

Landmark Hotel Born In A Basement

By W. W. EDGAR

The Mayflower Hotel, a landmark in western Wayne County, celebrated its 45th birthday on Nov. 11 -- and a six-week party began.

"We're going to celebrate for the rest of this year," said Ralph Lorenz, the genial host.

"so that we can take care of all the friends we've made through the years."

Special events, special menus and a holiday atmosphere began Saturday and will continue for the next six weeks at the hostelry that serves as the modern travel stop on the way west.

The story of the Mayflower

is an unusual chapter in the hotel business. It has survived depressions and a declining economy and still is a popular place often used as a beginning point for directions to any other area.

THE IDEA of the hotel was born in the basement of the old Lutheran Church during the

weekly meetings of the Plymouth Rotary Club when some of the members insisted that they should have a new place to meet.

It was then that a group of civic minded citizens, headed by Ed Hough, and including such well known businessmen as Ernie Allison, Charlie Bennett, Paul Wiedeman, Fred Schrader, A.J. Richwine, John Dayton, Ray Fisher, and H.S. Lee, got together to make it possible.

As a starter they decided that as many citizens as possible should share in the building of a hotel -- which the area sorely needed. With this goal, the group set something of a record in raising \$325,000 in three hours -- from 8 to 11

a.m. -- on a Saturday morning.

The site at the intersection of Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail was chosen because it was on US - 12, the main artery between Detroit and Chicago. Since then, the route of US - 12 has been changed to circumvent the City of Plymouth because of the heavy traffic.

Today you can get a good argument on almost any subject you wish.

After a series of managers ran the place for the first dozen years, Lorenz took over the management in 1939. He had graduated from Eastern Michigan University where he handled many of the food problems, and later did much the same during a hitch in the U.S. Navy.

Named after the ship that brought the Pilgrims to this country, the hotel always has had a Pilgrim motif. On the walls of the dining room are a series of reproductions of paintings that hang in the Historical Museum in Plymouth, Mass. They were done by Henry Penhale and

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Environmentalist Gains Recognition

Clarenceville teacher Dorothy Cox is gaining national prominence for her environmental work.

Mrs. Cox is a sixth grade teacher in the district's Westbrook Elementary School, where she was heavily involved in site beautification.

Recently, she presented a slide show of Westbrook's site development in Evanston, Ill., at a workshop funded by the U.S. Office of Environmental Education and co-sponsored by the Center for Curriculum Design of Evanston and Total Education in the Total Environment, Wilton, Conn.

President of the organization, Dr. Robert George, appointed her as the association's regional director for the southeastern section of Michigan. In that capacity she also becomes an ex officio board member of the organization.

At the conference, Mrs. Cox again presented in slide form the story of Westbrook's student and community involvement in the environment.

Slides depict the site committee at work, the building of school compost piles, the pruning of fruit trees, the arrival of picnic tables, the playhouse made by the junior high shop classes, benches also made by the junior shop classes, lining of Westbrook's football field, distribution of wood chips, cutting of telephone poles used for natural center entrance and the placing of telephone poles to form steps.

Mrs. Cox has given the Westbrook slide program to many organizations in Oberlinland.

The workshop which Mrs. Cox attended was one of 10 held throughout the country.

SHE ALSO recently attended the fifth state conference of the Michigan Environmental Education Association at the Michigan Education Center at St. Mary's Lake near Battle Creek.

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Theater Group Meets In C'ville

"Theatre Games" is the title of a program students will present when a special meeting of the Clarenceville Theater Parents Organization is held on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the high school communication center.

All families of the Clarenceville district and individuals interested in a Clarenceville Community Theater are invited to attend.

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