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West Point Park News

Miss L. A. Ault

GR. 4-4294

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Johnson gave a large dinner-party at their home on Clarita Avenue, Thanksgiving Day.

Only relatives were present. Mrs. Johnson's sister, Mrs. Johnson Porter, with her husband and three children, Carol Anne, John and David, from New London, Ohio, were honor guests.

The Porters were weekend house guests of the Johnsons.

Thanksgiving Day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Owen, Mayfield Avenue, were their eldest son, Kenneth Owen, with his wife and five daughters from Esau, and their youngest son, William Owen, with his wife and two daughters from Redford.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Houtz and their two sons, from near Ypsilanti, were Thanksgiving Day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. William W. Houtz, Mayfield Avenue. Several neighbors and a few relatives were guests.

A Hawaiian Birthday Party was recently given by Mr. and Mrs. William Dixon of Shady Side Avenue and honoring Glenn De Shano, also of Shady Side Avenue. Several neighbors and a few relatives were guests.

All arrived in Hawaiian costumes. A lunch, featuring Hawaiian foods, was served.

Mrs. Eugene Osborne, of Norfolk Avenue, was hostess to a Stanley Party Tuesday morning, November 26. Neighbors were guests.

Miss Joyce Roberts from Detroit was a Thanksgiving Day guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Roberts, of Mayfield Avenue.

Sunday, November 24, dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mabel Ault of Mayfield Avenue, were their daughter, Mrs. Tom Roberts, her husband and four children, from Monroe.

Mrs. John Varhol of Shady Side Avenue, was in Detroit Saturday evening, November 23, attending a celebration honoring the birthday of her eldest son, William.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Skow and their five children, of Mayfield Avenue, were Thanksgiving Day dinner guests of Mrs. Skow's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Kopnicka in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Voorhees, of Shady Side Avenue, were Thanksgiving Day guests of Mrs. Voorhees' sister, Mrs. Norman Gedig and her husband in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Schall and their two children, from Novi, were dinner guests Thanksgiving Day of Mrs. Schall's mother, Mrs. Ida Cannon, on Myron Avenue.

Miss Janet Hankins who was seriously ill with pneumonia in Mt. Carmel Hospital, returned home to Norfolk Avenue recently, but unfortunately suffered a relapse, so that convalescence is now slow.

Mr. and Mrs. John Varhol and their four daughters, Beverly, Dolores and Barbara, were dinner guests Thanksgiving Day of the Varhols' eldest daughter, Mrs. George Ring, in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. John Aittama of Shady Side Avenue, enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Max Holand in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Ault and their three children of Hubbard Avenue, spent the Thanksgiving weekend with relatives in Flint.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Richardson and their four daughters, of West Eight Mile Road, spent the Thanksgiving week-end with relatives in Akron, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. John Fulton, of Cardinal Avenue, left November 24 for Georgia, where they expected to have a short visit with their son, Private Bill Fulton. He has been stationed at a camp in Georgia, but is shortly leaving for overseas duty.

Mrs. Bill Fulton, who has been with her husband, will return home with her parents-in-law, Mrs. Bill Fulton is the former Patty Schull, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schull, Shady Side Avenue.

Mrs. Grace Simpson, Mayfield Avenue, was a Sunday evening, John Clappison Sells Insurance Phone GR. 4-3511

November 24, guest of her daughter, Mrs. Edward Brugman and her family in Novi. On Thanksgiving Day, she was the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Ray Ackerson, in Farmington.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Helton, of Mayfield Avenue, returned home Saturday from a ten day hunting trip in northern Michigan. They brought home their buck.

Harry Brow of Shady Side Avenue has returned from a hunting trip.

In Neighborhood Bible School, the Christmas Pot will be set-rolling on Sunday, December 8.

To spread the cheer of Thanksgiving Day, Neighborhood Sunshine Sisters sent out six boxes of fruit and goodies to the sick and shut-in of the immediate area.

If you have a Greenleaf 4 or a Mayfair 6 telephone number, or live in the area, please call Lora Ault, GR. 4-4294 and arrange to contribute your household discards to the Goodwill Industries. The next Goodwill pick-up is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, December 8 and 9.

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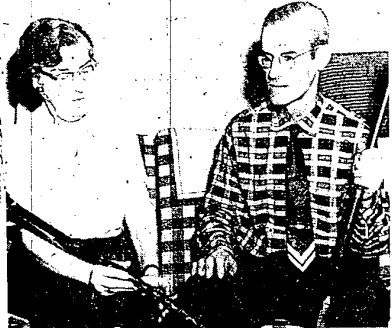
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GREENLEAF 4-6868 NEXT TO DRIVE-IN THEATRE AT TUCK RD.
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Designate Harley J. Gibson Property 'Centennial Farm'

If the Harley J. Gibson farm home at 22335 Halsted Road could talk it would be able to tell an interesting history of this area from the time of the first settlers to the present day.

The family homestead which the Harley Gibsons still live in, has been owned by the Gibson family since 1833. It is located on the west side of Halsted, north of Grand River Avenue and just south of 11 Mile Road.

THE TRACT of land on which the farm home is located was recently designated as a "centennial farm" by the Michigan Historical Commission. It is one of only a few farms in the state holding this distinction. This Thursday, December 5, the Gibsons will be presented with a "centennial farm" plaque at a dairymen's meeting at Commerce.

Except for minor additions and the installation of modern conveniences such as electricity, steam heat and inside water, the farm home looks much the same today as it did when it was built 118 years ago.

An addition was built onto the south side of the old farm home when Harley Gibson married and he and his wife, Ethel, lived there for several years before moving into the main portion of the house. This portion of the building is now rented out during the winter months when the Gibsons are away spending the winter months in Florida.

THE FIRST government entry regarding the owners of the parcel of land on which the farm is located was in the form of a U. S. Patent to Samuel Tucker of the east half of the northeast quarter section of Section 19 in Farmington Township dated September 1, 1826, and signed by President John Quincy Adams. A patent of the west half of the quarter section was given to Frastus Ingersoll in May of 1831 signed by Andrew Jackson. Tucker released his property to a Mr. Barnum in 1836 and he in turn sold it to William E. Pier in 1833. Pier owned the land from this time until he sold it to Leverett and Anna Harger in 1850. On October 6, 1853, Joseph and James Gibson moved here to take possession of the land.

There were three Gibson brothers who came here from North Ireland, Derry County, in 1830 and settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where they lived until moving to Michigan in 1853. While Joseph and Thomas Gibson were cutting out a general farming area on the highly wooded Farmington tract of 182 acres which they purchased "their other brother, Mathew, was settling on a tract of land in Wisconsin.

JOSEPH, who married Martha Morrison, had three children—Anna, Mary and Thomas—and it was Thomas who took over the operation of the farm line when his father died in 1894 at the age of 88. Thomas married in September of 1898 and he and his wife Pearl had one son, Harley.

Thomas Gibson lived on the homestead all his life and farmed it actively nearly all of this time, with the help of his only son, until his death on November 30, 1956. His wife, Pearl, who was a big help with the numerous duties of farm life, died in July of 1956.

The Gibson farm site has been reduced in size considerably and

now consists of only 51½ acres of the original 182. The last portion of property to be sold was 8½ acres to the State Highway Department. The new Farmington to Brighton Expressway route now cuts across the southwest corner of their property.

ALTHOUGH the Gibsons now do little farming on the land, an apple orchard is still maintained there by them. The main barn, built in 1886, still stands as do many of the old auxiliary farm buildings grouped around the farm house.

A feature on the site is an artesian well which provides water for the Gibson household and also keeps water trickling into a pond built to the south of the house by Harley Gibson's father over 50 years ago. A small park and picnic area around the pond, which is very well shielded by trees and evergreens, had been the scene of numerous family activities in past years, Mrs. Gibson related.

MR. GIBSON recalled that, as a boy, he used to swim in the pond which ranges from 3 to 6 feet in depth. He also related that at one time it had been stocked with a number of fish including bass, blue gills and sun fish.

While at the pond, Gibson pointed out a high knoll across the road on the Echo Valley Farms property, owned by the late Harry Sucher, and indicated that an artesian well also flowed there. He remembered that water had once ran from this point to Halsted Road where travelers stopped to drink at the roadside.

MANY of the early items used on the farm are still in the possession of the Gibsons including a candle-stick maker, old candle holders, a wooden mixing bowl and blacksmithing tools. A cane which Joseph Gibson brought from Ireland with him still stands in a corner.

The Gibsons also have a sizable collection of Indian arrowheads and crude stone tools used by them which have been picked up on the grounds over the years. That elk must have once roamed in this area is also attested to by a elk horn which was found on the property.

Mrs. Gibson indicated that they may turn over many of these items to the newly organized Oakland County Historical Commission.

Deer Hunting Survey Set

Annual post card surveys of deer hunting success will begin early in December with the mailing of questionnaires to some 600 special season permit holders.

In this survey—a random sampling of permittees in various areas—hunters will be asked to supply information about their hunting activity and success.

Data obtained in the survey gives a close estimate of the total special season kill and other basic information used in establishing hunting regulations and in other aspects of deer herd management.

Similar surveys of regular season hunters, archery deer hunters and small game hunters will be conducted during the coming months.

Westbrooke Manor News

ANITA COOK GR. 4-8632
BEV WILLIAMS GR. 4-6066

The Westbrooke Manor Association is giving their first dance called the Snowball for Westbrooke Manor on Saturday, January 25, at the Glen Oaks Country Club on 13 Mile Road.

Janet Hales, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cal Hales of Wayburn Drive celebrated her ninth birthday on Saturday, November 23, with a birthday party. Guests attending were Adriane and Joanne Lechiara, Judy and Susan Wolff, Nancy Middlewood, Sharon Vincent, Linda Newman, Cynthia Senger, Carol Weber, and Marcia Hales.

Women from Westbrooke Manor interested in joining an evening pinocle club are asked to call Jeanne Laajala at GR. 4-8637.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Brown and family visited Mr. and Mrs. James R. Brown on Bella Vista Drive for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Two foreign exchange students from Indonesian and Venezuela visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Brown on Thanksgiving.

Four couples from Westbrooke Manor have started a pinocle club. The first meeting was held at Mrs. Lademan's home on N. Markham.

Couples in the pinocle club are Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Acciaoli, Mr. and Mrs. H. Vincent, Mr. and Mrs. R. Lademan all of N. Markham.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Loria went to Marine City for the Thanksgiving holidays to visit Mr. and Mrs. James Ticknor. Mr. Loria's sister and brother-in-law.

Mr. and Mrs. James Fortier of Bella Vista Drive entertained Mr. and Mrs. Gunnar Anderson and daughter for the Thanksgiving holidays. Mrs. Anderson is the sister of Mrs. Fortier.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Ferguson went to Illinois for the Thanksgiving holidays. They were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Ferguson in Mount City, Illinois, and Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hogendobler in Olmsted, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mason went to Detroit for Thanksgiving to have dinner with Mrs. Mason's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sherman of Bella Vista Drive spent Thanksgiving day and the weekend following Thanksgiving at their summer home in Lewiston.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin Ault of Brentwood Avenue attended a Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Party given at the home of their daughter, Mrs. George Throne, near Ypsilanti.

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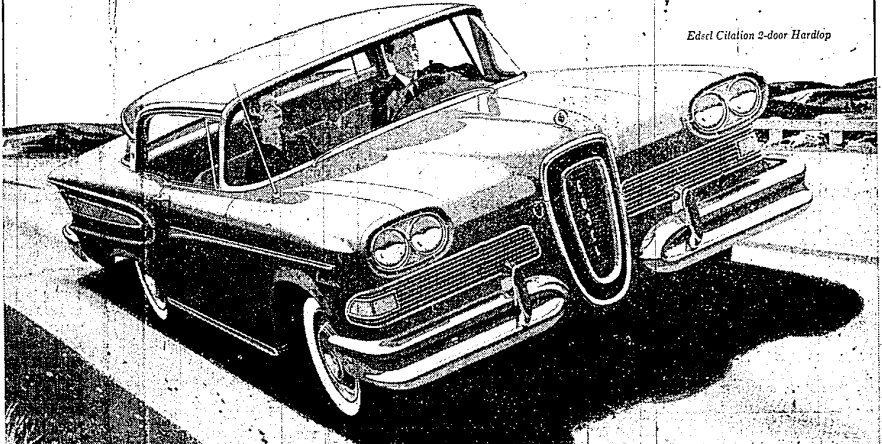
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