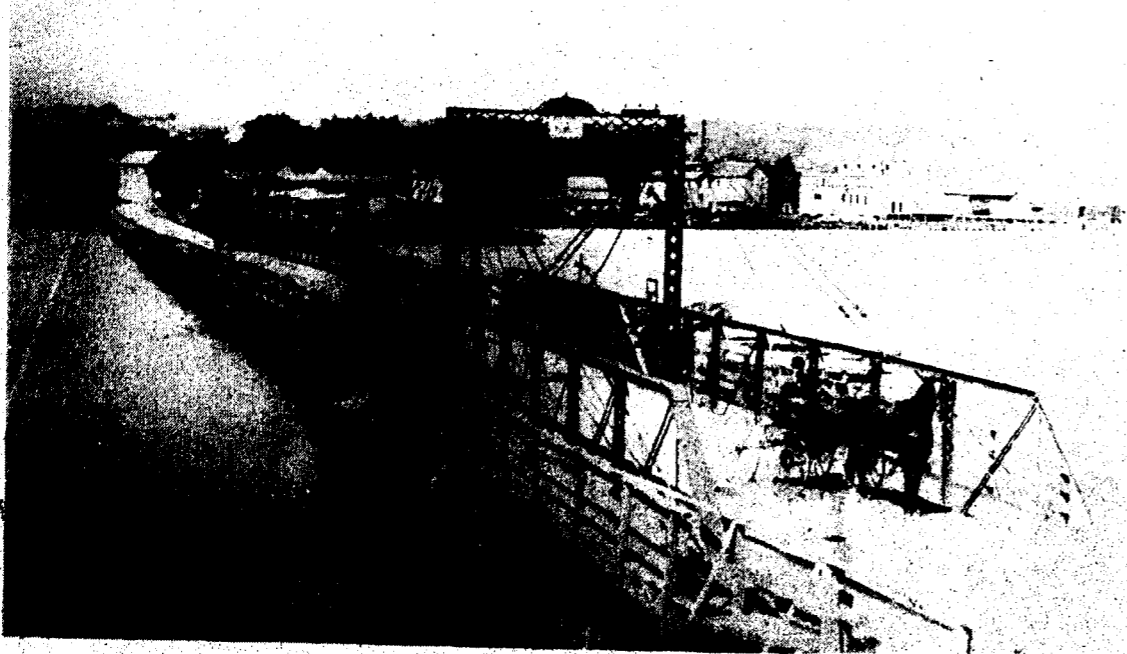
## Wet, Wet, Wet Election Results Altered By Rain?

**EAST JORDAN (1911)** - Northern Michigan's unpredictable weather conditions may have altered the course of East Jordan history yesterday for the second time this year, according to some observers of the local political scene.

Ora Cleveland beat former village president A. E. Cross 210 to 158 to become East Jordan's first mayor.

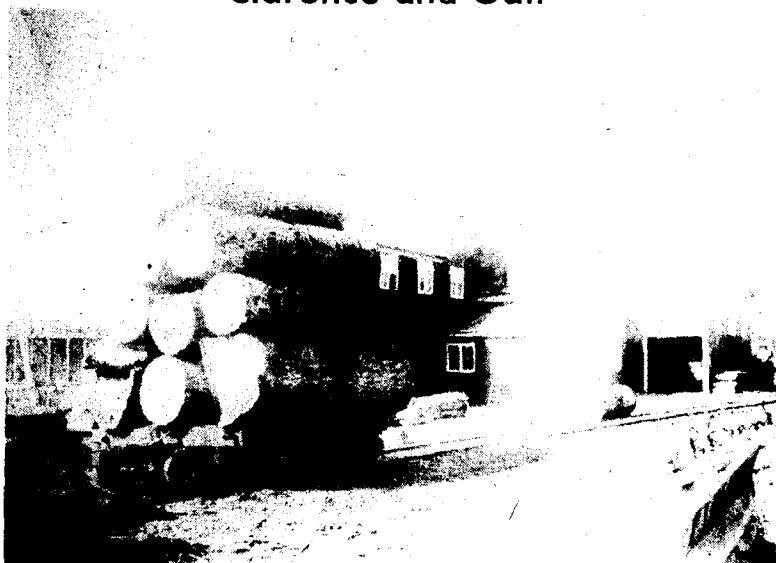
Voters had to fight severe rain and wind to get to the polls. Road flooding made some roads, especially in outlying areas, difficult to travel and probably kept some voters at home.

Political observers aren't certain whether the storm helped Cleveland or Cross, but point out that bad weather contributed to a con't. on pg. 12, col. 5



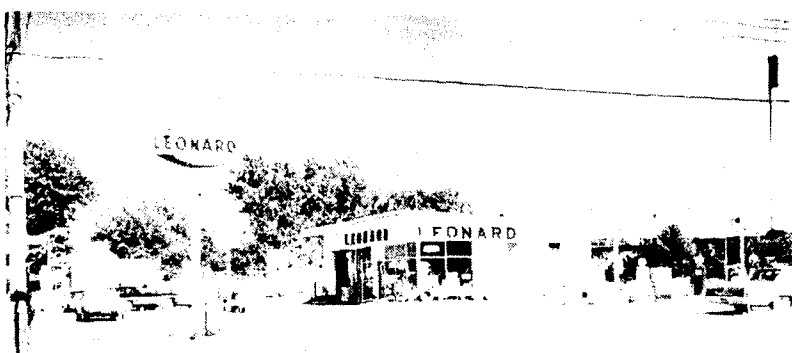
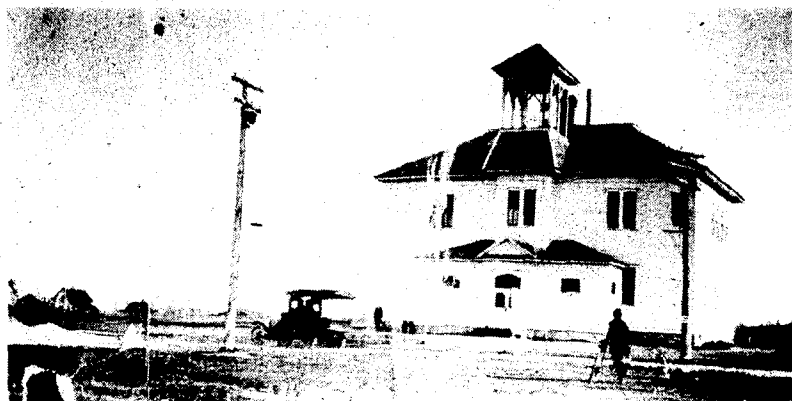
The amazing new swing bridge designed by the confident Mr. Harry Price.

Compliments of  
**THE CALORIE FACTORY**  
 (formerly Ken's Anchorage)  
 Clarence and Gail



EAST JORDAN LUMBER CO.'S MILL "A" ABOUT 1910  
 SOUTH OF RESTAURANT

**THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A  
 BUSY LOCATION**

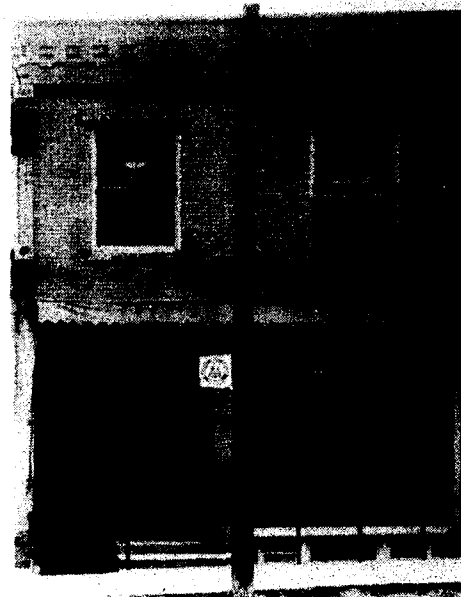


WELCOME TO THE 100th BIRTHDAY

1878 **LEE'S SERVICE CENTER** 1978  
 M-32 - M66 EAST JORDAN

**2078 HERE  
 WE COME!**

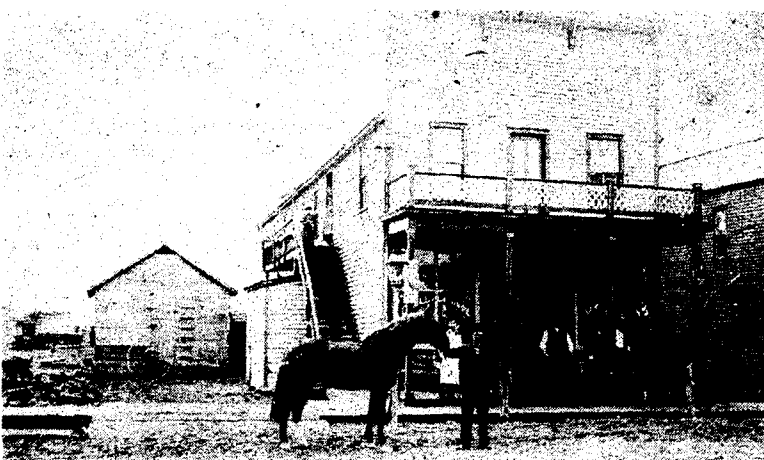
ABOUT 1910



The Great Lakes Leading  
 Snowmobile Publication  
 since 1967

LYLE SHIPE, NANCY SHIPE,  
 WILMA SAYLES, MARSHALL SAYLES

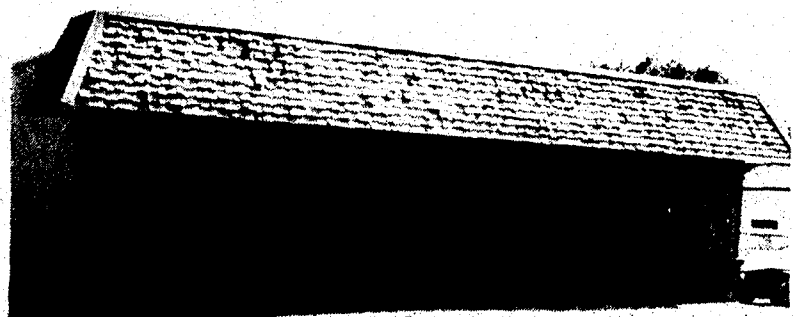
WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY  
 TO THANK OUR MANY PATRONS FOR THEIR  
 BUSINESS AND EXTEND OUR PERSONAL  
 INVITATION TO YOU TO COME JOIN THE  
 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



IN THE 1880's, the Duell Lalonde Saloon stood  
 where the Rainbow Bar is today.



Here is the Rainbow Bar, as it appeared in 1976.



1978

**SWANNIE'S RAINBOW BAR**

MILL ST.

EAST JORDAN

*The Future... Bright with Hope  
 and Full of Promise*  
 TO ALL OUR FRIENDS IN EAST JORDAN  
 A HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY

ALEXANDER BROTHERS  
 "Building" Built in 1800-



THE DUCK INN  
 Remodeled in 1924



1978 Built in 1950's



**JERRY'S PLACE**

**OSCAR'S UPPER CRUST  
 PIZZA PARLOR**

EAST JORDAN, CORNER OF MAIN & MILL ST.

HAPPY CENTENNIAL

CLOSED MONDAYS - OPEN TUES. - FRI. 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.  
 SAT. 9 TO 11 A.M. - EVENINGS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Millie's  
 Beauty Salon



PHONE - 536-2381

TWO BLOCKS WEST OF M-66 ON ELLEWORTH ROAD  
 825 WATER STREET EAST JORDAN, MI. 49727 PROPRIETRESS MILLIE WALDEN

We've Come  
 A Long Way  
 HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY



**BRUCE'S BARBER SHOP**  
 EAST JORDAN

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY  
 TO EAST JORDAN



FROM 103 YEARS OLD  
**HORTON BAY  
 GENERAL STORE**

CHARLEVOIX - BOYNE CITY RD

Date Error



## PROCLAMATION

The City of East Jordan and its people in this year of 1978 will mark the 100th birthday of the founding of our community.

East Jordan was settled primarily as a logging community in the early days and with the passing of the logging era has since developed into one of the foremost industrial areas in northwest Michigan with East Jordan Iron Works, Inc., Gulf and Western, IT&T, East Jordan Tool & Die, East Jordan Plastics, East Jordan Canning Company and W R W, Inc. located here, which provide a livelihood for many families in Charlevoix county.

I, James Meredith, on behalf of the City Council and the people of East Jordan, would like to say thank you to all our forefathers who toiled through many years of hardship to make this a better community. With the hope that the next 100 years will be as prosperous, I do hereby proclaim July 1-4 as our centennial birthday.

*James E. Meredith*

James E. Meredith  
Mayor  
City of East Jordan



East Jordan Centennial Committee: Left to right: Debbie Carey, Freda Winter, Chairman, Jamie Baumann, Ruth Ann Sheridan, Bud Kenney, Bea Kotrba, Sue Persons, Chris Weisler, and Connie McKenney. Missing: Lynn Carson.

## It takes a lot of people to make a centennial work

**EAST JORDAN** - Obviously, a centennial celebration is not the type of activity that happens in a community very often. So when the people of East Jordan started to plan their city's 100th birthday party, they had to start from scratch.

How did the townspeople even realize that the centennial was coming up? In a town with a heavy interest in local history, somebody probably would have made the discovery, but the Bicentennial celebration of 1976 made the job easier.

"When we had our bicentennial we looked at the records and realized that this was coming up," said Chamber of Commerce Secretary Freda Winter.

The village of South Arm and East Jordan weren't incorporated into a city until 1911, but Mrs. Winter said the chamber's records show that on May 31, 1878, the postmaster general established an East Jordan post office with William Empey as postmaster. Thus the mailing address of East Jordan came into being. That was 100 years and several post

offices ago. When the time came to celebrate, Freda Winter got the ball rolling by calling a general meeting of all organizations and individuals who would be interested in working on the centennial. Out of the first informal meetings the centennial committee was formed.

Jamie Baumann was one of the 40 people at the second meeting. "It was obvious that there was a lot of enthusiasm," she says, "but it hadn't gotten very organized."

"It seemed like there were a lot of good people there, so I said I wouldn't mind being a committee member." She's still not sure how it happened, but the next thing Baumann knew she was the chairman.

Other committee members are Bud Kenny, Freda Winter, Connie McKenney, Chris Weisler, Sue Persons, Lynn Carson, Bea Kotrba, Ruth Ann Sheridan, Debbie Carey, Russ Peck and Jan Gothro.

While the other committee members started planning the special centennial

events, Peck and Gothro started planning the traditional Fourth of July parade.

Peck has organized the parade the past three years, but was away at Northern Michigan University until May. So he asked Gothro, who had volunteered last year to help with the parade, to take over. "She didn't know she was getting in so deep," Peck laughed.

Gothro mailed letters in February to groups she thought would be interested in the parade, but the initial response was slow. "All I could do was sit around and wait for responses," Gothro said. "We've gotten a lot more responses the past two weeks."

Jan describes her and Peck's job as "a lot of sit down, type, run here, run there, and finding out what's going to happen next."

While the parade was being planned, so were the other activities that are going to make for a very busy weekend in the Swan City. The centennial committee asked clubs and organizations to develop ac-

Con't. on Page 4

Centennial headquarters will be at Ted's Canoe Livery on Main Street. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Tuesday.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 30

1:00 - 4:30 Portside Art & Historical Museum (Elm Pointe)  
7:00 Bingo - American Legion  
8:00 - 12:00 POLKA FEST Sponsored by Jordan Valley Lions  
DISCO DANCE Up to 20 years of age.

### SATURDAY, JULY 1

10:00 Kiddies' Parade  
Games directly after parade in the park  
1:00 Musket Shooting Exhibition (The Fill)  
1:00 - 4:30 Portside Art & Historical Museum (Elm Pointe)  
2:00 Logging Activities, Al Thorsen's Lot, Cross Cut saw contest, chain saw contest, chopping contest, log throwing. Bring your own saw, if possible. Everyone is welcome.  
6:00 - 2:00 POLKA FEST  
8:00 Peninsula Grange Square Dance  
Peninsula Grange Hall, 2 1/2 miles north of East Jordan, Advance Rd. (Beginners are welcome!) \$1.00 per person. Refreshments will be sold - sloppy joes and hamburgers. Hayes Grange Band from Gaylord

### SUNDAY, JULY 2

1:00 Veteran's Service  
1:00 - 4:30 Portside Art & Historical Museum (Elm Pointe)  
2:00 - 8:30 Old-Fashioned Potluck at Elm Pointe (Bring your own table service and a dish to pass.)  
Children's activities and live music in the afternoon. Sing along begins at 7:00 p.m.  
6:00 - 2:00 POLKA FEST

### MONDAY, JULY 3

10:00 E.E. Wade Memorial flagpole will be dedicated  
10:00 Time Capsule Dedication (new high school)  
12:00 - 4:30 Petting Zoo Memorial Park  
1:00 Raft Races from Webster Bridge to City Dock  
12:00 Pet Show (Memorial park) Kids 12 and under  
1:00 - 4:30 Portside Art & Historical Museum (Elm Pointe)  
2:00 - 5:00 Old-Fashioned Kiddie Carnival (Memorial Park) games, booths, prizes  
6:00 - 2:00 POLKA FEST  
6:30 Minor League Baseball at Watson Field  
7:00 Miss Centennial Contests (Charlevoix County Senior Center)  
9:00 - 12:00 TEEN DISCO DANCE (Tourist Park)  
WJML

### TUESDAY, JULY 4

8:00 a.m. til dark Flea Market - Memorial Park  
11:00 Chicken Barbeque - Rotary; Ice Cream Social - Snowmobilers (Next to Cass Auto Supply)  
11:00 Canoe Races (from Webster Bridge to city bridge)  
11:00 - 1:30 Historical Exhibit in City Hall  
12:00 - 5:00 Centennial Jail (Beware!) 50 cent fine  
1:00 Cake Walk (in front of Charlevoix County Senior Center)  
1:00 - 4:30 Portside Art & Historical Museum (Elm Pointe)  
2:00 Parade (Parade Marshall - Dr. VanDellen)  
3:30 Beard Contest; Dress Contest; Fishing Contest; Quilt Raffle; Baby Contest; Float Winners; Braided Rug Raffle (Girl Scout Troop 284). TO BE HELD AT PARADE JUDGE'S STAND  
9:00 Lighted Boat Parade (line up at Four Seasons Marina)  
10:30 Fireworks

**EAST JORDAN CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL JULY 1 - 4 JOIN US!**

- \* Be sure to see the display of models of East Jordan & Southern Railroads - steam log roller, log cars, log jammer, big wheels, old time cars, and old pictures - in Hite's Drug Store window July 1-2-3-4. Furnished by Joseph Weiler of Kalkaska, Michigan.
- \* Coastguard cutter Buckhorn will be in the lake July 4 to honor East Jordan
- \* Food Exhibits will be sponsored by several clubs
- \* Watch merchants for various displays
- \* Kid's Fishing Contest (ages 14 and under) Rules & weigh in at Bob & Jeans
- \* Centennial Baby Contest (first baby born after July 1)

This ad paid for by East Jordan Chamber of Commerce

DALE BROR

# Local historians keep the past alive

BY HAZEL BLAIR

**EAST JORDAN** - This is a fairly quiet little town, but it was not always so. During the early years, it was filled with lumberjacks and European immigrants looking for a better life.

The visible signs of the town's past are readily available for all to see. The old homes, the farms built by the earlier settlers, churches in the ethnic settlements, the buildings on Main Street, and even some of the pilings from the old docks where schooners would come in to load Northern Michigan's gold - lumber, are still evident.

But there are many other aspects of the city's growth and history that are equally as important.

The day-to-day life of the people who lived in the town, the men who worked in the woods and mills, the women who raised the families, the children who attended the schools and stayed in the community were instrumental in shaping the town.

Who were they? What did they do? What were they like? Many of these things would be long forgotten except in old family stories, but several local historians are keeping records of the past for future generations.

Two of those historians are Jinny Giacomelli and George Secord, both of whom have lived in East Jordan most of their lives.

So why keep the history of a small town? Secord says that if you tried to tell kids today the way it really was, they wouldn't believe it.

"Some of the stories are so outrageous no one would believe them," he says. "But I have them written down just the way the old-timers told them." He laughs and goes into one of the old "outrageous" stories of a fight that took place on Main Street in the early 1900's.

And it happened, just the way Secord tells it. He talked to the people who were involved, wrote it down and placed it in one of the black notebooks that fill one of many bookcases in his home on M-66.

On neatly typewritten pages the people who lived in East Jordan in its early days are alive for people who read about them.

Secord's mother, Mabel, started the history tradition when the Secord family moved here from Deward in the early 1900's.

Many of the first settlers were still alive and Mrs. Secord interviewed them and wrote their stories down. George got into the act when he did a paper for history class in high school.

Jinny Giacomelli became interested in history when she interviewed Father

Joseph Malinowski for the Northland Press several years ago. "Father brought out the Catholic history, and I found out that my relatives had been here since 1868," she says.

But even before that she had kept pictures of the town, which are neatly placed in scrapbooks and photo albums. "I grew up being interested in the town," she says. "I have a deep, deep feeling for this town."

Collecting this history is no simple project, however. "Most of the old-timers are dead, now," Secord says. But if you

can trace down a family member often you can find quite a bit of information.

Secord writes to companies, railroads, and descendants of settlers. He can even tell you the engine number of one of the trains when it made its last run through East Jordan, what time it went through, and who the engineer was. This information he obtained by writing to the head quarters of the railroad company.

Giacomelli finds most of her information by digging in barns, attics, and reading tombstones in local cemeteries. Most of the information she is gathering

pertains to her family history - - the LaLonde's, the Zess'. Distant relatives have sent her old pictures and one even sent her grandparent's wedding license. "I'm proud of my ancestors," she says. "They were all poor, all farmers and pioneers of this area."

Secord also collects books on Michigan and anything pertaining to the East Jordan area, and the railroads. Many of the books are now out of print. "That whole bookcase is full of books on Michigan," he says. "A lot of them you can't get anywhere now." Even the bookcase that holds them has a history.

The tall walnut case originally belonged to the Ward family, the barons of old logging town of Deward. Mrs. Secord found out that the family estate was being sold and asked if she could buy the bookcase. She was told she could have it, if she paid the shipping.

During the years she saved other bits and pieces of memorabilia that Secord still keeps. It's as common to pick up a 1912 edition of The Enterprise (which was

published in East Jordan) as it is to pick up today's paper while sitting in Secord's living room.

It's all there. Both Giacomelli and Secord have the history preserved. Secord says his large collection of pictures, old newspapers, and the history written by both he and his mother will be donated to the East Jordan Portside Art and Historical Museum someday. Giacomelli's family history will be left to her daughter, but copies will be made for the library. "I think there are a lot of important events people would want to research," she says.

"I feel honored to think I had the privilege of working on the Bicentennial and Centennial issues of the Charlevoix County Press during these historical moments in East Jordan History," she says. "But still, I couldn't have done it without a tremendous amount of help from George Secord. He's been very generous with pictures and helping me find out about my own family. He is truly the senior historian in this town," she adds, "and I'm the junior."



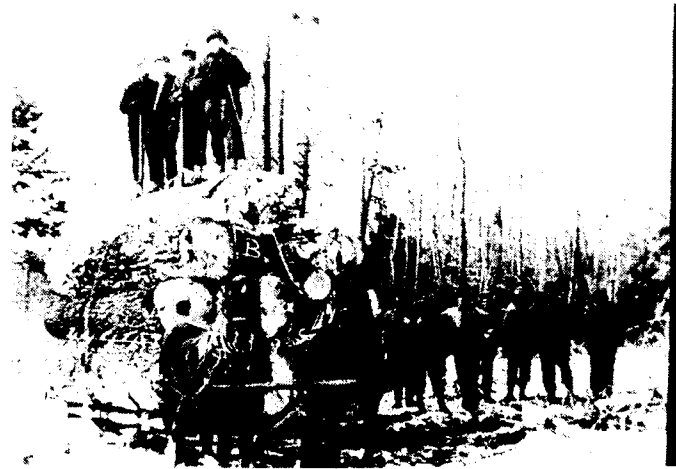
Jinny Giacomelli - "I have a deep, deep feeling for this town. I grew up being interested in the town." (Press photo by Hazel Blair.)



George Secord - "Some of the stories are so outrageous nobody would believe them. But I have written them down just the way the old-timers told them." (Press photo by Hazel Blair.)

## Happy 100th Birthday To East Jordan

Back breaking labor was involved in building a home 100 years ago



The modern lumberman of today rarely sees the forest or the sawmills that produce the lumber he furnishes his customers. We will be happy to help you build for the future the modern way.

**EAST JORDAN LUMBER CO.**

913 Water St.,

East Jordan, Mi.

## Experience the Experience

# Glens

Congratulations  
East Jordan on your  
100th Birthday



We are proud to be a part of East Jordan and we look forward to the future. Thank you for your patronage.



"GLEN'S MEANS SERVICE IN THE NORTH"  
**MARKETS & FAMILY CENTERS**  
9 FRIENDLY LOCATIONS:  
EAST JORDAN WEST BRANCH MID HOSICOMMON ROSE CTV

## HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY to EAST JORDAN



GROCERIES-BEER-WINE-GIFTS & ANTIQUES  
FLEA MARKET EVERY SUNDAY  
BUILT 1870



**TRADING POST PARTY STORE  
FOUR SEASONS**

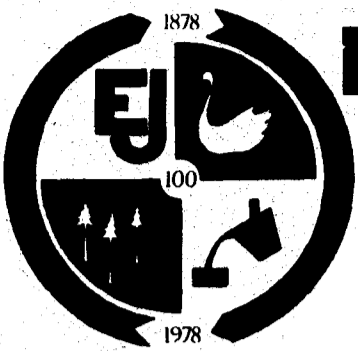
Across from swimming beach

317 N LAKE (M66)

EAST JORDAN

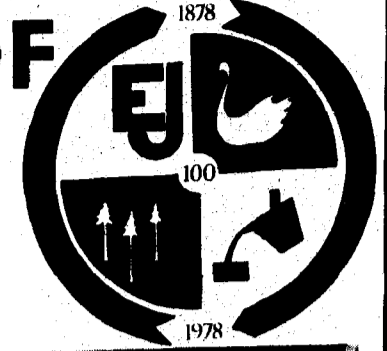
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# EAST JORDAN'S HAD 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY PROGRESS

100 GOOD YEARS MAKES A GOOD BEGINNING ))



WARD II  
GEORGE SHANK



WARD I  
GIL FOX



WARD I  
VIRGINIA GIACOMELLI



MAYOR  
JAMES MEREDITH



WARD III  
PAT SWEET



WARD III  
HARRY WATSON



WARD II  
FRANK CAMPBELL



CLERK-TREASURERS OFFICE - Gwen Frank, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer; Fern Morris, Clerk-Treasurer; Margaret Arnott, Typist.



POLICE DEPARTMENT - Bob Christensen, Don Cole, Joe Hammond, Chief-Of-Police, Ron Malinowski, Tim Hoffman.



CITY ATTORNEY  
ROY HAYES



AMBULANCE  
ADMINISTRATOR  
BERNARD HAMMOND



CHIEF-OF-POLICE  
JOE HAMMOND



CITY  
SUPERINTENDENT  
HERMAN RASCH



CLERK-TREASURER  
FERN MORRIS



FIRE CHIEF  
DICK BARNETT



MAGISTRATE  
PAT CONKLE



AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT - Back row, Roy Cooke, Dick Barnett, Guy Vallance. Front row, Don Bowers, Reno Lane, Basil Craeford, Bernard Hammond. Missing from photo, Howard Stanek, Jack Zoulek.

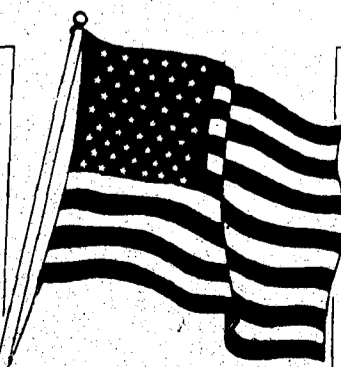


FIRE DEPARTMENT - Front row left to right, Dennis Archer, Jack Moore, Don Saganeh, Fred Stuszman, Clarence Swanson, Bill Breaker, Dave Brenier, Tom Breaker, Jr. Back row left to right, Bill Dougherty, Buck McWatters, Dick Barnett, Guy Vallance, Jack Brown, Jerry Chak.

## PRESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF EAST JORDAN

J.H. Bennett, 1887 - 1888  
D.C. Loveday, Protem, 1888 - 1888  
Chas. F. Dixon, 1888 - 1889  
D. C. Loveday, 1889 - 1889  
James B. Palmiter, 1889 - 1890  
Daniel Carter, 1890 - 1891  
William J. Green, 1891 - 1892  
H. Mitchell, Protem, 1892 - 1892  
H. W. King, 1892 - 1894  
W. L. French, 1894 - 1895

F. C. Warne, 1895 - 1896  
W. L. French, 1896 - 1897  
W. A. Loveday, 1897 - 1899  
W. L. French, 1899 - 1901  
John A. Boosinger, 1901 - 1902  
L. A. Hoyt, 1902 - 1906  
John Chaption, 1906 - 1908  
H. I. McMillan, 1908 - 1910  
W.P. Porter, 1910 - 1911  
A. E. Cross, 1911 - 1911



## MAYORS OF THE CITY OF EAST JORDAN

Ora D. Cleveland, 1911 - 1912  
George G. Glenn, Protem, 1912 - 1912  
R. F. Steffes, 1912 - 1913  
A. E. Cross, 1913 - 1918  
C. H. Whittington, 1918 - 1919  
D. L. Wilson, 1919 - 1922  
H. W. Dicken, 1922 - 1924  
H. P. Porter, 1924 - 1926  
James Gidley, 1926 - 1931  
R. G. Watson, 1931 - 1933  
B. R. Milstein, 1933 - 1935  
Kit Carson, 1935 - 1938  
Clarence Healey, 1938 - 1944  
Vern Whiteford, 1944 - 1948

M. R. Benson, 1948 - 1950  
W. E. Malpass, 1950 - 1951  
Leo Sommerville, 1951 - 1953  
Chris Taylor, 1953 - 1955  
Vern J. Whiteford, 1955 - 1959  
Edward Nemecek, 1959 - 1961  
David C. Pray, 1961 - 1963  
James Lilak, 1963 - 1965  
Milton Meredith, 1965 - 1966  
Elizabeth Robertson, 1966 - 1968  
Gerald Olson, 1968 - 1970  
Harry E. Watson, 1970 - 1975  
Virginia A. Giacomelli, 1975 - 1976  
James E. Meredith - 1976

Date Error

# 94 years in East Jordan

BY HAZEL BLAIR

**EAST JORDAN** - A community changes dramatically in 100 years, and nobody knows that better than Nettie Robinson, who has lived in East Jordan since the day she was born, October 10, 1883.

At age 94, Mrs. Robinson is one of East Jordan's oldest residents. Now living at Grandvue Medical Center, she has lived in the Swan City all her life.

"I used to walk to school through the trees and the field from our house on Division Street," she says. The school was located where the present high school is now.

Nettie remembers her cousins and neighbor children taking cracker barrels to the top of Water Tower Hill behind their house. "We would get inside the barrels and roll down - until Ma found out," she added, "then we couldn't do it anymore."

When she was in the 5th grade the family moved out of town to Afton on the Deer Lake Rd. A new one-room school house had just been built to accommodate kindergarten through 8th grade. There were 48 students, and for Nettie, it was a mile walk to school.

Later, the family moved to a farm on Mount Bliss Road. (The property is now owned by Linda and Jerry Aydlett.) After her father's death, Nettie's mother took in boarders, sometimes as many as 44 at once. Nettie left school to help out, but she still continued her education.

Her niece, who was not in good health, would bring her lessons home and Nettie would do them for her. When she had reached the 10th grade level, the niece died.

She acquired music lessons in a similar

manner. Her sister, May was taking organ lessons and Nettie would do them also.



Nettie Robinson - "Everybody used to raise pigs, chickens and cows - even in town. It's much better now."

Once during the winter, Nettie and some of her friends took a horse and "pong" with the intention of going to Ironton. They traveled over the ice on Lake Charlevoix until they were nearly to Ironton, then the pong box began to fill with water. Frightened, they returned home. "The next day, a team of horses drowned in the same lake," Nettie recalls.

She met her first husband while going for water with her boyfriend, Arthur Israel Robinson. Young Jim Meredith came along as they were walking and stated that he would get Nettie away from "that fellow." At the time, she thought it was impossible, but on September 23, 1900, she married James E. Meredith, who was

employed at the shingle mill as a shingle weaver.

In 1903, the Meredith's moved to Fifth Street. The house is now occupied by their great-grandson, James Meredith, Jr. and his wife.

"We canned fruit, baked all our own bread, made our own soap, and rubbed the clothes on a washboard to clean them," she says. They also had a big garden, fruit trees and grapes. They didn't have electricity or inside plumbing until about 1917.

It wasn't all work, though. "We would walk down the board sidewalks on the 4th of July," she recalls, "and there would be the smell of lemonade, oranges, and roasted peanuts. It was so nice."

Nettie says there were also bowries where dances were held. "They were made from good, straight maple boards. I loved the smell of them; I wish I could smell those things again."

For other entertainment they would spend an occasional evening at the opera house, where they saw such things as "Madame LaLene's Medicine Show."

On the boat, the City of Grand Rapids, she went to Petoskey to the Barnum and Bailey Circus, where she saw an elephant for the first time. "The Grand Rapids was a wonderful boat. One whole wall was all looking glass and I could look in every direction and see myself."

Sometimes, they would make trips to Charlevoix or Boyne City on the Chrysler, Hum or Friant boat. And of course, there were quilting bees.

The Meredith's were caretakers of the Tourist Park for 8 years until Jim's death in 1951. He had also worked 13 years in the foundry and Nettie had worked 18 years at the canning factory.



This is the way Main Street looked when Nettie Robinson was a young woman. No cars, no parking meters, no gas stations. Note the street light in the top of the picture held up with wires from poles near the street curb.

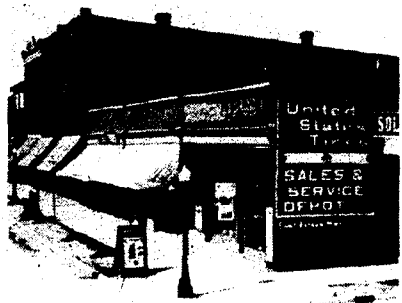
In 1960, her old beau, Art Robinson, came to East Jordan from his home in Canada to visit friends and family. He asked Nettie to marry him, which one year later she did. In 1972, Mr. Robinson

passed away at the age of 92. Looking back over her life, she feels that modern times are better. "Everybody used to raise pigs, chickens and cows - even in town. It's much better now."

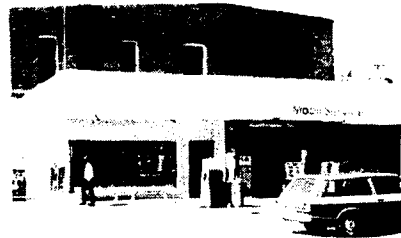
When asked what she thought was the biggest difference between modern times and the way life used to be, her eyes twinkled and she smiled. "My youth," she answered with a laugh.

**Congratulations  
to all our friends in  
East Jordan  
from**

**Dave's Mobil Service and Employees**



1921



1978

**DAVE'S MOBIL SERVICE  
EAST JORDAN**

**Making flowers grow is our  
business. Growing with East Jordan  
is an honor.**



**Jordan Valley  
Greenhouse, Inc.**

EAST JORDAN

**Happy Birthday  
100 Years**



**FRED'S BARBER SHOP  
EAST JORDAN**

Hair styles have changed over the years but the friendliness of East Jordan never changes.

**Happy  
Centennial!**



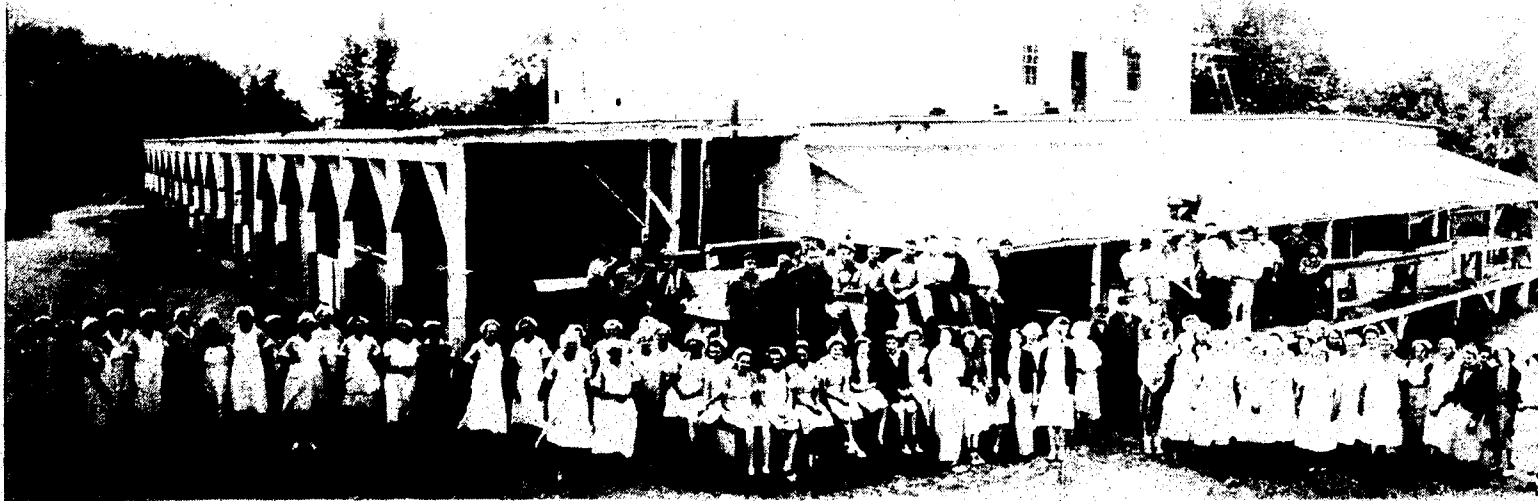
JULIE & CUSTOMER

**J. J. BOUTIQUE**

EAST JORDAN

## 100th CENTENNIAL WISHES

PICTURE TAKEN 1937



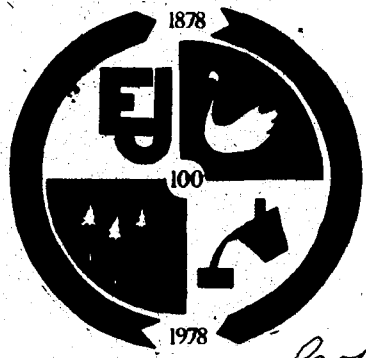
**SHERMAN'S CANNING CO., INC.**

Formerly East Jordan Canning Co.

East Jordan

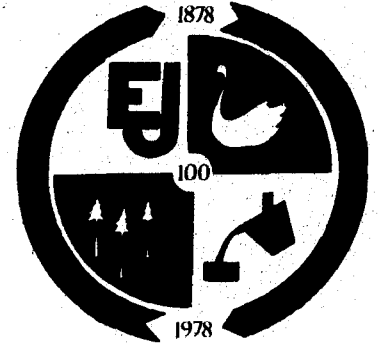
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*Copartnership*

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY EAST JORDAN



*This agreement entered into this eight<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 1883 between Richard W. Round of East Jordan and William E. Malpass of same place Witnesseth. The parties hereto for the purpose of carrying on the foundry business at the town of East Jordan do hereby enter into and form a copartnership. The business of such copartnership shall be carried on under the firm name of Round & Malpass at East Jordan or such other place as the parties hereto may decide upon. Each party hereto agrees and promises to devote his entire time to business of the firm during its existence books shall be kept showing the business of the firm. The profits & losses that result to the firm shall be divided equally by the parties each party may draw from the funds of the firm such a sum per week not to exceed fifteen dollars as he may desire. Funds of said firm shall be deposited in such bank or place as shall be agreed upon & bills so far as possible shall be paid by checks on such bank. It is mutually agreed that neither party during the continuance of the copartnership shall endorse any paper note or obligation or sign any bond for any person or purpose outside the business of the firm. Either party may withdraw from said firm by giving six months notice of his intention so to do and thereupon the business of such firm shall be closed and the assets divided share & share alike between the parties hereto provided that neither party as at the time of such dissolution over drawn his share of the profits of such business he shall account therefor to the other party and pay him his part thereof or allow him sufficient of his half of the assets to compensate him.*

*In witness whereof we have hereto set our hand & seal this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 1883  
In presence of*

*Richard W. Round  
William E. Malpass*

The original copartnership agreement written in 1883 by William E. Malpass and Richard W. Round.



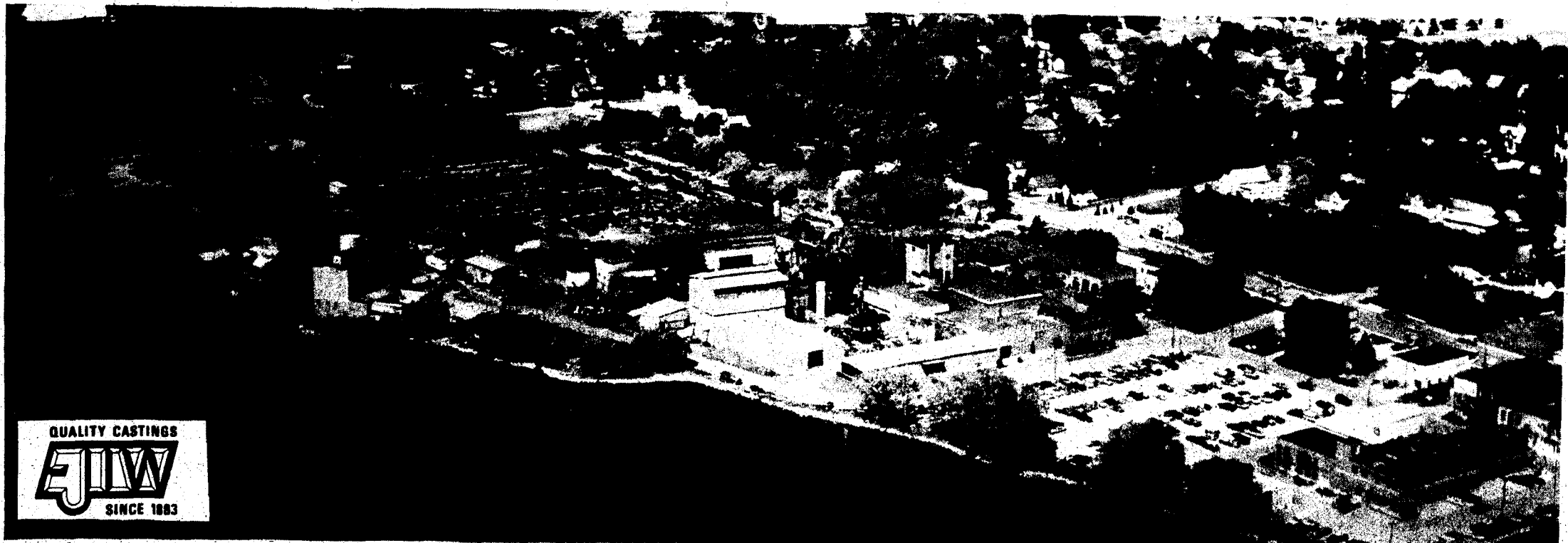
The East Jordan Iron Works as it looked in 1907. The foundry and machine shop was rebuilt after a fire in 1905.



Founder William E. Malpass

## EAST JORDAN IRON WORKS SALUTES EAST JORDAN

on its one hundredth anniversary, and we join in the Centennial Celebration with our friends and neighbors. East Jordan was five years old when East Jordan Iron Works started. East Jordan sons, their fathers and grandfathers have served loyally and effectively at the East Jordan Iron Works. We are truly linked to East Jordan's past and we look forward to a continuing close relationship in the years ahead.



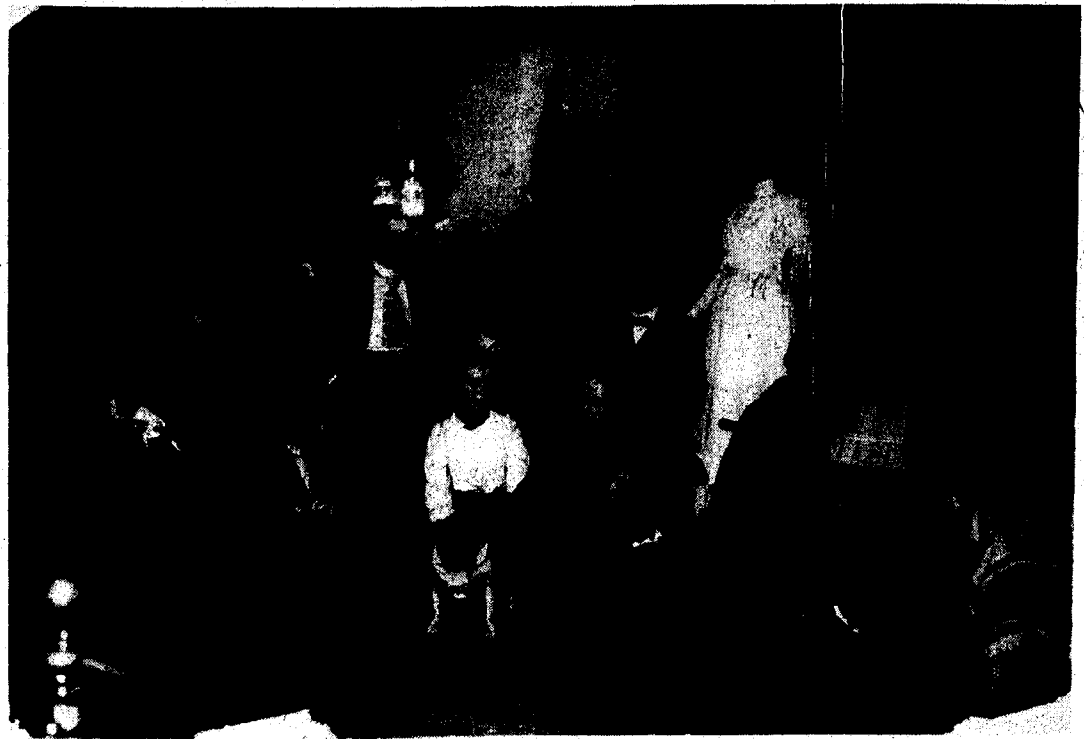
The East Jordan Iron Works, Inc. as it looks today - Summer of 1978. Employment at 500

Date Error



**Smile?**

The men in East Jordan area lumber camps worked hard, but would sometimes take time out to pose for an "office" picture such as this one. Then it was probably back to work, which is probably why these men seem rather glum.



**Get-together**

A family gathering in East Jordan at the turn of the century. Back row, left to right: Stella Deford, Leonard Deford, Liza LaLonde, Hattie and Bernice Bush. Front row: Louis Peppin, Phoebe Deford, Jack Lyons, Alphonsion Trittlede, Sophie Scheffle, Sister Peppin.

**"We're Proud of Our Town & Proud To Be A Part of East Jordan  
HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY**



**Murray's BODY SHOP**

938 S LAKE

EAST JORDAN

**HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY  
SWAN CITY OF THE NORTH**



**EAST JORDAN CLEANERS  
Ralph & Millie Hilts**

**We hope we all have a "BANG UP"  
Centennial celebration. Happy 100th Birthday  
and Happy Future - East Jordan**



East of Mill St. and Main about 1904



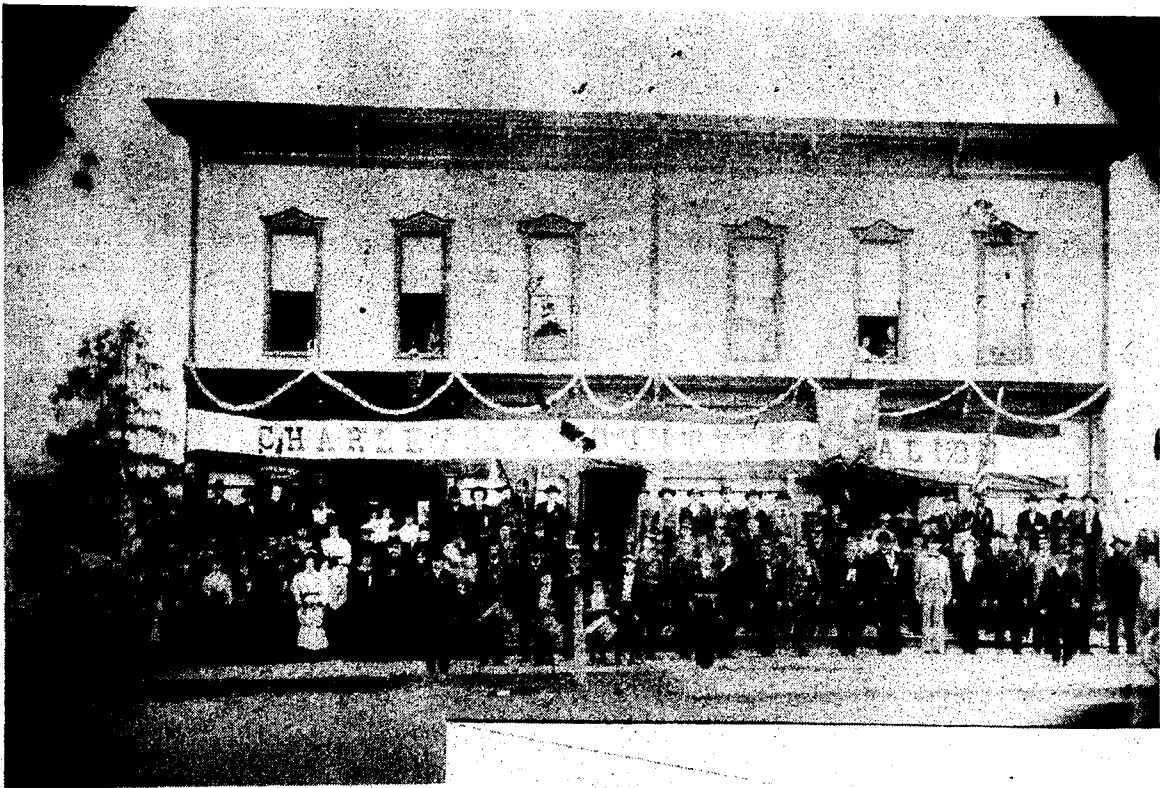
Today 1978

**COLWELL & CO**  
YOUR KEY TO BETTER LIVING

**REALTOR**

111 Mill St., East Jordan  
Phone 536-2241 or 536-7521  
Bill H. Drenth 536-2885    Gordon Drenth 536-7689    Walt Thorsen 536-2434

**HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY EAST JORDAN - BEST WISHES  
AND SUCCESS ON THE SECOND 100 YEARS!**



August 4, 1897

June 14, 1978

**SHERMAN'S**

EAST JORDAN



**Greetings and Best Wishes  
on East Jordan's 100th**



**VINCENT'S YAMAHA**

EAST JORDAN

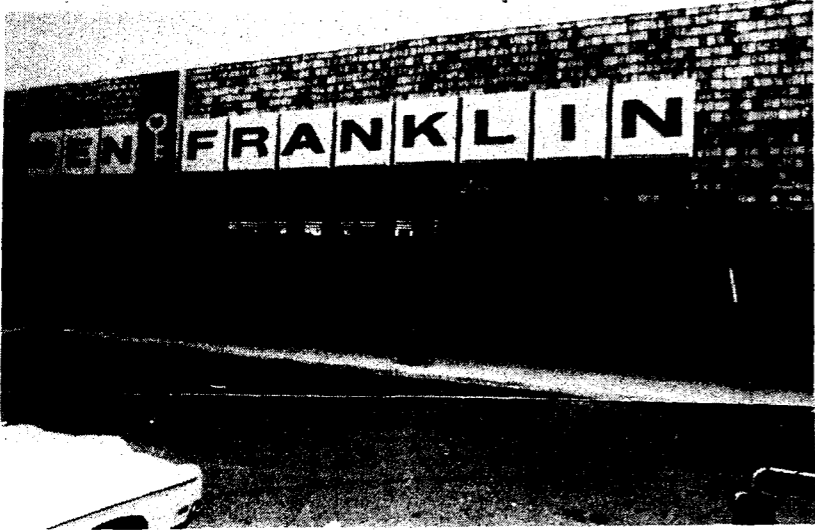
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# 100 years of friendship between East Jordan and

## Charlevoix the Beautiful

May we extend our sincere good wishes to East Jordan on this memorial anniversary.



CHARLEVOIX

BEST WISHES TO EAST JORDAN ON YOUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

STOP IN AND SEE OUR COLLECTION OF CENTENNIAL FOOT WEAR



CAREY'S BOOT SHOP  
CHARLEVOIX



"SENDS"

100th Birthday Wishes

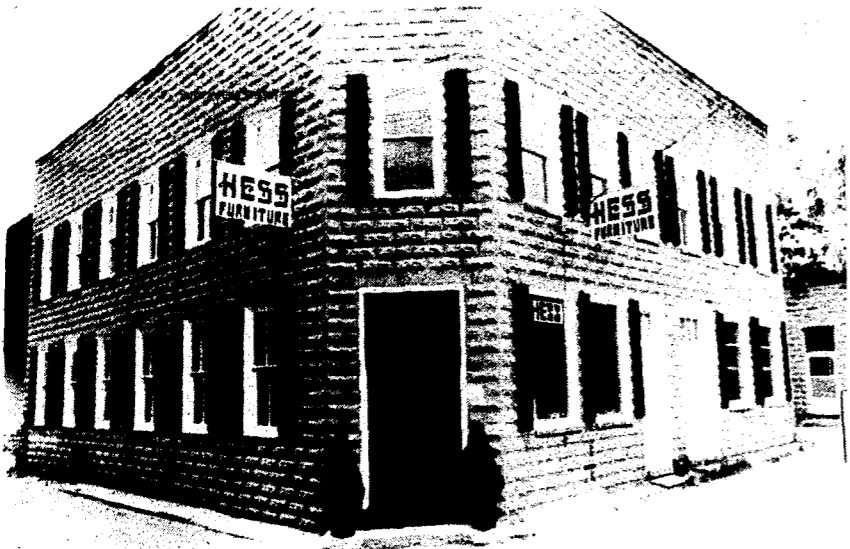
To Our East Jordan Friends

Captain's Kids  
Captain's Corner Shopping Center  
Charlevoix, Michigan 49720  
Ph: 616/547-5241



**WE HAVE MOVED!**

Come see us and Happy Centennial East Jordan



HESS FURNITURE

VAN PELT PLACE IN THE ALLEY CHARLEVOIX



"Uncommon Gifts"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL IN EAST JORDAN



East Jordan & Charlevoix "THE HUM"

1878

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO ALL IN EAST JORDAN

1978



CHARLEVOIX CO-OP

Stover Rd. & Ferry Beach CHARLEVOIX

PHONE 547-6721

Mon. thru Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sat. 8:00 a.m. - Noon  
CLOSED SUN.

CONGRATULATION TO THE PEOPLE OF EAST JORDAN ON YOUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



WOJAN

ALUMINUM PRODUCTS CORP.

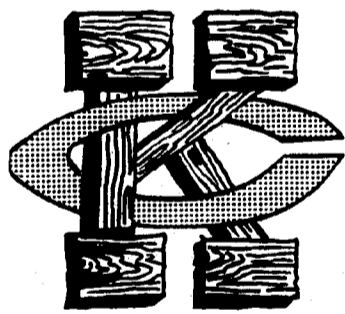
CHARLEVOIX

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Happy Birthday East Jordan  
from

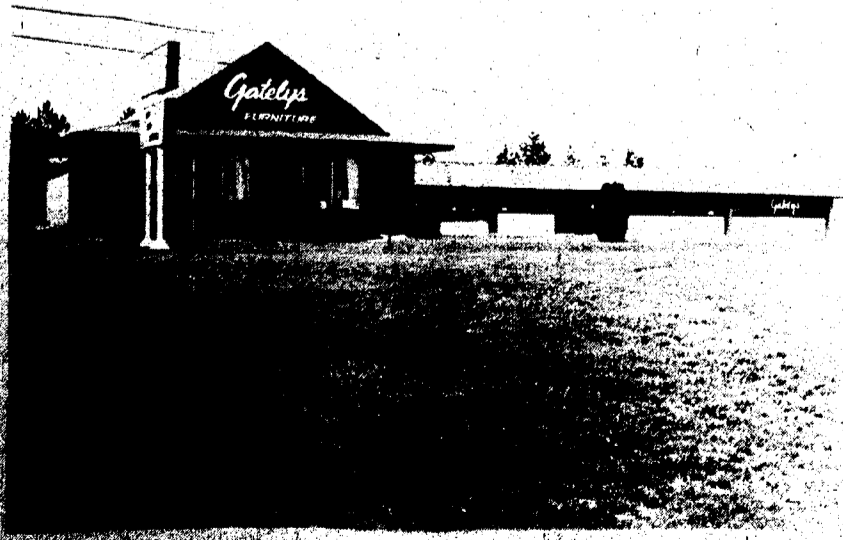
# Charlevoix the Beautiful

1878 CONGRATULATIONS TO  
EAST JORDAN ON ITS  
1978 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



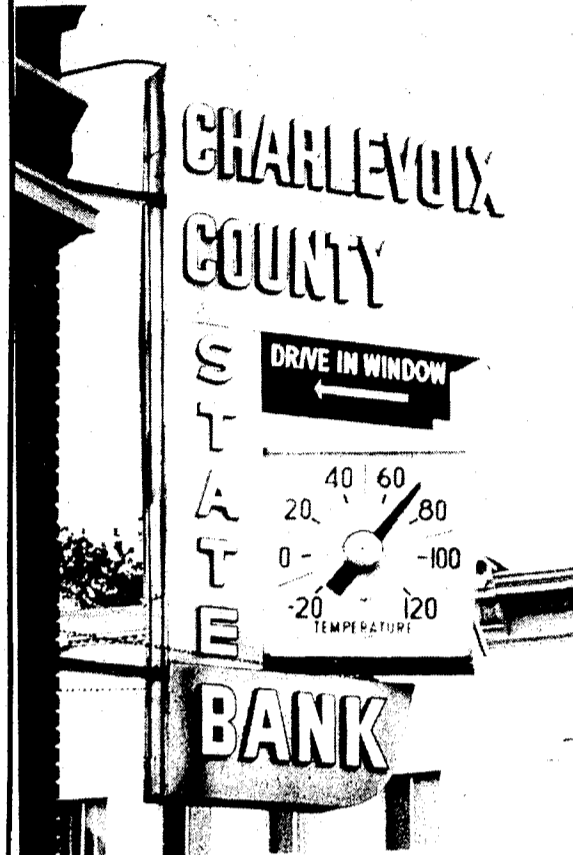
**KIT CARSON  
LUMBER INC.**  
P.O. BOX 319  
Charlevoix the Beautiful  
PHONE 547-4464

GATELY'S WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN  
BY WISHING EAST JORDAN  
A HAPPY CENTENNIAL



**GATELY'S FURNITURE**  
US31 CHARLEVOIX

MAY WE EXTEND OUR  
SINCERE GOOD WISHES TO  
EAST JORDAN ON THIS  
MEMORIAL  
100TH ANNIVERSARY



**CHARLEVOIX  
COUNTY  
STATE BANK**  
Charlevoix

Congratulations  
EAST JORDAN  
On Your  
100th.  
BIRTHDAY

Weatherlane Inn Restaurant  
CHARLEVOIX

**Best Wishes**

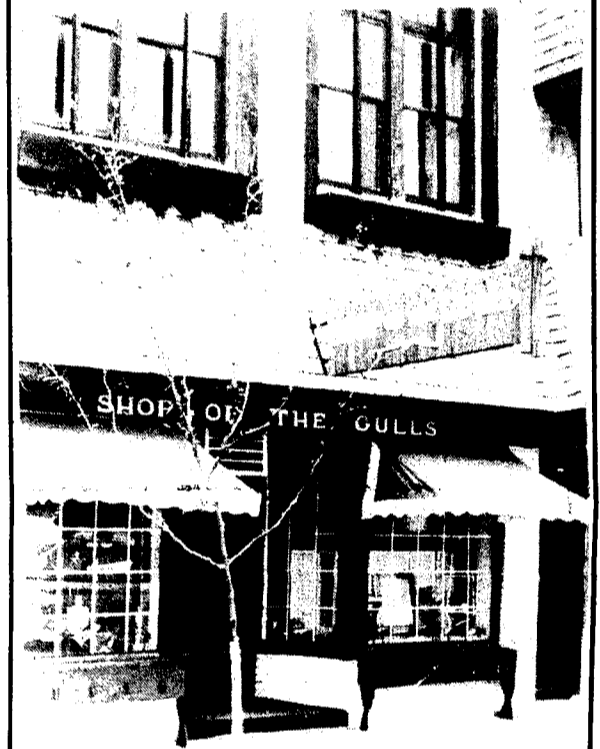


To Our  
Friends  
On This  
100th Birthday

**PARSEL GARAGE**

1405 S. Bridge Street, Charlevoix 547-6575

**HAPPY  
100th BIRTHDAY  
EAST JORDAN**



MAY YOUR WISHES COME TRUE!

**SHOP OF THE GULLS**  
CHARLEVOIX

**Edward's IGA**

CUSTOM CUT MEATS  
PACKAGE LIQUOR  
OPEN 7 DAYS  
HAPPY CENTENNIAL  
EAST JORDAN

SHOP SUNDAY 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

**Edward's IGA STORE**

BEER WINE AND PACKAGE LIQUOR TO TAKE OUT 547-6597

**BARB'S HALLMARK HARBOR**

Although East Jordan is 100  
years older than we are . . .  
we appreciate the many  
friends we've made in our  
first few weeks in business.

**BARB'S HALLMARK HARBOR**

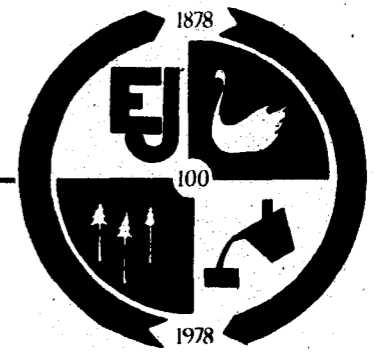
Capitatus Corner  
Shopping Center  
U.S. 31 & M-66  
Charlevoix, Mich.  
547-4941

Daily Hours  
Monday thru  
Thursday 10-6  
Friday 10-9  
Saturday 10-6



# East Jordan Memories

## The night the theater burned



That September Saturday night 16 years ago was a terrifying experience not easily forgotten. It marked the death of a romantic era that had spanned a full half century. I cannot forget. For I was there. I saw it happen.

It was a cool September night with most of East Jordan's residents asleep in their beds. The streets were quiet.



**Marshall Sayles**

My wife was attending a Recovery, Inc. meeting in Ludington with Virginia Giacomelli; and since I was home alone I had decided to stay up late and watch the Miss America contest being televised.

It was midnight when the 10 finalists were announced. Miss Michigan was not among them. So I decided to go to bed. Just as I turned off the TV set the sound of the fire whistle broke the silence of the room.

Picking up my hat and coat and turning off the lights, I went down from our apartment to Main Street to see where the fire truck was going. Across the street former night patrolman, the late Joe Wilkins, and some young men were standing in front of the Temple Theater. Smoke was seeping out the front door as the fire truck screamed its way down Main Street.

I unlocked the News-Herald office and phoned Bill Huckel, telling him and his wife to bring their cameras, yelling, "For God's sake, the theater is on fire!" The Huckles were packing to go to Detroit, but they arrived with full photographic equipment within a few minutes.

Fire Chief Theo Jeffery was on the scene in what seemed like seconds after I had come down stairs. I saw him enter the main door of the theater and I saw him driven back onto the street by the terrific heat. There was no question in his mind about additional help being needed. So the call went out to fire departments in surrounding cities.

Again, what seemed to me like minutes, firemen began arriving from Boyne City, Charlevoix and Ellsworth. Chief Jeffery directed the trucks so they surrounded the building.

As the huge, two story structure became a raging inferno firemen, now numbering

30 in all, noted there was a fairly strong wind blowing in from the south east, sending burning embers directly toward the East Jordan foundry roof.

In addition, the increasing heat created more wind, sending flames across to the A&P store, the News-Herald building, Hite Drug Store, the bowling alley and up the street to the Jordan Inn. I saw businessmen with buildings near by going to their roofs to make sure they did not catch fire.

At one point flames were crossing Main Street directly over the News-Herald building. Our large plate glass window was so hot I could not keep my hand on it. I went into the office, gathered all the important papers I could think of, what checks and money I could find along with our subscription list book and took them down to Huckel's Camera Shop for safe keeping.

A crowd of 100 or so people began moving around in the streets, many offering help if needed. Some were taking snap shots while others were shooting movies of the action. A number of young men helped move equipment from Milt Meredith's barber shop since the back of his building on Esterly Street was perilously close to the burning theater.

*'Our large plate glass window was so hot I could not keep my hand on it'*

Firemen kept careful watch of the huge electric "Temple" sign perched atop the building. Would it fall on to Main Street causing harm to those below and perhaps start other fires, or would it slide backward into the flames? The sign stood some 40 feet into the air and had for many years been a sighting landmark for night flying pilots. Fortunately it tumbled back into the inferno, sending flames even higher into the air. At that moment I turned to look toward the East Jordan Iron Works and saw a crew of men moving about on the foundry roof.

With all the activity and excitement I had lost track of the time. Upon checking my watch for the first time that night I was surprised to discover that it was five o'clock in the morning.

As I have said, most residents were asleep and not more than one hundred or so people knew the theater had burned until the next day when they saw weary

firemen tending a great smoldering hole in the ground.

The East Jordan Volunteer Fire Department had done a highly professional "fire containing" job throughout the long hours of the night; and the department along with the city extended thanks to those cities rushing to help fight what could have easily become a disaster up and down the business section of town.

Bill Porter was assigned to clear the ruins after the firemen had finished their work.

Weeks later the Michigan State Police fire inspector was giving a talk at one of our regular Rotary Club meetings. I asked if he had ever determined the cause of the Temple Theater fire. Although he had been checking it out for some time, he said, "Up to this time we have not been able to determine the cause." Former fire chief Jeffery now says he feels faulty basement wiring was the probably cause.

**BEFORE THE FIRE.**

**BEFORE THE CLOSING.**  
M. N. "Mac" McDaniel, who had operated the theater for a number of years, was not the owner at the time of the fire, having moved downstate after its closing. He passed away several years ago. Two or three others attempted to revive the business without success. If memory serves me correctly the building was in the hands of a realtor when it burned.

McDaniel had purchased the business from Hollis Drew who had had a long and successful East Jordan Theater career.

I recall McDaniel telling me that in the late 1940's he was approached by a man who had moved to East Jordan from Detroit. He had offered Mac in the neighborhood of \$70,000 for the then thriving business, which included successful mercantile operations on both sides of the building's main entrance.

In those days the theater was running two shows a night every night in the week with a single showing Sunday afternoons. On weekends there always seemed to be a crowd standing out front munching popcorn and waiting to get into the second show.

With going businesses on both sides of the building and with the theater operating well into the black, McDaniel decided not to sell the operation. I was told the investor then made an offer for the Boyne Theater, but was turned down.

Within a few short years after the theater sale had been refused, television "hit" East Jordan. One appliance merchant said TV sets were being sold like "leaves or bread". Ironically, a man



*This early photograph of the Temple Theatre was taken before the days of motion pictures, when stage shows provided local entertainment. By the time newspaper publisher Marshall Sayles saw the theater burn, it was past its heyday. (George Secord collection.)*

rented space on one side of the building selling TV sets as fast as they could be trucked in.

The sudden advent of television was a devastating blow to East Jordan's 50 year old nightly entertainment center. Attendance dropped as more and more people began staying home nights to watch television. Not only in East Jordan, but throughout the state theaters began closing or were operated on reduced schedules. It was reported in Detroit that nearly every theater on Woodward Avenue was for sale at that time.

*'A terrifying experience not easily forgotten'*

In East Jordan, attendance fell from a packed house to some 15 or 20 people per night. And, of course, McDaniel was

eventually forced to close the theater.

Its death was not taken lightly by East Jordan residents. No one wanted to see it close, even though they were no longer attending. They pointed to theaters in surrounding communities that were remaining open, if only on weekends. Some would say that if better shows were presented they would attend. Others criticized management for the closing. With most residents now watching movies in their living rooms little of the talk seemed valid.

Why were the people so upset? Because the Temple Theatre had been a vital part of the lives of East Jordan residents ever since it was built by Harry S. Price in 1911. It opened with much county-wide fan fare in October of that year. In addition to movies, summer stock shows were presented on stage and the second floor dance hall for many years attracted large crowds of northern Michigan young people for weekend dancing.

Thus, the theater had become a major part of the entertainment and social life of those growing up in East Jordan. Its death

was an emotional loss to hundreds who, although still embracing the progress of television, did not want to lose something that had been so dear to them for so long. How many people can remember walking across the bridge on a cold winter night, clutching a thin dime in their hands, on their way to see Hoot Gibson outwit the bad guys?

The entertainment segment of East Jordan's society had a fall to fall existence - built in the fall of 1911 - burning to the ground 51 years later in the fall of 1962.

Progress, as well as fires, have developed somewhat similar situations a thousand times in a thousand cities all across America.

The site is now a parking lot.  
Marshall Sayles for many years was publisher of the East Jordan News-Herald. He now owns the Michigan Snowmobile and writes a column for The Charlevoix County Press. Mr. Sayles is the honorary editor of the Centennial edition and has been a major help in its planning.

## These 30 years have passed quickly

Sometimes we need a jolt to bring us to reality. Thus it was, recently, when I stopped in at the Press office and Ye Editor looked across the desk and asked, "Hartung, why don't you write your memories of E.J.?" I blurted, "Who me? I ain't no native!" He asked, "How long you been here?" Answer, "30 years come Dec. 18". He just looked at me and said, "W-e-e-l-l? It was like a bomb exploding! I suddenly thought, "30 years! Why that's near one third of E.J.'s history!" I could hardly believe we'd been here that long! Thirty years in one place!

The move here was the 37th time I'd changed residences in my 34 years!

But first, what brought us to E.J. We were looking for a farm. We'd sold the one we had. We'd been to E.J. a couple of times, had inquired about the school system, noted the beauty of the area and liked what we saw and heard. So a Saturday in late June or early July 1948, we spent with a real estate agent who showed us three places in the area, none of which even approached what we said we wanted! We went home disgusted!

The next day the Detroit News carried the following ad, "For Sale: 160 acres on state highway good house and land!" Widow anxious to sell". Hey that sounds good! So on Monday we came down. An elderly man, brother-in-law to the owner, met us at the door and took me around to see the land. The cows pasturing were sleek and I thought "nothing wrong with this land!"

Anna showed my wife the house. We had brought along hot dogs and stuff for dinner and "Joe" got us some kindling to build a fire by the creek! Ah, that beautiful creek! We were having water

troubles on our old place. We liked what we saw but thought the price was too high. This time we went home feeling sad.

Next morning when I came in from milking the wife said, "I couldn't sleep last night. I kept hearing that beautiful creek babbling along! Let's go back and buy that place!" I said "I slept O.K. but I want to go back and buy it too!" And so we made the deal and then I realized I hadn't even been inside the house! On Dec. 18 we brought the cattle and the rest of the "vitals" and we were in!

What was the area like then? Well, Bill Kerrige, who used to drive horses for my dad, had just completed bulldozing the first slopes for Boyne Mountain! There were only three families between Chestonia and E.J. that didn't have cattle! There were seven grocery stores in town. Two at Chestonia. And three sawmills within a mile and a half of us! We were acquainted with the Vances and L.B. Karr.

We'd only been here two or three weeks, when crossing the street one afternoon, we were approached by a couple about our age. They stopped us - somehow they'd found out our name - and flatly announced, "We'd like to have you two be Mother and Father Vice Presidents in our PTA! With 3 children in school we accepted! And for the next several years we were.

We soon found that we had wonderful neighbors! I went to Don Hotts and asked to borrow his livestock trailer to take an animal to Gaylord. When I went to pay him for it he refused to take any money! So I gave him some maple syrup. And I found out the rest of the neighbors were like that. You could give them "something" but seldom would they take money. And if I did something to help them out always some small gift showed up within a few days! Each of us knew that if something went wrong, we need only to call and a neighbor would be right there to help.

Little things along the way stick in our memories. Scott Bartholomew had a pair

of work horses that weighed in at about 1800 pounds apiece. As we went to town one day, his great granddaughter - only about two years old - was standing by one of the horses, in the pasture, with her arms around its front leg! She came barely to the horse's knee! But "horse" seemed to know it should not move!

Over the years five buildings have burned from here to town. Only two farms now have cattle. Both stores at Chestonia are gone. Only four grocery stores in town. The Gulf and Western parking lot was Archie Howe's pasture! Mt. Clemens Metal Products hadn't arrived yet. The foundry that had about 75 men then, now has over 400. There's the ITT plant. Three plants on M-32 near the airport. The railroad is gone.



**Maurice Hartung**

Most of the traffic when we came here was composed of one foundry truck going south each evening and an occasional gasoline tanker. Plus grocery and meat trucks. A flurry of cars every Friday afternoon and at fishing and hunting seasons. Now there is a continual procession of trucks literally 24 hours a day. Hauling nearly everything you can imagine. And a pretty steady stream of vacationers the year around. It is not unusual to see well over \$250,000 worth of pleasure boats go by in a day. Hauled behind everything from a Volkswagen to huge truck and trailer outfits!

I have memories of the birth of our youngest daughter here in this house! How warts we to know that today she'd be a reporter for this paper? There has been a wedding here, several receptions of

various sorts, innumerable school parties, some of them with 40 or more school kids and often with only a few hours prior notice! There have been picnics under the trees by the creek. Where a lumber company burned down is now the bank. The Creamery is now the foundry office.

*'We're glad we came, we're glad we stayed and we have no plans of leaving'*

And yet many things still are the same and hopefully will never change. Folks here are still as friendly as ever. They still help each other out. The Jordan Valley still can't be beat for beauty any time of the year. The deer still raid our garden within 38 feet of the house! And the little stream thru the yard still furnishes water for the livestock, fish for the grandsons, beauty for all to behold, and it's bubbling, burbling, and tinkling still entertains us when we have a moment to sit and listen!

Yes, that little stream is what really lured us into buying this place. And believe me we continually give thanks to The One on High for that stream and all it has meant and done for us! We have accumulated grandchildren and great grandchildren. Friends galore. What more could one ask for in this world. A king and Queen never had more!

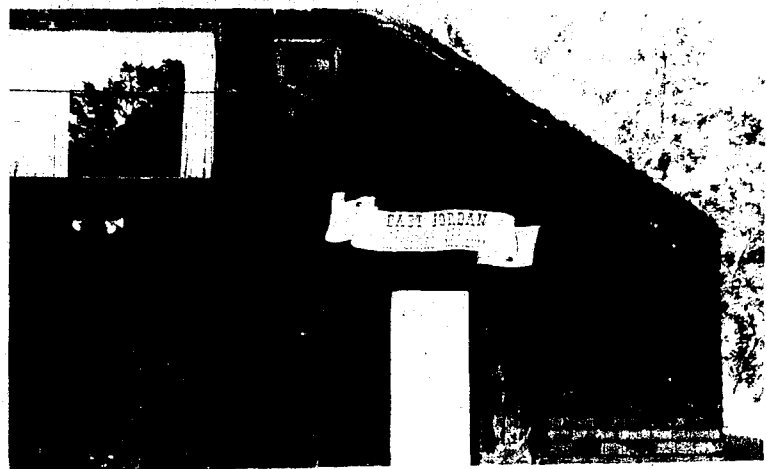
We're glad we came, we're glad we stayed and we have no plans for leaving! And I can think of only one suitable word for ending these moments of reflection on the past 30 most wonderful years of our lives.  
Amen.



*In his earlier years, Maurice Hartung worked in lumber camps in northern Michigan. The chow tables such as this one didn't serve the best food, but after a hard day of work in the woods the men weren't fussy. (George Secord collection.)*

Date Error

**EAST JORDAN PORTSIDE  
ART & HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
A REGISTERED NON-PROFIT CORPORATION  
INVITES YOU TO BE A MEMBER.



Dues:  
Family Membership: \$5.00 a year  
Single Student Mbr.: \$1.00 a year  
Sustaining: \$25.00  
Life Member: \$100.00  
mail to: Treas. Betty Boswell, East Jordan

**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:**

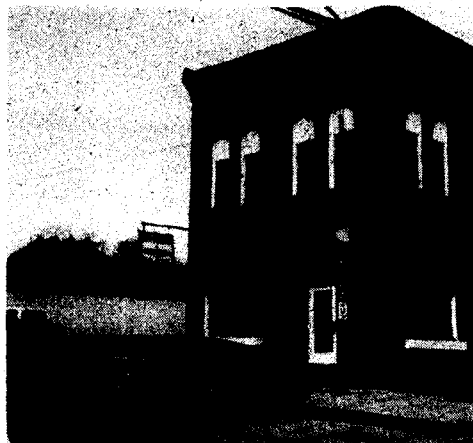
Helps sustain the museum at Elm Pte. Makes possible special programs on area history, exhibition of colonial arms & uses, antique glass and china and many other kindred interests.

SPECIAL CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE PLATES  
AVAILABLE AT A LATER DATE.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EAST JORDAN**

100 years ago our ancestors could purchase lake frontage for 10¢ a foot... and ... maybe these values are gone forever ... but ... how much more will our heirs have to pay than we do now?

We can help you find excellent values at todays market prices.



SPACIOUS OFFICE - Ben Schenck and Associates are located in this spacious office on the corner of Main and Esterly Streets in downtown East Jordan. The building was built in 1899, and after a fire gutted the inside in 1968, Mr. Schenck decided to restore it rather than tear it down.

**Ben Schenck & Assoc. Inc.**

200 Main Street, East Jordan  
1-616-536-7641

**BRANCHES**

Mancelona 616-587-8301  
Elmira (Newly opened at the corner of M-32 and US131) 616-546-3309

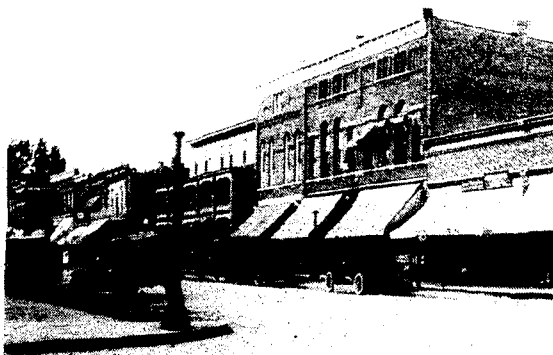


*We Salute  
Our Hometown East Jordan  
On It's 100th Birthday*



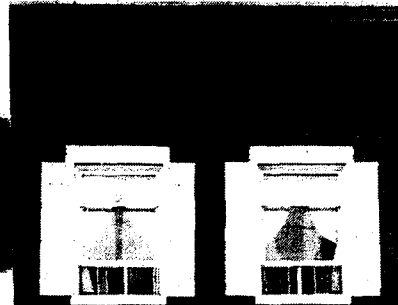
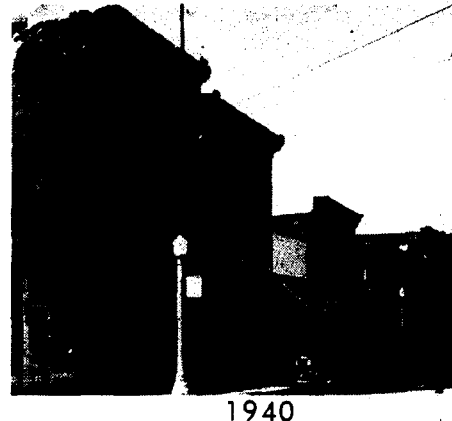
**ZITKA APPLIANCE CENTER**  
EAST JORDAN

HAPPY 100th  
BIRTHDAY

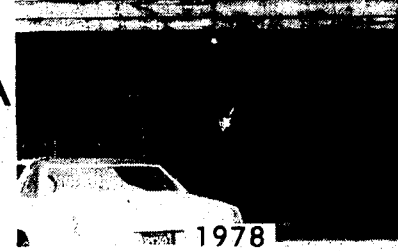


**HEALEY HARDWARE**  
East Jordan

Bob & Jean's Salutes East Jordan On Its  
Centennial Anniversary



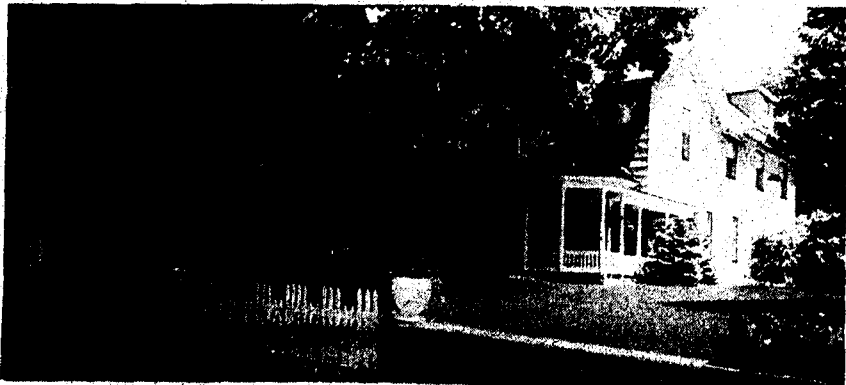
**BOB & JEAN'S IGA**  
EAST JORDAN



Congratulations from "THE JORDAN INN"



Built in 1880, it was the first home of W.P. Porter. The addition was added in 1913 by Christopher Taylor who became the first owner of the "JORDAN INN". The current owners are Tad and Chris Dobrowolski who specialize in gourmet cuisine.

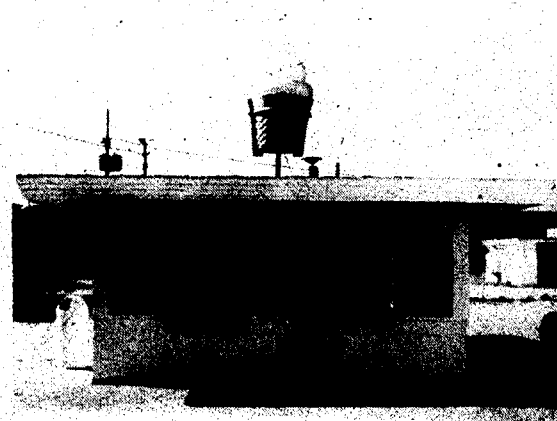


HAPPY CENTENNIAL EAST JORDAN



**EAST JORDAN WELDING SERVICE**  
6965 Rogers Bridge Rd., East Jordan

HAPPY 100



**THE ARMAND DRAPEAU FAMILY**  
JORDAN DAIRY FREEZE  
EAST JORDAN

Date Error



# 'It has been a wonderful river to use'

East Jordan became a city by 48 votes. It had been a village with its neighbor across the water, South Arm, since 1887.

In Feb. 1911 a vote was taken to decide if the two wanted to unite and become a city. There were about 500 registered voters. The day of the election came and so did a terrible blizzard but 258 braved the storm and voted. When the votes were counted they tallied 153 yes and 105 no. So East Jordan was really born in a storm.

Mr. Ora D. Cleveland became the first mayor.

As a lad I attended the South Arm school, then located on the corner of M-66 and M-32, where the Total Gas Station now stands.

This four room building then held 13 grades; kindergarten through the 12th. Grace Keynolds (later Grace O'Connor) was my first teacher. (Her father was killed at the light and power dam on Deer Creek, which supplied our lights). By the time I had reached the eighth grade the school attendance had outgrown those rooms and I had to walk to the Eastside school, no buses, on Fourth Street.

I can well remember the old wooden



**Vern Whiteford**

bridge with the turntable opening so boats could load lumber on the upper sides of Bridge Street. The last boat to take on lumber there was the 'Flecker', a red and white lumber "hooker". On that particular day I had to be excused from school to carry my father's dinner. Mother told me if the boat was not at the 'Little Mill' to hurry down to the 'Big Mill' but I got there just as they were ready to move to the 'Big Mill' (Mill B) to finish out their load. It was too shallow then above the bridge to take on a full load. I got a free ride to the 'Big Mill'.

You can see the old turntable part of the bridge if you go to Holy Island. You'll cross it to get on the Island.

Boats used to load lumber at the two Pine Docks. One was near the Little League ball park and one down the lake

near where Mrs. Leo Sommerville lives. Also there was the beach dock near the square timber dock, both of these were also near Little League Park. The D & C railroad had a small dock near the Four Seasons Marina. Then the steamer 'Hum' had its dock on the East Side near the Big Rock.

I have seen as many as five sailing vessels at a dock. Lumber from the West side docks came from the town of Deward and was all pine. Lumber from the West side was hardwoods and hemlock.

I also remember the log drives on the Jordan River. Every spring the river would be full of logs, hardwoods, hemlock and some cedar for the shingle mill. As a young boy, I played tag on the logs many a time. Sore ankles and skinned up sides were common, as you missed the log and went under.

Different owners of logs would drive their logs on the river about the same time. Each one had their logs marked and there would also be a boom across the river to separate each man's drive from the other. The Islands at the mouth of the river are man-made (slabs, saw dust and shingle spaults make up most of them) and also served to separate logs. Those were the good old days when the river was full of fish and the fish were full of FIGHT.

Speaking of the river, it has been a wonderful river to use all my life. I've used it until it got the best of me a few times. You can wade it but like a lot of other activities, you have to slow up. (I still wade a lot but in slower waters.) The Jordan is cold and swift and once you are in it you want to get out.

I used to help Teddy Kotowich with his guide service and I'll always remember the remarks one person made. I asked why they were not fishing and the reply was "This river is so pretty I don't want to miss a single thing." And she said it all. Once you have floated from Graves Crossing to Rodgers Bridge you'll say the same. The birds, the flowers in their seasons, the various trees, old top-nut for instance is a novelty in itself, every bend in the river is nature at its grandest.

The rapids just above the culvert at State Road Bridge and shooting through the culverts is also a thrill. I could write several pages about our beautiful river and you still would not see it. Go up to Graves and ride down; fast water and sharp turns are before you about halfway to

culverts then it slows because it widens. From culverts to Webster Bridge is changeable but very historic, by way of the old two log bridge and the more recent East Jordan and Southern railroad Bridge. Very picturesque, then on down to Rodgers Bridge is also very pretty and the

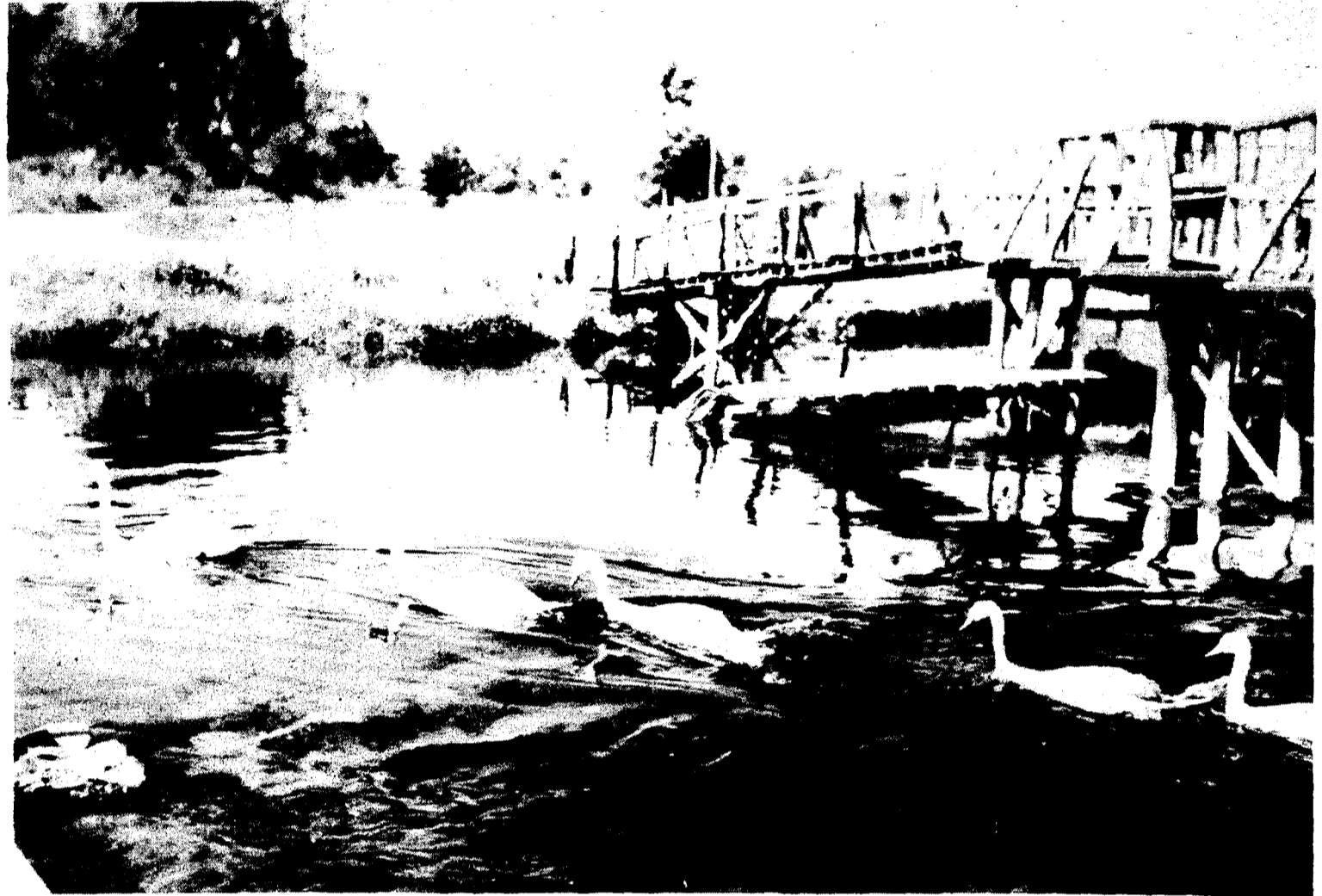
water flows at a more modest speed until you hit the little swamp just above the bridge.

A good many dunkings have been had there. I once lost a man in a deep hole. He fell out of the boat; his wife said I should have left him there and she would have

split the insurance with me. But it was all in fun. We sure had a lot of fun on the river in those days. Teddy, Johnnie, Andy, Keith and myself, and some days other guides would have a large party and cook dinner on the river bank. There are still fish in the good old Jordan River but now

it requires more skill and patience.

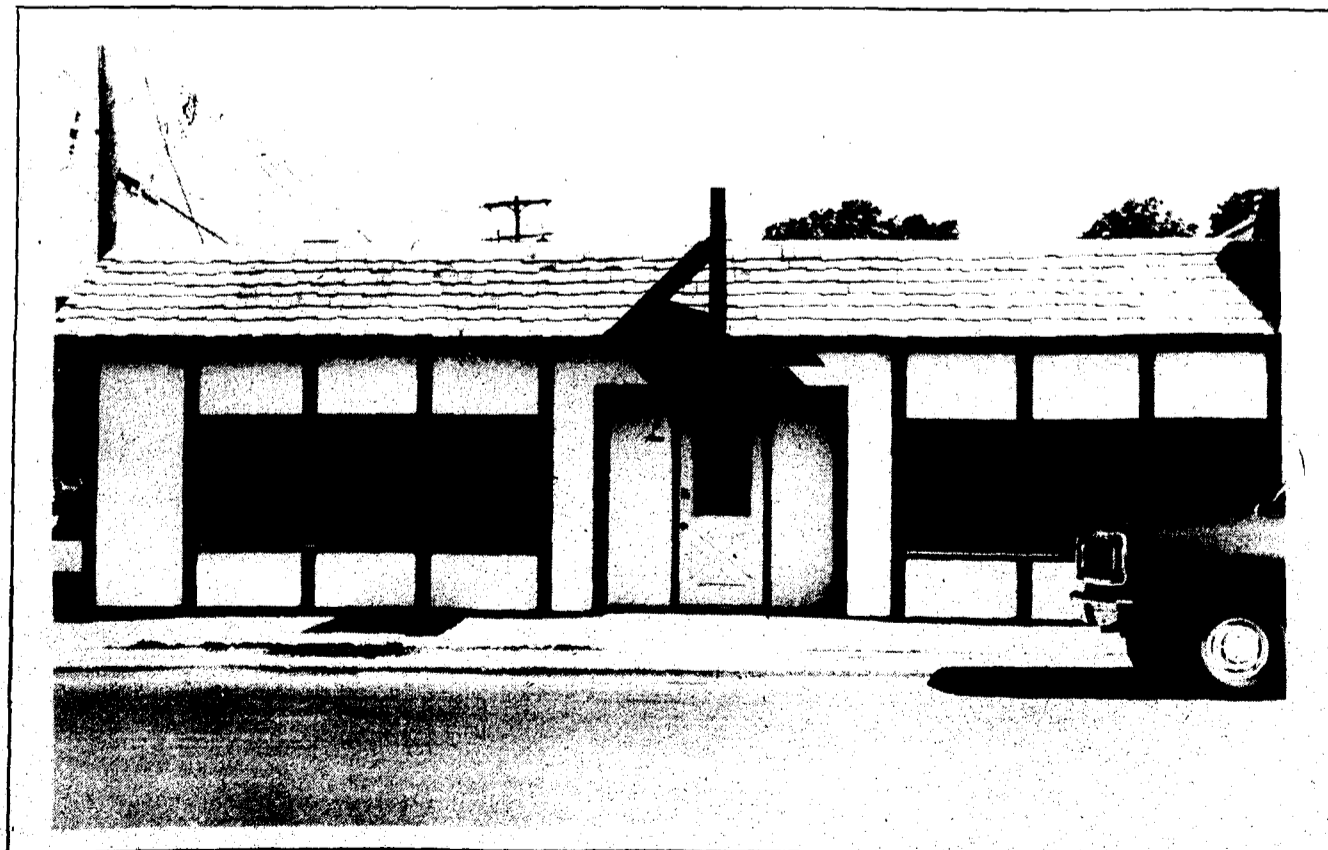
There used to be an island near the Sportsman's Park where we had a hide-out and hold our "Liberty Boys of '76 meetings." There was some quicksand there and a place to fish. We had no hooks but used bent pins.



Many a canoe trip down the Jordan River has begun where this and later bridges cross the water where Lake Charlevoix ends and the river begins. Vern Whiteford has been on many of these trips, as he tells us in this memory.

## The R.A. Campbell Agency

is proud to be a part of the East Jordan community, having written insurance for you for over half a century.



R.A. CAMPBELL AGENCY INC.

109 E. MILL

EAST JORDAN

The following history of the agency was written by Robert Campbell for the Bi-Centennial issue of 1976.

When Robert A. Campbell was elected cashier of the State Bank of East Jordan on June 2, 1926, one of his first duties was to apply for licenses to represent the insurance companies in the agency owned by the bank. These licenses were issued in June and July of that year, now a half century ago.

For 22 years the bank employees handled the insurance along with their other work, but in 1948 it was decided to move the insurance business to offices above the bank and hire a manager. Obert C. Burull, who had served in the Air Corps as a Lieutenant Colonel in World War II, was chosen. He operated the business until 1953 when he resigned and went into the insurance business in Grand Rapids, where he still maintains an office.

Betty Jo Strehl, who became so valuable to the agency in later years, worked with Mr. Burull during 1951 and 1952.

When another manager was required, William M. Swoboda, who was employed in the Boyne City office of the bank as an assistant cashier and had served as a Captain in the Marine Corps during the war, was transferred to the insurance office. He again hired Mrs. Strehl as his assistant.

The bank directors decided to sell the agency and on July 1, 1959, it was purchased by W. G. Boswell, R. A. Campbell, Howard Darbee and William M. Swoboda, all of whom had assisted in handling the business while it was owned by the bank.

At this time the R.A. Campbell Agency, Inc. was formed with the following officers: Robert A. Campbell, President; Howard Darbee, Vice-President; William G. Boswell, Treasurer; William M. Swoboda, Secretary.

In 1960 an office was opened in the bank building with William J. Lindsay as manager. When the new East Jordan Bank building was completed on Mill Street in March 1956, the insurance agency also had fine quarters in the new location.

It was in 1961 that Ardyth G. Dorgan came to work in the Boyne City office. In 1962 B.E. Sturgell joined the East Jordan office.

The Barney Milstein Agency was purchased in 1963 and Betty Jo Strehl and Bernard E. Sturgell were licensed as agents.

The Lysle B. Johnston Agency was purchased in 1964. The Ralph Price Agency of Ironton, was purchased in 1965 and the Guy C. Conkle, Jr., Agency of Boyne City was added in 1966.

On January 3, 1967, William J. Lindsay, having become a stockholder, was elected to the board of directors as a Vice-President.

On May 22, 1968, employees of the agency were all saddened by the untimely death of William Swoboda, who had been such an important factor in the success of the agency.

At the annual meeting on Jan. 2, 1969, W.G. Boswell was elected to the additional duties of secretary of the board of directors.

It was in 1972 that John W. Zoulek was added to the staff in East Jordan and M. Bruce Hubbell to the Boyne City office. They were both licensed as agents the same year.

Betty Jo Strehl, one of the firm's most valued employees for many years, retired at the end of 1973, with everyone's best wishes for a happy retirement. She was replaced by Nancy Lee Olson of East Jordan who had worked for the agency previously.

In 1975, the management of the Northwestern State Bank notified the Campbell Agency that the offices occupied by the agency in East Jordan and Boyne City would be needed by the bank for expansion purposes. A building located at 109 Mill St., East Jordan, was purchased and the office moved to that location on Feb. 2, 1976.

A building located at 102 South Lake St., in Boyne City, was also purchased and was remodeled.

In 1977, Nancy Olson and Patricia Koteskey received their licenses as Insurance Agents. Both offices are ready to help in community efforts and to serve the insurance needs of northern Michigan.

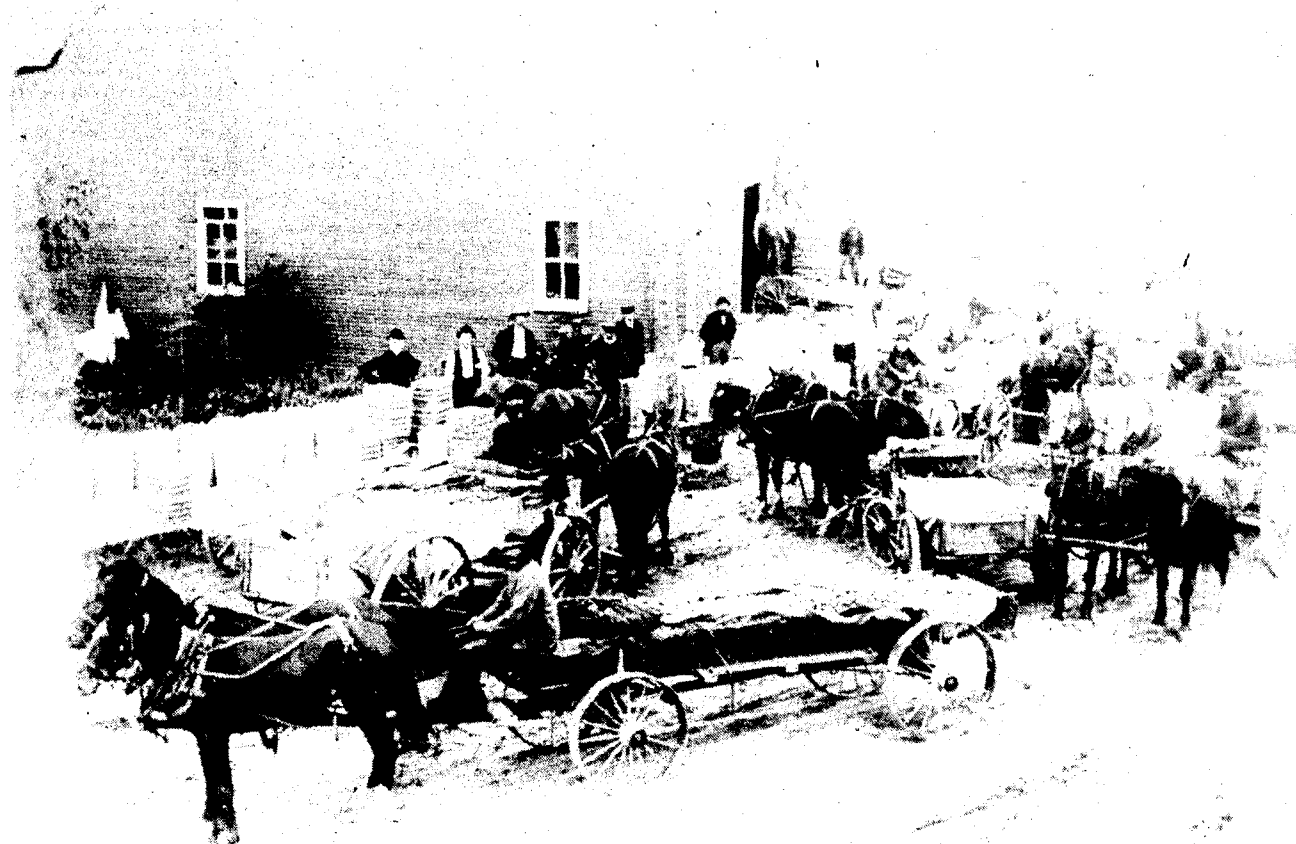
"We all join in thanking the people of the area for the opportunity of serving their insurance needs and hope they will call on us as their needs arise," Mr. Campbell said.

Date Error

1918

# EAST JORDAN CO-OP 60 YEARS

1978



"Potatoes Brought to the E.J. Co-op"

Nearly 500 farmers now comprise the East Jordan Co-operative Company, which was started on June 18, 1918, when 200 farmers met to organize an association to market potatoes.

The business has come a long way since that time. Potato farming, which flourished in the early years, came to a standstill. "Most of the farmers who raised potatoes are now in the dairy business," wrote William Stanek in 1972, as he compiled a history of Co-op.

"It was my privilege to have been an employee, since the company was organized, for 44 years, the last 34 years as manager. We had many good years, and also bad ones, especially 1932 during the Depression. The company always showed a profit, even in the Depression years," Stanek said. He pointed out that during the period he was the Co-op's manager, sales increased from \$218,000 in 1928 to \$1,500,000 in 1962.

The first board of directors of the Co-op included James Sevard as president, Sam Rogers as secretary, William Severance, Charles Murphy, Fred Sweet, Dan Kale, A.R. Nowland, Ira Bradshaw, and Charles Knop, Richard Supernaw was the first manager. Supernaw continued as manager until 1927.

In the first 3 years of its existence, the Co-op grew from 200 to 292 members. In that third year, 1921, the Co-op jumped into a field that would eventually become its most important-gasoline distribution. The Co-op opened the first gasoline station in East Jordan. The 11,000 gallon storage tank installed at that time is still used nearly 60 years later for fuel oil storage. At this time, all gasoline was shipped into the area in railroad tank cars.

In 1922, the purpose of the organization was formally set down as: "To conduct and carry on a general wholesale and retail cooperative mercantile, milling and elevator business and in connection therewith to encourage a better and more economical method of production; to secure better results in grading, packing, advertising and marketing farm products; to rent, build, own or otherwise acquire, sell and control real and personal property as may be needed; to cultivate the cooperative spirit in the community. . . ."

In 1930, the company directors decided to change from Texaco to Sunoco gasoline and products. The following year, the first tank truck was purchased to deliver gas to the growing number of dealers.

The directors went on record in 1933 as favoring expansion of the gasoline business. By 1935 there were already 22 Sunoco dealers being serviced in 6 counties by the Co-op.

The East Jordan Co-operative Association was reorganized as the East Jordan Co-operative Company in 1937 to conform with state and federal laws. In this year, a record amount of gasoline was sold, exceeding a million gallons, to 30 dealers.

Most active in the Co-op were these longtime members of the board of directors: as listed by Mr. Stanek; Elmer Hott, 28 years; Elmer Murray, 24 years; Ralph Lenoskey, 22 years; George Jaquay, 17 years; Charles Shepard, 16 years and Ole Omland and August Knop, each with 15 years.

Today in 1978 Gerald Olson is the newly appointed general manager of the Co-op. He has 21 years of service with the company. The company employs 32 people.

Current board members are President Clarence Boss; vice president, Robert Shepard; secretary, Leon Beal; members of the board, Carl Grutch, Jerry McKenney, Neil Olstrom, Charles Stanek, Bryce Vance and Dan Von Sooston.

The East Jordan Co-op is now the distributor for Sunoco products over a 9-county area of Northern Michigan. The company owns the East Jordan Sunoco Station, plus an auto parts store and an office with a general merchandise showroom -- all in the area of the corner of Mill and Third Streets. The company also owns a feedmill on the waterfront near the East Jordan Iron Works.



Feed Mill



Parts Department



Gas Station



E.J. Co-Op

1878

## HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO EAST JORDAN

1978

For 60 years the East Jordan Cooperative has been serving the community.

Now in this Centennial year we're proud to say that we have been a part of East Jordan, supplying the needs of many families over a long period of years with quality merchandise. We're proud also, of extending congratulations to our fellow citizens whose efforts have brought prosperity and a stable economy to the community.

- President - CLARENCE BOSS
- Vice President - ROBERT SHEPARD
- Secretary - LEON BEAL
- General Manager - GERALD OLSON

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD -

- Carl Grutch, Jerry McKenney,
- Neil Olstrom, Charles Stanek,
- Bryce Vance, Dan VonSooston

Date Error





When these women were photographed in 1906 they were known as the "Belles of South Arm." At the left is Harriet Kaake, Jinny Giacomelli's mother. The other two are her aunt, Mary Johnson and Bessie Buckman.

# Candles, trains, circuses, minstrels

## I Can Remember When...

I ran down Pine St. (then Maple St.) to wave at my Uncle Lew (Lewis Johnson, engineer) every time the Detroit and Charlevoix train went by the Tourist Park. It went to the turn-around where Bret Riley's live today.

I was ill and was taken to Dr. Ramsey's office across town. I went in Grandpa George Hayes' wagon, pulled by two horses - hay was in the bottom of the wagon and bricks were heated and placed around me to keep me warm.

The circus was held (where Gulf & Western now stands) arriving here in boxcars. Big tent, elephants, trapeze artists, midgets, black faced minstrels. A real circus.

We West Side kids walked through snow banks and blizzards to go to Ray Mackey's home to hear the "Lone Ranger" on Thursday nights and "Inner Sanctum" on Sunday nights on radio.

We had candles, during the holidays, clipped on our Christmas tree and every night my mother lit the candles for five minutes and my dad stood close by with the water pail poised ready to heave the water if the tree caught fire.

I studied my school work by lamp light. In 1937, we had electricity put in our home. One bulb in the middle of the room with a pull chain on it. What a miracle!

During prohibition Sheriff Ikens and his deputies raided three blind pigs on the west side at the same time. They put the

owners and the evidence in the back seat of one police car. When they arrived in Charlevoix the owners were still there but the evidence was gone. So without the evidence they had no case! It was the biggest joke of the 1920's, at least in East Jordan.



Jinny Giacomelli

The Tourist Park storage house was a kitchen and every Saturday morning a community breakfast was held there with my mother cooking either smelt or pancakes. And every seat in the house and on the porch was full.

Roy (Cannonball) Reinhart got all A's in music in Leatha Cox Larson's 4th grade class at the East Jordan West Side School. (Lee's Service Center is located there today.)

Every spring the "flats" on the west side flooded and we had a row boat and we could row to the Ellsworth Road and get the mail out of the mail box.

We had a Temple Theatre with the Henderson Stock Co. bringing live plays. The W.L.S. Roundup live with Red Folley, Buddy Ross and Benny Ford, first

rate movies were shown. We had two dance halls and four ice cream parlors - all open on Saturday nights.

The "Smelt Run" was an annual celebration held at the Sportsman's Park. Boardwalks on both sides of the river with a beautiful rustic bridges crossing the river. A log cabin with a fire in the fireplace to get warm by. Hundreds of people standing on the boardwalks with their nets waiting for the gun to go off as a signal to dip those smelt.

The "Charlevoix County Fair" was held where the football field is today. It was a world of wonder. Harness racing, bingo playing with Beacon blankets given as prizes. 4-H building filled with goodies, gypsies telling fortunes, the airplane rides in two-seaters for \$5; the cupie dolls, the merry-go-round, the ferris wheel, and the music!

Sex was a dirty word and you got a bar of yellow soap stuck in your mouth for saying it.

# The cattle ate our clothes

I have lived on a hill west of East Jordan nearly 78 years and have a lifetime of memories of East Jordan and the surrounding community.

Earliest memories include schools days. My first seven years were in the west side school. Before I started it had been known as the South Arm school and included high school, but after being annexed by the E.J. school it became the West Side school with just eight grades and was later reduced to seven.

It was a frame building with four large rooms. Teachers names I remember were May Dooley, Ella Bennett, Lucy Menzie, Theodora Brewer and Catharine Winters. I have a picture taken about 1906 of grades 2, 3 and 4 of the West Side school. Vern Whiteford and I recently examined it and were able to identify everyone in it, after 72 years.

At 13 I was in the eighth grade and had to go across the lake to school and began to get acquainted with East Jordan. I have a picture of that eighth grade class. There are not many left from either picture.

I remember the train loads of fresh sawed pine lumber brought in from Deward to be shipped from East Jordan docks to the markets of the world, and the many schooners and steam barges which hauled it away. The round house and coal shed where the engine was serviced over night and the water tank where the engine stopped to take on water each morning all just across the street from the West Side school.

We boys all went barefooted in the spring. In a game of tag a slow runner like myself could shake off pursuit by running on the cinders between the RR tracks.

## SKINNY-DIPPING

We are told that the best things in life are free. I am sure that to youth swimming is one of them. In the spring we went swimming during the noon recess. It was sufficiently isolated so that bathing suits were not considered necessary. Many a bare back was burned red in the noon sun.

During the summer we swam in the Jordan River. No swim suits used there either. Today I can't understand how we spent so many happy hours in the icy cold waters of the Jordan. The climax to that

activity came when some cattle came and ate our clothes while we were swimming and we had to skip-hop between wood lots all the way home.

As we grew older our time was spent at farm work. After a day of haying or cultivating corn a swim in the lake was always welcome. Afterward we would go across the lake to Gites & Hawkins White Star Restaurant & Bakery, where you could buy a whole pie for a dime. Fortified with all those delicious calories we would climb the hill back home.

## THE COUNTY FAIR

Everyone of my generation remembers the Charlevoix County Fair. The exhibits of livestock, farm produce and school work, the carnival with all its activities. Something to attract everyone.



Archie Murphy

Thinking of the fair recalls the South Arm Community 4-H Club. Organized in the late 1940's, it grew into what one 4-H leader said was the finest club in Michigan. Its members brought home many honors from the fair and county and state achievement days. Financed by a luncheon booth at the county fair every youngster in the community could participate and did. There is no way to measure the benefits accruing to the youth of the community and to the parents who acted as leaders.

The 20th century has been a period of constant change but nothing has changed more than the pattern of farming in the community. In my youth, raising potatoes seemed to offer the best chance of financial gain. In the shipping season following the 1919 potato harvest there were 327 carloads of potatoes shipped from East Jordan. Today we have no

railroad and I do not know of one commercial potato grower in the area.

## GOODBYE, CREAMERY

By the late 1920's the production of farm separated cream to be churned into butter provided a stable source of farm income. In 1931 the Jordan Valley Cooperative Creamery was started to provide a market for that cream. It served for over 30 years and often made more than 2,000,000 pounds of butter per year. Changing patterns in the dairy industry made the creamery's original purpose obsolete and it passed into history.

Today, there is no butter manufactured here and I do not know of a single farmer who produces cream for sale. In the community in which I live there were 30 farms where the creamery's truck stopped to pick up cream. Today there are two which produce dairy products for sale as fluid milk.

The greatest improvement in rural living in this community has been brought about by rural electrification made possible by Rural Electric Act and the organization of electric co-ops.

They have brought electric lights to replace the twilight of the kerosene lamp and power to replace the drudgery that has been a part of farm life since the beginning of mankind.

Electricity has brought most of the benefits of urban living to rural homes. This is reflected in the number of homes being built outside of cities.

## HAZY DAYS

When I was a boy I could look out over East Jordan and see smoke coming from a dozen smoke stacks as industry fired up for another day of operation. Also smoke from hundreds of chimneys and stove pipes as housewives prepared breakfast for their families on wood burning stoves. Today there is only a little from the foundry and on weekends there is none to indicate which way the wind is blowing.

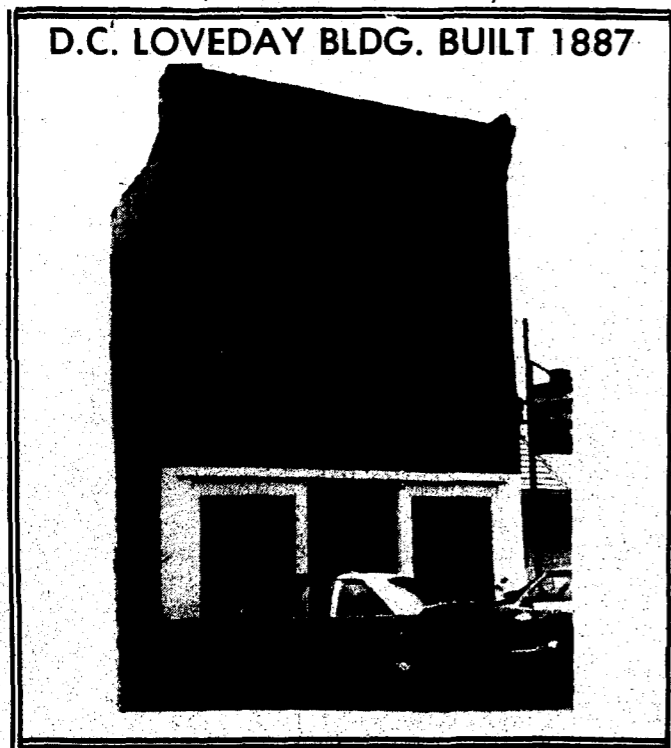
In its first one hundred East Jordan has seen a revolution in energy, industry, communication, transportation, travel, agriculture and housekeeping. At its bicentennial 100 years hence will that generation look back on as much change as we do: Perhaps. Who knows?

Date Error

## Best Wishes For A Happy Centennial

(WHITEFORD BLDG.)

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## Congratulations East Jordan



1927

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THE FAMILY OF

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# 'The meanest incident I can recall in EJ'

Probably one of the most exciting times in a small child's life is their first circus. At least, it was with me. And yet, the incident which most sticks in my mind was not one of the acts... but as a result of an act.

At that time (1914) there was an elderly Finnish couple, Mr. and Mrs. Leander Myquist, living on the corner of Main and Division. They were a nice couple, well thought of by the townspeople, Leander always wearing his derby hat and she always carrying a folded umbrella.

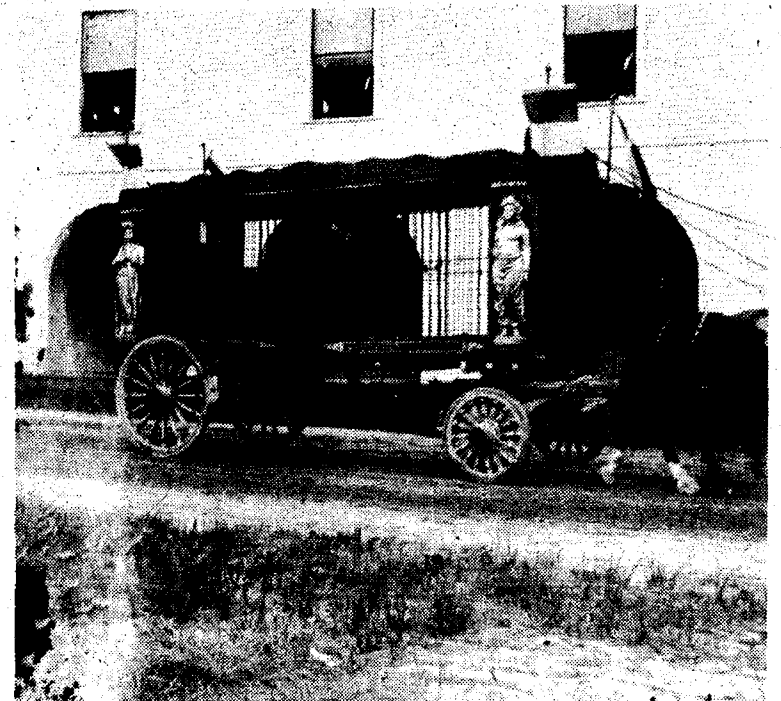
At the Sun Bros. circus that day, they



**George  
Secord**

sat right in front of us. The animals went thru their paces, the clowns did their antics, and we screamed with delight as the guy climbs in the barber chair for a haircut and shave. They cut his hair with a lighted Roman candle, poured an entire pail of lather over his head, proceeding to shave him with a two ft. folded shingle... then throwing an entire washtub of water over him to wash off what lather remained.

Near the close of the show they staged a mock wedding... the bride carrying a corsage of cockle, milkweed and sourdock. There was a cable suspended from the peak of the tent and, although we didn't know it, a ring in the neck-line of the bride's gown. At the close of the ceremony, the bride was hoisted to the peak of the tent. As she comes down, about twelve feet



One of the biggest events in the life of a small town is when the big circus visits. In the old days, residents got a close look at some of the main attractions as the circus rolled into town. The circus provides George Secord with a memory he has described here.

above the floor, the cable supposedly jams, and she comes right on out of her clothes, sprays around the tent and out the exit.

As she hits the floor, Leander is half on his feet, trying to get a better view. Meanwhile, his wife has him by the coat-tail trying to make him sit down. Not succeeding, she grabs her umbrella and brings it crashing down on his derby,

smashing it down over his eyes, clear to the tip of his nose.

There were other sidelights to the show that day. One woman wouldn't let her little daughter go for fear the lion might get out and eat her up. A few rows ahead of us sat two little boys and, looking back, I've often half-wondered if their folks sent them, hoping the lion would get out.

However, poor Leander!! I could never understand how a sweet little old lady could pull such a mean, nasty trick on her husband. I think he only wanted to see what clothes she still had on.

Yes... I think that will have to go down as one of the meanest things I've ever seen in East Jordan. Even Women's Lib wouldn't go that far.

George Secord is a second generation East Jordan historian and one of the community's most fascinating personalities. He is also very generous to The Charlevoix County Press when we need old photographs or advice on East Jordan history, both of which he provided for this issue. We'd like to thank him.

THEN: Huckles' of East Jordan located on Main St. in 1948 ( and displayed paintings by the late Charles C. Culver ).



NOW: Their shop has changed ; still they are pleased to greet you in 1978 with the same dedication and integrity for photo and art productions that is Timeless.

Stop in Soon! **BILL AND DORIS HUCKLE**  
**HUCKLES' CAMERA AND ARTIST SUPPLIES**  
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Congratulations on  
Our Centennial

We've come a

long way,

Baby \_\_\_\_\_

**Town & Country  
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We're happy to  
join in saying...  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
EAST JORDAN**



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**HAPPY  
100th**

**A PERFECT PRESCRIPTION  
FOR PROGRESS IS**

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**BIRTHDAY  
100th.**



**JORDAN VALLEY DRUG**

EAST JORDAN

We salute our hometown...  
East Jordan on it 100th.



Top floor of  
Vallance's  
early 1900

**VALLANCE TV**  
EAST JORDAN

Date Error



# Hiding under my dear mother's skirts

One of my most exciting memories was my first cross, in 1912. It was held on the West Side where the ball diamonds are today. All I could think of was to find a place to hide. In those days the women wore yards and yards of material in their skirts. I was looking for safety, so up under that full skirt I went and grabbed onto one of my mom's legs.

By then my sister Leona followed suit and up under the other side of mom's skirt she went. Mom was carrying the youngest sister, Harriet. We both stayed put until we got out of that tent and were talked out with a five cent ice cream cone.

No school buses in my day. West Side school teachers whom I shall never forget

for their dedication and kindness were Mrs. Lydia Malpass and Mrs. Jennie (Waterman) Arnold who resides in Traverse City and I still have contact with.

In high school the first silk stockings came into style. How I envied the girls who had them, so sheer and beautiful the stocking looked. A dear friend of the family gave me a pair of those beautiful silk stockings as a gift, and I was overjoyed.

That same evening I put on my new hose to go to the show at the Temple Theater. I met a group of friends who asked me to go for a bob sled ride, not dressed for it, but I tagged along. We walked up the Ellsworth Road to the top

of Addis Hill. Those long bobs were really loaded with kids. One of the boys did the steering and one strong lad gave a huge shove from behind, then jumped on the back.



**Blanche Moblo**

The roar of the big loaded sled on that ice plus patches of sand and stones sounded like thunder. Sparks flew from the runners of the bobs and the speed of them couldn't be measured. We ended up at the crossroads of M-66 and M-32. What a wild halt! Most of us fell off going hither and yon. The sad part of it was my silk stockings had departed and I had nothing but bruised and bare knees.

Hay rides were a must. Horses and large sleighs driven by Lonny Graves, lots of blankets with hot bricks at our feet. We all sang songs and the laughter rang through the country side. The neighbor boys played hockey on the ice and they made their own clubs called "sheeny clubs." The boys also made their own ice boats, sails and all. The boys also made their own jumpers with the one steel runner and that 2 x 4 board atop to balance on. We really flew down Murphy Hill.

Ice in those days was cut in squares out on the lake near Vance's Store (now the Trading Post). The ice was cut with a cross cut saw. The large cakes were loaded with oversized ice tongs onto heavy sleighs. It was then taken to Empey's ice house uptown and the ice was packed in saw dust to be used for the coming summer.

Men always left warning flags by the big holes in the ice where they had done their cutting. There was no refrigeration in those days. The ice was delivered to homes and put in ice boxes to keep food cool.

Milk was delivered by horse and a covered milk wagon. The horse was

almost human, it knew each house to stop at. Ed Bashaw was our milkman, he had cows and sold the milk for seven cents a quart.

I used to carry my dad's dinner over to the Chemical Plant in the winter. I would cross the ice where the Tourist Park is now. I would go as fast as my legs would carry me and my dad would be waiting at the lake's edge and would have a hot dinner.

In the lumbering days, the lake on the south east side of the bridge, across from the Anchorage Restaurant, was always full of logs hauled in by horses. Men handling those big logs were guiding them with knat hooks. The logs were pulled up

in a wooden like trough by heavy pulleys and chains, and then into the mill to be cut into lumber.

Men rode a two wheel horse drawn cart over a high tram from mill to yard putting the lumber into piles to dry out. It was a high tram and the horses had to be nimble to make it. The mill men ate at Gus Kitmans Restaurant and the Enou Giles Restaurant.

The first radio I heard was at Bob Proctors. The radio was like a medium sized tool box which was sitting on a table while each person took their turn listening with ear phones. The wonder of those voices and singing coming through was almost unbelievable. The ones in line were so anxious for their turn they hardly gave those ahead long to listen.

Silent movies, regular shows and serials were at the Temple Theater. The serials were a must for the kids, so we all skurried for the 10 cents for the ticket. The piano player played music in accordance with the scenes in the movie.

There were square dances every Saturday night in town at Sherman Hall.



Blanche Kaake Moblo and her first and second grade classmates at the West Side School posed for this picture in 1915. Front row, left to right: Doris Grant, Floyd Chambers, Carl Gee, Alice Carney, Alice Theins, Eric Donaldson, Chris Taylor, Anne Murphy. Second row: Carl Blanchard, Glenn Carney, Beatrice Love, James Caldon, Ralph McCarty, Genona Frederickson, Armatd Hughes. Third row: Harold Johnson, Dorothy Sweet, Helen Colden, Great Carney, Donald Wasnick, Rose McCarty, Blanche Kaake. Back row: Myrtle Winters, Harry Boss, John Boibe I, John Boibe II, Bernice Theins, Norman Whiteford, Kenneth Aston, Alta Beebe, Miss Lydia Malpass, teacher.

the Grange Hall, and the Gleaner's, Peggy Schultz, known by all as Peg Leg Schultz because of a peg leg he had whittled himself from a cedar post, could really dance.

The town also boasted a pickle packing treatment building. There were huge vats of cucumbers which were brought in by farmers to be salted and shipped by train to other cities for processing.

I can well remember the beautiful white boat called the "Hum" which offered excursions from East Jordan to Charlevoix. Music which was played on

board could be heard from the shore.

Last but not least, the late Ray Gee and family, our neighbors, did not need a watch dog in those days. Ray had a fighting cock rooster which took care of all illegal happenings or intruders. Very few people wished to walk up that road as the cock was a great fighter.

Ray and his wife finally had to make soup out of him because all the neighbors were so frightened. He really did rule the roost. If he was as tough out of the stew kettle as he was in his life style, that too would be a sad ending. I'd say.

## Indian scare

# A pioneer story

At the time when my parents came to East Jordan, the town was very primitive. So-called roads were a sea of mud in wet weather, and dusty trails in dry times. The families built their own homes, (my

knew nothing of manners such as knocking before entering.

One day, when my mother was busy in her kitchen, she turned, startled, to find a squaw behind her with a papoose on her back. The Indian said, "Bread," but my mother had none at that time in the house. She said, "no bread," and tried to make the squaw understand. Again the Indian said, "Bread," in a much more menacing tone, and then quickly snatched a kitchen knife and held it over mother's baby, asleep in the cradle.

Frantically, mother looked around the room and her eyes lit on the iron poker by the stove. The next instant, the squaw was surprised to see my mother holding the poker over the papoose. And there they stood - the squaw with the knife over the sleeping baby - my mother with the poker over the papoose. There were a few tense moments, and then the Indian laid down the knife and slipped silently out of the door, and mother, shakily, went on with her household chores.

As told to Alice Malpass Nesman by her mother

## Alice Malpass Nesman

mother held the shingles on the roof of their first house while my father drove the nails), and there were few or no conveniences. There were Indians in the area, but they were usually peaceful, and mostly hunted and fished around the lake. One thing they liked which the pioneer women made was bread, and they used to ask for it at the homes. Of course, the Indians

## Best Wishes To East Jordan On Your

1878 **100th. Birthday** 1978

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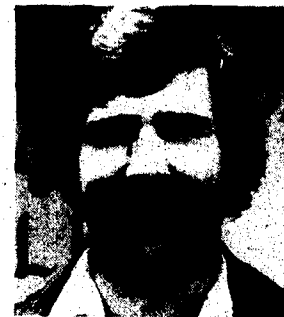
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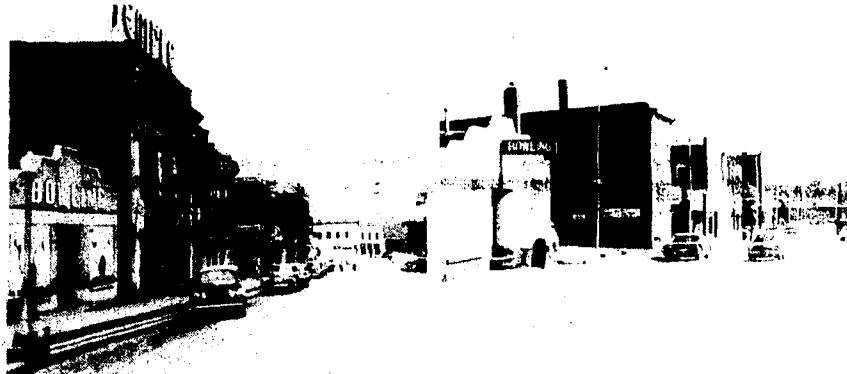


EAST JORDAN

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## EAST JORDAN CENTENNIAL

May the next 100 years be as prosperous and colorful



## GEMINI LANES

EAST JORDAN

## ANTTIQUES



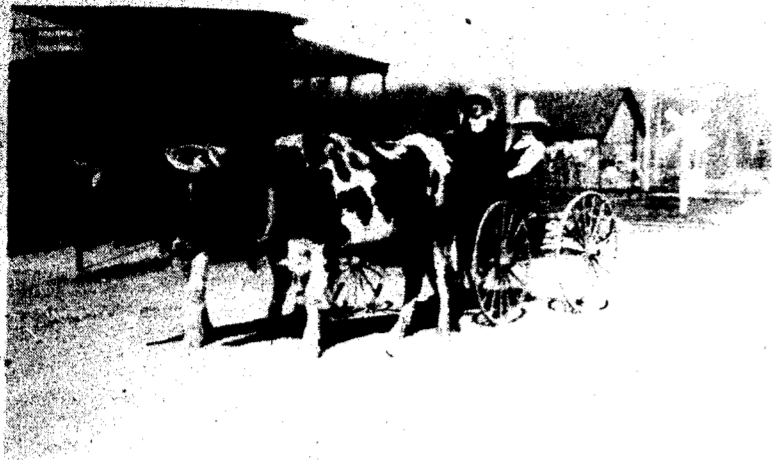
## A HAPPY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION TO ALL

PAT & JERRY SWEET

Yestoday's Treasures AMITY FURNITURE STRIPPING EAST JORDAN

Date Error

STYLES CHANGE OVER THE YEARS . . .  
 BUT FRIENDSHIP NEVER CHANGES . . .  
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How many  
 remember  
 when?



Best Wishes on  
 Our  
 Centennial

PETERS  
 WESTSIDE  
 LAUNDRYMAT  
 & CAR WASH  
 EAST JORDAN

SOUTH ARM ANTIQUES



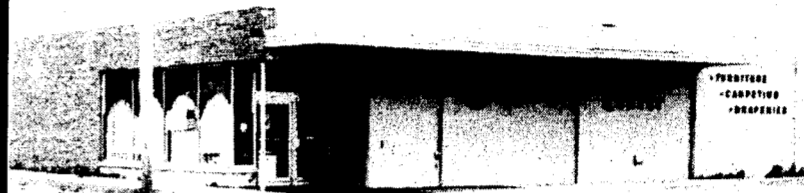
May we express sincere best  
 wishes to all for a happy  
 East Jordan  
 centennial Celebration

VIRGINIA & FRANK BOUSKA  
 300 Water St. EAST JORDAN

Bartlett's  
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HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY TO THE FINE  
 FRIENDS WE HAVE IN EAST JORDAN



1878 HAPPY BIRTHDAY 1978  
 The old The new



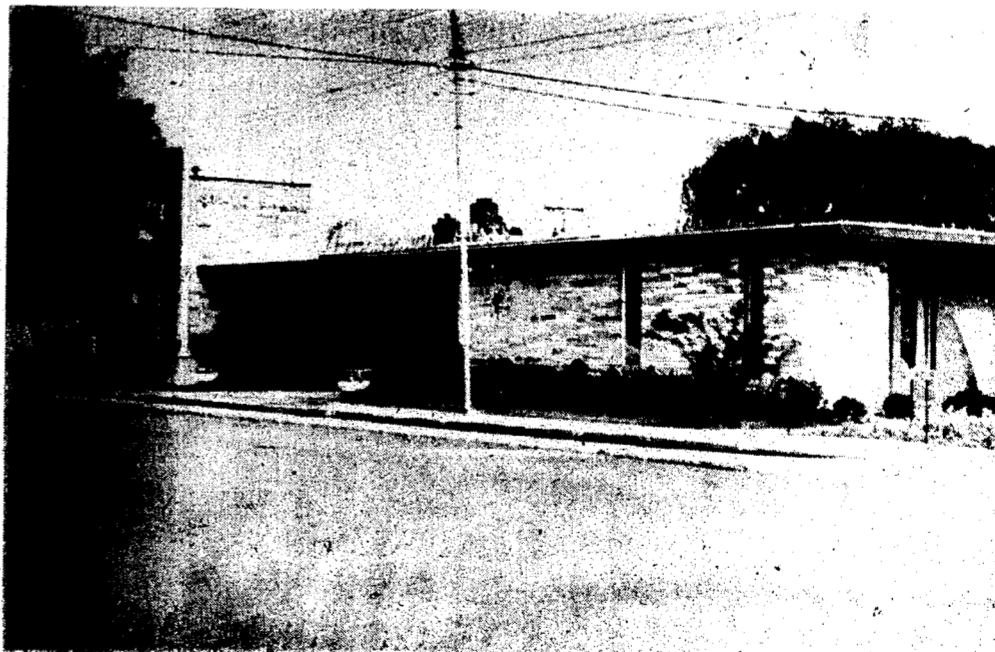
Jordan Heating & Refrigeration  
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 We're extremely grateful for the friends we've made, for the continued  
 loyalty and confidence they have shown in NORTHWESTERN STATE BANK.  
 We're proud of our town and proud to be a part of East Jordan.  
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LONG-TIME OFFICE - The State Bank of East Jordan was housed in this grand building from 1899 until 1956, when the present bank building was completed. The 2-story brick structure on the corner of Main and Esterly Streets is now occupied by Ben Schenck and Associates, a Real estate firm.

YESTERYEAR



TODAY

Northwestern  
 STATE BANK

Member F.D.I.C.

"THERE'S AN OFFICE NEAR YOU"

Date Error



# 'You really are an interesting town'

Mingled with my own memories of growing up in East Jordan are a lot of vicarious East Jordan memories that have been told to me by "the old-timers" of the area.

In the past few months, I have heard anecdotes, tragedies, and incidents about the old days that have changed my view of the town.

I look out my kitchen window at Water Tower Hill and can imagine the neighborhood children of the 1890's hauling cracker barrels up so they could get inside and roll down the steep incline. Much to their mother's dismay.

The neighborhood children still use that hill, only now they use five speed two wheel bicycles and probably have a much higher "accident" rate.

George Secord can remember he and five other young people coming down Water Tower Hill on a toboggan on a winter night. They had built up so much speed in the descent that they crashed through Mrs. Sedam's kitchen door and ended up under the kitchen table. The girl on the front of the toboggan looked up with a smile and said, "Well, hi there, Mrs. Sedam!" Of course they fixed the

door.

My oldest son, Darrin, found a two inch high china doll while playing on the hill last summer. Remnants of children from another time - - a link with the present.



**Hazel Blair**

Then there was the quilting bee at Mrs. LaLonde's in the early 1900's. The ladies were all sitting around the quilting frame when the priest dropped by for a visit. Mrs. LaLonde took his coat and laid it on top of the women's coats, for which he promptly slapped her across the face. His coat was not to be mixed with those who were "unholy".

Needless to say, the quilting bee was ended right then and there and Mrs. LaLonde suffered a great deal of em-

barrassment.

In those early days, it was not the best idea for a young lady to walk down the streets after dark and mother's warned their daughters that only unladylike women would do such things.

Swannie, who owns Swannie's Rainbow Bar, told me the story of Duell LaLonde's horse. Duell and his family owned the saloon where Swannie's is now located on Mill Street. Their horse was an avid beer drinker and they would get the horse drunk, take it out to the fairgrounds (now the football field) to race it. They took bets on how far behind the horses it would be.

Jinny Giacomelli, a descendant of Duell LaLonde, says that one side of the saloon was called the "Sample Room." Beer distributors would bring in their barrels of beer to be tested by the family. The saloon was closed on sample day and only the best beers were chosen to be sold in the saloon. It was serious business.

My own memories include being taken to Gidley's for a coke by my sister Janie and the smell of freshly ground coffee in Bos's Supermarket (now Glen's) and the A&P Store (now the Circus O'Flavors). One of the big events of my kin-

dergarten year was gathering with the other students at recess to watch the construction of the present elementary school. The old elementary building was at best a grim structure and the kindergarten was housed in the basement; probably so we couldn't escape if we

decided we didn't like it. Mrs. Sidebotham was our teacher. I still have the little plates that she sent out full of homemade chocolate cookies when I came down with the measles, chicken pox, and mumps, not necessarily in that order.

I have so many good memories of East

Jordan and in my talks with George Secord, Doris Huckle, Jinny Giacomelli, and others who know the history of the town and its people. I have been able to add many more.

Happy Birthday, East Jordan! You really are an interesting town.

## Hite Drug Co. -- longtime family business



AMOS JAY HITE

THE CHARACTER of the store has hardly changed in 67 years, as can be seen from this photo taken shortly after William Boswell built the building in 1911. A poster on the clothing store at right advertises "The Missouri Girl" at the Opera House on Thursday, June 13. A man can be seen sitting in the upstairs window (at left) in Boswell Studio, above the drug store.

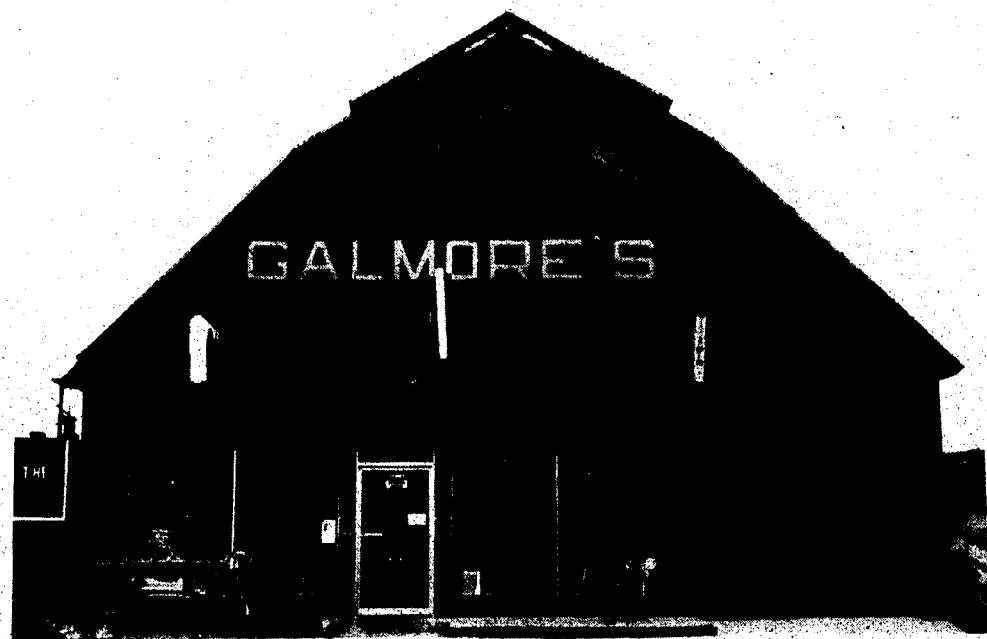


JAY (BUD) HITE

HAPPY CENTENNIAL  
TO ALL OUR  
FRIENDS AND  
CUSTOMERS

EAST JORDAN

## CONGRATULATIONS TO EAST JORDAN ON ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



TOM, ANNABELL, TOM JR., HAROLD & LARRY

1878

**GALMORE'S**

1978

105 2nd St.

EAST JORDAN



### First squad

Former Police Chief Harry Simmons stands proudly outside of East Jordan's first official police car, bought in the early 1950's. Before that, the police used their own cars when they needed to chase down bad guys.

East Jordan has come a long way . . . from the log cabin to the architecture . . . from the covered wagon to the aeroplane . . . from the hand plow to the modern equipment. Gulf & Western congratulates the people of East Jordan on this significant milestone in its history ( 100 years) and extend sincere best wishes for a wonderful safe celebration.

" WE SALUTE THE PAST and  
LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE"



**Gulf & Western  
Stamping Co.**

EAST JORDAN

Date Error

# Congratulations to our East Jordan neighbors from your friends in Boyne City




Happy Birthday  
to our other half  
of the Twin Valley-  
Jordan Valley  
From all your  
friends and  
neighbors in Boyne Valley

**FINEOUTS  
TWIN VALLEY  
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO TO OUR  
East Jordan Neighbors

1878 1978



RICHARD & SHIRLEY WALKER


**BAY MARINE**

9 to 6 Daily & Sat.  
10 to 3 Sundays

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JAKE and JOANN WOULD LIKE TO  
TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH  
EVERYONE IN EAST JORDAN A  
HAPPY CENTENNIAL. THEY WOULD  
ALSO LIKE TO THANK THEIR  
CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED  
LOYALTY AND SUPPORT.



Jake's  
Shoe  
Shop


114 E. Main,  
Boyne City

Happy  
Centennial to  
All Our Friends  
in East Jordan



Boyne City — Petoskey — Charlevoix

We extend  
our  
congratulations  
to  
East Jordan  
on their  
**CENTENNIAL**



The Boyne Theatre

We have appreciated your patronage

**THE DEPOT**



RESTAURANT

fine home cooking


1878 1978

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
Friends & Neighbors

BOYNE CITY

Happy Birthday To Our Neighbors  
And Friends In East Jordan

WATER STREET BOYNE CITY MICH.



ABOUT 1905

**BOGEMA PHARMACY**

121 E. WATER BOYNE CITY

Happy Birthday to our  
many friends in  
East Jordan


"THE GOOD OL' DAYS"



**B & B ROOFING**

BOYNE CITY

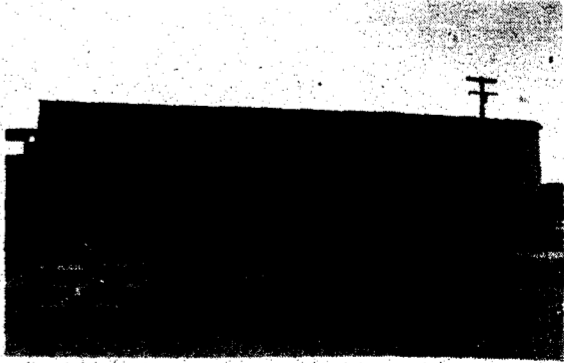
Congratulations  
to the community of  
East Jordan on your 100th birthday.



**MR. J's RESTAURANT**

BOYNE CITY

GIL COON'S  
FURNITURE  
BOYNE CITY



Gil Coon's Furniture would like  
to join in by wishing all  
East Jordanites a Happy 100th  
Centennial Celebration.

Date Error





The company store is no more, but it lives on in the memories of East Jordan residents such as Lorraine Gagnon. Not the least of their memories would be prize-winning cheeses such as the one shown above. (Photo courtesy of George Secord.)

## Wonders in store

I have some fond memories of East Jordan. As a child the one thing that comes first to my mind is the company store. I was fascinated by the wares that one could just look at.

I was raised on a farm southeast of town on Carson Road. We made one trip to town a week. It was a treat to look at the rows of cookies in bins with glass doors. Mom made cookies at home but they never looked like those that were in the store, and unattainable to a small child, especially during the depression.

I remember the big heads of cheese, that was sliced as it was sold. The weight was always close to that ordered. Pickles stood in wooden barrels on the floor. Another thing that we never bought. Mother made ours. The shelves of canned goods that lined the walls clear to the ceiling. I just loved it when we had to have something from one of the shelves to high to reach. A hook on a pole was used to pull them down.

I always wondered if they would be dropped by the clerk, it never was. The top most shelves were reached by a ladder that scooted along the wall. A push and it went full length of the store. There were no baskets to pick up your groceries in; you asked, the clerk got it for you.

The meat case stood in the back. Meat was cut as you asked for it. I guess that about all our family bought was flour, salt, sugar, tea, coffee and tobacco. It was a wonderland for me. Best of all was the candy counter. Rows of glass jars with mouth watering goodies to delight any child. My mouth still waters today when I think about it. Somehow a bag of candy always was put in with the groceries, compliments of the store. We never knew what would be in the basket.

I remember the cracker barrel and the cat that slept near or in it. Mason Clark Sr. was a very gentle man and knew how to talk to a child. He made you feel important and he had patience with those who took a long time to spend the penny that they had. The large bunches of bananas hung uncut. A finger taken off when they were purchased. They had a big black banana spider in a jar in the window. This had been with the bananas when they came in. One of the great wonders of my youth.

The second half of the store was a hardware. Here wicks and chimneys for the lamps were bought. Wall paper, paints, nails, and staples for the fence.

Mom made butter and sold it for 16 cents a pound. This paid for our week's supply of food. The hours that she spent

churning the cream, printing the butter and wrapping it.



Lorraine Gagnon

I remember, too, the great weeping willows that lined the approach to the bridge. They formed a regal arch over the roadway. I came home for a vacation to

find them gone as was my youth.

Fires have taken a great many of the things that I remember. The Russel house, the school, the theater and the buildings where city hall now stands.

East Jordan is my town, or I am hers. Many things have changed as have I, but regardless of these things the memories still linger as the old days, in my mind. There is no more penny candy, no soda shop with homemade ice cream, made from real cream. No 16 cent butter or pickle barrel but I still love the town that has been home for most of my life.

## 'A great place to live'

The East Jordan schools of the 1930-1950 era contrast sharply with those of our present period. The depression brought many families to the north to try to make a living off the land. This resulted in the school having more students than ever before. Since there was no money for more teachers, the class size was increased until space was not available for another chair in the room. Teachers were given help to correct papers when the N.Y.A. authorized the school to employ older students.

John Smith

The superintendent ran the school, hired teachers for the minimum and bargained with each individual. There was no union contract or salary schedule to follow. There was a strong bond between all school employees that they were working for the students and the community.

The city placed a stop sign at Main St. and Garfield so the hill could be used for sliding. Jumpers and bobsleds were homemade and provided the recreation now provided by skiing.

The Temple Theater, with adult admission of two for 25 cents, drew people from all over the area and along with the

school was the community center.

The East Jordan High School, built in 1923, had an auditorium and gymnasium combination. The gym floor was the stage of the auditorium and spectators sat in the auditorium. The school was so crowded in the mid-1930's that the auditorium was used as a study hall. All class rooms were filled to capacity with little thought of class size.

I remember the morning in 1941 when the high school burned. When the firemen arrived there was only smoke and after examining the building to find the source I heard one fireman say "We'll never save it!"

The fire was in the crawl space under the auditorium and soon built enough pressure to blow through the roof. One bus load of students arrived for school just as the flames showed through the classroom windows. They got off the bus and stood with tears in their eyes - their school was burning.

Following the fire the entire community worked to clean up the brick and the building site. Al Rogers took the contract to enclose the rooms on the east end which had not burned. School met on half day sessions while the school on Fourth St. was being built. The scarcity of material brought about by World War II made building a real struggle.

Times change but people do not. There are those wonderful people of East Jordan who support their community and their young people and make this a great place in which to live.

John B. Smith  
(former high school principal)

## A night at the theater, thanks to a generous dad

It is said, "we are a part of everyone we meet", and I certainly feel that I am a part of East Jordan. There are so many memories, it is not easy to single one out.

Eleanor Carson

When I was very young I was an avid reader, and books were the delight of my life. Among the books that I read were those written by Gene Stratton Porter. After reading "Freckles" and "A Girl of the Limberlost" I wrote to the author, telling her how beautiful her stories were and how I loved the characters. She answered my letter, telling me the world was full of wonderful people.

The memory of one night at the theater is still pleasant to recall. It so happened that "The Girl of the Limberlost" was

made into a play, and it was coming to the East Jordan Theater. Excitement reigned. I wanted to see it more than anything in the world. That summer, around 1916, we were at a cottage some 2½ miles north of East Jordan.

My father's store had burned in Deward with no insurance, so we were not in the best of circumstances. We didn't own a car. But my dad, knowing how badly I wanted to see the play, promised me we would walk to town and go to the theater. At last the day arrived. The sky grew cloudy, it looked like rain. Knowing that the rain would prevent us from going, I watched the clouds, praying that the sky would clear. Then at sunset hour the sky was a blaze of color, and I knew it wouldn't rain.

We set off for town after supper and walking was a breeze. We arrived at the theater a bit early. A large screen covered the stage. On the screen were colored squares of space advertising the places of business. I read them all - The Grocers, the Clothing Stores, the Ice Cream Parlor, the Druggists, the Jewelers, and the banks, one being the People's Bank where

I later worked. Never had I seen such a big screen.

And now it was time for the play. The huge screen slowly rolled up and revealed the stage. The play began. The setting was the Limberlost. The Limberlost was a tract of timber in Indiana. The lumber from those trees was taken to the Grand Rapids Lumber Company.

Elnora Comstock was the heroine, and the girl of the Limberlost. She roamed the swamps and collected large moths. The beautiful Luna Moth and the equally lovely Yellow Emperor were two of the rarer ones, the luna moth being a delicate green with circles of orchid. A young man from the city, the Bird Woman, the timber boss and many others completed the cast. The whole story unfolded on the stage. It was the first play I had ever seen.

That evening so long ago was a night to remember, an evening spent at the little theater in East Jordan. There have been many plays since, both here and abroad. But this first play was a beautiful memory perhaps partly because it included the memory of a father who understood the yearning of a young girl's heart.

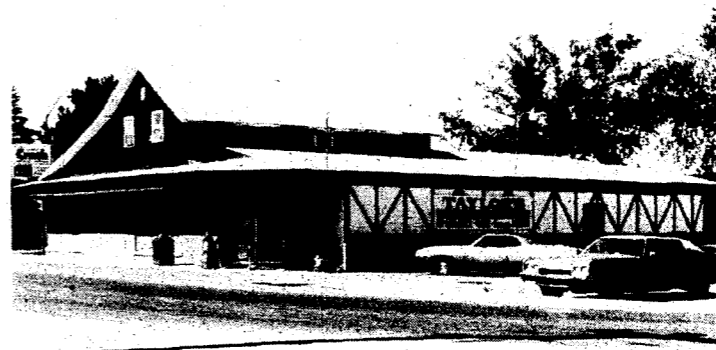
Eleanor McBride Carson

We sincerely enjoy serving you and we join in extending "HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY" WISHES TO THE FRIENDS WE HAVE IN EAST JORDAN

1878 SOUTH ARM



1978 EAST JORDAN



# TAYLOR'S



Beer - Wine - Pkg. Liquor

Phone 536-2654

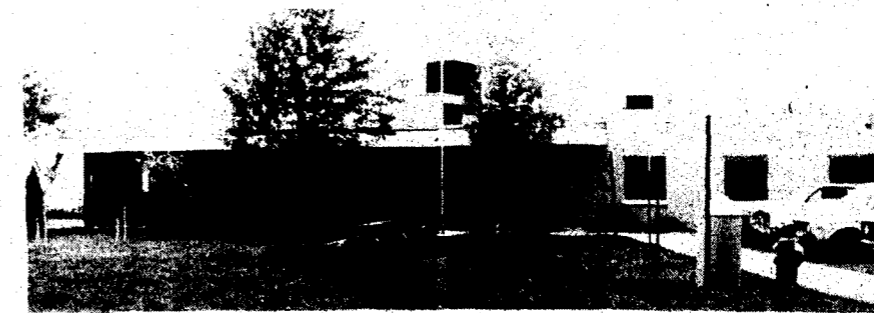
EAST JORDAN

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 9:00 AM TO 10:00 PM

ITT Automotive Electrical Products Division salutes East Jordan on its one hundredth anniversary, and we join the centennial celebration with our friends and neighbors. We sincerely congratulate those who through their foresight and courage made possible the growth and development of East Jordan. Here's to the beginning of a successful second hundred years.



1890



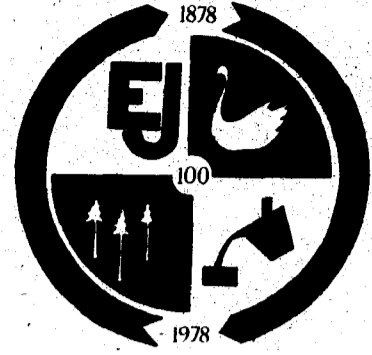
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## ITT AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS DIVISION

EAST JORDAN

Date Error

# 1878 EAST JORDAN 1978

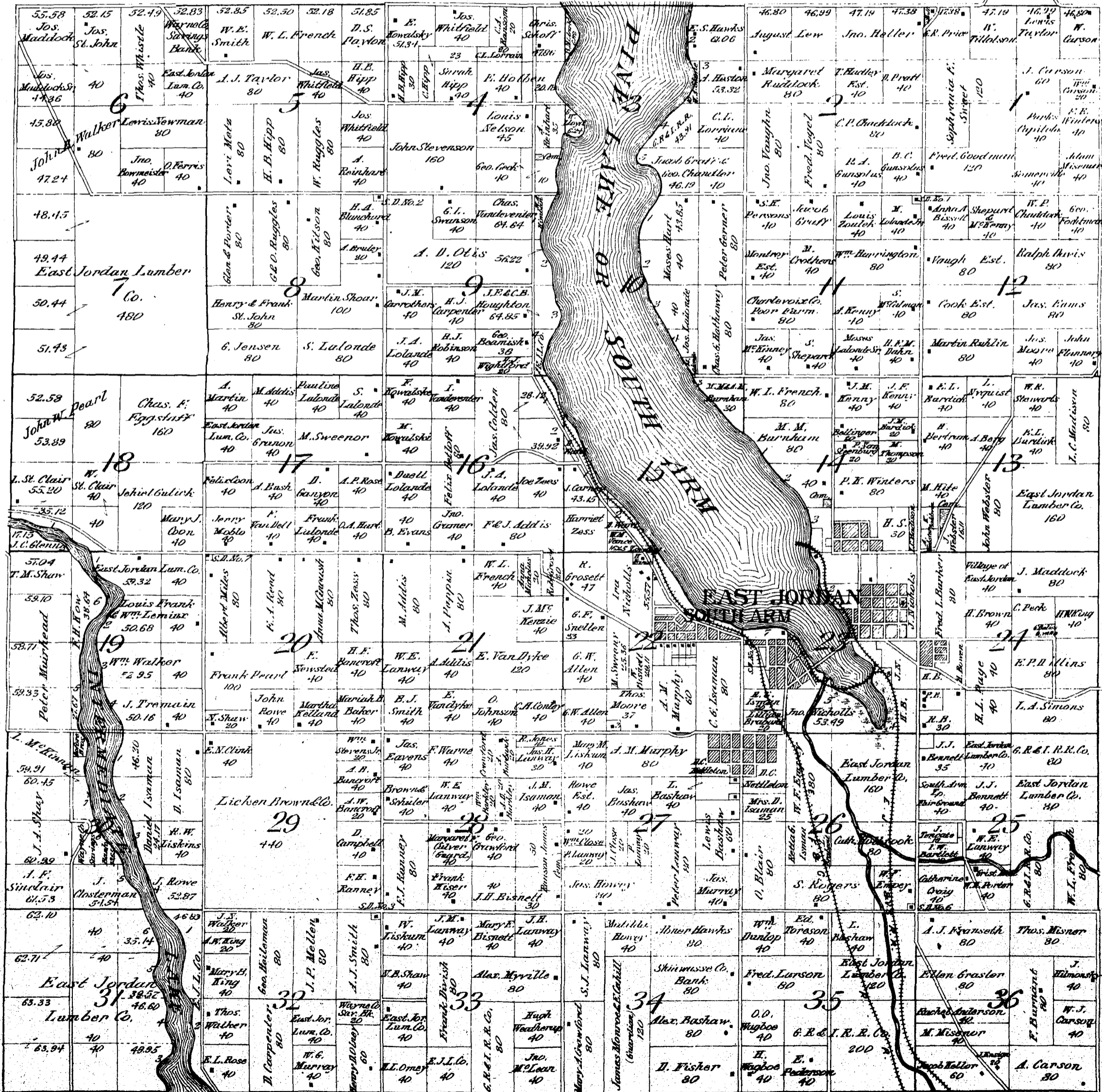


PLAT OF

## SOUTH ARM

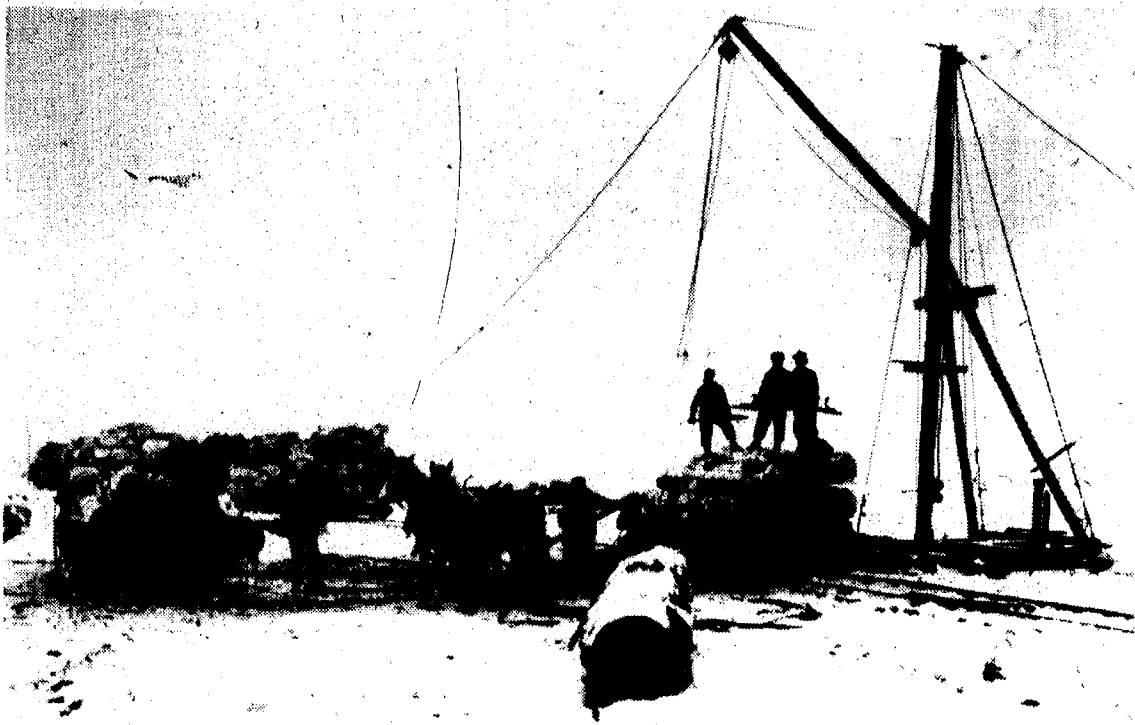
Township 32 North, Range 7 West  
OF THE MICHIGAN MERIDIAN  
CHARLEVOIX CO. MICH.  
1901

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile



Date Error





**Timber!**

The lumbering industry provides much of East Jordan's history. There were no chain saws to help the men chop down these huge trees. (George Secord collection.)

## Everyone loves a parade

Everyone loves a parade, especially a centennial parade, so East Jordan's Fourth of July parade should be a big hit this year.

Registration for the parade begins at 12:30 p.m. on the Fourth, according to parade co-chairmen Russ Peck and Jan Gothro. The parade will begin from East Jordan High School at 2 p.m. and go along Fourth Street to Division to Main Street. The parade will go south on Main Street to Bridge and go down Bridge to the ITT plant. The reviewing stand will be on Main.

Peck said the parade usually has 70-85 entries. This year's Grand Marshal is Dr. Jerry Van Dellen, a retired physician who practiced in East Jordan.

The following awards will be given: Mayor's award, centennial award for best float, stockcar classic, antique classic, horse award, best over-all exhibit, business award, neighbor award, century award, marching award and marching band award and marching unit award.



Jan Gothro and Russ Peck -- He's been running parades for three years, but she's getting in "deeper than I thought."

## Plenty of hard work goes into centennial

Con't. from page 3

response. Last-minute scramble. "There are a lot of things that just can't be done until the last minute," Jan Gothro says. Russ Peck said there are sometimes 15-20 entries on the day of the parade. Jan added, hopefully, that "everything falls into place at the last minute."

A request for donations netted \$880. "I was amazed, Baumann says. "The checks just started coming in." Various organizations started planning activities for the big weekend. Some are annual events; others are new this year.

"This centennial committee is doing some activities but the clubs in town are really carrying the ball," Baumann said. "I don't even know everything that's going to happen. I think just about everyone in town will be involved one way or another."

The centennial committee decided they needed a logo to help publicize the event, so they held a logo contest. Andy Allen's entry was judged the best of the 18 entered, and so his design is now on the T-shirts and buttons now seen around town.

The committee had no problem coming up with enough ideas to fill the long weekend. In fact, the hard part was deciding what events they would not be able to produce.

"The tough decision-making started about three weeks ago," Baumann said. "We had to start saying 'no' to people. You can't do everything you want if you want your projects to turn out well."

The committee members and parade chairmen are now getting ready for the

last-minute scramble. "There are a lot of things that just can't be done until the last minute," Jan Gothro says. Russ Peck said there are sometimes 15-20 entries on the day of the parade. Jan added, hopefully, that "everything falls into place at the last minute."

Last minute details for Peck and Gothro include getting the judging stand built and decorated, and finding parade judges.

"It's just a lot of last minute detail work now," said Jamie Baumann. "The musket-loaders need an area roped off for their thing, and we have to find a farmer with a hay wagon to bring the jail from Boyne Falls."

Even though she's been busy, Baumann said the centennial hasn't been as much work for her as she thought it would. "The committee has worked as a group," she said. "Everyone has proved to be a hard worker."

Another big help has been the cooperation of the townspeople. "I thought we'd have to twist people's arms, but it's an idea the people have gone for," she said.

"They just seem to get behind things like a centennial. People in East Jordan seem close to where they came from."

"I just hope people take advantage of the work that other people have done. There's so much going on."

We're moving along with progress . . . Congratulations East Jordan on your 100 years.



**EAST JORDAN TOOL & DIE INC.**

**HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY TO ALL IN EAST JORDAN**

**BOYNE-ESSEX**

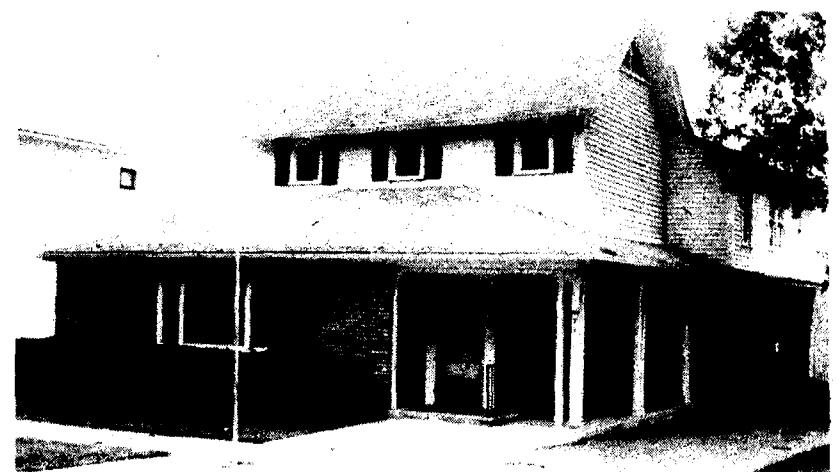
BOYNE CITY

**HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY TO OUR FRIENDS IN EAST JORDAN**



**BEN FRANKLIN**  
9:00 a.m. to 5:30 daily Boyne City

MAY WE EXPRESS SINCERE BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR A HAPPY EAST JORDAN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



**WATSON FUNERAL HOME**  
EAST JORDAN

THE OLD



THE NEW



**RAY & AILEEN BARRIAULT**  
**THE WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT**  
M66 - M32 EAST JORDAN

**We Hope You Have An Enjoyable Time At Our CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

To the making of fond memories then and now **VISIT CHUCK'S PLACE**

MAIN ST. EAST JORDAN



LA LONDE'S SALOON IN THE LUMBERING YEARS

STRANGER OR OLD FRIEND . . . WE WANT TO JOIN IN WISHING EACH OF YOU A HAPPY CENTENNIAL



MARY & BILL

**NORTHWEST BUSINESS SERVICE, INC.**

101 Bridge St., East Jordan

Date Error