

Rail Depots Get A Second Chance To Thrive

Surprises are in store for those who like to see what has happened to old railroad depots around the state which no longer serve passenger traffic. Visiting them has become a growing pastime according to Automobile Club of Michigan.

These onetime railroad stations, most of them built in the 1880s and early 20th century, were exciting, busy community centers in their heyday. Many still are.

Take, for instance, the old depot at Indian River, built by the New York Central

Railroad in 1877. It is now an antique and gift shop. For four generations, people were greeted or bid goodbye at this old depot. They came to Indian River to go to their summer homes on Burt, Mullett and other nearby lakes.

IN THE SOUTHERN part of Michigan, you might drive to Kalamazoo for a meal at "The Whistle Stop," a restaurant in the old Pennsylvania Railroad depot. Here the atmosphere is early 1900, with valuable antiques such as a signed

Tiffany lamp, as well as the old depot's waiting room benches now upholstered in tufted leather to make cozy, comfortable banquettes for diners.

Other depots also have become restaurants, a growing usage.

One is the former Penn Central station in Ann Arbor, built in 1886. Remodeled, it features much railroad memorabilia.

The Grand Trunk Western railroad in Lansing is the latest large station to be turned into a restaurant. It is

schedule for opening in mid-November.

At Charlotte, the 1902 Michigan Central depot made a comeback 63 years later, also as an eating place.

A DEPOT now located near Romeo is owned by Bob Owen and operated as both a museum and sign shop. The depot formerly was located at Washington and owned by the Grand Trunk Western Railroad, but a condition of the sale to Owen was that it be moved from the railroad right-of-way.

The old depot was what was called a combination station handling both passengers and freight. The depot is about three miles south of Romeo, on M-53 at Van Dyke and 29 Mile roads.

Another station which has started a new career is the Ann Arbor-Railroad depot in Howell, which has been converted into a museum by

the Livingston County Historical Society and is open to the public. The old depot is a Michigan historic site.

Other small depots in the state, some nearly or already abandoned by their railroad owners, likely will be sold in the future and get a new lease on life. The trend from railroad transportation also may portend a new future for larger stations as well.

STAY ON M-27 as you travel north and you'll come to the old depot at Topinabee, used now as a community center by the Topinabee Township.

A few miles farther along, leave M-27 at Mullett Lake Drive and you will find that the Mullett Lake depot has been converted into a summer home.

At Marquette in the Upper Peninsula, the old two-story brick depot on Main Street now is the Marquette Community Center. The structure

was built in 1901 by the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic Railroad.

At Petoskey, on Little Traverse Bay, a little wooden depot built in 1901 and last used by the Chesapeake &

Ohio Railway, is now owned by the city and being restored as a museum.

The depot at Alden, near Mancelona, is still owned by Central, has been a combination barber shop and hardware store since 1968.

who use it as a summer cottage.

The station at West Branch, formerly owned by the Penn Central, has been a combination barber shop and hardware store since 1968.



OUTTIME RAILROAD PASSENGER DEPOTS...
... IN MICHIGAN WHICH ARE NOW USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES INCLUDE:
INDIAN RIVER, ANTIQUE AND GIFT SHOP • CHARLOTTE, ICE CREAM PARLOR • ROMEO, MUSEUM-SIGN SHOP • KALAMAZOO, RESTAURANT • HOWELL, LIVINGSTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM • TOPINABEE, COMMUNITY CENTER • MULLETT LAKE, SUMMER HOME • ANN ARBOR, RESTAURANT • MARQUETTE, COMMUNITY CENTER • PETOSKEY, MUSEUM • WEST BRANCH, BARBER SHOP AND HARDWARE • ALDEN, LEASED BY FORMER RAILROAD EMPLOYEES AS A SUMMER COTTAGE

Stynes Named Dean At WSU

Dr. Stanley K. Stynes, 35269 Scone, Livonia, has been named dean of Wayne State University's College of Engineering.

His appointment was confirmed by the WSU Board of Governors upon recommendation of President George E. Gullen Jr.

Dr. Stynes has been acting dean since July 1, 1970, and served before that as assistant dean for plans and programs and as a faculty member in the college's department of chemical engineering and materials science.

He replaces Dr. Ali B. Cambel, who was named executive vice president for academic administration in 1970 and later resigned to take a job in the Washington, D.C. area.

Stynes, 40, joined the WSU faculty in September 1956 as a

SA Yule Gifts To Remember Servicemen

The Salvation Army is asking Observerland residents for the names and addresses of area servicemen still in the Vietnam area so that a Christmas gift can be sent to them.

SA Col. S. W. Franzen said, "There are a few men left in Vietnam and we must remember them."

Gift boxes contain instant shave cream, adjustable razor, toothpaste, spray deodorant and other asked for items. Gifts are donated by manufacturers and the parcel post mailing by The Salvation Army. Each package is valued at around \$10, Col. Franzen added.

Needed information is: name, rank, serial number and zip code. This information should be sent to the Salvation Army, 601 Bagley, Detroit, 48226. Deadline is Nov. 3.

Mali Dancers To Perform

DETROIT The Dancers of Mali, an African troupe, will take over the stage of the Masonic Temple Auditorium at 8:20 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 21.



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