

The Grand Valley Ledger

Volume 7, Issue 11

Serving Lowell Area

Readers Since 1893

January 19, 1983

Graham Building is historical site

In a joint effort, the Showboat Garden Club, the West Central Michigan Historical Society, and the Lowell City Council contributed toward the purchase and installation of a state approved marker recognizing the Graham building, which houses the library and the YMCA, as an historical building.

The Marker was installed in front of the building Monday, January 17.

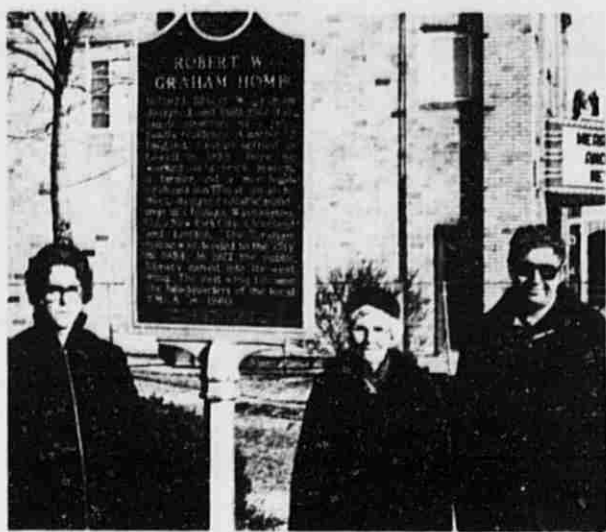
According to Garden Club member Bruce Walter, the suggestion for an official marker for the Graham building originated with the Showboat Garden Club. After a committee consisting of Walter, Evelyn Briggs, and Mildred Lind had considered the

matter, they opted to purchase a state approved historical marker.

Owing to the high costs of purchasing such a marker, the Garden Club invited the City Council and the West Central Michigan Historical Society to participate in the project, which they readily agreed to do.

The text of the cast aluminum marker, which was prepared by Virginia Fonger and Thelma Hahn, reads as follows:

In 1873 Robert W. Graham designed and built this Italianate structure as a two-family residence. A native of England, Graham settled in Lowell in 1858. Here he worked as a brick mason, a farmer and a merchant. Graham's son Ernest, an ar-



Standing beside the new marker are Olive Cook, president of the Showboat Garden Club, Evelyn Briggs, president of the West Central Michigan Historical Society, and Jim Maatman, mayor pro-tem.

chitect, designed notable buildings in Chicago, Washington, D.C., New York City, Cleveland, and London. The Graham house was deeded to the city in

1954. In 1922 the public library moved into its west wing. Its east wing became the headquarters of the local YMCA in 1960.

Canoe livery may open here

A new form of recreation may be available to area residents and tourists next summer thanks to an amendment passed by the Lowell City Council Monday

evening. The amendment to Lowell's zoning ordinance will now make it possible for certain recreational businesses to operate in RR residential districts with prior approval from both the Planning Commission and City Council.

Council Okays Cable TV for Township

One more hurdle blocking cable TV service to parts of Lowell Township was cleared Monday evening when the Lowell City Council voted to approve a consent agreement between the township and the Lowell Cable Television Department. The Lowell Township Board of Trustees had already approved the agreement.

The resolution passed by the council authorized Mayor Dean Collins and City Manager Ray Quada to execute the agreement. One more obstacle that must be cleared is procuring authorization from Consumers Power Company to string cable on their poles in the township. Major residential areas such as Key Heights Trailer Park and Eastgate in the Woods will definitely be provided service. Other areas will or will not be serviced depending on whether or not they meet the criteria spelled out in the agreement. We were unable to contact officials who could explain the details of the agreement prior to our press time.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE LEDGER

PRECISION & FASHION HAIRSTYLING - For both men and women. Man's World Hairstyling. Phone 897-8102.

The amendment stemmed from a request from John and Karen Bosserman of Grand Rapids asking to be allowed to construct a canoe livery on property they are purchasing from Arnold Wittenbach of Lowell. The property is on the east edge of the city and runs from Main Street to the Grand River.

Bosserman hopes to begin construction in the spring. The livery will consist of an office building near Main Street, parking area, driveway to the river, launch site and about thirty canoes. Bosserman explained that after studying area rivers, he found the Grand at Lowell to be ideal because it's about two hours to the public landing at Ada and about four hours to the public landing on West River Drive near the East Beltline. Bosserman calculates that the livery will produce about 2,000 rentals over the six month period that they plan to be open.

Bosserman pointed out that canoeing is great family recreation, as well as being a good outing for youth groups of all kinds. Bosserman predicts that the livery will bring a certain amount of tourist business to the community's restaurants, gas stations and convenience stores.

Appointments not always needed at Vanity Hair Fashions. Open five days Lowell, 897-7506.

ROSIE DRIVE INN - 800 W. Main, Lowell, Eggs and Cornbeef Hash, \$1.75; Hamburger Basket, \$1.40.

School Board votes to shuffle administrators

In a special meeting of the Lowell Board of Education held Monday, January 17, the board, after meeting in closed session with the administrators of the Lowell Area Schools, unanimously approved a motion to authorize School Superintendent Donald Kelly to reassign administrators.

Kelly acted quickly on this authorization, and on Tuesday he issued a statement to all school personnel announcing administrative reassignments which affect every school but the high school.

New assignments, effective January 24, are as follows:

Alto Principal -- Jim White, Bushnell Principal and Curriculum Director -- Dirk Venema, Runciman Principal and Special Ed Director -- Bill Kirby, Middle School Principal -- Dave Burdette, Middle School Consultant -- John Gabrion.

Kelly said Tuesday that the reassignments were not intended to be punitive, but were instead intended to "revitalize" the schools involved.

"There's nothing negative about it," Kelly said. "The board wants to see if we can't perk things up."

In other action Monday night, the board set March 14 as the date for the school millage election, but it did not arrive at a definite millage proposal. The ad hoc committee formed to discuss the millage vote had suggested a three-year millage proposal of 21.8 mills in 1983, 22 mills in 1984, and 22.2 mills in 1985.

The board will meet once again Monday, March 24, to determine a millage proposal. All voted operational millage for the school has expired, and the board is anxious to get a millage proposal set and presented to the property owners in the Lowell School District.

Kelly also announced Tuesday that "there have been some very good things going on" in informal contract negotiations between representatives of the board and the teachers union. Both the board and the teacher team have a tentative plan which they hope to present formally to the teachers in the coming week.

Kelly said that the groups are "in the process of getting numbers together," and he expressed confidence that an end to the contract negotiations is in sight.

New officer sworn in



James Valentine

The Lowell Police Department has selected a new officer to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Sgt. James Hutson.

James Valentine, 29, a lifelong resident of Lake Odessa and a graduate of Lakewood High School, began working in Lowell on Monday, January 17.

Valentine was chosen from a field of 60 applicants on the basis of oral and written examinations, employment record, and an

evaluation of his physical and psychological stability.

Valentine comes to Lowell after eight and one-half years on the Lake Odessa police force, the last six years as a sergeant.

A former student of Lansing Community College, Valentine plans to move his wife, Cheryl, and their children, Alana and Keith, to Lowell in the near future.



ATTENTION LOWELL CLASS OF 1978

It's time for us to plan our five year reunion. There is a meeting January 27, 1983 at 7:00 P.M. in the High School. room will be posted. If you would like to help but cannot make the meeting contact Laura (Dey) Leasure at 897-8916.

IOKEMA PARADE '83

The Iokema District of the West Michigan Shores Boy Scouts of America is putting on a scout fest 1983 on April 30, 1983 in Lowell, MI.

There will be a scout parade with over 1,000 scouts participating. To make this scout fest a big success, we want to start with a festive parade.

Following the parade there will be displays at the Riverside school and a campfire in the evening at the Showboat Amphitheatre. There will be a featured speaker plus a Cub Scout crossover. We need everyone's help to make this successful.

Would you volunteer your organizations to participate in this parade?

Contact Dick Conlisk, 1800 W. Main St., Lot 26, Lowell, MI 49331, 897-6551.

LHS HOCKEY TEAM HOLDS FUNDRAISER

The Lowell High School Hockey Team will be holding a fundraiser hockey game against Saginaw Eisenhower 9 P.M. Saturday, January 22, at the Cascade Ice Arena. Proceeds from the game will go to the hockey team. Tickets will be on sale at the high school or may be purchased at the gate. Ticket prices are \$2.00 student, \$2.50 adults.

OFF THE BLOTTER

Two subjects, one a juvenile, were arrested Wednesday, Jan. 12 and charged with illegal entry with the intent to commit a felony. The two entered a storage barn and took several items. Both will be charged and sent to their respective courts at a later date.

Lowell officers recovered a vehicle stolen from the city of Wyoming on Pleasant St. early Wednesday. The unoccupied vehicle was returned to its owner. Police are investigating the matter further.

James Geldersma of Lowell was struck broadside at Main and Monroe Friday afternoon when a vehicle driven by Ralph Kuiper attempted to make a left turn off Monroe onto Main St. There were no injuries.

David Allen of Lowell failed to stop in time and caused a 3 car accident on Main St. near the C & O Railroad tracks Friday afternoon. Allen collided with the rear of a car driven by Dorris Malone who was slightly injured. The impact sent Malone's car into the rear of the vehicle in front of her driven by Mark Mason.

Cited to appear in 63rd District court on loitering charges by Lowell officers on Wed. was Brian DeBold of Lowell.

Former L.H.S. student in fencing tourney



Wade Thompson

Former Lowell High School student Wade Thompson, a sophomore at Culver Military Academy, Culver, Indiana, has qualified for the 1983 National Junior Olympic Fencing Tournament in Tampa, Florida, February 19, 20 and 21.

In the Midwest Division Qualifying meet at Notre Dame in December, Thompson qualified for the national tournament by finishing first in men's under 16 sabre and third in men's under 16 foil. The meet lumps all com-

petitors in each weapon with final placings in the under 16 and under 20 classifications based on their overall match records. In other meets this year Thompson has finished 2nd in men's under 16 foil at the Culver Invitational, 3rd in men's under 16 foil at the Gordon Tech/Chicago Invitational and Illinois qualifier and 2nd at a recent dual meet at Culver. Wade took up fencing seriously this past October when he went out for the Culver fencing team. He is now number 2

foil on the Frosh/Soph team and an alternate on Varsity foil.

The National Junior Olympic Tournament includes three men's weapons: foil, sabre and epee plus women's foil. 600 competitors will be fencing in

the under 16 and under 20 classifications. Ten members of Culver's fencing team have qualified for the National Tournament. Wade is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Thompson, 10110 Foreman Road.

Rock & mineral show at G.R. Museum

On January 30, 1983, the Grand Rapids Mineral Society's annual rock and mineral exhibit, "Collectors Choice", begins at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, continuing through February 27, this exhibit features the diverse and unusual aspects of rock collecting by displaying club members personal collections of minerals, crystals, fossils, geods, micromounts, fluorites, petrified wood and more.

The Grand Rapids Mineral Society, founded in 1958, has sponsored an exhibit at the Public Museum for 23 years. The exhibit at the museum differs from most rock and mineral shows in that it is a public service, non-profit effort designed to make the public aware of the real beauty found in this interesting hobby and of the special resources available in Michigan.

Highlighting the 1983 exhibit is a "touch table" where visitors can examine first hand a variety of rocks and minerals. Micromount and thumbnail crystals can be viewed through an electronic microscope allowing people to enjoy their incredible beauty -- something that cannot be appreciated by the naked eye alone.

Each weekend, during the exhibit, hobbyists will demonstrate rock polishing, sand painting, lapidary (finishing of stones for jewelry), slabbing (cutting), faceting (cutting as in diamonds) and other related activities. On Sunday, February 6th and 13th,

free programs on mineral collecting in Michigan, including discussion of rock types and mineral identification, are scheduled. Program time is 3:45 P.M.

Although the exhibit is sponsored by the Grand Rapids Mineral Society, other southwest Michigan rockhound clubs from such communities as Wyoming, Holland, Muskegon, Kalamazoo, Grand Haven, etc. have been invited to participate.

"Collectors Choice" the 1983 Rock and Mineral exhibit is open during regular Museum hours, which are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission to the Museum is \$1 for adults and 50¢ for children (5-15) and senior citizens. Children under 5 are admitted free.

The following is a tip from the Better Business Bureau to help you avoid being taken by unscrupulous persons after your dollars.

Ask the seller to give you written information about the investment, including the prospectus or offering circular and financial statement. Read them or get help reading them BEFORE you sign a purchase order to pay for an investment. Such information is required for many types of investments, including stock offerings, limited partnerships, franchise offerings and mutual funds.

Rink near ready



Lowell D.P.W. employee Neal Fonger pours the water to the city skating rink in Richard's Park. If these cold temperatures hold, and snow doesn't become a problem, local skaters should have ice by the end of the week.

Your farm and our Farmowners insurance - a hard-working partnership.



Dale Johnson
1940 28th St., S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(616) 241-5920

I'm proud to be your partner. I provide complete farm protection from Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Michigan.

We're making your future a little more predictable.

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP

AD-3305-3 (6-81)

CLEARANCE

SMART SHOPPERS SALE DAYS

Special Group of Blouses
25% to 75% Off

Robes & Sleepwear
50% Off
women's & children's

Winter Snow Suits & Jackets
50% Off
Infant & Children's

Dode **THAT Special PLACE** Shir

215 W. Main, Lowell, 897-8545

Member Of The Lowell Area Chamber Of Commerce

ART'S

RADIO — TV SERVICE

Complete Repair Of
TVs - Radios - Antennas - Etc.

Phone 897-8196
104 E. Main, Lowell

BLUE CROCODILE CERAMICS

Ceramic Classes Tues & Thurs. Eve. - Sat A.M.
SIGN UP NOW!!!
897-5859 - 508 W. Main, Lowell

YARN SALE!

COATS & CLARK
RED HEART YARN
4 Ply, Over 90 Colors

\$ 1.00 Skein

Sale Ends Saturday

LAMBERT VARIETY

123 W. MAIN, LOWELL, MI 49331 • PH. 897-9918

WE'RE YOUR HOMETOWN DIME STORE MEETING YOUR VARIETY OF NEEDS

Hours: Monday thru Saturday 9 till 6 • Friday Evenings till 8