

# Limelight

## Historic businesses honored

**P**AULA BLANCHARD helped present recognition awards to 10 Michigan businesses that have reached their sesquicentennial anniversary.

The awards banquet took place Oct. 16 at the Botsford Inn, one of the businesses honored.



William Zehndor (left), Michigan Sesquicentennial Commission chairman, and Morri Jo Bates, commission director, at the awards night Oct. 16.

Ten businesses were honored as being in continuous operation since 1837, having a continuity of business purpose for at least 150 years and having verification of their founding dates.

As a special memento, John Anhut, Botsford Inn innkeeper and Michigan State Chamber of Commerce president, presented a personalized portfolio containing letters of commendation from state senators and representatives, U.S. Congressmen and Gov. Blanchard.

"The companies being honored survived not only typical growing pains (what sometimes causes businesses to fail within five years) but lived through the Civil War, an industrial revolution and major economic depressions . . . but in Michigan they lived through more . . . and that is what makes (the companies) being honored so unique," Anhut said.

Honored businesses are: Azar's Market (1836), Algonac; Atlas Feed and Grain Co. (1836), Clinton; Detroit Free Press (1831), Detroit; Menzel Milling Co. (1835), Dowagiac; Botsford Inn (1836), Farmington Hills; Kalamazoo Gazette (1837), Kalamazoo; National House Inn (1835), Marshall; Arm's Brothers (1837), Milford; Old Tavern Inn (1835), Niles; and George Jerome and Co. (1828), Roseville.

ASSISTING IN the awards ceremony were Susan Collins, president of the Historical Society of Michigan, and William Zehndor, chairman

of the Michigan Sesquicentennial Commission.

The salute to Michigan's sesquicentennial businesses was co-sponsored by the Historical Society of Michigan and the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Blanchard, a member of the official Sesquicentennial Commission, recognized the evening as one of the official celebration events leading into a full year of planned festivities. Urging everyone to take pride in Michigan as a good place to live and to work, she invited the audience of 100 to participate in and enjoy the forthcoming year's activities.

The first official sesquicentennial floral arrangement was given to Mrs. Blanchard by designer Carol Finn, who works for the Flower Box in Bay City and lives in Akron, Mich. The awards evening launched a

four-day Michigan history celebration at the Botsford. The 112th annual meeting and state history conference featured an Antiquarian Book Dealers Fair and 17 different educational sessions. Angel Bakos, public relations/marketing consultant for Botsford Inn, led a session titled "Mobilizing a Community Commemorative Program: The Botsford Sesquicentennial."

AT THE close of the conference

Oct. 19, 160 people viewed the displays and enjoyed local historic sites. Members expressed special appreciation of the opportunity to visit "Garall," a private collection of classic cars and model trains owned by Historical Society members Dick and Linda Kughn.

Anhut attributed the forum's success "to the many local individuals who cooperated with the Historical Society in the planning."



Michigan First Lady Paula Blanchard (second from right) presents sesquicentennial plaques to Botsford Inn innkeeper John Anhut (left) and Phyllis and Thomas Motlay, owners of Arm's Brothers in Milford, at ceremonies in Farmington Hills.

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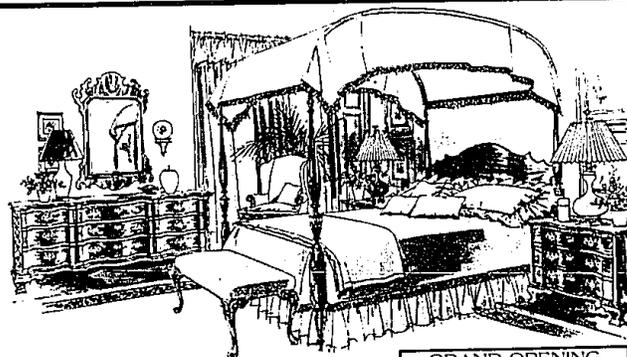
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