

# Finding historical markers became his hobby

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which destroyed millions of acres of timberland swept across the Lower Peninsula that same day. Ten years later, there was another fire in the Thumb area which destroyed thousands and thousands of acres of timberland.  
A marker in a state park near Muskegon tells the story of the 1871 fire. Using his map of historic attractions (no longer in print as far as Bates knows), one day, the couple headed for the southwest corner of

the state to find the marker for St. Joseph Mission—one of the first missions in the state. It had flourished under four flags, Spanish, French, English and American. The map described the marker as located in a cemetery near Bertrand. From the directions, Bates knew they were in the right area. They found Bertrand Road, but no town by that name.  
"No one I asked knew anything about it."

ALMOST READY TO GIVE UP, he tried one more time at a little gas station-general store.

"An old fella heard me talking to the owner and came over explaining he hunted in that area. He told me to go down the road to the wagon track and take the track to the iron gate."  
Sure enough, at the end of the track there was the iron gate, a small cemetery and the marker at the site of the original mission founded in the late 1700s.

Most sites have been considerably easier to find—few more interesting. Bates has a special feeling for the marker at the northernmost point of the Lake Michigan shoreline. It is just east of the small community of Nausbaug.

"Each of the Great Lakes has a marker," Bates says, explaining that this northern point was originally the western boundary of the state in the Upper Peninsula.

"But as a result of the Toledo War—did you know Michigan and Ohio had a war? No shots were fired and the armies managed to avoid each other—but Congress gave the To-

ledo area to Ohio. And they gave Michigan all the territory in the peninsula west of that northern point."

BATES SAYS THE STATE'S No. 1 marker is on the campus of Michigan State University, the first agricultural college west of the Allegheny mountains. The No. 2 marker is on the site of the Jackson iron mine in the Upper Peninsula. It's between Ishpeming and Negaunee and is named the Jack-

son mine because four businessmen from Jackson took a chance and developed it. They were well rewarded—it turned out to be one of the richest ore sources in the UP.

The No. 3 state marker is at the home of the Model T, Grandfield Village and No. 4 is at Fort St. Joseph near Niles.

Although Bates can tell many stories about the history of the state he

refuses to label himself a historian. Just as once in 1923 he declined to call himself a school teacher.

Shortly after he graduated from high school a group of people approached him about taking the exam to qualify to become the teacher in the one-room school in his home community—Butler Township, Branch County.

He took the exam, passed it and got

the job for \$720 a year. But one year was enough, he explains. "I decided then to go to school and find out how to be a teacher."

Two degrees and a lot of effort later, he was willing to accept the title.

And the reason for the interest? He puts it simply. "People who do not understand history repeat its mistakes."

## Manor's seniors urged to join in

FARMINGTON HILLS—Detroit Baptist Manor, the city's only senior citizen housing project, is more than just a place where the elderly while away their lives.

The 140-resident facility on Thirteen Mile Road west of Orchard Lake is a one-story self-care complex where residents can participate in all types of activities.

The Rev. Joseph Bogar, administrator, said there is a "tremendous need" for such facilities.

Pointing up this need are Baptist Manor's expansion plans which call for 150 more apartments to house 200 more residents. Also planned are additional apartments for 30-60 residents and a 200-bed supervised living unit.

WHEN THE expansions are completed, the facility will be able to serve as many as 600 persons. Residents must be at least 62 years old, Rev. Bogar said. In the units for married couples, at least one spouse must be 62.

The oldest resident now at Baptist Manor is 93. Residents are by no means tied down. Fifty to 80 per cent retain their cars.

THEY CAN participate in various craft and recreation activities, use the

beauty shop located in the manor, attend the Monday morning coffees for cards and games, participate in the monthly potluck supper, attend prayer services and hymn singing sessions, and even work out once a week with a physical education instructor.

There are film programs, concerts and programs sponsored by area organizations and churches.

"We have had a wonderful reception from the community," Rev. Bogar said. "The quality of the people and the quality of the buildings is not going to detract from the community."

There is a tremendous waiting list," he said. "It has proved to be very popular."

"WE ARE ENABLING them to maintain their independence and contribute in a large part to their dignity of living," he said.

The city has received inquiries from developers about the feasibility of building a high-rise senior citizen project in the city.

City Manager George Majoros said the developer, who has built a number of high-rise facilities in other communities, had contacted him.

The developer, whom Majoros would not identify, had an option on property in the city.

However, the proposed project would exceed the city's 30-foot limit on all buildings in the city.

Farmington and Farmington Hills have a joint committee that has been exploring possible sites for senior citizen housing, although the group has taken no formal action.

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