

# TYRONE GLEANINGS

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## Ione's Community News:

Fall Festival Daze have passed and it was another success. **Thank you-** John Petruska and your committee of many people- for doing an outstanding job of putting the whole thing together. Many, many volunteer hours go into this event and it always "pays-off" making it enjoyable for people from all over our area.

I wanted to inform everyone about our neighboring museum in Cedar Springs. Take a couple of hours and go visit this wonderful spot with all kinds of artifacts, exhibits and archives. It looks like a large city museum. I visited it last week and was amazed- and you will be too!

Our Kent City-Casnovia Historical Museum has some interesting artifacts and lots and lots of pictures that Maynard has framed and placed on the walls. Many of them are school pictures of kids from country schools.

We also have many files of families from our area. Our goal is to improve our files and add to what we have. We would like to make a good genealogy and historical library with lots of pictures. Please stop by – we're only open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. of each month from 12:00-3:00 or call me at 616-678-7220 or Nita 616-678-4818 so we can arrange to meet you there. If you have an article that you would like to share please send it to us and we'll be glad to share it in future *Gleanings*.

I'm hoping for a gorgeous fall season and it certainly appears that it's going to be. The articles are submitted by Maynard, of course, and also Ed Morgan- Kent City Trivia



**Please mark your 2014 calendar for the following meetings at 1:00pm  
October 14<sup>th</sup>, November 11<sup>th</sup> (a tribute to our Veterans)**

**Annual Christmas Luncheon December 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon  
will be held in the Tyrone Twp. Community Room  
located at 28 E Muskegon St in Kent City**

## KENT CITY TRIVIA

Submitted by Ed Morgan

KENT CITY FIRE April 22, 1907. Most have heard of the fire which destroyed much of the business area of Kent City. Much has been written about the fire through the years. For those of you who have not seen it the Kent City Historical Society has a nice display put together of the businesses and residences which were lost in the fire as well as a map with each building pinpointed. The fire was caused by a spark from the wheels of the train that were blown into a cedar shingle roof of one of the businesses near the railroad track. The morning of April 22, 1907, was a very windy morning. The spark landing in the wooden shingles combined with the high winds cause a fire to happen which spread very quickly. The fire consumed most of the businesses and homes on Main Street as well as several on the next street to the east. What many people do not know is how the people fighting the fire were able to stop the fire from advancing on the west side of Main Street.

Next to the current Laundry Mat on Main Street is the small home pictured here. At the time of the fire it was a doctor's office and was only about half the size it is now. Some quick thinking people thought perhaps they could stop the fire on the west side of the street if they wrapped the little building in carpet and doused the carpet with water. That is what they did and they were successful in stopping the fire on that side of the street. The fire was stopped here at this building which saved the house next to it which is the one that Andrew and Erma Anderson later lived in for years- (Marge Swanson's parents). Also



saved was a house next door to the home that was later Andrew and Erma's, a house that was next to theirs and a building that was later Dr. Yegge's office and also the building that was later Carlson & Trofast Hardware and later Cavanaugh's. Further damage was done out east of town by embers which blew out to Tyrone Ave and began a grain field on fire at Ansel Snow's which was just north of 17 Mile Rd on Tyrone.

Rules to Live By – *a lighthearted look at everyday life taken from a Builder/Architect magazine*

- If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you ever tried
- Love may be blind, but marriage is a real eye-opener
- A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking
- Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism, to steal from many is research
- You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive

- A clear conscience is usually a sign of a poor memory
- Change is inevitable . . . except from vending machines
- A fool and his money are soon partying
- Always try to be modest and be proud of it

-This was taken from our historical files. It was published by the Sparta Advance in 1987.

## Former Kent City bank executive remembered for community ties

A former Kent City bank director who died recently at the age of 89 is remembered as a man who was close to his community and his family.

Robert Kriger, retired director of Kent City State Bank, had just celebrated with his wife Mable their 64th wedding anniversary.

"He and Aunt Mable were married 64 years, and we don't think they were ever apart overnight, except when he was in the hospital," said his niece, Lola Brott of Kent City.

Brott's mother, Tina Anderson, is Robert Kriger's brother.

Kriger literally worked his way up from the bottom in small-town banking. Hired as a janitor in 1916 at \$5 per week, he eventually became president of Kent City State Bank. He knew



Robert and Mable Kriger

nearly every family in the community by name and helped many of them "get their start in life." It was said that several generations of families stopped in to see him over the years he was president, to seek a loan or just to talk about whatever was going on in Kent City.

Kriger took time off from his job as custodian to serve a year in the U.S. Army during World War I. He returned to the bank and rose to teller, then cashier, then executive vice president, and

1987  
finally president. He was president for 22 years until his retirement in 1974.

After retirement, he served as advisor to the board of directors, and played plenty of golf — even recording a hole-in-one at Rogue River Golf Course.

Mable Kriger said of him that he was on a first-name basis with most of his customers. "It was a small country bank and he learned to know people for miles around," she said. "He got a lot of cards when he was in the hospital from people just thanking him for helping them to get a start in life."

Besides his wife, Kriger is survived by a daughter, Mary, who is a teacher at West Ottawa Middle School.

Funeral services were held Dec. 13 at Marmelund Lutheran Church.

Here is another story of Paul Emmories Memoirs from the old days of Kent City. This had to have been in the 1930's.

### Doughnuts and the Bicycle

I wanted a bicycle but I knew money was tight; the depression left many people with less than we did. We didn't know that we were poor, that's just the way it was. So Mother suggested that she make her fried cakes (doughnuts) and I could sell them to the W.P.A. (Workers Progress Association) working on the Kent City sewage treatment plant. All work was done by shovel & wheelbarrow. It looked like the government tried harder to get more people working than getting the job done. I didn't think the people who worked on W.P.A. jobs would have any extra money to buy doughnuts. But on Mothers urging I took 4 - dozen fried cakes, wrapped up in wax paper (singly), and took off with the box in my little red wagon. Boy was I surprised that the first batch didn't last long enough for me to go to all the men. Some guys said they would bring money tomorrow if I would be back. I had a very busy Mother so as I was getting the some of the profit from my efforts. We had no idea they would go so good. Many, many trips from home to the sales area and finally we had enough money for a bicycle and Mom a new dress. She was a very proud lady.

We went down to Carlson Trofast Hardware to get the bicycle. They had one with a light in front and reflector in back, a tank like between the two horizontal tubes and handle bars that was neat. I didn't think the basket in front of the handle bars was sturdy enough so I choose the luggage rack which was from seat to the back of the fender and about 5 inches wide. Mr. Trofast had heard about our doughnut sales and expected us to come in for a bicycle. I'm sure he gave us a good deal because I had looked at bikes quite a few times. I had rode other kids bikes from time to time so I was ready to take off, but I walked the bike and Mother home, then took off.



### -:- CASNOVIA POSTOFFICE HISTORY -:-

#### Quotes from Casnovia Herald, September 18, 1908:

"In 1849 Lot Fulkerson, grandfather of Mrs. F. D. Hersey, left his native county of Hillsdale and bought 160 acres of land on the present site of Casnovia village, paying for it at the rate of \$1.00 or \$1.25 an acre. In 1850 he erected a small loghouse and opened a tavern for travelers on the state road. In 1853, Mr. Fulkerson was made postmaster of 'Casnovia Corners,' an office which he held with credit for some years. Becoming interested in national issues, he finally lost favor with the Democratic administration, however, by causing the distribution of twenty-five or thirty copies of the New York Tribune in the neighborhood. Daniel Bennett was appointed to succeed him.

"The first mail was brought on horseback from Grand Rapids, and people living within a radius of six or eight miles of the Bennett residence wended their way thither through the forest to get the much-coveted letters from 'back home.' For three years, Mr. Bennett was postmaster, but in 1855 occurred his untimely death. During the half year following, the widow attended to the postal duties; then she gave them up and Lot Fulkerson was chosen her successor.

"Milan L. Squier, grandfather of E. Harry Norris, first became a familiar figure on our streets in the early '50's, when he and one O. C. Willard bought out the first stage driver. For six years they carried mail and passengers along the old stage route, receiving at first \$300 a year from the government and in the last four years \$550. Lot Fulkerson's hostelry was their 'Half Way House' and here was always to be found one member of the firm, who took care of the horses and looked after the firm's business. Two trips were made from Grand Rapids to Newaygo. In 1862, they surrendered the mail carrying business and Mr. Squier went to Southern Michigan, where he remained in business for three years. In 1865, he returned to Casnovia and embarked in business and was also postmaster for twenty years."

He was followed by Chas. L. Doty, Wesley Hanna, Ed Farnum, Nelson Edie, and Edward A. Webb in 1901. He held until 1912, when he was replaced by George Canen, who was followed by Fred Woodwork. In 1920, E. A. Webb again became postmaster and served until his death in 1932. He was succeeded by R. Glen Hayward, who served until April 8, 1953. Marie Norris took over on his resignation.

*\*\*There must be someone "out there" that can fill us in on all the Postmasters that served at the Casnovia Post Office after Marie Norris.*